

GUJARAT

Surat coaching centre shut after 5 students test positive for Covid

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
SURAT, AHMEDABAD,
OCTOBER 16

GUJARAT REPORTED 22 new Covid-19 cases in the last 24 hours, the health department said Saturday. Of these 22, the most number of cases—nine -- were reported from Surat, which included five students enrolled to a private coaching centre.

With this spike in cases in Surat, the health department officials have shut the coaching institute, where six students of classes 11 and 12 tested positive in a week, for 14 days.

As per the health department officials of Surat Municipal Corporation, the first case of a 16-year-old student of the institute testing positive was reported on October 9.

Officials took contact details of a total of 110 students studying in the coaching centre. The teams reached their homes and carried out RT-PCR tests of students and their family members.

On Saturday morning, five more students were tested positive. Sources in the SMC said that reports of 50 students are still awaited. The centre runs private coaching for students of classes 11 and 12 of both the Commerce and Science streams.

SMC Deputy Health Commissioner Dr Ashish Naik said, "We have given notices to the coaching centre to keep it shut for 14 days and get the centre sanitised first. Till date, six students have tested positive. While going through the history of the first case, we have found that the Class 11 student's elder brother had gone on tour to Jaipur and Jaisalmer in Rajasthan with his three friends. He returned a couple of days ago and got his younger brother infected. Those who had gone on the tour had both taken jabs of Covid-19 vaccine."

"All six students who tested positive were asymptomatic and their conditions were stable and under home isolation treatment.

BRTS airport shuttle service to resume tomorrow, says AMC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, OCTOBER 16

THE BUS Rapid Transit Service (BRTS) shuttle service to the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport will resume from October 18, the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) has stated. The AMC started the service from Karmavati Club to the SVPI Airport in 2017 but had to stop it after a year as there were not many takers.

This time, the shuttle service with air-conditioned electric buses will run on the Iskcon-RTO-Airport route from 6 am till 11 pm with a frequency of 15-30 minutes. The fare is fixed at Rs 50.

The buses equipped with CCTV cameras will drop off passengers close to the departure area while the pick-up point will be near the arrival gate.

The 20-kilometre route will cover Iskcon cross road, Ramdevnagar, ISRO, Star Bazaar, Jodhpur cross road, Himmatlal Park, Andhjan Mandal, University, Memnagar, Valinhi Chowk, Sola cross road, Jaymangal, Shastrinagar, Pragatinagar, Akhbarnagar, Bhavsar Hostel, Ranip Cross roads, RTO Circle and Ahmedabad Domestic airport terminal. The AMC stated that based on the response and demand, more buses will be added if required.

Jungle safari resumes in Gir after 4 months

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JUNAGADH, OCTOBER 16

JUNGLE SAFARI to the Gir forest, the only abode of Asiatic lions, resumed on Saturday after remaining closed for nearly four months due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Flagging off an open jungle safari jeep at Sasan Gir, Deputy Conservator of Forest (DCF), Sasan Gir, Mohan Ram, said tourists will have a different experience this year as the landscape has witnessed some unusual changes due to the delayed monsoon retreat, and appealed to them to follow Covid guidelines.

"Jungle safari in Gir forest started today, and we have received 100 per cent booking, all done online. This is a positive start," Ram told reporters.

He said the Devaliya safari park, which reopened on June 17 this year, has received a foot-fall of over 1.31 lakh tourists since then.

CASES ALSO REPORTED FROM BHAVNAGAR, MORBI

Ahmedabad, Surat becoming bogus GST billing hubs: Govt

AVINASH NAIR
AHMEDABAD, OCTOBER 16

SINCE THE implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST), Ahmedabad and Surat have become the hubs for bogus billing in Gujarat, while the web of illegal transactions has also spread to rapidly industrialising districts like Bhavnagar, Rajkot, Morbi and Gandhinagar where a sizeable number of trading and business firms have been found involved in this racket.

Both Ahmedabad and Surat districts account for almost 58 per cent of the Rs 3,094 crore worth of taxes involved in bogus billing rackets in the three years ending June 30, 2021, the state government stated in a written reply to an unstarred question asked by Congress MLA from Petlad, Niranjan Patel about bogus billing in GST during the recently concluded monsoon session of Gujarat Assembly.

While Ahmedabad reported the highest Rs 971 crore of tax involved in bogus billing, in Surat it was Rs 789 crore. Both Ahmedabad and Surat saw in-

volvement of 250 and 196 firms each, respectively. GST came into effect from July 1, 2017. While this bogus billing racket is being reported from 18 of the 33 districts of Gujarat, smaller industrial clusters like Bhavnagar, Rajkot, Morbi and Gandhinagar are also reporting involvement of large number of firms in producing fake bills.

Bhavnagar has third highest quantum of tax (Rs 433 crore) involved, where a total of 104 trading units are under scrutiny.

Though the government in its written reply stated that no government officials have been found involved in the bogus billing cases till June 30, 2021, the situation changed the very next month.

Bhavnagar became the singular place in Gujarat where the state government stepped in and transferred 36 officials from one office of SGST department in connection with a Rs 1,000 crore bogus billing case unearthed in July.

Two of these SGST officials including a deputy commissioner were also suspended for their alleged involvement in the case. This is however the first time, the involvement of government officials have come to light.

DEVBHUMI DWARKA

SCHOOL OWNER HELD FOR 'FORGING MARKSHEETS'

Owner of a private school at Khajuriya village near Khambhaliya town of Devbhumi Dwarka, Karu Bhan, was arrested late on Friday for allegedly forging marksheets of students of classes 10 and 12 in lieu of money, police said.

and is among the first fraud cases in India to go on trial," the official said adding that 36 entities were involved in the Rs 900 crore bogus billing racket that was being operated out of a rented premises in Ahmedabad city.

SGST officials said bogus billing rackets in Gujarat operate out of not only rented premises, but also have been found operating from premises belonging to some associate remotely connected with the conspirator.

Officials said apart from those firms involved in defrauding tax, there are companies that try to use the bogus bills to inflate their turnover. "This is largely done by firms looking to go for a public listing or those who are seeking loans from banks," the official added. When asked the reason behind the bogus billing racket spreading to smaller centres, an SGST official said, "The mastermind in most of these cases operate from bigger cities and they spread their network to smaller towns."

Govt to give Rs 5k for tribals taking Ayodhya pilgrimage

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, OCTOBER 16

THE GUJARAT government will give Rs 5,000 as financial aid to each tribal person who undertook a pilgrimage to Ram Janambhoomi in Ayodhya, stated Purnesh Modi, state tourism minister in an official release here on Saturday.

The minister said the tribals were "descendants of 'Shabari Mata' who had met Lord Ram during his 14 year-long exile".

Addressing an audience at "Shabari Dham" located at Subir village in tribal-dominated Dangs on Friday, Modi made the announcement for the financial aid which he said is in line with similar aid given for Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, Sindhu Darshan and Shrivani Tirth Yatra.

The minister during a state-level Dussehra celebration said the state government has started constructing a tourism circuit from Saputara in Dangs to Statue of Unity in Narmada district, the release added.

ATUL BIHARI VAJPAYEE
Morena Link Road, Gwalior - 474015, (M.P.)
(An Institute of National Importance under Ministry of Education, GOI)

Advertisement no: 627 Date: 13.10.2021

Admission to Full-Time/Part-Time PhD Programme, Session: 2021-22

Online applications are invited for admission to the full-time/part-time PhD programme in Engineering (Computer Science/Information Technology/ Electronics and Communication Engineering / Applied Sciences - Physics & Mathematics) and Management. For details visit Institute website. For any queries dial 0751-2449704/720/741 OR email to phdadmission@iiitm.ac.in.

Online form submission opens: 07 October, 2021

Online form submission closes: 07 November, 2021

Written test/ presentation/interview: 25/26 November, 2021

Joint Registrar (Academics)

FORM NO. CAA 2
(Pursuant to Section 230(3) of the Companies Act, 2013 and Rules 6 and 7 of the Companies (Compromises, Arrangements and Amalgamations) Rules, 2016)

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL
CHENNAI BENCH
CA(CAA)/23&40/CAA/2021

In the matter of Sections 230 to 232 of the Companies Act, 2013
And
In the matter of Scheme of Arrangement (Demerger) between Mothi Spinner Private Limited and Chendhoor Murughan yarn Tex India Private Limited And their respective Shareholders and Creditors.

Mothi Spinner Private Limited,
(CIN:U17111TZ2000PTC009143)
Having its Registered Office at
No.100, Komarapalayam Road,
Pallipalayam, Erode - 638006.

... Applicant/Demerger Company

Advertisement of Notice of Meeting of the Unsecured Creditors of Mothi Spinner Private Limited

Notice is hereby given that by an Order dated 04 October 2021, the National Company Law Tribunal, Chennai Bench has directed a Meeting to be held of the Unsecured Creditors of Mothi Spinner Private Limited ("the Company") for the purpose of considering, and if thought fit, approving with or without modification, the Scheme of Arrangement (Demerger) amongst Mothi Spinner Private Limited and Chendhoor Murughan yarn Tex India Private Limited and their respective shareholders and creditors ("Scheme").

In pursuance of the said order and as directed therein, further notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Unsecured Creditors of Mothi Spinner Private Limited, the Company, will be held on **Saturday, 20th November, 2021 at 10.30 AM at the registered office of the Company at No. 100, Komarapalayam Road, Pallipalayam, Erode, Tamil Nadu - 638006**, at which time and place, the Unsecured Creditors are requested to attend.

Copies of the said Scheme of Arrangement (Demerger) and of the statement under section 230 can be obtained free of charge at the registered office of the Company. Persons entitled to attend and vote at the meeting, may vote in person or by proxy, provided that all proxies in the prescribed form are deposited at the registered office of the Company at No. 100, Komarapalayam Road, Pallipalayam, Erode, Tamil Nadu - 638006, not later than 48 hours before the meeting. Forms of proxy can be had at the registered office of the Company. The Tribunal has appointed Mr. C. Thirumurthy as the Chairperson and Mrs. B. Veena, Practising Company Secretary (Membership No. F10050, Certificate of Practise No. 12919) as a Scrutinizer of the said meeting. The above mentioned Scheme, if approved at the meeting, will be subject to the subsequent approval of the Tribunal.

Dated this 16th October 2021

Sd/ C. Thirumurthy
Chairman appointed for the Meeting

Public Notice for Title Report

All that piece and parcel of property bearing (1) **office no.110 of Sutaria** situated at nondh no.518/A at ward no.1, sub-district : City, District : Surat (2) **office no.311 to 316 of Jaldarshan Tower** situated at nondh no.668/A/1,670 of ward no.1 owned by **M/s Poojara & Baxi a Partnership Firm** and (3) **office no.317** owned by Rajesh Shankarlal Poojar and **office no.318** owned by Ashim F. Baxi. The said property owner have decided to mortgage the said property with my client Company Piramal Capital & Housing Finance, and after obtaining the title report from me the owners have informed that (1) **Original Regi. receipt and Index-2 of Regi. sale deed Sr.No.2383 dtd.6/4/2002** (New regi no.6753 dtd.27/5/2005) (2) **Original Regi. receipt of Regi. sale deed Sr.No.2521 dtd.31/3/2003** (New regi no.4390 dtd.5/6/2014) (3) **Original Regi. receipt of Regi. sale deed Sr.No.2492 dtd.31/3/2003** (New regi. no.4452 dtd.7/6/2014) (4) **Original Regi. sale deed Sr.No.13510 dtd.7/12/1988** with Regi. receipt and Index-2, (5) **Original Regi. sale deed Sr.No.11138 dtd.11/11/1994** with Regi. receipt and Index-2 (6) **Original Regi. sale deed Sr.No.13512 dtd.7/12/1988** with Regi. receipt and Index-2 (7) **Original Regi. receipt of Original Regi. sale deed Sr.No.2491 dtd.31/4/2003** (New regi no.4389 dtd.5/6/2014) (8) **Original Regi. sale deed reg no.10212 dtd.15/10/1994** with Regi. receipt and Index-2 (9) **Original Regi. sale deed reg no.10213 dtd.15/10/1994** with Regi. receipt and Index-2 (10) **Original Regi. receipt of Regi. sale deed reg no.2562 dtd.31/3/2003** (New regi no.4451 dtd. 7/6/2014), (11) **Original Regi. receipt and Index-2 of Regi. sale deed reg no. 12966 dtd.24/11/1988** (12) **Original Regi. receipt of registered sale deed reg no. 2561 dtd.31/3/2003** (New regi no.4391 dtd. 5/6/2014) (13) **Original Regi. receipt and Index-2 of Regi. sale deed reg no.12967 dtd.24/11/1988** (14) **Original Regi. Sale Deed Regi. No.12920 dtd. 22/11/1988** alongwith registration receipt and Index-2 are lost and are not available with the owner. Hence if any Person, company/Bank, Government or semi-government body etc.. have any charge, lien etc on the said property then the same shall inform me within the 14 days of publication of this notice and if no objection is received against the same during the period of this notice then my client shall have every right to believe that nobody has any right, title, objection etc.. on above property and will proceed further with the loan proceedings.

A/1, Monalisa Apt.,
Athwagate, Surat.
Ph.No. 2465961

Mitesh M. Shah
Advocate

Three electrocuted in Veraval

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
RAJKOT, OCTOBER 16

THREE PERSONS were electrocuted after a signboard they were trying to haul over the terrace of Swagat Dining Hall came in contact with an overhead power distribution line in Veraval town of Gir Somnath district late on Saturday.

Police said Hiralal Meena (27), Vivek Meena (18) and Mahesh Parmar were trying to haul the signboard of the eatery over the terrace for repairs and were killed on the spot.

Vivek was the brother-in-law of the eatery's operator Devendra Meena and was a native of Madhya Pradesh, police said. Hiralal was a native of Rajasthan while Parmar was a resident of Vandravd village of Junagadh taluka. Both Hiralal and Parmar were employees of the eatery located on ST Road in Veraval town, police added.

CGPL COASTAL GUJARAT POWER LIMITED				
Corporate centre, 34 Sant Tukaram Road, Carnac Bunder, Mumbai 400009, Maharashtra, India. Corporate Identity Number (CIN): U40102MH2009PLC182213, Website : www.lalapower.com				
EXTRACT OF FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2021				
(Amount in ₹ crore)				
Particulars	Quarter ended on 30-Sep-21	Quarter ended on 30-Sep-20	Year ended on 31-Mar-21	
	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited	
1 Total income from operations	218.67	1,901.59	6,989.00	
2 Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax	(863.08)	(110.29)	(637.32)	
3 Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax	(863.08)	(110.29)	(637.32)	
4 Total comprehensive income	(863.08)	(111.21)	(635.09)	
5 Paid-up equity share capital (Face value of ₹ 10 each)	8,000.42	8,000.42	8,000.42	
6 Reserve excluding revaluation reserve	(12,348.07)	(11,270.43)	(11,639.26)	
7 Net worth	6,836.23	3,765.87	7,545.04	
8 Outstanding debt	7,995.61	10,787.30	6,980.34	
9 Debt equity ratio	1.17	2.86	0.93	
10 Basic earnings per share (₹) (not annualised)	(1.08)	(0.14)	(0.80)	
11 Diluted earnings per share (₹) (not annualised)	(1.08)	(0.14)	(0.80)	
12 Debenture redemption reserve	-	-	-	
13 Debt service coverage ratio (not annualised)	(2.24)	0.80	0.68	
14 Interest service coverage ratio (not annualised)	(3.17)	1.08	0.92	
Notes :				
1. The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their meetings held on 16 th October, 2021.				
2. The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly financial results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarterly financial results is available on the website of the stock exchange www.nseindia.com and on the company's website www.tatapower.com				
For and on behalf of the Board of Directors				
Place : Mumbai	Ramesh N. Subramanyam			
Date : 16 th October 2021	Chairman			

DISTRICT MINERAL FOUNDATION: KEONJHAR				
(2nd Floor, DRDA Building, Keonjhar-758001)				
e-mail-dmfkeonjhar@gmail.com				
Advertisement No.1863 /DMF Dt. 16/10/21				
Applications are invited from the eligible aspirants for filling up the following vacancies of Doctors in Keonjhar district (DHH/SDHs/CHCs).				
Sl. No.	Description of Posts	Vacancy	Essential Qualification	Monthly Consolidated remuneration
1	2	3	4	5
1	Medical Officer (MBBS)	30	MBBS*	Rs. 80,000/-
2	Specialist in O&G	12	MS- O&G*	Rs. 1,50,000/-
3	Specialist in Orthopedics	3	MS- Orthopedics *	Rs. 2,00,000/-
4	Specialist in Medicine	7	MD- General Medicine*	Rs. 1,50,000/-
5	Specialist in Skin/VD	3	MD-Skin/VD*	Rs. 1,50,000/-
6	Ophthalmologist	1	MS- Ophthalmology*	Rs. 1,50,000/-
7	Specialist in Pediatrics	10	MD- Pediatrics	Rs. 1,50,000/-
	Total	66		

* Or equivalent, from an institution recognised by MCI. The candidates are requested to submit their application in the enclosed format to the undersigned in the above-mentioned address through Regd/Speed Post/E-mail only. The application form can be downloaded from district website **"www.keonjhar.nic.in"**. The consolidated remuneration as mentioned above is negotiable and will be finalised during the **counselling session** to be held on **31.10.2021 at 10.30A.M. at the Durbar Hall, Collectorate, Keonjhar**. Commensurately higher consolidated remuneration will be offered to the candidates passed out from Govt. Medical Colleges, candidates with higher experience and those willing to serve in rural areas (SDHs/CHCs/PHCs only).

The jobs offered are contractual for a tenure of 1 year only from the date of joining & agreement executed with the CDM & PHO. Thereafter, the contract may be renewed for another year after successful completion of agreement period upon mutual consent. The general transfer rules of the State Government will not be applicable and on deployment, no subsequent transfer will be administered except on mutual consent.

The appointed doctors will be entitled to avail leave as per with regular employees of Govt. of Odisha. Other conditions of service shall be as such, as has been provided in the relevant recruitment rules.

Interested candidates are requested to report at 10.00 AM on 31.10.2021 at Collectorate, Keonjhar for the above walk-in-interview along with their updated C.V., original and one set of self-attested copy of all certificates and testimonials. Candidates who are presently working in Health & Family Welfare Department either on regular/adhoc or contractual basis, must submit "No Objection" certificate from the employer at the time of walk-in-interview. The undersigned reserves the right to cancel or reject the advertisement without assigning any reason thereof. For any enquiry, candidates can also contact the following mobile numbers during office hours - 9437084590/9348363247.

Sd/-
Chairperson-cum-Chairman & Managing Trustee,
District Mineral Foundation, Keonjhar.

FORM NO. CAA 2
(Pursuant to Section 230(3) of the Companies Act, 2013 and Rules 6 and 7 of the Companies (Compromises, Arrangements and Amalgamations) Rules, 2016)

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL
CHENNAI BENCH
CA(CAA)/23&40/CAA/2021

In the matter of Sections 230 to 232 of the Companies Act, 2013
And
In the matter of Scheme of Arrangement (Demerger) between Mothi Spinner Private Limited and Chendhoor Murughan yarn Tex India Private Limited And their respective Shareholders and Creditors.

Chendhoor Murughan yarn Tex India Private Limited,
(CIN:U17300TZ2018PTC030363)
Having its Registered Office at
422 Sekkumedu Vedyarasampalayam,
Aghraharam (PO), Pallipalayam, Erode 638008.

... Applicant/Resulting Company

Advertisement of Notice of Meeting of the Unsecured Creditors of Chendhoor Murughan yarn Tex India Private Limited

Notice is hereby given that by an Order dated 04 October 2021, the National Company Law Tribunal, Chennai Bench has directed a Meeting to be held of the Unsecured Creditors of Chendhoor Murughan yarn Tex India Private Limited ("the Company") for the purpose of considering, and if thought fit, approving with or without modification, the Scheme of Arrangement (Demerger) amongst Mothi Spinner Private Limited and Chendhoor Murughan yarn Tex India Private Limited and their respective shareholders and creditors ("Scheme").

In pursuance of the said order and as directed therein, further notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Unsecured Creditors of Chendhoor Murughan yarn Tex India Private Limited, the Company, will be held on **Saturday, 20th November, 2021 at 12.30 PM at the registered office of the Company at 422 Sekkumedu Vedyarasampalayam, Aghraharam (PO), Pallipalayam, Erode, Tamil Nadu-638008**, at which time and place, the Unsecured Creditors are requested to attend.

Copies of the said Scheme of Arrangement (Demerger), and of the statement under section 230 can be obtained free of charge at the registered office of the Company. Persons entitled to attend and vote at the meeting, may vote in person or by proxy, provided that all proxies in the prescribed form are deposited at the registered office of the Company at No. 422 Sekkumedu Vedyarasampalayam, Aghraharam (PO), Pallipalayam, Erode, Tamil Nadu 638008, not later than 48 hours before the meeting. Forms of proxy can be had at the registered office of the Company. The Tribunal has appointed Mr. C. Thirumurthy as the Chairperson and Mrs. B. Veena, Practising Company Secretary (Membership No. F10050, Certificate of Practise No. 12919) as a Scrutinizer of the said meeting. The above mentioned Scheme, if approved at the meeting, will be subject to the subsequent approval of the Tribunal.

Dated this 16th October 2021

Sd/ C. Thirumurthy
Chairman appointed for the Meeting

EXPRESS NETWORK

GUJARAT

POLICE TOLD TO FILE REMAND PLEA

Vadodara court takes accused in foreign funds misuse case into judicial custody

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
VADODARA, OCTOBER 16

A VADODARA court on Saturday took into judicial custody Salauddin Sheikh, managing trustee of AFMI Charitable Trust, and Umar Gautam of the Islamic Da'wah Centre in Delhi — both of whom were in judicial custody in Lucknow after being arrested by the Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) in an alleged case of “forced conversion racket”.

The Lucknow police escorted Sheikh and Gautam to a Vadodara court, following a direction from the court to produce them in Vadodara in connection with a case filed by the Vadodara police against them. The Vadodara court has now directed the city police, which has booked a case against the two for alleged misuse of foreign funds of about Rs 20 crore, routed through AFMI trust, as well as alleged hawala transactions amounting to Rs 60 crores, to file a remand application to seek formal police custody of the accused.

On Saturday, following the direction of the Vadodara court to produce Sheikh — a resident and businessman of Vadodara — and Gautam before the court, the Lucknow police arrived with the two accused. Vadodara



Lucknow police escorts Salauddin Sheikh and Umar Gautam to a Vadodara court on Saturday. *Express*

Commissioner of Police Shamsher Singh said that the police had approached the local court after officers of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) were unable to get a transit remand of the two accused from a Lucknow court, in September.

Singh said, “Since the two accused were in judicial custody in Lucknow, the local court here directed the UP police to produce them here so that the Vadodara police could seek custody and continue with the probe into the alleged misuse of funds under the Foreign Contributions Regulation Act (FCRA) as well as the hawala transactions of AFMI.”

