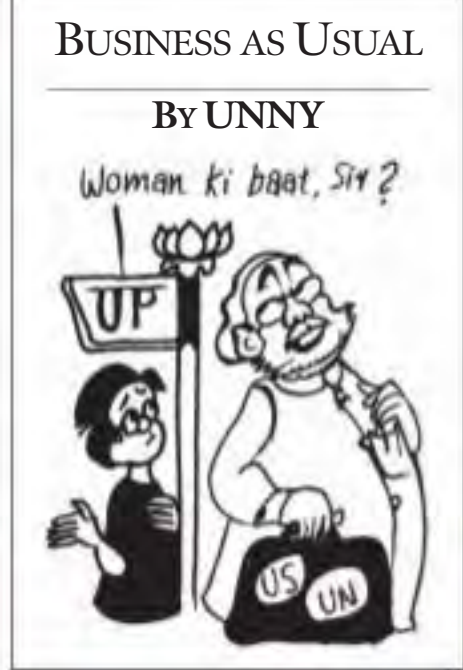


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## PANCHS, SARPANCHS TO ELECT BLOCK DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL CHIEF Amid lockdown and detentions, J&K announces local council polls Oct 24

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  
**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## 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  
**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## 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

**EXPLAINED**

### 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  
PAGE 14

## 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.  
**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## 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  
**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## 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  
**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## '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*



companies, Bros Brother International Ltd was set up on December 28, 2016. It had 13 listed directors, including Shah

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,  
**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

**THE EDITORIAL PAGE**

**GOVT SHOULD LET THE FARMER EARN**  
BY HARISH DAMODARAN  
PAGE 12

**CITY**



**SNATCHING CASES, MOSTLY TARGETING WOMEN, PUT THE CAPITAL ON EDGE**  
PAGE 8



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## 13 dead, heavy showers likely to continue

In this episode of the 3 Things podcast, we look at problems caused by plastic, to what extent it is possible to replace it, and the steps the government is now planning to take against it

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# India Poker Championship

## The buzz follows after the successful IPC 2019 by Spartan Poker

*This is just the start of what is more to follow from Spartan Poker. The India Poker Championship 2019 (IPC) organized by Spartan Poker had a glamorous line-up with none other than, Internet's favourite and the face of Poker – Dan Bilzerian to get the poker tables rolling. Amongst others included - Kunal Khemu, Anita Hassanandani, Minissha Lamba.*



**RANNVIJAY SINGHA**, The Brand Ambassador for Spartan Poker, kick-started country's most prestigious live tournament India Poker Championship, 2019 in Goa. To add to the glamour and glitz, Internet's favourite and the face of poker Dan Bilzerian, Kunal Khemu, Anita Hassanandani and Minissha Lamba, also attended the tournament. Organized from September 11 to September 15, 2019, at Big Daddy Casino, Goa, the tournament brought together popular and eminent Internet and television personalities under one roof.

Making the event memorable and grander, for the country's biggest poker extravaganza, Spartan Poker invited the biggest names from the showbiz industry across the country and globe. World-famous poker player, known for his 'larger than life' personality and who has a fan-following of over 28 million followers on Instagram, the Poker King, Dan Bilzerian joined a high stakes game to pump the atmosphere and as usual, aced it during IPC. So much so, Dan quoted to



the media that he loved India and playing poker at the IPC and wishes to make a comeback to IPC and explore India, more.

Closer home, popular host and actor Rannvijay Singha, who has been one of the most popular faces on Indian television for a decade, kickstarted the

event. Along with him, the stellar line-up included actors Kunal Khemu, Minissha Lamba, as well as TV and popular film star Anita Hassanandani. Speaking on the tournament, Rannvijay Singha stated, "I am proud of being a family member of Spartan Poker and extremely delighted to be a part of the Indian Poker championship. The stakes were higher, and it was a weekend to remember, and witnessing the high-rated skills and talents of poker players from all over the country was a pleasurable experience."

Undoubtedly, IPC is recognised as one of the most in-demand tournament poker series and has seen record-breaking participation from poker players across different regions of the country. The 2019 edition of the IPC presented its participants a total of Rs 5.5 crores and was played out across five days in Goa. The 35K main events were spread across three days — September 13, September 14, and September 15, while the final day featured the 15k head-hunter event.

INTERVIEW: **AMIN ROZANI**, CEO, SPARTAN ONLINE

**Can anyone play poker well? What are the qualities which makes one a good poker player?**

Patience is the primary quality one needs to have. It's a serious game and needs tons of perseverance. Often, it takes hours where one needs to wait for the right moment. Yes, it's a game that absolutely anyone can play. Often friends get together over weekends to catch up, compete and play a game of poker. It's a good mind sport, which can be played between multiple players.

**How has your tournament progressed in terms of prize money, participation, scale, number of players enrolling, etc?**

Over the past decade, a lot has changed. The number of players has increased, and the number of tournaments has increased. The prize money and buy-in amounts have increased, significantly. Earlier, we used to see 50 to 60 people come in to play and now one has 700 odd players registering. The buy-in amounts have increased from Rs 20,000 to a Rs 1,00,000. Most of the players are within the 24 to 35-year bracket. A lot of women too are now attending serious poker tournaments. Most of the players come from metros and tier 1 cities. Indian Poker Championship (IPC) is the first poker tournament brand in the country and the objective is to grow the sport.

**DAN BILZERIAN VISITS INDIA FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME TO ATTEND IPC**  
**Legendary Poker Star Dan Bilzerian**  
**visited Goa for the first time and was one of the best players at India Poker Championship by Spartan Poker. The Instagram King made heads turn with his attitude and poker skills in India. The style icon enthralled the participants who wanted to make a mark in the poker gaming scene.**

## Playing the right cards

*Dr Yuvraj and Akansha Singh break down the taboos related to poker*

**YOU WOULD** generally expect to see Doctors in white coats and stethoscopes. But donned in black leggings and tees, Dr Yuvraj, an orthopaedic surgeon, accompanied by his wife Dr Akanksha Singh, a skin specialist, set aside the medical practice to become professional poker players. The Mumbai based couple joined other poker participants at the India Poker Championship, 2019, hosted by Spartan Poker at the Big Daddy Casino.

Given its immediate association with gambling, Dr Yuvraj says, "The main reason it is not accepted, as it is played with cards, so people think it's gambling. They feel that they may lose money. Society needs to understand that, 'No, it's not gambling', there are different aspects to it."

He stresses that "This is a skill-based game, so people need to understand it's a sport. Not everyone can be a successful poker player until they work hard on it." In poker, if you learn and have skills, in the long run, you will make money." Poker isn't only a sport, but players are using it to upgrade their lifestyle, as it is an aspirational sport, which challenges your mind, constantly.

When the couple forayed into this six years ago, a lot of learning was involved such as - How to bring in those minute changes into the game? What got them hooked? Initially, when we started



with Teen Patti, it was all about luck. But poker is not like that," shares Dr Akanksha. "With poker, you must use your mind and analyse what the other person has - Is the player bluffing? What are they betting on? A lot of analysis goes into it. You can never be a pro."

Dr Akanksha is surprised that a few women are playing poker. "I don't know why women don't play poker because it's easier. Maybe it is a stigma, created by society." There are a lot of women who are at home. It's easy to play online. Though, both don't prefer to discriminate between a male and female



**When we started learning, I watched lakhs of videos, read books, attended master classes... gradually we upgraded our knowledge**

poker player. Both braved the initial storms of unhappy parents, judgemental opinions of those around. They have stood by each other's decision to pursue their passion. While the couple is playing

on the poker table, they're stiff competitors. "On the poker table, we don't spare each other. It becomes more interesting. I know how she thinks so I must outplay that, says Dr Yuvraj. Dr Akanksha adds with a sparkle in her eyes, "We love playing against each other." Their advice to anyone entering this sport is - You should come into this field only if you have a passion for poker. But don't lie to yourself. Play poker, if you have the passion and can manage your life, as well. Otherwise many youngsters who are just fascinated by the game come in but have no skills. They don't read, study the game, eventually, which leads to burning their pockets. It is essential to try different methods to cope with losses. Now that's a prescription for success.

**Kunal's and Anita's take on it - How to acquire the skills of acing poker?**

When we started learning poker, I watched lakhs of videos, read books, attended master classes. Gradually, we upgraded our knowledge and implemented the same on the poker table. We really appreciate all the efforts made by the founders Amin Rozani, Rajeev Kanjani, Sameer Rattansay and Peter Abraham in bringing the new wave of this skill based sport by hosting India Poker Championship where the poker aficionados can come together and display their skills.



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# Dwarka Expressway

## Many projects coming up in and around area

*With superb connectivity, clean environment and completed projects, the region looks at stability and price appreciation in future*

The Dwarka Expressway is now underway on both sides of the Delhi-Haryana border. The legal issues have been sorted out and in the past two weeks work is progressing very fast on the Delhi (Dwarka) side. We are hopeful that it is on the verge of completion. It's a long-awaited roadway that holds numerous solutions with its high-end connectivity and will offload traffic burden on the existing links,"

**PRASHANT SOLOMON**  
Managing Director, Chintels India Limited

The completion of the Dwarka Expressway holds key to hundreds of thousands of residents living in large number of societies along it by providing easier and faster connectivity between Delhi and Gurgaon. As Dwarka Expressway connects Shiv Murti on NH8 to Kherki Daula on NH8 through an alternate route to Delhi-Gurgaon highway, which will give boost to real estate development in New Gurgaon."

**PRADEEP AGGARWAL**  
Chairman, ASSOCHAM Council on Real Estate, Housing and Urban Development and Founder and Chairman, Signature Global

**T**HERE is some good news for Gurugram's realty market. The much awaited link road starting from Dwarka to Dwarka Expressway (also known as the Northern Peripheral Road) sectors, is now under construction. Chances are that the construction will soon be over. As a result, the connectivity to the region with other parts of the National Capital Region is going to improve. Realtors and developers have said that improved connectivity will be the most valuable add to the region.

"Dwarka Expressway, by far, is the most stable regions in the entire NCR, which is bound to see good sales. The sectors in the region have been attracting a lot of interests from investors as well as end-users," said Dr Ananta Raghuvanshi, Executive Director, Experion Developers. Dwarka Expressway covers Sectors 99 to 115 in Gurugram.

### What is current status?

The entire Expressway has now seen an upgrade in terms of launches, sales and infrastructure development, said developers. With the removal of a number of infrastructural hurdles on the way, these sectors are likely to get a boost in sales and prices during this festive season, they added. "The Dwarka Expressway is now underway on both sides of the Delhi-Haryana border. The legal issues have been sorted out and in the past two weeks work is progressing very fast on the Delhi (Dwarka) side. We are hopeful that it is on the verge of completion. It's a long-awaited roadway that holds numerous solutions with its high-end connectivity and will offload traffic burden on the existing links," said Prashant Solomon, Managing Director, Chintels India Limited.

"An all-round infrastructural development in

and around the expressway, presence of basic amenities in the form of sewerage, roads and water drainage add value to the upcoming and ongoing projects in the region," said Ishu Sehgal, Vice President, SS Group.

The investment done on this stretch offers an assured investment capital appreciation. A number of development firms along with Chintels India such as ATS Group, Experion Developers, Mahindra Lifespaces, Shapoorji-Pallonji, Raheja Developers, Indiabulls Real Estate and Emmar India, etc. have their projects along the stretch.

### What is on offer?

On offer are 2, 3 and 4-bedroom apartments in the size range of 1,000 to 2,500 sq ft. The average capital value is Rs 4,500 to 6,000 per sq ft. Since last year the rates have moved up, though marginally. Plotted development are on offer in the range of Rs 40,000 per sq yd to Rs 47,000 per sq yd. This segment has particularly seen a jump. "People prefer plotted development, as it gives them the independence of building and developing more on the available FAR," added Raghuvanshi of Experion Developers.

### Why one should look at investing here?

**Capital appreciation potential:** Developers in the region say that rates in sectors along the NPR have picked up in early this year. With reasonably affordable rates, the region offers good investment options because of these infrastructural developments and surrounding amenities. "The Dwarka Expressway is the most prime area to invest in Gurugram because of its close proximity to Delhi especially Dwarka and IGI Airport. Its nearby areas have huge potential and will evolve as the next popular residential and commercial hub in the capital region. With increasing number

of corporates operating out of Gurugram coupled with the limited availability of residences in Gurugram and Delhi, Dwarka Expressway is emerging as the best alternative for both home seekers and investors," Solomon of Chintels India added.

As per market estimates, due to the presence of some good projects by companies having a good track record, capital values in the region have firmed up.

**Projects nearing completion:** Other than the promise of capital appreciation, the region also has a number of projects that are nearing completion. Some like the projects by Experion Developers have got the occupation certificate too. "This has given prospective homebuyers options to buy from," added Raghuvanshi of Experion Developers.

### Connectivity, clean environment remain the key

The biggest advantages, however, are connectivity and the clean environment that these sectors have. While at one end towards Delhi, it connects with Dwarka sub city, the other end towards Gurgaon opens to the Kherki Daula toll on the Delhi Jaipur Highway. Once complete, it will take just 20 minutes for someone to reach to the airport from this place. It is planned that the upcoming connectivity with the Rapid Metro and Delhi Metro to Delhi Airport, Manesar, old and new Gurgaon will provide strength to the region.

"The region has good green cover in and around the sectors, which strongly supports cleanliness and wellness of inhabitants," added Sehgal of SS Group.

Moreover, the planned metro connectivity to the region will be realised in future with feasibility studies already underway by DMRC.

Expressways play a very vital role in the development of a city and since Dwarka Expressway is a major infrastructure connecting two cities and reducing travel time, will look forward for its development."

**MR. KAMALJIT SINGH**  
Senior Vice President, Sales & Marketing, Bestech Group

An all-round infrastructural development in and around the expressway, presence of basic amenities in the form of sewerage, roads and water drainage add value to the upcoming and ongoing projects in the region."

**ISHU SEHGAL**  
Vice President, SS Group

INTERVIEW: **DR ANANTA SINGH RAGHUVANSHI, SENIOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, EXPERION DEVELOPERS**

## There is always a need... for quality housing

*A versatile personality, Dr Ananta Singh Raghuvanshi, Senior Executive Director, Experion Developers, a veteran industry leader, believes that all stakeholders — investors, developers and channel partners — need to understand the true requirement of buyers in the market and plan accordingly*

### What are your views relating to the disruption that we have witnessed in the last few years in the real estate sector caused by policy reforms?

First & foremost, whenever, there is a change in the environment, whether it is political, economic, legislative or generally the market condition itself — it always causes a certain level of disruption. The dust and storm created due to the disruption takes time to settle down. And therefore we have to understand the reformation in totality.

The industry has witnessed several reforms for the first time. All of them are extremely important for any market. First the demonetisation, followed by implementation of RERA & GST. These too brought disruption in the market.

Here, there are two key points one needs to keep in mind — one, the Indian real estate market is sentiment driven and two, purchasing property is probably the biggest purchase of life. And when one talks about housing, the sentiment and buying trend is driven by middle class and upper-middle-class income buyers.

That is where the majority of the market lies — everyone is trying to tap into this segment. Discerning home buyers take a well-informed decision after extensive research and due diligence. For most, a house is a legacy for themselves and the family. So when the disruption happened, it took time to adjust to new changes.

As a result, today we have RERA-approved projects. When good products are announced, they are sold due to increased demand.

However, there is a need for correction — the buyer has to understand that he cannot make money overnight as it is a mature market and not a growing market. Second, one should not expect to see the graph going upwards all the time for his existing portfolio of investments. People, who invested early, have already seen a stupendous growth.

To expect that the market will continue to grow exponentially at the same pace is wrong to assume.

For developers, it is essential to understand the attributes of the land parcel, the catchment and the real demand. And then build something that the market desires and awaits.

Markets cannot work on one's gut feeling. Products fail if the manufacturer is not meeting the real demand. And the sales then see a dip. We have seen such demand-supply mismatch in the automobile sector, beauty products, beverages segment, where sales have dipped because the market need was misunderstood.

The product needs to adjust and adapt itself to meet the real demand. The first test is going to be during this festive season. Buyers are looking to purchase and developers are introducing attractive schemes. We will witness who got the formula right and who has understood the sentiment.

**You have the backing of a foreign fund. We wish**



### to understand what is the perception of foreign institutional funds of the India real estate market?

It has been seen that many funds are invested in the Indian real estate sector. One thing is very clear that the real estate sector has to do well to meet the expectations of these fund managers. An investor looking for a long-term horizon will reap returns. But to make those investors invest, developers need to create projects that are in demand.

Funds are investing in residential projects across cities. Gurugram is among the prime markets that have continuously attracted funding from foreign investors.

The city is not only witnessing primary sales but is also witnessing re-sales. The city's demographic diversity continues to generate housing demand — it is a place where many millennials come to work for multi-nationals and prefer to live and stay close to their workplaces.

More importantly, the millennials now prefer to buy a house or rent luxury homes instead of other depreciating assets. Thankfully, Gurugram has options for every segment of the buyer. So one has to understand the need and then create the product according to size, price and need.

### What are some of the attraction points for foreign investors looking at India story?

As long as investors are following the law of the land, geographies do not restrict investments. There is always a need in the market for quality projects and housing. Fortunately, here, local demand is self-sustaining and fulfilling enough to give healthy returns. On an average, 15-20 percent of buyers are NRIs and it depends how aggressive are one's international sales efforts.

**What does it mean for prospective homebuyers?**

Connectivity, amenities and good infrastructure is what is needed. When projects are funded well, very often all three aspects are taken care of. These aspects should also be the criteria of first-time homebuyers.

### Construction finance has become an issue. Do you see a challenge there?

Fortunately, we don't fall into this category. We have made timely delivery of our projects and are essentially a debt free company. However, if a developer takes construction loan or borrows money, there is a high risk involved. There is a cost in getting funds, which has to be met by increasing the sales velocity. So to remain in the market, one needs to sell with a certain speed.

### How are the situation in Gurgaon and the rest of NCR? Can you please draw a comparison between Gurgaon and rest of NCR?

The major concern for everybody today is health and safety. Unfortunately, life in metropolitan cities puts undue toll on one's well-being. People are ageing faster due to poor air quality, lack of clean water and the presence of other pollutants that they face every day.

If health is the prime factor, then there is no better option than living in Gurugram, specifically in a project like Windchants and The Heartsong.

Our townships are a self-sustained and fortified societies. There are clubhouses, children's play area, hobby classes, etc., along with safety and security. Thus, every stress point has been taken care of in terms of a healthy quality living.

### Give some details of your projects?

At the moment we are focusing on Gurugram and Luc-

know markets. We have three residential and a commercial project in Gurugram. Windchants in Sector 112, Heartsong and Westerlies in Sector 108 Gurugram and USGBC Grade A and GRIHA Rated 5 Certified Milestone Experion Center on NH-8.

Gurugram projects have received occupation certificate and have certain USPs. Exceptional location, proximity to the capital city and city centers, seamless connectivity, green surroundings backed by quality construction, timely delivery form cardinal rules of all our developments.

The projects celebrate spaces and sustainable design practices and cater to a diverse audience ranging from two bedrooms to uber luxury villas.

Multiple typologies, wellness, sports, recreational and shopping facilities are present at all our projects. The Skywalk at Windchants is one of the most exceptional features of our signature development.

### What is the average cost across your projects?

Our focus has been to cater to customers with diverse needs, preference and lifestyle choices. Our affordable luxury apartments — The Heartsong start from Rs 1 crore with very attractive payment schemes. Windchants, our luxury project ranges between Rs 2 crore and Rs 8 crore, offering multiple typographies from two-bedroom to villa properties. Westerlies, a 100 acre township, offers plotted development with multiple price points on the basis of size and location.

### What are some of the locational advantages of the Dwarka Expressway in the region?

With extreme conviction one can say that Dwarka Expressway is one of the most favoured and fastest developing region in NCR. Seamless connectivity with Delhi is going to be resolved very soon as progress on Dwarka Expressway has been very steady. The region holds remarkable promise due to its location and proximity to the capital city and international and domestic airports. In addition the upcoming infrastructure including the ICCR, diplomatic enclave, metro connectivity and numerous residential and commercial projects by reputed builders add to its attractiveness.

### In terms of sales, we observed that sales have seen some revival in 2018 and the first half of 2019. Do you agree? Will the sales momentum continue for the remaining year?

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The Heartsong

SECTOR 108, GURUGRAM



THE WESTERLIES

SECTOR 108, GURUGRAM



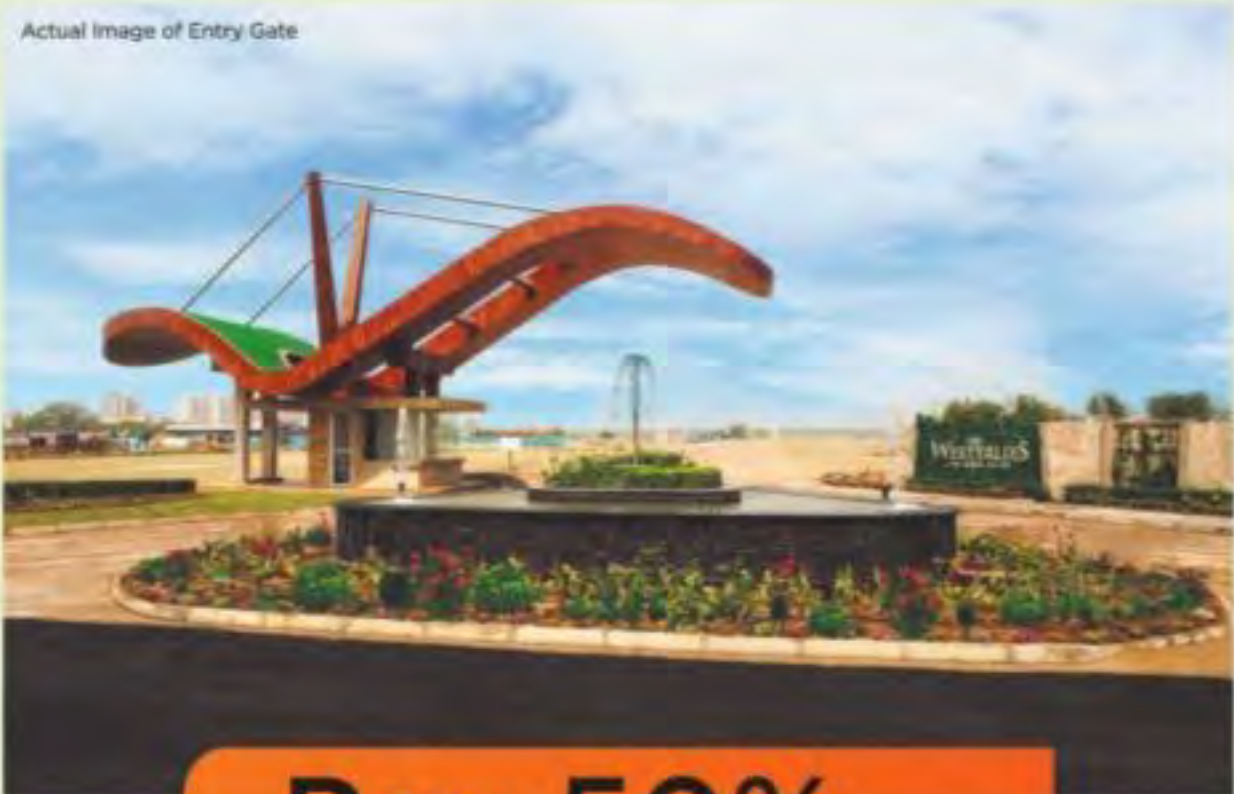
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**Disclaimer:** This is for information purposes only and does not constitute any offer or contract. Concepts alluded herein are subjective. Actual site image have been set in the background created by CGI rendering to highlight the architectural design. Concepts alluded herein are subjective. Experion Developers Pvt. Ltd. (herein referred as "Experion"). CIN: U70109DL2006FTC151343. **The Heartsong:** RERA Regn. for PH 1, PH 2 & PH 3 not applicable. PH 4 (Pocket D) Regn. No. 306 of 2017 dated 17.10.2017 and PH 5 Regn. No. 113 of 2017 dated 28.08.2017. Legal possession of the apartment shall remain with EDPL till execution of conveyance deed. Conveyance deed shall be executed only after payment of total sale consideration along with stamp duty and other applicable charges. Offer applicable on 1758 sq.ft (163.32 sq.m). **The Westerlies:** RERA Regn. for PH 1 & PH 2 is not applicable. Regn. No. 103 of 2017 dated 24.08.2017 for 14 units of Villas. **Windchants:** RERA Regn. for PH 1 not applicable. PH 2 Regn. No. 64 of 2017 dated 18.08.2017, PH 3 Regn. No. 73 of 2017 dated 21.08.2017 and PH 4 Regd. No. 112 of 2017 dated 28.08.2017. In case of inspection of original approvals for each project, the same can be inspected at corporate office with prior notice. Registered office of Experion Developers Pvt. Ltd. is at F9, First Floor, Manish Plaza 1, Plot No. 7, MLU, Sector 10, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075, India. \*Govt. charges/applicable taxes/stamp duty/regn. fee payable extra. <sup>#</sup>Offer applicable on select Non RERA units only in PH1, PH2 and PH3 of The Heartsong Project, PH 1 of Windchants Project, PH 1 and PH 2 of The Westerlies Project.





E-TENDER  
PRESS NOTICE

The EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CD-XIII, I&FC Department Govt. of Delhi, on behalf of the President of India, invites Online Percentage rate tender from the approved and eligible contractors registered with IRRIGATION AND FLOOD CONTROL DEPARTMENT. The contractors who are registered with other department and now got their registrations verified from I&FC Deptt. are eligible to participate in Tender process for the work:-

1. NIT No. E/E/CD-13/Acs/2019-20/79 (ID No. 2019\_IFC\_180760\_1) Major Head of Account 4217-Plan (MLA LAD) Name of Work: Construction of road and side drain from Murali samosa wala to Channa Devi Hospital at village Hastal in Vikaspuri Constituency in AC-31. Estimated Cost (in Rs.) 1,60,008/- Time allowed 180 Days. Last date & time of receiving & opening of tender through E-Procurement System 04.10.2019 on 15.00 Hrs & 15.05 Hrs respectively. 2. NIT No. E/E/CD-13/Acs/2019-20/80 (ID No. 2019\_IFC\_180732\_1) Major Head of Account 4217-Plan (MLA LAD) Name of Work: Installation of 10 Nos High Mast in Assembly Constituency-35, Najafgarh, New Delhi-110043. Estimated Cost (in Rs.) 45,44,980/- Earnest Money (in Rs.) 90,900/- Time allowed 60 Days. Last date & time of receiving & opening of tender through E-Procurement System 04.10.2019 on 15.00 Hrs & 15.05 Hrs respectively. 3. NIT No. E/E/CD-13/Acs/2019-20/81 (ID No. 2019\_IFC\_180727\_1) Major Head of Account 4217-Plan (Development of Unauthorized Colony) Name of Work: Construction/Improvement of internal streets and drains in Anand Vihar, Nangli Sakrawati, Najafgarh in AC-34 (Reg. No. 189). Estimated Cost (in Rs.) 1,39,92,217/- Earnest Money (in Rs.) 2,79,844/- Time allowed 180 Days. Last date & time of receiving & opening of tender through E-Procurement System 04.10.2019 on 15.00 Hrs & 15.05 Hrs respectively. 4. NIT No. E/E/CD-13/Acs/2019-20/82 (ID No. 2019\_IFC\_180737\_1) Major Head of Account 4217-Plan (Development of Unauthorized Colony) Name of Work: Improvement of streets and side drain in Gupta Market, Phase-I and II situated at Bahadurgarh road, Najafgarh, New Delhi-110043 (Reg. No. 1279/1639) in N.G. Block. Estimated Cost (in Rs.) 1,19,92,941/- Earnest Money (in Rs.) 2,39,859/- Time allowed 180 Days. Last date & time of receiving & opening of tender through E-Procurement System 04.10.2019 on 15.00 Hrs & 15.05 Hrs respectively. 5. NIT No. E/E/CD-13/Acs/2019-20/83 (ID No. 2019\_IFC\_180742\_1) Major Head of Account 2711 (Revenue) Name of Work: Supply and Installation/Fixing three No. trash barrier at B.C. Drain. Estimated Cost (in Rs.) 8,72,928/- Earnest Money (in Rs.) 17,459/- Time allowed 60 Days. Last date & time of receiving & opening of tender through E-Procurement System 04.10.2019 on 15.00 Hrs & 15.05 Hrs respectively. 6. NIT No. E/E/CD-13/Acs/2019-20/84 (ID No. 2019\_IFC\_180750\_1) Major Head of Account 2711 (Revenue) Name of Work: Removal or obstruction from bed at Mungeshpur drain from RD 150m to RD 2740m. Estimated Cost (in Rs.) 88,62,223/- Earnest Money (in Rs.) 1,77,244/- Time allowed 120 Days. Last date & time of receiving & opening of tender through E-Procurement System 04.10.2019 on 15.00 Hrs & 15.05 Hrs respectively. 7. NIT No. E/E/CD-13/Acs/2019-20/85 (ID No. 2019\_IFC\_180751\_1) Major Head of Account 2711 (Revenue) Name of Work: Supply and Installation of acid resistant floating trash barrier at RD 330m to RD 2740m and RD 9024m of Mungeshpur Drain. Estimated Cost (in Rs.) 12,12,400/- Earnest Money (in Rs.) 24,248/- Time allowed 60 Days. Last date & time of receiving & opening of tender through E-Procurement System 04.10.2019 on 15.00 Hrs & 15.05 Hrs respectively. 8. NIT No. E/E/CD-13/Acs/2019-20/40 (3rd Call) (ID No. 2019\_IFC\_180798\_1) Major Head of Account 2711 (Revenue) Name of Work: Plantation of Trees on Right bank (on side slope) inner side of drain from RD 0m to RD 10362m of Mungeshpur Drain. Estimated Cost (in Rs.) 25,55,945/- Earnest Money (in Rs.) 51,119/- Time allowed 30 Days + 1095 Days for maintenance period. Last date & time of receiving & opening of tender through E-Procurement System 04.10.2019 on 15.00 Hrs & 15.05 Hrs respectively. 9. NIT No. E/E/CD-13/Acs/2019-20/41 (3rd Call) (ID No. 2019\_IFC\_180803\_1) Major Head of Account 2711 (Revenue) Name of Work: Plantation of Trees on Mundella Drain between RD 11050m to RD 12550m and its maintenance upto (03) three years. Estimated Cost (in Rs.) 10,86,230/- Earnest Money (in Rs.) 21,725/- Time allowed 30 Days + 1095 Days for maintenance period. Last date & time of receiving & opening of tender through E-Procurement System 04.10.2019 on 15.00 Hrs & 15.05 Hrs respectively. 10. NIT No. E/E/CD-13/Acs/2019-20/46 (3rd Call) (ID No. 2019\_IFC\_180792\_1) Major Head of Account 2711 (Revenue) Name of Work: Plantation of Trees on Left bank (on side slope) inner side of drain from RD 0m to RD 10362m of Mungeshpur Drain. Estimated Cost (in Rs.) 25,55,945/- Earnest Money (in Rs.) 51,119/- Time allowed 30 Days + 1095 Days for maintenance period. Last date & time of receiving & opening of tender through E-Procurement System 04.10.2019 on 15.00 Hrs & 15.05 Hrs respectively. 11. NIT No. E/E/CD-13/Acs/2019-20/74 (2nd Call) (ID No. 2019\_IFC\_180773\_1) Major Head of Account 2711 (Revenue) Name of Work: Removal of silt from B.C. Drain from RD 6500m to RD 8150m by deploying excavator with 15.5m long boom. Estimated Cost (in Rs.) 26,66,158/- Earnest Money (in Rs.) 53,323/- Time allowed 70 Days. Last date & time of receiving & opening of tender through E-Procurement System 04.10.2019 on 15.00 Hrs & 15.05 Hrs respectively. 12. NIT No. E/E/CD-13/Acs/2019-20/77 (2nd Call) (ID No. 2019\_IFC\_180821\_1) Major Head of Account 2711 (Revenue) Name of Work: Maintenance of Garden and office of the EE, CD-XIII and SE (FC-IV) I and F Deptt. Basaidarapur, New Delhi-110027. Estimated Cost (in Rs.) 21,12,219/- Earnest Money (in Rs.) 42,244/- Time allowed 365 Days. Last date & time of receiving & opening of tender through E-Procurement System 04.10.2019 on 15.00 Hrs & 15.05 Hrs respectively.

