

SIXTH ATTACK TARGETING NON-RESIDENTS

5 workers from Bengal killed in south Kashmir terror attack

Militants strike in Kulgam on day team of EU MPs reaches Srinagar

ADIL AKHZER & SWEETY KUMARI
SRINAGAR, KOLKATA, OCTOBER 29



About 65,000 students appeared for their Class X state board exams, in Kashmir on Tuesday. Shuaib Masoodi REPORT, PAGE 8

Europe should mediate if India, Pak want, says far-right EU MP

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT member Bernhard Zimniok, who represents the German far-right Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) and is one of the 23 MEPs visiting Srinagar, Tuesday said "if Pakistan and India make a new attempt to normalise their relations, I believe that the European community should, if desired, act as an honest broker and mediator".

In the group that met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval Monday — 23 of the 27 MEPs flew to the Valley Tuesday — Zimniok told *The Indian Express*: "PM Modi and I mainly talked about the conflict in Kashmir, but about the relationship between the EU and India as well."

"The conflict that has existed for decades has claimed many thousands of lives and also ties

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Low-key inaugural planned for UTs of J&K and Ladakh

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 29

THE CENTRE has decided against holding extravagant functions on October 31 when the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir takes effect, in line with the August 5 announcement ending the special status of the state under Article 370 and its bifurcation into two new Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

The administration has ordered government officers and

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BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



MORE REPORTS
PAGE 8



CJI-DESIGNATE BOBDE

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, P K Mishra, with Chief Justice of India designate, Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde (left), in New Delhi on Tuesday. ANI REPORT, PAGE 7

New energy firms & telcos stare at default, NPA fear grips banks

ANIL SASI
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

THERE is renewed nervousness among banks that leading to renewable power utilities and telecom companies over the last five years may turn bad.

Payment dues of renewable energy generators are mounting, primarily as distribution companies (discoms) of states such as Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Telangana have been falling back on payments for electricity contracted. The dues were pegged at close to Rs 10,000 crore upto July 31, 2019, according to data compiled by the Central Electricity Authority, and the amount is piling up.

Delays have started to stretch beyond 12 months in some cases, effectively impeding the working capital flows for these companies and hindering their debt servicing capability — a warning sign for lenders. In all, over 15 discoms have fallen back on their payment obligations against

EXPLAINED
E Pain to sunrise sector

THE RENEWABLE power sector, funded by FDI and domestic bank lending, may be staring at the prospect of defaulting on loans with discoms holding back payments for power contracted. Banks have turned risk averse given the NPA pile-up, and hence may not be willing to offer any reprieve. A loan default may jeopardise the gains made in the last five years.

electricity supplied by solar and wind energy developers — the only bright spark in an otherwise sluggish electricity sector.

Added to the concern for lenders is the fresh uncertainty in the telecom sector posed by

Visva-Bharati V-C wants CISF: Campus security loyal to Trinamool

RITIKA CHOPRA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

THE VISVA-BHARATI University in Santiniketan has asked the Centre to permanently deploy Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel on its campus. Citing recent incidents of confrontation between the university administration and students and karamcharis (staff), Vice-Chancellor (V-C) Bidyut Chakrabarty made the request in a letter to the Union HRD Ministry last month. A copy of the letter was also marked to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

The President is Visva-Bharati's Visitor and the Prime Minister is its Chancellor.

In his letter, Chakrabarty is learnt to have said that the private security personnel currently employed by the university owe their allegiance to the "TMC local bosses" and, hence, "disobey" Visva-Bharati's security officer "with impunity". He has also said that whenever the security guards are pulled up for lapses, local TMC workers intervene to protect them.

Chakrabarty has cited the protest by students in May this year against the increase in the price of application forms. The students had held a sit-in protest, preventing faculty members and officials from leaving the university campus. The V-C has alleged that in such instances, the security guards "remained silent onlookers" and even created enabling conditions for the protesters.

"Under these circumstances, this is an earnest request to you to help us get a contingent of CISF to smoothly run the administration, which is required to put Visva-Bharati back to rails. Given their steadfastness and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Free bus rides for over 2.2 lakh women on Day 1 of Delhi scheme

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

DELHI GOVERNMENT'S free bus ride scheme for women rolled out Tuesday and by 4 pm, over 2.2 lakh women constituted approximately 32% of the total ridership till then on DTC and cluster buses.

Under the scheme, women will not have to pay anything to travel on 5,589 buses that run on the city's roads. The cost of travel will be reimbursed to bus operators, with the Delhi government paying them a fixed fare of Rs 10 per commuter.

Pointing to lack of opportunities for women, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said: "Structural inequalities inherent to our society come in the way of equal opportunities to women. Out of Delhi's total work force, only 11% are women. Out of all the people taking Metro and buses, only 30% are women... The Opposition says Kejriwal is making everything free, but I believe parties should rise beyond narrow partisan interests."

The government proposed the scheme in June and had also made free travel for women on Delhi Metro part of the proposal. But that is yet to be implemented since the Centre is still to notify a new Fare Fixation Committee.

FULL COVERAGE
PAGE 5

WORLD



BAGHDADI BURIAL AT SEA, TRUMP SAYS SUCCESSOR KILLED

18 DIE IN KARBALA ATTACK AGAINST PROTESTERS
PAGE 14

India, Saudi sign strategic partnership pact, focus on security cooperation

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

IN HIS second visit to Saudi Arabia after three-and-a-half years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud Tuesday condemned terrorism and agreed to step up bilateral security cooperation.

Led by Modi and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the two



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud. PTI

countries also signed a pact for the establishment of a Strategic Partnership Council (SPC). India is the fourth country with which Saudi Arabia has formed such a strategic partnership, after the UK, France and China.

The SPC will have two parallel tracks: Political, security, culture and society, headed by Foreign Ministers; and economy and investment, headed by India's Commerce Minister and

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After losing leg at LoC, blade runner toasts second life — with triple gold



Anandan Gunasekaran in contention for Tokyo Paralympics

PAGE 1
ANCHOR

SPORT



SHAHID JUDGE
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 29

HE REMEMBERS lying in the snow, his ears ringing from the sound of the blast. He felt an excruciating pain in his left leg, and when his hearing was back moments later, he could hear his own screams along with the loud chatter from his fellow Army men who had reached the spot.

"Kuch nahin hua hai, sab theek hai. Kuch tension mat le (Nothing has happened, everything's fine. Don't get tense)," Anandan Gunasekaran recalls telling his colleagues. And yet, he couldn't dare look down at what was left of his limb after stepping on a landmine. He'd never see that foot again.

ICC BANS BANGLA CAPTAIN SHAKIB FOR TWO YEARS

PAGE 20

Last week, the 32-year-old was in China's Wuhan for the World Military Games, racing away with a blade for a left foot, to gold in the 100m, 200m and 400m races. And now, he finds himself in contention for the Tokyo Paralympics next year.

"The rules have changed and qualification is based on a ranking system," he says. "The final trial is in May, but I'm sure I'll be

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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WEB EXCLUSIVE

EU DELEGATION IN J&K: WHY WEREN'T INDIAN MPS ALLOWED, ASKS GHULAM NABI AZAD A delegation of 23 Members of the European Parliament landed in Srinagar on Tuesday to "assess the situation" in Jammu and Kashmir. This is the first time the government has allowed a foreign delegation to visit J&K after it stripped the state of its special status under Article 370 on August 5

VIDEO OF THE DAY



AFTER DIWALI: AIR QUALITY

Air quality across north India remained in 'poor' category

FULL COVERAGE



THE NEW CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

Meet Sharad Arvind Bobde, the new Chief Justice of India

EXPRESS AUDIO What we know about the European lawmakers that visited J&K

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY In today's episode of the 3 Things podcast, we talk about the European delegation and the reason for their visit

FROM PAGE ONE

Inaugural While no official invitation has been extended to the media so far, sources in the state administration said only a few selected news outlets including state broadcaster Doordarshan may be called. The first function will be organised at Leh where Radha Krishna Mathur will take oath as the L-G of Ladakh. This will be followed by a similar function at Raj Bhawan in Srinagar where Girish Chandra Murmu will take oath as the L-G of Jammu and Kashmir. The oath will be administered by Jammu and Kashmir High Court Chief Justice Gita Mittal. The state administration is not clear whether the Chief Justice will be asked to take the oath again as the State is being converted into a UT. J&K Law Secretary Achal Sethi told The Indian Express: "This order (of oath of Chief Justice) is required to be issued by the central government. This is not the domain of the state government. There is no such order as of now." The reorganisation Act says the Jammu and Kashmir High Court will continue to remain common for both UTs. A press statement issued by the State Directorate of Information and Public Relations referred to Section 91 of the reorganisation Act and said, "every person, who immediately before the appointed day i.e. 31st of October, 2019, is holding or discharging the duties of any post or office in connection with the affairs of the existing State of Jammu and Kashmir in any area which on that day falls within one of the successor Union territory shall continue to hold the same post or office in that Successor Union territory, and shall be deemed, on and from that day, to have been duly appointed to the post or office by the Government of, or other appropriate authority in, that successor Union territory." The government has already completed the process of seeking consent and preference from its employees about their posting in the two UTs. The employees have submitted a two-page consent form giving their posting preference in any of the two UTs. The government is yet to appoint separate Chief Secretaries for the two UTs and an Inspector General of Police (IGP) for Ladakh.

5 workers from Bengal killed in J&K in a string of incidents targeting non-residents in south Kashmir, and the second in 24 hours, taking the death toll to 11. Six persons, including four truckers, a fruit trader and a labourer, had earlier been killed in similar attacks. On Monday evening, suspected militants shot dead a trucker from Jammu after he had parked his apple-laden vehicle on a road in Anantnag district. The latest attack came after a group of EU MPs met local government and civilian representatives, and security officials in Srinagar. It also came on a day when the Valley witnessed protests against the clampdown in place even as around 65,000 school students appeared in the Class 10 annual examination. Deputy Commissioner Kulgam Showkat Ajaz told The Indian Express that militants barged into the rented accommodation of the labourers in Katrasoo village, led them out and shot them about 200m away. A senior officer at the police control room in Kulgam said they received a call about the attack around 8 pm. The area was cordoned off by security forces and a manhunt launched to nab the attackers, the officer said. Dr Abdul Rashid, Block Medical Officer (Kulgam), said the injured labourer, identified as Johiruddin Sarkar, was shifted to the district hospital and referred to Srinagar for treatment. Dr Muzaffar Zargar, medical superintendent at the district hospital, said the "deceased had multiple bullet wounds". In a Twitter post Tuesday night, Deputy Commissioner (Srinagar), Shahid Choudhary, wrote: "The news from south of the Valley is utterly shocking, condemnable. These five men were in construction sector. Attacks in earlier weeks have been on people connected with fruit trade. Need no further guesses." Speaking to The Indian Express, Kashmir IGP S P Pani said: "It is a gruesome terror crime in which five civilians were killed and another injured. The police is on the spot and investigations have been started." The series of attacks started on October 14, where a truck driver from Rajasthan was killed and his vehicle set ablaze in Shopian. On October 16, a 30-year-old labourer from Chhattisgarh was killed in nearby Pulwama. On the same evening, a fruit trader from Punjab was killed and associate critically injured in Shopian. On October 24, two non-resident truckers were shot dead in Shopian. Officials in West Bengal said Jammu and Kashmir, and Kerala, were among the states where workers from Murshidabad migrate for work because of the lack of infrastructure and poverty in the district.

5 workers from Bengal killed in J&K

Apartment from defence, the two sides are keen to enhance maritime security cooperation and are considering joint naval exercises in 2020. On the financial side, officials said, an agreement to launch the RuPay payment gateway in the kingdom will help the Indian diaspora, tourists and Hajj and Umrah pilgrims. Officials said the integration of India's e-Migrate portal with the Saudi e-Thawtheeq system has been completed, and is expected to facilitate the smooth movement of the workforce. Modi also met two senior Saudi ministers: Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture, Abdulrahman bin Abdulmohsen Al-Fadley and Minister of Labour and Social Development Ahmad bin Sulaiman Alrajhi.

Blade runner in the top 5 world ranks. I'm sure I'll qualify." Gunasekaran, a Subedar in Madras Sappers, had been posted at the Line of Control (LOC) in January 2008. Five months later, on June 4, he was a part of a team sent to conduct a routine check of the wire fencing at the border. It was there, hidden in the snow, that Gunasekaran stepped on the mine. A year later, he remembers sitting in a hospital after numerous surgeries, reading a magazine article about multiple gold-medal winning Paralympian Oscar Pistorius — and his mind was set on what he wanted to do. Eleven years later, Gunasekaran is living his "second life". "I was using a wooden leg in place of my left foot, which was cut above the ankle," he says. "I used to fall often when practising with the prosthetic. But this was my new life. I had to get used to it." He harboured dreams of competing in the Paralympics, and started practising running with the wooden leg. It was cumbersome, as he'd run off-balance and without much fluidity. "People on the streets who didn't know me, who didn't know what I had gone through, used to call me 'paagal' (mad) when they saw me at practice," he says. "And there was not much support from home because I never told my parents anything either initially. They knew there was an accident, but I didn't tell them I'd lost my leg since I'm their only male child and they would have felt bad." It was only six months after the accident that his parents knew about the amputation. But till date, Gunasekaran is not sure whether the other residents of his hometown — Kumbakonam in Tamil Nadu — know. "My parents didn't tell anyone to avoid the social stigma that can come because someone is an amputee," he says. But his secret may not remain hidden for long — and at the moment, he couldn't care less. "When the accident happened, I felt everything was over. My father is an auto-driver, so things were hard. And then I lost my leg so I thought I may not be able to contribute financially," he says. "But then, I realised this was another opportunity. The Army continued to support me. By 2014, I got a blade and started training. I wanted to make a name for myself." Months later, he travelled for his first international Grand Prix in 2014, in Tunisia, and returned with a gold in the 200m and a silver in 100m. And now, in the run-up to Tokyo, he's building momentum. In August, he won the 200m gold at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix in Paris. Now, with three more titles under his belt, he is training at the Army Sports Institute in Pune. "I don't know if people know about the accident, or even about me in general," he says. "Maybe now, they will know. Maybe now, there will be acceptance."

New energy firms, telcos stare at payment default makes up a third of bank credit to industry, has been contracting since April 2016. While credit offtake returned to the positive territory in July 2018, loan impairments resulting in lending constraints have a steady source of concern, especially in telecom and power. Fresh funding has largely been restricted to renewable energy generation over the last five years. While large renewable energy generators are managing the stress arising from payment delays by discoms because of their diversified operations and financial flexibility, prolonged delay in resolution of the issues, according to rating agency Crisil, can hurt credit outlook and moderate investor sentiment. The smaller players are worse off. Crisil analysed 10 leading renewable companies which won around half the projects awarded in the past two years and accounted for around 32% of the installed renewable capacity. The fresh scare for banks comes amid warnings of contagion risk. Rating agency Standard and Poor's (S&P) last Wednesday said it sees a rising risk of contagion in the Indian financial sector as many finance companies have lost more than half their equity value in the past year, and credit markets are charging huge premiums on debt issued by riskier finance companies. Fresh NPAs in sectors such as power and telecom could aggravate matters further. On the power sector, Manish Gupta, Senior Director, CRISIL Rating said, "While smaller companies with single-asset exposure to Andhra Pradesh and Telangana discoms were impacted the most, leading diversified renewable companies have managed the stress better. On aggregate, these may see their receivables days jump by 35-45 days by the end of the current fiscal, from around 115 days in fiscal 2019. This is despite Andhra Pradesh and Telangana stretching payments by more than 240 days," he said. The red-flags in the power sector comes in the wake of two state-owned discoms of Andhra Pradesh moving to reopen contracts signed with wind generators earlier this year, a step that threatened to impact at least 40 of India's biggest RE developers. This had triggered concerns that other states could take cue and initiate similar reopening of wind and solar project PPAs (power purchase agreements) on the same grounds cited by the Andhra discoms - that tariffs discovered in subsequent years have been cheaper.

WHAT STATES OWE ENERGY GENERATORS State/Utility Amount (In Rs cr) Andhra Pradesh 2,509.21 Tamil Nadu 2,413.47 Telangana 1,580.84 Karnataka 937.75 Madhya Pradesh 832.65 Rajasthan 722.23 Maharashtra 629.40 Grand Total* 9,735.6

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Far-right EU MP up financial resources that are otherwise lacking in economic development. In addition, dangerous terrorist groups have emerged in the region for the international community, including Europe. Terror is the new hostage of humanity and must be fought by all states. Terror is also a big threat to Europe," he said. "Now, if Pakistan and India make a new attempt to normalise their relations, I believe that the European community should, if desired, act as an honest broker and mediator. Under no circumstances should we take sides, as this would be counterproductive for any rapprochement process," he said. A "negative example of this," he said, is "Germany's role in the Middle East conflict, which is never considered being an honest mediator by the Arab side in resolving the Middle East conflict because of its close proximity to Israel." "Should India and Pakistan also seek a solution to the deadlock, I and my colleagues from the AfD, who I was travelling with, will promote and deploy for it. If both sides are keen in incorporating us a neutral mediator, we must not stand aside," he said. His comments on mediation come close on the heels of repeated offers by US President Donald Trump's to mediate, should India and Pakistan want, in Jammu and Kashmir. India has always maintained that there is no scope for third-party involvement, and Prime Minister Modi had said ahead of his meeting with Trump in August this year, on the sidelines of the G-7 summit in Biarritz, that "all issues with Pakistan are bilateral" and India does not bother any other country about them. On the organisers of the trip of the MEP delegation, Zimniok said: "Invitation and sponsoring has been made by the International Institute for Non-Aligned Studies, the organisation of the mission was mainly done by Mr Henri Malosse, former president of the European Economic and Social Committee and Mrs Madi Sharma, EESC member." He said the MEPs should be given the opportunity to be informed about the current situation in Kashmir. As reported by The Indian Express, the International Institute For Non-Aligned Studies in Safdarjung Enclave in New Delhi is a little-known organisation. Its website describes it as an international organisation founded on September 19, 1980. "It was established to project and

highlight the convictions of the peoples of the non-aligned world. IINS has provided a platform to voice the viewpoint of billions of people of the third world," it said. Henri Malosse (65) is a French business representative and the 30th President of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) (April 2013 - October 2015). He wrote an article defending the abrogation of Article 370 in the European Parliament's monthly magazine, and slammed Pakistan for terrorist activities. His August 26 article, titled 'The EU's common ground with India's Narendra Modi', stated: "Since Narendra Modi's democratic rise to power as the leader of the nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party BJP party in 2014, EU-India relations have widened even further." His associate Madi Sharma's name figured in emails shared by British MEP Chris Davies who claimed Tuesday that an invitation to be part of the EU delegation currently in Kashmir was withdrawn after he demanded to speak with local people without a police escort. Sharma, who sent email invitations to the MEPs including Davies, said she ran an NGO called WESTT (Women's Economic and Social Think Tank). In her Twitter

commitment to the nation, the CISF jawans, like their counterparts elsewhere, shall be of great help to us in Visva-Bharati to bring back peace and tranquillity in the campus," says the letter. According to sources, the request is under consideration and

the Supreme Court's decision to uphold the Department of Telecommunications' definition of adjusted gross revenue (AGR), which means telcos need to shell out about Rs 92,500 crore. Over 40% of this amount is due from firms such as Aircel Ltd and Reliance Communications Ltd that have either filed for bankruptcy or wound up operations. Bulk of the remainder is due from Vodafone Idea Ltd and Bharti Airtel Ltd, which together owe the government about Rs 50,000 crore, in a 4:3 ratio. Vodafone Idea could be in trouble since its cash balance at the end of the June-quarter stood at Rs 21,200 crore, far lower than the Rs 28,300 crore needed to meet the government demand. Its promoters have already indicated they are less than inclined to pitch in. The power sector accounts for almost half the credit to the infrastructure sector, with the telecom sector coming in second. In the power sector, the renewable energy sector witnessed significant FDI inflows of \$3.22 billion over the last four years. This came alongside domestic investment leveraged mostly by bank funding. Upto end-August 2019, installed power capacity stood at around 80.63 gigawatts (GW). Around half the capacity was added during the last five

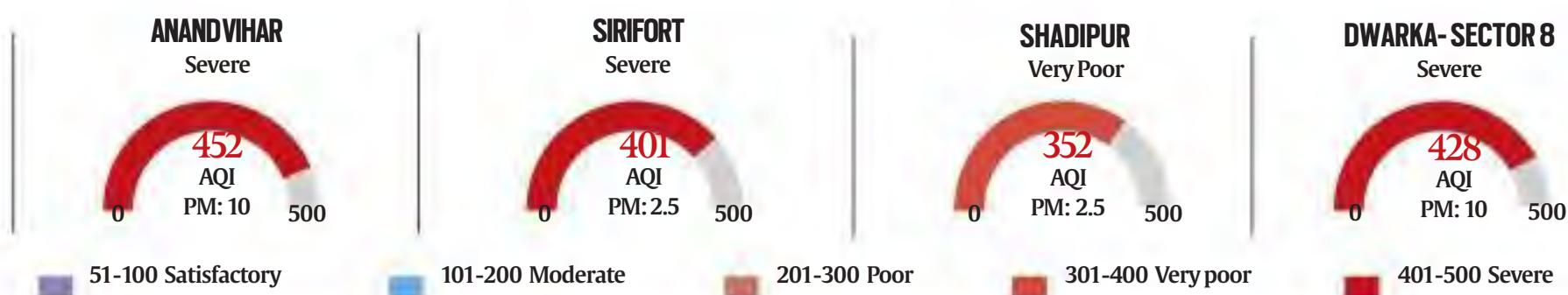
years, most of which has been implemented by private players and funded at a debt:equity ratio of 70:30. In an October note on Indian banks and financial institutions, US-based investment banking firm Jefferies Group LLC said Bank of Baroda, Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, and State Bank of India could be starting at another wave of NPAs, especially in the telecom and construction sector, as there appeared to be "a divergence between the credit rating assigned and the financial health of the corresponding corporate entity". The concerns over bad loans come at a time when credit to infrastructure, which

bio, she describes herself as an "international business broker". Her email read, "I am organising a prestigious VIP meeting with the Prime Minister of India, His Excellency Narendra Modi and it is my privilege to offer this invitation to you. As you will be aware Prime Minister Modi had a landslide victory in the recent elections in India and is planning to continue on his path of growth and development for India the country and its people. In that respect, he would like to meet influential decision makers from the European Union." She said that they will be taken to Kashmir and the cost of flights and accommodation will be covered by IINS. The European Union's mission in Delhi has already distanced itself from the visit, saying these European lawmakers were travelling in their "personal capacity" and were not in India as an official EU delegation. Visva-Bharati commitment to the nation, the CISF jawans, like their counterparts elsewhere, shall be of great help to us in Visva-Bharati to bring back peace and tranquillity in the campus," says the letter. According to sources, the request is under consideration and

the HRD Ministry may take it up with the CISF. Currently, no central university has paramilitary forces or even police personnel deployed permanently on campus. However, the request isn't unprecedented. In 2017, the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) had made a similar request, claiming that its security was inadequate to handle such a huge campus. The request is still pending. Deployment of paramilitary forces on educational campuses is a sensitive issue and often perceived to be an attack on the right to dissent or a way to pre-empt student protests. PM Saudi visit Saudi's Energy Minister. After Modi's meeting with the Crown Prince — they have met five times earlier — the two countries signed several agreements in defence industries, security, air services, renewable energy, medicine products regulation and prevention of narcotics trafficking. Earlier, addressing the Future Investment Initiative, popularly referred to as "Davos in the Desert", Modi said that a body like the UN should not merely be an institution but an instrument for positive change. "Some powerful people used the UN as a tool and

not as an institution. While some do not abide by the law, some are trapped under the burden of law. The world has to abide by law," Modi said, without naming any country. In their meeting, Modi thanked King Salman for ensuring regular export of crude oil to India despite the attacks on the facilities of Saudi oil giant Aramco. Salman congratulated Modi on his party's election victory in May, MEA's secretary (economic relations) T S Tirumurti said. Saudi Arabia supplies 18 per cent of India's crude oil requirements and 30 per cent of its liquefied petroleum gas needs. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd and Saudi Aramco is expected to be finalised during the visit, Indian envoy to Saudi Arabia Ausaf Sayed said. Officials said a trilateral partnership has also been formed between Saudi Aramco, the Abu Dhabi National Oil Co and a consortium of Indian oil majors to set up the world's largest greenfield refinery in Raigarh. The proposed 1.2-million-barrel-per-day (bpd) refinery is likely to be commissioned by 2025, and is expected to help India raise its refining capacity by 77 per cent to 8.8 million bpd by 2030.

FULL REPORTS ON www.indianexpress.com New Delhi



AQI RECORDED AT 422 – SEVERE CATEGORY

Farm fires rise, air quality dips as Delhi holds its breath again

Strong winds disperse pollution but bring fresh pollutants from Northwest

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

DELHI'S AIR quality oscillated between 'very poor' and 'severe' in the past 24 hours, with stronger wind speed aiding dispersion of accumulated pollution load but also bringing in fresh pollutants from the Northwestern part of the country.

Haze dominated the day as the Air Quality Index (AQI) at 4 pm was recorded at 400 (very poor). On Monday, the AQI value at the same time was 368 but deteriorated and crossed the 400 mark late evening, turning the air 'severely' polluted.

On Tuesday, too, the AQI later in the evening was 410. By late night, pollution had climbed further with the AQI touching 422.

Authorities in Delhi have been directed to undertake several steps, including sprinkling of water to control dust, diesel genset ban, and a ban on open burning to control emissions.

According to the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR) forecast, a relative decrease in the concentration of particulate matter (PM) is expected on Wednesday and Thursday.

"With changing weather conditions, PM concentration will decrease and the air quality index (AQI) will be in the very 'poor' range. One of the reasons that Diwali-related pollution was not as high as the last few years was that the festival was on an earlier date than usual. With crop stubble burning at its peak, air quality is not expected to improve significantly, though," said a SAFAR official.

Other SAFAR officials reiterated that the major reason behind the dip is the increase in crop stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana.

"As of today, the stubble



VANISHING ACT

Seen from Raisina Hill, the India Gate was barely visible through the haze Tuesday. *Krishna Kaushik*

plume from Northwest regions has become one of the significant factors in deteriorating Delhi's air quality. As evident from SAFAR-multi-satellite fire product, effective stubble fire counts of Haryana and Punjab have increased from 1,654 to 2,577 during the past 24 hours after showing a noticeable dip on October 27... stubble share (on pollution) may touch this year's peak value (at around 29%) on October 30," a statement issued by SAFAR scientists said.

A look at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) active fire maps shows that most of the fires between Monday and Tuesday were concentrated over Punjab.

Dipping temperatures have also contributed to dipping air quality.

On Tuesday, the maximum temperature was recorded at 28.8 degrees Celsius, two degrees below normal. Low temperature, high humidity and calm winds are among key factors that determine the rate of accumulation of pollutants in the air. Tuesday's maximum humidity was 80%.

The situation is set to relatively improve by Friday. Officials said that an increase in wind speed in the upper atmosphere is expected by Friday, which will in turn lower the AQI.

Officials at the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) also said the impact of local dust in Delhi is minimal at present.

"So far, Delhi's local sources of pollution — primarily vehicular pollution and dust — have not increased. Traffic has been light over the weekend because of Diwali and Bhai Dooj, and strict dust control measures are in place. We are trying to control local sources as much as possible," said a senior DPCC official.

Chief Secy's pollution control pitch to MCDs: Dust suppressants at major intersections

SHIVAMPATEL
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS have been directed to use chemical-based dust suppressants at major traffic intersections in their area. The directive was issued at a meeting chaired by the Delhi Chief Secretary earlier this month.

Delhi environment officials told *The Indian Express* Tuesday that dust is one of the major lo-

cal factors contributing to air pollution in the city.

Officials said use of such suppressants can control the suspension of dust in the air for around six hours, depending on the temperature, as compared to around one hour through sprinkling of water alone.

"The chemical can be mixed in water and sprinkled at the intersections where dust has accumulated. MCDs were directed about their use in a meeting chaired by the Chief Secretary

around 10 days ago," a Delhi environment official said.

The CPCB issued an advisory to all pollution control boards last month on the use of suppressants. It held a meeting with the implementing agencies in Delhi last Thursday, where it was suggested that they be used in the city, officials said.

A standard operating procedure on how the suppressants can be used was also issued by the CPCB to the agencies Tuesday. "The agencies can use suppress-

sants of any brand they wish," a CPCB official said.

Municipal bodies are in talks with suppliers for procurement of the suppressants and may first carry out a pilot project to assess their feasibility, officials said.

While a South MCD official said they were in the process of finalising how the project would be implemented, the North MCD said they would organise a demo soon. An East MCD official said they were using chemical-based suppressants in landfills.

'Crackers played a big role in pollution spike'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

BURSTING OF firecrackers on Diwali played an "overwhelming role" in bringing in the season's first severe pollution peak in Delhi-NCR, the Centre of Science and Environment (CSE) said Tuesday.

CSE analysed the Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB)

real-time air quality data between September 15 and October 27 to compare trends, including PM 2.5 levels, of Diwali this year and of that in 2018.

It said the pollution peak on Diwali undid the comparatively cleaner air trend achieved in the analysis period this year.

A 10-fold jump in PM 2.5 concentration between 5 pm and 1 am was noted due to bursting of firecrackers this year,

the report said. "The peak level between 1 am and 3 am was quite similar to the peak levels observed in 2018 on Diwali. This year's Diwali was warmer and windier. However, in 2018, the peak pollution continued until 8 am, whereas this year, the peak showed a sharper fall after 3 am," the report said.

Even with better wind condition leading up to Diwali in 2018,

pollution levels were higher, meaning that the overall pollution load would have been more in days before Diwali last year.

Favourable weather conditions and emergency interventions to control air quality played an important role in reducing pollution in Delhi-NCR since September 15 and enabled quicker dissipation of pollution post-Diwali, the report said.

नेहरु स्मारक संग्रहालय एवं पुस्तकालय

द्वारा

सरदार बल्लभभाई पटेल जीवन एवं विरासत

विषय पर

आयोजित प्रदर्शनी

एवं

संगोष्ठी में आप सादर आमंत्रित हैं।

मुख्य अतिथि

श्री टी. एन. चतुर्वेदी

पूर्व राज्यपाल (कर्नाटक)

एवं

अध्यक्ष, वित्त समिति

नेहरु स्मारक संग्रहालय एवं पुस्तकालय

द्वारा

गुरुवार, 31 अक्टूबर 2019, प्रातः 10.30 बजे

प्रदर्शनी की अवधि : 31 अक्टूबर, 2019 से 15 नवम्बर, 2019

प्रदर्शनी स्थल:

पुस्तकालय भवन

नेहरु स्मारक संग्रहालय एवं पुस्तकालय

तीन मूर्ति भवन, नई दिल्ली-110011

अधिक जानकारी के लिए सम्पर्क करें:

वेबसाइट: www.nehrumemorial.nic.in

ईमेल: director.nmml@gov.in, deputydirector.nmml@gov.in

lio.nmml@gov.in, ccs2nmml@gmail.com

सभी का स्वागत है।

Department of Art, Culture & Languages
Govt. of NCT of Delhi
Urdu Academy Delhi

Shri Arvind Kejriwal
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Delhi

Jashn-e-Virasat-e Urdu Heritage Festival

30th October to 4th November, 2019
Central Park, Connaught Place, New Delhi

جشنِ وراثتِ اُردو

<p>(Wednesday) 30th Oct. 2019 3.00 P.M. Chaar Bait By USTAD YASIN KHALIFA PARVEZ & Party (Amroha) 4.00 P.M. Mehfil-e-Ghazal By POORVA GURU (Hyderabad) 5.00 P.M. Sufi Mehfil By VANDANA MISHRA (Lucknow) 6.00 P.M. Mehfil-e-Qawwali By ATIQ HUSAIN BANDANAWAZ (Hyderabad) 8.00 P.M. Sham-e-Ghazal By TALAT AZIZ (Mumbai)</p>	<p>(Thursday) 31st Oct. 2019 12.30 P.M. QISSA GOI By Talent Group Delhi 1.30 P.M. Mehfil-e-Ghazal By GHULAM SABIR (Delhi) 2.30 P.M. Mehfil-e-Qawwali By GHULAM GADIR NIYAZI (Delhi) 3.30 P.M. Mehfil-e-Ghazal By ALI HUSAIN (Pune) 4.30 P.M. Chaar Bait (Female Party) By Vihan Drama Works (Bhopal) 5.30 P.M. Dastaan Goi By MAHMOOD FAROOQUI & DARAIN SHAHIDI (Delhi) 6.30 P.M. Mehfil-e-Ghazal By GAYATRI (Mumbai) 8.00 P.M. Sufi Mehfil By SALMAN ALI (Mumbai)</p>	<p>(Friday) 1st Nov. 2019 2.00 P.M. Bait Bazi Muqabala Students of Universities of Delhi 3.00 P.M. Mehfil-e-Qawwali By TRADITIONAL NIZAMI BROTHERS (Jahanzab, Delhi) 4.00 P.M. Fusion ARMAN DEHLAVI (Delhi) 5.00 P.M. Mehfil-e-Ghazal By DR. SUJEET (Delhi) 6.00 P.M. Musical Dastaan on Amir Khusrow By VUSAT IQBAL KHAN (Delhi) 7.00 P.M. Sham-e-Ghazal By TAUSEEF AKHTAR (Mumbai) 8.30 P.M. Mehfil-e-Qawwali By FAREED SABRI (Jaipur)</p>	<p>(Saturday) 2nd Nov. 2019 11.30 A.M. QISSA GOI By Talent Group Delhi 12.30 P.M. Debate "On Gandhi Ji" By Students of Universities of Delhi 2.00 P.M. Mehfil-e-Qawwali By SUTBI BROTHERS (Delhi) 3.00 P.M. Mehfil-e-Ghazal By ANWAR HUSAIN (Jabalpur) 4.00 P.M. Mehfil-e-Qawwali By GEETA CHISHTI (Delhi) 5.00 P.M. Dastaan Live By Sandbox Collective (Delhi) 7.00 P.M. Tribute to Begum Akhtar By VIDYA BEEB SHAM & SARMA BEEMAN (Delhi) 8.00 P.M. Sham-e-Ghazal By REHMA SHARWAZ (Mumbai)</p>	<p>(Sunday) 3rd Nov. 2019 9.30 A.M. Umang Painting Competition Inter School (Urdu Students) 12.00 Noon Ghazal Saral Competition Students of Universities of Delhi 2.00 P.M. Mehfil-e-Qawwali By DANISH HUSAIN & PARTY (Bafaym) 3.00 P.M. Mehfil-e-Ghazal By KAMAL KHAN (Lucknow) 4.00 P.M. INDIAN OPERA FUSION By KABUKI KHAMMA, Sufi Singer (Delhi) 5.00 P.M. Akbar The Great Nahi Rahe (Comedy Drama) By Mahrir Raza & Culture Society 6.00 P.M. Sham-e-Ghazal By MANJARI (Mumbai) 8.00 P.M. Sufi Mehfil By SHILPA DEO (Mumbai)</p>	<p>(Monday) 4th Nov. 2019 11.30 A.M. QISSA GOI By Talent Group Delhi 12.00 Noon Mehfil-e-Qawwali By SUFI NIZAMI BROTHERS (Zeehan, Delhi) 1.30 P.M. Prize Distribution Function for the Competitions 2.00 P.M. Tamsili Mushaira by Students of Jamia Millia Islamia 3.00 P.M. Mehfil-e-Ghazal By SITHARA (Kochi) 4.30 P.M. Mehfil-e-Qawwali By NIZAMI BANDHU (Delhi) 5.30 P.M. Sham-e-Ghazal By JAZIM SHARMA (Mumbai) 7.30 P.M. ALL INDIA MUSHAIRA</p>
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Invited Poets :

- Waseem Bareilvi (Bareilly)
- Rahat Indori (Indore)
- Rajesh Reddy (Mumbai)
- Fayyaz Farooqui (Jalandhar)
- Aquil Naumani (Rampur)
- Hasan Kazmi (Lucknow)
- Tajwar Sultana (Kanpur)
- Sunil Kumar Tang (Patna)
- Manish Shukla (Lucknow)
- Atul Ajnabi (Gwalior)
- Nuzhat Anjum (Lucknow)
- Ahmad Mehfooz (Delhi)
- Iqbal Ashhar (Delhi)
- Alok Srivastava (Delhi)
- Rashid Hamidi (Delhi)

In addition to the above other attractions will be :-
Khwaab Tanha Collective | Artykita | Nazariya
Purani Dilli walon ki Baatein | Books ETC
Honey Handicraft | Calligraphy Arts
Delhi Archives | Calligraphy-Urdu Academy
Urdu Academy's Publications

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Tel.: 011-23863566, 23863858 DIP/Shabdarth/0909/19-20

All are cordially invited (Seats are available first come first serve basis.)

Entry Free

S.M. Ali
Secretary, Urdu Academy, Delhi

JNU hostel fee set to double, protests on

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU University will likely at least double its hostel fee after the administration passed the draft Inter-Hall Administration (IHA) manual in a meeting Tuesday. The meeting was adjourned following a showdown between the JNU Students' Union (JNUSU) and the administration, but was reconvened and all agenda items on it passed, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

On Monday, the university had said it would take "severe action" against "some JNU students" for allegedly not allowing Dean of Students (DoS) Umesh Kadam from leaving the IHA meeting venue, where the students were protesting, despite ill health. The JNUSU claimed he "faked" the health issues.

JNUSU was protesting not being given representation at the meeting and against the IHA draft, which they said "seeks to



At a protest at JNU on Tuesday. *Abhinav Saha*

implement a massive fee hike in JNU hostels, along with regressive provisions such as curfew time, hefty fines and punishments for protests, and a complete disappearance of reservation policies in hostel allotment.

Continuing the protest Tuesday, JNUSU called for a university strike and double-locked the DoS office. Not too long ago, the DoS had threatened to lock the JNUSU office, claiming the union was not officially notified, and the office could be "misused".

JNUSU vice-president Saket

Moon said the administration reconvened at 3 pm Monday, for which hostel presidents were invited 10 minutes earlier. "When they reached slightly late, they were just told to sign attendance sheets and told all agenda items had been passed. We now pay around Rs 2,000 per month as hostel fee. We've heard they are planning to levy service charges of Rs 1,700, and around Rs 300 as rent, making it at least Rs 4,000," he said.

Kadam confirmed to *The Indian Express* that the fee hike was passed, but did not specify by how much. "Every agenda item was passed," he said. On why the fee was hiked, he said, "Because it hasn't been hiked in 19 years." He added the administration would take "strict action" against those who locked his office.

JNUSU president Aishe Ghosh said, "When we went to the (DoS) office around 12 pm, it was locked. Students felt we should also lock it, as the admin threatened to lock our office."

Delhi Cong slams Centre, AAP govt over Chhath preparations

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

CONTINUING ITS attack on BJP and AAP for "neglecting the sentiments" of Purvanchalis in the city, the Delhi Congress Tuesday slammed both the Centre and the Delhi government over Chhath Puja preparations.

Kirti Azad, chairman of the campaign committee in Delhi Congress, said those wanting to go home to celebrate Chhath Puja are being lured by the BJP-led Centre, which is charging exorbitant ticket fares. He said tickets for special trains deployed to ease the rush for the festival from New Delhi and Anand Vihar railway stations to Bihar and UP cost

more than normal train fares. "The normal fare for the Delhi-Darbhanga train is Rs 535; the express special trains are charging Rs 1,865 per person. The AC three-tier fare has taken a quantum jump, from Rs 1,420 to Rs 5,165, which is beyond the affordability of the common people who constitute most of the Purvanchalis going home for the festival," Azad said.

Newly elected state president Subhash Chopra and Azad have written to the Union Railway Minister demanding that special trains be deployed from various railway stations in Delhi, to Bihar and UP, without charging any fare.

The leaders also alleged the AAP government in Delhi has not taken initiatives to make prepara-

tions for Chhath Puja, such as cleaning ghats on the Yamuna, making arrangements for clean water and electricity, or providing amenities like bio-toilets.

An AAP leader, however, said: "The Delhi government has increased chhath ghats from 72 to 1,200. They have been spruced up with proper lighting, concretising. We have also declared a holiday on Chhath Puja."

When contacted, Deepak Kumar, CPRO, Northern Railway said: "We plan to run 92 train and more than 1,000 trips from Delhi, Punjab and Haryana. Of these, around 70% of the trains are going towards Purvanchal. We are also attaching extra coaches in various trains to generate more capacity for people..."

Suggestions sought for AIIMS revamp

New Delhi: Moving closer towards transforming AIIMS into a "world-class medical university", the hospital administration has started a survey to assess space and infrastructure requirements of its departments and divisions. The administration asked all

departments heads, divisions and various facilities to suggest their needs and vision for the institute during the survey. Suggestions have been sought about future requirements for OPD rooms per day, day-care beds, indoor beds, clinical laboratories, ICU beds and

operation theatres.

In March, the Union Cabinet gave in-principle approval to implement the redevelopment master plan. The estimated cost of the plan is around Rs 10,345 crore, with the project deadline set for 2024. **ENS**

Coal India Limited
A Maharatna Company

NOTICE FOR OPEN DOMESTIC e-TENDER

1. Tender No. CIL/C2D/DC/2019-20/352 dated 22.10.2019
2. Estimated Tender Value: Rs. 12,73,308/-
3. Scope of Tender: Procurement of 4G data connectivity (Data cards) for Coal India Headquarter for a period of 3 years on contractual basis.
4. Tender Document: There will be no physical sale of tender document. The complete tender documents can only be downloaded from Coal India Limited website (www.coalindia.in), Central Public Procurement Portal (www.eprocure.gov.in) and CIL's e-Procurement Portal (<http://coalindiatenders.nic.in>). All necessary details may be seen from the tender document available in the above websites.
General Manager (MM)

STORES & PROCUREMENT

TENDER NOTICE No. S/Tender/08/2019 Dated: 28-10-2019. (1) All tenders have been uploaded on Intra Railways E-Procurement portal (IREPS) - www.ireps.gov.in. For details & necessary guidelines for quoting against a tender, please visit IREPS Procurement portal (2) The prospective bidders are advised to get their registration on the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> on line. This registration is mandatory for participation in e-tendering and is free of charge. (3) Offers are to be submitted online only. Offers sent/submitted against such e-tenders through e-mail, post/fax or in person will be rejected summarily without any consideration. (4) This notice is for information during initial phase only. In future, no such notice shall be published. Vendors are requested to get registered with IREPS and visit portal www.ireps.gov.in for future tenders. (5) Please submit offers online for the following Materials: **S/N-1 Tender No. 70/19/0024/OT/02/19. Brief Description: Gold plated Silver Medal. Quantity: 2100 Nos. Closing/Opening date: 25-11-2019.** For PCMM

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person 45 years of age whose name family and residence is unknown, who was admitted in Trauma Center, Civil Lines, Delhi from the area of P.S. Kashmir Gate, Delhi during his treatment doctors declared him dead. In this regard a vide has been registered with DD/FIR No. 283/19 dated 15.10.19 at P.S Kashmir Gate, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the police to identify the deceased person but no clue has come to light so far.

