



THE AWARDED

President Ram Nath Kovind presents Padma Bhushan to badminton player PV Sindhu (above); PM Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah greet Padma Shri Tulsi Gowda, who has planted 30,000 saplings as part of environmental efforts in Karnataka. *PTI*

[REPORT, MORE PHOTOS P 11](#)

LAKHIMPUR KHERI DEATHS

SC tells UP: unsure of your probe, let ex-judge of another HC monitor

CJI-led bench says SIT mixing evidence from two cases to benefit one accused

ANANTHAKRISHNANG
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 8

MAKING CLEAR that it is “not confident” and does not want Uttar Pradesh to continue with the judicial commission it appointed to probe the October 3 incidents in Lakhimpur Kheri, the Supreme Court proposed Monday the appointment of a retired judge from “a different High Court” to monitor investigations till the chargesheets are filed. It asked Uttar Pradesh to get back by Friday.

The bench headed by Chief Justice of India N V Ramana expressed dissatisfaction over “intermixing” of evidence by UP investigators probing the cases involving the death of farmers allegedly overrun by a convoy of three vehicles, including one owned by Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra, and the other deaths including that of a driver and two BJP workers in the violence that followed on October 3.

“What appears to us is that this SIT (Special Investigation Team), somehow or the other, is unable to maintain an investigative distance between the cases,” he said. “If this kind of process continues, it will be a case of weighing the oral evidence in one case against the other. To ensure that evidence...are recorded independently and there is no overlapping and there is no inter-

His transfer days away, CRPF jawan kills 4 of his colleagues in Chhattisgarh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
RAIPUR, NOVEMBER 8

A CRPF jawan allegedly turned his weapon on colleagues at a camp in Chhattisgarh's Naxal-hit Sukma district early on Monday, killing four personnel and injuring three.

The assailant, Reetesh Ranjan, a jawan of the CRPF's company #50, has been taken into custody. The reasons for his action were not immediately clear.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 2](#)



At the site of the Lakhimpur Kheri incident. *File*

mixing of the evidence, we are trying to appoint a retired judge from a different High Court to monitor the investigation on a day-to-day basis... We are not confident... We don't want the judicial commission appointed by your state to continue,” Justice Surya Kant, one of the three judges on the bench, said.

The bench, also comprising Justice Hima Kohli, suggested the names of Justice Ranjit Singh and Justice Rakesh Kumar Jain, retired judges of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, and said “let a former judge monitor everything till the chargesheets are prepared and filed”.

The bench's suggestion came after it said that evidence of some of the witnesses in the case relating to the death of the driver and the two BJP workers were overlapping with the case related to the death of four farmers. It

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 2](#)

13 in jail for farmer deaths; minister son's bail plea to be heard Nov 15

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 8

THE BAIL application of Ashish Mishra, son of Union Minister of State Ajay Mishra, will be heard by a court in Lakhimpur Kheri on November 15.

Ashish alias Monu is among the 13 accused arrested by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) investigating the incidents of October 3 in Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur Kheri district, in which four farmers and a local journalist were run over and killed by a convoy of SUVs including one that is owned by Union minister Mishra.

Three occupants of the vehicles were subsequently beaten to death by the mob at the site. The SIT headed by Upendra Agarwal, an Uttar Pradesh Police officer of DIG rank, has arrested four people for their alleged involvement in these murders.

Ashish Mishra was arrested on October 10. He has said he was not present at the scene of the crime. All 13 accused are lodged in the district jail in Lakhimpur Kheri.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 2](#)

After Islamabad, Beijing to skip New Delhi meeting on Kabul; Iran and Russia to join

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 8

AFTER PAKISTAN'S refusal last week, China has cited “scheduling issues” to convey that it will not participate in the Delhi Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan on November 10, sources told *The Indian Express*.

While the two neighbours have chosen to stay away, the other key countries in the region — Russia, Iran, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan — are expected to participate in the meeting to be held at the level of national security advisors, and chaired by NSA Ajit Doval.



At a camp for aid in Kabul. Leaders will talk “current situation, future outlook”. *AP*

Though it has refused to attend, China has conveyed that it is open to maintaining contact and discussions through bilateral diplomatic channels.

Sources said the meeting will

look at evolving a “regional security architecture” to deal with the challenges arising out of the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, mainly terrorism within and across its border, radicalisation and extremism, cross-border movement, drug production and trafficking, and potential use of weapons and equipment left behind by the US and its allies.

The Delhi meeting will be attended by Rear Admiral Ali Shamkhani (Iran), Nikolai P. Patrusev (Russia), Karim Massimov (Kazakhstan), Marat Mukanovich Imankulov (Kyrgyzstan), Nasrullo Rahmatjon Mahmudzoda (Tajikistan), Charymyrat Kakalyevich Amavov (Turkmenistan) and Victor

Makhmudov (Uzbekistan).

The top security officials are expected to jointly call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday. Some of the visiting delegates will also travel to Amritsar and Agra for sightseeing.

With security concerns pertaining to Afghanistan dominating Delhi's mind, the conference is being held on the Taliban-ruled country's “current situation and future outlook”. Apart from the multilateral element, there will be bilateral meetings as well, sources said.

The Ministry of External Affairs said the “high-level dialogue will review the security situation in the region arising

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 2](#)



Over for India, Captain Kohli

India wrapped up their T20 World Cup campaign with a 9-wicket win over Namibia, in Kohli's last match as T20 skipper. [PAGE 16](#)

Cry of society, says judge, gives Ansals 7 yrs jail in an Uphaar case



Uphaar cinema hall after the June 13, 1997, fire. *File*

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 8

A DELHI court Monday sentenced real estate barons Sushil (82) and Gopal Ansal (73) along with three others to seven years imprisonment for tampering with evidence in the 1997 Uphaar fire tragedy case. The Ansal brothers were also fined Rs 2.25 crore which will be paid as compensation to the Association of the Victims of Uphaar Tragedy (AVUT).

Rejecting their plea for a lenient sentence, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Pankaj Sharma said “misplaced sympathy or unwarranted leniency will send a wrong signal to the public” and an “inadequate sentence would do more harm to the public confidence in the efficacy of law as society could not long endure such assaults on the justice system”.

He said a sentence which [CONTINUED ON PAGE 2](#)

Day after policeman shot in Srinagar, salesman of a Pandit's shop is killed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 8

A DAY after a policeman was shot dead in Srinagar, suspected militants killed a civilian in the Old City area on Monday evening.

Mohammad Ibrahim Khan, 45, who worked as a salesman at a grocery shop run by a Kashmiri Pandit in Bohri Kadal, was shot in the chest and abdomen. He died during treatment.

The two killings have happened within 24 hours despite heightened security across Srinagar. More troops have been deployed in the Valley and security checks are up since a spree of civilian killings, including of migrant workers, last month.

A resident of Ashtingoo village in Bandipore, Khan worked at a shop run by Roshan Lal Mawa. While Mawa had migrated to Delhi at the onset of militancy in the Valley in the

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 2](#)

INSIDE



AT KAIRANA, YOGI SAYS EXODUS ALSO AN ISSUE [PAGE 7](#)

AMID SIDHU ROW, PUNJAB DY CM'S KIN IS ADDL AG [PAGE 10](#)

PAK LIFTS BAN ON EXTREMIST TLP TO END PROTESTS [PAGE 14](#)

Online retail bets big on quick-commerce: micro warehouses, under 30-min delivery

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 8

AMID SUPPLY chain disruptions triggered by the pandemic, the online grocery segment has forged a new sub-vertical — Quick Commerce, or q-commerce — where the promise of deliveries within 10-30 minutes of ordering is the unique selling proposition.

New players, including Mumbai-based Zepto, have

waded into a space where industry heavyweights — Grofers, Swiggy and Dunzo, alongside Tata Group-owned Big Basket that will be extended to the Tata Neu superapp — have either launched or are contemplating full-scale operations. The focus of most of these ventures is on setting up micro-warehouses located closer to the point of delivery and restricting the stocks at these ‘dark stores’ to a focused set of under 2,000 high-demand items, as against the traditional

formula of well-stocked large-format warehouses located on the outskirts of towns and cities.

The newest entrant in the space is Zepto, a startup founded by two 19-year-old entrepreneurs, which announced a \$60 million fundraise on November 1, which it plans to invest in expanding the number of ‘dark stores’ it has to offer 10-minute grocery delivery to its customers.

In addition to Zepto, older players with delivery infrastructure like Grofers and Swiggy have

also set up dark stores to decrease the turnaround times on delivery of goods. Dark stores are micro-warehouses that are located closer to the point of delivery, compared with larger warehouses that are typically located on the outskirts of a city and are fewer in number. Only 3-4 such large warehouses service an entire city, instead of hundreds of dark stores being set up in a large city like Delhi. Further, while the more conventional

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 2](#)

EXPLAINED Start-ups and key players

THE COST of delivering online groceries fast is high, but the customers may not be willing to pay a premium. Start-up Zepto, which focuses on 10-minute delivery, has managed to raise \$60 million, and may expand its offerings to show profitability in a market where established players are seeking a higher piece of the pie.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BHOPAL, NOVEMBER 8

AT LEAST four infants died late Monday in a fire that broke out in the children's ward of the Kamla Nehru Hospital, which is located within the premises of Bhopal's state-run Hamidia Hospital.

Officials said the fire broke out in a general ward and an ICU ward. They said that 36 of the 40 infants in the ward were rescued while four, who were already in a critical condition, succumbed in the blaze.

“Prima facie, the cause of the fire seems to be a short-circuit,” Medical Health Education

Minister Vishwas Sarang said. Minutes earlier, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan had tweeted that three children “who were already seriously ill” could not be saved. Describing the deaths as “an unbearable pain”, Chouhan said a high-level inquiry would look into what went wrong.

According to Rais Khan, a resident of Rajgarh in the state whose 10-day-old grandson was

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 2](#)

55 DEATHS, MISSED RED FLAGS IN MAHARASHTRA

[PAGE 10](#)

Undeterred by daughter's murder, he scripts hope for girls

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

SANTOSH SINGH
PATAURI (SAMASTIPUR), NOVEMBER 8

EARLY ON September 14, Umashanker Thakur's teenaged daughter got on her bicycle and started pedalling towards his coaching institute at Patauri town in Bihar's Samastipur, about 14 km away from her home in Karnauti village of Vaisali.

The Class 10 student was

among 300 others, mostly girls, who saw Thakur's Daughters Development Group as a gateway to a life of hope and success. But the 14-year-old, the only girl among Thakur's three children, never reached where she wanted to. She was waylaid and murdered by a group of six men led by a man who, police say, had got into an argument with her days earlier.

Within the next 10 days, all the accused were arrested and jailed. And a week later, Thakur was back at the institute. “I see my daughter in all of these girls who cycle 10-15 km from their villages to the coaching centre,”

says the 45-year-old.

Over the last 18 years, since Thakur left his job as a marine engineer in Mumbai and started this institute “to lift the education profile” of rural students from Samastipur and Vaisali, “DDG” has notched up an impressive honours board: 30 government jobs, four IIT seats, 10 NIT slots, three NEET successes, over 100 Army jobs, 70 police placements and about 40 Group-D jobs in the Railways.

“The list of successful students has more than 30 girls. We help all of them prepare for competitive examinations or just clear their school exams from



Umashanker Thakur, a marine engineer, left a lucrative job to start a coaching centre in Samastipur. *Santosh Singh*

Class 9-12,” says Thakur. “We also speak to the students about issues such as foeticide and dowry system, and try to create awareness among them.”

The centre charges Rs 300 per month for six hours of coaching every day, and employs five other teachers.

“This institute has filled me with so much self-confidence,” says Kriti Kumari, a farmer's daughter who is pursuing a B.ED degree. “I have been coming here for a year. I am now confident that I can speak out anywhere,” says Neha Kumari, a Class 12 student and daughter of a private firm employee.

It was in 2002 that Thakur completed his marine engineering course from T S Chanakya and got a job in an MNC. “But I felt like going back home to be with my own people. I gave up the job, returned and started this institute in 2003,” he says.

The result is evident — in the words and deeds of his students. “I used to cycle 12 km every day from my village Jalalpur in Samastipur to reach the institute. My cycle got stolen, but I ensured that I continued to attend classes riding pillion on my friend's cycle. Uma sir's innovative teaching style evoked curiosity and

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 2](#)

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNNY



3 WEST BENGAL

City police's volunteer seen kicking 'snatcher', says it was unintentional

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 8

A CIVIC volunteer who was seen in a video purportedly kicking a youth was demobilised and has since been suspended, the Kolkata Police said on Monday. The alleged incident took place on Sunday evening near Rabindra Sadan crossing. Kolkata Police Commissioner Soumen Mitra has ordered a probe. Even as the video led to widespread criticism, the accused civic volunteer, identified as Tanmoy Biswas, has defended his action, calling it "unintentional."

According to reports, South Traffic Guard personnel and a traffic sergeant who were present at the spot were summoned by Commissioner Mitra. "It is an unfortunate incident and embarrassing for us. An enquiry has been initiated," said Mitra.

In the video, the accused is seen purportedly kicking a man on the chest on the side of a busy road. According to sources, the 20-year-old man, suspected to be a snatcher, suffered injuries in the incident.

The accused claimed that the incident took place while he was trying to prevent the 20-year-old from running away.

The police also claimed that the youth tried to escape after snatching the bag of a woman passenger in a moving bus. The civic volunteer accosted the young man on the street and allegedly started beating him up.

"It was unintentional. He [the 20-year-old] was trying to escape and I had put my foot on his chest to stop him. I am sorry for my actions," the civic volunteer told a TV news channel.

Biswas also claimed that he first rescued the man from an angry mob and then tried to stop him from fleeing from the spot.

Former IG Pankaj Dutt strongly condemned the incident. He told a TV channel, "Suspension of a civic volunteer has no meaning. He should be arrested. There should be exemplary punishment for him."

The incident drew condemnation from all walks of life and evoked memories of the 2020 killing of African American George Floyd by a policeman in the US. — **WITH PTI INPUTS**

POLITICAL TUSSLE

Govt's hands are tied, cannot give more relief on fuel prices: Mamata

Hits out at Centre over rising fuel prices, says BJP govt not giving financial assistance to Bengal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 8

AMID OPPOSITION'S demand for a further cut in fuel prices by reducing VAT, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday said that her government already gives Re 1 concession on diesel, and due to the financial constraints, more relief could not be given.

"We give a concession of Re 1 per litre of diesel. Where will we get the money? Despite the financial constraints we give such concessions. This is what we are doing with our limited resources. We cannot give more than that," Banerjee said hours after BJP held a rally in Kolkata to pressure the TMC government in the state to reduce VAT on fuel following the Centre's decision to cut the excise duty on petrol and diesel.

Speaking at "Sharod Samman"—a programme organised by the state government for awarding organisers of the best Durga Pujas—the chief minister hit out at the BJP government at the Centre for the high prices of fuel and cooking gas and said that it was creating hindrances to the development of the state.

"It's natural that prices of day-to-day commodities will go up if the price of diesel goes up every day. How will the farmers carry out their agricultural work? They (farmers) need diesel to carry out their work," she said.

"The BJP government earned Rs 4 lakh crore from tax on diesel, petrol and cooking gas, and it is giving Rs 1,000 crore financial assistance to states ruled by its party. The Centre is giving us nothing, and now they are talking big... They (the Centre) do not give us vaccines (for Covid-19). How can you expect them to provide us financial help," she added.

Stating that West Bengal holds the first position in the country in respect of the MSME sector, the chief minister said "There are several industries which have been set up and there are more which are coming up. There is only one problem—that is the prices of diesel, petrol and gas are being raised every day".



Police personnel outside the BJP office to stop a rally demanding reduction in fuel prices, in Kolkata on Monday. Partha Paul

CM: STATE TO HOST FILM FESTIVAL, BUSINESS SUMMIT

Kolkata: Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday said that Bengal Business Summit, which was not held for the past two years due to the Covid pandemic, will be held in April 2022. She also said that next year would see the return of the International Film Festival and the Book Fair. "The International Film Festival will be held between January 7 and January 14, and the Book Fair will commence on January 31," she added. **ENS**

Banerjee alleged that the common people's money is being blocked by the Centre. The manner in which disinvestment is taking place and offices of the central government organisations like SAIL, rail and coal and others are being shut down, there will be more unemployed people in the country.

Will force govt to cut VAT on fuel: BJP after its march stopped

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 8

BJP workers on Monday clashed with police after they were stopped from taking out a rally demanding a reduction in taxes levied by the Mamata Banerjee government on fuel prices. Several of them were detained following the scuffle, police said.

Slamming the TMC government for not reducing Value Added Tax (VAT) on petrol and diesel, BJP leaders threatened to take out rallies across West Bengal for five days if VAT is not reduced on fuel and gave a seven-day ultimatum to the state government to accept its demand.

On Monday, the BJP had planned to take out the protest rally from state BJP headquarters in central Kolkata to Esplanade. However, the police did not grant permission, citing Covid-19 restrictions.

Police had put up barricades

outside the BJP office to prevent party workers from taking out the rally. As they tried to cross the barricades, a scuffle with the police ensued.

Asserting that they will force the state government to reduce the VAT on fuel prices, state BJP president Sukanta Majumdar said, "Whenever we decide to hold our programmes, the police stop us citing Covid-19 norms. But the TMC is allowed to take out a rally against the Centre over rising fuel prices. The ruling party is scared of the BJP and that's why it is stopping us. But we will force the state government to reduce VAT on fuel." "We are giving the state government an ultimatum of seven days... If it doesn't accept our demand, we will take out march to Nabanna to press for the same," he said.

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, Suvendu Adhikari, said the party would continue to hold protest rallies till the state government accepts their demand.

"After the Centre's decision to reduce VAT, several states also slashed taxes to help bring down fuel prices. But the state government which claims to be a pro-people government is yet to do it. This is nothing but the double standard of the West Bengal government," said Adhikari.

BJP national vice-president Dilip Ghosh too slammed the TMC government over the issue. "If they are so concerned about the people then they should also reduce taxes on fuel," said Ghosh. On the eve of Diwali, the Centre had announced a reduction in central levies on petrol by Rs 5 a litre and diesel by Rs 10 a litre. Till now, over 20 states and Union territories have undertaken a commensurate reduction of VAT. However, several Opposition-ruled states, including West Bengal, Delhi and Maharashtra, have not reduced VAT.

TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said the BJP was indulging in cheap politics over the issue.

Declare dates for all pending civic body elections: BJP to poll panel

Kolkata: The BJP on Monday urged the West Bengal State Election Commission (WBSEC) to simultaneously declare election dates for all civic bodies where election is due to prevent the ruling TMC from gaining an "undue advantage". A delegation of BJP leaders led by its state vice-president Pratap Banerjee met WBSEC officials and submitted a memorandum.

According to the BJP, the state government is trying to "influence" the state election commis-

sion to declare election dates of some civic bodies in a bid to influence voters for civic bodies where election will be held later.

"It has also come to our knowledge that the state government is attempting to influence the State Election Commission to notify dates for elections in respect of a few municipal bodies (not more than three) where the ruling party has a strong support base and where they expect to get good results," read the memorandum. **ENS**

Post-poll violence: Submit progress report on probe in December, HC tells CBI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 8

THE CALCUTTA High Court on Monday directed the CBI to file a progress report on its investigation on alleged post-poll violence in West Bengal on the next date of hearing in December.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Prakash Shrivastava and Justice I P Mukerji also said victims of the violence would have to file appropriate applications to seek compensation.

The court, which is monitoring the investigation into alleged post-poll violence in the state, directed the CBI to file a report on further progress in the probe on December 23, the next date of hearing.

Lawyers for some petitioners took up the issue of payment of compensation to victims, to be paid by the state as was directed by a five-judge bench earlier.

The division bench said that appropriate applications should be filed by the victims to claim compensation.

A five-judge bench presided over by the then Acting Chief Justice Rajesh Bindal had on August 19 ordered a CBI investigation into all cases of murder and crimes against women such as rape and attempt to rape in post-poll violence in West Bengal.

Passing judgement in PILs seeking an independent probe in alleged violence in the state fol-



The CBI had on October 4 filed status reports before the High Court. File

lowing the state assembly elections in March-April this year, the bench had ordered the constitution of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) comprising three IPS officers of West Bengal cadre to probe all other cases.

The bench, also comprising justices I P Mukerji, Harish Tandon, Soumen Sen and Subrata Talukdar had directed that both the investigations would be monitored by the high court.

The bench had also ordered the West Bengal government to pay compensation to the victims of crime as per the policy of the state, after due verification and directed that the amount would be directly transferred to their bank accounts.

The CBI and the SIT had on October 4 filed status reports before the Calcutta High Court on the progress of investigation.

EXPRESS Careers

इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ बैंकिंग पर्सनेल सेलेक्शन
(आचार्य प्रसाद सिंह, सीनियर बैंकिंग एक्स्पर्ट्स एवं एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन के क्षेत्र में विशेषज्ञता प्राप्त) 

INSTITUTE OF BANKING PERSONNEL SELECTION
(An autonomous body set up by Reserve Bank of India, Central Financial Institutions and Public Sector Banks)

असोज, २०, एन.ए. रोड, नया दिल्ली-११००२८
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COMMON RECRUITMENT PROCESS FOR RECRUITMENT OF SPECIALIST OFFICERS IN PARTICIPATING BANKS- (CRP SPL-XI FOR VACANCIES OF 2022-23)

The online examination (Preliminary and Main) for the next Common Recruitment Process (CRP) for selection of personnel in Specialist Officers' cadre posts listed below in the Participating Banks is tentatively scheduled in December 2021/ January 2022.

Sr. No	POSTS	Tentative Vacancies
01	I.T. Officer (Scale-I)	220
02	Agricultural Field Officer (Scale I)	884
03	Rajbhasha Adhikari (Scale I)	84
04	Law Officer (Scale I)	44
05	HR/Personnel Officer (Scale I)	61
06	Marketing Officer (Scale I)	535

The tentative schedule of events is as follows:

Events	Tentative Dates
On-line registration including Edit/Modification of Application by candidates	03.11.2021- 23.11.2021
Payment of Application Fees/Intimation Charges (Online)	03.11.2021- 23.11.2021
Download of call letters for Online examination – Preliminary	December 2021
Online Examination – Preliminary	26.12.2021
Result of Online exam – Preliminary	January 2022
Download of Call letter for Online exam – Main	January 2022
Online Examination – Main	30.01.2022
Declaration of Result of Online Main Examination	February 2022
Download of call letters for interview	February 2022
Conduct of interview	February/March 2022
Provisional Allotment	April 2022

Candidates are advised to regularly keep in touch with the authorised IBPS website www.ibps.in for details and updates. Before registering online candidates are advised to read the detailed notification and follow the instructions mentioned therein.

Mumbai
Date: 02.11.2021
Director

Day after Bhangar clash, 25 arrested so far

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 8

TENSION PREVAILED in Bhangar of South 24 Parganas district on Monday, a day after a clash took place between police and supporters of Indian Secular Front (ISF). So far, 25 persons have been arrested in connection with the incident. According to sources, clash took place after police obstructed meeting called by ISF chief and Furfura Sharif Pirzada Abbas Siddiqui in

Padmapukur of Bhangar.

Aiming at the police, Siddiqui's supporters allegedly hurled stones and bricks, after which the police resorted to lathicharge. Four policemen were injured in the clash and additional police force was called in to bring the situation under control. Although no fresh skirmish was reported on Monday, the situation remained tense.

Siddiqui had a scheduled meeting at Padmapukur in Narayanpur of Bhangar police station on Sunday, sources said.

ISF supporters alleged that the police obstructed the meeting, while police said the meet was being held without permission.

Abbas was also scheduled to hold another meeting at Jaipur area in Bhangar on Monday. But the local police did not allow the meeting, sources said, after which Abbas himself canceled the meeting in view of the heated situation.

On the clash, Bhangar MLA Nowshad Siddiqui said, "The Trinamool Congress is trying to stop us through police. They are

scared. That is why TMC wants to increase its influence in the area by using muscle power."

Denying the allegation, Kaiser Ahmed, president of the Trinamool's Bhangar-1 block, said, "Anyone, be it the CPM, the Congress or the BJP, can come to Bhangar for political propaganda." But Abbas (Siddiqui) and his supporters have turned religious gatherings into political ones. They are misleading the people through religious meetings in Bhangar without the permission of the police."

NOTE BAN DISASTROUS DECISION: TRINAMOOL

Kolkata: On the fifth anniversary of demonetisation on Monday, the Trinamool Congress termed the note ban as one of the most disastrous decisions in independent India and accused the BJP-led government of destroying the country's economy.

The Narendra Modi government had on this day in 2016 announced the decision to ban currency notes of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 denominations. **PTI**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 8

DESCRIBING THE West Bengal school education board's decision to reopen institutions from November 16 as "unscientific", a PIL was filed before the Calcutta High Court on Monday seeking formation of an expert committee for reviewing the Covid-19 situation and providing necessary recommendations to the government in the matter.

The petitioner claimed that students up to the age of 18 years are yet to be vaccinated, and physical classes would only increase the chances of Covid-19 transmission among them.

The West Bengal Board of Secondary Education had on October 29 issued a notification for reopening of schools for students of classes IX to XII from November 16 with certain guidelines on maintenance of

603 NEW COVID CASES, 14 MORE DIE

Kolkata: West Bengal's Covid tally rose to 15,99,091 on after 603 more people tested positive for the infection today. A total of 14 new fatalities pushed the death toll to 19,240, a health department bulletin said. Kolkata recorded the highest number of new cases at 149, followed by North 24 Parganas at 138, the bulletin said.

On Monday, active cases

stood at 7,899 out of which 6,628 were in home isolation and 211 were in safe homes. As many as 15,71,952 people have recovered from the disease, including 657 in the past 24 hours. The percentage of positive cases out of samples tested was 2.51 per cent on Monday, the bulletin said.

The recovery rate in West Bengal stood at 98.30 per cent. **PTI**

COVID-19 protocols.

It specified different time slots for secondary and higher secondary students.

Praying that the notice be quashed, the petitioner sought appointment of an expert committee which would assess the current situation and then provide suggestions to the government.

The public interest litigation (PIL) said that the government should go by the recommendations of the committee and take its decision on reopening schools accordingly. The petitioner, a lawyer by profession, said that the PIL is likely to be mentioned before the court of the chief justice later this week.

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POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Advt. No. 132/2021

The Tata Memorial Centre (TMC) invites application for the following posts at Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital & Research Centre, Mullanpur, Punjab & Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai, Maharashtra

Sr No	Post Name	UR	OBC	SC	ST	OH	EWS	Total
1	ASSISTANT PROFESSOR 'E', (GENERAL MEDICINE)	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
2	ASSISTANT PROFESSOR 'E', (PREVENTIVE ONCOLOGY)	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
3	ASSISTANT PROFESSOR 'E', (MEDICAL ONCOLOGY)	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
4	ASSISTANT PROFESSOR 'E', (PATHOLOGY)	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
5	ASSISTANT PROFESSOR 'E', (MICROBIOLOGY)	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
6	ASSISTANT PROFESSOR 'E', (TRANSFUSION MEDICINE)	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
7	ASSISTANT PROFESSOR 'E', (RADIATION ONCOLOGY)	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
8	ASSISTANT PROFESSOR 'E', (PLASTIC SURGERY)	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
9	ASSISTANT PROFESSOR 'E', (INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGY)	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
10	ASSISTANT RADIOLOGIST 'D'	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
11	HEAD, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (TMH, MUMBAI)	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
12	OFFICER-IN-CHARGE (DISPENSARY)	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
13	SCIENTIFIC OFFICER 'SB' (BIOMEDICAL)	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
14	JUNIOR ENGINEER (ELECTRICAL)	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
15	SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANT 'C' (NUCLEAR MEDICINE)	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
16	TECHNICIAN 'C' (C.S.S.D)	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
17	ASSISTANT NURSING SUPERINTENDENT	2	1	1	-	-	-	4
18	NURSE 'C'	2	1	1	-	-	-	5
19	NURSE 'B'	10	5	4	2	-	-	24
20	NURSE 'A'	26	18	11	5	3	10	73

Last date for online application is 29.11.2021 upto 05.30 p.m. (Indian Standard Time).

