

International Gita Mahotsav
Kurukshetra, Haryana
November 23 - December 10, 2019
Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana | www.prharyana.gov.in

Chhattisgarh: ITBP constable shoots five colleagues, self

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

A CONSTABLE of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) allegedly opened fire on his colleagues in Narayanpur district of Chhattisgarh on Wednesday morning, killing five personnel and injuring two, before killing himself.

"Constable Masudul Rehman, hailing from West Bengal, opened automatic gunfire on his colleagues early on Wednesday morning in the ITBP camp in Kadenar village in Narayanpur," said ITBP spokesperson Vivek Pandey. The incident took place around 8.30 am.

"The reason for this episode of fratricide is not clear... It is difficult to ascertain the underlying reason immediately. Rehman was 32 years old and was unmarried," Pandey said.

Sources, however, said the violence may have been triggered by denial of leave. Rehman had reportedly not been granted leave for the last 14 months. "He was seeking long leave — perhaps, two months. His request was not accepted by his seniors... He was otherwise a disciplined soldier, and there were no complaints against him," said an ITBP source.

Those killed have been identified as head constables Mahendra Singh and Daljit Singh, and constables Surjit Sarkar, Biswaroop Mahto and Bijeesh. The injured are constables SB Ullas and Sitaram Doon. All of them are from the ITBP's 45th battalion, said sources.



P Chidambaram outside Tihar Jail after being released on Wednesday. Prem Nath Pandey

HE WILL BE IN PARLIAMENT TODAY: KARTI

Chidambaram gets bail after 106 days, told not to speak on case

No material to indicate he threatened any witness, says SC

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G & ANANYA TIWARI
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

FORMER UNION Minister and senior Congress leader P Chidambaram, who spent 106 days in custody following his arrest in two separate cases related to the INX Media probe, was granted bail Wednesday by the Supreme Court in an alleged

money laundering case registered by the Enforcement Directorate. He had earlier been granted bail in an alleged corruption case filed by the CBI.

The bench of Justices R Banumathi, A S Bopanna and Hrishikesh Roy, while directing Chidambaram to furnish a bail bond of Rs 2 lakh and two sureties of like amount, said he "shall not give any press interviews nor make any public

comment in connection with this case qua him or other co-accused" and "shall not tamper with the evidence or attempt to intimidate or influence the witnesses". He was also told to deposit his passport with the trial court and not leave the country without permission from the trial court judge.

At 8 pm, when he walked out of Tihar Jail where Youth

MUCH OF NORTH-EAST EXEMPTED, CUT-OFF DEC 31, 2014

Govt brings law making religion key to citizenship for illegals

Barring Muslims, refugees from Pak, Bangladesh, Afghanistan can apply

DEEPTIMAN TIWARI
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

THE UNION Cabinet Wednesday cleared the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019 granting exemption to a large part of the North East region from applicability of the proposed law that aims to grant Indian citizenship to non-Muslim illegal immigrants from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan. It will now head to Parliament for introduction and passage.

The new Bill has also clearly defined who will be considered an illegal immigrant, has set the cut-off date for entry into India to December 31, 2014 and inserted a specific clause to grant a hearing to an Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) before his/her card is cancelled for reasons specified in the law.

According to the Bill cleared by the Cabinet, states in the

EXPLAINED
CAB and NRC, and the worry

IF THE Assam NRC made a section of Bengali Hindus anxious in the N-E, the CAB will help them, and other non-Muslim refugees, get citizenship ahead of a nationwide NRC proposed by the BJP. But it will deepen the faultlines and add to the anxiety of Muslim migrants.

North East region that have Inner Line Permit (ILP) regime and tribal areas that have been notified under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution shall be out of the purview of the proposed Act.

The Bill has made it clear that the new law would not be

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Sena, JD(U) back new law, TMC silent, Cong to study

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

IN CONTRAST to the previous Lok Sabha when the Opposition forced a Joint Parliamentary Committee on Citizenship (Amendment) Bill with almost every Opposition party submitting a dissent note, the support for the controversial legislation to be introduced by the current BJP-led government seems to be growing.

On Wednesday, when the Union Cabinet cleared the introduction of the CAB in this Winter Session, there were indications that many parties earlier critical of the Bill were changing tack.

According to BJP sources, 122 members in the Rajya Sabha are already supporting the CAB and the party is expecting more parties to join them. The current strength of the Upper House is 238. In its previous term, the

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



MORE REPORTS
PAGE 9

government could not push the Bill through in the Rajya Sabha due to lack of numbers.

The shift is best explained in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Belgian auditor traces fake transactions and imports by Nirav firms

RITU SARIN
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

FICTITIOUS IMPORTS, fake transactions, duplicate invoices, fake employee records. These are some of the findings of Belgian auditor BDO which was commissioned by the Punjab National Bank in February 2018 to conduct a forensic audit of fugitive diamantaire Nirav Modi group's seven entities/subsidiaries.

In its 329-page draft report, handed by a whistleblower to the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ)



He is in UK, fighting extradition

which partnered with *The Indian Express* for a series of reports on the findings of the forensic team, BDO has detailed the sham show being run in the name of a jewellery conglomerate — the final report has been submitted with more annexures.

Tracing fictitious import

CABINET CLEARS PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION BILL

Some data can be stored abroad without copy in India, Rs 15 cr fine for misuse

KARISHMA MEHROTRA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

IN A significant departure from the draft Bill, the Personal Data Protection Bill cleared by the Cabinet on Wednesday allows some personal data to be stored and processed abroad with the individual's consent, without requiring a mirror of the data in India, official sources said.

A previous draft of the Bill required a copy of all personal data to be stored in India — a provision that was criticised by foreign technology companies and civil society stakeholders.

INSIDE

INDIA'S FIRST DEBT EXCHANGE-TRADED FUND GETS NOD

THREE CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES FOR SANSKRIT CLEARED

PAGES 7, 15

However, the Bill still requires "sensitive" personal data — related to financial, health, sexual orientation, biometric, genetic, transgender status, caste and religious belief

— to be stored only in India. This data can be processed abroad only under certain conditions, including the approval of a Data Protection Agency (DPA).

Moreover, "critical" personal data, as defined by the government from time to time, must be stored and processed only in India.

These provisions will impact companies like Google, Facebook and WhatsApp, which currently store most of their India-related data abroad.

In another change, the Bill mandates companies to give the government access to any non-personal data — anonymised

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

ECONOMY



GOOGLE'S SUNDAR PICHAI IS CHIEF OF PARENT COMPANY ALPHABET

PAGE 15

WORLD



TRUMP'S ACTIONS IMPEACHABLE, CONSTITUTIONAL EXPERTS TESTIFY

18 INDIANS FEARED DEAD IN BLAST AT FACTORY IN SUDAN

PAGE 14

In Srinagar, children are back in school, but in casual dress with anxious parents as escorts

ADIL AKHZER
SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 4

FOUR MONTHS since the lockdown in the Valley after the Union government's August 5 decision to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, children are getting back to schools in Srinagar, but in casual dress. Transport facility is available only on select routes, and attendance is not mandatory.

The administration had ordered the opening of schools in a gradual manner once restrictions across the Valley were eased weeks into the shutdown. But students had largely stayed home, with parents unwilling to risk sending them in the absence of mobile connectivity.

"Classes have commenced since the last one week and the attendance is around 70 per cent in Class X and 60 per cent in



Children on their way to school in Srinagar. Shuaib Masoodi

EXPLAINED



THE SLOWDOWN & EMISSION LINK

PAGE 11

GOVT & POLITICS

CRUCIAL BYPOLLS IN KARNATAKA TODAY

PAGE 7

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

For Kerala expat in Gulf, 31-year nightmare ends with a dream

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
DECEMBER 4

WHEN SUNDARESAN Sukumaran landed in Bahrain in 1988 as a 24-year-old, he had hoped his job as a tailor would ensure a better life for his family back home. But what followed over the next 31 years was a rapid slide of events — duped of money and slapped with cheating cases, Sundaresan spent most of his years in Bahrain in hiding, doing odd jobs, hiding in farms and surviving on leftover food — before his miraculous

rescue and journey back to India. Last Friday, Sundaresan, now 55, managed to reach Kerala, the first time since he had left home, and found himself in a "new world". In his absence, both his parents, Sukumaran and Janaki, had passed away, and his siblings had got married. What remained unchanged was his address — a small house on three cents of land that his father, a daily wage, had built and where he grew up, and where his brother Neelambaran and his family now live.

"Everything has changed. I don't recognise anything... anyone. Ever since I came back, I have been holed up in our house.

I am too scared to step out — the heavy traffic on the roads is scary," says Sundaresan, the third of four siblings.

In 1988, Sundaresan travelled to Mumbai to board his flight to Bahrain. A tailor, Sundaresan had paid an agent Rs 20,000 for the visa. Days after landing in Bahrain's capital of Manama, Sundaresan started working as a tailor at a shop run by a migrant from Kerala. Things had got off the ground just as he had planned and Sundaresan wrote letters to his parents, talking about his life and work, and how he would soon be back home. Sometime later — Sundaresan



Sundaresan Sukumaran (right) with Salam. Express

doesn't remember the dates, "my head is all muddled", he says — the shop owner left Bahrain, transferring the ownership of the tailoring shop to him for 300 dinars. But unknown to him, he says, "the real owner" of the shop was a local resident called Muhammed Ali Hussain. Days after Sundaresan had "bought" the shop, Hussain turned up, demanding that Sundaresan vacate the shop and pay him 22,850 dinars (around Rs 40 lakh) as compensation towards "unpaid rent". When Sundaresan refused, Hussain allegedly forced the shop shut, seized Sundaresan's passport and other documents and filed a

cheating case against Sundaresan, alleging theft of machines and materials and non-payment of rent. Subsequently, a travel ban was imposed on Sundaresan.

"I realised I had been cheated and trapped. I pleaded with my Arab sponsor to hand me back my passport and other documents so that I could go home, but he refused. Though I felt hopeless by then, in the letters I sent home, I did not mention any of these problems," says Sundaresan.

With no documents, Sundaresan says he had no option but to go into hiding. "I worked in shops, at construction sites and farms which were away from the

eyes of government agencies. These jobs were usually arranged by expatriates from Kerala. But when they would get to know that I am in trouble and facing a travel ban, they would begin to exploit me. Whenever I demanded money for the work I did, the local bosses would blackmail me and threaten to hand me over to the police. Already facing a cheating case, I didn't want to risk another case or a prison term," he says.

Fearing police action, he largely kept away from people and found shelter at construction sites. He even approached several

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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WEB EXCLUSIVE HYDERABAD RAPE CASE: GOVT PLANS ONLINE COURSE TO SENSITISE #TOXICMEN

Alarmed at the way young men posting derogatory statements on social media, trivialising and justifying rape over the last few days, the Telangana government has now decided to educate young men and imbibe in them respect for women. The first step would be mandatory e-learning courses, followed by a certification

VIDEO OF THE DAY



JHARKHAND ELECTIONS 2019 In Naxal-hit Khunti, Pathalgadi could hurt the BJP

FULL COVERAGE



PARLIAMENT SESSION FULL COVERAGE The Union Cabinet cleared the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill

EXPRESS AUDIO How a Chennai techie helped NASA find the Chandrayaan-2 lander NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

FROM PAGE ONE

Chidambaram

Congress workers were waiting in numbers, Chidambaram said: "I cannot comment on the case. I'm going to obey the SC order and I will not comment on the case. But the fact is that after 106 days' pre-trial incarceration, there is not a single charge framed against me as we speak to you now. Not one charge has been framed against me. I will speak all about that tomorrow."

granting bail to Chidambaram in the INX Media case registered by CBI, it "had consciously refrained from opening the sealed cover and perusing the documents lest some observations are made thereon after perusal of the same, which would prejudice the accused pre-trial".

Cabinet nod to citizenship Bill

The government has said in the Bill that "amendments proposed in the Citizenship Act, 1955 will extend the facility of Indian citizenship to a specific class of persons who are presently facing hardships and difficulties in acquiring citizenship".

Sena, JD(U) back new law, TMC silent

among locals in densely-populated Assam could be accentuated by the Bill. Sources said the BJD was now ready to back the new Bill since it exempted tribal areas in the northeast region.

Classifieds EXPRESS EDUCATION M. PURI ONLINE GS PAPER 2 ADMISSIONS OPEN in the latest batch

Nirav Modi case

transactions, the report carries details of four Letters of Undertaking (LoUs), amounting to \$9.41 million, that did not show up in the Customs database or in the CBS (Core Banking System) of the PNB.

penses shown is 0.02%-0.04% and the auditor noted that "the operations of the firms indicate that the volume of expenses incurred is minimal which does not seem commensurate with the scale and level of operations of these entities".

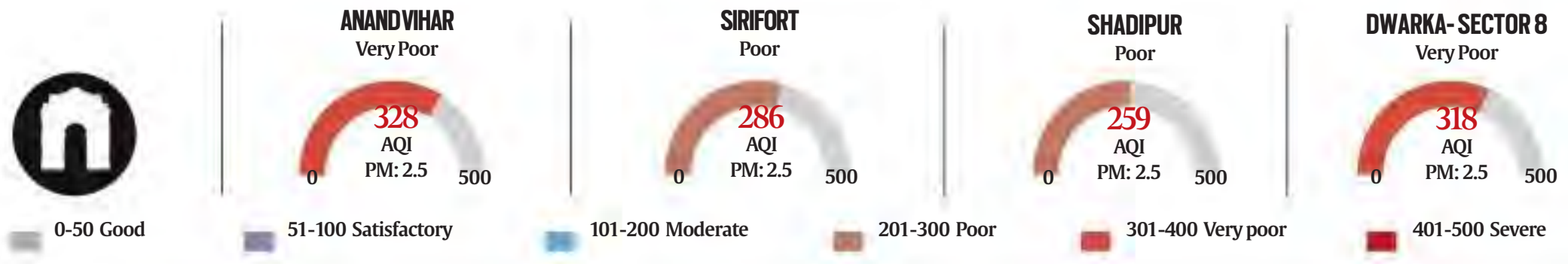
Wani, Chairman of Green Valley School located in Buchpora area of Srinagar told The Indian Express. Students come by their own transport wearing casual dress.

Hall School told The Indian Express that attendance has crossed 50 per cent. "Our school is functional for the last few months and the number of students have increased now.

headed by Bihar's Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi. A committee of officers from states and Centre was also constituted in October to suggest measures to augment revenues under GST.

Personal data data like traffic patterns or demographic information - which many companies use to fund their business model. The previous draft did not specify this.

3 THE CITY



'11,000 HOTSPOTS WILL COVER ENTIRE CITY IN NEXT 6 MONTHS'

100 WiFi hotspots from Dec 16 as Delhi govt project finally gains signal strength

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

THE FIRST batch of 100 public WiFi hotspots, where people will be able to access internet for free, will be activated in Delhi on December 16, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said Wednesday, announcing that the entire city will be covered by 11,000 hotspots within the next six months. Kejriwal said that with the announcement, his government has "fulfilled all key poll promises" that the AAP made while canvassing for votes during the 2015 state assembly elections. With the tenure of the sixth assembly drawing to an end, Delhi goes to polls in another two months.

"WiFi was one of our key promises. In this digital age, minimum data usage is one of the basic necessities of a person. Like we treat water and power as basic lifelines, we are also going to make internet usage free. And with this we are fulfilling one of our last pending poll promises," the CM told a press conference.

Under the approved project, 11,000 hotspots will be put up across public places in Delhi, including 4,000 in bus shelters. Each hotspot will cover a radius of 100 metres and up to 200

people will be able to simultaneously access the internet at such points.

"In a way, in Delhi there will be one hotspot every 500 metres. The speed will be around 200 MBPS in high-density areas and 80 MBPS in low density areas. The data cap on every individual will be 1.5 GB per day and 15 GB per month," Kejriwal said.

For people, accessing the free WiFi would involve two taps on their smartphones. On selecting the network name and entering the mobile number, one will receive an OTP (one time password), which will be the gateway to free internet usage.

The project, which will cost the Delhi government around Rs 100 crore annually, is being executed by a private firm, Presto Infosolutions Pvt Ltd, which will be paid by the government on a per hotspot basis, as reported by *The Indian Express* on November 14.

"The installation of hotspots has started. On December 16, 100 hotspots will be activated. Subsequently, every week 500 hotspots will be commissioned. The project will be completed within six months," Kejriwal said, flanked by PWD Minister Satyendar Jain, whose department is overseeing the implementation.

WHERE THE FIRST 100 HOTSPOTS ARE

6 DISTRICTS COVERED

- Moti Nagar: 10
- Malviya Nagar: 19
- Badli: 19
- Adarsh Nagar: 18
- Seemapuri: 16
- Shahdara: 18

Annual cost: ₹100 crore

Allocation for the current year: ₹24.87 crore

For 2020-21: ₹74.63 crore

- Private firm executing project to be paid on per hotspot basis
- Total proposed hotspots: 11,000. To be set up within six months
- By December 16, 100 hotspots to be commissioned
- Locations: Bus stops (4,000), mohalla clinics, market places
- Data limit: 1.5 GB/day, 15 GB per month (per unique user)
- Estimated average speed: 100-150 MBPS
- Each hotspot equipped to serve 150-200 customers

JAN 2015 AAP promises free WiFi in election manifesto

FEB 2015 AAP wins Delhi polls

MARCH 2015 Govt creates Delhi Dialogue Commission, an advisory body. It is tasked with getting feasibility study carried out

JULY 2015 IT Department prepares proposal to provide free WiFi worth 1 GB per SIM card per month

FEBRUARY 2016 Pricewaterhouse Coopers engaged as a consultant for project

2018-19 Project transferred from IT Dept to PWD, which said it would not be able to execute the project because of "lack of expertise" and "scarcity of staff". Later, department agrees to implement plan

2017-18 Govt says IT Department in process of issuing request for proposals (RFP) for feasibility study, with commissioning of hotspots expected in March

JUNE 2016 Then DDC vice-chairman Ashish Khetan announces creation of 1,000 hotspots in East Delhi by December. Deadline later revised to March 2017

MARCH 2016 Launches first free Wi-Fi facility on a pilot basis for three months at Sant Nagar market in Burari (North Delhi), where users are told they will be able to download 50 MB of data per day free of cost

2019-20 Budget provision of ₹150 crore made for WiFi project

SEPT 2018 PWD considers three models: wireless internet hotspots, fibre cables and internet vouchers. Chief Minister insists hotspot model be looked at

JNU case: HC refuses to direct Delhi govt on prosecution sanction

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4



THE DELHI High Court Wednesday refused to direct the Delhi government to grant approval for prosecution of former JNU students' union president Kanhaiya Kumar and others in the 2016 JNU sedition case, observing that the issue of grant of sanction against individuals has to be decided in accordance with the law. "The respondent (Delhi government) will decide grant of sanction or otherwise in accordance with the law applicable to the facts of that case," a bench of Chief Justice DN Patel and Justice C Hari Shankar said.

On October 25, the Delhi government's prosecution department had informed a Delhi court hearing the JNU sedition case that the decision on whether or not to accord sanction for prosecution is still pending for approval before the ministry concerned.

The trial court had fixed the matter for further hearing on December 11, and had sought the presence of the investigating officer in the case.

The High Court bench noted that the petitioner, former BJP MLA Nand Kishor Garg, seemed to have "personal interest" in the FIR registered against Kumar and others in the 2016 sedition case.

Garg, through his counsel Shashank Deo Sudhi, submitted that the Delhi government has

"evidently failed to grant the sanction letter", which is not in accordance with the statutory obligations.

Apart from seeking a direction to the Delhi government for the grant of sanction, the plea had also sought issuance of guidelines for expeditious prosecution on all sensitive criminal and corruption related cases.

The HC turned down the demand and observed that there were enough meticulous laws in place with respect to grant of sanction by the state government.

The bench also refused to give direction for constitution of a high-powered committee to look into the alleged delay in grant of sanction. Saying that the "government has got adequate number of officers, there is no need of a super committee", the bench disposed of the petition.

According to official records, police had applied to the Delhi government for sanction just two hours before filing the chargesheet on January 14.

The court has been deferring taking cognizance of the chargesheet against the accused in the absence of a prosecution sanction.

5 held for abducting, killing GK businessman

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

FIVE MEN, including a father-son duo, have been arrested for allegedly abducting a 64-year-old businessman from outside his home in South Delhi's Greater Kailash, strangulating him and dumping his body in Madhya Pradesh's Jhansi.

According to police, Arun Kumar Sharma had been abducted on November 15, and an FIR was registered based on a

complaint by Sharma's sister Shashi Kiran a day later.

The case was later transferred to the anti-human trafficking unit (AHTU) of the Crime Branch, which made the arrests. The body is yet to be recovered.

"In her complaint, Shashi alleged Arun left home in the morning to attend a court hearing in a property dispute case in Gurgaon. He was supposed to meet his advocate at MG Road," a senior officer said.

According to the officer, Shashi alleged that Sharma was

embroiled in a property dispute with one Rishi Raj Chauhan. "In 2009, Sharma purchased a property worth Rs 3.5 crore in Gurgaon from Chauhan. Since then, a dispute had been going on. Sharma secured an order from the Supreme Court in the case and was going to attend the hearing on November 15 at the Gurgaon court," the officer said.

AHTU found that Chauhan allegedly hired three contract killers to get rid of Sharma.

"They strangled him inside their car, which had a fake num-

ber plate. They then left for Jhansi and dumped his body in a canal. Chauhan and his son have been arrested as well," the officer said.

As per the officer, local police had questioned Chauhan after Shashi pointed to his involvement. However, the probe could not move further, and the case was transferred to AHTU. "Police arrested the father and son after tracing their conversation with an accused," the officer said.

Sharma lived with his sister and daughter in GK-I. His wife died around two years ago.

Ghaziabad deaths: Writing on wall leads to relative's arrest for 'abetment'

AMIL BHATNAGAR NOIDA, DECEMBER 4

A DAY after five deaths rocked a Ghaziabad residential society, a relative of the family has been arrested for alleged abetment, with police saying his name was mentioned in a suicide note left behind on a wall.

On Tuesday morning, Gulshan Vasudeva (45), his wife Parveena (43), and Sanjana (38), who moved in with them around two years ago, jumped to their death from their eighth-floor apartment at Krishna Apra Sapphire residential complex, between 4.30 and 5 am. The couple's children Rithik (13) and Kritika (18) were found dead in their beds, with police suspecting Gulshan smothered and stabbed them in their sleep.

In a note scribbled on the wall, Gulshan named Parveena's relative Rakesh Verma, who he claimed had duped him in 2015. "After questioning several family members, it was found that Rakesh made Gulshan invest roughly Rs 1.5 crore in a property with the promise of high returns. But only a part of the money was returned, and Gulshan eventually owed several people a large sum. This allegedly drove him to depression," said Sudhir Kumar Singh, SSP, Ghaziabad.

Police said Rakesh, a property dealer, allegedly got Gulshan to register the property in the name of a friend. The 200-square metre plot was fraudulently transferred to a third person, and Rakesh allegedly stood to benefit from the deal, police said.

Businessmen in Gandhi Nagar's Guru Nanak lane, where Gulshan ran a jeans manufacturing and retail business out of a four-storey property, suspected there was another, more immediate reason for his problems: Six months ago, he started business with a Kolkata-based firm.

According to them, Gulshan



was excited about the prospect of exporting material worth lakhs, and the firm promised to make payments within 90 days. Slowly, the payments began piling up.

Arun Bhatia, a businessman and Gulshan's friend, said: "He gave them goods worth Rs 90 lakh, expecting returns in time. But the payments were delayed. During Eid, the labourers demanded money and wages and he had to borrow to pay them as well. The financial transactions with that firm had a far-reaching impact on him since he didn't have money for daily operations."

In September, Gulshan requested Bhatia to purchase 100 pieces worth Rs 35,000 from him since he needed cash. Later, Gulshan again asked if Bhatia could purchase 3,000 more pieces. "Due to slowdown, it was impossible for me to raise so much cash," said Bhatia.

According to police, on Monday evening, Gulshan is believed to have received more bad news from the Kolkata-based firm. After allegedly killing his children early, Gulshan made a video call to Ramesh Arora, his neighbour and friend. "He made a video call at 3.38 am and showed me his dead children. He kept saying everything was over and mentioned the message from the firm. Even earlier, he would tell me he was in debt, and I would tell him everything would be okay. During the call, I asked him to calm down but he hung up. I then called his brother, but it was too late," Arora said.



Family claims Sanjana and Gulshan had court marriage, police probe

AMIL BHATNAGAR NOIDA, DECEMBER 4

IN A suicide note he left behind on the wall, Gulshan Vasudeva wrote that he wanted him, his wife, their two children and another woman, Sanjana, to be cremated together. On Wednesday afternoon, while the bodies of the family members were cremated close to Hindon river, Sanjana's body was buried in Rampura.

According to her family, Sanjana, the youngest of eight siblings, converted to Hinduism a year and a half ago so she could marry Gulshan.

While her family claims she married Gulshan in a local court, police are yet to verify the claim. "So far we have not recovered any document that shows Gulshan and Sanjana were married. We are investigating further," said Sudhir Kumar Singh, SSP Ghaziabad.

"She studied till class VIII and was glad when Gulshan offered

her a job. She gradually rose to become manager, and when Gulshan shifted businesses, she remained loyal," said her brother Firoz.

Till a few years ago, her family was looking for prospective suitors for her, but nothing worked out. She then told them she was seeing someone else. According to her family, she didn't consult them before changing her name — she was also named Gulshan earlier — and converting to Hinduism, or before "having a court marriage with Gulshan."

"Our mother was heartbroken but eventually came to terms with it. She barely spoke to us after the marriage, but told us Gulshan's first wife and children were accepting of her and they were a happy family. Never did she mention any financial problem," said Firoz.

Those who worked near Gulshan's jeans factory said Sanjana would work long hours and managed the 14-member staff when Gulshan was away.

EXIM BANK EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF INDIA
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Export-Import Bank of India proposes to sell/assign loan account(s) to eligible purchasers in NPA account(s) with aggregate principal outstanding of Rs. 88.87 crore to Banks/ARC/NBFC/FIs/Etc in terms of Reserve Bank of India guidelines by e-auction under Swiss Challenge Method. Detailed offer will be shared after execution of Non-Disclosure Agreement. For further details please visit our website www.eximbankindia.in (under tender & notices).

Place: Mumbai Date: 05.12.2019

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सर्वजनिक सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि कार्यक्रम अर्थात् 'टी.एस' डिजिटल एच.वी.पी.एन.एल., रोहतक के क्षेत्राधिकार में 400/220/132 के.वी. की ट्रांसमिशन लाइन्स (EHV) रोहतक, झरक, गुरुग्राम, पानीपत एवं सोनीपत जिले के विभिन्न क्षेत्रों से गुजरती है।

अतः इस नोटिस के माध्यम से सर्वसाधारण को सूचित एवं आगाह किया जाता है कि उपरोक्त लाइन्स के नीचे एवं आस-पास के 25 मीटर से 35 मीटर के दायरे में किसी भी तरह का वृक्षारोपण एवं भवन निर्माण ना करें और किसी व्यक्ति ने ऐसा किसी भी तरह का अवैध वृक्षारोपण या निर्माण किया हुआ है, तो इस नोटिस के प्रकाशित होने के 30 दिन के अन्दर किसी भी तरह के अवैध वृक्षारोपण एवं भवन निर्माण को हटा दें, अन्यथा इस तरह के अवैध वृक्षारोपण एवं भवन निर्माण के कारण अगर निगम को संपत्ति को या जन संपत्ति को या किसी भी तरह के जान-माल का नुकसान होता है, तो उसका निम्मेवार व्यक्ति विशेष को समझा जाएगा और निगम उसके विरुद्ध उचित कानूनी कार्यवाही करने के लिए बाध्य होगा।

हस्ता./- कार्यकारी अभियंता, 'टी.एस' डिजिटल एच.वी.पी.एन.एल., रोहतक।

79482N/HRY

LIC LIC GOLDEN JUBILEE SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

FOR STUDENTS OF ECONOMICALLY WEAKER FAMILIES

LIC Golden Jubilee Foundation is pleased to announce Scholarships on All India basis:

- 20 Regular Scholarships per Divisional Centre of LIC: (10 each for boys and girls) for students belonging to economically weaker families for pursuing higher studies in
 - (i) Medicine, Engineering, Graduation in any discipline, Diploma Course in any field.
 - (ii) Vocational Course through Government Recognized Colleges/Institutes or courses in Industrial Training Institutes (ITI)
- 10 Special Scholarships for Girl Child per LIC Division for 10+2 Pattern.

For details of the Scheme and online application log on to www.licindia.in

Last date for submitting online application is **24.12.2019**.

उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग

उत्तराखण्ड भवन, हरद्वार-249404, मुम्बई 01334-244282, फ़ैक्स: 244282, वेबसाइट: www.ukpsc.gov.in

पत्रांक: 80/11/उत्तराखण्ड/अर्थ एवं संख्या अर्थ/अतिरिक्त-2/2019-20

दिनांक: 04 दिसम्बर, 2019

विज्ञापित

अर्थ एवं संख्याधिकारी मुख्य लिखित (वस्तुनिष्ठ) परीक्षा-2018 के दिनांक: 17 नवम्बर, 2019 को आयोजित परीक्षा के सभी प्रश्नपत्र को चारों उत्तर कुंजियों (Answer Keys) (A, B, C & D) को उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग की वेबसाइट <http://www.ukpsc.gov.in> पर दिनांक 04 दिसम्बर, 2019 को अन्वेषियों के सुव्यवस्थित प्रसारित कर दिया गया है। उक्त उत्तर कुंजियाँ दिनांक: 04 दिसम्बर, 2019 से दिनांक 13 दिसम्बर, 2019 (अंतिम तिथि एवं समय रात्रि के 23:59:59 बजे तक) तक आयोग की उक्त आधिकारिक वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध रहेंगी। यदि किसी उम्मीदवार को प्रश्न पत्र को चारों सीटीयू के किसी उत्तर विकल्प पर कोई आपत्ति है तो वह आयोग की वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध निर्धारित प्रारूप में ही आपत्ति अंकित कर आयोग की ई-मेल ukpscanskey@gmail.com पर राख्य सहित प्रेषित करें। बिना राख्य के प्राप्त ई-मेल पर कोई कार्यवाही नहीं की जायेगी।

उक्त ई-मेल के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी ई-मेल पर, डाक अथवा अन्य किसी माध्यम से प्रेषित आपत्ति तथा अंतिम तिथि एवं समय के उपरान्त प्रेषित आपत्ति को किसी भी दशा में स्वीकार नहीं किया जायेगा।

(राजेन्द्र कुमार) सचिव

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India

(भारत सरकार का उपाय) (A Government of India Undertaking)

Central Office, Union Bank Bhavan, 239, Vohani Bhavan Marg, Mumbai - 400 021

UNION BANK RECRUITMENT PROJECT 2019-20 (SPECIALIST OFFICERS)

Result for the Post of Credit, Integrated Treasury & Forex Officer under the above project has been declared on 30.11.2019 and uploaded on our Bank's Website (www.unionbankofindia.co.in) -> Recruitments -> Careers Overview).

Process of Recruitment for the post of Fire Officer, Economist and Security Officer, under the above project has been abandoned.

CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

4th Floor, Chandernagore Building, 36 Janpath, New Delhi-110001
Phone 23355903 FAX: 23753923

Petition No. 303/TL/2019 Dated: 29.11.2019

NOTICE UNDER CLAUSE (a) OF SUB-SECTION (5) OF SECTION 15 OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT, 2003

An application under sub-section (1) of Section 15 of the Electricity Act, 2003 (the Act) has been made by Khetri Transco Limited, B-9, Outab Institutional Area, Katwarai Sarai, New Delhi-110016 to establish transmission system for "Transmission System associated with LTA application from Rajasthan SEZ Part-C" comprising the following elements:

S. No.	Name of the Transmission Element	Completion Target
1.	Establishment of 765/400 kV, 2X1500 MVA S/s at suitable location near Khetri with 765 kV (2X240 MVAR) and 400 kV (1X125 MVAR) bus reactor = 765/400 kV-2X1500 MVA = 765 kV ICT bay-2 = 400kV ICT bay-2 = 400kV line bay-2 = 765kV line bay-2 = 240 MVAR (765kV) Bus Reactor-2 = 125 MVAR (400 kV) Bus Reactor-1 = 765 kV Reactor bay -2 = 400 kV Reactor bay -1 = 1X500 MVA, 765/ 400 kV, 1-ph ICT (spare unit) = 1X80 MVAR, 765 kV, 1-ph Reactor (spare unit) (for both 1X240 MVAR bus reactor and 2X240 MVAR line reactor on Bikaner - Khetri 765kV D/c line at Khetri end)	17 months (December, 2020)
2.	Future provisions: Space for: 765/400 kV ICTs along with bays: 2 nos. 400/220 kV ICTs along with bays: 4 nos. 765 kV line bays: 4 nos. 400 kV line bays: 4 nos. 220 kV line bays: 7 nos	
3.	Khetri - Sikar (PG) 400 kV D/c line (AL59)	
4.	400 kV line bays at Sikar (PG) for Khetri - Sikar (PG) 400kV D/c line (Twin AL59)	
5.	Khetri - Jhatikara 765 kV D/c line	
6.	765kV bays at Jhatikara for Khetri - Jhatikara 765kV D/c line 1x240 MVAR Switchable Line reactors for each circuit at Jhatikara end of Khetri - Jhatikara 765kV D/c line along with reactor bays = 1X80 MVAR, 765 kV, 1-ph Reactor (spare unit) (for 240 MVAR line reactor on each ckt of Khetri - Jhatikara 765 kV D/c line at Jhatikara end)	

2. The applicant has been selected as the Transmission Service Provider with the lowest levelized transmission charges of Rs. 1220.42 million per annum on the basis of the competitive bidding carried out by REC Transmission Projects Company Limited in accordance with the Guidelines issued by the Central Govt. under Section 63 of the Act.

3. The Central Transmission Utility has recommended for grant of transmission licence to the applicant to establish the proposed transmission system.

4. Based on material available on record, the Commission vide order dated 26.11.2019 in Petition No. 303/TL/2019, has proposed to issue transmission licence to the applicant for establishing the transmission system as noted in para 1 above.

5. A copy of the application, along with its annexures and enclosures, made by the applicant for grant of Intra-State transmission licence to Khetri Transco Limited before the Commission can be accessed at the website www.powergridindia.com or inspected by any person in the Commission's office by following the laid down procedure.

6. Notice is hereby given in pursuance of clause (a) of sub-section (5) of Section 15 of the Act that suggestions or objections, if any, to the Commission's proposal to grant transmission licence to the applicant, as aforesaid, be sent to the undersigned by 13.12.2019 at the above noted address. The suggestions or objections received after the specified date shall not be considered.

7. The application shall be taken up for further hearing by the Commission on 17.12.2019. Any person who files suggestions or objections may in his/her discretion attend the hearing, for which no TA/DA shall be paid by the Commission.

(Sanoj Kumar Jha) Secretary

BRIEFLY

Dentist held for 'molesting' minor girl

New Delhi: A 52-year-old dentist has been arrested for allegedly molesting a minor girl during check-up at his clinic in South East Delhi on Monday. A Delhi court has sent him to 14-day judicial custody.

14-yr-old run over by bus

Gurgaon: A 14-year-old boy died after being run over by a speeding bus while he was walking to his tuition class, in Gurgaon's Palam Vihar Wednesday evening, said police. Police said the driver of the bus fled the spot.

Fake call centre busted, 14 arrested

Gurgaon: Police arrested 14 people for allegedly running a fake call centre on Sohna road. Police said the accused lured people under the pretext of helping them improve their resumes for employers.

Two held for Rs 4-cr fraud

New Delhi: Delhi Police has arrested two men from Uttar Pradesh's Mainpuri for allegedly misappropriating Rs 4 crore. The incident took place on November 11, when one of the accused, who worked with a cash deposit company, went to deposit the money across various accounts with HDFC Bank in Mayur Vihar Phase-I, said police. **ENS**

BODIES WITH BULLET WOUNDS FOUND IN CAR

Hospital owner and HR head dead in Rohini murder-suicide

SOMYA LAKHANI & SHAARDHOOL SHREENATH
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4



Dr Om Prakash Kukreja and Sutapa Mukherjee were found dead inside his car. Amit Mehra

EARLY WEDNESDAY morning, bodies of a 62-year-old doctor and his 50-year-old employee were found in a sedan in Rohini's upscale Sector 13. The two were identified as Dr Om Prakash Kukreja, who owned Nirvana Hospital in Rohini Sector 15, and Sutapa Mukherjee, who worked as the HR director there.

"Kukreja allegedly shot Mukherjee in the chest and neck with his licensed revolver before shooting himself inside his Volkswagen Vento. Initial probe suggests the two were probably having an extramarital affair and this could possibly be the cause behind the incident," DCP (Rohini) S D Mishra said. The car was parked 100 metres away from Kukreja's residence in Rang Rasayan apartments.

APCR call was received at 7.36 am about a "duo in a white sedan, which was in ignition, with visible bloodstains on the window". Kukreja was on the driver's seat, and Mukherjee next to him. Additional DCP (Rohini) Jitender Kumar said the rear seat window

was broken to gain access to the car, which is when a revolver was spotted next to the doctor.

He said, "Some people had gathered by then, and they recognised the doctor and called up his hospital staff, who then identified Mukherjee." Kukreja is survived by his wife, who is visually impaired, and two children. The husband and wife lived together in the apartment, while their son, an ENT specialist, lives in Dehradun. Kukreja's daughter, who studied dentistry, is now an interior designer.

Mukherjee lived in a flat in Rohini Sector 18 with her mother and her husband. Her son lives in Dubai.

Police said that Mukherjee and Kukreja attended the hospital Tuesday afternoon. In the evening, they both left from their

homes to attend a wedding. Kumar said, "We found an invitation card for a wedding in Paschim Vihar in the car, and Mukherjee's mother said she left home dressed up for a wedding, as did Kukreja."

Mishra said, "Wedding guests confirmed the two were in attendance, and they left around 11 pm. We are trying to ascertain the time of death and analysing call records to determine the sequence of events afterwards." Police said that the "two were probably at the spot for many hours with the ignition of the car turned on, as the diesel smoke residue left a black mark on the road". No suicide note has been recovered so far.

Kukreja's friend Ashok Yadav told *The Indian Express*, "There was no financial or personal stress

Kukreja was under. I received a call from his son at 8 am; the family is in shock."

Kukreja's multi-specialty hospital, which has 10 beds, was 1.3 km from his house. "He used to run a clinic in Samaypur Badli where Mukherjee used to work in the nursing staff. When he opened the hospital in Rohini, she moved there and began handling HR and administrative matters," said Yadav. The hospital was open on Wednesday, though staff struggled to make sense of the incident. "We have no idea why this happened; we got a call at 8 am about it and rushed there," a doctor said.

A case under IPC section 302 (murder) has been registered at Prashant Vihar police station. (Shaardhoool Shreenath is an intern with *The Indian Express*)

After audit report, AAP says MCDs owed no money

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

CITING THE Comptroller and Auditor General of India's report, which said that the three municipal corporations owe around Rs 3,800 crore to the Delhi government, the AAP Wednesday said the corporations have received not just adequate, but "excess funds" from the government.

The CAG report said that the North, East and South civic bodies owed Rs 2,037 crore, Rs 1,395 crore and Rs 381 crore respectively to the Delhi government as on March 31, 2018. "Recovery of loans for the period 2015-16 to 2017-18 has been deferred due to poor financial conditions of the corporations," the report said.

The State Finances Audit Report was tabled in the Delhi Assembly Monday. In a statement, the AAP said the CAG report has categorically stated that Delhi government owes "no outstanding amount to the MCDs".

On the report not mentioning this specifically, a government spokesperson said, "MCDs knocked the door of every court, but their claims did not stand. Every penny owed by the Delhi government to the MCDs, if any, would have showed up as liability on the government's accounts."



Bharaadwaj said grants from Centre had decreased

AAP spokesperson Saurabh Bharaadwaj also pointed out that the grants-in-aid from the Centre decreased from Rs 2,825 crore in 2016-17 to Rs 2,184 crore in 2017-18. "BJP should fight this election with their MCD model of governance and AAP will fight with Delhi government's model of governance," Bharaadwaj said.

BJP Rajya Sabha MP Vinay Sahasrabudhe meanwhile said: "The CAG report analyses the period from 2013-14 to 2017-18 whereas the CM conveniently disguises this fact and claims that the report speaks of his own term from 2015 to 2020. The reality is that post 2017-18, Delhi has been registering fiscal deficit. The Delhi government must release a white paper on the latest macroeconomic indicators of Delhi's economy..."

Union cabinet nod for 5-star hotel at Pragati Maidan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

THE UNION cabinet Wednesday approved the transfer of 3.7 acres of land to set up a five-star hotel at Pragati Maidan to ITDC and IRCTC on a 99-year lease for Rs 611 crore. Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar said India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), which manages Pragati Maidan, will undertake a mega project to redevelop the land into a world-class international exhibition and convention centre.

The approval has been given "in favour of the special purpose vehicle (SPV), which will be formed by ITDC and IRCTC".

A statement by the government said that the International Exhibition and Convention Centre (IECC) project, under construction currently, is expected to be completed in 2020-21.

"We will participate in the SPV. Finer points and modalities are yet to be worked out," said M P Mall, managing director, IRCTC.

The SPV will now select a developer and a managing party for which bids are expected to open soon. Officials hope the IECC will help increase the scale of the annual India International Trade Fair at Pragati Maidan.

Research to focus on improving traffic management in capital

New Delhi: Nearly six months after Delhi Traffic Police turned three stretches in the capital into one-way roads during peak traffic hours, the department has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the India branch of global research organisation World Resource Institute (WRI) to conduct further traffic-related research. Traffic Joint CP Meenu

Choudhary said, "The three stretches that were studied were from T-Point of San Martin Marg to Sardar Patel Marg; Kushak Road from R/A Teen Murti to Rajaji Marg; and Purana Quila Road from C-Hexagon to Mathura Road. From 5 pm to 8 pm every day, movement on these stretches is one way."

runs were conducted on these stretches with WRI, after which it was implemented. A police officer said that this will be implemented on more stretches soon. The Joint CP said that the objective of the MoU is to "get a more sustainable transport system which is safe, green and clean as WRI works towards environment, economic opportunity and human well-being." **ENS**

Policy for mobile towers on wheels

New Delhi: Seeking to boost revenue and ensure better mobile connectivity, the SDMC Wednesday launched the policy for granting licence to service providers for setting up mobile towers on wheels, officials said. Under this policy, any new or existing telecom company or service provider can apply for a licence for setting up of cell on wheels within the jurisdiction of SDMC on the basis of monthly rental charges to the tune of Rs 10,000, they said. **ENS**

Karol Bagh street fest to encourage women to step out after dark

New Delhi: To encourage women to step out after dark, the North Delhi Municipal Corporation will organise a street festival for women at the newly pedestrianised Ajmal Road at Karol Bagh Thursday and Friday. The event, which will feature cultural performances, talks and street plays, will be held from 7 pm to 11 pm, said Varsha Joshi, North MCD

commissioner Wednesday. "Women should also feel free and safe and comfortable when getting out of their houses, going into the markets, walking on the streets at night, just like men do... We want to change the perception that there aren't many women visible on the roads after dark," said Joshi. North MCD has partnered with NGOs and the market federation of Karol

Bagh for the event, which will be funded by 'Beti Bachao Beti Pado' scheme. Akriti Sagar, deputy commissioner, said, "We want women to reclaim the space that is rightfully theirs... We will also be facilitating safai karamcharis who had a girl child in the past year at the event." Shops will offer discounts during the festival, said Joshi. **ENS**

vita
The Ambala District Co-operative Milk Producers' Union Ltd., Ambala
CORRIGENDUM NOTICE FOR SHORT TERM LOAN
Last Date of Submission of Sealed Quotation for Containing Rate of Interest and other terms and conditions was invited from the Nationalized/ Scheduled/ Private Banks for providing Short Term Loan of Approx. Rs. 145 Crores (Rs. One Hundred Forty Five Crores only) i.e. for all affiliated Milk Unions in the State of Haryana. The Loan will be withdrawn from December, 2019 (Tentative) to March, 2020 is hereby extended upto 16.12.2019 upto 11.00 A.M. and will be Opened on the same day at 11.30 A.M. in the presence of Banks Representatives, who like to be present in the office of Milk Union, Ambala City. On the Top of Envelop it should be clearly written "Sealed Quotation of Short Term Loan".
The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the quotations without assigning any reason.
Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, Milk Union, Ambala.

Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Ltd.
A Govt. of India (Ministry of Railways) Enterprise
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
Name of Work : Work of Construction of Crew Running Room at New Ateli DFC Station Between Ateli-Khatuwala stations on Rewari-Ringus section in Jaipur division of North Western Railway. **Estimated Cost of Work: Rs. 10,81,18,299/-** (Rs. Ten Crores Eighty One Lacs Eighteen Thousand Two Hundred Ninety nine only). **Last date and time of online submission of Tender: 15.00 hrs. of 06.01.2020. Tender document can be downloaded from the website: www.tenderwizard.com/DFCCIL and www.dfccil.com.** Other terms, conditions and information are available on above mentioned websites. Any further Addendum/ Corrigendum for this tender will be posted on above mentioned websites.
(Anurag Sharma)
General Manager/Co-ordination, DFCCIL, Jaipur

BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD (POWER WING)
E-TENDER NOTICE
NIT No. 2891/BBMB Dated : 28.11.2019
Name of Office : Superintending Engineer, Dehar Power House Circle, BBMB (PW), Slapper
Name of Work : Reconditioning of 2 Nos. 150/305 Ton EOT Cranes (Jessop make) installed at Dehar Power House, Slapper
Document downloading start Date & Time : 03.12.2019 from 17:00 Hrs.
Last date for upload Pre-qualification documents : 02.01.2020 from 12:00 Hrs.
Last date for download tender documents : 16.01.2020 upto 12:00 Hrs.
Last date for submission of online bid : 16.01.2020 upto 14:00 Hrs.
Due date for opening online bid : 16.01.2020 upto 15:00 Hrs.
For detailed NIT & Earnest Money to be deposited please visit BBMB website www.bbmb.gov.in & <https://bbmbeproc.abcpocure.com>
593-PR-GEN-3 FOR YOUR BETTER TOMORROW SAVE ENERGY TODAY

OFFICE OF MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, CHARKHI DADRI
Phone No. 01250-220056, E-mail ID: xenmchdadri@gmail.com
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
Municipal Council, Charkhi Dadri intends to dispose off its unserviceable C&D (Construction & Demolition) Waste/Debris and Old/Unusable IPB laying at the various Municipal Lands/Public Places/Roads and Streets falling within its Jurisdiction. The Interested Parties shall be responsible for Loading & Carriage of the said Debris at their own level. No manpower/machinery shall be provided by Municipal Council, Charkhi Dadri. Interested Parties may submit their complete detailed proposal along with performance/experienced latest by 11.12.2019 by 02.00 P.M. The proposal must be accompanied by an earnest money of Rs. 10,000/- in shape of DD in favour of Executive Officer, Municipal Council, Charkhi Dadri. No proposal shall be accepted without earnest money. The terms and conditions can be seen in the office of undersigned on any working day.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Municipal Council, Charkhi Dadri.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION
General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male namely **Rakesh, S/o Unknown, R/o Vegabond, Age: 45 years, Complexion: Shallow, Height: 5'8"**, was wearing Hospital Clothes, was admitted in Trauma Centre Civil Lines, from the area of P.S. Kashmere Gate. During the treatment doctors declared him dead. In this regard a FIR No. 338/2019, dated 21.11.2019, has been registered at P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi. Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.
SHO P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi Ph.: 011-23968730, 8750870123
DP/702/IN/19

WESTERN RAILWAY - AHMEDABAD DIVISION
VARIOUS ELECTRICAL WORKS
E-Tender Notice No. Sr. DEE/ADI/37(2019-20) dt. 29-11-2019
Sr. No. Tender No. Name of work Estimated Cost EMD
01 EL-50-1-ADI-1-80-2019-20 Hiring of heavy duty truck (emergency van) for maintenance 30,67,164/- 61,400/-
02 EL-50-1-ADI-1-80-2019-20 Hiring of heavy duty truck/ emergency van for maintenance 29,13,504/- 58,300/-
03 EL-50-1-ADI-1-81-2019-20 Modification of OHE in connection with Tramway to conventional and unregulated to regulated OHE at VTA. 1,54,28,923/- 2,27,200/-
Date & Time for Submission and opening: Not later than 15:00 Hrs of 30-12-2019 and 30-12-2019 at 15:30 Hrs. Address of the office and Website details: Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer, D.R.M. Office (W.R.), Near Chumunda Bridge, Naroda Road, Ahmedabad-382345. Website: www.treps.gov.in
Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) Follow us on: twitter.com/WesternRly

Government of India Department of Atomic Energy Bhabha Atomic Research Centre Technical Services Division North Site, Trombay, Mumbai-85
Notice inviting e-tenders
The Chief Engineer, Technical Services Division, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, North Site, BARC, Trombay, Mumbai - 400 085, on behalf of the President of India invites online rate tenders on two bid system for following work :-
NIT NO. BARC/TSD/19/2019-20, Name of Work - Design, Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of Medical Gas System for New BARC Hospital, Anushaktinagar, Mumbai - 400094. ; Estimated Cost - ₹ 3,50,00,000/- ; Earnest Money - ₹ 7,00,000/- ; Period of completion - 9 months ; Last date and time of submission of bid - 23.01.2020 (23.59 Hrs.)
The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the Website www.tenderwizard.com/DAE or www.barc.gov.in
Changes if any, in the above scheduled date etc. will be notified only in the website www.tenderwizard.com/DAE.
Contact for assistance / clarifications 24x7 @ 9969395522 Shri Rudresh, e-mail: rudresh.tenderwizard@gmail.com Chief Engineer

Industrial Training & Employment
Office of the Commissioner, Kaushalya Bhawan, Dairy Circle, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru - 560 029. Phone No. 080 - 25189100, 105, 125
E-mail: ddpurchase2016@gmail.com Website: www.emptrg.kar.nic.in
No.DET/TRG/PUR-6/CR-13/2019-20 Date: 04-12-2019
TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through E-Procurement)
The sealed and superscribed tenders under two cover bid system as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 2000 through E-Procurement Portal are invited from the eligible and registered suppliers for the 1) Procurement of Three Sectors Tool Kit. 2) Stationery Items for 2019-20 Final Year SC Trainees of Govt. Grant in Aid and Pvt. Industrial Training Institutes in the State. 3) Outsourcing for Vacant Post of Group D and Typist for the Govt. Industrial Training Institutes across Karnataka, Tender period of 30 days and 4) Procurement of Protective Gear Set for Final Year SC and ST Trainees, Tender Period of 15 days.
• Tender Document is available for download from: 02-12-2019. • Last Date of Receipt of Tender through E-Portal: SI. No. 1, 2 and 3 is 02-01-2020 till 5.00 PM and SI. No. 4 is 17-12-2019 till 5.00 PM. • Date of Opening of Technical Bid through E-Portal: SI. No. 1, 2 and 3 is 03-01-2020 at 5.30 PM. and SI. No. 4 is 18-12-2019 at 5.30 PM.
To obtain this document and tender processing fee details is available in E-Procurement Portal and for further details contact E-Procurement Website: <https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in>, Help Desk - Phone No. 080-25501216 / 25501227 or may also contact this office during working hours.
Sd/- Tender Inviting Authority, Industrial Training & Employment
DIPR/Bangalore/0 No. 1824/2019-20

SALUTE THE SOLDIER
Martyr of CISF on 05th December
HC/GD RAJ KISHOR PRASAD
CCL KARGALI 05-12-2017
CISF proudly remembers the supreme sacrifice of this brave-heart. On this day, he laid down his life at the altar of duty while fighting with criminals. His courage and bravery would remain an abiding source of inspiration for the force. The force will remain eternally indebted to him for his noblest deed.
HEROES OF SUADH : 04 DEC 1971 (9 DOGRA)
2 / Lt Bharat Singh Kasana
48 Years later , with great humility as well as pride, we remember 2 / Lt Bharat Singh Kasana , Vir Chakra (Posthumous) and 13 other gallant sons of "THE NINTH" who embraced martyrdom to create our history The battle Cry "Jwala Mata ki Jai" charged the atm osphere at Suadh in erstwhile East Pakistan on 4th December 1971 as 9 DOGRA launched an attack in broad daylight on a well entrenched enemy in the bloody battle that followed Supreme Sacrifice of 14 gallant sons of the battalion to ensure victory for This valiant action , the battalion was awarded the bottle honour " SUADH
THEY MADE THE BATTALION PROUD
2/LT Bharat Singh Kasana, Vrc Sep Sher Singh
Sub Onkar Singh Sep Janak Raj
Hay Janak Singh Sep Janak Singh
L/Nk Diwan Chand Sep Harnam Singh
L/NK Deputy Singh, SM Sep Roshan Lal
L/NK Ram CHANDER, SM Sep Paras Ram
Sep Jagdish Singh Sep Bharat Singh
Commanding Officer and all ranks of 9DOGRA

CONTAINER CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.
(A Government of India Undertaking, Ministry of Railways)
6th Floor, IJAI Building, A-13, Sector -1, NOIDA - 201301 (U.P.)
Ph. 0120 - 4052932/37, Fax: 0120 - 4062988
Tender Notice: CON/INCR/DER/FMLM/2019 Dated 05.12.2019
CONCOR invites Online open tender in single bid system through e-tender mode
Tender No. CON/INCR/DER/FMLM/2019
Name of Work. Expression of Interest for Empainment of transporters at ICD Dadri
Estimated Cost ₹ 1,55,69,930/- per annum
Completion Period 5 (2+2+1) years
Earnest Money Deposit ₹ 3,11,200/- Through E-payment (NEFT/RTGS)
Cost of Tender Document ₹ 1120/- inclusive of all taxes and duties through e-payment (NEFT/RTGS)
Tender Processing Fee ₹ 5,310/- inclusive of all taxes and duties (Non-refundable) through e-payment.
Date of sale of tender (online) 05.12.2019 at 15:00 hrs. to 01.01.2020 (upto 16:00 hrs.)
Date & time of submission of tender On or before 02.01.2020 up to 15:00 hrs.
Date & time of opening of tender 03.01.2020 at 15:30 hrs.
Tender Document can be downloaded from website www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL. Any further clarification / corrigendum will be updated on this website only.
CGM / INCR

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED (See Section 82 Cr.PC.)
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person Ikram @ Ram Singh @ Ram Kumar, S/o Shri Islam, R/o H.No. C-14/198, Yamuna Vihar, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 497/14 U/S 323/341/392/495/506 IPC PS Gokalpuri, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Ikram @ Ram Singh @ Ram Kumar can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Ikram @ Ram Singh @ Ram Kumar has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).
Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Ikram @ Ram Singh @ Ram Kumar of case FIR No. 497/14 U/S 323/341/392/495/506 IPC PS Gokalpuri, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 08.01.20.
By Order
Shri Devender Kumar Garg
Chief Metropolitan Magistrate
North East District, Room No. 68
Karkardooma Court, Shahdara, Delhi
DP/7485/NE/19

BJP ally SAD wants 6 seats instead of 4 this time round

ABHINAV RAJPUT
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

THE BJP's alliance partner in Delhi, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), has demanded that it contest six seats instead of the four seats it has traditionally been contesting in the capital. The demand comes even though previous state elections did not yield the desired results for the party.

The SAD contested four seats in the 2013 and 2015 Assembly polls — Hari Nagar, Rajouri Garden, Kalkaji and Shahdara. While the party won only the Rajouri Garden seat in 2013, it lost all seats in the 2015 polls.

SAD sources said the party is pushing for two more seats, East Delhi's Rohtas Nagar and West Delhi's Moti Nagar, as these constituencies have a large chunk of Sikh and Punjabi voters, and the party feels it has strong candidates for these seats.

A senior SAD leader said that at a recent meeting, in which SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal was also present, SAD's Delhi unit was asked to present this demand before the BJP. "We have communicated the demand to the Delhi BJP and will present it to BJP's central leadership soon," he said.

The SAD regained Rajouri Garden in the 2017 bypolls, with joint candidate Manjinder Singh Sirsa bagging over 50% of the total votes polled. When contacted,



SAD leader Manjinder Singh Sirsa said his party has a strong alliance with the BJP

Sirsa said, "We have a strong alliance with BJP. We are sure we will jointly form the government in Delhi." He refused to comment on the alliance formation for the upcoming Assembly polls.

The BJP-SAD alliance had seen a strain in Haryana, after the BJP inducted Kalanwali MLA Balkaur Singh into the party, and the SAD announced it would be contesting Haryana on its own. The BJP won 40 seats in the Haryana Assembly polls this year, as compared to 47 seats the party bagged in the previous assembly polls. It formed the government with the Jannayak Janta Party, which won 10 seats.

A senior SAD leader said: "In Delhi, SAD staged a thumping victory in the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee polls held in 2017, by bagging 35 of 46 seats. This shows the party has a good presence among Delhi's Sikh voters."

CALL FOR INDEFINITE STRIKE

DU's ad hoc teacher protest comes to a boil: Many storm V-C office in North Campus

SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

THOUSANDS OF Delhi University teachers stormed the Vice-Chancellor's office Wednesday while examinations took place in colleges, to demand the absorption of the 4,500-odd ad hoc teachers of the varsity into permanent positions.

The teaching community of Delhi University (DU) has been simmering due to directives by the university to begin hiring guest teachers instead of ad hoc teachers. On November 25, the Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA) gave a call for teachers to boycott their duties in the ongoing end of semester examinations.

Wednesday was the first day of an indefinite strike by teachers and a protest to gherao DU Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Tyagi's office. As teachers assembled at the North Campus's Faculty of Arts, they found that entries to the vice-chancellor's office complex had been locked.

Around 11.30 am, the teachers broke the lock on gate number four leading to the administrative block and marched towards the V-C's office complex, access to which was also blocked by barricades and locked gates.

The teachers broke through the barricades and the lock on one of the complex's iron gates. As over 2,000 teachers — including not just ad hoc teachers and members of DUTA, but also many permanent teachers extending solidarity — spread around the expansive V-C lawns, a group went on to break locks on the doors to the building's entry and stormed the council hall, which is where executive council and academic council meetings are held.

However, the teachers could not meet the V-C as he was not present in the building. As the mood got increasingly



DUTA members protest at the Vice-Chancellor's office Wednesday. Praveen Khanna

heated by his absence, the interior walls of the viceregal lodge were filled up with graffiti carrying slogans such as 'our right, absorption', 'VC resign' and 'abhi karo, urgent karo, sabko permanent karo'. Several flowerpots outside the office were also smashed.

Start of the unrest

The current teachers' unrest began when the university sent out a letter to all its constituent colleges on August 28, advising them to "fill up the permanent vacancies at the earliest and till permanent appointments are made, colleges may appoint guest faculty, if required, against new vacancies arising first time in academic session 2019-20".

This resulted in confusion over what exactly were the 'new vacancies' being referred. As a result, several colleges have not renewed appointments of ad hoc teachers or released their salaries, and teachers have seen this as a move to do away with the ad hoc system and to move towards a guest teacher system. "If we are brought back to the colleges as ad hoc teachers, our salaries will be slashed by over 50%. The time spent teaching will not count as work experience to be considered during appointments. Our already vulnerable situation will be rendered worse," said an ad hoc teacher who has been teaching at the university since 2009. The Delhi University

Among complaints: No salary hike, no maternity leave

SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

FROM NO maternity leaves to stumbling blocks in their own research, many woes of Delhi University's (DU) ad hoc teachers have reached a tipping point with the current series of events. "When I first joined DU as an ad hoc teacher, I saw it as only a temporary situation. I didn't think it would take more than a year or two to get inducted as a permanent teacher," said a 40-year-old commerce teacher in one of the university's colleges, who has been working in an ad hoc capacity for the last 10 years. She received her PhD from DU in this year's convocation ceremony.

In these ten years, her salary — like all other ad hoc teachers' salaries — has not seen a single annual increment, apart from hikes in dearness allowance. Currently, an ad hoc teacher in DU earns the starting-level of a permanent teacher's salary of approximately Rs 80,000 per month.

"If an ad hoc teacher is appointed today, they will be paid the same amount as those who have been working for 15-16 years as ad hoc teachers," she said.

Most ad hoc teachers have worked in that capacity for at least five years. They argue this even acts as a disadvantage for them in the screening process for permanent posts.

"Even before interviews for positions, our API score is calculated, in which one of the components is our academic achievements. We are pitted

against students who have graduated recently in a system which gives out marks far more liberally than back when we graduated — when getting more than 60% was very difficult. There is no moderation. On the other hand, points for teaching experience increases with years of experience only up till 10 points, after which it plateaus. Those with 15-20 years of experience have no additional advantage in this case," said Pooja, an ad hoc history teacher at DU for the last seven years.

Other grievances are related to lack of leaves — teachers are not eligible for maternity leave, are not entitled to medical leave, and get four casual leaves and four earned leaves during their 120-day working periods. Apart from fallouts in personal life and health, they also complain of it hindering their research.

"We are doing administrative and academic work from 9 am to 5 pm every day, without any research sabbatical or other uninterrupted time to dedicate to our academic work. My PhD is stalled as I'm unable to give it time," said Pallavi, an ad hoc political science teacher since 2013.

"The fact that vacancies of permanent posts are not being filled up is not our failure, it is the failure of the university. In any case, we have been teaching students for a decade. We will continue teaching successive batches in the same classrooms if we become permanent. If we are incapable, why have we been kept in the colleges for all these years?," said an ad hoc teacher of statistics for the last nine years.

Unanimous vote sees Bill on illegal colonies clear RS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

WITH A unanimous vote in the Rajya Sabha Wednesday, the Parliament passed the National Capital Territory of Delhi (Recognition of Property Rights of Residents in Unauthorised Colonies) Bill, 2019, paving the way to give property rights to nearly 40 lakh people living in 1,731 unauthorised colonies in Delhi. The Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha last week.

Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said the government had identified the unauthorised colonies, on the basis of the findings of a cell, set up after a notification in 2008.

Puri said, "When one regularises something which is patently, or prima facie illegal, the process is a little different. An effective way of dealing with the residents of these colonies would be to confer, as a one-time exception, rights based on five documents which should be in their possession to make a one-time exception."

The Delhi Development Authority is mapping the colonies and Puri said he hoped the uploading of maps would be done "within a matter of days".

Congress leader Kumari Selja, while supporting the Bill, said it was "a political stunt" done "keeping in mind the upcoming elections," and asked the government if there was a long-term plan. AAP's Sanjay Singh also questioned the Bill's timing and said there was a possibility that people will not get ownership rights before elections. "After 180 days, elections will be over and you won't even think about unauthorised colonies," he said.

During the debate, BJP's Vijay Goel said the Delhi government delayed regularisation. Citing a chain of letters between the Centre and the government, he said the Delhi government had sought time till 2021 to complete mapping of colonies.

Digvijaya on Goel

Congress's Digvijaya Singh, who spoke after Vijay Goel, said it was the latter who should be BJP's Delhi Chief Ministerial face and not Manoj Tiwari. "Main Vijay Goel ji ke paksh me bol raha hu ki Manoj Tiwari mukhyamantri ke davedaar nahi ho sakte hain. Ye hak aapka banta hai (I am talking in favour of Vijay Goel. Manoj Tiwari cannot be the claimant to the post. It is your right)," said Singh. However, BJP is unlikely to announce a name before elections.

Drive to raise awareness on disability held

Noida: An awareness drive was organised by the Ponty Chadha Foundation at Mata Bhagwati Chadha Niketan Wednesday on account of the 'International Day for Disabled Persons'. The event saw the participation of over 350 special-needs children. Students of both regular and special-needs schools interacted in an effort to promote equality, said an official from the organisation. The drive was called '#TohKyaHua' as an attempt to increase inclusivity. "The campaign aims to break myths around disability. The idea is to normalise the perception of people towards special needs children and promote equality," said Dr Vandana Sharma, director and principal, Mata Bhagwati Chadha Niketan. ENS

DJB says 98% of 4,200 water samples found satisfactory

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

OF THE 4,204 water samples collected from each ward in Delhi over the past 10 days, over 98% were 'satisfactory', Delhi Jal Board Vice-Chairperson Dinesh Mohaniya said Wednesday.

The sample tests were ordered after a report on water quality by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), which was released last month, claimed that all 11 samples which were picked up had failed quality tests. The report also said that of the 21 cities where similar tests were conducted, Delhi had the worst water quality.

The BIS tests were ordered by Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan. The Delhi government had called the report "politically motivated".

On Wednesday, Mohaniya called the BIS report an "ill-motivated attempt to defame Delhi". "Strictly following the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and in the presence of media, Delhi Jal Board collected 4,204 samples — five each from every municipal ward in Delhi.

SAMPLE PERFORMANCE	
Wazirabad	95.71%
Haiderpur	100%
Tahirpur	94.33%
Nangloi	99.47%
Dwarka	98.40%
Bawana	100%
GK	100%
Okhla	100%

The sample rate aligns with the WHO norms, which is one sample per 10,000 people. The names, phone numbers and addresses of every sample household were recorded to ensure transparency in the process. The sealed samples were tested in the laboratories of the Delhi Jal Board on 29 parameters. Out of the 4,204 samples, 4,128 proved 'satisfactory', and 76 samples proved 'unsatisfactory'. The high rate of satisfactory samples (98.19%) is comfortably within the WHO norms of 96%," Mohaniya said.

After the BIS report was released, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had alleged that an in-

accurate report was published to give benefit to RO (reverse osmosis filtration) companies. The government had also alleged that the controversy was fanned for political gains. Of the 11 locations where samples were collected from, one was Paswan's Krishi Bhawan office, one his residence, and eight were people who had previously complained of poor water quality. One person had told reporters that a sample was not picked up from his house.

Paswan, meanwhile, had denied the allegations and said that BIS was an international-level agency, whose report should not be questioned.

As part of the exercise to collect water samples, DJB had welcomed all stakeholders, including BIS, but officials from the agency did not join the process. "With its misadventure to prove Delhi's piped water is not potable, BIS sacrificed its institutional credibility. BIS has lost its face irreversibly. How will people rely on its standard formulations? BIS being a reputed agency should not get into political and commercial intrigues," Mohaniya said.

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA
Stressed Assets Management Branch-1
12th Floor, Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan (STC Building), 1, Tolstoy Marg, Janpath, New Delhi-110001.
CORRIGENDUM
This is in reference to the advertisement E-Auction Notice published in this newspaper on 08-11-2019. It is informed to the general public that the E-Auction in aid of Mr. Vipul Kant Upadhyay and Mrs. Parul Upadhyay of property were to be e-auctioned on 11-12-2019. We are withdrawing the E-auction of property.
Sd/- Authorised Officer, State Bank of India

BEFORE DEBT'S RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - III, DELHI 4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET NEW DELHI-110001.
Notice under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993.
CA No. 75/2019/DRT-III
ICICI BANK LTD. Applicant VERSUS RAJESH KUMAR ...Defendants
To: D-1, Rajesh Kumar S/o. Sh. Ranjeet Singh, H.No. 20, First Floor, Pocket-1, Sector-20, Rohini, North West Delhi, Prashant Vihar, Delhi-110085.
Also at: Rajesh Kumar S/o. Sh. Ranjeet Singh Proprietor Modern Garments, H.No. 20, Ground Floor, Sector-20, Rohini, Delhi-110085.
Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in this Tribunal on 12/12/2019 at 10.30 A.M.
Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this 12th day of October, 2019.
By Order of the Tribunal Assistant Registrar, DRT-III, New Delhi

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE SMALL CAUSES JUDGE AT BANGALORE (SCCH-09) S.C. NO. 474/2018
Between: M/s. Sunrise Garment Machinery Pvt. Ltd., Represented by its Special Power of Attorney Holder Mr. Alagu Sundaram ...Plaintiff
And: M/s. Sagar Overseas Represented by its Proprietor Mr. Rajiv ...Defendant
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 (1-A) R/W SECTION 151 OF THE CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE
M/s. Sagar Overseas No. 304, Udyog Vihar, Phase-IV, Gurgaon, Haryana-122016. Represented by its Proprietor Mr. Rajiv Residing at: No.L615 DLF, Phase-II, Gurgaon ...Defendant
Whereas the Plaintiff has instituted a suit against you for recovery of a sum of Rs. 1,36,500/- (Rupees One Lakh Thirty Six Thousand Five Hundred Only), with future interest at the rate of 24% per annum on the principal amount of Rs. 80,070/- (Rupees Eighty Thousand Seventy Only) and other reliefs as prayed in the Prayer. You are arrayed as Defendant in the said suit and you hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Small Causes Judge (SCCH-09) at Bangalore in person or by pleader duly instructed on the 16.12.2019 at 11 'O' clock noon to answer the claim and you are directed to produce on that day all the relevant documents upon which you intend to rely in support of your defence.
Take notice that, in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned, the suit will be heard and determined ex parte in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court this 22.11.2019.
By Order of the Court Sd/- Assistant Registrar Court of Small Causes, Bangalore
A. Yogasree, S. Siddappaji, Advocates, No. 706, 'B' Wing, 7th Floor, Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560 001.

प्रकृति के रंग मुस्कान के संग

MAIDS DELHI SMILES DENTAL HEALTH UTSAV

MAULANA AZAD INSTITUTE OF DENTAL SCIENCES, NEW DELHI
Requests the pleasure of your presence at the inauguration of

DELHI SMILES DENTAL HEALTH UTSAV 2019

1st NABH RECOGNIZED DENTAL INSTITUTION

by **SATYENDAR JAIN** Health Minister, Delhi

Presided by **VIJAY KUMAR DEV** Chief Secretary, GNCTD

Guest of Honour
SANJEEV KHIRWAR Principal Secretary, (HAFW) GNCTD
PROF. (DR.) MAHESH VERMA Vice Chancellor, GGSIP University
PROF. (DR.) SUSHIL KUMAR Dean, MAMC
Prof. (Dr.) Sangeeta Talwar Director-Principal
Dr. Gyanendra Kumar Organizing Secretary

At Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences Premises
VISIT DENTAL HEALTH UTSAV FOR DENTAL HEALTH EXHIBITION

FREE DENTAL CHECK UP
Free Registration
5th & 6th December 2019 from 8am to 2pm
ON 7th December 2019 from 8am to 12noon

ORAL HEALTH TIPS FOR LIFE LONG SMILES

- Oral health is essential for general health and well being
- Brush twice a day and floss daily
- Make sure your toothpaste contains fluoride, it strengthens tooth enamel
- Change your toothbrush every three months
- Visit your dentist every 6 months

SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS (6TH DECEMBER 2019)

- Public lecture on Environment Protection
- Street play on "Say No to Plastics"

MAULANA AZAD INSTITUTE OF DENTAL SCIENCES
MAMC Complex Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi 110002
Phone No. 23233925, Fax: 23217081
Email: directormaids@gmail.com Website : www.maids.ac.in

6 IN PARLIAMENT WINTER SESSION

FROM THE GALLERY

SENA JOINS OPPN PARTIES TO SLAM GOVT

Opposition takes on govt over slowdown

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

THE OPPOSITION took on the government in Lok Sabha on Wednesday over the economic slowdown, marked by a six-year low GDP growth of 4.5 per cent during the second quarter of the ongoing fiscal.

Opening the discussion on Supplementary Demands for Grants, Congress member Shashi Tharoor said manufacturing growth has come down to an average 3 per cent in the past five years, and the automobile sector is among the worst hit in the last two decades.

Tharoor said consumer spending has come down, national rural poverty has risen, and 30 million people have fallen below India's official poverty line. "We have seen a decline in consumption...including (that) of essential food items," Tharoor said, adding that the government has had a "dismal record of budgetary failure".

"You will see slippages in fiscal deficit this year," he said, and sought to know the government's roadmap for making India a \$5-trillion economy by 2024.

Shiv Sena leader Vinayak Raut said traders, farmers and the youth are unhappy, and claimed that the Mudra scheme to provide loans to marginal sections of society has the maximum number of non-performing assets.

D N V Senthilkumar of the DMK said there is a need to increase the fund limit under Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme.

Just before Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman got up to reply to the discussion, Congress floor leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury expressed his regret for calling the Finance Minister as "Nirbala" (weak), and called her his sister.

BJP member Nishikant Dubey, who faced sarcastic references from Opposition members



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Lok Sabha on Wednesday. PTI

for his remarks questioning the "relevance" of GDP, received support from Bhartruhari Mahtab of the BJD. Mahtab called for a debate in greater detail on the issue.

Among others who participated in the discussion included BJP member Rajiv Pratap Rudy, BSP's Danish Ali and RSP's N K Premachandran.

The discussion also touched upon the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. After National Conference's Hasnain Masoodi referred to the house arrest of his party leader and MP from Srinagar Farooq Abdullah, Minister of State in PMO Jitendra Singh said the Union Territory saw one of the most peaceful festive seasons in decades.

Masoodi also referred to restrictions on Internet and demanded that people be allowed to offer prayers at the grave of Sheikh Abdullah on his birth anniversary on Thursday. Singh reminded the House that (under a Congress government) Sheikh

Abdullah had been detained 2,000 km away in Kodaikanal (Tamil Nadu), while Farooq Abdullah is staying in own home.

BJD's Mahtab said normalcy in J&K does not end with the issue of Farooq Abdullah and political leaders' arrests. Normalcy, he asserted, will be restored when Kashmiri Pandits, who had been driven out of the Valley, returned to their homes. They too deserved justice, he said.

Trinamool member Saugata Roy said the government should pull up those responsible for the "failure" of Chandrayan-2 mission. He made this suggestion while objecting to the government's decision to provide additional funds to the Department of Space.

This led to a strong reaction from BJP members, who insisted that Roy take back his words. BJP's Meenakshi Lekhi, who was in the chair, said that historically India's space programme has done very well and that the member should know that.

Supplementary demands for grants cleared in LS

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

LOK SABHA on Wednesday cleared the first Supplementary Demands for Grants enabling the government to spend an additional gross amount of Rs 21,246.16 crore in the current financial year, with net cash outgo at Rs 18,995.51 crore. Over 40 per cent of the additional gross amount has been sought as grants for the newly formed Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

The Union Budget presented in July for this financial year had estimated a total of Rs 27.86 lakh crore as government expenditure, excluding public sector company expenses.

The Rs 8,820.62 crore funds as grants for Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh in lieu of the erstwhile state's share of the 14th Finance Commission Award includes the share of revenue deficit grant (Rs 5892.50 crore), local body grant (Rs 725 crore) and SDRF (Rs 139.50 crore) and state share of net proceeds of taxes for November and December (Rs 2063.62 crore).

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, responding to the discussion in the Lok Sabha, said authorisation for additional spending on both revenue and capital side has been sought. She said the government has also sought funds for infusing more equity into IDBI Bank and state-owned general insurance companies.

Responding to Opposition's criticism that there is fear among investment community especially foreign investors, she said foreign direct investments flows have risen to \$20.9 billion in first half of current year, as compared to \$17 billion in the first half of previ-

ous financial year — reflecting confidence among investor community.

An amount of Rs 4,557 crore will be infused in the IDBI Bank through recapitalisation bonds, while Rs 2,500 crore will be used for recapitalisation of state-owned insurance companies. Sitharaman said this equity infusion is being done to maintain solvency of the general insurance companies. Fund infusion in IDBI Bank is being done to enable it to come out of the RBI's Prompt Corrective Action framework.

She said public sector banks have extended record credit in the month of October and November and there is no shortage of credit availability in the economy.

"Total support sanctioned by PSBs in the form of credit to (including co-origination and on-lending) and pool buyouts from NBFCs since the IL&FS default in September 2018 till November 2019 has risen to Rs 4.23 lakh crore, including pool-buyouts of Rs 1.24 lakh crore. PSBs being adequately capitalised and record recovery underway, have sufficient liquidity to support credit growth," the Finance Ministry said in a statement.

Apart from increasing credit MSMEs, NBFCs and housing sector, the government has increased allocation under national rural employment guarantee scheme over the years, the minister said. Transfer of funds under government schemes is being done through the Direct Benefit Transfer to curtail leakage. The government sought Rs 2,000 crore to meet the additional expenditure towards payment of pay and allowance of armed forces and another Rs 666 crore for meeting expenditure of Department of Space.

Govt: States issued instructions to identify, deport illegal migrants

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

THE GOVERNMENT is tightening the noose around illegal immigrants and instructions have been issued to states to sensitise law enforcement and intelligence agencies for their identification and deportation, Union Minister Nityanand Rai said in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.

During Question Hour, Rai said instances of illegal migrants, who came as travellers, tourists or traders, overstaying between 2014-17 were only 1,000 as compared to 1.34 lakh between 2008 and 2013.

He said illegal migrants came in through various ways, including as tourists, and 29 lakh people entered between 2008 to 2013 while the number of such people swelled to 56 lakh between 2014 and 2017.

He said in Karnataka, the process is on to deport 58-59 such people.

"Illegal immigrants enter the country without valid travel documents in a clandestine and surreptitious manner," he said and added detection, detention and deportation of such foreign nationals, including Bangladeshi nationals, is an ongoing process.



Union Minister Nityanand Rai

The minister said the Central government is vested with powers to detain a foreign national staying illegally in the country under the Foreigners Act and deport them. "These powers to detain and deport illegally staying foreign nationals have also been entrusted under Article 258 (1) of the Constitution of India to State governments," he said.

He said the Ministry of Home Affairs has issued instructions to state governments/Union Territories advising them to sensitise law enforcement and intelligence agencies for taking appropriate prompt steps for identification of illegal migrants, their restriction to specified locations as per provision of law, capturing their biographic and biometric particulars, cancellation of fake Indian documents and legal proceedings, including deportation.

3,169 Left-Wing Extremists surrendered since 2016: MoS Reddy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

AS MANY as 3,169 Left-Wing Extremists (LWEs) have surrendered from 2016 to November 15 this year and there has been a decline in violence related to extremism, Union minister G Kishan Reddy said in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.

Besides, the geographical spread of extremism has shrunk, Minister of State for Home Affairs, Reddy said during Question Hour.

Reddy said a total of 1,442 extremists surrendered in 2016, followed by 685 and 644 in 2017 and 2018 respectively and 398 this year till November 15. He said 3,368 incidents of LWE violence have been reported between 2016 and November 15, 2019.

"The LWE-related incidents of violence



Union minister G Kishan Reddy

between May 2014 to April 2019 have been 43 per cent lesser while compared with the preceding 5 years period. The decline trend continues in 2019," he said.

In 2018, LWE-related violence was reported in 60 districts, he said and added that, 90 districts in 11 states are covered under the Security Related Expenditure (SRE)/LWE scheme which reimburses expenditure incurred by states on LWE operations.



No POLITICS ON PLATE

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, former PM Manmohan Singh, Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad and NCP chief Sharad Pawar at the Upa Rashtrapati Niwas, in New Delhi on Wednesday. Naidu hosted a lunch for about 170 members of the House and ministers on the occasion of the 250th RS session. There were 22 items on the menu for the VIPs seated at 22 round tables. Naidu's wife, daughter, son, and daughter-in-law received the guests and went around the tables explaining the delicacies. Twitter

Panel set up to suggest changes in IPC, CrPC to curb mob lynching: Shah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

HOME MINISTER Amit Shah said on Wednesday that the government has set up a committee to suggest necessary amendments in the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) to deal with issues related to mob lynching, as members of Parliament called for a separate law to curb mob lynching.

Responding to a series of queries during Question Hour in Rajya Sabha, Shah said he has also written to all chief ministers and governors to send recommendations on making changes to IPC and CrPC after con-

sulting with experienced investigating officers and public prosecutors.

"Under the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), a committee has been set up to make changes in the IPC and CrPC. We will start working on amendments after receiving recommendations from the committee," Shah said in the Upper House.

He said the government will keep in mind Supreme Court orders while making changes to the IPC and CrPC.

On the issue of lynching, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai said there is "no separate" definition for such incidents under the existing IPC. Lynching incidents can be dealt with under Section 300 and 302 of IPC.

The minister, in his written reply, said a

group of ministers was constituted to deliberate on a law to specifically handle cases of lynching and make recommendations.

Responding to another query on status of laws to curb mob lynching passed by two state governments, he said Manipur and Rajasthan governments have passed such laws and they are reserved for central accord.

"The consultation process is going on. We will take a call after the consultation is over," he added.

When a CPI(M) member sought to know ideological reasons for rise in mob lynching, Chairman Venkaiah Naidu said, "Should some community be totally excluded from operation of this Act. Why are you bringing community in this?"

Perception difference over LAC leads to incursions: Rajnath

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

RESPONDING TO the issue raised by the Congress of Chinese naval ships entering Indian waters, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday said that incidents of transgression occur due to "perceptual differences" over the Line of Actual Control (LAC) between the two countries.

"There is a perceptual difference between the two countries over the LAC. The main reason is that there is no mutually marked LAC. Both countries have their own perception. Due to this, often incidences of transgression (atikraman) occur; I accept

this. Sometimes, PLA (Chinese People's Liberation Army) enters our side, but sometimes our men also go into their side," Singh said while responding to the issue raised by Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury during Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha.

The Defence Minister said that sometimes a situation of confrontation occurs between armies of two countries but it is never allowed to escalate.

"There is a mechanism to deal with such situations between India and China including meeting between local commanders, flag meetings and hotlines. This mechanism is used to control issues related to incursions, transgressions and face-offs," he elaborated.

"Apart from this, there are some long term

issues and we have a mechanism to resolve these issues through diplomatic level," he said.

He said, "I want to assure that no one should worry about border security. India is developing infrastructures like roads, tunnels, railway lines, and airfields on the China border to ensure the unity, security, and sovereignty of the country."

"Our armed forces are alert and they are capable to face any challenge. No one should doubt this," Singh said.

While raising the issue, Chowdhury attacked the government a "lenient" attitude towards China.

"Pakistan shelters terrorism and China shelters Pakistan. Our attitude towards Pakistan is very aggressive whereas it's bal-

anced in the case of China. China has sent ships till Andaman and Nicobar and the same have been sent back by our Navy," Chowdhury said.

Quoting claims made by BJP MP Tapir Gao about China's encroachment on India's Territory in the Lok Sabha on November 19, Chowdhury said, "Our attitude towards Pakistan is very aggressive but why are we lenient in the case of China? We should know this. We are not afraid, we should speak openly."

"We can change history but cannot change geography. We are simply wedged between the two nuclear power nations," Chowdhury further said.

Chinese FM to come for boundary talks

New Delhi: Chinese Foreign Minister and State Councillor Wang Yi is set to visit India later this month to hold boundary talks with National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, diplomatic sources said on Wednesday. Doval and Wang are the designated Special Representatives of the two countries for the boundary talks. He will have an extensive dialogue with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. PTI

FROM THE CHAIR

RAJYA SABHA

"Should some community be totally excluded from operation of this act. Why are you bringing community in this?"

M VENKAIAH NAIDU, Chairman, when a CPI(M) member sought to know ideological reasons behind the rise in mob lynching.

LOK SABHA

"I want to suggest that we should ask to the point questions and answer should be brief, so that we can allow maximum members to ask supplementary questions... If the House agrees, it should be considered..."

OM BIRLA, Speaker, requesting members to keep oral questions short during Question Hour.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Installing a tower in Delhi is very difficult. Earlier I was the minister of this department in 2014-19. I had to run so much to get a tower installed in the reception of the Parliament to improve the connectivity here. Security issues are there; other issues are there."

RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD, Union Minister of Communications, Electronics, and Information Technology, replying to a question by RSP MP N K Premachandran about poor mobile connectivity in Delhi.

5 QUESTIONS



BJP BASTI MP HARISH DWIVEDI SPOKE TO HARIKISHAN SHARMA ABOUT WHY HE RAISED THE ISSUE OF STRAY ANIMALS IN LOK SABHA.

What is the issue you raised?
The stray animals have created havoc in the country in general and in Uttar Pradesh in particular. There are a large number of stray animals that roam around on the roads and destroy crops in the fields. When we go to villages, farmers complain of such incidents. They ask for a solution.

Isn't it a state subject? What do you want from the Centre?
I have written to the Uttar Pradesh government and have demanded that cow shelters should be established. The state had tried to build some cow shelters but it has not happened at a scale that is required. My suggestion is that it should be taken up at a big scale using funds from central schemes such as MGNREGA. That's why I raised the issue in Lok Sabha.

Do you think that the crackdown on slaughterhouses by UP government was not a logical decision?
The crackdown on slaughterhouses was the right step and our party firmly believes that cow slaughter must not happen. There are other methods to deal with the situation of stray animals such as building cow shelters at a large scale

The standing committee on agriculture has advocated the use of sex-sorted semen technology to give birth to more female calves to deal with the problem of stray cattle. Do you think this is a solution?
Such a method should be adopted. When there are more female calves, it's obvious that people will keep these animals at home.

Do you think that there should be a penalty on those who abandon cattle?
People who keep stray cattle should be incentivised. At the same time, action should be taken against the people who abandon cattle.

7 GOVT & POLITICS

Bypolls today: BSY confident, but may not have it that easy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, DECEMBER 4

WHILE CHIEF Minister B S Yediyurappa is telling voters that the four-month-old BJP government in Karnataka will sweep all 15 seats in the Assembly by-elections, scheduled for Thursday, there are indications on the ground that the party may not have it that easy in retaining its majority.

Besides some amount of public anger against some of the 13 new entrants fielded by the party — former Congress and JD(S) MLAs who defected to topple a Congress-JD(S) coalition and bring BJP to power — the ruling party is battling resistance in some constituencies, even though the Congress, main opposition party in the state, has not asserted itself in a big way.

Yediyurappa and the BJP have promised huge funds for development in each of the 15 constituencies. All 13 rebel MLAs contesting as BJP candidates have been promised ministry positions.

The BJP has also told voters that if the Yediyurappa government continues it will be the first time in 25 years that the same party will be in power in the state and at the Centre, resulting in big development benefits for Karnataka.

"The Congress and JD(S) have already given up hopes of winning the bypolls. They did not come together and field a candidate for Rajya Sabha elections to fight the BJP candidate. This means they know the outcome of the bypolls. The BJP will win all 15 seats," Yediyurappa said at an election in Athani constituency on the penultimate campaign day.

Internal surveys of BJP have predicted a victory in 10 seats, and the party could struggle in



Officials collect poll material on the eve of Karnataka bypolls, in Bengaluru on Wednesday. PTI

EXPLAINED The math for the ruling party

WITH 105 seats in the truncated 207-member Assembly, the BJP is aiming to win at least eight of 15 seats to take the party to a clear majority when the legislature is restored to its full strength of 224, where 113 is the simple majority. The party's worst-case scenario is winning six seats, to get a temporary majority in the 222-member House — with the support of one Independent — until by-elections are held for two pending vacancies.

at least two more seats, sources in BJP said.

The five seats where BJP analysis shows the party not doing well are K R Pet, Hunsur, Rannebennur, Hoskote and Kagwad.

Three of these seats — K R Pet, Hunsur and Hoskote — are in the Vokkaliga belt of south Karnataka; the community has traditionally backed JD(S).

A BJP leader said, "There is a sense of anger in the Vokkaliga community over the toppling of a government headed by a

Vokkaliga (H D Kumaraswamy). This election is likely to see a reprisal by the Vokkaligas against rebel MLAs in seats where they are in a majority. This effect will be seen in three to four seats."

In Rannebennur seat in central Karnataka, BJP's non-rebel candidate, it appears, has not been accepted by the people and is up for a stiff fight from Congress veteran K B Koliwad.

In Kagwad seat in north Karnataka, where the Lingayat community of Yediyurappa is a

dominant force, the BJP may have a tough time given public animosity towards Shrimanth Patil, the former Congress MLA now fielded by BJP. Patil is accused of indifference when floods hit Belagavi district soon after the BJP came to power, and of failing to pay the dues of sugarcane farmers.

Among other seats where BJP may face strong resistance are Yeshwanthapura and Chika-balur — both in the Vokkaliga belt in the south — and Hospet or Vijayanagara, where a BJP rebel refused to withdraw his nomination despite party's warning.

The BJP is expected to sail through in three seats in north Karnataka — Athani, Hirekerur, Gokak — dominated by Yediyurappa's Lingayat community.

The BJP is also tipped to do well in the Bengaluru seats of Shivajinagar, Mahalakshmi Layout and K R Puram, as well as the coastal belt seat of Yellapura, on account of the strength of its candidates and the lack of strong contenders from the Congress and JDS.

Cabinet nod to changes in senior citizens' law

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

THE UNION Cabinet Wednesday approved the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (Amendment) Bill, 2019, and the legislation will soon be tabled in Parliament.

The Bill seeks to remove the Rs 10,000 ceiling prescribed by the Maintenance of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, for maintenance towards the welfare of parents and the amount can now be decided on a case-to-case basis. It further looks at expanding the definition of 'parents' and 'children' to include son-in-laws, daughter-in-laws as well as stepchildren.

The 2007 Act makes it a legal obligation for children or heirs to provide a monthly maintenance to parents or senior citizens. A senior citizen who is unable to maintain himself from his earnings or properties is entitled to get relief under this Act. If children or relatives fail to provide maintenance, then the senior citizen can seek the assistance of a Tribunal constituted under this Act to enforce the remedy of maintenance.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thawarchand Gehlot said, "Apart from the definitions of children and senior citizens being expanded, we have included a number of significant changes. For instance, the age of a senior citizen differs from state to state.

But according to this Bill, for the purpose of maintenance, we have defined the age of the senior citizen as 65 years."

Cases pertaining to senior citizens above the age of 80 years will be expedited on a priority basis by the Tribunals.

While the 2007 Bill provides for the institution of old age homes across the country, the Amendment Bill has for the first time mandated that these homes be registered with the government to ensure minimum standards are maintained.

"We have made it mandatory for a nodal officer in each state who will be in charge of old age homes and further mandated constant monitoring of these old age homes," Gehlot said.

