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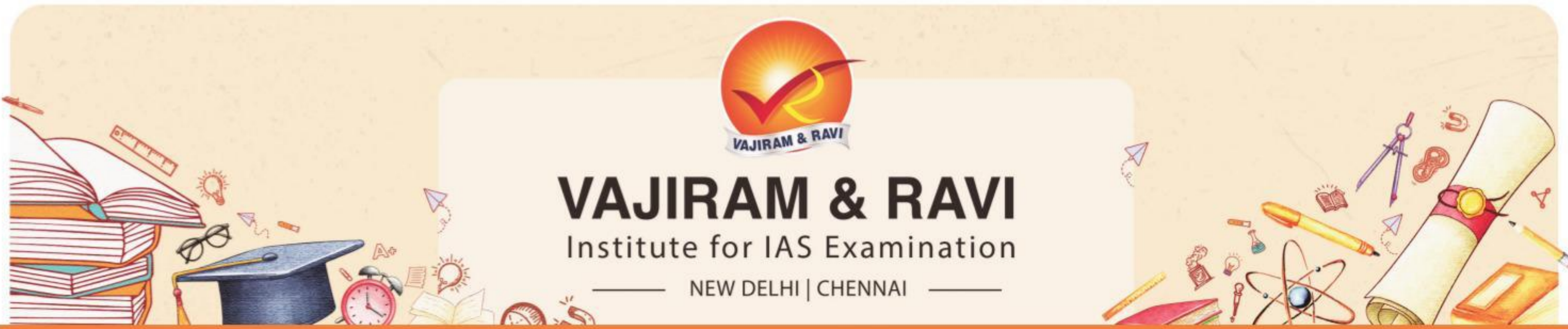


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SIX MONTHS AFTER CBI QUESTIONING

Delhi excise policy case: ED summons Kejriwal for questioning on Thursday

BJP wants to use any and every means to arrest Kejriwal, says AAP leader

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate has summoned Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday for questioning in relation to the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy case.

In its preliminary complaint (akin to a chargesheet) filed in a Delhi court in January last year, the agency had said that Kejriwal allegedly spoke in a video call



In April, Kejriwal had said: 'Case is completely false'

with one of the main accused, Sameer Mahendru, and asked him to continue working with co-accused Vijay Nair, Aam Aadmi Party's communication in-charge, whom he referred to

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

DISMISSING FORMER Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's bail plea, the Supreme Court on Monday said there is "material and evidence" which "tentatively" supports one of the charges under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)—that 14 wholesale liquor distrib-



CBI arrested Sisodia on February 26

utors earned "excess profit" of Rs 338 crore in about 10 months when the now-scrapped excise policy was in operation. Sisodia was arrested by the

Enforcement Directorate (ED) on March 9 this year, after he was held by the CBI on February 26.

While the bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and S V N Bhatti raised doubts on some of the charges levelled by the ED and refrained "from delving... in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

RELATED REPORT
PAGE 6



Protesters targeted the residence of NCP MLA Prakash Solanke in Beed on Monday. PTI

As Maratha quota stir turns violent, houses of NCP MLAs targeted

Curfew imposed in Beed; BJP MLA, another Sena (Shinde) MP resign

VALLABH OZARKAR & AJAY JADHAV
MUMBAI, PUNE, OCTOBER 30

AUTHORITIES IMPOSED curfew in Beed district of Maharashtra Monday evening after the agitation to demand reservation for the Maratha community turned violent, with protesters indulging in arson and vandalism to target the residences of two NCP MLAs and a municipal council building earlier in the day.

The protesters also vandalised the office of a BJP MLA in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar district, and pelted stones at state transport buses as they blocked

highways in other parts of the Marathwada region.

The incidents of violence took place through the day even as Maratha leader Manoj Jarange-Patil continued his indefinite hunger strike for the sixth day at a village in Jalna district. He said he will break his fast only after reservation is granted to the entire Maratha community.

As the agitation escalated, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde met Governor Ramesh Bais in the evening and briefed him

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

MORE REPORTS
PAGE 7

THE WORLD



ISRAELI TROOPS, TANKS POUND TWO SIDES OF GAZA CITY

PAK TO START EXPELLING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS PAGE 18

Will do all to secure release: Jaishankar assures kin of eight on Qatar death row

SHUBHAJIT ROY & AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

DAYS AFTER a Qatar court sentenced eight former Indian Navy personnel to death in a case of alleged espionage, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Monday met the family members of the eight and assured them that the government attaches "the highest importance" to the case.

Stating that he "fully shares the concerns and pain of the families", Jaishankar told the



'Fully share concerns and pain of the families'

family members that the government will make all efforts to secure their release.

India had described the October 27 ruling, by Qatar's court of first instance, as "deeply" shocking and is exploring all legal and diplomatic options in the case.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED
Long haul ahead

THE DEATH sentence is a major diplomatic challenge for New Delhi complicated by Qatar's role in the Israel-Hamas conflict. The first step is to get the court order and frame the legal challenge. All time-consuming, adding to the wait of the families.

HEARING TODAY

Backing secret poll bonds, Centre to SC: Right to know has restrictions

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

ATTORNEY GENERAL for India R Venkataramani has told the Supreme Court, which will start hearing petitions challenging the electoral bonds scheme from Tuesday, that citizens' right to know is subject to reasonable restrictions.

"Firstly, there can be no general right to know anything and everything without being subjected to reasonable restrictions," the AG said. "Secondly, the right to know as necessary for expression can be for specific ends or purposes and not otherwise."

The AG said this in his written submissions while countering the petitioners' contention that citizens have a right to know as a facet of the right to freedom of expression and, consequently, are entitled to access details of contribution to political parties, thereby making confidentiality under the poll bonds scheme impermissible.

A five-judge constitution bench presided by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud will hear petitions challenging the 2018 Electoral Bonds Scheme on Tuesday. The court is seized of four petitions in the matter. The petitions are filed by NGO Association for Democratic Reforms, CPI(M), Congress leader Jaya Thakur and one Spandan Biswal.

In his submissions, Venkataramani said, "Democracy is a wide concept and comprehends many aspects. Right to know for the general health of democracy will be too over-broad." He said that "the right to know the criminal antecedents of a candidate which can be of utility and relevance to the choice of a candidate is neither comparable to the case on hand nor can there be a general right to know anything and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED
PAGE 17

IN CONVERSATION

Actors Jim Sarbh, Shefali Shah and Vir Das, who have been nominated for the International Emmy Awards 2023, in conversation with Anant Goenka, Executive Director, The Indian Express Group, at the Express Adda in Mumbai on Monday. Pradip Das

Manipur missing arms a concern, can go to wrong hands: Assam Rifles DG

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

THE LARGE number of weapons that were looted in Manipur and remain missing so far is a major cause for concern given the possibility of them landing in the "wrong hands", the Director General of Assam Rifles, Lt Gen P C Nair, told *The Indian Express*.

While saying that the situation was "limping back to normalcy", Nair pointed to the challenge posed by the "corrupt" and "caustic" feelings which some members of the Meitei and Kuki communities harbour against



Assam Rifles Director General, Lt Gen P C Nair

FULL INTERVIEW
www.indianexpress.com

each other, fanning disaffection and violence at the smallest provocation and after "selective" video leaks.

As reported by *The Indian Express* on October 29, the state government has been able to re-

cover only about a quarter of the 5,600 weapons and less than 5 per cent of the 6.5 lakh rounds of ammunition stolen from the police armouries since the violence broke out in May.

"If these weapons do not come back, they are weapons in the wrong hands. Many of them could have gone to insurgents," Nair said in an interview to *The Indian Express*, when asked if the large number of missing weapons amidst an internal security situation could revive insurgency.

But he remained hopeful that attempts to revive insurgency

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Man from UP working in Kashmir brick kiln shot dead by militants

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 30

A MAN from Uttar Pradesh, working as a labourer in South Kashmir's Pulwama, was on Monday shot dead by suspected militants — the first such targeted killing in the Valley this year. The attack came a day after a police officer was critically injured in a militant attack in Srinagar.

Police identified the victim as Mukesh Kumar.

J&K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha called the attack "cowardly" and said those responsible will not go unpunished.

In a social media post, the J&K Police said: "Terrorists fired on a labourer in Tunchi Nowpora area of Pulwama, who later on succumbed to his injuries. Area cordoned off."

Police sources said Kumar worked at a brick kiln and had gone to the nearby shop to buy essentials when militants fired at him from point-blank range. Three bullets were fired targeting his chest and head, sources said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Delhi AQI: AIIMS study links nitrogen dioxide to 53% spike in ER patients

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

WHILE DELHI'S air quality index (AQI) remains "very poor", a new AIIMS study has found that exposure to air pollutant nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), even for just 1-7 days, led to a 53 per cent increase in the number of patients who visited the hospital's emergency room (ER).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

THE AIR POLLUTION EFFECT

INCREASE IN EMERGENCY PATIENTS	
Increase in PM 2.5	19.50%
Increase in NO ₂	53%
HOSPITAL ADMISSION	
Non-respiratory comorbidities	68.20%
Existing respiratory illnesses	20.30%

Source: Study published in *The International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease*

Caste slurs, missing father's funeral, going for broke: Vandana sets 300th game record today

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

VINAYAK MOHANARANGAN
RANCHI, OCTOBER 30

GROWING UP in Haridwar, Vandana Katarिया was mocked for playing hockey. When she ignored the noise around her, broke stereotypes and became a trailblazer in the sport of her choice, she was subjected to casteist slurs.

On Tuesday, Vandana will

reach a milestone that no other woman player in the country has achieved before — make 300 international appearances.

The landmark moment will arrive when Vandana takes the field against Japan at the Asian Champions Trophy here.

On the eve of the match, Vandana was at ease. After the training session where the 31-year-old matches the national team's youngsters Sangita Kumari and Lalremsiami, she quips: "Oh! *Mujhe spotlight nahi chahiye* (I don't want to be in the spotlight)."

But the spotlight will well and



Vandana Katarिया will take the field against Japan at the Asian Champions Trophy on Tuesday. Courtesy Hockey India

truly be on her Tuesday evening. "When I started, I didn't think I would be playing for India. I didn't even know that was an option, and I certainly didn't think I would be playing 300 matches," Vandana says. Her career will come full circle as Vandana made her international debut back in September 2011 at the same tournament in Ordos, China.

Vandana didn't have it easy. While her father Nahar Singh backed her, there used to be taunts from neighbours, among which was about a girl child being allowed to play a sport that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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EXPRESS AUDIO Telangana detention law, death penalty for 8 Indians & student ID

In 3 Things, we discuss the way Telangana is using its stringent preventive detention law, we also talk about the 8 Indian former navy personnel who has been sentenced to death in Qatar, and the Centre's new initiative for a uniform student identity card

FROM PAGE ONE ED summons Kejriwal

as 'his boy'. Earlier, in April this year, Kejriwal was questioned by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in connection with its case in the excise policy. After being questioned for nine hours, Kejriwal had said he was asked 56 questions, mostly centred around why the policy was brought in and when it was prepared. 'I believe that this case is completely false... They don't have even a shred of evidence,' he had said. The ED summons came on a day the Supreme Court denied bail to Kejriwal's former deputy, Manish Sisodia in the same case, stating there is "material and evidence" which "tentatively" supports one charge under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). In its prosecution complaint, ED had referred to a statement allegedly recorded by Indospirits owner and an accused in the case, Sameer Mahendru, in which he claimed that Nair told him "the new excise policy was a brainchild of Arvind Kejriwal". "Vijay fixed a meeting with him twice but that could not materialise. So Vijay made Sameer speak to Arvind Kejriwal on Facetime," the complaint states, citing Mahendru's statement. The ED complaint said Kejriwal told Mahendru that "Vijay is his boy and that Sameer should trust him and carry on with him". The ED has told the court that Sisodia had used his influence to grant a wholesale licence to Indospirits, despite existing complaints of cartelisation against the firm. Confirming that Kejriwal had received the summons, the Aam Aadmi Party said the BJP was out to destroy AAP. "It is very clear that BJP wants to use any and every means to arrest Arvind Kejriwal. The attempt in the liquor policy investigation has been to file a fake case and finish off the Aam Aadmi Party. BJP has got the summons issued to achieve that objective," said Jasmine Shah, a senior AAP leader.

SC rejects Sisodia bail: Evidence on Rs 338 cr excess profit to distributors

depth and detail" into some of the legal questions arising in the matter, it said: "However, there is one clear ground or charge in the complaint filed under the PMLA, which is free from perceptible legal challenge, and the facts as alleged are tentatively supported by material and evidence". This comes as a setback to Sisodia, after the same bench, while hearing the case earlier this month, had underlined that stringent requirements have to be fulfilled for a charge under the PMLA. Questioning the ED about the admissibility of its evidence to link Sisodia with the money laundering offence, it had asked if the agency had any proof other than the statement of a co-accused-turned-appraiser. It had warned that the ED's claims against Sisodia "will fall flat" after "two questions in the cross-examination". The ED had contended that Rs 338 crore was what accrued to the 14 wholesale distributors following the increase of their commission to 12 per cent under the Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22 (from 5 per cent under the old policy). This, the ED had said, "would constitute proceeds of crime" and "were acquired, used and were in possession of the wholesale distributors who have unlawfully benefited from illegal gain at the expense of the government exchequer and the consumers/buyers". While saying that Rs 70 crore was collected as a one-time licence fee from the distributors, the ED had said: "There is no logical correlation between the licence fee increase and the profit margin increase. Whereas this excess profit margin benefit could have been passed on to the consumers in the form of lower MRP. Contrary to the claim that the policy was meant to benefit the public or the exchequer, it was rather a conspiracy to ensure massive illegal gains to a select few private players/ individuals/entities". The SC noted that the chargesheet filed by the CBI under the Prevention of Corruption Act includes offences for unlawful gains to a private person at the expense of the public exchequer, and it is immaterial whether the person, being a public servant, accepts or attempts to obtain undue advantage directly or through a third party. The court then went on to cite from the CBI chargesheet - that "the existing excise policy was changed to facilitate and get kick-backs and bribes from the wholesale distributors by enhancing their commission/fee from 5% under the old policy to 12% under the new policy". "In view of the aforesaid discussion and for the reasons stated, we are not inclined to accept the prayer for grant of bail at this stage," the bench said. It, however, said the prosecution had assured that trial would be completed in six-eight months, and added that Sisodia could file a fresh bail application if the trial was protracted. The court also discussed some of the other charges against Sisodia. On the allegation that Rs 2.2 crore was paid as bribe to Sisodia by Amit Arora, through middleman Dinesh Arora, the bench said it "is not a charge or an allegation made in the chargesheet filed by the CBI" and "it may be difficult to regard the alleged payment as a 'proceed of crime' under the PMLA". Regarding the ED's claim that part of the proceeds of crime were used to fund the AAP's poll campaign in Goa, the bench said the agency had said that "once the quantum of amount used in the election in Goa is ascertained, a decision to consider AAP as an accused under Section 3 (of PMLA) will be taken". Stating that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) was not being prosecuted in the case, the bench said "the charge that...Sisodia is vicariously liable in terms of Section 70 of the PMLA cannot be alleged and has not been argued". "Prima facie, there is lack of clarity, as specific allegation on the involvement of...Sisodia, direct or indirect, in the transfer of Rs 45 crore to AAP for the Goa elections is missing," it said. The ED's allegation that kick-back of Rs 100 crore "was actually paid by the liquor group is somewhat a matter of debate," the court said. It also questioned the ED's "contention...that generation of proceeds of crime is itself possession or use of the proceeds of crime".

Maratha quota stir turns violent

about the situation and the measures being taken to control it. Hours earlier, ruling ally BJP's core committee met at Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis's residence to discuss the issue. In the morning, a group of slogan-shouting protesters barged into the residential complex of NCP MLA Prakash Solanke, who belongs to Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar's camp, in Majalgaon taluka of Beed district. They pelted stones and then set ablaze vehicles parked in the street, damaging parts of the building. The mob then reached the office of the Majalgaon Nagar Parishad and set it on fire. They also hurled stones at police vehicles. In the evening, a group of protesters torched the residence of NCP MLA Sandeep Kshirsagar, who is from the opposition Sharad Pawar camp, in Beed city. The protesters also vandalised and torched the NCP office in Beed. In the wake of the attacks, the Beed District Collector imposed curfew until further orders. The curfew will remain in place in a 5-km radius of the district and taluka headquarters along with state and national highways in the district, the Collector's order said. In Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar's Gangapur area, Maratha activists vandalised the office of BJP MLA Prashant Bamb. Although the trigger behind the escalation was not clear, Maratha-dominated villages had earlier banned the entry of politicians over the reservation issue. In the morning, protesters blocked the Dhule-Solapur highway, and hurled stones at state-run buses at some places, leading to the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation suspending its services in nine districts. Opposition leaders, meanwhile, slammed the government over the attack on MLA Solanke's residence and demanded the resignation of Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who holds home portfolio. "The Chief Minister should take the resignation of the state Home Minister as there has been a complete intelligence failure when a legislator's house and a government office were burnt down," said NCP working president Supriya Sule. With the pressure on public representatives growing, BJP MLA from Gevrai, Laxman Pawar, on Monday sent his resignation letter to Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar in support of the Maratha demand. Also, Shiv Sena's Hemant Godse became the second MP from Chief Minister Shinde's camp to announce his resignation in support of the Maratha demand. Earlier in the day, MP Hemant Patil, who had announced his resignation on Sunday, said he submitted his letter to Lok Sabha Speaker's office. In his resignation letter, which he sent to Shinde, Godse appealed to the Chief Minister to grant quota to the Maratha community as soon as possible. "Considering the strong feelings of the Maratha community, I am resigning as an MP," Godse said in the letter. Atul Benke, NCP MLA from Junnar, said he is ready to resign. "If my resignation is going to help the cause of Maratha reservation, I am ready to resign," he said at a protest meet in his constituency. Meanwhile, reacting to the attack on Solanke's residence in Beed, Maratha leader Jarange Patil said the MLA must have provoked community members. This came even as Shinde said at a cabinet sub-committee meeting on Maratha reservation that Marathas who have records establishing them as Kunbis, will get the OBC Kunbi caste certificate. Following the meeting, Revenue Minister Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil contacted Jarange-Patil and apprised him of the decision. Jarange-Patil, however, refused to end his fast. "I told him that the protest would not be withdrawn and asked him to give Kunbi caste certificates to all Marathas, not just only to those whose Kunbi caste records have been found. All Marathas should get reservation," he told reporters.

Families of 8 on Qatar death row

"Met this morning with the families of the 8 Indians detained in Qatar. Stressed that Government attaches the highest importance to the case. Fully share the concerns and pain of the families," Jaishankar said on X. "Underlined that Government will continue to make all efforts to secure their release. Will coordinate closely with the families in that regard," he said. Calling the ruling "deeply shocking", India had said it is exploring all "legal options". The Indian nationals, all employees of Doha-based Dahra Global, were taken into custody in August 2022. The charges against the Indian nationals have not been made public by Qatari authorities. But sources said the Indians were working in their private capacity with Dahra Global to oversee the induction of Italian small stealth submarines U212. According to a report in the Financial Times, the eight Indians had been charged with spying for Israel. There was no official word on the charges from the Indian side. Those arrested are: Captain Navtej Singh Gill, Captain Birendra Kumar Verma, Captain Saurabh Vasishth, Commander Amit Nagpal, Commander Purnendu Tiwari, Commander Sugunakar Pakala, Commander Sanjeev Gupta and Sailor Ragesh. Speaking to The Indian Express Sunday, Meetu Bhargava, sister of Commander Tiwari had said that lack of transparency in how the eight have been tried in Qatar has undermined the faith of their families in the judicial process. She sought Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "personal intervention" to bring them back, citing a shortage of time. The Gwalior-based Bhargava was the first relative of the eight who came forward in October last year to seek the Centre's help for their release. "Qatar is a friendly country. They can repatriate them to another friendly country (India). We want all eight of our men back. Not just my brother, but all eight," she said. Even as Indian authorities are yet to receive a formal version of the verdict, sources said some of the families who are in Qatar were allowed to meet their detained relatives on Sunday. A close family member of one of the former naval officers detained in Qatar said that neither the Indian authorities nor any of the families have got to know what the "exact charges" are. "It is a nerve-wracking moment for all of us. We are all just patiently waiting," said a close family member of one of the former naval officers. In the absence of the verdict, she said, it is "unfair" to link the former officers to espionage, as some reports have done. She said the former officers were in Qatar to help build its Navy. Meanwhile, friends and families have also floated an online petition on change.org urging the "government to intervene at the highest level and secure their release."

Manipur missing weapons a concern, says Assam Rifles DG

may not garner local support. This optimism is grounded in the fact that people in Manipur have "witnessed economic development" and experienced peace in recent years, he said. "Since the ethnic clashes broke out, we have increased patrolling and surveillance at the India-Myanmar border. But it is an open border...we can't be there on every square inch of the ground. But the important thing here is that any insurgency needs public support to sustain. That may not happen because Manipur, in recent years, has witnessed significant socio-economic development and progress. People have tasted peace," he said. Ever since clashes broke out in Manipur, the Assam Rifles has often found itself under attack. There have been instances of friction between the Manipur Police and Assam Rifles, with the former filing an FIR against the Assam Rifles for allegedly allowing Kuki militants to escape. Over recent months, there has also been a growing call for replacing the Assam Rifles in the state. Rejecting allegations of bias, Nair blamed "vested interests" for running a disinformation campaign through videos that were "selectively circulated" and "did not present the full picture". "Ask any common man from both the communities. They will tell you what role we, along with the Indian Army, played there. We were just doing our duties," he said. "And what were people against us for? Because we are preventing both the communities from fighting with each other. There were instances when people of a community were going en masse to attack the other side after being fed a certain narrative...we stopped them. So obviously, when emotions are running high and they are prevented from doing what they want to, stories get cooked up," he said. "People have now realised that the Assam Rifles, along with the Army, can sort this mess out... Nobody knows the people, terrain, culture, traditions better than us. Surely, the other forces which came here have also helped, but they are, in some way, handicapped (as compared to)...the kind of institutional knowledge and continuity that we have," he said. On friction between Manipur Police and Assam Rifles and the challenge of working alongside other paramilitary forces, Nair said: "When all this started, the security forces had never worked in conjunction with each other, the police and the central forces. But the biggest gain is that today, every operation that is being undertaken is being done jointly." As for his assessment of the law and order situation in the state, he said in the last two weeks, there have been no reports of intense firings. "I can see the situation is limping back to normalcy."

Delhi AQI: New AIIMS study

of the patients reported difficulty in breathing (95 per cent) and cough (74 per cent), with the symptoms lasting about three days. "This shows there is a need to curb pollution levels as even short-term exposure leads to negative health consequences," said Dr Karan Madan, one of the authors of the study and additional professor of respiratory medicine at AIIMS. "Whenever there is an increase in pollution levels, like now, there is an increase in the number of people coming with symptoms such as breathing difficulty, wheezing and coughing." An interesting finding was that the number of ER visits decreased by up to 26.1 per cent when the carbon monoxide (CO) level increased. While CO can be toxic in high quantities, the study says short-term exposure to lower levels can actually reduce the inflammation caused by other pollutants. "It's not that CO is protective. However, it does not cause harm till a certain threshold is crossed," said Dr Kabra. According to the study, 69,400 patients visited the hospital's ER from June 2017 to February 2019. Of these, 13.3 per cent (9,243 patients) were found to have respiratory symptoms. After factoring in the duration of the symptoms (less than two weeks) and whether the patients were residents of Delhi (for which pollution data was available), the data of 2,669 patients was included for the study. To study the correlation between different air pollutants and respiratory health, the researchers took into account a number of factors including the 24-hour average of eight types of pollutants, absolute number of patients who visited the ER, humidity and temperature.

Backing secret poll bonds, Centre to SC: Right to know has restrictions

everything for undefined ends." The AG also referred to the Supreme Court's 2003 ruling in People's Union for Civil Liberties v Union of India and 2002 judgment in Union of India v Association for Democratic Reforms and said that they "were in the context of making informed choices about electoral candidates and knowing their antecedents". "Information limited to such knowledge serves a specific end of citizens' choice of electing candidates free from blemish. Right to know for specific rightful expressions was thus conceived. From that it cannot be said that the right to know for general or broad ends necessarily follows," he said. Therefore, these judgments cannot be read as to suggest that a citizen has a right to information under Article 19(1)(a) regarding funding of a political party. If there is no right under Article 19(1)(a), the further question of locating reasonable restrictions under Article 19(2) does not arise, he submitted. He said that while reading into enumerated constitutional rights or any one of their aspects, the court should also be alive to the need for stating relevant restrictions on the exercise of such penumbral aspects. "The scheme... extends the benefit of confidentiality to the contributor. It ensures and promotes clean money being contributed. It ensures abiding by tax obligations. Thus, it does not fall foul of any existing right." "A constitutional court reviews state action only if it impinges upon existing rights and not because state action has not provided for a possible right or an expectation whose ever desirable," the AG said. "The scheme does not impinge upon any existing right of any person and cannot be said to be repugnant to any right under Part III of the Constitution. In the absence of such repugnance, the scheme will not be illegal. A law which is not so repugnant cannot be voided for any other reason. Judicial review is not about scanning state policies for the purposes of suggesting better or different prescriptions," Venkataramani said. The AG also submitted that it is also not a case for court-driven guidelines. He said "contribution to political parties has democratic significance and a fit subject for political debate and demand of governance accountability free from influences does not mean that the court will proceed to declare on such matters in the absence of a clear constitutionally-offending law".

UP man shot dead in Kashmir

Tumchi village falls on the border of Pulwama and Budgam districts, and houses several brick kilns that employ migrant labourers. The killing triggered fresh fears among workers even as police and paramilitary forces took measures to ensure their safety. Last year, too, a brick kiln worker was killed at Batapora village of Budgam, not far from Tumchi village. On Sunday, inspector Masroor Ahmad was shot at and critically injured in Srinagar while he was playing cricket in Srinagar's Eidgah ground. Earlier this year, on July 13, three migrant workers from Bihar were injured when militants fired at them in South Kashmir's Shopian. While attacks on migrant

Caste slurs, missing father's funeral: Vandana sets 300th game record

required her to wear shorts. After initial apprehensions, her father ensured she continued to play at coach Krishna Kumar's academy in Roshanabad. "Earlier, people came and told my family some things and I used to wonder why I was born a girl. But I always believed that society should change," Vandana says. "Something should happen that would help girls come out and do things. So I just kept training and today there are more than 250 kids who play hockey in our village, of which most are girls. It feels good when they come to meet me and speak to me about my training and other aspects." Former head coach Sjoerd Marjine, who oversaw the Indian women's team's famous campaign in Tokyo where they finished fourth, said that when he met Vandana for the first time, her fitness levels were incredible and she was a forward who just wanted to "score, score, score". "She runs the same in the Yo-Yo test as some of the men," says Marjine. "At the beginning of my stint, she was very focused on scoring herself, then I tried to give her insights into how she could keep scoring more but also be busy with the team. She's a striker and there is nothing wrong with being focused on scoring goals for herself." "And she was always open-minded and her mindset changed by focusing more on teamwork. Before the Olympics, I told her 'you have to be the energy-maker for the team'. She went on to be the leading scorer for the team." Over the years, Vandana has evolved into a mentor for the youngsters in the team. "Van sets a great example," says current head coach Janneke Schopman. "She helps them with maintaining fitness, which is important in terms of the work you have to do on and off the field. She is always giving them tips and teaching them tricks on being a striker, and how to get ready for a big game. She is a natural at it." In her decade-plus-long career, Vandana has been a part of teams that have taken women's hockey to new heights. But her biggest moment came at the Tokyo Olympics two years ago, where her hat-trick against South Africa - the first-ever by an Indian woman at the Olympics - took the team to the quarterfinals. India then stunned one of the favourites, Australia, to reach the semifinals and eventually finished fourth. That Tokyo Olympics campaign often finds a mention in the conversation with Vandana as she calls it the highlight of her career alongside the bronze at the 2013 Junior World Cup. It was while she was in Tokyo when Vandana's family got the attention they could have done without. After India's defeat against Argentina in the semifinals, three men landed at her home and insulted the family. Her brother, speaking to The Indian Express, had said: "The youths said how can people of my caste play in the national team? Our family is in a state of fear because they also threatened to kill us." But the worst phase of her career was before Tokyo when her father passed away and she couldn't attend the funeral because she was inside the bio-bubble at the camp in Bengaluru. She recalls being broken back then. "Even standing up felt difficult," Vandana says. "Many of the home responsibilities fell on me. To face all that back then, the support of the team was huge. They lifted me." "I thought then that I would not be able to play anymore. But there was the Olympic Games in front of us, the team was working so hard. And if I was not able to do it for the team, all of them would have been affected... It is only because of my teammates and coaches that I am here."

STUDENTS TO SUBMIT WRITTEN UNDERTAKING TO COLLEGE Hindu College rusticates 9 for 'indiscipline' during DUSU polls

VIDHEESHA KUNTAMALLA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30



Hindu College. Archive

NINE STUDENTS of the Hindu College have been punished for engaging in 'indiscipline' during the students' union election held in September. The students have been rusticated for one to four months and can rejoin college after giving an undertaking that they will not participate in the "destruction of institutional property" and not cause "disruption in any manner of the academic functioning". This came after some students staged a hunger strike in September over the rejection of about 30 nominations for the positions of 'prime minister' and 'central councillors' at the college. At Hindu College, the students' union head is referred to as 'prime minister' instead of 'president'.

The college had cited low attendance as the reason for cancellation of nominations and ordered an inquiry after it was alleged that the students did not allow Principal Anju Srivastava to exit

the campus. Srivastava said to *The Indian Express*: "Students have been rusticated for a finite period on the recommendations of the college's discipline committee. The committee took their decision based on documentary evidence, which found them guilty of offences of damage of college property and disruption of academics."

"Each student has been rusticated for different periods of time. Only two students were rusticated for four months," Srivastava added. These students must give a written undertaking to the college that they will not repeat these acts of 'indiscipline', Srivastava said.

The college's Disciplinary

Resource Committee head Professor Rameshwar Rai, said, "The Delhi University's clause for indiscipline and gross indiscipline states that the actions for disruption of academic functioning and destruction of university property should be either expulsion or rustication. We have taken a mild action of rusticating the students."

He further said, "During the DUSU election, a few students broke door locks and locked up a few teachers in a classroom, insulted and intimidated them. We have videos from where we identified students, emailed them earlier asking to attend the DRC hearing. Those who did not have been rusticated for four months."

Harish Chaudhary, a third year student said he could not attend the DRC hearing due to his health condition. "We broke the lock of a building in the admin block so that we could enter inside and demonstrate. I have not destroyed any property as I was not asked to pay any compensation by the college. I deny the allegations of locking teachers up in a room," he said.

Chaudhary also said that he currently has no intention to give a written undertaking for his reinstatement.

Another student Manoj Jangir, who has been rusticated for three months, had filed his nomination for the PM post. "I protested for my right to file the nomination fair and square. I have been regular to my classes. Our portal had glitches so we requested administration to show us a physical registry of our attendance which they did not," said the third year student.

Denying the grounds of his rustication Jangir said, "I will not give a written undertaking."

A few students shared the emails the college sent them with *The Indian Express* which stated, "(DRC) found that your conduct during 15-18 September, falls in the following acts of gross indiscipline under Ordinance XV-B (Maintenance of discipline among students of university)... wilful destruction of institutional property... causing disruption in any manner of the academic functioning of the University System."

Engineering student killed in phone snatching case: Second accused killed in police encounter

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GHAZIABAD, OCTOBER 30

ONE OF the accused in last week's phone snatching bid in Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad that led to the death of a 19-year-old girl was killed in a police encounter on the intervening night of Sunday and Monday, the police said.

The police identified the accused as Jitendra alias Jeetu, resident of Mishal Garhi in Ghaziabad, and said that he has been booked in 12 cases in the past.

Officials said that during a search operation, Jeetu was asked to stop but he allegedly fired on the police and later died when the police returned fire in self-defence.

"At night, the Masuri police were conducting a check along the Ganganahar track when they saw two people riding a motorcycle coming from the front. When the police team tried to stop them, they started running away and fired at the police. One SI got injured... When the police



(Left) Kirti Singh; Accused Jitendra alias Jeetu (right), Express

opened fire in self-defence, one miscreant got injured and the other escaped," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Rural) Ghaziabad Vivek Chandra Yadav. Police identified the injured accused as Jeetu and said that he was sent to the hospital for treatment and was declared dead.

"The accused has been identified as Jitendra alias Jeetu, against whom 12 cases have been registered in the past, including more than half a dozen robbery cases... In 2020, a Gangster Act case was also registered against him," DCP Yadav added.

He also said that a reward of Rs 25,000 was declared in Jeetu's

name after the phone snatching bid incident.

On October 27, Kirti Singh, a 19-year-old engineering student, fell from an auto while resisting a phone-snatching bid by two men on a bike. The first-year B.Tech student in Ghaziabad was admitted to a Nehru Nagar hospital, where she was on ventilator support after sustaining head injuries. She passed away on Sunday.

One of the two suspects in the case, Balveer, was arrested on Saturday after a gunfight between him and Police.

IPC sections pertaining to murder will be added to the FIR, police said.

Teenager nabbed for killing 16-yr-old

New Delhi: A 14-year-old boy was nabbed on Monday morning for allegedly stabbing a teenager to death in North Delhi area, police said. On Sunday night, the Bara Hindu Rao Hospital informed police that 16-year-old Arun was admitted there with a stab injury in his abdomen.

He died during treatment early on Monday, they said. As per police, Arun had a fight with the accused two days ago over a minor issue. Seeking revenge, the accused stabbed Arun on Sunday. The accused has been apprehended, police said. Adding accused has revealed that he was nursing a grudge against Arun after being beaten up by him in the past and was looking for an opportunity to settle score. PTI

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Will stop paying protesting workers, terminate those disrupting work: MCG

AISWARYA RAJ
GURGAON, OCTOBER 30

AMID THE ongoing strike by sanitation workers in the city, the Municipal Corporation of Gurgaon (MCG) on Monday said that it would stop paying protesting workers and take action against those disrupting work.

The sanitation workers have been protesting since early October after the municipal corporation sacked 3,480 workers in September and roped in new private agencies for outsourcing work.

"There was a rejig and they outsourced labour... despite promising that these workers' contracts will be renewed... If termination letters start coming in, many will be out on roads," Basant Kumar, a leader of the Nagar Palika Karamchari Sangh said.

The protesters alleged that the corporation had promised to renew their contracts. Those protesting include regularised workers on corporation rolls and contractual ones hired by agencies recruited by MCG.

MCG's joint commissioner Naresh Kumar said the civic agency has identified some of the protesting staff members through photographs and would soon be issuing termination letters to them for disrupting work.

"This is the first time we are announcing 'no work, no pay', but these workers cannot go on strikes and still get paid," he said.

In the wake of the strike, the municipal corporation has hired private agencies, additional manpower, tractors, and trolleys to maintain cleanliness and lift waste.

The MCG stated that private agencies working in the municipal area have been assigned specific regions for their work.

"Agencies failing to carry out their work properly will face penalties, any agency consistently underperforming may be blacklisted," it stated.

In some areas, RWAs are collecting the garbage with these trolleys, the communication stated. The MCG said it took the decision to stop wages following suggestions from representatives of RWAs, senior citizens, and individuals from the city.

October 31, 2023

Nation pays tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his birth anniversary

Let us all come together to realize the dream of Sardar Patel of United India, Empowered India

Grand celebration of National Unity Day

Date: 31.10.2023, Time: 8 a.m.
Venue: Ekta Nagar, Gujarat
In the august presence of **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**

Various programs to be organized

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will offer tribute to the Statue of Unity

National Unity Parade to be organized by BSF and various state police forces

Flag-in of all 75 women bikers of CRPF and dare-devil show

Women Pipe Band Show by BSF

Showcasing economic viability of Vibrant Villages in border states

Choreographed programs by Gujarat Women Police

NCC Special Show, School Band Display

Cultural programs of different states

Indian Air Force fly past
(Su 30, Suryakiran/Hawk)

"Sardar Patel believed that development was possible only through national unity. We can learn a lot from his life and thoughts. It is the responsibility of all of us to be involved in some activity or the other that gives the message of unity."
- Narendra Modi

Watch live telecast of Prime Minister's program on **DD News**

EXPRESS Careers

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2.	Professor	01	01 - OPEN
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Applicants who are already employed must send their application through proper channel. Applicants are required to account for breaks, if any in their academic career.

Applications with full details should reach to the **President, GNVS Institute Of Management**, R. Jaimalsingh Marg, Guru Tegh Bahadur Nagar, Sion (East), Mumbai - 400 037 by post or Email ID: recruitment@gnvsiom.org within 15 days from the date of publication of this advertisement. This is University approved advertisement.
Sd/-
President



NATIONAL UNITY DAY

The Unifier - Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

Sardar Patel's birth anniversary celebrates his unwavering dedication to uniting a divided India, a historical achievement that has earned him a revered place in history. National Unity Day pays homage to his remarkable contributions.

COMMENCING the commemoration of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birth anniversary, whose profound words echoed, "Manpower without unity is not a strength unless it is harmonised and united properly, then it becomes a spiritual power," is the annual observance of National Unity Day on October 31. Inspired by a firm belief that unity is paramount to India's growth and development and that a fragmented nation would not be able to stand tall in the world, Sardar Patel, armed with his visionary leadership, unwavering determination, and adept diplomacy, led the transition of unifying the country's diverse cultures, languages, and regions under one flag.

Vallabhbhai Jhaverbhai Patel, popularly referred to as the 'Iron Man of India', owing to his unflinching commitment to national integration, played a prominent role in the nation's struggle for independence and in its political integration as an Indian nationalist and a senior leader of the Indian National Congress. Born to Jhaverbhai Patel and Ladba in Gujarat's Nadiad on 31 October 1875, Sardar Patel is held in high regard as one of the founding fathers of the Republic of India.

National Unity Day, instituted by the Government of India in 2014, serves as a heartfelt tribute to the memory and enduring legacy of Sardar Patel. This special day stands as a testament to his unwavering commitment to the formidable task of amalgamating the myriad princely states into one cohesive nation. The result of his relentless efforts is the present-

day India, the world's most populous democracy, and a shining example of unity in diversity.

PATEL'S PIVOTAL ROLE IN INTEGRATING THE PRINCELY STATES

Sardar Patel, a visionary leader and a statesman par excellence, known for his extraordinary ability to bring people together, played a pivotal role in shaping modern India. After India gained independence from British colonial rule in 1947, the country was left fragmented into over five hundred princely states. Patel took on the monumental task of integrating these disparate regions into a united, independent India. His unwavering determination, persuasion, and negotiation skills were instrumental in achieving this incredible feat, which led to the signing of the Instrument of Accession with these princely states, ensuring their seamless merger with the Indian Union. Patel's visionary leadership prevented the nation from fragmenting along religious, cultural, or ethnic lines, ultimately creating the diverse yet united and prosperous India that continues to inspire the world.