Assistant Commissioner of Police, Crime, DS Chauhan told The Sunday Express, “The SIT officials are in the court. We are filing the remand application through the Special Public Prosecutor tonight. If the court allows a late-night hearing, we will seek the remand of the two accused right away.” Singh added that the Vadodara police have also written to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to look into the money laundering aspects of the fund transfers.

“The ED is already probing the case (filed by the UP police) and there is a possibility of a case of money laundering being booked against the accused,” Singh said. In July this year, ED had raided the office of the Islamic Da'wah Centre and residences of Gautam and other co-accused in the UP ATS case. Singh said that although the Vadodara police case has “common aspects” with the case filed against Salauddin and Gautam in Lucknow, the Vadodara city police is primarily probing the transactions of AFMI.

against the accused,” Singh said.

In July this year, ED had raided the office of the Islamic Da'wah Centre and residences of Gautam and other co-accused in the UP ATS case. Singh said that although the Vadodara police case has “common aspects” with the case filed against Salauddin and Gautam in Lucknow, the Vadodara city police is primarily probing the transactions of AFMI. Singh said, “We are investigating a money trail of funds that were misused by the trust. Some of this was received through foreign funds for the specific use of the trust, which was siphoned off for other activities while the rest of the money was routed through Dubai via hawala. Most of this money was used for construction of mosques in different states as well as other Islamic activities, including legal aid to accused of Delhi riots and funding of anti-Citizenship Amendment Act protests.”

According to Vadodara police 14 foreign trusts deposited about Rs 19 crore into the account of AFMI trust since 2017. The money has been siphoned off from the FCRA account of the trust for allegedly funding Gautam's Islamic Da'wah Center and Fatima Charitable Trust with Rs 10 crore in four years.

TRAINING CAMP IN SURAT

BJP leaders should study party's history, says Paatil

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
SURAT, OCTOBER 16

THE BJP on Saturday started its three-day residential training camp (Jilla Prashikshan Varg) for party members. The first camp was held in Surat where state BJP president C R Paatil, Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi, and other party leaders remained present.

Addressing the gathering during the event, Paatil said, “BJP leaders should study the history of the party and during their public speeches they should share such information with the public. This will also help BJP workers and leaders, who are unaware of the party's history, to learn more about it.”

During the camp, the state BJP president spoke about the history and growth of BJP. Paatil said that the journey of BJP started by winning two Lok Sabha seats, and 30 years later,



At the residential training camp in Surat. *Express*

under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP came to power in the Centre with a full majority in 2014.

Paatil further discussed the work done by Union Home Minister Amit Shah and how BJP has made a record of having 11 crore members in it.

Among the various topics discussed during the day in the camp include the triple talaq Bill, abrogation of Section 370, construction of Ram temple, and the Citizenship Amendment Act.

Sanghavi stops convoy after woman ‘jumped into river’

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
SURAT, OCTOBER 16

GUJARAT MINISTER of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi on Saturday stopped his convoy on seeing a crowd after a woman allegedly jumped into the Tapi river from the Sadar bridge.

The minister got out of his vehicle and ensured a rescue team reach the spot immediately. They rushed the woman to BAPS hospital in Adajan area, where doctors declared her dead.

Talking to the Indian Express, Sanghavi said, “I was on my way from Athwalines area to Adajan and was crossing Sardar bridge on Tapi river when I got to know about the incident. I am sad that I could not save the woman's life... It is my duty to help people.”

Adajan police head constable Chimanbhai Patel said, “We are trying to find the identity of the woman. She seems to be a local resident, around 35 years old. We have sent the body to New Civil hospital for post-mortem.”

Private varisty V-C to preside over Gujarat Vidyapith convocation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, OCTOBER 16

INA rare scenario, vice-chancellor of a private university will preside over the 67th convocation of Gujarat Vidyapith on October 18 with the name of Ahmedabad University V-C, professor Pankaj Chandra, being chosen for the same.

Professor Chandra is the former director of Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB). On the decision, Gujarat Vidyapith V-C Rajendra Khimani told The Sunday Express, “With his association with Gandhi and his belief in the Gandhian philosophy along with his achievements makes him the right person... He was selected by the Chancellor (Elaben Bhatt) from among three-four names.”

During the convocation to be held on the university campus in a dual mode after a gap of one year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, medals and rewards for two years will be handed over to students. A total of 126 medals — 62 for the year 2019-20 and 64 for the year 2020-21 — will be handed over, while 1,665 degrees will be awarded.

Arrangements have been at eight different campuses of Gujarat Vidyapith for students who want to take degrees in an offline mode. These are Mahadev Desai Gramseva Sankul Sadra, Mahadev Desai Gramseva Sankul Randheja, Kochrab Ashram Ahmedabad, Samajkarya Vistarana Kendra Ahmedabad, ITI Shahibaug Ahmedabad, Physical Education and Sports Science department Sahdra and Biogas Research and microbiology department Sadra.

Recruitment to SU: NSUI alleges favouritism

Rajkot: The National Students' Union of India (NSUI) on Saturday alleged favouritism in recruitment of 88 ad hoc faculty members for 23 academic departments on the campus of Saurashtra University (SU) in Rajkot and protested outside the office of SU vice-chancellor (V-C) professor Nitinkumar Pethani.

In a memorandum submitted to the vice-chancellor, NSUI demanded cancellation of the ongoing recruitment process alleging members of varsity's syndicate body and teaching staff having affinity to the BJP had created a WhatsApp group and finalised as to who should be recruited even before personal interviews of prospective candidates were conducted.

NSUI also shared screenshots of purported chats in the group and said meritorious candidates were meted out injustice and that students were not getting qualified faculties due to favouritism in recruitment.

After the protests, Education Minister Jitu Vaghani tweeted that he had spoken to SU V-C over the issue and had directed officers of education department to take appropriate action to ensure recruitment was done in a transparent manner. **ENS**



CELEBRATION TIME

Devotees pull the 'Palli' made from the wood of 'khijada' tree during the Ghee Palli festival, at Rupal village in Gandhinagar, Saturday. *PTI*

DELHI SEES MOVE TO STIR TROUBLE

ISKCON temple attacked, devotee killed in Bangladesh

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 16

AN ISKCON temple in Bangladesh was vandalised and a devotee killed by a mob — this was the fifth death since Thursday — and there appeared to be growing realisation in New Delhi that a “coordinated” and “orchestrated” move was at work to stir up communal tensions across “multiple locations” there.

South Block is worried over the spate of incidents which the Bangladesh authorities are unable to prevent or control despite heavy deployment of paramilitary forces in more than half of the administrative districts in the country.

The attack on the ISKCON temple in Noakhali shocked the Hindu community there, leading to protests on the streets. Sources said the possible involvement of Islamic extremist groups in Bangladesh trying to stir up trouble and cause communal conflict

between the two communities is being investigated.

The ISKCON authorities tweeted about the incident, putting out photographs of the vandalism: “ISKCON temple & devotees violently attacked in Noakhali, Bangladesh. Temple suffered significant damage and the condition of a devotee remains critical.”

Later Saturday, it said: “Partha Das, an enthusiastic devotee, was brutally killed yesterday by a mob of over 200 people. His body was found in a pond next to the temple.”

“We call on the Govt of Bangladesh to ensure the safety of all Hindus & bring the perpetrators to justice,” ISKCON said.

Bangladesh authorities have imposed a nationwide security vigil while officials said that initial investigations have thrown up crucial evidence against the perpetrators of violence against the Durga Puja celebrations of the minority Hindu community.

The paramilitary Border

Guard Bangladesh (BGB) has expanded its vigil to 34 out of 64 administrative districts in the country.

The elite anti-crime Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) said it expects to arrest some of the key perpetrators of the violence which took place in the last three days.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal told reporters: “We expect developments of the investigations in the next one or two days.”

Colonel KM Azad of RAB said: “The violence appeared to be part of a plot against inter-faith harmony and the perpetrators were involved in identical incidents in the past as well.”

“We are preparing to take stringent legal action and arrest some of them very soon,” he said.

What is worrying is that the incidents of violence took place hours after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued a stern warning Thursday after attacks on Hindu temples and Durga Puja venues in Comilla.

Lakhbir Singh cremated — kin present, most villagers not

KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR
AMRITSAR, OCTOBER 16

LAKHBIR SINGH, the Dalit Sikh killed allegedly by Nihangs at Delhi's Singhu border on Friday, was cremated at his native village Cheema Khurd in Punjab's Tarn Taran district on Saturday evening in the presence of family members and a few villagers even as most villagers and relatives stayed away.

Police security was provided to avoid any untoward incident at the time of cremation.

There was a controversy over the cremation, as local residents had earlier declined to give space for Singh's cremation in the village. However, they agreed later on the condition that there will be no religious ritual during the cremation.

Sarpanch Awan Kumar said, “Earlier, villagers were opposed to Lakhbir Singh's cremation (in the village), as he had brought bad name to the village. He caused pain to his family and children when he was alive, and shamed the whole village with his act before his death. Later, we had left it to his sister to decide whether to bring the body back (to the vil-



Narain Singh, is brought before the media in Amritsar. *PTI*

lage). The village had decided to boycott the cremation due to Singh's involvement in the sacrilege case.”

Some Sikh organisations had also opposed Lakhbir Singh's cremation.

Sources said the Punjab government and the local administration swung into action and convinced the villagers and Sikh organisations to soften their stand. “It was decided that villagers will not attend (the cremation), and there would be no religious cremation,” the village sarpanch said.

“It is painful that no last prayer was read during the cremation. Some Nihangs and villagers objected to the last prayer (being read),” Lakhbir's brother-in-law Sukhchain Singh said.

Cremation ‘not allowed’, chief of Scheduled Castes panel speaks to Punjab DGP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 16

VIJAY SAMPLA, Chairperson of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes, on Saturday spoke to the Punjab DGP, seeking strict action against villagers for “not allowing” the cremation of the body of the Dalit farm worker who was found dead at the Singhu border on Friday.

“This is against the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. The villagers are not allowing the last rites of the deceased. I have spoken to the DGP and asked him to take cognisance of the matter and take strict action against the perpetrators,” he said. On Friday, Sampla had issued a notice to the Haryana DGP and Chief Secretary, asking them to furnish a report on the Singhu border incident.

In 3 cases NCB used panch witness who was known to its officers: Malik

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 16

KEEPING UP his attack on the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), state minister and NCP leader Nawab Malik alleged on Saturday that in three cases, the agency used a panch witness who was known to its officers.

As per law, a pancha, who at-tests to seizures made from a scene of crime, should be an independent witness.

Malik tweeted that a person identified as Fletcher Patel, who has been named as a panch witness in three cases including the Rhea Chakraborty case, was known to NCB Zonal Director Sameer Wankhede. He also put up photographs of Fletcher with Wankhede and his sister Jasmine, a lawyer. Malik also put up photographs of panchnama in three cases where the name of Fletcher Patel is mentioned as a panch witness. Malik asked if it was legal for someone who is known to an of-

ficer to be used as panch witness. He demanded that the NCB hold a press conference and clarify how someone known to the officer was used as panch witness.

While Wankhede did not respond to the allegations, an NCB official said that Fletcher was connected to an Army veterans' group in the city. “The photograph in which he is seen with Wankhede was an Army event held at CST, where they had taken vows to eliminate the threat of narcotics from the country,” the official said.

Former Indian U-19 captain Barot dies of cardiac arrest

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
RAJKOT, OCTOBER 16

AVI BAROT, the former Indian Under-19 captain and wicket-keeper-batsman who was part of Saurashtra's Ranji Trophy champions team, died of a cardiac arrest in Ahmedabad on Friday night.

Barot at his residence watching the Indian Premier League (IPL) final at the time of his demise.

His death comes just five days after he smashed 72 off 43 balls in the final of Reliance G-1 T20 tournament and helped Saurashtra team claim the title in Rajkot on October 10. He was 29 and is survived by his mother and wife.

Saurashtra Cricket Association (SCA), in a release, said that each member of the cricket body was

“deeply shocked and saddened” on “the untimely and extremely sad demise of Avi Barot, remarkable and notable Cricketer of Saurashtra.”

“I was deeply shocked to receive the news just days after he scored so many runs in Reliance G-1 tournament which he was playing after coming out of an injury,” SCA president Jaydev Sah said told The Indian Express.

Barot's 72 was the highlight of the Reliance G-1 T20 tournament final in Rajkot on October 20. Barot's knock had propelled Saurashtra to 200/4 and laid the foundation of the team's victory against his former team Gujarat in the summit clash.

A native of Ahmedabad, Barot had made his First Class debut as Gujarat Ranji player against Delhi in 2011. The same year, he was appointed captain of India U-19



Avi Barot was 29 and is survived by his mother and wife. *Courtesy: SCA*

team. From Gujarat, he moved to Haryana Ranji team but eventually returned to Gujarat and joined Rajkot-based Saurashtra Ranji team in 2016-17 season. Since then, he used to keep wickets and open batting for Saurashtra.

Barot played total 38 First Class matches and scored 1,547 runs at an average of 24.95, including one century and nine half-centuries. In 38 List A matches that he played, Barot scored 1,030 runs at an average of 28.61, including eight fifties.

However, he excelled in the shortest format of the game, scoring 717 runs in T-20 matches at an average of 37.73. He had one century and five half-centuries to his credit in T20 matches. He also used to bowl off-break and had claimed total 11 wickets across the three formats.

Barot represented Saurashtra in 21 Ranji Trophy matches, 17 List A matches and 11 domestic T20 matches. He was part of the Saurashtra team which won the Ranji Trophy title in March last year by defeating Bengal in the finals in Rajkot. He had also grabbed headlines by smashing 122 off 53 balls in a match of Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, the BCCI's domestic T20 tournament.

SCA secretary Himanshu Shah said that Barod had been in good batting form for the past two seasons. “The way he was playing in

AFGHAN SITUATION

India moves to host meet coming week

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 16

WITH SECURITY concerns pertaining to Afghanistan dominating Delhi's mind, moves are afoot to organise a conference on the country's current situation and the future outlook. National Security Advisor Ajit Doval's team is taking the initiative to hold an in-person meet with key countries in the region and the world.

The Sunday Express has learnt that the country's top security establishment, the National Security Council Secretariat, is taking the lead in organising the conference and feelers are being sent to Afghanistan's neighbours such as Pakistan, Iran, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and key players including Russia, China, US and European partners like the EU, France, Germany and the UK. Representatives from the UN are also expected to be invited.

It is learnt that Pakistan's NSA Moeed Yusef is also likely to be invited for the conference, and if that works out it will be the first such high level visit from Pakistan since 2016. New Delhi is exploring dates in November for the conference, and this could be India's way to get a seat at the table to decide the future course of action on Afghanistan.

"When you are not at the table, you are on the menu... this conference is India's attempt to set the table, be on the table and decide the agenda," a source told The Indian Express, underlining the need to actively engage with the world to protect India's security interests.

Until the fall of Kabul, India had not engaged with the Taliban through publicly-announced official channels.

For Delhi, this is an important play since the government has made it clear that it has redlines on the new Taliban dispensation in Afghanistan — that it should not allow safe havens for terror on its soil, the administration should be inclusive and rights of minorities, women and children must be protected. But so far, the signs from the Taliban have not been encouraging. This has been the assessment shared by New Delhi with its interlocutors in the last month or so — ever since the Taliban formed its cabinet.

It's not yet clear whether representatives of the Taliban will be part of the conference in New Delhi. This comes days after India accepted a Russian invitation to join the Afghanistan talks in Moscow on October 20.

Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sana Tarique Malik, daughter of Mayyudin Ibrahimkhani Desai, holder of Indian Passport No. P0142800, issued at Ahmedabad, Gujarat, on 05/05/2016, permanent resident of A-12 Unity Apt., Opp Shaikh & Co., Sarkhej Road, Ahmedabad 380055, and presently residing at 80 Absolute Ave Unit 1809, Mississauga ON L4Z 0A5, do hereby change my name from Sana Tarique Malik to Sana Desai, with immediate effect.

RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION-AHMEDABAD

TENDER NOTICE

TENDER NO.: RE-ADI-TR-GORINJA-BHANVAD Due date: 09.11.2021

Open e-Tender is invited by the Chief Project Director, Railway Electrification, Ahmedabad-380 019, for and on behalf of President of India for **Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 66kV S/C line on S/C Tower with ACSR Panther conductor with GI Earthwire- 7/3.15 mm from 66 KV Korada S/S to Gorinja TSS Dist Jamnagar, 66 KV Bhanvad S/S to Bhanvad TSS Dist Devbhumi Dwarka and other TSS-TR line under jurisdiction of RE Ahmedabad for 8 KM OH & 2 KM UG on turnkey basis.**

1. **Details are as under:-** Estimated cost: ₹ 5,81,98,446.75; Earnest Money: ₹ 00.00 /-; **Date & Time of Submission:** Up to 09.11.2021 (15.00 Hrs.); **Date & Time of opening of offer:** 09.11.2021 (15:30) Hrs.; **Submission of Tender:** No manual offer shall be considered. Only e tender on web site portal of ireps (www.ireps.gov.in) shall be accepted; **Validity of offer:** 45 Days from opening; **Completion period:** 03 months; (From the date of issue of LOA or date of actual commencement of work, whichever is earlier); **Maintenance period:** 12 months from date of commissioning; **Eligibility criteria:** For eligibility criteria, please visit Website www.ireps.gov.in Or/and refer to our tender document.

2. For other details and to download the entire Tender Paper, please visit our website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer
Railway Electrification, Ahmedabad

WATER & SANITATION MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION GANDHINAGAR DISTRICT WATER & SANITATION MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION WASMO - CHHOTAUDEPUR

TENDER NOTICE NO. 29/2021-22

Third And Forth Attempt Tender ID No- 487100, 487102, 487094, 487096, 487097, 487098, 487085, 487093, 487104, 487087, 487088, 487091, 487093, The Contractors Can take part in above said Tenders Who Are reglsterd in "D, E1 And E2" class and above.

invited by unit manager District water & sanitation management organization Wasmo Chhotaudepur on behalf of chairman village water & sanitation committee Chhotaudepur, Kawant, Naswadi And Jetpurpavi District Total-13 online E-tenders for various component like Bor, Pumping Machinery, Pump Cabine, ESR, Sump, Raising main, Distribution Pipeline, Cistern, House connection, Painting Board And Slogans, Estimated Amount of Rs.7.43 Lacs to Rs.56.10 Lacs Total Rs.341.00 Lacs Tender is sought Online. Last Date & Time for online submission of Bids: 25/10/2021 up to 18:00 Hrs. Last Date & Time for Physical submission of Documents: 26/10/2021 up to 15:00 Hrs. Physical submission of Documents will be Accepted only Through RPAD / SPEED POST / HAND TO HAND. (Bidders has to mention name of work and tender id number on cover). Agreement, workorder And payment of the work bill will be done by the Village Water and Sanitation Committee of the concerned village Further information is available at Web site www.nprocure.com And www.statetenders.gujarat.gov.in If any modifications amendments required in tender can only be viewed online.

Note- To accept any tender And cancellation of all tenders shall be the right to Water Committee / District Water and Sanitation Committee or the above authority. From Any Queries & Complaint Regarding Drinking Water Supply You Can Contact Control Room Toll Free Number 1916. (INF-VAD-853-21-22)

India has earned label of electoral autocracy under Modi govt: CWC

MANOJ CGG
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 16

LAUNCHING A scathing attack on the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre on Saturday, Congress president Sonia Gandhi and the Congress Working Committee (CWC) alleged that India earned the "label of an electoral autocracy" under this government.

The party said there is a rapid deterioration in internal and external security of the country and argued that there are "unbridled and unchecked" "state-sponsored attacks" on




Punjab CM Charanjit Singh Channi at CWC meet Saturday. Parveen Khanna

people from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and minorities communities, and on women. On the economic situation, the party said the "financial situation is in a terrible shape", as there is a continued slide in the economy.

In her address to the CWC, Sonia said the "only answer the government seems to have for economic recovery is selling off national assets built with great effort over the decades. The public sector has had not just strategic and economic objectives — it has had social goals as well as, for instance, empowerment of Scheduled Castes


and Scheduled Tribes and development of backward areas. But all this is in jeopardy with the Modi government's single-point agenda of 'becho, becho, becho' (sell, sell, sell)."

There was no specific mention of the Air India stake sale. The CWC decided to hold a "public awareness campaign" in the second half of November to protest the rise in prices. It decided that a training programme for leaders and workers at all levels should be held to make them aware of the party's "ideology, policies, failure of present government and countering the propaganda."

**GUJARAT INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**
GeM Tender Notice-GEM/2021/B/1602015

GIDC invites bids from reputed agencies for procurement of legal case tracking system which can be customized as per the GIDC's requirement to effectively monitor legal cases of its various offices within Gujarat through GeM portal. Details of the tender is available from our website www.gidc.gujarat.gov.in OR GeM portal.

Sd/-
Manager(S&A), GIDC, Gandhinagar

**District Water & Sanitation Unit - Kheda, Nadiad**

TENDER NOTICE NO. 23 of 2021-22

Tender ID No. 486596 (3rd Attempt), 486602 (3rd Attempt), 486605 (2nd Attempt) & 486602 (2nd Attempt),


Unit Manager, District Water and Sanitation Unit WASMO, Kheda, Nadiad Gujarat State Invites Online Tenders on behalf of Three Different Village Pam Samiti for in village water supply works like Pipeline Network, Household Connection, RCC ESR, RCC UG SUMP, Pumping Machinery, Compound Wall, etc under JAL JIVAN MISSION for total 04 no works at different villages of Kheda District.

Total Estimated Cost:- Rs.143.80 Lac.

Last Date of submission of Tender:- Dt.29/10/2021 up to 18.00 Hrs.

Last Date of submission of Physical Documents of Tender:- up to 30/10/2021 up to 15.00 Hrs

Further information is available at website www.nprocure.com. Further clarifications if any will be uploaded online only. Control room is functioning at the state level for rural level water supply schemes where toll free number 1916 can be contacted for water related complaints/suggestions **INFO/NAD/393/2021-22**

**GUJARAT WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD**
ON-LINE TENDER NOTICE NO.7 (2021-22)
(Second Attempt)


The Executive Engineer, P.H.Works Dn, G.W.S.& S.BOARD, Poet Shri Javerchand Meghani Baag, Station Road, Behind Govt.High School, Botad-364710. Phone No. (02849-251483 invites Online tender from The Registered contractors. Tender Details are as under


Tender ID No.	Name of work	Est.Cost Rs.In Lacs.
486705	Head work improvement at Different Head works of Botad R.W.S.S. Under Head improvement Programme	Rs. 46.63 Lacs.

Tender documents can be seen, down loaded & submitted on website <https://gwssb.nprocure.com>. The last date for submission of tender is Dt.29/10/2021 upto 18.00 hrs. Any Further amendments will be publish online only website of information department www.statetenders.com Toll free helpline no.1916 or 18002333944 of GWSSB for water supply related any complaints of villages.


Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
P.H.W.Division , Botad

INF/BVN/571/21-22



**GENERAL**

38, 5'5", Slim, USA GC, Software Eng, Liberal. Contact pic/bio: shaadius8890@hotmail.com 0050185313-1

**KHATRI/ARORAS**

Match FOR HINDU KHATRI BEAUTIFUL HIMACHALI GIRL 5'-3", 22-08-1991, B ARCHITECTURE DOING P.H.D. WORKING IN MULTI-NATIONAL COMPANY IN DELHI. UPPER CASTE NO BAR PHONE - 94211-55092, 94189-40744, 94181-62755 0020428239-1

OTHERS

SM4 Beautiful Delhites Nair Girl 31/5'2" Avitam, MBA HR , Employed Mother Central Govt Gztd OfficerLeaguepact@gmail.com Contact 9686171827. 0040588066-1

RAJPUT

Beautiful and well educated match for Himachali Rajput boy, 30.01.1993, height 6 feet, Major in Indian Army, mother and father both Class-I Officers, Younger brother working in Corporate Sector. 9418157796 0040588062-1

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Online Tender Notice No.18 of 2021-22
Capital project Division No-3, Gandhinagar


Executive Engineer Capital Project Division No.3, Patnagar Yojana Bhavn. Block No-B, First Floor, Sector-16, Gandhinagar. Ph.-079-23259162 invites Online tender from the experienced Contractor who are eligible for this type of work and have experience in such type of work.

Sr. No.	Name of work	(1) Est. cost (Rs), (2) EMD (Rs) (3) Tender free (Rs), (4) Qualification of Bidder
1.	Construction of R.O.B. in lieu of LC NO.228 on Kalo-Pansar Road (PNU-ADI Section) (I.R. 753/4-5 km)	(1) 41,44,04,975.71 (2) 41,44,100.00 (3) 18000.00 (4) AA class & SP Cat-1 (Bridge) class
2.	Construction of R.O.B. in lieu of LC NO.230 on Gandhinagar-Vavol- Chhatral Road (PNU-ADI Section) (I.R. 756/4-5Km)	(1) 35,13,27,818.70 (2) 35,13,300.00 (3) 18000.00 (4) AA class & SP Cat-1 (Bridge) class

The bid Document will be available on the Road & Building department's web site www.rlb.nprocure.com up to **Dt.10/11/2021**, And can be downloaded up to 16:00 hrs on Dt. 10/11/2021, And can be uploaded online till 16:00 hrs on Dt.10/11/2021, Earnest money deposit, Tender fee and other necessary documents such as copy of Registration, Valid Bank Solvency Certificate, PAN No, GST number and all required documents and necessary documents mentioned in the tender must be scanned and uploaded with tender. Original DD(Tender fee) & EMD must be submitted on or before Dt.17/11/2021 during office hours in above mentioned office by RPAD/Speed post.

Any change in Tender Notice will not published in newspaper but it will be mentioned on above website for further details & online submission of Tender please visit our web site mentioned above.

INF/1308/21-22

**WORKS DEPARTMENT**
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, EASTERN CIRCLE (R&B), BALASORE
e-mail: - seec_bls@rediffmail.com
Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. CCEEC-11/ 2021-22
No- 5338 / Dt. 07.10.21

Nature of work	: Road Workd & Building Work (Multipurpose Hall)
Number of works	: 01 (One) Road Work & 07 (Seven) (Multipupose Hall)
Amount put to Tender	: Rs. 531.87 Lakh to Rs. 839.49 Lakh
Class of Contractor	: "A" Class / "Special" Class/ "Super" Class
Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	: Dt.16.10.2021 at 10:00 AM
Last Date / Time of receipt of bid in the portal	: Dt.02.11.2021 up to 05:00 PM
Date of opening of bid	: Dt.03.11.2021 at 11:00 AM
Name & address of the Office inviting bid	: Chief Construction Engineer, Eastern Circle (R&B), Balasore

The bidders have to participate in **ONLINE** bidding only. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "<http://tendersodisha.gov.in>." All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE mode only.

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
Eastern Circle (R&B) Balasore
OIPR- 34026/11/0011/2122

Classifieds

PERSONAL

CHANGE NAME
I have changed my name from **Bhansali Sayam Kirtikumar to BHANSALI SAIYAM KIRTIKUMAR**
16, Amizara Society, Rambaug Road, Sabarmati, Ahmedabad.

NAME CHANGE
I have changed my name from **Mahendrakumar Maganlal Thakkar to MAHENDRA MAGANLAL THAKKAR**
D-702, Iscon Platinum, Nr. Samarpan Cross Road, Bopal, Ahmedabad.

NAME CHANGE
I have changed my name from **Bhavanaben Mahendrabhai Thakkar to BHAVNABEN MAHENDRABHAI THAKKAR**
D-702, Iscon Platinum, Nr. Samarpan Cross Road, Bopal, Ahmedabad.

PERSONAL
I, have changed my name, from Abdhesh Chaudhry to Avdhesh Chaudhary, for all purposes, R/o-303, Narayan Residency, Near Jeevan-deep-Hospital, Dholka Ahmedabad-387810 0040588261-1

BUSINESS
**kodeCore**
IT Projects Proposal With Low Investment
Min. Monthly Billing 1500 USD
Projects Available
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8100177548, 6289641022

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**Gujarat State Forest Development Corporation Ltd.**
H.O. 'Vanganga' 78, Alkapuri, Vadodara-390 007
(0265) 2312820, 2355292, Website : gsfdcltd.co.in
CIN : U02005GJ1976SGC002927

TENDER FOR FURNITURE WORKS

Tender for Furniture Supplying & Installation work of newly constructed Regional Offices of Gujarat Pollution Control Board, at (1) Sarigam (2) Ankaleshawar (3) Surat is invited different tender in two parts (Tech. & Price Bid). Interested contractor having specific experience may submit tender with Tender (1) & (2) Fees of Rs.1,500/-, Tender (3) Fees of Rs.2,500/- through DD. Technical Bid submit physical at Vadodara office & Price Bid will be submitted on <https://nprocure.com> only. Schedule of tender is mentioned below.

Tender Starting Date :	18/10/2021	10:30 am
Tender Pre-Bid Meeting Date :	22/10/2021	12:00 pm
Tender Submission Last Date :	02/11/2021	06:00 pm
Tender Opening Date :	03/11/2021	12:00 pm

49/BRC/21 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

NOTIFICATION
REVENUE DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF GUJARAT
SECREARIAT, GANDHINAGAR

(The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation & Resettlement Act, 2013) (30 of 2013)

Dist:- Valsad

No:AM-2021-469-M-LBU-1221-323-GH **DT:11/10/2021**

Whereas it appears to the Government of Gujarat that the land specified in the SCHEDULE annexed hereto, is likely to be required to "Mumbai - Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Project" (hereinafter referred to as "The Requiring Body") for the public purpose for the purpose of construction of infrastructure project of "Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Project." (hereinafter referred to as "The public purpose Project").

1. Now whereas, the Government of Gujarat, Revenue Department has, in exercise of the powers conferred, by section-10-A [inserted by section 3 of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Gujarat Amedment) Act, 2016 (Gjarat Act No. 12 of 2016)] of The Right to Fair compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement 2013 (30 of 2013) (hereinafter referred to as "The Act") exempted, in public interest, by Notification **No. AM-2021-188-M-LBU-1221-323-GH, dated 06/05/2021** published in the Extraordinary Gazette of Gujarat Government Dated 11/07/2019 the below mentioned Scheduled area of land, to be acquired for the infrastructure Project of The Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Project, from the application of the provisions of Chapter II and III of The Act, and

2. Now whereas, in exercise of the powers, conferred by sub-section (1) of section-43 of The Act. The Government of Gujarat has appointed, by Notification No. AM-2021-269-M-LBU-1221-323-GH Dated: 02/07/2021 The Prant Officer, Valsad as the Administrator of Rehabilitation and Resettlement in respect of the scheduled land to be acquired for construction of the captioned infrastructure project, and

3. Now whereas, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 11 of "The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (30 of 2013) (hereinafter referred to as the Act), the Government of Gujarat, has notified, vide their Notification No. AM-2021-269-M-LBU-1221-323-GH Dated 02/07/2021 that the said Scheduled land is required for the public purpose specified here above.

4. And whereas, the Government of Gujarat is satisfied after considering the report made by The District Collector, Valsad under sub-section (2) of section 15 of the Act, that the said land is needed to be acquired for "The Public Purpose Project" specified in the schedule hereto, and

5. Now therefore, in exercise of the power conferred by sub-section (1) of section 19 The Act, the Government of Gujarat hereby declares that the said scheduled lands is required for the public purpose specified in the schedule hereto.

6. In exercise of the powers conferred by clause(g) of section-3 of The Act, the Government of Gujarat hereby appoints, Prant Officer, Valsad to perform the functions of a Collector, for all proceeding hereinafter to be carried out under The Act, in respect of the said scheduled lands.

7. The Plans of scheduled lands can be inspected at the Office of The Competent Authority Land Acquisition & Prant Officer, Valsad.

SCHEDULE

1) Village : Pariya	Taluka : Pardi	Dist.: Valsad	
Sr. No.	Type of Land	Area (Ha.Are.Sq.mtr.)	House/Structure Number
1	Gamtal	341	1/165
2	Gamtal	121	1/210
3	Gamtal	113	1/208
4	Gamtal	121	1/209
5	Gamtal	120	1/206
6	Gamtal	134	1/204
7	Gamtal	42	1/189/2
8	Gamtal	90	1/190, 1/202
9	Gamtal	13	1/201
10	Gamtal	15	1/200
11	Gamtal	11	1/199
12	Gamtal	11	1/198
13	Gamtal	11	1/197
14	Gamtal	22	1/196
15	Gamtal	22	1/195
16	Gamtal	05	1/194
17	Gamtal	415	Open Plot
18	Gamtal	126	3/178
19	Gamtal	16	3/177
20	Gamtal	116	3/175
21	Gamtal	13	3/175/1/1
22	Gamtal	100	Open Plot
23	Gamtal	66	Open Plot
24	Gamtal	109	3/169
25	Gamtal	54	3/174
26	Gamtal	55	3/166
27	Gamtal	55	3/167
28	Gamtal	192	3/168
29	Gamtal	96	3/398
30	Gamtal	10	3/190
31	Gamtal	131	3/159
32	Gamtal	138	-
33	Gamtal	168	3/156
34	Gamtal	156	-
35	Gamtal	12	3/113
36	Gamtal	35	3/112
37	Gamtal	82	3/111
38	Gamtal	524	3/110/1
39	Gamtal	291	3/110/1
40	Gamtal	682	Open Plot
Total		4978	

By order and in the name of the Governor of Gujarat,
Sd/-
(H. J. Rathod)
No.INF/Valsad/413/2021 Under Secretary to Government

BRIDGE

Dealer: West Vulnerable: None

NORTH

♠ 964

♥ J1064

♦ AQ97

♣ A6

SOUTH

♠ J52

♥ AQ9832

♦ 4

♣ K105

WEST

1S

Pass

Pass

2H

NORTH

3H

Pass

4H

EAST

Pass

Pass

Pass

SOUTH

Pass

Pass

Pass

South played in 4H after an opening 1S bid by West and a pass by East. West leads the queen of clubs. How can you make 4H, and what is your reasoning?

The West Hand: S-A 1087H-K5D-K82C-QJ2
The East Hand: S-K3H-7D-J10653C-98743

As soon as the dummy comes down you should be smitten with the fact that West did not lead a high spade. If West had the ace and king he would have led spades. He did not lead spades so you know that East has something good in this suit. How about finessing in hearts?

It cannot work. East passed 1S and he is known to have a high spade. The heart finesse is offside. Best is to play a heart to the ace so the king is dropping. It does not drop. Both East and West play little hearts so the king is the only missing heart. This leaves you with a heart loser and three losing spades. What now?

The opening lead marked East with a spade honour and the bidding marked West with the rest of the high card points. You did not finesse in hearts because you knew it would lose. But on the same line of thinking, you know that West has the king of diamonds and this finesse will win.

With no fear. South should take the diamond finesse, which is as close to a certainty as anything is at the bridge table, and discard a spade.

Dealer: South Vulnerable: North/South

NORTH

♠ Q842

♥ 432

♦ 42

♣ KJ65

SOUTH

♠ 65

♥ QJ109

♦ K1063

♣ 872

WEST

1S

Pass

2S

Pass

NORTH

3S

Pass

Pass

EAST

Pass

Pass

Pass

SOUTH

Pass

Pass

Pass

West led the queen of diamonds. East noted to himself that dummy was pretty good and might well have gone on to 4S. How should East defend?

SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2343

QUICK CLUES
ACROSS
6. One of the Pandavas (5)
7. Arrived at a logical conclusion (8)
10. Somewhat hungry (7)
11. Makes unhappy or distresses (7)
12. 2018 FIFA World Cup finalists (7)
13. Chew the fat (7)
14. Instrument used to determine velocity (11)
19. Arrived at (7)
21. Whim (7)
23. People of Flanders? (7)
25. Gymnastic garment (7)
26. Reels and nearly falls (8)
27. Foe (5)
DOWN
1. Expelling devices? (8)
2. Sign up; enrol (6)
3. Insolent, overbearing or supercilious? (4,6)
4. Newts (4)
5. Arid area (6)
6. Viewpoint or outlook (6)
8. Brilliant (7)
9. Prefix for stars, as in ____logy or ____-nomy? (5)
13. Brought up the rear in a race, perhaps? (4,2,4)
15. Reverberating - "nice hog" anagram? (7)
16. Freed (8)
17. Rough-voiced (5)
18. High period (6)
20. Warrs (6)
22. Conventional (6)
24. Pay attention (4)

2. Lot's of 'em thwart my raid! (6)

3. Overbearing attitude of one surrendering? (10)

4. Nothing on telecommunicating for poet (4)

5. In trouble, Roy or Ray up the creek! (6)

6. Plant yours truly in front of Richard (6)

8. In excavation, rash to shake cloth (7)

9. God protect a girl who's taken in a student (5)

13. Pedestrian crossing (10)

15. Crime organisation broken by sanctimonious quack (7)

16. Boldness is back, yet has merit (8)

17. Like gardens not kept straight (5)

18. One in France thoroughly ill (6)

20. Pilot in marina out of place (6)

22. Hosts tending to be offensive (6)

24. A number get assistance from this servant (4)

1. Expelling devices? (8)

2. Sign up; enrol (6)

3. Insolent, overbearing or supercilious? (4,6)

4. Newts (4)

5. Arid area (6)

6. Viewpoint or outlook (6)

8. Brilliant (7)

9. Prefix for stars, as in ____logy or ____-nomy? (5)

13. Brought up the rear in a race, perhaps? (4,2,4)

15. Reverberating - "nice hog" anagram? (7)

16. Freed (8)

17. Rough-voiced (5)

18. High period (6)

20. Warrs (6)

22. Conventional (6)

24. Pay attention (4)

CRYPIC CLUES
ACROSS
6. Not outspoken if mouthed thus? (5)
7. Unwanted visitors from abroad (8)
10. Moist disgruntled phasmid (7)
12. Plunder the slope I'd adjusted (7)
12. Name of girl getting praise in secret service? (7)
13. I have a ball and Rufus is jumping round like mad (7)
14. Have no fear! It's a powerful battleship (11)
19. Raced round one circuit and made a hit (7)
21. Cricketer, villain about right (7)
23. A murder suspect, one hears? (7)
25. Make the plunge and do this yourself (7)
26. Being rather chicken-like, using this shading technique? (8)
27. Former Sudan refugee returns to praise (5)
DOWN
1. Country of growing importance (4,4)

1. Country of growing importance (4,4)

Solutions to 2342

QUICK CLUES Across: 1 Extracts, 5 Laredo, 10 Piccolo, 11 Decade, 12 Rhine, 13 Glimmered, 14 Restrictions, 18 Introduction, 21 Millennia, 23 Orbit, 24 Useless, 25 Intrude, 26 Tibbit, 27 One-sided. Down: 1 Expire, 2 Tycoon, 3 Above zero, 4 Thoughtfulness, 6 Album, 7 Escargot, 8 Overdose, 9 Administration, 15 Two months, 16 Demount, 17 Stillset, 18 Absurd, 20 Attend, 22 Elerni. CRYPTIC CLUES Across: 1 Crawlers, 5 Benums, 10 Hacks, 11 Warhus, 12 Riggs, 13 Vacillate, 14 Single minded, 18 Disheartened, 21 Palmistry, 23 Ottago, 24 Iberian, 25 Eskdale, 26 Elyton, 27 Grey seal. Down: 1 Cohort, 2 Allion, 3 Lucrative, 4 Reim/ignoring, 6 Enrol, 7 Use hands, 8 Book ends, 9 Twice

every year, 15 Ice-hockey, 16 Adoptive, 17 Psalter, 19 Damage, 20 Do well, 22 Inigo.

If it's your Birthday

Sunday October 17
It's a bold day, just right for a celebration. But you're not sure of the next step. You'll be making up your mind early next week, so don't rush it.

Monday October 18
Surprising news is about to arrive from an unexpected source, and when it does you'll see that what once appeared normal is now outrageous, and what once seemed beyond the pale, is now quite acceptable.

Tuesday October 19
I think that you have the edge over others in the coming weeks, and you may not be in a mood to compromise. But there's also a chance that friends come to you with important offers so don't blow it.

Wednesday October 20
The more you dabble in different activities, the better your prospects should be. Sure, there's a slight risk that you may spread yourself too thin, but it may be worth it.

Thursday October 21
Both your monthly and daily cycles focus on cash concerns. That's not bad because while your domestic costs could be increasing, the way is opened to a windfall.

Friday October 22
You'll be tempted to tackle all the details yourself. That could be a good thing if you're dealing with people who don't really know what's going on.

Saturday October 23
The Moon's motions are imaginative and you're still in with a chance of making a dream come true. But, if your wishes come to pass, there are a number of surprises.

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

At work and in all routine tasks you have no choice but to press on, even when the carpet may be pulled from under your feet. You should be ready to have another stab at a particular leisure activity. Monetary matters should do well around the middle of the week, but avoid all unnecessary risks.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Feelings could be running high and you can right over the top and let others see just how upset or angry you are. But, in view of rapid changes in mood, I'd advise you to wait and see how the land lies after a few more weeks. As far as romance is concerned, see the world through other people's eyes.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

It's a week of two halves, one active, the other more restful. Family arrangements and domestic moves may be delayed or postponed, but rest assured that this phase of uncertainty will not last long. Travel prospects gain as the stars become livelier.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

The stars move on, in their silent way, bringing an array of auspicious alignments. Others have had their say and now it's your turn to sparkle. Yet, briefly, the moment for talking may have passed. A financial opportunity will, though, once again be within your grasp.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Not everything that happens suits you, but much of it does. Loved ones are now prepared to draw a veil over the recent past. This is wise of them, for with Mercury and Venus returning to their former positions, you will again be in control.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Although the general tide of events is moving in your favour, a special opportunity may be snatched from your grasp. If so, don't worry about it. Appreciate the fact that you are being given another few weeks to consider your future.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

Emotional stars rise over your horizon. Don't allow your feelings to cloud your judgment. Any confusion is purely the result of chaotic celestial movements and there is no reason why you should be concerned. Set yourself up at the beginning of the week by making sure that you have as many friends and allies as you need.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

This is the perfect moment to make decisive moves. Employers, partners and people in authority have now dropped their guard and the last thing they are expecting is a return bout. As far as love is concerned, you may begin to make amends for any past mistakes.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

It's an intriguing week in many respects, and you have much to gain. Something that took place on the work front appears to have been beyond the pale, but the fact that various planets are behaving so strangely is sufficient reason to take a second look.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Everything is thrown into the melting pot, travel plans, legal questions, educational schemes and financial ventures. This doesn't mean that you're facing difficulties, only that you're changing your mind. A financial scheme will be delayed, with helpful results.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Somebody you thought, or feared, had disappeared for good, is about to hove back into view. It's strange how the past keeps coming back to haunt you, but your planetary cycles do make this inevitable. It's important to understand, everything has a reason, usually a good one.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

The current time climaxes with a brilliant lunar picture, and you may be brought back to the real world with rather a jolt. But, then, the Piscean definition of reality is considerably different from the norm. Go ahead with a financial risk as long as you have obtained the necessary expert support.

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.

KMAER

AGNOIL

GHUOR

AELGY

Answer: KMAER, AGNOIL, GHUOR, AELGY

SPRINGS FROM THE SILENT CONQUEST OF OURSELVES - JOSEPH P. THOMPSON (4,5)

SUDOKU 4627

Difficulty Level 4s

Instructions

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4626

every year, 15 Ice-hockey, 16 Adoptive, 17 Psalter, 19 Damage, 20 Do well, 22 Inigo.

<

Mob forces girl to take off burkha

Bhopal: A girl was forced to remove her burkha and face covering by a group of people in Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh on Saturday afternoon after suspecting that the man on whose scooter she was riding pillion was a Hindu, police said.

No case has been registered in the connection with the incident that took place in Islam Nagar and a video of which went viral soon after, but preventive action had been taken under section 151 of IPC against two persons, “who were let off with a warning”, an official said.

In the video, a man from the group, who is apparently shooting the video, is heard telling the girl her act was disgracing “our” community, while some women can be seen trying to force her to show her face.

“Some people stopped them and asked the girl to take off her burkha and show her face. It is suspected that the people believed the man was Hindu and the girl Muslim,” Intkhedhi police station in charge RS Verma said. **PTI**

Pragya terms man who shot her kabaddi video as ‘Ravan’

Bhopal: After a viral video showed her playing kabaddi, Bhopal’s BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur, who was confined to a wheelchair for a long time and had obtained bail in the 2008 Malegaon blast case on medical grounds, described the man who shot and circulated the clip as “Ravan” and said his old age and next birth will get spoiled.

Earlier, another video of the Bhopal MP taking part in a Garba dance during the just-concluded Navratri festival had emerged.

State Congress spokesperson K K Mishra said, “Those who follow the ideology of Ravan, see the demon king everywhere.” **PTI**

Navy’s top commanders to meet next week

New Delhi: The Navy’s top commanders will hold their biannual meeting next week to discuss the force’s operational, logistical and material preparedness and future plans. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat and Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh will address the Navy commanders, along with the chiefs of the Army and the Air Force.

The Navy said in a statement Saturday that the second edition of this year’s Naval Commanders’ Conference will take place between October 18 and October 22. **ENS**

4 CRPF staffers injured as fuse box explodes

Raipur/New Delhi: Four CRPF personnel were injured when an ammunition fuse box exploded when it was being loaded on a train at the Raipur station on Saturday, according to an official statement.

On Saturday, the 211 Company of the CRPF was in the train when ammunition was being loaded, it said. The special train was scheduled to carry the CRPF personnel to Jammu from Raipur, police in Raipur said. **PTI**

Geelani grandson’s service terminated

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 16

THE J-K government on Saturday terminated the services of Anees-ul-Islam, the grandson of separatist ideologue Syed Ali Shah Geelani, in the “interest of the security of the state”. Islam was working as a Reserach Officer at the Sheri Kashmir International Convention Centre.

