

**POLL NUMBERS**

316	blocks in Jammu and Kashmir
310	blocks going to the polls, 162 in Valley, 148 in Jammu
26,629	18,316 men, 8,313 women
1,092	TOTAL ELECTORATE (Panchnes and sarpanches are eligible to vote);
1,065	TOTAL NUMBER OF CANDIDATES
280	(122 in Valley)
1,065	CANDIDATES ELECTED UNOPPOSED (no other candidate in their blocks after last date of filing nomination); 27
1,065	CANDIDATES IN FRAY
280	BJP CONTESTING IN BLOCKS (122 in Valley)
280	BJP supporting Independents in Valley: 29

An abandoned panchayat office in Pampore, Pulwama; (far left) several panchayat houses were set on fire during last year's local body elections in the Valley. *Shuaib Masoodi*

INTERVIEW
J&K CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER
SHAILENDRA KUMAR

'Political parties can't call polls a sham because they are boycotting'

ADIL AKZHER

What are the challenges involved in conducting the elections in the present circumstances?

Conducting elections in J&K has always been challenging but we are fully prepared and ready to conduct them successfully. All security arrangements have been made, all polling material has been given and staff too have been trained. Counting will be held on the same day (October 24).

There have been killings of civilians in South Kashmir over the last few days. Does that pose a challenge?

We will address it appropriately. By voting day, we are confident that there will be no problem in getting voters to the polling station. We are in touch with security officials and the Home department. As of now, no alarm has been sounded to us. I have been informed that adequate security personnel have been deployed.

There are a lot of vacant seats of panchnes and sarpanches in Kashmir. Shouldn't these have been filled up before the BDC elections are conducted?

The State Election Commission is not for Kashmir division or for a particular district. In Ladakh division, 99 per cent seats are full, in Jammu division, almost 98 per cent. In

BLOCKED POLLS

More than 75 days into a lockdown, Jammu and Kashmir will hold its first-ever elections to 310 Block Development Councils, the second tier in the panchayati raj system, on October 24. BASHARAAT MASOOD in Kashmir and ARUN SHARMA in Jammu find, on the ground, a tale of two elections in a state deeply divided

KASHMIR**Amid unkept promises and fear, an uneasy contest**

ABOUT six kilometres from the district headquarters of Budgam, Ichgam ticks most boxes on development. Two-storied houses line the village road, and a Primary Health Centre, and 10 schools dot the landscape. But sarpanch Ghulam Hassan Khan, who is contesting the Block Development Council (BDC) election of October 24 as an independent candidate from Budgam, says he wants to do more.

"We want the PHC to be open 24x7. We have 550 kanal of vacant government land and I want that converted into a playground for our children. The road, of course, is the first priority," he says referring to the narrow six-km stretch of the Budgam road leading to the village that is always choked with traffic.

A former CRPF inspector, Khan joined the Congress in 1995. In 2002, he resigned from active politics, only to return in 2014 as the Budgam district president of the BJP. Last year, he was elected unopposed as sarpanch and soon after, quit the BJP to join the People's Conference, a former BJP ally whose leader Sajad Lone is now among the leaders detained in the Valley as part of the clampdown on the mainstream political leadership.

Since last December, when he was elected sarpanch of Ichgam, C, one of four panchayats that make up Ichgam, a village with a population of around 10,000, he has spent most of his time in a hotel room in Srinagar — there had been video messages by militants, threatening to eliminate those standing for panchayat elections.

But some days ago, the 60-year-old shifted back to his house in Ichgam to remain "closer to the people" he represents and to "raise their issues".

It's the first time that elections to the blocks, the second tier of grassroots democracy after panchayats, are being held in

have, however, been raised over the credibility of the process in the Valley given that the entire mainstream leadership, barring the BJP, is in jail and the National Conference, PDP and the Congress have decided to stay away from the polls that are being held on party lines.

Over 26,000 panchnes and sarpanches — elected in November-December last year — are now set to vote for the chairpersons of the Block Development Councils in their respective blocks. Any panch or sarpanch can stand for the post of block chairman. In a first, the government has reserved 33 per cent seats for women.

After the final date for withdrawal of nomination papers, 1,065 candidates are in fray for the BDC polls, state election officials said on Saturday. 396 of them from the Valley. The BJP has fielded candidates from all the blocks of Jammu and Ladakh, and from 122 blocks in Kashmir, followed closely by the Panthers Party, which is contesting from less than 50 seats, most of these in Jammu.

Officials claim the BDC elections will pave the way for elections to the District Planning and Development Boards (DPDB), the third tier of panchayati raj, and thus spur development in the state.

"It is for the first time that DDB would be emerging out of popularly elected local self-governments," Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Shaileendra Kumar told *The Sunday Express*.

In the Valley, this optimism is lost on a population that is still in shock over the sudden abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status on August 5. With

Today he is dejected. "These elections don't mean anything to us," he says of the BDC polls. "It has been almost 10 months now (since he was elected) but we have not spent even a single penny."

What also rankles is that he is yet to be officially notified a sarpanch — for such a notification, at least one-third of the elected



Since the 2018 polls, over a thousand panchnes, sarpanches and their families have been holed up in hotels across Srinagar, fearing militant attacks. They will now have to go back to their villages to vote in the BDC polls. *Shuaib Masoodi*

It's lunch time at one such Srinagar hotel and the guests — panchnes, sarpanches and their families — walk listlessly to the spacious dining hall of the hotel. Since November last year, this has been a routine for the guests who have occupied most of the 100 rooms in this highly fortified hotel.

It was in November last year that Abdul Rashid Dar, 52, moved into this hotel from Pnglish, his village in South Kashmir's militant stronghold of Tral of which he is sarpanch. Two months ahead of the panchayat elections, a group of militants had swooped down on Dar's house and beat him up. In a video that went viral, the militants were seen asking Dar to stay away from panchayat elections and to get his son, a Special Police Officer, to resign. Dar apologised and agreed to do their bidding.

Yet, days later, he had filed his nomination as a sarpanch — the only one from Pnglish and the surrounding villages — and was elected unopposed.

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What also rankles is that he is yet to be officially notified a sarpanch — for such a notification, at least one-third of the elected

multi-tier. The file has to go through four offices — after consultation between panchnes and sarpanches, it is submitted to the BDO, who forwards it to the District Planning Officer, from where it is forwarded to the District Development Commissioner for final approval," says a senior official in the Rural Development Department. "It is true that only a negligible amount has been spent so far, must be less than 5 per cent, but we have started the process. We have reports of projects heading towards completion in Baramulla, Kupwara and Shopian districts."

The government says it has already released the first instalment of the funds. "Under the 14th Finance Commission, Rs 3,000 crore is earmarked for panchayats of the state. We have already released Rs 1,300 crore," Secretary Panchayat Sheetal Nanda told *The Sunday Express*.

With many of the panchnes and sarpanches staying away from their villages, what hangs heavy is the fear of voting day itself, when they will have to go back to their villages to vote.

Bhat, the panch from Pulwama who represents the BJP, says the administration has promised them security. "Police have told us that whenever we need to go to our village, we will be provided a vehicle and security," he says. "It is not fair to say that the government is not securing us."

Yet, Bhat usually stays away from his village in Pulwama. "All these months, I have not spent a single night in my village. I go there only during the day and don't stay for more than a few hours," he says.

Government officials also admit in private that the credibility of the BDC election has suffered considering that there are a large number of vacant seats of panchnes and sarpanches. Of the 18,833 panch wards in Kashmir, 61 per cent of wards are vacant. Of the 2,375 sarpanch wards in the Valley, around 35 per cent are vacant. In fact, more than 50 per cent of panchnes and 25 per cent of sarpanches were elected without a contest.

In panchayats without elected representatives, the government has appointed gazetted officers as administrators.

"In simpler terms, half the Valley is being run by administrators as it was done before the panchayat polls," says an official. "Everyone knows why the BJP wants these elections to be held on party lines," he says. "We have fielded candidates in 38 blocks of the Valley. We won't let the BJP walk away with it all."

Villagers point to how, despite the

JAMMU**Everyday concerns and a parting shot: 'Don't forget us'**

ON THE Mughal Road that connects Poonch district in Jammu region with Shopian in Kashmir Valley, is Fazlabad in the Pir Panjal region. It's Shafiq Mir's first stop of the day.

Mir, chairperson of the All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference, is one of eight independent candidates fighting the October 24 elections for the office of chairperson of the Block Development Council (BDC) in Buffiaz, one of 11 blocks in Poonch district. With all other parties boycotting the elections, the only other candidate in the fray, besides the eight independents, is Sushma Dutta of the BJP.

In Jammu, 585 candidates have filed their nominations from 148 blocks, of whom candidates in two blocks (Kishtwar and Mandali) will be elected unopposed. Unlike in Kashmir, in Jammu, where political parties have for long called for strengthening of grassroots democracy, the announcement of the BDO elections has been met with enthusiasm.

As Mir steps outside the local panchayat ghar, in Fazlabad, one of the four panchayats that make up the Fazlabad taluqa, his prospective voters — panchnes and sarpanches in the block — start assembling. After the formal exchange of pleasantries, the conversation drifts into the problems faced by the panchayat's 20,000 people — the lack of infrastructure and the "indifference" of successive state governments.

Called "mini Pakistan" during the peak years of militancy, Fazlabad had turned its back on militancy, helping security forces secure the area by 2005. After all these years, what's left is a sense of betrayal.

"We stood by India during the militancy years and we suffered the most. So many of our own were killed, both by militants and during security operations. What have we got in return?" a sarpanch asks Mir.

Villagers point to how, despite the



Independent candidate Shafiq Mir campaigning in Buffiaz block. *Arun Sharma*

native village and his next stop of the day.

"There are no good schools in the panchayat and no proper road connectivity either. So a large number of people have shifted to Poonch or Rajouri, nearly 120 km away, for their children's education. They have to go there for medical care too," says Mir, who is also the sarpanch of Poshana.

Over 300 km away, in Agrachak, a panchayat along the international border in RS Pura block of Jammu district, BJP candidate Yuvraj Singh, accompanied by the party's former legislator Vikram Randhawa, is campaigning for the October 24 election. He doesn't forget to credit Prime Minister Narendra Modi for holding the "historic" BDC elections.

But in villages across the block, the panchnes and sarpanches question him on specifics — the approvals that are stuck, the skeletal staff in government schools and issues of *bijli, pani and sadak*.

At Chandu Chak panchayat in the block, sarpanch Bachan Lal tells Singh, "Panchnes and sarpanches are yet to get back the money they spent on works undertaken under MGNREGA." Another complained that the development proposals they sent for approval to the BDO office were "held up for no reason."

As Singh prepares to leave, promising to look into their complaints, Lal says, "Make sure you don't forget us after winning the elections."

PANCHAYATI RAJ**Why local bodies in J&K want more autonomy**

OVER THE last seven decades, panchayat elections in J&K have been held only four times — in 1978, 2001, 2011 and 2018 — instead of every five years as it happens in the rest of the country. The village panchayats elected in 2011 were even dissolved by the then PDP-BJP government before the completion of their five-year term.

Panchayat bodies in Jammu and Kashmir have enjoyed less autonomy compared to those in the rest of the country since the 73rd and 74th amendments to the Constitution, which gave financial and political autonomy to panchayats and municipalities, were never applied to the state.

Instead, it was the J&K Panchayati Raj Act that has been in force here and under which the upcoming BDC elections are being held.

While under the J&K Act, it's the panchnes and sarpanches who elect the Block Council chairperson, under the provisions of the 73rd amendment, there are direct elections to these posts. Likewise, any citizen from a particular block can contest for the office of block member or chairperson under the 73rd amendment, while the J&K Act says only a sarpanch or a panch can contest for the post of BDC chairperson.

To establish grassroots democracy in the state, the Panchayati Raj Act was first envisaged in 1935 by the then Dogra ruler

Maharaja Hari Singh.

In 1951, the Act was amended by the then state government, saying that most of its provisions were related only to revenue collection and not public welfare. The amended Act provided for a minimum of five members in a panchayat and their election through secret ballot.

In 2018, State Governor Sargaj Pal Malik amended the Act further, defining the powers and functions of panchayats and Block Development Councils, apart from making provisions for setting up of ward sabhas to assist panchayats.

The amendment ended the practice of the state government making nominations to panchayat bodies. The amended Act also provided for the election of chairpersons and vice chairpersons to the Block and District Development Boards, reservation of one-third seats for women, besides reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in all the panchayati raj institutions, apart from the setting up of a separate finance and election commission.

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Every party was given a chance to participate. If certain parties have opted not to participate, it is their choice. This institution is for facilitating elections on political lines, through political parties. Political parties can't claim that since we are boycotting elections, these elections are a sham. There are only about 27 block councils out of 310 where candidates have been elected unopposed.

There are reports that a few sarpanches are among those arrested. Will they be allowed to vote?

Any political party or candidate can approach us to facilitate their candidature.

When are DDB elections going to take place?

Once BDC elections take place, the DDBs will be constituted.

Shafiq Mir with panchnes and sarpanches at Poshana village. *Arun Sharma*



Monika Yadav's mother Kaushalya at their home in Sanwasi village. Yadav left home at a young age to pursue studies, with the village school only till primary level, and hoped to get a job. Milind Chhatwai

Sex, lies and video 'trap'

Six have been arrested in a Madhya Pradesh case based so far on rumours regarding 'big names' rather than facts or complainants. Parents of the youngest accused plead innocence, saying only fault of their 19-year-old was 'ambition'

MILIND GHATWAI

A FEW YEARS ago, when she was still a minor, Monika Yadav's parents told her they had found a boy for her and it was time she agreed to marriage — like other girls her age in Rajgarh, a district in Madhya Pradesh known for child marriages. Monika, a good student who had represented Government Girls' Higher Secondary School, Biaora, in the 62nd National School Games in cricket in Class 11, stood her ground because she wanted to study further and work.

By then, Yadav had already been away from home for five years for studies, moving first to Narsinghgarh and then Biaora, both in Rajgarh district. Her village Sanwasi, with 2,000-odd people, only has one primary school.

Just after her arrest, it was neighbours who told Yadav's illiterate parents, Hiralal and Kaushalya, that their 19-year-old, the younger of their two children, had been arrested by the Indore police in the 'honey trap case' that has been making news in Madhya Pradesh since last month — with rumours, more than facts, claiming a large web involving crores of rupees as well as politicians, bureaucrats and senior police officers.

The Congress even claimed a plot against its MLAs, to pull down its precariously poised government in the state.

While police have told court there could

be many "victims", except for one person, no one has filed a complaint against the six accused, of whom Yadav is the youngest.

Four days after Yadav's arrest, Hiralal filed a human trafficking complaint against three of the accused.

Yadav's family of four lives in a brick house down a *kuchcha* lane in Sanwasi. The dimly lit structure has a tin roof, a few plastic chairs lie around, and some clothes hang on its decaying walls. In a corner, produce from the fields is kept in a neat pile.

The parents say Yadav told them in June that she was moving to Bhopal, about 90 km away, to pursue graduation. She came home twice after that, including for Raksha Bandhan, the parents say. While they noticed she had on new clothes and cash, they say they took her word that "Didi ka hai... didi ne diya hai (Didi has given)".

By 'Didi' she meant Aarti Dayal, allegedly one of the main conspirators in the case. Yadav's parents say Dayal had come to their house once, promising to fund their daughter's education as well as employ her in her Bhopal NGO.

The case broke on September 17 when an Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) Superintendent Engineer filed a complaint at the Palasia Police Station alleging that Dayal had demanded Rs 3 crore from him, later reducing it to Rs 2 crore, threatening to circulate a video clip of him in a compromising position. The 60-year-old claimed Dayal was always accompanied by a young assistant when she met him, and that she had

initially asked him to find a job for the girl. He named the girl as Seema Soni (police believe this was Yadav), and admitted having a fling with her.

Police arrested Dayal and Yadav soon after, along with Dayal's driver. Originally from Chhatarpur, Dayal, 29, shifted to Bhopal's Sagar Landmark Colony a year ago, and had told neighbours she ran an NGO.

The Indore police next roped in the anti-terror squad and their Bhopal counterparts, and went on to arrest Shweta Vijay Jain, 39, from a colony near Dayal's, Shweta Swapnil Jain, 48, and Barkha Soni, 34, all from Bhopal. Barkha's husband Amit used to be an office-bearer of the Congress's IT cell, while Shweta Vijay was once associated with the BJP and had unsuccessfully sought a party ticket from her native Sagar. Police claimed to have seized Rs 14.17 lakh from Shweta Vijay's house. Shweta Swapnil originally hails from Jaipur.

Of the six, only Yadav and the driver have humble origins. Both the Shwetias and Dayal live in upscale colonies in Bhopal.

Police claimed to have seized laptops and mobile phones from the accused, and recovered hundreds of clips of men in compromising positions, including known names. Police also claimed that the racket flourished under the former BJP government, explaining some of their zealotry.

However, with no more complainants, police don't have much to go on. While speculation has been rife, and photos as well as videos have been doing the rounds, so far its

best lead is that NGOs run by two of the accused seem to have benefited from their "connections" in the bureaucracy. Rumours further swirled when the government changed two chiefs within eight days of a Special Investigation Team set up to probe the case, after the BJP sought a CBI investigation. The SIT's brief incidentally is only to look into the Superintendent Engineer's case.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Indore, Ruchivardhan Mishra, the only police official who has remained unchanged, did not respond to calls. The new SIT chief, Rajendra Kumar, has avoided media from day one. Not just police even government prosecutors are not ready to speak on the case.

A Congress leader says police had been told to "go slow" to not divert attention from the Kamal Nath government's first investor summit — the three-day Magnificent MP that ended on Friday.

Advocates Dharmendra Gurjar and Vivek Chaudhary, who represent Shweta Vijay and Shweta Swapnil respectively, say police have accused their clients falsely, despite the fact that they were not named in the FIR and nothing had been found from them. Chaudhary says Shweta Swapnil was only arrested because "her name is similar to Shweta Vijay". "You can't arrest someone on the basis of mere doubt. If police have recovered videos and extortion details, they should name the victims and file a case," he says.

Adds Gurjar, "It's all imaginary that they ran a racket in the guise of an NGO. Let one

person come forward and say he was trapped or asked to shell out money."

Former Congress IT cell office-bearer and government contractor Amit Soni, who remained missing for several days after his wife Barkha's arrest, claims police have not even told him why they had taken her to Indore. Denying earning government contracts through extortion, Soni says his total turnover was hardly Rs 1 crore and he has been getting work for years.

Yadav's father Hiralal now wishes he had married her off as he had wanted to. "She had told me, 'Mera jeevan mat kharab karo (Don't ruin my life)... I don't how she got trapped,'" he says, breaking down.

Many in the village agree that Yadav could be an unsuspecting victim. Sarpanch Indar Singh, who met her in custody, says she told them she had been sent to the IMC Superintendent Engineer with the promise of a job. He says she had no idea when the video of her with the engineer was made and that she herself was blackmailed into continuing liaisons with the engineer and others on the basis of it.

Ironically, adds the sarpanch, one of the reasons Yadav stepped out of her home and village was to help Hiralal out with a land dispute; he turned to his daughter as she was educated, unlike him.

Singh claims as she took her family's case all the way to Bhopal, the cloistered girls of Sanwasi came to see Yadav as a role model. Till she intervened, warning a few who wanted to follow in her footsteps.

TAKE 5

FACES ON THE FRINGES OF NEWS

CONSTABLE SEEMA SHARMA, 29,
PUBLIC FACILITATION OFFICER, ASHOK VIHAR POLICE STATION, DELHI

'There is comfort in saris... no need for shoes either, I just wear flats'

Earlier this year, khadi silk saris were introduced as uniforms for women staff working on the desk at police stations. But last month, following an increase in the demand, the Delhi Police issued a circular which stated that each police station will be allotted only four saris — two each for the two Public Facilitation Officers — for two years



'I wear my sari for 15-20 days, then get it dry-cleaned.' Gajendra Yadav

1 Do you like your new uniform?
Initially, I was sceptical. It takes a lot of time to wear a sari, and maintenance isn't easy either. But after wearing it regularly for the past four months, I now feel comfortable. I also like the sari's orange colour. I don't have to wear shoes now, I pair my sari with black ballerina flats. The sari uniform is also good during summer.

2 Have you heard about the new guidelines?
Yes. I think the saris are durable and can be easily worn for two years. I have four saris now. After two years, when the department allots me only two saris, and one of them gets worn out, I can write an application and get a new one. They only ask for the reason and give a new sari within weeks.

3 Is it compulsory for you to wear the sari every day?
Yes. I have to be in uniform for my shift from 9 am to 5 pm. My work involves meeting people, overseeing the tenant verification process, directing beat officers to meet senior citizens etc. We have been instructed to wear the sari while performing all these duties.

4 How do you maintain the saris?
I prefer getting them dry-cleaned every 15-20 days. I could wash them, but they don't dry in time. Whenever I take casual leave, I give one of the saris for cleaning and ironing. I can then wear it for another two weeks. I have kept my saris in a different section of my wardrobe.

5 The circular also says that PFOS should not be transferred before their two-year term ends, to ensure that extra saris are not given out.
If they don't shift me to another police station every year, it will help me. I will get used to the schedule... I have worked in this district for nine years. There's a lack of woman staff in the area. It would be best if I stay for two years and help the complainants here.

JIGNASA SINHA

A 'marriage' to be made in court

Taking the lead, a 16-year-old has gone to the Supreme Court for her right to tie the knot despite her age, citing the Muslim law

MAULSHREESETH

ABOUT 200 km from Lucknow, in a remote village in the Terai region of Uttar Pradesh, villagers talk about "a *bhayanak* (scary) love story that has left behind even Heer-Ranjha". What has them stunned is that the one taking the lead in this tale is a 16-year-old girl — fighting to uphold her "marriage" to a 20-year-old against their families, village, and the government, all the way up to the Supreme Court.

Three months after the girl and the 20-year-old got married in the verandah of his house, the youth says he has left everything up to her. "She is adamant and I trust and believe that she will not change her statement. We have married as per Islam and in front of elders. The rest is on Allah."

The village dominated by upper-caste Muslims, mostly the Sheikh and Pathans, agrees that under the Shariah law that allows marriage on attaining puberty, their wedding is valid, but adds that it is the first such case in

their memory.

On June 22, around 11 pm, the couple are said to have summoned a *maulvi* from a neighbouring village to conduct the *nikah*. The *maulvi* was known to them as he held classes in the village. The next day, the girl's father lodged an FIR against the 20-year-old, his father and their neighbours, under IPC sections covering kidnapping and inducement of a woman to compel marriage.

Sub-Inspector Shailendra Yadav, the Investigating Officer in the case, says, "We produced the girl before a magistrate. She refused to go back to her family and, since she was a minor, she was sent to the Nari Niketan on July 3 on the orders of the magistrate."

The youth went to the high court, alleging that the girl was being detained against her will. "After the court rejected their plea saying the girl is a minor, they approached the Supreme Court," the S-I says. As per general law, a girl has to be at least 18 and the groom 21 to be eligible for marriage.

Senior advocate and All India Muslim

Personal Law Board secretary Zafaryab Jilani says, "If a girl and boy are minors, then the consent of parents is required. But if they are major, then they can decide to continue or end their marriage. However, the definition of 'major' or being 'baalig' is different here (in Muslim law) as it is linked to puberty."

Cases like these arise when a marriage takes place without the consent of parents, Jilani says, adding that whenever these have been taken to court, it has generally ruled in favour of the girl.

