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IN BRIEF

Poll bonds

NEW DELHI: A head of the Bihar Assembly elections, the Centre has approved the 14th tranche of electoral bonds, which will be open for sale between October 19 and October 28. The Election Commission issued a "no objection" on October 15 with certain conditions, the finance ministry said on Friday. P2

INDIA COUNT

Updated Covid-19 figures on Friday

- Confirmed cases: 737046
- Active cases: 804528
- Overnight addition: 63371
- Total deaths: 112161
- Discharged: 6453779

QUOTE

The Prime Minister lives in my heart... I am like his Hanuman
CHIRAG PASWAN

Prasar Bharati to end PTI deal

ANITA JOSHUA

New Delhi: The Prasar Bharati board on Thursday decided to end its subscription to the country's largest news agency, Press Trust of India, a move that it said was a commercial decision but is widely believed to have been hastened by differences over the wire service's handling of news.

The United News of India got the axe as part of the review of the public broadcaster's relationship with the country's oldest news agencies after differences arose over the annual subscriptions.

According to Prasar Bharati officials, the board at its meeting on Thursday decided to call for fresh proposals for a digital subscription and related multimedia services from all domestic news agencies.

Both PTI and UNI are "free to make fresh proposals to Prasar Bharati", the public broadcaster's CEO, Shashi S. Vempati, tweeted in response to the charges that ending PTI's

subscription was another attack on press freedom.

This is the first time that the CEO has responded to such criticism, kicked off by Prasar Bharati's June letter to PTI warning the agency with ending the subscription to its news feed for coverage that was "detrimental to national interest".

The June letter had been sent after PTI interviewed the Chinese ambassador to India, Sun Weidong, and his Indian counterpart in Beijing, Vikram Misri.

The interview with Sun apparently angered the government because it offered space to China in the media. As for the Misri interview, the agency's initial tweets on attributed a comment to the ambassador that contradicted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's claim that no one had intruded into Indian territory.

While this purported comment by Misri was not included in the copy that was released for use, PTI did not withdraw the initial tweets. Nor did Misri or the external affairs ministry deny that he had said so.

The warning letter to PTI was sent by the Prasar Bharati News Service—a recently formed unit of the public broadcaster—although the biggest consumers of the feed within the organisation are All India Radio and Doordarshan.

The subscription fees were an issue with UNI too. After the expiry of the last three-year contract with the two agencies in 2015-16, Prasar Bharati had insisted on a service-based rationalisation of the subscription formula but both PTI and UNI wanted to continue with the years-old mechanism of a consolidated payment.

Since then, Prasar Bharati has been holding back about 25 per cent of the subscription fees to either agency pending a resolution of the issue. There is no clarity now about how the subject of dues will be addressed or whether the two agencies will challenge the decision. Neither agency had commented on the developments till late Friday evening.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Court: Puja grant mainly for Covid protection

TAPAS GHOSH

Calcutta: The Rs 50,000 grant by the Bengal government to each puja cannot be used for any purpose other than buying sanitisers, masks, face shields and other articles of Covid protection and strengthening the "bonding" between police and people, Calcutta High Court said in an interim order on Friday.

A division bench headed by Justice Sanjay Banerjee said that 75 per cent of the money should be spent on sanitisers, masks and the like. The rest should be spent on police people bonding, which should include facilitation of the involvement of women in community policing.

The state government had earlier said the money was being granted for sanitisation purposes.

On Friday, the court made the puja committee office-bearers "personally responsible" for ensuring that the grant is spent only on these counts.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



More than 5,000 people formed a 4km human chain in Ranchi on Friday to express solidarity with octogenarian Jesuit priest and tribal rights activist Father Stan Swamy, arrested and jailed in Mumbai for alleged Maoist links.

Ranchi Archbishop Felix Theodoro Mascarenhas (right) was among those who joined the human chain. Picture by Manoh Choudhary

Blow to two drugs used in India to fight Covid

G.S. MUDUR

New Delhi: The antiviral drug remdesivir widely prescribed for coronavirus disease neither prevents deaths nor reduces duration of hospital stay in patients, a clinical trial monitored by the World Health Organisation in 20 countries, including India, has found.

Drug regimens containing remdesivir, hydroxychloroquine, lopinavir/ritonavir, and interferon have "little or no effect" on the 28-day mortality or the course of illness in hospitalised Covid-19 patients, the WHO said on Friday, announcing the interim results of the global trial.

Health experts said the findings could come as a jolt to doctors across India who have been prescribing both remdesivir and hydroxychloroquine to Covid-19 patients under guidelines approved by the Union health ministry and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Objection nixed, role for outspoken Lokur

R. BALAJI

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday appointed Justice Madan B. Lokur, a retired judge and a trenchant critic of the State's misuse of the sedition law, as a one-man committee to check air pollution in Delhi.

The court overruled objections from solicitor general Tushar Mehta, who was representing the governments of two states where the BJP is in

power. Mehta said his clients had not been heard before the panel was recommended.

A bench headed by Chief Justice S.A. Bobde has tasked Justice Lokur with ensuring the prevention of stubble burning in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, an age-old practice that aggravates air pollution in the National Capital Region in October-November every year.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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IN BRIEF

Siblings hacked to death

MUMBAI: Four minor siblings were allegedly hacked to death with an axe by an unidentified person in Jajgaon district, Maharashtra, police said on Friday. The incident came to light on Friday morning after the children were found lying in a pool of blood inside a house built at a farm in Borhade Shivir village. The parents had gone to Madhya Pradesh along with their elder son for a ritual of a dead relative, the police said, adding a case of murder has been registered and few suspects are being questioned.

Cricket quarrel

NEW DELHI: A 19-year-old youth has been arrested for allegedly injuring another person by hitting him in the head with a bat after he was told by the victim not to play cricket in a lane in south-east Delhi's Abu Fazal area. The incident occurred on Thursday.

SKY HIGH



An Isis bird perched atop the dome of a building at the South Block in New Delhi on Friday. (PTI)

Girl set on fire, dies

HYDERABAD: A 13-year-old tribal girl, who was set on fire, allegedly by her employer at his home for resisting a rape attempt, died here on Thursday night while undergoing treatment for nearly a month, police said. The incident occurred in Khammam town on September 18.

Indian jail term

SINGAPORE: A 40-year-old Indian national, who was found guilty of molesting a stewardess on board a flight, was sent to jail for four months on Friday after his appeal against the conviction was rejected by a court here. Vijayan Mathan Gopal was found guilty in August last. The incident happened on board a Scoot flight from Cochin to Singapore on November 2, 2017.

DAY'S TOIL



Youths sell toys in Varanasi on Friday. (AFP)

Barransacked

THANE: A group of 17 people allegedly ransacked and looted a beer bar on Mumbai's Nashik Highway on Thursday afternoon. Police said the group had come to the beer bar for lunch and later refused to pay for the meal. They also decamped with Rs 82,000 from the cash counter. Three persons have been arrested.

3 killed by truck

GHAZIAPUR: Three persons were killed and four injured on Friday after being struck by a truck while waiting for conveyance in Uttar Pradesh's Ghazipur district, police said. The truck driver has been arrested.

Congress questions Nritish: Kakeve ho? Target: CM's 15-year record

SANJAY K JHA

New Delhi: The Congress electoral campaign in Bihar targets Nritish Kumar more than Narendra Modi in an unmistakable shift in strategy, probably realising that the chief minister has become the face of anti-incumbency.

With a catchphrase 'Kakeve ho (what have you done?)', the Congress theme song andingles question Nritish on every aspect of governance — alarming unemployment to rising crime and mismanagement of the pandemic.

Although there are references to the BJP-JDU alliance, the double engine government is branded as "Lost Express", the BJP secretly figures. The campaign taints Nritish for political gymnastics, a vague reference to his betrayal of the 2015 mandate, as well as his poor links with the people on issues ranging from women, corruption in welfare

schemes and the pitiable state of health care and education. Nritish is accused of hollow rhetoric and false claims of developing Bihar.

The Congress underlines that Bihar had recorded the highest unemployment rate of 46 per cent in the country, with every second youth denied a gainful job. Nritish is also accused of favouring people from his home district of Nalanda in constable recruitments, with 4,500 out of the total 5,500 recruits coming from the district.

Ordinary citizens have been filmed for the social media campaign that asks them what Nritish has done for the people in his 15 years as chief minister. Asked if Prime Minister Modi was deliberately not made the primary target, a senior leader told The Telegraph: "It is not that the Congress is wary of attacking the prime minister. Rahul Gandhi incessantly targets him, exposing his failures and mis-



A poster featuring Nritish Kumar used by the Congress in its campaign

deeds on a daily basis, more than any other Opposition leader. Rahul will definitely talk about Modi's politics in his speeches. But there was a realisation that Nritish is the weak link. Surveys indicated he was the target of the disgruntled people."

The leader added: "Modi, too, has lost a lot of goodwill, but his support among a large number of people and is not as discredited as the chief minister. Also, Nritish is the face of the ruling alliance in Bihar and it is his leadership that is being compared with that of the inexperienced Tejashwi Yadav. So we thought blaming Nritish for the failures and misdeeds will have a better impact among the people who have his trustworthiness is finished be-

BJP on Chirag: 'Vote-cutter'

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi: The BJP on Friday called the Chirag Paswan-led Lok Janshakti Party a "vote khatra (vote-cutter)" and said it had no relations with it, seeking to dispel the growing perception that the BJP was making a covert bid to subjugate ally Nritish Kumar.

The central leaders of the BJP — Union Minister Prakash Javadekar and general secretary Bhupendra Yadav — rushed to clarify that there was no secret deal with the LJP. "Chirag Paswan has gone his own way in the Bihar elections. The NDA has nothing to do with him. The BJP doesn't have any alliance with the LJP nor is it part of the NDA," BJP general secretary and the party's Bihar minder, Yadav, told The Telegraph. Yadav termed Chirag's attack on Nritish "unfortunate".

cause he embraced the BJP after publicly taking a vow to prefer death to rejoining them. His pointed critique of the RSS BJP during the last election hasn't been forgotten by the people."

While the forehead patch by AIMM leader Ashadhin Owas has already given the BJP an opening to deploy communal rhetoric, it also posed the Congress on Friday for fielding Muslim leader Ashadhin Owas, a student leader from Aligarh Muslim University, who had been linked to the controversy over Muhammad Ali Jinnah's portrait. In 2018, a BJP MP had objected to a Jinnah portrait at AMU and (Bsmam), as the student leader of the Congress pointed out that the portrait had been on the campus for many decades.

Some television channels ran a campaign on Friday, saying the Congress had fielded a "Jinnah lover" and portrayed it as a big election issue. This controversy has pushed the Congress into a corner as the local leaders are not willing to defend his candidature. The entire state leadership was opposed to his nomination as he was not a local of Jajgaon the constituency he has been fielded from.

BY USING THE PRIME MINISTER'S name, Chirag Paswan wants to create confusion. Neither do we have any alliance with the LJP nor is it part of the NDA," BJP general secretary and the party's Bihar minder, Yadav, told The Telegraph.

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Saibaba fast threat for books

PHEROZEL VINCENT

New Delhi: G.N. Saibaba, the partially paralysed professor who is serving a life sentence in Nagpur prison, said he will speak up on crimes against women, corruption in welfare



G.N. Saibaba

"As a policy the jail authorities stopped the purchase of newspapers by him in the jail due to the Covid-19 pandemic. So, some newspaper clippings and printouts sent by post are not given to him and are being held by the authorities along with the handwritten or typed personal letters addressed to him."

Calls have been restricted to one or two a month, she said. "Vasantha Kumari has added: "Sometimes all the medicines given by his advocates are not being given to him. He has multiple health problems and we have to take prescribed medicines every day to save his life."

Asked about the letter, Ramanand told The Telegraph: "I am not well and have a bad right leg. Will speak later."

The Committee for the Defence and Release of Dr. G.N. Saibaba has said: "He has spent the last several years suffering grave physical ailments including the gradual paralysis of his functional limbs due to neglect and continuing denial of adequate medical treatment by the jail authorities. ... Previously, even his funeral and last rites was denied (in August)."

Lawyer arrested for Sushant 'fake news'

IMRAN AHMED SIDDIQUI

New Delhi: The cyber cell of Mumbai police on Friday arrested a lawyer from Delhi for allegedly spreading fake news and conspiracy theories on social media over the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput and his former manager Disha Salian.

The accused, identified as Vibhor Anand, was taken to Mumbai where he was produced before a court and remanded in police custody till October 15. Sources in Mumbai police said Anand had been booked for defamation and other charges under the Information Technology Act.

"Anand concocted several fake conspiracy theories and made false claims related to the circumstances surrounding the death of Sushant and Salian. He is accused of cooking up conspiracy theories that defamed some celebrities and defamed the police government," a police officer said.