The minister said the Bill also has the provision of day care centres which will provide meals and engage senior citizens in activities from morning to evening. The government has also mandated that home care be provided to those who are too old to commute or have a disability through agencies nominated by the state governments.

These agencies, as well as NGOs, government and autonomous bodies — engaged in senior citizen care — are all to be registered.

"The registration will further help us keep a count of the number of senior citizens, and those in need of assistance," Gehlot said. Special units for senior citizens will also be established at police stations across the country besides a special helpline.

Proposal to set up 3 central universities for Sanskrit cleared

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

THE UNION Cabinet on Wednesday approved a proposal to convert the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan and Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha (LBSRSV) in Delhi and the Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha (RSV) in Tirupati into central universities.

The government is expected to bring the Central Sanskrit University Bill during the ongoing winter session of Parliament. If and when the Bill is passed, the three deemed-to-be universities will be the country's first Central universities for Sanskrit.

Currently, there are Central universities for Hindi, English and Urdu each.

After their conversion, Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan will be known as Central Sanskrit University, SLBSRSV will become Lal Bahadur Shastri National

Sanskrit University and RSV will be National Sanskrit University.

According to ministry sources, the proposal has been justified on a few grounds. First, that Central university status will improve the stature of the three institutions. Subsequently, this will help them attract more and better faculty and foreign students. After conversion, the government expects these Central universities to also start offering programmes in Indian Philosophy and yoga.

While LBSRSV was set up in 1962, the Sansthan dates back to 1970 and RSV came up in 1961. All three were granted deemed university status by the UGC later. Apart from being among the first Central universities for Sanskrit in the country, Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan will be the first multi-campus Central university. It has a head office in Delhi where the vice-chancellor sits and 12 campuses across the country.

700 govt job aspirants held for protesting irregularities in recruitment exam in Gujarat

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GANDHINAGAR, DECEMBER 4

HUNDREDS OF students who appeared for the examination for Non-Secretariat Clerks and Office Assistants last month, staged a protest in the state capital on Wednesday, alleging irregularities and a paper leak, and demanding cancellation of the examination.

Following this, district police authorities detained around 700 protesters even as Minister of State for Home, Pradeepsinh Jadeja, said they had already registered an offence against two persons involved in the irregularities. He added that state authorities are investigating into a total of 39 complaints.

The protests continued in

Gandhinagar near Udyog Bhavan late on Wednesday night even after they were released by police from detention. The leader of the protesters, Yuvrajsinh Jadeja (30) from Gondal, said that they will continue the agitation till the government cancels the examination.

"We have given lots of evidence of paper leak and irregularities to the state government. But for some reason they are not ready to consider it. They can use money collected from paper leaks and irregularities but they cannot play with future of lakhs of students."

The examination was held on November 17 and Independent MLA Jignesh Mevani first gave the call to youths to come to the Gujarat Assembly on December 9 in protest, alleging that the question paper was leaked.

The recruitment examination was conducted by the Gujarat Subordinate Services Selection Board (GSSSB) for 3,910 vacancies. More than 6 lakh candidates appeared for the examination.

After the examination, complaints of irregularities and a paper leak emerged from various parts of the state.

Gandhinagar SP, Mayur Chavda said, "We have detained around 700 of them (protesting students). Three Congress MLAs, Sirit Patel from Patan, Gulabsinh Rajput from Tharad and CJ Chavda from Gandhinagar North, were also detained during the protest and released later." The SP said that the students were detained as they had gathered without taking permission from authorities.

As the protest raged, Jadeja as-

serted before the media that the paper was not leaked. "GSSSB has received 39 complaints and 26 WhatsApp messages of irregularities from five districts. All the complaints are being looked into..." he said, ruling out cancellation.

The Opposition Congress said it would organise a march till the Assembly complex on December 9 if the government failed to cancel the exam.

"When youths seek their rights and take their grievances to the government in Gandhinagar, they are detained by the police and no officer meets them. This is not acceptable in the Gujarat of Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar (Vallabhbhai Patel)," Gujarat Congress president Amit Chavda said.

PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA'S DAUGHTER JOINS BJD 'Joined BJD to continue my work in development sector'

SAMPAD PATNAIK
BHUBANESWAR, DECEMBER 4

"I JOINED the BJD to continue my work in the development sector. If I was interested in electoral politics, I would have joined the party before the election," says Sikta Pati, daughter of former MP Pyarimohan Mohapatra, who joined the ruling party in Odisha last month.

Known as the 'Chanakya of Odisha politics', Mohapatra was widely believed to be the principal political adviser to Naveen Patnaik since his initial days as Union Minister for Mines.

An IAS officer who was close to Biju Patnaik, Mohapatra was credited with scripting the first three electoral victories for the BJD in 2000, 2004 and 2009, and emerged as a power centre.

"Biju Patnaik used to recognise me as Pyari's jhia (daughter). Naveen Patnaik paid his respects to my father's body. That is all of my personal interaction with both



Sikta Pati

CMs," said Pati, 54. Things fell apart when Naveen went on his maiden foreign trip, to the UK. He heard that his adviser was allegedly hatching a coup to break the BJD and take over as CM. Naveen cracked down on the alleged conspirators, including Mohapatra. "The only thing I have to say is that my father did not hatch a conspiracy. He was caught in one," she adds.

Mohapatra fought the 2014 elections under the banner of Odisha Jana Morcha (OJM), which he founded. The aim, BJD leaders

said, was to perhaps split regional votes, win some seats and come to power in alliance with a national party.

However, the BJD won 117 of 147 seats, while OJM did not win a single seat.

Pati, who took the reins of OJM for a few days after her father's death, says she wants to contribute to the party with her professional skills, after having worked in UNICEF and the Corporate Social Responsibility space for decades.

"For example, BJD has (health assurance scheme) Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana. The poorest of the poor in Bhubaneswar still do not know how to avail of it. I can be that bridge..." she says.

Asked whether the BJD has a future after Naveen, she says, "I will cite a business case study. For many people, the word detergent means Surf. This happens when the brand becomes the only identity of the product. Today, when people think political party in Odisha, they think BJD."

SC association urges Justice Mishra to be more patient with lawyers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

REMINING THAT the duty to maintain dignity and decorum of the court is also upon judges, the Supreme Court Advocates-On-Record Association on Wednesday passed a resolution against Justice Arun Mishra's remarks warning senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan of contempt charges in court.

"Several members of the Bar have repeatedly been raising such grievance about unwanted treatment and personal remarks by Mr Justice Arun Mishra," it noted.

The association requested justice Mishra to be a "little more patient in dealing with lawyers".

Senior advocate and former ASG Vikas Singh also called on Supreme Court Bar Association to condemn Justice Mishra's remarks "as a mark of protest towards protecting prestige of the Bar." He wrote, "Terrorising lawyers under the threat of contempt and not allowing them to argue under that threat undermines the very fundamentals of justice delivery system."

On Tuesday, the court wit-

nessed a heated exchange between Justice Mishra and Sankaranarayanan when a five-judge Constitution bench was hearing on interpretations of the provisions of 2013 Land Acquisition Act.

After asking Sankaranarayanan multiple times to not repeat arguments made by other advocates, Justice Mishra warned him of contempt of court. "One more word and I will issue contempt against you and ensure you are convicted," Justice Mishra said.

"Are you retorting? How dare you?" Justice Mishra said, refusing to allow Sankaranarayanan more time to conclude his arguments. Sankaranarayanan closed his files and left, shortly before the court rose for lunch, without concluding his arguments.

"I walked away because I did not want to lower the dignity of court. I do not wish to add anything further," Sankaranarayanan told *The Indian Express*.

Dewan, were heard post-lunch.

On Wednesday, advocate Prashant Bhushan argued on behalf of a farmer's association for over four hours. Before rising for lunch, Justice Mishra asked Bhushan to address the court again.

When Bhushan said he would address the court to the best of his abilities and chuckled, Justice Mishra asked whether his abilities were "a laughing matter".

The court is hearing a clutch of cases related to the interpretation of Section 24 of Land Acquisition Act.

In 2018, then CJ Dipak Misra had referred the cases to a Constitution bench, as two benches delivered conflicting judgments. One of the orders was by a bench including Justice Arun Mishra.

Sankaranarayanan and senior advocate Shyam Divan had argued for his recusal from the Constitution bench, saying that there might be impropriety in him hearing it.

On October 24, the bench, also including Justices Indira Banerjee, Vineet Saran, Ravindra Bhat and M R Shah, ruled that Justice Mishra would continue.

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



Agatha Sangma with her husband Patrick Rongma outside Parliament on Wednesday. Renuka Puri

HONEYMOON TO HOUSE

WITH THE BJP having asked its MPs to make sure they are present in Parliament, as the government is set to bring the Citizenship Amendment Bill in this session, Tura MP Agatha Sangma of the National People's Party, which is an NDA ally but opposes the Bill, has cut short her honeymoon. Sangma, who got married in the third week of November, came to Parliament on Wednesday with husband Patrick Rongma. Since the Bill is sensitive for her state - Meghalaya - Sangma has to make her point clear in the House, and thus did not want to take a chance. She may abstain from voting, it is learnt, to declare solidarity for those protesting against the Bill in her state.

NEW BEST FRIEND

TRINAMOL CONGRESS Lok Sabha MP Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar has a new member in her household. When CSF sniffer dog Jesse retired from service last month, with a gold medal and a certificate of distinguished service, Ghosh Dastidar formally adopted the seven-year-old German Shepherd and brought her to her home in Delhi. While Jesse is still not at home, and is following the Barasat MP's driver around in the hope of being taken back to where she came from, Ghosh Dastidar is now trying to make arrangements to take her to Barasat, where she hopes her other dogs will calm Jesse's separation anxiety.

CHANGE IN CHANGE

A LITTLE over two years ago the HRD Ministry had mooted the idea of setting up a National Research Foundation (NRF) to bolster the country's weak research output. The plan was shelved temporarily after the Finance Ministry shot it down. It was finally announced in this year's Budget. However, the ministry that proposed NRF is no longer in charge of setting it up. Since the NRF is supposed to coordinate research funding across ministries, the Principal Advisor to the PM has taken charge of the proposal. He is now trying to coordinate with all ministries, including HRD, to make NRF a reality.

LATE TO THE PARTY

WHILE DISCUSSING the Bill to provide ownership rights to residents of unauthorised colonies in Delhi, BJP leader Bhupendra Yadav said that the Union government will also work towards bringing piped water to each household ("har ghar mein nal se jal") in the national capital, to which Aam Aadmi Party's Sanjay Singh retorted that the state government has already provided that. Finding an opportunity, Ameer Yajnik of the Congress, who belongs to Gujarat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state, added, "We don't have it in Gujarat" to mild laughter from the Opposition benches.

Guidelines on plastic management ready, to be rolled out in six months: Govt

SHIVNARAYAN RAJPUROHIT
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

THE MINISTRY OF Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) on Wednesday said it had prepared the long-delayed national framework for extended producer's responsibility (EPR), which would be implemented in the next six months.

It was replying to a petition in the National Green Tribunal (NGT), seeking directions to producers and manufacturers to manage and recycle their plastic waste.

Under the Plastic Waste Management Rules, it is mandatory for companies to ensure that their plastic does not reach landfills or end up on streets.

The EPR framework has three components based on the size of a company — small, medium and large — Nidhi Khare, Joint Secretary at MoEFCC, told an NGT bench headed by AK Goel.

The three models are officially called: fee-based model, Producer Responsibility Organisations (PROs) model and credit model. PROs are third party entities that manage waste on behalf of manufacturers.

According to an MoEFCC note submitted to the NGT, small manufacturers will be charged a fee, which will be de-

vised to the EPR fund, for getting their plastic waste recycled by urban local bodies.

"Medium and large producers who don't have expertise in recycling their waste can rope in Producer Responsibility Organisations, or PROs (companies that excel in waste management)," Khare said.

Large companies can also obtain credits by sending their waste to waste-to-energy plants or cement factories or recycling units. When asked why another six to eight months were required to implement EPR, Khare said the ministry was developing a website where all companies can register themselves, and tenders had to be invited for the same.

"No madam, it should not take more than three months," interjected Nagin Nanda, an expert member on the bench. To which, Khare replied that the ministry would need at least six months. "The EPR guidelines will also be circulated among all ministries," said a ministry official.

Gujarat makes helmets optional in urban areas

Transport minister clarifies: Compulsory use of helmet has been temporarily suspended

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE GANDHINAGAR, RAJKOT, AHMEDABAD, DECEMBER 4

JUST OVER a month after helmets were made compulsory for those riding two-wheelers in Gujarat, the state government on Wednesday decided to make it voluntary "within the limits of municipalities and municipal corporations", citing "huge resentment" and "aggressive representations" from those opposed to the rule.

In a press release issued late in the evening, the Gujarat government clarified that its decision meant that the rule mandating wearing of helmets (as contained in the amended Motor Vehicles Act) has been temporarily suspended in the limits of municipalities and municipal corporations.

When contacted after the release was issued, state Transport Minister R C Faldu told The Indian Express that the government had "temporarily suspended compulsory use of helmet within urban areas". Earlier, announcing the decision after a Cabinet meeting, Faldu said helmets

would still be compulsory on national highways, state highways and panchayat roads.

He said: "Our Transport Department and the government was of the opinion that in order to check loss of human lives due to head injuries sustained in road accidents, helmets should be compulsory and people should be disciplined... However, the way in which aggressive representations came from cities... huge resentment is also being witnessed on social (media) sites... Due to all those reasons, the issue came up before the Cabinet, and it was decided that from today, use of helmets in the limits of municipalities and municipal corporations will be voluntary."

Faldu said the government had received many complaints. "Some people asked where to put on helmet while going to buy vegetables, (some) people (were) forced to wear helmet even while going to attend funerals... After holding detailed discussions, the state government has taken this decision today," he said.

Both the BJP and the Congress hailed the state government's decision.

The Gujarat government, led by Chief Minister Vijay Rupani, was among the first in the country to slash fines for traffic violations, stipulated by the new Motor Vehicles Act, including for not wearing a helmet — from Rs 1,000 to Rs 500. It also extended the date of implementation of the fines from September 16 to October 31.

India committed to partnering with Maldives for its development: PM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

AS A close friend and maritime neighbour, India is committed to partnering with the Maldives for its development, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday. The two countries will also enhance cooperation for peace and mutual security in the Indian Ocean Region, he said.

Speaking through video-conferencing at an event where a fast interceptor vessel was gifted to the Maldives, Modi said his government's "Neighbourhood First" and Male's "India First" policies have strengthened bilateral cooperation in all sectors.

In the coming years, projects under Indian assistance will bring more benefits to the people of the Maldives, he said.

The Prime Minister said that "as a close friend and maritime member, India is committed to partnering with the Maldives for democracy and development. We will also enhance our cooperation for peace and mutual security in the Indian Ocean Region," he said.

Through a digital video conference between Modi and Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, the two sides launched some of the important initiatives that were announced during last year. Four bilateral grant projects that represent the breadth and ambition of the development partnership between India and the Maldives were highlighted.

SC upholds Kerala HC order on terms for minority school tag

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G. NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

THE SUPREME Court has dismissed a plea challenging a Kerala High Court order which held that an educational institution, to claim minority status, has to be "established and administered" by the minority community, and not merely administered by it.

"In the facts and circumstances of this case, we are not inclined to entertain this Special Leave Petition... accordingly dismissed," a bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and Hrishikesh Roy ordered on November 29.

The bench observed it was clear that under Article 30(1), for an institution to claim minority status, it has to be both "established and administered" by the community. The top court was hearing a petition against the August 5 Kerala HC division bench order quashing an order of the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions, which had declared Nallur Narayana Lower Primary School a minority educational institution.

The school was established in Kozhikode district in 1936 by one Nallur Narayana Menon. After his death, his son K K Sasidharan took over as manager. In 2005, Sasidharan transferred the management of the school, including its properties, to one P K Mohammed Hajeer. The transfer was approved by the Assistant Educational Officer and Director of Public Instructions in 2005.

In August 2013, Hajeer filed an application before the state government for an NOC to establish it as a minority educational institution. No order was passed on the application. In December 2014, he applied

to the National Commission, which gave it minority status.

This was challenged in Kerala HC by the teachers, who argued that on the basis of minority status the manager overlooked their seniority, which should otherwise have been the relevant consideration for promotion as headmaster. They said that Hajeer instead appointed his son as headmaster. They also contended that only an educational institution established and administered by a person from minority community could claim to be a minority educational institution.

A single judge of HC rejected this, saying that although in an etymological sense the word "established" means founding or creation, it can have a different meaning in the Constitutional context, which is not limited to bringing into existence an educational institution through its founding. The court said the main objective of Article 30(1) is to accord protection to minorities and create a sense of feeling among them that they have equal rights with the majority and to bring up institutions to compete with any other institution of excellence.

Thus, an educational institution purchased by a minority and dedicated for the cause of minority would also fall within the meaning of the word "established" under Article 30(1), the HC ruled. On appeal, an HC division bench of Justices K Vinod Chandran and V G Arun reversed this decision and said analysis of Commission's order would show that it had concluded that the school is "eligible for grant of minority status on finding that the school was being administered by an individual Muslim".

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

Will consider hearing poll bond plea in Jan: SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

THE SUPREME Court said on Wednesday that it will consider hearing in January next year a plea seeking stay on the Electoral Bond Scheme, 2018.

"We will see in January," a bench of Chief Justice of India S A Bobde and Justices B R Gavai and Surya Kant told Advocate Prashant Bhushan.

Bhushan, appearing for the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), said he had filed a plea for staying the scheme which was brought forth to col-

lect funds for political parties as it had emerged that even the RBI had objected to the project.

The plea said documents obtained under the RTI Act showed that RBI gave "repeated warnings to the government", stating that it has the potential to increase "black money circulation, money laundering, cross-border counterfeiting and forgery".

The central bank raised concerns regarding the proposed amendment to RBI Act for enabling Scheduled Banks to issue Electoral Bearer Bonds, but the concerns "were summarily dismissed by the Finance Ministry", the plea said.

14,500 NGOs banned from receiving foreign funds: Govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

FOREIGN FUNDING of NGOs in India has drastically dropped even as government has deregistered as many as 14,500 NGOs in the past five years, the Ministry of Home Affairs told Parliament on Wednesday.

All these NGOs were earlier allowed to receive foreign funds under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA). Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai also told Rajya Sabha that this year alone, registration of 1,808 NGOs has been cancelled.

He said the FCRA registered NGOs have received a total of Rs 2,244.77 crore in 2018-19 (as on November 28) as compared to Rs 16,902.41 crore in 2017-18. However, figures for 2018-19 may increase as NGOs have until December end to file their annual reports.

"Registration certificates of approximately 14,500 associations have been cancelled during the last five years," he said. Certificates of registration of 1,808 FCRA registered NGOs have been cancelled recently for non-submission of mandatory annual returns for 2017-18.

The FCRA and rules made there-under provide that all FCRA NGOs and associations have to file annual returns on time. The non-compliant NGOs are issued notices and reminders through the online mechanism. Further action like suspension and cancellation of registration certificate is also taken against non-compliant NGOs.

Office of the Executive Engineer (Distribution) Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited Electric Division Kathua Extension Notice-01

कायाव्यय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, जल विद्युत उत्पादन खण्ड 3000 जल विद्युत निगम लि० साहय-बादशाहीनगर, साहयपुर 20000

Information Technology Development Agency (I.T.D.A.) (Department of IT, Government of Uttarakhand) IT Bhawan, Plot No. IT-07, Sahasradhara Road, Dehradun- 248001. Telefax: 0135-2806330

Table with 5 columns: क्रम सं०, निविदा संख्या, कार्य का नाम, प्राप्तागण की वनराशि (लाख रुप में), परीहर राशि (रु० में), टेंडर का मूल्य (रु० में), कार्य अवधि

NATIONAL BOOK TRUST, INDIA Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India 'Nehru Bhawan', 5, Institutional Area, Phase-II Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070

Phone: 91-11-267080/81/88 Email: nbtexhibition1@gmail.com Website: www.nbtindia.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE National Book Trust, India (NBT), an autonomous organization under Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, invites sealed tenders/bids on the prescribed tender form for finalization of rates and allotment of work for the following jobs on hire basis for the New Delhi World Book Fair, which is scheduled to be held from 4 -12 January 2020 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

VISIT NEW DELHI WORLD BOOK FAIR 04-12 JANUARY 2020 PRAGATI MAIDAN, NEW DELHI

पाषाणमाल विद्युत निगम लि. विद्युत परीक्षण खण्ड-द्वितीय, बागपत ई-निविदा तिथि विस्तार सूचना।

Delhi Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. An Enterprises of Govt. of NCT of Delhi ISBT Sarai Kale Khan Delhi-110013 NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Delhi Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. An Enterprises of Govt. of NCT of Delhi ISBT Sarai Kale Khan Delhi-110013 NOTICE INVITING TENDER

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED WOMAN General public is hereby informed that this woman namely Sarthi W/o Deep Chand R/o Kh. No. 251, Gali No. 08, Swaroop Nagar, Delhi Age : 30 years, Height : 5', Complexion : Fair, Face : Round, Build : Medium, wearing red colour suit & salwar and red colour sandle in feet, has been missing/ kidnapped since 15.10.19 from the area of P.S. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi.

HARYANA GOVERNMENT TENDER NOTICE Table with 6 columns: Sr. No., NAME OF BOARD/CORP/AUTH, NAME OF WORK/NOTICE/TENDER, OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME), AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES, WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP/AUTH, NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED WOMAN Sarthi General public is hereby informed that this woman namely Sarthi W/o Deep Chand R/o Kh. No. 251, Gali No. 08, Swaroop Nagar, Delhi Age : 30 years, Height : 5', Complexion : Fair, Face : Round, Build : Medium, wearing red colour suit & salwar and red colour sandle in feet, has been missing/ kidnapped since 15.10.19 from the area of P.S. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi.

GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH CIVIL SECRETARIAT:: DEPARTMENT OF HYDRO POWER ITANAGAR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST Department of Hydro Power Development, GoAP is inviting Expression of Interest from interested Power Developers for the development of Halaipani SHP (4x4 MW), a Brown project in Anjaw district of Arunachal Pradesh.

9 EXPRESS NETWORK

ED attaches Chautala's ancestral farmhouse, residence

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 4

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate on Wednesday attached former Haryana CM Om Prakash Chautala's ancestral Teja Khera farmhouse in Dabwali, Sirsa district, and another house in Sector 4 of the Mansa Devi Complex, Panchkula. Om Prakash Chautala is grandfather of Haryana's Deputy Chief Minister and Jannayak Janta Party's chief Dushyant Chautala.

ED teams, accompanied by personnel of the CRPF and the Haryana Police Wednesday raided Chautala family's farmhouse and another house in Panchkula this morning and took over the farmhouse and 50 per cent of the house constructed on the premises.

The families of Chautala clan had been using this farmhouse for most of their social functions where the families of the Chautala clan get together.

Notice for taking possession under the provisions of Money Laundering Act was also pasted outside the main entrance of the premises at Teja Khera.

The teams of ED stayed on the premises of the farmhouse for nearly three hours and left after pasting the notice at about 2.30 pm.

The money laundering case is based on an FIR lodged by the CBI against OP Chautala and others for allegedly acquiring assets disproportionate to their known sources of income. CBI had already filed a chargesheet against Om Prakash and his sons, Abhay and Ajay Chautala, under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

According to the CBI's chargesheet, Om Prakash Chautala had acquired assets disproportionate to his known sources of income to the tune of Rs 6.09 crore from May 24, 1993 to May 31, 2006. The CBI, in its investigations had also found that his sons Abhay Chautala and Ajay Chautala had also acquired assets disproportionate to their known sources of income to the tune of Rs 119.69 crore and Rs 27.74 crore, respectively.

SC: Not opposed to new Agra airport terminal

New Delhi: "It will serve nobody's interest to have the area", where monuments like the Taj Mahal are located, "polluted with a resultant damage to the people and the heritage monuments", the Supreme Court said on Wednesday even as it stated it was not against the construction of an additional terminal at the existing Agra airport. The court, however, said it will be difficult to allow any increase in air traffic there as it will be hazardous to the environment and monuments. Taking up the Airports Authority of India's request to allow construction of the terminal, a bench of Chief Justice of India S A Bobde and Justices B R Gavai and Surya Kant said, "Prima facie, we see no reason why such permission should not be granted."

The AA's plea was opposed by environmentalist MCMehra, who said that the new terminal will lead to increased air traffic as more flights will be operated at monuments like the Taj. He said there was no need for construction of an additional terminal.

Though the bench disagreed with his opposition to the construction of the new terminal, it agreed that a consequent increase in air traffic would not be in the interest of the environment.

Appearing for the Centre, Additional Solicitor General ANS Nadkarni urged the court to allow a study "to take into account the number of tourists who utilise the airport and the anticipatory increase in the number of such tourists over the years" and also sought "permission to allow such increase in air traffic at the said airport after conducting a study". The court asked Nadkarni to involve the Railways to deal with the flow of tourists.

The report has to be submitted within a period of three months. **ENS**



PAYING HOMAGE

Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh with Vice Chiefs of the Army and Air Force at the National War Memorial on the occasion of Navy Day, in New Delhi on Wednesday. *Amit Mehra*

Assam oppn parties, groups to continue stir over CAB

ABHISHEK SAHA GUWAHATI, DECEMBER 4

ON A day the Union Cabinet approved the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, influential socio-political groups and opposition political parties in Assam, and many other states of the region, reiterated their commitment to protest against the proposed law.

The CAB proposes to amend Citizenship Act, 1955, by relaxing the eligibility rules for an immigrant—belonging to six minority (non-Muslim) religions, Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians, from Afghanistan, Bangladesh or Pakistan—in getting Indian citizenship.

General secretary of the powerful All Assam Students' Union (AASU), Lurinjyoti Gogoi, told *The Indian Express*: "There can be no compromise on CAB; we will never accept it. There can be no bargain. Our protests will continue." The CAB, he said, violates Assam Accord as well as secular principle of the Indian constitution.

Adviser to AASU, Samujjal Bhattacharya, told reporters late Tuesday night that according to Assam Accord, the midnight of March 24, 1971 was set as the cut-off date for identification and deportation of "illegal Bangladeshis", but through CAB the government is trying to regularise "illegal Bangladeshis" up to 2014.

He said the CAB poses "immense threat" to the existence, identity and culture of Assam's indigenous people.

Other influential outfits such as Aom Jatiyatadabi Yuba Chitra Parishad (AJYCP) and Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti, led by prominent activist Akhil Gogoi, have also pledged to continue their protests against CAB.

The AIUDF, led by Lok Sabha MP and perfume baron Badruddin Ajmal, staged



Activists of All India United Democratic Front protest against the Citizenship Amendment Bill in Guwahati. *Dasarath Deka*

protests in Guwahati on Wednesday and sent a memorandum to Shah, stating that the party stands by Assam Accord and its cut-off. The party echoed that the CAB violates the Constitution and Assam Accord. State Congress spokesperson Rhituporna Konwar said, "We totally oppose CAB and will continue our protests against it. It is unconstitutional and illegal."

However, AGP, an ally of BJP in the state government, has said it will not oppose CAB, and that people should instead focus on "what best we can get by bargaining with the Centre".

What may offer a twist to the opposition to CAB in the region is the development that the three northeastern states with Inner Line Permit (ILP) system—Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram—and regions under the 6th Schedule have been exempted from the modified CAB.

The ILP is a special permit required by "outsiders" from other

parts of India to enter these three border states. There has been a demand for similar ILP system in states of the region, too.

The 6th Schedule of Constitution relates to special provisions in administration of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram and paves way for the formation of autonomous district councils (ADCs). Meghalaya has three ADCs covering practically the entire state; there are three ADCs in Assam and one in Tripura. Lalhmachhuana, general secretary of the central committee of the powerful Mizoram NGO Young Mizo Association, said, "We have been assured by the Home Minister that ILP states and autonomous district councils of the Northeast will not be affected by the ILP."

In Meghalaya, Donald Thabab, general secretary of the influential Khasi Students' Union, said provisions of the CAB will be confirmed only after the text of the Bill is made public.

In Tripura, tribal parties say changes not enough to allay fears; protests on

Agartala: In Tripura, tribal political parties dubbed the Union government's decision to table the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) in Parliament a "political move" and said they will continue protests against the Bill.

The Indigenous Peoples Front of Tripura (IPFT), part of the BJP-led government in the state, and other tribal parties such as Indigenous Nationalist Party of Twipra (INPT), several social organisations and former state Congress chief Pradyot Kishore Manikya Debbarma met Home Minister Shah in Delhi on November 29 on the issue.

IPFT held protests against CAB at Delhi's Jantar Mantar on Monday.

IPFT spokesperson Mangal Debbarma said: "We are completely against the Bill. If CAB is implemented in general areas of Tripura and areas reserved for tribals are exempted, who's to guarantee that these newcomers will not encroach 6th Schedule areas tomorrow? We already have nearly 2.5 lakh illegal non-tribals in Tripura ADC (tribal autonomous development council)."

INPT chief and former MLA Bijoy Kumar Hrangkhawl also opposed the idea of a revised CAB and said his party would continue protesting the Bill since it poses a threat to tribals living outside tribal autonomous development council (ADC) areas.

TSP, which held a strike in ADC areas on Monday, said the revision in the Bill is not enough to allay fears of tribals. **ENS**

Uddhav overturns Fadnavis govt stamp duty waiver to RSS affiliate

SANDEEP ASHAR MUMBAI, DECEMBER 4

IN ANOTHER significant reversal of a decision taken by the previous BJP-led government, the new Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress government Wednesday overturned a duty waiver granted to the Nagpur-based Research for Resurgence Foundation (RRF), which is affiliated to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

On September 9, the Devendra Fadnavis-led Cabinet had approved a proposal exempting the foundation from payment of stamp duty and registration charges for a property transaction. The RRF is founded by the Bharatiya Shikshan Mandal, which is an offshoot of the RSS. According to an official communication released by the then government, the waiver was for the purchase of 105 hectares of land in Nagpur's Katol taluka.

But on Wednesday, the new Cabinet under Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray rolled back the move citing the existing financial strain on the public exchequer. Since the code of conduct had come into force after the September 9 Cabinet meeting, the minutes of the meeting were yet to be confirmed. Government sources said that the payable duty worked out to be around Rs 1.5 crore.

Even as the Fadnavis government had directed officials to go ahead with the decisions without the confirmation of the minutes, Thackeray had on Tuesday asked



Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray with his wife Rashmi Thackeray and Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari at the Raj Bhavan on Wednesday. *Nirmal Harindran*

authorities to submit all the decisions that had been taken in that Cabinet meeting for a review.

On November 28, the day the new government was sworn in, the state government had ordered the cancellation of a Rs 321 crore contract awarded to a Gujarat-based firm for an international horse fair in Nandurbar.

On Wednesday, the Thackeray government also withheld the previous regime's decision to reserve seats in medical colleges for doctors serving in the public sector.

In the September 9 meeting, the Fadnavis Cabinet had sanctioned a proposal of reserving 10 per cent seats in undergraduate courses and 20 per cent seats in postgraduate courses as an incentive for students willing to

put compulsory regular service in rural and tribal institutions.

The new Cabinet also held back the confirmation of approvals to cost escalations in five major irrigation projects—Waghur, Hatnur, Warangaon Tarvel, Shegaon (all Jalgaon), and Bhatsa (Thane)—collectively worth Rs 6,144 crore. Sources said Shiv Sena minister Subhash Desai, who was also a part of the previous Cabinet, questioned the extent of the cost escalation.

In a last minute rush to beat the code of conduct, the Fadnavis government had cleared 38 proposals on September 9. The ministerial committee will also review the RFP document for the Rs 3,122 crore Marathwada water grid in Latur and Osmanabad, also cleared on September 9.

NC: Denied govt nod for function to mark Sheikh Abdullah's anniversary

BASHAARAT MASOOD SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 4

THE NATIONAL Conference will not hold a public function to commemorate the birth anniversary of its founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah—in a first in four decades—as the government has denied permission, the party has said.

"It is very unfortunate that the government has denied us permission to hold the function at Sheikh sahib's graveyard," senior NC leader Mohammad Sayeed Akhooon told *The Indian Express*. "We had written to both the district administration and the police. But we have been told that we can't organise the function."

The 114th birth anniversary of the former Prime Minister and Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir is on Thursday and it would be observed as an official holiday in the Union Territory, but the public event will not be allowed.

The anniversary was a state holiday in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Akhooon said that the NC had written to Srinagar Deputy Commissioner Shahid Choudhary and Senior Superintendent of Police Haseeb Mughal seeking permission for the event at Abdullah's graveyard in Hazratbal.

"Initially, the DC sahib said that he would talk to the Home Commissioner," Akhooon said. "But then he called to say sorry that the event can't be allowed."

Akhooon said that they had informed the civil and police administration that the commemorative function would be limited to showering of flowers and special prayers and no speeches would be allowed.

This is for the first time since Sheikh Abdullah's death that his birth anniversary celebrations will not be organised due to lack of permission.

Akhooon said that the NC has decided to hold a function at its party headquarters 'Nawai Subah' in uptown Srinagar. "We have called our workers to party headquarters. We will meet there and offer special prayers to Sheikh sahib," he said. "The party workers who want to visit Sheikh sahib's graveyard can do it in their individual capacity."

Srinagar SSP Haseeb Mughal said the power to grant permission lies with the District Magistrate. "The DM seeks opinion from police which is purely confidential. Only the DM can comment on it," he said on Wednesday evening.

Srinagar DM Shahid Choudhary didn't respond to attempts by *The Indian Express* to reach him for comment.

4 Armymen killed in avalanches

ADIL AKHZER SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 4

FOUR ARMYMEN were killed in two separate avalanches in Kupwara and Bandipora districts along the Line of Control (LOC) in the Valley, officials said on Wednesday.

While an Army post was hit in Kupwara's Tangdhar, an Army patrol came under an avalanche in Gurez sector of Bandipora, officials said.

"In two separate incidents, an avalanche hit a post in Tangdhar sector and an Army patrol was hit by a blizzard in Gurez sector on December 3," Srinagar-based defense spokesperson Col Rajesh Kalia said in a statement. "The rescue teams managed to locate and retrieve all personnel... Despite best efforts by the rescue and medical teams, three Army personnel in Tangdhar sector and one Army personnel in Gurez sector succumbed."

The deceased have been identified as Naik Akhill SS, Havildar Rajendra Singh, and Sepoys Amit and Kamal Kumar.

A police official in Tangdhar told *The Indian Express* that an avalanche hit the Eagle post of the Army killing three people while one survived.

A total of three avalanches were reported from the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh.

TMC waits, watches: after strident opposition, silence before Bill is tabled

ABANTIKA GHOSH NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

AFTER HAVING vocally protested, and given a dissent note in the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Citizenship Amendment Bill, Trinamool Congress's silence on the day the Bill was passed, once again, by the Union Cabinet has given rise to speculation whether the party is recalibrating its stand.

Several TMC MPs said a call is yet to be taken on the matter, indicating the possibility of a shift from the party's strident opposition in 2016 when the Bill was tabled in Parliament and scrutinised by the House panel.

The option of walking out, rather than a clear "no" vote, is still on the cards, said party sources.

TMC's chief national



Derek O'Brien, Sudip Bandopadhyay

spokesman and Rajya Sabha leader Derek O'Brien said: "We have a lot to say, (and) we will say it on the floor of Parliament. As of 9.30 pm Wednesday, the TMC Parliamentary Party has still not seen the draft of the Bill approved by the Cabinet."

He also said, "Sudip Bandopadhyay and I—in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha—are members of the Business Advisory Committee, so I sup-

pose we will see the Bill tomorrow. But from what we see in the media, the BJP is bringing this Bill for narrow political gains..."

Maintaining that the TMC will "of course" oppose the Bill, Bandopadhyay said, "We will see what happens after the Business Advisory Committee meeting tomorrow. We will see if they ask for time for CAB...looks like it may come on Monday."

Asked whether the party could walk out, he said: "We will see. But if we walk out, how can we oppose?"

While some MPs fear scaling down from the earlier stance would be a foolhardy political compromise that would cost them dear, others said it would be decided at a party meeting, the decision being the prerogative of TMC chief and West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee. The TMC was jolted by BJP's

18-seat haul in Bengal in the Lok Sabha polls, riding, many believe, on the saffron party's repeated commitments about NRC and CAB, as also the perception of Muslim appeasement that has stuck to TMC. Since then, Banerjee has tried to reestablish her Hindu credentials, visiting temples and pujas.

To oppose CAB with the same fervour as the party had done in 2016, many fear, could undo the effect of all those measures and cede the "Hindu" support to the BJP again.

A party MP said: "We do not really have a choice but to oppose CAB; even a walkout will not cut ice. We have taken to the streets on NRC and it has clearly borne fruit. To scale back now would mean losing both committed voters and ones we were hoping to get back in our fold."

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 4

CITING "ILL-EFFECTS on mental ability of children" and in the absence of adequate clarity in the School Education Rules of Haryana on admissions to pre-primary classes in private schools, Haryana School Education department is considering the possibility of shutting down Nursery, LKG and UKG classes in private schools across the state.

These are the days, when most of the private schools across the state begin the process of admissions to pre-primary classes. There are about 8,500 private schools across Haryana which admit children in pre-primary classes.

While Haryana's education minister said that "pre-primary admissions will be stopped in private schools from the next session, after studying its practical aspects and a decision has been taken by the school education



Haryana's Education Minister Kanwar Pal

department", the officials of the Haryana school education department told *The Indian Express* that "no such decision to shut down Nursery or pre-primary classes has been taken as yet".

Haryana's Education Minister Kanwar Pal said, "The School Education department has taken the decision that since it affects child's mental abilities and growth patterns when the child is admitted in these classes at an early age, the department has decided not to allow admissions in these classes in private institutions. We shall be implementing it from the next session, if the admissions are not being held as per rules and regulations."

Pal said, "The practicality of

the decision shall also be examined before it is implemented".

Senior officers of the Education Department, however, said that "no such decision of closing down nursery classes in private schools has been taken as yet by the department".

Vandana Disodia, Additional Director (Elementary Education, Haryana), said, "Actually, on June 10, there was a complaint lodged by Brijpal Singh Parmar, who runs one NGO in Bhiwani, alleging that the recognised private schools cannot admit children in pre-primary classes as it was against the rules and regulations. The same complaint was moved to Woman and Child Department. From there, a reference came to the School Education Department to look into the issue. The Directorate of Elementary Education marked the complaint's reference to all the district elementary education officers...this reference is being circulated on social media..."

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

Rajasthan: 14-year-old Dalit accuses five minors of raping her, says she is pregnant

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE JAIPUR, DECEMBER 4

A 14-YEAR-OLD Dalit girl from Rajasthan has accused five minor boys of raping her, said police on Wednesday.

According to the police, an FIR was registered in this case on Wednesday with the victim and her family claiming that she also

got pregnant after the crime. "We have registered a case under sections including 376D (gangrape) of the IPC, sections of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities Act) along with sections of the POCSO Act against the five accused who are all minors as per preliminary investigation. The victim has said that she is pregnant and came to report the matter to us after she didn't get her periods," said police.

Police added that a medical test of the victim will be conducted to ascertain all the facts including her claim of pregnancy. "The victim has said that the incident took place in October when one of the accused raped her. Following that, she has alleged, the other accused too raped her. We registered the FIR and further investigation is being conducted," said police.

Andaman & Nicobar's Aberdeen police station named country's best

DEEPTIMANTI TIWARI NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

ABERDEEN POLICE station in Andaman and Nicobar, Balasinor police station in Gujarat's Mahisagar and Aik Burhanpur police station in Rajasthan have been adjudged the top three police stations in the country in a report commissioned by the Ministry of Home Affairs on the state and quality of over 15,000 police stations across India.

In the top 10 list, the majority of police stations are from south India. There is not a single police station from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar or West Bengal, while Madhya Pradesh has two police stations in the list.

The top three police stations are followed by AWPS Theni, Tamil Nadu; Anini (Dibang Valley), Arunachal Pradesh; Baba Haridas Nagar (Dwarka), Delhi; Bakani (Jhalawar), Rajasthan; Choppadandi (Karimnagar), Telangana; Bicholim, North Goa; and Bargava (Sheopur), Madhya Pradesh.

According to the MHA, the criteria for choosing the best police stations was primarily their performance in crime prevention, investigation and disposal of cases, crime detection, community policing and maintenance of law and order. A weightage of 20 per cent was given to the infrastructure of the police stations and citizen feedback on the performance of the police personnel.

Shahjahanpur law student gets bail in Chinmayanand extortion case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 4

A LAW student, who had accused former Union minister Chinmayanand of sexual exploitation and rape, was granted bail by Allahabad High Court on Wednesday in connection with an extortion case lodged by the former BJP leader. Another accused in the extortion case was also granted bail by the High Court.

Two months ago, the SIT, which was formed to probe the sexual assault charge as well the extortion case had arrested the law student and three youths in connection with the extortion charge.

"The court has granted bail to the law student and a co-accused in the case," said government counsel Shiv Kumar Pal.

He added that the accused would submit bail bond at a court in Shahjahanpur and complete formalities needed before the court issues their release order.

On November 6, the SIT had filed chargesheet in both the cases. The law student and her three associates along with two BJP leaders were chargesheeted for allegedly blackmailing and trying to extort Rs 5 crore from Chinmayanand. BJP leaders Dharmendra Rathore and Ajeet have been chargesheeted under IPC sections 385 (putting a person in fear of injury to commit extortion), 506 (criminal intimidation) and 201 (disappearance evidence). The woman and her three associates also face the same charges in addition to IPC section 34 (Acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) and IT Act.

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम जबलपुर लोककर्म विभाग निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

Mumbai International Airport Ltd. INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Office of the General Manager, Construction Unit, Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam, Saharanpur

Director General of Police and Director General, Karnataka State Fire and Emergency Services

E - TENDERING PRESS NOTICE

Executive Engineer, Civil Division No. IV, Irrigation & Flood Control Department

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR DEPARTMENT OF MATERIALS MANAGEMENT P-II

AUTONOMOUS STATE MEDICAL COLLEGE FIROZABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-283203

Letter No: FZD2019/1206 ADVERTISEMENT Date: 02 December, 2019

Office of the Principal, Autonomous State Medical College, Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh

E-mail: Principalmcmayodhya@gmail.com Website: www.asmcayodhya.ac.in, www.updgm.in

NO. GMC/CBA/MESS/TENDER/19 Dated: E-tender is invited from reputed catering firms/Restaurant chain to manage the servicing of food to the one boys hostel of Pt. JLN GMC&H Chamba

UPID-146158 DATE: 03/12/2019 WWW.UPGOV.NIC.IN

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय गंगा सोन बाढ़ सुरक्षा प्रमंडल, दीघा, पटना। शुद्धि-पत्र

UPID-146158 DATE 03.12.2019 WWW.UPGOV.NIC.IN

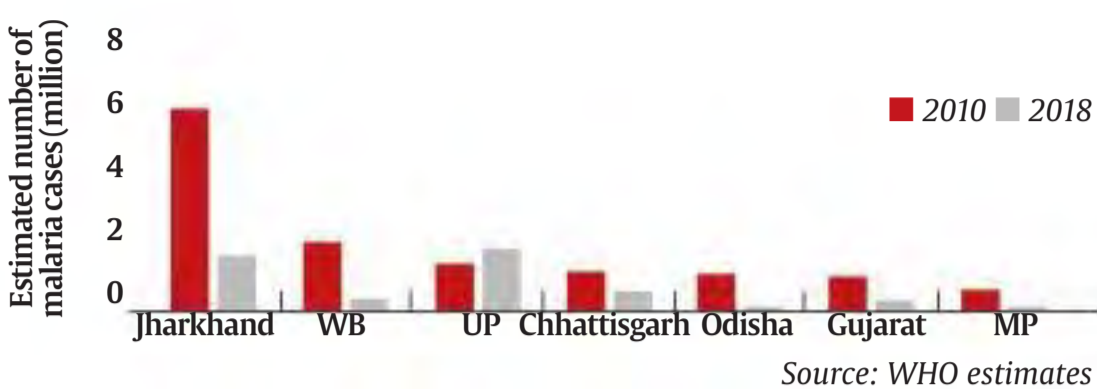
Autonomous State Medical College Piprola, Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh-242001.

