

Nawaz Sharif with brother Shehbaz and daughter Maryam in Lahore Saturday

Nawaz returns to Pak after 4 yrs in exile

MZULQERNAIN & SAJJAD HUSSAIN
LAHORE, ISLAMABAD, OCTOBER 21

FOUR YEARS after going into self-imposed exile in the UK, former Pakistan prime minister Nawaz Sharif returned home on a special flight Saturday as he looks to lead his party into the general elections expected in January and secure a record fourth term as PM.

The 73-year-old Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) chief arrived in Islamabad from Dubai on a chartered plane named 'Umeed-e-Pakistan' at around 1:30 pm local time. In the evening, he held a massive rally at the Minar-i-Pakistan in Lahore where he spoke of the country's dire economic condition and vowed to work towards its development.

"I have no wish for revenge, Nawaz Sharif only wishes for the well-being of the people," said Sharif, whose return comes after the jailing of his arch rival, former prime minister Imran Khan.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

IGNITION GLITCH DELAYS LAUNCH, NAVY COLLECTS CREW MODULE

Launch to splashdown, ISRO clears key step to human space mission

Very happy that team could detect anomaly, rectify so quick, says ISRO chief

JOHNSON TA
BENGALURU, OCTOBER 21

SETTING THE stage for its planned mission, Gaganyaan, to take Indian astronauts into space by 2024, the Indian Space Research Organisation successfully carried out Saturday, after overcoming a technical glitch, a crucial test of the crew escape system.

The launch of the mission, Flight Test Vehicle Abort Mission (TV-D1), scheduled for 8 am, was delayed due to weather factors and a snag in the rocket's ignition detected at 8.45 am put the mission on hold. However, scientists quickly identified and corrected the "anomaly" and return to the launchpad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota for a launch at 10 am.

The Test Vehicle, a rocket developed by ISRO to test various systems for its first human space mission Gaganyaan in a two-year time frame, launched smoothly. And culminated with a perfect execution of the abort mission with the crew escape system separating from the rocket at an altitude of approximately 17 km.

Gaganyaan aims to send hu-



(Clockwise, from above) The Gaganyaan test flight lifts off at 10 am; 9 minutes later, the crew module separates from the rocket at an altitude of 16.9 km before parachuting down to the Bay of Bengal; it is retrieved by the Navy, 10 km off the coast of Sriharikota.

mans into space on a Low Earth Orbit of 400 km for three days and bring them safely back to the Earth.

The crew module made a successful splashdown in the Bay of Bengal around 10 km from the coast of Sriharikota at the programmed velocity and in the nominal time of a little over nine minutes after lift-off.

"This launch takes us one

step closer to realising India's first human space flight program, Gaganyaan. My best wishes to our scientists at ISRO," Prime Minister Narendra Modi posted on X.

The crew module was recovered by the Indian Navy using a dedicated vessel and diving team later in the day. "The Crew Module in the safe hands of @indiannavy," ISRO said on social

media Saturday evening.

"We have had full accomplishment of the TV-D1 mission. The purpose of this mission was to demonstrate the crew escape system through a test vehicle demonstration in which the vehicle has gone up to a Mach no. (1.2 Mach) — which is the speed of sound — and initiated an abort condition for the Crew Escape

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

US, UK back Canada on diplomatic presence, ask India to cooperate in Nijjar investigation

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

A DAY after Canada announced the departure of its 41 diplomats and their family members from India, the US and UK backed Ottawa's contention that Delhi's action for seeking diplomatic party went against the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

In their respective statements Saturday on the development, the US and UK backed Canada, underlining that diplomats are required to be on the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED

E Five Eyes: The pool, leads

US, UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand make the Five Eyes and pool intelligence. Last month, David Cohen, US envoy to Canada, told a Canadian TV channel that "shared intelligence among Five Eyes partners... helped lead Canada" to make the statements that Trudeau made on the Nijjar killing.

Rajasthan: Gehlot, Pilot in Cong 1st list; boost for Raje in BJP's 2nd list

HAMZA KHAN & DEEP MUKHERJEE
JAIPUR, OCTOBER 21

ALMOST TWO weeks after the Rajasthan Assembly elections were announced, the Congress Saturday finally announced a first list of 33 candidates including Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his rival Sachin Pilot.

The BJP, meanwhile, played it safe with its second list of candidates after its first list sidelined several established

names. Its 83 names declared Saturday include Vasundhara Raje from her constituency Jhalrapatan and many of her key loyalists.

While there were expectations that the BJP might field some more Union ministers to beef up its chances in the close Rajasthan race — after having done so in Madhya Pradesh — none figured in the second list.

For Congress, with seat talks reportedly stuck due to divisions in the state unit, the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

MAN ARRESTED Body in chains is of Swiss woman killed by Delhi man, say police

ARNABJIT SUR
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

A DAY after a woman's decomposing body — with burn marks and chained limbs — was found in a West Delhi locality, police identified her as Nina Berger, a 30-year-old Swiss national who they suspect was lured to the country, tortured and killed by a businessman she refused to marry.

Police Saturday arrested a gemstone dealer, Gurpreet, a Janakpuri resident, after tracking down a second-hand car in which he killed the woman, DCP (West) Vichitra Veer said.

Police said Gurpreet met Berger around three years ago when he went to Switzerland to meet a relative. The two had kept in touch since then.

"The two became close through a common friend circle... Gurpreet asked her to marry him, but she said she was already in a relationship. This

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

THE WORLD



AID TRUCKS BEGIN ROLLING INTO GAZA VIA EGYPT BORDER
PAGE 10

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APPLE WATCH ULTRA 2 REVIEW: THE BEST GETS BETTER, ONE TICK AT A TIME The Apple Watch Ultra, when it was launched last year, was the pinnacle of what a smartwatch could achieve in terms of features.

EXPRESS AUDIO Love and the Law: Marriage Equality, LGBTQ rights & More Host Leeza Mangaldas explores the impacts of patriarchy, laws, norms and the journey from 1950 to 2023, assessing the progress and challenges of women's and LGBTQ+ community rights in India with the help of Saurabh Kirpal, a Senior Advocate.

Reminded BJP leaders of my efforts in NDA days: Nitish on 'friends' remark CM again points to Tejashwi as successor

SANTOSH SINGH PATNA, OCTOBER 21 AMID A controversy over his statement during a convocation function in Motihari Thursday, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar Saturday denied any leanings towards BJP. He said his statement was misconstrued by the media. Kumar waded into choppy waters Thursday when he said: "They are our friends and will remain friends" while sharing the dais with BJP leaders.



Bihar CM Nitish Kumar and Dy CM Tejashwi Yadav in Patna on Saturday. PTI

This is the second instance after his statement at Nalanda last year that he hinted towards Tejashwi being his successor. He said: "I have no personal ambition. My only objective is to strengthen the stand of our alliance (INDIA bloc)." BJP state chief Samrat Choudhary said: "Nitish Kumar is not sure of what he is saying. The people of Bihar will decide his successor."

FROM PAGE ONE FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM Launch to splashdown, ISRO clears key step to human space mission

System mission," ISRO chairman S Somanath said soon after the splashdown. "The Crew Escape System took the module away from the test vehicle and subsequently the operation of the separation of the Crew Module from the Crew Escape System occurred with parachutes opening and the crew module touched down in the sea. The required velocity has been very much accomplished. We have got confirmation of the data for all of this," the ISRO chairman said.

countdown for the launch had entered the final second for lift-off when the rocket seemed to stall on the launch pad -- when the countdown from 10 had reached down to 1. The launch was announced as being put on hold by the mission control. Somanath was heard telling scientists that the launch "will not be possible today."

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Delhi man killed Swiss woman who refused to marry him, arrested: cops

infuriated Gurpreet and he came back (to India). Thereafter, he convinced the woman to come to Delhi for a vacation and even showed her an itinerary of famous places she could visit," a police officer said.

Police said the footage near the spot showed two men getting out of a car and throwing the woman's body behind an MCD school in Tilak Nagar. Police believe Berger was killed three days ago and that Gurpreet inflicted burn injuries on her.

Nawaz returns to Pak after four years in exile

Khan faces over 150 cases and his government had filed a number of corruption cases against the Sharif family. "We need to begin a new journey. We need to decide on how we will get our lost position back, how we will have to run at double speed, how we will have to break the begging bowl forever, how we will have to stand on our feet..."

Thursday granted him protective bail until October 24 in both cases after the National Accountability Bureau, Pakistan's anti-corruption agency, did not oppose the petitions filed by him. Lahore speech In his speech in Lahore, Sharif used religious symbolism extensively. He asked the people to recite Islamic verses every day to resolve their problems.

US, UK back Canada

ground to resolve differences. The two countries, part of the Five Eyes intelligence-sharing alliance that also includes Canada, Australia and New Zealand, also urged India to cooperate in the Canadian investigation into the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Surrey, British Columbia in June this year.

Gehlot, Pilot in Cong 1st list; boost for Raje in BJP list

first list features predictable constancies, held by heavyweights like Gehlot, ex-Deputy CM Pilot, Speaker C P Joshi and state unit chief Govind Singh Dotasra. Gehlot will contest from his sitting constituency of Sardarpura, as will Pilot from his constituency Tonk, Dotasra from Laxmangarh and Joshi from Nathdwara.

EXPECT NAMO BHARAT'S RIDERSHIP TO CROSS 10K MARK ON DAY 1: OFFICIALS

Father-daughter, retiree: Commuters hop onto Rapid Rail on first day of ops

UPASIKA SINGHAL
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

ONA tranquil Saturday afternoon, the Sahibabad Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) station in Uttar Pradesh was a hubbub of activity. Families to curious bystanders — all eager to explore the sophisticated amenities of this new railway line — lined up in front of the ticket counter.

This was its maiden day of operations following a grand inauguration ceremony of the 17-km priority section between Sahibabad and Duhai — a part of the 82-km Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor — by Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday.

Vinay Kumar Singh, Managing Director of the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC), along with other senior officials, warmly welcomed the first set of passengers of India's first Namo Bharat train in the morning. These passengers were also

acknowledged as the First Rider and a certificate was provided.

At the ticket counter, a staff member was informing passengers that the Delhi Metro card would not work there, but a National Mobility card would. A standard ticket from Sahibabad to Duhai Depot costs Rs 50, while a premium option is available too for double the price.

Another staff member was handing roses to new passengers as they scanned their tickets at the gate. "Hope you have a great journey," she chirped.

A staircase led passengers to the plush platform where they excitedly filmed each other and took selfies. The premium section of the platform, reserved for ticket holders, offers amenities such as vending machines, a magazine rack, and comfortable faux leather chairs.

Heera Lal Gupta (53) and Manu Gupta (18), who had come for a father-daughter day out, were pretty excited to ride the new line. "I wanted to show my



The train started from the Sahibabad station. Express

daughter what it looks like, since we barely go to Delhi or ride the Metro," said Gupta, who owns a kirana store in Muradnagar.

His daughter Manu, a first-year college student of TSTKPT Memorial College in Muradnagar, said, "I think it'll reduce traffic. It takes a lot of time to travel because of the jams and I think this will help us manage our time well."

As the train glided into the station, most passengers had

identical reactions — part awe, and part disbelief.

IT professional Amit Tyagi (41) reflected on the transformation of the area over the past two decades. "I grew up in Muradnagar and had to take the chartered buses that ran between Meerut and Delhi to reach my college in Sahibabad," Tyagi, now a resident of Vasundhara, said.

"There used to be nothing apart from a two-lane road," he added.

According to Tyagi, the RRTS will be a game-changer for students and the working class who endure lengthy daily commutes from Meerut and nearby areas.

MS Srivastava (66), a retiree, concurred, "It used to take us an eternity to reach Noida and Delhi — an hour to reach Noida from Muradnagar and then another hour, or sometimes even an hour and a half, to get to Delhi."

The NCRTC, which is implementing the RRTS project across NCR, said the inaugural Namo Bharat train journey, which kicked off at 6 am, received an "overwhelming response from commuters", some of whom arrived as early as 4.30 am from nearby areas like Muradnagar and even from far-flung areas in Delhi and UP.

"It is expected that the Namo Bharat train riders numbers can easily cross the 10,000 mark on the very first day of service. As per the last update, operation is still continuing," an official said Saturday evening.

Five of family killed in late-night accident on Yamuna e-way

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NOIDA, OCTOBER 21

FIVE MEMBERS of a family were killed in a late-night accident on the Yamuna Expressway in Greater Noida after an unidentified vehicle hit the Maruti Eco van they were travelling in. Three other passengers, all minors, were critically injured and have been hospitalised at Kailash Hospital in Jewar, police said.

The incident took place around 1 am on Saturday. The impact was such that the Eco car was completely mangled. Police are on the lookout for the accused.

The deceased have been identified as Upendra Baittha (38), his brother Bijendra Baittha (36), Bijendra's wife Kanti Devi (30), their daughter Kuv (12), and Suresh Baittha (45), police said. They lived at JJ Colony Phase 3, in Delhi's Madanpur Khadar.

"The incident took place on the 25th kilometre from Noida on the Yamuna Expressway. The deceased were originally from Jharkhand's Palamu district. They were going from Delhi to Jharkhand when they met with the accident. There is no CCTV camera at the spot, so we still don't know which vehicle hit the car. There are no eye-witnesses so far either. We are trying to gather information through location intelligence," said a police officer.

DCP (Greater Noida) Saad Miya Khan said, "There were eight people inside the Eco car — five passengers died while three were injured and undergoing treatment. Further legal action is being taken."

Police said the children — Suraj (16), Ayush (8) and Aryan (10) — are in critical condition. Babban Kumar, Kanti Devi's brother, demanded a speedy arrest of the accused. He also said his brother-in-law worked as a contractor.

"The family was on their way to attend a function in Jharkhand. They had left home around 11.30 pm on Friday. Within a few hours, I got a call



The incident took place around 1 am on Saturday. The impact was such that the Eco car, in which the victims were travelling, was completely mangled.

Gajendra Yadav

from a hospital... when I rushed there, I found five of my family were dead. Police must arrest those who did this," said Kumar.

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Project to turn Gole Market into museum kicks off

SAMAN HUSAIN
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

THE LONG-AWAITED restoration project of the famous colonial-era Gole Market kicked off on Saturday. The market, which once housed fruit and meat businesses but was shut down in 2007 due to structural damage, is about to become a museum themed after unsung women heroes.

Launching the project, L-G VK Saxena said no modifications will be made to the Grade-II heritage structure's original design while restoration is being done. Minister of State for Culture and External Affairs, Meenakshi Lekhi, was also at the event.

The museum will highlight achievements of Indian women in the fields of art, literature, cul-

ture, science, and technology, and particularly their involvement in the fight for independence.

The main building, which covers an area of 1,407 sqm, will be retrofitted, restored, and preserved at an estimated cost of Rs 21.66 crore. The proposed work also involves doing up the interiors, plumbing, electrical wiring and fire safety. The project will also have a subway and a designated parking lot to facilitate access to the museum for visitors.

In the central courtyard, a glass dome roof structure and a central air conditioning system will also be constructed.

Meanwhile, shopkeepers who've been around for generations spoke to *The Indian Express* and recalled the long set of developments and transformations that the market has gone through.



L-G VK Saxena flagged off the restoration efforts. PTI

Ram Narayan Gupta, the 88-year-old owner of Delhi Sweet House which was established in 1931, said, "The proposal for the museum was initiated by Sheila Dikshit. I still recall she had come

here for an inspection in 2007 and said a museum would be built in this place. In 2009, shopkeepers in the market were evicted but since then, the proposal lay in limbo. However, yesterday, the L-

G came for another inspection and we heard work on building the museum will be fast-tracked."

"My father used to work in a store inside Gole Market; subsequently, in 1931, after another building was built, we moved our business there... There used to be appropriate water facilities during British times, as well as a designated place where drinking water supplies for cattle were set up. The colonial government also had a dairy here where officials could collect milk in containers," he said.

Others, meanwhile, were anxious about how the development would affect business. "... Our shop has been here since I was a kid and our licences have not been upgraded in ages. Our businesses would be over when renovations start," said Rupak, a shop owner in the area.

Contradictions in statements should result in my discharge, Brij Bhushan tells city court

NIRBHAY THAKUR
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

POINTING OUT contradictions in statements of complainants, BJP MP and outgoing Wrestling Federation of India chief Brij Bhushan argued in court that he ought to be discharged. The MP is facing allegations of sexual harassment from women wrestlers.

Senior Advocate Rajiv Mohan, representing Bhushan, argued that contradictions in the statements had the effect of taking the case away from the arena of grave suspicion towards mere suspicion. Mohan reiterated that the oversight committee, set up to enquire into allegations of sexual harassment by six wrestlers against the accused, was comparable to an Internal Complaints Committee under the POSH Act.

He further argued that if a prima facie case is made out against the accused, then a committee made under POSH Act ought to forward the case to the police within 7 days. "Since no prima facie case was found out by the oversight committee, no FIR was registered... it is a case of direct exoneration," said Mohan. He argued that non-recommendation of the FIR was equivalent to the fact that no case was found against his client.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Harjeet Singh Jaspal asked Mohan if he was seeking exoneration from the oversight committee, to which the latter replied in the affirmative. In earlier hearings however, Mohan had pointed out that the committee had exonerated the accused.

"I'm not saying that if I'm exonerated by the committee, criminal proceedings against me cannot take place. I have neither been implicated nor exonerated," said Mohan.

Additional Public Prosecutor (APP) Atul Kumar Srivastava, however, argued that the oversight committee wasn't comparable to an ICC under the POSH Act and, therefore, gave no benefit to the accused.

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A smoggy Saturday along the Yamuna.
Praveen Khanna

Transport tops emission chart

A paper examines decadal emission load of major air pollutants in Delhi. Here's what it found

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

THE EMISSION of pollutants from the transport sector has increased in Delhi and adjacent NCR areas over the decade — 2010 to 2020 — going by a new estimation in a recently published paper.

The paper, "Decadal growth in emission load of major air pollutants in Delhi", published in the Earth System Science Data journal, is by Gufran Beig, founder project director, SAFAR, and chair professor at National Institute of Advanced Studies; Saroj Kumar Sahu, assistant professor at Utkal University in Bhubaneswar; and Poonam Mangaraj.

According to Beig, while emissions haven't declined, there seems to be a marginal improvement in annual averages (of particulate matter levels) in Delhi. "This could be due to short-term, temporary measures like Graded Response Action Plan. But, for a permanent solution, mitigation needs to be done by taking long-term steps so emissions from the source are reduced, rather than by way of imposing stringent restrictions on a temporary basis."

This could include steps like switching from fossil fuel-based

vehicles to electric ones, he added.

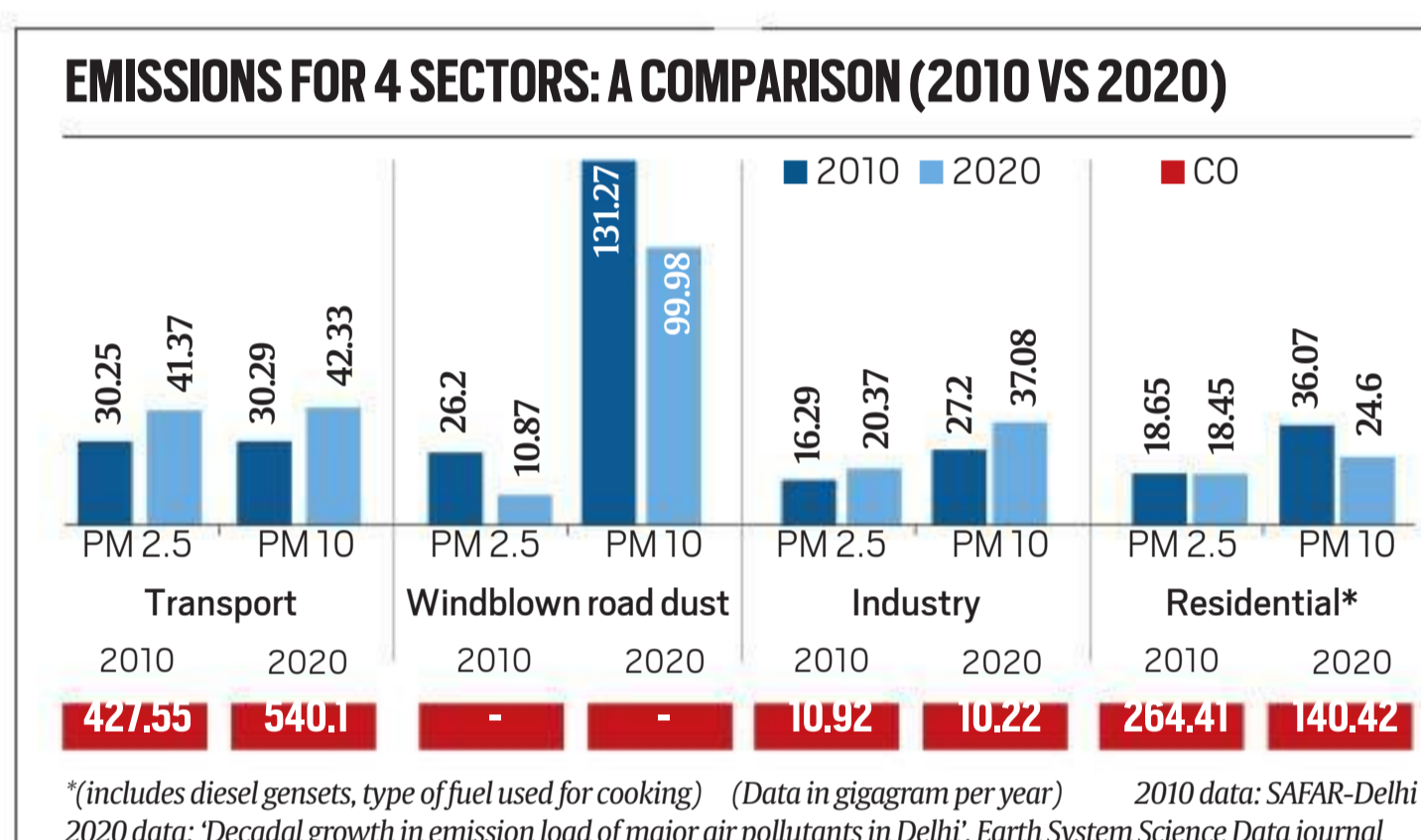
The decadal change was estimated by comparing emission-related information from SAFAR in 2010 with data from 2020.

While the paper said decadal growth in PM 2.5 and PM 10 levels was found to be 31% and 3% respectively, Beig said an additional category of 'others' was included in the 2020 estimation; this includes emissions from sources like municipal solid waste burning and construction. "This category was not included in 2010 as it was hard to get activity data at that time. However, if you recalculate emissions by incorporating that data, it is a marginal increase in both PM 2.5 and PM 10 in 2020 compared to 2010," he added.

The bottom line? There has been no decline in emissions,

Beig explained. "If emissions from biofuel or dust have declined, that of transport has increased, which levels it off," he said.

In addition to contributing to particulate matter and gaseous pollutant levels, combustion of fuel in vehicles also emits black carbon which can absorb energy from the sun and contribute to warming. This contribution from the transport sector has also increased from



2010 to 2020.

The paper said there's been an increase of 39% in emission load from the transport sector as compared to a 36% increase in the industrial sector, and a decrease of 23% in windblown road dust emissions. "Due to penetration of LPG in slums, cooking-related emission has improved significantly, as is also the case in the residential sector," the paper read.

"There is an increase in traffic congestion, but better paved-

road conditions and road shoulder maintenance have resulted in a decrease in emission load from windblown road dust in the last decade," it added.

PM 2.5 emissions in 2020 was estimated to be 123,891 gigagrams per year, with the single highest contribution of 41,369 gigagrams being from the transport sector. PM 10 emissions were 243,649 gigagrams in 2020, with "windblown road dust" contributing the largest

amount of 99,975 gigagrams to this. Carbon monoxide emission was found to be 799,023 gigagrams, with transport contributing 540.1 gigagrams to this. (see box)

An area of 70 kmx65 km covering Delhi and adjacent NCR areas was considered for the estimation of emission inventory for 8 major pollutants, and primary activity data of sources was generated through a field campaign.

On PM 10 emissions, the paper noted, "A recent rising trend of vehicle numbers along with vehicles from surrounding states on Delhi roads in the last 10 years has put tremendous pressure on road network expansion, leading to heavy traffic congestion. All major traffic junctions are experiencing high emission loads. However, highest-emitting grids... are also found in small patches driven by sources like WTE (waste-to-energy) plants and industrial practices followed by municipal solid-waste burning. It has been found that Okhla region is one of the highly polluted hotspots where WTE plants, municipal solid waste burning, and windblown road dust are dominating sectors responsible for elevated PM 10 emissions," the paper said.

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Weather & govt efforts equally important to curb pollution, says Rai

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

AS DELHI heads into another winter, with the looming possibility of pollution levels surging once again, Environment Minister Gopal Rai weighs in on the task of ensuring clean air for residents.

To what extent do you think measures taken by the Delhi government so far have helped in dealing with pollution levels?

In Delhi, the report prepared by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) says in 2016, 'good', 'satisfactory', and 'moderate' AQI days were 109. This year so far, there have been more than 200. This indicates there is a consistent improvement. For this, the government has been implementing the winter action plan. We also saw that with the emergency measures in the winter action plan, there is a need to work on it all year round. So, over the past two years, we have been making a summer action plan.

Major contributors to pollution here are vehicles, dust from construction, and biomass burning.

As a long-term measure, we have given priority to increasing the green belt. Another step is the Electric Vehicle Policy to deal with vehicular pollution; the plan is to switch

public transport to electric. The third step that played a major role is ensuring 24x7 electricity supply. Industrial units in Delhi have switched from dirty fuel to PNG, the two power plants here were shut, and firecrackers have been banned.

I think the odd-even policy was a turning point in changing the mindset of people. Each person had to decide which vehicle will run and which won't. This generated debate and awareness on what it is. The 'Red Light On, Gaadi Off' campaign... that was also a question of public mindset. It gives people a sense that they can contribute to controlling pollution in a way that will not affect their work. An anti-dust campaign is part of the winter action plan and teams are carrying out inspections.