Last month, actor-producer Arbaaz Khan, the brother of superstar Salman Khan, had lodged a complaint with the cyber cell of Mumbai police and also filed a case in a civil court against Anand. The court had directed Anand and one other individual to remove persons to take down the defamatory content published directly or indirectly by them.

Anand is also accused of posting a video in which he made defamatory statements and allegations against the Maharashtra government.

Mumbai police have claimed to have received 80,000 such social media accounts created on various platforms after Sushant's death to discredit Mumbai police and Maharashtra government. The police's cyber cell has compiled a report in which it has said social media posts with hashtags such as "JusticeforSushant" were uploaded to peddle conspiracy theories.

NEET absentees double in Covid year

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi: Absentees in the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test in Covid-19 year 2020 is double last year's despite the issue being held a second time this year for the benefit of those who had skipped the first edition.

Of the 15.7 lakh registered candidates, 23 lakh or 14.4 per cent failed to appear in the test, held on September 13 and October 14.

Last year, about 1.08 lakh registered candidates had stayed away, clocking an absentee rate of 21.1 per cent. Last year, the test was held just once.

The Supreme Court had on Monday allowed the exam to be conducted a second time on Wednesday to help the students who could not take the test on September 13.

Nearly 7.71 lakh candidates including a transgender student have cleared this year's exam, scripting a success rate of 56.41 per cent among those who appeared in it. Last year's success rate was 56.6 per cent.

The NEET is the national entrance test for admission to undergraduate medical and dental courses, of which there are nearly 80,000 and 27,000 seats, respectively.

Suresh Arifan from Odisha scored 720 out of 720 to top the merit list. Akanksha Singh

from Delhi too scored 720 but was placed second because she was older. A tie in aggregate score, individual subject scores and percentile score decided the order.

At 66.56 per cent, the success rate is highest among the Economically Weaker Sections candidates. The success rate among general category students is 56.65 per cent and that among the OBCs, 56.19 per cent.

The qualification cut-off for the general merit list was a percentile score of 50, compared with 44 for economically weaker candidates and for the OBC, Dalit and tribal candidates.

Covid drug trial

FROM PAGE 1

Shri Prakash Kalantri, professor of medicine at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Warangal, who was not associated with the WHO trial, said: "The new results put a big question mark on what our policy makers have recommended."

Indian health authorities like their counterparts in other countries had approved remdesivir for emergency use on Covid-19 patients as an investigational therapy.

Remdesivir is an investigational drug that US President Donald Trump had received. The US-based Clinical Sciences had in May this year announced licensing pacts with four Indian drug makers for the local production and distribution of the drug that has been used to prevent the practice.

The trial recorded 201 deaths among 2,743 patients who received remdesivir and 283 deaths among 2,708 control patients who had received best standard care.

The trial researchers have posted their findings, which are yet to be peer-reviewed, on an online preprint archive.

"The results are unambiguous — there is no impact on mortality," K. Srinath Reddy, president of the New Delhi-based Public Health Foundation, said in a member of an international group of researchers who monitored the trial, told The Telegraph.

Gilead appeared to challenge the findings. "The emergence of data appear inconsistent with more robust evidence from multiple randomised controlled studies published in peer-reviewed journals validating the drug's benefit," Gilead said in a statement. "We are concerned the data from this global trial have not undergone the rigorous review to allow for constructive scientific discussion."

But health experts say the strength of the WHO trial lies in its size — 11,000 patients across 403 hospitals in 30 countries, with over 5,000 patients in the remdesivir arm — and its worldwide applicability.

In comparison, the experts said, the US study that had influenced the regulatory decision to approve emergency authorisation use had involved 1,042 patients. Kalantri said it was time policy makers in India "learn from research and apply it at the point of care." Remdesivir is an expensive medicine — it costs nearly Rs 8,000 for a five-day course. Should our governments and the public squander their limited financial resources on a drug that has been shown to not work, it is time our policymakers and doctors and the national task force take off hydroxychloroquine for treating hospitalised Covid patients," Kalantri told this newspaper.

Video footage showed people running helter skelter after the firing and a group of policemen surrounding a man resembling Dharendra, a former advisor to the minister, who is now the Ballia district ex-servicemen's cell chief of the BJP.

Pratap Pal, the brother of the late US study that had influenced the regulatory decision to approve emergency authorisation use had involved 1,042 patients. Kalantri said it was time policy makers in India "learn from research and apply it at the point of care."

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Objection nixed, the for outspoken Lokur PTI deal

FROM PAGE 1

As a sitting judge, Justice Lokur had headed a bench that delivered an unpalatable verdict for the Narendra Modi government on extra-judicial killings in Uttar Pradesh. After retirement, the use of the sedition law against "youngsters, students talking about doing something good for the country."

"The charging of sedition is being used with an iron hand to curb free speech, which is an overreaction to people expressing views," he had said at a webinar last month, without mentioning names. Alluding to Dr Kafeel Khan, he had said recently in Uttar Pradesh, a speech calling for the unity and integrity of the country was used to keep

the speaker in preventive detention on the ground that he had gone against the country's integrity.

In 2018, dealing with a PIL on alleged extra-judicial killings of over 1,329 people in Manipur between 1986 and 2001, the bench headed by Justice Lokur had ordered a CBI inquiry despite the Modi government arguing this would demoralise the armed forces.

Justice Lokur's willingness to express dissent also showed in the way he had combined with three other apex court judges in January 2018 to hold a news conference and accuse then Chief Justice Dipak Misra of allocating key cases to certain favoured judges/judges. He was a Justice Bobde said: "We are only concerned that citizens of Delhi NCR are able

to breathe fresh, clean air, and not the smog that is shut, we don't want anything that is shut during these nine days." The bench will be closed till October 26 on account of Dussehra. Post-harvest stubble burning has led to air pollution during the festive season.

"We heard the matter at length for more than half an hour. We heard everyone. The consent of the judge was given. We passed the order in the open court. You can tell what your reservation is," Justice Bobde had asked.

Méhta said: "The recommendations for a committee were made by the petitioner and the consent of Justice Lokur was obtained by them. We were not even put on notice. Hence, we should be heard."

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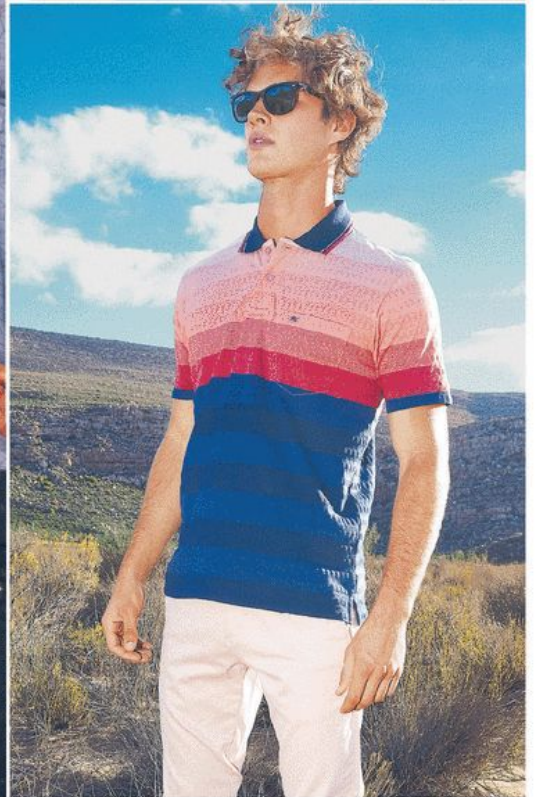
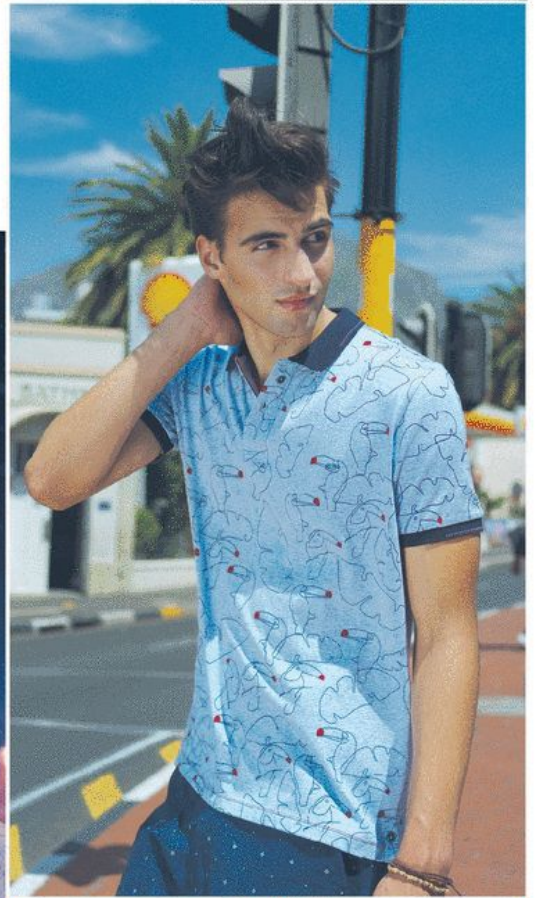
to breathe fresh, clean air, and not the smog that is shut, we don't want anything that is shut during these nine days." The bench will be closed till October 26 on account of Dussehra. Post-harvest stubble burning has led to air pollution during the festive season.

"We heard the matter at length for more than half an hour. We heard everyone. The consent of the judge was given. We passed the order in the open court. You can tell what your reservation is," Justice Bobde had asked.

Méhta said: "The recommendations for a committee were made by the petitioner and the consent of Justice Lokur was obtained by them. We were not even put on notice. Hence, we should be heard."

Justice Bobde said: "We are only concerned that citizens of Delhi NCR are able

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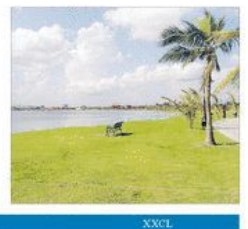
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BUS DRIVER RUN OVER BY ANOTHER BUS ON BT ROAD

Hospital asked to return Rs 1.7 lakh

SUBHAJOY ROY

Calcutta: The state clinical establishment regulatory commission on Friday asked BP Poddar Hospital to return Rs 1.7 lakh to a Covid patient's family after they complained that they had not been given any bill and the hospital failed to furnish any record.

The private hospital in Alipore was also asked to return Rs 14,000 to a Covid patient who was admitted there from June 10 to 16. The hospital has charged Rs 28,000, on non-medical expense and a good part of it comprised PPE charges that exceeded the ceiling imposed by the state government, retired judge Ashim Kumar Banerjee, the chairperson of the commission, said.

The government had, on June 26, announced that private hospitals could not charge a patient more than Rs 1,000 for PPE per day.

The hospital had billed a woman Rs 3 lakh for undergoing treatment for Covid from July 11 to 19. "The woman's family had complained that they were not given a bill. We asked the hospital to give us a copy of the bill but they could not," Banerjee said.

"We asked the hospital to keep Rs 1.5 lakh — Rs 20,000 for each day of the patient's nine-day stay there — and refund the rest," Banerjee said.

Modi D. Bhagat, the assistant general manager of the hospital, said he had to go through a copy of the order before commenting. "But how is it possible for someone to pay Rs 3 lakh without any bill? The amount is important enough for the person to approach the commission," Bhagat said.

As for the commission's order in response to the other complaint against the hospital, Bhagat said: "We will do the needful as per law."

Another order

The commission asked the RN Tagore Institute of Cardiac Sciences to return to a patient the Rs 1,700 it had charged for a prostate-specific antigen test. The patient said he underwent the test at the hospital but the report was from Dr Lal PathLabs.

"The charge of the test was way above that of the laboratory (Dr Lal PathLabs) or most other reputable laboratories," said Banerjee.

"The hospital said during the hearing that their equipment to do the PSA test was not working. But they could not give any justification for charging the patient Rs 1,700 for the test. The laboratory (Dr Lal PathLabs) charges only Rs 700. Another very reputable laboratory charges Rs 700," he said.

An official of the hospital said: "We will comply by the order."

Should I go pandal-hopping?

SANIYAL MANDAL

- Dakrababai, when will Covid go away?
- Can I go for Puja shopping?
- I am planning my daughter's wedding in January, will it be possible?

Calcutta: The Covid-19 pandemic has changed a lot of things in our lives, including the questions we ask doctors. Queries once reserved for astrologers are now being directed at doctors.

One doctor recently received a handwritten letter from a patient which contained questions like whether he could go out to buy milk or drink warm water mixed with fresh lime juice. "Most of these questions are not related to treating a patient. But we understand that people are now under a lot of stress and are often unsure about taking any decision," said a public health expert.

From travel plans to children's marriage, many are turning to doctors for advice.