Letter No. ASMC/Medical College/2019/20/1416 ADVERTISEMENT Applications are invited on the prescribed format for the post of Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor & Residents (SR /JR)

TELLING NUMBERS

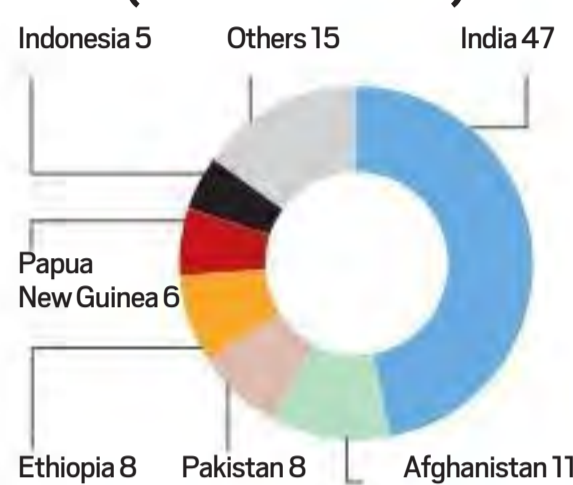
Malaria drop is sharpest in India, 90% of cases are in 7 states

ESTIMATED MALARIA CASES IN INDIA, 2010 VERSUS 2018



SEVEN STATES account for about 90% of the burden of malaria cases in India, according to the World Malaria Report 2019 released by the World Health Organization (WHO) on Wednesday. These are Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Gujarat, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh.

P. VIVAX MALARIA CASES, 2018 (% DISTRIBUTION)



Globally, there were 228 million cases of malaria in 2018, down from 251 million cases in 2010. More than 85% of the global malaria deaths in 2018 were concentrated in the 20 countries of WHO's African region and India. Compared to 2017, India reported 2.6 million fewer cases in 2018. This makes India the country with the largest absolute reductions among the countries that share 85% of the malaria burden.

Nigeria had the highest burden of all malaria cases, at 24%. However, incidence of *P. vivax* malaria (the second most common form of the disease) was the highest in India, which accounts for 47% of all cases in 2018, or roughly 3.5 million. India had more than four times as many cases as Afghanistan, the next highest at 11%.

WHO region-wise, the highest estimated cases of all malaria forms were in Africa, at 93% of the cases (213

What new airport brings to NCR

A Swiss company has won the bid for an airport in Jewar, Greater Noida. A look at why the National Capital Region needed an airport other than the one in Delhi, and what other areas will benefit from the project

AMIL BHATNAGAR
NOIDA, DECEMBER 4

ON NOVEMBER 29, the Swiss company Zurich International Airport AG won the bid for a new airport in Jewar in Greater Noida, near Delhi. The airport is being planned as India's largest, with a proposed six to eight runways once it is fully operational.

What is the need for an Airport at Jewar?

The Jewar Airport primarily aims to reduce the load on Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport. It will be the third airport in the National Capital Region, after IGI Airport and the newly opened Hindon Airport (in Ghaziabad). Traffic at Jewar Airport is estimated at 12 million passengers per annum in the first phase of the project, and expected to go up to 70 million ppa once all phases are completed. The IGI Airport is set to reach its peak capacity of 110 million in the next six or seven years. Hindon Airport in Ghaziabad, which became operational in October this year, is currently limited to two airlines.

What led to the choice of the location?

Jewar Airport will be about 72 km from IGI Airport, 40 km from Noida and Ghaziabad, 28 km from Greater Noida, and 65 km from Gurgaon. It will be an alternative not only for passengers within NCR (or fliers travelling to NCR from the airport) but also for several cities in western Uttar Pradesh. For Agra, Bulandshahr or Aligarh, Jewar Airport will be within 150 km and therefore closer than IGI Airport. "The location of Jewar Airport will help passengers from not only Delhi but UP, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Haryana as well," said Shailendra Bhatia, nodal officer of Noida International Airport Limited.

For connectivity, the Yamuna Expressway Development Authority is looking at options that include a rapid rail transport system and dedicated bus routes. The Delhi Metro Rail



Corporation, in cooperation with the Noida Metro Rail Corporation, is carrying out an expert study into the feasibility of extending the Metro's Pink Line until Jewar. For those travelling by road, Jewar is connected to the rest of Greater Noida by the Yamuna Expressway.

Since when has it been planned?

The idea had been in the pipeline for 18 years. It was mooted in 2001, during Rajnath Singh's tenure as Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister. In 2010, CM Mayawati proposed a Taj Aviation Hub, an idea that did not take off. Between 2012 and 2016, the Samjwadi Party government took forward the idea of an international airport in Agra, and the Jewar project fell out of focus. During the UPA regime, the project was again delayed by a clause in the Civil Aviation Ministry guidelines for green-field airports, which placed restrictions on setting up a civilian airport within 150 km of an existing one. In 2016, the NDA government relaxed these norms. In 2017, the Jewar

Airport got clearance from the Ministry. Later, the process of land acquisition too progressed slowly amid protests from farmers.

Zurich International Airport AG, or Flughafen Zürich AG, outbid three Indian companies — Delhi International Airport Ltd, Adani Enterprises Ltd and Anchorage Infrastructure Investments. Flughafen Zürich AG, which is currently managing eight airports abroad, will build and manage Jewar Airport under a 40-year concession.

When is the airport opening?

The airport will come up over four phases, with the complete project taking 30 to 40 years. According to the nodal agency Noida International Airport Limited, work on the first phase is likely to begin early in 2020 and will be completed by 2023-24. The total cost is projected at Rs 29,560 crore.

Some real estate experts believe that the airport will help create jobs in commercial space that will come up around the airport, and also create a residential market. Others



Land for Jewar Airport in Greater Noida. Gajendra Yadav

feel that the long time period of project execution will reduce short-term benefits. According to Pankaj Kapoor, MD of real estate research company Lias Foras, since commercial spaces develop in clusters, the airport construction might not aid growth in Greater Noida region. Some feel hospitality industries have a better chance of flourishing around the airport premises as observed in the case of Delhi and Mumbai airports.

How was land acquisition progressed?

The first phase involves acquisition of 1,334 hectares from farmers in six villages in Jewar tehsil. Until November 28, the state government has paid Rs 3,167 crore compensation at Rs 2,300 per square metre. About 1028.5 hectares land (nearly 80%) has been acquired and officials are confident that the remaining 20% will be acquired in December. Acquisition faced protests from groups of farmers who alleged the amount was insufficient compared to what they were entitled to under the Land Acquisition Act, 2013.

THIS WORD MEANS

EXTRA NEUTRAL ALCOHOL (ENA)

Alcohol manufacturers want import duty reduced. What is ENA's use, and how is it prepared?

ALCOHOL MANUFACTURERS have written to NITI Aayog asking for reduction in import duty. Anticipating shortage of domestic supplies, they have sought a reduction in duty to make it cost-effective for them to import Extra Neutral Alcohol from global markets.

Extra Neutral Alcohol (ENA) is the primary raw material for making alcoholic beverages. It is a colourless food-grade alcohol that does not have any impurities. It has a neutral smell and taste, and typically contains over 95 per cent alcohol by volume. It is derived from different sources — sugarcane molasses and grains — and is used in the production of alcoholic beverages such as whisky, vodka, gin, cane, liqueurs, and alcoholic fruit beverages.

ENA also serves as an essential ingredient in the manufacture of cosmetics and personal care products such as per-

fumes, toiletries, hair spray, etc. Given its properties as a good solvent, ENA also finds industrial use and is utilised in the production of some lacquers, paints and ink for the printing industry, as well as in pharmaceutical products such as antiseptics, drugs, syrups, medicated sprays. Consultancy firm IMARC Group's estimates put the ENA market in India at a volume of 2.9 billion litres in 2018.

Like ethanol, ENA is a byproduct of the sugar industry, and is formed from molasses that are a residue of sugarcane processing. In its letter to NITI Aayog anticipating lower supplies, the Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Companies has cited the diversion of ethanol for bio-fuel blending by oil marketing companies, and recent floods in Maharashtra and Karnataka that have adversely affected sugarcane crop in the region.

How CO₂ emission trend reflects India slowdown



EXPRESS IN MADRID

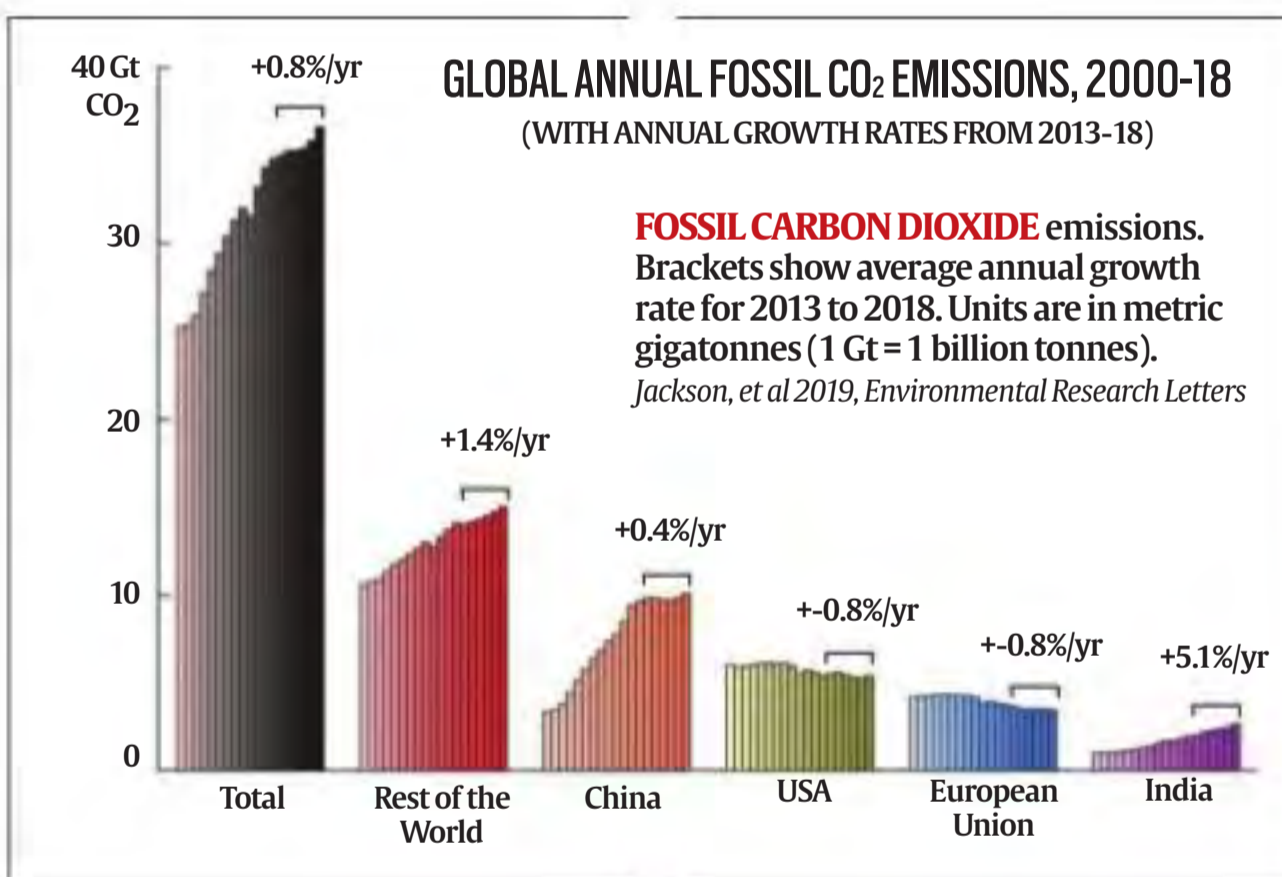
AMITABH SINHA
DECEMBER 4

A NEW study unveiled on Wednesday says the growth in India's carbon dioxide emissions this year was likely to be considerably lower than in the last few years. The Global Carbon Project, which puts out emission estimates for across the world every year, has said India's emissions in 2019 (2.6 billion tonnes or gigatonnes) was likely to be only 1.8 per cent higher than in 2018. This is significantly lower than the 8% growth that India showed last year and the more-than-5% average growth over the last ten years.

The growth in global carbon dioxide emissions too is likely to come down this year, to just 0.6% over last year, according to the report.

What arrested the growth

The lower growth in CO₂ emissions, though desirable, is only a positive fallout of the slowdown in the Indian economy, according to the report. Economic growth has been consistently weakening over the last



few quarters, leading to reduction in activities that cause emissions.

"Indian CO₂ emissions have grown at 5.1 per cent per year over the last decade, but growth is expected to be much weaker in 2019, at 1.8 per cent (range 0.7 to 3.7 per cent). Weak economic growth in India has led to slower growth in oil and natural gas use. With a weakening economy, growth in India's generation of electricity has slowed from 6 per cent per year to under 1 per cent in 2019, despite electrification of villages

adding to potential demand. Moreover, the addition of a very wet monsoon led to very high hydropower generation and a decline in generation from coal," the report says, explaining the possible causes for decline in India's emissions growth.

Economic slowdown has been blamed for a lower emission growth in the rest of the world as well, and also in China, the world's largest emitter.

"China had low growth and unexpected declines in CO₂ emissions over the period

2014 to 2016, but in 2017 and 2018, its CO₂ emissions rose again by 1.7 per cent and 2.3 per cent respectively. In 2019, China's CO₂ emissions are expected to rise by 2.6 per cent (range 0.7 to 4.4 per cent). Chinese emissions could have been growing faster if it were not for slower economic growth," the report says.

Why the report matters

The numbers put out by Global Carbon Project are estimates, and not official. But these offer important indicators to global trends in carbon dioxide emissions in near-real time. Collection, collation and calculation of emissions take considerable time, and in any case, official numbers are put out by the governments. In India's case, the most recent official numbers relating to all kinds of emissions pertain to 2014. Those were submitted to the UN climate body just last year.

According to those numbers, India's carbon dioxide emissions in 2014 was 1.99 billion tonnes, while its total greenhouse gas emissions, which include other greenhouse gases like methane and nitrous oxide, was 2.6 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.

The Global Carbon Project estimates the carbon dioxide emissions in 2019 alone to be about 2.6 billion tonnes. They do not give the estimates of emissions of other greenhouse gases. The near-real time estimates put out by the project are based on datasets that monitor production and consumption trends of key indicators like electricity, oil and gas, cement, and chemicals and fertilisers.

Bifurcation fallout: why a central Act has sent lawyers on strike in Jammu

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, DECEMBER 4

IN THE one month since Jammu & Kashmir state was bifurcated into the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, lawyers have been on strike in some parts of Jammu region. The strike, which has affected work in the Jammu & Kashmir High Court and subordinate courts, is over implementation of The Registration Act, 1908.

It is significant that the first protests against implementation of a central legislation in the newly created UTs have come not from the Kashmir Valley but from Jammu region, which is considered a BJP bastion. And it is being spearheaded by the president of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association, Abhinav Sharma, who happens to be the BJP's state spokesperson.

The contentious move

On October 23, the Governor's administration of Jammu & Kashmir state, ahead of bifurcation, accorded sanction to the cre-

ation of a new Department of Registration under provisions of the central Registration Act, 1908, to function under the administrative control of the Revenue Department from October 31 in the new UTs. It approved creation of 464 new posts including registrars, sub-registrars, data entry operators etc in the new department, which deals with registration of documents pertaining to immovable property such as sale, gift, mortgage etc. It also approved appointment of additional deputy commissioners and sub-divisional magistrates/assistant commissioners (revenue) to exercise the powers of registrars and sub-registrars, respectively, within notified jurisdictions.

Why lawyers are upset

The protests began after the administration, instead of appointing full-time registrars and sub-registrars, designated existing revenue officials including deputy commissioners, additional deputy commissioners, sub-divisional magistrates and tehsildars as registrars and sub-registrars within their respective areas. It also designated the



Lawyers on a token fast on the Jammu courts complex on Wednesday. Sitting closest to the tent-pole is Jammu and Kashmir HC Bar Association president Abhinav Sharma, who also happens to be BJP spokesperson in J&K. Arun Sharma

Financial Commissioner (Revenue) as Inspector General of Registration.

The lawyers have alleged that transfer of the powers of registration of documents from judicial to revenue officers will lead to unnecessary litigation in view of rampant

corruption in the revenue department. It will also lead to many judicial officers losing work as people engage them to get their documents legally checked and then registered from court, the lawyers said.

The administration's ground for creat-

ing a separate Department of Registration has been that it will bring uniformity to the process of registration of documents across the country, and will reduce waiting time for people in getting deeds and documents registered. Also, people seeking registration will now need to pay only the stamp duty and no longer pay a court fee as earlier.

What has changed

Earlier, all judicial magistrates were vested with the powers to register documents, and the district and sessions judge was designated as Registrar. The Chief Justice of the Jammu & Kashmir High Court was Inspector General of Registration. Judicial officers used to dedicate one or two hours of their daily court hours to registration of documents. In the past too, the state government had ordered transfer of powers of registration of documents from judicial to revenue officers, but it had to withdraw each time following opposition from lawyers.

While lawyers are on strike, there appears to be a divide. A significant section appears to be not averse to the new system —

they note that it is among the central laws now applicable to the new UTs following bifurcation — and stress that young lawyers are not going to lose work as people will still need them for fulfilling legal requirements, even for registration of documents from revenue officials. However, the work now gets divided as there are lawyers already practising in tehsils as well.

Impact of the agitation

It has failed to evoke public support, as many see it as a form of politicking backed by parties opposed to the removal of Article 370. This was evident at a meeting of civil society convened last week by the High Court Bar Association itself. Many citizens advised the Bar Association to suspend its agitation and first form a joint committee involving prominent members of civil society to deliberate on this issue and others. While the Bar Association is headed by the spokesperson of the state BJP, it also has many members linked to other political parties such as the Congress, the National Conference, the PDP and the Left.



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY
RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

The real big bang reform

What state needs is resetting of priorities, restoring of
credibility, augmentation of capacities across the board

PRATAP BHANU MEHTA

SLOWDOWN PAIN

With states facing GST revenue shortfalls, Centre needs to
find a way of compensating them

THE ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN is taking a toll not only on the Central government finances, but on state finances as well. Particularly worrying is the lower than expected GST collections. State governments have reportedly been told that the compensation requirements of states, owing to the shortfalls in GST collections, are “unlikely to be met” from the compensation cess being collected. This grim prognosis comes after the Centre delayed compensating states for the shortfall in GST revenues for August-September, which were due in October, resulting in some states issuing a statement raising their concerns. Coming at a time when public expenditure has been driving growth, this uncertainty surrounding revenues may end up constraining state spending going forward. And as states account for a greater share of general government (Centre and states) expenditure, any cut-backs will further intensify the slowdown.

As per the GST Act, states have been guaranteed compensation in the event of their revenue growth falling below 14 per cent (base 2015-16) for a five-year period ending in 2022. If the collections from the compensation cess are unable to fully meet the shortfall in state GST revenues in a particular year, then there is a provision which allows for clawing back the compensation paid, over and above what was required in the previous year, to settle the excess shortfall. Beyond that, whether and how the Centre manages to fulfill its obligation of ensuring that states achieve 14 per cent revenue growth is uncertain. Then there is the issue of extending the compensation period for states beyond 2022. With growth slowing down, and with states' own revenue, including GST, coming under pressure, there is a growing clamour for extending it to 2025. While the Centre is yet to clearly spell out its position on the issue, a study commissioned by the 15th Finance Commission has estimated that even if tax buoyancy rises, states will continue to face a shortfall, even after 2022, and would therefore need to be compensated if their revenue growth is to be maintained.

State governments have now been asked to share their views on proposals regarding a review of items under exemption, GST and compensation cess rates, compliance and revenue augmenting measures, which are likely to be discussed at the next council meeting. At the current juncture, a knee jerk reaction to slowing revenues is best avoided. Instead, the long-term approach should be to gradually reduce the items in the highest tax slab, prune the list of exempt items, and move towards reducing the number of tax slabs. Further, the council must also look to improving the ease of filing and other measures to boost compliance levels, and plug more gaps in the GST architecture.

SENA ON TEST

In reviewing projects initiated by its predecessor, Sena-led
Maharashtra government must adhere to due process

ON SUNDAY, MAHARASHTRA'S new chief minister, Uddhav Thackeray, announced that his government will review several big-ticket infrastructure projects announced by the previous government. The coastal road project connecting south Mumbai with the city's western suburbs, the Nagpur Samruddhi Corridor, and a bridge on the Thane Creek are reportedly under the state government's scanner. The Maharashtra government has stayed plans for a metro car shed in Aarey and Thackeray has expressed reservations about the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train project. In all, about Rs 7 trillion is at stake in these ventures. The Maharashtra CM's doubts about them do not augur well for investor sentiment.

The Shiv Sena has come to office after an acrimonious parting of ways with its long-time alliance partner, the BJP. The mandate in the October election was, arguably, for the pre-poll alliance comprising the BJP and the Sena. But it is the Sena's once-traditional rivals, the NCP and the Congress, that are now the party's partners in government. Thackeray will understandably be under pressure from his new allies. But the litmus test in governance is adherence to due process. Maharashtra's new CM would be well-advised to not let the bitterness with his former alliance partner come in the way of his policy decisions. On several schemes under his government's scanner — including the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train — Thackeray has assured “that a review does not mean that the projects will be axed”. But his government's reservations about projects that the Sena was a party to in the first place — as part of the Devendra Fadnavis government between 2014 and 2019 — is bound to raise eyebrows. The Shiv Sena-led government must avoid the path taken by the YSR Congress government in Telangana — cancelling projects for no other reason but that they were initiated by its predecessor.

Thackeray has also said that his government will review the cases against Dalit activists in the Bhima Koregaon case. In January 2018, violence after an event to commemorate 200 years of a historic battle in Bhima Koregaon had left one person dead and several injured. The state government, wary of the political implications of targeting a celebration of Dalit pride, read a Maoist conspiracy into the violence and branded a number of students, intellectuals and social activists as urban Naxals. The onus was on the government to prove that it had a reasonable case against the accused — in a reasonable time-frame. By all accounts, it has failed to do so. The Thackeray government must let the rule book do the talking on this issue. At the same time, it must eschew any provocation to be arbitrary in all policy matters involving its predecessor.

GO TO KAILAASA

Nithyananda's newly-announced 'greatest Hindu nation'
offers an option — and a retort

NITHYANANDA, ACCUSED OF rape and child abduction, declared a fugitive from the Indian justice system, is a man of great ambition. The garden-variety yogi/swami/sadhvi has, in the recent past, been content to win an election, act as a court-appointed mediator or be minister. Not so, Nithyananda. After capturing the national, and international, imagination with his attempt on YouTube to disprove the Theory of General Relativity and claims to have developed a software to teach cattle Tamil and Sanskrit, the Swami has laid claim to being the saffron-clad Supremo of Kailaasa — the “Hindu Rashtra” utopia he claims to have founded.

The location of the “greatest Hindu nation”, as of now, remains unconfirmed. But according to Kailaasa.org, which also contains details of “the untold Hindu holocaust” and “Science of Third-Eye”, the utopia can be called home by all “persecuted and aspiring Hindus”. Once there, they can take advantage of the “Gurukul education system” and “temple-based lifestyle”. The ‘country’ already claims to have a flag, government and university. Of course, those most excited by the prospects Kailaasa offers are unlikely to identify themselves as “persecuted Hindus”.

For some time now, asking questions, belonging to certain religions or believing in particular ideologies has been met with a summary response: Go to Pakistan! Thus far, there was no retort to this offensive direction — those who view India as a punyabhoomi and pitrabhoomi, not a secular nation-state, seemed to have nowhere special to aspire to. Now, in the gentlest of tones, it may be suggested that if you believe mythology is history and peacocks defy laws of biology, immigration to Kailaasa is an option to consider.

THE CONCERN EXPRESSED by the GST Council, that the Centre may not be able to meet its GST distribution obligations to the states, should remind us of just how deep a hole the Indian economy has dug itself into. Just as a matter of policy, the Centre possibly renegeing on its financial commitments to the states is a terrible idea for three reasons. First, the Indian government's credibility on economic promises has been severely battered. But if the fiscal contract with the states is also no longer considered sacrosanct, then all credibility bets are off. If even Indian state governments cannot trust the Centre on a visible public and constitutional commitment, why should any investor?

Second, if the state finances suffer unexpected shortfalls, the impact on frontline delivery of services and growth will be severe. Third, in light of centralisation of power in our system that GST has already produced, expect even the fig leaf of cooperative federalism to turn quickly into federal anarchy. If there was ever a case for abiding by the dictum, *pran jaye par vachan na jaye*, the Centre's contract with the states is the place to abide by it.

But this crisis also underscores the unreality of our reform discourse. We are like the person whose house has had its roof blown off by the storm, all the windows shattered, walls battered, most of the furniture inside destroyed, but thinks the most important thing to do right now is to paint the house. This is reflected in the obsession with “big bang reform.” India has just suffered two big bang reform shocks, demonetisation and GST. In one case, the logic was culpably ill-founded; in the other, the implementation a nightmare. It will require an unusual degree of masochism to trust another big bang reform founded in voodoo economics. Most of what passes off as big bang reform will do very little to revive growth. Intelligent privatisation of some PSUs may be a good thing. But it not the key to growth. Tax cuts may be deemed politically necessary as the economy tanks. But they are a terrible idea given the enormous deficits the state is facing, and the investments it needs to make India competitive.

Our reform imagination has to get out of

This crisis also underscores the unreality of our reform discourse. We are like the person whose house has had its roof blown up by the storm, all the windows shattered, walls battered, most of the furniture inside destroyed, but thinks the most important thing to do right now is to paint the house. This is reflected in the obsession with ‘big bang reform’. India has just suffered two big bang reform shocks, demonetisation and GST. In one case, the logic was culpably ill founded; in the other, the implementation a nightmare. It will require an unusual degree of masochism to trust another big bang reform founded in voodoo economics.

the idea that it only means getting the state out of the way. Any economy that wants to be competitive should not obsess with methodologically useless indexes like the “Ease of Doing Business”. It should focus on how the state can actually make an economy competitive. All the elements that make an economy competitive, require the state to do things; not just get out of the way.

Competitive economies are founded on cheap energy, low logistics cost, high quality human capital, reliable regulation, sensible tax administration, liveable cities, high investment in research and development. In some ways, India is paying the price of underinvesting in most of these areas when the going was good. Ask one simple question. During our boom decade from 2000 to 2009, India could still not leverage growth to become a manufacturing export powerhouse. Why not? Because export powerhouses are not created by focussing only on tariffs, taxes and trade regulations. Nor does macroeconomic stability alone create competitive capabilities. Export powerhouses are created by investing in all the things listed above. So anyone who counsels that cutting back on public investment on these things is a good idea is going to make sure that India never becomes competitive.

But there is another lesson in this story. No economy got competitive by doing big bang reforms. The metaphor works if you have marginal tax rates of hundred per cent, or inordinately steep tariffs or runaway inflation. Beyond that, “big bang” is more excitement than substance. If the above story is right, what the state needs is an augmentation of capacities across the board. Take a non-controversial area. On some estimates, India's logistics costs are almost 14 per cent of GDP compared to eight to 10 per cent for North America and Europe. We are not even competitive with them, let alone other low cost economies like Vietnam. What will fix this take?

Lots of things, but primarily the right kinds of investment increasing the freight moving efficiency of the Indian Railways. But this is still less of a priority than it needs to be for the Railways. Similarly, in an era where industrial policy matters even more, our con-

tinued indifference to high quality education, or serious investment in R&D, will make us less competitive. Our energy costs are relatively high. Any “big bang reforms” that do not address these basic questions are completely beside the point.

The problem is that the state has depleted its capacities where it matters most. For one thing, its constant ability to create morally appalling distractions exerts economic costs. Think of a proposed nationwide NRC as the governance equivalent of demonetisation: Illusory gain but morally and practically high costs. The Modi government is often criticised for not having any adult economists in the room who can speak freely.

Education was never expected to be its strong point. Its alleged war on corruption, an elaborate smokescreen designed to shield plutocracy, made most regulatory systems worse. All this may be a problem. But its bigger problem is that it has seriously messed up in many areas where it was expected to be stronger: Logistics, energy, urbanisation, real estate. These are areas where it has neither ideas, nor execution capabilities. Senior figures in government used to tell us with glee that getting real estate prices to drastically crash would be the key to reviving the economy. The prices did not crash, but the sector stagnated anyway. The government is waking up to the problem, but it is hard to see the deep problems of the sector getting resolved without some form of “nationalising” stranded assets first. In short, all the kinds of reform we need require a credible and capable state.

There is an old saying that when there is a clamour that “something needs to be done,” something bad will be done. The real problem is not the absence of big bang reform. It is the misdiagnosis over what our priorities should be and where scarce governance resources need to be deployed. Investors are concluding that this is an unimaginative, incapable, unreliable, punitive economic regime. The only reform that will work is a drastic change in government functioning, if not a change in government itself.

The writer is contributing editor,
The Indian Express

HARSH GUPTA AND KARAN BHASIN

CASE FOR A RATE CUT

RBI, government must do whatever it takes to end the demand slump

GROWTH HAS SHARPLY slowed — for Q1 FY19 it was 8 per cent while for Q2 FY20 4.5 per cent. A casualty of this is the debate on India's official growth statistics as nobody credible seems to question them anymore. Moreover, we must remember that the average growth rate for the NDA between 2014-19 was at 7.5 per cent while under UPA-2 it was at 6.9 per cent.

The reason for the current slowdown is the massive credit bubble of the last decade bursting along with, and to some extent caused by, the high real interest rates over the last few years. Mortgage and fixed deposit rates almost a decade ago were marginally higher than now even though nominal growth has fallen by around 10 percentage points. With residential real estate in a crisis, the shadow banking sector is also in a crisis.

The fiscal deficit has reduced from 4.7 per cent of GDP in 2013 to 3.5 per cent in the last five years — yes, it will go up this year and if we combine with states and off-book items, the number is higher, but that has always been the case. One must adjust for not just the Food Corporation debt but also normalise for the latest Pay Commission's calendar. The government must come clean on the fiscal gap and announce a more realistic consolidation roadmap with enough space for counter-cyclical deficits and automatic stabilisers. Fifty bps of GDP is not enough dur-

ing downturns. As Sri Thiruvadanthai of the Jerome Levy Forecasting Centre has pointed out, the Centre's debt to GDP ratio was around 20 percentage points higher at the beginning of the last boom cycle in 2003-04. The government should, through PPPs and EPC combined with Toll Operate Transfer (TOT)/Infrastructure Investment Trusts, fund a \$1 trillion of infrastructure over five years.

Inflation has largely remained below the 4 per cent target. Core and especially wholesale inflation have been falling. Further, a range of 2-6 per cent has to be treated symmetrically rather than treating 4 per cent as a de facto ceiling. The average CPI number of 4.5 per cent during 2014-19, which is in contrast to the inflation rate of 10.2 per cent during 2009-14. What the RBI should do is to come out with a real rates framework with a publicly-declared neutral rate. While inflation targeting should remain the primary objective, a modified nominal growth target can be used as a secondary input along with financial stability considerations.

It is important to recognise that the current economic slowdown is monetary-financial in nature and to that extent cyclical/demand-related. We've had a sustained period of high real interest rates combined with sluggish money supply growth. The final nail in the coffin came when the Monetary Policy Committee thought in July and August 2018 that inflation is likely to overshoot the target.

Consequently, they increased the repo rates which resulted in a further increase in our real repo rates to 4 per cent levels. Soon we had the NBFC crisis triggered by the IL&FS episode and we are still picking up the pieces. Unfortunately, many believe that a mere 135 basis cut will be able to fix the situation. However, they ignore that inflation has averaged a 100-basis point lower throughout the year.

This means that real interest rates haven't moved much while the real prime lending rates have gone up. If transmission isn't happening, then we should expect aggressive front-loading of rate cuts with massive open market operations. India's 10-year G-Sec yield is now higher than the latest quarter's nominal growth rate.

The RBI governor mentioned he's willing to do “whatever it takes”. He has to follow this up. The government for its part has to nudge small savings and deposit rates lower to help transmission. Our rupee debt being incorporated into global indices would help and so would the Indian government issuing dollar/euro bonds. We also need to give tax incentives for retail investors to buy government or other debt through mutual funds and exchange traded funds. We need all hands on board — now.

Gupta is a public markets investor and
Bhasin is a Delhi-based policy researcher

DECEMBER 5, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO

NUCLEAR PARITY

PRIME MINISTER CHARAN Singh said in Delhi that the nuclear nonproliferation policy should be applied uniformly to all nations without any discrimination. He criticised countries who, while preaching the virtues of horizontal non-proliferation, claim their own right not only to possess nuclear weapons but to use them to safeguard their security.

IRANIAN CRISIS

A RESOLUTION DRAFTED for the UN Security Council by the non-aligned members to cope with the Iranian crisis has hit a snag: Among other things, it underlines the need for non-use of force while the US is prepared to ac-

cept that only if it is coupled with wording that recognises the right of self-defence. This issue is crucial. The non-aligned resolution will not permit the use of force if any of the hostages are put up for trial. The American formulation will.

KISSA CASE

PRIME MINISTER CHARAN Singh described as “a concoction” the reported statement of Amrit Nahata, producer of *Kissa Kursi Ka* film, before the Supreme Court. In a statement, Singh said: “My attention has been drawn to a petition filed by Mr Amrit Nahata in the SC in which he is reported to have averred that I had suggested to him (Mr Nahata) that he

should take revenge on the former prime minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, either by involving her or her son in the disappearance of the film *Kissa Kursi Ka*. If Mr Nahata was in desperate search of an excuse for joining Mrs Gandhi's party, he should have discovered one which would not have exposed him as a self-condemned liar.”

LS NOMINATIONS

THE PACE OF filing of nominations for the Lok Sabha elections slackened after the first day's rush. Tuesday is inauspicious in some parts of the country and this fact is believed to be responsible for the delay by major parties in finalising their candidates.



WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“(Boris Johnson) threatens to tilt Britain’s political system away from being a democracy to being an oligarchy, where the rich buy political clout.”
—THE GUARDIAN

A Mughal prince and the pandits of Benares

Dara Shukoh worked with Sanskrit scholars to translate the Upanishads to Persian — an example of the closely intertwined histories of Sanskrit, Persian, Urdu



SUPRIYA GANDHI



CR Sasikumar

THE FURORE OVER the appointment of the Sanskrit scholar, Firoze Khan, to a teaching position at the Banaras Hindu University has raged on for over three weeks. It now looks as though the protestors are winning and that Khan may be appointed at the faculty of Ayurveda instead of teaching literature at the Sanskrit Vidya Dharma Vigyan faculty.

The relentless attacks on Khan call to mind a very different era in Benares over three-and-a-half centuries ago. In early 1657, a group of Brahmin pandits travelled from Benares to Delhi so that they could join a Muslim prince in his spiritual quest. Prince Dara Shukoh had been interested in Indic religious thought for a while, but he had recently discovered a group of sacred texts — the Upanishads — that he felt were perfect expressions of God’s oneness. Moreover, he also believed they held the key to understanding the Quran’s secrets. He wanted to work with some Sanskrit scholars to decipher and understand them so that he could produce a Persian translation.

Dara did not have to go far to find help. For several years, he and his father, the emperor Shah Jahan, had played host to Kavindracharya Saraswati, a prominent pandit from Benares. This kind of relationship wasn’t unheard of at the time. Shah Jahan’s court was only continuing a longer Mughal tradition of hosting Hindu religious scholars. Still, there was something special about Kavindracharya’s closeness to the imperial family.

The court chroniclers don’t tell us how exactly the prince drew on the pandit’s knowledge, or what Kavindracharya’s precise role at the court was. This is what we do know, though: Between the years 1651 and 1657, Shah Jahan lavished Kavindracharya with valuable rewards, on more than a dozen occasions. The pandit composed verse extolling Shah Jahan’s learning. Through his poetry, Kavindracharya also instructed the imperial family in Vedanta and other schools of Indic philosophy. He lauded the emperor’s daughter, Jahanara, and her brother, Murad Baksh. And, of course, he praised the emperor’s eldest son Dara Shukoh.

The pandit was held in high esteem by his fellow Brahmin scholars in Benares. So when Dara wished to study the Upanishads, Kavindracharya would have been a natural facilitator. The prince worked for several months with his pandit interlocutors. He named his Upanishad translation *Sirr-i akbar* or the “Greatest Secret.”

Soon after, Dara was forced to spend the last anguished months of his life as a fugitive from Aurangzeb’s men. Once captured, he reportedly tried to defend himself with all he had left — a knife used for sharpening pens. Two years after he completed the *Sirr-i akbar*, his pen was silenced forever.

We don’t need to glorify Dara Shukoh to

learn from his story. He was a prince hoping to become a powerful sovereign, not a modern-day social reformer or a democratically-elected leader. But the *Sirr-i akbar* is only one example among many of how the histories of Sanskrit are closely entwined with Persian and Urdu, and the histories of Hindus with those of Muslims.

In fact, the *Sirr-i akbar* had an afterlife that Dara could never have imagined. We often hear that Europeans first encountered the Upanishads through their Latin translations. But we have forgotten about the numerous Hindus who also read the *Sirr-i akbar* as a way of accessing their own sacred texts.

Before the age of print, many educated Hindus read Persian — Kayasths, Khatri and Brahmins among them. Persian had a status somewhat like English does today. Just as some Indians now read English translations of the Gita or the Upanishads, many of their counterparts in the past would have read these works in Persian. Dara’s Persian translation opened the Upanishads to non-Brahmins who may not have had the opportunity to develop a mastery of Sanskrit. Take, for instance, the 19th century reformer Kanhaiyalal Alakhdhari. He produced an Urdu translation of the Persian *Sirr-i akbar*, which enjoyed several printings. Alakhdhari was not very favourably inclined towards Islam or Muslims, but he felt indebted to Dara Shukoh’s *Sirr-i akbar*, which had helped him access the Upanishads in his own project of Hindu reform and revival.

Dara Shukoh’s Upanishad translation was a monumental project with lasting significance for both Hindus and Muslims. But to

Before the age of print, many educated Hindus read Persian — Kayasths, Khatri and Brahmins among them. Persian had a status somewhat like English does today. Just as some Indians now read English translations of the Gita or the Upanishads, many of their counterparts in the past would have read these works in Persian. Dara’s Persian translation opened the Upanishads to non-Brahmins who may not have had the opportunity to develop a mastery of Sanskrit.

day it has also become a reminder of religious nationalism’s impossible logic. Certain luminaries of the ruling dispensation hold seminars on Dara Shukoh. They accuse Indian Muslims of admiring Aurangzeb, and ask them to look up to Dara as a model instead. But when a Muslim scholar like Firoze Khan does just that by pursuing a career in Sanskrit studies, he is hounded. Members of the RSS have spoken in favour of Khan’s original appointment to the Sanskrit Vidya Dharma Vigyan faculty of BHU. Yet, for now, the forces that their ideology unleashed have prevailed.

The future of Sanskrit is linked with the fate of the humanities. It will flourish and grow when the study of all languages and literatures can thrive, in universities that nurture academic freedom and attract a diverse student body. This is a vision too terrifying to behold for the self-styled protectors of tradition.

Like other ideological projects, neo-liberal Hindutva seeks its own coherence. Yet, in it dwell numerous contradictions. At once it promotes Sanskrit as a pan-Indian ideal for all, but then punishes Muslims for advancing too far in it. It seeks the prestige of science and learning while hollowing out stellar public universities.

Such contradictions proceed through a triumphalism that has little space for difference or dissent, let alone our common histories that have Hindus reading Persian, or Muslims studying Sanskrit.

Gandhi teaches at Yale University and is the author of the forthcoming book The Emperor Who Never Was: Dara Shukoh in Mughal India

Ways out of a crisis

Slowdown needs a multi-pronged response: Rate cuts, government spending and credit flows through the financial system



SAUGATA BHATTACHARYA

INDIA’S ECONOMIC GROWTH (gross domestic product) was at 4.5 per cent in the second quarter of the current financial year. Gross Value Added (GVA), which is actually more representative of economic activity, grew at 4.3 per cent. The second quarter growth is the weakest since the fourth quarter of FY13.

There are distinct features of the current slowdown which make it different from the ones in the past. First, multiple growth engines — consumption, investment, exports, credit — have all slowed down synchronously; earlier, one of these engines would offset the weakness in the other. As in the first quarter, the proximate source of the slowdown was the manufacturing sector. But, underlying this is a sharp deceleration of investment spending. The growth drivers were also quite concentrated, with a prominent source being government spending. There was a modest revival of household consumer spending, but this might also be an outcome of high government spending.

Second, the previous slowdowns were more the result of supply shocks, while this one seems to be led predominantly by a weakness in demand. While the focus has been on the real growth slowdown, even more striking is the slowdown in the nominal GDP growth rates. Reflecting the changing dynamics of volume growth and inflation over the past three years, nominal growth halved to 6.1 per cent in Q2FY20 (over the same quarter a year back), compared to a drop of 2.5 per cent in real growth. This is a matter of concern since nominal growth shapes the behaviour of economic agents, consumers, savers and investors. Equally, this has implications for the policy response since multiple economic variables depend on nominal growth — for example, the most immediate effect is in the slowdown of the Centre’s tax revenues.

The services sector has held up better than manufacturing. While the industry growth dropped from 10 per cent in the June 2018 quarter to -0.5 per cent in Q2, the services sector only modestly decelerated from 7.5 per cent to 6.4 per cent. The concern regarding this persisting deceleration is of the manufacturing slowdown spilling over to the services sector, both in construction and particularly in transport, where the weakness is evident both in data and anecdotal evidence. From the demand side of national accounts, private consumption growth is likely to be as low (or lower) as the first quarter based on public data like auto sales and results of service companies.

Third, the earlier slowdowns seemed to be led by the real sector. This time, the problems seem to have originated in the financial sector and then spilled over to the real sector through mechanisms similar to Ben Bernanke’s model of a financial accelerator. The credit squeeze has played a large role in amplifying the factors decelerating consumption and investment. The RBI data

showed a striking drop in the flows of funds from multiple lending channels, from Rs 74 lakh crore in April-September 2018 to Rs 91,000 crore in the first six months of this year. Bank credit growth has dropped to 8.5 per cent in October. How does policy respond to this situation? A clear path for a revival in growth is not immediately obvious. The second quarter growth was most likely the bottom, yet the initial signs of a revival in the third quarter are modest.

Monetary policy was the first responder, with multiple repo rate cuts, adding up to 1.35 percentage points and another possible cut in the ongoing meeting. Due to multiple reasons, including a large liquidity deficit till June that kept the cost of bank deposits high, transmission of these cuts into bank lending rates was limited. However, the emergence of surplus liquidity since July has accelerated the pace of cuts in fixed deposit rates, and increasingly into bank lending rates. The quantum of rate cut in this MPC meeting, and the communication on the scope for further cuts, as well as the growth and inflation forecasts will also guide lending rates.

To start a virtuous cycle of a revival of consumption-led demand for increasing capacity, government spending is crucial given the weakness in private sector demand. In coordination with monetary policy, the government should actively pursue a counter-cyclical fiscal stimulus though a large stimulus is constrained by weak tax buoyancy. A revenue source which is being aggressively explored is disinvestment. This might offset some of the tax revenue shortfall. Further, as of FY18, almost Rs 9 lakh crore of various tax dues were stuck, of which about Rs 7.8 lakh crore were under litigation. This pipeline needs to be quickly unclogged, even if it means larger haircuts for the government in interest and penalties.

The other fiscal stimulus which also needs to be accelerated is making expenditure more efficient through targeting delivery, plugging leaks, and rationalising overlaps in spending. The FY20 Budget had an “Output Outcome Framework” for the first time with metrics for evaluating outcomes of government spending. In tandem, accelerating securitisation of operational revenue generating toll and other road projects and using these funds and other offshore sourced investments to finish projects like the dedicated freight corridors and increasing spending on the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana will serve as an investment and growth multiplier.

Some calculated risks in micro-prudential relaxations of regulatory norms for bank lending to stressed sectors will add to the measures designed for reducing risk aversion in bank lending. The Centre’s proposals for a partial credit guarantee for pooled assets of NBFCs and a fund for last mile finance of incomplete residential projects need to be quickly operationalised.

The signature message from the October monetary policy was the decision to “continue with an accommodative stance as long as it is necessary to revive growth”. This understated statement — equivalent of the European Central Bank’s President Mario Draghi’s commitment to do “whatever it takes” in 2012 — should be the guiding imprimatur of policy communication.

The writer is senior vice-president, business and economic research, Axis Bank. Views are personal

Great Pawar, greater responsibilities

Sharad Pawar could be the anchor for opposition unity in the days ahead



NEERJA CHOWDHURY

FOR FIVE-AND-a-half years, the Opposition had been looking for a leader who could take on Narendra Modi. The recent developments in Maharashtra have catapulted Sharad Pawar to a position where he is being viewed not just as a skilled practitioner of realpolitik, but also as a possible “sutraddhar” for opposition unity in the months to come.

It’s not as if he has acquired mass appeal of the kind that Modi enjoys. But he has shown that he can deliver, and defeat the BJP at its own game. Though the BJP-Shiv Sena got a majority in the October elections, it was Uddhav Thackeray who was sworn in as the chief minister of Maharashtra at the head of a Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress government and their Maha Vikas Aghadi sailed through the trust vote, ending a tortuous 40-day exercise in government formation.

Pawar demonstrated that he remains the “Maratha strongman” and exercises complete control over his party. Also, he can get back errant MLAs, led by his nephew Ajit Pawar, to his side — which led to the exit of Devendra Fadnis as an 80-hour chief minister.