The description of the UIDB is as under:
Sex: Male, **Age:** 45 years, **Height:** 5'6", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Wearing:** Hospital Clothes.
If anyone has any information about his relatives, kindly inform SHO/Kashmere Gate, Delhi.
SHO
P.S. Kashmir Gate, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23968730

DP/564/N/19

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a boy namely **Ahad, S/o: Sh. Yusuf, R/o: Village & Post- Ramgarh, Distt. Firozabad, UP,** has been reported kidnapped from Aruna Asaf Ali Govt. Hospital, Civil Lines, Delhi since 15.09.2019. In this regard FIR No. 160/19 dated 15.09.2019 u/s 363 IPC has been registered at P.S. Civil Lines, Delhi. The description of kidnapped boy is as under:
Name: Ahad, **Age:** 12 Years, **Height:** 5', **Face:** Round, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Built:** Normal, **Wearing:** Blue T-Shirt & Jeans.
If anyone have any information about this kidnapped boy please inform P.S. Civil Lines, Delhi.
Web: <http://cbl.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbl.nic.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639
SHO
Police Station, Civil Lines, Delhi
Ph: 011-23815444, 8750870127

DP/504/N/19

ICAR- Indian Institute of Vegetable Research
P.B. No. 01, P.O. Jakhni (Shahanshapur) Varanasi-221305, U.P.

F.N.3-572/2019-Adm.I Dated: 17th October 2019

NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT

Sealed tenders are invited from the reputed and registered contractors/suppliers for the followings:

S. No.	Name of the work	Last date for submission of tenders
1.	"Job Work Contract for Agricultural/Horticultural Field Services" Office Assistance, Cleaning, Maintenance, Lab Attendants, and Helper etc. at ICAR-IIVR, Varanasi, RRS - Sargatia, Kushnagar, KVK, Kushnagar, KVK, Deoria and KVK, Bhadohi	11.11.2019 upto 11.00 a.m.

Tenders may be downloaded from <https://eprocure.gov.in> NIT may be downloaded from <https://eprocure.gov.in> and www.livr.org.in.

Senior Admn. Officer

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Dy. CST/E/C/W/Northern Railway, DRM office, 2nd floor, New Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender under Single Packet System from experienced & established contractors having sufficient experience in similar nature of work and satisfying minimum eligibility criteria on the prescribed form for the following work:

Name of work	Approximated cost of the work	Earnest money	Completion period
"Provision of Centralized Electronic Interlocking (Indoor & Outdoor work) along with block working and associated telecom work at Chhan Aronian Railway station in c/w Goods handling line with covered goods shed & Cement handling facility of Firozpur Division of Northern Railway"	Rs. 356.31 Lakhs	Rs. 328200/- (Rupees Three Lakh Twenty Eight Thousand Two Hundred only)	06 (Six) Months

Date, Time & Place for submission and opening of tender: Tender will be available on www.ireps.gov.in website from 29.10.2019 to 11.30 hrs on 21.11.2019 and will be opened on 07.11.2019 after 11.30 hrs. Tender can be uploaded from 07.11.2019 to 11.30 hrs. on 21.11.2019 and will be opened on 21.11.2019 after 11.30 hrs.

Address from where tender form can be purchased: E-Tender document cost - Nil. The detailed e-tender notice and document will be available on Northern Railway web site i.e. on www.ireps.gov.in from 29.10.2019 to 11.30 hrs on 21.11.2019 bidders are advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to obtain class III digital certificate (if already not obtained) issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document.

No. 178-Sig/CW/32/88 Dated: 28.10.2019 3478/19
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)

1. TENDER NOTIFICATION
Name of work: Minor, Repair and Replacement of Fans and Fan switches in MEMU coaches at MEMU Car Shed, Saharanpur.

Tender Notice No.-92/2019-20

1.1. General - UMB division of northern railway invites Open tender through E-tendering system from eligible agencies who fulfill qualification criteria as stipulated in tender document for "Minor, Repair and Replacement of Fans and Fan switches in MEMU coaches at MEMU Car Shed, Saharanpur".

1.2 The key details are as follows:

Open Tender No.	Name of works	Approximate Cost	Earnest Money	Completion Period	Validity of offer	Tender papers issued by	DT. of closing/opening	Cost of tender document
30-EL-MEMU-T-03-19-20	Minor, Repair and Replacement of Fans and Fan switches in MEMU coaches at MEMU Car Shed, Saharanpur.	₹ 3,02,476/-	₹ 6,100/-	02 months from the date of issue of the letter of acceptance.	45 days	Sr.DEE/MEMU/SRE.	16.11.2019 at 10.30 Hrs./thereafter	₹ 1000/- (Non refundable and not transferable)

NOTE:-
1) Tender papers without proper earnest money and cost of tender document shall be summarily rejected.
2) The required earnest money and tender document cost will only be accepted through on line payment mode available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. up to tender closing date and time.
3) Manual payments through demand draft, banker cheque, deposit receipt, FDR etc are not allowed. Offers which are not complying above will be considered invalid.
4) Tender must provide validity of the offer for 45 (Forty five) days from the date of opening of tender.
5) Public procure order 2017 issued by Rly board vide L. No. 2015/RS/G/779/5 Dt. 16.03.2018 shall be followed. 3477/2019

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

TAMIL NADU SLUM CLEARANCE BOARD
MADURAI CIRCLE
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
FORM OF CONTRACT - "LUMPSUM" (TWO COVER SYSTEM)

Tender Notice No. SCB/689 & 690/DR/2019 Dated: 29.10.2019

For and on behalf of Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, sealed tenders consisting of two separate sealed covers one for Pre-qualification with EMD to be enclosed in 'A' cover and another for price schedule with name of work duly superscribed to be enclosed in 'B' cover, are invited from the registered contractors under Class-I and above in TNSCB / Government Departments / Government undertakings by the Superintending Engineer, Madurai Circle, Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, 169 K.K.Nagar Main Road, Madurai - 20 up to 3.00 PM on 28.11.2019 and the same will be opened at 3.15 PM on the same day in the presence of the Tender Scrutiny Committee:

Sl. No.	Name of work	Tender Value (including GST) Period of Contract	EMD (in Rs.)
1.	Construction of 100 tenements (G+4) including internal water supply sanitary and electrification arrangements with all development works at Ayyanadai Phase-II in Thoothukudi District under AHP of PMAY. CER.No.21/HFA/2019-20. (T.D.No.44/2019 Type B)	706.60 (Lakh) 15 Months	Rs.3,64,000/-
2.	Construction of 320 tenements (G+4) including internal water supply, sanitary and electrification works with all development works at Jeba Garden in Tirunelveli under AHP of PMAY. CER.No.22/HFA/2019-20. (T.D.No.36B & 36C/2019)	2489.00 (Lakh) 15 Months	Rs.12,55,000/-

The cost of tender schedule, EMD should be drawn as Demand Draft or Banker's Cheque from Nationalised / Scheduled Bank payable in favour of the Executive Engineer, Tirunelveli Division, TNSCB, payable at Tirunelveli. The tender documents may be obtained from the office of the Superintending Engineer, Madurai Circle, TNSCB, 169 K.K.Nagar Main Road, Madurai - 20 on written requisition along with cost of the tender document to a value of Rs.17,700/- (Non refundable) upto 3.00 PM on 27.11.2019. Conditions for participating in the tenders may be seen from the website www.tenders.tn.gov.in. The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons therefor.

169 K.K.Nagar Main Road, Opp. Jawahar Hospital, Madurai-625 002 DIPR/389/TENDER/2019
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER MADURAI CIRCLE

CHENNAI METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

Sealed bids are invited from the eligible bidders for the following work as per the procedure of CMWSSB under two cover system conforming to the Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act, 1998 and Rules 2000.

Sl.No.	Details of the Tender
1.	Balance works under the work of Providing Comprehensive Water Supply Network to Ramapuram & Manapakkam - Tender No. CNT/WSS/NCB/MWB/3110A/2019-20, Bid security Rs.8.85 lakhs
2.	Availability and Cost of Bid document in the form of CD (in person) : 31.10.2019 to 14.11.2019 , Grievances Redressal & Certification Officer, CMWSSB Board, (Telephone: 044-28451300, Extn. 217) for Rs.5,250/- (including GST) Through Website: www.chennaiwater.tn.nic.in & www.tenders.tn.gov.in
3.	Bids will be received upto 03:00 PM and opened after 3:30 P.M on 15.11.2019.
4.	Pre-bid meeting: 07.11.2019 @ 11:30 a.m at the 4th Floor Tender opening Hall, CMWSSB

DIPR/3895/Tender/2019 SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (CONTRACTS & MONITORING)

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified infant girl Age : 03-05 days, Height : 1'5", Wearing: with out cloths has been found dead at bandar wala park, near kalu chat wala, Sarai Rohilla, Delhi on 30.09.2019. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 307/19 dated 30.09.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Sarai Rohilla, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this dead found infant girl may kindly inform to the following:-
SHO : P.S. Sarai Rohilla, Delhi North Distt., Delhi
Tel. No. 011-23691106, 23693611

DP/566/N/19

SOUTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
HORTICULTURE TENDER (HQ)
E-BLOCK, 3rd Floor, DR. S.P.M. CIVIC CENTRE
J.L. NEHRU MARG, NEW DELHI-110002

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Open Online Item Rate Tenders are invited under two bid system (Technical & Financial) from Indian Manufacturing Firms or its authorized dealers/distributors of Open Gym Equipments for the "Rate Contract for Supply & Installation of Open Gym Equipments at various locations in South Delhi Mpl. Corporation." Joint Ventures Firms of Indian Manufacturer/their dealer /distributors of Open Gym Equipments are also allowed to participate in the Tender No. 317160 issued vide No. DDH/(HQ)/SDMC/2019-20/1078/NIT No.4 Dated 28.10.2019. After getting themselves registered, if not registered earlier, the Bidding Documents with detailed terms & conditions can be downloaded online from the website <http://mcdetenders.com> OR visit SDMC website www.mcdonline.gov.in / South Delhi Municipal Corporation /Tenders/e-tendering. For Online tender the helpdesk Nos. are 011-23227413 & 011-23227414 or mail to: mcd-itelpdesk@mcd.gov.in Pre-bid meeting 11.11.2019 at 02.00 P.M. Download, Bid Preparation and Hash Submission is w.e.f. 30.10.2019 from 10.01 AM to 19.11.2019 up to 3.00 PM. Re-encryption of Online Bid 19.11.2019 from 5.01 PM to 10.11.2019 up to 3.00 PM. Opening of Technical Bids 20.11.2019 at 3.30 P.M. All detail of Revisions, Clarifications, Contingendum, Addendum, Time Extension etc. if any, in respect of above tender(s) will be uploaded on SDMC website <http://mcdetenders.com>, www.mcdonline.gov.in / South Delhi Municipal Corporation / Tenders / e-tendering only and will not be published in newspaper(s) separately. Bidders should regularly visit the website to keep themselves regularly updated in respect of these tenders. DY. DIRECTOR (HORT.) HQ
Ro No. 94/DPI/S/2019-20 011-23225334

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
Trichy (H) NABARD and Rural Roads Circle

TENDER NOTICE
Tender Notice No.27/2019-20/SDO/Dated: 29.10.2019.

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamilnadu percentage tender will be received by the Superintending Engineer (H) NABARD & Rural Roads Circle Trichy for Package No.42 to 47 under Upgradation of Panchayat / Panchayat union roads for (Additional list - Phase-II-2018-2019 and 2019-20) works in respect of Pudukkottai (H) NABARD & Rural Roads Division upto 14.00 hours on 13.12.2019 through online only.

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from 13.11.2019 onwards in the Government web site <http://tntenders.gov.in>. If any changes / Corrections etc in the tender, it will be published on the above website only.

Superintending Engineer (H) NABARD and Rural Roads circle, Trichy.
DIPR/3922/Tender/2019

Coal India Limited
A Maharatna Company

Notice for Domestic Open e-Tender

1. Domestic Open e-Tender with Reverse Auction No. CIL/C2D/IC-28/19-20/Hiring of Ambulance/353 dated 25.10.2019
2. Item description: Hiring of Ambulances with basic life support on monthly rental basis for a period of three years
3. Estimated Tender Value: Rs.131.35 lakhs (Approx.).
4. Tender Document: There will be no physical sale of tender document. The complete tender documents can only be downloaded from Coal India Limited website (www.coalindia.in), Central Public Procurement Portal (www.eprocure.gov.in) and CIL's e-Procurement Portal (<http://coalindiatenders.nic.in>). All necessary details may be seen from the tender document available in the above websites.
General Manager(MM)HOD

Classifieds
PERSONAL

I, Anoop Singh H.No-D-11, Shri.Ram Institute-Colony, 19, University-Road, Malkaganj, North Delhi-110007, Changed My Minor Daughter Name Jaanvi To Jaanvi Singh. 0040517754-8

I, Ram Murti/Ram Murti W/o- Ram Narain R/O-1/32, RamBazar, Mori-Gate, Delhi-110006, informs that both above names belong to same person i.e., my self. In future, I will be known as Ram Murti. 0040517764-7

I, Prerna Rustagi W/o Ashish Kumar R/O-61A, Radhey Shyam Park, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-51, have changed my name to Prerna Goyal. 0040517769-4

I, Preeti Makhija D/O Ashok Makhija R/O-Ta-45, T/F, OmVihar, Uttam-Nagar, Delhi-110059. Have Changed My Name After Marriage To Preeti Verma. 0040517764-2

I, Pradeep Kumar Vohra S/O Girdhari Lal R/O-H.No.579, Pkt-1, Janta Flats, Paschimपुरi, Delhi-110063. Changed My Name To Pardeep Vohra. 0040517754-10

I, Poonam W/O Adarsh Kumar Miglani R/O-16/833, Joshi Road, KarolBagh, Delhi-110005, have changed my name to Poonam Miglani. 040517754-3

I, Naveen Kumar S/O Narender Kumar R/O E-4/22-A, Model Town-2, Delhi-110009. Have Changed My Name To Naveen Kumar Chanana. 0040517764-1

I, Naaz Parveen W/O Naim Uddin R/O-2152, Gali, Peerji-Wali, Rodgram, Delhi-110006. Changed My Name To Naaz Naem. 0040517769-10

I, Kishan Chand S/O Prem Chand R/O-H.No-A-215, Street-No-4 Rama-Garden, Karawal Nagar, Delhi-110094, have Changed My Minor Daughter's Name Sejal To Sejal Kaushal Permanently 0040517721-2

I, Karpe Vishal Hanumant S/O Karpe Hanumant Mukund R/O-Bahalgaon, Pattiwadagaon, Bid, Maharashtra-431517, have changed my name to Karpe Vishal Hanumant. 0040517754-2

I, Jigmat Norzin W/O Tondup Namgial R/O Village-Taksha, Post-Office Panamik, Tehsil-Sumoo, Distt. Leh-Ladakh-194401, changed My Name To Jigmat Norzen. 0040517769-7

I, Hithero Know as Kum. Pushpa Rani D/O Raja Ram W/O Chander Sekhar R/O-House Number-15, Second Floor, Plot.No.21-22, Krishna-Nagar, Safdarjung-Enclave, South/West Delhi-110029, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Parul Singh. 0040517764-8

I, Harinder Ubhi S/O Maher Singh Ubhi, H.No-2635, Housing Board Colony, Sector-7a, Faridabad, Haryana-121006, changed My Name To Harinder Singh. 0040517769-9

I, Habib Ur Rehman S/O Bundu Khan R/O-C-4/247, Yamuna Vihar, Delhi-110053. Have Changed My Name To Habib Ur Rehman Khan. 0040517764-4

I, Bincy Aryannor Kuzhil W/O Shindod Varghese R/O A-368 B, Block-A, NewRanjit Nagar, New Delhi-110008, have change my name from BincyAryannor Kuzhil to Bincy Shindod for all purposes. 0040517747-1

I, Bejoy Shankar Paul S/o Rabinra Shankar Paul R/O-40/68, Chittranagar-Park, South/Delhi, N.Delhi-110019, have changed my name to Bejoy Shankar Pal. 0040517769-3

I, Amit Kumar S/o Uday Vir R/o-36 Pachchala (83) Machhgar Ballabgarh Faridabad Haryana-121004 changed my name to Amit Kumar Vaishnav. 0040517769-2

I, Amit Goyal, R/O-1/9587, Street No-3/5, Pratap Park, West Rohtash-Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032. Changed My Minor Daughter Name Navya To Navya Goyal. 0040517769-6

I, Amil Tafsir S/o Md Tafsir Alam R/O-B-928 Jawahar Camp, Kirti-Nagar Delhi-110015, have Changed my name to Md Amil Tafsir Permanently 0040517721-1

I, Adarsh Kumar S/O Lekhraj R/O-16/833, Joshi Road, KarolBagh, Delhi-110005 have changed my name to Adarsh Kumar Miglani. 0040517754-4

I, Aastha Singhaniya W/O Lochan Mor R/O-C-202, JM-Orchid, Sector-76, Noida, G.B.Nagar, have changed my name to Aastha Singhaniya. 0040517754-6

I, Aastha Ajmani W/O Rahul Singh R/O-72 Sector-21D Faridabad Haryana-121001, changed my name to Aastha Singh. 0040517764-3

I, Amit Goyal, R/O-1/9587, Street No-3/5, Pratap Pura, West Rohtash-Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032.Changed My Minor Son Name Samarth To Samarth Goyal. 0040517769-5

I, Meenakshi W/O Arun Singh R/O-DG-3/28 Vikaspuri New Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Meenakshi Singh for all future purposes. 0040517769-1

I, Kiranjeet W/O Anoop Singh H.No-D-11, Shri.Ram Institute, Malkaganj, 19, University Road, Delhi University-North Delhi-110007. Changed My Name To Kiranjeet Singh. 0040517754-7

I, KAVITA W/O Mr. Shrinivas, R/O- RZ-106A, Street.No.14, Tughlakabad-Extension, New-Delhi-110019, have changed my name KAVITA SINGH for all purposes. 0040517705-2

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that My client Sh. Anu Kumar Suri Smt. Narveen Suri, who are the absolute owners of the property being Entire First Floor, D-20, Geetanjali Enclave, New Delhi had not received the Original GPF dated 06.09.2010 executed by Chamar Lal Mukhi in favour of Manoj Singh Bhatia, duly registered with No.543 before Sub-Registrar V. at the time of purchase of abovesaid property in 2012 and the said document is misplaced loss. If any persons finds the abovesaid document, it is requested to handover the same to the undersigned. And if any person's has in claim whatsoever with respect to the abovesaid property, he/she is required to give notice of the same to the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication hereof, together with copies of documents forming basis of such claim, failing which it shall be concluded that there is no claim whatsoever against the abovesaid property and my client can proceed with their intended object pertaining to the abovesaid property.

Sd/-
Rajesh Gupta
(Advocate)
F-43, Dilshad Colony, Delhi-93
011-22553535

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that my Clients Sh. Raj Kumar son of Late Shri Raghunath Sahai & Smt Chandan Kanta wife of Sh. Raj Kumar both Resident of 4/726, Ward-34, Numbal, Farukhabad, Uttar Pradesh-206625, have severed all relations and connections with their son Rahul Babha and has debarred and disowned them from all their movable and immovable properties, with immediate effect, as he is acting beyond uncontrol of my client Whomsoever deals with them in monetary form or in any other nature shall do so at his/her/their own cost, risk and responsibility.

S. K. SHRIVASTVA (Advocate)
Ch.No. : 618, Dwarka Court, Delhi-75

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Sh. Vijender Sharma S/o Late Sh. Girdhar Prasad R/o B-221, Rajaji Nagar, J. Colony, New Delhi-110027, has severed all his relations, disown and disbarred his son Hemant Sharma, from all his movable & immovable properties & assets with immediate effect due to his misbehaviour and misconduct and will have no concern with him hereafter. Anybody dealing with him in any manner whatsoever shall be doing so at his/her own risk & costs & my client will not be responsible for the same.

VINAY KUMAR (Advocate)
4/178, T.F., Subhash Nagar, Delhi

"IMPORTANT"

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DELHI GOVT ROLLS OUT FREE BUS RIDES FOR WOMEN

Student to domestic help, pink tickets find many takers

The Indian Express travels on 5 routes on Day 1 of scheme

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

ANOTHERWISE gray October day was brightened up by a few lakh streaks of pink Tuesday, with the Delhi government rolling out its free rides scheme, a move that obviated the need for women to pay fares in public buses. The city of two crore, which includes over 80 lakh women, largely embraced the decision, which had a smooth implementation owing to significantly less passenger volume on account of Bhai Dooj — a restricted holiday in government offices.

On board five such DTC buses, connecting different parts of Delhi-NCR, The Indian Express found working women, housewives and students welcoming the decision with equal enthusiasm. The scheme will cover all 5,589 public buses in the city.

Route 8A: Nehru Place to Noida Sector 37

Having made two trips since morning, conductor Ram Kumar knew the drill. As the bus made its way out of the dusty, unpaved Nehru Place Terminal, Kumar rolled out his instruction template: "Saare ladies apne pink tickets le jayein..." Leela, who irons clothes for a living, was among the first beneficiaries of the waiver. "For someone like me, spending Rs 40 every day to travel means a lot... I am going to save over Rs 1,000 a month," she said.

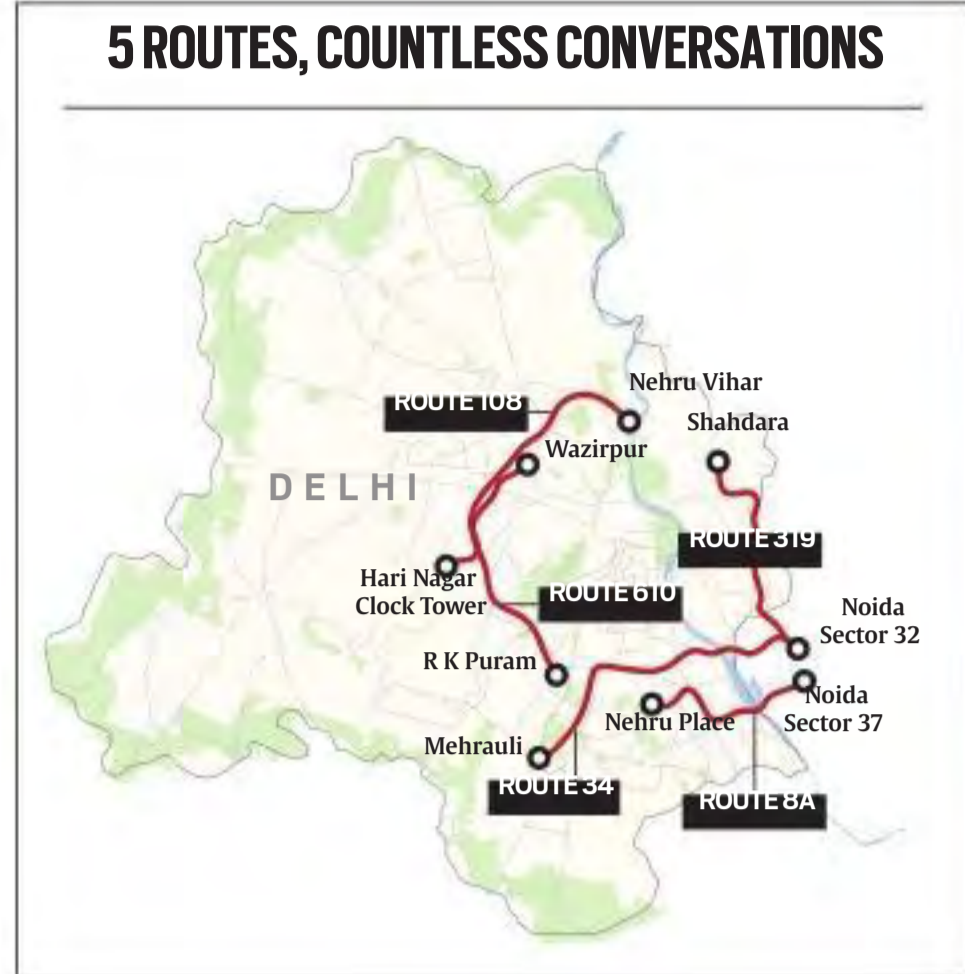
With nearly 40% occupants of the bus women, Kumar cannot afford any slip, as he is expected to share an error-free register of the gender profile of passengers to authorities when his duty ends.

Asha Tiwari, who lives in Noida, was travelling home after visiting Kalkaji Mandir with her husband and daughter. Asked if she was aware of the scheme, her husband responded: "This is not anything new. Women could travel for free in buses during Bhai Dooj and Raksha Bandhan even during Sheila ji's time..."

But he was cut short by Asha: "Wo alag tha, ye permanent hai. Ab se roz free."

Route 108: Nehru Vihar to Hari Nagar

Sushma Bhatra (57) is not a regular bus commuter and was delighted when, during an un-



characteristic bus journey Tuesday, she heard for the first time that bus rides would henceforth be free for women.

"This is a very big step. It will be very helpful for poor women who travel to work and young students. It's not necessary that one has to rejoice only about things that benefit oneself," she said.

Deepmala (25) completed her MA from Delhi University this year and would travel one-and-a-half hours from her home in Palam every day for classes. "I had a student bus pass which cost me Rs 500 every semester, but there were students who would come infrequently to class because of the travel strain. I think attendance in classes can definitely improve with this," she said.

But Khushboo (17) was wary of the step being viewed as "differentiating between girls and boys". "I think it will benefit women very much... But I feel a step that levels it out for everyone would have been better," she said.

Route 34: Mehrauli to Noida Sector 32

Kailash Chopra (76) boarded the bus around 3.30 pm to return home to Noida. As she carefully made her way to the front seat reserved for senior citizens, no one asked her for a ticket. "We've been hearing women will be able to travel for free in Metro and buses, but I didn't know it started today," Chopra, who had gone to her brother's place for Bhai Dooj, said. The biggest support for the

move came from Mohd Ikhlak (15), whose mother works as a domestic help. "I think this is a good step for safety of women. Many times, women don't have money, so they walk to places even at night. If buses are free, they will take them," he said.

Route 610: RK Puram to Wazirpur

As they waited for the bus, Asha Sharma (25) and Rekha Kumari (24) said that while they appreciated the move, crowding was an issue that needed to be addressed. "When we try to get in or out, the men rush and push us. Appointing marshals should help," said Kumari. A 27-year-old said: "If they want more women to take buses, they need to ensure safety. Free rides need to be coupled with better services."

Route 319: Shahdara to Noida Sector 32

At 4.30 pm, the DTC bus was bustling with people out to celebrate Bhai Dooj. At East Delhi's Hasanpur Depot, a group of women and children hopped on and as one of them tried to pay, the conductor handed them a 'pink ticket'. "Aunty ji, paise nahi dene haiin apko. Mahilayon ke liye free hai," said the conductor.

The scheme was the source of an excited conversation on the front row seats reserved for women. "This will benefit all of us. We can travel for free, but more importantly, we can travel safely," said Rekha Devi (32).



On board a DTC bus on Day 1 of the scheme. Tashi Tobgyal

'Oppn says Kejriwal making everything free, but parties should rise above narrow partisan interests'

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

THE FREE rides scheme in buses will help women overcome structural inequalities, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said Tuesday, while also mounting a robust defense of the AAP's subsidy model of governance, describing it as an attempt to put money saved by plugging leakages to good use.

From sex-selective abortions, fathers prioritising sons over daughters in terms of education, to gender gap in wages, the CM — in a short video message on the launch of the scheme — stressed that such a radical policy intervention, which has no parallel in India, was the need of

the hour to set things right.

The words of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, that out of every Rs 100, only Rs 15 actually reaches the ground for public welfare as the rest leaks through corruption, also found mention in Kejriwal's address, which was streamed live on the 'AK app'.

"In our country, women don't enjoy equal rights. Whenever they do carve their own spaces... they excel. The structural inequalities inherent to our society come in the way of equal opportunities to women. Out of Delhi's total work force, only 11% are women. Out of all the people taking Metro and buses, only 30% are women."

"In our society, a few people opt for sex identification of foetuses and go for abortion if the



Kejriwal made a short video on the scheme. Praveen Khanna

umental step towards empowering women," he added.

He also spoke about extending the scheme to senior citizens and students: "A few people demanded that students and senior citizens also be allowed to travel for free. We will surely do it, but we have made the beginning with women. Let us implement it first, learn from experiences... Not everything can be done in one go."

The Opposition, meanwhile, questioned the timing and implementation of the scheme. While Delhi Congress chief Subhash Chopra said the move was aimed only at getting votes, Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari called it a political stunt and said that since the number of buses is low, the move did not benefit as many women as it should have.

Hitting out at them, Kejriwal said he was being able to deliver on his promises as his background as an IRS officer helps him understand the intricacies of governance better.

"The opposition says Kejriwal is making everything free, but I believe parties should rise above narrow partisan interests. Rajiv Gandhi had famously said in 1986 that out of every Rs 100 spent by the government, Rs 85 disappears owing to corruption. I am trying to put an end to that by spending that money in improving schools, hospitals, roads. The remaining amount is going towards subsidising water, power, bus fares... What have I done wrong? If women make progress, only then the country will be able to make forward strides," he said.

For thousands of marshals, Day 1 of a challenging job

ANANYA TIWARI
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

NEARLY EVERY bus in Delhi had at least a man or a woman in khaki round the clock Tuesday, with the Delhi government deploying around 13,000 marshals to ensure women's safety — up from the previously sanctioned strength of 3,400.

The marshals, many of them in their early 20s, showed up well before the start of their scheduled work hours to get acquainted with their new workplaces and bosses.

Sundar (21) was a marshal on board a bus plying between Nehru Place and Najafgarh. Son of

a beldar and a housewife from UP's Gorakhpur, Sundar said he is a graduate of DU's School of Open Learning. "I'm not sure about my salary, but I'm quite excited about my first job. The CM said it is not just a job but public service," he said. The marshals would be paid Rs 692 for each day they work at the end of the month.

Guddu Jha (32), who used to work as a delivery person with an e-commerce firm, said he feels good about the fact that his current job comes with a sense of permanence: "It is a contract job, but I feel I am associated with the Delhi government. We have been told to try and resolve issues politely at first, involve the police if needed and to use force in order



The marshals have been given training. Praveen Khanna

to ensure safety of female passengers if nothing seems workable."

The presence of marshals was also a reassuring sight for

many women, who have had bitter experiences in the past.

Bharti Kumar (27), an employee at the Ministry of Home

Affairs, who lives in Sagarpur and travels via RL 77 from Mangalpur to New Delhi Railway station, said, "If there is a lot of rush, men don't pay attention, they just rush ahead. Maybe with these marshals, things will be safer."

Meanwhile, authorities are gearing up for Wednesday when passenger volume is expected to be much higher, with people returning to work after an extended weekend.

The city's bus count, at a little over 5,500, falls far short of the SC-mandated requirement of 11,000. The average daily ridership in buses, including those using monthly concessional passes, is around 42 lakh currently.

OVER 2.2 LAKH WOMEN BENEFITED ON FIRST DAY OF SCHEME



Region	Passengers (till 4 pm)	Women who travelled for free
North	1,91,500	71,458 (37.31%)
East	1,29,089	42,135 (32.64%)
West	2,25,239	64,958 (28.84%)
South	1,30,200	42,140 (32.37%)
Total	6,76,028	2,20,691 (32.65%)

13,000 marshals have been deployed across 5,589 buses to ensure women's safety

Pink tickets will be issued to every woman who avails a free ride. Praveen Khanna

BRIEFLY Two held for duping former DRDO official

New Delhi: Two men were arrested for allegedly duping an 80-year-old retired DRDO official on the pretext of helping him with an application on phone, and transferring Rs 23 lakh from his bank account to theirs, in Amar Colony. One of the accused, police said, worked as a driver for the victim. Police said they are on the lookout for three more accused.

Two held for kidnapping minor boy

New Delhi: Two persons, including a 20-year-old woman, were arrested from Central Delhi's Chandni Mahal for allegedly kidnapping a minor boy outside his house. Police said the accused are homeless people. ENS

Returning from CP laser show, man and son mowed down by SUV, driver on the run

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

RETURNING HOME after watching the laser show at Connaught Place, a 40-year-old Nepalese man and his minor son died after they were hit by an SUV at Maharaja Ranjit Singh flyover Monday night. Heera and his son Kishore were on a bicycle, said police, adding that they have identified the car and are probing the matter.

Witnesses claimed they saw a white Creta hit the bicycle at the flyover, and the impact was such that the boy was flung in the air and landed 10 feet away. Bystanders tried to stop the car, but the driver fled. The victims were rushed to Lok Nayak Hospital, where they were declared dead on arrival.

Family members of the victims said Kishore, who lived with his relatives in Nepal, had come to the capital a week ago to visit his parents during Diwali.

Heera and his son Kishore were on a bicycle, said police, adding that they have identified the car and are probing the matter

"Kishore was excited about the laser show, and asked his father to take him there. They left the house around 9 pm, accom-

panied by friends. Heera called me after he dropped his friends... I was waiting for them at home when police informed me about the accident," said Reena (35), Heera's wife.

A case was registered at IP Estate police station. A senior police officer said, "We received a call around 12.30 am about the incident from the hospital. The victims had succumbed to their injuries after the car hit them. A damaged bicycle and a piece of the car's licence plate were re-

covered from the spot. We have identified the car and its owner, and will soon make an arrest. We are yet to identify the person driving the car."

The family had been living in the Railway Colony, near the BJP headquarters at Barakhamba Road, for the past 10 years. Heera worked at a car wash company. "Kishore was living with his uncle in Nepal for many years. We were trying to get him admitted to a school in Delhi next year," said Reena.

Son at home, retd BSF constable shoots at wife: Police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NOIDA, OCTOBER 29

A RETIRED BSF officer allegedly shot his 30-year-old wife, while she was performing puja a day after Diwali, at her Ghaziabad residence. The couple's eight-year-old son was in the house when the incident took place.

The woman, Pooja, was alone at home with her son with when

her husband Dev Kumar allegedly barged inside and shot her. She has been referred to Subharti Hospital in Meerut and is critical, police said.

"Pooja lives in Krishna Kunj colony with her son. Husband and wife had been living separately for the past few months, allegedly because of a marital dispute. The two had an argument on Diwali as well. He went to her home afterwards and shot

her from close range. The son was in the house at the time. Neighbours heard the gunshot and the child's cries, and were alerted. They rushed her to a nearby hospital, while the accused fled the spot," said Kashi Prasad Mishra, CO Modinagar.

According to police, the couple had been facing problems for a while now and Pooja moved out even as Kumar kept being posted in various parts of the

country. Pooja eventually approached the local court and got an order to receive a part of his salary as allowance, police said.

According to police, Kumar then took voluntary retirement from service from the BSF so she could not get any part of his salary. He was last posted as a constable in the BSF's division.

Pooja went to court again and was granted a part of Kumar's pension. For several

months, the two had regular arguments over the money he was supposed to give to her.

"Their argument escalated on Diwali and he came back with a gun the next day. It appears that he stuck the barrel close to her face and pulled the trigger. The bullet hit her near the nose but missed a key area of her brain, else she would have died on the spot. We are looking CCTV footage to ascertain his location," said Mishra.

Man held for trying to kidnap DU student a serial molester: Cops

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

A 23-YEAR-OLD man has been arrested for allegedly raping a minor girl after kidnapping her in his autorickshaw. The incident took place in the Central Range on September 17.

Yog Dutt Sharma was arrested on October 26 after a Delhi University student lodged an FIR, alleging that she was molested by him. She also alleged that he tried to kidnap her in his auto. During questioning, police found he had allegedly raped the minor.

Police are conducting raids to nab his two associates. Police said Sharma has confessed to allegedly molesting around 50 girls. While police have not found any related complaints, they said he has several robbery cases registered against him.

"On October 21, a DU student said she was going towards a Metro station when an auto driver asked if she wanted a drop. When she refused, the driver

tried to pull her inside the auto. She managed to escape after raising an alarm... the accused also fled," said a senior police officer.

Using CCTV footage and technical surveillance, police traced the accused and arrested him Saturday. During questioning, he revealed he had allegedly molested around 50 girls. Suspicious of his modus operandi, they matched the case details with the rape case.

"The minor girl was called and she identified the accused. The accused initially tried to mislead police, but he finally admitted to his crime. He disclosed that the girl boarded his share auto... his associates were in the vehicle, posing as passengers. The accused then took her to an isolated area and allegedly raped her. The girl was scared and did not tell her parents, as he had threatened her with dire consequences. She finally told her mother, who informed police," the officer said.

The accused was produced before a Delhi court and sent to 14-day judicial custody.

6 GOVT & POLITICS



PROTEST LINE-UP

WHILE TOP Congress leaders will travel across the country from Friday addressing a series of press conferences to take on the government over its management of the economy, ahead of a nationwide agitation next week, there is uncertainty on whether former party chief Rahul Gandhi will be back in India. Sources said the party has planned 35 press conferences between November 1 and 8. From November 5 to 15, it will hit the streets as part of the agitation. Rahul left the country on Monday to attend a course abroad. While he is away, top leaders A K Antony, Mallikarjun Kharge, Ghulam Nabi Azad, Ambika Soni, Ajay Maken, Mukul Wasnik, Jairam Ramesh, Manish Tewari and Abhishek Singhvi will be among those travelling across the country to address the media on the economic slowdown and agrarian crisis.

TRAVEL ON TRACK

AS THE government readies the PM's Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme, one of the issues that came up recently was the need for the youth of one region to travel to another region in a kind of an exchange to learn about other cultures. Discussing travel solutions for the participating youth, the need to keep it seamless and affordable was talked about. The only mode that meets the requirement is Indian Railways, with its connectivity to all parts of India. It has been suggested that the youth who travel to other regions as part of the programme will be given a 50 per cent concession.

CHANGE IN PLAN

THE RSS has 'postponed' its meeting of pracharaks, currently working with its affiliate organisations, scheduled to be held in Haridwar on October 31. The meeting, which the RSS brass was slated to attend, was planned well in advance, given the busy tour programmes of senior functionaries. RSS pracharaks loaned to the BJP were also supposed to attend the meeting. For the RSS, which rarely deviates from its annual plan of activities, the decision is surprising as this meeting happens once in five years, and its pracharaks loaned to other organisations get to interact with senior and influential members of the RSS. The postponement has left many tongues wagging. Many are wondering whether the impending verdict on the Ayodhya dispute played on the minds of RSS decision-makers and led them to postpone the meeting until after the ruling.

Padsalgikar, ex-police chief of Mumbai, is new Dy NSA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, OCTOBER 29

FORMER MUMBAI Police Commissioner and Maharashtra DGP Dattatray Padsalgikar, was appointed as Deputy National Security Advisor (NSA) on Tuesday.

The 1982-batch officer served in the Intelligence Bureau before he was picked by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis as the Mumbai Police Commissioner in 2016.

During his tenure as Mumbai Police Commissioner from 2016 to 2018, Padsalgikar started the eight-hour shift for policemen, a legacy that continues to this day. In 2017, he replaced the police constables' Gandhi topi with the modern visor cap. It was due to these reasons that the lower brass of the Mumbai police was fond of him. It was also during his tenure



Dattatray Padsalgikar

that the Crime Branch, after a chase of over one year, had tracked down Sajjad Mogul, who had raped and murdered Pallavi Purkayastha, the daughter of a bureaucrat, and had fled while out on furlough.

Padsalgikar, who had also served as DCP (zone 1) in Mumbai, is well versed in French and is a history buff. Soon after his retirement in February this year, he was appointed Deputy Lokayukta, a post that he was currently holding.

Fadnavis says no 50-50 pact, Sena cancels govt formation talks

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, OCTOBER 29

TALKS ON government formation in Maharashtra failed to take off Tuesday after Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis rejected Shiv Sena's claims that the two partners had a pre-poll understanding on a 50-50 formula of sharing power and rotating the post of the CM if returned to power. The Sena hit back, calling off talks scheduled Tuesday and circulating an old video clip to remind Fadnavis and the BJP that they are "going back on their word".

Speaking to reporters at his residence 'Varsha', Fadnavis said: "The Shiv Sena was not promised the CM's post for two-and-a-half years when the alliance was formalised before the Lok Sabha polls."

The BJP-led alliance, he said, will provide a "stable and efficient" government for the next five years, and it will be led by



'My election a mere formality'. Prashant Nadkar

him. BJP MLAs will be meeting in Mumbai Wednesday to elect the leader of the BJP legislature party.

Fadnavis said his election to the post will be a formality. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has already announced the name and the meeting will be a formality," he said.

Sena leader Sanjay Raut accused Fadnavis of going back on his word. "I don't know what the CM has said. If he is saying that

the 50-50 formula was never discussed, then I think we need to change the definition of truth. What was discussed, regarding the issue the CM is talking about, is known to all," he said.

The Sena cadre circulated a video in which Fadnavis, after formalisation of the alliance between the two parties before the Lok Sabha elections, can be heard saying that the two parties will maintain equality of posts and responsibilities. Raut said: "Everyone knows he made the statement before the media. He himself spoke about equal power-sharing with us. I don't know what he is talking now."

Told that Fadnavis, in the video clip, makes no mention of sharing the CM post, Raut said: "When he says sharing posts and responsibilities, it is understood that the CM post will be shared as well. Chief Ministership is also a post."

The Sena said it was calling off talks with the BJP scheduled for Tuesday. Raut said: "The first

meeting was scheduled to take place at 4 pm at Sofitel Hotel (in Mumbai). At this meeting, Subhash Desai and I from Sena and BJP's Bhupendra Yadav and Prakash Javadekar were supposed to take part. If Fadnavis is denying the 50-50 formula, then on what basis should we hold talks?"

The election results in Maharashtra where no single party has managed to attain the majority mark on its own — in a House of 288, the BJP has 105 and the Sena 56 — has come in the way of government formation with the Sena seeking more in any power-sharing arrangement.

Many Yuva Sena office-bearers and Sena leaders have been running a campaign on social media, called "My MLA, My CM", with a photograph of Aadiya Thackeray. "Since he has been elected MLA, we would like him to be the Chief Minister, lead the state," a Yuva Sena functionary said.

