

ADDRESSES ELECTION RALLY IN MAHARASHTRA

Modi dares Opp to bring back 370: Won't take even 4 months for normalcy in J&K



PM Narendra Modi in Bhandara, Maharashtra, on Sunday. PTI

Art 370 would have ended last term but an incident happened: Rajnath

VARINDER BHATIA
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 13

DEFENCE MINISTER Rajnath Singh Sunday said the BJP-led NDA government had planned to move on Article 370 in its previous term but did not proceed due to "some reasons" and "an incident".

Singh, however, did not elaborate on the "reasons" or the "incident" while addressing two rallies at Assandh in Karnal and Pataudi in Gurgaon in the run-up to the Haryana Assembly election on October 21.

Sources said the incident was the Pulwama terror attack on February 14, when 40 CRPF jawans were killed. On August 5, the government

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Rajnath Singh in Pataudi on Sunday. PTI

Nearly 4,500 J&K students avail PM's scholarship scheme — highest in 6 yrs

RITIKA CHOPRA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13

CLOSE TO 4,500 students from Jammu and Kashmir have reported at colleges across the country to pursue undergraduate studies under the Prime

Minister's Special Scholarship Scheme (PMSSS) — the highest in six years.

Of these, roughly 2,400 students are from the Jammu region, 1,474 from Kashmir and the rest from Ladakh, according to government data reviewed by *The Indian Express*.

Last year, approximately 2,500 students had taken admission under PMSSS and nearly 3,000 in the year before.

After the government's announcement on August 5 to remove special status under Article 370 and split the state into two

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

PMC depositors stare at broken lives: 'Nowhere to go for help'

Some struggle to tackle medical emergencies, others face bankruptcy

GARGI VERMA
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 13

FROM THE single parent of a son with special needs to a travel operator who lost his savings; from a 29-year-old whose marriage plans have come under a cloud to a domestic help whose dreams of sending her daughter to college lie shattered.

Three weeks after the RBI slapped restrictions on Mumbai-based PMC Bank for various irregularities, including Rs 6,200 crore stuck with the HDIL group promoted by the Wadhawans, its account-holders are struggling to pick up the pieces.

While some are scrambling to tackle medical emergencies, others are staring at bankruptcy. All of them hope that the government will intervene to ensure that they get back their money — and take strict action against those who brought the bank down.

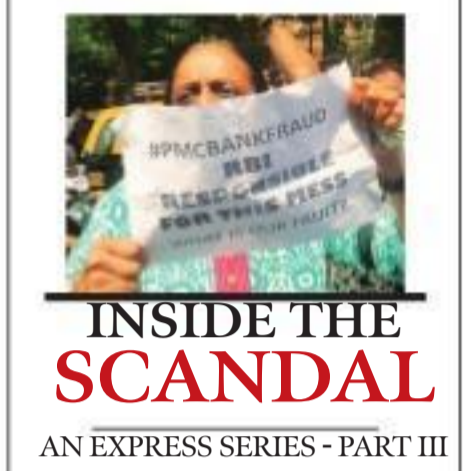
And at least one says he will register his protest by not casting his vote in the Maharashtra elections next week.

The Indian Express spoke to seven families affected by the curbs on withdrawal and came across seven different stories with one underlying theme — despair and anger.

Second time unlucky GAUTAM CHABRIA 47, PVT EMPLOYEE

"My mother and I lost a huge part of our savings in 2015 when we realised that the Rupee Cooperative bank had gone bankrupt. This is the second incident of a cooperative bank going back on its promise of safekeeping my money," says Chabria, who lives in Andheri with his 70-year-old mother and 21-year-old son with special needs.

"I have to take care of the



Sanjay Lund, Shabbir Khan



Deven Oberoi, Vijay Chaudhari

medical expenses of my son and mother. All of that used to come from the savings in my PMC account. I had some fixed deposits and so did my mother, from the money my father left us in his will," he says.

Chabria is also worried about the fees for his son's school, an institution for people with special needs. "They have a monthly fee of Rs 25,000. I don't know how I will manage. The therapy my son receives there is important for him," he says.

Chabria, who works with a construction firm, is hoping the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

More curbs in Ayodhya as hearings end this week

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 13

THE AYODHYA administration has tightened curbs imposed under Section 144 till December 10, with hearings in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid title suit slated to conclude Thursday in the Supreme Court.

Posting a copy of the latest order on his Twitter account, District Magistrate Anuj K Jha wrote: "The order has been issued considering safety and security of Ayodhya and those visiting here..."

In another post, Jha wrote: "I must add that already there is another order in force since 31.08.2019 covering aspects of unlawful assemblies and undesirable activities. The order dated 12.10.2019 has been issued to cover a couple of points which were not there in the earlier order."

The latest order prohibits the use of unmanned aerial vehicles in the area without permission. It also bars boating in the district, and the sale and manufacture of fire crackers.

It states that shops and godowns can stay open, with permission, only in specific areas identified by the district administration. The order has been sent to all senior officials of the district.

In the Supreme Court, a five-judge Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi has asked for all

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 13

TARGETING THE Opposition for criticising his government's decision to revoke Jammu and Kashmir's special status, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday challenged Opposition parties to declare in their poll manifestos that they would "bring back Article 370 and 35A". He also said that it would not take "even four months" to restore normalcy in J&K.

Addressing his first rally in Jalgaon for the Maharashtra



Assembly polls, Modi said: "Main virodhiyo ko chunauti deta hu, agar aap mein himmat hain toh 370 par spasht stand lekar aaye. Agar himmat hain toh apne chunavi ghoshna patra mein elan kare, dhara 370, 35A, jo Modi sarkar ne hatati hain, hum vaapis layenge... Yeh, ghadyali aasu bahana bandh karo... Kya in mein se

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Chinese President Xi Jinping with Nepal PM K P Sharma Oli in Kathmandu on Sunday. Reuters

Nepal, China step closer to signing extradition treaty

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE
KATHMANDU, OCTOBER 13

IGNORING PRESSURE from the United States and European countries, Nepal on Sunday pledged to sign an extradition treaty with China soon.

While a joint statement by Nepal and China, released a couple of hours after President Xi Jinping returned home after his

two-day state visit, said both sides "hope" for an early conclusion of the treaty, the two countries signed the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty on criminal matters — seen as precursor to the extradition treaty that Beijing has been insisting on.

Nepal shares a long border with Tibet and is home to around 20,000 Tibetan exiles — two cases of self-immolation by

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED

Wooing Nepal

WHILE CHINA has promised huge aid to Nepal, India may not be able to match Beijing's financial prowess, dollar by dollar. Its best bet is to ensure that it delivers on its commitments made in the past.

WORLD



I.S. FAMILIES ESCAPE FROM CAMP IN KURDISH-HELD SYRIAN TOWN PAGE 13

Rifles to tanks, Army working on real-time database of equipment

KRISHN KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13

FROM RIFLES to tanks, the Army is looking at setting up a real-time database on the condition and status of each of its approximately 30 lakh pieces of equipment.

Launched by the Army's Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (EME) on September 1, Project Beehive, which seeks to achieve greater automation of the Corps and connect all its workshops to an integrated smart network with real-time data analytics capabilities, is expected to be up and

running by October next year. "The next five years will be hugely transformative for the Indian Army to become a network-centric force," Lieutenant General Anil Kapoor, DG, EME, said during an interaction last week. "By October 15 (EME Corps Day) next year, we should

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Patna Corporation admitted Patna Corporation failed, told HC before rains: 'Functioning in primitive way'

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, OCTOBER 13

"Any modern city requires four basic infrastructure systems in place to function efficiently — drinking water supply system, storm water drainage system, sewage system and sewerage network system, and solid waste management system. Patna Municipal Corporation has failed on all four parameters."

multaneous growth of unregulated construction and uncontrolled slums within and outside the city. In fact, the lack of proper planning has made the modern city of Patna a difficult place to live in."

"The corporation in recent times has been in complete defunct status both functionally and institutionally and there has not been a serious attempt to re-vamp the situation. There is no work culture among the staff because of a poor HR system..."

BARELY THREE months before parts of Bihar's capital city went under for days in the worst case



Affidavit filed barely three months before Patna floods. File

of water-logging recorded since the floods of 1975, the Patna Municipal Corporation (PMC)

had displayed unusual honesty. And admitted in the Patna High Court in a counter-affidavit that

it "squarely failed".

The counter-affidavit was filed by PMC's Additional Municipal Commissioner (Establishment) Devendra Prasad Tiwary on behalf of the Commissioner in compliance with a court order of July 9. The court is hearing pleas against illegal encroachment, vending and related problems of sewerage and waste management in Patna — the Chief Justice will hear the matter again next week.

From September 28 to October 1, Patna received about 400 mm of rainfall. With all 39

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THE GOVERNANCE PAGE

WHY SANGRUR IS A SUCCESS STORY

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SPORT

SOURAV GANGULY SET TO BE NEW BCCI PRESIDENT

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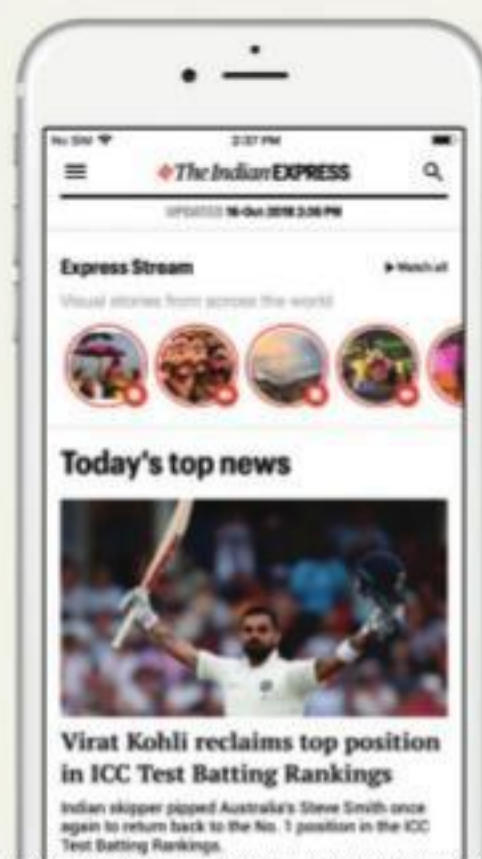
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VIDEO OF THE DAY



IN THREE-WAY CONTEST, BABITA PHOGAT GRAPPLES WITH OUTSIDER TAG

With less than a week left for the polls, Babita looks far more confident than she was on the day she joined the BJP. And with PM Modi scheduled to attend a rally in Charkhi Dadri, Babita hopes it will brighten her chances

TYPHOON HAGIBIS WREAKS HAVOC

Brought heavy destruction across Japan, at least 19 dead



ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS 2019: LIVE COVERAGE

PM Modi, Rahul Gandhi hold rallies in Maharashtra

EXPRESS AUDIO

The Ayodhya dispute explained: Part One

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

On the first episode of the Ayodhya dispute series on 3 Things, we discuss how the Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute started, how it changed Indian politics and the four suits being heard in the SC

FROM PAGE ONE

BENEFICIARIES

2012-13	3,687
2013-14	4,159
2014-15	1,963
2015-16	1,338
2016-17	2,162
2017-18	3,019
2018-19	2,525
2019-20	4,419

about 150 in pharmacy. The largest number of J&K students this year are studying in Maharashtra, followed by Delhi, Punjab, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh.

Launched in 2011-12 by the UPA-II government, PMSSS is a merit-based programme that offers admission to J&K students in colleges, institutes and universities across the country and pays for their tuition, board, books and other incidentals. Under the scheme, 5,000 scholarships are offered each year to pursue undergraduate studies in areas such as engineering, medical, nursing, pharmacy, hotel management, agriculture, architecture and commerce.

Ayodhya

arguments in the land dispute case to be concluded by October 17. Hearings resume Monday after the week-long Dussehra break, and the judgment is expected before the Chief Justice of India retires on November 17.

The bench also comprising Justices S A Bobde, D Y Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and S Abdul Nazeer is hearing appeals against the September 30, 2010, verdict of the Allahabad High Court.

Nepal, China

Tibetans have been reported in the last few years. Any anti-China

activity on Nepal's territory is seen by Beijing as being instigated by western countries, mainly the US, and Nepal-based human rights organisations funded by these countries.

In 2016, the US authorities had "unofficially" warned the Nepal government that any extradition treaty with China would have serious repercussions. The developments came on a day when Xi, according to a Reuters report, warned that any attempt to divide China would end in "shattered bones". Beijing is facing political challenges in months-long protests in Hong Kong and US criticism over its treatment of Muslim minority groups.

During his meeting with his Nepalese counterpart Bidya Devi Bhandari on Saturday, Xi announced a support of RMB 3.5 billion, equivalent to NRS 56 billion, to Nepal over the next two years to help its development programmes, officials said. The two countries signed 20 agreements and MoUs across different sectors such as transport, agriculture, industry, commerce and supply.

The two sides also agreed to develop three North-South corridors, touching India and China, as economic corridors.

Database

have the Beehive up and running," he said.

"The centralised network would allow us to access data about any equipment we have across the country in real-time, and it would also have the capability to analyse that data and say which equipment is due for maintenance, so it will allow data mining," he said.

He explained that with Project Beehive, the EME is building the "business intelligence" of the Army's equipment, with a "depth of 30 lakh" and a "range of 2,000 types" — 30 lakh pieces of equipment across 2,000 categories.

The project will be based out of Army Headquarters. "At various levels, the functionalities will be able to see all equipment readiness," said Kapoor. It will also help in "engineering support functions," he said.

The Corps of EME is responsible for repair of military equipment and maintenance of their operational fitness. In March last year, the Army had informed a parliamentary committee that 68 per cent of its equipment was of vintage era.

Rajnath

announced in Parliament that it had taken the decision to remove special status to J&K under Article 370 and split the state into two Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh.

Speaking in Kamal, Singh referred to Article 370 and asked how one country could have two Constitutions. "...Jab bhi chunav ka avsar aata tha, hum log yeh kehte ki yadi humko spasht bahumat Sansad mein mil gayi toh hum Article 370 ko samaapt karenge. Is baar bhi hum logon ne... Logon ne kaha arrey sahab piche baar bhi toh aapko bahumat mila tha. Article 370 kyon nahi samaapt kiya aapne? Hone hi waala tha, lekin kuch kaaran the. Lekin, jab aapne dobara avsar diya... toh jab humne kaha tha, use karke aapko dikha diya."

"(Whenever elections were conducted, we used to say that if we get absolute majority in Parliament, we will end Article 370. Even this time, we... then people said you had got absolute majority last time, but why didn't you scrap Article 370? It was about to happen, but there were some reasons. But when you gave us a second chance, we did what we had said we would.")

Hours later, speaking in Pataudi, Singh referred to Article 370 A and 35-A and said: "Aap kahenge pichle saal kyon nahi kiya. Tayyari ho gayi thi. Ek ghatna ho gayi. PM ne mann pucca bana liya. Aur aapne dekha, is baar 2019 ka

Modi dares Opp to bring back 370

kisi mein dum hain ab 370 vaapis lene ki? Kya Hindustan vaapis lene dega? Aur koi lene ki koshish karega, woh kya bahch payega? Uska rajnitik bhavishya bachega? Desh usse sweekar karega kya?

"I challenge the Opposition, if you have the courage, then take a clear stand on 370. If you have the courage, declare in your election manifesto that you will bring back Article 370, 35A, which the Modi government scrapped... Stop shedding crocodile tears... Do any of them have the courage to bring back 370? Will the country let them bring it back? And even if they try, will they survive? Will their politics survive? Will the country accept it?"

Saying that J&K was "not just a piece of land, but the crown of India", he said: "Wahan ka samoocha jeevan, wahan ka kan kan Bharat ki soch ko, Bharat ki shakti ko mazboot karta hain... Dhara 370 ne alagaavaad ko badhaya. Aur hum ne suraksha ki drishti se avashyak kadam uthai hain. Chaalis saal tak jo asaamaanya paristhiti rahi, usko saamaanya banane mein char mahine bhi nahin lagenge."

(The life and every part of Kashmir lends greater strength to India. Article 370 promoted separatism. And keeping security in mind, we took the necessary step. The abnormal situation which prevailed for the last 40 years, it will not take

even four months to make it normal.)

He accused the Opposition parties of politicising the issue. "You look at the statements made by Congress, NCP... They seem to be speaking on the lines of the neighbouring country," Modi said, without naming the leaders, as he apparently referred to Pakistan.

Modi said there was "no difference" between what his government preached and practised. "Our decision on triple talaq was not confined to welfare of Muslim women alone, but also men. A Muslim father and brother have appreciated the decision. I dare the Opposition, which is protesting against it, to bring back the

practice of triple talaq," he said.

Praising Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, he said: "Under his leadership and vision, Maharashtra has emerged as a leading state and made huge contribution to the Centre."

Taking a dig at the Opposition, Modi, without naming any party, said the "tired allies" can extend support to each other, but cannot fulfil the dreams of Maharashtra and aspirations of its youth. Senior Congress leader Sushilkumar Shinde had recently remarked that both his party and the NCP were "tired".

Modi also appealed to women to vote in large numbers.

PMC depositors stare at shattered lives

government will step in. "There are several instances where the government has bailed out private and nationalised banks. With Rupee Cooperative bank, we only received Rs 2 lakh back. I should have learnt my lesson then," he says.

38, BUSINESSMAN

Aurangabad businessman Vijay Chaudhari, who opened a PMC account in July, has been struggling to fund the treatment of his wife Sheetal (33), who is suffering from kidney stones.

"She needed a couple of surgeries last year, which I couldn't afford. I sold my ancestral property and managed to do one, the next was planned for October," says Chaudhari. "She is in so much pain, and bed-ridden. I don't know how I will buy her medicines, leave alone the surgery."

"I have an on-site contract business for a telecom firm. They are yet to pay me my dues. I have never asked for a single penny from anyone, but now I have borrowed money from everywhere, including loan sharks, to finish my projects so that I get my dues," he says.

DEVEN OBEROI 47, BUSINESSMAN

Vashi resident Deven Oberoi and his father Gulshan had several fixed deposits at the bank. "We used to get monthly interest, which was our primary income," he says.

The Oberois are now scrambling for funds as Gulshan undergoes dialysis twice a week at the MGM hospital. "The medicines for my parents, our electricity, other utilities bills... everything was being handled by the money in the bank. And now, we have nothing," says Deven.

Deven has written to the hospital and some charitable trusts to help with the cost of dialysis. "I am close to maxing out my credit cards, and I know there will be consequences. But I don't have an option right now," he says.

employees. "But for how many days can anyone wait?," he says. "I am trying to do as much work as possible to ensure there's some flow of cash. But all of our payments are done through online transfer... now the bank is shut."

Surviving on vadapav

SHABBIR KHAN 38, TRAVEL OPERATOR

Working as a private travel operator in Mumbai for years, Khan had finally managed to save enough money to invest in a house. "I paid Rs 1 lakh on September 23 towards the house in Thane and the next day, I had no money," he says.

Khan, who owns two cars that are used in his business, is planning to start driving one himself. "My children's school fees have to be paid, we need to feed them. I have been surviving on vadapav," he says.

Khan, his wife Gurpreet and their two children are being sustained by friends and family. "Even when I had nothing, when I was starting my business, I was better off than now," he says.

Khan is trying to get a refund of the Rs 1 lakh paid to the builders. "If I get that money, I can at least ensure my children are fine, and pay off some of my staff," he said. The builders have, however, denied his request so far. "This election, I am not going to vote and will tell others to not vote either. No political party has supported us," says Khan, a resident of Andheri. "All the senior-level employees of the bank and the auditors should be put behind bars till we get our money back."

May have to put off wedding

VIKASSINGH 29, PVT EMPLOYEE

Vikas was all set to get married in February 2020. "I had been planning for sometime. I had opened up my fixed deposits, which were maturing shortly, to handle the expenses," he says.

An employee of a private mobile manufacturer, Singh had chosen PMC bank because of the "ease of banking". "In Virar, where I live, nationalised banks have very few branches. The PMC bank was near my house and worked on Sundays. I had researched before opening my accounts, but all of that is pointless now," he says. "I am trying to get a personal loan from another bank for the wedding. We may have to postpone it, it is

Close to maxing credit cards

very stressful."

SANJAY LUND 38, BUSINESSMAN

The crisis hit home, says Lund, when he was pulled up for a parking offence near his home in Andheri. "I had no money to pay the fine. I told the constable you can take me to the police station," he says.

"I have two children. I employ five people in my shop, and I haven't been able to pay them. I don't know if I should pay my children's school fee, our electricity bill or my EMIs with whatever money I make," says the computer parts dealer.

Lund says he is receiving support from his suppliers and

Who will pay for daughter's education?

SHAMIMA SHAIKH 43, DOMESTIC HELP

Shamima had a fixed deposit at the bank's Andheri branch for the last 20 years. "I had saved close to Rs 3 lakh. It was for my daughter's college education," she says, with tears in her eyes.

According to her eldest daughter Anjum (21), her mother "has been crying non-stop and off over the last three weeks". "I was to start college next year and she had been saving for it. I want to do a BSc and then a BED," says Anjum, who doubles up as a tuition teacher in the locality. Shamima hails from Lucknow and came to Mumbai after getting married. "My husband was a rickshaw driver who died in an accident in 2001. Since then, I have been the only breadwinner for the family," she says.

"I want my daughters Anjum and Sakina to have a better life. I don't want them to lead this life of poverty. If they get educated, I can get them married one day," she says.

"It would have been better if I had stored the money in my house. I was the first person from my family to open a bank account on my own. I feel that the entire family back in UP is laughing at me now. I have nowhere to go for help," says Shamima.

water, the PMC stated: "Main problem is the sewage network system as only 20 per cent households are connected with the network and 50 MLD sewerage reaches up to STPs (sewage treatment plants)... more than 80 per cent households have their own septic tanks or open discharge which itself is a threat to health and sanitation."

Blaming "institutional failure" for the situation, the PMC told court that its "fourth grade sanitary workers have been exploited in the system and are poorly paid". "The corporation is miles away from digitisation and has been functioning in a primitive way. The billion dollar corporation properties have been encroached," it claimed.

In its submission — its seventh supplementary counter-affidavit in the case of 2016 — the PMC stated that it has to "rise from (the) ashes like (a) phoenix" and put in place a ward-centric decentralised system with close monitoring by ward members.

Kishori Das, former state general secretary of People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUC), who has filed an interlocutory plea after the PMC's submission, told The Indian Express: "The PMC's helplessness can be seen through its response. Civic agencies are engaging in a blame game, and we are looking at the court to find a workable solution." Das currently heads the Vanchit Samaj Morcha.

When contacted, PMC Commissioner Amit Kumar Pandey said: "We have taken up a number of measures to improve the drainage system. It is a cumulative effort with other agencies. Right now, we are tackling the challenges of water-logging."

Varsity action

freedom of speech, as well as to mark BSP founder Kanshi Ram's death anniversary. Of the six expelled, three are Dalit students and three OBC.

"The decision to revoke the expulsions was taken by taking into consideration the future of the students and to keep up the atmosphere of discipline and learning on the campus," V-C Shukla said in a statement on Sunday. "In educational institutes, if we punish the students for their mistakes, then we also try to bring about improvement in them and make available maximum opportunities of education to them," he said.

"After today's meeting, it has been decided to constitute an inquiry committee to investigate the broad reasons of the (October 9) incident, to identify the persons participating in the incident, and to listen to the students concerned. The committee will have teachers and (university) officials representing all sections as members," he said.

While the students have received "showcause" notices from Wardha Resident Deputy Collector, asking them to explain their stand on October 16, they were informed on Sunday that they would not have to offer any explanation. The notice is dated October 11, a day after the university officials wrote to Bhanwarwar about the alleged violation of MCC. "The notice was issued immediately after we received the letter from the university. We issue such letters as a standard operating procedure on receiving any complaint of alleged MCC violation by anyone. But we will immediately inform them not to come to give any explanation now," said Bhanwarwar.

Reacting to the university's decision, Chandan Suraj and Rajneesh Kumar Ambedkar, two of the students, said: "It is a vindication of our stand that we have the right to express our opinion and take a stand on issues." The remaining four students are: Neeraj Kumar, Rajesh Sarthi, Pankaj Vela and Vaibhav Pimpalkar.

Referring to cross-border terrorism, Singh said Pakistan can seek India's help if it is "unable to combat terrorism on its own but has the intention to do so".

Patna

sump houses remaining non-functional till October 1, at least 60 per cent of Patna faced water-logging. At low-lying areas, water-logging lasted for 10 days, with rescuers evacuating Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Modi and his family from Rajendra Nagar.

The Urban Development Ministry has blamed the PMC and the state's urban planning body, Bihar Urban Infrastructure Development Corporation (BUIDCO), for the situation. The PMC's counter-affidavit shows why.

In its submission, including booklets and annexures, the corporation described Patna as a "problematic city" that is suffering from a "false urban memory syndrome" in which there is "rev-

Wife's surgery on hold

VIJAY CHAUDHARI

Referring to old times and scorn to the new".

"If the city of Patna has to protect itself from becoming a dead city, it has to come out from such (a) syndrome and work towards better urban planning and development with a professional and no-nonsense attitude," the PMC stated in a section on its response on civic challenges.

The PMC, which governs an area of 109 sq km including most of the capital, pointed out that Patna is "part of floodplains of Ganges and has a monotonously flat relief with a saucer-shaped topography and a slope in the southern direction" (including Rajendra Nagar).

In an annexure titled "Whither the city of Patna?", the PMC stated that the topography triggers acute water-logging in the absence of a "planned drainage system". It said that "unorganised settlements and unplanned developmental activities" have added to the problem.

enforce for old times and scorn to the new"

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HARDLOOK

EMERGENCY POLLUTION MEASURE

NOVEMBER

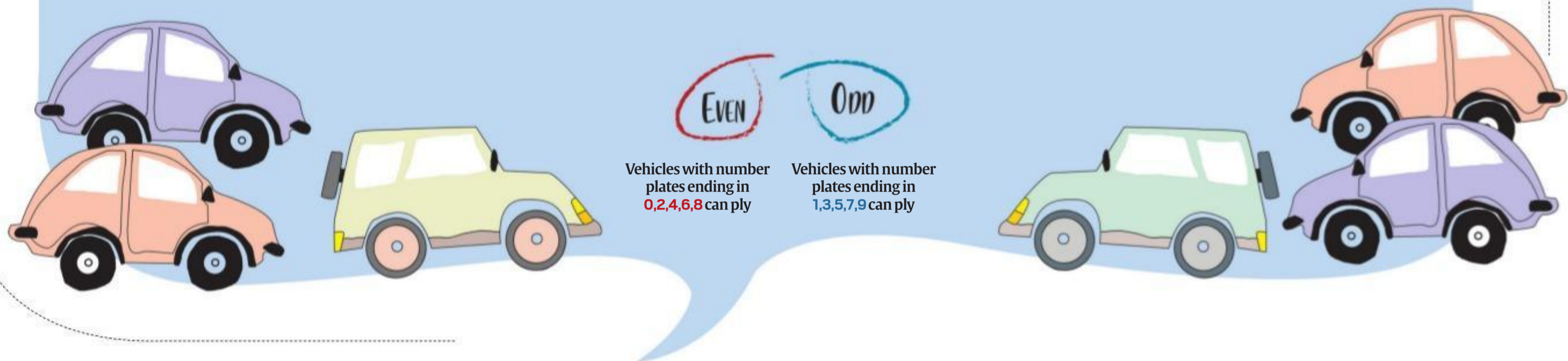
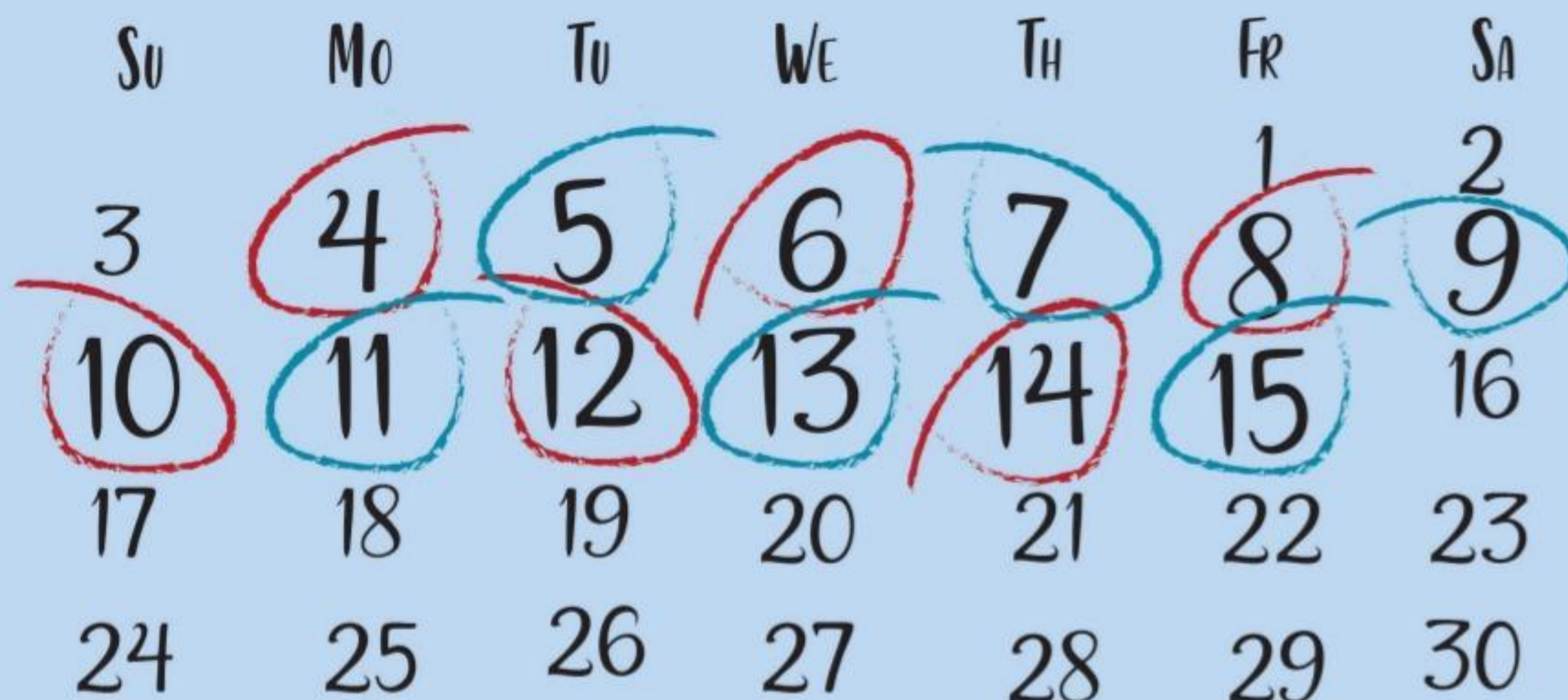


Illustration: Mithun Chhabraborty

IN JANUARY 2016, when it was first introduced in Delhi, the phrase “shock measure” was widely used to describe odd-even in media coverage as well as policy circles. It was the national capital’s maiden tryst with the radical idea that one’s licence plate, or date in the calendar, could determine whether or not they can drive on roads.

Three years on, the novelty factor that defined the policy may have largely worn off, but Delhi, its authorities and people are gearing up for another round of the drive, scheduled from November 4-15.

This time around, though, the policy has the force of law by virtue of being one of the measures enlisted under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) to tackle pollution, which is implemented by the Supreme Court-appointed Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority.

According to GRAP, odd-even should automatically come into force once air quality enters the ‘severe plus’ or ‘emergency’ zone and persists for 48 hours or more.

In this case, however, the Delhi government has announced the move as a preventive measure based on inputs that air quality may witness a drastic drop in the first week of November due to adverse meteorological conditions and stubble burning in neighbouring Haryana and Punjab.

The *Indian Express* spoke to departments and agencies entrusted with rolling out the initiative, attempting to piece together the measures being taken to ensure a smooth ride for Delhi during that period.

Transport Department

From issuing a gazette notification to keeping an eye out for violators, the lion’s share of the work related to odd-even lies with the Delhi government’s Transport Department. The department, which operates out of a decades-old building complex in Civil Lines, also has to coordinate with other public transport operators, including the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC), the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) and the Delhi Traffic Police.

Additionally, the department was directed by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to share its observations on categories that should be exempted from the scheme. Two of its recommendations have been accepted by the government, while one has been kept pending.

Vehicles driven by a lone woman or ones in which she has female co-passengers or children below 12 years of age will not have to follow licence-plate restrictions.

The department was initially in favour of exempting all categories of CNG vehicles as well. But the suggestion was tweaked at the last minute, bringing private CNG cars under the scheme’s ambit.

In fact, on October 9, Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL), which supplies CNG to over 10 lakh vehicles in Delhi-NCR through 500 stations, wrote to the government that “exempting CNG cars from the odd-even scheme would strengthen” the Delhi government’s anti-pollution action plan.

“CNG is a non-polluting fuel, most commonly known as clean fuel. The use of CNG as an automotive fuel results in significant reduction in the level of vehicular pollutants CO, HC, NOX, SOX, Pb and particulate matter. Additionally, its usage also results in reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases owing to the lower carbon-to-hydrogen ratio of methane as compared to other hydrocarbon fuels,” wrote a senior executive of IGL.

Moreover, at two separate meetings on September 23 and October 7 at the Delhi Secretariat, a decision was taken that IGL would procure 7 lakh tamper-proof holograms and distribute them among CNG vehicle owners from October 15 onwards at 70 fuel stations between 8 am and 10 pm. The

VEHICLES ON CAPITAL ROADS

35 lakh cars of which **3.8 lakh** are private CNG cars
65 lakh two-wheelers
95,000 auto-rickshaws
71,100 e-rickshaws
2 lakh taxis

PUBLIC TRANSPORT FLEET

BUSES
1,704 Cluster buses
12.24 lakh: Average daily ridership
3,879 DTC buses
33 lakh: Average daily ridership

METRO
377 km: DMRC network (including Noida-Greater Noida Aqua Line)
274 stations
DMRC Average daily ridership: 27 lakh (passenger counted once irrespective of lines taken to reach a destination)
DMRC Average line utilisation daily: 55 lakh (calculated based on lines taken by a commuter to reach a destination)

IGL also hired an agency to maintain data, verify records and paste the holograms or stickers on the windshield of cars.

But on Saturday, Kejriwal announced that private CNG cars won’t be exempted during the odd-even drive, pointing out how the stickers were widely misused during the last two phases of the scheme in 2016. In its presentation to the government, IGL had stressed that it had taken special care to ensure non-duplication of stickers this time round.

“The CNG stickers are enabled with unigram technology, wherein the unique pattern showcased in the unigram line of the stickers can only be seen through specially made readers. IGL has procured around 1,000 such readers, which would be handed over to Delhi Police for random checking. The stickers will also be visible from a distance. All the stickers are embedded with unique numbers.

“IGL is also developing an app where a database of all vehicles with these stickers would be maintained. Records can be fetched by punching in the numbers on the stickers. The app would also be shared with police,” IGL wrote.

The question of two-wheelers and the department’s categorical suggestion on not exempting these have put the government in a quandary — mainly because it clearly pointed out that exempting two-wheelers, which form 88% of the city’s vehicular fleet, will seriously undermine the potential benefits that may arise out of the scheme.

Kejriwal concurred with the department’s view, but also conceded that the existing public transport infrastructure, mainly in terms of buses, is inadequate to meet the demand that is likely to be triggered if re-

Odd-Even 3.0

From November 4-15, the road space rationing policy will be enforced in the city — a preemptive move by the Delhi government to offset the effects of crop burning and cold weather. SOURAV ROY BARMAN looks at how different bodies have to work together to ensure there are no bumps on the road

Hit & trial across the world

MALLICA JOSHI

BEFORE DELHI had its first tryst with the odd-even road space rationing scheme, several cities across the world had tried it out, with some realising it works only as an emergency measure.

Among the first countries in the world to experiment with the scheme was Mexico City and vicinity towns. The scheme allowed for a fifth of all registered cars to ply on each of the weekdays. The distinction was based on the last digit of the number plate. What started as a programme implemented only in winters in 1989 became a permanent restriction in 1990.

But the city’s experience has not been the best. Several studies have shown that once the restriction became permanent, people bought second-hand, more polluting vehicles with a registration number ending in a digit different than their first car to beat the system.

Beijing, among the most polluted cities in the world, also decided to impose similar restrictions on private cars after the 2008 Olympics. Three years later, the administration followed it up with a lottery system for buying cars, where only a set number can be bought each week. The capi-

tal city also added to its infrastructure in the form of more buses and Metro expansion.

Paris also started imposing restrictions on vehicles based on the number plate in 2014, but the measures in the French capital come into force only when air quality dips drastically — in some cases, only for a day. Other cities such as Bogota, Jakarta and Sao Paulo have also implemented the restriction with varying degrees of success.

But restriction based on number plates is not the only form of road-space rationing. Among the most popular is congestion pricing — paying a fee or toll if you want to drive to a congested part of the city. In European cities, it is the city centre or business districts.

Delhi, too, has been mulling congestion pricing for two-three years but the lack of one central business district has been a hurdle.

“When the government was considering odd-even in 2015, several experts told us that congestion pricing was a more effective method which also works in the long run. But when we studied it further, we realised that in a city like Delhi, where there are several congested zones, the policy will be impractical and will cause a lot of pain to residents,” said a senior government official.

strictions are imposed on the plying of around 65 lakh two-wheelers.