For details of the essential qualification and experience for various positions, service conditions and emoluments, how to apply etc., visit our web site <https://tmc.gov.in>
It is mandatory to submit online applications

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H.R.D. OFFICER

Kolkata

Sr. No	Branch Name	Branch Address	Locker No.	Name of the Locker Hirer(s)	Address	Amount Due	Amount Due From	Sr. No	Branch Name	Branch Address	Locker No.	Name of the Locker Hirer(s)	Address	Amount Due	Amount Due From
107	Dunlop Bridge	Shree Towers, 101A/1, B.T. Road, Ground Floor, Dunlop Bridge, Kolkata 700 090, ,West Bengal	4057	MOUMITA DAS	Subham Plaza Flat No-4 100/2 B.T. Road, ps-Baranagar, Subham Plaza, Homeopathy ,Hospital Bon Hooghly, Kolkata, West Bengal India- 700090	29575	03-06-2014	157	Electronic Complex, Salt Lake	Electronic Complex, Salt Lake,Plot No/ Xi-16, Block Ep & Gp, Sector V, Kolkata 700 091, West Bengal	1029	RUCHIKA PODDAR	W/O Mudit Poddar Cl 241 Sector -li salt Lake City Bidhan Nagar, Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700091	32025	24-04-2013
108	Dunlop Bridge	Shree Towers, 101A/1, B.T. Road, Ground Floor, Dunlop Bridge, Kolkata 700 090, ,West Bengal	5003	SAMIR SANTRA	81,B T Road Noapara North 24 Parganas Baranagar, Kolkata, West Bengal, india 700090	22225	07-05-2016	158	Electronic Complex, Salt Lake	Electronic Complex, Salt Lake,Plot No/ Xi-16, Block Ep & Gp, Sector V, Kolkata 700 091, West Bengal	1087	PRAGATI MAHAPATRA	Airport City Block-11 Plat-B3238/126/3 Jessore Road Rajbari Colony North Dumdum (M) North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, India/700081	32699	04-04-2012
109	Rash Behari Avenue	Rash Behari Avenue, Kolkata,41B, Rash Behari Avenue,Kolkata 700 026, ,West Bengal	1011	SANCHITA KUNDU	33 Sadananda Rd Flat No-4B, Kolkata, West Bengal, India-700026	38938	26-04-2007	159	Electronic Complex, Salt Lake	Electronic Complex, Salt Lake,Plot No/ Xi-16, Block Ep & Gp, Sector V, Kolkata 700 091, West Bengal	2018	NINE STAR NOVELTIES PRIVATE LTD	9-2G Topsis Rd South, Kolkata, West Bengal, India-700046	25900	30-12-2015
110	Rash Behari Avenue	Rash Behari Avenue, Kolkata,41B, Rash Behari Avenue,Kolkata 700 026, ,West Bengal	1052	KRISHNA GHOSH	15 Parashar Road 4Th Floor Flat 12 Near lake Market, Kolkata, West Bengal, India 700029	16888	07-07-2017	160	Electronic Complex, Salt Lake	Electronic Complex, Salt Lake,Plot No/ Xi-16, Block Ep & Gp, Sector V, Kolkata 700 091, West Bengal	2039	BANDANA MONDAL	C/O Palan Sardar Vill Jatragachi Po Ghuni, P.S.:New Town 24 Pgs (N),Kolkata,West Bengal, India-700059	24903	05-02-2016
111	Rash Behari Avenue	Rash Behari Avenue, Kolkata,41B, Rash Behari Avenue,Kolkata 700 026, ,West Bengal	1076	SOUVICK ROY	Bl-5 5Th Fr, FI-5A 197/A B Bhattejree Road0Kolkatawest Bengalindia700042	10588	18-09-2018	161	Electronic Complex, Salt Lake	Electronic Complex, Salt Lake,Plot No/ Xi-16, Block Ep & Gp, Sector V, Kolkata 700 091, West Bengal	3012	SEULI SAHA	W/O Tarun Kumar Saha Ac-3 Sree Toweryangra Baguitai Norht 24 Parganas, Metro Bazar Building, Kolkata, West Bengal, India700059	17553	26-04-2017
112	Rash Behari Avenue	Rash Behari Avenue, Kolkata,41B, Rash Behari Avenue,Kolkata 700 026, ,West Bengal	1083	AMIT AGARWAL	S/O S N Agarwal, Flat 7D, Merlin Cambridge,24 Prince Anwar Shah Road, Op Navina cinema, Tollygunge Circus Avenue, Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700033	24238	16-06-2015	162	Electronic Complex, Salt Lake	Electronic Complex, Salt Lake,Plot No/ Xi-16, Block Ep & Gp, Sector V, Kolkata 700 091, West Bengal	3023	ARUN KARMAKAR	Oxi- Zen Softech Private Ltd (6Th Floor) Kanwala Towers,J1-5,Block-Ep, Sec-V,Salt Lake, Kolkata, West Bengal, India-700091	38150	24-04-2009
113	Rash Behari Avenue	Rash Behari Avenue, Kolkata,41B, Rash Behari Avenue,Kolkata 700 026, ,West Bengal	1084	AMIT AGARWAL	S/O S N Agarwal, Flat 7D, Merlin Cambridge 24 Prince Anwar Shah Road, Op Navina Cinema, Tollygunge Circus Avenue, Kolkata, West Bengal, India-700033	27913	20-06-2014	163	Electronic Complex, Salt Lake	Electronic Complex, Salt Lake,Plot No/ Xi-16, Block Ep & Gp, Sector V, Kolkata 700 091, West Bengal	3029	SAMIR SRIVASTAVA	Flat No 4, Plot No 19, Block Ef, Sector Iisalt Lake, Kolkata, West Bengal, india-700091	39375	02-04-2008
114	Rash Behari Avenue	Rash Behari Avenue, Kolkata,41B, Rash Behari Avenue,Kolkata 700 026, ,West Bengal	2062	GURDIP SINGH	7B Shankar Bose Road, 3Rd Floor, Flat 3A 3B ,Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700027	20563	20-12-2016	164	New Alipore	New Alipore, Kolkata, 60, Bankim Mukherjee Sarani, Kolkata 700 053, West Bengal	1046	RUPA DUTTA	370/S Mahendra Banerjee Road, Behala, Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700060	29575	08-05-2014
115	Rash Behari Avenue	Rash Behari Avenue, Kolkata,41B, Rash Behari Avenue,Kolkata 700 026, ,West Bengal	2069	RANJAN BARAT	2/3B Southern Avenue Kalighat, Nabanalanda School, Kolkata, West Bengal, India-700026	16888	12-06-2017	165	New Alipore	New Alipore, Kolkata , 60, Bankim Mukherjee Sarani,Kolkata 700 053,West Bengal	1052	BIPLAB SAHA	,5, Sukur Sarkar Lane, Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700016	33863	02-05-2012
116	Rash Behari Avenue	Rash Behari Avenue, Kolkata,41B, Rash Behari Avenue,Kolkata 700 026, ,West Bengal	2089	MEENAXI TALUKDAR	9/1A Deshapriya Park West, Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700026	18550	17-06-2016	166	New Alipore	New Alipore, Kolkata, 60, Bankim Mukherjee Sarani, Kolkata 700 053, West Bengal	1055	ARINDAM KAR	153 Nabalia Para Barisha, Purbabarisha South 24Parganas, Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700008	27160	29-04-2014
117	Rash Behari Avenue	Rash Behari Avenue, Kolkata,41B, Rash Behari Avenue,Kolkata 700 026, ,West Bengal	3018	NARESH PRASAD	Ram Radha Kunj,26 Sadananda Road, Kalighat S.O nr. Kalighat Post Office, Kolkata, West Bengal, India-700026	81369	08-10-2015	167	New Alipore	New Alipore, Kolkata, 60, Bankim Mukherjee Sarani, Kolkata 700 053, West Bengal	2002	TANUJA PAUL	7/1, Brojen Mukherjee Road, Ground Floor, Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700034	14263	09-05-2018
118	Rash Behari Avenue	Rash Behari Avenue, Kolkata,41B, Rash Behari Avenue,Kolkata 700 026, ,West Bengal	3024	CHANDRANI DATTA	Dipanwita Flat No W2/278 Chetla Road Kolkata, Kolkata, West Bengl, India 700027	61800	17-02-2015	168	New Alipore	New Alipore, Kolkata, 60, Bankim Mukherjee Sarani,New Alipore, Kolkata 700 053, West Bengal	2003	SUMAN BHATTACHARYYA	27/1 J K Paul Road P.O. Sahapur 1 No Chatterjee Colony, West Bengal, India - 700038	22225	12-04-2016
119	Rash Behari Avenue	Rash Behari Avenue, Kolkata,41B, Rash Behari Avenue,Kolkata 700 026, ,West Bengal	6030	SAHID RANJAN BANERJEE	25, New Vikramgarh Colony, Jadavpur, Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700032	32200	20-06-2012	169	Panchananatala	Panchananatala, Howrah ,2, Deshpran Sashmal Road, Howrah 711011, West Bengal	1001	PINTU SHAW	25 Ashu Bose Lane, Howrah, SBI Branch Howrah, West Bengal, India- 711101	18550	12-09-2017
120	Rash Behari Avenue	Rash Behari Avenue, Kolkata,41B, Rash Behari Avenue,Kolkata 700 026, ,West Bengal	8006	SUJATA MONDAL	1/29 B Prince Gulam Mohammed Rd, Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700026	12600	09-05-2018	170	Panchananatala	Panchananatala, Howrah ,2, Deshpran Sashmal Road, Panchananatala, Howrah 711101, West Bengal	1007	PROSENJIT MAJI	102/4 Brindaban Mullick Lane, Kadamtala, Howrah Corporation , Netaji Balak Sangha Park, Howrah , West Bengal, India- 711101	22225	12-04-2016
121	Rash Behari Avenue	Prince Anwar Shah Road, Kolkata, City High, 85, ,Prince Anwar Shah Road,Kolkata 700 033, West Bengal	1056	ARUNA AGARWAL	24 Prince Anwar Shah Road Merlin Ca 10Th floor, Flat No 10B, Kolkata, West Bengal, India-700033	14263	09-05-2018	171	Panchananatala	Panchananatala, Howrah ,2, Deshpran Sashmal Road,Panchananatala, Howrah 711 101,West Bengal	2030	PARTHA BANERJEE	P-23,Natabar Pal Raod,Rathtala P.S.: Bantra, Howrah, West Bengal, India- 711105	32025	17-05-2013
122	Prince Anwar Shah Road	Prince Anwar Shah Road, Kolkata, City High, 85, ,Prince Anwar Shah Road, Kolkata 700 033, West Bengal	2001	JAYEETA ROY CHOWDHURY	Happy Home, 100 Sreerampore Road, Kolkata, West Bengal, India-700084	36325	17-06-2011	172	Panchananatala	Panchananatala, Howrah ,2, Deshpran Sashmal Road,Panchananatala, Howrah 711 101,West Bengal	4007	MOONMOON MANDAL	W/O Salen Mondal 115 Brindaban Malik lane, Kadamtala, Howrah, Corporation, Netaji Balak Sangha Club, Howrah, West Bengal, India-700019	23438	26-06-2018
123	Prince Anwar Shah Road	Prince Anwar Shah Road, Kolkata, City High, 85, ,Prince Anwar Shah Road,Kolkata 700 033, West Bengal	2020	SANGEETA NANDI	Flat No-A3 188/44/1A Prince Anwarshah Road., Kolkata, West Bengal, India-700045	14263	23-08-2018	173	Panchananatala	Panchananatala, Howrah ,2, Deshpran SashmalHowrah 711 101,West Bengal	4014	PAMELA MOOKERJEE	97-B Ekdalia Road, flat No - I, nr 2B Bus Stand, Kolkata, West Bengal, India-700019	39975	12-04-2016
124	Prince Anwar Shah Road	Prince Anwar Shah Road, Kolkata, City High, 85, ,Prince Anwar Shah Road,Kolkata 700 033, West Bengal	3020	ANJU MADAN	Flat 8N, Tower 3, City High,85, Prince Anwar Shah Road, Kolkata, West Bengal, India-700033	30563	23-08-2018	174	Panchananatala	Panchananatala, Howrah ,2, Deshpran Sashmal Road, Howrah 711 101,West Bengal	4029	APURBA ROY	108,Netaji Subhash Road, Howrah, West Bengal, India711101	23438	05-06-2018
125	Prince Anwar Shah Road	Prince Anwar Shah Road, Kolkata , City High, 85, ,Prince Anwar Shah Road,Kolkata 700 033, West Bengal	5004	JAHANGIR ALI LASKAR	Chandan Nagar Purba Molla Para, Mahesh-tala, (M) Memanpur Chandannagar near Chandan Nagar Primary School Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700139	30563	23-08-2018	175	Panchananatala	Panchananatala, Howrah ,2, Deshpran Sashmal Road,Panchananatala, Howrah 711 101,West Bengal	6002	ANKAN DATTA	360 Sasitlata., Howrah, West Bengal India-711101	29575	25-07-2014
126	Prince Anwar Shah Road	Prince Anwar Shah Road, Kolkata, City High, 85, ,Prince Anwar Shah Road,Kolkata 700 033, West Bengal	5020	ABHIJIT MAJUMDAR	144 Sarat Ghose Garden Road Dhakuria, Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700031	61800	22-05-2014	176	Panchananatala	Panchananatala, Howrah ,2, Deshpran Sashmal Road,Panchananatala, Howrah 711 101,West Benga	7050	JHILAM KARMAKAR	6/B/2 Tulsi Charan Mitra Garden Lane, Howrah , West Bengal, India-711102	14263	11-06-2018
127	Prince Anwar Shah Road	Prince Anwar Shah Road, Kolkata, City High, 85, ,Prince Anwar Shah Road,Kolkata 700 033, West Bengal	5032	GOUTAM GHOSH	Golf Tower Flat-12 F9 Prince Gulam Mohammad shah Road, Kolkata, West Benga, India-700045	71476	09-04-2012	177	Dankuni	City Centre, South Subhash Pally,T/N/ Mukherjee Road, Dankuni 712 331, District Hooghly, West Bengal	24	SUBASH CHANDRA CHAUBEY	Dankuni Apt Flat 402 T N Mukherjee Rddankuni, Hooghly, West Bengal, India- 712331	8203	05-05-2017
128	Prince Anwar Shah Road	Prince Anwar Shah Road, Kolkata, City High, 85, ,Prince Anwar Shah Road, Kolkata 700 033, West Bengal	5033	MALLIKA GHOSH	Golf Tower Flat-12 F9 Prince Gulam Mohammad Shah Road0Kolkatawest Bengalindia700045	71600	07-04-2011	178	Dankuni	City Centre, South Subhash Pally,T/N/ Mukherjee Road, Dankuni 712 331, District Hooghly, West Bengal	52	JAFAR ALI MONDAL	Ward No.4 Akdanga Dankuni Coal Complex, Hooghly Madrasa, West Bengal, India- 712310	6120	05-05-2018
129	Prince Anwar Shah Road	Prince Anwar Shah Road, Kolkata , City High, 85, ,Prince Anwar Shah Road,Kolkata 700 033, West Bengal	7003	KAMLA SINGH	229/18 Turf View Ajc Bose Road, West Bengal, India- 700022	133985	17-06-2011	179	Dankuni	City Centre, South Subhash Pally,T/N/ Mukherjee Road, Dankuni 712 331, District Hooghly, West Bengal	59	DIBYENDU MUKHERJEE	Janai Malipara, Kartatipapada Janai Chanditila,Hooghly, West Bengal, India- 712304	6120	08-06-2018
130	Prince Anwar Shah Road	Prince Anwar Shah Road, Kolkata, City High, 85, ,Prince Anwar Shah Road,Kolkata 700 033, West Bengal	7006	MADHUMITA DASGUPTA	C 11 Karunamoy H Est Fit-13 Sec-III Salt Lake, Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700091	10990 3	10-04-2014	180	Dankuni	City Centre, South Subhash Pally,T/N/ Mukherjee Road, Dankuni 712 331, District Hooghly, West Bengal	2063	SANJAY KUMAR	A/1/4,Dankuni Housing Estate.p.O-Dcc, Manoharpur (East), Dankuni, West Bengal, India- 712310	10285	12-04-2016
131	Prince Anwar Shah Road	Prince Anwar Shah Road, Kolkata, City High, 85, ,Prince Anwar Shah Road,Kolkata 700 033, West Bengal	8003	KAUSIK KAR	391/25 Prince Anwar Shah Rd, Near Southcity, Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700068	14211	11-04-2018	181	Airport (Dum Dum)	AS/174/F, Block-P, Abhinandan, VIP Road, Koyla Vihar -II, Kolkata, West Bengal, Pin 700 052	70	BEAUTY KARMAKAR	503/1, P.K. Guha Road Radhanagar, Kolkata, West Bengal, India-700028	18550	12-06-2017
132	Prince Anwar Shah Road	Prince Anwar Shah Road, Kolkata, City High, 85, ,Prince Anwar Shah Road,Kolkata 700 033, West Bengal	8028	RUPALI BHATTACHARJEE	700068 6 N P Road Po Rajpurps Sonarpur South 24 Parganasraipur Post Office Kolkata, west Bengal, India- 700149	14263	08-08-2018	182	Sarat Bose Road, PB Branch	"Ground and First Floor:-Manor, 2/8B Sarat Bose Road, Kolkata:- 700020. P.O:- Lansdowne, PS:- Ballygunj, West Bengal"	1008	SIDDHARTHA SEN	Flat No 5 Manuja Towers 32 Hazra Rd, Kolkata, West Bengal, India-700029	30563	21-06-2018
133	Anwar Shah Road	Prince Anwar Shah Road, Kolkata ,City High, 85, ,Prince Anwar Shah Road ,Kolkata 700 033, West Benga	8050	BIJOY KUMAR SHARMA	Flat 12 I Tower li 85 P.A.Shah Road,City High, Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700033	25900	28-12-2015	183	Sarat Bose Road, PB Branch	"Ground and First Floor:- Manor, 2/8B Sarat Bose Road, Kolkata:- 700020. P.O:- Lansdowne, PS:- Ballygunj, West Bengal	1017	ISHEETA GANGULY	56 Ballygunge Circular Road 5Th Floor, Kolkata, West Bengal, India-700019	30563	09-05-2018
134	Prince Anwar Shah Road	Prince Anwar Shah Road, Kolkata, City High, 85, ,Prince Anwar Shah Road, Kolkata700033, West Bengal	9027	BHASKAR ROY	162/A94 Lake Gardens, Sbi Lake Gardens Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700045	7919	02-07-2018	184	Sarat Bose Road, PB Branch	"Ground and First Floor:- Manor, 2/8B Sarat Bose Road, Kolkata:- 700020. P.O:- Lansdowne, PS:- Ballygunj, West Bengal	1023	HIMANSHU NARENDRA KANABAR	Anadivilla Ganesh Gawde Rd, Mulund West. Mumbai, Maharashtra, india-400080	44237	15-11-2016
135	Prince Anwar Shah Road	Prince Anwar Shah Road, Kolkata, City High, 85, ,Prince Anwar Shah Road,Kolkata 700 033, West Bengal	9041	SANCHALI BHOWMICK	15/138 Jheel Road ,Jadavpur. Near Vivek nagar. kalibari .Bank Plot, Kolkata, W est Bengal, India- 700075	73047	17-06-2011	185	Sarat Bose Road, PB Branch	"Ground and First Floor:- Manor, 2/8B Sarat Bose Road, Kolkata:- 700020. P.O:- Lansdowne, PS:- Ballygunj, West Bengal	10012	KAUSHAL PRASAD MISHRA	218/2 Picnic Garden Road, 2nd Floor, India-700039	22225	12-04-2016
136	Baruipur	Ground & First Floor, 116/4, & 116/8, Kulpi Road, Opposite Padmapukur School, Baruipur, Dist: South 24 Parganas, West Bengal Pin 700144.	1049	SOMA MONDAL (GAYEN)	C/O Smt Amita Das B T Road kauhslyha Po Kharagpur Ps-Kharagpurtown Dist West Midnapur Sbi ATM kharagpur, West Bengal, India-721301	6120	08-08-2018	186	Barrackpore	Barrackpore Shopping Arcade, 4(2),S N Banerjee Road,(Near Champa Cinema Hall), Kolkata 700120, Dist/ 24 Pgs(N), West Bengal	103	PRADIP MUKHERJEE	C/O, Jahar Lal Mukherjee, Ghatakpara MoniRampore, West Bengal, India- 743101	21433	09-05-2014
137	Baruipur	Ground & First Floor, 116/4, & 116/8, Kulpi Road, Opposite Padmapukur School, Baruipur, Dist: South 24 Parganas, West Bengal Pin 700144.	1051	MAHUYA UPADHYAY PAUL	C/O, Sanjay Paul, Baruipur (Pal Para)Ward No- 140 Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700144	10285	13-01-2017	187	Barrackpore	Barrackpore Shopping Arcade, 4(2),S N Banerjee Road,(Near Champa Cinema Hall), Kolkata 700120, Dist/ 24 Pgs(N), West Bengal	128	AJOY SAHA	12, Shyamasreepally, Po : N.C.Pukur Barrackpore, 24 Pgs (N)O. West Bengal, India- 743102	14083	12-04-2016
138	Baruipur	Ground & First Floor, 116/4, & 116/8, Kulpi Road, Opposite Padmapukur School, Baruipur, Dist: South 24 Parganas, West Bengal Pin 700144.	1079	SUPRATIK BASU	Baidya Para Road Baruipurbaruipur South 24 Parganas,nr-Puratan Thana, Kolkata, West Bengal. India- 700144	9881	12-04-2016	188	Barrackpore	Barrackpore Shopping Arcade, 4(2),S N Banerjee Road,(Near Champa Cinema Hall), Kolkata 700 120, Dist/ North 24 Parganas, West Bengal	130	RABINDRA NATH CHANDRA	70 Main Road, Bkp Kalianibash,P.O: N.C.Pukur, Dt Kolkata, West Bengal , India- 700122	17758	15-12-2015
139	Baruipur	Ground & First Floor, 116/4, & 116/8, Kulpi Road, Opposite Padmapukur School, Baruipur, Dist: South 24 Parganas, West Bengal Pin 700144.	2002	PRASENJIT BISWAS	S/O Pranab Kumar Biswas Dhamnagar kundarali, Kundarali South 24 Psgs godown , Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 743610	6120	09-05-2018	189	Barrackpore	Barrackpore Shopping Arcade, 4(2),S N Banerjee Road,(Near Champa Cinema Hall), Kolkata 700 120, Dist/ North 24 Parganas, West Bengal	218	CHANDRANI MONDAL	32(49) S B Road Nawab Ganj Ichapore n/L Thakur Bari, Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 743144	17758	16-06-2015
140	Baruipur	Ground & First Floor, 116/4, & 116/8, Kulpi Road, Opposite Padmapukur School, Baruipur, Dist: South 24 Parganas, West Bengal Pin 700144.	2020	MINA SEKH	W/O Hafizul Sk Rajagohaluia Dosatina, south 24 Parganas, maruf Building:south 24 Parganas, West Bengal India- 743503	10285	12-04-2016	190	Barrackpore	Barrackpore Shopping Arcade, 4(2),S N Banerjee Road,(Near Champa Cinema Hall),Kolkata 700 120, Dist/ North 24 Parganas, West Bengal	236	PARAMITA SENGUPTA	122 Sm Bose Road, Sushanti Appt 4th floor, Agarpara , near 5 Norly Gate Kolkata,West Bengal, India-700109	6120	05-06-2018
141	Baruipur	Ground & First Floor, 116/4, & 116/8, Kulpi Road, Opposite Padmapukur School, Baruipur, Dist: South 24 Parganas, West Bengal Pin 700144	2048	AHMED RAJA KHAN	T-19 Safe Tower Flat No 302 3Rd Floor Tegharia Main Roadholly Palace Multi Media School, Kolkata, West Bengal India- 700137	5704	05-06-2018	191	Barrackpore	Barrackpore Shopping Arcade, 4(2),S N Banerjee Road,(Near Champa Cinema Hall),Kolkata 700 120, Dist/ North 24 Parganas, West Bengal	509	SANJAY KUMAR RAI	116, Bakar Mahal, Sadar Bajar Barrackpore, West Bengal, India- 743101	21433	10-04-2014
142	Burra Bazar	Burra Bazar, Kolkata,4A, Chaitan Sett Street,Burra Bazar, ,Kolkata 700 007, West Bengal	187	SK JAHIR ABBAS	C/O S R Saree Emporium 23A Kalakar Street1St Floor, Kolkata , West Bengal, India 700007	39750	26-04-2017	192	Barrackpore	Barrackpore Shopping Arcade, 4(2),S N Banerjee Road,(Near Champa Cinema Hall), Barrackpore, ,Kolkata 700 120, Dist/ North 24 Parganas, West Bengal	547	SUKHENDRA NATH SARKAR	54/41 C Road, Anadapuri, Ist Floor, Flat C Trisha Appt, P.O. N.C.Pukur, .West Bengal, India-743102	21433	09-05-2014
143	Burra Bazar	Burra Bazar, Kolkata,4A, Chaitan Sett Street,Burra Bazar, ,Kolkata 700 007, West Bengal	201	AJAY KUMAR JINDAL	Ae-319 Salt Lake City Opp 4 No Tank, Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700064	47100	12-04-2016	193	Barrackpore	Barrackpore Shopping Arcade, 4(2),S N Banerjee Road,(Near Champa Cinema Hall), Barrackpore, ,Kolkata 700 120, Dist/ North 24 Parganas, West Bengal	560	NABIN CHANDRA NANDI	C/O Amiya Nandi,Kendriya Vidyalaya, Cossipore,Seven Tanks Estate,4,Dumdum Road, Kolkata, West Benga, India-700002	28476	17-01-2005
144	Burra Bazar	Burra Bazar, Kolkata,4A, Chaitan Sett Street,Burra Bazar, ,Kolkata 700 007, West Bengal	389	NITIN KUMAR BHALOTIA	Nilgiri Apartment, 2, Watkins Laneb-Block 6Th Floor, Flat No-6070, Howrah, West Bengal, India- 711101	14263	08-08-2018	194	Barrackpore	Barrackpore Shopping Arcade, 4(2),S N Banerjee Road,(Near Champa Cinema Hall), Barrackpore, ,Kolkata 700 120, Dist/ North 24 Parganas, West Benga	576	SUKLA ROY CHOWDHURY	140, Ghoshpara Road, P.O-Barackpore, Near16 No. Rly Gate, Dt-24 Pgs (N), Barakpore, West Bengal, india-740120	28476	03-04-2006
145	Burra Bazar	Burra Bazar, Kolkata,4A, Chaitan Sett Street,Burra Bazar, ,Kolkata 700 007, West Bengal	405	BHAGWATI PRASAD SONI	16 Hanspukur First Lane 2Nd Floor, Kolkata, West Bengal, india-700007	34169	04-04-2012	195	Barrackpore	Barrackpore,Barrackpore Shopping Arcade, 4(2),S N Banerjee Road,(Near Champa Cinema Hall), Barrackpore, ,Kolkata 700 120, Dist/ North 24 Parganas, West Bengal	577	APURBA BISWAS	214/5, R.B.C. Road., West Bengal India- 743165	28476	02-04-2004
146	Dum Dum	Dum Dum, Kolkata ,7B, Motijheel Avenue, P/O/ Motijheel,Dum Dum, Kolkata 700 074,West Bengal	27	DEBDAS PAL	Sarala Apartment, Flat V- D, 7/2,Motijheel Avenue, Kolkata, West Bengal, India 700074	14263	09-05-2018	196	Barrackpore	Barrackpore,Barrackpore Shopping Arcade, 4(2),S N Banerjee Road,(Near Champa Cinema Hall), Barrackpore, ,Kolkata 700 120, Dist/ North 24 Parganas, West Bengal	579	SUDIPA SAHA	C/O Paresh Chandra Saha 25 Umadas Lane, Kolkata West Bengal India- 700016	25720	04-04-2012
147	Dum Dum	DumDum, Kolkata ,7B, Motijheel Avenue, P/O/ Motijheel,Dum Dum, Kolkata 700 074,West Bengal	37	BHAGWATI PRASAD LUNDIA	P 144 Motijheel Avenue Blk A, Flat 4B Dumdum, nr Motijheel Po-Kolkata,West Bengal, India- 700074	14263	09-05-2018	197	Barrackpore	Barrackpore,Barrackpore Shopping Arcade, 4(2),S N Banerjee Road,(Near Champa Cinema Hall), Barrackpore, ,Kolkata 700 120, Dist/ North 24 Parganas, West Bengal	580	BHASWATI SARKAR	19, Ghosh Para Road P.O.: Barrackpore, West Bengal India-743101	28476	20-12-2004
148	Dum Dum	Dum Dum, Kolkata ,7B, Motijheel Avenue, P/O/ Motijheel,Dum Dum, Kolkata 700 074,West Bengal	2026	RUPA MUKHERJEE	53/60 R N Guha Road,Third Floor, Kolkata, West Bengal, India--700028	29574	23-03-2015								

