

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

GOD IN SCHOOL SONGS IS NO VIOLATION

BY TAHIR MAHMOOD
PAGE 12

Exit polls call it for the BJP: NDA set to sweep Maharashtra and Haryana



EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

EXIT POLLS for the assembly elections in Maharashtra and Haryana, where votes were cast Monday, have predicted a sweep by the ruling BJP-led NDA in both states.

While the polls were unani-

mous in predicting the NDA's fortunes, they varied in their projection of seats for rival alliances — some forecast a further dip in the Opposition tally from 2014.

In the state polls held five months after the NDA returned to power at the Centre with a spectacular majority in the general elections, Maharashtra recorded an estimated turnout of 59.08 per cent, down from the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Fadnavis and family in Nagpur. Express

THE PROJECTIONS

MAHARASHTRA (288 seats)

	Times Now	News 18 IPSOS	India Today-Axis My India	2014
BJP-SS	230	243	166-194	122+63
Cong-NCP	48	41	72-90	42+41
Others	10	4	22-34	20

HARYANA (90 seats)

	Times Now	News 18-IPSOS	NewsX-Polstrat	2014
BJP	71	75	75-80	47
Cong	11	10	9-12	15
INLD	0	0	0-1	19
Others	8	5	1-3	9

MORE REPORTS
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Distress signal: Share of youngest workers in NREG begins to rise

HARIKISHANSHARMA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

THE STEADY decline in the proportion of young workers, those between 18 and 30, under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) has halted and has begun to rise in the wake of demonetisation and the rollout of GST.

There is no clarity on what could be the reason behind this rising trend of entry level workforce among MGNREGA workers but experts say this could be a reflection of rural distress and lack of employment opportunities.

An analysis of age-wise data of persons employed in MGNREGA indicates that the share of workforce in the 18-30

EXPLAINED
E.

An alarm bell

18-30 YRS is the entry-level workforce. In a growing economy and a young nation, subsistence-level job guarantee should be their last resort. That's why the upward trend should raise concern.

age bracket began moving up after financial year 2017-18.

The total number of young
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

NCRB leaves out data on lynchings, khap and religious killings

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

THE NATIONAL Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) released its latest data on crime incidents across the country on Monday, more than a year behind schedule. Officials said data collected under the new sub-heads of death due to mob lynching, murder by influential people, killing ordered by khap panchayat and murder committed for religious reason have not been published, resulting in partial delay of the agency's report for 2017.

The new report has largely followed the pattern of the 2016

edition, barring additions in the category of cyber crimes and offences against the state.

Sources said the agency had begun a massive data revamp exercise under former NCRB Director Ish Kumar. It was under him that the bureau revised the proforma under the category of murder and added new sub-heads of mob lynching and murder for religious reasons among others.

"It is surprising that this data has not been published. This data was ready and fully compiled and analysed. Only the top brass would know the reason why it has not been published."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Siachen area now open to tourists, says Rajnath

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

UNION DEFENCE Minister Rajnath Singh Monday announced that tourists will now be allowed into areas of the Siachen glacier, the world's highest battlefield. This comes 10 days before Jammu & Kashmir is bifurcated into two new Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh.

Dedicating to the nation the newly-built Colonel Chewang Rinchen Bridge over the Shyok river in Ladakh, Singh, in a series of tweets, said: "The Siachen area is now open for tourists and tourism. From Siachen Base

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Tiwari killing: Suspect forged Aadhaar card to enter his party fold

KAMAAL SAIYED
SURAT, OCTOBER 21

ONE OF the main suspects in the Kamlesh Tiwari murder case, Ashfaq Shaikh (33), had forged a colleague's Aadhaar card to assume a new identity as Rohit Kumar Solanki for joining Tiwari's Hindu Samaj Party. He joined the party on June 3 this year, and was appointed pracharak of its IT cell in Varachha ward of Surat.

Shaikh and another suspect, Farid Pathan alias Moinuddin, are suspected to have carried out the killing in Lucknow on October 18. Both are on the run.



The forged Aadhaar card

Rohit Kumar Solanki works as a medical representative in the pharmaceutical company in which Shaikh was team leader-cum-manager. In the forged

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Internet disrupting democratic polity, new rules in 3 months: Govt

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G & PRITAM PAL SINGH
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

UNDERLINING THAT the "Internet has emerged as a potent tool to cause unimaginable disruption to the democratic polity", the Centre Monday informed the Supreme Court it will take another three more months to revise and notify "extant rules"

for "effective regulation of intermediaries" such as social media platforms "keeping in view the ever growing threats to individual rights and nation's integrity, sovereignty, and security".

Also Monday, the Delhi High Court was told by Internet service provider World Phone Internet Services Pvt Ltd that "unregulated functioning of Facebook Messenger and

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WEB EXCLUSIVE



FORMER ULFA MILITANT PULLS THE TRIGGER ON CHANGE...

Once a cadre of the ULFA's most dreaded battalion, today **Moni Manik Gogoi** is still waging a battle. But this time around he has a different set of weapons, love, brotherhood and honesty.

VIDEO OF THE DAY



SILICON ART: MAKING LIFE-LIKE, WITHOUT LIFE

Nirosh Kumar is a sculptor artist and hails from Sitamarhi, Bihar

FULL COVERAGE

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS LIVE COVERAGE

Till 3pm, 43.78 per cent voter turnout in Maharashtra



EXPRESS AUDIO

Why 47000 TSRTC employees are on strike in Telangana

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

Unpacking the TSRTC strike, their demands, how it has affected daily life in Telangana and why the government was unrelenting but may ease their stance

FROM PAGE ONE

Distress signal: Share of young workers in NREG begins to rise

workers (18-30 years) employed under the job guarantee scheme was more than 1 crore in 2013-14 which came down to 58.69 lakh in 2017-18. However, their number started rising again and reached 70.71 lakh in 2018-19.

This upward trend is continuing during the current financial year as the number of young persons employed under MGNREGA has reached 57.57 lakh for figures up to October 21, 2019.

In 2013-14, the ratio of young workers among total MGNREGA workers was 13.64 per cent which came down to 7.73 per cent in 2017-18 before rising to 9.1 per cent in 2018-19 and 10.06 per cent in 2019-20.

"There is a slowdown in the economy. The situation is bleak for young people. They have to sustain their education and find livelihood. When they are unable to find job, they turn to MGNREGA. MGNREGA is stop-gap arrangement for them," said Nikhil Dey, founding member of Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan, an NGO closely working on MGNREGA.

Government took a decision to demonetise high value currency notes of Rs 500 and Rs 1000 in November 2016 while GST was implemented from July 1, 2017. Both these decisions caused disruptions in the economy, which many experts feel contributed to the slowdown. The GDP growth which peaked to 8.2 per cent in 2016-17 also came down in subsequent years. The economy grew by 6.8 per cent in 2018-19.

Data shows the total number of individuals who worked under MGNREGA has also gone up in recent years. For instance, in 2013-14, of 7.95 crore worked under MGNREGA and this number came down to 6.71 crore in 2014-15 but started rising again and reached 7.21 crore in 2015-16, 7.65 crore in 2016-17 and 7.76 crore in 2018-19.

During the current financial year, the total number of persons working under MGNREGA has already reached 5.72 crore up to October 21, 2019.

Siachen

Camp to Kumar Post, the entire area has been opened for Tourism purposes.

"Ladakh has tremendous potential in Tourism. Better connectivity in Ladakh would certainly bring tourists in large numbers," he said. On the bridge over the Shyok, he said: "This bridge has been completed in record time. It will not only provide all-weather connectivity in the region but also be a strategic asset in the border areas."

He reiterated: "Kashmir is India's internal and integral matter. Even the Chinese President Mr Xi Jinping did not mention Kashmir in his meeting with PM Shri Narendra Modi in Mahabalipuram. China's recent statement for action against terrorism is also significant."

"India shares cordial relations with China. There are perceptual differences between both the countries on the boundary issue but the issue has been handled with great maturity and responsibly. Both the countries have not allowed the situation to escalate or go out of hand," he said.

Meanwhile, the Defence Acquisition Council headed by Singh has given its nod for Rs 3,300-crore worth indigenously designed and developed equipment for the armed forces.

Three projects will be designed under the Make in India programme. The first two projects include third generation anti-tank guided missiles (ATGMs) and auxiliary power units (APUs) for the T-72 and T-90 tanks. It will be the first time the Ministry of Defence has offered complex military equipment to be designed, developed and manufactured by the Indian private industry. The third indigenous project is for discrete electronic warfare (EW) systems for high altitude terrain, which will be designed and developed by DRDO and manufactured by a private company.

Exit polls predict sweep for NDA

63.38 per cent logged in 2014. Haryana saw an estimated turnout of 65.67 per cent, about 11 per cent less than the 76.54 recorded five years ago.

Most exit polls show that the BJP-Shiv Sena combine is expected to win 194-243 seats in the 288-member Maharashtra assembly. In 2014, both the parties contested separately, with the BJP winning 122 and the Sena 63. In Haryana, the BJP is predicted to win 71-80 seats in the 90-member assembly.

The exit polls brought bad news for the Congress, which is yet to recover from its humiliating defeat in the Lok Sabha

elections. The party, which ruled both the two states till 2014, may slide further in its tally in the two assemblies, according to pollsters.

In Maharashtra, exit polls have predicted 48-90 seats in total for the Congress and the NCP, which won 42 and 41 seats, respectively, in 2014 when they fought separately. In Haryana, the polls have forecast 10-12 seats for the Congress, which had claimed 15 seats five years ago.

The prediction has not come as a surprise though, considering that the Congress was in disarray in both these states. In Maharashtra, a host

of key leaders had left the party in the months leading to the state polls and in Haryana, its former state president Ashok Tanwar walked out virtually on the eve of elections.

Maharashtra witnessed a largely bipolar contest with BJP and Shiv Sena fighting together against the Congress and NCP combine.

Haryana witnessed a multi-cornered battle with BJP and Congress going solo while the Opposition INLD split with one group forming the Jannayak Janata Party.

The News 18-IPSOS poll gave the BJP a near-majority on its own in Maharashtra by pre-

dicting over 140 seats for the party. It predicted that the Congress and NCP would bag 17 and 22 seats, respectively. The ABP-C Voter predicted 204 seats for the BJP-Shiv Sena and 69 for the Congress-NCP.

In Haryana, the BJP is projected to register a more emphatic victory. The ABP-C Voter forecast 72 seats for the BJP and eight for the Congress. News 18-IPSOS projected 75 for the BJP and 10 for the Congress.

Also Monday, bypolls were held to 51 assembly seats and two Lok Sabha constituencies in 18 states. The official turnout percentage is expected Tuesday.

including child rape.

Tiwari killing

Aadhaar card, Solanki's photograph was replaced with Shaikh's photograph, while the rest of the details were left untouched.

"I have been working with Ashfaq Shaikh for the last two-and-a-half years... On Sunday, I came to know, through social media, that my Aadhaar card had been misused by him... He would keep all the medical representatives' documents with him. I have submitted a complaint to the Varachha police station," Solanki told *The Indian Express*.

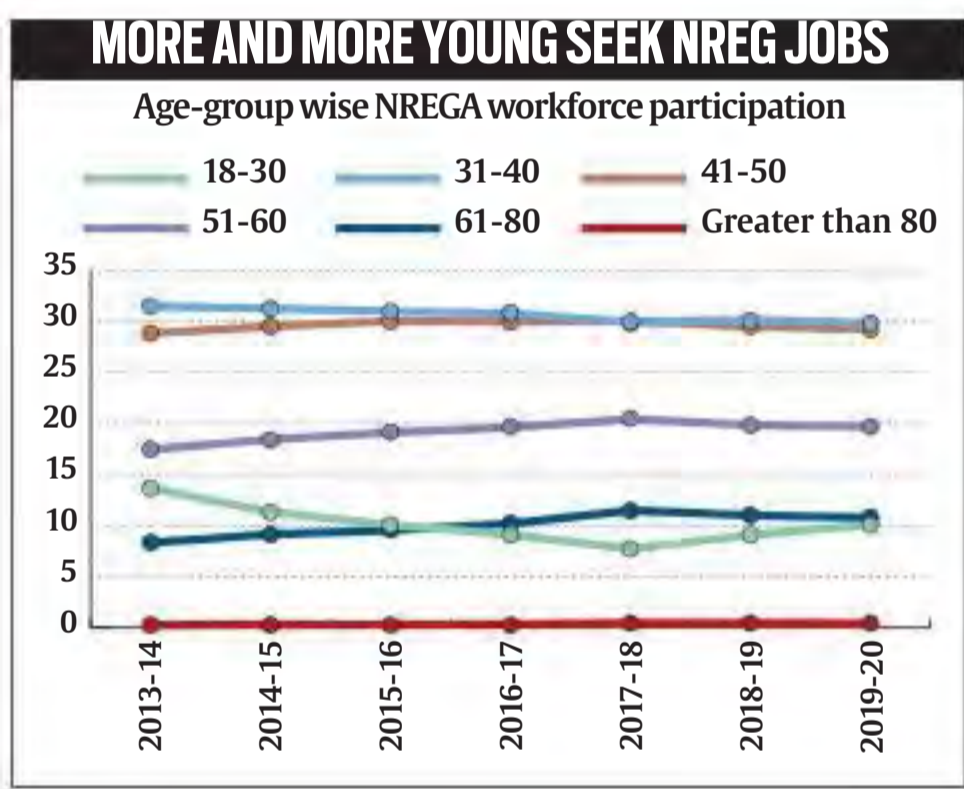
While the pharma company is headquartered in Mumbai, Shaikh was in charge of its sales in Surat. Shaikh also opened a Facebook account as Solanki, with his own photograph as the profile picture. He then became friends with Jaimin Dave alias Bapu, the Gujarat president of Hindu Samaj Party, on Facebook. He later met Dave in Ahmedabad and expressed interest in joining party. On June 3, Dave inducted him into the party, and appointed him pracharak of the IT cell in Varachha ward.

According to sources in the Hindu Samaj Party, Shaikh, as Solanki, met Tiwari in the last week of June. Before leaving Surat last week, he reportedly called up Tiwari and told him that he would meet him in Lucknow to discuss plans to expand the party in Surat. After reaching Lucknow on October 17, he called up Tiwari again, and confirmed that he would meet him the next day.

"We collect the Aadhaar card and photographs of those willing to join our party, for our records. On the basis of the Aadhaar card, we took permission from our national president, Guruji (Kamlesh Tiwari), and later appointed Rohit Kumar Solanki (Ashfaq Shaikh), as our organisation member. When, he sent me a friend request on Facebook, many Hindu Samaj Party workers were already on his friends' list," Dave posted on Facebook on Sunday.

"Keeping all these things in mind, we appointed him as a member. We carried out all legal procedures. We have now come to know that he had submitted a forged Aadhaar card... On Saturday, we submitted all the documents, including a copy of this forged Aadhaar card, to the Gujarat ATS," he said.

Dave said Shaikh, as Solanki, was in touch with the organisation's office-bearers across the country. "He would talk to them on the phone and send text messages, posing as Rohit Kumar Solanki," he posted on Facebook. He was not available for comment on Monday.



Internet

WhatsApp is a threat to the national security". Calling it an important issue, Justice Navin Chawla issued notice to the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, Facebook Inc and WhatsApp Inc. He sought their responses within four weeks on why they should not be subjected to licence fees and security considerations like other ISPs.

In an affidavit to the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), through advocate Rajat Nair, said that during the last few years, there has been an enormous rise in the number of people using the Internet and social media and also an "exponential rise in hate speech, fake news,

public order, anti-national activities, defamatory postings, and other unlawful activities using Internet/social media platforms".

The Ministry affidavit was in response to the Supreme Court's query on the status of the changes being contemplated in rules to ensure accountability of intermediaries. It had posed the question when it was hearing a plea by Facebook urging it to transfer to itself certain petitions filed in various High Courts for linking social media accounts to Aadhaar numbers.

Submitting the affidavit, advocate Nair said that the Ministry had sought three more months to complete the entire process.

The government pointed out that there was already a rule on intermediaries, The Information Technology (Intermediaries Guidelines) Rules, 2011, notified on April 13, 2011. It said that "as Internet has emerged as a potent tool to cause unimaginable disruption to the democratic polity, it was felt that the extant rules to be revised for effective regulation of intermediaries keeping in view the ever growing threats to individual rights and nation's integrity, sovereignty, and security".

The affidavit stated that the Minister of Electronics & Information Technology, replying to a Calling Attention Motion on 'misuse of social media platform and propagation of fake news', had made a statement on the floor of Rajya Sabha on July 26 that the government will initiate a number of measures including amendment to the existing Intermediaries Guidelines Rules, 2011 to make them more liable towards the content that is published, transmitted, etc. on their platform.

The draft of the revised Information Technology Intermediaries Guidelines (Amendment) Rules, 2018 was

published on the Ministry website on December 24, 2018, inviting comments. It said 171 comments were received which were also published for counter-comments.

Following this, various rounds of consultations were held with the different chambers of commerce, associations and social media companies. Besides, inter-ministerial consultations were also held, the affidavit stated.

It said after collating and analysing all the details that have emerged from stakeholder participation and inter-ministerial consultations, three more months will be required to finalise and notifying the final revised rules in accordance with law.

In Delhi High Court, ISP World Phone Internet Services Pvt Ltd cited a serious threat to national security, alleging that Facebook Messenger and WhatsApp were providing voice and video calling over Internet services without holding telecom licences.

The High Court, which sought responses, listed the matter for January 17 next year. World Phone, through its counsel Sanjoy Ghose, told the court that they have been providing Internet service, including Internet telephone, under a license agreement with the government, unlike Facebook Messenger and Whatsapp. He argued that in the present licensing regime, Internet telephony is a purely licensed service, permitted only under the UAS/ISP or Unified License granted under Section 4 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.

"...Facebook Messenger and Whatsapp, which provide voice services without holding a telecom licence in India, circumvent the Indian telecom licensing provisions and provide services that are otherwise permitted only under a telecom licence."

The plea stated that there is

"increased use of social media, and in particular Facebook Messenger and WhatsApp by various organisations which indulge in anti-national and terrorist activities".

"Some of the examples of such unregulated activities leading to serious threats are the 26/11 Mumbai terrorist attacks and the Muzaffarnagar riots, Paris terrorist attacks of 13/14 November, 2015 carried out by ISIS," the plea stated.

NCRB data

An official privy to the data collection process said.

The decision to collect data on lynchings had been taken in the wake of a spate of lynching incidents across the country through 2015-16. The idea, officials said, was that such data collection would help the government formulate its policies better in tackling these crimes. Lynchings happen for a variety of reasons which include suspicion of theft, child lifting, cattle smuggling or communal reasons, officials said.

According to the latest NCRB report, there has been a 30 per cent rise in incidents of offences against the state as compared to 2016. This category includes offences such as sedition, waging war against the country and damage to public property among others. The data shows that against 6,986 offences in 2016, there were 9,013 such offences in 2017.

The maximum number of such offences were reported from Haryana (2,576) followed by UP (2,055). However, in both these states the high number of offences was largely due to acts of damage to public property.

The maximum number of sedition cases were reported from Assam (19) followed by Haryana (13). Jammu and Kashmir recorded just one case of sedition while Chhattisgarh and all North

East states, barring Assam, recorded zero incident.

A new category of offences committed by various categories of "Anti-National Elements" showed that the maximum offences were committed by Left Wing Extremist (LWE) operatives (652), followed by North East insurgents (421) and Terrorists (Jihadi and other elements)(371). The maximum number of killings were carried out by LWE insurgents (82). As many as 72 of these killings took place in Chhattisgarh. This was followed by killings by terrorists (36) - 34 in J&K alone. North East insurgents killed 10 people.

According to the data, a total of 50,07,044 cognizable crimes - 30,62,579 Indian Penal Code (IPC) crimes and 19,44,465 Special & Local Laws (SLL) crimes - were registered in 2017, an increase of 3.6 per cent in registration of cases over 2016 (48,31,515 cases).

A total of 28,653 cases of murder were registered during 2017, showing a decline of 5.9 per cent over 2016 (30,450 cases), "Disputes" (7,898 cases) was the motive in the highest number of murder cases during 2017 followed by 'Personal vendetta or enmity' (4,660 cases) and 'Gain' (2,103 cases).

Majority cases under crimes against women out of the total IPC crimes against women were registered under 'Cruelty by Husband or His Relatives' (33.2 per cent) followed by 'Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty' (27.3 per cent), 'Kidnapping & Abduction of Women' (21.0 per cent) and 'Rape' (10.3 per cent). In percentage terms, major crime heads under 'Crime Against Children' during 2017 were kidnapping and abduction (42.0 per cent) and cases under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (25.3 per cent)

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'Need to control dust, waste burning to tackle air pollution'



In Ghazipur, Monday. Air quality is expected to deteriorate to 'very poor' from October 23. Prem Nath Pandey

SHIVAM PATEL
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

IN ORDER to keep a check on air pollution in the national capital, the two contributors that need to be controlled this year are dust emissions and waste burning, central environment secretary C K Mishra told *The Indian Express* Monday.

Mishra said that multiple central, state and local agencies were working together to control air pollution in the city, and that he has asked the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to levy fines whenever it records violations. He said meteorological con-

ditions, including wind speed direction and temperature, also determine the city's air quality.

"There are two things that we need to work on this year. One is the dust issue and the construction and demolition issue, because PM10 levels are high. Another thing we need to quickly and critically do is control small fires in industrial areas and waste burning," Mishra said.

On stubble burning, the environment secretary said it does have an impact on Delhi's air quality and that he is in touch with chief secretaries of Punjab and Haryana over the issue.

What causes Delhi's pollution has become a hotly contested

topic this season, with the ruling AAP government blaming pollution control bodies of understating the impact of crop burning.

Last week, the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), formulated by the Supreme Court-appointed Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA), was implemented in the capital to control deteriorating air quality.

The plan recommends that authorities control dust emissions by sprinkling water on roads and increasing frequency of mechanised sweeping when

air quality reaches the 'severe' level, and that waste burning be stopped when air quality is in the 'moderate' to 'poor' category.

Ever since the measure was enforced, local agencies have intensified action against activities that contribute to air pollution and imposed fines of lakhs.

North corporation officials said that between October 15 and 19, they issued 228 challans for garbage or biomass burning and collected around Rs 9.5 lakh in fines. For flouting construction emission norms, 229 challans were issued, with a fine of Rs

30.88 lakh. Around 3,500 metric tonnes of C&D waste has also been collected from unauthorised dumping locations in the past few days.

The South Corporation has been taking action since October 1, and had found 2,176 air pollution violations till Sunday. Fines of over Rs 53 lakh have been levied. In East Delhi, the local municipal corporation found 157 air pollution violations between October 15 and 19, issuing fines worth Rs 4.6 lakh.

"The environment department has had several rounds of

meetings on the issue of construction and road dust. DPCC teams are going around the city, imposing penalties for violations. Road-owning agencies have been directed to clear stretches with loose soil. MCDs have been directed to operate vacuum-cleaning machines to full capacity," a Delhi government official said.

Meanwhile, EPCA chairman Dr Bhure Lal wrote to the chief secretaries of Rajasthan and UP Monday, directing them to take action on the environmental violations he took note of during a visit to Bhiwadi and Meerut.

Bakery employee killed for denying polythene bag to customer: Police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

A 45-YEAR-OLD man died after a customer at his bakery shop allegedly hit him with a brick as he couldn't provide a polythene bag.

The incident took place in North East Delhi's Dayalpur on October 15. The victim, Mohd Khaleel, was rushed to GTB Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries on Sunday, said DCP (North East) Ved Prakash Surya. He added that the accused, Faizan (24), is absconding and an FIR has been registered under IPC Section 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) at Dayalpur police station.

As per the FIR, Khaleel's son Mohd Kasim (24) was at the bakery when the incident took place. The bakery is owned by their relative.

"Faizan came to the bakery around 10 am on October 15 to buy crispy rusk. He asked for a polythene to pack it but since polythene is banned, we didn't have any at the bakery," said Kasim.

A family member claimed Khaleel and Kasim had packed the rusk in a paper bag but Faizan insisted on a polythene bag. He said that when Faizan was told that there is no polythene at the bakery, he allegedly started hurling abuses at the father-son and created a ruckus.

"He threw all the rusk packets kept on the counter. My father and I went outside and Faizan followed us. He blocked our way, picked up a brick and hit my father on the face... he started bleeding," alleged Kasim. Police said that a passerby made a PCR call and rushed Khaleel to the hospital.

Man dupes 8 people of Rs 62 lakh, held

New Delhi: Police have arrested a 47-year-old man for allegedly running a fake placement agency and duping people on the pretext of providing them jobs in BHEL and the Railways. The accused, Parveen Shrivastava, was arrested from a hotel in Paharganj. He allegedly cheated eight persons of over Rs 62 lakh, said police.

Shrivastava would conduct fake entrance examinations in a hotel in Allahabad, said police. He demanded a fee of Rs 8 lakh from each candidate and would give them fake joining letters.

Police said they received a complaint on October 15 and a case was registered.

"We recovered a laptop, a pen drive, forged documents and visiting cards of officials from BHEL and Railways from the accused," said Jasmeet Singh, DCP (East). **ENS**

Chandigarh college alumni awarded

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GURGAON, OCTOBER 21

THE 5TH Delhi Chapter Alumni meet of the Post Graduate Government College, Chandigarh, saw several stalwarts at the Magnolias Club in Gurgaon, with some of them being awarded the Alumni's "Pride of India" award.

Vineet Nanda, who works with a real estate firm, received the award from MP and senior advocate of the Supreme Court, K T S Tulsi. Others who were felicitated included Arjuna awardee Gulshan Rai, and Sudhir Dhingra, founder of Orient Craft.

Speaking on the occasion, Dhingra emphasised on the need to "mentor" youngsters at the institution to help create a "brighter future". "People who have been taught in this institute should mentor students and share their experiences with them," said Dhingra.

Other stalwarts present at the event included A S Dulat, former chief of RAW; Raj Liberhan, former director at OHC; and several senior officers from the Armed Forces.

Adding a whiff of nostalgia to the gathering, Dulat said, "I have very fond memories of my college... I have learned a lot from my mentors. Not only that, I am very grateful that this institute has contributed to my personal space as well, because I found my life partner here."

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उपाध्यक्षा, दिल्ली संस्कृत अकादम्याः

कार्यक्रमः

22.10.2019	संस्कृत-गीत-लोकनृत्य-कार्यक्रमः	स्वर-तृष्णा, पुष्पांजलिः, श्री शुभम् आर्यः, श्री ऋषिराजपाठकः
23.10.2019	संस्कृते-संगीत-नृत्य-कार्यक्रमः	श्री आनन्द जोशी, श्री कुलदीप जोशी, महाविद्यालयानां छात्राः च
24.10.2019	पाशुपतविजयम् संस्कृतनाटकम्	निर्देशकः- श्री एम.बी. नागराजः

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ADVERTORIAL

IREE 2019

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IREE 2019—International Railway Equipment Exhibition, the only international exhibition and conference for the rail transportation sector in India—jointly presented by CII and the Indian Railways, is Asia's Premier Global event for this sector. With the participation of over 500 companies from 20 countries and 300-plus exhibition stands, IREE 2019 will be the largest rail transportation exhibition in this part of the world. IREE 2019 is the second largest complete event for the rail transportation sector in the world, covering 25,000 square metres of area. That around 50 new companies are participating in IREE 2019 is evidence of its importance as a not-to-miss event for this sector in India.

Keeping in mind the plan of the Indian Railways to manufacture Modern Coaches, IREE 2019 has given special focus to Interiors & Furnishing, with companies offering special products for this segment. IREE serves as the best platform for sector players to interact with stakeholders for future business opportunities in India, given the presence of a large number of officials from Indian Railways, the Metro & Light Rail Sector, the Global Business Community, and Media under one roof during the three-day event scheduled from Oc-



tober 22 to October 24, at Aerocity, New Delhi.

With Germany as the Focus Country at IREE 2019, the event will showcase the strength, capabilities, and latest innovations of the German Rail Transportation industry at an exclusive pavilion, with key players from Germany offering the best to the Indian Railways for its future needs.