He has been terminated under the Article 311(2)(C) of the Constitution that gives the administration the power to terminate the services of a government employee without constituting an inquiry against them. “And whereas the Lt Governor is satisfied under sub clause (c) of the proviso to clause (2) of Article 311 of Constitution of India that in the interest of the security of the state, it is not expedient to hold an inquiry in the

5 killed, at least 15 missing as rain lashes parts of Kerala; red alert issued in 6 dists

SHAJUPHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, OCTOBER 16

SIX PEOPLE were killed and at least 15 others are missing after extremely heavy rain triggered massive landslides in central Kerala’s Kottayam and Idukki districts on Saturday.

The Kerala government sought the assistance of Army, Navy and Air Force for rescue operations as several towns were flooded and hundreds of houses inundated, with rivers overflowing and reservoirs inching to maximum storage level.

After the Met department predicted heavy to extremely heavy rains across the state on Saturday night, the government has sounded a red alert in six districts, banned entry to tourist destinations and warned against travelling to hilly regions. Shutters of nine dams have been lifted while a blue alert (second stage) has been declared in the state’s largest reservoir Idukki, where the water level is 2,393 ft as against the full reservoir level of 2,403 ft.

At Koottickal village in



A bus partially submerged at Poonjaar in Kottayam on Saturday. **PTI**

Kottayam district, three houses were washed away in a landslide. A five-member family has gone missing in the calamity after their house was washed away in the flash flood. Three bodies have been recovered from the region and search is on for those trapped in the sludge and debris.

In another landslide at Kokkayar at high ranges of Idukki, at least seven people are missing after five houses were washed away.

Rescue operations have been delayed as roads leading to the landslide-hit areas were flooded.

Assistance from the Navy has been sought for airlifting those trapped in the region.

After a high-level meeting, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan suggested various departments to evacuate people from areas prone to landslides and floods.

“The situation in the state is grave, but the weather forecast has said the situation would not get worse. The monthly pilgrimage to Sabarimala temple, which was slated to begin on Sunday, would be abandoned till October 19,” said Vijayan. Colleges and higher edu-

cation institutes, slated to reopen on October 18 after the second lockdown, will now open on October 20, the CM said.

A defense spokesperson said the Indian Air Force and Indian Army stationed in Kerala have deployed their assets for rescue operations. All the bases under Southern Air Command have been put on high alert in view of the prevailing weather situation. Mi-17 and Sarang helicopters are already in standby mode. One column of the Army has moved to Kanjirappally in Kottayam for res-

cue operations.

Dr S Abhilash, of Department of Atmospheric Sciences, CUSAT, said a mini cloudburst-like event has caused the flash floods and landslides. “A similar cloudburst-like event had occurred at Nilambur region in Malappuram in 2019, causing a major landslide,” he said.

In an official statement, the IMD said an intense spell of rainfall activity over south peninsular India is likely to continue till October 17.

The southwest monsoon for Kerala, from June to September 30, has been normal for the state with a deficiency of 16 per cent. In the northeast monsoon season, from October 1 to December 31, the normal rainfall for Kerala is 491.6 mm. However, in the last two weeks ending on October 16, the state has already recorded 331.4 mm rain as against the actual normal rainfall of 164.1 mm during the period. Hence, the state has already got large excess rainfall in the last two weeks.

Former Poonjar MLA PC George, whose home came under floodwaters on Saturday, said he had never seen such a catastrophic flood.

WITH INPUTS FROM VISHNU VARMA IN KOCHI

Many freedom fighters did not get their due: Shah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 16

HOME MINISTER Amit Shah Saturday claimed that several freedom fighters, including Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and V D Savarkar, were not given their due in independent India.

Shah, who was visiting the Andaman and Nicobar islands, said the government had decided to rechristen Mount Harriet island in the Union Territory as Mount Manipur in the memory of those who sacrificed their life for the country from the northeastern state.

“Manipur had a significant contribution in resisting the British in the entire Northeast during the 1857 Revolution and also in 1891... Manipuri war hero Yuvraj Tikendrajit and General Thangal were publicly hanged in Fida, Imphal. The British thought that by hanging them, they had crushed the freedom movement, but it did not happen. After that Maharaja Kulchandra Dhawja Singh and 22 freedom fighters were sent to Kala Pani and they



Shah inaugurated various projects on Ross Island which has been renamed as Netaji Subhash Island. **Twitter/AmitShah**

were kept here on Mount Harriet. Today in his memory, we would like to honor his contribution by naming Mount Harriet as Mount Manipur,” Shah said. He said the Manipur government also wants

Police need to upgrade to face drone challenge: NSG chief

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 16

DRONE WARFARE is a challenge for which police forces need to upgrade themselves, National Security Guards (NSG) chief MA Ganpathy said Saturday on the sidelines of the 37th raising day of the country’s elite counter terrorism force.

Speaking at the event at the NSG’s garrison in Manesar, Haryana, Union Minister of State (Home) Nityanand Rai also said the forces need to acquire state-of-the-art technology to meet new challenges on the security front.



At the NSG 37th Raising Day in Gurgaon on Saturday. **PTI**

“Drone warfare is a new challenge. Drones are an easy way to create mischief, to drop bombs and payload like weapons and ammunition... We have done quite a bit and every security force needs to upgrade itself for counter-drone technology,” Ganpathy said.

Rai stressed the need to acquire latest technology and expertise, and developing internal capacity. “He expressed pleasure that NSG has acquired latest weapons and equipment and is one of the best counter terrorism forces in the world,” the National Security Guards said in a statement.

LAKHIMPUR KHERI

Ankit Das and two aides denied bail in farmer deaths case

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 16

A COURT in Lakhimpur Kheri on Friday rejected bail applications of former Union minister Akhilesh Das’s nephew Ankit Das and his two associates, who are accused in the case of protesting farmers being run over in the district on October 3.

On Wednesday, the court had rejected the bail application of prime accused Ashish Mishra, who is the son of Union Minister of State Ajay Mishra.

The rejection of bail pleas of Ankit Das, his driver Shekhar Bharti and security guard Lateef came a day before their three-day police custody was to end.

Das and Bharti are residents of Lucknow; Lateef comes from Lakhimpur Kheri.

“Since the lower court has rejected their bail applications, we will soon move the sessions court against it,” defence lawyer

Awadesh Kumar Singh said.

Meanwhile, UP Police’s Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the Lakhimpur Kheri deaths and violence is conducting raids at multiple sites to trace Sumit Jaiswal, the complainant in one of the two FIRs lodged in connection with the October 3 incident, when four farmers and a journalist were allegedly run over by a convoy of SUVs, which included a Mahindra Thar owned by Ajay Mishra. Three others were killed in the subsequent violence at Tikonika.

After the incident, Jaiswal told the media that the incident occurred after miscreants hiding behind farmers attacked the vehicles passing through the area. Jaiswal went absconding after a video emerged on social media, purportedly showing that the vehicle ran over silent protesters.

Police said questioning Jaiswal would bring more clarity in the probe. It is alleged that Jaiswal was in the Thar SUV.

TRACKING THE SECOND SURGE

594
DAYS SINCE
PANDEMIC
BEGAN

NEW CASES: 13,711

ACTIVE CASES: 1,96,696

VACCINATIONS: 97,23,77,045

DAILY DEATHS
146

TOTAL DEATHS
4,52,126

WEEKLY CFR
0.95%

OVERALL CFR
1.34%



TESTS TODAY: 9,12,992 | TOTAL TESTS: 59,07,48,250

WEEKLY POSITIVITY: 1.40% | OVERALL POSITIVITY: 5.77%

STATES REPORTING MOST CASES

STATE	NEW CASES	ACTIVE CASES	WEEKLY POSITIVITY	TOTAL VACCINATION
■ Kerala	7,955	91,399	10.94%	3,70,61,667
■ Maharashtra	1,553	29,627	1.69%	9,07,87,384
■ Tamil Nadu	1,233	15,022	0.93%	5,26,62,885
■ Mizoram	932	12,597	14.77%	11,92,964
■ West Bengal	443	7,445	2.43%	6,56,14,967

STATES REPORTING MOST DEATHS

STATE	TODAY’S DEATHS	TOTAL DEATHS	WEEKLY CFR	OVERALL CFR
■ Kerala	57	26,870	0.66%	0.57%
■ Maharashtra	26	1,43,357	1.60%	2.19%
■ Tamil Nadu	15	35,884	1.02%	1.35%
■ West Bengal	10	18,963	1.41%	1.21%
■ Andhra Pradesh	7	14,302	0.82%	0.70%

Note: Data as on Oct 16; vaccination numbers as of Oct 15. Deaths include those from previous days.

Vaccine mixing safe, offers better immunity: ICMR limited study

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS
PUNE, OCTOBER 16

A LIMITED study conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) among 18 participants has found that a combination of Covishield and Covaxin shots is safe and, in fact, offers better immunogenicity than two doses of the same vaccine.

The researchers, however, have made it clear that the evidence is very limited and called for multi-centre randomised clinical trials to conclusively prove the findings.

“The reactogenicity profile of the participants of the heterologous group demonstrated that mixing of the two vaccines derived from different platforms is safe,” said the study, conducted by ICMR-Regional Medical Research Centre and ICMR-National Institute of Virology. It has been accepted

for publication in the International Journal of Travel Medicine.

This study comes months after several people in Uttar Pradesh received Covishield as the first dose followed by inadvertent administration of Covaxin as the second dose.

Dr Rajni Kant, director of ICMR’s Regional Medical Research Centre, Gorakhpur, and lead author, told The Indian Express that this was a small study involving 18 participants.

They received a vaccination regimen of Covishield followed by Covaxin. The participants did not report any adverse event following immunization and demonstrated high antibody response. “The humoral response and neutralizing antibody titres in the heterologous group were significantly high in neutralizing Variants of Concern – alpha, beta and delta variants of the SARS- CoV2 virus,” the researchers found.

RSS culture wing leader, a ‘voice of artistes’, dies

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 16

AMIR CHAND, national general secretary of RSS’s cultural wing Sanskar Bharti, died on Saturday while travelling to Arunachal Pradesh’s Tawang on organisational duties.

According to information, his oxygen level dipped suddenly. Chand was 56. As a representative of the Sangh’s cultural wing, he guided and advised all organisational heads for the Ministry

of Culture on the approach and direction to follow in keeping with the RSS agenda.

Sanskar Bharti was very vocal about day-to-day activities pertaining to arts and culture. During the pandemic, Amir Chand had vociferously urged both the Centre and state governments to take care of artistes whose livelihoods had been affected by Covid-19. He had even said that Sanskar Bharti would provide financial assistance to over 1 lakh artistes to help them overcome the crisis.

THE SUNDAY PROFILE
THE MAN IN THE
CORNER OFFICE

Amit Khare, who has helmed at least two of the most high-profile govt policies in recent times, the NEP and IT Rules, has now been appointed advisor to the PM. RITIKA CHOPRA on how Khare’s reputation as a “doer” who could “read the mind of his bosses” saw him straddling key ministries, roles.

With KRISHN KAUSHIK & DEEPTIMAN TIWARY



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

ON SEPTEMBER 30, the day Amit Khare retired from the civil services, he had a visitor: his former boss in the Education Ministry, Smriti Irani, now the Minister of Women and Child Development, who had dropped by at his office in Shastri Bhawan to wish him luck.

It was a rare gesture from the minister. As Secretary in charge of two crucial ministries, Education and Information & Broadcasting, Khare was known to have been the quintessential bureaucrat — clear-headed and cautious, adept at “reading the mind of his bosses” and achieving the “desired outcome”, qualities that made him indispensable to his ministers, across political regimes.

So last week, when Khare was appointed advisor to Prime Minister Narendra Modi (in addition to Bhaskar Khulbe), many saw it as a logical career trajectory for a bureaucrat who has helmed at least two of the most high-profile government policies in recent times — the National Education Policy, 2020; and the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, or the IT Rules.

A 1985-batch IAS officer from the Jharkhand cadre, Khare had two stints at the Centre — from August 2008 to April 2015, and later from June 2018 until his retirement last month. In between, he was Principal Secretary and Additional Chief Secretary (Finance & Planning) in Jharkhand.

A BSc graduate from St Stephen’s College, Khare holds a post-graduate degree from IIM Ahmedabad. His wife Nidhi Khare is Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs. They have two children.

During his first stint at the Centre, as joint secretary at the HRD Ministry (as the Education Ministry was then called), Khare enjoyed the confidence of his UPA-2 ministers Kapil Sibal and Pallam Raju, as well as the NDA’s Smriti Irani.

Following a brief stint in the Chemicals & Fertilisers Ministry, he was repatriated back to his parent cadre state, Jharkhand.

Khare first shot into prominence in the 1990s, when, as District Commissioner of Chaibasa in undivided Bihar, he was instrumental in unearthing the fodder scam in which RJD supremo Lalu Prasad was convicted.

Rakesh Asthana, who as a CBI SP probed the case till 2002 and is now Delhi Commissioner of Police, told *The Sunday Express*, “Khare was DC of Chaibasa when the scam was first detected by then Finance Secretary of Bihar, who ordered all district commissioners to investigate. Mr Khare took the lead and was the first to raid the Animal Husbandry Department in Chaibasa, detect irregularities and get an FIR registered. He withstood all the pressure. The documentary evidence he collected was extremely crucial.”

Sources said when the trial began, Khare even deposed before the court.

Shunted out after the scam and posted as Managing Director of the Bihar State Leather Corporation for almost a year, Khare told *The Sunday Express*: “It was a defunct body that couldn’t even pay salaries.”

The reputation he gained then, of a “doer”, but stayed with him. “He always delivers what is expected of him,” says a former colleague, on the “secret” of Khare’s career longevity.

Speaking at Khare’s farewell function, his last boss in the Education Ministry, Dharmendra Pradhan, sources said, recalled his first meeting with Khare about six years ago, when he was Principal Secretary

His critics point to this very “bureaucratic quality” — of being someone who got the job done for the ministers, as opposed to someone who would argue on merits or stand his ground

(Finance) in Jharkhand.

“At that time, Pradhan was Petroleum Minister and was trying to execute the Ujjwala Yojana. He recalled how he was struck by Khare’s willingness to arrange for funds to implement the programme in Jharkhand, given that finance secretaries are almost always reluctant to loosen the state’s purse strings,” said an officer present at the function.

His critics say this very “bureaucratic quality” — of being someone who got the job done for ministers, as opposed to someone who would argue on merits or stand his ground — has been Khare’s biggest strength, and drawback. Asked about this, Khare says, “If I were always on the right side of the boss, I would not have exposed the fodder scam. I was a collector appointed by Lalu Prasad, the powerful CM of the state.”

Critics also point to his “cautious approach” towards possibly controversial issues. Ironically for someone who is known to be taciturn, Khare was the man in charge of devising a communication strategy for both the NEP and the IT Rules.

While Khare did not author the new IT Rules, he played a key role in coordinating with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, which handled the technical aspects of the IT Rules.

“When you have a rule which is going to be administered by two ministries, there has to be coordination, synthesis and logic. That coordination — talking at secretary- and minister-level — was done by Khare,” said an officer in the I&B Ministry.

Similarly, the officer said, when the allocation of business rules was changed last year — to bring all online content under the ministry — Khare spoke to his counterparts in other ministries to explain that I&B has the domain understanding for how content should be regulated, whether online or offline.

Even when the NEP was being released, though much of the groundwork had been prepared by his predecessor R Subrahmanyam, Khare ensured that the communication policy was in place for “the right narrative”, a colleague said.

Khare’s colleagues also credit his rise in the current regime to his stint as the I&B Secretary, a role that saw him becoming one of Prime Minister Modi’s trusted people for all communications strategies. “He doesn’t speak much during meetings. However... it was evident (from what he said) that he had direct knowledge of what the PM wants,” said a senior officer part of meetings with Khare.

“The I&B role gave him relatively better access to the PMO. He seems to have made a solid impression during this time,” said a bureaucrat currently serving as Secretary in the Union government.

His success in this role can be gauged by the fact that he was called back to the I&B Ministry within six months of becoming the Higher Education Secretary in late 2019 and maintained its additional charge almost till his superannuation. During this time, he was also tasked with the government’s communication strategy for the pandemic.

Closer to his retirement, bureaucratic circles were abuzz with rumours of Khare getting posted in the PMO. While he dismissed such speculation, Khare’s speech at his farewell on September 30 offered a broad indication of his future role. “He said in his speech that he is superannuating, not retiring. Maybe he always knew there was something waiting for him,” said an officer.

== TAKE 5 ==
DRONES & POLICE

DIG SATHYAPRIYA,
KANCHEEPURAM RANGE



A drone being deployed for the Oct 10-11 search. *Express*

‘With specific details, we looked for man in a red shirt’

On October 10, after two robbers snatched a chain on the Chennai-Bengaluru highway, police deployed 300 personnel and drones to catch them — perhaps the first such deployment to catch small robbers. One of them was shot. They were migrants from Jharkhand

ARUN JANARDHANAN

1 Why the big operation?

There have been several recent thefts, and one person was shot in one such attempt. The woman robbed on October 10 had raised an alarm immediately, telling us the two men were armed and giving us details about how they looked and that one of them was wearing a red shirt. We saw an opportunity to catch the two and deployed three advanced drones that could help spot the men.

2 Did the operation continue through the night?

Personnel were deployed at multiple points to sandwich the duo. (Failing to spot them till morning), senior officers feared the two might have escaped the dragnet. Then, at 7 am October 11, we spotted a man coming out of the lake bed, covered in dirt. He told us where the main accused was.

3 How often are drones deployed thus?

The first such use in Tamil Nadu was in February 2014. Following the murder of a software engineer near Chennai, investigators used drone footage to make a 3D image of the crime scene and look for evidence... Drones have also been used for monitoring crowds.

4 How did drones help during the lockdown?

Police used drones to make sure people stayed at home. In a hilarious episode, police spotted a group playing carrom in Tirupur in April 2020. When the drone approached them, people started running.

5 Have police acquired the drones?

The government allocated Rs 90 lakh for acquiring three drones for surveillance purposes.

HARIKISHAN SHARMA

== india 75 ==
NUMBER PLATE

₹1,181 cr

The value of banknotes in circulation in India, Pakistan in August 1947 at the time of Independence. This had risen to ₹1,304 crore by March 1948. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) functioned as the Central bank for Pakistan too till June 1948.

42%

The share of ₹10 in the gross value of notes in circulation in 1947 — which was the highest. It was followed by the ₹100 note, which accounted for 40.7% of the total notes. (Source: RBI Report on Currency and Finance for 1947-48.)

₹28,26,863 cr

The total value of banknotes in circulation at the end of March 2021. In value terms, the share of ₹500 note was the highest — 68.4%. It was followed by ₹2,000 note (17.3%) and ₹100 note (6.7%). (Source: RBI Annual Report for 2020-2021)

1%

The share of ₹10 note in the value of all notes in circulation at the end of March 2021.

How far is my Valley

The scare of those days, the memories of the flight at night have returned to settlements where Kashmiri Pandits first arrived in the 1990s. The recent killings have dashed hope, that was rekindled post-Aug 5, 2019, of going back

ARUN SHARMA

THEY LEFT at 3 in the night, Dr T K Bhat recalls. His elder brother went to the Pampore Highway to find a truck driver that would take them at that hour, with no one watching. “We only halted to use the toilet after crossing the Jawahar tunnel (marking the entry into Jammu)... When we got down at Banihal, we realised our mother Koushalya Devi was wearing a *chappal* on one foot and a shoe on the other.”

That day in 1990, Bhat, then in his mid-30s, a doctor in the Animal Husbandry Department, became one of the first Kashmiri Pandit migrants to make Jammu his home. Bhat says theirs was one of 12 Pandit families among the 700 in Newa village of Pulwama.

In Pandit settlements across Jammu, especially the largest one, Jagti Township — inaugurated by then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in 2011 — the nightmare of those days is back with the recent targeted killings of civilians in Kashmir.

While the government denies it, people in the settlements say many of the over 3,000 Kashmiri Hindu employees serving in the

Valley under the PM’s 2008 employment package, have returned to Jammu — 250-300 of them to Jagti alone.

The 4,200 two-room flats in the township, near Jammu city, house 6,500-7,000 families. One of the residents, Naveen Gosani, says the power situation has now improved from one-two hours a day, but the water remains unfit for human consumption.

However, the township, and the strength in numbers, provides security — which, as Bhat recalls in vivid detail 30 years later, came to elude them in what had been their home for generations.

He felt the first sense of unease during an innocuous conversation in April-May 1989, Bhat says. “I was constructing a house and had given the carpenter a design. The windows were not how I wanted and when I asked, the carpenter who was my neighbour laughed, ‘Panditji, it’s not like you are going to stay here.’”

The situation turned bad quickly, as protests spread against the “rigged” 1987 Assembly polls. Deployed to perform magistrate duty, Bhat recalls one evening when he was going to Awantipora with an assistant sub-inspector and two policemen. “Jokingly asked what we would do if we came



across protesters. The ASI said they would surrender their weapons to them. ‘We are with you only because of our duty’, he said.”

Neighbours and colleagues started withdrawing money from “Indian banks” and putting it in “our own bank (Jammu and Kashmir Bank)”, Bhat says.

Then came the incident at Charar-e-Sharief, a shrine revered by both Hindus and Muslims. In November-December 1989, an estimated 10-15 lakh people marched towards the shrine on a call by the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front; many of them brandishing AK-47s. It ended in an anti-climax when a bridge they were to use collapsed in heavy rain, but the scale of what



Jagti Township was inaugurated in 2011 by then PM Manmohan Singh. *Arun Sharma*

had transpired chilled the Pandits.

Around a month later, Bhat’s neighbour Moti Lal was killed, along with his driver Ghulam Mohammad. Then, the militants came for Bhat’s cousin’s husband, a reputed doctor. At his cremation, masked men threatened to kill the entire family. “The same night, my brother got the truck.”

In Jammu, the Bhat family spent a fortnight at a shelter with other Pandit families. The government later put up tents on the banks of the Tawi at Nagrota and in Udhampur. Bhat now lives in his own house, among the few Pandit families to have managed this.

Bhat has visited his native place in

guage”. One complete generation of Pandits spent the rest of their life battling with the change, he says.

On paper, the Jagti Township has all the amenities — schools, dispensaries, community halls, parks. However, residents, who were allotted apartments following verification, complain of shoddy construction.

Rajesh Bhagati, the Camp Commandant of the B-Zone of the township, admits the residents have issues. “People make complaints and we redress them,” he says.

Bhat dreams of returning to the home he grew up in, and fears he will take these to his grave. “When Article 370 was abrogated, the Pandits felt they could return. However, the killings have destroyed all that was achieved.”

Deepanshu Bhat, a student, believes even without the killings, the “trust deficit” has widened. “If we are able to make an ordinary Kashmiri Muslim student feel safe elsewhere in the country, do not discriminate against him, why would he get radicalised?” he says. Instead, Deepanshu adds, under the Modi government, the narrative has become harsher. “They tom-tom that Article 370 has been abrogated and Kashmiri Pandits have been rehabilitated. However, the narrative in the rest of India and in Kashmir is very different. This makes the youth pick up guns as they do not see a solution coming from either side.”