However, the government has, in principle, accepted the suggestion to go for staggered working hours in offices.

DTC

The corporation will engage 2,000 private buses during the odd-even period. The DIMTS, under which the orange cluster buses come, has been asked to ensure “optimum utilisation of its fleet”. The city’s public bus fleet stands at around 5,500, well under the requirement of 11,000.

Around 2,000 buses are at various stages of procurement. However, Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot said that apart from the 25 cluster buses inducted in August, the city is not likely to get more than 100 before odd-even comes into effect. A week before that, on October 29, the free rides scheme for women on DTC buses will be implemented, which will increase the challenge of meeting the expected commuter rush.

Gahlot said private buses will be hired at a fixed rate of Rs 50 per km. During the first phase of odd-even, as many as 6,000 private buses, with ‘Paryavaran Bus Sewa’ stickers pasted on them, were pressed into service. This included around 600 DTC buses on school duty as winter holidays were on at that point. However, school buses could not be roped in in the second phase of odd-even in April 2016. Around 600 buses were eventually hired then.

Meanwhile, directions have also been issued to the DTC to enhance its helpline staff and teams to monitor breakdowns.

DMRC

The Delhi Metro will run 60 additional trips daily to cater to demand during the odd-even period. The corporation has also been directed to press more feeder buses into service to bolster last-mile connectivity.

Officials also pointed out that the Metro network in 2016 was barely 214 km long. The major Phase III corridors, including the 58-km Pink and the 38-km Magenta lines, were far from being operationalised. Today, the total length of the DMRC network is around 377 km, spanning Delhi and parts of Gurgaon, Noida, Faridabad, Ghaziabad and Bahadurgarh. DMRC will also deploy additional staff, including customer facilitation agents and TVM operators, especially during office hours.

Awareness campaign

The government plans to install 20 big hoardings at 13 major entry points of the city. Ten each of these hoardings will be placed inside and outside Delhi’s borders. In total, around 360 hoardings will be put up across the 127 entry points of Delhi, according to an official document.

“The awareness campaign shall also include neighbouring states and more emphasis is to be given to vehicles entering Delhi from neighbouring states. Advisories will also be issued for use of Eastern and Western Peripheral Expressways by non-destined vehicles during the drive,” it adds.

Among other measures, the government has directed cab aggregators to desist from implementing surge pricing during the duration of odd-even. Around 5,075 civil defence volunteers will be stationed at 200 locations across the city like last time to appeal to drivers to turn back if found violating the policy. Field functionaries have been directed to be polite and careful towards persons with varying degrees of disabilities.

‘Economic slowdown has hit induction of buses in capital’

Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot on delay in procuring buses for the city, sticking to targets and efforts being taken to tackle pollution



What steps are you taking towards temporarily augmenting public transport system during the odd-even drive?

We have written to Delhi Metro to take measures to handle a potential rise in ridership. They plan to increase the number of trips by at least 60 per day... We also need to keep in mind that the Metro network has expanded substantially as compared to the last two phases of odd-even. We are also hiring 2,000 private buses, which will be paid Rs 50 per km.

Two major policy measures, odd-even and free rides for women, will come into effect within the next fortnight. Before that at least 300 buses were to be inducted. How will the rush be tackled?

Induction of 300 buses looks a little difficult now. But we are hoping that at least 100 buses will join the cluster bus fleet by October-end.

As per the timeline shared by the government, the city is to get at least 2,035 cluster buses, including electric buses, by May 2020. This seems to have gone off track.

The economic slowdown has had a major impact on induction of buses. The delay is happening as vehicle manufacturers, Tata Motors and Ashok Leyland, have not managed to adhere to their commitments. Their plants are often not functioning to full capacity. It happened even when we visited the Tata Motors’ Lucknow plant.

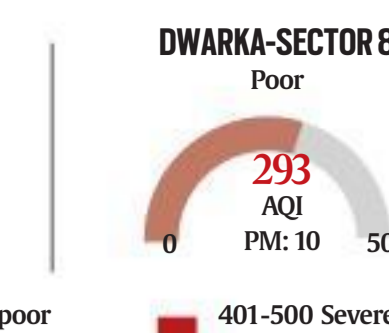
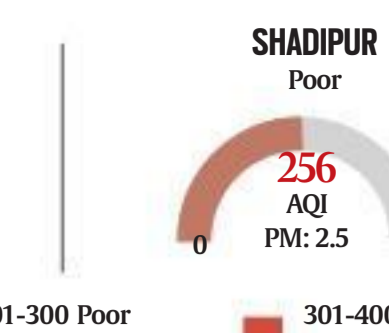
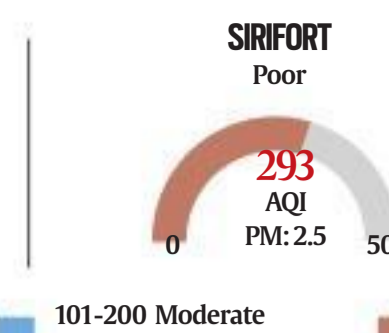
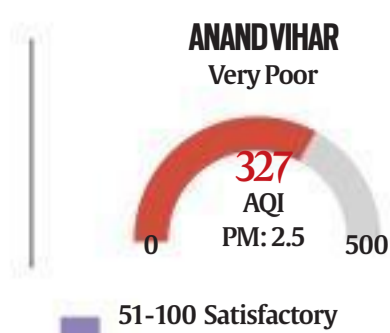
Can the government meet the target it has set for itself?

We will invoke the penalty clause, which is a part of any such agreement, on the companies if the delay continues. The penalty clause comes into effect if at least 25% of the product is not delivered within three months of entering into an agreement. The initial hiccups relating to installation of CCTVs and panic buttons, and registration of buses have been tackled. The buses should start coming now.

As Environment Minister, what other measures are you taking to tackle the rising levels of pollution?

We managed to prevent largescale bursting of firecrackers during Dussehra. Many agencies are running drives to seize firecrackers before Diwali. Shopkeepers are on a tight leash. We are also coming down heavily on dust pollution.

5 THE CITY



BRIEFLY

Will fund education of Valmiki children: CM

New Delhi: At the Valmiki Jayanti celebrations held at Red Fort Sunday, CM Arvind Kejriwal announced that the Delhi government would fund the education of children from the Valmiki community after Class XII: "The AAP government is the only one that has worked for the community. While other parties could not imagine children from the community becoming anything beyond sanitation workers, we dreamt of making them doctors and engineers."

Hit by truck, man dies

New Delhi: A 45-year-old newspaper vendor died after a speeding dumper truck hit his bicycle in Khajuri Khas Sunday.

Man's body found in park

New Delhi: The body of an 18-year-old man, with his hands and legs tied up, was found inside the Deer Park in Dilshad Garden Sunday. Police said the accused has been arrested.

2 held for job fraud

New Delhi: Two persons were arrested for allegedly duping people on the pretext of providing them a job in a private airline, police said. **ENS**

BOTH ARRESTED AFTER POLICE RAIDS

'Men who snatched PM niece's bag wanted money for drugs'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13

A DAY after they allegedly snatched the handbag of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's niece Damyanti Modi, two men were arrested Sunday. The woman was getting out of an auto and was with her husband and children when the incident took place in Civil Lines early Saturday morning.

Police said initial investigation revealed that the duo, Gaurav alias Noni and Badal, were in North Delhi to buy narcotics but did not have enough money. Police said they followed the woman for a kilometre on their scooter and snatched her bag when they saw a chance. They then bought drugs from a dealer and went to Sultanpuri.

Police said Gaurav was detained from his mother-in-law's house in Sonapat by a special staff team of the Central district, who later handed him over to North District police. Badal was arrested from Sultanpuri after his elder brother informed police about his hideout. Special Cell and Crime Branch teams had also been put on the case so the accused are arrested promptly.

The incident took place around 7 am when Damyanti (40), her husband and their two



The accused, Gaurav (left) and Badal. Damyanti Modi (right) was with her husband and children when the incident took place in Civil Lines Saturday. *Express*

daughters had just reached Shree Delhi Gujarati Samaj in Civil Lines from Delhi Junction Railway Station. "My husband was offloading the luggage and I was inside the auto when the two men came and snatched the bag from my lap. The bag had two mobile phones, Aadhaar cards of the family, credit and debit cards and Rs 56,000 in cash," she said.

Police found CCTV footage of the accused, which was shared with all specialised police units.

"Gaurav was identified from the footage and a team from the North District went to Sultanpuri to arrest him, but he managed to escape. He took an auto to Uttam Nagar, where he had been stay-

ing with his wife for the last two-and-a-half months. The couple then went to Sonapat, where his wife's mother lives. When he left Sultanpuri, he switched off his phone and used his wife's phone. His wife's number was traced and a Central district reached Sonapat. At 4.25 am, the team conducted a raid and arrested him," said a senior police officer.

During questioning, Gaurav told police that he started consuming drugs at an early age. "He was apprehended thrice in snatching cases as a juvenile. As no dossiers of juveniles are maintained, there was no record of his previous cases," the officer said. Police said his mother used to

work as an informer.

DCP (North) Monika Bhardwaj said the duo were not wearing helmets when they committed the crime. "They had slowed down near the auto so that the pillion rider could take the bag. It was unfortunate that they were not caught beforehand for violating traffic norms. We generally have traffic personnel stationed in the area but they were not there on Saturday," she said.

The DCP added, "We have recovered the woman's bag along with the cash, wrist watch, two mobile phones and most of the documents which were in it. We have also recovered the scooter used to carry out the crime."

Tiwari calls for NRC citing rising crime in city, AAP hits back

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13

HOLDING "ILLEGAL immigrants" responsible for 80% crimes in the national capital, Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari once again raised the issue of implementing the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Delhi Sunday. He made the statement while referring to the incident of chain snatching with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's niece on Saturday.

"As many as 80% crimes involve illegal immigrants in Delhi. That's why I have been demanding NRC (in the capital) but whenever I do so, (Chief Minister) Arvind Kejriwal rises as their shield," he said.

"I am not denying that it is the duty of the police to control crime... But how is Delhi Police going to control crime when a large number of illegal immigrants are living in different parts of the city?" he said and added, "Kejriwal should not take sides with people doing such things."

The Aam Aadmi Party hit back, with AAP MP Sanjay Singh slamming the BJP for politicising "people's lives and property".

"Regardless of who committed the crime, irrespective of religion or caste... infiltrator or a local, they need to catch the perpetrators. The BJP should not hide its failure... if Delhi Police was



As many as 80% crimes in Delhi involve illegal immigrants, claimed Tiwari

under CM Kejriwal today, law and order would not have been in such poor state. It was the CM who got CCTV cameras installed across the city. Today, the criminals who robbed PM Modi's niece have been identified and nabbed because of these cameras," he said. Delhi Police reports to the Ministry of Home Affairs, unlike police in other states.

This is not the first time Tiwari has raised the issue of NRC, which, he claimed, will help identify and evict illegal immigrants involved in crimes. He had called for its implementation when a journalist was injured after two men snatched her bag.

Thereafter, Kejriwal, responding to a question on NRC implementation in Delhi, had said Tiwari would be the first to be evicted if it is started.

Air quality dips further, inches to 'very poor'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13

DELHI'S AIR quality inched further towards the 'very poor' category as the concentration of particulate matter continued to increase. Officials at the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) have forecast that the air, which is in the 'poor' category now, will touch the 'very poor' category by Monday, and deteriorate further Tuesday.

The Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), which bans use of diesel generators (except those in emergency situations such as hospitals and lifts in apartment complexes) in the capital and towns in its vicinity, will be implemented from October 15.

Sunday's air quality index value was 266, as compared to Saturday's 222. The capital's week-long weather forecast says temperature will be between 33 and 20 degrees Celsius, along with calm winds. No rain is expected.

"All these factors — dipping temperature, calm winds and addition of pollutants from crop residue burning in Haryana and Punjab is adding to the capital's pollution. We are expecting GRAP restrictions to help check pollution sources," said a CPCB official.

Delhi govt tweaks norms to rent space for mohalla clinics

Rent increased to Rs 35,000, area requirement reduced

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13

TO MEET its goal of setting up 1,000 mohalla clinics by the end of this year, the Delhi government has tweaked its specifications for those willing to give their property on rent for the clinics.

While the government had earlier said rent would not be more than Rs 20,000 per month, the new guidelines will fix the maximum rent up to Rs 35,000. The minimum area for setting up clinics has also been reduced from 50-60 square metres to 40 square metres.

In a public appeal through an advertisement in June, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had requested the community to send their applications to the health department by August 6.

"We have been facing several issues in setting up clinics in posh areas as the rent in a few colonies was higher than Rs 20,000. The rent is decided by the Public Works Department on the basis of land lease rules. Many areas had to be ruled out because of the limitations. Now, we have decided to extend the rent rate up to Rs 35,000," said a senior Delhi government official.

According to officials, the government is planning to open 100 new mohalla clinics by the end of this week. So far, there are 210 such clinics in the city.

Earlier this month, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia had inaugurated 10 mohalla clinics in CR Park, Greater Kailash-I, Greater Kailash-II, Shahpur Jat, Khirki Flats, Savitri Nagar, Chirag Delhi and Sheikh



New guidelines will fix max rent up to Rs 35,000. *Archive*

Sarai areas.

"A meeting is scheduled with the CM Monday. We are working towards finalising the areas. By the end of this week, we might be able to start 100 more clinics. Many people had applied under the scheme and a scrutiny of the places is being done," said the official.

The minimum requirement for two toilets has also been modified. According to officials, many resettlement colonies do not have much space.

"If the place has a single toilet and is fit to be used, we will consider it. We also decided to reduce the built-up area requirement to 40 square metres so clinics can be set up easily," added the official.

As per data provided by the government, 1,62 crore patients have visited mohalla clinics from 2015 till July 2019. Of these, 80% visitors comprised women, senior citizens and children.

In this year's budget, Rs 375 crore has been allocated for development of mohalla clinics and polyclinics.



Behind the scheme

AN AMBITIOUS initiative to change the face of primary healthcare, the project to set up Aam Aadmi Mohalla Clinics started in 2015. In 2016, the government had announced it would build 1,000 such clinics. With the process hitting a roadblock after civic agencies cited issues such as unavailability of land, blockage of water pipelines and no power supply, the government decided to appeal to the public to give them space on rent.

In Delhi for shooting competition, Bihar teen found dead in hotel room

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13

A 15-YEAR-OLD boy, who was in the capital to participate in the North Zone shooting championships, was found dead under mysterious circumstances inside the bathroom of a hotel he was staying at in South East Delhi's Pul Prahladpur.

DCP (South East) Chinmoy Biswal said the boy hailed from Bihar's Nawada and studied at a school in Dehradun. The competition is underway at Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range in Tughlakabad and the boy's event was on October 17.

"We received a call at 12.30 pm from an OYO hotel, situated

on 60 Feet Road in Pul Prahladpur. We rushed to the spot and found the boy unconscious. He was taken to Apollo Hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival. No injuries were found. We have preserved his body and a post-mortem will be conducted Monday. We have informed his family as well. Action will be taken after ascertaining the exact cause of death," he said.

Police recorded the statements of victim's roommate, team manager and hotel staff. "The boy had gone for a bath around 12.30 pm. A while later, his roommate heard him shouting. As the door was locked from inside, he immediately informed hotel staff. They entered the bathroom through a window and

found him unconscious," said a senior police officer.

Team manager of the Uttarakhand State Rifle Association Amar Singh said the boy was among 500 shooters who had come to participate in the tournament. "We had booked rooms at the OYO hotel on October 9... Apart from two players, including the boy, the rest of the team had left after participating in the tournament. I was watching a match at the range when I heard about the incident," said Singh.

"I am not aware about the exact cause of death, but the incident took place due to negligence of the hotel. If it turns out to be a case of electrocution, strict action should be taken

against them," he alleged.

When contacted, an OYO Rooms spokesperson said: "Our heart goes out to the boy and his family. The matter is currently being investigated to determine the cause of this unfortunate incident. We are fully cooperating with local police and will continue to do so in the entire process. Safety and security of guests and employees is of utmost priority at OYO."

Ashok Mittal, secretary-general of the Haryana State Rifle Association, which is organising the event, said: "The boy was in the bathroom of the hotel where he was staying when the unfortunate incident took place. We heard about it from his teammates in the evening."

After penalty warning, firm speeds up CCTV installation

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13

AFTER THE Delhi government warned Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) of imposing a Rs 16-crore penalty for "installing CCTV cameras at a slow pace", the number of new cameras installed since has risen up by three times. BEL is the executing agency in Delhi government's CCTV project.

A senior official said that between August 23, when the warning was issued, and September 23, around 33,000 cameras were installed across the city's 70 assembly constituencies. Under the project, each constituency will get 2,000 cameras. "The number of cameras that



Number of new cameras installed has risen three-fold

have been installed are about 42,000 as of today. We are hoping that BEL will complete work around the deadline of November 22," the official, who has access to the daily monitoring report of the project, said.

Daily reports regarding the project are submitted to the Chief Minister's Office. While threatening to invoke the penalty clause,

the government had said that CM Arvind Kejriwal has expressed "strong displeasure over the unjustified slow pace of work".

According to the government, BEL is under legal obligation to complete installation of CCTVs within nine months as per its agreement with the government. In case it fails to do so, it is liable to pay a 10% penalty.

The contract was awarded to BEL in November, 2018, and work was supposed to begin in February. However, the work started in June. By August 23, only 11,000 CCTVs were installed.

Meanwhile, the government has launched the second phase of its CCTV project, under which 1.4 lakh more CCTVs will be installed, with the floating of two tenders for 70,000 cameras each.

'Man beaten to death by wife for drinking'

New Delhi: Frustrated by his drinking habit, a 31-year-old woman allegedly beat her husband to death in Outer Delhi's Narela Sunday. Police said the woman, Salma, was arrested and a case of murder registered.

Police said the victim, Javed Rahman (35), allegedly came home drunk on Saturday. The couple got into a fight and Salma allegedly hit her husband with a belt. Javed was found dead by his brother in the morning. Gaurav Sharma, DCP (Outer North) said, "He was taken to a hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival."

Javed's family alleged Salma worked with DCW and would often get officials to threaten them. ADCW official, however, said she is "not an employee, only a volunteer." **ENS**

PULP FICTION

At DU, a project to preserve literature that once thrived at rly stations

ARANYASHANKAR
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13

COMIC BOOKS, newspapers and magazines — for many people, boarding a train without picking up one of these is unthinkable. Hidden in neatly arranged rows of such literature, spread out in nondescript book kiosks, is another world — that of pulp fiction. The books, mostly published locally and written in regional languages, stand out due to their colourful covers, reminiscent of Bollywood film posters of the 1970s and 80s.

This genre — a large part of which is "detective fiction" — is now being preserved by the Centre for Academic Translation and Archiving (CATA) of the English department at Delhi University.

Associate Professor Gautam Chakravarty, who is overseeing the project titled 'Street Lit', said the process of collecting books began in 2017, and the centre has collected around 200 books as of now in several languages, including Hindi, Assamese, Malayalam, Odia and Manipuri.

"Indian street literature is a largely neglected area of study, as

most academics and institutions are mainly engaged with canons. By collecting and documenting regional pulp literature, we aim to restore the cheaply printed, popular book as a significant cultural artefact, as a commodity, and also as a window into the pedestrian aspirations of a mass readership. Since libraries are generally disinclined to collect and preserve Indian regional street literature, we hope to preserve this corpus," he told *The Indian Express*.

The collection includes detective novels, magazines on everyday crimes, mysteries, horror sto-



The centre has around 200 books in various Indian languages

ries, and guide books on everything from traditional remedies,

sex and astrology. The books have been sourced from bus stations,

kiosks inside railway stations, second-hand book markets and wholesalers in cities such as Delhi, Meerut, Amritsar, Rewari, Kokrajhar, Guwahati, Kochi, Thrissur and Cuttack.

In Assamese, the centre has collected books of the Dasyu Bhaskar series, the fictional character created by Rongman (Robin Dey), which was popular in the state in the 1970s and 80s. "This popular series of novels centres around the protagonist of Dasyu Bhaskar, who fights against anti-social elements and criminals not only belonging from Assam but from around the world. In terms

of the characters, the 'Dasyu Bhaskar' series has a more Phantom-like Western flavour and has political undercurrents of indigenous Assamese people against the non-Assamese," said Chakravarty.

Similarly, in Malayalam, there are works of detective novelist Kottayam Pushpanath, whose two main lead characters are Marxin and Pushparaj, modelled around the characters of Sherlock Holmes and Hercule Poirot. In many of his stories, Marxin is usually the protagonist.

"In Odia, we have collected the 'Dasyu Ranjan' series of books

written by Pramod Kishor Panda, which was popular from the 1960s and until the 80s. All the plots revolved around the main protagonists of Dasyu Ranjan, the dacoit who performed several daring heists, and Inspector Bijay Babu, the detective who always failed to catch him by a whisker," said Chakravarty.

The Hindi titles include *Maut ki Chhaya* and *Lal Nishaan* by Surendra Mohan Pathak, *Hong Kong Mein Dakaiti* and *License to Kill* by Anil Mohan, *Gaddar Deshbhakt* and *Honour Killing* by Ved Prakash Sharma, among others.

6 GOVT & POLITICS

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2019

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



BUSY SCHEDULE

WITH PRIME Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP leadership urging party leaders in Jammu and Kashmir to focus on development activities, Ladakh MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal appears to be the busiest MP in the region. He has brought several local leaders from different parties to the BJP and has also taken a number of senior party leaders to the region to infuse confidence among the youngsters — he also got ministers who visited Ladakh to make announcements for the new Union Territory. As infrastructure in the region has not developed much, he has now launched a pilot project in four government schools — a distance learning programme for students in Classes IX and X. According to the MP, he wants to help the Union Territory to achieve Sustainable Development Goals 4 — quality education — at the earliest.

THE INTERPRETERS

THE INDIAN diplomats who worked as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's interpreters during the informal summits with Chinese President Xi Jinping at Wuhan and Mahabalipuram are R Madhusudan and Priyanka Sohoni. While Madhusudan, a 2007-batch IFS officer, was the interpreter during the Wuhan summit, Sohoni, an officer of the 2012 batch, was in the role this time. These two fluent Mandarin speakers are the only people from the Indian side aware of the conversations between Xi and Modi. While Madhusudan is currently director in Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale's office, Sohoni is First Secretary (political) at the Indian Embassy in Beijing and special assistant to Indian ambassador Vikram Misri. Interestingly, Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale was the interpreter during PM Rajiv Gandhi's 1988 China visit.

STAR EMPLOYEE

DIWALI SEEMS to have come early for a railway employee. The senior engineer of a wagon workshop in Adra in South Eastern Railway has become the toast of the organisation after winning Rs 7 crore on the TV game show Kaun Banega Crorepati. While his participation did not receive much attention, the news of him winning the huge sum has drawn the attention of senior officials in Delhi. The episode will be aired next week.



Rahul Gandhi at a public meeting at Dharavi in Mumbai on Sunday. Nirmal Harindran

Unemployment at its peak, all Modi talks about is moon: Rahul

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, OCTOBER 13

CLAIMING THAT 2,000 factories had closed down in Maharashtra owing to the economic slowdown in the country, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday said the "abysmal" condition of the economy was missing from the BJP's electoral discourse.

Referring to GST as 'Gabbar Singh Tax' and blaming the Narendra Modi government for the economic slowdown and rising unemployment, he said, "He (Modi) will talk about chand (moon), go to Corbett national park, but he will not talk about PMC Bank or impact of 'note-bandi'. Who heads the PMC Bank, will he answer?"

Speaking at Dharavi, a Congress stronghold, Rahul said unemployment in the country was at a 40-year high. "You have seen



nothing yet. If the economy and unemployment continue to remain like this, India will burn." "Rafale mein chori ki. Poora desh jaanta hai ke Narendra Modi ne apne mitra ko madat kame mein Rafale mein chori karvayi (They committed theft in the Rafale deal. The whole country knows that Narendra Modi allowed theft to help his friend). Now Rajnath Singh goes to France. Have you seen a defence minister go to France? There is guilt, jaante hain ki isne chori ki hai. Isliye dikhana pad raha hai (They know they have committed theft, so they have to put up a show)," he said. Rahul also addressed a rally in

Chandivali on Sunday ahead of the October 21 Assembly polls.

He said that Modi has maintained silence on Nirav Modi, Lalit Modi and Mehul Choksi. "We don't make false promises, we don't do uli-seedhi baat. The Congress knows how to work together with everyone and run the country," he said.

"He (Modi) waived Rs 1.25 lakh of corporate tax for the rich, but what about small store owners?," Rahul asked. "Modiji speaks about Make in India and then goes to have tea with the Chinese president in China," he added.

"He shut down industries and stores. In Pune, look at the automobile industry, Maruti factory was forced to shut down. In Dharavi, leather industry has been destroyed. Unemployment is at its peak, and all Modiji talks about is chand," he said. "BJP is looting money from the poor and giving it to the rich... If you are Ambani,

Adani you can take whatever you want, you can take any public sector undertaking, you can take Mumbai's local train, you can take a railway station, but if you are a farmer, a small trader you won't get a rupee," he said.

"Dharavi is a symbol of India's innovation and knowledge. But Narendra Modi does not respect it, he has no faith in it. But it is Dharavi that can make India. It is Dharavi and no one else that can compete with China," he said.

He urged voters to choose Congress to improve the economic situation, reminding them of policies former PM Manmohan Singh introduced.

Also present in the rally, Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge criticised the BJP government over the trees chopped in Aarey Colony for building a Metro car shed. "Sena and BJP fight and then come together for elections. We must be aware of their tactics."

Shah targets Chavan, Pawar over corruption

MANOJ MORE SATARA, OCTOBER 13

TARGETING THE previous Congress-NCP government in Maharashtra, Home Minister and BJP president Amit Shah on Sunday asked former Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan and NCP chief Sharad Pawar where the Rs 70,000 crore that was supposed to be spent on irrigation projects during their tenure disappeared.

"Ajit Pawar spent Rs 70,000 crore on irrigation projects during the tenure of the Congress-NCP government in Maharashtra. I want to know from Prithviraj Chavan and Sharad Pawar where this money disappeared... Where did the money disappear? Where did the water go? Not a drop of water has been made available," he said at a rally in support of BJP candidates Atul Bhosale and Udayanraje Bhosale in Karad.

While Atul is contesting against Chavan from Karad South, Udayanraje is the BJP candidate in the Satara Lok Sabha bypoll.

The BJP chief also challenged Pawar to prove a "single corruption charge" against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis. "If I count corruption charges against

PMs and CMs from the Congress, it will take me more than a week..."

Referring to the scrapping of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, Shah said, "People like Prithviraj Chavan are saying the issue cannot be part of the state election campaign. I want voters to ask Chavan if he is in favour or against the abrogation of Article 370... I want to ask people whether the Kashmir issue should be part of election campaigns or not," he said.

The BJP president also spoke about the Balakot airstrikes and the surgical strikes. "During the Manmohan Singh regime, terrorists freely went on a rampage, killing our people and soldiers. Now, with the airstrike and surgical strikes, the Modi government has pushed terrorists and Pakistan on the back foot... Humme unko ghar me ghuske maara hai."

Shah said whether it was the issue of instant triple talaq or NRC, the Modi government has dealt effectively. "Who are these infiltrators? Are they relatives of Congress leaders?... The problem of insurgents will be resolved once and for all," he said.

Referring to crop damage caused by rain in Satara, Shah said the "government will do whatever is possible for the affected farmers" after the Model Code of Conduct is no longer in effect.



Home Minister Amit Shah at a rally in Pune on Sunday. Express

Andhra govt launches water grid project

Aims to provide clean drinking water to every household by 2022

SREENIVAS JANYALA HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 13

THE ANDHRA Pradesh government has launched an ambitious project to provide a drinking water connection to every household in the state by 2022.

Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Minister P Ramachandra Reddy said on Sunday that the statewide water grid project would ensure supply of clean drinking water to every household from 2022 for at least the next 30 years.

Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister Botsa Satyanarayana said groundwater levels in the state have fallen to below 1,100 feet in districts like Anantapur, Chittoor, Srikakulam and Vizianagaram. "There is an immediate need to augment water supply in many of the districts. The groundwater in Godavari districts is getting polluted due to aquaculture too. The government plans to lay a massive network of pipelines all over the state to supply clean drinking water," he said.

"Supply of water through tankers has been significantly increased in Kadapa, Chittoor, Nellore, Anantapur and Prakasam districts. The number of habitations that receive water through tankers has increased from 591 in 2011 to 6,267 habitations in 2019. Kadapa and Nellore districts face severe shortage of drinking water in the summer season. So, we have come up with this water grid plan," he said.

Under the plan, drinking water will be supplied to 46,982 rural area habitations and 99 urban area habitations. The project aims to provide 1418.49 million litres of water

EXPLAINED

Drastic dip in groundwater levels in state

DUE TO deficient rain in some districts of Andhra Pradesh, especially the Rayalaseema region, groundwater levels have dropped to extremely low levels in the last 6-7 years. The state pollution control board has also warned that due to increase in area of aquaculture, ground water has been polluted in East and West Godavari districts where fish processing units are releasing polluted water affecting the groundwater.

daily to about 110 urban local bodies in the state. Under the water grid system, water from rivers and canals would be sent to reservoirs which would then supply it to households. Botsa said the priority would be cover the Rayalaseema region, which frequently reels under water scarcity.

Officials said the water grid project is estimated to cost Rs 46,675 crore — Rs 37,475 crore is to be invested in the first phase and Rs 9,200 crore in the second phase. A loan of Rs 2,500 from Asian Development Bank will kick-start the project, officials said. The state government has decided to use Jal Jeevan and MGNREGS schemes to execute the project.

BJP releases its manifesto for Haryana polls; focus on farmers, women and SCs

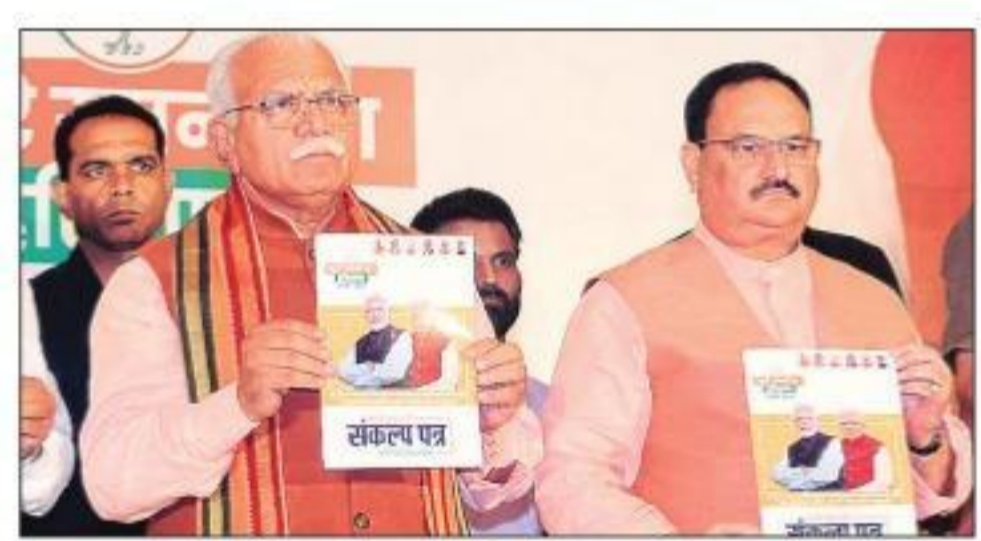
EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 13

INTEREST-FREE LOANS for farmers and people from the Scheduled Castes, free education for girls from poor families and skill training for 25 lakh youths were among the key promises in the BJP's manifesto for the Haryana Assembly polls released on Sunday.

BJP working president J P Nadda, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, state party chief Subhash Barala and several other Cabinet ministers and MPs were present at the event.

After making key announcements from the manifesto, Khattar said fulfilling all the 248 promises made will cost the state government around Rs 32,000 crore over a span of five years.

Calling the 'Sankalp Patra' a "very serious and studied document", Nadda said, "This is a practical, pragmatic paper. It is doable.



Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar and BJP working president JP Nadda release the manifesto on Sunday. Jasbir Malhi

Manohar Lal Khattar has changed the image of Haryana. It is not only cosmetic change, but fundamental change as well. The political culture of the state has been drastically changed. The image of Haryana was such that it was a synonym for corruption and nepotism. Today, Haryana is bhrashtachar-mukt, vikas-yukt."

In its manifesto, the BJP has promised to give collateral free loans of up to Rs 3 lakh to people from Scheduled Castes, interest-free crop loan of up to Rs 3 lakh to farmers and free skill training with an outlay of Rs 500 crore to 25 lakh youths as well as loans to youths for pursuing higher studies. For women, the BJP has promised a



"pink bus service", sanitary napkin-vending machines in villages and cities, self-defence training for school girls, fast-track courts to hear cases of crimes against women and a "Sushma Stree" award for women working for empowerment of women.

Opposition Congress and Jannayak Janta Party termed the manifesto a "jumla patra".

State Congress chief Kumari Selja said, "They failed to fulfill promises made earlier. How are they making new promises?"

JJP leader Dushyant Chautala said, "As many as 75 promises they made earlier remain unfulfilled and many of these have been included in this manifesto."

BYPOLLS FOR 11 UTTAR PRADESH SEATS

Oppn campaign rudderless against focused BJP

ASAD REHMAN LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 13

WITH SEVEN days to go for the by-elections to 11 constituencies in Uttar Pradesh, the BJP appears more focused in its campaigning. BSP chief Mayawati is unlikely to hit the campaign trail and the Samajwadi Party (SP) is still unsure whether party president Akhilesh Yadav will be canvassing.

Local Congress leaders are not sure whether party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will campaign. Newly appointed state Congress chief Ajay Kumar Lallu said, "We are hoping she will come. It depends on her schedule."

In contrast, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will lead the campaign for the BJP, addressing rallies in each of the 11 constituencies. State ministers, MLAs and party office-bearers have been assigned specific responsibilities

and the leaders are camping at their assigned constituencies for the last one month, state BJP vice-president and election management in-charge JPS Rathore told *The Indian Express*.

The bypolls will be held on October 21 and the results announced on October 24.

Rathore said Adityanath will address rallies in all 11 constituencies for three days starting October 15. "On October 15, the CM will address election meetings in Kanpur's Govindnagar, Chitrakoot's Manikpur, Lucknow's Cantonment and Pratapgarh's Sadar constituencies. Over the following two days, he will hold rallies in four and three segments, respectively," Rathore said.

Deputy chief ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Dinesh Sharma are already canvassing, he said. Jalalpur and Rampur seats in Ambedkar Nagar and Rampur districts, respectively, were va-



Yogi Adityanath

cated after BSP MLA Ritesh Pandey and SP legislator Azam Khan won in the Lok Sabha polls. The other seats were won by the BJP in the 2017 state polls.

Asked whether BJP's national leaders will take part in the by-election campaign, Rathore said, "The national leadership is occupied with Assembly elections in Haryana and Maharashtra."

Rathore also said, "One state minister and state unit office-bearer has been assigned a con-

stituency (each); four MLAs and as many office-bearers have been assigned to each constituency to manage election affairs. For the last one month, they are holding conventions for different groups such as youths, women and people belonging to the Dalit community in almost all constituencies."

About the main issues the BJP will bring up during the campaign, Rathore said, "Our main issue will be public welfare carried out by the state and Central governments. Then there are the issues of nationalism, including (abrogation of special status under) Article 370, surgical strikes, etc."

The SP, meanwhile, has assigned two senior leaders for organisational work in each constituency, who, a senior party leader said, are reporting to Akhilesh "directly" on the ground situation over the last one month. While a senior leader said Akhilesh will not campaign for the by-

Farm labourer hangs self in Buldhana

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BULDHANA, OCTOBER 13

FIFTEEN kilometres from where Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis addressed an election rally on Sunday in Buldhana, Rajesh Talware (38), a landless farm labourer, allegedly committed suicide by hanging from a tree.

While farmers' outfits claimed the suicide was a result of agrarian distress in the state, the district administration and the local police denied such claims.

Nirupama Dange, district collector of Buldhana, said Talware did not own any land. "The apparent cause of suicide does not seem to be linked to agriculture. He was in bad terms with his father and wife and had frequent disagreements with them," she said.

Head constable Prabhakar Bagade from Shegaon rural police station, who is investigating the case, said, "He worked as a farm labourer and his father cultivates

While farmers' outfits claimed the suicide was a result of agrarian distress, administration and police denied this

crops on an encroached piece of land. We did not find any outstanding debt he was in," he said. Talware is survived by his parents, wife and three children — two sons 13 and 12 years old and a 10-year-old daughter. Talware's wife, Bagade said, had been unwell for long and this led to problems in the family.

The proximity of the suicide spot to the place where the Chief Minister addressed a public rally created some ripples in both the BJP and the Opposition.

Also, when Talware was found hanging, he was wearing a t-shirt distributed by the BJP among its supporters during the ongoing election campaign.

BJP's win will ensure fall of Cong govt in MP: Vijayvargiya

Bhopal: Less than a week before campaigning draws to a close for the by-election to Jhabua assembly seat in Madhya Pradesh, senior BJP leader Kailash Vijayvargiya Sunday claimed BJP's victory will ensure fall of the Congress government led by Kamal Nath.

"You elect Bhanu Bhuria (BJP candidate) and we will see to it that Madhya Pradesh gets rid of Kamal Nath government," the BJP general secretary said at an election rally in Jhabua.