'Alliance should declare CM face... JMM will contest more than half seats'

WITH ASSEMBLY elections in Jharkhand due in December, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) chief HEMANT SOREN tells MANOJ C G that his party will tie up with the Congress, but will lead the alliance and will contest more than half of the seats in the state on its own. Excerpts:



The Opposition's performance in Haryana was much better than expected. Assembly elections are due in Jharkhand soon. How hopeful are you?

The Opposition is much better placed in Jharkhand because Jharkhand is a smaller state than Haryana. The voting in Jharkhand will be against the policies and the decisions of the state government. The BJP did not get majority in 2014. They bought MLAs of other parties. See what has happened in Haryana. They did not get a majority but still formed the government. They have changed the definition of politics.

Will the JMM fight the election alone or go in alliance with the Congress?

We have done the preparations for forging an alliance since the time of Lok Sabha elections. We are in talks with all our alliance partners. I am hopeful that there will be an alliance.

Will it be only JMM and the Congress?

There will be JMM, Congress, RJD, the Left parties... We are trying to bring all these parties together... We are in talks with [Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (Prajantrik) chief] Babul Marandi as well... But Jharkhand, you know, is a small state. The number of seats is less and every party has their demands. So, we are discussing with all the parties. I hope we will be able to forge an alliance.

How many seats will the JMM contest?

JMM will have the larger share of seats. The leadership too will be of the JMM. We will lead the alliance. There is already an agreement in that regard. JMM will contest in more than half of the seats... We will contest in at least 45 to 46 seats (out of a total of 81 seats).

Do you think there should be a chief ministerial face?

Definitely. It takes a driver to drive the vehicle. Without a driver, how can a vehicle be driven?

Some Congress leaders left the



party last week. What impact will that have?

The ground realities in the state are different. Every community and every group is upset with the present government... The government is only misusing the machinery to its advantage. Many District Collectors are acting like workers of the BJP. We have asked the EC to keep such people out of the election-related activities.

But then why are Congress leaders leaving?

The BJP does not have winning candidates. So, through horse-trading, using their financial resources, and misusing the government machinery, they are trying to make people cross over. The BJP calls everyone corrupt when they are in other parties. But when those people join them, they all become neat and clean. It is as if the BJP is not a party, but a washing machine... We are prepared for all their tricks and strategies.

How will you counter the nationalist pitch of the BJP?

For handling the nation and the national system, the people have given them the responsibility in the Lok Sabha elections. Now the elections are for the state. They deliberately try to misguide people and it is to be seen how many people will fall into that trap. States are formed to take care for the issues of that region... The problems of Jammu and Kashmir is not there in Odisha, Delhi or Jharkhand. They are misleading the people of states by talking about nationalism or national issues. They should talk about the state's issues.

HARYANA

Special Assembly session on Nov 4, Cabinet expansion to follow: Khattar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 29

THE COUNCIL of ministers in Haryana will be expanded only after a special Assembly session will be convened on November 4, Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and his deputy Dushyant Chautala said on Tuesday after holding the first state Cabinet meeting in New Delhi.

Khattar and Chautala, who are the only two to have taken oath on Sunday, held the Cabinet meeting at the Haryana Bhawan in the national capital.

"It has been decided that the Cabinet will be expanded after the special session of the Vidhan Sabha on November 4. Also, a committee comprising leaders of both the BJP and the JJP will be set up to formulate a common minimum programme for the coalition," Khattar said after the meeting.

Two senior IAS officers from Haryana also attended the meeting where it was decided that the state government will grant subsidy in the sale of a chemical, which decomposes farm stubble.

Chautala, the great grandson of former deputy prime minister late Devi Lal, too confirmed



CM Manohar Lal Khattar with Deputy CM Dushyant Chautala at the state Cabinet meeting in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

that the Cabinet will be expanded after the special session of the state Assembly. "There are important issues that we need to work on under the common minimum programme. The top-most being 75 per cent reservation for Haryanvis in private jobs... It is my responsibility that I fight for the cause of youth of my state," Chautala said.

He added that the government will also try to sort out the problem of long distances that youth have to travel for recruitment examinations.

To a query on post-poll al-

liance with the BJP, Chautala said, "We have not entered into the alliance to do any politics of deceit. We will be doing our job with utmost transparency and honesty and work for the development and progress of our state together."

In his second innings as the CM, Khattar intensified his efforts to get international status for Haryana's first airport at Hisar. Khattar met Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and apprised him that Hisar airport can help reduce traffic at the IGI Airport in New Delhi.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 29

REJECTING ANY possibility of a merger of his Jannayak Janata Party (JJP) with the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD), Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala Tuesday said that the "Chautala families are united, only parties are different".

This comes a day after his estranged brother Abhay Chautala at their farmhouse in Sirsa's Teja Khera, triggering hopes of possible patch-up in the family that had split because of a feud that triggered a vertical split in the INLD.

Replying to the media queries on a possibility of INLD and JJP coming together in future, Dushyant, without naming his grandfather Om Prakash Chautala and uncle Abhay, said, "They should reconsider what they have done. It is for them to consider who broke the ties. Chautala families are united, only parties are different".

Dushyant launched the JJP in December 2018 after he, his younger brother Digvijay and father Ajay were expelled from the INLD last year on the orders of OP Chautala.

Sovan meets Mamata, sparks rumour of return to TMC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, OCTOBER 29

FORMER KOLKATA mayor Sovan Chatterjee, who had quit Trinamool Congress to join the BJP in August this year, on Tuesday visited the Kalighat residence of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in Kolkata on the occasion of 'Bhai Phonta'. He was accompanied by his close associate Baishakhi Bandopadhyay, who had joined the BJP along with Sovan.

The four-time MLA, party sources said, used to visit



BJP leaders Sovan Chatterjee and Baishakhi Bandopadhyay leaving Mamata Banerjee's residence on Tuesday. Express

Mamata's residence every year on Bhai Phonta — which celebrates the bonding between brothers

and sisters. But last year he skipped as relations between the two soured.

While Sovan refused to speak to mediapersons after coming out of the CM's residence, people close to him said that his visit had no political meaning.

However, speculation is rife that Sovan's return to TMC is now just a matter of time.

"Today, we saw the old chemistry between Didi (Mamata) and Kanon (Sovan). I think any day from now Sovan will return to our party," a senior TMC leader, who was present at the CM's residence, told *The Indian Express*.

According to TMC sources, Sovan received a warm welcome

RLSP seeks to improve social equations in bid to revamp party

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE PATNA, OCTOBER 29

THE RASHTRIYA Lok Samata Party (RLSP), which reduced its tally from three MPs to zero in the Lok Sabha polls, has restructured the organisation by giving representation to more EBCs, upper castes and Muslims.

While RLSP chief Upendra Kushwaha has retained SC leader Bhudeo Choudhary as the party's state unit chief, the regional party seems to have followed the Congress model by making Jitendra Nath state president and in-charge of campaign committee. Nirmal Kushwaha is now the party's principal general secretary.

The RLSP has named another OBC Kushwaha leader, Virendra Kushwaha, and three EBC leaders — Madan Choudhary, Rekha Gupta and Chandan Kumar Sah Bagchi — as four of its six working presidents. It also gave representation to Muslims by naming Mohammed Kamran as its state working president. It has appointed Rajput leader B K Singh as the party's working vice president.

Among 10 state vice presidents, RLSP has sought to cater to its core constituency by giving five positions to OBC Kushwahas. It also gave one post each to Muslim, Rajput, EBC, OBC Kurmi and upper caste Bhumihar leaders.

An RLSP leader said, "RLSP must not be identified only as a party of Kushwahas. We have tried to reach out to EBC and upper castes as well..."

UP bypoll results setback for BSP: zero seats, dip in vote share

LALMANI VERMA & MAULSHREE SETH DEHRADUN, UTTAR PRADESH, OCTOBER 29

RESULTS OF the recently held Assembly bypolls in Uttar Pradesh may have brought cheers to the Samajwadi Party, but they have come as a setback for Mayawati's BSP, which not only failed to retain its Jalalpur seat but also saw a substantial decline in its vote share in nine of the 11 seats that went to bypolls this month, as compared to the 2017 Assembly elections.

The BSP's vote share increased in only two Assembly segments — Manikpur and Iglas — while the SP not only won three seats but also saw an increase in its vote share in five Assembly seats. The BSP saw a similar trend in the Hamirpur Assembly bypolls last month.

The results have come as a jolt for the BSP, which along with the SP aims to become the ruling BJP's main opponent in the 2022 Assembly polls. Both the parties had formed an alliance against the BJP in the Lok Sabha elections earlier this year, but it fell apart after the results.

The biggest change was seen in Zaidpur — reserved for Scheduled Castes (SC) — where SP wrested the seat from the BJP after increasing its vote share to 35.28 per cent from 1.73 per cent in the 2017 polls. The BSP, which got 18.99 per cent votes in 2017, came a distant fourth with its vote share dipping to 8.21 per cent. BJP's vote share decreased from 43.84 in 2017 polls to 33.4 per cent.

In Rampur, where Muslims played a decisive role, SP retained the seat by increasing its vote to 49.13 per cent from 47.74 per cent in 2017. The BJP increased its vote

BSP'S VOTE SHARE DOWN IN 10 SEATS, SP GAINS						
SEAT	BSP		SP		BJP	
	2019	2017	2019	2017	2019	2017
Zaidpur (SC)	8.21	18.99	35.28	1.73	33.4	43.84
Rampur	2.14	25.36	49.13	47.74	44.34	25.85
Gangoh	14.37	17.44	25.55	18.42	30.41	38.78
Ghosi	23.02	33.89	N/A**	24.68	31	36.78
Lucknow Cant	9.64	13.98	19.14	33.07	51.03	51.21
Pratapgarh	12.74	22.82	15.57	25.29	35.49*	44.17*
Balha (SC)	17.06	28.91	23.27	14.75	48.34	52.33
Jalalpur	31.25	37.75	31.6	24.56	27.59	32.30
Manikpur	21.62	17.03	30.18	N/A***	37.43	44.54
Iglas (SC)	33.96	22.88	N/A**	N/A***	51.67	55.05
Govindnagar	4.52	15.65	9.91	N/A***	38.55	44.49
Hamirpur	14.92	24.29	29.29	24.97	38.55	44.49

share from 25.84 per cent in 2017 to 44.3 per cent. However, the BSP saw its vote share drop drastically

from 25.36 per cent to 2.14 per cent. Tazeen Fatma, Rajya Sabha

member and SP MP Azam Khan's wife, retained the seat as a family stronghold. "BSP too had fielded a

Muslim candidate. Result indicates that Muslims relied more upon SP than BSP... BSP's Dalit vote also shifted to BJP," one SP leader said in Rampur.

In Gangoh, another seat with decisive presence of Muslims and Dalits, BSP's vote share decreased to 14.37 per cent from 17.44 per cent it had clocked in 2017. SP's vote share increased from 18.42 per cent in 2017 to 25.55 per cent while the Congress also recorded an increase — from 23.95 per cent in 2017 to 28 per cent. BJP retained the seat but recorded decrease in vote share from 38.78 per cent in 2017 to 30.41 per cent this year.

In Muslim and OBC-dominated Ghosi constituency, BSP's vote share decreased to 23.02 per cent from the 33.89 per cent it got in 2017.

In Balha, another seat reserved for SCs, BSP's vote share decreased to 17.06 per cent from 28.91 per cent in 2017. SP's vote share in-

'Less than 12% Indian students with Chinese medical degree clear eligibility exam'

SOWMIYA ASHOK
BEIJING, OCTOBER 29

LESS THAN 12 per cent of Indian students who obtained a Chinese medical degree between 2015-18 cleared the Foreign Medical Graduate Examination (FMGE), a new analysis by the National Board of Examinations (NBE) has found. The FMGE is a mandatory test to obtain a licence to practice medicine upon returning to India.

As previously reported by *The Indian Express*, the NBE tracked 61,708 Indian students who graduated from foreign medical institutions across various countries between 2015 and 2018. In China, of the 20,310 students in 86 medical universities or colleges, only 2,369 students or 11.67 per cent passed the FMGE, the analysis found. The FMGE pass percentage is slightly higher — 12.17 per cent — for students who graduated from Chinese universities authorised to admit international students for an MBBS degree in English.

Annually, China's Ministry of Education releases an approved list of medical universities that can accept international students. For this academic year, the list contains 45 medical universities across China, with 3,370 seats on offer. However, rough estimates say there are 214 universities across China where Indian medical students study.

Of the 14,702 Indian students across 42 of the 45 approved universities, only 1,790 cleared the FMGE between 2015-18. Fudan University, known to be one of the leading universities in China, was not included in the analysis. Further, Wuhan University, which attracts many students from South India, recorded a pass percentage of less than 10, while Jinzhou Medical University was among the highest with 28.93 per cent.

"Many students feel that FMGE is not a tough exam. If they had studied in an Indian university, it would have been easier to clear. The standards of FMGE are based on the focus of Indian curriculum. Students felt that if there was extensive practical training and their internship year was well-spent, it would be easier to crack FMGE," Delhi-based Institute of Chinese Studies

EXPLAINED
E.
Numbers highlight need for reform

CHINA HAS been offering undergraduate medical courses in English for 15 years and, through a combination of hearsay and an informal network of private agents, thousands of aspiring doctors in India have opted for a Chinese medical degree. Such an analysis reveals that only a fraction of the students pass the Indian eligibility test after their course is over. The abysmal numbers highlight the need for much-needed reform on both sides.

Associate Fellow Madhurima Nundy told *The Indian Express*.

Nundy added that the "quality of medical education in China and the quality of Indian students emerging from these universities is clearly a matter of concern for both governments".

Calling for coordination between stakeholders on both sides, she said: "Some positive developments have taken place in the past two years, but there needs to be a sustained effort to keep these checks in place. This also helps contextualise the process of student mobility to study medicine abroad and undo the negative perceptions and prejudices that have been created of students who return and struggle to find their ground."

She said students returning disappointed, stressed and dejected had implications for the quality of doctors practising in India. "Students cannot be held responsible for choosing to go to China. This speaks of systems that are not in place back home," she said.

Justice Bobde to take charge as next CJI on November 18

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

PRESIDENT RAM Nath Kovind on Tuesday appointed Supreme Court judge Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde as the next Chief Justice of India (CJI). Justice Bobde will officially take charge as the next CJI from November 18, a day after the incumbent CJI Justice Ranjan Gogoi is set to complete his tenure.

"In the exercise of the powers conferred by clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint Shri Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde, Judge of the Supreme Court, to be the Chief Justice of India with effect from 18th November, 2019," the notification issued by the Ministry of Law and Justice states.

Justice Bobde will be the 47th CJI, and will have a tenure of almost one-and-a-half-years, with his term set to end on April 23, 2021. He is the second judge from Maharashtra's Nagpur region to be appointed CJI after Mohammad Hidayatullah (1968-1970).



Justice S A Bobde PTI File

Born in 1956 in Nagpur, Justice Bobde comes from a family of lawyers. His father, Arvind Shrinivas Bobde, was a two-time advocate general of the Maharashtra government. Justice Bobde's brother Vinod Bobde was also a constitutional lawyer.

Justice Bobde was appointed an additional judge of the Bombay High Court in 2000, just two years after he was designated a senior advocate. He had practiced for over 21 years and was involved in several high-profile cases, including the Adarsh housing society scam and the PIL against Lavasa Corporation Limited.

He was sworn in as Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High

Court in 2012 and was elevated to the Supreme Court in 2013.

In his over six-year tenure as a Supreme Court judge, Justice Bobde has been part of benches dealing with important judicial matters, including the Ayodhya title dispute, where the verdict is expected to be delivered before November 17. He was also part of the nine-member constitutional bench that recognised privacy as a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution in August 2017.

"Not recognising character of privacy as a fundamental right is likely to erode the very substratum of the personal liberty guaranteed by the Constitution. The decided cases clearly demonstrate that particular fundamental rights could not have been exercised without the recognition of the right of privacy as a fundamental right. Any derecognition or diminution in the importance of the right of privacy will weaken the fundamental rights which have been expressly conferred," Justice Bobde had observed in the landmark Privacy judgment.

Justice Bobde was also part of the three-judge bench which

passed an interim verdict on May 18, 2018 which set aside the order of Karnataka Governor Vajubhai Vala granting Chief Minister B S Yeddyurappa 15 days to prove his party's majority, and instead directed that a floor test be conducted within 24 hours.

On the administrative side, Justice Bobde headed the first-of-its-kind three-member in-house committee, also comprising of Justices Indira Banerjee and Indu Malhotra, which gave a clean chit to CJI Gogoi, who was facing allegations of sexual harassment leveled by a former SC staffer.

A few of the other important decisions passed by Justice Bobde include the two-judge order passed in 2017, where the court rejected a woman's plea seeking termination of her foetus after reviewing a medical report that the 26-week-old foetus had a chance of survival; and a 2016 order passed by a three-judge bench, which suspended the sale of firecrackers in the National Capital Region, citing extreme pollution.

Justice Bobde is among the seven judges of the Supreme Court who have disclosed their assets on the apex court's website.

NAGA PEACE TALKS

NSCN-IM refuses to back down from demand for separate flag, constitution

ESHA ROY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

WITH THE October 31 deadline for the Naga peace talks to conclude just around the corner, negotiations continued to be stalled on Tuesday, with insurgent group NSCN-IM refusing to back down from its demand of a separate flag and constitution.

Ahead of a round of talks between the government and various Naga insurgent groups, 22 members of the NSCN-IM quit the group on Monday and joined the Unification faction of the NSCN. Sources in the NSCN-IM said more leaders were expected to quit the group on Wednesday to join the Naga National Political Groups (NNPG) - an umbrella organisation of seven Naga insurgent groups, who are also part of the peace talks.

The exodus follows the resignation of senior NSCN-IM member Hukavi Yephthomi, who joined the NNPG along with 16 members on Friday. Yephthomi had issued a statement, saying that he was leaving the IM faction in the interest of the people of Nagaland, and referred to NSCN-IM supremo Th Muivah's demands for a separate flag and constitution as impractical.

However, sources said that despite the outflow of its leaders, the NSCN-IM was "firm on its stand for a separate flag and constitution" and is not looking at backing down.

"We don't believe that the matter can be resolved by October 31 as Prime Minister Narendra Modi has desired. We don't believe that there will be an agreement by then. But this stalemate can definitely be resolved by the end of this year,"

said an IM source.

While the NNPG has been more flexible in its demands, officials in the Nagaland government as well as the NSCN-IM have pointed out that "there can be no peace accord without the IM".

"If the IM is not on board for the agreement, there is no peace accord, even if the government signs with the NNPG. Signing with Muivah is of huge importance and significance as he has been the face of the conflict. So while it may be symbolic, it is nevertheless vital," said a senior government official.

Nagaland officials said that Muivah was unlikely to back down "because he has nowhere to go". "This is a tricky situation for him. He, along with many IM members are Nagas from Manipur. They do not belong to Nagaland, they don't have land here. Where will they go? They have shed so much blood in Manipur, including that of many of their own people, that they may not be welcomed back. They are also used to a certain lifestyle because of the extortion they carry out. That's why the IM is dragging its feet," said an official.

Sources further added that the government and the insurgent groups will also be discussing rights to mining and extraction in the state.

Meanwhile, the NSCN-IM's biggest camp in Nagaland, Hebron camp, which houses its top leaders, has nearly "emptied out", said sources, adding that cadres had started leaving in batches from August in anticipation that the peace talks may fall through.

To this end, and in anticipation of attacks, security has been beefed up across Nagaland as well as Manipur.



PRESIDENTIAL CONCERN

President Ram Nath Kovind and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at the first National Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) awards function in New Delhi. Tashi Tobgyal

■ President Ram Nath Kovind interacted with a policewoman who slipped and twisted her ankle while the national anthem was being played at the function.

■ Generally, the President leaves immediately after the national anthem. But this time, he stayed back to enquire about the well-being of the policewoman.

■ At the function, Kovind said that companies should look at ways to contribute more towards CSR spending for orphans and disabled people.

Naidu calls for measures to strengthen attendance in legislature

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

OUTLINING A framework of reforms to strengthen parliamentary democracy in India, Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu on Tuesday advocated for measures to strengthen attendance in legislature, prescribing a minimum number of sittings for both Houses and enforcing a code of conduct for legislators.

Naidu was delivering the first installment of a newly-constituted lecture series in memory of late former cabinet minister and BJP leader Arun Jaitley at the University of Delhi.

While speaking in favour of majority rule through parliamentary democracy, Naidu said, "We have seen how the House came together on sensitive issues as in the case of Article 370, with the matter being discussed thoroughly and passing in both Houses peacefully... That's the beauty of discussion, deliberation and parliamentary democracy."

On Jaitley, the Vice-President said, "It required the zeal, ability, virtuosity and the power of interpretation and communication of Shri Jaitley to mainstream the hitherto dormant perspective based on Indian ethos and nationalism. He was in the forefront of further elaborating the concepts of secularism and nationalism as unifying forces in the Indian context."

NATIONAL UNITY DAY

Centre to states: Host events to pay tribute to Sardar Patel

SRINATH RAO
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 29

UNION HOME Minister Amit Shah has written to all states and Union territories, asking them to observe National Unity Day — which falls on October 31 — also the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, with "enthusiasm and fervour" following the dilution of Article 370 of the Constitution.

In a letter to Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, Shah wrote on Sunday, "The celebration of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas has a special signifi-

cance this year, as it marks the completion of the task of making Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh an integral part of India by abrogating Article 370. In a true sense, this represents the realisation of the dream of Sardar Patel for an integrated India."

The Home Ministry has asked for a series of special events to be organised across the country on Thursday. Chief among these will be the first National Unity Day parade at Kevadiya in Gujarat, at the site of the Statue of Unity — the 182-m-tall statue of Patel, inaugurated last year by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Police forces of each state,



Home Minister Amit Shah

Union Territory and Central Armed Police Forces will participate in the parade.

In addition, all district administrations have been directed to

organise a 'Run for Unity' and pay tributes to Patel.

Shah's letter also includes a copy of Patel's portrait, which is to be framed in all police stations for Thursday's tribute. It would bear the inscription — "No one would be permitted to damage the security, unity, and integrity of India."

The letter stated, "I would request that his portrait, along with his message, may be displayed in all police stations and police offices of the country, to inspire people and police personnel alike."

All state and Central government offices will be required to read out a pledge — "I solemnly pledge that I dedicate myself to

preserve the unity, integrity and security of the nation and also strive hard to spread this message among my fellow countrymen. I take this pledge in the spirit of unification of my country which was made possible by the vision and actions of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. I also solemnly resolve to make my own contribution to ensure internal security of my country."

Further, the Centre has instituted the Sardar Patel National Unity Award and asked states and Union territories to nominate civilians working towards national unity and integrity for the honour.

Jagan declares 'sand week' to ease shortage in Andhra

REENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 29

ANDHRA PRADESH Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Tuesday held a review meeting to discuss the sand shortage in the state. He called for a 'sand week' and instructed district administration officials and state Mining Development Corporation officers to work on the issue for the next week to ease the crisis.

An official said that at the meeting, Jagan dismissed allegations by opposition parties on his government's sand policy, and said that due to unprecedented rains and floods, sand could not be drawn in the required quantity, but assured that everything will fall in place in due course.

Despite the government's efforts to tackle the sand crisis, Jagan said that "stones were being pelted on the fruit-bearing tree. The opposition Telugu Desam Party is making unnecessary allegations". He also told the officials that there is a need to condemn "all these false claims immediately".



Andhra Pradesh CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy

He ordered the officials to make sure that sand is not sent to other states "under any circumstances", and said that the areas that border Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Karnataka should be monitored. The instructions to increase checking at the borders were passed on to the state DGP.

With regard to construction workers, Jagan said that about 70 sand reaches have been identified at lakes and bunds during the floods. He said that previously, sand supply was laden with corruption and a mafia. Now, he said, the government is operating the sand supply manually, creating work opportunities.

The Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

cordially invites you to a Public Lecture

on

"Balochistan between Insurgencies and Governance"

by

Sandhya Jain

Senior Fellow, NMML

at 03.00 pm on Wednesday, 30 October, 2019

Venue: Seminar Room, Library Building
Nehru Memorial Museum and Library
Teen Murti House, New Delhi-110011

For More info, please visit: Website: <http://nehruememorial.nic.in> or
Contact us on: ccs2nmml@gmail.com
For live webcast, please visit: www.facebook.com/NehruMemorialLibrary;
www.youtube.com/user/nehruememoriallibrary

All are Welcome

Form No. 22
General Notice in respect of Interlocutory Application
IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BANGALURU
MFA No. 1252/2016 (MV-D)

Appellants
V. MOHAN NARAYAN
S/O R.N. VENKY, AGE: 61 YEARS,
R/AT NO. 210, "SAMACHAR APARTMENT", MAYUR VIHAR, PHASE-I EXTENSION, DELHI-110091
AND OTHERS
By Sri N SHANKAR RANGAREJI Vs

Respondents
MR. RAKESH CHOUDHARY
H. NO. 1974, SECTOR-4, GURGAON, ALSO AT PLOT NO. 1045, APNAVILLA, APARTMENT, H. NO. 23, SECTOR-10, DWARAKA, NEW DELHI AND OTHERS.

To: Respondent No. 1
MR. RAKESH CHOUDHARY
H. NO. 1974, SECTOR-4, GURGAON, ALSO AT PLOT NO. 1045, APNAVILLA, APARTMENT, H. NO. 23, SECTOR-10, DWARAKA, NEW DELHI.

To: Respondent No. 3
HARSHA CHOUDHARY
S/O RAKESH CHOUDHARY,
R/AT F-1-06, SRIKRISHNA HOYSALA APARTMENT, SANJAYNAGAR, BENGALURU-560001.

Whereas the above named appellant has preferred IA No 1/2016 praying this court to condone the delay of 99 days in filing the above Appeal against the Judgment/Award/Order passed on 13/07/2015 in M.V.C. 1013/2012 on the file of the XIII ADDL. SMALL CAUSE JUDGE & MEMBER, MACT, BENGALURU. (SCCH: 15).

Notice is hereby given to you to appear in this Court in person or through an advocate or through someone duly authorised to act for you in this matter on 27/11/2019 at 10.30 a.m. to show cause why the application should not be allowed. If you fail to appear, the application will be dealt with, heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this court on Thursday THE 17TH DAY OF October 2019.

By order of the Court
Sd/-
Assistant Registrar.

Seal

NATIONAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

(A statutory body under an Act of Parliament)

ADVT. 1/2019

Applications are invited for the following posts on deputation basis:-

Post	Eligibility Conditions	No. of Vacancies/Category
1. Chief Director Level-13 of pay matrix as per 7th CPC	Persons working in Central/ State Govt./ Cooperative organizations/ PSU/ Autonomous bodies etc. holding analogous posts; or with 5 years' service on posts in level-12 of pay matrix as per 7th CPC (in pre-revised Pay Band-3 Rs. 15600-39100/- & Grade Pay of Rs. 7600/-) or equivalent. Officers having 10 years experience in Cooperative/ Finance/ Banking Sector would be given preference for consideration of appointment to the post of Chief Director on deputation basis in NCDC.	8

For the details of age, educational qualification, experience & other eligibility criteria interested officers may visit website www.ncdc.in. Last date for submission of application is 02.12.2019.

davp 01142/11/0001/1920

CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD

8, JAN MARG, SECTOR 9-D, CHANDIGARH

TENDER NOTICE ("e" Procurement System)

Executive Engineer-IV on behalf of the Chairman, Chandigarh Housing Board invites sealed item Rate Tenders on Quality Cum Cost Based selection system through e-Procurement process from the Architects Registered with Council of Architecture for the following work :-

Name of Work	Covered Area	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender Document	Time Limit
Design competition including Post Qualification-cum-Financial Bid on Quality Cum Cost Based selection system for Providing comprehensive Architectural Consultancy for construction of Flats at residential Plot No. 7 for Government Housing at I.T. Habitat at RGCTP, Chandigarh.	54,472 Sqm.	Rs. 2.00 Lakh	Rs. 2950/-	1270 Days

- Milestone dates of Electronic Tendering**
 - i) Downloading of Post Qualification-cum-Financial bid documents. Start Date 30/10/2019 at 1400 Hrs. End Date 31/12/2019 up to 1700 Hrs.
 - ii) Pre Bid Conference On 11/11/2019 at 1100 Hrs. in the CHB 'Board Room' in Block 'C' Office Building Complex at 8, Jan Marg Sector 9, Chandigarh.
 - iii) Clarification on set of eligibility to bid and other terms & conditions. Start Date 01/11/2019 at 1400 Hrs. End Date 31/12/2019 up to 1600 Hrs.
 - iv) Date of submission of e-TENDER Start Date 14/11/2019 at 1400 Hrs. End Date 31/12/2019 up to 1700 Hrs.
 - v) Physical submission of EMD, Tender fee, Documents required for eligibility and other necessary documents along with 'Nine Sets' of concept plans with soft copy for Design competition etc. as per bid document. Start Date 01/01/2020 at 1000 Hrs. End Date 06/01/2020 up to 1100 Hrs.
 - vi) Opening of Technical Bid (Online) 06/01/2020 at 1130 Hrs.
 - vii) Date & Time for presentation of Concept Plan, Building Plan, Architectural side view, Perspective view, Models etc. by the agency before the committee members of Evaluation/ Scrutiny Committee constituted by CHB. To be intimated separately to all Qualified Bidders
 - viii) Opening of Price Bid To be intimated separately to all Qualified Bidders

2. Bid Document can be downloaded from the website of Chandigarh Administration <http://tenders.chd.nic.in/nicgp>.
3. All other terms and conditions, instructions to bidder regarding e-tendering process etc. may kindly be seen from the detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) available/downloadable on the above noted websites of CHB/ Chandigarh Administration.

Executive Engineer-IV
for & on behalf of Chairman
Chandigarh Housing Board, Chandigarh

Phone: 0172-4601710



NORTH

Humiliated over 'dark complexion', woman ends life

Kota: A 21-year-old woman, who was married just six months ago, allegedly committed suicide in Rajasthan's Jhalawar district after being repeatedly taunted by her husband over her "dark complexion", police said on Tuesday. Mangibai jumped into a well outside her house in Banskhojara village under

Bakani police station limits on Monday, Station House Officer (SHO) Balveer Singh said. She was pulled out of the well and rushed to a hospital where doctors declared her brought dead, he said. Mangibai's husband, Dinesh Lodha, has been booked under section 306 (abetment of suicide) of the IPC, the SHO said. **PTI**



A fire broke out at a wax godown at Mayashree compound in Bhiwandi, Maharashtra, Tuesday. No casualties were reported. **PTI**

EAST

Three people trampled by elephants in West Bengal

Jalpaiguri (West Bengal): Three people were trampled to death by elephants in two incidents in Jalpaiguri district, a forest official said on Tuesday. Both the incidents occurred at Ramsai adjoining Gorumara National Park on Monday night, Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF), Janmejay Pal said. "Gaona Oraon and his wife Kumari

Oraon were trampled to death by elephants near Jadavpur tea garden. Another person, who is yet to be identified, was also killed by the elephants at Kalamati locality," he said. Meanwhile, local people staged a protest in the area on Tuesday morning demanding compensation for the kin of the deceased. **PTI**

WEST

Cocaine, other drugs worth Rs 3 crore seized in Goa

Panaji: Goa Police on Tuesday seized over 1 kg of cocaine along with several other drugs in raids, confirmed police officials at Calangute Police station, in one of the biggest seizures in recent years. According to senior police inspector Nolasco Raposo, the drugs were valued at Rs 3 crore and were found in a building at Candolim. Police

also found around 2.035 kg MDMA, around 760 grams of amphetamine, around 106 grams charas, 1.270 kg ganja and cash amounting to Rs 2 lakh, read the police statement. Goa Police have begun a drive against drugs with the police going for long chases, and input-backed raids across the state. **ENS**

SOUTH

Student jumps to death from IIT-Hyderabad building

Hyderabad: A 20-year-old B.Tech student of the Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad allegedly leaped to his death from the hostel building on the campus here on Tuesday. A third year computer science and engineering student, Pichikala Siddharth, who hails from Hyderabad, jumped off from the third floor of the hostel

building at around 3.25 am. Security staff and some students who noticed the incident rushed him to a private hospital. Later he was shifted to a corporate hospital where he died without responding to treatment, Sangareddy district Deputy Superintendent of Police P Sridhar Reddy said. Investigation is still on in the case. **PTI**



EU MPs at the Dal Lake in Srinagar on Tuesday. *Shuaib Masoodi*

EU MPs' day out: Shikara ride amid protests, briefing on J&K

NAVEED IQBAL & ADIL AKHZER
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 29

AS THEY flew to Srinagar on Tuesday morning, where a shutdown was being observed by local residents amid clashes with security forces, the first foreign delegation to visit Kashmir since the revocation of J&K's special status by the Centre was busy browsing through a five-page brief on the state and the situation on the ground.

In the document titled 'Briefing notes and background on Kashmir', the government provided the visiting EU MPs a condensed account of events that unfolded in the Valley over the past three months.

It states that 91 per cent of Kashmir is now free of all restrictions but "keeping in mind the threat posed by terrorist organisations in using mobile connectivity to organise terror actions", connectivity is being restored gradually. It adds: "76 out of 95 telephone exchanges are now functional."

Stating that the govern-

ment's "full focus" is on ensuring normalcy, the brief notes: "Some restrictions on communications and preventive detentions have been made at the local level based on the ground situation with a view to maintain public law and order."

The brief says that schools are open but makes no mention of colleges and businesses. Additionally, it states that over the past fortnight, 2,50,000 patients have visited hospitals and that the government is allowing journalists to carry out work through a "media centre".

The brief for the EU delegation begins with an introduction to J&K's relationship with India, starting with the document of accession. "Lord Mountbatten accepted accession as unconditional and complete," it reads. On Article 370, the brief states: "Article 370 was not mandated by any multilateral body or agreement. Its existence guaranteed neither economic debt nor social justice."

The EU MPs were in Kashmir for a day. Asked if the time would be sufficient to observe the situation, one of the delegates told

The Indian Express: "This is not a very long visit. Let's hope so."

Even as the MPs arrived, clashes between stone-throwing youths and security forces were reported from several parts of Srinagar and other areas. A strict shutdown was observed as a mark of protest, with the customary morning market remaining closed for the first time in a month.

Health officials said that four people sustained pellet injuries in the clashes and were treated at Srinagar's SMHS Hospital.

Establishments in the business centre of Lalchowk and other areas were shut. "There is no shutdown call by anyone. When I heard that a delegation was coming, I decided not to open my shop," said Mohammed Yasir, a businessman in Srinagar. "No one opened their shop in Lalchowk today. It is our way of protest."

While public transport stayed off the roads, movement of private transport was also thin. Reports of complete shutdown were received from other districts of the Valley.

After landing in Srinagar amid high security, with roads leading out of the airport cordoned off by police, the MPs' first meeting was held at the 15 Corps headquarters at Badamibagh Cantonment, where a presentation was made for the group focussing on cross-border terrorism and infiltration. Later, one section of the group went sightseeing in Srinagar and the other met civil society members at the Lalit hotel at Gupkar.

The MPs then moved to Dal lake and boarded shikaras. Spanish MP Hermann Tertsch told reporters, "It's a good occasion to get some news of what is happening. We are (also) conscious that we are kept away from some people."

The delegation was briefed by state government officials for two hours over a dinner meeting about "Article 370, new developmental vision of Government of India in J&K and disruption in public life by terrorist attacks". The meeting was headed by state Chief Secretary B V R Subrahmanyam. DGP Dilbag Singh also addressed the group.

Class X exams begin, board says 99% appeared in Valley

ADIL AKHZER
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 29

AROUND 65,000 students appeared for the Class X annual examination in Kashmir on Tuesday. The board examinations began even as the shutdown to protest scrapping of J&K's special status entered its 85th day.

"Ninety-nine per cent students (in Kashmir) appeared in the exams today. There is no report of any untoward incident," J&K Board of School Education (BOSE) chairperson Veena Pandita told *The Indian Express*.

"We set up 615 centres across Kashmir, and everything went smoothly," said Pandita, adding that Section 144 was imposed outside the examination centres.

Worried parents were seen waiting outside the centres while the examination was in progress. "There is so much uncertainty in Kashmir. There was stone-pelting in the old city, and we had to walk several kilometres to reach the exam venue," said Sajad Ahmad, a parent outside Srinagar's SP Model Higher Secondary. Ahmad and his son



In Srinagar on Tuesday. *Shuaib Masoodi*

came from Hawal area of the old city.

"Two years ago, when my elder son appeared in the Class X examination, I didn't accompany him. But now, I have decided to wait for my younger son. I will take him home myself," said Masrat Jan, waiting outside the same school.

After 3 pm, the students started coming out of the examination centres. "I was worried about the chapters I could not study in the last three months. But thankfully there was no question from that portion," said a student from Burn Hall School. "Today's paper was easy, but

lengthy."

A statement from the administration on Tuesday evening said that around 65,000 students of Kashmir Division and 24,000 students of Winter Zone Jammu Division appeared for Class X examination, for whom 615 and 296 centres, respectively, were set up. "99 per cent students appeared in the examination, which remained incident free," it said.

The Class XII examinations begin on Wednesday.

The J&K administration had recently announced the date sheet for year-end examinations from Class V to XII in Kashmir. The move was seen as a bid to bring children to school.

Militants attack CRPF post in Pulwama

Meanwhile, PTI reported that militants attacked a bullet-proof CRPF post in Pulwama on Tuesday but officials said there were no casualties. The paramilitary force officials said the militants fired multiple gun shots at a bunker of the 72nd battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force at about 3.30 pm in the Drappam area of Rajpora in Pulwama.

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
SRINAGAR, NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

ALMOST THREE months since it was decided to scrap special status of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcate the state into two Union territories, the state administration has been burning the midnight oil to implement the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act.

While 153 state laws were to be repealed, in the next one year the administration would be undertaking a massive legislative exercise to make state-specific insertions in 108 central laws that would now be applicable to the two Union territories.

For example, the state had its own version of the Code of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), which will now be replaced by the central CrPC. Unlike the Ranbir Penal Code, which is practically a replica of the Indian Penal Code, Kashmir's CrPC has many provisions that are different from the central CrPC. "It would have to be seen if any modification needs to be done to suit the state. But the final deci-

EU MPs' visit sponsored by govt, insult to Parliament: Azad

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

LEADER OF Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad on Tuesday said that the EU MPs' trip to Kashmir was "organised" and "sponsored" by the BJP government at the Centre to get a "report in favour of the government".

"We take strong exception to this. This is totally sponsored by the government. And this is very insulting to the Indian Parliament and Parliamentarians. This is an insult to the entire democratic system. When a group of Indian Parliamentarians and Opposition leaders wanted to visit Kashmir and when we went all the way from Delhi to Srinagar, we were made to stay at the airport for hours and finally sent back," Azad told *The Indian Express*.

"The media from Delhi is not allowed to go to Kashmir. Parliamentarians are not allowed... So while local leaders are either not allowed to move around in Kashmir or are behind bars and Opposition leaders are not allowed to visit Kashmir, parliamentarians of the EU, particularly right-wing MPs, are being sponsored. Behind all this is the government."

Left parties, too, continued to target the government. CPI's Rajya Sabha MP Binoy Viswam wrote to PM Narendra Modi requesting that he be allowed to visit J&K since a foreign delegation was given a "red carpet" entry.

"It is reliably learned that the claims of the government and ground reality in Kashmir are poles apart. It is everybody's question, why the government disallow any responsible Indian citizen including Members of Parliament to enter the territory of Kashmir..." he wrote.

The CPM said in a statement, "The Polit Bureau of the CPI(M) strongly protests the visit of some Members of Parliament from various European countries with rightwing credentials to

'PDP leaders not allowed to meet Mufti'

Jammu: The PDP on Tuesday claimed that the J&K administration has denied permission to a delegation of senior party leaders from Jammu to visit party chief Mehbooba Mufti, who has been under detention since August 5. "We had requested for permission to meet our detained leader and former CM Mehbooba Mufti, and a formal letter was forwarded to Deputy Commissioner Srinagar on Monday," senior PDP leader Ved Mahajan said.

"Despite repeated attempts, the officials have failed to respond," he said, adding that "no official communication was received" in response. "We have though been unofficially told that permission at this stage will not be granted," he said. **ENS**

Kashmir valley orchestrated by the Modi government. It is an affront of the Indian Parliament..."

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and senior leader Anand Sharma also hit out at the government. "EU MPs representing parties and ideologies in direct conflict with the mainstream. Diplomatic disaster which ended up internationalising what is essentially our internal issue..." Sharma tweeted.

"European MPs allowed to visit and interfere in Kashmir, but when Indian MPs and leaders go there they are sent back from the airport. This kind of nationalism is very strange," Priyanka tweeted.

EXPLAINED: Difference in age limit in Juvenile Justice Acts

A BONE of contention with regard to the Juvenile Justice Acts of the Centre and the state is the age limit. While the central Act considers those above the age of 16 as adults, the state Act's age limit is 18. The argument has been that given the special situation in Kashmir, where teenagers are often found to be part of violent protests, the central Act could jeopardise the future of many.

sion in all these aspects would be taken by Delhi," an official said.

"Similarly, there are state-specific insertions that may be done in laws related to protection of women and children, which have been replaced by the POCSO Act of the Centre. Same is the case with the Juvenile Justice Act. Then there is the law related to reservations in the state which has been retained. While quota for economically weaker sections (EWS) has already been added to it through an amendment, the Centre may want to make some insertions drawing from central Acts," another state administration official said.

The state's reservation laws do not recognise reservation accord-

ing to caste. The state has provision for region-wise reservation such as quota for those living near the LoC and International Border and quota for backward regions.

"Laws related to land may also need looking into. There are issues related to business rules which have to be framed for both Union territories. There are issues related to employment, as anyone can now apply for a job here. The Civil Services Decentralisation Act may require changes," the official said. Section 96 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act facilitates this, giving one year to bring about changes required in the laws. **FULL REPORT ON**

www.indianexpress.com

STUDY PUBLISHED IN NATURE COMMUNICATIONS

'36 mn Indians may face annual floods by 2050 due to sea level rise'

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS
PUNE, OCTOBER 29

THIRTY-SIX million people in India would face annual flooding by 2050 and 44 million by 2100 if emissions continue to rise, according to a study published Tuesday in *Nature Communications*.

According to the Climate Central study, rise in sea levels

will by 2050 push average annual coastal floods higher than lands that are now home to 300 million people. Previous estimates had put that figure at about 80 million.

Climate Central is a non-profit science and news organisation providing information to help the public and policymakers make sound decisions about climate and energy. The study details findings from individual assessments from 135 countries

across multiple climate scenarios and years. Climate Central also used its new elevation data to produce enabling neighbourhood-level exploration of threatened areas around the world.