Sr. No	Branch Name	Branch Address	Locker No.	Name of the Locker Hirer(s)	Address	Amount Due	Amount Due From	Sr. No	Branch Name	Branch Address	Locker No.	Name of the Locker Hirer(s)	Address	Amount Due	Amount Due From
206	Barrackpore	Barrackpore Shopping Arcade, 4(2),S N Banerjee Road,,(Near Champa Cinema Hall), Kolkata 700120, Dist/ North 24 Parganas, West Bengal	652	SANCHITA GHOSHAL	44 H Road, 9 Titaghar, North 24 Parganas, Near Love And Fair Xerox Shop, West Bengal, India-700122	13640	21-09-2016	257	Narendrapur	Ramakrishna Misson Ashrama, PO : Narendrapur, PS: Sonarpur, Kolkata, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal, Pin 700103*	2020	MOUMITA DUTTA	Dr B C Road Rajpur Po Jagaddal Ps Sonarpur, Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 7000151	12600	11-09-2018
207	Barrackpore	Barrackpore Shopping Arcade, 4(2),S N Banerjee Road,,(Near Champa Cinema Hall), Kolkata 700120, Dist/ North 24 Parganas, West Bengal	655	SOMA SAHA	242, Vivekananda Nagar Shyamnagar, Muljore Jagaddal, 26 No Rly Gate, Kolkata, West Bengal, India-743127	27558	21-04-2010	258	Narendrapur	Ramakrishna Misson Ashrama, PO : Narendrapur, PS: Sonarpur, Kolkata, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal, Pin 700103*	2056	ARKAJYOTI DAS	Kadarat P Q Ramkrishna P S Sonarpur, Near sonar Gaon 3Rd Gate, Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700150	26076	05-05-2014
208	Barrackpore	Barrackpore Shopping Arcade, 4(2),S N Banerjee Road,,(Near Champa Cinema Hall),Kolkata 700120, Dist/ North 24 Parganas, West Bengal	656	INDIRA BANERJEE	C/O Samar Kumar Ghosh 37/1 S.N Banerjee Road, Barrackpore, Kolkata, West Bengal, India-700120	28476	18-12-2001	259	Survey Park, Kolkata	Ground and First Floor, C-194, Survey Park, Santoshpur, Opp. Kishore Bharati Stadium, Kolkata, West Bengal, Pin 700075	1003	JABA GHOSH	54/13 East Road Santoshpur, Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700075	32025	12-04-2013
209	Barrackpore	Barrackpore Shopping Arcade, 4(2),S N Banerjee Road,,(Near Champa Cinema Hall),Kolkata 700120, Dist/ North 24 Parganas, West Bengal	659	KHANA CHAKRABORTY	Mohanpur, Paschimpara,Po Sewli, Telinipara, West Bengal, India- 713217	28476	08-10-2004	260	Survey Park, Kolkata	Ground and First Floor, C-194, Survey Park, Santoshpur, Opp. Kishore Bharati Stadium, Kolkata, West Bengal, Pin 700075	2064	SARBANI RAY	38 F Gitanjali Park Main Road Kalikapur, Mukundapur, South Twenty Four Parganas,HDFC Bank, Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700099	14263	10-07-2018
210	Barrackpore	Barrackpore Shopping Arcade, 4(2),S N Banerjee Road,,(Near Champa Cinema Hall),Kolkata 700120, Dist/ North 24 Parganas, West Bengal	682	SUBHRA ROY	Vill-Saibana Po-Malikapur Ps-Barasat 24Pgs (N)N/L-Nanda Dulal Mandir, Kolkata, West Benga, India-700126	10408	05-05-2017	261	Survey Park, Kolkata	Ground and First Floor, C-194, Survey Park, Santoshpur, Opp. Kishore Bharati Stadium, Kolkata, West Bengal, Pin 700075	3025	PURNA CHARAN NAYEK	Satabdi Park, Mukundapur, Daspara Bazar Kolkata West Bengal, India- 700099	29575	10-04-2014
211	Barrackpore	Barrackpore Shopping Arcade, 4(2),S N Banerjee Road,,(Near Champa Cinema Hall),Kolkata 700120, Dist/ North 24 Parganas, West Bengal	811	PRADIP KUMAR BANERJEE	Sreepally Bandipur, Rahara Nr Opp Lane of Mahadeb Mable, 9/160/B Kolkata, West Bengal, India-700118	21433	10-04-2014	262	Survey Park, Kolkata	Ground and First Floor, C-194, Survey Park, Santoshpur, Opp. Kishore Bharati Stadium, Kolkata, West Bengal, Pin 700075]	3036	SUKANTA DAS	18 A Santipath Santoshpur Ps Kasba, Kol-75, Near Neeldeep Banquet, Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700075	22225	12-04-2016
212	Barrackpore	Barrackpore Shopping Arcade, 4(2),S N Banerjee Road,,(Near Champa Cinema Hall),Kolkata 700120, Dist/ North 24 Parganas, West Bengal	817	MOUMITA GOPE	37/B/1 Ghusipara post, ,Barrackpore, Kolkata, West Bengal, India-700120	6120	10-07-2018	263	Boral	Boral Rakhit More, P.S. Sonarpur, Kolkata, Dist. South 24 Parganas, West Bengal , Pin 700154	1066	SANTANU PAUL	Boral Niva Park, Rakhtier More, Ps Sonarpur near Pipe Factory, Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700154	12600	10-08-2018
213	Barrackpore	Barrackpore Shopping Arcade, 4(2), S N Banerjee Road,,(Near Champa Cinema Hall), Kolkata 700120, Dist/ North 24 Parganas, West Bengal	833	KAKALI ROY	Jaffarpur PanchAnantala Po Nonachandan pukur, P.S: Tilgarh, 24 Pgs (N),West Bengal, India- 700122	25719	10-04-2012	264	Boral	Boral Rakhit More, P.S. Sonarpur, Kolkata, Dist. South 24 Parganas, West Bengal , Pin 700154	2029	SAWKAT ALI MONDAL	Paschim Nischintapur Po Boral Near Santi Sangha B/H Rahaeje Para, Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700154	12600	06-08-2018
214	Barrackpore	Barrackpore Shopping Arcade, 4(2), S N Banerjee Road,,(Near Champa Cinema Hall), Kolkata 700120, Dist/ North 24 Parganas, West Bengal	855	TATHAGATA BHATTACHARYYA	Ruia, Ajamtala, P.O. Patulia, P.S. Khardah 24 Pgs North, Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700119	25719	10-04-2012	265	Belur Bazar	295, G T Road , Bally, Belur Bazar, Howrah, West Bengal, Pin 711202	134	SWAPAN SENGUPTA	45/1 Ramanath Bhattacharya Street Belur, P S Bally, Howrah, West Bengal, India- 711203	12600	18-09-2018
215	Barrackpore	Barrackpore Shopping Arcade, 4(2), S N Banerjee Road,,(Near Champa Cinema Hall), Kolkata 700120, Dist/ North 24 Parganas, West Bengal	859	JAYANTA DUTTA	K.N.Mukherjee Road,Po-Talpukur, Dist-24th Pgs (N), Nr Jaya Oil Mill, Barrackpore, West Bengal, India- 700123	17758	16-06-2015	266	Belur Bazar	295, G T Road , Bally, Belur Bazar, Haora, West Bengal, Pin 711202	3017	GOBINDA PRASAD	96/4 Bijali Quaters Liluah 19 Bally Howrah, Bijali Quaters, Howrah, West Bengal, India- 711204	16888	09-08-2017
216	Panihati	*Ground & first floor, Maa Sarada Bhawan, 2, Vivekananda Colony, B.T Road, Kolkata, Dist.North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, Pin 700 114*	7077	AKASH BHATTACHARJEE	S/O Harendranath Bhattacharjee, D-27 School Road. Vinayak Tower, Panihati (M)Sodepur North 24 Parganas, Kolkata, West Bengal, India-700110	17178	12-12-2017	267	Belur Bazar	295, G T Road , Bally, Belur Bazar, Howrah, West Bengal, Pin 711202	3041	KHUSHBOO SARAF	147 Girish Ghosh Road Block -L, Room No-21Belur Math Govt. Qtr. Howrah, West Bengal, India-711202	16056	26-04-2017
217	Panihati	*Ground & first floor, Maa Sarada Bhawan, 2, Vivekananda Colony, B.T Road, Kolkata, Dist. North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, Pin 700 114*	10029	SWATI CHAKRABORTY	Joy Bhavan, 99, Thana Road Lichubagan, Kharaha, Po-B D Sopan, Lichubagan Park Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700116	25900	03-12-2015	268	Belur Bazar	295, G T Road , Bally, Belur Bazar, Howrah, West Bengal , Pin 711202	3067	PINKY SINGH	Vishnu Vatika 289 G T Road 7Thblock Flat No 1C First Floor Sunrise School Howrah, West Bengal, India-711202	43538	12-04-2016
218	Mahestala	Mahestala, Mahestala Municipality Building, Budge Budge Trunk Road, Mahestala 743 352, District 24 Parganas (South), West Bengal	58	MAYA PAUL	C/O. Anil Kumar Pal, Nangi, Dharmatala,Po : Batanagar, Ps : Mahestala, Kolkata, West Bengal, India-700140	16888	29-03-2018	269	Khardaha	Maa Sarada Apartment, 21/19, B.T. Road, Khardaha, P.O & P.S: Khardaha, Dist.North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, Pin 700117	1042	SOMA BAISYA	G/B Mukti Apartment Uttarpura Khardah, North 24 Praganas, near Goodwill Sebasadan, Kolkata, West Benga, India- 700118	12600	12-06-2018
219	Serampore	Serampore.Holy Home School , 24, 27A & 28B, T/ C Goswami Street, Serampore 712 201, Dist: Hooghly,	185	ARPITA MUKHERJEE	C/O Sankar Saha 128/D S C Chatterjee Street, Radu Apt Di-Hooghly, Konnagar, West Bengal, India-712235	22645	16-06-2015	270	Khardaha	Maa Sarada Apartment, 21/19, B.T. Road, Khardaha, P.O & P.S: Khardaha, Dist.North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, Pin 700117	2044	RUP SANKAR SUR ROY	C/O Aloke Bhowal,160/2 Uttarpura, near Gang Action Plant, PO Rahara, PS Khardaha, Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700118	12600	21-06-2018
220	Rishra	Ground Floor, 13,N.K.Banerjee Street, Rishra, Dist- Hooghly, West Bengal.712248	2006	SANJAY KUMAR MISHRA	122/1 N K Banerjee Street, flat No 5030 Rishra, West Bengal, West Bengal, india- 712248	16888	05-05-2017	271	Khardaha	Pearl Court , 17(414), G.T. Road , Baidyabati, Dist. Hugli, West Bengal , Pin 712222	1005	ISHITA SHIT	361/78/0 N C Banerjee Roadbaidyabati (M) Baidyabati Hooghly, Near Krishna Maa Mandir, Hooghly, West Bengal, India- 712222	12600	09-05-2018
221	Rishra	Ground Floor, 13,N.K.Banerjee Street, Rishra, Dist- Hooghly, West Bengal.712248	4037	DEBASHRI MUKHERJEE	T-18 Fortuna Icon Sahakar Nagar mcdonalds Bengaluru, Karnataka. India- 560092	18909	12-04-2016	272	Baidyabati .	Pearl Court , 17(414), G.T. Road , Baidyabati, Dist. Hugli, West Bengal , Pin 712222	1062	RANJAN BASU	177/1 Nripan Chandra Banerjee Road, Baidyabati, Hooghly, West Bengal, India- 712222	12600	06-08-2018
222	Rishra	Ground Floor, 13,N.K.Banerjee Street, Rishra, Dist- Hooghly, West Bengal.712248	4090	GOVIND AGARWAL	1St Floor Flat 102 30/A /80 Dr P T Laha street Rishra Hooghly, Rishra West Bengal, India-712248	20563	02-11-2016	273	Rajpur- Sonarpur	Mayfair Orchid, 31, N.S.Road, PO : Rajpur, P.S. Sonarpur, West Bengal , Pin 700149	164	HIMADRI KUNDU	Vill-Rajnagar P O -Rajnagar Biswambhar P.S-Namkhana Dist-24Pgs(S) Rajnagar Biswambhar Sc.West Bengal, India- 743357	101888	30-05-2014
223	Rishra	Ground Floor, 13,N.K.Banerjee Street, Rishra, Dist- Hooghly, West Bengal.712248	5046	SUSHIL KUMAR SARAF	89/82 Bangur Park Rishra Hooghly, Near Shiv Mandir, West Benga, india- 712248	12600	15-09-2018	274	New Garia	25, Srinagar Main Road, New Garia, Dist. South 24 Parganas, Kolkata, West Bengal, Pin 700094	83	SHYAMALI SARDAR	Garagachha Main Rd. Near Dishari Club, Kolkata, West Bengal, India-700084	9075	12-04-2016
224	Madhyam gram	Ground Floor,Holding No. 185, Sodepur Road (East), Madhyam- gram,24 PGS (N),Kolkata – 700129*	6082	JIARUL ISLAM	Uttarpara, North 24 Parganas, Korachandi garh, Madhyamgram(N), Pin:700130.	12655	01-09-2018	275	Sodepur Ghola	348, Barasat Road, Ghola Bazar, P.S. Ghola, Kolkata, Dist. North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, Pin 700111	1075	PRABIR KUMAR PAL	S/O Subhash Chandra Pal 132 Manidanga Roadghola Panihati(M) North 24 Parganasnr Ghola Bazar Kolkata,West Bengal, India-700111	48600	09-05-2018
225	Madhyam gram	Ground Floor,Holding No. 185, Sodepur Road (East), Madhyam- gram,24 PGS (N),Kolkata – 700129	6102	SHANTA GHOSH	No.3, Sreenagar, India- 743275	33863	25-05-2012	276	Sodepur Ghola .	348, Barasat Road, Ghola Bazar, P.S. Ghola, Kolkata, Dist. North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, Pin 700111	2045	SIPRA DAS	Vshampur Battala Agarpara 24 Pgs Near Bijoe Sangha, Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700109	24238	21-09-2015
226	Madhyam gram	Ground Floor,Holding No. 185, Sodepur Road (East), Madhyam- gram,24 PGS (N),Kolkata – 700129	6107	MITALI SARKAR	Block No 3 Chandigarh p.O. Madhyamgram Bajar, Barasat, West Bengal, India- 743298	14263	28-05-2018	277	Raja Ram Mohan Roy Road	65, Raja Rammohan Roy Road, Suniti Towers, Block B extension, PS Thakurpukur, Kolkata, West Bengal, Pin 700082	2033	SUJATA DEY	197/4 Motilal Gupta Road, Haridevpur, 24Pgs (S) N/L-Hdfc Bank Atm, Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700082	16888	26-04-2017
227	Madhyam gram	Ground Floor,Holding No. 185, Sodepur Road (East),Madhyamgram, 24 PGS (N), Kolkata – 700 129	7035	KRISHNENDU MUKHERJEE	Purbachal Purba Udayrajpur Madhyamgram, Barasat North 24 Parganas, Beda College Kolkata, West Bengal, India-700129	13319	09-05-2018	278	Raja Ram Mohan Roy Road	65, Raja Rammohan Roy Road, Suniti Towers, Block B extension, PS Thakurpukur, Kolkata, West Bengal, Pin 700082	2063	RUCHI SARAF	Shreeram Estates Flat C2 4Th Floor 53, Biren Roy Road,Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700008	27913	10-04-2014
228	Madhyam gram	Ground Floor,Holding No. 185, Sodepur Road (East), Madhyamgram, 24 PGS (N),Kolkata – 700 129	7077	GAUTAM DUBEY	C/O N N Dubey, Madhyamgram,Sodepur Road, Behind HDFC Bank, Kolkata, West Benga, India- 700129	32069	29-08-2013	279	Raja Ram Mohan Roy Road	65, Raja Rammohan Roy Road, Suniti Towers, Block B extension, PS Thakurpukur, Kolkata, West Bengal, Pin 700082	2078	SUJAN DAS	1-Fr FI A-1 93/1 Motilal Gupta Rd Nr variety Stores, Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700082	16888	07-12-2017
229	Madhyam gram	Ground Floor,Holding No. 185, Sodepur Road (East),Madhyamgram, 24 PGS (N),Kolkata – 700 129	8020	NIBHA SANYAL	Rita Aptt. Bldg-6 Flat A6, 413/C College para P.O Newbarackpur, Kolkata, West Bengal, India-700131	29575	10-04-2014	280	Raja Ram Mohan Roy Road	65, Raja Rammohan Roy Road, Suniti Towers, Block B extension, PS Thakurpukur, Kolkata, West Bengal, Pin 700082	3048	SOUMYA MAJUMDER	64/1 Raja Ram Mohan Roy Road, Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700008	27913	25-11-2014
230	Madhyam gram	Ground Floor,Holding No. 185, Sodepur Road (East),Madhyamgram, 24 Pgs (N), Kolkata – 700 129*	8035	PRABIR CHOWDHURY	Bose Bagan South Bankimpally, Barasat near Shiv Mandir, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, India-700129	18550	14-06-2017	281	Vivekananda Road	First Floor, 274, Rabindra Sarani, Near Ganesh Talkies Crossing, Ward No. 25, PO: Burra Bazar, PS: Girish Park, Kolkata-700007	39	KAILASH CHAND SONI	26 P K Tagore Stree, Shree Bhawan 5th Floor, Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700006	10938	14-09-2018
231	Madhyam gram	Ground Floor,Holding No. 185, Sodepur Road (East), Madhyamgram, 24 Pgs (N), Kolkata – 700 129*	8062	ADITI SARKAR	22/19 Hridaypur Station Rd Ps W-5 Ps Barasat 24Pgs (N) Nr Sristi Baby Creche, Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700127	25900	15-12-2015	282	Vivekananda Road	First Floor, 274, Rabindra Sarani, Near Ganesh Talkies Crossing, Ward No. 25, PO: Burra Bazar, PS: Girish Park, Kolkata-700007	43	SANJAY KUMAR SINGH	92 Beadon Street, Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700006	26250	03-06-2014
232	Madhyam gram	Ground Floor,Holding No. 185, Sodepur Road (East), Madhyamgram, 24 PGS (N), Kolkata – 700 129*	9012	RIYANKA SARKAR	243A Surya Sen Road Satinsennagar Newbarackpur, Near Balak Sangha, Kolkata, West Bengal, India-700131	20003	12-04-2016	283	Vivekananda Road	First Floor, 274, Rabindra Sarani, Near Ganesh Talkies Crossing, Ward No. 25, PO: Burra Bazar, PS: Girish Park, Kolkata - 700007	67	RAJAT BAKSHI	All Care Dignostic Kusum Mansion Apartment, Raj Garh Road, Bhanganagar H No 139, Nr All Care Dignostic Guwahati Assam, India- 781005	59575	10-06-2013
233	Madhyam gram	Ground Floor,Holding No. 185, Sodepur Road (East),Madhyamgram, 24 PGS (N), Kolkata – 700 129*	9061	DEBAROTI DATTA	Fno 1-5, 4th Floor, Spandan Apartment 380/1 Jessore Rd, S Madhyamatgram More nr. Dept. Store, Kolkata, West Bengal, India-700129	18550	01-09-2017	284	Baranagar	266, Gopal Lal, Tagore Road, Baranagar, West Bengal, Pin 700036	3010	SANDIPAN DUTTA	10B Pramanik Ghat Road, ward-1Kolkata, Near Baranagar Bazaar, Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700036	12600	09-05-2018
234	Madhyam gram	Ground Floor,Holding No. 185, Sodepur Road (East),Madhyamgram, 24 PGS (N), Kolkata – 700 129*	9074	ROHINI KUNDU	Abdalpur, Badu Road, Madhyamgram near Biswas Medical Hall, Kolkata, West Bengal, india- 700155	85403	07-05-2016	285	Jadavpur .	Ground & First floor, 55A/1, Jadavpur Central Road, Kolkata, West Bengal, Pin 700032	1081	SAMIR MUKHERJEE	Biva Apartment Flat-N3B A-27 Ramgarh Gangulybagan L/M Mukul Bose High School, Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700047	18550	05-05-2017
235	Madhyam gram	Ground Floor,Holding No. 185, Sodepur Road (East),Madhyamgram, 24 PGS (N), Kolkata – 700 129*	10029	ASHOKE KUMAR SAHA	Aparna Apartment FIA 1St Floor162/1/3 Hridaypur Station Roadbarasat Nr Broti Sangha Club Kolkata,North 24 Parganaswest Bengal, india- 700127	14263	01-06-2018	286	New Barrackpore	Basudha Apartment,33 & 35 A.P.C. Road, New Barrackpore, PS Ghola, Dist. North 24 Parganas,West Bengal, India- 700131*	2003	PAYEL SARKAR	2, Anandakol Bose Road (Palishree), 31 Ghola, North 24 Pgs near Panihati College Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700110	6120	09-05-2018
236	Rajarhat	Dongfang Building, Plot No : AH/5, Premises No: MAR-16-III, Biswa Bangla Sarani, Next to IOC petrol Pump, New Town, Pin Code : 700156.	1024	ABHIJIT MAULIK (7495)	77 Baburam Ghosh Road, Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700040	61800	10-04-2014	287	Barasat	*35/B Jessore Road, Barasat, Dist.North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, Pin 700124 *	14	KOUSHIK SAHA	Rishi Bankim Sarani Hridaypur Barasat North Twenty Four Parganas, West Bengal, padkhyep Club, Kolkata, West Bengal, india- 700127	12800	10-07-2018
237	Rajarhat	Dongfang Building, Plot No : AH/5, Premises No: MAR-16-III, Biswa Bangla Sarani, Next to IOC petrol Pump, New Town, Pin Code : 700156.	1044	TARUN BHATTACHARYA	156 Lenin Sarani, 1St Floor, Room No F-300, Kolkata, West Bengal, India-700013	30563	09-05-2018	288	Barasat	35/B Jessore Road, Barasat, Dist.North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, Pin 700124	24	JAYA GUHA	Fulia Taherpur Road Madhya Right Side Of Ambar Charka Part Buincha Santipur Nadia, Santipur Shakti Shanga Club Fulia, West Bengal, India- 741402	16888	26-04-2017
238	Rajarhat	Dongfang Building, Plot No : AH/5, Premises No: MAR-16-III, Biswa Bangla Sarani, Next to IOC petrol Pump, New Town, Pin Code : 700156.	4009	TARUN BHATTACHARYA	451 Rajdanga Main Road Block-Fb-44.,Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700107,	39750	26-04-2017	289	Barasat	*35/B Jessore Road, Barasat, Dist.North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, Pin 700124	67	MANASI BHAKTA	Bayam Samity Duttapukur Barasat North24 Pqsbayam Samity Play Ground North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, India- 743248	47100	13-05-2016
239	Rajarhat	Dongfang Building, Plot No : AH/5, Premises No: MAR-16-III, Biswa Bangla Sarani,Next to IOC petrol Pump, New Town, Pin Code : 700156.	5069	ASHOK KUMAR AGARWAL	S/O Baba Lal Aganwal Hig-1, 5F Green wood Sonata Shracchi, Rajarhat Gopalpur(M), North 24 Pgs, Green Wood Sonata Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700157	30563	09-05-2018	290	Barasat	35/B Jessore Road, Barasat, Dist.North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, Pin 700124	85	KAUSHIK SARKAR	51/A,Choudhury Para Road, Sethpukur Barasat, West Bengal, India- 700124	12600	09-05-2018
240	Rajarhat	Dongfang Building, Plot No : AH/5, Premises No: MAR-16-III, Biswa Bangla Sarani, Next to IOC petrol Pump, New Town, Pin Code : 700156	6022	BANDANA MONDAL	C/O Palan Sardar Vill Jagrachi, Po Ghuni Ps- New Town 24 Pgs (N), Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700059	52313	05-02-2016	291	Maniktala	212, Vivekananda Road, 1 st floor,Kolkata, West Bengal, Pin 700006	1021	BINOD KUMAR SHAW	133/B Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road Burtila, Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700006	15225	26-04-2017
241	Manton, Kolkata	Manton, Kolkata, West Bengal,538, Diamond Harbour Road,Kolkata	124	RAJIB JOARDER	D-145/ New D-146/ New Gangarampur Road, Raipur, Mahestala Raipur, Kolkata, West Bengal, India-700141	25900	16-06-2015	292	Sheoraphuli	112, G.T. Road, Sheoraphuli, Dist Hugli, West Bengal, Pin 712223	2012	AMIT DAS	159, G T Road Sheoraphuli Pops Sheoraphuly, Dist Hooghly, West Bengal, India- 712223	12171	09-05-2018
242	Manton, Kolkata	Manton, Kolkata, West Bengal,538, Diamond Harbour Road,Kolkata 700034, West Bengal,	207	RUNA SIKDER	170/3 Santosh Roy Road, Kolkata, West Benga, india- 700008	29575	09-05-2014	293	Belighata	Ground Floor, 1/1 Raja Rajendra Lal Mitra Road, Near Alochaya Cinema Hall, Po: BelighataPS: Belighata, Kolkata: 700085.	1024	ANJU KUMARI GUPTA	Sarala Bhawan 59 Dhapa Road, Near Vivekanand Club, Kolkata, West Bengal, India-700105	12600	10-10-2018
243	Manton, Kolkata	Manton, Kolkata, West Bengal,538, Diamond Harbour Road,Kolkata 700034, West Bengal,	530	TANUKA CHATTERJEE	T 6 F 11B Ho-Chi-Minh Sarani, Kolkata, West Bengal, India-n 700061	39750	26-04-2017	294	Belighata	Ground Floor, 1/1 Raja Rajendra Lal Mitra Road, Near Alochaya Cinema Hall, Po: Belighata PS: Belighata, Kolkata: 700085.*	1053	MINAKSHI PAUL	244/1 New Barrackpore Talpukur Road, PO: New Barrackpore, Kolkata, West Bengal, India-700131	20563	12-04-2016
244	Manton, Kolkata	Manton, Kolkata, West Bengal,538, Diamond Harbour Road,Kolkata 700034, West Bengal,	611	RESHMI CHAKRABORTY	84/1 Goala Para Road, Kolkata West Bengal India- 700060	18550	09-08-2017	295	Belighata	Ground Floor, 1/1 Raja Rajendra Lal Mitra Road, Near Alochaya Cinema Hall, Po: BelighataPS: Belighata, Kolkata: 700085.*	2038	ARUP CHAKRABORTY	11/A K G J Bose Sarani Sarani Bazar Kolkata,West Bengal, India- 700085	39750	26-04-2017
245	Manton, Kolkata	Manton, Kolkata, West Bengal,538, Diamond Harbour Road,Kolkata 700034, West Bengal,	633	RUPA DUTTA	93/1 Brahma Samaj Road Behala Polar Fan factory, Kolkata West Bengal India- 700034	18550	02-02-2018	296	Rodkol	Ground and first floor, 177, Jessore Road, Shyamnagar, Rodkol, Dumdum, Kolkata, Dist.North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, Pin 700055	14	NITIKA JAISWAL	523, Dakhindari Road sananda Apartment, 2B, sreebhumi sreebhumi Sporting Club North 24 Parganas West Bengal, India- 700048	16406	17-06-2017
246	Salt Lake, Sector III	GC-190,GC Block,Sector III,Kolkata-700106	1004	SUDIPTA SARKAR	Flat No T1 F3 G/3 High Apartment Ag-1 Majorart Road Aea Eastern Hight Aptt, Near New Town Bus Stand, Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700156	21228	12-04-2016	297	Rodkol	Ground and first floor, 177, Jessore Road, Shyamnagar, Rodkol, Dumdum, Kolkata, Dist.North 24 Parganas,					

UP polls coming, PM set to unveil projects worth Rs 1 lakh crore

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 8

WITH ASSEMBLY election campaigning set to hit top gear, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to either launch or inaugurate state and Central projects worth over Rs 1-lakh crore in the next one-and-a-half months in Uttar Pradesh.

Among the projects that Modi will launch or unveil are the Purvanchal Expressway, the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor project, the Ganga Expressway, the Jewar International Airport, a film city project, a manufacturing unit in the Jhansi node of a proposed defence corridor, and an All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Gorakhpur.

The prime minister would inaugurate the Rs 42,000 crore Purvanchal Expressway on November 16, said a government spokesperson. He had laid its foundation stone in July 2018, about a year after the Yogi Adityanath government came to power.

The crucial Kashi Vishwanath Corridor project in the prime minister's constituency Varanasi is also all set

CRUISE SHIP DRUG BUST

Malik raises questions over Wankhede relative's 'involvement' in drug case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 8

MAHARASHTRA CABINET minister Nawab Malik on Monday questioned Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Zonal Director Sameer Wankhede over the involvement of his sister-in-law in a drug case.

"Sameer Dawood Wankhede, is your sister-in-law Harshada Dinanath Redkar involved in the drug business? You must answer because her case is pending before the Pune court," he tweeted on Monday morning.

The MCP leader also shared "proof" that showed Harshada

for inauguration. As part of the project, a wider path will connect the Ganga embankment with the Vishwanath temple. The Rs 400-crore project, which was launched in 2019, has several amenities such as a museum, a meditation platform, and cafeterias. Old temples along the corridor have also been renovated.

The government spokesperson said the foundation of the Jewar International Airport in the National Capital Region (NCR), which is likely to be commissioned by 2024, was also likely to be laid this month. Sources said Modi and Adityanath would attend the "bhoomi puja" that has been tentatively scheduled for November 25. The airport is spread across an area of 5,000 hectares and is being developed by Zurich International Airport AG at an estimated cost of Rs 29,560 crore. The Swiss Airport company had won the bid in November 2019 following which a concessionaire agreement was signed. In July, the land lease of the airport was signed for 90 years, giving a nod for construction.

Yogi promises safety to Kairana families, says exodus also issue

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 8

UTTAR PRADESH Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Monday visited families who were allegedly forced out of Kairana in Shamli district between 2014 and 2016, promising them compensation and "security".

The BJP had claimed "exodus" of Hindu families from the western UP town, under the Samajwadi Party government's watch, and it was a big issue in the elections that followed.

On Monday, Adityanath again alleged that Hindus had been forced out, while claiming that many had returned due to his government's measures. Speaking to reporters after meeting some of the families now back in Kairana, including three who lost members to attacks by criminals, he said the government would compensate "the victim families so that they could again carry out their business and economic activities". "I have sought a report from the district administration about the families which were harmed and their members killed," he said, adding that action had been initiated against the guilty.

"I have personally come to as-



A photo released by Yogi's office of the CM with some families who left Kairana in 2014-2016, allegedly due to extortion

sure the families that we will continue zero tolerance against criminals. There will be full safety and security. Without hesitation, they can live on the land of their ancestors," Adityanath said.

The CM said Kairana's standing as a major industrial town and centre of classical music had suffered, along with towns like Kandhla, due to "the criminalisation of politics in the early 1990s and the politicisation of professional criminals. Hindu businessmen and other Hindus were forced to migrate from here on a large scale".

Since 2017 though, Adityanath added, "Due to our government's

policy of zero tolerance towards crime and criminals, many families have returned."

He also said that when he came to the town in 2017, people had demanded the strengthening of the police outpost and a PAC battalion. "The work of strengthening the outpost has already been done and today I came here for laying the foundation of a PAC battalion camp," he added.

Asserting that Kairana was now known not for crime but "rapid development", the CM said that everyone benefits from government schemes that are not aimed at "appeasement".

On the timing of his visit,

ahead of the elections, Adityanath said: "There is no election at present. It is my duty to meet those who have suffered, and it is not a crime to meet them if they are Hindus... Exodus is also an issue."

In a video released by the state government, several people whom the CM met can be heard praising his government's measures in making them feel "secure". When a Kairana local tells him they had been very afraid of gangster Mukim Kala, and were relieved hearing he had been killed in Chitrakoot jail following a gang dispute, Adityanath says: "He got what he deserved."

The CM was accompanied during his visit by minister Suresh Rana, one of the accused in the 2013 Muzaffarnagar riots, and BJP state president Swatantra Dev Singh. Then BJP MP Hukum Singh had claimed that close to 350 Hindus had left under threats from criminals from Kairana, one of the towns hit by the 2013 riots. However, an investigation by The Indian Express had found several discrepancies in this.

After meeting the families, Adityanath addressed a public rally in Kairana, and laid the foundation stone for 114 schemes worth Rs 426 crore.



ADVANI TURNS 94

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu celebrate veteran BJP leader L K Advani's birthday at his residence in New Delhi. @narendramodi

NCB Vigilance team records Sail statement

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 8

THE VIGILANCE team of the NCB probing corruption allegations against agency official Sameer Wankhede on Monday recorded the statement of Prabhakar Sail, one of the panchas in the Cordelia drug bust case.

Sail had later alleged that pay-offs were discussed by another witness KP Gosavi to 'help' Aryan Khan, who had been detained by the NCB soon after the raid. The NCB had earlier issued him summons several times but he had not appeared before them.

Sail's statement was earlier recorded by the Mumbai Police SIT in connection with the payoff allegations.



DEMAND NOTICE

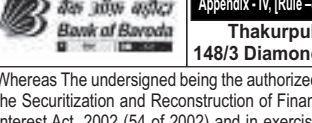
LAKE MARKET BRANCH
79/B, Rash Behari Avenue, Kolkata - 700026
E-mail: lakema@bankofbaroda.com

Demand Notice u/s 13 (2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 issued by the Bank of Baroda as Secured Creditor against the following borrower.

Date of Notice / NPA Date	Name & Address of Borrowers / Guarantors	Nature and type of facility / Amount sanctioned / Rate of interest / Amount outstanding	Security agreement with brief description of securities
04.08.2021 / Mrs. Meena Chhikara / 29.09.2020	Borrower: Mrs. Meena Chhikara , C/o Priya Motors Private Limited, 88/S-A, Block-E, New Alipor, Kolkata-700053, West Bengal, also at Flat No. 104, 1st Floor, Cypress, Block-2, Highland Willows, Rajarhat, New Town, Kolkata-700157, WB, also at 16B, 1st Floor, Road No. 40, Punjabi Bagh West, New Delhi-110026 and also at 2N, New Alipore, Surya Apartment, Kolkata-700053. Guarantor: Mr. Rajinder Singh , C/o Priya Motors Private Limited, 88/S-A, Block-E, New Alipor, Kolkata-700053, West Bengal, also at Flat No. 104, 1st Floor, Cypress, Block-2, Highland Willows, Rajarhat, New Town, Kolkata-700157, WB, also at 16B, 1st Floor, Road No. 40, Punjabi Bagh West, New Delhi-110026 and also at 2N, New Alipore, Surya Apartment, Kolkata-700053.	Term Loan (Housing Loan under DENA NIWAS HL FLOATING) / Rs.49,90,000.00 / 7.85% / Outstanding : Rs.29,17,745.91 as on 31.07.2021 plus interest and other charges thereon from 31.07.2021.	Mortgage of Flat No. 104, Block 2 on the 1st Floor along with one covered Car parking Space on the Basement at "CYPRESS PREMIUM" at Premises No. 07-0624, Plot No. AA-11B/BLK - I, Action Area IIB, New Town, Kolkata - 700 136

You have committed default in repayment of various loan outstanding mentioned above with further interest at the agreed rate availed from our branch as mentioned in the above. The bank has issued notice under the said Act to you to repay the outstanding amount in the above mentioned table. The Demand Notice sent to you by registered post has been returned unrecorded/ received by unauthorized person. You are called upon to pay the dues together with interest within 60 days from the date of this notice failing which bank will be constrained to exercise right of Enforcement of Security interest as against the secured assets given in the schedule of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002. This notice is issued in terms of Section 13(2) of the said Act. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Section 13 (8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. This notice is without prejudice to any other right remedy available to the bank including initiation of legal action.

Date: 09.11.2021, Place: Kolkata **Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda**



Appendix - IV, [Rule -8(1)], POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)
Thakurpukur Branch, Nimantran Villa, 148/3 Diamond harbour Road, Kolkata-700063

Whereas The undersigned being the authorized Officer of the BANK OF BARODA under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with the rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 21/08/2021 calling upon the **Mr Samur Kumar Kundu S/O Soumen kanti Kundu, and Mrs. Kajal Kundu, W/O- Soumen Kanti Kundu, Renu Apartment Flat No-A-5 1 Rakhal Mukherjee Road Kolkata-700061** to repay the amount as mentioned in the notice being **Rs.1456001.83 (Rupees Fourteen lakhs fifty six thousand one and paise eighty three Only)** as on 21.08.2021 plus interest within 60 day(s) from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/ Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under section 13(4) of the said Act, read with rule 9 of the said Rules on this **31st day of November, 2021.**

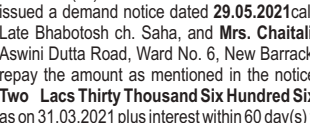
The Borrower / Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **BANK OF BARODA, Thakurpukur Branch** for an amount of **Rs.1456001.83 (Rupees Fourteen lakhs fifty six thousand one and paise eighty three Only)** and further interest, incidental expenses, costs & charges etc. thereon.