Metro spoke to some leading doctors in the city: surgical oncologist Gaurang Mukhopadhyay, pulmonologist Ajoy Krishna Sarkar, nephrologist Arup Ratan Chatterjee, psychiatrist Ranadip Ghosh Ray and liver diseases specialist and public health expert Abhijit Chowdhury — to know some of the questions people are asking and the answers.

When will Covid go away?

None of the doctors, public health experts or scientists dealing with viruses knows the answer. In all likelihood, Covid will stay like most other viruses and can mutate. We have to wait for some time to know the answer.

When the vaccine arrives, can I return to normal life after getting a shot?

There are several unanswered questions like when a Covid vaccine will arrive, when it will be available for mass distribution and how effective it will be. "The influenza vaccine



Artist Indrajit Paul puts finishing touches to his idol of "Coronavirus" at his Kumartuli studio on Friday. Picture by Saanik Sr Sinha

provides only 60 per cent protection, so we are not sure about the effectiveness of the Covid vaccine," said one of the doctors.

Air pollution is again rising after the lockdown norms were eased. Does increased air pollution make me more vulnerable to Covid?

Air pollution has a direct link with someone getting infected by the coronavirus. But there is definitely an indirect link, said doctors. "Dust particles enter our lower respiratory system and prolonged

exposure to air pollution compromises the condition of the lungs. Since Covid-19 essentially attacks the respiratory system, someone with compromised lungs is more likely to become critical," said a doctor.

Can I go for Puja shopping?

This is a public health issue. Public health experts and the state government are apprehending a spike in the number of Covid cases during and after the festival season. Shopping in a crowded place is one of the worries. One should take ade-

quate precautions like wearing masks, sanitising hands and avoiding touch as much as possible. These measures will definitely bring down the risks.

Is it safe to go pandal-hopping?

Like shopping, one should take necessary precautions. It's better to avoid crowded pandals. The best option is to stay home.

If I meet friends and relatives and go pandal-hopping on all Puja days like before,

will anything happen to me?

No one has an answer to this question. The higher the exposure, the more the risk of getting infected by the coronavirus. The problem is many infected people are asymptomatic and temperature checks at pandals, shopping malls and restaurants will not be able to detect infected persons. So doctors are advising people to celebrate in a restricted manner and take as many precautions as possible. Again, the best option is to stay home.

If I have Covid, will it stay in our genes and affect the next generation?

Covid is extremely contagious. So, a Covid patient is kept in isolation. But there is no scientific data suggesting that the virus stays in genes.

Will I be able to fight Covid better if I drink warm water mixed with fresh lime juice on an empty stomach? Will multi-vitamin pills protect me from Covid?

Micro nutrients such as Vitamin C and zinc are important

to develop the immune system and play a vital role in promoting health and nutritional well-being. However, there is no scientific evidence that micronutrient supplements can play a role in Covid treatment.

Is it safe for me to travel to Mumbai to meet a relative or for the relative to visit me in Calcutta?

Mumbai has a high number of Covid cases and in Calcutta, too, cases are rising every day. People are now flying between Mumbai and Calcutta. If one takes proper precautions all through, it does not matter who goes where.

Can I go on a holiday?

Travelling is not advised by public health experts at the moment unless it is absolutely necessary. Also, regular international flights and long-distance trains have not yet resumed. But, people are planning holidays. Taking precautions is important. One should go through government advisory circulars carefully.

My daughter's wedding has long been scheduled for January. Can I go ahead with the plans?

The state government is allowing wedding ceremonies. But social distancing should be maintained and the number of guests needs to be restricted.

Can I visit the market to buy vegetables and fish? Can I go out to buy milk?

People are going out to buy stuff, so there is no reason why one should not. But those with co-morbidities and elderly people should avoid going to markets and other congested places. Anyone visiting shops must wear masks and sanitise hands frequently.

Can I colour my hair?

The state government has allowed parlours to reopen. So one can visit a parlour provided the staff are maintaining all hygiene norms prescribed by the government.

Hope in Puja rain forecast

DEBRAJ MITRA

Calcutta: The Met office has predicted a rain-soaked Durga Puja, which public health experts consider good news in the context of pandemic as showers could prevent crowding at pandals and a consequent surge in Covid cases.

The satellite images studied by the Met office predicted a rainy spell in Calcutta and the rest of south Bengal on October 21 and 26 (Panchami and Dashami). The intensity of the rain is likely to peak on October 22, 23 and 24 (Sashati, Saptami and Ashtami), according to the forecast.

The southwest monsoon

starts withdrawing from the rest of the state by the end of October. But not this year, said a Met official.

"The usual date of its withdrawal is October 12. But monsoon is withdrawing a delayed withdrawal this year. A low pressure area is likely to form over central Bay of Bengal on October 15 and become more marked over the next 24 hours," said a statement from the India Meteorological Department, Calcutta.

"The system is likely to move towards the Andhra Pradesh-Odisha coast. But a trough of low pressure is likely to form, extending from the system to Bangladesh. Under the combined influence of the

two systems, south Bengal will see significant incursion of moisture-laden south-westerly winds," said G.K. Das, the director of the IMD, Calcutta.

"Calcutta is tipped to get multiple spells of rain from October 15. The showers will last for the next five days. The intensity is likely to peak on October 22 to 24," said Das.

Because of high moisture incursion, the days are likely to be sweaty and uncomfortable, he said.

Doctors and public health experts are fearing a surge in the Covid-19 numbers after the Puja. The state government has asked the private health-

Building blaze

ASTAFF REPORTER

Calcutta: A fire broke out in a multi-storey building on Ganesha Chandra Avenue on Friday night, leaving several residents injured while they tried to scamp out.

Eyewitnesses said a child was severely injured when he jumped out of a first floor balcony of the building — 21 Ganesha Chandra Avenue — and had to be rushed to hospital. Police said the fire was detected around 10.15pm.

Fire officials said the blaze possibly started from the meter room. Till midnight, at least 10 fire tenders were fighting to control the blaze.

Winter steps listed for healthy lungs

SUBHAJOY ROY

Calcutta: Present burning of waste, compel all builders to ensure construction materials are covered, stop running commercial vehicles aged 15 years or older, and encourage work from home at least till the end of winter.

These are some of the steps that can save Calcuttans from inhaling poor air during winter as it can leave their lungs compromised during the pandemic, doctors and air quality management specialists have said.

The authorities are aware of this but how well these steps are implemented will determine whether Calcuttans breathe clean air this winter. Anunitta Roy Chowdhury, the executive director of the Centre for Science and Environment, said.

"The research and advocacy organisation based in Delhi works on environment issues. The ultra fine pollutant in air, PM2.5, can enter the lungs and trigger symptoms like asthma, pulmonologist Ajoy Sarkar said. Covid-19 has been affecting lungs among other organs, he said. "The smaller particles can go inside the alveoli and respiratory bronchioles and cause bronchospasm, which is narrowing of the bronchi. The function of the lungs will get affected."

If someone whose lungs are already compromised gets

infected with the coronavirus, that person can develop serious complications, Sarkar said.

"The absence of enough wind during winter traps pollutants closer to the ground. The authorities in Calcutta have to ensure that local generation of pollutants are reined in so that they do not add to the existing pollutants in the air," Roy Chowdhury said.

Kalyan Rudra, the chairperson of the state pollution control board, said the state government had "used water sprinklers very effectively last year to prevent dust from rising." District magistrates are alerted the moment burning of crop residue is noticed so that it is stopped.

Rudra said a panel headed by a chief secretary was working on replacing old commercial vehicles.

Air quality experts said the government should prevent the entry of such vehicles to Calcutta, at least till the end of winter keeping "used water sprinklers very effectively last year to prevent dust from rising."

WEATHER

YESTERDAY
Maximum: 35.5°C (+3)
Minimum: 26.5°C (+1.8)
RAINFALL: 56.8mm

HUMIDITY:
Max: 93%;
Min: 45%

THE FORECAST
Maximum: 34°C
Minimum: 26°C

EXPECTED:
Partly cloudy sky.
Rain or thunder-shower likely in some places

SUNSET: 5.10pm
SUNRISE: 5.34am

SMILING FACES OUR BIGGEST REWARD, SAY ORGANISERS

Kumartuli takes puja to scarred Kultali

KINSUK BASU

Calcutta: When *Daripasha* starts on Saturday members of a Kumartuli puja committee will be busy with the idol in the village neighbourhood. A few others will be in Kultali, about 100km from the city, overseeing puja preparations there.

This year, Kumartuli Sarbojito Durgotsav Committee has decided to organise Durga Puja for some 800-odd residents of Snyamagar, a village in Kultali, still struggling to recover in the aftermath of Cyclone Amphan. This will be the first time a Durga Puja will be held at

Snyamagar and members of the Kumartuli puja committee have decided to adorn the interiors of their pandal at Kumartuli with pictures of gop coming from this village.

"The cyclone had left behind a trail of devastation; we were looking to visit a village with relief materials. We contacted some of our men in Kultali who visit us every year to help us lift the Durga idol. They recommended some of our men in Kultali with various items needed for Durga Puja.

"We have decided to hold a small puja at this village, utilising a portion of our funds. The smiling faces of these villagers during Durga Puja will be our biggest reward."

After the initial rounds of visits to Snyamagar, the committee members sat down with some of the villagers in September and finalised the plan to organise Durga Puja there.

A small ground at the end of the village was identified for the villagers to set up a small pandal. The Kumartuli sarbojito members will take the idol from Calcutta, along with various items needed for Durga Puja.

The puja will be organised at an estimated cost of Rs 3 lakh. In Calcutta, the

committee members decided to trim down their puja expenses to meet the expenses of the puja in Kultali and accordingly two idols were ordered, the one for Snyamagar smaller.

"While going through some of photographs of our visit to Snyamagar, we decided to decorate our pandal with the faces of villagers. We will have them framed and they will be all over the interiors of the pandal," a committee member said.

The decision to organise the Durga Puja brought smiles on the faces of Snyamagar villagers, many of who usually walk down a

kilometre to be part of the festival in an adjoining village every year.

"*Anador puja chhilo na. Ei bar hobey* (We did not have a puja of ours; this time we will have one)," Alok Das, a villager, said.

Some villagers were sceptical about outsiders organising Durga Puja. A few had asked if this would be the first and last time. "We assured the villagers we would have with them till they were ready to organise a puja on their own," Bhattacharya said. "The idea is to ensure when we see the lights in Calcutta, our brothers and sisters in Snyamagar, too, will enjoy theirs."

वाससि जीर्णानि यथा विहाय, नवानि गृह्णाति नरोऽपराधि ।
तथा शरीराणि विहाय जीर्णान्यु, अन्यानि संयाति नवानि देही ॥
The Bhagavad Gita (2.22)



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 as Ashwin Kumar Das
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 09/10/2020. Sworn before
 the Metropolitan
 Magistrate 1st class,
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 class X Admit Card &
 Mark Sheet & Pass
 Certificate as Md. Anas.
 Mohammod Anas & Md.
 Anas are same and
 identical person vide
 affidavit before the court
 of LD 1st class
 Metropolitan Magistrate
 at Kolkata, dt.
 30.09.2020.

1. Aasmita Ullah Khan S/O
 Late Md. Omar Khan
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 Road, Kolkata-700029.
 R. Sarani vide affidavit
 on 13.11.2014 in 1st class
 Judicial Magistrate,
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 Ullah Khan and Asmita
 Ullah are the same and
 one identical person.

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 700103 from one Anil
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 Parulika Chakrabarti
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 undersigned within 21
 days from this date
 otherwise any claims
 shall complete the
 transaction and no claim
 will be entertained in
 future.

Pranab Kumar Roy
 (Advocate)
 46, Kalyanatala Street,
 Dakshin Jagadali, P.S.
 Souparna, Kol-351,
 West Bengal. M-9836300228
 09317121211

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 For details visit website : www.jhargram.gov.in & other details may be
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 Memo No. 329/DV/JICA
 Date: 16/10/2020

Executive Engineer
 Jhargram Zilla Parishad.