In tears, the girl's mother accuses her of bringing "bad name" to the family and leaving her father in shock. "How can a young girl like her decide her future? Don't we have a say?" says the 45-year-old, who also has two sons, both elder to the 16-year-old. "They (the youth's

family) have brainwashed my daughter and that is why she is speaking their language."

But, in the village, they talk of a girl, barely literate, who knew her mind.

The villagers say that after she came to the house of the youth in June and the two expressed their intention to get married, they tried to send her back to her family twice to avoid any tension, but she threatened to poison herself. Adds the father of the 20-year-old, "She claimed her family would marry her to an elderly person who already had children or kill her, if she was sent back."

He says she bore injury marks indicating she had been beaten up.

Villagers also admit that apart from the question of "honour", the two families have a land dispute going back a decade. The

youth's family says the other side is lashing back as it had lost the land. Denying this, her uncle says, "It was years back, there is no such issue now. It is just that we do not want our girl to go to that house."

Listening impassively to the conversation as he sits outside his un-plastered house, the youth, his hair dyed red, says he and the girl met about two years back. Having studied up to Class 9 in a local private school, the youth helps out his father in farming. "Her house is opposite my maternal grandmother's. We exchanged mobile numbers and started having long conversations," he says. Eyes glued to his *mehndi-coloured* hands, with English letters of her name hidden in the design, as a groom would do at a wedding, he says he put the henna on for "good luck".

The girl's father is also a farmer, while her elder brothers work as labourers in Mumbai and Delhi. The family denies her claim that they were trying to marry her off, adding that she made that up under duress and asking why the *nikah* was held at 11 in the night with-

out any witnesses from their side. The village pradhan says, "We had informed the family members of the girl. Pathans and Sheikh's marry into each other's families and most of us are related. But none from the girl's side came."

The girl's mother adds that she doesn't understand why the 20-year-old is at home while the girl has been taken away. "Last we heard she was at a Nari Niketan in some other district... Why is she being punished? She does not understand what is good for her, and wants law to do justice for her."

The girl's cousin, who lives nearby, says, "It is true that Shariah law allows one to marry after puberty, but we live in this country and the country's law also matters."

The family adds that whatever the outcome, she should have security if she returns. "What if she does something untoward?" says the girl's uncle.

In this, the youth's family agrees with them. Says the 20-year-old's father, "We are ready to keep her, but fear that her family might do something. She should be guarded."



Dalitality
SURAJ YENGDE
Twitter @Surajyengde

AS WE continue to garble various readings of India's Independence, looking through convex prisms, we devour into pigeonholing various experiences of multitudes of actors and their investment in the so-called freedom struggle, or not?

The post-Independence era is one of the most sophisticated times in our efforts to carve our story. As a result, many movements took shape holding the State accountable for failing to fulfill its chest-thumping promises, including JP, Naxalite, environment right, Dalit Panthers, BAMCEF, land, anti-corruption, and Hindutva movements.

Of these, the most successful in terms of reaching the disenfranchised, poor, out-castes, landless, women, and labourers was designed by Kanshiram and DK Kharparde. Rooted in Ambedkarite radical consciousness, Kanshiram led the all-India BAMCEF movement to unite victims of Brahminical Social Order alongside DS4 (Dalit Shoshit Samaj Sagharsh Samiti) — a militant organisation formed on December 6, 1981, to fight atrocities against Dalits.

Additionally, it went on to launch a first national-level Dalit political base, the BSP (Bahujan Samaj Party), as a "Mass-based, Broad-based & Caste-based" organisation with remarkable victories — something Babasaheb Ambedkar and Gandhi's patronising Congress couldn't do in terms of electoral gains for the 'untouchables'.

Kanshiram was successful in weaving culture with society and politics. His movements were firmly rooted in social move-

Missing Kanshiram's journalism

ments that had roots in national politics en route cultural prop. Thus, Kanshiram's politics took shape as cultural activism angled its fate. Therefore, along with the social movements on streets and in offices, Kanshiram invested in starting newspapers, magazines and journals to help succour the movements on the ground and theorise its implications by himself, and not outsource the job of theoretical interpretations to the press or 'theoretical Brahmins' comfortably lazing within the four walls of university campuses or cushy quarters.

Untouchable India

Kanshiram's success could be attributed to his reliance on arts, activism and journalism. Kanshiram started the first English language pan-Indian Dalit-centered journal *Untouchable India* (June 1, 1972). *Untouchable India's* first edition drafted vision and determination of the anti-caste movement. The cover photo had a meditating Buddha in a calm state. This indicated Kanshiram's zeal to fulfill Ambedkar's unfinished work on spiritual and political revolutions — *Prabuddha Bharat*.

Untouchable India refused to fit into the Brahminical story-writing samples of magazines. It challenged the nationalist narratives and asked the Dalits to self-examine their subordinate slave status in society.

Kanshiram-led journalism and literalism was a landmark moment in the history of Indian print media. The journal's stylistic arrangements, neat editing, sophisticated analysis, and hard-hitting, uncom-

promising editorials and articles put the onus on the oppressor. Its clear political stand and investment in cultural strength gave a platform to scholars, artistes and poets, both known and not so well-known.

The special issue of *Untouchable India* published on August 15, 1972, celebrated 'Silver Jubilee of Dependence'. This piece was published at the same time as Raja Dhale's monumental and controversial piece, 'Black Independence Day', was published in *Sadhana*. Both leaders denounced the Indian State for its apathy in giving justice to the rape victims in Brahmangaon, Maharashtra.

Journalism

As the BAMCEF's informal activities were going on since December 6, 1973, Kanshiram launched BAMCEF bulletin in 1975 to educate the mass about their lowly condition. Once BAMCEF was formally established in 1978, *The Oppressed Indian*, a monthly journal, was launched in 1979 with critical commentary on caste. Besides, it took on the government and casteist forces who were involved in committing atrocities. It also "exposed" the stooges "with the possibility of improving them" and also "encourage the courageous ones by giving them due publicity". (*The Oppressed Indian*, April 1979).

The necessity of an independent 'news service' for oppressed Indians was due to intentional "blackout" and blackmailing of their activities by the press dominated by Brahmin-Banias, argued Kanshiram.

Besides this, Kanshiram continued to produce opinions and news informing his nation-wide cadres. Shortly after, in 1980, *The Oppressed Indian* announced the launch of four news weeklies and four literary monthly magazines.

Bahujan Nayak, a Marathi weekly, was started from Nagpur. *Bahujan Sanghatak*, a widely circulated Hindi language weekly, was started from Delhi. The *Bahujan Ekta* made strides in the Gujarati cultural orthodoxy. And, in Punjabi, *Bahujan Sandesh* reached the toiling masses.

Literary ventures such as *Shramik Sahitya* were started in Marathi, *Dalit Sahitya* in Gujarati, *Bahujan Sahitya* in Hindi and *Soshit Sahitya* in Punjabi. To offer economic analysis of the country's problems and examine its impact on Dalits, *Aarthik Uthhan* was started in November 1980. An English-language version of the same issue, *Economic Upsurge*, was launched in November-December 1981. Along with this an 'economic monthly' and 'daily newspaper' were to take off from November 1980 in English and Hindi language (*The Oppressed Indian*, October 1980, cover).

The issues dealt with nationalisation of banks, cooperative stores for the rural population, industrialisation, land, the impact of bank credits on weaker sections, and topics such as unions and Ambedkar's views.

Following this, *Bahujan Times* made a much-desired entry into the English- and Hindi-language sphere to cover the BSP's activities. The Buddhist Research Center's (established by Kanshiram) *BRC Bulletin*

covered Buddhism and religion with the objective of keeping cadres informed about the BRC's activities on Buddhism.

These journals were not just news, reportage and analysis for the masses, they helped establish an impartial relationship with cadres in the BAMCEF movement. By documenting its views and opinions, it ensured that it stays forever accountable for its actions and morals.

This effort seems to be submerged in the current leadership of the BSP and BAMCEF, that did not invest in producing next generation thought leaders and intellectual powerhouses that could keep up with the country's changing political landscape.

If Kanshiram was a fighter, he was also rooted in unsparring analyses that drew from Buddha, Jyotirao Phule, Shahu, B R Ambedkar and Periyar. People associated with the movements were well aware of Kanshiram's "unsympathetic words while enumerating faults" of the movement. Kanshiram's long-time associates involved in his journalistic and art ventures remain one of the important cornerstones of the BAMCEF-BSP movement. They archived the movement for the future generations. We are yet to find such organised energy.

Suraj Yengde, author of bestseller *Caste Matters*, is a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard Kennedy School and a recipient of the Rohith Vemula Memorial Scholar Award. He curates the fortnightly 'Dalitality' column



Fifth COLUMN
TAVLEEN SINGH
Twitter @tavleen_singh

Down with looters

THERE ARE only two kinds of really rich Indians. Wealth creators and looters. The Prime Minister declared his respect for wealth creators in his Independence Day speech this year, acknowledging their vital contribution to his dream of making India a 5 trillion dollar economy by 2024. Sadly, he seems not to have noticed how important it is to control the looters if the wealth creators are to create wealth. In the looters category, as the more perceptive of you may have already gathered, I include politicians and officials. Looters by nature are incapable of creating wealth and get rich by looting those who can. On Modi's watch, tax inspectors have been given the power to arrest those they accuse of hiding loot and they have become more vicious in this pursuit than ever before because the Prime Minister's crusade on black money has emboldened them.

Last week, a friend who is as honest a wealth creator as I know called to tell me sadly that he is on the verge of closing down his very successful business because he can no longer face the daily menace of predatory tax inspectors. "They are threatening to charge me a penalty that will amount to a 100 per cent of my profits," he said, "because my books show that I have sometimes made a sale of more than Rs 2 lakh in cash in a day. When people pay cash, and there are many who prefer to, I put the money in my bank account and pay taxes and GST, but this is not enough. These tax guys tell me that if I had spread the amount over four days it would have been alright, but since I have been honest enough not to, they want to charge me this penalty. This is insane."

Yes it is. And, it is a direct consequence of the Prime Minister's relentless quest for 'black money'. It is true that tax evasion is widespread in our dear Bharat Mata, but there are reasons for this. The vast majority of Indians who evade paying taxes do it because the process of paying is so complicated. I do not pay GST in my line of work but those who do tell me that it is a Kafkaesque nightmare of rules and paperwork. Millions of small businesses have closed down because GST has driven them out of business. There has long been talk of 'rationalization' of this many-layered tax but this has not happened yet.

Very rich Indians, of the honest kind, evade taxes because they often have to keep money aside to pay politicians at election time. Mr Modi knows well that despite his determination to end corrupt practices, the money that fuels the BJP's formidable election machine is as black as it comes. To get hold of this at election time, political parties deploy their most efficient looters. When the economy is booming and 'animal spirits' abound collecting for the party is usually easy. When times are hard as they are now the looters charged with finding this money do not hesitate to intimidate and threaten those who cannot pay. The irony is that if wealth creators were to use the same methods to collect their dues from government, they would land up in jail.

Speaking of jail, has the Prime Minister noticed that many dishonest wealth creators give up their businesses to enter politics because they know it is much easier to make money out of 'public service'? Once they enter Parliament or some state legislature, they live like billionaires. They travel first class, go on wondrous holidays in foreign lands, send their children to fine foreign universities, buy their wives designer clothes and jewels and nobody asks any questions. If they spend Rs 2 lakh a day, no tax inspector asks them any questions because looters are cocooned by the mighty shield of political power. This is especially true if they attain high office and live in splendour behind the high walls of a bungalow in hated Lutyens Delhi.

Last week, while campaigning in Maharashtra, Mr Modi announced proudly that he had lived up to his promise of putting many looters in Tihar Jail. Decades of socialism created many, many looters who should be in jail, as should be wealth creators who loot banks on the pretense of doing business. The directors of the Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative (PMC) Bank deserve to spend the rest of their lives rotting in a prison cell, as does Nirav Modi. But, if an honest man is forced into bankruptcy because he accepted cash from a customer that exceeded the ludicrous limits imposed by a bad regulation, then there is something very wrong with what is happening. Wealth creators must never be forced to live at the mercy of looters. This is something that happens only in bad countries.

Gandhi, the eternal poet

GAINED IN TRANSLATION



K SATCHIDANANDAN
കെ സച്ചിദാനന്ദൻ

GANDHI HAS called himself "an artist of non-violence". That makes it easy for artists, including poets who are artists of the word, to connect with the great man and his lasting legacy. Gandhi has said very little about poetry, though he had deep spiritual links with the Bhakti and Sufi poets and had carefully and critically read *Gita*, if we consider that an example of India's poetry which is, at times, nothing but philosophy in verse. But his very life was like that of poetry, ever-seeking, ever-evolving, profoundly conscious of the power of words to establish connections among apparently distant and even contradictory things, employing suggestive symbols picked up from the kitchen and the work place, creating new meanings out of paradoxes and retreating into suggestive silence when words seemed to fail.

Gandhi and Poetry

One day a lean poem/ reached Gandhi's ashram/ to have a glimpse of the man. Gandhi spinning away/ his thread towards Ram/ took no notice of the poem/ waiting at his door/ ashamed as he was no *bhajan*. The poem cleared his throat/ and Gandhi looked at him sideways/ through those glasses/ that had seen Hell. "Have you ever spun thread?" he asked, "Ever pulled a scavenger's cart? Ever stood the smoke/ of an early morning kitchen? Have you ever starved?" The poem said: "I was born/ in the woods, in a hunter's mouth. A fisherman brought me up in his hamlet. Yet, I know no work, I only sing. First I sang in the courts/ then I was plump and handsome;/ but am on the streets now, half-starved." "That's better," Gandhi said/ with a sly smile, "but you must/ give up this habit/ of speaking in Sanskrit at times. Go to the fields, listen to/ the peasants' speech." The poem turned into a grain/ and lay waiting in the fields/ for the tiller to come and upturn the virgin soil/ moist with the new rain.

Gandhi and the Tree

Gandhi was walking in the sun/ that had survived Noakhali. "Come, have some rest." Gandhi turned back:/ It was a shady tree. "You? It is not yet time/ for me to rest," replied Gandhi. The tree complained: "The world/ is in a hurry. I have grown old;/ no more do I flower nor bear fruit:/ even birds have abandoned me." "Don't worry," Gandhi said, "You are waiting for the axe/ and I, for the bullet." "Don't say that," the tree was in agony, "Someone will need that shade." The memory of spring escaped/ the tree as a sigh. "Pray," said Gandhi. "If you don't stop, I/ will have to walk with you", / the tree now began to walk with Gandhi. A wind blew. A bird/ flew to the tree. "See, I am in bloom again"/ the tree laughed with white flowers. "You have started walking? Then/ I can cease." Gandhi's blood/ whispered as it gushed out, / like a prayer for every being. "See, my flowers are growing red," cried out/ the emancipated tree. Three birds that had/ dreamt of fruits came flying from the East.

Salt

Ninety years ago,/ we extracted from the sweat of/ the ocean's ceaseless waves, a handful of salt:/ a blossom of tender white in a lean raised hand. One hand suddenly turned into/ six thousand manacled ones:/ millions of fists raised against/ an empire "where the sun never set". From that day truth in our land/ came to be called "imprisoned salt". Ram, Allah, Khuda, Messiah,/ that salt was everything to us:/ the propheticess who emerged from/ the seafoam and arrived in the kitchen,/ the white-winged angel, the eternal saviour of our dreams. A handful of liberty,/ a handful of equality, a handful of love,/ a handful of kindness, a Buddha of salt. Today once again we raise/ a flag of white salt/ in the background of/ the ocean's dark turquoise blue:/ the fleeting vision of dark-haired freedom/ slipping off from our little hands,/ the snowy elaboration of fair equality/ that we still keen our ears for,/ a calloused hand with the scent of sweat our flesh and tears have,/ a handful of the dark-edged salt of justice/ studied with the sand grains of rebellion/ that Gandhi had raised in Dandi/ ninety years ago.

Satchidanandan is a poet and bilingual literary critic

Translated from Malayalam by the author



She SAID
URMILA RAULAL
urmila.raulal@gmail.com

THE YEAR was 1931, a very crucial year for Indian politics, with Mahatma Gandhi and others at the helm of the freedom struggle. Caroline Miller, a teacher at Allahabad's Crosswaite College, and Ramchandar Lakshman Rau, a journalist with *The Hindu* newspaper in Allahabad (now Prayagraj), decided to tie the knot and take part in India's struggle for freedom.

Since she was a Christian and he a Hindu Brahmin, it had to be a court marriage. Two weeks before the wedding, the couple had to give a notice to the court registrar. The wedding took place in Allahabad on February 2, 1931. This was the first inter-religious and first inter-caste marriage of the year. The registrar, a Mr Mumford, after whom Mumfordganj in Allahabad is named, issued a certificate. The wedding had two witnesses — the then principal of Crosswaite College, C R Powiah, and a trustee of the college's board. However, the main witness was not present as he was observing 'maun vrat' (fast of silence).

It was Mahatma Gandhi. After the ceremony, the newly married couple went to Anand Bhavan to request Gandhi to sign the certificate. Gandhi had known the couple since the early days of the freedom struggle. After signing the document, he turned it over and wrote, "May you both live long to serve the nation". The certificate now lies at the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, among R L Rau's other documents.

For those wondering about this preamble, I happen to be the daughter of this illustrious couple.

My first encounter with Gandhi, which was also perhaps my last, was spurred by the colossal turn of events that took place before his assassination on January 30, 1948. It all began when I joined the 1942 Quit India movement spearheaded by him. I was nine years old. The movement had taken shape after the failure of talks between the British and our national leaders. We saw our parents, relatives and friends join the revolt. Leaders such as Sucheta Kriplani, Acharya J B Kripalani, Maulana Azad, Lakshmi Sahgal, Dr Krishnabai Nimbkar, and Aruna Asaf Ali plunged headlong into the movement.

The spirit of 'Quit India', that came soon after Gandhi's Satyagraha movement, en-

Being the Mahatma's dandi at 15 years



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

thused many children to fight for the country's freedom. About a hundred of us left school, much to the chagrin of our teachers, and took to the streets of New Delhi shouting "Inquilab Zindabad" and "Bharat Chhodo" slogans. We were bundled off in police vans and sent to Delhi's Central Jail (now Tihar Jail). The British soldiers at the jail welcomed us with chocolates. We didn't give in to the temptation. We kept a fast and did not even drink water. We were released after a day.

On August 14, 1947, the British gave up and we achieved freedom the next day. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru became the first prime minister of India. It was one of the most poignant moments. I was 13, and understood the meaning of the freedom struggle and the reason for my parents' participation in it better. I could soak and absorb the contents much more.

On August 14, 1947, around 11 pm, my parents and I went to the Central Hall of Parliament. With bated breath we awaited the stroke of midnight. When the moment came, the air rent with cries of 'Jai Bharat' and 'Jai Hind'. Like Nehru said, "...When the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom."

The next day, August 15, 1947, was a day of reckoning and joy for every Indian. We reached the Red Fort before sun break. At 7 am, Nehru arrived, dressed in a simple kurta-pyjama and the famous 'Nehru jacket', and unfurled the Tricolour to the

rendition of 'Jana Gana Mana' at exactly 7 am. It was a proud moment. We breathed free in a free nation.

As mentioned earlier, my most memorable encounter with Gandhi was on the penultimate day of his assassination. On January 28, 1948, my friend and classmate at New Delhi's Modern High School, Tara Bhattacharya (née Gandhi), Gandhi's grand-daughter, asked me to accompany her to Birla House, where Gandhi held his prayer meetings. She told me we would be his 'dandis' (sticks) — he would place his hands on our shoulders and be escorted to the prayer platform. It was a great honour for me to have the Father of the Nation bless me with his hands on my shoulders. We escorted him to the Prarthana Manch, from where he sat and addressed a large gathering of people.

During the course of the prayer meeting, an explosion occurred on the grounds of Birla House. It was not clear if it was linked to Nathuram Godse, but perhaps it was a sign of the events to come.

After the address, I touched Gandhi's feet, and asked him to bless me. He said, "Ab toh hum chale, tumhare kandhon aur hathon mein iss desh ko saunp kar. Tum phoolo aur phalo. Is desh ki tarakki ke bhavishya bano. Bhagwan tumhe bhala aur surakshit rakhe (We are leaving now, handing over this country to you. May you flower and grow. Become the future of the nation's success. May God keep you healthy and safe)."

Lal is a former DRDO scientist

National Editor Shalini Langer curates the fortnightly 'She Said' column shalini.langer@expressindia.com



Out of MY MIND
MEGHNAD DESAI

THE MOST intriguing question of modern Indian history of the last 75 years is why did Indira Gandhi call an election in March 1977? She did not have to. The Opposition was in jail. While some underground activity was going on, Indira Gandhi was in complete control of the government, the Army and the judiciary. Her son and chosen successor Sanjay was telling her to not bother about an election. The president was in her pocket. She was constitutionally within her power to rule for as long as she liked.

But she called an election. Her secret services told her she would win. They

Indira, Kashmir, and the foreign sting

were wrong. Of the many stories about her decision was one which said she could not stand the international criticism which was appearing in *New Statesman*. Foreign leaders such as Labour Party leader Michael Foot sentimentally backed her, but there was unease abroad. Indira Gandhi wanted to ensure that she could prove to the British that she was democratically popular. That the people should not care about the politicians in the jail as they were just troublemakers. She was Mother India.

What moved her is a fundamental fact about Indian politics, whichever party is in power. The fact is that India and its politicians exist in a goldfish bowl where they are acutely aware of the Western gaze. The

press of Asian countries or Latin American countries does not matter. In a way nor does German or Italian press. It is foreign English-language press and, to some extent, BBC Radio and TV. Politicians are sensitive souls. Whatever nonchalance they pretend to, a disapproval from a foreign Western source hurts.

Historically, Indians have never looked Eastwards. They do not think they are Asians. Sir William Jones discovered in the late Eighteenth century (while he was the judge for East India Company's Law Courts) that Sanskrit had affinity with Greek and Latin and called them an Indo-European family of languages. It worked like magic and ever since Indians have thought of themselves as European.

Indian leaders went Westwards to study — Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhas Chandra Bose, Sardar Patel, B R Ambedkar, or even to preach as Vivekananda did. Rabindranath Tagore is the sole leader who went as readily to Japan and China as to the West.

A recent example of this sensitivity to Western opinion came when the British Labour Party passed a resolution on Kashmir. It was critical of the Modi government. It could hardly be surprising, but the reaction in India was furious. How dare the Labour Party criticise the Indian government? But then the Kashmir issue has been discussed in most years at the party's annual conference. The Labour Party has many members of the South

Asian diaspora as its members. When I was active at the conference, I recall there were always resolutions sent by local parties to the conference. They were sent by parties with members who had migrated from Mirpur (Pakistan Occupied Kashmir), Pakistan, India taking diametrically opposite stands. These resolutions would be composed into one common resolution which would be debated by the conference. Nothing much happened to these resolutions, whether passed or not.

All these years no one has paid any attention to Labour Party resolutions. The reaction reflects much more Indian sensitivity than any practical consequence of the resolution. Why are people so sensitive?