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

Description of the Immovable Property:

Residential flat being No A-5 3rd Floor West North East Side measuring more or less 700 sqft super built up area consisting of two bed rooms two toilets one kitchen one dining & one verandah with undivided share of land measuring approximately 2 Cottah 5 Chittaks & common area facilities / amenities attached to the Ground Floor+3 storied building at KMC Premises No-1Rakhal Mukherjee Road PS-Thakurpukur Kolkata-700061 within KMC Ward No-126 Comprised in JL No-19, RS NO-43, TOUZI NOS-1-6-8-10, 12-16 comprising in C.S Khatian No-1990 R.S Khatian No-3584, 3588, 3594, 3592 pertaining to C S & R S Dag No .308 under Police Station-Thakurpukur in the District of 24 Pgs (South).

Date : 01.11.2021, Place: Thakurpukur Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda



Appendix - IV, [Rule -8(1)], POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)
New Barrackpur Branch: 66, Meghnath Saha Sarani, P.O.- New Barrackpur, Dist. 24 Parganas (N) -700131

Whereas The undersigned being the authorized Officer of the **BANK OF BARODA** under the **Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002** (54 of 2002) and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with the rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated **29.05.2021** calling upon the **Mr Ram Sundar Saha S/O Late Bhabotosh ch. Saha, and Mrs. Chaitali Saha, W/O- Mr. Ram Sundar Saha, 405 Aswini Dutta Road, Ward No. 6, New Barrackpur, North 24 Parganas, Pin-700131** to repay the amount as mentioned in the notice being **Rs.32,30,664.11 (Rupees Thirty Two Lacs Thirty Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Four Rupees And Eleven Paise Only)** as on 31.03.2021 plus interest within 60 day(s) from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/ Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under section 13(4) of the said Act, read with rule 9 of the said Rules on this **6th day of November, 2021.**

The Borrower / Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **BANK OF BARODA, New Barrackpur Branch** for an amount of **Rs.32,30,664.11 (Rupees Thirty Two Lacs Thirty Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Four Rupees And Eleven Paise Only)** and further interest, incidental expenses, costs & charges etc. thereon.


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

Description of the Immovable Property:


All that piece & parcel of commercial property for Bank on the Ground floor measuring an area of 1992 sq.ft. more or less of the multi storied building namely RIDDHI APARTMENT undermeath of the proportionate share of land measuring about 06 cottahs 03 chittaks 12 sq. ft. lying and situated at Mouza-Aharampur, J.L. NO.35, R.S.Dag No. 255 & 2541564 & L.R. Dag No. 980 & 981 corresponding R.S. Khatian No. 651 & L.R. Khatian No. 507 & 843 within local limit of New Barrackpur Municipality, Holding No. 66 (66/3) Meghnath Saha Sarani in ward No. 7 (old) 3 (New), P.S. Ghola (Old) New Barrackpur (NW) under the District of North 24 Parganas, Being Deed No. I-02048, Volume No.9, Pages No. 2926 to 2948 for the Year 2012 D S.R.-I North-24 Parganas. Property stand in the name of Mr. Ram Sundar Saha, S/O- Late Bhabotosh Ch Saha (owner), which is allotted and bounded of the approved property as follows:- On the North- House of Mrinal Kanti Pal & Others. On the South- Municipal Road. On the East- House of Madhuri Bose. On the West- Municipal Road.

Date : 06.11.2021, Place: New Barrackpur Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

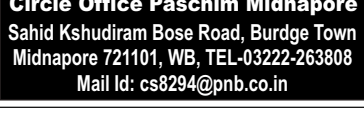
Sr. No.	Branch Name	Branch Address	Locker No.	Name of the Locker Hirer(s)	Address	Amount Due	Amount Due From
308	Kasba, Kolkata	Ground Floor, The Chambers, 1865, Rajdanga Main Road, R B Connector, Kolkata, West Bengal, Pin 700107	2032	ANIMA DAS	25D, Ruby Park (East) Nr Kayashra Para More, Kolkata, West Bengal India-700078	14263	28-09-2018
309	Chandannagar	Ground Floor, 38/1/1 Barua Road, Jaffarpukur, Nonachandannagar, Baranagar, Dist North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, Pin-700057	1028	SK RAFIK SARKAR	BH-305, 3rd Floor, Panchakatiya B.K.P. Road, Sadarpur/Duttapukur, Sadarpur/Adamjee College, Kolkata, West Bengal, India-700126	12600	05-06-2018
310	Sealdah	58/2, West No 37, Acharya Pratishtha Chandra road/Amrit Street, Dist Kolkata/West Bengal Pin-700057	1048	PURNIMA PAUL	302 App Road Ideal Heights Block- D Flat 19 C, Axis Bank, Kolkata, West Bengal, India-700099	12600	08-08-2018
311	Bandel	Ground & First Floor, G T Road, Opp ESI Hospital, PO: Bandel, PS: Nagra, Bardol, Dist: Hooghly, West Bengal, 712123	1011	PRABIR PRASAD DAS	Bandel Naldanga (East), Po: Bandel, Backside Of Gunduara , Hooghly, West Bengal, India- 712123	20563	11-08-2016
312	Sinthee	"Ground Floor, Binayak Enclave, 58, Kalkaran Ghosh Road/Near Sinthee More, PS: Baranagar, Kolkata, West Bengal, Pin-700050"	1017	NILAM JAIN	52/4 Br Anant Ram Mondal Lane Baranagar, Kolkata, West Bengal, India- 700059	16888	26-05-2017
313	Gora Bazar	"Ground Floor/3rd, Post office Road , Dum Dum, North 24 Parganas , West Bengal Pin- 700028"	1036	NIVEDITA ROY	31/A Uma Kanta Sen Lane Chitpur Kolkata, Axis Bank ATM, West Bengal, India-700030	12600	05-06-2018
314	Palisree	6/2, Bijoygarh , Kolkata, West Bengal Pin - 700032	1031	SHILDITYA RAY	58, Central Road, India- 700032	11743	08-08-2018
315	Posta	"Ground Floor/17A Ratan Sarkar Garden lane, Posta, Kalkar Street, Kolkata West Bengal Pin-700007"	15	LILABOTI SINGH	67/42 Strand Road Beadon Street S O Beadon Street, Near 10, No. Gali, Kolkata, West Bengal, India-700006	10938	05-06-2018
They have failed and neglected in making payments towards the locker rentals to the Bank / not operated locker for a considerable period of time. The bank has issued several notices to them from time to time calling upon to make the payment of locker rentals/ operation of locker and/or close the locker facility(ies), which were duly acknowledged by them and/or returned unrecorded. This is a last Notice that if the above persons fail to pay the arrears of locker rentals to the Bank / operate locker on or before 29th November, 2021, the Bank shall break and open the locks of the locker at locker hirer's risk and responsibility, as per the Banking Law and Practice and take inventory of items, if any, lying in locker and keep the same in Bank's custody until such time the arrears of rent along with interest, expenses, charges, etc. are paid to the bank. The Bank reserves the right to adjust the cash, if any found in the locker against the outstanding dues of the above persons to the Bank and it shall be treated as proper discharge on the part of the Bank and no claims, whatsoever, shall be entertained thereafter in this regard. For the balance dues of locker rentals, the Bank reserves its right to proceed legally against the locker hirer/s for recovery of its dues.							
Date: 09.11.2021 Place: Kolkata Circle BBD Head, Axis Bank Ltd, Kolkata & Andaman Circle							



संजाल नैशनल बैंक
(संजाल नैशनल बैंक, पंजाब)



pnb
punjab national bank



Circle Office Paschim Midnapore
Sahid Kshudiram Bose Road, Burdga Town Midnapore 721101, WB, TEL-03222-263808
Mail Id: cs8294@pnb.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE
Common Possession Notice for Immovable Properties in case of more than one borrower by the respective Authorised Officers (For Immovable property)

Whereas, Punjab National Bank, the Authorised Officer/s of the Punjab National Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notice/s on the dates mentioned against each account calling upon the respective borrower/s to repay the amount as mentioned against each account within 60 days from the date of notice(s) / date of receipt of the said notice(s).

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this **Property No.1 (SI. No.1) & Property No.2 (SI. No. 2) On the 2nd Day of November of the year 2021.**

The borrower's / guarantor's / mortgagor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets. The borrower/s in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Punjab National Bank for the amounts and interest thereon.

Sl. No.	Name of the Branch & Sol ID	Name of the Account	Name of The borrower (Owner of the property)	Description of the property mortgaged	Date of Demand Notice	Date of possession notice affixed	Amount outstanding as on the date of demand notice	Name of The Authorised Officer
1	Jhargram (SOL ID- 018320)	Mrs. Mallika Mahata w/o- Mr. Shantanu Mahata and Mr. Shantanu Mahata s/o- Mr. Gobinda Prasad Mahata.	Mr. Shantanu Mahata s/o- Mr. Gobinda Prasad Mahata.	All that part and parcel of the property situated at R.S. Plot no.-59, L.R. khatian no.-282, covering total area 10 decimal (bastu), Mouza-Baghua, P.S.- Jamboni, Dist- Jhargram, vide gift deed no.- 00612/2015 dated 17.03.2015. within the registration ADSR Jhargram, and District Jhargram, standing in the name of Mr. Shantanu Mahata s/o- Mr. Gobinda Prasad Mahata.	29.06.2021	02.11.2021	Rs.10,78,452.00 (In words Rupees Ten Lacs Seventy Eight Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Two only) + interest not charged from 01.05.2021+ Charges less recovery, if any	Upendranath Raj
2	Jhargram (SOL ID- 018320)	Mr. Alok Ranjan Kar, s/o- Mr. Sudhanshu Sekhar Kar and Mrs. Madhumita Kar, w/o- Mr. Alok Ranjan Kar	Mrs. Madhumita Kar, w/o- Mr. Alok Ranjan Kar	All that part and parcel of the property situated at POI P.S./Dist- Jhargram, Mouza-Bachudroba and Within the registration ADSR Jhargram, J L No.394, R S Khatian No. 92, L R Khatian No. 1467, Hal KH No. 3129, R S Plot No. 216, L R Plot No. 270, Hal Plot No. 270, Area 3.5 Decimal Own Land and 2.65 Decimal Common total 6 Decimal vide sale deed No. 1693/2012 property owned by Smt. Madhumita Kar, W/O- Mr. Alok Ranjan Kar.	05.03.2020	02.11.2021	Rs.6,67,019/- (In words Rupees Six Lac Sixty Seven Thousand Nineteen Only) + interest not charged from 31.10.2019+ CHARGES, less recovery if any	Upendranath Raj

Date : 08.11.2021, Place : Paschim Medinipur **Authorized Officer , Punjab National Bank**

Kolkata



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

CROSSING RED LINES

UAPA against lawyers, journalists in Tripura is part of playbook of state heavy-handedness. Judiciary must step in

THE TRIPURA POLICE's decision to charge lawyers, journalists and 100-odd social media users with the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for posts on communal violence is one more example of the flagrantly excessive use of a draconian law. This comes a few days after the Jammu and Kashmir police registered a case under UAPA against unknown students in two Srinagar medical colleges after they "cheered for Pakistan" in an India-Pakistan T20 match. The Tripura police, too, has pushed the interpretation of the harsh anti-terror law across vital distinctions and boundaries by wielding it against the authors of a fact-finding report, among others. Four lawyers from Delhi had gone to Tripura on a fact-finding mission after violence reportedly erupted against Muslims in the state last month, in a disturbing echo of the anti-Hindu violence that broke out, across the border, in Bangladesh during Durga Puja celebrations. The lawyers' report, released online, flagged targeted vandalism of mosques and shortcomings of the BJP government in dealing with anti-minority mobilisations and recommended a judicial probe. None of this falls outside the remit of actions that citizens and members of civil society can — and do — undertake in a democracy to pressure governments to act. It is hard to see how any of this constitutes an offence under Section 13 of UAPA, which applies to an act that "incites secession" or "disrupts the sovereignty of India" or "causes disaffection against India". Subsequently, owners of 102 social media accounts, including journalists who posted about the violence in Tripura and amplified the report, also faced charges under provisions of IPC "of promoting enmity" between communities, besides UAPA. The police have drawn a "one-to-one" correlation between the lawyers' visit and social media comments that "potentially" create communal hatred, but the law itself — and the Supreme Court — have set a higher bar. A citizen's right to freedom of speech and expression cannot be curtailed unless they resort to violence or incite violence.

Indeed, this appears to be a part of the playbook of heavy-handedness that has been perfected by governments. This involves the twisting of stringent laws such as the UAPA or the sedition law to quell dissent or intimidate anyone who contests or might contest the state's version. While harsh laws have existed and been misused even earlier, what stands out today is the apparent lack of qualms in the ruling establishment in wielding them as weapons against citizens. In UAPA cases, the legal process can itself become a prolonged punishment, given the lower judiciary's reluctance, barring a few exceptions, to grant bail to the accused. The Delhi High Court, however, struck a welcome dissenting note earlier this year while granting bail to anti-CAA activists — it criticised the state's tendency to confuse "protest" for "terrorist activity". Last month's Supreme Court judgment in the *Thwaha Fasal* case, too, clears the path for less oppressive interpretations of the UAPA.

In Tripura, and elsewhere, the onus is on the judiciary to step in to raise the questions and draw the red lines in order to uphold the fundamental freedoms of citizens against a transgressing executive power.

THE LAST T20

As Virat Kohli bows out of captaincy in the limited overs game, time to take stock and reinvent

IN THE END, Virat Kohli's T20 captaincy and India's campaign in the World Cup concluded without any fireworks. Neither was bad, even if both are now shadowed by failure. Kohli has rightfully taken pride in the team's bouncebackability — a catchphrase of sorts for Indian cricket in the Kohli era — but the slip-ups will hurt when he looks back at his reign. The choice of out-of-form batsmen and absence of in-form bowlers was almost forced on him by the timing of the squad's selection for the T20 World Cup. It was clear from the outset that it was up to Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul to carry India and once both failed in the first two games, India found themselves pushed out.

Over the years, Kohli's captaincy improved, under the guidance of coach Ravi Shastri, but it's in the team balance and composition where he faltered. He might have made tons of runs in T20 but he is not really at home in this format in contrast with the match-winning destructiveness that he displays with such skill and ease in other formats. Perhaps that too played its part in his captaincy. He isn't the sort who likes to fade into the background, leads by example, and this format was the only one where he couldn't do it. On field, as long as MS Dhoni was there, Kohli chose the best option for the team as a boundary rider and let Dhoni handle the details. It did show, though, that just like his batting, he could curb his ego and do what was best for the team.

Throughout Kohli's captaincy, there have been recurring murmurs about the pull-and-tug with team-mates, especially the senior ones. In some ways, he was almost impatient in getting them to move on with his philosophy, but would eventually relent. It's a testament to how far the team has grown in recent years that the benchmark seems to be ICC tournaments. It was taken as a given that the team would reach the knockout stage in big-ticket events — a far cry from earlier days when the path to that stage seemed much rockier. Ironically, in his last tournament, India couldn't get there.

BUMBA DA'S ORDEAL

Bengali superstar Prosenjit complained to PM and CM about food delivery. But why does his sense of entitlement irk us so?

S PARE A THOUGHT for the tribulations of Bumba *da*. Arguably the biggest star in Bengali cinema over the last couple of decades, he suffers like an urban, upper-middle-class everyman. Prosenjit ordered food over Swiggy. But — wait for it — he was not able to enjoy the sumptuous meal he was looking forward to. Then, the plot thickened, not unlike the gravy in a good shorshe jhaal: The app said his food had been delivered, when it had not! When he called the people at Swiggy, they refunded his money. For mere mortals, this is a common enough inconvenience and we move on. Not so, Bumba *da*.

Prosenjit took to the digital platform favoured by activists who want to make themselves heard without sweating it out to highlight his ordeal. He tweeted an open letter (the most self-righteous of formats), tagging the Prime Minister and West Bengal Chief Minister, to "highlight" the issue. "What if," the shocked superstar wrote, "someone is depending on the food app for their dinner? Will they stay hungry?" Burning questions, to be sure — but perhaps not meant for the table of heads of government.

However, before we judge him too harshly — as so many on social media did and are doing — a little context. Who really enjoys talking to customer care, either on the phone or through the bots that man so many text-based helplines? And in a country where who you know and how important you are allows you to skip lines, why does Bumba *da*'s sense of entitlement upset us so? Sour grapes, perhaps. After all, most people — particularly the higher one travels up the social ladder — phone a friend or a tout for everything from a passport to a driver's licence. Besides, the entire episode may be the result of taking political rhetoric too literally. Prosenjit sir, Pradhan Sewak isn't the chief customer care officer.



ARVIND P DATAR

THE WHOLLY UNJUSTIFIED arrest of the former chairman of the State Bank of India came close on the heels of the wholly unjustified arrest of Aryan Khan. Public memory is cruelly short and we have forgotten the fatal incarceration of 84-year-old Father Stan Swamy, the arrest — and denial of bail — to journalist Siddique Kappan, Rhea Chakraborty and many others who would not have been arrested in any democracy where the rule of law prevails.

Article 21 of our Constitution loftily states: "No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law". The Supreme Court has repeatedly laid down directions that make the granting of bail the rule, and jail the exception. It is a scandal that these directions are repeatedly ignored by trial courts and jail has now become the rule and bail the exception even in petty bailable offences. If a case is even slightly sensational, it is almost certain that an accused will not be granted bail till his case reaches the High Court. And, if Aryan Khan had been an *aam aadmi*, it is also certain that he would have spent several months in jail before his case even reached the High Court.

Undoubtedly, there are conflicting issues in granting bail. On the one hand is the personal liberty of the accused or the suspect and on the other, it is the interest of the community as a whole. No one can argue that every suspect should be released on bail, but it is time to seriously consider whether the practice of creating too many non-bailable offences and the routine denial of bail subserves the public interest at all. To start with, laws imposing almost impossible conditions for the grant of bail have to be amended. Section 45 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 requires the judge to be satisfied that there are reason-

A system quick to arrest and reluctant to grant bail violates mandatory directions of Supreme Court

Section 45 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 requires the judge to be satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for believing that the accused is not guilty of 'such offence' and that he will not commit 'any offence' while on bail. Similar conditions exist in the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 as well. Barring the clearest of cases, how can a judge form the belief that a person is guilty or innocent at the initial stage?

able grounds for believing that the accused is not guilty of "such offence" and that he will not commit "any offence" while on bail. Similar conditions exist in the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 as well. Barring the clearest of cases, how can a judge form the belief that a person is guilty or innocent at the initial stage? And how does the judge have the clairvoyance to predict the possibility of an accused committing an offence while on bail? Other areas that need urgent reform are the archaic requirement of furnishing security in every case and the considerable delay in releasing an accused even after a bail order has been passed.

The practice of making stringent criminal law provisions in tax and economic offences started in 1975. Every director or senior executive was presumed to be guilty and the burden was on them to prove their innocence. Each accused was presumed to have criminal intent and imprisonment was mandatory if the tax or duty was more than one lakh rupees. Thus, the fundamental principles of criminal law were turned on their head in the hope that draconian provisions would instil fear and tax compliance would increase. Just the reverse happened as the repeated *samadhan* and amnesty schemes have proved.

The unchecked tendency of arresting senior bank officials, company executives and civil servants must also stop immediately. Apart from being in complete violation of repeated and mandatory directions of the Supreme Court, it has a devastating and chilling effect on the decision-making process in banks and other institutions. In the 2G scam, more than a dozen senior executives languished in jail for more than 12 months, only to be acquitted later.

Indeed, there is no evidence that the practice of refusing bail has lowered the incidence of crime. On the contrary, it has resulted in almost 70 per cent of all prisoners being "undertrials". Several of them await trial for years. The sad reality is that every undertrial is treated as guilty until he proves his innocence by getting an acquittal.

The decriminalisation of several provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 through the Companies (Amendment) Act, 2020 was indeed a great initiative and similar amendments can be made in several Central and state enactments. The Supreme Court should take *suo motu* notice of the unacceptable arrest raj and issue urgent directives until the Centre and states make amendments or issue ordinances. Moreover, it is also vital to sensitise judges to the importance of bail, particularly when most of the poor and illiterate accused have little or no access to legal assistance. There is also an extremely urgent need for the Supreme Court and high courts to send clear signals to the lower courts that the granting of bail will be the norm and no subordinate judge will be penalised in their career prospects for granting bail.

In the case of the former SBI chairman or Aryan Khan and so many other accused, what was the need to arrest them? What fatal result would have ensued if they were asked not to leave the country and report daily for investigation? Even if a transaction appears tainted by extraneous consideration, it can always be investigated and the guilty punished. But making an arrest at the FIR stage destroys a person's reputation; a subsequent acquittal may heal the wound but the person will remain scarred for life.

The writer is a senior advocate



RAJEEV MALHOTRA

WHAT SHE SOWED

Rohini Nayyar's legacy lives on in her important work on rural development

ROHINI NAYYAR, a well-known economist, former principal adviser at the erstwhile Planning Commission and one of India's foremost authorities on rural development passed away on October 24, stoically fighting illness and the consequences of the negligence of some doctors who attended to her in the last few years. She lived a full life as a professional, an ideal companion and anchor to her husband, Deepak Nayyar, a doting mother to her sons, Dhiraj and Gaurav, and as a compassionate person who cared for all, but particularly for those less fortunate. Her heart was in the right place, and she had a mind that was fearless, always engaging with issues that mattered, professionally as well as socially, never hesitating to take a stand when required.

She had a unique career trajectory. After completing her Master's degree in economics from the Delhi School of Economics, where she also met Deepak, Rohini joined the IAS in the Uttar Pradesh cadre in 1969, serving in Agra, Kanpur and Lucknow. She left the service within a few years to be with her husband at Oxford, where she did her BLitt in economics. In time, she wrote her DPhil thesis on rural poverty in India at the University of Sussex, a pioneering institution in development economics. She then chose to combine her academic specialisation with her interest in administration and policy-making by re-joining the Government of India as adviser in the Planning Commission in the late 1980s. For almost two decades, until 2005, she headed the rural development division at the Commission, rising in rank from joint secretary to secretary. Such a

long stint in one position is rare in the government system and it made Rohini's domain knowledge indispensable to a succession of governments who were all keen to make an impact in rural India.

Many policy ideas that were seeded at her time in the rural development division of the Planning Commission were implemented over the years. She was an early advocate for rationalising centrally-sponsored schemes at a time when such schemes were proliferating. In the 1990s, she believed in the need for a rural employment guarantee scheme, an idea which the UPA government wished to implement in 2004. As fate would have it, she was due to retire in 2004 shortly after the UPA took office but she was asked to stay on in the Planning Commission for a year after her retirement to help design the flagship NREGA.

Her analytical contributions were equally significant. In the 1980s, her estimation of rural poverty and analysis of inter-state differences, based on quantities of food and other necessities consumed, rather than household expenditures, was a pioneering original contribution. In the 1990s, her estimation of district income along with Vinod Vyasulu greatly enriched the literature on rural development.

Rohini was not only a brilliant mentor to many of us in the Planning Commission, but also to academics and practitioners on the outside. To her subordinates, she was the ideal boss, accessible and empowering in every respect. She was frank, fair, and transparent in her dealings, never hesitating to speak her mind — values that are not so common among civil servants, especially in the present times.

mon among civil servants, especially in the present times.

There is one instance, fresh in my mind, which reflects the person and the professional that Rohini was. In 1998-99, the Planning Commission was taken to task by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance for not having prepared a human development report for the country, when even Bangladesh had one. The Commission was directed to prepare one in a limited time. The initial thought was to outsource it. I thought of this as a great opportunity for the Planning Commission. However, being a relatively junior officer at that time, I needed an adviser-level person to back the project. I approached Rohini, although I was in a different division, to provide her leadership to the proposed project. It took a couple of minutes to brief her and she was ready to walk to the secretary's office to take responsibility on our behalf. We set up a team under her leadership to complete the task and presented the report to the prime minister and Parliament in the stipulated time frame.

Not once during the preparation of the report did she betray any sign of concern, as the buck stopped with her. She would often come to my office and share a cup of Darjeeling tea, a fondness that we both shared. It was her way of encouraging us to do a good job.

Her legacy will survive through all the lives she touched.

The writer is a former civil servant and professor at Jindal School of Government and Public Policy



NOVEMBER 9, 1981, FORTY YEARS AGO

DELHI PARIS LONDON

THE VISIT OF External Affairs Minister P V Narasimha Rao to London in response to Lord Carrington's long-standing invitation is likely to have a direct bearing on Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's four-day stay in Paris. India's politico-economic role in the Third World and non-aligned countries is recognised as vital both by France and Britain against the background of the situation in West Asia, South Asia and Southwest Asian countries, with particular reference to the developments in Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Since Mitterrand was elected President, France and India have established close relationships. This is, perhaps, because the French President's views on

many matters are similar to those held by Mrs Gandhi. But there is hardly any issue of significance on which London and New Delhi agree despite the fact that the two countries have traditional friendship.

CENTRE ON KERALA

THE UNION MINISTER of State for Home, Yogendra Makwana, said that the Kerala government has decided to activate the police machinery for maintaining law and order in the state. Talking to reporters at the Raj Bhavan, he said he had given several instructions to the police with regard to law and order. He also assured police officers protection in the legitimate exercise of their duty.

Whenever necessary, the National Security Act would be used and instructions have been given to officers to constitute a review board for the purpose, he said.

TROUBLE IN ASSAM

WHILE THE ASSAM agitation leaders' response to the Centre's invitation for the 15th round of talks from November 19 is not known, the two sides are inevitably heading for a major confrontation. The agitators are firm on their decision to have a mass rally on November 18. The government is equally firm in not granting permission in an area which continues to be under prohibitory orders.

The Eurasia opportunity

Greater strategic activism, recalibration of Delhi’s continental strategy, promises to open up possibilities in the region



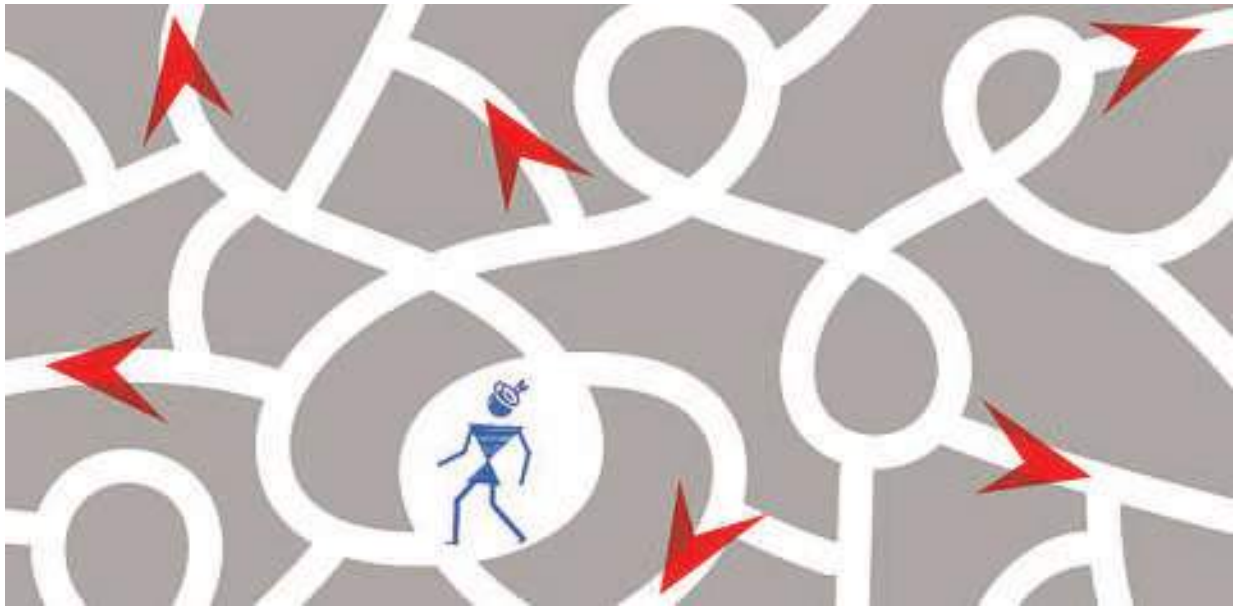
DELHI'S INDO-PACIFIC STRATEGY has acquired political and institutional traction, thanks to intensive Indian diplomacy in recent years. It must now devote similar energy to the development of a "Eurasian" policy. If the Indo-Pacific is about Delhi's new maritime geopolitics, Eurasia involves the recalibration of India's continental strategy.

This week's consultations in Delhi on the crisis in Afghanistan among the region's top security policymakers, following the US withdrawal, is part of developing a Eurasian strategy. National Security Advisor Ajit Doval has invited his counterparts from Pakistan, Iran, Central Asia, Russia, and China to join this discussion on Wednesday. Pakistan's Moeed Yusuf has declined to join. It is not yet clear whether China will attend. Pakistan's reluctance to engage with India on Afghanistan reveals Delhi's persisting problem with Islamabad in shaping a new Eurasian strategy. But it also reinforces the urgency of an Indian strategy to deal with Eurasia.

After years of self-doubt, Delhi has clinched the internal debate on the Indo-Pacific and has made it integral to India's foreign and security policies. Given its novelty and strategic salience, the Quad or the Quadrilateral forum that brings India together with Australia, Japan and the US, looms large over the Indo-Pacific debate. But Delhi now has a mix of other important unilateral, bilateral, multilateral, and multilateral initiatives in the Indo-Pacific.

As in the Indo-Pacific, so in Eurasia, there is no shared international understanding of what constitutes the region. Among those who study the geography of the earth's landmass and oceans, there are agreed definitions of the Indo-Pacific and Eurasia. If the Indo-Pacific describes the long stretch of tropical waters from the east coast of Africa to the central Pacific, Eurasia is the name of a tectonic plate that lies under much of what we know as Europe and Asia. But the trouble begins when it comes to the political geography of Eurasia. In Russia's definition, Eurasia covers the former territories of the Soviet Union, which collapsed in 1991. In other words, it is about Russia's political claim to a sphere of influence in its "near abroad". Then there are various older usages like "inner Asia" and "Central Asia" that cover parts of the region. Given the deep connection between Muslim Central Asia and West Asia, some prefer the term "Greater Middle East" to describe parts of this region.

For Delhi, it makes sense to use the broadest possible definition of Eurasia in reimagining the region. The most important development in Eurasia today is the dramatic rise of China and its growing strategic assertiveness, expanding economic power and rising political influence. Beijing's muscular approach to the long and disputed border with Bhutan and India, its quest for a security presence in Tajikistan, the active search for a larger role in Afghanistan, and a greater say in the affairs of the broader sub-Himalayan region are only one part of the story. As the world's second-largest economy, China's commercial influence is felt across the world. Physical proximity multiplies China's economic impact on the inner Asian regions.



CR Sasikumar

The impressive expansion of China's Belt and Road initiative across central Asia and Russia, onto the shores of the Atlantic, and Europe's growing economic interdependence with China have added to Beijing's powerful leverages in Eurasia. These leverages, in turn, were reinforced by a deepening alliance with Russia that straddles the Eurasian heartland. Russia's intractable disputes with Europe and America have increased Moscow's reliance on Beijing.

Amidst mounting challenges from China in the Indo-Pacific maritime domain, Washington has begun to rethink its strategic commitments to Eurasia. The US withdrawal from Afghanistan is just the beginning of a long-overdue redefinition of US global strategic priorities. Even Europe, which has seen a massive deployment of US military resources since the Second World War, is not immune to the inevitable rearrangement of the US military's global disposition. Washington and Brussels are now in the middle of an important debate on how to rebalance the trans-Atlantic responsibilities for Europe's collective defence.