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**WALK-IN INTERVIEW FOR ENGAGEMENT
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 Medical Director, B.R.Singh Hospital, Eastern Railway, Sealdah
 desires to form a panel of doctors to be engaged as "Contract
 Medical Practitioners (CMP) Specialist/Super specialist" on
 full time contract basis for duration of one year on the following
 terms and conditions:-
 Doctors who satisfy the requisite qualification & age and are
 willing for the above engagement are requested to report with
 all certificates for "Walk-in-interview" to the office of the Medical
 Director, B.R.Singh Hospital, Eastern Railway, Sealdah,
 Kolkata-700114 on 05.11.2020 at 11 hrs. for registration. While
 attending the interview, the candidates are requested to bring
 relevant certificates in original with attested copies of the same
 in support of age, qualification, medical registration, experience
 etc. and two passport size photographs. The candidates should
 be prepared to stay back for one day, if required, at his own
 expense. Application proforma will be supplied by this office.
TERMS AND CONDITIONS: 1. NAME OF THE POST: Contract
 Medical Practitioner (CMP) Specialist/Super specialist on full
 time engagement. 2. NATURE OF ENGAGEMENT: The
 engagement is purely on contractual basis for one year or till
 regular UPSC selected Doctors (ADMO/DMO/Sr. DMO) become
 available whichever is earlier. Further the services of these
 doctors are also terminable before the expiry of one year. The
 services rendered as contract doctors is a stop gap arrangement
 and will not have any bearing in respect of consideration of the
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 any circumstances. 2(a). Retired IRMS officers/Retired
 Government Medical Officers of State Govt. and Central Govt.
 up to the age of 67 yrs. are also eligible to engage themselves
 as CMPs and for the same, they can also attend this interview
 for engagement as CMP in Railways against existing regular
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 2 terms up to the age of 67 yrs. as per instructions issued vide
 Board's letter No. 2013/SGR/115 dated 09.07.2018. Retired
 railway doctors/State Govt./Central Govt. doctors will also get
 the same amount per month subject to the condition that they
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 same terms and conditions as per Board's instructions dated
 09.07.08. (3) Vacancy (Department wise), Qualification,
 Remuneration: Sl.No.; Department; Qualification; Specialist/
 Super Specialist : No. of CMP required are as follows:
 (1); Cardiology, MD, DM/DMB (Cardiology); Super specialist;
 01; (2); Neurology, MD, DM/DMB (Neurology); Super specialist;
 01; (3); Nephrology, MD, DM/DMB (Nephrology); Super specialist;
 01; (4); Critical Care; DA (Anesthesia) with recognized Certificate
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 with recognized Certificate course in Critical Care; Specialist; 01;
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 railway doctors). Contract Medical Practitioner can avail free
 medical treatment for self only. Other conditions apply. Expenses
 on out station journey connected with contracted work will be
 borne by the Railway. Daily allowance at specified rates will be
 admissible for each work (5) AGE: (A) Not exceeding 50 yrs. as
 on 01.11.2020 (5 years age relaxation for SC/ST and 3 years for
 OBC); (b) Retired IRMS Doctors/Retired Govt. Doctors Officers
 of Central Govt./State Govt. may be engaged for maximum
 seven terms of one year each or attaining the age of 67 years
 whichever is earlier. (6) Remuneration: (i) Specialists are entitled
 Rs. 95,000/- per month in 1st year and Rs. 1,05,000/- per month
 2nd year onward. (ii) Super specialists are entitled Rs. 1,15,000/-
 per month (iii) Retd. Railway/Govt. doctors are entitled the same
 amount subject to the condition that Remuneration plus pension
 should not exceed the last pay drawn. (7) Date of Walk-in
 interview and time: 05.11.2020 at 11 hrs. onward.

TEACHER

**BIDHAN CHANDRA
 KRISHN**
**VISWANATHAYALA,
 MOHANPUR, NADIA.**

The Search Committee is
 seeking applications/
 nominations from
 eminent academicians for
 the post of the Vice-
 Chancellor of Bidhan
 Chandra Krishi
 University, Mohanpur,
 Nadia, West
 Bengal. The applications/
 nominations should be
 sent by email to
 searchcom@bcu.gov.in
 or on before 06/10/2020 by
 04.00 P.M. For details,
 please visit
 www.bcku.edu.in
 Application/ nomination
 received after the last
 date will not be
 entertained. Sd/-
 (Chairman, Search
 Committee)
 09317121211

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**WALK-IN INTERVIEW FOR ENGAGEMENT
 OF CONTRACT MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS**
 Medical Director, B.R.Singh Hospital, Eastern Railway, Sealdah
 desires to form a panel of doctors to be engaged as "Contract
 Medical Practitioners (CMP) Specialist/Super specialist" on
 full time contract basis for duration of one year on the following
 terms and conditions:-
 Doctors who satisfy the requisite qualification & age and are
 willing for the above engagement are requested to report with
 all certificates for "Walk-in-interview" to the office of the Medical
 Director, B.R.Singh Hospital, Eastern Railway, Sealdah,
 Kolkata-700114 on 05.11.2020 at 11 hrs. for registration. While
 attending the interview, the candidates are requested to bring
 relevant certificates in original with attested copies of the same
 in support of age, qualification, medical registration, experience
 etc. and two passport size photographs. The candidates should
 be prepared to stay back for one day, if required, at his own
 expense. Application proforma will be supplied by this office.
TERMS AND CONDITIONS: 1. NAME OF THE POST: Contract
 Medical Practitioner (CMP) Specialist/Super specialist on full
 time engagement. 2. NATURE OF ENGAGEMENT: The
 engagement is purely on contractual basis for one year or till
 regular UPSC selected Doctors (ADMO/DMO/Sr. DMO) become
 available whichever is earlier. Further the services of these
 doctors are also terminable before the expiry of one year. The
 services rendered as contract doctors is a stop gap arrangement
 and will not have any bearing in respect of consideration of the
 period in case of regular selection through UPSC. It will also
 not confer any right for automatic regularization/absorption in
 any circumstances. 2(a). Retired IRMS officers/Retired
 Government Medical Officers of State Govt. and Central Govt.
 up to the age of 67 yrs. are also eligible to engage themselves
 as CMPs and for the same, they can also attend this interview
 for engagement as CMP in Railways against existing regular
 vacancies. At present retired IRMS officers are engaged for
 2 terms up to the age of 67 yrs. as per instructions issued vide
 Board's letter No. 2013/SGR/115 dated 09.07.2018. Retired
 railway doctors/State Govt./Central Govt. doctors will also get
 the same amount per month subject to the condition that they
 pay a pension should not exceed the last pay drawn with the
 same terms and conditions as per Board's instructions dated
 09.07.08. (3) Vacancy (Department wise), Qualification,
 Remuneration: Sl.No.; Department; Qualification; Specialist/
 Super Specialist : No. of CMP required are as follows:
 (1); Cardiology, MD, DM/DMB (Cardiology); Super specialist;
 01; (2); Neurology, MD, DM/DMB (Neurology); Super specialist;
 01; (3); Nephrology, MD, DM/DMB (Nephrology); Super specialist;
 01; (4); Critical Care; DA (Anesthesia) with recognized Certificate
 course in Critical Care MD (Anesthesia), DNB (Anesthesiology)
 with recognized Certificate course in Critical Care; Specialist; 01;
 (4) OTHER FACILITIES: One set of 1st class complimentary
 pass for self & family during each contract which shall be issued
 after three months of regular contract service (except retired
 railway doctors). Contract Medical Practitioner can avail free
 medical treatment for self only. Other conditions apply. Expenses
 on out station journey connected with contracted work will be
 borne by the Railway. Daily allowance at specified rates will be
 admissible for each work (5) AGE: (A) Not exceeding 50 yrs. as
 on 01.11.2020 (5 years age relaxation for SC/ST and 3 years for
 OBC); (b) Retired IRMS Doctors/Retired Govt. Doctors Officers
 of Central Govt./State Govt. may be engaged for maximum
 seven terms of one year each or attaining the age of 67 years
 whichever is earlier. (6) Remuneration: (i) Specialists are entitled
 Rs. 95,000/- per month in 1st year and Rs. 1,05,000/- per month
 2nd year onward. (ii) Super specialists are entitled Rs. 1,15,000/-
 per month (iii) Retd. Railway/Govt. doctors are entitled the same
 amount subject to the condition that Remuneration plus pension
 should not exceed the last pay drawn. (7) Date of Walk-in
 interview and time: 05.11.2020 at 11 hrs. onward.

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 sent by email to
 searchcom@bcu.gov.in
 or on before 06/10/2020 by
 04.00 P.M. For details,
 please visit
 www.bcku.edu.in
 Application/ nomination
 received after the last
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10 METRO 17 OCTOBER 2020

Driver run over in road rage

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Sinhi: A government bus driver who got off the bus to confront a private bus driver on BT Road on Friday was run over and killed when the other driver tried to flee, police said. The accident occurred near Chiria More in north Calcutta on the Dunlop bound flank of BT Road in the afternoon. Both buses on route 70 (Barackpore-Aurobindo Sarani-Barackpore) were moving in the same direction when the private bus apparently grazed and broke the government bus's right rear-view mirror while overtaking. "The government bus then overtook the private bus from the right and blocked its way before the driver got off to confront the other driver. He demanded an explanation why the private bus driver had broken his rear-view mirror," a traffic police officer of the fatal squad said. "They had a heated argument," the private bus driver tried to flee and pressed on the accelerator." The bus tried to negotiate past the state bus when the state bus driver came under its wheels, the police said. He was declared dead at RG Kar hospital. The private bus driver was arrested on the spot. He has been booked for culpable homicide not amounting to murder. He knew the consequences of rash driving, an officer of Cossipore police station said.

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES BHOPAL

Recruitment Notice
 Addendum: Re-Opening of Faculty Recruitment
 With reference to Ref. No.11/10/2020/Admn/AIIMS/Bhopal/1980 dated 04/07/2020 for recruitment of Professor, Additional Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor in various departments at AIIMS, Bhopal, it is hereby intimated that the process for submission of online application is being re-opened from 1st of November 2020 to 15th November 2020. All other terms & conditions of the advertisement will remain unchanged. For details kindly visit official website of AIIMS, Bhopal regularly. Director AIIMS, Bhopal

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES BHOPAL

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

E-Tender ID No.	Required Items/Services at AIIMS Bhopal	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)
11NIT/EECABU/AIIMS/BHP/2020-21	Providing and bring of Sona are including jewelry fitting	13.99
18NIT/EECABU/AIIMS/BHP/2020-21	Repair and maintenance of various furniture items	4.85
19NIT/EECABU/AIIMS/BHP/2020-21	Annual repair and maintenance of water cooler, water purifier and water cooler with the purifier installed	16.64
20NIT/EECABU/AIIMS/BHP/2020-21	Additional & Modification work for creation of sitting area for the Guest in wing	6.34
21NIT/EECABU/AIIMS/BHP/2020-21	Additional and Modification work of PWR Ward	19.14
133ANIT/EECABU/AIIMS/BHP/2020-21	Sone Culture with hood and suction Bench Top	3.00

For further details of the above tenders, the prospective bidders may please visit email: www.aiimshbhopal.edu.in or E-mail: sooffice@aiimshbhopal.edu.in and sooffice@aiimshbhopal.edu.in. Tender may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal: http://tenderboard.nic.gov.in/AIIMS/Bhopal, www.aiimshbhopal.edu.in and CPP Portal: www.eprocure.gov.in. Any corrigendum/amendment related to this NIT shall be published on the same website only. Sd/- Senior Procurement Cum Store officer For & on behalf of Director, AIIMS Bhopal

South East Central Railway

TENDER NOTICE FOR RECOMMENDATION OF CROSSING BY ROBOTIC METHOD

E-Tender No. 0986/REG-FRAGS-REG-20-21, Date: 13.10.2020
 Rfoc: Recommendation of crossing by robotic method under the jurisdiction of S. DDO/Contract/ECR Tender vide (a) No. 1/2020; (b) Contract/ECR Tender vide (a) No. 1/2020; (c) Contract/ECR Tender vide (a) No. 1/2020. Start date of Submission of Tender: 15.10.2020. Last date of Submission of Tender: 15.10.2020. The complete information of the above e-tender notice is available on website: https://www.sercr.gov.in. Bids other than e-bids shall not be accepted against above tenders.
 Sd/- Railway Manager (Reg.) CRR/19/2020 S. C. R. Officer/General For & on behalf of Director, AIIMS Bhopal

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Crippled mother, son found dead at home

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Patuli: An overpowering stench from a two-storey building in Patuli prompted neighbours to alert police who broke into the house on Thursday evening and found an 88-year-old woman lying dead on the floor, maggots crawling on her.

The decomposed body of the woman's 50-year-old son was hanging from the ceiling fan in one of the rooms on the first floor. No suicide note was found.

Police have learnt during a preliminary investigation that the son, Subhanyu Mitra, had recently lost possession of a bookstore at Lake Market that his late father had taken on rent. He was working as a contract employee of the Calcutta Municipal Corporation.

Apart from him there was no one to look after his crippled mother, Manjushree Mitra, the police said.

The police received an alert around 7.15pm on Thursday that a foul smell had been emanating from a building in Calcutta's Mangra Park. After reaching the spot, they found the main door locked from inside.

"We broke open the door and entered the house to find the decomposed body of an aged woman lying on the floor. There were worms on her body. It was clear that the body was a few days old. The son was found hanging from the ceiling fan in one of the rooms on the first floor of the house," a police officer said.

The bodies were sent for post-mortem.