The large companies from Japan, China, Europe, etc. that are participating in IREE and looking to establish operations in India, hold prospects for vendors and suppliers to the large manufacturers. IREE is the right forum to meet and discuss such opportunities. The Indian Railways (IR) is putting

up the largest-ever Pavilion (comprising Production Units, Regional & Zonal railways, Indian Railway PSUs and the National Railway Museum), showcasing the strengths and future requirements of IR. This provides the best opportunity for industry players to meet and interact with select officials of the Indian Railways and its Technical and R&D segments, to understand its future requirements and modalities for becoming vendors/suppliers to the Indian Railways.

The B2B Platform of IREE is a new value addition for all stakeholders, offering facilities to schedule business meetings in advance and enjoy the specially created B2B Lounge for conduct of formal meetings.

Gujarat CM inaugurates Plasser India's heavy rail machinery plant at Karjan in Vadodara

GUJARAT Chief Minister Vijay Rupani inaugurated the Plasser India heavy rail machinery state-of-the-art plant at Dethan village of Karjan taluka in Vadodara district on October 17, providing a boost to the Narendra Modi government's 'Make in India' policy and its goal of making India a \$5-trillion economy.

Speaking on the occasion, he stressed the need for alternative environmental-friendly surface transport systems, given that 20% of air pollution is caused by surface transport. While Vadodara is being developed as a railway hub with Bullet train, Railway University, Metro trains and coach manufacturing unit, he said that Plasser India's second plant in India would produce over 100 track-laying and other machinery annually. This should encourage more research and development in the railway sector.

He recalled that Khanderao Gaekwad had started the narrow gauge railway train pulled by bullocks in the erstwhile Baroda princely state in 1862. Gujarat is known for futuristic planning, a factor that has led to a surge of foreign direct investment in the state. Gujarat also has a 1,600-km coastline and has been developing seaports to boost trade.

Austrian Ambassador Brigitte Oppinger Walchshofer spoke of her country's contribution to the development of railways in India. She said the heavy rail machinery plant set up in Vadodara under 'Make in India' would offer 'Made in India', exporting machinery too.

Indian Railway Board Member (Engineering) Vishwesh Choube said that India has at present 950 track-laying machinery and has placed orders for 850 more such machinery, with the number likely to multiply in the coming years.

Those present on the occasion included MP Ranjanben Bhatt, MLA Akshay Patel, ex-MLA Satish Patel, Plasser India Chairman Max Theurer and Directors, District Collector Shalini Agrawal, DDO Kiran Zaveri, and District Police head Desai.

Established in 1965, Plasser India manufactures the most sophisticated and high performance machines for track maintenance. Following the principles of its parent company "Plasser & Theurer", Plasser India strictly adheres to a dynamic quality policy to deliver the most efficient and cost-effective machines to the Indian Railways. The machines for Indian Railways are tailor-made designs, offering the technology most suitable for local conditions.

Production in India ensures a high indigenous content, with a large number of Indian suppliers, thereby supporting the "Make in India" drive of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Machines and components are not



Vijay Rupani, Chief Minister of Gujarat, inaugurating Plasser India's manufacturing plant at Dethan in Vadodara district



Siegfried Fink, Managing Director, Plasser India

Plasser India Managing Director Siegfried Fink said he felt proud to be a partner in Gujarat's development story and to be able to contribute to the Make in India policy. He thanked the state and local authorities for facilitating land settlement and setting up of the facility in Vadodara

maintenance of railway tracks.

To deliver quality services, the company also provides after sales service, which includes supply and manufacture of OEM spare parts, as also fleet management support through its highly qualified and trained service engineers. This helps its customers to run the machines with the highest efficiency.

With the support of Plasser & Theurer, the largest manufacturer of track machines in the world, Plasser India is committed to writing together with all its customers new success stories in the coming years.

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7 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



MANY STRANDS

AS VOTING progressed in Maharashtra, Rajya Sabha MP and Congress leader Abhishek Singhvi surprised many in the party by tweeting about Vinayak Damodar Savarkar. He said that though he does not subscribe to Savarkar's ideology, the fact remains that he was an accomplished man who played a part in the freedom struggle, fought for Dalit rights and went to jail for the country. One gets to hear that senior Congress leader Ahmed Patel telephoned him as the tweet went viral. While some leaders said Patel asked Singhvi how he could tweet something like that on an election day, those close to Singhvi said Patel only asked Singhvi what he meant by his tweet. Singhvi followed up with another tweet hours later, which said "the strength of Indian thinking has been inclusive. Many strands of the freedom movement have existed — one cannot agree with the jingoism or violent elements of Savarkar's nationalism nor with his vicious anti-Gandhism but one can accept that he was imbued by nationalist motives".

MORE RESPONSIBILITY

YET ANOTHER roster duty has been added to BJP leaders' schedules. They had been given duty for Gandhi Sankalp Yatra (for the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi), Seva Saptah (for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday) and the campaign against single-use plastic among others. J P Nadda, working president of the BJP, is all set to prepare another roster for the spokespersons, who have to defend and promote the government in all debates, to be present at BJP headquarters. The leadership wants to ensure that at least one spokesperson is at the party office throughout the day.

MESSAGE FROM ABROAD

HEALTH MINISTER Dr Harsh Vardhan, it seems, has taken his Fit India cycling message all the way to Japan. The minister, currently in the Japanese city of Okayama to attend the G20 Okayama Health Ministers' Meeting, went on a cycling expedition in the city. He tweeted photos and wrote: "Japan is a great country for bicycle touring, with an increasing number of bike paths, or #cycling roads as they are known locally. The weather was splendid and it was fun to ride bikes humming old Hindi melodies." He was accompanied by officials from the Indian embassy and Additional Secretary Sanjeeva Kumar.



Voters outside a polling station at Antop Hill in Mumbai; outside a polling station in Gurgaon.



Tashi Tobgyal

Turnout dips in Maharashtra, Haryana

MAHARASHTRA

59% polling, down 5% from 2014

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, OCTOBER 21

AFTER A slow start, Maharashtra saw 59.08 per cent voting in the Assembly elections on Monday, lower than the 64-per cent polling recorded in 2014 Assembly polls.

Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Baldev Singh said this was the first time that the poll panel did not receive "a single missing voter complaint". "We were able to provide a mistake-free voters' list. It was due to the efforts taken by officials and involvement of the political parties during the revision of the voter list," Singh said.

At the BJP headquarters in Mumbai, there was a sense of disappointment at the below-expectation turnout in cities such as Nashik, Pune and Mumbai. But leaders were reluctant to say whether this would help them or hinder the party's "mission 145".

In keeping with tradition, there was a high turnout in the tribal belt across Vidarbha, north and west Maharashtra. Voting in constituencies with high Dalit population ranged between 50 and 68 per cent. Unlike in 2014, the Dalit and Dhangar factor did not dominate this election. Nagpur South West, CM Devendra Fadnis's constituency, polled 50.37 per cent, compared to 56.23 per cent in 2014. Kotrud, from where BJP state president Chandrakant Patil made his electoral debut, polled only 47.2 per cent, a sharp drop from 56.53 per cent.

Ally Shiv Sena's hopes are pinned on rural Marathwada. A Sena minister said that with Aaditya Thackeray making his electoral debut, anything short of 75 seats would be a "setback". What has ignited most anticipation is the fate of NCP in its base, western Maharashtra, with the Enforcement Directorate's case against party chief Sharad Pawar and nephew Ajit Pawar, and with Fadnis chipping away at NCP's Maratha base.

Baramati, the Pawar family stronghold being defended by Ajit Pawar, saw 70.09 per cent turnout, slightly lower than last time's 73.40 per cent. The polling percentage has not enthused Vanchit Bahujan Vikas Party leader Prakash Ambedkar, who fielded 288 candidates. "We have to analyse voting trend in each constituency to see how people were mobilised," he said.

CEO Singh said 361 complaints about malfunctioning of EVMs and VVPATs were received from political parties.

HARYANA

At 66%, lowest voting in 19 years

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 21

HARYANA RECORDED an estimated turnout of 65.67 per cent in the state Assembly polls on Monday, according to figures shared by the Election Commission till 11 pm. This is the lowest voter turnout in Haryana in the last 19 years. CM Manohar Lal Khattar's constituency, Karnal, recorded an estimated turnout of 49.3 per cent.

In the 2000 Assembly polls, the polling percentage in the state was 69 per cent, and it increased to 71.9 per cent in 2005 and further rose to 72.3 per cent in 2009. Haryana recorded 76.13 per cent in 2014 Assembly polls. The polling percentage in May 2019 Lok Sabha polls was 70.34 per cent.

Clashes were witnessed in Nuh, Rohtak and Kaithal districts and technical snags in the EVMs reported in Tohana, Uchana Kalan and Fatehabad. Although 13 FIRs were registered for various offences punishable under IPC and for violations of the poll code, officials maintained that polling that commenced at 7 am for 90 Assembly constituencies overall remained peaceful.

The constituency of Garhi Sampla-Kiloi, from where former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda is contesting, recorded an estimated 74 per cent polling. Out of the 20 constituencies that recorded highest polling percentage, eight are represented by BJP, including Sadhaura, Mullana, Narnaund, Tohana, Jagadhari, Ladwa, Guhla and Naraingarh; while six are represented by INLD including Hathin, Rania, Fatehabad, Julana, Uklana and Narwana, four are represented by Congress including Garhi

Sample-Kiloi, Meham, Tosham and Kaithal and one Uklana by an Independent candidate. JJP leader Dushyant Chautala Monday alleged that "bogus voting" took place at a booth in Dumerkha Kalan village in his constituency in connivance with a police officer. He said he had lodged a formal complaint with the Returning Officer over an alleged attempt to hurl a glass cup at him outside the polling booth. An incident of stone pelting took place at booth no. 17 in the evening in Kaithal from where Congress candidate Randeep Surjewala is facing a tough contest from BJP's Leela Ram Gurjar. Police had to cane charge to disperse the mob. The reason behind the clash was not known. CM M L Khattar travelled from Chandigarh to Karnal in Jan Shatabdi train and then rode a bicycle to Prem Nagar polling booth where he cast his vote.



Rain mars voting in Kerala, 93 pc turnout in Arunachal

51 ASSEMBLY BYPOLLS

UTTAR PRADESH (11 SEATS)
47.66% turnout
EVM snag reported in booth number 350 at Sallhipur in Pratappur. District Information Officer Vijay Kumar said the EVM was replaced.

GUJARAT (6 SEATS)
53.68% turnout

KERALA (5 SEATS)
66.3% turnout
Bypolls marred by heavy rains, especially in Emakulam, as voters waded through water-logged roads to exercise their franchise and water seeped into some booths. A woman was arrested in Manjeshwaram in Kasaragod for impersonation. She was later released on bail.

BIHAR (5 SEATS)
50.31% turnout
15 people were arrested as preventive measure — 12 in Siwan (Daraunda seat) and three in Banka (Belhar segment).

PUNJAB (4 SEATS)
66.45% turnout



At a polling station in Kerala's Ernakulam district. PTI

Congress's Phagwara nominee BS Dhalwal issued a show cause notice for allegedly wearing a scarf with party symbol while casting his vote. The polling staff deployed at the booth number 184 was replaced for "standing up" when Dhalwal entered, according to the Returning Officer.

ASSAM (4 SEATS)
75.69% turnout

HIMACHAL PRADESH (2)
68.55% turnout

2 LS BYPOLLS

SAMASTIPUR (BIHAR)
44.64% turnout
Ram Vilas Paswan's nephew Prince Raj (LJP) contesting against Ashok Ram (Congress)

SATARA (MAHARASHTRA)
60.75% turnout
Sitting MP Udayanraje Bhosale (BJP) contesting against Shrinivas Patil of the NCP

RAJASTHAN (2 SEATS)
65.95% turnout

TAMIL NADU (2 SEATS)
74.72% turnout
Congress MP H Vasanthakumar was arrested for alleged corrupt practices and staying in Nanguneri assembly constituency in the district in 'violation' of election rules during the bypoll. Police said a case was filed based on a complaint from the election of-

MADHYA PRADESH (1)
62.01% turnout
Jhaua Collector Prabal Sipaha said a VVPAT unit was changed at one booth due to some technical problem.

CHHATTISGARH (1 SEAT)

74.84% turnout

TELANGANA (1 SEAT)
84.75% turnout

ODISHA (1 SEAT)
78.96% turnout

SIKKIM (3 SEATS)
69.97% turnout
Sikkim CM in the fray in Poklok Kamrang constituency.

ARUNACHAL (1 SEAT)
92.94% turnout

MEGHALAYA (1 SEAT)
84.56% turnout

PUDUCHERRY (1 SEAT)
69.44% turnout

Police took into custody three people allegedly belonging to the Congress for distributing "tokens" to people near a polling station. Leaders of the AIADMK and AINRC staged a road roko urging the election authorities to take action against those who resorted to "luring" voters by allegedly distributing tokens en-cashable later. *Estimated turnout as per EC website (till 12 am)

Digvijaya suggests new system of counting votes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BHOPAL, OCTOBER 21

FORMER CHIEF minister and senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh on Monday suggested a new method to cast and count votes, terming his idea a "reliable system of VVPAT and ballot box". According to Singh, voters must get a printout of their voting preference once they press the button on the EVM, instead of the VVPAT machine showing the voting preference on screen for seven seconds. The voters can then put the printouts in a ballot box, the Congress leader said. He said if there is a mismatch between the numbers in the ballot unit and the counting unit, then all the votes in that constituency should be counted only through ballot boxes.

Singh said that the Election Commission is aware of technical glitches in the system but continues to be silent. The BJP claimed Singh had made it clear that his party was sensing defeat.

No stay on construction of Aarey metro shed: SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

THE SUPREME Court on Monday said there was no stay on the construction of the Metro car shed at Aarey Colony in Mumbai.

"We have made it clear that we are not staying the project," observed Justice Arun Mishra when Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Maharashtra and Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), pointed out that the October 7 order of the apex court only stayed further felling of trees in the land identified for the car shed.

The two-judge bench, also comprising Justice Deepak Gupta, asked Mehta to submit a report on the number of trees cut and apprise it whether the land was being used for any other purpose. "We want to know in black and white," the bench said.

The court said this when a counsel who moved the court against the Bombay High Court ruling in the matter expressed fears that more trees may be cut.

Both Mehta and Senior Advocates Mukul Rohatgi and Maninder Singh, appearing for the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation, denied that the land would be used for any purpose other than the car shed. "The plot is only for a metro shed," said Rohatgi. "What is cut is cut," added Mehta, stating that no more trees had been felled. "The plot is only for a metro shed," said Rohatgi. "What is cut is cut," added Mehta, stating that no more trees had been felled.

In the previous hearing, the court had asked Singh to inform it about the condition of trees planted as part of its afforestation drive two years ago. Singh replied that the trees were in a "healthy position". The court was not satisfied and asked him to produce photos of the trees and measurements of their girth and height.

The court directed that its October 7 order directing "status quo" with respect to "cutting of trees" will continue to operate and fixed November 15 as the next date of hearing.

How Bihar PSC cleaned its act: Codes, late choices

SANTOSH SINGH PATNA, OCTOBER 21

LONG WRESTLING with allegations of corruption and nepotism, the Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC) has introduced radical reforms over the past 18 months, the most important of them concealing the identity of a candidate through a code system. Public Service Commissions of at least seven states have approached the BPSC seeking to replicate the system, while others have expressed interest.

Recently, the BPSC held prelims for its 65th combined services exam for 2019 vacancies, thus putting on track a schedule that had been running behind by years. Under the new system, each candidate is allotted a code, which

is then placed on his/her answer-sheet instead of the roll number. The evaluation is done under CCTV surveillance, and an examiner cannot leave the premises till checking for the day is done. Even the BPSC Chairman and the Controller of Examination do not know the questions, and the former randomly selects a question set from among seven sets. The interviewers too receive only the code number of a candidate, with no details of his or her name and family details, nor are they allowed to ask any questions regarding this. The composition of the interview panel is decided just half an hour before an interview.

The BPSC, like the UPSC (Union Public Service Commission), now includes former diplomats, retired bureaucrats, and ex-IPS officers, including generals, CBI, CRPF and IB, RAW directors, as members. Its seven members, including the chairman, are selected by the Governor in consultation with state government. In the existing body, three members retired recently. BPSC Chairman Shishir Sinha said, "The commission had been witness to several protests and litigations. We needed a completely transparent system." In 2009, the Patna High Court had ordered rescheduling of the BPSC's 52nd prelims exam following a plea alleging anomalies. Earlier, in 2005, former BPSC chairman Ramsinghasan Singh and eight others had been arrested on the allegation that 184 candidates had been elevated to the Bihar Administrative Services. Sinha said their first challenge was to regularise examinations, using the same workforce and resources. Between April 2018 and October 2019, the BPSC released pending results of its 56th to 59th

combined services examinations, while simultaneously conducting examinations for 60th to 62nd lists and releasing the final results. Last week, it announced the final results of its 63rd examination, with a Madhya Pradesh resident emerging as the topper. The written test for the 64th exam has been conducted and the interview would be held in the coming two months, while the BPSC just held the prelims for the 65th exam.

"Earlier, the chairman decided the members of an interview panel. We introduced a software with names of the experts, and while we call all of them an hour before the interview, the names for the panel are picked by the software with half an hour to go. The panel gets a sealed envelope with codes of 10 candidates. This ensures that till the last moment, neither candidates nor panelists

nor any other staff of the commission knows who is interviewing whom," Sinha said, adding, "The printer alone knows the questions selected, and can be held responsible for a leak."

The BPSC's evaluation rooms and its entrance are monitored by 30-plus CCTV cameras, while the strongroom holding the answer sheets is now just next door, to minimise human involvement in transfer of papers. The rooms are being further fortified.

As it places its house in order, the BPSC has seen a change in the profile of applicants, with many of them graduates from IITs, NITs and BITS-Pilani, the BPSC said. Administrative services are now the first preference against police services earlier. Over 20,000 applicants were from Delhi alone for the 65th prelims. FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

Public Service Commissions of at least seven states have approached BPSC seeking to replicate the system, while others have expressed interest. Haryana and Odisha are among the seven states that are keen to replicate the BPSC reforms, and chairpersons of their PSCs recently visited Bihar. Earlier, a former chairman of Uttar Pradesh Service Commission had visited BPSC.

EXPLAINED **E**

Role model for other states

PUBLIC SERVICE Commissions of at least seven states have approached BPSC seeking to replicate the system, while others have expressed interest. Haryana and Odisha are among the seven states that are keen to replicate the BPSC reforms, and chairpersons of their PSCs recently visited Bihar. Earlier, a former chairman of Uttar Pradesh Service Commission had visited BPSC.

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Exhibition-cum Sale of Indian Handicrafts

Date: 19th to 23rd October 2019
Time: 10AM to 7 PM daily

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NORTH

Missing lawyer found dead, four held in Muzaffarnagar

Muzaffarnagar: Four men were arrested for allegedly killing a lawyer and burying his body in a jungle here, police said on Monday. The victim, Sameer Saffi, was missing since October 15. The accused—Singol Alwi, Arvaz, Dinesh and Rizwan—were arrested on Sunday, station house officer Anil Kapervan

said, adding that Saffi's body had been found. Alwi, a bird feed trader, confessed to have committed the crime with his accomplices as he had taken a loan of Rs 1 crore from the lawyer eight months ago and the deceased was pressuring him to return the amount, the SHO said. PTI



Artisans give final touches to earthen lamps ahead of Diwali in Jaipur on Monday. Rohit Jain Paras

EAST

Trying to save son, woman shot dead in clash in Bengal

Kolkata: A woman was killed while trying to save her son from a bullet fired at him during a clash between two groups at a village in Birbhum district on Monday, the police said. While the BJP claimed that the woman's family was its supporter and she was shot dead by TMC supporters, the ruling party denied the allegation and

claimed that the murder was fallout of a family dispute. "The woman, Shankari Bagdi, was hit in her chest and died on the spot during the violence at Haterandi village in Nanor. We haven't found any political connection," said police. Meanwhile, villagers claimed that the violence occurred between BJP and TMC supporters. ENS

WEST

Woman dies after 'getting trapped' in lift shaft in Mumbai

Mumbai: A 51-year-old woman died on Monday after allegedly getting trapped in the lift shaft between two floors of a residential building in south Mumbai. Police said that the incident took place at around 12.15 pm, when the woman, identified as Aarti Dharat Pardeshi, was trapped between the lift and the wall. Senior Police

Inspector Rajkumar Dongre from Cuffe Parade police station said, "She worked as a domestic help at a Lt Colonel's house. At the time of the incident, she was taking her employer's dog out for a walk... she got trapped between the lift and the wall. We are trying to ascertain as to how she got stuck as there was very little space." ENS

SOUTH

Boy struck by hammer during sports meet succumbs

Thiruvananthapuram: A student who was life support since October 4 after he was struck by a hammer during a sports meet in Kottayam succumbed to injuries on Monday. The victim Apheal Johnson, 17, was volunteering at the state junior athletic meet where he was struck by a hammer during an athletic competition. According to

the police, the freak accident occurred as the hammer throw and javelin throw events were happening next to each other in a common field. Apheal was struck by the hammer when he was going to collect a javelin. Indian athlete Anju Bobby George has demanded a comprehensive probe into the accident. ENS

KAMLESH TIWARI MURDER

Nagpur suspect gave passage to killers: ATS

VIVEK DESHPANDE
NAGPUR, OCTOBER 21

A DAY after the Maharashtra ATS arrested a man in connection with the murder of former working president of the Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha, Kamlesh Tiwari, a local court on Monday handed him over to the UP Police on transit remand.

The accused, Syed Asim Ali, 29, was allegedly involved in planning the murder and giving safe passage to the culprits, according to ATS officers. Tiwari was killed in Lucknow on Friday. Nagpur ATS chief Anil Lokhande said, "Ali is the national vice-president of an organisation called Sunni Youth Force and was city unit chief of a political front called Minorities Democratic Party. He was produced before a court here on Monday and handed over to UP Police on transit remand."

While Lokhande refused to give details of Ali's role in the murder, sources said he was allegedly "constantly in touch" with Tiwari's killers — from the stage of planning, to their escape. "He even helped them get shelter in Karnataka with his contacts there," a source said.

The source said, "Ali had distributed sticks to Muslim youths for self-protection against possible incidents of mob lynchings about two months ago. He used to run his own YouTube channel to connect with Muslim youths. In one video, he can be heard talking about incidents of mob lynching by cow vigilantes, calling organisations spearheading them (self-claimed vigilantes) as terrorist outfits and challenged them to 'touch' him..."

"Ali's interrogation has revealed that he played a very important role in the killing. His mobile phone call details and a probe of his various forms of communication have shown he was in touch with other accused in the case," PTI quoted Maharashtra ATS Deputy Commissioner of Police Vikram Deshmane as saying.

-WITHENS MUMBAI



Security personnel deployed outside Kamlesh Tiwari's office after his killing. Vishal Srivastava

Hot on the trail, police announce Rs 5 lakh reward for two suspects

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 21

THE UTTAR Pradesh Police Monday announced a reward of Rs 2.50 lakh for each of the two suspected killers of former working president of the Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha, Kamlesh Tiwari, who was murdered on October 18.

Police have identified the two suspects as Sheikh Ashfaq Hussain and Pathan Moinuddin Ahmed — both residents of Surat in Gujarat — according to the records of the hotel in Lalbagh area of Lucknow, in which they allegedly checked in on October 17. They left without informing the hotel staff, allegedly after killing Tiwari.

Sources in the police said teams of the Special Task Force (STF) constituted to probe the murder have been "trailing the duo with the help of clues that the suspects have left".

A senior police officer said the investigation has revealed that



Ashfaq Hussain and Moinuddin Ahmed

the suspects, after leaving the Lucknow hotel, took a UP Roadways bus from Kaiserbagh to reach Lakhimpur Kheri district, 130 km from the state capital. "From there, they hired a taxi for Shahjahanpur. The CCTV footage showed them walking towards the railway station. Their next location was traced to a hospital in Bareilly, where one of them got the dressing done on his injured hand," the officer said, adding that the two were last traced to Shahjahanpur.

On Sunday, police had said that a bloodstained knife, allegedly used to kill Tiwari, was recovered from the hotel room where the two stayed.

SC stays trial in Chhattisgarh sex CD case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

THE SUPREME Court on Monday stayed the trial in the sex CD case in which Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhopesh Baghel is accused.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and Justices S A Bobde and S Abdul Nazeer also issued a notice to Baghel on the agency's plea for transfer of the case out of Chhattisgarh.

The bench asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who appeared for the agency, why he

was seeking transfer of the case. Mehta replied that two witnesses had complained that they were being threatened. He added that one of the accused in the case had become the Chief Minister and his co-accused had become his political advisor.

The bench then asked whether the complaints had been brought on record of the court to which Mehta answered in the affirmative.

The controversial CD case dates back to 2017 when Baghel was state Congress Chief and Raman Singh of the BJP was Chief Minister in his third term.

In October 2017, Vinod Verma, a former BBC journalist who was then a consultant with the state Congress and is now Baghel's political advisor, was arrested for alleged extortion and the creation of a "fake sex CD" of then PWD minister Rajesh Munat. The case was then transferred to the CBI and Verma spent two months in jail. The charge of extortion was dropped in the chargesheet, with the Congress pointing out several loopholes in the police and the CBI versions.

A second FIR was registered based on a complaint by Munat, which accused Baghel, Verma and others of disseminating the "fake" CD. In September 2018, Baghel spent three days in jail after he refused to apply for bail.

In June 2018, the case took a new turn when Raipur businessman Rinku Khanuja, who was being questioned by the CBI allegedly committed suicide in his office. On Monday, Congress spokesperson R P Singh said, "We will put forth our case strongly in the Supreme Court and respect the apex court's decision."

(WITH INPUTS FROM DIPANKAR GHOSE IN CHHATTISGARH)

Tarun Tejpal trial: Defence lawyers start cross-examination of victim

Panjim: With the Bombay High Court dismissing former Tehelka editor-in-chief Tarun Tejpal's plea to delay the ongoing rape trial last week, his defence lawyers on Monday began cross-examining the victim.

Both the prosecution and the defence lawyers did not comment on the cross-examination,

though they confirmed the proceedings have started. According to sources, the cross-examination is expected to take as many as three days, after which, the prosecution will list their witnesses. Of the over 100 odd witnesses in the case, the prosecution has lined up 75 to be questioned. ENS

Parcel explodes at Hubbali station, one hurt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, OCTOBER 21

A FRUIT vendor at Hubbali railway station in Karnataka injured his hand after a parcel he was asked to open by the railway police on a platform exploded on Monday.

Hussain Sab, 35, was deployed by railway policemen to unwrap a pink bucket found lying on platform 1, when the minor explosion occurred. The parcel, addressed to Shiv Sena's sitting MLA from Radhanagri constituency in Kolhapur district of Maharashtra, contained small plastic boxes with suspected explosive material.

A cardboard sheet wrapped around the bucket had the MLA's address and the words "no BJP, no NSUI, only Shiv Sena" scribbled on the bottom. "We need to investigate whether the parcel was meant to be sent to the MLA," a police official said.

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED
e-Procurement Tender Notice
TSSPDCL intends to procure 1) 11KV LV VCBs with Differential Protection (ED Relays) (STN-545/19), 2) 11KV CTS of Ratio 800/300/1-1A.0 2S class accuracy (STN-546/19), 3) 11KV 3-Ph PTs with 50VA Burden, 0.2 class accuracy (STN-547/19) and 4) 11KV Lightning Arresters (Station Type) (STN-548/19) on e-procurement platform. For further details, please visit www.tssouthernpower.com and www.eprocurement.telangana.gov.in. Phone: 040-2343 1035, 1026, 1360.