Pawar has shown, too, that he can get unlikely parties on the same page — the Shiv Sena to accept “secularism” in the common minimum programme and Sonia Gandhi to agree to do business with the Sena, something she had shunned earlier — with both parties agreeing to climb down from their well-known positions to keep the BJP at bay. The Maha Vikas Aghadi is now trying to counter

the BJP’s Hindu nationalism with a mix of soft Hinduism, sustenance issues involving farmers and youth, and sub-nationalism, with its appeal to the “Marathi Manos”.

The whole story of how Pawar navigated a minefield of contradictions has not yet come out, particularly what transpired at his famous 45-minute meeting with the prime minister. The meeting’s optics played a role in pressuring a prevaricating Sonia Gandhi to fall in line, and its substance was meant to placate a restive pro-BJP group inside the NCP. Ajit Pawar was one of the four senior leaders (out of 18) who had reportedly made a case for the NCP to go with the BJP.

The BJP’s midnight coup actually helped the three parties to sink their differences, which they were struggling to overcome. It also lost the saffron party the sympathy it was beginning to gain after the Sena broke the pre-poll alliance over the issue of rotational CM-ship.

Sharad Pawar has managed to ward off pressures to make Ajit Pawar deputy CM, even as the first six ministers were sworn in, though how long he can do so remains to be seen. This would have robbed the moment of its sheen and made many wonder whether the whole drama was “fixed” by uncle and nephew for the withdrawal of irrigation cases against the latter.

Ajit Pawar’s brief exit from the party has redrawn the lines of succession in the NCP, with daughter Supriya Sule coming out

smelling of roses. Ordinary people in Maharashtra are talking about the dignity (constantly taking care of MLAs during those tense days) and humility (hugging Ajit Pawar on his return) with which she conducted herself. She can be expected to play a larger role in the party in the coming days.

Pawar is cast in the old Congress mould. He knows that politics in India is not just about parties but is also contingent on personal relationships across parties. Over the years, Pawar has forged links across the political spectrum, funded candidates, nurtured bureaucrats, police officers, those in intelligence agencies, corporates, and marginalised those opposed to him. He has a network all over the country which is well-disposed to him. It was his four decade-long relationship with Sena chief, Balasaheb Thackeray, and the rapport he established with Uddhav Thackeray — from all accounts the “political understanding” was forged before the poll results — which formed the centrepiece of the Maha Vikas Aghadi. Though he has sported the image of being adept at “jorh torh”, he is respected by regional satraps — even more so now — for his political acumen, whether it is Mamata Banerjee, Nitish Kumar, M K Stalin, KCR, Chandrababu Naidu or Mulayam Singh Yadav.

Sharad Pawar could play a unifying role in the Opposition and emerge as a “sutraddhar”, because the main players could listen to what he has to say today. Of course, the rise of Sharad Pawar could make the Congress un-

easy. Many in the Congress look up to him but Sonia Gandhi is still wary of him. Yet, she agreed to be a junior member in the Aghadi government, led by the Shiv Sena, in order to keep her flock together in Maharashtra. Also because the Maharashtra experiment could help resurrect the Congress, as an idea and an organisation opposed to the BJP.

The Pawar effect could deepen the fault-lines in the NDA. The exit of the Shiv Sena has emboldened the BJP’s other allies to speak up. The JD(U) has asked the BJP to “introspect”, the Akali Dal is restive, the IJP of Ram Vilas Paswan is fighting the ongoing elections in Jharkhand on its own. Shiv Sena’s one-man demolition squad, Sanjay Raut, has already declared that “they” may be forming an alternative government in Goa.

Pawar will now be called on to ensure the survival of the baby he has successfully delivered. This is not going to be easy, going by the BJP’s belligerence at the trust vote, and the “Ajit factor”. Unless Ajit Pawar is “satisfied”, he could become a magnet for disgruntled elements in the NCP. Sharad Pawar may have calculated that it might be easier to contain Ajit inside the party than outside it.

For the moment, however, by snatching victory from the jaws of defeat, Sharad Pawar has dented the “invincible” image of the BJP, thereby holding out hope for an otherwise down and out Opposition.

The writer is a senior journalist

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SLOWING BULLET

THIS REFERS TO the article ‘Bullet train: where things stand’ (IE, December 4). The political interruption on the bullet train project will ultimately shatter the confidence of foreign investors in India. The Economic Survey emphasised on the importance of the foreign investment for growth but this issue will bare the fact that state elections can affect a project worth billions. Moreover, it may also affect Indo-Japan economic relations.
Umang Kumar Srivastava, Agra

CRISIS OF CULTURE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘The abdication’ (IE, December 4). What is the use of “Beti Padhao” when there doesn’t exist an environment for “Beti Bachao”? What is the use of being independent or making a name in the world if a woman is not safe in exercising that independence? What is the use of thousand laws when there doesn’t even exist one proper way to implement them? What is the use of being a progressive woman when toxic hyper-masculinity dominates the society? This is a crisis of culture. And so, change must begin from home with gender-sensitisation.
Divya Singla, Patiala

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.

DATA VOID

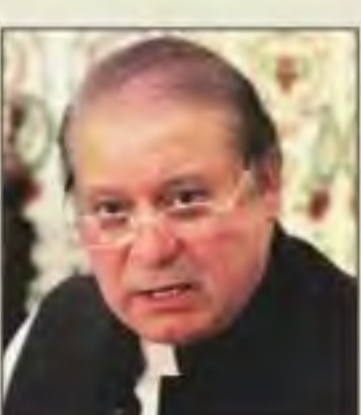
THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘Between the lines of a survey’ (IE, December 4). It is premised on a “deliberate respondent bias” and enumerators are “poorly trained”. This is an erroneous argument and suggests that programmes are targeted at the wrong beneficiary. The authors say that correcting this will take time. It is disconcerting that the country will be living in a data void for an unspecified period of time.
Sanjay Vijayan, Greater Noida

14 THE WORLD



BRITAIN
TURNER PRIZE GOES TO ALL 4 ON SHORTLIST
The Turner Prize's jury announced that all four artists who had been shortlisted for Britain's leading art prize back in May, had won as a collective. The winners are Oscar Murillo, Lawrence Abu Hamdan, Tai Shani and Helen Cammock.

TOP OF THE WORLD



BRITAIN
Pakistan govt writes to UK, seeks to ensure Sharif's return
Islamabad: Pakistan government has written to the British authorities, seeking the return of ailing former prime minister Nawaz Sharif after his medical treatment in the UK, according to a media report. Sharif, 69, left for London on November 19 in an air ambulance for medical treatment after the Lahore High Court allowed him to travel abroad for four weeks. The ARY News on Tuesday reported that Islamabad has written a letter to the British government seeking handing over of Sharif to Pakistan after his medical treatment is completed in Britain.

HOUSE JUDICIARY PANEL BEGINS IMPEACHMENT HEARINGS

Trump's actions are impeachable, constitutional scholars testify

House Intelligence Committee releases report saying President abused his power for political gain

DAVID MORGAN & PATRICIA ZENGERLE
WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 4

THREE CONSTITUTIONAL law experts called by Democrats testified on Wednesday that President Donald Trump's actions concerning Ukraine represented impeachable offences as the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee began proceedings expected to end in charges against Trump. A fourth law professor, chosen by Republican lawmakers, said in prepared testimony that the impeachment inquiry lacked testimony from people with direct knowledge of the events and that current evidence did not show that Trump had committed "a clear criminal act," according to written opening remarks prepared for the committee. An impeachment inquiry launched by the Democratic-led House in September focuses on the Republican President's request



(From left) Witnesses Noah Feldman, Pamela Karlan, Michael Gerhardt, and Jonathan Turley at the impeachment inquiry hearing at Capitol Hill on Wednesday. NYT

that Ukraine announce investigations that could harm Democratic political rival Joe Biden. "The President's conduct described by the testimony embodies the (Constitution's) framers' concern that a sitting president would corruptly abuse the powers of office to distort the outcome of a presidential election in his favor," Harvard University law professor Noah Feldman said in his prepared testimony. The committee held its first hearing a day after the three Democratic-led committees leading the inquiry issued a report accusing Trump of abusing his office in a bid to help secure his re-election in 2020. Democrats concluded in a 300-page report by the House Intelligence Committee on Tuesday that Trump solicited Ukraine to undertake investigations that would benefit him politically. REUTERS

CASE FOR IMPEACHMENT

President Trump has committed impeachable high crimes and misdemeanors by corruptly abusing the office of the presidency.
— NOAH FELDMAN
HARVARD UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR

If left unchecked, the President will likely continue his pattern of soliciting foreign interference..
— MICHAEL GERHARDT, PROF
AT UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Put simply, a candidate for president should resist foreign interference in our elections, not demand it.
— PAMELA KARLAN, PROF
AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY

18 Indians feared dead in blast at factory in Sudan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

AT LEAST 18 Indians were feared to have been among the 23 people killed in an LPG tanker blast at a ceramic factory in Sudan, the Indian mission in Khartoum said on Wednesday. More than 130 people were injured. Sources in Delhi said that there were 68 Indian workers at the factory.



The blast took place at Seela Ceramic Factory in Bahri area of Khartoum. Reuters

External Affairs minister S Jaishankar said a representative from the Indian embassy in Khartoum had rushed to the spot. Sixteen Indians were missing after the incident that took place at Seela Ceramic Factory in the Bahri area of Khartoum, Sudan's capital, on Tuesday.

"As per latest reports, but so far not confirmed officially, 18 are dead," the Indian embassy said in a release. "Some of the missing may be in the list of dead which we are still to receive as identification is not possible because of the bodies being burnt," it added. The embassy on Wednesday issued a detailed list of Indians who were hospitalised, went missing or survived the tragedy. As per its data, seven people were hospitalised, with four in critical condition. Thirty four Indians who survived were accommodated at the Saloomi Ceramics Factory residence. Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the incident. "Anguished by the blast in a ceramic factory in Sudan, where some Indian workers have lost their lives and some are injured.

My thoughts are with the bereaved families and prayers with the injured. Our embassy is providing all possible assistance to those affected," he tweeted. Jaishankar tweeted, "Have just received the tragic news of a major blast in a ceramic factory... in the Bahri area of the capital Khartoum in Sudan. Deeply grieved to learn that some Indian workers have lost their lives while some others have been seriously injured. The embassy representative has rushed to the site. A 24-hour emergency hotline +249-921917471 has been set up by the Indian embassy in Khartoum. Our prayers are with the workers and their families." An AFP report quoted the Sudanese government saying that 23 people were killed and more than 130 injured in the incident, which, according to preliminary reports, indicate that necessary safety equipment was missing at the site.

FRANCE

Scores of Jewish graves vandalised

Westhoffen: Scores of Jewish graves were found desecrated in a cemetery in eastern France, police said, hours before lawmakers adopted a resolution equating anti-Zionism with anti-Semitism. Some 107 graves were defaced with anti-Semitic inscriptions in the city of Westhoffen, while graffiti against Jews was also found in nearby Schafhouse-sur-Zorn on Tuesday. France has Europe's biggest Jewish community — around 550,000 — and anti-Semitic attacks are common, with more than 500 alone in 2018. Earlier this year, politicians from across the spectrum joined marches against anti-Semitism.

NATO SUMMIT

Trump calls Trudeau two-faced, leaves early after video shows leaders 'venting' about him

ANNIE KARNI & KATIE ROGERS
LONDON, DECEMBER 4

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump on Wednesday called Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada "two-faced", after a video surfaced that showed him venting to other world leaders about Trump's behaviour at a NATO anniversary celebration designed specifically to avoid unwanted disruptions. "Well, he's two-faced," the President said when asked about the video. After a long pause, he added, "He's a nice guy. I find him to be a very nice guy." Trump attributed Trudeau's frustration to the US leader's pressure campaign to increase Canada's military spending to 2% of its economic output. "I called him out on that, and I'm sure he wasn't happy about it, but that's the way it is," Trump said. The brief video showed grinning world leaders at a Buckingham Palace reception Tuesday night, apparently com-



A brief video showed world leaders at a Buckingham Palace reception apparently talking about Trump. Reuters

miserating about the President. In the video Trudeau seems to be discussing Trump's behaviour during the first day of the two-day NATO meeting. Trump spoke to reporters for more than two hours in total Tuesday, which appeared to astonish Trudeau. "He was late because he takes a 40-minute press conference at the top," Trudeau says to a small group that includes President Emmanuel Macron of France, PM Boris Johnson of Britain, PM Mark Rutte of the Netherlands and Princess Anne. "You just watch his team's jaws drop to the floor," Trudeau said at another point. Macron is also seen participating animatedly in the conversation, but his comments cannot be heard. Trump was also expected to hold a news conference before his departure, but on Wednesday he appeared to abruptly cancel those plans. "We'll go directly back," he said. NYT

EXPLAINED
Before early exit, Trump seemed to warm to NATO

IN EARLIER NATO meetings, Trump courted controversy for being dismissive of the alliance. He had said NATO was becoming obsolete, and criticised the clause that requires members of the alliance to come to each others' defence in the face of an attack. This time, even though his early exit from the summit and public clashes with other NATO leaders seemed to follow a familiar pattern, he actually spoke warmly of the alliance and praised its "spirit". He had also claimed credit for a rise in European contributions to NATO.

US Congress passes Uyghur Bill, China issues warning

LALIT K JHA
WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 4

THE US Congress overwhelmingly passed a Bill seeking a tough response from the Trump Administration over reports of mass detention centres in China's Muslim-majority Xinjiang province, prompting Beijing to threaten possible retaliation. The US House of Representatives on Tuesday passed the Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act, which among other things, proposes that America redirects resources to address the mass internment of over 1,000,000 Uyghurs and other Muslim ethnic minorities in China. The Act, which calls for an end to the detaining, torture and harassment of the Uyghur communities in China, was passed by the Senate earlier. By passing this Bill, Congress is showing that the US would not turn a blind eye to the suffering of the oppressed, House Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy said. PTI

Gunmen kill head of Japan aid agency, 5 others in Afghanistan

AHMAD SULTAN & ABDUL QADIR SEDIQI
KABUL, NANGARHAR, DECEMBER 4

GUNMEN KILLED six people, including the head of a Japanese aid agency, on Wednesday in an attack on their vehicle in Jalalabad in eastern Afghanistan, officials said. The ambush comes a week after a grenade attack on a United Nations vehicle in Kabul heightened fears for those doing humanitarian work amid one of the world's longest-running conflicts. Tetsu Nakamura, head of Peace Japan Medical Services, had been involved in rebuilding Afghan irrigation and agriculture and had recently been granted honorary Afghan citizenship for decades of humanitarian work in the east of the country. "I am shocked that he had to die in this way," Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told a news conference in Tokyo. "He risked his life in a dangerous environment to do various work, and the people of Afghanistan were very grateful to him," Abe added. The gunmen fled the scene and police have launched a search operation to arrest them, Sohrab Qaderi, a mem-

TRUMP LAWYER IN BID TO BLOCK AFGHAN WAR CRIMES PROBE

The Hague: One of US President Donald Trump's personal lawyers will speak to the International Criminal Court to block efforts by the chief prosecutor to open a war crimes investigation that would scrutinise the actions of American forces overseas. ICC judges in April rejected the request of prosecutor Fatou Bensouda to examine atrocities alleged to have been committed in the conflict between 2003 and 2004, including by US troops, Afghan forces and the Taliban. Bensouda will reassert her case to open a formal inquiry during three days of hearings before a panel of appeals judges in The Hague. Trump's personal lawyer Jay Sekulow said he intends to defend the interests of US military members. REUTERS

LIST MADE BY INVESTIGATORS GIVES CONCRETE NUMBER OF THOSE CAUGHT UP IN TRAFFICKING SCHEME

'629 Pakistani girls sold as brides to Chinese men'

KATHY GANNON
LAHORE, DECEMBER 4

PAGE AFTER page, the names stack up: 629 girls and women from across Pakistan who were sold as brides to Chinese men and taken to China. The list, obtained by *The Associated Press*, was compiled by Pakistani investigators determined to break up trafficking networks exploiting the country's poor and vulnerable. The list gives the most concrete figure yet for the number of women caught up in the trafficking schemes since 2018.



Men arrested in the trafficking scheme being taken to a court in Lahore in May. AP

But since the time it was put together in June, investigators' aggressive drive against the networks has largely ground to a halt.

Officials with knowledge of the investigations say that is because of pressure from government officials fearful of hurting Pakistan's lucrative ties to Beijing. The biggest case against traffickers has fallen apart. In October, a court in Faisalabad acquitted 31 Chinese nationals charged in connection with trafficking. Several of the women who had initially been interviewed by police refused to testify because they were either threatened or bribed into silence, according to a court official and a police investigator familiar with the case. The two spoke on condition of anonymity because they

feared retribution for speaking out. At the same time, the government has sought to curtail investigations, putting "immense pressure" on officials from the Federal Investigation Agency pursuing trafficking networks, said Saleem Iqbal, an activist who has helped parents rescue several young girls from China and prevented others from being sent there. "Some (FIA officials) were even transferred," Iqbal said in an interview. "When we talk to Pakistani rulers, they don't pay any attention." Asked about the complaints, Pakistan's interior and foreign

ministries refused to comment. Several senior officials familiar with the events said investigations into trafficking have slowed, the investigators are frustrated, and Pakistani media have been pushed to curb their reporting on trafficking. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they feared reprisals. "No one is doing anything to help these girls," one of the officials said. "The whole racket is continuing, and it is growing. Why? Because they know they can get away with it. The authorities won't follow through, everyone is being pressured to not investigate." AP

NORTH KOREAN LEADER RIDES TO THE SACRED MT PAKTU ACCOMPANIED BY SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS

Kim signals confrontational stance with new horse ride, rare party meeting

JOSH SMITH
SEOUL, DECEMBER 4

KIM JONG Un mounted a white horse again as North Korea announced on Wednesday it would soon convene a rare meeting of the ruling party's leaders, steps analysts say may signal preparations for a more confrontational stance with the international community. For the second time in two months, Kim visited North Korea's sacred Mt Paektu on horseback, this time accompanied by senior military officers, aimed at instilling a "revolution-

ary spirit" in the people, state news agency KCNA reported. Kim has warned the United States it has until the end of the year to offer more concessions to restart stalled denuclearisation talks or North Korea will pursue an unspecified "new path". Analysts believe that may include a resumption of intercontinental ballistic missile launches or nuclear tests. The United States has called for North Korea to give up significant portions of its nuclear arsenal before punishing international sanctions are eased, while Pyongyang has accused the United States of "gangster-like" demands for uni-



Kim Jong Un rides a horse as he visits battle sites in areas of Mt Paektu. Reuters

lateral disarmament. Speaking in Washington on Tuesday, US Special Representative for North Korea Stephen Biegun said the United States would not give up on talks with Pyongyang. Biegun has previously downplayed the year-end deadline, calling it "artificial" and warning that it would be a "huge mistake and a missed opportunity" for North Korea to take any provocative steps. But North Korean state media have carried a steady chorus of statements in recent weeks, saying Washington should not ignore the warning and dismissing US

calls for talks as a stalling tactic. The announcement that a Plenary Meeting of the Central Committee of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea would meet sometime in late December underscores how North Korea is serious about making a major decision, analysts said. Such meetings have often been when North Korea has announced major policy shifts. KCNA said the plenum would discuss and decide on "crucial issues" in light of the "changed situation at home and abroad". The timing of this plenum is unusual because it comes before the year-end deadline, as well as

before Kim's expected New Year's address, said Rachel Minyoung Lee, an analyst with NK News, which monitors North Korea. "That Pyongyang is opting to hold this meeting before the end of the year indicates its strong resolve," she said. "Taking the party plenum announcement and the Mount Paektu visit together, the 'resolve' seems to be that North Korea will not cave in to the US, and that it will keep charging on despite the difficulties." KCNA reported Kim was joined by top military aides as he rode a white horse in a tour of historic battlefields near Mount Paektu. REUTERS

15 ECONOMY

GOLD	RUPEE	OIL	SILVER
₹39,299	71.53	\$61.90	₹46,672

*Indian basket as on December 3, 2019

SENSEX: 40,850.29 ▲ 174.84 NIFTY: 12,037.30 ▲ 43.10 NIKKEI: 23,135.23 ▼ 244.58 HANG SENG: 26,062.56 ▼ 328.74 FTSE: 7,176.20 ▲ 1744 DAX: 13,123.76 ▲ 134.47

*International market data till 1900 IST

POLICY WATCH INVESTMENT

CCEA okays launch of India's first debt exchange-traded fund

SUNNY VERMA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

THE CABINET Committee on Economic Affairs Wednesday approved launch of India's first fixed income Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) comprising AAA-rated debt securities of state-owned companies. Called Bharat Bond ETF, the fund will comprise a basket of bonds of companies including NHAI, NABARD, PFC and IRFC among others, sources said. The fund targets to raise around Rs 10,000 crore. The debt ETF provides a new option to conservative investors to own securities of government-owned companies along with the facility of liquidity as ETF units will be listed on exchanges.

Debt ETF allows conservative investors to own securities of government-owned firms along with the facility of liquidity

debt mutual funds, the debt ETF will have a low transaction cost of 0.0005 per cent. "Bond ETF will provide safety (underlying bonds are issued by CPSEs and other Government owned entities), liquidity (tradability on exchange) and predictable tax-efficient returns," the government said. Apart from the interest, investors can make capital gains on their units in the secondary market in a falling interest rate regime. In case the interest rate cycles reverse and turns upward, existing unit holders may have to bear capital losses on their holdings. For bonds that are held till maturity there is no risk of capital loss or gain. However, as compared to fixed deposits, this instrument is tax efficient as bond ETFs are taxed with the benefit of indexation, which reduces the tax on capital gains for investor.

Retail investors can buy units of the ETF with a starting investment of Rs 1,000 per unit and it will have maturity of 3 and 10 years. The current yield on 10-year AAA-rated debt paper of state-owned companies is around 7.5-7.6 per cent while that of 3-year similar rated paper is quoting at 6.5-6.6 per cent. Investors can expect a post tax return of around 6.7-6.8 per cent, which is significantly higher than post tax return of around 5.5 per cent on fixed deposits with banks.

The Centre said Bharat Bond ETF will provide an additional source of funding for firms to meet their borrowing needs, and thereby helping in deepening the bond market. "Since a broad debt calendar to assess the borrowing needs of the CPSEs would be prepared and approved each year, it would inculcate borrowing discipline in the CPSEs at least to the extent of this investment," the Centre said. While there are a number of equity and gold ETFs in the market, there are no debt ETFs, barring the two government securities-based ETF that have not generated much investor interest. "Bond ETF will provide safety (underlying bonds are issued by CPSEs and other government owned entities), liquidity (tradability on exchange) and predictable tax efficient returns (target maturity structure)," the Centre said.

TRIBUNAL DIRECTS SEBI MEMBER TO PASS ORDER BY DEC 12

No relief for Karvy lenders from SAT, asked to approach Sebi

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 4

IN A setback to the lenders who lent funds to Karvy Stock Broking, the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) Wednesday refused to give any immediate relief on their plea against the transfer of securities held with Karvy back to the clients or transfer them into an escrow account.

A SAT bench comprising MT Joshi and CKG Nair refused to give any relief to ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank and IndusInd Bank beyond the order in the Bajaj Finance plea and instead asked them to approach Sebi by December 6. It also asked Sebi whole-time member Ananta Barua, who issued the order against Karvy on November 22, to give a personal hearing to the aggrieved parties and pass an order by December 12. Lenders had given loans to Karvy which pledged these shares with them as collateral. The securities that the National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL) transferred back to investors on December 2 were originally pledged by Karvy with banks to raise funds without taking the permission of the owners.

In the case of Bajaj Finance which first approached SAT, the Tribunal, on Tuesday, asked Sebi to hear the financier latest by Wednesday, and directed Sebi to pass a fresh order by December 10.

EXPLAINED Lenders' business to be impacted; ball in Sebi's court

THE BANKS had contended that many of the securities in question had been used to borrow money from them and had, therefore, pleaded with the tribunal to reinstate the securities back to them or put them in an escrow account. The case pertains to the securities held by Karvy, which were used by the brokerage for borrowing, by way of the power of attorneys that they held. As most of the shares were kept as securities for loans given by banks to Karvy, any "unilateral" transfer of shares will have a major impact on their lending business, banks had said in their plea before SAT.

ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank and IndusInd Bank had contended that many of these securities had been used to borrow money from them and had pleaded with the tribunal to either get back the securities back to them or put them in an escrow account to protect their funds. The case pertains to the securities held by Karvy, which were used by the brokerage for borrowing courtesy the power of attorneys that they held. On Monday, NSDL said nearly 90 per cent — 82,559 — of duped investors got back their securities and the remaining ones would get their securities after clearing their dues, forcing Bajaj Finance to move the SAT and secure an interim relief on further transfers. Private sector banks joined the Bajaj Finance petition on Tuesday

against transfer of shares to investors. As most of the shares were kept as securities for loans given by banks to Karvy, any "unilateral" transfer of shares will have a major impact on their lending business, banks told SAT. Banks and finance firms have Rs 1,415-crore exposure to Karvy Stock Broking, which was banned by the Securities and Exchange Board of India on November 22. ICICI Bank has the maximum exposure of Rs 875 crore which was created only on October 1, 2019. IndusInd Bank has an exposure of Rs 105 crore, HDFC Bank Rs 195 crore, DCB Bank Rs 55 crore and Axis Bank Rs 85 crore, as per RoC filings. The total value of the securities unauthorisedly pledged by Karvy was estimated to be around Rs 2,800 crore.

Protecting investor interest 'Parliamentary mandate': Tyagi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 4

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Board of India on Wednesday said its actions against auditors for faulty audits are within its "Parliamentary mandate", and there is no question of "turf wars" on this issue.

Sebi Chairman Ajay Tyagi said the watchdog is working only to protect the interests of investors and limiting its actions to auditors of publicly listed firms.

In November, the Supreme Court stayed a SAT order which had held that Sebi does not have the power to bar auditors. "Our position is very simple — if they're auditing listed companies based on which investors are investing, and if we find that that work has not been done properly and in investors' interest, some audit firms should not be allowed to audit for sometime of the listed companies," Tyagi said at an event here.

"It is our parliamentary mandate I would say to see that it is done and there is no trouble there. It goes to the basic issue of investor protection being the parliamentary mandate of Sebi," he noted.

'Proposed cap on trade margins will not hurt pharma firms'

The government's proposal to cap the trade margins available to drug distributors will not significantly hurt the profitability of pharmaceutical companies, Fitch Ratings said

NO MAJOR DISRUPTION
It will not disrupt pharma distribution significantly, even if implemented in an all-encompassing way, the agency said

REASON
This is because the existing trade margin for the bulk of generic drugs, which are sold under a 'branded generics' model, is already broadly consistent with the proposed 30 per cent level, with wholesale distributors getting 10 per cent and retail chemists 20 per cent of the price

BACKGROUND
The proposal builds on the regulator's success in cutting cancer drug prices by as much as 85 per cent following a similar exercise to cap trade margins

EFFECT
The proposal is likely to have a greater effect on the 'generic-generic' segment, in which pharma companies sell their drugs in bulk to distributors who retain higher margins



PROPOSAL TO CAP TRADE MARGINS will not hurt the profitability of firms, as the proposal does not restrict the margins at which pharma companies sell to distributors the agency said

THE NATIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL PRICING AUTHORITY is making progress in reaching a consensus with firms and distributors to cap trade margins for drugs that are not under explicit price control

Source: PTI

Union Cabinet approves fourth labour code on social security

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

THE UNION Cabinet has approved the last of four labour codes — the Code on Social Security Bill 2019, Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar said in a briefing on Wednesday.

The Bill seeks to consolidate the laws relating to social security of workers and subsume eight central laws. "In a major labour reform, this social security code is approved by the Cabinet today. This is fourth labour code,"

Javadekar said at a briefing on Cabinet decisions on Wednesday. Last month, the Cabinet had approved Industrial Relations Code Bill, 2019 (third code), which was later introduced in the Lok Sabha. The Code on Wage (first code) has already been approved by Parliament. The Code on occupational safety, health and working conditions (second code) has already been introduced in the Lok Sabha and later sent to a standing committee for review. This would be pushed for passage in the Budget Session after the committee's report submission in the

House. Javadekar said that under labour reforms, 44 central laws will be codified into four codes. The Social Security Code will subsume 8 Central Labour Acts namely Employees' Compensation Act, 1923; Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948; Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952; Maternity Benefit Act, 1961; Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972; Cine Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1981; Building and Other Construction Workers Cess Act, 1996 and Unorganized Workers' Social Security Act, 2008. WITHPTI

SBI to sell 8.25% stake in UTI MF through IPO

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 4

THE BOARD of State Bank of India (SBI) has given the final approval for divesting its 8.25 per cent stake in UTI Asset Management Company through an initial public offering (IPO) of shares.

UTI's four domestic shareholders — LIC, State Bank of India (SBI), Punjab National Bank (PNB) and Bank of Baroda (BoB) — hold around 18.5 per cent stake each and also have their own asset management companies (AMCs). As the crossholding rules of market regulator Sebi apply to all the four promoters, they will have to

bring down the stake in UTI Mutual Fund below 10 per cent and give up board seats. US-based fund T Rowe Price holds the remaining 26 per cent stake in UTI Mutual Fund. "We advise that the Executive Committee of the Central Board of directors (ECCB) of the Bank at its meeting has accorded final approval for divestment of SBI stake in UTI AMC up to 8.25 per cent through IPO by way of offer for sale of upto 104,59,949 equity shares, subject to the approval of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and/ or such other concerned authorities and departments," SBI said in a stock exchange filing. SBI has its own mu-

MAJORITY SHAREHOLDERS 18.5%

■ UTI's four domestic shareholders — LIC, State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank and Bank of Baroda — hold about 18.5 per cent stake each and also have their own asset management companies

tual fund which manages assets worth Rs 320,662 crore. UTI MF has an AUM of over Rs 154,229 crore. Life Insurance Corporation of

India (LIC) had recently invited bids from merchant bankers for divestment of its "stake in equity shares of an identified unlisted company through a transparent bidding process". While LIC did not disclose the name of the "unlisted company" in an advertisement, sources said it is likely to be UTI Mutual Fund. In March 2018, Sebi introduced crossholding limits in mutual funds to eliminate potential conflicts of interest. The regulator then mandated that if a shareholder has more than 10 per cent interest in a mutual fund, it cannot hold a similar-sized stake in another fund house and would also have to give up its board positions.

Sebi has been insisting that UTI's four domestic shareholders will have to pare their stakes to less than 10 per cent each and rejected the requests of shareholders for extension of stake sale. "However, as UTI Mutual Fund didn't have a chief executive, it was unable to push for an IPO through which the four promoters could have offloaded their stake. The board of the UTI Mutual Fund couldn't appoint a full-time CEO after Leo Puri's tenure as MD ended last year," said an official. Imtaiyazur Rahman has been the acting CEO of UTI Mutual Fund for almost a year now. UTI was set up in 1964 through an act of Parliament.

PROJECT TO GENERATE 4,000 PERMANENT AND 7,000 TEMPORARY JOBS

KIA Motors' new Andhra plan: Hire locally and train youth for factory jobs

SREENIVAS JANAYALA
HYDERABAD, DECEMBER 4

KIA MOTORS, which was under pressure by the new Andhra Pradesh government over recruitment of local persons in its workforce, has now come out with a plan to meet the company's needs for unskilled labour fully by hiring from within the state and simultaneously skilling local youth for factory jobs. Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is scheduled to inaugurate a manufacturing unit at Erramanchi village, near its existing facility, in Anantapur district on Thursday.

locals in jobs, the KIA Project will generate 4,000 permanent and 7,000 temporary jobs, with 100 per cent employment to local people for its unskilled labour requirement. "Continuing the state policy of preparing a competent workforce to suit the needs of the industry, the Korean motor manufacturing unit will partner with the state in upgrading the skills of the workforce from locals to suit the requirements of industries. KIA, its vendors and affiliates had employed 12,835 workers of whom 10,887 hail from our state, of which 7,029 are from Anantapur district," a statement from the CM's office said on Wednesday. After Jagan came to power, KIA found itself under scrutiny for the

THE BACKGROUND STORY

■ After YS Jagan Mohan Reddy came to power, KIA found itself under scrutiny for the concessions extended by ex-CM N Chandrababu Naidu

■ He had rolled out the red

carpet for KIA, with the firm choosing AP over Tamil Nadu and Gujarat

■ Jagan had given a cold shoulder to Kia, skipping the roll-out event of its first SUV Seltos on August 8

this year. Apart from giving 536 acres land to Kia at Rs 6 lakh per acre, Naidu waived off state GST for 22 years. The TDP government also spent Rs 200 crore to level the land which was filled with boulders and small hillocks; constructed a flyover to link the plant with the highway, and diverted

water from Gandikota reservoir to Gollapalli reservoir to provide water to the plant. His government paid Rs 6 lakh to Rs 10.50 lakh per acre to the farmers and allocated the land to the Korean company. With Naidu's imprint on it, Jagan had given a cold shoulder to Kia, skipping the roll-out event of its first SUV Seltos on August 8. The CM had gone to New Delhi on August 6-7 to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi but extended his stay. Armed with the AP Employment of Local Candidates in Industries and Factories Bill, 2019, which the YSRC Government promulgated on July 24, the government and YSRC MLAs of Anantapur district and Hindupur MP K G Madhav pres-

sured Kia to recruit local workforce. This had created a problem for Kia which preferred polytechnic and Industrial Training Institute graduates, but could not find in the state. State Industries Minister M Goutham Reddy said the previous TDP government acquired the land at a very low price from the farmers with a promise of jobs. "The farmers and locals have been left in a lurch with no jobs," he said. Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to Industries Department A Padmavati, however, said the government had no issues with the concessions given to Kia Motors. "We are not reconsidering anything," she said. "The land prices increased only after KIA motors started setting up the

plant. We paid what the farmers asked. How can YSRC say we paid less?" counters N Amamatha Reddy, then industries minister in the TDP government. "The previous TDP government promised jobs to family members of about 250 farmers who gave up their land for KIA motors and 4,000 jobs to locals but the company has not given jobs to any locals. Locals are being offered only low-paying non-technical jobs like house-keeping, security guards etc. The company is preferring polytechnic and ITI students rather than B.Tech. However, we have started taking steps to ensure that KIA motors follows the 75 per cent local jobs rule," Penukonda YSRC MLA M Sankaranarayana said. After taking over as chief min-

ister in May when Jagan ordered cancellation of projects, land allotments, and re-tendering of ongoing works, CEO of Kia Motors Corporation Han Wu Park wrote him a letter invoking the name of his late father Y S Rajasekhara Reddy. "The highly respected Reddy surname and your honourable position as CM of the State of AP remind me of old memories dating back to 2007, when I was leading the establishment of the Hyundai Motor R&D Centre (Hyundai Motor India Engineering) in Hyderabad. At that time, I had the pleasure of meeting Dr YS Rajasekhara Reddy, your late father and then CM of AP, who requested me to invest in an automobile factory in the State," Han-Wu Park said in the letter.



Sundar Pichai. Reuters file photo

Google co-founders Page, Brin step aside as Pichai takes over reins of Alphabet

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SAN FRANCISCO, DECEMBER 4

GOOGLE'S CO-FOUNDERS are relinquishing their executive positions just as state and federal regulators, not to mention the US Department of Justice and Congress, are taking a keen interest in possible abuse of its privacy practices and market power.

But their long foreshadowed successor, Sundar Pichai, has been well prepped to serve as the public face of the company in addition to his current role as chief executive. Larry Page and Sergey Brin are stepping down as CEO and president, respectively, of Google parent company Alphabet. The move caps more than two decades during which the pair have shepherded the one-time startup they founded in a Silicon Valley garage.

Pichai, who has been Google's CEO since 2015, will now also head up Alphabet. The company isn't filling Brin's position as president. Pichai assured employees in an internal email that his new job wouldn't mean he was taking a step back from Google.

"I want to be clear that this transition won't affect the Alphabet structure or the work we do day to day," he wrote. "I will continue to be very focused on Google and the deep work we're doing to push the boundaries of computing and build a more helpful Google for everyone."

Alphabet — an umbrella corporation that the two created in 2015 — still boasts Google as its central fixture and key moneymaker. But it's also made up of what are known as "other bets," or longshot projects. That includes drone company Wing and self-driving car firm Waymo.

Page and Brin, in announcing the news Tuesday, said the company has "evolved and matured" in the two decades since its founding. Both promised to stay active as board members and shareholders. "Today, in 2019, if the company was a person, it would be a young adult of 21 and it would be time to leave the roost," they wrote in a blog post.

Brin and Page still hold a majority of voting shares of Alphabet. According to a regulatory filing in April, Page holds 26.1 per cent of the Google shareholder vote, while Brin holds 25.2 per cent — both thanks to so-called "super voting" shares.

'Sole CEO means simpler business for Alphabet'

REUTERS
BENGALURU/NEW YORK/
SAN FRANCISCO, DECEMBER 4

ALPHABET'S CHANGE of leadership should simplify the company's unorthodox management structure under new boss Sundar Pichai without creating unwanted turbulence in strategy at one of Silicon Valley's biggest names, Wall Street analysts said on Wednesday.

Evercore ISI analyst Kevin Rippey said the changes should consolidate power in a company which "until now" had been characterised by a degree of fragmentation in organisational structure, if not strategic vision.

Pichai takes charge during an unprecedented political and regulatory scrutiny hovering over the company and will have to decide on the future of a plethora of ambitious and cash-burning bets including driverless cars and helium balloons that provide solar-powered internet services in remote areas.

Page and Brin will remain directors of the parent company and still control it via their ownership of preferred shares.

King Lip, chief investment strategist at Baker Avenue Asset Management in San Francisco, said he expected decisions would be made faster with a single CEO.

"He can execute more effectively without having to worry about stepping on the toes of Page and Brin."

Airtel board clears plan to raise \$3 billion

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 4

THE BHARTI Airtel board on Wednesday cleared a proposal to raise \$3 billion as the company prepares for a scenario where it needs to pay Rs 35,586-crore adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues by January 24, 2020.

The company proposes to raise \$2 billion through sale of shares and convertible bonds. Another \$1 billion would be raised through issuance of unsecured and/or secured, listed and/or unlisted, foreign currency convertible bonds (FCCBs) or other similar security denominated in foreign currency, or a combination thereof. The funds would be raised in one or more tranches on private placement basis or otherwise.

The firm may also issue unsecured and/or secured, listed and/or unlisted, redeemable non-convertible debentures along with warrants or other similar security denominated in rupee or combination thereof in one or more tranches for raising this money. FE

Jio increases tariffs by up to 39%; rates still below rivals

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 4

RELIANCE JIO on Wednesday announced new tariff plans, which are about 15-20 per cent cheaper compared to the revised tariffs of Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel. Jio's new tariffs imply that the company has hiked prices to the tune of 39 per cent.

Jio is offering plans with 28 days validity that come with 2GB data at Rs 129, which is 15 per cent cheaper than what Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel are offering. Similarly, Jio is also offering 1.5GB data per day with 28 days validity at Rs 199, which is 20 per cent cheaper than its competitors. For a similar plan, Bharti is charging Rs 248 and Vodafone Idea Rs 249.

Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea, and Reliance Jio, on Sunday announced new, higher tariff plans. In the case of Bharti and Vodafone, the new revised tariffs have come into effect from December 3, while Reliance Jio had said that its revised tariffs will come into effect from December 6.

Jio had said that it proposes to

Jio is offering plans with 28 days validity that come with 2GB data at Rs 129, which is 15 per cent cheaper than what Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel are offering

hike tariffs by up to 40 per cent but will also offer 300 per cent more benefits.

The most affordable plan of Rs 98 with validity of 28 days is now 31 per cent more expensive as it costs Rs 129. However, while the earlier plan did not give interconnect usage (IUC) minutes, the new plan will offer 1,000 IUC minutes. Also, prices have gone up in another 28 day plan of Rs 149, which is now up 33 per cent to Rs 199.

Earlier, the plan did not offer any IUC minutes but the new Rs 199 plan comes with 1,000 IUC minutes.

The tariff hikes for Bharti and Vodafone were in the range of 15-50 per cent. FE

COMPANY UNDERGOING DEBT RESOLUTION PROCESS

IL&FS FY19 loss at ₹22,527 cr

Firm has net liabilities of ₹16,935.1 cr; ability to raise funds impaired, says auditor

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 4

DEBT-RIDDEN INFRASTRUCTURE Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS), which is undergoing a debt resolution process in the bankruptcy court, has reported a loss of Rs 22,527 crore for the year ended March 2019 as against a profit of Rs 333.4 crore in March 2018.

The company has incurred a loss (including other comprehensive income) of Rs 22,527.25 crore for the year ended March 31, 2019, and has net liabilities of Rs 16,935.1 crore, the company's auditor SRBC & Co said. "The company has also suffered consistent downgrades in its credit ratings since September 2018, as a result of which the company's ability to raise funds has been substantially impaired, with normal business operations being substantially curtailed. These conditions, along with other matters set forth in that note, indicate the existence of a material uncertainty that may cast significant doubt about the company's ability to continue as a going

COMPANY'S FINANCIALS

- The external borrowings of IL&FS were Rs 94,216 crore. This include IL&FS' Rs 18,053 crore, five key holding firms' Rs 31,058 crore and operating level Rs 45,105 crore
- In October 2019, IL&FS chairman Uday Kotak said the bankrupt infra lender would be able to recover or restructure over 50 per cent of the liabilities by March 2020
- The total debt getting addressed till date amounted to Rs 36,400 crore

concern," it said. "The company and the IL&FS group in general are undergoing substantial financial stress as of March 2019," the financial statement of IL&FS released on Wednesday said. Further, the company has, as of March 31, 2019, breached its conditions for holding a Certificate of Registration as a Core Investment Company, issued by the Reserve Bank of India. "As a result of the foregoing, the company's ability to raise funds has been substantially impaired," it said. The resolution plan seeks a transparent resolution keeping

in mind larger public interest, financial stability, legality, various stakeholders' interest and commercial feasibility, the statement said. "The resolution plan of management includes sale of entities and assets wherever possible and the company is taking active steps to monetize its assets and is in discussions with multiple parties to sell its assets. The company is committed to taking necessary steps to meet its financial commitments to the extent possible," it said. During the year, the company has also engaged an independent third party as resolu-

tion advisors, to assess the liquidity at the company and at various group companies in India.

In October 2019, IL&FS chairman Uday Kotak said the bankrupt infra lender would be able to recover or restructure over 50 per cent of the liabilities by March 2020. The government has also allowed Kotak, who is also Kotak Mahindra Bank Vice-Chairman and Managing Director, to continue as the head of crisis-ridden IL&FS for one more year.

The total external borrowings of IL&FS were Rs 94,216 crore. This include IL&FS' Rs 18,053 crore, five key holding companies (IFIN, ITNL, IEDCL, IMICIL and ITUAL) Rs 31,058 crore and operating level Rs 45,105 crore. The total debt getting addressed till date amounted to Rs 36,400 crore. The new board has navigated through complexity and developed resolution plan for all 302 entities, he had said.

The company has identified resolution plan for all 302 entities. They include 169 domestic and 133 international firms, IL&FS said.

BRIEFLY

Oil jumps 4% on OPEC cuts, US stockpiles drop

New York: Oil prices surged 4 per cent on Wednesday on expectations that OPEC and allied producers will extend production curbs, and as US government data showed a large drop in domestic crude stockpiles. Brent crude futures were up \$2.44, or 4 per cent, at \$63.26/bbl as of 1609 GMT. REUTERS

Ashok Leyland to shut units for 12 days in Dec

New Delhi/Chennai: Ashok Leyland will suspend manufacturing at its various plants for up to 12 days this month as demand continues to remain weak and inventory at dealers is higher than normal. FE

Ujjivan IPO subscribed over 165 times

New Delhi: Ujjivan SFB's IPO attracted heavy investor demand on the final day of bidding as the issue was subscribed 165.64 times.

CSB Bank shares rise 54% on debut

New Delhi: Shares of CSB Bank made a strong debut at the bourses Wednesday and closed the day with a sharp premium of 54 per cent, against the issue price of Rs 15.

Sembcorp to buyout Gayatri stake in SEIL

New Delhi: Sembcorp Industries Wednesday said it has signed an agreement to acquire the remaining near 6 per cent stake of its local partner Gayatri Energy Venture Pte Ltd in the Indian arm, Sembcorp Energy India Ltd (SEIL), for Rs 406 crore.

RBI retains its advisory panel to DHFL

New Delhi: RBI has retained the three-member advisory committee it had appointed last month to assist the administrator of DHFL. PTI

Services output expands for first time in 3 months on back of strong demand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

INDIA'S SERVICES sector activity returned to growth after two months of decline in November, driven by new business orders, faster job creation and strengthening business confidence, a monthly survey showed on Wednesday but noted that there were signs of "fragility".

The IHS Markit India Services Business Activity Index improved to 52.7 in November from 49.2 in October.

Notwithstanding the upturn, the headline figure remained below its long-run average of 54.2, the survey added.

"Although the services economy shrugged off some of the weakness seen in September and October, the latest PMI results continue to sound a note of caution regarding demand and the underlying state of the sector," said Pollyanna de Lima, principal economist at IHS Markit.