Delhi is still far from meeting National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Does the government have a target it hopes to achieve in terms of bringing pollution levels down?

What the best standard is for health, we need to achieve that. But what used to look difficult earlier, now if we look at it... if we can get double the number of

'good' to 'moderate' AQI days this year when compared to previous years, then confidence improves, and there is the courage to think this is possible.

There was a mention of the possibility of cloud seeding to bring pollution levels down in Delhi. Is there clarity on that?

It was an idea... experts from IIT-Kanpur were called. They said some experiments were done. We requested that for Delhi's specific situation in the winter, if they can research and make a presentation, we can discuss further.

The source-apportionment study is underway, which gives data on sources contributing to the city's pollution. Based on that, what action is being taken?

At the 13 pollution hotspots, a mobile van part of the study was stationed, and that helped us understand what the major sources are at the local level. Based on this, we've made action plans for each hotspot and are working on them.

Is Pusa bio-decomposer being used in Punjab this year?

There are many options there, there are many machines. They are exploring other options as well. This year, the practical result of all these different experiments will show. The problem with the decomposer there is the time between harvest and sowing of the next crop. We

need 15-20 days for the decomposer to work and farmers there are saying they don't have that time. If the time for the decomposer to work can be reduced, then it can be effective there also.

When we look at improvement in particulate matter levels, to what extent do you think weather factors played a role?

The factors are all the same every year. Vehicles don't suddenly increase in winter, and it's not that extra particulate matter is generated in winter compared to other times of the year. Pollutants don't disperse in winter, they accumulate near the surface. There is also the impact of rain and wind. If you look at figures over the years, there is consistency in the fall (in pollution levels). Weather is an important factor, but there has been a consistent drop.

It is said that if it goes badly, it is because of the government, and if it is good, it is because of the weather. That theory is not correct. It is also not correct that the good is all because of government efforts, and weather doesn't do anything. Both are important.



THE EXPRESS INTERVIEW WITH GOPAL RAI DELHI ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

AQI may dip to 'very poor', GRAP Stage 2 kicks in

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

STAGE II or the 'very poor' stage of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) will set in across Delhi-NCR with immediate effect, with the forecast indicating that the air quality is likely to deteriorate, the CAQM said Saturday.

While the AQI in Delhi on Saturday was 248, in the 'poor' category, the forecast indicates it is likely to dip and enter the 'very poor' category on October 23 and 24, "owing to unfavourable meteorological and climatic conditions," as per CAQM.

Under GRAP, measures under Stage II are to be invoked three days ahead of the AQI reaching the projected level of 301-400, based on the air quality forecast. Here are some of the measures:

■ Operation of diesel generator sets to be regulated. DG sets for all capacity ranges that haven't been equipped with emission-control devices can be used only for emergency services like medical, railway services.

■ Parking fees be enhanced. CNG/electric bus and Metro services be augmented by inducting additional fleet and increasing frequency of service.

Stage I of GRAP was imposed across Delhi-NCR on October 6, and measures under this are to continue.

EXPERTS SPEAK

Policy, mitigation must be long-term focus

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

AS THE city's air quality begins to take a turn for the worse once again, the Delhi government has pointed to improvements over the past few years — data from the Delhi Pollution Control Committee shows the annual average PM 2.5 level in 2022 was 103 µg/m³, down from 149 µg/m³ in 2014. Similarly, the PM 10 level in 2022 was 223 µg/m³, down from 324 µg/m³ in 2014. What has this meant for Delhi's fight against pollution? Experts weigh in on the measures that may have helped so far and the long road ahead.

ANUMITA ROYCHOWDHURY
Executive Director, Research and Advocacy, Centre for Science and Environment



What has worked so far: Public transport has moved to CNG; there are restrictions on old vehicles; electrification of the fleet; BS-VI emission standards for vehicles; coal power plants have been shut; transition to natural gas in legal industrial areas. This has contributed to bending of the pollution curve. No other city in India has done all these things together.

What should Delhi focus on now: Delhi still needs to reduce levels by between 55% to



Smog guns have been mandated at construction sites as part of dust-mitigation measures. Abhinav Saha

59% to meet national standards for PM 2.5. Scale and speed of action will have to be hugely disruptive.

We need a strategy to address volume of traffic, and a massive mobility transition, a clean mass transport mode, and the infrastructure that is needed for it, integrated public transport system supported by walking, cycling infrastructure, and restraint measures (congestion pricing, parking policy, low emissions zones in the city) so we don't use cars as much.

Lessons from the hard lockdown of the pandemic need to be remembered — regional influence on pollution could be minimised then because activity in the entire region was controlled. Action will have to be scaled up across the region.

GUFRAN BEIG
Founder project director, SAFAR, and chair professor, National Institute of Advanced Studies



What has worked so far: Annual emission data indicates that emissions have increased not declined. Despite that, air quality has shown improvement in recent times, because of short-term measures like GRAP that reduce the magnitude of the pollution peak.

What should Delhi focus on now: Long-term solutions for decline in emissions — faster switch to EVs from fossil fuel-based vehicles, ensuring access to cleaner cooking fuel in areas around Delhi as well. Delhi is a landlocked city, and mitigation meas-

ures need to be taken across the entire airshed, not just in Delhi.

SACHCHIDA NAND TRIPATHI
Professor at IIT-Kanpur and Steering Committee member, National Clean Air Programme



What has worked so far: Air quality monitoring in Delhi, with around 40 government monitors, has helped authorities check what's happening, and over the years they have looked at where the hotspots are.

We also have a more conscious citizenry now and allied agencies have brought measures like replacing dirty fuel in industries at least to a certain extent. That has brought some decline in annual average PM 2.5 over the last few years. There were a couple of years when Covid was there, so we don't have sufficient long-term series, but there is some indication that PM 2.5 is declining. **What should Delhi focus on now:** What has been done is very basic. This needs to be rapidly built up on. We need to ramp up air quality monitoring in NCR, and we need to have a more responsive regulatory system. This means we need to improve capacity — people who understand this kind of data should be able to rapidly analyse and make use of it. This needs to be backed up with large-scale policy decisions like ensuring access to LPG across NCR.

DIPANKAR SAHA
Former head, CPCB Air Laboratory



What has worked so far: Steps taken so far aim for emission control at the ground level, but how much is actually implemented is not known to us.

What should Delhi focus on now: Mitigation is a continuous process and it must be remembered that total emissions of any city, district or state remain the same through the year... except in some cases like stubble burning in winter, when the wind flow is calm, and in calm conditions, pollutants accumulate. The public plays a major role in emission control at the domestic level. So, it should eventually be everybody's responsibility, not just of the government machinery.

SHIBANI GHOSH
Environmental Lawyer

There is no alternative to moving to an airshed-level governance system. For this, the NCR is not enough, we need a broader approach to the Indo-Gangetic Plain. We have to involve Punjab and Haryana and states that are downwind. It's not possible for Delhi to act on its own on some things. Solutions to its pollution problem cannot come from the state government alone. Unless the CAQM and the MoEFCC start putting in place ways in which all states across this region start working together, there are only so many gains to be had.

BJP's Dubey goes to Lokpal, Mahua hits back

New Delhi: The feud between TMC MP Mahua Moitra and BJP MP Nishikant Dubey worsened on Saturday, with the latter complaining to the Lokpal against the TMC leader's alleged corruption. Dubey claimed in a post on X that Moitra was in India when her parliamentary ID was used in Dubai and added that the NIC had disclosed this information to probe agencies. Moitra claimed that the charges had been levelled at the "behest of businessman Gautam Adani's group". "I invite CBI to come home & count my pairs of shoes. But first please file FIR into 13,000 crore coal money Adani stole from Indians," she tweeted. Earlier, Dubey alleged that "an MP pawned the country's security for some money". "The MP's ID was opened from Dubai when the so-called parliamentarian was in India... Do the TMC and the Opposition still have to do politics?", he tweeted. **ENS**

BSP MP'S COMPLAINT, BJP'S COUNTER WERE REFERRED TO PRIVILEGES PANEL
Citing progress of House panel in Mahua case, Danish Ali asks: Why haven't I been heard yet

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21



Danish Ali had, on Sept 22, given a notice against BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri for using unparliamentary words against him in Lok Sabha.

BSP MP Danish Ali, whose complaint against the BJP's Ramesh Bidhuri is pending before the Privileges Committee of the Lok Sabha, has raised a point of order following the case of Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra. In a letter to Speaker Om Birla, Ali said that Bidhuri appears to have deposed before Privileges Committee while he was yet to, and urged that he be called immediately. He has drawn a contrast with the case of Moitra, against whom the Ethics Committee of the House has been moved by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey. Pointing out that he had given a notice against Bidhuri on September 22, alleging the BJP MP's use of unparliamentary and abusive words against him, Ali wrote: "The established procedure requires that the complainant member is called before the Privileges Committee in the first instance and, thereafter only, the member / accused person is called for evidence. However, in contravention of all set norms, the member who is accused of unbecoming remarks against me appears to have been called, and it is proved by the fact that I have not been called by the committee to place my position till now."

Ali added that "the Ethics Committee appears to have followed the proper procedural practice". "I request you to consider the prevailing contraventions of procedures and urge upon you to direct the concerned officials to call me for giving my evidence before the committee in the first instance so as to enable me to put the facts straight on record," he wrote to Birla. The *Indian Express* had earlier reported that while Bidhuri had failed to appear before the privileges panel in person, being away in Tonk, Rajasthan, for election work, he said he had deposed virtually. In the case of Moitra, the contents of the affidavit submitted by businessman Darshan Hiranandani to Ethics Committee in connection with the charges against her have come into the public domain. In his affidavit, a copy of which was released by the

Hiranandani business group, Darshan claimed that Moitra gave him access to her Parliament login ID and password, to directly raise questions in the House, in return for favours from him. Ali said in his letter: "... it is very painful to learn from media sources that chairman of the (Ethics) committee has openly spoken to the media stating that he has received an affidavit in connection with a complaint of alleged ethical misconduct against Mahua Moitra, MP." The Ethics Committee is headed by BJP MP Vinod Sonkar. He called this "flagrant violations of parliamentary procedures in matters related to breach of privilege and ethical misconduct". Moitra posted on X on Friday: "Chairman of Ethics Committee only speaks to media. Please see Lok Sabha rules... How does 'affidavit' finds its way to media? Chairman should first do enquiry into how it was leaked."

FOLLOWING GALWAN CLASHES
China ramped up troop presence, infra along LAC in 2022: Pentagon

No progress in talks, both sides fear losing perceived advantage at border: US Department of Defense annual report to Congress

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21



EXPLAINED
Readiness measures

CHINA HAS maintained constant military presence while boosting infrastructure at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) since the June 2020 clashes between Chinese and Indian troops in Ladakh's Galwan Valley, according to a Pentagon report that offers crucial insights into Beijing's growing military capabilities and activities in the region. In its latest annual report to the US Congress, the Department of Defense said there was an increased deployment of Chinese troops along the LAC in 2022. The deployments will likely continue through 2023, it said.

The details come as India and China prepare for their fourth consecutive winter at the LAC in eastern Ladakh since the start of the Ladakh standoff. The 20th round of military talks between the two sides earlier this month failed to yield any substantive forward movement.

As reported earlier by *The Indian Express*, the Indian Army, as part of its winter posture in the region, is planning an overall redeployment of troops along the LAC while maintaining a strong domination using the latest surveillance devices and helicopters. The LAC is divided into three sectors: the eastern sector, which spans Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim; the central sector in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, and the western sector in Ladakh.

According to the Pentagon report, the Chinese deployment in the western sector of LAC includes one border regiment supported

SINCE 2020, when the LAC standoff began, both India and China have deployed tens of thousands of additional troops in the Ladakh region. With talks yielding no substantive development so far, both sides have also significantly ramped up infrastructure in the region — for sustenance and quick mobilisation of troops to the LAC.

by two divisions of the Xinjiang and the Tibet Military Districts, with four combined arms brigades (CAB) in reserve.

Three light-to-medium CABs have been brought into the eastern sector from other theatre commands, while three additional CABs have been deployed in the central sector, the report said. "Although some elements of a light CAB eventually withdrew, a majority of the deployed forces remained in place along the LAC," it added. A CAB integrates various arms including artillery, infantry, armoured and others to jointly fight a battle.

The report also said that in 2020, after the Galwan clashes, China deployed the PLA's Special Operations Forces (SOF) from its Tibet Military Region, even though the SOF units "lacked real-world combat experience."

On infrastructure buildup along the LAC through 2022, the report said China has built underground storage facilities near

Doklam (where Indian and Chinese soldiers faced off in June 2017 after Chinese Army tried to build a road), while new roads have been built in all three sectors of the LAC. It also mentions new villages in the disputed areas in Bhutan, besides a second bridge over the Pangong Lake (Ladakh), besides a dual-purpose airport and multiple helipads.

The report said that while India and China have held multiple rounds of military and diplomatic talks to resolve the issues along the LAC in the last three years, with some amount of disengagement achieved at four friction points, overall progress has been minimal as both sides resisted losing perceived advantages on the border.

"In addition to continued PLA deployments at the LAC on the Indian border, the PLA conducted multiple 'around the clock' large-scale exercises in training areas throughout the country to include joint operations in response to the US and Taiwan actions in 2022," it added.

Flagging China's advancement efforts to evolve into a world class military, the report said the PLA is aggressively developing capabilities to provide options for Beijing to "dissuade, deter, or, if ordered, defeat" third-party intervention in the Indo-Pacific region, and to conduct operations deeper in this region as well as globally.

China, with an overall defence budget of \$229 billion, has also sought to improve its proficiency as a joint force to conduct the full range of "land, air, and maritime as well as nuclear, space, counterspace, electronic warfare (EW), and cyberspace operations", the report said.

Shah at police memorial: Govt made strict laws, Northeast and J&K are now peaceful

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

UNION HOME Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said that there has been a 65 per cent fall in incidents of terrorism, Left Wing Extremism and insurgency in the Northeast. He also asserted that the country's three hotspots — LWE (Left Wing Extremism-hit states), the Northeast and Jammu and Kashmir — are becoming peaceful. "The Narendra Modi government has made strict laws while maintaining a zero-tolerance policy against terrorism," Shah told a gathering after paying homage to martyrs on Police Commemoration Day at the National Police Memorial here.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah at National Police Memorial Day in New Delhi on Saturday. Praveen Khanna

"The government has also worked towards making the best anti-terrorism force in the world by setting up the Police Technology Mission for modernisation of the police force. The Modi government has intro-

duced three bills in Parliament for a comprehensive overhaul of the criminal justice system," Shah said.

He said Prime Minister Modi has laid stress on ending pendency of cases in courts. "There has been a 65 per cent fall in terror, LWE and insurgency incidents in

the Northeast from their peak levels in the last decade due to the efforts and achievements of brave police personnel," Shah said.

He said whether it is to combat terrorists, stop crime, maintain law and order while facing a crowd, protect citizens during disasters and accidents or be on the

front line during difficult times such as the COVID-19 pandemic, police personnel have proved themselves in every situation.

Referring to the role played by police personnel in a disaster, he said in the past, through the NDRF (National Disaster Response Force), personnel of different police forces have earned a name across the world in disaster management. "No matter how big the disaster is, when NDRF personnel reach there, people get confidence that now there is no problem as the NDRF has arrived. The Modi government is dedicated to the welfare of all personnel and is concerned for their safety," he said.

Paying tributes to 36,250 police personnel, who laid down their lives while serving the nation since independence, he said this police memorial is not just a symbol but a recognition of the sacrifice and dedication of police personnel towards nation building.

Venkaiah Naidu nominated jury member of Gandhi Peace Prize

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi has approved the appointment of former Vice President Venkaiah Naidu as a nominated jury member for the annual Gandhi Peace Prize. Union Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy sent a letter to Naidu in this regard, as per Ministry of Culture officials.

The five-member jury is headed by the Prime Minister, with the Chief Justice of India and the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha as its permanent members, while two other jury members are nominated for a period of three years. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla is also a nominated member.

Naidu replaces Sulabh Bindeshwar Pathak on the jury, a former Gandhi Peace Prize winner, who passed away recently.

ADVERTORIAL

WORLD SIGHT DAY

AK Institute of Ophthalmology (AKIO) wishes Happy WSD 2023

Dr Aman Kumar
Consultant A K Institute of Ophthalmology
MBBS, MS(PG Chandigarh) Gold Medalist

DIABETES is a chronic disease that occurs either when the pancreas does not produce enough insulin or when the body cannot effectively use the insulin it produces. Insulin is a hormone that regulates blood glucose.

India with 1.35 billion people, is the Diabetic capital of the world. It has 12 million visually changed people out of 45 million worldwide.

Diabetic eye disease is a group of eye problems that can affect people with diabetes. These conditions include diabetic retinopathy, diabetic macular edema, cataracts, and glaucoma.

Over time, diabetes can cause damage to your eyes that can lead to poor vision or even blindness. But you can take steps to prevent diabetic eye disease, or keep it from getting worse, by taking care of your diabetes.

Often, there are no warning signs of diabetic eye disease or vision loss when damage first develops. A full, dilated eye exam helps the Ophthalmologist find and treat eye problems early—often before much vision loss can occur.

If your blood glucose stays high over time, it can damage the tiny blood vessels in the back of your eyes. This damage can begin during prediabetes, when blood glucose is higher than normal, but not high enough for you to be diagnosed with diabetes. Damaged blood vessels may leak fluid and cause swelling. New, weak blood vessels may also begin to grow. These blood vessels can bleed into the middle part of the eye, lead to scarring, or cause dangerously high pressure inside your eye.

Most serious diabetic eye diseases begin with blood vessel problems. The eye diseases that can threaten your sight are: a) Diabetic Retinopathy, b) Diabetic Macular Edema, c) Glaucoma, d) Cataracts

Let's discuss about one such eye disease which is alarming and the number of people having this issue is increasing exponentially

DIABETIC RETINOPATHY:
Diabetic Retinopathy is a complication of diabetes mellitus and is one of the main causes of blindness in young and middle-aged adults today. It occurs when diabetes damages the tiny blood vessels inside the retina, the light-sensitive tissue at the back of the eye.

What are the symptoms?
Diabetic retinopathy in the early stages has no warning signs and sight may not be affected until the condition is severe.

- As the disease progresses, symptoms may include the loss of central vision when reading or driving, loss of the ability to see colour, and mild blurring vision.
- Small spots or floaters may also indicate blood vessel leaks and may clear up in days, weeks or months.
- In the most severe form, with proliferative diabetic retinopathy, there may be sudden severe vision loss from vitreous bleeding or tractional retinal detachment.

Because the disease is initially asymptomatic, and can be treated in the earlier stages, it is important to have an eye examination each year and immediately if you experience any of these symptoms. Late diagnosis and treatment can result in irreversible vision loss.

Can diabetic retinopathy be prevented?
■ Early detection of diabetic retinopathy can prevent vision loss. You can protect your eye sight by having your eyes checked at least once a year by your Ophthalmologist.

- You can also help slow down the development of diabetic retinopathy by keeping your blood glucose in check.
- The measurement of HbA1c to measure the blood sugar can be done every 3 months period.
- Other medical conditions such as High BP, high cholesterol and heart disease should be treated and kept under control.
- Smoking should be stopped and you should exercise regularly.

This will reduce your risk of developing diabetic retinopathy.

How can Diabetic Retinopathy be treated?
Depending on the condition of your eye and the impact of Diabetes on the vision there are various procedures which are available like Laser, Anti-VEGF injections, surgical procedure — Vitrectomy.

On this occasion of World Sight Day 2023, AK Institute of Ophthalmology (AKIO) urges everyone to get regular eye check ups and visit an Ophthalmologist on regular basis to prevent eye issues.

AKIO is the Top Eye and Retina Centre in Delhi being a pioneer in 3D Retina and Cataract procedures.

AKIO has been established & setup by Padmashree and BC Roy Awardee Dr Atul Kumar (Medical Director, AKIO) along with AIIMS Alumni Dr Aman Kumar (Medical Superintendent, AKIO)

AKIO has fast emerged as the best hospital for eye treatment in Delhi/NCR, that offers the latest technology-based world-class patient care. With a 'patient first' approach, the dedicated team of highly trained doctors and medical staff strive to ensure the best eyecare experience with a healing touch.

Prof. (Dr) Atul Kumar
Medical Director - A K Institute of Ophthalmology
MD (AIIMS), FAMS, FRCS(Edin)
Vitreoretinal Fellow, Univ. Of Maryland(USA)
AWARDED PADAM SHRI BY HONORABLE PRESIDENT

AK Institute of Ophthalmology , B7/123A Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi - 110029 011-46708000, www.theakio.com

6 GOVT & POLITICS

Court refuses plea seeking inclusion of 'wazukhana' in Gyanvapi survey

Varanasi: A Varanasi court on Saturday rejected a plea seeking the inclusion of the 'wazukhana' in an ongoing ASI survey of the Gyanvapi mosque complex here.

"District Judge A K Vishvesh said the area duly protected under the Supreme Court's orders should not be subjected to the survey because it may amount to a violation of the court's orders," District Government Counsel Rajesh Mishra said.

The plea was filed by Rakhi Singh, one of the petitioners in the Gyanvapi-Shringar Gauri case, contending that without the survey of the wazukhana, the truth of the Gyanvapi complex could not be revealed.

The district court concluded the hearing in the matter and reserved its order on October 19.

Objecting to it, the mosque management committee told the court that the area of the wazukhana was sealed on the Supreme Court's orders and accused the Hindu side of making such a demand to put the matter on hold.

PTI

AFTER SPARRING OVER FAILURE OF SEAT-SHARING TALKS

Akhilesh hints peace: Topmost Cong leader called... will accept

ASAD REHMAN
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 21

HINTING that his party's tensions with the Congress might see a resolution, Samawadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav Saturday said he had "received a message from the topmost Congress leader, and will have to accept it". He also suggested that the SP would always stand with the Congress when needed.

Akhilesh, who has been aggressive from the start after talks with the Congress for seat-sharing in the Madhya Pradesh elections fell through, with statements nearly every day, was in Hardoi on Saturday. Asked about the issue, he said: "Just now, I got a message from *sabse bada Congress नेता* (the topmost Congress leader). If they are saying something, I will have to accept it. That is number one."

He added: "Dr Ram Manohar Lohia and Netaji (Mulayam Singh Yadav) have in the past said that when the Congress is at its weakest and when they need us, they



Akhilesh Yadav in UP's Hardoi on Saturday. PTI

will reach out, and we should be with them... We will follow our tradition..."

However, Akhilesh reiterated that the Congress should have been clear about its intent regarding Madhya Pradesh. "Why did they call me if they didn't want an alliance?... Like the INDIA bloc took the decision to boycott some TV journalists, similarly we should have been told that there was no alliance at the state level and it was only for the Lok Sabha... They don't have answers for this... They should not conspire against us... cheat us."

While the Congress has said that the SP should not have entered MP, where the Congress is in direct contest with the BJP, Akhilesh has said that the Congress should now expect a similar response in Uttar Pradesh, where the SP is stronger.

Akhilesh also said that he would not let anyone from his party disparage "big leader of any party". "This is not the culture of Samajwadis." Earlier, he had dismissed UP Congress chief Ajay Rai, with whom he has been in a war of words, as "chirkut (small fry)".

He said his party wanted to fight in areas where it is strong, "and if some party feels it may harm them, they should inform the SP". Asked about Akhilesh's remarks, Rai said he had no idea which "top leader of the Congress" the SP chief was talking about. On the future of the alliance between the Congress and SP, Rai said: "It is the responsibility of both parties. We have not used any unparliamentary language, they have... It isn't about me, but about the post."

Incidentally, Akhilesh's tone was different even earlier in the day, when he said in Hardoi in the morning that the Congress was supporting a caste census "only for the sake of votes" from the Dalits, backwards, Adivasis, and minorities. "This is the same Congress that didn't give caste census statistics, didn't let it happen. This (the demand) is a miracle... Because they know they don't have votes anymore," he said.

In a series of posts on X, SP spokesperson IP Singh was caustic, saying the Congress could never defeat the BJP. "The initiative of the Grand Alliance was taken by eight-time Bihar CM Nitish Kumar... In 2019, the chowkidar chor hai was started by crazy idiot Rahul Gandhi... The Congress's seven generations couldn't harm the SP and Rahul Gandhi has no lineage. The best place for him is his maternal grandparents' house." But SP chief spokesperson Rajendra Choudhary distanced the party from IP Singh's remarks, calling the same his personal opinion.

BJP 5th list out: 29 MLAs dropped, Union Minister faces party workers' anger

ANAND MOHAN J
BHOPAL, OCTOBER 21

THE BJP on Saturday released its fifth list of 92 candidates for the upcoming Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, dropping 29 MLAs including three state ministers. The release of the list was followed by angry protests from BJP workers in Jabalpur.

Supporters of party leader Sharan Jain cornered Union minister Bhupender Yadav, the BJP's Madhya Pradesh election in-charge, protesting against the party's decision to field Abilash Pandey instead of Jain from the Jabalpur North seat. The BJP workers raised slogans against state party president V D Sharma and also assaulted a security guard.

Yadav tried to pacify the crowd and later spoke to reporters even as party workers continued sloganeering. "We have come here, and we will talk to them. They are all party workers. We will speak to everyone," he said.

BJP spokesperson Pankaj Chaturvedi said party workers had not misbehaved with Yadav. "Sloganeering is part of the political process. The ground-level workers will come as a family and bring the BJP back to power."

With the release of the list, the suspense over the seat of state Sports Minister Yashodhara Rajee Scindia was over, with



BJP workers protest in presence of Union Minister Bhupender Yadav in Jabalpur on Saturday. PTI

Devendra Kumar Jain being fielded from the seat that she was vacating. This put an end to speculation that Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia may contest from his aunt's seat.

However, candidates from the seats of Guna (Scindia's former Lok Sabha seat) and Vidisha are yet to be declared. As of the fifth list, the BJP has announced candidates for 228 seats for elections to the 230-member Assembly.