NATIONAL FERTILIZERS LIMITED
(A Government of India undertaking)
CIN: L74899DL1974GOI007417
Registered Office: SCOPE Complex, Core-III, 7, Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003
Website: <http://www.nationalfertilizers.com>

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that in compliance with Regulation 47 read with Regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, a meeting of Board of Directors of National Fertilizers Limited is scheduled to be held at Noida (Uttar Pradesh) on **Tuesday, 05th November, 2019**, inter-alia to consider, approve and take on record the unaudited financial results of the company for the quarter and half-year ended **30th September, 2019**, after these results are reviewed by the Audit Committee of the Board. Pursuant to the SEBI (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations, 2015 as amended and the circular issued by National Stock Exchanges of India Ltd. Vide NSE/CML/2019/11 dated 02nd April, 2019, the trading window for dealing in the shares of the Company shall remain closed from **1st October, 2019** till 48 hours after the declaration of financial for the quarter and half-year ended **30.09.2019** i.e. **07th November, 2019** for Designated Persons, Designated Employees and their immediate relatives. The said Notice may be accessed on the Company's website www.nationalfertilizers.com and on the BSE/NSE website www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com respectively.

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

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Sr. No.	Name of the Post	Scale of Pay (in Rs.)	Basic Pay (in Rs.)	Age as on 30.09.2019	Total Post
1	Dy. General Manager (Legal), E-5 grade	78,800/- to 2,09,200/-	1,05,900/-	Not above 50 years	01 (UR)

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 / Marksheet / 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 07.11.2019 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.

EXPRESS Careers

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For further details and online application, please visit our website : <http://www.iucaa.in/Opportunities.html>

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Government of India Public Enterprises Selection Board
invites applications for the post of **Director (Technical)** in **South Eastern Coalfields Limited**

Last date of receipt of applications in PESB is by **15:00 hours on 24th December, 2019.**

For details login to website <http://www.pesb.gov.in>

SBI State Bank of India
CENTRAL RECRUITMENT & PROMOTION DEPARTMENT
CORPORATE CENTRE, MUMBAI, Phone: 022-2282 0427
Fax: 022-2282 0411, E-mail: crpd@sbi.co.in

Advertisement No. CRPD/SCO/2019-20/16
Recruitment of Specialist Cadre Officers in SBI on Regular/Contract Basis

Applications are invited from Indian citizens for following posts on Regular/Contract Basis.

Sr. No.	Post	Sr. No.	Post
1	Manager (Marketing-Real Estate & Housing)	9	Senior Special Executive (FEMA Compliance)
2	Manager (Builder Relations)	10	Executive (FI & MM)
3	Manager (Product Dev. & Research-REH)	11	Senior Executive (Social Banking & CSR)
4	Manager (Risk Mgmt-IBG)	12	Manager (Anytime Channels)
5	Manager (Credit Analyst-IBG)	13	Manager (Analyst-FI)
6	Senior Special Executive (Compliance)	14	Dy. Manager (Agri-Spl.)
7	Senior Executive-Financial Institution (Correspondent Relations)	15	Manager Analyst
8	Senior Special Executive (Strategy-TMG)	16	Senior Executive (Retail Banking)

Vacancies, Eligibility criteria (age, qualification & experience), Job Profile, KRA, requisite fees and other details are available under Advertisement No. CRPD/SCO/2019-20/16 on Bank's website <https://bank.sbi/careers> OR <https://www.sbi.co.in/careers> along with a link for online submission of application as well as online payment of application fee. Candidates are advised to go through the detailed advertisement ensuring their eligibility and other details before applying and remitting fees. Date for filing online application & payment of fees: **15.10.2019 to 06.11.2019.** For any query, please write to us through link "CONTACT US" -> "Post Your Query" which is available on Bank's website URL- <https://bank.sbi/careers> OR <https://sbi.co.in/careers>

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-III, DELHI. 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.

DELHI JAL BOARD GOVT OF N.C.T OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (NORTH)-I OVER HEAD TANK, MUKHERJI NAGAR, DELHI-110009. NIT No. 24 Item No. 1 (North-I) (2019-20)

Government of Jharkhand Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute Department of Schedule Tribe, Schedule Caste, Minorities, and Backward Classes Welfare Department Morabadi, Ranchi - 834008

Government of Jharkhand Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute Department of Schedule Tribe, Schedule Caste, Minorities, and Backward Classes Welfare Department Morabadi, Ranchi - 834008

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कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, खण्डवा (म.प्र.) 450001 (राजस्व विभाग) निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है, जलविद्युत कार्य को निविदा का विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाइट http://www.mptenders.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD E-TENDERING TENDER NOTICE E-Tender Notice No.: Br/JHS/2019-2020/16 Date: 16.10.2019

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT Tirunelveli (H) NABARD and Rural Roads Circle TENDER NOTICE

उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रान्समिशन कार्पोरेशन लिमिटेड ई-निविदा आमंत्रण एतद्वारा कर्तु एवं सेवा कर अधिनियम के अंतर्गत पंजीकृत फर्मों/आपूर्तिकर्ता, जो कि निविदा उपकरणों के निर्माता/अधिकृत चिकेता हों एवं विद्युत विभाग में आपूर्ति का अनुभव हो से, इस कार्यालय के द्वारा परीक्षण दक्षिण क्षेत्र के अंतर्गत विभिन्न उपकेन्द्रों हेतु आवश्यक उपकरण/सामग्री हेतु निम्नलिखित ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की गयी है

दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि., कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, हमीरपुर पत्रांक सं.- 434/वि.प्र.म.ह./ पी-1 (प्रकाशन)/ निविदा/ 2019-20 दिनांक:- 19.10.2019

दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि., कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, हमीरपुर पत्रांक सं.- 434/वि.प्र.म.ह./ पी-1 (प्रकाशन)/ निविदा/ 2019-20 दिनांक:- 19.10.2019

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Court takes cognizance of chargesheet

mer MPs, raised this issue, and FIPB officials gave their reply in which they said "Foreign investment, however, includes equity investment at par, as well as premium, which is regarded as the total FDI inflow" and "no approval was sought by the company and only their intention to make downstream investment was indicated".

The agency submitted that due to the above complications, Peter and Indrani Mukerjee met Karti at Hyatt Regency coffee shop in New Delhi, where Karti promised to sort out the issues and was paid a bribe of 9.9 lakh. "There were several emails which were exchanged between Chess Management Services Ltd, a company which Karti controlled, and INX Media after this meet. Karti's company prepared the replies to the I-T queries which were sent to INX Media, who used the replies in their letter to the FIPB," said the counsel for the investigating agency.

The CBI on Monday told the court that INX Media (P) Ltd had received excess investment to the tune of over Rs 200 crore and that there was also downstream investment made by INX Media (P) Ltd to INX News (P) Ltd without any approvals. The agency told the court that the I-T department, and several people including journalists and for-

mechanic held for killing ex-V-C Bengaluru: A mechanic, identified as the main assailant in the murder of a former vice-chancellor of Alliance University on the outskirts of Bengaluru, has been arrested.

Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam Ltd. A Government of Uttarakhand Undertaking 74/1, Rajpur Road, Dehradun-248001. INVITES REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FOR Revamping and Comprehensive AMC for chairlift & Ski Lift installed at Auli, Distt. Chamoli, Uttarakhand

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY NOTICE OF INVITING E-TENDER SR. DIMM-Jaipur, acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tender against Tender No. 51196108 closing Date 18.11.2019 at 14:25 hrs

INDIAN RAILWAY CATERING & TOURISM CORPORATION LTD (A Govt. of India Enterprise-Mini Ratan) CIN No. U74899DL1999G0101707 NOTICE INVITING OPEN E-TENDER

Government of Jharkhand Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute Department of Schedule Tribe, Schedule Caste, Minorities, and Backward Classes Welfare Department, Morabadi, Ranchi - 834008

KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION Civil Engineering Division, Bengaluru-27 No.KST:EE-02:BN:JE:450:2019-20 Dated: 21/10/2019 e-Procurement Tender Notification 26/2019-20

Government of India Central Water Commission Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation Ministry of Jal Shakti Invitation for Bid (IFB) (Two envelope e-procurement Bidding Process)

International Competitive Bidding (ICB) For North Eastern States of Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Sikkim

National Competitive Bidding (NCB) For Narmada Basin

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT Tirunelveli (H) NABARD AND RURAL ROADS CIRCLE TENDER NOTICE

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT Tirunelveli (H) NABARD and Rural Roads Circle TENDER NOTICE

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT Tirunelveli (H) NABARD and Rural Roads Circle TENDER NOTICE

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT Tirunelveli (H) NABARD and Rural Roads Circle TENDER NOTICE

CORRIGENDUM NO.-01 Due to administrative ground the Tender Notice No. KIR/Engg./49 of 2019; dated: 03-10-2019 (Tender No. 2 & 3) is hereby treated as CANCELLED.

Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam Ltd. A Government of Uttarakhand Undertaking 74/1, Rajpur Road, Dehradun-248001. INVITES REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FOR

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY NOTICE OF INVITING E-TENDER SR. DIMM-Jaipur, acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tender against Tender No. 51196108 closing Date 18.11.2019 at 14:25 hrs

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Government of Jharkhand Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute Department of Schedule Tribe, Schedule Caste, Minorities, and Backward Classes Welfare Department, Morabadi, Ranchi - 834008

Government of Jharkhand Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute Department of Schedule Tribe, Schedule Caste, Minorities, and Backward Classes Welfare Department, Morabadi, Ranchi - 834008

TELLING NUMBERS

IITs dominate India rankings, IIT-Bombay and IISc on top

ON TUESDAY, the QS Indian University Rankings were released — this is the second edition of the standalone rankings for India's higher education institutions. The rankings include public, private, higher education or deemed universities.

proportion of international students (2.5%), and the proportion of international faculty (2.5%). "Academic reputation," the indicator with the highest weight, was based on QS's major global survey of academics who are asked to identify top-ranking institutes in their fields of expertise.

QS INDIA RANKINGS: THE TOP 10

Table with 3 columns: Institution Name, 2019, 2020. Lists top 10 IITs and other institutions.

THIS WORD MEANS

SKIN-ON INTERFACE

Touch technology aims for next level of interaction RESEARCHERS FROM the University of Bristol in partnership with Telecom ParisTech and the Sorbonne University in France have developed a skin-on interface that mimics the appearance of human skin and its ability to sense.

GS SCORE An Institute for Civil Services www.iasscore.in

SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

Brexit: New deal and old jam

The UK is days away from its scheduled Oct 31 exit from the EU. But there are still too many balls up in the air; the road ahead still unknown. PM Johnson got a deal from Europe, but has been thwarted by UK MPs.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

LATE ON Monday evening India time, the Speaker of the House of Commons of the United Kingdom, John Bercow, refused to allow a second vote on Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Brexit deal with the European Union (EU), denying him another shot at persuading MPs who had defeated a similar motion on Saturday.



Anti-Brexit protesters outside Parliament in London on Monday. Reuters

The passage of this amendment triggered the so-called Benn Act, a law that Parliament passed last month. The Benn Act made it incumbent upon the PM to ask the EU for an extension of the Brexit deadline until January 31, 2020 in case MPs failed to approve in a "meaningful vote" by October 19, either the deal or leaving the EU without a deal.

How has the EU reacted?

The EU has accepted the first letter as valid, and Tusk is consulting with EU states on the way to respond to the request. On Monday, Peter Altmaier, Minister for Economic Affairs of Germany, the most powerful of EU states, said that in his view, "it goes without saying" that the extension should be given so that the UK has time to explore all options before it, including "new elections or a new referendum".

What will happen now?

The legislative process on the WAB will begin immediately. If the bill passes with no major amendments by October 31, the UK will have a Brexit with a deal — this is what Johnson wants. If it passes with no major amendments after October 31, there will still be a Brexit with a deal, but with a delay.

What was Boris Johnson's new deal?

Late Thursday (October 17) evening, the UK and EU reached an agreement over a new version of the Brexit deal, which replaced the contentious "Irish backstop" plan in May's deal with new arrangements that would prevent the return of the 'hard' border between Northern Ireland (which is a chunk of UK territory in the northeast of the island of Ireland) and the Republic of Ireland (or simply Ireland, which is a separate country comprising the rest of the island, and which remains a member of the EU).

It was agreed that as the UK leaves the EU Customs Union, a legal Customs border would exist between Northern Ireland and Ireland, but the actual Customs border would be between Great Britain and the island of

Ireland — and that goods would be checked at the "points of entry" in Northern Ireland.

At the points of entry, duty will be payable on only those goods flowing into Northern Ireland from Great Britain, which are "at risk" of being sent onward into Ireland, which is part of the EU Customs Union. The list of these "at risk" goods will be drawn up by a joint UK-EU panel.

On regulation of goods, Northern Ireland will follow rules of the EU single market. There will, thus, be no need for standards and safety checks at the Ireland-Northern Ireland border, both sides of which will be under an "all-island regulatory zone".

The EU law on Value-Added Tax will apply in Northern Ireland on goods, but not services. Northern Ireland can have VAT rates different from those in the rest of the UK — which means it may have the same rates as in Ireland, so that neither side has an unfair advantage.

The rules will be enforced by the UK at points of entry into Northern Ireland, but EU officials will be present, and be able to inter-

vene. The deal gives the Northern Ireland Assembly a say in Customs and other EU-related matters — but it will not be able to exercise this vote until four years after the transition period ends in December 2020 (that is, until January 2025) and, in case it rejects these provisions, they would still be in force for another two years.

The transition period (during which current rules will apply as the UK and EU negotiate their future relationship) was until the end of 2020 in May's deal as well. It can be extended by one or two years if both parties agree. UK citizens in EU, and vice versa, will retain their rights of residency and social security post-Brexit. UK and EU nationals will be able to live and work on either side, and continue to move freely during the transition period.

How did MPs react to Johnson's deal?

On October 19, the House of Commons cleared an amendment which said that even if MPs supported the Brexit deal, it would not have effect until Parliament passed legislation — the WAB — to implement it.

FACT CHECK, GROUND REALITY

Why Australian dailies 'censored' front pages

ON MONDAY, Australian newspaper readers had an unexpected experience — no matter which paper they picked up, the front page carried text that was blacked out — as if it had been redacted by the government. The decision to "cancel" the front page was carried out by a media coalition across print, TV, radio and online portals, called the "Right to Know" and saw rivals such as News Corp Australia (which publishes The Australian and The Daily Telegraph) and Nine Entertainment Co. (which publishes The Sydney Morning Herald and The Age) join forces.

tigative journalism but also criminalised it. In June federal police raided the home of Annika Smethurst, a News Corp Australia journalist, who was investigating a plan that allowed the government to spy on Australians.

A central demand of the Right to Know coalition is that the government exempts journalists and whistleblowers from a counter-espionage law that was introduced last year. Without the exemption, journalists contend, it won't be able to report on sensitive information. ABC managing director David Anderson said Australia was at risk of becoming "the world's most secretive democracy".

No exceptions, says the govt

While underscoring the importance of press freedom, Prime Minister Scott Morrison has said that the "rule of law" cannot have exceptions for any journalist.



The campaign on the front pages of major dailies Monday. AAP via Reuters

Restriction of media freedom

The move was in response to the progressive hardening of national security laws over the past two decades by successive governments that have not only undermined inves-

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

As Diwali approaches, where do cleaner 'green crackers' stand?

SHIVAM PATEL NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

WITH LESS than a week left for Diwali, there is no clarity on the types of firecrackers that individuals and families conscious of reducing their pollution footprint should buy. Air quality, especially in North India, meanwhile continues to get steadily worse.

In October 2018, the Supreme Court had ruled that only "green firecrackers" having low emission and permissible sound limits were to be sold and used. It had also fixed a timeslot for fireworks — between 8 pm and 10 pm on Diwali, and between 11.45 pm and 12.30 am on Christmas Eve and New Year.

This decision followed a complete ban on the sale of firecrackers in Delhi by the Supreme Court in November 2016 after the national capital witnessed a severe episode of smog, described by the Centre for Science and Environment as the worst in 17 years.

This year, on October 5, in a bid to combat air pollution, the Union Ministry of Science and Technology launched environment-friendly firecrackers developed by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) laboratories.

What are 'green crackers'?

CSIR-NEERI (CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute) states that it has been working since January 2018 to develop new and improved formulations for reducing emissions from fireworks.

"CSIR-NEERI developed new formulations for reduced emission light and sound emitting crackers (SWAS, SAFAL, STAR) with 30% reduction in particulate matter using Potassium Nitrate (KNO3) as oxidant".

In other words, the "green firecrackers" are supposed to have a changed composition of chemicals, and emit 30% less particulate matter when burned as compared to traditional firecrackers.

What is particulate matter?

Particulate matter is a mixture of solid particles and liquid droplets suspended in the air. These include PM10, which are particles with a diameter equal to or less than 10 micrometres, and PM2.5 that are of diameter equal to or less than 2.5 micrometres.

Numerous studies have linked particulate pollution exposure to many health problems, including premature death in people with heart or lung diseases. They can also settle on ground or water and, depending upon their chemical composition, may



Green firecrackers on sale near Jama Masjid in Delhi last week. Shivam Patel

have an adverse impact on them.

Could conventional crackers have been tweaked to obtain similar results?

They could, and they have been modified. Apart from 'green crackers', there are other formulations based on new oxidisers,

fuel and additives — singly or in combination — which have managed to reduce PM10 and PM2.5 emissions by more than 50%. These are being tested at present, and are showing encouraging results.

Other than these new formulations, CSIR-NEERI also teamed up with fireworks

manufacturers and "examined and assessed the possibilities of improvements in conventional formulations based on barium nitrate to meet the stipulated norms of green crackers". This effort too has produced some results. For instance, there is a light-emitting cracker that has partially substituted barium nitrate with potassium nitrate and strontium nitrate.

How do 'green crackers' work?

Dr Sadhana Rayalu, chief scientist and head of NEERI's Environment Materials Division (EMD), said the firecrackers use a proprietary additive that acts as a dust suppressant. She added, "The usage of chemicals is less in green crackers. The total quantity is being maintained by using CSIR proprietary additive... which on fragmentation releases dust suppressants."

Some of the 'green crackers' have also replaced barium nitrate as an oxidiser for combustion. Barium nitrate hurts health when inhaled, causing irritation in the nose, throat and lungs. High exposure to barium nitrate can also cause nausea and irregular heartbeat.

Among the new firecrackers developed are environment-friendly versions of traditional *anar*, *chakri*, sparklers, and other light-sound emitting firecrackers.

According to NEERI, these exploit the exothermic heat of materials such as zeolite, clay and silica gel for burning, and also match the performance of commercial firecrackers in terms of sound.

How can a 'green cracker' be identified?

Union Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan has said a Quick Response (QR) code will be put on the firecrackers to differentiate them from conventional ones. He has also said the cost of these firecrackers would be the same as conventional ones, and that they are already available in the market.

How are 'green crackers' produced?

Under the current framework, the composition of firecrackers is disclosed to manufacturers after signing of a Memorandum of Understanding and a non-disclosure agreement. Following this, manufacturers have to apply to the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) for authorisation.

The samples thus produced are submitted to CSIR for emission testing. Nearly 165 fireworks manufacturers had been roped in for production, and around 65 more were in the process of coming on board as of October 5.



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

SCAPEGOAT HAJELA

Trouble with NRC lies in its flawed vision. Now, Supreme Court must guard against its capture by political interests

THE UPDATING OF the National Register of Citizens (NRC), monitored by the Supreme Court over the last six years, has been a politically fraught exercise. The final list, published on August 31, turned out to be contentious and several political groups, especially the BJP, which heads the government in Assam, criticised it as erroneous. The bureaucrat who spearheaded the exercise, Prateek Hajela, has ended up as the main target of all those who have found the NRC unacceptable. With BJP leaders in Assam targeting him, Hajela sought a transfer out of Assam and the Supreme Court, which appointed him as NRC coordinator, has agreed to his plea. This turn of events only reconfirms the view that the NRC has been a flawed exercise from the beginning. But the flaw lies not in its execution, but in the absurd idea that the state could walk back in time and identify "foreigners" from a population of nearly 3.5 crore.

Evidently, Hajela's "crime" is that he didn't deliver the NRC the BJP as well as various Assamese groups had imagined. The final NRC excluded 19 lakh people, whereas political groups had expected a much higher figure. The list also busted the many beliefs political and social groups held about migration into Assam — the distribution of the "excluded people", their religious identity, seem to be at variance with popular assumptions and spectres. Many have also been left out of the list for want of documents, which is not surprising since the culture of maintaining documents connected to citizenship is relatively new to many Indians. The BJP has promised to amend the Citizenship Act and make Hindus excluded from the NRC eligible for citizenship, a promise unacceptable to many Assamese groups that have refused to read religion into the migration debate. Given the complexity of the problem, no bureaucracy could have delivered a fool-proof or a universally acceptable NRC. The vision behind the NRC rejects the reality that societies are a product of migrations, triggered by political, geographical and economic reasons. Politicians who fan fears around the spectre of migrant populations subsuming indigenous cultures, and claim that there are bureaucratic solutions to reverse migration, are being blind to historical processes.

The onus is now on the SC to keep the NRC insulated from political pressures. The action will soon shift to the Foreigners' Tribunals, which are expected to rule on the claims of the 19 lakh people left out of the NRC. The apex court needs to look at the constitution and functioning of these tribunals and ensure that they are free and fair. The state must also start to think about the future of the large number of people who are likely to be rendered stateless once the appeal process is completed.

NO YES AND NO

As Brexit drama drags on, its central contradiction remains — between a referendum and Westminster system

THERE IS A phrase among television critics in the US, "jumping the shark", that refers to a TV show becoming boring for audiences as it drags on, long after the fundamental conflict that moves the plot forward has become stale. By the time Britain's Conservative prime minister, Boris Johnson, tried to force through parliament a hurriedly negotiated deal with the European Union, the Brexit drama had long since jumped the shark for many. But UK's legislators did not buckle under pressure of the looming October 31 deadline and the prospect of an economically-catastrophic "no-deal Brexit". Instead, a section of MPs cutting across party lines passed an amendment withholding support for Johnson's deal. The amendment is also a tactic to force the PM to request another extension from the EU. For his part, Johnson has said he will not request an extension and will push for a vote on his deal.

At the core of Johnson's bravado lies the belief — not unfounded — that he is fulfilling the will of the British people. The referendum in 2016 was a vote for Brexit and it is armed with this expression of the will of the people that pro-exit leaders make their stand. Yet, it is becoming increasingly clear that other, equally salient aspects of the Westminster system are fighting back. Issues like the Irish back-stop, as well as the stand taken by Scottish MPs and parties, have brought to the fore the challenges of balancing the claims of the UK's federal units vis a vis the commitment to Brexit. Second, the 48 per cent of Britons who chose to stay with the EU have stood against the referendum. Finally, the British Parliament, it has become clear over the last few weeks, will not sacrifice the economic future of the country at the altar of political expediency without a fight.

What the nearly four-year-long tussle over Brexit has really made clear is that the referendum is not an adequate tool for the determination of complex issues. A "yes/no" binary cannot form the backbone of a decision with as many facets as this. Yet, once such an opinion is sought, it is only through a second referendum that the mandate can be comprehensively overturned. Johnson, for example, has kept to the letter of the law by acquiescing to parliament and asking the EU for an extension. He has also kept to his commitment to the "yes" vote by writing a second letter saying he does not favour an extension. The Brexit drama may seem interminable. But its central contradiction remains.

FOG OF SECRECY

As governments turn increasingly opaque, the value of whistleblowers rises, and the need to protect them

IN A CLOSING of ranks not seen before, except in the US, Australian newspapers published redacted front pages on Monday, protesting curbs on the press in the name of national security. The Right to Know campaign has drawn competing publications together to protest the impact of national security laws on press freedoms, and on the whistleblowers who bring in the bad news. Concern among journalists mounted following two police raids in June. The headquarters of ABC were raided over stories alleging war crimes committed in Afghanistan by Australian special forces, while a former military lawyer was committed to trial. The home of a News Corp political journalist was also searched, and a raid on News Corp offices contemplated.

As governments become more opaque and intrusive at the same time, intensifying information asymmetry in politics, whistleblowers and digital activists like Edward Snowden, Chelsea Manning, Julian Assange and Christopher Wylie have become crucial sources of insight about the intent of governments, and of liberties taken in the lee of security laws. Some of them may have personal motives, but that is a secondary consideration in comparison to the value of their efforts to the public interest.

The Australian government has reacted positively, with the home minister instructing police to consider the importance of a free press and the public interest before proceeding against the media. But there appears to be reluctance in government to treat the journalists' broader demands favourably. They seek the right to contest search warrants, new rules for determining what the government can stamp as secret, reform in the law of defamation and freedom of information, the protection of journalists from national security laws and, most importantly, whistleblower protection. It is unlikely that the fog of secrecy, which governments have revelled in since the colonial era, will be readily dispelled.



TAHIR MAHMOOD

"NO LORD BUT Jesus Christ. There is only one true God. Forgive us, Father, for allowing a prayer which is an abomination in your right." This is what a group of fanatics had shouted in the United States Senate, protesting against the recitation of a classical Indian prayer at the beginning of a session in July 2007. Their deplorable behaviour was later justified by some others on the grounds that "One nation under God" in the US National Pledge referred to the God of "monotheistic" Christian faith and the non-Christian prayer recited in the senate belonged to a "polytheistic" creed. The US media approached people from different walks of life seeking their reaction and the majority of respondents disapproved of the incident.

I happened to be in the US and was invited by *Voice of America* to participate in a debate on the incident. The so-called "polytheistic" prayer objected to was a Vedic hymn — *Asato ma sadgamayam tamaso ma jyotirgamaya, mmrityoma amritam gamaya*. Translating it into English as "lead us from the unreal to the real, from darkness to light, from death to immortality", I asked my co-debaters "what is polytheistic in it?" No one had an answer. "If the Christian trinity of Father, Son and Holy Ghost does not make Christianity a polytheistic faith, how can the Indian trinity of Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh be seen as a symbol of polytheism?" I further asked. Again, there was no answer.

Twelve years after defending an Indian prayer on a foreign land, I am confronted with a similar incident in our country. The headmaster of a school in district Pilibhit of Uttar Pradesh allowed his students to sing a traditional Urdu prayer in their morning assembly. A local religious functionary complained to the district administration that the headmaster had deliberately arranged the singing of a "religious" prayer in the school, and the administration lost no time in suspending him with immediate effect, without seeking any clarification from him.

I was flabbergasted to read the media story on the bizarre incident. Look at the

Does a prayer become objectionable because it is in Urdu, because God is invoked as Khuda and Allah?

Twelve years after defending an Indian prayer on a foreign land, I am confronted with a similar incident in our country. The headmaster of a school in district Pilibhit of Uttar Pradesh allowed his students to sing a traditional Urdu prayer in their morning assembly. A local religious functionary complained to the district administration that the headmaster had deliberately arranged the singing of a 'religious' prayer in the school, and the administration lost no time in suspending him with immediate effect, without seeking any clarification from him. I was flabbergasted to read the media story on the bizarre incident.

wording of the "religious" prayer complained about: *Lab pe aati hai dua ban ke tamanna meri, / zindagi shama ki surat ho khudaya meri / Door duniya ka mere dam se andhera ho jaye, har jagah meri chamakne se ujala ho jaye / Ho mere dam se yun hi mere watan ki zinat, / jis tarah phool se hoti hai chaman ki zinat / Zindagi ho meri parwane ki surat yarab, / ilm ki shama se ho mujhko mohabbat yarab / Ho mera kam gharibon ki himayet karna, / dardmandon se zaeifon se mohabbat karna / Mere allah burai se bachana mujhko, / nek jo ah ho usi rah pe chalana mujhko. (To the lips comes my wish turned into prayer, be my life O God like a candle. May the darkness of the world be eliminated by my efforts, be every place illuminated by my light. May I so adorn my homeland as flowers adorn a garden. Be my life like a moth, God, may I love the candle of learning. Let my mission be helping the poor, loving the sufferers and the elderly. Save me from evil, O God, lead me to the path that's virtuous).*

So what is "religious" in this beautiful prayer? Does it become "religious" only because its language is Urdu, or because God is invoked in it by His Urdu names, Khuda and Allah? Notably, this poem was composed by the renowned poet-reformer Mohammad Iqbal whose Urdu poem, "*Saare jahan se achha Hindostan hamara*" (better than the whole world is our India", is still sung as one of our national songs. Iqbal's prayer is indeed as patriotic as that national song. It was sung in the morning assemblies in schools all over North India before Independence and until many years thereafter. It was abandoned when in the 1950s, Urdu medium in schools was replaced with Hindi. The National Military College in Dehradun, which had also adopted it before 1947, gave it up long after the advent of Independence.