THE PATRON SAINT OF INDIA'S CIVIL SERVANTS

Remembered fondly as the 'Patron Saint of India's Civil Servants', Sardar Patel had a pioneering part in the genesis of the modern All India Services system owing to his strong belief that the path to a united India hinges on a good All-India Service. With India gaining independence in 1947, Patel's

foresight concerning India's need for a steel frame to run its civil, military and administrative bureaucracy played a key role in the establishment of the All India Services, which includes the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), the Indian Police Service (IPS), and the Indian Forest Service (IFS).

OBSERVANCE OF NATIONAL UNITY DAY

In light of the observance of this day centering on not only celebrating Patel's legacy and contributions but also prompting Indians to recommit to the principles of unity and integrity, various events are organised throughout India. People enthusiastically participate in pledge-taking ceremonies, unity marches, cultural programmes, and seminars to promote the message of unity and its significance. Furthermore, Prime Minister Modi also pays tribute to the Statue of Unity, the world's tallest statue, unveiled in Gujarat on Patel's 143rd birth anniversary. Additionally, the 'Run for Unity' marathon involves people from all walks of life, amplifying the spirit of unity.

National Unity Day serves as a reminder of the importance of unity in a country as diverse as India and calls to uphold the values of inclusivity, harmony and togetherness. It underscores the fact that despite variations in language, culture, religion, and traditions, a shared identity and history bind all Indians together. This unity in diversity is what truly propels India as a formidable democratic force on the world stage.

NEXT IAS
BIG LEARNINGS MADE EASY

Fostering the Legacy of Unity: A Reflection on National Unity Day

THE path to a developed India is illuminated by the guiding principles of unity and unwavering service exemplified by our dedicated civil servants. National Unity Day, which commemorates the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, stands as a significant occasion to recognise the tireless dedication of these often unsung heroes who contribute to strengthening national unity and propelling our nation toward a brighter future.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, often revered as the architect of modern India, envisioned a united nation where the civil services act as the steel framework, holding the diverse fabric of our country together. The services, including the Indian Administrative Service, Indian Police Service, Indian Foreign Service among various other Services, form the linchpin that ensures seamless governance and upholds the democratic values we cherish.

The rigorous journey to becoming a part of this esteemed cadre commences with the highly competitive civil services examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). A mere 0.2 percent of over a million aspirants are chosen each year, highlighting the caliber and tenacity required to serve the nation in these critical capacities. Institutions like NEXT IAS play a crucial role in molding the aspirants, preparing them to uphold the legacy of unity and service.

It's pertinent to highlight that B.S. Bassi (former member of UPSC) is now



B. Singh (EX. IES)
CMD, NEXT IAS and MADE EASY Group

with rigorous doubt-clearing sessions, ensure aspirants are well-prepared to tackle the diverse challenges of the civil services examination. Intensive answer-writing workshops further enhance their readiness, shaping adept and insightful future civil servants.

National Unity Day is not just a celebration of Sardar Patel's legacy, but a reminder of the enduring ethos of unity he envisaged for the nation. It's an occasion to laud the tireless efforts of our civil servants who embody these values, and to reiterate the importance of fostering a culture of selfless commitment to national unity and development.

At NEXT IAS, the meticulous nurturing of civil services aspirants ensures they are not just well-versed in examination syllabus, but are imbued with a deep sense of national unity and the resolve to contribute towards a developed India. The regular interactive and intensive preparatory sessions provided by the institute are instrumental in honing essential skills for success in the civil services examinations.

As we commemorate National Unity Day, it's imperative to reflect on the invaluable contributions of our civil servants, whose unwavering dedication acts as the backbone of our communities and a catalyst propelling India's growth and progress. Let's renew our commitment to celebrating and supporting the ideals of unity and selfless service, as we strive towards realising the vision of a developed India.

NEXT IAS
BIG LEARNINGS MADE EASY

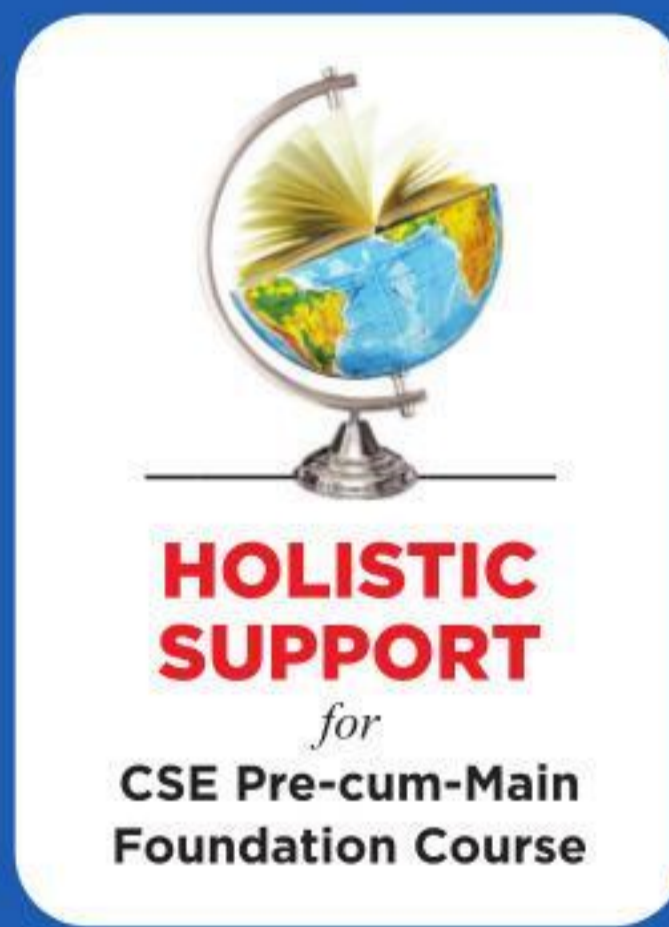
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LIVE-ONLINE BATCHES

Evening Batch
6th Nov
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Morning Batch
20th Nov
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

BHOPAL OFFLINE BATCH

Evening Batch
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8 फरवरी 2024 से नए बैच आरंभ

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NATIONAL UNITY DAY

National Unity Day: Remembering Sardar Patel - The Architect of a United India

INDIA, a modern marvel, gained independence on August 15, 1947, breaking free from centuries of foreign rule. Yet, this freedom was marred by the threat of further partition, which could have left us with a fractured nation, were it not for Sardar Patel's exceptional efforts.

Sardar Patel, the "Iron Man of India," displayed unwavering courage, masterful diplomacy, and remarkable wisdom, ensuring India's unification. His efforts led us to a united India, guiding us towards our rightful place among nations. In 2014, the Indian government designated October 31, his birth anniversary, as National Unity Day to honour his pivotal role in India's political unification.

SARDAR PATEL'S ENDURING LEGACY: NATIONAL UNITY

Sardar Patel's historic feat united 565 Princely states, leaving an indelible mark on India's path forward. His unwavering vision for a unified nation was exemplified in the integration of Hyderabad and Junagadh, using both diplomacy and military action for the former and diplomacy, blockades, and public sentiment for the latter. Afterward, India's quest for unity continued with significant milestones, including the transfer of Pondicherry and its territories from the French to India, as well as the liberation of Goa from Portuguese control through Operation Vijay, transforming it into a centrally administered Union Territory. Sardar

Patel's enduring legacy is epitomised by the 'Statue of Unity,' the world's tallest statue at 182 meters, located on the banks of the Narmada River in Kevadia, Gujarat. It serves as a symbol of his steadfast dedication to national unity and the united India we treasure today. Beyond politics, Patel's legacy includes invaluable teachings that continue to shape India in the present day.

FORGING THE MODERN STEEL FRAMEWORK: LESSONS IN ADMINISTRATION AND ETHICS

Before independence, the Indian Civil Services were seen as tools of exploitation and oppression, used by colonial masters for their dedication to the national cause and are often called the 'Steel Framework' of the nation. They play a leading role in national rejuvenation and development, with credit to the influence of Sardar Patel after India's independence.

■ **Existence of IAS:** Sardar Patel's persistent efforts ensured the continuation of the civil services in post-independence India. He referred to civil services as the 'steel frame' of India, emphasising their significance in the administration. Today, the IAS officers play a

vital role in governance and continue to uphold the values and principles set by Patel.

■ **Minister-administrator relations:** Sardar Patel's wisdom on the delicate relationship between ministers and administrators is still pertinent. He believed in providing administrators with the freedom to express their views without fear, ensuring a healthy working relationship. In the modern context, maintaining a productive and respectful rapport between politicians and bureaucrats remains crucial for effective governance.

■ **Values and ethics:** Sardar Patel emphasised the importance of values and ethics in administration. He knew that power could corrupt, and he stressed the need for administrators to use their authority for the greater good. This lesson resonates today, as ethical conduct and compassion are essential qualities for administrators to win the trust of the people.

■ **Leadership lessons:** Sardar Patel's leadership style, based on trust, empathy, and quick decision-making, offers valuable insights for modern leaders. His ability to build and lead teams, his emphasis on listening, and his commitment to action provide a blueprint for effective leadership in contemporary administration.

■ **Real meaning of 'Freedom':** Sardar Patel's perspective on freedom as 'happiness for all' continues to inspire. In the 21st century, the concept of freedom aligns with the idea of inclusive development, where everyone can participate and benefit from the progress of society.

■ **Foresighted economist:** Sardar Patel's economic ideas, such as encouraging private investment, reducing restrictions on production and trade, and import substitution for self-reliance, remain relevant.

■ **Lessons for future administrators:** Sardar Patel's emphasis on discipline, efficiency, and responsibility in administration is crucial for modern-day administrators. Integrity, responsiveness, accountability, and impartiality are values that continue to be of utmost importance in good governance. The values and ideals of Patel's life continue to guide the path of the Indian Civil Services. The contribution of civil servants towards society building, development and economic upliftment of the masses continue to inspire the youth of India aspiring to join the Civil Services and leave a positive mark of their own in our national glorious transformation.

However, like all great things, being a part of the Indian Civil Services requires immense

dedication and perseverance.

ESSENTIALS FOR SUCCESS: UPSC CIVIL SERVICES EXAMINATION

In the journey to qualify for the Civil Services examination, well-structured planning is essential for tackling the extensive syllabus, spanning from Prelims to Mains, in an integrated manner. The role of right guidance plays a pivotal role, as it provides the path, strategy, and action plan for success. The role of resource management can not be understated as it is a critical aspect, requiring students to identify reliable and validated learning resources to make efficient use of their time and efforts. Time management is equally crucial, given the vast syllabus and the lengthy preparation cycle. It ensures that students use their time wisely. Continuous assessment and timely feedback is a must, as learning remains incomplete without it.

Finally, self-enrichment for overall personality development is essential, as civil services not only demand a broad knowledge base but also other personality traits like a deep sense of empathy, critical thinking, and effective communication, all of which can be nurtured through book reading and practical learning.

VisionIAS: NURTURING FUTURE CIVIL SERVANTS

VisionIAS, a renowned research and training organisation, also attaches immense significance to the values and principles enshrined in the life and work of Sardar Patel.

Guided by his philosophy of innovation and excellence, VisionIAS is committed to providing quality classroom learning and guidance to Civil Services aspirants. With innovative and flexible learning programmes, we have successfully guided countless students towards realising their goal to join Indian Civil Services. We offer a tech-enabled classroom learning ecosystem that builds fundamental concepts; transforms skills into competencies and potential into performance. Our online and offline programmes provide comprehensive coverage of the UPSC syllabus, including current affairs.

As we celebrate National Unity Day and remember the great Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, let us draw inspiration from his indomitable courage, masterful diplomacy, sharp intellect, and wisdom. These qualities not only unified a fragmented nation but also are a legacy of principles that hold profound relevance in our contemporary world.

On this National Unity Day in Amrit Kaal, let us reaffirm our dedication to public service and the pursuit of excellence in all our endeavours, as we strive to elevate India and its people to higher levels of prosperity.



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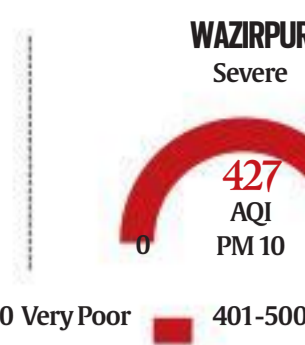
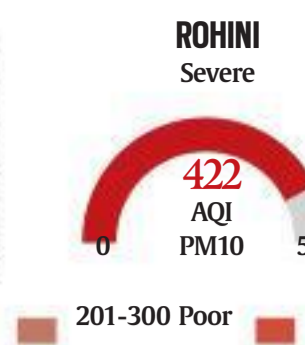
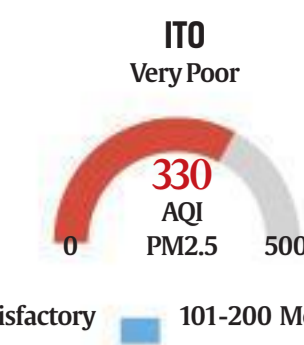
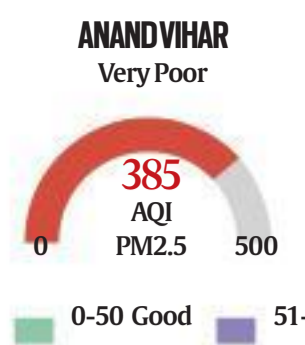
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S K Y W A T C H

FORECAST: October 31
Mainly clear sky.
Mist in the morning.
AQI forecast: Likely to be very poor

MAX: 32 1°C above normal
MIN: 17 0.9°C above normal

PRELIMINARY AUTOPSY REPORT

'Swiss woman was smothered, struggled to breathe for 20 mins'

Accused produced before court, remand extended by five more days, says DCP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30



Gurpreet Singh and Nina Berger had met in 2021

SWISS NATIONAL Nina Berger was allegedly smothered to death with a plastic bag as she struggled to breathe for 20-30 minutes while being tortured inside a car, according to a preliminary autopsy report.

Berger, 36, was killed in Delhi on October 18 and her body was found two days later with her limbs tied with locked chains. Delhi Police arrested Berger's friend Gurpreet Singh (33), a resident of Janakpuri, in connection with her murder and he has been in police custody since last week.

According to reports, Berger and Singh met in 2021 while he was visiting relatives in Switzerland.

Police said her post-mortem examination was conducted without her parents' presence as they didn't come to Delhi. Sources said she and her parents had not been in touch for years.

The police also stated that Berger came to India on October 11 after Singh called her. She

stayed at a hotel in West Delhi since Singh wanted her to be close to him. Singh allegedly called Berger to India and took her on a "surprise ride" in a second-hand Santro car and later killed her. Her body was kept in the same car for two days before Singh allegedly dumped it near an MCD-run school in west Delhi. During interrogation, police found that Singh allegedly took Berger in the car in the name of showing her an "astrological trick" and convinced her to get chained.

"Initially, we thought she was strangulated but the preliminary report suggests she died of asphyxia by smothering," a police source said.

The source said Berger was

also tortured inside the car. "The doctor told us that she was first smothered using a plastic bag. Her limbs were tied with chains so she couldn't get out. She struggled for a long time and even tore the car seat fabric with her nails," added the source.

A police officer said, "Singh must have tied her by tricking her. After that, he smothered her with the bag. Because she was bound she couldn't fight back. Doctors said she struggled for 20-30 minutes."

Singh and his father run a gemstone shop in West Delhi and own multiple properties in and around Delhi. The Delhi Police recovered several crores of rupees from Singh's account and Rs 2 crore in cash from his Janakpuri residence. Investigators revealed Singh has been evasive and misled the police multiple times during the questioning. Police said Singh's mother and sister have left their Janakpuri residence and his father hasn't reached Delhi yet.

"Initially, Singh said he killed her because she rejected his advances and refused to marry him. We now feel that he killed

her because he suspected her of having an affair with someone else. They had fights over this. He accused her of dating other men in Zurich. We are also looking at a money angle. We think she owed him some money during one of his trips to Zurich (where she lived) and he was upset that she never paid the money back. He had performed some astrological trick or healing at her place for which he demanded money," added the officer.

Meanwhile, Singh was produced before a court on Monday which extended his custody by five days.

DCP Vichitra Veer (West) said "The accused was produced in the court on Monday and they extended his custody by five days again. We have been in touch with the Embassy of Switzerland and had managed to get Berger's fingerprints through the official channel. When matched with those of the deceased, the match was successful. The body was handed over to the person authorised by the embassy on Monday."

EXCISE POLICY CASE

SC ground for dismissing Sisodia's plea: 'Excess profit' earned by wholesalers

MALLICA JOSHI & JATIN ANAND
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30



Party disagrees with SC decision: AAP's Atishi

IT IS on the basis of the increased profits earned by wholesalers because of the now-scrapped Delhi Excise Policy that the Supreme Court denied bail to Delhi's former Deputy CM Manish Sisodia.

In denying bail to Sisodia, the apex court Monday said that the one "clear ground" in the Prevention of Money Laundering Act that was "tentatively supported by material and evidence" was the Rs. 338 crore "excess profit" earned by the wholesalers due to changes made in the policy. Among the big changes in the policy were the exit of the government from the retail side of the business, the increase in the commission to wholesalers and redistribution of liquor shops to ensure better coverage.

Another modification - allegedly made part of the policy at the behest of outsiders who sought to reap benefits from it - was in regards to the creation of the post of Director, Wholesale Operation which the Cabinet note in regards to the policy was modified to include as per Whatsapp chats retrieved from the phone of one of the accused in the case.

submitted, would constitute proceeds of crime, an offence punishable under the PML Act. The proceeds of crime were acquired, used and were in possession of the wholesale distributors who have unlawfully benefitted from illegal gain at the expense of the government exchequer and the consumers/buyers," the ED told the court.

ED's complaint, filed in May this year, said, "One of the reasons given by Manish Sisodia is to compensate the wholesaler for increased license fee from Rs 5 lakh to Rs. 5 crore. During this policy period, 14 II (wholesale) licences were given by the Excise Department, by raising the license fee... to Rs. 5 crore in the entire period of operation of the Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22, the government has earned Rs. 75.16 Cr from the license fee... On the other hand the excess profit earned by the wholesalers during this period is to the tune of Rs. 338 Cr. (7% additional profit earned due to increase from 5% to 12%)."

The complaint also stated that there was no "logical correlation between the license fee increase and the profit margin increase" and that the excess profit margin could have been passed on to the consumers by reducing the retail price.

Hit by fund crunch, Hardayal Library gets new management committee

SAMAN HUSAIN & SABIKA SYED
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

THE 161-YEAR-OLD Hardayal Public Library got a new management committee on Monday following months of protest by its workers over non-payment of salaries. Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) Mayor Shelly Oberoi, who is also the ex-officio chairperson of the library, nominated six members to form a committee during a meeting on Monday.

The committee will replace Hardayal Library's governing body, while attempting to resolve its ongoing financial crisis and how to pay the salaries of the 96 employees who have not been paid in over two years. The MCD had announced the formation of this new committee in its monthly municipal assembly agenda on August 31.

While AAP councillor from Dilshad Colony Preeti was appointed the committee's secretary, AAP councillor from Sadar Bazaar Usha Sharma is the joint secretary. Meanwhile, AAP Councillors Punardeep Singh Sahani from Chandini Chowk, Kiran Bala from Delhi Gate, Mohammad Sadiq from Ballimaran and Congress Councillor Shagufta Chaudhary from Chauhan Banger have also been nominated as members of the committee.

"We will visit the library and meet the protesting employees. We have committed that the salaries of employees will be paid before Diwali this year," Preeti said. According to the MCD, employees will be paid salaries till 2021 before Diwali and the rest after that.

Out of the 96 employees who have not received their salaries, 76 have been protesting for over 15 months now.

5-yr-old crushed to death as 7-foot-high gate falls on him

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30



Krishna would often go to a Aanganwadi centre to study

IN A tragic incident, a five-year-old boy was crushed to death after a seven-foot-tall iron gate at DDA Apartments, in Samaypur Badli fell on him Sunday. The Delhi Police said the boy, identified as Krishna, and his friends were playing when he tried to climb the gate, but the damaged gate fell on the boy instantly killing him.

The boy's family said he and his friends were swinging from the main gate of the colony when the unhinged gate fell on Krishna. His family and other locals on Monday protested against the RWA chief and DDA officials for not taking cognizance of their complaints about the damaged gate. According to them, the 150-kg gate was damaged for more than two months.

Krishna and his mother Laxmi Devi had left home in the afternoon after Laxmi shut her tea shop and went to buy vegetables and groceries when she heard a loud thud and saw her boy under the gate. "My little boy was crushed under the big gate. We had to call 7-8 people to lift the gate and take him out. When the neighbours pulled him, I saw he was covered in blood, I almost fainted. We had to take him to 3-4 hospitals. Doctors said he had suffered grievous injuries and lot of blood loss. When we reached Lok Nayak Hospital, he had died," said Laxmi.

She alleged that their family along with other residents had complained to the DDA several times. "We wrote letters, gave verbal complaints...but nothing happened. The RWA men take so much money from everyone. Why can't they fix a simple gate?"

It is the main entrance to our colony. I don't want to live here now. My boy was only playing. What was his fault?"

The boy's father, Ram Milan, works as a driver for a food company and was out for work when the incident took place. "I didn't even know what had happened. When I reached home, I first saw a pool of blood at the main gate, everyone was panicking. I rushed to the hospital to find that my boy had died. We have been living here for more than 10 years. Krishna was a small boy. He was only trying to climb the gate and use it as a swing," Ram said.

The family of four said Krishna didn't attend a school, but would often go to a nearby Aanganwadi center. He has a younger sister aged around three. One of the residents, Deepak Bhardwaj, said "We are all scared as our children were also there. Krishna would address me 'mama'. We have been complaining about the door as it's unhinged and lying loose and knew it would fall anytime."

Taking action on the complaints by the family and residents, a senior Delhi Police officer said they registered a case under sections of murder and negligence against unknown persons. "We are investigating who's behind the negligence. We have also sent a letter to DDA to immediately take action in the matter."

BRIEFLY

Geo-tag projects to release funds: Finance dept

New Delhi: To ensure timely completion of projects in a transparent manner, the Finance department has directed all the departments, organisations and autonomous bodies to ensure Geo-tagging of all projects and works along with uploading progress reports with colour photographs, on an online portal developed by the government's IT department. The finance department said it will not release funds for projects, if departments do not follow orders. This aims to check misuse of funds, corruption, regularly monitor the progress of work and help curb delays.

Haryana to give electricity at Rs 2 per unit for cow shelters

Tauru (Nuh): Stating that the Haryana electricity department is running at a profit of around Rs 1,500 crore, Minister of Electricity and Prisons Ranjit Singh Chautala announced that government cow shelters would be provided with electricity at Rs 2 per unit. Singh, who was in Tauru to inaugurate a hydroponic fodder plant at Kamdhenu Ayurvedic Wellness Institute on Sunday, said, in the past months, electricity line loss was reduced by 2 per cent, leading to the profit.

Gurgaon: Girl crushed by earthmover

Gurgaon: A two-and-a-half-year-old girl died after being hit by an earthmover at the basement of a plot in Gurgaon on Saturday, police said. According to police, the deceased, Khushiyaana Khatoun, was the daughter of a labourer from Bihar. As per the FIR registered upon a complaint by Hamidul Islam, a resident of Saraswati Kunj, the incident took place around 1 pm when excavation work was in progress at the plot. Islam alleged that one Sunil Prajapati was driving the earthmover at a high speed. FIR has been registered under IPC sections 304A and 279 at Sector 53 police station. **ENS**



POLLUTION CHECK

A tanker sprays water to control pollution in New Delhi on Monday. The city recorded an AQI of 347, in the 'very poor' category on Monday, worse than the 325 recorded on Sunday. According to a forecast issued by the Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi, the AQI is set to remain in the 'very poor' category till November 2. Low wind speeds and a dip in temperature at night have been preventing the dispersion of pollutants in the city. The minimum temperature recorded in the city on Monday was 16.2 degrees Celsius, around the normal for this time of the year. *Praveen Khanna*

Delhi govt looks to wildlife institute for decision on relocating deer from park

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

THE DELHI High Court was informed on Monday that the issue of the translocation of spotted deer from the capital's deer park to forest areas in the city as well as Rajasthan had been referred to the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.

Delhi government counsel Satyakam made the submission before a bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela after a plea was filed alleging that guidelines laid down by the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) and the International Union for

Conservation of Nature (IUCN) for translocating animals were not being complied with.

The bench granted time to the respondents, including Delhi government's chief wildlife warden, to file their responses in the matter. The plea has been listed for hearing next on January 15, 2024. The plea claims that on June 8, the CZA's technical committee approved translocation of 600 deer from the A N Jha Deer Park to a forest in Rajasthan and the Asola sanctuary in Delhi in the ratio of 70:30. This was subject to the condition that the release shall comply with the statutory provisions and the IUCN guidelines for reintroductions and other conservation translocations.

The plea claims that none of the guidelines were being complied with and no prior health check was conducted to ascertain if the deer were pregnant or not and that even young deer were being loaded onto trucks for translocation.

In the same June 8 order, the CZA cancelled the A N Jha Deer Park's recognition as a "mini-zoo". The deer park falls under the Delhi Development Authority's jurisdiction. The plea asks for directions to be issued to the respondents to not translocate pregnant deer, young ones and antlered animals. The deer that cannot be translocated should be allowed to remain within the deer park and the park should not

be closed, it has further said.

The plea refers to an evaluation report of the deer park from September 2022, which was done on the CZA's directions. As per the report, the enclosure is designed to house up to 60 animals and it was overcrowded with 530 animals back then.

The plea states that the chief wildlife warden had sought translocation of the deer to the Asola forest owing to an increase in the population of leopards there and to "supplement the prey base". The plea submits that the deer have spent a sheltered life in captivity and translocation would leave them with a "scant chance" to escape a predator attack and that they would die in no time.

Jor Bagh's 'The Bookshop' has a new address: 26, Lodhi Colony

UDBHAV SETH
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

JOR BAGH'S iconic bookstore 'The Bookshop' is set for a new innings as it gets ready to relocate to Lodhi Colony. The move comes after the dissolution of the original partnership that owned the store.

The store was established in 1971 by Kanwarjit Singh Dhingra and his wife Nini Singh. It wasn't long before the store warmed its way into the hearts of people with its eclectic curations of books. The store has also witnessed many book launches and readings by popular authors.



At The Bookshop in Jorbagh on Monday. Amit Mehra

Announcing the partners' decision in a Facebook post on Sunday, the couple's daughter Rachna wrote: "It is with sadness that I would like to announce

that on 31 October 2023, The Book Shop will down its shutters—and we will dissolve the partnership that owns it."

Some of the staffers who have been with the store for years—like Sonal Narain (who joined the venture as a partner more than twenty years ago), Mahika Chaturvedi and Sohan Singh—will be managing the new branch at 26, Lodhi Colony Market.

For Jaishree Kumar, a journalist who visited the shop Monday evening, The Bookshop's approachability is what makes it unique. "You can tell that they carefully curate their books, which isn't like most bookshops," she added.

'Meri Maati, Mera Desh': Soil from 36 states & UTs, 766 dists at Kartavya Path

UPASIKA SINGHAL
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30



People from across the country participate in the campaign at Kartavya Path on Monday. Praveen Khanna

PEOPLE FROM different parts of the country carrying soil from over 700 districts thronged Kartavya Path in Delhi as part of the 'Meri Maati, Mera Desh' initiative on Monday. Dressed in traditional outfits, people stood in long queues to pour the soil in the 'Amrit Kalash'.

On October 31, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in a programme marking the culmination of the 'Meri Maati, Mera Desh' campaign's Amrit Kalash Yatra at Kartavya Path. The campaign is

playing the dhol and had come from Dindori district in Madhya Pradesh. "We've been here all day and got to see different types of dance forms and music," he added.

The participants of the 'Meri Maati, Mera Desh' campaign came from 7,500 blocks from 36 states and Union Territories. According to BJP sources, around 75,000 youth activists from across the country had begun trickling into the city from Sunday and another 25,000 more were expected to arrive by Tuesday.

The programme was also attended by NCC, BSF, CISF, and CRPF personnel.

a tribute to the bravehearts who have sacrificed their lives for the country. "We received an invite from the Ministry of Culture to perform at the programme," said Lekh Pal Dhurvey who was

7 GOVT & POLITICS



VIP BOOST

ACTOR KANGANA Ranaut's action thriller 'Tejas' will get a VIP audience on Tuesday when Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, along with his Cabinet colleagues, will assemble at the auditorium of Lok Bhawan in Lucknow for the movie's special screening.

UNCERTAINTY

MORE THAN two months after IIM Calcutta Director Uttam Kumar Sarkar quit over differences with Board Chairman Srikrishna Kulkarni, there's been no word on the fate of his resignation.

Karnataka govt may fall on the lines of Maharashtra, says BJP MLA Jarkiholi

Part of 2019 'Op Lotus', BJP MLA says DKS would be to blame if govt falls

AKRAM M BENGALURU, OCTOBER 30

FANNING RUMOURS of bids to unseat the Congress government in Karnataka, former minister and BJP MLA Ramesh Jarkiholi, who is believed to have spearheaded the 2019 toppling by the BJP of the Congress-JD(S) regime, on Monday talked of a similar 'Operation Lotus'.

Speaking to reporters in Belagavi, Jarkiholi said Karnataka could see a BJP government being formed along the "Maharashtra model", while adding that the blame would lie with Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar if the Siddaramaiah government collapsed.

In Maharashtra, the BJP had not been able to get a majority after the 2019 elections, but came to power last year after a split in the Shiv Sena. Recently, a faction of the NCP led by Ajit Pawar joined hands with the BJP.

While unlike in Maharashtra, the Congress is in a large majority in Karnataka, talk constantly keeps surfacing of BJP efforts to topple the Siddaramaiah government, largely due to differences between the CM and his Deputy, Shivakumar.

On Saturday, Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar claimed again of such a threat, a day after Mandya Congress MLA Ravikumar Gowda said that party legislators were being offered Rs 50 crore and ministerial berths to switch loyalties.

"It will happen like in Maharashtra," Jarkiholi told reporters Monday, when asked about the possibility of the Congress government falling.

Indefinite exclusion a concern, House must have voices from across spectrum: SC on Chadha suspension from RS

ANANTHAKRISHNAN NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

RAISING QUESTIONS on the indefinite suspension of AAP leader Raghav Chadha from the Rajya Sabha, the Supreme Court on Monday said that "exclusion of a member of the Opposition from the House is a very serious matter" as "Parliament must have voices from across the spectrum".

Presiding over a three-judge bench, Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud asked Attorney General R Venkataramani

MARATHA QUOTA AGITATION TURNS VIOLENT

Protest losing direction: CM; your leaders provoking violence: Patil

Activist refuses to send delegation to Mumbai for talks

MANOJ MORE PUNE, OCTOBER 30

AS THE Maratha quota protests turned violent with properties of political leaders targeted on the sixth day of the fast-unto-death launched by activist Manoj Jarange Patil, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde Monday said the agitation was losing direction but assured the community that his government was committed to providing reservation that will pass legal muster.



Protesters in Karad, Maharashtra, on Monday. PTI

in Jalna district. At a press conference in Mumbai, Shinde said: "In the past, the Maratha community took out 58 marchas, all peaceful. Now, some people are creating law and order problems." Appealing for peace, Shinde said: "The government is making efforts to ensure reservation for the Maratha community. The government will not betray it. But the community should not resort to violent means or end their lives."

CM appoints 3-member panel for guidance on extending quota

ALOK DESHPANDE MUMBAI, OCTOBER 30

MAHARASHTRA CHIEF Minister Eknath Shinde Monday announced the appointment of three-member panel of former judges to provide guidance on Maratha reservation and the ongoing Supreme Court case. At a meeting of a cabinet sub-committee on Maratha reservation Monday, the Justice (Retired) Sandeep Shinde committee — formed to study the procedure of giving Kunbi (OBC) certificate to Marathas — presented its first report of 13 pages. It will be tabled before the cabinet Tuesday, the CM said.

Opp parties meet Gov; Fadnavis should quit: Sule

Mumbai: Maharashtra Opposition parties on Monday met with Governor Ramesh Bais, asking for a special session of the Assembly to discuss the Maratha quota issue, while NCP Lok Sabha MP Supriya Sule demanded the resignation of state Home Minister Devendra Fadnavis over his failure to maintain law and order in the state.

As protests spread, Shinde govt steps up firefighting, cites earlier success

SHUBHANGI KHAPRE & ALOK DESHPANDE MUMBAI, OCTOBER 30

AS THE MARATHA quota protests spread, all top political leaders in the state have faced boycott calls in the past week. The bar on politicians from entering villages has few parallels in Maharashtra. Over the past two days, houses and cars of elected representatives have also come under attack, while legislators have been forced to "write their resignations".

leaders are bracing for more anger. Girish Mahajan, the senior BJP minister mediating with Jarange-Patil on behalf of the government says: "We understand the sentiments of the Maratha community... The deteriorating health of Jarange-Patil is also a serious cause of worry." Pointing out that the government on Monday held a sub-committee meeting where the decision was taken to expedite the reservation process, the minister said CM Eknath Shinde was also getting legal advice.

Legislative Council Pravin Darekar, were at the sub-committee meeting, Shinde is missing Deputy CM Ajit Pawar, who is laid down by dengue. The other Deputy CM, Devendra Fadnavis, was away in Chhattisgarh on Monday for the Assembly election campaign. BJP sources claimed they were confident of resolving the issue, citing the example of 2016-2018. "The Maratha reservation protest then too was marred by incidents of violence and a spate of suicides. The state government will redouble its efforts to keep the dialogue going," a senior functionary said, adding that this is important as it might not be possible to concede the demand right away.

'Might is right' has no place in free, open maritime order, says Rajnath

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA PANAJI, OCTOBER 30

STRESSING THE need for establishing multi-national collaborative frameworks to effectively tackle common maritime challenges in the Indian Ocean Region, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Monday said 'might is right' has no place in a 'free, open and rule-based' maritime order.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visits the Make in India exhibition at Goa Maritime Conclave on Monday. PTI

interests may tempt us to flout or disregard the well-established international law, but doing so would lead to the breakdown of our civilised maritime relations. "Our common security and prosperity cannot be preserved without all of us committing to cooperatively adhering to the legitimate maritime rules of engagement. Fair rules of engagement are crucial for fostering collaboration and ensuring no single country dominates others in a hegemonic manner," he said.

Severe Covid survivors must avoid strenuous activity, says Mandaviya

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE RAJKOT, OCTOBER 30

AMID A surge in reported cases of young adults dying of heart attacks in recent months, Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has urged those who have survived severe Covid infection to avoid strenuous physical activity. Speaking with media on the sidelines of an event in his native district of Bhavnagar Sunday, Mandaviya said that the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has done a detailed study on the subject, and recommended that those who have recovered from severe coronavirus infection should not overexert themselves.



Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel, PM Narendra Modi and state BJP chief C R Paatil in Mehsana on Monday. Express

India's development was possible due to political stability: PM

Launches Rlys projects worth ₹5,000 cr in Gujarat, promises boost to tourism

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE DABHODA (MEHSANA), OCT 30

RAILWAYS WILL play an important role in the development of industries and tourism in the north Gujarat region, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Mehsana Monday as he inaugurated railway projects worth Rs 5,130 crore. Listing down a number of initiatives of the state and Central governments, the PM emphasised that development of Gujarat and India was possible only because of the political stability.

The projects unveiled by Modi on Monday include two in Mehsana and Ahmedabad districts, a section of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor between new Sanand and new Bhandu, and two connecting lines of 77 kms and 24 kms. It also included a project of the Gujarat Railway Infrastructure Development Corporation to install a 29.65-km railway line between Katosan and Bechraji in Mehsana.

"A dedicated freight corridor between Ahmedabad and Mehsana is going to be a revolutionary step as it will increase the connectivity with ports of Pipavav, Porbandar, Jamnagar... It will benefit farmers, industrialists and cattle-rearers, which indeed, will lead to greater possibility of industrial expansion in the region. It will boost the prospect of North Gujarat becoming a logistic hub and storage centre," Modi said as he addressed a public gathering at Dabhoda village near his native town of Vadnagar in Mehsana.

In Priyanka's 8 promises to Chhattisgarh, Rs 500 subsidy on LPG refills

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE RAIPUR, OCTOBER 30

CONGRESS LEADER Priyanka Gandhi Vadra held two public rallies in Chhattisgarh Monday, where she made eight promises if Congress retains power. The highlight of the promises remain Rs 500 subsidy on every refill on gas cylinders to be paid through banking transaction.

While addressing the gathering in the newly formed district Khairagarh-Chhuikhadan-Ganda (KCG), Priyanka said they have kept their promise made during the bypolls of forming a new district KCG, and called the Chhattisgarh model better than Gujarat's.

"Congress governments in various states have also restored the Old Pension Scheme. A person who works for over two decades expects some protection after retirement. People in Madhya Pradesh were silent when asked them how much money they get for paddy. I believe you people will vote based on the work done by us and not be influenced by communal politics." Priyanka also promised 200 units of free electricity. Loans for women-run self-help groups and also under the Saksham government scheme will be waived.



Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in Khairagarh, Chhattisgarh. PTI

All 6,000 government high and higher secondary schools will be upgraded to Swami Atmanand English and Hindi schools. Those injured in accidents will get free treatment, she said, adding that over 6,000 transport business owners will get a waiver of Rs 726 crore motor vehicle tax and interest taken from 2018.

Dr. Shakuntala Misra National Rehabilitation University (Govt. of Uttar Pradesh) Faculty Recruitment Notice

Misra, which decided to hear it again on November 3, however, said it "may not want to go into the broader issue of privileges. Let's not expand on the controversy more than what is necessary. And we are not going into the jurisdiction of the privileges committee".



The CJ added, "that's why the indefinite suspension is a call for concern. I can understand if the privileges committee was going to decide that in 15 days or a month, 75 days have gone. Winter Session is coming and this member will be out".

The senior counsel pointed out that the charge against Chadha was only that he did not take the consent or willingness of members whose names he had proposed to be members of the select committee for the GNCTD (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

The AAP member was suspended by the Rajya Sabha Chairperson after the House passed a resolution. The AG said that ascertaining the willingness of the members is very important.

Mumbai air turned 'severe', no BMC health advisory

8 months after announcement, BMC process of issuing bulletins not in place

RUPSA CHAKRABORTY & PRATIP ACHARYA
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 30

LESS THAN a fortnight back on October 18, air pollution in Vile Parle — a suburb in western Mumbai where the airport is located — was 'severe' with the Air Quality Index (AQI) breaching the 400-mark and touching 411. But the residents of Vile Parle didn't get any health advisory from the city's civic body Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation.