Six Asian countries — China, Bangladesh, India, Vietnam, Indonesia and Thailand — are home to the great majority of people, approximately 237 million, living in places which without coastal defences could experience coastal flooding at least

annually by 2050, more than four times the estimates based on older elevation data.

The study warns that high tides could permanently rise above land occupied by nearly 150 million people. This study reaffirms the recent IPCC report that focused on the changing nature of oceans and cryosphere. It had showed that while sea level rose globally around 15 cm during the 20th century, it is currently rising at

more than twice the speed — 3.6 mm per year and accelerating. The sea level is projected to reach around 30-60 cm by 2100 even if greenhouse gas emissions are sharply reduced and global warming is limited to well below 2 degree Celsius.

Dr Scott Kulp, a senior scientist at Climate Central and lead author of the study, said, "As the tide rises higher than the ground people call home, nations will increasingly confront

questions about whether, how much, and how long coastal defences can protect them."

Asked about the implications on India, Dr Anjal Prakash, who is the coordinating lead author of IPCC's special report on the ocean and cryosphere in a changing climate and lead author of the IPCC's upcoming 6th assessment report, told *The Indian Express* that the Climate Central study reaffirms the findings of the IPCC report.

Man-eater leopard shot in Uttarakhand

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
DEHRADUN, OCTOBER 29

A MAN-EATER male leopard was shot dead by a hunter hired by Forest department in Srinagar town of Pauri Garhwal district in Uttarakhand on Monday night. According to Forest officials, permission for eliminating the leopard was obtained from the department state headquarters after the animal killed a woman and attacked several livestock last week.

"The leopard which had killed a woman in the district last week and had attacked various domestic animals was shot dead by hunter Joy Hukil and staff of forest department in Bachheli village Monday night around 11 pm. The animal was going towards the village when it was killed," said Divisional Forests Officer (DFO), Garhwal, Laxman Singh Rawat.



Hunter Joy Hukil (right) with forest staff after killing the leopard in Pauri Garhwal district. *Virender Singh Negi*

He added that the leopard was about seven-years-old. Post-mortem of the carnivore is yet to be conducted.

The DFO said that leopard was declared a man-eater. He added that the hunt for it had started three days back. The male leopard was accompanied by one female

leopard too, and both were moving in the forest on Monday night but only the male was hunted.

Conservator of Forests, Garhwal, N N Pandey said that permission for eliminating the animal was obtained because it was moving in areas close to the urban habitat in Srinagar town.

Kudankulam nuclear plant denies hacking of its control system, officials say audit found breach

KARISHMA MEHROTRA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

THE KUDANKULAM Nuclear Power Project (KKNPP) in Tamil Nadu on Tuesday denied any hacking of its control system. However, senior government officials said an audit has confirmed that an "incident" had occurred, though not on the main operations of the plant.

A third-party multinational IT company discovered the attack in early September and alerted the National Cyber Security Council (NCSC).

A source said the NCSC set up a cyber audit team that visited the site in mid-September.

They met KKNPP officials in the first week of October and submitted an advisory with recommendations. The source confirmed that a "breach" had happened and that cleaning of the foreign intrusion was going on.

"Some sort of vulnerability has been discovered," said the source. "In terms of the breach, there are layers. It definitely did not impact the main operations. It affected computers that are used for administrative purposes only."

A final report of the audit is yet to come.

In a press release on Tuesday, KKNPP said: "This is to clarify Kudankulam Nuclear Power

Project (KKNPP) and other Indian Nuclear Power Plants Control Systems are stand alone and not connected to outside cyber network and Internet. Any Cyber attack on the Nuclear Power Plant Control System is not possible." P Ramadoss, Training Superintendent and Information Officer, added that the two units of the plant are currently operating "without any operational or safety concerns".

The government source said the NCSC and KKNPP jointly decided to issue the press release denying an attack on its control system, since the audit found that only the administrative layer was affected and not the

operations. "When the government finds that critical infrastructure has been affected, they want to deny it," the source said. "If they don't deny it or come out with a clarification, it could get amplified and reflect poorly on them. They denied it because it appeared on social media."

The NCSC-led team included officials from Indian Computer Emergency Response (CERT-In), National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIIPC), Information and Broadcasting Ministry and the Department of Telecommunications. The advisory to KKNPP included recommendations to update their sys-

tems, have regular audits and make careful procurements.

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor sought an explanation from the government on Twitter: "This seems very serious. If a hostile power is able to conduct a cyber attack on our nuclear facilities, the implications for India's national security are unimaginable. The Government owes us an explanation."

Speculative social media posts had linked the breach to a virus known as DTrack, a spy tool that cybersecurity company Kaspersky discovered in breaches of Indian financial institutions and research centres last year. The official did not confirm or deny this link.

FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2019									
In order to clear extra rush of passengers for Chhath Puja Festival, Railways have planned to run the following Festival Special Trains as per schedule given below:-									
Spl. Train No.	Station From	Dept. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Frequency/Day	Period	Accommodation		
04002	Anand Vihar (T)	18:35	Bhagalpur	17:30	Thu	On 31.10.2019	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General		
04001	Bhagalpur	18:45	Anand Vihar (T)	17:40	Fri	On 01.11.2019			
04403	Barauni	19:30	New Delhi	22:10	Wed	On 30.10.2019	AC 3 Tier		
04408	New Delhi	19:25	Muzaffarpur	16:30	Tue	On 05.11.2019	AC 3 Tier		
04407	Muzaffarpur	23:20	New Delhi	22:10	Wed	Upto 06.11.2019			
04414	New Delhi	19:25	Saharsa	20:00	Fri	On 01.11.2019	AC 3 Tier		
04413	Saharsa	22:15	New Delhi	22:10	Sat	On 02.11.2019			
82404	New Delhi (Suvidha)	14:55	Patna Jn.	08:30	Thu	On 31.10.2019	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier		
04079	Patna Jn. (Suvidha)	12:00	New Delhi	04:00	Fri	On 01.11.2019			
04078	New Delhi	14:55	Patna Jn.	08:30	Fri	On 01.11.2019	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General		
04077	Patna Jn.	12:00	New Delhi	04:00	Wed, Sat	On 30.10.2019 & 02.11.2019			
04083	Purnea Court	15:00	Delhi	18:20	Thu	On 31.10.2019	General		
04052	Anand Vihar (T)	11:45	Katihar Jn.	12:45	Fri	On 01.11.2019	Sleeper & General		
04051	Katihar Jn.	20:00	Anand Vihar (T)	23:00	Wed, Sat	On 30.10.2019 & 02.11.2019			
82416	Anand Vihar (T) (Suvidha)	23:45	Jogbani	05:20	Thu	On 31.10.2019	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General		
04093	Jogbani (Suvidha)	09:00	Anand Vihar (T)	16:05	Sat	On 02.11.2019			
04069	Muzaffarpur Jn. (Suvidha)	14:15	Delhi	13:45	Wed	On 30.10.2019	Sleeper		
82410	Delhi (Suvidha)	11:00	Darbhanga	08:30	Mon	On 04.11.2019	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier		
04023	Darbhanga (Suvidha)	12:00	Delhi	12:40	Tue	On 05.11.2019			
82414	New Delhi (Suvidha)	00:20	Darbhanga	23:45	Wed	On 30.10.2019	Sleeper		
04059	Darbhanga (Suvidha)	04:30	New Delhi	05:55	Thu	On 31.10.2019			
82411	Allahabad (Suvidha)	19:00	Anand Vihar (T.)	05:30	Wed	On 30.10.2019	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General		
82412	Anand Vihar (T.) (Suvidha)	07:50	Allahabad	17:00	Thu	On 31.10.2019			
04401	Anand Vihar (T)	23:00	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	14:00	Mon, Thu	Upto 04.11.2019	1st AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier		
04402	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	23:30	Anand Vihar (T)	14:20	Tue, Fri	Upto 05.11.2019			
04998	Bathinda	20:50	Varanasi	19:20	Sun	On 03.11.2019	AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General		
04997	Varanasi	21:20	Bathinda	19:15	Mon	On 04.11.2019			
04420	H. Nizamuddin	20:50	Lucknow	06:30	Mon	On 04.11.2019	1st AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier		
04419	Lucknow	19:05	H. Nizamuddin	05:30	Thu	Upto 07.11.2019			
04422	Anand Vihar (T)	21:05	Lucknow	06:30	Wed	Upto 06.11.2019	1st AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier		
04421	Lucknow	19:05	Anand Vihar (T)	05:15	Tue	On 05.11.2019			
04502	Nangaldam	23:45	Lucknow	14:00	Mon	On 04.11.2019	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General		
04501	Lucknow	21:30	Nangaldam	13:00	Tue	On 05.11.2019			
04612	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	23:30	Varanasi	03:05	Sun	On 03.11.2019	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General		
04611	Varanasi	06:00	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	13:15	Tue	On 05.11.2019			
04409	Delhi Jn.	18:25	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	09:05	Tue, Fri, Sun	Upto 05.11.2019	AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General		
04410	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	13:15	Delhi Jn.	03:00	Wed, Sat, Mon	Upto 06.11.2019			
04074	New Delhi	15:30	Varanasi	07:00	Fri	On 01.11.2019	Sleeper & General		
04073	Varanasi	09:50	New Delhi	01:45	Wed, Sat	On 30.10.2019 & 02.11.2019			
04924	Chandigarh	23:20	Gorakhpur	17:30	Thu	On 31.10.2019	1st AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General		
04923	Gorakhpur	22:10	Chandigarh	14:25	Fri	On 01.11.2019			
04046	Anand Vihar (T)	23:35	Gorakhpur	13:35	Sat	On 02.11.2019	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General		
04045	Gorakhpur	17:25	Anand Vihar (T)	07:15	Sun	On 03.11.2019			
04418	H. Nizamuddin	21:35	Pune	21:25	Tue	On 05.11.2019	1st AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier		
04417	Pune	05:15	H. Nizamuddin	05:35	Thu	Upto 07.11.2019			
04044	Anand Vihar (T)	00:10	Gaya Jn.	20:20	Sun	On 03.11.2019	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General		
04043	Gaya Jn.	23:20	Anand Vihar (T)	17:05	Sun	On 03.11.2019			
04022	Anand Vihar (T)	00:10	Patna	17:45	Sat	On 02.11.2019	AC 3 Tier		
04021	Patna	20:30	Anand Vihar (T)	14:10	Sat	On 02.11.2019			
04030	Delhi Jn.	13:45	Muzaffarpur Jn.	13:00	Wed, Sat	Upto 02.11.2019	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General		
04029	Muzaffarpur Jn.	14:15	Delhi Jn.	14:00	Thu, Sun	Upto 03.11.2019			
04010	Anand Vihar (T)	23:45	Jogbani	05:20	Tue	On 05.11.2019	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General		
04009	Jogbani	09:00	Anand Vihar (T)	16:05	Thu	Upto 07.11.2019			
04038	Delhi Jn.	20:50	Chhapra	15:30	Sat, Tue	Upto 05.11.2019	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General		
04037	Chhapra	23:30	Delhi Jn.	18:15	Sun, Wed	Upto 06.11.2019			
04098	Anand Vihar (T)	00:30	Gaya Jn.	22:30	Fri	On 01.11.2019	AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General		
04097	Gaya Jn.	17:15	Anand Vihar (T)	13:00	Sun	On 03.11.2019			
04193	Agra Cantt.	10:40	Jammu Tawi	01:25	Fri	Upto 13.12.2019	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General		
04194	Jammu Tawi	05:30	Agra Cantt.	21:00	Sat	Upto 14.12.2019			
82107	Mumbai (CSMT) (Suvidha)	14:10	Lucknow	13:15	Tue	On 05.11.2019	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General		
01020	Lucknow (Suvidha)	15:00	Mumbai (CSMT)	17:35	Wed	Upto 06.11.2019			
81453	Pune (Suvidha)	21:30	Gorakhpur	08:30	Mon	On 04.11.2019	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General		
01454	Gorakhpur (Suvidha)	10:45	Pune	21:00	Wed	Upto 06.11.2019			
04921	Saharanpur	04:45	Ambala Cantt	06:30	Daily	Upto 15.11.2019	General		
04922	Ambala Cantt	20:40	Saharanpur	22:40	Daily	Upto 15.11.2019			
05101	Chhapra	16:00	Delhi Jn.	12:40	Sun	Upto 10.11.2019	General		
05102	Delhi Jn.	15:05	Chhapra	10:55	Mon	Upto 11.11.2019			
04193	Jhansi	07:15	Jammu Tawi	01:25	Fri	Upto 13.12.2019	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General		
04194	Jammu Tawi	05:30	Jhansi	09:20	Sat	Upto 14.12.2019			
04111	Kanpur Cental	17:40	Jammu Tawi	13:50	Wed	Upto 27.11.2019	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General		
04112	Jammu Tawi	22:10	Kanpur Cental	18:55	Thu	Upto 28.11.2019			
03427	Malda Town	09:05	Haridwar	14:05	Mon	Upto 25.11.2019	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General		
03428	Haridwar	15:40	Malda Town	23:30	Tue	Upto 26.11.2019			

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Day after 'custodial death', five Mumbai cops suspended

SAGAR RAJPUT MUMBAI, OCTOBER 29

A DAY after a 26-year-old man allegedly died in police custody, five policemen from the Wadala Truck Terminal police station were suspended on Tuesday, with Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis seeking action in the matter. A couple, with whom the deceased had a confrontation on Sunday night, was also booked by the police.

In a statement, Mumbai Police said that assistant inspector Salim Khan, sub-inspector Sandeep Kadam and constables Bhabal, Chaur and Chole have been suspended with the Crime Branch probing the matter. The incident is being treated as a case of custodial death, said a police spokesperson.

The deceased, Vijay Singh, a resident of Sion Koliwada who worked as a medical representative, died after he was detained for questioning on Sunday. While his family members and friend have alleged that he was beaten to death in police custody, the police have claimed that he was not assaulted and died while he was leaving the police station after being released.

Doctors who conducted the postmortem at JJ Hospital, reserved their opinion on the cause of death. No physical or external injuries were found on the body, the report stated.

Around 10.30 pm on Sunday, Singh, along with his friend Ankit Mishra, were at a petrol pump in Wadala East when a couple, Dashrat Devendra and Afreen, allegedly came charging at them, as they believed that the duo purposely flashed their vehicle's headlight at them, the police said. As the confrontation turned violent, a patrolling van reached the spot and took Singh and Mishra to the police station.

"The police officers started beating Vijay at the spot. They later took us inside a room at the police station and started assaulting us again. Vijay complained of chest pain and even asked them for water, but the policemen refused. Around 2 am, when he fell unconscious, he was rushed to Sion hospital where he was declared dead," Mishra had claimed. Singh's family has demanded another postmortem.

UTTAR PRADESH Man detained over bank loot dies, cops booked for murder

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 29

A CASE of murder was registered against policemen of Peeparpur police station and Amethi district Special Operation Group (SOG) in UP after a 48-year-old man, who was detained in a bank robbery case early Tuesday morning, fell unconscious in police custody and died on his way to the hospital.

The FIR was registered at Kotwali City Police Station in Sultanpur district after family members of the deceased — Satya Prakash Shukla alias Sajan Shukla — accused policemen of murder and created ruckus demanding action against them.

While Amethi SP Khyati Garg claimed that Shukla had committed suicide by consuming poison, the Station Officer (SO) of Peeparpur Police Station, Ravinder Singh, denied receiving any such information.

According to police, three bike-borne men had looted Rs 26 lakh from the manager and cashier of Bhadar branch of UCO Bank at gunpoint on October 5 while they were returning from a Pratapgarh branch of the bank. According to police, they suspected Shukla's role in the robbery as the Pratapgarh UCO Bank branch operates from a portion of his house. Shukla was picked up by the police in the early hours of Tuesday.

Denying the allegation that Shukla died in police custody due to torture, SP Garg said, "There was a loot of Rs 26 lakh in Peeparpur police station area of Amethi, and

Shukla's name surfaced during the investigation. In 2008, a car was stolen from Gomti Nagar area of Lucknow in which Shukla and his associate, Zakir Ali alias Guddu, were chargesheeted. Keeping in mind his criminal history and possible involvement in the loot incident, the police team went to his house. He was brought to Peeparpur police station for questioning. His two sons were also brought to the police station. Shukla complained of uneasiness, claiming that he has consumed poison. Police officials asked his sons to take him to the hospital.

"Shukla was taken to the CHC by his sons while the police accompanied them. There the doctors prima facie found it to be a case of poisoning and referred him to Sultanpur district hospital. Sajan was declared brought dead there. The postmortem was done by a panel of doctors," the SP said.

"The postmortem report mentioned that there was froth around his mouth. The report has not confirmed the cause of death and the viscera has been preserved for further test. No external injury has been mentioned in the report," the SP added.

IG (Ayodhya Range) Sanjeev Gupta said a sachet of poison was found in Shukla's stomach which is being sent for lab test. He said that a murder case against Peeparpur police station officials has been filed in Sultanpur district "in order to keep Amethi police away from the investigation". Shukla's family, however, alleged that he was given poison by the policemen on the way to the police station.

4 UP cops injured in attack by villagers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 29

FOUR POLICEMEN were injured when a police team was attacked by residents of Harso village in Jansa police station area of Varanasi on Tuesday.

According to police, the incident happened when an 11-member Crime Branch team from Jaunpur came to the village looking for two wanted criminals who had allegedly shot a businessman after looting Rs 2.4 lakh from him on October 25.

Police said that villagers began protesting after the team arrested one of the accused — Rajan Rajbhar — and was taking him away with them. "In the melee, villagers caught two policemen — Sub-Inspector Kaushal Yadav and Constable Ved Prakash Rai — and starting thrashing them. They tied the constable to a tree and beat him," a police officer said. A police team from Varanasi

then reached the village, but villagers pelted them with stones, said the officer.

Additional SP (Varanasi Rural) MPSingh said that the Jaunpur police team did not inform the Jansa police station before conducting the raid in the village.

According to police, the situation was brought under control when additional forces reached the spot. However, the arrested accused managed to escape.

Two other policemen — Rohaniya's Station Officer and a constable — were also injured. Rai and constable Yadav, who sustained serious injuries, are undergoing treatment at Banaras Hindu University's Trauma Centre, where their condition is said to be stable. "It has come to light that villagers reached the spot after rumours circulated that a gang of child-lifters had entered the village," said Ramashish Ram, SHO of Jansa Police Station.

An FIR has been filed against 17 people.

COPS ARREST DUO WHO ALLEGEDLY TARGETED ELDERLY COUPLES TO ROB THEM

Probe into Bengaluru twin murders helps police crack Mandya twin murders

JOHNSON TA BENGALURU, OCTOBER 29

THE ARREST of a cab driver and his wife in Bengaluru for the October 17 murder of an elderly couple here has led the police to the double murder of another elderly couple that occurred in Mandya region in July, and paved the way for the exoneration of two neighbours falsely implicated in the Mandya case.

While investigating a twin murder at Mahadevapura in east Bengaluru, the police stumbled upon the young couple who allegedly targeted elderly, childless couples within their extended family in order to rob them.

On October 17, Chandre Gowda (63), a retired private firm employee, and his wife Lakshamma (55) were found dead in their home by a man who ran a store in the building where the couple lived. The shopkeeper noticed that the water tank in the building (owned by the couple) was overflowing and tried calling the couple. Getting no response, he peeped through a window and found Chandre Gowda lying dead.



Chandre Gowda and Lakshamma were killed in Bengaluru on October 17.

When police arrived, they found Lakshamma dead in a bedroom and the house ransacked.

The investigation revealed that the couple had visitors the previous evening, as Chandre Gowda had visited the local store at dusk with a child in order to buy a snack for the crying infant. Technical analysis and other leads narrowed down the identity of the visitors and possible killers to cab driver Venkatesh C H (30) and his wife Arpita (21). The couple, who had visited the

elderly victims with their 18-month-old child, were traced to a friend's house in Mangaluru on October 26 and arrested.

Police found that Venkatesh and Arpita met Chandre Gowda and Lakshamma at a relative's wedding in September. "Lakshamma is a distant relative of Venkatesh. He met them at a wedding in Mysuru. Seeing the jewels on her, Venkatesh and his wife decided to target this couple," police said in a statement. According to the police, the al-

leged killers gained the confidence of the couple by paying a few visits to their home.

On the evening of October 16, the killer couple allegedly visited the home again with their child to carry out the murders and robbery. After attacking Chandre Gowda and Lakshamma "on their head with a spanner", they searched the house for valuables and decamped with gold jewelry, silver articles and cash."

After obtaining Rs 8.6 lakh in cash from a jewellery store for the gold, the alleged killers "absconded to their friend's house in a village in Dakshina Kannada district. Based on clues, they were nabbed on October 26," Mahadevapura police said.

Venkatesh, who bought a car on loan and linked it to an app-based cab service, had reportedly run up debt. "Venkatesh had loans amounting to Rs 10 lakh, and decided to repay by committing murder," the police said.

Interrogation of the couple — who got married in 2016 — for the Bengaluru murders took an unexpected turn when Venkatesh said he had committed a similar crime in Mandya in July.

"Investigations revealed that an elderly couple — Gundegowda (55) and his wife Lalitamma (50) — were murdered in a similar fashion by Venkatesh on the night of July 12, 2019," Mahadevapura police said.

The Bengaluru police found that the July murders in Rayasamudra village were carried out by Venkatesh, who stayed at the couple's home one night since Lalitamma was his distant relative. After the murder, he allegedly stole 60 grams of gold and sold it for Rs 1.8 lakh to the same jeweller in Bengaluru. Soon after the Mandya murders, the local police had implicated their neighbours — Yogesh Gowda and his wife Sujata — as the killers. "The neighbours were falsely implicated. This is what our probe has revealed," the senior police officer said.

"We will collect details of the findings from the case in Bengaluru and examine if there are links with the suspects arrested in the Mandya case. If we are convinced that these suspects did not have any role in the murder, then we will provide a report to the court," Mandya SP R Parashuram said.

Maoist leader from TN killed in Kerala encounter

SHAJU PHILIP THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, OCTOBER 29

A TOP Maoist leader hailing from Tamil Nadu was killed as an encounter between police and Maoists continued for the second day on Tuesday at Attappadi forest in Palakkad district.

On Monday, three Maoists were killed when patrolling commandos of the state police, Thunderbolt, exchanged fire with Maoists camping in deep forests.

Police sources said that Manivasakam, a member of CPI (Maoist) Tamil Nadu state committee, was killed in the fresh encounter. "Our teams were in the forest engaged in the inquest of the three bodies... a gang fired at us. We retaliated, killing senior Maoist Manivasakam," a police officer said. He said that all four bodies were taken for post-mortem to Thrissur.

Sources said that Manivasakam was at the helm of Maoist activity in the region after the death of Kuppu Devaraj in a 2016 encounter in Malappuram.

CPI state secretary Kanam Rajendran took strong exception to the police action. Human rights activists also protested against the killings.

HC SEEKS REPORT

2-yr-old trapped in TN pit dies as rescue efforts fail

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHENNAI, OCTOBER 29

NEARLY 80 hours after a two-and-a-half-year-old boy fell into an abandoned borewell near his home in a village in Tiruchirappalli district, rescue personnel on Tuesday morning retrieved his mangled body, following futile rescue efforts by several state and central teams.

B Sujith Wilson was initially traced at 28 feet below the ground but attempts by local residents to save him pushed the boy further down the pit — first to a depth of 40 feet and then to nearly 80 feet in the abandoned borewell.

Wilson's body was retrieved around 4 am on Tuesday after several teams failed to rescue him due to several reasons, including rocky terrain and initial efforts by untrained residents.

The Madras High Court on Tuesday demanded a report on the action taken by the government against violators. Hearing a case related to the boy's death, a bench comprising Justices M Sathyanarayanan and N Seshasayee said the entire nation has lost a child. "We should have followed guidelines laid down by Supreme Court in 2009. Prevention is better than cure. TV channels could have had time to create awareness," the court said.

Personnel of the state fire and safety department, NDRF and agencies such as ONGC had



Relatives grieve Wilson's death in Tiruchirappalli district. PTI

joined the rescue mission by Saturday evening. They decided to drill a 100-foot-deep hole parallel to the borewell and rescue Wilson through a connecting tunnel. "The efforts to drill the hole faced challenges due to hard rock structures around two feet from the surface. We were also restricting ourselves from the use of heavy rig machines fearing any damage to the borewell pit that would hurt the victim," said a senior police officer who coordinated the rescue efforts.

The officer said they temporarily stopped the operation after noticing a foul smell when officials announced the drilling had covered over 60 feet, after much delay. State Revenue Secretary J Radhakrishnan, who was on the spot to lead the mission, declared the boy dead before 3 am. The op-

eration was then called off. After a postmortem at the Manapparai Government Hospital, the body was directly taken to a graveyard near Wilson's home for the last rites.

Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami expressed pain at the failed rescue mission and thanked teams that were engaged in efforts to save the boy for three days. Citing government rules regarding borewells and safety measures as per a 2015 government order, Palaniswami said he had ordered district collectors to enforce the rules and sought strict action against violators.

Opposition leader MK Stalin criticised the state government, alleging that the presence of state ministers on the spot made the rescue operation difficult.

CBI arrests Pailan Group CMD in Rs 574-cr Ponzi scam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

THE CBI arrested Apurba Kumar Saha, the chairman and managing director of Pailan Group, on Tuesday in connection with a Rs 574-crore Ponzi scam case, officials said.

The CBI had registered a case against the group in 2017 for allegedly luring investors with promises of high returns on investments, they said.

The group allegedly failed to pay returns to the investors of its scheme, the officials said.

The agency has arrested Saha from Kolkata, they added.

The CBI has alleged that Saha, in pursuance of a criminal conspiracy with other directors of the company, had illegally collected Rs 574 crore (approximately) from investors under various fraudulent schemes on assurance of paying high returns on such investments on maturity, an agency spokesperson said.

He fled after cheating the investors and allegedly misappropriated the money, he added.

Saha will be produced before the competent court in Bidhannagar (West Bengal) on Wednesday, the official said.

Clinical trial of vaccine shows 49.7% efficacy in preventing pulmonary TB infection

TABASSUM BARNAGARWALA HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 29

THE FINAL results of a three-year phase II clinical trial of a tuberculosis vaccine has shown 49.7 per cent efficacy in preventing pulmonary tuberculosis (TB) infection. Although there are about 15 developers globally working to create the TB vaccine, the latest results hold significance as this is the first time such results have been drawn in the last 100 years of research.

The vaccine is, however, a long way from being launched in India, with further trials required on the country's population before it is rolled out.

The study, titled 'Final Analysis of Trial of M72/AS01 Vaccine to Prevent Tuberculosis', was published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* on Tuesday. The findings suggest the vaccine will help prevent infection risk by 50 per cent in the latent TB population, and come a day ahead of the 50th Union World Conference on Lung Health in Hyderabad. The global conference is scheduled to begin on October 30 and will run till November 2.

Latent TB means the TB bacteria is present in the body but remains dormant. Between August 2014 and November 2015, 3,575 non-HIV positive people with latent TB and aged 18 to 50 years were enrolled for the trial in Kenya, South Africa and Zambia. While India was considered for the trial, researchers said sub-Saharan Africa was finally chosen due to higher TB incidence.

Half of latent TB population was given two doses of M72/AS01 vaccine a month apart. Three years later, of 1,626 people, 13 in the group developed active TB infection as opposed to 26 in the other group, which was given a placebo drug.

"The vaccine provided a high-level response in body. It generated antibodies to fight the bacteria. The efficacy remained constant until three years of trial," said Olivier Van Der Meeren, the study's co-author and the director of research and development at GlaxoSmith Kline. "The vaccine provided a high-level response in body. It generated antibodies to fight the bacteria. The efficacy remained constant until three years of trial," said Olivier Van Der Meeren, the study's co-author and the director of research and development at GlaxoSmith Kline. "We don't know what caused tuberculosis in these patients. More research is needed to understand immunological responses to the bacteria," she said.

Meanwhile, Paula I Fujiwara, scientific director at The Union, said, "This trial brings us a step closer to a tuberculosis vaccine. Prevention is an important tool, but we also need medication simultaneously to prevent the disease burden."

About 30-40 per cent of India's population is infected by latent TB.

The World Health Organisation on Tuesday announced it will facilitate an expert meeting of developers, funders and countries to take the trials forward.

(The correspondent was invited to the 50th Union World Conference on Lung Health by Stop TB Partnership and The Union)

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 1-566/3/2019/Adm.III Procurement of Firewall (Antivirus System)
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 अनलाइन निविदा केवल Central Public Procurement Portal (<http://eprocure.gov.in>)/[eprocure/app](http://eprocure.gov.in), पर ही स्वीकार किया जायेगा एवं निविदा सूचना का विवरण संस्थान के वेबसाइट www.iivr.org.in, पर देखा जा सकता है।
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 The Odisha Mining Corporation Limited (OMC) invites bids from experienced Mine Operators for hiring of plant and machineries for mechanized mining involving excavation of overburden and chrome ore in all kinds of soil and rock upto a depth of approximately 120 Meters from the average natural surface level by deploying HEMM, Drilling & Blasting wherever necessary, dewatering (by continuous pumping out on an average around 11,150 Kilo litres of water per day throughout the year except during the monsoon months when the pumping requirement will be 19,200 Kilo litres of water per day), transportation of overburden, sub-grade Chrome ore and Chrome ore to respective yards.
 Peak Rated Capacity: 78,33,33 Cum. (± 10%)
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 Last Date of Online Submission of Bid: Up to 04:00 PM on 03.12.2019
 Last Date of Physical Submission of Original Documents related to Bid: Up to 04:00 PM on 04.12.2019
 Bid Document Cost: INR 1,18,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Eighteen Thousand) only including GST @ 18%
 The executive summary of the Bidding Process as well as the Bidding Documents have been uploaded on the portal of MSTC Ltd. (www.mstcecommerce.com/prochome/omc) and on the website of The Odisha Mining Corporation Limited (www.omcltd.in). The Documents can be downloaded from the above sites from 30.10.2019
 Any further communications, corrigendum/ addendum, etc. will be uploaded on the website of MSTC and OMC. OMC reserves the right to reject any or all bids/ proposals without assigning any reasons whatsoever. Nodal officer for this bidding process: Abhiram Sahoo, Addl. General Manager (Mining) OMC
 Email: sahooabhiram740@gmail.com Phone: +91 674 2377439 / +91 943779474
 30005/11/0079/1920 Addl. General Manager (Mining), OMC

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
 Trichy (H) NABARD and Rural Roads Circle
TENDER NOTICE
Tender Notice No.26/2019-20 / SDO /Dated: 25.10.2019.
 For and on behalf of Governor of Tamilnadu percentage tender will be received by the Superintending Engineer (H) NABARD & Rural Roads Circle Trichy for Package No.40 and 41 under Upgradation of Panchayat / Panchayat union roads for 2019-20 works in respect of Nagapattinam (H) NABARD & Rural Roads Division upto 14.00 hours on 4.12.2019 through online only.
 Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from 4.11.2019 onwards in the Government website <http://intenders.gov.in>, if any changes / Corrections etc in the tender, it will be published on the above website only.
 Superintending Engineer (H) NABARD and Rural Roads circle, Trichy.
 DIPR/3921/Tender/2019

TAMIL NADU SLUM CLEARANCE BOARD
 SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER CHENNAI CIRCLE-I
Tender Notice No.SCB/715/HS/SE/CC-I/2019 NOTICE INVITING TENDER Date: 29.10.2019
 For and on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, one sealed tender consisting of two separate sealed covers one for Pre-qualification with EMD to be enclosed in A cover and another for price schedule with name of work duly superscribed to be enclosed in B cover are invited from the registered contractors of TNSCB under Class-I and above or Government Departments / Government undertaking / Public Sector Undertaking, registered as a legal entity in India by the Superintending Engineer, Chennai Circle-I, Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, No.5, Kamarajar Salai, Chennai - 800 005 upto 3.00 PM on 23.11.2019 and the same will be opened at 3.30 PM on same day in the presence of the Tender Scrutiny Committee.

Sl. No.	Name of work / Estimate No.	Approximate Tender Value (Rs. in Lakhs) (including GST)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Reconstruction of 180 Nos. of tenements as per T.D. 59/2019 (G+4 storied) including internal water supply, sanitary electrification arrangements, and development works at Ekambaram Pillai and Munusamy Pillai Street scheme in Corpn.Dn.125 under Vertical III Housing For All (PMAY) Estimate No. : CER No.13 /HFA/ 2019-20.	Rs. 1605.00 15 Months	Rs. 8, 13, 000/-

 The EMD should be drawn as Demand Draft or Banker's Cheque or Bank Guarantee from any Nationalised / Scheduled Banks, payable at Chennai in the prescribed form in favour of the Executive Engineer, Marina Reconstruction Division, T.N.S.C.B., Chennai, 600 005. The tender documents can be obtained from the office of the Superintending Engineer, Chennai Circle-I, TNSCB, No.5, Kamarajar salai, Chennai 800 005 on written requisition along with cost of the tender documents to a value of Rs. 16,900/- (Non-Refundable) in the form of Demand Draft or Bankers Cheque upto 3.00 PM, 27.11.2019 drawn in favour of Executive Engineer, Marina Reconstruction Division, T.N.S.C.B., Chennai 600 005.
 Note:
 1. Detailed tender notice, conditions for participating in the tender can be had from the Office of the Superintending Engineer, (Chennai Circle-I) Circle, TNSCB, Chennai 600 005.
 2. Detailed tender notice, conditions for participating in the tender and the tender documents are also available at www.tenders.in.gov.in which can be downloaded at free of cost. The tenderer shall keep a watch over the web site till the preceding date of tender for any notifications.
 The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereof.
 Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board
 No.5, Kamarajar Salai, Chennai-600 005
 SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, CHENNAI CIRCLE-I
 DIPR/3908/TENDER/2019

THIS WORD MEANS

DAVOS IN THE DESERT

The event the Prime Minister is attending in Riyadh. What is on the table, and why is it compared to Davos?



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with King Salman bin Abdulaziz. *Twitter/PTI*

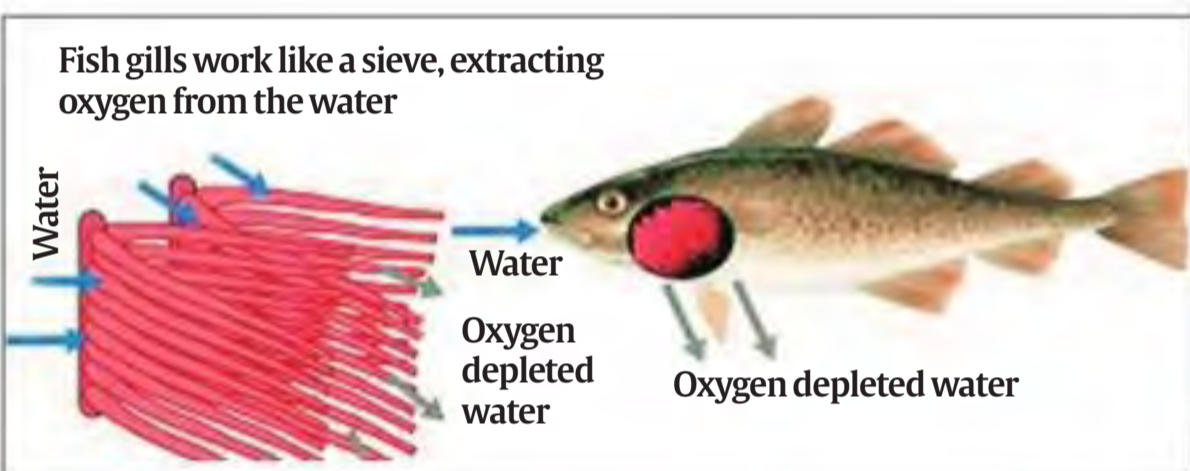
PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi is on a visit to Riyadh to attend an international event from October 29 to 31. Formally the Future Investment Initiative (FII), it is widely being described as "Davos in the desert". The informal name derives from the World Economic Forum's annual meeting that is held in Davos, Switzerland, where world leaders discuss and shape agendas for pressing international issues. FII, too, brings together policymakers, investors and global experts, who discuss the role of investment in driving global prosperity and development. FII is an initiative that was first undertaken by the Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman in 2017 to diversify the kingdom's economy and reduce its dependence on petroleum products.

This year, Modi delivered the keynote address "What's next for India?" and engaged in bilateral talks with the Mohammad bin Salman and King Salman bin Abdulaziz. Saudi Arabia has already announced agreements worth \$15 billion. Other world leaders attending the event include Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta and Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari.

In 2018, the FII was boycotted by over 40 participants due to allegations about Saudi Arabia's involvement in the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

TIP FOR READING LIST

WHAT FISH DO AMID CLIMATE CHANGE



AMONG VARIOUS ways in which climate change is impacting life on Earth, one has been to change the distribution of fish species in the oceans. Scientists have predicted that the shift will be towards the poles. In a new research paper, they have explained the biological reasons why fish species will follow that direction.

It stems from the way fish breathe. Scientists describe this with the Gill-Oxygen Limitation Theory, or GOLT. Daniel Pauly, the author of the theory, is the principal investigator of the 'Sea Around Us' initiative at the University of British Columbia's Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries. His new paper is published in *Mediterranean Marine Science* (ejournals.epublishing.ekt.gr/index.php/hcmr-med-mar-sc/article/view/19285/18618). A statement on the 'Sea Around Us' website explains the theory. Warming waters have less oxygen. Therefore, fish have difficulties breathing in such environments.

Additionally, such warming, low-oxygen waters also increase fish's oxygen demands because their metabolism speeds up. This is because, as fish grow, their demand for oxygen increases. However, the surface area of the gills (two-dimensional) does not grow at the same pace as the rest of the body (three-dimensional). The larger the fish, the smaller its surface area relative to the volume of its body. So, the fish move to waters whose temperatures resemble those of their original habitats and that satisfy their oxygen needs. As the global sea surface temperature has increased by approximately 0.13°C per decade over the past 100 years, "suitable" waters are more and more found towards the poles and at greater depths.

Previous studies by Pauly and his colleagues have already predicted that climate change will cause some fish species to shift their distribution by more than 50 km per decade, the statement said.

SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

Tracking employment in India

A new study uses NSSO data to show that between 2004 and 2017, employment grew at less than half the rate of population growth; number of women and young people in jobs fell; rural employment stagnated

UDIT MISRA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

EVER SINCE the results of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2017-18 became public — they showed that unemployment in India was at a 45-year high — there has been vigorous public debate about the true state of unemployment in the country.

What has fueled this debate — and allowed different people to arrive at differing conclusions about the state of unemployment — has been the long delays in the availability of past employment data, even though PLFS tracks employment annually.

Now, a new study, commissioned by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), and undertaken by Laveesh Bhandari of Indicus Foundation and Amaresh Dubey of Jawaharlal Nehru University, has highlighted the broad trends for employment in India between 2004 and 2018. (*The Indian Express*, October 26)

A key feature of this study is that instead of focusing on unemployment, it focuses only on the "employment" data. It does so by looking at three comparable surveys conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) — the Employment-Unemployment Surveys (EUS) of 2004-05 and 2011-12, and the PLFS of 2017-18.

So how is mapping employment different from mapping unemployment?

The NSSO surveys divide the entire population into three categories. Broadly speaking, Category 1 consists of people who were involved in economic activity (or work) during the reference period of the survey. These individuals are labelled as "Employed" — and Category 1 can be subdivided into categories such as self-employed, salaried employees, and casual labourers.

Category 2 consists of people who were not engaged in any economic activity during the reference period of the survey, but were looking for work if work was available. These individuals are labelled as "Unemployed".

Taken together, categories 1 and 2 form the country's "labour force".

Category 3 constitutes people who are neither engaged in work nor available for it. This category — labelled as "Not in the labour force" — would have a large number of people, including those who have retired, those studying, those unable to work due to disability, and those attending "only" to domestic duties.

The new study focused on the level and trends of the "Employed" — that is, Category 1.

What are the main findings of the study?

On the whole, the study found that the



ORGANISED SECTOR INCREASINGLY PREFERS NON-CONTRACTUAL LABOUR

(ALL NUMBERS IN CRORE)

Sector	Without Contract	With Contract
2004		
Unorganised	6.33	0.4
Organised	1.31	2.28
2011		
Unorganised	8.9	0.46
Organised	2.44	2.65
2017		
Unorganised	10.9	0.48
Organised	3.61	2.8

STATES THAT SAW STAGNANT EMPLOYMENT IN 15-59 AGE BRACKET

(ALL NUMBERS IN LAKH)

State	2004	2011	2017
Rajasthan	204	222	225
Gujarat	213	227	225
Uttarakhand	30	30	33
Jharkhand	99	94	95
Odisha	135	139	135
Andhra Pradesh	351	352	354
Karnataka	244	239	238
Tamil Nadu	284	276	283
Himachal Pradesh	25	30	29

2004 and 2011 numbers from the Employment-Unemployment Surveys of 2004-05 and 2011-12 respectively; 2017 numbers from the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2017-18.

total employment in the country grew by 4.5 crore in the 13 years between EUS 2004-05 and PLFS 2017-18. What puts this absolute number in perspective is that this represents a growth of just 0.8 per cent — less than half the rate at which the overall population grew, which was 1.7 per cent.

What was the urban-rural spread of employment?

Of the 4.5 crore increase in employment, 4.2 crore happened in the urban areas while rural employment either contracted (by 0.01 per cent between 2004 and 2011) or was stagnant (grew by 0.18 per cent between 2011 and 2017).

And what was the male-female spread of employment?

Over the 13 years, male employment grew

by 6 crore but female employment fell by 1.5 crore. In other words, while there were 11.15 crore women with jobs in 2004, only 9.67 crore were employed 13 years later. Women's share in employment has fallen from an already low level of 27.08% in 2004 to 21.17 per cent in 2017.

What about youth employment?

India is one of the world's youngest nations, but employment data according to age groups shows that youth employment (those between the ages of 15 and 24) has fallen from 8.14 crore in 2004 to 5.34 crore in 2017.

However, employment in the 25-59 age group and the 60 years and above group has gone up. The sustained schooling reforms seem to have shown their impact in the employment of children below 14 years of age reducing from 61 lakh in 2004 to 27 lakh in 2011, and just 11 lakh in 2017.

From the cloud, computing moves to the edge

ANUJ BHATIA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

CLOUD COMPUTING — by which remote servers hosted on the Internet store and process data, rather than local servers or personal computers — is ready to move to the next level. Amazon, Microsoft, and Alphabet, the parent company of Google — the technology giants that provide cloud computing infrastructure to major corporates and governments — want to leverage 5G wireless technology and artificial intelligence to enable faster response times, lower latency (ability to process very high volumes of data with minimal delay), and simplified maintenance in computing.