I may mention here that conspicuously religious hymns and songs are sung now in the morning assemblies of schools and colleges all over the country. These are joined by students of all communities and nobody

has ever objected to the practice. I had begun my career in 1963 with teaching in the famous Tilak Dhari Singh College of Jaunpur, which had a sizeable number of Muslim teachers and students. In the morning, every day, a religious song, "Jairaghandan Jaisiyaram", was sung by a group of students on the college's public address system and everybody used to respectfully stand up in silence; nobody had any problem with it.

To the best of my knowledge and belief, invoking God in school and college songs, in any language, does not violate any law of the country. Article 28 of the Constitution regulates "attendance at religious instruction or religious worship" in educational institutions; its provision cannot be stretched so as to apply it to the practice of singing religion-oriented songs in school assemblies. The language of such songs is immaterial as linguistic pluralism is well-recognised by the Constitution. All citizens have a fundamental right to "conserve" their distinct language (Article 29); and all states can "by law adopt any one or more of the languages in use in the state" as their official language (Article 345). The list of Indian languages in Schedule VIII of the Constitution — which as per Article 351 the state is mandated to take into account for developing Hindi "so that it may serve as a medium of expression for all the elements of the composite culture of India" — includes Urdu.

According to reports, the suspension of the school headmaster in the UP school has been "temporarily revoked" and, pending inquiry, he has been transferred to another school. I fail to understand what is being inquired into. In view of Urdu being widely understood and spoken in the country, does it really need a prolonged inquiry to discover that the Urdu prayer, for allowing which the poor teacher is facing punishment, is conspicuously non-religious?

The writer is former chair of National Minorities Commission & member, Law Commission of India

WHEN VISUALS SPEAK

Vetri Maaran's 'Asuran' shows the power of images to go where words cannot



KUNAL RAY

I AM AN admirer of Vetri Maaran's films. *Asuran*, which is currently playing in theatres, was eagerly awaited after the widely-acclaimed *Vada Chennai*. Though the censor certificate before the screening at a multiplex in Pune promised English subtitles, there were none when the film started playing. It was a full house and I was perhaps the only non-Tamil speaker in the audience. The absence of subtitles didn't seem to matter to anyone else, who were by then busy hooting and cheering when superstar Dhanush's name appeared in the opening credits. It was a relief to witness non-homogeneous multiplex audience behaviour.

The theatre manager said that the absence of subtitles couldn't be helped owing to a technical glitch. Nursing my initial disappointment, I sought solace in the company of my friend who generously offered to translate the dialogues or important bits of conversation in the film. The film began and the stark happenings on screen had consumed us immediately. Inability to understand the dialogue didn't hinder my comprehension of the plot. I later realised that suffering and oppression (which are at the core of the film) are not constrained by narrow considerations of language. Or, to put it another way, can language adequately convey human suffering and oppression? Does such a language exist?

Cinema is a visual art. Visuals construct their own language and serve the purpose of communication. Cinema exploits silence

to further reveal the unsaid. Could mere words ever compensate or capture the visual intensity of a Andrei Tarkovsky or Mani Kaul or Yasujiro Ozu? Gurvinder Singh's *Chauthi Koot* pulsates with a feeling of impending violence without actually showing any violent scenes but the sense of uncertainty and gloom pervades entirely through an array of associated visuals which work as metaphors. Girish Kasaravalli's *Dweepa* or Raam Reddy's *Thithi* don't rely on language at all. It is a defiance of the spoken in favour of the reflective.

Asuran deals with caste oppression and social injustice. It features several moments of caste-based killings and humiliation such as family members wailing over a decomposed, mutilated body of one of their own, a Dalit woman being thrashed in public for daring to wear a slipper to school, the central character prostrating in front of every single upper-caste house in the village pleading forgiveness for his son, separate seating for the lower castes at the film theatre in the village, amongst several others. I wonder what kind of dialogue would suffice to express this humiliation? Does language even matter in such instances? Would I understand this better with the aid of subtitles?

The visuals convey a searing reality that is most potent and penetrative. In such a case, language or dialogue is perhaps a shortcoming in itself. Encountering the visuals in the absence of a language aid further helped in the construction of the real, as

opposed to the real being mediated only through dialogues. In fact, it is a film that will be remembered for its visuals — the dry terrain, the jungle which is used for hiding, the hut in which the protagonist lives with his family, the village square — all shot in real locations, making the film viewing more experiential and immersive. Why are these visuals important? To see is to believe. Visuals are a reaffirmation of what we know but perhaps may not have encountered personally. They bear witness and offer documentary evidence of our collective apathy. Words often help to capture the immediate reality but visuals transcend such boundaries.

Asuran charts the story of Sivasami (Dhanush), a Dalit farmer and his family who are entangled in a caste war in rural Tamil Nadu triggered by ownership of land. Violence leads to more violence in the film. Most importantly, Sivasami is able to avenge the injustice without any messiah-like intervention by an upper-caste evangelist. He makes his own choices and suffers for the same. It is not a film proclaiming end of misery or even creating a false sense of victory. Vetri Maaran offers no easy solutions. He accosts you with images that make you squirm about your inhumanity. At the end of the film, Sivasami advises his son to fight injustice through education. The subtitles still didn't play but the visuals said it all.

The writer teaches literary & cultural studies at FLAME University, Pune



OCTOBER 22, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO

BAHUGUNA VS PM
FORMER FINANCE MINISTER H N Bahuguna accused Prime Minister Charan Singh of having acted "arbitrarily" in seeking his resignation from the Cabinet. But he sent in the resignation letter as asked by the PM since he did not want to make an issue of it. The CPD leader said he would decide his future course after his party's convention on Thursday.

CHAOS IN MANIPUR
THE DISMISSAL OF the Shaiza ministry, dissolution of the state assembly and imposition of President's rule in Manipur is on the cards. The deteriorating law and order situation, complaints of rampant corruption

against some members of the Shaiza government and the fear that the forthcoming Lok Sabha polls under the existing government may not be peaceful have compelled the home ministry to consider President's rule.

EQUAL TREATMENT
PAKISTAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS adviser, Agha Shahi, insisted before American lawmakers in Washington on equating Pakistan and India on the nuclear issue. It is an insistence that suits present US policy aimed at bringing all Indian nuclear facilities under fullscope safeguards, even to fulfill the existing contracts. Shahi said that Pakistan was willing to place all its nuclear facilities under

international safeguards and inspection only if India did the same.

NO RSS SUPPORT
YADAV RAO JOSHI, all-India chief organiser of the RSS, said that the Sangh would not support any political party in the coming general election. Joshi said that during the 1977 election, the RSS had compelling reasons to enter the election fray because basic rights of the people had been taken away during the Emergency. He described as motivated the propaganda that the RSS was against Christians or Muslims and that it was behind the communal clashes at Jamshedpur or Aligarh.

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The (Brexit) deal, as it stands, paves the way to ripping up much of this country's economic settlement and replacing it with a free-market vision more radical than anything attempted by Margaret Thatcher." — THE GUARDIAN

Future tense

Climate change and nuclear conflict between India, Pakistan are real dangers. They need to be addressed



KARAN SINGH

WHEN I MEET any of my six grandchildren, I often wonder what India will be like when they reach my age, which will be around the end of the century...



CR Sasikumar

could end in a nuclear exchange is very real. With regard to bilateral talks with Pakistan, again, the key lies with terrorist groups, because we have taken the stand that we will not talk as long as terrorism continues...

I am horrified at the casual manner in which some of our politicians, television anchors and "defence experts" dismiss the possibility of a nuclear conflict. Do they have the faintest idea of the sort of havoc that would be caused within the first hour of a nuclear exchange?

Since the recent dramatic changes in Jammu & Kashmir, Imran Khan has in every speech ended up by more or less threatening a nuclear war. We may dismiss this as bluster, but he is the duly elected prime minister of a country with nuclear bombs...

The only way to avoid this is for the Pakistan government or the so-called "deep state" to make absolutely sure that there will not be a major terrorist attack on India from Pakistani soil. This, they should do in their own interest as well as in the interest of India.

There are two alternative scenarios for the future of humanity. The European philosopher Arthur Koestler held that our race is programmed for self-destruction because of an engineering defect in the human cortex...

The writer is a former Union minister

A more equal friendship

India must recast relations with Nepal on basis of geographic and cultural interdependence, sovereign equality and mutual benefit



RAJA MANDALA

BY C RAJA MOHAN

PRESIDENT XI JINPING'S recent visit to Kathmandu has helped focus on the changing dynamic between India, China and Nepal. One of the central themes in the new discourse is the alleged loss of Indian "hegemony" over Nepal.

Lodged between Tibet and the Gangetic plain, Nepal has close civilisational ties with both China and India. Its geopolitics, too, were shaped by both the neighbours.

Balancing between Tibet and the Qing empire in the north and British Raj in the south was very much part of modern Nepal's political evolution. It was only with the weakening of the Qing and the rise of the Raj from the mid-19th century that set the stage for southern dominance over Nepal.

When the People's Republic of China gained control of Tibet in 1950, Nepal's monarchy that was frightened by the communist threat turned to Jawaharlal Nehru for protection. Delhi and Kathmandu revived the 19th century security arrangements of the British Raj in a 1950 Treaty of Friendship.

To cut this long and complicated story short, Delhi has struggled since the middle of the 20th century to sustain the primacy in Nepal it had inherited from the Raj. The emergence of a strong state north of the Himalayas tested India's claim for an exclusive sphere of influence in Nepal.

India's failure was not in an over-reliance on geopolitics, but the neglect of geoeconomics. While the security establishment and the political classes operated as if Nepal was a protectorate of India, Delhi's economic bureaucracy treated Nepal as a separate entity.

polices of the two nations. Delhi also allowed the border infrastructure to rot over the decades. Delhi's attempts to revive connectivity with Nepal in recent years have run into India's traditional problems with project implementation.

Put simply, the change in the regional balance and the communist dominance over Nepal's domestic politics means the old rules don't apply any more in the triangular relationship.

In the past, China sounded sensitive to India's concerns in its engagement with Nepal. As the second most important power in the world and the foremost in Asia, China perhaps is a lot less interested in what Delhi might think about its Nepal policy.

On the face of it, Kathmandu has at least three possible options in crafting a new strategy for Nepal. One is to opt for neutrality and symmetry in its relations with India and China.

If Nepal opts for strict symmetry, it would have to turn its open border with India into a closed one similar to its northern frontier with China. A considered strategic tilt towards China means Kathmandu would want to discard the special privileges it has in the relationship with Delhi.

For India, it is time stop whining about China's growing presence in Nepal or lamenting the loss of much-vaunted primacy in Nepal. The protectorate relationship that Delhi inherited from the Raj was never sustainable.

India has had its share of strategic errors in dealing with Nepal. The best corrective Delhi can offer is a new compact with Nepal that can build on the natural geographic and cultural interdependence between the two nations.

India has had its share of strategic errors in dealing with Nepal. The best corrective Delhi can offer is a new compact with Nepal that can build on the natural geographic and cultural interdependence between the two nations.

The writer is director, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore and contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express



SANJIV MISRA

The great wall ahead

Can China break shackles of its old economic systems, scale greater heights?

"TO BE RICH is glorious" is the famous Deng Xiaoping quote that set communist China on a spectacular growth path spanning over three decades, challenging the entrenched Western perspective that economic prosperity could be achieved only in the liberal market democracies.

Trade is now a minor factor in the growth equation. Investment and domestic consumption are its main drivers. Unlike investment, which has been mainly state-driven, consumption is a function of myriad individual decisions as also consumer sentiment.

While the Chinese economy was expected to slow down from its elevated growth levels, it has currently posted its slowest growth in industrial production in 18 years and the slowest GDP growth rate in 27 years.

economy in the world with a nominal GDP at around two-thirds the size of the US. It remains, however, a middle-income country ranked 79 in the world in 2018 with a GDP per capita at around one-third that of the US.

After several decades of exceptional growth, China is currently the second-largest

China is presently facing strong headwinds which are, largely, a consequence of its own policies. Growing state control of the market and expanding role of state-owned companies has reduced competition and adversely impacted productivity growth, which has recorded its lowest level since 1978.

No totalitarian country has in the past achieved the levels of prosperity of the market democracies of the developed world. Will China, shackled by ideology and structures of economic management, which are essentially relics of the past, be able to escape the "middle income trap"?

The writer is a former secretary to Government of India

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THANK CONGRESS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'PM-CM push' (IE, October 21). Given the increasing power of state governments in the day to day lives of people, the outcome of elections in Maharashtra and Haryana will have clear governance implications.

Lal Singh, Amritsar

BASIC NEEDS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Nutrition is no puzzle' (IE, October 18). Food and clean water are the two basic needs for a human being to survive. India's poor performance in the hunger index shows that many people are being deprived of these necessities.

Aayush Sapra, Ujjain

GANDHI'S VISION

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The sacred economy', (IE, October 19). Mahatma

LETTER OF THE WEEK AWARD

To encourage quality reader intervention, The Indian Express offers the Letter of the Week award. The letter adjudged the best for the week is published every Saturday. Letters may be e-mailed to editpage@expressindia.com or sent to The Indian Express, B-1/B, Sector 10, Noida-UP 201301.

Gandhi welcomed machines and automation to the point where they avoid drudgery and reduce tedium. He perhaps saw this as a way to ensure emancipation of the working class.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Kolkata

14 THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD



Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam at the Kowloon Mosque. *Reuters*

HONG KONG
Carrie Lam apologises after mosque hit by water cannon

Hong Kong: Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam apologised to the city's Muslim community on Monday after police fired a water cannon at a major mosque during operations on Sunday to quell violent pro-democracy protests in the Asian financial hub. While the morning after clean up was underway, Lam visited the mosque in Kowloon district, her head covered by a shawl, to express her sorrow over the incident. A statement released later said Lam thanked Islamic leaders for calling for calm during the political turmoil in the city.

LEBANON
Ministers get pay cut in bid to ease protester rage

Beirut: Lebanon's cabinet is expected to halve ministers' wages on Monday among other reforms in a bid to ease an economic crisis and defuse the biggest protests against the ruling elite in decades. Across the country, people blocked roads for a fifth day. Schools, banks and businesses closed. Hundreds of thousands of people have flooded the streets, furious at a political class they accuse of pushing the economy to the point of collapse. Under pressure, PM Saad al-Hariri drew up a package of steps over the weekend, some seen as vital to reviving confidence.

CHILE
Emergency extended as toll rises to 11

Santiago: Chile is "at war", President Sebastian Pinera said Sunday, as the country reels from three days of violent protests and looting that have left 11 dead and almost 1,500 detained in the worst outbreak of social unrest in decades. "We are at war against a powerful, implacable enemy, who does not respect anything or anyone and is willing to use violence and crime without any limits," Pinera said after an emergency meeting with Army General Javier Irujo, who was placed in charge of security in the capital.

ATTEMPTS TO REVIVE AFGHAN PEACE PROCESS

Agree to unannounced ceasefire, Pakistan urges Taliban: report

'US endorses idea, says ready to resume talks with militant group if it privately agrees to truce'

SAJJAD HUSSAIN
ISLAMABAD, OCTOBER 21

PAKISTAN HAS suggested to the Taliban that it should agree to an "unannounced ceasefire", days after a high-level delegation of the militant group met the country's foreign minister as part of a push to revive the Afghan peace process, according to a report.

The US has endorsed the idea and indicated that it could resume peace talks if the Taliban were ready to give the commitment for a ceasefire in private as it can create a conducive environment to finalise a peace deal, the *Express Tribune* reported.

The high-level delegation of the Taliban Political Commission (TPC) called on Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi earlier this month.

Taliban have said that the delegation's visit to Pakistan was aimed at putting the peace process back on track.

A senior official, on the condition of anonymity, told the newspaper that Pakistan had been pressing the Taliban to agree to a ceasefire or at least give a commitment for reducing the level of violence.

The official said that to end



A high-level delegation of the Taliban Political Commission on Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi earlier this month. *Reuters*

the stalemate, Pakistan suggested to the Taliban to agree to an "unannounced ceasefire" if they had any problem in making their decision public at this stage.

The peace talks between the US and the Taliban were stalled by President Donald Trump following the killing of an American soldier in Kabul last month in a suicide attack claimed by the militant group.

Trump stunned the world when he suddenly declared that the Afghan peace talks with the Taliban were "dead" after he cancelled a secret meeting with the Taliban and Afghan President

Ashraf Ghani at Camp David near Washington.

The Taliban has so far not given any response to the proposal. But the two sides agreed to take some confidence-building measures before making progress on contentious issues, the report said.

The exchange of prisoners between the insurgent group and the US soon after the talks in Islamabad was a part of such measures, the official said, referring to the release of 11 members of the Taliban in exchange of three Indian engineers earlier this month from Afghan jails. **PTI**

US quietly reducing number of its troops in Afghanistan

THOMAS GIBBONS-NEFF & MUJIB MASHAL
KABUL, OCTOBER 21

THE UNITED States is already reducing the size of its troop force in Afghanistan despite the lack of a peace deal with the Taliban, at a time when President Trump has expressed reluctance to remain engaged in costly wars abroad.

In a news conference on Monday, the top American commander in Afghanistan, General Austin Miller, confirmed that the size of the American force in the country had already quietly dropped by 2,000 over the last year, down to roughly 12,000.

Other American and Afghan officials, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss details of the plan, said that the eventual force size could drop to as low as 8,600 — roughly the size of an initial reduction envisioned in a

THAILAND
King strips royal consort of titles
Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn has stripped his consort of all titles for "disloyalty" and apparent "ambition" to match the Queen's position, a royal command issued late Monday said, less than three months after she was bestowed with the honour. Former royal bodyguard Sincenat Wongvajirapakdi was the first to be named a consort to a Thai king in centuries.



Flags and banners both for and against Brexit, outside Parliament in London on Monday. *AP*

Parliament Speaker deals new blow to UK PM's Brexit plan

Refuses to hold vote on EU divorce deal

JILL LAWLESS & DANICA KIRKA
LONDON, OCTOBER 21

PRIME MINISTER Boris Johnson's plan to lead Britain out of the European Union at the end of this month hit another roadblock Monday when the Speaker of the House of Commons rejected his attempt to hold a new vote of lawmakers on his Brexit divorce deal.

The ruling by Speaker John Bercow triggered the government's Plan B — an attempt to pass a Brexit-implementing bill through Britain's fractious Parliament before the country's scheduled October 31 departure date. After months and years of political gridlock, the stage was set for another week of grinding parliamentary warfare.

Johnson's government had earlier sought a "straight up-and-down vote" on the agreement he struck last week with the 27 other EU nations laying out the terms of Britain's departure.

The request came just two days after lawmakers voted to delay approving the Brexit deal. Bercow refused to allow it because parliamentary rules bar the same measure from being considered a second time during a session of Parliament unless something has changed.



Bercow said the motion proposed by the gov was essentially the same as the one Parliament dealt with on Saturday. *Reuters*

Bercow — whose rulings in favour of backbench lawmakers have stymied government plans more than once before — said the motion proposed by the government was "in substance the same" as the one Parliament dealt with on Saturday. He said it would be "repetitive and disorderly" to allow a new vote Monday.

On Saturday — Parliament's first weekend sitting since the 1982 Falklands War — lawmakers voted to make support for the Brexit deal conditional on passing the legislation to implement it.

Johnson's Conservative government will now try to do that. The government plans to publish the bill later Monday, will hold the first vote on it Tuesday and hopes to have it become law by Oct 31. **AP**



Residents hurl potatoes at US military vehicles in the town of Qamishli, northern Syria, on Monday. *AP*

US considers leaving some troops in Syria to guard oil: Pentagon

Residents pelt departing US troops

REUTERS & AP
DOHUQ, AKCAKALE, OCTOBER 21

THE PENTAGON is considering keeping some US troops near oilfields in northeastern Syria alongside Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) to help deny oil to Islamic State militants, Defense Secretary Mark Esper said on Monday.

US troops are crossing into Iraq as part of a broader withdrawal from Syria ordered by President Donald Trump, a decision that allowed Turkey to launch an offensive against the SDF which for years was a US ally battling Islamic State.

More than 100 vehicles crossed the border into Iraq early on Monday from the northeast tip of Syria, where Turkey agreed to pause its offensive for five days under a deal with Washington. The truce expires late on

Tuesday, just after Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan is set to discuss next steps in the region at a meeting in Russia with President Vladimir Putin.

Speaking to reporters during a trip to Afghanistan, Esper said that, while the US withdrawal was under way, some troops were still with partner forces near oilfields and there had been discussions about keeping some of them there.

He said that was one option and no decision had been made "with regard to numbers or anything like that".

Meanwhile, angry over US withdrawal, residents of the Kurdish-dominated northeastern Syrian city of Qamishli pelted departing American military vehicles with potatoes as they drove through. People in the street hurled potatoes, shouting, "No America," and "America liar," in English.

Canada votes as Trudeau faces uphill battle to retain power

STEVE SCHERER
OTTAWA, OCTOBER 21

CANADIANS VOTE on Monday to determine whether Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who swept into office four years ago as a charismatic figure promising "sunny ways," will remain in power after two major scandals.

Trudeau, 47, the Liberal Party leader, was endorsed by former US president Barack Obama in the final stretch of the campaign and is viewed as one of the last remaining progressive leaders among the world's major democracies.

But he was shaken during the campaign by a blackface scandal and has been dogged by criticism of his handling of a corruption case involving a major Canadian construction company. Trudeau, the son of former Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, has also had to overcome a sense of fatigue with his government.

His Liberals and the main opposition Conservatives led by Andrew Scheer are in a neck-and-neck race, according to opinion polls. "The truth is it's a coin toss right now," said Ipsos pollster Darrell Bricker.

A year ago, no one would have predicted that Trudeau risked being the first prime minister since the 1930s to secure a parliamentary majority and then fail to win a second term.

The latest opinion polls suggest he may narrowly avert that result and could return to office with a minority in the 338-seat House of Commons. That would still leave Trudeau in a weakened position and needing the support of left-leaning opposition parties



Justin Trudeau and his Conservative opponent Andrew Scheer take part in a debate earlier this month. *Reuters*

How Indian-origin Jagmeet Singh may hold key to next govt

OPINION POLLS predict Trudeau's Liberals are likely to retain power in Canada, but it's likely that neither the ruling party nor its main rival, Andrew Scheer's Conservatives, will get a majority. This is where Indian-origin Jagmeet Singh's New Democratic Party (NDP) could come in, since it's expected to be the third biggest party. Singh's left-wing NDP has criticised Trudeau, but is more likely to support the Liberals than the Conservatives. While the latter may seek backing from smaller centrist or centre-right parties, Trudeau's bid for another term as PM could depend on Singh's decision on whether to support the Liberals.



Five parties are contesting Canada's federal election to push through key pieces of legislation.

Given the fact that neither of the front-runners could come away with a parliamentary majority, it is the smaller left-leaning New Democratic Party (NDP) or the separatist Bloc Quebecois that

could end up holding the balance of power.

"I am a lifelong Liberal voter and I am stumped on this one, mostly because I am really concerned about a Conservative win and trying to figure out how to vote strategically," said Kristin Street from British Columbia. **REUTERS**

4 shot dead in Bangla violence over Facebook post, security tightened

ANISUR RAHMAN
DHAKA, OCTOBER 21

BANGLADESH PRIME Minister Sheikh Hasina on Monday warned of stern action against those inciting violence, a day after four people were killed in police firing on hundreds of Muslims protesting an alleged blasphemous Facebook post by a Hindu man.

On Sunday morning, hundreds of Muslims gathered in southwestern Bhola district, 116 kilometres from Dhaka, for a protest rally under the banner of 'Muslim Tawhid Janata', demanding action against the Hindu man for his alleged social media posts.

As authorities stepped security across Bangladesh, Hasina warned of stern actions against anyone trying to foment trouble. She said her government had launched an investigation to identify the culprits.

According to initial investigation, Hasina said, Hindu youth Biplob Chandra Baidya's Facebook account was hacked by a Muslim man. She said Baidya was being blackmailed to pay

20,000 Bangladeshi Taka (\$235) or blasphemous content would be posted from his Facebook account.

The police has taken Baidya into protective custody, after he lodged a complaint with them, alleging that his Facebook account had been hacked.

"Punitive measures must be taken against anyone who wanted to disrespect Prophet Muhammad, but at the same time if anyone tries to frame another person, action will be taken against them as well," the prime minister said.

Hasina said, "How can a Muslim write something bad about the Prophet and use it to frame someone else?"

Meanwhile, security has been tightened across Bangladesh following Sunday's incident.

Bhola's district police chief Sarkar Mohammad Kaisar said the protest rally took a violent turn and the police had to open fire in "self defence", killing four of the protesters. "Police in Dhaka and elsewhere in the country are kept on alert after the violence in Bhola," a police headquarters spokesman said. **PTI**

'WE ARE NOT GOING TO STICK WITH THE GUILT AND THE SHAME ANY LONGER'

Northern Ireland set for momentous abortion, gay marriage changes

AMANDA FERGUSON
BELFAST, OCTOBER 21

CAMPAIGNERS WHO fought for decades to end Northern Ireland's same-sex marriage ban and restrictions on abortion gathered in Belfast on Monday to prepare for a momentous change to the laws on both at the stroke of midnight.

Northern Ireland is the only part of the United Kingdom that does not allow same-sex marriage. Also, unlike England, Scotland and Wales, laws in Northern Ireland forbid abortion except where a mother's life is at risk, bans that

have been upheld by the region's conservative politicians.

The British province's power-sharing executive collapsed almost three years ago and the assembly remains suspended, with Northern Ireland currently largely administered from London.

In July, British lawmakers in London voted overwhelmingly to compel the government to overhaul the laws if Belfast's devolved executive was not restored by midnight on Oct. 21.

"We are not going to stick with the guilt and the shame any longer. Tomorrow the law changes in this place, and for the first time in Northern Ireland,



Pro-choice activists on the grounds of Stormont Parliament, Belfast, on Monday. *AP*

women will be free," abortion rights campaigner Dawn Purvis told a public meeting in Belfast

"Free to choose if, when and how many children they will have in the care of health-care

professionals. This is a very emotional day for many here." If a new devolved govern-

ment is not formed by midnight, abortion will be decriminalised, beginning a consultation on what the framework for services should look like, which is due to be finalised and approved by March 2020.

Abortion rights were long opposed in Northern Ireland by religious conservatives in both the Protestant community that supports continued British rule and the Catholic community that favours union with the traditionally Catholic Irish Republic.

Previous attempts to follow the Irish Republic in legalising abortion have been blocked by the socially conservative Democratic

Unionist Party (DUP), using a special veto intended to prevent discrimination towards one community over another.

The mothballed Assembly was recalled briefly by unionists on Monday in a last-ditch attempt to block changes that failed on procedural grounds.

"It is a very sad day and I know some people will seek to celebrate and I would say to those people, think of us who are sad today and who believe this is an affront to human dignity," DUP leader Arlene Foster said after leaving the chamber.

The changes will bring the province's laws on same-sex

marriage into line with the rest of the UK, and same-sex couples and marriage equality activists gathered in Belfast on Monday to celebrate.

"Today means the world to us. Members of our community are that little bit more equal in our society. We have not asked for more rights, but the same rights as everyone else," said activist Shane Sweeney.

It will take the British Parliament until mid-January to bring in the new legislation, setting up February 14, 2020 — Valentine's Day — as the first opportunity for same-sex couples to marry once they give the required 28 days' notice. **REUTERS**

MSTC will hold e-Auction No. MSTC/ERO/JAI BALAJI INDUSTRIES LIMITED/4/Lal Bazar Police Station/19-20/23157 on 06.11.2019 for 3000 MT (approx.) of coke, on behalf of Jai Balaji Industries Limited, lying at their plant site at Durgapur, WB. For more details log on to www.mstccommerce.com or www.mstcindia.co.in. Email: msatyrthi@mstcindia.co.in and arunkumar@mstcindia.co.in. Mob: 9903307001 & 9830924222. Contact details/clarifications, if any, to the e-Auction will be posted on MSTC's website only. Bidders should regularly visit above website to keep themselves updated.