E-TENDER  
PRESS NOTICE

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1. NIT No. E/E/CD-13/Acs/2019-20/86 (ID No. 2019\_IFC\_180889\_1) Major Head of Account 4217-Plan (Development of Unauthorized Colony) Name of Work: Improvement and reconstruction of Internal streets and side drains in Mohan Garden R Ext. K5 and K6 in Vikaspuri Constituency AC-31 (Reg. No. 1200/1642). Estimated Cost (in Rs.) 46,38,102/- Earnest Money (in Rs.) 92,762/- Time allowed 90 Days. Last date & time of receiving & opening of tender through E-Procurement System 04.10.2019 on 15.00 Hrs & 15.05 Hrs respectively. 2. NIT No. E/E/CD-13/Acs/2019-20/87 (ID No. 2019\_IFC\_180895\_1) Major Head of Account 4217-Plan (Development of Unauthorized Colony) Name of Work: Improvement and reconstruction of Internal streets and side drain in Sanik Enclave, Mohan Garden in Vikaspuri Constituency AC-31 (Reg. No. 782). Estimated Cost (in Rs.) 43,82,240/- Earnest Money (in Rs.) 87,645/- Time allowed 180 Days. Last date & time of receiving & opening of tender through E-Procurement System 04.10.2019 on 15.00 Hrs & 15.05 Hrs respectively. 3. NIT No. E/E/CD-13/Acs/2019-20/88 (ID No. 2019\_IFC\_180900\_1) Major Head of Account 2711 (Revenue) Name of Work: Providing and fixing solar light in park on left bank near RD 330m at Mungeshpur Drain. Estimated Cost (in Rs.) 22,23,492/- Earnest Money (in Rs.) 44,470/- Time allowed 90 Days. Last date & time of receiving & opening of tender through E-Procurement System 04.10.2019 on 15.00 Hrs & 15.05 Hrs respectively. 4. NIT No. E/E/CD-13/Acs/2019-20/89 (ID No. 2019\_IFC\_180903\_1) Major Head of Account 5055-(Transport Department) Name of Work: Construction of RCC storm water Drain along Boundary wall of Transport office at village Jharoda in N.G. Block. Estimated Cost (in Rs.) 47,57,999/- Earnest Money (in Rs.) 95,160/- Time allowed 120 Days. Last date & time of receiving & opening of tender through E-Procurement System 04.10.2019 on 15.00 Hrs & 15.05 Hrs respectively. 5. NIT No. E/E/CD-13/Acs/2019-20/90 (ID No. 2019\_IFC\_180904\_1) Major Head of Account 4217-Plan (Development of Unauthorized Colony) Name of Work: Improvement of streets and side drain in Baba Haridas Colony at Jharoda Kalan, New Delhi-110072 (Reg. No. ELD-100) in N.G. Block. Estimated Cost (in Rs.) 5,92,421/- Earnest Money (in Rs.) 11,848/- Time allowed 60 Days. Last date & time of receiving & opening of tender through E-Procurement System 04.10.2019 on 15.00 Hrs & 15.05 Hrs respectively. 6. NIT No. E/E/CD-13/Acs/2019-20/91 (ID No. 2019\_IFC\_180911\_1) Major Head of Account 4406-Plan (Forest) Name of Work: Construction of Boundary wall/Fencing in Kh. No. 21/14, 21/15/1, 21/16, 37/11, 37/12, 35/17, 8/18, 4/15, 4/12, 4/13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19 and 16/25 of village Kharkhari Jatmal in Najafgarh Block. Estimated Cost (in Rs.) 57,23,137/- Earnest Money (in Rs.) 1,14,463/- Time allowed 120 Days. Last date & time of receiving & opening of tender through E-Procurement System 04.10.2019 on 15.00 Hrs & 15.05 Hrs respectively. 7. NIT No. E/E/CD-13/Acs/2019-20/92 (ID No. 2019\_IFC\_180917\_1) Major Head of Account 4217-Plan (Development of Unauthorized Colony) Name of Work: Improvement of streets and side drain at Baba Garib Dass Colony, Khera Dabar (Reg. No. 941) in N.G. Block. Estimated Cost (in Rs.) 47,37,024/- Earnest Money (in Rs.) 94,740/- Time allowed 120 Days. Last date & time of receiving & opening of tender through E-Procurement System 04.10.2019 on 15.00 Hrs & 15.05 Hrs respectively. Note:-

(1) Details of above mentioned works & eligibility criteria can be seen and downloaded from the web site <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

(2) Amendment(s) /alteration(s)/ corrigendum if any, will be available at website only.

(3) EMD in the form of Bankers Cheque/DD/Fixed Deposit receipt in F/o EE/CD-XIII, I&FC Deptt Shall be scanned and uploaded to the e-tender website within the period of bid submission. The original EMD should be deposited in the office of EE/CD-XIII, I&FC Deptt. within the period of bid submission.

Sd/-

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CD-XIII, DIP/Shabdarth/752/19-20

6 THE CITY

TWO MEN ON BIKE MANAGE TO FLEE

26-year-old, her mother injured as auto topples during bag snatching

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

IN ANOTHER snatching incident in the city, two unidentified men allegedly snatched a woman's bag while she was travelling in an auto-rickshaw in North Delhi's Civil Lines. Police said after Nidhi Kapoor (26) and her mother tried to hold on to the bag, the auto lost balance and toppled. The men

Court upholds life sentence of ex-soldier

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has upheld life imprisonment awarded to a former soldier for shooting dead a cardiologist in 2012, while trying to forcibly take away the doctor's domestic help, whom he claimed to be in love with.

The High Court said the conduct of the convict post the gruesome murder has not only been "unjust, unfair and unreasonable", but also showed a "propensity to commit crime". It also noted that before this murder, five other FIRs were lodged against him. PTI

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

N-Tender Notice No. RE-DNR-Engg-Gr-176-WT-22 Date - 26.09.2019

On behalf of the President of India, Chief Project Director, Railway Electrification, Danapur, invites open & sealed e-tender for the following work from experienced, financially and technically sound contractors, to be opened on 24.10.2019.

1. Name of the work & its location :- Left over work in Construction of (05 Units Type-II, 02 Units Type-III and 01 Units Type-IV) Qtrs. in Nagar Untan along with all ancillary works viz. Earthwork, Boundary wall, Water supply, Sanitary Installation, drain, Road, Pathway etc. in connection with Electrification of GHD-CPU-SGRL Section in Gr. 176 in Dhanbad Division of E.C.Railway. 2. Approximate cost of the work :- Rs. 1,51,26,113.41/- 3. Earnest Money to be deposited :- Rs. 2,25,600.00/- 4. Date for submission of the tender and opening of Tender :- For submission :- From 10.10.2019 & up to 11.00 Hours on 24.10.2019. Tender will be opened at 11.30 Hrs. on 24.10.2019. 5. Website particulars, Notice board location where complete details of e-tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.: website <https://reps.gov.in>, Notice board location & Add. of the office :- Office of the Chief Project Director (Engg.), Railway Electrification, Danapur, (Near Jagjeevan Stadium), PO-Khagaul, Patna-801105, (Bihar)

Chief Project Director (Engg.) Railway Electrification, Danapur

PR/01308/RE/ELEC/ T/19-20/48

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

e-tender Notice No. 50 of 2019-20 (Open)-Engg/MGS

On line (through e-tendering) for the following work is invited by DRM/Engg/MGS for and on behalf of the President of India from experienced and financially as well as technically sound contractors including those enlisted with the Railway, CPWD, BSNL, MGS, PWD and other public sector undertakings.

Tender no.-52-MGS-SRDEN-I-19-20 (i) Name of work with its location :- Construction/Improvement of PF shed, RCC PF surface (Up & Dn) up to 600 M length with existing wall, cemented benches with small shelters and water supply arrangement at JHN station under ADEN/DOS. (ii) Approx. cost of the work :- ₹ 2481310.95 (iii) Earnest Money :- ₹ 49600.00 (iv) Date & time for submission of e-tender :- 18.10.2019 Up-to 12.00 hrs. (v) Website particulars of e-tendering :- [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in) Tender no.-53-MGS-SRDEN-I-19-20 (i) Name of work with its location :- Construction of 3 Mts wide rail level RCC (UP & DN) Up to 600 mtrs length with small shelter along with cemented seating arrangement at BHKH under ADEN/DOS. (ii) Approx. cost of the work :- ₹ 2787659.33 (iii) Earnest Money :- ₹ 55800.00 (iv) Date & time for submission of e-tender :- 18.10.2019 Up-to 12.00 hrs. (v) Website particulars of e-tendering :- [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in) Tender no.-54-MGS-SRDEN-I-19-20 (i) Name of work with its location :- AUBR Ghat-RL RCC PF (UP & DN) 600m length & 3m width, water supply, cemented benches with small shelters & steps of bridge at AUBR Ghat station under ADEN/DOS. (ii) Approx. cost of the work :- ₹ 2411519.15 (iii) Earnest Money :- ₹ 48200.00 (iv) Date & time for submission of e-tender :- 18.10.2019 Up-to 12.00 hrs. (v) Website particulars of e-tendering :- [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in) Tender no.-55-MGS-SRDEN-I-19-20 (i) Name of work with its location :- Construction of 3 Mts wide Rail Level RCC (UP & DN) upto 600 mtrs. length with small shelter along with cemented seating arrangement at DHKN under ADEN/DOS. (ii) Approx. cost of the work :- ₹ 2787659.33 (iii) Earnest Money :- ₹ 55800.00 (iv) Date & time for submission of e-tender :- 18.10.2019 Up-to 12.00 hrs. (v) Website particulars of e-tendering :- [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in)

Divisional Railway Manager East Central Railway, Mughalsara

PR/01310/MGS/ENGG/ T/19-20/76

fled with the bag while the women fell on the road.

Police said the incident took place near a salon at Shamnath Marg. Kapoor lives with her parents in Rajpur Road in Civil Lines and owns a garment manufacturing business in the city.

In her complaint, Kapoor said, "My mother and I left home around 8.30 am to go to the Civil Lines Metro station. We took an auto-rickshaw and were on our way when two

The woman told police she had bought the bag from Michael Kors this year. It contained her phone, ATM cards and Rs 10,000

men came on a bike from behind. They stopped their bike right next to the auto. My

Take action against 2 officers in kidnapping case: Court to police

ANAND MOHAN J  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

A CITY COURT has asked the Delhi Police Commissioner to take disciplinary action against an Assistant Commissioner of Police and an Investigating Officer for negligent conduct while investigating the kidnapping of a three-year-old child in 2017.

After the abduction, five persons were booked on charges of kidnapping for ransom and criminal conspiracy at Gokulpuri police station. The child was found abandoned on the roadside at Karawal Nagar. The entire case of the prosecution hinged on call data records of the accused persons, who allegedly made several ransom calls to the boy's father.

Police faced the court's ire when it was informed that they sent the father's phone for a forensic examination after a gap of nine months. A 2016 standing order of the police commissioner lays down that the IO/SO concerned shall deposit all relevant exhibits/documents for examination with FSL as early as possible, within seven days from the date of its collection. It also states that regular follow-up with FSLs should be made by the IO/SO to provide any other assistance/material required for examination.

Additional Sessions Judge Vidya Prakash said the offences against the accused persons were heinous and attracted the death penalty: "In such a sensitive case, the kind of insensitiveness on the part of IO/SI Naem Ali and the then SHO, namely Inspector Suresh Chand (now ACP), is quite apparent and cannot be ignored altogether... taken lightly."

The court also noted that written explanations of both officers are silent on why the complainant's phone was not deposited in FSL immediately after seizure, and what efforts were made to pursue the matter with FSL. "... Even the copy of forwarding letter sent to FSL Rohini is steadily missing..., as per reply filed by IO/SI Naem Ali," it said.

The court directed the current SHO to complete the probe in two months. It asked police to submit an Action Taken Report against the officers within six weeks.

mother had my bag in her lap when the accused tried to snatch it from her. But my mother tried to pull it back and the auto lost balance and fell. The men fled with our bag."

Kapoor told police that she had bought the brown bag from Michael Kors this year. It contained her Samsung mobile phone, ATM cards and Rs 10,000. No arrests have been made. Police said they are trying to recover footage from

CCTVs near the spot to identify the accused and arrest them.

"Both women suffered minor injuries on their limbs and were taken to a hospital. Kapoor filed the complaint in the afternoon at Civil Lines police station. We have registered a case against unknown persons under IPC sections 356, 379 and 34. We are investigating the matter and will soon nab the accused," Monika Bharadwaj, DCP (North),

Police crack CR Park snatching case with arrest of 19-year-old

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

DAYS AFTER multiple snatching cases rocked the capital, police have made arrests in three of them.

In the first case, police have apprehended a 19-year-old man for allegedly dragging a woman journalist out of a moving auto and snatching her phone in C R Park. The incident took place on September 23 and the woman sustained injuries to her arms, chin and jaw. "The arrested accused is being questioned. The other accused will be nabbed soon," said Atul Kumar Thakur, DCP (South).

In another case, police have arrested three men from Aligarh, two of whom allegedly snatched the bag of a 27-year-old Brazilian woman at the M-Block market in South Delhi's GK-II 2. The incident took place on September 25, when the woman was waiting for a cab in the area.

According to police, one of the accused, Munawar, had



Munawar (L) and Vijay snatched the bag of a Brazilian woman in GK-II

snatched the Brazilian woman's bag with the other accused, Vijay, using a stolen bike.

The third arrested accused, Honey, is an associate of Munawar and helped the latter in committing thefts in the city. All three hail from Aligarh.

Police have recovered the bag, along with the stolen cash, credit cards and other documents.

In the third case, two men were arrested from West Delhi's Punjabi Bagh Sunday, two days after they allegedly dragged a 57-year-old woman on the road and tried to snatch her bag near Madipur Metro station.

At the deep end for yrs, Naini Lake moves towards revival

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

THE NAINI Lake in Model Town, which has been at the centre of a tussle between different arms of the government as well as two groups of residents, took a small step towards revival as Union Minister and area MP Harish Vardhan introduced a 'floating ecosystem' in the dying lake Sunday.

It was in 2015 that the revival of the lake was first put on the table.

Despite several efforts by residents and a National Green Tribunal committee giving recommendations, work has been at a standstill for a long time.

The Lake Area Residents Association (LARA) had reached out to Vardhan to clean the lake and restart boating after it was stopped due to disagreements between the North Delhi Municipal Corporation and Delhi government's tourism department.

Noted ecologist C R Babu had also formulated a revival plan for the lake, for which the first suggested step was desilting.

A statement issued by Vardhan's office said residents were wary of the move.

"But they were quite apprehensive about desilting the lake — which was suggested by Babu as a starting point — as they felt it would increase seepage of water in their houses," the statement from the minister's office said.

The floating ecosystem, mounted on a thick sheet of thermocol, was designed by scientists at the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI).

Some residents, however, questioned the decision to reject Babu's as well as the NCT



Union Minister Harish Vardhan introduced a 'floating ecosystem' in the lake, in Model Town Sunday. The ecosystem is mounted on a sheet of thermocol.

Prem Nath Pandey

committee's recommendations. "This is hogwash. They are putting thermocol, a pollutant, in the water. What they are doing right now is just cosmetic work. It will not help clean the lake," said Juhi Chaudhary, a resident.

Among the primary demands of LARA is to restart boating at the lake, which members say will bring more people to the lake and thus ensure a closer eye on cleanliness.

BRIEFLY

Man shot at in market dies of injuries

New Delhi: Two days after a 55-year-old man was shot in his shoulder, allegedly by two men, at a market in North East Delhi's New Usmanpur, he succumbed to his injuries at Max Hospital in Patparganj Saturday. Police said the accused have been identified, but are absconding. The incident took place around 6 pm in Brahmपुरi. CCTV footage of the incident shows the two accused running behind the victim, who is on a bike with his friend. After getting closer, one of the accused shoots at the victim, who falls off his bike and lands on one side of the lane. In front of him, a girl aged between four and six years can be seen trying to hide near a shop. The accused push the victim and fire another shot at his back. Overall, the accused fire three-four shots at the victim and flee.

Man fined Rs 50,000 for using thermo-plastic

New Delhi: The South Delhi Municipal Corporation issued a challan of Rs 50,000 to the organiser of a bhandara for using thermo-plastic material, which is in violation of NGT guidelines. ENS

Woman's body found

New Delhi: The body of an unidentified woman was found in a drain in north-east Delhi's Karwal Nagar area on Sunday, police said. PTI

Posing as a cop, man robs two of Rs 1 crore, flees

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

TWO MEN were robbed by a man, who allegedly impersonated a police officer, in Chandni Chowk Sunday, said police. The accused allegedly robbed the men of around Rs 1 crore. The men work for a jeweller in Naya Bazaar in the area, said police.

According to police, the jeweller had sent the men to get money from a client. The duo were on their way back in an auto-rickshaw when the accused allegedly robbed them.

One of the men, in his complaint, said, "I left in an auto-rickshaw with another

employee, Rakesh. We went to Mandi House and received three bags from a client. Each bag had more than Rs 40 lakh cash in it. We took an auto to go back but were stopped by a man inside a Swift near Rajghat. He was wearing a police uniform and asked us about the bags. Rakesh got scared and ran away with one of the bags. The man told me to sit inside his car. He drove the car and snatched my phone. He told me to get down from the car after 10 minutes... He took the bags and sped away (sic)."

The complainant, Thakor Ajit, said that the incident took place around 7 pm Sunday.

Police said that a case has been registered and investigation is on.



# 362-bed trauma centre to come up in 2 yrs: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

DELHI CHIEF Minister Arvind Kejriwal laid the foundation stone for a 362-bed trauma centre in Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital Sunday. The state-of-the-art centre, with six operation theatres and a modern ICU, is expected to be ready in two years.

As per the Delhi government's 2018-2019 outcome budget report, the hospital, located in North West Delhi, has 300 beds and an occupancy rate of 140%. It sees an average footfall of 4,011 patients in its IPD and around 35,000 in the emergency department on a monthly basis.

Lauding the state's healthcare system, the CM claimed the government saved Rs 290 crore in constructing the trauma centre. "Big government hospitals across the country are constructed for Rs 1 crore per bed. This hospital should have cost Rs 362 crore, but the Delhi government is constructing it in just Rs 71 crore. This is because Delhi has an honest and efficient government that saves peoples' tax money and is, thus, able to provide the best services," he said.

Officials said the standard number of emergency beds in a 300-bed hospital would only be 5-6%, which comes to 15-20 emergency beds. The Delhi government has necessitated that 40% of a hospital's bed strength should be emergency beds, owing to inadequate treatment facilities for people due to non-availability. At Sanjay Gandhi hospital, more than 50% of beds are reserved as ICU and emergency.



The CM laid the foundation stone for the centre, Sunday.  
Prem Nath Pandey

The CM further compared Delhi's healthcare model with Denmark: "We are matching healthcare standards of Denmark, one of the world's most developed nations. Denmark has universal healthcare coverage for all. Every patient, rich or poor, can access free treatment in all hospitals," he said.

The Delhi government has also begun work to increase the bed capacity in several Delhi government hospitals by over 120%, with a capacity of 5,739 beds being added to 15 existing hospitals.

"Dispensaries were in poor shape and people had to rush to big hospitals for simple medical conditions. This is why we constructed 200 mohalla clinics; construction of 200 more will be completed in 10-15 days. By December-end, construction of 300 more clinics will be done."

Criticising the opposition for attacking him for providing free education and healthcare, he said, "We decreased VAT from 12.5% to 5% but increased facilities for welfare of people. We saved Rs 190 crore in just one project. If I use this money to make medicines, treatment and tests free for people, is it wrong?"

# Tyre killer trial in Noida falls flat

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NOIDA, SEPTEMBER 29

THE NOIDA Authority's experiment to install tyre-killers to prevent people from driving on the wrong side seems to have failed, after commuters found ways to make their way around them. As a result, tyre-killers installed at the Noida Sector 77 North Eye Junction and in Sector 50/41 were removed by the Authority.

"One person would hold the tyre-killer down and let the other person pass. This posed a bigger threat to commuters as someone could get hurt. They were installed on a trial basis to test their effectiveness. There is no policy in place for them yet, but we are open to re-installing them in the future," said Rajeev Tyagi, GM Operations (Noida Authority).

The 'tyre killers' have an elevation similar to that of a speed-breaker, with a slope on one side and metal spikes on the other.

The first set was installed at Sector 77 in January. Within 24 hours, a portion of the elevated metal strip came off due to incoming traffic. A repaired set with spring spikes was installed later at the same spot. A similar tyre-killer metal strip was installed at a U-turn in Sector 41/50. Both



Tyre killers removed from Sector 50. Abhinav Saha

were removed four months ago.

Locals claimed people had found ways to get past the tyre-killer. "Initially, a couple of bikes came to our shop as their tyres had burst. Slowly, people began to either drive around it or would get someone to hold it down while they went over it," said Waseem, who works at a tyre-repair shop at North Eye Junction.

Traffic Police claimed the fines under the new Motor Vehicles Act will act as a better deterrent to prevent driving on the wrong side. "We were informed that locals were stuffing stones or sand to jam the springs. Some would even loosen the strip from one end. Since it requires large-scale surveillance, it is hard to keep track of these activities. We are getting 450 extra personnel to monitor traffic to help us supervise better," said Anil Jha, SP (Traffic).

# Cleanliness drive at two police stations

New Delhi: Staff at Parliament Street and Tughlaq Road police stations conducted a cleanliness drive at their offices over the weekend.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (New Delhi) Eish Singhal, along with the rest of the staff, took a pledge to keep his surroundings clean.

The drive was conducted in collaboration with an NGO, Rab Shukran, which also felicitated sweepers at the two police stations for their service. **ENS**

**SANJIV SINHA**  
(20 JULY 1967 - 30 SEPT 2001)

Fondly remembered by  
his family and  
colleagues at  
The Express Group

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HC/FIRE Y. V. CHETTY  
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30-09-2000

MARTYR OF CISF ON 30TH SEPTEMBER  
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# SC PANEL HAD ISSUED ORDERS

# Gym owners seek extension of cut-off date to avoid sealing

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

TWO DAYS after the Supreme Court-appointed monitoring committee ordered sealing of all fitness centres, gyms, and yoga and meditation centres which opened after August 12, 2008, traders have demanded that the deadline be extended by amending the Master Plan. Warning of protests, traders said the move is also against the "spirit of the PM's 'Fit India' movement".

Brijesh Goyal, national convener of the Chamber of Trade and Industry (CTI), said the body has written a letter to the Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Puri demanding that the deadline be extended.

At a press conference on Sunday, Goyal said, "It has come to my knowledge that the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has given relaxations to restaurants on ground floors under the mixed-land use category, and increased their cut off date from September 2012 to 2019.



The SC monitoring committee ordered the sealing of all gyms opened after August 12, 2008. Archive

Similarly, the DDA can give us relaxations. The proposal for the modification in the Master Plan has been sent to the UD ministry."

When contacted, a senior DDA official said such changes require detailed deliberations. He added that at present, these gyms are illegal and whether there will be a modification or not is something that cannot be commented upon presently.

Chirag Sethi of Anytime Fitness, which has 40 centres across Delhi-NCR, said: "We give yearly membership to people... After this move, our customers

have started asking about the status of our gyms. People have stopped taking memberships and schemes, leading to a loss in business. We request authorities to extend the cut-off date."

Vinay Sangwan of Classic Fitness Academy added, "The usual size of shops allotted in DDA markets is about 500 square feet, whereas we need at least 2,000 square feet to install large gym equipment. Also, every fitness centre owner cannot afford to have a facility in a shopping mall as it becomes very expensive."

Traders said the monitoring committee's order goes against the Prime Minister's promotion of yoga at international levels and the 'Fit India' movement. "We expect that the DDA will give us relief because shutting these centres goes against the PM's vision too," said Goyal.

A senior official of the South MCD said, "We are just executing agency; our work is to follow the order. We are ready to meet traders but the decision on modification of the Master Plan has to be taken by DDA."

# EXPLAINED

## The Master Plan clause

THE MASTER Plan of Delhi (MPD) 2021 does not allow fitness centres outside of DDA market complexes or shopping malls. However, an amendment in 2013 had declared those gyms and centres that came up before August 12, 2008, as legal.

In the past, the DDA has extended the regularisation cut-off date for other businesses such as restaurants.

## Decongesting Delhi-NCR through High Speed Signal Free Highway Corridors

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Major Bridge across Upper Ganga Canal, 7 New Minor Bridges and Flyover at Hapur By-Pass	11 Vehicular Underpasses, 2 Pedestrian Underpasses and 2 Foot over Bridges	6 Major Junctions and 105 Minor Junctions

by

# Nitin Gadkari

Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

on

30<sup>th</sup> September, 2019, Monday, 12:30 pm at Rajputana Inter College, Pilkhuwa, Hapur

In the August Presence of

## Gen. (Dr.) Vijay Kumar Singh

PVSM, AVSM, YSM (Retd.)  
Union Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways

## Keshav Prasad Maurya

Deputy Chief Minister,  
Uttar Pradesh

Guest of Honour

## Rajendra Agarwal

Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha

## Dr. Anil Agrawal

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# 8HARDLOOKSNATCHING CRISIS



## The unsafe streets

Back-to-back snatching cases, mostly targeting women, have put the capital on edge and police on the back foot. But with criminals out on bail within months, the answer may lie in diligent beat patrolling and more stringent laws. MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL reports

ON MARCH 8, International Women's Day, 53-year-old Shobha Kanwar was dragged on the road for around 30 metres by two bikers who tried to snatch her bag. CCTV footage of the incident showed Kanwar being dragged on the Janakpuri main road as she tried to cling to her handbag. The incident left her with injuries on her knees, hands, waist and face.

Delhi Police initially lodged an e-FIR of theft as Kanwar was apprehensive of filing a case, but once the footage went viral and outrage grew, more stringent sections of robbery were added three days later. Within 12 days, both the accused were arrested. And within four months, they were out on bail.

This case, one of over 4,500 snatching incidents reported in the capital so far this year, is emblematic of a larger crisis that has sent alarm bells ringing in the Delhi Police ranks, and kept the city on edge.

Delhi Police's own data is testimony to the challenge they're up against: Till September 15 this year, 4,516 cases of snatching, from phones to handbags to chains, were reported — an average of 530 cases a month. The figure for all 12 months of 2018 was 4,707 — roughly 390 cases a month. In six districts, cases reported with the police this year have already exceeded the number of FIRs filed last year.

This September has seen a spate of snatching cases across the city — an ANI reporter was hospitalised after two bike-borne men snatched her phone and dragged her out of a moving auto in C R Park; in Sadar Bazar, a woman almost came under a car when a man on a bike snatched her phone; and a 27-year-old Brazilian woman received injuries after her bag was snatched in GK II.

Delhi Police spokesperson DCP Mandeep Singh Randhawa said that "before this month, street crimes were under control, but this month, several unfortunate incidents took place". "We reacted immediately and took preventive measures — we have solved most cases and are working round-the-clock to solve the others," he said.

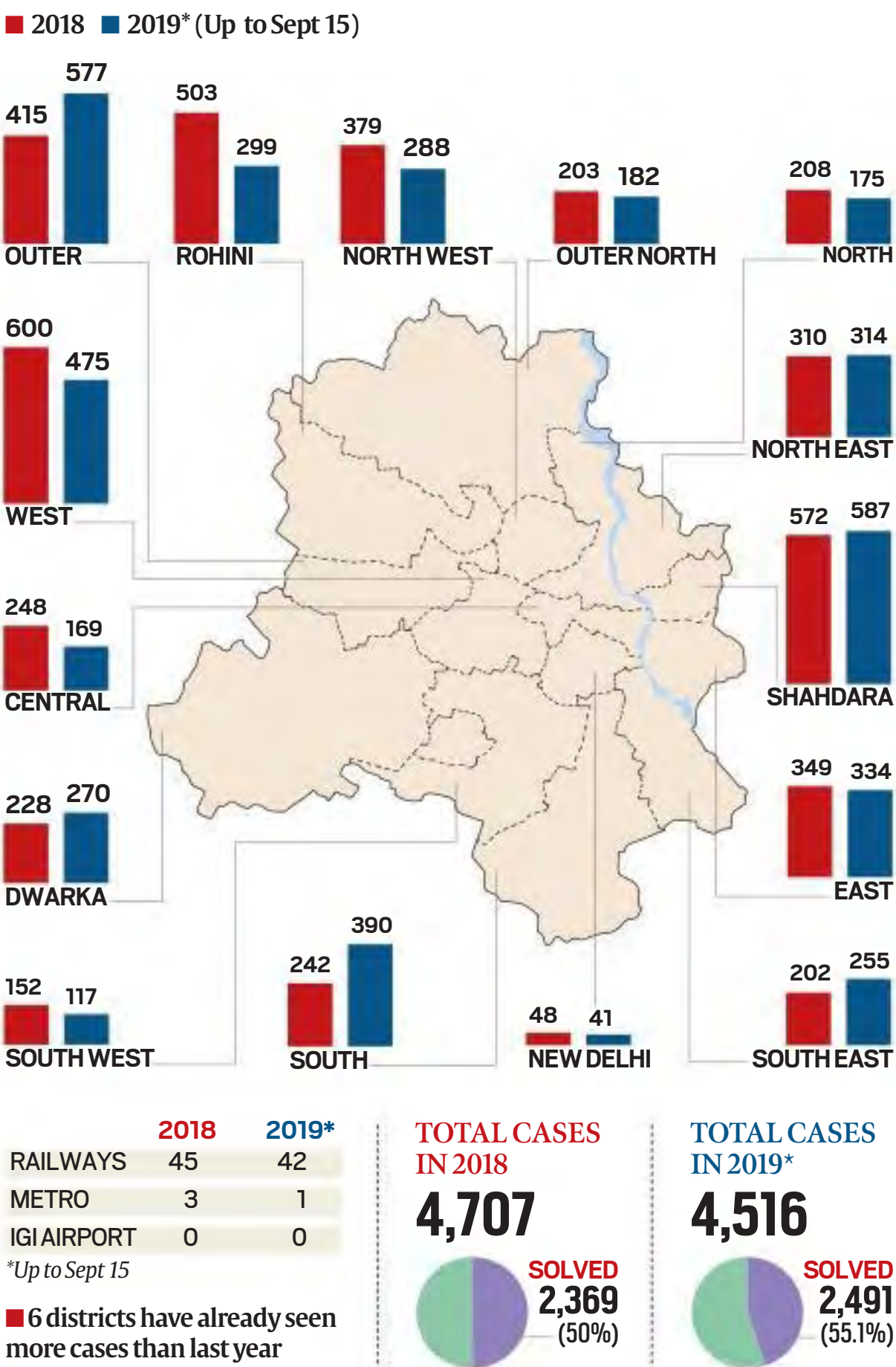
Current and former officials *The Indian Express* spoke to suggested several reasons why there's no let-up in incidents of snatching: The punishment for the crime not being harsh enough; a lack of focus on beat policing; and a system of filing e-FIRs that "indirectly help the accused".

### Drawing inspiration

To understand how the menace can be tackled, one needn't look beyond neighbouring Haryana.

In October 2015, the state added clauses 379-A and 379-B to IPC Section 379 (punishment for theft), in a bid to make the law against snatching more stringent. Under IPC 379-A (snatching), a convict will be punished with rigorous imprisonment for not less than five years along with a fine of Rs 25,000. The first conviction under this happened in April 2016, when a Gurgaon court sentenced a 22-year-old man to five-year imprisonment and a Rs 25,000 fine for snatching a smartphone. "Since snatching became a non-bailable offence in 2015 in Haryana, we've seen some change on the ground. It has impacted the minds of criminals, who don't look at it as just a petty crime anymore," said Navdeep Singh Virk, ADGP (Law and Order), Haryana.

### Cases across 18 districts



Haryana Police registered 1,700 cases of snatching from January to August, 2018; and 1,422 cases in the same period this year. "There are many repeat offenders in crimes such as snatching because it's easy to do... In any lane, you will find people walking with phones or bags or wearing chains. This doesn't require a lot of preparation or even a gang. It's a crime of opportunity, mostly committed by jobless and frustrated youth," Virk said.

Delhi Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik told *The Indian Express* that his force, too, has made a similar proposal, which is yet to see the light of day. "We have made a proposal to make the law stringent and sent it to the Delhi government. We are following it up and waiting for their approval," he said.

A Delhi government spokesperson said the matter is sub judice: "The Delhi High Court is seized of the matter as the proposal was challenged by an individual."

This, the country's first woman IPS officer

Kiran Bedi said, "will certainly help" — but it won't solve the problem. "Any law has to be backed up by systematic, planned crime-prevention methods — from regular verification of criminals to beat policing. Tracking those with criminal records to find out what they are doing now, through an intensive beat patrolling system on a daily basis, is required," she said.

**The snatcher's diary**

*The Indian Express* met four men who have been arrested by Delhi Police on charges of snatching, some of them several times, only to secure bail within months. Snatching, all of them said, was the easiest way to make a quick buck.

"I couldn't land a job, so I took up snatching to pay for drugs and buy gifts for my girlfriend. Every day, I would leave home around 7.15 am and look for people wearing gold chains. I had stolen a fast bike and would roam

**INTERVIEW**  
**AMULYA PATNAIK**  
DELHI POLICE COMMISSIONER

### 'Porous borders, socio-economic conditions key factors'

DELHI POLICE chief AMULYA PATNAIK on efforts to curb snatching, a proposal to amend the law for stricter punishments, and how street crime is an issue across the world.

**Why is there no let-up in snatching cases?**

Crimes like snatching have troubled citizens from time to time. There are many factors such as porous borders and socio-economic conditions, like upscale residential neighbourhoods being surrounded by colonies of the underprivileged. However, constant efforts have been made to contain it.

**What efforts in particular?**

In 2017, we had formed anti-snatching teams at all police stations. Their performance is reviewed personally by district DCPs, such as the steps they have taken to keep a tab on snatchers released from jail and efforts made to catch offenders. Recently, we also launched Raftaar patrols, giving them specific directions to focus on movements of youth on bikes. We also launched 15 Prakhar vans — street-crime patrol vans exclusively meant to patrol areas affected by such crimes.

**What do statistics suggest about street crime in the city?**

Street crime is a priority focus area and we are working hard on it. Statistically speaking, there has been a downward trend over the last two

years, but we do agree a lot more needs to be done. If you look at street crime in most other cities of the world, it has been a problem there as well. We don't intend to compare ourselves with other cities, but the fact remains it has been an issue. For instance, if you look at Washington DC, incidents of crime, including murder, rape and street crime, per lakh population will be much higher than Delhi. Here, on account of greater media coverage of such incidents, crime comes more in limelight.

**Haryana has made the law more stringent to deal with snatching. Is there a similar proposal by Delhi Police?**

We initiated a proposal last year to amend laws dealing with such crimes to include harsher punishment, like Haryana. The matter is pending with the Delhi government, we have been following it up. It has to be sent for approval to the L-G, which is yet to be done. It will help create a deterrent if laws are harsher; it will make it difficult for snatchers to come out on bail.

niles or first-time criminals, whom police lack data on.

**Need for change**

Once a snatcher is caught, a case is usually registered under IPC sections 356 (criminal force during theft) and 379 (theft). Under section 379, punishment ranges from a fine to a maximum of three years in prison, while for section 356, the punishment is a maximum of two years in jail. The accused are usually let out on bail on a cash surety of around Rs 10,000.

To curb this, former police chief B S Bassi, during his stint, had directed all personnel to also invoke the harsher section of robbery (IPC 392) in incidents of snatching. A retired CP-rank officer who worked with Bassi said: "We observed that snatchers would often misuse the law and get out on bail if we failed to make any recovery. We decided to book them under more stringent sections so they wouldn't get bail easily."