An officer familiar with the probe said that going by the condition of the bodies, it appeared the woman had died before the man.

"There were no injury marks on the woman. It seems to be a natural death. The post-mortem will reveal the cause of death. The mother and the son were lying dead inside the house for at least three to four days," the officer said.

Neighbours told the cops that they had last seen the son a two weeks ago.

Shankar-ananda Guha, an elderly neighbour, said the son had been depressed ever since he lost the bookstore his father had taken on rent.

Mitra, the neighbour said, had been out of work for a few months.

There have been many incidents in the city of the aged and the uncared dying without anyone to keep tabs on them.

Calcutta police encourage elderly residents to enrol with Pranam — a project that involves cops from local police stations keeping in touch with the aged.

Elocutionist no more

Calcutta: Elocutionist Pradip Ghosh passed away in his Joghajog Park home on Friday. He was 78. Chief minister Mananta Banerjee described him as a "bright star in the world of elocution" in her condolence message.

New clothes to win trust in conflict zones

DEBRAJ MITRA

Calcutta: Over 2,600 children and women living in areas prone to human-animal conflict will get a new set of clothes in the run-up to the festive season.

The areas are Dakshin Shole in West Midnapore, human settlements around the Narayanpur forest in Hooghly and Kumirmari village in the Sunderbans.

Dakshin Shole village in Salboni, around 21km from Midnapore town, is a hotbed of human-elephant conflict. Herds of marauding Dalmia elephants raid the village frequently, destroying crops.

People living in tribal hamlets around the Narayanpur forest, 20km from Singur, were taken of hunting monitor lizards, fishing and civet cats, birds and other animals that are found in the forest.

Kumirmari village, in the Basirhat range of the Sunderban Tiger Reserve, derives its name from crocodile. Man-wild conflict in the mangroves needs no introduction. The loss of livelihood because of the pandemic has forced many people living on the fringes to enter the forests for fishing and collecting firewood. More than 15 people have been killed in tiger attacks in the

Sunderbans this year, according to officials and educators. Thousands of workers come from various cities in the wake of the lockdown. Many of them are engaged in farming and fishing for survival but Cyclone Amphan inundated vast swathes of farmlands and waterbodies with salt water.

The distribution of new clothes is an attempt at inclusive conservation management, said Joydip Kundu of the Society for Heritage & Ecological Research (SHER), an NGO that works to reduce human-wildlife conflict and is behind the project.

"The aim is to win the trust of the local population. We are trying to make them part of the festivities. In return, we expect them to be part of our conservation efforts," said Kundu.

The project is in its fifth year, he said.

The drive is being conducted in collaboration with the forest department in phases.

Around 2,400 people, including children, have got new clothes till Friday.

The list of recipients was prepared with the help of the joint forest management committees.

"The people of the Sunderbans have suffered a lot because

of the Covid-19 pandemic and Amphan. They are yet to recover from the twin blows. We want to make these marginalised people a part of the festive celebrations," said Tapas Das, the field director of the Sunderban Tiger Reserve, who was part of the distribution campaign.

"We want to engage with children in one way or another. If we can catch them young, they can be the agents of the change we seek."

In the past, peopling on forest fringes were brought to the city and taken to pandals by SHER.

This year it won't be possible because of the pandemic.



New clothes being distributed among residents of Kumirmari village in the Sunderbans on Friday



The open-air gym in New Town, inaugurated on Friday

Open-air gym for New Town

SNEHALESGUPTA

New Town: An open-air gymnasium and a workout zone were inaugurated in the Eco Urban Village complex in New Town's Action Area II on Friday.

The gymnasium has been set up after a survey on residents revealed they wanted to work out in an open space because of the pandemic, an official of Hideo, which has installed the machines, said.

The gym is built along the lines of calisthenics parks and outdoor fitness stations, popular in South Korea, Europe and Australia, the Hideo official said.

The park has a bunch of fitness equipment — including an aerial stroller, sit up station, standing waist twister, double big shoulder press, chest and shoulder strength exercise set-ups, and a ski walker.

Every machine has a label explaining which body part it would benefit from it. Debasish Sen, the chairman and managing director of Hideo, said Hideo made it a point to have equipment that don't require a trainer.

"All the equipment are placed in such a way that distancing rules are maintained. Visitors will be asked to clean and wipe every equipment after use," he said.

People will have to pay Rs 10 a day to access the open-air gym.



SUBHANKAR CHOWDHURY

Kharagpur: HT Kharagpur will call some regular and employees associated with projects back to the campus.

These researchers who are called project staff will be in batches of a few — at the most 10, an institute official said. The institute doesn't want these staff in large numbers on the campus as it could trigger a health risk, the official said.

A similar situation had led to the closure of the campus early in September.

The supervisor of each project has been asked to

email the dean of sponsored research and industrial faculty the name of a specific member of staff from the project.

"Specific information such as project code, date of completion, and specific urgency on meeting the deliverable has to be mentioned in the mail to help the institute prepare a priority-based list on those who would be recalled. The plan is to bring back the first batch of 10 by the third week of October," the official said.

It has been specified that those researchers and employees must secure accommodation at the Vikram Sarabhai Residential Complex (VSRG).

NOTICE

This is to inform that Deed No. 1154/30/2017 registered at Sub Registry Office Girdih, Jharkhand in the name of NUTRIRICE POLYOLS PRIVATE LIMITED in respect of land measuring 183 decimal comprised in-

Khata No.	Plot.	Rdwra	Area (in Decimals)
13	1044	40.00	40.00
15	1040	15.00	7.50
15	1041	8.00	4.00
82	145	7.00	3.50
113	144	6.00	3.00
122	146	6.00	3.00
122	141	13.00	6.50
122	142	69.00	34.50
122	147	54.33	27.165
54	143	21.00	10.50
54	1086	38.50	19.25
54	1044/275	38.00	19.00
54	66	6.00	3.00
56	1037	14.50	7.25
116	1045	66.00	33.00
157	1042	66.00	33.00
323	1088	18.00	9.00
323	1089	14.00	7.00
Total:			183.00

At village-Gaith Sirampur, Thana - Giridih, Jharkhand, Pincode-815302. The said land is being sold by the official office of M/s NUTRIRICE POLYOLS PRIVATE LIMITED situated at Room no.314, 3rd floor of T & Z, Old Court House Corner, Tobacco House, Kolkata - 700163. The said land is being sold by way of mortgage before the SBI SMC Same Street Branch, Kolkata (Code No.50271) if any body has any objection please file a written application with me within fortnight from today.

Mrs. Sonali Chatterjee, L.L.B., Advocate
Enrolment No.-WB/793/2002

Position : Chief Executive Officer

Date of joining: Immediately
Age: 50 to 60 years
Experience : Should have worked in similar position for last three years

Interested candidates may apply and send their CVs by email (to email id: secretary@rcgc.in) or by post to Miss Babi Thapa, Secretary to the Chief Executive Officer at the address given below, latest by 20th October, 2020.

Babi Thapa
Secretary to the Chief Executive Officer
Royal Calcutta Golf Club
18 Golf Club Road, Tollymore, Kolkata - 700033
Phone: 033- 4003 1352 / 4062 1288, Website : www.rcgc.in

WESTERN RAILWAY

CORRIGENDUM TO E-AUCTION SALE PROGRAM OF October, 2020

MATERIAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
No. SIII/Auction Programme/October-2020, Dated: 14.10.2020
Please refer to the office e-Auction Sale Notification No. SIII/Auction Programme/October-2020, Dated: 08.09.2020 & SIII/Auction Programme/October-2020, Dated: 14.09.2020.
E-Auction Sale Program scheduled to be held in the month of October, 2020 at Bharuwan Division & Mahabaleswari Depot on 13.10.2020 has been rescheduled & will be held on 23.10.2020. All other terms and conditions will remain unaltered. Please visit Western Railway website of Material Management Department (e. www.mdm.westernrailways.gov.in) as well as on www.siii.gov.in e-auction portal for further information.
Dy. Comm. Sales For PCMM
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GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

Memo No. DPL/PUR/CORP/06/20-21/26 Dated: 14.10.2020

THE DURGAPUR PROJECTS LIMITED
(A Government of West Bengal Enterprise)
AN ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company
Regd. Office: Administrative Building, Durgapur - 713201.
CIN: U40102WB1961SG025250

Gist of the Tariff Order dated 03.08.2020 for the year 2017-18 issued by The West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission in Case No. TP- 66 /16 - 17 in respect of The Durgapur Projects Limited (DPL)

- In Terms of West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations, 2011, as amended (in short "Tariff Regulations 2011") and subsequent Suo - moto orders of the West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission (in Short "Commission") dated 04.05.2016 and 14.12.2016, DPL submitted an application for determination of tariff for the fifth Control period comprising of the year 2017-18 before the Commission on 30.12.2016 which was admitted by the Commission in Case No. -TP- 66 /16 -17.
- The gist of the said application was published in newspapers on 07.03.2017 inviting the attention of all interested parties, stake holders and the members of the public and requesting submission of suggestions, objections and comments on the said application by 22.03.2017 which was later extended upto 29.03.2017. The Commission received suggestions, objections and comments from interested parties with regard to determination of tariff for the fifth Control period comprising of the year 2017-18 before the Commission on 30.12.2016 which was admitted by the Commission in Case No. -TP- 66 /16 -17.
- Based on the above referred tariff application for the fifth control period and on the suggestions, objections and comments received from the stake holders, the Commission has determined the Aggregate Revenue Requirement (ARR) for the fifth control period vide order dated 03.08.2020.
- The Commission also observed that the Financial Year of 2017 -18 has been completed and the distribution of different categories of DPL is to be worked out to WSEDCIL with effect from 01.01.2019. Thus, the Commission finds it suitable to fix the tariff of different categories of consumers similar to that for the year 2016-17. The revenue gap, if any, based on the actual figures of 2017 -18 will be looked into during truing up in Annual Performance Review (APR) and Fuel and Power Purchase Cost Adjustment (FPPCA) for the year 2017 -18.
- The applicable tariff and other associated terms and conditions of tariff of DPL for the year 2017 -18 is given in the Tariff order dated 03.08.2020 which is available on the website of DPL at www.dp.net.in.
- The amount of State Government subsidy on tariff, if any, will also be given effect as per laid down principle of the Government of West Bengal.
- For any further interpretation/ clarification, the order of the Commission dated 03.08.2020 may be referred to and the copy of order may be obtained from the office of the Commission at Plot No: AH/5 (2nd Floor & 4th Floor) Premises No: MAR 16-1111, Action Area - 1A, Newtown, Rajarhat, Kolkata - 700163 following the procedure laid down in the West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2013 and West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission (Fees) Regulations, 2013.

B. The gist has been published with the approval of the Commission. N.B.: However, if any difference from the original tariff order is found anywhere in this gist, due to misprinting or any other reason, the version to be found in the original tariff order would prevail.

P. Roy
General Manager (Tech) (I/C)
The Durgapur Projects Limited
Date: Durgapur
Date: 14.10.2020
CA-1964/19/2020

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COFMOV (INDIAN RAILWAYS)

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 10, DATED: 16.10.2020

PCMM / COFMOWs Office invites e-Bids for the following TENDERS

Tender No.	Brief Description	Closing Date
OP-108550	Hydraulic Press Brake 200 Ton	09.11.2020
OP-07207008A	Shot Peening Machine for Coil Spring.	12.11.2020
OP-07207019	Mig-Mag Synergic Pulse Inverter Based Welding Plant with water/Liquid Cooled Torch.	13.11.2020
OP-709953	Coal Fired Boiler, Cap-1500 Kgs.	13.11.2020
OP-107861	CNC Folding Machine.	17.11.2020
OP-512010	Electric Overhead Traveling Cranes, Cap-5.10.815	17.11.2020

Bidders may visit the website www.irps.gov.in to download the tender document and submit their e-Bids. No manual bids shall be accepted.

CORRIGENDUM, DATED: 16.10.2020

Following corrigenda have been issued to e-Tenders already uploaded on the website www.irps.gov.in:

Tender No.	Corrigendum No.	Closing Date
OP-511810	Corrigendum No. 01	21.10.2020
OP-608710	Corrigendum No. 02	22.10.2020
OP-206510	Corrigendum No. 02	27.10.2020
OP-206710	Corrigendum No. 02	28.10.2020
G-108800	Corrigendum No. 02	02.11.2020
OP-07207008A	Corrigendum No.01 & 02	12.11.2020

Bidders may visit the website to download the details mentioned in the corrigendum and submit e-Bids accordingly.