SEARCH FOR MISSING General public is hereby informed that a female (depicted in the photo), Namely : Hatabun Nisha W/o Alimuddin R/o H. No. 2790, Gali Gadhya Kucha Chalan, Darya Ganj, Delhi has been missing since 10.10.2019 from the area of P.S. Daryaganj, Delhi. In this regard a case vide GD No. 54A dated 11.10.2019 has been lodged at PS Darya Ganj, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:- Age : 71 Years, Height: 5' 1" Complexion : Shallow, Face : Oval, Built : Normal, Hair : Long White, Wearing : Purple colour saree of floral print with Green colour Blouse. Any person is having any information/clue about this missing female, may inform SHO, Darya Ganj, Delhi E-mail : cbc@cbi.gov.in, website: http://cbi.nic.in

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRL General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely Neelam D/o Anil Kumar R/o N-586, Mangolpuri, Delhi Aged-18 Years has been reported missing/kidnapped since 20.09.2019 from the area of P.S. Mangolpuri, Delhi vide DD No.38A Dated 21.09.2019 registered at Police Station Mangolpuri, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:- Complexion: Shallow, Height: 4'6", Face: Oval, Clothing: Black coloured suit-salwar and slipper in feet. Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped girl, may inform SHO, Mangolpuri, Delhi at E-mail : cbc@cbi.gov.in or website : http://cbi.nic.in

Letter No. 2109 Dated-21.10.2019 Higher, Technical Education & Skill Development Department, 3rd Floor, Room No.-313, Yojna Bhawan (Nepal House Campus), Doranda, Ranchi. VACANCY FOR THE POST OF VICE CHANCELLOR OF JHARKHAND RAKSHA SHAKTI UNIVERSITY, RANCHI. Applications are invited for the post of Vice Chancellor of Jharkhand Raksha Shakti University, Ranchi. The Act establishing this University can be accessed at (https://indiacode.nic.in/bitstream/123456789/4643/1/raksha_shakti_university_act_2016.pdf#search=raksha) The University is the third of its kind in the country and is mandated to provide efficient, trained and professional manpower to meet the demand of police and other security forces; training and building manpower to tackle the upcoming challenges from various types of offences such as terrorism, economic offences, cyber crime, telecommunication offences and the offences requiring expertise in forensic science. The candidate should have served in any state/central police department/ organization or military/para military forces or have been in the state or central administration connected with the training of state or central police force or military or para military forces with proven record in research and/or academic administrative organization. They must have academic excellence, exposure to the training system in the country and abroad, and adequate experience in administrative governance. The vacancy is open to serving as well as retired personnel. The details of the application requirements and process are available at http://recruitment.jharkhand.gov.in from 23.10.2019 onwards. Last date of submission of application is 30.11.2019. The applications of those persons who have applied earlier in response to Advertisement No-01/2018 dated-28.11.2018 and corrigendum PR No.-198502 dated-26.12.2018 are also being processed. They need not apply again. (Suresh Choudhary) Under Secretary Department of Higher, Technical Education & Skill Development

FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2019 In order to clear extra rush of passengers during Deepawali / Chhath Puja Festivals, Northern Railway in association with other Zonal Railways have decided to run the following Festival Special Trains as per schedule given below:-

Table with 7 columns: Spl. Train No., Station From, Dept. Time, Station to, Arr. Time, Frequency/Day, Period, Accommodation. Lists various festival special trains with their routes and schedules.

Table with 10 columns: Train No., Station From, Time, Station to, Time, Frequency, Period, Accommodation. Lists regular train services with their routes and schedules.

Beware of Touts Always buy your tickets from an authorised railway counter or authorised rail travel agent only. For detail related to stoppages of trains etc. passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139, nearest Railway Station or visit Railway's website www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in. Railway Security Helpline No. 182 Passenger Complaint Helpline No. 138 Follow us on:- NORTHERN RAILWAY Visit us at : www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Retika D/O Ramesh Kumar R/O C-127, Kunwar Singh Nagar, Gali No-11, Nanjloi, Delhi-41, have changed my name to Retika Panchal for all purpose. 0040516849-1

I, Rohan Kumar S/O Brijesh Chauhan R/O H.No.1/1623, Mansarovar Park, Shahdara, Delhi-1100032 have changed my name to Rohan Chauhan. 0040516841-2

I, Hanif Khan S/O Babu Khan R/O S-2A/12, Joga Bai Extn, Batla House, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, Delhi-110025 have changed my name from Mod Haneef and Hanif Ahmad to Hanif Khan. 0040516806-1

I, Monica Dhawan Alias Rasica Arora D/o Lal Chand Dhawan and W/o Rajan Arora R/O 270, Tilak Nagar, Amritsar-II, Amritsar, Punjab-143001, have changed my name to Rasica Arora. 0070679804-1

I, Mehdi S/O Abdul Miyan R/O RZ-21, B-24, Ravi Nagar, Chaukhundi, New Delhi-110018 Have changed my Name to Imam Mehdi. 0040516866-1

I, Vikas Kumar S/O Sh. Sanjay Kumar Choudhary R/O Flat No.155, Om Apartment, Sector-14, Pocket-2, Dwarka, N. Delhi-110078, Have Changed My Name From Rita Sharma To Reeta Sharma, For All Future Purposes. 0040516835-5

SEARCH FOR MISSING MALE
General public is here by informed that one male Namely: Shyam Singh, S/o Sh. Devender Singh R/o T-510/C-52/1A, Bajpet Nagar, Delhi Age: 35 years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Thin, Face: Round, Wearing: Blue Colour Shirt and Peach Colour Pant & Rubber Chappals in feet has been missing from the area of PS. Patel Nagar since 18.07.2019. ID Marks: He is mentally unsound

17 ECONOMY

SECTOR WATCH
FINANCIAL

IL&FS appoints second law firm as advisor after nudge from govt

SANDEEP SINGH
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

DAYS AFTER the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) asked law firm Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas (CAM) to share information regarding its engagement and advice to the troubled IL&FS and its group companies, the new IL&FS board has appointed P&A Law Offices, alongside CAM, to take over the role of legal advisory to the firm.

The decision comes amid allegations of conflict of interest with respect to CAM and the government indicating to the IL&FS board to effect a change.

"The board has appointed another attorney, Anand Pathak, and his firm, P&A Law Offices. However, CAM will also continue. While CAM will provide the background as they have knowledge of the past, the new firm will bring balance to the table," an IL&FS board member, who did not wish to be named, said.

Since the board, the member said, has waived the confidentiality clause that prevented CAM from sharing all details of its engagement with the previous management, their presence, alongside the new law firm, "will help in the probe and fixing accountability in the case".

Government sources familiar with the development said that following a complaint to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs about alleged conflict of interest in CAM's association with IL&FS — CAM was legal advisor to the former board of IL&FS which is facing criminal and legal action by government agencies, and continues to perform that role for the new board too — the government was not satisfied with the present board continuing with CAM as their legal advisor.

Sources inside IL&FS said that even the board has been divided over the continuation of CAM as their legal advisor. "Several top officials and a few board members have voiced their opinion to reduce dependency on CAM. They have also questioned the exorbitant fee being paid to CAM," said another director.

On July 22, *The Indian Express* reported about the complaint that had raised the alleged conflict of interest issue involving CAM. At that time, Cyril Shroff, managing partner of CAM, said: "Our firm does not have any conflict of interest."

Following the Ministry's

THE BACKSTORY

- P&A Law Offices has been appointed legal advisor
- The decision comes amid allegations of conflict of interest with respect to Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas (CAM)
- CAM was legal advisor to the former board of IL&FS which is facing criminal and legal action by government agencies, and continues to perform that role for the new board too

directive to look into the issue, the new board started the process of shortlisting names of new law firms for the position.

The board member, however, said that instead of replacing CAM with a new law firm, the board has appointed another firm alongside CAM.

The government superseded the IL&FS board and appointed a new board under the chairmanship of Uday Kotak in October 2018, following the default at IL&FS Group, which has total liabilities of about Rs 94,000 crore. The alleged financial irregularities at IL&FS came to light in September 2018 after some group entities started defaulting on debt repayments. The entire group has been defaulting on repayments since then.

In 2016, CAM gave a clean chit to the then ICICI Bank MD and CEO Chanda Kochhar, following allegations of nepotism and conflict of interest.

Last year, after the ICICI Bank board instituted an investigation under retired Supreme Court Justice B N Srikrishna to probe Kochhar's role in alleged non-adherence of the code of conduct, conflict of interest and quid pro quo, the law firm withdrew its 2016 investigative report that had given her a clean chit. The withdrawal of the report came after Kochhar quit her position on October 4, 2018.

The *Indian Express* first reported on March 29, 2018 that Videocon Group promoter Venugopal Dhoot provided crores to a firm he had set up with Chanda Kochhar's husband Deepak Kochhar and two relatives six months after the Videocon Group got Rs 3,250 crore as loan from ICICI Bank in 2012.

China continued to be the "serial offender" of the WTO's subsidies agreement, the US delegation said. US officials in Washington and Geneva had no further comment. In addition to the cases pending before the WTO, the US and China have imposed a series

ANONYMOUS GROUP ACCUSES CEO, CFO OF 'UNETHICAL PRACTICES'
Infosys places whistleblower complaint before audit panel

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI/BENGALURU, OCTOBER 21

JUST OVER two years after Infosys grappled with serious allegations of corporate governance lapses that eventually led to its then CEO Vishal Sikka abruptly stepping down, an anonymous group of the IT major's employees have reportedly accused current CEO Salil Parekh and CFO Nilanjan Roy of indulging in "unethical practices".

The Bengaluru-headquartered firm confirmed having received the whistleblower complaint and said that the same has been placed before the audit committee as per the company's policies.

"The company has received anonymous whistleblower complaints alleging certain unethical practices. These have been placed before the Audit Committee as per the company's practice and will be dealt with in accordance with the company's whistleblower policy..." Infosys said in a notice to the stock exchanges on Monday.

The firm's audit committee is chaired by D Sundaram and board members Punita Kumar Sinha and Roopa Kudva. US-listed shares of Infosys

THE ALLEGATIONS

- "CRITICAL INFORMATION" was hidden from the auditors and the Board
 - "REVENUE RECOGNITION" matters are forced which are not as per accounting standards" in deals such as Verizon, Intel and JVs in Japan
 - THE GROUP says it has "e-mails and voice recordings" and will share with investigators if asked
- Ltd fell nearly 16 per cent in premarket trading on the New York Stock Exchange on Monday.
- According to a *PTI* report, the whistleblower letter, which was shared with Infosys' Board and the US Securities and Exchange Commission, claims that "critical information" has been hidden from the auditors and the Board.
- The letter says that the group of employees are in possession of mails and audio recordings of the company CEO asking for the hiding of costs incurred on visas and reversals of upfront payments in contracts.
- Further, it alleges that in large contracts like Verizon, Intel and joint-ventures in Japan, and the ABN Amro acquisition, "revenue recognition matters are forced which are not as per accounting standards".

"We have emails and voice recordings and we will share when investigators ask us... Large deal approvals have irregularities. The CEO is bypassing reviews and approvals and instructed sales not to send mails for approvals..." the letter noted.

The whistleblowers have also reportedly claimed the CEO told them that "no one in the Board understands these things" and that "they are happy as long as share price is up", adding that several billion dollar deals in the last few quarters have nil margin.

In the quarter ended September 30, the firm reported a revenue growth rate of 9.9 per cent year-on-year in dollar terms at \$3,210 million and an operating margin of 21.7 per cent. In the previous quarter Infosys reported a revenue jump of 10.6 per cent year on year at \$3131 million.

Infosys had roped in Parekh in January 2018 after Sikka stepped down in August 2017, after a standoff with the company's founders including former CEO NR Narayana Murthy over allegations of corporate governance lapses and hefty severance packages of former CFO Rajiv Bansal. Later, Infosys settled with Sebi the case of alleged disclosure lapses regarding payment made to Bansal. It paid Rs 34.34 lakh to the markets regulator to settle the case.

Infosys has also received whistleblower complaints earlier pertaining to wranglings in its M&A deals, including in the acquisition of Israeli automation technology firm Panaya.

A whistleblower's letter to Sebi in 2017 alleged violation of governance norms in a \$200 million acquisition of Panaya in 2015 — shortly after Sikka took charge as CEO.

While an internal audit committee investigation found no evidence supporting the Panaya allegations, Sebi had served a Wells notice to the company, informing that action may be initiated against the company.

Shortly after Sikka's departure, the company's co-founder Nandan Nilekani was brought in as non-executive chairman.

'China's 'unicorn' startups exceed US number for first time'

China now has more privately held start-ups, valued by investors at over \$1 billion, than the US, as per the Global Unicorn List prepared by Hurun

206 Chinese firms out of a global total of 494 ultra-valuable start-ups — known as unicorns — in June 2019, according to the report

\$280 billion Alibaba affiliate Ant Financial Financial ByteDance Didi Chuxing

THE US is second with 203 such companies

CHINA AND the US dominate with over 80 percent of the world's known unicorns, despite representing only half of the world's GDP and a quarter of the world's population, Hurun Report chairman Rupert Hoogewerf said


CHINA HAS the three most valuable unicorns, which have a combined value of

THE COMPANIES identified by Hurun were founded only seven years ago on average, and more than half come from five industries "disrupting the world economy," Hoogewerf said

E-COMMERCE and fintech accounted for the most unicorns globally, followed by cloud computing, artificial intelligence and logistics, according to Hurun.

A NUMBER of companies on the list were formerly units of larger companies that had been split off. Alibaba, for example, started Alipay, before spinning its fintech business into Ant Financial in 2014

CHINESE COMPANIES are far and away the most successful at spinning off unicorns, with 18 of the world's 20 'spun-off' unicorns, Hoogewerf said



In a first, aerobridge operator suspended for failing alcohol test

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

IN A first for Indian airports, an aerobridge operator at Delhi airport was suspended for three months after he failed a mandatory alcohol test on Monday morning. This was the first incident of suspension after the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) instituted a system to check ground personnel for reporting on duty having consumed alcohol.

"One of the aerobridge opera-

tor...tested BA (breath analyser) positive with reading of .516 and .517 per millilitre during today's morning shift. He has been suspended by the Delhi Airport International Ltd for three months," as per a government official.

The DGCA's plan to cover ground personnel under breath analyser examination was kicked off at over 17 airports on October 2, with more airports starting the process later. Since the new rules have been implemented, in addition to cockpit and cabin crew undergoing breath analyser tests to check the level of alcohol in their

blood, airside ground personnel and air traffic controllers have also been undergoing the test.

The rules say all such personnel undergo the alcohol test prior to reporting for duty, and it also says the organisations engaged in the provision of air navigation services, aerodrome management, aircraft maintenance and repair, shall ensure that at least 10 per cent individuals employed in their respective organisations as engaged in such functions are randomly subjected to breathalyser examination on a daily basis.

In the case of a first violation,

E. Test ensures passengers' safety

EXPLAINED

WHILE MEASURES have been put in place to ensure flight safety, experts believe institution of alcohol testing norms for ground personnel like aerobridge operators and bus drivers will go a long way in improving airside safety. However, compliance can only be ensured with periodic audits.

the licence of the concerned personnel will be suspended for three months. In the case of a second violation, the suspension will be for

Internationally, rules laid down by the global aviation regulator ICAO states that holders of licences "shall not exercise the privileges of their licences and related ratings while under the influence of any psychoactive substance which might render them unable to safely and properly exercise these privileges". The US Federal Aviation Administration and the UK Civil Aviation Authority have also published their policy for detection of consumption of psychoactive substance including alcohol by personnel engaged in safety sensitive functions.

FALLOUT OF MALAYSIA PM STATEMENT AT UNGA
Edible oil body advises against import of Malaysian palm oil

HARISH DAMODARAN
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

THE COUNTRY'S apex edible oil trade association has urged its members to "refrain" from importing palm oil from Malaysia in the light of its Prime Minister, Mahathir Mohamad, raising the Kashmir issue at the United Nations General Assembly.

"Our Government has not taken kindly to the unprovoked pronouncements by the Malaysian Prime Minister and its contemplating some retaliatory action... In your own interest as well as a mark of solidarity with our Nation, we should avoid purchases from Malaysia for the time being," Atul Chaturvedi, president of the Solvent Extractors' Association of India, said.

As per Commerce Ministry data, India's vegetable oil im-

ports were valued at Rs 69,023.79 crore in 2018-19 and Rs 27,972.27 crore during April-August 2019. A significant chunk of this comprised palm oil: Rs 36,632.99 crore (2018-19) and Rs 15,452.70 crore (April-August 2019). The share of Malaysia within that was Rs 10,049.04 crore (2018-19) and Rs 8,392.16 crore (April-August). While imports from Indonesia were higher in 2018-19 (Rs 23,643.28 crore), they have, however, been lower in April-August this year (Rs 5,289.46 crore).

The surge in imports from Malaysia is being attributed largely to the duty advantage on RBD (refined, bleached and deodorised) palmolein granted to it by India under a bilateral Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement. While the said agreement was signed in October 2010, the lower duty of 45 per cent on RBD palmolein

As per Commerce Ministry data, India's vegetable oil imports were valued at **₹69,023.79 cr in 2018-19** and **₹27,972.27 cr during April-August 2019**

imports from Malaysia — as opposed to 50 per cent from Indonesia — took effect from January 1.

As a result, refined palm oil consignments from Malaysia have shot up from 7.17 lakh tonnes (lt) in the whole of 2018-19 to 14.03 lt in the first five months of this fiscal. On the other hand, imports of both crude palm oil (CPO) and RBD palmolein from Indonesia have plunged from 41.57 lt and 16.78

It in 2018-19 to 14.33 lt and 0.45 lt in April-August 2019, respectively

India's edible oil industry mostly imports crude palm, soyabean and sunflower oil and sells these in the domestic market after refining (i.e. removing gums, waxes, free fatty acids, colour, and volatile compounds).

RBD palmolein imports from Malaysia soared after the duty on it was slashed from 50 per cent to 45 per cent from January 1, even as CPO tariffs were retained at 40 per cent.

But, following pressure from the domestic industry, the government imposed a 5 per cent safeguard duty on Malaysian RBD palmolein with effect from September 4.

In the process, the earlier duty differential between RBD palmolein (50 per cent) and CPO (40 per cent) was restored.

"Our refineries would obvi-

AICTE panel nullifies appointment of IRMA Principal/Director

SANDEEP SINGH
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

A HIGH-LEVEL Standing Complaint Scrutiny Committee of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has nullified the appointment of Hitesh V Bhatt as Principal/Director of Anand-based Institute of Rural Management and has recommended action as per AICTE rules.

The panel's ruling could hurt IRMA's ability to take new admissions for a period of one academic year. The four-member Standing Complaint Scrutiny Committee (SCSC) under the chairmanship of Justice (retd.) N L Tibrewal, had in an order passed on September 27, 2019, termed Bhatt's appointment "ineligible" and referred the matter to the Approval Bureau to proceed for taking action as per AICTE norms.

"The present Principal/Director Sh. Hitesh V Bhatt does not fulfil the eligibility criteria, as such the institute does not have a qualified Principal. Hence the matter is referred to the Approval Bureau to proceed for taking action as per AICTE norms," said the September 27 order. While AICTE rules prescribe that the Principal/Director should have Ph.D. or equivalent in appropriate discipline, Bhatt, did not have the same at the time of his appointment on December 1, 2017. The order notes, "On re-examination the appointment of the Principal/Director H V Bhatt, the committee is of the view that on the date of his appointment he was not qualified as Principal/Director as he was not having Ph.D./equivalence of Ph.D, which was relaxed by the institute without having authority". When contacted, Bhatt declined to offer his comment.

This order could have far reaching implications for the country's premier rural management institute affiliated to

As per AICTE Regulations 2012, if an institute fails to have a qualified Principal/Director for more than 18 months, then it shall have "No admission status for one academic year" as a punitive action

National Dairy Development Board (NDDB). According to AICTE Regulations 2012, if an institute fails to have a qualified Principal/Director for a period of more than 18 months, then it shall have "No admission status for one academic year" as a punitive action by the Council.

In case of IRMA, Bhatt has already occupied the position of Director for over 22 months now and thus the institute may face penalty under AICTE rules. Rule 14.3 of the AICTE Regulation 2012 reads, "Institutions not having qualified Principal/Director for period, more than 18 months shall be liable to following punitive action by the Council: No admission status for one academic year".

The order has been passed on the complaint of Ram Manohar Vikas, an Assistant Professor at IRMA who also holds a Ph.D. from Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur. He is a resident of IRMA Campus. Anand. Bhatt holds a degree of B Tech from IIT Delhi and MS in Industrial Management from Georgia Tech, Atlanta, USA.

He started his career with Reliance Textile Industries Limited in 1979. Apart from Reliance, he has worked in Mafatlal group of mills, Sunflag group of textile and garment factories among others. He started his academic career in 1995 with IRMA as an Associate Professor.

FIRST-EVER FEDERAL OPIOID TRIAL AVERTED
Drug firms reach \$260 mn settlement

Cleveland: Four large drug companies reached a last-minute \$260 million legal settlement over their role in the US opioid addiction epidemic, averting the first federal trial that was scheduled to start Monday morning in Cleveland.

The settlement covers drug distributors AmerisourceBergen Corp, Cardinal Health Inc and

McKesson Corp and Israel-based drugmaker Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd, and ends lawsuits by two Ohio counties.

Hunter Shkolnik, an attorney for the counties, said Teva is paying \$20 million in cash and will contribute \$25 million worth of Suboxone, an opioid addiction treatment. **REUTERS**

China seeks \$2.4 billion in sanctions against US in Obama-era case: WTO

REUTERS
GENEVA, OCTOBER 21

CHINA IS seeking \$2.4 billion in retaliatory sanctions against the United States for non-compliance with a WTO ruling in a tariffs case dating to the Obama era, a document published on Monday showed.

WTO appeals judges said in July that the United States did not fully comply with a WTO ruling and could face Chinese sanctions if it does not remove certain tariffs that break the watchdog's rules. The WTO's Dispute Settlement Body effectively gave Beijing a green light to seek compensatory sanctions in mid-August. The United States said at the time that it did not view the WTO findings as valid and that the judges had applied "the wrong legal interpretation in this dispute".

Trade deal doesn't need to be inked next month: Ross

Washington: The initial US-China trade deal does not need to be finalised next month, the US commerce secretary said on Monday. "It has to be the right deal, and it doesn't have to be in November," Wilbur Ross told *Fox Business Network* in an interview. **REUTERS**

China continued to be the "serial offender" of the WTO's subsidies agreement, the US delegation said. US officials in Washington and Geneva had no further comment. In addition to the cases pending before the WTO, the US and China have imposed a series

MERGING OF PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS
Bank strike by unions today to protest against mergers

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
 MUMBAI, OCTOBER 21

THE OPERATIONS of public sector banks (PSBs) are likely to be affected on Tuesday as some of the employees' unions have decided to observe nation-wide strike to protest against the merger of 10 nationalised banks.

However, officers and private sector banks are not part of the call for strike given by All India Bank Employees Association and Bank Employees Federation of India.

Most of the banks including the country's largest lender, State Bank of India (SBI), have already informed customers about the strike and its impact on them.

"The government's decision is most unfortunate and totally unwarranted. All the banks which are facing closures, namely Andhra Bank, Allahabad Bank, Syndicate Bank, Corporation Bank, United Bank

Officers and private sector banks are not part of the strike call given by All India Bank Employees Association and Bank Employees Federation of India

of India and Oriental Bank of Commerce are well performing banks and have been greatly contributing to the nation's economic development," said a joint statement from central trade unions.

In the absence of any positive outcome in the meeting called by Chief Labour Commissioner, it has been decided to go ahead with the strike, AIBEA General Secretary C H Vekatachalam said. The meeting held before Chief Labour Commissioner between representatives of Indian Banks' Association and unions failed to reach to a common ground.

"Hence our call for strike stands. We exhort all our unions and members all over the country to go ahead with the strike,"

he said.

"The membership of our bank employees in unions participating in strike is very few, so the impact of strike on banks operation will be minimal," SBI said in a filing to stock exchanges last week.

Another public sector lender Syndicate Bank said: "The bank is taking necessary steps for smooth functioning of branches on the proposed strike day. However, in the event the strike materialises, the functioning of the branches/offices may be impacted".

Last month, officers' unions had called a two-day all India bank strike on September 26 and 27, which was later withdrawn following the government's intervention.

Energy trade with US to jump 40% to \$10 billion in FY20: Pradhan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
 NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

INDIA'S ENERGY trade with the US is likely to jump by over 40 per cent to \$10 billion in 2019-20, as the world's third-largest oil consumer seeks to move away from its traditional suppliers in the Middle East, Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Monday.

Mounting geopolitical uncertainties, rising US oil and gas production, and India's insatiable energy appetite has created both the need and the opportunity for the two nations to lift bilateral energy ties to a new level.

India in October 2017 began importing crude oil from the US and in March 2018 it got the first shipment of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from there.

In the last one year, the import of US crude oil has doubled and New Delhi is now closing on the biggest long-term LNG im-

Wockhardt taken to NCLT over unpaid dues worth ₹1.55 crore

PRABHA RAGHAVAN
 NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

INDIAN DRUGMAKER Morepen Laboratories has approached the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) to recover money that Wockhardt owes it for making and supplying medicines for the drugmaker on a contract, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

Wockhardt's payables have been on the rise over the last three years, with the company reporting over Rs 800 crore in trade payables at the end of March 31, 2019.

Morepen is seeking to recover around Rs 1.55 crore, along with interest, from Wockhardt for invoices it raised between July 2018 and May 2019 for formulations that it supplied to the company, according to the petition filed with the Mumbai Bench of the NCLT. *The Indian Express* has reviewed a copy of this petition.

"However, as per the running account duly maintained by the operational creditor, an unpaid operational debt of Rs 1,54,84,319/-... is still outstanding," Morepen stated in its petition.

MOREPEN LABORATORIES MOVES TRIBUNAL

Morepen is seeking to recover around Rs 1.55 crore, along with interest, from Wockhardt for invoices it raised between July 2018 and May 2019 for formulations that it supplied to the company, according to the petition filed with the Mumbai bench of the National Company Law Tribunal

Wockhardt owed a total of Rs 840.24 crore in trade payables to MSMEs and "others" at the end of the 2018-19

The petition states following a legal notice issued to Wockhardt in June 2019, the company gave "oral assurance" that it would pay up.

Despite "several repeated formal communications" through emails and telephonic discussions, Wockhardt has not furnished the overdue amount, it stated.

The petition further states that, following a legal notice issued to Wockhardt in June 2019, the company contacted Morepen and gave "oral assurance" that it would pay up. However, the company "again became reclusive and unresponsive and took no step towards fulfillment of its oral assurance" after Morepen withdrew its first legal notice, causing it to issue

a second notice in August.

It is not clear how much Wockhardt owes Morepen including interest. Morepen declined to comment on the issue, stating that the matter was sub-judice, while queries sent to Wockhardt remained unanswered by press time on Monday.

Wockhardt owed a total of Rs 840.24 crore in trade payables to micro, small and medium enterprises and "others" at the end of the 2018-19 financial year, according to its annual report. In the 2016-17 financial year, its trade payables were Rs 533.81 crore.

BRIEFLY

Govt rolls out 6th tranche of gold bonds

New Delhi: To cash in on Dhanteras buying spree, the government on Monday rolled out the sixth tranche of sovereign gold bonds. The Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2019-20 - Series VI will close for subscription on the day of Dhanteras, October 25. As per a Finance Ministry statement, the Centre has fixed the issue price at Rs 3,835 per gram with settlement date as October 30. The Centre has decided to offer a discount of Rs 50 per gram for investors applying online and paying digitally.