Apart from Yashodhara Rajee, the two other ministers dropped from the list include Gaurishanker Bisen, who was replaced by his daughter Mausam Bisen at the Balaghat constituency, and Scindia loyalist OPS Bhadoria, who was replaced in the Mehgaon seat

by Raksha Shukla. Several sitting MLAs were also dropped by the BJP in the latest list.

Indore-3 MLA Akash Vijayvargiya, son of party national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya, was dropped and replaced by Rakesh Golu Shukla.

The latest list includes 12 women candidates, including former state ministers Maya Singh and Archana Chitnis from Gwalior East and Burhanpur seats, respectively. Incumbent minister Usha Thakur will contest from her Mhow seat.

Among others who featured on the fifth list are former ministers Jayant Malaiya and Surendra Patwa, and Jyotiraditya loyalist Mahendra Singh Sisodia.



ROW OVER ADMINISTRATIVE DECISIONS

TRIFED chief suspends MD, Ministry declares order 'null and void'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

MONTHS AFTER a row over the status of two RSS affiliates, reported by *The Indian Express* in August this year, TRIFED chairman Ramsinh Rathwa suspended its managing director Gitanjali Gupta till the next board meeting over two administrative decisions. The suspension order was on Saturday declared "null and void" by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the administrative ministry for TRIFED.

The suspension order issued on Thursday (October 19) was signed by Rathwa. Asked about the development, the TRIFED chairman declined to make any comment "at this stage". "Final decision will be taken in the board meeting on October 27," he said.

Gitanjali Gupta did not respond to queries sent by *The Sunday Express*.

On Saturday, PTI reported that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs said in an order that Gupta "was appointed to the post of Managing Director, TRIFED, by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet... The office memorandum issued by you (Rathwa) on October 19, 2023, whereby the suspension order of Gitanjali Gupta has been issued, is considered null and void".

Minister of Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda told *The Sunday Express*, "The MD of TRIFED is appointed by ACC, therefore after her suspension by the Chairman, I told him about the rules and informed everything to DoPT." The Secretary of the ministry, Anil Jha, did not revert to the query sent by *The Sunday Express*.

The immediate provocation

for Gupta's suspension, according to sources, was an order issued on October 18 (Wednesday), denying extension to an official and another order appointing an official in the Chairman's office against his wishes. Gupta's suspension order stated that Rathwa cancelled the order dated October 18 as it was issued "without his knowledge".

"I (Rathwa) have decided that I will propose action in the next meeting of Board on October 27 against the officials indulged in the administrative mismanagement... Let the Board take action," stated the suspension order.

According to sources, an administrative war has been going on between political appointee Rathwa and bureaucrat Gupta since March this year when a letter was issued from the MD's office identifying two RSS-affiliated organisations — Akhil Bhartiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram and Sahakar Bharati — as "political bodies". Rathwa had written on March 23 to TRIFED's officials, including Gupta, asking them to be present for a meeting with the two RSS affiliates in connection with the Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission.

On March 24, Amit Bhatnagar, General Manager, TRIFED, wrote to Rathwa that his letter was against service rules "which, inter alia, provide that every government servant shall, at all times, maintain political neutrality".

On the day of the meeting on March 28, officials of both Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram and Sahakar Bharati were present and they registered their protest at the description of their organisations as "political bodies" in the letter. Only Chairman Rathwa, who is a former BJP MP, was present from TRIFED.



PM Narendra Modi with Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia at Scindia School, Gwalior. PTI

Modi at Scindia school, heaps praise on Jyotiraditya, his father

ANAND MOHAN J
BHOPAL, OCTOBER 21

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi heaped praises on the Scindia family while addressing a gathering at The Scindia School in Gwalior on Saturday, calling Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia Gujarat's son-in-law.

PM Modi was addressing the 125th Founder's Day celebration of The Scindia School where he laid the foundation stone for a multipurpose sports complex and also released a commemorative postal stamp on the occasion.

With Union ministers Narendra Singh Tomar and Jitendra Singh and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan watching, Modi said that he has a special relationship with Gwalior for two

reasons.

"Firstly, I am the MP from Kashi and the Scindia family has played a huge role in serving it and preserving our culture. The Scindia family has built many ghats on the banks of the Ganga and has provided financial help for the establishment of BHU. I also have another connection with Gwalior. Jyotiraditya Scindia is the son-in-law of Gujarat. Due to this, I have a relationship with Gwalior," PM Modi said.

Ever since Scindia joined the BJP after mounting a rebellion which brought down the Kamal Nath led Congress government, there has been friction between his loyalists and the veterans in the BJP.

The opposition Congress has been trying to corner Scindia by weaning away his loyalists as the elections draw close.

The PM went on to heap praise on Jyotiraditya's father,

Madhavrao Scindia, saying he was "not only focused on immediate gains but also on shaping the future for upcoming generations."

"Scindia School was a result of this visionary thinking, as he understood the power of human resources. Few people may know that the Indian transportation company he founded is still operating today as DTC in Delhi," PM Modi said.

Modi asked the students to "think out of the box just like Jyotiradityaji's father, Madhavrao Scindia, who, when he was the Rail Minister, initiated the beginning of Shatabdi trains. Even after three decades, India had not seen such modern trains. Now, the country has Vande Bharat trains." He told the students that the world is their oyster while informing them about how new avenues have opened in the space and defence sectors.

8 MLAs not on Cong second list in MP, 4 turncoats get tickets

ANAND MOHAN J
BHOPAL, OCTOBER 21

THE CONGRESS announced its second list of 88 candidates for the Madhya Pradesh Assembly polls, including course corrections in three seats, denying tickets to as many as eight MLAs and also naming five BJP turncoats.

Of the 229 candidates announced, members of OBCs account for 27%, or 62, of the candidates. This comes as the Congress, under Rahul Gandhi, is promising a caste census and pushing the party firmly towards the politics of social justice to counter BJP's Hindutva plank.

In three seats where the candidates were announced in the first list, the party has announced new names. Former Assembly Speaker N P Prajapati replaced Shikhar Chaudhary in Goteagan. Arvind Singh Lodhi replaced Shalendra Singh in Pichhore and Rajendra Bharti was fielded instead of Awadhesh Nayak in Datia. Bharti, who will face BJP's state home minister Narottam Mishra, is contesting for a fourth time. Arvind will face former CM Uma Bharti's close confidant Pritam Singh Lodhi. The BJP has fielded a fresh face in Mahendra Nagesh from Goteagan.

A senior Congress leader said this was done to avoid further rebellion by disgruntled leaders. "Many who did not get tickets

joined other parties, we know how much they can damage us," the leader said.

Kolaras MLA Virendra Raghuvanshi, who crossed over to the Congress from the BJP last month, hasn't been given a ticket. Raghuvanshi had been gunning for a ticket after he left the BJP following a feud with Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia. "Virendra will be given bigger responsibility... and asked to take care of Raghuvanshi community events," a Congress leader said.

Former CM Kailash Joshi's son Deepak, who left the BJP to join the Congress in May, has been named from Khateagan.

Abhay Mishra, who resigned from the BJP on Wednesday, has been given a ticket from Semariya. Former BJP MLAs Bhawarsingh Shekhawat and Girija Shankar Sharma have been fielded from Badnawa and Hoshangabad. Amit Rai, a former BJP district vice-president, will contest from Niwari.

The party has denied tickets to at least eight MLAs. "Some of these had criminal cases... others got poor feedback in surveys," said Congress state vice-president J P Dhanopia.

The party is also fielding Ravinder Singh Tomar from Dimani, where he will take on Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar. From Scindia bastion Gwalior, the Congress has fielded Sunil Sharma.

BRS, BJP slam Rahul's people vs landlords in polls remark

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 21

SENIOR CONGRESS leader Rahul Gandhi's statement that the Telangana election battle is between 'doralu' (feudal landlords) and 'prajalu' (the common people) has drawn sharp responses from the ruling BRS and the BJP.

Rahul made the comments while on a campaign trail in the poll-bound state on Friday.

Launching an attack on the BRS, he said, "the BRS is a family party and it has teamed up with the BJP to defeat the Congress." Both parties represent the landlords who have oppressed people, he said.

Hitting back at Rahul, BJP chief spokesperson K Krishna Sagar Rao said, "As expected, Rahul Gandhi is making juvenile statements in Telangana. Doralu (feudal landlords) is in the distant past. Rahul is stuck in history. People of Telangana now need a dispensation free of corruption, dynasty and driven by democracy and good governance, which only the BJP can deliver."

BRS MLCK Kavitha said, "The only relation that the Gandhi family has with Telangana is of betrayal and lies," said Kavitha.



As Gehlot earns his stripes, Cong high command rides the tiger, if reluctantly

Rajasthan CM might have to agree to a few cuts, but is set to command lion's share in party candidate list, as voices from ground talk of possible bucking of anti-incumbency



Weekly insight into what's changing in national politics — and why

"ISN'T HE the man?" Sonia Gandhi was said to have exclaimed at a meeting of the party's Central Election Committee (CEC) earlier this week. There was a deathly silence in the room. "Aren't there corruption charges against him?"

Sonia, according to reports, was referring to Shanti Dhariwal, whose name came up for consideration for a ticket for the coming Rajasthan polls. Rahul Gandhi interjected, saying he too had heard many complaints against Dhariwal in Kota, during his Bharat Jodo Yatra.

What was left unsaid was

how Dhariwal's name had made it to the table. Along with Mahesh Joshi and Dharmendra Rathaur, Dhariwal is seen as Congress Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's man. In the September 2022 crisis, when Gehlot, once seen as a stout Gandhi family loyalist, scuttled the party high command's plans to replace him with Sachin Pilot, the three had stood by the CM. The fact that the CEC was debating Dhariwal showed Gehlot's growing clout in Rajasthan. By insisting that he be axed, the high command was trying to restore some of its battered authority.

While Dhariwal, Rathaur and Joshi may not make it to the final list, the fact that Gehlot's intransigence against benching of MLAs has meant that the Congress has come out with only 33 names so far, out of 200, reflects this tussle. The lion's share, by all accounts—and this is the significant part—will still be de-

ecided by the CM. There was little the Gandhi family could do in 2022—or now.

As I travelled across Rajasthan earlier this week, this came up repeatedly, with more than one person marvelling at how Gehlot had "got away", saying this exposed the Family's "helplessness" as nothing else could have.

To many, it is a sign of Gehlot's growing "strength"—including turning down an offer to stand for the Congress presidency and besting the BJP's plan to topple his government in 2020. "Dekho, Dilli ko aankh dikha dee (See, he has shown up Delhi)," they said.

Others said Gehlot had demonstrated that he was the "Rajneeti ka jadugar (a magician of politics)", who knew how to turn the tables on his opponents. Jadugar is a term often used for Gehlot, whose father practised

magic.

This image of a "strong leader" holds Gehlot in good stead, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi having set the template for a "dabang, damdaar नेता (fearless, powerful leader)".

So, the Congress in Rajasthan today is not about Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge and, even, Sachin Pilot despite his following amongst youth and influence in several districts. The Congress is now seen as synonymous with Gehlot—with many suggesting he may buck anti-incumbency. Even BJP supporters tell me, "Inhone party ko takkar ki sthiti maen toh la hee diya hai (He has made it a contest for sure)."

A Jat farmer in Nehron ki Dhani village in Sikar district says: "Normally, by the time the elections are declared, we know which way the wind is blowing... This time there is going to be a

fight."

"The Congress is likely to win 70-80 seats," says a BJP supporter in Sikar town. "There is a 10% chance that the Congress may just scrape through," adds a political observer in Jaipur.

A 32-year-old hotel employee who says he will vote for the BJP also acknowledges Gehlot's "good work in health and education". "But on the other side is rashtravaad (nationalism). I will choose rashtravaad."

A street vendor who sells baked goods from a cart blames Modi for the rise of big retailers. "Hamare pet pe laa padhi hai (We have taken a hit). This time, I will not vote for Modi."

The sense that Gehlot may have stemmed the Congress slide is a change from last year, when the party's defeat was seen as a given. Even Congressmen then talked of in-

ternal surveys giving the party 20-25 seats.

In 2018, the Congress's lead had been narrow, getting just 99 seats (2 short of a simple majority) to the BJP's 72. The vote share difference between the parties was just above 1%. Within a few months, the BJP had sent the Congress packing in the Lok Sabha polls, winning 24 of the 25 seats in the state, with ally RLP taking 1.

That may see a repeat, many said. "In 2024, Rajasthan will go for Modi again. The BJP won't get less than 22-23 seats," says a 28-year-old working at the Secretariat in Jaipur. "We are happy and will vote for the Congress in the Assembly. But in the Lok Sabha elections, we will vote for Modi."

Apart from the image of being a leader who can get the better of his opponents, Gehlot's social welfarism push in the past year,

taking a leaf out of Modi's book, seems to be paying dividends.

On the other side, the BJP brass has been reluctant to project its own most popular face, Vasundhara Rajee, who still commands the allegiance of many BJP MLAs and has mass appeal. Leaders talk of the party grooming another royal, the chifon-clad Diya Kumari (the daughter of Maharaja Bhawani Singh of the erstwhile princely state of Jaipur), giving her the safest BJP seat to contest from—hoping to create a Rajput-OBC-SC/ST base.

On Saturday, the BJP's second list evened the scales a bit, by accommodating some Rajee loyalists.

The question which continues to tantalise many in Rajasthan is this: If denied her due by the BJP, will Rajee help Gehlot "internally"? The Congress CM claims Rajee did this in 2020 too, when Pilot threatened to bring down his govern-

ment.

"Donon (political) behen-bhai hai (They are political siblings)," quips a Meena youth in Dausa.

On Thursday, Gehlot rested any remaining doubts about his political ambitions by suggesting that he was very much in the race for CM, saying while he wanted to leave the post, it would not leave him.

Clearly, as the centre in the Congress has weakened, the balance of power is shifting to powerful state satraps. The Gandhi family has learnt to live with it, at least in Gehlot's case—as long as it can bring votes and other benefits for the family.

The rest can follow.

Neerja Chowdhury, Contributing Editor, *The Indian Express*, has covered the last 10 Lok Sabha elections. She is the author of the recently published *How Prime Ministers Decide*

'Hope my inputs don't come in handy': Abhilash Tomy advises Gaganyaan team on emergency splashdown

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

A MAN with vast experience in sailing and surviving emergency situations, retired Navy officer Abhilash Tomy was approached by ISRO for advice on what happens in case the crew module of Gaganyaan - India's first crewed space mission - splashes down at an unplanned location in the sea due to some emergency.

Tomy, who finished second in the Golden Globe Race 2022, becoming the first Asian to complete the non-stop unassisted round-the-world trip in a boat with 1968-vintage technology, gave inputs to the space agency on generating energy, making drinking

water and calling for help at sea, but said he hoped these would not be put to use.

"In a mission such as this, we have to look at the worst-case scenario. ISRO called me in to provide inputs on what should be done to ensure that the astronauts survive till they are rescued. I have provided my inputs, but I hope that it does not come in handy. I hope that the astronauts have a boring and uninteresting flight," Tomy told *The Indian Express*.

While taking part in the Golden Globe Race in 2018, Tomy survived being stranded on his yacht in the middle of the Indian Ocean with a fractured spine, and no access to modern technology. Three days later, he was rescued by a French fishing



The sailing champion gave ISRO inputs on calling for help at sea

vessel. Having served as a naval pilot, he also has experience in search and rescue operations.

Sharing his experience with ISRO, Tomy also got to interact with the four Indian astronauts in training for the mission. The Gaganyaan mission is likely to be undertaken in late 2024 or early 2025, according to ISRO chairman Dr S Somanath. On Saturday, ISRO successfully carried out a test for the Crew

Escape System to be used during the manned mission.

The mission will take astronauts to a 400-km orbit around the Earth, where they will stay for a three-day mission before re-entering Earth and splashing down in Indian waters. If everything goes to plan, Navy vessels located near the splashdown site will find the astronauts and bring them home. However, if the astronauts are forced to abort the mission in an emergency, the splashdown could happen at an unplanned location. This is where Tomy's experience comes in.

"I know that a rescue can take up to three-four days even when the location of the vessel is known. This is because the vessel may be stranded in some part of

the ocean where ships do not frequent," he said.

He explained that aircraft could not carry out rescues in such cases because they do not have the ability to hover and pick up the stranded crew. Most helicopters, which do hover, however, cannot travel such long distances into the middle of the ocean.

In a scenario in which the Gaganyaan crew are stranded in this way, Tomy has advised ISRO on how they can survive until help comes. He has advised ISRO on procedures followed for rescue missions. He said pilots usually search in an expanding square pattern. "If a survivor is wearing orange, they will stand out. If they are wearing blue, it's tough, and a smoke marker may help."

Teen raped by father for a year: UP Police

Meerut: A 16-year-old girl was allegedly raped by her 47-year-old father over the past year, police said on Saturday. The incident was reported on the outskirts of Bareilly and the family learned about it after she became pregnant, the police said, adding the father was absconding. After a relative filed a complaint, an FIR was registered and she was sent for a medical examination, police said. The girl's sister told police their father was responsible for the pregnancy and threatened to kill the victim if she told anyone. **ENS**

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ONLINE VENDORS' MEET 2023
Rail Wheel Factory is conducting online Vendors' Meet on 26.10.2023 at 15:30 Hrs to 17:30 Hrs. The primary focus of the event will be development of new vendors in Railways supply chain, ease of doing business in Railways' digital supply chain, displaying & sharing information on Railways' annual requirement of various materials for which presently limited sources are available. The meeting link is given below: **WebLink:** <https://railnet10.webex.com/railnet10/j.php?MTID=mfb4cafc04bd7b0a5dbf145446477964c>
Meeting No.: 25185798968, **Meeting Password:** 123456
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PRINCIPAL CHIEF MATERIAL MANAGER/RWF

Police say can't rule out Maoist role in BJP worker's killing

JAYPRAKASH NAIDU
RAIPUR, OCTOBER 21

POLICE IN Chhattisgarh said they could not rule out the involvement of Naxals in the killing of a BJP worker in Mohla-Manpur-Ambagarh Chowki district on Friday night.

Birjhu Taram (53) from Sarkheda village was shot dead on Friday when he was heading to a Durga temple, police said.

"His only crime is that he is a BJP worker and he supports worshipping of Durga idol," former chief minister and BJP leader Raman Singh said.

Police sources said Naxals had issued a threat letter against Taram a year ago in connection with an alleged chit fund scam. "A year ago, Taram had informed police about Naxals dropping a letter outside his house where they alleged that he duped people in a chit fund scam," sources said.

Mohla-Manpur Additional Superintendent of Police, Vivek Shukla said: "As per investiga-



Former Chhattisgarh CM Raman Singh with the family of the deceased.

tions till now, we cannot rule out involvement of Naxalites behind the incident as firearms have been used. We have got inputs from villagers."

BJP district secretary of neighbouring Rajnandgaon Ravindra Singh said, "Unidentified persons had also desecrated a Durga idol some months ago in Sarkheda. We believe our worker Taram has been murdered because he worships the Durga idol." Tekam's statement was recorded on Saturday.

Government of India
Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
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1	Date of issue of RFP	18-10-2023
2	Period of sale/downloading of RFP Document	From 27.10.2023, 11:00 AM IST to 16.11.2023, 3:00 PM IST
3	Pre-Bid Meeting Date/Time	03.11.2023 at 03:00 PM IST in the Conference Hall of Rural Works Department, Government of Bihar, 5th Floor, VishweshwariyaBhawan, Bailey Road, Patna- 800015.
4	Last Date and Time for Receipt of Proposal	16.11.2023 upto 3:00 PM
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6	Date and Time of opening of Technical Proposal	To be intimated
7	Date and Time of opening of Financial Proposal	Will be informed later on
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PR- 010642 (R W D) 2023-24
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Tribal bodies get HC nod to contest order on ST status for Meiteis

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
IMPHAL, OCTOBER 21

THE MANIPUR High Court has allowed tribal organisations in the state to file an appeal against the controversial March 27 order, which directed the state government to send a recommendation on (Schedule Tribe) ST status for the Meitei community. A division bench of Justice Ahanthem Bimol and Justice Guneshwar Sharma in its October 19 order allowed the tribal bodies to appeal against the order, and said, "The main grievances raised by the applicant is that they will be prejudicially affected if they are not given a chance to have a say or to raise objection in the matter of granting ST status to the Meitei community."

A bench passed the order on a petition filed by members of the Meitei Tribes Union, seeking that the state government be directed to act on their pleas for inclusion in the ST list. The March 27 order by then acting Chief Justice MV Muralidharan led to widespread objections from Kuki-Zo bodies followed by a rally, organised by the All Tribal Students Union on May 3, during which violence broke at Torbung in Churachandpur district.

Student suicide: 2 PES varsity profs in chargesheet

Bengaluru: The Bengaluru police have chargesheeted three faculty members of the PES University, including two professors - Ajay Massand and Karthik S - and controller of examinations Kannan PS for abetment to suicide leading to the death of 19-year-old Aditya Prabhu.

PES University's chancellor Prof Jawahar Doreswamy said, "Our legal team is verifying the contents of the charge sheet and we are awaiting their advice on the matter." Prabhu died by suicide after being allegedly caught for "malpractice" during the semester examination in July. Prabhu's parents levelled serious charges against the college management, accusing them of mental harassment. **ENS**

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
announces
SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 26 LAKH STUDENTS
belonging to Scheduled Castes & Other Disadvantaged Groups to pursue School Education under the **Pre-Matric Scholarships Scheme for SCs & Others for the Year 2023-24**

Eligibility	Scope	Entitlement
Component-I • Students belonging to SC category • Parents'/Guardians' annual income not exceeding Rs 2.50 lakhs	• Students studying in class 9 and 10 in recognized schools • Applications are accepted and verified by the State Government/Union Territory • Coverage of the poorest households	• Academic allowance ranging from ₹ 3500 to ₹ 7000 per annum • 10% extra allowance for Divyang (specially abled) students
Component-II • Students whose parents/guardians are engaged in occupations involving cleaning and prone to health hazards • No income limit criteria	• Students studying in classes 1 to 10 in recognized schools • Applications are accepted and verified by the State Government/Union Territory • Coverage of the poorest households	• Academic allowance ranging from ₹ 3500 to ₹ 8000 per annum • 10% extra allowance for Divyang (specially abled) students

• Students to apply on their respective State Scholarship Portals
• Student should have a valid Mobile number, Aadhaar number (UID), Aadhaar seeded Bank Account, Income Certificate and Caste Certificate

• Scheme guidelines and detailed eligibility criteria available on <http://socialjustice.gov.in/schemes/23>

cbc 38101/11/0038/2324

Dr. B.R. AMBEDKAR UNIVERSITY DELHI
(Established by the Govt. of NCT Delhi)

ADMISSION NOTICE FOR Ph.D. PROGRAMMES IN THE ACADEMIC SESSION 2022-23 & 2023-24

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi, a State University established by the Government of NCT of Delhi invites applications from the eligible candidates seeking admission to its Ph.D. programmes (Regular / part time) under different schools at **Kashmere Gate Campus, Lodhi Road Campus, Karampura Campus and Qutub Institutional Area Campus** as detailed below for the academic year 2022-23 & 2023-24 as per UGC Regulations 2022.

Sl. No.	School	Programme	No. of seats for Indian Students
1.	School of Business, Public Policy and Social Entrepreneurship	Ph.D in Management	10
2.	School of Culture & Creative Expressions	Ph.D in Film Studies	1
3.		Ph.D in Literary Art	1
4.		Ph.D in Visual Art	3
5.	School of Development	Ph.D in Performance	1
6.		Ph.D in Development	10
7.	School of Education Studies	Ph.D in Education	12
8.		Ph.D in English Language Education	20
9.	School of Global Affairs	Ph.D in Urban Studies	13
10.		Ph.D in Public Health	4
11.	School of Human Ecology	Ph.D in Human Ecology	15
12.	School of Human Studies	Ph.D in Women & Gender Studies	3
13.		Ph.D in Psychology	2
14.	School of Heritage Research and Management	PhD in Heritage Studies	6
15.	School of Liberal Studies	Ph.D in Economics	5
16.		Ph.D in Mathematics	16
17.		Ph.D in History	14
18.	School of Law, Governance & Citizenship	Ph.D in Sociology	12
19.		*Ph.D in Legal Studies / Ph.D in Law	20
20.	School of Letters	Ph.D in Hindi	5
21.		Ph.D in English	4
Total Seats			177

How to apply: Only online applications are accepted through University website www.aud.ac.in. For details about eligibility conditions for admission, fee structure etc., please refer to the Bulletin of Information (BOI) available on the University website. The above numbers of seats are tentative, the seats may increase or decrease, the final numbers of seats will be notified on University website.

Note: 1) *Those who come in the program with an Undergraduate degree and Master's in law will be awarded a Ph.D. in Law, while those who come into the program with an undergraduate and master's degree in any other discipline will be awarded a Ph.D. in Legal studies.
2) Number of seats are subject to change & may increase or decrease. Reservation Norms as applicable will be applied as per the University provisions and will be notified in due course on the University Website.