Lima further cautioned that "while the sector moved along nicely and looks set for a sustained expansion in December, there

were signs of fragility". "Rates of expansion in sales and activity were mild by historical standards, while the degree of business confidence remained subdued. Also, a moderation in charge inflation, which came despite the strongest upturn in cost burdens for over a year, highlights a lack of pricing power among services firms," Lima said.

On the prices front, the survey said that the average input prices increased solidly in November, with the rate of inflation quickening to a 13-month high. While, average prices charged for the provision of services in India increased only slightly and at the weakest pace since July.

"This relatively weak rise in charges likely supported demand in November, but leads to questions on how long firms can absorb cost increases and sacrifice margins in favour of demand growth," Lima said.

The Composite PMI Output Index that maps both the manufacturing and services sector, rose from 49.6 to 52.7, signalling a moderate pace of increase that was below the long-run survey average.

'Cybersecurity market to touch \$3 bn by 2022'

India's cybersecurity market is expected to register annual growth of 15.6 per cent and rise to \$3.05 billion by 2022 from \$1.97 billion in 2019, a PwC India and Data Security Council of India report said

20.2%
The rate at which the transaction value of digital payments in India is estimated to grow annually from about \$64.8 billion in 2019 to \$135.2 billion in 2023

68%
of the market share will be commanded by these sectors

FACTORS DRIVING GROWTH Digital growth, rising cyber-attacks, and stringent regulatory mandates are the three main factors driving India's cybersecurity market

KEY SECTORS India's cybersecurity market will be defined by three key sectors — banking and financial services industry (BFSI), information technology (IT) and information technology-enabled services (ITeS), and government

12.3 billion
mobile applications were downloaded in India in 2018

CAUTIONARY ADVICE In a scenario rife with varied possibilities for cybercriminals, it's crucial for the country to have a vibrant security apparatus which safeguards India's systems as well as rising stature as a significant investment hub

SOCIAL NETWORK USER NUMBERS in India are expected to grow from 326 million in 2018 to 422 million in 2022 (second only to China)
Source: PTI

Now, Tata Motors to hike passenger vehicle prices from Jan; auto stocks rally

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAISALMER/MUMBAI, DEC 4

TATA MOTORS on Wednesday said it will increase prices of its passenger vehicles from January, primarily in order to offset impact of upgrading its portfolio to conform to BSVI emission norms.

The company currently sells products ranging from hatchback Tiago to SUV Harrier, priced between Rs 4.39 lakh and Rs 16.85 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi).

"With BSVI products coming in, prices will increase from January," Tata Motors President (Passenger Vehicles Business Unit) Mayank Pareek said.

"We are working on the calculations...normally if any change happens the prices go up by Rs 10,000-15,000. Now there are two things happening, one is BSVI and there is also pressure from rise in commodity prices," Pareek said.

BSVI emission norms in India are slated to kick in from April 1, 2020. On Tuesday, Maruti Suzuki India announced to increase prices of its models from January to offset rising input costs. Shares of automakers rallied

COSTLIER CARS

₹4.39L- ₹16.85L
The company currently sells products ranging from hatchback Tiago to SUV Harrier, priced between Rs 4.39 lakh and Rs 16.85 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi). BSVI emission norms in India are slated to kick in from April 1, 2020.

over 7 per cent on the BSE on Wednesday after some companies announced hiking prices from January on the back of rising input costs.

Tata Motors' stock gained 7.11 per cent to Rs 169.40 on the BSE. In early trade, it was up 7.74 per cent at Rs 170.40. Shares of Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) rose 0.51 per cent to Rs 525.50 apiece on the BSE. It touched an intra-day high of Rs 529, up 1.17 per cent over previous close.

Maruti Suzuki India saw its shares fall 0.93 per cent to Rs 7,075.55 on the BSE.

BRIDGE & ROOF CO. (INDIA) LTD.
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)
CIN No. U27310WB1920G01003601
"KANKARIA CENTRE", (4TH & 5TH FLOOR), 21, RUSSEL STREET, KOL-71

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)
ITEM RATE Offer(s) in two part system are invited from reputed, resourceful and experienced parties meeting prescribed qualifying criteria for following work:

Sl. No.	Description of work as per NIT No. B&R / MPS / 61009 / VRMP / PAINTING / NIT / 02 Dtd. 04.12.2019	Tender Document available on B&R's Website	Due date of submission of Bid
1.	Surface Cleaning By Blasting, Primar, Intermediate, Final Painting & Touch Up (if any) Of all Pipes (Raw/Fabricated), Pipe fittings, Pipe Supports, Flanges, Valves, Plates, Etc including supply of All Paint Materials, Consumables, Equipments & Labours for Zone D, F&G At HPCL Refinery Modernization Project, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.	04.12.2019	18.12.2019

Interested resourceful Contractors may download the tender documents from Co's Website <http://www.bridgeroof.co.in>.
Corrigendum / Addendum, if any, shall be hosted in Co's Website <http://www.bridgeroof.co.in> only.

NMDC LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Bailadila Iron Ore Mines, Bachel complex, Dist: Dantewada-494 553 (CG)
Tele : 07857-230079/230751, Fax: 07857-231253.
Email: bid5materials@nmdc.co.in; bid5materials@gmail.com; raghunath@nmdc.co.in
Corporate Identity Number: L13100TG1958G01001674/ GST Regn. #22AACN7325A125

NOTICE FOR INVITING TENDER
Tender are invited for the following items for Bachel Complex Post Bachel - 494553 Dist. Dantewada (CG) as per details furnished in the Tender documents.

Sl. No.	Description of item	Display & Download of Tender document	Last Date/Time for submission of offer	Tender Fees in Rs.	EMD In Rs.
Tender Ref. No. NMDC/Bachel/182/19-20/E/1549 Date: 29.11.2019 (PIF 11D544 & 11D582)					
1	Supply of PULLEYS for Conveyor 28 & 29, Downhill - 5 & Screening Plant-10/11A (Detailed technical specification in our tender document)	29.11.2019 To 13.12.2019	13.12.2019 upto 12.00 PM	5,900/- (Including Taxes) (Five Thousand Nine Hundred)	2,00,000/- (Two Lakhs)

The detailed information of the tender can be obtained from our website <http://www.nmdc.co.in> under Tender Section, Central Public Procurement (CPP) Portal www.eprocure.gov.in and MSTC portal <http://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprocure/nmdc/buyer/login.jsp>.
Bidder may submit their offer through ON-LINE Tender only.
THE PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS SHOULD DOWNLOAD THE TENDER DOCUMENTS AND SUBMIT THE ONLINE OFFER THROUGH MSTC PORTAL ONLY WITHIN THE DUE DATE AS MENTIONED ABOVE.
Note: Any addendum/corrigendum/bid clarification/time extension shall be issued on the above said websites only & will not be published separately. Prospective Bidders should visit the above websites from time to time to note the corrigendum. If any, contact for further query on 07857-231115/ 231116, +91-94252 66354
Jt. General Manager (Materials)

Tata Power and ICICI Bank JV buys Prayagraj power project

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

A JOINT venture of Tata Power and ICICI Bank on Wednesday acquired a power plant at Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh by agreeing to takeover Rs 6,000 crore of debt of the company.

Renasant Power Ventures Pvt Ltd, the wholly-owned subsidiary of Resurgent Power Ventures Pte, has acquired 75 per cent stake in Prayagraj Power Generation Co Ltd (PPGCL) which owns and operates 1,980 MW coal-based electricity generation unit, Tata Power said in a regulatory filing.

Resurgent Power is a joint venture of ICICI Bank and Tata Power, while PPGCL is a subsidiary of Jaiprakash Power Ventures Ltd which has been shedding assets to cut debt.

It has sold power projects of about 3,800 MW capacity in the last few years to settle debt of close to Rs 21,000 crore.

'Central drugs regulator asks states, UTs to stop online sale of medicines'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

THE COUNTRY'S drug regulator has asked all states and Union Territories to prohibit sale of drugs by online pharmacies as per the Delhi High Court's order, a senior health ministry official said Wednesday.

The court while hearing a PIL by Zaheer Ahmed in December 2018 had ordered

the ban on sale of illegal or unlicensed online sale of medicines till the government drafts rules to regulate e-pharmacies. The order by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI), issued last week, asked all drug regulators in states and Union Territories to take "necessary action" to enforce the court order.

Currently, online pharmacies are operating in the country without a drug licence as there are no

rules framed for the sector. In September, the government, in an affidavit submitted to Delhi High Court, said it is in the process of finalising the draft rules for regulating e-pharmacies after going through representations of all stakeholders. Ahmed, in his PIL, said the online illegal sale of medicines would lead to a drug epidemic, drug abuse and misuse of habit forming and addictive drugs.

IndiGo says PW engine issue is likely to have an impact on future capacity

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

INDIGO HAS further reduced its capacity guidance for FY20 due to Airbus A320neo engine troubles, it told investors Wednesday.

The Gurgaon-based carrier said its capacity would grow at 22-23 per cent year-on-year in FY20 from 25 per cent announced in October 2019. At the beginning of

the financial year, the largest domestic carrier had planned to grow at 30 per cent y-o-y on the back of rapid aircraft addition from plane manufacturer Airbus SE.

In a presentation uploaded on the BSE, IndiGo said that directorate general of civil aviation's (DGCA) order to ground each aircraft with unmodified engine for every addition of Neo plane with modified engines will have an impact on the capacity growth.

Trump says trade talks with China going 'very well'

REUTERS
WATFORD, DECEMBER 4

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump said on Wednesday that trade talks with China were going "very well," sounding more positive than on Tuesday when he said a trade deal might have to wait until after the 2020 US presidential election.

"Discussions are going very well and we'll see what happens," Trump told reporters said at a meeting of NATO leaders near London.

His comments on Tuesday, which raised the prospect of a long extension of the trade tensions between the world's biggest and second-biggest economies, pushed down share prices sharply around the world.

Stocks rebounded on Wednesday when Bloomberg reported that the two sides were closer to agreeing how



'Discussions are going very well and we'll see what happens'

DONALD TRUMP
US PRESIDENT

many tariffs would be rolled back in a "phase one" trade deal.

Investors fear that the US-China standoff, which has marked Trump's presidency since it began in 2017, will add to the slowdown in the global economy.

Karnataka Bank reports ₹40-cr fraud

New Delhi: Karnataka Bank on Wednesday said it has reported to the RBI a fraud of Rs 40.39 crore in the credit facilities to Hanung Toys and Textiles Ltd, which has already been declared a non-performing borrowing account.

Hanung Toys and Textiles Ltd (borrowing account) dealing with the bank since 2008 had availed various credit facilities under consortium arrangement wherein, Karnataka Bank was one of the member banks, it said in a filing.

"On the basis of forensic auditor's report submitted to the consortium, some of the member banks have reported to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) regarding fraud in the borrowing account. "In line with the Consortium decision, Karnataka Bank has reported to RBI a fraud amounting to Rs 40.39 crore in the credit facilities extended earlier to the borrowing account, on account of diversion of funds," Karnataka Bank said. PTI

LOOKING UP

The farm hope

The ongoing price recovery in major crops is in danger of being stymied by knee-jerk government response

HARISH DAMODARAN
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

A LOT of analyst commentary on the latest quarterly GDP numbers for India has focused on the low growth in "nominal" terms: Gross value added (GVA) at current prices grew by just 6.3% year-on-year in July-September and 7.1% for April-September. If this first-half trend holds for the rest of 2019-20, it would be the lowest growth since the 6.2% recorded way back in 1975-76.

GVA is basically the value of output of goods and services, less the cost of all inputs and raw material used in their production. Growth in "real" GVA, which is at constant prices, is a measure of how much net output has increased. Nominal GVA growth, on the other hand, shows how much current net income has gone up. For producers, "income" is what matters more than "output".

It is interesting in this context to note that nominal GVA growth for agriculture — a rough proxy for the "take home" of farmers — was a mere 7% in 2017-18 and 4% in 2018-19. For the five years of the Narendra Modi government (2014-15 to 2018-19), it has averaged 7.6%, as against 13.5% during the previous 10 years of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) regime. However, this difference isn't due to "real" growth — the average of 2.9% for the Modi period was marginally below the 3.7% during UPA — as much as inflation. Growth in farm "incomes" has slowed down from 13.5% to 7.6% a year mainly because agricultural commodity prices haven't risen significantly in the last five years.

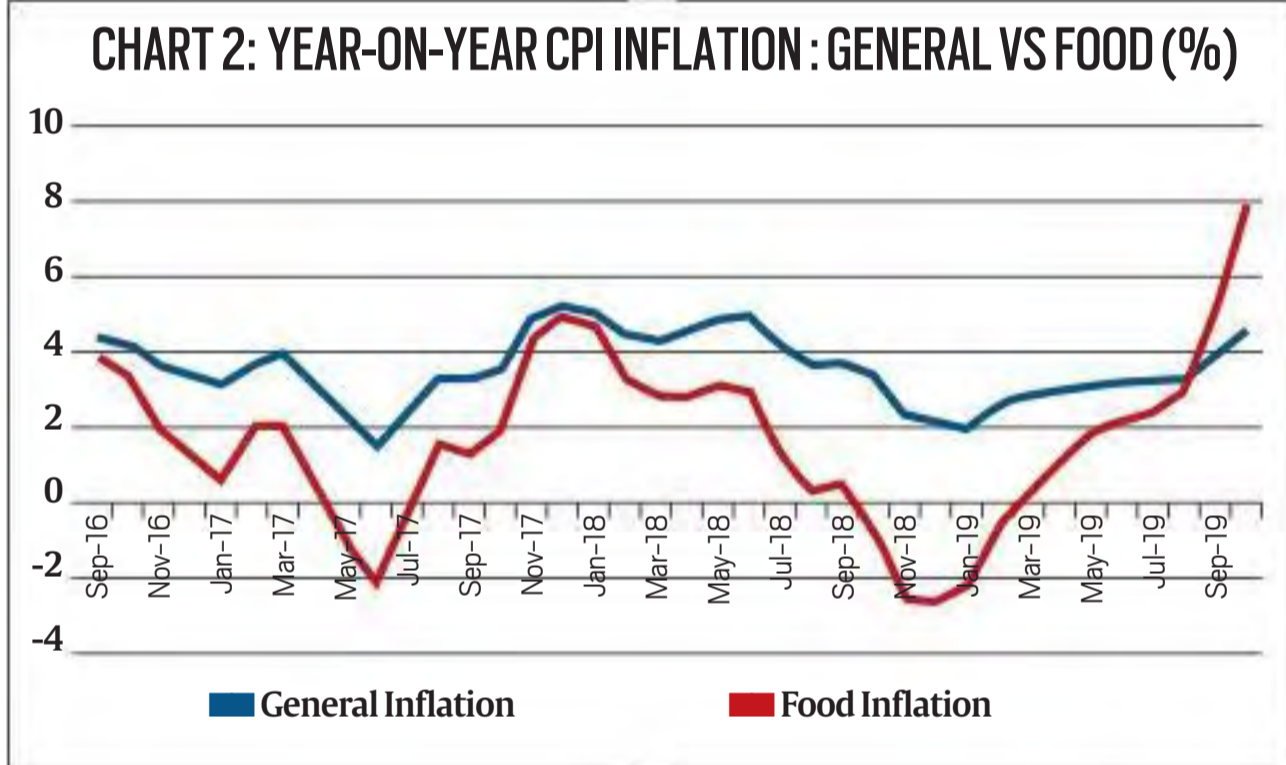
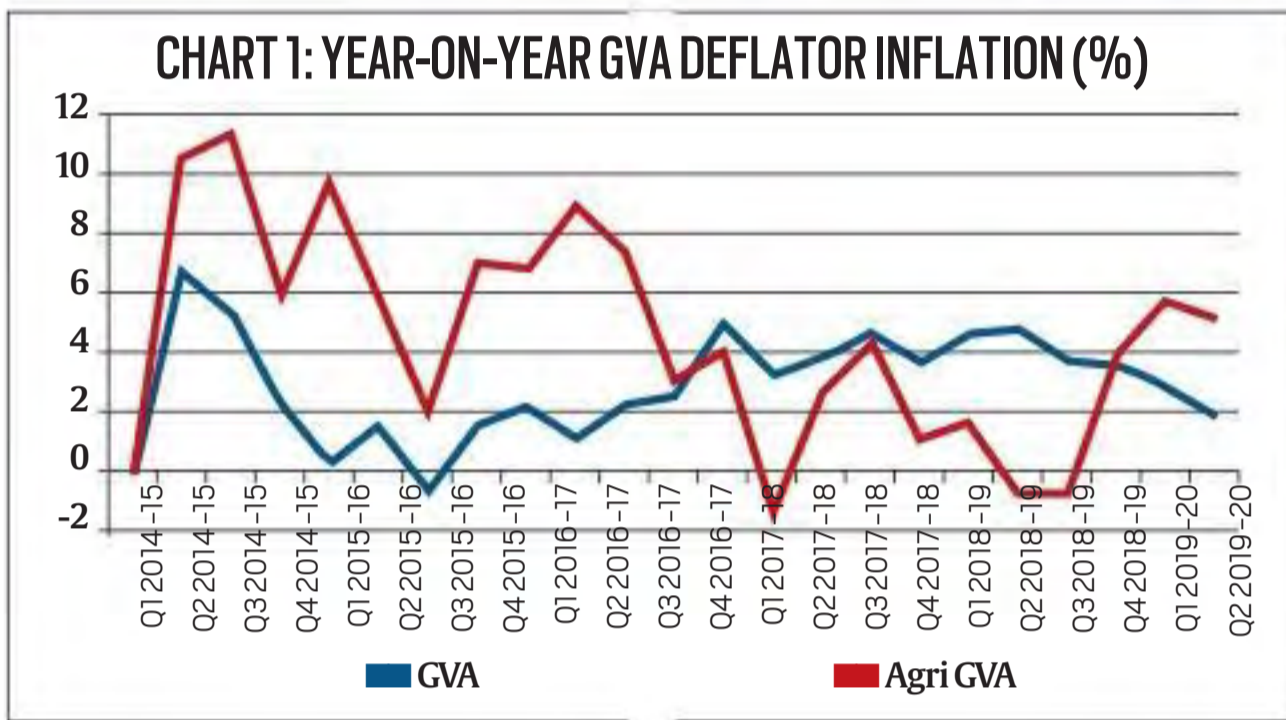
This is where recent data holds out some hope.

Chart 1 plots year-on-year inflation based on the GDP/GVA price deflator, which is used to arrive at nominal national income estimates. It can be seen that agricultural inflation ruled consistently lower than general inflation from January-December 2017 to October-December 2018, while even negative in a few quarters. But since January-March 2019, the increase in farm prices has outpaced overall GVA inflation, in line with the previous trend from April-June 2014 to October-December 2016. In other words, the near-deflationary period for agriculture, clearly noticeable in the aftermath of the Modi government's November 2016 demonetisation decision, seems behind us. Farm produce prices rose 5.2% year-on-year in the last July-September 2019 quarter, higher than the 1.9% general GVA inflation.

The above recovery in agri-commodity prices is also borne out by consumer price index (CPI) inflation data. Chart 2 shows consumer food inflation trailing general CPI inflation for 36 months in a row, from September 2016 to August 2019. That extended period of low food price increase — an average of 1.4% year-on-year, unprecedented in India — has since ended. For October 2019, CPI food inflation stood at 7.9%, compared to the overall retail inflation of 4.6%.

There can be two reasons for agriculture prices looking up or at least bottoming out.

The first is partly statistical: What goes down has to ultimately come up. But a related, more pertinent, point has to do with the productivity effects of sustained low farm realisations. In the case of milk, it would typically result in producers reducing herd sizes and even underfeeding their animals, especially calves



and pregnant/non-lactating females. That is, at some point, bound to impact supply.

There is evidence of it already happening. In 2017-18, average milk procurement by cooperatives shot up by 10.8%. This was largely courtesy a crash in skimmed milk powder (SMP) and butter fat prices, which led private dairies to cut purchases and also pay less to farmers. In 2018-19, cooperative milk procurement growth, too, fell to 4.7%.

In the current fiscal, most cooperatives as well as private dairies have reported negative procurement so far. Another indicator of supply tightness is prices: Current SMP rates, at around Rs 300 per kg, are double the Rs 140 levels for this time last year. Dairies in Maharashtra are also procuring cow milk with 3.5% fat and 8.5% solids-not-fat content today at Rs 30-31 per litre, whereas they were paying hardly Rs 22-23 a year ago.

The second reason is weather. The current year has been unusual: Rainfall during the southwest monsoon season (June-September) was deficient in almost two-thirds of the country till the last week of July. However, every month after that, including October and November, has registered surplus precipitation. This combination — of

early-season drought and prolonged unseasonal rains — has led to a decline in kharif sowing area, along with damage to the standing crop close to or due for harvesting. Its most obvious casualty has been onion, whose production has taken a hit and prices, too, have gone through the roof (see accompanying story). And it isn't onions alone: Prices of most kharif pulses — be it *arhar* (pigeon-pea), *urad* (black gram) or *moong* (green gram) — and soyabean are also now trading much higher relative to last year. So is maize, a key grain used in cattle and poultry feed.

The ongoing farm price recovery — it is actually a correction — should be good news at a time when the rest of the economy is wearing a sombre mood. What makes it even better is the likelihood of a bumper rabi harvest. The excess late rains may not have helped the kharif crop, but the best monsoon in 25 years has substantially recharged the groundwater table and aquifers. Besides, it has ensured that water levels in 120 major reservoirs are now filled to 86.3% of their full capacities, more than the corresponding 61% for last year and last 10-years' average storage of 64.4% for this time.

One sign of the prospects for the rabi crop is fertiliser sales. These were down 3.3% in kharif — 270.94 lakh tonnes (lt) during April-September 2019 versus 280.17 during April-September 2018. The first two months of this rabi, though, has witnessed a 6.6% growth: from 111.63 lt to 119.01 lt. It suggests farmers' keenness to plant; favourable soil moisture conditions and improved price sentiment should be reason enough for that.

The one thing that can stymie the recovery process underway is kneejerk policy reaction to temporary shortage-induced price increases. We've already seen this in onions, with every conceivable weapon — from export ban and stockholding restrictions to income tax raids on traders — being deployed to cool down prices. In the coming weeks, there could be pressure to impose similar "supply management measures", including slashing of import duties, on milk powder or pulses. It is, perhaps, as much in the interest of farmers as the overall economy for the government and the Reserve Bank of India to look through food inflation — at least for now.

Will pyaaz do in Jharkhand what dal did in Bihar?

PARTHA SARATHI BISWAS

THE NARENDRA Modi government has, since September 29, banned export of onions and imposed stock limits — wholesale traders cannot keep more than 500 quintals and retailers 100 quintals — under the Essential Commodities Act. On November 9, it also approved one lakh tonne (lt) imports of the bulb through the state-owned MMTC Ltd. If that wasn't all, the Income Tax department, on November 11, conducted search and survey operations on traders in Maharashtra, Delhi and Madhya Pradesh to probe any possible hoarding or holding of unaccounted stocks.

But all these measures — the stocking limits were further reduced, to 250 quintals for wholesalers and 50 quintals for retailers, on December 3 — have had little impact. According to Department of Consumer Affairs data, the all-India modal retail price of onions has gone up from Rs 50 to Rs 75 per kg between September 30 and December 3. On December 3, the kitchen staple traded at a record average of Rs 71 per kg in Maharashtra's Lasalgaon *mandi*. This increase — from Rs 30 in end-September at India's largest wholesale market — despite every conceivable action taken by government agencies is proof that production shortfall, and not any so-called hoarding, is behind the current price spike.

Onion has three production seasons: Kharif (transplanting in July-August and harvesting in October-December), late-kharif (October-November and January-March) and rabi (December-January and April-May). In 2018-19, India's estimated total onion output was 234.85 lt, of which the rabi crop contributed over 65%, with the rest from late-kharif (20%) and kharif (15%). This time, the kharif planted area was about 7% less than last year due to the southwest monsoon's late arrival. Further, extended and untimely rains during September-October in Maharashtra, MP and Karnataka — the three states together account for roughly two-thirds of India's production — caused substantial damage to the standing crop.

There's no clarity as yet on the late-kharif onions that will start arriving in a month's time. However, going by the Union Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan's reply to a Parliament question on November 19, the output of both the kharif and late-kharif crop this year is reckoned at 52.06 lt, 26% lower than the corresponding 69.91 lt for 2018-19. Such a magnitude of drop — almost 18 lt — cannot obviously be met through imports.

"We've had an unusual combination of a 3-4 weeks delay in sowings from drought-like conditions initially and then, heavy rains towards the harvesting stage. Together, they have resulted in actual physical shortage, which is reflected in arrivals here falling to hardly a third of the normal for this time" points out Jaydutt Holkar, chairman of the agriculture produce market committee (APMC) at Lasalgaon.

Around 17,000 tonnes of imported onions — 11,000 tonnes from Turkey and the remaining from Egypt — are slated to land in the Mumbai port over the next few days. MMTC is expected to float more tenders for imports in the coming weeks. While the



On November 9, the Centre approved the import of one lakh tonne of onion through MMTC Ltd. Pavan Khengre

Modi government has also relaxed the requirements for fumigation against pests and diseases — which, in normal circumstances, has to be mandatorily done at the country from where exports are originating — that hasn't, however, spurred private imports.

Suresh Deshmukh, a commission agent at the Dindori APMC of Maharashtra's Nashik district, puts the total imports by private parties at 5,000 tonnes since September and does not foresee it going up much. "The landed cost of imported onions in September was Rs 30-35 per kg. The retail price, after adding grading, packing, transportation and other charges, would have come to Rs 45-50. But today, the landed cost itself has risen to Rs 50-60 and the retail price will work out to Rs 65-75 per kg, which is close to domestic levels. Nobody will want to risk imports based on today's market prices," he notes.

Vilas Bhujbal, a commission agent operating out of Pune's APMC, claims that imported onions have a limited retail market, as they lack the pungency of the local produce. "The ones who will buy are mostly hotels, restaurants and other institutional customers," he adds.

For now, the possibility of prices significantly cooling down seems remote. That may not be great news for the Modi government, especially in the context of the Assembly elections underway in Jharkhand. There's already some talk of 'pyaaz' being a factor there, just as 'dal' was during the Bihar polls in October-November 2015.

What's not as much in doubt is that the rabi crop, whose plantings are just about to start, would be a bumper one. Favourable soil moisture conditions, not to speak of prices, are likely to impel farmers to sow more area. The danger is if the current export and stocking restrictions continue beyond March, when the new rabi onions — which are amenable to storage due to their lower moisture content — are due for harvesting. Such restrictions in pulses, clamped when *arhar dal* prices scaled Rs 180-200/kg, were not lifted even after a record domestic production, on top of all-time-high imports, in 2016-17.

For the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, a repeat of Bihar-2015 in Jharkhand-2019 would be bad. But for onion growers, there can be nothing worse if the policy response in *dal* post Bihar is replicated for *pyaaz* even after the Jharkhand elections.

AGRICULTURE POLICY

Strengthening agri-food value chains for farmer welfare

The old output-centric approach must give way to demand-driven production that focuses on raising farmers' income and consumer interest



ALKA BHARGAVA

DEVELOPMENT OF robust agri-food value chains (FVC) are extremely important in India to capitalise on the gains made in production in recent years. It is the key to ensuring that our small and marginal farmers also partake in the spin-off benefits from the country transitioning from a subsistence ship-to-mouth importer of food, to one that is self-sufficient and output-surplus. This has also led to a paradigm shift, from a production-centric to an income-centric agri-system approach, a thinking that is reflected in the national commitment of Doubling Farmers Income by 2022.

Central to the new approach is the focus on post-harvest management and introduction of progressive agri-market reforms. The primary requirement here is to have demand-driven production of agricultural produce, rather than production-propelled marketing. This would entail developing more farm-level storage and primary processing facilities, aggregation hubs, and marketing

and cold chain infrastructure for produce. These will further be linked to electronic negotiable warehouse receipts, enabling farmers to access bank credit through pledge finance and not resort to distress sale of produce. The government is also working on upgrading 22,000 rural *haats* into Gramin Agricultural Markets and connecting them to the pan-India e-NAM electronic trading portal, just as the 585 larger APMC (agricultural produce market committee) *mandis* already connected to this platform.

Market imperfections and inadequate infrastructure for handling harvested produce are now resulting in extended supply chains — from the farmer, commission agent, wholesale trader and retailer, to the consumer. This is deleterious both for the farmer, who gets a lower share of the consumer rupee, and the latter, who has to pay more because of the higher marketing costs as well as post-harvest losses, especially for perishable produce.

States are, therefore, being encouraged to undertake reforms through replacement of their existing APMC laws with the Model Agriculture Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2017, besides adoption of the Model Contract Farming and Services Act, 2018. The provisions of freedom to the farmer to sell directly to any buyer and single-point levy of market fee across a State, along with the creation of a



Cooperative dairies are a good example of what food value chains can do. Bhupendra Rana

unified national market through e-NAM, can change the entire dynamics of agricultural produce marketing in India.

The objective behind the above reforms is to expand the horizontal reach of farmers, by disseminating transparent price information beyond their nearest *mandis* and giving them a wider choice of where, when and whom to sell. Contract farming can promote FVCs through creation of an assured market and ensuring price stability, apart from leading farmers to tailor the quantity as well as quality of their produce to the pre-decided demand of buyers. Linked to FVCs is also access to institutional credit and customised financial

products; the Interest Subvention Scheme and the recent Kisan Credit Card (KCC) saturation campaign of banks are steps in this direction. At the "tail" of the chain is a robust system of marketing intelligence to provide demand-led decision-making through forecasting of agricultural produce demand-and-supply and better crop selection. These would further aid price stabilisation and risk management.

We have an already successful FVC model in the dairy sector, which was facilitated by an enabling institutional and policy environment focussing on farmers' access to markets as much as animal productivity. The "Amul" model — of a three-tier cooperative structure

of village societies collecting milk, processing it at district union dairies and entrusting marketing to a state-level federation — was evolved in Gujarat and replicated in other states through the Operation Flood programme. This model is testimony to how farmers can benefit from access not only to markets, but also inputs, technology, information and financial products. Commercial banks, until recently, weren't inclined to lend to small and marginal dairy farmers, who outnumber large farmers in dairy cooperatives, though their share in milk procurement per se may be less. Moreover, loans to dairy farmers were being treated as investment credit, primarily meant for purchase of animals, construction of sheds, etc. However, a value chain with product market orientation could serve as collateral for financing even small dairy farmers, with the lead firms — in this case, cooperatives — facilitating access to credit. In 2018, the KCC facility was extended to livestock and fisheries farmers for meeting their working capital requirements, along with the benefits of the existing 2% interest subvention and 3% prompt repayment incentive.

Promoting FVCs will, in addition to boosting farmers' incomes, also provide impetus to rural employment, skills and entrepreneur development — whether in primary processing services or movement of produce. The industry can strategically deploy vendor development budgets to train village communities for taking up such skilling activities that would enhance local employability beyond the traditional occupation of agriculture, thereby reducing rural-urban migration. It is necessary in this context to also underline the impor-

tance of "waste to wealth" conversion, by making use of every kg of produce from the farm that can be an additional source of income. The farmer can capture more value from his/her produce, both through "addition" (primary processing at village level, paste and powder making, pickling, etc.) and "recovery" from by-products (converting paddy straw to fibreboard, briquetting, biodegradable substitutes for plastic, cow dung logs, urea-enriched fodder, biogas, etc.). Besides, there are possibilities for "diversification" via allied rural vocations such as bee-keeping, venom farming, breeding, sericulture, agro-forestry and agri-tourism.

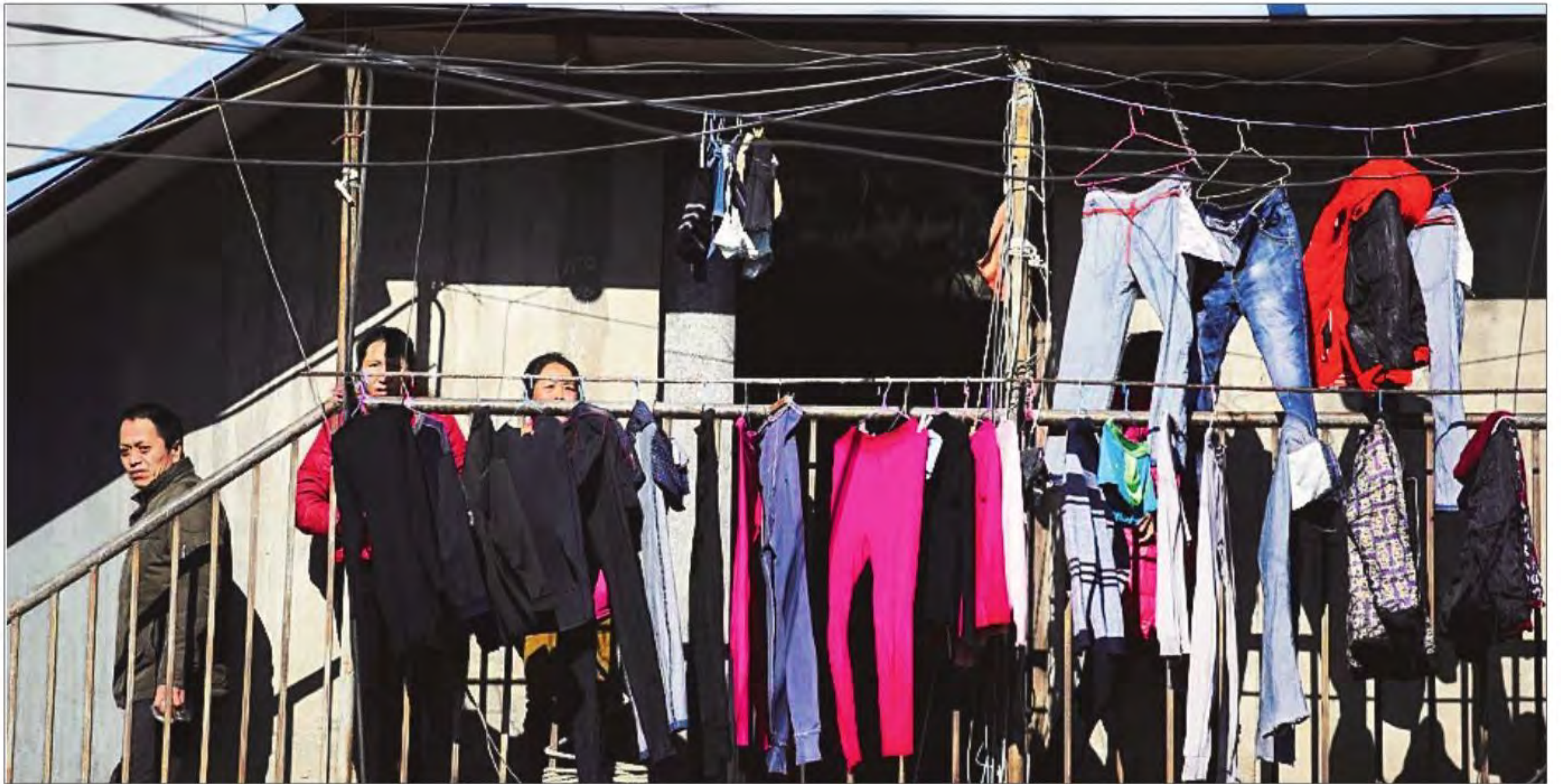
India houses 18% of the world's human and 15% of livestock population, while subsisting on just 2.2% of its geographical area, 4.2% of freshwater resources, 1% of forest and 0.5% of pasture land. On top of these are the challenges of climate change, shrinking holding size (more than 80% of the farmers are small and marginal) and nearly 52% of the agricultural land being un-irrigated. Even in the face of such adversities, our farmers — by marrying their traditional knowledge with adoption of technology, high-yielding and climate-resilient varieties/hybrids and modern inputs — have made India largely self-sufficient through record production of 285 million tonnes of foodgrains and 311 million tonnes of fruits and vegetables. Now is the time for us to return the favour — by converting all this output into more value and income for the farmer.

The writer is Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India

CHAGUAN

Heroic, expendable

The migrants who made China an industrial giant face a grim retirement



A village mainly inhabited by migrant workers in Tongzhou district of Beijing, in December 2017. There are 288m migrant workers in China, of whom 173m work far from their home towns. Reuters

EVEN IN A China filled with the shiny and the new, the southern city of Guangzhou stands out. A generation ago it was a smoggy, sweltering sprawl of factories and workshops, a bit embarrassed by its history as a semi-colony of Western powers, who knew it as Canton. Now Guangzhou aspires to be a hub of global commerce. It boasts the 600-metre tall Canton Tower, an opera house designed by Zaha Hadid and high-speed trains that can reach Beijing, 2,300km to the north, in just eight hours. Yet Guangzhou's rise had human costs. The province of Guangdong, of which it is the capital, is a hotbed of worker unrest, with 129 strikes and protests logged this year by China Labour Bulletin (CLB), a Hong Kong-based monitor of workers' rights. A growing number involve workers reaching retirement age, who discover that—because they fall through gaps in the welfare safety-net, or because employers skimmed on pension contributions—a meagre future awaits.

China's migrant workers, who for 30 years have left inland villages and townships for coastal boomtowns, are growing old. Their average age is now over 40. Nearly a quarter are over 50. More than a tenth of all strikes, sit-ins and

protests recorded by CLB in 2018 and 2019 involved rows over pensions and social insurance. The latest national survey on living conditions of the urban and rural elderly, published in 2018 on the orders of the Communist Party's Central Committee, describes startling inequalities. About 100m retired Chinese covered by the unified basic urban pension system, to which most full-time urban workers contribute, received average monthly benefits of 2,600 yuan (\$369) in 2016. But about 150m retirees had to make do with a state pension scheme open to both urban and rural residents. They received on average 117 yuan (\$17) a month, a pittance even in a poor region.

There are 288m migrant workers in China, of whom 173m work far from their home towns. In theory, they should enjoy the same social protections as urban Chinese with permanent residence permits who live in big cities like Guangzhou. They do not. Today's 40- and 50-something Chinese migrants are a "lost generation", argues Mark Frazier of the New School in New York. They fall between the oldest, pioneering migrant workers who were expected to head back to the countryside in retirement to eke out a living from

tiny plots of land, and today's 20-something workers, who are less inclined to seek distant factory jobs and are more likely to be covered by social-security protections from a patchwork of new labour laws and insurance schemes. Few see the current system as sustainable, amid gloomy statistics about falling birth rates and the shaky finances of the main urban pension fund: the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences predicts it will go bust by 2035. Plans are afoot to increase China's retirement age, which is normally 60 for men, 55 for women in white-collar jobs and 50 for female blue-collar workers, though the rules vary by region.

None of those plans will help a group of older workers who spoke to Chaguan recently in Guangdong. The seven women and one man showed hands too

damaged by factory work to pour tea without shaking. They shared stories of parental guilt after failing to return home for two or three years at a time, leaving children to be brought up by grandparents. Even during the spring festival, an occasion for family reunions, there was valuable overtime to be earned, said a 50-year-old woman from Hubei province. Besides, returning to the village would have involved long train journeys and buying clothes, shoes and other gifts for many relatives. "We spent 20 spring festivals here," she said wistfully. Unfortunately, before she reached retirement age in September, she learned that she could not draw her full pension in Guangdong because she began to make social-insurance payments after she was 40. If she had local residency she could make back-pay-

ments towards the 15 years of contributions needed. As a migrant, her only option was to return to Hubei, where her pension might come to 600 yuan (\$85) a month. She compared her fate to an old, bitter saying: "Unharness the donkey from the grindstone, then butcher it."

Another woman had worked at a handbag factory owned by Simone, a South Korean firm, for nearly 20 years. She alleged that her employer had failed to make the correct payments into a state housing-savings fund that serves as a second pension for many. After she complained, she said the firm had denied her overtime and warned other workers to avoid her. Simone denies these allegations. It says it takes employee benefits seriously and "strictly follows" and even exceeds China's labour-law requirements.

A people's republic, for the benefit of bosses

The eight workers had varied problems, but all described a system in which social stability is the authorities' guiding obsession. That preoccupation can offer workers slivers of power if they make just enough trouble, perhaps by staging a respectful sit-in at a govern-

ment office or party-controlled trade union (China bans independent ones). If enough workers complain, companies will often "budge and pay", one of the workers said. When they go further and organise, for instance through social-media groups, repression follows. In March, during meetings of the national legislature in Beijing, some workers in Guangdong used social media to discuss submitting a petition to the central government. The term "petition" triggered an algorithm. Police dragged workers from dormitory beds and humiliated them with strip searches, Chaguan was told. Other workers were reportedly evicted after landlords were told they were "problematic" by officials.

Many of the hardships described around that table in Guangdong would cost only small sums to resolve. Alas, it would also involve those who wield power deferring to the rights of individual workers. Instead, those workers must navigate a ruthless system in which they must plead and bargain for what they have earned. A remarkable generation of migrants built the new China. They are still paying the costs, in broken hands, backs and hearts.

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Few see the current system as sustainable, amid gloomy statistics about falling birth rates and the shaky finances of the main urban pension fund: the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences predicts it will go bust by 2035. Plans are afoot to increase China's retirement age

REPRESSION IN EGYPT

Sisi and son

The authorities in Egypt raid Mada Masr — and reveal their fears

UNTIL LATE November the staff at Mada Masr, an online newspaper, would sometimes wonder, only half in jest, why they had not been arrested. These are bleak times for Egypt's press. No country, except for China and Turkey, locks up more journalists. A private-equity firm with links to the security services has snapped up once-popular newspapers and television stations. Most media outlets are now controlled by the state or its allies. The regime dictates headlines to servile editors.

Founded in 2013, Mada Masr (which means "the scope of Egypt") is a rare exception. It is the last big venue for free, critical journalism in Egypt. Although its website has been blocked in the country for the past two years, its content can still be perused using a virtual private network (VPN) or on Facebook. Authorities have not moved to shut it down, perhaps in part due to its prominence abroad. Published in Arabic and English, it is a vital resource for diplomats and analysts.

But just before dawn on November 23rd plainclothes officers arrested one of its editors, Shady Zalut, at his flat in Cairo. They did not have a warrant. The next afternoon police raided Mada Masr's office, confiscating phones and detaining three of its staff,

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including the editor-in-chief, Lina Atallah. As police raids go in Egypt, this one was mild. All three were released within hours. So was Mr Zalut, dropped unceremoniously on the side of a highway. Still, the raid was a warning—one that reveals much about the regime's fears.

Egypt's public prosecutor claimed that the website had links to the Muslim Brotherhood, a banned Islamist movement. That was a predictable assertion—the Brotherhood is blamed for everything in Egypt. It is also laughable. Mada Masr has a leftist bent, and many of its journalists sharply criticised the Brotherhood during

its bumbling year in power.

It seems more likely that the raid was triggered by a critical report about Mahmoud al-Sisi, the eldest son of President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi, Egypt's army-backed dictator. Mahmoud has risen rapidly through the ranks of the General Intelligence Service (GIS), a spy agency that reports directly to the president. According to Mada Masr, however, Mahmoud will soon be quietly packed off to Egypt's embassy in Moscow.

Branches of Egypt's sprawling security apparatus have long competed for influence. Gamal Abdel Nasser, a former president, used the GIS as a tool to monitor rivals in the army. The elder Mr Sisi has tried to pack the agency with loyalists, many plucked from the military-intelligence service where he spent a career in uniform. That has rankled long-serving officers, as has Mahmoud's prominent role.

The son's performance has not won many plaudits either, reports Mada Masr. One of his portfolios, as a sort of media tsar, seems to have left even his father unimpressed: Mr Sisi has criticised Egypt's press for being insufficiently supportive. The last straw seems to have been Mahmoud's handling of unexpected protests in September. These were triggered by videos shot by Muhammad Ali, a businessman and film star who claimed to know details of corruption in projects being overseen by the armed forces.

The protests were small and fizzled out within a week. They posed no serious threat. But the regime reacted furiously. More than 4,000 people were arrested, a figure that may far exceed the number of actual protesters. For weeks, police in downtown Cairo would force passers-by to



Mr Sisi has criticised Egypt's press for being insufficiently supportive. Reuters

unlock their phones so officers could check their social-media accounts for subversive content. If anything, the crackdown brought more attention to the protests.

The regime is trying to crush any other forms of dissent, too. This month police arrested a Coptic activist, Rami Kamel, and charged him with terrorism for his work documenting attacks on Christians, which often go unpunished. Economists who question the official narrative can find

themselves hauled in for a different sort of questioning. And earlier this month the government offered a tour of Tora prison, which is notorious for torture. Inmates, no doubt free to speak their minds, praised the quality of the food.

Mahmoud, for his part, is not gone. His new assignment looks more like a cooling-off period than a permanent sidelining. Russia is hardly a backwater. But the move is a rare concession from a regime loth to

admit failure. The elder Mr Sisi argues that Egypt needs a stable hand after years of political chaos. This stability has a Potemkin quality to it. He is repeating many of the mistakes of his predecessors, from a focus on state-led economic growth to a reliance on favourite sons. And his defences, in the face of rare but legitimate criticism, are increasingly threadbare.