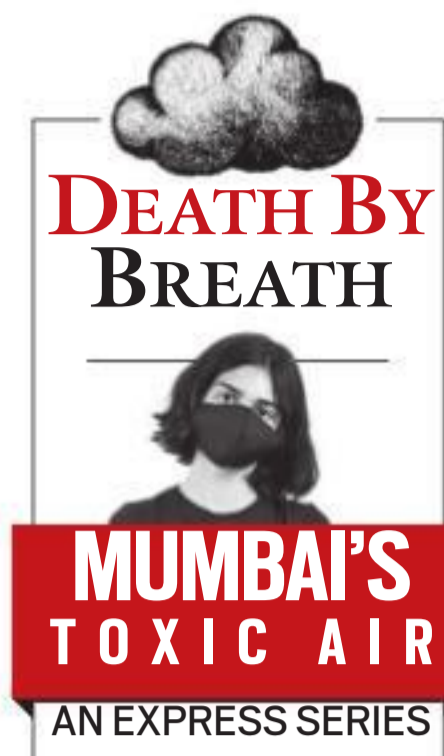
On October 13, AQI in Vile Parle touched 388 — meaning 'very poor' air quality. On October 16, Andheri — one of the busiest suburbs in Mumbai — recorded an AQI of 307, on to worsen a day later to 347, depicting 'very poor' air quality. Similarly, air quality in Mazgaon on October 17 was 'very poor' with an AQI of 307.

It has been over almost eight months since the BMC announced the plan to issue public health advisories in February while presenting the budget. It was also part of the Mumbai Air

Pollution Mitigation Plan (MAPMP) which promised to warn residents and provide advisory during periods of worsening air quality, akin to warnings provided by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) ahead of heavy rainfall.

When contacted, Additional Municipal Commissioner, BMC, Sudhakar Shinde said the process of issuing a bulletin was still being chalked out. "The process of issuing health advisories is still being readied. We will be issuing bulletins based on the quality of air recorded on a particular day. The bulletins will be issued only post consultation with health experts and doctors," he told *The Indian Express*. According to AQI monitoring chart, an AQI between 0 and 50 is termed 'good', between 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and an AQI beyond 400 AQI is 'severe'.

Public health experts said a health advisory raises awareness levels among citizens by suggesting ways to safeguard themselves when pollution levels rise.



If a Graded Response Action Plan is put in place — which the city does not yet have — it will become an imperative for the administration to make policy interventions.

Doctors insist that issuing advisories is necessary to shield residents, particularly those with respiratory ailments, from the hazardous pollutants lurking in the air.

"The advisories empower individuals, especially those with respiratory conditions, to minimise exposure to pollutants,

promoting overall well-being and reducing adverse health effects from poor air quality," said Bhagwan Kesbhat, CEO, Waatavaran Foundation.

Gufan Beig, senior scientist and project director in SAFAR (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecast and Research), said, "When AQI readings are between 200 and 300, it impacts vulnerable groups like senior citizens and children as well as people with co-morbidities, but people with good health condition will not be very much affected. However, if the AQI readings cross 300 or 400, it will start affecting a wider base of people and higher the readings climb, more and more people will be affected."

"Therefore, the authorities need to customise their warnings as per the observation made at local level and universal warnings should be given out after the AQI crosses 300. Senior citizens need to be alerted after the readings cross 200," he said.

Experts said advisories should be disseminated through multiple channels, including social media, public announcements in pollution-prone areas, and push messages to ensure broader awareness, especially among res-

idents in slum areas.

A former BMC Health Commissioner pointed out that the BMC already possessed mechanisms to disseminate daily AQI awareness and said, "The BMC issues health alerts during severe summer heat and that the COVID-19 experience has honed the system's capabilities. The corporation just has to incorporate the AQI forecasts and real-time updates, along with health advisories already available in the SAFAR app, for the benefit of the citizens," he said.

The need for advisories was also raised by Sumaira Abduli from Awaaz Foundation. In a letter to the former chief minister—Uddhav Thackeray and the then environment minister—Aditya Thackeray, she had said, "The design for forecasting AQI and issuing health warnings will lead to increased public awareness and ultimately, a decrease in health risk. Health advisories for poor air pollution are an effective tool used across the world. It is critical that they are hyper-local in nature, to best inform users about days and times when they should avoid outdoor activities such as walking, cycling, or other exercises, as well as prevent people with

breathing problems and small children from playing outside in their specific neighbourhood."

The *Indian Express* in 'Death by Breath' series revealed that inhaling PM 2.5 levels exceeding 120 is akin to smoking 5-6 cigarettes daily, resulting in severe health consequences. Dr Lancelot Pinto, epidemiologist and pulmonologist from Hinduja Hospital explained how poor air quality is often compared to smoking in terms of health risks. Exposure to air pollution, particularly fine particulate matter (PM 2.5), can have similar detrimental effects on the respiratory and cardiovascular systems.

"Studies have also linked cardiovascular events to air pollution levels, and those with cardiac co-morbidities should also be cautious. Measures that help could be using masks (preferably high efficiency masks such as N-95 or K-95 masks), avoiding the outdoors when the AQI is poor, or limiting oneself to essential activities outdoors," said Dr Pinto. Doctors further advised that regular mask changes are vital in heavy pollution to prevent clogging.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com



Dismantling work at the Singur Nano plant in 2016. *Express File*

Tribunal awards Tata ₹766 crore in compensation for Singur losses

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 30

AN ARBITRATION tribunal has awarded Tata Motors Ltd Rs 766 crore in compensation — recoverable from the West Bengal government — for its capital investment losses in the stalled Singur manufacturing plant, the company said Monday.

In an exchange filing, Tata Motors said the three-member tribunal on October 30 ruled unanimously that it is entitled to recover from West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Ltd (WBIDC) "a sum of Rs 765.78 crore with interest thereon at 11 per cent per annum from September 1, 2016, till actual recovery thereof."

The Mumbai-based automobile manufacturer has also been allowed to recover Rs 1 crore for the cost of the proceedings from WBIDC. "With the making of the final arbitral award as mentioned above, the arbitral proceedings have come to an end," Tata Motors said in the filing.

In 2006, the Left Front West Bengal government had announced that Tata Motors would set up a car manufacturing unit to roll out its cheapest car, the Rs 1-lakh Nano. The Buddhadeb Bhattacharya-led government al-

lotted about 1,000 acres of farmland to the company in Singur.

By October 2008, however, the company had scrapped its plans and shifted the plant to Sanand in Gujarat after facing stiff protests from opposition political parties — particularly the TMC which is now in power — and farmers in the area over land acquisition.

By this time, Tata Motors had already put in more than Rs 1,000 crore in Singur.

The Singur movement fuelled the rise of Mamata Banerjee and helped her party, TMC, come to power in Bengal in 2011. Her government passed the Singur Land Rehabilitation and Development Act in 2011 to take over the land given to the Tatas. The state has partly returned the land to its owners, PTI reported.

Tata Motors moved Calcutta High Court challenging the law. The acquisition of the land was upheld by a trial court and the law was declared unconstitutional on appeal. After that, the dispute moved to the Supreme Court, which in 2016 ruled in favour of the farmers and declared that the land acquisition process was illegal.

CP(M) said Bengal was "paying for the arrogance and destructive politics of Mamata Banerjee with penalties."

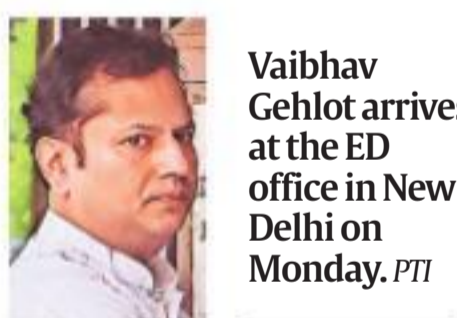
Gehlot's son appears before ED, says no links to FEMA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, OCTOBER 30

RAJASTHAN CONGRESS leader and Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's son, Vaibhav Gehlot appeared before the Enforcement Directorate in New Delhi Monday in connection with a Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) case.

"I got a summons for FEMA. I told them that neither I nor my family have done any foreign transaction or have any links to FEMA," Vaibhav told reporters after coming out of the ED office for lunch. He said he was given a day and a half to appear and he had sought 15 days' time, which was denied by the ED. The ED has summoned him again on November 16, he said.

ED had conducted searches between August 29 and 31 in var-



Vaibhav Gehlot arrives at the ED office in New Delhi on Monday. *PTI*

ious locations in Jaipur, Udaipur, Mumbai and Delhi in connection with the FEMA case of Triton Hotels and Resorts Private Limited, Vardha Enterprises Private Limited, and its directors and promoters Shiv Shankar Sharma, Rattan Kant Sharma and others.

ED said investigation has been initiated based on "credible information" wherein Triton Hotels and Resorts received FDI from Sinvan Holdings Limited, Mauritius at a huge premium which was revised several times violating FEMA provisions.

HAMAS SPEECH ROW

Won't let BJP file cases against pro-Palestine protesters in Kerala: Pinarayi

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, OCTOBER 30

HITTING BACK at comments from Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar and the BJP regarding a former Hamas chief's virtual address at an event in Malappuram on Friday, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said Monday that BJP was trying to get cases registered against people just for supporting Palestine, but that those efforts would not work in the state.

"This is not going to happen here [in Kerala]. We and our country have always been with the Palestinian people," Vijayan said.

The BJP has demanded an investigation into Friday's event, organised by the Jamaat-e-Islami's youth wing, Solidarity Youth Movement. Former head of Hamas, Khaled Mashal, virtually addressed the pro-Palestine rally.

"It is said that a Palestinian fighter had addressed that rally. What I understand is that it was a recorded video. Normally, when Jamaat-e-Islami or any other organisation seeks permission for meetings, police usually give sanction. Such permission was given to this meeting also," he said. "In this meeting, if something happened that should not have taken place, police will examine it," he said. Mashal's address caused an uproar in Kerala, with BJP targeting not just organisers, but also the Left and Congress. Chandrasekhar had criticised what he called "appeasement politics" of Congress and CP(M). He blamed them for Mashal's address, saying the Hamas leader was invited to "spread hate and call for 'jihad' in Kerala".

Decide on Sena faction disqualification pleas by Dec 31: SC to Speaker

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

THE SUPREME COURT on Monday directed Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwarke to decide by December 31 the disqualifications petitions filed in the wake of the rebellion in the Shiv Sena last year.

A three-judge bench presided by CJI D Y Chandrachud refused to grant more time to the Speaker, who through an affidavit sought time till February 29, 2024, to complete the hearings.

The bench also comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said: "We have repeatedly furnished opportunities to the Speaker and tribunal, which is to conclude the proceedings under the 10th Schedule expeditiously."

"An affidavit has been filed by the Secretary of the Maharashtra Legislature Secretariat. The affidavit indicates there are two groups of disqualification petitions: Group A consists of 34 petitions concerning Shiv Sena party and Group B, which deals with 5 petitions concerning NCP.

The affidavit indicates that the Secretariat will be closed during Diwali from November 10-16, 2023, and the Winter Session of the Assembly at Nagpur would be held from December 7 to 20, 2023," the court order said.

It added, "We are clearly of the view that the procedural wrangling between contesting parties should not be permitted to delay the conclusion of the petitions for disqualification under the 10th Schedule. In this view of the matter, we direct that proceedings shall be concluded and final order shall be passed on or before December 31, 2023."

Though Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Speaker, sought time till January 31 for deciding the Shiv Sena petitions, the top court did not agree.

Justice Chandrachud said, "The sanctity of the 10th schedule must be maintained. Otherwise we are throwing these provisions to the wind... Let the proceedings be completed by December 31." On the disqualifications petitions filed following the differences in the NCP, the court said, "We have to give some reasonable time..."

'Rubbing salt into our wounds': Omar on UT Day celebrations

NAVEED IQBAL
KUPWARA, OCTOBER 30

AS J&K marks four years as a Union Territory (UT), former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday attacked the BJP as he questioned the party-led Centre's decision to bifurcate the erstwhile state in 2019. He also challenged the Centre to conduct elections to see the "sankalp (resolve)" of the people of J&K.

Commenting on the "internal issues" of the INDIA opposition bloc, the National Conference leader said the recent seat-shar-

ing tussle between Congress and Samajwadi Party was "not good".

"As you saw with the Samajwadi Party and Congress having had disagreements over UP, this is not good for the alliance. I would hope that after these elections, we can all sit together and work together," he said.

Abdullah's comments on J&K's UT status, during a party convention in Kupwara, came as the administration geared up for its 'UT Foundation Day' celebrations on October 31. "They are rubbing salt into our wounds. Were we asked before creating this UT or did we have a say in this?" Omar said.

DAY AFTER BLASTS AT JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES GATHERING

Kerala blasts toll 3; accused did electrical work in Gulf: officials

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, OCTOBER 30

THE KEY accused in the Kochi blasts was working in the Middle East as an electrical foreman until two months ago, and had gained skills to experiment with IEDs using locally available materials, initial probe has revealed. Police also found that Dominic Martin extensively searched the internet to learn about how to make explosives, and that he had made more than one IED at his house at Thammaman in Kochi, which he carried in a plastic bag to the convention centre in Kalamassery early Sunday morning.

After placing the plastic bags containing the IEDs at the convention hall before participants entered, he waited nearby and triggered the blast using two remotes. He then rode his two-wheeler towards Thrissur and checked into a hotel, from where he uploaded a

JW plans to hold prayers online

Kochi: Jehovah's Witnesses cancelled all regional conventions across the country after three people were killed in blasts Sunday in Kochi.

They are set to conduct its remaining conventions this year online, over Zoom, as it explores means to put in place enhanced security measures. "There were 3 more conventions to go in Kerala this year. One each at Irinjalakuda (in Thrissur district), Perinthalmanna (in Malappuram district) and Kozhikode. Across India, we have cancelled all our conventions in 2023. Around 20 of 75 meets this year were pending. We will use Zoom for these conventions," Jehovah's Witnesses spokesperson T A Sree Kumar told *The Indian Express*.

NARAYANAN S



NSG personnel at Samra Convention Centre, a day after the blasts, in Kalamassery on Monday. *PTI*

confessional video. After spending less than half an hour at that hotel, he turned up at Kodakara police station in Thrissur claiming responsibility for the blasts.

On Monday, police formally arrested Martin and booked him under the UAPA, the Explosives Act, and IPC sections 302 (murder) and 307 (attempt to murder). A

police team, led by ADGP (law and order) M R Ajith Kumar, questioned him Monday. Police were also looking into Martin's claims he planned and executed the blasts by himself, without any accomplices. Kochi City Police Commissioner A Akbar said: "There was sufficient ground to ascertain his role in the blasts."

Third casualty: 12-year-old girl succumbs to injuries

Thiruvananthapuram: On Monday, 12-year-old Libina succumbed to her burns, becoming the third person to die as a result of the blasts. She had sustained 95 per cent burns. Her mother Renna, and two brothers Praveen and Rahul were also injured in the blasts. Renna and Praveen are critical and are on life support systems.

The four of them, from Malayattoor in Ernakulam district, were sitting in adjacent seats at the convention centre in Kochi's Kalamassery when the blasts went off.

Family sources said Praveen, who works at a shipping firm in Chennai, had come home on leave for 10 days for the conven-

In season of farm fires, a small village in Punjab is bucking the trend

Ransih Kalan, a small village in Moga district home to 3,200 people, has taken several steps towards making the village environmentally sustainable

Postcard of HOPE

TRACKING CHANGE ON THE GROUND, EVERY MONDAY

RAAKHI JAGGA
LUDHIANA, OCTOBER 30

AT A time when farm fires are again dominating the discourse coming out of Punjab, a small village in Moga district has bucked the trend, effectively putting an end to stubble burning.

For the 3,200-odd residents of Ransih Kalan, though, this is just a small step in a long journey towards making the village environmentally sustainable. The village has, over the years, found ways to reuse sewage wa-

ter for irrigation, come up with creative solutions for plastic waste management, and even move towards ensuring the most marginalised have access to health insurance.

Last year, the village offered farmers Rs 500 per acre of their land if they refrained from burning stubble. "We also acquired several crop residue management machines for the panchayat and provided them free of cost to farmers with limited resources. Around 100 medium to small farmers benefit from this, and 25% of them own less than 2 acres of land," said sarpanch Kuldeep Kaur.

Kaur's son Preetinder Pal 'Mintu', who was the village sarpanch before her, said, "Not a single farmer resorted to stubble burning last year. We distributed reward money, reinforcing our commitment to

being eco-friendly."

In 2019, the central government had awarded the village the Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar, given to panchayats for outstanding contribution to socio-economic development. In 2020, the village got the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar for being the best at delivering services and public goods, innovative revenue generating schemes, and other markers.

"We don't wait for government funds. Our village comes together, with contributions from residents and support from a few NRIs, to initiate projects. When the government supplements these efforts with additional funds, it accelerates our projects," said Kaur.

Paramjeet Singh Bhullar, the village development organiser in



Panchayat's ration camp where sugar and jaggery are offered in exchange of plastic waste. *Express*

the Panchayat department, describes Ransih Kalan as a source of inspiration, with "self-motivated individuals who readily act on innovative ideas". Deputy Commissioner of Moga, Kulwant Singh, said they are hoping that

this year, too, the village will see zero farm fires.

Some of the village's other initiatives include:

Saving water

The village began its journey

towards environmental sustainability a decade ago, when it started using treated sewage water to irrigate fields. It has 1,300 acres of farmland, primarily dedicated to wheat and paddy cultivation, with a smaller portion of about 50 acres used for maize and various seasonal vegetables. Almost 100 acres of agricultural land benefit from treated water for irrigation.

Baljinder Singh, a farmer with about five acres of land, said: "I have decreased the use of urea in my field since I started using that water." Other steps include residents being given 20-litre cans to collect condensation from air conditioners or excess water from RO systems. In addition, Ransih Kalan maintains two lakes for rainwater harvesting.

Managing plastic waste

The village is set to get a plas-

tic waste management unit worth Rs 16 lakh, likely to be unveiled next month. It will be run by the panchayat and was funded by the Centre under the Swachh Bharat mission.

The unit will help turn plastic waste into items such as water pipes, chairs, stools, and more, which can then become a source of revenue for the village, Mintu said.

Village residents have already made recycling a habit — to encourage recycling, the panchayat used to offer sugar and jaggery for plastic waste. Roughly a quintal of waste a month was then sent to a Ludhiana-based factory for recycling.

And much more

The village has come up with several other initiatives to improve residents' welfare. These

include a health insurance scheme for poor families in which a nominal fee of Re 1 is collected from each family for medical cover of Rs 1 lakh. The initiative launched three years ago has benefited 85 families so far.

There is also a widow pension scheme that provides Rs 750 per month to beneficiaries from underprivileged families. Currently, 75 women benefit from this.

Last year, the panchayat introduced a tree plantation scheme, distributing 1,000 fruit plants among villagers and providing Rs 100 per month to incentivise their maintenance. These plants, including guava, jamun, and mango trees, grace houses, fields, roads, and various public spaces.

The village is already planning its next initiative — a plan to convert organic solid waste into manure for agricultural use at a large scale.

Mitti Ko Naman, Veeron Ko Vandan

MERI MAATI MERA DESH

Amrit Kalash Yatra and Amrit Mahotsav
Closing Ceremony

31st October, 2023 | 4:00 pm

Kartavyapath, India Gate, New Delhi



"The Meri Maati Mera Desh campaign is going to further strengthen our sense of unity and integrity. I am confident that under this Amrit Vatika will be created from the soil collected from across the country, which will realise the vision of Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat."

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Foundation stone of
Amrit Mahotsav Memorial & Amrit Vatika
and
Inauguration of
Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) portal

'Mera Yuva Bharat' is an autonomous body that will serve as an overarching enabling mechanism powered by technology for youth development.

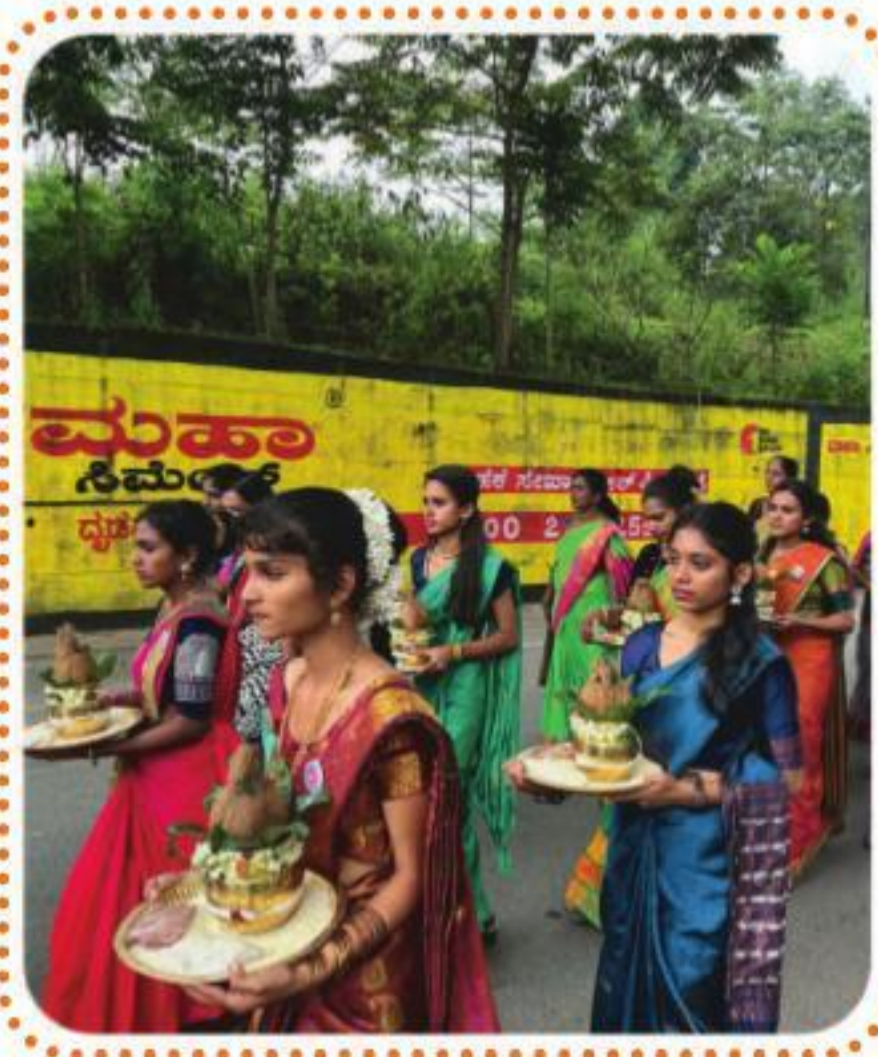
by

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Event highlights

Panch Pran Pledge

Amrit Awards



All are invited!

▶ Watch the live telecast on DD News

BJP ex-MP's son dies at Lucknow hospital, UP govt orders probe

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 30

THE UTTAR Pradesh government on Monday ordered a high-level probe into the death of the son of a former BJP MP at Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS) in Lucknow, over the family's allegations that the death occurred due to "lack of timely assistance from staff, who cited unavailability of a bed in the emergency ward."

The patient succumbed on the hospital premises on Saturday late evening.

The government also relieved the doctor, who it said on Monday was "prima facie found guilty", from his services at the institute and also issued a warning to its director in connection with the matter. SGPGIMS director prof RK Dhiman was unreachable for comment on Monday.

Around 11 pm on Saturday, former MP from Banda Bhairon Prasad Mishra, arrived at the emergency ward with his son Prakash Mishra (40), who suffered from a kidney ailment, as his condition was deteriorating. It is alleged that the staff on

duty at the time refused admission to him (Prakash), citing "unavailability of a bed".

Around an hour after arrival, Prakash died.

The former MP then staged a 'dharma' at the institute, drawing the attention of the authorities. The protest was called off after SGPGIMS director prof RK Dhiman reached the spot and assured him of action. The institute has formed a three-member committee to look into the matter, sources said.

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak, who holds the health portfolio, posted on X on Monday, citing the developments in the case, saying that a warning has been issued to the Director, PCI, to ensure that such incidents do not recur in future.

On Monday, UP Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya visited the former MP's residence in Chitrakoot.

He informed Bhairon Prasad Mishra that an inquiry has been ordered into the matter and action would be taken on the basis of the report.

Maurya was accompanied by senior BJP leaders and government officials.

CM JAGAN DECLARES EX-GRATIA FOR KIN OF DECEASED, INJURED

Young parents, newly-wed among the dead in Andhra train accident

SREENIVAS JANAYALA
HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 30

AMOTHER of two young children, an electrical worker just five minutes away from his stop, a recently married sales executive — all were among the 14 people who died when two passenger trains collided in Andhra Pradesh's Vizianagaram on Sunday night.

Challa Satish, 29, got married just six months ago. A sales executive at a Visakhapatnam jewellery store, he was on board the Visakhapatnam — Rayagada Passenger Special train that collided with Visakhapatnam — Palasa Passenger.

His family remembered him as a lively person who loved to dress up. "It was heartbreaking to tell the news to his newly-wed 25-year-old wife," said C Raju, his cousin. On Sunday, he was going to Vizianagaram for a temple festival. "He was supposed to come by Coramandel Express Sunday, but left early," Raju said.

For Kanchubarakavi Ravi, 35, an electrical worker, tragedy struck just five minutes before he would have gotten off at Alamanda station. He had parked his motorbike at the station to go to Visakhapatnam for some purchases. "He pampered our two daughters like anything. They were looking forward to coming back home," his wife, Kumari, said. "I don't know how to tell the children," his cousin, K Anand, said as he wept.

Gidijala Lakshi, 39, was returning to G Sigadam in Srikakulam from Visakhapatnam, where she had gone for a family function. "Many of us returned in our cars or took the bus, but my aunt and a few others took the train.



Andhra CM Jagan Mohan Reddy with a child injured in the train accident at a hospital in Vizianagaram on Monday.

She leaves behind two young children. Her husband is beside himself with grief," Santhosh, her nephew, said. Andhra Pradesh CM Y Jagan Mohan Reddy has visited the injured at the Vizianagaram government hospital.

He declared an ex-gratia of Rs 10 lakh to the kin of deceased, and Rs 2 lakh to the injured from the state, along with Rs 2 lakh each to the kin of deceased from other states, and Rs 50,000 each to the injured from other states.

Day after, train services resume

SUJIT BISYOI
BHUBANESWAR, OCTOBER 30

TRAIN SERVICES on the Chennai-Howrah route, disrupted for over 18 hours following a collision between two trains in Andhra Pradesh's Vizianagaram district Sunday, resumed Monday after restoration work on the affected lines.

More than 50 trains faced cancellation and several other trains were diverted following the accident.

"Both the up and down lines of the track have been made fit in terms of engineering (track repair work) and OHE (electrical work). A goods train was allowed to run on the down line while Bengaluru-bound Prashanti Express passed through the accident-affected line. We hope train services will get normalised gradually," said Biswajit Sahu, chief public relations officer (CPRO), East Coast Railway.

More than 800 people were engaged in the restoration work, Sahu said.

STUDENT SLAPPING INCIDENT

Decide on sanction to prosecute school teacher: SC to UP govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

THE SUPREME COURT on Monday directed the Uttar Pradesh government to immediately decide on granting sanction to prosecute a school teacher accused of instructing her students to slap a Muslim classmate for failing to complete his homework.

The top court was informed that section 295A of IPC, which deals with deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs, has been invoked against Tripti Tyagi, the teacher, and second proviso of section 75 of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 (JJ Act).

The second proviso of section 75 of the JJ Act pertains to the offence of assault or abuse upon a child, causing the minor unnecessary mental or physical suffering, by any person employed by or managing an organisation, which is entrusted with the care and protection of the child.

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Pankaj Mishra, after per-

rusing the affidavit filed by Meerut Range IG told the state government in its order "to immediately take decision on the request for grant of sanction" for prosecution under section 295A.

"When it comes to the future of the victim child and his welfare, the state cannot treat the litigation as adversarial," it said. The top court was hearing a plea filed by Tushar Gandhi, the great-grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, seeking speedy probe.

Justice Oka referred to the assertions made in the affidavit of the victim's father that the child is "severely traumatised". SC asked Additional Solicitor General KM Nataraj, appearing for the UP government, to take instructions on the availability of expert agencies like NIMHANS (National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences) and Tata Institute of Social Sciences, which can go to the victim's village and counsel him and the other children involved.

It posted the matter for further hearing on November 6, saying the court will "threadbare" examine the affidavits filed by the state.

PLEA AGAINST INDIA ACRONYM

Can't regulate political alliances, EC tells HC

MALAVIKA PRASAD
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

THE ELECTION Commission of India (ECI) has told the Delhi High Court that it cannot regulate political alliances under the Representation of the People Act, in response to a plea against using the acronym INDIA (Indian National Development Inclusive Alliance) by 26 Opposition political parties.

The poll body, in its affidavit, said its authority to "regulate matters concerning elections in the absence of any contrary law in force" is to be exercised in accordance with the law passed by Parliament.

The affidavit submitted that the ECI has been vested with the authority to register the association of bodies or individuals of a political party in terms of Section 29A of the Representation of People Act.

"Notably, political alliances are not recognised as regulated entities under the RP Act or the Constitution," the affidavit submitted.

The poll body also relied on a 2021 decision of the Kerala High Court in Dr George Joseph Themplangad v Union of India

ECI in its affidavit aren't recognised as regulated entities under the RP Act or the Constitution

& Ors, which had held that political alliances are not legal entities and there are no statutory provisions mandating the ECI to regulate their functioning.

The ECI has, however, clarified that its response is limited to its role and should not be construed as an expression of the poll body on the legality of the usage of the INDIA acronym by respondent political parties. The plea is listed for hearing on Tuesday.

The plea sought a direction to the respondent political parties prohibiting them from using the acronym. It further sought a direction to the Centre and the ECI to take action against the parties for using the same.

The plea stated that the respondent parties are trying to use the name of the country as an acronym for their alliance which may lead to "political hatred, and which can eventually lead to political violence".

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

18TH HONOUR TITLE DAY: 141 FIELD REGIMENT (KARGIL)



Capt PV Vikram, SM



DMT Jugal Ramesh

On the occasion of 18th Honour Title Day of 141 Field Regiment (KARGIL) on 31 Oct 2023, the Commanding Officer, all ranks, their families and the Buzurgs of the unit pay homage to the martyrs who have made the supreme sacrifice for the Nation during 'OP VIJAY'. Their valour & heroism continues to inspire all of us. All ranks of 'TEAM KARGIL VICTORS' pray to ALMIGHTY to grant eternal peace to the departed souls. We also pledge to take the name of the unit to even greater heights and glory in the times to come.

CO & All Ranks 141 Field Regiment (KARGIL)

झारखण्ड सरकार ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग

मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय 102, द्वितीय तल्ला, अभियंत्रण भवन, कचहरी रोड, राँची

ई-अल्पकालीन पुनर्विनिर्माणा आमंत्रण सूचना
ई-अल्पकालीन पुनर्विनिर्माणा संख्या:- 327/RI/2023-24/RWD/RANCHI दिनांक :- 28.10.2023
मुख्य अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, झारखण्ड, राँची द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र० सं०	आईडी-नं० संख्या / प्रोजेक्ट संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्राकृतिक राशि (रूपये में)	अक्षर में	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	टेंडर कोड नं०
1.	RWD/RANCHI/21/2022-23	दालमिल गली से बन्दरोखर तिवारी के घर होते हुए ब्रोजेस तिवारी, शैलेंद्र सिंह, अनुज तिवारी से अमरेश सिंह के घर तक पथ निर्माण कार्य (लं - 1. 100 कि०मी०)	1,26,64,339.00	एक करोड़ छब्बिस लाख चौसठ हजार तीन सौ उनवालीस रु० मात्र	09 माह	द्वितीय

वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि:- 09.11.2023
ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय:- 22.11.2023 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक।
निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय:- 23.11.2023 अपराह्न 3.30 बजे।
निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता:- मुख्य अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, 102, द्वितीय तल्ला, अभियंत्रण भवन, कचहरी चौक, राँची, झारखण्ड, पिन- 834001
ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं०:- 0651-2913010
विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।

PR 310132 Rural Work Department(23-24).D
Stressed Asset Management Vertical
603 B, Konnectus Tower, Bhav Bhuti Marg, New Delhi - 110001
E-mail: ubid0906089@unionbankofindia.bank
Contact No. - 98996 55255, 99714 20066

Appendix IV (Rule - 8 (1)) POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property)
Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of Union Bank of India, Stressed Asset Management Branch, New Delhi, Unit No.603 B, Konnectus Tower, Bhav Bhuti Marg, Opp. New Delhi Railway Station, Ajmeri Gate Side, New Delhi-110001 under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 17.07.2023 calling upon the Borrower M/s Era Infra Engineering Limited, Guarantor Shri Hem Singh Bharana, and Corporate Guarantors M/s Lead Financial Services Limited, M/s Nurray Realtech Pvt. Ltd., M/s Headway Buildcon Pvt. Ltd., M/s Desert Moon Realtors Pvt. Ltd., M/s Paulo Realtech Pvt. Ltd., M/s Yarikh Realtors Pvt. Ltd. & M/s Zedek Realtors Pvt. Ltd. to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 2390,99,53,951.32 (Rupees Two Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Nine Crore Ninety Nine Lakh Fifty Three Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Nine and Paise thirty Two only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules on this 26th day of October the year 2023.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Union Bank of India for an amount Rs. 2390,99,53,951.32 (Rupees Two Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Nine Crore Ninety Nine Lakh Fifty Three Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Nine and Paise thirty Two only) and interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to the borrower to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

- Land admeasuring 28 Kanal 03 Marla of Kheawat No.319, Khatluni No.383 Mustali No.4, Kila No.10(9-2), 11/1 (5-19), 26(0-8), Mustali No.5, Kila No.6(11-4-14), 15(8-0) Total Kita 5 rakba 28 Kanal 3 Marla at Village Dhanwapur Tehsil and District Gurgaon, Haryana owned by M/s Desert Moon Realtors Pvt.Ltd.(As per Sale Deed)
- Land measuring 35 Kanal 05 Marla of Kheawat No.396, Min Khata No.522, Min Mustali No.51, Kila No.18(7-10), Kita 1, Rakba 7 Kanal 10 marla and Kheawat No.480, Min Khata No.623 Min Mustali No.51 Kila No.13(2 (0-18), 19(12-12), 19(25-8), 20(1(1-0), 22(8-0), 23(1(1-16), 24(7-11), 29(0-10) kita 8 Rakba 27 Kanal 2 Marla out of these two Kheawat i.e. 4 Kanal 19 Marla and 2 Kanal 7 Marla i.e. 3 Kanal 5 Marla at Village Daulatabad Tehsil and District Gurgaon, Haryana, duly registered as document No.28191, Book No.1, Vol./Jild No.12985 page 34 pasted in Addl.Book No.1 Vol./Jild No.1853, Page 41 to 42 dated 09/11/2012 in the office of Sub-Registrar, Gurgaon owned by M/s Nurray Realtech Private Limited. (As per Sale Deed).
- Land measuring 04 Kanal 12 Marla 7 Sarsai of Kheawat No.127, Khata NO.146, Mustali No.51, Kila No.3(1(2-17), 7(8-0), 8(8-0) and Kheawat No.129 Khata No.148, Mustali No.51, Kila No.14 (7-10), Kita 4 Rakba 157/1054 portion of 26 Kanal 7 Marla i.e. 3 Kanal 18 Marla and 5 Sarsai, and Kheawat No.90, Khata No.104, Mustali No.51 Kila No.3(2(4-5), Kita 1 rakba 4 kanal 5 Marla and Kheawat No.89 Khata No.103 Mustali No.51 Kila No.4(7-2), Kita 1 rakba 7 kanal 2 Marla out of these two Kheawat i.e. 1/16 portion of total 11 Kanal 7 Marla i.e. 0 Kanal 14 Marla 2 Sarsai, Thus, total land sold in 4 Kanal 12 Marla 7 Sarsai at Village Daulatabad Tehsil and District Gurgaon, Haryana, duly registered as document No.13199, Book No.1, Vol./Jild No.12966 page 95 pasted in Addl.Book No.1 Vol./Jild No.1497, Page 12 to 13 dated 08/08/2011 in the office of Sub-Registrar, Gurgaon owned by M/s Nurray Realtech Private Limited. (As per Sale Deed).
- Land measuring 04 Kanal 0 Marla in favour of first party i.e. from Kheawat No.394, Khatluni No.520, Mustali No.52, Kila No.4(7-2), Kita 1, 15/142 portion of rakba 7 Kanal 2 Marla i.e. 0 Kanal 15 Marla and Kheawat No.477 Khatluni No.519, Mustali No.51 Kila No.1(1 (4-0) and Mustali No.52 Kila No.5(7-12), 6(8-0), 7(1(4-15), 14(7-12) Kita 4, 64/629 portion of rakba 31 Kanal 19 Marla i.e. 3 Kanal 5 Marla. Thus, total land exchanged in favour of first party is 4 Kanal 0 Marla at Village Daulatabad Tehsil and District Gurgaon, Haryana, duly registered as document No.20414, Book No.1, Vol./Jild No.12975 page 87 pasted in Addl. Book No.1 Vol./Jild No.1662, Page 07 to 8 dated 13/10/2011 in the office of Sub-Registrar, Gurgaon owned by M/s Nurray Realtech Private Limited. (As per Sale Deed).
- Freehold land measuring 04 Kanal 02 Marla (0.5125 Acres) of Kheawat No.271, Khatluni No.330 Mustali No.5, Kila No.16(1/2 (4-2) at Village Dhanwapur Tehsil and District Gurgaon, Haryana owned by M/s Headway Buildcon Pvt.Ltd. (As per Sale Deed).

Date: 26.10.2023, Place: Delhi **Authorized Officer, FOR UNION BANK OF INDIA**

Government of Maharashtra Public Works Department P. W. Division, Panvel

Telephone No. 022-27452778
E-Tender Notice No. 112 (Open ONLINE) Year - 2023-24
E-mail address : panvel.ee@mahapwd.gov.in Fax Number : 022-27467440

(2nd Call)
EXECUTIVE Engineer P. W. Division Panvel invite B-1 Tender From Registered Contractor with Govt. of Maharashtra Detail Tender Notice Available on www.mahapwd.gov.in and www.mahatenders.gov.in in Portal.