Last date of Online Application
15.11.2023

Date: 17.10.2023 Registrar
Directorate of Higher Education, Govt. of NCT of Delhi
DIP/SHADBARTH/CLASSIFIED/0198/23-24

After gunning down 4, ex-RPF cop called his uncle, told him to watch news on TV

Chetansinh Chaudhary first called his wife & told her he shot 4, including superior: GRP chargesheet

VIJAY KUMAR YADAV
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 21

AFTER GUNNING down four persons in the Jaipur-Mumbai Central Superfast Express on July 31, former RPF constable Chetansinh Chaudhary called his uncle in Uttar Pradesh and told him to see the 'breaking news' about him on TV news channels, according to the chargesheet filed by the Borivali GRP at a court on Friday. On the day of the incident, Chaudhary (33) called his uncle (mother's brother) Vasudev Singh (Solanki) (46), who lives in UP, at around 4.30 am, the 1,029-page chargesheet states. Chaudhary has good relationship with his uncle and, as his uncle is a driver and works overnight, Chaudhary would call him anytime, it adds. Before gunning down his senior officer and three Muslim passengers on July 31, his first call to

Solanki was answered by his wife, who told him that his uncle was sleeping. Before this call, Chaudhary had requested his superior ASI Tikaram Meena to allow him to get down at Valsad or Vashi as he was not feeling well. The request was refused and he was told to rest as after a few hours his duty was going to get over anyway, the chargesheet states. Later, at 6.10 am, Chaudhary again called Solanki. This time, Solanki received the call and Chaudhary told him that he had gunned down his superior and three passengers with his rifle. Shocked, Solanki said he did not believe him. Chaudhary then told him to switch on the television and see him on 'breaking news', GRP sources said. Later, Chaudhary asked his uncle to guide what he should do next as he was unable to think anything. His uncle asked him to



Former constable's senior refused his request to let him deboard

surrender himself. Next, Solanki switched on the TV and saw Chaudhary in the news and then called Chaudhary's wife to verify it as he was still unable to believe the horror. Investigators have established allegations of hate crime or Section 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups on ground of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language) of IPC against Chaudhary at two places. First, when he gunned down a Muslim passenger and then asked other passengers to shoot video with him standing next to the body and is heard delivering a

hateful speech, saying: "Pakistan se operate hue ye, aur media yehi coverage dikha rahi hai, unko sab pata chal raha hai, ye kya kar rahe hain... Agar vote dena hai, agar Hindustan mein rehna hai, to mai kehta hoon Modi aur Yogi, ye do hain." Second, when he forced a burqa-clad passenger to say 'Jai Mata Di' at gunpoint. He also threatened to shoot her when she resisted the second time. The video of this speech had gone viral on social media. The police have attached these video clips recorded by three passengers in the chargesheet. 'Should I shoot myself?' Before calling his uncle, he had called his wife Priyanka Chaudhary and told her that he shot three passengers and his superior. He said he had done a big mistake and asked her to raise their two children well. "I love you a lot. If you say should I shoot myself," he

said in Hindi. When he told her that he was unable to think of anything, his wife also told him to surrender. **Banged head against wall: Mother to police** Chaudhary's mother told the police in her statement that in February 2023, when her daughter-in-law, in Chaudhary's absence, asked her why she was weeping, she told her when she stayed with her son for a week during his Pordbandar posting, she felt changes in his behaviour and was worried. "He would bang his head against the wall and murmur when he was alone." However, GRP officials have maintained that no reasons or excuse by the family can justify the heinous act. "He selectively targeted passengers belonging to a particular community," an officer, who is part of the probe, said.

Unnao rape victim accuses 4 of her family of grabbing govt aid, throwing her out

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 21

THE VICTIM in the 2017 Unnao rape case, in which the then BJP MLA Kuldeep Sengar was handed down life imprisonment, has lodged a complaint against four of her family, including her mother, younger sister and uncle, accusing them of grabbing the money she received from the government and NGOs and throwing her out of her house, police said on Saturday. The victim, now married and pregnant, alleged that the accused conspired against her and cheated her by grabbing the monetary help she received from the government and different NGOs, police said. She also claimed that her mother and sister dragged her out of the house she got from the government in Delhi, they said. Unnao Additional Super-

intendent of Police (ASP) Shashi Shekhar Singh said. "Based on the victim's complaint, an FIR was registered against her uncle, mother, sister and one more person under sections 406 (criminal breach of trust) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) on Thursday. An investigation has been initiated, based on which action will be taken." Police said no one has been arrested in the case. The victim's uncle is serving 10 years of imprisonment in the Tihar jail in an attempt to murder case, police said. "I received monetary help from different sources. Since I was a minor then, all my money was deposited in the bank account of my mother. I got married in May, and I am pregnant now. My mother is refusing to give me my money. I checked the details of my mother's bank account and found she had trans-

ferred Rs 62 lakh to another account," she alleged. "My uncle got the money transferred to his family member's bank account with the help of a woman friend. When I met him in jail recently, he claimed he had spent Rs 7 crore on my case (rape case) and was demanding more money. The government and NGOs helped me fight the case. Hence, I'm unable to understand where my money has gone. My uncle is misleading my mother and younger sister for the money. At my uncle's direction, my mother and sister dragged me out of the house the government gave me in Delhi. My younger sister is threatening to frame my husband in a rape case," alleged the victim. She appealed to the government to help her get her money and house back. "I need the money to pursue my case further," she added.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, North Central Railway, Prayagraj in terms of Railway Board letter dated 13.06.2022 invites bids through E-Auction module in IREPS for Commercial Publicity/Advertisements. Executive Lounge, Sleeping Pod, Rail Coach Restaurants, Parking, Catering, Water Vending Machine and Leasing of SLRs/VP in the following station/locations/Trains of Prayagraj Division. **COMMERCIAL PUBLICITY/ADVERTISEMENT:**

S/N	Details of publicity	E-Auction catalogue No.	E-Auction Start Date & Time
1	Commercial publicity/advertisement right through RDN Non Digital of following stations for a period of 03 years. Etawa, Subedarganj, Phaphund, Govindpuri, Manikpur, Vindhyachal.	PRYJ-ADVT23-156	30.10.2023 at 11.00 hrs
2	Contract for setting up & operation of Rail Coach Restaurant (Restaurant On Wheels) for Period of 05 years at Mirzapur, Tundia, Aligarh, Govindpuri Railway station.	PRYJ-MSS-RCR 23	30.10.2023 at 12.00 hrs
3	Commercial publicity/advertisement right through Out of home for a period of 03 years: Etawa, Prayagraj, Fatehpur, Panki Dham, Govindpuri, Aligarh, Naini, Fatehpur, Chandari, Prayagraj Chhivni.	PRYJ-ADVT23-157	31.10.2023 at 11.00 hrs
4	Commercial publicity/advertisement right through RDN Digital (DDIS) of following stations for a period of 05 years. Prayagraj, Prayagraj Chhivni, Aligarh, Mirzapur, Tundia, Etawa, Kanpur Anwarganj, Subedarganj, Firozabad, Fatehpur, Phaphund, Manikpur, Naini, Govindpuri.	PRYJ-ADVT23-158	01.11.2023 at 11.00 hrs
5	Contract for work of up-gradation, maintenance and manning of Executive lounge at Kanpur Central Railway Station.	CNB-Ex-Lounge-1	03.11.2023 at 11.00 hrs
6	Development & operations of sleeping Pod at Kanpur Central Railway Station.		03.11.2023 at 12.00 hrs
7	Contract for setting up & operation of Rail Coach Restaurant (Restaurant On Wheels) for Period of 05 years at Prayagraj, Prayagraj Chheoki, Subedarganj Railway station.	PRYJ-RCR-S Pod.	

LEASING OF SLRS/VPS

S/N	Comptt.	Train No.	CC (In tones)	From-To	Frequency (In a week)	E-Auction catalogue No.	E-Auction Start Date & Time
1	FSLR-1	22431	3.9	PRYJ-BJPT	02	PRYJ-PRCL-23-57	26.10.2023, 11.30 hrs
2	FSLR-1	22443	3.9	CNB-DHMS	01	PRYJ-PRCL-23-57	26.10.2023, 11.30 hrs
3	FSLR-1	12033	3.9	CNB-NDL	06	PRYJ-PRCL-23-57	26.10.2023, 11.30 hrs
4	FSLR-1	12275	3.9	PRYJ-NDL	04	PRYJ-PRCL-23-57	26.10.2023, 11.30 hrs
5	FSLR-1	12451	3.9	CNB-NDL	07	PRYJ-PRCL-23-57	26.10.2023, 11.30 hrs
6	FSLR-1	12294	3.9	PRYJ-LTT	02	PRYJ-PRCL-23-57	26.10.2023, 11.30 hrs
7	FSLR-1	14163	3.9	PRYJ-MTC	07	PRYJ-PRCL-23-57	26.10.2023, 11.30 hrs
8	FSLR-1	22968	3.9	PRYJ-ADI	01	PRYJ-PRCL-23-57	26.10.2023, 11.30 hrs
9	FSLR-1	12447	3.9	MKP-NZM	07	PRYJ-PRCL-23-58	27.10.2023, 11.30 hrs
10	FSLR-1	12469	3.9	CNB-JAT	06	PRYJ-PRCL-23-58	27.10.2023, 11.30 hrs
11	FSLR-1	14116	3.9	PRYJ-DADN	07	PRYJ-PRCL-23-58	27.10.2023, 11.30 hrs
12	FSLR-1	12944	3.9	CNB-BL	01	PRYJ-PRCL-23-58	27.10.2023, 11.30 hrs
13	FSLR-1	14151	3.9	CNB-ANVT	01	PRYJ-PRCL-23-58	27.10.2023, 11.30 hrs
14	FSLR-1.2 RSLR-1	14723	4.0	CNB-BNW	07	PRYJ-PRCL-23-58	27.10.2023, 11.30 hrs
15	FSLR-1.2 RSLR-1	11904	4.0	ETW-VGLB	07	PRYJ-PRCL-23-59	30.10.2023, 11.30 hrs
16	FSLR-1.2 RSLR-1	11802	4.0	PRYJ-VGLB	07	PRYJ-PRCL-23-59	30.10.2023, 11.30 hrs
17	FSLR-1.2 RSLR-1	14102	4.0	CNB-PYGS	07	PRYJ-PRCL-23-59	30.10.2023, 11.30 hrs
18	FSLR-1.2 RSLR-1	14110	4.0	CNB-CKD	07	PRYJ-PRCL-23-59	30.10.2023, 11.30 hrs
19	FSLR-1.2 RSLR-1	14124	4.0	CNB-PBTH	07	PRYJ-PRCL-23-60	31.10.2023, 11.30 hrs
20	FSLR-1.2 RSLR-1	01888	4.0	ETW-GWL	07	PRYJ-PRCL-23-60	31.10.2023, 11.30 hrs
21	FSLR-1.2 RSLR-1	19812	4.0	ETW-KOTA	07	PRYJ-PRCL-23-60	31.10.2023, 11.30 hrs

Catering/WVM units

S/N	Details of publicity	E-Auction catalogue No.	E-Auction Start Date & Time
1	Catering units at various Railway stations for the period of 05 years :Meja Road (01 location), Madaraha (01 location), Bharthana (03 location), Achalda (03 location), Hathras (01 location), Chunar (01 location), Shankargarh (01 location)	PRYJ-CATG-23-90	26.10.2023 at 11.00 hrs
2	Catering units at various Railway stations for the period of 05 years: Chola (04 location), Dankaur (01 location), Dabhaura (01 location), Naini (01 location), Bharwari (01 location), Mainpuri (01 location)	PRYJ-CATG-23-91	27.10.2023 at 11.00 hrs
3	Water Vending Machine at various Railway stations for the period of 05 years: Vindhyachal (02 location), Firozabad (04 location), Shikohabad (01 location), Kanpur Anwarganj (03 location), Phaphund (03 location)	PRYJ-MSS-23-15	26.10.2023 at 11.00 hrs
4	Water Vending Machine at various Railway stations for the period of 05 years: Fatehpur (03 location), Prayagraj Chheoki (03 location), Tundia (05 location), Etawah (04 location)	PRYJ-MSS-23-16	27.10.2023 at 11.00 hrs

Parking

S/N	Details of publicity	E-Auction catalogue No.	E-Auction Start Date & Time
1	Available Parking Stand at (1) Panki Dham (2) Chamrola (3) Barhan (4) Manikpur (5) Hathras Killah (6) Sonbhadra (7) Rura (8) Dankaur (9) Bindki Road& (10) Dabhaura Railway Station for 03 years.	PRYJ-PRKG-23-84	27.10.2023 at 11.00 hrs
2	Available Parking Stand at (1) Jalesar Road (2) Sonma (3) Phaphund (4) Achalda (5) Chola (6) Bhaupur (7) Bhongana (8) Khurja (9) Bharthana (10) Mandia Road & (11) Mainpuri Railway Station for 03 years.	PRYJ-PRKG-23-85	03.11.2023 at 11.00 hrs
3	Available Parking Stand at (1) Fatehpur (2) Ajabpur (3) Daud Khan (4) Maripat (5) Jigna (6) Nibkarori (7) Jasra (8) Mandrak (9) Shikohabad& (10) Naini Railway Station for 03 years.	PRYJ-PRKG-23-86	06.11.2023 at 11.00 hrs
4	Available Parking Stand at (1) Jhinghak (2) Ambiapur (3) Sikandarpur (4) Shankargarh (5) Wair (6) Dadri (7) Jalesar City (8) Bargharh (9) Sasni & (10) Etah Railway Station for 03 years.	PRYJ-PRKG-23-87	07.11.2023 at 11.00 hrs

Pay & Use Toilet

S/N	Details of publicity	E-Auction catalogue No.	E-Auction Start Date & Time
1	Pay & Use toilets BOT basis at (1) Prayagraj Chheoki (2) Subedarganj Railway Station for 15 years.	PRYJ-PnU-23-24	26.10.2023 at 11.00 hrs
2	Operation and Maintenance of available Pay & Use toilets at (1) Phaphund Railway Station for 03 years.	PRYJ-PnU-23-24	26.10.2023 at 11.00 hrs

Interested bidders may please visit official website for e-auctioning i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for further details and participating in e-Auction. **Important note:** 1. Bidders, who wish to participate in the e-auction module should have valid Digital Signing Certificate (DSC) and same may be procured from any of certifying authority of controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA) Government of India, details of same may be obtained from www.cca.gov.in. 2. Prospective bidders will be required to get themselves registered online at IREPS (Commercial Auction Module). 3. One time registration fee of Rs. 10,000.00/- and applicable GST (non-refundable) will be required to be paid online by the entity before participating in any commercial auction. 4. For more information, requirement and various aspects regarding this e-Auction, interested bidders are advised to visit: <http://www.ireps.gov.in/epsn/jsp/common/learningcenter.jsp>. 5. Earning Money Deposit (EMD): 5% of the total contractual bid value to be deposited online during the auction, EMD of the successful bidder will be retained as Security Deposit. 6. Railway Administration reserves the full and absolute right to these contracts any point of time (or for taking any decision) depending upon the circumstances if any. 7. Railway Administration reserves the full and absolute right to short terminate these contracts any point of time (or for taking any decision) depending upon the continuation / discontinuation of these trains or commencement of new train services. (para pertains to Leasing of SLRs/VP). 8. The successful bidder will also have to pay applicable GST as imposed by Govt. of India from time to time are applicable. Rail administration will not be responsible for this. 17/19/23 (P)

North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @northcentralrailway @CPRONCR

3 Indian Express journalists win Laadli Media Awards

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, OCTOBER 21

A REPORT on the struggles of world champion boxer Nikhat Zareen, another on the daily hardship faced by Punjab girls in their pursuit of education, and an investigative story on deaths during childbirth by three journalists from *The Indian Express* were among the winners at the 13th Laadli Media and Advertising Awards for Gender Sensitivity, held at Jaipur on Saturday.



(Clockwise from top left): Divya Goyal, Nitin Sharma and Rupsa Chakraborty

Nitin Sharma, assistant editor, won the award for the report, "Don't wear shorts they told her... this gold medal will inspire all girls". The report details the struggles of Zareen in her pursuit of the world title - from taunts by relatives and friends to getting injured in the boxing ring to her mother worrying about her marriage. Divya Goyal, principal correspondent, won the award for the report, "Riding a boat across Sutlej, two girls from Punjab border village make it to high school". The report detailed the everyday lives of two young girls from Kaluwala village in Ferozpur district, situated on the India-Pakistan border, who pull a boat every day due to lack of a bridge to reach their school. The National Human Rights Commission took suo motu cognizance of the report and issued a notice to the Punjab government. This was followed by a visit of the Punjab education minister to the spot. The minister announced a bridge, which awaits the Centre's approval. Rupsa Chakraborty, special correspondent, won the award in the 'investigative category' for her report titled "Death during childbirth at Mumbai's M-East maternal health takes a beating", which delved into the issue of high maternal mortality rates in Mumbai's M-East ward that stands lowest in the human development index. The reporter gathered data of six years that outlined alarming maternal deaths in slums

that were going unreported. The data highlighted the disparity in healthcare facilities between M-East and other wards. A total of 87 winners and 31 jury appreciation awards out of a total of 857 entries in 13 languages were announced at the awards ceremony held at Rajasthan International Centre. This was the 13th edition of awards, which were constituted by Population First in association with UNFPA and Jaipur-based media advocacy organisation Lok Samvad Sansthan. Dr Dev Swarup, Vice-Chancellor of Baba Amte Divyang University, Jaipur was the chief guest while Jaydeep Biswas, chief, policy and partnership, UNFPA INDIA, was guest of honour. Dr AL Sharada, CEO of Population First, said, "A yearlong advocacy initiative led to a total of 30 jury meetings to identify the deserving winners. A diverse panel of 55 eminent personalities from various fields participated in the selection process, recognising 87 journalists with the prestigious Laadli Media Advertising Award for Gender Sensitivity and awarding an additional 31 with Jury Appreciation Citations."

School principal suspended over video of 'students offering namaz'

ASAD REHMAN
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 21

THE HEADMISTRESS of a government school was suspended and departmental action was ordered against two teachers on Saturday after some Hindu outfit leaders protested at the school over students offering namaz inside the "prayer area" of the school. A video surfaced on social media, purportedly showing some students offering namaz in the "prayer area" at the government primary school on Napier Road in Lucknow's Thakurganj area. Hindu outfit leaders allegedly drafted a ruckus at the school Saturday and argued with the headmistress. The majority of students at the school at the primary government school for Classes 1-5 belong to the Muslim community, said officials. An official letter, issued by Lucknow Basic Shiksha Adhikari Arun Kumar, said headmistress Meera Yadav was suspended while departmental action would be taken against two teachers - Mamta Mishra and Tehzeeb Fatima. Arun Kumar told *The Indian Express*, "Some seven-eight students were doing some activities that shouldn't have happened on the school premises. It was found that namaz was being offered for a while at the school. We have suspended headmistress (in charge) Meera Yadav in connection with the issue," he said. Kumar said that the education department took cognizance of the videos.

No takers for GTU's Gujarati medium engg courses, again

RITUSHARMA
AHMEDABAD, OCTOBER 21

FOR THE second year in a row, Gujarat Technological University (GTU), the state's largest technology varsity, has drawn a blank for enrolments under the engineering courses offered in Gujarati medium as the third round of centralised admissions by the Admission Committee for Professional Courses (ACPC) closed by September-end. This, even as enrolments in engineering courses saw an overall uptick after a restructuring exercise this year. "Perhaps, there is a fear among students that after getting an engineering degree in Gujarati medium, they would not get a good placement," GTU Vice Chancellor Prof Rajul Gajjar told *The Indian Express*. However, he hinted this might be a misconception. "During meetings with many industries, they readily agree to conduct interviews in Gujarati," he said. This is the third year that the ACITE, in line with the provisions of the NEP, has permitted engineering colleges to offer B.Tech programmes in regional languages. While Hindi was a popular choice with 116 student enrolments, Kannada had zero enrolments. For several other institutes, seats remained completely vacant. In the second year too, the regional language programmes across most institutes, with a few exceptions, received a



GTU V-C says students probably fear a degree in Gujarati won't get them jobs

lukewarm response. This pattern is now repeating itself for GTU this year. The only constituent college under GTU—Gujarat Power Engineering and Research Institute (GPRI) in Mevad of Mehsana—had set aside 30 Gujarati medium seats in all four engineering graduation courses since 2022-23 with the push from the Central government. After the programme saw zero takers in the first year, GTU and GPRI had chalked out a detailed plan well in advance before the 2023-24 admissions. It held micro-planned campaigns in rural and tribal areas to help enrol students. "Unlike last year, this time, there was enough time for awareness among students for Gujarati medium. Even we fail to understand why there are no takers for this," said Prof K N Kher, GTU Registrar. With 344 colleges under it, GTU targeted students from the tribal regions. However, with the prevailing trend of going abroad for masters, especially in North Gujarat belt, students prefer English medium.

New evidence confirms: Remains found in Ajnala were from 1857

SUKHBIR SIWACH
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 21

THE 246 HUMAN skeletons found dumped in an abandoned well in Amritsar's Ajnala town in 2014 were of soldiers killed during the 1857 uprising against the British, and not of people murdered during Partition in 1947, fresh scientific evidence showed. The strontium isotope analysis, which endorsed previous DNA-based genetic evidence, also showed that the remains were of people from the Gangetic plains—Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal—and coastal Odisha, and not of those living in and around Ajnala as had been suggested by some historians. The new evidence is part of research that has been published in

the International Journal of Legal Medicine. The research was jointly carried out by Chandigarh-based Panjab University, Lucknow's Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences, and Canada's Memorial University. Dr J S Sehrawat, a forensic anthropologist from Panjab University, said 282 Indian soldiers were killed and thrown in the well in 1857, and a small religious structure was later constructed there. In 2014, during a non-scientific excavation, skeletal remains of 246 people were recovered from the well. The same year, the government tasked a group, led by Sehrawat, to scientifically investigate the matter. Sehrawat said historical records suggested that the slain victims belonged to 26th Native Bengal Infantry Battalion, in which people from eastern UP, West Bengal, Bihar



Human skeletons found at the excavation site. Researchers

and coastal Odisha were recruited. Some historians believed skeletons were of local residents who were killed during the communal clashes during Partition. To determine the genetic origin of the remains, 50 samples were subjected to mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) analysis. In addition, 85 several samples were subjected to oxygen isotope analysis.

"When we eat or drink something, it leaves chemical signatures on our teeth and bones. These chemical signatures, based on food habits, can tell us about the place where a person lived. The samples from the recovered skeletons were matched with the samples of water, food grains and rocks from the areas concerned," said Sehrawat. The samples were examined at the laboratory of Canada's Memorial University. "The results from the new research are consistent with the genetic evidence of DNA study that the slain victims of 26th Native Bengal Infantry Battalion came from the Gangetic plains, and endorse the molecular forensic results published in the journal *Frontiers in Genetics* in 2022," he said. Niraj Rai, an expert on ancient

DNA from Lucknow's Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences and a co-author of the study, said: "The published results are based on the first-ever use of stable isotopes in mass scale forensic identification in the country, and are expected to provide baseline data for future forensic provenance studies that will contribute to the global efforts of mapping strontium isotope variations." Sehrawat said: "The new findings will prove to be a landmark and reference point for future studies aimed at estimating the geolocation of unknown human remains based on strontium isotope analysis in the Indian context." Researchers used strontium isotope ratios obtained from 27 teeth samples, and the findings showed that the remains found in the well were not of people living in and around Ajnala.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

SEE SECTION U/S 82 Cr. P.C. Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Ram Dass S/o Sh. Chhote Lal R/o 21, Priya Darshani Colony, Jamuna Bazaar, Kashmiri Gate, Delhi-110006** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **Case Reg No.328/2018 U/s 138 NI Act ,P.S. Keshav Puram, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused **Ram Dass** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Ram Dass** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Ram Dass of Case Reg No.328/2018 U/s 138 NI Act ,P.S. Keshav Puram, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **22.11.2023**. By Order **Vaibhav Chaurasiya** Metropolitan Magistrate-North West Room No.112,1st Floor Rohini, Courts, Delhi. DP/11245/NW/2023

Poaching: Goa forest dept orders night vigils

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA
PANAJI, OCTOBER 21

CONCERNED OVER recent incidents of leopards dying after getting trapped in metal snares, allegedly laid by poachers to trap wild boars, Goa Forest Department directed deputy conservator of forests (DCF) in all divisions to prepare a comprehensive protection plan to keep poachers at bay. The department has directed officials to map threat-prone areas and conduct weekly patrols at night, including joint patrols with the police. The advisory comes days after a male leopard died after it got trapped in a metal snare in Simepaine-Mangueshi in South Goa's Ponda on October 11. Earlier in June, a female leopard had died after it too got trapped in a metal snare laid for

wise should go for patrolling at least twice in a fortnight with night halts in forest areas... Full moon night is generally known to be preferred by poachers. On and around such dates, special vigil should be mounted," the advisory read. "Traps are laid for wild boars, but lately leopards have been getting trapped in these snares and later succumb to injuries... there is no evidence to suggest leopards are being poached for their skin, bones or paws," a forest department official said. "Wild boars are hunted by poachers and its meat is considered a delicacy in some parts. Often people set up metal traps to protect their crops from being destroyed by wild boars. Leopards who stray into the area to hunt for prey get trapped in these snares," the official said. "Foot as well as vehicular patrolling should be carried out. Patrol party should ideally include four persons," it added.

will boars at a private farm in Petkem village in South Goa's Dharbandora taluka. During the probe, the farm manager and its supervisor were arrested and charged under the Wildlife Protection Act. In another similar incident in December 2022, a leopard had died after it got stuck in a snare laid by poachers for wild boars, in Sattari on the outskirts of Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary. The advisory, issued by the assistant conservator of forest on October 16, stated that DCFs concerned should prepare a range level patrolling plan, specifying the nature of threats. This will include a security map indicating the levels of risks in particular areas, gathering intelligence about poaching practices and raising awareness with the public. "Range Forest Officer should carry out regular patrolling with at least one foot patrol in a week. ACF and DCF like-

Across THE AISLE



PCHIDAMBARAM

Website: pchidambaram.in
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MEN AND women have cohabited long before the concept of 'state' or 'government' came into existence. Cohabitation preceded any law in that behalf. Laws only recognised such cohabitation and gave it various names. The most widely used name is 'marriage'. Laws granted married couples certain rights and privileges.

Given our present knowledge of human life and behaviour — and the estimates thrown up by surveys beginning from the time of Alfred Kinsey — it follows, logically, that men and men and women and women also lived in relationships. 'Gay' and 'Lesbian' are no longer unmentionable words. We accept there are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual and others (LGBTQIA+). They are humans and, like other humans, they love and are loved. They have sexual relationships.

When LGBTQIA+ ask for the same rights and privileges as married couples, what is the answer of the State? The Indian Parliament has not made a law that recognised any relationship among LGBTQIA+. On the contrary, Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code is still in existence and punishes 'intercourse against the order of nature'. It was only in 2018, in *Navtej Singh vs Union of India*, that a 5-judge Bench overturned the earlier judgment of a 2-judge Bench (2013) and decriminalised consensual homosexuality.