Whether defined as "burden-sharing" in Washington or "strategic autonomy" in Brussels, Europe must necessarily take on a larger regional Eurasian security role. More broadly, regional powers are going to re-shape Eurasia.

India has certainly dealt with Eurasia's constituent spaces separately over the decades. What Delhi now needs is an integrated approach to Eurasia. Like the Indo-Pacific, Eurasia is new to India's strategic discourse.

To be sure, there are references to India's ancient civilisational links with Eurasia. The collaboration between the Sangha and the Shreni in the Buddhist era produced lasting interaction between the two regions. India's inward orientation after the decline of Buddhism did not stop the flow of Central Asian forces into the subcontinent. The arrival of the British in India and the consolidation of the Raj as a territorial entity in the subcontinent saw the outward projection of India's influence into Central Asia. British rivalry with Russia during the Great Game in the 19th and early 20th centuries put Eurasian geopolitics at the top of undivided India's security agenda. The Partition of the subcontinent and India's physical disconnection from inner Asia, however, cut India off from Eurasian geopolitics. Overcoming the geographic limitation — represented by the Pakistan barrier — will be central to an ex-

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval has invited his counterparts from Pakistan, Iran, Central Asia, Russia, and China to join the discussion on Wednesday. Pakistan's Moeed Yusuf has declined to join. It is not yet clear whether China will attend. Pakistan's reluctance to engage with India on Afghanistan reveals Delhi's persisting problem with Islamabad in shaping a new Eurasian strategy. But it also reinforces the urgency of an Indian strategy to deal with Eurasia.

panded Indian role in Eurasian geopolitics.

While there are many elements to an Indian strategy towards Eurasia, three of them stand out. One is to put Europe back into India's continental calculus. Before independence, many Indian nationalists turned to Europe to secure the nation's liberation from British colonialism. After independence, Delhi's drift towards an alliance with Moscow saw India neglect Europe's strategic significance. As India now steps up its engagement with Europe, the time has come for it to begin a strategic conversation with Brussels on Eurasian security. This will be a natural complement to the fledgling engagement between India and Europe on the Indo-Pacific.

India's Eurasian policy must necessarily involve greater engagement with both the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. A dedicated military office in the Indian mission to Brussels, where both EU and NATO are headquartered, will be a crucial step towards a sustained security dialogue with Europe.

Second is to intensify the dialogue on Eurasian security with Russia. While Indo-Russian differences on the Indo-Pacific, the Quad, China, and the Taliban are real, Delhi and Moscow have good reasons to narrow their differences on Afghanistan and widen cooperation on continental Eurasian security.

Third is the substantive Indian collaboration with both Persia and Arabia. If Persia's location makes it critical for the future of Afghanistan and Central Asia, the religious influence of Arabia and the weight of the Gulf capital are quite consequential in the region. India's partnerships with Persia and Arabia are also critical in overcoming Turkey's alliance with Pakistan that is hostile to Delhi.

India will surely encounter many contradictions in each of the three areas — between and among America, Europe, Russia, China, Iran, and the Arab Gulf. As in the Indo-Pacific, so in Eurasia, Delhi should not let these contradictions hold India back.

The current flux in Eurasian geopolitics will lessen some of the current contradictions and generate some new antinomies in the days ahead. But the key for India lies in greater strategic activism that opens opportunities in all directions in Eurasia.

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

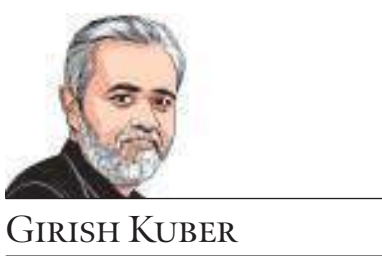
WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Femicide and abuse won't end until misogyny is recognised for what it is and eliminated."

— THE OBSERVER

Game on in Maharashtra

State is crucial for 2024 general elections. That's why BJP is taking aim at Sena-NCP-Congress government



POLITICS, AS everyone knows, has always been about cut-throat competition. Politics is subterfuge. Politics, at times, is about deceiving friends and embracing foes; it is about winning. Politics is also about keeping at least one window open for arch-rivals. Politics is everything that normal human beings cannot think of. However, politics, though brutal, was rarely played with a jilted-lover mindset.

The BJP received an unbearable jolt when the Shiv Sena, after the Maharashtra state assembly polls in November 2019, refused to sign on the dotted line and did the unthinkable by joining hands with the NCP and Congress. Since then, the three-party Maharashtra government has been perennially in a fire-fighting mode. It's understandable that an upset BJP would try to dislodge the Uddhav Thackeray-led ministry. What is, however, difficult to accept is the means for the purpose. One has to be super naive to believe that the actions unleashed by various central agencies have no politics to them.

Let's take a look at some facts. First, the case of deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar. It was the alleged involvement of Ajit Pawar in the irrigation scam that helped the BJP win office in 2014. If it was the fiery campaign against Sharad Pawar by the BJP's late Gopinath Munde, helped by officials such as G R Khaimar, that propelled the BJP-Sena alliance to power for the first time in 1995, the corruption charges made by Devendra Fadnavis and others against Ajit Pawar helped the saffron siblings end the 10-year Congress-NCP rule in 2014. In office, the BJP-Sena government did precious little. The irrigation scam resurfaced in 2019 ahead of state elections when BJP leaders claimed that Ajit Pawar's rightful place was in jail. What is incredible is that the BJP tried to make the same Ajit Pawar deputy chief minister in that ill-fated, short-lived Fadnavis government.

It was the BJP's second consecutive failure in forming the government, the first being its inability to win over the Sena. It is not easy to digest two failures. Now that Ajit Pawar and his relatives are under the IT radar, the question is: Would this have happened had Ajit Pawar stayed with the BJP? Two state politicians — Harshvardhan Patil and Sanjay Patil, BJP MP from Sangli — recently said they have stopped worrying about central agencies since they joined the BJP.

Second, the case of former home minister Anil Deshmukh, who was arrested recently, on corruption allegations made by former Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh. Central agencies have investigated Deshmukh on the basis of a letter written by Singh to the chief minister. Singh himself has admitted that he

doesn't have any proof of Deshmukh's alleged wrongdoings. This is not to give a clean chit to Deshmukh who lacked the skills and maturity to run this crucial ministry. Not to forget, it was the BJP that made Deshmukh a minister for the first time in 1995.

Similarly, it was the BJP government that favoured Param Bir Singh for the powerful commissionerate of Thane. Singh had a special rapport with BJP bigwigs and was used to rein in the Sena. Ironically, it was Singh, who, in his capacity as the Director General (DG) of the Maharashtra Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), gave a clean chit to Ajit Pawar in the alleged scam involving 12 Vidarbha Irrigation Development Corporation (VIDC) projects. The short-lived Fadnavis government, where Ajit Pawar was deputy CM, too had absolved the latter of wrongdoings in the alleged irrigation scam. Since Ajit Pawar was cleared by a BJP government in the irrigation issue, he is now being probed for his role in buying loss-making sugar cooperatives.

These absurd political developments beg the question: Why is the BJP so desperate to dislodge the Sena-NCP-Congress government?

The answer lies in the 2024 general elections and the BJP's inability in making inroads in some big states. After Maharashtra, the BJP failed to cobble a winning alliance in Tamil Nadu and failed miserably in West Bengal. Along with Maharashtra, these states together send 129 MPs to the Lok Sabha. The increasingly hostile political atmosphere in Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Gujarat and the uncertainty in Punjab make the upcoming assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh crucial for the BJP. Though it is too early to hazard a guess about UP results, it is clear that the party will find it extremely difficult to retain, leave alone improve, its tally of 312 of 403 seats in the assembly. Yogi Adityanath was not the BJP's face in the last assembly elections. This time he is. The polarising politics he has unleashed will test the BJP's resolve in a state that sends 80 MPs to the Lok Sabha.

After UP, it is Maharashtra with 48 seats that sends the largest contingent of MPs. If things go wrong for the BJP in UP in 2024, Maharashtra will become crucial. The NDA, which included the BJP and Sena, won 41 seats in 2019, of which 23 belonged to the BJP. Now the situation is evenly poised with the combined strength of Sena-NCP-Congress matching that of the BJP. If this three-party government survives till the next parliamentary elections, the BJP will have a tough battle ahead. Hence, the attempt to pull down the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi government.

In politics, such attempts are justified. But not so reasonable are the ways pursued to achieve the goal. "Tum agar mujhko na chaho to koi baat nahi (It's ok if you don't like me)" is acceptable in politics, but never has "Tum kisi aur ko chahogi to mushkil hogi (But you cannot like someone else)" been a precondition. Developments in Maharashtra, after West Bengal, indicate the changing contours of politics.

The writer is Editor, Loksatta



CONSTANTINO XAVIER AND RIYA SINHA

The connectivity effect

Gati Shakti plan must be leveraged to strengthen India's economic ties with world

THE GATI Shakti National Master Plan is another important step for India to upgrade national infrastructure and multimodal connectivity. According to the *Economic Survey* 2019-20, India will have to invest approximately \$1.5 trillion on infrastructure to become a \$5-trillion economy by 2024-25. However, while the Rs 100 lakh crore plan will have an important economic multiplier effect at home, it must also be leveraged to have an external impact by aligning it with India's regional and global connectivity efforts.

The Gati Shakti plan has three main components, all focused on domestic coordination. First, it seeks to increase information sharing with a new technology platform between various ministries at the Union and state levels. Second, it focuses on giving impetus to multimodal transportation to reduce logistics' costs and strengthen last-mile connectivity in India's hinterland or border regions. The third component includes an analytical decision-making tool to disseminate project-related information and prioritise key infrastructure projects. This aims to ensure transparency and time-bound commitments to investors.

One way to look at the Gati Shakti plan from a foreign policy angle is that it will automatically generate positive effects to deepen India's economic ties with Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Sri Lanka, as well as with Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean region. This has been the experience in recent years with India's investment in roads, ports,

inland waterways or new customs procedures generating positive externalities for these neighbours, who are keen to access the growing Indian consumer market.

Nepal, for example, in 2020 reached record export levels due to a series of Indian connectivity initiatives, including electronic cargo tracking systems, new rail and road routes, modernisation of border control systems, and the region's first-ever bilateral petroleum pipeline. Any reduction in India's domestic logistics costs brings immediate benefits to the northern neighbour, given that 98 per cent of Nepal's total trade transits through India and about 65 per cent of Nepal's trade is with India.

By reducing the cost and time of doing trade through infrastructure modernisation at home, India will continue to have a positive impact on the price of commodities and developmental targets in neighbouring countries. In 2019, trade between Bhutan and Bangladesh was eased through a new multimodal road and waterway link via Assam. The new cargo ferry service with the Maldives, launched last year, has lowered the costs of trade for the island state. And under the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation Programme, India's investments in multimodal connectivity on the eastern coast is re-connecting India with the Bay of Bengal and Southeast Asia through integrated rail, port and shipping systems.

However, India can't just rely on the plan's automatic spillover effects. Connectivity plans

at home include important strategic decisions that will impact India's external economic relations, not only in South Asia, but also with Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean region. Whether it is the alignment of a cross-border railway, the location of a border check post, or the digital system chosen for customs and immigration processes, India's connectivity investments at home will have limited effects unless they are coordinated with those of its neighbours and other regional partners.

For instance, with its land neighbours, India's border check posts, known as Integrated Check Posts (ICPs), only have mirror infrastructure with Nepal. Other key ICPs, such as the one at Petrapole with Bangladesh, face regular congestion due to lack of complementary infrastructure across the border. Similarly, countries in South Asia use different digital systems that have hindered real-time information sharing. While India recently joined the Transports Internationaux Routiers (TIR) convention, which facilitates cross-border customs procedures, none of its neighbouring countries in the east has signed on to it.

There are three avenues for India to ensure that the Gati Shakti Plan has maximum effect. First, India will have to deepen bilateral consultations with its neighbours to gauge their connectivity strategies and priorities. This is not just a technocratic exercise of coordination and harmonisation. Given political and security sensitivities, India will require diplomatic skills to reassure its neighbours and adapt to

their pace and political economy context.

A second way is for India to work through regional institutions and platforms. SAARC's ambitious regional integration plans of the 2000s are now defunct, so Delhi has shifted its geo-economic orientation eastwards. The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) has got new momentum, but there is also progress on the Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal (BBIN) Initiative. Working through these multilateral platforms will help India develop a regional vision and standards for connectivity, reducing bilateral transaction costs.

Finally, India can also boost the Gati Shakti plan's external impact by cooperating more closely with global players who are keen to support its strategic imperative to give the Indo-Pacific an economic connectivity dimension. This includes the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank, but also Japan, the US, Australia, EU and ASEAN. They come with expertise and expectations about connectivity standards, whether it is on e-commerce, environmental and social impact assessments of infrastructure or technology platforms. These external connectivity dialogues will give the Gati Shakti plan a truly regional and global dimension and help India achieve its developmental targets at home.

Xavier is a fellow and Sinha a research associate at the Centre for Social and Economic Progress, New Delhi

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DIVIDED INDIA

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The radicalisation in our midst' (IE, November 8). No growth in the nation's GDP can offset the irreversible damage that is caused by the schisms and wedges that are being driven into the ideas of secularism and fraternity. We can never reap the advantages of the potential demographic dividend if our young population keeps fighting the self-created internecine wars in the names of religion, caste, ethnicity, etc rather than fighting poverty, hunger and malnutrition. Radical and fringe elements, opposed to the very idea of syncretism, are present across religious lines and it is incumbent upon the secular and liberal forces within every religion to ensure that they pe-

ter out. In the words of Swami Vivekanand, "For our own motherland a junction of the two great systems, Hinduism and Islam — Vedanta Brain and Islam Body — is the only hope. I see in my mind's eye the future perfect India rising out of chaos and strife, glorious and invincible, with Vedanta Brain and Islam Body".
Vinay Saroha, Delhi

POLITICAL CUT

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Festive cheer' (IE, November 8). The Centre's decision to slash taxes on petrol and diesel is clearly political. The BJP-led NDA may have read the signals in by-polls held across many states to drop the price of this basic economic input,

which has been raising the hackles of the common man. Covid-19 may be on the wane but the intense politics of India will remain an eternal pandemic. The polarisation is made evident by the non-NDA states refusing to even consider bringing down VAT to let consumers enjoy a reprieve.
SS Paul, Nadia

REGULATE POLLS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Perils of the opinion poll' (IE, November 8). The opacity surrounding opinion polls should be addressed by the Election Commission immediately. More so, as much of the media unquestioningly accepts and publishes poll findings. Transparency of the process and accountability of the poll surveyors must be preconditions for poll surveys to be published.
Hemant Contractor, Pune

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Perils of the opinion poll' (IE 8 November). Indians largely vote along caste, region, and communal lines. In opinion polls, or otherwise, it is the grassroots equation between different social groups forged by various political parties that decides their fate. Opinion polls help political parties more than common voters to decide their pre-poll or post-poll alliances. An urban dweller, who isn't affiliated with any political front, relies on such televised polls to make their voting decision. Fabricated opinion polls are part of the larger rot that has been inflicted on the news media today.
Sudip Kumar Dey, Barasat

Maharashtra: 10 months, 6 hospital fires, 55 deaths, missed alerts

RUPSA CHAKRABORTY
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 8

APPOINT A professional fire officer in each facility, set up in-house fire response teams, nominate a fire warden for each floor and every shift.

These were three key recommendations among 15 that were put together by an audit committee of the Maharashtra government soon after a fire at the district hospital in Bhandara claimed the lives of ten newborn babies in January.

Since then, five major fires have been reported in the state's hospitals with 45 more deaths but the government is yet to implement those recommendations.

Officials point out that a trained in-house response team could have reduced the number of casualties in Saturday morning's fire that killed 11 Covid patients at the district hospital in Ahmednagar.

According to Shankar Misal, the civic fire brigade chief in Ahmednagar, there were six fire extinguishers in the hospital's ICU where the fire started. And yet, only one ward boy was able to operate a fire extinguisher, which was deemed too little, too late.

"The hospital staff weren't

DEATHS IN HOSPITAL FIRES THIS YEAR

JAN 9: 10 newborn babies die at district hospital, Bhandara

MARCH 25: 11 die at Covid hospital, Bhandup (Mumbai)

APRIL 10: 4 die at private hospital, Nagpur

APRIL 23: 15 die at Vijay Vallabh Hospital, Virar (Mumbai)

APRIL 28: 4 die at Prime Criticare Hospital, Thane

NOV 6: 11 die at district hospital, Ahmednagar

trained to handle the fire extinguishers. If they had proper training or an in-hospital fire response team, they would have been able to douse the fire before it spread further, limiting the fatality. Out of six functional fire extinguishers, only one was used," Misal said.

Following the fire in Bhandara, an eight-member committee had submitted 15 fire-safety recommendations to be implemented in all major government-run hospitals. The panel included former director of Maharashtra Fire Service P S

Rahangdale, Divisional Commissioner (Nagpur) Dr Sanjeev Kumar and Health Service Director Dr Sadhana Tayade, among others.

Among the major recommendations, the committee suggested the setting up of "in-house fire response teams" in each hospital. It also recommended a fire warden for each floor, and every shift, a member of the committee told *The Indian Express*.

"The hospital staff are the first responders in case of fire, and their awareness in fire and life safety is very important...there is a need to designate some of the existing staff in the hospitals as 'Fire Wardens,'" the committee member said.

In a press conference Sunday, State Health Minister Rajesh Tope said every hospital should have a 'Fire Officer' and a dedicated response team. But the committee had already made such a recommendation in January.

"The creation of new posts for Fire Officers is in the pipeline. The Health Department will be responsible for filling up the posts," said Santosh Warick, Director, Health Department.

The committee had also recommended the allocation of

funds under a separate budget head in all major health facilities for fire-safety measures. "Major hospitals should have their own budget, which will stop wastage of time as departments keep passing the buck," said an official, who was part of the team that investigated the fire in Bhandara.

A Health officer in Ahmednagar told *The Indian Express* that after the fire audit in January, the hospital submitted an estimate of Rs 2.5 crore to the Public Works Department for the installation of a fire safety system. "The estimate got approved only in the last week of October," the officer said.

The other major recommendations include: link CCTV networks in hospitals with real-time monitoring control centres at the state, division and district levels; prepare SOPs for planning and construction of hospital buildings and maintenance; conduct electrical audit of buildings; set up advanced fire training centres; ensure maintenance of fire-safety equipment.

When contacted with queries on why the committee's recommendations were not implemented, Dr Pradeep Vyas, Additional Chief Secretary (Health) declined comment.

Congress works out compromise pact as Sidhu stays firm on his demand



Sidhu; CM Chhanni

A source privy to the developments in the meeting said, "A compromise pact has been worked out. A Cabinet meeting has been called on Tuesday."

has been called on Tuesday in which the resignation of AG is likely to be taken up."

Chaudhary intervened after Sidhu called a press conference and questioned the government over the status of investigation into the 2015 sacrilege and police firing incident and sharpened his attack on Advocate General APS Deol and DGP IPS Sahota. Sidhu was apparently miffed at the Cabinet, which met Sunday, for not taking up the issue of AG's resignation — one of the two conditions that he had put before the party high command on Friday for withdrawing his resignation as PCC chief.

In the meeting organised by Chaudhary, State Sports Minister

Pargat Singh, a close confidant of Sidhu, was also present. Later, talking to reporters Cabinet Minister Raj Kumar Verka said "whatever misunderstandings" there are between Chhanni and Sidhu "will soon be removed". "Most of the issues have been sorted to a large extent today and those remaining will be resolved soon," he said.

A source in the Sidhu camp, meanwhile, said, "Chhanni and Chaudhary have been telling Sidhu that the AG will be removed...The AG's resignation has not been accepted yet". "For now, they have decided that the resignation would be taken up in the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday," the source added.

Punjab Deputy CM's son-in-law among 2 appointed as Addl Advocate General

KANCHAN VASDEV
CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 8

MONTHS AFTER Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, as then Cabinet minister in Capt Amarinder Singh-led dispensation, had opposed the appointment of sons of two MLAs on government posts, his son-in-law Tarun Vir Singh Lehal was Monday appointed as Additional Advocate

General (AAG) in Punjab. Randhawa is now a deputy chief minister in Charanjit Singh Chhanni-led Congress government and also holds the charge of department of home.

Lehal's appointment was notified by the department of home affairs and justice on Monday, days after the Home Secretary had put up the file to the legal department. The appointment has the CM's

stamp. Advocate, Mukesh Chander Berry, has been appointed AAG. The government has appointed Sumeet Mahajan as senior AAG, Aadil Singh Boparai as AAG, and Rehatbir Singh Maan as deputy AG.

According to an official order, Lehal and Berry have been appointed with immediate effect. "This engagement would be purely on a contractual basis up to March 31, 2022, ex-

tendable on year to year basis," the order said.

Lehal told PTI that the appointment is based on merit. "I have been practising in the high court for about 13 years. Being the son-in-law of somebody, if that is negative, then I do not know what to say," he said. The appointments come amid an ongoing row over AG APS Deol, whose appointment has been opposed by PPCC chief Navjot Singh Sidhu.

Will quit again if farmers ask me to: Abhay Chautala after taking oath as MLA

Chandigarh: Soon after driving to the Haryana Vidhan Sabha on a tractor to take oath as an MLA, Indian National Lok Dal's Abhay Singh Chautala Monday termed his win in the Ellenabad bypolls as a victory of farmers and said he will not hesitate from resigning again if they ask him to.

"I will go to Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur borders and ask farmers their demands and expectations from me. Whatever demands Samyukt Kisan Morcha has, I will fulfill that. If they ask me to resign again, I will do so," said Chautala. The INLD general secretary on November 2 won the bypoll to Ellenabad Assembly seat, which was necessitated by his resignation in support of the farmers stir against the three agri laws. Commenting on Abhay's promise to resign, his nephew and state deputy CM Dushyant Chautala said, "He has made resignation a joke. Does an elected representative have no responsibility towards the electorate?" **ENS**

JHIRAM VALLEY Cong trying to politicise report, says Chhattisgarh Governor

GARGI VERMA
RAIPUR, NOVEMBER 8

CHHATTISGARH GOVERNOR Anusuiya Uikey said on Monday that the state Congress was raising unnecessary queries on the Jhiram valley probe report.

Uikey was responding to Congress's accusation a day ago that the Jhiram valley inquiry commission broke protocol by submitting the report to the Governor. The report was filed after a probe into the May 25, 2013, Maoist attack on a Congress convoy in Bastar's Jhiram valley that killed 29 people.


On Sunday, State Congress chief Mohan Markam had said: "The judicial commission has violated the prescribed

and accepted procedure by submitting its report to the Governor instead of the state government."

Responding to the Congress's accusations, Uikey said, "It's a 10 volume document that has been submitted to me. Since the order of the judicial probe was issued under my name, what's the harm if the report was submitted to me?"


She said, "The party is raising questions prematurely. As the constitutional head, I am supposed to see the reports anyway." The Governor is expected to forward the report to the government after going through it.

Meanwhile, Amit Jogi, the chief of Jogi Congress Chhattisgarh and son of former CM Ajit Jogi on Monday tweeted in support of the judicial commission.

**INDIRA GANDHI INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES**
(A Super Speciality, Autonomous Institute Of Govt. Of Bihar)
IGIMS Medical College, IGIMS Nursing College
Sheikhpura, Patna-14. EPBX:0612-2237089/2237631, Website: www.igims.org

Tender Notification
Tender Notice No.: 14/ 2021-2022/ Bio Medical Engg./IGIMS/Store
Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna invites bids from eligible and qualified manufacturers or their authorised distributors/agents for supply, installation & commissioning of X-Ray Machine for the department of Radiology.
The last date of submission of bidding document along with EMD and Tender document fee is 29.11.2021 upto 4 P.M. The technical bids will be opened on 30.11.2021 at 3:00 P.M.
Details of terms and conditions can be seen and downloaded from Institute Website: www.igims.org.
The Undersigned reserves the right to accept / reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason. prospective bidders are advised to regularly visit www.igims.org for Corrigendum / amendments etc., if any. It will be notified on these portals only and no separate advertisement will be made.
Director, IGIMS, Patna

SALUTE THE SOLDIER



Martyr on 09th November
CAPT GURJINDER SINGH SURI, MVC (POSTHUMOUS) (04 JULY 1974 - 09 NOV 1999)
Capt Gurjinder Singh Suri, Maha Vir Chakra laid down his life while fighting against enemy soldiers during "OPERATION BIRSA MUNDA" in J&K while on attachment with 12 BIHAR. In the truest tradition of the Indian Army, Capt Gurjinder Singh Suri displayed conspicuous bravery, excellent presence of mind and extraordinary junior leadership by killing three dreaded enemy soldiers personally. He will always be remembered and missed by all of us in the Army Ordnance Corps for his supreme sacrifice and gallant act.
The DG OS & Colonel Commandant and all ris of the AOC

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

CESS FOUNTAIN OF JOY

India's largest dancing fountain in the Kolkata Maidan, CESC Fountain of Joy, has recently introduced a brand-new set of songs to celebrate Diwali and remember a great composer Ramprasad Sen, who had close links with the city. A team of experts has selected eleven Ramprasad songs which have been introduced at the dancing fountain keeping in mind the spirit of Diwali. The opening Diwali song in the CESC Fountain of Joy - Mon re Krishi Kaj Jano Na, was a favourite or Sri Ramakrishna who sang it himself on 17th June 1883, at Dakshineswar Temple, according to the Kathamrita by Mahendranath Gupta. Ramakrishna sang it again on Sunday 22nd July 1883, followed by one more performance at the residence of Joygopal Sen at Burrabazar on 28th November 1883. The singer of the opening Diwali song at the CESC Fountain of Joy programme is Dhananjay Bhattacharya and the remix singer is Arijit Chakraborty. Being inaugurated on 2nd November, the new Ramprasad programme at CESC Fountain of Joy will continue every 20 minutes upto 9.00 p.m., giving citizens an opportunity to enjoy Ramprasad music at the Maidan (opposite Victoria Memorial) till Sunday, 14th November. It is believed, on the Diwali Day, 1871 while bathing in the Ganga, Ramprasad fell ill in 1871 and at the immersion of Goddess next day breathed his last.




GRSE OBSERVES NATIONAL UNITY DAY : ROAD TOWARDS INDIA@75 CELEBRATIONS

Reaffirming its commitment towards self-reliant India and celebration of India@75, Garden Reach Ship-builders and Engineers Ltd., (GRSE), a Mini Ratna Category 1 Defence PSU and a leading warship building company of India, organised a variety of events at its units from 24-31 Oct' 2021 to commemorate Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day). Celebrating the 146 th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel as 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas', GRSE's reinforced its commitment to strengthen the security, unity and integrity of the nation. The week started with online 'Unity Pledge' taking ceremony. During the week, a host of events such as 'Unity Walkathon' involving GRSE employees, Essay, Slogan Writing competitions for students and march-past by security personnel were organised. GRSE personnel led by the Senior management participated in these events with great enthusiasm. Banners and posters carrying the message of national integrity and unity were prominently displayed at GRSE's units during the week-long celebration. GRSE also supports holistic development of underprivileged children of Gadadhar Abhyudaya Prakalpa (GAP) units and conducted activities under the aegis of 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas' at units of Naora, 24 Parganas (South), Ajjara, 24 Parganas (North) & Boyemari, Sandeshkhali.



SANJEEV GOENKA MOURNS THE DEMISE OF SUBRATA MUKHERJEE

Mourning the unexpected demise of Subrata Mukherjee, Panchayat Minister, Govt of WB, Dr. Sanjiv Goenka, Chairman, RP-SG Group recently said : In Subrata Mukherjee, we have lost a very good and a very capable leader. At a personal level, I had known him for over 35 years. It is a very deep personal loss.



ANIRBAN CLUB KALI PUJA INAUGURATED BY GOD'S OWN SPECIAL CHILD 'MALHAR'

On 2 nd November, 2021 the Kali-puja organized by 'Anirban' Club, at Rakhhal Mukherjee Road, Bhowanipur was inaugurated by 'Malhar Thakker', a specially-abled child. Such special child, though blind, deaf and unable to move since birth have the special ability to feel everything happening around them. 'Malhar Thakker', the only son of Gopi and Rashmi Thakker was also the Chief Guest on the occasion. Incidentally, this was the 42 nd year of celebration of Kali-puja at Anirban Club, Bhowanipur, where the Goddess Kali idol, the Pandel as well as the theme was conceptualized by artist Sandeep Das.



RESTORATION OF JASIDIH – JHAJHA MEMU PASSENGER

For convenience of passengers, it has been decided to restore the services of MEMU Passenger between Jasidih and Jhajha with effect from 06.11.2021 as 03769/03770 Jasidih –Jhajha – Jasidih Passenger Special till further advice. 03769 Jasidih – Jhajha MEMU Passenger Special will leave Jasidih at 10:00 hrs. daily to reach Jhajha at 10:55 hrs. on the same day and 03770 Jhajha – Jasidih MEMU Passenger Special train will leave Jhajha at 11:25 hrs. daily to reach Jasidih at 12:25 hrs. on the same day .

EVGENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, C S R INITIATIVES, APPOINTMENTS, MOVEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

MADHYAMGRAM MUNICIPALITY TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tender / quotation, are invited from the bonafied and resourceful agencies by the Executive Officer, Madhyamgram Municipality through the following N.I.T. bearing no. MM/EO/2041/2021-22, MM/EO/2042/2021-22, MM/EO/2043/2021-22, MM/EO/2044/2021-22, MM/EO/2045/2021-22, MM/EO/2046/2021-22, MM/EO/2047/2021-22, MM/EO/2048/2021-22, MM/EO/2049/2021-22, MM/EO/2050/2021-22, MM/EO/2051/2021-22, MM/EO/2052/2021-22 & MM/EO/2053/2021-22. Details of tender will be available from the website www.madhyamgrammunicipality.org & Office Notice Board. The Municipal Authority has every right to accept or reject any tender / quotation without assigning any reason.
Sd/-
Executive Officer
Madhyamgram Municipality

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Managing Director, West Bengal Livestock Development Corporation Limited, LB-2, Sector-III, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700 106 invites the following online bids in two bid system from the Intending Bona fide Bidder/Contractor etc. (1) **Tender title** : e-Tender for "Supply of different animal/poultry feed additives at different feed milling plants situated at Kalyani, Salboni and Madhyamgram for 2021-22." **Tender Reference No.:** WBARD/ WBLDC/NIT-321e/2021-22. **Tender Id:** 2021_ARD_349785. 1. (2) **Tender title** : e-Tender on "Design, supply, installation, commissioning & Test Run of Bio-Methanation Plant on poultry litter (capacity 35 TPD) and bio-waste management system on turnkey basis at Kalyani Layer Farm-Phase-II, Kalyani, Nadia-741235 during the year 2021-2022." **Tender Reference No.:** WBARD/ WBLDC/NIT-322e/2021-22. **Tender Id:** 2021_ARD_349759. 1. Interested bidders may submit their bids at e-Tender portal of Govt. of West Bengal at <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> from 08.11.2021; 06.55 PM to 30.11.2021 upto 06.55 PM. In case of any ambiguity arises regarding tender submission process, the concerned bidder may contact at the office of the undersigned on any working days within that period from 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM.
Sd/-
Managing Director,
W.B.L.D.C. Ltd.