Senior advocate Vikas Pahwa suggested this was the right approach: "Snatching by force is actually an offence of robbery, punishable with imprisonment of 10 years or life under IPC Section 392/394, depending on the type of force applied."

Senior officers also stressed on the need for another systemic change. Former DCP LN Rao, who worked in the police force for more than three decades, said, "Nowadays, Delhi Police is playing the game of figures by not lodging proper FIRs. People are reporting the matter, but indirectly helping the accused by registering e-FIRs. The system of e-FIRs was launched for motor vehicle theft or property theft, not for snatching. They are misusing the law by lodging e-FIRs for snatching; such cases will be prevented only if they start lodging cases under proper sections. If they lodge all cases properly, the accused will be booked in multiple cases and they will face problems while seeking bail."

According to Delhi Police data, the number of e-FIRs filed in cases of theft, which also covers incidents of snatching, has gradually increased since 2016, when the option was first introduced. While 67,230 e-FIRs for theft were filed that year, the number jumped to 1,10,398 in 2017. In 2018, that figure stood at 1,33,920, and till August 31 this year, the number had already touched 1,22,999.

The 65-year-old wife of a retired Army personnel, who was targeted by two snatchers on a bike on July 2 this year, claimed she had been pressured into filing an e-FIR. According to the victim, Maya Yadav, the men snatched her purse right outside her house in Laxmi Nagar as she was ringing the doorbell after returning from the market. Inside her purse was Rs 7,000, keys and some cards. Police initially lodged an e-FIR of theft, but added sections of robbery as CCTV footage of the incident spread.

"My husband called police and they recorded my statement. But they stressed on writing that the bikers had stolen my purse. I requested them to change the contents of the complaint, but they pressured me to cooperate. They eventually lodged an e-FIR of theft, wherein they wrote that someone had stolen my wallet," she recalled.



# 9 GOVT & POLITICS



## WORK AND WORSHIP

WITH THE Navratri season setting in, BJP leaders are doing their best to balance work and devotion. The party had requested its national vice-president and former Rajasthan CM Vasundhara Raje for public engagements on Article 370 in Meerut and Bhopal. Raje, a devotee of Pitambara temple in Datia district of Madhya Pradesh, completed the engagements in time to be at the shrine at the start of Navratri. She is likely to be at the temple for all nine days as she could spend very less time there in the last five years when she was busy with her duties as CM.

## TWITTER FLUTTER

THE OFFICIAL Twitter handle of Prasar Bharati News Services, the country's official broadcaster, created a flutter on Twitter on Saturday when it referred to Pakistan as "Terroristan". This came after India used its Right of Reply at the UN General Assembly to respond to Imran Khan's address. After reactions poured in, the handle stated that "terroristan" has been part of official Indian diplomatic parlance in the UN as far back as 2017. It quoted a September 2017 tweet by India's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN Syed Akbaruddin which said "Pakistan is now Terroristan".

## SURPRISE SELECTION

THE BJP'S list of candidates for bypolls in Kerala, released on Sunday, has surprised many. Former state party chief and former Mizoram governor Kummanam Rajasekharan was expected to be the candidate from Vattiyorkavu. But the party announced S Suresh as its nominee. In the 2016 state polls, Rajasekharan had given a tough fight to Congress leader K Muraliedharan on the seat and finished second. Sources said the party's internal issues ruined his chances. Rajasekharan, it is learnt, never had good equations with a senior leader who has a key role in the decision on tickets. Now state leaders say they get would have a hard time explaining why he is not the candidate as some of them have publicly said Rajasekharan would be the candidate.

## UTTARAKHAND

## BJP acts against 40 leaders for anti-party activities

LALMANI VERMA  
DEHRADUN, SEPTEMBER 29

IN A major crackdown against rebels, Uttarakhand BJP on Sunday removed 40 party leaders from their posts and initiated an exercise to expel them from the party organisation on charges of anti-party activities as these leaders filed nominations in the ongoing panchayat polls against party's authorised candidates.

Party state general secretary Rajendra Bhandari issued a list of these 40 leaders on Sunday stating that action against them has been taken considering reports of their indulgence in anti-party activities.

Among these 40 leaders, 14 are from Tehri, nine from

Nainital, four from Pithoragarh, six in Bagheshwar, two each in Pauri, Uttarkashi, Dehradun and one in Almora.

The state election commission has announced the schedule for panchayat polls.

As these elections are not contested on symbol of political parties, every registered political party declares their authorised supported candidates who contest polls on the symbols allotted by the district election offices.

"They were asked to withdraw nominations but they did not and now the date of withdrawal has passed. They have been removed from party posts with immediate effect and they will be expelled from the party after formal consultation with the disciplinary committee of the party," Bhandari said.

## MANN KI BAAT

# E-cigarettes banned so they don't destroy our young: PM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Sunday said the government banned the use of e-cigarettes to ensure that they do not "destroy our demographically young country". He also lauded the idea behind "plogging" which involves running while picking up trash on the way and encouraged people to felicitate daughters who have brought "glory to their families, society and the country".

Speaking about the government's move to ban e-cigarettes, he said, "While we all understand the dangers of common cigarettes, a misconception has been generated about e-cigarettes...The myth that has been spread is that e-cigarettes pose no danger. Like the conventional cigarette, it does not spread odour as fragrant chemicals are added to it. We have seen around us, that, even if the father in any house is a chain smoker,

still he tries to stop the rest of the household from smoking... There is no confusion about the dangers posed by a cigarette..."

"But the case of e-cigarettes is quite different. There is little awareness... for this reason sometimes e-cigarettes sneak into the house out of sheer curiosity. And kids at times pretending to be showing some magical trick, blow smoke in the presence of peer company or their parents...And as if a magic show is going on, the family members respond with applause....," he added.

"The e-cigarette has been banned so that this new form of intoxication does not destroy our demographically young country," he said.

A conversation between the Prime Minister and the young man behind the "plogging" initiative in India was broadcasted during the radio address.

The Prime Minister said the Ministry of Sports will be organising a 'Fit India plogging run' on October 2 to mark the 150th

birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. He also announced a "Run for Unity" event to mark Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birth anniversary on October 31.

On the government's campaign against single-use plastic, he said, "I do believe that a single step towards freedom from single-use plastic taken by 130 crore countrymen will give India a lead by a 130 crore steps."

A conversation between the Prime Minister and legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar, in which he extends his wishes on her 90th birthday, was also broadcasted.

He said he was "stirred" by the humility of Russian tennis player Daniil Medvedev who lost to Spanish ace Rafael Nadal in the US Open final.

Referring to Medvedev's speech after the match, the Prime Minister said the Russian player had won hearts with his "simplicity and maturity".

Referring to the upcoming festivals, the Prime Minister encouraged people to share their

happiness with the "deprived" through NGOs and charitable organisations. "There are homes where sweetmeats are left to rot; there are homes where children yearn for a sweet; at places almirahs run out of space to store more clothes; elsewhere, people have to slog to earn a decent covering for their bodies... Let us distribute joy where there is paucity," he said.

He also appealed to people to felicitate "daughters" and "daughters-in-laws who are performing extraordinarily".

"In our culture, daughters are considered Laxmi...Can we, this time around in society, organise programmes to felicitate daughters in villages, towns and cities?... This Diwali, can we arrange programmes to honour the Laxmi of India? If you look around, you'll find many daughters and daughters-in-law who are performing extraordinarily. ... Our society must recognise such daughters, honour them and feel proud of them."

## EC approves Maharashtra plea to continue relief funds release

New Delhi: The Election Commission (EC) on Sunday approved Maharashtra government's request to continue the release of funds for flood rehabilitation and relief in the state.

The Relief and Rehabilitation Department of the Maharashtra government had, through the state's Chief Electoral Officer, sought the EC's permission last week to continue relief work in the 27 districts hit by heavy rain-fall and floods in July and August.

Permission was sought since the Model Code of Conduct is in force in the September 21 when the EC announced elections in Maharashtra and Haryana.

"The Model Conduct does not come in the way of flood relief," said an EC official. **ENS**



## POLL MODE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah arrive at the BJP office in New Delhi for the Central Election Committee meet on Sunday. The meeting was held to finalise candidates for the upcoming Assembly elections in Haryana and Maharashtra. *Renuka Puri*

# No tangible outcomes of PM's US visit: Cong

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

ARGUING THAT the "much-hyped" meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump was a "disappointment" as it failed to meet India's expectations, the Congress on Sunday said the "euphoria" over the PM's UN visit is misplaced as there were no "tangible outcomes" and asked the government to focus on real issues.

"There were no tangible outcomes of the visit which would justify the BJP celebration. Prime

Minister was unsuccessful in persuading US President Trump to restore the Generalized System of Preference (GSP) for Indian exports to US markets, withdrawal of reduction in number of H1-B visas for Indian professionals and steep hike in fee. Failure to conclude the trade deal has caused disappointment in the Indian industry and exporters weighed down by the recession," senior Congress leader Anand Sharma said.

"India and the US are strategic partners and the relationship is one of special importance for both countries. It must embrace core issues — political, economic

and technological of India's interests in strengthening a robust partnership," he said.

Sharma said Prime Minister Modi's meetings with other heads of states and governments at the United Nations General Assembly were a routine affair and were part of standard practice at the UNGA.

"They do not have a special significance... The BJP euphoria on PM's visit is misplaced and there is no cause for celebration... PM seems to be carried away by his own propaganda and is disconnected with the harsh ground realities of deepening economic crisis..." he said.

The Congress, however, backed the stand taken by the Prime Minister and the government on Pakistan and the continuing threat of terrorism. "We congratulate the PM for reiterating India's firm and consistent position that the state of J&K is an integral part of India and its accession is final and irrevocable. We endorse the official position that all issues pertaining to Jammu and Kashmir are India's internal affairs..." he said.

The Congress, Sharma said, condemns the provocative and preposterous statement made by Pakistan PM Imran Khan at the UNGA.

## ASSEMBLY BYPOLLS

## Odisha: BJP names candidate for Bijepur

SAMPAD PATNAIK  
BHUBANESWAR, SEPT 29

THE BJP on Sunday picked Sanath Gartia as its candidate for the upcoming bypoll for the Bijepur Assembly seat and lashed out at Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik over "unkept" promises to the people.

Meanwhile, the CPI questioned if the BJP and the BJD were contesting against each other or working as allies.

The bypoll was necessitated after Patnaik, who also won from Hinjili in May's Assembly elections, chose to vacate the Bijepur seat. Patnaik on Saturday announced Rita Sahu will be the BJD's candidate. Sahu, had joined BJD and previously won the seat in 2018, in a bypoll after the incumbent Congress MLA and her husband Subal Sahu succumbed to long-term ailments.

However, a year later, Patnaik stood from the constituency after a delegation of western

Odisha BJD leaders requested him to do so.

"Why did he not quit Hinjili instead of Bijepur? The CM should answer why he did not even pay a visit to Bijepur after the victory. Before the bypoll of 2018, the CM said he will personally look into the constituency's development. What has happened so far?" questioned Bargarh BJP MP Suresh Pujari in a press conference on Sunday.

"He inaugurated various projects worth Rs 2,300 crore. When will the delivery happen?" he asked.

However, the CPI questioned whether both parties were actually contesting against each other. "The people of Odisha should ask Naveen Babu and his party what is their stand. During the Lok Sabha elections, we thought they were fighting each other. But after Lok Sabha, we see BJD supporting all policies of BJP inside and outside Parliament," said CPI General Secretary D Raja.

## MP: BJP lightweight vs Cong veteran in Jhabua

MILIND GHATWAI  
BHOPAL, SEPTEMBER 29

THE BJP has fielded a political lightweight, Bhanu Bhuria, to take on Congress veteran Kantilal Bhuria in the crucial by-election to Jhabua (ST) constituency in Madhya Pradesh where the ruling Congress enjoys a wafer-thin Assembly majority.

Bhanu Bhuria, 36, is the Jhabua district chief of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha while his 69-year-old Congress rival is a five-time MP and former union minister. The bypoll was necessitated after sitting MLA G S Damor was elected to the Lok Sabha.

Damor had defeated the former union minister in the general elections in May and his son Vikrant Bhuria in the Assembly elections from Jhabua segment.

Damor's resignation from the Assembly reduced the BJP's tally to 108 in the 230-member house where the Congress has



Bhanu Bhuria

114 members and enjoys support from four Independents, one SP and two BSP members.

Kantilal Bhuria had lost the 2014 general elections from Ratlam-Jhabua constituency but wrested the seat from the BJP in the parliamentary by-election in 2015. In the 2019 polls, he lost but is confident of winning now. "I am not nervous. He maybe a big leader but I have a team of young workers ready to work on the ground. In his 40-year political career, he has been state and union minister but did little for the region..." Bhanu said.

Kantilal Bhuria's son Vikrant, however, said his father's experience and the initiatives he took when he was the tribal minister will see him through.

## UP: SP fields Azam's wife from Rampur

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 29

A DAY before the last day of the filing of nominations for the by-election to 11 Assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh, the ruling BJP on Sunday announced the names of 10 candidates. The Samajwadi Party, too, announced the names of six more candidates, while the Congress announced one name.

While SP has fielded party MP Azam Khan's wife — Tazeen Fatima — from Rampur Assembly seat, the BJP has nominated local leader Bharat Bhushan Gupta, who had lost to Azam Khan from the same seat in the 2012 Assembly polls on a BSP ticket.

In Ghosi, which fell vacant following the resignation of sitting MLA Phagu Chauhan after he was appointed as the Governor of Bihar, the BJP has fielded its Mau district president Vijay Rajbhar, who will be making his Assembly poll debut.



Tazeen Fatima

Against him, the SP has fielded former MLA Sudhakar Singh.

Another BJP leader to make Assembly poll debut will be Surendra Maithani, the party's Kanpur district chief, who has been fielded from Govindnagar seat in Kanpur.

The SP has also fielded several first-timers. They include youth leader and former vice-president of Allahabad University Students' Union Nirbhay Singh Patel from Manikpur in Chitrakoot district, Subhash Rai from Jalalpur in Ambedkarnagar district and Gaurav Kumar Rawat from Zaidpur in Barabanki district. The party has fielded first-timers.

The BJP is yet to announce its candidate for Pratapgarh.

# Tripura royal to move SC against animal sacrifice ban in temples

SOURAV ROY BARMAN  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

TRIPURA ROYAL scion Pradyot Debbarman on Sunday announced his decision to move the Supreme Court against the Tripura High Court ban on animal sacrifices in temples, terming it a "judicial overreach" and saying "courts cannot play the role of priests".

Debbarman, who recently quit as Tripura Congress president and has also given up the party's primary membership, said the tradition of animal sacrifices in temples of the state, which used to take place under the Manikya monarchs who ruled over the erstwhile kingdom of Tripura, "goes beyond the merger agreement" with India.

"Personally, I am against opulent slaughter. I detest it. We should not do large-scale slaughter and restrict ourselves to symbolic one or two slaughters. It is more affordable too for poor tribes and we should not indulge in such a practice. But it is an overreach from the High Court when it says you cannot sacrifice at all. Can they do it at the Kamakhya temple? Could we ban Jallikattu, which is not even a temple ritual but a sport? Can they stop Bakrid tomorrow?," Debbarman told *The Indian Express*.

Incidentally, the BJP government in Tripura, which is also planning to move the apex court seeking a reconsideration of the High Court order, had also drawn the Eid reference while opposing the petition for the ban.

However, the High Court had termed the argument "preposterous", saying the plea needs to be "repelled at the threshold" as the issue of animal sacrifice during Eid stands settled in the Mohd Hanif Qureshi vs Bihar, Ashutosh Lahiri vs state of West Bengal and the and Mirzapur Moti Kureshi vs state of Gujarat cases.

In those cases, the courts held that animal sacrifice was not an essential component of Islam and cannot be granted protection un-



Pradyot Debbarman

**EXPLAINED**  
**E** Ban sparks debate in N-E state

ANIMAL SACRIFICE takes place primarily in two temples of Tripura — Tripureswari Temple and Chaturdasha Devta Temple. Both were founded under the Manikya dynasty, to which Pradyot belongs. The tradition of animal sacrifice, which goes back at least 500 years, continued even under the Communist rule. The ban on the tantrik method of worship has sparked a debate in the state. So far, only the CPM has publicly welcomed the HC order.

der the Article 25 of the Constitution. The same reasoning also found mention in the Tripura High Court judgement. The court also said the merger agreement, placed on record by the petitioner, does not refer to performance of any practice, custom or tradition of animal sacrifice in Tripura.

According to Debbarman, the court has no basis in saying that animal sacrifice is not an essential part of Hindu faith of the tantrik tradition. "You can ban firecrackers, because that is not an essential part of Diwali. It started much later," he said.

**FULL REPORT ON**  
**www.indianexpress.com**

## NARADA CASE PROBE

## Arrested IPS officer taken to Mukul Roy's house

Kolkata: A day after BJP leader Mukul Roy was questioned by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in connection with the Narada tapes case, the central probe agency on Sunday took arrested IPS officer SMH Mirza to the BJP leader's residence in south Kolkata, where an alleged transaction of money between the two had taken place, for a face-to-face questioning.

According to the CBI sources, Mirza, who was arrested last Thursday, had confessed to have

given money to Roy at his Elgin Road residence.

A senior CBI officer, accompanying Mirza, told reporters that they took Mirza to Roy's apartment to reconstruct the incident.

"We videographed the face-to-face interrogation for identification and reconstruction. There are allegations and counter allegations, but investigations revealed Mirza handed over Rs 1.7 crore to Roy, part of which was collected from Narada..." **ENS**

## Rajasthan: BJP, Cong announce candidates

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
JAIPUR, SEPTEMBER 29

BARELY HOURS after joining the BJP on Sunday, Sushila Seegda was announced as the BJP candidate from Mandawa assembly seat, even as Congress declared its candidates for the two seats — Khinwsar and Mandawa — for the bypolls on October 21.

Seegda, 54, who is the pradhan at Jhunjhunu panchayat samiti, has been Zila Parishad pradhan thrice. She was among the 32 candidates in 13 states who were declared by BJP's national working president JP Nadra on Sunday. Although she was expelled from the Congress after the 2018 Assembly elections, allegedly due to anti-party activities, her candidature came as a surprise to Congress workers.

Following her expulsion, she had openly supported BJP in the Lok Sabha elections held earlier this year. She will now face Rita Chaudhary of the Congress,

whose name was approved by party president Sonia Gandhi and announced by party general secretary Mukul Wasnik on Sunday. Chaudhary, a former MLA, won Mandawa in 2008 but was defeated by BJP's Narendra Kumar in 2018 Assembly elections by a margin of 2,346 votes. Kumar was subsequently fielded in the LS polls, and went on to win the Jhunjhunu seat, hence necessitating the bypoll. Kumar was present when Seegda joined BJP at the party's Jhunjhunu district office. Deputy Leader of Opposition Rajendra Rathore, among others, was also present at the event.

Apart from Mandawa, Congress will fight NDA ally Rashtriya Loktantrik Party (RLTP) in Khinwsar, considered to be the stronghold of RLTP chief Hanuman Beniwal. Beniwal has fielded his brother Narayan Beniwal while the Congress announced the name of former cabinet minister, Harendra Mirdha. Mirdha is also an All India Congress Committee secretary.



**NORTH**

## Ghaziabad woman alleges rape in Baghpat, 2 booked

*Baghpat:* Two men have been booked in connection with the rape of a 35-year-old woman in Uttar Pradesh's Baghpat district, police said on Sunday. In her complaint, the Ghaziabad-based woman alleged that on Friday, one of the accused, Sunil, called her to his house in Baghpat on the pretext of giving her a job,

Kotwali police station in-charge Arvind Kumar said. When she reached there, Sunil and another man present at his house offered her a drink, the officer said, citing the complaint. He said the man, who was with Sunil, allegedly raped her when she passed out after having the drink. **PTI**

**Tej Bahadur Yadav joins Jannayak Janata Party in the presence of Dushyant Chautala in Delhi on Sunday. In 2017, the former BSF constable had uploaded videos on social media complaining about the poor quality of food served to personnel in the force. Express**

**EAST**

## Kolkata biryani chain owner among 14 held for gambling

*Kolkata:* The owner of a biryani chain was among 14 people arrested during raids at poker clubs in the city, a senior police officer said on Sunday. Acting on a tip-off, the anti-rowdy section of the Kolkata Police's Detective Department conducted simultaneous raids at poker clubs in Park Street and Shakespeare Sarani areas on Saturday evening. Joint Commissioner (Crime) Murlidhar said, "A total of 14 people were arrested from two poker clubs. Poker dice and playing cards were seized," he said. The owner of the biryani chain and six others were arrested during a raid at a club on Camac Street. **PTI**

**WEST**

## Five members of gang held for duping man of Rs 14 lakh

*Mumbai:* Five members of a gang have been arrested for allegedly duping a man of Rs14.40 lakh after promising him good returns through the sale of medicines, police said on Sunday. The accused were arrested on September 26, an official of Kurar police station said. According to the complaint by Jagjeet Singh Garcha (75), in May this year, he received a message from a woman who identified herself as Rose Mary Kristen. "She told Garcha that there was an urgent requirement of three litres of chemical for the medicines. Assuring him good returns, she requested him to transfer the money into her company's bank account," the official said. **PTI**

**SOUTH**

## Woman, son and daughter jump off bridge into river

*Mangaluru:* In what appears to be a suicide pact, a woman, her son, daughters and their dog jumped off the new bridge across Nethravathi river in Karnataka's Dakshina Kannada district, police said. Local people on Saturday saw the three taking the plunge and tried to rescue them, but could only pull the woman out of the water, the police said. She, however, died while being taken to hospital, they said. Search is still on for the two others, they said. The four have been identified as Kavita Mandanna (55), her son Kaushik (22) and daughter Kalpitha (20), they said. The family belonged to Virajpet in Kodagu district, police said. **PTI**



State Disaster Response Force personnel rescue residents from low-lying areas of Patna on Sunday. PTI

# Patna waterlogged as heavy rain lashes 13 Bihar districts

At least 13 people feared killed in rain-related incidents; NDRF in action

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
PATNA, SEPTEMBER 29

FOLLOWING HEAVY rainfall in 13 districts of Bihar in the past 48 hours, Patna on Sunday woke up to four-to six-foot-deep waterlogging in several areas. Officials say the state capital has not witnessed such waterlogging since the 1975 floods. And with the water level of Ganga rising, there are slim chances of the water receding soon.

According to a PTI report, at least 13 people have died after buildings collapsed and trees fell on them due to incessant rain in Patna, Bhagalpur and Kaimur districts. Bhagalpur DM Pranav Kumar said three people died when the boundary wall of a temple collapsed in Barari police station area and as many people were buried alive when a house caved in at Khanjarpur, said the PTI report.

Officials of India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Patna has received 227 mm of rain between 8.30 am on Saturday and 5.30 pm on Sunday, followed by Purnea district (165 mm), Bhagalpur (156 mm) and Gaya (105 mm).

NDRF and SDRF are conducting relief operations in low-lying areas of the state capital. The water-logging has severely affected one of Patna's leading govern-

**EXPLAINED**

## Delay in monsoon retreat — almost by a month

IN THE ongoing spell, the IMD has put Bihar and parts of Meghalaya and Assam on red alert with these states likely to receive heavy to very heavy rainfall on September 30. Thereafter, rainfall activity over Bihar is expected to subside. With the monsoon retreat not expected to begin before October 7 from the extreme north-western parts of the country, rainfall has been forecast over the Northeast, sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Gujarat and east Rajasthan during the first week of October. This means that the monsoon withdrawal, this year, will be almost over a month behind its scheduled date of September 1.

ment hospitals, Nalanda Medical College and Hospital (NMCH). Water has entered the emergency ward and children ward. While students and resident doctors have shifted patients to other wards, patients seeking emergency treatment are still being taken in through the inundated first floor.

Dr Muktinath Singh, HoD of forensic medicine at NMCH, told *The Indian Express*, "This is a low-lying area. Water has gushed into the ground floor, crippling emergency and OPD services. Snakes are floating around. We have shifted some patients to Patna Medical College and Hospital."

Several trains and flights have

been cancelled, rescheduled or diverted owing to the situation. Most of Patna's roads are waterlogged, including its lifeline Bailey Road. Some families living in low-lying areas such as Lohanipur and Kankerbagh have moved in with relatives and acquaintances.

Met department officials said the heavy rainfall in the state could be a result of cyclonic circulation in southern Uttar Pradesh and northern Madhya Pradesh and a low pressure area over Bay of Bengal. The IMD has predicted heavy to very heavy rain till Tuesday.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said, "This rain is unprecedented.

# Rajnath takes aim at Pak: Nefarious actions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
ONBOARD INS VIKRAMADITYA, SEPTEMBER 29

THE THREAT of terror incidents along the Indian coastline remains and a neighbouring country is involved in "nefarious" actions to destabilise India, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Sunday.

He was speaking to reporters on board the aircraft carrier *INS Vikramaditya*, currently sailing along India's western coastline.

"Any country in the world should have adequate security for itself. We cannot rule out any possibilities (of terror threats). When the question of our neighbouring



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh fires a medium machine gun aboard *INS Vikramaditya* on Sunday. ANI

country comes, you know very well that to destabilise and to break India up, it keeps taking ne-

farious actions," Singh said, in an apparent reference to Pakistan. During his overnight stay on

We have been trying our best to take out water but as long as the rain does not stop, nothing much can be done. We are carrying out rescue operations in worst-affected areas of the capital and other parts of Bihar."

Even relatively higher areas in the capital, such as Buddha Colony, SK Nagar, Rajiv Nagar and Ashiana Nagar, have been inundated after the heavy downpour. Jagtanand Pandey, who runs a travel agency in Buddha Colony, said, "Our area has four- to five-foot-deep water at several places. It is difficult to go out to buy essential items. The saving grace is phones are working and electricity supply has not snapped."

Residents of the capital have started stocking essential items.

Animesh Kumar from Gandhi Nagar said his car stopped on the waterlogged Bailey Road. "Several car owners faced a similar situation. Water has entered my house," said Kumar.

A disaster management department official said they had evacuated some residents and delivered essential items and drinking water to others. Over two dozen NDRF boats are currently in action in Patna.

Araria, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Banka and Munger are among the other districts receiving heavy rainfall.

the *INS Vikramaditya*, Singh witnessed various military exercises involving submarines, frigates and the carrier. "I can say this with complete belief that our Indian Navy has a solid and attentive presence here for maritime security. There is not an iota of doubt," Singh said, adding that an incident like the 2008 Mumbai attacks cannot be allowed to recur. "If some mistake has happened once, it must not be repeated again at any cost. Therefore, our Indian Navy and Coast Guard always remain vigilant," he said.

Against the backdrop of Pakistan's remarks about nuclear war, Singh said that Indian Navy's "second strike capability" as a nuclear deterrent is "most significant".

# Ansal vice-chairman held at Delhi airport on cheating charge

AVANEESH MISHRA  
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 29

REAL ESTATE giant Ansal API's vice-chairman Pranav Ansal was arrested by Lucknow Police in Delhi on Sunday for allegedly cheating flatbuyers and diverting money. A lookout notice was issued against him in July this year.

Pranav was nabbed at Delhi airport while he was trying to catch a flight to London. Police later brought him to Lucknow.

At least 24 criminal cases have been lodged against Pranav and his father Sushil Ansal, chairman of Ansal API. Sushil is absconding. The FIR pertaining to the lookout notice was registered at Vibhuti Khand Police Station on May 23 under sections 406, 420, 467, 468, 471, 504 and 506 of the IPC on the complaint of one Bhanu Pratap Verma.

"On Sunday, we received information that Pranav was to depart for London. We sent a team to Delhi. He was arrested and brought to Lucknow. Preparations to produce him before the court have started," said Lucknow SSP Kalanidhi Naithani.

According to a statement by Lucknow Police, the allegations against Ansal API include allotting non-existent plots, flats or villas to customers and false land registry.

"Sushil, his son Pranav and their associates were cheating customers. When the customers complained, they would misbe-



Pranav Ansal

have and threaten them. In connection with these allegations, 24 cases have been registered at Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, PCI and Hazratganj police stations. In these cases, Sushil, Pranav and others have been named," read the statement.

An Ansal API spokesperson said in a statement, "There was a LOC issued based on three FIRs registered. Out of the three FIRs, one FIR was quashed by the Hon High Court and other two were already settled with the complainant and the settlement agreements were filed in the High court and with police authorities. We are surprised that in spite of the above, the LOC remained operative. Reports that suggest he was fleeing the country are inaccurate. Mr Pranav Ansal was scheduled to return on Friday. Mr Ansal is a responsible citizen and has always been ready to cooperate fully with the authorities. We are striving to settle all remaining disputes with customers."

## Remission scheme: 600 prisoners to be freed on Oct 2

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

THE GOVERNMENT will release about 600 prisoners on October 2 under the scheme of special remission on the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. These prisoners, however, would not include those charged with murder, rape and corruption, sources in Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said.

A final list to this effect is being prepared by MHA in coordination with state governments, sources said. According to a ministry official, under the scheme, 1,424 prisoners have been released by states and Union territories in two phases — on October 2, 2018 and April 6, 2019. The third phase is due on October 2, the official said.

Prisoners who have been convicted in cases of murder, rape or corruption will not be released as part of the scheme announced last year for the year-long celebrations to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Women convicts aged 55 years and above and male convicts of 60 years or more, who have completed half of their sentence, and a few other categories of prisoners in jails across the country will be released under the amnesty scheme, the official said.

# After assurances by district officials, Maradu flat owners call off strike

VISHNU VARMA  
KOCHI, SEPTEMBER 29

FLAT OWNERS in the four apartment complexes near Kochi, which face demolition for violation of Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) following a Supreme Court order, ended a hunger strike they started on Sunday morning after a meeting with the Ernakulam district administration officials.

The owners had launched the strike against the government's eviction drive, complaining that they were not being given sufficient time to vacate their homes. They had also alleged that the administration was not providing them with alternate housing arrangements. Representatives of the owners met District Collector S Suhas and agreed to call off the strike after some of the conditions they put forward were accepted.

"In the meeting, they gave us a list of apartments in the city

where they would help us get rental accommodation. They have also restored power and water connections to our apartments. They have promised to pay the interim compensation of Rs 25 lakh within a week. The money would get transferred into our bank accounts," advocate Shamsudeen, a representative of the residents, said.

The court-appointed panel would deliberate on the full compensation to be paid to each flat owner and complete formalities within three months, he added.

"October 3 is the day by which we have to vacate the homes. But they have given us a relaxation of a day or two in which we can shift our furniture," he said.

The issue of paying the rent on temporary housing has still not been resolved. While the flat owners will have to pay now, the government would try and adjust it in the final compensation, a source said.



## TELLING NUMBERS

### Teachers in higher education: gender skew highest in Bihar

THE NUMBER of teachers in the country's higher education institutes was 14,16,299 in 2018-19, according to the All India Survey on Higher Education 2018-19. The survey, other aspects of which have been reported in The Indian Express, also looks at the gender and socio-religious breakup of the teaching community in these higher learning institutions.

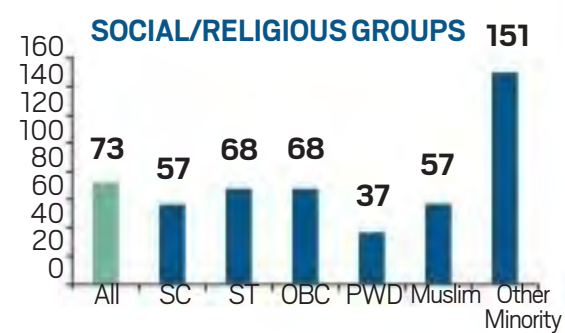
Of the 14.16 lakh teachers, 57.85 per cent are male and 42.15 per cent are female. The skew is highest is recorded in Bihar, where the female-to-male ratio among teachers is 1:4, or about 21:79 in percentage terms. Jharkhand comes a close second with a ratio of roughly 30:70. In Uttar Pradesh, less than a third (32.3%) of teachers are female.

On the other hand, there are a few states such as Kerala, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Delhi and Goa, where the number of female teachers is more than that of male teachers.

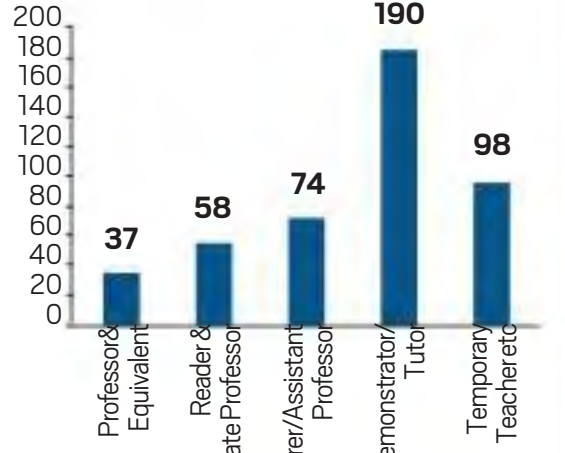
At an all-India level, teachers belonging to the general category represent more than half (56.7 per cent) of all teachers in India. OBCs follow with 32.1 per cent, with the rest being Scheduled Castes (8.8 per cent) and Scheduled Tribes (2.4 per cent). Again, 5.4 per cent of the teachers belong to the Muslim minority group, and 9.2 per cent to other minority groups. Among major states, those with the highest SC/ST proportions among teachers are Andhra Pradesh (13.83 per cent SCs and 1.6 per cent STs), Maharashtra (11.39 per cent SCs and 1.52 per cent STs) and Telangana (11.17 per cent SCs and 3.5 per cent STs).

Another significant representation in terms of gender distribution is the number of female teachers per 100 male teachers. At an all-India level,

#### GENDER RATIO IN TEACHERS (FEMALES PER 100 MALES)



#### TEACHING POSTS



there are 73 female teachers per 100 male teachers. This ratio is 57:100 among SCs, and 68:100 among both STs and OBCs. For Muslims, it is 57 female teachers per 100 male teachers; for other minorities, female teachers outnumber male teachers in the ratio 151:100.