Amma / is walking along the promenade of the waterway that bisects her city, / a few early morning barges cruise slowly by / to her left is the nautical-themed footbridge with its deck-like walkway and sailing mast pylons / to her right is the bend in the river as it heads east past Waterloo Bridge towards the dome of St Paul's — Bernadine Evaristo (*Girl, Woman, Other*)

EXPRESS EDITORS
RECOMMEND

FOR THE first time since its inception in 1969, the Booker Prize has gone to a black writer. This went unnoticed because it has gone to many people of colour, especially Indians, and Salman Rushdie is top of the heap with the Booker of Bookers. But black writing is a different thing, especially in America, and it is worth looking beyond current and popular voices like Maya Angelou, Alice Walker and Toni Morrison, to names that no longer grace bookstores the world over, but spent literary power in their time:



JAMES BALDWIN (1924-1987) produced reverberating work urging the acceptance of colour and queer sexuality. Prominent

works include *Tell Me How Long the Train's Been Gone* (1968), *Giovanni's Room* (1956) and the loosely autobiographical *Go Tell It on the Mountain* (1953). Unusually, he did not wish to be seen as a black writer.



LANGSTON HUGHES (1902-1967), a leading figure of the Harlem Renaissance, was an early adopter of jazz poetry, which

appropriated the syncopated rhythms, downbeats and repeats of jazz and blues music. His collected works are available from Knopf, and his best-known book was also his first: *The Weary Blues* (1926).



ANGELA DAVIS (BORN 1944), radical feminist, former communist and Black Panther affiliate, is professor emerita at the

University of California's History of Consciousness Department. Known as much for her activism as her writing, the Rolling Stones' *Sweet Black Angel* is dedicated to her. Her most widely-read works are probably *Women, Race and Class* (1983) and *If They Come in the Morning: Voices of Resistance* (1971).



RALPH ELLISON (1914-1994) wrote only two novels, apart from the posthumously assembled Juneteenth —

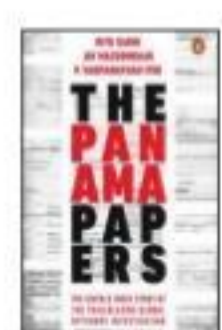
Invisible Man (1952) and *Three Days Before the Shooting...* (unfinished, published 2010), but left an indelible imprint on American letters. *Invisible Man* was a huge bestseller and beat Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* to the National Book Award.



OUR LAST recommendation is not literary, but an unusual historical document: *The Negro Motorist Green Book* was an annual published from New York

City for three decades, 1936-1966. While the Jim Crow laws were in force in the US, it was essential reading for black people who, despite being poor, had bought cars to avoid segregation and humiliation while using public transport. Published by New York postman Victor Hugo Green, it listed hotels, restaurants, petrol pumps and shops which would not refuse to serve black travellers. It was a guidemap to a whole alternate nation thriving within racist America.

LOOKOUT NOTICE



THE UNTOLD story of the Panama Papers investigation will now be published by Penguin Random House India, in

November. The book will scan the backdrop of the massive global financial scam's India chapter — in India the investigation was helmed by award-winning journalists Ritu Sarin, Jay Mazoomdar and P. Vaidyanathan Iyer of *The Indian Express*. The international media collaboration spanned over 100 news organisations working in 25 languages in 80 countries.

Birth of the Iron Fist

Margaret Atwood's latest reveals the insidious armature of Gilead — an oppressive political order we are uncomfortably familiar with

AMRITA DUTTA

WHO ARE you, my reader? And when are you? Perhaps, tomorrow, perhaps 50 years from now, perhaps never." In Margaret Atwood's new novel, its most vital character is aware of the possibility that the testimony she is writing, at the pain of death, could mean nothing without the presence of a reader. That it would be as a tree falling in a silent forest, unacknowledged, unheard. But since 1985, when *The Handmaid's Tale* was first published, readers have hearkened to the book's most striking warning — that every society carries within itself, like an unfertilised egg, journeying to the womb, the possibility of dystopia.

"Nations never build apparently radical forms of government on foundations that aren't there already," wrote Atwood about the Gilead she had imagined in *The Handmaid's Tale*. "The deep foundation of the United States — so went my thinking — was not the comparatively recent 18th-century Enlightenment structures of the Republic, with their talk of equality and their separation of church and state, but the heavy-handed theocracy of 17th-century Puritan New England — with its marked bias against women — which would need only the opportunity of a period of social chaos to reassert itself."

In Gilead (formed by the violent overthrow of American liberal democracy), women are brutally segregated and stripped of all right to money, property and movement; a pariah class of women lose their names and social standing, and are forced to undergo ritualised rape to reproduce for the rest of the community. The backsliding of history and democracy across the world, and the strengthening of religious nationalism, has meant that reading Atwood's dystopia today is a way of making sense of events that might midwife such worlds. Sometimes, it helps us spot them in the headlines. For instance, Alabama's near-total ban on abortion became law earlier this year.

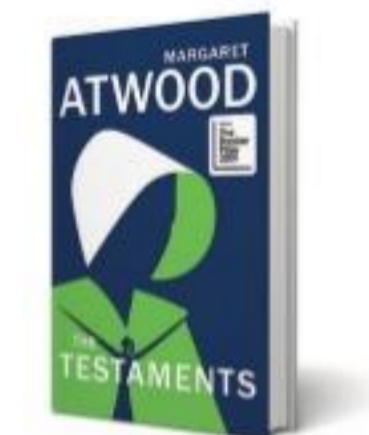
The Testaments, which has just won the 2019 ManBooker Prize with Bernadine Evaristo's *Girl, Woman, Other*, was written, says Atwood, to answer a more hopeful question: how does Gilead fall? The answers come through three testimonies — of a young woman growing up in Gilead; another young girl who lives across the international border in Canada; and of Aunt Lydia, one of the founders of Gilead, who created the ideological apparatus (and the corny hymns) that keeps women in their place.

This diversity of voices gives it a different texture from the breath-pitching claustrophobia of the first novel. Like its protagonist Offred, whose vision is compulsively constrained by the wings framing her face, the reader of *The Handmaid's Tale* experiences an ominous world through silence and suggestion, but does not see its whole design. In the tantalising end of her account, Offred doesn't know what lies in store for her — she steps "into the darkness within; or else, the light."

In *The Testaments*, Atwood reveals the machinery of Gilead, the nuts and bolts of its systematised oppression, and the ugliness where it is coming apart. It also answers the question that many of us are asking of his-



Margaret Atwood (left) and Bernadine Evaristo. Reuters



THE TESTAMENTS
MARGARET ATWOOD
Penguin Random House
419 pages
₹ 799

tory: how do totalitarian regimes seize power? "In the vanished country of mine, things had been on a downward spiral for years. The floods, the fires, the tornadoes, the droughts... People became frightened. Then they became angry," writes Lydia of the series of events which made Gilead possible. Why do people not rise up in revolt? "Ignoring isn't the same as ignorance; you have to work at it." How does the unthinkable become the usual? "The reality is that many children were loved and cherished, in Gilead and elsewhere, and many adults were kind though fallible, in Gilead as elsewhere," writes one of the girls.

In *The Handmaid's Tale*, Aunt Lydia was a cartoon figure of pure ruthlessness, terrifying and one-note. *The Testaments* opens with her writing a hologram in a secret chamber, in the Forbidden World Literature section of a library, away from the prying eyes of security cameras (she knows where they are, because she has placed them there). The Aunts, bureaucrats of the regime, are the only women allowed to read and write; and the only women with a modicum of power. Hers is a message to an unknown world, but also a

reckoning of not just the sins of Gilead, but of what brought her here. Before she became Gilead's ace apparatchik, Aunt Lydia was a judge, a believer in "life, liberty and democracy", someone who had made it the hard-scrabble way. When Gilead shuts her life down, she chooses betrayal and survival. "What good is it to throw yourself in front of a steamroller out of moral principles and then be crushed flat like a sock emptied of its foot? Better to fade into the crowd, the piously praising, unctuous, hate-mongering crowd. Better to hurl rocks than to have them hurled at you."

Aunt Lydia's testimony slyly asks the question of the reader: what would you have done? But more importantly, for all purposes, this ironic, scheming, twisted survivor, who gobbles down an egg sandwich after witnessing a murder, remains the hero of this tale. This is Atwood's steely-eyed pragmatism at work. It asks us to contemplate the moral murkiness of all human decisions; it tells us that spotless idealism might not survive to fight another day.

The Handmaid's Tale is, undoubtedly, the superior work of the two — *The Testaments*, by its very structure, exchanges an expansive,

plot-driven narrative to the former's brooding, punch-in-the-gut brilliance. But you can only read these books as prophecy up to a point. For one, as Atwood has pointed out before, no cruelty in this dystopia rivals civilisation's capacity for injustice. The reproductive slavery of women, their devaluation by patriarchy, continues in many parts of the world, complicated by race, class and ethnicity.

As dystopias go, moreover, Gilead could be outpaced by reality. It appears to be a throwback to an autarkic time, its waters unroiled by social media's algorithms of hate; its totalitarianism a plain, doughy one, without extra trimmings of democracy, nationalism and mob violence.

Do not come to Atwood then for a map out of the mess you are in. Come, instead, to realise how human courage breaks and then resurrects; how resistance follows oppression; how a regime of fear infects love and friendship; and how hope might survive if humans act. Somewhere, in a cupboard in dystopia, is a message scribbled for all of us. We have the choice to read and bring it to life: "Nolite te bastardes carborundorum. Don't let the bastards grind you down."

The Green Roof

A short but extremely detailed anecdotal perspective on the Western Ghats rainforest

HARINI NAGENDRA

WALKING INTO the rainforests of the Western Ghats is a magical experience that is not easy to recreate in a book. In *Pillars of Life*, Drs Divya Mudappa and TR Shankar Raman have pulled off the impossible. This slender book describes 28 characteristic rainforest trees from the Western Ghats, bringing the forest to life through text and illustration.

The rainforests of the Western Ghats rank amongst the most biodiverse forests in the world. They are packed with trees of all shapes and sizes. Well-known ecologists, Mudappa and Raman stepped away from a more traditional academic path several years ago to live in the rainforests in the Anamalai and Valparai region. Their research on the rainforest directly informs the innovative approaches to rainforest restoration that they adopt. *Pillars of Life* describes some of the most charismatic, landmark trees in these threatened forests. Mudappa and Raman's rich, intuitive understanding of these species comes from countless hours spent there, staring down at the floor, and up at the canopy, binoculars in hand. Through these narratives, their love for

trees and passion for the rainforest is both visible and infectious.

There is rich science here. *Nageia wallichiana* is a conifer that looks very different from the pine and fir trees we more commonly associate with the term. The tree comes from the family *Podocarpaceae*, an ancient family of gymnosperms that has been around since the dinosaurs. The differences in trunk, leaf, flower, fruit and seed structure are related to pollination and dispersal strategies. Trees can be pollinated and their seeds dispersed by wind, water, insects, and animals. Wind-dispersed trees stand tall above the forest canopy, enabling the wind to distribute their seeds to far-flung corners of the landscape without obstruction from other trees. Sunlight is a precious resource in the rainforest, and many species of *Ficus* use an ingenious strategy to grab the sunlight. A seed, dropped onto a higher branch of a host tree, germinates to give rise to the aptly named strangler fig — a tree which grows over and surrounds its host tree, and which eventually dies, starved of access to sunlight.

Mudappa and Raman are equally knowledgeable about bugs, bees, birds, bats, civets, squirrels, sloth bears, monkeys, elephants



PILLARS OF LIFE: MAGNIFICENT TREES OF THE WESTERN GHATS
DIVYA MUDAPPA & T. R. SHANKAR RAMAN
Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysore
101 pages
₹ 450



The Western Ghats rainforests rank amongst the most biodiverse in the world. Prashant Nadkar

and the other non-plant life that sustain the forest. They began their academic life as wildlife biologists, and details of plant-animal interaction are embedded throughout the book. We learn that the *Pallaquium ellipticum*, an elegant, tree with a milky sap that stands tall above the tree canopy, is one of those trees whose bark is a favourite with elephants. There are equally fascinating details about other, more common species. I did not know, for example, that the leaves of the jackfruit are edible — eaten by deer and other ungulates during the day, and by flying squirrels at night.

Finally, the book would not be the same without Nirupa Rao's gorgeous sketches. Her illustrations, coupled with the evocative pen sketches of the Anamalai landscape by Sartaj Ghuman, help the book to come alive. In a particularly striking two-page spread on the wild *rudraksh* (trees of the

Elaeocarpaceae family), Roy uses a series of six sketches to show us how the leaves turn from bottle green to flaming red before they finally drop onto the forest floor, forming a vivid carpet of scarlet colour. Visuals like this help us paint a picture of the forest, floor and canopy, in our minds in a way that photographs simply cannot, prompting our imagination to fill in the rest of the picture.

Trees are keepers of history. A giant banyan tree at the south-eastern edge of Bengaluru, not far from where I live, has witnessed a number of rulers come and go — from Kempegowda's descendants to the Marathas, Mughals, Wodeyars, Hyder Ali, Tipu Sultan, and the British Raj. The tree witnessed the Independence movement, saw the transformation of the agricultural landscape around it during the Green Revolution, and now stands next to a four-lane highway connecting Karnataka with

Tamil Nadu, one of the last remnants of a once green and fertile landscape.

Standing tall over the rainforest canopy for centuries, as the authors say, the trees they write about have acted as "historians and record keepers of the local environment." Some of the trees in the forests they describe are hundreds, even thousands of years old. Yet we chop them without thinking, decimating the last few remaining rainforest fragments thoughtlessly. Once lost, we can never recover them. Their hope is that books like these can inspire more of us to understand the ecology and be inspired by the magical experience of living with trees. We need a forest of books such as these.

The writer is professor of sustainability at Azim Premji University and the author of *Nature in the City: Bengaluru in the Past, Present, and Future*

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that one person **Namely: Anil, S/o Sh. Mahesh, R/o: H. No. 28, Tomar Colony, Gali No. 7, D-block, 30 foota road, Burari, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since **10.09.2019**, from his house from the area of P.S. Burari, Delhi in this regard a case vide **DD No. 49-A dated 17.09.2019** has been registered at P.S. Burari, Delhi. The description of the missing/ kidnapped person is as under: **Age: 30 years, Height: 5' 2", Face: Round, Complexion: Shallow, Built: Medium, Wearing: Black colour check shirt, red colour pajama & chappal in feet.** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person kindly inform to the following.

Website: http://cbi.nic.in
E-mail Id - cbc@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639 SHO
P.S. Burari, Delhi
DP/479/N/19 Ph.: 011- 27616844, 8750870130

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-III DELHI

4TH FLOOR, TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001.
Notice under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993). In the matter of
O.A. No. 366/2019
BANK OF BARODA Vs **M/S KEEMAYA INDUSTRIES**
Applicant Defendants
To: D-1 M/s Keemaya Industries (A Prop. Concern)
Through its proprietor Mr. Raj Kumar Soni, Shop No. 16/1176-E, Khalsa Nagar, Tonk Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005
Also At: House No. 1556, Shashtri Nagar, Delhi-110052
House No. 2299/12, A-Block, Sarup Vihar, Kirti Pur, New Delhi-110084
166-A, LIGDDA Flat, Gulabi Bagh, New Delhi-110007
Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in this Tribunal on **08.11.2019** at **10.30 A.M.**
Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this **30th day of Sept. 2019.**
By order of the Tribunal
Assistant Registrar, DRT-III, New Delhi

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-III DELHI

PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI: 110 001
Notice under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993). In the matter of
O.A. 507/2019/DRT-III
BANK OF BARODA Vs **MR. VICKY GUPTA & ANR.**
Applicant Defendants
To: D-1 **MR. VICKY GUPTA S/O SH. DINESH GUPTA,**
R/O: FLAT NO. 111, IIND FLOOR, POCKET-17, SECTOR-24, ROHINI-110085
ALSO AT- G-3/79-80, SECTOR-11, ROHINI, NEW DELHI-110085.
ALSO AT- MR. VICKY GUPTA, C/O M/S V G ENTERPRISES,
2841, GALI PEEPAL MAHADEV, HAUZ QUAZI, DELHI-110006
D-2 **MRS. MONIKA GUPTA W/O MR. VICKY GUPTA,**
R/O: FLAT NO. 111, 2ND FLOOR, POCKET-17, SECTOR-24, ROHINI-110085.
ALSO AT- G-3/79-80, SECTOR-11, ROHINI, NEW DELHI-110085.
Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in this Tribunal on **04.12.2019** at **10.30 A.M.**
Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this **14th day of Oct. 2019.**
By Order of the Tribunal
Assistant Registrar,
DRT-III, New Delhi

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD

Railway Recruitment Cell

Recruitment Against General Departmental Competitive Examination (GDCE) Quota GDCE Notification No.-GDCE 01/2019 Dated: 21.10.2019
Online Closing Date 20.11.2019 up to 23:59 hrs.

Online applications are invited from serving regular railway employees of North Central Railway excluding RPF/RPSF Personnel, Law Assistants, Catering Supervisors and staff of Accounts Department for filling up 529 vacancies of different posts as detailed in notification no. GDCE-01/2019 against General Departmental Competitive Examination (GDCE) quota.

Before applying candidates are advised to refer detail notification No. **GDCE-01/2019** for **Vacancy, Educational Qualification, Age, Mode of Selection, How to Apply and other important instructions** which will be available w.e.f. **21.10.2019 RRC/NCR/ALD's official website at www.rccald.org.** Chairman
Railway Recruitment Cell
North Central Railway,
Balmiki Chauraha, Nawab
Yusuf Road, Allahabad

1526/19 (R)
North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHANCELLOR, AJEENKYA DY PATIL UNIVERSITY

SEARCH COMMITTEE NOTIFICATION

The Search Committee invites Applications for the post of **Vice Chancellor, Ajeenkya DY Patil University.**

Copy of the notification and application form is available on the university website www.adypu.edu.in

The filled in form may be sent (only in the prescribed format) either by email or by post duly super-scribing the envelope

"Application for the Post of Vice Chancellor, Ajeenkya DY Patil University" so as to reach the following address on or

Before 2nd Nov 2019 by 5:30 pm

TO, **THE CONVENER**
Ajeenkya DY Patil University,
Charholi Bk, Via Lohegaon Pune

Email: convener@adypu.edu.in

Application received after the closing date will not be entertained on any account.

बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा Bank of Baroda

POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable Property)

[As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **BANK OF BARODA** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 and rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the borrower(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the receipt of the said notice.

The borrower(s)/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(s)/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules.

The borrower(s)/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of the **BANK OF BARODA** for the amount stated herein below and further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time, available to redeem the secured assets.

Name of Borrower / Guarantors & Description of Immovable Properties

Branch / Name of Borrowers / Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession / Amount Outstanding	Description of the properties
Branch: Bikramganj Branch Shri Dhramendra Kumar Mishra S/o Late Chatrapati Mishra Demand Notice: 06.06.2019 Date of Possession: 16.10.2019 Amt: ₹8,32,327.75/- (Rupees Eight lakh thirty two thousand three hundred twenty seven and seventy five paise only) as on 31.03.2019 + Int., charges & expenses. Date : 16.10.2019 Place : Bikramganj	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of House at Mauja-Silauta, PS-Bikramganj, Plot No.-11, Thana No.499, Area-12,1/2 dhoo in the name of Dhramendra Kumar Mishra s/o late Chatrapati Mishra. Bounded: North-Satendra Mishra, South-Nij, East-Rasta, West-Heera Singh.

THE ODISHA MINING CORPORATION LIMITED
OMC House, Bhubaneswar-751001, Odisha
CIN : U13100OR1956SGC000313, www.omcltd.in

No.35/OMC ADVERTISEMENT FOR RECRUITMENT OF EXECUTIVES IN OMC LTD.

The OMC, a Gold category and largest State PSU in Mining Sector in the Country, undertakes exploration, mining and trading of iron, chrome & bauxite ores. The Corporation has achieved an annual turnover of Rs. 4053 crores in the FY 2018-19. Inspired by the vision to emerge as the market leader and to play a catalytic role in the growth of industrialization, OMC caters to the requirements of mineral based industries. The Corporation invites application from dynamic & competent professionals in different discipline as follows.

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Scale of Pay (in Rs.)	Total posts	Initial Basic Pay (in Rs.)	No. of Posts Reserved for	
					ST	UR
GEOLOGY						
1	General Manager (Geo.), E-7 grade	1,27,100/- to 2,16,300/-	01	1,38,800/-	-	01
2	Dy. General Manager (Geology), E-5 grade	78,800/- to 2,09,200/-	01	1,05,900/-	-	01
3	Manager (Geo.), E-3 grade	67,700/- to 2,08,700/-	02	78,500/-	01	01
4	Dy. Manager (Geo.), E-2 grade	67,700/- to 2,08,700/-	03	67,700/-	01	02
Total			07		02	05

Interested eligible candidates are requested to download the application format from OMC website : www.omcltd.in and submit the same duly filled in & signed along with attested copies of Certificates / Testimonials, experience certificate in support of their eligibility by **Speed Post / Courier** in a cover superscribed "APPLICATION FOR THE POST OF _____" so as to reach the **General Manager (P&A), The Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd., OMC House, Bhubaneswar-751001 by 05.11.2019 positively.** Applications received after the last date due to delay in postal/courier or any other reason shall not be entertained and will be rejected. The OMC Management reserves the right to cancel, amend or alter the above advertisement without assigning any reason thereof.

THE ODISHA MINING CORPORATION LIMITED
OMC House, Bhubaneswar-751001, Odisha
CIN : U13100OR1956SGC000313, www.omcltd.in

No.36/OMC ADVERTISEMENT FOR RECRUITMENT OF EXECUTIVES IN OMC LTD.

The OMC, a Gold category and largest State PSU in Mining Sector in the Country, undertakes exploration, mining and trading of iron, chrome & bauxite ores. The Corporation has achieved an annual turnover of Rs. 4053 crores in the FY 2018-19. Inspired by the vision to emerge as the market leader and to play a catalytic role in the growth of industrialization, OMC caters to the requirements of mineral based industries. The Corporation invites application from dynamic & competent professionals in different discipline as follows.

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Scale of Pay (in Rs.)	Total posts	Initial Basic Pay (in Rs.)	No. of Posts Reserved for			
					SC	ST	SEBC	UR
MECHANICAL								
1	Sr. Manager (Mech.), E-4 grade	67,700/- to 2,08,700/-	01	91,100/-	-	-	-	01
ELECTRICAL								
2	Addl. General Manager (Elect.)	1,23,100/- to 2,15,900/-	01	1,23,100/-	-	-	-	01
3	Dy. General Manager (Elect), E-5 grade	78,800/- to 2,09,200/-	02	1,05,900/-	-	-	-	02
4	Sr. Manager (Elect.), E-4 grade	67,700/- to 2,08,700/-	02	91,100/-	-	01	01	-
5	Manager (Elect), E-3 grade	67,700/- to 2,08,700/-	02	78,500/-	01 (W)	01 (W)	-	-
SECURITY								
6	Dy. General Manager (Security), E-5 grade	78,800/- to 2,09,200/-	01	1,05,900/-	-	-	-	01
7	Sr. Manager (Security), E-4 grade	67,700/- to 2,08,700/-	02	91,100/-	01	01	-	-
Total			11		02	03	02	04

Interested eligible candidates are requested to download the application format from OMC website : www.omcltd.in and submit the same duly filled in & signed along with attested copies of Certificates / Testimonials, experience certificate in support of their eligibility by **Speed Post / Courier** in a cover superscribed "APPLICATION FOR THE POST OF _____" so as to reach the **General Manager (P&A), The Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd., OMC House, Bhubaneswar-751001 by 05.11.2019 positively.** Applications received after the last date due to delay in postal/courier or any other reason shall not be entertained and will be rejected. The OMC Management reserves the right to cancel, amend or alter the above advertisement without assigning any reason thereof.