Note : Total 1 Work include in Tender notice.
Online Tender Download & Bid Preparation Period Date 30.10.2023 at 10:00 A.M. to Date 13.11.2023 18:00 P.M.
Online Tender Bid Preparation Last Date 13.11.2023 at 18:00 P.M.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
P. W. Division
Panvel

E-Tender/O. No./P.W./P.N/I/
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Public work Division, Panvel.
Dist. Raigad
Date :
DGIPR/2023-24/4527

WESTERN RAILWAY - VADODARA DIVISION

OPEN 'E' TENDER NOTICE

Tender No. EL/TRD/Tender/23-24/20R, Tenders for and on behalf of The President of India are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Electrical Tr.D) Western Railway, Pratnagar, Vadodara - 390 004 for the following works. Sr. No.1 - Tender No. & Name of Work: EL/TRD/Tender/23-24/20R, Vadodara Station- Addition and alteration in OHE in connection with direct connectivity to Line no. 6 and 7 from main line towards Surat end with related OHE auxiliary work. Approximate cost of the work: ₹ 2,82,01,663/- Bid security: ₹ 2,91,000/- Cost of Tender documents and completion period: Completion period 12 months. Tender scheduled on: Tender closing date 29/11/2023 and time of closing at 15:00 hrs. on the same date. Web page particulars and notice for location where complete details can be seen & address of the office and clarification: Web site @ www.ireps.gov.in Divisional Railway Manager (Electrical Tr.D) Western Railway, Pratnagar, Vadodara - 390 004
EL/TRD/Tender/23-24/20R dtd. 27/10/2023. 216
Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly)

S. E. RAILWAY TENDER

E-Tender Notice Nos.: (1) CKP-SUTH-23-24-33.. (2) CKP-SUTH-23-24-35, (3) CKP-SUTH-23-24-36, (4) CKP-WEST-23-24-27, (5) CKP-WEST-23-24-28, dated 27.10.2023. Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), South Eastern Railway, Chakradharpur for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders against open tender for the following work. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. S.No., Name of works: (1) Barajamda Jn.-Gua. - CTR(S) - 2.269 Tk. Barajamda Jn.-Bolanihadan - CTR(S) - 0.937 Tkm under jurisdiction of DEN/South/CKP in Chakradharpur Division. (2) Repairing of Septic tank, Sewer pipe, Toilet floor, WC pan, Sewerage drain, Backside drain, damaged Ciyard wall, Ciyard Door, surroundings of septic tank floor, wall plaster, debris removal, individual boundary wall and other miscellaneous works of staff quarters at Bolanihadan under jurisdiction of DEN/South/CKP. (3) Closure of manned LC RBK-16 by providing diversion road to adjacent LHS at RBK-15 in section CBSA-SIPA under DEN(South)/CKP. (4) Miscellaneous repair work at Kendriya Vidyalay Jharsuguda. (5) Garposh-Tangarmunda - Construction of additional water way Bridge of size 3x5 m x 6.5 m at km 462/17-19 in between GPH-TGM station. Tender Value : ₹ 66,81,080.37 (for Sl.No. 1), ₹ 2,05,05,814.94 (for Sl.No. 2), ₹ 86,36,014.78 (for Sl.No. 3), ₹ 30,19,286.41 (for Sl.No. 4) & ₹ 17,01,74,581.24 (for Sl.No. 5). EMD : ₹ 1,33,600/- (for Sl.No. 1), ₹ 2,52,500/- (for Sl.No. 2), ₹ 1,72,700/- (for Sl.No. 3), ₹ 60,400/- (for Sl.No. 4) & ₹ 10,00,900/- (for Sl.No. 5) Cost of tender form : ₹ 0.00 for each. Date of opening : 21.11.2023 for each. The tender can be viewed at the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> The tenderer/bidders must have Class-II Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered under on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering. Note : e-Tender forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenderers (Authority - Rly. Bd.'s letter no. 2020/CE-ICT/3/E/GCC/Policy dttd. 16.07.2020). (PR-753)

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Dy. Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/Gati Shakti/Northern Railway/MB acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders in Two packet system from the experienced and established contractors having sufficient experience in similar work and satisfying minimum eligibility criteria for the under noted work:

Tender No./Date	SnT-GSU-MB-07-2023-24 dated: 30/10/2023
Name	"Provision of Double Distant in connection with Speed raising in work MB-SRE section over Moradabad Division."
Completion Period	11 (Eleven) months
Advertised Value (₹)	₹17,85,77,545.84/- (Rs. Seventeen Crore Eighty Five Lakh Seventy Seven Thousand Five Hundred and Forty-five and Paise Eighty Four Only)
Earnest Money (₹)	₹10,42,900/- (Rs. Ten Lakh Forty Two Thousand Nine Hundred Only)
Validity of Offer	90 days from the date of opening of tender
Date/Time of Tender Submission and Tender Opening	Tender can be uploaded from 07.11.2023 to 21.11.2023 up to 15:00 hrs. on the website of IREPS at www.ireps.gov.in and the tender will be opened on 21.11.2023 at 16:00 hrs.
Details of Tender Notice and Form	Detailed tender information and tender will be available on the website of IREPS at www.ireps.gov.in from 30.10.2023 to 21.11.2023 and e-tender can be uploaded from 07.11.2023 to 21.11.2023 up to 15:00 Hours.

The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian railways E-Procurement system (IREPS) site, i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system. For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. No manual offers are acceptable. No.: Dy.CSTE/GSU/MB/Publication-07/23-24 Date: 30.10.2023 3382/2023 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/General, North Western Railway, Bikaner for & on behalf of the President of India, re-invites/Re-invites E-tenders for the following work. 1. Complete details of tenders can be seen on Website No.: <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. 2. Date & time of closing of e-tenders : 20.11.2023 at 15:00 hours. 3. Date & time of opening of e-tenders : After 15:00 Hrs on 20.11.2023.

Tender Notice No.	Name of Work	Approx. Cost of the Work	EMD/SD (Rupees)
14-EI-BKN-E-TENDER -23-24R	Electrical work in connection with provision of Simultaneous reconnection and dispatch facility by realignment of main line at Dulmiera station and extension of length at track machine siding to utilize as shunting neck at Mahajan station and provision of two full length running lines for stabilizing the coaching rakes at Bikaner East Station over Bikaner Division.	₹ 4189206.00	₹ 83800.00
15-EI-BKN-E-TENDER -23-24R	Electrical work in connection with soft up gradation by improvement of SIRSA station, interlocking and up gradation of 2 Nos. of Manned LC gates (LC-49 & 50) between Bhiwani-Manheru section and shifting of temporary LC gate, other utilities for construction of ROB at LC no. 85 on Bhalinda - Suratgarh section over Bikaner Division.	₹ 2315710.00	₹ 46300.00
16-EI-BKN-E-TENDER -23-24R	Electrical work in c/w provision of ORH of 03 suites at BTK for BKN division officials under ADE/N-BKN and provision of ORH of 02 suites at HSR for BKN division officials under ADE/N/SSA and provision of Hall for UPRMS at BKN.	₹ 855615.00	₹ 17100.00
21-EI-BKN-E-TENDER -23-24	Provision of 10 kWp solar power plant with battery backup at 25 railway stations (Total capacity 250 kWp) and integrated solar roof platform shelters and up gradation and conversion of 10 kWp solar power plant from off grid to on grid hybrid type.	₹ 39312194.03	₹ 346600.00
23-EI-BKN-E-TENDER -23-24	Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) of Two Lifts (one each at PF-2/3 and PF-4/5) of HSR Way Station under SSE/Elect/Power/HSR for three years.	₹ 667152.00	₹ 13400.00

All above tenders Tender Documents Cost: Nil 1136-AK/23
Follow us : [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/NWRRailways) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/NWRRailways) [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/NWRRailways) [Twitter](https://www.twitter.com/NWRRailways)

DELHI ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Viniyamak Bhawan, C-Block, Shivalik, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi-110 017
Website: www.derc.gov.in
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TENDER NOTICE

REFERENCE DERC PUBLIC NOTICE DATED 21/09/2023 REGARDING APPOINTMENT OF C&G EMPANELLED AUDITORS FOR VERIFICATION, RECONCILIATION & FINALIZATION OF ENFORCEMENT SALES OF DISCOMS FOR THE PERIOD FY 2007-08 TO FY 2021-22
A corrigendum to subject bid document has been issued and uploaded on DERC website based on pre-bid meeting held on 19/10/2023. Accordingly, last date of bid submission is extended till 24/11

DECISION 2023

CHHATTISGARH • MADHYA PRADESH • MIZORAM • RAJASTHAN • TELANGANA

INTERVIEWS: CM BHUPESH BAGHEL, EX-CM RAMAN SINGH

'I stand between Adani and the mines ... fighting those who want to sell the state'

'High command decides if to declare a CM face... But party has said polls are being fought under CM's leadership'

NEERJACHOWDHURY
RAIPUR, OCTOBER 29

WALK INTO the visitors' room in Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's Raipur home and you cannot help but notice the pictures and artefacts there. They sum up his politics.

There are photographs of Rahul Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi. There are pictures of Jawaharlal Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi, signifying the Congress's past, and a picture of the Chhattisgarh Mahtari, a respected mother figure wearing a traditional green sari and holding paddy and a sickle. She has, in the recent past, been popularised as the symbol of "Chhattisgarhi identity", a counter to the BJP's Hindu nationalism. An ornate statue of a cow and a calf stands in a corner, reflecting not just the state's agrarian rural economy but also the Hindu touch that Baghel has brought to his welfare schemes.

In an interview, Baghel talks of the challenges before him ahead of the elections. *Excerpts:*

Why has the Congress not declared a CM candidate?

You are asking the wrong person. You should pose this question to the (party) high command. To declare a CM candidate is in their hands. However, the party general secretary-in-charge of Chhattisgarh (Kumari Selja) has already made it clear that the election is being fought under the leadership of the CM.

The BJP has accused you of large-scale corruption, liquor and betting scams etc.

In 2020, I-T (Income-Tax Department) raided many (people close to Baghel). They found no substance in it (the charges). Then came the ED (Enforcement

Directorate) raids. Now, it is the CBI. For three years, they have been investigating. Why don't they give it to the Interpol?

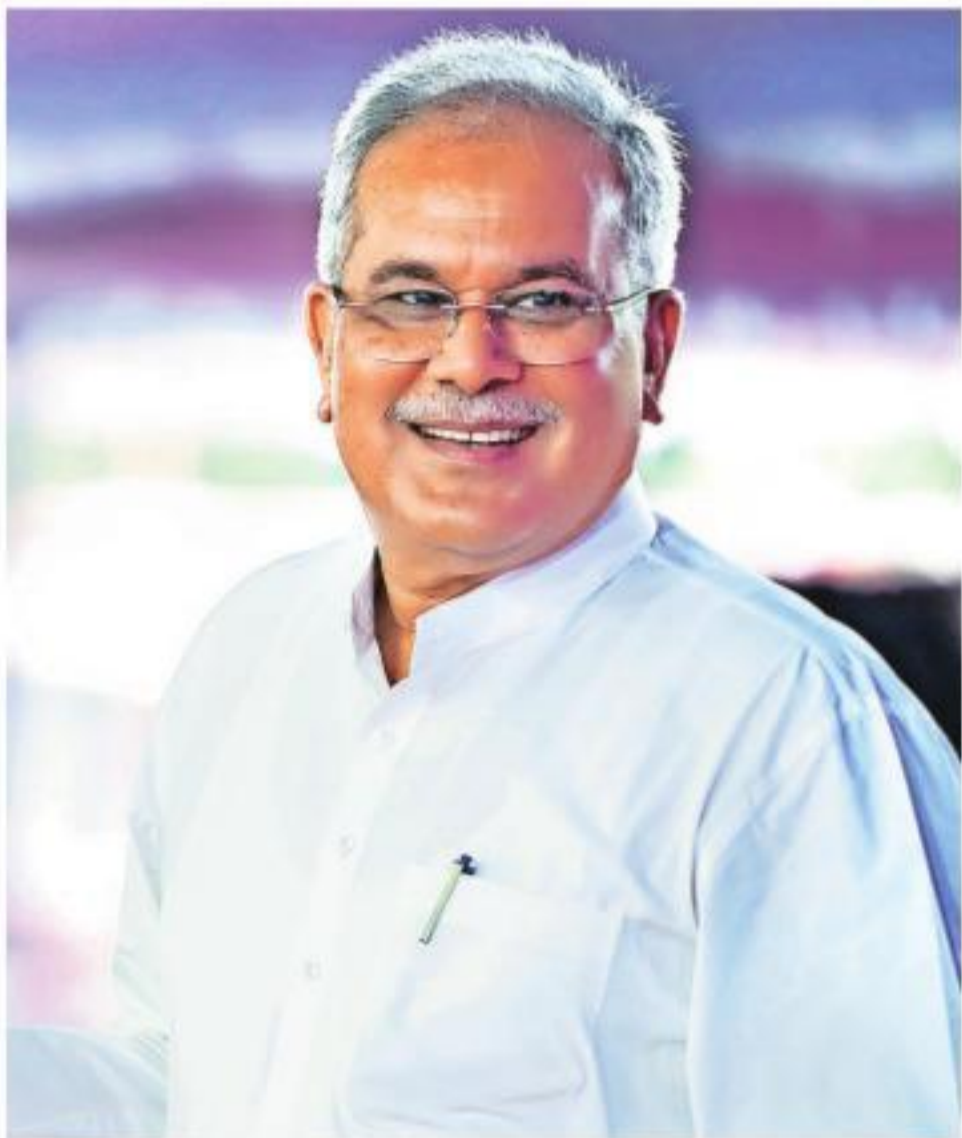
My government has been investigating the Mahadev app issue. But why is the Central government not banning *satta* (betting)? Many states are charging GST on it. As for the liquor scam, they changed the policy in Delhi. We didn't change the policy here. We carried on with Raman Singh's policies.

Then the so-called Rs 550 crore coal scam. In Chhattisgarh, only one or two mines are private. The rest are owned by the Centre. If coal has been stolen here, forget arrests, why has the government not even called officials of the SECL (the publicly owned South Eastern Coalfields Ltd) for interrogation? Two months ago, the SECL gave a coal mine in Raigarh to Adani. (The SECL signed an agreement with an Adani Group company to operate a mine under a Mine, Developer and Operator Mode.) The BJP threatens that they will hang me upside down. *Adani aur khadan ke beech maen Bhupesh Baghel khada hua hai* (Bhupesh Baghel stands between Adani and the mines)... The fight is between those who want to sell Chhattisgarh and those who want to save it.

You have been accused of not checking religious conversions in the state.

One of my ministers (Kawasi Lakhma) has announced that if they can prove even one conversion in the last five years, he will quit politics. The maximum number of churches were built during BJP rule. I have said repeatedly that the believers come before their *astha ke kendra* (places of worship).

You have also been accused of



Baghel has invoked Chhattisgarhi regionalism against the BJP's Hindutva pitch. *Facebook*

following soft Hindutva.

This is your language — soft and hard. We are following the way of life of Chhattisgarh. We are getting the Chhattisgarh Olympics done and a Ramayan Mahotsav, among other things. Ramayan is there in every village. Ram is seen as a *bhanja* (nephew) here. An uncle touches the feet of the *bhanja* here, seeing Ram in him. This is about Chhattisgarhi culture and identity. We are not talking of cow and Ram alone.

Your first decision after coming to power last time was implementing a loan waiver for farmers. This time, too, the party has made a slew of promises.

We have already made three announcements. When Rahulji (Rahul Gandhi) was here, he announced a caste census. I announced an increase in the

amount of *dhaan* we buy from 15 quintals an acre to 20 quintals. When Priyankaji (Priyanka Gandhi Vadra) was here, we announced the building of 17.5 lakh homes.

The Other Backward Classes (OBCs) are the name of the game now. How do you see them driving the politics of the future, for, after all, you are from an OBC community?

I see things from Chhattisgarh's perspective, from a helicopter, not a plane that flies at a higher level.

What we have done here is for the *kisan*, and every group comes under the overarching category of *kisan* — Adivasis, backward castes, upper classes, and Scheduled Castes.

'I won't refuse it (CM post), but not actively seeking it'

NEERJACHOWDHURY
RAJNANDGAON, OCTOBER 29

"WHERE HAS Dr Raman Singh disappeared?" In the last four years, this question often cropped up during conversations in Delhi. There was virtually no sign of the man who ruled Chhattisgarh from 2003 to 2018. Singh is back in the limelight after being fielded from his home turf Rajnandgaon, which votes in the first phase on November 7. Many of Singh's ministerial colleagues whom he had retained during his three terms in office have also been given tickets. For many, it is a sign that Singh could well be the party's choice for CM if it is elected to power as no other "*chehra* (face)" in the BJP can match him.

Soft-spoken and not pushy, Raman Singh, whose house in Sun City in Rajnandgaon is suddenly bustling with activity, answered questions on a host of subjects during an interview. *Excerpts:*

Who will be the CM if the BJP comes to power? It is the party that has to decide. We will have a meeting.

What about you? If the party gives me a chance, *inkar nahin hai* (I won't refuse). *But agrah bhi nahin hai* (I am not actively seeking it either).

Many of your people have been given tickets and this has led to speculation that you might return as CM...



Singh is the BJP's leading CM face. *Facebook*

The tickets have been given on merit and not at my suggestion.

It is being said that the BJP does not have a clear agenda to fight the Congress?

There are the promises made in our manifesto. *Inke hazaron crore ke ghotale hain* (there are scams worth thousands of crores in which this Congress government is involved). There is the Mahadev *ghotala* (betting app scandal)... We have criticised the government over the liquor scam and corruption.

Why do you feel you lost five years ago?

People felt *sarkar badal kar dekhien* (let's change the government and see). Bhupesh (Baghel) was the gainer.

If you come to power, what decision will you take first?

Firstly, the party has not projected me as the CM. But I can say that our government will decide to build 16 lakh homes that Bhupesh Baghel has not completed and we will give these to people denied housing.

I HEREBY DECLARE

PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL, 63
Union Minister of State, contesting for the BJP from MP's Narsingpur

MOVABLE ASSETS (including of spouse)

₹ 2.23 CRORE

IMMOVABLE ASSETS ₹ 6.7 CRORE including agricultural, commercial and residential properties

LIABILITIES: Rs 1.42 crore

SOURCE OF INCOME: Agriculture, MP salary

EDUCATION: B.Sc. from Government Science College Jabalpur, LL.B. from Rani Durgavati University Jabalpur

In Madhya Pradesh, why BJP has brought out the Ram Mandir card as poll battle heats up

LALMANI VERMA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

THE AYODHYA Ram temple inauguration in January was expected to give the BJP a leg-up in next year's parliamentary elections. Meanwhile, it has already become a poll issue in neighbouring Madhya Pradesh, where the ruling party is battling anti-incumbency.

Last week, the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the temple's consecration ceremony, which is expected to take place on January 22 next year. Days later, hoardings proclaiming the construction of the "Bhavya Ram Mandir" and calling for the return of the BJP propped up across Madhya Pradesh. With

the temple's image in the backdrop, these hoardings had the photos of Modi, BJP president J P Nadda, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, and BJP state president V D Sharma.

The Ram Mandir has also figured in the poll speeches of top BJP leaders. Modi on Friday said in Chitrakoot that the temple was on the verge of completion and it was his great privilege to be invited for the consecration ceremony. The following day, Union Home Minister Amit Shah accused the Congress of hindering the temple's construction.

"When I was the BJP president, Rahul *baba* (Congress leader Rahul Gandhi) used to mock us saying, '*Mandir wahi banayenge, par tihi nahi batayenge*' (we will build the temple there but won't give out the consecra-



Hoardings proclaiming the construction of the "Bhavya Ram Mandir" have propped up across Madhya Pradesh. *Express*

tion date'). Now we have built the temple and also have given the date," Shah said at a rally in Junnardeo in Chhindwara district, the turf of Congress Madhya

Pradesh president Kamal Nath. The BJP's move is a response to the Congress's "soft Hindutva" strategy. In its manifesto released on October 17, the party prom-

ised to start the development of a "Shri Ram Van Gaman Path" and restart the construction of a Sita temple in Sri Lanka. The party has also promised to install a statue of Ram's friend Nishad Kevatraj in Chitrakoot.

In a post on X on Vijaya Dashami, Kamal Nath quoted a *chaupai* from Ramayan — "*Ja par krupa Ram ki hai, ta par krupa kare sab ko*" — to reassure the public that a Congress government would leave no stone unturned for the uplift of "*aastha* (faith)" and "*sanskriti* (culture)".

On Saturday, V D Sharma said the Congress in essence was against "Ram, Hindutva, and Sanatan Dharma" "The Congress has demanded to get these hoardings removed... This is the basic character of the Congress," he said.

ELECTION IN NUMBERS

38.2%

The Congress's combined vote share in the 2018 polls across the five states was 38.2%, compared to the BJP's at 32.6%

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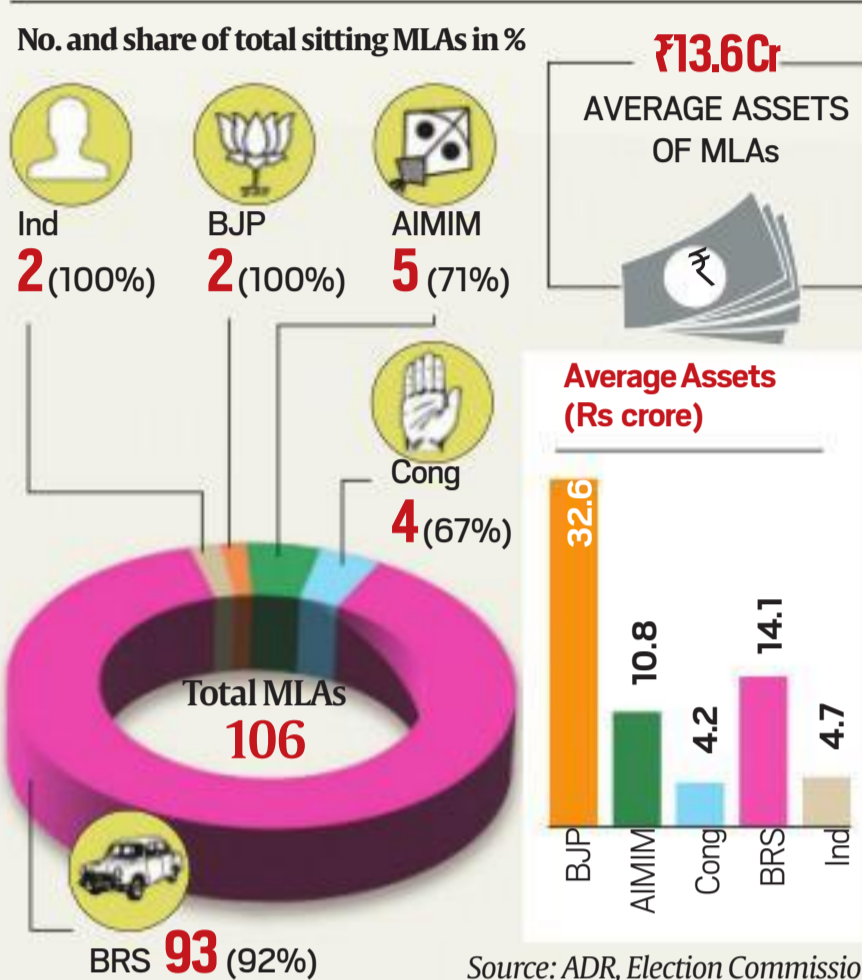
KEY PLAYERS

THE KING, THE CHALLENGER, THE CRITIC, THE 'PROF': CONG FACES

IN CHHATTISGARH, RAHUL GANDHI PROMISES MORE BENEFITS TO FARMERS

NUMBER SPEAK

TELANGANA: PARTY-WISE CROREPATI MLAs



Telangana polls: Can Bandi Sanjay Kumar avoid a hat-trick of losses in Karimnagar?

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 29

WITH ONE a fiery former BJP state chief and the other a heavyweight state minister, the battle for Karimnagar in the Telangana Assembly polls next month has all the ingredients to be a nail-biting one.

Karimnagar will see a direct fight between former state BJP chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar and Gangula Kamalakar, the Minister for Backward Classes Welfare, and Food and Civil Supplies.

Kumar is the MP from the Karimnagar Lok Sabha seat, having won for the first time in 2019 on back of the pro-Modi wave to build 16 lakh homes that Bhupesh Baghel has not completed and we will give these to people denied housing.

In a post on X on Vijaya Dashami, Kamal Nath quoted a *chaupai* from Ramayan — "*Ja par krupa Ram ki hai, ta par krupa kare sab ko*" — to reassure the public that a Congress government would leave no stone unturned for the uplift of "*aastha* (faith)" and "*sanskriti* (culture)".

On Saturday, V D Sharma said the Congress in essence was against "Ram, Hindutva, and Sanatan Dharma" "The Congress has demanded to get these hoardings removed... This is the basic character of the Congress," he said.

VOTE SHARES

Party	2014	2018
BRS	40.92	40.71
BJP	27.80	33.18
Cong	27.21	19.86

Source: Election Commission

feat Kumar, who had polled 52,455 votes (27.8%), by a margin of 24,754 votes. In 2018, he polled 80,983 votes (40.71% vote share) to again beat Kumar, who polled 66,009 votes (33.18%), with a margin of 14,974 votes. In 2018, both Kamalakar and Kumar received more votes than in 2014. While Kamalakar's vote share declined marginally, Kumar's rose by 5.38%.

BJP leaders said Kumar, with his strong pro-Hindu image, was popular in the Karimnagar City area while Kamalakar's grip was over Karimnagar Rural and Kothapalli, the two other areas of the constituency. Kamalakar also derives core support from the youth among the backward classes in the district.

In the seven Assembly segments under the Karimnagar Lok Sabha seat — Karimnagar, Chopadandi (SC), Vemulawada, Sircilla, Manakondur, Huzurabad and Husnabad — only Huzurabad has a BJP MLA.

INTERNAL STRIFE

In battle for tribal vote in Malwa-Nimar, BJP and Cong both encounter rebels

ANAND MOHAN J
JHABUA, OCTOBER 30

AS SENIOR Congress leader and ex-Union minister Kantilal Bhuria steps out of his house in Jhabua in Madhya Pradesh, a boisterous crowd rushes to him chanting his son Vikrant Bhuria's name.

Vikrant, 39, is contesting on the Congress ticket from the ST (Scheduled Tribe)-reserved Jhabua seat. Kantilal, the incumbent MLA, says: "Slogans are fine, but you need to support us."

A surgeon by training, Vikrant is facing a stiff challenge in Jhabua in the tribal-dominated Nimar belt, where the Congress has been beset with dissension. He lost the seat in the 2018 polls due to party leader Xavier Meda's rebellion. His father got the seat back in a

2019 bypoll.

In the coming election, the BJP has fielded lawyer Bhanu Bhuria from Jhabua, who is also grappling with rebellion as Som Singh Solanki, the party's district general secretary, is in as an Independent.

In 2018, one of the reasons the Congress came to power was the inroads it made into the BJP bastion of the Malwa-Nimar region, which accounts for 66 of the state's 230 seats. Of the 22 tribal-dominated seats here, the Congress won 14 seats, and the BJP 7. In 2013, the BJP had won 15 seats, the Congress 6.

The BJP has grappled with widespread internal protests with aspirants in six seats resigning from the party over ticket denial. The Congress is also facing disgruntled activists in a slew of seats, with resignations being reported

from five seats.

In fact, Kantilal himself had turned a rebel and fought as an Independent from Jhabua in 2003, which had then led to the Congress candidate's defeat.

In 2008, Meda had won from Jhabua. He lost in 2013. Meda then turned against Kantilal, alleging that the latter encouraged his niece Kalavati Bhuria to contest as an Independent, which led to his defeat. Meda fought the Jhabua seat in 2018 as an Independent. The BJP's G S Damor trounced Vikrant by 10,437 votes. Meda got 35,943 votes, damaging Vikrant's prospects.

In 2019, Damor vacated the seat after he got elected to the Lok Sabha from Ratlam, defeating Kantilal, who then went on to wrest Jhabua from the BJP with Meda's backing after ex-



Shanti Damor, 65, complains of poor infrastructure in Jhabua

chief minister Kamal Nath placated him.

Meda was elevated to the post of the state Congress general secretary early this year, and was ex-

pecting a ticket. Vikrant has spent the last few years criss-crossing MP as the state youth Congress chief. He hopes his focus on youth issues will pay off. To counter

Meda's rebellion, the Congress has been trying to wean away his core supporters.

Vinay Bhabore, the local Congress councillor, said, "We have managed to get some local leaders from his camp by promising them plum postings. That should blunt his support."

A former Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) district president, Bhanu is close to Damor and senior party leaders such as Kailash Vijayvargiya. Bhanu conceded that the party rebels might damage his prospects.

Madhya Pradesh has one of the largest tribal populations in the country, with 46 tribes recognised as STs. Three among these fall under the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG). Out of its 52 districts, the

state has six "fully tribal", while another 15 are "partially tribal".

Ever since the BJP toppled the Kamal Nath government to return to power in early 2020, it has been making attempts to woo the tribal community, which makes up 21% of the population. The outreach was necessitated by the party's poor performance in the tribal seats.

In the 2018 polls, the BJP could win only 16 of the 47 ST-reserved seats. The Congress won 30.

The BJP has been trying to win back tribal support through its development programmes. The party has also been celebrating tribal icons.

The Congress has also upped its efforts to retain its tribal support base, and has promised it will implement provisions of the

Sixth Schedule of the Constitution in certain tribal belts.

On the ground, the pace of development in tribal areas seems to be moving at a snail's pace. Electric poles have been erected but the wires are missing. New water pipes lie on the ground in every village, waiting for installation. Shanti Damor, 65, said the local school is located about 6 km away and there are no Anganwadi centres near her home. "The water supply is so irregular that our crops were destroyed," she said.

In Pipaliya village, two brothers, Dinesh and Damu, are returning home with their ox. They say they are unsure about the candidates. "There is so much confusion. Till last day we can't say what will happen," Dinesh said.



The Indian EXPRESS

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RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

A statesmanship vacuum

By their lack of politically imaginative responses, states are pushing their societies deeper into the abyss



PRATAP BHANU MEHTA

ON THE BRINK

It is incumbent on Israel to respect and heed UN caution that ‘even war has rules’

AS ISRAEL INTENSIFIES its ground offensive, the reports coming out of Gaza tell disturbing tales of a deepening humanitarian crisis. Neighbourhoods that have been reduced to rubble; the injured and the dead, among them children not yet in their teens, in hospitals that have little to no resources to carry out treatments or treat death with dignity; a blockade that has severely limited access to aid, potable water, food, medical equipment and fuel. It amplifies the voice of reason in the UN's repeated appeals for balance: That the “appalling attacks” by Hamas on October 7, that left 1,400 dead and 220 Israelis taken as hostages, does not justify the “collective punishment of the Palestinian people”. And that an immediate humanitarian ceasefire, together with the release of Israeli hostages and the passage of aid to Gaza, is of primary and urgent importance.

Israel has expressed outrage over the UN's statements on its action in Gaza, but it is time for it to step back. Indeed, there can be no overlooking the “violations of international humanitarian law” in Gaza. With a total area of 360-odd sq feet that is home to 2.3 million people, the Gaza Strip is one of the world's most densely populated areas. It is also a place of undeclared incarceration, from where people caught in the fray between Hamas and the Israeli forces have little chance of escaping. Since the Israeli pushback began, the UN has pegged the number of displaced Palestinian people at over a million. A recent update from the Gaza health ministry has pegged the number of those dead at over 8,000.

The narrative of retribution seldom acknowledges the fact that an eye for an eye makes the world blind. Hamas' act of violence needs the strictest condemnation and the West and India have all spoken unequivocally against the atrocity. But it is also incumbent on Israel to respect the UN's calls for a ceasefire and its caution that “even war has rules”. Imperative military action can never degenerate into indiscriminate reprisals against civilians. Israel only needs to look at the US's long war on terror after 9/11 in Iraq and Afghanistan and draw upon its past experience with Hamas, Hezbollah and Palestine Islamic Jihad outfits to realise that violence only begets more violence. It is here that Israel's friends and allies, including India, have a role to play. With India's new foreign policy pragmatism in West Asia and its ability to bring together disparate voices, it should leverage its relationship with both Israel and the Arab world to work towards peace. For two peoples caught up in historical animosity, one of the hardest tasks is to break the chain. It is time for all parties to pull back from the brink before the conflict in West Asia descends further into catastrophe.

A BAD INFLUENCE

SEBI orders on finfluencers point to need for ensuring flow of accurate financial information, safeguarding investors

LAST WEEK, THE Securities and Exchange Board of India barred Mohammad Nasiruddin Ansari, a financial influencer, from dealing in the securities market. The stock market regulator also ordered Ansari to pay back Rs 17.2 crore which he had allegedly made by luring clients through “misleading/false information” and “influencing” them to deal in securities. This is, however, not a one-off. In May, P.R. Sundar, another financial influencer, settled a case with SEBI, agreeing to refrain from buying/selling securities for a year. The SEBI order in that case also required the payment of a settlement amount, and disgorgement of more than Rs 6 crore. These orders indicate the stock market regulator's determination to act against unregistered investment advisors, and reflect the hardening of norms for financial influencers.

Financial influencers, or finfluencers, are those who provide financial advice and recommendations on social media platforms to investors. This category of influencers has gained prominence in recent years, more so during the pandemic, as retail investor participation in the markets soared during this period. However, the explosion in this category of influencers has brought with it a host of issues. It attracted a set of self-styled experts, with little knowledge of the workings and intricacies of markets. In their desire to gain eyeballs, to get people to subscribe for their services, and to monetise them, some of these influencers resort to exaggerated clickbait-y claims. Following their advice has at times been to the detriment of novice investors. Concerns have also been voiced that these individuals, whose track record is often difficult to independently verify, have resorted to unethical means of pushing stocks down the throats of gullible investors. The incentive structures of these finfluencers, some of whom work on commissions, and their relationships with various brokerages, are also controversial.

The stock market regulator has been highlighting, and rightly so, the concerns surrounding finfluencers. It had issued a consultation paper with the objective “to restrict the association of Sebi registered intermediaries and regulated entities with unregistered finfluencers”. However, influencers can also play a role in the dissemination of financial education and advice to those not well versed in financial markets, products and services. Over the coming years, as the economy grows in size, as more and more individuals channel their money into the stock markets, ensuring the flow of accurate financial information, educating investors and ensuring their protection will be of critical importance.

A PRACTICAL MAN

Mario Vargas Llosa says he will not write novels any more.

It is entirely in character

GIVE OR TAKE the infamous punching incident that ended his friendship with fellow Latin American great Gabriel Garcia Marquez in 1976 — reportedly over an affair — Nobel-Prize-winning Peruvian writer Mario Vargas Llosa has rarely been one for impracticality. The writer has now announced that his latest novel, *Le dedico mi silencio* (I Give You My Silence), a tribute to Peru and its distinctive musical tradition, will be his last. At 87 years, time is no longer an ally he can count on. He would, instead, continue working on shorter pieces, including an essay on his teacher, Jean-Paul Sartre.

Through the seven decades of his literary career, that began with the publication of *La ciudad y los perros* (The Time of the Hero, 1963), Llosa has been a tour de force for his originality and his larger-than-life personality. One of the architects of the Latin American Boom in the 1960s and '70s, the writing of Llosa, Marquez, Mexican author Carlos Fuentes and the Argentinian Julio Cortázar, among others, ushered in a modernism that was both deeply political and avant garde in its narrative conventions. Llosa's novels such as *Conversación en la catedral* (Conversation in The Cathedral, 1969), *Pantaleón y las visitadoras* (Captain Pantoja and the Special Service, 1973), *La guerra del fin del mundo* (The War of the End of the World, 1981) examined power and its ability to corrupt and the steady incursions on liberal values by authoritarian regimes.

In 1990, 10 years before his Nobel win, Llosa ran for and lost the presidential elections in Peru. Interestingly, over the years, his own engagement with politics has moved across the spectrum from radical left to a centrist right. Like his recent decision, here, too, Llosa would cite practicality as his guide to choosing “the lesser of two evils”. It has been, in a sense, the central theme of his life — the ability to grasp the tenor of the moment and move with it.

IT HAS BEEN 24 days since the barbaric Hamas attack on Israel. Two hundred-odd hostages are still captive. This has been followed by an unprecedented slaughter by Israel of innocent Palestinians in Gaza with the prospect of worse to come. But amidst this carnage and heightened political risk of a wider conflict, there is not one significant world leader who is acting in a way that is not morally myopic or politically ill-judged.

Go down the list. The Biden administration's support for Israel is not surprising. But its embrace of Netanyahu, its utter lack of self-reflection on how we came to this pass, its lack of sincere interest in any political solution, its shocking “Othering” of the humanity of Palestinians — both by consistently casting doubt on Palestinian casualty figures and ruthlessly accepting collateral damage — is deeply alienating. In response to a question of whether wars in Ukraine and Israel were more than the US could take on at the same time, President Biden replied, “We are the United States, for God's sake, the most powerful nation in the world, not in the world but the history of the world.” Powerful rhetorical flourish. But it forgot the fact that all the power has meant in the last few decades is the ability to absorb the cost of repeated failure — from Iraq to Afghanistan. But this is not a power that has been deployed for a credible, just and lasting peace anywhere of late.

Iran always has maintained an infrastructure of violence that has served its political purposes but destroys the societies in which they are embedded, from Palestine to Lebanon. The Arab regimes have nurtured the Palestinian cause as a pretext, but have little concern for their welfare. The gap between Europe's perception of its own importance and its power has never been greater; Macron's civilising mission is now reduced to simply curbing free discussion on the Palestine issue and Germany's idea of moral nuance is to de-platform Palestinian writers.

Russia has ruthlessly fomented violence in the region, including brutally in Syria. Turkey is more interested in using Palestine for its neo-Ottoman fantasies. As for the rest of the world, it was important that the UN

General Assembly at least make a humanitarian gesture asking for a ceasefire. But it is a toothless advisory and not a single country has an action plan to stop the unfolding carnage in Gaza. It was also a misjudgement not to pass a resolution condemning Hamas. This is not because a ceasefire in Gaza should be linked to condemning Hamas, or for the sake of neutrality or two-sidedness. But condemning Hamas is the morally right and the politically prudent thing to do. China can at best watch from the sidelines; at worst smell an opportunity in the self-destruction of the West. As for India, one anecdote will suffice. I was at an international meeting recently, where someone, not unsympathetic to India, asked this question: “India claims to be the leader of the Global South. But let us ask the question, ‘who is following it?’”