In post-wise gender distribution, male teachers heavily outnumber female teachers in most senior positions. On the other hand, the ratio among demonstrators and tutors is 190:100, meaning that there are nearly two females in such posts for every male counterpart. Among temporary teachers, the breakup is almost equal, at 98 females per 100 males.

Source for all data: AISHE 2018-19

## THIS WORD MEANS

### PORTAMENTO

A musical effect, now achieved with maths framework

IN MUSIC, we often hear a singer — or certain musical instruments — gliding seamlessly from one pitch or tone to another, with a smooth progression. Nearly all musicians know this as “portamento”, a term that has been used for hundreds of years. Not everyone or everything can achieve it, however; this continuous varying of pitch is possible only for the trained human voice, besides string and some other instruments.

Now an MIT student has invented an algorithm that produces a portamento effect between any two audio signals in real-time. Trevor Henderson is now a graduate student in computer science, MIT said in a statement. In experiments, the algorithm

seamlessly merged various audio clips, such as a piano note gliding into a human voice. His paper describing the algorithm won the “best student paper” award at the recent International Conference on Digital Audio Effects, MIT said.

The algorithm relies on “optimal transport”, which is a centuries-old geometry-based framework that determines the most efficient ways to move objects — or data points — between various configurations. It has been applied to fluid dynamics, 3-D modelling, computer graphics, and more. Now, Henderson has applied optimal transport to interpolating audio signals, or blending one signal into another, MIT said.

#### RIVER BASINS, TOP & BOTTOM 3

Percentage departure from 10-yr average	
Cauvery & neighbourhood	69.68
Narmada	36.54
Tapi	32.21
Mahi	5.50
Mahanadi & neighbourhood	4.91
Indus	4.01

#### ANJALI MARAR

PUNE, SEPTEMBER 29

AT THE end of monsoon season this year, the water stored in the 113 reservoirs monitored by the Central Water Commission (CWC) is better than it was at this time last year and also better than the last 10 years' average, the CWC's latest reservoir storage bulletin shows.

The total live storage capacity of these 113 reservoirs is 168.77 billion cubic metres (BCM) and their live storage as of September 26 was 146.2 BCM, or 87 per cent of this capacity. At this stage last year, the live storage was 127.23 BCM (75 per cent), while the 10-year average for this period is 121.18 (72 per cent). Put another way, the live storage avail-

able in the 113 reservoirs was 115 per cent of that at this time last year, and 121 per cent of the average storage over the last 10 years.

In 33 reservoirs, water was at full reservoir level (FRL) on September 26. Levels ranged between 71 per cent and 99 per cent of FRL in 56 other reservoirs. Only in 10 reservoirs were levels at 40 per cent or below.

In nearly every region, the available storage was higher than last year's corresponding storage and the 10-year average. The only exception was in the Eastern region comprising Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Tripura and Nagaland, where the available storage of 83 per cent (16.10 BCM) in 17 reservoirs was just below last year's 84 per cent, but way ahead of the 75 per cent average of the last 10 years.

The Western region has 39 reservoirs mon-

itored by the CWC, in Maharashtra and Gujarat. These had 91 per cent storage (30.95 BCM), as compared to just 61 per cent at this stage last year, and a 10-year average of 68 per cent.

In the Northern region (Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Rajasthan), the available storage in the eight CWC-monitored reservoirs was 17.13 BCM, or 89 per cent, as against the 10-year average of 82 per cent for the corresponding period. Last September, the available water storage here was 85 per cent.

In Central India, which has had excess rainfall during the last one month, the 16 reservoirs of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh held 37.6 BCM together, or 86 per cent of capacity. This time last year, the reserves were 79 per cent, while the 10-year average is 75 per cent.

In the Southern region (Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu), where the CWC monitors 33 reservoirs, their stocks added up to 44.2 BCM, or 84 per cent of their total live capacity, up from 74 per cent at this stage last year, and much higher than the 10-year average of 66 per cent.

In Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Jharkhand, West Bengal, UP, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Kerala and Chhattisgarh, the water in reservoirs was lower than the stocks at the same stage last year. In Rajasthan, Odisha, Nagaland, Gujarat, Maharashtra, MP, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, this year's storage exceeded last year's, owing to good rain throughout the season.

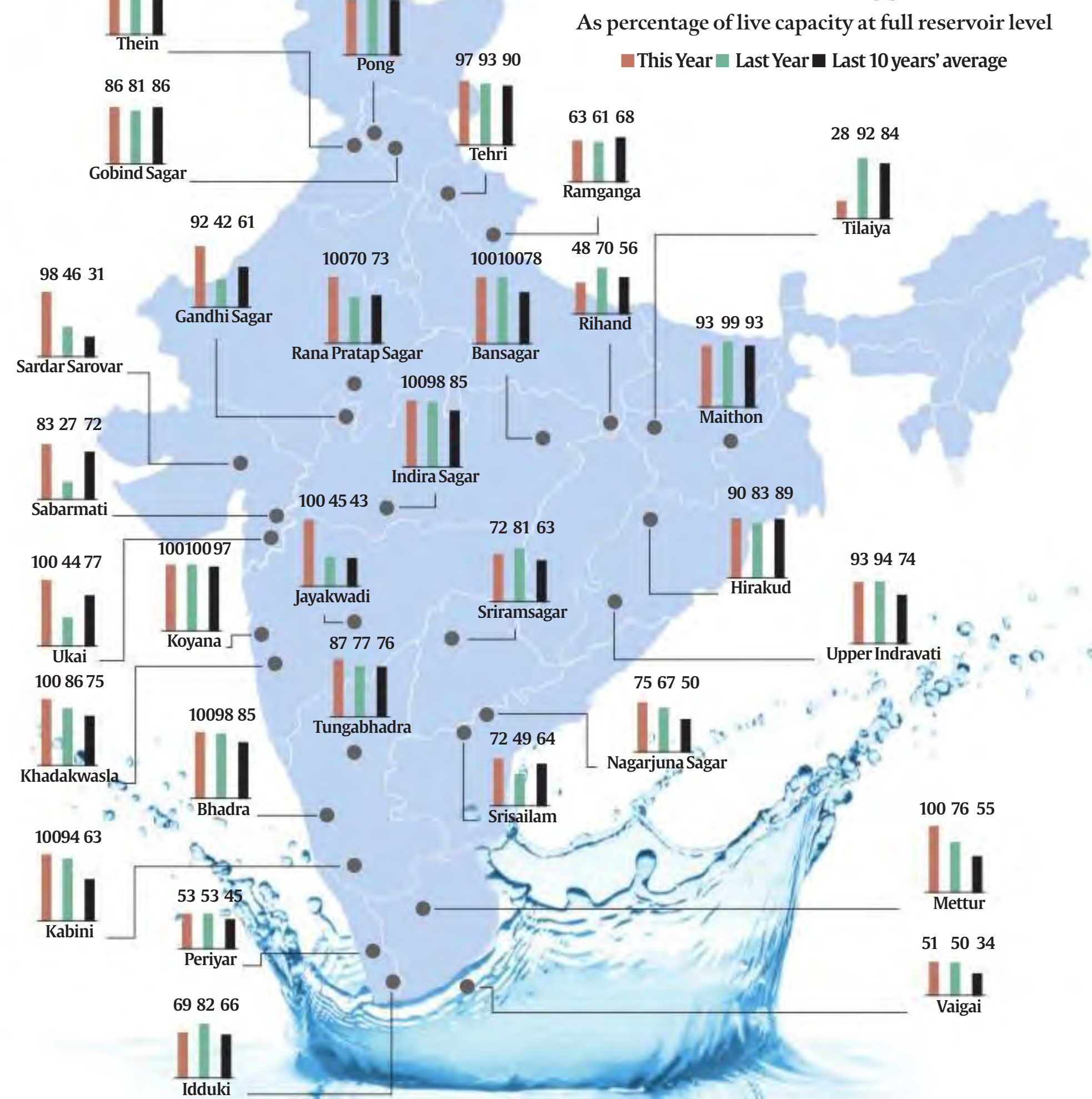
All river basins in the country have storage above normal this year.

## SIMPLY PUT

# Season of plenty for reservoirs

June-September monsoon ends with reservoirs holding 21 per cent more water than 10-year average for this stage, 33 of 113 reservoirs at full capacity, and all river systems with higher storage than normal

## Status report



#### STORAGE STATUS

How full are reservoirs (percentage of capacity)

Current	Last year	10-yr avg
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#### NORTHERN REGION

(Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan)

8 reservoirs	89	85	82
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#### EASTERN REGION

(Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Tripura)

17 reservoirs	87	84	75
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#### WESTERN REGION

(Gujarat, Maharashtra)

39 reservoirs	91	61	68
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#### CENTRAL REGION

(Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh)

16 reservoirs	86	79	75
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#### SOUTHERN REGION

(Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu)

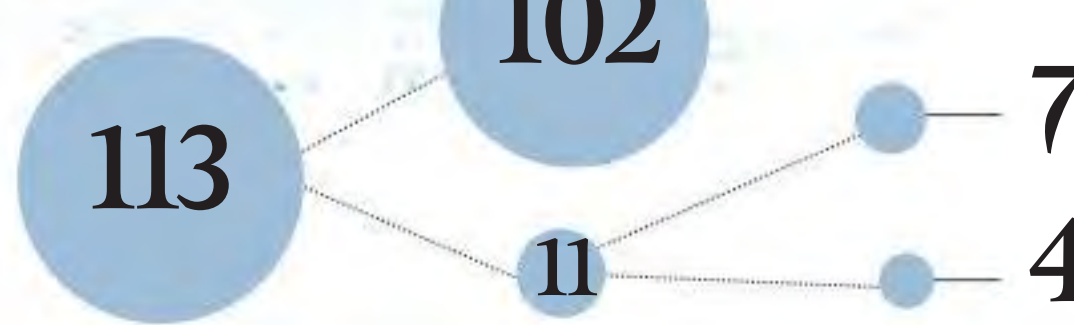
33 reservoirs	84	74	66
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#### ALL INDIA

113 reservoirs	87	75	72
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\*Live storage as of September 26, 2019. Checks and crosses compare current figures with last year's & 10-yr average figures for corresponding period.

#### FOR WETTER OR DRIER



■ Out of the country's 113 reservoirs, the storage in 102 on September 26, 2019 was more than 80% of normal for this period

■ Among the 11 reservoirs with storage below 80% of normal for this period, 7 had storage over 50% of normal, with only 4 stocking under 50%

Source: CWC

## EXPERTS EXPLAIN

# Remembering VP Menon's role in accession of J&K and other states

ARGHYA SENGUPTA & JINALY DANI

MONDAY MARKS the 126th birth anniversary of V P Menon. Born on September 30, 1893, Menon was the Secretary in the Ministry of States which was established by the Government of India in 1947 to deal with the accession of princely states. While the nation rightly remembers Sardar Patel's herculean efforts in ensuring that over 500 princely states seamlessly joined the Union of India, few know that it was Menon working in the background, travelling across the country and persuading different Maharajas and Nawabs to accede.

Perhaps Menon's greatest contribution was coming up with the original policy on accession that required the princely states to accede only in the three matters of defence, external affairs and communications. Since these matters were fairly non-controversial, Menon believed they would be readily accepted by the rulers. In his book *Integration of the Indian States*, Menon recounts approaching Sardar and pointing out the advantages of this policy: "The basic unity of India would be achieved and, when the new constitution was framed, we could thrash out the necessary details."

It was Menon's policy piloted by Sardar Patel that was finally reflected in the Instrument of Accession (IoA) executed by the

states becoming a part of the Union of India in 1947 and their seamless integration thereafter.

One of the states to which Menon travelled to secure its accession was Jammu and Kashmir. By October 25, 1947, an attack by Afriidi tribesmen had reached the outskirts of Srinagar, forcing the Maharaja of J&K to escape the city and relocate to Jammu. On October 26, the Defence Committee of the Indian Government held a meeting to discuss the viability of a military intervention in J&K. Lord Mountbatten, who was part of this meeting, observed that since J&K had not acceded to either India or Pakistan, it was an independent country. According to Mountbatten, if the Maharaja acceded to India, troops could be sent to rescue the state. Subsequently, it was Menon who immediately flew to Jammu and secured the Maharaja's signature on the IoA.

Recounting that day in his book, Menon states: "The Maharaja was asleep; he had left Srinagar the previous evening and had been driving all night. I woke him up and told him of what had taken place at the Defence Committee meeting. He was ready to accede at once. Just as I was leaving, he told me that before he went to sleep, he had left instructions with his ADC that, if I came back from Delhi, he was not to be disturbed as it would mean that the Government of India had decided to come to his rescue and he should



V P Menon with Sardar Patel and the Maharaja of Cochin. Wikimedia Commons

therefore be allowed to sleep in peace; but that if I failed to return, it meant that everything was lost and, in that case, his ADC was to shoot him in his sleep!" Menon returned to Delhi with the executed IoA which was then accepted by the Government of India.

With accession secured, the next challenge for Menon and his team in the Ministry of States was to ensure complete integration. While this was a legally complex but politically straightforward matter in respect of

most princely states, negotiations between representatives of the Government of India and Sheikh Abdullah, the Prime Minister of J&K, in relation to J&K's status in India failed to produce a mutually acceptable result.

It was thus decided that the Constitution of India would reflect the position under the 1947 IoA. In a letter dated September 29, 1949, Menon writes to Sheikh Abdullah proposing an initial formula for the draft Article 370. He states: "The State of Jammu and

Kashmir is an Acceding State and ordinarily the State would have been treated like other Part III States. In view, however, of the special problems arising in connection with this State it seems desirable that the constitutional relationship between the State of Jammu and Kashmir and the Union of India should, however, under the new constitution, approximate, for the present, to that subsisting under the Instrument of Accession, already executed by His Highness the Maharaja."

The final text of Article 370 introduced in the Constitution of India is based on this understanding. Sheikh Abdullah however had reservations regarding Menon's letter. He proposed an alternative formulation which simply stated that the Indian Parliament would be entitled to legislate only on defence, external affairs and communications. Seemingly making light of Abdullah's objection, in an internal correspondence between Vishnu Sahay, Secretary, Kashmir Affairs to V Shankar, PS to Sardar Patel, Menon asked that the following be conveyed to Shankar (and presumably Patel):

"Parts II (citizenship), III (fundamental rights) and IV (directive principles) of the Constitution would apply automatically to Kashmir unless the position is expressly saved... What is worrying Sheikh Abdullah and the Working Committee of the National

Conference is that if these general provisions become applicable to Kashmir also, their legislation against other citizens of India in respect of acquisition etc. of property will become invalid. The Kashmiris are perhaps worried about the occupation of their country by the Punjabees!"

Thus overriding the Sheikh's objections, but in deference to his principled disagreement, the Ministry of States sent a draft proclamation to the Yuvraj of Kashmir, Karan Singh, for signing. This was the final step towards complete integration in the Union of India by which all princely states that had acceded to India were required to accept the Constitution of India as their own through a public proclamation. It is significant to note that J&K's proclamation was worded differently from the others. This proclamation, issued on November 25, 1949, did not accept the Constitution of India as J&K's own. Instead, it stated that the Constitution of India, "in so far as it is applicable to [J&K]" would "govern the constitutional relationship between [J&K and the] Union of India". This was a reference to Article 370 of the Constitution of India. The rest, as they say, is history.

Arghya Sengupta is Research Director, and Jinaly Dani is Research Fellow, Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy





The IndianEXPRESS

FOUNDED BY  
RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

# Let the farmer earn



HARISH DAMODARAN

Government must not sacrifice rise in farm incomes at altar of short-term consumer interest or to save RCEP

“WHEN MONEY IS bad, people want it to be better. When it is good, they think of other things”.

One needs to simply replace “money” with “onions” to appreciate how the above observation on inflation by John Kenneth Galbraith still rings true. When onion is today retailing at Rs 55-60 per kg, Twitter handles and WhatsApp forwards are littered with clichés about the bulb bringing tears, making people cry, and so on. But when growers were realising Rs 3/kg a year ago, the same concerned folks had “other things” to think of.

The public cannot be blamed, though. Contrary to the 1974 Kishore Kumar song, it does not know everything. The problem comes when governments, too, take the same shortsighted approach. The average modal price of onion from January 2016 to May 2019 at Maharashtra’s Lasalgaon market was Rs 9.92/kg, which just about covered the basic cultivation cost of Rs 8 or so. That rate rose to Rs 12.22/kg in June, Rs 12.52 in July, Rs 18.80 in August and Rs 33.15 in September (till Friday). But in June itself, the Narendra Modi government withdrew a 10 per cent export incentive given on the free-on-board (FOB) value of shipments. And on September 13, it virtually banned exports by imposing a minimum FOB price of \$850 per tonne (Rs 60/kg), below which onions cannot leave the country. In addition, the state-owned MMTC was asked to import, if necessary from Pakistan.

This policy — of doing little when producer prices are low for extended periods, but jumping into action at the slightest hint of consumer despair (“tears”) that is often temporary — translates into a one-sided bet against the farmer. Last year, the three-acre Nashik grower who harvested 300 quintals of rabi onions in April, and stocked it in his low-cost kanda chawl storage structure for offloading through the summer and monsoon months, would have lost his shirt: Lasalgaon prices averaged just Rs 7.67/kg in September, hardly an increase over the Rs 6.70 in April. This time, there was a chance to make some money that comes, maybe, once in three years. That possibility has been

scuppered by the government’s actions and admonishments. Since September 19, Lasalgaon rates have already fallen from Rs 45 to Rs 36/kg.

The costs of government shortsightedness aren’t small. India, in 2018-19, exported 21.83 lakh tonnes (lt) of onions, which was a tenth of its production and valued at Rs 3,467.36 crore. Bureaucrats and ministers have no idea what it takes to build export markets and the damage that a single Directorate General of Foreign Trade notification can do. Nor do they know what low retail food inflation — this has averaged 1.38 per cent year-on-year from September 2016 to August 2019, as compared to 3.50 per cent for overall consumer price inflation — means for producer incomes and incentives.

Unfortunately, it isn’t onions alone. Even more dangerous is the proposed signing of a free trade agreement with the 16-country Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership or RCEP bloc, which could open India’s market to cheap milk powder and butter fat imports from New Zealand and Australia. Currently, India allows only up to 10,000 tonnes of powder imports annually at 15 per cent duty, with quantities beyond this limit attracting 60 per cent rate. There is talk of the Modi government not being averse to significantly raising the quota for imports at the concessional duty, while bringing down the rate itself from the existing 15 per cent. India apparently does not want to be seen as stalling the RCEP deal that is to be concluded by November.

One indication of the official mood is a presentation made at a stakeholder consultation meeting called by the commerce ministry on September 18, in which it was claimed that India’s likely milk production of 170.93 million tonnes (mt) in 2020-21 would fall short of consumption at 204 mt. This, when the animal husbandry and dairying department’s own output estimate for 2017-18 was 176.35 mt! Further, the gap between production (238.48 mt) and consumption (341 mt) was expected to widen by 2033-34, thereby strengthening the case for imports. These pre-

dictions were supposedly made using data from the National Dairy Development Board, which the latter has not only denied, but also gone on to cite a Niti Aayog report that had projected India’s milk output of 330 mt in 2033 to exceed demand at 292 mt!

Again, the context matters. Last year at this time, dairies were selling skimmed milk powder (SMP) at around Rs 140/kg and ghee at Rs 320/kg. The gross revenue from processing 100 litres (103 kg) of cow milk containing 3.5 per cent fat (ghee) and 8.5 per cent solids-not-fat (SMP) would, then, have been roughly Rs 2,380. After deducting chilling, transport and processing costs of Rs 500-600, the maximum that farmers could be paid was Rs 1,800-1,900 or Rs 18-19 per litre. But today, SMP and ghee rates have recovered to Rs 280 and Rs 390/kg, respectively. As a result, farmers are getting Rs 29-30 per litre.

What will the inclusion of dairy products under RCEP’s purview do? India’s yearly SMP production is 5-5.5 lt, of which 2-2.5 lt is used by dairies themselves for reconstitution into milk during the “lean” summer months. If, say, 1 lt of powder from New Zealand were to come in, it would depress the market. Indeed, the very prospect of a deal is enough to create a negative sentiment, when we are entering the “flush” winter season. Milk producers, like onion growers, have suffered low prices for much of the last 3-4 years, forcing them to reduce herd sizes or underfeed their animals. It would be a tragedy if, just when prices are improving from lows, their interests have to be sacrificed at the altar of short-term consumer interest or saving a trade deal.

The Modi government should actually take heart from the price recovery now being seen in onion, milk or even maize, jowar, pulses and soyabean. With the surplus monsoon rains delivering a bumper harvest — if not in kharif, definitely in rabi — it is farm incomes that offer the best hope for an economic turnaround. The consumer’s real friend is the producer. And we shall also keep our jobs if he starts earning and spending again.

harish.damodaran@expressindia.com

## MONSOON BOUNTY

Excess rain and the extended season may upset harvest predictions. Government must not artificially suppress prices

EVERY MONSOON IS different. This one’s been even more so. In June, the country registered an average area-weighted rainfall deficiency of 32.8 per cent and it seemed this season would conform to the textbook case of an El Nino year, similar to 2002, 2004, 2009, 2015 and 2016. All those years had witnessed the abnormal warming of the equatorial eastern Pacific Ocean waters, known to impact rains in India during the monsoon season from June to September. With most global weather models predicting El Nino conditions, which had set in from roughly September 2018, to last at least till the first half of this monsoon season, a drought looked inevitable. And coming on top of an extended dry spell right from October through an excruciatingly hot summer, the return of food inflation appeared to present the re-elected Narendra Modi government with its first major challenge.

Then the tide turned. In July, the rainfall was 4.6 per cent higher than the historical long-period average. In August, the surplus was even higher at 15.3 per cent. And in the current month, not only has rainfall been a whopping 44.6 per cent above normal so far, but it may also end up being the wettest September in 102 years! The Meteorological Department, which had forecast a just-about “normal” monsoon while suggesting a 47 per cent probability of below normal/deficient rainfall even as late as on May 31, is now saying that its withdrawal phase may commence “only in the second week of October”. Meanwhile, there are reports about large-scale damage to the standing kharif crop that is in late-maturity stage, if not ready for harvesting. Farmers, in other words, are suffering this time from too much rain. Worse, they aren’t stopping when clear skies are what farmers would want at present. In all likelihood, the kharif harvest will be a less than a bumper one.

The big consolation, however, is the excess rains have helped substantially recharge the groundwater table and aquifers. Moreover, water levels in the country’s 107 important reservoirs are 86.6 per cent of their full capacities, as against their 10-year average of 71.80 per cent at this time. So, even assuming some setback during kharif, a bumper winter-spring rabi crop is definitely in the offing. That would be great news, especially when there are indications of a price recovery in many crops from their lows. One hopes the government does not do things to artificially suppress prices, like the recent onion exports ban. Rather, this is the time to dismantle all controls on marketing, movement, stocking and exports of farm produce that are an anathema to liberalisation. There’s no better antidote to the economic slowdown today than higher farm incomes.

## FREEZE FRAME

## E P UNNY



SOURAV ROY BARMAN

ANTI-NATIONALS, URBAN NAXALS — these epithets are recent additions to our public discourse, but the tendency to pigeonhole voices of dissent and resistance as “leftists” or “Maoists” predates the Narendra Modi government. Much before Babul Supriyo heaped scorn on the vice-chancellor of Jadavpur University, Mamata Banerjee had called my friend, a student of Presidency College, a “Maoist” on national television, for questioning her government’s track record on women’s safety.

The disdain for critical thinking coming out of our universities aside, such statements advance the notion of a society besieged by inimical forces, in desperate need of a decisive and strong leader to tackle the imagined adversary. The project to demonise students of public universities as rootless elites falters on one count though. It fails to factor in the capacity of seemingly ordinary individuals, an intrinsic part of those ecosystems, to pull off extraordinary acts. Like one Pramod Sain did, nearly eight years ago. This is his story.

Having been elevated to university status in 2010, Kolkata’s Presidency College, founded in 1818, was then struggling to deal with the pangs of transition. The institution’s students’ union was dissolved during the upgradation, and the Trinamool government was in no hurry to hold fresh elections.

On January 29, 2012, the Kolkata edition of *The Hindu* carried on its front page the news that Pune’s Symbiosis University has cancelled the screening of *Jashn-e-Azadi*, a documentary on Kashmir, bowing to threats

## PRAMOD DA's Way

An ordinary person stood up to protect the university as a space of free expression



ONE OF  
800  
MILLION  
A VOICE, UNDER 35

The vice-chancellor asked us to defer the screening by a week. Just when the institution of Henry Louis Vivian Derozio, one of the principal forces behind the Bengal Renaissance, was beginning to fail us, Pramod Sain, simply Pramod-da for generations of Presidencians, stepped forward.

from the ABVP. Then a second year student of Political Science at Presidency, I saw the story and immediately alerted my classmate Pratim Ghosal and Waled Aadnan, who was in the final year of BSc Economics. Driven by sheer impulse, we decided to screen the Sanjay Kak documentary on our campus.

But the challenges were many. If you think the news sparked protests, prompting students in crumpled kurtas, torn jeans, worn-out chappals to hit the streets with daffis, chanting the anthem of liberation -- azadi -- you must consign these assorted stereotypes to the nearest bin. Moreover, despite being intensely political, the three of us were somewhat disillusioned with the nature of campus politics prevailing then, featuring the CPM-backed SFI and the Independents’ Consolidation, which is essentially a campus-born platform. To spread the word, we created an event page on Facebook announcing our resolve to “protest thought control” and arrest the country’s “slide towards fundamentalism” and carried out a low-key signature campaign. Our objective was not to make a splash, but to register a small act of dissent.

Upon approaching the authorities for a space to screen and projectors, we were greeted with a wave of rejections. The vice-chancellor asked us to defer the screening by a week. But we could not afford to wait as the campus would soon empty out with the annual exams little more than a month away.

Just when the institution of Henry Louis Vivian Derozio, one of the principal forces

behind the Bengal Renaissance, was beginning to fail us, Pramod Sain, simply Pramod-da for generations of Presidencians, stepped forward. Sain, who ran the college canteen, had come to Presidency as a 13-year-old during the peak of the Naxal movement.

He unlocked the dingy anteroom of the canteen for us. On February 8, 2012, a hired projector played out the story of the Valley, its rage and sorrow, its endless twilight, in front of a group of around 50, seated on rickety benches. Meanwhile, Pramod-da was his usual self behind the counter, taking an occasional nap, updating himself with crucial campus gossip.

The next day, the event made it to the front pages of national dailies, complete with photographs, prompting the stunned authorities to issue show-cause notices to every single individual associated with it, including Pramod-da. The students defended their action on the ground of free speech, Article 19, the idea of university as a free space.

Pramod-da had a more compelling argument. Did the university not argue, when he was trying to install a cola vending machine, that he mustn’t forget that he was running the canteen on lease? “Then why am I being held accountable for something that does not even come under my jurisdiction?” Point made, he coolly walked out. Perhaps even Pramod-da is a closet leftist. We never got to ask. The Right Honourable Minister Supriyo can shed some light, perhaps?

sourav.barman@expressindia.com

## SEPTEMBER 30, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO

**STOPPING DEFECTIONS**  
SHEIKH MOHAMMAD ABDULLAH, chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, urged the Union government to promulgate an ordinance preventing political defections to provide political stability. Speaking to newsmen, the chief minister said the bane of Indian political life was the tendency of legislators to defect and re-defect to serve their short-term interests. The electorate had no control over their representatives. They had to be mute spectators. In this connection, he referred to the passage of a bill by Jammu and Kashmir Assembly preventing defections. The President should issue an ordinance on similar lines applicable to the country as a whole, he added.

**NO COMMON SYMBOL**  
THE CONGRESS WORKING Committee decided that the party would fight the coming elections on a separate symbol. The CWC also decided that the party would have a common manifesto with the Lok Dal, the major partner in the Congress-Lok Dal alliance. Devaraj Urs said there were some legal difficulties about having a common symbol. One of them was “the possibility of losing our identity.” Answering a question, he said the party did not have talks with the Lok Dal on the decision to fight on a separate symbol. But, he pointed out, the Lok Dal had also taken a symbol for itself without having any talks with the Congress.

**BURMA NO TO NAM**  
BURMESE FOREIGN MINISTER, Myint Maung, told the UN General Assembly that “Burma has ended her participation in the non-aligned movement” because the Havana conference ignored a motion he submitted. Speaking in the assembly’s policy debate, he said, “Burma went to Havana with hopes that the principles which had inspired the founding of the movement could be preserved”, but “what happened at the conference only disillusioned us”. He said Burma’s “urgent motion” would have had the conference name a drafting committee to define the “inviolable principles” of the movement and qualifications for membership.



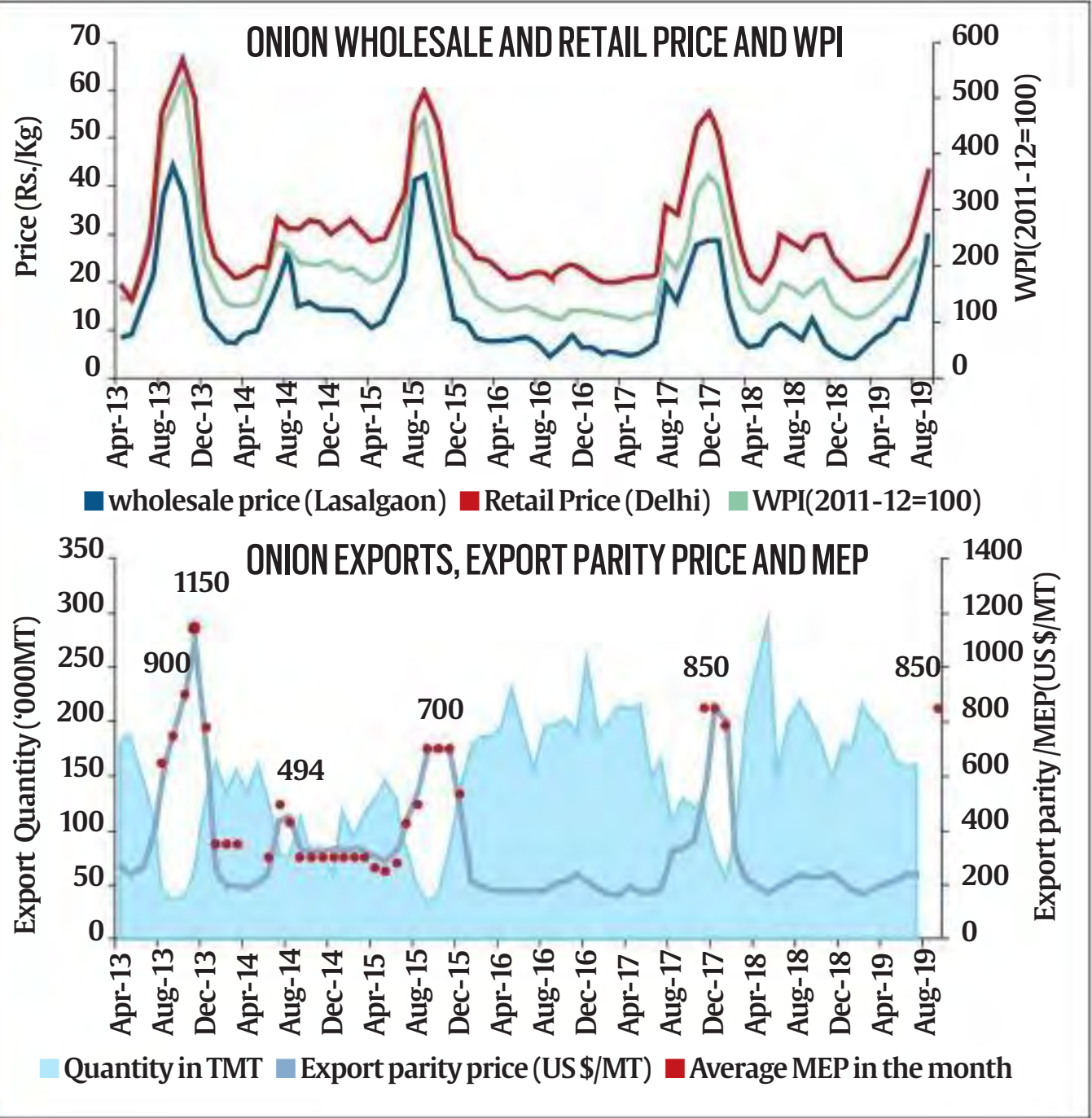


Illustration: C R Sasikumar

# Wipe away the onion tears

The government's concern over spike in onion prices is justified. But the policy instruments it is using won't solve the problem



FROM PLATE TO PLOUGH  
BY ASHOK GULATI AND  
HARSH WARDHAN

ONIONS ARE ON the boil, once again. With onion retail prices in Delhi crossing Rs 40/kg in mid-September, and even higher in Mumbai, the government swung into action. It imposed a minimum export price (MEP) of \$850/tonne, followed by a central team of bureaucrats visiting Lasalgaon, India's largest wholesale market of onions, to assess the situation. It won't be a surprise if they come up blaming onion traders for speculation and recommend stocking limits. While the heightened concern of the government is justified, we disagree with the policy instruments being used. Here is our take on it.

Onion price rise in September is not new. Prices rise in September almost every year due to seasonality, but every alternate year there is an accelerated spike (see Figure 1) due to "some other factors". This shakes any political party in power. The standard response is imposition of MEP, stocking limits on traders, and sometimes even income tax raids on onion traders. These crude measures don't provide sustainable solutions.

While onion price spikes make the government hyperactive, how many people remember that even in January to May 2019, when much of the late kharif and rabi onions were sold, the wholesale prices in Lasalgaon hovered between Rs 4-10/kg (Figure 1), and on some days even touched Rs 2/kg? This is against a cost of Rs 9-10/kg in Maharashtra, as estimated by the National Horticulture Research and Development Foundation (NHRDF). This means farmers incurred massive losses in 2019 from sales of onions, running into hundreds of crores of rupees. If the government was as hyperactive at that time to save the onion farmers from the price crash

as it is today to save the consumers, perhaps these spikes would have been avoided. But there is an inherent "consumer bias" in our agri-price policies. This would be even more so when MMTC imports onions and "dumps" at below their import parity prices to "tame" domestic prices. This is likely to happen in late October-November, when the kharif crop will start arriving in the market and prices would be nose-diving in any case.