MANY QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Five years later, larger questions were

In the same-sex marriage case, the Court has recognised the realities of life and has written one chapter. Just as sex, condom and homosexuality are no longer unmentionable words, same-sex couples will be more accepted by society and more visible. We may turn the page on the judgment and wait for the day when the Court or Parliament will write the next chapter

Dark Shadow over Love

a fundamental right

The honourable judges must have been troubled by their conclusion on marriage. They broke the shackles and boldly declared that a person has the right to choose a partner irrespective of gender. They traced their conclusion to the firmly entrenched principles of freedom, choice, privacy and dignity. Justice Ravindra Bhat, in which Justices Hima Kohli and PS Narasimha concurred, that is the law of the land today.

Political parties are understandably hesitant to take a position on the judgment. A political party is made up of hundreds of thousands of individuals and, on a matter that is so intimate and private yet with far reaching consequences, it is not easy to formulate a common position. Even individuals will be hesitant to take firm positions on the questions that arose in the case. The best I can do is to set out the issues and hope there will be a reasoned debate.

But it is not a 'right to civil union'

Justices Chandrachud and Kaul were prepared to call the 'right to relationship' between same-sex couples as a 'right to civil union', but Justices Bhat, Kohli and Narasimha were not prepared to go that far. So, for the present, same-sex couples will have a 'right to relationship', and no more. Whether they will be 'undisturbed' is uncertain in a country with enough self-righteous enforcers of moral laws. Whether the State will extend 'protection' to them is also uncertain given the extreme intolerance shown to certain clothes, food, beliefs, religious symbols and forms of worship.

Scholars think that the 'right to relationship' is practically without content

The three honourable judges did not agree that same-sex couples have the right to adopt children because it "would have

disastrous outcomes because the ecosystem of law as it exists", but the honourable judges defined the same ecosystem when they declared a 'right to relationship'. Scholars feel they ought to have taken the next logical steps — the right to adopt, the right to maintenance, and the right to inheritance and succession.

There is angst among the LGBTQIA+ community

Naturally, there is angst, disappointment and sadness among the LGBTQIA+ community. Married couples are devastated; they had hoped that the Court will declare their relationship as a 'civil union' (if not a marriage) recognized for all legal purposes.

But no alarm bells are ringing in wider society

I believe that, at any given time, the larger society is several steps ahead of the Courts or the legislature. The judgment — what little it granted and what it denied — has stirred little debate among the common people.

The moving finger writes and having written moves on

The Court has recognised the realities of life and has written one chapter. Just as sex, condom and homosexuality are no longer unmentionable words, same-sex couples will be more accepted by society and more visible. We may turn the page on the judgment and wait for the day when the Court or Parliament will write the next chapter.

raised by the LGBTQIA+ community before the Supreme Court, especially on the civil rights of LGBTQIA+ including recognising 'marriage' among them. The answers came on October 17, 2023. The five honourable judges agreed on some issues and disagreed on others. Ultimately, it is the judgment delivered by Mr Justice Ravindra Bhat, in which Justices Hima Kohli and PS Narasimha concurred, that is the law of the land today.

Political parties are understandably hesitant to take a position on the judgment. A political party is made up of hundreds of thousands of individuals and, on a matter that is so intimate and private yet with far reaching consequences, it is not easy to formulate a common position. Even individuals will be hesitant to take firm positions on the questions that arose in the case. The best I can do is to set out the issues and hope there will be a reasoned debate.

Court: Marriage is only a statutory right accorded to heterosexuals

Once the Court reached this conclusion, unanimously, most of the other conclusions fell in place. There must be two genders in a marriage. Hence, transgenders in a heterosexual relationship have the right to marry, homosexuals do not. The ball has been lobbed into the legislature. I cannot imagine Parliament passing any time soon a law to recognise a gender-agnostic (same-sex) 'marriage' — even under the Special Marriage Act.

However, the 'right to relationship' is

Fifth COLUMN
TAVLEEN SINGH
Twitter: @tavleen_singh

I still stand with Israel

IN THIS column last week, I made clear that I stand with Israel. I still do. Despite the hate messages I have had from Muslims in distant countries and despite the flack that I have faced from 'liberals' in India, I stand with Israel because I cannot erase the images of the horrors inflicted by Hamas terrorists in Israel on October 7. I find it particularly hard to erase those images of dead babies. Images of injured Palestinian babies are equally heartbreaking, but I do not believe that they were deliberately targeted as Israeli babies were by sadistic, evil Hamas terrorists.

They say that public memory is short but how very short became clear last week. No sooner did the siege of Gaza begin than Israel transitioned instantly from being victim to villain. When that hospital was bombed, and before it was established by whom, the world seemed to forget in minutes that it was because Jews have faced the worst violence since the Holocaust that Gaza was under siege in the first place. Hamas, like other jihadi terrorist organisations, is skilled at turning truth into lies and lies into truth so the world seems also to have forgotten that Palestinians are victims of Hamas terrorism as much as Israelis are. And that Hamas does not represent the Palestinian people or the Palestinian cause.

Personally, I see this as very frightening because if an act of terrorism so wicked and sickening can be forgotten so quickly then the lines between good and evil, right and wrong, have become dangerously blurred. In cities across the Islamic world, we have seen massive protests against Israel by people who never protested against Hamas. In Delhi, last Friday, Muslims congregated in the Jama Masjid to say funeral prayers, in absentia, for the Palestinians who have been killed in the bombing of Gaza. No prayers and no tears for the Jewish women and children brutally killed by Hamas or for the babies they still hold hostage in Gaza.

This newspaper published an interview last Friday with the Palestinian ambassador to India in which he said that Hamas was ready to release some of the hostages but could not do so until the bombing stopped. He said, "I heard from the Hamas spokesman that they will release all the civilians without any conditions... but, because of the war it's not safe for them to release them just like that..." Has the ambassador not noticed that if the hostages had been released on day one it is possible that there would not have been a siege of Gaza? Israel may have been persuaded that in its determination to eliminate Hamas it did not have to punish women and children.

Here I need to make clear that I believe depriving the people of Gaza of food, water and electricity is inhuman and a war crime. Much as I remain totally on Israel's side in this horrible conflict, I believe that if by the time you read this a ground war has begun, it would be a terrible mistake. One that would compound the mistake that has already been made by the indiscriminate bombing of Gaza. President Biden was right to warn Israel not to make the mistakes that America made after 9/11, even if he supported Israel in pursuing Hamas to the very end.

Sadly, when this happens, there will be a new jihadist gang that will take its place and it will probably have the full support of those who see victimhood only on the Palestinian side. In my view, the worst jihadists of all were those who created the Islamic State and although that awful country no longer exists, the ideology that defined it is still around in almost every Muslim country. It may not have the support of the rulers of these countries, as it does in our neighbourhood, but it is hard to stamp out even in Muslim countries that are considered liberal and moderate. It would be interesting to find out why.

Next week in India we celebrate Dussehra to remind us of the triumph of good over evil and to remind us that this is a battle that has been fought from the beginning of time. There are 'liberals' in India who believe that jihadism is no different to Hindutva and that both need to be condemned in equal measure. I believe they are wrong. Hindutva fanatics are an ugly bunch, but they do not have support from ordinary Hindus in the same way that the jihadists seem to have from ordinary Muslims.

Since October 7, I have been horrified to discover that Muslim friends whom I considered moderate, liberal and irreligious have come out in passionate support of the besieged people of Gaza without examining why they are under siege. They have done this without expressing any horror at what Hamas did and without showing the smallest understanding of what Israel has just gone through. Next month, in the last week of November, will come another anniversary of 26/11 and it saddens me to say that when that happened, there were many Muslims (and Hindus) who believed that the attack on Mumbai had been planned and executed by Indian intelligence agencies. After 9/11, I met many Muslims who said that it was the CIA who was responsible. Muslims cannot do such things, they said, Islam is a religion of peace. Really?

inside TRACK
COOMI KAPOOR

MURKY WATERS

CANADIAN PREMIER Justin Trudeau waded in murky waters when he accused India of "credible allegations" of involvement in the death of Khalistani gangster Hardeep Singh Nijjar. The Canadian government's half-baked assumption is reportedly based on telephone intercepts provided by the US government, which presumably does not want any suggestion of unfriendly activity against a friendly country made public. Several anti-India terrorists have died abroad, reportedly in inter-gang rivalries. In Pakistan, there were at least seven gangland terrorist deaths in the last two years. Since the world of terrorism is inextricably linked with drug cartels and other illegal activities, pointing a finger in a shoot-out is difficult to prove. For instance, on September 21 this year, Khalistani terrorist Sukhdool Singh was bumped off in Canada a day after Trudeau made public his accusation against India in the Canadian Parliament. Goldy Brar, a member of Lawrence Bishnoi's gang, claimed he had engineered the plot against Sukhdool Singh.

WHEELS IN WHEELS

The forthcoming Assembly polls in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Mizoram and Telangana are expected to favour the Congress. Surprisingly, however, this does not suit the Congress alliance partners in the I.N.D.I.A. group. The apprehension is that a victorious Congress will gain the upper hand in taking decisions. Incidentally, a significant new friendship has developed within I.N.D.I.A. NCP leader Sharad Pawar has moved close to AAP's Arvind Kejriwal through his friendship with AAP MP Sanjay Singh. Pawar has been very supportive of his fellow Rajya Sabha member over his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate. With AAP on Pawar's side, Nitish's chances of chairing the I.N.D.I.A. alliance automatically recede. Meanwhile, Akhilesh Yadav is threatening to contest all seats in UP in the parliamentary poll since the Congress has not shared any Assembly seats in Madhya Pradesh.

RILED OVER A RIVER

UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's recent remark at a two-day National Sindhi Convention in Lucknow, that if the Ram Janmabhoomi can be reclaimed, then the Sindhu (Indus) river can also be

brought back to India, merited just a para in the Indian media. In Pakistan, however, Adityanath's remark had become a major point of discussion on talk shows, blogs and YouTube. Pakistanis are infuriated at the suggestion that India can lay claim to a river, which only passes through Indian territory marginally.

MP IS NOT GUJARAT

It is puzzling why the BJP is fielding its reluctant heavyweights in the Madhya Pradesh Assembly poll and opinions differ on the purpose. Conventional wisdom is that the BJP is importing all its heavy artillery because of the poor situation on the ground. (Though many suspect that the move will backfire badly rather than help.) Some assume it is an attempt to undercut Chief Minister Shivraj Chouhan. But undermining a long-time CM, who still has much popular support, can only further harm the party's prospects. The BJP's election posters display so many candidates' faces that it resembles Ravana's head. The reluctant candidates, including seven MPs, three of them Union ministers, plus a party general secretary, are naturally fuming at the demotion. Though, general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya was the only one candid enough to admit that he did not have "one per cent wish to contest", particularly as his son was hoping to stand for the assembly.

Perhaps the real reason for the move, which has resulted in mounting resentment both from disappointed aspiring ticket seekers as well as those who have tickets thrust upon them, is that the BJP's high command believes that it could replicate the Gujarat model in Madhya Pradesh. In Gujarat, the party high command had successfully replaced old faces with a younger generation of politicians, with barely a whimper. (In Madhya Pradesh, BJP stalwarts contesting the Assembly elections will in all likelihood see their political careers petering out, whether they win or lose the Assembly polls.) But MP is not Gujarat. The RSS has particularly deep roots in the state and an attempt to replace an older entrenched political leadership with a younger generation of politicians is not going to be as seamless as in the home state of the party high command.

SEEN IN CONTEXT

Devendra Fadnavis's recent observation at a media conclave, that the Shiv Sena was the BJP's natural ally and the Ait Pawar-led NCP only a political ally, has a context. A Mumbai industrialist and a Marathi litterateur were reportedly asked by the BJP to act as intermediaries with Uddhav Thackeray to see if a rapprochement was possible. Uddhav, however, indicated that too much water had flown to make the resumption of ties possible.

history HEADLINE
SHYAMLAL YADAV

HISTORY REPEATS itself, but when that happens, it offers a window to look back at change — in society and politics, and in the way politicians respond to situations. Two incidents, 44 years apart, that took place in UP's Deoria district offer this view.

On October 2, 2023, at Fatehpur in Rudrapur tehsil of Deoria, a land dispute between two families led to a murderous assault. Prem Chandra Yadav was killed, allegedly by members of his rival Satya Prakash Dubey's family. In a retaliatory attack, four members of Dubey's family were killed. Such disputes are routine matters for police and the revenue administration in the state and they are known to drag on endlessly.

Around 45 km away, Narainpur village (then in Deoria, now in Kushinagar district, on the border with Deoria) was the site of an event that, like the latest incident, had political ramifications that echoed in the Assembly and got the government to scramble for a response.

On January 11, 1980, a bus ran over an old woman and villagers demanded compensation from the owner of the vehicle. With the bus owner, police and villagers failing to reach an agreement on the compensation, tempers ran high among villagers. Then, suddenly, on the night of Makar Sankranti on January 14 (the day Indira Gandhi took oath as Prime Minister), police attacked villagers, allegedly looting, beating up, and raping women, killing at least two. Most of the inhabitants of the village were Scheduled Castes and Muslims.

Disturbingly, it took over a week for the Narainpur incident to reach state capital Lucknow. On February 8, 1980, Chief Minister Banarasi Das told the Assembly that he came to know of the incident on January 23 through a newspaper report. Chief Minister Das and his Janata Party government were already on a sticky wicket as Indira Gandhi had returned to power at the Centre and many of the Janata Party MLAs were leaving to join the Congress. The Narainpur incident couldn't have come at a worse time for Das.

The CM then directed Mohan Singh, MLA from the nearby Barhaj constituency in Deoria and Minister of State for Small Industries in his government, to visit the village. The matter was discussed in the Assembly thrice under different rules and each time, MLAs of the Janata Party were more aggressive on the subject than those of Opposition parties.

What was interesting was that

Deoria, UP, 44 years apart: When caste defines politics



The Narainpur incident came to light after Indira Gandhi's visit to the village on February 7, 1980. File

Mohan Singh, a Rajput, was wholeheartedly with the victims of Narainpur. Similarly, Janata Party leaders Bankey Lal, MLA from Ramkola under which Narainpur fell, and Hari Keval Prasad from Salempur raised the issue in the House. Bankey Lal even expressed his desire to resign as MLA. MLAs of the Opposition Congress too took on the government on the issue, but the ruling party's MLAs were no less aggressive.

While the victims were Dalits, the MLAs who spoke for them weren't — Mohan Singh was Rajput, Bankey Lal was an upper-caste Kayasth and Prasad an OBC — yet, they led the demand for action against the perpetrators of the violence.

Mohan Singh made a detailed statement in the Assembly, highlighting atrocities committed by the police of Hata and Kaptanganj police stations. He said, "After listening (to the villagers), I am ashamed that in 20th century, a human being can commit this (atrocities) against other human beings. They were beaten there and brought to Kaptan Ganj police station and beaten again there. Women were also beaten. The Chief Minister ordered their transfer (of the errant police officers) but they were not relieved saying elections were going on."

Soon, the SSP and DIG of Deoria were transferred, three SHOs were suspended, several sub-inspectors and constables were sent to other districts and a judicial inquiry was ordered.

Politics and political drama ran high as the Congress had returned with a majority only days earlier. Prime Minister Indira

Gandhi visited the village on February 7, 1980. While returning from Narainpur, she said in Gorakhpur that Banarasi Das's government had no right to exist. She alleged that instead of going to Narainpur, the UP government had accepted the version of the policemen. Later, Banarasi Das defended himself, saying, "I have taken strict action. If I would have visited the village (Narainpur), the Prime Minister would have alleged that I was there to prejudice the inquiry."

Janata Party leaders rallied around the CM and alleged that Indira Gandhi's statement should be seen as interference in the state government's work since law and order was a state subject. Three years earlier, the ND Tiwari-led Congress government in UP had been dismissed by the Moraji Desai-led Janata Party government at the Centre. The Deoria incident served as a ready tool for the Congress-ruled Centre to 'seek revenge'.

On February 18, 1980, governments of nine non-Congress(I)-ruled states, including UP, were dismissed. The governments of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Orissa, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu faced a similar fate.

Now, 44 years after the Narainpur incident, the response of politicians to the Deoria killings are a reflection of the change politics — and the principles politicians stood for — has undergone.

While in 1980 political leaders, irrespective of their caste and party affiliations, stood by the victims, in 2023, MLAs of the ruling BJP, a party that claims to not indulge in caste politics, have been reduced to representing their own caste.

For instance, Deoria MLA Shalabh Mani Tripathi visited the Dubey family frequently, but confirmed to *The Indian Express* that he did not visit the family of Prem Chandra Yadav, who was the first to be killed. A mere 2 km separate the two homes. Village Fatehpur falls under the Rudrapur Assembly seat, where the BJP's Jaiprakash Nishad is the MLA. He, too, visited Dubey's son in Deoria but not the village.

Yogi Adityanath and his deputy Brajesh Pathak visited the Gorakhpur hospital where the injured son of Satya Prakash Dubey was admitted, but did not visit the village. Yogi's another deputy, Keshav Prasad Maurya, too did not visit the village. Leader of Opposition Akhilesh Yadav visited the village and visited both families, but Dubey's son refused to meet him.

This is what has changed in UP in 44 years.

She SAID
YAMINI NAIK
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Whose life is it anyway?

Pregnancy (MTP) Act, she had to approach the court to seek permission for abortion. Foetal viability, a woman's right over her body and the rights of an unborn child — all these topics were widely debated on from the time the woman approached the court, till the judgment was delivered.

The woman had mentioned that she was "not" in a position to raise a third child — emotionally, financially and mentally. It doesn't mean that she just wanted to "kill" her foetus. The plea in itself screamed of her helplessness. Termination of pregnancy isn't an easy decision for a mother. So when she points out reasons for the same, listen to her.

Six years ago, I happened to meet a 22-year-old mother of three at a government

medical college. The woman, who belonged to a family of migrant workers from Jharkhand, was attending to her two younger children, aged three and one-and-a-half, who had been stabbed by their father. At the time I met her, the mother was unaware that her eldest son, four-and-a-half years old, had died.

Why did her husband — who she claimed was an abusive alcoholic — stab their children that fateful day? She said he was enraged over their non-stop cries for food. There was no food at home since he was out of a job and the children were hungry, she said. "He stabbed them to make them stop crying," she told me.

As I handed her some money collected by a few friends, the malnourished

mother thanked me profusely. With folded hands, she said, "Till this day, not even God has helped us."

Her youngest one had undergone surgery and was resting in her lap, still in seemingly unwashed clothes, every inch of their bodies a testament to their poverty. The woman said she never wanted to get married or have children, but poverty forced her family to marry her off at a very young age.

Each day, we come across news reports on newborns being found in dustbins, garbage dumps, creeks or on roads. What makes these children common? They are all "unwanted" by their parents, or at least by one of them.

When we can't give justice to the chil-

dren around us, whose rights are being violated with impunity, how can we talk about the rights of unborn children? Stopping that heartbeat may perhaps be a blessing compared to the life or death in store for that child.

If a mother doesn't want her child, who will want her/him? Unless courts or governments can find a solution to society's unwanted children, they shouldn't force a woman to deliver an unwanted child.

When a woman conceives, she knows that it's not just about delivering the baby but also the years of struggle that will follow. If no one else is willing to help a woman throughout those years, the decision to keep the baby or not should be hers alone. After all, whose child is it anyway?

10 THE WORLD

TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY
US PLANS CHANGES IN H1B VISA RULES
 The Biden administration is proposing changes in the H1B foreign workers programme to improve efficiency by streamlining eligibility, providing more flexibility to F-1 students, entrepreneurs and those working for non-profit bodies and ensuring better condition for other non-immigrant workers. The rules are scheduled to be published on October 23.

U.N. SAYS AT LEAST 100 TRUCKS NEEDED DAILY
 to cover urgent, life-saving needs

WE WON'T LEAVE: PALESTINE PRESIDENT
 Mahmoud Abbas at Cairo Peace Summit

RESPECT INTERNATIONAL LAW, SHOW RESTRAINT,
 Britain urges Israeli military

At long last, aid trucks enter Gaza Strip

Overnight Israeli air strikes across Gaza kill at least 50, injure dozens

REUTERS
 GAZA/JERUSALEM, OCT 21



A Palestinian woman mourns death of her cousin in an Israeli air strike, in Rafah, Gaza, on Saturday. AP

TRUCKS CARRYING aid crossed into Gaza on Saturday, the first convoy of humanitarian supplies since Israel began a devastating siege 12 days ago and after further heavy Israeli bombardment overnight that killed dozens of Palestinians.

US President Joe Biden had said that agreement had been reached for 20 aid trucks to enter via southern Gaza Strip's Rafah border point with Egypt.

The flatbed trucks headed into Gaza's southern area which includes the major towns of Rafah and Khan Younis where hundreds of thousands of people made homeless by Israel's unrelenting air war are sheltering.

However, Palestinian officials were disappointed that fuel supplies were not included and added that the aid was only three percent of what used to get into Gaza before the crisis. "Excluding the fuel from the humanitarian aid means the lives of patients and injured will remain at risk. Gaza hospitals are running out of the basic requirements to pursue medical interventions," the Gaza health ministry said.

The United Nations said the convoy included life-saving supplies to be received and distributed by the Palestinian Red Crescent, with the consent of Hamas, which rules Gaza.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken welcomed the opening but echoed a warning from Israel that no aid should end up in Hamas hands.

UN officials say at least 100 trucks daily are needed. Before the outbreak of conflict, about 450 aid trucks were arriving daily in Gaza.

Israel kept up air strikes on targets around Gaza in Saturday's early hours after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to

"fight until victory" following the release of the first two hostages by Hamas. Hamas said on Saturday it would not discuss the fate of Israeli army captives until Israel ends its "aggression" on the Gaza Strip. Overnight, Israeli fighter jets struck a "large number of Hamas terror targets throughout" Gaza including command centres and combat positions inside multi-storey buildings, the military said in a statement. Gaza's health ministry and Hamas media said Israeli aircraft had overnight targeted several family houses across Gaza, killing at least 50 people and injuring dozens.

Hamas said it fired rockets towards Israeli's biggest city Tel Aviv on Saturday.

A senior Israeli military official said Israel had killed "a few thousand" Hamas militants in the war. "It is not enough. We need to take more...", he said.

Israel has told all civilians to evacuate the northern half of Gaza, which includes Gaza City. Many people have yet to leave saying they fear losing everything.

Some said the aid arriving on Saturday was too little to make a difference. "This is a drop in the ocean. You are trying to show the world that you are bringing aid. This is throwing dust in the eyes," said Nabih El-Dhaba, a resident of the Shejaia district in Gaza City who has been displaced to Deir Al-Balah in southern Gaza Strip.



Trucks carrying humanitarian aid from NGOs drive through the Rafah crossing from the Egyptian side on Saturday. Reuters

At Cairo summit, Arab leaders seek fresh peace push

REUTERS
 CAIRO, OCTOBER 21

ARAB LEADERS at a Cairo summit condemned Israeli bombardment of Gaza as Europeans said civilians should be shielded, but the absence of Israel and senior US officials at the meeting undermined any prospect for halting an escalating war.

Leaders and foreign ministers were meeting as a two-week conflict in Gaza raged on.

Arab states said it was time to restart efforts to end a decades-long cycle of violence between Israelis and Palestinians.

The United States, Israel's closest ally, only sent the charge d'affaires of its Cairo embassy and Israel was entirely absent. Diplomats said a joint summit declaration was unlikely.

Jordan's King Abdullah denounced what he termed global silence about Israel's attacks and urged an even-handed approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said Palestinians would not be displaced or driven off their land. "We won't leave, we won't leave," he told the summit.

French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna said a human-

itarian corridor was needed to deliver aid to civilians, which she said could lead to a ceasefire. Germany said Israel's fight against Hamas must be carried out with due concern for the humanitarian situation in Gaza and Britain urged the Israeli military to respect international law and show restraint.

Hamas' backer Iran did not attend the summit.

Arab states fear the offensive could drive Gaza residents permanently from their homes and even into neighbouring states - as happened when Palestinians fled or were forced from their homes in the 1948 war following Israel's creation.



UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan with Italian PM Giorgia Meloni in Cairo, Egypt, on Saturday. Reuters

Avoid wider conflict, don't fall into Hamas trap: Meloni to world leaders

REUTERS
 CAIRO, OCTOBER 21

ITALIAN PRIME Minister Giorgia Meloni said on Saturday that the international community must avoid an escalation in the war between Israel and Hamas and set a roadmap towards the two states solution.

Meloni made the remarks while speaking in Egypt at the Cairo international summit for peace as Israel prepares a ground assault on Gaza.

"Although our starting points are far apart, our interests overlap perfectly: that what is happening in Gaza does not become a much wider conflict, a religious war, a clash of civilisations," Meloni said speaking in Italian.

"I have the impression that this was the real aim of the Hamas attack, not to defend the rights of the Palestinian people, but an attack that would create an unbridgeable gap between Palestinians and Israelis, meaning that the target is all of us, and we cannot fall into this trap, which would be very stupid."

The Italian PM et Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Cairo before travelling to Tel Aviv to meet Israel PM Benjamin Netanyahu. Meloni and Abbas discussed the need to work hard for a de-escalation of the Israel-Hamas war and for a two-state solution, the Italian leader told journalists, referring to the idea of establishing two separate and independent states, one for Israelis and one for Palestinians.

She stressed that a two-state solution must have a clear timeframe.

BRIEFLY

Blast near Israel Embassy in Cyprus, 4 held

Nicosia: Police in Cyprus said Saturday they arrested four Syrians on suspicion of setting off a small explosive device that caused no damage not far from Israeli Embassy in the capital Nicosia. A court sent the duo to police custody. AP

Thousands join pro-Palestine rally in London

London: About 100,000 people joined a pro-Palestinian demonstration in central London on Saturday, marching through the British capital to demand a ceasefire in Gaza. AP

Released by Hamas, US women reunite with family in Israel

REUTERS & PTI
 GAZA, ILLINOIS, OCTOBER 21

TWO NEWLY freed American hostages, a Chicago-area woman and her teenage daughter, were reunited with family inside Israel on Friday as relatives celebrated back home in Illinois, nearly two weeks after Hamas gunmen abducted them and dozens of others near Gaza.