10 ECONOMY

BILATERAL TRADE UP 49.4% IN JAN-SEPT 2021, SHOWS CHINESE GOVT DATA

Chinese imports defy self-reliance push, border issues; input products remain key

KARUNJITSINGH
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 16

DESPITE INDIA'S efforts to reduce dependence on Chinese imports amid an increased emphasis on self-reliance as well as escalating tensions along the border, the country's bilateral trade with China has grown 49.4 per cent in the first nine months of 2021 as against the same period in 2020, as per Chinese government data.

India's imports from China rose to \$68.46 billion in the first nine month of 2021, up 51.5 per cent from the corresponding period in 2020, which was impacted by Covid-19 related restrictions, according to data from the China General Administration of Customs. Imports were up 21.6 per cent over the same period in 2019, which was not impacted by the pandemic.

The sharp uptick in imports has pushed India's trade deficit with China to \$46.55 billion in the first nine months of 2021, up from \$29.86 billion in the year-ago pe-



INDIA CHINA TRADE		JAN-SEPT (in US \$ billion)		
Year	Total	Export	Import	Deficit
2019	69.66	13.349	56.311	-42.962
2020	60.4898	15.312	45.1782	-29.8662
2021	90.375	21.913	68.462	-46.549

Source: China General Administration of Customs

riod and \$42.96 billion in the corresponding period in 2019. India's official statistics on bilateral trade with China are updated only till July 2021. India's total trade with China was \$90.38 billion in the January-September period, and is on track to cross \$100 billion by the end of the year.

According to Commerce Ministry data, China was India's top trading partner in the April-July period, followed by the US, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Singapore.

Some of India's key imports from China include components for smartphones and automobiles, telecom equipment, plastic and metallic goods, active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs), and other chemicals.

Experts said that even though imports from China have increased, it was important to note whether the rise was due to intermediate or finished goods. Vinod Sharma, managing director of Deld Electronics and chairman, CII

national ICTE manufacturing committee said that India would need to boost the manufacture of components and share of electronic goods designed in India to boost self reliance and potentially cut imports.

"It is clear that the (mobile and electronics) industry has a long supply chain," said Sharma adding that there has been an increase in the share of intermediate goods such as PCBs (Printed Circuit Boards) in imports relative to finished goods such as mobile phones.

Sharma added that the fact that India was still largely involved only in the assembly of electronic goods meant that Indian firms do not have discretion on sourcing components.

He added that there was a need for the government to boost the use of Indian components in products through "a nudge in terms of market access."

Officials at the Commerce Ministry have however pointed out that growth in India's trade with other key trading partners

including the US, UAE and Australia was even higher than the growth in trade with China. India is currently in the process of negotiating Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with the UAE, EU, UK and Australia.

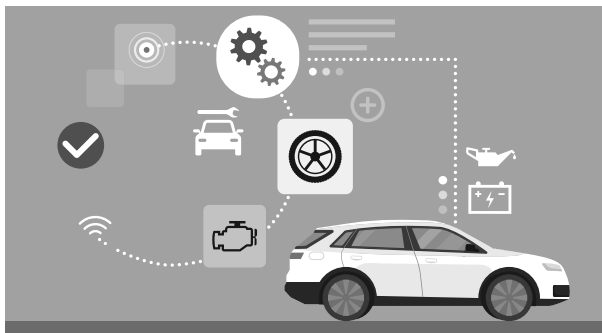
In June 2020, Indian and Chinese militaries clashed in Ladakh's Galwan Valley. Soon after, the Power Ministry imposed a de facto ban on the import of power equipment from China citing cybersecurity concerns.

The government also asked state-owned telecommunication companies, BSNL and MTNL, to exclude Chinese telecom equipment firms including Huawei and ZTE from its network upgrading process.

The government also modified foreign direct investment (FDI) rules making the Centre's approval a must for any FDI in Indian firms from neighbouring countries - apparently aimed at preventing opportunistic takeovers of domestic firms by Chinese companies during the pandemic.

'Cars with lower running costs may gain higher traction'

Cars with higher fuel efficiency and lower maintenance costs are likely to gain higher traction among buyers, an HSBC Global Research report said



Customers are increasingly becoming considerate of the recent rise in fuel prices, with fuel prices having gone up 35% over the past 15 months, impacting overall vehicle running costs

70% of India's passenger vehicle (PV) market is still accounted for by vehicles under Rs 10 lakh, a development that augurs well for market leader Maruti Suzuki India Ltd (MSIL)

FUEL NOW ACCOUNTS FOR AROUND 40% of a compact PV's life-time cost compared with 30% in mid-2020

MSIL CONTINUES TO SCORE WELL, remaining the market leader in fuel efficiency and total cost of ownership, both in absolute terms and relative to competition
Source: HSBC Global Research/PTI

IMF: Govt response to Covid 'swift, substantial'; outlook remains clouded

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 16

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund (IMF) has said that India continued with labour reforms and privatisation despite the pandemic, calling the government's response to the Covid-19 pandemic situation as "swift and substantial".

The IMF in its report based on "consultations" among members, however, sounded a note of caution saying that the economic outlook remains "clouded" due to pandemic-related uncertainties, contributing

to both downside and upside risks.

In its "Article IV" consultations report, it further said that a persistent negative impact of COVID-19 on investment and other growth drivers could prolong the economic recovery.

On the Indian government's handling of the pandemic, the multilateral agency said it was "swift and substantial...has included fiscal support, including scaled-up support to vulnerable groups, monetary policy easing, liquidity provision, and accommodative financial sector and regulatory policies".

"Despite the pandemic, the

authorities have continued to introduce structural reforms, including labour reforms and a privatisation plan," the report said.

The IMF has projected India's economic growth at 9.5 per cent in FY2021-22 and 8.5 per cent in 2022-23.

"The economic outlook remains clouded due to pandemic-related uncertainties contributing to both downside and upside risks. A persistent negative impact of COVID-19 on investment, human capital, and other growth drivers could prolong the recovery and impact medium-term growth," it said. **WITHPTI**

Dorsey looking to build bitcoin mining system

REUTERS
BENGALURU, OCTOBER 16

SQUARE INC Chief Executive Officer Jack Dorsey said on Friday the fintech firm is looking to build a bitcoin mining

system based on custom silicon and open source for individuals as well as businesses.

This would add to Square's existing bitcoin-focused projects including a business to build an open developer platform, as well as a hardware

wallet for the cryptocurrency. "If we do this, we'd follow our hardware wallet model: build in the open in collaboration with the community," Dorsey said in a tweet.

A team led by Square's hardware lead, Jesse Dorogusker,

will investigate requisites for Square to take on the project to build a bitcoin mining system.

In his Twitter thread, Dorsey also said that silicon design or chip design is too concentrated into a few companies, leading to supply constraints.



Based on Tesla's closing price of \$667.93 at the end of the first quarter, the value of that many shares would have been about \$534 million. *Reuters file*

"Media really inflated the

CRUDE WATCH

OIL RISES TO THREE-YEAR HIGH

London: Oil prices settled at a three-year high Friday, boosted by forecasts of a supply deficit in next few months as easing of coronavirus-related travel curbs spurs demand. Brent rose to \$84.70, US WTI crude jumped to \$82.23 per barrel. **REUTERS**

AT ₹8,834 CRORE AGAINST ₹7,513.11 CRORE IN YEAR-AGO QUARTER

HDFC Bank Sept qtr profit up 17.6%; gross NPAs rise on-year

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 16

HDFC Bank on Saturday posted a standalone net profit of Rs 8,834.3 crore for the September quarter of the ongoing fiscal, an increase of 17.6 per cent from Rs 7,513.11 crore in the same period a year ago.

Gross non-performing assets (NPAs) of the private sector lender were Rs 16,346 crore — 1.35 per cent of advances in the second quarter of FY22 — as against Rs 11,304 crore (1.08 per cent) in September 2020.

The bank's net revenues (net interest income plus other income) increased by 14.7 per cent to Rs 25,085.2 crore for the September quarter, compared with Rs 21,868.8 crore for the quarter ended September 2020.

Net interest income (interest earned less interest expended) for the quarter under review grew by 12.1 per cent to Rs 17,684.4 crore from Rs 15,776.4 crore in the year-ago period.

Advances saw a growth of 15.5 per cent, reaching new heights driven through relationship management, digital offering and breadth of products. Core net in-

EXPLAINED
Eye on gains in festivals

WITH ADVANCES reaching new heights at Rs 11,98,837 crore, as well as deposits being a focus area, HDFC Bank managed to keep a healthy liquidity cover ratio of 123 per cent in the recently concluded quarter. These factors, coupled with adequate provisions for contingencies, position the private lender to carry forward its momentum during the festive months.

terest margin was at 4.1 per cent.

"New liability relationships added during the quarter were at an all-time high. This continued focus on deposits helped in the maintenance of a healthy liquidity coverage ratio at 123 per cent, well above the regulatory requirement, which positions the bank favourably to capitalize on the opportunities that would arise as the econ-

omy gains momentum during the festive months," HDFC Bank said.

Provisions and contingencies for the quarter under review were Rs 3,924.7 crore (consisting of specific loan loss provisions of Rs 2,286.4 crore, and general and other provisions of Rs 1,638.3 crore) as against Rs 3,703.5 for the quarter ended September 2020.

Total provisions for the current quarter included contingent provisions of Rs 1,200 crore. The bank said it held floating provisions of Rs 1,451 crore and contingent provisions of Rs 7,756 crore as on September 2021.

Total provisions (comprising specific, floating, contingent and general provisions) were 163 per cent of the gross non-performing loans as on September 2021.

Total advances as of September 2021 were Rs 11,98,837 crore, an increase of 15.5 per cent a year ago. Retail loans grew by 12.9 per cent, commercial and rural banking loans grew by 27.6 per cent and other wholesale loans grew by 6.0 per cent. Overseas advances constituted 3.5 per cent of total advances.

On Thursday, shares of HDFC Bank closed 2.86 per cent higher at Rs 1,685.90 on the BSE.

Gati Shakti, digitisation, Make in India in focus as FM meets global CEOs

YOSHITASINGH
NEW YORK, OCTOBER 16

INDIA'S RECENTLY launched Rs 100-lakh-crore infrastructure master plan, digitisation and the 'Make in India' initiative were among the main topics discussed as Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman connected with the world's leading business officers at the Big Apple here on Saturday. Sitharaman arrived here late Friday after her visit to Washington DC where she participated in the Annual Meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. She met Mastercard Executive Chairman Ajay Banga and Mastercard CEO Michael Miebach here on Saturday.

"The initiatives and progress towards #financialinclusion and #DigitalTransformation formed part of the discussion," the Ministry of Finance said in a tweet.

In her meeting with FedEx Corporation President and Chief Operating Officer (COO) Raj Subramaniam, discussions focussed on the recently launched initiative of National Infrastructure Master Plan 'Gati Shakti' and India's third largest start-up ecosystem and the unicorn base (start-up companies reaching a high valuation).

On October 13, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Rs 100-lakh crore national master plan for multi-modal connectivity that aims to develop infrastructure to reduce logistic costs and boost the economy.

PM Gati Shakti targets to cut logistic costs, increase cargo handling capacity and reduce the turnaround time, Modi said at a function to launch the plan.

The plan aims to lend more power and speed to projects by connecting all concerned departments onto one platform.



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman with Ajay Banga, executive Chairman, Mastercard, and Michael Miebach, CEO of Mastercard, in New York, on Saturday. via Twitter @FinMinIndia

Sitharaman talks recovery with World Bank chief

Washington: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman discussed the post-pandemic economic recovery, India's major role in the global fight against Covid-19 and preparations for the upcoming Climate Change Conference among other issues during her meeting with World Bank President David Malpass. She met Malpass at the World Bank headquarters in Washington DC on Friday.

"Both sides discussed various issues including #COVID #vaccination, #economicrecovery, preparations for #COP26, initiative of #WBG for increasing lending space for India, IDA 20 replenishment, knowledge partnership with @WorldBank," Finance Ministry said in a series of tweets.

During the meeting, Sitharaman shared the measures being taken by India to contain the spread of the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic, including the major role played by India on the global Covid-19 effort, the ministry said. She appreciated the World Bank Group for their initiative for increasing lending space

FM shared measures being taken by India to contain the spread of the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic

for India to enhance availability of finance for development.

She "highlighted three broad suggestions, including strengthening #LighthouseIndia, #technology and special focus on #FinancialSectorReforms and #infrastructure sector to strengthen the knowledge partnership with #WBG," it said.

'US welcomed reforms'

Sitharaman also said that the President Joe Biden administration as well as leaders from the corporate sector in the United States have welcomed as a very positive step the reforms undertaken by the Indian government, particularly the withdrawal of the retrospective tax. **PTI**

Chinese property execs ask regulators for 'appropriate loosening'

REUTERS
BEIJING, OCTOBER 16

REPRESENTATIVES FROM 10 Chinese property companies met government regulators to ask for an "appropriate loosening" on policy restrictions, financial news outlet Yicai reported late on Friday.

In the meeting, senior executives urged authorities to loosen regulations with the goals of stabilizing market expectations, providing support for genuine home buyers rather than speculators and making adjustments in land prices, Yicai reported, citing unnamed people

in attendance.

The meeting was attended by senior executives from developers including China Vanke Co Ltd and Sunac Holdings, along with the Director of the Real Estate Department of the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development and the Director of the China Real Estate Association (CREA), Yicai reported.

A number of Chinese property firms are facing a liquidity crunch amid weak demand and tightening regulations. Property firms have been affected by loan caps imposed by the government in order to contain rampant borrowing.

RBI WATCH FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Reserves overcome slump, rise \$2.03 bn to hit \$639.5 billion

FUELED BY CURRENCY ASSETS		
	Oct 1 2021	Oct 8 2021
Foreign currency assets	575,451	577,001
Gold	37,558	38,022
SDRs	19,240	19,268
Reserve tranche position	5,228	5,225
Total	637,477	639,516

in million US dollars; source: Reserve Bank of India/Reuters

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 16

THE FOREX reserves overcame their poor run to rise by \$2.039 billion to \$639.516 billion during the week ended October 8, as per data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

In the previous week ended October 1, the foreign exchange — forex — reserves had slid by \$1.169 billion to \$637.477 billion. The forex kitty had surged by \$8.895 billion to a life time high of \$642.453 billion in the week ended September 3.

During the reporting week ended October 8, the rise in the reserves was on account of an increase in the Foreign

Currency Assets (FCAs), RBI data on Friday showed.

FCA rose by \$1.55 billion to \$577.001 billion in the reporting week, as per the data.

Expressed in dollar terms, FCA include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Gold reserves were up by \$464 million to \$38,022 billion in the reporting week.

The special drawing rights (SDRs) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) rose by \$28 million to \$19.268 billion.

The country's reserve position with the IMF declined by \$3 million to \$5.225 billion in the reporting week, the data showed. **WITHPTI**

BRIEFLY

L&T official

New Delhi: Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has appointed Sabhyasachi Das as chief executive officer of L&T EduTech, the company's new business initiative into virtual learning and capability building space.

MM Forgings

New Delhi: Auto components maker MM Forgings Ltd (MMF) on Saturday said it has acquired CAFOMA Autoparts for a total consideration of Rs 33 crore. The acquisition will help the company reach 60,000 machined crankshafts per month, MMF said.

D-Mart Q2

New Delhi: Avenue Supermarts, which owns and operates retail chain D-Mart, saw a increase in its consolidated net profit to Rs 417.76 crore for the second quarter ended September 2021. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 198.53 crore in the October quarter a year ago. **PTI**

THE SUNDAY EXPRESS, OCTOBER 17, 2021

THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD



Dave Chappelle

USA

Netflix employee fired amid furor over Chappelle's comedy special

NETFLIX SAID Friday that it had fired an employee for disclosing confidential financial information about what it paid for Dave Chappelle's comedy special *The Closer*, which some condemned as being transphobic. The employee, who wasn't named, shared "confidential, commercially sensitive information outside the company," a Netflix statement said. "We understand this employee may have been motivated by disappointment and hurt with Netflix, but maintaining a culture of trust and transparency is core to our company," the statement said. It said the information was referenced in a Bloomberg article, which reported that Netflix spent \$24.1 million on *The Closer*, which first aired last week. **AP**

INDONESIA

11 kids drown in river cleanup

ELEVEN STUDENTS drowned and 10 others were rescued during a school outing for a river cleanup in Indonesia's West Java Province, officials said Saturday. Local officials said 150 students from an Islamic junior high school were participating in the cleanup Friday along the banks of the Cileueur river bank when 21 of them slipped into the water. "Those children who drowned were holding each others' hands. One of them slipped and the others followed," said Deden Ridwansyah, chief of the Bandung search and rescue office. "The weather was good and there was no flash flood." **AP**

IRAN

Central bank ex-chief gets 10-yr sentence

A FORMER governor of Iran's Central Bank, Valiollah Seif, was sentenced on Saturday to 10 years in prison on corruption charges involving the mismanagement of millions of dollars, the judiciary said. Seif and two of his deputies, who also received jail terms, were found guilty of "disturbing the foreign exchange market, the country's economic climate and mismanagement," a judiciary spokesman was quoted as saying by state media. **REUTERS**

Brazil Covid probe to recommend Bolsonaro face 11 criminal charges

REUTERS

RIO DE JANEIRO, OCTOBER 16

A BRAZILIAN Senate probe into the government's handling of the Covid-19 pandemic will recommend in its final report due next week that President Jair Bolsonaro face 11 criminal charges, the senator leading the inquiry said on Friday. But it remains unlikely that he will face a trial on any such charges, because that would have to be sanctioned by the Lower House.

Renan Calheiros said during a radio interview that the investigation launched in April has collected evidence to show that Bolsonaro should be formally charged with genocide against the country's indigenous population, malfeasance, irregular use of public funds, violation of sanitary measures, incitement to crime and forgery of private documents, among other crimes.

The far-right president, who himself was infected with the coronavirus in July 2020, has railed against lockdown measures, pushed unproven cures, sowed vaccine doubts and downplayed the severity of Covid-19.

The report is scheduled to be released by the Senate investigative panel next Tuesday.



Brazil President Jair Bolsonaro



Britain's Labour Party leader Keir Starmer, Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Speaker of the House Sir Lindsay Hoyle and Home Secretary Priti Patel arrive at the scene where MP David Amess was stabbed to death during a meeting with constituents at the Belfairs Methodist Church, in Leigh-on-Sea, England. **Reuters**

UK MP's killing a terror attack, say police; leaders visit church where he was stabbed

PETER NICHOLLS

& BEN MAKORI

LEIGH-ON-SEA, OCTOBER 16

BRITISH PRIME Minister Boris Johnson on Saturday laid flowers outside the church where a lawmaker was stabbed to death a day earlier, in what police say was a terrorist attack probably linked to Islamist extremism.

The attack on David Amess, from Johnson's Conservative Party, comes five years after the murder of Jo Cox, a lawmaker from the opposition Labour Party,

EXPLAINED Rising worry over MPs' security

THE STABBING of Amess has renewed concerns about the security of MPs who regularly meet their constituents with little or no security. These sessions can get heated, and in 2016 another MP, Jo Cox, was killed during such an event. In 2010, MP Stephen Timms was injured in a stabbing,

and has prompted a review of the security of elected politicians.

Amess, 69, was knifed repeatedly in the attack at about midday on Friday in Leigh-on-Sea, east of London, during a meeting with constituents.

Police arrested a 25-year-old British man at the scene on suspicion of murder, adding it is believed he acted alone.

In a statement on Saturday, police said the early investigation had revealed a potential motivation linked to Islamist extremism.

Johnson, interior minister Priti Patel, and Labour Party leader Keir

Starmer were among those to lay flowers in tribute to Amess at the scene of the murder.

"To the memory of Sir David Amess MP, a fine parliamentarian and a much-loved colleague and friend," Johnson said in a hand-written note placed in the flowers, adding in a Twitter post that his thoughts were with Amess' family and friends.

Johnson and Starmer stood side by side in a moment of silence before leaving. Other politicians, police representatives and members of the public came to lay flowers and pay respects. **REUTERS**

Myanmar junta leader excluded from ASEAN summit in rare move

AIN BANDIAL

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, OCTOBER 16

SOUTHEAST ASIAN countries will invite a non-political representative from Myanmar to a regional summit this month, delivering an unprecedented snub to the military leader who led a coup against an elected civilian government in February.

The decision taken by foreign ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) at an emergency meeting on Friday night, marks a rare bold step for the consensus-driven bloc, which has traditionally favoured a policy of engagement and non-interference.

Singapore's foreign ministry said on Saturday the move to exclude junta chief Min Aung Hlaing was a "difficult, but necessary, decision to uphold ASEAN's credibility".

The statement cited a lack of progress made on a roadmap to restore peace in Myanmar that the junta had agreed to with ASEAN in April.

A spokesman for Myanmar's military government blamed "foreign intervention" for the decision.

Junta spokesman Zaw Min Tun told the BBC Burmese news service that the United States and representatives of the European Union had pressured other ASEAN member states.

"The foreign interventions can also be seen here," he said.



Myanmar's junta chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

"We learned that some envoys from some countries met with US foreign affairs and received pressure from EU."

More than 1,000 civilians have been killed by Myanmar security forces with thousands of others arrested, according to the United Nations, amid a crackdown on strikes and protests which has derailed the country's tentative democracy and prompted international condemnation.

The junta says those estimates of the death toll are exaggerated. ASEAN's current chair Brunei said a non-political figure from Myanmar would be invited to the October 26-28 summit, after no consensus was reached for a political representative to attend.

"As there had been insufficient progress... as well as concerns over Myanmar's commitment, in particular on establishing constructive dialogue among all concerned parties, some ASEAN Member States recommended that ASEAN give space to Myanmar to restore its internal affairs and return to normalcy," Brunei said. **REUTERS**

NASA's asteroid hunter Lucy soars into sky with diamonds

MARCIA DUNN

CAPE CANAVERAL, OCTOBER 16

A NASA spacecraft named Lucy rocketed into the sky with diamonds Saturday morning on a 12-year quest to explore eight asteroids.

Seven of the mysterious space rocks are among swarms of asteroids sharing Jupiter's orbit, thought to be the pristine leftovers of planetary formation.

An Atlas V rocket blasted off before dawn, sending Lucy on a roundabout journey spanning nearly 6.3 billion kilometres. Researchers grew emotional describing the successful launch — lead scientist Hal Levison said it was like witnessing the birth of a



A rocket carrying the Lucy spacecraft lifts off from Cape Canaveral, Florida. **AP**

child. "Go Lucy!" he urged.

Lucy is named after the 3.2

million-year-old skeletal remains of a human ancestor found in Ethiopia nearly a half-century ago. That discovery got its name from the 1967 Beatles song *Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds*, prompting NASA to send the spacecraft soaring with band members' lyrics and other luminaries' words of wisdom imprinted on a plaque. The spacecraft also carried a disc made of lab-grown diamonds for one of its science instruments.