Goyal to attend meeting in Stockholm

New Delhi: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will attend Indo-Swedish Joint Commission for Economic, Industrial and Scientific Cooperation in Stockholm on October 23, an official statement said. There is significant potential for enhancing bilateral collaboration in areas like green technologies, renewable energy, smart infrastructure, healthcare and defence, it said. **PTI**

Oil prices fall 1% as demand concerns grow

New York: Oil prices fell nearly 1 per cent on Monday after comments from a U.S. official stymied hopes that a US-China trade deal would be reached soon, feeding worries that a slowing global economy would reduce demand for oil. Brent crude futures fell 50 cents, or 0.8 per cent, to \$58.92 a barrel by 1:19 p.m. EDT (1719 GMT). US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures fell 45 cents, or 0.8 per cent, to \$53.33 a barrel. **REUTERS**

Bharti Infratel Sept quarter net jumps 61%

New Delhi: Bharti Infratel on Monday reported a 61 per cent jump in its net profit to Rs 964 crore for the July-September quarter, compared with Rs 600 crore in the same period last year. The revenue of the company was down 1 per cent to Rs 3,638 crore, against Rs 3,668 crore last year. The company, however, said figures for the July-September period are not comparable due to adoption of IND AS 116 with effect from April 1, 2019. **FE**

JP Morgan commits \$10 million to World Bank's skilling programme

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
 MUMBAI, OCTOBER 21

WALL STREET major, JP Morgan on Monday announced a \$10-million commitment to a new World Bank multi-donor trust fund focused at skilling the youth in the country.

The investment is part of the American investment bank's \$25 million, five-year commitment to help low- and middle-income communities here develop the skillsets, a statement said, adding the programme is aimed at improving

access to quality and market-relevant training for youth in select states.

"Children who are in primary schools today are likely to work in jobs that do not even exist now. To prepare them for a fundamentally altered world of work is going to be a critical policy decision countries can make to secure the future of their citizens," World Bank country director for India Junaid Ahmad in the statement.

The pilot projects will be launched in Maharashtra and Rajasthan, the statement added.

Abhijit Banerjee: Govt's commitment to low inflation led to farm distress

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
 NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

NOBEL LAUREATE Abhijit Banerjee on Monday said the government's stringent commitment to low inflation has resulted in farm distress by adversely impacting support price for agricultural produce.

Striking a note of caution, he said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has more faith in corporates than him.

"I think Mr. Modi has more faith in the corporate sector than I do. The recent tax cuts show that someone in the administration believes that you have to give corporate sector lots of money to get growth. I do not believe that," Banerjee, who has been awarded this year's Nobel Prize for Economics along with two others, said here.

Banerjee added that the corporate tax cut would not bring growth but probably moderation in direct tax could push the growth northward.

The government last month slashed the corporate tax rate to 22 per cent for domestic companies to push sagging economy.

"The commitment to low inflation dove it to clamp down on support price... agricultural income went down relative to rest of the country. This was agricultural distress. Farmers are unhappy," he said.

As a result, he said the government was forced to put money for PM-KISAN.

On the stress in the banking sector, he said part of the problem is that decision-making is absolutely frozen.

The economy hit six-year low of 5 per cent for the first quarter of the current financial year.

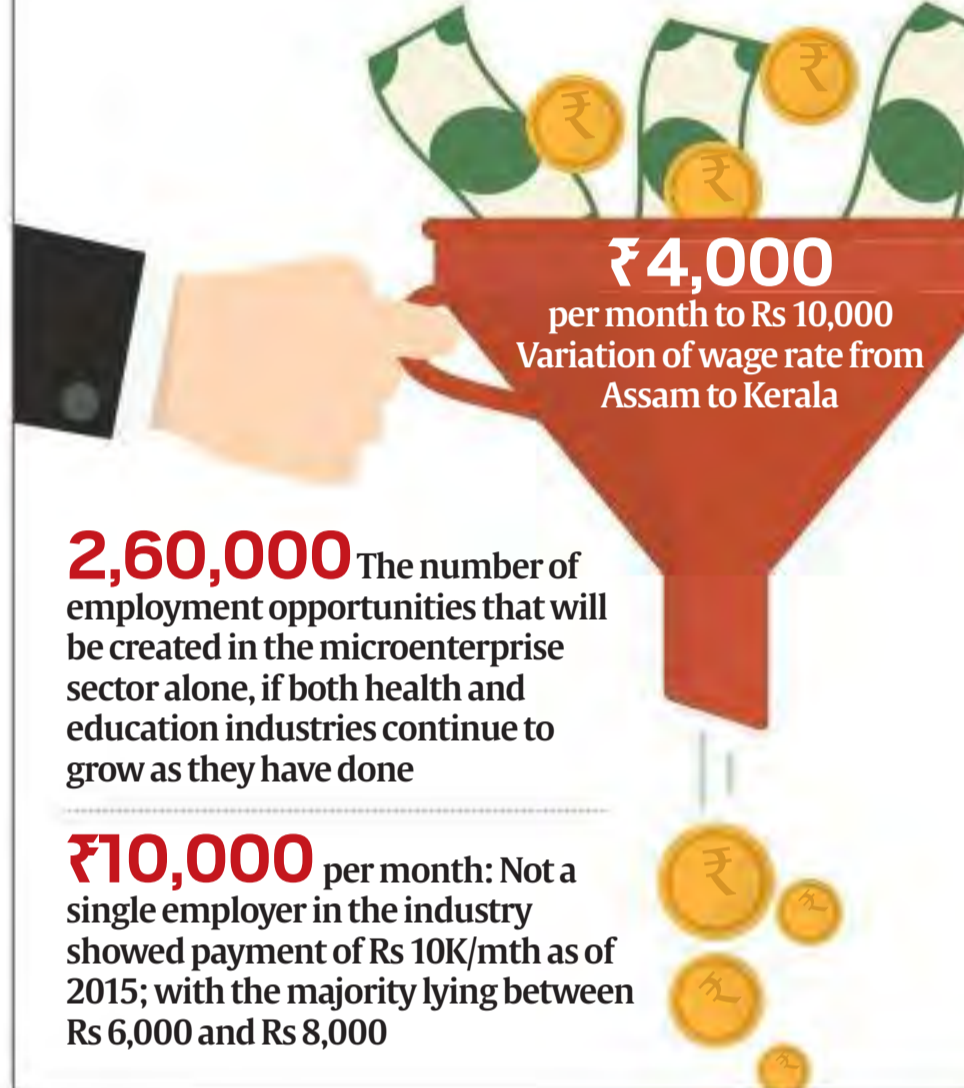
The tax rate was brought down further lower at 15 per cent for new manufacturing companies. Speaking on the government's drive to divest its stake in public sector enterprises, the economist said that selling government stake in PSUs was not a long-term solution to bridge the fiscal deficit target. "In short term, selling PSU is a good idea but it is not a long term solution," he said.

The government aims to raise Rs 1.05 lakh through disinvestment in the current fiscal.

He also said disinvestment is not long-term solution for bridging fiscal deficit.

Monetary Policy Committee headed by RBI Governor is entrusted with the objective of achieving the medium-term target for consumer price index (CPI) inflation of 4 per cent within a band of (plus, minus) 2 per cent, while supporting growth.

'Wage levels very low in microenterprise sector'



'Digital India needs to create aspirations in tier 3-4 cities'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
 NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

A DAY after Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged technologists to bridge the gap between technology and human intention, Minister of Electronics & IT Ravi Shankar Prasad called for startups to play a major role in bridging the gaps between "haves and have-nots". "Startup movement should reach out to the rural India and particularly 1 lakh villages being upgraded as digital villages through focused intervention of government," Prasad said.

Electronics and IT (MeitY) StartUp Summit, Prasad said there is compelling case for social startups and that these should be encouraged so they unleash their power in India's changing digital narrative.

"I want Digital India platform to transform rural India and create aspirations in tier 3 and tier 4 cities and towns," Prasad said. Citing success stories of technology platforms Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and GST Network, the minister said government entities such as NIC, STPI should also become competitive.

"For Digital India to succeed, the government entities must

Govt launches BHIM 2.0

New Delhi: The Information and Technology Ministry on Monday unveiled a slew of new initiatives and programmes, including BHIM 2.0 that packs-in new functionalities, supports additional languages and has in-

also become competitive. I have told National Informatics Centre that your people have to become competitive and innovative... they have changed. Software Technology Parks of India also

must change, the minister said.

He also called for India to be one year. Responding to industry's concerns of patent clearances taking 4-5 years at times, the minister said "our patent clearance must be completed in a year's time".

EU regulator expects to clear Boeing 737 MAX by January

REUTERS
 COLOGNE, OCTOBER 21

EUROPEAN REGULATORS expect to clear Boeing's grounded 737 MAX to return to service in January at the earliest, following flight trials by European test pilots currently scheduled for mid-December, Europe's top air safety official told Reuters.

The head of the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) declined to estimate when US regulators would make their own decision to lift a flight ban imposed in March, but said any gap between the agencies would be a matter of weeks not months.

Boeing has said it aims to return the jet to service by year-end following changes to cockpit software and training in the wake of two fatal crashes that sparked the grounding in March.

The US Federal Aviation Administration has primary responsibility for lifting the ban and is expected to be followed by other regulators including EASA, but there have been concerns that other agencies could be slow to act.

"For me it is going to be the beginning of next year, if everything goes well. As far as we know today, we have planned for our flight tests to take place in mid-December which means



Boeing 737 MAX aircraft at Boeing facilities at Grant County International Airport in Washington. Reuters File

decisions on a return to service for January, on our side," EASA executive director Patrick Ky said late on Friday.

He said a return to service of the MAX would be coordinated with the FAA as much as possible, but that the two agencies had slightly different processes and consultation requirements.

"So we may end up with a couple of weeks of time difference but we are not talking about six months; we are talking about a delay which, if it happens, will be due mostly to process or administrative technicalities," Ky added.

Ky was speaking shortly before the disclosure on Friday of internal pilot messages from 2016 plunged Boeing into fresh turmoil. On Monday, he declined comment on the mes-

China unveils new carrier rockets to compete with India for global market

K J M VARMA
 BEIJING, OCTOBER 21

CHINA HAS unveiled its new generation of commercial carrier rockets which could carry up to 1.5 tonne payload as it gears up to compete with India to attract the lucrative global space launch market.

The new Long rocket series comprises a cluster of solid fuelled rockets codenamed the Smart Dragon (SD) family, and a Tengloung liquid-propellant rocket were unveiled on Sunday by the China Rocket, a commercial space wing of the country's leading rocket-maker China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology, official media reported on Monday.

The new set of rockets were aimed at tapping the growing potential of domestic and global commercial space launches, state-run Global Times reported.

The new set of rockets were "basically capable of meeting the requirements of the overwhelming majority of launch missions for domestic and foreign commercial satellites," the daily quoted a statement of the China Rocket.

China which has an established space programme with mission to Moon has elaborate plans to extend its mission to Mars besides setting up its own perma-

The new set of rockets were aimed at tapping the growing potential of domestic and global commercial space launches, state-run Global Times reported

nent space station by 2022. It however lags behind in attracting the global commercial rocket market unlike India.

In 2017 an article in Global Times warned that China's space industry is lagging behind that of India in commercial space industry.

"India's successful launch of a record-breaking 104 satellites into orbit could serve as a wake-up call for China's commercial space industry and there are a number of lessons for the country to learn," the article said.

"Of the 104 satellites, 96 belong to the US, which makes India a fierce competitor in the global market for commercial rocket launch services," the article titled "China needs to cut commercial space costs to compete with India" said. India's "achievements are largely driven by its low-price advantage, a weak point for China's commercial space sector," it said. **PTI**

OBITUARY: ALEXEI LEONOV DIED ON OCTOBER 11TH

The blue of Earth

The first man to walk in space, and to create art there, was 85



Officers carry a coffin of Alexei Leonov, the first man to conduct a space walk in 1965, during his funeral in Mytishchi, outside Moscow on October 15. Reuters

CLIMBING FROM the open airlock of Voskhod-2, Alexei Leonov felt quite calm. He was cool-headed, focused. This often disappointed people. "What!" they would exclaim. "The door into the universe had been opened, and you felt nothing?" They forgot that he had been through all that training at the Star City cosmonaut school, jumping into deep water, acrobatics, and the rest. They forgot that his head was full of data and instructions. All the same, as he released one hand, then one foot, then the whole of him, until only a 5.5-metre rope held him to the world of men, he could feel a smile starting on his face and spreading. He was calm mostly because he was enthralled. He spread his bulky suited arms, kicked his legs and floated, free. In the silence he could hear only his heartbeat and his heavy breathing. Stars were all around him against a coal-black sky. They did not blink.

Below him, 500km below, lay the Black Sea. He knew it well, not only as a Russian patriot, but because he had visited its shores dozens of times. Now, on March 18th 1965, he saw it whole, gun-metal grey, with a tiny dot of a ship on it that seemed caught from all sides in a flow of light. He too was a dot, a grain of sand in the near-blinding dazzle of the unobscured sun. It came through his visor like a welder's torch. He saw the Earth revolve, the only moving thing apart from himself.

What struck him most forcibly was how round it was, how beautiful, and how blue.

His reverie ended in near-disaster. In the vacuum of space his space suit expanded, until he could not get back into the craft without bleeding it of oxygen. Moreover, in minutes, the craft's orbit would take it into total darkness. Training kicked in; he kept his nerve and at last, drenched in sweat, tumbled head-first back through the airlock. Then the craft's re-entry went wrong. The guidance system failed and they had to steer manually, bumping down in a snowy forest 1,600km from the landing site. They waited two nights to be rescued, wondering whether bears or wolves would get them first. Yet the elation did not leave him. Partly this was because the mishaps were officially hushed up, leaving only his triumph. And there were other reasons.

First, he had survived. Astonishingly, he always did when danger felt his collar. His car flipped over on a frozen lake, and he didn't drown. In 1969 he got caught in a hail of bullets when he was riding in a motorcade behind Leonid Brezhnev, then Soviet leader; four passed through his coat, but not through him. In 1971 he was bumped from the Soyuz 11 flight to the Salyut 1 space station, and was furious, but the craft opened prematurely on re-entry, and the crew died. The space-walk



A 1965 photo of Leonov in Moscow. AP

was another brush with annihilation from which he emerged, just about, in one piece.

It had also affected him in a particular way. He had gone on this mission not just as a cosmonaut, but as an artist, self-taught from childhood, when he had painted pictures on the white stoves of his neighbours in the remote Siberian village where his parents farmed. A passion to be a fighter pilot,

then a cosmonaut, diverted him from that, but he preserved his insatiable love of looking at things. Whether it was odd alleyways in a town, or random birds and mushrooms on a hunting trip, he was always lagging behind, appreciating them. One of his pilot-training photos showed him, in full uniform, lying in a clover field to gaze tenderly at a stem of flowering grass. Now he had seen

the colours of space.

He had prepared for it, he thought, taking a sketch pad and crayons onto Voskhod-2. Yet nothing could have prepared him. There were so many more colours than on Earth, and so much brighter. Onboard he sketched the sunrise, with its astonishing sharp luminescence of red, green and yellow against the black and the blue. When Yuri Gagarin, the first man in space and his best friend from cosmonaut training, the short handsome foil to his tall, fair, bland-faced self, came on the radio during the walk to ask how "Artist" was, he simply said: "I can see so very much."

Undoubtedly he had to mention that blue if, as he hoped, he spoke to Earth as the first man standing on the Moon. He trained hard for that, mostly by using helicopters as mock lunar-landing craft, but the Soviet plans struck him as downright dangerous. In any case, in the space race that consumed the world's two great powers for almost two decades, the Americans nosed past in 1969 with the Apollo 11 landing. He watched it, one of the few Russians allowed to, his heart pounding with anxiety for the crew. Six years later, during a brief thaw in the cold war, he found himself training in Houston with Americans, larking around in a Stetson like a cowboy. On the joint Soyuz-Apollo Test Project that followed he and Tom Stafford

bear-hugged in the docking tunnel between their craft, the first international handshake in space. Later he and his new friends, whom he kept for life, drank each other's health in borscht which he had led them to believe was vodka. Space was not a place where men should be anything but brothers.

Whenever he had time, from his first training into his retirement, he painted at his easel. Two subjects in particular he kept returning to. One was the air crash in 1968 that killed Gagarin, which he later officially investigated. He had been among the first to get to that awful scene of wreckage and snow, with the tops of the birch trees torn off by the impact. He had had to identify his friend's body. Death had never seemed closer, or so terrible.

Yet so far as there could be comfort, it came from his other constant subject, his walk in space. Beside the lovingly rendered module he floated again, sometimes with his hands out like an explorer, sometimes simply swimming, with his tether slack around him. Beyond him the sun blazed, a spotlight with a star's red aura round it; behind and below him lay Earth's blue. It was straight-out-of-the-tube blue, improbably bright. But that was what he had seen—and seen directly, out in empty space.

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LEXINGTON

The unravelling of Rudy Giuliani

No one member of Donald Trump's coterie has fallen further than 'America's mayor'

HAD LEXINGTON'S 2007 incarnation been informed that the next Republican president would be a pro-gay, thrice-wed New Yorker, the name of Donald Trump would not have leaped to his august mind. Rudy Giuliani led the Republican primary by a big margin throughout that year. There were, to be sure, doubts about whether the former New York mayor was too socially liberal for small-town conservatives. He had once shared a house with two gay people and a Shih Tzu and, what was worse, acted in a comic skit alongside Mr Trump, that symbol of louche metropolitanism. Moreover America was not given to electing "abrasive" New Yorkers, Lexington cautioned then. But, like many others, he suspected Mr Giuliani's dynamism and the broad support he enjoyed for his calm leadership after 9/11 and record of crime-fighting could compensate for such handicaps.

It has been pretty much downhill ever since for Mr Giuliani—culminating this week in what appears to be the worst crisis of his increasingly scandal-plagued career. In his role as the president's old mucker and personal lawyer, he is alleged to have run a parallel foreign policy in Ukraine for the main purpose of spreading bogus allegations

against Joe Biden, Mr Trump's most feared Democratic rival. He is also reported to be under investigation—by a federal agency he once led—for breaking lobbying laws, apparently related to the same plot. Two of his business associates in Ukraine are under arrest. How much legal trouble he faces is unclear—though his decision to defy a congressional subpoena related to the Ukraine plot, for which Mr Trump is likely to be impeached, seems unlikely to help.

Politically, he is already busted. His defiant—at times almost unheinged—support for Mr Trump over the past three years has made him loathed in his old New York base and, because no one loves a dissembling lawyer, won him few friends outside it. And much good has it done him. Asked whether Mr Giuliani was still his lawyer, the president said he didn't know. Perhaps not even Mr Trump's previous personal lawyer, who is serving a three-year jail sentence, has lost more from his association with the president than the once admired Mr Giuliani stands to. Where did he go so badly awry?

One answer—popular in New York—is that his mayoral successes were significant but exaggerated, and weighed by character flaws that have worsened over time. New



Rudolph Giuliani (left) with US President Donald Trump in 2016. Reuters

York's drop in crime during his tenure turns out to have been much less to do with the changes to policing he oversaw than was once assumed. Moreover those reforms had

many authors—including his African-American predecessor, David Dinkins, whom Mr Giuliani defeated in a campaign remembered for his racist dog-whistling

(the contest was dubbed the "Race race"). Mr Giuliani's social liberalism, mandatory in New York, now looks less central to his politics than his willingness to play the race card to win power and to bend the rules to keep it. He even tried that after 9/11—which he sought unsuccessfully to use as an excuse to extend his second term. On both crime-fighting and 9/11, it is argued, Mr Giuliani was essentially in the right place at the right time.

Another (not necessarily contradictory) answer is that he was in the right place at the wrong time. In other words, before Barack Obama's presidency and the reactionary backlash it triggered on the right, Republican voters were not yet ready for the blend of pugnacity and quiet bigotry Mr Giuliani offered. Or else why did they object to his residual New York liberalism but, a decade later, give Mr Trump's a pass? Mr Giuliani once said that "the anti-immigrant movement in America is one of our most serious political problems." In 2007 he ran much more on his record than demagoguery. But the fact that he could have done otherwise had he chosen to, his subsequent performance suggests, is itself an indicator of the nativist change that has swept the brash New Yorkers' party. And no one appreciated that change better than Mr Giuliani.

Grasping hold of Mr Trump's coat-tails, he made a political return brimming with resentful craziness. He implied that Mr Obama hated America, that Hillary Clinton was grossly corrupt and told Americans they had one last chance to save themselves: "There's no next election! This is it!" When Mr Trump's lawyers later struggled to defend the president against Robert Mueller's ob-

struction probe, Mr Trump knew just where to turn. Mr Giuliani has been ubiquitous on cable TV ever since, generally defending the indefensible. Though sometimes hazy on the details of Mr Trump's scandals, he has compensated by lambasting the president's enemies, exaggerating the powers of his office and, when all else fails, spouting nonsense.

The haziness—which has led to Mr Giuliani confirming that Mr Trump did various things, such as paying off a porn star, that he had previously denied—may even be calculated. It has added to the air of surrealism, fuelled by endless distraction and absurdity, from which Mr Trump draws his impunity. Amid the mayhem, it becomes hard to know which scandals matter most—though it appears Mr Giuliani's Ukraine plot against Mr Biden has met that mark. An ever-increasing scandal, it allegedly involved the president's lawyer illegally trying to influence a foreign government to falsely accuse the former vice-president of illegally influencing the same foreign government.

Rootin'-tootin' Rudy

In truth it is hard to find any altogether convincing explanation for Mr Giuliani's behaviour. He was once a serious politician prone to indiscipline; now he is wild. Yet a former colleague of his, who knows both men, suggests resentful envy of his old costar Mr Trump—whom he must secretly disdain—may be eating him alive. If so, Mr Giuliani is going to really hate it when the president and his entire party flatly disown him. That looks like the inevitable next stage in his disgrace.

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CROSSWORD 3943



- ACROSS**
1 Military band? (6)
4 Stock tune (6)
9 Pit sunk for a Russian space traveller (7)
10 Escort follows the van in front (5)
11 Enclosed by a badly lit back street (5)
12 Give generously when there's a whip-round? (4,3)
13 It needs to be accurate, even after drink (6-5)
18 Craft workers who could give one's arm a twist (7)
20 Once the article for sale is returned, say how good it is (5)
22 Don't have any main course? (5)
23 Rival bird is not on time (7)
24 Seaman in a hold (6)
25 A meeting that seeks spiritual guidance (6)
- DOWN**
1 Seems a strange herb, openly used by Ali Baba (6)
2 Spherical bullet (5)
3 Joker is made to step out and run (7)
5 A gust swirling, going through Lisbon (5)
6 A beer taken round to France, possibly (7)
7 Sun-worshippers take off for this state (6)
8 Is it used to deal with a deadlock? (8,3)
14 We prefer to be so (7)
15 Sign for implement (7)
16 An Arab country girl rings the doctor up (6)
17 Maintain there's some body in the beer (6)
19 Tom's turn to provide a saying (5)
21 Mark's old couple (5)

Solutions Crossword 3942: Across: 1 Low-down, 5 Grand, 8 Close quarters, 9 Eagle, 10 Arsenal, 11 Latest, 12 Apathy, 15 Wreath, 17 Exact, 19 Reinstatement, 20 Degas, 21 Matador. Down: 1 Lucie, 2 Wool-gathering, 3 Openers, 4 Nougat, 5 Germs, 6 A means to an end, 7 Display, 11 Lowered, 13 Pretext, 14 Becalm, 16 Tests, 18 Tutor.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

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

Human beings are the only creatures who are able to behave _____ in the name of reason (12)

O T A A R	D E U I L T
H N I O R	G S U L N Y

SUDOKU 4007

Difficulty Level 3s 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

6		9 1			5
	1	3			4
	4				6
5				9	
9 7			4 6		
6					8
1			6		
2			4	1	
4		5 1			9

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4006

2	8	6	3	4	1	5	7	9
4	9	3	5	8	7	6	1	2
1	5	7	2	6	9	3	4	8
7	1	4	9	5	2	8	6	3
5	6	9	8	3	4	1	2	7
8	3	2	1	7	6	4	9	5
9	2	5	6	1	3	7	8	4
6	4	8	7	9	5	2	3	1
3	7	1	4	2	8	9	5	6

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
A word is necessary about your professional affairs. I don't foresee any unexpected changes, but you must be aware that a certain amount of back-tracking is necessary, and that this may result in temporary frustration right now. However, it will all be worth it.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
With the Moon now so strong in your solar chart, you have an ideal opportunity to prove just how perceptive and open to a partner's needs you really are. Your maternal qualities are at their best, so you may be taking control at home or accepting a new professional responsibility.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Although it may go against the grain, you will have to smile sweetly, no matter what other people say or do. It is undoubtedly a perfect time for forgiveness, even if others are going all out for revenge. A soothing word will completely take the wind out of their sails.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
You seem to be angry about an emotional or family question, though whether you can do anything about it is another matter. Given that you will indeed be able to right an injustice, the question now is where to start? You might have to begin at the end and work back.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
It is surely better to stick to methods which are tried and tested and have proved themselves over the past few months. One thing you have to strive for is respect from partners and associates, and this will come if you show that you are prepared to be true to your word.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
Moral and ethical considerations are vital, for it's important that you do the right thing. You may not gain materially from being noble and selfless, but you will surely boost the quality of your life. Optimism is the theme for the next twenty-four hours.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
In a matter of days the Sun will have altered its position, putting the onus on you to improve your financial situation. Joint arrangements will be most significant, so preserve and build on all important relationships. Somebody is waiting for you to make the first move.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
You're honestly not sure whether private or public life is more important. Perhaps other people can help you, so why not ask around? For once partners are in a very good position to offer a helping hand, and it may become clear that you can indeed pursue different options at the same time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)
Take the fullest possible advantage of today's amazingly favourable planetary aspects to lift your spirits. It matters not whether your life is easy or difficult, just as long as you keep things in perspective. Also, only make commitments you know that you can stick to.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
You seem to be reorganising your home, but you are also about to change your mind about what you want. The only way to tackle family relationships is through realising that nobody, not even you, can ever be free of the past. You can be fully independent and fulfil your duties at the same time.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
An unusual amount of planetary activity in sensitive regions of your chart is drawing your attention to certain quibbles and queries at home. Problem-solving is now on the agenda, so get on with creating a brighter future. The past may seem like a golden age, but your memory might be playing tricks on you.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
Now you really ought to be out of the doldrums. Venus lines up with friendly planets to create a sense that the world is rather a wonderful place after all, so put on your rose-tinted spectacles before you go out this morning. It's time to wear your happy face.

Government of Jharkhand
Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute
Department of Schedule Tribe, Schedule Caste, Minorities, and Backward Classes Welfare Department Morabadi, Ranchi - 834008
Tel: 0651-2551824 e-mail- tri.directorate@gmail.com/dir-triran@gov.in

Lt. No- _____ Ranchi, Dated: _____

Corrigendum P.R. No. 216871

The Expression of Interest on Ref. no. 1243 Dated 04.10.2019 has been deferred due to unavoidable circumstances. The last date of submission and opening of the tender has been rescheduled as given below:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Date of Submission As per Tender	Rescheduled date of submission	Date of opening as per tender	Rescheduled date of opening
1.	Study of the social institutions among tribal's - Continuity and change (i.e. Akhra, Dhumkuriya, etc.)	10/10/2019	08/11/2019	16/10/2019	13/11/2019

In this connection, the eligible firm/ agency /institution/ organisation are requested to submit their tender and present at opening as per rescheduled date and time.

Sd/- Director
PR 220476 (Welfare)19-20#D

Government of Jharkhand
Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute
Department of Schedule Tribe, Schedule Caste, Minorities, and Backward Classes Welfare Department, Morabadi, Ranchi - 834008
Tel: 0651-2551824 e-mail- tri.directorate@gmail.com/dir-triran@gov.in

Lt. No-1299 Ranchi, Dated: 21.10.2019

Corrigendum P.R. No. 216863

The Expression of Interest on Ref. no. 1240 Dated 04.10.2019 has been deferred due to unavoidable circumstances. The last date of submission and opening of the tender has been rescheduled as given below:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Date of Submission As per Tender	Rescheduled date of submission	Date of opening as per tender	Rescheduled date of opening
1.	A Study on the Tribal History of Rajmahal (Sahebganj District) as a gateway of Bengal and other aspects from the ancient period to the British period.	10/10/2019	08/11/2019	16/10/2019	13/11/2019

In this connection, the eligible firm/ agency /institution/ organisation are requested to submit their tender and present at opening as per rescheduled date and time.