रजिस्ट्री सं० डी०ए ल०-33004/99

REGD. NO. D. L.-33004/99

भारत का राजपत्र

The Gazette of India

असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY
भाग II—खण्ड 3—उप-खण्ड (ii)
PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (ii)
प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 2982] नई दिल्ली, बुधवार, सितम्बर 11, 2019/भाद्र 20, 1941
No. 2982] NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2019/BHADRA 20, 1941

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 9th September, 2019
S.O. 3258(E).—In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building (widening/two lane with paved shoulder/two laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of NH 07 in the stretch of land from Km 368.00 to Km 384.400 in the district of RUDRA PRAYAG in the state of UTTARAKHAND, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under subsection (1) of section 3C of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, Additional District Magistrate Rudraprayag in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final. The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under their notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling NH 07 in the stretch of land from Km 368.00 to Km 384.400 in the district of RUDRA PRAYAG in the state of UTTARAKHAND

State: UTTARAKHAND		District: RUDRA PRAYAG			
S.No.	Survey / Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Local Unit)	Area (in Hectare)
Taluk: Rudraprayag					
Village: Ratura					
1	148	Government	Road	0.0240000 (Hectare)	0.0240000
2	149	Government	Chatan	0.1440000 (Hectare)	0.1440000
3	150	Government	Roli	0.0130000 (Hectare)	0.0130000
4	24	Government	Chatan	0.0300000 (Hectare)	0.0300000
5	96	Government	Jhari	0.0080000 (Hectare)	0.0080000
Village: Sour Lagga Kalna					
1	133	Private (Building /chowk)	Non-Agriculture	0.0020000 (Hectare)	0.0020000
Village: Sumerpur					
1	125	Private (Building /chowk)	Non-Agriculture	0.0090000 (Hectare)	0.0090000
2	224	Government	Jhari	0.0140000 (Hectare)	0.0140000
3	225	Common (NZA category-5)	Non-Agriculture	0.0090000 (Hectare)	0.0090000
4	228	Private	Agriculture	0.0030000 (Hectare)	0.0030000
5	229	Private (Building)	Non-Agriculture	0.0040000 (Hectare)	0.0040000
6	408	Private	Agriculture	0.0040000 (Hectare)	0.0040000
7	410	Private	Agriculture	0.0010000 (Hectare)	0.0010000
8	412	Private	Agriculture	0.0010000 (Hectare)	0.0010000
9	414	Private	Agriculture	0.0010000 (Hectare)	0.0010000
10	415	Private	Agriculture	0.0010000 (Hectare)	0.0010000
11	416	Private	Agriculture	0.0020000 (Hectare)	0.0020000
12	418	Private	Agriculture	0.0020000 (Hectare)	0.0020000
13	482	Government	Jhari	0.0010000 (Hectare)	0.0010000
14	511	Private	Agriculture	0.0010000 (Hectare)	0.0010000
15	604	Government (Building/Rest room/charagh/mandirchowk)	Non-Agriculture	0.0210000 (Hectare)	0.0210000
16	605	Government	Charagah	0.0130000 (Hectare)	0.0130000
17	606	Government	Roli	0.0120000 (Hectare)	0.0120000
Total				0.3200	0.3200

[F. No. NH-12037/18/2013/UR/NH-II (Vol-6)/3A] RAJESH GUPTA, Dy. Secy.

GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND
DRINKING WATER & SANITATION DIVISION, GODDA
e- Procurement Notice
Very-Very SHORT Term Tender
Tender Reference No- DW&SD/ Godda NOTICE No 22 / 2019-20 dt. 18.10.2019

1	Name of the Department	Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, Jharkhand, Ranchi.
2	Name & Address of Office Inviting Tender	Executive Engineer, Drinking Water & Sanitation, Division, Godda.
3	Date of Publication of tender/ Time on website:	22.10.2019 up to 3.00 P.M.
4	Last date / Time for receipt of Bid	06.11.2019 up to 5.00 P.M.
5	Last date of submission of Earnest Money (Bank Guarantee/T.D.Pass Book/ N.S.C) Time and cost of BOQ and place	07.11.2019 up to 3.00 P.M. 1. Office of the Executive Engineer DW&S Divi Godda 2. Office of The Superintending Engineer DW&S Deoghar Circle Deoghar.
6	Date of Opening of Tender/ Time	08.11.2019 up to 04.30PM
7	Name & Address of Tender Opening Office:	Executive Engineer, Drinking Water & Sanitation, Division, Godda
8	Contact No. of Procurement office	7631150330

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (In lakh.)	Earnest money (In Rs.)	Cost of BOQ (in Rs.)	Time of Completion
1	Construction of High Yield Gravel Packed Tube Well (HYGPT) 300x200mm dia X 120 Mtr (AV) deep by Reverse Rotary Rig Machine with MS Casing Pipe . Construction of 20000 Ltr Pump House Cum - RCC Tank. 1100 Mtr MDPE Supplying & Laying Distribution Mains, Supplying & Installation of 2 HP (1800 WP) A.C Solar Submersible Pump Complete set Mini water Supply Scheme under DMFT under D.W & S. Division, godda for the Year 2019-20 on Turn Key Basis.	216307.800	43500.00	5000.00	03 Month

Note:- 1. BOQ Amount/Earnest Money/ Cost of BOQ may be increase or decrease.
 2. No Claim Shall be entertained because of disruption of internet service being used by the bidders.
 Bidders are advised to upload their bids well in advance to avoid last minute technical snags. All details/ Further details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>
(Arun Kumar Singh)
Executive Engineer,
D.W. & Division, Godda
 PR 220355 Drinking Water and Sanitation(19-20)D

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय
भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमण्डल संख्या-2, राँची

अति अल्पकालीन निविदा /कोटेशन आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या-43/2019-20

1. विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता : कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमण्डल सं-2, राँची।
 2. परिमाण विपत्र बिडो की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक 26.10.2019 को 1.00 बजे अपराह्न तक
 3. निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक 26.10.2019 को 3.30 बजे अपराह्न तक।
 4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक 26.10.2019 को 3.30 बजे अपराह्न।
 5. परिमाण विपत्र बिडो का स्थान : 1) अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन अंचल सं-2, राँची के प्रतिनियुक्त पदाधिकारी द्वारा 2) कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमण्डल सं-2, राँची के प्रतिनियुक्त पदाधिकारी द्वारा नगर नियंत्रण कक्ष राँची।
 6. निविदा प्राप्ति का स्थान : नगर नियंत्रण कक्ष राँची, कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमण्डल सं-2, राँची के प्रतिनियुक्त पदाधिकारी द्वारा।
 7. निविदा खोलने का स्थान : अधोहस्ताक्षरी का कार्यालय
 8. कार्य की विवरणी :

क्र०	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रु.)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य (रु.)	अग्रगण्य की राशि (रु.)	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
1	Renovation of OHC Type Qtr. No 29 at Sector -2 H.E.C. Dhurwa Ranchi	1288700.00	2500.00	26000.00	Three Month
2	Renovation of E Type Qtr. No 278 at Sector -2 H.E.C. Dhurwa Ranchi	1067300.00	2500.00	22000.00	Three Month
3	Renovation of OHC A Type Qtr. No 7 at Sector -2 H.E.C. Dhurwa Ranchi	395500.00	750.00	8000.00	Two Month
4	E/R to B type Qtr. No 1215 2nd Floor at Sector 2 HEC Dhurwa Ranchi	240150.00	500.00	5000.00	Two Month
5	Renovation of 'B' Type Qtr. No 2471 2nd Floor at Sector 2 HEC Dhurwa Ranchi	191200.00	500.00	4000.00	Two Month
6	Renovation of CD OHC Qtr. No 576 2nd Floor at Sector 2 HEC Dhurwa Ranchi	305400.00	750.00	7000.00	Two Month
7	Renovation of 'B' Type Qtr. No 2145 1st Floor at Sector 2 HEC Dhurwa Ranchi	291500.00	750.00	6000.00	Two Month
8	Renovation of 'B' Type Qtr. No 2238 2nd Floor at Sector 2 HEC Dhurwa Ranchi	276500.00	750.00	6000.00	Two Month
9	Renovation of 'E' Type Qtr. No 252 at Sector 2 HEC Dhurwa Ranchi	476100.00	750.00	10000.00	Two Month
10	Renovation of 'B' Type Qtr. No 2528 Ground Floor at Sector 2 HEC Dhurwa Ranchi	418600.00	750.00	8000.00	Two Month
11	Renovation of 'B' Type Qtr. No 113 at Sector 2 HEC Dhurwa Ranchi	135100.00	500.00	3000.00	Two Month
12	Renovation of 'B' Type Qtr. No 2131 Ground Floor at Sector 2 HEC Dhurwa Ranchi	398500.00	750.00	8000.00	Two Month
13	Renovation of 'B' Type Qtr. No 20992nd Floor at Sector 2 HEC Dhurwa Ranchi	312800.00	750.00	7000.00	Two Month
14	Renovation of 'B' Type Qtr. No 2119 Ground Floor at Sector 2 HEC Dhurwa Ranchi	232500.00	500.00	5000.00	Two Month
15	Renovation of 'B' Type Qtr. No 2313 Ground Floor at Sector 2 HEC Dhurwa Ranchi	272900.00	750.00	6000.00	Two Month
16	Renovation of 'B' Type Qtr. No 2318 Ground Floor at Sector 2 HEC Dhurwa Ranchi	256600.00	750.00	6000.00	Two Month
17	Renovation of 'B' Type Qtr. No 366 2nd Floor at Sector 2 HEC Dhurwa Ranchi	341700.00	750.00	8000.00	Two Month
18	Renovation of 'B' Type Qtr. No 797 2nd Floor at Sector 2 HEC Dhurwa Ranchi	349150.00	750.00	8000.00	Two Month
19	Renovation of 'B' Type Qtr. No 2347 Ground Floor at Sector 2 HEC Dhurwa Ranchi	195800.00	500.00	4000.00	Two Month
20	Renovation of CD Type Qtr. No 232 at Sector 2 HEC Dhurwa Ranchi	251000.00	750.00	6000.00	Two Month
21	Renovation of Office of Chief Engineer NH in Engineering Hostel No 2 at HEC Dhurwa Ranchi	464150.00	750.00	10000.00	Two Month
22	E/R to B type Qtr No 169 Roof Treatment (Central Pool) at Sec 3 HEC Dhurwa Ranchi	115800.00	500.00	3000.00	One Month
23	Renovation of 'B' Type Qtr. No 149 Ground Floor at Sector 2 HEC Dhurwa Ranchi	282600.00	750.00	6000.00	Two Month
24	Renovation of 'A' Type Qtr. No 119 at Sector 3 HEC Dhurwa Ranchi	258800.00	750.00	8000.00	Two Month
25	E/R to Roof Treatment of B type Qtr. No 107 at Sector 2 H.E.C. Dhurwa Ranchi	102800.00	500.00	3000.00	One Month
26	E/R to Roof Treatment of B type Qtr. No 162 (2nd floor) at Sector 2 H.E.C. Dhurwa Ranchi	115800.00	500.00	3000.00	One Month
27	Renovation of 'A' Type Qtr. No 82 at Sector 3 HEC Dhurwa Ranchi	238300.00	500.00	5000.00	Two Month
28	Renovation of 'B' Type Qtr. No 389(1 unit) at Sector 2 HEC Dhurwa Ranchi	313600.00	750.00	7000.00	Two Month
29	Renovation of 'B' Type Qtr. No 1248 (1 unit) at Sector 2 HEC Dhurwa Ranchi	321300.00	750.00	7000.00	Two Month
30	Renovation of 'B' Type Qtr. No 1363 (1 Unit) at Sector 2 HEC Dhurwa Ranchi	349300.00	750.00	7000.00	Two Month
31	Construction of Portico at North Gate of Project Building at HEC Dhurwa Ranchi	1045000.00	2500.00	22000.00	Two Month
32	Renovation of 'A' Type Qtr. No 139 at Sector 3 H.E.C. Dhurwa Ranchi	335200.00	750.00	7000.00	Two Month
33	Renovation of CD Type Qtr. No 12 at Sector 2 H.E.C. Dhurwa Ranchi	466600.00	750.00	10000.00	Two Month
34	Renovation of CD Type Qtr. No 175 at Sector 2 H.E.C. Dhurwa Ranchi	347400.00	750.00	8000.00	Two Month
35	E/R to room No 20 at Ground Floor, Room No 100 at First Floor and Different Room at Second Floor of FFP Building at H.E.C. Dhurwa Ranchi	248800.00	500.00	5000.00	Two Month
36	E/R to corridor of 2nd floor near Room No 217 at Corridor of 3rd Floor Near Room No - Lift of FFP Building at H.E.C. Dhurwa Ranchi	155700.00	500.00	5000.00	Two Month
37	E/R to C Type Qtr. No 2/24 (Change of Occupancy) in Sachivalay Colony at Hino Ranchi	232800.00	500.00	3000.00	Two Month
38	Renovation of Room No 203, 204 & 216 at 2nd Floor of Project Building H.E.C. Dhurwa Ranchi	304500.00	750.00	7000.00	Two Month
39	Renovation of Room No 116, 120 & 121 at 1st Floor of Project Building H.E.C. Dhurwa Ranchi	1159000.00	2500.00	24000.00	Two Month
40	Aluminium Partition Work in Room No 21 (Rural Works Department) at Ground floor of FFP Building and Supplying of Fitting Items of Project Building H.E.C. Dhirwa Ranchi	240700.00	500.00	5000.00	One Month
41	E/R to Conference Hall in the Campus of Project Building H.E.C. Dhurwa Ranchi	1223900.00	2500.00	25000.00	Two Month
42	Renovation of Room No 313 & 334 (Commercial Tax Department) at 3rd Floor, Room No 42 (DSP Chamber) & GST Cell at Ground Floor of Project Building HEC Dhurwa Ranchi	601300.00	1250.00	13000.00	Two Month
43	E/R to Roof Treatment of Media Cell (Front of Conference Hall Building) in the Campus of Project Building HEC Dhurwa Ranchi	243200.00	500.00	5000.00	One Month
44	Renovation of Room No 20 at Ground Floor of FFP Building at HEC Dhurwa Ranchi	270400.00	750.00	6000.00	Two Month
45	Renovation of Room No 105 (Director Primary Education Chamber & Cell) at 1st Floor of MDI Building at HEC Dhurwa Ranchi	315500.00	750.00	7000.00	Two Month
46	Polishing work at Chief Secretary Chamber, conference Hall and renovation of PA to Chief Secretary Chamber at 1st Floor, Room No 208, 239 (Honable Minister Chamber), General Gents Bathroom at Second Floor, General Gents Bathroom at 4th Floor & Construction of Generator Shed in the Campus of Project Building H.E.C. Dhurwa Ranchi	1270300.00	2500.00	26000.00	Two Month

नोट - निविदा की शर्तें www.jharkhand.gov.in एवं कार्यालय के सूचना पट्ट पर देखी जा सकती है।
कार्यपालक अभियन्ता
भवन निर्माण विभाग
भवन प्रमण्डल संख्या-2, राँची
 PR 220365 Building(19-20)D

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF SPORTS & YOUTH WELFARE, ASSAM
RUDDRA SINGHA SPORTS COMPLEX, DISPUR, GUWAHATI- 781006
 No: DSY/S/KIYG2020/NIT/83/2019/3 Dated: 18th October, 2019

NOTICE INVITING E-BID

The Director, Sports and Youth Welfare, Assam, on behalf of CEO, Khelo India Youth Games, 2020, Guwahati, invites e-Bid through www.assamtenders.gov.in from reputed Manufacturers of Sports Equipment for supply of Sports Equipment for different Sports Disciplines in connection with Khelo India Youth Games, 2020, scheduled in Guwahati from 10th to 22nd January, 2020.
 The intending Bidders must have the valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-II (Minimum) for processing this e-Tender through e-procurement document and have to register in the portal www.assamtenders.gov.in by themselves. Details of terms & conditions can be downloaded from the website www.assamtenders.gov.in.

CRITICAL DATE SHEET

Uploading/Publishation of Tender Documents	19/10/2019
Downloading date and time of Bid document	19/10/2019 from 4:00 PM onwards
Date and time of Pre-bid Meeting	25/10/2019 at 12:00 noon
Last Date & Time of Submission of Bids	31/10/2019 at 11:00 AM onwards
Opening Date & Time of Technical Bids	1/11/2019 at 1:00 PM
Opening Date & Time of Financial Bids	7/11/2019 at 1:00 PM

The undersigned reserves the right to change the opening time and date of the tender because of administrative reason by notifying the same on the website. The Department will not be liable for any delay in submission of Tenders and System Errors (if any).

Sd/-
Director
 Sports & Youth Welfare, Assam

Janasanyog No. C/ 5367/19

ऊर्जा विभाग
झारखण्ड सरकार
विद्युत कार्यपालक अभियन्ता
विद्युत कार्य प्रमण्डल, इंजीनियरिंग हॉस्टल नं०-2, धुर्वा, राँची

अति अल्पकालीन ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट सूचना
 ई-निविदा प्रसंग सं०- Energy/EWD/Ranchi/52/2019-20 दिनांक- 18/10/2019

क्र०	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रुपये में)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	अग्रगण्य की राशि	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
1	प्रोजेक्ट भवन, धुर्वा राँची स्थित नवनिर्मित माननीय मुख्य मंत्री हॉल एवं समागार में 255 टन क्षमता के सेन्ट्रल-लाइज वातानुकूलित संयंत्र के वार्षिक सम्भरण एवं रख रखाव का कार्य। (दो वर्षों हेतु)	53,70,571.00	10,000.00	1,08,000.00	दो वर्ष
2	वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि	25.10.2019			
3	निविदा जमा करने की तिथि	26.10.2019 के 10.30 बजे से 31.10.2019 के 2.00 बजे तक			
4	निविदा खोलने की तिथि	1.11.2019 को 3.30 बजे अपराह्न में			
5	निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता	विद्युत कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, विद्युत कार्य प्रमण्डल, राँची।			
6	निविदा खोलने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता	विद्युत अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत कार्य अंचल, राँची।			
7	ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट प्रकोट का फोन नं०	0651-2400712, 0651-2490069			

नोट :- निविदा से संबंधित विस्तृत जानकारी हेतु वेबसाइट <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> में देखा जा सकता है।
विद्युत कार्यपालक अभियन्ता
विद्युत कार्य प्रमण्डल, राँची
 PR 220359 Energy (19-20)_D

GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
DRINKING WATER & SANITATION DIVISION, MADHUPUR
3rd Call
VERY VERY SHORT RE TENDER NOTICE REFERENCE No.- 20/DWSD/MDP/2019-20, Date:- 17.10.2019

Sl. No.	Particulars	Group No.	Estimated Cost (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Cost of BOQ (In Rs.)	Time of Completion
1	Construction of Mini Rural Water Supply Scheme, Patalhar through Solar Powered Submersible Motor Pump for SC/ST families and adjoining villagers of District Deoghar under D.W. & S. Division Madhupur for the Year 2019-20.	MWSS-01	999977.00	20000.00	1250.00	02 Month
2	Construction of Mini Rural Water Supply Scheme, Bardaha through Solar Powered Submersible Motor Pump for SC/ST families and adjoining villagers of District Deoghar under D.W. & S. Division Madhupur for the Year 2019-20.	MWSS-02	999977.00	20000.00	1250.00	02 Month

नोट- निविदा की शर्तें एवं परिमाण विपत्र विभागीय वेबसाइट <http://dwsd.jharkhand.gov.in> पर Upload रहेंगे। इच्छुक एजेंसी / संवेदक परिमाण विपत्र वेबसाइट से Download कर निविदा में मांग ले सकते हैं परन्तु निविदा जमा करते समय विपत्र का निर्धारित मूल्य का बैंक डाफ्ट तकनीकी बीड के साथ अनुरूपित करेंगे, जो संबंधित कार्यपालक अभियन्ता को भूगतय होगा। निविदा की शर्तें कार्यालय के सूचना पट्ट पर भी देखा जा सकता है। ई। निविदा में कार्य की प्राक्कलित राशि में घट-बढ़ हो सकती है तदनुसार परिमाण विपत्र की राशि भी घट-बढ़ सकती है।
कार्यपालक अभियन्ता
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल, मधुपुर।
 PR 220347 Drinking Water and Sanitation(19-20)D

Bharat Nirman through Rural Roads
Chief Engineer (Kangra Zone) HPPWD Dharamshala H.P., 176215
BHARAT NIRMAN
UNDER PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)
e-Procurement Notice

The Government of India has received a loan/credit number "P124639" under PMGSY (Rural Road Project) Rural Roads Financing towards the cost of Rural Roads Project (Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana) and intends to apply a part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the contracts for construction of works and PMGSY(Regular)/RRP-II. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the bidding document.
 The Chief Engineer (Kangra Zone) HPPWD Dharamshala-176215 on behalf of Governor Himachal Pradesh invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the District of Chamba as detailed in the Table below from the eligible contractors registered with HPPWD/CPWD/P&T, Railways/other state Govt/Central Govt agencies. Non-registered bidders may submit bids, however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.

Division	Package No.	Name of the work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)		Total Cost (In Lacs)	Period of Completion (Months)	Bid Security (Rs. Lacs)
			Construction	Mainten-ance			
Salooni	HP-02-370	Construction of 19.75 Meters Sawn RCC T-Beam Bridge over Khared Nallah on Sundla Girjindoo Road at Rd 32/615.	34.63	-	34.63	9	0.70
Tissa	HP-02-335	Construction of link Road to Village Junas Km 0/0 to 4/500.	285.31	27.10	312.41	12	6.25
Tissa	HP-02-333	Construction of Tissa Ganed Nera Road Km 3/0 to 12/930.	648.79	59.80	708.59	18	14.20
Killar	HP-02-361	Construction of link Road to Village Thandol Km 0/0 to 6/285.	496.75	37.85	534.60	18	10.70
Chamba	HP-02-341	Construction of link Road to Village Kureena Km 0/0 to 2/300.	256.11	13.85	269.96	12	5.40
Chamba	HP-02-340	Construction of Sultanpur to Bari Road Km 0/0 to 2/350.	210.07	14.15	224.22	12	4.50
Chamba	HP-02-337	Construction of Luddu to Gharmani Road Km 7/0 to 9/500.	275.64	15.06	290.70	12	5.80
Chamba	HP-02-338	Construction of link Road to Village Daroga Km 0/0 to 4/500.	435.40	27.10	462.50	18	9.25
Chamba	HP-02-349	Construction of Kir to Athwal Road Km 0/0 to 11/600.	1302.36	69.86	1372.22	24	27.45
Tissa	HP-02-334	Construction of Kalhel Chhatri Jungar Road Km 0/0 to 4/300.	496.66	25.89	522.55	18	10.45
Bharmour	HP-02-332	Construction of Road from L031 CH 2/400 to Bhatra Km 0/0 to 2/0.	172.75	12.04	184.79	12	3.70
Bharmour	HP-02-331	"Construction of Dalli to Sanh Road" Km 0/0 to 5/190.	343.56	31.25	374.81	18	7.50
Bharmour	HP-02-323	"Construction of Rakh to Dhanara Road" Km 0/0 to 8/325.	449.79	50.13	499.92	18	10.00
Bharmour	HP-02-367	"Construction of Hadsar to Kugli Road" Km 0/0 to 10/320.	691.05	62.15	753.20	18	15.00
Bharmour	HP-02-343	Construction of Dhakog to Sarotha Road (Portion Thalla to Tundah) Km 7/0 to 14/500.	784.41	45.17	829.58	18	16.60
Bharmour	HP-02-327	Construction of Machhatar to Agasan Road Km 0/0 to 12/500.	1207.22	75.27	1282.49	18	25.65

Other details can be seen in the bidding document. The Employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders if any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.
 Submission of all physical documents will be accepted only up to or before the time and date of submission of bids. No physical documents will be accepted after the closing date and time of submission of bids.
Last Date/Time and place for receipt of bids through e-procurement:-
 Bids can be submitted online from Date 25 Month 10 Year 2019 to Date 15 Month 11 Year 2019 upto 1700 Hours and will be opened on Date 16 Month 11 Year 2019 at 11:30 Hours in the office of Superintending Engineer, 7th Circle, HPPWD, Dalhousie.
 For further details please log on to <https://pmgsytendershp.gov.in>.
 The undersigned has right to extend or cancel the bids without declaring any reasons there-of.
 Sd/- Chief Engineer,
 Kangra Zone, H.P.P.W.D, Dharamshala-176215.
 Fax: 011892-223100, Tel: 011892-229448.
 2510.H.P.