"Jhabua by-election will bring a crucial change in the country's politics. You have been given a responsibility to script the future of MP," Vijayvargiya said. He took out a vehicle rally in the tribal-dominated constituency on Sunday. Currently, the ruling Congress has 114 seats while the BJP has 108 in the 231-member Assembly. **ENS**

7 EXPRESS NETWORK



NORTH

Army jawan killed in ceasefire violation at Baramulla

Srinagar: An Army jawan was killed on Sunday when Pakistani troops violated the ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir, an Army official said. The Pakistani troops violated the ceasefire in north Kashmir's Uri sector by resorting to unprovoked firing

on Indian posts, the official said. The Army jawan, who was injured in the Pakistani firing, was taken to a medical facility for treatment, where he succumbed, he said. The Army is giving a befitting reply to Pakistani aggression. Pakistan Rangers also violated the along the IB in Kathua district. **PTI**



Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu participates in a motorcycle ride from Yingkiang to Pasighat, on Sunday. PTI

EAST

2 arms smugglers arrested in Bihar, 4 guns seized

Munger: Two arms smugglers were arrested on Sunday and four firearms were recovered from their possession in Bihar's Munger district, police said. They were arrested from Morcha Tola under the jurisdiction of Naya Ramnagar police station during a drive against arms smugglers and criminals, a police officer said.

Three country-made pistols and a rifle were seized from them, Maharaj said, adding that during interrogation, the accused said they used to sell firearms to Maoists. They used to sell a firearm for Rs 15,000-20,000. People have been asked to get in touch with the police if they have any information regarding smugglers, the DIG said. **PTI**

WEST

One dead, five injured in fire in Mumbai building

Mumbai: One person died and five others were injured after a fire broke out in a building in Girgaon area on Sunday. The deceased was identified as Uttam Kumar (22), who worked as a labourer in one of the shops in the building. The fire broke out at 6 am in the four-storey building. Two firemen were injured during rescue opera-

tions. The fire brigade was able to rescue 10 people from the building. Sources said the fire spread due to combustible material, including mobile phones in shops, as well as other electronic items. The fire officials were able to arrest the conflagration by evening and had started cooling operations on Sunday night. **ENS**

SOUTH

Maneater captured after 5-day operation in Bandipur

Bengaluru: The search for a tiger involved in the deaths of two farmers on the fringes of the Bandipur Tiger Reserve, on the Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border, ended on Sunday with Karnataka forest officials capturing the tiger alive after a five-day operation. "The tiger was shot with tranquilizers and captured alive," said Karnataka

Forest Minister C C Patil. The tiger is being moved to the Mysore zoo to be kept in captivity officials said. Drone cameras, six elephants, and nearly 140 camera traps were deployed by the Karnataka forest department to find the tiger suspected to have killed two farmers since September on the fringes of the Bandipur Tiger Reserve. **ENS**

BENGAL TRIPLE MURDER

Teacher's friend, who was his business partner, under probe

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA & ATRI MITRA
JIAGANJ, OCTOBER 13

A FRIEND and business partner of Bandhu Prakash Pal, who was found murdered with his wife and five-year-old son in West Bengal's Jiaganj, is under the scanner of investigators probing the triple murder case.

Pal's relatives have accused Souvik Banik, a resident of Rampurhat town in Birbhum district, of being involved in the crime. According to police sources, Banik has a history of duping people after taking money from them in the name of business investments and chain marketing systems.

Pal (40), a primary school teacher also involved in a networking-based business, his wife Beauty (30) and their son Angan (5) were found murdered at their home in Lebu Bagan, Jiaganj, on Tuesday.

Banik and several others have been detained and are being interrogated. Raids have also been conducted in areas near Rampurhat to nab the assailants, who may have been hired for the murders.



Investigators at the scene of the crime in Jiaganj, Murshidabad district, on Sunday. Partha Paul

"A number of people, including Pal's relatives, have been questioned and he (Banik) is among them. We have found that the victim not only gave cash to this person, but also money loaned against his wife's account. This led to altercations between them. This person (Banik) has a record of duping people in the name of business investments and chain marketing. However, he is only one of the leads we are following. We will crack the case soon," said a police officer.

Police sources said Banik and

Pal were partners in various marketing chains. Pal gave Banik Rs 7 lakh borrowed from the market at high interest rate and Banik did not return it, said the sources.

Sources said Banik used to frequent Pal's house and got his wife Beauty to open three bank accounts. Loans were taken against these accounts with Pal as guarantor and that sum too was taken by Banik, police sources said.

"Two years ago, Pal went with his family to his in-laws', also residents of Rampurhat, and

Banik was called there. He was asked to return the money and this led to an altercation," said a police officer.

Police have also found that Banik owed money to several others, including a woman from whom he took Rs 10 lakh for investment in a drinking water plant. The woman had lodged a police complaint.

Beauty's brother, Sakshi Gopal Mondol, said, "I had told my brother-in-law to avoid Banik. He is a dangerous man and has connections with anti-social elements. But my brother-in-law did not listen."

Pal's cousin, Bandhu Krishna Ghosh, was called by police and Banik was brought face to face with him and questioned.

"Banik was the business partner and one of my brother's closest friend. He used to take loans from the market and give money to Banik. I asked him why my brother gave him money regularly when his own financial condition was poor. Banik lied to police about the amount my brother gave him," Ghosh said, adding, "After the murder, Banik disappeared. Why would a friend hide? We believe he is the key to all this."



Security personnel check a vehicle in Srinagar. Shuaib Masoodi

Low-intensity blast in Budgam, no casualty

ADIL AKHZER
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 13

MILITANTS ON Sunday carried out a low-intensity explosion in central Kashmir's Budgam district, J&K Police said. There was, however, no loss of life or any damage due to the explosion that took place in an abandoned vehicle, said police.

"Terrorists today carried out a low-intensity explosion at Wathoora-Dooniwara road near Sheikhpora in District Budgam. The low-intensity explosion was carried out by the terrorists in an abandoned vehicle. No loss of life or injury was reported in this incident. Officers from the local police station attended the terror crime spot," police said in a statement on Sunday.

Soon after the blast, the area was cordoned off and senior of-

ficers reached on the spot. The blast came close on the heels of a grenade attack by militants in Srinagar, which left seven people injured. On Saturday afternoon, militants lobbed a grenade at the Hari Singh High street area of Srinagar.

With shops and business establishments still closed, roadside vendors have put up stalls in some parts of Srinagar, including the Hari Singh High street area. The attack on Saturday triggered panic in the area and not many vendors turned up on Sunday.

"Many people were setting up stalls here for the last many days. But after yesterday's attack, the number is less today," said Ali Mohammed, a vendors at Jehangir Chowk, located close to the site of attack. Security forces had deployed more personnel in the area on Sunday.

'WHAT DID GANDHIJI DO TO COMMIT SUICIDE'

Gujarat govt pulls up school panel for 'absurd' questions

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, OCTOBER 13

THE GUJARAT government has initiated action against the examination committee of Sufalam Shala Vikas Sankul group of schools in Mansa taluka of Gandhinagar, over two controversial questions in the internal examinations of Class 9 and 12 held on Saturday.

The questions asked in Gujarati were: "What did Gandhiji do to commit suicide" and "Write a complaint to district police on the increasing menace of liquor sale and people who drink in your area" in dry Gujarat.

"We have decided to serve a notice to the Sankul. Both questions are not only absurd but also causing negative psychological impact on students," Education Minister Bhupendrasinh Chudasama told *The Indian Express*.

The Sufalam Shala Vikas Sankul in Mansa taluka is a group of 33 grant-in-aid and three self-financed secondary and higher secondary schools.

It has one examination committee that sets the question paper and undertakes the evaluation process. It has nearly 3,000 students in Class 9 and 12.

However, Sankul convenor SP Patel said, "The reference to the question on Gandhiji's thought on committing suicide is there in the Gujarat State School Textbook Board (GSSTB) curriculum textbook. Also it is there in his auto-

The Sufalam Shala Vikas Sankul is a group of 33 grant-in-aid and three self-financed secondary and higher secondary schools

biography Satya na Prayogo. So we do not see anything wrong in this question."

On the question on liquor sale and consumption in the dry state, Patel admitted that it was asked under the application format category.

"We have called a meeting of the examination committee tomorrow (Monday) morning where the teacher who set the question paper has also been asked to be present. We follow the rules laid down by the Gujarat Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board in conducting examinations," he added.

Gandhinagar District Education Officer (DEO) Bharat Vadher said, "A legal process has been initiated and the notice has been prepared. Today being Sunday, the notice will be served to the examination committee of the Sankul tomorrow."

"One of the education inspectors has been asked to investigate the paper-setter to find out how these questions were a part of the examination. We are also inquiring if these questions are a part of the curriculum or not," added the DEO. The report is expected to be submitted after one week.

LEASING OF 3.9 & 04 TONNES BG COMPARTMENT OF FRONT LWLRM, FRONT SLRS & REAR SLR IN MAIL/EXPRESS & PASSENGER TRAINS

Tender Notice C/24 of 2019 Dated: 10.10.2019. Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Northeast Frontier Railway, Lumding Division, Lumding, Assam-782447, for and on behalf of the President of India invites open tender in sealed cover from interested Registered Lease holder(s) of Category 'A' & 'B' of N.F. Railway Head Quarters or Lumding Division for leasing of 3.9 & 04 tonnes BG compartments of Front LWLRM, Front SLRS & Rear SLR for carrying of parcel packages by Mail/Express & Passenger Trains, originating from Lumding Division of N.F. Railway. The carrying capacity (CC) of all SLR compartments (Front & Rear) is 04 tonne & the CC of all LWLRM (Front) is 3.9 tonne. The period of contract is 05 (Five) years only from the date of awarding the same to the successful bidder(s).

Sl. No.	Train No & Name	Station	Days of run	Available space for lease	Reserve Price (In Rs)
1.	15666 Dn B. G. Express	Dimapur	Guwahati	Daily	FSLR-II 1960
2.	15665 Up B.G. Express	Guwahati	Dimapur	Daily	FSLR-I 3880
3.	15670 Dn Nagaland Express	Dimapur	Guwahati	Daily	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 1960
4.	55903 Up Mariani Passenger	Dimapur	Mariani Jn.	M, Tu, W, Th, F, Sa	FSLR-I 1480
5.	55901 Up TSK Passenger	Lumding	Lumding	Daily	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 4680
6.	55602 Dn GHY Passenger	Lumding	Guwahati	Daily	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 1640
7.	55601 Up GHY- LMG Passenger	Guwahati	Lumding	Daily	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 1640
8.	15770 Dn LMG-APDJ Intercity	Lumding	Alipurduar Jn.	Daily	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 5800
09.	12510 Dn Bangalore Express	Guwahati	Bangalore Cant	Su, M, Tu	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 24640
10.	12514 Dn SC Express	Guwahati	Secunderabad Jn.	Th	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 22560
11.	15646 Dn Dadar Express	Guwahati	Lokmanyatilak	W, Su	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 22560
12.	15648 Dn Dadar Express	Guwahati	Lokmanyatilak	Tu	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 23360
13.	15636 Dn Dwaraka Express	Guwahati	Okha	M	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 25880
14.	15653 Dn Amarnath Express	Guwahati	Jammu Tawi	W	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 21760
15.	15651 Dn Lohit Express	Guwahati	Jammu Tawi	M	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 21480
16.	15632 Dn BKN/BME Express	Guwahati	Barmer	Th, Sa	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 22080
17.	12346 Dn Saraihat Express	Guwahati	Howrah Jn	Daily	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 11240
18.	12501 Dn Poorvattar S Kranti Express	Guwahati	New Delhi	W, Sa	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 18680
19.	55754 Dn Siftung Passenger	Guwahati	Alipurduar Jn.	Daily	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 5640
20.	55804 Dn GHY-NBO Passenger	Guwahati	New Bongaigaon	Daily	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 1760
21.	55810 GHY-NBO Passenger	Guwahati	New Bongaigaon	Daily	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 1480
22.	55818 Dn GHY-NBO Passenger	Guwahati	New Bongaigaon	Daily	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 1480
23.	55802 Dn Manas Rhino Passenger	Guwahati	New Bongaigaon	Daily	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 1480
24.	15717 Up GHY-MXN I/C Exp	Guwahati	Mariani Jn	Daily	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 5280
25.	55615 Up GHY- SCL Fast Passenger	Guwahati	Silchar	Daily	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 5040
26.	55616 Dn SCL-GHY Passenger	Silchar	Guwahati	Daily	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 5040
27.	15605 Up GHY- DBRG I/C Express	Guwahati	Dibrugarh	Daily	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 6600
28.	15603 Up LLO Intercity	Guwahati	Ledo	Daily	FSLR-I 3400
29.	15611 Up GHY - SCL Express	Guwahati	Silchar	M, Th, Sa	FSLR-I 2520
30.	15612 Dn SCL- GHY Express	Silchar	Guwahati	Su, W, F	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 2520
31.	15617 Dn Donyi Polo Express	Guwahati	Naharlagun	Daily	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 4680
32.	55820 Dn GHY-MNDP Passenger	Guwahati	Mendipathar	Daily	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 1320
33.	55676 Up DMR-AGTL Passenger	Dharmanagar	Agartala	Daily	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 1360
34.	55680 Up DMR-AGTL Passenger	Dharmanagar	Agartala	Daily	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 1360
35.	55679 Dn AGTL-DMR Passenger	Agartala	Dharmanagar	Daily	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 1360
36.	55675 Dn AGTL-DMR Passenger	Agartala	Dharmanagar	Daily	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 1360
37.	55678 Dn DMR-SCL Passenger	Dharmanagar	Silchar	Daily	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 1200
38.	55677 Up SCL-DMR Passenger	Silchar	Dharmanagar	Daily	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 1200
39.	55662 SCL- MSSN Passenger	Silchar	Maishashan	M, Tu, W, Th, F, Sa	FSLR-I 880
40.	55661 MSSN-SCL Passenger	Maishashan	Silchar	M, Tu, W, Th, F, Sa	FSLR-I 880
41.	55686 SCL-MSSN Passenger	Silchar	Maishashan	M, Tu, W, Th, F, Sa	FSLR-I 880
42.	55685 UP MSSN-SCL Passenger	Maishashan	Silchar	M, Tu, W, Th, F, Sa	FSLR-I 880
43.	12508 Dn SCL- TVC Aronai Express	Silchar	Thiruvananthapuram Central	Thu	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 29480
44.	12516 Dn SCL- TVC Express	Silchar	Thiruvananthapuram Central	Tu	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 29480
45.	15601 Dn P.S.K. Express	Silchar	New Delhi	M	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 21120
46.	15943 Dn SCL-DBRG Brahmaputra Express	Silchar	Dibrugarh	Tu	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 3160
47.	13176 Dn SCL-SDAH Kunchan Junghe Express	Silchar	Sealdah	M, W, F	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 14480
48.	55663 Dn AGTL- SCL Passenger	Agartala	Silchar	Daily	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 3880
49.	55664 Dn SCL-AGTL Passenger	Silchar	Agartala	Daily	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 3880
50.	13174 Dn AGTL-SDAH Kanchanjunga Express	Agartala	Sealdah	Su, Tu, Th, Sa	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 15880
51.	14019 Dn Tripura sundari Express	Agartala	Anand Vihar Terminal	Th	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 22080
52.	15626 Dn Deoghar Express	Agartala	Deoghar	Sa	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 7680
53.	13247 Dn KYO-RUPB Capital Express	Kamakhya	Rajendranagar T	Tu, W, Th, F	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 5400
54.	55812 KYO-DBB Fast Passenger	Kamakhya	Dhubri	Daily	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 2120
55.	15815 Dn KYO-DKGN I/C Express	Kamakhya	Dekargaon	Daily	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 1640
56.	19710 Dn KYO- JP Kavirgu	Kamakhya	Udaipur City	Th	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 22840
57.	15772 Dn KYO-APDJ I/C Express	Kamakhya	Alipur Duar Jn.	Daily	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 2240
58.	15630 SHTT-TBM Nagaon Express	Silghat Town	Tambaram	Fri	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 36920
59.	55603 Up GHY-MBO Kalongpar Passenger	Guwahati	Mairabari	Daily	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 1520
60.	55604 Dn MBO-GHY Kalongpar Passenger	Mairabari	Guwahati	Daily	FSLR-I, FSLR-II & FSLR-III 1520
61.	55682 AGTL -BENA Passenger	Agartala	Belonia	M, Tu, W, Th, F, Sa	FSLR-I 1000
62.	55684 AGTL -BENA Passenger	Agartala	Belonia	M, Tu, W, Th, F, Sa	FSLR-I 1000
63.	55681 BENA-AGTL	Belonia	Agartala	M, Tu, W, Th, F, Sa	FSLR-I 1000
64.	55683 BENA-AGTL	Belonia	Agartala	M, Tu, W, Th, F, Sa	FSLR-I 1000
65.	19306 Dn KYO-INDB Express	Kamakhya	Indore Jn Bg	Su	FWLRRM 20592
66.	15624 Dn KYO- BGKT Express	Kamakhya	Bhagat Ki Kothi	F	FWLRRM 21762
67.	15644 Dn KYO-PURI Express	Kamakhya	Puri	Th	FWLRRM 15639
68.	15640 Dn KYO-PURI Express	Kamakhya	Puri	Su	FWLRRM 7539
69.	15662 Dn KYO-RNC Express	Kamakhya	Ranchi	Tu	FWLRRM 12987
70.	15668 Dn KYO-GIMB Express	Kamakhya	Gandhidham Jn	W	FWLRRM 37479
71.	15620 Dn KYO-GAYA Express	Kamakhya	Gaya Jn	M	FWLRRM 11544
72.	20501 Dn AGTL-ANVT Rajdhani Express	Agartala	Anand Vihar Terminal	M	FWLRRM 31824
73.	12520Dn KYO-LTT AC Express	Kamakhya	Lokmanyatilak	M	FWLRRM 21996
74.	12505 Dn Northeast Express	Kamakhya	Anand Vihar Terminal	Daily	FWLRRM 17550
75.	15655 Dn KYO -SVDK Express	Kamakhya	Shmata Vd Katra	Su	FWLRRM 10998
76.	13181 SHTT - KOAA Kaziranga Express	Silghat Town	Kolkata	Tue	FWLRRM 12519
77.	12085 Up GHY-DBRG Shatabdi Express	Guwahati	Dibrugarh	Tu, Th, Sa	FWLRRM 11322
78.	12088 Dn GHY-NHLN Shatabdi Express	Guwahati	Naharlagun	M, W, F	FWLRRM 8541

N.B: Earnest Money Deposit for each 3.9 & 04 tonnes compartment mentioned in Sn.01 to Sn.78 is Rs. 1, 00,000/- (Rupees One Lac only). Tender form can be obtained from the Office of the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Lumding, N. F. Railway; Assistant Commercial Manager, Guwahati, N. F. Railway and Area Office, Badarpur, N. F. Railway during working hours from 10:00 hrs. of 15.10.2019 & up to 13:00 hrs. of 13.11.2019 on every working day. **Tender can be dropped in the Tender Box** kept at the offices of the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Lumding, N. F. Railway; Assistant Commercial Manager, Guwahati, N. F. Railway and Area Office, Badarpur, N. F. Railway from 10:00 hrs. of 15.10.2019 up to 17:00 hrs. of 13.11.2019. **Tender Box will be opened at 11:00 hrs of 15.11.2019** at Senior Divisional Commercial Manager's office, Lumding. The Tender form can also be obtained by downloading it from the website www.nfr.indianrailways.gov.in



Northeast monsoon onset on Oct 17: IMD

ANJALI MARAR
PUNE, OCTOBER 13

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Sugandha Garg D/o Sanjeev Garg and Ex. Wife of Rushil Bansal, R/o 343, Homeland Enclave, Goniara Road, Bathinda, Punjab-1581001, declare that I got divorce from my husband Rushil Bansal vide court decree CRN NO-DMC-638/2016, Dated 22.05.2017. Further I have changed the name of my minor daughter Tanaaya aged 3 years and she shall hereafter be known as Anyza. 0070678568-1

I, Sudhanshu S/o HariPrakash Sharma R/O H.No. 686, Nai Basti , Delhi Village New Delhi 110080 have changed my name to Sudhanshu Sharma for all purposes. 0040515831-1

I, Shama Parveen W/o Mohd Anis Qureshi R/O Flat No.B-8/4, DDA Flats Sarai Khali Sadar Bazar Delhi-6 have changed my name to Uzma for all purposes. 0040515793-1

I, Rita Rani, w/o Shri Avinash Choudhary, r/o 244, Street No-14, Balbir Nagar Extn. Shahdara, Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Rita Choudhary for all future purpose. 0040515791-1

I, Pravin Singh Salaria/Paravin Singh S/O Prabhat Singh Salaria R/O-Plotno.260, D-Block, Rajeev-Nagar, Begumpur, Delhi-110086. Changed my Name to Pravin Salaria. 0040515852-6

I, Mukesh Ranjan S/O Anuj Kumar Singh R/O Village-Bali, Post-Aspdah, Block-Warisaliganj, Subdivision-Nawada, Bihar-805108, that name of my mother has been wrongly written as Shobha Singh in my Passport J9760325 and School Certificates of 10th, 11th and 12th class. The actual name of my mother is Shobha Sinha 0070678565-1

I, Mayank Agarwal S/O Amar Chand Agarwal R/O Ew-6, Ground Floor Backside, Mainwali-Nagar, Paschim-Vihar, Delhi-110087. Changed my Name to Mayank Aggarwal. 0040515852-7

I, Kiranpreet Sethi W/o S. Ravneek Singh R/O FD-15, Shivaji Enclave, New Delhi-110027, have changed my name to Kiranpreet Kaur Viridi for all purposes. 0040515798-1

I, Jyoti, w/o Shri Neeraj Arya, r/o D-80, Rameshwar Park, Loni, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201102, have changed my name to Jyoti Arya for all future purpose. 0040515790-1

I, Naseema alias Naseema Khanam D/o Mubarak Ali R/O G-655, Gama-2, Greater Noida, GB Nagar, UP-201310, have changed my name to Naseema Khanam. 0070678567-1

I, Munna Lal S/o Sh. Raja Ram R/o-24/84, Trilokpur, Delhi-110091, have changed my name to Genda Lal for all future purposes. 0040515852-5

I, Indra Kanwar w/o Lt Gen Harbans Singh Kanwar residing at 666, Sec 21, Gurgaon, have changed my name to Indu Kanwar for all purposes. My actual and correct date of birth is 21.04.1949 vide affidavit Dt 09/10/19 sworn before notary Baljeet Singh Sangwan, Gurgaon. 0050156556-1

I, Gagandeep Bhatia S/o Ramanjeet Bhatia R/O J-111, Patel Nagar-I, Ghaziabad have changed my father's name from Ramanjeet Bhatia to Ramanjeet Singh Bhatia for all future purposes. 0040515852-4

I, Dimple alias Shreya Mehta D/o Pawan Kumar and W/o Rahul Mehta R/O 106, Sector 21B, Gandhi Nagar, Mandi Gobindgarh, Fatehgarh Sahib, Punjab-147301, have changed my name to Shreya Mehta. 0070678571-1

I, Vandana W/o Sidharth Nandal R/O-Ward-No.9, Pratap School Campus, Kharkhoda, Sonapat Haryana (Pin-131402), have changed my name Vandana Dahiya for all purpose. 0040515839-1

I, Nitish Chandra R/o B-29, Sector-52, Noida, G.B.Nagar, U.P have changed the name of my minor daughter from Nitya to Nitya Srivastava, for all purposes. 0040515850-3

PROPERTY FOR SALE

Duplex DDA Flat, 3 Bedrooms, 3 Large terraces, 2nd Floor, Siddharth Enclave, (Ashram Chowk) Metro Station. Buyers Only. (98114 18182, 98499 09712) 0050156412-1

BUSINESS

Dowsing Workshop - School of Indian Dowisers' 163rd Workshop on 3 November & Lecher Antenna Cosmic Energy Workshop on 14, 15 December in Mumbai. Dowsing gives direction on how to learn Architectural Energy, Land Defect, Diagnostic Therapy, Colour, Dimonds' Energy, Effect of Underground Geopathic Stress for our health. Get free from Underground Radiation & Live Healthy Life. Become Certificateholders & earn more income. Guidance by world famous Dowsing Expert Professor Ravi Vaidya. Contact Mob : 9821349038 / 9821380289 / See feedback of 150 photos on website www.indiandowisers.org Earn more income. 0070678425-2

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-Tender Notice

Dhanbad, dt. 10/09/2019 E-Tenders are invited for execution of the following works by Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), E.C. Railway, Dhanbad:- (1) E-Tender No. 329-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period : (Balance work) : Construction of remote control center at Chopan under Assistant Engineer, E. C. Ry., Chopan. 06 (Six) Month. Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.) : 1,68,98,380.97, Earnest Money (In Rs.) : 2,34,500/- (2) E-Tender No. 330-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period : Resurfacing of wheel burnt rails and scabbled rails, cupped welds on using Micro Flow Thermal Spray technology as approved by RDSOLKO in the jurisdiction of AEN/2/GMO under Sr. Divisional Engineer (S) E.C. Ry., Dhanbad. 06 (Six) Month. Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.) : 2,16,36,953.21, Earnest Money (In Rs.) : 2,58,200/- (3) E-Tender No. 331-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period : Extended portion and additional work of LHS No.40/C/E (PTRU-TKS), 41/C/E (TKS-HNDR), 2/C/E (GHD-TRZ), 6/C/E (KFT-RHR), 7/C/E (KFT-RHR), 10/C/E (DFO-KFT), 11/C/E (DFO-KFT), 12/C/E (DFO-KFT), 15/C/E (KCKI-CNF), 45/C/E (HHG-CPDR), 41/C/E (BFQ-KMND), 32/C/E (RCGT-DMX) and 29/C/E (CTO-RCGD) total thirteen (13) Nos. between Ex PTRU-GHD station against 3rd line work under ADEN/BRKA, ADEN/LTHR and ADEN/ITO, E.C. Railway in Dhanbad Division. 09 (Nine) Months. Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.) : 16,82,56,239.06, Earnest Money (In Rs.) : 9,91,300/- (4) E-Tender No. 332-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period : Making ease in access to south side of Dhanbad station under Assistant Engineer (I), E. C. Ry., Dhanbad. 12 (Twelve) Months. Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.) : 1,80,18,669.40, Earnest Money (In Rs.) : 2,40,100/- (5) E-Tender No. 333-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period : Periodical painting of Bridge Girders of Bridge No.153, 160, 167, 200(RUB), 206 and 229 under Sr. Engineer/Bridge/Dhanbad in Dhanbad Division. 06 (Six) Month. Approx. cost of work (In Rs.) : 10,63,011.74, Earnest Money (In Rs.) : 21,300/- (6) E-Tender No. 334-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period : Provision of inspection platform and ladder in Bridge No.11(3x12.20M), 14(ROB), 16(1x18.30M),17(ROB), 22(4x 12.20M), 31 (4x76.20M) ,32(5x30.50M), 35(5x18.30M), 40(1x18.50M), 42(1x30.50m) , 55(2x12.20M), 80(1x24.0M), 81(2x30.50), 108(2x12.20M), 127(2x18.30), 146(3x12.20M), 149(RUB)(1x2x45.70M), 153(4x12.20M), 156(1x21.0), 160(4x18.30), 167(1x18.30) , 200(RUB) (1x45.70M), 206(5x 30.50M), 229(1x30.50+1x 45.70 + 1x30.50M) under SSE (Bridge)/Dhanbad in Koderma-Hazaribagh Town-Barkakana section of Dhanbad Division. 06 (Six) Month. Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.) : 1,08,99,630.86, Earnest Money (In Rs.) : 2,04,500/- (7) E-Tender No. 335-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period : Provision of 04 Nos. lifts for passenger application in Dhanbad Division (GMO-2 Nos. & PNME-2 Nos.). 06 (Six) Month. Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.) : 98,63,354.88, Earnest Money (In Rs.) : 1,97,300/- (8) E-Tender No. 336-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period : Improvement of cutting in Ghat Section in the section of Assistant Engineer, E. C. Ry., Gujhandi. 10 (Ten) Months. Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.) : 2,78,07,105.49, Earnest Money (In Rs.) : 2,89,000/- (9) E-Tender No. 337-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period : Provision of intake well alongwith supporting arrangement for pipe line and laying of pipeline from intake well at Tilaiya Dam to Koderma railway station under Assistant Engineer, E. C. Ry., Gujhandi. 09 (Nine) Months. Approx. cost of work (In Rs.) : 8,00,45,635.94, Earnest Money (In Rs.) : 5,50,200/- (10) E-Tender No. 338-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period : Re-conditioning of CMS Crossings by using Translaminar Robotic Welding Technology in the section of Sr.DEN/2/ECR/DHN. 08(Eight) Months. Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.) : 87,67,256.40, Earnest Money (In Rs.) : 1,75,300/- (11) E-Tender No. 339-DHN-2019-20, Name of the work with its location & completion period : Provision of 02 Nos. lifts for passenger application in Dhanbad Division (DHN-2 Nos.). 06 (Six) Month. Approx. Cost of work (In Rs.) : 49,31,677.44, Earnest Money (In Rs.) : 98,800/- Date & Time for closing and opening of e-tender: Date of closing of e-tender at 17:00 hours on 12.11.2019. Date of opening of e-tender from 12:00 hrs. on 13.11.2019. Website particulars: <http://www.reps.gov.in>. No manual tender will be accepted against e-tendering. PR/1488/DHN/Engg./T/19-20/136 Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering), Dhanbad

SOUTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION NOTICE INVITING TENDER

No.-D/EE-(M-III)/SDMC/2019-20/TC/12 Dated:- 11.10.2019

South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) invites Tenders from eligible Contractors/Agencies for the work as per details given under :-

Name of Work:- (1). Improvement of Road by pdg RMC from H.No. WZ-67A Gurunank Nagar to WZ-118/3 Santgarh (Tyagi Road) in ward 013-S/WZ Tilak Nagar. (2). Improvement of Road by pdg RMC from H.No. WZ-69 Old Shah Pura to WZ-35D Prithvi Park & from WZ-42 to WZ-40 Prithvi park & WZ-50A Prithvi Park to Tilak Vihar School in ward 013-S/WZ Tilak Nagar. (3). Improvement of lane by pdg CC Paver Block from H.No. WZ-66 to WZ-63 (Gali No. 26) and from WZ-75 D to WZ-274F (Gali No.33) in Santgarh in ward 013-S/WZ Tilak Nagar. (4). Improvement of lane by pdg CC interlocking tiles from H.No. WZ-40 to WZ-176B (Gali No.8) in Guru Nanak Nagar & WZ-80B to WZ-75B/1 (Gali No.27) in Santgarh & WZ-124 to WZ-129 in Old Shah Pura and WZ-960 to WZ-964-965 in Guru Nanak Nagar in ward 013-S/WZ Tilak Nagar. (5). Improvement of lane by pdg CC interlocking tiles from H.No. WZ-120D to WZ-128 (Gali No.29) in Santgarh and from H.No. WZ-300A to WZ-285 & WZ-30C to WZ-68B/1 (Gali No.2) in Guru Nanak Nagar in ward 013-S/WZ Tilak Nagar. (6). Improvement of lane by pdg CC interlocking tiles from H.No. WZ-57 to WZ-193 & WZ-41 to WZ-48 (Gali No.6) in Guru Nanak Nagar and from H.No. WZ-159 to WZ-163 (Gali No.4A) in Old Shah Pura and from WZ-32A to WZ-35D (Gali No.6) in Prithvi Park in ward 013-S/WZ Tilak Nagar. (7). Improvement of lane by pdg CC interlocking tiles from H.No. WZ-50/1 to WZ-10B (Gali No.24) in Santgarh & WZ-171 to WZ-175 (Gali No.3A) in Old Shan Pura and H.No. WZ-325 to WZ-30 (Gali No. 18) in Santgarh in ward 013-S/WZ Tilak Nagar. (8). Improvement of lane by pdg CC Paver Block from H.No. WZ-107 to WZ-90 (Gali No.12) in Old Shah Pura & WZ-59A to WZ-58 (Gali No.5) in Santgarh & WZ-112 to WZ-29 in Prithvi Park in ward 013-S/WZ Tilak Nagar. E.C.- Rs. 1,41,63,000/-, EM- Rs. 2,83,000/-, HOA- XL-VIII-S(d), TC- Rs. 1000/-

Name of Work:- (1). Construction of walk way and imp to boundary wall of park near Hs No. 24/27 Tilak Nagar by providing kerb stone, interlocking tiles, Grit wash & improvement to park near Hs No. 7/39 & 13/36B Tilak Nagar by providing concertina coil fencing & imp to side berm Near Hs no. 1/30 Tilak Nagar in Ward No. 013-S/WZ Tilak Nagar. (2). Imp of footpath by pdg Kerb stone, interlocking tiles in park near Super market and opp. SDMC Staff Quarters, Ashok Nagar in Ward No. 013-S/WZ Tilak Nagar. (3) Construction of boundary wall of park near Hs No. 7/10 Tilak Nagar by providing Grit Wash and Brick work in Ward No. 013-S/WZ Tilak Nagar. (4) Construction of walk way in park near Hs No. 55G Block Tilak Vihar by providing kerb stone, interlocking tiles and improvement to walkway in park near Hs. 52A in D-Block Tilak Vihar by providing interlocking tiles and improvement to boundary wall of park near Hs No. 34A in C-Block Tilak Vihar in Ward No. 013-S/WZ Tilak Nagar. (5) Construction of walk way by providing kota stone & interlocking tile in park near H.No. 60/8 Ashok Nagar in Ward No 013-S/WZ Tilak Nagar. (6) Construction of walkway and imp of boundary wall of park near Hs No. 18/5 to 18 Block tilak Nagar by pdg Kerb stone, interlocking tiles, grit wash in Ward No. 013-S/WZ Tilak Nagar. (7) Construction of walkway and imp of Boundary wall of park near Hs. No. 12/46 Tilak Nagar by pdg. Kerb Stone, Interlocking tiles in ward No. 13-S/WZ Tilak Nagar. (8). Construction of Footpath inside park, 7m high MS Jaal for Sports area inside park and Enclosure track with SS Railing in Mother Dairy Park Opp. D-106 Ajay Enclave in Ward 013-S/WZ Tilak Nagar. (9). Providing and placing of Precast RCC Benches (Chair Bench with Arm Rest) in Various locations, Parks, Streets under AC-29 in Ward No. 12-S, 13-S, 14-S West Zone. E.C.- Rs. 1,11,95,900/-, EM- Rs. 2,24,000/-, HOA- XL-VIII-S, TC- Rs. 1000/-

Name of Work:- (i) Imp/Dev of lane and both side drain by pdg RMC brick work, from C-69 to C-59 and C-33-34 to C-46 C-Block Arya Samaj Road in 018-S Milap Nagar. (ii) Imp/Dev of lane and both side drain by pdg RMC brick work, from C-39 to C-145, C-26 to C-45, C-Block Arya Samaj Road in 018-S Milap Nagar. (iii) Imp/Dev of lane and both side drain by pdg RMC brick work, from C-40 to WZ-144C and D-125 to D-129 Arya Samaj Road in 018-S Milap Nagar. (iv) Imp/Dev of lane and both side drain by pdg RMC brick work, from WZ-37 to B-114 Arya Samaj Road in 018-S Milap Nagar. (v) Imp/Dev of lane and both side drain by pdg RMC brick work, from A-113 to A-122 (Gali No. 39) Arya Samaj Road in 018-S Milap Nagar. (vi) Imp/Dev of lane and both side drain by pdg RMC brick work, from F-6 to F-52 (Gali No. 6) and F-3 to F-64 (Gali No. 7) F-Block Arya Samaj Road in 018-S Milap Nagar. (vii) Imp/Dev of lane and both side drain by pdg RMC brick work, from F-2 to F-59 (Gali No. 8) and F-1 to F-70 (Gali No. 9) F-Block Arya Samaj Road in 018-S Milap Nagar. (viii) Imp/Dev of lane and both side drain by pdg RMC brick work, from F-1 to F-45 F-Block Arya Samaj Road in 018-S Milap Nagar. (ix) Imp. Of drainage system from Sonia Studio (E-142) to Goel Sons (F-146A) Arya Samaj Road in Ward No. 018-S Milap Nagar. (x) Improvement/Development of lane and both side drain by pdg RMC, brick work from WZ-43A to RZ-38 (gali No 13) Prem Nagar in 018-S Milap Nagar. (xi) Improvement/Development of lane and both side drain by pdg RMC, brick work from RZ-65 to RZ-57 (gali No 16) Prem Nagar in 018-S Milap Nagar. (xii) Improvement/Development of lane and both side drain by pdg RMC, brick work from RZ-75 to RZ-70 (gali No 17) Prem Nagar in 018-S Milap Nagar. (xiii) Improvement/Development of lane and both side drain by pdg RMC, brick work from RZ-76 to RZ-84 (gali No 20) Prem Nagar in 018-S Milap Nagar. (xiv) Improvement/Development of lane and both side drain by pdg RMC, brick work from C-70 to C-39 & C-69 to C-75 C Block Jeewan park in 018-S Milap Nagar. E.C.- Rs. 1,22,09,100/-, EM- Rs. 2,24,000/-, HOA- XL-VIII-S, TC- Rs. 1000/-

Detailed NIT/Eligibility Conditions can be seen on www.tenderwizard.com/SOUTHDMCETENDER. All details of revision, clarification, corrigendum/addendum, time extension etc, if any in respect of above tenders will be uploaded on about mention website. Bidders should regularly visit the website to keep themselves updated in respect of these tenders. Ro No. 72/DPI/S/19-20 Ex. Engineer (M-III)/WZ



ON VALMIKI JAYANTI

Congress president Sonia Gandhi inaugurates a 'Shobha Yatra' on the occasion of Mahatma Jyoti Bapu Jayanti in New Delhi on Sunday. *Remuka Pari*

JHANSI 'ENCOUNTER'

Pushpendra grandmother dies, kin say she couldn't bear shock of his death

AMIT SHARMA MEERUT, OCTOBER 13

A WEEK after 28-year-old Pushpendra Yadav was killed in an alleged police encounter in Jhansi, his 85-year-old grandmother died on Sunday. Her family alleged that she died as she could not bear the news of her grandson's death and had stopped eating from the past few days.