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Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Munna Lal S/o Chhedil Agrawal R/o Moh. Agrawal Sasaki, Sasin **, Hathras, UP-204216, have changed my name to Munna Lal Agrawal for future. 0040519848-6

I, Ashesh Agrawal S/o Munna Lal Agrawal R/o H.No. G-3/GF/10E, Judge Colony, near Apex green, Sector-9, vaishali, Ghaziabad, UP-201010, have changed my name to Ashish Kumar Agarwal for future. 0040519848-5

I, MILAN holder Indian passport No.N6117297 issued at delhi on 16/12/15 permanent resident id A-41 Street No 2, North Vinod Nagar, Delhi, 110092, and presently residing at 572-56th Ee Ave, Vancouver, BC, V5X1R7 do hereby change my name from MILAN to MILAN CHAUHAN with immediate effect. 0040522848-1

It is for general information that I, SONIYA W/o SH. AMIT SHARMA, Residing at C-479/A, Street No-20, Bhajanpura, Delhi-110053 inform that name of mine has been wrongly written as SONIA SHARMA. The actual name of mine is SONIYA, which may be amended accordingly. 0040522927-1

I, Pradeep Singh alias Pradeep Tyagi alias P.K.Tyagi R/o-G-1/260, Shalimar Garden Extension-1, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201005, have changed my name to Pradeep Kumar Tyagi Permanently. 0040522971-3

I, Ashish Thapar, S/o MWO Rakesh Thapar R/o-H.No.-D-2, Street. No.5, East Azad Nagar, Delhi-110051, have changed my name, from Ashish Thapar to Aashish Thapar vide affidavit dated 27.11.2019, before New District Court-Ludhiana. 0040523026-3

I, Amandeep S/O Joginder Singh R/O C-40, Nehru Vihar, Delhi-110054. Have Changed My Name To Aman Deep Singh. 0040523013-3

I, Ajit Nair S/O Purushottam Sumsra Nair R/o-1035, S-1, Niti Khand-1, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad-201014, have changed my minor son Name from Rudraksha to Rudraksha Nair. 0040522971-1

I, hitherto known as Sanjeev Kumar@Sanjeev Kumar Aggarwal S/o Sh. Ram Lal R/o-1768, Gali No.131, Shanti Nagar, Tril Nagar, Delhi-110035 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sanjeev Kumar Aggarwal. 0040523008-8

I, hitherto known as Rajesh Kumar alias Rajesh Kumar Lavania S/o Ghanshyam Prasad Lavania R/O Flat No.128, Pocket-D, Dilshad Garden, Delhi-110095 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Rajesh Kumar Lavania. 0040522953-1

I, Zabbar Ali S/O Hanif R/O-27, B-1 Block, Aman Vihar, Kirari, Suleman Nagar, Delhi-110086. Changed My Name to Jabbar Ali. 0040523013-4

I, Yatharth S/o Mahender Kumar, Residing at D-202, Swami Dayanand Apartments, Plot No.5, Sec-6, Dwarka, Delhi-110075 have changed my name to Yatharth Daksh, for all Future Purposes. 0040523008-6

I, Vinod Chopra S/O Mr. Manhor Lal Chopra R/O A-47, Gurgaon Wala Town, Part-1, Delhi-110009. Have changed my name from Vinod Chopra to Vinod Kumar Chopra for all future purposes. 0040522948-1

I, Vidhi D/O Shri Rajkumar Singh R/O-D-19/1, Chhattarpur Extension, New-Delhi-110074. Have Changed My Name To Vidhi Raghav, For All Future Purposes. 0040523026-4

I, Usha Dixit W/o Rajesh Kumar Lavania R/O Flat No.128, Pocket-D, Dilshad Garden, Delhi-110095 have changed my name to Usha Lavania for all purposes. 0040522953-2

I, Syed Mohammad Akhlaq S/O Kamil R/O 181, In Paas Of Door Darshan Kendra, Bas Deoria, Ward No-19, Deoria, Uttar Pradesh-274001, have changed my name to Ekhlak Ahmad for all purposes. 0040522939-1

I, Sushma W/o Hemant Dharni R/O-F-314, Piyush Heights, Sector-89, Old Faridabad, Haryana-121002 have changed my name to Sushma Sharma for all purposes. 0040522940-2

I, Sujata Sanyal W/o Deep Chakraborty R/O Baniniketan School Road, PO-Nabapally, PS-Barasat District-24, Parganas North Pin-700126, State-West Bengal, have changed my name to Sujata Sanyal Chakraborty for all purposes. 0040522950-1

I, Shuchismita Chakraborty D/O Sh. Samarens Chakraborty R/O-B-11, Flat No-2, G/F, M.B-Road, Vishwakarma-Colony, Pul Pehludpur, New Delhi-110044 have changed my name to Shuchismita Chatterjee Permanently. 0040522999-10

I, Prem Lata W/o Surinder Paul Chinda R/O H.No.J-1, Sec-25, Jal Vayu Vihar Noida UP-201301 have changed my name to Prem Lata Chinda for all purposes. 0040522995-1

I, Pradeep Kumar Gupta S/O-Ram Prakash Gupta R/O-B-1/41, Sector-16, Rohini, Delhi-110089, have changed my name to Pradeep Gupta for all purposes. 0040522985-1

I, Navneet Kumar S/O Bashistha Kumar Mishra R/O A-47, Gurgaon Wala Town, Part-1, Delhi-9, have changed my name to Amit Dev Chopra for all future purposes. 0040522945-1

I, Sudha Ray W/O-Surya Prakash R/O B-3/497, Duggal Farm, Tara-Nagar, Kakrola Dwarka Delhi.Changed My Name To Sudha Roy. 0040523026-5

I, Aliyakhatoon Khan D/o Muzafferullah R/O 149/150, Top Floor, Lane 10, Zakir Nagar, Delhi-110025, informs that my names Aliyakhatoon Khan, Aliya Khatoun Khan, Aliya Khatoun Sherwani and Aliya Sherwani are all same and one person that is me. My correct name for documentation purpose in future will be Aliyakhatoon Khan. 0040522967-1

I, Akash Deep R/O S-682/683, School Block, Gali No.8, Near Railway Line Shakurpur Delhi-110092 have changed my minor son's name from Akshdeep Sharma to Aarav Vats for all purposes. 0040522946-1

I, hitherto known as Kiran Paliwal D/O Sh. Devki Nandan Paliwal W/o. Sh. Jagdish Joshi residing at RZC-10/9, Gali No.21, Sadh Nagar, Palam Colony, New Delhi-110045 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Kiran Joshi. 0040522949-1

I, Wailullah S/O Mohd Ekramul Haque R/O D-236, 3rd Floor, Abul Fazal Enclave-1, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, Delhi-25 have Changed my Name From Wailullah to Waliullah Mohd Ekramul Haque for All Future purposes. 0040522954-1

I, Vir Abhimanyu Dewan S/O Late Darshan Lal Diwan R/O A-9A/3, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi is also known as V.A. Dewan. Both names are of one & the same person. 0040522931-3

I, Jagvati Sharma W/o Satish Sharma R/O 140 Rohit Vihar, Saharanpur, have changed my name to Rekha Sharma for all purposes. 0040522936-1

I, Hemant Dharni S/O Ved Prakash Dharni R/O F-314, Piyush Heights, Sector-89, Old Faridabad, Haryana-121002, have changed my name from Hemant Sharma to Hemant Dharni. Informs that Hemant Dharni and Hemant Sharma are one and same person. 0040522940-3

I, Harvinder Singh S/o Bhajan Singh R/O-RZ-132, Gali No-15, Tughlakabad-Extn. Delhi-110019, Have Changed my name to Harinder Singh, for all future purposes. 0040523026-7

I, Harmeet Singh S/o Gurdeep Singh Sethi R/O C-101, Inderpuri, Delhi-110012, have changed my name to HARMEET SINGH SETHI. 0040522951-1

I, HARNEET SACHDEVA W/O Sarjvit Singh R/O S.P-36, D-Park, Pandav Nagar, Opposite Mother Dairy, Delhi-110092 have changed my name to HARNEET KAUR for all purposes. 0040522964-1

I, Gurpriti Singh S/O Mekan Singh Ghai R/O HP-148, Pitam Pura Delhi-110088 have changed my name to Gurpreet Singh Ghai. 0040523008-3

I, Fozia R/O-Plot No.862, Flat No.203, Near-Dayanand Park, Shalimar Garden-Ext, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, have changed my son's name from Mohammad Shaifan Saud to Mohd Shaifan Saud. 0040523008-2

I, Dilpreet Kaur Sawhney W/O-Nirmal Singh Sawhney, R/O-A92, Narang-Colony, JanakPuri New Delhi. Have Changed My Name To Dilpreet Kaur, For All Purposes 0040523026-1

I, Deepika Dahiya, W/O-Saurabh Sanwal, R/O-E-1/8/30, Sec-15, Rohini, New Delhi-110089, have changed my name to Deepika Sanwal for all purposes. 0040522947-1

I, Chand Singh Verma S/O Kewal Singh R/O TU-12, 3rd Floor Pitampura Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Chand Singh. 0040523008-1

I, Ashok Kumar, Ashok Kumar Singh Yadav and A.K. Singh S/O Shri Chaudhary R. S. Singh R/O. 511,1st Floor, Shakti khand-3, Indrapuram, I.E. Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, U.P. 201014 have changed my name from Ashok Kumar, Ashok Kumar Singh Yadav and A.K. Singh to Ashok Kumar Singh for all future purposes 0040522996-1

I, Arvind S/O Purnan Singh R/O E-8-C, Bhagwati Garden Extension, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059, have changed my name to ARVIND BHANDARI. 0040522929-1

I, Ankita, D/o Sh. Suresh Kumar Gupta, R/O-H.No.7/438, Near Sardar Milk Dairy, Jamalpura, Sonipat, Haryana-131001, have changed my name to Ankita Gupta for all purposes. 0040523008-10

I, Anjana Kumari Shaberwal R/O C2-406, PWO Housing Society, Sector 43, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001 have changed my name to Anjana Narwal. 0070686633-1

I, Amit Sethi S/O Suresh Chander Sethi R/O 8-Chinar Drive-DF, Chhattarpur-Farms New-Delhi-110074, have changed my name to Amit Suresh Sethi. 0040523026-6

I, Bhivender Kumar Sharma R/O A-40/D Paschim Puri, New Sium Qtrs, West Delhi-110063 Have Changed My Name To Bhivender Kumar Sharma For All Purposes 0070686616-1

I, Amit Chopra S/O Mr. Vinod Kumar Chopra R/O A-47, Gurgaon Wala Town, Part-1, Delhi-9, have changed my name to Amit Dev Chopra for all future purposes. 0040522945-1

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I, Akash Deep R/O S-682/683, School Block, Gali No.8, Near Railway Line Shakurpur Delhi-110092 have changed my minor son's name from Akshdeep Sharma to Aarav Vats for all purposes. 0040522946-1

I, hitherto known as Kiran Paliwal D/O Sh. Devki Nandan Paliwal W/o. Sh. Jagdish Joshi residing at RZC-10/9, Gali No.21, Sadh Nagar, Palam Colony, New Delhi-110045 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Kiran Joshi. 0040522949-1

I, Wailullah S/O Mohd Ekramul Haque R/O D-236, 3rd Floor, Abul Fazal Enclave-1, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, Delhi-25 have Changed my Name From Wailullah to Waliullah Mohd Ekramul Haque for All Future purposes. 0040522954-1

I, Vir Abhimanyu Dewan S/O Late Darshan Lal Diwan R/O A-9A/3, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi is also known as V.A. Dewan. Both names are of one & the same person. 0040522931-3

I, Jagvati Sharma W/o Satish Sharma R/O 140 Rohit Vihar, Saharanpur, have changed my name to Rekha Sharma for all purposes. 0040522936-1

I, Hemant Dharni S/O Ved Prakash Dharni R/O F-314, Piyush Heights, Sector-89, Old Faridabad, Haryana-121002, have changed my name from Hemant Sharma to Hemant Dharni. Informs that Hemant Dharni and Hemant Sharma are one and same person. 0040522940-3

I, Harvinder Singh S/o Bhajan Singh R/O-RZ-132, Gali No-15, Tughlakabad-Extn. Delhi-110019, Have Changed my name to Harinder Singh, for all future purposes. 0040523026-7

I, Harmeet Singh S/o Gurdeep Singh Sethi R/O C-101, Inderpuri, Delhi-110012, have changed my name to HARMEET SINGH SETHI. 0040522951-1

I, HARNEET SACHDEVA W/O Sarjvit Singh R/O S.P-36, D-Park, Pandav Nagar, Opposite Mother Dairy, Delhi-110092 have changed my name to HARNEET KAUR for all purposes. 0040522964-1

I, Gurpriti Singh S/O Mekan Singh Ghai R/O HP-148, Pitam Pura Delhi-110088 have changed my name to Gurpreet Singh Ghai. 0040523008-3

I, Fozia R/O-Plot No.862, Flat No.203, Near-Dayanand Park, Shalimar Garden-Ext, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, have changed my son's name from Mohammad Shaifan Saud to Mohd Shaifan Saud. 0040523008-2

I, Dilpreet Kaur Sawhney W/O-Nirmal Singh Sawhney, R/O-A92, Narang-Colony, JanakPuri New Delhi. Have Changed My Name To Dilpreet Kaur, For All Purposes 0040523026-1

I, Deepika Dahiya, W/O-Saurabh Sanwal, R/O-E-1/8/30, Sec-15, Rohini, New Delhi-110089, have changed my name to Deepika Sanwal for all purposes. 0040522947-1

I, Chand Singh Verma S/O Kewal Singh R/O TU-12, 3rd Floor Pitampura Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Chand Singh. 0040523008-1

I, Ashok Kumar, Ashok Kumar Singh Yadav and A.K. Singh S/O Shri Chaudhary R. S. Singh R/O. 511,1st Floor, Shakti khand-3, Indrapuram, I.E. Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, U.P. 201014 have changed my name from Ashok Kumar, Ashok Kumar Singh Yadav and A.K. Singh to Ashok Kumar Singh for all future purposes 0040522996-1

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that one lady namely Prerena W/o Neeraj R/o H. No.A-293, Gali No.4, Sec-1, Mohan Garden, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 23.09.2019 from the area of P.S. Ranhola, Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 02-A dated 27.09.2019 has been registered at PS. Ranhola, Delhi. The description of missing/kidnapped lady is as under:

Name : Prerena, Husband's Name : Neeraj, Age : 35 years, Height : 5', Face : Long, Complexion : Fair, Wearing : Black Suit - Red Salwar and black Jutti in feet.

If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned.

Website : <http://cbl.nic.in>
e-mail : cbl@cbi.gov.in
Ph : 011-24368638, 24368641
DP/2917/OD/19

Prerena

DHEERAJ GAUTAM
Ch.No.826, Lawyers Chambers BlockDist. Court. Dwarka Sec.10, New Delhi-75

CENTRAL WAREHOUSING CORPORATION

(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
ENGINEERING SECTION, REGIONAL OFFICE - DELHI
Scope: Minor, Core-3, 1st Floor, Laxmi Nagar Distt. Centre, Delhi-110092. Ph: 011-22464070 Fax: 011-22464070. E-mail: cewcdli@yahoo.in

WAREHOUSING FOR EVERYONE

No. CWC/R-DLI/Engg Section/PRESS NOTE/2019-20/2809 Date: 03.12.2019

PRESS NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

CWC invites online tenders from the approved contractors of appropriate class for the following works:-

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (In Lakhs)	Last date of online submission of tenders
1.	Construction of over head Tanks and underground Tank of Fire Fighting Systems at ICD, Patparganj, Delhi	42.18	20.12.2019 upto 15.00 Hrs.
2.	Construction of Temporary Open M.S. Shed measuring 96x7.5 mtr at CW, Okhla-II, New Delhi.	26.96	20.12.2019 upto 15.00 Hrs.
3.	Construction of Temporary Open M.S. Shed measuring 35x20 mtr at CW, Okhla-II, New Delhi.	30.16	20.12.2019 upto 15.00 Hrs.

Detailed Tender Notice alongwith conditions of contract and Notice Inviting E-Tender may be seen and downloaded from the website www.cwcprocurement.gov.in or www.cwcprocure.com or www.tenderhome.com

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR

(Telefax No. 019-2496089, E-Mail id: xenmchchk@yahoo.in)

GIST OF e-NIT No: MHCHD/IS/2019-20/87/ e-Tendering Dated: 28.11.2019

For and on behalf of the Governor, J&K State e-Tenders are invited from Registered/Reputed/experienced firms with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work:-

Name of Work	Est. Cost (In Lacs)	Cost of T/Dec. (in Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time of Comp-letion (in days)	Position of Funds	
1	Shifting and Installation of 625 KVA DG set along with allied works from Govt. Paediatric Hospital Bemina to Govt. GB pant Hospital, Srinagar.	6.20	500	12500	05	Demanded

- The Tender Document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of Quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of Contract and other details can be Seen/Downloaded from the departmental website: www.jktenders.gov.in from 29.11.2019 (18.00 hrs).
- The Bidders shall Deposit their Bids in electronic format on the above website from 20.11.2019 (18.00 hrs) to 09.12.2019 (14.00 hrs) in Two (02) covers.
- The Bid uploaded on the website upto due date and time will be opened on 09.12.2019 (15.00 hrs) or any date convenient to the department in the Office of Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar

No: MHCHD/IS/3591-95
DIPK-NB: 1116

कार्यालय अधिष्ठाता

स्व. श्री लखीराम अग्रवाल स्मृति शासकीय चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, रायगढ (छत्तीसगढ)
(दूरभाष क्र.: 07762-220742 वेबसाइट- www.gmcraigarh.edu.in ई मेल- www.gmcraigarh.2013@gmail.com)
क्रमांक/सा.च.म./स्वा./2019/11,111 रायगढ, दिनांक 25/11/2019

// Walk-in-Interview //

स्व. श्री लखीराम अग्रवाल स्मृति, चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, रायगढ में निम्नलिखित पदों पर संविदा भर्ती छ.ग. स्विचल सेवा (संविदा नियुक्ति) नियम 2012 में उद्घोषित पदों के अधीन किया जाना है, इस हेतु विज्ञापन प्रकाशन तिथि से शासकीय चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, रायगढ (छ.ग.) में प्रत्येक कार्य दिवस में 'वाक-इन-इन्टरव्यू' आयोजित है।
प्राथमिक, सह-प्राथमिक, सहायक प्राथमिक, प्रदर्शन, सैनिकरी रसोईदार एवं जूनियर रसोईदार के रिक्तता के संबंध में वर्तमान जानकारी निम्नानुसार है:-

Sl. No.	Department	Post	Associate Professor	Asst. Professor	Demonstrator	Senior Resident	Junior Resident
1	Anatomy	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Biochemistry	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Physiology	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Pharmacology	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Pathology	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Microbiology	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Forensic Medicine	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	PSM	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	General Medicine	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Paediatrics	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	OT & Theatre	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Gen. Surg.	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	Orthopaedics	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	ENT	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Ophthalmology	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	ENT	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	Orthopaedics	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	Physiology	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Anesthesiology	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	0	0	0	0	0	0
21	Physiology	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	Dentistry	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total No. of Posts			08	18	6	5	26

*वाक-इन-इन्टरव्यू के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं आवेदनक दिशा-निर्देश एवं शर्तों के संबंध में जानकारी शासकीय चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, रायगढ के वेबसाइट- www.gmcraigarh.edu.in में उपलब्ध है।
हस्ता- अधिष्ठाता
स्व. श्री लखीराम अग्रवाल स्मृति चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, रायगढ (छ.ग.)

G-75575

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY

ATOMIC MINERALS DIRECTORATE FOR EXPLORATION AND RESEARCH

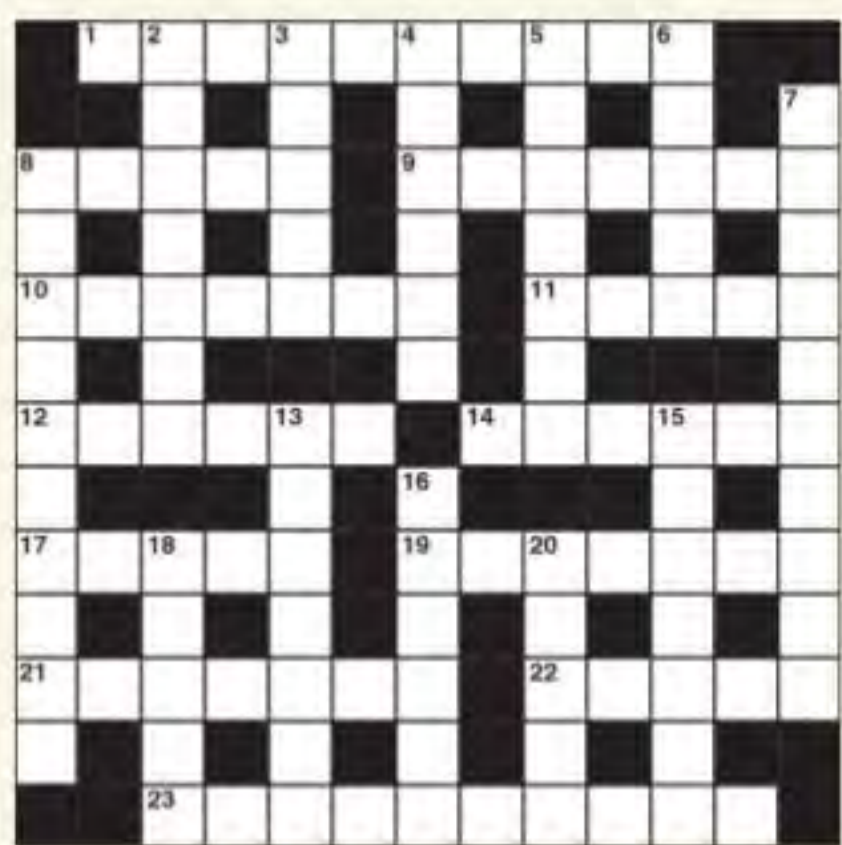
No. 1-10-153-156, AMD COMPLEX, BEGUMPET, HYDERABAD - 500016

BRIEF TENDER NOTICE

NIT No. AMD/CD/ER/CORE/2019-20/T-169-171 DATE : 27.11.2019

The Director, (AMD), Begumpet, Hyderabad invites for and on behalf of the President of India, sealed tenders in two parts (TECHNICAL and COMMERCIAL) from eligible Core Drilling contractors, for the following three Drilling works in Jharkhand.

CROSSWORD 3980



- ACROSS**
- Sees badly yet sees boy following (4,4,2)
 - Burdened a boy with directions (5)
 - Leave a musical group and have no comeback (7)
 - Warm drink (7)
 - The current means of escape for the world (5)
 - Frenzied woman made an error (6)
 - He joins a hundred twitching and feverish (6)
 - Very close to being drunk (5)
 - Frank! Look outside (4,3)
 - Not evil perhaps, just furious (7)
 - Rank and number (5)
 - Support for a player (5,5)
- DOWN**
- Provide some backing with one's name (7)
 - Deserted area is in a bad way (5)
 - Annually during late February, early March (6)
 - Sees trouble when I am brought in from old Thailand (7)
 - The depression can't get lower than this (5)
 - Likely to be a short dance arrangement (2,3,5)
 - Moving example of crazy reasoning? (10)
 - She plays about in various casts (7)
 - A long time out in town getting a dress (3,4)
 - There should be rhyme, if not reason, in such justice (6)
 - Not the best man in the stable? (5)
 - Number of men seen on the river (5)

Solutions Crossword 3979: Across: 1 Assist, 4 Double, 9 Andiron, 10 Apart, 11 Hinge, 12 Twinset, 13 Uninhabited, 18 Conform, 20 Petal, 22 Theme, 23 Vaulted, 24 Heyday, 25 Adepts. Down: 1 Apache, 2 Sedan, 3 Surgeon, 5 Okapi, 6 Brassie, 7 Estate, 8 Initial move, 14 Nunnery, 15 Impound, 16 Scotch, 17 Slides, 19 Opera, 21 Tot up.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

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

Be contented when you have _____ - Holbrook Jackson (3,3,3,4)

RTAAO BMYLNU

OLOTT ANTGWY

Answer: Be contented when you have got all you want - Holbrook Jackson

Difficulty Level 4s

Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4049



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Don't worry if you still can't make up your mind. By all current indications the fact that you may be uncertain will have no bearing on the outcome of life's little complications, be they financial, romantic or social. A close partner may still be feeling over-emotional, and needs all your care and consideration.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Deep down you must know that the moment is coming when you need to resolve a personal impasse. The planetary indications are so general that we cannot distinguish between professional pressures and private. All, as the sages and wise people of the world say, is one.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Anyone who tells you that you've been unfair or unjust is unlikely to be speaking the truth unless, that is, they're looking back an awful long way into the dim and distant past. Keep your intentions to yourself for a little while longer and make sure that you've got the facts straight.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Discussions over serious issues should be seen for what they are - negotiations to avoid an all-out conflict. Concentrate on the facts, as far as you can, and realise the importance of give and take, recognising that others do not see the world as you do.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

You should settle outstanding financial questions and prepare yourself to get on with the truly serious business, whether it be tackling an entirely new set of conditions at home, or setting out on a fresh professional adventure. People around you may still be in a difficult mood, but that doesn't mean that you should allow their feelings to affect you.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

It does seem likely that you may be a little over-emotional. It would be a shame if you allowed your feelings to run away with you to the extent that you missed a valuable opportunity to sort out arrangements at home. Let others do their fair share at work.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

Privacy seems to be one of the most important considerations at the moment. You won't take kindly to anyone who pries and probes into your private affairs, or who questions your principles. Your public life is quite another matter and you need to take charge at work.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

There does seem to be a fair amount of optimism in the air. I don't like to be a wet blanket, but there is, you know, a difference between liberty, which is good, and license, which is not. Be very wary if anybody tempts you to take an extreme position.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

Professional activities look like the most appropriate today, especially if you are prepared to take on responsibility for partners who may be flagging. Your social stars improve dramatically as the coming weeks pass, but ultimate success is down to your own willingness to see what partners really want.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Make the most of pleasant lunar alignments, and put the maximum effort into tying up any legal loose ends and travel plans. Extravagant offers may be tempting, and you may have to rely on your own advice in financial matters, especially if family members miss the point.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Your financial stars seem to be growing stronger. Window-shopping, or the purchasing of a few little treats, is a fine way to distract yourself from serious issues. If you are grappling with personal complications, you should recognise that other people are thoroughly well-intentioned.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Feelings are still running high, perhaps too high. However, on the positive side, your personal creative energy is at a peak. This is fine if you are perfectly fulfilled, but if you know you are falling below your true potential you are liable to become rather frustrated.

NOTICE BOARD

CORPORATE ASSOCIATE DIARY EVENTS, HONOURS



FELICITATION-DELHI POLICE

Amulya Patnaik, CP/Delhi, facilitated 16 starperformers, wards of Delhi Police personnel, who excelled in different sports disciplines i.e., shooting, wrestling, athletics, badminton and football at National & International level. Ritik Malik won gold medal in 100 meter race in under 23 Junior National Championship. Ojasvi Sangwan has won silver medal in International Shooting Tournament held at Hanover, Germany. They have been nurtured under "Mission Olympic 2020".



3rd ONGC PARA GAMES 2019

Recently, the 3rd ONGC Para Games 2019 was inaugurated by Minister of State, Co-Operation, Sports, Youth & Cultural Activities (I/C), Transport (State Minister), Govt. of Gujarat, Ishwarsinh Patel at SAI Centre, Gandhinagar. Also present during the inauguration were ONGC CMD Shashi Shanker, Director (Onshore), SK Moitra, Director (HR), Dr Alka Mittal & CVO RC Joshi. 220 Para Athletes from different Oil PSUs participated in large numbers in the glittering inaugural function.



WORKSHOP-AAI

AAI recently hosted a workshop on integration of Airport Collaborative Decision Making (A-CDM) with Air Traffic Flow Management (ATFM), to promote awareness about ATFM and ACDM and highlight the ACDM-ATFM integration benefits.



AWARD-IGL

ESRanganathan, MD, IGL, receives 'City Gas Distribution (CGD) - Established Company of the Year Award' from Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel, along with other senior IGL officials at a summit organised by FIPI.



BS-VI PROJECT-PRPC

PRPC is advancing towards completion of BS-VI projects as one more significant milestone was achieved recently. Sanjaya Bhatnagar, ED (PRPC) along with other senior officials contributed for this project.



MOA-NHPC

Recently, an MoA for R&D & Consultancy services was signed between NHPC and IIT (ISM) Dhanbad in the presence of Janardan Choudhary, Director (Technical), NHPC and Prof. Rajiv Shekhar, Director, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad.



AWARD-KRIBHCO

KRIBHCO's film "Boond Boond Se Khushhali" has been awarded 1st prize by FAI in its Annual Conference held in New Delhi recently. The award was given by Mansukh Mandaviya, State Minister of Chemicals & Fertilizers.



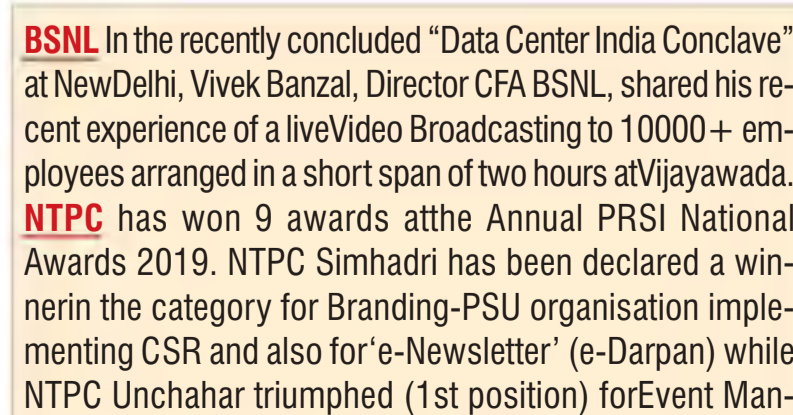
PROGRAMME-SCOPE

SCOPE in association with ICSI organised a Program on "Recent Changes under the Companies Act 2013". R Pandey, President, ICSI; Atul Sobti, DG, SCOPE & SSakhthamani, Dir. (Fin.), CCI, addressed the session, attended by over 50 public sector enterprises.



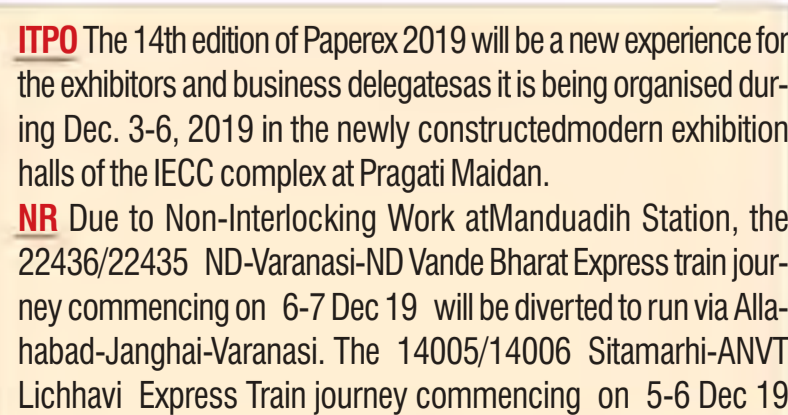
AWARD-NR

NR honoured the services of 19 of its employees, as recognition of their meritorious service, through Safety Awards at a recently held ceremony at NR Headquarters, Baroda House, New Delhi. The awards were presented by TP Singh, GM, NR.



BSNL

The recently concluded "Data Center India Conclave" at New Delhi, Vivek Banzal, Director CFA BSNL, shared his recent experience of a live Video Broadcasting to 10000+ employees arranged in a short span of two hours at Vijayawada. NTPC has won 9 awards at the Annual PRSI National Awards 2019. NTPC Simhadri has been declared a winner in the category for Branding-PSU organisation implementing CSR and also for 'e-Newsletter' (e-Darpan) while NTPC Unchahar triumphed (1st position) for Event Management Branding for 'Kumbh'.



ITPO

The 14th edition of Paperex 2019 will be a new experience for the exhibitors and business delegates as it is being organised during Dec. 3-6, 2019 in the newly constructed modern exhibition halls of the IECC complex at Pragati Maidan. NR Due to Non-Interlocking Work at Manduadih Station, the 22436/22435 ND-Varanasi-ND Vande Bharat Express train journey commencing on 6-7 Dec 19 will be diverted to run via Allahabad-Janghai-Varanasi. The 14005/14006 Sitamarhi-ANVT Lichhavi Express Train journey commencing on 5-6 Dec 19 will be diverted to run via Aunrihar-Jaunpur-Janghai-Allahabad.

Delhi Agricultural Marketing Board
(Govt. of NCT of Delhi)
9, Institutional Area, Pankha Road, Janakpuri,
New Delhi-110058
Tel:- 28522085, 28525232 Fax:- 011-28522085,
Email:- ambdl@nic.in,
Website:- www.delagrmarket.nic.in

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

The following item rate e-tender is invited through e-tendering on behalf of Secretary, APMC Keshopur:

S. No	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time of compln.	Last Date & Time of receipt of tenders through e-procurement	Tender ID no/ NIT No.
1	Repair of RCC slab and beam between passage of shop no. 39-40, 53-45 and 73-74 at F&V Market Keshopur	Rs. 6,92,385/-	Rs. 14,000/-	3 months	11.12.2019 Up to 14.30 Hrs	2019_DAMB-184673_2
2	Annual Repair Maintenance of Boundary wall at Fruit and Vegetable Market Keshopur	Rs. 32,44,317/-	Rs. 65,000/-	4 months	13.12.2019 Up to 14.30 Hrs	2019_DAMB-184673_1

- (i) To be opened online in the office of Executive Engineer-I;
- (ii) Technical Bid opening at 15:00 Hrs. on 11/12/2019.
- (iii) Terms and Conditions and details can be seen at website <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

Sd/-
Executive Engineer-I
DAMB
DIP/Shabdarth/1069/19-20

UJVN LIMITED
H.O.: "UJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808, & Fax- 0135- 2763508,
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.uttarakhandjvalvidyut.com

TENDER NOTICE

Office of Executive Engineer (Maintenance), Tiloth Power House, Uttarkashi invites sealed tender from interested firms/contractors for the following works-

Tender No	15/ EE/(M)/2019-20	16/ EE/(M)/2019-20
Name of work	Hiring of 1 no. non AC diesel vehicle (9 seater) and 1 no. utility diesel vehicle for power house.	Realignment work of 33 KV feeder between Tiloth & Heena substation at Netala.
Approximate value of Tender (Rs.)	8,34,630.00 (taxes extra)	20,29,575.00 (taxes extra)
Earnest Money (Rs.)	25,100.00	61,000.00
Tender Cost (Rs.)	590.00 (Including all taxes)	1180.00 (Including all taxes)

Availability of tender on portal date and time : 04.12.2019
Last date of downloading of tender documents : 25.12.2019
Last date for submitting the tender documents : 26.12.2019 at 16:00 hrs.
Due date for opening of tender documents : 28.12.2019 at 16:00 hrs. / 30.12.2019 at 16:00 hrs.

For eligibility criteria and further details kindly visit our website, "www.uttarakhandjvalvidyut.com". The Tenders can be downloaded only from our website and their cost has to be paid at the time of submission of the tender.

प.सं. 696 दिनांक 03.12.2019
Executive Engineer (Maint.)

" Avoid wasteful use of Electricity "

21 TALK ART, MUSIC, STYLE, FOOD

When the Seams Show

Mumbai-based artist Sudheer Rajbhar on his Chamar Foundation for artisans and starting a dialogue around caste in the world of fashion

EKTAA MALIK

KYA AAP chamar hain? It's a question that Sudheer Rajbhar has often been asked. His nonchalant and unwavering reply is, 'I am an artist'. Mumbai-based Rajbhar, 33, was in the news two years ago, when he launched a line of bags and other accessories made not from leather, but with rubber. He named the label Chamar Studio. "In 2017, I started an experiment with white cloth bags, and wrote the word 'Chamar' in different Indian languages on it. People are uncomfortable with the word. I wanted to provoke them," says Rajbhar.

At Chamar Studio, a collaborative space, Rajbhar works with artisans of Mumbai's famous leather neighbourhood, Dharavi. One who grew in the slums of Kandivali, he launches the Chamar Foundation today in Mumbai. It's an idea based on the famous Lijjat Pappad franchise, which ensures that the designer and the artisan are on an equal footing. Buckles are conspicuous by their absence and so are zippers on the bags. There is a distinct edginess to them. With a starting price of Rs1,200 to Rs 6,000, they are in the 'affordable



designer wear' category.

"While growing up in Mumbai, I didn't really face a caste issue. The city and its people are too busy just trying to wrangle a living to bother about caste. But the times when I would visit my ancestral village in Jaunpur, Uttar Pradesh, it was different. I remember my dad, who worked with the Indian Postal

Service, saying things like 'yeh log Thakur hain'," says Rajbhar, who is from the Other Backward Class. He started sketching and painting in school. "My parents didn't discourage me, and when I joined an art college they thought at least I would be an art teacher, which was good enough for them".

A graduate of the Vasai Art School, Rajbhar

was disillusioned with the curriculum and syllabus at art institutions in the country. After four years of a bachelors degree, he contemplated a masters degree at MSU Baroda, but then became an assistant to artists such as Chintan Upadhyay, Reena Saini Kallat and Navjot Altaf.

The idea to use rubber as a material and be the defining material for Chamar Studio was born out of a chance encounter between Rajbhar and the neighbourhood cobbler, Sachin, when his family shifted to Santacruz. The black tarpaulin, a staple of most Mumbai slum roofs, was the inspiration behind the project. "I was working on this mix-media installation called *Bombay Black*, which I created after picking up scrap materials, like photo frames, utensils, and paper, from demolished slums. I created a black rubber bag of sorts and put those items in it. Sachin sewed those bags for me. And now he works with me at Chamar Studio," says Rajbhar.

The idea behind Chamar Foundation, he says, is to be a facilitation centre for artisans. "These leather artisans, in their heydays, made bags for Gucci and Fendi for a fraction of the original price. But today, because of the beef ban, the industry is in shambles. The material we use is rubber, and the bags are hand-sewn. They can make them in their homes and then come to a larger centre for quality check, stocking and sale," he says.

He wishes to start a dialogue around caste, especially in the world of fashion. "I come from that world, and that helps me to create and work with the people of those communities. I have seen things, even though I have had it better than many people."



(Extreme left) Sudheer Rajbhar with artisans at Chamar Studios; his designer bags made from rubber Debdeep Roy

SNAP SHOTS

Word to Screen



VETERAN WRITER Michael Hirst has come on board to pen the screenplay for the series *The Ibis Trilogy*, to be directed by filmmaker Shekhar Kapur. The project marks Hirst and Kapur's third collaboration after *Elizabeth* (1998) and *Elizabeth: The Golden Age* (2007). The series is based on author Amitav Ghosh's *Ibis Trilogy*, which details the opium wars among Britain, India and China in mid-19th century. Ghosh's masterpiece, which begins with *Sea of Poppies*, continues with *River of Smoke* and concludes with *Flood of Fire*.

Welcome Aboard



AMERICAN SINGER-songwriter Khalid, who was recently named one of *Time's* Most Influential People of 2019, and released his sophomore album *Free Spirit*, has announced nine Asia dates as part of his headline 'Khalid Free Spirit World Tour', which will include his first-ever performance in India. The six-time Grammy Award nominee and four-time American Music Awards winner will perform in Mumbai on April 12 and Bengaluru on April 14. Registrations for the India leg are live on Bookmyshow.

Life Story



A DOCUMENTARY, to be directed by Vanessa Roth, is being developed on singer-songwriter Mary J Blige (pictured) that will premiere on Amazon Prime Video. "We all know Mary J Blige as the two-time Oscar nominee, Grammy Award winning, multi-hyphenate, who has sold over 80 million records. But through this documentary, audiences will see her raw and honest side, opening up about her personal journey of redemption and healing," said Matt Newman, co-head of movies at Amazon Studios. The documentary will focus on Blige's struggles with poverty and addiction.

'My character understands what fear can do in a society'

Actor-activist Ian Somerhalder on playing a vampire, what it means to be human and standing up for people's rights

ANUSHREE MAJUMDAR

IT'S BEEN two years since his hit show, *The Vampire Diaries*, concluded but American actor, model and activist Ian Somerhalder is not done with vampires. But this time, the 40-year-old actor is leaving his fangs behind to play a scientist in Netflix's *V Wars*, who wants to help humans after a deadly outbreak turns some of them into beasts. Over the phone from California, Somerhalder talks about why he loves the genre and conflicted characters, and what can make the world a better place.

Vampires won't leave you alone — or is it the other way around?

It's a great genre that has so many levels. I spent 171 episodes on *The Vampire Diaries* (TVD) and I learned a great deal about the genre that I can bring to *V Wars*. Of course, I was filled with trepidation. I've had my team for over 20 years, and when I saw it was vampires, I didn't think I could do that again. But they and my wife showed me that this was a very special material because there are five of these books by Jonathan Maberry. It's an immense amount of source material that offers different, authentic and amazing perspectives and references. The first season of a show is hard — you're finding the feel and the look of the show, and you're learning a lot.

You made vampires look sexy. Do you think you could bring that appeal to the opposite side, the human side?

Haha, I was so fortunate to play Damon Salvatore for so long. He was funny, sexy, damaged — he was kind of an A-hole but everybody loved him. But what drew me to the role of Dr Luther Swann in this show is that it deals with so much of what we're experiencing in the world today — climate change, borders, racism, disease, the fear of politics and how it's seeped into a divisive social network, into our psyche in this new age of the algorithm. This is a global story, and we have some amazing Indian characters in it as well. And unlike TVD, the vampires here are not supernatural, this is bio-terrorism, pretty much like *28 Days Later*.

You directed several episodes of *The Vampire Diaries*, and some of *V Wars* as well. What excites you about going behind the camera?

Yes, I love directing and being in a room



Ian Somerhalder (above); he plays a scientist in *V Wars*



with very diverse men and women, and explore nuanced, grounded and dynamic stories such as this one. I'm not a huge fan of violence but there is a lot of it happening in our world right now. Going into season two, the world of this show can be dark and controversial, and I want to share that.

One of the reasons TVD became such a big hit is that it examined each character's internal conflict and what it means to be human. Is that something you seek in every role?

Absolutely. I spent thousands of hours on TVD working on that internal and external conflict for Damon; to leverage that to offer a mirror to the audience is for me, as an actor, just gold. In this show, there's so much conflict because people are hurting, they are turning into beasts, and my character understands the disease and knows what fear can do in a society.

Over the years, you've lent your name and your face to a number of causes — environment, LGBTQ rights, equal pay, animal welfare. How hard has it been to walk the talk?

That's a great question because the reality of it is in this day and age, when we've become such a volatile population because of this ability to transmit our ideas and images and people can fire back or comment whatever they want. I know that we're all flawed individuals and I don't understand when in the world the balance of power between women and men shifted, but we have to stand up for other people's rights. Instead of building a sustainable economy, we need a regenerative one. I feel it comes down to parenting and education: If we could teach young people reverence, gratitude and compassion, they would go on to build a world that is green, that is just and a world that is truly balanced.

In Many Colours and Words

India's first queer literature festival in Delhi promises to hold the mic to the audience

SURBHI GUPTA

GOING BEYOND binaries and bringing together different identities, "The Rainbow Lit Fest - Queer & Inclusive", to be held on December 7 and 8, at the Gulmohar Park Club in Delhi, will witness the amalgamation of different forms of expression with prose, poetry, art, music, dance and cinema. Conceptualised by Sharif D Rangnekar, author of *Straight To Normal - My Life As A Gay Man*, the festival will be addressed by authors, filmmakers and activists including Devdutt Pattanaik, Nandita Das, Nemat Sadat and Onir. Panel discussions and talks will be interspersed with screenings of films like *U for Usha*, *Monsoon Date*, *I Am Sanjo* and *Sisak*. Excerpts from an interview with Rangekar:

How did the idea of the Rainbow Lit Fest emerge?

Earlier this year, after I released my book, I went to many literature festivals and I realised that a lot of them tend to tick the box because we (queers) are the flavour of the day, or the month, or the year, after Section 377 was read down. They were not even touching the surface of the issues that we need to address. Also globally, there just a few lit fests (for LGBTQ+ issues). And the third reason was we wanted to hold the mic. We were done with the mic being given to us.

What are the issues that you have with other literature festivals?

Queer and women issues — when it comes to gender as such overall — there isn't an effort to go deeper. They may have an author or the book that come out recently but not multiple voices. We wanted to see if we can go beyond, if we can have a common ground instead of a stand-alone panel, and see how much is similar rather than how much is different. I don't see that at the other lit fests, we keep talking of four to five books, but there is a lot more out there, which we don't realise — in other languages, or queer characters in books, who we didn't realise were queer.