In the West, this lack of statesmanship will have domestic consequences. Often support for, or involvement in, ill-thought wars leads to a loss of trust and polarisation. The Iraq war led to a huge loss of trust in the liberal establishment in the West. In a proximate sense, the West did not start this one. But it is deeply implicated in how this war goes. The loss of trust in these governments is increasingly palpable. President Biden's ratings are falling, and he has deeply alienated sections of his own party. But more importantly, the fissures in civil society will begin to take on dimensions that will be difficult to control. There is a heightened risk of a rise in both anti-Semitism and Islamophobia as extremist ideologies use the war to confirm their own agendas, or as groups get trapped in their own worst fears of persecution. Some of the pathologies of civil society discourse, excessive emphasis on Schadenfreude, exposing hypocrisy, virtue signalling, simplistic diagnoses and occasionally even ill-thought platforming of extremism, do not by themselves pose a danger. But they induce heightened nervousness at this moment because these are symptoms of societies where there is very little meaningful scope for political action on war. They can also be a danger, when these pathologies get empowered by a lack of statesmanship. It leads to a breakdown of empathy between citizens, traps

them in vulgar binaries of group identity that make palpable human suffering of others invisible. This portends an even deeper demise of liberalism.

All of this is a shame since there is one silver lining at this moment. Partly as a result of cultural changes in the West, it has become impossible to make the Palestinian issue invisible — the mass protests across the world testify to that. Full credit where it is due: The kind of analytical criticism of the Netanyahu government (and its complicity with Hamas) you find in Israeli writers and journalists puts the rest of the world's press to shame. In Gaza, according to polls, there was minuscule support for a military solution led by Hamas that would lead to the destruction of Israel. According to an Axios poll, there is a generational divide in most Western democracies on how the Israel-Palestine issue is viewed. This is not a symptom of the ignorance of the young, as much as it is a yearning for a fresh start.

But there is no statesman who can ride these currents to create new political openings. If we cut through over-sophisticated historical analyses, a vast majority of global public opinion will probably settle on three common-sense propositions: It is morally wrong to empower groups like Hamas. These are not freedom fighters, they are cults of violence. It is catastrophic and unacceptable to allow Israel to carpet bomb Gaza and potentially create the conditions for a second Nakba. And there can be no lasting peace without a workable two-state solution. What is striking is how many world leaders find an excuse to equivocate on the first or second of these propositions, and almost none want to use their diplomatic capital to create a global coalition on the third.

Governments across the world are out of sync with global public opinion. It is making most governments strange bedfellows of extremists. People don't destroy their societies. States do. By their lack of politically imaginative responses, states across the world are pushing their own societies deeper into the abyss — even as carnage unfolds in Israel and Palestine.

The writer is contributing editor, The Indian Express

THE ONE WITHOUT CHANDLER

Matthew Perry's life, death remind us of the make-believe, as we hope against hope



SANDIP ROY

FOR AN India opening up to the world in the '90s, the series *Friends* embodied something we were conditioned to think of as the life we needed to aspire to. Oh, to be young and white in Manhattan, to have lifelong friends and part-time lovers, live in adjoining apartments, drink endless cups of coffee and play endless games of foosball. It was the ultimate hangout comedy and we were all supposed to want to be as witty, as wisecracking and, let's face it, as white as them.

Friends star Matthew Perry's death in a hot tub turns that aspirational story into a cautionary tale as well. Perry's troubled trajectory was never a secret. In the foreword to his recent memoir *Friends, Lovers and the Big Terrible Thing*, co-star Lisa Kudrow says the first question people often ask about the series is “How's Matthew Perry doing?”

He lays it all out in the memoir in grim detail — a colon that exploded due to opioid abuse, years of addiction to pain-killers, two weeks in a coma and 15 stints in rehab. He was not chasing a high he told *The New York Times*. “I just wanted to sit on my couch, take five Vicodin and watch a movie.” He estimated his treatments cost \$9 million. He acknowledged most addicts would not have those resources but said they had something he never did — “the gift of anonymity.”

Stars of a series like *Friends* could never have anonymity. The whole point of the series was to set them up as the approachable next-door neighbours. Much of it has not aged well. It was not just the unbearable

whiteness of being *Friends*. There was fash-shaming at a time when few used the term, trans-mocking when transgender rights weren't part of public discourse. LGBT issues were the butt of lazy jokes despite little woke touches like a lesbian wedding (but no kiss allowed). It even had its *Kal Ho Naa Ho* (2003) Kantaben moment where the characters Ross and Joey freak out after they accidentally fall asleep on the couch together. “What happened?” Ross shrieks and then says “We fell asleep — that's all.”

Yet, despite all this, *Friends* remains exceptionally popular even in the age of cancel culture. San Francisco has a *Friends* experience “museum” that it hopes will help revitalise its downtown. The 25th anniversary in 2019 had a *Friends* light show on the Empire State Building in New York while Grammy winner Meghan Trainor sang their theme song “I'll be there for you”. No matter how much it's been trashed, *Friends* has survived in the fickle world of pop culture like few other shows. Other American shows have had more memorable characters (*Seinfeld*), longer runs (*ER*) and more critical acclaim (*Prasier*). But for those of us outside America, *Friends* felt like a slice of all-American pie.

It must have had something special which makes generations of viewers nostalgic for a ‘Friends’ reunion in a way they are not about a show like ‘ER’. They were monochromatic white but it was a well-meaning clueless kind of whiteness that threatened no-one. The homophobia was giggly rather than toxic and even LGBT viewers felt seen, kind of.

toxic and even LGBT viewers felt seen, kind of. They were charming but wilfully blind, self-obsessed New Yorkers. That descriptor probably fit Donald Trump in the '90s as well. But the self-deprecation saved *Friends* from becoming Trump. Perry's Chandler said “Hi, I'm Chandler. I make jokes when I'm uncomfortable.” Trump would never be as vulnerable.

The show exuded a kind of warmth that we all wished we had in our lives. We, too, wanted to have close-knit friends who had all the time in the world for us and would always be there for us. That bond was so special I remember cringing when they introduced romance into the series. I was afraid the friendship would not survive the romance. That's when I realised I was rooting for friends, not lovers. The death-do-us part friendship of *Sholay* (1975) or *Anand* (1971) that Bollywood gave us was operatic, something to admire, but out of reach. This friendship had the easy comfort of purani jeans. We wanted to slip into their lives.

At its best, *Friends*, despite its comedy, filled some essentially lonely corner in our lives. Perry's troubled life, during *Friends* and after, reminded us that it was, in the end, all make-believe. But we still sang the theme song, hoping against hope that our friends, too, would be there for us. And these *Friends* will, at least in reruns.

Roy is a novelist and the author of Don't Let Him Know

OCTOBER 31, 1983, FORTY YEARS AGO

TURKEY EARTHQUAKE

A SEVERE EARTHQUAKE jolted eastern Turkey killing at least 500 people, injuring hundreds more and destroying more than 50 villages. Provincial officials estimated that the final death toll will top 1,000. The quake struck Erzurum province, the second largest town in eastern Turkey with a population of 8,00,000. The tremor measured at least six on the Richter scale.

INDIA DISSAPPOINTS

THE INDIAN MIDDLE-ORDER batting did not prosper even under the most favourable conditions against the West Indies. Two blatantly

faulty decisions by umpire Dotiwala, against Dilip Vengsarkar (159) and Ravi Shastri (49), notwithstanding, they could muster only 165 runs from 44.1 overs (average 3.7 runs per over) and raised their total from 299 for three wickets overnight to 464 at the Ferozshah Kotla stadium in New Delhi.

BOUNDARY TALKS

THE FOURTH ROUND of official-level talks between India and China concluded with both sides agreeing to consider rival approaches for resolving the long-standing boundary dispute between the two countries. While a settlement of the dispute is still distant, it is significant that China has agreed

to consider India's sector-by-sector approach and India has agreed to consider — if not accept — China's much talked about package plan.

AKALIS' NO TO PROPOSAL

AKALI DAL CHIEF Harchand Singh Longowal bluntly turned down Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's offer to refer the territorial dispute including that of Chandigarh, Abohar and Fazilka to a tribunal to settle the Punjab tangle. Talking to reporters in the Teja Singh Samundri Hall, Longowal said, “Chandigarh always belongs to Punjab. It was built for Punjab. And the claim of Punjab on Abohar and Fazilka can never be doubted...”



13 THE IDEAS PAGE

To clear the air

Health consequences of air pollution cannot be mitigated by personal protection measures alone. Clean public transport and rapid transition away from fossil fuels are needed



K SRINATH REDDY

A RECENT REPORT of the Air Quality Life Index (AQLI), published by Michael Greenstone from the Energy Policy Institute of the University of Chicago (EPIC), estimated that Indians were losing 5.3 years of life expectancy on average due to the health effects of air pollution. The estimate for Delhi was worse, with life lost estimated to be 11.9 years. Apart from the impact on early death, high levels of disability and chronic illness are the penalties that polluted air levies for our folly of fouling the environment.

Delhi features at the top or near the top of the world's most polluted cities, with Wuhan and Lahore sometimes relieving us of the dubious distinction of wearing the carbon crown. However, Delhi is not alone among the Indian cities. In a 2022 list of the 50 most polluted cities put out by IQAir, a Swiss air quality information platform, 39 of them are Indian. Rural areas too are not free of pollution, as dust from unpaved roads and smoke from burnt biomass fuels meet fossil fuel emissions of vehicular intrusions from encroaching modernity.

Pollutants that are monitored for air quality include particulate matter less than 10 and 2.5 microns per cubic metre (PM 10 and PM 2.5 respectively), nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide, ozone, ammonia and lead. Besides these, benzene and formaldehyde from wildfire emissions can lead to cancer. Cadmium too is an air pollutant, especially from cigarette smoke. "Fine particulate pollution" refers to particles less than 2.5 microns being suspended in the air. There is growing concern about "ultra-fine particles" that are smaller than 0.1 microns in diameter and can bypass entrapment in the lungs to enter the bloodstream.

National air quality standards in India are less rigorous than the WHO's standards. For PM 2.5, the WHO sets a limit of 5 microns while India's limit is 40 microns. India's AQI has six categories: Good, satisfactory, moderately polluted, poor, very poor and severe. An AQI of 0-50 is rated as "good", while "severe" represents an AQI of 401-500. Delhi is presently rated as "poor" (201-300), with predictions of further worsening when crop burning commences.

Even when Delhi reports a level of 126, it far exceeds national and WHO standards. It must be recognised that health harms from air pollution occur at even lower levels than the national standard, with a continuum of rising risk as pollutant levels increase. Prolonged exposure to air pollution even at AQI levels declared as "satisfactory" will have adverse health effects. We must aim to bring them as close to the WHO standards as possible. Presently, 22 states meet the national standards of AQI, while 15 do not. None meet the pristine WHO standards.

Geographically, the landlocked Indo-Gangetic plain has the highest levels of pollution as it lacks the dispersal that sea breeze brings to coastal areas. The problem is exacerbated during the harsh winter that much of this region experiences, as cold air does not flow easily to disperse pollutants. When agricultural crop residue is burnt during this

period or when garbage is burnt by the urban poor to keep warm, a winter of discomfort ensues with very high AQI levels.

Sources of both ambient (outdoor) and household (indoor) air pollution are well recognised. Particulate matter comes from line sources (vehicles), point sources (power plants, factories), area sources (garbage dump sites, sewage treatment plants) and natural sources (forest fires, volcanic eruptions). Diesel fuel emissions, and road and construction dust are important contributors year-round, with stubble burning as a seasonal culprit. Household air pollution comes from the use of biomass fuels and open fire-cooking stoves. The sources of emissions vary across different regions of India and between urban and rural areas. Emission source apportionment and population exposure assessments are important for context-relevant control strategies.

Health harms of exposure to different pollutants are well documented in studies conducted in India and abroad. Acute effects like burning eyes, irritation of nose and throat, cough and feeling of choked breath are irksome but serious harm can arise from heart attacks and brain strokes, which are provoked when atherosclerotic plaques in blood vessels are disrupted by the pollutants, thereby triggering blood clots.

It is now known that long-term exposure to air pollution can raise blood pressure (hypertension), lead to cardiovascular, cerebrovascular and peripheral vascular disease, cause cancers, and raise the risk of diabetes, dementia and cataracts besides the well-recognised risks of chronic lung disease and asthma. Inflammation stoked by air pollution can damage many organs and lower immunity to infections. Particulate matter (PM 2.5) has been found in maternal placenta

and foetal brains. Exposure to air pollution during pregnancy increases the risk of stillbirths, neonatal deaths, low birth weight babies and birth defects. Children chronically exposed to air pollution have repeated respiratory infections, susceptibility to asthma attacks, lower learning ability and impaired physical growth. Personal protection measures have only a limited impact. Air purifiers work only in a closed room and may be best used to protect persons who are confined there because of severe illness or disability. Masks have to be of very high quality (N95) to offer protection against many pollutants. It is best to avoid or reduce outdoor activity during smoggy periods. Breathing exercises help to maintain lung function. More than these measures, the protection we need will come from clean transport (like electric vehicles), increased use of public transport in place of personal vehicles, rapid transition to renewable energy sources from fossil fuels, cessation of stubble and garbage burning, good construction practices and efficient debris disposal. Household air pollution is being addressed through the substitution of biomass with natural gas and better ventilation of kitchens. Ambient air pollution needs to be tackled with even greater vigour if many Indians are not to be confined to homes or hospitals because the air outside has hurt their health. Proactive public policy, effective enforcement, vigilant monitoring and adaptive innovations responsive to reliable and regular data flows are needed to clear the air, clean our lungs and calm our blood vessels.

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The writer is Distinguished Professor at PHFI and author, most recently of *Pulse to Planet: The Long Lifeline of Human Health*

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"We cannot expect to have steady economic growth when a significant part of our educated population is not able to take part in the process. We need to rethink our priorities and create the required space for our women so that they can take equal part in driving this country's growth upwards." —THE DAILY STAR

The household debt challenge

Regulators and lenders must work together, and quickly, to distribute the impact of the surge over time



NIKHIL GUPTA

ACCORDING TO THE RBI, household debt surged to 5.8 per cent of the GDP in FY23, marking the second-highest annual increase since Independence (the highest growth was at 6.7 per cent of GDP in FY07). Despite intense debate over the drivers of this surge, there is no discussion about the sustainability of such a rise in household debt. Of course, the massive growth in just one year is unlikely to lead to serious problems. The questions, therefore, are "how long can it sustain?" and "what is the threshold of household debt in India?"

One of the most widely used approaches to assess the sustainability of debt is examining the debt service ratio (DSR) of borrowers. DSR measures the proportion of the income used to repay the debt-related obligations. It is calculated as the ratio of interest payments and amortisations to income. A lower DSR indicates better sustainability and a more manageable level of household debt. The Bank of International Settlements (BIS) publishes quarterly data on household DSR for 17 advanced economies, but not on any developing country.

We need three variables to estimate DSR — debt-to-income ratio, residual maturity/tenure, and effective interest rate. The banking system accounts for more than four-fifths of household debt in India, while housing finance companies (HFCs) and other non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) account for approximately 10 per cent each. India's household DSR can be estimated by using the RBI data on interest rates of banks' loan portfolios and maturity profiles (and some assumptions for NBFCs/HFCs).

India's household debt-to-income ratio jumped to 48.1 per cent (assuming 15 per cent income growth) in FY23 from 42.2 per cent in FY19. With an effective interest rate of 10 per cent and a residual maturity of 5.3 years in FY23, the estimates suggest that the DSR of Indian households was approximately 12 per cent in FY23.

India's household DSR has been consistently increasing over the past two decades and is higher than that of most advanced economies. The DSR of Indian households was about 12 per cent over the past three years as compared to 11.4-11.5 per cent in FY19/FY20 and about 10 per cent a decade ago.

It is clear that a combination of higher interest rates and shorter debt tenure makes the DSR for Indian households notably higher, even if their debt-to-income ratio is less than 50 per cent. However, there is a positive aspect for India as household borrowing terms have improved over the past decade, with longer maturity periods (from 4.6-4.7 years a decade ago) and falling interest rates (from 12 per cent in

FY13 and FY14).

Moreover, Indian household DSR is similar to that of the heavily indebted Nordic countries (where household debt-to-income ratio is three-four times that of India's) and more than that in China (8.5 per cent), France (6.4 per cent), the UK (8.6 per cent), and the US (7.7 per cent) — all of which have household leverage of more than 100 per cent. The long-term median of household DSR in the 17 advanced economies for which the BIS provides data was 9.2 per cent, and the median DSR for 12 individual nations (out of 17) was less than 12 per cent. In fact, the maximum DSR witnessed in nine of these rich countries has never crossed 12 per cent in any quarter since 1999 (it was 11.6 per cent in the US in 2007). Only a handful of nations, such as Australia, Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, and Norway have a median household DSR above 12.5 per cent, with the highest median DSR of 17.3 per cent in Denmark (having a debt-to-income ratio of more than 180 per cent).

Using this information, one wonders if the DSR in India is already too high. Although 12 per cent DSR is high, we do not believe that Indian households have reached the threshold level. Doing a reverse calculation, and assuming 15 per cent as the threshold for household DSR, at the current interest rate and maturity, India's household debt-to-income ratio would be approximately 60 per cent.

Without any change in the effective interest rate and maturity profile, the sustainable level of India's household debt is about 60 per cent as compared to 48 per cent in FY23. At the current pace of growth in debt and income, Indian households would reach the threshold level over the next five to six years, that is, before the end of the decade.

One of the most effective ways to reduce the debt burden on Indian households and raise the threshold debt level is to increase the residual maturity profile of borrowers. An increase in the maturity by six months can push the threshold of household leverage by more than 4 percentage points of income. At the same time, a reduction in the effective interest rate by 1 pp raises the sustainable level of household debt by just 1.6 pp of income.

Therefore, the sustainable level of household debt-to-income ratio will reach 65 per cent, assuming 9 per cent interest rate and residual maturity of 5.8 years.

In India, household debt is increasing rapidly, with non-housing loans becoming more significant. That the RBI is drawing attention to this matter and cautioning lenders is a positive development. If this high growth continues for another two-three years, India may face a situation that will necessitate immediate action, hindering growth suddenly. Therefore, it would be preferable for regulators and lenders to collaborate as soon as possible to distribute the impact of growth over time. However, implementing this may be more challenging than simply stating it.

The writer is Senior Group Vice President, Institutional Research, Economist at Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd

70 hours to burnout

Narayana Murthy's advice is a recipe for stress, guilt and anxiety at workplace



PAROMITA CHAKRABARTI

THERE'S A MEME that never fails to provide wry cheer on bad days at work: A woman trying to keep her head above water, quite literally, while the accompanying text reads, "What it feels like trying to excel in my career, raise children, text people back, drink enough water and exercise."

It's one that is unlikely to appeal to Narayana Murthy, whose recent advice to young IT professionals on a podcast was to work 70 hours a week to address India's low productivity concerns and to meet the demands of momentous global changes in the coming decades. "Our culture has to change to that of highly determined, extremely disciplined and extremely hardworking people. That transformation has to come to youngsters because youngsters form a significant majority of our population at this point of time. They are the ones who can build our country, you know, with gusto," he said in the inaugural episode of 3one4 Capital's podcast 'The Record'.

Three years ago, Murthy had made a similar suggestion to revive the Indian economy by asking young people to work 60 hours a week. Women — single, married, young or middle-aged — are the least likely to survive in the demographic that the Infosys founder is exhorting to greater action, but we will come to that. Murthy is right on many counts: Nation building is hard work and it requires discipline

and determination. But a nation built on the labours of a work force struggling with high stress, low income and poor work-life balance makes for a precarious foundation. An International Labour Organisation report titled 'Working Time and Work-Life Balance Around the World', released in January this year and relying on data from just before the pandemic, found that people in South and East Asia have the highest average in weekly work hours. While the South Asian average was pegged at 49 hours per week for individual workers, the East Asian average was 48.8 hours. In contrast, North America registered 37.9 average working hours in a week and northern, southern and western Europe clocked 37.2 average working hours per week.

In developing nations, the metric of productivity places a premium on an employee's availability over the value of his contribution. It encourages a culture of FOMO, where presence is a validation of sincerity and intent. So while developed nations such as Belgium, France and Germany (whose post-World War II example Murthy evokes in his appeal) are experimenting with shorter weekly work hours, most Asian countries, including India, equate flexi-time or an employee's need for work-life balance with lower commitment — even competence. Irrespective of the toll it takes on mental health, family life or simply one's ability to engage, the message is clear:

Shape up or ship out.

In a country where the Prime Minister is set up as a benchmark for dedication for working 22 hours a day, this valorising of time spent at the workplace automatically tilts the balance away from the female workforce. A 24/7 work culture thrives on the assumption of a supervisory infrastructure to take care of all other aspects of an employee's life, freeing him up to devote himself to work. It works surprisingly well for men. The packed lunches that accompany them to the workplace, the missed PTMs that can be explained away by their irreplacability in the office, the doctors' appointments where they don't have to accompany elderly family members are concessions often unavailable to even the privileged among their female counterparts. It allows for unrealistic standards of professionalism, where female employees have to play catch-up. Those who match steps learn to speak the "language of men".

For women, more often than not, there is little to no untethered time. If you are young and new to the workforce, it could be the disproportionate responsibility of the menial tasks that come your way on the assumption that you have fewer other commitments; if you are older, the cycle of chores between home and the workplace presses down upon you in a relentless loop of fatigue, guilt and anxiety.

Yet, if there's anything that the two years of Covid-19 have shown, it is that that the workplace and the way one works have changed irreversibly. That though work necessitates structure and discipline, it is entirely possible to harness the potential of individual employees in better, more balanced, and mutually equitable ways. It requires practical expectations of each other and the creation, not the assumption, of a support mechanism for men and women. In her book, *My Life in Full: Work, Family and our Future (2020)*, former PepsiCo CEO Indra Nooyi made a case for job flexibility and remote work, "for everyone who needs it." She wrote, "This will give families the chance to take care of home life obligations during the workday without feeling loaded with emotional consequences."

Now, more than ever before, work cannot be a one-way street, turning its back on everything else in its focus on future accomplishments. There are lives to be lived, relationships to be nurtured, dreams to be chased. It's a memo lost on people like Murthy, whose own exceptional success predates a singular, unvarying belief in how it must be approached. Nation building requires hard work, discipline and determination. But it also necessarily requires an ability to move with the times.

Let me drink some work water to that.

paromita.chakrabarti@expressindia.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

KUDOS TO WINNERS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, '111 tales to inspire' (IE, October 30). The glittering performance of our para-athletes in the Asian Games at Hangzhou has made the nation proud. This was possible because of the financial support received through the process of careful selection, nurturing and training of athletes under devoted coaches and able supporting staff. The dedication and indomitable spirit of these champions will inspire all our budding sportspersons — especially those differently abled as they can now see themselves represented in these winners.

Subhash Vaid, New Delhi

NAWAZ'S CHALLENGE

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'An uneasy homecoming' (IE, October 30). To politically succeed in his fourth innings, Nawaz Sharif will need to resolve the issue of Pakistan's relationship with India. If he continues to insist upon an honourable solution to the Kashmir issue as a pre-condition for a reset then he is destined to fail one more time. For Sharif, the coming election will be the swansong of his political career. He needs to go to the people of Pakistan proclaiming a policy of peace with India that can guarantee the economic regeneration of Pakistan. If he succeeds in selling such a game-changing narrative, given Pakistan's precarious situation, the establishment will have no option but to fall in line.

Shubhada H, via email

INDIA'S UN STANCE

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Terror knows no borders, says India as it abstains on UN resolution on Gaza truce' (IE, October 29). It is regrettable that India did not support the UNGA resolution calling for a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas conflict. When hundreds of thousands of fleeing Gazans are deprived of even basic life necessities, our country should have ensured that global efforts of humanitarian aid reach unhindered. The increasing number of Palestinian casualties as a result of Israel's bombing has the potential to explode into a human tragedy like never before. Did PM Modi not tell Russia when it attacked Ukraine that "this is not an era of war"?

Kamal Laddha, Bengaluru

CIVILIANS' LOSS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The shifting meaning of terror' (IE, October 30). The writer has elucidated that unlike "war crimes" as defined in the international humanitarian law under the Geneva Convention, for internal and external armed conflicts by state or non-state actors, the term terrorism is mainly used for violence by the latter and is undefined. For instance, the Taliban's violent crusade for state power was labelled as an act of terror earlier, but now a similar action is at best labelled a violation of human rights. But almost all states have ingeniously normalised the idea of "collateral damage".

L R Murmu, New Delhi

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Table with 9 columns: S.No., Name of Work, Estimated cost put to the tender (Rs) (4+6), Cost of Work excluding Material testing charges (Rs) (4), Royalty (Rs) (5), Material Testing Charges (Rs) (6), Earnest money (Rs) (7), Security Deposit (Rs) (8), Time limit in calendar months (9), Cost of Tender Document With GST (Non Refundable) (Rs.) (10).

PIMPRI CHINCHWAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT TENDER NOTICE No. CIVIL/C/EHO/53/08/2023-2024

Offers by way of e-tendering (Percentage) are invited by the City Engineer, Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation from contractors in e-tendering system for following works.

Table with 9 columns: Sr. No., Name of work, Estimated cost put to the tender (Rs) (4+6), Cost of Work excluding Material testing charges (Rs) (4), Royalty (Rs) (5), Material Testing Charges (Rs) (6), Earnest money (Rs) (7), Security Deposit (Rs) (8), Time limit in calendar months (9), Cost of Tender Document With GST (Non Refundable) (Rs.) (10).

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Time table for the tenders shall be as follows (Below 25 CR) Online sale of tenders : Date : 31/10/2023 to Date - 16/11/2023 Last date of submission of tenders : Date : 16/11/2023 up to 3.00 pm Pre Bid Meeting Date & Time : Date : 07/11/2023 at 3.00 pm Place of Pre Bid Meeting : Office of City Engineer, 1st Floor, PCMC Main Building Pimpri, Pune - 411018 Date of opening of tenders : Date : 20/11/2023 at 3.00 pm (if possible)

Time table for the tenders shall be as follows (Above 25 CR) Online sale of tenders : Date : 31/10/2023 to Date - 20/11/2023 Last date of submission of tenders : Date : 20/11/2023 up to 3.00 pm Pre Bid Meeting Date & Time : Date : 07/11/2023 at 3.00 pm Place of Pre Bid Meeting : Office of City Engineer, 1st Floor, PCMC Main Building Pimpri, Pune - 411018 Date of opening of tenders : Date : 22/11/2023 at 3.00 pm (if possible)

The Municipal Commissioner PCMC reserves the right to accept or reject any tender partially or completely without any reason thereof. The details of above works, such as Security Deposit, Earnest Money Deposit, Terms & Conditions of the Tender and Schedule of works, are available on web site www.pcmccindia.gov.in, http://mahatenders.gov.in.

ADVT No. 363 Date : 27/10/2023 City Engineer Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation, Pimpri-411 018

UJVN Ltd. (An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprise) H.O. "UJJWAL" Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006 Telephone- 0135-2763508, 2763808 Fax: 0135-2763507 CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866 Website: www.ujvn.com

RO No. 1071 Tender Time Extension Notice-2 Date: 30.10.2023 Due to unavoidable circumstances the date of submission and opening of: NIT-12/EE(E&M)/MB-II/Barrage/2023-24

Last date of downloading the tender : 15.11.2023 upto 15:30 Hrs. Last date of submitting the tender : 15.11.2023 upto 15:30 Hrs. Due date for opening the tender : 18.11.2023 at 11:30 Hrs.

Office of the Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Rukhikulya Bahuda Vansadhara Nagavalli Basin, Brahmapur - 760004 e-mail: ce_rvn@yahoo.co.in

Table with 4 columns: Procurement officer, Bid Identification No., Bid Amount (Rs. in lakh), Availability & Submission of Bid On-line.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, KHORDHA (R&B) CIRCLE, KHORDHA WORKS DEPARTMENT

Memo No-2176 Dt. 17.10.2023 The Chief Construction Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE form eligible contractors for

Table with 2 columns: Name of Work, Bridge Works; No of work, 1 No; Tender Cost, Rs. 10000.00 (On-Line); Class of Contractor, Special & A Class; Available of Bid document, From 10.00 AM of Dt.31.10.2023 up to 05.00 PM in the Website; Date of opening of Bid, Dt.17.11.2023 at 11:30 AM

The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Website: https://tenderodisha.gov.in

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BOLANGIR 1st Corrigendum Notice No. 2634 dated: 26.10.23

Table with 6 columns: Sl. No. as per NIT, Name of the Work, Approx. Estimated cost excluding GST (Rs. in lakh), As per NIT EMD required (In Rs.), Revised EMD required (In Rs.), Name of Division.

N.B. - All other terms and conditions remain unchanged. Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer Rural Works Circle, Bolangir OIPR- 25118/11/0051/2324

Office of Mission Director, National Health Mission, Uttarakhand Health Mission, Uttarakhand Uttarakhand Health & Family Welfare Society, DoMHFW, Uttarakhand Govt. Danda Lakhond, Sahasradhara Road, Dehradun - 248001 Email-info.nhmuk@gmail.com Phone/ Fax - 0135-2608646

NOTICE INVITING TENDER Tender No.-1903/NHMUK/HR/2023-24/E13569(253A) Date-30/10/2023 The Mission Director, National Health Mission, Uttarakhand (Uttarakhand Health and Family Welfare Society), invites E-tenders from bidders for Hiring of Service Provider Firm for recruiting and managing Human Resources as per the requirement of National Health Mission, Uttarakhand.

HARYANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION BAYS NO. 1-10, BLOCK-B, SECTOR- 4, PANCHKULA

RESULT Haryana Public Service Commission has finalized the result for the recommendation of candidates for the posts of Assistant Scientist (Server and Data Security Management), (Advt. No. I612023), Assistant Scientist (Landuse) (Advt. No. 17/2023), Assistant Scientist (Soil), (Advt. No. 18/2023) & Assistant Scientist (Agriculture), (Advt. No. 1912023) in Haryana Space Applications Centre (HARSAC) in the Citizen Resources Information Department (CRID) Haryana.

- 1. Assistant Scientist (Server and Data Security Management) 2027 2. Assistant Scientist (Landuse) 3034 3. Assistant Scientist (Soil) 1037 4. Assistant Scientist (Agriculture) 1090

Note: 1. While preparing the result due care has been taken. error cannot be ruled out. The Commission reserves at a later stage. However, any inadvertent its right to rectify any error at a later stage.

Sd/- Deputy Secretary Dated: 30.10.2023 Haryana Public Service Commission, Panchkula

HARYANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION BAYS NO. 1-10, BLOCK-B, SECTOR- 4, PANCHKULA

RESULT Haryana Public Service Commission has finalized the result for the recommendation of the candidates for the posts of Post Graduate Teachers (PGTs) in the subject of Geography for Mewat Cadre, Advt No. 40/2023 dated: 24.06.2023. The result is as under:-

General 1113 Note: 1. While preparing the result due care has been taken. However, any inadvertent error cannot be ruled out. The Commission reserves its right to rectify any error at a later stage.

2. Recommendation made above is provisional and subject to verification of essential qualification/degree & caste certificates by the Technical Education Department.

Sd/- Deputy Secretary Dated: 30.10.2023 Haryana Public Service Commission, Panchkula 22339/HRY

MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD. GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

Regd. Office: Muthoot Centre, TC No 27/3022, Punnen Road, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India - 695001. CIN : U65929KL1997PLC011518, Ph: +91 471 4911400, 2331427

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that Gold ornaments pledged with under mentioned branches of the company for the period upto 31.12.2022 & MSGL, SPL-16, One plus, Guide Prepaid, Super value, ADGL and all other 6 months tenure Gold loans up to 31.03.2023 and MSGB, SME Suvarna & EMI due up to 30.09.2023 which were overdue for redemption and which have not been redeemed so far inspite of repeated notices, will be auctioned on 14.11.2023 from 10 am onwards.

BULANDSHAHR DISTRICT - BULANDSHAHR: F22736, F22772, F22786, F23050, F23060, F23124, F23148, F23189, F23218, F23219, F23221, F23227, F23243, F23267, F23321, F23323, F23330, F23332, F23342, F23364, F23418, F23427, F23463, F23491, F23516, F23534, F23570, F23599, F23605, F23647, F23669, F23676, F23682, F23721, F23731, F23733, F23762, F23779, F23785, F23793, F23795, F23796, F23822, F23825, F23826, F23836, F23848, F23853, F23875, F23881, F23884, F23892, F23899, F23902, F23903, F23905, F23923, F23927, F23938, F23941, F23956, F23960, F23974, F23975, F23981, F23982, F23985, F23990, F23991, F23998, F24002, F24016, F24018, F24030, F24034, F24037, F24039, F24041, F24045, F24053, F24076, F24079, F24085, F24085, F24093, F24100, F24102, F24103, F24106, F24118, F24123, F24124, F24125, F24129, F24131, F24132, F24134, F24135, F24136, F24138, F24139, F24144, F24153, F24155, F24156, F24161, F24166, F24170, F24171, F24173, F24174, F24185, F24187, F24191, F24192, F24193, F24197, F24199, F24201, F24218, F24221, F24222, F24223, F24230, F24231, F24232, F24233, F24234, F24235, F24236, F24237, F24238, F24239, F24240, F24241, F24242, F24243, F24244, F24245, F24246, F24247, F24248, F24249, F24250, F24251, F24252, F24253, F24254, F24255, F24256, F24257, F24258, F24259, F24260, F24261, F24262, F24263, F24264, F24265, F24266, F24267, F24268, F24269, F24270, F24271, F24272, F24273, F24274, F24275, F24276, F24277, F24278, F24279, F24280, F24281, F24282, F24283, F24284, F24285, F24286, F24287, F24288, F24289, F24290, F24291, F24292, F24293, F24294, F24295, F24296, F24297, F24298, F24299, F24300, F24301, F24302, F24303, F24304, F24305, F24306, F24307, F24308, F24309, F24310, F24311, F24312, F24313, F24314, F24315, F24316, F24317, F24318, F24319, F24320, F24321, F24322, F24323, F24324, F24325, F24326, F24327, F24328, F24329, F24330, F24331, F24332, F24333, F24334, F24335, F24336, F24337, F24338, F24339, F24340, F24341, F24342, F24343, F24344, F24345, F24346, F24347, F24348, F24349, F24350, F24351, F24352, F24353, F24354, F24355, F24356, F24357, F24358, F24359, F24360, F24361, F24362, F24363, F24364, F24365, F24366, F24367, F24368, F24369, F24370, F24371, F24372, F24373, F24374, F24375, F24376, F24377, F24378, F24379, F24380, F24381, F24382, F24383, F24384, F24385, F24386, F24387, F24388, F24389, F24390, F24391, F24392, F24393, F24394, F24395, F24396, F24397, F24398, F24399, F24400, F24401, F24402, F24403, F24404, F24405, F24406, F24407, F24408, F24409, F24410, F24411, F24412, F24413, F24414, F24415, F24416, F24417, F24418, F24419, F24420, F24421, F24422, F24423, F24424, F24425, F24426, F24427, F24428, F24429, F24430, F24431, F24432, F24433, F24434, F24435, F24436, F24437, F24438, F24439, F24440, F24441, F24442, F24443, F24444, F24445, F24446, F24447, F24448, F24449, F24450, F24451, F24452, F24453, F24454, F24455, F24456, F24457, F24458, F24459, F24460, F24461, F24462, F24463, F24464, F24465, F24466, F24467, F24468, F24469, F24470, F24471, F24472, F24473, F24474, F24475, F24476, 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HAPUR DISTRICT - FREEGANJ HAPUR: A319000108, A319000109, A319000110, A319000111, A319000112, A319000113, A319000114, A319000115, A319000116, A319000117, A319000118, A319000119, A319000120, A319000121, A319000122, A319000123, A319000124, A319000125, A319000126, A319000127, A319000128, A319000129, A319000130, A319000131, A319000132, A319000133, A319000134, A319000135, A319000136, A319000137, A319000138, A319000139, A319000140, A319000141, A319000142, A319000143, A319000144, A319000145, A319000146, A319000147, A319000148, A319000149, A319000150, A319000151, A319000152, A319000153, A319000154, A319000155, A319000156, A319000157, A319000158, A319000159, A319000160, A319000161, A319000162, A319000163, A319000164, A319000165, A319000166, A319000167, A319000168, A319000169, A319000170, A319000171, A319000172, A319000173, A319000174, A319000175, A319000176, A319000177, A319000178, A319000179, A319000180, A319000181, A319000182, A319000183, A319000184, A319000185, A319000186, A319000187, A319000188, A319000189, A319000190, A319000191, A319000192, A319000193, A319000194, A319000195, A319000196, A319000197, A319000198, A319000199, A319000200, A319000201, A319000202, A319000203, A319000204, A319000205, A319000206, A319000207, A319000208, A319000209, A319000210, A319000211, A319000212, A319000213, A319000214, A319000215, A319000216, A319000217, A319000218, A319000219, A319000220, A319000221, A319000222, A319000223, A319000224, A319000225, A319000226, A319000227, A319000228, A319000229, A319000230, A319000231, A319000232, A319000233, A319000234, A319000235, A319000236, A319000237, A319000238, A319000239, A319000240, A319000241, A319000242, A319000243, A31900

Letter No. 1073 DATE EXTENSION E-Notice-1 Dated 30.10.2023
Due to unavoidable reasons date of submission and opening of bids against E-Tender No: CH(Maint.)-24/2023-24.
Last Date for receipt of bid in portal : 06.11.2023, 18:00 hrs.
Last Date of submission of document on website : 07.11.2023, 13:00 hrs.
Date of Opening of bid on the website : 08.11.2023, 12:00 hrs.
For further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal "http://tenders.gov.in" (Executive Engineer, Maint., Chlbro)

"Avoid Wasteful use of Electricity"

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PWD
NAGAON & HOJAI ROAD CIRCLE, NAGAON:ASSAM
No.SE/NRC/TB/NIT/12/2021-22/61

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER
The Superintending Engineer, PWD, Nagaon & Hojai Road Circle, Nagaon on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites bid from Assam PWD registered contractors for 1 (One) no. of work under SODP-G for the year 2023-24 with an estimated cost of Rs.13.07 Lakhs (approx.)
Note: - Details may be seen at the office of the undersigned during office hours from 06/11/2023.

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer, PWD
Nagaon & Hojai Road Circle, Nagaon
JANASANYOG/CF/3275/23/31-OCT-23

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
See Section 82 Cr. P.C.