Pushpendra's father, Harish Chandra Yadav, said that though his mother was not keeping well for some time after she broke her leg a few months ago, it was the shock of her grandson's death that killed her.

"Initially, we did not tell her about Pushpendra's death as we knew she would not be able to cope with the loss. But she kept on asking where is Pushpendra. Around four days ago, she came to know about his death. After that, she had stopped eating

Pope elevates Indian nun Mariam Thresia, four others to sainthood

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA VATICAN CITY, OCTOBER 13

INDIAN NUN Mariam Thresia and four others were declared Saints by Pope Francis at a canonisation ceremony at the St Peter's Square here on Sunday.

Mariam Thresia, who founded the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family in Thrissur in May 1914, was raised to the highest position within the centuries-old institution during the open-air mass attended by thousands from across the world, including India.

The nun from Kerala was canonised along with English Cardinal John Henry Newman, Swiss laywoman Marguerite Bays, Brazilian Sister Dulce Lopes and Italian Sister Giuseppina Vannini. Huge portraits of the five new Saints were hung from St Peter's Basilica during the ceremony that lasted nearly two hours. The ceremony included a Latin hymn and a recommendation by a representative of the Congregation for the Saints. "Today we give thanks to the Lord for our new Saints. They walked by faith and now we invoke their intercession," Pope Francis told the gathering. "Three of them were religious women; they show us that the consecrated life is a journey of love at the existential peripheries of the world."

Minister of State for External Affairs V Muralideharan led the Indian delegation at the canonisation ceremony. As a tribute to her, he recalled the words of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his 'Mann Ki Baat' radio programme on September 29. The Prime

TSRTC driver succumbs to burns as strike enters ninth day

Hyderabad: A 55-year-old TSRTC driver died on Sunday, a day after he set himself ablaze, even as the strike by the transport employees in Telangana entered the ninth day. D Srinivas Reddy, who was part of the group of employees on a state-wide strike for the last nine days, died of burn injuries, hospital sources here said. He had doused himself with kerosene and set himself ablaze near his house in Khammam, about 190 km from here, reportedly in protest against the government not acceding to the demands of striking employees. However, police said they were investigating the reason behind his suicide. Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy condoled the death. "Suicide is not the solution," he added. PTI

Talks fail, HAL workers go on strike from today over wage issues

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU, OCTOBER 13

WITH EFFORTS by the management of the defence public sector unit Hindustan Aeronautics Limited to resolve wage issues raised by unions at the company failing on Sunday, workers are set to begin an indefinite strike at HAL units across the country from Monday.

"Despite the management's concerted efforts towards bringing an amicable/early wage settlement, unions unfortunately have adopted a recalcitrant approach and did not accept the offer and decided to resort to indefinite strike; in spite of management's appeal to resolve the issue in a spirit of accommodation," HAL said in an official statement on Sunday.

"All the workmen in all the HAL divisions will be commencing their indefinite strike with effect from October 14, 2019 as decided earlier," said Suryadevara Chandrashekhara, general secretary and chief convener of the All India HAL Trade Unions' Co-ordination Committee, on Sunday.

The umbrella body of trade unions at the defence public sector had served a notice on September 30 to the management of the strike from October 14 at HAL's nine units around the country following breakdown of talks for revision of wages of nearly 20,000 workers.

The HAL management has called the strike illegal and warned of national security implications in the event of the All India HAL Trade Unions Co-ordination Committee proceeding with the proposed indefinite strike.

Prasad withdraws remark linking success of movies to economic slowdown

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13

FOLLOWING A backlash over his comment that the box office success of three movies in one day invalidates claims of an economic slowdown, Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad on Sunday withdrew his comment with a statement on Twitter.

Stating that his comments about the Rs 120 crore business of three movies released on October 2 "was a factually correct statement", he tweeted, "I had also explained in detail about various measures the Govt has taken as a pro-people move to strengthen our economy. Govt of PM Narendra Modi always cares for the sensitivity of com-

TN: CBDT seizes Rs 30 crore from educational institutes group

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHENNAI, OCTOBER 13

THE CENTRAL Board of Direct Taxes on Saturday seized Rs 30 crore from the premises of a group that runs several educational institutes in Namakkal.

According to a statement by the CBDT, searches were carried out from Friday across 17 locations of the group, including the homes of the group's promoters in Namakkal, Perundurai, Karur and Chennai. The group runs several schools and coaching institutes for competitive exams.

According to CBDT, the group was taking a part of the fee from students in cash and maintaining separate receipts. "Incriminating evidence of such suppression of receipts has been found... in the form of accounts maintained in diaries, in electronic storage devices and also in the form of huge sums of unaccounted cash. It was found that cash was kept in lockers in banks in the names of employees who acted as benami..." the statement said. According to the statement, a large amount of cash was found inside an auditorium in one of the group's schools.

‘Mentally unstable’ man lodged in Assam detention camp dies

ABHISHEK SAHA GUWAHATI, OCTOBER 13

A 65-YEAR-OLD man lodged in a detention camp for illegal migrants in Assam — whose family claims he was mentally unstable — died at the Guwahati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) on Sunday where he had been admitted for treatment due to "deteriorating health", police and family members said.

A senior police officer said the deceased, Dulal Paul, a resident of Alisha village of Sonitpur district, was admitted to the GMCH on September 28. The officer said Paul had been in the detention centre in Tezpur since October 11, 2017.

Sadhan Paul, a nephew of Dulal, said, "He was mentally unstable... His siblings and their families are in the NRC. Our family has land documents dating back to the 1960s. A mentally unstable person was put into detention." Currently, Assam has six detention centres but they are housed in district jails, together they hold 1000-odd people. A seventh centre, is under construction in Goalpara district.

THIS WORD MEANS

PLOGGING

What PM tweeted about: picking up litter while jogging

DURING HIS morning walk on a beach in Mamallapuram on Saturday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was seen picking up plastic litter, bottles and other items. In a tweet shortly after, Modi announced: "Plogging at a beach in Mamallapuram. It lasted for over 30 minutes."



PM Narendra Modi plogs on the beach on Saturday. Twitter via PTI

"Plogging" is a combination word formed from 'jogging' and 'plocka upp', which is Swedish for 'pick up'. It refers to an emerging international trend, in which someone picks up trash while jogging or brisk walking as a way of cleaning up litter while also taking care of fitness.

The trend was started in Sweden by Erik Ahlström in 2016. During his commute to work, Ahlström would frequently come across litter that would remain on the streets for weeks without anyone picking it up. This prompted him to pick up the trash during his commute and dispose of it. Eventually, he included the clean-up in his daily running and exercise routine.

Thanks to social media and word of mouth, it has gradually turned into an international movement involving both fitness and environmental enthusiasts. Several groups have popped up across Europe, the US, South America, Asia and Africa. In India, the government organised the Fit India Plog Run on October 2,

as part of the Fit India Movement launched by the Prime Minister on August 29. In his *Mann Ki Baat* address on September 29, PM Modi urged people to start plogging for a litter-free India.

According to Ahlström, plogging for half an hour will burn at least 288 calories on an average as compared to 235 calories from regular jogging.

ABHIMANYU CHAKRAVORTY

SIMPLY PUT

Why Lok Sabha is still 543

Amid a renewed debate on rationalising the number of seats, a look at how Lok Sabha's composition is determined, when the number of seats was changed, and why the count now stands frozen until 2026

RITIKA CHOPRA
 NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13

LAST WEEK, former Union Minister and Congress leader Jitin Prasad said the number of Lok Sabha seats should be rationalised on the basis of population. The composition of the lower House has remained more or less the same for four decades. How is the composition determined, and what are the arguments for and against a change?

Strength of Lok Sabha

Article 81 of the Constitution defines the composition of the House of the People or Lok Sabha. It states that the House shall not consist of more than 550 elected members of whom not more than 20 will represent Union Territories. Under Article 331, the President can nominate up to two Anglo-Indians if he/she feels the community is inadequately represented in the House. At present, the strength of the Lok Sabha is 543, of which 530 have been allocated to the states and the rest to the Union Territories.

Article 81 also mandates that the number of Lok Sabha seats allotted to a state would be such that the ratio between that number and the population of the state is, as far as possible, the same for all states. This is to ensure that every state is equally represented. However, this logic does not apply to small states whose population is not more than 60 lakh. So, at least one seat is allocated to every state even if its population-to-seat-ratio is not enough to qualify it for that seat.

As per Clause 3 of Article 81, population, for the purpose of allocation of seats, means "population as ascertained at the last preceding census of which the relevant figures have been published". In other words, the last published Census. But, by an amendment to this Clause in 2003, the population now means population as per the 1971 Census, until the first Census taken after 2026.

When it was changed

The strength of the Lok Sabha hasn't always been 543 seats. Originally, Article 81 provided that the Lok Sabha shall not have more than 500 members. The first House constituted in 1952 had 497. Since the Constitution provides for population as the basis of determining allocation of seats, the lower House's composition (total seats as



EVMs and VVPATs in Gautam Buddha Nagar, for the Lok Sabha elections earlier this year. Praveen Khanna/Express Archive

well as readjustment of seats allocated to different states) has also changed with each Census up to 1971. A temporary freeze was imposed in 1976 on 'Delimitation' until 2001. Delimitation is the process of redrawing boundaries of Lok Sabha and state Assembly seats to represent changes in the population.

However, the composition of the House did not change only with delimitation exercises in 1952, 1963, 1973 and 2002. There were other circumstances as well. For instance, the first change in the composition of Lok Sabha happened in 1953 after the reorganisation of the state of Madras. With a new state of Andhra Pradesh carved out, 28 of Madras's 75 seats went to Andhra Pradesh. The total strength of the House (497) did not change.

The first major change took place after the overall reorganisation of states in 1956, which divided the country into 14 states and six Union Territories. This meant subsequent changes in the boundaries of existing states and hence, a change in the allocation of seats to the states and Union Territories. So with reorganisation, the government also amended the Constitution by which the maximum number of seats allocated to the states remained 500, but an additional 20 seats (also maximum limit) were added to

represent the six Union Territories. So the second Lok Sabha elected in 1957 had 503 members. Further down the years, the lower House's composition also changed when the state of Haryana was carved out of Punjab in 1966 and when Goa and Daman and Diu were liberated in 1961 and merged with the Indian Union subsequently.

When it was frozen, and why

As per Article 81, the composition of the Lok Sabha should represent changes in population. But it has remained more or less the same since the delimitation carried out based on the 1971 Census. Why is it so?

The population-to-seat ratio, as mandated under Article 81, should be the same for all states. Although unintended, this implied that states that took little interest in population control could end up with a greater number of seats in Parliament. The southern states that promoted family planning faced the possibility of having their seats reduced. To allay these fears, the Constitution was amended during Indira Gandhi's Emergency rule in 1976 to suspend delimitation until 2001.

Despite the embargo, there have been a few occasions which have called for readjustment in the number of Parliament and

Assembly seats allocated to a state. These include statehood attained by Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram in 1986, the creation of a Legislative Assembly for the National Capital Territory of Delhi, and creation of new states such as Uttarakhand.

Although the freeze on the number of seats in Lok Sabha and Assemblies should have been lifted after the Census of 2001, another amendment postponed this until 2026. This was justified on the ground that a uniform population growth rate would be achieved throughout the country by 2026. So, the last delimitation exercise - started in July 2002 and finished on May 31, 2008 - was conducted on the basis of the 2001 Census and only readjusted boundaries of existing Lok Sabha and Assembly seats and reworked the number of seats reserved for SCs and STs.

With the total seats remaining the same since the 1970s, it is felt that states in north India, whose population has increased faster than the rest of the country, are now under-represented in the Parliament. It is frequently argued that had the original provision of Article 81 been implemented today, then states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh would have gained seats and those in the south would have lost some.

TELLING NUMBERS

The link between owning a dog and living longer, newly studied

A NEW study and a separate meta-analysis, published in the American Heart Association's journal, suggest dog ownership may be linked to a longer life and better outcomes for those who have suffered heart attacks or strokes, especially when they live alone.

Researchers compared outcomes of dog owners with those of non-dog owners after they had suffered a heart attack or a stroke. Of 1.82 lakh individuals who had suffered a heart attack, roughly 6% owned dogs; of 1.55 lakh who had suffered a stroke, about 5% were dog owners.

All the patients were Swedish residents. Using Swedish national health data, the researchers compared the health outcomes of dog owners and non-owners after a heart attack or stroke. They found the risk of death following hospitalisation was lower for dog owners, and suggested that this is likely due to increased physical activity and decreased loneliness.

Heart attack patients

33% lower risk of death for dog owners as compared to non-owners,

among those who lived alone following hospitalisation.

15% lower risk of death for dog owners, among those who lived with a partner or child after hospitalisation.

Stroke patients

27% lower risk of death for dog owners as compared to non-owners, among those who lived alone following hospitalisation.

12% lower risk of death for dog owners, among those who lived with a partner or child following hospitalisation.

The meta-analysis covered 10 studies published between 1950 and May 2019, which together covered 38 lakh people and evaluated dog ownership and all-cause mortality. This analysis found:

24% reduced risk of all-cause mortality among dog owners, as compared to risk of non-owners;

65% reduced risk of mortality after heart attack among dog owners;

31% reduced risk due to cardiovascular-related disease among dog owners, as compared to non-owners.

Source: American Heart Association



SHYAMLAL YADAV
 NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13

ON FRIDAY, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal addressed a conference in Denmark through videoconferencing, with the Centre having denied clearance to a trip abroad.

Why clearance

For a foreign trip, public servants need political clearance from the External Affairs Ministry. Amid the controversy around Kejriwal's visit, Ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar had said, "We get hundreds of requests for political clearances every month from ministries, secretaries and bureaucrats. A decision is taken based on multiple inputs... It takes into account the nature of the event... It takes into account the level of participation from other countries and also

the kind of invitation that is extended."

Since 2016, applications for political clearance can be made online, on a portal opened by the Ministry. These are processed and clearance issued through coordination among various Ministry divisions.

Previous CMs denied

During the previous UPA regime, the External Affairs Ministry denied political clearance for trips by then Chief Ministers Tarun Gogoi (Assam, Congress) to the US and Israel, and to Arjun Munda (Jharkhand, BJP) to Thailand. Gogoi had wanted to visit New York for a "high level meeting" on April 2, 2012; a note from the Ministry said "...direct correspondence by a diplomatic Mission with a State Government being inappropriate". About his proposed trip to Israel for an event on water and environment technology, the Ministry had said, "Concerned agen-

cies would be hard put to provide special consideration for CM, Assam, both from the substantive and protocol angles."

Debate over protocol

On June 14, 2014, then Civil Aviation Secretary Ashok Lavasa (now Election Commissioner) wrote to then Cabinet Secretary Ajit Seth that the "dilatatory system" of the External Affairs Ministry clearing all proposals for travel abroad by officials should be changed. Seth forwarded the letter to the Ministry; then Foreign Secretary Sujatha Singh wrote back on August 13, 2014. She stressed it was the Ministry's prerogative to decide on the suitability, desirability and level of participation of Indian officials in engagements abroad.

Other clearances

While all public servants need political clearance for foreign trips, different officers

need different additional clearances. Chief Ministers, state ministers and other state officials also need clearance from the Department of Economic Affairs. For Union ministers, after getting political clearance from the External Affairs Ministry, additional clearance is needed from the Prime Minister, whether the trip is official or personal. Lok Sabha MPs need clearance from the Speaker, and Rajya Sabha members from the Chairperson (Vice President of India). For various ministry officers up to Joint Secretary level, clearance is given by the minister concerned, after political clearance. For those above that rank, the proposal needs approval of a screening committee of secretaries. Rules vary according to the duration of the visit, the country to be visited, and the number of members in a delegation. If the foreign trip involves the hospitality of organisations other than those of the UN, then FCRA clearance is needed from the Home Ministry.

The mysterious golden ratio: why is it everywhere, now in human skull?

KABIR FIRAQUE
 NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13

FOR CENTURIES, the golden ratio has fascinated all kinds of people, not just mathematicians. Physicists and biologists have studied it, architects and artists have used it, and worshippers have described it as a divine design. And through the centuries, the golden ratio has continued to amaze its diverse fans, frequently cropping up at unexpected places.

The latest such place is the human skull. If we draw an arc across the top of the skull and divide it at a key junction over the brain, the two arc-segments are approximately in the golden ratio. This feature was studied recently by researchers of Johns Hopkins University, US, who have reported their findings in *The Journal of Craniofacial Surgery*.

Just a ratio, yet special

The golden ratio can be defined in terms of a line, divided into two unequal segments in a way that their lengths meet a simple condition. When the ratio between these two lengths (the longer segment divided by the shorter one) happens to be the same as the ratio between the entire line and the longer segment, then the line is said to be divided in the golden ratio (see illustration).

For this condition to hold good, the ratio

needs to be 1.61803... with the digits after the decimal going on forever; the golden ratio is what we call an "irrational number". It is represented by the Greek letter phi.

Why should such a ratio be considered special? Aesthetic appeal is among the first of many reasons. Architects such as Le Corbusier have consciously proportioned their works to the golden ratio, or close. So have artists such as Salvador Dalí and Leonardo da Vinci, whose fascination with the golden ratio features in the novel *The Da Vinci Code* and the film based on it.

Interpretations of the golden ratio have not always been objective. Some have related it to their idea of aesthetic beauty in facial proportions, using the golden ratio to describe Audrey Hepburn's face as perfection, and Marilyn Monroe's as close.

The fact remains, however, that the golden ratio frequently shows itself in nature, whether directly or indirectly (through its cousins called the Fibonacci numbers). To cite a few examples, the golden ratio appears in the seeds of sunflowers, the scales of pineapples, the arrangement of petals on a rose, DNA structures, the anatomy of the heart — and has now turned up in the human skull.

The newest appearance

In the days before computerised scans became the norm, neurosurgeons would

WHAT IT MEANS, WHERE IT HAS SHOWN UP

1: THE GOLDEN RATIO
When a line is divided into two unequal segments, they are in the golden ratio if they satisfy the equation shown (above).

2: THE HUMAN SKULL
In the arc drawn over the skull (right), the two segments as demarcated by the bregma are in the golden ratio.

Source: Johns Hopkins University

themselves carry out measurements on the skulls of their patients. One such measurement is the distance from the base of the nose (nasion) to the bump at the back of the head (inion).

Measuring this arc in his patients, Dr Rafael J Tamargo of Johns Hopkins observed a trend. At a junction called the bregma, which is the meeting point of two important connective tissue joints, the arc was di-

vided into two sub-arcs that respectively accounted for 61.8% and 38.2% of the total arc length.

Tamargo realised that these fractions were in the golden ratio. "That's how my interest started," he said over the phone.

For the new study, Tamargo and colleague Dr Jonathan A Pindrik, his co-author, examined the head CAT scans of 100 patients. Indeed, they found, the two sub-arcs

on either side of the bregma are in a ratio that approximates the golden ratio.

Only in humans

For comparison, Tamargo and Pindrik carried out the same measurements in 70 skulls of six other mammals, part of the collection of the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History in Washington DC. This time, the division was

not in the golden ratio of 1.61.

Yet a trend appeared to emerge here too. The closest to the golden ratio was found in the skulls of lions (measured ratio 1.74), followed by tigers (1.77), before deviating further and further for rhesus monkeys (1.86), domestic dogs (1.91), blue monkeys (1.95) and finally eastern cottontail rabbits, in whose skulls the ratio was a distant 2.25.

In the limited sampling, it appeared that the more sophisticated the mammal, the closer the measured ratio was to the golden ratio. It is unclear, the research paper said, why the golden ratio emerges in the human skull and not in those of lower mammals.

The mystery endures

The golden ratio is alternatively called the golden mean and the divine ratio. Its frequent appearances in nature have driven claims that it is the work of a divine design. With its emergence in the human skull, can it fuel further the idea that the ratio has mystical attributes? Tamargo described that as a difficult question to answer.

"I am limiting myself to reporting what I have found. But I think it is unavoidable to wonder why this number appears in nature so frequently," he said. He described various examples of its appearance, then added: "Some people have said that this ratio may be the signature of God in nature."



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY
RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

AFTER MAMALLAPURAM

The longer Delhi takes in getting its own act together, the harder its China challenge gets

INCREMENTAL PROGRESS and sustained dialogue have been the main features of the engagement between the leaders of the two countries since the late 1980s, when the two sides began to normalise the relationship that went into a deep chill following the border clashes of 1962. A third feature of recent times, marked by increasing tensions between the two countries on a range of issues, has been the strong political commitment of the two sides to prudently manage their differences and prevent them from becoming disputes. The second informal summit at Mamallapuram near Chennai, between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Chinese leader Xi Jinping, has followed a similar script. And if you are a diplomat, you might add a fourth feature to India-China political encounters. An air of informality has begun to leaven the dull rigidity that used to define them. Modi, always insistent on adding some colour to diplomatic events and holding them outside Delhi, took Xi to Ahmedabad in 2014, Goa in 2016, and now to Mamallapuram.

The Modi-Xi summit that took place amidst the visual beauty of Mamallapuram was, of course, not expected to produce big breakthroughs. The leaders don't negotiate on complicated issues but only review the state of the relations, set a direction to their ministers and officials. Given the depth of differences on the boundary dispute, Kashmir, China's protection to Pakistan against international pressures on dismantling its terror infrastructure, and Beijing's opposition to Delhi's membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, it was entirely reasonable for the two leaders to focus on areas that are amenable to progress. One of those areas is economic cooperation. Following the discussion on India's concerns about trade deficit that has reached unsustainable levels, Xi has agreed to set up a high-level political mechanism to find ways to enhance India's access to China's market. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will lead the Indian side.

According to the Indian officials, there was no discussion on other controversial issues such as Kashmir that are troubling the relationship so deeply today. Before the summit, Delhi had affirmed that the issue is an internal one and the PM will not engage on Kashmir unless Xi raised it. Delhi's strategy, quite clearly, is not to get rattled or complain about China's harmful actions, but to look for advances in the bilateral relationship wherever possible. On the face of it, India's approach seems to impose few costs on China. Implicit in this strategy, however, is the proposition that Delhi will do what it needs to counter Beijing's unhelpful moves. This, in turn, demands an active effort to reduce the widening power gap with China. Put another way, diplomacy alone can't resolve India's China challenge; it can at best manage it for the moment. The answer lies in accelerating India's own economic development, modernising its security structures, and strengthening cooperation with neighbours and building strong partnerships with major powers. The longer Delhi takes in getting its act together, the harder the challenge gets and less credible its feel-good engagement with China.

IN HIS COMPANY

A new report confirms men continue to dominate India Inc. Private sector needs to do more to ensure diversity, equality

INTERNATIONAL societies were brands, "diversity" would certainly be the buzzword for India. But so would hierarchy and inequality. The CS Gender 3000 report, released last week by the Credit Suisse Research Institute, is yet another pointer to the woeful lack of equal or even adequate representation of women in the upper echelons of corporate India. According to the report, India's female representation on corporate boards has increased by 4.3 percentage points over the past five years to 15.2 per cent this year. But this growth is well below the global average of over 20 per cent. India also has the third-lowest rank in the Asia Pacific region with regard to female chief executive officer representation (2 per cent), as well as the second-lowest rank for female chief financial officer representation at just 1 per cent.

The Credit Suisse report merely confirms what has long been known anecdotally: Apart from a few high-profile corporate leaders, by and large, the upper echelons and even senior management positions in the private sector continue to be dominated by men. In fact, at the time of intake, there is far greater gender parity, but the number of women reduces exponentially as we move higher on the pyramid of corporate hierarchy. The report, which surveyed 3,000 companies across 56 countries, also found that, globally, the number of women in leadership has doubled — a fact that makes India's poor performance all the more stark. The countries that lead the table — Norway, France, Sweden and Italy, for example — either have formal quotas or informal targets for gender parity in place. India's private sector, though, has long resisted government-imposed quotas for affirmative action.

Since Independence, various attempts have been made to resolve the contradiction between India's diversity and its inequality, from reservation in government jobs and educational institutions, to the 25 per cent quota for students from economically weaker sections in private schools. The private sector's resistance to legislation that circumscribes it in matters of hiring and promotion is understandable. Yet, there can be no case for the continuing glass ceiling that women, as well as other marginalised social groups, face, at different levels and in several arenas. Given that the private sector — formal and informal — accounts for over 95 per cent of the labour force, corporate leaders and boards must seriously consider institutionalised mechanisms to ensure diversity and equality. Any case for government regulation is best stymied by proactive action from companies themselves. And, in an era that values innovation and new perspectives in business more than ever before, keeping half the population from roles that could allow them to change the nature of India Inc can only be counterproductive in the long run.

FREEZE FRAME

E P UNNY



SANJAYA BARU

EVERY PRIME minister since Rajiv Gandhi has tried to bridge the trust deficit between India and China first created by the 1962 war. No one has had to do this more than Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the era of not just 24x7 television but instant social media coverage. Diplomatic engagement of this sort in these times has perforce to be a spectacle. If the Howdy Modi "walkaround" with United States President Donald Trump was one kind of spectacle, the "talkathon" at Mahabalipuram with Chinese President Xi Jinping was of another kind. However, it would be mistaken and churlish to view these events as mere spectacles. Prime Minister Modi has mastered the art of in-your-face diplomatic engagement not just in the world of new and instant media, but one that is increasingly characterised by a multipolar balance of power.

The 1962 war was caused in part by differences over delineating the border between two newly created republics. It was also occasioned by Jawaharlal Nehru's hubris and Mao Zedong's desire to show India its place. Resolving the border issue is key to bridging the trust deficit. However, over the years, two other issues have come up — China's relations with Pakistan and the large deficit in bilateral trade.

Responding to India's closer relations with the US, at a time when US-China relations have deteriorated, China has developed its own risk-mitigation strategy by strengthening its partnership with Pakistan. While India does not appreciate the China-Pakistan nexus, it also recognises the fact that China is not the only country that uses Pakistan to keep India off balance. All major powers have done so, and continue to do so.

If India can warm up to a Trump who is willing to chat up Imran Khan and flirt with the Taliban, why should it get all shirty with a Xi who does the same? Pakistan offers itself willingly to the highest bidder. No one will help India remove Pakistan from its equation with the world if India itself will not do enough to achieve that objective.

A second factor that added to the trust deficit has been the trade deficit. While India supported China's membership of the

Mahabalipuram dialogue was part of a striving for more balanced India-China ties

Over the past decade, India has slowly come to terms with the widening power differential with China and is building defences to deal with it. The best defence remains a stronger, more productive and competitive economy built on the foundations of a better educated and skilled people. While India does its homework, stable and predictable relations with China would help. Through the Wuhan and Mahabalipuram conversations, and others that will follow, India seeks precisely this objective.

World Trade Organisation, it feels China used the multilateral trade regime to acquire access to the Indian market without providing equal access to China's. This is only partly correct. India's inability to export more to China is part of an overall lack of global competitiveness that requires solutions at home. However, by erecting non-tariff barriers in products where India has a competitive edge, China has contributed to a view in India that it seeks to "de-industrialise" India. In contributing to this view, China has politicised an essentially economic issue. The new high-level bilateral economic and trade dialogue agreed to at Mahabalipuram should help bridge this deficit.

India's priority in seeking good relations with China is no different from her interest in seeking good relations with other global powers — to secure a global and regional environment conducive to India's own economic development.

When Chinese interlocutors have sought my explanation for closer US-India relations I have always insisted that India seeks the same level of engagement with the US that China already has — given the US's more developed business-to-business and people-to-people relations with China.

Despite the trade war, the US still buys more from China than from India. Better US-India government-to-government relations are a more recent phenomenon triggered by China's rise, the challenge of jihadi extremism and the prosperity of Indian Americans in the US. It remains to be seen how invested the US would be in India's long-term rise.

Over the past decade, India has slowly come to terms with the widening power differential with China and is building defences to deal with it. The best defence remains a stronger, more productive and competitive economy built on the foundations of a better educated and skilled people. While India does its homework, stable and predictable relations with China would help. Through the Wuhan and Mahabalipuram conversations, and others that will follow, India seeks precisely this objective.

Many Indian analysts object to China's

unhelpful role in India's desire to seek membership of the United Nations Security Council and the Nuclear Suppliers' Group.

But China is not the only major power that likes to keep the door to exclusive clubs closed to aspiring members. As for India's membership of NSG and the nuclear deal, US support was entirely due to President George W Bush Jr who over-ruled naysayers within his own administration and the US Congress to favour India.

If Modi can turn Xi into a friend, like Manmohan Singh turned Bush around, China too may change its stance. Which is why the new informal format for the Modi-Xi dialogue is important. It is President Bush who wiped out decades of distrust between India and the US. Can Xi do that for India-China relations? Trust between nations must begin at the very top.

By speaking of a "hundred year plan" for cementing relations between two ancient civilisations, Chinese President Xi Jinping has made two points. First, he situated the current phase within the long history of our civilisational engagement. Second, he made the important point that it would take time for a more balanced relationship to get established between China and India given the extant power differential caused by China's spectacular rise since the beginning of this century.

The next decade is, therefore, crucial for India. It has to regain economic momentum and strengthen its own human and strategic capabilities as a modern, knowledge-based nation. China's power flows precisely from these attributes.

The Modi-Xi engagement must be viewed as part of a multi-polar engagement with all major powers — including the US, European Union, Russia and Japan — aimed at enabling India's resurgence. Given Xi's 100-year perspective, both countries have to learn to live with year-to-year bumps while journeying together towards a new Asian Century.

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SAIKAT BOSE

BEFORE I MOVED to Delhi, a friend told me, "You are moving to the city of migrants and djinns". All this while I believed I am the migrant, now I am not sure.

I have been living in Delhi for over five years. I built a career here, made some of my best friends here and I love this city in a way in which I don't love my hometown. But can I prove I live here? No, I cannot. For nearly a year now, I am caught in a circular process to procure a proof of residence in this city. But for all the talk of uniting the country so that people can settle anywhere they want, our system is still tuned to exclude, not include.

I have linked my phone number to my PAN, my PAN to Aadhaar and my Aadhaar to my bank account. Every time I link two "identities", something else pops up. Every day, I, the citizen, am trusted less. But I, on the other hand, am expected to trust the government without doubt, without questions.

To open a bank account in Delhi, you need a Voter ID, an Aadhaar or a driving licence with your local address as proof of residence. Interestingly, to get your Aadhaar or Voter ID address updated or to apply for a driving licence, you need a bank statement with a Delhi address. How to get one without the other is a question there are no answers to.

Most government websites for documents like the Aadhaar mention rent agreement as an acceptable address proof, pro-

WHERE DO I BELONG?

For a migrant to Delhi, obtaining legal identity is a tough ask



When a landlord refuses rent receipts to his tenant for filing HRA claims, the latter forges his signature and makes a fake receipt. In many cases, that is his first act of fraud. If any Indian is asked what is the central question in his mind at this point, the answer, in most cases, would be linked to identity.

vided it is registered. This means it has to be made at a court. Most house owners, however, prefer a notary agreement, primarily for two reasons — it is cheaper and it has little legal value and won't help the tenant in case of a dispute. Tenants do not have much to say about this. In any case, they are not asked.

But while the government does not accept a notary rent agreement as a valid document, it does nothing to stop their use and a useless piece of paper is handed over everyday to hundreds of people.

Another document that government websites identify as a proof of residence is a landline telephone bill. A relic, the landline has a way of making us realise its importance from time to time — sometimes as a valid document and at harsher times, for its operability during a clampdown.

I happen to have a landline number from a private service provider, courtesy a broadband connection. When I offered that as a proof of residence, I was told only a BSNL landline bill would be accepted.

It was heartening to know that while the company's financial challenges and its employees' struggles to make ends meet do not receive much attention, its document continues to be held in high regard. Anyway, the private service provider's bill did not help my case.

A significant aspect of such a frustrating system is its potential to breed corruption. When an individual keeps going in circles but does not get work done, he will eventually head towards touts. When a landlord refuses rent receipts to his tenant for filing HRA claims, the latter forges his signature and makes a fake receipt. In many cases, that is his first act of fraud.

If any Indian is asked what is the central question in his mind at this point, the answer, in most cases, would be linked to identity. Who is he? Which side is he on? Where does he belong? Can he prove he belongs?

And if I, living in the capital with all means of communication at my disposal, cannot prove that I belong here, I can only wonder how those who have not heard from their loved ones in two months can feel or prove that they belong. How can those on the verge of being declared foreigners because their names are not on a list prove that they belong, to their family, state and country?

In the Smart Cities of our Digital India, papers are still believed more than voices. And, there are two places where what is written, or not written, about a person is believed more than what they say about themselves — the prison and the asylum. Don't know which one we are in.

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OCTOBER 14, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO

JANATA LOSES SIKKIM

THE SIKKIM JANATA Parishad, led by a former teacher and relentless political campaigner, Nar Bahadur Bhandari, seemed to be heading towards capturing power in the state on October 13 night with the Janata Party facing a rout in the polls. There had been widespread expectation that the Janata Party would be able to win the largest number of seats. The present trend, however, indicates that the expectation was baseless. The parishad took 11 of the 18 seats declared till late night on October 13 and inflicted a stunning blow on the Janata Party by defeating its state unit president and former chief minister, Kazi Lhendup Dorji.

KERALA GOVERNMENT

THERE WILL BE no change in the Congress decision to support the Kerala coalition headed by C H Mohammed Koya. Both the Congress president's emissary, Chandrajit Yadav, who had discussions in Trivandrum with Congress leaders and the KPCC President A K Antony, made it clear that the party stood committed to supporting the alternative government. Both the leaders, however, also said that the efforts for the unity of left-democratic forces would be pursued vigorously. Yadav told newsmen after his discussions with state leaders that "I am not persuading Congressmen in Kerala to reverse their stand. I am here only to under-

stand the situation."

PAKISTAN IS PUZZLED

OBSERVERS THINK THAT political developments in Pakistan are suspended and the nation is somewhat puzzled. Military ruler General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq's relentless efforts to ensure "positive results" have given rise to fears that parliamentary elections set for November 17 might be postponed indefinitely, the constitution abrogated and "total martial law" imposed. Pessimists see no elections forthcoming. They recall that the general had once declared if a "certain situation arose he would seek a direct vote for himself.



THE IDEAS PAGE

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The high-level visit to China by the top political and military leadership of Pakistan has yielded some positive movement in this country's attempts to draw international attention to the atrocities...in...Kashmir." — DAWN

On the edge

As world stares at recession, there is need for coordinated policies by major economies. But credibility of multilateral forums is dwindling



PRAVAKAR SAHOO

THE ANNUAL data for the last two years, and also quarterly numbers on world economy, trade and capital flows suggest that the world economy is on the edge of a recession. World GDP was at 3.8 per cent in 2017, fell to 3.6 per cent in 2018, and is now projected to be 3.2 per cent in 2019.

The two major groups — 39 Advanced Economies (AEs) and 23 Emerging Economies (EEs) — have been experiencing downturn for the last two years. While AEs are projected to grow at 1.7 per cent in 2019 from 2.4 per cent in 2017, EEs are set to experience 3.8 per cent growth in 2019 from 4.8 per cent in 2017. Though the IMF projects a better picture for AEs (3.5 per cent) and EEs (4.5 per cent) in 2020, it is difficult to predict given the geo-political uncertainty, escalating trade war between US and China, and lack of consensus among the G-7 and G-20 member countries to push world trade and growth. Investors are worried about the slump and that is clearly reflected in capital flows and stock markets across the countries.

Growth and trade go hand in hand. In fact, the spectacular growth of the world economy between 2003-2008 till the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) was well supported by world trade. However, world trade growth has been shrinking since 2017 — it fell to 3.7 per cent in 2018 from 5.5 per cent in 2017 and is projected at 1.6 per cent in 2019. The growth of trade volume for AEs is projected to be 1.6 per cent in 2019 from 4.4 per cent in 2017 whereas for EEs trade is expected to grow at 1.5 per cent in 2019 from 7.4 per cent in 2017. Though the IMF has forecasted an upward projection for world trade in 2020, there is great uncertainty due to the ongoing US-China trade war.

Individually, the world's top 10 economies are slowing down. While the US, the largest economy of the world, has a projected growth of 2.3 per cent in 2019 from 2.9 per cent in 2018, China is growing at its slowest pace in the last three decades — thanks to the US-China tariff war affecting trade worth billions of dollars. Though different factors have been at play resulting in slow growth in each of these big economies, a global slump in the manufacturing sector, weak global sales in automobiles and electronics, and a drop in business confidence — owing to uncertainty in trade and investment — are facilitating the continuous slide.

For example, Germany, the world's fourth largest economy, relies heavily on automobile exports to the US and China. The British economy is shrinking mainly because of the fears of a chaotic Brexit without cutting a deal to protect its trade. Italy's downward trend is due to high unemployment, weak productivity, huge debt and regular political upheavals. Brazil is undergoing high unemployment and weak industrial production.