Judith Tai Raanan, 59, and her daughter Natalie, 17, were handed over to Israeli forces at the Gaza Strip border on Friday, becoming the first captives whose release by Hamas has been confirmed by both sides since the latest round of Arab-Israeli bloodshed erupted.

The release was announced by Abu Ubaida, a spokesman for the armed wing of Hamas, the Izz el-Deen al-Qassam Brigades, and confirmed a short time later



Judith Tai Raanan (right) and her daughter Natalie Shoshana Raanan speak to US President Joe Biden over phone, Saturday. Reuters

in a statement from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Reached by phone in Bannockburn, Illinois, outside Chicago, Uri Raanan, the teenager's father, said he spoke with his daughter by phone. "She sounds very, very good, very happy - and she looks good."

US President Joe Biden assured that his government would fully support the duo in their recovery and healing process. Biden thanked the governments of Qatar and Israel for their partnership in securing the release of the two hostages.

Soon thereafter, Biden spoke over the phone with the two released hostages and their family.

"Today, we have secured the release of two Americans taken hostage by Hamas during the horrific terrorist assault against Israel on October 7," the US President said in a statement.

South Gaza tent camp reawakens old traumas

ASSOCIATED PRESS
 KHAN YOUNIS, OCTOBER 21

WHEN THE sun rose on Friday and the autumn heat baked the rotten debris on Gaza's streets, Mohammed Elian emerged from the zipper hole of his new canvas home. Palestinians displaced by the latest war between Israel and Hamas have crowded into a squalid tent camp in southern Gaza.

Last week after the Israeli military ordered more than 1 million Palestinians to evacuate the north, the 35-year-old graphic designer from Gaza City ended up homeless in the city of Khan Younis. With nowhere else to go, Elian, his wife and four kids landed in the tent camp that cropped up this week as UN shelters overflowed in Gaza, where most people are already refugees from the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation.



A UNDP-provided tent camp in Khan Younis. AP

Scenes of Palestinians setting up UN tents are dredging up painful memories of the mass exodus that Palestinians refer to as the Nakba, or "catastrophe." In the months before and during the 1948 war, an estimated 700,000 Palestinians fled or were expelled from what is now Israel. Many expected to return when the war ended. Seventy-five years later, those temporary tents in the West Bank, Gaza and neighboring Arab countries have become permanent cinderblock homes.

DEATH, DESTRUCTION	
ISRAEL	PALESTINE
TOTAL DEAD	
1,400	4,385
■ Hamas gunmen killed 1,400, mainly civilians, in the deadliest single attack on Israel on October 7	■ The dead include 1,756 children and 976 women, the Palestinian health ministry said
TOTAL INJURED	
1,000+	13,651
■ Hamas had also captured more than 200 people as hostages after the initial assault	■ Over a million of Gaza's 2.3 million people have been displaced
OTHER LOSSES	
■ Former US Representative Justin Amash said several of his relatives had been killed when a Greek Orthodox church in the Gaza Strip was hit overnight by an Israeli air strike.	■ The United Nations humanitarian affairs office said more than 140,000 homes - nearly a third of all homes in Gaza - had been damaged, with nearly 13,000 completely destroyed

US: Republicans drop Jim Jordan House speaker bid

ASSOCIATED PRESS
 WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 21

REPUBLICANS ABRUPTLY dropped Rep. Jim Jordan on Friday as their nominee for House speaker, making the decision during a closed-door session after the hard-edged ally of Donald Trump failed badly on a third ballot for the gavel.

The outcome left Republicans dejected and sinking deeper into turmoil, another week without a House speaker bordering on a full-blown crisis.

Afterward, Jordan said simply of his colleagues, "We put the question to them, they made a different decision." The hard-charging Judiciary Committee chairman said House Republicans now need to come together and "figure out who our speaker is going to be." Their majority



Jim Jordan failed badly on the third vote

control floundering. Republicans left the private session blaming one another for the divisions they have created. Next steps were highly uncertain, as a wide range of Republican lawmakers started pitching themselves for speaker.

But it appears no one at present can win a GOP majority. "We're in a very bad place right now," McCarthy said.

Majority Leader Steve Scalise said they would "start over" Monday.

New nominees are to come forward for a candidate forum and internal party votes.

US sanctions 3 Chinese firms for giving ballistic missile parts to Pak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
 WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 21

THE UNITED STATES has imposed sanctions on three China-based companies for supplying missile-applicable items for Pakistan's ballistic missile programme, the State Department said.

The US State Department said Friday that the sanctions were being imposed as part of the global nonproliferation regime.

"These three entities, based in the People's Republic of China (PRC), have worked to supply missile-applicable items to Pakistan's ballistic missile programme," the State Department said.

China, an all-weather ally of Pakistan, has been the main supplier of arms and defence equipment to Islamabad's military modernisation programme.

EXPLAINED
Action days after launch

THE SANCTIONS come days after Pakistan conducted the launch of the Ababeel ballistic missile system. The actions demonstrate that the US will continue to act against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery, and associated procurement activities, State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said.

The three companies include General Technology Limited, Beijing Luo Luo Technology Dev-

elopment Co Ltd., and Changzhou Utek Composite Company Ltd. They were sanctioned for having engaged or attempted to engage, in activities or transactions that have materially contributed to, or pose a risk of materially contributing to, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction or their means of delivery, including any efforts to manufacture, acquire, possess, develop, transport, transfer or use such items, by Pakistan.

General Technology Limited has worked to supply brazing materials, which are used to join components in ballistic missile rocket engines, and in the production of combustion chambers. Beijing Luo Luo Technology Development Co Ltd has worked to supply mandrels which can be used in the production of solid propellant rocket motors.

Russia makes fresh bid to seize east Ukraine towns

ASSOCIATED PRESS
 KYIV, OCTOBER 21

AT LEAST three civilians were killed and others wounded in Ukraine on Friday and Saturday, as Russian forces continued to shell areas across the country and pushed forward near an embattled eastern city, local Ukrainian officials reported Saturday.

A man died as Russian forces shelled the Ukrainian-held town of Nikopol from their stronghold at Ukraine's largest nuclear plant, according to Ukrainian local Gov. Serhii Lysak. Lysak said that emergency services in Nikopol were working to assess the damage. Russian troops took over the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant early in the war, sparking intermittent fears of a radiation incident as shelling



A firefighter at a warehouse hit by shelling in Donetsk on Saturday. Reuters

persisted near the site, often targeting Ukrainian-controlled settlements across the Dnieper River. In Kryvyi Rih, the central Ukraine hometown of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, a 60-year-old man died on Friday evening when a Russian missile slammed into an industrial facility. The mayor reported that Russian missiles and drones hit the same place again overnight, sparking a fire.

Man charged with hate crime for punching Sikh teenager

New York: A 26-year-old man has been arrested and charged with a hate crime in the US for attacking a Sikh teenager on a bus here for wearing a turban, according to media reports.

Police on Thursday arrested Christopher Philippeaux, who was conditionally released by parole in July 2021 after serving more than two years in prison, and charged him with a hate crime after the incident on the bus near 118th Street and Liberty Avenue in Queens on October 15.

According to police, Philippeaux approached the 19-year-old Sikh boy on the New York City MTA bus and said, "We don't wear that in this country," referring to his turban. He also asked the teen to take his mask off. PTI

ECONOMY

FOOD EXPORT CONSIGNMENTS BETWEEN OCT 2019 AND SEPT 2023

India's US food exports refusal rate 7 times higher than China's

MDH Spices leads with 10 per cent shipments refused over salmonella contamination; nearly 4 per cent Nestle India shipments refused, mostly due to "filthy" noodles

AGGAM WALIA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

A TOTAL of 3,925 human food export shipments from India were refused entry at US customs in the last four years, as per data available with the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Of these, 953 shipments (24 per cent) were refused entry for being "filthy" and 786 shipments (20 per cent) were refused for containing salmonella, a bacteria that causes severe stomach infections. The most frequent product categories to face entry refusals were spices, vitamins, minerals and proteins, bakery products, and seafood products.

Food imports from India, Mexico, and China saw the highest number of refusals between October 2019 and September 2023, which corresponds to the latest four US federal fiscal years. A total of 5,374 food export shipments from Mexico were refused, followed by 3,925 shipments from India, and 2,340 shipments from China. India's food exports refusal rate, which refers to the percentage of shipments refused out of all food export shipments



Refusal of food export shipments from India has seen a downward trend in the last decade. File

sent, however, stood at 0.15 per cent during this period, seven times China's rate of 0.022 per cent and six times Mexico's rate of 0.025 per cent.

Incidentally, refusal of food export shipments from India has seen a downward trend in the last decade in absolute terms, from a peak of 1,591 refusals in 2015 to 1,033 refusals in 2023. A study by the US Department of Agriculture published in 2022, however, did attest to the fact that between 2002 and 2019, India had the most pathogen-related violations with 5,115 food import refusals out of over 22,000 pathogen and toxin

violations that were identified, a share of 22.9 per cent. Mexico came in second with a 13.9 per cent share followed by Vietnam with an 8.6 per cent share.

"Even though Mexico had the most refusals in 2008 and 2011, shipments from India were denied more frequently than those from other countries over the entire study period (between 2002 and 2019). These violations were primarily from Salmonella contamination," the study noted.

MDH Spices, which generated a revenue of Rs 1,759 crore in FY22, saw a refusal rate of 9.95 per cent for all human food shipments

exported to the US between October 2019 and September 2023, which corresponds to the latest four US federal fiscal years. In other words, 62 out of 623 food export shipments sent by MDH to the US were refused entry.

As per FDA's data, the charges against all 62 shipments, which were spices related products, include that of salmonella contamination. FDA's Charge 9, which concerns adulteration, makes shipments "subject to refusal of admission... in that it appears to contain Salmonella, a poisonous and deleterious substance which may render it injurious to health" was applied to all 62 shipments exported by MDH which were refused entry. According to FDA's procedures, if a shipment is refused entry, the importer can either destroy it or export it out of the US. FDA does not share data on what happens to shipments once they are refused entry.

MDH's export shipments to the US fell consistently, from 172 in 2020 to 101 in 2023. However, the refusal rate increased to 15 per cent in 2023 from 11.3 per cent in 2020. FDA also physically inspected MDH's manufacturing plant in January 2022, during

which it noted that the "plant did not have adequate sanitary facilities and accommodations." It also observed that the plant's "equipment and utensils were not designed and constructed to be adequately cleaned or maintained to protect against contamination." MDH did not respond to a detailed questionnaire despite multiple reminders.

Nestle India's refusal rate in the latest four US federal fiscal years stood at 3.7 per cent, a total of 110 shipments out of 2965 shipments exported to the US. Majority of Nestle's refused shipments were of noodles and related products. The most frequent charge levelled against Nestle's refused shipments was of the products consisting "in whole or in part of a filthy, putrid, or decomposed substance or be otherwise unfit for food."

The second and third most frequent charges were related to the misbranding of nutritional labels and ingredients information. There is no record of inspections conducted by the FDA at Nestle India's plants during the said time period.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Spice Route hurdle: Why the West Asian conflict could derail the IMEC plan

ANIL SASI
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

THE INDIA-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), positioned as a modern-day Spice Route and as a weighty ideological alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative, was a challenging project to start off with, given the inherent logistical complexities of the multi-modal project and the prospect of navigating through the complex geopolitics of the West Asian region – a vital middle link.

But for the connectivity corridor spanning India to Europe via West Asia that seeks to leverage cross-country railway lines and shipping corridors to physically link up a vast stretch of the Eurasian subcontinent, the eruption of fighting in Israel and the renewed tensions it has stoked in the region makes any progress on the project an even more uphill task than when the initial announcement was made just over a month ago, officials in multiple government ministries indicated.

When PM Modi had made the announcement flanked by US President Joe Biden and Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman during the annual Group of 20 leaders summit in New Delhi last month, there was an tacit acknowledgement of the logistical complexities, including the prospect of multi-modal shipment transfers and the possibility of consignments being subjected to multiple national customs checks and clearance. But the geopolitical challenge of wading through the complex geopolitics of the West Asia region was always the bigger, unsaid concern.

Increasing complexities

That situation, officials the Indian Express spoke to, said has become way more complex now, with the Israel-Hamas war intensifying and as Gaza struggles to get aid amid worsening conditions. There is a growing realisation that the calculations on the kind of diplomatic cooperation that the project of the scale of the IMEC would have warranted as a prerequisite, is far more complicated now.

The design of the Corridor, envisaged as a "cost-effective" cross-border ship-to-rail transit network enabling goods and services to transit between India, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Jordan,



Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud and US President Joe Biden shake hands next to PM Narendra Modi during G20 summit in New Delhi. File

Israel, and Europe, seeks to traverse multiple, diverse nations with different political dynamics, strategic interests, and historical tensions.

The US backing was seen as the catalyst, especially given that the signatories included countries such as Israel, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. But there was an expectation that the progressive initiatives mounted by Washington over the better part of the last decade to co-opt countries in the West Asian region to normalise ties with Israel would be a key factor in getting this project off the ground.

The eruption of fighting between Hamas and Israel earlier

this month threatens to upend all those efforts. The Saudi-Israel peace initiative could be the first casualty, as mounting anger in the Arab world about the scale of Israel's offensive in northern Gaza begins to override the initial outrage over the atrocities committed by Hamas in southern Israel in its surprise attack on October 7. US President Joe Biden's planned stop in Jordan earlier this week, which was to take place after his visit to Israel, had to be cancelled after an attack on a Gaza hospital while a scheduled meeting with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas also had to be put off.

A rocket attack near Baghdad International Airport added to a rising number of attacks targeting US forces in the Middle East, as Washington tried to stave off a progressive escalation of the conflict in the region. President Biden has suggested that Hamas's attack, the trigger for the conflict, was aimed at disrupting stronger ties between Israel and Saudi Arabia.

"One of the reasons Hamas

moved on Israel.... they knew that I was about to sit down with the Saudis," Biden was quoted as saying by the Reuters news agency Friday.

Early announcement

In New Delhi, across some key infrastructure ministries, there is an acknowledgement that the project – spearheaded by the US – was perhaps announced prematurely, well before any implementation details were finalised, or communicated at a country level.

Official timelines for the project's completion or details on how it would be funded are not clearly spelled out still. Clarity on the final alignment of the project is also awaited.

What is being said, though, is that the use of the land route in the Arabian peninsula could mean bypassing the congested Suez Canal that cargo ships currently take, and thereby offer some logistical advantages. A senior official in India's union shipping ministry indicated that the details are still to be discussed at a country-level but that India will "follow a whole-of-government approach" as and when the fingerprint emerges.

"As the shipping and ports ministry, we are the transporter. There are other stakeholders involved like railways, roadways, and of course, the commerce and finance ministries. There will be close coordination at our end between various departments and ministries, and we will be working in an integrated fashion. Also, there will be multiple countries involved in this initiative. We will have to work closely with them as well," the official said. FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

RBI approves Ashok Vaswani's appointment as Kotak MD & CEO

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 21

PRIVATE SECTOR bank Kotak Mahindra Bank on Saturday said it has received the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) approval for the appointment of veteran banker Ashok Vaswani as the Managing Director (MD) and CEO of the bank.

The appointment of Vaswani is for a period of three years, with effect from the date of taking charge, which will not be later than January 1, 2024, the bank said in a press release.

Currently, Vaswani is President of Pagaya Technologies Ltd - a US-Israeli AI Fintech.

He was Chief Executive Officer of Barclays Bank, UK and subsequently CEO of their Global Consumer, Private, Corporate and Payments businesses and Member of the Group Executive Committee.

Earlier, he was CEO Citigroup Asia Pacific and Member of the Citigroup Global Operating & Management Committees. "I am delighted that the RBI has approved our recommendation, Ashok Vaswani, as the next MD & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank," said Uday Kotak, Founder and Director, Kotak Mahindra Bank.

In September, Kotak stepped down as the MD & CEO of the bank. He resigned four months ahead of the end of his current tenure, which is December 31, 2023. The bank's board had appointed Dipak Gupta, the Joint Managing Director, as the MD &

CEO until December 31, 2023.

"I thank the Board for entrusting me with the responsibility of leading Kotak Mahindra Bank's journey to the next phase of growth. I am excited and honoured to carry forward the legacy of Uday who has built this world-class institution. With our proven leadership team, we will take the Bank to new heights," Vaswani said.

"We will ensure that Kotak Mahindra Bank plays a meaningful role in India's journey to being one of the top 3 economies in the world in the next 5 years, delivering shareholder value. At a personal level, I am delighted to come back home," he said.

In the quarter ended September, the bank's net profit grew 24 per cent to Rs 3,191 crore from Rs 2,581 crore in the same quarter of FY2023. Net interest income (NII) increased by 23 per cent to Rs 6,297 crore from Rs 5,099 crore. Net interest margin (NIM) stood at 5.22 per cent. Gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) declined to 1.72 per cent from 2.08 per cent. Net NPAs eased to 0.37 per cent from 0.55 per cent. The provision coverage ratio stood at 79.1 per cent. Advances increased 21 per cent year-on-year to Rs 3,57,012 crore as at September 30, 2023 from Rs 2,96,117 crore as at September 30, 2022. Unsecured retail advances (including retail micro finance) as a percentage of net advances stood at 11 per cent as 8.7 per cent as at September 30, 2022. CASA ratio as at September 30, 2023 stood at 48.3 per cent.

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FESTIVE SEASON SALE:

'E-commerce firms' gross sales rise to ₹47,000 crore'

E-commerce companies registered around 19% increase in gross sales in the first week of the festive season, as per Redseer Strategy Consultants report



THE REPORT SAID AMAZON FOLLOWED FLIPKART IN TERMS OF GMV SHARE BUT SOFTBANK-BACKED MEESHO PIPPED THE FIRM AGAIN IN TERMS OF ORDER VOLUME

63% Flipkart group, comprising Flipkart, Myntra & Shopsy

67% High average selling price items such as mobiles, electronics, large appliances

30% Consumers utilised easily accessible financing options

36% Sales growth on the last day of the first week

55% Planning to make more purchases

MORE THAN 50 per cent of these consumers are planning to make these purchases in fashion
Source: PTI

'Paytm doesn't need incremental customers for credit biz growth'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

PAYTM PAYMENTS Bank Ltd and One97 Communications Ltd (OCL) are two different companies which operate not just at arm's length but "at farms" length, a top official of Paytm said on Saturday.

In response to a question on the impact of the RBI banning Paytm Payment Bank Ltd (PPBL) from onboarding new customers, Paytm founder and CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma during the company's second-quarter earnings call said that the company does not need incremental customers for the growth of

credit business. "Paytm Payments Bank Limited and Paytm, which is OCL, are two very different companies not just at arm's length, I call it farm length now. The approach here is of a completely clear understanding that whatever Paytm Bank does is for its good and for their business plan," Sharma said.

PPBL is a group company of Paytm in which it holds a 49 per cent stake. However, Paytm books show PPBL as an associate of the company and not as a subsidiary. Sharma said Paytm acquires consumers for various consumer payment products and then serves the merchants. "For our credit business to grow, we actually do not need incremental consumers on our platforms. It is rather better for us to farm the current customers and penetrate on them instead of acquiring new consumers," Sharma said. Paytm has reported a narrowing of consolidated loss to Rs 291.7 crore in the second quarter ended September 30, 2023, compared to a loss of Rs

571.5 crore in the same period a year ago. The consolidated revenue from operations of the company increased by about 32 per cent to Rs 2,518.6 crore during the reported quarter from Rs 1,914 crore in the September 2022 quarter. Paytm's revenue for financial services and others grew 64 per cent YoY to Rs 571 crore in the reported quarter.

The number of loans distributed through Paytm grew to 1.32 crore, an increase of 44 per cent YoY, while the value of loans distributed more than doubled to Rs 16,211 crore on year-on-year basis. During financial year 2022, RBI directed PPBL to stop the onboarding of new customers

with effect from March 11, 2022. During FY'2023, RBI appointed an external auditor for conducting a comprehensive systems audit of the Bank and in October 2022, PPBL received the final report thereof from RBI outlining the need for continuing strengthening of IT outsourcing processes and operational risk management, including Know Your Customers etc at PPBL.

RBI recommended remedial action steps to be taken by PPBL in a time-bound manner to which the banks claim to have complied. RBI recently levied a penalty amounting to Rs 5.39 crore on PPBL and has not yet lifted the

bar from the payments bank on onboarding of new customers. Sharma said that old customers on Paytm platform are better placed to get credit disbursed from the firm's lending partner compared to a new consumer who would have a very small footprint on the platform.

In response to the question impact on the competitive landscape with the entry of Google Pay and Jio Financial Services, Paytm President and Chief Operating Officer Bhavesh Gupta said that the entry of Google Pay or any other new player will expand the market and make business more robust.

The total income in the September quarter increased to Rs 6,924 crore over Rs 6,066 crore a year ago, IDBI Bank said in a regulatory filing.

The interest income grew to Rs 6,035 crore during the period under review from Rs 4,978 crore in the corresponding quarter a year ago. The bank's asset quality improved significantly with its

gross non-performing assets (NPAs) declining to 4.90 per cent of the gross advances as of September 30, 2023, against 16.51 per cent at the end of September 2022.

Its net NPAs fell to 0.39 per cent as compared to 1.15 per cent in the same quarter a year ago. The bank's Capital Adequacy Ratio increased to 21.26 per cent from 19.48 per cent at the end of the same quarter of the last fiscal. PTI

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Yes Bank Q2 net profit jumps 48% on low base

New Delhi: Yes Bank on Saturday reported an over 47 per cent increase in its net profit at Rs 228.64 crore in the September quarter on a lower base, and also indicated that it is witnessing higher delinquencies in unsecured loans.

The city-headquartered private sector lender had reported a post-tax profit of Rs 160.41 crore in the year-ago period, but the same was Rs 347 crore in the quarter-ago period. Its core net interest income was Rs 1,925 crore for the reporting quarter despite an 11.2 per cent loan growth, and the management attributed the fall to a 0.30 percentage point compression in the net interest margins (NIM) to 2.3 per cent. The bank got a 0.20 percentage point impact on the NIMs

from the repricing of past deposits on elevated interest rates and another 0.35-0.40 percentage point drag came from shortfalls in the priority sector lending targets, wherein the money is deposited in low-yielding Rural Infrastructure Development Fund.

Its managing director and chief executive Prashant Kumar said that the bank is at the "near end" of the slip on the NIMs front and is aiming at expanding the number hereon.

The hit on the deposit repricing will not be witnessed again, while on the PSL part, where it is struggling to meet the sub-targets on lending to small and marginal farming segment, it is looking at purchasing PSL certificates from the market, organic expansion of loan books. PTI

ICICI Bank's net profit jumps 35.8% to ₹10,261 cr in Sept qtr

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 21

PRIVATE SECTOR lender ICICI Bank on Saturday reported a 35.8 per cent jump in its net profit at Rs 10,261 crore in the quarter ended September 2023.

Its profit after tax stood at Rs 7,558 crore in the year-ago quarter.

Net interest income (NII) rose 23.8 per cent year-on-year to Rs 18,308 crore from Rs 14,787 crore in the same quarter of last year. The net interest margin (NIM) stood at 4.53 per cent in the reporting quarter compared to 4.31 per cent.

Gross non-performing assets (NPAs) of banks stood at 2.48 per



Deposits increased by 18.8 per cent y-o-y, File

cent against 3.19 per cent. The net NPA ratio declined to 0.43 per cent from 0.61 per cent.

The net addition to gross NPAs, excluding write-offs and sale, were Rs 116 crore and the gross NPA additions were Rs 4,687 crore

in the reporting quarter. Recoveries and upgrades of NPAs were Rs 4,571 crore.

The lender has written off gross NPAs of Rs 1,922 crore in Q2FY2024. The provision coverage ratio on NPAs was 82.6 per cent.

The net domestic advances grew by 19.3 per cent year-on-year to Rs 10,74,206 crore. The retail loan portfolio grew by 21.4 per cent y-o-y, and comprised 54.3 per cent of the total loan portfolio. The business banking portfolio grew by 30.3 per cent y-o-y.

Deposits increased by 18.8 per cent y-o-y to Rs 12,94,742 crore. Average current account and savings account (CASA) ratio was 40.8 per cent in the September quarter.