It may be noted that both these policy instruments — restricting exports through high MEP and dumping imported onions at below cost — are not only anti-farmer, but also anti-agri-exports and contrary to the prime minister's vision of doubling farmers' incomes. This must be avoided at all costs.

Figure 2 shows that whenever high MEP is imposed, such as \$850/tonne, which translates to roughly Rs 60/kg, exports dropped sharply. The export parity price from October 2018 till date has remained below \$300/tonne (see Figure 2). So this MEP of \$850/tonne will deprive farmers of whatever little benefits they were getting from onion exports. India has emerged as the largest exporter of onions in the world, having exported about 2.4 million tonnes in 2018-19 out of a production of 23.5 million tonnes. Remember, it takes years to build export markets but with such abrupt export restrictions, India becomes an unreliable exporter, which adversely hits its unit value of exports. This damage is far greater compared to the short-term gains the government is eyeing.

So, what could be the best possible solutions? First, one needs to remember that price stabilisation does not come free. NAFED, which is entrusted with price stabilisation, should procure at least 2-3 lakh tonnes at the rabi harvest time (April-May), ensuring that farmers get at least Rs 12-15/kg, when they were getting Rs 4-8/kg. This will save onion farmers from a price-crash and give them reasonable profits, incentivising production and exports. But these stored onions will incur storage costs. Storages at farm level suffer losses of about 20-25 per cent, which can be brought down to 5-10 per cent with modern cold storages. But cold stores will cost about Rs 1.5/kg/month. These stored onions can then be released during August through first half of October, before the kharif harvest starts arriving. If NAFED incurs,

Onion price rise in September is not new. Prices rise in September almost every year due to seasonality, but every alternate year there is an accelerated spike (see Figure 1) due to 'some other factors'. This shakes any political party in power. The standard response is imposition of MEP, stocking limits on traders, and sometimes even income tax raids on onion traders. These crude measures don't provide sustainable solutions.

let us say, five months storage cost at about Rs 7.5/kg, and if the procurement is at Rs 12-15/kg, they can still offload at say Rs 20-23/kg, and the retail price in September-October can be tamed to below Rs 30/kg.

Second, our analysis of onion value chains for three years average, ending 2018-19, with season-wise weighted average of wholesale prices from major mandis in Maharashtra, MP, Gujarat, and Rajasthan catering to Delhi's onion demand, reveals that onion farmers get a mere 29 per cent share of the consumer's rupee. The rest constitutes costs and margins of middlemen, with retailers apportioning the highest share. With the majority of onions traded through the APMC markets, the auctioning procedure is controlled by powerful traders and commission agents with much less bargaining power for farmers. Layers of mandi fees and commissions escalate prices further without much value addition or benefit to farmers. Our field visits to major mandis (Azadpur, Lasalgaon, Pimpalgaon, Mahuva) revealed that actual commissions are way above the prescribed charges. Officially levied on buyers, ultimately it is farmers that bear the burden. What all this indicates is that an overhaul of the APMCs is overdue.

Third, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) should be at the forefront to extensively promote the use of dehydrated onions (flakes, powder, granules) among domestic households and institutions like the armed forces, hospitals, restaurants and schools (mid-day meals). This will take the pressure off fresh onions during the lean season. Currently, India exports 85 per cent of its dehydrated onions, and is the largest exporter of dehydrated onions in the world. Dehydrated products are much cheaper to store and are more durable. They can help check the spikes in onion prices. This will reduce wastage and help farmers get a fair price and consumers can switch to these dehydrated onions in the lean season at affordable prices.

If the government can take these steps, it will not only know its onions but also farmers.

Gulati is Infosys Chair Professor for Agriculture and Wardhan is consultant at ICRIER

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The end of the INF nuclear treaty is a bad step that could be followed by a worse one."  
— THE GUARDIAN

# Much ado about language

It is, after all, a mode of communication between people. Whether Hindi or any other tongue, there has to be a strong practical reason to learn it



M RAJIVLOCHAN

"NAN NINNE SNEHIKKUNNU", says the wife to her migrant husband who has remitted her some money. To know what this means you will have to look at the PhonePe advertisement that came out in 2018. It is still available on YouTube. What the advertisement does indicate is that north Indian, Hindi speakers, are just as adept at learning a language other than Hindi given the right incentive to do so. The wife in this advertisement probably learnt Malayalam on her own in order to communicate with her husband privately, even in the presence of her mother-in-law.

Then there is the unseemly spectacle of the annual language war which starts on every Hindi Diwas. Soon it transforms into a discussion on the essential characteristics of nation and nationhood. Fortunately, nowadays, like a viral fever, the agitation dies down on its own after a few days.

It all starts with the department of Hindi in the Central government, which has been given the responsibility of spreading Hindi across the country. It recruits only those who have done an MA in Hindi. It is officially called "Rajbhasha Vibhag" and is under the control of the home ministry. You would recall that English too is a rajbhasha of India but there is no department to promote it. No effort is made to recruit MAs in English to help out in drafting laws, rules, regulations and directives from the government in a comprehensible language.

In the absence of an English rajbhasha vibhag, the language of the laws of India remains incomprehensible, even to those who draft it. The intention behind the law may be good but, frequently, it requires the wisdom of the honourable courts of justice to make sense of whatever was written in the law. The latest such example concerns the historic law, written in English, which the Parliament discussed in August, to partially modify Article 370. It was full of horrific spelling and grammatical mistakes. It took almost a month for the government to issue a corrected version of the law which Parliament had passed.

Central government offices, in non-Hindi areas, also have a "Hindi" officer, once again an MA in Hindi, whose sole task is to promote the Hindi language within that office. In many such offices, where the Hindi officer is a bit conscientious, there is also a Hindi board, alongside the one which announces the name, address and phone number of the officer to contact in case of corruption complaints. The corruption board is some sort of a quasi statutory thing because of directions from the Central Vigilance Commissioner. The Hindi board is more of a voluntary effort. The offices of the Panjab University, for example, have no such Hindi board.

The Rashtrabhasha department in the Central government initiates the process

of promoting Hindi a few days before Hindi Diwas. No one notices its efforts and there is no visible consequence of its efforts or at least none that has been researched or documented. On Hindi Diwas that follows, someone makes what they consider an uplifting remark in the context of Hindi. This year it was the turn of Union Home Minister Amit Shah to make that remark. Earlier P Chidambaram, P V Narasimha Rao, R Venkataraman and other home ministers have made similar remarks. The only reason why they do so is that the department falls under their charge. Mostly, the remark is ignored by everyone, especially when the minister is a south Indian, connected with a Dravidian language.

Then there are times when the remark is followed by furore all over the country. In the mid-1960s, when Gulzarilal Nanda was the home minister, it even resulted in riots in many parts of the country when he announced, in 1965, the departure of the English language from government and the arrival of Hindi as the official language of governance in India. The opening scenes of the first film in which Amitabh Bachchan stars, *Saat Hindustani*, feature one such riot. The anti-Hindi riots in south Indian cities used to be paralleled by anti-English riots in the markets of Bihar, UP and Madhya Pradesh. The eagerness to burn property was common to both sets of rioters. There was no reported desire to learn any language.

Fortunately, nowadays the acrimony that Hindi Diwas generates is limited to some slogan shouting and once in a while, as it happened at Patiala, a few Hindi acolytes being asked to apologise for having heaped insults on non-Hindi languages. In the Patiala episode, it was said that Punjabi was insulted.

A few weeks later, everyone forgets about Hindi. Those who wish to use it, use it; those who wish to ignore it, ignore it. No one really cares one way or the other. A language, after all, is a device for communication between people. This is a point that we need to remember, always. As in the case of the Phonepe advertisement, and in the context of the annual war that erupts in India because someone in the government promises to impose Hindi on everyone else, the point is simply this: There has to be a strong reason to learn a language. Otherwise, no one other than the learned types are willing to waste time learning a new language. In the past, a common Indian was said to know at least three languages. Most Indians, even today, do. Mahatma Gandhi knew five. Narasimha Rao, knew as many as 10 languages.

As for the language of Bharat Sarkar, whether it uses Hindi or English, there is an urgent need for it to appoint a "Simple Language Commission". No rule, law, directive should be issued by the government unless it is written in a simple, commonsensical language with no convolutions and legalese, one that even a 10th-pass can comprehend, which by the way is 90 per cent of the all the workers in the organised and unorganised sector in India.

The writer is professor of history, Panjab University, Chandigarh

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### FAIR, UNFAIR

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Why property rights matter' (IE, September 27). Whenever development projects like the construction of national highways or a metro railway comes up, many people have to sacrifice their private property for the larger public good. But they are not adequately compensated. The amount given to them is most often not enough to buy similar property nearby.

Manish Tailor, Jaipur

### LISTEN TO GRETA

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Being Greta' (IE, September 27). A young girl has shaken our conscience. Her concern about climate change and its effects on her generation is noteworthy. We all owe it to our younger generation, we have done them wrong. In the name of technology, power and superficial goals, we've forgotten that what our children really need is a cleaner and healthier world to live in. Greta Thunberg's has raised valid points. If the politicians do not pay heed, individual citizens should rise to the occasion.

Samita Kaur via e-mail

### TRUST MATTERS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial 'Cop out' (IE, September 27 ). The case of alleged sexual exploitation of a student

## LETTER OF THE WEEK AWARD

To encourage quality reader intervention, The Indian Express offers the Letter of the Week award. The letter adjudged the best for the week is published every Saturday. Letters may be e-mailed to [editpage@expressindia.com](mailto:editpage@expressindia.com) or sent to The Indian Express, B-1/B, Sector 10, Noida-UP 201301. Letter writers should mention their postal address and phone number.

THE WINNER RECEIVES SELECT EXPRESS PUBLICATIONS

by the politically powerful Swami Chinmayanand needs foolproof investigation by the Special Investigation Team. A questionable verdict will shake the faith of the people in the justice delivery system. More worryingly, this investigation could be a reference point for future probes.

Tarsem Singh, Mahilpur

## VIEW FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD



A weekly look at the public conversations shaping ideas beyond borders — in the Subcontinent. Curated by Aakash Joshi

## LEADER AND DIPLOMACY

MUNIR AKRAM, former Pakistan ambassador to the UN and columnist for *Dawn*, displays in his article on September 29 a growing trend across South Asia. He praises Imran Khan's speech and diplomacy at the UN General Assembly, in terms that could be described as sycophantic: "In the person of a bold, honest and dedicated leader, Pakistan has been offered a historic opportunity to address its multiple external challenges, play a constructive role in resolving regional disputes and promote critical global objectives." Akram, a career diplomat, appears to believe that a "charismatic" leader offers a historic opportunity. This is how he describes Khan's speech and what he said about Kashmir: "India's unilateral and brutal attempt to annex occupied Jammu and Kashmir is what took the prime minister to the UN. His much-anticipated address to the UNGA was impassioned, eloquent and substantive, forcefully projecting the real nature of the BJP-RSS government, the grave human rights violations it is perpetrating in Kashmir, and the danger of a potentially catastrophic war between two nuclear-weapon states." But the real question is whether the Pakistan PM's words yielded tangible diplomatic gains. On this, even Akram is unable to provide a clear answer — or at least one

that can reconcile his high praise for Imran Khan with the lack of international opprobrium over India's "unilateral actions" and "gross human rights violations" in Kashmir: "Even though the conscience of the global champions of human rights appears to be dulled by the promised profits in India's large market, and most of the world's chancelleries have yet to publicly acknowledge the impending threat of genocide and war between Pakistan and India, most states are concerned and desire a peaceful resolution of the crisis created by India's actions." Akram also describes how Khan addressed Pakistan's other diplomatic challenges — in Afghanistan, Iran, with the US, etc — and asks for the national and government to support the country's foreign policy establishment.

## SLOWDOWN AND NEPAL

As a regional economic powerhouse, India's fortunes have a ripple effect beyond its borders, as highlighted by the September 26 editorial in the *Kathmandu Post*. The editorial expresses deep concern over the dependence and, so, negative effects in Nepal from the slowdown in India. "With the southern neighbour in the midst of an economic slowdown, Nepal can expect to experience far-reaching impacts. The reason is simple: Our

trade is heavily dependent on India. We import everything — from agricultural products to fast-moving consumer goods—from the southern neighbour," it says. Nepal is also going to be affected in terms of imports: "India also happens to be Nepal's largest export partner too. With the Indian economy hitting rock bottom, Nepal needs to diversify its export market and the market for services alike. Products like cardamom, polyester yarn, jute goods and so on are among the major exports from Nepal to India. What's more, many tourists come to Nepal with the purpose of visiting temples or getting respite from the scorching heat. Undeniably, India's ailing economy will impact Nepal's export and its economy too." Frustrated, the editorial hints at less dependence on an unreliable neighbour.

## NPAS IN BANGLADESH

The editorial in the *Daily Star* on September 28 expresses alarm at the recent IMF report that has found that the country's bad loan crisis is far worse than previously anticipated "According to a report published by the international money-lender, the amount of bad loans is actually double the figure presented by the Bangladesh government. This is in part the result of policies and practices that not only enable banks to mask

their default loans as rescheduled loans and 'special mention' loans but also allow big loan defaulters to go about their business unfettered. The large borrowers have exploited the stay order by the court which has caused a large amount of this money to disappear from the CIB database, and the banks can also report them as non-classified." Like has been reported in India, "what is even more alarming is the fact that most of these defaulters are well-connected and influential businessmen" who believe that they won't have to face any consequences. The state is also sending capital mixed signals, according to the editorial: "Bangladesh Bank has issued NOCs to banks on a case-by-case basis to reschedule defaulted loans. This has sent a very wrong message to the defaulters. Moreover, the central bank's backtracking on the principle of imposing strict discipline on distressed borrowers is sending out the wrong signal to these unscrupulous businessmen—that the banks are rewarding financial malpractice, or at the very least, bad credit decisions are being encouraged." The editorial asks the government to act on the recommendations of the IMF. Unscrupulous businessmen, it suggests, must not be allowed to derail the country's impressive growth record.



# 14 THE GOVERNANCE PAGE

## EFFECTIVE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION

# How Maharashtra's Farmer Field Schools are teaching prosperity

Sunday morning schools run by the govt teach small farmer groups how to control pests, increase yields

**PARTHA SARATHI BISWAS**  
BARAMATI, SEPTEMBER 29

LIKE OTHER farmers in Karate, a village in the Baramati taluka of Pune, Vijay Salunkhe was mildly surprised when the agricultural assistant of his area talked about a "Farmer Field School" and asked him to attend it. Salunkhe, who grows mainly maize, and partly onion and bajra, in his 2.5 acres, is thankful that he agreed because these lessons in the "school" helped him to take preventive measures against the dreaded Fall Army Worm (FAW) for his maize crop. "During the school which is held every Sunday, the agricultural assistant talked about the new pest and how to identify it. He also provided the package of practices to save one's crop," Salunkhe says. It was this knowledge that alerted Salunkhe to press the alarm bottom during the early growth stages of his crop after he realised that like other fields his too had fallen prey to the FAW. He quickly applied his learnings from the school to fight the pest and save his crop. Salunkhe admits that without this hands-on knowledge he would not have been able to either identify or save his crop.

At the start of the Kharif season, FAW had presented a serious challenge. First identified in India in 2018, this pest, which feeds on over 80 different kinds of crops, is responsible for the dip in the maize production last year. Worldwide FAW has caused havoc in countries with the pest being seen as a threat to food security in some African countries.

Salunkhe is not alone. Vinayak Jadhav, who grows maize over 2.5 acres of his total 5 acres of land in the same village, too benefited. Maize is an important crop for Jadhav as it provides the fodder necessary for maintaining his herd of 15 animals and maintain his daily milk production of around 200 litres. Jadhav has managed to control the infestation on around 70 per cent of his crop with the help of measures like mass trapping of male FAW moths, erecting bird perches and application of other biological control measures.

While FAW infestation has been reported on 2.67 lakh hectares of the total 8.60 lakh hectares of maize area, most farmers have reported success in controlling the infestation to a great degree. Agriculture Commissioner Suhas Diwase says the government decided to launch a multi-pronged approach to combat FAW. This included a massive farmers education programme. "Along with posters, information kiosks etc., we also decided to start this unique concept of Farmer Field School (called *Shetishala* in Marathi) as means of



Instructor at a Farmer Field School (or Shetishala) in Baramati, Pune, teaching farmers the best practices of agriculture. *Express*

### FARMER FIELD SCHOOLS: THE CURRICULUM

- Introduction to crops
- How to sow (seed treatment and application of inputs etc.)
- Pest control
- Best practices for harvest
- Post-harvest treatment

reaching out to the farmers," he says. Held right at the farms, this school has officers and staff of the agriculture department get farmers together on a fixed day to discuss issues related to their crops and fields. Unlike bigger seminars or workshops, these schools are held much more regularly and with much smaller groups of farmers. For example, in Karate, every Sunday morning around 10 farmers religiously come to school.

The topics discussed vary depending on the local conditions. Thus, the schools in Baramati had mainly focused on ways to control pests for maize and sugarcane – the crops most commonly cultivated here. In districts of Marathwada, on the other hand, such schools are providing guidance for crops such as cotton, tur, and moong etc. And the success against FAW in Maize is replicated in other crops as well such as cotton which attracts the dreaded pink bollworm. Information dissemination to farmers through various channels including that of the Farmer Field School is to be credited for better pest control.

While pest control might be a major thrust area of the schools at present, they also focus on better agricultural practices to help farmers improve their yields. For example, in Baramati, the schools guide farmers towards scientifically preserving the fodder to help them tide over periods of scarcity. Similarly in Kolhapur, farmers are guided on reducing the usage of chemical fertilizers for their cane crop and better management of the crop to increase yield.

## EXPLAINED

### What are Farmer Field Schools?

THESE SCHOOLS were developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization as an alternative to the top-down way of providing extension under the Green revolution. This has been in practice for a few decades in Southeast Asia. It involves giving focused guidance to small groups of farmers in their fields by way of learning-by-doing exercises.

## Tamil Nadu unveils a bold Electric Vehicles policy; to run 500 EV buses by 2019-20 end

**ARUN JANARDHANAN,**  
CHENNAI, SEPTEMBER 29

ROLLING OUT a slew of measures to push the idea of Electric Vehicles (EV) in the state, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami has released the EV policy intending to attract Rs 50,000 crore worth of investments and create 1.5 lakh new jobs. While building a favourable ecosystem for EVs is the biggest challenge before the state, some 32 state transport bus depots will get charging infrastructure within the next six months as the state is expecting over 500 electric buses for public transportation. Recently, an electric bus has been already launched by CM Palaniswami as a pilot project in Chennai city.



CM Edappadi K Palaniswami's visit to an electric car manufacturing unit of Tesla in USA early this month. *Express*

Talking to *The Indian Express*, J Radhakrishnan, principal secretary in the state transport department, said the EV pol-

icy is already being implemented and measures focus not only on the industry but also on the customers and required infrastructure. "525 EV buses of state transport department will be on the road by the end of this financial year," he said.

For a better distribution of industrial units across the state, the policy offers 50 per cent subsidy on land if it is obtained from the public sector in southern districts, which are a key focus area for the government. In other districts, including Chennai, the subsidy on land will be just 15 per cent. The policy also aims to facilitate a number of measures for the industry such as 100 per cent road tax exemption for all types of EVs, capital subsidies, reimbursement of state GST, subsidy on the land cost to set up facilities, and special incentives for EV projects that create jobs.

## RAJASTHAN/ REWARDING TRAFFIC DISCIPLINE

# Jhunjunu cops are issuing 'I am safe' certificates, saving lives

**DEEP MUKHERJEE**  
JAIPUR, SEPTEMBER 29

IN THE past month, more than 150 residents of Jhunjhunu district of Rajasthan have been rewarded a new kind of certificates by the district police. The so-called "I am safe" certificates are being given to commuters for following traffic rules.

The district police initiated a campaign to felicitate responsible drivers and riders with the objective of spreading awareness about traffic rules among the public. According to Jhunjhunu's Superintendent of Police, Gaurav Yadav, the idea for the campaign came after local police launched a drive called "Adarsh traffic zone" to curb cases of accidents in the district.

"The Adarsh traffic zone drive was taken up in July to instil the habit of abiding by road safety laws among the public. Under this initiative, we deployed extra force randomly in different areas and carried out unannounced checks whether people are abiding by the rules or not. This led to more members of the public wearing helmets and abiding by traf-



Citizens who follow traffic rules being felicitated by the police in Jhunjhunu by issuing 'I am safe' certificates. *Express*

## 'Swachh Bharat trebled decline rate of open defecation in North India'

In January, a group of researchers, coming from a wide variety of academic institutions such as University of Texas at Austin and U C Berkeley, released the end results of their study titled *Changes in Open Defecation in Rural North India: 2014-2018*. Udit Misra interviewed the lead author of this study, Ashish Gupta of University of Pennsylvania, to understand the policy lessons



### THE POLICY INTERVIEW

ASHISH GUPTA

Lead author of the study *Changes in Open Defecation in Rural North India: 2014-2018*

#### Why did you choose North India?

We conducted a study on changes in open defecation in 4 north Indian states: Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh. We revisited 1558 households between September-December 2018 in these states whom we had first interviewed in December 2013 – April 2014. More than 42% of all rural residents in India live in just these four states. In these four states, four-fifths of all rural households did not own a toilet in 2011. Consequently, child health in these states is particularly bad... It is incredibly important to understand the causes and consequences of open defecation in these states.

#### Did Swachh Bharat Mission and ODF free India help matters? If so, to what extent?

The SBM accelerated the pace of toilet construction in these states. In our study, we found that open defecation declined from approximately 70% of rural people in 2014 to approximately 45% in 2018. This represents an annual rate of decline of about 6 percentage points per year, which is a rapid acceleration in the rate of decline compared to the 2 percentage points per year documented by the 2005 and 2015 National Family Health Surveys (NFHS).

However, this increase came largely from increases in toilet construction, and not from increases in toilet use among households that own toilets. In both the 2014 and 2018 surveys, we found that among households that owned a toilet, 23% of the household members still defecated in the open.

Even more worryingly, we found that coercion and threats have been a central feature in the implementation of the SBM. More than 12% of households in our survey had faced coercion: many had received threats that they would no longer receive public benefits such as subsidised grains from ration shops. Some had even been denied these benefits. Those belonging to disadvantaged social groups, such as Dalits and Adivasis, were more likely to have faced threats and coercion. The SBM, instead of challenging caste and inequality, ended up reinforcing it.

#### What are the policy lessons?

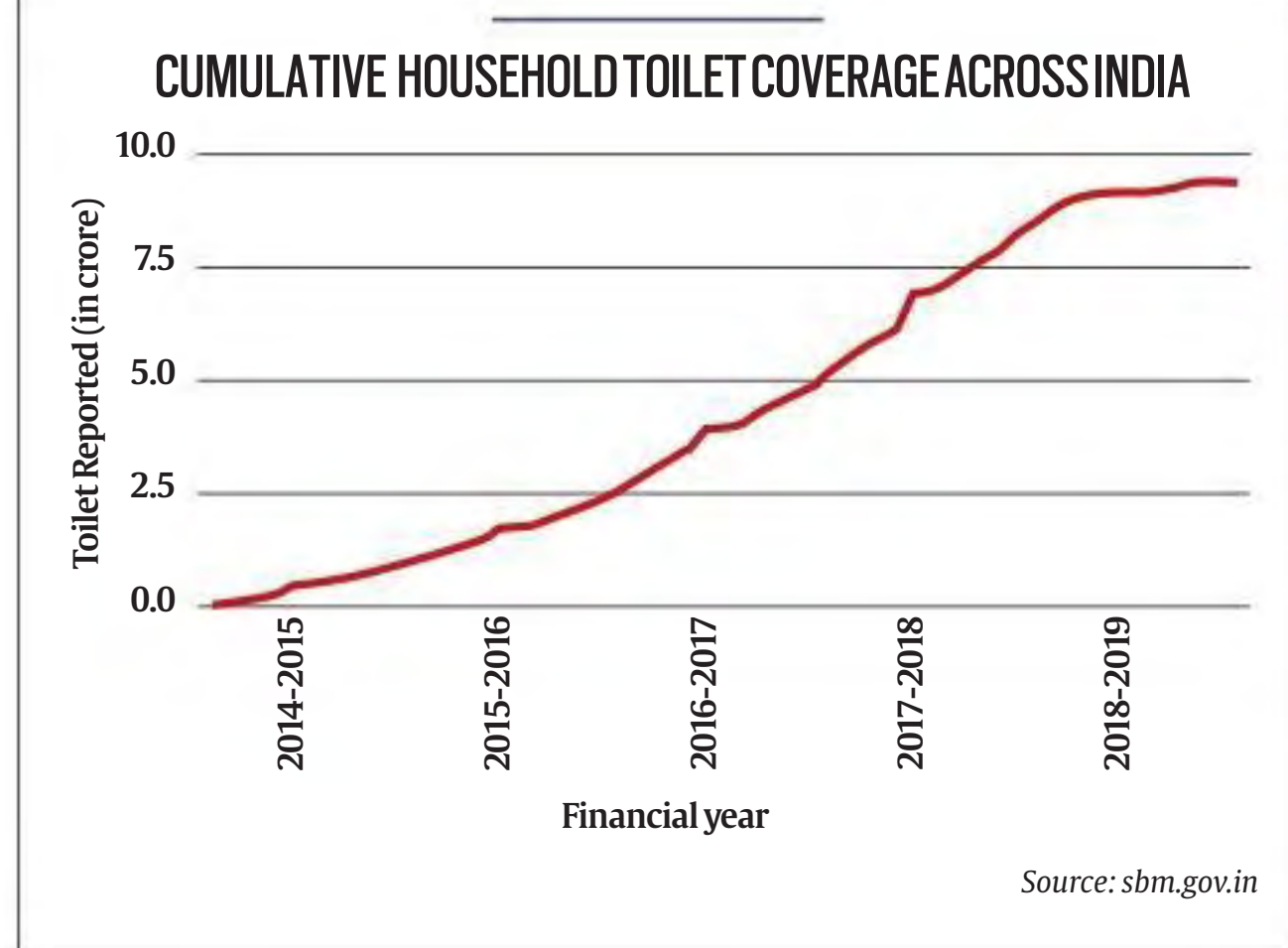
Going forward, it is essential that there is still a sanitation policy. We have seen that once a state is declared open defecation free, sanitation programs stop. There is no funding available for even toilet construction for people who still do not have one. Additionally, For the next rural sanitation policy, coercive tactics should be stopped, and latrine use should be encouraged. In this, efforts to transform social attitudes related to purity and pollution are essential.

#### How does India compare with the rest of the world on cleanliness and sanitation? Are there one or two countries that we could learn from?

According to the UNICEF and WHO Joint Monitoring Program, Bangladesh had eliminated open defecation in 2017, and just about 0.2% of China's population defecated in the open. In Sub-Saharan Africa, which is poorer than India, just about twenty percent of the population defecated in the open.

An important reason why open defecation persists in India, compared to other even poorer developing countries in the world, is the persistence of beliefs in caste and untouchability. Because of these beliefs, rural Indians do not want to build and use the kinds of simple pit latrines that are commonly used in other countries because the pits of these latrines require periodic emptying. The findings of our study show that the Swachh Bharat Mission did not adequately address these social attitudes in its activities.

### IN NUMBERS



### FROM STATES REFORMS TRACKER

#### UTTAR PRADESH

#### A new policy for startups proposed

The state's Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma has announced that the government will soon unveil a new policy for promoting startups. He underscored that the new policy would be holistic and cover several sectors like agriculture, medical and health, energy, khadi, education, tourism and transportation. As part of the policy, Lucknow is expected to have one of the largest startup incubators in Lucknow, the state capital.

#### HIMACHAL PRADESH

#### Govt to buy plastic waste

Acting on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to end the use of single-use plastic, the state Cabinet has recently given its approval to a policy wherein the government will be buying non-recyclable plastic waste from individual ragpickers as well as institutional entities such as the urban local bodies etc. The government has said that it will pay a minimum support price of Rs 75 per kg to buy such environmentally damaging plastic. The state has had a ban on polythene bags for the past decade.

#### KERALA

#### Policy to boost agriculture productivity

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has stated that the government will be working towards rejuvenating the agriculture sector. A key driver in this process would be the initiation of as many as five agro-parks aimed at promoting value-added products. "Value-added products are inevitable for the development of the agricultural sector. Kerala which was the prime producer of coconut once, has come down in its production," he said according to reports.



TOPOF THE WORLD



Sebastian Kurz is the favourite to win

EUROPE  
Austrians vote in snap election

**Vienna:** Sebastian Kurz is expected to emerge victorious in Austria's snap parliamentary election on Sunday, but it remains unclear whether the conservative leader will lean left or to the far right in seeking the coalition partner he needs for a majority. The election follows the collapse in May of Kurz's coalition with the far-right Freedom Party (FPÖ) after a video sting scandal that forced FPÖ Vice Chancellor Heinz-Christian Strache to step down. Kurz, 33, has remained largely unscathed from the scandal, even gaining voters from the FPÖ as its support has slipped to roughly a fifth of the electorate from a little more than a quarter in the last vote in 2017.

EGYPT  
Prominent dissident held

**Cairo:** Prominent Egyptian dissident Alaa Abdel Fattah was detained Sunday morning beyond his overnight probation, his family and a judicial official said. "We don't know where Alaa is... The police station says he's most probably at state security prosecution... we seriously don't have any information about him," his sister Mona Seif, also a well-known activist, said on Twitter early Sunday. Abdel Fattah, 37, is serving five years of probation after completing a five-year jail sentence in March for staging a protest against a 2013 law effectively banning public gatherings.

AFGHAN POLLS  
India congratulates Afghanistan on completed election

**New Delhi:** After the closing of polls in Afghanistan's contentious election, the Indian government congratulated the country "on the successful conduct of presidential elections". "India commends the people, the government and the security forces of Afghanistan for the successful conduct of Presidential elections on 28 September amidst challenging circumstances," the press release read. "We congratulate the Afghan people for once again demonstrating their faith in democratic governance and constitutional processes despite threats, intimidation and violence. These elections are an important milestone..." **ENS**

# Intense clashes erupt in Hong Kong ahead of China's 70th anniversary

'Anti-totalitarian' rallies held in Australia and Taiwan, more planned across Europe, North America

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
HONG KONG, SEPTEMBER 29

FIERCE CLASHES broke out between protesters and riot police in Hong Kong on Sunday as thousands marched through the strife-torn city, during a day of global protests aimed at casting a shadow over communist China's upcoming 70th birthday. Beijing is preparing for huge festivities from Tuesday to mark the founding of the People's Republic of China, including a massive military parade that will revel in the country's emergence as a global superpower. But ongoing unrest in Hong Kong threatens to upstage those celebrations as the city boils with public anger over the erosion of its special freedoms. Democracy activists in the financial hub had vowed to ramp up their nearly four-month-long campaign ahead of Tuesday's National Day celebrations, which Hong Kong protesters have dubbed a "Day of Grief". Sunday witnessed the most intense clashes in weeks as police used teargas, rubber bullets and water cannons at multiple locations for hours during running battles with hardcore protesters hurling rocks and petrol bombs. Demonstrators had called for "anti-totalitarian" rallies to be held around the globe. Marches were held in Australia and Taiwan, with more planned in some 40 locations across Europe and North America later.

**EXPLAINED**  
**E.**  
**Protesters see opportunity in high profile celebration**

AS CHINA intends to put on a grand show to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Communist rule, protesters in Hong Kong see the event as an opportunity to amplify their voice against what they see as Beijing's increasing interference in the semi-autonomous territory. Hong Kong's China-backed government, on the other hand, is under pressure to keep things quiet as the mainland celebrates a major anniversary. This has resulted in Sunday witnessing some of the worst clashes in the city since the beginning of the mass protests in early June.

Clashes broke out before Hong Kong's unsanctioned march had begun after angry groups in the shopping district of Causeway Bay surrounded and heckled officers who were conducting stop and searches. But the teargas fired by police only emboldened the crowds, who then began walking through the streets in their thousands.



Protesters clash with police in Hong Kong on Sunday. AP

## Beijing set for parade showcasing supersonic drone, robot submarine

JOE MCDONALD  
BEIJING, SEPTEMBER 29

A PARADE Tuesday by China's secretive military will offer a rare look at its rapidly developing arsenal, including possibly a nuclear-armed missile that could reach the United States in 30 minutes, as Beijing gets closer to matching Washington and other powers in weapons technology. The Dongfeng 41 is one of a

series of new weapons Chinese media say might be unveiled during the parade marking the ruling Communist Party's 70th anniversary in power. Others include a supersonic drone and a robot submarine. The parade will highlight Beijing's ambition to enforce claims to Taiwan, the South China Sea and other disputed territories — and to challenge Washington as the region's dominant force. The People's Liberation Army,

the world's biggest military with 2 million men and women and the second-highest annual spending after the United States, also is working on fighter planes, the first Chinese-built aircraft carrier and nuclear-powered submarines. "There are quite a lot of observers, including the US military, who say, 'This is getting close to what we do,' and they are starting to worry," said Siemon Wezeman of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. **AP**

## SPACE X UNVEILS 'STARSHIP' FOR MARS MISSION



A prototype of SpaceX's Starship spacecraft in Boca Chica, Texas. Reuters

"Wars only affect some regions of the world, yet weapons of war are produced and sold in other regions which are then unwilling to take in the refugees generated by these conflicts."  
— POPE FRANCIS

## UK PM apologised to Queen over suspension of Parliament: report

ADITI KHANNA  
LONDON, SEPTEMBER 29

BRITISH PRIME Minister Boris Johnson has reportedly apologised to Queen Elizabeth II over the Supreme Court verdict earlier this week against his decision to prorogue Parliament. Johnson telephoned the Queen on Tuesday after the UK Supreme Court ruled that he had been "unlawful" to suspend Parliament for five weeks, *The Sunday Times* reported. A No 10 Downing Street source told the newspaper: "He got on to the Queen as quickly as possible to say how sorry he was". The Supreme Court rebuke has reportedly led to a breakdown of trust between Buckingham Palace and Downing Street. "They are not impressed by what is going on — at the very highest levels of the family," a government source was quoted as saying. A royal source claims that the Queen's senior advisers are "fed up". A palace official revealed that Johnson is now as distrusted as former British Prime Minister David Cameron, who had revealed details of his conversations with the Queen while promoting his memoir in a breach of protocol. "It's difficult to tell which of them they are crosser with, Cameron or Boris," the source told the newspaper. Johnson suspended, or prorogued, Parliament for five weeks earlier this month, saying it was to allow for a Queen's Speech to outline policies of his new government. **PTI**



## Johnson denies wrongdoing over businesswoman

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
LONDON, SEPTEMBER 29

BRITISH PRIME Minister Boris Johnson says he has "no interest to declare" in his links to an American businesswoman who allegedly received favourable treatment because of their friendship during his time as mayor of London. Johnson was asked during a BBC interview on Sunday about his ties to Jennifer Arcuri after the Greater London Authority on Friday announced it was referring a "conduct matter" involving Johnson to the Independent Office for Police Conduct. The case arose from a *Sunday Times* report saying Arcuri was given money and privileged access while on trade missions that Johnson led as mayor of London. Johnson says "everything was done with full propriety". The independent office, which oversees police complaints in England, was asked to consider if there were grounds to investigate him for misconduct in public office.