Where a complaint has been made before me that accused **Shyam Kumar Mehto S/o Sh. Ram Bhagat, R/o- H. No. D-27, C/o Bheem Sharma, Adhyapak Nagar, Nangloi, Delhi** has committed (or suspected to have committed) the offence in case registered vide **FIR No. 808/2017 U/s 33/38 Delhi Excise Act PS Nihal Vihar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused **Shyam Kumar Mehto** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Shyam Kumar Mehto** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Shyam Kumar Mehto** of case **FIR No. 808/2017 U/s 33/38 Delhi Excise Act PS Nihal Vihar, Delhi** is required to appear before this court (or before me) to answer the complaint on or before the day of **01.12.2023**. By Order

Sh. P. Bhargav Rao
Metropolitan Magistrate-07
West Distt., Room No. 292,
2nd Floor,
Tiz Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/12321/0D/2023 (Court Matter)

UJVN LIMITED
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones : 0135-2763808 & Fax : 0135- 2763508
CIN No. U40101UR20019SGC25866, Website: www.ujvnl.com

RO No. 1070 Dated 30.10.2023

Date Extension Notice No-01

Due to unavoidable reason, under the office of Executive Engineer (Civil-I), Srikot Srinagar, the dates of bids invited for "Annual maintenance and upkeep of UJVNL office/filled hostel at Srikot Srinagar in District Pauri Garhwal" against NIT No. 10/EE (Civil-I)/Srikot/2023-24 is hereby extended as follows:
Last date for submission tender: 06.11.2023 up to 16:00 Hrs
Time & date for opening of tender: 08.11.2023 at 14:00 Hrs
All other terms & condition of the Bid document shall remain unchanged. Details of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be obtained from the Nigam's website "www.ujvnl.com"

Executive Engineer (Civil-I)

"Avoid Wasteful use of Electricity"

कॉमर्सियल नगर निगम हल्द्वानी-काठगोदाम
नैनीताल रोड, हल्द्वानी पिन कोड- 263139
(www.Nagarinagamhaldwani.in) Toll Free No- 8882610000
E-mail haldwaininagam@gmail.com दृमपन 05946-22835

संकेत- 1375/2023-24/PW.C. दिनांक 27.10.2023

ई-निविदा सूचना

क्र.	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित राशि (रु. लाख में)	कार्य का अनुमानित राशि	निविदा कार्य का अनुमानित राशि	कार्य की अवधि	निविदा की तिथि
1.	वार्ड नं. 10 में कालवारी योजना के तहत सिविली कार्य का पत्र कार्य की सी. रोड का निर्माण कार्य।	34.05	69,000.00	2500-18%	3 पचास	45 दिन
2.	वार्ड नं. 46 सोलापुर रोड, काठगोदाम में सी. रो. रोड. सिविली कार्य का पत्र कार्य की सी. रो. रोड का निर्माण कार्य।	36.86	74,000.00	2500-18%	3 पचास	45 दिन
3.	नगर निगम क्षेत्रांतर्गत निविदा नगर निगम क्षेत्रांतर्गत कार्य।	283.51	5,70,000.00	6000-18%	9 पचास	45 दिन

(ई. जी. जोषी निविदा निदेशक) काठगोदाम (फॉर्म डाउनलोड का पत्रकार) काठगोदाम नगर निगम, हल्द्वानी। नगर निगम, हल्द्वानी।

SHRI LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI NATIONAL SANSKRIT UNIVERSITY
(Central University)
B-4, Qutab Institutional Area, New Delhi-110016

E-7(134)/LBNSU/UNWD/2023-24 Dated: 20.10.2023

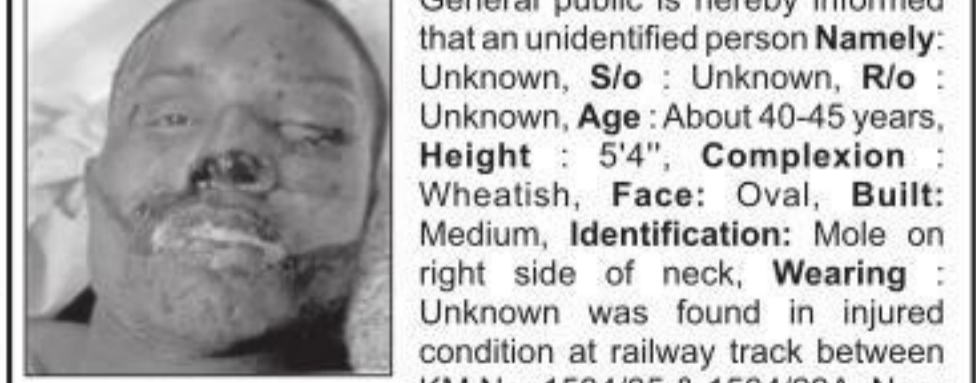
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed percentage rate tenders are invited for the under mentioned work from the approved and eligible CPWD contractors. NIT No. 02/2023-24/LBSU/UNWD (T.I.D. No.2023_SLBS_731663_1) A R & MO work of the SSS and SS of the University during 2023-24 (S.H. : Plastering, distemper, exterior & interior work etc. complete). **Estimated cost- Rs. 41,94,305/-, Earnest Money- Rs. 83, 886/- Time Allowed 180 days. Tender Fee - Rs. 1180/- (Non-Refundable).** **Last date & time of receipt of applications:** 10.11.2023 up to 4.00 P.M. **Last date & time of issue of tenders:** 15.11.2023 up to 4.00 P.M. **Last date & time of Submission of tenders:** 20.11.2023 from 3.30 P.M. **Date & time of opening of tenders:** 20.11.2023 from 3.30 P.M. For eligibility criteria, other details & corrigendum, if any, please visit websites: www.slbsrv.ac.in and www.eprocure.gov.in

CBC-21371/12/0002/2324

REGISTRAR

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person **Namely: Unknown, S/o : Unknown, R/o : Unknown, Age : About 40-45 years, Height : 5'4", Complexion : Wheatish, Face: Oval, Built: Medium, Identification: Mole on right side of neck, Wearing : Unknown** was found in injured condition at railway track between **KM No. 1534/35 & 1534/29A, Near Tilak Bridge Railway Station, Delhi on 27.10.2023**. He was shifted to LNJP Hospital, Delhi, where the doctor declared him dead on 28.10.2023. In this regard a case vide DD No. 5A dated 28.10.2023 has been lodged at P.S. New Delhi Railway Station, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved at LHMC Mortuary, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this dead person may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO :
P.S. New Delhi Railway Station, Delhi
Tel. No. 011-23363622, 8750871305, 9868462726

DP/12358/Rly/2023

"IMPORTANT"

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व्यवसाय

मरी माता जी स्व श्रीमती मोहनकांत पत्नी स्व श्री साहिब राम च स्व श्रीमती मोहनी पत्नी स्व श्री साहिब राम, आधार नंबर 896305055352 निवासी 111B मार्गल होम्स, सेक्टर 61 नोएडा 201301 दोस्रो एच वी के नाम है।
राजिंदर कुमार मलिक

LOST & FOUND

T, M. Narayanan Kutty S/O C.G. Nair, R/O 216 Nirman Apartments, Mayur Vihar Phase-I Extension Delhi-110091 have lost Possession Certificate of my Flat No.614, Sector-17E, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad, (U.P.). If found Please contact: 9810096669 0040696036-1

The original sale-deed of Shop/ No.6, on Ground-floor part of property, No./1239-240 (Asha Motor Market Kucha Ajmal-Khan Gali Punja Sharif Kashmir Gate-Delhi was executed by Sh.Bharat Bhushan Chugh in favour of Smt.Heena Khurana has been misplaced/lost at Kashmir Gate Court on-15.10.2023, finder may contact-9811112847 0040696120-10

Lost all documents related to property at 91, B-4 block, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110063 in the name of Rup Krishna Dhaon. If found, inform: A K Dhaon, mobile No. 9899971014 0040696006-1

T, Asmat Khan, S/O-Ravji Khan R/O-19/5/2,21/22/1 Gali.No.20,Rajni Vihar, Begumpur, Delhi-110086, inform that in school records my daughter's name has wrongly written as Asmat instead of Asmat Khan. Asmat & Asmat Khan is the one & the same person & in future it will be Asmat khaan. 0040696125-4

Have Lost Wendt India Ltd Share Certificate, No.11854, Folio No WIL 004294, distinct No 10191810 to 1019229 (50 Nos) Complaint lodged with Sector 58 police Station, Noida. Ashok Kumar Gupta Residence B-172, Sector -55, Noida contact-8178524843 0040696046-1

T, Vanita Aggarwal W/o Lt. Ashu Jay Aggarwal, have lost the Original DDA DOCUMENTS i.e., Lease Deed, Allotment Letter, Auction Letter, Possession Slip, Building Sanction Slip, Building Sanction Plan & Occupation/Completion Certificate qua A-B-8, Safdarjung Development Residential Scheme (Community Centre), New Delhi, in case found, please contact at above address. 0040695968-3

T, Umesh Kumar Sharma, S/O Devi Dayal Sharma, R/O Flat No 11, IMD CGHS Ltd, Ritu Apartment, A-4, Paschim Vihar, N/D-63, I had Lost/Misplaced Original Allotment Letter, Possession Letter & Share Certificate of the above cite flat, The LR No.1077970/2023 Dated-28/10/2023. 0040696031-2

T, Surinder Singh S/O Lt. Jai Ram Singh R/O 8/7, 1st Floor, Old Rajendar Nagar, New Delhi-110060 have lost my all property documents of above said property. Finders may contact at above address. 0040695968-2

T, Dolly Kiran Chauhan, D/o Dharamvir Majlis Rai Singh, R/O Flat No.140, Block-F, Spangole, Condos, Dhakoli, SAS Nagar, Mohali Punjab, have lost Original documents of property No. B-16, Greater Kailash Enclave-II, (C.P. Railway Refugees Rehabilitation and House Building Cooperative Society Ltd.) New Delhi-110048, i.e., original Perpetual Sub Lease and other documents. If found please contact above address. 0040696002-1

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client, SMT. JYOTI KAPOOR W/O Late Kamlesh Kapoor, R/O P-56, 1st Floor Old Double Story Lajpat Nagar-VI, New Delhi-110024, has disowned and severed all her relations with her son namely SH. PAWAN KAPOOR and daughter in law SH. NEHA KAPOOR W/O Sh. Pawan Kapoor, and disowned them and their legal heirs from her movable and immovable properties/assets and her personal life due to their arrogant, rude, impudent behavior and ill mannered conduct towards my client.
Adv. Yogender Chahar N. E. No. 234/4036 A-145, LGF Dayanand Colony, Lajpat Nagar-II New Delhi-24. Ph: 8700959565

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is informed to General public that our client Khyali Chand S/O Sh. Devu Dutt & Smt. Bhagwati Devi W/O Khyali Chand R/O B-65, Madhu Vihar, Uttar Nagar, Delhi-110059 have accepted/owned their son Mr. Chandler Shekhar as their legal heir and provide him rights in movable and immovable property situated at Delhi and other part of India.
Sd/-
Dipan Sethi Advocate
Dentons Link Legal
Aiyaw-e-Ghalib Complex,
Mata Sundari Lane,
New Delhi-110002

COURT NOTICE

In the Court of Sh. Vivek Benwal:-
Administrative Civil Judge-cum-ARC(Central) Delhi-110054.
SC.No. 18/2023
N.D.O.H. 06.11.2023
Archna Rastogi Vs. State & Ors.
Archna Rastogi S/o Late Shri Govind Prasad Rastogi
R/O No. 969, Bhojpur Malviya, Chandni Chowk Delhi-110006
Petitioner
FOR SUCCESSION CERTIFICATE UNDER INDIAN SUCCESSION ACT, 1925
To,
All Concerned
Whereas in the above noted petition the applicant/petitioner has applied for Succession Certificate to the Hon'ble Court Under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 in respect of the debt and securities amount of Rs. xx xx As per record to be standing in the name of Late Govind Prasad Rastogi deceased.
Whereas the 06.11.2023 at 10 o'clock in the afternoon has been fixed for hearing on the application notice is hereby given to this concerned, object pertaining to the given under my hand and the seal of the court on this 26.10.2023

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is for information of general public that my clients Ms. Anita Mahinbharo D/o Shri Yuvraj Mahinbharo and Vidya Mahinbharo W/O Shri Yuvraj Mahinbharo are buying the property No. E-121 Third Floor with terrace Saket New Delhi. The original papers i.e. chain of title deed of the above said property starting from perpetual lease to till builder Sale deed are missing/misplaced pertaining to the said immovable property No. E 121 Saket New Delhi-110017.
If any person's having any claims regarding sale, mortgage, charge, trust of the above said property or otherwise are requested to inform the same in writing along with the proof regarding the same at my Chamber No. 651 Lawyers' Chamber Block Saket Court Complex, New Delhi, within 15 days from the publication hereof, together with copies of documents forming basis of such claim failing which it deems that no one has any dispute with regard to said property and it shall be concluded that there is no claim whatsoever against the above said property and my clients can proceed with their intended object pertaining to the above stated property.
Sd/-
Ganesh Tripathi Advocate
Mob: 9818966523, 9871293998

I, Manpreet Singh Bani Bhatta, S/o Veer Singh R/o 1C/164, Namdhari-colony Ramesh Nagar-110015, have changed my name to Manpreet Singh. 0040696129-3

I, MOHD MUKHTAR, S/O NOOR MOHAMMAD R/O 2094/12A, GALI, NO-15, PREM-NAGAR, PATEL NAGAR, DELHI-110008, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME, MUKTJA TO MOHD MUKHTAR, FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040696112-4 0070871015-1

I, RAMASHRAY SHAH S/O Batoran Shah R/O Bhumihar, tola Mehda Shahpur, Cheria Bariarpur, Begusarai Bihar-851132, inform that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my daughter KHUSHI school record as RAMASHRAY SHAH instead of RAMASHRAY SHAH. My correct name is RAMASHRAY SHAH, which may be amended accordingly. 0040696040-1

I, Pradeep Kumar S/O Shri Milap Chand R/O 122B 3rd floor Gali no 2, Govindpuri kalkaji South Delhi-110019 have changed my name to Pradeep Kumar Narang 0070870982-1

I, Partiksha W/o Yogesh Kansal R/O House No. 1027A, Second Floor, Maruti Vihar, Sector-28, Gurgaon Pin-122002, Haryana, India have changed my name to Partiksha Kansal

I, P V S S Kanna Lakshmi, W/O D V K Rao R/o H No- D- 13/SL-3, Vinayak Apt, Dilshad Colony, East Delhi-110095, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as P Lakshmi 0070871002-1

I, Neetu W/o Rajeev Verma R/o 190, Jeewan Nagar, Maharani Bagh, South Delhi-110014, have changed my name to Neetu Singh. 0070870989-1

I, Narender Singh R/o Village Kharged, P.O. Sera Bhandar, District Rudrapnagar, Uttarakhand, inform that in my service record my mother's name is written as Anusuya Devi which is wrong actual name of my mother is Anusuya Devi, that Anusuya Devi and Anusya Devi both are one and same person. 0040696016-1

I, Meenakshi W/o Krishan Swaroop, R/o 676, Baba Farid Puri, Delhi-110008, inform that in LIC Policy No 125945345, my name has wrongly mentioned as Meena instead of Meenakshi. 0040696000-1

I, Manoj Kumar Giamalani S/o Vasu Dev Giamalani R/O B1-704 Multi Storey Tower Height Apts Pitampura Delhi have changed my name to Manoj Giamalani permanently 0040696076-2

I, Lovenika W/o Yogesh Kumar Gandhi R/O T9-103, Panchsheel Hynish, Sector-1, Greater Noida West, Gautam Budhi Nagar Uttar Pradesh-201318 have changed my name from LOVENIKA to LOVENIKA GANDHI for all future purposes. 0070871027-1

I, Krishan Bhardwaj S/o Mahinder Singh R/o H.No.177, Darwaja Pana, Village-Mungesh Pur, Delhi-110039, Confirm that Krishan Kumar and Krishan Bhardwaj both name are belongs to Same Person, and Krishan Bhardwaj for all future Purposes. 0070871042-1

I, Vishakha Bhor, Daughter of Ashok Hanmantrao Kulkarni, Resident of H-1104, 11th Floor, Block-H, Antriksh Forest, Sector-77, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201301 have changed my name from Vishakha Bhor to Vishakha Shivraj Bhor for all future purpose. 0040696013-1 0070871009-1

I, Kamla, W/O Subhash Manchanda R/O 106 Second Floor, Gali No-2, Govind Puri, Aali, Ali, South Delhi-110019, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Shaila Manchanda 0070871039-1

I, Hamid S/o Wazid Ali R/O New Vikas Nagar, Loni Dehat, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Hamid Ali. 0070871007-1

I, Tarlochan Kaur, W/o Baljit Singh Chadha R/O H-7, Ground-floor, Lajpat Nagar-2, South-Delhi, Delhi-110024, have changed my name to Tarlochan Kaur Chadha 0040696038-2

I, NAVEEN RAVINDRAN KRISHNAN NAIK, S/O-RAVINDRAN KRISHNAN NAIK, residing at, BLOCK, NO.6, HOUSE. NO.8, 2ND-FLOOR, OLD-DOUBLE STOREY, AMAR COLONY, LAJPAT-NAGAR-4, DELHI-110024, have Change my name to NAVEEN RAVINDRAN NAIK, for all future purpose. 0040696138-8

I, NEETU, W/O JEETENDRA KUMAR, R/O Mamouta Khurd, Nadauna, Nagla Lachhi, Hathras(UP) have changed my name to SAVITA, for all future purposes. 0040696129-7

It is for general information I, PREM CHAND GARG S/O SHIV DHAN MAL GARG, R/O 275, Tarun Enclave Pitampura, Delhi-34, declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as PREM CHAND AND SHIV DHAN, in my Passport etc. The actual name of mine and my father are PREM CHAND GARG AND SHIV DHAN MAL GARG respectively, which may be amended accordingly 0040696063-1

I, Vijay Kumar Taneja, S/o- Gobind Ram Add-House Number-886-7/13, para mohalla Rohtak Haryana-124001, changed my name to Vijay Kumar. 0040696129-1

I, Trilok Chand, S/o Khan Chand Dhali, R/O B-23A, Shivaji-Vihar Tagore-Garden, New Delhi 110027, Have changed my name to Trilok Chand Dhali, for all purposes. 0040696112-2

I, TULSI PRASAD, father of, Rakesh Jani Presently, residing at, 10, Madhav-Nagar, Keshav-Nagar, New Bus Stand, Pali Rajasthan-306401, have changed my name, from TULSI PRASAD to TULSI PRASAD JANI, vide-Affidavit, dated-30.10.2023. 0040696120-9

I, Surender Kumar, S/o Ram Kumar, R/O B-117, Third Floor, Rosewood City, Sector-49, South City-II, Gurgaon, Haryana-122018, have changed my name to Surender Yadav. 0040696120-3

I, Shirin Ahlawat, D/o Azad Singh Ahlawat W/o Mohit Dahiya, R/o-96-R D Ayodhya Enclave, Sector-13, Rohini Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Shirin Dahiya. 0040696112-6

I, Sheela Devi/Shila Dhali, W/o Trilok Chand Dhali, B-23A, Shivaji-Vihar Tagore Garden, New Delhi-110027, Have changed my name to Sheela Rani Dhali, for all purposes. 0040696112-1

I, Sanjeev Kumar Agarwal S/o Madan Mohan Agarwal R/o D-505, Paramount Floraville, Sectors-137, Noida(U.P) have changed my name to Sanjeev Agarwal for all purposes. 0040696120-1

I, SANJANA SINGHAL, W/o Ankit Kumar, R/o Flat no-387, 1st-floor ashirwad apartment Mayur-vihar phase-3, Delhi-110096, have changed my name, from Saroj sareen to Sanjana Singhla and old date birth-1984 new date-birth is-1987. For all, the future purposes. 0040696120-5

I, Rupesh, Rupesh Gupta S/o- Basant Kumar, Address-B-456, Aman Vihar, Kirari Suleman Nagar, North West Delhi-110086, have changed my name to Rupesh Kumar for all future purposes. 0040696125-2

I, Rahul Chadha S/o Late Naresh Chadha R/O. J-699, Mangolpuri, New Delhi-110083, have changed my name to Rahul Chadha for all purposes in future. 0040696031-1

I, Rohan S/o Ashwani Kumar R/O-2B/4, Ramesh Nagar, Delhi-110015, have changd my name to Rohan Dhawan for all purposes. 0040696135-2

I, RAJNI SHARMA, W/O GYANENDRA KUMAR, R/O C-12, NEAR-HANUMAN MANDIR, RAJU PARK, KHANPUR, SOUTH DELHI-110062, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAJNI. 0040696112-9

I, RAJBIR alias RAJVEER SINGH alias RAJBEER SINGH, S/o DEV DUTT R/O-D-113, Kasra, No-615 To 685-20, Shahbad Daultpur, Delhi-110042, have changed my name to RAJBEER SINGH 0040696112-5

I, Pranjul S/o Manoj Kumar Sharma, 873/31 Laxman Vihar Phase-1 Gurgaon, Haryana, have changed my name to Pranjul Sharma. 0040696135-3

I, Pooja Chopra, W/o Naresh Kumar, R/O-WZ41B, Gali No.10, Krishnapuri, Tilak-Nagar, Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Pooja 0040696138-2

I, Nidhi Kumari D/o Amulya Jaiswal, R/O Flat No. R/703, Amrapali Princely Estate, Sec-76, Noida, UP-201304, have changed my name to Nidhi Kumari Jaiswal. 0040696138-3

I, Naveen Kumar Gupta, S/O-Shri Vijay Kumar Gupta R/O-181, Harsh Vihar, Pitampura, Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Naveen Gupta. 0040696125-1

I, Mohd Sahid, S/O Abdul Kayyum, R/O 21, Janta Road, Gaon Niyamatpur Must, Saharanpur-247129, have changed my name to Mohd Shahid. 0040696129-5

I, Mohammad Farooq, S/o Rafiq Ahmad, R/O 12-A/17, Old No.12-A/16, Gali No.10, Vijay Mohallah Mauj Pur North Delhi-110053, have changed my name to Mohd Farooq Ansari. 0040696121-7

I, Md Sadadam, S/o Maksud R/o House No 253-B, Room No-15, 3rd Floor, Near Rama Market, Munirka Village, New Delhi-110067, have changed my name to Md S Maddam 0040696125-5

I, NAUMI LAL, S/O SHRI RAM CHARAN R/O, H.NO-1-144, GARHWALI MOHALLA, LAXMI-NAGAR, DELHI-92, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME NAUMI LAL TO NOMI LAL, FOR FUTURE. 0040696112-3

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Dinesh S/o Panna Lal R/o 79, Raj Nagar, Pitampura, Delhi have changed my name to Dinesh Garg permanently 0040696076-1

I, Bhuwan Singh s/o Dhan Singh Negi r/o B-276, Bharat Vihar, Kakrola, Delhi-110078 have changed my name to Bhuwan Singh Negi. 0040696010-2

I, Bhawesh s/o Bhuwan Singh Negi r/o B-276, Bharat Vihar, Kakrola, Delhi-110078 have changed my name to Bhawesh Negi. 0040696010-1

I, Baljeet Singh Chadha, S/o Late Kalyan Singh Chadha, R/o H-7 Ground-floor, Lajpat Nagar-2, South-Delhi, Delhi-110024, have changed my name to Baljit Singh Chadha 0040696038-3

I, Arpna Pamnani w/o simranjeet Singh r/o A-8/39, Rana Partap Bagh, third floor, Delhi-7 have changed my name to Arpna Pamnani Kaur for all purposes. 0040696004-1

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THIS WORD MEANS

PRISONER'S DILEMMA

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has talked about 'prisoner's dilemma' in international relations



Rajnath at the Goa Maritime Conclave on Monday. PTI

one year's jail time. If both confess, their jail times will be 10 years each.

What should the prisoners do?

On the face of it, staying silent appears like the right course of action. But can either of them be sure that the other will stay silent too?

This dilemma (and its answers) has real-life applications both in international law as well as in business.

For instance, should two companies selling the same product — say ice creams — keep undercutting each other by reducing the price to corner the market share?

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EXPLAINED LAW

Issues in electoral bonds case

A clutch of petitions challenging the Govt's election donations scheme comes up before a Constitution Bench today. The scheme has been criticised by many; the RBI and ECI have flagged several issues

KHADIIJA KHAN NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

A FIVE-judge Bench of the Supreme Court led by Chief Justice of India (CJI), D Y Chandrachud, and also comprising Justices Sanjiv Khanna, B R Gavai, J B Pardiwala, and Manoj Misra, will begin hearing a batch of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the electoral bonds scheme on Tuesday.

The scheme, notified by the central government on January 2, 2018, introduced "electoral bonds" — instruments through which anyone in the country can donate money to political parties anonymously.

What are electoral bonds?

They were announced by then Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in his Budget speech of February 1, 2017, as interest-free "bearer instruments", which means they are payable to the bearer on demand, similar to a promissory note.

The bonds, which are available in several denominations from Rs 1,000 to Rs 1 crore, can be purchased from authorised branches of the State Bank of India through KYC-compliant accounts during 10-day windows in the months of January, April, July, and October.

Electoral bonds can only be used to donate to political parties registered under Section 29A of The Representation of the People Act, 1951, which have secured at least 1% of the votes polled in the last general election to Lok Sabha or a Legislative Assembly.

The parties must encash the bonds within 15 days of receipt, to fund their election expenses.

Why were electoral bonds introduced?

According to the Centre, the purpose was to "cleanse the system of political funding in the country", and bring about "transparency in electoral funding".

In his speech, Jaitley said, "Even 70 years after Independence, the country has not been able to evolve a transparent method of funding political parties which is vital to the system of free and fair elections... Political parties continue to receive most of their funds through anonymous donations which are shown in cash."

Jaitley proposed the bonds to correct this situation, and brought the ceiling of anonymous cash donations down to Rs 2,000 from Rs 20,000.

Four laws — the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010, the RPA, 1951, the Income-tax Act, 1961, and The Companies Act, 2013 — were amended so that the elec-

toral bonds scheme could be implemented.

LALMANI VERMA NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

WHILE PROPOSING the electoral bonds scheme, the late Arun Jaitley had argued that this move would bring greater "transparency and accountability in political funding while preventing future generation of black money".

Amit Shah, the BJP president at the time, said the step underlined the government's commitment to electoral reforms and curbing corruption.

However, the Congress and the CPI(M), the most vocal critics in the Opposition camp, have said the scheme "undermines democracy", and is an "electoral malpractice".

Chinese government declared that more than 150 countries and 30 international organisations have embraced the BRI. It was also reported that 3,000 BRI projects, valued at \$1 trillion, are underway across the globe.

Some countries have praised the project, whereas India and the US have criticised it. Today, what is its status? Building infrastructure is never risk-free. India was the first to point out issues concerning debt trap, lack of transparency and sustainability of BRI projects.

Between 2013 and 2018, the World Bank estimated that investment in BRI projects was about \$575 billion. China has hosted three BRI Forums in 2017, 2019, and 2023. These gatherings attracted significant participation from world leaders, leading to the signing of numerous agreements.

The latest BRI forum saw lower attendance. Has enthusiasm cooled off? All participants in the BRI projects have learnt in the last ten years. Because of geopo-

litical tensions, the US has sharpened its criticism of the BRI. European policymakers earlier looked at the BRI positively. The EU and China, in fact, established a connectivity platform in 2015. Many European leaders participated in the first two BRI Forums.

Of late, however, there have been growing apprehensions about Beijing's intentions and the way many projects are being implemented. These evolving perceptions also mirror the EU's reassessment of its relationship with China.



Finance Minister Arun Jaitley before the Union Budget on February 1, 2017. Jaitley proposed the electoral bond scheme in the Budget. Express Archive

ECI'S POSITION

ATA briefing for the Election Commission on September 22, 2017, then Election Commissioner O P Rawat "expressed doubts that the electoral bonds can be misused by shell companies", then Economic Affairs Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg said in a "record note".

THEN CHIEF Election

Commissioner A K Joti noted that (i) the bonds would not be available to individual candidates and new political parties; (ii) there was an inconsistency between the I-T Act and the Representation of the People Act, with cash donations under the former limited to Rs 2,000 while the latter allows up to Rs 20,000; (iii) parties should be required to give the ECI denomination-wise details of bonds received by them.

IN MAY 2017, in its submission to a Parliamentary Standing Committee, the ECI objected to changes in the RPA as a "retrograde step". It also wrote to the Law Ministry asking the govt to "modify" the amendments.

IN ITS March 25, 2019, affidavit filed before an SC Bench headed by then CJI Ranjan Gogoi, the ECI flagged the issue of laws being changed to allow "unchecked foreign funding of political parties".

DAMINI NATH & KHADIJA KHAN

RBI'S CONCERNS

THE RBI agreed that the scheme had the potential to clean up political funding, but expressed concern with some aspects during consultations with the Finance Ministry. Then RBI Governor Urjit Patel wrote to Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on September 14, 2017: "We are concerned that the issue of EBs as bearer instruments in the matter currently contemplated has the possibility of misuse, more particularly through use of shell companies."

HE SUGGESTED that the EBs should be sold in digital form (demat), rather than in physical form. In a letter written to Patel on October 5, 2017, Garg argued that the scheme was "an earnest effort to make political funding more accountable and clean".

RESPONDING TO the RBI's suggestion that the bonds should be issued in demat form and not as bearer bonds, Garg wrote: "It is the considered view of the Government that EBs (electoral bonds) in demat form will take away the key feature of the scheme to provide anonymity of the donors vis-à-vis political parties. The fact that information of this aspect will be with the Bank, would make the scheme a non-starter."

DAMINI NATH

Common Cause and Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), sought a stay on the scheme on the ground that it had been brought "illegally" as Money Bills (Finance

Bills), bypassing Rajya Sabha. The petitioners argued that the scheme was non-transparent, and "opened doors to unlimited political donations, even from foreign companies", thus legitimising electoral corruption on a massive scale.

On April 12, 2019, a three-judge SC Bench, in an interim order, directed political parties receiving donations through electoral bonds to submit details of the bonds to the ECI.

In March 2021, a three-judge Bench headed by then CJI S A Bobde dismissed a prayer to stay the sale of fresh bonds ahead of Assembly polls in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam, and Puducherry.

The Bench disagreed with the petitioner's contention on the "complete anonymity" of bond purchasers: "It is not as though the operations under the scheme are behind iron curtains incapable of being pierced."

It also said bonds had been issued between 2018 and 2020 "without any impediment", and that it had already ordered "certain safeguards" in its April 2019 interim order. These "safeguards" included requiring political parties to submit full details of the donations received through electoral bonds to the ECI in a sealed cover.

In April 2022, advocate Prashant Bhushan sought an urgent hearing of the constitutional challenge to the scheme that had been pending since 2017. Then CJI N V Ramana assured the petitioners that the court would take up the matter.

So what will happen in this matter now?

On October 16, CJI Chandrachud referred the case to a five-judge Bench "in view of the importance of the issue...and having due regard to the provisions of Article 145(3) of the Constitution" (which says that "any case involving a substantial question of law as to the interpretation of this Constitution" shall be heard by at least five judges).

The Bench will take up four petitions, filed by ADR, CPI(M), Congress leader Jaya Thakur, and a PIL by one Spandan Biswal. Besides challenging the constitutionality of the electoral bonds scheme, the petitioners have asked the court to declare all political parties as public offices to bring them under the ambit of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, and to compel parties to disclose their income and expenditure.

What has the Centre argued?

On Sunday, Attorney General R Venkataramani told the Supreme Court in a written submission that "there can be no general right to know anything", and that the citizens' right to know is subject to reasonable restrictions.

The scheme "extends the benefit of confidentiality to the contributor" and promotes the contribution of clean money, the AG said. It adheres to tax obligations, and violates no existing rights, he said.

Opaque, undemocratic, corrupt: Oppn argument

Cong: 'Perpetuates opacity' The Congress has protested against the scheme from the beginning, calling it an exercise in "perpetuating opacity and electoral malpractice", and to ensure that all funds go to the ruling party. It has rejected the government's argument that the scheme represents "electoral reform", and has objected to the anonymity of donors.

Senior Congress leader Manish Tewari said it was easy for the government to obtain data from the State Bank of India — the bank authorised to sell the bonds — to find out who purchased a bond, and which party encashed it. The Centre had made "government corruption official", Tewari said.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal had retorted that electoral bonds were in fact, a decisive factor in promoting transparent electoral funding. He said that electoral bonds had brought "accountability to the system", and had raked up the alleged scams of Congress regimes, including Bofors, 2G, and coal.

Goyal said there had been multiple rounds of consultation between the RBI and the government between the passing of the Finance Bill on March 31, 2017, and the notification of the scheme on January 2, 2018.

At the All India Congress Committee plenary in Raipur this February, the Congress reiterated its position that the scheme was "fatally flawed" and "fully corrupt", and called for a contributory national election fund instead.

CPI(M): Litigant before SC

The CPI(M) moved the Supreme Court in February 2018, challenging the Centre's introduction of the scheme, which it said "undermines democracy" and would "lead to greater political corruption". It has asked for the scheme to be scrapped.

How does it impact the standing of Xi? The BRI stands as Xi's most ambitious foreign policy endeavour. Despite criticism, it has cultivated diplomatic and geopolitical leverage for China within the Global South.

Gulshan Sachdeva is Professor at the Centre for European Studies and Coordinator at the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He spoke to Rishika Singh.

LONGER VERSION indianexpress.com/expained

How does India view the BRI? India has always had reservations about the BRI, mainly due to sovereignty-related issues as the CPEC goes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, and geopolitical implications of projects in the Indian Ocean.

China started expanding its footsteps in India's neighbourhood through investments in various ports in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Myanmar. As commercial ports

EXPLAINED CLIMATE

NEPAL'S MOUNTAINS LOSE 'ONE-THIRD OF THEIR ICE': POTENTIAL IMPACT

NEPAL'S SNOW-capped mountains have lost close to one-third of their ice in over 30 years due to global warming, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Monday after a visit to the area near Mount Everest, the world's highest peak.

Climate scientists say the earth's temperature has increased by an average of 0.74 degrees Celsius over the past 100 years, but warming across South Asia's Himalayas has been greater than the global averages.

Glaciers in Nepal, wedged between two major carbon polluters — India and China — melted 65% faster in the last decade than in the previous one, the UN chief said in a video message after visiting the Solukhumbu region.

"I am here today to cry out from the rooftop of the world: stop the madness," he said, calling for an end to the "fossil fuel age" with the warning that melting

glaciers would mean swollen lakes and rivers sweeping away entire communities, and seas rising at record rates.

Glaciers in the Hindu-Kush Himalaya could lose up to 75% of their volume by century's end due to global warming, scientists said in a report published in June this year, causing dangerous flooding and water shortages for 240 million people who live in the mountainous region.

Climbers returning from Everest have said the mountain was dryer and greyer now.

"Record temperatures mean record glacier melt. Nepal has lost close to one-third of its ice in just over 30 years," Guterres, who is on a four-day visit to the country, said.

He also urged countries to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius to avert "the worst of climate chaos".

REUTERS



Antonio Guterres in Lalitpur, Nepal, on Sunday. AP

REUTERS

Advertisement for Drishti IAS General Studies Foundation Batch (Prelims + Mains) with contact details.

10 years of China's BRI: taking stock of Xi's transnational infra project

EXPERT EXPLAINS



THIS YEAR marks a decade since China's ambitious infrastructure funding project, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), was first outlined by Xi Jinping. Gulshan Sachdeva, JNU Professor, explains key aspects of the project.

What was the idea behind the BRI, and how did it evolve over the years? President Xi Jinping announced the Silk Road Economic 'Belt' in 2013. The 'Belt' plan was to revitalise a series of trading and infrastructure routes between Asia and Europe.

Connectivity through Central Asia was a key

element. Subsequently, Xi announced a sea trade infrastructure called 'Road'. This 'Road' would connect China with Southeast Asia, Europe and Africa. The major focus was on building ports, bridges, industry corridors and other infrastructure. For some time, these initiatives were together referred to as the One Belt One Road Initiative. Since 2015, it has been mostly referred to as the BRI.

Initially, the BRI was based on five principles: policy coordination, infrastructure connectivity, trade, financial integration, and people-to-people connections. Later, the sixth principle of 'Industrial cooperation' was added.

Between 2013 and 2018, the World Bank estimated that investment in BRI projects was about \$575 billion. China has hosted three BRI Forums in 2017, 2019, and 2023. These gatherings attracted significant participation from world leaders, leading to the signing of numerous agreements. At the tenth anniversary of the initiative, the

Chinese government declared that more than 150 countries and 30 international organisations have embraced the BRI. It was also reported that 3,000 BRI projects, valued at \$1 trillion, are underway across the globe.

Some countries have praised the project, whereas India and the US have criticised it. Today, what is its status? Building infrastructure is never risk-free.

India was the first to point out issues concerning debt trap, lack of transparency and sustainability of BRI projects. Later, the US and the EU raised similar concerns. But there continues to be a huge infrastructure deficit in the Global South. So despite the criticism, BRI is still an attractive proposition to many developing countries.

The latest BRI forum saw lower attendance. Has enthusiasm cooled off? All participants in the BRI projects have learnt in the last ten years. Because of geopo-

litical tensions, the US has sharpened its criticism of the BRI. European policymakers earlier looked at the BRI positively. The EU and China, in fact, established a connectivity platform in 2015. Many European leaders participated in the first two BRI Forums.

Of late, however, there have been growing apprehensions about Beijing's intentions and the way many projects are being implemented. These evolving perceptions also mirror the EU's reassessment of its relationship with China.

EXPLAINED POLITICS

Despite reservations expressed by the RBI and Election Commission, the government went ahead with the introduction of electoral bonds," he said.

In November 2019, the Congress raised the issue in Parliament, demanding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi speak on the "big scam", and a joint parliamentary committee look into the "opaque" donations.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal had retorted that electoral bonds were in fact, a decisive factor in promoting transparent electoral funding. He said that electoral bonds had brought "accountability to the system", and had raked up the alleged scams of Congress regimes, including Bofors, 2G, and coal.