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL, SHANKAR VIHAR
DELHI CANTT-10
Tele No - 26153559

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

EOI is solicited from the leading vendors for supply and installation of surveillance system (CCTV Cameras) in the school. Details for the above and EOI form are available at school counter against cash/draft of Rs 500/- each. Forms duly filled be submitted by 04 Nov 2019
Chairman

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय
पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, देवघर
अति अल्पकालीन ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट सूचना (प्रथम कॉल)
 ई-निविदा प्रसंग संख्या - RCD/DEOGHAR/2000/2019-20 दिनांक -18.10.2019

क्र०	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रुपये में)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	अग्रगण्य की राशि	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
1.	कार्य का नाम	रुपये 2,94,51,690/- (दो करोड़ चौरानबे लाख एकावन हजार छः सौ नब्बे रुपये मात्र)।			
2.	प्राक्कलित राशि (रुपये में)	रुपये 2,94,51,690/- (दो करोड़ चौरानबे लाख एकावन हजार छः सौ नब्बे रुपये मात्र)।			

TOP OF THE WORLD



After the dam collapse on Saturday. AP

SIBERIA
15 die in dam collapse at gold mine

Moscow: Fifteen people were killed and another 13 missing after an illegally built dam collapsed at a gold mine in a remote Siberian settlement on Saturday, in the latest deadly accident to hit Russia. The dam on the Seiba River in the Siberian region of Krasnoyarsk burst and flooded several cabins where the victims lived, Russian authorities said. About 300 people, six helicopters and six boats were involved in a search and rescue mission, the emergencies ministry said.

EGYPT
Over 100 held in crackdown freed: Lawyers

Cairo: Egyptian rights lawyers say authorities have released over 100 people who were among hundreds more arrested in a sweeping crackdown following small but rare anti-government protests last month. Lawyers Mustafa el-Demiry and Khaled Ali say the detainees were released late Friday, pending an investigation into claims they took part in the activities of a banned group and disseminating false news on social media platforms. The Egyptian Center for Economic and Social Rights says around 3,700 people including journalists, activists and foreign nationals, were arrested in the past month.

SRI LANKA
Lanka removed from FATF's Grey List

Colombo: Sri Lanka has been removed from the "Grey List" of terror financing watchdog FATF, according to a report. The nation will no longer be subject to the force's monitoring under its on-going global anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) compliance process, the Colombo Gazette reported on Saturday. The FATF, whose five-day plenary concluded in Paris on Friday, said Sri Lanka made significant progress in addressing the strategic AML/CFT deficiencies identified earlier, the daily said.

FURTHER DELAY POINTLESS, EXPENSIVE, CORROSIVE: BORIS

UK PM defiant after lawmakers vote to force delay in Brexit plan

In new twist, amendment proposed by expelled Conservative Party member passes 322-306

AGENCIES
LONDON, OCTOBER 19

PRIME MINISTER Boris Johnson suffered a humiliating defeat on Saturday as Parliament rebuffed his campaign to take Britain out of the European Union by the end of the month and forced him to seek an extension that he had vowed never to pursue.

The events left Johnson's agreement in limbo and threw British politics again into chaos, with any number of outcomes possible: a no-deal exit from the European Union, a second referendum on whether to leave at all, or a general election that could shift the balance in Parliament. The only sure result was continuing frustration and confusion among the British public.

Johnson argued that it was the best deal Britain could hope to strike — one that, in his telling, would position the country for a thriving future as an agile, free agent in the global economy — and that any further delay would be "pointless, expensive and deeply corrosive of public trust."

Instead, by a vote of 322 to 306, lawmakers passed a last-minute amendment, brought by Oliver Letwin, an expelled member of Johnson's Conservative Party. According to the amendment passed by the House, the vote means Johnson is obliged to write to the EU seeking a delay beyond Britain's scheduled departure date of October 31. But Johnson has repeatedly



Boris Johnson speaks in parliament, Saturday. Reuters

said he will not do this and on Saturday he stuck to that line.

"I will tell our friends and colleagues in the EU exactly what I have told everyone else in the last 88 days that I have served as prime minister: that further delay would be bad for this country, bad for the European Union and bad for democracy."

The European Commission urged Johnson's government to quickly explain how it wants to proceed with Brexit preparations after losing another parliamentary vote. Spokeswoman Mina Andreeva said Brussels "takes note of the vote in the House of Commons today on the so-called Letwin Amendment meaning that the Withdrawal Agreement itself was not put to vote today.

"It will be for the UK government to inform us about the next steps as soon as possible," she tweeted.



EU supporters march as parliament sits to discuss Brexit in London on Saturday. Reuters

'NEW REFERENDUM'

THE BATTLE over Brexit spilled onto London streets Saturday when tens of thousands gathered to demand a new referendum. "I am incensed that we are not being listened to. Nearly all polls show people want to remain in the EU. We feel we are voiceless," said Hannah Barton, 56, a cider maker from central England, draped in an EU flag.

EXPLAINED

What is the Letwin amendment?

THE LETWIN amendment, proposed by Conservative rebel Oliver Letwin, delays a vote on the Brexit deal until the House passes the required legislation to implement it properly. It is intended to be a safety net to prevent hardline Brexiters from engineering a no-deal situation.

The legislation requires Johnson to write to the EU, requesting a delay till January 31, 2020. The PM has, however, ruled out "negotiating" for an extension. Saturday's vote does not mean the PM's deal is dead, as he has vowed to introduce the required legislation next week. Whether it will pass within the original deadline remains to be seen.

CHILE DECLARES EMERGENCY IN CAPITAL



A demonstrator clashes with riot police during a protest in Santiago, Chile. Reuters

Residents of Chile's capital awoke Saturday to a ravaged city as burned-out buses, bikes and garbage littered the streets after a day of violent protests that prompted the government to declare a state of emergency and call out soldiers to maintain order for the first time in decades

The stunning spasm of unrest was triggered by an increase in metro fares but reflected a much broader anger over economic and social conditions, including a yawning gap between rich and poor in a country considered one of the most stable in Latin America.

Pak oppn leader plans nationwide protests

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KARACHI, OCTOBER 19

PAKISTAN'S OPPOSITION leader Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has announced that his party would hold nationwide anti-government protests to press Prime Minister Imran Khan to resign and restore "real democracy" in the country.

Bilawal, the chairman of the Pakistan Peoples Party, said the government had lost its credibility in the masses as it did not fulfil any of its promises. "Our demand is to restore democracy [in the country]," he said in his address at a party rally here.

"We don't accept this artificial democracy, the democratic and socio-economic rights of the masses shall be restored, and for that Imran Khan has to resign."

Bilawal, 31, said all opposition parties had decided that the government must step down.

"Our anti-government movement has started from Karachi," he said, as he announced his plan for further protests across the country.

He said the PPP will protest in Thar on October 23, demonstrate in Kashmir in Sindh province on October 26 whereas rallies in Punjab will begin from November 1.

Gabbard calls Clinton 'queen of warmongers'

LALIT K JHA
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 19

CONGRESSWOMAN TULSI Gabbard on Friday slammed Hillary Clinton as "queen of warmongers" after the former US Secretary of State alleged that the Democratic election hopeful was being "groomed" by the Russians as a third-party candidate for the 2020 presidential elections.

The unprecedented war of words between the two US politicians erupted Friday when



TULSI GABBARD, HILLARY CLINTON

Clinton during an interview appeared to be floating a conspiracy theory that the Russians are "grooming" Gabbard to be the third-party candidate in the presidential elections.

"I'm not making any predic-

tions but I think they've got their eye on somebody who is currently in the Democratic primary and are grooming her to be the third-party candidate," Clinton said, in an apparent reference to Gabbard.

"She's the favourite of the Russians. They have a bunch of sites and bots and other ways of supporting her so far," she told David Plouffe's "Campaign HQ" podcast. Clinton did not take the name of Gabbard during the interview. But Plouffe, a former aide to the ex-president Barack Obama, concluded the podcast

by saying that Clinton's "belief that Tulsi Gabbard is going to be a third-party candidate propped up by Trump and the Russians." Gabbard, who is a fourth-term Democratic Congresswoman from Hawaii, fired back.

"Great! Thank you @HillaryClinton. You, the queen of warmongers, embodiment of corruption, and personification of the rot that has sickened the Democratic Party for so long, have finally come out from behind the curtain," she tweeted. PTI

Erdogan vows to 'crush the heads' of Kurdish forces if no pullout

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISTANBUL, OCTOBER 19

PRESIDENT RECEP Tayyip Erdogan on Saturday warned that Turkey would "crush the heads" of Kurdish forces if they did not withdraw from a proposed safe zone along the border under a US-brokered deal.

If the pullout does not happen by Tuesday evening, "we will start where we left off and continue to crush the terrorists' heads," Erdogan said in a televised speech in central Anatolian city of Kayseri.

Turkey has agreed to suspend its Syria offensive for five days and to end the assault if Kurdish-led forces withdraw from the proposed safe zone away from the border.

Erdogan also provided some details from his talks with the Americans, adding that Ankara agreed to the 120 hour time deadline after its initial demand of "one night" for the withdrawal.

"If the promises given to our country are not kept, as we did in the past we will not wait and restart the operation as soon as the time we have given ends," he said.

The Turkish leader said he also informed US President Donald Trump of Ankara's position during a phone call late Friday.



TURKEY'S SYRIA OFFENSIVE

'TURKS PREVENTING WITHDRAWAL OF FORCES, CIVILIANS'

Beirut: The commander of Kurdish forces in Syria accused Turkey of sabotaging a US-brokered truce Saturday by blocking the withdrawal of his forces from a flashpoint border town in northeastern Syria. "The Turks are preventing the withdrawal from the Ras al-Ain area, preventing the exit of our forces, the wounded and civilians," Mazloum Abdi, head of Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) said in a phone interview from Syria. PTI



Pro-Kurdish demonstrators protest against Turkey's military action, in Germany on Saturday. Reuters

Syria withdrawal strategic nightmare, says McConnell

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 19

US SENATE majority leader Mitch McConnell Friday attacked President Donald Trump's decision to pull troops from Syria as "a strategic nightmare" that will help Washington's foes and hurt its allies.

"Withdrawing US forces from Syria is a grave strategic mistake," McConnell, the top Republican in Congress, wrote in an op-ed published in *The Washington Post*.

"It will leave the American people and homeland less safe, embolden our enemies, and weaken important alliances." His comments come after Trump Wednesday defended his decision to pull US troops out of Syria as "strategically brilliant."

McConnell, usually a staunch supporter of the president, had



Mitch McConnell

earlier in the month condemned Trump's withdrawal of troops from northeast Syria. "The combination of a US pullback and the escalating Turkish-Kurdish hostilities is creating a strategic nightmare for our country," he wrote.

"Even if the five-day ceasefire announced Thursday holds, events of the past week have set back the United States' campaign against the Islamic State and other terrorists," he said.

McConnell did not mention Trump by name, though he did liken the Syria withdrawal to the foreign policy of Trump's Democratic predecessor Barack Obama.

'MADAME HAS AMPLE TIME TO WEAR HER VEIL AT HOME, ON THE STREET, BUT NOT HERE, NOT TODAY'

Another hijab furore hits France, this time over a mother on a school trip

AURELIEN BREEDEN
PARIS, OCTOBER 19

A HEATED debate over France's values reignited across the country this week, the latest fight in a culture war that has raged for years in universities, the halls of government and even on the beach.

This time, it started with a mother wearing a hijab on a school trip.

Veils and head scarves are political and social lightning rods in France, touching on issues so sensitive — secularism, feminism and the integration of

Muslims — that they seem to inspire anger wherever they appear. Although the mother broke no laws by wearing the garment, which does not cover the face, she enraged far-right members of the local assembly that the schoolchildren were visiting.

During the visit last week, in the central city of Dijon, one of the politicians, Julien Odoul, asked that the woman uncover herself.

"Madame has ample time to wear her veil at home, on the street, but not here, not today," he said, citing France's values of secularism, known as laïcité.

In a post on Twitter that in-

cluded video of the incident, Odoul said wearing the veil was a "provocation" that couldn't be "tolerated" after a fatal attack on Paris police officers this month by a Muslim among their ranks.

A commotion broke out. Other members of the assembly, including the president, objected to the request. The far-right politicians, who belong to the National Rally party, stormed out. And in a moment captured by a picture that soon spread widely, the woman's son cried in her arms.

She has declined to speak to the news media, but the confrontation quickly gained na-



Veils and head scarves are political and social lightning rods in France. Reuters/File

tional attention. Battle lines were swiftly drawn.

On one side, there are those who say the veil is a symbol of female submission or religious radicalism, an archaic garment that has no place in France's secular republic. On the other are those who argue that veiled women are subjected to barely hidden racism and religious discrimination by people who refuse to accept French multiculturalism.

To some, the tone of the debate has become increasingly alarming. One group of public figures, including actors, artists and

academics, asked in an open letter in the newspaper *Le Monde* this week, "How far will we let the hatred of Muslims go?"

"How long are we going to accept that citizens be insulted, assaulted, attacked, stigmatized because of their religion?" they asked. The letter was later turned into a petition, which has gathered over 180,000 signatures so far.

In an interview with the Collective Against Islamophobia in France, an advocacy group, the mother who went to Dijon said the incident had "destroyed her life." The mother, identified by

the group as Fatima E., also intends to file a legal complaint.

"Today, I have a negative opinion of what we call the republic," she said, arguing that the episode would reinforce the belief held by some descendants of immigrants that "France is against them."

"I have always argued against that discourse," she said. "When we left the regional council, they came up to me to say: 'You see, we told you so! They don't like us!' And then, I couldn't even speak. The children had come there to learn: What did they learn?" NYT

22 ECONOMY

BRIEFLY

Ex-Jet CEO Vinay Dube joins GoAir

Mumbai: Former Jet Airways chief executive Vinay Dube has joined budget carrier GoAir in an advisory role, a source said on Saturday. Dube had quit defunct Jet Airways on May 14, nearly a month after the airline ceased operations due to severe liquidity crisis. According to the source, GoAir wanted to hire him for the position of chief executive officer, which has been lying vacant since March this year. **PTI**

'Huawei in talks with US firms for 5G'

Washington: Blacklisted Chinese telecom equipment giant Huawei is in early stage of talks with some US telecoms companies about licensing its 5G network technology to them, a Huawei executive told Reuters on Friday. Vincent Pang, senior vice president and board director at the company, said some firms had expressed interest in both a long-term deal or a one-off transfer, declining to name or quantify the companies. **REUTERS**

LIC Housing Finance profit up 36%

New Delhi: LIC Housing Finance on Saturday reported a 36.4 per cent rise in consolidated profit at Rs 767.9 crore for the quarter ended September 30, 2019. It had a consolidated profit of Rs 562.9 crore in the corresponding period a year ago, LIC Housing Finance Ltd said in a filing to the BSE. Its consolidated income during the July-September period increased to Rs 4,980.5 crore, over Rs 4,205.1 crore in the year-ago period. **PTI**

LENDER'S INCOME INCREASES BY 19.6% TO ₹33,755 CRORE HDFC Bank Q2 net profit rises about 27% to ₹6,345 crore

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 19

HDFC BANK, India's most valued lender, has reported a net profit of Rs 6,345 crore for the September quarter of 2019-20 (financial year 2020) — an increase of 26.8 per cent over Rs 5,006 crore in the same quarter of the previous year.

Gross non-performing assets (NPAs) were at Rs 12,508 crore, or 1.38 per cent, of gross advances, as on September 30, 2019 (1.2 per cent excluding NPAs in the agricultural segment) and 1.33 per cent as of September 2018.

The bank's total income for the quarter ended September 30, 2019, grew by 19.6 per cent to Rs 33,755.0 crore from Rs 28,215.2 crore in the year-ago quarter.

Net revenues (net interest income plus other income) increased by 21.1 per cent to Rs 19,103.8 crore for the quarter from Rs 15,779.0 crore in the same quarter of the previous year.

EXPLAINED Bank keeps on delivering, no signs of slowdown

HDFC BANK has again delivered with consistent growth — in terms of earnings as well as stock performance. Due to its earnings potential and past performance, the Street has rewarded the stock, which has jumped almost 16 per cent so far this year. The scrip gained 0.7 per cent on Friday to close at Rs 1,229.20.

Net interest income (interest earned less interest expended) for the quarter ended September 30, 2019, grew to Rs 13,515.0 crore from Rs 11,763.4 crore for the quarter ended September 30, 2018, driven by average asset growth of 15 per cent and a core net interest margin for the quarter of 4.2 per cent.

Total deposits as of September 2019 were Rs 1,021,615 crore, an increase of 22.6 per cent over September 30, 2018.

"Domestic retail loans grew by 14.7 per cent and domestic wholesale loans grew by 27.9 per cent. The domestic loan mix as per Basel 2 classification between retail and wholesale was 52:48.

Overseas advances constituted 3 per cent of total advances," the bank said.

The bank's distribution network comprised 5,314 banking outlets and 13,514 ATMs across 2,768 cities/towns at the end of September 2019, against 4,825

banking outlets and 13,018 ATMs across 2,718 cities/towns a year ago, the lender said in a statement. HDFC Bank shares rose 0.69 per cent to Rs 1,229.20 on the BSE on Friday. Its market capitalisation was Rs 6.72 lakh crore.

The Nomination and Remuneration Committee of the bank has granted 4.61 crore equity stock options at the face value of Rs 1 each for the grant price of Rs 1,229 per share. **WITH PTI**

Ex-CBDT chief, ex-CVC joins RIL board

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

FOUR MONTHS after he retired as the Central Vigilance Commissioner, K V Chowdary has been appointed an independent director on the board of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) — the largest Indian company by net profit and market capitalisation.

This is not the first post-retirement job for Chowdary, who retired as the CVC on June 9 this year. Less than a month later, on June 25, he took over as a director on the board of CCL Products (India) Limited.

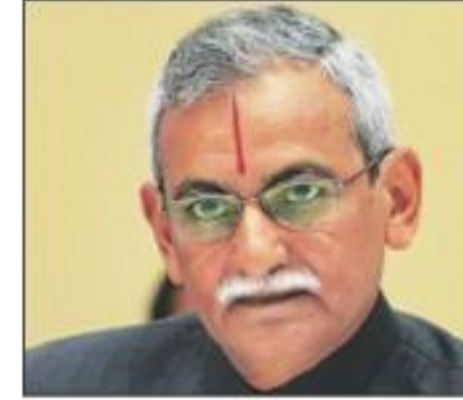
While the CVC Act says a retired Central Vigilance Commissioner cannot take up a diplomatic assignment or for-profit government office, it doesn't bar them from taking up a private sector job.

The Act also doesn't stipulate a cooling-off period or whether any permission has to be sought before taking up a private sector job.

The Mukesh Ambani-owned RIL communicated the appointment in a stock exchange filing late on Friday night. "Pursuant to Regulation 30 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Regulations, 2015, please note that the Board of Directors at its meeting held today, i.e. October 18, 2019, has appointed Shri K V Chowdary as an Additional Director-Non-Executive," it said.

It added that Chowdary was not related to any director of the company. "In accordance with the circular dated June 20, 2018, issued by the stock exchanges, we hereby confirm that Shri K V Chowdary, is not debarred from holding the office of director by virtue of any SEBI order or any other such authority," it said.

During Chowdary's tenure as CVC, the CBI saw one of its biggest crises following infighting between its top two officers — the then CBI Director Alok Verma and then Deputy Special Director Rakesh Asthana —



KV Chowdary

who levelled charges and counter-charges against each other. The Supreme Court directed Chowdary to conduct a probe into the allegations against Verma.

In a formal submission to Justice A K Patnaik, the retired Supreme Court judge supervising the inquiry, Verma said Chowdary visited his residence as an "arbitrator" for Asthana.

While Verma was sacked in January this year, Asthana was moved out. The decision to remove Verma hinged ostensibly on the CVC's inquiry report. Chowdary, in his report, is learnt to have said that the witness, Satish Sana Babu, who implicated Asthana in a corruption case, was unreliable.

A 1978-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer, Chowdary was appointed Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), the top policy making body of the Income Tax department, in August 2014.

On his retirement, he was appointed as an Advisor to the Department of Revenue on issues relating to black money, before being made the Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) on June 10, 2015.

His selection as CVC was challenged in the Supreme Court, but the petition was eventually dismissed as the court said the complaints could not be taken at face value.

On October 17 last year, RIL had announced the appointment of former SBI chairperson Arundhati Bhattacharya as an independent additional director on its board for a period of five years.

G20 agrees to tighten norms for 'stablecoins'

REUTERS
SEATTLE, OCTOBER 19

Group of 20 (G20) finance leaders on Friday agreed to set strict regulations on cryptocurrencies such as Facebook's Libra, warning that issuance of such "stablecoins" should not be allowed until various global risks they pose have been addressed.

The agreement came after a G7 working group warned that when launched on a wide scale, stablecoins — digital currencies usually backed by traditional money and other assets — could threaten the world's monetary system and financial stability.

Finance chiefs of the G20 major economies agreed that while stablecoins could have potential benefits of financial innovation, they give rise to a set of "serious" public policy and regulatory risks.

"Such risks, including in particular those related to money laundering, illicit finance, and consumer and investor protection, need to be evaluated and appropriately addressed before these projects can commence operation," the G20 finance leaders said in a statement issued after their meeting.

Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda said the G20 will kick off debate on how to regulate stablecoins based on proposals it receives from standard-setting bodies like the Financial Stability Board (FSB) and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

The FSB and the FATF are expected to report their findings on stablecoins to the G20 next year. That reduces the chance Facebook will meet its goal of rolling out Libra in 2020.

"Policymakers have expressed concerns over various risks stablecoins pose. Until they are addressed, stablecoins should not be issued. That was something agreed by the G20 members," Kuroda told a news conference hosted by Japan, which chaired this year's G20 gatherings.

The G20 has also asked the IMF to examine the economic implications, including monetary sovereignty issues, according to the group's press release.