This is where Edge Computing comes in

— which many see as an extension to the cloud, but which is, in fact, different in several basic ways. By 2025, says the global research and advisory firm Gartner, companies will generate and process more than 75% of their data outside of traditional centralised data centres — that is, at the "edge" of the cloud.

So, what is edge computing?

Simply put, edge computing enables data to be analysed, processed, and transferred at the edge of a network. The idea is to analyse data locally, closer to where it is stored, in real-time without latency, rather than send it far away to a centralised data centre. So whether you are streaming a video on Netflix or accessing a library of video games in the cloud, edge computing allows for quicker

data processing and content delivery.

How is edge computing different from cloud computing?

The basic difference between edge computing and cloud computing lies in where the data processing takes place.

At the moment, the existing Internet of Things (IoT) systems perform all of their computations in the cloud using data centres. Edge computing, on the other hand, essentially manages the massive amounts of data generated by IoT devices by storing and processing data locally. That data doesn't need to be sent over a network as soon as it is processed; only important data is sent — therefore, an edge computing network reduces the amount of data that travels over the network.

And how soon can edge computing become part of our lives?

Experts believe the true potential of edge computing will become apparent when 5G networks go mainstream in a year from now. Users will be able to enjoy consistent connectivity without even realising it.

Nvidia, one of the biggest players in the design and manufacture of graphics and AI acceleration hardware, has just announced its EGX edge computing platform to help telecom operators adopt 5G networks capable of supporting edge workloads. The new Nvidia Aerial software developer kit will help telecom companies build virtualised radio access networks that will let them support smart factories, AR/VR and cloud gaming.

Why did monsoon end with so much rain? Hunt for clues in Indian Ocean

AMITABH SINHA
PUNE, OCTOBER 29

THE RECORD-breaking rainfall this monsoon season, particularly during August and September, has left weather scientists confounded. After a more than 30% shortfall in June, the season ended with 10% excess rainfall, the first time such a thing has happened since 1931. The September rainfall (152% of long period average, or LPA) was the highest since 1917, the August rainfall (115% of LPA) was the highest since 1996, and the overall seasonal rainfall (110% of LPA) was the highest since 1994.

Search for answers

As late as the first week of September, the India Meteorological Department maintained that the seasonal rainfall was going to be normal (in the 96-104% range). With an influencer like El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) in the Pacific remaining largely neutral this year, scientists are trying to pin down the exact reason for the unusual rainfall.

In the search for answers, one phenom-

enon attracting some attention is the Indian Ocean Dipole or IOD, an ocean-atmosphere interaction similar to El Niño, but in the Indian Ocean. IOD is a measure of the difference in the sea-surface temperatures of the western Indian Ocean (Arabian Sea) and the eastern Indian Ocean, south of the Indonesian coast. When the western waters are warmer than the eastern, IOD is said to be positive; in the opposite state, IOD is negative.

Like ENSO in the equatorial Pacific Ocean, IOD too influences weather and climate events, though its impact is weaker because the Indian Ocean is considerably smaller, and shallower, than the Pacific. The IOD has an impact on the Indian monsoon: a positive IOD is understood to aid monsoon rainfall while negative IOD is known to suppress it.

Strongest ever

This year's IOD, which began developing around June and grew strong after August, has been one of the strongest on record. IOD records are not very old. Accurate measurements are available only since 1960, according to the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (ACB). "The current positive Indian Ocean



Rainfall 30% short in June, 10% excess for overall monsoon. *Pradeep Kumar*

Dipole event has strengthened significantly over the past month. The latest weekly value of +2.15°C is the strongest positive weekly value since at least 2001 (when the Bureau's weekly dataset commenced), and possibly since 1997, when strong monthly values were recorded," the ACB said in its latest bul-

letin on October 15.

This has led to scientists looking at IOD for possible clues to this year's bumper rainfall, especially since such strong IOD events in previous years, too, were associated with high monsoon rainfall.

"In previous years, we have had very strong IOD events in 1997 and 2006. In both those years, the southwest monsoon rainfall over India was around 100% of normal. 1997 also happened to be a strong El Niño year (El Niño suppresses monsoon rainfall), but thanks to the positive IOD, the monsoon rainfall was normal that year," said Sridhar Balasubramanian, associate professor of mechanical engineering and an adjunct faculty member at IIT Climate Studies at IIT Bombay. "This year the positive IOD started strengthening from July, and by September it evolved into the strongest positive IOD ever recorded in the history of Indian summer monsoon."

Tenuous link

Beyond the correlation, scientists are careful not to directly blame the IOD for this year's rains. That is because IOD's link with the Indian summer monsoon is tenuous at best.

It is only one of several factors that impact the monsoon, and not the most dominant.

In fact, the IOD's influence on the monsoon is not fully understood. It is known to have a much weaker influence than ENSO, though. IOD's relationship with the Indian summer monsoon is also much less studied compared to that of ENSO, said J Srinivasan, distinguished scientist with the Divecha Centre for Climate Change at IISc, Bengaluru.

Besides, it is not clear if the IOD influences the monsoon or if it is the other way round. The IOD generally takes shape towards the latter half of the summer monsoon, in August and September, and scientists do not rule out the possibility that the monsoon could play some role in its emergence.

"It is critical to remember that IOD usually peaks in September-October-November, and its impacts on monsoon are not very robust. It is unclear if monsoon itself plays a critical role in forcing the IOD," said Raghu Murtugudde of the University of Maryland, US. "The problem with using IOD as an explanation is that its definition is not really solid. It is defined as a gradient of east-west SST (sea surface temperature) changes, but

the action is all in the east," Murtugudde said.

This year, earlier years

This absence of 'action' in the western Indian Ocean was evident this year too, Srinivasan pointed out. "This year there was strong cooling south of Sumatra (in the east Indian Ocean) but the western Indian Ocean did not show a large warming," Srinivasan said.

Data from the Australian Bureau of Meteorology show that since 1960, there have been only 10 strongly positive IOD events before this year. Summer monsoon rainfall was deficient on four of those occasions, more 100% on four others, and normal on the remaining two.

The fact that IOD could have played a role in bringing excess rains in August and September can not be ruled out, but the extent of its influence is something that still needs to be studied.

"The high rainfall in August and September this year was a record, and as of now, it would not be wrong to say that we do not understand the reasons for it," Srinivasan said.



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

Journey to a beginning

Opening of Kartarpur corridor will show us that it is possible to leave behind the past, walk to the future



AMARINDER SINGH

A VISIT, A DIVERSION

Trip to Valley by members of EU Parliament renews questions about continuing restrictions on India's MPs and leaders

THE VISIT OF 27 members of the European Parliament to J&K, sponsored by a think tank in Delhi and blessed by the government, raises several questions. For a start, the government does not allow the same privilege to Indian parliamentarians and veteran political leaders, many of whom have been prevented from visiting the Valley ever since the August 5 decision to abrogate Kashmir's special status. Rahul Gandhi, MP, was turned back from Srinagar airport. Ghulam Nabi Azad, leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, who also belongs to J&K, was sent back from the Srinagar airport three times, and was finally permitted by the Supreme Court. CPI(M) leader Sitaram Yechury also went with the permission of the court, while Yashwant Sinha, a former finance minister of the country, was sent back from Srinagar airport. Another member of Parliament, and former chief minister, Farooq Abdullah, has been under house arrest in Kashmir since August 5.

What is also problematic is that these MEPs are not an official delegation. On this visit, they are not representing Europe or their own countries, or even their constituencies. They are in this delegation in their "personal capacity". What exactly, then, is their business in Kashmir? It can also be said with certainty that an official European parliamentary delegation would not have been comprised of a majority from the right wing political parties that now dot Europe, whose politics ranges from admiration for Nazism to anti-immigration to Islamophobia. When Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed them with the hope that their visit to J&K "should give the delegation a better understanding of the cultural and religious diversity of the region of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh", the only thing missing was a sense of irony.

If the idea was to impress upon the world that the government is not blocking foreign dignitaries from visiting Kashmir, as was pointed out at the US Congressional hearing, this delegation is not going to serve the purpose. As if to underline that, on the same day as the MEPs' visit, the United Nations expressed concern for the people of J&K, and asked India to restore their rights. Certificates from an apparently handicapped European delegation will do nothing to paper over the fact that the government first pushed through its decisions by imposing a communications blockade, and has then been slow to lift the curbs and restrictions on the people's right to free speech and freedom of association, or that it continues to detain a large number of political representatives in the Valley. The true test for the government's August 5 decision lies in how the people of Kashmir view it.

NO STRESS RELIEF

On telecom, rather than being driven by short-term considerations, government must act to restore sector's health

EVENTS OF THE past week do not augur well for the long-term viability of the beleaguered telecom sector. On Thursday, the Supreme Court upheld the government's view that all revenue accruing to telcos, including from non-core activities, constitutes adjusted gross revenue (AGR). This is a blow to an industry struggling under a mountain of debt. By some estimates, telcos will now have to fork out around Rs 1.3 lakh crore, once spectrum usage charges linked to AGR are factored in, worsening their already precarious financial position. A day before this verdict, the Centre approved a revival package for public sector telcos BSNL and MTNL. By continuing to prop up these loss-making entities, at terms which can be construed as unfair to private operators, it may have ended up further distorting the market.

On the issue of what constitutes revenues, it is unfortunate the government chooses to continue with its line of argument, especially in light of the stress in the sector. The notion that income from non-core activities such as return on investments needs to be shared with the Centre is akin to killing the proverbial goose that lays the golden eggs. While a cash-strapped government may welcome this outcome — it could help offset some of the shortfall in its tax revenues — this additional levy will come at the expense of the health of an already strained sector. Highly indebted telcos will find it difficult to fulfill these obligations, especially with their profitability still under threat from the ongoing price wars. It will also have a bearing on their ability to take part in the 5G auctions. On the issue of reviving BSNL and MTNL, it is questionable whether these entities can compete effectively with the private sector. The assumptions that have been factored in the turnaround plans are optimistic to say the least. And while the logic of continuing with a sovereign-backed loss-making entity in a hyper competitive sector is itself questionable, an unequivocal backing by the sovereign, as this revival package suggests, could distort the market.

Rather than being guided by short-term revenue considerations, the government should consider the wider implications of these developments and take corrective measures for the sake of the sector. As there was ambiguity over what constitutes revenues, it should waive the interest and penalties it has levied on telcos. It should also drop its demand for license fees, reconsider the contribution to the universal service obligation fund, and rethink its stance on spectrum pricing.

CHANGE THE CHANNEL

Pakistan's media regulator wants TV anchors to be unbiased. It might as well ask them to shut shop

THE HOPE THAT abides vis a vis the India-Pakistan relationship is based on a simple assumption, a cliché almost: There's more that unites us than divide us. Historically, of course, the northern parts of India and eastern parts of Pakistan were a cultural unit. But even in contemporary times, the parallels between the pillars of the state in the two countries — the government and the media — are remarkable. Earlier this week, reports confirmed that the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Pemra) has barred television anchors from giving their "opinions" during talk shows and limited their role to "moderator". For those Indians not familiar with how TV anchors in Pakistan go about their business, suffice it to say that apart from the odd Urdu phrase, they are mostly a mirror image of their Indian counterparts. Pemra's directive bars anchors from appearing as "experts", and says they should not provide "personal opinion", "bias" or "judgements" on any issue. Pemra might as well outlaw prime time TV debates, as they are conducted in this part of the world.

There was a time when television actually provided news, and attempted to inform its viewers. But prime time is now, on both sides of the border, a space where anchors attempt to echo government views and stand up for an imagined idea of nationalism. The "debate" is set in a gladiatorial arena, or to be more accurate, it is like American professional wrestling — the outcome is decided, and the referee is in on it. In fact, on one memorable day on Indian TV, a popular party spokesperson donned the mantle of an anchor, pretending to reserve his "judgements", albeit quite poorly.

None of this, however, is by way of providing justification for Pemra's diktat. In Pakistan, as in India, the government seems to believe that it is best suited to interfere in matters that are none of its business. The fact is, most news channels do what they do because that's what they believe the audience wants. The best way to "regulate" a free press is for people to just change the channel.

MY CONNECT WITH Kartarpur Sahib goes back to my childhood. I still remember how the gurdwara, just about 235 km from my hometown of Patiala (that's less than the Chandigarh-Delhi distance), was always spoken of with great reverence in our family. Of course, that was majorly because of the historic importance of the site, where Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji died on September 22, 1539. But part of it was also because of the personal connection my family had with the gurdwara, whose present building was built in 1925 at a cost of Rs 1,35,600, donated by Maharaja Bhupindar Singh, the then ruler of Patiala and my grandfather, after the existing structure was ravaged by floods.

The desire to visit the revered gurdwara has always been strong within me. Today, just days before I see the cherished aspiration transform into enviable reality, I bow before the Great Guru for granting me this experience, and that too during his 550th Prakash Purb celebration.

I recall my personal meetings, in my previous term as chief minister, with former Pakistan President, General Pervez Musharraf, during which I had spoken extensively about the deep-rooted urge in every Sikh to visit the historic Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara. Though he had responded positively to my request, which our former Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, had also subsequently pursued actively, things did not really move forward till November 2018, when the Government of India conveyed its decision to build the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor from Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur district to the International Border (with Pakistan), in coordination with the Government of Punjab.

It was a momentous day for all of us here in Punjab, and we wasted no time in initiating the process of getting things in place for the construction of the corridor and the infrastructure around it. It took us less than two months to make the land required for the project available to the central government. The work on the corridor (4,190 km) was started on December 13, 2018. In addition, a Passenger Terminal Building

What makes this achievement truly remarkable is that both India and Pakistan stuck to their deadlines against all odds, in the face of many disturbing and disruptive developments in the last one year, to fulfill their ends of the bargain. This gives me, and I am sure it gives the people of both countries, a powerful sense of optimism about the future. However, the fructification of this optimism would depend, to a great extent, on how soon, and how effectively, Pakistan leverages the opportunity it has got in the shape of the Kartarpur Corridor. From where I see it, the corridor has the potential to stand out as a historic symbol of peace and hope of a better tomorrow for Indo-Pak relations.

Integrated Check Post (ICP) is also being constructed at the International Border in an area of about 50 acres by the Land Port Authority of India (LPAI), which will become operational before the corridor opens for pilgrims.

Working closely with the Centre, my government, I am pleased to state, has ensured that the corridor is ready to be inaugurated by the prime minister on November 9, and to receive the first jatha of pilgrims to Sri Kartarpur Sahib on the same day. That, with the blessings of Wahe Guru, I will have the honour of being a member of this jatha gives me a deep sense of joy and satisfaction.

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The recent decision of the Union Ministry of Road Transport & Highways to name the stretch from the Indo/Pak Border-Dera Baba Nanak-Amritsar-Tarn Taran-Goindwal Sahib-Kapurthala Sultanpur Lodhi National Highway as "Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji Marg" in the state of Punjab has further added to the aura of the corridor, which in many ways is a bridge of faith between India and Pakistan.

But the opening of the corridor next month will be just a small step forward on a long and difficult road, which our two nations can only traverse together if Islamabad gives up its negative posturing vis-a-vis India. As long as the Pakistan Army contin-

ues to support and sponsor cross-border terrorism, as long as our soldiers are killed by the men from across the border, and as long as the climate of mistrust and fear remains, there can be no real progress in easing the perpetual tension between our countries.

However, with my unwavering faith in the ideology of universal love and tolerance propagated by our revered first Guru, I am strongly of the view that the corridor will eventually pave the way for harmony between our two nations, whose people share common roots and a common aspiration for the future. It is my dream to see India and Pakistan connect with each other at an even deeper level, to walk beyond the 4.5 km of the Kartarpur Corridor and find new ways of burying the past, in my lifetime.

One small way of building on the trust that the corridor promises to nurture between the two countries is for Islamabad to waive the \$20 fee it has imposed on pilgrims visiting the revered gurdwara. A gesture like that would really prove that Pakistan respects the sentiments of India's people, and wants to strengthen people-to-people relations between the two nations.

The corridor, I believe, has shown us that it is more than possible to bridge the differences that have assumed unnaturally grave proportions in these seven decades. All that is needed is the will to do so. Let this corridor, then, become an icon of our collective future, and a beacon to show us the way to do it. Let it be the burial ground for hatred and mistrust, and for all those inimical forces that have obstructed peace between the two nations all these years. Terror and violence have no place in this Corridor of Peace — a truth that I am sure Islamabad realises, and hope it is ready to acknowledge.

What is needed now is the intent to bury the hatchet, which, in the given circumstances, is more the responsibility of Pakistan than of India. And now is the best time for the Imran Khan government to make the next move.

The writer is chief minister of Punjab



PARAMESWARAN IYER

THE RUNNING AIR MARSHAL

PV Iyer, an unlikely soldier, continues to inspire

OCTOBER IS THE month Air Force Day is celebrated in India and this is also a good occasion to celebrate the birthday of an Air Force veteran — Air Marshal P V Iyer — who turned ninety today. Known as the Running Air Marshal in the Indian Air Force, having logged in about 1,20,000 kms in his over 50-year running career, he has turned running and fitness into a passion and inspired countless others, including his family, to make this a lifestyle. One person he could not inspire to undertake extreme running, however, was his son, the author of this piece.

In 1985, when I was general manager of the Uttar Pradesh Road Transport Corporation, based in Lucknow, my dad was planning to lead a contingent of about 200 Air Force and civilian runners on an Agra-Delhi 210 km ultra-marathon in just three days. I could, or at least was trying to, run buses in UP, and did my daily four-five km run, but definitely did not plan to embark on an ultramarathon with my father and his merry band of athletes. So, we amicably agreed that I would take one of my buses from Agra to Delhi while the Air Marshal and his team ran the distance. With night halts at Mathura, Palwal and Faridabad, they completed the run in style, being received by then Air Chief Marshal LaFontaine at Air Force Station Palam on Air Force Day, October 8, 1985. The gruelling run had a dropout rate of about 50 per cent, but the then 56-year-old

He soon took to running, like a duck to water, and regularly ran 10-15 milers early morning from the Curzon Road Apartments near India Gate to Palam airport and back. Once, in the dark of an early Delhi winter morning, he collided with a buffalo on Janpath road. Luckily, the buffalo was more startled than my father and galloped away.

Air Marshal and his co-runners, finished in fine fettle, and celebrated with a "burra khana" lunch at Palam.

Young P V Iyer was always an unlikely candidate to join the military. Born in Kozhikode to a family of traditional temple priests, who had never done more exercise beyond throwing petals in the sacred fire while performing marriage rituals, he was destined to be an academic or a lawyer, like his father. He completed a Master's in mathematics from Presidency College, Madras, and was heading towards a teaching career, but fate willed otherwise — he got selected as a commissioned officer in the Indian Air Force. In 1952, he met Kalyani, a tennis star and veterinary doctor from Queen Mary's College, and after a short courtship, they got married.

The Air Marshal only accidentally got into fitness in 1976 when the Indian Air Force introduced a mandatory annual fitness test for its officers. He soon took to running, like a duck to water, and regularly ran 10-15 milers early morning from the Curzon Road Apartments near India Gate to Palam airport and back. Once, in the dark of an early Delhi winter morning, he collided with a buffalo on Janpath road. Luckily, the buffalo was more startled than my father and galloped away.

In between his running career, he then Air commodore Iyer took a little time off to

help his son prepare for the 1980 civil services exam. As the Commanding Officer of the Air Force station at Chakeri, Kanpur, he realised that his son, having never studied the subject before, was struggling a bit in preparing for the philosophy paper in the main exam. The Commanding Officer took a week's leave and prepared some notes on philosophy to assist the aspiring civil servant. One of the notes was on phenomenology, the philosophical study of the structures of experience and consciousness — something which did not make any sense to me. But my father had it figured out and his notes came in handy in my responses to the questions in the exam. I managed to get selected for the IAS.

Last year, again on Air Force Day, the Air Marshal was thrilled to meet the prime minister during the evening reception at the residence of the Air Chief in Delhi. In a face to face interaction, they discussed his Air Force career. Today is another important occasion: His 90th birthday. While all of us will sorely miss Kalyani, we will enjoy and celebrate the remarkable life and career of the Running Air Marshal, with the clear intention of having many more such celebrations in the years to come.

The writer is Secretary, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti. Views are personal



OCTOBER 30, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO

CFD MINISTERS RESIGN
ALL THE EIGHT CFD ministers, seven of cabinet rank and one minister of state, have handed over their resignations to their party leader, H N Bahuguna. One of the CFD ministers said this had been done to assure Bahuguna that "all of us are with him and follow his direction whatever it may be." The CFD ministers are in the Banarasi Das ministry so long as Bahuguna desires and they will quit en bloc the moment he takes a decision on new power equations. According to CFD sources, Bahuguna is expected to announce his decision within the next 24 hours and possibly the CFD would be joining hands with the Congress (I).

No CPM-CPI TIES
THE LEFT FRONT'S talks with the CPI for an electoral understanding for the ensuing Lok Sabha election have failed over seats distribution. At talks between leaders of the CPI and the front, the latter stuck to its offer of only two seats to the CPI whereas the CPI desired at least four seats, though it had earlier presented a list of seven seats. Soon thereafter, the front chairman, Promode Das Gupta, announced the list of candidates for all the 42 seats in West Bengal for the Lok Sabha. However, he said if the CPI accepted two seats before the front's election rally on November 4, the party would be welcomed into its fold.

INDIA'S N-POLICY
THE DEFENCE MINISTER, C Subramaniam, virtually underscored Charan Singh's stand that India would have to reconsider its policy if Pakistan were to go nuclear. Singh had utilised his Independence Day speech to make his position known on the issue. Subramaniam was speaking on "India's defence strategy for the Eighties" at the National Defence College. The defence minister told senior officers who constituted his audience that India had already had a situation of asymmetry vis-a-vis China and if Pakistan were to develop a nuclear arsenal then a second situation of asymmetry to India's disadvantage would develop.

In a plastic world

Use of single-use plastic needs to be minimised, but the larger problem also needs to be attended to



CITIES AT CROSSROADS

BY ISHER JUDGE AHLUWALIA AND ALMITRA PATEL

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA Modi made a dramatic announcement on August 15, 2019, that India would eliminate single-use plastics by 2022. This generated a lot of speculation on whether a ban on single-use plastics was in the offing. Then came another statement on October 2, Gandhi Jayanti, by the PM that single-use plastics (SUPs) will be phased out by 2022, and officials indicated that states will play a major role in ensuring this happens.

SUPs refers to plastics which are used just once, as in disposable packaging and also in items such as plates, cutlery, straws etc. A FICCI study estimates that 43 per cent of India's plastics are used in packaging and much of it is single-use plastic. We also have completely unnecessary single-use plastic entering our homes in the form of covers for invitation cards, magazines, bread wrappers and advertisements.

Single-use plastic is only part of what is truly a massive challenge, and that is the management of all kinds of plastic waste. But it is good to begin with SUPs because its large and growing volume adds enormously to the total plastic waste. The growing volume is, to a great extent, because of rising e-commerce in India with people buying from companies like Amazon and Flipkart that use single-use plastic for disposable packaging. Both companies have made commitments to phase out their use of single-use plastic, but this is unlikely to happen anytime soon.

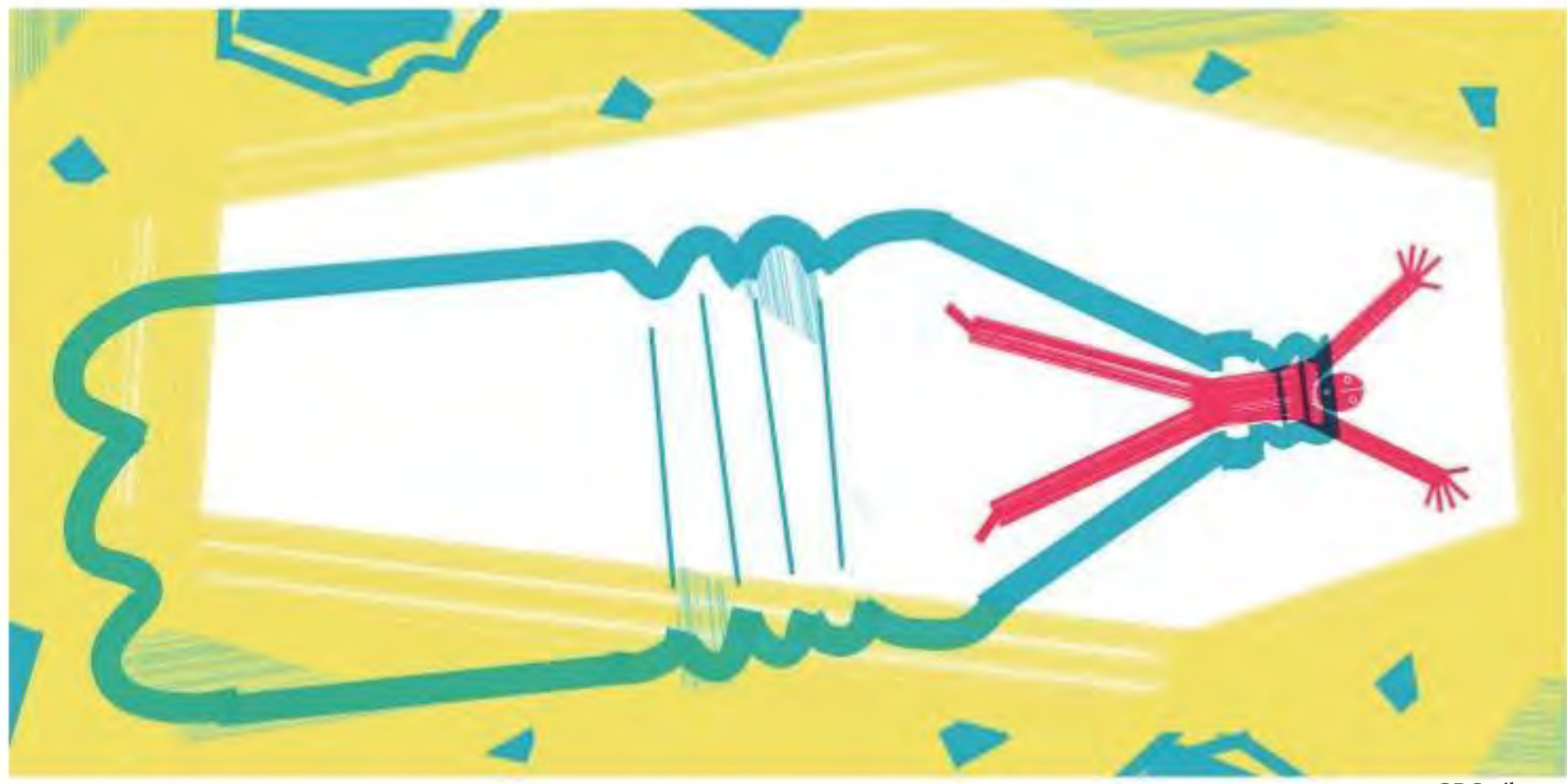
Ever since plastic was invented by John W Hyatt in 1869, it has been an integral part of our lives, contributing much to the convenience of modern living because of the flexibility, durability and lightness of this material. Plastics are used not only in airplanes, computers, cars, trucks and other vehicles, but also in our everyday-use items such as refrigerators, air-conditioners, furniture, and casings for electric wires, to name a few.

The problem is that plastic does not decompose naturally and sticks around in the environment for thousands of years. Safe disposal of plastic waste is, therefore, a huge challenge worldwide. For an excellent short introduction to plastics, one can see sciencehistory.org/the-history-and-future-of-plastics.

Close to 20 states in India have imposed a partial or total ban on single-use plastics at one time or another. Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Himachal Pradesh opted for complete bans, while others including Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Odisha have tried partial bans. The bans have, by and large, not been successful because of poor state capacity to enforce.

Plastic carry-bags pose a special problem. Although they are strong, lightweight and useful — and can be saved, cleaned and reused many times — this is mostly not done because they are available very cheap and are, therefore, not valued (often shops give plastic carry bags for free). They become, effectively, single-use plastics.

A compulsory charge by retail stores on carry-bags has proven most effective in reducing their use without a ban. In Ireland, a minor charge added to every bill saw a 95 per



CR Sasikumar

cent reduction in demand for such carry-bags, as most shoppers began bringing in their own reusable grocery-bags.

In India, the Plastics Waste Management Rules 2016 included a clause in Rule 15 which called for explicit pricing of carry-bags. This required vendors to register and pay an annual fee to the urban local bodies. But lobbying by the producers of plastics ensured that this clause was removed by an amendment in 2018 — and that was never put up for public debate, as is mandatory.

In India, plastic producers have been advocating thicker and thicker micron sizes for carry-bags. Also, when there is a ban on carry-bags, it leads to the use of non-woven polypropylene (PP) bags which feel like cloth and are now even being printed to look like cloth: These are actually more dangerous for the environment as their fine fibres rub off and enter global waters as micro-plastics.

Discarded plastic bags create the greatest problems in waste management. Blown by wind into drains, they cause flooding of urban areas. Used as waste-bin liners to dispose of daily food scraps, they find their way into the stomachs of roaming livestock because the animals ingest them to get at the food inside, which ultimately causes their death. All plastic waste is eventually carried by rain, streams and rivers into the oceans.

A Texas-sized great garbage patch of floating plastics swirling in the Pacific first attracted attention in the 1960s. A similar or even greater quantity of sunken plastic, especially discarded fishing gear, called ghost nets, blankets our ocean floors. Both floating and sunken plastics kill riverine and marine life.

We need to build awareness of the damage caused by SUPs and develop consumer consciousness to minimise their use. For example, at airports, we could replace meters of cling-film, used to wrap luggage, with a pretty cloth bag temporarily sealed by machine stitching that can later find alternative uses. In our parties, we could use paper plates and bamboo straws. In our pantries, we could use butter-paper, as in olden times, replacing the millions of bread wrappers needlessly used for a product with a shelf life of one to three days. We should also write to those sending us magazines or invitations or advertising in plastic sleeves to switch to tear-proof paper instead. Finally, plastic throw-aways at parties should be replaced with washable, reusable tableware.

SUPs can potentially be converted by thermo-mechanical recycling into plastic granules for blending into other plastic products, usually irrigation piping for agriculture.

Single-use plastic is only part of what is truly a massive challenge, and that is the management of all kinds of plastic waste. But it is good to begin with SUPs because its large and growing volume adds enormously to the total plastic waste. The growing volume is, to a great extent, because of rising e-commerce in India with people buying from companies like Amazon and Flipkart that use single-use plastic for disposable packaging. Both companies have made commitments to phase out their use of single-use plastic, but this is unlikely to happen anytime soon.

But collection of post-consumer waste and recycling poses a major challenge. Especially when packaging comprises layers of different types of polymer. The multi-layer flexible packaging, which is used for chips and other snacks, cannot be made into granules because it contains layers of plastic with different melting points. The Plastic Waste Management Rules of 2016 require creators of such packaging waste to take it back at their cost or pay cities for its management under Extended Manufacturer Responsibility. But there is little compliance.

While it is true that India recycles much more than the industrialised countries through an informal network of waste collectors and segregators (a lot of this is downcycling), a study by FICCI points out that fast-growing consumption has brought us to a point where consumption has clearly outstripped India's current capacity to recycle plastics.

In a 2017 column (IE, October 25, 'Don't waste the possibilities'), we had pointed out how recycled plastic can be used to strengthen roads. Use of plastics more than doubles or triples road life — it has been approved by the Indian Road Congress and mandated by the National Highway Authority in November 2015 for upto 50 km around every city with a population of over 5,00,000. To date, over 14,000 km of so-called plastic roads have been built which are long-lasting and free of pot-holes. It is only corruption in road contracts that restricts their wider use, as longer-lasting roads means fewer contracts for building and rebuilding poor quality roads.

Another ingenious idea is to replace the use of thermocol with totally biodegradable pith from the shola/sola plant (*Aeschynomene aspera*) — this was used in huge quantities till the 1950s for making sola-toppes or pith helmets for colonials and their armies. Today, it is used in Bengali weddings and for Durga Puja decorations. Imagine the rural income generation from steady commercial use of this wild marsh-land reed.

We need many more such innovative ideas and a fundamental change in mindsets to minimise the use of single-use plastic. It is high time we also turn to the larger challenge of plastic waste management if we want to continue to avail of the many advantages offered by plastics in our modern lifestyle.

Ahluwalia is chairperson, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), and Patel is member, Supreme Court committee on solid waste management

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"At a time when the US is celebrating the removal of Baghdadi, we have to tell Washington: Let the world share this achievement and don't sacrifice the common interests of mankind as you have done to Kurds."

— GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

His corner of the foreign field

As scholar, mentor and institution-builder, Stephen P Cohen laid the foundation for South Asian studies



KANTI BAJPAI

STEPHEN PHILIP Cohen, Emeritus Professor of History and Political Science at the University of Illinois, and Senior Fellow Emeritus of the Brookings Institution, died on Sunday. In his passing, South Asian security studies has lost a foundational scholar, teacher-mentor, and institution-builder. For nearly 50 years, from the publication of his classic on the Indian Army, he was an inescapable reference point.

South Asian studies covers a wide range of subjects: Anyone who has attended the eponymously-named annual conference in the American Midwest, which Steve supported from its inception in 1971, can testify to its breadth. In this "corner of a foreign field", to borrow Ramchandra Guha's cricket reference, Steve cultivated and curated South Asian security studies.

Amongst the first generation of South Asianists in the US, W Norman Brown and Richard L Park had written on Indian foreign policy. A bit later, Lloyd and Susanne Rudolph would publish on India's civil-military affairs and external relations. However, it was Steve who recognised the need for a long-term and systematic engagement with civil-military issues and national security, first with respect to India and later Pakistan. And from here, beginning in the 1970s, he built South Asian security studies.

How did he almost single-handedly do this?

First, Steve's scholarly writings framed and populated the incipient field. From 1971 to 2016, he wrote voluminously, deftly, and illuminatingly on South Asian armies, nuclear proliferation and arms control, India-Pakistan crises and the causes and possible resolution of the India-Pakistan conflict, India as an emerging power, the idea of Pakistan, India's military modernisation and the US and South Asian security.

At the core of Steve's concerns was the problem of violence, particularly organised violence — its causes, uses, limitations and management. One of his favourite studies was a little-known book he wrote on the Andhra cyclone of 1978, with his former student, CV Raghavulu. The subtitle of the book was "Individual and Institutional Responses to Mass Death". This was violence on a large scale but traceable to human neglect and ineptitude.

Second, when no one else saw fit to do so, Steve encouraged his doctoral students to specialise in South Asian security. When I arrived in Illinois in 1982, Sumit Ganguly was finishing his PhD on the causes of war in South Asia. I soon decided to study the emergence of regional cooperation in South Asia, nudged in this direction by Steve's urging me to think of the then-nascent SAARC in security terms.

Before Sumit and me, Shivaji Ganguly

had written a thesis on US policy towards South Asia. Following us, Kavita Khory, Amit Gupta, Chetan Kumar, Dinshaw Mistry, and Sunil Dasgupta, among others, would write on security-related subjects.

Steve also generously mentored students other than his own, who would blaze a trail in regional security studies including S Rashid Naim, Itty Abraham, Dhruva Jaishankar, Gaurav Kampani, Tanvi Madan, Constantino Xavier, and Moeed Yusuf. Scores of his "grand students" — his term for his students' students — can attest to his generosity as well.

Third, Steve built South Asian security studies institutionally. He was brilliant at attracting funding from US foundations — Ford, MacArthur, Rockefeller, Alton Jones. The funds were deployed for specific projects but also to make the Office of Arms Control, Disarmament, and International Security (ACDIS) at the University of Illinois into a centre for doctoral students, visiting fellows, and workshops and conferences.

Virtually anyone of note in South Asian security studies, scholar or scholar-practitioner, eventually found his or her way to ACDIS and later to the South Asia/India programme that Steve built at Brookings. Beyond ACDIS and the Brookings programme, in collaboration with South Asian colleagues, Steve helped establish the Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS) in Colombo, which has gone on to encourage the study of traditional and non-traditional security.

Steve inspired not just by being a driven scholar, mentor, and institution builder. He inspired by his many sterling human qualities that became apparent as you got to know him. For one, he was unfailingly respectful and had a deep affection for all South Asians. He rarely criticised colleagues and certainly not before students. I cannot remember his holding a grudge or being ill-tempered. All his students were his favourite and best students! And they all got household bits and pieces upon arriving so that they could quickly set up home. Steve was also boyishly in love with technology, especially Apple devices. Into his sixties, if memory serves, he was an avid tennis and basketball player.

Above all, Steve was a consummate American family man. It always seemed to me that he was happiest when he was with his lovely wife Bobby and around his children. In fact, he was relaxed and affable around other people's families as well: My children still recall a wonderful day out in Baltimore with Steve and Bobby.

I am sure Steve was stoical to the end. The last time I saw him was in 2013. I knew he had been seriously ill and had dealt with a number of painful injuries. We met for lunch. He was animated and solicitous, but as always, he would not be drawn on his health. He unsentimentally but warmly said goodbye. I hoped I would see him again, but I pulled my coat around me and didn't look back. I imagined him doing the same, and this brought a smile.

RIP Steve.

The writer is Wilmar Professor of Asian Studies, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

GANDHI'S ABSENCE

THIS REFERS TO the article 'Abandoning Gandhi' (IE, October 29). Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence won us our freedom. Of all the Mahatma's ideas, non-violence holds good in the present-day political field. The concept of ahimsa has a long history in Indian religious thought. In his autobiography, *The Story of My Experiments with Truth*, he was quoted as saying: "When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love has always won. There have been tyrants and murderers and for a time they seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall — think of it, always".

Sanjay Chopra, Mohali

PDS CHALLENGE

THIS REFERS TO the article 'National dishonour', (IE, October 29). India's Public Distribution System (PDS) is at the heart of all our efforts to address challenges like hunger and malnutrition. It is the inability of the most vulnerable sections of society to access the PDS that contributes to food insecurity among a sizable section of the population. As per the Economic Survey of India, 2017, the country's annual average internal migration was close to nine million people. The exercise to ensure inter-state mobility of PDS benefits that could tackle the food security issues of the migrant workers needs to be expedited. Accountability at the local level is also imperative.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Kolkata

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.

NO MORE WAVES

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Dented at the top' (IE, October 25). While the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance has swept the elections in both Haryana and Maharashtra, it has a reduced majority and also requires the support of some Independents. The BJP can no longer rely on just the Narendra Modi factor to ensure that it has a commanding victory in each poll. The promises of a five-trillion dollar economy, and of making India a very strong nation in the future, must be kept by the government. Development must be undertaken in the different sectors as promised. If it does not deliver on these, it may well lose.

Sauro Dasgupta, Kolkata

A certificate for the owner

We need a timebound mechanism to transition to a clearer land titling system



BORNALI BHANDARI AND PAWAN KADYAN

THE INDIAN macroeconomic slowdown is perceived as being structural in nature. One of the key suggestions being made is that India needs to carry out factor market reforms, including those of land markets.

In this article, we make a specific policy recommendation about land titling reforms. This lies at the heart of the quagmire that has stalled the progress of land reforms in India.

The Indian land titling system is currently based on presumptive titles. It is well-recognised now that we need to move towards conclusive titles. Conclusive titling works on three underlying principles of Torrens land title registration system — mirror, curtain and insurance. In short, the map/survey should mirror the true picture of the land including its ownership, extent and value; the land record should automatically mutate after registration to curtain the past and depict the correct title holder's name thereby obviating any requirement of producing complicated documents to prove ownership; and lastly, the title holder would be insured against any loss on account of any defect in the records.

To move towards conclusive titling, reforms are required at two levels — the legal framework and government process reengineering. The efforts towards conclusive titling began in 2008 with the National Land

Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP). Over the last decade, DILRMP has been fairly successful in its objective of computerisation of land and registration records.

The central government had proposed a Model Land Titling Bill, 2011. However, that has not yet been taken up by most states. Only two states, Rajasthan and Maharashtra, have made some progress. Along with states, the Centre also needs to enact law/amend the Registration Act 1908, one of the central laws governing land.

Despite all efforts, progress towards a legal framework for conclusive titling has been limited. Therefore, we are proposing an alternate model. Instead of moving from one titling system to another directly, India may take an intermediate step of enacting a law for Certificate of Possessory Title (CoPT). It would essentially mean issuance of a CoPT to the owner upon registration of a possessory estate and after a few years thereafter, the land would become eligible to enter the conclusive land titling system. We recommend a period of five years in this regard. To add further flexibility in operationalising CoPT, along with the law around CoPT, state governments may also consider passing state specific "stamp acts", like has already been done by in some states. Also, registration of

land needs to be made time bound.

This proposal has clear advantages. One, it would continue to indicate the vision to move towards conclusive titling and such clarity would quash any misapprehensions. As people register their land records under CoPT, they would get five years and at the end, if there have not been any competing claims on the land, this could be converted into a conclusive land title. Two, it would help formalise the on-ground reality where sometimes possession is used as a criterion to decide presumptive titles in India. Three, this would also automatically clear the pendency of civil suits in many cases.

Also, the DILRMP needs to be revamped and as part of DILRMP 2.0, we recommend that the Centre undertakes a drone and satellite imagery-based GIS tagged fresh survey of the entire territory of India. The existing cadastral survey maps could be geo-referenced in this exercise to harmonise data between the current and the proposed system. Together, these would create new survey maps of the land records system that would govern land administration.

The operations of land administration also may adopt the state-wide enterprise architecture approach and all institutional operators such as the departments of regis-

tration, land and surveys, urban and municipal affairs may use the same architecture and an integrated land database for smooth operations. Andhra Pradesh has already taken a lead in this regard. This may be adopted by others. Further, unique land parcel IDs having inbuilt identifiers of type of land and location may be issued for all parcels of land. This has already been done in Uttar Pradesh.

The computerised land and registration records of the past decades, which have been created as part of DILRMP may be used to establish a clear chain of presumptive title holders for all parcels of land. The unique IDs may also be mapped with the current title holders. This would assist in the issuance of CoPT later.

To move towards automatic mutation of land, the registration and land departments could develop integrated business process flows with systems-based smart contract-like checks for automatic mutatio. In sum, if states enact CoPT and the Centre introduces DILRMP 2.0 and makes necessary amendments to the Registration Act, it will unlock land's true potential, paving the way for a new paradigm.

Bhandari is senior fellow at NCAER, Kadyan is an IAS officer. Views are personal

14 THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD



Joshua Wong at a press conference in Hong Kong Tuesday. AP

HONG KONG
Top democracy activist barred from local polls

Hong Kong: Hong Kong democracy activist Joshua Wong was barred Tuesday from standing in upcoming local elections after months of huge and frequently violent protests in the city. Wong, one of the most prominent figures in the otherwise leaderless movement, accused the government of "political screening" after an election officer ruled invalid his nomination for the November poll. The 22-year-old was sent to prison earlier this year over the democracy protests he helped lead in 2014. He immediately joined the historic anti-government protests rocking the city upon his release in June.