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The Telegraph

SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER 2020 VOL. XXXIX NO. 102

DODGY TACTICS

Indians have re-discovered the virtues of thrift in a Covid-battered economy. Household savings have started to rise as consumers have cut back on discretionary spending over the past six months. The Narendra Modi government, however, does not like this tendency among Indians to squirrel away savings. The latest 'stimulus' package, which prods federal government employees to spend their leave travel entitlements on a range of consumer goods that attract a goods and services tax rate of 12 per cent and more, signals a desperate attempt to ignite demand at a time when consumers are showing a marked preference to conserve cash. Government employees are being urged to spend three times their travel entitlements during the period till March 31 next year in order to claim the underlying tax break. The move is ostensibly designed to create new demand for goods and services worth Rs 300 billion.

Consumers are unlikely to fall for this bait. A State Bank of India research report reckons that less than 10 to 15 per cent of government employees will opt for the voucher scheme to unlock lapsable travel entitlements because of the onerous spending commitments. This suggests that the latest efforts of the finance minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, to crank up demand will fail badly. The offer to give these employees a Rs 10,000 pre-loaded RuPay card—restructuring the idea of a special festival season advance that formed part of the Sixth Pay Commis-

sion report—which can only be used at point-of-sale machines looks equally dodgy.

The Centre also believes that it can stoke additional demand by goading states to increase their capital spending on roads and urban infrastructure by offering them special, interest-free, 50-year loans worth Rs 120 billion. The cash-strapped Centre is extremely reluctant to increase spending on its books. Instead, it wants the states and government employees to shoulder the burden. This is a perverse strategy, especially when it argues that capital expenditure has a high multiplier effect on the economy. The Centre's fiscal deficit has already gone through the roof. Its accounts for the month of August pegs the fiscal deficit at Rs 7.7 trillion—5.2 per cent in excess of the budgeted fiscal deficit of Rs 7.96 trillion for the full year.

The Centre needs to borrow more but it will not. India's debt-to-GDP ratio, which includes the debt of the Centre and states, is a modest 70 per cent, but is projected to jump to 50 per cent this year. The stimulus measures announced since the outbreak of Covid-19 have been modest: a sum of Rs 1.7 trillion under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana announced in March and another Rs 20.57 lakh crore under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan package unveiled in May that focused on supply-side measures and some long-term reforms. Ms Sitharaman needs to come up with a big-bang stimulus package; the Centre's parsimony will not revive the economy.

Nirmala Sitharaman needs to come up with a big-bang stimulus package to revive the economy

SCRIPSI

How many straight-and-narrow paths were crooked paths? How many best families were worst families and how many good people were bad people? When you added them all up and then subtracted, you might be left with only the children, and perhaps with Albert Einstein and an old violinist or sculptor somewhere.

JOSEPH HELLER

Narendra Modi's political graph mirrors that of Lal Prasad Shastri

ASIMALI

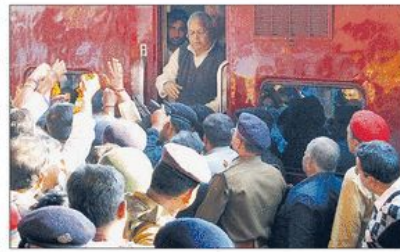
The popularity of the prime minister, Narendra Modi, continues to rise. His critics, they ask—"what did Modi create in these six years?" But that is the wrong question to ask. His appeal stems from not what he has created but what he has destroyed, and continues to destroy—a discredited *status quo*. In this respect, his enduring mass appeal, in the absence of tangible achievements, is similar to that of Lal Prasad in his heyday. Lal's mass appeal, which made him Bihar's undisputed leader for over 15 years, had similarly confounded analysts. A study of the parallels between the two leaders might illuminate what it would take to successfully challenge Modi.

If you look at the biggest political moves of Modi over the last six years—demonetization, Article 370, the goods and services tax, farm and labour bills— they follow a simple political logic. Modi rose to power in a society teeming with aspirations. These aspirations, embodied particularly by a new middle class, were released by liberalization but not quite fulfilled. The ingeniousness of Modi was to conflate these thwarted aspirations with a system of power, which was deeply corrupt and captured by vested interests. This was the old *status quo*, which was thoroughly discredited in 2014.

But Modi keeps reminding voters that the old systems of power are still alive, having entrenched themselves over 70 years of misrule, and that dismantling them would be a long process. He thus demands, and largely receives, the patience of the electorate. Only after 'Old India' has been destroyed will 'New India' be built.

All his marquee political moves are centred on this narrative of the destruction of the old *status quo*. Demonetization was supposed to destroy the black economy. GST was needed to clean the corrupt informal economy. Article 370 was revoked to dismantle the corrupt hold of the Abdullas and the Mudhis (as well as the vested interests of the separatists) on the state, which had kept Kashmir backward and prevented its integration. The recently passed farm bills would uproot the entrenched middlemen that had frustrated the modernization of agriculture, much like the labour bills that would destroy an entrenched labour aristocracy that has hampered rapid industrialization.

Members of the cabinet are at building new systems to replace the old ones. India's Kashmir policy is in tatters, GST implementation was a



mess, demonetization was a unmitigated disaster, and there is no clarity on the new farm and labour regime. Unlike Jawaharlal Nehru, Modi lacks both the will and the capacity to be an institution builder. And yet, the dramatically simple and reductive logic underpinning these narratives, far from being a weakness, is actually their main strength. A good political narrative is essentially a simple one, the classic example of Lal's shoes.

Much like Modi, Lal's rise to power represented the casting away of the old order. From the late 1960s, there was an emerging political consciousness among the backward castes in Bihar—moulded by leaders such as Ram Manohar Lohia, Jayaprakash Narayan and Karpuri Thakur. The political aspirations of these peasant castes had been whittled by the gains of the Green Revolution. The old upper-caste dominated order, embodied by the upper-caste chief minister, had become discredited by the time Lal became chief minister in 1990.

Again, like Modi, Lal's subsequent politics centred on subverting a reformed Bihar, which would materially benefit his political base, and more on symbolic fights against the old upper-caste order. The political slogan of his then Janata Party was 'Vikas Nahin, Samman Chahiye' (We need dignity, not development'). As the political scientist, Jeffrey Wisser, wrote, Lal mobilized the backward castes through policy initiatives but by appealing symbolically to themes of dignity. The main focus of his rule was to undo the upper-caste control of the State, which involved regular confrontations with the upper-caste controlled police, bu-

reaucracy and the judiciary. Unsurprisingly, this political style of conflict deepened, what the political scientist, Atul Kohli, had termed the "crisis of governability" in Bihar. The state continued to lag in education, health and jobs. The problems of law and order and corruption, which were already severe in previous Congress regimes, continued to fester, if not worsen. Yet Lal remained the tallest leader of Bihar and returned with an even bigger victory in 1995. Populist showmen, like Lal and Modi, are, for a period, immune to attacks on governance because they can easily turn criticism into vilification. The critics are framed as the vestiges of the old order, perennially whining about their loss of power and status. Lal terminated all his corruption scandals as the conspiracy of upper-caste investigative agencies and the judiciary. And the marginalized identified with Lal as one of their own, like many poor and non-middle class Indians identify with Modi ('son of a tale seller') and gave him a long rope. Lal's rule had socially and politically empowered the backward castes and they didn't want a return to the old upper-caste dominated political order. In his symbolic fights, they saw one of their own challenging the despised system that had kept them down.

Yet, as Lal discovered, in 2000, when he lost his majority, and in 2005, when he was shunted from power, popularity can't last forever if you don't ultimately fulfill material aspirations. Modi might be coasting now through a prolonged economic downturn and a slump in job creation, but the situation can drastically change by 2024. A long rope, too, has its limits.

But the lesson from Bihar is it can't happen without an alternative political vision. Simply attacking the government doesn't work. Nitya Kumar promised a "Nutan Bihar" (New Bihar), not a return to the old order. Jeffrey Witsoe and Francine Frankel noted that Nitya Kumar displaced Lal because he "was the ideal political figure to combine the themes of development and social justice, something Lal had never managed to deliver in combination." But he didn't stop at rhetoric; he skillfully politicized and cultivated a coalition of extremely backward castes, which felt themselves marginalized under the increasingly Muslim-Yadav rule of Lal. Along with his 'natural' base of Kurmis and Koeris, with a smattering of Pasmanda Muslims, this was a winning coalition when allied with the upper caste base of the Bharatiya Janata Party. But, unlike Lal, he didn't simply project himself to be a backward-caste leader. He also appealed to an aspirational voting bloc that wanted decent politics and material benefits.

If we are baffled with the popularity of Modi, we must also ask what the alternative vision the Opposition is offering. The Congress still suffers from the taint of corruption and entrenched privilege. Most of its prominent young leaders come from political dynasties and it is *de-facto* led by fourth-generation dynasts of the Nehru-Gandhi family. Of late, it has been riddled with the taint of the backward castes, Dalits and Muslims, but its attempts at mobilization on the ground have been feeble and episodic. Its leadership crisis has meant that there is a lack of clarity on what the party stands for.

Similarly, many regional parties passively hope that the Congress's departing social base will return to them on their own without attempting to reconfigure their politics from the 1980s to meet the realities of 2020. Yet, Modi comfortably survived the mid-term crisis but the question is which party seriously attempted to use this crisis to politicize the urban working classes and make them part of their political coalition.

The old political system lies discredited, and Modi's eclipse, when it happens, will likely be a new form of politics. The trouble is that it is hard to see this new politics anywhere on the horizon.

The author is a political columnist and research associate with the Centre for Policy Research, Delhi

EYE ON ENGLAND

Vivid picture

On the line to Cairo, I talk to Dedan Washi about his very engaging new book, *The Nine Lives of Pakistan: Dispatches from a Divided Nation*, which gives readers "a sense of being there". He was based in Islamabad for nine years for *The Guardian* and *The New York Times* but was expelled in 2013 for "undesirable activities"—a reference to his reports on insurgency movements in Balochistan. He has told the story of Pakistan through the lives of nine people, among them Asma Jahangir, "doyen of Pakistan's human rights movement"; Salman Taseer, the Punjab governor who was shot by his own bodyguard; Chaudhry Azhar Khan, "Kashmir's most famous cop"; and Abdul Rashid Ghazi, who died in the siege of the Red Mosque in Islamabad. The picture he paints is of a violent and lawless land. "But I had grown to love Pakistan, too—a country of hidden delights, endearing absurdities and some of the closest friendships I had ever experienced."

writes Dedan, who was described in *The New Yorker* as a "tall, rakish, handsome Irishman".

Dedan, who is moving from Cairo to Nairobi as chief Africa correspondent of the NYT, tackles two of my questions: why on earth did Pakistan send 10 young men to Mumbai in November 2008 to carry out such senseless slaughter? And surely someone in Pakistan knew Osama bin Laden was hiding in Abbottabad?

He says Pakistani intelligence, including the Inter-Services Intelligence, is not always very intelligent: "Are the puppet masters in full control of the puppets? Do they know everything that's going on? Are they turning a blind eye to certain things? Or do they subcontract policy to a group or an officer and let them use their own initiative, where these tools that they have created are entirely in their control? Internally, the intelligence services are probably not as coherent as you might think."

Show the way

This year's Nobel Prize for Physics was shared by three people, including Roger Penrose of Oxford University. "For the discovery that black hole formation is a robust prediction of the general theory of relativity." But the glory to come up with the idea of black holes was Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar in 1930 while making the sea voyage from Bombay to England as a postgraduate at Trinity College, Cambridge. This I was told in 2005 by Arthur Miller, Professor of the History and Philosophy of Science at University College London, when I interviewed him about his *Empire of the Stars: Friendship, Obsession and Betrayal in the Quest for Black Holes*. The brilliant Cambridge astrophysicist, Sir Arthur Stanley Eddington, and others were convinced that all stars either blew themselves into smithereens or shrank until they became dense, "white dwarfs", small but solid. Chan-

drasekhar's radical notion was that a massive dying star "kept on collapsing and collapsing and collapsing" into a black hole which sucked in light and time and everything around it so that nothing could escape. It was



ways—to get the fist exclusive interview with Afonso. Thanks solely to the magic wrought by the Indian ambassador, Lakshmi Lal Mehrotra, Afonso was warm and open when we talked for 90 minutes at the Casa Rosada.

Perry wrote a long article explaining that the reason Afonso had granted an interview to an Indian newspaper was because of the great consequence (very true) was because the president had wanted to be kind to a third world country. I passed on Afonso's pro-Indian sentiments to Mehrotra, who said quietly, "Let me see what I can do". Shortly afterwards, Afonso was invited to be chief guest at the Republic Day Parade in Delhi.

rather like both water disappearing down a plug hole. Miller told me that Chandrasekhar, who won the Physics Nobel Prize in 1938, was eventually proved right.