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LONGER VERSION indianexpress.com/expained

18 THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD



Sergei Shoigu

CHINA
At Beijing forum, Russian minister blames US for fueling tensions

Beijing: Russia's defence minister accused the United States of fueling geopolitical tensions to uphold "global dominance by any means" and warned of risk of confrontation between the nuclear-armed nations. Speaking at Xiangshan Forum, China's biggest event on military diplomacy, Sergei Shoigu also accused NATO of trying to expand footprint in Asia under garb of seeking dialogue. "Washington for years has deliberately undermined & destroyed the foundations of international security and strategic stability, including system of arms control agreements," he said. AP

GERMANY
Far-right leader held after Nazi salutes heard

Berlin: A legislator with the far-right Alternative for Germany party was arrested on Monday on charges including displaying forbidden totalitarian symbols, with neighbours of his fraternity complaining of often hearing the Nazi "Sieg Heil" victory salute. Newly elected Daniel Halemba, 22, was due to take up his seat in the Bavarian regional parliament later on Monday. He is a member of the Teutonia Prague student fraternity, whose premises were raided by police in September. REUTERS

BANGLADESH
7 militants get life sentence for 2016 attack

Dhaka: Bangladesh's High Court on Monday commuted the death sentences of seven Islamic militants to life in prison for their role in a 2016 attack on a cafe in the capital, Dhaka, that killed 20 people, mostly foreigners. A special anti-terrorism tribunal in 2019 sentenced the seven members of a banned militant group to death in attack that triggered a crackdown on extremists. The group behind the attack on the Holy Artisan Cafe, the Jumatal Mujahadeen Bangladesh, wants to establish Sharia law in the secular Muslim-majority nation. AP

BRITAIN
Ex-intel worker jailed for US NSA staff murder bid

London: A former British intelligence worker who tried to kill a U.S. National Security Agency (NSA) employee in a "premeditated, targeted and vicious attack" was jailed on Monday for 13 years. Joshua Bowles, 29, repeatedly stabbed the unnamed woman, who was working at British intelligence agency GCHQ, in March near its base at Cheltenham in England. Bowles had previously worked at GCHQ but was no longer working there when he carried out the attack. He told police after arrest: "The target was selected for her employment at NSA. REUTERS

HAMAS FREES ISRAELI WOMAN SOLDIER;
releases footage of three other hostages

ALL HOSPITALS IN NORTH GAZA ORDERED
to evacuate, staff refuse to leave, says UN

Gaza City struck from two sides as Israeli tanks, troops advance

North-South highway, from where Israel ordered Gazans to flee, blocked

NAJIB JOBAIN, SAMY MAGDY & LEE KEATH KHAN YOUNIS, OCTOBER 30

ISRAELI TROOPS and tanks pushed deeper into Gaza on Monday, advancing on two sides of the territory's main city, as the UN and medical staff warned that airstrikes have hit closer to hospitals where tens of thousands of Palestinians have sought shelter alongside thousands of wounded.

Israel said late Monday that a female soldier captured by Hamas militants has been released through its ground operations in Gaza. The military provided few details, but she appears to be the first captive to be freed since Israel stepped up its ground war. The military says Private Ori Megidish "was medically checked, is doing well, and has met with her family."

Hours earlier, the militant Hamas movement ruling Gaza released a short video Monday purporting to show three women captured. One of the women delivers a statement, likely under duress, criticising Israel's response to hostage crisis.

Video clips showed an Israeli tank and bulldozer in central Gaza blocking territory's main north-south highway, which the Israeli military earlier told Palestinians to use to escape the ground offensive. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who remain in the north would no longer be able to escape if the road is blocked since it's the only useable route south.

The Israeli advances put their forces on both sides of Gaza City and surrounding areas of northern Gaza, in what Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called a "second stage" of the war ignited by Hamas' October 7 incursion.

Though Israel ordered Palestinians to flee the north, where Gaza City is located, and move south, hundreds of thousands remain, in part because



Military tanks manoeuvre inside the Gaza Strip as seen from Israel on Sunday. Reuters

DEATH, DESTRUCTION

ISRAEL	PALESTINE
TOTAL DEAD	TOTAL DEAD
1,400+ Struck 600 targets over past few days: Israel military	8,306 304 people were killed over past day: Gaza Ministry
TOTAL INJURED	TOTAL INJURED
5,431 About 1,950 Palestinians still missing under the rubble.	20,242 The dead include 3,457 kids and 2,136 women.

Mideast must consider a two-state solution after the war: Biden

AAMER MADHANI & CHRIS MEGIERIAN WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 30

AS THE 3-week-old Israel-Hamas war enters what Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says could be a "long and difficult" new stage, President Joe Biden is calling on Israeli and Arab leaders to think hard about their eventual postwar reality.

It's one, he argues, where finally finding agreement on a long-sought two-state solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict should be a priority.

"It also means that when this crisis is over, there has to be a vision of what comes next, and in our view it has to be a two-state solution," Biden said.

The push for a two-state solution — one in which Israel



The push for two-state has eluded US leaders for decades

would co-exist with an independent Palestinian state — has eluded US presidents and Middle East diplomats for decades.

It's been put on the back burner since the last US-led effort at peace talks collapsed in 2014 amid disagreements on Israeli settlements, release of Palestinian prisoners and other issues.

Palestinian statehood has rarely been addressed by Biden in early going of his administration. Until recently, he put emphasis on normalising ties between Israel and Arab neighbors than restarting peace talks. AP

Police take 'full control' of Russia Dagestan airport after anti-Israeli protests erupt

RUSSIAN POLICE have taken over an airport in the predominantly Muslim Dagestan region and arrested 60 people after hundreds of anti-Israel protesters stormed the facility on Sunday when a plane from Israel arrived, the interior ministry said on Monday.



People shout antisemitic slogans at an airport in Makhachkala, on Monday.

REUTERS OCTOBER 30

Videos obtained by Reuters from the airport at Makhachkala, the regional capital, showed the protesters, mostly young men, waving Palestinian flags, breaking down glass doors and running through the airport on Sunday.

Another group was seen trying to topple over a patrol truck. Twenty people were wounded at the airport before security forces contained the unrest, local authorities said. The passengers on the plane were safe, security forces told Reuters.

The unrest followed several other anti-Israel incidents in recent days in Russia's North Caucasus in response to Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza.

The local Dagestani government said earlier that it was strengthening security measures across the republic, which is home to about 3 million people.

Pro-Israel ads appear in kids' video games

RAPHAEL SATTER, KATIE PAUL & SHEILA DANG OCTOBER 30

MARIA JULIA Cassis was sitting down to a meal in her terraced home in north London when her 6-year-old son ran into the dining room, his face pale.

The puzzle game on his Android phone had been interrupted by a video showing Hamas militants, terrified Israeli families and blurred graphic footage. Over a black screen, a message from the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs told the first grader: "WE WILL MAKE SURE THAT THOSE WHO HARM US PAY A HEAVY PRICE."

Cassis, a 28-year-old barista



Maria Julia Assis with her son as he plays a game on his mobile phone. Reuters

from Brazil, said that the ad left her son shaken and she quickly deleted the game. "He was shocked," she said in a telephone

interview last week. "He literally said, 'What is this bloody ad doing in my game?'"

Reuters has not been able to establish how the ad came to her son's video game, but her family isn't alone. The agency has documented five other cases across Europe where the same pro-Israel video, which carried footage of rocket attacks, a blast, and masked gunmen, was shown to gamers, including several children.

In at least one case, the ads were played inside the popular Angry Birds game made by SEGA-owned developer Rovio.

Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs' head of digital, David Saranga, confirmed that the video was a government-promoted ad but said he had "no idea" how it

ended up inside various games.

He said the footage was part of a larger advocacy drive by the ministry, which has spent \$1.5 million on internet ads since Hamas' October 7 attack.

Reuters contacted 43 advertising firms that Rovio listed on its website as "third-party data partners" to try to ascertain who placed the ad in the games.

Of those partners, 12 responded, including Amazon, Index Exchange and Pinterest, and said they were not responsible for the ad appearing on Angry Birds.

Google ran over 90 ads for the ministry but declined to comment on where it displayed those ads. X, formerly Twitter, didn't respond to requests for comment. REUTERS

PETROGLYPHS WERE FIRST SPOTTED IN 2010 WHEN ANOTHER BAD DROUGHT STRUCK, BUT BECAME NOTICEABLE THIS TIME

Severe drought in the Amazon reveals millennia-old carvings

FERNANDO CRISPIM & EDMAR BARROS MANAUS, OCTOBER 30

THE NEGRO River, the major tributary that runs through the Brazilian Amazon, has reached historic lows, revealing millennia-old carvings previously hidden under water.

The engravings deeply etched into the black rock along the riverbanks represent human faces, animals and other figures, and thought to be 1,000 to 2,000 years old, archaeologists said.

"They allow us to understand the way of life of prehistoric populations," Jaime de Santana Oliveira, an archaeologist with

Brazil's National Historic and Artistic Heritage Institute, said.

The scientists think other rocks at the site were used to sharpen arrows and stone tools.

The Ponta das Lajes archaeological site is located in the rural area of Manaus, the largest city and capital of Amazonas state. From there, locals and tourists can observe the "Meeting of Waters," which occurs when the dark, Coca-Cola-colored Negro River and the pale, clay-colored Solimoes River converge without merging and run parallel to each other over several miles.

The petroglyphs first were spotted in 2010, when another bad drought struck the region, but had not been observable



Archaeologist Jaime Oliveira sits next to rock paintings at the Ponta das Lajes archaeological site, in Brazil. (Right) An archaeologist measures the rock paintings. AP



since then before the current drought.

Low river levels in Amazonas have turned once navigable rivers into endless sand banks and mud, leaving hundreds of communities isolated. Public authorities have scrambled to get food & water to those communities recently.

Earlier this week, The



Refugee women wait to be repatriated to Afghanistan at a United Nations office in Peshawar, in 2015. Reuters file

Deadline over, Pak Minister says illegal immigrants to be expelled from Nov 1

SAJJAD HUSSAIN ISLAMABAD, OCTOBER 30

AS THE deadline loomed for all undocumented immigrants, including 1.7 million Afghan nationals, to leave Pakistan, interim Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti on Monday said the caretaker government will start expelling these aliens in phases if they do not leave the country voluntarily. Pakistan this month announced October 31 as the date for the removal of the illegal immigrants.

"After November 1, the state will commence its operation to expel aliens in phases," The Express Tribune quoted Bugti as saying.

Bugti confirmed that over 20,000 illegal foreigners have left Pakistan voluntarily over the last three days.

He stated that all provincial governments would play an active part in the operation against illegal foreigners.

"Committees have been formed on divisional and district levels," he added.

The interim interior minister further clarified that the expulsion of illegal foreign nationals

The government has completed the geo-mapping and will locate illegal foreign nationals wherever they are"

— SARFRAZ BUGTI INTERIM INTERIOR MINISTER, PAK

will be carried out in phases, and people with no travel documents will be deported in the first phase.

The illegal immigrants, many of whom have lived in Pakistan for years, will be processed at temporary centres being set up by the government.

"The government has completed the geo-mapping and will locate illegal foreign nationals wherever they are," he said, adding that they have established holding centres to keep illegal foreigners after the deadline.

"All basic facilities will be provided at these centres to illegal foreign nationals," he said. Pakistan has been hosting Afghan refugees for the past four decades when millions of them fled Afghanistan during the 1979-1989 Soviet occupation. PTI

AT FUNERAL OF GIRL 'ASSAULTED' ON METRO

Iran arrests top human rights lawyer on charges of violating hijab law

THE FUNERAL took place Sunday morning.

Geravand was injured and in a coma for weeks in Tehran. Her death came after the one-year anniversary of the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini while in the custody of Iran's morality police. She, too, was detained for not wearing a headscarf.

Her death sparked nationwide protests at the time.

It's not clear what happened in the few seconds after Geravand entered the train on October 1.

A friend told Iranian state television that Geravand hit her head on the station's platform. However, soundless video footage taken from outside of a nearby car is blocked by a bystander. Just seconds later, her limp body is carried off.

Iranian state TV's report, however, did not include any footage from inside the train itself and offered no explanation on why it hadn't been released.

Tourists can observe the 'Meeting of Waters,' which occurs when the dark, Coca-Cola-coloured Negro River and the pale, clay-coloured Solimoes River converge without merging and run parallel to each other over several miles

dents, most of them small farmers and fishermen, to walk long distances.

Manaus and other nearby cities are experiencing high temperatures and heavy smoke from fires set for deforestation and pasture clearance. The drought is also the likely cause of dozens of river dolphin deaths in Tefe Lake, near the Amazon River.

Dry spells are part of the Amazon's cyclical weather pattern, usually from May to October. This season's drought has been fiercer than usual due to two climate phenomena: the warming of northern tropical Atlantic Ocean waters and El Niño — the warming of surface waters in the Equatorial Pacific region. AP

19 ECONOMY

SENSEX: 64,112.65 ▲ 329.85 (0.52%) NIFTY: 19,140.90 ▲ 93.65 (0.49%) NIKKEI: 30,696.96 ▼ 294.73 HANG SENG: 17,406.36 ▼ 7.63 FTSE: 7,327.39 ▲ 36.11 DAX: 14,716.54 ▲ 29.13

GOLD	USD RATE	OIL	SILVER
₹62,450	₹83.25	\$89.62	₹75,200

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of XXXXXXXX 00

International market data till 1900 IST

Adani Green net jumps 149% to ₹371 crore in Q2

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

ADANI GREEN Energy on Monday posted nearly 149 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit at ₹371 crore in the July-September quarter, compared to a year ago, mainly due to higher sales.

The consolidated net profit of the company stood at ₹149 crore in the quarter ended on September 30 last year, a BSE filing showed. Total income rose to ₹2,589 crore in the reporting quarter from ₹1,684 crore in the same period a year ago.

The sale of energy increased to 5,737 million units (MU) during the period from 3,067 MU in the year-ago quarter.

The sale of energy has increased by 78 per cent YoY to 11,760 MU in H1 FY24, primarily backed by strong capacity addition and improved CUF (capacity utilisation factor) across solar, wind and hybrid portfolios, the company said.

SAT sets aside SEBI ban on Zee's Punit Goenka, paves way for his return as MD

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 30



SEBI had barred Punit Goenka from holding key management positions in any listed entity. File

THE SECURITIES Appellate Tribunal (SAT) Monday set aside a SEBI order against Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEEL) promoter Punit Goenka which barred him from holding key management positions in any listed entity, including four ZEE group companies.

This order will provide relief to Goenka who can now be appointed as the managing director of the company formed from the merger of ZEEL and Culver Max Entertainment (formerly Sony Pictures Networks India). The National Company Law Tribunal had approved the merger of the two entities in August this year.

The SAT also asked Goenka to cooperate with the Securities

and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in the investigation. The tribunal said in the event any material comes out against Goenka during the course of investigation then SEBI can adopt appropriate procedures in accordance with law.

The restraint order passed by the respondent (SEBI) pursuant to the ad interim order and the confirmatory order restraining the appellant (Punit Goenka) to function as a Managing Director... is set aside," the SAT order said.

In June this year, SEBI issued an interim order which restrained Zee Entertainment Enterprises' (ZEEL) Subhash Chandra and Goenka from holding any key positions in any listed company, in a matter related to siphoning of funds for their own benefit.

On August 14, SEBI, in a confirmatory order, barred Chandra, former chairman of Essel Group, and Goenka from holding directorial or key management personnel positions in ZEEL, Zee Media Corporation Ltd, Zee Studios Ltd and Zee Akaash News Pvt Ltd. The regulator also banned them holding any key position in any resultant company that is

formed by a way of a merger or amalgamation, and demerger of Zee Group companies.

Goenka had later challenged the confirmatory order.

In the SAT order, Justice Tarun Agarwala said the ex parte ad interim order could have been passed in extreme urgent cases and that such power should be exercised sparingly and should not be exercised in a routine manner.

The order said 99.97 per cent of the shareholders of ZEEL had reposed complete faith in the Goenka as recently as 2022 to continue as managing director and chief executive officer of the merged entity between ZEEL and Sony.

Pursuant to the ex parte ad interim order NCLT has approved the scheme of amalgamation in which the Goenka would hold the post of a managing director of the merged entity, it said.

This aspect has wrongly been construed by the SEBI Chairperson that it will wield substantial power of management of the affairs of the merged company upon the appellant which he cannot be permitted to do so, the order said.

SEBI started investigating the matter related to the appropriation of certain fixed deposits (FD) of ZEEL by SEBI Bank for squaring off loans of related entities of Essel Group. The regulator found that Chandra had provided a Letter of Comfort (LoC) in September 2018, towards credit facilities amounting to ₹200 crore availed by certain group companies from SEBI Bank. The LoC was issued without the knowledge of the board of ZEEL, which was a violation of SEBI's Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements (LODR) norms.

West Asia conflict could trigger 'dual shock' in commodity markets: World Bank

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

THE CONFLICT in West Asia, which comes on top of disruptions caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, has resulted in limited impact on commodity prices but could bring "dual shock" to commodity markets as energy market turmoil could intensify food insecurity, the World Bank said in its latest Commodity Markets Outlook.

Noting that the ban on exports of non-basmati rice by India has "roiled global markets since mid-July", the World Bank said developing countries should avoid trade restrictions such as export bans on food and fertilisers.

"Higher oil prices, if sustained, inevitably mean higher food prices. If a severe oil-price shock materialises, it would push up food price inflation that has already been elevated in many developing countries. At the end of 2022, more than 700 million people—nearly a tenth of the global population—were undernourished. An escalation of the latest conflict would intensify food insecurity, not only within the region but also across the world," said Ayhan Kose, the World Bank's Deputy Chief Economist and Director of the Prospects Group.

The World Bank underlined that if the conflict escalates, policymakers in developing countries will need to take steps to manage a potential increase in headline inflation. Noting the export ban on non-basmati rice by India, the World Bank said rice prices will remain high in 2024 assuming India maintains export curbs. It also said that even though the demand for fertilisers is recovering, a cut in India's subsidy for the second half of the season (beginning October) could further impact demand. India accounts for nearly 40 per cent of the world's rice exports.

Oil prices are expected to average \$90 a barrel this quarter before falling to \$81 a barrel next year as global economic growth slows, the World Bank said. "Overall commodity prices are projected to fall 4.1% next year. Prices of agricultural commodities are expected to decline next year as supplies rise. Prices of base metals are also projected to drop 5% in 2024. Commodity prices are expected to stabilise in 2025," the report said.

Taking note of the redirection of Russian exports from EU and G7 countries to China, India and Turkey, the World Bank said the price cap on Russian crude oil introduced in late 2022 appears increasingly unenforceable given the recent spike in Urals prices.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

REPORT OUTLINES RISK SCENARIOS

World Bank said the outlook for commodity prices would darken quickly if conflict were to escalate. It laid out these 3 scenarios:

- **Small disruption:** Roughly equivalent to 2011 Libyan civil war. Oil supply would fall by 500,000 to 2 mn bpd. Prices would rise to \$93-\$102 a barrel.
- **Medium disruption:** Roughly equivalent to the 2003 Iraq war. Oil supply would fall by 3-5 mn bpd. Prices could rise to \$109-\$121 a barrel.
- **Large disruption:** Comparable to 1973 Arab oil embargo. Supply would fall by 6-8 mn bpd. Prices could rise to \$140-\$157 a barrel.

FINOLEX CABLES MATTER

NCLAT bench defied order wilfully, says SC, closes contempt case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

THE SUPREME Court Monday found that a National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) bench had acted in "wilful defiance" of its orders by pronouncing its verdict in a case related to Finolex Cables.

The court, however, decided against continuing contempt proceedings against the two-member bench comprising judicial member Rakesh Kumar and technical member Alok Srivastava, taking note that Kumar had resigned following the developments and Srivastava had apologised unconditionally.

A three-judge bench presided by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud rejected the contention that the NCLAT bench was not made aware of the top court's order — that the tribunal should pronounce its verdict only after the annual general meeting (AGM) results of Finolex Cables.

The top court bench, also comprising Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, perused the CCTV visuals of the NCLAT proceedings on October 13, underlining that they "leave no manner of doubt" that the NCLAT bench was apprised of the SC order passed earlier the same day.

"It is evident beyond a shadow of doubt that though the NCLAT was duly apprised of this court's order of the morning session that the judgement shall be delivered only after the AGM re-

sults, the NCLAT declined to pay heed to the order of this court," the court said.

The court added that "the judicial member has stated that if the parties think they are breaching the Supreme Court order then they can go and complain to the Supreme Court..." and that the "NCLAT declined to pay heed to the order of this court."

Hearing a plea in the morning of October 13, the Supreme Court had asked the scrutiniser to "forthwith declare" the result of the September 29 AGM and directed the NCLAT to pronounce its judgement in the pending appeal "after it is duly apprised of the fact that the result of the AGM has been declared".

But in the post-lunch session, the top court was informed that the NCLAT bench had given a verdict despite the appellant's counsel bringing the SC direction to the members' notice.

The apex court then asked the tribunal's Chairperson, Justice (retired) Ashok Bhushan, to conduct an inquiry.

Pursuing the reply, the SC bench said: "The technical member has tendered unconditional apology and stated that work related to the control of procedure before the bench and procedure of mentions is conducted by the judicial member..."

The SC also imposed a fine of Rs 1 crore on the company's former Executive Chairman Deepak Chhabria and Rs 10 lakh on the scrutiniser, telling them to pay it to the PM's Relief Fund.

FM calls for inter-govt cooperation to curb smuggling, catch masterminds

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman Monday called for intergovernmental cooperation to curb smuggling so that the "brain" behind such activities get caught instead of smaller fry. She also said antiques from museums across the world should be returned to their respective countries.

Sitharaman said technology and "actionable information" are important tools in curbing smuggling. "It is important for all governments to know how to deter smuggling activities which are endangering our wild flora and fauna. How to deter activities where networked groups think that small fry can be sacrificed, police or customs authorities can catch hold of this small and larger fish, which is the brain behind, is never going to be caught," she said at the Global Conference on Cooperation in Enforcement Matters organised by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI).

Sitharaman said the nature of smuggled or illegally traded



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during the Global Conference on Cooperation in Enforcement Matters 2023 in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

goods has not changed over the last 50-60 years — it continues to be precious metals, narcotics, and precious reserves from forest or marine life. "I place a lot of emphasis on intergovernmental cooperation, along with WCO (World Customs Organisation), so that we are able to crack the brains behind it (smuggling), the masterminds behind it, with the

help from local authorities and governments," she said.

Deterrence of illicit trade will be strengthened if all confiscated goods are destroyed and not put into the market, she said. "It is also periodically our duty to restore confidence in the minds of citizens saying such activities will be punished, will be curbed, and will be deterred. So if only gold,

cigarettes, narcotics, antiques and wildlife materials are being smuggled, it is your experience which will have to show us the direction and the path forward so that we are able to contain this evil that it hurts all our economies," Sitharaman said.

The minister noted importance of technology in curbing smuggling saying enforcement agencies are at an advantageous position as they are armed with technology. "Technology should go hand in hand with information sharing. And when you share information, it should be actionable," the minister said.

The minister also said that antiques that are stolen and smuggled should be returned to their home countries. "India has lost a lot of them (precious antiques). We see them all over the world when we go to museums across the world. We need all of them to come back to their respective (countries), so should the Egyptians, the Romans be feeling about their antiques that they have lost. So all the ancient civilizations have lost a lot of their antiques and they should rightfully be back in their respective countries," she said.

DLF Q2 profit jumps 30% on strong housing demand

REUTERS
BENGALURU, OCTOBER 30

DLF Monday reported a 30.6% jump in second-quarter profit, helped by higher home sales and new property launches.

Real estate demand has been strong ahead of the festive season which starts towards the end of the September-quarter, on growing consumer confidence despite high inflation and borrowing costs. DLF's consolidated net profit came in at ₹6.23 billion for the quarter ended September 30, compared with 4.77 billion rupees a year ago.

The company's share of profit in associates and joint ventures such as DLF Cyber City Developers, DLF Midtown and DLF SBPL Developers rose 24.5%, and accounted for 43% of the total profit.

"Expect a surge in both new launches and housing sales this festive season, despite domestic and global headwinds in the first nine months of 2023," said Anuj Puri, chairman of property consulting firm Anarock Group.

BAJAJ SUGAR GETS ₹1,361 CR FOR PAYMENT TO CANE GROWERS

Mumbai: Bajaj Hindusthan Sugar Monday said it has received ₹1,361 crore from Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd for paying cane arrears.

Blackstone enters Indian healthcare services with Care Hospitals buy

REUTERS
BENGALURU, OCTOBER 30

BLACKSTONE SAID on Monday it will buy a majority stake in India's Care Hospitals from a fund belonging to asset management firm TPG, marking the U.S.-based private equity firm's entry into the country's healthcare services sector.

Blackstone will commit \$1 billion in the hospital chain in India and hold over 75% in Care Hospitals, a source with direct knowledge of the matter said. They did not want to be named as the deal details are private.

The deal comes as a post-pandemic boom in demand for private healthcare in India has made the sector attractive, with global investors seeking an entry into healthcare chains in the country.



Blackstone will commit \$1 billion in the hospital chain and hold over 75% in it

"Life sciences is a key investment theme for Blackstone and we plan to bring in our global scale and operating expertise," said Ganesh Mani, managing director at Blackstone Private Equity.

In a separate deal, Care Hospitals will buy a majority

India seeks formal talks at WTO for reforms in dispute resolution body

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

WITH THE World Trade Organisation's (WTO) ministerial conference just four months away, India has pressed for early start of formal talks on getting the dispute settlement system at the world body functioning again.

The US, whose actions led to the dispute settlement system becoming non-functional, has now started engaging on the issue of Dispute Settlement Body's reforms in informal ways, a senior official said.

The informal setting poses challenges to participation of other members of the WTO who have limited presence of ambassadors at the trade regulating body. Other logistics challenges, including something as mundane as not having enough translators is also hampering broader participation in informal discussions.

At the 'senior officials' meeting of the WTO in Geneva last week, India asked for shifting of negotiations to a more formal setting of a committee so that other members can deploy resources and participate in the discussions. "We have to formalise this process as soon as possible. India



Countries flagged concerns over informal talks at a recent WTO meeting. Reuters

stated that if you want to maintain the WTO's credibility, we need to talk on this," the official added. India has not submitted any paper or proposal on the reform as talks are happening informally.

There are two main ways to settle a dispute once a complaint has been filed at the WTO. Either the parties involved settle it among themselves or they may move for adjudication. The ruling of the dispute settlement body can also be challenged at the appellate body.

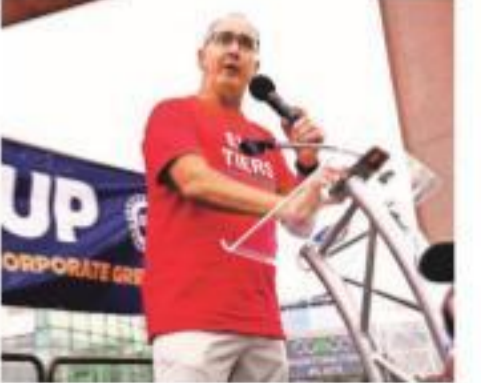
According to reports, US wants a system that relies more on negotiation and does not have an appellate body as the litigation in the legacy system is costly and time consuming. The dispute settlement system has been in limbo since 2017. FE

UAW reaches deal with GM, strike against Detroit automakers ends

REUTERS
OCTOBER 30

GENERAL MOTORS and the United Auto Workers (UAW) union have reached a tentative agreement, two sources familiar with the matter told Reuters, effectively ending the first simultaneous strike against the Detroit Three automakers with record wage and benefit hikes.

Details of the agreement with GM, the last holdout of the Detroit Three, were not immediately available. The accord follows agreements reached in the last few days by the union with Ford Motor and Chrysler owner Stellantis in what experts say



United Auto Workers chief Shawn Fain. Reuters

stand as significant victories for auto laborers after years of stagnant wages and painful concessions made by the union following the 2008 financial crisis. Nearly 50,000 workers out of

nearly 150,000 union members at the Detroit Three eventually joined a series of walkouts that began on Sept. 15. The UAW's strategy of escalating, targeted strikes cost the Detroit Three and suppliers billions of dollars over more than 40 days.

The GM workers will return to work after an official announcement of the agreement.

Talks at GM stalled Saturday because of issues such as pension and how fast temporary workers would get permanent work, sources have said. The three tentative deals are a win for the precedent-breaking strategy that Fain and top union officials employed to secure record-setting pay and benefit gains.

Petronet CEO hopes row over Qatar death penalties won't hurt contract talks

REUTERS
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

THE CEO of India's Petronet LNG said on Monday he hoped negotiations between India and Qatar to extend their long-term liquefied natural gas import deals beyond 2028 would not be harmed by a diplomatic row between the countries.

The government in New Delhi said last week it was "deeply shocked" by a decision by a Qatar court to impose the death penalty on eight Indians arrested in the country last year, on charges that have not been

made public. Petronet LNG CEO A. K. Singh said: "We are in business. It (the diplomatic row) will be handled at the highest level of the country... we hope this does not have any impact on business relations." India's top gas importer has until the end of this year to renew its long-term agreements with Qatar.

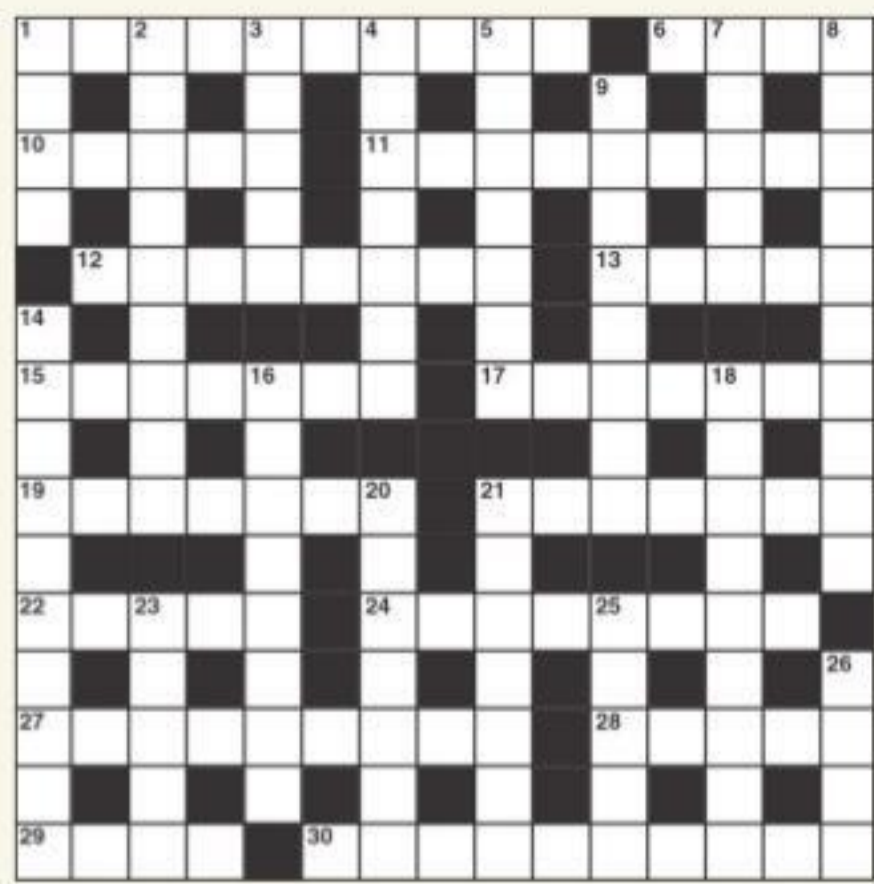
Petronet at present buys 8.5 million metric tons per year (tpy) of LNG under its deals with Qatar, and is 'actively engaged' with the country for their renewal, Singh said at the company's September quarter earnings press conference.

राजस्थान राज्य विद्युत उत्पादन निगम लिमिटेड
 CIN: U40102RJ2000SGC016484 (राजस्थान सरकार का उपक्रम)
 0/0 CE (Fuel), 2nd Floor, Dreamax Plaza, Sahkar Marg, Jaipur
E-TENDER NOTICE: TN-17(RVU)23245LOB01598
 E-tenders are invited taking delivery of raw coal from BCLL collieries on behalf of RVUN, its transportation from mines to the nearest Railway siding and loading of the same into Railway wagons for dispatch to RVUN's TPs and completing all documentation as required by Coal Company, Railways and RVUN for year 2023-24. Tender details are available on websites www.eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in (for e-tender), www.sppr.rajjasthan.gov.in & www.energy.rajjasthan.gov.in/rvun/

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
 Tender No: 1) E-Tender No 189/2023-24/SE/PHC/CHN 2) E-Tender No 189/2023-24/SE/PHC/CHN 3) E-Tender No 190/2023-24/SE/PHC/CHN
 1) WSS to Flammangalam, Marady and Pambakuda in Ernakulam District- Part-I- 12.5 WTR At Methpara. 2) Kavallangad Pt. Providing FHTCs- Package- I- Construction of 3.5mld WTP. Supply and Installation of Pump set. 3) NELLIKUZHY PANCHAYATH- Package- I- Production component Well cum Pump house, 8mld WTP & Raw water pumping main- Pipeline Work. EMD - Rs. 15,00,000/- 2) 2,00,000/- 3) 2,00,000/- Tender fee - Rs. 1) 19517 2) 13010, 3) 13010. Last Date for submitting Tender : 17-11-2023 03:00pm, Phone : 04842360645, Website www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

NPCL NOIDA POWER COMPANY LIMITED
 CIN:U31200UP1992PLC014506
Notice Inviting Bids for Procurement of Power on Short Term basis
 Bids are invited by "Noida Power Company Limited having its registered office at Electric Sub-station, Knowledge Park-IV, Greater Noida - 201310 (U.P.)" for procurement of 100 MW power during 01.04.2024 to 31.03.2025 as per the Guidelines of Ministry of Power, Gov dated 30.03.2016. Bid Document is available on www.mstcecommerce.com. The Company reserves the right to reject all or any of the Bids or cancel the bidding process at any stage without assigning any reasons whatsoever and without any liability. For any clarification, contact at e-mail id powertrading@noidapower.com or mobile no. 9718804966. Head (Power Purchase)

CROSSWORD 5196



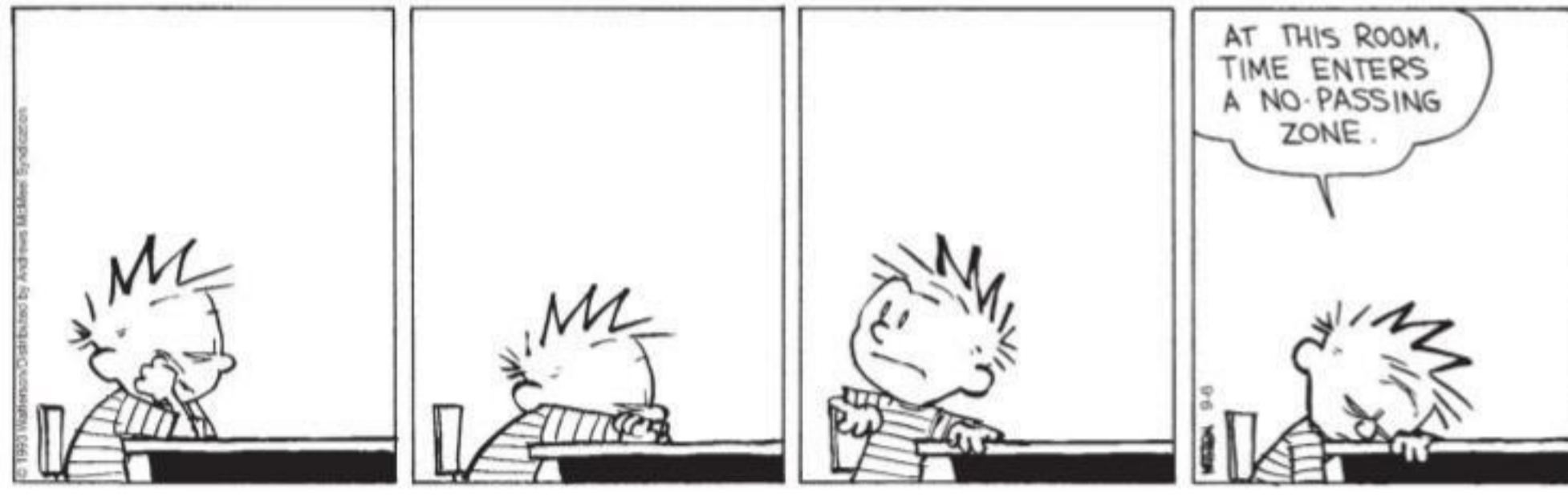
ACROSS
1 Academic gets important job, but it's drudgery (6,4)
6 It strikes one as a mild expletive (4)
10 About five get better in turn (5)
11 Objects of male attention female adores (9)
12 Henry measures the rigging (8)
13 First night - very jittery (5)
15 It provides good tips for writers (7)
17 Gently strike a girl on the knee (7)
19 One needs a couple of rings to get this number (7)
21 Nine to five he goes round the old city (7)
22 One can never be sure if one has it (5)
24 Rare lily found broken in the chaff (8)
27 That's life! (9)
28 It's heavenly for me being in bed (5)
29 Celebrated Chinese dynasty (4)
30 Decided to be resolute (10)
DOWN
1 Bones cut into small pieces? (4)
2 Ran up a share account (9)
3 Three points go to my opponent (5)
4 Compound in which there are two animals (7)
5 Arrives on horseback with purse I'd mislaid (5,2)
7 He has a pound remaining - for pressing his suit? (5)
8 Insubstantial desire; possibly say why (5-5)
9 Course taken by some whales? (8)
14 A retiring habit (10)
16 Make annoyed and angry about unfinished ceremony (8)
18 Stable chaps but apparently irritable ones (9)
20 Exploding grenade produces disorder (7)
21 I've entered into neat set-up that's simplicity itself (7)
23 A league match (5)
25 A substitute for medicine (5)
26 Farm boss (4)

Solutions Crossword 5195 Across: 1 Respect, 5 Rowan, 8 Enigmatic, 9 Tic, 10 Sash, 12 Converse, 14 Snappy, 15 Dreams, 17 Pole Star, 18 Skid, 21 Our, 22 Anthology, 24 Taste, 25 Suspend Down: 1 Reeds, 2 Ski, 3 Elms, 4 Tattoo, 5 Recovery, 6 Watermark, 7 Nucleus, 11 Small arms, 13 Apostate, 14 Support, 16 Faiths, 19 Dryad, 20 Boss, 23 One

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given clue. It usually takes more than three weeks to prepare a good... - Mark Twain (9,6)

DEEOR, HUVCMM, CUTIS, EERPPP. Includes a grid for jumbled words and a solution key.

SUDOKU 5367

Sudoku puzzle 5367 with instructions and difficulty level (4s). Includes a 9x9 grid with some numbers filled in.

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5366

Solution for Sudoku 5366, showing the completed 9x9 grid.

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

Horoscope section for various zodiac signs: ARIES, LIBRA, TAURUS, SCORPIO, GEMINI, SAGITTARIUS, CANCER, LEO, VIRGO, AQUARIUS, PISCES. Each sign includes a brief prediction for the day.