SRI LANKA
Supreme Court stays death penalty till Nov 10

Colombo: Sri Lanka's Supreme Court on Tuesday extended the stay order till November 10 against a move by President Maithripala Sirisena to reinstate capital punishment in the country for the first time since 1976 before he leaves office next month. Sri Lanka has maintained a 43-year moratorium on capital punishment. However, Sirisena in June this year announced that he has signed the death warrants of four drug convicts and that the executions will take place soon. Later, the move was stayed till October 29 by the Supreme Court.

PHILIPPINES
6 killed in strong earthquake

Manila: An earthquake struck the southern Philippines Tuesday, killing six people, cracking buildings and injuring dozens in a region still reeling from a previous deadly tremor. Locals ran into the streets after the 6.6-magnitude quake, which hit the island of Mindanao as schools and offices opened for the day. The shaking lasted up to a minute in some areas, damaging homes, multi-storey buildings and classrooms in a region where hundreds are still displaced by a quake that killed five earlier this month. The Philippines suffers regular tremors as part of the Pacific "Ring of Fire".

WILL DUNHAM
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 29

A LARGE ancient wetlands region spanning northern Botswana — once teeming with life but now dominated by desert and salt flats — may represent the ancestral homeland of all of the 7.7 billion people on Earth today, researchers said on Monday. Their study, guided by maternal DNA data from more than 1,200 people indigenous to southern Africa, proposed a central role for this region in the early history of humankind starting 200,000 years ago, nurturing our

TRUMP CONFIRMS KILLING OF ISIS CHIEF'S 'SUCCESSOR'

US officials: Baghdadi buried at sea, afforded religious rites

PHIL STEWART
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 29

THE UNITED States has given the remains of Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi a burial at sea and afforded him religious rites according to Islamic custom after he was killed in a US commando raid in Syria on Saturday, three officials told Reuters.

Baghdadi, an Iraqi jihadist who rose from obscurity to declare himself "caliph" of all Muslims as the leader of Islamic State, died by detonating a suicide vest after fleeing into a dead-end tunnel as elite US special forces closed in, according to the US government.

The US officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, did not disclose where the ritual was performed or how long it lasted. Two officials said they believed his remains were delivered to the sea from an aircraft.

US Army General Mark Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told a Pentagon news briefing on Monday that the US military disposed of Baghdadi's remains "appropriately, in accordance with our (standard operating procedures)

TRUMP SHARES PHOTO OF DOG IN ISIS RAID



The photo of a military dog wounded in the raid on Baghdadi was released by the White House. AP

U.S. PRESIDENT Donald Trump shared a photograph on Monday of the dog who participated in the raid against Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the Islamic State leader, but said the dog's name remained classified.

"**WE HAVE** declassified a picture of the wonderful dog that did such a GREAT JOB in capturing and killing the Leader of ISIS, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi!" Trump tweeted.

THE CANINE became famous overnight after it cornered the terrorist leader in a dead-end tunnel during the raid on Saturday.

EARLIER, THE Pentagon had said it was not making public the name of the service dog injured in the raid in Syria.

and in accordance with the law of armed conflict."

Given the gruesome nature of Baghdadi's death, it was unlikely the US military followed as

complete a process as it did after Navy SEALs killed al Qaeda founder Osama bin Laden in a 2011 raid into Pakistan. Bin Laden was killed by a gunshot

wound to the head, according to the US government.

In the case of bin Laden, his body was transported to the aircraft carrier *USS Carl Vinson*. It was washed before being covered in a white sheet, and religious remarks translated into Arabic were read over bin Laden's corpse.

Milley did not enter into details about any of Baghdadi's last rites. He said that before the disposal of Baghdadi's remains, they had been transported to a secure facility to confirm his identity with DNA testing.

Meanwhile, Trump confirmed on Tuesday the US military had killed the person who likely would have succeeded Baghdadi as the leader of Islamic State.

"Just confirmed that Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi's number one replacement has been terminated by American troops," Trump wrote on Twitter. "Most likely would have taken the top spot."

Trump did not specify who he was referring to, but the United States on Monday confirmed the killing of Abu al-Hassan al-Muhajir, Islamic State spokesman and a high-ranking figure within the jihadi group. **REUTERS**

MEANWHILE

NEPAL MAN SETS MOUNTAINEERING RECORD

A Nepalese man shattered the previous mountaineering record for successfully climbing the world's 14 highest peaks, completing the feat in 189 days. Nirmal Purja scaled the 8,027-metre Mount Shishapangma in China on Tuesday, which was the last of the 14 peaks that are more than 8,000 metres in height. The previous record was seven years, 10 months and six days.



18 killed as masked gunmen attack protesters in Karbala

Worst attack on a protest in Iraq since stir erupted this month

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BAGHDAD, OCTOBER 29

MASKED GUNMEN opened fire at Iraqi protesters in the Shia holy city of Karbala on Tuesday, killing 18 people and wounding hundreds, security officials said, in the deadliest single attack since anti-government demonstrations erupted earlier this month.

The overnight attack came as Iraqis took to the streets for a fifth straight day after a hiatus in the demonstrations that began earlier this month to protest government corruption, a lack of jobs and municipal services and other grievances. The earlier protests also saw violence against protesters, and a total of 240 people have been killed since the unrest began.

But the bloodshed in Karbala could mark a turning point because of the high death toll and because the city is a major pilgrimage site where a revered Shia figure was killed in a seventh-century battle.

There were differing accounts and death tolls, and details were still emerging from the scene.

It was not immediately clear who was behind the attack, and



Mourners wait outside the building of forensic medicine on Tuesday for the coffin of a protester, who was killed overnight at anti-government protests in Kerbala, Iraq. Reuters

protesters said they did not know whether the masked men were riot police, special forces or Iran-linked militias. The protesters said Iraqi soldiers had been stationed around the protest site but withdrew after the attackers began firing tear gas and live ammunition.

Amid a clampdown by security forces, it was difficult to piece together what exactly prompted the attack although eyewitnesses said that masked gunmen opened fire on the camp.

Provincial governor Nassif al-Khutabi denied any protesters were killed but said there were in-

juries among security forces. He said videos posted online were fabricated and not from Karbala. The footage purported to show the aftermath of the attack, with fires and people running away to the sound of heavy gunfire. Al-Khutabi's description contradicted those from people who were at the scene.

At least 73 people — not including the latest fatalities in Karbala — have been killed since anti-government demonstrations resumed Friday, while 149 were killed during the earlier wave of protests this month.

Brexit election nears as UK Opposition backs early poll

ELIZABETH PIPER & GUY FAULCONBRIDGE
LONDON, OCTOBER 29

BRITAIN WAS heading towards a December election on Tuesday after Prime Minister Boris Johnson's bet on breaking the Brexit deadlock with an early vote gained support from Opposition parties.

As the European Union finalises a third delay to the divorce that was originally supposed to take place on March 29, the United Kingdom, its Parliament and its voters remain divided on how, or indeed whether, to go ahead with Brexit.

Johnson, who had promised to deliver Brexit on Oct 31, has repeatedly demanded an election to end what he casts as a nightmare paralysis that is sapping public trust by preventing any Brexit outcome at all.

After Parliament refused Johnson his third demand for an election on Monday, he will try to force a Bill through Parliament on Tuesday that calls for a December 12 election. It needs a simple majority in Parliament.

In a move that raises the chances of a rare parliamentary success for Johnson, Opposition



Boris Johnson speaks to MPs during the election debate in the House of Commons on Monday. AP

Labour Party's leader Jeremy Corbyn said its condition of ruling out a no-deal Brexit had been met, so it would support an election.

"Labour will back a general election," said Corbyn, a veteran socialist campaigner. "The Labour Party loves a debate, but they also love the end of the debate, and this is the end of the debate: We are going out there to win."

Lawmakers could bring significant changes to Johnson's Bill. Opposition parties are squabbling over which day in early December is best for an election and whether to allow settled European Union citizens a vote. **REUTERS**

EXPLAINED
Early election still faces obstacles in Parliament

THE MAIN Opposition party, Labour, has agreed to support an early election to be held in December, potentially giving the government the number of votes it needs to pass a Bill to declare snap polls. But that Bill, which was voted down by MPs three times earlier, still faces considerable obstacles. While the election Bill is debated in Parliament, MPs could suggest amendments. Some have suggested amendments to expand voting rights to allow 16- and 17-year-olds, as well as EU nationals, to take part in the elections. The government has publicly declared that if such amendments were passed, it would abandon its attempt to hold early polls.



Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman is the top Ukraine expert on the National Security Council. AP

Official who listened in on Trump's Ukraine call says it raised alarm

KAREN FREIFELD & PATRICIA ZENGERLE
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 29

A TOP adviser to US President Donald Trump on Ukraine testified on Tuesday that he was so alarmed after hearing Trump ask Ukraine's President to investigate a political rival, Democrat Joe Biden, that he reported the matter to a White House lawyer out of concern for US national security.

Army Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Vindman, director of European affairs on the National Security Council, arrived at the US Capitol clad in his military uniform as he became the first current White House official to testify in the House of Representatives impeachment inquiry against Trump.

Vindman, a Ukraine-born American citizen and decorated Iraq War combat veteran, also became the first person to testify who listened in on the July 25 call at the heart of the Ukraine scandal. Even before his arrival, some allies of the President, including Fox News host Laura Ingraham, sought to attack Vindman's integrity and questioned his loyalty to the US.

TOP WITNESS

ARMY LIEUTENANT Colonel Alexander Vindman is the director of European affairs on the US National Security Council. He is the first current White House official and the first person to have listened in on Trump's call with the Ukrainian President to testify in the impeachment inquiry.

During the call, Trump asked Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to investigate Biden, and his son Hunter Biden, who had served on the board of Ukrainian gas company Burisma. Trump also asked Zelenskyy to investigate a debunked conspiracy theory that Ukraine, not Russia, interfered in the 2016 US election.

"I was concerned by the call," Vindman said in his opening statement. "I did not think it was proper to demand that a foreign government investigate a US citizen, and I was worried about the implications for the US government's support of Ukraine." **REUTERS**

Sharif is fighting for his life, says doctor

8-week bail for Pak ex-PM in graft case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LAHORE, OCTOBER 29

NAWAZ SHARIF is "fighting for life" after a drastic drop in his blood platelet count, a media report quoted his personal doctor as saying on Tuesday, days after Pakistan's former prime minister was rushed from prison to a hospital.

Sharif, 69, was admitted to the Services Hospital on Monday night from the anti-graft body's custody after his platelets dropped to a critical low level of 2,000.

Sharif's personal physician Dr Adnan Khan said in a series of tweets that "Former PM #NawazSharif, critically unwell, is fighting the battle for his health & life. Thrombocytopenia (Low Platelet Count) & NSTEMI (Heart Attack) is further complicated by deteriorating Kidney functions. Poor Blood Sugar & Blood Pressure control is taking its toll," Geo News reported.

The three-time prime minister on Saturday also suffered



He was admitted to hospital Monday after a drastic drop in his platelet count

angina attack while undergoing treatment. Angina is a type of chest pain caused by reduced blood flow to the heart.

Khan said that the poor blood sugar and blood pressure had also taken a toll on the former premier's health, the report said.

Meanwhile, the Islamabad High Court suspended the sentence of Sharif for eight weeks in the Al Azizia case, in which he is serving a seven-year imprisonment. *Dawn* reported. A plea for bail had been filed by Sharif's brother Shehbaz Sharif.

Lebanon's PM resigns after mass protests

REUTERS
BEIRUT, OCTOBER 29

SAAD AL-HARIRI resigned as Lebanon's Prime Minister Tuesday, declaring he had hit a "dead end" in trying to resolve a crisis unleashed by huge protests against the ruling elite and plunging the country deeper into turmoil.

The move points to rising political tensions that may complicate the formation of a new government able to tackle Lebanon's



Lebanon PM Saad al-Hariri hands over his resignation letter to President Michel Aoun. Reuters

worst economic crisis since its 1975-90 civil war.

The resignation of Hariri, who has been traditionally

backed by the West and Sunni Gulf Arab allies, raises the stakes and pushes Lebanon into an unpredictable cycle. It also defies

Hezbollah, which had wanted him to stay on.

"For 13 days the Lebanese people have waited for a decision for a political solution that stops the deterioration (of the economy). And I have tried, during this period, to find a way out, through which to listen to the voice of the people," Hariri said. "It is time for us to have a big shock to face the crisis," he said. "To all partners in political life, our responsibility today is how we protect Lebanon and revive its economy."

Texas robbery gang leader who targeted homes of US-Indians gets 37 yrs in jail

YOSHITA SINGH
NEW YORK, OCTOBER 29

A TEXAS woman has been sentenced to 37 years in prison for leading a gang that carried out targeted robberies of Indian-American homes across the US.

Chaka Castro, 44, was sentenced on Monday by US District Court Judge Laurie Michelson of the Eastern District of Michigan, who presided over the trial.

After a five-week trial, Castro was convicted of one count of Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organisations (RICO) conspiracy, four counts of assault with a dangerous weapon in aid of racketeering and four counts of use of a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence.

According to evidence presented at trial, from 2011 to 2014, Castro and her robbery crews committed a string of home invasions in Georgia, New York, Ohio, Michigan and Texas.

The leader of the gang was Castro, who would generate lists of robbery targets in various states around the country, specifically families of Asian and Indian ancestry, and then assign her accomplices to carry out the armed robberies of these families within their homes. **PTI**

MATERNAL DNA DATA FROM 1,200 PEOPLE INDIGENOUS TO SOUTHERN AFRICA HELP NARROW DOWN LOCATION

Humankind's ancestral homeland pinpointed in Botswana

species for 70,000 years before climate changes paved the way for the first migrations.

A lake that at the time was Africa's largest — twice the area of today's Lake Victoria — gave rise to the ancient wetlands covering the Greater Zambesi River Basin that includes northern Botswana into Namibia to the west and Zimbabwe to the east, the researchers said.

It has been long established that *Homo sapiens* originated somewhere in Africa before later spreading worldwide.

"But what we hadn't known until this study was where exactly this homeland was," said



Vanessa Hayes with a man from an extended Ju/hoansi family, who provided genome data for a study identifying the ancestral homeland in southern Africa of all living members of the human species. Reuters

geneticist Vanessa Hayes of the Garvan Institute of Medical Research and University of Sydney, who led the study published in the journal *Nature*.

The oldest-known *Homo sapiens* fossil evidence dates back more than 300,000 years from Morocco. The new study suggests that early members of our species, as represented by the Morocco remains, may not have left any ancestors living today, the researchers said.

"There is no contradiction between the presence of an early *Homo sapiens*-like skull in northern Africa, which may be from an extinct lineage, and the

proposed southern African origin of the *Homo sapiens* lineages that are still alive," added study co-author Axel Timmermann, a climate physicist at Pusan National University in South Korea.

The ancient lake Makgadikgadi began to break up about 200,000 years ago, giving rise to a sprawling wetland region inhabited by human hunter-gatherers, the researchers said.

"It can be viewed as a massive extension of today's Okavango Delta wetland area," Timmermann said.

Changes in Earth's axis and

orbit caused climate, rainfall and vegetation shifts that set the stage for early migrations of this ancestral group of people away from the homeland region, first toward the northeast 130,000 years ago, then toward the southwest 110,000 years ago, Timmermann added.

"Our study provides the first quantitative and well-dated evidence that astronomically driven climate changes in the past caused major human migration events, which then led to the development of genetic diversity and eventually cultural, ethnic and linguistic identity," Timmermann added. **REUTERS**

15 ECONOMY

GOLD	RUPEE	OIL	SILVER
₹38,857	70.84	\$61.76	₹47,090

*Indian basket as on October 28, 2019

SENSEX: 39,831.84 ▲ 581.64 NIFTY: 11,786.85 ▲ 159.70 NIKKEI: 22,974.13 ▲ 106.86 HANG SENG: 26,786.76 ▼ 104.50 FTSE: 7,284.68 ▼ 46.60 DAX: 12,927.12 ▼ 14.59

International market data till 1900 IST

30-SHARE INDEX SETTLES AT 39,831; NIFTY GAINS 1.37% TO CLOSE AT 11,786.85

Sensex surges 582 pts to near 4-month high on earnings boost, stimulus hopes

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, OCTOBER 29

STOCK MARKETS on Tuesday kicked off Samvat 2076 on a bullish note with the benchmark Sensex surging 582 points to close at a near four-month high on hopes of more stimulus measures and tax cuts to revive the growth.

Betting on the possibility of cuts in long-term capital gains tax, individual income tax and revival in auto sales and consumer spending, the 30-share Sensex soared over 666 points before settling 581.64 points, or 1.48 per cent, higher at 39,831.84. Likewise, the broader NSE Nifty rallied 159.70 points, or 1.37 per cent, to close at 11,786.85.

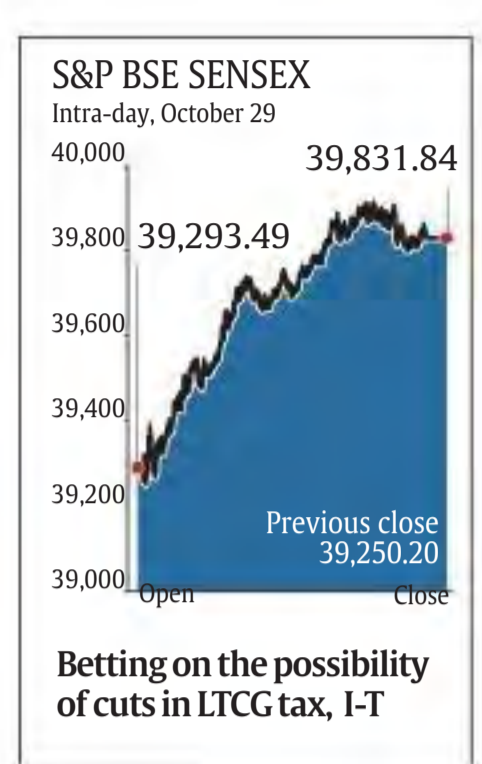
Sensex had gained 192 points on the Diwali Muhurat trading on Sunday.

Led by the gains in battered auto stocks, investors' wealth, or the market capitalisation of listed firms, rose by Rs 2.73 lakh crore to Rs 152 lakh crore during the day. "Markets buoyed today led by hopes of divestment and tax cuts as a slew of midcaps and under-owned stocks staged a smart upmove," said S Ranganathan, head of research, LKP Securities.

Siddhartha Khemka, head-retail research, Motilal Oswal

EXPLAINED Sentiment propels rally, real test is economic growth

MARKETS ARE raring to go amid several positive developments even though GDP growth is yet to pick up. While traders are hoping that the government will go for a capital gains tax cut and individual income-tax benefits in a bid to boost the sentiment, the rally will sustain only if the economic indicators show improvement in the coming months. The market will eventually witness a setback if the fundamentals don't improve and the slowdown is not reversed.



Financial Services, said the market witnessed healthy gains on the back of expectations of further announcements by the Centre on the taxation side to spur growth.

Sandeep Nayak, ED & CEO, Centrum Broking, said: "The recently concluded festive season has resulted in a turnaround in the sentiment as the auto sector especially, which was quite stressed, has witnessed improved sales driven by a competitive pricing strategy adopted by many players. This combined with the twin positive developments of the trade pact between the 10 ASEAN members and a

proposed review of taxes such as LTCG, STT and DTT before the Budget have added further impetus to sentiment." After the correction in the last one year, the surge in auto companies is driven by revival in volume sales in the festive season along with hope of a possible rationalisation of personal income tax.

Vinod Nair, head of research, Geojit Financial Services said: "A strong momentum is seen in the market as healthy Q2 earnings from big corporate and attractive valuation for mid- and small-caps is providing a favourable risk-reward to investors. This

stronger. The economy continues to show demand recession," said veteran BSE dealer Pawan Dharmidharka.

Analysts said the result season has also been fairly decent this time around and is not likely to result in any material downgrade in earnings estimates. Further, optimism over US-China trade deal and delay over Brexit decision till January are likely to remove uncertainties in the medium term. Sectorally, BSE auto and metal indices rallied up to 4.25 per cent, followed by energy, industrials and IT indices, rising up to 2.32 per cent. On the other hand, BSE telecom index was the only sectoral loser, 4.39 per cent.

Tata Motors led the rally surging about 17 per cent after the company reported narrowing of losses in the September quarter. Tata Steel, Yes bank, Axis Bank, Maruti Suzuki, Tech Mahindra and TCS rose about 7.09 per cent. RIL ended 2.30 per cent higher after the company on Friday said it will set up a new arm to bring its digital initiatives and apps under a single entity, and infuse Rs 1.08 lakh crore equity into this new unit. On the other hand, Bharti Airtel, Kotak Bank, PowerGrid and SBI fell up to 3.41 per cent.

Meanwhile, the rupee closed with a marginal rise of 6 paise at 70.84 against the US dollar.

AIRTEL, VODAFONE-IDEA, OTHERS HAVE TO PAY THE GOVT ₹1.33L CR

'CoS to look into financial stress in telecom sector after SC order'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

THE GOVERNMENT has constituted a committee of secretaries to explore a financial bailout package for the telecom sector by lowering spectrum charges as well as ending the era of free mobile phone calls and dirt cheap data as companies look at the government for avoiding payment of thousands of crores of rupees in overdue statutory levies.

The Committee of Secretaries, headed by Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba, has been asked to examine "all aspects" of "financial stress" faced by service providers such as Bharti Airtel and Vodafone-Idea and suggest measures to mitigate them, sources in the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) said.

The panel, which will comprise secretaries to the ministries of finance, law, and telecom, has been asked to look at the demands of telecom service providers (TSPs) for deferment of payments they had promised for the spectrum won through auction as well as consider lowering airwave usage charge.

It has been asked to consider lowering the obligation of TSPs for providing 5 per cent of their annual revenues for the Universal Service Obligation Fund, they said.

In parallel, sector regulator Trai is expected to examine prescribing minimum charge for voice

TELCOS DEMAND FOR DELAYING SPECTRUM PAYMENTS

The Committee of Secretaries, headed by Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba, has been asked to examine "all aspects" of "financial stress" faced by service providers

The panel, comprising secretaries to the ministries of finance, law, and telecom, has been asked to look at telcos' demands for delaying payments for the spectrum won via auction

and data services, which according to old telecom operators will ensure long-term viability and robust financial health of the sector, they said.

The panel was set up a day after an unsigned paper seeking a waiver of interest and penalties on the unpaid amount, as well as staggering payment of principal licence fee over 10 years was submitted to the DoT. Bharti Airtel Chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal and his brother Rajan Mittal had also met Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad and Telecom Secretary Anshu Prakash Monday.

Citing the recent Supreme Court ruling that had upheld the government's position on including revenue from non-telecommunication businesses in calculating the annual gross revenue of telecom companies, a share of which is paid as licence and spectrum fee to the exchequer, the note sought a two-year moratorium on spectrum payments beyond April 2020 till March 2022, reduction in licence fee from 8 per cent to 3 per cent, and cutting USOF to 1 per cent.

Industry body COAI immediately welcomed the constitution of the CoS, saying the panel must work out a relief package within 60 days. The CoS, which is expected to meet shortly and submit recommendations in a time-bound manner, will consider the demand of TSPs to defer spectrum auction payment for 2020-21 and 2021-22 in order to ease cash flow and lowering USOF charge to 3 per cent, sources said.

While older TSPs such as Bharti Airtel and Vodafone-Idea have been talking of financial stress ever since they faced intense competition from Reliance Jio, the matter has assumed greater importance after the SC's October 24 judgment.

The apex court upheld the government's position on including revenue from non-telecommunication businesses in calculating annual adjusted gross revenue (AGR) of telcos. After the order, Airtel, Vodafone-Idea and other telcos may have to pay the government Rs 1.33 lakh crore within three months.

After IndiGo, GoAir asked to replace PW engines of 13 aircraft

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI/MUMBAI, OCTOBER 29

THE DIRECTORATE General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Tuesday asked GoAir to replace 13 A320neo aircraft's PW engines, which have been used for over 3,000 hours, within the next 15 days or face grounding of the airplanes, an official said.

The DGCA has given GoAir two weeks' time to replace at least one of two low-pressure turbine (LPT) engines of the airline's A320neos fitted with Pratt & Whitney parts.

Failing to comply with the directive will result in the grounding of the aircraft, DGCA said. Shares of InterGlobe Aviation fell 5.20 per cent intra-day following reports of the DGCA directive and closed 2.51 per cent down at ₹1,417.80 on Tuesday.

"We studied the patterns, and we noted that engines which have done more than 2,900-3,000 hours (of flying) are more vulnerable to LPT damage. We identified 16 planes (of IndiGo) with engines which are unmodified and which have done more than 3000 hours of flying. So, we told IndiGo to get modified engine and the airline has to comply by November 12... We are issuing similar instructions to GoAir. They have 13 such aircraft," DGCA chief Arun Kumar told FE. FE WITH PTI

'Mining, construction gear sector demand dips 17% in Jan-Aug'

Domestic demand for the mining and construction equipment sector fell 16-17 per cent in January-August due to tight liquidity conditions and a slowdown in government spending on infrastructure activities, ICRA said

OUTLOOK REVISED

Given the current scenario, ICRA said it has scaled down its calendar year 2019 outlook sharply to a decline of 15-17 per cent after factoring in some post-monsoon recovery during the fourth quarter of CY19

WHILE REVIVAL in demand is expected during CY20 to about 5-10 per cent, the October 2019 (post which production of BS-III vehicles are not allowed) transition to the next emission norm is a potential headwind given the changes in the equipment and its substantial cost implications, the statement said



IMMEDIATE TERM demand outlook in the dealer community is also negative, although few expect a recovery in the fourth quarter of 2019, Ponniah said

LACK OF liquidity on account of delayed payment by contractors, coupled with

slowdown in project execution, is a cause for concern, Ponniah added

EQUIPMENT UTILISATION in few markets is down almost 50 per cent. Delinquencies are also expected to have increased in the past two months, he said

FALLING DEMAND DESPITE DISCOUNTING

Barring few select top-north pockets, demand has fallen significantly despite sizable discounting in the market. Our extensive channel check, pan-India has revealed the depth of demand decline across states like Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and NCR" said Pavethra Ponniah, VP and sector head, ICRA

IndiGo orders 300 Airbus A320neo planes in one of its largest deals ever

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

INDIGO ON Tuesday said it has placed a firm order for 300 A320neo family aircraft with planemaker Airbus, comprising A320neos, A321neos and A321XLRs. IndiGo's total number of A320neo family aircraft order now stands at 730, the airline said in a statement.

"This order is an important milestone, as it reiterates our mission of strengthening air connectivity in India, which will in turn boost economic growth and mobility. India is expected to continue with its strong aviation growth and we are well on our way to build the world's best air transportation system, to serve more customers and to deliver on our promise of providing low fares and a courteous, hassle free experience to them," said Ronjooy Dutta, CEO of IndiGo.

This is one of Airbus largest aircraft orders ever with a single airline operator, the airline said. Shares of IndiGo closed down 2.64 per cent at Rs 1,415 at the National Stock Exchange Tuesday. "The fuel-efficient A320neo family aircraft will allow IndiGo to maintain its

'This order is an important milestone... India is expected to continue with its strong aviation growth and we are well on our way to build the world's best air transportation system'

RONJOY DUTTA CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, INDIGO

strong focus on lowering operating costs and delivering fuel efficiency with high standards of reliability. The choice of engine manufacturer for this order will be

made at a later date," said Riyaz Peermohamed, Chief Aircraft Acquisition and Financing Officer of IndiGo. The aircraft order comes days after IndiGo reported its biggest quarterly loss. InterGlobe Aviation, which runs low-cost airline IndiGo, last Thursday reported higher-than-expected losses of Rs 1,062 crore in the July-September period due to higher expenses.

The costs related to aircraft repair and maintenance nearly doubled to Rs 153 crore, while depreciation and amortisation costs grew more than fivefold to Rs 1,029 crore. The current losses were up 63 per cent YoY, compared to Rs 651-crore Q2FY19 loss.

Firm seeks employees' support amid biggest quarterly loss

Mumbai: IndiGo on Tuesday sought the "support" of its staff following its biggest quarterly loss in the September quarter.

Hit by higher costs related to the operating lease liabilities, IndiGo reported a net loss of Rs 1,062 crore in the September quarter as against a net loss of Rs 651.5 crore in the corresponding period a year ago.

"We will be dealing with the weakening revenue environment with a sharper focus on cost for which we seek your support. Operationally, we should continue our focus on safety, our on-time performance and on delivering a courteous, hassle free service," IndiGo chief executive officer Ronjooy Dutta said in a communication to employees. PTI

board of directors that the agenda item related to the approval of audited financial results for the second quarter (Q2) and half year ended September 30, 2019, which was to be a part of the board meeting today (Tuesday) be deferred till November 14 on account of the fact that more clarity is needed on the AGR matter," Bharti Airtel said in a notice to the exchanges. FE

Fed doesn't have a clue, says Trump as policymakers meet on interest rates

REUTERS WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 29

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump launched a fresh attack on the US Federal Reserve on Tuesday, saying it needed to follow other nations with negative interest rates, as officials opened a two-day meeting that was expected to end with a rate cut.

"The Fed doesn't have a clue! We have unlimited potential, only held back by the Federal Reserve," Trump wrote on Twitter.

Trump, in a departure from his White House predecessors who refrained from commenting on US Fed policy, has made a habit of criticising the US central bank for decisions he says kept borrowing costs too high for too long.

In September, he began to argue the Fed needed to push bor-

In September, US President Donald began to argue the Fed needed to push borrowing costs into negative territory

rowing costs into negative territory, a step reluctantly pursued by some other central banks battling weak economic growth.

Fed officials are expected to announce a quarter-percentage point rate cut at 1800 GMT on Wednesday after they wrap up their meeting. That would push the benchmark federal funds rate down to a range of 1.5 per cent to 1.75 per cent.

Meanwhile, US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said on Tuesday he is open to loosening

liquidity requirements for big banks to relieve possible cash crunches in short-term funding markets, Bloomberg reported.

"The banks have raised an issue around intra-day liquidity, and that is something that makes sense for regulators to look at," Mnuchin told Bloomberg in an interview on Tuesday in Tel Aviv.

His comments came after weeks of turmoil in overnight lending markets that banks rely on for short-term funding needs.

While Mnuchin has sway over general financial policy-making in Washington, the Treasury Secretary has very little direct control over the nuts and bolts of bank regulation. The overwhelming share of that work falls to independent banking regulators including the Federal Reserve, which so far has resisted calls to ease liquidity regulations.

We've made mistakes: Boeing CEO at US hearing

REUTERS WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 29

BOEING CHIEF Executive Dennis Muilenburg was pressed by US lawmakers at a hearing on Tuesday over what the company knew about its MCAS stall-prevention system linked to two deadly crashes, and about delays in turning over internal 2016 messages that described erratic behavior of the software in a simulator.

Muilenburg acknowledged errors in failing to give pilots more information on MCAS before the crashes, as well as for taking months to disclose that it had made optional an alarm that alerts pilots to a mismatch of flight data on the 737 MAX.

"We've made mistakes and we got some things wrong. We're improving and we're learning," he said.

The hearing, the highest-profile congressional scrutiny of com-



John Hamilton, VP and chief engineer of Boeing Commercial Airplanes, and Boeing Chief Executive Dennis Muilenburg (right) at a Senate Committee hearing in Washington as family members hold photographs of Boeing 737 MAX crash victims. Reuters

mercial aviation safety in years, heaps pressure on a newly re-jigged Boeing senior management team fighting to repair trust with airline customers and passengers shaken by an eight-month safety ban on its 737 MAX following the crashes, which killed 346 people.

Muilenburg during his first appearance at a hearing on Capitol Hill in the year since the first crash in Indonesia, senators suggested Boeing had not been completely honest and expressed dismay that the 2016 instant messages did not prompt an immediate reaction from the company.

and you have told me half-truths over and over again," Senator Tammy Duckworth of Illinois, where Boeing is headquartered, said at one point.

Later in the hearing, Senator Jon Tester of Montana said: "I would walk before I would get on a 737 MAX... You shouldn't be cutting corners."

Discussing deal to reinstate GSP for India: US Congress report

LALIT K JHA WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 29

THE US and India are reportedly discussing a deal to allow the Trump administration to reinstate the Generalised System of Preference (GSP) for India in exchange for certain market access commitments to America, a US Congressional report has informed the lawmakers.

The GSP is the largest and oldest US trade preference programme and is designed to promote economic development by allowing duty-free entry for thousands of products from designated beneficiary countries.

"The US and India are holding negotiations to address bilateral trade frictions. They reportedly are discussing a deal for the US reinstatement of GSP for India in exchange for certain market access commitments from India," the Congressional Research Service (CRS) said in its report on India-US trade relations. In June, the US terminated India's designation as a beneficiary developing nation under the key GSP trade programme after determining that New Delhi has not assured the US that it will

"The US and India are holding negotiations to address bilateral trade frictions. They reportedly are discussing a deal for the US reinstatement of GSP for India in exchange for certain market access commitments from India"

CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE

provide "equitable and reasonable access" to its markets.

In its report, the bipartisan and independent research wing of the US Congress, the CRS, said that expectations did not materialise for a deal announcement in September 2019 during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US for the United Nations General Assembly. "Earlier lack of progress reportedly prompted the Administration to consider launching a Section 301 investigation of India's trade practices—the trade law under whose authority the Administration investigated certain trade policies of China and imposed higher tariffs on trade with China," it said.

Reports of CRS are prepared for the lawmakers to make informed decisions and are not considered as an official position of the US Congress. Currently, the US and India trade on WTO terms as they do not have a bilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA). "In 2018, President Trump stated that India expressed interest in negotiating an FTA. Some India watchers advocate for an FTA, while others question India's willingness to open its markets," the report said. Past negotiations on a Bilateral Investment Treaty are stalled due to differences on approaches to investor protection. It also criticised India for a range of "unfair" trading practices that restrict US exports. Modi's first term fell short of many observers' expectations, as India did not move forward with anticipated market-opening reforms, and instead increased tariffs and trade restrictions, the CRS alleged. "Modi's strong electoral mandate may embolden the Indian government to press ahead with its reform agenda with greater vigor. Recent slowing economic growth in India raises concerns about India's business environment," the report said. PTI

FOR ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF COMPETITION ACT

CCI orders probe against MakeMyTrip-Ibibo and OYO

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, OCTOBER 29

THE COMPETITION Commission of India (CCI), in an order dated October 28, stated that there is a prima facie case for investigation against MakeMyTrip India-Ibibo Group (MMT-Go) and OravelStays (OYO) for alleged violations of the Competition Act. The order is in response to a complaint filed by the Federation of Hotel & Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI).

The CCI said that there is a prima facie case for investigation against MMT-Go and OYO for alleged violation of the provisions of Section 3(4) of the Act, which deals with anti-competitive agreements. A prima facie case for investigation under Section 4 of the Act, which deals with abuse of dominant position, has also been made out against MMT-Go. The CCI has sought a report on the investigation within 150 days.

FHRAI has alleged hospitality players Treebo and Fab Hotels

WILL REVIEW: OYO; ALLEGATIONS UNFOUNDED: MMT

We will actively engage with the Hon'ble Commission in this process, said an OYO spokesperson

MMT said in a statement that it would co-operate and demonstrate that the allegations are unfounded

have been denied market access and allegedly removed from the platform of MMT-Go as they did not agree to pay the exorbitant commission brokerage charged by the latter.

The allegation also states that MMT and OYO have entered into confidential commercial agreements wherein MMT has agreed to give preferential treatment to OYO on its platform, further leading to a denial of market access to Treebo and Fab Hotels.

The CCI stated in its order that from the search results presented by MMT on random queries for hotels across different locations, it appears that Fab Hotel and Treebo are indeed not present on this

platform, while they earlier used to be. "If this is a consequence of an agreement between OYO and MMT, which is also reported by media, to not list the closest competitors of OYO on the platform, it may potentially contravene the provisions of Section 3(4) of the Act," the order said.

The Competition Commission observed that both OYO and MMT have considerable presence in their respective market segments and any restrictive agreement which may lead to refusal to deal with some players or exclusive arrangement with some players, may potentially have adverse effect on competition. An OYO spokesperson said

RBI slaps ₹1-cr penalty on Janata Sahakari Bank

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, OCTOBER 29

THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 1 crore on Pune-based Janata Sahakari Bank for non-compliance with its directions.

"This action is based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers," the RBI said. According to the RBI, the statutory inspection of the bank with reference to its financial position as on March 31, 2018, conducted by the RBI revealed non-compliance with RBI directions.

Slowdown temporary, reforms to reverse trend, says Ambani

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA RIYADH, OCTOBER 29

RELIANCE INDUSTRIES Limited chairman Mukesh Ambani on Tuesday said the slowdown in the Indian economy is temporary and the recent measures taken by the government will help reverse the trend in the coming quarters.

Speaking at Saudi Arabia's annual investment forum, also known as 'Davos in the desert', he said the reforms undertaken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government since August will bear fruits in the next few quarters.

"Yes, there has been a slight slowdown (in the Indian economy). But my own view is that it is temporary," he said at the Future Investment Initiative (FII) conference here. "All the reform meas-

ures that have been taken in the last few months will see the outcome and I am quite sure that in coming quarter this will reverse," he said. Indian economy, which till recently was hailed as the fastest-growing major economy, has seen growth rate decline in each of the past five quarters, falling to 5 per cent in April-June 2019 from 8 per cent recorded a year earlier.

This is the lowest growth output since 2013 and has largely been attributed to the slowdown in investment that has now broadened into consumption, driven by financial stress among rural households and weak job creation.

The measures include attempts to ease NBFCs' liquidity positions by encouraging banks to purchase high-quality NBFC assets through credit guarantees and additional liquidity. Also, fur-

ther capital is being injected into banks and the corporate tax rate was cut to their lowest level.

These measures should gradually improve the flows of credit and nudge up growth, analysts have said. Ambani, who is in talks with Saudi Arabian oil giant Aramco to sell one-fifth of his oil-to-chemical business in India for \$15 billion, said the two countries have almost factors to drive growth - technology, young demography, and leadership.

"Above all, there is a leadership accelerator. Both the countries are blessed with leadership that is unique in the whole world, at least in today's time," he said referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and his son Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz.

FM chairs NIIIF governing council meeting

New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday chaired the governing council meeting of the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIIF). The NIIIF is a fund manager that invests in infrastructure and related sectors in the country.

"Finance Minister Smt. @nsitharaman chaired the Governing Council meeting of National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIIF) in North Block today. Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs Shri @anuragthakur was also present," the finance ministry said in a tweet on Tuesday. The NIIIF is operationalised by establishing three alternative investment funds (AIFs) under the Sebi regulations. The proposed corpus of NIIIF is Rs 40,000 crore (around \$6 billion). PTI

Tata Sons stake in Tata Motors to rise from 35.3% to 43.73%

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, OCTOBER 29

TATA SONS, the promoter of major companies of the Tata group, will increase its shareholding in Tata Motors to 43.73 per cent from the current level of 35.3 per cent, after the proposed Rs 6,500-crore preferential issue by the auto major.

Last week, Tata Motors' board approved raising Rs 6,500 crore via preferential allotment of securities to Tata Sons. It will be allotted ordinary shares at a price of Rs 150 per share aggregating to Rs 3,024 crore and convertible warrants, each carrying a right to subscribe to one ordinary share per warrant, at a price of Rs 150 per warrant for Rs 3,470 crore.

Tata Motors shares rose 16.63 per cent to Rs 172.55 on the BSE on Tuesday.

"The preferential allotment to its promoter, at a premium to the current market price, was chosen to minimise dilution impact and for a successful and speedy execution," it said.

In a notice for extraordinary general meeting (EGM) seeking shareholders' nod, Tata Motors said the domestic business has been hit by slowdown which "significantly impacted sales volumes,

profitability and cash flows and increased the net debt to unsustainable levels". "Though the company remains optimistic on medium to long-term growth in the Indian market, the near-term demand situation is fluid and the slowdown has come at an inopportune time when capital expenditure intensity will remain high due to continued focus on exciting products and BSVI transition," Tata Motors said.

The company said its British arm Jaguar Land Rover continues to face risk from external factors despite improvement in performance and recovery in China. "However, JLR continues to face risks from a slowing global economy, Brexit related uncertainties, trade wars and disruptions from ACES (autonomous connected electric shared)," Tata Motors said.

JLR will require continued investments in products and technologies to drive growth in this situation, it said. "Hence despite improving business fundamentals, these external risks could impact the company's and JLR's credit ratings and ability to refinance competitively," Tata Motors said. Tata Motors' board had also approved in principle raising of additional funds up to Rs 3,500 crore through external commercial borrowings.

PROMOTER SHAREHOLDING ISSUE Bandhan Bank fined ₹1 cr

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, OCTOBER 29

THE RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 1 crore on Bandhan Bank Ltd for non-compliance with the guidelines on promoter holding stipulated at the time of issuing banking licence to the bank. "This penalty has been im-

posed... taking into account the default committed by the bank ...," the RBI said. According to the RBI, the bank was required to bring down the shareholding of its Non-Operative Financial Holding Company in the bank in excess of 40 per cent of the total paid-up equity capital to 40 per cent within 3 years from the date of commencement of business of the bank.

Expand CSR reach to poor states: FM to India Inc

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday exhorted India Inc to expand CSR reach to poor states like Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and North East region. Appreciating that companies have spent about Rs 13,000 crore last year under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), she

said, this is very relevant for development of hinterland.

"We find a significant presence of CSR in states like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Delhi... states like Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Jharkhand and Bihar also require such support from CSR. Not to forget all the eight states of North East region," she said on the occasion of First National CSR Awards here. The recognition has been

given to wealth creators not just for wealth creation but to give back to the community in the name of CSR, she said, adding that giving back to community from the justified profit is the spirit of the CSR. Sitharaman was also appreciative of the fact that the companies are spending CSR money beyond the mandated flagship programmes of the government under the schedule 7 of the Companies Act.

'Amazon Seller Services gets ₹3,400-cr fresh capital'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

AMAZON SELLER Services, the marketplace entity of Amazon India, has received Rs 3,400 crore in fresh capital from its US parent, according to the company's RoC filings sourced from business signals platform paper.vc. In June, Amazon injected Rs 2,800

Rs 7,593.5 crore in the year to March 2019 compared to the year-ago period. Net losses of the firm reduced by 9.57 per cent year-on-year to Rs 5,685.4 crore in FY19.