## Saudi King's bodyguard shot dead in 'row with his friend'

REUTERS  
RIYADH, SEPTEMBER 29

THE LONG-TIME personal bodyguard of Saudi Arabia's King Salman was shot dead by a friend while at a private residence in the western city of Jeddah, in what the state broadcaster described as "a personal dispute". State media did not give details about the row that sparked the shooting on Saturday night of Major General Abdul Aziz al-Faghm, who was at another friend's home in Jeddah's al-Shatee district at the time, several km north of the palace where the king usually spends much of the summer. A police statement, published by state news agency SPA on Sunday, said Faghm had a verbal exchange with Mamdouh bin Meshaal Al Ali, a man described as his friend, who then retrieved a firearm from outside and opened fire. The shooter refused to surrender to police who had surrounded the site and who shot him dead, the statement said. Another Saudi, a Filipino and five members of the security forces were also wounded by gunfire, the statement said. Faghm, who was transferred to hospital but died from his wounds, had also served as the personal bodyguard of late King Abdullah, according to local media. His death prompted an outpouring of sympathy from Saudis on social media.

## THE FIRST US-INDIAN POLICE OFFICER IN TEXAS WAS SHOT DEAD DURING A TRAFFIC STOP IN HOUSTON

# US mourns Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal, trailblazing Sikh police officer

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
HOUSTON, SEPTEMBER 29

LT SANDEEP Singh Dhaliwal put the Sikh imperative of selfless service on display for all and touched a nation with his example, a senior US official has said, amid an unbridled outpouring of grief from many Americans over the killing of the first Indian-American police officer in Texas.

Dhaliwal, 42, who made national headlines when he was allowed to grow a beard and wear a turban on the job in the US state of Texas, was gunned down while conducting a mid-day traffic stop in northwest of Houston on Friday. Family, friends and strangers prayed on Saturday at Dhaliwal's memorial off Willancly Lane in northwest Harris County. Dhaliwal's youngest sister Ranjeet Kaur joined the crowd and lit a candle for her brother. She remembered a man who loved his job. "He was a really great person. He didn't deserve all this. He was a great person. He helped everybody. He never said no. He does

as much as he can. I think this was the wrong time and the wrong place," Kaur was quoted as saying by an US news channel. Reacting to Dhaliwal's killing, US acting assistant secretary for South and Central Asia, Alice Wells said, "We mourn alongside colleagues, friends and family of Lt Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal, 1st Indian-American in Texas to serve as a police officer while maintaining articles of faith." "Dhaliwal put the Sikh imperative of selfless service on display for all & touched a nation with his example," she tweeted.



Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal

A 10-year veteran of the Harris County Sheriff's office and its first Sikh deputy, Dhaliwal

was taken by helicopter to a hospital where he died, a decade after becoming the force's first Sikh and pushing for a historic expansion of religious rights in the department. Dhaliwal worked with United Sikhs, a global humanitarian relief and advocacy nonprofit, to help organise the donation of truckloads of supplies for first responders after Hurricane Harvey. "Sandeep was a trailblazer for the Sikh-American community. He served not just the Sikh community here in Houston with honour and dignity, but all of his

community," Bobby Singh, southeast regional director for the Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund said on Twitter. Houston mayor Sylvester Turner called Dhaliwal "a bold and groundbreaking law enforcement officer in the eyes of our county, our state, our nation". Texas senator Ted Cruz said the state was "mourning a hero". In 2012, Washington DC became the first major US police force to make explicit accommodations for Sikhs to preserve their appearance on duty. An estimated 500,000 Sikhs live in the

US as a whole. "Community-led candlelight vigil was held tonight in honour of Deputy Dhaliwal. Please continue to keep his family & his Texas family in your thoughts & prayers. Deputy Dhaliwal was LOVED by this community," County Major Mike Lee said in a tweet. "A grateful community remembers fallen Texas Deputy Dhaliwal. This makeshift memorial is growing as a steady flow of people have come from throughout the community to show their support. Deputy Dhaliwal loved serving this community and they

loved him back," Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez tweeted. Starting as a detention officer in his late 20s, Dhaliwal was promoted to a deputy in 2015. The father of three young children was a practising Sikh. In 2015, the Harris County Sheriff's Office made an official policy that allowed Dhaliwal to wear his beard and turban on duty. "As a Sikh American, I felt the need to represent the Sikh community in law enforcement. It will give me the chance to open up the conversation," Dhaliwal told a news channel said at the time.



# 16 ECONOMY

FPIs PULLED OUT ABOUT ₹17,000 CR IN AUGUST

## After outflows in last two months, FPIs invest a net ₹7,850 cr in stocks in Sept

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 29

AFTER PULLING out Rs 30,000 crore in the past two months, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) invested a net Rs 7,850 crore into the stock market in September, following a slew of economic reforms by the government.

FPIs withdrew Rs 12,419 crore in July and Rs 17,592 crore from the stock market in August amid the slowdown in the economy. The government last week slashed corporate tax rate by around 10 percentage points and also clarified that the enhanced tax surcharge will not apply on capital gains arising from sale of any security, including derivatives, in the hands of FPIs. Sebi also simplified KYC requirements for

EXPLAINED

### Weak domestic demand outlook to weigh on inflows

FPI FLOWS have resumed after the government stepped in with several steps to revive the economy. Despite the roll-back of excess surcharge and a relatively accommodative monetary policy stance, FPI flows will continue to be undermined by a weak global and domestic consumption demand outlook.

A shrinking current account surplus in key exporting economies including China, coupled with the muted household consumption, will continue to weigh on FPI flows.

FPIs and granted them permission to carry out off-market transfer of securities. As per the latest NSDL data, FPIs invested Rs 7,850 crore crore in equities and withdrew a net Rs 136 crore from the debt segment

Sensex also made huge gain of 2,997 points in two days after the cut in corporate tax by the government.

India Ratings and Research said the reduction in the US Federal Reserve's policy rate by 25 bps and the ECB's decision to resume asset purchases is likely to augur well for short-term FPI flows to economies such as India – which continue to provide a relatively high real interest rate differential. However, risks related to the geopolitical tension in the Middle East, coupled with imminent downsides risks to domestic economic growth, in the absence of a pick-up in household demand, could continue to impinge on sentiment in the near term.

Despite the roll-back of excess surcharge and a relatively accommodative monetary policy

stance, FPI flows will continue to be undermined by a weak global and domestic consumption demand outlook. “In the long term, a shrinking current account surplus in key exporting economies including China coupled with the muted household consumption will continue to weigh on FPI flows,” India Ratings said.

The second rate cut by the Fed since January comes against the backdrop of a weakening global demand outlook and slowing US exports. “This rate cut is unlikely to stimulate long-term FPI flows, amid the system-wide risk aversion build-up globally. Relatively neutral communication or non-committal approach from the Fed about the future course of action might keep the US dollar exchange rate firm,” it said.

INTERVIEW WITH GROUP HEAD, INVESTMENT BANKING, HDFC BANK

## ‘If equity shareholders do not make money, you will not get equity capital’

AS PRIVATE investment continues to suffer and equity returns have stayed low, RAKESH SINGH, group head–investment banking, private banking and capital markets at HDFC Bank told SANDEEP SINGH that return on risk capital must be ensured so that people make money. He further said that moderate levels of inflation is required in the economy for better wage growth, stability in asset prices and rise in consumption. Edited excerpts:

**Do you see a revival in private investments in the economy after the announcement in corporate tax rate cut?**

In sectors where there is excess supply already, a company may not undertake capital expenditure. We must incentivise and get companies to set up base for manufacturing and even exporting electronics, metro rakes, solar panels and other stuff that we are importing presently. Our issue is on demand generation side. One way to generate further demand is by way of personal income tax cuts to encourage consumption. The recent announcement on reduction in corporate tax is an excellent step by the government and will incentivise corporates, particularly MNCs, to set up manufacturing base for local consumption and even exports. In my view, the second half of the year should be better with farm growth due to bountiful rains and the festive season.

Besides, the Centre may take sector specific measures. For the auto sector we may need a scrapage policy. Reintroduction of tax benefits for second house purchase, reduced or temporary waiver of stamp duty etc to help liquidate the home inventory is an option. I think that the government is best placed to incentivise and take the trade off between tax cuts and higher tax collections driven by consumption. The cyclical part of the slowdown is temporary as efficiency gains due to measures taken by this government and change in consumption patterns may need to (be) rebalanced by policy measures and some sector specific tax cuts to boost consumption. Also, as far as fiscal deficit is concerned, I don't see it as a big issue. The whole world is fearing slowdown and in such an environment such measures are required.

**What do you think needs to be done?**

When we protect basic level of investment in the industry and



Rakesh Singh

investors make adequate returns, incremental investments will flow in. We must recognise that equity is the riskiest form of capital and if equity shareholders do not make money, we will not get equity capital. So, we have to ensure that there is return on risk capital. Once risk capital generates return, it becomes a pool and gets redeployed in the industry and the country.

**What do you think needs to be done for demand push?**

The thing to give further impetus to demand is to ensure that you have lower prices that encourages consumption. Wages must go up, particularly in the private sector. Low inflation is leading to low wage growth and I think the biggest elephant in the room is low inflation. I think we should have moderate levels of inflation in the economy.

**How is low inflation hurting the sentiment?**

In absence of inflation, we are seeing correction in asset prices. Also the value of assets owned by individuals have gone down in low inflationary environment and that hurts.

Everyone wants growth. What moderate levels of inflation do is they bring better wage growth, stability and growth in asset prices and leave some money in the hand of semi-urban and rural for consumption. Inflation targeting such that there is moderate levels of inflation may be a good idea. Instead of 3 per cent, we should have CPI of 4-5 per cent.

**Do you see the steps taken by government are meaningful?**

The steps are in the right direction. What the government is doing is unprecedented. We may need increase in farm prices for the farmer which will lead to higher surplus in the hands of rural and semi-urban population.

## ‘HDFC keen to contribute to govt’s ₹20k-cr fund’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

MAKING A strong case for supporting developers to help them come out of crisis, eminent banker Deepak Parekh said the government incentives have helped the affordable housing sector gain traction but homebuyers now clearly want “right developers, right price, right size

and right financier”.

Parekh, chairman of housing finance major HDFC Ltd, also said the government's proposed Rs 20,000 crore fund will help the realty sector in a big way to get their pending projects completed and his company is very keen to contribute to this fund.

Asked whether he would also like to join the board to help manage this fund as a reputed industry voice, Parekh, however,

That will lead to rise in rural consumption and the rub off effect of this move will come to the industries too. Some amount of inflation should be encouraged, however, it should be calibrated so that it doesn't run away.

**Are large investors putting money into equity?**

People are not committing incremental money into equities as the earnings outlook is still evolving. While return on equity must improve, India's corporate capital pool and profit pool must increase. Recent tax cuts will help but we also need higher consumption. If the reward for risks is higher, you are more likely to see people keen to take more risk and commit capital to newer projects. We saw this happen in road projects, transmission and solar in the recent past.

**Which companies do you think will do well in the current times?**

I believe large cap companies will do well as they have access to capital, people and technology. We are in a consolidation phase in the economy where large caps are bound to do well because they will take market share from smaller players who are not well capitalised, who don't have access to the same quality of technology and people. While large caps will continue to show growth, mid and small companies that are sectoral leaders and have technology strengths will grow. But if they don't have access to them then irrespective of their valuations, they will suffer.

It is a very good time for well established companies that have been run properly. The problem is where people were trying to run a company with not so strong fundamentals.

**Do you think the government should provide protection to certain sectors?**

There are two sets of industries, the ones that are affected by international competition and others that are not. While both have witnessed impact on demand, it's the ones that are impacted by international supply side competition that are more affected. If there is supply side excess in the world and companies worldwide dump their stock at a certain price in India, our domestic companies are unable to compete and we may need to find a way to address this, protect industry and jobs in the same way other nations do.

### BRIEFLY

#### In a first, RP to chair RCom AGM today

*Mumbai:* In what is probably the first for any major corporate, a resolution professional (RP) will chair and address the shareholders of the Anil Ambani-run bankrupt Reliance Communications (RCom) at the annual general meeting (AGM) with shareholders on Monday. Companies in the diversified group will be holding their AGMs in the financial capital. **PTI**

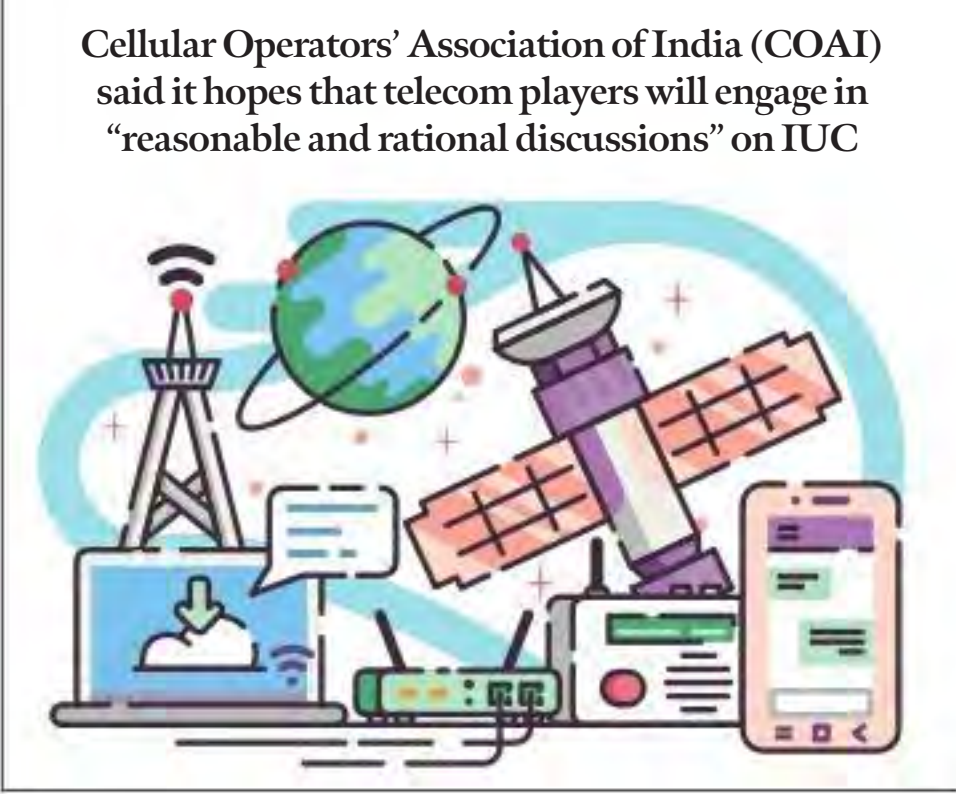
#### ‘Millennials using cabs would mean more cars’

*Gaydon:* Millennials depending more on ride-hailing service providers for commuting would mean more demand for cars rather than affecting sales in mega cities, including those in India, according to JLR chief executive Ralf Speth. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had recently said one reason for the downturn in the auto industry was millennials using more of ride-hailing services instead of buying cars. **PTI**

#### Lara project’s first unit to start on Oct 1: NTPC

*New Delhi:* NTPC Sunday said its 800 MW Unit-1 of Lara Super Thermal Power Station in Chhattisgarh will be commercially operational on Monday midnight. Last week, it said the unit would be commercially operational from Sunday midnight. **PTI**

### ‘Hope telcos’ IUC discussion will be reasonable’



Cellular Operators’ Association of India (COAI) said it hopes that telecom players will engage in “reasonable and rational discussions” on IUC

**Different players, different positions:** As per the industry body, different telecom players may take varied position based on their operational, strategic and commercial interests

**Zero termination charge unacceptable:** Historically, the industry’s majority view on interconnect usage charges (IUC) has been that zero termination charge is not acceptable in a calling party pays regime

**6p per minute:** Currently, an operator is required to pay 6

paise per minute as mobile call termination charge, or IUC

**Nil IUC proposal:** The IUC was originally proposed to be made nil from January 1, 2020; however, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) is now reviewing the timeline

**Telcos locking horns:** With Trai, last week, inviting public comments to review mobile call termination rate deadline, the old and new telcos have once again locked horns over the issue

### FE BEST BANKS AWARDS

## India’s leading lenders, fintechs to be honoured today

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 29

INDIA'S MOST prestigious financial sector awards — FE Best Banks awards — will be presented in the country's financial capital on Monday. It will be celebration time for banks, non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), small finance banks and fintechs.

Romesh Sobti, CEO and MD, IndusInd Bank, will carry home the Lifetime Achievement Award, while Sanjiv Bajaj, MD and CEO, Bajaj Finserv, will walk away with the Banker of the Year award for 2017-18.

The winners have been chosen by a high-powered jury chaired by S Ramadorai, former chairman, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), and a team comprising R Shankar Raman, director & CFO, Larsen & Toubro; Leo Puri, former managing director,



UTI Asset Management; Biswamohan Mahapatra, former executive director, Reserve Bank of India; and Sharad Sharma, founder, iSPIRT. Helping with some detailed research and number work was a team from EY.

A jury's task is never easy because even in the midst of their troubles, lenders have managed to spot niches where they could move in and innovate to come up with dozens of new products, especially digital offerings. Numbers don't always tell the whole story but at a time when demand for credit may have been somewhat



sluggish, lenders have been cashing in on technological advancements to run their businesses. Thanks to these initiatives, they have sustained loan growth and profitability. The winners in the category of banks are HDFC Bank, Indian Bank and HSBC. NBFCs, too, have done well for themselves with Bajaj Finance stealing the show. With every lender launching a plethora of products, it is never easy to assess which ones are the best. But the number of new customers can be a good indication. State Bank of India will walk away with the award for the



best home loan product — long tenors. The lowest rate and other facilities ensured it outclassed the products of other lenders. Kotak Mahindra Bank won the award for the best savings bank product for the second straight year. With an interest rate of 6 per cent, the bank's savings deposits have grown at a compounded 38-40 per cent over the last seven years.

Axis Bank, which has two fintech subsidiaries, was declared the best digital bank for the second year in a row. A substantial chunk of the lender's MSME and personal loans are sourced online and

the lender aims to completely digitalise such loans in 18 months.

The year 2017-18 was annus mirabilis for NPCI, with the launch of BHIM and the on-boarding of Google Pay and Paytm. Later in August, UPI 2.0 was launched. For the stunning success of UPI, NPCI — the jury felt — merited an award. Assessing the business models and the sustainability of hundreds of fintechs can be very challenging, especially in the absence of reliable information and data. What looks like a promising idea today may no longer be a viable business tomorrow, given there's no dearth of competition and also because technological advancements are so rapid and game-changing.

Among the fintechs, RazorPay, CreditVidya, LoanFrame and Acko General Insurance were chosen for the initiatives they have taken in their respective areas and for the promise they hold out. **FE**



## TWITTERDUM

# The promise and the perils of impeachment

In America Nancy Pelosi has moved against President Donald Trump. It is not the moment to cheer



President Donald Trump with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi in December 2018. Pelosi has directed her Democratic colleagues in the House to begin impeachment hearings into Trump. *NYT*

AMERICA ALMOST didn't have a president. The men who arrived at the constitutional convention in 1787 brought with them a horror of monarchy. Absent a figure of George Washington's stature, the young country might have adopted a parliamentary system of government. Yet having created the office, the founders had to devise a way to remove presidents who abuse their positions—not all people are Washingtons. They defined the mechanism: an impeachment vote in the House, followed by a trial in the Senate. The question of what exactly a president should be impeached for—"treason, bribery or other high crimes and misdemeanours"—was deliberately left to Congress.

Hence, though impeachment is a constitutional provision, it is also a political campaign. That campaign began in earnest last week when Nancy Pelosi directed her Democratic colleagues in the House to begin impeachment hearings into President Donald Trump. This will not necessarily lead to impeachment. In the past, though, impeachment hearings have generated a momentum of their own. The

process is fraught with risks on both sides. One thing seems certain: the process will further divide a country that is already set against itself.

Ms Pelosi has taken such a momentous step because she believes the president's behaviour towards Ukraine's government crossed a line. If that seems an obscure reason to contemplate unseating a president, remember that impeachment proceedings against Richard Nixon had their origins in an office burglary and the ones against Bill Clinton began with an affair with an intern. Mr Trump appears to have let Ukraine's government know that relations with America, including the supply of aid, depended on it pursuing an investigation into the family of a political rival—that would be more serious than a break-in or a fling. It would mean the president had subverted the national interest to pursue a political vendetta.

The federal government often gives foreign powers promises of aid in exchange for doing something that America wants them to do. The Ukraine case is different. America has an interest in ensuring that Ukraine is able to defend it-

self against Russian aggression, which is why Congress came up with a package of \$391m in military aid for its newly elected government. Mr Trump acted against the national interest in putting that aid on hold, while pressing Volodymyr Zelensky, Ukraine's president, to investigate Hunter Biden, who had business dealings in Ukraine and is the son of the Democratic front-runner, Joe Biden. If that were not clear enough, Mr Trump also sent his personal lawyer to meet an adviser to Mr Zelensky and repeat the message.

In a country as corrupt and vulnerable as Ukraine the link between American support and investigating the Bidens—you give us dirt on Joe and we'll give you weapons and money—did not need to be explicit to be understood. "I also want to ensure you that we will be very serious about the case and will work on the investigation," Mr Zelensky told Mr Trump in a call on July 25th.

You might have thought the Mueller investigation into his campaign's dealings with Russia would have made Mr Trump wary of dallying with foreign governments. It seems

not. His conduct looks a lot like bribery or extortion. And to use taxpayer funds and the might of the American state to pursue a political enemy would count as an abuse of power.

The founders wanted impeachment to be a practical option, not just a theoretical one. Otherwise the president would be above the law, a monarch sitting on a throne for four or eight years. Declining to impeach Mr Trump would set a precedent for future presidents: anything up to and including what the 45th president has done to date would be fair game. Republican partisans should consider to what depths a future Democratic president, thus emboldened, could stoop.

It would also signal to America's allies and foes that snooping on Americans who are influential or might become so was a fine way to curry favour with a president. There would be no need for the dirt even to be true. Russia and China, are you listening?

Such are the risks of ducking impeachment. Yet the risks on the other side—of pressing forward—are great, too. Voters expect impeachment to be a last resort, not a trick by

one party to remove a president from the other, or a means for the losers of an election to frustrate its result. House Democrats risk looking self-indulgent as, rather than getting on with fixing infrastructure or health care, they obsess over the minutiae of internal White House communications. The hearings may spin out of control and make Democratic politicians seem ineffectual and obsessive, as the stonewalling testimony of a former Trump aide, Corey Lewandowski, did last week. The hearings may also be too confusing and rancorous for the public to follow.

Even if the House did decide to impeach Mr Trump, it is highly unlikely that he would be found guilty by the two-thirds majority needed in the Senate, where Republicans hold 53 of 100 seats. Legally, Mr Biden junior's sleazy dealings in Ukraine have no bearing on whether Mr Trump abused his office. Politically, though, the two are linked because they give Republican senators minded to defend Mr Trump a handy set of talking points.

A failed impeachment that leaves Mr Trump in office might not be much of a deter-

rent to this president or to a future one. In fact it might even help Mr Trump, who could argue that he had been found innocent after a partisan witch-hunt by loser-Democrats. Until this week that was the calculus of Ms Pelosi and House Democrats from competitive districts. It is not clear that public opinion has yet shifted enough to change the equation. Though it may be bravado, Mr Trump's campaign team has always insisted that the more Democrats talk about impeachment the better it is for the president's chances of re-election in 2020.

## Cast the die

Faced with such a daunting choice, Ms Pelosi had until now held back. But Mr Trump appears to be becoming more brazen as re-election draws near. The president's behaviour needs investigating, with the extra authority that the impeachment process confers. Better, therefore, to lean towards principle than pragmatism. But it is a risky and perilous path.

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## CLIMATE ACTION

# The day after tomorrow

The world is still struggling to implement meaningful climate policy

"HOW DARE YOU!" Even by her impassioned standards, the address to the UN General Assembly by Greta Thunberg, a young Swedish climate activist, was coruscating stuff. "How dare you continue to look away and come here saying that you're doing enough when the politics and solutions needed are still nowhere in sight." She will have seen or heard little at the UN's one-day climate summit or in the wide range of get-togethers surrounding it which made up New York's climate week to placate her wrath.

The summit concluded with a torrent of new announcements. There was a commitment by 65 countries and the European Union to reach net-zero carbon emissions—taking as much carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere as they are putting in—by 2050. Germany, Slovakia and others joined an alliance to halt the construction of coal plants; 32 countries are now members. Companies and investors announced measures to reduce emissions from shipping, buildings and more. Narendra Modi, India's prime minister, set a new 450-gigawatt target for his country's renewable-energy capacity, more than five times the current level. The UN's secretary-general, António Guterres, professed himself pleased: "Today, in this hall, the world saw clear ambition and concrete initiatives."

Some announcements were promises of future announcements. Fully 59 countries

said that they would shortly be unveiling more ambitious commitments under the Paris agreement, which aims to keep global temperatures "well below" 2°C above those in pre-industrial times; a global round of such increased commitments is to be negotiated next year.

Even if all the pledges are acted on, though, the gap between what the summit promised and what needs to be done remains a chasm. If Mr Modi were to quintuple India's renewable power capacity over 11 years, that would represent an annual growth no higher than that of renewable generation worldwide in the decade 2007-17—and he said nothing about reining in the support that India's state-owned banks offer coal companies. India has made no commitment to reach net-zero by 2050 or at any other time—any more than America, China or Russia has.

Away from the UN, businesses got in on the act. Some 87 companies, including Nestlé and Salesforce, a big provider of software-as-a-service, pledged to reach net-zero emissions in their businesses by 2050. Jeff Bezos did them ten years better, announcing that Amazon would reach net-zero emissions by 2040 and that it was buying 100,000 electric lorries to move towards that goal. Overall, some 650 companies with a market value of \$11tn have signed up to the Science-Based Targets Initiative, a consortium of NGOs

which certify and monitor the commitments firms make to align themselves with the Paris objectives. Many aim to cut emissions by around 2.5% a year. They are trying to reduce energy consumption in their supply chains and in the way their products are used, too. On average these emissions are almost six times larger than those from a firm's direct operations, says Alberto Carrillo Pineda of CDP, an NGO which monitors corporate climate efforts.

Unfortunately, while target-setting firms account for 14% of the world's stockmarket value, they emit only 2% of its carbon. Between 1988 and 2015, according to CDP, 71% of greenhouse-gas emissions came from fossil fuels sold by 100 energy giants. On the afternoon of September 23rd the bosses of companies including ExxonMobil, Royal Dutch Shell and BP sat in the airy Morgan Library for a forum organised by the Oil and Gas Climate Initiative, an industry effort to reduce emissions from operations and invest in technologies that will help mitigate climate change.

The firms vowed to limit methane emissions and highlighted their investment into carbon capture and sequestration. But they also explained that they were continuing to develop new oil and gas fields. "We are meeting a demand for a product that makes the quality of life in the world better," said Mike



Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg issues a stark warning on climate change at the United Nations on September 23. *Reuters*

Wirth, the boss of Chevron.

They are unlikely to stop unless demand drops off. That might happen if, or when, the regulatory war on carbon enters a new phase. A new report by Principles for Responsible Investment, an unsupported group of investors with \$86tn under management, predicts "abrupt and disruptive" climate policies by 2025, as authorities wake up to the urgency of the climate challenge. Mark Carney, governor of the Bank of England, used his UN speech to stress the need for businesses to be made to disclose the costs that climate change and climate policies could stick them with.

A complement to better assessing the climate risks of investment is to invest in

things that reduce the climate risk in the first place. This is aim of the Climate Finance Leadership Initiative (CFLI), a group of banks, asset managers and energy developers handpicked by Michael Bloomberg, former mayor of New York City and a UN special envoy for climate change.

There is a huge need for energy investment in poor countries. There is a huge amount of capital in rich-world pension funds. At the moment, though, zero-carbon energy in developing countries does not appeal to those funds' appetite for safe and reliable investments.

That is where the CFLI comes in. By bringing together asset managers, like AXA

and Japan's Government Pension Investment Fund, banks, like HSBC, and energy-project developers, such as Enel, it can cover the pipeline of renewable investment projects—from capital raising and allocation to project development.

In a recent report the CFLI said that closer ties between private finance and development-finance institutions would allow greater use of tools that share risk between public and private investors. With that in mind, on September 25th the CFLI announced a tie-up with the Association of European Development Finance Institutions. The association's members have experience in emerging markets; they can scope out projects for the CFLI and bear some of the risks.

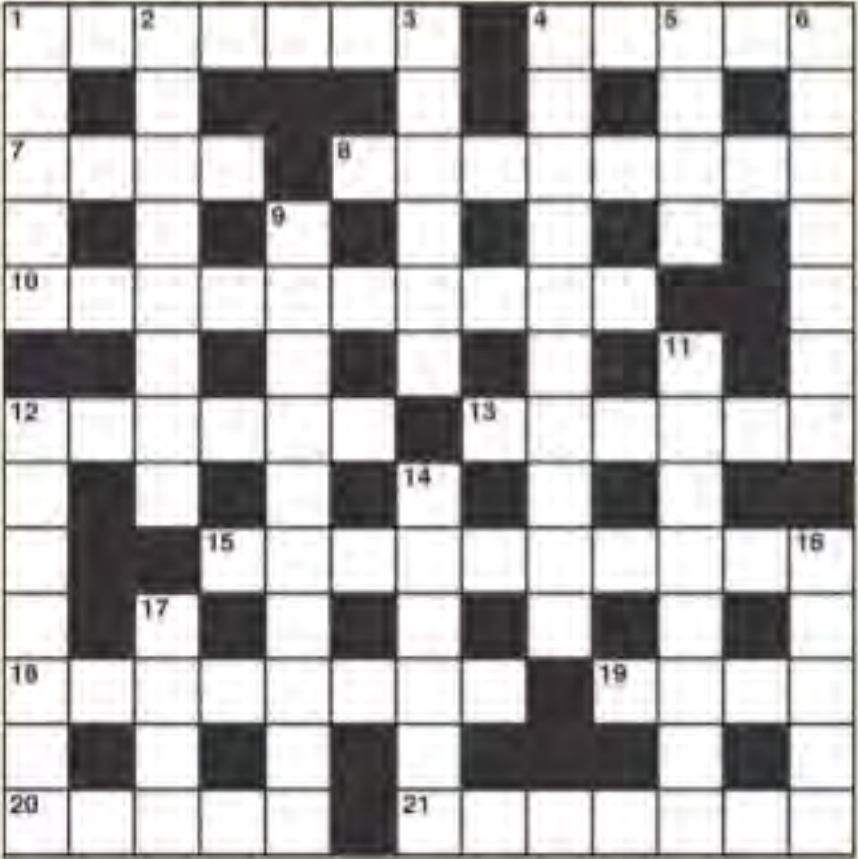
The CFLI plans to invest \$20bn in the next five years. Compared with the trillions needed in clean energy, that does not sound much. But Daniel Klier of HSBC argues that by creating successful pilot projects the CFLI can demonstrate the attraction of its strategies for removing risk from renewable energy investments.

Such promising initiatives are unlikely to placate Ms Thunberg. "All you can talk about is money and fairy tales of eternal economic growth," she raged at the general assembly before seeking to conscript another UN body to her cause. Under the "third optional protocol" to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Committee on the Rights of the Child can be petitioned by children being denied their rights. Ms Thunberg and 15 other young people filed such a complaint against five countries that have ratified the protocol—Argentina, Brazil, France, Germany, and Turkey—for following climate policies that do not respect or protect children's rights. They are nothing if not determined.