Funny story

Another charming and eloquent editor of my acquaintance, Sir Peregrine Woodhouse, who was briefly editor of *The Sunday Telegraph*, has been in the news. "Perry", whose column was once essential reading for Conservative Party members, passed away last week, aged 96. Perry considered himself a maverick intellectual, and arrived in Argentina after the Falklands War but was denied the interview he sought with the country's new democratic president, Raul Alfonsin. The Sheraton in Buenos Aires was then brimming with 500 foreign journalists. I was then on the *Daily Mail*, whose editor, David English, sent me back to Argentina with instructions—"see-ad-

Footnote

The Khudswant Literary Festival, which has been coming to London since 2018, was held digitally last week, opening with Sunita Murty telling Chetan Bhagat about her son-in-law. When Rishi Sunak—he is married to Murty's daughter, Abha—was the Chancellor of the Exchequer, he rang to give her the big news. "Explain that to me in Indian English," she responded, and appreciated the significance when Rishi said he was now "finance minister".

Stunning work

Marjorie Wadsworth's biography of Shapurji Saklatvala, the Communist who held Battersea North in London as a Labour parliamentary seat from 1922-1923 and from 1924-1925, is a smashing work of scholarship. It took Marc 15 years to bring out the first edition of *Comrade Sak* in 1968. The revised second edition, just out, has new material on how Miles spoke on Saklatvala and his correspondence with the Labour Party.

Marc, born in Birmingham of a Jamaican father and a Finnish mother with Indian ancestors from Bihar, he believes, has been a radical member of the Labour Party. He calls the book "a labour of love" but assures me it is not a hagiography. "He was wrong in his dispute with Gandhi" over how to achieve Indian independence. That said, Saklatvala, a member of the Tata family, was, in Marc's opinion, "the most important Indian fighter for independence outside of India in the 20th century, with Dadabhai Naoroji coming at the end of the 19th century".



Right step

Sir—It was both surprising and heartening to read that Dinesh Kartiik, who was the skipper of the Indian Premier League team, the Kolkata Knight Riders, has decided to hand over the captaincy to his teammate, Eoin Morgan. The Irish-born Morgan has done a great job captaining the England cricket team, and the KKR could benefit from his

Truly inspiring

Sir—With the demise of Bhanu Athaiya, the nation and the world of cinema have lost one of the most prolific, talented and versatile costume-designers of all time ("Bhanu Athaiya, first Oscar winner, dies", Oct 16). Athaiya had a Midas touch that could be seen in a vast number of film movies, right from the 1950s to the first years of the 21st century. She showcased rich, colorful and splendid Indian costumes on the global stage. The award-winning Oscar Academy Award for India through her work for the movie, *Gandhi*, was truly an example from whom the present generation of costume-designers can learn everything.

No other costume designer would have had such a long list of film makers eager to make her a part of their movies. The list of film makers she worked with included the legendary Guru Dutt, Raj Kapoor, Yash Chopra, E.R. Chitra, Subhash Ghai, Vidhu Vinod Chopra and also the newer directors such as Ashutosh Gowariker and Raj Khosla. Athaiya also worked with international designers such as Richard Attenborough and Conrad Rooks. Be it the rustic charm seen in the costumes in *Sopranos*, *Silence*, *Sanderson*, *Ram Teri Ganga Mauti* and *Lagaan* or the romantic aura presented in *Gandhi*,

leadership skills along with his batting. Moreover, Kartiik really needs to put more focus on his own game; he has scored only 108 runs from seven matches with just one half-century. The additional burden of captaincy was getting to be too much for him; it was best that he handed over the responsibility to someone better equipped.

Nayana Mookerjee, Calcutta

Athaiya's designs spoke volumes about her calibre. The styles in which she dressed actors and actresses varied vastly. If Bollywood stars were able to shine in their roles on screen and mesmerise viewers, a large part of that credit went to Athaiya. Movies such as *C.I.D.*, *Brahmachari*, *Mera Naam Joker*, *Ek Duje Ke Lye* and *1942: A Love Story* bore testimony to her excellent work. Athaiya was a master craftsman



Step-down

whose memory will live on for years through the splendid work that she did.

M. Prady, Kannur

Sir—It was saddening to read that the costume designer, Bhanu Athaiya, first Oscar winner, passed away after a prolonged illness. She was 91 years old. The pioneering Athaiya won the Oscar, along with John Mollo, for her work in Richard Attenborough's *Gandhi*. Born in Kollapur,

she began her career as a costume designer in Hindi cinema with Guru Dutt's 1956 period film, *C.I.D.* In 2012, Athaiya returned her Oscar to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for self-keeping. In a career spanning five decades and over 100 films, she won two National Awards, for Gulzar's mystery drama, *Lekin*, and the period film, *Lagaan*, directed by Ashutosh Gowariker. With her death, the country has lost one of its best creators across all artistic fields.

Bhagwan Thakral, Mumbai

Sir—The news of the death of India's first Oscar winner, Bhanu Athaiya, a colossus of costume design, was upsetting. She was a nonagenarian. Her work for *Gandhi* was outstanding; no wonder she won her Oscar. The 10th year of her costume-designer work for more than a hundred Bollywood blockbusters like *Shri 420*, *Sohi Bion aur Ghatik* and *Chandni* spanned 60 long years, during which she created many new fashion trends, all of which were greatly appreciated. Surprisingly, however, Athaiya did not even receive the Padma Shri. This is very unfortunate.

Scourish Misra, Calcutta

Sir—Bhanu Athaiya was an inspiration for women, who are often told they can never be pioneers in any male-dominated field. One hopes her legacy continues to inspire girls and women.

Nina Roy, Calcutta

Letters should be sent to: The Telegraph, 6 Park Square, South Street, Calcutta 700017. Email: ttdt@bnpml.com

‘I’m an artist and if you give me a tuba, I’ll bring you something out of it’



XXCE



Fiery ideas

VISUALARTS

SOUMITRA DAS

It’s amazing what young artists like Virang Desai, who operates from both Calcutta and Mumbai, can achieve with scraps of paper collected from nowhere in particular if they are willing to exercise their imagination. The fossil-like forms Desai displayed at Art Exposure’s online exhibition of his works titled, *A Mechanical Eye* (September 11-October 30), were created with found paper, watercolours and graphite. Done in muted and matte shades of grey, blue and the red of Rojo Alicante marble found in the Iberic peninsula, Desai creates forms that may tickle the imagination of viewers. One may wonder if he is referring to specific forms from everyday life or if they are all abstracts. The effect is of marbled paper out of which the forms may have been cut out. They may also remind one of the psychological test, Rorschach Test, where the subject’s perceptions of inkblots are recorded and analysed.

These shape-shifting forms are intriguing for one moment they resemble a drawing by a cartographer or

rock formations, and vegetal life the next. One image distinctly looks like *pietra dura* or inlay work found in Taj Mahal. Desai has kept each form as simple as possible without succumbing to the temptation of making them unnecessarily complex and elaborate. A single idea has been subverted in each instead of making multiple choices. This is not to say that each form is perfectly articulated, but these works are certainly of a far superior quality to the run-of-mill exhibits displayed in every other gallery.

Some of the images are particularly beautiful. In these the forms of trees and flowers appear like phantoms against a background of hot, pulsating colours. They bring back memories of pressed flowers and petals kept between the pages of books.

Another brings to mind a galaxy of stars turned into a misty veil and observed from great distances lighty ours away. If one scrutinizes it, one can discover the intricate network of lines that created this beautiful nebulous formation. There is little that the curator’s note — an exercise in gobbledygook — contributes to the understanding of these works.

True balm

MUSIC

DEBDATTA MITRA

“Taken as a whole, Beethoven’s body of work represents the greatest evidence of man’s triumph over adversity.” These words by Robert Ziegler were highlighted by the three-day music gala — organized by the Yuva Music Festival on September 12-14 — commemorating Beethoven’s 200th birth anniversary. Like Beethoven, who rebelled against the classical structure, the concert did away with the stereotype of an established location, and opened itself up to explore music across continents.

Early compositions like *Für Elise* performed by Clara Lin (Taiwan), and *Sonatina in G Major*, performed by Peter Chan (Singapore), were played with youthful charm. As Beethoven’s musical journey evolves, his sonatas display a distinctive voice, as evidenced in *Moonlight Sonata*, the first movement of which was played with precision by Vashu Tangri (India). *Sonata Opus 31 No. 22* was executed with complexity by Koushika (India/Italy) and underlined the dramatic intensity and range of the piano.

The concert was a beautiful commentary on Beethoven’s majestic talent and how, in challenging times, the world will always need its spirit.



VISUALARTS

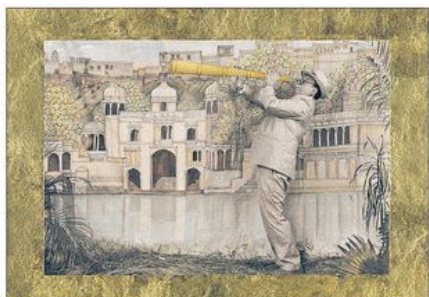
SRIMOYEE BAGCHI

At a time when artists are judged as much for their politics as their work, Waswo X. Waswo’s exhibition, *We Are Always Working* (held both online and offline at Latitube28 recently), is refreshing for the photographer’s wilful shunning of any ideological baggage. In fact, the charm of Waswo’s works lies in his self-deprecating humour; he pokes fun at his own image as an outsider in India. Based in Udaipur — this has been Waswo’s home since 2006 — the artist also finds humour in Rajasthan leaving behind its variegated past of warfare and chivalry with alacrity and hurrying towards globalization that will soon erase all traces of “local colour”.

The show was a collaboration between Waswo and Rajesh Soni, who handpainted the staged photographs taken by the artist along with R. Vijay. The tableaux were decked up with terracotta works by Shyam Lal Kumar. On the surface, the works depict a high-spirited theatre — almost like scenes from a *navatari* — with villagers from Varda (the artist’s studio is located here) playing dress up. But there is more to the works than an exploration of the relation between the act of looking and being looked at. The photographs — they are styled in the tradition of Indian studio photography with the subject posed before a painted backdrop — also critique colonial visual discourses, most prominently through the figure of the “Exot Orientalist” — Waswo himself dressed incongruously in a white suit and fedora.

The setting of Udaipur is perfect for a satire of the *gour sahib*’s gaze since the city caters to — even thrives on — the

Through a lens, fairly



exoticization of its own identity; that is the fuel for the local economy. His subjects though are not royal gentlemen and fine ladies but ordinary folk that one rubs shoulders with all over this land of kings. In these works, the *salazapi* wearing *salabi* is as much the observer — he even wields a magnifying glass while looking at artefacts carefully placed in the photograph — as he is the observed. But it is difficult to take either of these acts seriously given the set-up. In appropriating the figure of the white male Orientalist and placing him within a satirical work, Waswo invalidates the weight of his observations. This is augmented by the miniature avatar in which Waswo has portrayed himself. The “stolen garden” in many of his titles refer not just to the history of colonialism in India but also to the painted backdrops replicated from vintage miniatures hanging in institutions such as the Victoria

and Albert Museum in London.

Perhaps the most important aspect of Waswo’s photographs lies elsewhere. He helps his viewers look beyond the peculiar label of arts and crafts, which stereotypes an entire history of art-making that often gets diminished and limited to offerings — souvenirs — for the travel and tourism industry. As such, handreds and thousands of artists get confined to the status of craftspeople and artisans, stuck to inheriting a tradition of painting, sculpting and art making that does not leave much room for the type of innovation that contemporary art allows and welcomes. It is here that Waswo, from the beginning, has maintained a clear distinction in his collaborative approach to art-making — not only are “artisans” such as Shyam Lal Kumar always acknowledged in his works, but they are treated as associates, on a par with the contemporary artist.

IN FOCUS

Besides their varied musical influences, what give The Beatles an edge was their penchant for different musical instruments. John Lennon — born this month — was, in particular, interested in diverse instruments. Although he played the piano and the guitar the most, the first instrument he learned was the banjo in the recording of “Love Me Do”; he played a stolen harmonica; he chose an obscure keyboard, the Mellotron, for “Strawberry Fields Forever”. He was once spotted playing an aliphorn, and his private collection included maracas, congas, cowbells. Melody and melody were important to Lennon. Not many would lash out against fans for screaming at concerts.



People’s Artist Chittaropasad: In *Solidarity in Solitude*, an online exhibition of the artist-activist-chronicler, is being presented by the Victoria Memorial Hall along with DAG from October 10 to November 15. Chittaropasad’s artistic vision mirrored a time of turbulence. The imprisonment caused by the pandemic is a perfect occasion to revisit what the maestro had to say about restive epochs.

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1984: Sunil Gavaskar becomes the first Asian to appear in 100 Tests, during the game against Pakistan in Lahore. He is then the fourth player to reach this landmark

SPORT

CSK LOOK FOR WINNING RUN TO GET INTO PLAYOFFS

CALCUTTA SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER 2020



XXCL



Md. Sp. in I-League

I-LEAGUE QUALIFIERS
MD. SP. 2
BANGALORE FC 0

STAFF REPORTER

Calcutta: Mohammedan Sporting will play in the I-League after a gap of seven years. They secured their berth by defeating Bhanuapuri FC 2-0 in the I-League Qualifiers at the Kalyani Stadium on Friday.