Last month, Amazon Seller Services increased the authorised share capital of the company from Rs 31,000 crore to Rs 60,000 crore, hinting at a fresh fund infusion. FE

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice Tender No : 11/2019-20/PHC/KNR, State Plan - 2017-18 - WSS to Payyanur Municipality - Balance Work - Construction of Intake well cum pump house, supply and erection of raw water pumpsets and supply and erection of transformers. EMD : Rs. 200000. Tender fee : Rs. 11200 Last Date for submitting Tender : 30-11-2019, 05:00:pm Phone : 0497-2705902 Superintending Engineer Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in PH Circle Kannur

PEPSU ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION, PATIALA CORRIGENDUM In continuation to the earlier E-tender notice issued in the Indian Express, Daily Ait (Punjabi) and Punjab Kesari (Hindi) on Dated 10-10-2019 for Selection of Service provider for providing manpower to PRTC. The last date for submission of the E-tender is extended to 20-11-2019 by 15:00 and the technical bids will be opened on 20-11-2019 at 16:00 and the financial bids will be opened on 21-11-2019 at 11:30 am. Rest of the terms and conditions as given in the tender document shall remain the same. In case any of the bidder has already submitted the bid in response to the earlier notice the same will also be opened and considered on 20-11-2019 the last date for receipt of the tender. Managing Director, Pepsu Road Transport Corporation, Patiala. Making Travel Safe & Comfortable

OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT CUM MEMBER SECRETARY RAJASTHAN MEDICAL RELIEF SOCIETY AND SAWAI MAN SINGH HOSPITAL, JAIPUR (Sawai Man Singh Road, Tonk road, Jaipur, Rajasthan 302001) [Phone 0141-2518222, 2560291, Email- ms.smshospital@gmail.com] NOTICE INVITING BID Sealed Single Stage Two - envelopes unconditional online Bids are invited on behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan from reputed & experienced Bidders for the following work up to 5.00 PM on 28.11.19

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT BUILDINGS (C&M) CIRCLE, COIMBATORE - I. TENDER NOTICE LUMP SUM CONTRACT (ITEM RATE TENDER SYSTEM) PRE QUALIFICATION TENDER - TWO COVER SYSTEM SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE NT-14/BC/C&M/CBE/2019-20. Dt: 24.10.2019 For and on behalf of the Government of Tamilnadu, Two cover system sealed tenders viz., Pre-qualification Tender and Price Tender in separate covers both inserted in single cover will be received upto 3.00 pm on 22.11.2019 from the PWD Registered Contractors by the Superintending Engineer, PWD, Buildings (Construction & Maintenance) Circle, Coimbatore - 641 001 for Construction of Academic and Administration Staff Quarters (for 36 Nos) in Sainik School campus at Amaravathi Nagar in Udumalpet in Tiruppur District at his office and Prequalification Tender will be opened on the same day at 3.00 P.M. All other details are available in the website www.tenders.tn.gov.in. If any changes/corrections etc. to the tender, it will be published on the above website only. Superintending Engineer, P.W.D., Buildings (C&M) Circle, Coimbatore.

भारत सरकार GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, अंतरिक्ष विभाग DEPARTMENT OF SPACE इसरो नोडल कॉम्प्लेक्स ISRO PROPULSION COMPLEX महेंद्रगिरि पी. ओ. MAHENDRAGIRI PO तिरुनेलवेली जिला TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT- 627 133, तमिलनाडु TAMILNADU क्रय व भंडार प्रभाग/PURCHASE & STORES DIVISION दिनांक / DATE: 25.10.2019 निविदा सूचना सं. आरपीआरसी/प्र.क्र.व.भं/पीई/ई-प्रभाग/18/2019-20/TENDER NOTICE NO.IPRC/HPS/PTI/E-PROC/18/2019-20 भारत के राष्ट्रपति के द्वारा और उनकी ओर से प्रदान, क्रय व भंडार, इसरो नोडल कॉम्प्लेक्स (आरपीआरसी), महेंद्रगिरि सिविलिकित की आपूर्ति हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित कएल है। For and on behalf of the President of India, Head, Purchase & Stores, ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri invites online tenders for supply of the following:

'Trade deal might not be ready for signing in Chile'

REUTERS WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 29

AN INTERIM trade agreement between the United States and China might not be completed in time for signing in Chile next month as expected but that does not mean the accord is falling apart, a US administration official said on Tuesday.

US and Chinese negotiators are working to complete a text for the agreements for US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping to sign at an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Chile from November 16-17. "If it's not signed in Chile, that doesn't mean that it falls apart. It just means that it's not ready," the administration official said. "Our goal is to sign it in Chile. But sometimes texts aren't ready. But good progress is being made and we expect to sign the agreement in Chile." Trump, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and other top US officials have all said good progress is being made on the deal.

Three Indian-origin CEOs in HBR list of 10 best-performing heads

YOSHITA SINGH NEW YORK, OCTOBER 29

THREE INDIAN-ORIGIN CEOs, Shantanu Narayen, Ajay Banga and Satya Nadella are among the world's 10 best-performing chief executives, featured in a list compiled by the Harvard Business Review (HBR).

The Best-Performing CEOs in the World, 2019' list by the HBR features 100 CEOs and has been topped by American technology company NVIDIA's CEO Jensen Huang. Among the top 10 chief executives on the list, three spots have been occupied by the Indian-origin CEOs.

On the 6th spot is Adobe CEO Narayen, followed by MasterCard CEO Banga, ranked 7th and Microsoft chief Nadella on the 9th spot. The list also features Indian-born CEO of DBS Bank Piyush Gupta on the 89th spot. Apple CEO Tim Cook is ranked 62nd.

The list also includes Nike CEO Mark Parker ranked 20, JP Morgan Chase chief Jamie Dimon (23), Lockheed Martin CEO Marillyn

BRIEFLY Govt to order SFIO probe in DHFL case

New Delhi: The government will soon order an SFIO probe into alleged financial irregularities at debt-ridden mortgage firm DHFL after a report by the Registrar of Companies (RoC) indicated fund diversion, a source said. The Mumbai office of the RoC earlier this year had initiated a detailed examination into alleged financial irregularities, including fund diversion, by DHFL promoters. The RoC Mumbai submitted its report on DHFL to MCA a couple of days ago, an official said.

Gold prices tumble ₹548 on global trends

New Delhi: Gold prices on Tuesday tumbled Rs 548 to Rs 38,857 per 10 grams in the national capital in tandem with tepid global market trends, according to HDFC Securities.

Central Bank okays ₹3,353 cr of fundraising

New Delhi: Central Bank of India on Tuesday said its board of directors has approved to allot shares on a preferential basis to the government to raise up to Rs 3,353 crore. PTI

Adani Group partners Digital Realty

Mumbai: The Adani Group on Tuesday said it would partner San Francisco-based Digital Realty to foray into the data centre domain. Adani Enterprises and Digital Realty have signed a MoU, wherein the firms will evaluate developing and operating data centres, data centre parks and cultivating undersea cable provider communities of interest. FE

BSE-Ebix JV receives Irdai approval

New Delhi: A joint venture between the BSE and US-based insurance exchange Ebix has received in-principle approval from insurance regulator Irdai to act as a direct insurance broker. PTI

PUTIN'S WORLD

The spy who came in from the cold

The West should learn some lessons from Vladimir Putin's success



Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin at a joint news conference in Ankara in September. Reuters

WHEN VLADIMIR PUTIN arrived in Brisbane for the G20 meeting five years ago, he cut an isolated figure, frozen out of the civilised world by the annexation of Crimea, the invasion of eastern Ukraine and the shooting down of a passenger airliner with Dutch and Australian families on board. Western leaders kicked Russia out of the G7 and imposed sanctions. Some refused to greet Mr Putin. He left early, snubbed and humiliated.

Five years later he has swaggered back onto the world stage, presiding over the conflict in the Middle East, building a strategic alliance with China and driving a wedge between nato allies. It was his residence in Sochi, not President Donald Trump's Mar a Lago estate in Florida, that Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the president of Turkey, visited on October 22nd to seal the fate of Syria, and some 40 African leaders flew to on October 23rd in search of weapons and money.

The meeting with Mr Erdogan cemented Russia's dominant position in the Middle East with a deal establishing joint military control over what used to be Kurdish territory. Earlier this month Mr Putin was welcomed in Saudi Arabia, the world's third-largest oil producer, by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. Saudi Arabia's military band played Russia's national anthem while its jets let off a trail of smoke the colour of the Russian flag. Russia, the world's second-largest oil producer, is now in a better position to influence output and prices.

Mr Putin has also forged close relations with China, whose leader Xi Jinping regards his Russian counterpart as an asset who helps China project its growing influence. Mr Putin has pledged to help China build its early-nuclear-warning system, a deal which will help tip the global balance of power in China's favour.

Europe's attitude towards Russia is chang-

ing, thanks to Mr Putin's growing hold over the Middle East and his closer ties to China. Emmanuel Macron, the French president, argues that Russia is too important to be frozen out and needs to be included in the European security architecture. And Ukraine, which has lost 13,000 people in the war in Donbas, is now under pressure from both America and Europe to settle its conflict with Russia, allowing for the lifting of sanctions.

Play it as Vladimir would

How did a country with an economy the size of Spain, corruption on a par with Papua

New Guinea and life expectancy below Libya achieve all this? Military modernisation played a crucial part. In 20 years, Mr Putin has turned Russia's armed forces from an ill-managed bunch of poorly equipped conscripts into a well-armed, largely professional fighting force. But he has also been politically more astute than the West, both in swiftly seizing opportunities and in sticking by his allies.

Barack Obama set down red lines against the use of chemical weapons in Syria, but was not prepared to use force to back them up. Mr Trump abandoned America's Kurdish allies earlier this month, pulling out his troops when

Turkey threatened to invade northern Syria. Mr Putin has spotted that the West's reluctance to use arms has created a power vacuum. He could invade Ukraine and send in forces to occupy former American positions and bomb civilian and military targets in Syria, confident that the West would not risk retaliation. When he has stood by Bashar al-Assad, the Syrian president and a bloody dictator, other actors in the Middle East, including Saudi Arabia, America's traditional ally, have concluded that their own abuses of human rights would not shake his support of them. In their eyes, by contrast, the West appears fickle and preachy.

Faced with Russian aggression, the West is inclined to back down. That is a mistake—and not one that Mr Putin would make were he in Mr Trump's or Mr Macron's position. He would hold his ground and look for weaknesses to exploit.

Mr Putin's success masks vulnerabilities. Abroad, he increasingly faces the difficulty of being the junior partner to China. At home, disposable incomes have fallen for the sixth year in a row, the pension age is rising and people are fed up with corruption. Mr Putin's expensive military adventures used to generate enthusiasm, but they have become a source of irritation.

He wants the West to lift sanctions and to acquiesce in his plan to stay in power indefinitely. But the West should not encourage his adventurism. It would do better to learn—selectively—from Mr Putin: support your allies, play to your strengths, do not buckle under pressure and do not create a vacuum that can be filled by a rival power. The West needs a muscular foreign policy to face down the world's new strongman.

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BESIEGED BY RUSSIAN PROPAGANDA

Lie detector

Lithuanians are using software to fight back against fake news

"PATIENT ZERO" is a medical term that started as a misunderstanding. An early North American victim of AIDS was anonymised in some documents as "Patient O". The individual in question, Gaëtan Dugas, a Canadian flight attendant, was thought at the time to have been the point of origin of the North American AIDS epidemic. The misreading of O (for "Outside of California") as 0 (ie, zero), though accidental to begin with, thus seemed propitious. In fact, Dugas was not the sole point of that epidemic's origin. But the term stuck, and has spread. It has, indeed, spread beyond medicine to embrace another sort of plague—disinformation.

Demaskuok, which means "debunk" in Lithuanian, is a piece of software that searches for the patient zeros of fake news. It was developed by Delfi, a media group headquartered in Lithuania's capital, Vilnius, in conjunction with Google, a large American information-technology company. It works by sifting through reams of online verbiage in Lithuanian, Russian and English, scoring items for the likelihood that they are disinformation. Then, by tracking back through the online history of reports that look suspicious, it attempts to pin down a disinformation campaign's point of origin—its patient zero.

Playing ping-pong with the Kremlin

Demaskuok identifies its suspects in many ways. One is to search for wording redolent of themes propagandists commonly exploit. These include poverty, rape, environmental degradation, military shortcomings, war games, societal rifts, viruses and other health scares, political blunders, poor governance, and, ironically, the uncovering of deceit. And because effective disinformation stirs the emotions, the software gauges a

It works by sifting through reams of online verbiage in Lithuanian, Russian and English, scoring items for the likelihood that they are disinformation. Then, by tracking back through the online history of reports that look suspicious, it attempts to pin down a disinformation campaign's point of origin—its patient zero.

text's ability to do that, too. Items with terms like "current-account deficit" are less likely to be bogus than those that mention children, immigrants, sex, ethnicities, animals, national heroes and injustice. Gossip and scandal are additional tip-offs. Verbiage about sports and the weather is less likely to fire up outrage, so the software scores items about those subjects as less suspicious.

Another clue is that disinformation is crafted to be shared. Demaskuok therefore measures "virality"—the number of times readers share or write about an item. The reputations of websites that host an item or provide a link to it provide additional information. The software even considers the timing of a story's appearance. Fake news is disproportionately posted on Friday evenings when many people, debunkers included, are out for drinks.

Disinformers can be careless, too. Demaskuok therefore remembers the names of people quoted in fake news, as they sometimes crop up again. It also runs image searches to find other places a picture

has been posted. Some, it turns out, first appeared before the events they supposedly document. Others also appear on websites with a reputation for disinformation, such as rt and Sputnik—both news outlets backed by Russia's government.

Russian-sponsored disinformation of this sort is a bane everywhere, but it is particularly rife in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania—the three countries that, in 1990, were the first to declare independence from the Soviet Union, catalysing that union's disintegration. The Baltic states, as they are often known collectively, then exacerbated their offence by joining nato and the European Union. Russia, the Soviet Union's puppetmaster, has neither forgiven nor forgotten. One consequence is that the Baltic states are particular targets for falsehoods intended to confuse and destabilise.

Demaskuok is part of the fightback. It has improved since Delfi's journalists began using it a year ago. It can now flag up not just total fabrications, but also more cunning trickery that works by exaggeration or omission. Viktoras Dauksas, who runs Debunk eu, a charity in Vilnius that was created in June to develop the technology further, says it can now even sometimes spot "broken mirrors". This is his term for disinformation in which facts are technically accurate but presented selectively to mislead. Russian disinformation, he says, has become increasingly treacherous, with truthful elements savvily "twisted in a way to undermine democracy".

Demaskuok is pretty good. About half the items it flags prove, under human scrutiny, to be disinformation. That scrutiny, though, is an important part of the process.

Some of it comes from Demaskuok's users. Besides Delfi, these include Lithuania's foreign ministry and a score of news outlets, think-tanks, universities and



Russian-sponsored disinformation of this sort is a bane everywhere, but it is particularly rife in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania—the three countries that, in 1990, were the first to declare independence from the Soviet Union. Reuters

other organisations. After studying an item that the software considers disinformation, people in these organisations tell the system if it was on or off the mark. That improves future performance.

Demaskuok is also supported by more than 4,000 volunteers known as "elves". About 50 of them scroll through Demaskuok's feed of suspected disinformation, selecting items to be verified. These are sent to the other elves for fact checking. Reports on the findings are then written up by the software's users and emailed to newsrooms and other organisations, including Lithuania's defence ministry, that produce written or video "debunks" for the public.

The whole system typically moves so fast that an elf in Vilnius who goes by the alias

"Vanagas" jokes it is like playing "Kremlin ping-pong". This speed makes all the difference, says Vaidas Saldziunas, one of Delfi's journalists. Wait too long and it may not matter if you "kill the patient zero, the original virus", he says. If the resulting false narrative survives long enough, it may take on a life of its own.

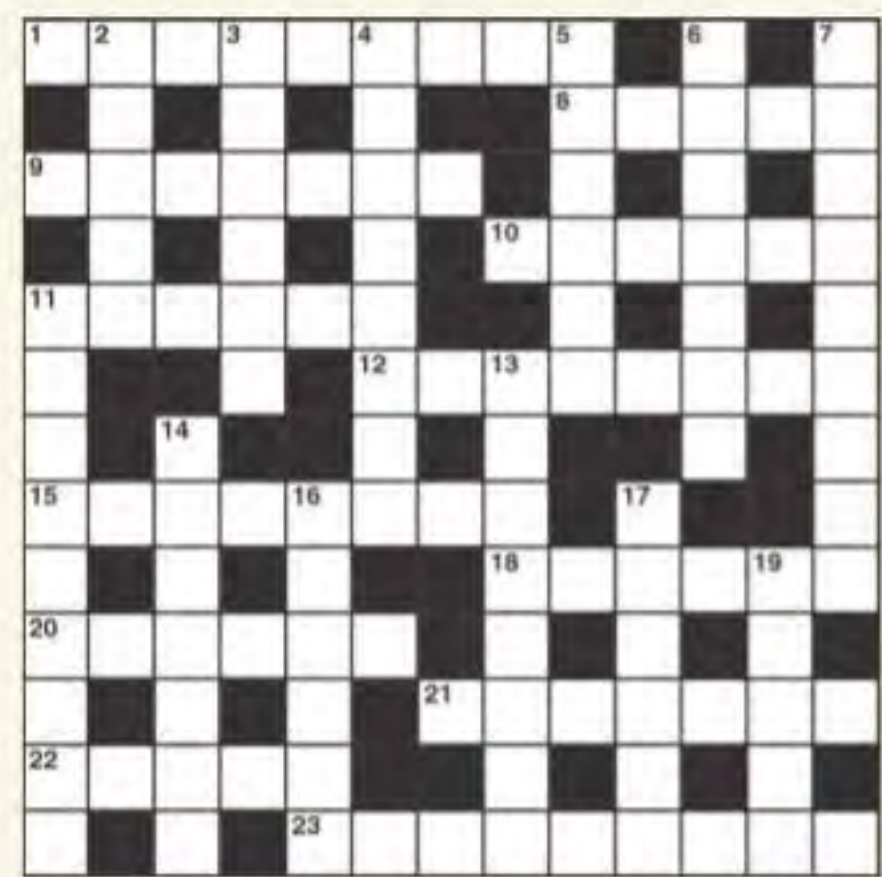
Officials say that abundant debunking has cultivated healthy scepticism in most Balts. But Eityvydas Bajarunas of Lithuania's foreign ministry frets about disinformation's effects on countries farther west, where fewer people fear Russian aggression. He points to a bogus report on September 25th that falsely claimed 22 German soldiers had desecrated a Jewish cemetery in Kaunas, a city 100km west of Vilnius. Neglect to nip

such rot in the bud, he says, and political support in Germany for keeping troops in Lithuania could falter.

Moreover, some worry that even Demaskuok's success may play into Russia's hands. Rob Procter, professor of social informatics at the University of Warwick, in Britain, offers a sobering thought. The Kremlin's goal, he suggests, is not so much to convince Westerners that certain falsehoods are the truth. Rather, it wants its adversaries to doubt that anything can be trusted as true. If this is the aim, software that increases the number of news reports which get debunked may, paradoxically, have the opposite effect to that intended.

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CROSSWORD 3949



- ACROSS**
- Light nonsense is still produced (9)
 - Father has to confess and make headlines (5)
 - Children's playthings? (7)
 - No corner stone? (6)
 - Leave for the Sahara perhaps (6)
 - Withdraw a summary (8)
 - Everything is plain; the alert is over (3,5)
 - Attacked the copper with acid (6)
 - There's hostility when I cast my net around (6)
 - Stop and go after amber changes (7)
 - A once rough sea (5)
 - They keep shops smartened perhaps (9)
- DOWN**
- Over one ounce of oxygen (5)
 - Having a down on? (6)
 - The birthright of their crazy generation (8)
 - Bring about a result (6)
 - Dread going round the globe and therefore don't (7)
 - Apparently outstanding, but hardly fine (9)
 - A classic dream once shattered (9)
 - Gave a shriek and scared me badly (8)
 - One on a diet may turn out so (7)
 - The French take shelter to be hidden (6)
 - Fights for food left over (6)
 - It keeps a sharp eye on German and American arms (5)

Solutions Crossword 3948: Across: 1 Postern, 4 Tonic, 7 Rays, 8 Plymouth, 10 Local taxes, 12 Repeat, 13 Sloops, 15 Leading men, 18 Receipts, 19 Unit, 20 Demon, 21 Delayed. Down: 1 Peril, 2 Skyscape, 3 Nilgai, 4 Timberline, 5 Nouns, 6 Cohorts, 9 Glaswegian, 11 Commonly, 12 Retired, 14 Edited, 16 Noted, 17 Scum.

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 clue.

Take calculated ____ That is quite different from being ____ - George S. Patton (5...4)

HYARR **AGRYSS**

DTYIS **EOODHK**

SOLUTION: HARRY, DITSY, CRASSY, HOOKED

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

SUDOKU 4014



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4103



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
Venus makes subtle angles to a series of planets, encouraging you to seek inspiration and sympathy from friends and colleagues. Those of you at work will discover that it's who you know that counts, not what you do. However, given that intense passions could erupt at any moment, you should never slip into complacency.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
You can take advantage of growing planetary alignments with secretive sectors of your chart to increase your privacy and spend a little more time by yourself. Over the next few weeks, peace and quiet will be a commodity in increasing demand, and there's no reason why you should reveal all to people with whom you're uncomfortable.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
That sensitive sign, Pisces, has been having its say in your life and your instincts have been telling you to bide your time over career and professional issues. However, you may now put delicate considerations to one side and press ahead with your usual vigour.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
The Moon is casting its rays far and wide, especially over those sections of your chart with responsibility for close and intimate partnerships. Friendships with people who are older, more mature and experienced should be favoured, especially if there's any chance that you might end up living together.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
It looks like a hard-working day. There's a general air of excitement, but it is a good time to get your shoulder to the wheel and press ahead with routine but highly necessary chores. My only concern is that you might push yourself too hard.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
Almost any Virgo will tell you that the working week is not designed for fun, but for honest toil. However, the planets are in a slightly chaotic mood, and with the Moon quite sensitive today you must give absolute priority to pleasure, romance and cultural excursions.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
Jupiter, the ruler of opportunity and enthusiasm is the planet of the moment. If professional ambitions are at the top of the agenda the outcome can only be good. The one problem is your tendency to offend those whose support you put yourself at their disposal and they won't forget it.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
Although financial indications are relatively benign, you need to do your sums and ensure that you are not making a rod to beat yourself with. Don't take on commitments you won't be able to keep, especially if you are under duress from partners to make a quick agreement.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)
Something that brought you up short recently should not be allowed to make you feel demoralised. You are too big a person and the future is too bright, to allow you to carry resentment around. If you feel that somebody else has been unfair then you can't really do anything about it until you have found exactly the right approach.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
The Sun and Mercury are sparking away in your solar chart, bringing fresh light to areas of your life that have long been buried deep beneath a mountain of emotional verbiage. Now's the time to break free, perhaps while someone who has been blocking your path is looking the other way.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
Be prepared to take even enforced changes at home in your stride. The Moon is currently making it difficult to get one or two personal issues straight, but within a few days all will be made crystal clear and you might even find out what the alternatives are.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
You do tend to feel sorry for yourself, and recent planetary activity has inclined you to be feeling neglected. Right now, you may be considering spending your way to happiness and why not? After all, you have earned the right to a little luxury, just as long as you're careful.

NOTICE BOARD

CORPORATE ASSOCIATE DIARY APPOINTMENTS, MOVEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS, HONOURS



ITPO OBSERVES VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK
The Vigilance Awareness Week (Oct 28 to Nov 2, 2019) was observed at ITPO with the slogan, "Integrity - A Way of Life". The Vigilance Pledge was administered by Rajesh Agrawal, ED, ITPO, at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.



WORKSHOP-OIL INDIA
Recently, a one-day workshop on Environment and Forest Laws for Oil and Gas Sector was organised under the aegis of MoEF & CC, North Eastern Regional Office, Shillong at State Convention Centre Shillong, Meghalaya.



Maharatna Status Conferred on POWERGRID
RK Singh, Union Minister of State (I/C) for Power, New & Renewable Energy, recently conferred the coveted Maharatna Status on POWERGRID at the 30th Raising Day Celebrations of the company in New Delhi.



NR HOLDS "THINK PINK" AT NRCH
Recently, NRCH held "Think Pink" - A Breast Cancer Awareness Programme at New Delhi. TP Singh, GM, NR, Harinder Kaur, President, NRWWO, along with other senior officials & doctors on NR, patients & their relatives attended the event.

VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK 2019



BHEL Dr Nalin Shinghal, CMD, BHEL, administered the Integrity Pledge to employees on the inaugural day of the Vigilance Awareness Week. Functional Directors, CVO and other senior officers of BHEL were also present at the event.



OBC Vigilance Awareness Week is being celebrated in OBC from 28th October to 2nd November 2019 under the aegis of Central Vigilance Commission. The theme of this year Vigilance Awareness Week is "Integrity - A Way of Life".



AAI is observing Vigilance Awareness Week 2019 from 28.10.19 to 2.11.19, with the theme "Integrity - A way of Life" across all its establishments. The Integrity Pledge was administered by Anuj Aggarwal, Chairman, AAI, to officers and employees of AAI.



NHB The observance of the Vigilance Awareness Week at NHB commenced with the administration of integrity pledge by SK Hota, MD & SK Nagpal, CVO, along with all the officers of NHB, Delhi on 28th October 2019.



IREDA is observing 'Vigilance Awareness Week 2019' from Oct 28 to Nov 2, 2019. The campaign kick-started with an Integrity Pledge, administered by SK Bhargava, Director (Finance) & Philip Bara, CVO, to the employees.



NHPC commenced the observance of Vigilance Awareness Week 2019 from 28.10.19 to 2.11.19, where CMD NHPC, Balraj Joshi, graced the occasion along with other senior NHPC officers & employees. A special highlight was a talk on 'Prevention of Corruption and Tools of Good Governance'.



LIC Vigilance Awareness Week is being observed in LIC, Delhi DO-I from Oct 28 to Nov 2, 2019, with the Current year theme "Integrity-A Way of Life". The event was inaugurated by Zonal Manager, Anoop Kumar, Northern Zone, New Delhi.



PNB is celebrating Vigilance Awareness Week 2019 from 28.10.2019 to 02.11.2019. The event kick-started with Integrity Pledge administered to all the staff members by CVO, VK Tyagi & ED, AK Azad. LV Prabhakar, ED.



DELHI POLICE ORGANISES A MUSICAL EVENING
Delhi Police recently organised 'EK SHAAM SHAHDAT KO SALAAM', a musical evening, at Siri Fort Auditorium, New Delhi. The event marked a tribute to Delhi Police Martyrs, on the occasion of Commemoration Day. Amulya Patnaik, CP/Delhi, presided over the function, along with other senior officials of Delhi Police and family members of the 10 police personnel, who sacrificed their lives last year. CP/Delhi felicitated them and assured them of full support. Speaking on the occasion, Amulya Patnaik said that everyday policemen make sacrifices for safety and security of people, and on special occasions they put in extra efforts to keep the city safe. He underlined that the martyrdom of those who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty will remain in our memory forever and will inspire us. The event showcased many interesting activities that made the evening even more memorable.



MOU-SCOPE
DG SCOPE, Atul Sobti & Country Director (India) GIZ, Dr Julie Reviere, recently signed a MoU to work on climate change, carbon markets, Sustainable Development Goals and climate finance.



GRSE BAGS 16th NATIONAL AWARD
GRSE recently received the second positive award at 16th National Award for "Excellence in Cost Management". Anurag Singh Thakur, Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs, GoI, graced the occasion as Chief Guest.



BSNL The global leader in South-Asian OTT content, YuppTV, has announced its partnership with BSNL. The two category leaders have entered into a triple play partnership for video and broadband technology services for mobile & fixed line. As the largest broadband provider in the country, BSNL has the potential of providing triple play services to any corner of the country, including India's very hinterlands. Riding back on tremendous success, YuppTV also plans to soon announce something exciting in the content space for the Indian audience. The coming together of the 2 industry leaders will be another focused step in the same direction.



Customer Outreach Initiative-CANARA BANK
The 'CUSTOMER OUTREACH INITIATIVE' was recently organised by Canara Bank under the guidelines of Dept. of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, GoI. The programme was organised to connect the general public with banking services.



13th EDITION OF IREE
Speaking at the 13th edition of IREE, Suresh C Angadi, MoS for Railways, GoI, appealed the engineers in the manufacturing sector to make for India first and make India a global manufacturing hub with quality products.



SMARTY PANTS
Singer Olivia Newton-John's iconic outfit from the musical *Grease* — black leather jacket and tight pants — will be auctioned this week, for her cancer centre. It marked her transition from a high schooler to sexy Sandy Olson in the *You're the one that I want* duet with John Travolta.



ON THE LOOSE

Size Matters

Surprise weight checks won't solve the health problems within the police force



LEHER KALA

POLICE OFFICERS in a district in Rajasthan have the most unusual task at hand: the office of the Superintendent of Police, Bikaner, has issued an order to identify all personnel whose weight and waist size is "more than average". Details of their measurements have to be listed in a prescribed format and submitted by November 1. "This is a routine process, part of a survey to check fitness, to see who needs improvement in which section and to use it in an advisory," said Bikaner SP Pradeep Mohan Sharma. (*The Indian Express*, October 24, 2019).

Perhaps this is a devious plan to catch chubby officers unaware — or why else would the SP issue this haphazard weight test at the worst of times — when all of India is feasting in this merry festive season? It's the one month of the year starting with Durga Puja when nobody, including the police, is exempt from piling on the pounds. Needless to say, it couldn't have been a very happy Diwali for these upholders of the law, since they've (presumably) been forced to exhibit an iron will and refrain from all the mithai floating around. It's no secret that a huge section of the Indian police force leans towards corpulence — several surveys have revealed that 30 per cent officers suffer from high cholesterol, diabetes or blood pressure. To be fair, this is less to do with gluttony and more to do with the fact that the police in India work long hours under extremely trying circumstances. You just have to get out on any arterial road of Delhi to see what a tough job they have, whether it's dealing with traffic or accidents, forget the high stress that goes into tackling murders, rapes and molestations.

While the world is largely in agreement that thin is better than fat, the waist of a policeman shouldn't be the big issue while judging his value. There would be citizens

all over the country who'd prioritise a honest and motivated police officer over a compact shaped one any day. Besides, being a few kilos overweight doesn't mean one loses the capacity to do one's work. Unless we're caught up in old fashioned imaginings of the game *chor-sipahi*, police work is rarely about physically chasing robbers anymore. Investigations rely on paper trails, mobile bills and of course, the occasional (tense) intervention into a crime zone. Unless a cop is morbidly obese, it shouldn't hamper his ability to take the right decisions. It is worth noting, a fitness regime and meal planning requires time which the police don't have, considering reports suggest there is a shortfall of 6 lakh employees in ratio to the population. If one constable is doing the work of three, it's no wonder that hypertension has taken over the force.

The value of fitness, undoubtedly, cannot be overestimated in any profession, especially in law enforcement which is a more physically exhausting job. But the health concerns of the police force can't be addressed by random weight loss diktats. They need reforms that improve working conditions so there'll be time to prioritise exercise. In June, the Pune Police found fitness role models from within the force to encourage others to exercise regularly. Some years back, in Patna's police headquarters, yoga teachers from the Mungger school were engaged to teach asanas to reduce stress. However, we no longer live in a world where it's considered acceptable to make a condition of employment, a particular weight. There was a time flight attendants were expected to be a certain size, and while it's most likely hirings favour the slim in the airline industry still, the culture has changed enough that it's considered in poor taste, to openly acknowledge a preference, based on weight. The image of the pot-bellied, morally bankrupt khaki man is a much derided stereotype in India. To add to this woeful description, girth as a moral failing rather than the result of complicated factors, is to not acknowledge the sluggish government systems, that created the problem.

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When Bollywood Met Banaras

Mohit Takalkar on his play, *Mosambi Narangi*, tickling the funny bone and the art of doing nothing in Varanasi

DIPANITA NATH

AFTER CHAHETA, a grim play on a family in conflict, and *Medium Spicy*, a film on universal relationships, this year, Mohit Takalkar was exhausted. "When Rage Productions approached me with a light-hearted play, I jumped at it for the sake of my mental health," says Takalkar. The play, *Mosambi Narangi*, is a part of Aadyam, a theatre initiative of the Aditya Birla Group, and will be staged at Delhi's Kamani auditorium on November 2 and 3.

An adaptation of an Irish play, *Stones in His Pockets*, *Mosambi Narangi* revolves around events that take place when a film crew arrives in a village in Varanasi. For the locals, *Mosambi* and *Narangi*, this seems like a golden ticket to tinsel town. The former has returned from Mumbai and is captivated by the beauty of the film's leading lady, Sabrina. *Narangi*, on the other hand, has written a film script that, he believes, will catapult him into superstardom and has closed down his shop. When the two land roles as extras in the film, the glamorous world of Bollywood confronts the rural ways of Varanasi, and the play takes off on a ride through a maze of situational comedy, slapstick, corny one-liners and rib-tickers.

Takalkar, between productions, is on duty as a chef at Barometer, a resto-pub in Pune that he runs with friends. The aesthetics of theatre reflect in the interiors. On the raw, grey walls, a Charlie Chaplin film is projected during lunch and dinner. "Charlie is playing pathos, not comedy and not many people realise this," says Takalkar, and adds, "I had come into *Mosambi Narangi*, thinking, 'Kuchh halka, mast comedy karte hai'. And then, it started giving me sleepless nights. I realised that it is very easy to plant jokes, but very difficult to carve characters out of seeming caricatures."



Ajeet Singh Palawat plays the flamboyant character *Narangi* and Rajit Kapur, the quieter *Mosambi*; Mohit Takalkar (above right)

Takalkar's oeuvre of 32 plays ranges from *Main Huun Yusuf Aur Ye Hai Mera Bhai*, a study of relationships during strife, to *Mathemagician*, a tale of a slave in ancient Babylon, who, castrated as a child, rises to be the protege of the chief economist before falling into the depths of hubris. *Mosambi Narangi* is the first time that Takalkar is working with comedy. It is also the first time that the director, who won five awards at the Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards in 2016 for *Main Huun Yusuf Aur Ye Hai Mera Bhai*, has not chosen a script but has been



Narangi imitates everyone from Dev Anand to Anil Kapoor. The play is intended to remain in one's subconscious. I hope people will say, 'Kal shaam bahut maza aaya. Kya pagal the who dono' and, then, wonder, "What exactly were they trying to do?"

MOHIT TAKALKAR

commissioned one.

"When I read the English script, I found it flimsy. It had all the cliches and caricatures you can think of. What I enjoyed was the writing of the play in Hindi by Ashok Mishra. He is from the film industry. His treatment of Bollywood in the script was authentic. He is also from Varanasi, so the language rings true, and the words he has used, the food he has mentioned and the clothes that he has described are alive," says Takalkar. For the first 15 days of the rehearsal, however, Takalkar could not concentrate. "That

changed one day when we were exploring *Mosambi* and *Narangi*, and a boy called Sonu revealed himself in the script and seemed to tell me, 'This is not *Mosambi* or *Narangi*'s story; it is my story'. That was a hook point for me."

Rachel D'Souza and Ashish Mehta have designed the sets and that the play opens with filming materials, such as boxes, cables, ladders, skimmers and lights strewn on stage between glimpses of Varanasi's quintessential wooden platforms and cane umbrellas. Takalkar brings in his memories of the city, which he first saw in Satyajit Ray's *Pather Panchali* and visited in 2003. "Every day, I would wake up at 5 am and follow the sound of an *aarti* or *bhajan* happening somewhere. After that, I did nothing. I just sat on the ghats," he says.

Mosambi Narangi brings together Rajit Kapur, who acted in Takalkar's 2014 film *The Bright Day*, and Ajeet Singh Palawat, the lead of *Main Huun Yusuf Aur Ye Hai Mera Bhai*. "Ajeet plays the flamboyant character *Narangi* and has the lines where people crack up and clap. Rajit is *Mosambi* and can play the smallest emotion in a full bodied way that is a pleasure to watch," says Takalkar.

Does *Mosambi Narangi* make Takalkar laugh? "We have added silly humour. *Narangi* is involved in a lot of mimicry and imitates everyone from Dev Anand to Anil Kapoor, which people enjoy. The play is intended to remain in one's subconscious for some time. I hope people will say, 'Kal shaam bahut maza aaya. Kya pagal the who dono' and, then, wonder, 'What exactly were the two trying to do?' The pinch of the play is that the duo wants to do something. They just don't know how to do it. That's the point I want to make."

Mosambi Narangi will be staged at Kamani auditorium, Delhi, on November 2 and 3, at 4 and 7:30 pm. Tickets on insider.in

SNAP SHOTS



Grand Life

OSCAR WINNER Rachel Weisz (pictured) will portray Hollywood legend Elizabeth Taylor in the biopic, *A Special Relationship*, which will be told from the perspective of Roger Wall, Taylor's gay assistant and friend. The script is by Simon Beaufoy, the Academy Award-winning scriptwriter of *Slumdog Millionaire*, while filmmaker duo Bert & Bertie will direct the film. Taylor, a winner of two Oscars, led a glamorous lifestyle but she was also a crusader for AIDS awareness in the mid-'80s.



Giving a Face

AMERICAN ARTIST Andy Warhol's lesser-known paintings of 25 African American and Latinx drag queens and trans women will be exhibited as part of a major show next year at Tate Modern. The show, that will explore the artist through the lenses of sexuality, migration, death and religion, includes rarely loaned works such as a 1980 portrait of singer-songwriter Debbie Harry, and one of his final works — a 10m wide canvas titled *Sixty Last Suppers*, being shown in the UK for the first time.



Reading Between the Lines

Bestselling writer Jojo Moyes on her latest book, *The Giver of Stars*, a story about friendship and the power of the written word

ANUSHREE MAJUMDAR

ONE HAS got to be an absolute cynic if they aren't moved by a Jojo Moyes book — warm and heartfelt, her lead characters always read like real people, made of goodness and flaws, but never afraid to live, even though the conditions might not always be ideal. The 50-year-old British writer of vastly popular novels, including the bestselling romance, *Me Before You* (2012), serves up another story of friendship and courage, and the power of the written word. Moyes was recently accused of plagiarism, which her publisher, Penguin Random House, has denied. In this exclusive interview, she talks about horses, a photograph that took her to America, and why romance novels are so easily dismissed.

Tell me about your love for horses. They are distinct supporting characters in several of your books.

I was a horse-obsessive child, even though I grew up in the middle of London. I bought myself a horse when I was 14, using the proceeds of many cleaning jobs — it gave me a sense of freedom and safety. As a girl growing up in a fairly tough city, horses



Jojo Moyes *Stine Heimann*; her latest book

meant that nobody would easily come near you; and it allowed me to explore the city in a way I could've never done on foot.

When did the idea of *The Giver of Stars* come to you?

In June 2017, I read an article in the Smithsonian magazine called 'Horse-riding Librarians Were the Great Depression's Bookmobiles'. When I saw the photographs of young women, their saddlebags full of books, preparing to ride out in often unfriendly terrain or reading to families who had nothing, I knew immediately that I wanted to write about them. The story contained my favourite things — books, female friendships, horses and wild country — so I

flew to Kentucky because I knew I couldn't write about a place that was so remote and yet so particular in mood and language.

A place like that is full of extremes — large swathes of the countryside but also one that is very traditional. Did it feel strange to you?

I was writing about a small town, and small towns anywhere in the world are the same; they are tightly governed by social norms, more so in a place like southern Appalachia that is so insular.

You've attributed your sense of empathy to books, they allowed you to step into somebody else's shoes. Libraries all over the world are shutting down — is that you why felt compelled to tell this story?

Yes, because libraries are one of the greatest social equalisers: they are free, open to all, educative and entertaining. It's a safe space for anybody who wants to learn. It's a resource, that once it's gone, we will realise what we've lost.

Social hierarchies and class systems appear in your books by way of the character's occupation: a caregiver, a

barmaid, a librarian.

Often, the work we do informs how we view the world. It's impossible to grow up in England and not be aware of the class system. We judge people on how they dress, how they say the letter 'H', how they hold a knife and fork. It's a form of prison, of keeping people in their place.

You wrote six novels before your biggest hit, *Me Before You* (2012). How would you describe the impact fame has had on your life?

It facilitated a better education for my children; I could now afford to send my younger son, who was born without hearing, to the school he needed. As writers, we don't experience fame in quite the same way as actors, we're known by our names on the spine of the books we write. But I was surprised in Sweden, recently, when I was getting a massage and midway, the masseuse stopped and whispered, 'I loved your book'. I was naked on the table so that was quite an unusual time to be told that.

If love makes the world go round, why do you think that romance novels are taken so lightly?

I think there's a degree of misogyny involved — a vast number of critics and reviewers in magazines and newspapers are male. Generations of men have grown up with the idea that they are the default, and that everything and everyone else is the odd thing. It has to do with the way romance novels are marketed and sold. People also assume that the books are written to a formula.

SHAKIB AL HASAN SUSPENDED FOR TWO YEARS

Do we work in this or I wait till the IPL: Indian bookmaker's text to Shakib

Bangladesh Test and T20 captain punished for not reporting three approaches by a suspect on the ICC watchlist; One during the IPL

TUSHAR BHADURI
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

ONE OF Bangladesh cricket's mega stars, Shakib Al Hasan's frequent interactions with an Indian bookmaker, and his failure to report the 'approach' for inside information to the ICC, has resulted in him being banned for two years. Further strengthening India's link to the latest cricket corruption saga was the mention of the Indian Premier League (IPL) in the bookmaker's WhatsApp messages to Shakib, who was then playing for Sunrisers Hyderabad.

The ICC identified the bookie as Deepak Aggarwal, an individual known to its Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) and suspected of involvement in corruption in cricket. He is said to have interacted with Shakib between November 2017 and April 2018, and instigated him to provide inside information. None of these approaches were reported by Shakib to the ACU or any other anti-corruption authority, which is considered a breach of the ICC code.

Half of Shakib's sentence will be suspended, depending on the player's conduct during the first half of the sentence. If he complies with all regulations of ICC's anti-corruption code, Shakib can return to action on October 29, 2020. Apart from the upcoming tour of India, he is likely to miss a large part - if not all - of next year's ICC World T20 in Australia and the 2020 IPL.

Shakib, Bangladesh's Test and T20 captain, has been charged with interacting with Aggarwal on several occasions on WhatsApp. The latter first instigated Shakib to provide inside information during the January 2018 tri-series between Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe. In a relevant WhatsApp message, Aggarwal asks the all-rounder "do we work in this or I wait til the IPL". The BCCI's T20 franchise league was to take place in a few months' time.

In a few days, Shakib received another message saying "Bro anything in this series." During the IPL, on the day Sunrisers played Kings XI Punjab, Aggarwal texted Shakib asking whether a particular player would be in the XI.