Lucy's \$981 million mission is the first to aim for Jupiter's so-called Trojan entourage: thousands — if not millions — of asteroids that share the gas giant's expansive orbit around the sun. Some of the Trojan asteroids precede Jupiter in its orbit, while others trail it. **AP**

Vaccine mandates: US cities, police clash

BOBBY CAINA CALVAN

& JOHN SEEWER

OCTOBER 16

POLICE DEPARTMENTS around the US that are requiring officers to get vaccinated against Covid are running up against pockets of resistance that some fear could leave law enforcement short-handed and undermine public safety.

Police unions and officers are pushing back by filing lawsuits to block the mandates. In Chicago, the head of the police union called on members to defy the city's Friday deadline for reporting their Covid-19 vaccination status.

Seattle's police department sent detectives and non-patrol officers to emergency calls this week because of a shortage of patrol officers that union leaders fear will become worse because of vaccine mandates.

The standoffs are playing out at a time when many police departments already are dealing with surging homicide rates and staff shortages unrelated to the vaccine. Cities and police leaders are now weighing the risk of losing more officers to resignations, firings or suspensions over their refusal to get vaccinated.

Chicago's mayor on Friday filed a complaint in court against

the leader of the local Fraternal Order of Police, accusing him of "engaging in, supporting and encouraging work stoppage or strike" by saying the city's more than 12,000 uniformed officers should ignore the order to report their vaccination status.

On Thursday, Mayor Lori Lightfoot said officers would not be sent home if they showed up to work Friday and refused to provide their information. Instead, she said, they would be put on unpaid leave after the weekend, because confirming compliance would take a few days. Refusing to provide the information, Lightfoot said, would be an act of insubordination. **AP**

AUSTRALIA

KOALAS TO BE GIVEN CHLAMYDIA VACCINE

Around 400 Australian koalas will be vaccinated against chlamydia as part of a trial that researchers say they hope could play a significant role in the longer-term survival of the animals. Chlamydia, a sexually transmitted disease also found in humans, has spread widely among Australian koalas, affecting half the animals in some areas.



IS claims Afghan mosque attack; Taliban pledge to step up security

REUTERS

KABUL, OCTOBER 16

TALIBAN AUTHORITIES pledged to step up security at Shia mosques as hundreds of people gathered on Saturday to bury the victims of the second Islamic State suicide attack on worshippers in a week.

Hardline Sunni group Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack on the Fatima mosque in Kandahar that saw a group of suicide bombers shoot their way into the mosque before blowing themselves up among the worshippers during Friday prayers.

Taliban officials said the death toll from the attack stood at 47 dead and 70 wounded but could rise further.

On Saturday, large crowds gathered to bury the white-shrouded victims in a mass grave in the southern city of Kandahar.

The head of Kandahar police said units would be assigned to protect the Shia mosques which have so far been guarded by local volunteer forces with special permission to carry weapons.

"Unfortunately they could not protect this area and in future we will assign special security guards for the protection of mosques and Madrasas," he said in a statement posted on Twitter by a Taliban spokesman.

The attack on the Fatima mosque, the largest Shia mosque in Kandahar, also known as the



A Taliban fighter stands on the top of the mosque after attack, in Kandahar Friday. **AP**

Imam Bargah mosque, came a week after a similar attack on a mosque in the northern city of Kunduz, which killed as many as 80 people.

Attacks on Shia mosques and targets associated with the Hazara ethnic minority, who make up the biggest Shia group in Afghanistan, were regular occurrences under the former Western-backed government.

There has been deep shock as the attacks have continued since the Taliban seized power in August, tarnishing the movement's claim to have brought peace to Afghanistan after decades of war.

Since the takeover, Islamic State has conducted dozens of operations, from small scale attacks on Taliban targets to large-scale operations such as Friday's suicide bombing, killing scores of civilians.

US offers to pay family of those killed in botched Kabul strike

ERIC SCHMITT

WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 16

THE PENTAGON offered unspecified condolence payments this week to the family of the 10 civilians, including seven children, who the military has acknowledged were mistakenly killed on August 29 in the last US drone strike before American troops withdrew from Afghanistan.

In a statement released late Friday, the Pentagon also said it was working with the US State Department to help surviving family members relocate to the US.

The offers were made in a virtual meeting on Thursday between Colin H. Kahl, the under secretary of defence for policy, and Steven Kwon, the founder and president of Nutrition & Education International, the aid organisation that employed Zemari Ahmadi, the driver of a Toyota sedan that was struck by the US drone.

The Defence Department and military leaders conceded last month that Ahmadi had nothing to do with the Islamic State, contrary to what officials previously asserted. Ahmadi's only connection to the terrorist group appeared to be a fleeting and innocuous interaction with people in what the military believed was an Islamic State safe house in Kabul,



An Afghan woman whose father and fiancé both died in a US drone strike in Kabul. **NYT**

an initial link that led military analysts to make misjudgments while tracking Ahmadi's movements for the next eight hours.

"Dr Kahl noted that the strike was a tragic mistake and that Mr Zemari Ahmadi and others who were killed were innocent victims who bore no blame and were not affiliated with ISIS-K or threats to US forces," said the statement from John F. Kirby, the Defence Department's chief spokesman.

Kirby said Kwon had recounted Ahmadi's work with the aid group over many years as an electrical engineer, "providing care and lifesaving assistance for people facing high mortality rates in Afghanistan."

The Pentagon statement came after Ahmadi's family members in Kabul complained that American officials had not contacted them about relocating to the US or offering condolence payments. **NYT**

THE APP, HAILED AS FB'S GROWTH ENGINE, PRIVATELY WRESTLED WITH ENGAGING TEENS

Instagram struggles with fear of losing young users

SHEERA FRENKEL & RYAN MAC AND MIKE ISAAC

SAN FRANCISCO, OCTOBER 16

WHEN INSTAGRAM reached one billion users in 2018, Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook's chief executive, called it "an amazing success." The photo-sharing app, which Facebook owns, was widely hailed as a hit with young people and celebrated as a growth engine for the social network.

But even as Zuckerberg praised Instagram, the app was privately lamenting the loss of teenage users to other social media platforms as an "existential threat," according to a 2018 marketing presentation. By last year, the issue had be-



Facebook had long hoped that Instagram would bring more young people to its entire family of apps. **NYT**

come urgent, according to internal Instagram documents obtained by *The New York Times*. "If we lose the teen foothold in the US we lose the pipeline," read a strategy memo, from last October, that laid out a marketing plan for this year.

In the face of that threat, Instagram left little to chance.

Starting in 2018, it earmarked almost its entire global annual marketing budget — slated at \$390 million this year — to targeting teenagers, largely through digital ads, according to planning documents and people directly involved in the process. Focusing so singularly on a narrow age group is

highly unusual, marketers said, though the final spending went beyond teens and encompassed their parents and young adults.

The Instagram documents, which have not previously been reported, reveal the company's angst and dread as it has wrestled behind the scenes with retaining, engaging and attracting young users. Even as Instagram was heralded as one of Facebook's crown jewels, it turned to extraordinary spending measures to get the attention of teenagers. It particularly emphasised a category called "early high school," which it classified as 13- to 15-year-olds.

Any slip by Instagram could have larger consequences for Facebook. The firm hoped that

Instagram would entice more young people to all of its apps, replenishing Facebook's aging user base, according to the documents.

The disclosures underscore how much is at stake for Facebook as it seeks to address an outcry in Congress and from the public over Instagram's effects on users' mental health. According to separate documents from a Facebook whistle-blower, Frances Haugen, which *The Wall Street Journal* published, Facebook has known that some teenage girls reported feeling worse about their body image when using Instagram. Haugen testified at a Senate hearing this month that Facebook deliberately kept people, including children, hooked to its services. **NYT**

JASON HOROWITZ

CATANIA, OCTOBER 16

THE MOTHER had prepared everything for the baptism. She dressed her infant son Antonio in a handmade satin suit with tails and a matching cream-coloured top hat glittering with rhinestones. She hired the photographers and bought the baby a gold cross.

But as the parish priest in the Sicilian city of Catania went through the usual liturgy, calling on the family to renounce Satan and ladling holy water on the squirming baby's head, one major part of the ritual went missing.

There was no godfather.

In October, the Roman Catholic diocese of Catania en-



Antonio Sparti was baptized this month at a church in Catania, Italy. **NYT**

acted a three-year ban on the ancient tradition of naming godparents at baptisms and christenings. Church officials argue that the once-essential figure in a child's Catholic education has lost all spiritual significance. Instead, they say, it has become a networking opportunity for families looking to improve their

fortunes, secure endowments of gold necklaces and make advantageous connections, sometimes with local power brokers who have dozens of godchildren.

God parenting, church officials said, had fallen to earth as a secular custom between relatives or neighbours — many "deficient in faith" or "living in sin".

And sometimes it is used for strengthening mob ties, too. Italian prosecutors have tracked baptisms to map out how underworld bosses spread influence. It is a transgression most associated with, well, *The Godfather*, especially the baptism scene when Michael Corleone renounces Satan in church as his henchmen whack all of his enemies. **NYT**

Ahmedabad

eye



POINT OF VIEW

The Men Who Built Delhi

He might be synonymous with the architecture of the nation's seat of power but there were others beyond Edwin Lutyens who shaped the Capital

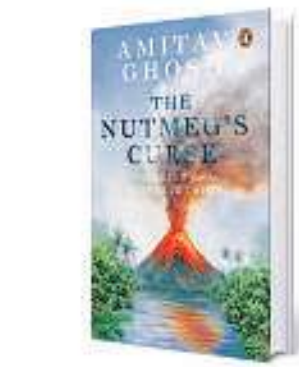


ARTS etc

'Printmaking is growing'

Artist pedagogue Anupam Sud on her ongoing exhibition, the influence of mythology on her printmaking process and why she detests labels

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?



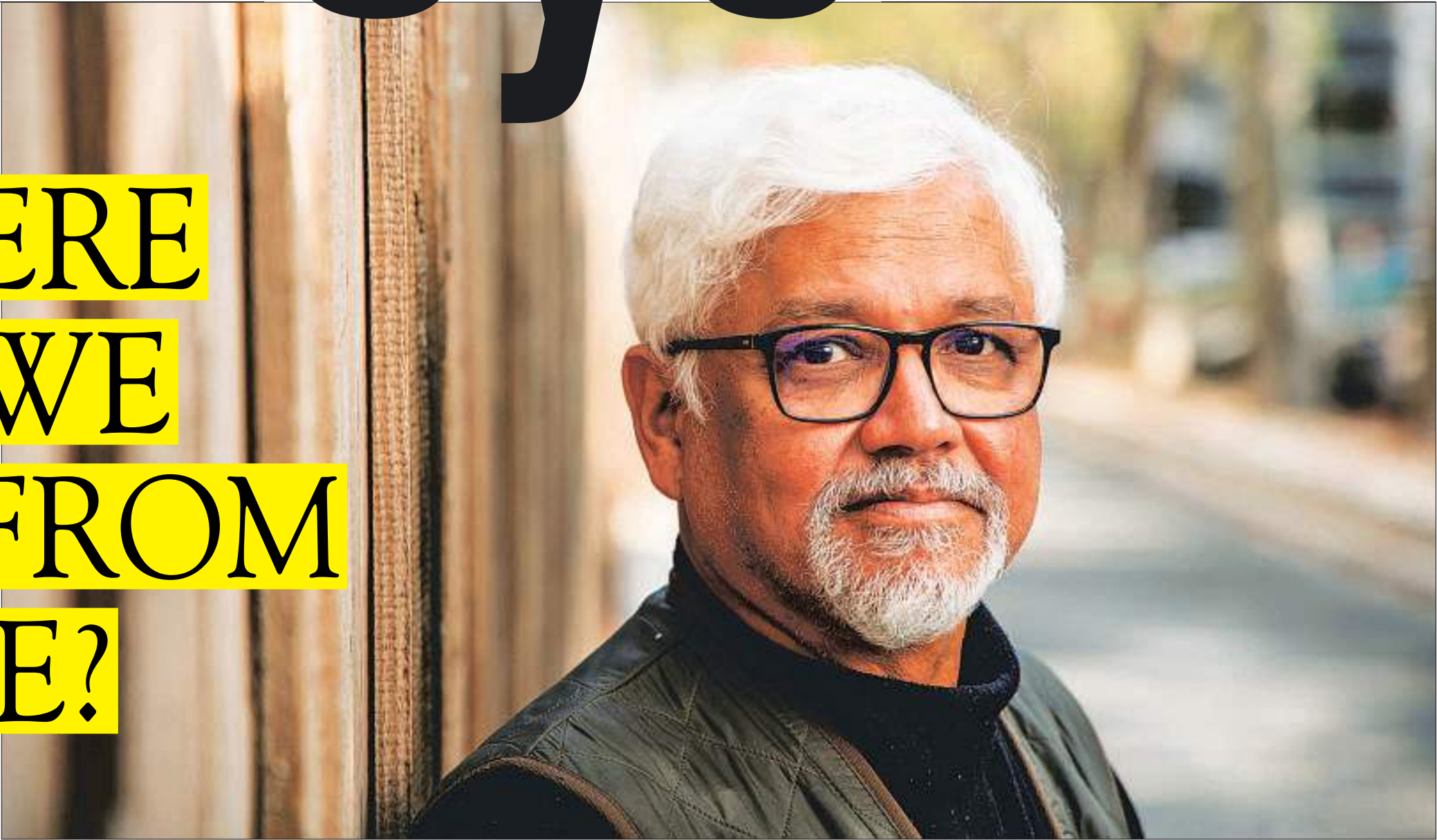
Paromita Chakrabarti

AROUND THE time that Amitav Ghosh's new book of non-fiction, *The Nutmeg's Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis* (Penguin Random House, Rs 599), released in India this week, reports threw up alarming new data on the spiralling global climate crisis. Months after the "code red for humanity" sounded by United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and ahead of the COP26 climate change summit in Glasgow, Scotland, which begins on October 31, the Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA) released its report, "World Energy Outlook 2021", on October 13. In it, IEA highlighted how the bid for economic recovery in a pandemic-ridden world has seen "a large rebound in coal and oil use". "Largely for this reason, it is also seeing the second-largest annual increase in CO2 emissions in history," the report said.

In India, Adivasis in Chhattisgarh launched a 300-km march to the state capital of Raipur to protest against the land-acquisition process and the mining projects in the Hasdeo Arand forests of central India; the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change proposed amendments to the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, that would ease diversion of forest land and offer exemptions to certain developmental activities from governmental clearance, even as state governments warned of an impending electricity crisis if coal stocks are not urgently replenished.

In Ghosh's compelling narrative, such ruptures arrange themselves into a discernible pattern of violent aggrandisement that dates back to the arrival of the first European colonisers on foreign shores, and adopted since by governments and corporates around the world. Ghosh begins with the story of the nutmeg, a spice that had, for centuries, been grown and traded in the Banda Islands (now in Indonesia) in the Indian Ocean. The arrival of the Dutch colonisers in the 16th century and the violent profiteering project that takes shape destroys the islands and its indigenous community. Over the next several centuries, this model of rapacious appropriation would, quite literally, reshape, or as Ghosh contextualises it, "terraform" the Earth, and birth acquisitive cultures that thrive on narratives of unbounded growth.

Yet, writes Ghosh, "As we watch the environmental and biological disasters that are now unfolding across the Earth, it is becoming even harder to hold on to the belief that the planet is an inert body that exists merely in order to provide humans with resources. Instead, the Earth's responses are increasingly reminiscent of the imaginary planet after which the Polish science fiction writer Stanislaw Lem named his brilliant novel *Solaris*: when provoked by humans *Solaris* begins to strike back in utterly unexpected



MATHEU GENON

Writer Amitav Ghosh on the clear and present danger that is climate change and connecting the dots between colonialism, capitalism and ecological imbalance in his new work of non-fiction

and uncanny ways."

Taking off from his 2016 work of non-fiction, *The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable*, Ghosh, 65, offers an intriguing examination of the mounting climate crisis, through a prism of history, politics, economy and philosophy to show how a colonial, capitalist culture of discrimination and violence in Asia and the Americas has led to this precipitous moment of ecological imbalance.

In this email interview, he speaks of stumbling upon the story of the nutmeg on a visit to the Banda Islands, the link between climate change and ethno-nationalism and the flawed principle of climate elitism. Edited excerpts:

You have been writing about the Indian Ocean for a very long time. Do you remember what first sparked your interest in its history and geopolitics?

I, too, have sometimes wondered why the Indian Ocean has loomed so large in my imagination. Maybe it has something to do with the years I spent in Sri Lanka as a child. Sri Lanka may be a small country but it occupies a central position in the history and geography of the Indian Ocean. Indeed, as you will have seen in *The Nutmeg's Curse*, small islands, like those of the Banda Archipelago, have played a key part in the history of the Indian Ocean.

When did you first become aware of the clear and present danger that is climate change?

I started to become aware of the effects of climate change while writing about the Sundarban in *The Hungry Tide* (2004). Even back then, 20 years ago, some of the impacts of climate change, such as salt-water intrusion, were visible there. Since then, the devastation of the Sundarban, by a series of cyclones such as Aila (in 2009), made it clear that the dangers were indeed clear and present.

You write in this book how you became immersed in the history of the decimation of the indigenous community in Banda during the pandemic. How did you arrive at the story itself, given how little was known of this event?

My awareness of this story came from my visit to the Banda Islands in 2016. Before that visit, I knew almost nothing about what had happened there, because very little has been written about it. One of the reasons for this, perhaps, is that the Banda Islands came to be absorbed into the Dutch Empire, the history of which tends to be much less discussed than the British, or even the Portuguese and Spanish empires.

How did it help you to connect the dots between market fundamentalism and colonialism?

Writing the book was indeed a process of connecting dots. And in this, I must say, the is-



PHOTOS: AMITAV GHOSH



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

NOTES FROM A CATASTROPHE

(Clockwise from top) Writer Amitav Ghosh; the spice that spurred on a colonial invasion; the nutmeg tree; Banda Islands in Indonesia

it from a political lens and rarely from an ecological perspective.

Ecological impacts are, of course, very important drivers of the migrations that are currently underway around the planet. But, I think, we have to be careful not to be reductive in considering the causes of these migrations. As I've said in *The Nutmeg's Curse*, in my travels I did not meet a single migrant who was willing to describe themselves as a 'climate migrant'. Their journeys were driven by many factors of which ecological impacts were just one. It is important to remember that communications technology plays a very important role in the migrations of today. Pre-existing networks also play a very important part in enabling these movements. So, for example, among the migrants who are crossing the Mediterranean

and the Balkans, there are many Bangladeshis and Pakistanis, but very few Indians. This is, I think, largely because the clandestine networks that enable migrants to move are not as extensive, or as deeply rooted in India as they are in Bangladesh and Pakistan. Both Bangladesh and Punjab have long histories of sending young, working-class men abroad, so the pre-existing migrant networks in these regions are very strong. In India, by contrast, overseas migrants generally tend to be middle class, except in Punjab, which is more akin to the Pakistani and Bangladeshi pattern. However, I think this will change, and similar networks will soon spread through India.

In one of his first interviews after his Nobel Prize for Literature win this year, Abdulrazak Gurnah spoke of how the Western imagination of migration is limited by a belief that 'there isn't enough to go around' and that there could be a way around it if one could conceive that these people have something of value to offer in return. This limitation of the Western imagination is something you address, too, in your writing. But you serve a warning note when you say that it could spur on eco-fascism or ethno-nationalism if left unchecked.

Migration tends to create a strange kind of double-think in places that become destinations for migrants. Once migrants start working in a certain sector, it often happens that local people stop doing those jobs. So, for example, in Italy, the caregivers who look after elderly people are almost all migrants; native-born Italians just don't do that kind of work anymore. That's also true of some kinds of agricultural work. In the US too, native-born Americans (including the children of migrants) have stopped doing certain kinds of agricultural work. I met a Midwestern farmer recently who told me stories about how, in his teenage years, he would work on a farm for pocket money. He said that today it's almost impossible to get American teenagers to do that kind of work, even if you pay them well. They would rather work indoors, as cashiers in a supermarket chain. I've seen this pattern evolve also in Goa, where the workers and labourers are now mainly from Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Odisha. Many native-born Goans are reluctant to do certain kinds of work now, like gardening, masonry or waiting in restaurants. Yet, these very regions, which have become completely dependent on migrant labour, also often generate nativist movements, calling for the exclusion of migrants. The UK is a good example: the nativists thought that after Brexit, British people would rush to take the jobs that migrants once held. But this has not proved to be the case, as they have found to their cost.

How do you see this ethno-nationalism play out within nations with regard to climate change?

That dynamic is visible everywhere, even in India, where Bangladesh is constantly being vilified in relation to migration. Yet, Bangladesh now has a higher per capita GDP than India, and has better social indicators as well. In fact, India is hardly an attractive destination for Bangladeshi migrants. In Europe (and also in India), hostility to migrants is often superimposed on religious divisions, creating a really toxic mix.

Countries such as India, with their traditionally animistic approach to nature, could have chosen a different approach to conservation. Where did we falter?

In India, as elsewhere, vitalist beliefs have largely been kept alive by people who have a close connection with the land. These people are generally those who live in forests or belong to disadvantaged castes. In India, many of these people are under attack by middle-class urbanites who are intent, not only on destroying their ways of life but also in seizing their lands. What we are seeing, essentially, in India, and in other parts of Asia, is the wholesale adoption of settler-colonial practices by political and economic elites.

Do you see the history of violence that shaped the Americas play out in a new form but with similar results in Asia, now that the coloniser's focus on 'terraforming' has been adopted by corporates and governments?

Yes, sadly this is absolutely the case. Throughout Asia now, there is a mania for building dams, for instance. Yet, in America, where dams have been used extensively to terraform the terrain, it is now becoming clear that dams will exacerbate the effects of climate change. Indeed, many dams are now being dismantled in the US. Unfortunately, this lesson has not been widely absorbed.

Two things that have emerged out of this pandemic are the erosion of public trust in institutions and a heightened awareness of the deep inequality that exists in society today. In India, for instance, the sight of migrant workers walking back to their villages when the lockdown was declared remains emblematic of the first phase of the pandemic. What do you foresee as its impact in the coming days, given that climate elitism relies on the belief of the survival of the richest?