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Pooja Thakran/Ritesh,W/o Sudhir Thakran R/o.H.No.-755,Village Jharsa,Gurgaon (Haryana)-122001, have changed my name to Pooja.
0040694892-8

I, Pankaj Malik,s/o Karan Singh Malik,House.no-82,First-Floor, Block-c, Panchsheel, Malviya-Nagar South,Delhi -110017, changed my name to Pankaj Kumar Malik.
0040694891-4

I, Meena,W/o-Mohammed Mian,House.no-5058,First-Floor,Chatta Aga Jaan,Kucha Rehman,near-faiz dawakhana, Chandni chowk,North-Delhi-110006,changed my name to Meena Parveen.
0040694891-5

I,Harbir Kaur,W/o Pritam Singh Dang,R/o C-16, Nizamuddin East,Hazrat Nizamuddin Delhi-13,have changed my name to Harbir Kaur Gujral Dang, Permanently.
0040694892-5

I,Sandeep,S/o Deep Chand R/o-KH.No.1354 Rahul Garden, Beheta Hazeppur,Ghaziabad U.P.201102,Have Changed My Name To Sandeep Kumar,For All Purposes.
0040694892-10

I,Satendra Kumar Agarwal,S/o Rakesh Agarwal,R/o-324, Ground Floor, Pocket-9, Sector-21,Rohini,Delhi-110086,have changed my name to Satyendra Kumar Agarwal
0040694902-2

I,Sudhir Kumar,S/o Humam Singh,R/o H.No.-755,Village Jharsa, Gurgaon(Haryana)-122001,have changed my name to Sudhir Thakran.
0040694892-7

I,Sunaina W/o Gulshan Dhamiya ,R/o-112-113, Top Floor, Pocket-12, Sector-24, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Sunaina Dhamiya
0040694902-4

I,TAJENDER PALLI,S/OQBAL SINGH,R/O 31, CLUB-ROAD, PRAGATI APARTMENT, PASCHIM VIHAR,NEW-DELHI-110063,have changed my name to TEJINDER PAL SINGH.
0040694892-3

I,Ujjwal Goyal S/o Rajender Kumar Goyal R/O A48/26, Second Floor, DLF Phase-1,Gurgaon,Haryana-122001, have changed my name to Ujjwal Goel.
b0040694891-1

I,ALAUDDIN S/O ABDUL HALIM KHAN ALIAS HALIM KHAN R/O E-47/83 NEW SEEMAPURI SHAHDARA EAST DELHI DELHI-110095, I hereby declare that my father name abdul Halim Khan alias Halim Khan are same person
0070869731-1

I,LALITA GAGNEJA W/o SANJAY GAGNEJA R/o 98-A, BLOCK-G & J, PITAMPURA, DELHI declare that LALITA GAGNEJA and RENU both are same person
0040694836-1

I, Manish Verma S/o Rajender Singh R/O F-28-B, 3rd-Floor, Gali No-30, Madhu Vihar, IP Extension Delhi-92, have changed my Name to Manish Kumar Verma
0070869688-1

I, Manveer Singh S/o Jahan Singh R/O 278, Village-Gharoli, Mayur Vihar, Phase-3, East Delhi, Delhi-110096, have changed my name from MANBIR SINGH to MANVEER SINGH for all future purposes.
0070869684-1

I, Monika Tiwari D/o Krishna Tiwari R/O 117/A, Munirka, Village, Ghode wali Gali Near Babulji Chowk, Munirka Delhi-110067, have changed my name from Monika Tiwari to MONIKA MUDGIL for all Purposes.
0070869718-1

I, Santram S/o Sh. Nekiram Singh R/O B-94 Gamma-1 Grestor Noida Distt- Gautambudh Nagar-201310 have changed my name to Santram Bhati.
0040694818-1

I, Sheela Devi, dependent (wife) of JWO Yashwant Kumar, R/O SMQC-284/25, Maude line Air Force, AF Stn Palam, Delhi Cantt, New Delhi-110010, have changed my name from Sheela Devi to Sheela Kumar vide Affidavit dated 20/10/2023.
0070869689-1

I, prince kumar Saraf s/o shri Rajendra Prasad Saraf H.No. 12,Main road, Adarsh mohalla patparganj DELHI -110091, have changed my father name as Rajendra Prasad to Rajendra Prasad saraf for all future purpose.
0040694882-1

I,ARYAVIR S/O JAGBIR SINGH R/O RZ-150,Block P-3,New Roshan Pura Najafgarh,Delhi-110043,have changed my name to ARYAVIR ARYA.
0040694891-2

I,DHARMENDER KUMAR,S/O SHRI H.K AGARWAL,R/O,FF-17/367,14, NEAR-TIKONA PARK,LAXMI NAGAR,DELHI-110092,have changed my name to DHARMENDRA KUMAR,for all,future purposes.
0040694892-1

I, Arpit Agrawal s/o Anil R/o Shivalk Hostel, IT Delhi, Hauz Khas, Delhi-110016 have changed my name to Arpit Anil Agrawal.
0040694892-6

I,Agrawal Anilkumar/Anil Shivdayal Agrawal/Anil S/o S.K. Agrawal R/o Subhash Wadard, Torora Gondiya, Maharashtra-441911 have changed my name to ANIL.
0040694892-1

I,REVATI D/o RAJIV R/o-328, Ist-Floor Bharat Nagar, Ashok Vihar,Delhi-110052,have changed my name to REVATI KAUSHAL
0040694891-6

I Archna Devi D/o Krishna Sagar and W/o Jitendra Kumar R/o Village Guchawali, Jahangirabad Rural, Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh-202394, have changed my name to Archana Sagar
0070869733-1

I, Gulshan Kumar,S/o Harnam Dass, R/O-112-113,Top floor, Pocket-12, Sector-24, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Gulshan Dhamiya
0040694902-3

I is for general information that I, RENU DEVI W/O KRISHAN KUMAR R/O RZ V-41, NANDA BLOCK MAHAVIR ENCLAVE, SOUTH WEST DELHI-110045 declare that name of mine and my minor daughter has been wrongly written as RENU and KASHISH in my minor daughter namely KASHISH aged 14 years in her birth certificate No. MCDOLR10038438. The actual name of mine and my minor daughter are RENU DEVI and KASHISH respectively which may be amended accordingly.
0070869697-1

I, hitherto known as Pradeep Rana alias Pradeep Singh Rana,S/O Sh.Jai Bhagwan,R/O House.no.A-95,Ashok-Vihar Phase-2,Ashok Vihar,North West-Delhi, Delhi-110052,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Pradeep Rana.
0040694892-4

I Ankur Anjana S/o Ranbir Singh R/O 596, Sector-10A, Gurgaon-122001 have changed my name to Ankur Anjna for all purposes
0070869686-1

I, Dharampal S/o Ram Singh R/O A-772 Sudamapuri, Nagar Nigam colony Ghaziabad U.P. have Changed my name to Dharampal Singh Permanently.
0040694818-2

I, Deepali Mall W/o Vishal Maxuel Mall R/o Quarter No-28,Block-II, Staff Quarters, St. Stephens Hospital, Tis Hazari, Delhi-110054 have changed my name to Deepali Vishal Mall
0070869683-1

I, CHINTU KUMAR, S/o Shri Ram Bharioshev Mandal, D.O.B. 14.07.1997, holding AADHAAR Card bearing No. 81259454 2761, R/o K-553, K-II Block, Near Mata Chowk, Mahipalpur, New Delhi -110037, have changed my name to ARYAN KUMAR MANDAL for all future purposes.
0070869662-2

I, Brijesh s/o Sunder Singh H no.-398/13, Gali no.-04, Arya Nagar, Bahadurgarh, Hajarjar, Haryana-124507, have changed my name to Brijesh KUMAR permanently.
0040694820-1

I, Bhavika D/o Rishi Kohli & Gita Kohli R/O B-3/160, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110063 have changed my name to Bhavika Kohli.
0070869687-1

I, Arpit Mudgal, R/o Kendriya Vihar, Sector 56, Gurgaon have changed my minor child's name from Udhav to Udhav Mudgal for all future purposes.
0070869665-1

I, SMRITI MAHNA W/O ANKIT GANDHI, R/O U-22/28 FF, PINK TOWN HOUSE DLF PHASE-3, GURGAON (HARYANA), have changed my name to SMRITI MAHANA.
0040694892-9

I, Devansh Singh S/o Dharmendra Singh residence B-26, Old Kondli, Delhi-110096, my Mother's name is mentioned in my school records & CBSE Board 10th & 12th Mark Sheet is Santosh which is incorrect. But correct name as per all documents is santosh Devi for all future purpose.
0070869735-1

I, RUCHI GUPTA, W/O SH. ANKESH GUPTA R/O H.NO.-C2/448, RANI JHANSHI KUNJ, KESHAV PURAM, NEW DELHI-110035, BEARING AADHAR CARD NO.(4014-3106-8222), inform that my father name SHEKHAR CHAND, SHEKHAR AGGARWAL and SHEKHAR CHAND AGGARWAL, all names are same persons.
0040694891-3

I, REVA D/o RAJIV R/O-328, Ist-Floor Bharat Nagar, Ashok Vihar, North West Delhi, Delhi-110052, have changed my name to REVA KAUSHAL.
0040694891-7

I, RAVI S/o, Shri Hansraj, R/O, H.NO.A/2B, D.D.A-Flats Sarai Basti Onkar-Nagar, North West-Delhi, Delhi-110035, have changed my name, from RAVI to RAVI ANAND, for my all, future purpose.
0040694892-2

I, RAHIM SAIFI S/O KHEHIR KHAN R/O GALINO 5, Inder ENCLAVE, PHASE-1, KIRARI, SULEMAN-NAGAR, DELHI-110086, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAHIMUDDIN SAIFI.
0040694902-1

I, Pritam Singh, S/o Jawand Singh R/o C-16, Nizamuddin East, Hazrat Nizamuddin Delhi-13, have changed my name to Pritam Singh Dang Permanently.
0040694892-6

I, Arpit Agrawal s/o Anil R/o Shivalk Hostel, IT Delhi, Hauz Khas, Delhi-110016 have changed my name to Arpit Anil Agrawal.
0040694892-6

I, Revati D/o Rajiv R/o-328, Ist-Floor Bharat Nagar, Ashok Vihar, Delhi-110052, have changed my name to REVATI KAUSHAL
0040694891-6

I, Dharmender Kumar, S/o Shri H.K. Agarwal, R/O, FF-17/367, 14, Near-Tikona Park, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Dharmendra Kumar, for all future purposes.
0040694892-1

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0040694892-6

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SITUATION VACANT

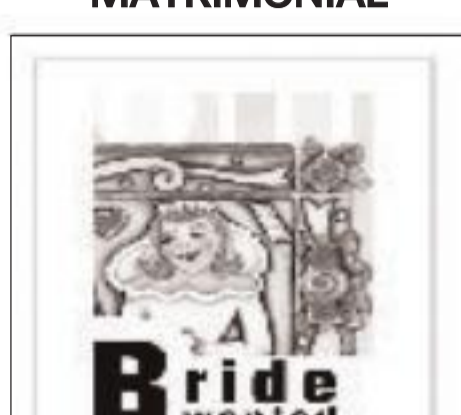
MULTIPLE VACANCIES

Required for Media House/Manager/ Asst Manager: Sr Accountant; Graphic Designer (Hindi, English, Urdu, Punjabi); Clerk; Marketing Executive (Female) Office Supervisor; Field Boy Contact: - 882507112, 8287299609
0040692969-1

PROPERTY FOR SALE

1 BHK In Kandhivali East And 2 BHK In Chera Thane . Owner 9819013546
0050229147-1

MATRIMONIAL



CASTE NO BAR

SM4 Canadian PR Hindu Yadav 1991, 5' 3" boy, B.tech, Diploma in International Marketing, Working in Multinational Company. Caste no bar. Presently in India. 9463391102
0050228989-1

DOCTORS

Gynacologist/Radiologist/Pediatrician Match for Hindu 27/5'8" Orthopedic 3rd Year, Very Rich Family. Mobile: 6283973539
0020466650-1

GUPTA/ AGGARWAL

Agrawal - Bisa Wanted Bride Singhal. 6'1 boy, 25 years, Post Graduate, Own business and house at Navi Mumbai, Well settled, needs homely, educated girl, no demands. Mob: 98699007317/ 9137005725.
0070867330-1

KAYASTHA

Wanted Beautiful Bride for Kayastha Indian Forest Service Officer 32/170cm, B.Tech, M.Tech from IIT Kanpur. Father Renowned Neurologist Owning a Hospital. Call: 7985670572, drspradhan@rediffmail.com
0040688434-6

NRI/GREEN CARD

UPPERCLASS AFFLUENT FAMILY SEEKS BEAUTIFUL SLIM DENTIST , DOCTOR, IT, MBA CA GIRL FOR HANDSOME DDS JAT SIKH BOY, 94/5 . FAMILY SETTLED ABROAD. CASTE NO BAR. TEXT DETAILS :- 9306233483
0020466146-2

COURT NOTICE

In The Court of District Judge, Bhojpur at Ara. Misc. Appeal No. 49/2022
Ran Nagina Singh. -----Appellant
Versus
The Union of India through the Secretary, Ministry of Road, Transport & Highways Government of India, Transport Bhanwani 1 Parliament Street, New Delhi, Pin code 11001 and others
.....Opposite parties.
Notice to:-
1-The Union of India through the Secretary, Ministry of Road, Transport & Highways Government of India, Transport Bhanwani 1 Parliament Street, New Delhi, Pin code 11001, 2-The Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways Government of India, Transport Bhanwani 1 Parliament Street, New Delhi, Pin code 11001, 3-The Secretary, Transport and Highways Government of India, Transport Bhanwani 1 Parliament Street, New Delhi, Pin code 11001 4-The Arbitrator cum the Divisional Commissioner, Patna It is informed that in spite of legal processes for appearance in this case have been adopted by the court but in spite of that you are not appearing in the case hence this publication in this paper. It is, informed that you are directed to appear in the above case through advocate or personally on 10.11.2023 at 10.30 A.M. otherwise the suit will be heard ex parte against you. Given under my hand and the seal of the court. This ...day...11th...of...10th...2023
Sd/-
District Judge, Bhojpur at Ara, Bihar

I, RAHIM SAIFI S/O KHEHIR KHAN R/O GALINO 5, Inder ENCLAVE, PHASE-1, KIRARI, SULEMAN-NAGAR, DELHI-110086, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAHIMUDDIN SAIFI.
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0040694891-6

आधारभूत संरचना विकास प्राधिकार (बिहार सरकार का एक उपक्रम)

प्रथम तल, उद्योग भवन, पूर्वी गाँधी मैदान, पटना।
Email-md@idabihar.com, Web-www.idabihar.com, phone: 0612-2675933, 2675935, Fax no-2675934

अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या : 54/TEN/IDA/23

समुचित श्रेणी में निबंधित संवेदकों से प्रतियष्ट दर/मद दर निविदा

(केवल ई-टेंडर पद्धति वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in के माध्यम से)

- विमानयन्त्रिका का फटना एवं बंधन
- निविदा कागजलौह करने की अवधि एवं समय
- प्री-बिड मीटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान
- निविदा अपवोध करने की अवधि एवं समय
- अग्रपन राशि की मूल प्रति अथवा इलेक्ट्रॉनिक मुद्रादान प्रमाण और परिणाम विषय मूल्य अनुदान का प्रमाण जमा की अवधि तिथि, समय एवं स्थान
- तकनीकी नीतिबद्धन की तिथि एवं समय
- वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय
- निविदा नैपता की अवधि
- कार्य का विवरण :-

क्र०	कार्य का नाम	प्रारंभित राशि (रु० में)	अग्रपन की राशि (रु० में)	परिणाम विवरण का मूल्य (अप्रत्यक्षीय रुप० में)	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि (माह में)
1	Remaining work of Construction of Plug & Play Pre-fabricated Shed at Industrial Area Pumea. (Phase-II)	10,63,79,426.00	73,19,000.00	10,000.00	04 Months
10	कोई भी संवेदक जो केन्द्रीय/राज्य सरकार/सार्वजनिक क्षेत्रों में समुचित श्रेणी में निबंधित हों अथवा अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय/राष्ट्रीय स्तर की ख्याति प्राप्त एजेंसी हो निविदा में भाग ले सकते हैं परन्तु इस प्राधिकार में रजिस्ट्रेशन कराना, उक्त कार्य का लेटर आफ एक्सेप्टेन्स (LOA) प्राप्त होने के बाद अनिवार्य होगा।				
11	अन्य विवरणी प्राधिकार के वेबसाइट www.idabihar.com/ सूचना एवं जन-संपर्क विभाग के वेबसाइट state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar अथवा अधोहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय के नोटिस बोर्ड पर निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना (NIT) में देखी जा सकती है या अधोहस्ताक्षरी से संपर्क कर किसी भी कार्य विवरण को कार्यालय अवधि में प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।				
12	प्राधिकार को बिना कारण बताये निविदा के अन्तिम विस्तार अथवा आशिक या पूर्णरूपेण रद्द करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित है। ऐसी कार्रवाई की सूचना प्राधिकार के वेबसाइट www.idabihar.com पर देखी जा सकती है। निविदा रद्द होने की स्थिति में संवेदक का कोई दावा मान्य नहीं होगा।				

कार्यपालक अभियंता (TECH-HQ)
PR-010761 (N.I.N.) 2023-24

नशी से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CONSTRUCTION DIVISION (E/M), U.P. JAL NIGAM (NAGARIYA), STP CAMPUS, MALHUR ROAD SAHARANPUR

Letter No.: 653/Nivida/23
Dated : 20.10.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE

U.P. Jal Nigam sealed tenders are invited from registered contractors for "Construction of Water Test Lab with other associated work in Saharanpur city under Deposit Work, Distt- Saharanpur." Sale of Tender documents shall be from 26.10.2023 to 01.11.2023 upto 2.30 p.m. during office hours in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Construction Division (E/M), U.P. Jal Nigam, (Nagariya), Saharanpur by payment for each tender Rs 3,000.00+18% GST and will be received upto 01.11.2023 upto 03:00 p.m. Tenders will be opened on 01.11.2023 at 03:30 p.m. in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Construction Division (E/M), U.P. Jal Nigam, (Nagariya), Saharanpur

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

NOTICE OF INVITING E-TENDER

SR.DMM-Jaipur, actin for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tender against Tender No. 51236548 closing Date 16.11.2023 at 14.25 hrs Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

1. Description of work: Provision of 16 OSOP Sale Outlets (Trolleys) at various stations of JP Division. As per Attached Annexure-A & Railways Specification; 2. Quantity: 16 Nos; 3. Date and time for submission of tender: Submission of e-tender up to 16.11.2023 at 14.25 hrs. Website Particular: www.irops.gov.in 1117-AN/23

Please join us on <https://www.facebook.com/NWRRailways>

उपरो जल विद्युत निगम लिमिटेड

राष्ट्रिय (राज्यीय)

:- ई-निविदा समर्थ विस्तार सूचना :-

एसाइटा निगम लिमिटेड में इस कार्यालय द्वारा प्रकाशित ई-निविदा सूचना सं० टी-19/EGD/MZN/2023-24 'ऊपरी गंग नहर पर स्थित विद्युत गृहों एवं खारा विद्युत गृह हेतु स्विच रेली की आपूर्ति' को अप्रतिहार्य कार्यावधि समर्थ विस्तार किया जाता है। वेबसाइट पर निविदा का प्रथम भाग स्वीकार करने की अन्तिम तिथि/समय 20.10.2023/16:00 बजे तथा निविदा खुलने की तिथि/समय को 21.10.2023/12:00 बजे किया जाता है। अन्य नियम व शर्तें पूर्ववत् ही रहेंगी। निविदा से सम्बन्धित समस्त सूचनाएं <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है।

अधिसूचना अभियन्ता, विद्युत उत्पादन खण्ड, नई मण्डी, मुजफ्फरनगर।
"सद्विहित में कर्जा बचाये"

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY

OPEN TENDER, MECHANICAL BRANCH

NIT NO.-JBP-M-Tender-29-2023
Dated: 19.10.2023

E-Tender on behalf of the President of India acting through Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer(Freight), Divisional Railway Manager (M) Office, West Central Railway, Jabalpur for the following works: - NIT No. & Date: JBP-M-Tender-29-2023, Dated: 19.10.2023. Name of work with location: Comprehensive Annual maintenance contract of CNC surface wheel lathe (BG) of Make - HYT Model No SWL - 65 at ROH Depot NKJ of Jabalpur Division. Adv. Value of the work Rs. 5005000.00, Tender Doc. cost in Rs.: 500.00, Earnest Money Rs. 112100.00, Period of Completion: 36 Months. Tender Closing date & time: 14.11.2023 15:00 Hrs. The complete information of the above E-tenders is available in website <https://irops.gov.in> and also placed on the notice board of the Divisional Railway Manager (Mech) office of West Central Railway Jabalpur. Tenders other than in the form of e-bid shall not be accepted against above tender.

DRM(M), WCR, Jabalpur

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1, DELHI

4th Floor, Jeewan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

GA. No. 1389/2018
INDIAN BANK vs SUNIL DUTT

To,
(1) SUNIL DUTT S/O MOHAN LAL, H. NO. 404, NEAR ATUL MEMORIAL, SCHOOL, JHARSA, GURGAON HARYANA-122003
(2) SMT NEERAJ ATRI W/O SUNIL DUTT, HOUSE NO. 404, NEAR ATUL MEMORIAL SCHOOL, JHARSA, GURGAON HARYANA-122003
(3) KALKHA HOME DEVELOPERS PVT. LD (THROUGH ITS DIRECTORS) RZ-174-B, STREET NO. 16 TUGHLAQABAD EXTN. NEW DELHI-110019 Also At: 505, 506 5th FLOOR ILD TRADE CENT. SOHNA ROAD, GURGAON HARYANA-122001

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case for recovery of Rs.33,47,570/- (RUPEES THIRTY THREE LAKHS FORTY SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED SEVENTY ONLY) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance before LD Registrar on 10.11.2023 at 10:30 A.M. (for further details kindly visit DRT website www.drtindia.gov.in Phone Number: 011-23748473). Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.

Due to ongoing Pandemic Situation, all the matters will be taken up through Video Conferencing and for that purpose:- All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the "Cisco Webex" Application/Software; "Meeting ID" and "Password" for the next date of hearing qua cases to be taken by "Registrar/Recovery Officer-I" and Recovery Officer-II who shall be available one day prior to the next date at DRT Official Portal i.e. "drt.gov.in" under the Public Notice Head. In any exigency qua that, the Advocates/Litigants can contact the concerned official at Ph.No. 011-23748473.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this 1st September 2023.

BY ORDER OF THIS TRIBUNAL, ASSISTANT REGISTRAR
Respondent may contact under mention Phone number for further enquiry.
Mr. Amit K. Dar, (Ld. Registrar DRT-I), Phone No: 011-23748473

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. ELS_SRE_T-24RT3 Dtd. 21.10.2023

Open tender through E-tendering are invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/ TRS, Electric Loco Shed, Khananpura Yard, Northern Railway, Saharanpur (Ambala Division) or and on behalf of the President of India from the registered tenderer on website www.irops.gov.in for the following work upto 11:00 hrs on the date of closing shown against the work and will be opened thereafter:-

Open Tender No.	ELS_SRE_T-24RT3
Name of Work	Disconnection of locomotives and dismantling & cleaning of bogie frame and its components of WAG-7 Electric locomotive during major schedule for a period of three years.
Date of Closing/Opening	13.11.2023 Approx. Cost ₹10,37,645.65
Bid Security	₹20,800.00 Completion period 03 years
Validity period	45 days Cost of tender form Free of cost for downloading from IREPS & ₹2000 for obtaining from Sr. DEE/TRS/SRE office.

1. Tenderer(s) should have Class-II Digital Signature Certificate to participate in E-Tendering of Works/Tenders.
2. Tenderer are required to upload self-attested scanned copies of all related eligibility documents as per conditions.
3. Taxes & Charges will be applicable as per extant rule.
4. For details, please look on IREPS website www.irops.gov.in 3305/2023

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

कार्यालय अधिसूचना अभियन्ता, दिल्ली जल समपूर्ति रक्षणाव इकाई, उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय) गाजियाबाद

पत्रांक: 1220/निविदा/70
दिनांक: 20.10.2023

अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना

उ.प्र. जल निगम (नगरीय), लखनऊ की ओर से अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा "270 क्यूसेक दिल्ली जल समपूर्ति रक्षणाव योजना के अन्तर्गत खनुरी खास से सोनिया विहार तक के मध्य ज्वाइंट मरम्मत सम्बन्धी कार्य" अनु. लागत ₹9.80 लाख हेतु दिनांक 01.11.2023 तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। उक्त निविदा प्रपत्र इस कार्यालय से दिनांक 26.10.2023 से 01.11.2023 के मध्य इस कार्यालय से प्राप्त: 10:00 बजे से सांय 05:00 बजे तक क्रय किये जा सकते हैं एवं दिनांक 02.11.2023 को प्रातः 10:00 बजे से अपराह्न 01:30 बजे तक जमा की जा सकती है एवं प्रातः निविदाएं दिनांक 02.11.2023 को

BRIDGE

Dealer: South Vulnerable: North/South

NORTH		EAST	
♠ QJ		♠ K987	
♥ KJ92		♥ AQ6	
♦ J986		♦ A103	
♣ Q72		♣ J83	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	2C♣	pass	2S♠
pass	3NT	pass	pass
pass		pass	

South opens 1NT showing 15-17 and North uses Stayman on the way to 3NT. By the time the bidding is done with you, you have learned that South has four spades. West leads the four of clubs. How many high card points does West have?

The West hand: S-1052H-743D-542C-9654
The South hand: S-A643H-1085D-KQ7C-AK10

In theory, the most West can have is one point. You have fourteen, dummy has ten, and South has fifteen to seventeen. If South has fifteen, your partner has one and if South has sixteen, your partner is broke. You can tell that South does not have seventeen. There are not that many points in the deck. So the most West can have is a jack. And, since you are able to see all four jacks, you know that West can't have one. He is genuinely broke. Zero.

What is clear is that you can't expect much help from West. Given West is broke, can you see anything that you can root for? Let's see. South wins the club lead with the king and finesse the ten of hearts into your queen.

Lead the seven of spades. If your wish is granted, West will have the ten. When you get in with the ace of hearts, lead the king of spades. If West has the ten and if he gets rid of it, you will now have two good spades to take when you get in with the ace of diamonds. Count the points. If you see your partner can not have certain cards, do not waste time playing for him to have them. If you had kept on with clubs, South would have had an easy time taking ten tricks.