'Office space leasing up 23% in Jul-Sept'

Office space leasing rose 23 per cent to 15.4 million sq ft in the July-September quarter across nine major cities, and may touch an all-time high this year at over 60 million sq ft, as per CBRE

Over 30% increase in cumulative absorption or leasing of office space to cross 47 million sq ft in the first nine months of calendar year 2019

2X jump in office space leasing in Hyderabad to 4.1 million sq ft during July-September, from 1.7 million sq ft in the year-ago period

More than 2X increase in leasing in Chennai at 1.8 million sq ft from 0.7 million sq ft; Pune saw a marginal increase to 1.4 million sq ft from 1.3 million sq ft

Fall in demand to 1.5



million sq ft for office space in Mumbai, from 1.7 million sq ft. While Bengaluru saw leasing activities declining to 4 million sq ft from 4.4 million sq ft, in Kochi it dwindled to 0.01 million sq ft from 0.1 million sq ft

Flat demand in NCR, Kolkata and Ahmedabad at 2.3 million sq ft, 0.2 million sq ft and 0.1 million sq ft, respectively, for office space leasing

Ways to improve investor sentiments

- Favourable government initiatives
- Transparency in real estate sector
- Right reforms

Firms which drove office space leasing during Jul-Sept

- Tech corporates
- Research, consulting & analytics companies
- Flexible space operators

Other sectors which contributed to the increase in leasing activity

- Engineering & manufacturing
- Banking, financial services and insurance

Corporate tax cut will help revive investment, says IMF

LALIT K JHA
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 19

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund on Friday supported India's recent decision to reduce corporate income tax, saying it has a positive impact on investment.

It, however, said India should address continued fiscal consolidation and secure long-term stability of the fiscal conditions.

"We believe India still has limited fiscal space so they have to be careful. We support their corporate income tax cut because it has a positive impact on investment," Changyong Rhee, director, Asia and Pacific department, IMF, told reporters at a news conference.

Following a marked slowdown in the last two quarters in India, the economy is expected to grow at 6.1 per cent this fiscal year, picking up to 7 per cent in 2020, he said.

"The monetary policy stimu-

lus and the announced corporate income-tax cut are expected to help revive investment," said the top IMF official.

Anne-Marie Gulde-Wolf, deputy director, Asia and Pacific department, IMF, said India should address the non-banking financial sector issues.

"While there have been improvements that have been put in motion, including efforts to recapitalise the state banks, the issue of non-bank financial institution remains partly unresolved and regulatory equity is one of the issues that needs to be achieved," she said.

The government is aware of it, she added.

"We also had a FSAP. So there are issues working at that and this is something that is why not yet fully achieved, but is entrenched. While there are problems at this stage, increased attention to lending practices of non-bank financial institutions continue to be very important," Gulde-Wolf said.

Responding to a question, she said India overall has a fairly high level of debt and fiscal consolidation needs to be a priority.

"However, implementing fiscal consolidation in the context of a federal system is much more complicated. The level of fiscal structural issues and challenges are different in different states," she said.

So one of the ways in which the IMF is engaged in this question is it has a regional training institute that has started working with the individual states on strengthening fiscal management at the state level, Gulde-Wolf said.

In the context of surveillance engagement with India, she said, the IMF is increasingly placing emphasis on the need to better coordinate the fiscal state level activities and fiscal activities.

"But it is a concern that the authorities are taking serious and are working at," Gulde-Wolf said. **PTI**

Fund sidesteps clash with US over funding; ends deadlock

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 19

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund (IMF) said on Friday its 189 members agreed to maintain the IMF's \$1 trillion in total lending resources, while delaying changes to its shareholding structure to as late as December 2023.

The move ends a deadlock with the United States, which had opposed shareholding changes that would give a bigger voice to China and other large, fast-growing emerging markets in a review process that was due for completion this year.

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva announced the decision at the Fund's and World Bank's annual meetings, saying that the initiative will provide confidence that the IMF can adequately support member countries as they deal with slowing global growth.

US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, who holds an effective veto over major Fund decisions,

The IMF has delayed changes to its shareholding structure to as late as 2023. It is a big positive for the US as it had opposed shareholding changes that would give a bigger voice to China

endorsed the move, which calls for a doubling of the IMF's crisis lending fund to about \$500 billion, restoring it to levels during the 2008-09 financial crisis. It would be accompanied by a reduction in bilateral lending arrangement to keep overall IMF resources unchanged.

But it would require the United States to double its commitment by contributing about \$38 billion to the fund, known as the New Arrangements to Borrow (NAB), a move that would need approval from the US Congress.

Trade wars will impact flow of capital, goods: Sitharaman

LALIT K JHA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman has said the ongoing trade wars and protectionism have generated uncertainties and will ultimately impact the flow of capital, goods and services.

She also called for "concerted action" to mitigate the disruption on account of synchronous slowdown and to invoke the spirit of multilateralism for global growth, the finance ministry said in a statement on Saturday.

Leading the Indian delegation to the Annual Meetings Plenary session of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group held in Washington DC, Sitharaman stressed that the increased trade integration, geopolitical uncertainties, and high accumulated debt levels necessitate strong global coordination.



FM Nirmala Sitharaman with US Secretary of Treasury Steven Mnuchin in Washington on Saturday. **ANI**

On the state of the Indian economy, she said: "Our potential growth rate in the coming years is much higher. With a prudent mix of policies, we are committed to have a sound macro-economic environment conducive to fuel growth and ensure inclusive development," she said.

She also led the Indian Delegation to the G20 Finance Ministers

and Central Bank Governors meeting. The ministers and governors also took updates from the G20 deputies on quality infrastructure investment, debt sustainability, financing for universal health care and building effective country platforms, and from the Africa Advisory Group on the Compact with Africa initiative.

On the discussions at the session regarding the work underway on developing a consensus solution on tax challenges arising from digitalisation, the FM stated that a unified approach to the nexus and profit allocation challenges was a promising one that merits serious attention.

Meanwhile, in an apparent reference to Pakistan, she said the integration of the IMF's lending policies with key provisions like anti-money laundering and anti-terror financing can enhance its member nation's compliance on these issues that pose threat to the global economy. **PTI**

'Boeing pilots saw MAX system problems in 2016'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NEW YORK, OCTOBER 19

A BOEING pilot behind the 737 MAX certification in 2016 told a colleague a key flight handling system was "running rampant" during simulator tests, as per documents reviewed Friday by AFP.

The Boeing staff quipped about problems during simulations of the Maneuvering Characteristics Augmentation System (MCAS), a flight-handling mechanism that is believed to be at the center of two MAX crashes that killed 346 people. Boeing's chief technical pilot of the 737, Mark Forkner, said the MCAS system's performance during the simulator tests was "egre-

gious" and that "I basically lied to the regulators (unknowingly)," according to the instant messages.

Forkner's lawyer, David Gerger, told AFP Saturday, "If you read the whole chat, it is obvious that there was no 'lie.' The simulator was not reading right and had to be fixed to fly like the real plane. Based on everything Mark knew, he thought the real plane was safe." The messages — which Boeing knew about for months before sharing with the Federal Aviation Administration — raised fresh questions about the company's knowledge of problems with the MAX long before the crashes and about whether it has been transparent with regulators during investigations.

BEIJING TO WORK WITH THE US ON BASIS OF 'EQUALITY AND MUTUAL RESPECT' TO ADDRESS CORE CONCERNS 'Concrete progress' made for 'phased deal' to end trade war: China

K J M VARMA
BEIJING, OCTOBER 19

CHINA AND THE US made "concrete progress" in many areas and laid foundation for signing of a "phased deal" at their latest round of talks to resolve the bruising trade war, China's chief negotiator and Vice Premier Liu He has said.

US President Donald Trump, who had launched the trade war last year demanding China to reduce massive trade deficit, said after the 13 round of trade talks on October 11 that the two countries reached a "very substantial phase

one deal"

Trump is also demanding an intrusive verification mechanism to supervise Beijing's promise to protect intellectual property rights (IPR) technology transfer and more access to American goods to Chinese markets.

In his first public comments on the talks Liu said the two sides had built an important foundation for the signing of a "phased deal".

China would work with the US on the basis of "equality and mutual respect" to address each other's core concerns, the Hong Kong-based *South China Morning Post* reported on Saturday.

Preventing an escalation of the

Trump hopes trade deal will be signed by middle of November

Washington: US President Donald Trump on Friday said he thinks a trade deal between the US and China will be signed by the time the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meetings take place in Chile on November

16 and 17.

Chinese Vice Premier Liu He will provide Beijing's perspective on the progress of the talks in a speech on Saturday, according to a tweet from the editor-in-chief of the *Global Times*. **REUTERS**

trade war would be good for both nations and the world as a whole, he said.

"The two sides have made substantial progress in many fields, laying an important foun-

ation for the signing of a phased agreement," the paper quoted him as saying at a "virtual reality conference" in Nanchang, in eastern China's Jiangxi province.

"China will work with the

BRIDGE

At times, it pays to be an optimist on bridge table. When you a certain lay out for your contract to succeed, just assume it is there and plan your play accordingly.
Dir: North; Vul: N-S; IMPs

NORTH
♠ A1054
♥ 43
♦ KJ9
♣ 7654

SOUTH (you)
♠ 5632
♥ A10
♦ AQ10
♣ A932

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
INT Pass 2♣ Pass
2S ♠ Pass 3♣ Pass
4S ♠ All Pass

Opening lead: HK Say you win the H A and duck a club to East's J. East cashes the HJ and exits with the C K, to your ace. West playing the ten. Wondering about spades? O.K. the time has come; you play the S K and East plays the jack. When you continue with a second spade, West plays low, of course. Which spade do you play from dummy, and worse, why?

This one's a gimme. You can't make the hand if the S J is a singleton as you will have a natural spade loser to go along with a heart and two club losers. The only hope to make your contract is that East has QJ doubleton so rise with the ace. Play to make!
The West hand: S-987H-KQ82 D-876 C-Q108
The East hand: S-QJH-KH82 D-5432 C-KJ

Your problem for the week
Dir: South; Vul: N-S; IMPs

NORTH
♠ 5432
♥ None
♦ 7632
♣ J8643

SOUTH (YOU)
♠ AKJ108
♥ AK
♦ AKQJ5
♣ 9

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
2♣ (1) 2H Pass 4H
4♣ 5C 5♠ 6H
6♣ Pass Pass Dbl.
All Pass

(1) Artificial
Opening lead: CA
East plays the C K and West shifts to the H Q. Plan the play.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2239

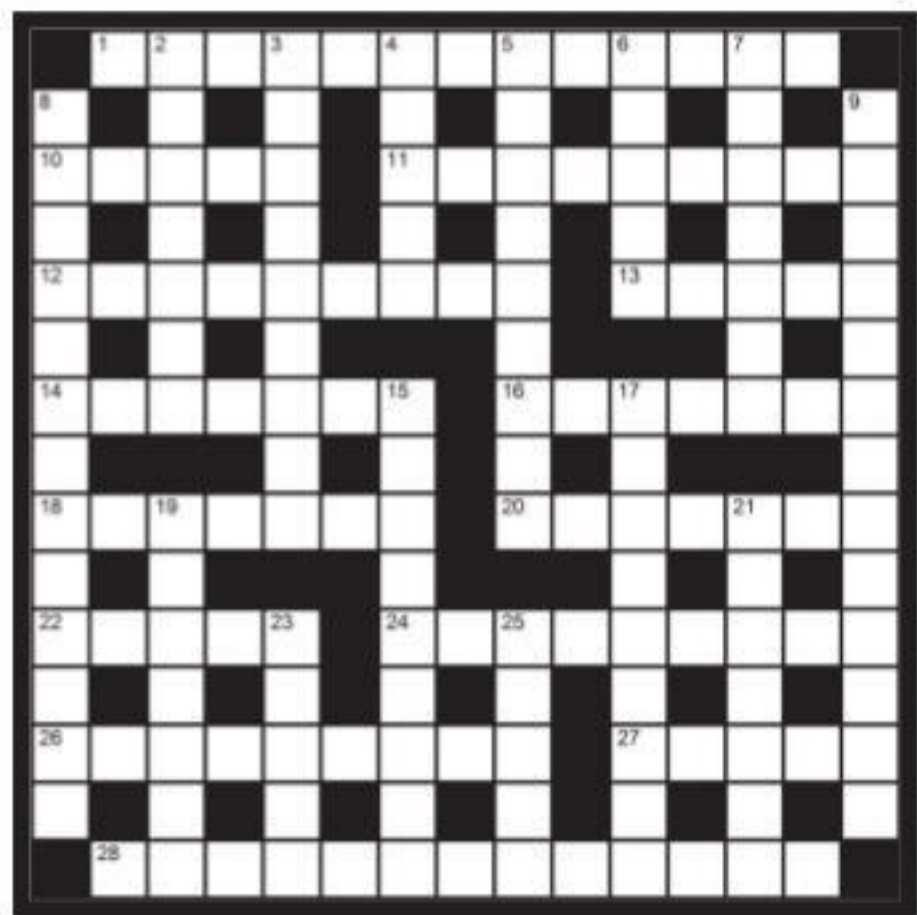
QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- Composer of Rigoletto, La Traviata, Otello, etc (8,5)
- Lots (5)
- Livable (9)
- Gradually diminish in volume (5,4)
- Happen (5)
- Goddess of wealth and prosperity for us Indians (7)
- Chats (7)
- Jelly-like sweet (7)
- Solace, soothe or comfort (7)
- Well dressed numbers 1 (5)
- Most solemnly pious (9)
- Revolts, rebellions or mutinies (9)
- Russian ballet company (5)
- Dumbfounded (13)

DOWN

- Seen in polar seas - "pick ace" anagram? (3-4)
- Burial place (9)
- "Fiddlesticks!" (5)
- In early development stage (9)
- Could ___ fat: was on a lean diet? (3,2)
- Fiasco (7)
- Resembling cartilage (13)
- Directed to the past (13)
- Cheek (9)
- Legendary batsman Sachin ___ (9)
- Sacred candelabrum (7)
- Pertaining to dreams (7)
- Actress Sarandon (5)
- Urns (5)



- Belgian city fellow with aspiration (5)
- You mustn't drive like this in restricted areas, whatever may happen (2,3,4)
- Covering the female with a what's-it (9)
- A couch potato gets awfully riled (5)
- Fail to retain a single female skill when falling in love (4,4,5)
- Oriental rat causing much damage (7)
- Cloth and cur both have it (3,6)
- Very old party-goer with way out fashion (5)
- Call Eve's son before the first lady. Sound familiar? (4,1,4)
- Acid test-name one change producing prodigies (9)
- Depended on a fast round (5)
- It, might be rash to make contact with them (7)
- Interpreter of scripture in Devon river to get even first (7)
- More behind an old palace (7)
- Ophelia's brother leers at models (7)

Solutions to 2238

QUICK CLUES Across: 1Thorn-apple, 6Wrap, 9Sugarhouse, 10Asto, 12Registration, 15Tally-ho, 16Ordeals, 17Notches, 19Bonjovi, 20Rachmaninoff, 23Neap, 24Friendship, 25Says, 26Tabernacle. Down: 1Task, 2Olga, 3Nursery rhyme, 4Proviso, 5Lesotho, 7Respirator, 8Prognostic, 11Garden of eden, 13Hilarants, 14Plutocracy, 18Sangria, 19Benzene, 21Chic, 22Spae. **CRYPTIC CLUES** Across: 1Gynecology, 6Star, 9Dirty Harry, 10Deep, 12Street trader, 15Rambles, 16Saddles, 17Steward, 19Cryptic, 20Butterscotch, 23Need, 24Backbitten, 25Shop, 26Grenadiers. Down: 1Gods, 2Nary, 3Crystal gazer, 4Leavens, 5Gyrates, 7Theodolite, 8Report sick, 11Friday's child, 13Brass bands, 14Umberto Eco, 18Despair, 19Clock in, 21Etre, 22Ants.

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

You're heading for some very stirring planetary alignments, but their impact is likely to be as broad as they are deep, and hence very difficult to pin down. You may even be at a loss as to the right and proper thing to do. The best way to start might be with an apology of sorts, even if other people are to blame.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

You're at an emotional cross-roads, and the trick lies in knowing which direction to take. Midweek brings a turning point in a rather minor sort of way, but could alert you to future opportunities. Don't expect life to change overnight, but do be prepared for odd encounters which point the way to a more fulfilling future.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Mercury, your planetary ruler, is facing a rather intense and emotional region of your horoscope, making it more necessary than ever to take a considered and mature view of your work and friends. When professional matters are considered, you will probably discover that a colleague has been labouring under a misunderstanding.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Creative, passionate and artistic Cancerians will be on fine form, tackling new opportunities with great courage. Relations with children should improve, and mixing with younger people in general may be good for your morale. Above all, you are entering a phase when it's your needs and desires that could come first.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Many Leos are getting the idea that they want to move home, or push through some sort of family revolution. I doubt that your stars are strong enough for such an extreme event, but the focus of all change will definitely be at home. A professional circumstance may now shift from being a problem to an advantage.

VRIGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

There's a natural streak of pessimism in your character - you always expect the worst. That's good when it helps you steer clear of the trouble that other people blunder into, but if you squander amazing opportunities, you'll live to regret it. There will come a time when you must attend to a relation's frustration.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

You're beginning to look like a potential millionaire - at least from the celestial perspective. The only question is - can you make that final, necessary leap of faith? Only when family matters are cleared up will you be free to tackle a professional ambition. So, remember the golden rule, first things first.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

The planets are all piling into sensitive and ambitious regions of your chart as if there's no tomorrow. Mars and Mercury alone should be enough to kick-start you into top gear. Within two weeks you'll be cruising along nicely. You may have to think twice about a recent romantic proposal, perhaps because long-range goals have to be matched against short-term desires.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)

You'll be very wary about letting on about your true intentions to friends and partners. This may be wise, for the potential for disagreement seems to be high. Don't worry about a temporary dip in morale, though, and take whatever steps are necessary to get your confidence back up again. Financial luck, even in a small way, will boost your spirits.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

You social stars are strong as usual, but you'll want something different out of your entertainment. A sense of commitment, or purpose combined with a taste for danger and low-life. Once you are sure of your ground, you may make a bid for promotion at work. And, if you are under stress at the moment, feel free to blame the stars.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Ambitious Aquarians will be on the crest of a wave, but let me offer you one word of advice: in personal affairs as well as public, don't take other people for granted or offend their sensibilities. Money luck is more likely at the end of the week than the beginning but, ultimately, whether you make a profit depends on your sense of timing.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Your travel stars are looking better and better, and if you're exposed to different environments, you'll receive a great deal of inspiration. Your nomadic tendencies are stirring, and Pisceans who are embarking on a voyage of exploration are perfectly in tune with their stars. If you wish to make a financial killing, the best investments may lie overseas.

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.

I imagine, therefore I ___ and am ___. - Lawrence Durrell (6, ... 4)

GSEEE

EVLOR

AISVGN

ELOUBF

SOLUTION: GSEEE: LOVER, SAVING, BEFORE
EVLOR: I imagine, therefore I belong and am free - Lawrence Durrell

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 4004



NOTICE BOARD CORPORATE ASSOCIATE DIARY APPOINTMENTS, MOVEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS, HONOURS



WELCOME-SCOPE

DG, SCOPE, Atul Sobti welcomed Roberto Saurez Santos, the Secretary General of International Organization of Employers (IOE), Geneva at SCOPE Headquarters. IOE is the representative of global employers in ILO, across the UN.



INAUGURATION - BHEL

A 1900 kg capacity metal-cutting gas plant, set up at BHEL, Bhopal unit, was inaugurated by AR Sihag, Secy, Deptt of Heavy Industry, in the presence of Dr N Shinghal, CMD, BHEL, A Varadan, Jt Secy, DHI & DK Thakur, ED, BHEL, Bhopal.



MOU-UNION BANK OF INDIA

Union Bank of India announced signing of MoU with the National public procurement platform, Government e-Marketplace (GeM). GeM is an initiative of the GOI to provide a one stop platform facilitating online procurement.



PROGRAM-SYNDICATE BANK

Syndicate Bank & SBI jointly organized 'Customer Immunization Program at Sector 62 Expo Center Noida. The program was inaugurated by GM of SBI, Barkat Ali Ji, GM of Syndicate Bank, DS Bedi, & S V Kumar.



TAKE OVER-CCL

CCL took over Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC)'s Bermo Mines situated in Bokaro District of Jharkhand in presence of CMD CCL Gopal Singh & Member Secretary, DVC, PK Mukhopadhyay.



PRESENTATION - OBC

OBC was presented with a cheque of ₹ 1.41 Cr as a reward towards issuance of RuPay Platinum cards in Fy 17-18 & Fy 18-19 from NPCI. The Bank is amongst the Top Issuer of RuPay Platinum Cards in the industry.



57th National Day - Uganda High Commission

National day reception was held in Delhi on 57th Independence Anniversary of the Republic of Uganda. It was hosted by H.E. Grace Akello, High commissioner of Uganda. It was attended by Madhusudan Agrawal, Hon. Consul for Uganda in India.



MOU - BEL

A Ramalingam, Dir (Mktg), BEL, & C Kamaraj, IAS, CMD, TEL, display the MoU signed between BEL & TEL for co-operation in the explosives segment, in the presence of Edappadi K Palaniswami, CM of Tamil Nadu & other senior officers.



INAUGURATION - EPCH

Ravi Kapoor, Secy [Textiles], M/o Textiles inaugurated the 48TH edition of world's largest IHGF-Delhi Fair at state-of-the-art exhibition venue India Expo Centre & Mart at Greater Noida recently.



ORIENTATION-SYNDICATE BANK

Customer Orientation Kadam (Customer Outreach Program) was organized by Lead District Bank, Syndicate Bank, Ghaziabad at Kite of Institutions, Muradnagar Ghaziabad today.



IREE 2019-CII

Asia's largest event for the Rail Transportation Sector is scheduled from 22-24 October 2019 at India's premier exhibition venue, Aerocity, New Delhi, India.



PARTNERED - ZTE CORPORATION

India- ZTE Corporation has strategically partnered with Amity University on various engagement areas. ZTE is dedicatedly committed to support Digital India, & are fully equipped to provide end to end solution to the customers.



LAUNCH-DELHI POLICE

Recently the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai has launched GRP Website @ www.railways.delhipolice.gov.in & Mobile App (Sahyatri- Delhi Railway Police) at NDMC Convention Centre, New Delhi. Amulya Patnaik, Commissioner of Police, Delhi, Arun Kumar, DG/RPF, All Special Commissioners of Police (Delhi) including Praveer Ranjan, Spl. CP/Transport (Delhi), T.P.Singh, GM, Northern Railway, S.N.Pandey, IG/RPF, representatives of GRP Heads of States/UT, other senior police officers of Delhi Police & RPF have also attended the programme. The state/UT Police also serves as 'Government Railway Police' (GRP) in their respective Railways jurisdiction.

ONGC

has signed a MoU with US petroleum giant EXXON-Mobil recently. This MoU will enable the two petroleum companies to undertake joint technical studies & cooperate in frontier areas like deep water and other Petroleum Exploration Licence blocks of ONGC in east and west coast and open acreages for joint bidding.

SBI

launched a unique 'Green Reward Points' programme to onboard its YONO customers in the Sustainability journey, which has been one of the core values of the bank for the past few years. Under this programme, SBI inspire customers with pledge of earned 'Green Reward Points' to a pool created as 'YONO SBI Green Fund' which is managed by SBI Foundation. The bank through 'YONO SBI Green Fund' will initiate environment conservation activities through various programs. SBI customer will now earn 'Green Reward points' through transactions on YONO.

URDU ACADEMY,

Delhi has organised All India National Integration Mushaira (in memory of late Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, Former President of India) at "Bus Stand 857", Near Guru Govind Singh Hospital, Raghuvver Nagar, New Delhi. Inauguration will be done by Manish Sisodia, Dy. CM of Delhi.