As the US-China tariff war is escalating — especially in the last few months

with both countries resuming and dropping the bilateral talks intermittently — the world economy is undergoing immense uncertainties. And, as Bloomberg reports, this uncertainty could lower world GDP by 0.6 per cent by 2021. A solution to the tariff war looks like a bleak possibility — even as the US puts conditions on China, such as resolving the mass protests in Hong Kong. The protests, on since June 2019 in Hong Kong, Asia's financial hub, are denting the confidence of investors and businessmen. Hong Kong's GDP and exports have been worst affected in FY 2019 due to setbacks in Asian manufacturing, trading and investment.

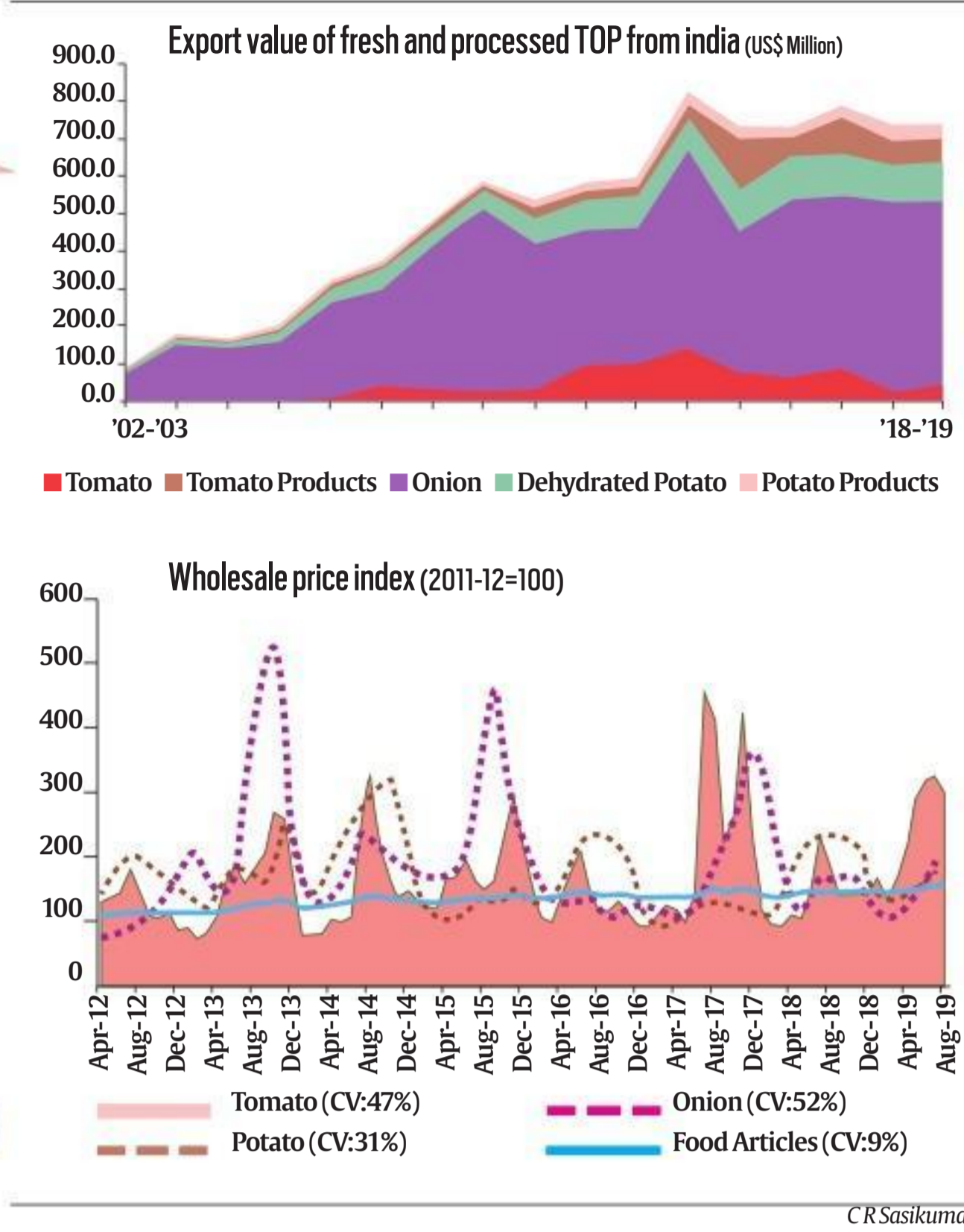
Further re-imposition of US sanctions on Iranian oil not only affected Iran's economy and price levels, leading to a weak currency, but it also led to disruptions in the supplies of oil and oil price volatility. Both India and China, the two largest energy consuming countries in the world, are badly affected, as both countries are among the largest importers of Iranian crude on favourable terms. All these uncertainties are supplementing the already existing difficult situation in the Indian economy, that is, lack of aggregate demand. Though the US-China tariff war gives an opportunity for Indian exports to export more to both countries, we have failed to capitalise so far.

In such a scenario, when the world economy is staring at a recession, it is increasingly important to strive for international cooperation through forums like the G-7 and the G-20 to revive world trade and growth, like they did after GFC. Though the G-7 leaders called for boosting globalisation through efficient and fair trade, there is no such commitment to arrest protectionist measures. In fact, they also expressed concern on how to safeguard the rule-based trading system led by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) through reforms and modernisation, improve intellectual property protection and a quicker settlement of trade disputes.

Crucially, the G-7 leaders made a commitment to reach an agreement that simplifies regulatory barriers to trade and modernises international taxation within the framework of the OECD in 2020. The US and China, at the G-7 forum, also recognised the importance of bilateral talks to resolve trade issues rather than slamming tariffs on the opposing country or by pressurising businesses of the home country by withdrawing operations from the opposing country.

The world economy is on the edge of a recession that can affect the standard of life of billions of people through jobs, wages, price stability and uncertainty. Though it is not a crisis situation like 2008, there is an urgent need for international cooperation for globalisation, resolution of trade conflicts and the peaceful resolution of geo-political uncertainties. Moreover, there is a need for coordinated fiscal and monetary policies by major economies, like the G-20 members adopted after GFC. But unfortunately, the credibility of even the G-20 and WTO is at stake. So who is going to save the world economy?

The writer is a professor at Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), Delhi University



Time to TOP up

Tomatoes-onions-potatoes face extreme price volatility. Addressing it requires sustainable solutions, not temporary ad hoc measures



FROM PLATE TO PLOUGH
BY ASHOK GULATI AND HARSH WARDHAN

LAST MONTH, ON September 13, when onion retail prices crossed Rs 40/kg in Delhi, the government was hyperactive and imposed a minimum export price (MEP) of \$850/tonne. Later on, as prices went further up to Rs 50-60/kg, stocking limits were imposed on traders and exports of onions were banned. It created problems in neighbouring countries, especially Bangladesh, inviting a sharp jibe from the visiting Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on how this ban, without any notice, affected her cooking and how she had to instruct her cook to prepare all vegetables without Indian onions.

But, now, when tomato retail prices have gone beyond Rs 50/kg across the country, what will the government do? Will PM Hasina have to cut down even Indian tomatoes from her cooking, and be forced to turn to China? Anytime, the same situation may arise in the case of potatoes. Such knee jerk reactions like export bans or stocking limits on traders only show the hollowness of our policies. We can certainly do better in addressing large price volatility of basic vegetables.

Tomatoes-onions-potatoes (TOP) are the three basic vegetables that face extreme price volatility and the government often finds itself on the edge in fulfilling its dual objectives of ensuring remunerative prices for farmers and affordable prices for consumers. Figure-1 presents the wholesale price index of TOP since 2012. With a coefficient of variation (CV) of 52 per cent, onion is the most volatile, followed by tomato (47 per cent) and potato (31 per cent). Potato is the least volatile because of higher processing-to-production share (7 per cent) than onions (3 per cent) and tomatoes (1 per cent), and also because of large storage facilities for potatoes. In fact, of the total 8,000 plus cold storages in India, 90 per cent are used for storing

potatoes. But tomatoes can't be stored for long. The current spike in tomato prices is due to lower supply from major tomato producing states like Maharashtra and Karnataka owing to heavy rains.

The government had announced "Operation Green-TOP" with an allocation of Rs 500 crore in its budget of 2018. The idea was to build value chains of TOP on the lines of "Operation Flood" (AMUL model) for milk in such a way that will ensure a higher share of consumer's rupee goes to farmers and stabilises their prices. The scheme is nested with the Ministry of Food Processing. But, so far, progress is tardy. The AMUL model is based on large procurement of milk from farmers' cooperatives, processing, storing of excess milk in skimmed milk powder form during the flush season and using it during the lean season, and distributing milk through an organised retail network. Milk does not pass through any APMC, involves no commissions, and farmers normally get 75-80 per cent of the consumer's rupee, as per AMUL's claims.

But TOP are mostly traded in APMC markets, with layers of mandi fees and commissions, and farmers get less than one-third of the consumer's rupee. In a forthcoming ICRIER-NABARD study on "Deconstructing Value Chains of Tomatoes, Onions and Potatoes", we estimate the farmer's share to be 32.1 per cent, 29.1 per cent and 26.6 per cent of a consumer's rupee for TOP respectively. This cries for massive reforms in APMC.

For stabilising retail prices of fresh TOP, and ensuring a higher share of the consumer's rupee to farmers, policy makers need to focus on three things. First, ample storage for buffer stocks has to be created. While potatoes and onions can be stored, repeated stocking limits on onion traders discourages private investments in modern cold storages. For inviting large private investment in storages, the Essential Commodities Act has to go. If the government feels that traders are colluding to rig the market, then the Competition Commission of India should look into it. The government banning exports or imposing stocking limits is not a solution.

Second, increase processing capacities for TOP. Since buffer stocking for tomatoes is not possible, processing remains the only solution. For this, the GST for tomato puree and juice should be reduced from 12 per cent to 5 per cent. Milk and most milk products attract 0 to 5 per cent GST. To propagate the use

of processed products (tomato puree, onion flakes, powder) among urban and bulk consumers (hospitals, schools, armed forces), the government should run campaigns in association with industry organisations, as was done for eggs. Most of the advanced countries use large quantities of processed tomatoes and onions, which can be stored conveniently. India needs to have time bound targets to process and export at least 10-15 per cent of TOP production. While India exports 10-12 per cent of onion production in fresh and dehydrated form, it exports less than 1 per cent of tomatoes and potatoes production (see Figure-2). It is time that India starts using these relatively new products, like dehydrated onions, tomato puree, shredded potatoes and frozen tikkis/french fries, the way they adopted milk powder, ginger-garlic paste, and frozen peas.

Third, direct buying by organised retailers from farmer producer organisations (FPOs) through contract farming, bypassing the mandi system, should be encouraged. Like dairy cooperatives, TOP cooperatives and retail outlets like Safal across the country should be opened. With over 400 Safal outlets across Delhi-NCR, onions are being sold at Rs 25/Kg when retail prices are hovering between Rs 50-60/Kg. A similar thing could have been done for tomatoes. However, this will require value chain development starting with market reforms along with overhauling the infrastructure of existing APMC mandis in the country. With crumbling infrastructure, many APMC mandis are running over their capacity. Our visit to the Kolar mandi, one of the largest tomato mandis in the country, spread over 20 acres, revealed that the operations of the mandi have spread to adjoining areas. For better functioning, it requires at least two to three times more land and much better infrastructure. These reforms and investments can be undertaken on a public-private partnership (PPP) basis, commissions can be reduced, contract farming can be encouraged, along with setting up of private mandis for better efficiency.

The government needs to find a sustainable solution for price stabilisation of TOP, rather than taking temporary ad hoc measures. It is time to TOP up.

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

Tomatoes-onions-potatoes (TOP) are the three basic vegetables that face extreme price volatility and the government often finds itself on the edge in fulfilling its dual objectives of ensuring remunerative prices for farmers and affordable prices for consumers.

VIEW FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD



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

APPRAISING CHINA

CHINESE PRESIDENT Xi Jinping's informal summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi has led to an appraisal of the Sino-Indian relationship, at least within India. But Xi's planned visit to Nepal, as well as the high-level Pakistan delegation that visited China, have both made headlines in neighbouring countries.

The Kathmandu Post, in its October 11 editorial, takes a careful view of Nepal-China relations, but it is fairly critical of Beijing on two counts. First, to point out that the economic development promised by China has borne little fruit: "[Prime Minister] Oli has time and again dangled the carrot of Chinese support to win over the public, promising a cross-border railway connecting Kathmandu with Kerung. However, little of what was promised has materialised. None of the nine projects identified under the Belt and Road Initiative has moved forward..."

Second, the editorial points towards China's dubious human rights record: "For all its economic might, China remains a one-party state with a poor human rights record. Under Xi, the Communist Party of China has cracked down on Uighurs and has provoked Hong Kong into full-blown rebellion."

The editorial in Dawn, on the same day, is also an appraisal — of the fruits of the high-level delegation's visit to the country. The positives, as far as the editorial is concerned, are some mild symbolic gains in terms of condemning India's actions in Jammu and Kashmir, which it welcomes.

On the most substantive issue — CPEC — though, the editorial is less full of praise: "The second phase of CPEC, which envisages the inflow of vast Chinese investments from the private sector into Pakistan, has been stuck for almost two years now. Progress is also at a standstill on an agreement on financing arrangements for the main railway upgradation project known as ML-1."

DEBATING JIHAD

While there appears near-unanimous agreement in the Pakistan press over New Delhi's actions in Kashmir, geopolitical analyst Aneela Shahzad in an article in The Express Tribune on October 10 asks: "Are we ready for a strife that will drag our youth into a holy nuclear Jihad? Is this what we expected of the PM? Has he not been too swift in going from an 'ambassador of Kashmir' to a war-fanatic?"

She asks difficult questions on the Kashmir issue from the Pakistani perspective. On the one hand, the country is not ready for war, nor is it desirable as a moral goal. On the other hand, New Delhi's actions have not been affected by Pakistan's aggressive diplomacy, trying to bring international pressure on Kashmir. This is the conundrum currently facing Pakistan, and one that is unlikely to resolve itself.

RIVER GAINS, LOSSES

Nazrul Islam, economist and founder of Bangladesh Environment Network, in an article in The Daily Star on October 9, talks of the country's river-water sharing agreements signed with India during the recent visit by PM Sheikh Hasina: "There was hardly any concrete progress toward meeting Bangladesh's concerns regarding shared rivers. This is disappointing when many parts of the country's west adjoining the Padma River are experiencing unprecedented flood, the root cause of which is the Farakka Barrage. India regulates the gates of this barrage in winter in a way that diverts water, causing siltation, encroachment, shallowing, and other harmful morphological changes, which reduce the carrying capacity of the Padma River..."

He asks the governments of both countries a "transit in exchange for rivers" formula, as a win-win situation for both.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FOCUS ON FARMS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The wrong way out' (IE, October 8). The writer has correctly pointed out that higher government spending and not tax cuts are the need of the hour. But the issue is which sector should the government spend on? We have forgotten that India is an agrarian economy. We need foreign expertise in agriculture and food storage, which we neglect and expect private enterprises to bail out the economy through manufacturing. Developing agriculture as an industry and eliminating middlemen is needed.

KV Benaje Kumar via e-mail

SAFETY VALVES

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The test in protest' (IE, October 10). Social media is fueling a new kind of nationalism. Such a nationalism works in the interest of the ruling party. And it helps to keep dissent in check. It affects farmers, labourers and Dalits. The government seems to have found ways to curb their dissent.

Ranjit Shinde via e-mail

RSS'S DECEIT

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'RSS replay' (IE, October 10). RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat tried to clarify the organisation's stand on instances of

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 or sent to The Indian Express, B-1/B, Sector 10, Noida-UP 201301.

lynching, and attempted to disassociate the Sangh from any kind of mob violence. He even denied charges of Islamophobia against it. But the role of vigilantes and the religious right has been bought to light in recent incidents of lynching. The chilling murder of Pehlu Khan and other such hate crimes have largely been recognised as the handiwork of elements emboldened by the RSS's Hindutva push. The RSS has hardly made any efforts to allay the fears of minorities. Hate mongering BJP MPs like Sadhvi Pragya Thakur continue to spew venom.

PL Singh, Amritsar

12 THE GOVERNANCE PAGE

SWACHH SARVEKSHAN 2019

How Peddapalli became the cleanest district in the country

By working with the people, the district has not only topped the cleanliness survey but also reduced dengue cases

SREENIVAS JANYALA
PEDDAPALLI, OCTOBER 13

EARLY EVERY Friday morning, hundreds of employees working in various government departments in Peddapalli district of Telangana fan out in the 263 villages of the district and by 6 am they are ready to donate their labour. Each employee — from the lowest ranking ones to the district collector — already knows what he or she has to do; their tasks are identified and allocated by every Thursday. They start work by 6 am and by 9.30 report back to their respective offices. This practice — called “Swachh Shukravara” (Clean Friday) — wherein government employees and villagers get together to clean up the villages, clear garbage, dig soak pits, build community toilets, and plant trees, has been adopted by the Peddapalli district and it is this that won it the first place award in the national Swachh Sarvekshan 2019 (which was the world’s largest cleanliness survey) conducted recently.

Peddapalli has achieved this distinction — of being designated the cleanest district in the country — by a combination of good governance initiatives, people’s participation, and prudent use of funds available under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and Prime Minister’s Employment Generation Programme.

The district has not only topped the cleanliness rankings but also, thanks to the proper sanitation measures, brought down the number of dengue cases this year to 43 from 271 that were reported in 2018. This at a time when in rest of Telangana, including Hyderabad, more than 5,000 dengue cases have been reported this season.

District Collector A Sri Devasena says that apart from an extensive drive to build individual toilets in the villages, the administra-



A community toilet, clearly demarcated for women, in Peddapalli Express

tion launched special drives to build common soak pits and village garbage dumping yards. “The common soak pits were constructed where water stagnation was noticed which led to mosquito breeding and therefore spread of diseases like dengue,” says P Prem Kumar, consultant to the district collector and a former Joint Director in Industries

Department. “Households letting out water onto the roads or unauthorised drains was a big problem so we covered up the drains and planted trees on them while providing the households proper drainage connections,” says Prem Kumar as he details the various changes in the district (see box).

The district administration also established garbage collection yards in all the 263 villages. “A village sanitation committee under the local sarpanch oversees segregation of plastic, dry, and wet waste. While advising villagers to reduce the use of plastic we have entrusted the task of collecting plastic waste to women of Self Help Groups. They collect plastic by paying Rs 2 per kg from the villages and sell it for Rs 4 per kg to a gran-

ules manufacturing unit in Peddapalli town. We want to totally ban the use of plastic in the coming days. Women of SHGs have started a unit at Khanapur to manufacture cotton bags of various sizes for carrying groceries etc with a grant of Rs 25 lakhs from PMEGP,” an official says.

To fund much of the sanitation work, cleanliness campaign and digging holes for plantation and afforestation drives, the district effectively used funds allotted under the MGNREGS. The 262 community toilets were built at a cost of Rs 4.30 crore.

Innovatively using the services of 1.20 lakh women organised in SHGs, the district administration gives five saplings to each woman on any festival to be planted. On the occasion of Varalakshmi vrath festival recently more than 5 lakh saplings were planted.

Almost every household has a woman involved in an SHG and by engaging them and other villagers in the committees for sanitation, greenery, cleanliness campaign, officials say they are getting the villagers’ participation without which this change would not be possible.

WHAT CHANGED IN PEDDAPALLI

- Over 16,000 community soak pits constructed
- More than 75,000 household soak pits constructed
- The district is now open-drainage free; no sewerage on the roads.
- Houses in all the 263 villages have individual toilets.
- Community toilets (separate for men and women) built in 262 villages; village sanitation committees responsible for maintaining these.
- These committees are also responsible for keeping the stormwater drains free of garbage and plastic.
- Running water connections via pipelines being provided under Mission Bhagiratha

EXPLAINED

What is Swachh Shukravara

THE SWACHH Shukravara (or Clean Friday) is an enterprising initiative by the district administration of Peddapalli and it essentially entails engaging all government officials — regardless of their rank and posting — to spare a few hours every Friday and give their labour towards cleaning the villages of the district. Not only does this energise the official machinery to achieve its cleanliness targets but also motivates the common public to maintain those standards.

‘Enrollment will ensure schooling, attendance will ensure learning’

GUJARAT’S PRINCIPAL Secretary for Education (primary and secondary) VINOD RAO launched the Command and Control Centre (CCC) to track teachers and teaching activity in schools and ensure accountability. The initiative was launched on Teachers’ Day and involves facial recognition system of attendance for teachers. He talks to RITU SHARMA to explain the details.



THE POLICY INTERVIEW
VINOD RAO
Principal Secretary for Education, Gujarat

Why was a facial recognition attendance system required for teachers?

The online attendance system is already there since December 2018. The biometric attendance system (involving facial recognition) completely eliminates wrong attendance, proxy attendance, ghost students, and cleans up the system in the government, grant-in-aid and self-financed schools. Initially, there was a lot of resistance, issues of acceptability, connectivity and logistics, but we overcame them. Then we thought just by bringing online attendance if we can improve the attendance of teachers and students significantly in the last nine months now the time has come to move to biometrics.

How far will it improve learning outcomes?

Attendance has already significantly improved. To cite a case there is a village in Gadhada taluka of Bhavnagar district where the school has a large number of migrants from Naswadi in Chhota Udepur district. They were very irregular. But after being identified through online attendance when we talked to their parents they started attending school very regularly.

Enrollment will ensure schooling while attendance will ensure learning. In education, we need corrective action instead of punitive action. And you can bring in corrective action by repeated positive pressure.

Can you cite some corrective measures?

When you are handling 2.5 lakh manpower and 70 lakh children you cannot bring significant change by fear or by punishment. I cannot think of a system where 50 teachers were dismissed in one go but we did it. That cannot be called punishment. Most of them are abroad but their names continued to reflect as teachers on the rolls because the system was not updated and they (missing teachers) thought “let our names remain on record, tomorrow we can claim something showing a medical certificate”. Now, because of online attendance, we dismissed them.

When you create a system that is very transparent then automatically the system improves without punishment because you are now in a glasshouse where people are watching you.

What are the other targets?

This year, we will create a list of students who cannot read, write and calculate but still have 80 per cent plus attendance. Similarly, a list of children who have less than 60 per cent attendance and cannot read, write and calculate. In the latter case, I will give the benefit of doubt to the teacher. But a child who has 80 per cent plus attendance and cannot read, write and calculate whose fault is it? Parents are illiterate but they have sent the child to school so either the attendance sheet is wrong or you have not taught.

In the semester and annual examination system, a separate follow up will be undertaken for children who have got less than 50 per cent marks and have more than 80 per cent attendance. Then I will ask teachers now tell me who is to be blamed. With the teacher being the same for the same subject for three primary classes now the teachers cannot say that the child’s basics were not clear. So we are creating an environment of accountability.

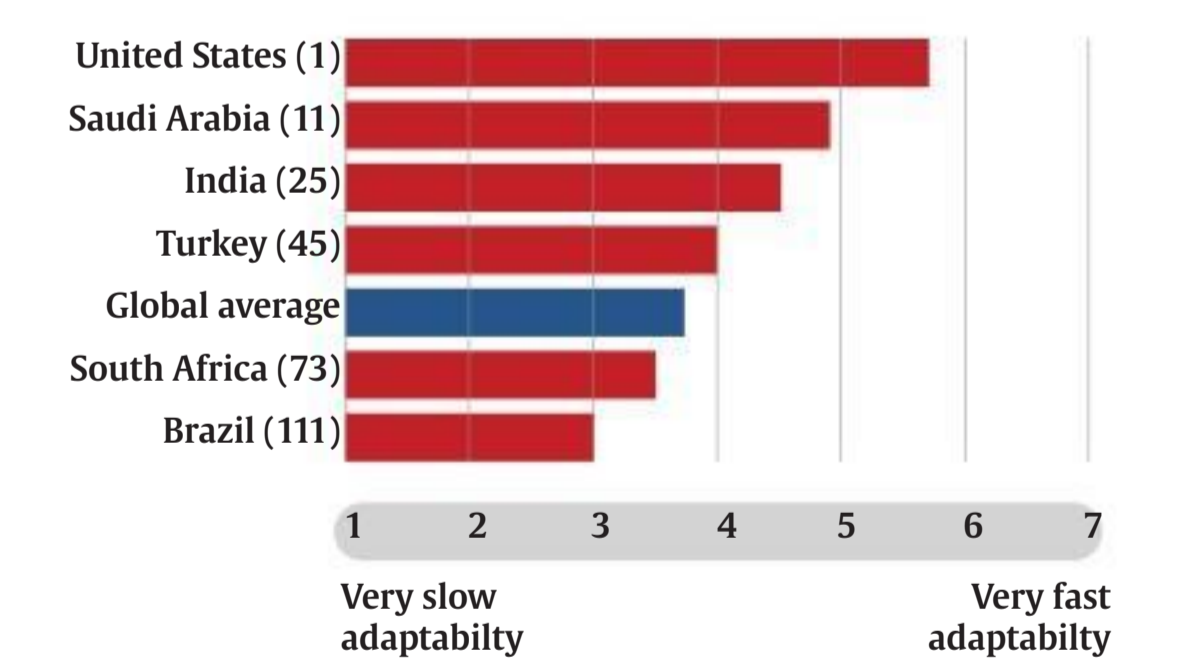
I believe it is a greater loss to the nation when a child attends school and is not learning than a child who is not attending school and not learning.

When a child does not attend school and does not learn, the child contributes to the household in some way — may be taking care of siblings or ensuring financial support but when a child is attending school there is an opportunity cost the family is already paying and a cost the government is paying.

IN NUMBERS

TECHNOLOGY GOVERNANCE

Who stands where: What WEF survey revealed about how fast does the legal framework in a country adapt to technological changes



Source: World Economic Forum, Executive Opinion Survey (various editions)

FROM STATES REFORMS TRACKER

WEST BENGAL Diesel-run cabs to be phased out

West Bengal’s Pollution Control Board Chairman has announced that the taxi drivers plying diesel-run cabs will be incentivised to shift to electric vehicles. The main incentive would be in the form of money and as much as Rs 3 lakhs could be paid to cab drivers by different authorities like the Transport department to make the change. It has also been reported that the government is planning to boost the charging infrastructure for such vehicles.

MADHYA PRADESH ‘Magnificent MP’ investor summit



CM Kamal Nath

Chief Minister Kamal Nath’s government will organise an investors summit on October 17 and 18 in Indore. According to reports, close to 600 dignitaries including some of the biggest names in the business world are expected to participate in the event. The CM has asked top state bureaucrats to ensure that MP makes it easy for businesses to start and run enterprises.

UTTAR PRADESH IIM Lucknow to impart training to officials

The state government’s senior bureaucrats especially heads of the various departments will be trained by experts from the Indian Institute of Management (Lucknow). The move comes in the wake of a three-day training provided by IIM-L to the political leadership in the government.

Why Sangrur is the best in Punjab for providing public services within set timelines

RAAKHI JAGGA
SANGRUR, OCTOBER 13

WHEN IT comes to providing citizen-centric services through Sewa Kendras (one-stop government centres for providing various services) Sangrur tops Punjab. It had a pendency rate (that is the number of complaints that were not resolved within the specified timeframe) of only 0.32% as of October 4. This was achieved by constant monitoring, weekly review meetings and, most importantly, strict accountability. Those officials who faltered during the week had to report to the District Collector’s office at 9 am every Tuesday and explain. Most employees quickly decided to instead finish their work on time. “Tuesday meetings are still on even though over 99% services are being provided well in time, but still a few need to explain every week,” said Ghanishyam Thori, the DC, while talking with *The Indian Express*.



A ‘Sewa Kendra’ in Sangrur. Gurmeet Singh

The Punjab government provides a total of 252 services to public — such as providing death and birth certificate, arms license (new and renewal), marriage certificate, certified copies of documents etc. — and they come under several different departmental heads such as revenue, social security and local bodies etc. Out of these, 143 services have gone online while 95 are still offline and 14 services are related to third parties such as bill payment be-

ing done by a private company etc.

Although a fixed timeline to provide services was introduced in August 2016 but Sangrur never followed it religiously. Thori joined as the DC of Sangrur in March 2018 and started monitoring the pendency. “Our pendency in providing services was 3.07% at that time with 8,212 pending applications. We were at the 6th position (out of 22 districts) in the state when it came to providing services within the stipulated time,” recalled Thori, who was transferred from Barnala, which was till then the top ranker in providing services. He immediately set out to make Sangrur the number one ranked district.

What was his mantra? Apart from fixing overall deadlines for one particular service, he laid down sub-timelines for each stage of the process. For example, when someone applied for getting their old-age pension started, the Sewa Kendra official had to move the file within a day failing which he had to explain the delay.

MAHARASHTRA/AGRICULTURE REFORM

Better irrigation, sweeter grapes make this farmer stand out

ESHA ROY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13

WHEN THIS year’s water crisis hit several states including Maharashtra, the paucity of water did not affect the grape farms spread across Vadner Bahirav village of Chandwad taluka in Nashik. For over a decade, 37-year-old grape farmer Bapu Bhausaheb Salunke has been perfecting the application of water conservation techniques. With his success, including an increase in the yield of grapes, his friends, relatives and neighbours have followed suit, making Vadner Bahirav a high yielding grape village.

On September 25, Salunke received the first prize for “Increasing water use efficiency by an individual” from Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat at India’s first Water Awards in New Delhi.

“My family owns 22 acres of land. I started farming along with my father when I was 18 years old. We lived in a modest home then and would only manage to grow crops 6 months of the year. While there is no severe water paucity in Nashik, where



Thanks to efficient irrigation, Bapu Salunke now grows 10 types of grapes Express

my village is located, my village has always suffered from water scarcity. In years hit by drought we would grow for fewer months,” said Salunke. Even in a good water year, the

family would sow in only five acres of the total farmland.

About 15 years ago, Salunke heard of a farmer’s training programme at

Maharashtra’s Water and Land Management Institute at Aurangabad. He enrolled in the 5-day training programme, came back to his village and used the family’s savings, Rs 6 lakhs, to build a one-acre watershed pond on his farm. That year, the water accumulated in the pond during the monsoons was used to irrigate a larger swathe of land. The year after, Salunke built another half-acre watershed, and then a deep well and installed two borewells. And then he started micro-irrigation methods to grow grapes.

Since then, Salunke’s farm no longer grows any other vegetables and uses the entire 20 acres to grow grapes. “I export grapes to most of the European countries apart from exporting to Bangladesh, Malaysia, China and Russia and, of course, sending my grapes to Delhi.

When I started, people in the villages, as well as my relatives, would make fun of me. But when I started doing well, and they would see that I was not only growing through the year but also the quality of my grapes had improved and so had the yield, they started following suit,” said Salunke. He points out that at least 100 farmers,

from his village as well as neighbouring ones, have now built similar watersheds on their farms, and grow grapes through the year.

“I had to drop out of school in class XII because my father could no longer afford to send me. I owned a cycle when I went for my first training session. Now I own two cars, seven motorcycles and five tractors,” said Salunke.

Salunke’s teacher, B M Shete, who was in charge of the farmers training programme at the Aurangabad Institute, said that over a lakh farmers have been trained there in water management since the 1990s.

“We started a programme for women farmers in 1995 as well and have since also started water management education programmes for children in class IX and X,” said Shete, who has retired from the institute a couple of months ago.

Micro-irrigation, explained Shete, doesn’t only ensure that the yield of grapes increases but also improves their quality. “It determines things like the sugar content of the grapes, ensuring that the grapes grown in Nashik meet international standards and can, therefore, be exported”.

13 THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD



The partially collapsed Hard Rock Hotel in New Orleans. AP

USA Hotel collapses in New Orleans: 2 dead, 1 missing

New Orleans: A large section of a Hard Rock Hotel under construction beside New Orleans' historic French Quarter collapsed Saturday amid blinding dust and flying debris, killing two people and injuring more than 20. Rescue workers searched the largely unstable building for one person still unaccounted for. Nearby buildings were evacuated. A 270-foot construction crane — one of two still looming over the multi-story building — also was dangerously unstable, fire officials said. The hunt for the missing was suspended at nightfall over safety concerns.

BRITAIN UK: Diplomat's wife has no immunity in case over fatal crash

London: British media are reporting that the wife of an American official who left the UK after being involved in a fatal road accident no longer has diplomatic immunity. BBC and Sky News said Sunday that UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab had told the family of Harry Dunn that "immunity is no longer pertinent" because the suspect has left the UK. The Foreign Office declined to comment. Dunn, 19, was killed in August when his motorcycle collided with a car outside in southern England. The alleged car driver, Anne Sacoolas, who is married to a US official, subsequently left Britain.

MYANMAR Rakhine rebels abduct dozens after storming bus, says Army

Yangon: Suspected ethnic Rakhine rebels disguised as a sports team stormed a bus in rural Myanmar and took 31 hostages — mostly off-duty firefighters and construction workers — authorities said Sunday. The state-backed Global New Light of Myanmar said the bus — travelling to the Rakhine state capital of Sittwe — was flagged down by a man dressed in civilian attire before 18 rebels in sportswear emerged from the forest and ordered the passengers off at gunpoint.

IS families escape en masse from camp in Kurdish-held Syrian town

US says will withdraw 1,000 troops from Syria as Turkey intends to go deeper

AP, REUTERS
AKCAKALE, WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 13

HUNDREDS OF Islamic State supporters escaped from a holding camp in northern Syria on Sunday amid heavy clashes between invading Turkish-led forces and Kurdish fighters. The United States said it was withdrawing some 1,000 troops from the north after learning that Turkey planned to extend its military incursion further south than originally planned.

Another consideration in the decision, US Defence Secretary Mark Esper indicated, was that Washington's Kurdish-led ally, the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), were looking to make a deal with Russia to counter the Turkish onslaught.

Outlining Turkey's goals, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said the incursion would stretch from Kobani in the west to Hasaka in the east, going some 30 km into Syrian territory, "in line with the safe zone map which we declared previously".

The developments reflected the rapidly growing chaos in Syria in the week since Trump ordered American forces in the region to step aside, leaving the US-allied Kurds wide open to attack from Turkey.

"We have American forces likely caught between two opposing advancing armies, and it's a very untenable situation," Esper said on CBS in announcing US troops would leave the north. He



Smoke billows after Turkish shelling on the Syrian town of Ras al Ain on Sunday. Reuters

did not say how many would withdraw but that they represent most of the 1,000 troops in Syria.

A US military official said that the situation was "deteriorating rapidly." The official, who was not authorised to disclose operational details and spoke on condition of anonymity, said American troops were unable to move around on the ground without a "high risk" of confrontation with Turkish-backed forces.

The danger to American forces was illustrated on Friday, when a small number of US troops came under Turkish artillery fire at an observation post in the north. No Americans were hurt, Esper said it was unclear whether that was an accident.

Trump, in a tweet, said: "Very smart not to be involved in the intense fighting along the Turkish Border, for a change. Those that mistakenly got us into the Middle



East Wars are still pushing to fight. They have no idea what a bad decision they have made."

On Sunday, heavy fighting reached a displaced-persons camp in Ein Eissa, some 35 kilometers (20 miles) south of the border, that is home to some 12,000 people, including around 1,000 wives and widows of Islamic State fighters and their children, held in a special

ON PULLING TROOPS, TRUMP SAYS HE IS AN 'ISLAND OF ONE'

Washington: US President Donald Trump said Saturday that he is an "island of one" for removing US forces from northeastern Syria. But he remained steadfast and defended a move that drew widespread bipartisan criticism and risked the lives of Syrian Kurdish allies who helped the United States bring down the Islamic State group in Syria.

Trump said the US cannot fight "endless wars." "We have to bring our great heroes, our great soldiers, we have to bring them home. It's time. It's time," Trump said in a lengthy and wide-ranging address to the Values Voter Summit, an annual gathering of social conservative activists. AP

detention camp.

The Kurdish-led administration in northern Syria said in a statement that 950 IS supporters escaped after attacking guards and storming the gates. It was not immediately possible to confirm that figure.

Esper said he was aware of the reports of escapes and of atrocities committed against the Kurds in the fighting.

MEANWHILE 74 MIGRANTS RESCUED OFF LIBYAN COAST

Humanitarian groups on Sunday said they have rescued 74 migrants on a rubber boat in the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Libya while Tunisian authorities reported blocking a smuggling boat carrying 110 migrants from setting off for Italy.

Trump backs Giuliani, but some advisers wish he would cut ties

President's lawyer facing probe: report

DARLENE SUPERVILLE, JONATHAN LEMIRE & ZEKE MILLER
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 13

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump on Saturday stood behind personal attorney Rudy Giuliani, one of his highest-profile and most vocal defenders, amid reports that federal prosecutors in the city Giuliani led as mayor are eyeing him for possible lobbying violations.

Behind the scenes, however, many of Trump's closest aides and advisers, inside and outside the White House, quietly wish the president would cut ties with Giuliani, whose leadership of New York after the Sept 11, 2001, terrorist attacks earned him worldwide admiration and the moniker of "America's mayor."

Giuliani was a force in Trump's defence during the lengthy Russia investigation by the special counsel. Yet the effort to undermine special counsel Robert Mueller led Giuliani to Ukraine, which now entangles the former mayor in legal jeopardy and is central to the danger threatening the presidency he labored to protect.