'NOT DESIRABLE POSITION'

SC concerned as CBI requests for cases pending with 8 states

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 8

EXPRESSING CONCERN over requests by the CBI, seeking specific sanction to probe cases, pending with eight states which have withdrawn general consent to the agency, the Supreme Court said on Monday that it is "not a desirable position".

A bench headed by Justice S K Kaul referred to an affidavit filed by the CBI director, stating that about 150 such requests were pending with the governments of Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Kerala and Mizoram since 2018.

The bench noted that these requests were made for matters relating to allegations of cheating, forgery, misappropriation, and also bank fraud cases.


The bench, which included Justice M M Sundresh, said "18% cases (were) of corrupt public servants... 78% of cases are said to be pending... not a desirable position".

The bench also expressed concern over the stay granted by courts in CBI cases, thereby delaying the trial. "Both the aforesaid aspects need to be addressed," the SC said, referring the matter to Chief Justice of India N V Ramana.

The CBI had filed the affidavit in response to the court's query last month about the bottlenecks faced by it and steps taken to strengthen prosecution of cases.

The court had said there was a general perception that the agency's success rate was rather low.

In its reply, the CBI said since these eight states had with-

**TELANGANA STATE CO-OPERATIVE MARKETING FEDERATION LTD.**
Email: proc.ismarked2016@gmail.com, Ph.No:040-24607108, Fax: 040-24607100
Rc.No:1043/P&M/Disposal of Jowar/2020-21 Date:08.11.2021
TENDER FOR SALE OF JOWAR PROCURED BY TS MARKFED DURING RABI 2021
Tender notification for Godown wise online e-Auction on disposal of Jowar procured by TS MARKFED During RABI 2020-21 for the quantity of 38006 MTs without base price. Online e-auction starts on dated 15.11.2021 from 11:00AM to 03:00PM through e-procurement.telangana.gov.in or <https://auction.telangana.gov.in/> ie., Telangana e-procurement portal (Applications in e-procurement portal will be available from 09.11.2021 AM). EMD submission end date 12.11.2021 upto 05:00PM. For online registration and further details please contact service providers M/s Vupadhi Techno Services Pvt Ltd. Ph: 7337445546, 7337445545 & 6309339690, 9912756216. For further details please contact Ph:7288879806 and 7288879829
RO No.2305-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2021-22 Dt:08-11-2021
Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR

BASIRHAT MUNICIPALITY BASIRHAT, NORTH 24 PGNS
NIT No. 05 OF 2021-22
Tenders are invited from resourceful agencies for 188 nos. of Works Contract under Basirhat Municipality. **Tender Closing Date: 16.11.2021 upto 3.00 p.m.** For details, visit: www.basirhatmunicipality.in
Sd/-
Chairperson
Basirhat Municipality

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WBMAD/JM/NIT-01(e)2nd CALL/21-22
Memo No-2372/4PW-15 **Date:- 08.11.2021**
e-Tenders are being invited by the undersigned from Bonafide outsiders/ others for Repairing works of Toilet Kitchen Shed existing school building drinking water etc. of RBM govt. girls high. Asoke vidyapith H.S., Nambibala Balika vidyalaya, Netaji Adarsha high school and Banitirha high school within Jhargram Municipality. Last date of submission of Bid 16.11.2021 up to 4.00P.M. The details of above tender may be seen at the office Notice board, Notice Board of D.M. Office, S.D.O. Office, SDIC, Office & Govt. e-Tender Portal <https://www.wbtenders.gov.in>.
Sd/-
Executive Officer,
Jhargram Municipality

EXPRESS NETWORK

BRIEFLY



Dera chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh

PUNJAB

SIT questions Dera head in sacrilege case

Chandigarh: The four-member Special investigation Team (SIT) of Punjab Police on Monday questioned Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh for more than seven hours in Rohtak's Sunaria jail in connection with theft of a "Bir" of Guru Granth Sahib on June 1, 2015 from a gurdwara in Burj Jawahar Singh Wala village in Faridkot district. The Dera head has been questioned for the first time in the sacrilege case. **ENS**

MEGHALAYA

District council introduces Khasi inheritance Bill

Guwahati: The Khasi Inheritance of Property Bill, 2021 — which departs from the age-old Khasi matrilineal tradition of parents bequeathing property to the youngest daughter — was introduced in the autumn session of Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council on Monday. The Bill — aimed at "equitable distribution" of parental property among siblings in the Khasi community — will be debated Wednesday. **ENS**

MAHARASHTRA

Koregaon Bhima panel hearings from Nov 15

Pune: After a nod from the government for a bigger venue in Mumbai, the Koregaon Bhima Commission of Inquiry on Monday released its schedule. The hearings will be conducted at Sahyadri Guest House in the state capital from November 15 to November 20. **ENS**

‘Encroachers’ evicted from Assam reserve forest

TORA AGARWALA
GUWAHATI, NOVEMBER 8

WEEKS AFTER an eviction drive in Darrang district's Dholpur left two people dead, the Assam government Monday carried out a similar exercise to clear alleged encroachers from Hajoj district's Lumding Reserve Forest in the presence of heavy security.

"It has been peaceful so far, without any resistance," said Anupam Choudhury, DC, Hajoj district.

Last month, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had said

that the drive would be carried out in an "amicable manner" and that he had been holding discussions with "minority leaders" about it.

A district administration official said most of the evicted families had left for their respective native districts. "Many of them had moved here for agriculture. Now they have to apply for rehabilitation in their respective districts. If they are truly landless, they can apply formally in our district. If they are found eligible, we can allot them land but we have not received any application," he said.

Allahabad University proposal for DLitt to Gulzar still 'under consideration'

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 8

THE ALLAHABAD University's proposal to confer an honorary doctorate on lyricist-writer Gulzar is "under consideration" at the Education Ministry, an official said Monday.

An official said that the proposal with Gulzar's name was sent to the ministry around a month ago. "The proposal is under consideration. Processing such proposals takes time. In this case, the proposal reached around a month ago. There are over 40 Central universities, and similar honorary DLitt-related proposals have also come from other universities. Giving the impression that the proposal has been rejected would be incor-



Gulzar

rect. Following the ministry's approval, it will be sent to the President," the official said.

On August 18, the executive council of the Allahabad University — a Central varsity — had decided to award Gulzar, the nom de plume of Sampooran Singh Kalra, with the honorary doctorate during its convocation ceremony, two weeks after the varsity's academic council had

Padma awards conferred

Sportspersons, politicians and actors — a snapshot of the winners of the 2020 Padma awards

**SUSHMA SWARAJ (POSTHUMOUS)**
PUBLIC AFFAIRS
PADMA VIBHUSHAN (COLLECTED BY DAUGHTER BANSURI)**ARUN JAITLEY (POSTHUMOUS)**
PUBLIC AFFAIRS
PADMA VIBHUSHAN (COLLECTED BY WIFE SANGEETA)**GEORGE FERNANDES (POSTHUMOUS)**
PUBLIC AFFAIRS
PADMA VIBHUSHAN (COLLECTED BY WIFE LEILA KABIR)**MOHAMMAD SHAREEF, PADMA SHRI**
SOCIAL WORK

A former cycle mechanic who performed last rites of thousands of unclaimed bodies

**HAREKALA HAJABBA, PADMA SHRI**
SOCIAL WORK

A fruit vendor in Mangaluru who saved money to build a school in his village

**RANI RAMPAL, PADMA SHRI**
SPORTS
Prime Minister Narendra Modi greets the father of India hockey captain Rani Rampal (centre)**KANGANA RANAUT**
ART
PADMA SHRI

Photo source: President of India on Twitter

119 awardees from diverse backgrounds

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 8

PRESIDENT RAM Nath Kovind presented the Padma awards to 119 recipients — some of them posthumously — for the year 2020 at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Monday. Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah were among the attendees.

The list comprises seven Padma Vibhushans, 10 Padma Bhushans and 102 Padma Shri awards. Of the total awardees, 29

were women and one was transgender, while 16 were posthumous awardees.

The Padma awards for the year 2021 will be distributed Tuesday.

After the ceremony, Modi tweeted, "Attended the first of the Padma Award ceremonies for the years 2020 and 2021. I felt extremely happy to see grassroots level achievers being recognised for their exemplary efforts to further public good. Congratulations to all those who have been conferred the #PeoplesPadma."

"From the environment to

enterprise, agriculture to the arts, science to social service, public administration to cinema... recipients of the #PeoplesPadma come from diverse backgrounds. I would urge you all to know about each of the awardees and get inspired," he tweeted.

Among the personalities awarded the Padma Vibhushan were BJP stalwarts Arun Jaitley and Sushma Swaraj, former Union minister George Fernandes (all posthumously), and Hindustani classical singer Pandit Chhannulal Mishra. Badminton player PV Sindhu won the Padma Bhushan award,

along with Dr Anil Prakash Joshi for social work, Dr S C Jamir for public affairs and Mumtaz Ali for spiritualism.

Among those awarded the Padma Shri was Air Marshal Dr Padma Bandopadhyay (retd.). The decorated former flight surgeon was the first woman to be promoted to the rank of Air Marshal in the IAF and the second woman in the forces to be promoted to a three-star rank. She continues to serve people as a civilian now.

Actor Kangana Ranaut and singer Adnan Sami also received the Padma Shri.

— WITH PTI INPUTS

LOAN DEFAULT CASE

Former Assam CM's son gets bail

TORA AGARWALA
GUWAHATI, NOVEMBER 8

A DAY after he was arrested by the CBI in connection with a 25-year-old alleged loan default case, Ashok Saikia, son of former chief minister Hiteshwar Saikia, was granted bail by a special CBI court in Guwahati.

"His lawyers told me that bail has been granted," Ashok's elder brother and Leader Of Opposition in Assam Assembly, Debabrata Saikia, told *The Indian Express* on Monday morning.

"The court was satisfied with what I had to say, and I was

**Hiteshwar Saikia's son Ashok at a Guwahati court.** PTI

granted bail," Ashok told reporters after his release.

Ashok was arrested from his residence Sunday for allegedly defaulting on a loan worth Rs

9.37 lakh from the Assam State Cooperative and Agriculture Development (ASCARD) bank in 1996 for which bank employees filed a case in 1998. The case was transferred to the CBI in 2006.

In a statement Sunday, Ashok said he had proof to show the loan was repaid through a "compromised settlement scheme". "I repaid the loan in 2011 and as proof, the bank issued a certificate in October 2015, stating that all dues were settled," he said.

Ashok said he cooperated with the CBI officials. "It seems I was to be present for a hearing on October 8 or 9. However, I was unaware so I did not attend it."

India raises finance concern as COP 26 enters second week

EXPRESS AT COP26

AMITABH SINHA
GLASGOW, NOVEMBER 8

AFTER THE big-ticket announcements that gave it possibly the most productive start for any climate meeting, the Glasgow conference was staring back at familiar contentious issues on Monday as ministers re-assembled to resolve the key differences that are holding back progress.

Host country UK's lead negotiator Archie Young said preparations were being made to facilitate "late night working" throughout the week. COP (Conference of Parties, the official name of the climate meetings) President Alok Sharma said negotiators needed to "shift gears" to ensure an agreement on contentious issues by Friday evening when the meeting is supposed to come to an end.

The first results of the ministerial consultations, in the form of draft texts on some of the issues, are expected to be out late by Monday evening.

The issue most talked about is the one related to finance. The failure of the developed countries to put together US\$ 100 billion in climate finance every year from 2020 onwards, in accordance with a promise made over a decade ago, has been the biggest disappointment. But that is not the only money that is not coming in.

Money is required for action in a lot of different areas, including adaptation, loss and damage, halting deforestation, capacity building in developing countries, and technology transfer. There isn't adequate money flowing in any-

2 Maharashtra cops held in extortion case against Param Bir

Mumbai: The Maharashtra State Criminal Investigation Department Monday arrested two inspectors of the state police in an extortion case in which former Mumbai police commissioner Param Bir Singh and five other police officials have been named.

The two arrested officers, Nandkumar Gopale and Asha Korker, were called for questioning by the state CID and formally placed under arrest.

In July, businessman Sham Sundar Agarwal had filed a complaint of cheating and extortion against Singh, five other police officials and two civilians. Police had subsequently arrested the two civilians but none of the police officials named was arrested.

Gopale was awarded a President's medal in 2020 and he has been in-charge of some high-profile cases including the IPL betting racket and murder of journalist J Dey in 2011. **ENS**

Pradhan: Mandatory PhD not favourable for asst profs

**Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan**

favourable in our system and that's why we have rectified it."

The minister also announced that Allahabad University will now have a chair named for Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, adding that academics working at the chair will carry out research on upliftment of the poor.

In 2018, the UGC had stipulated that PhD shall be mandatory for direct recruitment as assistant professors from July 2021. However, on October 12 this year, the UGC issued a circular saying it has decided to extend the date of applicability of PhD as mandatory qualification from July 1, 2021 to July 1, 2023.

EXPLAINED Questions over commitment

LACK OF adequate climate finance is not a new concern at the COP. Finance flows have never kept pace with the requirement. The US\$ 100 billion amount is a small fraction of the trillions of dollars that are estimated to be required by developing countries to deal with climate change. Failure to arrange even that money raises questions over the commitment of the developed countries. Earlier, several developed countries had failed to meet their emission reduction targets assigned under the Kyoto Protocol. There are no penalties for not meeting climate targets.

where. While the requirements are estimated to be in trillions of dollars every year, developed countries, which are primarily responsible for delivering climate finance, have been unable to put together even a basic sum of US\$ 100 billion every year.

Lack of finance is not something new at this COP. It has persisted ever since the climate negotiations began. But the postponement of the 2020 deadline the start of the US\$ 100 billion commitment by at least three years has been a big setback to the process.

India, while making a statement on behalf of the BASIC countries (Brazil, South Africa, India and China) at one of the meetings on Monday, spoke for the entire developing world when it said that the non-seri-

Taxi driver sounds alert: 2 men sought way to Antilia

Mumbai: Mumbai Police on Monday went into a tizzy after receiving a call from a taxi driver who alleged that two "suspicious-looking" men had asked him for directions to Mukesh Ambani's residence, Antilia.

The police are yet to register an offence. Azad Maidan police recorded the driver's statement.

As per police, the taxi driver said around 1 pm, two persons approached him and asked him for directions to Antilia.

ousness of the developed countries over finance was especially frustrating when several other nations had been enhancing the ambition of their climate actions.

"We would not like to see the enhanced mitigation ambitions (new targets announced by several countries, including India) reach the same fate as the pre-2020 climate finance ambition. It has been over a decade since the annual US\$ 100 billion pledge and the world is still waiting for its mobilization and delivery. Trust in multilateralism and credibility of the process is at stake," said Richa Sharma, additional secretary in the Environment Ministry and India's lead negotiator.

"Post 2020 mitigation ambition and net zero pledges require significantly enhanced climate finance. The exact magnitude of the new finance goal can be determined through a structured process with clear timelines and milestones so that we have a new finance goal well before 2025. This is a simple ask from many developing country parties. Yet what we are getting is more workshops and in-session seminars to discuss the new goal," Sharma said.

"BASIC would like to warn that lack of a serious approach to climate finance will jeopardise the enhanced mitigation and adaptation ambition as well as net zero pledges of parties," she said.

On Sunday, the COP presidency had said the final outcome from Glasgow, called decision text, must contain a provision expressing "deep concern" over the failure of the developed countries to meet the US\$ 100 billion goal. It said another provision should acknowledge the urgent need to scale up finance flows to "levels needed to support developing countries".

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

Under a 2005 deal, ISRO was supposed to lease two communication satellites for 12 years at a cost of Rs 167 crore to Devas Multimedia. The start-up was to provide multimedia services to mobile platforms in India using S-band spectrum transponders on ISRO's GSAT 6 and 6A satellites built at a cost of Rs 766 crore.

The deal was annulled by the UPA government in 2011 amid the 2G scam by citing the requirement of the S-band spectrum for security needs of the country.

After the cancellation of the deal, Devas Multimedia and its foreign investors had approached international tribunals seeking damages. In 2015, an International Criminal Court tribunal had awarded Devas Multimedia compensation of \$1.2 billion. The compensation award was confirmed by the US federal court on October 27, 2020.

With Antrix not paying the compensation, the Devas investors went to court again and obtained an order on August 16 this year to identify Antrix assets for the recovery of the compensation amount.

ISRO-Devas fallout: US firm moves court as 'interested party'

JOHNSON TA
BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 8

US-BASED AEROSPACE firm Spaceflight Inc, which uses Indian Space Research Organisation rockets, among others, to provide global space launch services, has moved a federal court in Washington as an "interested party" after ISRO's commercial arm Antrix Corporation lost a \$1.2 billion compensation plea over a failed satellite deal.

The move comes after the US court allowed Bengaluru start-up Devas Multimedia in August this year to identify Antrix assets in order to attach them for the recovery of the \$1.2 billion compensation award, made by an international tribunal in September 2015 over a failed 2005 satellite deal.

Spaceflight Inc had moved the US federal court for the western district of Washington as an interested party in October.

In 2019, Spaceflight Inc had signed up to be the first user of ISRO's Small Satellite Launch Vehicle — still under development — through an agreement signed with NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), a Government of India PSU.

Spaceflight has had nine launches with ISRO involving over 100 spacecraft on ISRO's workhorse rocket, the PSLV.



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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

THIS WORD MEANS

LEONIDS METEOR SHOWER

An annual spectacle in the night sky in November. It turns into a meteor storm every 33 years or so.



A burst of Leonid meteors in 1999. NASA

THE ANNUAL Leonids Meteor Shower has begun. This year's shower is active between November 6 and 30, with peak activity expected on November 17. The peak time of a meteor shower comes when the Earth passes through the densest part of the debris. On November 17, bits of the cosmic debris will appear to viewers from Earth like a display of fireworks in the sky.

The debris that forms this meteor shower originates from a small comet called 55P/Tempel-Tuttle in the constellation Leo, which takes 33 years to orbit the sun. The Leonids are considered to be a major shower that features the fastest meteors, which typically travel at speeds of 71 km per second, although the rates are often as low as 15 meteors per hour, NASA notes.

The Leonids are also called fireballs and earthgazer meteors. Fireballs, because of their bright colours, and earthgazer, because they streak close to the horizon. The light — which is why a meteor is called a shooting star — is a result of the friction between the meteorite and the molecules present in the Earth's at-

mosphere because of which it burns.

Every 33 years, a Leonid shower turns into a meteor storm, which is when hundreds to thousands of meteors can be seen every hour. A meteor storm should have at least 1,000 meteors per hour. In 1966, a Leonid storm offered views of thousands of meteors that fell through the Earth's atmosphere per minute during a period of 15 minutes, NASA notes. The last such storm took place in 2002.

The showers are visible on any cloudless night when the Moon is not very bright. Ideally, the viewing location should have no light pollution; the farther away from cities the better. According to the website EarthSky, city, state and national parks are often great places to watch meteor showers.

NASA recommends that one should only look at the constellation Leo to view the Leonids, which are visible throughout the night sky. In fact, they are best viewed at about midnight. The eyes adapt to darkness in about 30 minutes and the meteors are usually visible up until daybreak.

An oral version of remdesivir

REMDESIVIR, which was once considered the most promising of the Covid-19 treatments that went through the Solidarity trials under the aegis of the World Health Organization (WHO), but which has since fallen out of favour, is delivered intravenously. Now, manufacturer Gilead Sciences has partnered with researchers in Georgia State University to test a modified version of remdesivir that can be taken orally. The research comes at a time when Merck and Ridgeback's oral drug for Covid-19, molnupiravir, has received clearance from the UK, and when Pfizer has reported promising trial results of its own Covid-19 drug, Paxlovid.

On November 20, the WHO issued a

conditional recommendation against the use of remdesivir in hospitalised patients, regardless of disease severity, as "there is currently no evidence that remdesivir improves survival and other outcomes in these patients".

Researchers have now reported that the modified version of remdesivir was "highly effective" in suppressing SARS-CoV-2 replication and transmission in animals when given orally. It could be "groundbreaking" in improving patient access to treatment early after infection, Georgia State University said in a press release. The results of the study, done on ferrets, have been published in the journal *Nature Communications*.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE



PAPER CLIP

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Over 2 decades, growing proportion of voters who decide choice late

SHREYAS SARDESAI

WITH CRUCIAL state elections scheduled in three months, pre-poll surveys have begun appearing in the media. If done well and at regular intervals, these surveys serve as useful tools for tracking shifting voter sentiment. However, pre-poll forecasts have often been quite different from the eventual result.

Quality issues apart, there's a major reason for this divergence, and that's late decision-making by voters. Since 2000, there have been 130 Assembly elections. During 78 of them, Lokniti has conducted post-poll or exit poll surveys where it has asked voters when they made up their mind about who they would vote for. An analysis of the responses shows that most voters finalised their choice only during or after the campaign period, and not before. This tendency was always strong in Assembly elections, but has increased in the last decade.

In 46 of the 78 elections, at least half the voters took a final call during the campaigning weeks or at the last minute (*Table 1*).

In 8 of the 17 states where Lokniti has conducted post-polls more than twice since 2000, we find that the voters' tendency to decide during the campaign, or just after it, has been stronger in elections since 2010 compared to elections during 2000-09. These are Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

In 10 states, the last Assembly election there recorded the highest percentage of late deciders compared to previous elections. For instance, in the Assam, Tamil Nadu and Kerala elections this year, 65%, 68% and 39% of voters respectively decided their vote during campaigning or at the last minute, which was the highest of the last two decades for these states.

Jharkhand in 2019; Chhattisgarh, MP, Karnataka and Tripura in 2018, and Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh in 2017 also recorded higher-than-before figures.

This apparent rising tendency of voters to decide late gets confirmed when we merge data from all 78 elections. In elections between 2000 and 2009, 53% voters decided their choice during campaigning or after it

KRISHN KAUSHIK

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 8

LAST WEEK, the CBI filed two chargesheets against serving and retired naval officers, and some others, for allegedly sharing details of the ongoing modernisation project of India's Kilo Class submarines. The Kilo Class comprises imported submarines that are being retrofitted.

Experts say India has lost a decade in modernising its submarine fleet, while China has marched ahead in its larger naval and more specific submarine capabilities.

How many submarines does India have?

Currently, India has 15 conventional diesel-electric submarines, classified as SSKs, and one nuclear ballistic submarine, classified as SSBN.

Of the SSKs, four are Shishumar Class, which were bought and then built in India in collaboration with the Germans starting 1980s; eight are Kilo Class or Sindhughosh Class bought from Russia (including erstwhile USSR) between 1984 and 2000; and three are Kalvari Class Scorpene submarines built at India's Mazagon Dock in partnership with France's Naval Group, earlier called DCNS.

The SSBN, *INS Arihant*, is a nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine, built indigenously. A second SSBN, *INS Arighat*, an upgraded version of *Arihant*, is likely to be commissioned within the next few months.

Most of India's submarines are over 25 years old, and many are getting refitted.

What is the history of India's submarine acquisition?

India got its first submarine, *INS Kalvari* of the Foxtrot Class, from the USSR in December 1967. By 1969, it had four of those. During the 1971 war with Pakistan, the submarines were baptised into war. Between 1971-74, India bought four more Foxtrot Class submarines.

The eight Foxtrot submarines were a "good number at that point of time" and were "doing a great job, as contemporary as we could operate at that time", said Commodore (retired) Anil Jai Singh, who commanded four submarines, served in the Directorates of Naval Plans and Submarine Acquisition at Naval Headquarters, and was involved in drafting the Navy's 30-year submarine construction plan.

After 1974, India did not get new submarines for a decade. In 1981, it signed a contract to buy two Type 209 submarines from West Germany, while two others were to be assembled at Mazgaon Dock. These formed



INS Kalvari, built in India in partnership with France's Naval Group (earlier DCNS), Indian Navy

the Shishumar Class, the first of which was commissioned in 1986.

Parallely, Russia offered India its Kilo Class submarines. Singh, who was in the commissioning crew of the first Kilo Class submarine India got, *INS Sindhughosh* in 1986, said it was "probably the first time these boats were seen in the West". "We were the first to sail a Kilo so far from the Soviet Union."

Between 1986 and 1992, India got eight submarines from the USSR and the two from Germany. In 1992 and 1994, two German submarines built in India were also commissioned, adding up to 12 new submarines in eight years from 1986. "By 1995, we probably had amongst the most modern submarine arms in the world," said Singh.

India bought two more Kilo Class submarines from Russia in 1999 and 2000, taking the total submarine fleet to around 20.

Soon after, the older Foxtrots started getting decommissioned. Of the ten Kilo Class submarines, *INS Sindhurakshak* sank off Mumbai after explosions caused by fire. Last year India gifted INS Sindhuvir to Myanmar.

Why have there been delays in modernisation?

The 30-year plan (2000-30) for indigenous submarine construction, approved by the Cabinet Committee on Security in 1999, envisaged two production lines of six submarines each, built in India in partnership with a foreign Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM). The projects were called P-75 and P-75I.

The 30-year plan anticipated that India would get the 12 new submarines by 2012-15. Subsequently, India would make 12 of its own by 2030, taking the fleet size to 24, with the older submarines getting decommissioned.

Singh said the intention was that India would maintain a force level of 18 to 20 submarines at any given time. But the contract for P-75 was signed only by 2005, with France's

DCNS, now the Naval Group, "ideally the contract for P75I should have also happened then," Singh said.

What are the current projects underway?

Of the six being built, P-75 has delivered three Kalvari Class Scorpene submarines so far. P-75I is yet to take off; the first Request for Information was issued in 2008, then again in 2010, and the Request for Proposal was finally issued in July this year.

The project will be India's first under the Strategic Partnership Model, which came up in 2015. The government will give the contract to an Indian Strategic Partner, which will then partner with a foreign OEM.

The two selected SPs are MDL and Larsen and Toubro; the five selected OEMs are France's Naval Group, Germany's ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems, Russia's ROE, South Korea's Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering, and Spain's Navantia. However, bids are yet to be finalised. The earliest that the first submarine under the project can be commissioned will be around 2032, according to experts.

P-75, too, has been delayed. While the first boat should have been commissioned in 2012, it was commissioned in December 2017.

What is China's capability, and why is that a worry for India?

Singh said India needs more submarines for two reasons. "First, we need it for our own maritime security. Second, Chinese are going to be positioning a lot more ships and submarines in the Indian Ocean in the coming years."

He said China is giving Pakistan eight submarines and four destroyers, which can be used as proxy by China. "We need to handle that very soon, and move on P75I as fast as we can."

According to a 2020 report by the Pentagon, China currently operates four SSBNs and is fitting two additional hulls. It has six SSNs and,

and 50 diesel-powered attack submarines (SSs). According to the report, Chinese Navy will "likely maintain between 65 and 70 submarines through the 2020s, replacing older units with more capable units on a near one-to-one basis".

China has constructed 12 nuclear submarines in the last 15 years. It is expected to have up to eight SSBNs by 2030, the report said.

Why are nuclear submarines so coveted?

SSNs have infinite capacity to stay dived. As they are not propelled by batteries, they need not emerge for charging by a diesel engine. Propelled by a nuclear-powered engine, these submarines only need to come to the surface for replenishing supplies for the crew.

SSNs are also able to move faster underwater than conventional submarines. All this allows a navy to deploy them at farther distances, and quicker. They are like the fighter jets of the underwater world.

How many does India have?

India is among six nations that have SSNs, alongside the US, the UK, Russia, France and China. India got its first SSN in 1987 from the Soviet Navy, which it rechristened *INS Chakra*, which was decommissioned in 1991. In 2012, India got another Russian SSN on a ten-year lease, called *INS Chakra 2*, which has since been returned to Russia.

The government has also decided that of the 12 submarines to be built indigenously after the P75 and P75I projects, six would be SSNs instead of SSK. Singh called this decision a "very, very positive development", but cautioned about "a question mark" over how quickly the project moves. Even if all things move smoothly, Singh said the first SSN won't enter service until 2035 or 2040.

India is taking two SSNs on lease from Russia, but the first of them is expected to be delivered only by 2025.

But, during this time India has developed its own SSBNs, *INS Arihant* and *INS Arighat*. Unlike the other submarines, the SSBNs are strategic programmes and fall under the Strategic Forces Command, the tri-services command responsible for India's nuclear weapons. "That's not a war fighting machine. It should not be counted as a submarine war fighting capability, because it is a deterrent," said Singh.

India is building at least two larger SSBNs that will have bigger missiles, called S4 and S4* projects. The four SSBNs are expected to be commissioned before 2030, Singh said.

VALLABH OZARKAR

MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 8

BOMBAY HIGH Court on Monday directed the Government of Maharashtra to set up a high-level committee to decide on the demand of state road transport corporation workers that they should be treated as government employees.

A large section of employees of the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC), one of the biggest transport corporations in India, have been on strike since October 27. Around 225 of the 250-odd MSRTC depots across the state were shut on Monday morning. There have been reports of commuters facing hardships from across Maharashtra because of the strike.

MSRTC and Covid

State-owned MSRTC has a fleet of 16,000 buses that it runs on inter-city and inter-state

routes. Before the Covid-19 pandemic hit, it ferried almost 68 lakh passengers every day and earned Rs 22-24 crore in daily revenues on average.

The many months of disruptions due to the pandemic, including a long period of full lockdown has, however, hit MSRTC badly. Daily ridership and revenues have plunged to about 24-28 lakh and Rs 12 crore on average respectively.

Maharashtra has suffered the country's biggest Covid death toll by far, and still has more than 18,000 active cases of the disease, behind only Kerala.

According to officials, MSRTC's cumulative losses stood at Rs 3,500 crore before the pandemic, and following massive losses, has crossed Rs 9,000 crore now. The corporation is finding it difficult to meet operational costs and pay salaries to its 96,000 employees on time.

Over the past year and a half, the state government has thrice provided financial assistance to MSRTC to help it pay staff.

Workers' strike

Following repeatedly delayed salaries and deaths by suicide of more than 30 employees over the past year and a half, several unions called for a hungerstrike on October 27 to press four demands: increases in salary, and dearness and house rent allowances, and the merger of MSRTC in the state government.

Transport Minister Anil Parab had announced an increase of DA to 17 per cent from the existing 12 on October 25, but the action committee of the unions went ahead with the October 27 agitation asking for DA of 28 per cent, at par with that of state government employees.

At a meeting with union leaders on October 28, Parab also accepted the other demands except the merger of MSRTC into the government.

Despite a commitment by their leaders on ending the strike however, a section of MSRTC employees continued the agitation to press for the merger, which they said was their main

demand. "This (merger) will ultimately resolve most of the issues and demands of employees. So, even after the major unions agreed to withdraw the agitation, employees, who are angry and frustrated, did not return to work," said a source among the workers.

Court orders

The industrial court had declared the strike illegal and passed restraining orders. MSRTC moved Bombay High Court after two unions announced a strike from the mid-night of November 3. The court directed employees to refrain from proceeding with their proposed strike until further orders, saying this would cause "hardships" to people seeking to travel during the Diwali holidays. However, the workers proceeded on strike on Sunday night.

A similar strike by MSRTC workers around Diwali in 2017 had been called off after Bombay High Court deemed their action illegal.