INDIAN BANK

Tamil Nadu Grama Bank (TNGB) - Head quartered at Salem is functioning with a network of 631 branches spreading across Tamil Nadu has migrated to single technology platform - BANCS with effect from 01-10-2019. TNGB came into existence after amalgamation of erstwhile Pallavan Grama Bank & Pandyan Grama Bank as per the Gazette Notification of GOI from 01-04-2019. The bank is having a customer base of 65 lakh across the State of Tamilnadu with a business of around Rs.24200 crs as of September 2019. The erstwhile Pallavan Grama Bank was having 291 branches & erstwhile Pandyan Grama Bank was having 339 branches.

APPOINTMENTS

INDIANOIL Shrikant Madhav Vaidya has taken over as the Director (Refineries) of IndianOil- India's highest ranked Public Sector Enterprise in 'Fortune 500' global listing. He is also a Director on the board of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd. & the 60 MMTPA West Coast Refinery and Petrochemicals Project, the world's largest grass root refinery project, coming up in Maharashtra. Vaidya now spearheads the business & operations of nine refineries & petrochemical plants of IndianOil. With a robust Refineries Division, IndianOil (including its group companies) remains the nation's top refiner with a group refining capacity of 80.7 million tonnes per annum/161.4 million barrels per day. A Chemical Engineer from the National Institute of Technology, Rourkela, SM Vaidya has 33 years of extensive experience in refining & petrochemicals operations.



BHEL

Anil Kapoor, 57, has assumed charge as Director (HR) of the Public Sector engineering and manufacturing enterprise. Prior to this, he was heading the HR and Corporate Communication functions of BHEL as ED, overseeing the entire gamut of HR processes encompassing transformational and core areas of HR in talent acquisition & management, employee engagement, industrial relations, HR policy, corporate social responsibility, medical services, rajbhasha, health, safety & environment and learning & development, apart from Corporate Communication. Kapoor is an Electrical Engineering Graduate from IIT, Roorkee. He has also done a certificate course on Statistical Quality Control & Operations Research from Indian Statistical Institute, Chennai. He has 37 years of holistic and hands-on experience in the areas of quality, technology and manufacturing functions in addition to human resource management.



‘Should be able to follow your dreams. It doesn’t make you a bad mother’

Sania Mirza’s comeback bid has been all about striking a balance between being a selfless parent and a selfish athlete. Messages from inspired mothers resuming jobs spur her on, but the need to compete and quest for an Olympic medal are the true motivators. MIHIR VASAVDA speaks with the tennis star.

The other night, was the first time ever that I went out overnight. I usually speak to him on FaceTime. When I spoke to him that night, it was the first time he looked at the screen and cried because he wasn’t able to hold me or whatever. So I think now the realisation is coming more. The awareness that I’m not there. But it is what it is.

SANIA MIRZA is talking about ‘selfless love’. For an athlete, it’s a tricky territory. Being a world-class professional demands a certain level of selfishness: block out everything and everyone, focus on your training, your matches, your travel and your recovery.

Being a parent, she realised after the birth of her son Ishaan last October, is quite the opposite. “Suddenly, it’s not about you anymore,” she gasps. Sania sneaks out for training when her son is asleep and gets back before he wakes up. When she is away for work, her mind drifts to a thought that distracts millions of working parents: “What’s my child doing?”

On a comeback trail, the 32-year-old has spent the last one year juggling between being a selfless mom and a selfish athlete. It’s tough, exhausting even. But she hustles on, determined to show women who ‘kill their dreams’ after motherhood, that it needn’t be so.

What’ve your days been like since you’ve returned to full practice?

I start my day around 6.30 or so because after having the baby, I have to manage my time. That is the biggest challenge you face because you have to manage your time according to his timing. So I try to go for practice very early, I try to finish by 9.30-10 so by the time he wakes up, which is around 9-9.30, I can be back. After a 2.5-3 hour practice session, I spend some time with him. Then, there are some days when I do Pilates and some days I do a two-hour gym session. It’s a tough day. I am exhausted. It’s not like before where my only job was to play tennis and train.

Often, as athletes, you’ve got to put yourself first. As a parent, is it tough to balance your needs and your child’s?

The biggest change I’ve had since having Ishaan is that it’s a very selfless kind of love you have with your child while as a tennis player, everything revolves around you. Your training, your warm-up, your cool-down, your recovery. It’s all about what you want to do. And then all of a sudden, it’s not about you anymore. It is challenging, but it’s a very natural process. It just happens by itself which is why it is quite hard not just to play tennis but to work, if you have an office job, right after you have a child. It’s very difficult because there’s so much in the beginning years, when the mother is a lot more involved with the child as opposed to the father. Which is why it is very challenging to find that extra energy, motivation and inspiration.

Mine is not a routine office job. It requires a lot of self-determination and physical hard work. There are many times when he wakes up two-three times in a night. So you’re not actually getting that kind of sleep and rest that you probably need. Most of the times he sleeps with me, so when I start to play matches, one of the things I will have to do — especially on match nights — is he will have to sleep separately because it’s not possible for my body to recover the same way if I’m not getting proper sleep. Those are the things that are quite challenging. Again, it’s a natural sort of process so I’m just dealing with it. It’s a new experience and been a lot of fun and different. But it’s not taking a toll on me yet.

When you are away once you start playing and travelling, you think it might be different?

When I go for my work or endorsements,

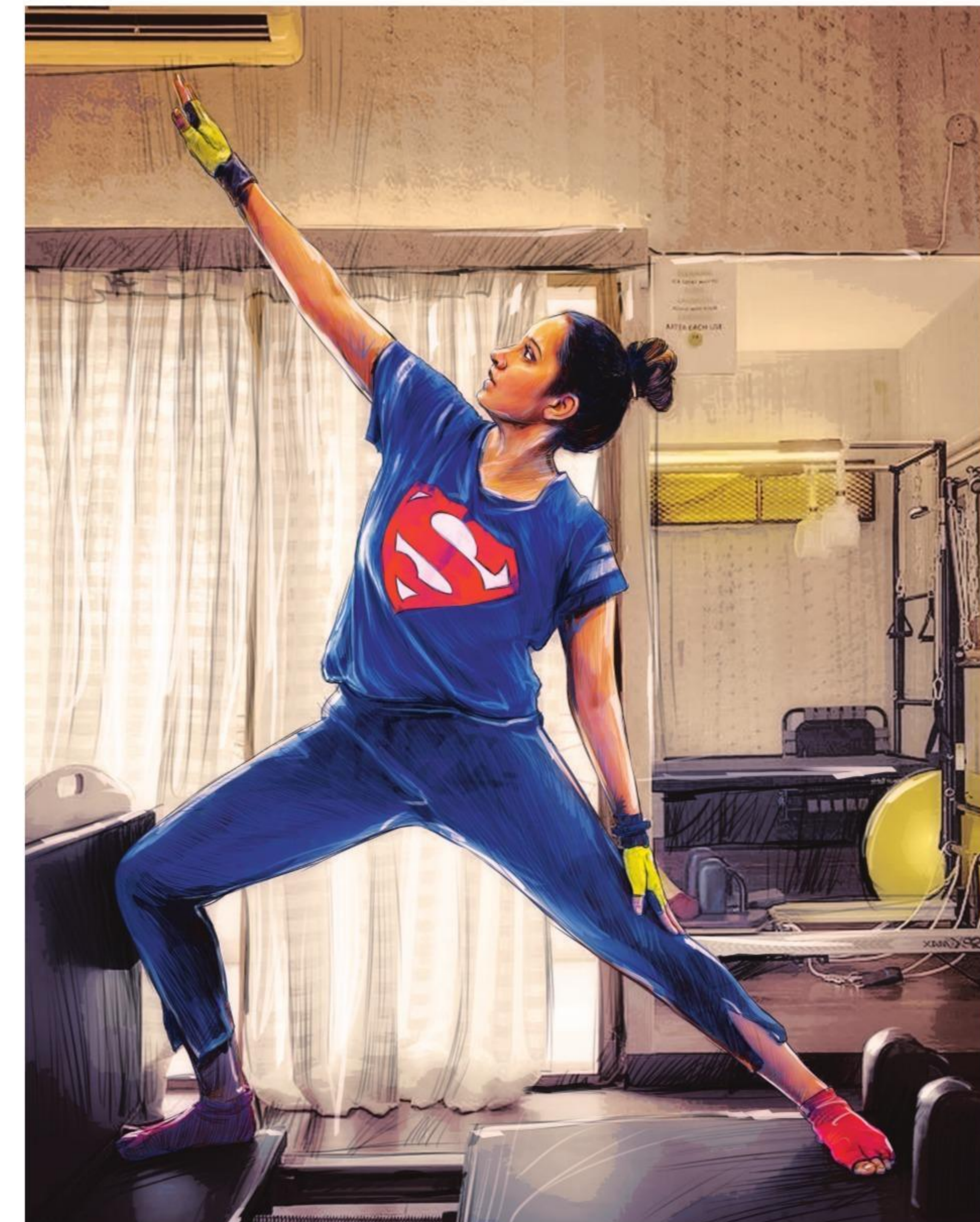


Illustration: Suvajit Dey Photo: Instagram/@mirzasania

I do leave him overnight with my mom — he’s very good with her. Thankfully, I have a great team. We call it Team Ishaan, I always joke about it. So for me, it’s been relatively good and he’s easy. The first time I actually went to work, I was in Delhi for a day when he was six weeks old, it was the hardest day I had in years. I couldn’t imagine it would be that difficult. He probably didn’t even notice that I had gone but it took a toll on me.

Now, he’s almost one and he kind of understands when I’m not there. The other night was the first time ever that I went out overnight, to Mumbai I think. I usually speak to him on FaceTime. When I spoke to him that night, it was the first time he looked at the screen and cried because he wasn’t able to hold me or whatever. So I think now the realisation is coming more. The awareness that I’m not there. But it is what it is. At the end of the day, I advocate that as a mother of a child, your life doesn’t end. It doesn’t mean you kill other dreams or whatever you want to do, no matter what you do. It doesn’t make you a bad mother. It’s always the mother’s guilt that people always put you through by saying things like ‘oh my god, how do you leave him’ or whatever... there are so many people saying all kinds of things. With a good support system, you should be able to follow your dreams too. It doesn’t make you a bad mother.

Before she was forced off the court in 2017, Sania was on a scarcely-believable run.

Since 2015, she had won 18 titles and reached a dozen other finals that made her the undisputed best in women’s doubles. Her march, though, was abruptly ended by a freak knee injury — jumper’s knee, caused by repetitive stress on the quadriceps tendon — in October 2017.

Year-ending 2017, she was ranked 12th in doubles. And even though she isn’t ranked right now by the Women’s Tennis Association (WTA), Sania has the cushion of starting where she left after the WTA introduced a rule last year that allows a player returning from pregnancy to use her Special Ranking (the ranking at the time when her break began).

During training, the shots are flowing like they did before. But Sania is waiting to see if it all comes together on the court. She is in awe of Serena Williams, who has shown that she hasn’t lost any of her powers after having a baby. And with former world number 1 Kim Clijsters, a mother of three, announcing a second comeback from retirement, there’s enough inspiration around.

Till a couple of years ago, it seemed tennis was better designed towards fathers making a return than mothers given there were close to two dozen men returning to Tour compared to barely a few women. But next year, you will join a growing brigade of moms who will compete on the professional tour. How do you feel about that?

It’s extremely inspiring. Of course, Serena has done it now but I think Kim was the first

one to do it over 10 years ago when she came back and won a Grand Slam. She is making a comeback again. It’s pretty amazing and inspiring to see other women being able to pursue their dreams and keep them going. I have seen most women, especially athletes, most people used to retire and have kids. That was kind of a norm. And it’s obviously changed in the last few years.

Now that you’re back on court practising daily, how do you feel about your game?

I still have two-and-a-half months before I have to compete. It’s (the game) pretty close. But no matter how much you train, there’s nothing like match practice. If I feel at any point that it’s too hard to manage, I’m going to have to take decisions then and there. Right now, I do think I have tennis left in me.

Is that why you are making a comeback, because you feel there’s something more left to offer?

The simple fact is that I really miss competing. I feel that I still have a few years left in me at the top level. It would be incredibly amazing for me if my son can watch me play at a big tournament and watch me win. I could’ve easily said it’s over and I would’ve been very proud and happy about the career I’ve had. I have been number 1, I have won Grand Slams. What more can I do? But I just felt that I still had competition left in me. That’s one of the main reasons.

And then, I feel if I’m able to inspire even one woman, how incredible would that be! I get so many messages everyday from

women who’ve given birth and left their jobs, and are now joining gym or returning to work because they saw my video. And I’m not even competing yet. Those are the best moments of my day, when I read those messages from all these women. So it’s a bunch of reasons why I would like to come back and I think that even if I’m not able to come back, hypothetically speaking, at least I tried. And that’s what is important. It’s about trying.

Has your measure of success changed?

The whole outlook to life changes after you have a kid. But when I walk on the court, I would still want to win. That’s the player inside me. If I don’t feel that way, then I shouldn’t be playing. But I do think that for me, whatever I do from now on in my life, especially in tennis, is only a bonus. Because my career could’ve well been over two years ago when I had a knee injury and I was pregnant. So whatever I’m able to do now on will be a bonus. It’s almost like a second life for my career.

Her ‘second life’ will begin in the first week of the New Year. Sania hopes to return to the Tour two weeks before the Australian Open, which gets underway on January 20. Her schedule, she says, will depend on whom she eventually partners.

2020 is also the year when the Olympic Games will take place. The last two Olympics have been nothing short of a soap opera, a cringey one at that, as far as Indian tennis goes. The ego battles between Leander Paes,

I still had competition left in me. That’s one of the main reasons. I feel if I’m able to inspire even one woman, how incredible would that be! I get so many messages everyday from women who’ve given birth and left their jobs, and are now joining gym or returning to work because they saw my video. And I’m not even competing yet.

Mahesh Bhupathi and Rohan Bopanna made the selections and build-ups sordid affairs, with Sania even claiming ahead of the London Games that she was used as a ‘bait’.

In Rio, Sania and Bopanna came closer than ever to pocket a doubles bronze. The pair was a set and a break up against USA’s Venus Williams and Rajeev Ram in the semi-finals before the wheels came off and they lost in three. In the medal match, they lost to Czech pair Lucie Hradecka and Radek Stepanek in straight sets. Moments later, Sania admitted she might have played her last Olympic Games.

For some of us on the outside, the build-up to an Olympics, as far as tennis goes, has been traumatic. Are you looking forward to a peaceful way to play an Olympics one last time?

(Laughs) When we lost in the semifinal at the last Olympics, it was the most painful experience of my career. When you lose in the first round, it probably hurts less than when you’re playing for the medals. At that point, I had no intention of playing tennis at the next Olympics. Now that I’m making a comeback hopefully, that is definitely something that is in the back of my head. I would be very proud of myself if I’m able to make it to Tokyo.

I have been very clear — whether it was Olympics, Asian Games or Commonwealth Games — that I always play for my country. I don’t play for anybody else. Olympics is very close to my heart. And Tokyo would be special as well because it will be my fourth Olympics. It’ll be amazing to be in a position to compete because probably the only thing missing from my career if I ever look back later is an Olympic medal. So it would be an amazing opportunity for me to put myself in that position again. I remember Olympics very fondly (laughs).

Do you, though, truthfully? You say Olympics are special and yearn for a medal. Could the story have been different at London or Rio if...

...To be very honest, I’m not a person who’ll say I didn’t win that because of that. That’s not fair and I’ll be a sore loser. Do I want to have the same experience again at the next Olympics? Definitely not (laughs)! I think whenever you go with baggage into anything, especially to compete, it is very tough because you already have enough going on. So you don’t need extra baggage — everybody knows what was going on, all kinds of things being said, media was involved on different occasions, different people involved... So I don’t think it helps the cause in anyway. Maybe, that wouldn’t have happened and we wouldn’t come with a medal regardless. That’s why I won’t say it’s because of that we didn’t win a medal. But I am going to say that I really don’t think that any of that stuff helped when you are trying to go and win a medal for the country.

The entry, it seems right now, won’t be so straightforward because of the rankings issue.

We have to wait and watch. It is very different this time. We are in a different position as a tennis-playing country. We are not in that commanding position that we used to be when Mahesh, Leander and Rohan were all in top 15 of the world and I was in the top 10. I have some relief, I am technically in the top 10. We just have to wait and see how it turns out.

Maidan boys rule the turf

Sharma and Rahane, who honed their skills in the Mumbai school of batting, take India out of trouble with a big partnership

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
RANCHI, OCTOBER 19

VIRAT KOHLI had made a clean sweep of the toss in the series, but India's ambitions of doing so on the scorecard had suffered an early jolt at 39 for three, with the captain himself one of the casualties. Kohli looked out of sorts during his short innings, playing and missing with a flat-footed drive off Anrich Nortje before being trapped in front by one that came in after pitching.

The surface was offering decent, and occasionally, variable bounce on Day One. Rohit Sharma was looking edgy at the other end, with Kagiso Rabada, who had already accounted for Mayank Agarwal and Cheteshwar Pujara, administering a stiff test.

However, Ajinkya Rahane came and looked in the groove from the first ball itself. He clipped the first ball off his toes to mid-wicket and when Proteas skipper Faf du Plessis brought on another mid-wicket, a shortish one, he bisected the two for a couple next ball.

Rahane's positive approach gave Rohit the space to grow into the game at his own pace. At the end of the day, Rohit was unbeaten on 117 — his third century of the series, sixth overall in 30 Tests — when bad light followed by rain ended the day's play six overs after tea. Rahane was batting on 83 and India, thanks to an unbroken 185-run fourth wicket partnership, had raced to 224 for three. Rohit, in the process, achieved the record of hitting most number of sixes in a Test series, 17.

Fans of a certain vintage have grown up watching Mumbai batsmen dominating Indian cricket. Mumbai batting pairs putting on century partnerships used to be normal in the 1980s and '90s; be it Sunil Gavaskar and Dilip Vengsarkar, or Sachin Tendulkar and Sanjay Manjrekar, or Tendulkar and Vinod Kambli (for a brief period). Things changed over the past two decades because the Indian team gradually became an assortment of players from almost every part of the country. Smaller cities started to rise and produce players, more so since the emergence of a Ranchi boy, answering to the name of MS Dhoni. Indian cricket thrived due to the game's expansion into every nook and cranny.

From that perspective, two players from the Mumbai maidans, displaying the 'Mumbai school of batting' and helping India come out of the woods happened after a long time. But as India's batting coach Vikram Rathour pointed out after the day's play: "Khadoos cricket that Mumbaiers used to play has changed now. You see Mumbaiers play a lot many more shots now. And you see some very, very solid players from other parts of India now. So, we weren't even looking at it as Mumbaiers' partnership. It was two good players who batted well for the Indian team today."

Rohit vs Rabada

The contest between Rohit and Rabada in the morning session was fascinating. Even after lunch, the South Africa quick bowled another top spell, and Rohit had to tough it out. Rahane took charge during that period, taking three fours off a Rabada over. The Indian Test vice-captain showed a lot of intent and his positivity kept the scoreboard moving at a brisk pace. Later, when Rohit was in his element, he became the aggressor.

Test cricket was resplendent in its ebb and flow, punches and counter-punches; but what a shame that barely 5,000-odd spectators turned up on the first day, on a weekend.

Coming back to Rohit's knock, fluidity started to arrive towards the end of the first session, when he dispatched Ngidi to the mid-wicket boundary with a short-arm pull. Another pull off Nortje a couple of overs later cleared the long leg fence. In between, Zubayr Hamza at short leg put down a tough chance off debutant left-arm spinner George Linde. It was, in fact Linde's first over in Test cricket and he was unlucky, while Rohit, dropped on 28, capitalised on the reprieve.

A glorious off-drive off Nortje took Rohit to his half-century. Then, he started to accelerate. He milked Linde, played a contemptuous inside-out extra-cover drive against Ngidi before decimating Dane



Ajinkya Rahane and Rohit Sharma celebrate after the latter reached his third ton of the series. Sharma and Rahane added 185* runs for the third wicket. PTI



Security personnel thrash a pitch invader on Day One of the third Test between India and South Africa at Ranchi's JSCA Stadium on Saturday. AP

Piedt. The opener reached his hundred hitting a six off Piedt over long-off. The decision to promote him to the top of the order has proved to be a masterstroke. "I always believed he (Rohit) is too good a player not to be playing in any format. It was a good call to make him open. With the amount of runs he has scored, he has settled the issue for the time being. Somebody of his experience and the kind of cricket he plays, if he starts coming good at the top of the order, it changes everything for the Indian team, even when you are touring," Rathour said.

South Africa sent Temba Bavuma for the coin toss but he didn't do any better than his skipper. The visitors lost the toss for the third time on the spin. They made five changes to their playing XI, including two debutants in Heinrich Klaasen and Linde. But yet again, they surrendered the initiative after making early inroads. Batting would be difficult in the fourth innings on this pitch, and the Saffers are already playing catch-up.

2x In three matches of the India-SA series, Rohit Sharma has doubled the number of his Test match hundreds to 6. Rohit's aggregate in the series is 434 runs (after Day 1) and it's more than twice the tally of South Africa's highest scorer — Dean Elgar (216).

SCORECARD >> India vs South Africa

3rd Test | Ranchi | Toss: India

INDIA 224/3 IN 58 OV
M Agarwal c Elgar b Rabada 10 (19b, 2x4)
R Sharma not out 117 (164b, 14x4, 4x6)
C Pujara lbw b Rabada 0 (9b)
V Kohli lbw b Nortje 12 (22b, 2x4)
A Rahane not out 83 (135b, 11x4, 1x6)

■ **Extras:** (b 1, nb 1) 2
 ■ **Fall of wickets:** 1-12 (Mayank Agarwal, 4.6 ov), 2-16 (Cheteshwar Pujara, 8.3 ov), 3-39 (Virat Kohli, 15.3 ov)

■ **Bowling:**
 K Rabada 14-5-54-2
 L Ngidi 11-4-36-0
 A Nortje 16-3-50-1
 G Linde 11-1-40-0
 D Piedt 6-0-43-0

Nortje rues missed chances after India recover from 39/3

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
RANCHI, OCTOBER 19

SOUTH AFRICAN pacer Anrich Nortje on Saturday rued letting India off the hook after reducing them to 39 for three on the opening day of the third and final Test here.

Hoping to avoid a 3-0 whitewash, South African bowlers gave a good account of themselves by taking three wickets quickly, but Rohit Sharma and Ajinkya Rahane shared an unbeaten 185-run partnership to take India to 224/3 in 58 overs when bad weather forced an early stumps.

Rohit slammed his third century of the series during a knock in which he grew in confidence. There were chances too: he successfully reviewed an LBW decision before getting a reprieve on 28 when Zubayr Hamza dropped a difficult chance.

"We were definitely better as in the previous Test. We just tried to control the game little bit better. Unfortunately, we couldn't get another wicket... It would have been nice to have them four-five down," Nortje said after the first day's play.

"We had one or two overs where we went on top, later on we just pulled it back again. So, maybe, here and there we lost but, in general, a good effort by everyone.

"Overall, it was a good effort by the bowlers. There was little bit in it this morning, tried to utilise as much but one or two overs didn't go our way."

Kagiso Rabada was the pick of the attack with 2/54 in 14 overs, while Nortje (1/50 from 16 overs) picked up the wicket of India skipper Virat Kohli. "I was hoping for a wicket somewhere and to get him was unbelievable, but just try and come with a plan. I try and put as much pressure as possible and finally got the wicket."

Hailing Rabada's effort, he said: "He bowled really well. He was asking the right questions everytime. I thought Lungi backed him up as well. The (bowling) partnership up front was quite decent, so all credit to them."

He said there's still hope in the side as they look to bounce back.