The *New York Times* reported Friday, citing a pair of anonymous sources familiar with the matter, that the investigation is linked to Giuliani's efforts to undermine Marie Yovanovitch, formerly the US ambassador to Ukraine. The US attorney's office in Manhattan has declined to comment on the *Times* report.

On Saturday, Trump came to Giuliani's defence. "So now they are after the legendary 'crime buster' and greatest Mayor in the



Trump called the reported federal probe against Giuliani a 'witch hunt'. Reuters

HUNTER BIDEN TO QUIT CHINESE FIRM'S BOARD

New York: Facing intense scrutiny from Donald Trump and his Republican allies, Hunter Biden announced that he would step down from the board of directors of a Chinese-backed private equity firm as part of a pledge not to work on behalf of any foreign-owned companies should his father win the presidency. The work of Biden in Ukraine and China have emerged as one of Trump's chief lines of attack against Joe Biden, Hunter's father and Democratic presidential candidate. AP

history of NYC, Rudy Giuliani," Trump tweeted while on the way to his northern Virginia golf club. "He may seem a little rough around the edges sometimes, but he is also a great guy and wonderful lawyer." AP

Imran in Tehran on mission to facilitate Iran-Saudi talks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
TEHRAN, OCTOBER 13

PAKISTAN PRIME Minister Imran Khan visited Iran on Sunday on a mission to act as a "facilitator" between Tehran and Riyadh and try to defuse rising tensions in the Gulf.

Khan held talks with President Hassan Rouhani at the presidential palace and later met with Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, according to the leader's official website.

He is expected to visit Saudi Arabia next on Tuesday. "The reason for this trip is that we do not want a conflict between Saudi Arabia and Iran," Khan told reporters as he stood alongside Rouhani.



Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan with Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Hassan Rouhani in Tehran on Sunday. AP

"Whatever it takes, we must never allow this conflict to take place, because we know, Mr President, that there is a vested interest that wants this to take place," he told Rouhani.

Noting that it was a "complex" issue that can be resolved through talks, Khan warned that any conflict between Iran and Saudi Arabia would "cause poverty in the world".

Pakistan has strong relations with Saudi Arabia, with more than 2.5 million of its nationals living and working in the kingdom, but it also maintains good relations with Iran and represents Tehran's consular interests in the United States.

This is Khan's second visit this year to Iran, which shares a border of about 1,000 kilometres with Pakistan.



Protesters damage a Bank of China building (left) and railway tracks in Hong Kong on Sunday. AP



Chaotic clashes in Hong Kong as protesters target metro, shops

JESSIE PANG
HONG KONG, OCTOBER 13

HONG KONG pro-democracy activists and riot police clashed in chaotic scenes around the city on Sunday with police in full riot gear chasing protesters through crowds of horrified lunchtime shoppers.

Several rallies in shopping malls started peacefully around midday with a few hundred people at each chanting slogans such as "Free Hong Kong", but by late afternoon hardcore black-clad activists trashed shops and metro stations and erected road blocks around the city.

Police made numerous arrests and deployed teargas to disperse protesters, saying they used "minimum force".

EXPLAINED 'Blossom everywhere': Hong Kong protesters devise new strategy

THE MONTHS-LONG protests in Hong Kong have seen demonstrators come up with various techniques to capture attention and evade police action. Their latest strategy is flashmob protests. Organisers called for protesters to "blossom everywhere", and they heeded the call, popping up in small groups in different areas around the city. The rationale behind the move was to make it more difficult for police to make arrests and to widen the reach of their protests at a time when the number of people turning up for rallies has gone down in comparison to previous weeks.

Television footage showed shoppers screaming and some injured when police charged inside a mall.

The young protesters, many wearing face masks to shield their identity, were often supported by shoppers.

In one mall a group of riot police, shields out front and pepper spray canisters in hand were forced to retreat backwards by chanting shoppers until they were outside of the mall.

In another incident, a group of 50 shoppers inside a mall faced off against riot police outside, chanting "Hong Kong police mafia". The shoppers cheered when police drove off.

"Hong Kong used to be a prosperous city and now she has become a police state. Hong Kong is my home. We should protect her. We should resist," said a 70-year-old who only gave his last name, Hui. He was part of a group of older residents in Kowloon, cheering the protesters, urging them to block the road and warning them when police were returning. REUTERS

Typhoon leaves 33 dead in Japan as rescuers intensify efforts

YURI KAGEYAMA
TOKYO, OCTOBER 13

HELICOPTERS, BOATS and thousands of troops were deployed across Japan to rescue people stranded in flooded homes Sunday, as the death toll from a ferocious typhoon climbed to as high as 33. One woman fell to her death as she was being placed inside a rescue helicopter.

Typhoon Hagibis made landfall south of Tokyo on Saturday evening and battered central and northern Japan with torrents of rain and powerful gusts of wind. The typhoon was downgraded to a tropical storm on Sunday.

Public broadcaster NHK said 14 rivers across the nation had flooded, some spilling out in more than one spot.

The Tokyo Fire Department said a woman in her 70s was accidentally dropped 131 feet to the ground while being transported into a rescue helicopter in Iwaki city in Fukushima prefecture, a northern area devastated by the typhoon.

Department officials held a news conference to apologise, bowing deeply and long, according to Japanese custom, and acknowledged the woman had not been strapped in properly.

The government's Fire and Disaster Management Agency, which tends to be conservative in its counts, said late Sunday that 1,283 homes were flooded and 517 were damaged. AP

EXTINCTION REBELLION PROTESTS

400 scientists endorse mass civil disobedience to force climate action

REUTERS
LONDON, OCTOBER 13

ALMOST 400 scientists have endorsed a civil disobedience campaign aimed at forcing governments to take rapid action to tackle climate change, warning that failure could inflict "incalculable human suffering".

In a joint declaration, climate scientists, physicists, biologists, engineers and others from at least 20 countries broke with the caution traditionally associated with academia to side with peaceful

protesters courting arrest from Amsterdam to Melbourne.

Wearing white laboratory coats to symbolise their research credentials, a group of about 20 of the signatories gathered on Saturday to read out the text outside London's century-old Science Museum in the city's upmarket Kensington district.

"We believe that the continued governmental inaction over the climate and ecological crisis now justifies peaceful and non-violent protest and direct action, even if this goes beyond the bounds of the current law," said

Emily Grossman, a science broadcaster with a PhD in molecular biology. She read the declaration on behalf of the group.

"We therefore support those who are rising up peacefully against governments around the world that are failing to act proportionately to the scale of the crisis," she said.

The declaration was coordinated by a group of scientists who support Extinction Rebellion, a civil disobedience campaign that formed in Britain a year ago and has since sparked offshoots in dozens of countries.



Scientists take part in an Extinction Rebellion protest outside London's Science Museum on Saturday. Reuters

The group launched a fresh wave of international actions on Monday, aiming to get governments to address an ecological crisis caused by climate change and accelerating extinctions of plant and animal species.

A total of 1,307 volunteers had since been arrested at various protests in London by 2030 GMT on Saturday, Extinction Rebellion said. A further 1,463 volunteers have been arrested in the past week in another 20 cities, including Brussels, Amsterdam, New York, Sydney and Toronto, according to the group's tally. More

protests in this latest wave are due in the coming days.

While many scientists have shunned overt political debate, fearing that being perceived as activists might undermine their claims to objectivity, the 395 academics who had signed the declaration by 1100 GMT on Sunday chose to defy convention.

"The urgency of the crisis is now so great that many scientists feel, as humans, that we now have a moral duty to take radical action," Grossman told Reuters.

Other signatories included several who contributed to the

UN-backed Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which has produced a series of reports underscoring the urgency of dramatic cuts in carbon emissions.

The Extinction Rebellion group is aligned with a school strike movement inspired by Swedish teenage activist Greta Thunberg, which mobilised millions of young people on September 20.

The group said more than half the signatories of the declaration are experts in the fields of climate science and the loss of wildlife.

14 ECONOMY

MARKET WATCH

FPIs PULL OUT OVER ₹6.2K CR IN OCT

New Delhi: Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) withdrew more than Rs 6,200 crore from Indian capital markets in the first two weeks of October, as global recession fears and trade war concerns weighed on sentiments. **PTI**

REVIVING FLOW OF FUNDS TO MSME SECTOR ALSO TO BE TAKEN UP

FM to meet CEOs of public sector banks: Liquidity support for NBFCs to be focus

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 13

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman will hold a review meeting with chief executive officers (CEOs) of public sector banks Monday to discuss various issues, especially the liquidity support given to non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) and small units. The meeting is expected to review flow to stressed NBFC and MSME (micro, small and medium enterprises) sectors.

Banks are expected to present data on partial credit guarantee scheme and fund raising from market to enhance their capital base. "I have asked banks to come up with data on banks' liquidity support to NBFCs and MSMEs," Sitharaman had said in Mumbai last week.

EXPLAINED

Data on partial credit guarantee scheme expected

AT A time when the non-banking finance sector, including housing finance companies, is facing serious liquidity constraints — for which the IL&FS defaults saga is largely responsible — the Finance Minister's meeting with chief executives of public sector banks is expected to focus on pushing them to lend more to NBFCs.

Under the Centre's partial credit guarantee scheme announced in the Budget, banks will purchase high-rated pooled assets of financially-sound NBFCs. At Monday's meeting, the public sector banks are also expected to present data on this scheme.

In August, the central government issued guidelines on operationalising Rs 1 lakh crore partial

guarantee scheme under which public sector undertaking banks can purchase high-rated pooled

assets of financially-sound NBFCs.

This liquidity support was extended when NBFCs, including housing finance companies (HFCs), came under stress following a series of defaults by the group companies of IL&FS in September last year.

When asked earlier about the monetary policy transmission by lenders, the Finance Minister had said, "The RBI has already taken it up with banks. They are talking to banks."

In the fortnight ended September 27, 2019, non-food credit growth slowed to as low as 8.7 per cent year-on-year to Rs 97.11 trillion, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) last week.

The banking system had previously registered single-digit growth of 9.9 per cent in credit off-take in the fortnight ended

December 8, 2017.

Monetary transmission has remained staggered and incomplete despite several rate cuts by the central bank.

Against the cumulative policy repo rate reduction of 110 basis points (bps) during February-August 2019, the weighted average lending rate (WALR) on fresh rupee loans of commercial banks declined by only 29 bps.

However, the WALR on outstanding rupee loans increased by 7 bps during the same period.

On October 4, the Monetary Policy Committee of the RBI reduced the repo rate to 5.15 per cent from 5.40 per cent.

The fifth consecutive cut this year announced by the central bank has brought down the repo rate — the rate at which the RBI lends funds to banks — by 135 bps from 6.50 per cent in 2019.

INTERVIEW

'Hope govt sticks to timeline ... so that contracts are awarded in timely manner'

AS THE government gears up to announce the results of the expression of interest for 111 naval utility helicopters — the first project under the strategic partner procurement model — Airbus Helicopters, which has tied up Mahindra Defence, expects the Centre to award the project in a timely, transparent and fair manner. In an interview with PRANAV MUKUL, Airbus Helicopters India president Ashish Saraf and Airbus Helicopters executive vice president—Procurement Martin Schuebel talked about the company's plans for developing a local supply chain system for manufacturing of helicopter components in India. They also talked about a variety of issues such as disinvestment of Pawan Hans and the outlook of helicopters industry in India. Edited excerpts:



"There has not been a national helicopter operator having ambition of expanding to different states..."

ASHISH SARAF
PRESIDENT,
AIRBUS HELICOPTERS INDIA



"India has a wonderful prospect and a wonderful market potential not only on the military but also on the civil..."

MARTIN SCHUEBEL
EXECUTIVE VICE
PRESIDENT—PROCUREMENT,
AIRBUS HELICOPTERS

be trained and imparted knowledge about our processes are concerned.

India has a wonderful prospect and a wonderful market potential not only on the military but also on the civil and what we call para-public including emergency medical services. Now there might be a chicken and egg problem that there are not enough qualified personnel available, but we really want to get out of this problem and start qualifying our suppliers for a journey that we want to do together and we are looking for sustainable partnerships.

Are there any India-specific challenges that you have come across in the manufacturing value chain?

Schuebel: I would say the typical challenges for helicopters or helicopter components is that quality is a must. There's no doubt about it. Safety is a must and highest standards in terms of quality and safety for all the components; the highest standards in terms of weight saving, low weight design, solutions is a must — this I would say is key. Then, of course, you need people who are knowledgeable and available to develop such solutions, industrial solutions and provide them to us.

What is your outlook on the helicopter industry in India?

Saraf: Currently, the primary drivers are VIP, heli-tourism and state government requirements. We are also looking at potential growth coming from HEMS (helicopter emergency medical services), urban air mobility as well as regional connectivity for the helicopter industry.

Going ahead, do you have any growth targets in mind?

Saraf: As of now we have about 250 helicopters, and we are adding anything between 7-10 helicopters a year in our region — India, Nepal, Bangladesh and other complementary markets. So, we currently look at growth of 3-4 per cent.

With segments such as HEMS, tourism, etc opening, we see the potential to add about 100 helicopters. We are working with the right stakeholders to see how policy can be rolled out to ensure these markets can be developed.

With the exception of Pawan Hans, there isn't a large player in the helicopters segment. Do you think there's enough appetite for this sector on a national basis?

Saraf: We need a large player. Currently, there are operators who have 3-6 helicopters in specialised areas like Chardham Yatra, Vaishnodevi, etc. But except Pawan Hans, there has not been a national helicopter operator having the ambition of expanding to different states and segments. This is certainly required and a large player with a significant vision for the longer term will certainly bring a lot more value for expanding into this segment.

BRIEFLY

Panel on GST collections to meet Tuesday

New Delhi: A high-level panel constituted by the Centre to suggest measures to augment Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue collection will hold its first meeting on Tuesday, GST Council Special Secretary Rajeev Rajan said Sunday.

IRCTC to make stock market debut today

New Delhi: IRCTC, which recently concluded its Rs 645-crore IPO, will make its stock market debut Monday. The shares will be listed on the BSE and NSE.

Ruia: Essar leads corporate deleveraging

New Delhi: Leading the India Inc in deleveraging through aggressive monetisation of assets, Essar Group paid off Rs 1.4 lakh crore debt and residual 10-15 per cent will be cleared in the next two quarters, said Essar Capital director Prashant Ruia.

Air India: Fuel payment issues will be resolved

Mumbai: Air India on Sunday said the aviation jet fuel payment issues are being sorted out and will be resolved soon with the oil public sector undertakings, which have warned the carrier of snapping supplies at six key airports if it does not make monthly lump sum payment by October 18. **PTI**

Life insurers' new premium income in Sept up 15% y-o-y

The new premium income of life insurers rose 15 per cent to Rs 20,056.70 crore in September, data from Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) showed



₹17,490.68 cr: Collective new business premium income of all 24 life insurance companies in September 2018

18.37% rise for LIC: Increase in new premium for state-owned Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), the largest life insurer, i.e. **₹12,759.24 crore** in September 2019 **₹10,778.81 crore** in September 2018

~9% for private players: Year-on-year (y-o-y) rise in new premium for the country's private sector insurance companies, which cumulatively posted a total new premium

income of Rs 7,297.46 crore during September this year

₹1,25,758.11 cr: Cumulative insurance premium of all 24 players during April-September period of FY2019-20; rising 35.11 per cent y-o-y

₹89,980.22 cr: New premium collected by LIC in first six months of financial year 2019-20, rising 42 per cent year-on-year

₹35,777.89 cr: New cumulative premium collected by rest of private sector players till September this financial year, increasing 21 per cent y-o-y

Pradhan says \$60 billion investment coming in gas infrastructure

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13

INDIA IS investing over \$60 billion in developing natural supply and distribution infrastructure as it chases the target of more than doubling the share of natural gas in its energy base to 15 per cent by 2030, Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Sunday.

Stating that the government has laid emphasis on developing a gas-based economy, he said natural gas is gradually becoming a bridging fuel for low carbon economy in India. The government is giving special impetus to develop gas infrastructure across the length and breadth of the country connecting north to south and east to west parts of India, he said at the third International Think Tank Meeting (ITT) here.

From 7.5% to 6%: World Bank slashes India's FY20 growth projection

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 13

AFTER A broad-based deceleration in the initial quarters of this fiscal, India's growth rate is projected to fall to 6 per cent in 2019-20, the World Bank said Sunday, in what was the sharpest downward revisions of its growth projections for South Asian nations.

However, the bank, in its latest edition of the South Asia Economic Focus, said the country was expected to gradually recover to 6.9 per cent in FY21 and 7.2 per cent in FY22 as it assumed that the monetary stance would remain accommodative, given benign price dynamics. The World Bank's previous projection for India was 7.5 per cent, and this was announced in April.

The World Bank report, which has been released ahead of its an-

However, the bank said India was expected to gradually recover to 6.9 per cent in FY21 and 7.2 per cent in FY22

nual meeting with the International Monetary Fund, noted in the first quarter of 2019-20, the economy experienced a significant and broad-based growth deceleration with a sharp decline in private consumption on the demand side and the weakening of growth in both industry and services on the supply side.

Moody's Investors Service had last Thursday cut its forecast for India's FY20 GDP growth by 40 basis points to 5.8 per cent, in what reflected a continuing trend of such downward revisions by prominent domestic and foreign agencies. **FE WITH PTI**

'RCEP trade ministers' talks end in impasse'

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13

TRADE MINISTERS and negotiators of the 16-nation Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) grouping failed to drum up a consensus on sticky issues at the 9th Intersessional Ministerial Meeting in Bangkok, expected to be the last meet before a potential deal in November, and talks remained inconclusive, sources said.

No joint statement will be issued, as certain key issues are yet to be resolved, even after two days of intense negotiations on October 11 and 12, according to one of the sources. This has cast a shadow over a leaders' summit, which was expected to be attended by heads of the 16 nations on November 4 to announce the RCEP deal. **FE**

Private firms had raised red flags about participation of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) in the naval utility helicopters tender. How do you see it?

Saraf: The strategic partner programme is for private companies. We hope that the government upholds the spirit of strategic partnership, which is mainly meant for the private sector and we hope that this continues to be a programme as advertised or stipulated initially to be a strategic partnership private sector program.

What I would allow myself to add is that the need for helicopters in India is such that there is room for a DPSU (defence public sector undertaking) like HAL and a private strategic partner. So one does not need to replace the other and the needs are so huge that there is room for everyone.

Defence deals in India have traditionally been scrutinised a lot. How easy is it for defence manufacturers to do business here?

WHILE SMALL PRODUCTS DOMINATED ORDERS FROM SMALLER TOWNS, RETAILERS HAVE ALSO RAMPED UP LOGISTICS TO DELIVER LARGER ITEMS

No delivery too far: New tech, locals help online retailers reach remote areas

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI/
KURSEONG/SILIGURI,
OCTOBER 13

E-COMMERCE MAJORS in the country sold goods worth over \$3 billion in the week-long festive sales on their platform this year. This is about 30 per cent higher than the festive sales in 2018 and, notably, a majority of this growth across platforms has been driven by tier-2 and tier-3 towns. While small products such as mobile phones and fashion goods dominated the orders from smaller towns, online retailers have also ramped up their logistics to deliver larger items like furniture and white goods to difficult-to-reach terrains.

ing aspects such as localised human resource, technology and development of alternative delivery models. On the one hand, where Flipkart has partnered with kirana stores and freelance delivery agents to reach low density and remote locations, Amazon, on the other, has depended on local knowledge of delivery associates to navigate through weather and terrain challenges to ensure timely deliveries.

Walmart-owned Flipkart recently expanded delivery of large items such as furniture, refrigerators, washing machines, air conditioners, etc to Siliguri in West Bengal and its surrounding areas. The last mile delivery hub stationed in Siliguri serves the hill-top areas of Kurseong, Kalimpong and Mirik, which are at least a 90-minute drive from the hub. "We normally deliver products like washing machines, television and furniture items

like sofa. There's a problem of frequent rainshowers in these areas, so packaging the electronic goods for delivery is one of the priorities," said 26-year-old Tinku Burman, one of Flipkart's delivery executives posted at the Siliguri large goods hub.

The company has deployed a tech-enabled solution called the 'Address and Location Intelligence' navigation, which helps the delivery personnel get a customer location with pinpoint precision, even if the addresses are not completely clear.

Flipkart has pointed out that in smaller cities and towns with non-standard addresses, a solution like this reduces the number of calls a delivery person has to make to the customer and reduce delivery re-attempts.



Executives preparing for deliveries at Flipkart's large items distribution hub in Siliguri. Pranav Mukul

placed by a consumer, the system dynamically maps the entire route from the location of the product to its journey down the logistical food-chain — through fulfillment centres, mother hubs

and various distribution hubs. "It also analyses artificial topography ranging from chaotic streets to narrow bylanes... dug-up roads and addresses parched upon hill tops, helping to prede-

termine the route and offer constructs such as promised date and time of delivery, etc," Flipkart said.

Pintu Malik, another Flipkart delivery executive in Siliguri, explained that in the hilly regions, there were also issues of parking and in various cases, the personnel parked their delivery vehicles and carried the parcel to the last mile. "It generally takes at least 60-90 minutes to deliver one package in these areas," Malik said.

For the delivery routes that are not there on a map, Amazon has relied on the local knowledge of the delivery people who grew up in the area to find customers' homes. Responding to a set of queries sent by *The Indian Express*, an Amazon India spokesperson said: "In 2017, Amazon.in set up a delivery station with a Service Partner in Leh to make deliveries throughout

the rugged mountain town — making it the company's highest delivery route. This has enabled the local population to easily access a wide range of products and increase their purchasing convenience. Owing to their local knowledge of the area, the delivery associates skilfully navigate through weather and terrain challenges to ensure timely deliveries in the region."

In a blog highlighting its efforts in India for deliveries to remote locations, the company said: "The routes not only involve high mountain passes and occasional rock slides, but rough, primitive roads and sporadic traffic jams caused by free-roaming cattle and donkeys."

As 'Bharat' continues to drive growth for online commerce, investment by these companies in technology and delivery networks is only expected to grow. During its Big Billion Days

sale, Flipkart saw 70 per cent increase from tier-2+ towns for electronics category.

For Amazon, 91 per cent of new customers came from tier-2, tier-3 and below geographies. Even for Snapdeal, which deploys third-party delivery personnel, cities like Nagpur, Surat, Vijayawada, Chandigarh, Panaji, Jamsheer, Shirdi and Guwahati saw orders surging at least four-fold over the previous year.

"Over 120 cities and towns across the country registered at least 2X volumes compared to last Diwali sales. These include cities like Satara, Anand, Bharuch and Pali (West India), Malerkotla, Roorkee, Jhansi and Haridwar (North India), Hazaribagh, Raniganj and Paradip (East India), Tezpur, Itanagar and Majuli (North-East India) and Khammam, Hassan, Miryalaguda and Bhimavaram (South India)," Snapdeal said.

TURKEY INVADES SYRIA

Green light, go

The long-feared clash will have consequences across the Middle East



Members of Turkish-backed Syrian National Army, also known as Free Syrian Army, in the Turkish border town of Ceylanpinar on Friday. Reuters

AFTER YEARS of threats, it took Turkey mere days to strike. On October 9th the Turkish armed forces began bombing parts of north-east Syria. Controlled by a Kurdish-led militia, the region had been an American protectorate until just days before, when President Donald Trump abruptly decided to abandon it. Turkish troops are now moving into Syrian towns, backed by local rebels under their command. The nascent offensive will have implications far beyond Turkey's intended 30-kilometre-deep "safe zone" inside Syria. It will displace hundreds of thousands of people, complicate an already-chaotic war and offer the jihadists of Islamic State (IS) a chance to regroup.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey says his aim is "to destroy the terror corridor which is trying to be established on our southern border". In other words, he wants to oust the Kurds from their Syrian statelet. The main Kurdish force, called the People's Protection Units, or YPG, gained control of the area while fighting with America against IS. That created an intolerable situation for Turkey, because the YPG has close ties with the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), a separatist group that has fought the Turkish army for 35 years.

As Turkey advances, the fighting will probably grow bloodier. Civilians have begun fleeing towns under bombardment. The incursion could displace many of the 750,000 people living along the border. But Kurdish fighters deprived of American support are unlikely to want open conflict with the larger Turkish army. The YPG is already talking of cutting a deal with Bashar al-Assad, Syria's dictator, that might see them relinquish some autonomy in exchange for the regime's protection.

The fighting risks benefiting IS, which has been kicked off the territory it once held, but which is resurgent, says the Pentagon. Operations against the jihadists have reportedly stopped. The Kurds, reasonably, say they have other priorities. They are still holding tens of thousands of IS detainees and their families in camps like Al-Hol, home to some 70,000 people who live in increasingly desperate and unsafe conditions. America says the IS prisoners will become the responsibility of Turkey. But Mr Erdogan's proposed safe zone does not include Al-Hol. And Turkey does not have a good record when it comes to jihadists. Many first reached Syria by taking advantage of lax

Turkish border controls. On October 10th President Donald Trump tweeted that America had taken custody of the most notorious prisoners and moved them out of the country—a tacit admission that Turkey was not up to the job of holding them.

In general, though, Mr Trump has cleared the way for Turkey. On October 6th he announced that he was withdrawing the 100 or so American troops in northernmost Syria. They had been in the awkward position of standing between a NATO ally, Turkey, and a reliable partner, the YPG. The open-ended deployment of American troops in Syria (who, in total, number about 1,000) frustrates Mr Trump. He tried to withdraw all of them in December. That decision (announced, naturally, on Twitter) prompted his defence secretary, James Mattis, to resign.

As Turkey advances, the fighting will probably grow bloodier. Civilians have begun fleeing towns under bombardment. The incursion could displace many of the 750,000 people living along the border

His equally abrupt decision this month blindsided American officers, to say nothing of the Kurds, and was followed by more erratic behaviour. Mr Trump argued America owed the Kurds no lasting loyalty since they "didn't help us in the second world war". In fact, the Kurds fought under allied command in Albania and Greece. As for Turkey, in the space of 48 hours he all but endorsed the Turkish operation, threatened Turkey with sanctions should it cross his unspecified red lines and then praised its contribution to NATO.

The Pentagon worries about how the limited withdrawal in the north will affect the rest of its deployment in Syria. As the Turkish army advances, backed by rebel groups that are not terribly fond of America, it will grow ever harder to protect American

troops stationed elsewhere. What began as a limited pullout may end with America abandoning all its positions.

In a rare split with the president, Republican lawmakers joined their Democratic colleagues to condemn the move. Lindsey Graham, a Republican senator close to Mr Trump, introduced a bill to sanction Turkey's leaders, armed forces and energy sector until it withdraws troops from Syria. Turkish officials who thought they had a deal with Mr Trump were left puzzled and fuming. "We don't see only a single US any more, but many voices coming from different interest groups," says Mesut Hakkı Casin, an adviser to Mr Erdogan.

Apart from Turkey's own Kurds, and some liberals, most Turks are likely to cheer the offensive. Opposition parties tend to defer to Mr Erdogan whenever he invokes national security. He suffered a setback earlier this year when his Justice and Development party lost control of Turkey's biggest cities in local elections. Success in Syria could offset the damage.

Most Turks are also likely to back Mr Erdogan's plan to flood the areas now under

Kurdish control with some of the 3.6m Syrian refugees living in Turkey. Opinion polls show mounting levels of resentment towards the guests. Since the start of the year, Turkey has sent thousands of them back to Syria. Mr Erdogan says the 30km "peace corridor" his army plans to create would be a magnet for up to 2m refugees. This is either delusional or a euphemism for forced resettlement. Sending mostly Arab refugees to a region populated mainly by Kurds risks fanning tensions and future conflict.

On paper the Turkish offensive seems simple enough, an attempt to deny territory to a hated foe. But capturing and holding hundreds of kilometres of territory will be a costly and perhaps bloody slog. The fighting could force a flood of refugees into Iraq, which has its own problems. And by giving Syrian rebels a new foothold in the northeast, it will complicate matters elsewhere in Syria, where Russia and Iran are trying to help Mr Assad consolidate control. Almost nine years into a conflict that reshaped the Middle East, there is still no end in sight.

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FINANCIAL CENTRES IN ASIA

A tale of two cities

Singapore stands to gain from Hong Kong's troubles

WHATEVER VIEW is taken on the hymn in Hong Kong—righteous rebellion or obscene rioting—it is a disaster for the territory's economy. And if one place stands to benefit from Hong Kong's troubles, it is that other self-governing, Chinese-majority, financial, commercial and shipping hub in East Asia: Singapore.

The two places have always seemed to have much in common. Both are commerce-friendly. Thanks to light-touch regulation and efficient, uncorrupt bureaucracies, Singapore comes second and Hong Kong fourth in the World Bank's ranking of 190 countries for the ease of doing business. Both cities once prided themselves on their adherence to the rule of law and the low level of violence on the streets.

On all these counts, the events of the past four months have dented Hong Kong's reputation. Many businesses have been forced into unscheduled closures because mass demonstrations—or in recent days, the suspension of much of its metro system—have kept staff and customers away. As protests have degenerated into street battles, tear-gas, petrol bombs and vandalism have made some parts of town physically hazardous. Hong Kong has sometimes looked closer to anarchy than to the rule of law.

Some data are already available indicating the short-term impact of the unrest. In August the number of tourists entering Hong Kong fell by 39% overall compared with the same month last year. The number of mainland-Chinese tourists fell by 42%. Singapore, by contrast, saw an annual increase in tourists from China of 4% in August. Mainland China accounts for 21% of tourists visiting Singapore, but nearly 80% of visitors to Hong Kong.

Some evidence has emerged that people are shifting their money as well as their holidays. An analysis by Goldman Sachs of data for August showed a modest net outflow from bank accounts denominated in Hong Kong dollars, and an inflow into Singapore-dollar accounts. The bank estimated that up to \$4bn of deposits may have flowed to Singapore from Hong Kong.

The rich in Hong Kong and the rest of China have long found Singapore attractive. They like to invest in property there, sometimes as a possible bolthole. Since the beginning of 2017, mainland Chinese buyers have acquired more than 1,000 private homes in Singapore, despite a 20% stamp duty charged to foreigners.

The bigger picture, even before the recent upheaval, has been of a gradual displacement

of institutional financial activity from Hong Kong to Singapore. Hong Kong's financial industry suffers from competition both from mainland Chinese cities, notably Shanghai and Shenzhen, which are not hampered by its tormented relationship with the central government, and from other big centres in the region that are fully outside China, such as Singapore, Sydney and Tokyo.

Already, Singapore has a lead in asset-management, with \$3.4trn under management at the end of 2018 compared with \$3.1trn in Hong Kong. Even (or perhaps especially) for wealthy Chinese who have managed to move capital out of the mainland, Hong Kong may appear uncomfortably within China's reach. The worry is that Hong Kong will lose its edge in other activities, too, such as investment banking and equities trading. The withdrawal by Hong Kong's stock exchange on October 8th of its takeover bid for the London Stock Exchange was symptomatic of the strategic bind in which it finds itself. The danger will intensify if Hong Kong's present troubles inject lasting poison into its relations with China, which is a big source not only of customers and capital, but also commercial perks, such as the special



A protester hurls a brick at a police station in Hong Kong's Tseung Kwan O district in August. Reuters

trading link between the stockmarkets of Hong Kong and Shanghai.

Singapore and Hong Kong have long offered rival political models. Singapore, put crudely, is an illiberal democracy; Hong Kong a liberal autocracy. One has a freely elected government but strict laws limiting, for example, public protest and some political debate. The other has a chief executive "elected" by a few hundred officials, a partially elected

and weak legislature, but robust traditions of freedom of speech and assembly. Singapore has been pointing, discreetly, to its relative stability. On October 4th the foreign ministry advised Singaporeans to "defer non-essential travel" to Hong Kong.

The Straits Times, a pro-government paper, would have felt no embarrassment about its story on a ban on rallies in Singapore in support of the protesters in Hong Kong, on

a day of solidarity demonstrations in a number of cities worldwide. The headline read, "Anti-totalitarianism day: No permits for Singapore assemblies". One protester in Hong Kong, apparently a Singaporean, sparked a fiery debate on social media with a photo of himself holding a placard reading: "Don't let Hong Kong be like Singapore, where people live in fear."

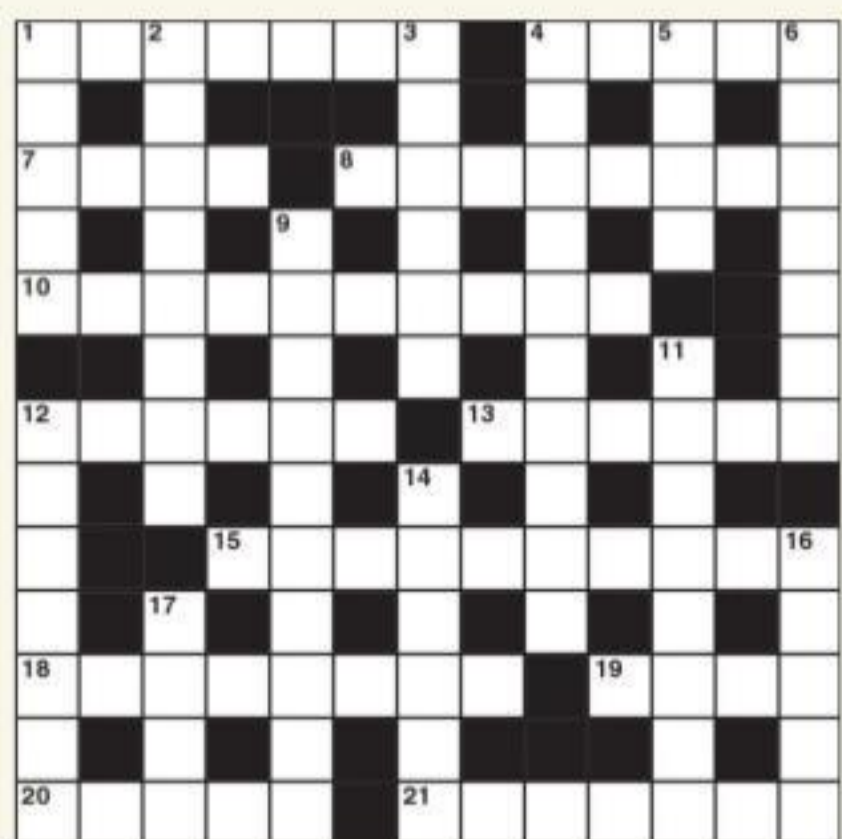
Pro-government commentators in Singapore were quick to condemn him. Even many critics of the government thought he was exaggerating. But, hard though it is to gauge public opinion, a survey in July suggested that 75% of Singaporeans sympathised with the protesters in Hong Kong.

Writing last month in the Hong Kong Free Press, an online journal, Kirsten Han, an independent Singaporean journalist, guessed that the percentage has probably fallen sharply since then. Leslie Fong, a former editor of the Straits Times, wrote in the South China Morning Post, a Hong Kong paper, of the sorrow many of his compatriots feel "at the sad spectacle of a city smothering itself in full global view".

Many Singaporeans, Ms Han noted, believe the argument that Hong Kong's leaders have been making, that the protests are really about economic gripes, such as unaffordable housing, rather than politics. That ignores the genuine frustration of many in Hong Kong at a political system in which only certain voices seem to be heard. It is a frustration that some in Singapore, despite its very different system, also feel.