Sd/- Director
P.R. 220471 Welfare(19-20)-D

INFANTRY DAY CELEBRATIONS
OCTOBER 2019

FIELD MARSHAL KM CARIAPPA MEMORIAL LECTURE : 25 OCT 2019
Date & Time : 25 OCT 2019 (Friday), 3:45 pm onwards
Venue : Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi
Dress : Veteran - Shirt & Regt /Inf Tie
Serving - Uniform of the Day
Topic & Speaker : "The Strategic Dimensions of the Kashmir issue" by Mr. Maroof Raza.

INFANTRY CUP GOLF TOURNAMENT : 26 OCT 2019
Time & Venue : 26 Oct 2019 (Saturday) , 6:00 am onwards - AEPTA, Delhi Cantt. Details available at AEPTA
Regn fee : ₹200/- per individual

INFANTRY LUNCH : 26 OCT 2019
Venue & Time : Inf Mess, Delhi Cantt. on 26 Oct 2019 (Saturday), 12:30 pm onwards.
Dress : Shirt & Regimental / Infantry Tie
Participation : All Serving / Retired Infantry Officers alongwith their spouse. No Separate Invitation Cards are being sent
Contributory Lunch : ₹800/- per individual for single only. ₹1200/- per couple only.

Contact Details - Please confirm attendance :-
Infantry Lunch : 011-23018412
Infantry Cup Golf : 011-23335545
FM KM CARIAPPA Memorial Lecture : 011-23013579

Recruitment of 129 Contractual Public Health Vacancies for JRHMS, Govt. of Jharkhand
Advt No:- 03/2019/129/JRHMS
(Please view details at www.jrhms.jharkhand.gov.in and www.http://jrhms.quesscorp.com/)

Jharkhand Rural Health Mission Society (JRHM), Government of Jharkhand, is committed to provide accessible, affordable and accountable quality health services to the last person of the last household at the last village. The thrust is on establishing a fully functional, community owned, decentralized health delivery system with inter sectoral convergence at all levels, to ensure simultaneous action on a wide range of health determinants such as water, sanitation, education, nutrition, social and gender equality.

Endeavor is being made to ensure institutional integration within the fragmented health with emphasis on outcomes, measured against Indian Public Health Standards for all health facilities. JRHMS is seeking applications from eligible candidates for 129 contractual vacancies at different levels, for Technical Health Professionals, Non-Technical Health Professional District Managers & Consultants etc.

Position and Vacancy Details:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Position	No. of Vacancy	Salary in INR per Month
1.	Block Programme Manager-NHM	71 (UR-26, EWS-07, ST-31, SC-07)	20085.00
2.	Block Accounts Manager-NHM	36 (ST-32, SC-04)	20085.00
3.	District Leprosy Consultant-NLEP	11 (UR-03, ST-04, SC-02, BC-I-01, BC-II-01)	31500.00
4.	District Accounts Manager-RCH	01 (ST-01)	41698.00
5.	Psychologist-DEIC	02 (ST-01, BC-I-01)	25000.00
6.	Consultant (Training)-IDSP	01 (UR-01)	31000.00
7.	Midwifery Sister-Tutors	06 (UR-03, ST-01, SC-01, BC-I-01)	80000.00
8.	State Cold Chain Officer	01 (UR)	79417.00

Mode of Application:
Eligible candidates may apply online (www.jrhms.quesscorp.com)
Applications shall be accepted from the date 24.10.2019 and the last date for receiving the application shall be by or before 15th November 2019, 11:59 PM
Please visit www.jrhms.jharkhand.gov.in/ and www.http://jrhms.quesscorp.com/ for detailed TOR and information regarding eligibility, salary and age criteria for each post.

Mission Director
NHM, Jharkhand
P.R.220494 Jharkhand Rural Health Mission Society(19-20)-D

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, SOURA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL
Tel. _____ E-mail: mechanicalskims@gmail.com

Re-02
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE
Gist of e-NIT No. 30 of 2019-20 Dated 18.10.2019

For and on behalf of Governor of Jammu & Kashmir State, Executive Engineer, Mechanical, SKIMS, Soura, Srinagar, invites e-Tenders from Registered/ Reputed/Experienced Firms, having relevant experience of repairs and maintenance of Hot Water Generators on annual contract basis.

Sr. No.	Name of the Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)
1.	General overhauling of Hot Water Generators of various capacities in Boiler House of Nursing College, Trust Hospital, Doctors/ Nursing Hostel & Advance Human Genetic Centre at SKIMS, Soura.	Rs. 7,53,350/-

The complete tender document is available at website: http://jktenders.gov.in. Interested Bidders/Tenderers may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarifications and submit their bids online upto the date and time mentioned in the table below. Tender Document contains qualifying criteria for bidders. Specifications, Bills of Quantities & Terms and Conditions of the contract and other relevant details.

i.	Date and Time of downloading/ Sale of Tender documents (Starting Date)	19.10.2019 from 11.00 hours
ii.	Date & Time of Bidding Queries/ clarification/Pre-Bid meet	22.10.2019 at 11.00 hours
iii.	Last Date & Time of Bid /uploading	25.10.2019 upto 14.00 hours
iv.	Date of Submission of hard copies (Only Original EMD/DD for Document Fee)	25.10.2019 upto 14.00 hours
v.	Date & Time of Commercial/ Technical Bid (Cover-I) opening	29.10.2019 11.00 hours (or next convenient day)
vi.	Date & Time of Financial Bid (Cover-II) opening of the qualifying Bidders	Shall be intimated separately
vii.	Cost of e-Bid Document	Rs. 500/- (Rupees Five Hundred only)
viii.	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit (CDR/FDR)	Rs. 15,000/- (Rupees Fifteen Thousand only)
ix.	Completion Time	One Month
x.	Budget Head	M & R work 2019-20

No. SIMS 139 EX.465/19-1507-16-3692-95
Dated: 18.10.2019
Sd/- Executive Engineer
Mechanical, SKIMS.

BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD
(POWER WING)

NIT No. 826 NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Name of Office: Resident Engineer, Ganguwal & Kotla Power Houses Division, BBMB (PW), Ganguwal, Distt. Ropar-140123 (Punjab)

Name of Work: Providing water proofing over the roof of Power House building attached to Machine Hall having 11KV System Control Room, L.T. Room & AEE / Mtc. Room at Ganguwal & Kotla Power Houses.

Start date for submission of documents for checking PQR	25-10-2019 from 10:00 Hrs.
Document Download End Date & Time	14.11.2019 upto 12:00 Hrs.
Last Date & Time for Online Bid Submission	14.11.2019 upto 14:30 Hrs.
Date & Time for submission for documents for checking PQR	14.11.2019 upto 15:00 Hrs.
Date & Time of Online Bid Opening	15.11.2019 from 15:00 Hrs. onward online
Approximate Cost	Rs. 24,00,000/-
Earnest Money	Rs. 48,000/-

Detailed NIT & Terms & Condition may be seen / downloaded from BBMB website : www.bbmb.gov.in & https://bbmbeproc.abcpocure.com
520-PR-GENERATION-4 FOR YOUR BETTER TOMORROW SAVE ENERGY TODAY

BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD
(Power Wing)

NIT No. 830 NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Name of Office: Resident Engineer, Ganguwal & Kotla Power Houses Division, BBMB (PW), Ganguwal, Distt. Ropar - 140123 (PB.)

Name of work: Replacement of old/damaged trench covers with new trench covers in 220 KV MISS Ganguwal.

Start date for submission of documents for checking PQR	25.10.2019 from 10.00 hours
Documents download End date & time	14.11.2019 upto 12.00 hours
Last Date & Time for Online Bid Submission	14.11.2019 upto 14.30 hours
Date & Time for submission of documents for checking PQR	14.11.2019 from 15.00 hours
Date & Time of Online Bid Opening	15.11.2019 from 15.00 hours onward online
Approximate Cost	₹ 52,60,000/-
Earnest Money	₹ 1,05,200/-

Detailed NIT & Terms and Condition may be seen/downloaded from BBMB website http://bbmbeproc.abcpocure.com and www.bbmb.gov.in.
524-PR-Generation-5 For Your Better Tomorrow Save Energy today

UTILITY POWERTECH LTD.
(A JV of NTPC Ltd. & Reliance Infrastructure Ltd.)

Notice for e-Tendering

Utility Powertech Limited is switching over to e-tendering portal (<https://www.tenderwizard.com/UPL>). Utility Powertech Limited, Jhark invites e-tenders from the eligible experienced vendors who have successfully executed the similar job and who fulfill the qualifying requirements as stipulated below for the works.

Job contract for C&I work for main plant, AHP & CHP & off site area of plant at IGSTPP, Jharli, Jhajjar (HR)-Estimated Value - 541.00 Lacs for two years.

• Tender documents cost (Non refundable); Rs.2685/- for the NIT (Inclusive of GST). Earnest money Rs.10,00,000 for the NIT. Tender document cost and EMD are exempted for NSIC for services/MSEs, registered vendors (only D or E Service Category).

• Period of Online issue of bid document: 23.10.2019 to 07.11.2019

The **PRE-QUALIFYING REQUIREMENTS (PQR)**; regarding tender for online bid submission are given on <https://www.tenderwizard.com/UPL> and <http://www.utilitypowertech.org/>.

For participation in tender of Utility Powertech Limited, the vendors shall enroll themselves on the e-tendering portal (<https://www.tenderwizard.com/UPL>). For enrolment, bidder has to click on the link "Register with us", to create their login ID and password. Bidder has to register Digital Signature Certificate (Signature certificate) of class III also. Any further information needed is available in "User Manual" of M/S ITI Ltd. (Tenderwizard)

For any Help/Queries regarding online tendering, you may contact M/S ITI official: Mr. Nagendra Singh (9870393812), Mr. Mayank Singh (8800115628)

For any tender related queries at UPL official end, you may contact:
1. Sh. Ashish Sharma, Dy. Manager (CS), Phone No: 1251-267865/9416211693
2. Sh. A. K. Mishra, Resident Manager, Phone No: 1251-267866/9599445549

21 TALK

ART, MUSIC, STYLE, FOOD



DOOR TO DOOR

Author Stephen King has been granted approval to convert his home in Bangor, Maine, into a museum and writer's retreat that can house five authors at a time. The Victorian-style mansion is where King had penned his 1986 horror book, *It*.

SNAP SHOTS



Past to Present

ENGLISH POET Fiona Benson has been awarded the £10,000 Forward Poetry Prize for best poetry collection for *Vertigo & Ghost*. Beating poets Ilya Kaminsky and Vidyan Ravinthiran, Benson's second collection places Greek mythology in contemporary times, in the presence of the #MeToo movement, as she turns god Zeus into a rapist while touching upon subjects of female desire and fear. The £5,000 Felix Dennis Prize for the best first collection went to Stephen Sexton for *If All the World and Love Were Young*, who explores how the Super Mario video game made him deal with the loss of his mother.



Some designs from the new collection; (below, from left) Maggie Priori, Caroline Lebar and Manjula Tiwari

Taking A Close Karl

The team behind the arrival of the Karl Lagerfeld label in India talk about the late designer, and creating clothes for the Indian shape

EKTAA MALIK

INDIA WAS very close to Karl. It's a pity he never came here but he carried this place in his heart," says Caroline Lebar, from the eponymous fashion house and designer label named after German designer and photographer Karl Lagerfeld. She goes on to stream the famous Paris-Bombay Métiers d'Art show, which Lagerfeld designed for Chanel in 2011/2012, on her phone for us, as a testament to the late designer's attachment to India. "This was a homage to India," adds Lebar, as we meet her hours before the launch of the collection in New Delhi.

Lebar and her colleague, Maggie Priori, were in India over the weekend to launch a special India Capsule in collaboration with Cover Story, one of India's homegrown premium fast fashion brands. "We have been working on this for about a year now," adds Manjula Tiwari, CEO of Cover Story. "It started with us getting a call from the design house, suggesting we get in business together. Initially, we were taken by surprise." Priori, Head of Liaison at the fashion house, says, "I was visiting India last year, and chanced upon a Cover Story outfit in a store window, and I walked in. I liked what I saw. And here we are."

The 80-piece collection, available at Cover Story's Delhi and Mumbai outlets, is a bit of a departure from the usual aesthetics of the brand. There are a lot of monochromatic tones and sharp silhouettes — in line with the Karl Lagerfeld ethos. The designer, who passed away earlier this year, championed the cause of monochrome separates. Daywear includes basic black-and-white ensembles, but we see a sporadic burst of red as well. To spice things up, there is a snow leopard print, and a houndstooth imprint as well. There are androgynous tuxedos — in both suit and dress options, besides sequined jumpsuits and knitted dresses that are apt for evening wear.

This is not the first foray of Karl Lagerfeld in fast fashion. They did it in 2004 with Swedish clothing brand, H&M. Lebar affirms it was against her advice. "I told Karl not to do it, and yet he went ahead with it, he did things instinctively. The H&M collaboration was a huge success. It changed the way fast fashion was perceived in the world. This is a testimony to who he was, that I could go and advice him 'no' for something. I wasn't fired. I am



so happy that I was wrong," adds Lebar, who has been with the design house for more than 30 years. She started as an intern, and never left.

The team took special care to accommodate the varied shape of the Indian woman in the designs. "We could have honestly gone with anyone, but that's where Manjula came in. She told us how perhaps our heavy velvet offerings — a signature of the label — won't work in India, given the climate. We could do something very Karl — like a crocodile print — which works in the Middle-East, but it will work better here if it's limited edition. We could bring in the very sharp 'Karl' silhouette but they might not work here, given the Indian body. What's the point of making something which doesn't fit you, even if it's your size — because it's not meant for your shape," says Lebar. The collection is priced competitively, between Rs 5,000 and Rs 15,000. "The collaboration works because they were not prescriptive in their approach. Accessible luxury was the com-

The 80-piece collection is a bit of a departure from the brand's usual aesthetics. The team took special care to accommodate the varied shape of Indian women in their designs

posed theme," says Tiwari, who had earlier worked with brands such as United Colors of Benetton and Jabong, among others.

The two parties understand that this collaboration is a risk, but that's the Lagerfeld ethos. "Karl always took risks. In the mid-'80s when he took over Chanel, it was a dead, decaying fashion house. Coco Chanel had died about five years ago, but was still very much an icon in public memory. There were people like Kenzo and Jean Paul Gaultier around him, who advised him against it. But he went ahead and revived it," recalls Lebar, 53.

India has been an interesting experience for the label and for Lebar as well, personally. "I see how being dressy is a way of life. I saw a woman in Mumbai on a ferry. She was wearing this heavily embroidered pink saree. She had her feet up, and leaned on the railing with no care in the world. In France, when you are dressed up, you sit up straight, you are so attentive and formal. Here in India, design, fashion and looking good is woven into the DNA," adds Lebar.

Both the design houses, Cover Story and Karl Lagerfeld, are keeping in with the debate around sustainable fashion and ethical practices in the industry. "The companies need to be mindful of the materials we use. But there has to be a conscious choice by consumers as well; they should be willing to invest more in what will last longer," says Tiwari. "We need to recycle, reuse. I like fast fashion because I can reinvent who I am. But that means we should be careful about what we do afterwards. Cotton T-shirts can be upcycled and made into paper," adds Lebar.



Endurance Test

THE GURGAON Road Runners (GRR) believe they change lives and on October 17, the day of Karwa Chauth, women who were training for the Airtel Delhi Half Marathon stuck to their plan to run despite the fast. Nearly 50 women took to the tracks, and to cheer them on, were male runners from GRR. What began with just few members in 2013, today has over 10,000 members. Siddarth Choudhary, who founded GRR, is an ultra endurance athlete. GRR trains people of all age groups for long distance running (marathons) and cyclothon and has been instrumental in revolutionising the concept of running in Gurgaon.

A Cause of Concern

MALAYSIA HAS denied to screen the animation film *Abominable* owing to the controversial map depicting China's "nine-dash line" in the South China Sea. The move follows after the makers were asked by the Malaysian film censorship board to cut a scene showing the U-shaped line used in Chinese maps to lay claims over the disputed area that has been claimed by several other countries including Malaysia, Vietnam and Philippines. The film, produced by DreamWorks Animation and China-based Pearl Studio, deals with the journey of Everest, the ape-like creature from folklore who wishes to return to his home in the mountains, with the help of a teenager. "Universal has decided not to make the censor cut required by the Malaysian censor board and as such will not be able to release the film in Malaysia," United International Pictures Malaysia said in a statement. Vietnam had stopped the film from screening in its theatres last week.

Article of Faith

Performance storyteller Emily Hennessey from the UK on her interest in Indian mythology, and how she chooses her stories



Emily Hennessey in Delhi

ISHITA SENGUPTA

AT THE recently concluded Kathakar Festival in Delhi, a host of storytellers enthralled the eager listeners at Sunder Nursery for three days. Emily Hennessey, a performance storyteller based out of Cumbria, UK, was one of them. She performed on two days and presented an engaging illustration of the becoming of Kali and the revenge of Shikhandi from the *Mahabharata*. With no props save a stick, she stuck out her tongue like Kali, and transformed into a demon as she thumped around the stage in mad fury. After the performance, Hennessey was greeted with little children asking for another story and a photograph. Having studied at the University of Kent, Hennessey owes her interest in performance storytelling to her teacher Vayu Naidu. In an interview, she talks about storytellers, the impact of Naidu on her craft and how she chooses her stories. Excerpts:

Does a storyteller need to be a performer?

Not at all. There are so many different kinds of storytellers. There are some who work very well on the stage, who will use the space and a lot of performance techniques. There are others who tell the most fantastic stories sitting in an informal setting like a pub or around the fire. We are all storytellers; we tell stories all the time.

How did you get interested in Indian mythology?

Before I went to university, I spent some time in Nepal. I was fascinated with all of the gods and goddesses, temples and shrines and how they were part of everyday life. Like, even in the taxi, there are pictures of gods and goddesses. In the UK, we don't have that. Our lives are not infused with any living mythology. I became very interested. Working with Vayu resulted in developing a relationship with some of the Indian stories. In 2008, I came to India to research on various storytelling traditions and got to spend some time in Kattakkuttu school, Tamil Nadu. I learnt how to tell stories from children. They used to narrate stories from the *Ramayana* and the *Mahabharata*. A lot of the stories I tell now have been inspired from children.

At the beginning of the performance, you said, almost as a disclaimer, that this is your interpretation.

I felt it was important to say that here. In the UK, I probably wouldn't introduce with that but here it is important because I am telling some very well-known Indian stories in front of an Indian audience. I felt it was necessary to explain that it was my version. There are bits I have missed, some I have chosen not to bring in. There are changes there.

How do you choose your story?

When I find a story I am interested in, I try to find as many different versions of it as I can. I go back to the source, see what other people have done, choose things I like and then piece them together and form my own version.

Does being a woman influence your choice of stories or the way you tell them?

Very much. Especially with the Indian stories. I find the characters of goddess Kali, Parvati and Amba amazingly powerful and strong female figures. The world needs these figures. We need these stories.

'I made peace with fear and death'

Actor Manisha Koirala on *Healed*, her cancer memoir, and how her three-year battle with the disease renewed her

DIVYAA

THE LAST day of the recently held Khushwant Singh Literary Festival in Kasauli began with actor Manisha Koirala sharing her three-year-long journey of conquering cancer. Once she was done with obliging fans with selfies and had a small gig with Rajasthani folk dancers on the stage as well, she settled in for a two-hour conversation with author-journalist Sathya Saran. Koirala spoke about her battle with ovarian cancer that initially spelt despair for her, but eventually turned out to be a life-changing journey. "This phase really made me delve into who I am and what I want to be," she said at the outset.

taught me to make the most of all I have, and it has now become an extension of my personality," she said.

In 2012, when Koirala discovered that she had last-stage ovarian cancer, with "little hope", it became a metaphor for all that was wrong in her life. "My marriage was broken, I had no film career, and then this happened.

When I look back, I am not happy with a lot of things that I have done in the past. I want to do some things differently. And that's what I am doing now. I have made promises to myself

MANISHA KOIRALA, ACTOR

I thought I had not lived my life fully; everything was *baaki*," she added, admitting that it filled her with regret about her unhealthy lifestyle, some times bordering on the reckless. She insisted that no one should take his/her health lightly. "I have learnt to give importance to my health and that's something I tell others to do as well," said the 49-year-old actor.

But, she says, the harder part after being declared cancer-free by her doctors in the US was her return to Mumbai, "bald, without eyebrows and eyelashes". She was worried people would say: *'kya thi aur kya ho gayi hai'*. Once back home, she lacked the strength to look into anyone's eyes, avoided meeting people, and remained in hoodies and kept her



Actor Manisha Koirala during the session in Kasauli

gaze on the ground. "Later, I discovered that not everyone is cruel or mean. People accepted and appreciated my journey; and that

gave me strength," she said.

On the support she received during her battle, Koirala says even as empathy came

from unexpected quarters, not too many people from Bollywood reached out. "Also, I was in a phase where I was coming to terms with my diagnosis; so I kept away from my phone and from people," she adds.

Koirala stressed on the importance of small little gestures by people that went a long way in helping her remain positive during her treatment: like her uncle telling her to mentally accept chemo as "tonic shots" and never reject it or fear it; a friend lending her Burberry coat while she was leaving for the US for her treatment and asking to return it when she came back; a Maori healer asking her to send love to her ovaries; and she creating a small affirmative mantra for herself during her treatment.

Instead of feeling sorry for herself, Koirala focused on getting another chance at life. Now that she has it, she says, "When I look back, I am not happy with a lot of things that I have done in the past. I want to do some things differently. And that's what I am doing now. I have made promises to myself. I've learnt to value my family, relationships, health and work." She is presently looking forward to the release of *Prasthanam*, the Hindi remake of the 2010 Telugu hit by the same name, in which she reunites with Jackie Shroff and Sanjay Dutt after two decades.

McDONALD NAMED RR HEAD COACH
Rajasthan Royals on Monday appointed former Australia cricketer Andrew McDonald as their new head coach for a three-year term.

SCORECARD >>
India vs South Africa

3rd Test | Ranchi | Toss: India

INDIA	497/9 D IN 116.3 OV
S AFRICA	162 IN 56.2 OV
(OVERNIGHT)	9/2 IN 5 OV

D Elgar c Saha b Shami	0 (2b)
Q de Kock c Saha b Yadav	4 (6b, 1x4)
Z Hamza b Jadeja	62
	(79b, 10x4, 1x6)
F du Plessis b Yadav	1 (9b)
T Bavuma st Saha b Nadeem	32 (72b, 5x4)
H Klaasen b Jadeja	6 (10b, 1x4)
G Linde c Sharma b Yadav	37
	(81b, 3x4, 1x6)
D Piedt lbw b Shami	4 (14b)
K Rabada run out	0 (6b)
A Nortje lbw b Nadeem	4 (55b)
L Ngidi not out	0 (5b)

Extras: (b 8, lb 3, nb 1) **12**

Fall of wickets: 1-4 (Elgar, 0.2 ov), 2-8 (de Kock, 1.6 ov), 3-16 (du Plessis, 5.5 ov), 4-107 (Hamza, 27.4 ov), 5-107 (Bavuma, 28.2 ov), 6-119 (Klaasen, 31.4 ov), 7-129 (Piedt, 36.4 ov), 8-130 (Rabada, 37.5 ov), 9-162 (Linde, 55.1 ov), 10-162 (Nortje, 56.2 ov)

Bowling:

M Shami	10-4- 22-2
U Yadav	9-1- 40-3
S Nadeem	11.2-4- 22-2
R Jadeja	14-3- 19-2
R Ashwin	12-1- 48-0



Umesh Yadav bowled a peach to nail South Africa skipper Faf du Plessis in the first innings. The ball landed on middle stump, inviting Faf for a drive, before it nibbled away to hit his stumps. PTT

Bowled, beautiful

Pacers Shami and Yadav run South Africa ragged to put India on the brink of a 3-0 series win

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
RANCHI, OCTOBER 21

UMESH YADAV ran in from the MS Dhoni Pavilion End and bowled a fullish delivery to Faf du Plessis. The ball swerved in, landed on the seam and then moved away to hit the top of off stump. It was a bail-trimmer; the ball of the Test series yet by a distance. Du Plessis stood in disbelief for a moment before walking back. It was the fifth ball of the day. The third day's play had a cracking start.

When the afternoon winked in, the sun started playing hide-and-seek. South Africa were following on after being bowled out for 162 in their first innings and were hardly doing any better at their second dig, with four wickets down for 26 runs. Yadav once again ran in from the MS Dhoni Pavilion End, made one rear off a length and the ball hit Dean Elgar on the helmet. The South Africa opener was floored, dazed and retired hurt. Concussion substitute Theunis de Bruyn had to be called in. Yadav had bounced out Quinton de Kock in the first innings. But it was a wearing third day pitch. It was also the JSCA Stadium in Ranchi, not the WACA or Kingsmead.

In today's context, Dhoni's name wasn't relevant, just that it served a reminder that he had once berated Yadav for being wayward. Of course, there was merit in his criticism. At the same time, Dhoni, a conservative Test captain, preferred line and length over raw pace. Under Virat Kohli, the Indian fast bowlers have the licence to go flat out. Yadav wouldn't have played this Test series if Jasprit Bumrah were fit. After six wickets in the second Test in Pune, the Vidarbha fast bowler already has five here and have the visitors reeling at 132/8 in their second innings. Save a miracle, they will succumb to another innings defeat. From the Indian fast bowlers' perspective, though, there are still a couple of wickets on offer and they would like to add them to their tally. Collectively they have already accounted for 26 scalps, compared to 10 by their South Africa counterparts.

Take Mohammed Shami. In Indian conditions, on mostly batting-friendly pitches, he al-

ready has 13 wickets from three Tests at an average of 14.76. Ravindra Jadeja, too, has 13, while Ravi Ashwin tops the list with 15. But their respective averages are 30.69 and 25.26. Indian fast bowling making a serious impact has become the new normal. But on pitches, not tailor-made for them, Shami and company have intimidated the South African batting.

Zubayr Hamza, who counter-attacked and top-scored (62) for the Saffers in the first innings, refused to admit the fear factor: "I wouldn't say intimidated... I would say that with the new ball, they just forced us to play more. They bowled attacking lines," Hamza said after the day's play.

Uncertain and unsure

The South African batters were uncertain facing the Indian quicks. Their mode of dismissals attested it. De Kock got a length ball from Yadav in the second innings. The makeshift Test opener made a tentative forward movement and tried to defend it, playing inside the line. His off stump went flying. In the next over, Shami bowled a good length delivery to Hamza. It straightened a bit after pitching, but the batsman was late on the shot and was castled. Even du Plessis reviewed a leg before decision that looked plumb. The ball kept low, but the South Africa captain, too, was a touch late on the shot. He wasted a review. Temba Bavuma was done in by an outswinger from Shami, which he could have left. He fished at it instead and was out caught behind. And after Elgar's head injury, the visitors seemed to have raised the white flag.

Batsmen are protected from head to toe these days. The number of bouncers per over are restricted to two only. Beamers are not allowed. It has become increasingly difficult for the fast bowlers to scare the batsmen with their pace. Mitchell Johnson did it to England during the 2013-14 Ashes Down Under. In the recently concluded Ashes in England, Archer at times got big on the England batters. But doing it on Indian pitches requires exceptional skill and control. India at the moment are reeling in an all-weather fast bowling group, even without their x-factor; Bumrah.

At times, they offered a throwback to the Caribbean pace battery of the 1970s and '80s. Clive Lloyd's quicks used to make the pitch factor redundant. The way Shami and Umesh — Ishant Sharma deserves an honourable mention — bowled in this series, a comparison with the West Indies greats probably won't be too far-fetched. Back then, the fast bowlers had the advantage of bowling six bouncers in an over. They could bowl beamers unchecked. Protective gears were primitive compared to what the batters use now. From that point of view, fast bowlers playing the lead in a Test series win against South Africa — a country where batsmen learn their cricket on fast and bouncy pitches — has made the success even more special.