Anrich Nortje dismissed Kohli for 12. AP

"I think there were quite a lot of opportunities right through the series. Lots of nicks going through the gaps or falling short. Something happened today here there, that's normal to cricket. We have to take it forward going from here. Just keep on asking those questions and control the controllables, I guess."

Nortje disagreed that their bowlers were finding it difficult to cope with the SG ball. "We have practised with it so I won't blame that. We have used that in South Africa before we got here."

The wicket had some uneven bounce, especially in the first session, and Nortje said: "Definitely it was keeping a bit low at stages, ball hitting the bottom of the bat. Bit of movement but we will have to wait and see."

"I don't know about the next few days... Maybe we will get even or low consistently but ball staying low will have effect for the seamers I don't know about spinners."

Another Delhi-based bookie being probed in KPL fixing scandal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, OCTOBER 19

THE CENTRAL Crime Branch (CCB) unit of the Bengaluru police has identified a second bookie from New Delhi allegedly involved in luring players to indulge in game manipulation in the Karnataka Premier League (KPL). The second bookie, Jatin Sethi, who was identified in the CCB investigation into illegal betting and match-fixing in the KPL, approached a court in Bengaluru for anticipatory bail this week.

The CCB believe he is the missing link and have launched a search for him.

Sethi and another Delhi-based bookie Sanyam Gulati, who's at large, allegedly asked cricketers to underperform in the KPL this August. The identities of Sethi and Gulati emerged in the CCB probe following the arrest of Ali Asfak Thara, 40, owner of the KPL team Belagavi Panthers, and a celebrity drummer Bhavesh Bafna, 26 who has been part of tournaments like the KPL, Tamil Nadu Premier League and the Indian Premier League.

The Belagavi Panthers team owner Ali Asfak Thara was arrested last month for placing bets on KPL matches with a bookie allegedly based in Dubai. Thara is alleged to have influenced many players in the KPL with regard to the illegal betting racket.

The CCB police arrested the celebrity drummer Bafna last month on the basis of a complaint given by Bhavesh Gulecha, 26, a fast bowler for the Bellary Tuskers team in the 2019 KPL season. Gulecha has given a statement to the police saying he was approached by his childhood friend Bafna to give away more than 10 runs in an over in a match.

According to the version provided by Gulecha to the police he was offered a spot in an IPL team and Rs 2 lakh as advance if he agreed to meet bookie Sanyam Gulati and agree to spot-fixing in KPL games.

The celebrity drummer who was arrested on October 2 has also sought bail in the betting case. In the course of bail hearings Bafna's lawyers refuted allegations that the drummer used to send signals to cricketers who had allegedly agreed to indulge in corruption by playing the drums in a certain pattern.

According to police sources Bafna has claimed during questioning that the bookies approached him first during TNPL matches by claiming to be big fans of his drumming skills. "Based in Bengaluru, he (Bafna) used to work on behalf of bookies in Delhi and Mumbai," a senior crime branch police official said.

The investigations into betting and match fixing in the KPL, were opened up by the CCB police on the basis of inputs provided by the anti-corruption unit of the BCCI on the heels of allegations of illegal betting and match fixing in the TNPL.

Delhi face Gujarat in Vijay Hazare quarters

Bengaluru: After a longish league phase of the Vijay Hazare Trophy, eight teams have qualified for the knockout phase beginning here on Sunday with Delhi playing its quarterfinal against Gujarat.

Defending champion Mumbai will take on Chhattisgarh while Tamil Nadu will square off against Punjab. Both matches will be played on October 21. Chhattisgarh defeated the Shreyas Iyer-led team in the league stage.

Elsewhere, Manish Pandey-led Karnataka won seven of their eight matches in Group A and face newcomers Pondicherry in the quarters. Pandey, with 505 runs from eight matches, has been in good nick along with opener Devdutt Padikkal. But they will be wary of a competent Pondicherry side which includes, among others, former Karnataka star Vinay Kumar.

Fixtures
OCTOBER 20: Karnataka vs Pondicherry; Delhi vs Gujarat.
OCTOBER 21: Tamil Nadu vs Punjab; Chhattisgarh vs Mumbai.

TEST CAP No: 296

Nadeem's India cap comes after 15 years of First-Class cricket, 424 wickets

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
RANCHI, OCTOBER 19

"JUNG JAARI hai (the fight is on). One day, they will come and pick you for the Indian team," Shahbaz Nadeem's father Javed Mahmood told his younger son. Nadeem's response was, "I won't give up. I'm playing for India A, and will play for India one day."

Javed recounted the conversation the day Nadeem eventually made his Test debut, that too on his home patch. The left-arm spinner was drafted in as cover for the injured Kuldeep Yadav, who had a sore shoulder. As India batting coach Vikram Rathour said, the team management wanted to go with three spinners on this JSCA Stadium pitch. So Nadeem replaced Ishant Sharma in the playing XI.

Nadeem personifies perseverance. He

made his first-class debut in 2004 and over the next 15 seasons, through 110 first-class matches, has picked 424 wickets. Last year, the Jharkhand spinner rewrote record books in List A cricket, when he picked eight wickets for 10 runs against Rajasthan in the Vijay Hazare Trophy. He had three five-fors in four innings during India A's tour of the West Indies earlier this year. But the 30-year-old was striving to reach the next level.

Nadeem's family already had to deal with a budding cricketer giving up the game in frustration. Nadeem's elder brother Asad Iqbal decided to pursue a career in engineering, when he wasn't picked for the India colts. "Asad was the first cricketer in our family. He even became the East Zone U-19 captain. He was an all-rounder. But when uncertainty loomed, with regard to his cricket career, we decided that it would be too risky if both my sons took up cricket as a career. Do beta hain,



Left-arm spinner Shahbaz Nadeem has played 110 First-Class matches.

dono barbad ho jayenge to hum logon ko budhapa mein kaun dekhega (we have two sons

and if both their careers are destroyed, who would look after us when we get old)," Javed told *The Sunday Express*. A retired police officer, he was transferred from Muzaffarpur to Dhanbad when his sons were in school.

Asad sacrificed his cricketing ambition to ensure his younger brother could play the game without any pressure.

Nadeem was one of the fittest boys in his school, even when he was just 10 years old. His father attributed it to genetics. "I was a champion athlete at the university level. Shahbaz used to win all sprint events — 100m, 200m, 400m — when he was in Class IV or V. This is something which he got from me," Javed said. Fitness has kept the Jharkhand spinner in the game for a long time.

Nadeem initially wanted to be a pace bowler but his childhood coach Imtiaz Hussain made him a spinner. "When he

came to our coaching camp for the trial, I told him to bowl spin instead. I told him that with his physique and height, he couldn't become a fast bowler. But I assured him that he could go far if he took up spin bowling," Hussain told this paper.

At Tata Digwadih Stadium in Dhanbad, Nadeem had his first lessons in organised cricket, on a matting wicket. He progressed to play Ranji Trophy for Jharkhand but with his career still at a nascent stage, he decided to move to Kolkata and joined Town Club, with an eye to play for Bengal. Things didn't work out as planned and Nadeem decided to return home.

According to Hussain, former Jharkhand State Cricket Association (JSCA) president and current BCCI acting secretary Amitabh Choudhary helped Nadeem revive his career. "Amitabh Choudhary ensured that his talent didn't go waste. Nadeem was given a chance

to play for Jharkhand and he steadily rose through the ranks."

Hussain described his ward as "obedient". Only once did Nadeem receive a serious dressing-down from his coach. He was entering into adulthood, when for a while he lost focus. Hussain was initially reluctant to recall the incident, but eventually narrated it briefly.

"It was a different type of incident. Young ladke mein ladkiyon ka chakkar hota hai na, aisa hi kuch hua tha (young guys get attracted to girls). It wasn't a big deal but I felt it would hamper his cricket. But that relationship didn't work out. Later, he got married to a lady from Jharia."

On Saturday, Nadeem received his Test cap from his skipper. "He was in Kolkata a couple of days back. Now he is playing a Test. Delighted for him," Virat Kohli said at the toss.

Indian football's roadmap: Minutes of the meeting

MIHIR VASAVDA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

A POSSIBLE Asian Champions League group stage spot in 2021 for the Indian Super League (ISL) champions, doubts over the sustainability of the model and I-League clubs being told to find their broadcaster.

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and All India Football Federation (AIFF) painted a rosy future for Indian football following a meeting in Kuala Lumpur last Monday, which can potentially change how domestic leagues are structured in the country. However, *The Indian Express* spoke to officials from the AIFF, I-League and ISL clubs present at the meeting, who provided an account of how it transpired.

Since they were not authorized to speak to the media about the meeting, the officials requested anonymity.

According to a representative of an ISL club, AFC secretary general Windsor John and competitions director Shin Mangil said the decision to make ISL the country's top tier was based on 'sporting merit, according to information provided to them by the AIFF. "The decision was based on the logic that the investment made by ISL clubs has improved infrastructure in India, their contribution has improved national team ranking apart from the fact that all national team players play in the ISL and technical aspects like superior broadcast quality, social networking, etc.," the official said.

A few I-League clubs protested these points, but in vain.

Mangil and John presented a roadmap for Indian football, according to which the ISL will be the country's premier division with a few I-League clubs assured a place 'on merit' in it in the coming years. On Sunday, the newly-appointed top tier will get underway but the ISL clubs should know that this status comes with its own poisoned chalice.

The average lifespan of a domestic league in India has been 10 to 11 years. The National Football League was launched in 1996 with grand plans. They fizzled out and the NFL had to make way in 2007 for the I-League. A decade later, wheels were set in motion for the ISL to take over as the country's top division, which finally happened last Monday. By the time a rebranded league with promotion and relegation is launched in 2024-25, the ISL will have completed a decade and the league's promoter Reliance Sport's 15-year agreement with the AIFF will expire.

An I-League official said this point was raised by a few clubs, including Minerva Punjab and Mohun Bagan. "There have been so many instances where a corporate entity has entered Indian football but packed up because they were not prepared to suffer losses year after year. The AIFF and AFC were asked what if the promoters and ISL club owners lose interest by 2024-25, when the league is to be rebranded. For now, they have told all of us to be patient," the official said.

Sustainability, it is learnt, became the buzzword of the two-hour meeting. And not for nothing. More than a dozen I-League clubs have shut shop in the last decade. ISL franchises, too, have been in the red - reportedly suffered annual losses of around Rs 30 crore.

The losses played a huge role in two ISL franchises being forced to relocate - Delhi Dynamos have moved to Bhubaneswar and will be called Odisha FC while Pune City got new owners, who moved the club to Hyderabad. Reigning champions Bengaluru FC very nearly had to vacate their ground due to legal tussles. They, in fact, named Pune as their home venue before a court granted them some reprieve for this season.

According to an ISL club official, the clubs make Rs 13 crore on an average from the central revenue. But they pay Rs 15 crore as franchise fee each year. Globally, bulk of a club's revenue comes from the league selling its TV rights. However, since the broadcasters - Star Sports - themselves are the league co-owners,



Lallianzuala Chhangte played for Delhi Dynamos till last season. The winger has joined Chennaiyin FC, while his former club moved to Bhubaneswar and will be called Odisha FC.

The average lifespan of a domestic league in India has been 10 to 11 years. The National Football League was launched in 1996. It fizzled out and the NFL had to make way in 2007 for the I-League. A decade later, wheels were set in motion for the ISL to take over as the country's top division, which finally happened last Monday.

the ISL teams do not make a paisa from TV rights.

At least the ISL has a broadcaster, which makes it possible for teams to get some sponsors. A club official, it is learnt, asked AIFF general secretary Kushal Das why the I-League fixtures have not yet been released even though it is less than a month for the season to start. The I-League is scheduled to get underway on November. Das, the official said, replied the delay has been because of broadcasting issues.

Football Sport Development Limited (FSDL), a joint venture between ISL co-owners Reliance Sports and Star India that was established to run the ISL, takes a call on fixtures for the I-League as well. "The FSDL prepares ISL fixtures and sends it to the AIFF. With regards to the I-League, the AIFF prepares the fixtures' list and sends it to FSDL, who consult the production team of the broadcasters and give their consent," a source said.

Das is believed to have told the clubs that a broadcast deal has not been finalized yet. "He told us that generating advertisement revenue is a significant problem for broadcasters who telecast Indian football, which is why they haven't cracked a deal yet," a club official said.

With less than a month to go, the I-League clubs have been asked to chip in when it comes to searching for a broadcaster. Mohun Bagan director Debashish Dutta responded by demanding more professionalism from the AIFF and seeking an assurance from AFC secretary general Windsor John the promised roadmap will be implemented. "The AFC secretary has said a team will be formed that will monitor Indian football and ensure this is implemented," an AIFF official said.

An ISL club official also said that John hinted at a direct spot for India in the group stage of the Asian Champions League from 2021, when AFC's new commercial deal comes into effect. No Indian club has played in the elite club competition, failing repeatedly in the qualifying stages.

LIVE: Blasters vs ATK, Star Sports 7:30pm

Ireland beaten black and blue by All Blacks

New Zealand, in the semifinals, haven't lost a World Cup game since a quarterfinal upset to France in 2007. Ireland are yet to win a World Cup knockout game after eight attempts.

IRELAND WERE ranked No.1 till the start of the World Cup. They were a rare team to beat the All Blacks in the Cup intervening years. But it all amounted to nought as they were steamrolled 46-14 by the All Blacks who are looking insurmountable.

Here is the NZ Herald's breathless gush of the tries during their 46-14 win over Ireland that sent them into the semis.

13th minute: Aaron Smith nips through a gap from 10 metres for the crucial first try. It came after relentless pressure from the All Blacks, with Kieran Read and Sam Cane committing defenders in strong drives near the line.

21st minute: Aaron Smith dives over for the All Blacks second try, after a wonderful backline move. It was an old fashioned double round, but executed at blinding pace, as Sevu Reece wrapped around Jack Goodhue and set George Bridge off for the corner. Bridge was brought down metres from the line, but Smith profited from the next play.

32nd minute: Beauden Barrett scores the All Blacks' third try. It brought back some memories of the climax to the 2015 World Cup final, as Barrett chased down a kick at pace before regathering to score. It came from an Irish knock on near halfway, with Mo'unga reacting quickly to kick the loose ball.

48th minute: Some instinctive Kieran Read magic, as the captain pops a pass off the ground for Codie Taylor, who dives over under the posts. It's the try that kills any faint hopes for Ireland and their supporters, with the score at 29-0, and continues their bizarre record of having never won a World Cup knockout match.

61st minute: The All Blacks' fifth try, and a special moment for Matt Todd, after he missed out on the 2015 World Cup. The flanker ran off a precise TJ Perenara pass close to the ruck, after Sevu Reece had been grounded inches short of the line.

73rd minute: The All Blacks' sixth try, which exhibited everything that makes this current All Blacks side some lethal. Savea made strong inroads after a turnover, before passing as he was falling to Dane Coles. The replacement hooker bustled through, before slipping the ball one handed to George Bridge, who was perfectly positioned.

79th minute: It's close to a cricket score, as man of the match Beauden Barrett finds his brother with a long, spiralling left hand pass. Jordie's try is the All Blacks seventh of the night, surely raising compar-



by this runaway train of an ABS side that has found itself at precisely the sort of time that is quite useful.

England beat Australia 40-16

England start tom-tomming

UK's Telegraph wrote after England shunted out Australia 40-16, "England's World Cup mission has lift-off, the dream is still alive and the promised land is within reach as Eddie Jones' team contemplate their first semi-final in 12 years. This was a defining moment for this England team, a sure sign that they have the nerve, the belief and the weaponry to make a serious bid for honours. The display was not without its flaws, its slips, its errors, but it was still a statement showing, one of character and resolve. Such attributes count for more than mere skill. England had the cojones and they had the class, knowing that there was a pit of dread."

May's play of the day

Tom Curry had set up Jonny May, in his 50th Test, on the left wing for the first try. Within minutes one try became two. Again with Tom Curry the setter man not in focus on the TV frame, right before camera clung onto the Slade grubber, the moment of the match. Curry had closed in on Pocock and clattered him down the split second after the ball left his hands - fumblingly.

WHAT a performance by the @AllBlacks, defeating Ireland 46-14. Next stop: Semi against England!

isons with their one-sided demolition of France at the same stage four years ago.

"Godlike"

To sum it up, Herald's reverential rhapsody said, "There's nothing quite like it when the All Blacks find their sweet spot and mix beauty and brawn in a heady concoction that probably gets somewhere close to being how the gods want the game to be played. New Zealand in the right mood as they so obviously were against Ireland can only be stopped by the miraculously brave and the fabulously inventive. Ireland were neither and so they were hit

Messi, Suarez, Griezmann take Barca top

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MADRID, OCTOBER 19

BARCELONA'S 'MSG' strike force is finally clicked into gear as Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez and Antoine Griezmann all scored in a ruthless 3-0 victory over Eibar on Saturday.

Griezmann's place in the newly-formed attacking trident has not been secure but the Frenchman opened the scoring at Ipurua before teeing up Messi and then playing the crucial pass for Suarez to make it three.

"There will be good and bad days but we are getting to know each other and bit by bit we will do even better," said Griezmann.

An authoritative Barca display thrust them to the top of La Liga, for a few hours at least before Real Madrid play Real Mallorca. They moved three points clear of Atletico, who drew 1-1 at home to Valencia.

The victory also dismissed suggestions their players might be affected by Friday's postponement of next Saturday's Clasico due to protests in Catalonia.

Violence in Barcelona and disruptions at El Prat airport meant Ernesto Valverde's side altered their pre-match routine and embarked on a 589-kilometre bus trip to the Basque

County on Friday.

All the while, discussions continued over the Clasico against Real Madrid, which is now expected to go ahead in December.

"It is fashionable not to agree on political issues but at least let's agree on the date of the Clasico," Valverde said afterwards.

"It doesn't seem to me that difficult." Perhaps chaos off the pitch inspired Barca to unite on it. This was their fifth consecutive victory in all competitions, a sequence which is swiftly erasing memories of a stumbling start to the season. The resurgence has coincided with Messi's return from injury yet it was the fluidity and cohesion of the front three, rather than the Argentinian's familiar solo brilliance, that will have been most pleasing for Valverde. "Great players always understand each other," Valverde said. "With time and matches they will understand each other even more."

Griezmann has four goals since joining Barca from Atletico Madrid last summer but a series of underwhelming showings led to Ousmane Dembele starting against Sevilla before the international break.

There was good news too for Barcelona in defence, where Samuel Umtiti came through 90 minutes in what was his first appearance of the season. Umtiti, who has been out with a

foot injury, replaced the banned Gerard Pique.

The only blot on the result was an injury to Sergi Roberto, who hurt his left knee and was replaced at half-time. He will be a doubt for the Champions League game away at Slavia Prague on Wednesday. The visiting fans chanted in support of the nine Catalan leaders imprisoned last week for a failed independence bid in 2017.

Griezmann's finish clipped the inside of the post and found the net after 13 minutes.

Messi should have made it two before half-time but was denied one-on-one by goalkeeper Marko Dmitrovic. Suarez's goal was ruled offside.

Barca made it two just before the hour as Frenkie de Jong's incisive ball was collected by Suarez. As he lost control, Griezmann took over, flicking left to Messi, who made no mistake.

The third involved all three again. Griezmann's superb reverse pass set Messi clear and he generously slipped the ball left for Suarez who was left with an open goal. Atletico lost ground as they were undone by a late Dani Parejo free-kick against Valencia at the Wanda Metropolitan, where both sides finished the game with 10 men. Diego Costa scored a first-half penalty. In a mad final 10 minutes, Joao Felix limped off with all three of his team's substitutes already used, Parejo struck in the 82nd.

Govt can't dictate terms to federations on selection: Rijju

New Delhi: SPORTS MINISTER Kiren Rijju on Saturday made it clear that the government would not interfere in selection matters but advised the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) to be transparent and resolve the Nikhat Zareen-Mary Kom in the best possible manner.

Former junior world champion Nikhat Zareen had written a letter to Rijju on Thursday, demanding that she be given a trial bout against Mary Kom before the Indian squad for next year's Olympic qualifiers in China is decided. The BFI wants Mary Kom (51kg) to compete in Qualifying event in China after she won her eighth World Championships medal in Russia.

"We have to understand one thing, govt can't dictate the federations or get involved in the process of selection," Rijju said on the sidelines of the felicitation program of the Indian women's boxing team.

"If there are anomalies and certain things which are not in the interest of sports we make advisory suggestions. Olympic charter is clear that govt shouldn't interfere in the functioning and administration of a federation." PTI

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Alli grabs Spurs equaliser, Burnley denied one as VAR dominates proceedings

REUTERS
LONDON, OCTOBER 19

DELE ALI scored a second-half equaliser for Tottenham Hotspur to secure a 1-1 home draw with Watford on an afternoon when VAR again emerged as the main talking point across several Premier League games.

Complete confusion followed Alli's strike at the Tottenham Hotspur stadium when the big screen indicated that the goal had been disallowed for handball after a VAR check but the referee pointed to the halfway line for the restart.

Burnley were also controversially denied an equaliser in a 2-1 defeat at Leicester City while technology ruled out two Wolverhampton Wanderers goals in their 1-1 draw with Southampton as well as an Aston Villa effort in their 2-1 win over Brighton & Hove Albion.

Less controversially, Chelsea beat Newcastle United 1-0 and Everton overturned West Ham United 2-0 while the game between Bournemouth and Norwich City ended goalless.

Spurs, who had conceded 10 goals in their previous two games, looked to be heading for a fifth defeat in six matches after Abdoulaye Doucoure put the visitors ahead.

But Alli took advantage of a flap by Watford keeper Ben Foster and, after appearing to control the ball with his shoulder, put the ball in the net. Although the VAR check ruled the strike legitimate, the big screen flashed up "no goal", sparking bemusement in the stadium.

"I was sure it didn't hit my hand but then you start thinking did it?," said Alli. "I tried to make sure it didn't touch it so I could get the strike away."

At the King Power Stadium, Leicester moved second - ahead of Manchester City's late kickoff - although technology proved decisive once again.

Dyche furious

Burnley's Chris Wood was denied a second goal when he was adjudged to have fouled Jonny Evans in the build-up, a decision that left Burnley manager Sean Dyche furious.

I'm a big fan of VAR but it has to be used more wisely than that. Their defender is never going to get that in a million years. There was a touch, but there is no intention in the touch and his gait doesn't change."

SEAN DYCHE, BURNLEY MANAGER ON THE DENIED EQUALISER

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At Molineux, Raul Jimenez put the ball into the back of the net three times before having a goal count after two first-half efforts were disallowed. But his persistence eventually paid off as Wolves cancelled out Danny Ings's opener for Southampton.

Asked about VAR, Wolves manager Nuno Espirito Santo said: "It is what it is. I hope it

gets better."

Matt Targett's late winner helped Aston Villa come from behind to beat 10-man Brighton 2-1 as Dean Smith celebrated his one-year anniversary in charge. Technology was involved once again, with But Conor Hourihane having an early strike ruled out for Villa.

Pressure eased on Everton manager Marco Silva after overseeing a much-improved performance against West Ham. Excellent goals from Bernard and Gylfi Sigurdsson ended Everton's run of four consecutive defeats and moved them out of the relegation zone.

"Pressure is normal in football," Silva said.

West Ham disappointed throughout in going down as they suffered their first away league defeat of the season.

At Stamford Bridge Marcos Alonso's second-half strike gave Chelsea the narrowest of wins over Newcastle -- their fifth in succession in all competitions -- to move them third.

Crystal Palace host Manchester City in the late kick-off.



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