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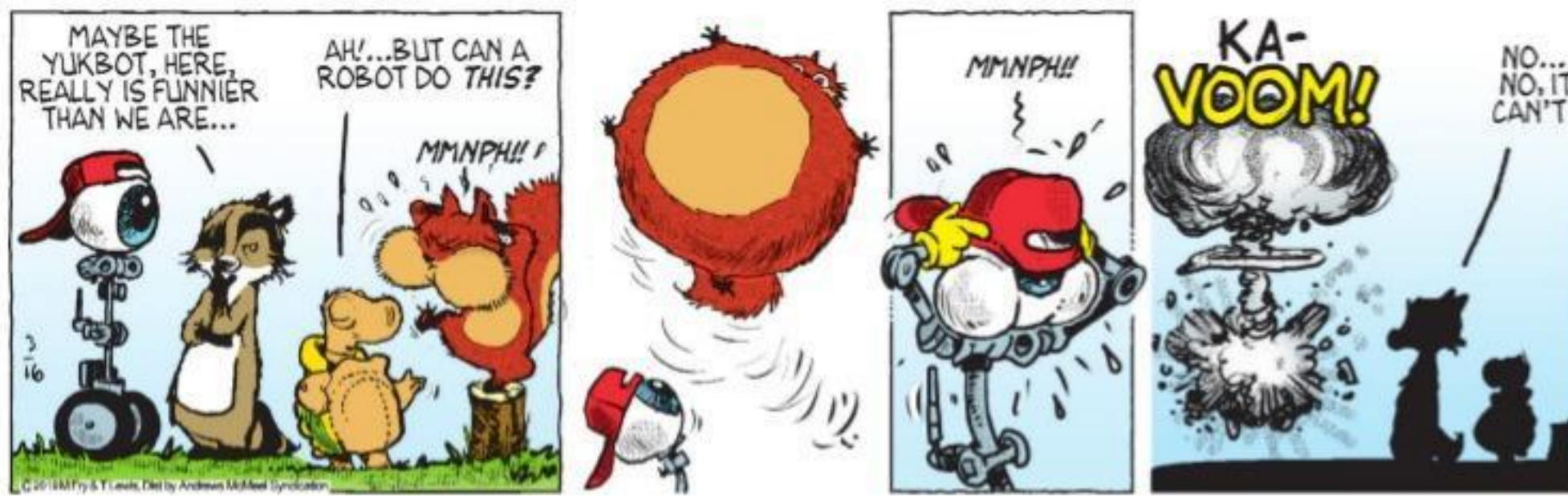
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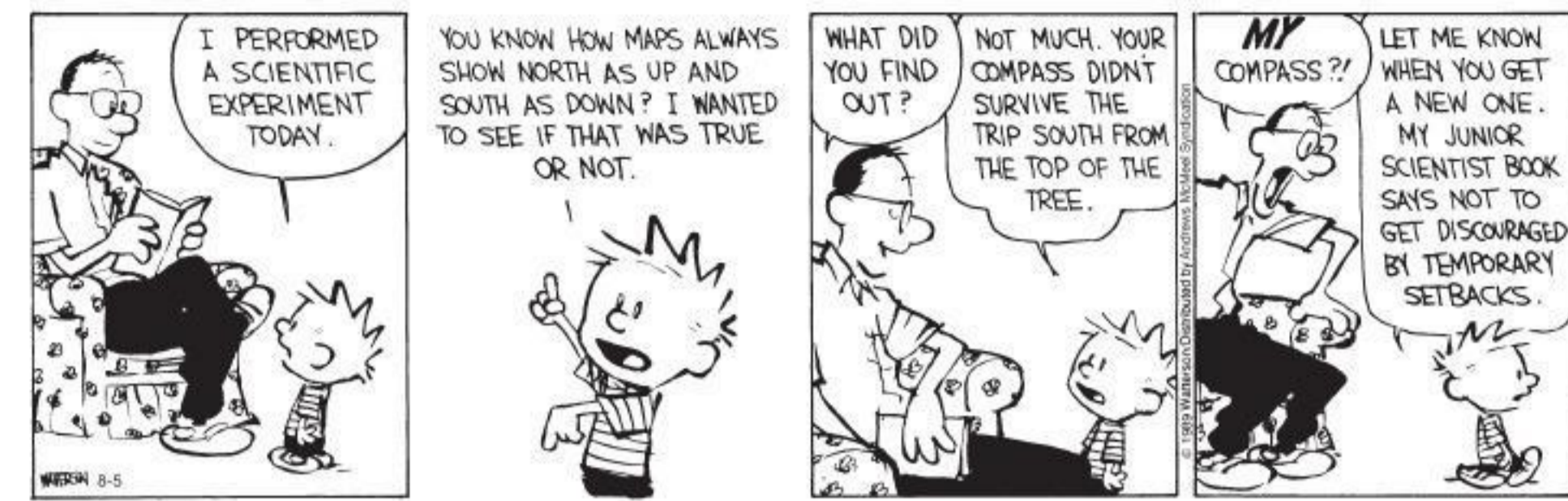
- ACROSS**
- Holiday spot for senior accountant (7)
 - Boasting without publicity is well done (5)
 - Beaten hollow (4)
 - Good man had an urge and joined up (8)
 - Long leases are required for this place to live in America (3,7)
 - Ill-gotten bundle of pound notes (6)
 - Not in control, yet I draft a new order (6)
 - Happy carol turns out not to be authentic (10)
 - A characteristic of houses? (8)
 - Emotional state low, with start of depression (4)
 - Treats ill (5)
 - Treat (7)
- DOWN**
- The boy came up to me for reward (5)
 - Marine store in Hong Kong? (4,4)
 - Head branch (6)
 - Comparatively good times when gambling takes place? (6,4)
 - With each twist it hurts (4)
 - A part that can't be matched (7)
 - Explains something the printer set all wrong (10)
 - It may be found at the end of the line (4,4)
 - Photographed in pieces (7)
 - The spirit of Hogmanay? (6)
 - Like a ship taking many to port (5)
 - Gallery idols (4)

Solutions Crossword 3935: Across: 1 Blunderbuss, 9 Ingress, 10 Upper, 11 Lily, 12 Antimony, 14 Nipper, 16 Eureka, 18 Twenties, 19 Asti, 22 Maria, 23 Puritan, 24 Stone's throw. Down: 2 Legal, 3 Noes, 4 Easing, 5 Boutique, 6 Suppose, 7 Killing time, 8 Army rations, 13 Restrain, 15 Pierrot, 17 Tempts, 20 Set-to, 21 Arch.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
Lunar alignments are very much to your taste today, but will only confer their promised benefits if you are happy to go along with all adventurous suggestions and invitations. Also, remember to check up on your rights, lest someone takes advantage of you.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
As the days pass, it will become much easier for you to relax and enjoy yourself. On the other hand, if you imagine domestic responsibilities are becoming lighter, you might be in for a shock! If people you live with begin to think that you're slacking, then they may soon play a trick on you.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
At the moment good communication is of the essence. Over the next few days you must say what needs to be said. You should have got something important off your chest by now, but there are still one or two hidden resentments. These, though, can be left until later.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
The Sun is now preparing to reduce its romantic presence, a poetic indication that you must draw the veil over several difficult situations, and make sure that a number of promising opportunities are of lasting value. Hang on to the past by all means, but not on to people and places that are no good for you.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
Sometimes planetary cycles just refuse to be convenient. Your stars are out of tune with the working week, and ideally you should extend your personal activities until Wednesday, at least. However, if there is serious business to conduct today, make sure you concentrate on the financial aspects.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
Secrets are all very well, but the fact that you're still not letting on about something important could eventually cause a spot of aggravation. You must pick your time carefully - next week might bring the best moment to reveal all. Can you wait? I think so.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
Like many other people, your mood will change on Wednesday and Thursday. So, if you have social arrangements to confirm, do so as soon as possible, mainly because by the end of the week your partners will be showing an increasing tendency to misunderstand the simplest instruction.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
There's still a lot to happen at work, and you are by no means at the end of a period of professional adjustment. A complete change of direction is likely for many Scorpios, and even if you're not in paid employment, a major long-term ambition is about to crystallize.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)
The Moon is in an intense relationship with your sign, an indication that while you may be a little more emotional than usual, you have the advantage in most dealings with other people, both at work and at home. You must use your talents and energy wisely.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
If financial decisions are pending, don't mess around or prevaricate. There is a great deal to be gained from exerting your monetary muscle to get your own way. Dazzle people with the facts, and you may just find that they come round to your way of thinking.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
You'll have to clarify the issues in all personal relationships now. Although you are about to enter a phase in which the emotional situation should be generally satisfying, you'll be guided by your instincts and hence liable to make one or two false moves.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
If conditions at work need to be improved, or if your daily burden must be lightened, then talk to the people who can help. You have everything to gain by opting for dialogue and debate, everything to lose by keeping yourself to yourself. Stay close to the folk who matter.

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.

Not failure, but _____, is crime. - James Russell Lowell (3,3)

CHPAO APRUWM
 ENVIL EEHLSW

SOLUTION: 'POACH, LIVEN, WARMBUR, WHEELES' Answer: Not failure, but low aim, is crime. - James Russell Lowell

SUDOKU 3999

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 3998



SALUTE THE SOLDIER



Sashastra Seema Bal fondly remembers with gratitude and cherishes the valiant contribution of brave heart CT/ GD Gannam Angu of 12th Bn SSB. CT/GD Gannam Angu laid down his life in a militant attack while fighting for the nation on this day in the year 2002 near Jawahar Market, Srinagar in Jammu & Kashmir. His courage and valor will continue to inspire us all.

We salute the valor and supreme sacrifice of the brave soldier.

SASHASTRA SEEMA BAL



Sashastra Seema Bal fondly remembers and cherishes the valiant act of the brave heart CT/GD Ghansham Gurjar of 59th Bn SSB, Nanpara, who made the supreme sacrifice of his life for the Nation in the line of duty. On 14th October, 2016, while SSB personnel were returning to Diginabin camp, militants fired indiscriminately on the SSB vehicle at Hobitabad in Zakora Police Station, Srinagar (J&K). SSB personnel retaliated bravely and fired at the militants. During exchange of fire, Ghansham Gurjar received severe head injuries and attained martyrdom. His courage and valor will continue to inspire us all.

We salute the valor and supreme sacrifice of the brave soldier.

SASHASTRA SEEMA BAL

MAHANAGAR TELEPHONE NIGAM LIMITED
Corp. & Regd. Off.: Mahanagar Doorsanchar Sadan, 5th Floor, 9, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003
CIN : L32101DL1986G0123501

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
T.E.No.-MTNL/20-80/885/2019-MM/ILD Carriage Charges, Dtd.-14.10.2019
MTNL invites online open tender for empanelment of Vendors for carrying Originating ILD Traffic of MTNL Delhi and Mumbai. For details please log on to website <https://www.eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> or www.mtnl.in. DGM (MM) CO

Jawaharpur Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. Jawaharpur Thermal Power Project Malvan (Etah) E-Tender Notice

1. E-Tender No: 06/CCC-I/JTTP/2019/20, Office: Superintending Engineer, CCC-II, JTTP Malwan Etah. Work: Construction of shed for 05 Nos. RO Plant including suitable bore submersible pumps and electrical control panel complete at different location of village malwan, Nasirpur babruti, ayar, Nigoh Hasanpur & Brisingpur, Etah. Estimated cost: Rs. 41,57,085.00 (Rs. Forty One lac Fifty Seven Thousand Eighty five only). **Earnest Money:** Rs. 84,000.00 (Rs Eighty Four Thousand only) (Refundable). **Tender Cost:** 500.00+ 18% (Non Refundable). In the form of NEFT/RTGS only in favour of Jawaharpur Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited, Bank: Punjab National Bank, Etah, A/C : 2789002100007763, IFSC: PUNB0364300. **Bid submission end date:** 11.11.2019, **Date of Opening Part-I:** 14.11.2019, **Part-II:** 18.11.2019. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>.

2. E-Tender No: 07/CCC-I/JTTP/2019/20, Office: Superintending Engineer, CCC-II, JTTP Malwan Etah. Work: Annual running and operation of R.O. (Reverse Osmosis) plant situated at 05 different locations in village Malwan, Brisingpur, Ayaar, Nigoh Hanpur & Nasirpur Babrauti, Etah. Estimated Cost: Rs. 12,90,032.00 (Rs. Twelve Lac Ninety Thousand Thirty Two only). **Earnest Money:** Rs. 26,000.00 (Rs. Twenty Six Thousand only) (Refundable). **Tender Cost:** 500.00+ 18% (Non Refundable) in the form of NEFT/RTGS only in favour of Jawaharpur Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited, Bank: Punjab National Bank, Etah, A/C : 2789002100007763, IFSC: PUNB0364300. **Bid submission end date:** 11.11.2019, **Date of Opening Part-I:** 14.11.2019, **Part-II:** 18.11.2019. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>.

3. Tender No: 01/EPD-I/JTTP/Etah/2019/20, Office: Superintending Engineer, E&MCC-II, JTTP Malwan Etah. Supply: Supply of 400 KVA, 11/0.43KV distribution transformer for JTTP, Malwan, Etah. **Earnest Money:** Rs. 12,000.00 (Rs. Twelve Thousand only). **Tender Cost:** 1000.00+ 18%. **Date of Opening Part-I:** 13.11.2019, **Part-II:** 15.11.2019. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>.

Sd/- (R. S. Rajeev) Personal Assistant (W) to C. E. (L-2)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) CONST. DIVN. NO. II, JAMMU EXTENSION - I

Name of work : Const. of road by way of laying wet mix and 25mm thick OGPC on road from Tershah Talab to Mohalla Granthian. e-NIT No. 83 of 2019-2020/Div-2 Dated 30-09-2019

Reference : Due to Nil Response, the changes to the critical dates of the above said works are hereby made as under:-

Please read	Instead of
Bid Submission End Date 15.10.2019 (1800 hours)	Bid Submission End Date 10.10.2019 (1800 hours)
Bid Opening Date 16.10.2019 (1400 hours)	Bid Opening Date 11.10.2019 (1400 hours)

All other terms and conditions remains same.

No:- 8777-86
Dated: 11.10.2019
DIP/J-7585/19

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. II, Jammu

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE, TALAB TILLO JAMMU

TELE- 2505201/FAX-2552145
e-mail-Id:dbtagrijammu@gmail.com

Extension Notice (II)

Due to no/poor response to the e-NIT No. Accts/PS/NIT/2019-20/757-62 dated: 17/09/2019 for Purchase of Plant Protection Chemicals for the year 2019-20 is hereby extended as per the details given hereunder with same Terms and Conditions:-

Last date of Download of e-tender	Last Date of Submission of Hard Copy/Online Submission	Date & Time of Opening of Tender.
19/10/2019 up to 4:30 PM	21/10/2019 up to 12:30 PM	22/10/2019 at 01:00 PM or subsequent convenient date.

Yours faithfully,
Accounts Officer,
Member Secretary, SLPC
Directorate of Agriculture, Jammu.

No. Accts/PS/NIT/2019-20/844-49
Dated: 10.10.2019
DIP/J-7489/19

इलाहाबाद बैंक ALLAHABAD BANK
विश्वास की परंपरा A tradition of trust

Head Office: 2, Netaji Subhash Road, Kolkata-700001

E-Auction of Residential Property
E-auction of Residential property on 30th day of October, 2019 on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS, AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" & "WHATEVER THERE IS" on the platform <https://allahabadbank.auctiontiger.net>

E-auction sale notice for sale of Immovable Assets under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/s and guarantor/s that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, the Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Allahabad Bank Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "whatever there is" basis as on 30th day of October, 2019. The details of bank's dues, Borrower & Guarantors, Reserve Price, Earnest money & Description of immovable properties is given below:

Sl. No. & Branch	Name of the Account	Details of Immovable Properties	Name of the Mortgagor(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Amount of Secured Debt	Reserve Price (in Rs)	Earnest Money Deposit
1. Exhibition Road Branch Patna	M/s Om Sai Enterprises, Partner-Smt. Seema Devi & Sri Bharat Reghra urf Danapur Sahjadpur, Pargana-Phulwari, Thana No.21, Tauzi No.-11C, Khata No.911, Khesra Plot No.-94, Sub Registry-Danapur, Dist.-Patna, Vide Sale Deed No.-1431 dated 01.03.2008 standing in the name of Smt. Chameli Devi (deceased) inherited by mortgagors. Boundaries as per deed: North-Sri Ram Babu, South-Suresh Prasad Nagvanshi, East-Sri Kishore Rai, West-Smt. Malti Devi W/o Sri Yougendra Rai.	All that part and parcel of the land admeasuring an area of 1 Kattha more or less situated under Mauza-Balipur Reghra urf Danapur Sahjadpur, Pargana-Phulwari, Thana No.21, Tauzi No.-11C, Khata No.911, Khesra Plot No.-94, Sub Registry-Danapur, Dist.-Patna, Vide Sale Deed No.-1431 dated 01.03.2008 standing in the name of Smt. Chameli Devi (deceased) inherited by mortgagors. Boundaries as per deed: North-Sri Ram Babu, South-Suresh Prasad Nagvanshi, East-Sri Kishore Rai, West-Smt. Malti Devi W/o Sri Yougendra Rai.	1. Sri Bharat Bhushand S/O Sri Laxman Rai, Near Old Police Station, Sahpur, Daudpur, Danapur Cantt, Patna-801502 2. Sri Chandra Sekhar Prasad S/O Sri Laxman Rai, Near Old Police Station, Sahpur, Daudpur, Danapur Cantt, Patna-801502 3. Sri Hemant Kumar S/O Sri Laxman Rai, Near Old Police Station, Sahpur, Daudpur, Danapur Cantt, Patna-801502	₹42,90,052/- (Rupees Forty two lac ninety thousand & fifty two only) + interest, cost & charges w.e.f 29.11.2017	₹19,10,000/- (Rupees Nineteen lac ten thousand only)	₹1,91,000/- (Rupees One lac ninety one thousand only)
M/s Ezee Air Travel, Proprietor-Sri Shivendra Kumar, BPCL Road, Mahabir Nagar, Saristabad, Sipara, Patna-800002	All that part and parcel of the land along with building constructed on the said land admeasuring an area, admeasuring 6.25 decimal, in the name of Sri Braj Bihari Singh S/O Sri Bans Ropan Singh, vide Sale Deed No.5465 dated 28.08.1965, bearing book no.1, Volume no.57, Page No.364-368, Khata No.136, Plot No.533, Tauzi No.8, Thana No.227, Situated at Mauza-Anaith, PO-Anaith, PS-Arrah, District-Bhojpur, SRO-Arrah, Bihar. Bounded as under: North-Sri Suchit Mahto and Ramjapit Mahto, South-Sri Lal Behar Mahto, East-Sri Roop Lal Singh, West-Jai Govind Prasad Singh.	All that part and parcel of the land along with building constructed on the said land admeasuring an area, admeasuring 6.25 decimal, in the name of Sri Braj Bihari Singh S/O Sri Bans Ropan Singh, vide Sale Deed No.5465 dated 28.08.1965, bearing book no.1, Volume no.57, Page No.364-368, Khata No.136, Plot No.533, Tauzi No.8, Thana No.227, Situated at Mauza-Anaith, PO-Anaith, PS-Arrah, District-Bhojpur, SRO-Arrah, Bihar. Bounded as under: North-Sri Suchit Mahto and Ramjapit Mahto, South-Sri Lal Behar Mahto, East-Sri Roop Lal Singh, West-Jai Govind Prasad Singh.	Mortgagor/Guarantor: Sri Braj Bihari Singh S/O Sri Bans Ropan Sing, Ward No.43, Anaith-Sasaram Main Road, Arrah, Dist.-Bhojpur, Pin-802301	₹20,79,511/- (Rupees Twenty lac seventy nine thousand five hundred & eleven only) + interest, cost & charges w.e.f 11.09.2018	₹24,80,800/- (Rupees Twenty four lac eighty thousand eight hundred only)	₹2,48,080/- (Rupees Two lac forty eight thousand & eighty only)

Last Date & time for Submission of Process Compliance Form with EMD amount: 28th Day of October, 2019 at Allahabad Bank, Exhibition Road Branch, at 1st Floor, Arunachal Bhawan, Exhibition Road, Patna-800001 Till 5.00 PM

Date & Time of e-auction: 30th day of October, 2019 from 12.30 PM to 2.30 PM at the platform of <http://allahabadbank.auctiontiger.net>

For further details and Terms & Conditions, Contact: Mr. Dhiraj Kumar (Mob-8828206020)

For downloading further details and Terms & Conditions, Please Visit: (i) <https://www.allahabadbank.in> (ii) <http://www.tenders.gov.in> (iii) <https://allahabadbank.auctiontiger.net>, <https://ibapi.in>

Date : 11.10.2019
Place : Patna

Authorized Officer
Allahabad Bank

17 TALK ART, MUSIC, STYLE, FOOD

WEEK AHEAD



Fictional Narratives

AN EXHIBITION titled "Like a Leaf in Autumn" comprises miniature paintings by contemporary artist and photographer Waswo X Waswo and his collaborator, artist Rakesh Vijay. At Gallery Espace, 16, Community Centre, New Friends Colony, till November 16.



Handle with Care

THE DELHI Blue Pottery Trust is hosting Terra Fest 2019 that brings together terracotta artists from 10 states, including Manipur, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana, Odisha and Tamil Nadu. Among the many workshops, watch out for a workshop on making terracotta jewellery by Harish Dhawan, and another session titled "Five minute Ganesha in terracotta" to be conducted by Gourav Sampatrao. At Open Air Theatre and Sculpture Court, Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, Mandi House, till October 16, 11 am to 7 pm.



Bengal for Thought

INDULGE IN flavours from the City of Joy with the Bengali Food Festival at the fine dining restaurant Indus Express. Gorge on Aloo Posto, Lau Shaager Chorchori, Illish Paturi, Daab Chingri, Doi Murgi and other dishes at Vivanta Dwarka, till October 20, 7.30 pm to 11.45 pm. Contact: 011-66103583.



Weaving History

TEXTILE ENTHUSIASTS can head to 'The Artisan Exhibit of Handwoven Textiles' to see multiple examples of weaves from Assam, Nagaland and Odisha. Pick from an exquisite collection of handwoven saris, fabrics and home textiles, interspersed with loom loom textiles of Nagaland and textiles made by the Kamrup weavers of Assam. At Glasshouse, RK Khanna Stadium, 1, Africa Avenue, RK Puram, October 15-16, 11 am to 6 pm.



Festive Delight

THE DASTKAR Festival of Lights is showcasing works of 130 craft groups. On display are products ranging from handcrafted furniture to natural fibre lamps and Thangka paintings. It also features live demonstrations of leather puppetry from Andhra Pradesh and papier mache from Rajasthan. At Nature Bazaar, Kisan Haat, Andheria Modh, till October 23, 11 am to 7.30 pm. Entry fee is Rs 30.

Taking the First Step

The recent edition of India Fashion Week showcased young talent and invoked themes of inclusivity and diversity

EKTAA MALIK

MAJOR DHYANCHAND stadium in Delhi was witness to eclectic and brave sartorial choices this weekend, as it hosted the Spring Summer 20 edition of Lotus Makeup India Fashion Week (LMIFWSS20). An array of designers, both established and upcoming, presented their interpretations of #myfashionmytribe, which was also the theme of the grand finale that took place on Saturday night. The Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI) also curated a special show titled "Young Guns", which aimed at showcasing the young brigade of the fashion fraternity. Personal experiences and narratives, environmental concerns and Indian handloom seemed to be weighing heavily on the young creative minds, most of whom presented menswear. We bring you a selection.

Familial Pride

Ghaziabad-based Sushant Abrol, who lost his elder brother Squadron Leader Samir Abrol in February earlier this year, paid homage to the Indian Air Force and defence personnel through his menswear collection "Beyond the Clouds". Abrol founded his label Countrymade in January 2019. "This is my way of remembering him, and for the people to know that he died in the line of service," says Abrol, 29, a NIFT Mohali graduate. The collection has ready-to-wear separates in stark shades of blue, slate black and white. We see bomber jackets, leather gloves, military cut safari jackets, and shirts with detailing but little or no embellishments. "I am glad that young people are getting a platform. Just because we are young doesn't mean we are immature. We also have a sense of fashion and design," asserts Abrol, who has earlier worked with designer Rohit Bal.

(Clockwise from right) A model wearing a design by Sushant Abrol; Aman Singh's label Bareek; Sameer Madan's collection embraces heritage and history



Attention to Detail

Delhi-based designer Aman Singh has named his menswear label Bareek, the Urdu word for "very fine". "The idea was to make 'fine' clothes that are intrinsic to heritage. For instance, khadi is a fine fabric, it's like second skin, even though the first impression is that of it being a coarse material," says Singh, a self-taught designer. He is showcasing Intergalactic Luum, where he has blended Jaamdani from Bengal with Ikat from Telangana. The collection also has a graphic novel to its name. "We need to not just hark back on traditions but also take them forward and contemporise them," he adds. Singh got involved with textiles and weaving clusters by accident, when he stumbled on a weaving cluster on a road trip to Bengal. "Our handwoven materials are light and breathable, in tune with the tropical heat of the region. This is only possible on a handloom," he adds. Singh, 28, has a background in branding and marketing. He also worked on the 2015 Make In India campaign.



Break Away

Keeping in tune with the theme of inclusivity, designer Sameer Madan's Spring Summer 20 womenswear collection embraces heritage and history, and yet doesn't let it entrap you. We see a lot of puffed sleeves and cinched waists, but he juxtaposes them with a thigh-high slit. "We saw these cuts and styles in the olden times, and they became synonymous with entrapments. I wanted to change that. We need to embrace history and not feel entrapped by it," says Madan, 27, who graduated from London College of Fashion. His clothes evoke glamour, courtesy the use of satin. There is also a lot of organza, to create volume. Leather appliqué is something of a calling card for Madan. "We have used faux leather to embellish the outfits in this collection," adds the Delhi-based designer.

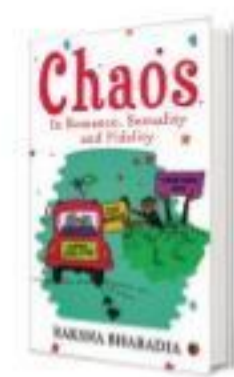
NEW ORDER

Tall, fair and leggy models might have dominated the ramp but things somewhat changed with more dusky models such as Carol Gracias and Archana Akil Kumar. This edition of the LMIFWSS 20 made a conscious effort at promoting diversity. We saw Sakshi Sindhwani, a plus size model, walking the ramp for most designers. Nagaland-based transgender model Kenny Awomi (pictured) also walked for multiple designers. A burn victim, Suman Mishra was seen walking for Amita Gupta. In addition, designer Nitin Bal Chauhan addressed the issue of mental health and dementia in his show held on Thursday.

DEFYING THE ODDS

National Gallery in Berlin is celebrating 100 years since women were admitted to the Berlin Academy of Arts in 1919, with an exhibition of works by female artists, including Caroline Bardua and Sabine Lepsius, produced before this.

SNAP SHOTS



Hand in Hand

AHMEDABAD-BASED author Raksha Bharadia's book *Chaos in Romance, Sexuality and Fidelity* (Rupa; Rs 295) looks at long-term relationships among heterosexual couples in urban India, touching on three major aspects of the relationship — intimacy, sexuality and fidelity. A research of three years, she documented the lives of nearly 70 to 80 married couples from Tier 2 and 3 cities, from middle-income groups, and spoke to several experts, including psychologists, sexologists and therapists. She has a four-year-old online portal, on couple relationships in urban India, called *bonoblog.com*. In her book, Bharadia looks at modern-day issues, the changes in socio-dynamics between men and women and reasons for infidelity. The book also contains nearly 75 illustrations by graphic illustrator Siddharth Mukherjee. **SOHINI GHOSH**



Remember the Time

THE MUSICAL production *MJ The Musical*, based on the life and work of Michael Jackson, will preview at Broadway's Neil Simon Theatre in New York in July 2020. To be directed and choreographed by British choreographer Christopher Wheeldon, the musical will trace the late American singer-songwriter's illustrious journey when he was in his 20s and 30s. Featuring several of Jackson's iconic songs, it is being produced by the Michael Jackson Estate and Columbia Live Stage.

Mistaken Identity

Beyond celebrating deviant behaviour in bristly verbal jibes, several Punjabi songs promote hypermasculinity as a life vision

SAURABH KAPOOR

Reejan naal khadkaune aan ni, peg, daang te vairi nu (I relish clinking glasses, clacking my wooden staff and belting my rivals). Regular 'man stuff' from a recent Punjabi hit, *German Gun*, that has 114K YouTube likes and counting. Guns, flashy cars and drooling women is how "real men" in countless Punjabi songs roll. And when they are challenged, they respond.

On September 11, this unruly gender-role script almost set off a public brawl between two Punjabi singers — Elly Mangat and Rami Randhawa — on the streets of Mohali. While one flew all the way from Canada to settle scores, the other waited for him at home, as promised. Both vowed not to stop until the other cried uncle. Young fans, with little supervision, turned up to display strength in numbers. Finally, the Punjab Police prevented an escalation. Randhawa has since regretted using unprintable profanities against Mangat in expressing his prudential concern for Punjabi culture and values which, he felt, were under attack. And Mangat has alleged torture by Punjab Police, who have come out looking as the real tough guys.

It is the only thing remotely funny about a spat supposedly triggered over an aggressive pursuit of crimes against Punjabi culture. But if you pluck away all the layers, at the core lies a cult of hypermasculinity bandied about with ferocity of a foghorn by the Punjabi music industry — the country's biggest player in the business of non-film music.

Consider the portrait of a 'man's man' Mangat sketches in his songs that run with titles like *Affair*, *Daku*, *Gunda Touch*, *Hardcore*, *Show off*, *Thug Life*, *Savage Bande*, *Shikar* and *Kartoos Anthem*, among others.

This man is someone who claims to be a fan of lethal weapons since Class 5 (*Panjvi class to aan fan gun de*). A hunk who has had breakups because he puts his guy friends, who are like Ak-47s (*Yaar '47' Jehe*), above everyone else (*Jss gal to affair kinne tut gaye, munda top utte rakhda aye yaaran nu*). He is a criminal that a girl must stay away from (*Apradhi tera yaar kude, tu reh range to baar kude*). Who counts his drinks not in humble 'pegs', but bottles (*Do-tein botlan gadich karde*). Who enjoys his *sulfa* (cannabis) and *nagni* (opium). Who is averse to women,



Rami Randhawa; (top) Elly Mangat

who are all over him, but loves his cars (*Naaran to parhez, caran da craze*) and buys a new set of wheels every second day (*Shonki munda teeje din car badle*). And of course, it all adds up to the final assertion of manhood — *Hardcore Jat Poora Majra*. And Mangat is not the only one.

While it would be an unfair leap to suggest that Punjabi pop/rap injected hypermasculinity into the Punjabi society, it certainly did put a beat to it. With music as the central cultural vehicle, these songs have been holding up an unhealthy ideal of manhood as a life vision to many boys and men. It is a model that presents only two responses — aggression and anger — as a stylised way of social interaction in a man's

world. Hit back, when hit. When hurt, hurt back. *Pind sarpanch vi matha onu teke ni, thokan laga na sing agga-pichha vekhe ne* (Even the sarpanch bows to him, he doesn't care for consequences before beating up his rivals). The song *Badnam* by Mankirt Aulakh goes on to glamourise a boy buying a stolen gun, drinking "neat" at a wedding, and spilling blood on the dance floor in an apparent fight over a girl. Another one by Sidhu Moose Wala, declares: *Goli badle, goli milu, hisab sadde sidhe aa ni, Jat da muqabala das kithe aa ni* (A bullet for a bullet, our rules of engagement are clear. Who can measure up to this Jat, you tell me). These and other macho fantasies in popular songs frown upon curbing the urge to retaliate in anything and everything.

In 2017, gangster Babli Randhawa purportedly bragged about brutal killing of a rival in FB Live set to the tune of a popular song: "*Main ni kenda mere kolon bhul hoi aa, ho layi e ladai appan mull hot aa* (My act is not a mistake. I have earned this rivalry)," he sings along, asserting: "*Poore hosh vich maare fire Jat ne* (I fired in my senses)". Moments like these matter most in seeing the blurry lines where pop machismo and criminality merge to dangerously fill purpose-void for men, culturally baptised in the '*ankhi soorma*' (vainglorious braveheart) archetype.

Beyond celebrating deviant behaviour in bristly verbal jibes, most songs also subject women to subordinate roles. In this script of hypermasculinity, the men are Byronic tailchasers and the only roles for women are either smitten accomplices (*Mom, Dad puchde munde di degree, ki dasan 8 chalde tere te parche* — My parents ask about the boy's education, how do I tell them you're named in 8 FIRs) or gun-toting "bro-chicks" (*Jatti Jeone Morh* (a celebrated dacoit) *Di Bandook Wargi*). In the end, what's put out in the world as entertainment is textbook toxic masculinity — suppressing everything associated with the feminine and putting everything macho on a pedestal. An all out act to prove dominance.

It is no surprise then that when this 'tough guy' infatuated with extreme power and economic success crashes against the wall of reality, medicating the pain with substance abuse or picking petty fights over personal slights to prove being 'man-enough' are choices he finds hard to resist.

ON THE LOOSE

Life Wear

Fashion moves further from just what's trendy



LEHER KALA

THE JAPANESE fashion retail phenomenon Uniqlo opened its first store in India, in Delhi, last weekend. In keeping with its global model, the store is a humongous space at 35,000 sq ft, spread over three levels. According to reports published in various newspapers, Uniqlo did sales of Rs 1.2 cr on day one, excellent, considering we're (allegedly) in the midst of an economic slowdown. So many industries are seeing a massive dip in spending. However, it is worth noting that Uniqlo billed much less than its competitor H&M did on their first day of operation back in 2015, which stands at a record Rs 1.75 crore.

Fashion is heavily influenced by value systems and perspectives and Uniqlo is a beneficiary of our current moment. When humanity is forced to think about mass extinction, there is a subtle pressure to take our own shopping choices seriously as well. It is, perhaps, too much to expect people to entirely resist the convenience pret-a-porter or ready-to-wear offers. However, that time is gone when it was totally cool to buy something, wear it once and chuck it, an accepted practice heavily propagated by the likes of Zara and H&M. While there will always be people who value cheap, disposable style over everything else, there is also a growing number of impatient shoppers who are concerned about landfills and irritated by poor quality. Contrary to popular perception that fashion is a medium to stand out, Uniqlo's designs hint at a contempt for edginess. Despite its name, the merging of the words unique and clothing, Uniqlo is much more about quiet minimalism, than what's in. And it turns out, there are plenty of people who don't mind if they're dressed like everyone else.

For shoppers offended by bling or the overwhelming variety of shiny an-

imal prints perpetually on offer at all the high fashion brands, Uniqlo is like a soothing balm in comparison — all soft fleeces and shirts in monochromatic colours. The styling is a defiant rejection of extravagance, and also a rejection of trends. Sure, you'll find something better fitted and more fashionable at Zara, since they have perfected the art of copying stuff off the latest catwalks at a dizzying pace, but our world has changed. Flashback to the hit film *Confessions of a Shopaholic* released in the early 2000s, where the red-headed protagonist was filmed sitting among a heap of dresses from her overflowing wardrobe, ruing that she had nothing to wear. The great seismic shift in 2019 is, it's no longer a fashion faux pas to repeat an outfit. Overconsumption is a symbol of vulgar avarice; we are fast reaching the point where fashion features of Mariah Carey or Elton John's extensive shoe collection is viewed with sneering derision.

The most brilliant scam wrought by the fashion industry is something so many women continue to buy into: that clothes, especially expensive clothes, must not be repeated and if they must, only, very judiciously so. The men have been liberated by this ridiculous and all pervasive fashion rule because of icons like Steve Jobs and Jerry Seinfeld, who stubbornly wore the same clothes every day — an endless rotation of blue jeans and sneakers. Societal norms hold women to a higher sartorial standard and because of our conditioning, we imagine everyone looking at our clothes and judging us for wearing the same old thing. This drastic overestimation of other people's attention spans is widely common. In reality, people are too caught up with their own lives to, A: notice, B: care. Along comes a brand that opts into a determined kind of sameness, that is slowly taking away this aversion to repetition. Uniqlo's highest selling, most famous product, the ultra thin thermal Heattech, is 15 years old, perfect for those few horrendous January days in Delhi. The cleanly designed inner reflects the new fashion ethos, that conspicuousness isn't all its cut out to be.

We know in the subcontinent your first innings is really important. The runs you put on the board gives you a chance. But the way India batted, especially Virat with 250, it takes a lot of mental toughness. Two days in the field can wear you down. Especially that second evening, the batsmen were a bit weak in the mindset. From then it's playing catch-up."

— FAF DU PLESSIS, SA CAPTAIN

Pitching it right

India's home dominance once relied on the wickets on offer, but their innings-and-137-run win over South Africa, makes this narrative redundant

SANDIP G
PUNE, OCTOBER 13

AS DARK clouds drifted into the stadium shortly after India had thrashed the Proteas by an innings and 137 runs, curator Pandurang Salgaonkar stood beside the 22-yard strip sporting a faint smile. It was something he couldn't have done two years back when the India-Australia Test had got over in three days, thanks to his crumbling pitch.

Salgaonkar soon addressed his assistants before they dispersed to wipe off the debris and selectively burn the worn-out patches of the strip. It resembled a burial ground, symbolic of how India, in their ascent to invincibility, has burned its overdependence on made-to-order turners. There, no doubt, was tum, but not ripping, gasp-inducing deviation. Competent batsmen could trust the bounce, play through the line, and even leave on length. That was the reason Indian captain Virat Kohli enforced the follow-on, a rarity for modern-day skipper. If the strip was prone to cracking up, he would have thought twice.

All the wickets South Africa lost on the fourth day, owed to the mastery of Indian bowlers. For example, Aiden Markram was undone by subtle inward seam movement off Ishant Sharma. Temba Bavuma was wonderfully entrapped by Ravindra Jadeja. So did Ashwin dismiss Faf du Plessis, bluffing him with a dipping off-break before slipping in a flatter one that didn't turn as much, identical to how he nailed him in the first dig.

Wriddhiman Saha took a brace of wonderful catches, diving to his left to pouch the smooth Theunis de Bruyn and juggling to complete the inside-edge catch of du Plessis. The skipper's departure crushed South Africa's last lingering hopes of salvaging something from the match. From 70/3 and soon to 79/5, there was no wriggle room.

Also to be blamed was the South Africans injudicious stroke-play. Dean Elgar, for instance, attempted to loft Ashwin, but ended up miscuing it. Quinton de Kock tried a horrendous slog-sweep off Jadeja, and ended up missing it completely. So it wasn't so much a misbehaving pitch as their own incompetence and injudiciousness. Then, that's what good bowling units do to teams — they force them to do something silly. While it's rare for non-Asian spinners to boss over their Indian counterparts, South Africa's pace pack has repeatedly outbowled the Indians, from the days of Allan Donald and Shaun Pollock to those of Dale Steyn and Morne Morkel. That was the reason Team India regularly opted for turning tracks.

This time around too, the South Africans had a pair of terrific pacemen in Kagiso Rabada and Vernon Philander, both familiar with the climes and having played Tests here, but they were put to shade by Mohammed Shami and Umesh Yadav. Together, with the unusually jaded Ishant, they gobbled up 16 wickets, which is almost half of the bowlers' spoils. The corresponding numbers for Rabada and Co read just six. In Vizag, they plugged away despite negligible assistance. In Pune they maximised the early bounce and carry, while Rabada, Philander and Anrich Nortje wasted the most conducive circumstances for seam bowling.