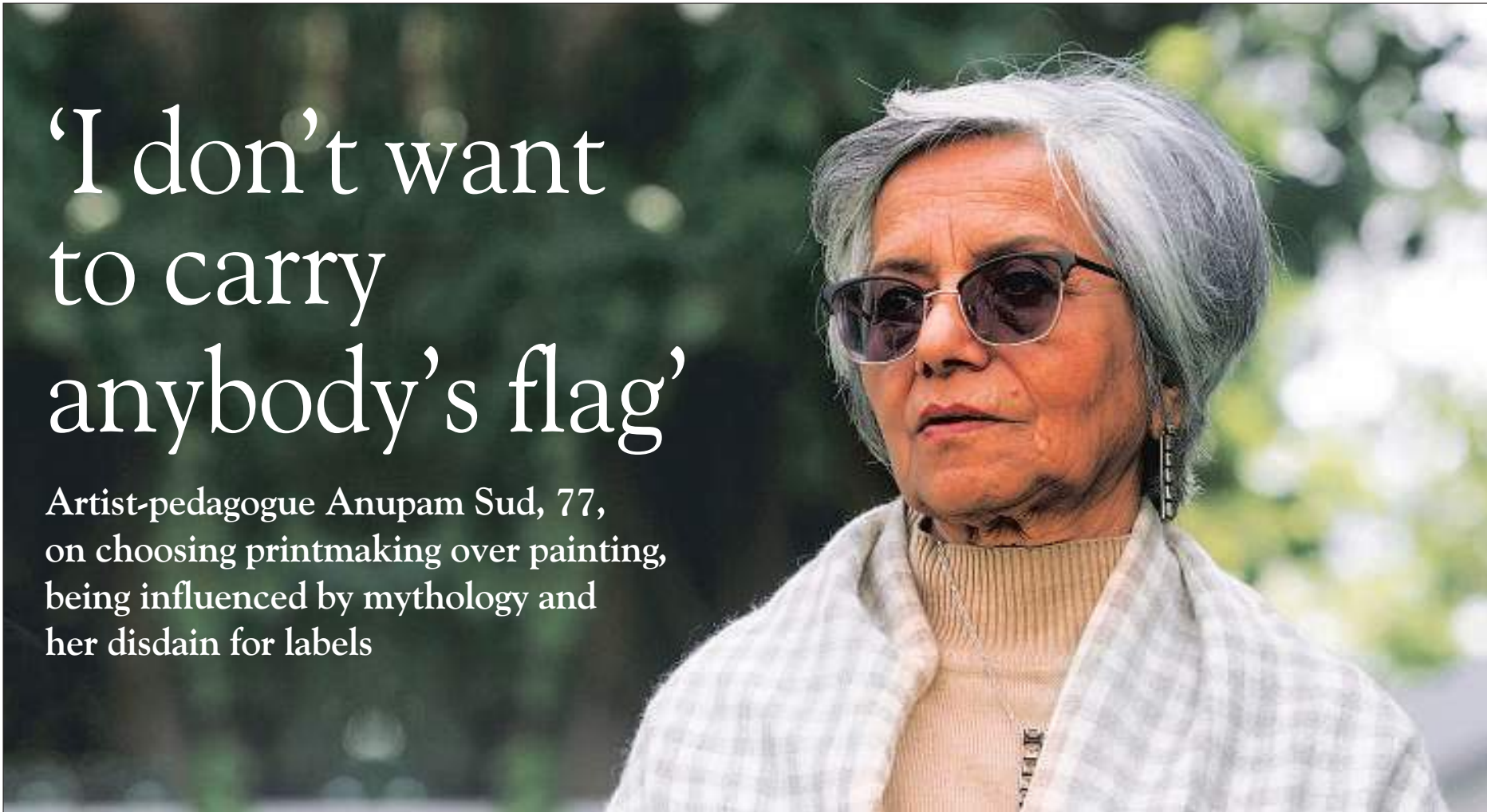
What happened in India in relation to migrant workers was completely horrific: it was an all-out declaration of a class war, waged by elites against the poor. The long-term effects will be terrible, in terms of climate resilience. One of the things that this pandemic has shown is that an absence of social trust creates terrible outcomes. So, for instance, the US, which led the way in coming up with vaccines, has been unable to vaccinate large sections of its population, simply because of a lack of social trust. In general, the countries that have been worst hit by the pandemic are those with high rates of inequality, and low social trust — most notably the US, Brazil and India.

In *The Great Derangement*, you'd written that future generations would hold not just leaders and politicians accountable for their failure to address the climate crisis, but also artists and writers because 'the imagining of possibilities is not, after all, the job of politicians and bureaucrats.' Do you see writers addressing this crisis of vision better since?

Yes, there has been significant change in the literary and artistic worlds in the last few years. Many more writers and artists are paying attention to climate change. Nowadays, I receive books and manuscripts every day that say 'this book was inspired by *The Great Derangement*.' I wish I could read all of them but the sheer volume is overwhelming.



Ahmedabad



AMIT MEHRA

‘I don’t want to carry anybody’s flag’

Artist-pedagogue Anupam Sud, 77, on choosing printmaking over painting, being influenced by mythology and her disdain for labels

Vandana Kalra

Your exhibition ‘Germination’, currently at Delhi’s Art Konsult gallery, features graphics from your student days in the ’60s, to the ’90s. How would you define these three decades of your oeuvre?

Several of the works in the exhibition are printing proofs. These were not complete works but different stages that offered possibilities. For me, these were steps to achieve a work. When you are young, you want to try new things and my work developed further from these. All of us have different experiences and it is important for a work of art to have different thematic interpretations and that is what gives it life.

What are your thoughts on being described as a ‘feminist’ artist?

People give tags for their own convenience and I don’t like being labelled. Everyone knows what is the philosophy behind feminism, and the description is given so that they can relate the work with that. I don’t want to carry anybody’s flag. I am an individual and can think for myself. In fact, I am against some of the things done by feminists in the past. For instance, some feminists said we won’t wear bras. Why not if it gives us comfort? On other occasions, some feminists walked naked on the streets to voice their demands. I will not endorse any of these things. I never felt deprived, I fought for my rights. In my family, women handled the daily expenses. My grandfather was a lawyer and would discuss cases with my grandmother. There were distinct domains where each — men and women — were important. At some level, feminism has come to India from the West and we need not ape it — not all the issues taken up by them were absolutely relevant for our problems, we have a different society and our own concerns that need to be dealt with.

You spent a lot of your childhood with your grandfather in Shimla. Do memories of those times influence your work?

Your upbringing and culture at home is bound to influence you. When I was growing up, there was a strong nationalistic movement and even today if someone says anything



IMAGES COURTESY: ART KONSULT GALLERY, DELHI

against India, I can’t stand it. The mythological references (in her work), perhaps, also come from recollections of mythological stories told to us by my mother and grandmother. My mother would share with us episodes from not just Valmiki’s Ramayana, but also the one written by Tulsidas, and numerous other interpretations. Years before the play *Andha Yug* (1954), she told me how Gandhari covered her eyes because she felt it was unfair to have wedded her to a blind king, and she did not want to show the world to him through her eyes. Religion wasn’t mere rituals; it was a philosophy. I went to a convent school, and then a regular one, later taught in a Sikh institution, all of those experiences have also influenced my work.

You have often responded to the sociopolitical surroundings in your work, including the 2012 Delhi gang-rape case and the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks. Would you make a work on what is happening in India now?

Like everyone, I get affected by what is happening and have an opinion. Some things prolong, while others fizzle out. Look at how some people were pleading for mercy for some of the boys in the gang-rape case. My reaction even when the incident happened was that not a lot will change in the coming years. I don’t know if I will make a work on what is happening now, things keep churning. At a

subconscious level, various things affect you and your work. Someone once asked me if I’m a socially-committed artist, and I said, ‘no’. Though I am a part of society and get affected, my aim is not to improve society through my work. If I take that responsibility, I will give up being an artist; I will instead make an effort to improve society more directly.

As a student, you were averse to pursuing printmaking. What made you change your mind? Was it also because of your teacher Jagmohan Chopra?

It was perhaps destiny. Printmaking was a challenging medium and I would see my seniors struggle with all the equipment and chemicals. But, gradually, I began to feel that when an image is transferred from the plate to paper, it is like magic. Jagmohan Chopra was a great teacher, but it wasn’t just about meeting him, it was also about him providing us the opportunity and facility to continue working after college. The summer before graduating, I remember asking him where would we make prints now. Unlike painting, it requires machines, certain equipment and a proper setup. Soon, he set up a makeshift studio in the living room of his house, which led to the establishment of Group 8. It was the works I made there that fetched me a scholarship to go to Slade School of Fine Art (in University College of London, the UK). I would send letters to him from London, telling him about the chemicals used for printmaking. I also sent him details of the Aquatint box, and he designed one for the College of Art (Chandigarh) that so many printmakers have told me is the best in India.

Did a long teaching career at College of Art have an impact on your art practice?

It was extremely important for me to be independent and not ask my father for money, and teaching allowed that. Within the first three years, I became a compulsive teacher. I realised teaching is not an easy job.

If you want to be a true teacher, it is important that students understand you and you know what their needs are. New students would often be warned (by the seniors) that I was very strict, but that was because of the nature of printmaking where so many potentially hazardous chemicals are used. Of course, students understood that later. I also learnt a lot from my students; observing them offers you different perspectives. I fell in love with teaching and neglected my own practice for years, till I began to feel I am starving. Since I thought it was unethical to study during my teaching time, I applied for permission to work after college. Unless I practised, I couldn’t do justice to teaching the subject that is still growing in India. To be able to give information to the students, I had to be 10 times better than them.



A lot of your work explores the way light falls on male and female figures.

Light creates an edge, which leads to lines and I love to draw that. To me, it does not matter whether it’s a male or female figure. I treat both in the same manner and neither, for me, is a sexual object. Vulgarity only creeps in when you objectify things. For me, what God has made is glorious, the human body is such perfect machinery, and I want to celebrate that. When you are working, if you get one good line, you experience a supreme feeling. I like sketching and drawing, which I still do.

You were also good at painting. Do you regret not pursuing that given the bias against printmaking in India?

If I ever felt like drawing or painting, I would just do that. Printmaking is definitely in a much better position than earlier and several artists are doing very good work. More people are setting up studios for themselves because they can afford it, and there are also more studios where artists can practise across the country. The medium encourages experimentation and there are limitless possibilities, printmaking is still growing.

EYESPY

EVERY FORTNIGHT, WE PICK, YOU WATCH



Shubhra Gupta

Shubhra Gupta is film critic with The Indian Express

Trigger Point

Natesh Hegde’s *Pedro* brings things to a roiling boil in a ‘calm’ village



EVERYMAN

The director’s father, Gopal Hegde, plays the titular role

Shubhra Gupta

PEDRO IS the kind of film where nothing seems to happen for the longest time: the frame is still, letting us observe the bounties of nature — dense, tall trees piecing the sky, thickly falling rain, the sound of water meeting sodden earth, the muted rumble of a car bouncing along rutted roads. And then, something does happen, the thing that the film has been steering the lead character named Pedro, and us, towards. It is a climactic moment which holds up a mirror, and those complicated faces are us.

In the far distance, we see two men walking. They skirt along the edge of the frame, disappear, and then appear again. One climbs what looks like an electric pole; the other walks away, picks up his phone, makes a call. We don’t hear what he says, but we know, with dawning dread, the fate of the man we left behind, on that pole.

Natesh Hegde’s debut Kannada feature runs a compact 108 minutes. It is about a man and matters and consequences, but this very generic description turns into something very specific through the 25-year-old self-taught filmmaker’s singular vision. “For me, space is primary. I’m fascinated by the internal rhythms of a place, and I’ve used elements from my life and my father’s life (Gopal Hegde, who has acted in all his son’s films, plays Pedro) to tell my story,” says Hegde, over a phone call on a patchy network from Busan, where the film has had a “full-house” premiere followed by an animated discussion on the film’s “characters, tone, and mood”.

The killing of a cow pushes a man, already unravelling through too many years of perilous electrical work and harsh personal circumstances, over the edge. Pedro’s tiny village is a compendium of the complex social layers that are visible in pockets all over India: religious and class differences colliding with rising bigotry have become increasingly combustible. “I wanted to see how far will a mob go, and what is the trigger point.” In Hegde’s deceptively calm universe, which also pointedly questions toxic masculinity, all things come to a roiling boil, leaving you stunned.

Born and raised in the same village near Dharwad in north-west Karnataka that the film is set in (as are his two short films, the disturbing *The Crab*, 2019, and *Distant*, 2018), Hegde, who studied journalism at Dharwad University, started off as a short-story writer. Discovering the cinema of Iranian maestro Abbas Kiarostami was a defining moment, and he jumped into filmmaking, none the worse for not having had formal training. His work’s striking realism comes from the deep connection his characters exhibit with their living space: when the little boy in *The Crab* delightedly picks up a wriggling little creature from a pond, or when Pedro slithers down a tree-trunk, knowing exactly where the grooves are, you know that this is their life.

After Busan, the film will travel to film festivals in London and Pingyao. A theatrical release back home is on the cards, too. “*Pedro* will definitely be out soon,” says a confident Hegde. Amen to that.

Advantage, Friendship

Writer-director Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari on the Paes-Bhupathi docu-series, why the story had to be told in their own words, and her debut novel

Alaka Sahani

KNOWN FOR directing films such as *Nil Battey Sannata* (2015), *Bareilly Ki Barfi* (2017) and *Panga* (2020), with regular, “flawed” people for characters, Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari’s latest directorial outing is *Break Point*, an insightful docu-series (on Zee5) about the legendary partnership, friendship and fallout of tennis champions Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi. Prior to this, this year, came her scathing yet optimistic short film on the loneliness of a migrant in a big city, for the recent Netflix anthology *Ankahi Kahaniya*, and her first novel. In *Mapping Love* (Rupa Publications, Rs 295), the advertising-professional-turned-filmmaker Iyer Tiwari, 41, explores the complexities of relationships through the story of a girl named Oorja. Edited excerpts:

How did the docu-series on Paes-Bhupathi come about?

In March 2020, Vijay Subramaniam of Collective Artists Network called to ask if Nitesh (Tiwari) and I would be interested in telling the story of Leander and Bhupathi. That’s the fastest ‘yes’ we’ve said. The proposal came as a hope during the lockdown when we could put our creative energy into



DEUCE COURT

(Above) The poster of *Break Point*; (right) Iyer Tiwari; her novel *Mapping Love*

developing something challenging. We started with the thought: ‘Let’s make something which hasn’t been done before and make it world-class.’ We were talking about

two legends who made India proud. It was important to tell the story in their own words, where they are the heroes and they are sharing for the world to listen to what went wrong.

What was the immediate task for you?

Unlike a documentary, we and our co-writer Piyush Gupta created a structure beforehand. We had to ensure the emotional graph was intact and focussed on their humanness. We were telling the story not just from the perspective of two champions, but also talking to sportspersons and sports lovers about the dos and don’ts of a great partnership.

How did you make them open up in front of the camera?

Mahesh opened up first. Leander took a little longer. First, they needed to trust us, to know that they were going to tell a story from their perspective, a story that’s emotionally binding, and talk about the ups and downs in their lives. That we weren’t interrogating them. Once they knew we weren’t going to be judgemental, they spoke frankly.

When we got Leander and Mahesh together on the same screen during a video call, they did not know we were asking the questions together. It was during the initial days



of making the series. Leander was in tears. This was the first time after many years, in spite of living minutes away from each other’s home, they were talking on screen. It was healing.

All the interviewees had to go down memory lane. So many people were a part of their journey. Mahesh’s father (CG Krishna Bhupathi) and Leander’s father (Vece Paes) went through similar emotions. A lot of the time, we had to make decisions in the moment.

Tell us about co-directing the series with your filmmaker-husband Nitesh Tiwari.

We’ve been working together for a long

time, whether it’s in advertising or co-writing a feature. We’ve focussed on our strengths. While working on *Break Point*, we knew who was taking up which responsibility. When Nitesh asked the questions, I was behind the monitor, listening in and looking into other aspects, like the art and lighting. It was pretty organic.

During the pandemic, you published a novel, made a short film and now this series.

It is important to keep evolving and innovating as a storyteller with new stories and formats. The world is moving fast in terms of technology. You can see various kind

of movies from across the world. We should be on a par with it. Next, I will be working on my web-series.

At what point did you feel strongly about writing *Mapping Love*? Tell us about the cannonball flower on its cover.

People always tell me even when I’m writing a synopsis, it’s like writing a novel. I write 20-30 pages synopsis with details. For films, I write character sketches which run into pages. I want to know everything about the person — their food habits, the music they like, the kind of friends they have. I would have been a good anthropology student. When I started writing this story, I felt it cannot be a film. I always dreamt of writing a novel, I didn’t know it would take shape so early.

I share a deep connection with the unusual flower. My maternal grandmother’s building premises (in Sion, Mumbai) has an old cannonball tree. What fascinates me is that the flowers are so layered. You take out a part and you’ll discover something beautiful within. Then, something else within that. It is like peeling off layers to reveal secrets and dissecting relationships.

For the many roles you juggle, do you follow a routine?

Developing a ritual is necessary for any creative pursuit. A screenplay has to be written before a film is made. Writing a novel is tougher because you aren’t writing one-liners. You know your start and end and are trying to find your middle. I write between 4 and 7 pm. I don’t go back to what I’ve written, else I keep correcting. I keep writing till I finish and then revise it as a second draft.

The six-nation Nordic group of European soccer federations have detailed their opposition to FIFA's push to stage the World Cup every two years. Increasing the number of World Cups would “cannibalize” existing competitions, make European Championships “obsolete” and marginalize women's tournaments, the federations wrote in a co-signed statement.



Saurashtra’s
Avi Barot dies
of cardiac arrest

EXPRESSNEWSERVICE
OCTOBER 16

AVI BAROT, the former India Under-19 captain and wicketkeeper-batter who was part of Saurashtra’s Ranji Trophy champions team, died of a cardiac arrest while watching the Indian Premier League (IPL) final at his residence in Ahmedabad on Friday night. He died just five days after he smashed 72 off 43 balls in the final of Reliance G-1 T20 tournament and helped Saurashtra team claim the title in Rajkot on Sunday. He was 29 and is survived by his mother and wife.

“Everyone at Saurashtra Cricket Association deeply shocked and saddened on very shocking, untimely and extremely sad demise of Avi Barot, remarkable and notable Cricketer of Saurashtra. He left for heavenly abode in the evening of 15th October 2021 due to severe cardiac arrest,” Saurashtra Cricket Association (SCA) said in a release.

SCA president Jaydev Sah said the Association and teammates are in deep shock. “It’s a very sad news. He suffered a sudden cardiac arrest at his residence in Ahmedabad at around 10 o’clock last night and didn’t survive. This is unbelievable. Twenty-nine is nothing and he was demonstrating it while playing in front of us all just a few days back. I was deeply shocked to receive the news just days after he scored so many runs in Reliance G-1 tournament which he was playing after coming out of an injury,” Shah told *The Indian Express*.

Barot’s 72 was the highlight of the Reliance G-1 T20 tournament final in Rajkot on October 20. Barot’s knock had propelled Saurashtra to 200 and laid the foundation of the team’s victory against his former team Gujarat in the summit clash.

A native of Ahmedabad, Barot had made his First Class debut as Gujarat Ranji player against Delhi in 2011. The same year, he was appointed captain of India U-19 team. From Gujarat, he moved to Haryana Ranji team but eventually migrated back to state of Gujarat and joined Rajkot-based Saurashtra Ranji team in 2016-17 season. Since then, he used to keep wickets and open batting for Saurashtra.

Barot played 38 First Class matches and scored 1547 matches at an average of 24.95, including one century and nine half-centuries. However, he excelled in the shortest format of the game, scoring 717 runs in 20 T20 matches at an average of 37.73.

SCA secretary Himanshu Shah said that Barot had been in good batting form for the past two seasons. “Since the last two seasons, he was in extremely good form. The way he was playing in T20, I was in fact very hopeful that he would be picked in the new season of IPL. But it’s extremely tough to take this. I really couldn’t believe my ears when I heard the news of his death. This is an unbelievable tragedy. Just a few years back, he had lost his father in a similar manner when he was just 42 or 43,” said the secretary.

Mourinho demands respect
ahead of return to Juventus

Rome: Jose Mourinho says a lack of respect led to his famous ‘cupped ear’ reaction to Juventus fans while he was in charge of Manchester United, as the Portuguese prepares to return to Turin in charge of AS Roma on Sunday.

Mourinho walked into the centre of the Allianz Stadium pitch with his hand cupped over his ear towards Juve fans after his United side won a Champions League game there in November 2018.

The 58-year-old was asked what reaction he expected to receive from the home crowd when his Roma side, who are fourth and four points clear of Juve in seventh, take to the pitch.

‘Today was just not my day’:
Zverev regrets shock defeat

Indian Wells: Olympic champion Alexander Zverev admitted he blew the chance to win the Indian Wells tournament after Friday’s shock quarter-final defeat by American Taylor Fritz and said he just wants to return home. Zverev, who was aiming to win his third ATP Masters 1000 title of the season, lost 4-6 6-3 7-6(3) after Fritz fought back from 2-5 down in the final set and saved two match points to stun the German in the California desert. “Today was just not really my day, to be honest. I was close to winning, but the level of tennis was just not quite there for me,” world number four Zverev told reporters. “Today mentally is not easy for me.”

REUTERS

SANDEEP DWIVEDI
OCTOBER 16

PADDY UPTON in his book Barefeet Coach talks about his eye-opening short interaction with Mahendra Singh Dhoni very early in his stint as India’s mental conditioning coach. After one longish meeting, where the mind guru seemed to be making a habit of addressing the boys, Dhoni put an arm around his shoulder and said: “Upton, I don’t feel that you always have to say something.” It was a subtle message, the South African coach writes, to keep things simple. From that moment to his last day in office, when India won the 2011 World Cup, Upton had a better idea about his word limit, and the India skipper.

Jasprit Bumrah’s favourite Dhoni story is about his India debut in Australia. From the time he touched down in Sydney as a late replacement, Bumrah was anxious about his expected one-on-one with the skipper. Would the talk be about team ethics, dressing room decorum, game plan or a plain pep talk? Will it happen on match eve, inside the dressing room, during the warm-up or just after the toss? On Dhoni’s watch, conventions get trampled upon on a daily basis. It was only when a nervous Bumrah was entering the field, the big man walked up to him. “Do whatever you know. Whatever fields you want, we will give.” Again, nothing complicated; simple words, simpler advice. India went on to win that game and the rookie pacer ended up as the best bowler.

Upton’s moved on, Bumrah’s moved up, but India’s favourite strong-and-silent cricketer continues to diligently practise what he, in his subtle way, preaches. An ardent practitioner of tactical conservatism, Dhoni, by being loyal to cricket’s good-old basic principles, has mastered the format which feverishly explores possibilities, glorifies radicalism, celebrates all inane innovations and is of late getting over-eager to borrow ideas from other sports. However hard T20 cricket tries to run away from the mother sport, Dhoni keeps dragging it back home.

In Dubai on Friday, he lifted the IPL trophy for the fourth time. CSK’s consistency in a notoriously unpredictable format, that is unforgiving of even a minor slip-up, is a tribute to a leader whose greatness lies in the simplicity of his cricketing engagement. Dhoni follows a set pattern, banks on his regulars, along with long-time coach Stephen Fleming. The two aren’t known to be way-laid by seasonal trends and other excesses on the T20 playlist.

For his opponents, the match-eve brainstorming sessions aren’t about guessing the surprise that Dhoni would throw at them; they are mostly about thinking of ways to stop CSK’s usual suspects executing their very well-known winning plan.