Vanlalhba Chhangte and Gani Ngan scored one goal each for Mohammedan Sporting registered their third win in as many matches.

Monday's last round of matches are now of academic interest. Even if Mohammedan Sporting, who have nine points, went to FC Bengaluru United, and Bhanuapuri, with six points, beat ARA FC, Mohammedan Sporting would be through by virtue of their better head-to-head record against Bhanuapuri.

Mohammedan Sporting could have taken the lead as early as in the third minute, but for Bhanuapuri goalkeeper Shilton Pati, who brilliantly saved Chhangte's attempt from close range. Chhangte, however, scored in the 28th minute and substitute Ngan doubled the lead in the 67th.

IN BRIEF

Klopp wary of Everton

LIVERPOOL: Saturday marks 10 years to the day since Everton last beat Liverpool in the Merseyside Derby and Ross Benge says Klopp is wary of how Carlo Ancelotti has turned around the Toffees' fortunes as they sit top of the league with a 100 per cent record after four games. "They did some good (transfer) business and Carlo is a sensational manager. The team looks really, good", he said ahead of the marquee EPL clash. **Score**

Pak invite Eng

LONDON: England have been invited to play a limited overs series in Pakistan early next year, the ECB said. **Score**

Bagan colours

CALCUTTA: The iconic Howrah Bridge will be illuminated with green and maroon lights on Sunday and Monday to celebrate Mohan Bagan's I-League triumph, the club said on Friday. Bag-in was used to trophy from the All India Football Federation at a city hotel on Sunday, followed by a victory procession to the club's Maidan team on July 25. Bagan were on New York's boards in New York's Times Square. **Our Home**

THIS DAY THAT YEAR

2015: Cristiano Ronaldo becomes Real Madrid's all-time leading scorer across all competitions, overtaking club legend Raúl, with his 324th goal in a 3-0 win over Levante in La Liga.

INDRANIL MAJUMDAR

Calcutta: Something that had been predicted to happen even before the start of the IPL has happened. Dinesh Karthik has stepped down as Kolkata Knight Riders captain after seven matches, with Eoin Morgan replacing him.

In a media release on Friday afternoon, the franchise said Karthik wishes to relinquish captaincy "to focus on his batting and contributing more to the team's success".

Source, however, told The Telegraph that Karthik had come under pressure to quit as captain after he struggled for runs in the first few matches amid an unsettled batting order. Two close victories against CSK and KXIP had stalled such talks for a while, but once they crashed against RCB, Karthik read the writing on the wall.



KKR captain Eoin Morgan

To avoid any further embarrassment, Karthik announced his decision first to the team management and then to the media on Thursday. "DK didn't wish to be dictated upon by the powers that be at KKR. The team management increasingly felt DK lacked innovative ideas on the field and that was reflected in the team performance."

"This inconsistent form reflected on his captaincy and the team management felt a change should be made at the earliest. In franchise-based leagues, it's a result-driven world," the source said. "DK lacked innovative ideas on the field and that was reflected in the team performance."

TACTICIANS AT PLAY: KEY GAMES FOR KOHLI & DHONI

RCB load ammo for erratic Royals

Dubai: Royal Challengers Bangalore were still to get their strategy right after some inexplicable decisions during Thursday's loss to Kings XI Punjab when they take on an unbeaten RCB here on Saturday.

The Virat Kohli-led RCB have won five of their eight games on the back of all round performance, but seemingly floundered in the eight-rocket defeat to laggards KXIP on Thursday. On the other hand, the Royals' campaign this season has been marred by numerous top-order collapses, forcing the lower half to pull them across the finish line.

RCB's five wins so far include a Super Over triumph over Mumbai Indians at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium. The Royals, on the other hand, lie seventh in the standings with just three wins from eight games.

Against KXIP on Thursday, AB de Villiers, who has been in fine form, was sent in bat at number six, a baffling decision by the RCB. Left handers Washington Sundar (13) and Shivam Dube (23) were promoted up the order to accompany a Super Kohli. The experience of the work on all the batsmen struggled. To add to RCB's woes, while defending the total, Kohli decided to save the run for Sundar for the hitting Chris Gayle, who came in to bat in the eighth over. That gamble didn't pay off either as the 41-year-old Jamaican smashed the young off-spinner for four sixes.

"We had a chat, a message from outside about left-right

right batting position for the players and pointed to a lack of co-ordination between him and Karthik.

The wicketkeeper batsman had made up his mind after their last match and expressed as much during the presentation. "Let's be honest. Every captain has a day when things don't go right. But there are a lot of good days I can remember as well, and I will want to stick on to them," he had said.

The source maintained an influential KKR official was behind Morgan's elevation. "KKR had brought Morgan on board during the January auction with the intention of handing the captaincy over to him. Morgan's close association with McCullum was also a prime reason behind the move."

"There's no doubt that given his credentials, Morgan is the best man. But they decided against changing captaincy to maintain continuity. They knew a change was imminent and waited for the right opportunity. It did come their way pretty early in the tournament."

"Shah Rukh Khan may be the biggest donor but team matters are best left to his core group. He doesn't get involved in such matters though he is always kept informed," the source maintained.

Morgan ledled Karthik's act as "incredibly selfless". Former KKR captain Gautam Gambhir posted a cryptic message moments after the decision was announced. "It takes years to build legacy but a minute to destroy it," Gambhir tweeted.

Source revealed that Karthik's indifferent form had also led to discussions about dropping him from the XI. But given that KKR do not have an appropriate back up talk was shelved. Venky Mysore, CEO of KKR, looked at the positive side. "We are fortunate to have leaders such as DK, who has always put the team first," Mysore said.

KKR'S CAPTAINS



Sourav Ganguly (2008-2010)
● Matches: 27 ● Won: 13
● Lost: 14 ● Tied/NR: 0/0
● Win %: 48.14



Brendon McCullum (2009)
● Matches: 13 ● Won: 3
● Lost: 9 ● Tied/NR: 1/0
● Win %: 26.92



Gautam Gambhir (2011-2017)
● Matches: 122
● Won: 69
● Lost: 51
● Tied/NR: 1/1
● Win %: 57.43



Dinesh Karthik (2018-2020)
● Matches: 37
● Won: 19
● Lost: 17
● Tied/NR: 1/0
● Win %: 52.70

Mid-season leadership changes in IPL

- MI, 2008: Harbhajan Singh to Shaun Pollock to Sachin Tendulkar
- RCB, 2009: Kevin Pietersen to Anil Kumble
- DareDevils, 2009: Virender Sehwag to Gautam Gambhir
- DareDevils, 2010: Gambhir to Dinesh Karthik
- RCB, 2012: Daniel Vettori to Virat Kohli
- Deccan Chargers, 2012: Kumar Sangakkara to Cameron White
- KXIP, 2012: Adam Gilchrist to David Hussey
- MI, 2013: Ricky Ponting to Rohit Sharma
- Pune Warriors, 2013: Angelo Mathews to Aaron Finch
- SRH, 2014: Shikhar Dhawan to Darren Sammy
- RR, 2015: Shane Watson to Steve Smith
- KXIP, 2016: David Miller to Murali Vijay
- DareDevils, 2018: Gautam Gambhir to Shreyas Iyer
- RR, 2019: Ajinkya Rahane to Steve Smith
- KKR, 2020: Dinesh Karthik to Eoin Morgan

Capitals test for master of strategy

Sharjah: Their campaign is back on track, courtesy Mahendra Singh Dhoni's smart captaincy, but a stiff test awaits Chennai Super Kings when they face a dominant Delhi Capitals in their next IPL match here on Saturday.

Every tactic that Dhoni employed against Sunrisers Hyderabad worked, and they are expected to continue in the same vein as they battle to salvage the season.

Whether it was promoting Sanjivan Kumar to the spinner's slot or finishing-partner Deepak Chahar's quota upfront while using seven bowlers to dry up runs, every move produced the desired result for Captain Cool.

Dhoni used leg spinner Piyush Chawla for only one over, that too as late as in the 16th, leaving it largely to Ravindra Jadeja and Karni Sharma, but CSK are likely to continue with three spinners considering that the Sharjah wickets are now getting slower.

That spinners held the key in Sharjah was evident in the last two games where the RCB and Kings XI Punjab slow bowlers were instrumental in their respective team's wins. The three-time champions will look to build on the win over Sunrisers as the league phase moves towards the business end.

against Rajasthan Royals. Add the wily Ravichandran Ashwin and Axar Patel to the mix and DC has a rather impressive bowling unit. Pacer Tuskar Deshpande, who made a memorable debut on Wednesday, adds teeth to the attack.

The Capitals side though would be a tad worried about the fitness status of Shreyas Iyer, who hurt his left shoulder in the previous game. The skipper has been in good form with the bat and has led well too. If he is ruled out of Saturday's match, DC will be deprived of his class batting and calm leadership which would be a blow for a side already missing the services of Rishabh Pant, sidelined by hamstringing.

The team will also be expecting the talented Prithvi Shaw to show consistency while the senior pacer, Shikhar Dhawan, has weighed in with crucial runs at the top as has Marcus Stoinis.

IPL STANDINGS

Team	P	W	L	NR	NRR	P	W	L	NR	NRR
MI	8	6	2	0	+1.353	12	8	4	0	+0.990
DC	8	6	2	0	+0.990	12	8	5	3	0
RCB	8	5	3	0	-0.139	10	8	4	0	-0.684
KKR	8	4	4	0	-0.684	8	3	5	0	-0.009
SRH	8	3	5	0	-0.390	6	3	5	0	-0.390
CSK	8	3	5	0	-0.844	6	3	5	0	-0.844
RR	8	3	5	0	-0.844	6	2	6	0	-0.295
KXIP	8	2	6	0	-0.295	4	2	6	0	-0.295

Karthik reads writing on the wall
Ruthless Mumbai put Knights to the sword

OUR BUREAU & AGENCIES

Calcutta/ Abu Dhabi: Change of captaincy did not translate into change of fortune for Kolkata Knight Riders as Mumbai Indians maulled them by eight wickets in Abu Dhabi on Friday.

The Knights were on their knees from the very start as they were reduced to 61 for five at one stage. Courtesy repair work from new captain Eoin Morgan and all rounder Pat Cummins, they put up 148 for five in 20 overs.

But that did not look enough against the powerful batting line-up of Mumbai Indians and it turned out exactly so as they wrapped up the match with 15 balls to spare.

Quinton de Kock played a masterful knock of 76 not out of 41 balls, while captain Rohit Sharma made an uncharacteristic 35 off 36 balls. Then, with De Kock on song, he did not need to take risks.

None of the KKR bowlers managed to make an impact as De Kock and Rohit put up a 54-run opening stand. "We weren't even in the race today. We got a score to the board in the end, but the way Mumbai got off, it was tough to stop them," admitted Morgan.

KKR wouldn't have been able to reach a respectable total had it not been for an 87-run unbroken partnership between Cummins and Morgan. Cummins struck an invaluable 38 not out off 27 balls and Morgan contributed 38 not out off 25 to rescue them after an unexplained batting collapse.

Opting to bat, KKR lost opener Rahul Tripathi (7) early, courtesy a sensational catch by Suryakumar Yadav at point, in the third over off Trent Boult.

Moments later, it became 33 for two as Nitish Rana (6) perished cheaply as caught by Quinton de Kock off Nathan Coulter-Nile as the



Mumbai Indians' Quinton de Kock during his unbeaten 44-ball 76 against KKR on Friday. Picture courtesy IPL.

KNIGHT RIDERS

R. Tripathi	c	Yadav	1
S. Gill	c	Pollard	7
N. Rana	c	De Kock	37
G. Karthik	b	Chahal	4
E. Morgan	not out		39
A. Russell	c	De Kock	12
P. Cummins	not out		52
Extras (lb 2, w 5)			63
Total (15 wickets: 20 overs)			148
Fall of wickets: 1/18, 2/30, 3/42, 4/42, 5/81			
Bowling: Boult 4-0-32-1, Coulter-Nile 4-0-51-1, Russell 4-0-23-1, K. Panty 4-0-23-0, R. Chahal 4-0-19-2			

MUMBAI INDIANS

R. Sharma	c	Karthik	36
G. de Kock	not out		28
S. Yadav	b	Venun	10
M. Pandey	not out		23
Extras (lb 5)			5
Total (15 wickets: 16.5 overs)			148
Bowling: Boult 4-0-32-1, Coulter-Nile 4-0-51-1, Russell 4-0-23-1, K. Panty 4-0-23-0, R. Chahal 4-0-19-2			

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