Staggeringly, it's not a one-off instance. In the series against West Indies last year, Umesh was the highest wicket-taker and had a better strike-rate and average than Ravichandran Ashwin and Co. A year back, the quartet of Shami, Yadav, Sharma and Bhuvneshwar Kumar combined to take 31 off the 53 Sri Lankan wickets. During the prolonged home stretch too (2016-17), the seamers weren't merely props in the play.

All of these instances suggest that India's invulnerability at home isn't the consequence of throwing the visiting batsmen into *alkadas* and snake-pits. It hasn't been home conditions but world class quality that has shone through Kohli's record-setting streak of 11 home series wins in a row. Starting from the England tour, they have lost just one match, drawn four and won 18, and of those victories, the least convincing margin of victory was by 75 runs and



THAT WINNING FEELING

The combination of Virat Kohli's relentless bowling attack and South Africa's inept batting meant India registered an emphatic win by an innings and 137 runs in Pune. This was their 11th consecutive series win at home. AP

11 This is India's 11th consecutive series victory at home — a Test record. Australia had twice won 10 home series in a row between 1994 to 2001 and 2004 to 2008.

30 Number of wins for India under Virat Kohli's captaincy in 50 Tests. Only two captains have secured more wins than Kohli in their first 50 Tests. Steve Waugh had won 37 Tests, while Ricky Ponting won 35.

eight wickets (batting last). This was how Australia steamrolled hapless competitors from the late 90s to mid-aughts.

With the bowlers taking the pitch out of the equation, the days of coaxing or cajoling curators are a thing of the past. Even Kohli doesn't minutely inspect the pitch before the match. A quick scan and he walks off.

Even opposition skipper doesn't fuss over wickets. Du Plessis, who featured in the 2015 series, where square-turners were the norm, admitted as much while deflecting India's series win to the quality they possess. "You don't mind losing to a team which is better than you, and they were in every aspect. If you look at their team in terms of Test caps, experience and the numbers they have on the board in terms of averages, they're way ahead of us."

It was a frank admission that India is the contemporary benchmark. Beating them at home will be the ultimate prize, as beating Australia in Australia or West Indies in West Indies once was. Visitors needn't fear the devilish turners, rather their wholesome bowlers and sterling batsmen. The pitch would no longer be an antagonist, neither the men who make them. Salgaonkar could finally smile.

Saha provides three timely reminders in two days

SANDIP G
PUNE, OCTOBER 13

WRIDDHIMAN SAHA didn't let his spectacular grab of Theunis de Bruyn on Saturday stew in the mind, because on Sunday, he pulled off two more stunners. First, a one-handed snaffle down the leg-side, De Bruyn again the ashen-faced victim and then a rebound effort off an inside-edge to terminate Faf du Plessis.

Indeed, the more you pore over that catch—flying full-stretch, covering nearly his own height to guzzle a thick edge of de Bruyn — the less spectacular it appears. Rather, he distracts you with his judgment, timing of his leap, the fineness of his glove-work, elasticity of his body-in-leap, agility of his hips, and smoothness of his landings. It's only the roll-overs after the landing—to reduce the impact of the effort—that caters to the theatre.

It's the classicism of his motion that distills the catch of its spectacularity — if he were inclined to theatre, it would have been one-gloved effort. But Saha has lots of time to think before he leaps — it's a reason he doesn't always need to dive and when he dives, he does so with both hands. Time, in the strictest sense, as all he could get will be a fraction of a second to decide his course of action—to judge the line, then whether to pounce or not, whether it's his or the first-slip's, whether he should go with one hand or both, when he should start moving. We talk of batsmen with an extra second to judge the length, similar is Saha's gift, the allowance of time, he makes those split-second decisions faster than most in contemporary cricket. It en-



Wriddhiman Saha takes a spectacular catch to dismiss Faf du Plessis. PTI

I should treat him (Saha) for those wickets down the leg-side and that first catch. Those are Wriddhi bhai's wickets.

UMESH YADAV

ables him to dive with both hands. It lets him take last-minute decisions, like when flinging for a leg-side catch or plunging for a rebound. Even after the inside edge had ricocheted off him, he hadn't lost sight of it. It's a trained instinct — an end product of fine-tuned natural reflexes and classical fundamentals.

While the snap-of-a-second judgement is natural, how his body obeys the synapses of his

brain is more acquired, conforming to the classical tenets of wicket-keeping. When diving for the ball, it's the head that leads him, not the arms. A steady head, like in most other dispositions of the game, gets you into good positions, enables a better view of the ball's trajectory, which in turn helps him get more body behind the catch. Then follows his arms and the feet, which doesn't leave the ground, until that sudden burst of explosivity. When you freeze-frame the exact moment his legs take, you can see his palms are almost parallel to the path of the ball. Then those nimble feet take off and the last sinews of his arms stretch.

Even when he's air-borne, he's in optimal control of his body in that he knows the exact degree of his stretch. Keepers, at times in their alacrity, tend to over-stretch and the ball ends up thudding off his webbing or wrists. But Saha knows exactly when the ball would nestle in his gloves. It's the other nicety that he doesn't grope, rather the balls look like it's being magnetically pulled into his clutches, he swoops on it rather than picks it up. It's perhaps the biggest gift of a keeper — good hands.

The touch-down was smooth, like a veteran pilot navigating a jet — it seems there are no bones in his body, only great charges and flows of energy. There's no tripping or jarring, just a fluid transformation of weight. He then rolls over, to reduce the impact of the landing. When he's gathered back on his feet, he was where a second slip would have been. It's the only part of Saha that's theatrical. It's one of dynamic beauty — so much so that it might have its own framed picture stamped in memory. He'd taken an eerily similar catch off Umesh Yadav's bowl-

SCORECARD >>

India vs South Africa

2nd Test | Pune | Toss: India

INDIA 601/5 DECLARED

SOUTH AFRICA 275

SOUTH AFRICA 189 IN 67.2 OVS (F/O)

A Markram lbw b Ishant 0 (2b)

D Elgar c Yadav b Ashwin 48 (72b, 8x4)

T de Bruyn c Saha b Yadav 8 (18b, 2x4)

Faf du Plessis c Saha b Ashwin 5 (54b)

T Bavuma c Rahane b Jadeja 38 (63b, 4x4, 1x6)

Q de Kock b Jadeja 5 (9b, 1x4)

S Muthusamy c Sharma b Shami 9 (44b, 1x4)

V Philander c Saha b Yadav 37 (72b, 2x4, 2x6)

K Maharaj lbw b Jadeja 22 (65b, 3x4)

K Rabada c Sharma b Yadav 4 (5b, 1x4)

A Nortje not out 0 (0b)

Extras: (b 8, lb 3, w 2) 13

FoW: 1-0 (Aiden Markram, 0.2 ov), 2-21 (Theunis de Bruyn, 5.4 ov), 3-70 (Faf du Plessis, 23.3 ov), 4-71 (Dean Elgar, 25.2 ov), 5-79 (Quinton de Kock, 28.2 ov), 6-125 (Tema Bavuma, 43.2 ov), 7-129 (Senuran Muthusamy, 44.5 ov), 8-185 (Vernon Philander, 66.1 ov), 9-189 (Kagiso Rabada, 66.6 ov), 10-189 (Keshav Maharaj, 67.2 ov)

Bowling:

I Sharma 5-2-17-1

U Yadav 8-3-22-3

M Shami 9-2-34-1

R Ashwin 21-6-45-2

R Jadeja 21.2-4-52-3

R Sharma 2-0-4-0

V Kohli 1-0-4-0

OCCUPATIONAL BONDING

Ashwin and Jadeja: Different paths that lead to one destination

SANDIP G
PUNE, OCTOBER 13

JUST BEFORE tea, Ravichandran Ashwin found something amusing in the stands and immediately put this to Ravindra Jadeja's notice, before they began rolling over in laughter. It was a rare instance of the pair sharing a light moment together on the ground, or revelling in something trivial. One often finds Jadeja at the end of some prank, chattering and bantering around, but the off-spinner is often lost in his own world, preoccupied with his bowling.

Even off the field, they have different tastes. Ashwin is an academic, a bibliophile hooked to music and web series, when not thinking of the game. Jadeja is a more outdoor guy. He likes his horses, bikes and pets. The dissimilar interests have ensured they don't hang out together unless it's a team function. On the field too, there isn't a brimming fraternal bond — the discussions are often serious, game-specific. Their seems to be a more occupational bonding.

Maybe, it's about perceptions. They're always pitted against each other, compared and

contrasted, from their craft and wickets to averages and traits. It never existed between Anil Kumble and Harbhajan Singh, because Harbhajan, because of the age disparity, was always considered an understudy.

Back in the day, most of the fabled spin quartet played most games together. So there wasn't scope for minute comparisons. But here, the two are contemporaries, competent lower-order hands and masterful craftsmen, leaving effectively little to choose between them.

The comparisons scuttle along, more so in the backdrop of Virat Kohli stating that Jadeja is his first-choice spinner overseas. Their mutual competitiveness makes for a riveting watch. Like it has been this series, where Ashwin has been perceptibly a notch above Jadeja.

The clear difference between the pair — other than the strike rate and average — has been the threat they exuded. Ashwin was Kohli's go-to man, whether to break a partnership, venture for the kill, or stem the run-flow, with the new ball or old, on the first session of the day or the last. Jadeja was more of a tying-an-end up operator, which he does



The mutual competitiveness between Ashwin and Jadeja makes it a riveting watch.

even when he's not at his best.

It can be argued that pitches weren't of the Jadeja kind — slow turners rather than breaking ones, the ones that grip, wherein he can scythe through opponents. It was a trifle slow for his liking. It's where Ashwin sneaked ahead, in his

ability to purchase wickets on unresponsive wickets, like it was in both Vizag and Pune. It's because he had a better range of tools to take the pitch out the equation — variations, drift, flight, loop, speed — and a mind that's constantly ticking over. Much has been written

about those gifts, but Ashwin prompts frequent retelling. In Pune, he relied on old-fashioned off-spin bowling, looking to beat the batsman in the air and in the turn, keeping him guessing with natural variation or the one that doesn't turn as much as the batsman expects.

Sometimes, he goes even subtler — like trying different wrist-loading positions. Some are at 180 degrees, sometimes 90. It's how he controls the drift.

The 180-degree drift more than the those at 90 degrees. He gets the control from his dexterous wrists. Sometimes he hurries through the action, sometimes slows it down. He uses different grips too — seam pointing down the wicket for the arm ball, or over-spinner, seam pointing at an angle for the standard off-break and the middle finger tucked behind the ball for the carrom ball. All of it creates a mirage for the batsman.

Like he did to Quinton de Kock in the first innings, when he ran faster into the action, lulling him to assume that he would be countering a full, fast-ish slider. Rather it was a good length ball that hung in the air and spat off the surface. It curved and dipped, hum-

ming with the spin imparted, homing on middle and off before stealing past the outside edge to dislodge the off-ball.

But it would be his continuous mastery over Faf du Plessis, the most experienced South African batsman, that would please him more. It was less exciting but more cerebral. In the first innings, the Proteas skipper played inside the line and edged to first slip. In the second, probably expecting a similar one, Faf played outside the line, only for the ball to deviate marginally more this time, and brushed his inside edge. Identical deliveries taking both edges, nothing would please a bowler more.

Ashwin specialises in taking the most important wicket, which makes him a captain's dream. Against Sri Lanka, he nailed Kumar Sangakkara four times in six innings, he was Kane Williamson's nemesis in the 2017 series, he has consumed Alastair Cook eight times in 12 matches and David Warner nine times in 14 games. It hasn't escaped his notice, and he explained the rationale: "Against the best players, you naturally will be sharper and more pumped up to be extra brilliant."

Its the gist of Ashwin-Jadeja competition.

Gaekwad trumps Azad in ICA elections, to be part of apex council

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
KOLKATA, OCTOBER 13

ANSHUMAN GAEKWAD, former India opener and coach, will be a part of the BCCI's nine-member apex council that will be finalised during the elections later this month. He defeated his nearest rival Kirti Azad by 90 votes in the Indian Cricketers Association (ICA) elections. In a three-way contest, Gaekwad bagged 471 votes, while Azad, a World Cup winner and a three-term MP, managed 381 votes. Rakesh Dhruv finished a distant third with 223 votes. Former India women's team captain Shantha Rangaswamy was elected unopposed as the female ICA representative nominee to the apex council.

"The outside world sees the glamour of cricket. But there are countless others who have worked hard for the game at the grassroots

level. Most ex-cricketers, men and women are struggling to make a living. We need to work with the BCCI to help them," Gaekwad's personal statement to the ICA voters had read.

Azad, too, had spoken about the pension entitlement to "every cricketer who has played even one first-class match" in his statement to the voters. He also stressed upon "considerably enhanced pension" for Indian women cricketers. Gaekwad and Rangaswamy were in the ad-hoc Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) that had reappointed Ravi Shastri as Team India's head coach. They, along with Kapil Dev, had stepped down after conflict of interest complaints were made against them.

Hitesh Majumdar became the ICA secretary by securing 646 votes to his rival Ashu Dani's 436 votes. V. Krishnaswamy, who had garnered 739 votes, defeated Kishore Kumar Sharma's 336 votes, to become the ICA treasurer. Former middle-order batsman Ashok Malhotra was already elected unopposed as the ICA president. Surender Khanna became the ICA represen-

GANGULY POISED TO BE THE NEW BCCI PRESIDENT

Sourav Ganguly is poised to be the new BCCI president. It is learnt that the BCCI members, who met in Mumbai Sunday, have unanimously nominated the former India captain to take charge of the board. *The Indian Express* understands that Brijesh Patel is going to be the IPL governing council chairman. The members will meet again on Monday morning to finalise the candidates for the posts of secretary and treasurer. Incidentally, Monday is also the deadline for filing the nomi-



nations for the BCCI's October 23 elections/AGM. Ganguly was elected unopposed as the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) president last month. However, the members have picked him as they felt that Indian cricket needed someone of his stature.

According to the BCCI constitution, Ganguly will have to demit office in July next year, when his cooling-off period begins. With him moving to the BCCI will mean that the CAB will have to conduct fresh elections for the president's post.

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY

IC member representatives. The ICA has been formed as per the Lodha Committee recommendation to give

tative nominee to the IPL governing council. Rajesh Nayyar (Walia) and Yajurvindra Singh were elected unopposed as the two

cricketers a voice in the functioning of Indian cricket. Thanks to the reforms, for the first time a players' association got the BCCI recognition, following which the elections were duly held. Three previous attempts were made by former cricketers to form an association - in the 1970s, late 1980s and at the turn of the century - which proved futile.

"There are 1,500 cricketers who are in the ICA. It's the first time that the BCCI has recognised the cricketers' association. This will have an impact. The ICA's role is more as a (body) for the welfare of cricketers. This is the first step in the right direction. We will wait and watch how things pan out," Malhotra told *The Indian Express*.

Legends such as Sunil Gavaskar and Sachin Tendulkar haven't joined the association so far, but the ICA president was hopeful they would eventually join. "We need their guidance and their wishes." Malhotra also exuded hope that the ICA would get affiliated to the Federation of International Cricketers' Associations.

Sandhu relies on bench strength to make up for Jhingan's absence

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, OCTOBER 13

INDIA GOALKEEPER Gurpreet Singh Sandhu is confident that squad players will rise to the occasion and make up for Sandesh Jhingan's absence, when the team faces Bangladesh in a World Cup qualifier at the Salt Lake Stadium on Tuesday. The former Stabæk - a Norwegian club - keeper credited India coach Igor Stimac for creating a pool of young players.

"I think the coach has been very smart from the start that he has brought in a mixture of young players so that we have those options and competitiveness in every single position. And we will have players coming in for his (Jhingan) position (centre-half). It's something we didn't want. We won't have his experience, but we have players who can fill the slot," Gurpreet said, as the Indian team arrived in Kolkata after a 10-day camp in Guwahati.

Jhingan suffered an Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) tear on his left knee during a practice game against Northeast United. It might require surgery. India, though, are fresh from an inspiring performance in a Group E qualifier at Doha, where they held Qatar, the reigning Asian champions and 2022 World Cup hosts, to a goalless draw. In their first game, India fought well but went down 2-1 to Oman. Bangladesh, ranked 187th in the Fifa rankings, will be the best opportunity for India (ranked 104) to secure their first win in the qualifiers.

Gurpreet, however, preferred to be cautious. "They (Bangladesh) are a good team and play with the heart and make it tough for other teams as well. So it's not an easy game," he said, adding: "They made it really difficult for Qatar. So we just need to make sure that we don't make mistakes and go out on the pitch and play to our strengths."

Meeting with AFC on leagues

New Delhi: A roadmap of the country's domestic football structure will be discussed in a meeting of the I-League and Indian Super League clubs with the officials of the AIFF and the Asian Football Confederation in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Monday.

The All India Football Federation has invited the clubs of the country's two domestic leagues to a meeting at AFC headquarters in Kuala Lumpur to discuss the future of the game in the country. The officials of FSDL, the organisers of the ISL, will also be present in the meeting.

The national federation, in consultation with the AFC, is expected to present a "roadmap" for the future of Indian club football as there is still no clarity regarding which league -- out of I-League and ISL -- will be the top tier competition in the country. In June, the AIFF announced that the ISL would take over from the I-League India's AFC Champions League qualifier slot from 2019-20. This effectively means the ISL takes over as India's top-tier football league.

I-League clubs have protested and asked for the introduction of promotion and relegation to allow them take part in the ISL. Officials of Kolkata clubs Mohun Bagan, East Bengal and ATK as well as Minerva Punjab owner Ranjit Bajaj have reached the Malaysian capital for the meeting. East Bengal will be represented by Executive Committee member Saikat Ganguly.

"We will wait and watch. We definitely hope that AFC is thinking of betterment of Indian football. We hope to get some answers in this perspective," East Bengal senior official Debabrata Sarkar said. "We are hoping for the best from the AFC and we strongly believe in their policies and principles as long as AFC follows their own constitution. We are expecting a structured roadmap for the betterment of football in India," said Bajaj. PTI

Landing the right punches

Despite losing in the Worlds final, Manju's growth in and out of the ring makes her one to watch out for

GAURAV BHATT
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13

"YOU'LL NEVER hear any complaints about Manju. Always on time, never slacks off during training, very disciplined. But the one thing I would sometime feel is that she's a little reserved. *Thoda chup-chup rehni thi*," Ali Qamar, women's chief coach says after the closing ceremony of the Women's World Championships. "Right now, it's good to see her laughing, enjoying. She is making friends with boxers from other countries and clicking photos, exchanging numbers. That honestly is the most heartening thing. For a boxer, growth shouldn't be limited to inside the ring."

For Manju Rani, personal betterment has followed in-ring exploits, a fruitful freshman year capped off with a World Championships silver. Manju, who turns 20 later this month, lost Sunday's final 4-1 to Russia's Ekaterina Paltceva, falling a step short of replicating the feat achieved at senior nationals, clinching gold in her maiden appearance.

After years waiting to be selected, the boxer from Rithal, Haryana, chose to represent Punjab in national competition. Sube Singh Beniwal, Manju's childhood coach who prompted the move, explains the bashfulness Qamar alludes to.

"There was a lot of nervousness. Mostly because after she wasn't selected for a long time, she started doubting herself. She'd go, 'why is this happening to me? maybe this is my level'," says Beniwal. "*Sharmaa thi, kuch khul ke bolni nahi thi* (She was very shy, never opened up). I used to remind her that she's too talented for this level, and it would only take a breakthrough for everyone to realise that."

Even after the shift to Punjab, there was apprehension at the nationals as Beniwal expected uproar if Manju had to face the contender from Haryana.

"That'd have been problematic. They would have complained and yelled about how can a Haryana girl face a state mate. Thankfully, that girl lost her match and Manju won gold."

Manju further cemented her place in the national camp with a silver at the Strandja memorial and a bronze at the India and Thailand Open. In August, she beat President's Cup gold medalist and former national champion Monika in the selection trials to make the Worlds squad.

"When we spoke on Friday, I reminded her of the journey and the year it has been," says Beniwal, adding that for the final, he asked his ward to believe in herself. The coaching staff in Ulan-Ude had a more practical advice: "You are fighting a Russian in Russia. You have to win the final handily."

"We had already told her before the start.



Manju Rani (R) settled for silver after losing to Russia's Ekaterina Paltceva in her maiden World Championship final in Ulan-Ude on Sunday. (Below, from left) Jamuna Boro (54kg), Manju (48kg), Mary Kom (51kg) and Lovelina Borgohain (69kg) pose with their World Championship medals. BFI



"We will lose if this bout is close or you two look equal. You need to dominate," says Qamar. "I believe she dominated. We were worried about unnees-bees ka farak. She was 20, and the other boxer was 18."

Confident beginning

The Indian began the bout confidently, launching double jabs and 3-4 punch combinations. She also spent the round fidgeting with her headgear, and asked for a time-out after two minutes. Beniwal believes the 50-second break in action which followed "affected her concentration", while Qamar says the brief stoppage only "helped as Manju

looked even sharper afterwards". Manju was clever, moved well but was punished whenever she tried to exchange with the shorter southpaw. Then after two busy rounds, Manju hung back, waiting to catch the Russian on counters; a risky strategy in any boxing match and especially so in a World Championship final against the hometown favourite.

"In our view she won the first two rounds, so in the third we asked her not to exert herself to avoid injuries. So that round was a bit low for us," says Qamar.

The Indian lost the third round on all five scorecards. Questionable strategies notwithstanding, Manju is a decidedly work-in-progress prospect. She is a loose striker, with quick combos. She also has an height advantage over other light-flyweights. But ring awareness and adapting will only come with experience.

"She has the height and the range. Sometimes, she goes on to attack, and that gives chance for a shorter opponent to get inside and counter. All the time we had to tell her to stay on the back-step counter," says Qamar. "But it's all about the experience. This was her first major competition and she performed freely. More such events will sharpen her."

In recent history, barring Mary's Worlds gold last year, India has had to be content with silver linings, all of which faded soon after. Sonica Chahal, Sonia Lather, Sarjubala Devi, Saweety Boora all made the final but couldn't build on the performances.

There are high hopes however from Manju. For one, the Olympic dream (and the weight of expectations) is on the back-burner till Paris. And with the sharp development Manju has shown over a short period, a little more room to grow certainly can't hurt.

BRIEFLY

Sen clinches maiden World Tour title

Rising Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen on Sunday clinched his maiden BWF World Tour title by winning the Dutch Open men's singles title after beating Yusuke Onodera of Japan in the summit clash in Almere, the Netherlands, on Sunday. The 18-year-old Indian rallied from a game deficit to defeat his world no. 160 opponent 15-21 21-14 21-15 in a final that lasted 63 minutes. The Dutch Open is a BWF World Tour Super 100 tournament.

Hockey: India colts beat NZ 8-2

Sanjay struck twice in Indian junior hockey team's dominating 8-2 win over New Zealand in Sultan of Johor Cup, in Johor Bahru on Sunday. Apart from Sanjay (17, 22), Dilpreet Singh (6'), Shilanand Lakra (14'), Mandeep Mor (22'), Suman Beck (45'), Pratap Lakra (50') and Sudeep Chirmako (51') scored for India while Dylan Thomas (28', 44') notched two goals for New Zealand. It was India's second win in the tournament and they face Japan in their next round robin league-stage match on Tuesday.

Ministry throws open stadia for all

The Sports Ministry has decided to provide access to four stadiums free of cost to federations and athletes from November 1. The first phase will see stadiums in the capital being opened for state and national federations to host competitions, tournaments and leagues of all sporting disciplines. JLN will host football leagues, training and competitions organised by federations, while IG stadium will be earmarked for wrestling, boxing, judo and badminton. Shooting competitions will be hosted at KSSR and hockey and swimming at National Stadium.

Dutee completes sprint double

Dutee Chand completed a sprint double in the season-ending 59th National Open Athletics Championships in Ranchi, clocking the fastest time in 200m by an Indian this year with a 23.17 second burst on Sunday. Railways' PU Chitra was another athlete who completed the double, adding the women's 800m crown to the 1500m title she won earlier in the tournament.

Michael learns to ruck & maul: Japan become first Asian nation to reach Rugby WC quarters

Leitch dedication

Captain Michael Leitch dedicated Japan's classy 28-21 win over Scotland to those affected by the super typhoon Hagibis which nearly forced the cancellation of the match. Remarkably, the match was played a matter of hours after Typhoon Hagibis, one of the worst tropical cyclones to hit the country in recent history, ripped through the Tokyo region, killing 23 people. Reuters reported. Leitch said: "It is tough at the moment with typhoon so thanks to everyone who made it happen. For those suffering from the typhoon this was for you guys. Our heart goes out to all the people suffering from the typhoon."

Land of rising (& faltering) dawns Japan play South Africa in the quarters next Sunday, and it had all begun with The Springboks. Before the last tournament in 2015 where they shocked the Boks 34-32, the Brave Blossoms had only ever won one World Cup match, against Zimbabwe in 1991, and lost every other by an average of 48 points, including a crushing 145-17 defeat at the hands of the All Blacks in 1995. Incredibly, the Boks match wasn't shown on terrestrial TV in Japan. It was against Scotland in fact that Japan's brave World Cup performances began 16 years ago in October of 2003 at the Dairy Farmers Stadium, Australia.

For those suffering from the typhoon this was for you guys."

MICHAEL LEITCH, CAPTAIN

Their day in the sun isn't done, and they'll be committed to build on that great day against us"

SU CARTY, IRISH RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

Winger Hirotohi Onozawa scored a free flowing try in the corner and Japan were within four points of Scotland with 23 minutes of the match remaining. The then Cherry Blossoms lost 32-11 after late Scots tries but enjoying only 17 per cent of possession during their characteristically cavalier attack, they showed dogged defence, attempting 168 tackles and making 136 of them. 2007 WC saw no wins, but at RWC 2011 they were four points down after 60 minutes before it ran away from them. In 2013 the win against Wales (Japan beat the Six Nations champions 23-8 in Tokyo) was the one when they finally put it all together and beat a Tier 1 nation.

How Scotland was beaten



Japan's Kazuki Himeno shakes hands with Kenki Fukuoka (R) after their win over Scotland in the final pool match of the Rugby World Cup. Reuters

Guardian writes, "Quick, smart, precise and innovative, they were a credit to their Kiwi coaches Jamie Joseph and Tony Brown and rapidly forced Scotland into damage limitation mode. Despite an encouraging early score by Finn Russell, who had almost set up Darcy Graham for a try a few moments previously, the hosts were a red and white blur of constant motion and their three first-half tries were all out of the top drawer."

Fukuoka's sensational off balance offload for the first try by the increasingly prolific Kotaro Matsushima, Luke Thompson putting his loosehead prop Keita Inagaki over by the posts and Timothy Lafaele putting in a neat grubber behind the Scottish defensive line for the buzzing winger Fukuoka to gather it one-handed and surge past Stuart Hogg were the defining images of the win.

Birth of Brave Blossoms

It was a British journalist Rich Freeman who can be credited with the name.

"After the game I was talking to Mark Bell, one of the coaches, about what a brave performance it had been for 60 minutes. A lot of the journalists were talking about 'Brave Blossoms' and one of the local papers used it in a headline. I used it in my copy for the Japan Times," said the rugby writer who lived in Japan for 20 years. 'Cherry Blossoms' was their English nickname but in Japan they were either called 'Mukai Japan', after then-coach Shogo Mukai, or people talked about 'the Sakura jersey'. "So from 2003 I started using 'Brave Blossoms' every now and again to break up the copy rather than just 'Japan, Japan, Japan' and I stuck with it," the official rugby website quotes him as saying. The Japan RFU not happy at first, got convinced 10 years ago. "But in 2009 the Classic All Blacks were over and Andrew Mehrtens used it in the post-match interview in front of the whole crowd in Kobe. The JRFU thought 'Maybe this nickname isn't such a bad idea', and since the win over South Africa they've really marketed it."

Breaking the Tier 1 monopoly

BBC says World Rugby's Beyond Legacy programme, aiming to grow broadcast audiences for rugby by Asia, and to get one million new Asian players participating in rugby by 2020 got schemes such as holding rugby lessons in Japanese schools in the host cities of the World Cup and investing in the growth of local teams. Su Carty, who sits on the World Rugby council and the committee of the Irish Rugby Football Union, said, "You want teams like Japan coming through and making a statement on the world stage. Their day in the sun isn't done, and they'll be committed to build on that great day against us."

Samoa and Scotland would follow Russia and Ireland with Japan topping the pool with 19 points. Professional services firm Ernst & Young estimates that the six-week tournament could bring in £1.5bn to Japan's economy and support 25,000 jobs across the 12 cities hosting matches. Japan has also invested 40bn yen (€290m) on infrastructure. According to Statista, Japan has almost 3,000 recognised clubs with 95,000 active players.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

Checkedered finish at Suzuka

Japanese GP gets over a lap early due to a technical glitch; Bottas wins race, Mercedes clinch title

REUTERS
SUZUKA, OCTOBER 13

VALTTERI BOTTAS swept to victory in Sunday's Japanese Grand Prix as Mercedes clinched the Formula One constructors' championship and guaranteed themselves an unprecedented sixth consecutive title double.

The Finn crossed the line 11.3 seconds ahead of Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel, who made a hesitant start from pole position and had to fend off a charging Lewis Hamilton in the closing laps. The result moved Mercedes 177 points clear of Ferrari, allowing them to wrap up a record-equalling sixth consecutive constructors' crown, with a maximum 176 points from four races still to be won.

EXPLAINED

Why the race stopped before scheduled 53 laps

THE JAPANESE GP was to last for 53 laps but it ended a lap short after the digital chequered flag mounted on the starting lights was erroneously flashed. The drivers continued to race for one more lap but that did not count. As per F1 regulations, "Should for any reason the end-of-race signal be given before the leading car completes the scheduled number of laps, the race will be deemed to have finished when the leading car last crossed the line before the signal was given."

Till last year, manual flags were the indication that the race is over. However, model Winnie Harlow accidentally waved the flag early at Canadian GP, leading to the introduction of the rule that gives the digital flag precedence.

It also assured Mercedes of the drivers' title with only Bottas now capable of challenging five-times world champion Hamilton, whose lead narrowed to 64 points. Mercedes have now equalled

Ferrari's record six constructors' titles in a row between 1999-2004. The Italian team won five successive drivers' crowns with Michael Schumacher from 2000-04.

"Starting third is never easy here but there's no point giving up," said Bottas after his third win of the season and first since the Azerbaijan Grand Prix in April. "I had a really nice car and Sebastian had an issue, so it was good to get the lead. Really proud of the team, a sixth title in a row is so impressive."

Ferrari looked like they might delay the title celebrations after locking out the front row in a qualifying session held on Sunday morning, after being postponed from its traditional Saturday slot due to Typhoon Hagibis. But both Vettel and

team mate Charles Leclerc ran into trouble at the start.

Vettel launched off his grid spot a fraction too soon and slammed on the brakes before moving again. He was investigated for a false start but let off without a sanction because his car had not crossed the line.

The momentary hesitation was enough to allow Bottas to sweep around the outside and into the lead. Leclerc collided with Max Verstappen as the Dutchman tried to pass around the outside, damaging the Ferrari and pushing the Red Bull, which later retired, into a spin. The Monegasque nevertheless carried on, crucially holding up Hamilton as his car shed bodywork in a shower of debris before eventually pitting for repairs at the end of the third lap.

Biles sets medal record at World C'ship

ASSOCIATED PRESS
STUTTGART, OCTOBER 13

SIMONE BILES broke the all-time record for most medals by any gymnast at the world championships by winning the balance beam and floor exercise Sunday. Biles won her 24th medal on the beam, breaking a tie on 23 with the Belarusian men's gymnast Vitaly Scherbo, and added her 25th less than two hours later. Biles scored 15.066 on the beam after a near-flawless routine, opting for a simpler dismount than the double-double she per-

formed earlier in the championships. When her score was announced, guaranteeing the medal record, Biles leaped up from her seat with a broad smile and punched the air.

China took silver and bronze with Liu Tingting on 14.433 and Li Shijia on 14.3, respectively. Biles won the floor exercise by a full point, scoring 15.133 despite a step out of bounds on one pass, and blew kisses to the audience after finishing her routine. Her U.S. teammate Sunisa Lee took silver, her third medal of the championships, while Angelina Melnikova took bronze for Russia.

Her winning routine came after a long wait when Brazilian gymnast Flavia Saraiva requested an inquiry into her score, during which time Biles sat on the edge of the floor. Biles has won five events at these world championships after team gold Tuesday, individual all-around gold Thursday and vault gold Saturday.


A fifth place on uneven bars Saturday ended Biles' chances of winning a medal in all six events, which she did last year in her comeback world championships after a sabbatical in 2017.

Tension ahead of France-Turkey Euro showdown

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
SAINT-DENIS, OCTOBER 13

FRANCE HOST Turkey in a crunch Euro 2020 qualifier on Monday with the teams vying for top spot in Group H and diplomatic tension simmering between the two nations after Turkey's bombardment of Syrian Kurds this week. With three games to go in the Euro 2020 qualifying campaign the sides have 18 points each ahead of Monday's showdown at the Stade de France but Turkey top the group on the head-to-head rule after their 2-0 defeat of Les Blues in Konya in June. Looming large over the game, however, will be security issues and international diplomatic relations as France decried Turkish military interventions in Syria this week and blocked arms sales to them.

UEFA are already looking into reports that Turkey footballers performed a military salute in celebration of Cenk Tosun's last-gasp winning goal over Albania in Istanbul on Friday.



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E-AUCTION OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

E-auction of Residential property on 16th day of November, 2019 on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" & "WHATEVER THERE IS" on the platform <https://allahabadbank.auctiontiger.net>

E-auction sale notice for sale of Immovable Assets under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/s and guarantor/s that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, the Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Allahabad Bank Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "whatever there is" basis as on 16th day of November, 2019. The details of bank's dues, Borrower & Guarantors, Reserve Price, Earnest money & Description of immovable properties is given below:

Sl. No. & Branch	Name of the Account	Details of Immovable Properties	Name of the Mortgagor(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Amount of Secured Debt	Reserve Price (in Rs)	Earnest Money Deposit
1. Exhibition Road Branch Patna	M/s Sadhna Steel, Proprietor-Sri Naresh Sharma, Rajendra Path, Near CDA Building, Behind Durga Mandir, Patna-800001	All that part and parcel of the land along with building constructed on the said land admeasuring and area of 10 dhur Tauzi No.5185, Khata No.085, Survey Plot No.-815, Thana No.110, Mauza-Kurthaul, Thana-Phulwarsharif, Dist.-Patna, Registered in the name of Smt. Guriya Devi. Boundary:North-Part Plot ka Part hal Kharidar Digar, South-12 Feet wide Pvt. Road, East-Niz, West-Sri Ranbir Kumar.	Mortgagor/Guarantor: Smt. Guriya Devi W/O Sri Naresh Sharma, Near Koot Factory, Kurthaul, Parsa Bazar, Patna-804453	Outstanding Dues of the Bank ₹15,79,437/- (Rupees Fifteen lac seventy nine thousand four hundred and thirty seven only) + interest, cost & charges w.e.f 29.05.2019	₹23,31,000/- (Rupees Twenty three lac thirty one thousand only)	₹2,33,100/- (Rupees Two lac thirty three thousand one hundred only)

Last Date & time for Submission of Process compliance Form with EMD amount: 14th Day of November, 2019 at Allahabad Bank, Exhibition Road Branch, at 1st Floor, Arunachal Bhawan, Exhibition Road, Patna-800001 Till 5.00 PM


Date & Time of e-auction: 16th day of November, 2019 from 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM at the platform of <http://allahabadbank.auctiontiger.net>

For further details and Terms & Conditions, Contact: Mr. Dhiraj Kumar (Mob-8828206020)

For downloading further details and Terms & Conditions, Please Visit: (i) <https://www.allahabadbank.in> (ii) <http://www.tenders.gov.in> (iii) <https://allahabadbank.auctiontiger.net>, <https://ibapi.in>

Date : 10.10.2019
Place : Patna

Authorized Officer
Allahabad Bank



National Pension System Trust (NPS Trust)

INVITATION ON BEHALF OF PFRDA


Annuity Literacy Programme (ALP) for subscribers under National Pension System (NPS) attaining the age of superannuation / 60 years in the next three years

To create awareness on annuity among Government/non-Government subscribers attaining the age of superannuation / 60 years in the next three years under the National Pension System (NPS), Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), the regulator of NPS, is organizing the above programme at PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCC), PHD House, 4/2 Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, New Delhi-110016, as per the following schedule:

Day and Date	Timings
Day 1 Thursday, 17 October 2019	04:00 pm to 06:00 pm
Day 2 Friday, 18 October 2019	04:00 pm to 06:00 pm

The programme will inform the subscribers about the process of initiating exit / withdrawal requests in time so that their retirement benefits under NPS are settled and regular income in the form of annuity starts soon after their superannuation. In addition, the programme will emphasize upon the Annuity Service Providers (ASPs) appointed under NPS and the schemes offered by them. Subscribers can, subject to certain terms and conditions, also choose to remain invested in NPS until the age of 70 years.

All Government as well as Non-Government subscribers who are going to attain the age of superannuation / 60 years in the next three years or are facing issues with their already submitted exit and withdrawal claims, especially annuity cases, are invited to participate in this ALP to educate themselves and resolve their queries on the subject.



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Corporate*	₹15 000	₹7 500	₹5 000	₹5 000	₹12000	₹15 000
Offer on select stock*	₹50 000	₹30 000	₹25 000	₹25 000	₹50 000	
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