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CROSSWORD 3923



- ACROSS
- 1 A ride round Rhode Island to get rid of a headache, maybe (7)
- 4 Time to finish is what poets may need (5)
- 7 Night angler gets bite (4)
- 8 Dead cute in a way, and well read (8)
- 10 Dramatic trials (10)
- 12 It's natural to find a hotel having a tea break (6)
- 13 Make something known about calf meat (6)
- 15 Realise what shares may do (10)
- 18 A pure one in a common market perhaps (8)
- 19 One who leads on a sheriff? (4)
- 20 He gives a direction in the entrance (5)
- 21 Trainee goes round Grand National course (7)
- DOWN
- 1 Bert perhaps and Jack in church (5)
- 2 Liking for a swan song (8)
- 3 Dim sun, when out, will hardly encourage it! (6)
- 4 Official title of great merit (10)
- 5 Payment before mountain ascent (4)
- 6 Eccentric, old and bald possibly (7)
- 9 Appears wet perhaps, but may be salvaged (5,5)
- 11 Animals cannot be put inside this vessel (8)
- 12 Campaigning against an area for play? (7)
- 14 A drama involves the fleet (6)
- 16 Profiteer without gain, that is strange (5)
- 17 What happened during a transport strike in Algeria? (4)

Solutions Crossword 3922: Across: 1 Coordinates, 9 Ireland, 10 Utter, 11 Heat, 12 Sentinel, 14 Napery, 16 Intact, 18 Rosettes, 19 Tzar, 22 Elmer, 23 Madeira, 24 In good hands. Down: 2 Opera, 3 Rear, 4 Indeed, 5 Aquatint, 6 Estonia, 7 Night nurses, 8 Proletarian, 13 Oratorio, 15 Postman, 17 Beamed, 20 Spied, 21 Idea.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

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

When \_\_fall\_\_, \_\_come in very handy - Goethe (5,,5)

VWAER



ERSYDS



TOPIS



EEGIDW



SOLUTION: W/VER, POST, DRESSY, WEDGIE  
Answer: When ideas fall, words come in very handy - Goethe

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C-2B, JANAKPURI, NEW DELHI-110058  
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Email: [janakpurijsshs@yahoo.com](mailto:janakpurijsshs@yahoo.com); Contact us: 011-28504100  
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2 Procurement of "Rota-Blator System" for Cardiology Department 2019\_JSSHS\_179862\_1 31- October-2019  
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**UJVN Limited**  
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006  
Telephone: 0135-2763086, Fax No. 0135-2763508  
CIN No. U40101UR2001SOC025866, Website: [www.uttarakhandvalvdyut.com](http://www.uttarakhandvalvdyut.com)  
**CORRIGENDUM: 01**  
Bid Identification No.: 05/EE(G)/TPH/2019-20 for "Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Energy meters, real-time Data Acquisition and Telemetry System for ABT Energy Metering System at Tiloth Power Plant to SLDC Dehradun"  
1. Last Date/Time for receipt of bid in the portal : 15-10-2019 upto 16:00 Hrs.  
2. Last date of submission of hard copy of bid : 19.10.2019 upto 15:00 Hrs.  
3. Date of opening of bid on the website : 19-10-2019 at 15:30 Hrs.  
Addendum/Corrigendum has been uploaded on the e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in>.  
Other terms and conditions will remain unchanged. For eligibility criteria and further details please visit website <http://uktenders.gov.in>.  
Executive Engineer (Gen.), Tiloth, Uttarkashi  
563/UJVNL/Adv./1 Dated 28-09-2019  
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

**Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited**  
Khurshid Lal Bhawan, Janpath, New Delhi-110050  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
On behalf of MTNL, New Delhi vide Tender enquiry:  
1. No. AGM(IT-TP)/CSMS-MPBS & TFS Billing/2019-20 Online tenders are invited for Hiring of skill person to Support & Development Activities of CSMS-MPBS and TFS Billing support for MTNL, Delhi (Estimated Cost : Rs. 26,90,400/- approximately).  
2. No. AGM(IT-TP)/Sweeping & Cleaning/2019-20 Online tenders are invited for Sweeping & Cleaning in the offices of GM(IT), (Kidwai Bhawan & Tax Building), New Delhi (Estimated Cost : Rs. 1,12,923/- approximately).  
3. No. Mktg./MTNL/ND/AM(Mktg.)/NIT/RC of POP Materials/2019-20 Sealed tenders are invited from vendors for Printing and supply of POP Materials for MTNL Delhi Unit (Estimated Cost : Rs. 7,18,692/-).  
4. AGM(MM)TY/T-239/SMPS repair/2019-20 Online open tenders are invited for rate contract for the repairing of SMPS/Conventional type Power Plants in GM(TY) area exchanges (Estimated Cost : Rs. 9,80,000/-).  
5. EOI No. Sr. Manager(TX-MM)/Hiring of fibers on Lease/2019-20/8 Offline EOIs are invited for "Empanelment of Infrastructure Providers registered with DOT for provisioning and Maintenance of Last Mile Fibers (Single/Two core dark fibers) between specified locations of MTNL Delhi". For Further detailed information please visit our websites: <http://mtnl.net.in>, <http://mtnl.in> and <http://mtnlidelihi.in>. Any further amendment(s), corrigendum(s) etc. will be published only on these websites.  
For detail information, please log on to website: <http://www.eprocure.gov.in>, <http://www.etender.mtnl.net.in> and <http://www.tenders.gov.in>  
**Transparency Makes us Different !**

**SUDOKU 3985**  
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 3984**  
5 6 4 8 9 7 1 3 2  
7 2 1 5 4 3 6 9 8  
9 8 3 6 2 1 4 5 7  
3 5 6 4 8 9 7 2 1  
2 9 8 7 1 5 3 6 4  
1 4 7 3 6 2 9 8 5  
6 7 5 2 3 4 8 1 9  
4 3 9 1 5 8 2 7 6  
8 1 2 9 7 6 5 4 3

FORM NO NCIT 3A  
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILING PETITION BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL, CHANDIGARH BENCH  
COMPANY PETITION CP(CAA) NO 23/CHD/HRY/2019  
In the matter of Companies Act, 2013  
And  
In the matter of  
FIM Holdco II Ltd. ....Transferor Company 1  
And  
Ariston Investments Sub B Limited .....Transferor Company 2  
And  
Indiabulls Real Estate Company Private Limited .....Petitioner Company / Transferee Company  
Their respective shareholders  
**NOTICE OF PETITION**  
A petition under section 230-232 read with section 66 and 234 and other applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, for the approval of the Scheme of Amalgamation between FIM Holdco II Ltd and Ariston Investments Sub B Limited with Indiabulls Real Estate Company Private Limited and their respective shareholders, was presented on July 30, 2019 and the said petition is fixed for hearing before the Chandigarh Bench of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on November 8, 2019.  
Any person desirous of supporting or opposing the said petition should send to the petitioner's under-mentioned authorized signatory, notice of his intention, signed by him or his advocate, with his name and address so as to reach the petitioner's under-mentioned authorized signatory on or before the date fixed for the hearing of the petition.  
Where he seeks to oppose the petition, the grounds of opposition or a copy of his affidavit shall be furnished with such notice. A copy of the petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any person requiring the same on payment of the prescribed charges for the same.  
Sd/-  
Authorized Signatory  
Vishal Tharwani  
For Indiabulls Real Estate Company Private Limited  
Plot No 448-451, Udyog Vihar, Phase - V  
Gurugram - 122016, Haryana  
Date: September 30, 2019

**छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य निर्वाचन आयोग**  
डी.के.एस. भवन (पुराना मंत्रालय) के समीप  
रायपुर- 492001  
दूरभाष- (कार्यालय) 0771-2236235, 4031555  
फॅक्स- 0771-2221151, 2236234, 2236238 ई-मेल-[cgec.cg@nic.in](mailto:cgec.cg@nic.in)  
क्रमांक एफ-60-13/अ.स्वा./स्टोर/2019-20/एक/1666 रायपुर, दिनांक 26/09/2019  
**निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना**  
नगरीय निकायों एवं त्रिस्तरीय पंचायतों के आम निर्वाचन वर्ष 2019-20 के लिए पंजीकृत अनुभवों निर्माताओं से जिन्हें निर्वाचन कार्यों में प्रयुक्त होने वाले अमिट स्थायी (Indelible Ink) की आपूर्ति करने का अनुभव हो तथा जो निविदा में उल्लेखित शर्तों को पुरा करते हो से ई-निविदा के माध्यम से ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है, प्रदाय किये जाने वाले सामग्री का विवरण निम्नानुसार है:-  

क्रमांक	विवरण
01	अमिट स्थायी 5 सी.सी. (purple/violet colour)

ऑनलाईन निविदायें दो बोलों प्रणाली (Two Bid System) के आधार पर खोली जावेगी तथा अनुबंध परचात 01 वर्ष तक अनुमोदित दर पर सामग्री प्रदाय करने के लिए बंधनकारी होगी। इच्छुक निर्माता कम्पनी द्वारा निविदा <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> वेबसाइट पर परी जा सकेगी। निविदा से संबंधित अन्य आवश्यक जानकारियों एवं निर्देश उपरोक्त वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध है।  
निविदा शुल्क - राशि रु. 1,000/- (ऑनलाईन देय होगा।)  
निविदा भरने तथा अपलोड करने की प्रारंभिक तिथि - 28.09.2019, 11:30 बजे से प्रारंभ  
निविदा भरने तथा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय - 18.10.2019, 05:00 बजे तक  
निविदा खोलने की तिथि - 21.10.2019, 12:30 बजे  
स्थान - कार्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य निर्वाचन आयोग, रायपुर (छ.ग.)  
हस्ता/-  
सचिव,  
छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य निर्वाचन आयोग, रायपुर  
73691

भारतीय कंटेनर निगम लिमिटेड  
CONTAINER CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.  
(A Navratna Undertaking of Govt. of India)  
C-3, Mathura Road, Opposite Apollo Hospital, New Delhi - 110 076.  
**Open Tender Notice (e-Tendering mode only)**  
Online Open E-bids are invited through two packet Open tendering system from the indigenous suppliers for supply of sub-assemblies for 162 modules of 25T axle load BCLCS wagons as per RDSO/Golden Rock workshop (GOC) drawings & as per the Quality Assurance Program indicated in the Annexure-10 of the tender documents.  

Bid Reference	Tender No.:
Tendered Quantity	CON/T/BCLCS/Sub-Assemblies/2019
Bid Security (Earnest Money) Deposit	Sub-Assemblies for 162 modules of BCLCS wagon (As per "Schedule of Requirement" Clause 1.6 of Section-II)
Cost of Document	₹10,00,000/-
Tender processing fee (Non-refundable)	₹1,000/- through online payment gateway to CONCOR
Pre-Bid Meeting	₹5,310/- (including GST @18%) through online payment gateway to CONCOR
Period of Tender Sale (online)	11.10.2019 (11:30 Hrs)
Last Date and time of Submission of Bid	From 30.09.2019 (11:00 Hrs.) to 29.10.2019 (18:00 Hrs.)
Date and time of opening of Bid	30.10.2019 (upto 17:00 Hrs. - Indian Standard Time)
	At 11:00 Hrs. of 31.10.2019
GGM (TECH), Tel.:	91-11-41673084/41673085. Fax: 91-11-41673071
email:	<a href="mailto:ggmofficecco@concorindia.com">ggmofficecco@concorindia.com</a>

Office of The Deputy Inspector General Of Police  
PAC, Meerut Sector, Meerut - 250001  
Phone No- 91+121+2610700 CUG-9454418849  
E-Mail - [digmrtsec@uppac.net](mailto:digmrtsec@uppac.net) Web - [uppolice.up.nic.in](http://uppolice.up.nic.in)  
Letter No - PAC-MS-HC-68-2017  
**NOTICE FOR INVITING E-TENDER**  
E-tenders are invited for S.D.R.F. Battalion - Under The State Disaster Response Fund for the purchase of the specialized instrument in PAC Department from reputed firms through E-bids from the site of (<https://etender.up.nic.in>) till 14-10-2019 at 02:00 PM.  
2. The technical tender should be open in the office of Deputy Inspector General of Police, PAC Meerut Sector, Meerut on Date 15-10-2019 at 11:30 AM. The tender document can be downloaded/Uploaded from Date 03-10-2019 at 10:30 AM.  
3. The financial e-bid will be opened on date 25-10-2019, at 11:30 AM (Only for the technically qualified bidders). The tender should be opened in next working day if office are closed or there is any holiday.  

LOT NO.	Equipment Name	Quantity	Tender Fee	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Delivery Period	Place of delivery
32	UNDER WATER VIDEO CAMERA	18	Rs 3200-00 + GST	Rs 21,500-00	45 Days	06 BATTALION PAC, MEERUT

4. The terms and conditions with complete details are available on the site of (<https://etender.up.nic.in>) and (<https://uppolice.gov.in>).  
Sd/-  
(ANIL KUMAR RAI)  
Deputy Inspector General Of Police,  
PAC, MEERUT SECTOR, MEERUT  
UPID-144246 Dt. 27.09.2019  
[www.up.gov.nic.in](http://www.up.gov.nic.in)

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (P&W) M.P.P.G.C.L., A.T.P.S., CHACHAI  
Phone 07659-263469; FAX 07659-263283  
Web site : [www.mppgenco.nic.in](http://www.mppgenco.nic.in), Email- [sepnwatps@gmail.com](mailto:sepnwatps@gmail.com)  
No. 001-04/P&W/NIT/3119 Chachai dtd.28/09/19  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
"Through E-tendering only"  
M.P. Power Generating Co. Ltd. Invites electronic tenders from experienced contractors/vendors for the works/supplies as detailed below for ATPS, MPPGCL, Chachai:-  

Tender ID	Name of works/Material	Estimated cost (In Rs.)	Quantity/ Period of Work	Tender cost including GST	EMD Rs.	Last date of submission of Tender	Due Date of Technical opening of tender
2019-MPPGC-54759	Work contract for Transportation of coal from stock of Amlai OCM and unloading the coal at Sangma siding for ATPS MPPGCL Chachai.	1,48,41,265/-	3,80,000 MT/ 06 Months	6000/-	3,71,100/-	07.10.19 Up to 15:00 HRS	09.10.19 From 15:30 HRS onwards

Note:- For details please visit the website [www.mptenders.gov.in](http://www.mptenders.gov.in) for any change in specification/technical data please visit regularly our website [www.mptenders.gov.in](http://www.mptenders.gov.in). Any addendum/corrigendum shall not be published in news paper.  
SE (P&W)  
ATPS MPPGCL Chachai  
"SAVE ELECTRICITY"

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

**ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)**  
The world's astrologers are expecting you to take the lead this week. I know many of you may grumble, but you were born with undoubted leadership qualities, and the rest of us are now in need of your commanding skills. Yet there is no right way and no wrong way, so you can set your own strategy.

**TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)**  
If I said that this week's planetary conditions were bursting with potential, I'd be guilty of a massive understatement. I am not saying that you will be directly involved in exciting activities, but your total awareness of the world will be coloured by the brilliant encounters which parade themselves in front of you.

**GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)**  
Lunar alignments afford you considerable protection, but are also inclined to make you a little over-emotional. As soon as things begin to go wrong, you'll tend to panic. Stop and take a deep breath, count to ten and look around for the nearest escape hatch.

**CANCER (June 22 - July 23)**  
Sometimes you swing to extremes, and it's very difficult for anyone else to know which course you're following at any particular time. It is also often said that love and hate are two sides of the same coin. I cannot tell which way you will jump this week, but I can say that passions will be running high. Let us hope that love will triumph.

**LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)**  
Optimism is your greatest asset. Utterly unrealistic expectations, on the other hand, are not only your major handicap, but are all too likely to be dashed. You may not wish to believe it, but your sign is one of the most fortunate in the zodiac at the moment.

**VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)**  
I'll get the bad news out of the way first: you are liable to feel let down when somebody seems to disagree with you. The good news is that you're in with a high chance of getting your story straight and your act together. A rival may admit that you're right after all.

**LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)**  
Financial affairs hold the key to everything this week, whether purely personal or public and professional. If at all possible, do avoid all reckless and impulsive actions. These can only cost you dear. You might also be wondering whether an emotional tie is worth the price.

**SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)**  
You can expect fireworks this week. That's not a joke. There really is a strong chance that someone is going to go over the top. Make sure it's not you, and that you are on hand with soothing words. That is the least that a loved one expects, especially after all you've said in the past.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)**  
You must bear in mind that nothing this week will be easy to understand. Mysteries abound and confusion will be rife, but if you can hang on until next week you'll begin to see where it is all heading. Actually, the chances of reaching a firm agreement are better than you think.

**CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)**  
You need extra support, but it is honestly impossible to say whether it will be forthcoming. What others expect or imagine can only help you get to grips with your own affairs. You see, this is a deeply sociable time and whatever you do, whatever you say, everything hinges on your personal relationships.

**AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)**  
Jealousy, resentment and animosity are your enemies. If you give in to such feelings, you will risk all that you have so carefully built up. Professional people are now in a delicate position, perhaps because they will expose themselves to criticism.

**PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)**  
More than anyone, you are in a position to understand this week's many events. While others will be visited by trials and tribulations you may stand back and take a typically philosophical approach. You understand that what seems terribly important now might be utterly irrelevant later.

Classifieds

PERSONAL

It is for general information that I SUNIL KUMAR RAY S/O HARENDRA RAY R/O B-54/4, Krishna Vihar, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201005. Informs that name of my father has been wrongly written as RAMBALAK RAY in my Pan Card. The actual name of my father is HARENDER RAY respectively, Which may be amended accordingly. 0040514356-1  
I, Vijeta Chananra W/o Ruchir Minotra R/o 3/148, 3rd Floor, Ramesh Nagar, New Delhi-110015, have changed my name to Vijeta Minotra for all purposes. 0040514323-1  
I, Shaswat S/o Shri Ajay Vikram Singh R/o 553, SF, Sahyog Society, Sector-5, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201010, have changed my name from Shaswat to Shashwat Singh for all future purposes. 0040514336-1  
I, Salha Taufiq Patankar S/o Taufiq Nisar Patankar R/o 13D, Shatabdi Vihar Sector-61, Noida (U.P.) have changed my name to Salah Taufiq for all future purposes. 0040514307-2  
I, Renu W/o Jayant Kumar Budhiraja R/o B-146, Sector-50, Noida (U.P.) have changed my name to Renu Kohli for all future purposes. 0040514307-1  
I, Rajeev Kumar S/o Shri Vinod Kumar Chawla R/o 1341, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-110009, have changed my name from Rajeev Kumar to Rajiv Chawla for all future purpose. 0040514385-1  
I, Pushpa Rani W/o Sanjeev Kumar Sadana R/o BE-256, Gali No. 2, Hari Nagar, New Delhi-110064, have changed my name to Sneha Sadana for all purposes. 0040514334-1  
I, Preeti Upal W/o Vivek Chananra R/o 14/7, 14/8, Upper Ground Floor, B-Block, Double Storey, Ramesh Nagar, New Delhi-110015, have changed my name to Preeti Chananra for all purposes. 0040514329-1  
I, Arun Kumar Singhal S/o Late Sh. Maya Prakash Singhal R/o H.No.KK-134, Kavi Nagar, Ghaziabad-201002 (U.P.) have changed my name to Arun Singhal for all future Purposes. 0040514413-1

0040514356-1

0040514307-2

0040514307-1

0040514385-1

0040514336-1

0040514329-1

0040514413-1

LOST & FOUND

Original Allot/BBA/Possession letter of flat no 816 Bhagirathi Sah Avas s. sec 62 Noida in name of Syed Omar Ahmed & Heena Ahmad has been lost. We Wish to avail finance on the same from SBI 9717933056

0050156053-1



# 19 TALK

ART, MUSIC, STYLE, FOOD

## WEEK AHEAD



### Festive Feast

THE 18TH edition of Lalit Arpan Festival, presented by Kathak exponent Shovana Narayan, will pay an ode to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary alongside poet Ramdhari Singh Dinkar on his 111th birth anniversary. The two-day festival will feature a solo Kathak performance by Komal Biswas. It will speak about Gandhi's views on women empowerment, whereas Kavita Thakur (pictured) and her group will render a dance ballet woven around the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. On September 30 and October 1, at Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, 7 pm onwards.



### Classically Yours

THE TWO-DAY Guru Bhola Nath Music Utsav celebrating the musical genius of Pandit Bhola Nath Prasanna begins with the performance of his son, flautist Ajay Prasanna (pictured), followed by recitals by santoor player Shruti Adhikari and others. At Kamani Auditorium, Copernicus Marg, Mandi House, on October 1 at 6 pm, and October 2 at 10 am.



### Manga Magic

THE THIRD edition of the multi-city Japanese Film Festival has marked its arrival with the screening of the romantic animated film *Weathering With You* in the presence of its critically-acclaimed Japanese director Makoto Shinkai. Presented by The Japan Foundation in collaboration with PVR Cinemas, films like *Shoplifters*, *My Dad is a Heel Wrestler* and *Dance With Me*, are being screened at PVR Cinemas, Select City Walk, till October 6. For details, email [query@jfindia.org.in](mailto:query@jfindia.org.in).



## LOST AND FOUND

Lost footage of The Beatles dating back to the '60s has been discovered in a bread bin in Wales. Showing members of the Fab Four joking and having fun in the midst of an interview at Cardiff in 1965, it is estimated to fetch £10,000 by auctioneers.

## ON THE LOOSE

### Men at Play

Just because the ankle exists, doesn't mean it should be highlighted



LEHER KALA

AT THE Emmy Awards last week, Oscar winner Mahershala Ali of *Moonlight* fame was dressed in the customary tuxedo with a slight difference; his trousers revealed a sliver of naked ankle and in keeping with the trend these days, the no-show sock. Imagine a man in a formal shirt, a sharp jacket, slim fitting pants and then — an inexplicable gap of skin and bone visible between the cuff and the shoe. To someone unaware of the latest in men's fashion, it simply looked like Ali had forgotten to wear his socks or was heading somewhere that had a flood alert.

It's unclear why somebody would willingly wear pants that distort the proportion of their legs but Ali is far from being the only offender among men who favour cropped trousers and invisible socks. Ranveer Singh and Hrithik Roshan have been photographed exposing the bare ankle in all its glory, one of the current icky fads in menswear, right up there in appalling-ness with socks paired with sandals, or shorts with long socks. The first time I saw a guy wearing jeans that ended a few inches under his knees, I thought, like my son, he's outgrown them and hasn't bothered to buy new ones. Till I noticed an alarming number of men sporting the same look. This public display of ankles, or as the term goes — mankles — is a reminder that progress is not always positive. What passes off as sartorial progress, especially, may be disastrous.

Last year, England's Royal Ascot, a huge fashion event in its own right, took note of the trend of mankle flashing and warned that all gentlemen must wear socks, or they would be unceremoniously tossed out. The Ascot, possibly the last remaining bastion of old world traditions functions on the premise that the public lacks an innate sense of style and must be saved from themselves by a dress code. What a man should or shouldn't wear has never been more confusing, since pants of weird length are favoured by fashion icons like Jude Law and Idris Alba. Crazy shoes are acceptable at the Oscars and socks have all but disappeared. I am of the opinion that if a shoe has a lace, it should have a sock.

Despite the fashion world's best efforts to be flamboyantly nonconformist, even the most emancipated among us have very set ideas on what men and women should wear. (Or at least, definitely not wearing.) In India, especially, several generations of men have been encouraged to cultivate a stern, monochromatic dress code because of a misplaced cultural notion that anything cool or colourful denotes frivolity; or far worse,



Mahershala Ali with wife Amatus Sami-Karim Agencies

homosexuality. This stereotype is unapologetically peddled by Bollywood. In *Dostana*, the usually macho John Abraham is kitted out in powder blue and his alleged gay partner in baby pink. So for decades, menswear has been dictated by staid and dour shades like navy blue, steel gray, faun, boring checks and wall-flower stripes. In offices across the country, men are dressed to blend in, wearing clothes that shun individualism.

It's a good thing that an element of fun has entered men's clothing — H & M sells men's socks with cute sushi and avocado designs and Zara sells hot pink pants for men. Still, we're a long way off from when, say, a man working in a government office would dare to make a strong statement vis a vis his attire. The brouhaha last year around Bastar DM Amit Kataria, who was pulled up for greeting the PM wearing Ray Ban sunglasses in the hot mid-day sun, comes to mind. The unwritten rules of etiquette in India require an adherence to convention, perhaps, also appropriate for someone whose duties involve field visits where people are toiling in the sun, without eye protection.

What makes the mankle, or the sunglasses offensive — if it must be spelt out — is only context. The time, place, occasion and weather should ultimately define what we wear. Regardless of what's trendy, that reveals who we really are.

hutkiyfilms@gmail.com



## Never Let Me Go

Artist Sudarshan Shetty gives an afterlife to discarded objects and evokes memories from the past



### VANDANA KALRA

AT ONE end of the 40-foot table, Sudarshan Shetty places a television and a vinyl player, and on the other a microscope and an oil can. Everything else is in between. In the emptiness of the room, Shetty's table seems to represent a world where stationary objects do not produce sound but share their stories in silence. Based on objects that he encountered in Mumbai's Chor Bazaar and those in his own collection and that of friends, the domestic discards might be obsolete to several but Shetty feels they hold memories of the past. "It comes from the basic human instinct to preserve. The act of carving them in wood connects with our own idea of mortality. The monuments built in the memory of someone or even benches in the park named after someone are a way of remembering them," says the Mumbai-based artist.

On display at Gallery Ske in Delhi, the titular installation *Pieces Earth Left Behind* features 99 such everyday objects, from a telephone to typewriter, shoes, torch, radio and a tiffin carrier — all carefully carved in teak wood by Shetty, accompanied by a book that tells a story alongside these objects. By making these part of the installation, he gives the objects an afterlife.



Looking back is important not just to make sense of the present but also the future

SUDARSHAN SHETTY

"Looking back is important not just to make sense of the present but also the future," says Shetty. The wood used is also reclaimed — it is collected from the remains

of the demolition drive across Mumbai. "This is a way to include unknown stories and open ideas. We don't know what homes these belong to," adds Shetty.

For those in the Capital who attended his 2014 exhibition "every broken moment, piece by piece" with the same gallery, the showcase, in more ways than one, takes forward the thought he presented back then — that history is not static. If he recreates objects now, back then he had emphasised how broken objects don't have to stay broken. He had meticulously combined wood and porcelain — two intrinsically opposite materials — to create single objects. "As a professional, I am an object maker but making objects is not a simple act because as soon as you make something and put it in an exhibition, it acquires a certain aura. Here I am working with discarded objects, which also reflect the source, and both the value systems are present in that object," says Shetty. In the 2016 exhibition "Who Must Write These Lines", we saw terracotta objects collected from the streets, and in the 2017 installation *A Song, A Story* — based on a folk tale from Karnataka — each element of the life-size wooden houses was acquired from Chor Bazaar.

The preoccupation with renewal is evident in Shetty's works. As a student at the Sir JJ School of Art, Shetty recalls how he would visit flea markets. He would observe film posters being painted for hours and would recreate painted portraits from photographs. If in a student exhibition in college, he placed found objects alongside canvases, in his first major solo 'Paper Moon', at Rabindra Bhawan in Delhi in 1995, the installations were made of ropes and fibreglass, among other materials. "It is not just an idea that triggers a work but also the material that makes it possible," says Shetty. Curator of the Kochi-Muziris Biennale 2016, he is also currently showing his work at Akbank Sanat in Istanbul and displayed 'Walking Away/ Coming Away' at the recently concluded Istanbul Contemporary. "Every long road leads to the unknown," says Shetty.

Meanwhile, visitors to his exhibition in Delhi return with a thought that Shetty very subtly plants — can we find art in what's abandoned and cherish it?

The exhibition at Gallery Ske, A-4, Church/Mall Road, Vasant Kunj, is on till October 12

## [ 150 Years of Gandhi ] Gandhi and I

### 'After Gandhi, I gave people third chances'

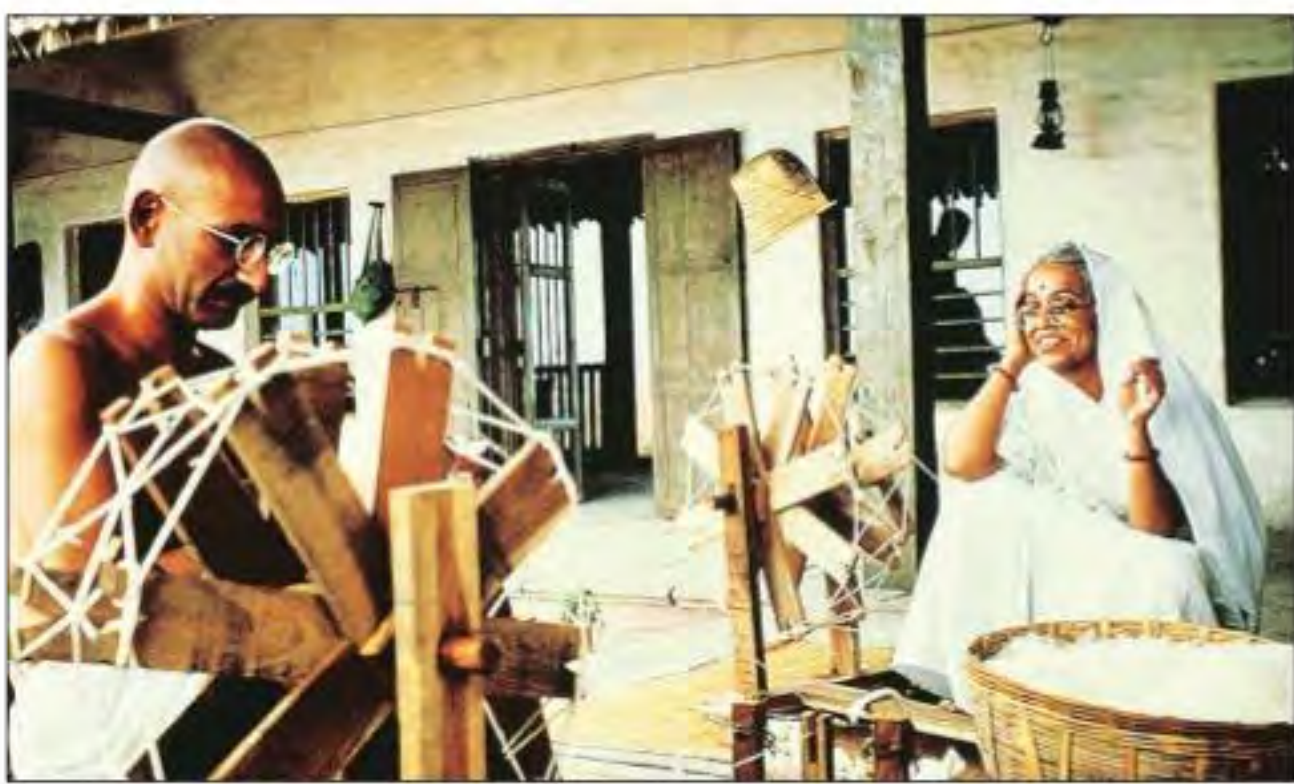
ROHINI HATTANGADI, ACTOR

WHEN I was cast in *Gandhi* (1982), my first thought was, "Gandhi pe kya film banega? Itna kya hai?" (How will a film on Gandhi be made? What is there to say?). Since I am from the post-Independence generation, until then I knew Gandhi only from history books and a few stories. It was when I read his autobiography, *Satyajit ke Prayog* (*The Story of My Experiments with Truth*, 1927) that I learned how interesting Gandhiji's life had been.

I started looking for more material on Kasturba, who I was playing in the film. I could find only two books in Hindi in Delhi. The relationship between Gandhiji and Kasturba was interesting to me. All his life, Gandhiji was out to break traditions and Kasturba was the person on whom he tried out his ideas.

Gandhiji had studied in England but he turned out to be an unsuccessful lawyer in Porbandar, India. When he headed out to South Africa, Kasturba had to go with him. He knew the etiquette of the English because of his stay in England, and, in South Africa, Kasturba had to wear saris draped in the Parsi style, with Elizabethan-style blouses and even shoes. She had to sit at a table and eat with a fork and a knife. These came as a shock to her, but Gandhiji was adamant.

His struggle for identity began in South Africa. He had to go to jail and his opinions were changing. Kasturba had to change



Rohini Hattangadi with Ben Kingsley in a still from the film *Gandhi*

with him.

Gandhiji was stubborn — it was a trait that got us freedom — as was Kasturba, but she also understood him perfectly. When it came to cleaning latrines, Kasturba had objected but, later, supported him. She also did not like that her children were not admitted to a school but taught at the ashram. When Harilal went to jail, Gandhiji said that what the boy got there was *sahi shiksha* (good education).

Gandhiji wanted Kasturba to do many radical things because he knew that before you advise others, you must try out your beliefs on yourself and in your home. Gradually, Kasturba understood the power of education, satyagraha, cleanliness and hygiene.

After shooting *Gandhi*, his teachings remained with me. I became more patient and kinder towards people. I started giving people third chances. Gandhiji's teachings are

difficult to follow in regular life, but, if you stay committed, you will find yourself a better person and at peace with yourself.

It also strikes me that Gandhiji had used the strategy of non-violence because, having studied in England, he understood the colonial masters. He knew that the British have a sense of righteousness and nobility. He appealed to this to compel them to talk and listen to him and grant his demands. I often think, "If it were some other country ruling us, would he have said that if somebody slaps you on one cheek, you should turn the other cheek?". There are countries that would readily slap you on the second cheek and some more, and feel no remorse. The English were different. Maybe Gandhiji would have changed his strategy for another kind of rulers.

AS TOLD TO DIPANITA NATH

### 'He fought for all, thought for all'

FEROZ ABBAS KHAN, DIRECTOR



AS THE clock ticked towards midnight on August 14, 1947, Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of an independent India addressed the Indian constituent assembly in his landmark speech, *Tryst with*

*Destiny*. As the sun set on the British rule on the Indian subcontinent after close to 200 years, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, spun away at his *charkha* in Calcutta. It was the division of the country that refrained him from celebrating the Independence — something that he had spent the majority of his life fighting for. Speaking about his love and admiration for the father of the nation, theatre and film director Feroz Abbas Khan speaks about how the end wasn't the one that Mahatma Gandhi wished for.

"The Partition broke Gandhi," says Khan. "He tried to stop it from happening until the very last but couldn't do so. He was appalled at the state of the country and how things were panning out and the direction the people of India were headed in. Gandhi died with two regrets, his inability to convince his friend from Kathiaval (Muhammad Ali Jinnah) and the way things panned out with his own son, Harilal Gandhi," he adds.

Khan's introduction to Gandhi, however, came early during his life while studying films. "I read about Gandhi in my history textbook in school and the Films Division ran a brief show on him. However, all I took away from that was



A still from the play *Mahatma vs Gandhi*

him being this honourable, good man who fought for the freedom of our country," says Khan, 60.