Shakib, in his two interviews with the ACU in January and August this year, said that he did not accept or act upon any of the approaches he received from Aggarwal, in particular, did not provide any of the information asked for, and didn't receive any money or any other benefit from him.

It was noted that Shakib had reported an illegal approach to an anti-corruption official in 2008 or 2009.

Biggest catch

With a career spanning 56 Tests, 206 ODIs and 76 T20Is, Shakib is undoubtedly the highest-profile player caught by the ICC's ACU. He has been consistently ranked the best all-rounder in various formats of the game and among the most sought-after players for franchise leagues around the world. Recently, the 32-year-old was in the forefront of a players' strike in Bangladesh, where cricketers demanded more money and facilities from the country's board.

The previous major corruption scandals involving top cricketers were either unearthed by police (eg. 2000 match-fixing case or the 2013 IPL spot-fixing case) or the media (eg. 2010 spot-fixing scandal on Pakistan's tour of England).

During the conversation on the day of the IPL game, "Aggarwal continued this conversation with him (Shakib) by talking about bitcoins, dollar accounts and asked him for his dollar account details. During this conversation, the cricketer told Aggarwal that



The two year ICC ban, with a year of that suspended, means Shakib will miss next year's IPL and World T20.

Shakib, in his two interviews with the ACU in January and August this year, said that he did not accept or act upon any of the approaches he received from Aggarwal, in particular, did not provide any of the information asked for, and didn't receive any money or any other benefit from him.

he wanted to meet him "first".

Clear malafide intent

According to the ICC, the approaches were "clear in their content and intent".

Shakib told the ACU that he had concerns about Aggarwal, feeling he was a bit "dodgy", and that following their conversations, was of the view that he was a bookie.

"Shakib Al Hasan is a highly experienced international cricketer. He has attended many education sessions and knows his obligations under the Code. He should have reported each of these approaches," ICC general manager (integrity) Alex Marshall said.

"Shakib has accepted his errors and co-operated fully with the investigation. He has offered to assist the Integrity Unit in future education, to help younger players to learn from his mistakes. I am happy to accept this offer."

The player concerned accepted the charge, which means there will be no hearing or appeal.

"I am obviously extremely sad to have been banned from the game I love, but I completely accept my sanction for not reporting the approaches. The ICC ACU is reliant on players to play a central part in the fight against corruption and I didn't do my duty in this instance," Shakib said in the ICC release.

"Like the majority of players and fans around the world, I want cricket to be a corruption-free sport and I am looking forward to working with the ICC ACU team to support their education programme and ensure young players don't make the same mistake I did."

Board plays safe

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), which was at loggerheads with Shakib during the players' strike said that while it was disappointed with his conduct, it will provide him all assistance for a successful return to the game when eligible.

"BCB had nothing to do with it, neither did any of us know. The ACSU, which did this investigation since January, was done independently of the ICC. We only knew that they contacted Shakib, so we just heard the verdict," BCB president Nazmul Hassan said.

"While the BCB is shocked and extremely disappointed that an experienced player like Shakib had failed to report corrupt approach on three occasions, at the same time we are pleased that he has cooperated fully with the ICC ACU and has pledged his commitment to its education programme," a BCB statement said. "We hope he will come back as a better and wiser cricketer and serve Bangladesh for many more years when his sanction will be over. During the suspension, the BCB will continue to support his efforts at returning to cricket."

'BCCI's anti-corruption unit had no role to play in probe'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

THE BCCI'S Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) head Ajit Singh on Tuesday said that investigations into Shakib Al Hasan's breach of anti-corruption code during a 2018 IPL game was completely handled by the ICC. Shakib was suspended by the ICC for two years, including one year of "suspended sentence" for failing to report corrupt approach on three separate occasions, including one during 2018 IPL by an alleged Indian bookie Deepak Aggarwal.

The match referred in ICC's verdict on Shakib was played between his IPL franchise Sunrisers Hyderabad and Kings XI Punjab on April 26, 2018. Sunrisers won the game by 13 runs. "That particular IPL season we are referring to, the anti-corruption matters were handled by the ICC. So the complete investigation was carried out by the ICC. The BCCI has no role in it," Singh, a former DGP of Rajasthan, told PTI. Singh, in fact, replaced former Delhi Police Commissioner Neeraj Kumar after IPL 2018. Asked about the alleged bookie Aggarwal, who is said to have made those corrupt approaches, Singh said: "We provided the necessary inputs from our end but the entire investigation was carried out by the ICC ACU."

"These messages on 26 April 2018 included a number of deleted messages. He

"That particular IPL season we are referring to, the anti-corruption matters were handled by the ICC. So the complete investigation was carried out by the ICC. The BCCI has no role in it."

AJIT SINGH
BCCI ANTI-CORRUPTION CHIEF

(Shakib) confirmed that these deleted messages contained requests from Mr Aggarwal for Inside Information," the ICC stated.

Aggarwal's other two approaches were during the Bangladesh Premier League when Shakib was playing for Dhaka Dynamites in 2017, followed by the tri-series against Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka in January 2018.

He made a mistake: PM Hasina

Dhaka: Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina offered support to suspended all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, insisting that his failure to report corrupt approaches was a mistake from which he will learn and bounce back as a wiser player.

"It's clear that Shakib has made a mistake and he's realised that," Hasina was quoted as saying by *bdnews24.com*. "There's nothing much the government can do about the ICC's decision but BCB will stand by him," she added.

PAK WARM-UP

Wicketkeeper Alex Carey will lead a strong team that will play Pakistan in the three-day fixture at Perth Stadium. The squad named on Tuesday had several top batsmen hoping to make it to the squad for the two-match Test series.



Shakib Al Hasan (R) in Sunrisers Hyderabad colours.

BITCOINS AND DOLLAR ACCOUNTS WERE DISCUSSED OVER WHATSAPP

Bangladesh Test and T20 skipper Shakib Al Hasan failed to report three separate approaches by an alleged Indian bookie. The player, during an interview with the ICC's anti-corruption unit, confirmed and elaborated on his interactions with the bookie.

FIRST INTERACTION

The first interaction between the alleged bookie and Shakib took place in mid-November of 2017 during the Bangladesh Premier League. Shakib was playing for Dhaka Dynamites. The all-rounder says a person who was known to him had provided his number to Aggarwal. In the same month, Shakib told the ICC's ACU, that he had exchanged Whatsapp messages with Aggarwal. He also said that Aggarwal wanted to meet him.

'DO WE WORK IN THIS'

In January 2018, the alleged bookie and Shakib once again were in communication over Whatsapp during the tri-series in Dhaka which involved Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe. On January 19, Aggarwal congratulated Shakib for being named man of the match (67 runs and 3/47 vs Sri Lanka). However, Shakib told the ACU that Aggarwal sent this message following the congratulatory message: "Do we work in this or wait til (sic) the IPL." The reference to work was about providing inside information.

'BRO ANYTHING IN THIS SERIES'

Aggarwal and Shakib continued to stay in touch during the tri-series. On January 23, the alleged bookie made another approach to Shakib for inside information. "Bro anything in this series," the Whatsapp message said.

THE IPL APPROACH

Shakib was playing for Sunrisers Hyderabad during the IPL when bookie Aggarwal contacted him on April 26, 2018. In the Whatsapp message, Aggarwal wanted to know if a particular cricketer was going to play the game. Aggarwal also asked Shakib for his 'dollar account' and spoke about bitcoins. Shakib, during this conversation, said that he wants to meet Aggarwal 'first'. In this particular match against Kings XI Punjab, Shakib made 28 off 29 balls batting first. He also took two wickets and gave away 18 runs in three overs.

DELETED MESSAGES

Some of the messages on April 26 which were about Aggarwal asking for 'inside information' were deleted by Shakib. The Bangladesh captain confirmed to the ACU that he had indeed deleted some messages.

Ganguly's plan: NCA to be Centre of Excellence

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
KOLKATA, OCTOBER 29

THE BCCI is looking forward to converting the National Cricket Academy (NCA) into a Centre of Excellence - a state-of-the-art facility, designated to be a finishing school for leading young talents. It is learnt that the item is on the agenda, when BCCI president Sourav Ganguly meets NCA director Rahul Dravid and the Academy's chief operating officer (COO) Tufan Ghosh in Bangalore on Wednesday. BCCI secretary Jay Shah and treasurer Arun Singh Dhimal are expected to be present as well.

The NCA was established in 2000 to nurture top young talents, with the potential to represent India in the future. Of late, though, it has become basically a rehab centre for the injured national team and India A team cricketers. Now that Ganguly has taken charge of the BCCI, former greats like VVS Laxman are expecting an overhaul. During Ganguly's felicitation at Eden Gardens last week, Laxman had urged that the NCA be transformed into a Centre of Excellence.

"If I have to make one wish to Sourav, it's just about how he can support, how he can revive the NCA. The greatness of the Indian team is its bench strength. I saw the South



Rahul Dravid, NCA director.

African team and it was the most depleted South African team I have seen. It's because their domestic structure is not strong. Through the NCA, you can produce future champions," Laxman had said.

With a 40-acre plot that the BCCI acquired for the NCA lying idle near the Bangalore airport, the cricket board has the space to build a state-of-the-art cricket centre. Former NCA chairman Niranjan Shah agreed that it is the need of the hour, while blaming the Committee of Administrators

(CoA) that helmed the BCCI for close to three years, for the NCA's decline.

"See, since the CoA took over, for three years, the NCA was totally neglected. They have talked about its development but never done any development. In my time, we at least purchased 40 acres of land near the airport and they (CoA) haven't done anything on that. They, also, unnecessarily disbanded the NCA committee comprising members who knew how to run the NCA," Shah told *The Indian Express*.

He stressed that the NCA should be a state-of-the-art facility for leading young cricketers a la Cricket Australia's Centre of Excellence. "At the moment the NCA is housed at the Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore and there's not enough space (for its expansion). There's just one small ground, which is also the KSCA's property."

The former BCCI secretary said the NCA should have three cricket grounds, a top-class hostel for the cricketers to stay, practice pitches and indoor facilities. "To convert the NCA into a Centre of Excellence was our dream. There should be two-three Ranji Trophy-level cricket grounds so that a lot of matches can be played. You need a hostel with 50-60 rooms and nice catering services, lots of practice pitches, indoor practice nets,

top physios, sports medicine centre... Bangalore was chosen for the NCA because of its weather. We (BCCI) need our own entity at the NCA. We already budgeted Rs 100 crore for the making (overhaul) of the NCA. After 10 years of hard work we could acquire the land," Shah observed, adding: "It should be the best coaching and rehabilitation centre in the world, where leading young cricketers - U-16, U-19 and A team players selected by the selection committee - can have camps and hone their skills to reach the next level. Also, it should have all the facilities that will allow national team players to go there and train whenever they want."

Shah hoped that things will improve under Ganguly. "Sourav knows what's the function of the NCA. He knows its importance. Also, Dravid is there and that's very good. The NCA has to improve." He informed that a blueprint is already in place for the NCA's overhaul. "We laid out the blueprint. We gave all the papers to the state government, detailing our plans. On that basis we got the land."

The BCCI old hand is also of the view that NCA should have a former cricketer as its COO. "There are so many people with very good cricketing background who can work as the CEO or COO," Shah said.

Mahmudullah, Mominul appointed skippers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DHAKA, OCTOBER 29

Mahmudullah Riyad and Mominul Haque were on Tuesday handed the reins of Bangladesh's T20 and Test squads respectively after the ICC slapped a two-year ban on regular skipper Shakib Al Hasan for failing to report three corrupt approaches.

Bangladesh Cricket Board named Mahmudullah as the T20 captain, while Mominul will lead the Test side during their tour of India which comprises three T20 Internationals and two Tests beginning with the shortest format games on November 3 in New Delhi.

Shakib, Bangladesh's Test and T20 captain and the world's No.1 all-rounder in ODIs, was initially named as the captain for the three-match T20I series but was on Tuesday handed a two-year suspension by the ICC for failing to report three corrupt approaches, including one at the IPL, by a suspected Indian bookie, ousting him from the upcoming tour of India.

Twelve months of that ban is a suspended

sentence which will come into effect if the 32-year-old fails to comply with the anti-corruption code of the world body.

The one-year ban that he has to serve will keep him out of next year's Indian Premier League (IPL) and also the World T20 to be held in Australia from October 18 to November 15 the same year.

Left-arm spinner Tajjul Islam, who made his T20I debut earlier this year against Zimbabwe, was included in the T20 squad in place of Shakib, while Mohammad Mithun and Imrul Kayes were also named in the squad after Bangladesh had to make changes due to the absence of Tamim Iqbal and Mohammad Saifuddin.

Mithun replaced Tamim, who decided to stay with his wife with the couple expecting their second child, while Abu Hider Rony came in place of Saifuddin, who was ruled out of the series because of a recurring back injury.

Returning to the Test squad after their tour of New Zealand in March was Bangladesh left-arm pacer Mustafizur Rahman, who will also be available for the T20Is.



Russell Domingo: New coach, new challenge

'Both teams don't quite know what to expect'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DHAKA, OCTOBER 29

BANGLADESH HEAD coach Russell Domingo on Tuesday welcomed the decision to play their maiden Day-Night Test against India, saying both teams' inexperience of playing with pink ball might give the visitors an edge over the hosts. The Test is scheduled to be held at the iconic Eden Gardens from November 22-26 and will be the second game of the two-match series.

The development ended days of speculation after new BCCI president Sourav Ganguly managed to convince the Bangladesh Cricket Board, which initially faced resistance from its players. "As a coach I think it's a great opportunity. I don't think India played a pink ball Test before, we too haven't played a pink ball Test either. It's going to be a massive occasion at the Eden Gardens. It will be a new experience for both teams. So we're very excited," Domingo said.

"We know India are a good Test team. Probably they are the number one team in the world, but there will be uncertainty among players of both the teams of playing a pink ball Test. Both teams don't quite know what to expect, so it could work in our advantage, could work in our favour," he added.

The South African further said it will be a level-playing field for both the teams in terms of preparation for their first-ever Day-Night Test. "It's going to be a great occasion under lights in Kolkata against one of the best team of all formats. So we're really looking forward to the challenge. For sure there will be challenges because we're not going to have a lot of time to prepare with a pink ball," Domingo said.

"It'll be the same for both the teams, not a lot of preparation time, but an exciting event. It's new for both of the teams, so it can get the teams a little bit closer. And just the way the game is going, we've got to look at trying new things at certain times."

Domingo said Bangladesh players were initially reluctant to the idea because of lack of preparation time.

"I've spoken to the players. For sure there were some concerns. Some guys actually said 'we don't know what to expect. A little bit of preparation is needed, there will be only two-three days between the first and the second Test. How much time are we going to have to get used to it? (But) during my time with South Africa, we played a pink ball match in Adelaide. We had a warm-up game before that with a pink ball, we had a few sessions. It's a little bit less time this time for India," he said.

Domingo said Bangladesh players were initially reluctant to the idea because of lack of preparation time.

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
KOLKATA, OCTOBER 29

INDIA WILL host their first-ever pink-ball, day-night Test at Eden Gardens from November 22, BCCI president Sourav Ganguly has confirmed. This follows the Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) decision to accept the BCCI's proposal of playing a day/night Test in Kolkata. Bangladesh will play two Tests during their upcoming tour of India apart from three T20 internationals. The Indian Express was first to report that the Eden Test could be a day/night affair. The first Test at Indore will be played from November 14.

"I'm pleased to announce that our long-term partner BCB has graciously agreed to play a day-night Test match. This is the beginning of something special in Indian cricket. It is a priority for the newly-elected office-bearers and members of apex council to take Indian cricket forward. For me, as former captain of India and as the current president of BCCI, Test cricket is of utmost priority and we at BCCI will leave no stone unturned to bring this format back to its feet," Ganguly stated.

He thanked India captain Virat Kohli and BCB president Nazmul Hassan for their co-operation and added: "In this effort of ours, day-night Test cricket is a huge step forward and we believe it will bring back the crowd into stadiums and a whole lot of young children to the sport."

BCCI secretary Jay Shah described it as "a great day for Indian cricket" and that the BCCI under its present dispensation would work towards "revolutionizing Test cricket".

1 pm start expected

According to sources, the match is likely to have a 1 or 1.30pm start and the BCCI will now decide if the pink SG balls would be used for the game or Kookaburra. Pink Kookaburra had been used in the Duleep Trophy but didn't receive a positive response from the domestic cricketers. The SG pink, on the other hand, is yet to be tried in Indian domestic cricket, although during an interaction with this paper last week, Sanspareils Greenlands (SG) owner Paras Anand had said the company was ready and the SG pink ball could be directly used in a Test without a domestic trial.

The BCCI general manager, cricket operations, Saba Karim will take the matter forward after receiving a communication from the Board president.

Bangladesh players were initially reluctant to play a day/night Test. They start their World Test Championship campaign with the series against India. But the BCB convinced them to look at the bigger picture. "The players haven't played pink-ball cricket. So naturally they were a tad hesitant. But eventually, as the BCB spoke to them, they saw the bigger picture, an opportunity to be a part of history. Also, they realised that pink-ball, day/night Test is the future. Everyone agreed," Bangladesh national selector and former captain Habibul Bashar told *The Indian Express*.

On the face of it, a day-night Test on a grassy pitch – required for pink ball – will give India a big advantage, given the pace attack they have. Also, Bangladesh will be without their two most experienced cricketers – Tamim Iqbal and Shakib Al Hasan – for different reasons. Bangladesh head coach Russell Domingo, however, has preferred to take this as an opportunity.

"As a coach and some of the players or the senior players, we think it's a great opportunity. I don't think India played a pink-ball Test before. We haven't played a pink-ball Test. It's a massive occasion at Eden Gardens. It will be a new experience for both teams. So we are very excited. It's going to be a great occasion under lights in Kolkata against one of the best teams of all, probably the best Test team in the world... So we are really looking forward to the challenge. For sure there are some challenges, because we are not going to have a lot of time to prepare

Pink is the new red

Following concerns about waning popularity of Test matches, Bangladesh agree to play under lights at Eden Gardens



Ganguly played an instrumental role in convincing Bangladesh to play D/N Test.

On the face of it, a day-night Test on a grassy pitch – required for pink ball – will give India a big advantage, given the pace attack they have.

with a pink ball. But it's the same for India," Domingo said.

He agreed that Test cricket should embrace the changes. "Just the way the game is going, we have got to look at trying new things at certain times. So we are excited about it. We know it's going to be a big challenge. Like I said, we haven't done much of it, but sometimes changes are the best thing."

Eden excited

The Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) secretary Avishek Dalmiya expressed his delight on Eden Gardens hosting the country's first day/night Test.

"It's also great news for all the cricket lovers. Eden has been privy to a lot of history. It would be another feather in its cap," Avishek said, adding: "CAB would leave no stone unturned to ensure that it is a successful event. The presence of dignitaries and distinguished guests, cultural shows and felicitations of former players would add to the grandeur of the event."

Ganguly deserves a lot of credit for introducing day-night Tests in India at such short notice. After becoming the BCCI president on

October 23, Ganguly made day-night Tests one of his priorities as an antidote to dwindling stadium attendance in the long-form. During his first meeting with Kohli, the newly-elected BCCI president raised the subject and received a positive response from the skipper.

"I must say that Virat Kohli is agreeable to it. There are reports that he doesn't want to play day-night Tests, which is not the fact. So once the captain of India is agreeable to it, life becomes a lot easier. We will see how we can push it. The game needs to go forward," Ganguly had said during his felicitation at Eden Gardens last week, adding: "I'm a firm believer in day-night Tests. I don't know when will that happen. But till the time I am around, I will be pushing for it," he added.

Daily ticket Rs 50

PTI adds: The CAB is also trying its best to make it a full house in the 68,000-capacity stadium on all the five days by offering a daily ticket starting as low as Rs 50. A final clearance will come from the BCCI in consultation with the broadcasters.

"We will send the tickets for printing as we get the timing confirmation from BCCI and broadcasters. We are planning to bring in school children from the districts and local schools and we don't want any inconvenience. Ticket denominations will be of Rs 50, 100, 150 on daily basis. We will try our best to pull in as many crowd as possible. We hope it will be a success," Dalmiya added.

Extra coat of lacquer means more swing during twilight

EDEN GARDENS curator Sujan Mukherjee will use his previous experience – the 2016 CAB Super League final between Mohun Bagan and Bhowanipore was a multi-day, day-night, pink-ball affair – to prepare the pitch for India's first-ever day-night Test, commencing on November 22.

In a conversation with *The Indian Express*, Mukherjee gives a low-down on the requirements and conditions.

The ball starts to move a little more during that period, a reason why the batsmen struggle a bit. Then again, a Test batsman is expected to overcome the odds.

Explanation: As dusk melts into evening and floodlights take over, the air just above the pitch becomes more stable, aiding extra swing. As per stats though, the average wickets fall per session in day-night Tests is on and around three.

The pitch needs to have a fair amount of grass cover for a pink-ball Test?

Not necessarily. Eden arguably has the liveliest of pitches in the country and in any case, we keep a certain amount of grass on the pitch for every Test at this venue. That will do. Nothing extra is required.

Explanation: Some grass is required on the pitch to protect the colouring of the pink ball. The lush green Eden outfield helps matters.

In the Super League final, pink Kookaburra was used and it swung a little more than the red ball, isn't it?

Yes, the nature of the pink ball is that it swings a little more.

Explanation: The only difference between a pink ball and a red one is that the former has an extra coat of lacquer to help retain its colour a bit longer so that the players can spot it comfortably under lights. And because of this extra coat of lacquer, the ball swings a little longer. And obviously, a pink ball will swing more than a red ball if it is overcast.

It is said that the pink ball gets softer quickly. So it could be a problem for the bowlers especially in the evening, given the November dew in Kolkata.

I don't think so. As because the Test has a 1pm start, only the last two or two-and-a-half hours would be played in the evening. Yes, it's early sundown in November. But from my experience I can tell you that the dew factor is unlikely to come into play before 7.30pm. So it's manageable. And we have enough people for roping the ground during breaks and we also use sprays to minimise the dew factor.

Explanation: Dew factor is an issue. And this is one reason why the batting teams usually don't declare in the final session, for the ball could become like a soap cake, making life difficult for the bowlers.

There's something called the 'twilight zone' in day-night Tests, when batting becomes difficult.



Eden Gardens all set to make history by hosting India's first-ever pink ball Test.

SIMPLY PUT

Does a day-night Test allow spinners to come into play?

Why not? What I have seen in the Super League match, some spinners got decent purchase as the game progressed.

Explanation: On the face of it, India might lose home advantage in a day-night Test, given that spin traditionally has been their strength. Then again, India at the moment boast of one of the best seam attacks in the world even without their x-factor, Jasprit Bumrah. The success of Mohammed Shami, Umesh Yadav and Ishant Sharma in the recently concluded home series against South Africa, where pitches by and large had a tilt towards the batsmen, attested that.

In 2017, Adelaide had hosted the first-ever day-night Ashes Test, where off-spinner Nathan Lyon had a six-wicket match haul.

All said and done, it would be a luxury to play two spinners in a day-night Test and the conditions might prompt the Indian team management to include three fast bowlers in the playing XI and a spinner. Against South Africa, India fielded five specialist bowlers. At Eden, however, an extra batsman might come at the expense of a bowler.

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY

GULF IN CLASS

There's a gulf in class between India and Bangladesh, which all but cancels out the unpredictability and the risk factor. India are the world's No. 1 Test side for close to three years now. Bangladesh, on the other hand, are ranked ninth and to make matters worse, they would be without Tamim Iqbal and Shakib Al Hasan. Bangladesh also don't have a tearaway quick. The visitors' challenge would be to put up a fight.

[SPORTS BAR]



Andonovski is new US women's football coach

Vlatko Andonovski was named the new head coach of the United States' women's football team, taking over from two-time World Cup winner Jill Ellis. Andonovski, 43, moves into the job after spending several years coaching in the National Women's Soccer League. He was head coach at Reign FC – Megan Rapinoe's current team – for the 2018 and 2019 seasons. He won two championships during earlier stints with FC Kansas City, where he coached between 2013 and 2017, twice winning coach of the year honours. "We are thrilled to welcome Vlatko to the US Soccer family," United States Soccer Federation president Carlos Cordeiro said. "As one of the most accomplished coaches in the NWSL history, he's proven he can help world-class players reach their peak, inspire his teams and win championships."

Ravinder in last four of U-23 Wrestling Worlds

Ravinder emerged as the shining star for India on the second day of the UWW U-23 World Championships after securing his place in the semi-finals of the 61 kg category in Budapest on Tuesday. The 22-year-old put on a commanding display to notch up a 12-1 win over Hungary's Marcell Budai Kovacs in his opening bout. The Jhajjar grappler continued his heroics against 2019 Russian National Freestyle Championship bronze medalist Dinislam Takhhtarov with an 11-0 win to storm into the last-four round. Ravinder is aiming for his first medal from the championship after losing in the semifinals in 2017.

Dutch beat UAE to seal spot in ICC World T20

The Netherlands on Tuesday sealed their berth in the ICC men's World Twenty20 in Australia next year with an eight-wicket win over United Arab Emirates in the qualifying playoff in Dubai. Brandon Glover returned with a four-wicket haul, while Paul van Meekeren and T van der Gugten claimed two wickets each to restrict UAE to 80 for nine in the stipulated 20 overs. The Dutch overhauled the target, reaching 81 for two in 15.1 overs, riding on a 53-ball 41 by opener Ben Cooper. The Netherlands thus became the third team, after Papua New Guinea and Ireland, to book a place in the T20 World Cup.



Utah Jazz guard Donovan Mitchell (right) in action in Phoenix on Monday. AP

Jazz make up 7-pt deficit in 9 mins to beat Suns

Bojan Bogdanovic hit four 3-pointers en route to 29 points, and Donovan Mitchell added 25 points and made the first of two free throws with 0.4 seconds left in the game to give the Utah Jazz a 96-95 victory over hosts Phoenix Suns on Monday. Rudy Gobert contributed 15 points and 18 rebounds, and made eight consecutive free throws in the fourth quarter to help the Jazz overcome a seven-point deficit in the final nine minutes for their eighth straight win in the series. Devin Booker had 21 points despite playing through foul trouble. Kelly Oubre Jr scored 18 points, and Ricky Rubio had 10 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists. Mitchell's dunk after a Suns turnover tied the game at 92 at 2:06 remaining. Bogdanovic made a dunk and ensuing free throw after another turnover with 1:45 remaining for a 95-92 lead before Jevon Carter's 3-pointer with 47.3 seconds to go tied it at 95. After the Jazz took over with seven seconds remaining, Mitchell drove the lane and was fouled by Booker. He made the first shot, which was all Utah needed.

Jamshedpur on top after beating Hyderabad 3-1

Hosts Jamshedpur FC registered their second win on the trot by defeating Hyderabad FC 3-1 in an Indian Super League match on Tuesday. Farukh Choudhary tapped a loose ball home in the 34th minute to convert his team's dominance into a goal. Marcelinho scored an unlikely equaliser in the 45th minute but Jamshedpur regained control after the break with goals from Aniket Jadhav (62nd) and Sergio Castel (75th). The result took Antonio Liriondo's men to the top of the table while Hyderabad are yet to open their tally. Farukh and Keegan Pereira also had their efforts kept out before the final whistle.



Khaka should apologise for reaction, says Emery

Arsenal coach Unai Emery said Granit Khaka should apologise after his confrontation with supporters and refused to confirm whether the Swiss midfielder will retain the club captaincy. Khaka's substitution during Arsenal's 2-2 draw with Crystal Palace in the Premier League on Sunday was met with sarcastic cheers from the home fans at the Emirates Stadium. The Arsenal skipper was incensed by the supporters' reaction, cupping his hand to his ear before taking off his shirt and storming down the tunnel amid boos. "Yes (he should apologise). We make mistakes, we need to apologise and we suggested for him to do that," Emery told reporters on Tuesday. "He is now devastated – devastated and sad. We spoke yesterday, and also on Sunday night. It is not easy for him and for the team."

UEFA orders Bulgaria to play at empty venue

Bulgaria must play their next home game behind closed doors and have been handed a fine of €75,000 euros after racist chanting by supporters marred their Euro 2020 qualifier against England earlier this month, UEFA said on Tuesday. The disciplinary arm of European football's governing body also ordered Bulgaria to play a second match behind closed doors, but that punishment is suspended for a "probationary period" of two years. The punishment means Bulgaria will play their final Euro 2020 qualifier at home to the Czech Republic, on November 17, in an empty stadium.

Russia's 'Fancy Bear' hackers hit anti-doping agencies: Microsoft

NEW YORK TIMES
OCTOBER 29

RUSSIAN STATE hackers attacked the computer networks of at least 16 national and international sports and anti-doping organisations, Microsoft said Monday. The attacks are the latest in a series of brazen Russian cyberattacks on foreign politicians, sporting officials and anti-doping regulators.

The attacks were timed as the World Anti-Doping Agency deals with the continued fallout from the 2015 Russian doping scandal, which snowballed in recent months after WADA officials discovered that Russian athletes' failed drug tests had been erased from a critical data set.

According to Microsoft, which helps protect some of the agencies from cyberattacks, the Russian attacks began Sept. 16, just days before WADA announced Russia might face further punishment for inconsistencies in its drug testing data. Microsoft did not name victims of the cyberattacks, but confirmed that some of the Russian attacks were successful.

The company traced the attacks to a group of notorious Russian state-backed hackers known by the alias Fancy Bear. The group is one of two Russian government groups responsible for the 2016 hack of the Democratic

National Committee, as well as previous cyberattacks on sports and anti-doping officials between 2014 and 2018.

The attacks resulted in the 2018 indictment of seven Russian intelligence officers accused of hacking sports and anti-doping officials, as well as spreading personal emails belonging to antidoping officials and the private medical records of Western athletes. The hacks occurred amid mounting criticism of Russia for its yearslong, state-sponsored doping program.

The latest Russian cyberattacks could factor into WADA's decision whether or not to punish Russia for possibly manipulating data at the center of the 2015 doping scandal. Russia's promise to turn over the data set was key to WADA's decision to lift a ban on Russia's antidoping agency in late 2018. That determination ended a three-year suspension of Russia's anti-doping agency that had been imposed after the discovery of one of the most brazen cheating schemes in history, one that corrupted a number of major international sporting events, including several Olympics.

As a result of the scandal, Russian athletes were barred from competing under their country's flag at the 2018 Winter Games in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

In recent months, a WADA investigative team discovered inconsistencies between a



USADA CEO Travis Tygart said his organisation sustained a password hack attempt in early October.

data set it received from a whistleblower in 2017 and data submitted by Russian officials last January. Failed drug tests had been deleted from the Russian data set.

Last month, WADA officials gave the Russians three weeks to explain the discrepancies. WADA has yet to determine whether

it will accept Russia's explanations. A WADA spokesman said it was aware of Microsoft's disclosures Monday but said there was no evidence the agency's systems were breached in the attack. Travis Tygart, the chief executive of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, said his organization sustained a deliberate brute force password attack in early October. "Nothing penetrated and we were in contact with all our community," Tygart said Monday. He called the Fancy Bear attacks the "new normal."

Yury Ganus, the head of Russia's anti-doping agency, said Monday that he had not been informed of any cyberattacks. Ganus told The New York Times earlier this month that he suspected Russian authorities were monitoring his phone calls and messages after he publicly claimed thousands of changes had been made to an athlete database to cover up failed drug tests. Ganus said the data issue "is the most critical since this doping crisis began."

Any punishment in the new WADA investigation could include the banning of Russian athletes from major international sports events. "As the world looks forward with anticipation to the Tokyo Summer Games in 2020, we thought it important to share information about this new round of activity," Tom Burt, Microsoft's corporate vice president of customer security and trust, said in a statement Monday.

Digital thieves on the prowl

It is a notorious Russian state-backed hackers group that was accused of launching massive cyberattacks on the United States ahead of the 2016 presidential elections.

SERIOUS CHARGES

The attacks resulted in the 2018 indictment of seven Russian intelligence officers accused of hacking sports and anti-doping officials, as well as spreading personal emails belonging to anti-doping officials and the private medical records of Western athletes.

REPEAT OFFENDERS

Microsoft said Fancy Bear, linked to Russian intelligence agencies, had previously targeted anti-doping organisations after revelations of the Russian doping conspiracy between 2011-2015 led to the country being banned from international competition. The group often has been found hacking into a variety of organisations.

It has been indicted. Its leaders have periodically been exposed.

LATEST ATTACKS

Hacking attempts began on September 16 and took aim at more than 15 international sporting and anti-doping agencies on three continents, according to Microsoft.

As the world looks forward with anticipation to the Tokyo Summer Games in 2020, we thought it important to share information about this new round of activity,"

TOM BURT, MICROSOFT VP

Coming soon: All new, All Blacks

String of retirements and change at the top expected as New Zealand tries to emerge from the shock World Cup semifinal defeat

REUTERS
TOKYO, OCTOBER 29

NEW ZEALAND rugby faces some big decisions in the wake of their World Cup semifinal defeat to England and while they have had so much success promoting from within it might be time to bring in a new voice as coach, former All Black Justin Marshall has said.

New Zealand had been seeking their third successive World Cup title in Japan but were bundled out by a rampant England in Saturday's semi-final.

Head coach Steve Hansen is stepping down after the bronze medal match with Wales on Friday, while veterans Kieran Read, Ben Smith, Ryan Crotty and probably Sonny Bill Williams are all moving on.

Senior players Beauden Barrett, Sam Whitelock and Brodie Retallick also have agreements with New Zealand Rugby to take breaks away from the game before the 2023 World Cup in France.

"There are some big decisions with the new coach coming in and some senior players (leaving)," Marshall told Reuters. "But I don't think we are in a massive transition zone... it's business as usual."

"When I went through the team and looked at the players leaving and a new coach coming in, I didn't think it was catastrophic. I thought, 'this isn't that bad'."

"New Zealand rugby is still in a good place," Marshall played a then-record 81 tests for the All Blacks at scrumhalf from 1995 until 2005, which included two unsuccessful Rugby World Cup campaigns in 1999 and 2003, and had five different head coaches.

There have been just two -- Marshall's last All Blacks coach Graham Henry and Hansen -- in the last 15 years after an unparalleled run of success. While the 46-year-old thought there was some merit to continuing New Zealand Rugby's policy of promoting from within and appointing current assistant Ian Foster to succeed Hansen he also thought some fresh ideas might not be a bad thing. "It's the adage if it's not broken do you risk fixing it?" he said at an event hosted by Rugby World Cup partner Land Rover in Tokyo. "Do we jump in and change what has



Head coach Steve Hansen will step down after the bronze medal match with Wales on Friday. Reuters

been very good for us?

"We do have Ian Foster applying and he has been in that system. Or do we wipe the slate clean and get someone new in to work with the same players?"

"I think there is maybe a chance here to freshen the players mentally. They have been under the same regime for three World Cups, it might be time to get someone new in."

Blown away

Marshall acknowledged that as the All Blacks' goal was to win the Webb Ellis trophy for a fourth time, and third in succession, the 19-7 loss to England on Saturday would be considered a failure.

The team, however, had evolved to meet the challenges of tighter defences, bringing in dual pivots in Barrett and Richie Mo'unga, and

still had a winning record of almost 85% since the last World Cup. They were simply blown away by a better side on the day, he said.

"I was talking to (England's 2003 World Cup winning captain) Martin Johnson... and I said to him after 15 minutes there is no part of my memory that has seen a team play like that in an opening exchange against the All Blacks," he said. "No team in the world would be able to stay with the team that is playing that well balanced, that tempo, that accuracy and efficiency on attack and defence."

Marshall added that England would need a similar performance against South Africa on Saturday. "Their challenge is to get the same place mentally and play the same style of rugby," he said. "If they can get there, then they are overwhelming favourites to win the World Cup."

Strength in structure

While New Zealand is justifiably lauded for producing a conveyor belt of world-class rugby players, it is the depth of its coaching that is the nation's real strength, according to former All Blacks loose forward Murray Mexted. Seven New Zealanders, including the All Blacks' Steve Hansen, led teams at this year's World Cup and there were more than 10 acting in assistant roles for the 20 teams who started the tournament in Japan.

"When you talk about the strengths of New Zealand rugby, we straight away think about the players like the Beauden Barretts," Mexted told Reuters.

"When you say where is the depth of New Zealand rugby, everyone thinks players, but I think coaches."

Mexted said the depth of coaching was

Frenchman Garces to referee final

JEROME GARCES will become the first Frenchman to referee a Rugby World Cup final when he takes charge of Saturday's title match between England and South Africa in Yokohama. South Africa has only won two of its last 11 test matches refereed by Garces, although one of them was the 19-16 semifinal victory over Wales last Sunday. A group of fans in South Africa last week launched an online petition to have the semifinal referee appointments changed, but Garces handled the game without any incident and there were no contentious calls in the game. Scrumhalf Faf de Klerk found out about the appointment while he was answering questions at a news conference on Tuesday, and was diplomatic about World Rugby's decision. "He traditionally is a good referee," de Klerk said. "We can learn from (the semifinal) on how he sees things, and how he officiates scrums and mauls. Got to make sure we don't get on his wrong side." AP

REUTERS
HONG KONG, OCTOBER 29

ASHLEIGH BARTY surrendered a one-set lead to crash to a 3-6 6-3 6-4 loss at the hands of late replacement Kiki Bertens at the WTA Finals on Tuesday as the world number one's prospects of advancing to the semi-finals suffered a blow.

Barty was facing the Dutchwoman after she took Naomi Osaka's place in the draw following the Australian Open champion's withdrawal with a shoulder injury and Bertens made the most of the opportunity.

After feeling her way through the first set, the world number 10 - who reached the semi-finals of last year's tournament - raised her game to hand Barty her first loss of the competition. "In the beginning I think was not playing so well," said Bertens.

"I had to feel the court a little bit more, but I think I was getting better and better in the rhythm, trying to play aggressive and trying to come to the net."

"I think I did pretty well." Barty's status as world number one in the year-end rankings was confirmed following her win over Belinda Bencic on Sunday and the Australian looked impressive in the opening set, even as both players had trouble holding their serve. Bertens, though, turned the tables in the second set, breaking the 23-year-old in the penultimate game to level the scores and take the match into a decider.

She carried that form into the final set and, as Barty struggled on her own serve, Bertens closed out the match to record her first-ever win over the French Open champion in five attempts. "We know we're still alive in the tournament," said Barty. "That's the beauty of round-robin. It's a different format."

"But it's not going to stress me out too much. We'll hit the practice court tomorrow and come back on Thursday, try to play for a spot in the semis."

Barty and Bertens were joined on one win apiece at the end of the second round of matches in the Red Group by Bencic after the Swiss beat Petra Kvitova 6-3 1-6 6-4, which leaves the Czech winless in her opening two matches.

LIT FEST

At Cigar Smoking World Championships, the best always finish last



Competitors are allowed two matches and one minute to light their cigars. NYT

NEW YORK TIMES
OCTOBER 30

THE SMOKE machine seemed redundant.

This was the Cigar Smoking World Championship. There was already a lot of smoke. But there it was, next to the laser lights and the rattling sound system, pluming white fog around a subterranean hotel ballroom in which people in tuxedos and evening gowns representing more than 40 countries had gathered to find out who among them could smoke a cigar the slowest.

The noise, the pageantry, the glittery prizes valued at tens of thousands of dollars — for Marko Bilic, a garrulous local cigar lounge owner, it was a far cry from the genesis of the event 10 years ago, when 17 people came by to try a game he had just made up. When the most recent edition was held, in the last week of August, there were close to 250 attendees, many of whom had competed in his of the 34 qualification events held around the world this year.

"The best smokers in the world are here tonight," Bilic declared after all the rules were recited and the ceremonial first cigar was cut. "Let's see what they can do."

The smokers lit their matches. The room

fell silent. This was their one chance to apply fire to their cigars. The clock counted up from zero, and for the next several hours, the competitors sat there, staring at their embers, quietly watching them burn.

I first heard about the Cigar Smoking World Championship three years ago, around the time that I began my current assignment as The New York Times' international sports correspondent. It sounded then like something to avoid: contrived whimsy, quirk for quirk's sake, unserious and unimportant.

Over the next couple of years, though, as I reported articles from 21 countries, I felt my perspective change. The competitions I attended — motorcycle racing, darts, soccer, chess, cycling, basketball and whatever else — started to feel more alike than different. Athletes, whether they were skating in an Olympic rink in Norway or on a frozen lake in Austria, told me the same things about their motivations and desires. The bonds inside these communities, however different, felt equally strong, from the Swamp Soccer World Cup to the actual World Cup.

My assignment overseas will come to an end next month. As I get ready to return to New York, I feel as if I've achieved a deeper understanding of sports at their essence, of the heart of why people everywhere gather to compete.

And so, in that spirit, I decided to go watch a cigar smoking contest.

Slow and Steady

Humans are naturally competitive. That's what Igor Kovacic, who holds the slow cigar smoking world record (3 hours 52 minutes 55 seconds), was explaining to me a few minutes before the competition began. I had found him pacing in a hallway with his headphones on, listening to Rage Against the Machine at full volume.

"I need to get angry, and then I put it into the competition," he said. "I almost don't like myself when I compete. I look like I'm going to kill somebody. I'm not that kind of guy."

Kovacic broke down the event for me. There is luck involved, to be sure. The cigar you pick or even where you sit in a room makes a difference. But there is room for skill, strategy and instinct, too. One has to read the way a cigar burns, to interpret the heat emanating from its skin, to measure the weight on each puff.

People train seriously for this. "Athletics like running or weight lifting are the only sports where people are truly competing against physical limits," Bilic said. "But for sports like football, cricket, there are rules created by humans, and in the framework of these rules, people try to be the best. It's the

same in cigar smoking."

Kovacic, 48, an infrastructure project manager from Gothenburg, Sweden, snatched the world record earlier this year from Darren Cioffi, an American who has held it eight times. Their heated rivalry constituted the main competitive storyline of the weekend.

"They're like Magic and Bird," said Alex Lerian, a competitor from New York who wore earplugs to help him focus.

I met Cioffi the night before the event on a hotel terrace overlooking the Adriatic Sea. The waterfront felt serene, but he confessed he was finding it "hard to be chill." The contest was weighing on him. He wanted to have fun. But there were a lot of people, he said, who would be happy to see him lose.

A cigar brand owner from Nashville, Tennessee, Cioffi first entered the championship in 2014 "because it sounded wacky." He ended up winning it. He attributed his skill (besides simply knowing his way around a cigar) to his "really good up-close vision," which he honed through a side gig as an antique paper dealer. He pointed to my notebook and told me he could tell me how many pages it had.

"Like, I just happen to be able to do this," he said, sounding almost weary. "Part of me wishes that I could never have done it, and that way I could just be here having fun."