Case in point is the text-book bowling sequence which Dhoni has followed for years now. It has a very predictable pattern. Take this season. For the first six overs, it’s the Aussie quick Josh Hazlewood with pacers slower than him. Left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja gets the ball after the Powerplay. Just around the half-way mark, the team’s fulcrum, the clever trundler Dwayne Bravo gets in the mix. He has spinners for company in the middle overs and pacers at the death. Pacers-spinners-pacers, this wheel was invented for Tests and later fitted to ODIs. Dhoni doesn’t show the restlessness to rein-

“Maybe the same as always, or different, I don’t know,” Mourinho told a news conference.

“When I reacted at the end of the game last time in a way that was criticised, I thought it was a bit strange.

“People remembered the 10 second emotional reaction and forgot 90 minutes of the game. Today we talk about respect but in those 90 minutes that was all forgotten.”

Mourinho and Juve coach Massimiliano Allegri have clashed in the past, and the Italian called his counterpart “pathetic” on Italian television in 2011, but the Roma manager insisted there is no bad blood between them.

Sharma, Bhullar miss cut at
Andalucía Masters

Valderrama: Indian golfers Shubhankar Sharma and Gaganjeet Bhullar failed to live upto their own expectations, making an early exit from the Estrella Damm NA Andalucia Masters after missing the halfway cut in the European Tour event. Bhullar, who had an 82 in the first round, improved by 13 shots with a 69 and totalled nine-over but was still way off the cut line, which fell at six-over. Sharma (79-75) was even further down. Romain Langasque carded a second consecutive round of 69 to take a one-stroke lead into the weekend. The Frenchman carded 15 pars, a birdie, and his second eagle of the week, dropping just one shot. He is four-under par for two rounds.

PTI



Leading CSK’s bunch of conventional cricketers is the wise-old oracle, cricket’s Chanakya and Chandragupt rolled into one – Dhoni.

iplT20.com

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vent it for T20 cricket.

Tried, tested, trusted

Most CSK regulars are old-school cricketers. The now iconic canary yellow jersey is rarely seen on those globetrotting T20 specialists – the six-hitting muscular mercenaries or the mystery spinners who treat the cricket ball as a carrom striker. Those who delivered for him in the final – Faf du Plessis, Hazlewood, Jadeja and Moeen Ali – have proven Test pedigree. Others who played bit parts – Ambati Rayudu, Robin Uthappa, Shardul Thakur, Deepak Chahar – have long and towering presence in first-class cricket.

The find of this season and IPL’s top run-getter, Ruturaj Gaikwad is a 24-year-old with four first-class centuries. He is no flashy slogger but an opener with a refined all-format technique. Like many IPL upstarts drafted into the Test side lately, Gaikwad, it’s being predicted, wouldn’t look ridiculous in India whites. And leading this bunch of conventional cricketers is the wise-old Oracle, cricket’s Chanakya and Chandragupt Maurya

rolled into one – Dhoni.

Captains with Dhoni-like qualities, and CVs, have been historically indulged; they get their way and the team they want. But not in IPL, the high-stakes tournament with a brand valuation of around Rs 48,000 crore. Cricket’s corporatisation has changed the power equations. IPL owners as a species are known to have inflated egos, scissor-hands and long pointed noses that sniff in areas where they don’t have expertise.

CSK, the only IPL franchise with a rich cricketing legacy, thankfully hasn’t moved with the times. The original owner and influential BCCI office-bearer N Srinivasan has run multiple teams in Chennai’s local leagues, seen intense club rivalry, scooped big-ticket transfers and dealt with players of every hue. He didn’t whistle podu into cricket yesterday. Srinivasan has been around to know that supporting cricket needs a philanthropist’s mindset; it’s not an investment that gives regular annual dividends.

Not to be seen as a virtue, but at CSK the players and owners have stuck to each other through thick and thin. At the peak of the spot-fixing controversy, when Srinivasan’s son-in-law faced allegations of betting from the dugout, CSK closed ranks, declared an omerta. No whistle-blower, no mutiny, no exodus. Even when his meticulously-crafted reputation was at stake, Dhoni remained loyal to his franchise. It was never in doubt that he would return home, the Chepauk Stadium, once CSK served its two-year ban. The franchise, in turn, reciprocated.

Last year when CSK veteran Suresh Raina, one fine night before the start of the bubbled

IPL, flew back home, the team lost a vital cog. CSK lost balance and collapsed. It proved to be their worst season. Dhoni looked over the hill, the squad looked jaded. Any other franchise would have reacted. There would have been finger-pointing, gas-lighting, planted stories about the captain losing the confidence of the team and owners.

In contrast, at Chennai, there was no acrimony, no witch-hunt, not even a post-mortem. Raina was welcomed back. What’s one season between old associates who have guarded each other’s backs for over a decade.

Like an old family-run institution, there were no panic decisions. Instead, the core remained unshakeable. At CSK, they know the drill. Unlike other teams, among CSK’s travelling party are a handful of Srinivasan loyalists, all Tamil Nadu Cricket Association old hands from the era when cricket administrators didn’t stay at five-stars. It’s a travelling group that’s unlike an IPL team, it’s so Ranji Trophy-like. There’s a father figure manager and an old hand, who is everyone’s best friend, looks after the logistics. The MBA-kinds haven’t yet infiltrated the CSK top management since the men at the top know their cricket. They understand this is a funny game that needs patience.

Made for each other

Dhoni brings the same rationale to the field. He’s open to change but not in a hurry to wipe out the wisdom availed over the years. By sticking to the old route to victory, the 40-year-old might appear outdated at times but he will never be seen as a wannabe. To be celebrated as the in-vogue out-of-the-box thinker, Dhoni wouldn’t avoid taking the

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tried and tested right option.

He’s not the prototype aggressive leader whose natural nerve-busting expression can sell India-Pakistan grudge games. Dhoni’s communication is understated. He’s not into riveting inspirational dressing-room speeches – those work better in the final quarter of sports movies. His captaincy approach is functional and realistic. He guides youngsters to negotiate forked paths, and more importantly makes them aware about the game’s inevitabilities.

Unlike Virat Kohli, Dhoni doesn’t make his pursuit of a win obsessive. He remains aware of a possible uncontrollable twist in the tale and the subsequent unfavourable result. It’s this balance which makes him better prepared to face defeats, bounce back and be India’s most celebrated captain in the game’s most-fickle format.

The non-secret of his success is his simplicity and clarity which comes from the self-realisation that he can’t have all the answers. Dhoni knows in cricket, like in life, you can’t cover all bases.

Ashwin rewarded for reviving white-ball skills: Kohli

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
OCTOBER 16

India have brought back Ravichandran Ashwin to the T20I fold to be a game-changer in the World Cup. This has been a paradigm shift in thought process for a side that has kept right-arm off-spin at arm’s length in white-ball cricket since the 2017 Champions Trophy. But as Virat Kohli said at the ICC’s pre-T20 World Cup media event on Saturday, limited-overs cricket is constantly evolving and Ashwin has been bowling with courage.

“One thing that Ashwin has really improved on is bowling with a lot of courage in white-ball cricket. We saw in the IPL in the last couple of years, he has bowled those difficult overs, he bowled against top players, power-hitters, and not being shy to put the ball in the right areas. Spinners mostly get intimidated against power-hitters, but Ashwin believed in his skill-sets,” said the India captain.

Ashwin last played for India in T20Is in July, 2017. The selectors sprang a surprise by recalling the 35-year-old offie for the showpiece event. “We felt that the way he is bowling, his variations and his control over pace is... again, a lot of experience, a guy who has played a lot of international cricket and now he is at his confident best. These guys can go in there and change the game with their spells. Hence, I think Ashwin has been rewarded for reviving his white-ball skills altogether,” Kohli observed. The Indian team management gradually shifted towards wrist-spin after the 2017 Champions Trophy final, where Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja were taken to the cleaners by Pakistan’s Fakhar Zaman. Jadeja came back by dint of his better allround ability, but for more than four years, Ashwin wasn’t in the scheme



Ashwin’s experience and ‘courage’ in the IPL helped him make a comeback. iplT20.com

of India’s white-ball things. Kohli spoke about the shorter formats being constantly evolving.

“Wrist-spinners were in demand mostly through that middle period, but now finger-spinners with accuracy have come back into the game. I think we also have to evolve as a team, with the evolving trends of the game, and Ash and Jadeja are performing beautifully. It augurs well for the team.”

Ashwin didn’t have a very fruitful IPL with Delhi Capitals this term, taking seven wickets from 13 games. To an extent, he wasn’t properly used by the DC team management. Ashwin revels in a lead role and responsibility, which came to the fore while bowling the final over against Kolkata Knight Riders in the

Qualifier 2. With two consecutive wickets, he almost pulled off a heist.

At the World Cup, KKR’s Varun Chakravathy would be his nearest rival as regards to a playing-eleven spot. Varun was one of the showstoppers in the tournament, bagging 18 scalps from 17 games at an economy rate of less than seven runs per over. Varun, however, can be found out in batting and fielding, and the Indian team management has a tricky call to make.

If Ashwin’s inclusion was unexpected, Yuzvendra Chahal’s omission from the World Cup squad was debatable. Chahal had been groomed for four years for the big event, but at the end, Rahul Chahar trumped him. Chahal’s

“His eye for intricate details and
practical advice will help improve
the game by one or two per cent.
Absolutely delighted to have him.
(His) presence will not only boost
morale but also increase
confidence that we already have.”

-VIRAT KOHLI
ON DHONI AS TEAM MENTOR

excellent performance in this year’s IPL – 18 wickets in 15 games – threw up questions about his non-inclusion, but the Indian team wanted a leggie to bowl quicker through the air.

“It was a challenging call (to drop Chahal), but we decided to back Rahul Chahar for a reason. He has bowled amazingly well in the last couple of years in the IPL. (He is) a guy who bowls with pace. He did really well in Sri Lanka recently. And against England at home as well, he was someone who bowled those difficult overs,” Kohli said, adding: “We believe that heading into this tournament, the wickets are going to get slower and slower and guys who probably bowl with a lot more pace, as you saw in the latter stages of the tournament (IPL) as well, were the ones to trouble the batsmen the most.”

India’s tournament opener is against Pakistan on October 24, but Kohli is shutting out the hype. “Right now the value of those tickets are ridiculously high. It’s probably the only change that I experience from any other game. But apart from that, I don’t think we make anything extra out of this game. For us, it’s just a game of cricket that has to be played in the right way.”

India beat Nepal to win 8th SAFF title, Chhetri equals Messi

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA
MALE (MALDIVES), OCTOBER 16

TALISMAN SUNIL Chhetri equalled the iconic Lionel Messi with his 80th international strike as an inspired India blanked Nepal 3-0 for their eighth SAFF Championship title on Saturday. India extended their domination in the regional tournament thanks to second half goals from Chhetri (49th minute), Suresh Singh (50th) and Sahal Abdul Samad (90th). With his strike, the 37-year-old Chhetri equalled Messi and became the second highest goal-scorer in international football among active players.

Suresh Singh and Saha then added to the tally and paved the way for India's title triumph, a much-needed one after a series of mediocre outings. Sahal made it 3-0 when he dribbled past a few defenders after receiving the ball on the left flank at the stroke of the final whistle. India dominated possession in the first-half but failed to break the deadlock. However, Chhetri put India ahead minutes into the second half and even before Nepal could down settle down, Suresh made it 2-0.

This is the Indian football team's first title triumph under head coach Igor Stimac, who faced criticism in recent times for his side's inability to win enough games.

However, when it mattered the most in this edition of the regional tournament, Stimac's players delivered the results the team's fans had been waiting for.

Stimac also became the third foreign coach after Jiri Pesek (1993) and Stephen Constantine (2015) to clinch the title with the Indian team.

Chhetri gave India the lead after he charged in to neatly head in a delivery from Pritam Kotal on the right flank, leaving the Nepalese goal-keeper with no chance to come to his team's rescue. Barely a minute after Chhetri's opener, another attack by India caught Nepal completely off-guard as Suresh found the back of the net after Yasir Mohammad brilliantly cut it back for the mid-fielder.

Their tails up after two quick strikes, India pressed hard for more but could not add to the tally for a while before Sahal fond the back of the net with his solo effort.

India entered the game with the psychological advantage over the Himalayan country as historical or recent statistics cleared favoured Stimac's side to lift the title yet again.

Having endured a topsy-turvy start to their campaign, India ended it in style against the first-time finalists.

The final was the 12th for India in 13 editions, showing the domination of the Blue Tigers in this regional tournament.

SPORTSLINE

Wrestler-philosopher

Tokyo silver medallist Ravi Dahiya has fought adversity on the mat and off it, gaining new perspectives in sport and life

MIHIR VASAVDA
OCTOBER 16

"STRUGGLE," RAVI Dahiya says, "is continuous. Sometimes, it's external. Mostly, it's within." The Olympic silver medallist turns philosophical while talking about his job-hunting misadventures.

The story goes something like this: in 2015, after Dahiya started winning medals at junior Asian- and world-level tournaments, the Army approached him with a job offer. But the then-teenaged wrestler rejected it flat out, hoping to get aboard the Railways, like so many of his peers. "My target was Railways so that I could keep wrestling with a free mind," Dahiya says. "Fauj mein lag jaata (could have got into the Army), but I said no to them."

As luck would have it, however, soon after he snubbed the Army's offer, Dahiya says Railways came up with a notification which made only 12th-pass candidates eligible for recruitment. For Dahiya, who had to sacrifice formal education to focus on his wrestling career, this was bad news, and also the beginning of a series of unfortunate incidents.

In 2016, while making a comeback from an injury, Dahiya broke his finger. As he recovered from that, he was down with typhoid. For a wrestler whose game is dependent on strength, the bout with the bacterial infection left him vulnerable: "I lost in the junior nationals, in the selection trials... nothing was going my way."

Desperation slowly crept in. On the mat, his career seemed to be headed nowhere. Off it, he had nothing to fall back on. So, Dahiya approached the Army to see if their offer was still open. "Aap hi le lo (Please take me)", I pleaded with them." But that train, it turned out, had long left the station. "They replied, 'nahi, ab nahi le sakte aapko (we can't take you now).'" Dahiya laughs, pauses for a bit as if to introspect, and adds, "you see, we get what we deserve."

Meet Ravi Dahiya, the wrestler-philosopher.



Dahiya talks about one of his toughest phases with the same lightness and simplicity with which he wears the tag of being an Olympic silver medallist. After he dragged himself to the podium in Tokyo, sullen and sombre-faced, Dahiya wondered 'what was the point of' a silver medal. Two months later, his sentiment remains the same. "Theek hai, jeet gaye toh jeet gaye (It's ok, I won)," he says. "But how much should we celebrate just one medal? It's not as if there is nothing left to achieve anymore. This is only the beginning."



Ravi Dahiya talks about the tough phases in his life with the same lightness and simplicity with which he wears the tag of being an Olympic silver medallist. PTI

The 23-year-old is shy to the point of being dismissive about his achievement but in reality, he has busted almost every myth that many Indian athletes often seek shelter in to justify their under-performance. As a little-known teenager, he gate-crashed the 57kg weight class, one of the most fiercely competitive categories in India. He upset some established names from Haryana, Delhi and Maharashtra to break into the team for the 2019 World Championship, where he won a bronze medal in his maiden appearance and secured an Olympic berth.

In Tokyo, Dahiya shattered the notion that it's tough to medal at debut Olympics. But he didn't care for reputations, showed zero nerves and bulldozed past some of the world's top wrestlers, including a cinematic takedown of Asian champion Nurislam Sanayev, before ultimately losing to two-time world champion Zavur Uguev in the gold-medal match.

Come to think of it, Dahiya is still a sophomore in world wrestling. Yet, his opponents dread him because he 'keeps coming back at you', irrespective of the match situation. And his ability to stage comebacks is already the stuff

of legends, at least in Indian wrestling.

Ask Dahiya about this and he quips, "bas, maalik ka aashirwad aur mehnat (Just the Almighty's blessings and hard work)."

It's almost impossible to tell what Dahiya is thinking on the mat. And he is inscrutable off it. But the morsels of profound philosophy he throws are a window into the thought process of one of Indian sport's most interesting minds.



"How we think depends a lot on the company we keep," Dahiya says. "I am surrounded by family and friends who keep drilling sense into me. You know, after I got the silver, they told me, 'okay, you won a medal in your first Olympics but if let this get to your head, you'll be left behind. So, remain grounded.'"

That, he adds, comes naturally to him. "I have reached this far after years of struggle, which has made me humble," Dahiya says. "Luckily for me, I had people who held my hand and showed me the right direction at crucial junctures. It's essential to have such mentors."

DAHIYA SAYS

"Theek hai, jeet gaye toh jeet gaye (It's ok, I won). But how much should we celebrate just one medal? It's not as if there is nothing left to achieve anymore. This is only the beginning... If I want to continue competing for long and win more medals, I'll have to live a normal life"

ON THE OLYMPIC SILVER MEDAL

"How we think depends a lot on the company we keep. In my case, I am surrounded by family and friends who keep drilling sense into me. You know, after I got the silver, they told me, 'okay, you won a medal in your first Olympics but if let this get to your head, you'll be left behind. So, remain grounded'"

ON KEEPING GOOD COMPANY

His 'biggest period of struggle', Dahiya says, was in 2010-11. It had been a couple of years since the young boy had left his home in Haryana's Nahari village to join the akhara at Chhatrasal Stadium, a wrestling nursery in North-West Delhi. This was the time when there was a huge uptick in wrestling around these parts after Sushil Kumar, a Chhatrasal product, won the bronze medal at Beijing 2008. And in the glut of wrestlers, Dahiya was lost.

"I had absolutely no results to show and my family had also lost patience," Dahiya says. "They came to the stadium one day and said, 'chalo ghar (let's go home)'. My bags were packed and I was just about to leave when one of my earliest mentors, Arun, stepped in."

It helped that Arun was from the same village as Dahiya and somehow, he convinced his parents to let him stay back. Then, Arun took Dahiya for some tests, which revealed that he had massive iron deficiencies. "We course-corrected and there was an instant improvement in my performance. I won gold at nationals, then in Asia... things were starting to work out."

You know things are working out especially

when Sushil spots you. Now behind bars for alleged murder, it is said that the two-time Olympic medallist has an unerring eye for talent. In 2015, Sushil recommended Olympic Gold Quest (OQG) to sign Dahiya along with another wrestler, Deepak Punia, who came agonisingly close to winning a bronze in Tokyo.

"Sushil called him an exceptional talent, and praised his work ethic," OQG's chief executive Viren Rasquinha says. "Ravi was so shy that when Sushil and I had a meeting with him in 2015, he would look down while talking and did not speak more than a word or two."

Gradually, Dahiya forged a reputation of being a no-fuss wrestler. But on the mat, he was never satisfied no matter what he achieved.

"It's something a motivator, this person named Vikrant, has instilled in me. I have been in touch with him for a couple of years, and he's always pushed me to achieve more," Dahiya says. "One line he said after the 2019 World Championship has stayed with me: 'be happy with what you achieve, but don't be satisfied.'"



The Tokyo silver has been life-altering. The challenge, he says, is to continue the simple lifestyle. So far, he's balanced it well. His rustic charm has made him a showstopper at a fashion show. He has spoken to students about the importance of education. And he has travelled to holy cities for some solitude, his idea of a vacation. But now, he is back where he belongs: on a mat at the Chhatrasal Stadium, where his medal has lifted the gloom that had settled following the incidents of violence earlier this year.

Munesh Kumar, Dahiya's physiotherapist, says one glance around Chhatrasal is enough to understand the impact he has had on the young wrestlers. "For the wrestlers, it was tough to focus on training after the incident. But Ravi's medal lifted everyone's spirits," Kumar says.

Chhatrasal is also where Dahiya's job search finally ended. In 2019, he did get his dream job with the Railways. But after the Olympics, he was offered the post of assistant director at the stadium, which he calls his home. Dahiya isn't interested in occupying the seat just for the sake of it. If he gets free time, he wants to educate himself properly to become a 'good mentor', just like he's had over the years. "A good athlete can get a good post. But you also need the knowledge to be of help to others," Dahiya says. "Whatever you do, your target has to be clear."

Right now, though, his target is just one. "In Tokyo, I had no doubt that I would win a medal. Just that, I had targeted a gold. I am not saying my opponent did not deserve it. But I just hope that in Paris, I will be more deserving."

ADVERTORIAL

The Sun God shines again

The Modhera temple will be lit up at night by innovatively harnessing solar energy. A perfect draw for tourists during Diwali



Nowhere would you experience an ode to the Sun God and our ancestral heritage of nature worship speaking to you across time than at the Sun temple in Gujarat's Modhera. As you walk up its Sabha Mandap or the assembly hall, you would find 12 representations of the sun god, known as Aditya, carved in stone and stilled for posterity. It is believed that the 12 forms of Aditya trace the sun's passage across 12 months. Aditya is believed to be the son of Aditi, the goddess of Infinity and the only constant within the inter-connectedness of the universe.

Little wonder then that Prime Minister Narendra Modi chose the Modhera Sun Temple in the heart of Gujarat's Mehsana district to renew the nation's pledge to harness the power of the sun and demonstrate how living in harmony with nature would empower India's future. In August 2021, he inaugurated a 6MW solar power facility three kilometres away from Modhera to provide 24x7 power to the village. As a result, till Diwali this year the temple will be lit by an innovative method using solar energy. Enthusiasts can visit the shrine from 6 pm to 9 pm to experience the temple lit up in all its grandeur. They can also marvel at the three components of the Sun Temple, which consists of a Gudha mandapa (the shrine hall), the Sabha mandapa (the assembly hall) and a kunda (the reservoir).

The temple was built in such a way that every equinox, a diamond placed on the head of the Sun God's idol would split the first ray of the morning sun and illuminate the shrine. Visitors can now feel the same incandescence at night. The solar project at Modhera uses a South Korean technology



in such a manner that the electricity generated is passed on to the grid without storing it anywhere.

Built in 1026-27 CE by Bhimadev Solanki I of the Chaulukya dynasty, the Modhera sun temple was constructed to commemorate the efforts of the 20,000 Chaulukya soldiers against Mahmud of Ghazni's invasion of 1024-25 CE.

The structure is made using sandstone and has intricate carvings, both inside and outside. The temple represents the golden age of the Chaulukyan rule from 942 to 1244 CE.

The remains of the Sun Temples at Modhera are a testament to the times gone by when people revered the natural elements of fire, air, earth, water and sky and manifested them as Vedic gods. They were considered the primal energy of our life cycle.

The Tourism Corporation of Gujarat even organises the Uttarardha Mahotsav, that venerates the rotational cycle of the earth around the Sun, at Modhera with an annual three-day dance festival in January. This yearly event is aimed at giving classical Indian dance an atmosphere akin to the ones they were originally performed in.

One can inquire with a nearby priest to learn about the tales which have been depicted in the intricate carvings on the 52 pillars of the temple. There are two types of pillars of the Sabhamandapa — the short ones that rest on the walls support the roof while the tall ones rise from the floor. There are close to 108 small shrines in the temple complex. There are various shrines that show various mudras of Lord Shiva that are arranged along the steps leading down to the base of the kund. The temple is protected by the Archeological Survey of India and no worship is offered now.

Utmost care is taken of tourists by providing them with special services like cafeteria, well-designed seating arrangements, modern & attractive lighting and clean restrooms