It was, however, during a visit to the Sabarmati Ashram in Gujarat during a college trip where Khan first felt a connect. "It was when I first heard Gandhi's voice that it pierced through my heart. Something just clicked and I wanted to know more, dwell deeper," adds Khan. His curiosity took him to South Africa in 1983, where he travelled to know more about Gandhi's early life and visited the Phoenix Settlement in Durban, which is where Gandhi opened his first ever ashram in 1904. Recalling the trip, Khan says, "There was also a Gandhi tour that I took in Johannesburg where we were shown around his house, taken to the railway station where he was thrown off the train, the waiting room where he was kept after the incident among others."

It was because of the incident on the train that many mainstream history books look back at this turning point in Gandhi's life. Khan, however, sees it differently. "The incident of course impacted Gandhi and it paints a great

narrative but it was never really a turning point," he says. "In most stories about great heroes, one looks for a turning point but it wasn't the case with Gandhi. Even before being thrown off the train in spite of having a first class ticket, Gandhi knew of the racism and discrimination against Indians and faced it many times. The real-life story wasn't quite as black and white," he adds.

Speaking of Gandhi's relevance in today's day and age, Khan feels the Mahatma's principles and beliefs remain evergreen. "If Gandhi is not relevant then what is? Is violence, hatred, nepotism and discrimination among caste, creed and gender, relevant?" he says. "Gandhi was ahead of his time. Besides just fighting for India's freedom, he spoke on issues such as equality, inclusivity, and environment," says Khan. He went on to direct the play *Mahatma vs Gandhi* in 1998 and the film *Gandhi, My Father* in 2007. He says that his inspiration came in the '90s when he interacted with Gandhi's grandson, Gopal Gandhi, while directing the play *Tumhari Amrita* in London. "His grandson fondly shared many stories of Gandhiji, and it gave me ammunition to tell the story," says Khan. "I also read a book in Gujarati called *Prakash No Parchayo* (The Light's Shadow) by Dinkar Joshi and saw a Marathi play called *Gandhi Virudh Gandhi*, which were both very fascinating. "Men like Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela and Barack Obama all spoke of Gandhi as a source of inspiration. I would say, in the history of India, after emperors Ashoka and Akbar, Gandhi stands third in terms of significance and impact. He was an honourable man who fought for all, thought for all, especially the last man in the queue," he says.

PARTH KHATAU



Feeling sore, Coleman drops out of 200 meters

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
DOHA, SEPTEMBER 29

WHAT CHRISTIAN Coleman really needed were a couple of days off. A day after winning his world championship at 100 meters, the American sprinter pulled out of the 200-meter preliminaries, which were set to begin Sunday. "Just feeling a little sore," Coleman told The Associated Press, while waiting in the hallway for his medal ceremony to begin.

He said he would be available for the 4x100 relays, which begin Friday. Coleman won the 100 in a runaway, clocking a personal-best of 9.76 seconds and beating Justin Gatlin to the line by .13 seconds - the largest margin of victory at worlds or the Olympics since 2011. His plan had been to go for the 100-200 double, but when he woke up Sunday, that plan changed. "No big deal," he said. "It's been a long season."

Most track seasons start winding down around the start of September, but this one has been stretched out due to the IAAF's decision to bring the world championships to the desert, where the highs in Doha are still hovering around 105 (38 Celsius) in the first full week of fall. With Coleman out of the mix, the path gets clearer for American Noah Lyles, who has the world's leading time this year at 19.50 seconds. Canada's Andre De Grasse is expected to be in the mix, as will Divine Oduuru of Nigeria, the NCAA champion at both 100 and 200 meters.

**Nigerian pair allowed**

Nigerian pair Divine Oduduru and Blessing Okagbare have been reprieved after an apparent bureaucratic mixup and will race in the men's and women's 200 metres races respectively at the world athletics championships.

The pair were both entered in the 100 metres even though they had said they did not intend to take part. Under IAAF rules, they were then barred from the rest of the competition for failing to turn up for the races. However, on Sunday the IAAF jury said it accepted their appeal and agreed to reinstate them. "Oduduru and Okagbare will be added to the start lists of round one of the 200 men and women respectively" it said in a statement. The Athletics Federation of Nigeria (AFN), which had tweeted on Friday that the pair would only race 200 metres, has been criticised over the failure to withdraw them from the 100 metres.

**ACTION ON DAY 4**

7:30pm

W

Javelin throw Qualifying (Group A)

7:35pm

W

200m (heats)

8:30pm

W

Javelin throw Qualifying (Group B)

8:50pm

W

400m (heats)

10:35pm

M

110m hurdles (heats)

11pm

W

High jump (final)

11:20pm

M

200m (semis)

11:45pm

M

Discus throw (Final)

11:50pm

M

5000m (Final)

00:20 (Tue)

W

3000m steeplechase (final)

**INDIA WATCH**

7:35pm

200m heats

ARCHANA SUSEENDRAN

8:30pm

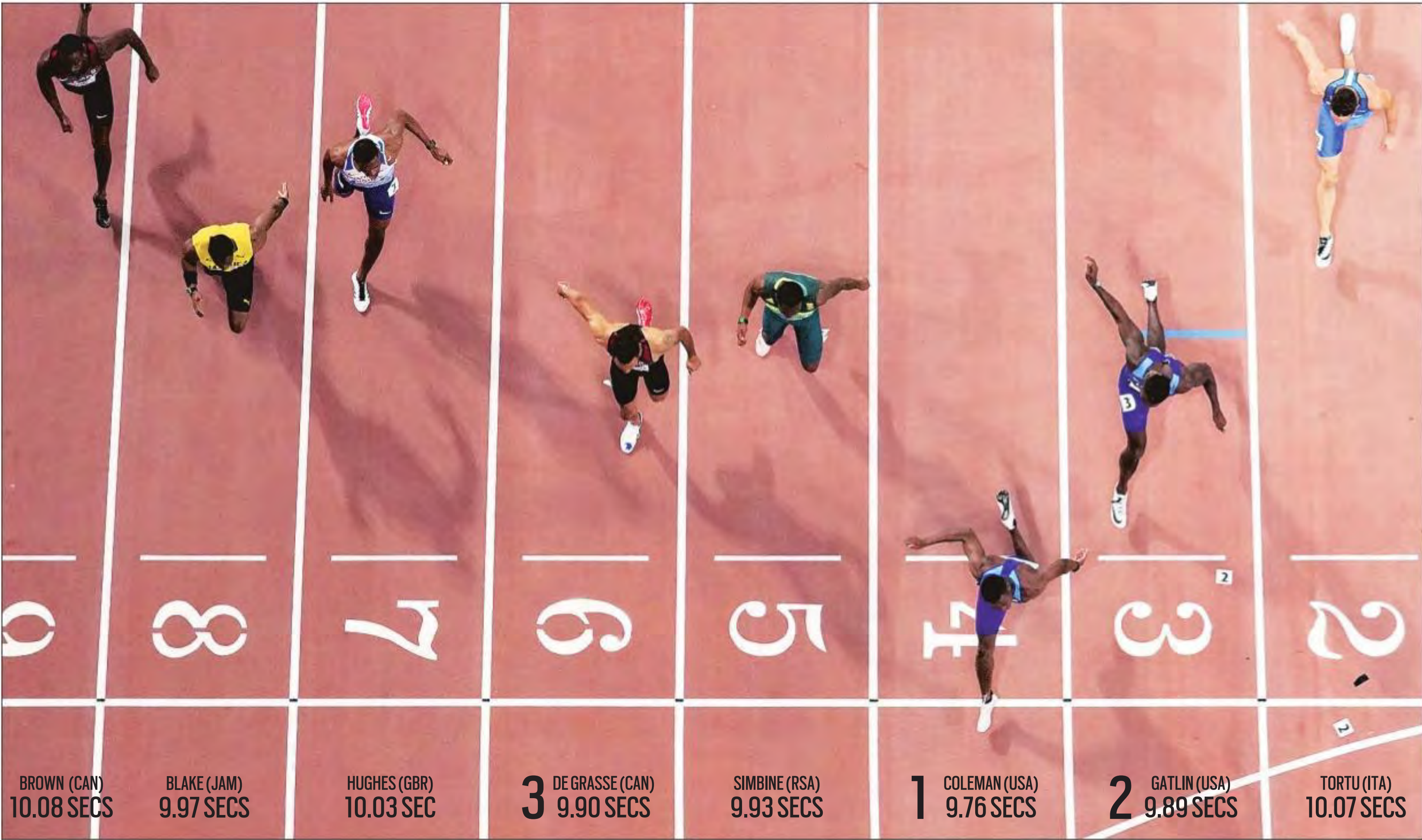
Javelin throw

ANNU RANI

8:50pm

400m heats

ANJALI DEVI



Christian Coleman crosses the finish line to win the men's 100m final during the World Athletics Championships in Doha on Saturday. AP

Cole-play

Missed dope tests saga taints Christian Coleman's scorching run to win 100m world title; Gatlin takes silver, bronze for De Grasse

SCOTT CACCIOLA  
DOHA, SEPTEMBER 29

CHRISTIAN COLEMAN has earned the right to be called the fastest man in the world, but some question whether he even should have been in the running.

Coleman, a 23-year-old American, sailed to victory on Saturday night in the men's 100-meter final at the world track and field championships, easily outdistancing the field in 9.76 seconds — the best time in the world this year. But Coleman's inclusion in the race was debated in the buildup to the race, which lacked pizzazz without the presence of Usain Bolt.

After Coleman missed three drug tests in a one-year period, the U.S. Anti-Doping Association charged him with a violation this summer that could have resulted in a two-year ban. But because of a rule that called for one of those missed tests to be backdated outside the one-year period, Usada dropped its charges against him and cleared him to compete.

Coleman grew up in Atlanta before competing in college at Tennessee and has maintained his innocence, going so far as to release a video on YouTube called "My Perspective." In a news release earlier this month, Usada said that Coleman had been drug tested 20 times since 2018.

After Saturday's race, Coleman said he was aware of his naysayers. "It's pretty disheartening to know that there are people out there saying things, especially when they don't know me personally at all," he said, adding: "I thought logic would prevail. But obviously people just think what they want to think. So I can't spend much time explaining a situation to people who aren't

Why the American was allowed to compete



Controversy has followed Coleman.

**US ANTI-**Doping Agency was investigating Coleman because he was suspected to have missed three doping tests within one year, which triggers an automatic one-year ban. That would have made Coleman miss Doha and 2020 Olympics.

**COLEMAN HAD** been charged because athletes are required to notify anti-doping officials where they can be reached for a certain period daily. If testers are unable to contact the athlete at the designated location thrice within a 12-month period, he is considered to have committed an

EXPLAINED  
**E.**

**"It completely disqualifies him, at this point, from ever being that face of the sport. This will follow him, as it should."**

**MICHAEL JOHNSON,**  
4-TIME OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST

anti-doping violation.

**COLEMAN HAD** whereabouts failures on June 6, 2018 and January 16 and April 26, 2019. However, under International Standard for Testing and Investigations guidelines, the first failure is backdated to the first day of the quarter, which in Coleman's case would have been April 1, 2018.

**THUS, HIS** April 2019 failure fell outside the 12-month window and was not considered an anti-doping violation, thus paving the way for him to compete.

**"Michael Johnson doesn't pay my bills or sign my cheques. So I don't really care what he has to say."**

**CHRISTIAN COLEMAN**  
ON JOHNSON'S BARB

interested in the truth."

Michael Johnson, the four-time Olympic gold medalist who now works as a commentator, has been among Coleman's harshest critics. "It completely disqualifies him, at this point, from ever being that face of the sport," Johnson told *BBC Sport* before the start of the world championships. "This will follow him, as it should."

It was the first major 100-meter final without Bolt since 2005, and fans were scattered inside Khalifa International Stadium,

leaving huge patches of empty seats. The upper deck was covered with a tarp. Doha may not be the most accessible destination for track fans, but Bolt, the most decorated sprinter on the planet, was an enormous draw before he retired in 2017.

Unable to fill Bolt's void

If nothing else, the sport has not figured out how to fill his void — or find a new face. Coleman's topsy-turvy month leading into the race did not help. "There doesn't neces-

sarily have to be one face," Coleman said. "I'm just happy to be a part of that group."

Justin Gatlin, who has his own polarizing past, placed second in 9.89 seconds, and Andre De Grasse of Canada was third. Akani Simbine of South Africa, who finished fourth, was asked whether Coleman should have been allowed to compete. "I'd rather not comment on that," he said.

Gatlin, a 37-year-old American and a two-time world champion in the 100 meters, has twice served bans for doping vio-

THE SIXTH-FATEST MAN

Usain Bolt	9.58 seconds
Tyson Gay	9.69 seconds
Yohan Blake	9.69 seconds
Asafa Powell	9.72 seconds
Justin Gatlin	9.74 seconds
Christian Coleman	9.76 seconds
Nesta Carter	9.78 seconds
Maurice Greene	9.79 seconds
Steve Mullings	9.80 seconds
Richard Thompson	9.82 seconds

PACE SETTER

Coleman's time is the fastest in a world championship final since Usain Bolt's other-worldly 9.58 seconds in 2009

<b>2019</b> 9.76 Coleman	<b>2017</b> 9.92 Gatlin
<b>2015</b> 9.79 Bolt	<b>2013</b> 9.77 Bolt
<b>2011</b> 9.92 Blake	<b>2009</b> 9.58 Bolt

lations, most recently from 2006 to 2010. He has been a constant presence on the global stage since then, however, and he indicated after Saturday's race that he was already looking ahead to the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo, when he will be 38.

"But right now," he said, "all I'm thinking about is some beer, some pizza, some hot dogs, kick my feet up and watch some cartoons with my son and enjoy myself a little bit before I get started for Tokyo 2020."

NEW YORK TIMES

A walk in 'hell': Athletes fall by the wayside in sweltering conditions



(Clockwise from top left) Ukraine's Maryan Zakalnytskyi receives medical attention after the 50km walk; a medic helps Canada's Mathieu Bilodeau after he collapses at the finish line; Canada's Evan Dunfee reacts after completing the race; New Zealand's Quentin Rew applies an ice pack to beat the heat. AP/Reuters



REUTERS  
DOHA, SEPTEMBER 29

JAPAN'S YUSUKE Suzuki won the world championship 50 kilometres race walk on Sunday while 43-year-old Joao Vieira defied conditions he described as "hell" to become the oldest man to win a medal in any event.

The Portuguese veteran, taking part in his 11th world championship, finished second while Canada's Evan Dunfee was third. Suzuki led for virtually the entire race, held in torrid conditions, as he won in a time of four hours 04:20 minutes.

China's Liang Rui won the women's race in four hours 23.26 minutes ahead of compatriot Li Maocuo with Eleonora Anna Giorgi of Italy in third.

The races began at 11.30 p.m. to avoid the worst of the Doha heat but conditions were still stifling with high humidity. "For me, it was hell ... very, very hot ... it was very bad," Vieira told Reuters. "How did I cope? Just a lot of ice and cold water."

Vieira, who said that he intended to compete in his final world championship in two years' time, added that the late hour was also a challenge. "It's four o'clock in the morning - that's the time to leave a nightclub. I usu-

**Apart from the late hour and the brutal weather, the race was held in a somewhat surreal atmosphere with almost no spectators apart from the athletes' team mates, officials and reporters**

ally go to sleep at 10 o'clock in the evening," said Vieira, who added to the bronze medal he won in Moscow in 2013 in the 20 kilometres. "I feel great ... it's not every day that you win a medal, especially at the age of 43. (The secret) is to train every day with pleasure, and do what I enjoy doing — which is athletics. Just that."

Small glimpses of sea

Apart from the late hour and the brutal weather, the race was held in a somewhat surreal atmosphere with almost no spectators apart from the athletes' team mates, officials and reporters.

The races consisted of 25 loops of Doha's waterfront highway although the athletes only got small glimpses of the sea because of

advertising hoardings and floodlight towers along the length of the course.

The IAAF, the governing body of athletics, said it took extra precautions such as increasing refreshment points and a stronger presence of medical staff.

Defending champion and world record holder Yohann Diniz was an early casualty, the Frenchman saying he "started to suffocate quickly" after dropping out.

Suzuki quickly broke away and led for nearly the entire four hours. At one point, he was more than three minutes clear but began to look shaky with seven kilometres to go and slowed to near walking pace at the refreshment stations.

China's Niu Wenbin cut his lead to around 90 seconds on the last lap but was himself overhauled by Vieira and Dunfee.

Dunfee described the conditions as "carnage" but not dangerous. "From a safety point of view, it was fine, the eight stations were plenty, medical was amazing," he said.

Liang comfortably won the women's race as she finished more than three minutes ahead of her nearest rival. "Before the start, I knew it was going to be hot. My coach told me to start slowly and use the ice," she said. "I think it helped a lot."



# Unfinished business

Markram had a torrid time on his previous visit to the subcontinent, but comes better prepared this time to set the record straight

SANDIP G  
SEPTEMBER 29

JUST BEFORE South Africa's trip to Sri Lanka last year, a buoyant Aiden Markram posted on Twitter: "Looking forward to the subcontinent. Looking forward to playing (Rangana) Herath. Big test."

Life then was flowing smoothly for Markram, fresh from his series-clinching 152 against Australia in Johannesburg, a series in which he top-scored with 552 runs, defanging Pat Cummins and Co, and in the process becoming the second-fastest from his country to complete 1,000 Test runs.

But all the dreams of conquering Herath turned nightmarish once the masterly left-spinner began dismissing him repeatedly for cheap scores. Four innings and 97 balls eked out only 40 runs, and he perished to Herath three times. In different patterns — caught at first slip, stumped and lbw.

In Galle, Herath deceived him with flight and dip in the first innings, turn in the second. In Colombo, the arm-ball nailed him in the first and Dilruwan Perera's big-spinning off-break jettisoned him in the next. In the space of three months and four innings, the perceptions broke. From being paraded as the brightest hope of South Africa's batting, Markram was typecast as the archetypal overseas batsman who freezes at the first sighting of quality spin bowling. He carried his struggles to the ODIs and suddenly the once-certain World Cup spot seemed to be drifting away.

His morale was in shambles, primarily because of overt self-expectation, like most young sportsmen on their maiden overseas trip. But Markram quickly atoned with dogged half-centuries against touring Pakistan — the 90 in Johannesburg, he considers the best he ever had in a session in Tests. He did get picked for the World Cup, partly because of his resurgence and partly because of his country's deficient batting stocks. But spin travails rankled him, so much so that soon after reaching home he requested the coach of his childhood club TUKS, Kruger van Wyk, to let him practice on the most worn-out strip on the ground.

So whenever he was not playing domestic or international cricket, Markram was at his old club, honing his technique against spin. Whenever he got an opportunity, he would pick the brains of spinners in his team, be it those of Proteas teammate Imran Tahir, Titans teammate Tabraiz Shamsi or Mason Crane during his Hampshire stint.

Then just before South Africa A team's tour to India, he and Temba Bavuma attended a week-long camp in Bangalore with former Test player Raghuram Bhatt, a classical left-arm spinner.

The efforts seem to have paid off, or at least paying off, as he has warmed up to the Test series against India with a brace of hundreds, a strokeful 161 against India A and a breezy 100 (retired out) against Board President's XI in Vizianagaram. Though the Board President's spinners were more modest than menacing, India A had among them Kuldeep Yadav, Shahbaz Nadeem and Jalaj Saxena.

So much so that Markram's assurance in playing the spinners had South Africa's batting coach Amol Muzumdar excited. "He's free of all the baggage of that tour to Sri Lanka. He's fresh and keen to play spin bowling. And he has looked quite assured playing spinners. For any player from outside the subcontinent, they need some time to get used to the conditions here and the few weeks have really equipped him. He has used the time well scoring those hundreds. He's an unrestrained fellow, and has looked quite solid at the crease," he observed.

The pair first met in Mumbai just months before South Africa's High Performance team toured the country, and the former Mumbai batsman worked with them for a week. From that time, Muzumdar knew the youngster would scale heights.

"We worked extensively on technique and stuff like that. At that time, he hadn't made his debut but was quite organised and



Opener Aiden Markram is coming off back-to-back tons against India 'A' (161) and the Board President's XI (100). *File*

**He's fresh and keen to play spin bowling. And he has looked quite assured playing spinners. For any player from outside the subcontinent, they need some time to get used to the conditions here and the few weeks have really equipped him. He has used the time well scoring those hundreds."**

AMOL MUZUMDAR

SOUTH AFRICA'S BATTING COACH FOR THE TOUR

compact. In two years' time, he has become all the better in every sense. His game has developed by leaps and bounds," he reflects.

The quest for perfection has been a hall-mark of Markram's game. Tuks manager Conrad Blanche says she hasn't seen any teenager work so hard. "Morning, afternoon, evening, you could spot him somewhere in the ground. He had lots of friends around whom he would make them bowl at him when the squad bowlers weren't available. Sometimes, he would just focus on specific aspects that will keep working for hours on that."

## Sweeping statement

Like the conventional sweep shot, of late, to neuter the subcontinental spinners. Though not a natural sweeper — he's more of a cutter and driver — Markram has been rigorously practising the stroke. From Graham Gooch and Matthew Hayden to Damien Martyn and Alastair Cook, several overseas batsman have deployed the stroke to great effect. Against Kuldeep and Co in Vizianagaram, he was seen playing the stroke confidently. But Muzumdar has a piece of advice: "Don't consider this as the only shot against the spinners, but just one of the several shots."

Several overseas players have floundered

attempting one sweep too many, especially against Ravindra Jadeja, who adroitly modulates his pace and length. Also, while sweeping, some of them don't account for the turn, rather just play the line. Hence, the counsel. But Markram would know the perils of relying on just one strategy.

In the second innings in Galle, he was repeatedly stepping out to the spinners. He smothered the spin on several instances, but Herath, shrewd as he is, flummoxed him with his dip and turn. So embattled was Markram that in the next Test, he hardly ventured and was hell-bent on playing from the back-foot, with the turn. The result was worse: He was lbw-ed both times.

Rather than playing every delivery in isolation, he was reacting to the way he was getting out. His own heightened self-expectation and inability to meet those standards were gnawing at him.

So in essence, it was more of a temperamental than a technical issue, flaws instigated by a troubled mind. Markram was quick to address it, and against India A, he played with a freer mind, according to Muzumdar.

AS a result, the footwork was more precise. A tall man, he had the tendency to plant the front foot and reach for the ball. These days, he doesn't grope at those balls, which has made him less susceptible to the variance of flight and dip. Also, he has worked on his bat-swing, which is more straighter now. It always was, but for the doubt-ridden times in Sri Lanka. Regaining that bat-flow was instrumental to his resurgence, which continued in the A series. And the effort now is to keep the bat-flow as it is.

So into yet another series, he goes with fine form. This time, though, he has been subdued on Twitter, but inwardly there must be no shortage of motivation as he strives to tick the box that went unchecked on his previous trip to the subcontinent.

## Throw first punch at big dogs India: Philander to teammates

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

VIZIANAGARAM, SEPTEMBER 29

SOUTH AFRICA pacer Vernon Philander wants the team's senior players to take responsibility and throw the "first punch" at "big dogs" India in the upcoming three-match Test series starting October 2. The opening Test against India will mark the start of South Africa's ICC World Test Championship campaign and Philander said it is going to be a tough battle first up.

"It's a tough start ... playing India in India but I don't think the South Africans would have wanted it any other way ... take the big dogs in their home ground," he was quoted as saying by the ICC. "All of us are looking forward to this challenge and there are a lot of player-to-player challenges as well."

It will be first Test series for South Africa since the retirements of experienced players such as Hashim Amla and Dale Steyn.

"Spotlight will be on a lot of big players to make a statement. Our job is to come here and give the first punch as India is obviously expected to do well," said Philander after the conclusion of the final day of the practice game. "We are known as a team who starts slow so this time around we have to start well. There is a lot of pressure on players (but then) it's international cricket and you want to keep it that way."

Philander, who had picked up 15 wickets during South Africa's last Test series against

India in 2018, wants the senior players to leave behind a legacy for the youngsters.

"We have lost some senior players and there are new players coming in and we want them to learn quickly. Hopefully we can use the experience of the senior players that are still around and mold this into a good Test side for the years to come. That's the most important part, to lay a good foundation for players to take forward," he said.

Philander, who made his Test debut in 2011, geared up for the opening Test by taking two wickets and scoring 48 during the drawn three-day warm-up game between Board President's XI and South Africa here.

"It's always good to have some time out in the middle. Fortunately for me, I came here a couple of days earlier to join the A side ... to get a bit of a game time," said the 34-year-old, who has taken 214 wickets at an astounding average of 21.64. Mainly it's just about getting a feel for the wickets. It is going to be a tough series, obviously, so the more time you spend out there in the middle, the better."

Talking about the World Test championship, Philander said: "The Test championship brings in a new dimension. It is a new sort of excitement for players. Also knowing that you will be playing against top teams more often (is great).

"We are obviously prepared to do well. When we do well, it gives you that better confidence and I'll take that confidence with me. It's been a long winter for me and I am feeling in really good nick."

## Junior boys win bronze in TT tourney

Indian junior boys Raegan Albuquerque and Yashansh Malik paired with Netherlands' Lode Hulshof to win the bronze medal at the Serbia Junior and Cadet Table-Tennis Open. The team put up a big fight before going down 2-3 in the semi-finals to the Czech Republic trio of Radek Skala, Tomas Martinko and Ondrej Kveton. Starting the proceedings, Raegan lost 2-3 to Radek but Lode got them back into the tie, beating Martinko 3-2. Yashansh then increased the lead in his team's favour and beat Ondrej 3-1. With just a win away from entering the final, Raegan and Lode went down by identical 0-3 margins to Tomas and Radek to end their campaign.

## Bhullar, Sharma miss cut at Dunhill Links

Indian golfers Gaganjeet Bhullar and Shubhankar Sharma shot 75 and 78 respectively in the third round to miss the 54-hole cut at the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship. Starting the day at seven-under for 36 holes at Kingsbarns and St. Andrews, Bhullar gave away five bogeys against just two birdies at Carnoustie and was 106th. Sharma, who played the Open at Carnoustie last year, had five bogeys and a double bogey for 78. Sharma was five-under at St. Andrews, a day earlier and one-under at Kingsbarns. He ended three rounds at even par at 152nd.

## Conflict issue: Rangaswamy resigns from CAC, ICA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

FORMER INDIA captain Shantha Rangaswamy has stepped down from her position as a member of the Cricketer Advisory Committee (CAC) and director of the Indian Cricketers Association (ICA) after being served a Conflict of Interest notice by BCCI Ethics Officer DK Jain.

"I have other plans so have decided to move on. The CAC was anyway meeting once in a year or one in two years so I did not understand the conflict," Rangaswamy told PTI. "It was an honour to be on the CAC committee. It will be tough to find suitable former cricketers for any administrative role in the current scenario (conflict of interest). The ICA I would have resigned anyway before the elections were held. So it was a matter of time," she added.

Rangaswamy, who was a member of the CAC along with Kapil Dev and Anshuman Gaekwad, sent her resignation letter to the Committee of Administrators (CoA) and the Board's CEO, Rahul Johri via email in the early hours on Sunday. The BCCI Ethics Officer DK Jain on Saturday had sent a notice to CAC, asking the former cricketers who picked the current India coach to respond by October 10 to the Conflict of Interest allegations levelled against them.

MPCA life member Sanjiv Gupta had filed the complaint against the trio who picked Ravi Shastri as the head coach in August.

As per the BCCI constitution, no individual can hold more than one post at the same time. In the complaint, Gupta has claimed that the CAC members don multiple cricketing roles. Rangaswamy is alleged to be conflicted because of her multiple role with the CAC and ICA.

## Vijay Hazare: Chhattisgarh beat Andhra

*Bengaluru:* Chhattisgarh continued its winning run in the Vijay Hazare Trophy, beating Andhra by 56 runs in an Elite Group A game on Sunday. Asked to bat first, Chhattisgarh, who had stunned defending champions Mumbai on Saturday, scored 268/9 in their allotted 50 overs at the Alur cricket stadium II. After opener Jiwanjyot Singh (16) fell early, Shashank Chandrakar (54) and one-down Ashutosh Singh (75) stabilised the innings with a 50-run stand for the second wicket. Shashank and skipper Harpreet Singh Bhatia (16) fell cheaply, but that did not deter Ashutosh from playing his shots as he reached his half-century in 71 balls. Overall, his 93-ball knock had six fours.

But the Andhra bowlers made a significant comeback subsequently and didn't allow the Chhattisgarh batsman to settle. Shashank Singh made a quickfire 45 off 25 balls, with two fours and four sixes, to ensure that his team got past the 260-run mark.

Andhra's chase began well as their openers added 48 before Ashwin Hebbur (22) was caught by Puneet Datey off Shashank Singh. His opening partner DB Prashanth Kumar (44) and K S Bharat also fell quickly and Andhra were in a spot of bother at 90-3. Thereafter, the Chhattisgarh bowlers kept taking wickets at regular intervals and the Andhra innings eventually folded up at 212. Off-spinner Shashank Singh (3-37) was the pick of the bowlers.

In another Group A match at Alur, Kerala defeated Hyderabad by 62 runs, with right-arm medium pacer KM Asif taking 4 for 34. Elsewhere in Group A, Goa defeated Jharkhand by 42 runs to bag four points. **PTI**

## [SPORTS BAR]

## Momota beats Chou to clinch Korea Open

Kento Momota of Japan clinched the men's singles title at the Korea Open badminton tournament on Sunday with a win over number two Chou Tien-chen of Taiwan. The 25-year-old downed Chou 21-19, 21-17 in a final that lasted 53 minutes. Momota, with over 300 wins under his belt, saw his career descend into controversy in 2016 when he was suspended for more than a year for visiting an illegal casino and was denied a spot at the 2016 Rio Olympics. The Japanese star, who was world number two at the time, has since worked his way back to the top. Tokyo Games. In the women's final, He Bingjiao defeated Ratchanok Intanon of Thailand 18-21, 24-22, 21-17.

## Muguruza out of China Open, at 2.31 am

China Open organisers faced questions after two-time Grand Slam champion Garbine Muguruza lost in a match which did not start until nearly 1:00 am and concluded at 2:31 am Sunday. The Spaniard's conqueror Sofia Kenin said that she felt "mentally drained" following the late-night first-round encounter in Beijing, which the American won 6-0, 2-6, 6-2. "I obviously started out really well in the first set and I knew that she was going to pick up her game," the 15th seed told the WTA website.



Ramandeep (left) and Akashdeep Singh celebrate the latter's equaliser. *HI*

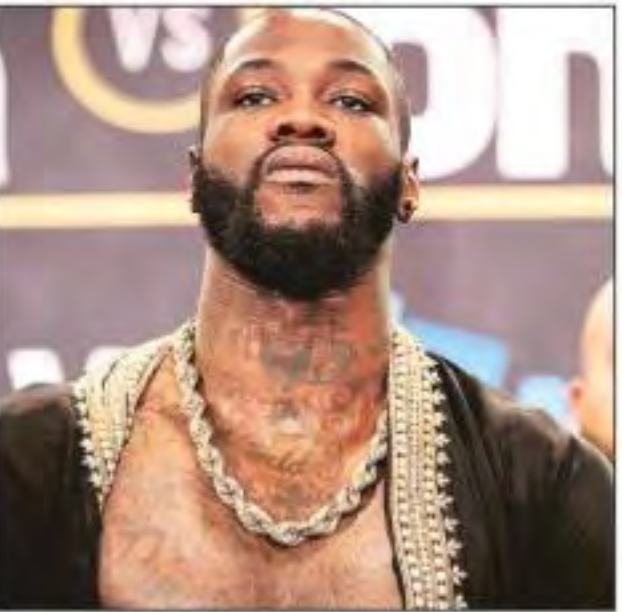
## India consign Spain to successive thrashings

Dragflicker Harmanpreet Singh yet again scored a brace as Indian men's hockey team thrashed Spain 5-1 for their third consecutive win, here on Sunday. Harmanpreet (41', 51') and Ramandeep Singh (35') scored in the second half after Akashdeep Singh (5') and SV Sunil (20') had put India ahead at the half-time. It was not a great start for the Indian team though, as they went a goal down in the third minute through Spain's opening attack. Iglesias Alvaro scored the opening goal of the match to put the pressure on the Indians. However, high on confidence from their two wins in the opening two matches, India responded with a quick equalizer in the fifth minute as Akashdeep Singh scored a field goal to make it 1-1. The Indians looked comfortable in possession during the latter stages of the first quarter and forced the Spanish goalkeeper into making a save off a Penalty Corner. SV Sunil also marked his return to the team with a wonderful strike in the second quarter to give India a 2-1 lead.



## Kroomah puts Peerless on the verge of title

Peerless SC are on the verge of creating history as they inch closer to become the first team in 61 years to win the Calcutta Football League (CFL) title outside the 'big three'. On Sunday, at Barasat Stadium, Peerless beat Gorge Telegraph 2-0, thanks to Ansumana Kroomah's brace, to take their points tally to 23 from 11 matches, while their nearest rivals East Bengal stay rooted on 20 points from 10 games after their fixture against Calcutta Customs was abandoned due to on-pitch water-logging. Last time, when a club outside the 'big three' had annexed the CFL title was in 1958; Eastern Railway pipping the 'holy trinity'. With Peerless having a six-goal edge over East Bengal, the red-and-gold need an improbable seven-goal victory margin against Calcutta Customs.



## Wilder to defend crown against Ortiz

Undefeated American Deontay Wilder will defend his World Boxing Council heavyweight crown against Cuba's Luis Ortiz in a November rematch of their 2018 title showdown, promoters announced. The November 23 matchup at MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas gives 40-year-old southpaw Ortiz a chance to avenge his loss to Wilder, a 10th-round stoppage in March 2018 in his only prior world title bout. "When I fought Ortiz, not only did he have the pedigree, but also he had the classification of being the boogeyman of the division," Wilder said on Saturday. "I agree with those who say that Luis Ortiz was my toughest fight to date. No one wanted to fight him and they still don't. In the rematch there's more confidence and more motivation," he said.