TABLE 1

VOTERS WHO DECIDED CHOICE DURING/AFTER CAMPAIGN (%)

State	2000-2009 Election			2010-2021 Election		
	1st	2nd	3rd	1st	2nd	3rd
Assam	43	44	-	45	57	65
Bihar	58	58	47	79	73	77
Chh'garh	56	72	-	45	78	-
Delhi	68	51	-	41	39	PP
Gujarat	57	53	-	58	72	-
Haryana	54	36	NS	48	NS	-
Himachal	57	52	-	49	67	-
Jharkhand	50	NS	-	72	72	-
Karnataka	NS	68	-	PP	83	-
Kerala	17	25	-	24	PP	39
MP	58	71	-	53	72	-
M'rashtira	56	48	-	55	NS	-
Mizoram	72	43	-	NS	NS	-

State	2000-2009 Election			2010-2021 Election		
	1st	2nd	3rd	1st	2nd	3rd
Punjab	37	25	-	52	44	-
Rajasthan	64	72	-	54	PP	-
Tamil Nadu	28	43	-	45	PP	68
Tripura	NS	29	-	NS	45	-
UP	49	63	-	70	54	-
U'khand	48	45	-	65	49	-
WBengal	24	41	-	60	56	52

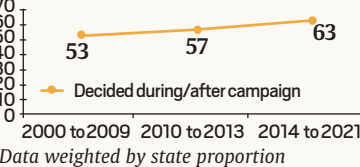
Non-responses were excluded from analysis. NS=no survey done; PP=pre-poll done.

In 4 states where a post-poll was conducted only once, the responses were Odisha 2000 (68%), Meghalaya 2008 (37%), Manipur 2012 (38%) and Goa 2017 (65%).

Source: Lokniti-CSDS Post-poll surveys

CHART 1

GROWTH OF LATE DECIDERS (%)



Data weighted by state proportion

TABLE 2

WINNING PARTIES' LEAD*

	Among earlier deciders	Among later deciders
Assam 2021	+9	-3
W Bengal 2021	+2	+16
Tamil Nadu 2021	+3	+5
Kerala 2021	+12	-4
Bihar 2020	+4	Equal
Jharkhand 2019	-2	+3
MP 2018	+1	-2
Tripura 2018	-14	+31
Gujarat 2017	-1	+11
Himachal 2017	+11	+6

Difference from nearest rival in percentage points

ended; in 2010-13, this increased to 57%; and in 2014-21 (the 'Modi years') it rose further to 63% (*Figure 1*). The rise in late deciders during the Modi era is due to a high proportion of campaign-stage deciders and not so much last-minute ones, whose proportion has remained quite stable at around one-third across the three periods.

The 2019 Lok Sabha election too had a large proportion (62%) making up their mind either at the campaigning stage or the last moment. This, in fact, constituted a reversal of the trend towards early decision-making seen in national elections held from 1999 to 2014.

It's important to stress that late deciders don't always end up upending poll predictions or behaving differently from early deciders. There have been instances when they haven't, but they often have. In West Bengal in 2021, most pre-polls had predicted a close contest. However, eventually the Trinamool Congress won easily and Lokniti's post-poll data shows that this was due to a massive 16-percentage-point vote advantage among campaign-period deciders (*Table 2*). In Bihar in 2020, the NDA was predicted to win quite comfortably. However, a late shift towards the Mahagathbandhan made the contest close.

All these data highlight the risks of predicting an election too early.

TO START WITH BOTTOM 100 STOCKS BY MARKET CAPITALISATION

Bourses to kick off T+1 settlement cycle from Feb 25 in phased manner

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 8

STOCK EXCHANGES will kick off the T+1 settlement system on February 25, 2022, starting with the bottom 100 stocks by market capitalisation. Thereafter, from March 2022, on the last Friday (trade day) of every month, the next bottom 500 stocks from the list of stocks by market capitalisation will be available for introduction to T+1 settlement.

"Any new stock getting listed after October 2021, will be added to list based on the market capitalisation calculated on the basis

of average trading price of 30 days after commencement of trading," the stock exchanges said in a statement.

"The T+1 settlement cycle will be implemented in a phased manner and the first list of securities with T+1 settlement cycle will begin from trade date starting from February 25, 2022," exchanges said. In T+1, settlement of the trade takes place in one working day and the investor will get the money on the following day. The move to T+1 will not require large operational or technical changes by market participants nor will it cause fragmentation and risk to the core clearance and settlement ecosystem.

FPIs can invest in debt securities by InvITs, REITs: RBI
Mumbai/New Delhi: The RBI said foreign portfolio investors have been permitted to invest in debt securities issued by Infrastructure Investment Trusts and Real Estate Investment Trusts. Meanwhile, Sebi allowed FPIs to write off debt securities that they are unable to sell. **PTI**

tem. In case, based on market capitalisation, if the stock falls under

the category (in terms of market capitalisation) of stocks already under T+1 settlement then that stock also becomes eligible for T+1 settlement and will be introduced in T+1 settlement cycle on the last Friday (trade day) of next month, exchanges said. On September 7, Sebi allowed exchanges to start the T+1 system as an option in place of T+2. If it opts for the T+1 settlement cycle for a scrip, the stock exchange will have to mandatorily continue with it for a minimum 6 months. Thereafter, if it intends to switch back to T+2, it will do so by giving one month's advance notice to the market. Any subsequent switch (from T+1 to T+2 or vice versa) will

be subject to a minimum period. A stock exchange may choose to offer the T+1 settlement cycle on any of the scrips, after giving at least one month's advance notice to all stakeholders, including the public at large. "Securities such as preference shares, warrants, right entitlements, partly paid shares and securities issued under differential voting rights (DVR) will be transitioned to T+1 settlement along with the stock of parent company," exchanges said.

Foreign investors had earlier written to Sebi and the Finance Ministry about operational issues they would face while operating from different geographies.

INTERVIEW WITH CHIEF COMMERCIAL OFFICER, VISTARA

‘With curbs relaxing, it’s an opportunity to grow, expand further



Vinod Kannan

Now that Covid is receding to some extent, is Vistara looking to get back to its growth plans?

Of course, we scaled back to an extent, compared to what we would have otherwise done because of Covid. On the other hand, if you look at it from the point of view of fleet size and routes and so on, ultimately, we have still grown, compared to where we were at the time of Covid. In the last 6 to 8 months, we have grown in size from 40 to 48 aircraft. The challenge has always been what is plausible in the face of various restrictions, especially on the international side because of factors such as bilateral arrangements, the second wave, various health measures being put in place. Looking at tomorrow, now that the limitations are being reviewed and restrictions are slowly being removed, it is an opportunity for us to grow and expand further and we will get there as soon as we have the opportunity to do so.

At a company level for Tata SIA Airlines Ltd (parent company of Vistara), is there a change in thought process now that Air India is to become a part of Tata Group?

At this time, we, as Vistara, have our own growth plans and our own business plans and strategies. And, at this time, we will continue to grow as per plan and the support of our shareholders. So, I don't think it is right to speculate or comment on that, but, at this time, we are continuing to take delivery of aircraft and continuing to grow.

For Vistara, how important is the race to command a significant market share?

Market share is capacity driven. The market share that you get is going to be related to a certain extent to how many seats you deploy... Pre-Covid, we were 5-6 per cent, and it has increased to 8.7 per cent now. Market share is important but I cannot expect to have over 50 per cent share like IndiGo, with only 50 aircraft. But on the routes that matter to us, where the profile of the traveller matches our product proposition, we will try to make sure we are competitive and as close to the customer as possible to ensure that, on these routes, our market share remains significant.

Two airlines are coming up. One is an ultra low-cost carrier (Akasa) and the second is probably a full-service carrier (Jet Airways 2.0). Which one seems more threatening for Vistara?

We will have to compete with both of them. There is no running away. If you look at the Indian aviation market, almost 80 per cent of the market share is dominated by low-cost carriers. This has an implication on pricing and how we can position ourselves... the most important thing is what value we bring to the table.

Full interview on www.indianexpress.com

SECTOR WATCH
AVIATION

Pak blocks GoFirst flight: How it flouts freedom of air

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 8

A 3-HOUR-AND-45-MINUTE flight from Srinagar to Sharjah, which was launched last month, flew a longer route, adding around 40 minutes to its flight time, for the first time on November 2. This was because it had to avoid flying over Pakistan after the country denied permission to use its airspace. With this refusal, experts have said Pakistan has violated the first freedom of air.

The GoFirst plane was flying from Srinagar to Sharjah

2009, prohibiting an Air India Express flight from Srinagar to Dubai from using its airspace.

What is freedom of air?

Following the Chicago Convention in 1944, the signatories to the convention decided to set rules that would act as fundamental building blocks to international commercial aviation. As part of these rules, initially, six 'freedoms of air' were decided. The first freedom of air grants the right to an

airline of one country to fly over a second country and land in a third country.

What are some of the other freedoms of air?

The second freedom grants the right to refuel or carry out maintenance in a foreign country without embarking or disembarking passengers or cargo. The third and the fourth freedoms grant the right to fly from the airline's home country to another and from a foreign country to the airline's own, respectively. *Full report on www.indianexpress.com*

What happened with the flight?

On October 23, Home Minister Amit Shah, while on a visit to Jammu and Kashmir, launched a direct flight between Srinagar and Sharjah, operated by GoFirst (formerly known as GoAir). On November 2, the flight was denied permission to enter Pakistan and flew south over Rajasthan and Gujarat before heading west over the Arabian Sea and flying through Omani airspace before entering the UAE.

Why did Pakistan deny the use of its airspace?

While there has been no official explanation given by Pakistani authorities, the country had made a similar move in

‘Housing finance companies to grow at 8-10% in FY22’

Housing finance companies (HFCs) are likely to witness a growth rate of 8-10% in fiscal 2022 helped by rise in economic and higher demand, an Icra Ratings report

FY2022 may see growth in disbursements and rising CE amid
■ Healthy demand in the industry
■ Rising level of economic activity
■ Increasing vaccination

COLLECTION EFFICIENCY (CE) started bouncing back by end of June and improved further in the second quarter of fiscal 2022
Source: Icra Ratings



HFCs registered nil sequential growth in on-book portfolio in the first quarter of this fiscal | **Jump in overdue** was sharpest in the recent past, as borrower level liquidity got stretched

EPFO board meeting: FY22 rate, investment options likely in focus

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 8

INVESTMENT IN alternative investment funds (AIFs), infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs) and other similar investment options, along with a likely discussion on the interest rate for 2021-22, are expected to be on the agenda of the next meeting of the Central Board of Trustees of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO). The meeting is scheduled for November 20.

A board member said, "The Board will consider more secure investments such as government-linked InvITs, which will broaden the investment basket beyond exchange traded funds. Other options to tap into higher returns from the market would also be considered." The CBT may also discuss the interest rate for the ongoing financial year based on the returns of its investments from the debt and equity market. The EPFO has been providing

The Central Board of Trustees is scheduled to meet on November 20

an 8.5 per cent interest rate for the last two years. Despite being the lowest rate offered in the last eight years, the Finance Ministry has been nudging the retirement fund body for a lower rate.

In April, the Labour Ministry had notified changes in investment options to include units issued by Category I and Category II AIFs regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi). The EPFO can invest up to 15 per cent of investment in equity as per the pattern of investment notified by the central government and the internal guidelines of the EPFO approved by the CBT. It had invested Rs 7,715 crore in equity till June 30 this year. The agenda of the meeting is yet to be circulated. The investment committee will meet before the Board meeting.

RIL exits US shale gas biz

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 8

RELiance INDUSTRIES Ltd (RIL) has completely exited from the upstream oil and shale gas business in the US.

Reliance Eagleford Upstream Holding, LP, a wholly owned step-down subsidiary of RIL, has signed an agreement with Ensign Operating III, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company to divest its interest in certain upstream assets in the Eagleford shale play of Texas. "With this transaction, Reliance has divested all its shale gas assets and has exited from the shale gas business in North America," it said.

Reliance said a purchase and sale agreement has been signed between the RIL arm and Ensign on November 5. "The sale is at a consideration higher than current carrying value of the assets," RIL said. It did not disclose the price at which this transaction took place.

‘Logistics ease’ rankings: Gujarat retains top spot

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 8

GUJARAT HAS retained the top spot on the Centre's annual logistics rankings for states, released on Monday, with Haryana and Punjab taking the second and third spots, respectively. Uttar Pradesh rose seven spots to sixth.

The Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) report is aimed at gauging the logistics performance of states and Union Territories (UT) and identifying areas where they can improve logistics performance. States are ranked based on quality and capacity of key infrastructure such as road, rail and warehousing as well as on operational ease of logistics including security of cargo, speed of terminal services and regulatory approvals. "It's a report that would urge all stakeholders to look at very seriously, to learn from it, to help build up India's competitiveness, and bring in a little more friendly competition among states," said Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal.

India's logistics costs account for 13-14 per cent of GDP, compared to 7-8 per cent in developed countries. Goyal said the government was aiming to bring down logistics cost by 5 per cent over next 5 years. West Bengal, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh and Assam were ranked 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st respectively. North Eastern States, and J&K and Ladakh have been considered a separate group for LEADS rankings.

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Details can be seen on the websites http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in , http://risl.rajasthan.gov.in , and http://www.doit.rajasthan.gov.in . Bids are to be submitted through http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in . Raj.Samwadi/C/21/8108				
				ACP (Dy. Director)

Rajasthan State Mines & Minerals Limited (A Government of Rajasthan Enterprise)	
Corporate office-4, Meera Marg, Udaipur (Raj)-313001 Phone-0294-2428743, 2428744-67 Fax-0294-2428768 Email- mktgco.rsmml@rajasthan.gov.in , rsmmlphosphate@gmail.com	
RSMM/CO/MKT/2021-22/336 Proposal for Long Term Supply of Chalky Limestone from RSMM's Sanu mine No. 1 & 2, Jaisalmer mines for Captive Use.	Date - 03-11-2021
RSMM is inviting Expressions of Interest (EOI) extending an opportunity to parties interested entering into a long-term supply agreement with RSMM for the supply of ROM Chalky Limestone from Sanu mine no. 1 & 2 at District Jaisalmer, Rajasthan for captive consumption only after excavation from the mined-out pit. Interested parties may visit our web site www.rsmml.com for details and submit their proposal to the undersigned. Raj.Samwadi/C/21/8102	
Head (Centralized Marketing)	

OSBI Core Banking Technical Operations Department, State Bank of India, Global IT Centre, Sector-11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai - 400614	
CORRIGENDUM and Response to Prebid Queries	
Please refer the RFP No. SBI/GITC/Core Banking Technical Operation/2021/2022/799 dated 20/10/2021. Corrigendum and Response to Prebid queries is available under 'Procurement news' at Bank's Website, https://www.sbi.co.in and e-Procurement agency portal https://etender.sbi/SBI/	
Place: Navi Mumbai Date: 09.11.2021	CB - Tech Operations Department

GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT, SAWAI MAN SINGH HOSPITAL, JAIPUR [Sawai Man Singh Road Tonk Road, Jaipur, Rajasthan 302004] (Phone 0141-2518308, 0141 2565647, Email- ms.smsmhospital@gmail.com) No. 3665/Store/SMS/MH/2021	
Notice Inviting Bid Bids for one year contract for procurement of Medical Oxygen Gas are invited from interested bidders up to 5.00 P.M. on 17.12.2021. Other particulars of bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.nic.in) or http://sppp.raj.gov.in of the state. UBN No. MCJ2122GLRC00153	
DIPR/C/11071/2021	Sd/- Medical Superintendent S.M.S. Hospital, Jaipur

BRIEFLY
Markets rally

Mumbai: The Sensex rose 0.8% to 60,545.61, and the Nifty by 0.85% above the 18,000 mark to 18,068.55. IndusInd Bank fell 10.71% to Rs 1,061.45 on the BSE. **ENS**

Adani, BNY Mellon

New Delhi: Bank of New York Mellon Corp won't provide financial services to Adani Group and its Carmichael coal mine in Australia.

Paytm IPO day 1

New Delhi: The Paytm's IPO was subscribed 18% on the first day on Monday.

RBI curbson bank

New Delhi: The RBI imposed restrictions on Babaji Date Mahila Sahakari Bank. **PTI**

WardWizard sales

New Delhi: WardWizard Innovations and Mobility Ltd sold 2,855 electric scooters and motorcycles in October.

Muthoot CSR

New Delhi: The Muthoot Group took CSR initiatives on November 2, the 72nd birth anniversary of late chairman M G George Muthoot. **ENS**

Future moves SC

INDUBHAN
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 8

FUTURE RETAIL on Monday moved the Supreme Court against the Delhi High Court's order that refused to stay the Singapore arbitration tribunal's October 21 ruling which denied permission to allow the firm to go ahead with its Rs 24,713-crore merger deal with Reliance Retail (RRVL).

Challenging the HC's order that dismissed its plea for stay on the Singapore International Arbitration Centre's (SIAC) interim order, Future Retail Ltd in its appeal urged the SC to allow it to conduct a meeting of shareholders and creditors for approval to sell its retail assets to RRVL as per directions from the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Mumbai, on September 28. **FE**

Future defers shareholder meet

New Delhi: After the NCLT's direction, Future group firms have deferred meetings of their respective shareholders and creditors, called on November 10 and 11, as per regulatory filings. **PTI**

‘Amazon deal: ED seeks documents’

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has told Future Group to submit documents on its 2019 deal with Amazon, as part of a probe in possible breach of foreign investment laws, as per sources and a notice seen. **REUTERS**

Maruti to finalise plans for new Haryana unit by 2021-end

R C BHARGAVA
Chairman, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd

New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki India Ltd (MSIL) will and finalise plans to set up of a Rs 18,000 crore new manufacturing facility in Haryana before the end of this calendar year with the state government, reducing the gross salary cap to Rs 30,000 per month in its 75 per cent job reservation policy for locals, Chairman RC Bhargava told **PTI**.

"Fundamentally, Maruti Suzuki can say that the (Haryana) government has responded positively. We are happy and we will go ahead and finalise the new land where we would move (the Gurugram plant) within this calendar year 2021, before the end of December," he said. **PTI**

Poll impact: Musk may sell \$21-bn Tesla stock

Bengaluru: Tesla Inc shares fell 3 per cent on Monday as investors prepared for its chief Elon Musk's proposed sale of about a tenth of his holdings in the electric-car maker following his Twitter poll.

Musk tweeted on Saturday he would offload 10 per cent of his stake if Twitter users approved the proposal. The poll asking follow-

ers if he should sell stock got over 3.5 million votes, and 57.9 per cent voted 'Yes'. Tesla's shares were last trading at \$1,185.95 intra-day, after falling to \$1,133 earlier.

Musk owned 170.5 million shares as of June 30, and a 10 per cent sale would be about \$21 billion based on Friday's closing, as per *Reuters* calculation. **REUTERS**



“It doesn’t matter if you’re a Republican or a Democrat if your Florida house is flooded by rising seas, or your crops fail in the Dakotas, or your California house is burning.”

—BARACK OBAMA, on the need to work together to fight climate change

TOPOF THE WORLD



Bishop Eric de Moulins-Beaufort

FRANCE French bishops agree to compensate sex abuse victims

FRANCE’S CATHOLIC Church agreed on Monday to financially compensate sex abuse victims in what the president of the country’s Bishop Conference hailed as a “decisive step.” Conference President Eric de Moulins-Beaufort said in a speech that the Church has recognised its “institutional responsibility” and decided to go “on a path of recognition and reparation that paves the way for victims to get the possibility of a mediation and a compensation.” The Bishops Conference held its annual meeting a month after a report revealed large-scale child sex abuse in the French Catholic Church. **AP**

RUSSIA Google fined again over banned content

A MOSCOW court on Monday fined Google 2 million roubles (\$28,085) for not deleting content that Russia deems illegal, part of a wider dispute between Moscow and the US tech giant. Russia has threatened to fine Google a percentage of its annual Russian turnover for repeatedly failing to delete banned content on its search engine and YouTube, in Moscow’s strongest move yet to rein in foreign tech firms. Google confirmed Monday’s fine, but gave no other comment. **REUTERS**

CONGO Armed men seize villages near Uganda, Rwanda border

GUNMEN SEIZED at least two villages overnight in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo near the border with Uganda and Rwanda, a local official and an activist group said on Monday. Muhindo Luanzo, assistant to the administrator of Rutshuru territory, blamed fighters from the M23, a rebel group that seized large swathes of territory in 2012 and 2013. The two villages, Tshanzu and Runyoni, were the last redoubts of the M23 before they were chased by Congolese and UN forces into Uganda and Rwanda in 2013. **REUTERS**

18 MONTHS OF CURBS ON INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL END

US lifts travel ban for vaccinated foreigners

CEYLAN YEGINSU, NIRAJ CHOKSHI & CONCEPCION DE LEÓN
NOVEMBER 8

THE UNITED States reopened its borders for fully vaccinated travellers from dozens of countries on Monday, ending more than 18 months of restrictions on international travel that left families separated from loved ones and cost the global travel industry hundreds of billions of dollars in tourism revenue.

Under the new rules, fully vaccinated travellers will be allowed to enter the US if they can show proof of vaccination and a negative coronavirus test taken within three calendar days of travel.

The shift has come in time for the holiday season, when the beleaguered tourism industry is eagerly awaiting an influx in international visitors, especially in popular big-city destinations like New York, Los Angeles and Miami. The extended ban on travel from 33 countries — including European Union members, China, India and Iran — devastated the sector and resulted in losses of nearly \$300 billion in visitor spending and more than one million American jobs, according to the US Travel Association.

“Monday begins in earnest the return of international travel, when long-separated families and friends can safely reunite, travelers can explore this amazing country, and the US is able to reconnect with the global community,” said Roger Dow, the



Long lines at Heathrow Airport in London on Monday, following the lifting of restrictions on the entry of non-US citizens to the United States. *Reuters*

WHO IS ALLOWED IN

■ Fully vaccinated travellers will be allowed to enter the US if they can show proof of vaccination and a negative Covid test taken within three days of travel.

■ Unvaccinated Americans and children are exempt from the requirement, but must take a Covid test within a day of travel.

WHICH JABS ARE ACCEPTED

■ The three available in the United States — Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson — are accepted, as well as any of those cleared for emergency use by the World Health Organisation: AstraZeneca, Covaxin, Covishield, BIBP/Sinopharm and Sinovac.

PROOF OF VACCINATION

■ Paper and digital records of vaccination will be accepted. If you do not have your original record, such as a vaccination card, a copy will work. Proof of vaccination must include full name and at least one more identifier, such as date of birth and the name of the agency or provider issuing the vaccine.

Association’s president and chief executive officer. “It is a monumental day for travellers, for the communities and businesses that rely on international visitation, and for the US economy overall.”

Airlines saw a big spike in on-line searches and ticket bookings for international travel — particu-

larly from Europe and Latin America — after the administration announced its plans to ease the travel restrictions in Sept.

Many of the airplanes departing for the US over the coming weeks will be full of travellers reuniting with family and friends after more than a year apart. Felicity

Fowler, a retired homeopath from London, missed the birth of her grandson. He was born in New York in April; she hasn’t seen her daughter, his mother, since Feb 2020. “It’s been emotional torture to be so far away from my girl at a time when she has needed me the most,” she said. **NYT**

‘HISTORIC RESOLUTION’ EXPECTED TO BE PASSED DURING 4-DAY MEETING

China’s CPC kicks off major conclave to authorise unprecedented 3rd term for Xi

KJM VARMA
BEIJING, NOVEMBER 8

HUNDREDS OF senior officials of the Communist Party of China (CPC) began a key four-day conclave here on Monday to deliberate and pass a rare “historical resolution” of the 100-year-old ruling party and pave the way for an unprecedented third term for President Xi Jinping.

The 19th Central Committee of the CPC started its sixth plenary session. About 400 full and alternate members of the CPC Central Committee are taking part in the plenum, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

Xi, the General-Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, delivered a work report on behalf of the Political Bureau and made explanations on a draft resolution on the major achievements



China President Xi Jinping

and historical experience of the CPC’s 100 years of endeavours, the report said.

Xi, 68, holds China’s all three power centres — General-Secretary of the CPC, Chairman of the powerful Central Military Commission (CMC) which is the overall high command of the military, and the Presidency is set to complete his second five-year tenure next year. **PTI**

‘NSO spyware found on 6 Palestinian activists’ phones’

FRANK BAJAK & JOSEPH KRAUSS
JERUSALEM, NOVEMBER 8

SECURITY RESEARCHERS disclosed Monday that spyware from the notorious Israeli hacker-for-hire company NSO Group was detected on the cell-phones of six Palestinian human rights activists, half affiliated with groups that Israel’s defence minister controversially claimed were involved in terrorism.



NSO faces growing condemnation over the abuse of its spyware. *AP*

The revelation marks the first known instance of Palestinian activists being targeted by the military-grade Pegasus spyware. Its use against journalists, rights activists and political dissidents

Satellite images show China built mock-ups of US warships

Beijing: Satellite images show China has built mock-ups of a US Navy aircraft carrier and destroyer in its northwestern desert, possibly for practice for a future naval clash as tensions rise between the nations.

China has massively upgraded its military in recent years, and its capability and intentions are increasingly concerning to the United States as tensions rise over the South China Sea, Taiwan and military supremacy in the Indo-Pacific.

The images captured by Colorado-based satellite imagery company Maxar Technologies dated Sunday show the outlines of a US aircraft carrier and at least one destroyer sitting on a railway track. Maxar identified the location



A satellite picture shows a carrier target in Ruojiang. *Maxar Technologies via AP*

as Ruojiang, a Taklamakan Desert county in the Xinjiang region.

The independent US Naval Institute said the mock-ups of US ships were part of a new target range developed by the PLA.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said he had no information about the images. **AP**



British PM Boris Johnson

UK: Engulfed in corruption row, Boris says takes issue seriously

REUTERS
LONDON, NOVEMBER 8

BRITISH PRIME Minister Boris Johnson, fighting accusations his government is mired in corruption, said on Monday he took the issue very seriously and members of Parliament should be held to account for unethical behaviour.

Johnson has been engulfed for days in a row centred on his botched handling of the suspension of a ruling Conservative Party lawmaker, Owen Paterson, who was found to have breached rules on paid lobbying. It was the latest incident in a series of scandals to hit his Conservative government.

He suggested on Monday the process of investigating lawmakers needed to be changed.

“What we’ve got to make sure is that we take all this very, very seriously and that we get it right,” Johnson said, speaking about the issue of lawmakers holding additional jobs and of the process by which they can be investigated.

“What we do need to do is look also at the process. We are going to make every effort to get it right and we are going to hold MPs to account.”

WORKS 6.5 HOURS OUTSIDE CHINA’S SPACE STATION INSTALLING EQUIPMENT, DOING TESTS

Wang Yaping becomes 1st Chinese woman to spacewalk

KJM VARMA
BEIJING, NOVEMBER 8

CHINESE MILITARY pilot Wang Yaping scripted history on Monday when she became the country’s first woman astronaut to undertake a spacewalk as she moved out of China’s under-construction space station and took part in extravehicular activities along with a male colleague, the official media here reported.

Wang and Zhai Zhigang moved out of the space station core module called Tianhe and spent 6.5 hours outside in the early hours of Monday and successfully returned to the module, Xinhua news agency reported.



Wang Yaping outside the Chinese space station. *Xinhua via AP*

China had launched the Shenzhou-13 spaceship on October 16, sending three astronauts on a six-month mission to the under-construction space

station, which was expected to be ready by next year.

The 41-year-old native of Shandong province and mother of a five-year-old girl, Wang joined

the People’s Liberation Army Air Force in August 1997 and served as a deputy squadron commander before joining the second group of astronauts at the PLA Astronaut Division in May 2010.

In March 2012, she was part of the backup crew for the ninth manned Shenzhou mission series in June 2013 and took part in the 10th of Shenzhou series which lasted nearly 15 days. She is the second Chinese woman to have flown in space.

During the Shenzhou 10th flight, Wang gave China’s first space-based lecture inside the Tiangong 1 experimental module to more than 60 million Chinese students at about 80,000 schools across the country.

She was selected for the present manned space mission in December 2019.

Wang’s achievement has expanded the team of global female astronauts who have conducted spacewalks.

Before Wang, as of October 2019, a total of 15 women had participated in 42 spacewalks since 1984, when cosmonaut Svetlana Savitskaya became the first woman to walk in space, state-run *Global Times* reported.

While Wang and Zhai conducted the extravehicular activities, which included the spacewalk on Monday, the third member of the crew, Ye Guangfu played a supporting role from within the module. **PTI**

REUTERS
KUWAIT, NOVEMBER 8

KUWAIT’S GOVERNMENT on Monday submitted its resignation to the ruling emir, state news agency KUNA reported, a move that could help end a standoff with opposition lawmakers that has hindered fiscal reform.

It was the second time a government headed by Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah al-Khalid al-Sabah has resigned this year in a feud with the elected parliament. KUNA said the emir received Sheikh Sabah who handed him the written resignation of his cabinet.

It was not immediately clear if Emir Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmed al-Sabah, who has final say in state

EXPLAINED Political deadlock hurt recovery

THE DEADLOCK between the government and the legislature had stalled legislative efforts to boost Kuwait’s state finances, which were badly hit by the Covid-19 pandemic and last year’s low oil prices. The deadlock meant measures, such as a debt law, were not enacted.

matters, would accept the resignation of the government, which was formed in March after the

previous cabinet stepped down. Several opposition MPs have insisted on questioning the premier on various issues, including the handling of the Covid-19 pandemic and corruption.

Deadlocks between the cabinet and assembly have for decades led to government reshuffles and dissolutions of parliament, hampering investment and reform.

Lawmakers want to question Sheikh Sabah, who has been premier since late 2019, and have queried the constitutionality of a motion passed in March delaying any such questioning until the end of next year.

The government recently launched a dialogue with MPs to break the impasse.

BRIEFLY

Djokovic wins record 37th Masters title

Paris: The day after ensuring he finishes No. 1 for a record seventh year, Novak Djokovic beat No. 2 Daniil Medvedev 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 in the Paris Masters final on Sunday for a record 37th Masters title. Djokovic moved one clear of fellow 20-time Grand Slam winner Rafael Nadal for Masters trophies, and nine ahead of Roger Federer, the other tennis great with 20 majors. It also gave Djokovic a record-extending sixth Paris Masters title and put him 6-4 up overall against the No. 2-ranked Medvedev, who is pushing hard to dethrone him in world tennis. The veteran Serb had lost to Medvedev in straight sets in the U.S. Open final two months ago and had not played a tournament since.

Medvedev looked strong early on but top-seeded Djokovic, who beat him in straight sets in this year's Australian Open final, withstood punishing rallies against an opponent nine years younger. Djokovic's double break against a tiring Medvedev, the defending champion, gave him a 5-2 lead and the chance to serve for an 86th career title. **AP**

Sarnobat, Bhaker qualify for finals

Poland: India's Rahi Sarnobat and Manu Bhaker qualified for the finals in the women's 25m pistol event on competition day five of the ongoing International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) President's Cup here on Monday. Both the Olympians shot identical scores of 583 in qualification, but Rahi took fourth place ahead of Manu's fifth on higher inner 10s.