Appeal for Identification. General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body Name: Unknown, So Unknown, R/O: Unknown, Age: About 40 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Thin, Wearing: Green Color T-Shirt was admitted in BJRM Hospital Vide MLC No. 237818/2023, Dated: 19.10.2023 for Medically Treatment. During Treatment he was declared by the doctors on date 23.10.2023. In this regard DD No. 57-A, Dt. 19.10.2023 has been lodged in PS Adarsh Nagar, Delhi. The body has been preserved at mortuary BJRM, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following. SHO P.S., Adarsh Nagar, Delhi Ph. : 011-28672452, 8750870529 DP/12415/NW/2023

झारखण्ड सरकार ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय 102, द्वितीय तल्ला, अभियंत्रण भवन, कचहरी रोड, राँची ई-अल्पकालीन पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना ई-अल्पकालीन पुनर्निविदा संख्या:- 95/R11/2023-24/RWD/CHAIBASA दिनांक :- 30.10.2023 मुख्य अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, झारखण्ड, राँची द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

HARYANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION BAYS NO. 1-10, BLOCK-B, SECTOR- 4, PANCHKULA ANNOUNCEMENT. It is hereby announced for the general information of the candidates who had applied for the posts as detailed below, that the Commission has decided to conduct Subject Knowledge Test, as per schedule given below:

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

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA COMMISSIONERATE OF HEALTH SERVICES, MUMBAI. TENDER NOTICE. Date :- 30.10.2023. Joint Director of Health Services (Procurement Cell), Mumbai invites tenders in two envelope systems from the eligible Service Providers for Mechanized Cleaning Services in hospitals & Primary Health Care Centers under Health Institutes under Commissionerate of Health Services, Maharashtra.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM table with columns: SR. No., NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH, OLD REFERENCE/NET NO., NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM, WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH, NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL

No.S-190221/2023-SD-1 Government of India Ministry of Steel Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi 110011 VACANCY Ministry Of Steel invites applications for the post of Director, National Institute of Secondary Steel Technology (NISST), Mandi Gobindgarh, Punjab in the level E-8 scale of pay (Rs. 120000-280000). The last date for receipt of applications is November 13, 2023. For more details please visit www.steel.gov.in or www.nisst.org.

उत्तराखण्ड पावर कारपोरेशन लि (Uttarakhand Power Corporation Ltd) Advertisement for electricity bill payment via QR code.

Canara Bank A Govt. of India Undertaking. Recovery & Legal Section, Circle Office, 3rd Floor, Luv-Kush Tower, Exhibition Road, Patna - 800001. Ph. : 0612-2320180, Email : npacopat@canarabank.com

FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2023

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during Deepawali and Chhath Puja Festivals, Northern Railway has planned to run the following Festival Special Trains in addition to normal regular trains as per schedule given below:-

LIST OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS ORIGINATING/TERMINATING IN NORTHERN RAILWAY

Large table listing festival special trains with columns: Spl. Train No., Station From, Dept. Time, Station to, Arr. Time, Frequency / Day, Period

LIST OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS PASSING THROUGH NORTHERN RAILWAY NETWORK

Table listing festival special trains passing through the network with columns: Spl. Train No., Station From, Dept. Time, Station to, Arr. Time, Frequency / Day, Period

NORTHERN RAILWAY logo and contact information. For any kind of information such as arrival/departure timings and stoppages enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTEAS App.

PROPERTY FOR E-AUCTION

E-AUCTION Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged / hypothecated/ Pledged / charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive / physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Canara Bank will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on 30.11.2023. Details are as under :

Table listing auction details with columns: Sl. No., Name / Add. Contact No. of the Branch, Name and Address of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor (s), Outstanding in Rs., Details of Property, Reserve Price (Rs.)

Last Date of EMD 28.11.2023 For Detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in www.canarabank.com. Authorised Officer (Canara Bank)



Cricket with a layer of history and politics

Despite their common links, when Bangladesh encountered Pakistan in 2016, the Kolkata crowd vociferously supported the latter

After 6 wins, why India still not sure of semifinals spot

Despite making it six wins out of six matches, India have not yet confirmed their semifinals spot. Thanks to the format in which each team plays each other in the group stage, a long list of fixtures and a crowded mid-table means even England - who occupy the last spot with just 2 points and three matches to play - are in with a remote chance of making the last four.

What is the magic number?

A tally of 14 points is needed to be fully assured of a spot. Even 12 can get you in, but it would take a bit of help. India, South Africa, New Zealand and Australia have their fates in their own hands to make it to the semifinals.

INDIA: MATCHES: 6; Points: 12

For India, winning one of their remaining three matches will guarantee a spot in the semifinals because no team outside the top 4 would be able to match their tally of 14 points. Even if they lose all three matches, they can still make it provided Afghanistan - which has a chance of ending up on 12 points - don't overtake them on net run rate (NRR).

SOUTH AFRICA MATCHES: 6; Points: 10

With fixtures against New Zealand, Afghanistan and India left, South Africa need two more wins to seal their spot in the last 4. Even one more win can get them there, provided teams in 5th-8th spots in the points table lose their remaining matches. If they lose all three, the Proteas can even crash out.

NEW ZEALAND MATCHES: 6; Points: 8

Two successive defeats have pegged them back, but if they win two of their remaining three matches against South Africa, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, they can go through. If they lose two of those, especially against Pakistan and Sri Lanka, they will be in a spot of bother. A win in one of them may just get the job done for them.

AUSTRALIA MATCHES: 6; Points: 8

Like New Zealand, they need to win at least two more matches to make it. And among the top four, they have arguably the easiest games lined up against England, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. A win against their arch rivals will also end England's campaign. If the Aussies win one of the three games, it would come down to NRR.

STANDINGS

	M	W	L	T	Pts	NRR
Ind	6	6	0	0	12	+1.405
SA	6	5	1	0	10	+2.032
NZ	6	4	2	0	8	+1.232
Aus	6	4	2	0	8	+0.970
Afg	6	3	3	0	6	-0.718
SL	6	2	4	0	4	-0.275
Pak	6	2	3	0	4	-0.387
Ned	6	2	4	0	4	-1.277
Ban	6	1	5	0	2	-1.338
Eng	6	1	5	0	2	-1.652

SANDIPG

KOLKATA, OCTOBER 30

ROUGHLY FOUR kilometres from Eden Gardens, near the Sealdah Railway Station, is the Father of the Nation Statue. Backdropped by the flags of their respective nations are the busts of Mahatma Gandhi and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, his Bangladesh counterpart, side by side. There are several other memorabilia of Rahman in the city, where he spent considerable years of his youth. A biopic of his, directed by Shyam Benegal, was screened in the city, where its lead actor Arifin Shuvoo, said: "People of Bengal will emotionally connect more with this film than their counterparts in Bangladesh."

There are still resplendent social, linguistic, cultural and political affinities between Kolkata, West Bengal and Bangladesh. The national anthems of both countries were penned by Rabindranath Tagore, who spent much of his lifetime in Shilaidaha, a town now in Bangladesh, where a three-day celebration is held on Tagore's birth anniversary. The city was the capital in exile for the first Bangladesh government, and at 8 Theatre Road, there is a Mujibnagar Memorial Monument and Complex in remembrance of the signing of the Pakistani Instrument of Surrender. Kazi Nazrul Islam, Bangladesh's national poet, is still a revered literary figure in the city.

Nothing perhaps connects the city and the neighbouring country as the cuisine. The tangy aroma of Bangladeshi delicacies hits you when you stroll along the New Market Area. The menu smacks of Bangladeshi identity and bears the names of cities across the border, such as Sylheti Shorshe Ilish (Sylhet Mustard Hilsa), and Chattogrami Chingri (Chattogram Prawn).

Almost every restaurant is packed, now that thousands of fans from Bangladesh have descended on the city for its World Cup games, against the Netherlands, which they lost, and the other against Pakistan, scheduled for Tuesday.

It's a complex and fascinating coming together—Bangladesh to duel the country it gained independence from on the soil of another country it once was part of, and one which is so like them. At the press conference, Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan was reminded of the past. "This is the land for your freedom fighter. What is your vision?" he was asked. He sidestepped the political implications, but history would be peering at him from every corner.

All of these layers make the contest between the two engrossing. Bangladesh have endured their most torrid campaign in recent times, winning just one of their six games and effectively out of the World Cup knockouts. Their party-spoiling days seem long gone, as there is both a paucity of talent as well as planning and organisation.

Their passionate fans are utterly devastated. "Simple waste of money. We should not have come here to watch them. They don't deserve to be cheered," says Tanzid Ahmed, fuming. So incensed the fans were after the Netherlands capitulation that one was spotted slapping his face with his shoes. Most of them did not even wait for the match to end.

But there could be a redeeming factor yet for them this World Cup. That is if they could beat Pakistan, who Tanzid considers as the bitterest of their rivals. "I know we have rivalries with both India and Sri Lanka. But nothing would beat that of Pakistan. We will go home happy if we beat Pakistan," he says.

Unlike the other South Asian cricket-bloc



Pakistan captain Babar Azam surrounded by fans at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Monday. Partha Paul

rivalries, there have not been too many moments of scandals, though there has always been a nervous intensity, whenever they have clashed. Even more so in the World Cup, where both teams have won a game apiece. Bangladesh did so famously in 1999. After the victory, captain Aminul Islam would say: "This is the match that would change the history of Bangladesh cricket." A few months on, they became a Test nation, with the considerable backing of the then ICC president Jagmohan Dalmiya. But 24 years on, they still remain as the minnows of the Test world. "We are toothless tigers," says Rahim Imam, another fan who has come to watch the

team. The backlash of the defeats has been brutal back home. Unlike Bangladesh who could salvage their campaign with a victory over Pakistan, they would be disconsolate if they don't qualify for the semifinals. Inzamam-ul-Haq, the chief selector has reportedly resigned from his role over allegations that he was also a shareholder in a prominent player management company. That role had led to conflict-of-interest allegations.

There was pessimism in the voice of coach Grant Bradburn. "We're in a position that we didn't want to be. We were determined at this stage of the tournament to be in control of our destiny but we're not," he said. All his team could do at this stage, he said, sighing, is to "prepare well for three remaining pool games and then allow fate to be hopefully leaning on us."

He was again quizzed on the lasting effect of the Ahmedabad thrashing and the hostile crowd. He would patiently reply: "It was a huge experience for all of our players having never played at that venue before and the unusual experience of playing in front of 1,30,000 supporters of the opposition." With just a handful of Pakistan supporters managing visas, while thousands have flocked to the city from Bangladesh, the support for Bangladesh would be deafening.

However, the Kolkata crowd has strange behavioural patterns. They sparked a riot during the India-Pakistan Test, part of the Asian Championship in 1999. But when Bangladesh encountered Pakistan in the T20 World Cup in 2016, they vociferously supported the latter. How they would behave on Tuesday is still a mystery. But irresistible would be the layers of history and culture when Eden Gardens hosts a game between Bangladesh and Pakistan.

blow that would set heads rolling in the

It's a complex and fascinating coming together—Bangladesh preparing to duel the country it gained independence from, on the soil of another country it once was part of and one which is so like them.

Kolkata leg. The tiger metaphor is apt for their opponents Pakistan too. The once famous "cornered" tigers are now "tigers in the abyss". Their semifinal hopes hinge on the thinnest of threads, which requires them to win their three remaining games by landslide margins and hope that their stars align in the most freakish manner. A defeat to Bangladesh would not only end their road this World Cup, but also would be another indelible scar on the souls. Both India and Afghanistan have already inflicted psychological blows. Failing to beat Bangladesh would be the knockout blow that would set heads rolling in the

team. The backlash of the defeats has been brutal back home. Unlike Bangladesh who could salvage their campaign with a victory over Pakistan, they would be disconsolate if they don't qualify for the semifinals. Inzamam-ul-Haq, the chief selector has reportedly resigned from his role over allegations that he was also a shareholder in a prominent player management company. That role had led to conflict-of-interest allegations.

There was pessimism in the voice of coach Grant Bradburn. "We're in a position that we didn't want to be. We were determined at this stage of the tournament to be in control of our destiny but we're not," he said. All his team could do at this stage, he said, sighing, is to "prepare well for three remaining pool games and then allow fate to be hopefully leaning on us."

He was again quizzed on the lasting effect of the Ahmedabad thrashing and the hostile crowd. He would patiently reply: "It was a huge experience for all of our players having never played at that venue before and the unusual experience of playing in front of 1,30,000 supporters of the opposition." With just a handful of Pakistan supporters managing visas, while thousands have flocked to the city from Bangladesh, the support for Bangladesh would be deafening.

However, the Kolkata crowd has strange behavioural patterns. They sparked a riot during the India-Pakistan Test, part of the Asian Championship in 1999. But when Bangladesh encountered Pakistan in the T20 World Cup in 2016, they vociferously supported the latter. How they would behave on Tuesday is still a mystery. But irresistible would be the layers of history and culture when Eden Gardens hosts a game between Bangladesh and Pakistan.

After conflict of interest charges, Inzamam quits

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
OCTOBER 30

FORMER PAKISTAN cricketer Inzamam-ul-Haq has reportedly stepped down from his post as the chief selector for the Pakistan cricket team over allegations that he was also a shareholder in a prominent player management company. That role had led to conflict of interest allegations.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said in a statement that it has set up a five-member fact-finding committee to "investigate allegations in respect of conflict of interest reported in the media pertaining to the team selection process."

The committee will submit its report and any recommendations to the PCB Management in an expeditious manner," the statement said.

The news is a fresh blow for Pakistan cricket, which is already going through a turbulent time with the Pakistan team in 6th spot in the standings of the ongoing Cricket World Cup, having won just two of their six matches so far. "People speak without research. Questions were raised on me so I decided that it was better I resign," Inzamam was quoted as saying by Pakistan's *Geo News*. "People are making statements without research. I told the PCB to do their research. I have no relation with the player-agent company."

At the heart of the controversy is a player-management company called Yazoo International Limited. According to Pakistani



website *Cricket Pakistan* "Inzamam is a shareholder in Yazoo International Limited, a company owned by players' agent Talha Rehmani. Rehmani represents some of Pakistan's top cricketers, including Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan, and Shaheen Shah Afridi."

With the Pakistan cricket team in trouble in India, there has been a lot of scrutiny over the team. This has led to people questioning Inzamam's role as well (he has been chief selector since August).

Head of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) management committee, Zaka Ashraf, recently told a new channel: "It looks like a conflict of interest. We will call the chief selector and ask him to clarify whether this news is correct or not. But it seems like if Talha has controlled seven to eight players, then he must be the one behind the selection as well. We will ask the chief selector to explain."

NUMBER GAME

Despite his short-ball problems, why Iyer is still India's best bet at No. 4

SRIRAM VEERA
OCTOBER 30

FORMER PAKISTAN captain Misbah-ul-Haq feels Shreyas Iyer's weakness against the short ball is playing on his mind. He believes the Indian middle-order batsman is so focused on the bouncer that even when the ball isn't there for the pull shot, he goes for it and fails. Just like it played out against England in Lucknow on Sunday.

"He is expecting the short ball and many times, even against short-of-length balls which aren't ideal for pulling, like the one against England, he goes for the shot. So, you are overthinking about the short ball and are in trouble," Misbah said on A' Sports.

"See his front foot. After the initial movement, it goes nowhere. And he is in no position to play the short ball... And he doesn't even try to avoid the short ball."

The length from Chris Woakes wasn't that short, more like top of back-of-a-length, but Iyer first made a tiny forward movement, arrested it, and then went a bit pear-shaped in the way he opened himself up as he went for the pull. Unsurprisingly, the bat-flow wasn't smooth, neither was the bat-face ideal, and the ball ballooned up for a simple catch.

Iyer's mental approach is such that he is avoiding the most sane option available to him: ducking or swaying away from the short ones; he commits himself so much to the shot that he is almost unable to tear away.

Misbah suggested that India should take a serious look at their batting order, and promote KL Rahul to No.4, instead of Iyer.

"I have been saying from day 1, KL Rahul is a class player and is late at No.5; he should be batting at No.4... If they have KL Rahul at No.4 and then when Hardik Pandya comes back, things can get difficult for Shreyas," Misbah said.

It's a tricky situation. If this World Cup was being played on bouncer tracks of South Africa or England, it would have been an easy decision to go the way Misbah suggests and take Iyer out of the middle-order fire. But in Indian conditions, the team values his approach.

The way Rohit Sharma and India see Iyer is a bit different to how a regular No.4 batsman is traditionally viewed. They are quite happy with the way he counter-attacks at the start, regains the momentum from the opposition if early wickets fall.

By doing that, even if he doesn't carry on for bigger scores, Iyer sets up the innings for the likes of Rahul and Pandya (or Suryakumar Yadav). In case he falls early, Rahul has the skill to drop anchor.

Iyer at No.4 allows India to delay that anchoring stage, when the batting team milks the middle overs. India's first preference is to attack, and Iyer allows them that luxury. Their batting order is also arranged that way: Rohit Sharma attacks, Shubman Gill is more naturally brisk rather than taking any risks. Then Iyer attacks when Virat Kohli takes up

CLEARLY DEFINED ROLES

The success of the Indian batting order in the World Cup so far is due to the clearly-defined role for each player, subject to conditions and the match situation.

-  **NO 1: ROHIT SHARMA** goes after the bowling from the beginning.
-  **NO 2: SHUBMAN GILL** scores briskly at the other end without taking too many risks.
-  **NO 3: VIRAT KOHLI** accumulates runs, lends solidity to the batting by rotating strike regularly without ever compromising the scoring rate.
-  **NO 4: SHREYAS IYER** plays the aggressor's role to ensure momentum isn't lost.

-  **NO 5: KL RAHUL** is the calm head - one can even call him a safety valve - if early wickets fall and there's a need to play out a few overs against testing bowling.
-  **NO 6: HARDIK PANDYA/ SURYAKUMAR** Yadav have been given the licence to go for the kill with their T20 hitting skills at the back-end of the innings.
-  **NO 7: RAVINDRA JADEJA** is the patient accumulator, churning out singles, if the top order has been dismissed with more than a few overs left to play.

the Gill-like role. Similarly, Rahul takes up that manoeuvring role while Pandya/Suryakumar can attack. It even follows down the order as Ravindra Jadeja takes up that singles-rotation steering role, allowing his partner to hit out.

If Iyer is taken out of the No.4 slot, it can lead to a situation where Rahul and Kohli are bunched together.

Not that it's bad - both of them together have pulled India out of holes even in this World Cup, but with Iyer in the mix, it allows them a greater attacking or counter-attacking cameo that helps them in setting up big targets or chasing down tall scorelines.

Trust of the leader

Speaking to *The Indian Express* before the World Cup, Rohit expounded on the No.4 position and Iyer's role.

"We have Shreyas Iyer. It's just that due to his injury, and a couple of players we tried didn't grab the opportunities, the hawaa (atmosphere) once again returned but since I knew Shreyas would be back, I had no sleepless nights over it."

"He has been perfect for us... Ever since the last ODI World Cup, it [the No.4 problem] has followed us. And perhaps it was a problem during Virat (Kohli) and (Ravi) Shastri's time, but I can speak confidently for us (Rohit and Rahul Dravid) that it hasn't been an issue at all," Rohit told this newspaper.

Will the last couple of games make Rohit rethink that? He is usually the sort who gives a longer rope to players and doesn't over-react to situations. Considering India's position in the World Cup, it's likely that Iyer will get more games to prove himself.

It will now come down to how Iyer views it. Will he try to be even bolder and franti-

cally aggressive to prove a point, or tame down a touch, and consider swaying or ducking to the short balls until he settles down.

It's not easy, of course, as in his mind he sees himself as a counter-attacker, and is almost drawn into the battle from the get-go. Pacing an innings is an art that only the really best know and Iyer isn't there quite yet.

His effort to keep the ball down can also be a touch awkward - with the bat face neither here nor there as he tries to roll his wrists over the ball, he wouldn't quite manage that. Not that he is unaware of the issue.

"That (the short ball issue) is just what the commentators talk about. And off-the-field guys kept saying it was an issue. It had gone into my head at one point. But if you see, if I can leave or keep it down, I definitely don't have a problem. Runs wouldn't come (against short balls); that was the situation. Obviously, the bowlers started to target when I came to bat. It does play on batsmen's mind when people from outside talk about the problem and it's important as a player to turn a deaf ear to them. The rest will take care of itself. At the end of the day, ignorance is bliss."

Turning a deaf ear is often a good approach in high-profile sport, but perhaps the inner ear can be tuned in to listen to his own words: "If I can leave or keep it down, I definitely won't have a problem".

But the aggressive role that he and the team have defined for him gets in the way. Fascinating times ahead in the next couple of matches to track how he bats.

SHORT TAKES

Sri Lanka super fan 'Uncle' Percy passes away

Percy Abeysekera, the iconic flag-waving, quick-witted supporter of the Sri Lankan cricket team, passed away after a battle with prolonged illness here on Monday. The 87-year-old

Abeysekera, who was fondly called as Uncle Percy by fans and cricketers alike, was a constant presence on cricket grounds across the world where his country played. Abeysekera, known for his colourful dressing, began his travels to cheer for the Lankan cricket team from the 1979 World Cup and since then he attended all major cricketing events except the on-going World Cup owing to poor health. His friendship with leading Lankan cricketers like Arjuna Ranatunga, Sanath Jayasuriya and Kumar Sangakkara made him an unavoidable figure in the country's cricketing landscape.

SA middle order is one of the most destructive: Smith

South Africa owes its success to one of its "most destructive" middle order, said former skipper Graeme Smith, who wants captain Temba Bavuma to step up to guide the team to a first-ever World Cup title. Smith admits he did not expect this South African side to be so ruthless but said their consistent and dominant performances have established them as one of the favourites to lift the title. "Like everybody else, my expectations were lower going into the tournament. I knew that if the team was going to do well, there were certain players who had to have a good tournament — and that has happened," Smith said.

Bangladesh haven't given up yet despite poor run

Their World Cup hopes over, embattled Bangladesh skipper Shakib Al Hasan on Monday said the team will look to put up a good show in the remaining matches to qualify for the 2025 Champions Trophy in Pakistan. Bangladesh lost to the Netherlands here in their last outing to make it five losses in a row. The defeat dashed their slim hopes of making it to the semifinals. "We will have to do our best and win, look for two points. We have had our team meetings, and how can we overcome the situation. But it's us who have to show it in action, do it in the ground," Shakib said on the eve of their match against Pakistan. "More than me, the whole team talked about. Only we can change the situation of our team with action, that's what we are trying to do."

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

No longer underdogs

Chasing 242, Afghanistan never let the asking rate overawe them, reaching the target with almost 5 overs to spare

SHIVANI NAIK
PUNE, OCTOBER 30

AZMATULLAH OMARZAI had just pulled Kasun Rajitha with no timing whatsoever in the 43rd over, soon after reaching his 50. Pathum Nissanka would put in a brave dive from the deep, but the ball failed to stick. Afghanistan still needed 30-odd in the awkward chase that wasn't steep but sufficiently deceptive.

Not thwarted, showing fearless instinct to risk-proof the same stroke, Omarzai would tame the pull shot next ball, playing it along the ground before it reached the mid-wicket fence. Meticulously-calculated aggression was Afghanistan's batting mantra on Monday, as they overwhelmed the target of 242 for a comfortable 7-wicket win, despite losing opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz for nothing in the first over. After chasing down Pakistan's total of 282 like pros, they have now shrugged off Sri Lanka.

Never allowing asking-rate pressure for themselves, and unaffected by any T20 hangover, Ibrahim Zadran (39 off 57 balls), Rahmat Shah (62 off 74), Hashmatullah Shahidi (58 not out off 74) and Omarzai (73 not out off 63) orchestrated yet another impressive chase to humble another former world champion, their third scalp in the on-going World Cup.

Speaking at the captains conference in early October, skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi had said on the eve of the tournament, "Iss time humara batting tagdaa hai (this time, our batting is strong)." Afghans of earlier generations were known to look up to Shahid Afridi as a batting idol. But in their 2023 avatar, they seem to have eschewed all impulsive batting tropes, and are operating on a neatly-tempered template of effective batsmanship, while chasing down targets - stiff or not.

Television cameras showed a white board with over-wise targets scribbled on them perched in front of head coach Jonathan Trott: it mentioned 50 runs for every slab of 10 overs till 40, and the last 42 by Over No.48. England's erstwhile under-rated ODI batsman, who was the perfect foil to Kevin Pietersen but never peer-pressed by his style, seemed to have impressed upon his charges the importance of sanguine run-building.

They picked the gaps by tweaking their wrists, paced the innings without stumbles, zoomed in on bowlers to target, chose moments in specific overs, and worked the Powerplay to display immense discipline in pursuing the little targets, always building partnerships.

Maturity and nous

Rahmat Shah was at his wristiest best clipping Rajitha to the legside, and didn't think twice before punishing Angelo Mathews' short-pitched loosener, punching it through the covers. Zadran too went on the front foot to flick Rajitha into the stands, but it was in bisecting fielders and ping-pong gaps that the Afghans impressed the most.

As 12,177 watched from the Pune stands, Azmatullah got together with captain Shahidi at 131/3 and refused to show any unsteady nerves and allow the chase



Azmatullah Omarzai (73 not out off 63 balls) played a vital role in yet another impressive chase.

AP

to go awry. What the likes of England against India and South Africa against the Netherlands had failed to do, the Afghans accomplished as if they had been doing it for a long time.

As they neared the target, Azmatullah drawled deep into his crease to pull Maheesh Theekshana to deep square leg for a six. A shortlist screamer from Dushmantha Chameera was ramped, using the bowler's pace, over third man for his second maximum, and a third would come via a top edge to fine leg off a shoulder-high delivery. But all the big hitting was afforded to them only after they'd crossed the assigned targets.

Trott, speaking later, would stress on how his batsmen had learnt to accept responsibility in the middle. "It's about giving the talent structure, a game plan and confidence," he said. Batsmen in form were told to not leave things to luck, revisit basics and break totals into smaller manageable targets, while playing good cricket shots. "You don't have to go at 15-16 an over," he would state.

The support staff, he informed, had worked on not just developing techniques but also the mental side of chasing. Pressure was recreated in nets, and training sessions simulated the hard intensity of a real match. "Nobody's got a 100 yet, that's our next frontier," Trott would say. He added that it had been a challenge for coaches of his generation, who were more accustomed to teaching batsmen to score quicker, to actually

drill in the reverse in one-dayers - teaching T20 regulars to go sedate.

The likes of Ajay Jadeja had actually tutored the Afghans in how to absorb pressure.

Farooqi makes it count

So massively vaunted is Afghanistan's lethal spin quartet that earlier in the day, left-arm pacer Fazalhaq Farooqi was playing second fiddle to fellow new-ball enthusiast, offie Mujeeb Ur Rahman. Called in place of Noor Ahmad after Chennai, though, Farooqi would make the opportunity count as he bagged 4-34 and helped Afghanistan restrict the Lankans to 241.

Opener Dimuth Karunaratne had started the sixth over driving Farooqi past extra cover, but the enraged quick was fast to retort. He would swing the very next delivery into the left-hand, pitching it fuller and Karunaratne trying to flick it would be trapped in front as a smart early review from Afghanistan would fetch them their first wicket on 22.

Naveen ul-Haq has been Afghanistan's leading wicket-taker among pacers, but would go for runs on the day. And when Charith Asalanka slogged a few and lucked out with outside edges past the wicket-keeper stinging Rashid Khan, captain Shahidi would summon Farooqi ahead of the final Powerplay.

Looking to accelerate in the 39th over, Asalanka would be frustrated by four dot balls, a melange of full deliveries and slow

unscorable bouncers. He would be rushed into a pull after Farooqi banged the fifth one short and get caught at mid-off as Lanka tottered at 180/6.

The inability to accelerate against Farooqi would also see Chameera dawdle and defend in the next over. The impatience increased at the other end as Mathews called for a run that would result in a horror run-out as Zadran didn't miss his missile throw from cover-point.

Theekshana, fancying a few lusty hits with the bat, had driven away Omarzai and Naveen out of the attack. He would brutally pull Farooqi for a 78-metre maximum to deep mid-wicket for a 31-ball 29-run cameo, but once more the avenging south-paw speedster would rev up his rage. Three balls later, he would send a scorching yorker right into the base of the middle stump cam and Theekshana was too late to bring the bat down after making room.

Mathews had gone after Naveen with a no-look bent-loop scoop over fine leg and pummeled a slower one straight past long-on the next over and was just threatening to explode.

Farooqi would take the pace off the ball, as Mathews committed to the shot and ended up with an aborted straight loft with his bottom hand coming off, being caught brilliantly in the deep by Mohammad Nabi inches from the boundary to give the left-armer his fourth wicket. He would end with impressive figures of 4-34, including a maiden, off his 10.

SCORECARD

AFGHANISTAN vs SRI LANKA
MCA, PUNE

Toss: Afghanistan elected to field

SRI LANKA		
P Nissanka c Gurbaz b Omarzai	46	(60b, 5x4)
D Karunaratne lbw b Farooqi	15	(21b, 1x4)
K Mendis c sub (Zadran) b Rahman	39	(50b, 3x4)
S Samarawickrama lbw b Rahman	36	(40b, 3x4)
C Asalanka c Rashid b Farooqi	22	(28b, 2x4)
D de Silva b Rashid	14	(26b, 1x4)
A Mathews c Nabi b Farooqi	23	(26b, 1x4, 1x6)
D Chameera run out (Zadran)		1 (4b)
M Theekshana b Farooqi	29	(31b, 3x4, 1x6)
K Rajitha c sub (Gurbaz)		5 (7b)
D Madushanka not out		0 (4b)
■ Extras (lb 2, w 9)		11
■ Total 49.3 Ov (RR: 4.86)		241
■ FoW: 1-22 (Dimuth Karunaratne, 5.2 ov), 2-84 (Pathum Nissanka, 18.1 ov), 3-134 (Kusal Mendis, 27.4 ov), 4-139 (Sadeera Samarawickrama, 29.1 ov), 5-167 (Dhananjaya de Silva, 35.6 ov), 6-180 (Charith Asalanka, 38.5 ov), 7-185 (Dushmantha Chameera, 39.6 ov), 8-230 (Maheesh Theekshana, 46.6 ov), 9-239 (Angelo Mathews, 48.3 ov), 10-241 (Kasun Rajitha, 49.3 ov)		
■ Bowling: Mujeeb Ur Rahman 10-0-38-2, Fazalhaq Farooqi 10-1-34-4, Naveen-ul-Haq 6.3-0-47-0, Azmatullah Omarzai 7-0-37-1, Rashid Khan 10-0-50-1, Mohammad Nabi 6-0-33-0		

AFGHANISTAN		
R Gurbaz b Madushanka		0 (4b)
I Zadran c Karunaratne b Madushanka	39	(57b, 4x4, 1x6)
R Shah c Karunaratne b Rajitha	62	(74b, 7x4)
H Shahidi not out	58	(74b, 2x4, 1x6)
A Omarzai not out	73	(63b, 6x4, 3x6)
■ Extras (lb 1, w 9)		10
■ Total 45.2 Ov (RR: 5.33)		242/3
■ FoW: 1-0 (Rahmanullah Gurbaz, 0.4 ov), 2-73 (Ibrahim Zadran, 16.5 ov), 3-131 (Rahmat Shah, 27.6 ov)		
■ Bowling: Dilshan Madushanka 9-0-48-2, Kasun Rajitha 10-0-48-1, Angelo Mathews 3-0-18-0, Dushmantha Chameera 9.2-0-51-0, Maheesh Theekshana 10-0-55-0, Dhananjaya de Silva 4-0-21-0		



Quite happy and proud of the team... the way we performed in all departments. Pakistan chase gave us a lot of confidence and belief that we can chase any kind of target. We started really well in bowling; the chase was very professional and I am very happy about it.

HASHMATULLAH SHAHIDI
AFGHANISTAN CAPTAIN

Bhanwala clinches Paris Olympics quota for India at Asian Shooting Championship

NITIN SHARMA
OCTOBER 30

THE HARYANA shooter Anish Bhanwala didn't go back to his home in Kamal after he finished 22nd at the Hangzhou Asian Games. Instead the 21-year-old called his coach, the Commonwealth medallist Harpreet Singh, to Delhi to train him at Dr Karni Singh Shooting Ranges for two-three weeks leading into the Asian Shooting Championships. On Monday, Bhanwala secured India's 12th Paris Olympics quota in shooting with a bronze medal in the men's 25m Rapid Fire final in the Asian Shooting Championship in Changwon, Korea. He is now headed to the Changwon market to get a gift for his long-time coach and his father.

"Mera kaam hai goli chalama and jab goli mishane pe lage toh who choti choti Khushi hi badi Khushi ka rasta banati hai (My job is to shoot and when the bullet hits the bulls eye, those small moments of joy lay the road to bigger success for me)," says Bhanwala.

"Even though I won the team bronze medal along with Vijayveer Sidhu and Adarsh Singh, it was a disappointing campaign for me in the individual event. It is important to recognize your flaws and rectify them soon. So I decided to spend time with Harpreet Singh. He always says whether I come with a medal or not, I should aim for shooting in good rhythm! To return home with a medal and an Olympic quota for India is special for me and my coach," Bhanwala tells The Indian Express.

For somebody, who first burst on the national scene winning the senior title among a field consisting of 2012 London Olympics silver medallist Vijay Kumar in 2017, the Kamal native showed some superlative form at the world junior level. He was the youngest gold medal winner for India in the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games in 2018. He had fol-



Anish Bhanwala secured India's 12th Paris Olympics quota in shooting with a bronze medal in the 25m Rapid Fire final.

lowed that with two junior world cup titles in 2019 but from there, the progress has been a tad slow to his liking; this year, he won his first ISSF World Cup medal, a bronze at Cairo. He acknowledges the path to accomplishments at the senior level has taken time.

"25m Rapid Fire event is a very technical event and I still cherish the multiple world titles at the junior level. They only showed me that I am growing as a shooter and I understand that the event takes years to master and to reach the maturity level of somebody like Vijay sir. I was also growing up physically all these years and sometimes some things did not work for me like grip changes or weight added to the pistol. But we would return to basics and with time, I've started to mature mentally. My focus has been to enjoy my shooting," he says.

On Monday, Bhanwala had the quota place for India in the bag even before the final began. He was third in qualification with a score of 588 but with a few shooters from other countries, already achieved the Paris qualification, Bhanwala's spot was secured.

In the final, Bhanwala was in the lead along with Lee and Li after the first competition stage with a score of 12 each before he dropped to the tied-first spot with Lee and Dai with a score of 21 after the second elimination stage. A series of perfect five in this stage saw Bhanwala taking a two-shot lead over the fourth placed Li and a three-point series as compared to four point by Li in the third elimination stage saw Bhanwala edging out the Chinese two-time Olympic medallist to fourth place and assuring himself of a medal.

The Haryana shooter was tied with Japan's Yoshioka Dai after the fourth elimination stage and lost the shoot-off to win the bronze medal. "We knew that if any of us (Me or Vijayveer Sidhu) can get into the final, we will have a chance of the quota. When we reached the final hall, I got to know about the quota already being won by India. So my focus was to shoot freely and that's what happened for me today. The shoot off was unlucky for me but I am glad that I could edge out the three Chinese shooters including two-time Olympic medallist Yuehong Li." He would have a little big moment with Li after the final that he is pretty chuffed about. "He is one of the Chinese shooters whom I idolize and he complimented me after the final," says Bhanwala.

With not more than ten months remaining for the Paris Olympics, Bhanwala first has to assure himself a spot in the Indian team for the Paris Olympics. Coach Harpreet Singh believes that the next 2-3 months will be spent on going back to the basics. "We had made some adjustments to his grip and also made changes in his head position in which he shoots," Says Singh. "So the aim will be to get him adjusted well to all the changes by repeated practice sessions. He shoots 250-300 shots daily and is shooting close to 590 in practice. That's the rhythm we want him to achieve regularly in the next 6-7 months."

Salima central to India's win against China

VINAYAK MOHANARANGAN
RANCHI, OCTOBER 30

AFTER INDIA beat China 2-1 at the Asian Champions Trophy in Ranchi on Monday, head coach Janneke Schopman gave Salima Tete a bear hug. The 21-year-old stood there with the player of the match award in her hand, receiving her coach's adulation. The Simdega speedster's goal was the difference between the two teams in the end in an intense battle that India won to confirm their place in the semifinals.

Deepika (15') and Salima (26') scored for India in the first half, while Jiaqi Zhong (41') brought China back in the second in a match of two halves. And one of the keys to India's win was how well Salima played through the middle. The player known for her blistering pace, with the strength in the legs that was built up through the days of playing barefoot in the mud fields as a kid, usually plays on the wings for India. But in Ranchi, coach Schopman has asked her to switch to the centre. Reluctant though she is, the win against China saw Schopman beam with a 'I-told-you-so' hidden behind her smile.

Having weathered a brief storm from China in the second quarter, India doubled their lead before half time and once again, it was the Simdega combination that did the trick.

This time, Sangita Kumari forced a turnover high up the pitch with her pressing that Schopman had highlighted already. Salima, from that central position high up, gathered the stray ball and unleashed a powerful reverse hit that thudded into the board. It was one of the many impressive moments she had through the middle of the field.

"Salima is a very good player but she always wants to play on the side," Schopman said after the match. "But I tell her, if you are in the middle, you can go wherever you want to with your speed. She had a great game, I know she can play very well there. We need her



Salima Tete, who scored in the first half, showed wonderful ball control again in the centre of the park.

HI

there this tournament, because I want to try her centrally, I hope this is what she needs to show all the time that she can be a real threat for us in the midfield."

"I didn't like it at the beginning," Salima says with a sheepish smile when asked about the move inward from the flanks. "I don't really like it but the coach tells me that I can play in this position well so I should try it. And this will help the team, and today it worked. Yeah, I will try playing through this position more."

Right from the pushback, it was evident this was going to be a punch-counterpunch sort of night. While India played with purpose and intensity, their possession didn't result in clear-cut chances as the moves broke down in the final third. China's problems were similar too.

It wasn't until the final last two minutes in the opening quarter that the first real attacking threat came as Jyothi won the ball back high up and India forced a Penalty Corner. But as has been the trend, the ball was misstrapped. The breakthrough eventually came at the end of the first quarter. Sangita showed another moment of brilliance down the right flank that created a goalmouth scramble, leading to a penalty stroke. With the capacity crowd chanting 'India, India', Deepika converted from the spot.

China started the second quarter on the front foot and Savita Punia — who has been barely made to work so far in the tournament — had to be alert to save a lifted shot from close range. Ishika Chaudhary prevented another promising China move as the momentum started to shift. A green card for Lalremsiami saw India go down to 10 but they managed that phase of the game quite well, with Salima showing some wonderful ball control again in the centre of the park.

Early in the second half, Savita was called into action twice more. The pressure was increasing as China forced a PC to pull one back. China executed a variation and Jiaqi Zhong scored through a powerful flick past Savita.

With India looking like they needed inspiration, Salima provided a burst of pace down the right to fire up the crowd as the third quarter came to a close. In the final 15, with everything to play for, India produced their best attacking move in a while with Bajjeet going on a fine run down the right before Navneet and Salima centrally combined, but the final pass was missing.

Play was halted for a while in the final quarter due to a floodlight issue at the venue and from the restart China were inches away from equalising. India were under pressure with Vandana shown a yellow card in the end and China took their goalkeeper off. Coach Schopman felt China, too, should have been down to 10. India missed a chance to put the match to bed in the end through a counter, but did enough to hang on.

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