What are the kind of conversations we can expect at the Rainbow Lit Fest?

If you look at the word queer, it basically means challenging norms, it is not about only sexuality alone. On workplace inclusion, everyone is discussing policy, no one



(Top) Sharif D Rangnekar; Devdutt Pattanaik



is talking about ecosystem or culture, or about technology being gender neutral. We will celebrate films and interact with the ones who made them and question them. We'll look at queerness from the perspective of drag — there is so much to the history of drag — of men cross-dressing and performing, some out of compulsion of patriarchy, some out of desire. And we have people coming from 18 cities from across the world — including Moirang, Kochi, Pune, Lucknow, Vadodara, and Sonapat, which is a reflection, not necessarily, of the lit fest but the appetite and the desire to be there.

Why did you choose to hold the festival in Gulmohar Park?

Besides access — when you go into a hotel, there is a certain intimidation, the other reason was that the first major press conference on Section 377 happened in Gulmohar Park in 2001 at Anjali Gopalan's house, so it has that significance too.

For details, visit: rainbowliteraturefestival.com

Voices that Need a Ear

A play on the post-Babri riots will be staged at the Serendipity Arts Festival this month

DIPTI NAGPAUL

THEY SIT in the bright, sunlit room on the cold, stone-tiled floor, across from each other, one dressed in black and the other in white. Yin and yang. Geetanjali Kulkarni transforms into Seema Hakim. She is a resident of a Hindu-majority basti in Kandivali's Charkop and loved by her neighbours for her delicious biryani. But soon, she is silenced by the brutal slaughter of her husband Shahid. Taking on the role of Shailla Satpute, Sameena Dalwai says that Seema was later gangraped by boys from her

neighbourhood. Shahid's nationalistic *shayari* painted on Mumbai's pipelines could not save them from religious riots.

As the scene ends, an uncomfortable silence envelopes the room before Kulkarni and Dalwai move on to the next story as part of their 20-minute performance, titled *December 1992*, which will be staged at the Serendipity Arts Festival in Goa on December 18. The performance is based on excerpts from four essays in the book, *Babri Masjid, 25 Years On* (Kalpaz Publications, 2017), edited by Dalwai, with playwright Ramu Ramanathan and activist Irfan Engineer. Activists, artists and journalists



Sameena Dalwai and Geetanjali Kulkarni in rehearsal Amit Chakravarty

have written about what they saw in the aftermath of Babri Masjid demolition. The play looks at Mumbai through the eyes of four women activists who worked for the

victims — Satpute, Shama Dalwai, Helen Bharde and Sanjivani Jain.

Currently in Marathi and Hindi, both Kulkarni and Dalwai are thinking of ways to

take the play beyond a festival platform, especially after the recent verdict of the Babri Masjid demolition case. "The current silence among the minorities is induced from humiliation. One cannot term the court's decision unanimous and the reception of verdict as peaceful," says Dalwai. The daughter of Congress MP Husain Dalwai and activist-teacher Shama Dalwai, she grew up near Behrampada in Bandra East, which saw some of the worst cases of rioting.

Kulkarni sees the need to take the play to housing societies and bastis where, she says, the hatred for minorities is more palpable. "I grew up in a traditional Marathi household where everyone believed the post-Babri riots were serving justice to the Muslims. I believed so myself. It's only over time that I have begun to understand how this religious divide works. But there are still all those people who continue to carry the old belief, and who have lauded the recent judgment. The play is for them," she says.

"We can make sure that the bowlers don't get too scared of him (Kohli). But in the end, may be two can bowl at him at the same time. You never know what can happen but it's a difficult proposition to get Virat Kohli out."

PHIL SIMMONS, WEST INDIES COACH

From out in the cold to back in cauldron

Old guards Pollard, Simmons and Ramdin — once resigned to the inevitability of not representing West Indies — return for India tour

SANDIP G
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

THE DAY after Trinibago Knight Riders, the side he helms in the Caribbean Premier League, lost a gut-wrenching semifinal to Barbados Tridents, Kieron Pollard turned unusually philosophical on his Twitter handle: "Some things in life are not meant to be and this was definitely one of them and that's the beauty of life, you never know what the future holds."

It has been such a staggeringly top-turvy year for Pollard that it's least surprising that he's turning philosophic at the slightest of instigation.

At the start of the year, his hopes of pulling over the West Indies jersey seemed increasingly bleak. His own game had tapered off, he hardly bowled, and when he bowled, he was terrible.

He batted, but when he batted he was more terrible. He fielded, but when he fielded, the ball would often burst through once magnificent digits.

Pollard wasn't Pollard. He felt it as much. He told a Pakistan newspaper before the previous edition of the PSL: "I don't feel like I am Pollard." It was shadow-Pollard. He was still a towering T20 totem, contracts and pay-cheques still flew into him. But whispers began swirling around that Pollard has lost his Pollard-ness.

Back home, he was unceremoniously dropped from a charity match for the hurricane victims, despite being named the skipper. Lack of batting commitment, the then selector text-messaged him. Pollard took to Twitter again: NOTE TO SELF: Never put your destiny into the hands of persons who do not value it, or anything."

The next day, then West Indies Cricket Board president Dave Cameron swore he would never let Pollard (and other seniors like the Bravos and Sunil Narine) play a match for the West Indies. He blared: "I am waging a war against them."

Pollard cringed. His World Cup-to play one more World Cup, he continuously asserts, is his only dream—was all but snuffed out. Worse still, Cameron looked destined to be re-elected the president for the board again. If so, he could never pull on that jersey again. He would eternally live with the "not a cricketer but a pay-cheque player" snub (made by Michael Holding). Pollard himself referred to the plight of himself and the outcasts thus: "We are made to feel worse than the rebels (that toured South Africa)—were skeptical. It was not meant to be, or so it seemed.

Six months later, he could say it was meant to be after all. Pollard was Pollard again. He regained his Pollard-ness again. He went on a punishing physical regimen, knocked off the extra pounds, regained the big-hitting prowess and vented out his fury on hapless PSL bowlers, struck the most number of sixes in the tournament and ransacked runs faster than anyone else in the league.

He reclaimed his athleticism took some catches that set Youtube afire, and took his form to the IPL, where again his murderous knocks, including a 25-ball 41 on a sluggish surface, influenced Mumbai Indian's title-stomp.

Back home, the direction of the winds in the islands changed with former tourism and sports minister of St Kitts and Nevis, Ricky Skerrit upstaging Cameron.

A few weeks later, he and the fellow outcasts were called for an indoor meeting with Skerrit, from where they came out flashing big smiles and assurance of



THE SWAGGER IS BACK

Kieron Pollard overcame a sustained period of poor form and self-doubt to reclaim his verve by plundering runs in the PSL and playing a key role in Mumbai Indians' title romp earlier in the year. *Express*

resurrection. A month later, he almost realised his World Cup dream, narrowly missing out eventually to Carlos Brathwaite as West Indies were crammed with big-hitting all-rounders. And Pollard barely bowled these days too.

There was resentment in his hometown Port of Spain, as West Indies withered away after the initial bluster. But not long could he be overlooked, as director Jimmy Adams outlined the path forward with a massive overhaul of the status quo.

One of the first measures was to reintegrate Pollard — he was included in T20Is against India in Florida and Guyana, before he was appointed West Indies' white-ball skipper for the series against Afghanistan and India. He was pleasantly surprised: "I was not something that I dreamt of, because it was beyond my dreams. There was a time when I considered myself lucky if I were to play for the West Indies again."

Not just Pollard, Lendl Simmons and

Denesh Ramdin too had resigned to the inevitability of not representing West Indies again. Simmons had (before the Afghanistan series) last featured for West Indies in 2017.

He was not even picked in the CPL this year, before Colin Munro picked an injury and he was hastily brought in as his replacement. He smoked 430 runs in 11 innings at an average of 39.09 and a strike-rate of 150.34.

Ramdin scans alternate careers

Meanwhile, Ramdin, a former skipper, was scanning alternate careers. He tried his hand in the media, writing columns and doing commentary.

He even had to pass through the ordeal of a fake newspaper report that he was detained at the JFK Airport in New York for carrying '20kg of cocaine', and thought of even retiring last year. But a discussion with good friend Pollard prompted him to have

a rethink, and he subsequently revived himself this year.

"I realised I was trying too hard to change my batting. I realised I can never score runs as fast as Pollard to Andre (Russell), but there's still a role for me. And my keeping ability is still vital," he told Trinidad Guardian. As it turned out, some of his steady knocks were crucial to Trinibago reaching the semifinals.

Like the just-retired players, their coach Phil Simmons, too was restored. The T20 World Cup-winning coach was axed six months after the epic final in Kolkata due to "differences in culture and strategic approach".

But the real reason, according to Simmons, was that he could no longer pay heed to the outside interference in selection. "It's disappointing for me to know that in any aspect of life ... [people would use] their position to get people into a squad; or in this case, get people left out of a squad.

Edulji stumps Engineer at Sardesai lecture

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 4

FORMER INDIA wicket-keeper Farokh Engineer and ex-CoA member Diana Edulji on Wednesday had a difference of opinion in public with the ex-women's team captain venting out her anger at the octogenarian for questioning her cricketing credentials.

The controversial Engineer made a passing reference about the credentials of the disbanded CoA, of which Edulji was a member, stating that the committee was a "waste of time". During the Dilip Sardesai memorial lecture here, Edulji, who was an invitee, took the opportunity to get back at her "Parsi" friend, who was also present at the event.

"I just heard Farokh saying Parsi don't have a dirty bone in their body. I would like to know, you spoke a lot about the current selectors, in that statement you passed a snide remark about me. I would like to tell you, I played 30 Test matches too, so that is not little cricket I played. You said she (Edulji) has hardly played any cricket..." Edulji, who played 20 Tests for India, said. Engineer had earlier questioned the working of the CoA, saying the committee was a complete waste of time and money.

"I speak my mind. I said something that the CoA was a waste of time and I meant that. I don't think much came out of it (CoA) really and the money that was paid or spent — (in) crores — could have been better utilised grassroots cricket in the country," he said earlier. "There was nothing personal against you (Diana Edulji). About the selectors I spoke earlier and there was reason for that comment," he added. Later, Edulji said that the CoA, chaired by former CAG Vinod Rai, was formed with a purpose.

"CoA was brought in with a purpose. We covered a lot of ground, we tried to improve the standard of cricket, the infrastructure. The players have benefited a lot and that's why the performance of the teams — both men and women — have been outstanding. I think we could have done more," she said.

"I am glad that it's now run by a cricketer. That's what Justice (RM) Lodha (panel) wanted, to let the cricketers have a say. Let's hope that they do well." Meanwhile, Engineer, who played 46 Tests for India, said struggling wicket-keeper Rishabh Pant is "talented" but has a flawed technique. "I had a chat with Rishabh Pant. He came to me at Old Trafford during the World Cup and we had a long chat. I wish I had him with me for 2-3 net sessions and he would have been much better wicket-keeper. What can a fielding coach tell Rishabh Pant about wicket-keeping?"

"Everyone is there to criticise the young man (Pant) and there is more pressure on him. He is now scared to hold the ball thinking in case he drops a catch. He is an extremely talented wicket-keeper but his technique is flawed and gets up too soon," he said. During the lecture, Engineer recalled his association with Sardesai and his cricketing time with the famous India spin quartet of EAS Prasanna, S Venkataraghavan, B S Chandrasekhar and Bishan Singh Bedi.

I just heard Farokh saying Parsi don't have a dirty bone in their body. I would like to know, you spoke a lot about the current selectors, in that statement you passed a snide remark about me. I would like to tell you, I played 30 Test matches too, so that is not little cricket I played."

DIANA EDULJI,
FORMER CoA member

KPL SCANDAL

KSCA management committee member held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, DECEMBER 4

IN ANOTHER twist to the spot-fixing fiasco in Karnataka Premier League, the Crime Branch Unit of Bangalore Police arrested Karnataka State Cricket Association committee member Sudhendra Shinde on Wednesday. This was after the police had unearthed the evidence to indict Shinde, manager of the Bellary Panthers, along with owner Asfak Ali Thara. The duo is accused of building a "network for match-fixing" comprising players, bookies and team management across teams in the KPL.

Shinde, who also coaches the state's U-19 coach, was remanded to police custody for three days. "The KSCA management committee member Sudhendra Shinde has been arrested in a KPL match-fixing case. He, along with Ali (Asfak Ali Thara) fixed a few matches," the head of the city crime branch unit and joint commissioner of police, Sandeep Patil confirmed.

Shinde is the latest among a raft of names — besides Thara, owner of the Bellary Tuskers Arvind Reddy, the Tuskers captain and former Karnataka captain CM Gautam and Tuskers player Abrar Kazi were indicted — who have been booked for fixing the most recent edition's final, which the Tuskers lost, and three other games in the 2018 and 2019 installments.

"Shinde was a link between the Panthers owner Ali and the KSCA in the KPL fixing," a police source said.

The police are exploring the involvement of more KSCA officials in the scam.

Shinde, who runs the local cricket club Socials Cricketers in the city, came into touch with Ali Asfak Thara in 2017 when the latter joined and began funding the club. In one instance of alleged spot fixing, Thara offered Tuskers captain Gautam Rs 7.5 lakh to get a bowler to concede more than 10 runs in an over against Bengaluru Blasters at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on August 22.

Gautam allegedly set up a deal with the off-spinner Kazi during a practice session ahead of the game and gave him an advance of Rs 2.5 lakh. As per the deal, Kazi gave away 11 runs including two wides in his first over (seventh game). The police say he got Rs 5 lakh for it. Thereafter, in this year's final against Hubli Tigers, Thara allegedly asked Gautam to bat slowly, which he did (20 off 37 balls), and Tuskers lost the game by eight runs. According to the police Gautam received Rs 15 lakh from Thara.

In two other games—against Mysuru Warriors and Shimoga Lions—Reddy had asked Gautam to underperform, the police alleged. Against Mysuru Warriors, the Tuskers

lost by three wickets despite putting on board 240 runs. The Shimoga game went to the SuperOver, which Tuskers won by 12 runs.

Letter to KSCA

Following the emergence of pieces of evidence of large-scale fixing in the KPL, the crime branch police have written to the KSCA to furnish details of franchises, owners and the anti-corruption cover provided by KSCA and BCCI.

"We have sought a wide range of information about the level of monitoring the matches, whether corruption was reported and if so, the action taken. We have also sought information on all Indian Premier League matches played in Bengaluru. We are restricted to investigating matches and fixing suspected to have occurred in Karnataka," sources said.

Furthermore, a notice has been issued to all KSCA and KPL team management, Patil informed. As things stand, a total of 15 persons including three players, a coach, manager, two owners and several bookies from around India have been accused in the KPL fixing scam.

Sudhendra Shinde is the latest among a raft of names — besides Thara, owner of the Bellary Tuskers Arvind Reddy, the Tuskers captain and former Karnataka captain CM Gautam and Tuskers player Abrar Kazi were indicted — who have been booked for fixing the most recent edition's final, which the Tuskers lost, and three other games in the 2018 and 2019 installments.

TNPL franchises remain intact, but co-owners of Tuti Patriots expelled

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
KOLKATA, DECEMBER 4

THE TAMIL NADU Cricket Association (TNCA) has clarified that no franchise has been suspended. The state association, however, has expelled two co-owners of a franchise, acting on the recommendations made by the TNCA's internal inquiry committee. It is learnt that a clarification in this regard has been sent to the BCCI.

BCCI president Sourav Ganguly had earlier said that two TNPL franchises have been suspended in relation to allegations of corruption that surfaced during this year's tournament. "No TNPL franchise has been suspended or banned," TNCA secretary RS Ramasaamy told *The Indian Express*.

However, acting on the advice of the TNCA's internal probe panel that comprised a retired Chennai police commissioner, a senior lawyer and a former India spinner, the state association directed Tuti Patriots to change their ownership by getting rid of their two co-owners. Sources said as the inquiry panel did a background check, it noticed some alleged dubious links between the franchise co-owners and corrupters.

"We have asked Tuti Patriots to change their ownership pattern. They had three major stakeholders and two of them have been asked to go. The principal owner now has the entire control. We have informed this to the BCCI and its Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU)," a TNCA functionary told this paper.

West Indies rope in Monty Desai as batting coach

Hyderabad: West Indies named Monty Desai as their batting coach ahead of the limited-overs series against India beginning here on Friday. Desai, who has been handed a two-year contract, has joined the team here before the first T20 International. He has held coaching roles with Afghanistan, Nepal, Canada, Indian regional teams and former IPL sides Rajasthan Royals and Gujarat Lions in a career of over 12 years. He was most recently the batting coach of the UAE team.

"Desai joined the West Indies ahead of the start of the T20 International Series against India, which bowls off on Friday, December 6 at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium in Hyderabad," the West Indies Cricket Board said. West Indies head coach Phil Simmons said: "I have worked with Monty before and he is an excellent coach. He has proven he has the ability to get players to improve on their talent and also to perform better in matches." Desai, on his part, said he is looking forward to being part of a journey to create a winning work environment. "I am eager to join forces with Head Coach, Phil Simmons and Director of Cricket, Jimmy Adams, and our Captains, such that I may contribute in every possible way to the success of our team." **PTI**

It is wrong and I don't like it and that is my beef with the selection of the team," he had written a strongly-worded letter to the WICB.

Skerrit, apparently, was impressed by his stint with Afghanistan, who he guided to the 2019 World Cup.

So the limited-over series in India is a reunion of sorts, though only time (and positive results) will whether it's a retrograde or an inspired move. The start has been bittersweet — they clean-swept the ODIs but lost the T20Is against Afghanistan — but in India they have a considerably stronger side. It doesn't make the veteran comeback men's task any easier that others in this squad are barely experienced at this level-like Kesrick Williams, Hayden Walsh junior, Sherfane Rutherford, Khary Pierre, Fabien Allen and Brandon King.

Much of Pollard's captaincy is untested, apart from that he has guided star-packed a relatively out-of-form Trinibago to the semifinals last year.

But the youngsters of the team praise his guiding skills — Nicolas Pooran says Pollard only motivated him to pursue cricket after a terrible accident, left-arm Pierre says Pollard's timely advice only made him the thriest bowler in the CPL.

Brendon McCullum attested as much to *The Trinidad Guardian*: "He's always with players who are not doing well telling them what they can do about it, pepping them up and spending a lot of time comforting them. He's like a brother, and of course, he can inspire the team single-handedly." West Indies too would wish for the same, as they plunge into the future with a bunch of wizened old hands. Pollard would merely say: "That's the beauty of life, you never know what the future holds."

Much of Pollard's captaincy is untested, apart from that he has guided star-packed a relatively out-of-form Trinibago to the semifinals last year.



BCCI president Sourav Ganguly had earlier said that two TNPL franchises have been suspended in relation to allegations of corruption.

According to a state association insider, Selvakumar, who is the principal owner of the Tuti Patriots, will now have the full control of the franchise after the ousters of two co-owners. Earlier, after the BCCI's Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Mumbai on Sunday, Ganguly had addressed the alleged corruption issues in the T20 leagues organised by some state associations. "At the present the two leagues in which (alleged) betting and fixing happened, one is on hold; KPL (Karnataka Premier League), and Chennai (TNPL) has suspended two franchises," the BCCI president had said.

This paper had first reported how bookies

The architect of 'Botham's Ashes'

Former England captain and fearsome fast bowler Bob Willis, 70, dies following short illness

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
DECEMBER 4

BOB WILLIS is often hyphenated with the charismatic Ian Botham. But he plugged all alone for nearly six years, before Botham's debut, and continued to shoulder the responsibilities after Botham's steady descent from the intoxicating peak of the early 80s.

For much of his career — a period when England experimented with a variety of captains, under men as diverse as Ray Illingworth, Tony Greig, Mike Brearley, Geoff Boycott and David Gower — he was a one-man attack. The golden era of fast bowling was not so golden for England, but Willis shone, his mop of auburn curls and sparkling blue eyes endearing him to the masses and his blistering pace evoking fear in batsmen. He wasn't someone who hit them like the contemporary Windies quicks — though he did broke Rick McCosker's jaw — but hurried and harried him with bounce and pace.

While he couldn't match Botham for sheer personality or brazen machismo, Willis was a redoubtable match-winner on his day — a pity and a recurring theme of his career that his peaks were often overshadowed by a miraculous Botham feat. But it's worth retelling that if it was Botham who hatched the famous Headingley heist, it was Willis who turned the ruthless executioner, taking 8 for 43 in 15 overs of sustained hostility. He let it rip as per Brearley's orders and ripped out the Aussies. And then he let it rip on the press, which had ridiculed him. A rare outburst, but reflective of his inward volatility.

Arguably the last great tearaway England produced — he didn't slow down despite recurring ankle and knee injuries — he conserved his best for the Australians (128 wickets in 35 Tests). He wasn't a fairweather bowler either — averaging 22.37 in India, 26.22 in Pakistan and 29 in Australia. It was broadcaster Christopher Martin Jenkins who best described him. "A deceptively awkward-looking young beanpole, mop-haired, silent and mean".

Sprightly fielder

Tall, lanky bowlers can be clumsy catchers. But Willis wasn't. He often manned third slip, forming a safe house with Brearley at first slip and the enormous Greig at second. He barely flung or stretched but completed his catches so effortlessly that it seemed he had choreographed the sequence in his mind. It was his catching that first caught the attention of John Snow and Derek Underwood on Willis's first tour to Australia. His batting, though, evoked humour,

'ONE-MAN ATTACK'

325 Number of Test wickets Willis took in 90 matches

899 Number of first-class scalps in 308 matches he played for Surrey and Warwickshire.

He was a huge Bob Dylan fan... He was a bright man, very good company and a wine connoisseur. He was very civilised and erudite, maybe too erudite for most, he didn't suffer fools gladly. He was very eclectic in all sorts of things."

DAVID GOWER
FORMER ENGLAND CAPTAIN

though he averaged a handsome 11.70 (by 1970s standards) and held fort for 171 minutes (scoring 24 not out) against the rampaging West Indies quicks in an extraordinary last-wicket stand of 117 with Peter Willey. But he's more bantered for walking into the middle in full guard but without a cricket bat.



BOB WILLIS
1949-2019

Dour skipper

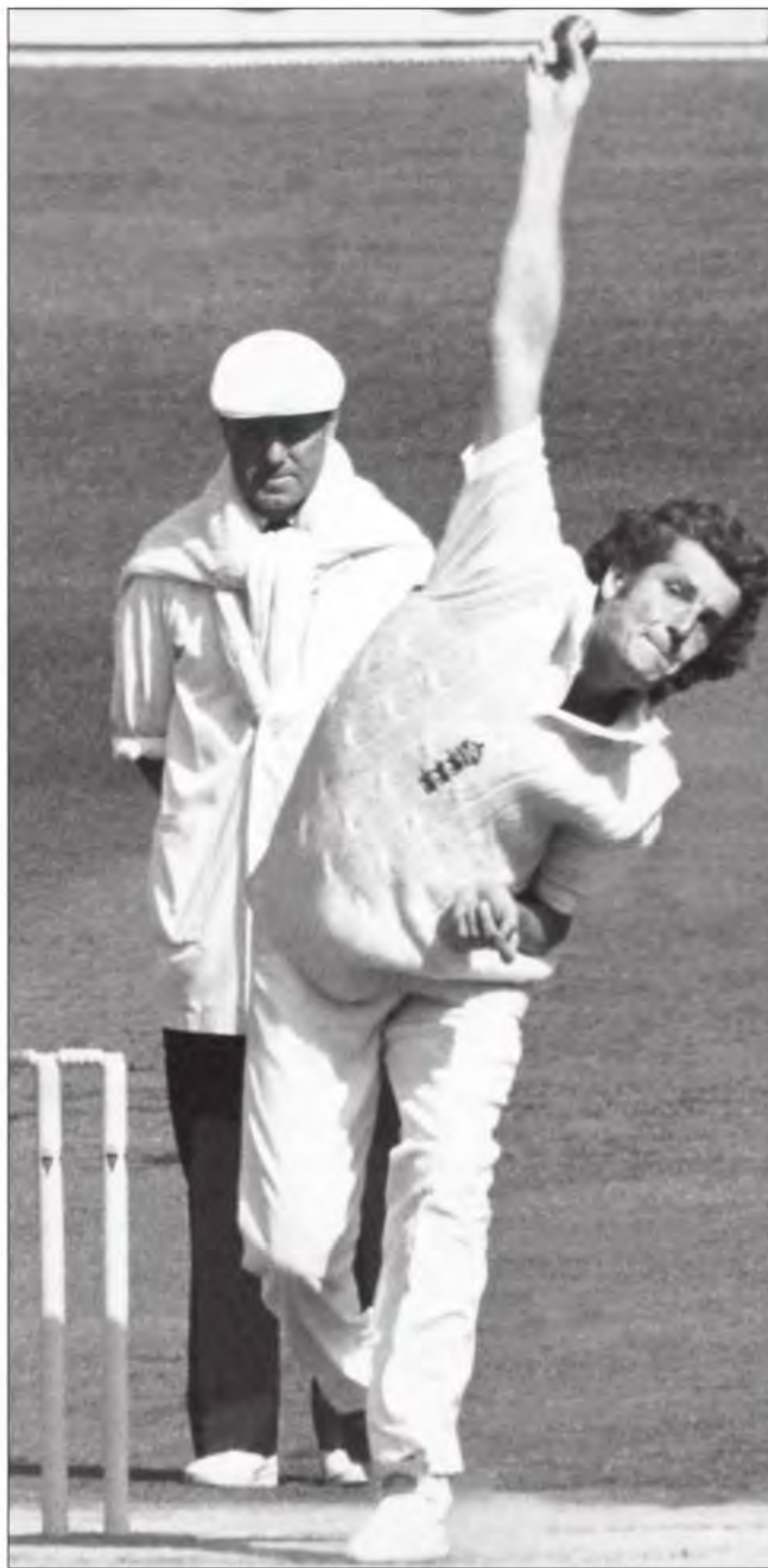
His captaincy stint went awry — his side was weakened by defections as Graham Gooch, Boycott and Underwood were banned from international

cricket for three years from 1982 for going on a rebel tour to South Africa — but he seldom mumbled or cribbed and played wholeheartedly under David Gower till his retirement.

He briefly took to coaching, but it ended disastrously as well. He found solace in the commentary box. Not one who was easily excited, often dour and sombre, Willis was matter-of-fact and concise, though hypercritical. Then England in the 1990s begged criticism for their consummate sloppiness. His commentary was quite like his bowling, unattractive and sharp, bereft of bling and brio. An antithesis of Botham.

'Goose' nickname

Robert George Willis was his baptised name. But when he was 12, he inserted Dylan into his name, smitten by course by the American folk-rock singer. He brandished a guitar and grew hair and soon they started calling him "Bob". It stuck on, like the moniker "Goose" because his action resembled the flapping of the bird.



Bob Willis took 325 wickets in 90 Tests, claiming a career-best 8-43 to help England to a famous win over Australia at Headingley in the 1981 Ashes. AP/File

South African cricket lurches from crisis to crisis

South African cricket is engulfed in crisis, both on and off the field, and matters turned for the worse on Wednesday with the players' union threatening to go on strike if its concerns weren't addressed. With England due to arrive for a marquee four Test-series, Cricket South Africa is racing against time to get its house in order. Some of the major issues facing South African cricket are:

ON THE FIELD

RESULTS: Once considered among the strongest teams in the world across formats, recent results have been quite embarrassing. The Proteas never came close to making the semifinals of the 2019 World in the UK, and have lost their last five Tests in a row.

ICON EXODUS: Any team will struggle if the likes of Dale Steyn, AB de Villiers, Hashim Amla, Morne Morkel and Imran Tahir call time on their international careers. To make matters worse, the word 'Kolpak' seems to be their bugbear. Talents like Rilee Rossouw, Kyle Abbott, Simon Harmer, Duanne Olivier, Wayne Parnell and Marchant de Lange can strengthen any side, if they had not moved full-time to English county cricket.

TALENT CRUNCH: The likes of Heinrich Klaasen, George Linde, Dane Piedt, Anrich Nortje, Senuran Muthusamy and Wiaan Mulder but seem out of depth in Test cricket.

OFF THE FIELD

NO DIRECTOR OF CRICKET: CSA has gone for a football-style management structure, with a director of cricket supervising all aspects. But months after announcing this change, the post remains vacant. Former skipper Graeme Smith's name has been touted for this position, but the matter hasn't gone beyond talks. He has said that he still has concerns over CSA's functioning and fears he may not be allowed to fulfill his mandate. It remains to be seen how the team for the England series will be selected.

RESIGNATIONS: Professor Shirley Zinn quit as an independent member of the CSA citing problems with its "principles of corporate governance". "We fall from one crisis to another and there is no end in sight," she said.

CONFUSION OVER DOMESTIC STRUCTURE: CSA plans to increase the number of domestic teams from six to 12. It is facing resistance because it is likely to result in a reduction in players' earnings, some even losing their jobs. CSA also tried to take over the leadership of one of the provincial unions.



Ex-captain Graeme Smith is in talks for director of cricket role.

FINANCIAL TURMOIL: The Mzansi Super League (MSL) was touted as the panacea for CSA's financial woes, but it has burnt a hole in its pocket without catching the imagination of fans around the world. The losses are projected at 654 million rand (approximately ₹320 crore) over the next four-year cycle.

TIFF WITH THE MEDIA: Accreditation of five journalists seen to be critical of CSA's functioning was revoked. They were revoked only after a huge outcry and CSA Chief Executive Officer Thabang Moreo — who is seen by many as the person responsible for the current state of affairs — had to apologise.

UNHAPPY SPONSORS: Standard Bank, the biggest sponsor of the game in South Africa, has also expressed grave concern about developments in CSA. They have called upon CSA to "clean up their act".

STRIKE THREAT: The South African Cricketers' Association (SACA) has threatened to go on strike in the lead-up to the England series. While they have said that it remains the last resort and they will not like to disrupt international cricket, "agreements are breached, we raise concerns, we try to resolve issues, and the result from the other side (CSA) is just to carry on. At some stage you must decide whether you will accept that." One of the major bones of contention is the image rights of the players. A Fantasy League product endorsed by CSA for the MSL is using names and images of players without their permission, potentially putting them at risk of flouting the Board's own anti-corruption code. There was delay in players getting their share of commercial rights fees from the first edition of the MSL.

Radiation hot spots found at Olympic torch relay start

REUTERS
TOKYO, DECEMBER 4

RADIATION HOT spots have been found at the J-Village sports facility in Fukushima where the Tokyo 2020 Olympic torch relay will begin, Greenpeace Japan said on Wednesday. Greenpeace found that radiation levels around the recently refurbished venue, which also hosted the Argentina team during the Rugby World Cup earlier this year, were significantly higher than before the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear reactor meltdown following the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

Greenpeace's survey found radioactivity readings taken at J-Village on Oct. 26 as high as 71 microsieverts per hour at surface level. People are exposed to natural radiation of

2,000-3,000 microsieverts a year, so anyone staying in the vicinity of J-Village for two or more days could be exposed to more than that. These readings, although not deemed life-threatening if exposed for a short length of time, are 1,775 times higher than prior to the March 2011 disaster, according to the NGO. The Olympic flame is due to arrive from Greece in Japan on March 20, with the torch relay officially starting from J-Village on March 26.

Greenpeace said in a statement that it had sent its findings to Japan's Ministry of Environment, but had received no response. "There is a risk that heavy rain will spread these higher levels of contamination on public roads, and thus re-contaminate already decontaminated surfaces," warned Greenpeace nuclear specialist Shaun Burnie, team leader of the J-Village survey, in a statement.

SAG: India win 29 medals, including 15 gold, to take top spot

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KATHMANDU, DECEMBER 4

TRACK AND field athletes led India's gold rush on the third day of competitions in the 13th South Asian Games as the country added a whopping 29 medals to jump to the top of the medals tally here on Wednesday.

India won 15 gold medals on Wednesday with athletics contributing five of them as the country's medal tally stood at 32 gold, 26 silver and 13 bronze for a total of 71. Nepal close second with a haul of 29 gold, 15 silver and 25 bronze for a total of 69 medals.

Athletics gave 10 medals (5 gold, 3 silver and 2 bronze) while six each came from table tennis (3 gold and 3 silver) and taekwondo (3 gold, 2 silver and 1 bronze), five from triathlon (2 gold, 2 silver and 1 bronze) and two — all gold — from kho kho. India completely dominated in athletics yet again to take the total medal count from the disci-

The country's medal tally stood at 32 gold, 26 silver and 13 bronze for a total of 71. Nepal close second with a haul of 29 gold, 15 silver and 25 bronze for a total of 69 medals

pline to 20. On the first day of athletics competition on Tuesday, Indian athletes had won 10 medals (4 gold, 4 silver and 2 bronze).

Archana Suseendran won her second gold of the Games by clinching the women's 200m race in 23.67 seconds to add to her yellow metal in the 100m dash on Tuesday. Compatriot A Chandra Lekha was third with a time of 24.37 seconds. Suresh Kumar won the men's 10,000m race with a time of 29 minutes 32 seconds before the duo of Lokesh Sathanathan and Swamyathan produced

an Indian 1-2 in men's long jump by clearing impressive distances of 7.87m and 7.77m respectively.

Another 1-2 result for the Indians came in the men's discus throw through Kirpal Singh (57.88m) and Gagandeep Singh (53.57m). Navjeet Kaur Dhillon fetched India's fifth gold of the day in women's discus throw with a below-par 49.87m while Survi Biswas' 47.47m effort was good enough to win a silver in a mediocre field.

In women's long jump, Sandra Babu won a bronze to add to India's medal tally with an effort of 6.02m. In taekwondo also, India ruled the roost by clinching six medals, including three golds. Laitika Bhandari (under 53kg), Jarnel Singh (under 74kg) and Rudali Barua (over 73kg) won a gold each. Saurav and Gangot clinched a silver medal each in the men's under 63kg and women's 62kg events respectively, while Chaitanya Inamdar bagged a bronze in the men's over 86kg category. Indian paddlers bagged a gold and silver

each in all the three events of men's doubles, women's doubles and mixed doubles. The kho kho event was no different as India swept both the gold medals on offer with the men's and women's teams claiming titles after defeating Bangladesh and Nepal respectively.

Indian shuttlers also continued their dominating show with four individuals and as many doubles pairs cruising into the semifinals to assure themselves of medals. Top seed Siril Verma started the day on a winning note for India when he beat Pakistan's Murad Ali 21-12 21-17 in a men's singles quarterfinal.

In the women's singles, Gayathri Gopichand stunned second seed Mahoor Shahzad of Pakistan with a convincing 21-15 21-16 win. Joining Gayathri in the semifinals was top seed Ashmita Chaliha, who also thrashed Pakistani opponent, Palwasha Bashir 21-9 21-7. Aryaman Tandon was another Indian after Verma to reach the men's singles semifinals after registering 21-17 21-17 win over Sri Lanka's Ranthushka Karunathilake.

[SPORTS BAR]



Djokovic adds Adelaide to New Year calendar

World number two Novak Djokovic will play in the inaugural Adelaide International tennis competition in January ahead of his Australian Open title defence, tournament organisers said on Wednesday. Djokovic will start his competitive preparation for the new season at the Mubadala World Tennis Championship in Abu Dhabi from Dec. 19-21, before representing Serbia in the inaugural ATP Cup in Australia in early January. The 32-year-old Serb, who beat Rafa Nadal to claim a record seventh Australian Open title earlier this year, will then arrive in Adelaide for the combined WTA and ATP tournament from Jan. 12-18. The women's field will feature Venus Williams, alongside world number one Ash Barty, Simona Halep, Petra Kvitova and Kiki Bertens.

Juanan fires Bengaluru to the top of ISL

Bengaluru FC extended their unbeaten run in the ongoing Hero Indian Super League to seven games with a narrow 1-0 win over Odisha FC at the Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex in Pune. Centre-back Juanan (36th minute) scored his first goal of the season to secure Bengaluru's third win of the season and take them to the top of the table. After seven matches, Carles Cuadrat's side has 13 points while Odisha are sixth with six points. On Thursday, Mumbai City FC will be eyeing their first 'home' win of the season when they take on Kerala Blasters. The Jorge Costa-managed team have played two home games this season but suffered defeat on both the occasions.

East Bengal hold Real Kashmir to a 1-1 draw

Marcos De La Espada's 75th minute strike helped Kolkata giants East Bengal hold Real Kashmir FC to a 1-1 draw in their I-League encounter in Kalyani on Wednesday. Although East Bengal enjoyed 64 per cent possession over the course of the match, Real Kashmir held their nerves to leave the ground with one point. After Gnohere Krizo put the Kashmir-based side in the driver's seat in the 33rd minute, De La Espada heeled in the equaliser in the 75th minute to provide East Bengal supporters with some much-needed respite.



Houston Rockets guard James Harden drives past San Antonio Spurs players. AP

Spurs rally for thrilling win in overtime

James Harden had a slam dunk waved off by officials, the first sign that it might not be the Houston Rockets' night. Lonnie Walker IV helped make sure of that. Walker had a career-high 28 points and the San Antonio Spurs overcame Harden's 50 points by rallying from a late 10-point deficit to beat Houston 135-133 in double overtime Tuesday. Harden played a season-high 49 minutes coming off a 60-point outing Saturday over three quarters against Atlanta, but he was whistled for two charges in the second overtime. The second came against DeMar DeRozan with 0.8 seconds remaining, sealing San Antonio's victory. That followed a bizarre moment in the fourth quarter, when officials erased Harden's dunk with 7:53 remaining and Houston leading 102-89. Officials ruled the ball didn't clear the cylinder, but crew chief James Capers said after the game that, "in fact it did clear the net and should have been a successful field goal."

Junior hockey: India beat New Zealand 2-0

The Indian junior women's hockey team started its campaign at the Three-Nation tournament on a positive note, beating New Zealand 2-0 in its first match in Canberra on Wednesday. Striker Lalrindiki (15th minute) and midfielder Prabhleen Kaur (60th) were the two goal scorers for the winners. India started the match with an aggressive brand of hockey, pinning down New Zealand, who had defeated hosts Australia 3-1 in their first match on Tuesday. India will play hosts Australia in their second match on Thursday.



Ibrahimovic fuels talk of Serie A return

Sweden footballer Zlatan Ibrahimovic has fuelled speculation that he is set to return to Italy, where he has played for AC Milan, Inter Milan and Juventus, by saying in an interview: "see you soon in Italy". The 38-year-old striker confirmed his departure from Los Angeles Galaxy last month following the club's elimination from the Major League Soccer playoffs. "I'll join a club which must get back to winning, which must renew its history and is in search of a battle against everyone and everything," Ibrahimovic told GQ Italia. "That is the only way I'll be able to find the necessary motivation to surprise you again. It's not just about choosing a team, as there are other factors that need to line up, including in the interests of my family. I'll see you in Italy soon."

Gujarat beat Odisha in boxing league

Gujarat Giants registered a commanding 5-2 win over Odisha Warriors in the Big Budd Indian Boxing League at the Gautam Buddha University Indoor Stadium in Greater Noida on Wednesday. With a confident and efficient Ashish Kumar setting the ball rolling in the second bout of the evening, Gujarat Giants' big guns Sarita Devi (women's 60kg), southpaw Mohammed Husamuddin (57kg) and skipper Amit Pangal (51kg) ensured that the team claim an early win in their opening league match. For Odisha Warriors, it was their second successive loss. Ashish Kumar dominated his 75kg clash with Neel Kamal Singh, imposing two standing counts on his opponent in the third round.

Jesus breathes life into City

Keeps defending champions' hopes of retaining title alive by scoring a brace in their 4-1 win at Burnley

REUTERS
BURNLEY, DECEMBER 4

MANCHESTER CITY'S Gabriel Jesus struck twice and Rodri scored a screamer in a 4-1 win at Burnley on Tuesday as the champions showed signs they may be able to keep the Premier League title race alive.

The victory takes Pep Guardiola's side, who had drawn at Newcastle United on Saturday, into provisional second spot and back within eight points of leaders Liverpool ahead of the Merseyside derby with Everton at Anfield on Wednesday.

Jesus opened the scoring in the 24th minute and doubled City's advantage five minutes after the break before a spectacular drive from Rodri and a low drilled shot from substitute Riyad Mahrez made it four.

A late consolation from Burnley substitute Robbie Brady will have annoyed Guardiola, whose side have now gone eight games in all competitions without a clean sheet but, that aside, this was back to business for City.

The Spaniard, though, dismissed talk of a title race comeback.

"For the distance we have with Liverpool it would be crazy to think about the title, we have to think about the (weekend Manchester) derby, the other competitions, and take this rhythm," he told the post-match news conference.

The way the City players celebrated the win showed they knew they could ill-afford another slip-up after being held at Newcastle United on Saturday.

In recent weeks City have looked well below the standards set in their two straight title campaigns and this season they had already dropped 13 points in their 14 games, only three short of their total for the whole of the last campaign.

With only one win in their last five games in all competitions, the pressure on City was real but the gap in quality between the elite clubs and the tightly-packed middle ranks of the Premier League was soon evident.

Guardiola hallmark

Burnley manager Sean Dyche switched from his usual 4-4-2 to a five-man midfield with Danny Drinkwater, on loan from Chelsea, making his first Premier League ap-



Gabriel Jesus opened the scoring in the 24th minute and doubled City's advantage five minutes after the break. Reuters

In recent weeks City have looked well below the standards set in their two straight title campaigns and this season they had already dropped 13 points in their 14 games, only three short of their total for the whole of the last campaign.

pearance in 21 months, but neither he nor his team mates troubled the champions.

City began to move the ball around with the kind of confidence and precision that has been their hallmark under Guardiola and they were soon ahead.

The breakthrough came after a swift exchange of passes ended with David Silva threading the ball to Jesus who, filling in for the injured Sergio Aguero, curled a shot into the far corner.

The lead could have been doubled two minutes before the interval when, after rare Burnley pressure, City broke and the counter ended with a Bernardo Silva drive which keeper Nick Pope saved superbly with his outstretched leg.

The second goal came when Bernardo Silva curled a probing cross towards the back post and Jesus reacted quickly to get in front of his marker Phil Bardsley and volley home. Jesus, who had not scored in his previ-

ous 10 games for club or country, was buzzing and went close to a third with a burst of pace and another shot that fizzed just wide of the far post. A blocked shot from David Silva then fell to Rodri on the edge of the box and the Spaniard blasted a thundering, unstoppable drive past Pope to make it three in the 68th minute.

Mahrez, given acres of space, got the fourth goal three minutes from the end with a low shot from the edge of the box before Brady gave the muted home crowd some cheer in the cold.

"We played with an incredible amount of passes and we needed that," said Guardiola. "Here at Burnley it is not easy. We conceded one chance in the first half but we played in a clever way and it is a good performance," he added.

No middle ground in Middle East

Several top golfers who have signed up for the second edition of the Saudi International have faced flak for deciding to play in a country with a dismal human rights record.

THE OUTRAGE

The debate of 'money vs conscience' is raging on social media over the alleged killing of Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi by the regime of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman being the backdrop. An opinion piece in *USA Today* ran with the headline: 'For a fee, Phil Mickelson sells his conscience to play in Saudi International'



DIPLOMATIC WOODS

Tiger Woods didn't go to the kingdom despite being offered a big appearance pay cheque but said he would not deter any fellow professional from making the trip. He said he "understood the politics" behind the outrage but felt golf could "heal" the situation.

BUSINESS INTERESTS

It's interesting to note that Tiger Woods Design is building Trump World Golf Club Dubai, which is scheduled to open next year. The Trump Organization is set to operate the course, in addition to the 17 global golf clubs that are already part of his portfolio, according to news broadcaster CNN.

LONG-TERM ASSOCIATION

Mickelson (in pic) previously played in Abu Dhabi in 2011 and 2014. Woods has a long history of teeing up in the Middle East, first playing the Dubai Desert Classic in 2001. He has played in Dubai eight times, most recently in 2017, and won twice. He also played twice in Abu Dhabi.

MONEY MATTERS

The tournament chairman of the Waste Management Phoenix Open, Tim Woods said he was disappointed by Mickelson's decision to play in Saudi Arabia the same week as the PGA Tour event he has played for the last 29 years and won twice. According to ESPN, Woods said on Tuesday that Mickelson has been a big part of the tournament and he hopes that he hasn't played the tournament for the last time.

GLOBAL CONDEMNATION

The death of Khashoggi prompted global uproar, tarnishing the crown prince's image. The CIA and some Western governments have said they believe Prince Mohammed ordered the killing, but Saudi officials say he had no role.

JUSTICE DELAYED?

Khashoggi was a US resident and a critic of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. Eleven Saudi suspects have been put on trial over his death.

I understand the politics behind it. But the game of golf can actually help heal all that, too. It can help grow that. There are also a lot of other top players that are going to be playing that particular week. It's traditionally not a golf hotbed in the Middle East, but it has grown quite a bit."

TIGER WOODS

After turning down opportunities to go to the Middle East for many years, I'm excited to go play and see a place in the world I've never been. I understand those who are upset or disappointed. You'll be ok. I'm excited to experience this for the first time."

PHIL MICKELSON

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