Last week, while talking to this paper, former South Africa fast bowler Fanie de Villiers was stressing on the fact that how Indian cricket has been benefiting from having a pool of talented fast bowlers. "You (India) have many, while we are losing players (for different reasons)," he had said. Yadav coming into the team and making an instant impact spoke volumes for India's fast bowling bench strength. And there are young guns like Navdeep Saini, Khaleel Ahmed and Mohammed Siraj waiting in the wings — all capable of bowling well past 140kph. On Tuesday, when India will wrap up South Africa's second innings to secure a 3-0 clean sweep, it will be time to propose a toast to the fast bowlers.

PS: The ball that debutant left-arm spinner Shahbaz Nadeem bowled to dismiss Bavuma in the first innings today was a connoisseur's delight. It beat the batsman in the air, pitched around middle and leg and turned past the outside edge to 'keeper Wriddhiman Saha, who whipped the bails off. Nadeem was offering namaz at his Kolkata residence, when he got the call-up for this Test as the injured Kuldeep Yadav's replacement. And his maiden Test scalp wowed the country's greatest left-arm spinner.

"What a splendid 1st Test wk't fr #Nadeem...he did #Bavuma twice...in the air.& then off the pitch...excellent spectacle...!! Well done Nadeem...!!" tweeted Bishan Bedi.

Knock'em over, both stumps and heads

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
RANCHI, OCTOBER 21

DEAN ELGAR fell on the floor to an Umesh Yadav thunderbolt. Speed gun showed 145kph. More importantly, it was a well-directed bouncer that reared off a length. The ball thudded on the helmet right above the ear. The South African team physio Brandon Jackson came rushing in. The South African opener sat on the pitch and looked dazed. After initial assessment, Elgar was ruled out of any further participation in the ongoing third Test. Theunis de Bruyn became his concussion sub.

The incident happened at the stroke of tea on the third day here at the JSCA Stadium. South Africa were following on after being bowled out for 162 in their first innings against India's 497/9 declared. Yadav was into his fifth over and Elgar had been batting on 16, with the Saffers' second innings total 26/4. He was hit on the third ball of the over and the umpires called an early tea. "Dean Elgar is still being assessed and we are following the standard ICC protocol," the Cricket South Africa media manager Sipokazi Sokanyile said after the day's play.

It was third such incident in Tests in three months — Steve Smith at Lord's in August, Darren Bravo at Kingstons in September and now Elgar at Ranchi. Mamus Labuschagne was Smith's concussion substitute after the latter was hit on the neck by a Jofra Archer bouncer. Jermaine Blackwood came in for Bravo, when the left-hander took a blow off a Jasprit Bumrah bouncer and retired hurt.

Inadequate technique

Although, the JSCA Stadium pitch had variable bounce, Elgar's injury was basically down to his inadequate technique against the short



Umesh Yadav felled Dean Elgar with a brutish bouncer. PTT

ball. His took his eyes off the delivery and sort of ducked into the bouncer. Last year in Johannesburg also, he was hit on the grille by a Bumrah bouncer and needed a concussion test. Back then, he was given the go-ahead to carry on. Also, it was prior to the concussion sub — a like-for-like replacement — days. The ICC approved the new rule at its Full Council in London in July this year, as part of the playing conditions for all international and first-class matches. The rule came into effect from August 1, when the World Test Championship started at Edgbaston, with the Ashes.

"Following a two-year trial in domestic cricket, the ICC approved concussion player replacements in all formats of men's and women's international cricket and for first class cricket worldwide," the world cricket's governing body had stated in a release following its annual conference.

AN EXCEPTION

04 It was just the fourth time R Ashwin failed to take a wicket in an innings at home. The last time it happened was against Sri Lanka in Kolkata in 2017.

07 Seven South Africa batsmen were dismissed on the same day. They lost 16 wickets overall.

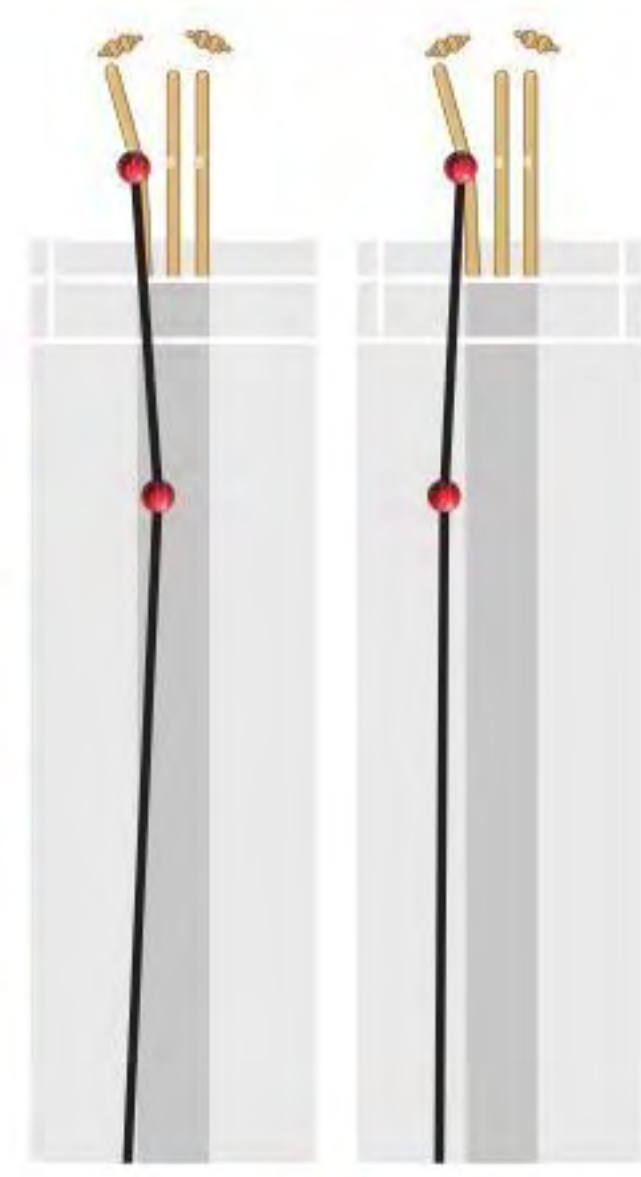
24 wickets, 9 bowled, 3 lbws

A half of Shami's and Yadav's scalps have been either bowled or leg before the wicket, which clearly depicts their strategy. Bowl within the stumps, on off-stump, and make the ball deviate a shade away or into the batsman.

STUMP TO STUMP: The two pacers have banked on the ploy to scatter a few around the fourth-fifth stump, before slipping one around off-stump. The wisdom is manifold. With not much of lateral movement available, pitching outside the off-stump is often a fruitless exercise, as the batsman could leave without much fuss — you don't often see batsmen nicking behind. Pitching on stumps would make them invariably play their shorts, besides bringing the lbw and bowled into the picture, more so if the bowlers can clock 140kmph on a consistent basis, as Shami and Yadav have been. It's the reason most great subcontinental bowlers, like Waqar Younis and Wasim Akram, have truckload of bowled and lbw. Like them, a one-third of Shami's and Yadav's overall wicketally have been either bowled or lbws. Moreover, as the strip starts deteriorating, the bowlers could exploit the variable bounce the subcontinental tracks are prone to. So it's a win-



Shami makes the ball move marginally away as well as into the right hander (as depicted) while Umesh nips it back to the southpaws. PTT



win situation unless you stray onto the middle stump.

MARGINAL DEVIATION: Green-tops are rare in sub-continent. So the bowlers rely on seam movement, decisive than massive movement. For example, most of Shami's "clean bowled" came from deliveries that held its line or moved away minutely from the right-hander. Batsmen don't expect movement at all, except when it's reversing, so they end up playing the wrong line, as South Africa's batsmen were routinely in the series. Shami achieves this marginal away movement with the help of a beautiful wrist position and a clean release (he doesn't whip the ball like conventional seamers), which ensures that the seam remains upright in the flight. It doesn't wobble and lands on the seam

Likewise, Umesh has worked really hard on his release, he doesn't wrap the wrists as tightly around the seam as he once used to. He always had a good out-swing, an offshoot of his action, and now he has learned to use it effectively as well, especially against the left-han-

ders from over the stumps. He concedes the impression that the delivery is sliding with the angle, only for it to snake back in. It would be the stuff of nightmares for Quinton de Kock, who was repeatedly given a working over. The movement, yet again, is subtle than pronounced, reinforcing the truism that you don't need massive movement to get batsmen out.

IN-BETWEEN LENGTH: As crucial as the off-stump line is the length. Neither quite good length nor back-of-length. Neither drivable on the front-foot or defensible on the back-foot. This dilemma has manifested in the indecisive footwork of South Africa's batsmen. Freeze-frame any of their dismissals, you can spot that they're caught at the crease, groping at the ball, meeting the delivery way in front of their eyes. It's the instinct that kicks in. Back on hard bouncy South African strips, they could leave the stump-bound deliveries on the length. Here, because of the lack of bounce, they are induced to play at those, but without making the required adjustments.

The Hundred: Rashid top pick, Gayle left out

ENGLAND AND Wales Cricket Board (ECB) makes an audacious dive into the unknown with The Hundred — a diet version of the ubiquitous T20 format — that begins in the summer of 2020 and comprises eight teams competing against each other across seven cities in England. The tournament that hopes to make cricket accessible for the whole family, has attracted a bevy of high-profile names. However, behind the razzmatazz of Sunday's big-ticket draft in London, came the shocking news of Chris Gayle's omission. The 40-year-old West Indies opener, who entered the draft at the highest price of £125,000, went unpicked. Veteran Sri Lankan pacer Lasith Malinga and South Africa's bowling linchpin Kagiso Rabada were also snubbed. Here's a look at everything you need to know about England's ambitious 100-ball project.



Chris Gayle had entered the draft at the highest price of £125,000.

How does The Hundred work?

The match will have a total of 200 legal deliveries with 100 deliveries per innings.
■ Each over will consist of 10 deliveries.
■ Each team will bat for 100 deliveries with a change of bowling ends taking place after every 10 deliveries.
■ Bowlers will bowl either five or 10 consecutive deliveries but no more than 20 per match.

Time-out

Each fielding side gets the chance to call for a strategic timeout for upto 150 seconds.

During the timeout, a coach can walk out to the middle and discuss strategies with his players.

Powerplay

A 25-ball powerplay will start each team's innings, during which only two fielders will be allowed outside the 30-yard circle.

What are the names of the teams?

They are: Trent Rockets (Trent Bridge), Southern Brave (The Ageas Bowl), Northern Superchargers (Emerald Headingley), Welsh Fire (Sophia Gardens), Oval Invincibles (The Kia Oval), Manchester Originals (Emirates Old Trafford), London Spirit (Lord's) and Birmingham Phoenix (Edgbaston).

What's the need for this format?

With matches lasting less than three hours, The Hundred is aimed at making the game more accessible to a wider audience, namely the mothers and kids. Also, with the advent of more popular T20 leagues across the globe such as the Indian Premier League, the ECB wanted to create its own prototype, one that's unique and stood out from the rest.

What are the immediate challenges?

The format must have the box-office players to rival IPL and silence critics who fear that the game's future will get compromised.

How does the draft work?

The Hundred draft, unlike the IPL is not an auction. Each of the eight teams will have two picks from seven rounds. Trent Rockets will make the first pick in

the opening round. The order is then reversed from the second round. The draft will end with each team selecting 14 players plus their England player. They have 100 seconds to make their choice in each round.

How much can teams splurge?

They will have a cap of £990,000 on salaries for their 15-member squad. Out of this amount, £30,000 will be reserved till June 2020, when each team gets to select their 'wild card' entry — a talented domestic player, who has performed admirably in the local T20 Vitality Blast.

How many players are in the draft?

There are 570 players registered in Sunday's draft, and each team is permitted to pick three overseas players.

What happened on Sunday?

Afghanistan leg-spinner Rashid Khan became the first overseas player picked for the inaugural 'The Hundred' competition next year, but T20 stalwarts Chris Gayle and Lasith Malinga were among notable omissions in Sunday's draft. Rashid, the No. 1 T20 bowler, was picked up by Trent Rockets for the top price of £125,000. Australians were the most sought after at the proceedings, with Steve Smith and Mitchell Starc being recruited by the Welsh Fire for £125,000 each.

Why are teams scrambling for Australians?

That's because the draft looks at international commitments of players for this tournament that runs between July-August 2020. The Australians are free during this month-long window, which explains why they are on top of every team's wish-list. With 53 players, Australia tops the list of overseas entrants, followed by Pakistan with 35. England's Test players will be eligible for the first 10 days of this tournament, as they will be busy playing a bilateral series against Pakistan under the aegis of the World Test championship during that time.

Why are there no Indians in this draft?

There are no Indians in this draft because the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) does not allow their players to participate in such overseas domestic franchise events. ENS

I really like the fact that the teams are planning for the future a lot. You look at our side you've got a lot of guys that are in their young 20s. It's fantastic to see all the coaches and staff look at it in that way rather than just be here and now. You look at Saqib and Parkinson they could be Manchester Originals players for the next 10 years."

JOS BUTTLER, ENGLAND TEST PLAYER WHO WAS ALLOCATED TO MANCHESTER ORIGINALS

Show me the money: Shakib & Co

Bangladesh players go on strike ahead of India tour, calling for better remuneration and facilities



The boycott was announced by top players such as Test and T20 captain Shakib Al Hasan, Mahmudullah, Mushfiqur Rahim and Tamim Iqbal.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DHAKA, OCTOBER 21

BANGLADESH'S UPCOMING tour of India was on Monday thrown into jeopardy after their national team players refused to participate in any cricketing activity until their demands, including a hike in salary, are met.

The boycott plan was announced by the country's top players such as Test and T20 captain Shakib Al Hasan, Mahmudullah and Mushfiqur Rahim at a press conference here. Nearly 50 players are part of the protest.

A boycott of any cricket activity for the foreseeable future will have an immediate impact on the National Cricket League, currently in progress. The action could also jeopardise the training camp for next month's tour of India and possibly the tour itself.

During the tour starting November 3, Bangladesh are scheduled to play three T20 Internationals and two Test matches as part of the World Championship.

"We have to respect the local coaches, physios, trainers and groundsman. They get really a little amount of salary at the end of the month," senior opener Tamim Iqbal said on behalf of the players at the press conference. The camp was supposed to start this week with the team's spin consultant Daniel Vettori in attendance. India responded with a guarded statement, calling Bangladesh's internal matter.

"The BCCI will wait and watch the developments closely. This is an internal matter of the Bangladesh Cricket Board and until and unless we hear from them, there is no need for us to make any comments," a senior BCCI functionary told PTI.

However, many in the Indian Cricket Board feel that President-elect Sourav Ganguly's cordial relations with both players and officials in Bangladesh cricket might help in salvaging the situation.

"There is a Test match in Kolkata which will certainly generate a lot of interest among the Bangladesh fans keeping the local connect in mind. A lot of fans are expected to travel from Dhaka and its surrounding towns to watch the match, a first in Kolkata. I believe that they will pay heed to our president's request if the situation demands," another BCCI official said.

Sources in the BCB believe that the tour is remains on course as Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is committed to attending the second Test at the Eden Gardens

What are the players demanding?

A TEST against India at the iconic Eden Gardens would have been a cherished dream for Bangladesh cricketers, that too with the country's Prime Minister among the watchers at the stadium.

But that now seems in jeopardy with their top cricketers, including first-class players, going on strike demanding better remuneration and facilities and streamlining of the domestic structure.

The average Bangladesh cricketer has never been among the most-highly paid in the world, and the players argue that the manner in which the game is run in the country limits their earning potential.

Eleven of the big stars of Bangladesh cricket — including Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahim, Tamim Iqbal and Mahmudullah — put forth a list of 11 demands and declared that they will not return to action till these are met.

The players are dissatisfied by the working of the Cricketers' Welfare Association of Bangladesh, as they feel it has done nothing for their benefit. Hence, they want its president and secretary to step down and their successors elected by players themselves through voting. Players should be allowed to choose their teams and negotiate salaries with Dhaka Premier League teams, as was the case earlier.

The Bangladesh Premier League teams are now operated by the cricket board itself. It is demanded that it returns to its earlier franchise-based model with lo-

cal players allowed to set their own base prices.

Remuneration in first-class cricket be hiked to one lakh takas per match (approximately Rs 83,700) — almost a three-fold increase from the present level — and an improvement in their allowances and other facilities.

Number of centrally-contracted players should be increased to 30, and also their retainers.

Salaries of groundsman, local coaches, umpires, physios and trainers should be increased.

There is just one one-day and one T20 tournament in the domestic set-up. One more of each should be started.

A proper calendar for the domestic season should be finalised in advance.

Pending payments to the players in the Dhaka Premier League must be cleared.

The BCB allows its players to feature in only two franchise leagues around the world. That cap must be lifted.

Improving the feeder system of players so that domestic cricket gets more competitive and the game gets more widespread.

Though the players have come together citing unsatisfactory administration on BCB's part, most of the points raised by them directly relate to their income.

Insistence of playing in more foreign

T20 leagues, more domestic limited-overs tournaments and central contracts betray that players are not satisfied with how much they earn at the present.

That the players want more say in who they play for in the domestic tournaments, and for how much, shows that players are aware of their star value in the country and are eager to leverage it.

There is great passion for cricket in Bangladesh, but whether there are the financial resources to meet the players' demands is debatable.

BCB caught off-guard

Though a development of this kind couldn't have taken place all of a sudden, the Bangladesh Cricket Board claimed it had yet to receive a formal intimation of the players' strike.

"We have come to know about this through the media. This has not been formally communicated to us. Obviously, the players are very important for us. We will talk to them about these issues. A decision in this regard will be taken at a board meeting in due course," BCB chief executive officer Nizamuddin Chaudhary said.

"Various demands come to us at different times, and we try to meet them. Today, this issue has come up and we'll definitely discuss it at the board meeting and take a decision." ENS

ing already led the team in the ODIs. India won that match by nine wickets against Naimur Rahman Durjoy's team. The team had prominent players like future Bangladesh captain Habibur Bashar, left-arm spinner Mohammed Rafique, pacer Hasibul Hossain Shanto, Akram Khan, Aminul Islam Bulbul. The felicitation will happen during India's World Test Championship match against Bangladesh at the Eden Gardens from November 22-26.

"We will invite all the players of that first Test match that Bangladesh played, it was against India. I will write to the Bangladesh Cricket Board and personally as BCCI presi-

dent to the players of that Indian team. We will do a small felicitation ceremony at the end of the first day's play," Ganguly told reporters at the Eden Gardens.

He also informed that Bangladesh PM Hasina will be in attendance on the first day of the match and ring the Eden Gardens' giant bell to signal the start.

"The Bangladesh PM will be arriving on November 22. If all goes well, she will ring the bell (to signal the start) of the Test," Ganguly said.

The BCCI president-elect also said that he will personally invite Prime Minister Narendra Modi to watch the proceedings.

England's Kamikaze Kids set sights on All Blacks

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
OCTOBER 21

THE HEROES of England's Rugby World Cup quarterfinal thrashing of Australia were what coach Eddie Jones calls Kamikaze Kids — Tom Curry and Sam Underhill. The two openside flankers harried the Wallabies (outplaying the originals, Wallabies Michael Hooper and David Pocock) and are expected to duel now with All Blacks flankers Sam Kane and Ardie Savea, which will be the battle flying into the first ruck of the England-New Zealand semifinal this coming weekend.

Stuff.co.nz says, "England coach Jones is expected to start specialist fetchers Tom Curry and Sam Underhill, who he has dubbed the Kamikaze Kids, against the All Blacks and no doubt hopes they can pilfer mouthwatering turnover ball, as well as tackle anything that twitches in a black jersey at Yokohama Stadium."

Curry and Underhill are the biggest exponents of the trend of starting specialist opensiders on either side of the scrum. It's how the game has evolved — the three loose forwards all carry out not too dissimilar versatile roles. Between them, Curry and Underhill made 36 tackles against Australia. "Teams are so structured and probably the best chance to attack from unstructured is turnover ball," stuff writes, so the pin-up stars of the English pack have been the two flankers forcing changes in possession.

How the names stuck
"Dynamic duo Sam Underhill and Tom



Tom Curry won the player of the match award in England's QF win over Australia.

Curry give England comic-book gusto" read Guardian's header. "Eddie Jones calls them his Kamikaze Kids, which fits — because the way Tom and Sam play is right out of a comic book. You could picture it in Roy Lichtenstein prints. Pop! Pow! Whaa! Boom!" it reads.

There's an ode to the tackles: one that Underhill put in on the strapping No. 8, Isi Naisarani, which reversed the entire flow of the Australia game. Naisarani is almost two metres tall and 18-stone heavy, he caught the ball and came charging right back at Underhill, who caught him flush in the gut, forced him back, lifted him off his feet and

dumped him down in a heap.

"It was a ruinous tackle, the sort of blow that staggers an entire team backwards," Guardian wrote. Combining, Curry and Underhill's best moment came when they teamed up on Reece Hodge as he came thundering in off his wing. Whack, Curry cut him down, and, smack, Underhill pounced and stole the ball off him.

When Marika Korobete came charging hard for the gap in front of Curry, the latter came flying in from the side and knocked Korobete off his feet and into next week. A second try-saving tackle in 20 seconds.

Who are openside flankers?

THE NO. 7 position in rugby flankings the pack, these are wing forwards of the scrum (blindside near the touchline, openside further inside the field). The openside flanker standing as the first link to the running backs will be one of the most physical, craftiest, fittest and downright tough players capable of attacking and defending against men much larger and much quicker than them. Crunching tacklers, greedy of breakdown work, fighting for balls in rucks and mauls and ball-carrying ability that forwards aren't known for, openside flankers take on the bigs, and earn turnovers.

What's in vogue with the big teams now is tossing the ball to two openside flankers. ENS

Pooper (Pocock & Hooper as the English call them) were beaten by the Kamikaze Kids in the Battle of the Breakdown. "Youth vs Experience", "Pooper vs Cunderhill", "The Kamikaze Kids vs Their Childhood Heroes", the tackle-ups went.

Who are the Kamikaze Kids?

They have a combined 28 caps between them and a combined age of 44. Australia's coach Michael Cheika pioneered the move of double opensiders at the 2015 World Cup

while evicting England from their home Cup. Eddie Jones this August looked willing to risk it all on a couple of young bucks; Curry and Underhill, the tackling titans, no slouches at the breakdown, fledgling flankers with youth and enthusiasm on their side who will hit rucks all day long.

Curry would say, "It is a physical position and one that is not the most glamorous. It is pretty gritty and you have to enjoy that the guy scoring out wide is usually because someone has done something in the middle that is fairly dull to watch but creates special moments in the game."

Rugby's i-newsletter writes, "Another side to the 'kamikaze kids' is their emergence as an engagingly odd couple when it comes to the social side of the squad. Curry is 21 and Underhill 23.

Curry, according to Underhill, is an occasional sleep-walker, whose nocturnal movements upset England's fly-half George Ford during pre-World Cup training camps in Surrey. "He had one night with George before he had to be moved because he was sleepwalking so much and just being a nuisance," Underhill said. "How far did he get? I think he was in front of a TV trying to knock it over."

Bath's Underhill is a student of politics and economics whose idea of a good time in the team hotel is completing a 1,000-piece jigsaw. Curry of Sale Sharks is, apparently, a chunterer who never stops speaking in daylight hours, or snoring when night falls. Curry is quoted saying, "We are probably too electric [as company] — people can't handle it. He [Underhill] is very relaxed and chilled, I am a bit less relaxed and chilled. Apart from that, we are both pretty weird."

After Hazare ouster, Mumbai wants 'unfair' rule removed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 21

MUMBAI RANJII team will ask the state cricket association to discuss with the BCCI the "unfair" rules that cut short their Vijay Hazare campaign despite dominating the quarterfinal against Chhattisgarh.

Chhattisgarh were declared winner in the quarterfinal on the basis of more number of victories than Mumbai during the league phase as the match could not be completed due to rain in Bengaluru. Chhattisgarh had won five out of their eight games in Group A while Mumbai had managed four victories. A member of the Mumbai support staff expressed displeasure over the current rules. "Yes definitely we will make a demand. This was unfair," a team member said.

"How should the performance in the league stage matter in the knock-out stages. Every day is a new day. Else, a good team goes out in this fashion," the member said, adding "else this thing would continue."

After Mumbai's restricted Chhattisgarh to 190 for six in 45.4 overs, they were set a revised target of 195 from 35 overs. Mumbai were going all guns blazing at 95 for no loss in 11.3 overs with young Yashasvi Jaiswal batting on 60 and Aditya Tare on 31. However, the skies opened up and the match was abandoned, ending Mumbai's topsy-turvy campaign.

NBA pre-season transfer talk: Same faces, new places

THE PRE-SEASON player transfers have had a record number of big names changing ship for the upcoming NBA season. As many as eight All-Star players from the 2018-19 season have switched teams — Anthony Davis, Paul George, Kyrie Irving, Kawhi Leonard, D'Angelo Russell, Kemba Walker and former MVPs Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook — making it the most number of reigning All-Star players to shift loyalties in a single pre-season window. But once the dust settled from all the chopping and changing, what's left is a number of teams with a core pair of key players who make their respective team a favourite for the 2019-20 season that begins Wednesday.



GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS
STEPHEN CURRY & KLAY THOMPSON

The Curry-Thompson duo has been a fearsome pair for a few seasons now, leading the Warriors to five successive NBA Finals, with titles coming in 2015, 2017 and 2018. Curry (in pic) alone though is a two-time MVP and is coming close to moving to second in the NBA's all-time list of three-point field goals scored. His tally so far is 2483, behind only Reggie Miller (2560) and Ray Allen (2973).



LOS ANGELES LAKERS
LEBRON JAMES AND ANTHONY DAVIS

'King' James (in pic) is a three-time NBA champion, three-time NBA Finals MVP, and a four-time MVP. He is closing in on Bryant's third-placed spot on the all-time scoring list. Still 1100 points short of Bryant's record (33643), based on his career average, James needs 41 of the 82 matches in the regular season to jump into third spot. He's now been paired-up with the new-signee from New Orleans Pelicans, Anthony Davis.



BROOKLYN NETS
KYRIE IRVING AND KEVIN DURANT

The 2014 MVP and two-time NBA champion Kevin Durant is one of the sport's most clinical scorers. His poaching skills have seen him, on countless occasions, score baskets out of nothing. Though he will be unavailable for the start of the season, once he returns, his pairing with fellow new-signee, Kyrie Irving (in pic) is expected to take the Nets well past the first round finish they had in the playoffs last year.



HOUSTON ROCKETS
RUSSELL WESTBROOK AND JAMES HARDEN

These two bonafide superstars and former MVPs, Harden and Westbrook (in pic), will play in the same NBA team for the first time since they led the Oklahoma City Thunder to the NBA Finals in 2012. Their flamboyant styles of play make them among the most prolific attacking players in the league. They're expected to make the Rockets a force to reckon with.



LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS
KAWHI LEONARD AND PAUL GEORGE

Quiet and reserved off-court, Kawhi Leonard (in pic) is one of the NBA's most prominent defensive players. His ability to retrieve the ball has earned him the nickname 'Klaw,' and it's an ability that earned him the NBA Finals MVP in 2014 and 2019, when he lead the Sacramento

Kings and Toronto Raptors respectively to the NBA title. Off late though, he's started proving his ability in attack as well and has steadily become an all-round player. By pairing Leonard with George, who rapidly improved from being a rather clumsy ball-handler to a reliable asset on both sides of the court, the Clippers will be expected to shut off any opposition.



PHILADELPHIA 76ERS
JOEL EMBIID AND BEN SIMMONS

In 2013, the 76ers decided to start 'The Process.' Essentially the team would attempt to finish low in the regular season to be eligible for early picks in the following season's Draft. The motive was to rebuild the team with fresh talent that would grow into big players and change the fortunes of the team — prompting the franchise to

let go of several veteran first-team players. In the 2014 NBA Draft, the 76ers chose Embiid (in pic) in the third pick and then opted for Simmons in the first pick of the 2016 Draft. The pair has since proven their pedigree as star players and have taken the 'Sixers' to the playoffs in the last two seasons. This term, they're expected to take the team to greater heights. Pics: USA TODAY Sports/AP

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