The eight-shooter final is scheduled on Wednesday. It was triple delight for Bhaker as she also qualified for the gold medal match in the 25m rapid fire mixed team Pistol event, assuring her of at least a silver to add to the gold she won with Iran's Javad Foroughi in the 10m air pistol mixed team event. **PTI**

Newcastle appoint Howe as manager

Newcastle: Newcastle appointed Eddie Howe as manager on Monday, tasked with trying to keep the relegation-threatened team in the Premier League by the new Saudi ownership. Howe was in the directors' box at Brighton on Saturday to see Newcastle draw 1-1 to sit five points from safety. There are 27 games remaining but the squad can't be reinforced until the January transfer window. **AP**

How signing a club legend as coach is not a winning formula

MIHIR VASAVDA
NOVEMBER 8

ON May 23, 2015, when Xavi Hernandez played for the last time in a Barcelona shirt, he uttered words that now seem prophetic. "It's not a goodbye, just a 'see you later'," a teary-eyed Xavi had said. On Monday, the club legend returned to Barcelona as their new manager. "I'm about to cry," he said in his inauguration speech.

Xavi's appointment at the helm follows a frequent script in football – results go south, the manager gets sacked, the board feels the heat and to appease fans, a former player is handed over the reins. These, in a way, seem like perfect marriages but the team often comes across as the needy partner.

What have been the other instances?

Closer home, a similar narrative has gripped Indian cricket as well. Though not in crisis, a premature exit from the T20 World Cup has sparked some panic among India's fans. So, the timing of Rahul Dravid taking over as head coach could not have been more perfect.

How Dravid's stint with India goes remains to be seen but in club football, the trend doesn't seem to be working well: Andrea Pirlo lasted for just one season at Juventus, Frank Lampard was sacked unceremoniously by Chelsea, Mikel Arteta's Arsenal have been unimpressive for the most part, and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's struggles have only compounded at Manchester United.

What is the difference from 'other' managers?

There is, however, one big difference. At a time when three or four bad weeks can seal the fate of those at the wheel, players who are a part of the club's folklore and go on to become their managers more often than not get a longer rope, both from fans as well as the board. Arteta and Solskjaer, who have held on to their jobs despite tumultuous starts to the season, are cases in point. And it's not just them.

Real Madrid have been notoriously impatient with their managers and yet, since 2010, Zinedine Zidane is the only manager who hasn't been sacked by them. On the contrary, it was Zidane who left the club on both occasions, on his own terms. Across town, before Diego Simeone was appointed Atletico Madrid's manager in 2011, the club had 12 coaches in a decade.

Despite ups and downs, Simeone, a former Atletico player, has enjoyed the confidence of the club management, players and fans. Emotion has often been the overriding



Xavi Hernandez during his official presentation in Barcelona. **AP**

element in each of these stories. But with Solskjaer and Arteta, it also helped that the likes of Alex Ferguson and Pep Guardiola threw their weight behind the two player-turned-managers.

What is Xavi's track record?

For Xavi, the glowing recommendations have already started pouring in – even Lionel Messi sees him as the messiah. "As a player, Xavi saw the whole picture from the pitch. I'm sure from the sidelines, he'll see it even clearer," Messi was quoted as saying in the Spanish media last week.

Messi knows. At the peak of their prowess, even though the spotlight was always on the Argentine great, Xavi remained the most vocal advocate of Barcelona's playing philosophy. So much so that he even made a Qatari side Al Sadd – the only club he had coached before Monday – play tiki-taka football. A 22-second viral clip of a goal scored by Al Sadd in the Qatari league is perhaps a testimony of what Xavi the coach can get his players to do.

What is the task confronting Xavi?

That will be important. Under Ronald Koeman, Barcelona were stripped of their identity. In a way, there are similarities in both these managerial appointments. When Koeman was named Barcelona

manager in 2020, his biggest qualification was scoring the goal that won them the 1992 European Cup under Johan Cruyff.

Ironically, Koeman's Barca gave up on Cruyff's idea of football. For a team that considered possession to be paramount, whipping in hopeful crosses from the flanks became a staple.

Yet, the club tried to show loyalty and patience to one of its legends. Ultimately, when the fans turned on him – attacking

his vehicle after a defeat to Real Madrid in the Clasico, the Dutchman's fate was sealed.

When emotions will be separated from Xavi's return to Camp Nou, perhaps there will be a clearer picture of what he is like as a coach. In Qatar, Xavi's Al Sadd had a reputation of playing collectively as a team, dominating every aspect of the game, pressing high and playing fast, flowing football. He'll be expected to get Barcelona playing the same way. And for that, Xavi could get the luxury that Koeman did not have – time.

Sentiment has landed Xavi his dream job. And it is safe to say that sentiment will also provide him some cushion as he tries to steer Barcelona out of troubled waters.



Nazir Hoosein Memorial Drive takes Himalayan route

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GREATER NOIDA, NOVEMBER 8

CHIEF of Army Staff General Manoj Mukund Naravane flagged off the Nazir Hoosein Memorial Drive by Team Firefox in Greater Noida on Monday. The drive, a non-competitive rally, is set to take place through the 1981 Himalayan Rally route and will be staged over three days. The event is a tribute to the participants, officials and volunteers of the 11 Himalayan Rallies and will be conducted by Team Firefox, who have 20 Himalayan Rallies among them and are endorsed by IARC – the club founded by Nazir Hoosein, among others.

The rally started at Greater Noida from where the destination for Day 1 was Lansdowne. Two cars – the first, a retro-fitted Mahindra Thar driven by Colonel (Retired) SS Sekhon and the second, a similarly retro-fitted car commemorating the original Himalayan Rally, being driven by Surinder Thatti, Vice President for Sport, FIA, will go through Haldwani, Ramnagar and Kaladhungi, skirting the Jim Corbett National Park. The drive will be backed up by 15 support vehicles.

Day 2 will see the drive touch Tilwara or Chopta on the way to Mussoorie. A longer ride throughout will mean an early start from Lansdowne. Manjeev Bhalla, a former winner along with Flory Roothaert in the original Himalayan Rally, praised the care taken to put together an event that is a "fitting tribute to a man who revolutionised motorsport in this country".

"The organisers and participants must be commended equally, for their zeal and determination to create this event," he said. "The level of dedication and hours it must have taken to survey roads, create easy-to-navigate routes, and clear all permissions, es-



Chief of Army Staff General MM Naravane at the flag-off ceremony.

pecially in a time when travel is becoming a tough thing to do, is hugely admirable," said Bhalla.

The organisers have strict Covid-19 protocols for participants and support crews alike, in what is a first-of-its-kind 'traveling bio-bubble', according to a release. All participants were required to produce a negative RT-PCR test, regardless of their vaccination status, and only then allowed for registration. Additionally, participants will drive in groups, sequestered to ensure minimum contact with those outside of the event through the day's journey.

Day 3 will see a run to Kufri via Herbertpur, Paonta Sahib, Nahan, Kumarhatti, Solan and Shimla Bye pass and the following day will have the Jalori pass climb enroute to Manali. The route includes three high-altitude mountain passes over 10,000 feet and will end with a drive to Rohtang Pass and back through the Atal Tunnel.

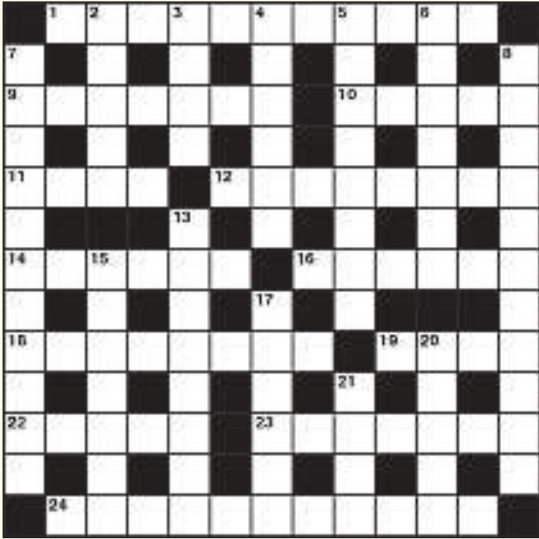
Verstappen wins Mexico GP, extends lead over Hamilton

MEXICO CITY: Max Verstappen won the Mexico City Grand Prix with a dominant race Sunday to stretch his season championship lead over Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton. Teammate Sergio Perez was the first Mexican driver in race history to not just lead the race, but also to earn a podium when he finished third.

And the result pulled Red Bull nearly even with Mercedes in a team championship worth millions of dollars at the end of season. While Verstappen and Perez basked in the chants of "Ole! Ole!" from the massive crowd during the podium ceremony and Perez's father wildly waved the Mexican flag, Hamilton could only watch and listen. He had to know he's running out of time and races to catch Verstappen in pursuit of a record eighth F1 season title.

Verstappen now leads Hamilton in the championship by 19 points with four races left, starting next week in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Verstappen won in 2019 and likely will be favored to again. The two have traded the lead several times this season, and even crashed into each other twice, in F1's tightest title chase in years. "Today with their superior speed, if they work to carry that into the next ones, we may be in trouble, or we will be in trouble," Hamilton said. Verstappen certainly isn't taking anything for granted. The 24-year-old Dutchman is chasing his first F1 championship and earned his ninth win of the season, his second in a row and third in Mexico City in four years. The two have traded the lead several times this season, and even crashed into each other twice, in F1's tightest title chase in years. **AP**

CROSSWORD 4581



ACROSS

- 1 Shriek at cat when upset and despondent (4,2,5)
- 9 Liberate one soul in torment (7)
- 10 A number holding no end of wood (5)
- 11 Hydrogen weapon and the damage it does (4)
- 12 Soft spot your boss has for you? (8)
- 14 It's important to exhort one not to lose heart (6)
- 16 It's used for pounding with a mortar (6)
- 18 Stop deer straying with ropes round their necks (8)
- 19 Identify the place (4)
- 22 Canned - as sardines are (5)
- 23 Jumble vital to a North European (7)
- 24 He clears the way for us (4,7)

DOWN

- 2 Badly riled, he's not keen to work (5)
- 3 Recognise a refusal when you hear it (4)
- 4 The point is seen in this essay (6)
- 5 Tips which are never mean (8)
- 6 The car could be in neutral (7)
- 7 Secret assignment for a lullaby singer? (4-4,3)
- 8 Arousing one's curiosity though resenting it perhaps (11)
- 13 Set upon one's fiancée (8)
- 15 Far-seeing man who fell foul of the Inquisition (7)
- 17 The man went down with a cry of pain (6)
- 20 Leo's hauteur? (5)
- 21 This is irritating for sightseers naturally (4)

Solutions Crossword 4580: Across: 1 Accede, 4 Offstage, 9 Canute, 10 Easterly, 12 Lour, 13 Links, 14 Here, 17 Discontinued, 20 Disobedience, 23 Slap, 24 Cause, 25 Heal, 28 Apple pie, 29 Portia, 30 Listless, 31 Starve. Down: 2 Accolade, 2 Conquest, 3 Duty, 5 Frankincense, 6 Site, 7 Air bed, 8 Elysee, 11 Dictionaries, 15 Topic, 16 Sepia, 18 Inventor, 19 Cellmate, 21 Israel, 22 Campus, 26 Well, 27 Boot.

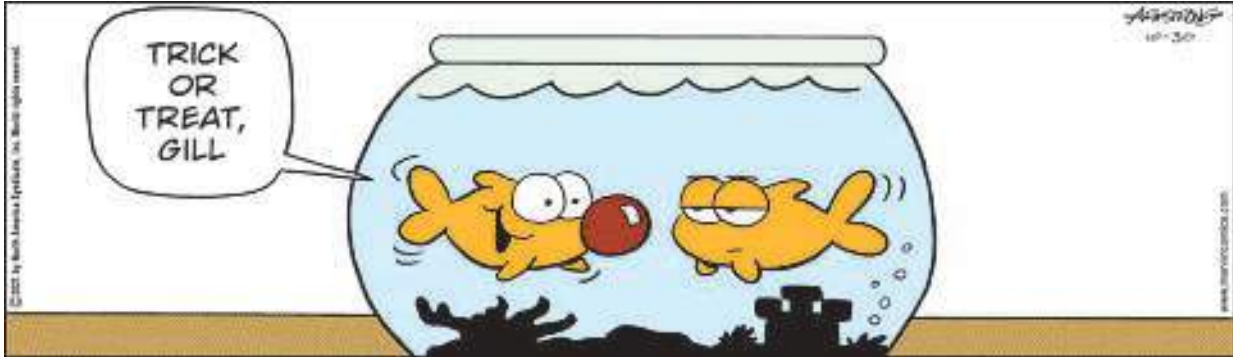
OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



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.

Fain would I climb, yet _t_ to __. - Walter Raleigh (4, 4)

CESAE

BNOAR

AFIILL

ALOYFF

SOLUTION: CESAE: BARON, FILIAL, LYOFF. Fain would I climb, yet fear't to fall. - Walter Raleigh

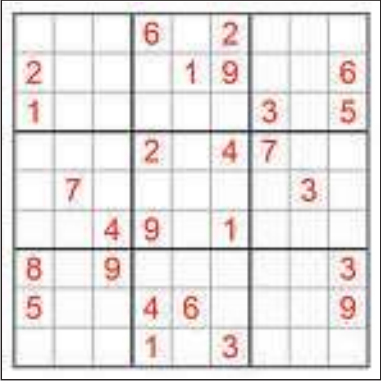
SUDOKU 4649

Difficulty Level 5s

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 4648



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
Continue to play for time and don't let anyone else force the pace. This is a very special moment for you as far as your personal creativity is concerned and the last thing you want to do is let anyone else dictate your movements for you, especially if they've picked up the wrong end of the stick.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
You are now officially in a period of maximum domestic uncertainty. Let me tell you now that friction will only develop if you battle to keep things as they are. If you accept and even initiate change over the next two months, the consequences could be miraculous.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Get down to some serious work as soon as you can. By serious, I don't mean that it shouldn't be fun, but that anything you do now will be tied in to your destiny. I'd also advise a spot of day-dreaming if required. You might think that this is wasting time, but it's a great way to create space for new ideas.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Once you've dealt with financial matters, probably no more than routine shopping, you'll be free to let your mind wander. Overseas contacts seem to be important, which means that a family member far away is waiting to hear from you. Plus, an adventurous possibility is on the way.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
To be forewarned, as they say, is to be forearmed. It's therefore important to point out that even though you are entering a phase of unparalleled optimism, some of your hopes may be unrealistic. You must sort out what is possible from what is not.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
The following applies to your life over the next two months, so don't forget it: you are increasingly likely to feel exploited or undermined and will tend to blame other people, yet the cause, and hence the solution, lies with you. Once you've taken that on board then you'll be well on the way to finding a solution.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
The day seems to be divided into two halves, and you can swing to extremes either favouring self-indulgence or putting the emphasis on work. Certain people are convinced that you have a lazy streak, and now may be a good time to prove them right. Don't let them pressurise you.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
Don't complain if you have been disappointed financially. There will be plenty of chances to make up for it later on, perhaps within a few days. Actually, self-indulgence should be a priority, perhaps because it's when you're enjoying yourself that you come up with the answers to rather serious questions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)
It's bound to be some time before you can fully recover from past disturbances, but, in almost exactly one week, you should be able to more than make up for one particular mistake. In fact, it's an astrological law that each time the same opportunity returns, we make better of it.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
Others may make extravagant gestures, but you ought to be the one to call time on reckless financial adventures. Every single penny, cent, rupee or peseta you spend must be designed to earn two back in the future. You can't guarantee success, but you can do your best.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
While one very important planet, Saturn, urges you to dig your heels in, this could be a risky strategy. For the next twelve weeks, compromise and total flexibility must be an essential part of your strategy. Follow the Jupiterian path, the way of hope and optimism.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
Slowly but surely, your confidence is starting to return. You should soon feel strong enough to make important arrangements and plot the next stage of a health and fitness programme. You also need to keep your mind in trim, so you might be seriously investigating a new interest.

This is one of the great teams in the history of the game, absolutely no doubt in my mind. Unfortunately, we are out of this tournament, but that takes nothing away from a great side."

RAVI SHASTRI, OUTGOING INDIA HEAD COACH

BRIEFLY

Royruled out with calf injury, Vince to replace

Dubai: Explosive England opener Jason Roy has been ruled out of the remainder of the T20 World Cup with a calf injury and James Vince has been drafted into the squad as his replacement. Roy sustained a calf injury in England's defeat to South Africa in their final Super 12 match in Sharjah. Roy looked to be in a lot of pain and could not walk back to the dressing room on his own. He was seen on crutches after the game. "I'm gutted to be ruled out of the World Cup. It is a bitter pill to swallow," said Roy in a statement. "I will be staying on to support the boys, and hopefully, we can go all the way and lift that trophy. It has been an unbelievable journey so far, and we have to continue expressing ourselves and concentrating on us." The rehab has already started, and even though I've torn my calf, I'm going to give myself the best chance of being ready for the T20 tour of the Caribbean at the start of next year." England face New Zealand in the first semifinal in Abu Dhabi on Thursday.

AP

New Yorkshire chief apologises to Rafiq

Leeds: Cricketer Azeem Rafiq was praised for his bravery in reporting racism and bullying at Yorkshire by the new chairman of the club on Monday. The county has been widely criticised for its handling of the scandal and has already lost sponsors, and the right to host England international matches at Headingley. "Azeem is a whistleblower and should be praised as such, he should never have been put through this," new Yorkshire chairman Kamlesh Patel said. "We're sorry for what you and your family have experienced and the way in which we've handled this. I thank Azeem for his bravery in speaking out. Let me be clear from the outset, racism or discrimination in any form is not banter."

AP

All-round Venkatesh, pacey Avesh steal show

New Delhi: Avesh Khan terrorised with his pace and bounce while Bihar found Vekatesh Iyer's all-round talent too hot to handle as Madhya Pradesh cantered to a nine-wicket victory in a group D game of the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 tournament on Monday. Avesh (3-0-6-3) and Venkatesh (4-2-2-2) first dismantled Bihar for 59 in 18 overs and the left-handed opener then smashed seven boundaries in his 20-ball-36 to race to the target in 5.4 overs. Meanwhile, Delhi and Mumbai lost close matches. Skipper Tanmay Agarwal led from the front with a 34-ball 54 as Haryana beat Delhi by three wickets in a last-ball finish in the Group E, while Ajinkya Rahane's third half-century in four matches was not enough as Mumbai lost to Chattisgarh by one run.

KEY RESULTS: Bihar 59 in 18 overs (Avesh 3/6, Iyer 2/2) lost to MP 60/1 in 5.4 overs (Iyer 36 not out) by nine wickets; Delhi 170/5 in 20 overs (Rawat 41; Millind 2/49) lost to Hyderabad 171/7 in 20 overs (T Agarwal 54; P Sangwan 3/27) by three wickets; Chhattisgarh 157/5 in 20 overs (Shashank 57, Herwadkar 53) beat Mumbai 156/5 in 20 overs (Rahane 69, Lad 46; Ruikar 2/24, Kiran 2/32) by one run

PTI

EXPRESSAT T20 WORLD CUP



SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY DUBAI, NOVEMBER 8

STUBBORNNESS OVER playing Hardik Pandya, wrong team selection, muddled thinking, tired minds and the Indian cricket's obsession for World Cups – a lot of factors contributed to India's failed T20 World Cup campaign. As Virat Kohli's team bade adieu to a tournament hosted by the BCCI, the entire Indian cricket set-up has a lot to answer for.

Pandya's case was the team management's inability to learn from their 2019 World Cup mistake, where they shunned Ambati Rayudu, stuck to Vijay Shankar at No. 4 and ended up playing a callow Rishabh Pant in that position in the semifinal. Pandya's selection for this World Cup reeked of similar hubris and projecting him like prime Kapil Dev was an error.

For a player who bowled very sporadically this year and didn't bowl at all in the IPL, even at the nets, picking him for the ICC event denied the team of a sixth bowler. As Pakistan openers Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan took the frontline Indian bowlers to the cleaners, an extra bowling option was badly missed.

"These things (uncertainty over Pandya's selection) from a talking or discussion point of view, feel very interesting that if he doesn't bowl, will he be left out? But we understand the value he brings to the team as a No. 6 batter and in world cricket, if you look around, there are specialists who do that job," Kohli had said on the eve of India's tournament opener, falling back on the allrounder's 22-ball 42 not out against Australia in Sydney last year.

It ignored Pandya's form: 65 runs in 10 T20s this calendar year and 127 runs from 12 matches in the IPL. The 28-year-old scored 69 runs in three innings at the T20 World Cup, a 13-ball 35 not out, after getting a reprieve on 14, being his highest. Against New Zealand, when he had the chance to put the pressure back on the opponents, he got out sloggling.

Eventually, under pressure and after rigorous fitness drills at the nets, the team management made sure that Pandya bowled a few overs in matches. He looked pedestrian. In fact, the selectors were far from convinced about his bowling fitness, reflected in Shardul Thakur's inclusion in the main squad at the expense of Axar Patel. The left-arm spinner, also a capable lower-order batsman, probably wouldn't have done worse.

Ditching wrist-spin completely was as inexplicable as it was unexpected. Over the last four years, the team management mother-henned that variety, only to ignore it at the showpiece event. Yuzvendra Chahal's exclusion was debatable, especially after his 18 wickets in the IPL, proving his effectiveness on UAE pitches in the process. But like chief selector Chetan Sharma, the skipper also maintained that Rahul Chahar was preferred over Chahal for being quicker through the air.

Then, not bringing in Chahar for the first four games was contradictory. It felt like the team management didn't have enough confidence in the leggie to play him in big games, even against New Zealand, traditionally the strugglers against leg-spin.

On Sunday, when asked if the team missed Chahal, India's bowling coach Bharat Arun said: "See, I think that is for the selectors to decide. We can only play with the team that has been given to us. And I wouldn't like to dwell too much on that." Picking Ravichandran Ashwin and not playing him in the first two

England were criticised heavily for not touring the country.

"It pleases me no end that we'll be engaged in a three-Test match series, connoisseurs delight," Raja said in a statement.

"Australia are one of the high-performing sides and them playing in our backyard for the first time after a gap of 24 years will be a special treat for the fans.

"Likewise, it will be a great opportunity for the Australia cricketers to not only play at our iconic venues but also feel and enjoy the respect, love and hospitality that this great country offers, something which most of their previous generation of cricketers missed out by playing offshore," he said.

Cricketer Australia chief executive Nick Hockley said they will continue to work with PCB to ensure foolproof security for their team.

"The safety and welfare of our players and staff remains our number one priority, and we will continue to work with the PCB and relevant agencies to ensure that appropriate and sufficient arrangements are put in place for the tour," he said.

CA's delegation will visit Pakistan to meet with PCB officials as well as provincial and federal authorities to discuss and finalise matters relating to "team operations, logistics, security and Covid-19 protocols".



A break between the IPL and the T20 World Cup would have been better for a team which has been on the road for six months. AP

Pandya's case was the team management's inability to learn from their 2019 World Cup mistake, where they shunned Ambati Rayudu, stuck to Vijay Shankar at No. 4 and ended up playing a callow Rishabh Pant in that position in the semifinal

games was a mistake as well. When the master off-spinner played against Afghanistan, he showed that at the international level, quality would always trump mystery.

Opening blues

Moving on to opening with Ishan Kishan. Back in March, after opening with Rohit Sharma in a home T20I against England and putting on 94 runs for the first-wicket to help India post 224/2, Kohli had spoken about opening the innings at the T20 World Cup as well. Before the tournament, the India captain changed his stance and decided on KL Rahul partnering Rohit. "Things were different before IPL, now it's difficult to look beyond KL Rahul (626 runs in the IPL) at the top of the order. Rohit is a no-brainer. I'll be batting at No. 3."

However, with Suryakumar Yadav ruled out against New Zealand due to back spasms, Ishan was sent ahead of Rohit to open with Rahul; a move that was ostensibly made to shield Rohit from left-arm pacer Trent Boult. Going into that game, Rohit carried a record of getting out to left-arm quicks 14 times in the shortest format and the golden duck against Shaheen Shah Afridi was a fresh scar. Later, India's batting coach Vikram Rathour called the move "tactical".

Rohit also admitted the mistake after the Afghanistan game. "Decision-making sometimes can be a problem, and that is exactly what happened in the first two games."

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY DUBAI, NOVEMBER 8

THE LOOP in Ravichandran Ashwin's delivery made the ball hang in the air a little more. Zane Green, not used to such level of wizardry, came forward as if in a trance. The ball dipped, spun like a perfect off-break to go past the bat and hit the stumps. Ashwin has done this time and again to batsmen far superior to Green. Ironically, India had ignored his quality for the first two matches of the T20 World Cup – against Pakistan and New Zealand.

From the stadium atmosphere to the players' body language, it was a fare-thee-well fixture for India. Playing both Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami probably wasn't in sync with the team's physical and mental fatigue complaints. At least Rahul Chahar got a game and showed why his selection ahead of Yuzvendra Chahal for the T20 World Cup was a mistake, his line and length going awry against an Associate nation. The game started in front of virtually empty stands and ended amid a turnout of about 5,000. For India, it was about going through the motions. After restricting Namibia to 132/8, a facile nine-wicket victory was achieved with 28 balls to spare.

In the process, Rohit Sharma scored his second fifty of the tournament and became the second Indian to go past 3,000 T20I runs after Virat Kohli. The outgoing captain and the cap-

On the road

This team has been on the road for the last six months and the bubble life is not easy. Like Arun said, a break between the IPL and the T20 World Cup would have been better.

"I think the players haven't gone home ever since they had a short break after the last IPL and they are in a bubble for the last six months. That takes a huge toll. Maybe, a short break between the IPL and the World Cup would have done a lot of good for these boys."

The BCCI didn't have another window to complete the IPL this year. Once the first phase had to be postponed due to Covid, the gap between the England series and the T20 World Cup was the only option. And the IPL is about Rs 4,000 crore worth of revenue, so the Indian board couldn't have shunned it. From broadcast commitments to other sponsors, legal issues would have been involved. But the players had the option to pull out of the second phase of the IPL, recharge their batteries and return fresh for the World Cup. England's Jos Buttler did that to a fantastic effect.

From the BCCI's perspective, appointing MS Dhoni as team mentor, citing his title-winning credentials, was outright undermining of the authority of the captain and head coach Ravi Shastri; a combination that has made India the world's best Test team over the past four odd years, winning back-to-back series in Australia and leading 2-1 in England.

Indian cricket has an obsession for World Cups, although what this team achieved in Tests would supersede any ICC titles. Confirmation regarding this from a team insider came via a text message from even before the tournament: "damn right".

India will have a new T20I captain after this World Cup and a new coaching team. But should they follow England's lead and pick different teams for different formats? Arun concurred. "There's enough talent in our country so we can afford to field different teams for different formats."

tain-designate are India's batting royalty. But both would like to forget this T20 World Cup.

Those who cared to turn up for this game were witness to Ashwin's spin masterclass. Knowing that he would have a complete upper hand against the Namibia batsmen, he teased them with loop and flight. Jan Nicol Loftie-Eaton went for a cut to a delivery that wasn't short enough. The loop fooled the batsman. The extra bounce undid him, resulting in a catch to Rohit.

Gerhard Erasmus was taken care of by a faster one that skidded off the surface. Once again, an attempted cut wasn't the right shot to play as Rishabh Pant pounced the catch. In the end, Ashwin's figures read: 4-0-20-3. Hopefully, India under a new captaincy and coaching dispensation in white-ball cricket would use the master off-spinner a lot more.

Namibia put on 33 runs for the first wicket. But the game changed as soon as Ravindra Jadeja was brought into the attack. Before that, the excellent Jasprit Bumrah had removed Michael van Lingen with a rising delivery. The bowler didn't care to celebrate.

The pitch had a hint of turn and Jadeja was always going to impose himself on the opposition batsmen. He bowled flat, but Craig Williams charged down the track to be beaten by the turn. Pant had an easy stumping.

The facileness of this contest had a trickle-down effect. A legendary former cricketer took time off for a conversation, recounting events

Shastri leaves with stellar record, 'only missing piece'

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY DUBAI, NOVEMBER 8

RAVI SHASTRI has always been the crisis man in Indian cricket. When India faltered at the 2007 World Cup and Greg Chappell resigned after the tournament, he was given interim charge with an eye on resurrection. In 2014, when India were rolled over in the Tests in England, he was appointed team director, yet again for a course correction. Through his seven-year stint, with a mini break when Anil Kumble took over for a year, Shastri oversaw India's rise, especially in the longest format.

Under Shastri as head coach and Virat Kohli as captain, India progressed from being the seventh-ranked Test team in the world to win back-to-back Test series in Australia and take a 2-1 lead in England before the final Test was postponed. On the day of his farewell, the outgoing head coach turned emotional.

Shastri refused to draw any comparison between Tests and ICC events, saying all the tournaments/series that India play are important. But he cited bubble fatigue, with the players on the road for six months now.

"This is one of the great teams in the history of the game, absolutely no doubt in my mind. Unfortunately, we are out of this tournament, but that takes nothing away from a great side," he said at the post-match press conference.

Shastri didn't offer any excuse for India's poor performance at this T20 World Cup but said that bubble life could be mentally draining. "You are not switched on as you should be. This is not an excuse. Because in trying to win, you will lose a game. Here we didn't try to win,



because the x-factor - the players were mentally and physically drained - wasn't there."

Bubble life could have affected even Don Bradman was his observation. "I don't read too much into Virat's form. I don't care who the player is. If you put even Don Bradman in the bubble, his average will come down. Eventually, the bubble will burst."

Shastri agreed that a short break between the IPL and the T20 World Cup might have helped, but hoped it would win an ICC title – "the only missing piece" – in the near future, under new head coach Rahul Dravid. "They will get the rub of the green." He thanked former BCCI president N Srinivasan for giving him the opportunity to coach India and dropped a hint that his future might lie in TV commentary again, where he made his name before coming to coaching. "We won back-to-back (Test) series in Australia. We took the lead in England and it could be the longest lead in history (with the final Test deferred to next year). I might be commenting on that Test," Shastri said.

He also thanked outgoing bowling coach Bharat Arun for building a great attack and outgoing fielding coach R Sridhar for making the team's fielding standard world-class.



KL Rahul and Rohit Sharma put on 86 runs for the first wicket. AP

from the past and raising a question about why India needs a batting coach in the new set-up when Rahul Dravid is the head coach.

Out in the middle, Jadeja dismantled Stephan Baard with an arm-ball and finished with 3/16 to earn another Man-of-the-Match award. A couple of leaky overs towards the end made Namibia's score respectable. But it was Rohit's night, from the bigger responsibility that lies ahead to surviving three mishits on

the bounce and a dropped catch, as he scored 56 off 37 balls.

Some of his shots, though, were mesmerising; like when he stepped out to Bernard Scholtz, failed to get to the pitch of the ball, but leaped into his lofted drive to send it for a six. All the while, KL Rahul was watching from the other end. He switched gears after Rohit's dismissal, reaching his fifty off 35 balls and remaining unbeaten on 54 – three half-centuries on the spin to end the tournament.

Spectators would have liked to see Kohli walking out to bat on the last day of his T20I captaincy. Suryakumar Yadav was promoted instead. The gradual transition of India's white-ball squad is expected to begin from the home series against New Zealand, with an eye to the T20 World Cup in Australia next year. Yadav is likely to be an important part of the team going ahead. He made 25 not out off 19 balls.

"I know we haven't gone far in this World Cup, but we have had some good results in T20s and enjoyed playing together. It's a game of margins, T20 cricket," Kohli said at the post-match presentation, adding that it was the right time for him to look after his workload.

As for Namibia, not only did they give a good account of themselves here, they also secured automatic qualification for the next T20 World Cup, a year down the line.

BRIEF SCORES: Namibia 132 for 8 (Wiese 26, Jadeja 3-16, Ashwin 3-20) lost to India 136 for 1 (Rohit 56, Rahul 54*) by nine wickets