Dealer: South Vulnerable: East/West

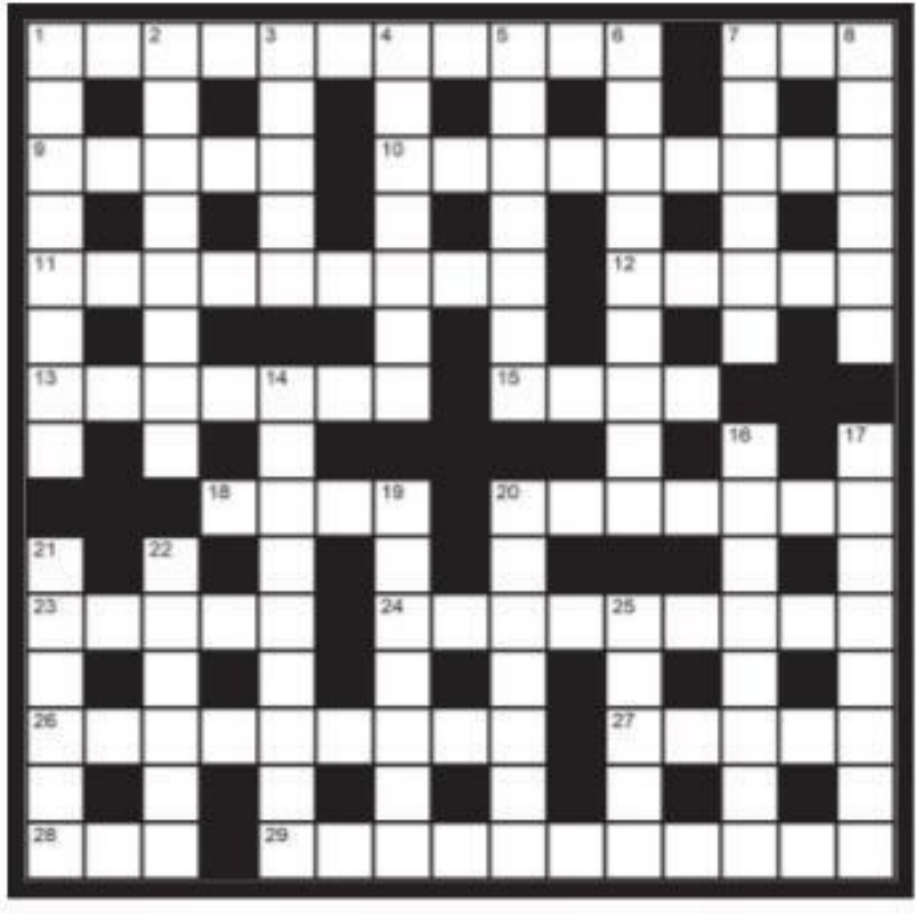
NORTH		SOUTH	
♥ J109		♥ AQ3	
♠ K765		♠ J2	
♦ A1095		♦ QJ7	
♣ AK		♣ J5432	

West	North	East	South
1S♠	pass	pass	pass
pass	2C♣	pass	2D♦
pass	3NT	pass	pass
pass		pass	

West led the six of spades, East playing five on dummy's jack. Where is South getting nine tricks?

SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2448

- QUICK CLUES ACROSS**
- Learning; knowledge acquired by study (11)
 - Integrated Avionics Comp. (3)
 - Pungent (5)
 - Lowest female singing voice (9)
 - Profitable (9)
 - Heavyweight armoured-cars (7)
 - Rectors; Protestant clergymen (7)
 - Beyond help, done for! (4)
 - Uncertain (4)
 - Small flute (7)
 - Safe harbour (5)
 - Looked like, was similar to (9)
 - Metallic element (9)
 - Track (5)
 - Legendary emperor of China (3)
 - Melodramatics (11)



- DOWN**
- Bivalve molluscs (8)
 - Uncompromising (8)
 - Kingdom of Croesus (5)
 - Backlashes, kicks back (7)
 - Delays or hampers (7)
 - Rigidly austere (9)
 - Detached landmass (6)
 - Select (6)
 - French composer (9)
 - Cultivated cabbage (8)
 - Traditional boats of Venice (8)
 - At times, wicket taking deliveries (7)
 - French chemist (7)
 - Ragtime dance (6)
 - Nonetheless (4,2)
 - Slogan (5)

- basket (7)
- Nine, more than half merry outside with the drink (5)
 - Anne ruled badly, being inadequately trained (9)
 - A small amount of the South, unable to fish (9)
 - Leads to burdens (7)
 - Denying any putting out of weight (3)
 - Agreeing by chance (7)

- He escaped to become famous (7)
- Geographically impossible in hidden place in the ocean (7)
- An old lady and her young one seen in a lodge (7,1,5)
- Still surviving at next turnout (6)
- Wasn't well adapted from the ideal (5)

- CRYPTIC CLUES ACROSS**
- Cheapest means of getting a reputation for helpfulness (8,3)
 - Mouth some part of Gobi desert (3)
 - Explosive responsible for angry crowd rising in Hyderabad and Bangalore initially (1,4)
 - The man's a fool - he stuck to a fat-free diet (4,5)
 - Naughty child said to be the baddest little sausage (9)
 - General's upsetting leet masks a trace of enigma (1,1,3)
 - Where to look for youngsters in the Isle of Wight (7)
 - Pert little thing offering a voucher (4)
 - Want to be scratched (4)
 - Father has improved inner bread-

- DOWN**
- Presents items of evidence at court (8)
 - Roads not rebuilt by stinkers (8)
 - Do cattle salute at the river-bend? (5)
 - Such innocence when one's feelings are hurt! (7)
 - Ice acts as accustomed for one who avoids pleasure (7)
 - One's tried for a military and domestic offence (9)
 - Good lager recipe used to wash one's throat! (6)
 - Batwoman having a dip (6)
 - In pole position? (9)
 - Dangerous situation in Leo's study (5,3)
 - Shine goes into diamonds (8)

Solutions to 2447

QUICK CLUES ACROSS: 1 Excelled, 5 Upkeep, 9 Mushroom, 10 Veneer, 12 Treasured, 13 Notted, 14 Flag, 16 Nabbing, 19 Ponged, 21 Chew, 24 Expat, 25 Shangri-la, 27 Duties, 28 Downhill, 29 Xylose, 30 Breathes Down, 1 Enrity, 2 Casters, 3 Lures, 4 Ego trip, 6 Pregnable, 7 Electric, 8 Paradigm, 11 Aden, 15 Lightless, 17 Appendix, 18 Hospital, 20 Dast, 21 Clamour, 22 Finish, 23 Ladies, 26 Ginza

CRYPTIC CLUES ACROSS: 1 Rushmore, 5 Polish, 9 Herakles, 10 Offers, 12 Antarctic, 13 Equip, 14 Gary, 16 Desktop, 19 Re-allot, 21 Bund, 24 Troll, 25 Novelists, 27 Quench, 28 Blackice, 29 Everso, 30 Ten miles Down, 1 Reheat, 2 Sunny, 3 Maker, 4 Re-entry, 6 Off season, 7 Inequality, 8 Hoop-pole, 11 Scad, 15 All Blacks, 17 Critique, 18 Carotene, 20 Tony, 21 Bivalve, 22 Espial, 23 Astrers, 26 Locum

If it's your Birthday

Sunday October 22
It's an enjoyable rather than a profitable moment, with plenty of interest in your affairs from people close to you. Take extreme care in all monetary matters.

Monday October 23
You should be able to sort out a family matter, but the overall situation could be confused. Perhaps some information is hidden from you, so be patient.

Tuesday October 24
At the heart of financial issues is the extent to which you can pay for your dreams over the coming year. And be proud of your own achievements.

Wednesday October 25
It's an auspicious moment and the truth will come out soon, to everyone's delight. You'll do best to keep a close eye on your long-term desires.

Thursday October 26
Contemplate about the nature of the universe and your place in it. Down-to-earth projects won't work unless you understand the broader pattern.

Friday October 27
Life is in a perpetual state of positive change, but you may be right to play it safe. At all costs don't take more than your fair share of responsibility.

Saturday October 28
A shift in solar patterns alerts you to fresh possibilities. You'll begin to open your heart to a broader vision of the world, but only after you have faced the truth. You may reach agreement with someone who has been standing in your way.

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
You won't have much time to yourself this week, so don't plan too many special events. It doesn't really matter whether you're pre-occupied with work or with family affairs, you'll be rushed off your feet. The best advice I can offer is to grab whatever chances for relaxation you are able.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
You must be sick and tired of astrologers accusing you of being a stick-in-the-mud. Well, now is your chance to prove them wrong by showing the whole world just how adventurous you can be. Now is not the time to turn down invitations, no matter how unlikely they may seem.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Whatever is happening in your financial affairs has its roots in events that took place around six months ago. Very soon, perhaps within the next seven days, you will be presented with the opportunity to break a vicious cycle that has kept you poorer than you need be.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
It's full steam ahead for all you ambitious, thrusting Canancers. This is no moment to get all sensitive and upset or do your famous crab-like trick of walking sideways to avoid problems on the road ahead. You will richly deserve all the attention which is heading your way.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
I can only reiterate previous statements and forecasts to the effect that this is a selfless, charitable phase. You must therefore expect to put your own interests second if other people require your assistance. The only thing which is more important is your physical well-being.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
This week's stars smile on all Virgos with creative pursuits and artistic hobbies. Everyone born under this wonderful sign is heading for a series of fascinating social experiences. Everything is grist to your mill and you'll enjoy a wild outing one moment, a quiet night in, the next.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
Press ahead with all home improvements, particularly those involving the very fabric of your property - such as important repairs and decorating. Don't let anyone undermine you, especially as everything is set to go so very well. If plans are proceeding smoothly then don't interfere unless it's absolutely necessary.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
You still need to keep a grip on the purse strings, although any financial partnership is likely to be profitable, especially if beautiful objects are on your shopping list. Your travel stars are now even stronger than last week, so get moving - or at least make plans.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)
If your stars don't bring you a windfall, or some other remarkable stroke of financial luck now, they're just not doing their job. To an extent good fortune may be balanced by losses, but the net result should be well worth it - and make you feel so much better.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
In some strange way, events in the world at large are going to reflect the pressures and tensions in your private affairs. There is no logical reason why this should be so - it's purely due to the strange nature of astrology. You may be working over the weekend.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
There may not appear to be any bright light at the end of the tunnel just yet but, if you look carefully, you will see that life is in an exciting phase which should work out in your favour. You may be a little overworked in the process! Look after yourself.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
Pisces is a changeable sign, but that doesn't mean that you're about to compromise over an issue of principle. It is more likely that you'll let someone get their own sweat way for now, happy in the knowledge that very soon they'll realise that you were absolutely right.

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.

All ___ arises because of mind. If mind is transformed can ___ remain? - Buddha (10,___10) (same word twice)

CNOOR GINNEED

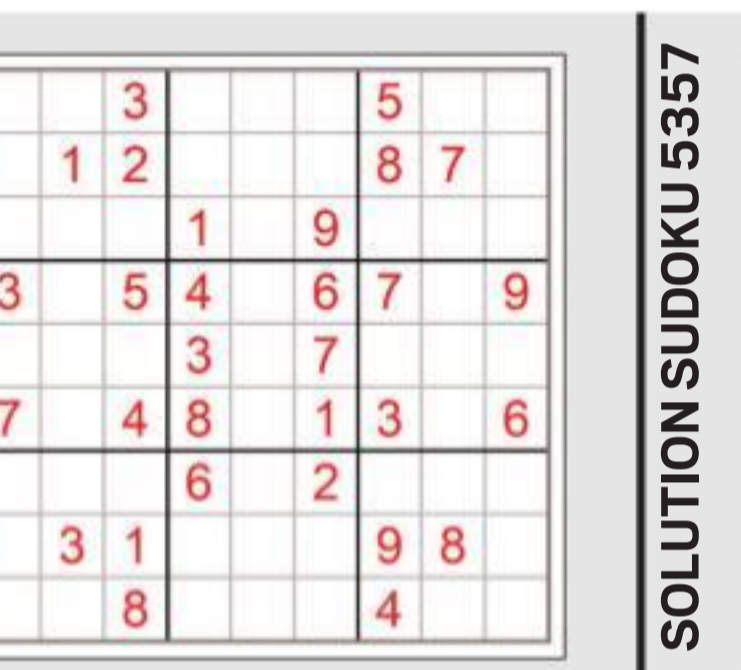
OOINN AEHIGW

SOLUTION: CROON, ONION, ENING, AWEGIC

Difficulty Level 2s

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

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



SOLUTION SUDOKU 5357



VISIT—DMRC
Delhi Metro's first Managing Director, Dr. E. Sreedharan, popularly known as 'Metroman' visited Metro Bhawan on Tuesday. He was received by the present Managing Director Dr. Vikas Kumar & Principal Executive Director, Corporate Communications Anuj Dayal. Dr. Sreedharan interacted with the senior officials & wished the Phase 4 of the project all success.

MoU—REC
REC signed an MoU with Bol recently to explore the possibility of funding the Power Sector & Infrastructure & Logistics Sector projects under the consortium arrangement. REC & Bol will partner to co-finance loans amounting to Rs. 30,000/- cr for projects implementable in 5 yrs. TSC Bosh, ED (Infra & Logistics), REC & NG Deshpande, CGM, Bol signed the MoU in the presence of VK Dewangan, CMD, REC & other senior officials from REC and Bol.

APPOINTMENT—IREDA
Ajay Kumar Sahani, an accomplished professional with an impressive track record in the Indian Railway Service of Mechanical Engineering, has taken charge as the Chief Vigilance Officer of the IREDA Sahani assumed his new responsibilities recently, serving on deputation for a period of three yrs. Before his appointment as CVO at IREDA, Sahani held the position of Deputy Chief Engineer at Banaras Locomotive Works, Varanasi, Indian Railways.

MoU—SBI
RAK Singh, Deputy MD (Transaction Banking & New Initiatives), SBI, along with Ravi Ranjan, Chief GM, SBI Chennai Circle, handed over Cheque for Rs.30.00 Lakhs at Local Head Office, Chennai to Dr. Shanmugam, Director of Medical Education and Research, Tamil Nadu as part of sponsoring International Medical Conference organized by Directorate of Medical Education & Research.

APPOINTMENT—NLC
Appakannu Govindarajan, an Indian Postal Service Officer of 2000 batch assumed charge as Chief Vigilance Officer, NLCIL recently. An alumni of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. He has worked in various organizations such as TCI Ltd, Canara Bank and Reserve Bank of India prior to joining Department of Posts under Ministry of Communication and IT.

AWARD—REPCO BANK
PK Vaidyanathan, GM & Public Relation Officer of Repco Bank in a statement released to the press informed that Repco Bank & Repco Bank's MD, RS Isabella, received FCBA, 2023 awards of Banking Frontiers for Best Cooperative Bank and Best Woman Leader of the Year among Co-operative Banks in the National Co-operative Banking Summit held at Goa recently.

MoU—INDIAN COAST GUARD
The Indian Coast Guard & Gujarat National Law Univ. took a momentous step towards fostering academic excellence, research collaboration, & promoting extension & training activities as they signed a MoU recently. The signing ceremony, held at Coast Guard Headquarters, ND, in the presence of distinguished individuals, including IG Neeraj Tiwari, TM, Dy DG (HRD), DIG KR Deepak Kumar, TM along with various other dignitaries.

AIRPORT SECURITY—CISF
CISF took over the security of Jabalpur Airport with the total sanctioned strength of 115 personnel. The unit will be headed by an Assistant Commandant rank officer, Jabalpur Airport, serving as a crucial gateway to the vibrant city of Jabalpur & the surrounding regions, has taken a significant step towards bolstering its security infrastructure. CISF personnel at the airport will help enhance security.

CORPORATE BRIEFS



VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK—POWERGRID
POWERGRID organized a talk on 'Corporate Governance, Business Ethics & Preventive Vigilance in PSUs' at its corporate center recently, as precursor to Vigilance Awareness Week—2023. P. Daniel, Secretary, CVC & M. Damodaran, Ex-Chairman, SEBI were the eminent guest speakers in the Talk organized. P. Daniel, Secretary, CVC, in his address gave an overview of CVC jurisdiction & functioning. He interacted & stressed upon Preventive Vigilance measures & adoption of ethical conduct in Govt. organizations. He appreciated work carried out by POWERGRID w.r.t. PIDPI resolution & public campaign carried out during G-20 Anti-corruption working group meeting held earlier in Gurugram. M. Damodaran, Ex-Chairman, SEBI (Retd. IAS) spoke about the role and responsibilities of Independent Directors, internal auditors, management, and board members for a corruption free work environment for Corporate Governance. DK. Madan, CVO, POWERGRID, in his inaugural address welcomed the dignitaries invited and briefed them about Leveraging technology to eradicate corruption, promoting of PIDPI resolution & capacity building, implementation of Commission guidelines and online complaints monitoring system by the Vigilance Department in POWERGRID.

CONFERENCE—CRPF
The annual operational conference aimed at bolstering the operational readiness of the CRPF was held today under the chairmanship of Dr. Sujoy Lal Thaosan, DG CRPF, at the Officers Institute 'Shaurya' in Vasant Kunj, New Delhi. This formal Ops Conference brought together senior officials, including ADG(Ops) & IG(Ops), as well as senior officers from across all the theaters, in the backdrop of dynamic internal security challenges to discuss & analyze the operational preparedness & performance and identify emerging challenges. The conference provided a platform to the field commanders for a thorough and fruitful deliberation on a wide range of issues covering operations in all theaters in which CRPF is deployed. Addressing the conference, Dr. Sujoy Lal Thaosan, DG CRPF, underscored the significance of such conferences in discussing and comprehending the dynamics of ever-evolving security challenges. He emphasized that 21st-century security challenges require a more focused approach, combination of new skills and tactics and upgradation of technology in tune with advancements.

GAIL reaches over 40 crores people since 2017 through its various social and digital communication initiatives to spread awareness about Natural Gas, new energy initiatives & other clean energy sources. GAIL reached a significant milestone of connecting 7 lakh followers on their Facebook handle through its various Social & Digital communication initiatives. GAIL also uses social media platforms for its award-winning initiative 'Hawa Badlo', which spreads awareness about the harmful effects of air pollution and ways to fight the menace for a cleaner and greener environment. This initiative has been actively working towards engaging the Indian masses against air pollution through events, short films, web series, videos, contests etc. GAIL is present across social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Youtube and Instagram through which information about various GAIL projects of national importance.

Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board has laid the roadmap to develop Tehri as the Paragliding Capital of the world. The location of Tehri Lake makes it an ideal location for various adventure sports activities including paragliding, water sports etc. According to some Indian experts, Tehri can become the paragliding capital of the World. With the take off point from Pratnagar, the landing point is at a distance of around 1400 mt, making it the second such site after Oludeniz in Turkey, which is currently the hub of paragliding training and aerial acrobatic shows. Realizing the unique potential of Tehri, UTDB has planned to organize Tehri Acro Festival - India's first International Aerial Acrobatic Show at Tehri from 24 th - 28 th November 2023 in which more than 150 renowned paragliders including around 35 international paragliders are slated to participate.

PUNJAB & SIND BANK has upgraded its Core Banking System to its latest version of Finacle 10.2.25. This will enhance the banking experience for both its customers and staff members. This upgradation aims to simplify and streamline various banking processes, making it easier for customers to manage their daily banking needs and for staff to assist them effectively. This demonstrates the Bank's commitment to leveraging technology and innovation and staying with the ever-evolving banking landscape.

MILMA The annual general body meeting of Thiruvananthapuram Regional Cooperative Milk Producers Union of Milma, earmarked Rs. 2 crs to offset the interest on the loans availed by dairy farmers in four southern districts for setting up farms & purchase of milch animals. Rs 2853-cr budget was adopted by the general body meeting. The budget covered capital and revenue expenditures. The Rs. 2 crores earmarked to offset the interest will cover loans totaling Rs 10 cr availed by dairy farmers from banks through TRCMPU. The scheme is expected to benefit around 10000 dairy farmers from Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta & Alappuzha districts. The announcement was made by TRCMPU Administrative Convener N Bhasurangan at the 37th annual general body meeting held at Thiruvananthapuram. More than 800 members from the co-operative societies & TRCMPU office-bearers attended the meeting. Administrative Committee member VS Padmakumar welcomed the members. Administrative Committee Member K R Mohanan Pillai moved the resolutions and Managing Director D S Konda presented the reports.

AGREEMENT—SWR
An Agreement has been entered into between South Western Railway & JSW Minerals Rail Logistics Private Limited recently for operation of 07 BOBSNS (Hopper wagon), Special Type of Wagon with side discharge arrangement for unloading / loading of Iron Ore from the mines at Mineral Enterprises Ltd Siding, Sasalu & Swamihalli to the steel plant of JSW at Toranagallu. This is the first kind of Agreement in SWR. The rake is manufactured by M/s. Titagarh Rail System Limited, Kolkata and the first rake is expected to be operative from April-2024. M/s. JSW Minerals Rail Logistics Private Limited is investing Rs. 29.57 Cr per rake. A rebate of 10% is granted to the customer on base freight for every booking. Introduction of BOBSNS (Hopper wagon) will ease out the unloading difficulty through wagon tippler or manually. The Agreement has been signed by A. Sundar, Chief Commercial Manager/Freight Marketing, SWR & Sushil Nowal, Executive Vice President (Planning and Logistics)/JSW in the presence of SP Shastri, Principal Chief Commercial Manager/SWR.

MoU—DIC
The Department of Industries & Commerce (DIC) has signed an MoU with the Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode (IIMK) for conduct of a comprehensive study on diversification and optimisation of revenue from plantations in Kerala as part of various plans envisaged in the wake of formation of the Plantation Directorate under the DIC. The MoU in this regard was inked in the presence of Minister for Law, Industries and Coir P. Rajeev at his Chamber by Plantations Special Officer and Director, DIC, S Harikishore and IIMK Mentor Professor Shri Anandakuttan.



I couldn't think of a better place to take on the host nation. — Trent Boult

White walkers in Black Caps are here

Four years post the heartbreak in Manchester, Dharamsala provides the setting for the Kiwis to continue a streak that dates back to 2003

RAHUL PANDEY
DHARAMSALA, OCTOBER 21

EARLIER THIS week, the Himalayan range that surrounds Dharamsala saw snow for the first time this season. Thunderstorms and heavy showers battered down the city town below. Almost like a premonition, ahead of India's World Cup match on Sunday.

Author George RR Martin bodes the particular setting as the arrival of a 'force of nature' in his extensive Game of Thrones literature; a force that wipes out everything in its way and against which all of the protagonists must band together to prevail: The White Walkers.

It's taken four matches in the ongoing competition, but the threat worthy of three hornblasts has finally arrived for Rohit Sharma and Co. A top-of-the-table clash against the team India hasn't bested at major ICC tournaments in 20 years. Five games, five defeats across three formats, including the One-Day World Cup match played across two days in Manchester four years ago.

It's New Zealand all over again.

Few would have forgotten Martin Guptill hitting the stumps from short fine-leg in that game, the direct hit that eventually brought the curtain down on MS Dhoni's international career and India's 2019 World Cup campaign. One that the then skipper Virat Kohli had claimed was picture perfect barring 30 minutes of play that saw the Indian top order succumb to New Zealand's new-ball bowlers with nippy conditions in play at Old Trafford.

Four years on, as the Men in Blue face the familiar foe, the conditions in play are the closest replica from that semifinal that Indian venues can offer. In Dharamsala this World Cup, the average swing percentage (1.4) in the opening 10 overs has been higher than anywhere else. One of the ground officials makes a sly remark, "It's a venue Indian batters are generally alarmed of playing at."

Boult vs top order

On Friday, Trent Boult made it known, "I couldn't think of a better place to take on the host nation." Even though the left-arm pacer has been light on wickets this tournament, his match-up against India's top order would be a pleasant thought to come into the game with. Bursting in from over the wicket, it was his in-ripper that had trapped Kohli in front of the stumps during those '30 minutes' four years ago. The only Indian batsman who's scored more than Kohli at this World Cup has also been susceptible to that sort of delivery.

For Rohit Sharma though, Matt Henry holds the key to expose another chink in his armour: The persistent fourth-stump line. It was Henry nagging the ball in that corridor that had got Rohit to nick one behind in their last World Cup meeting. While Henry and Boult - alongside speedster Lockie Ferguson, who also starred in New Zealand's last win -

NUMBER PLATE

20

In 20 years, India have faced New Zealand across three different formats five times in ICC tournaments -- and don't have a win to show for it.



New Zealand players train in Dharamsala ahead of their group game against India. PTI



In Dharamsala this World Cup, the average swing percentage (1.4) in the opening 10 overs has been higher than anywhere else. PTI

arrive in Dharamsala in wicket-taking form, it's Mitchell Santner who leads the bowling charts. With 11 scalps in four outings, the left-arm orthodox has been very effective in the middle overs.

On the eve of the game, skipper Tom Latham would highlight one of Santner's traits that's likely to come in handy in Dharamsala. "I think we've seen how adaptable he is in these conditions. He can obviously turn the ball and he's obviously got a lot of bounce as well."

Even though spinners haven't been able to get much turn out of the two Dharamsala strips so far, others from the Santner breed of bowling have shown alternative ways to pick wickets. In the first game, Shakib Al Hasan used the extra bounce to trap the Afghan batsmen on the sweep shot. The other night, Roelof van der Merwe cramped the Proteas right-handers for room by bringing in the wider arm angle from round the wicket. In Santner, New Zealand

have someone who can do both and keep attacking an Indian batting line-up that will miss the services of Hardik Pandya.

The Kiwis already have a balanced bowling attack and the availability of veteran Tim Southee for selection on Sunday, as confirmed by skipper Tom Latham, bolsters it further.

Despite the bowling options up his sleeve, Latham believes what makes the upcoming contest enticing is that the match-ups in the other innings are just as good. The absence of Kane Williamson in three of the four games has been barely noticeable with Devon Conway and Rachin Ravindra firing runs at the top and Will Young, Glenn Phillips and Latham also coming into fray.

The names may not have been under the spotlight ahead of the World Cup, but that's precisely what the Kiwis have enjoyed coming into ICC tournaments.

"No spotlight on the team and individuals... always under the radar and no following circus of press to jump on every false comment or mistake in the field," Grant Elliot had told this newspaper ahead of this World Cup.

Four games and as many wins later, the circus he mentions is still nowhere to be seen with none of the Kiwi scribes there to ask any questions to their captain a day before the top-of-the-table clash. It's the All Blacks that have everyone's attention including Latham's, who admits to having stayed up late to watch them make it to the Rugby World Cup final in France.

Elliot hopes the Black Caps can change that this year. "Most Kiwis grow up wanting to be an All Black. Maybe 2023 can change that for the 13-year-old watching them lift the trophy." So far, they have looked like a force to be reckoned with at this World Cup. Even the blue caravan must take note, the White Walkers are here.

Prayers and puja at Dharamsala before big World Cup game

Dharamsala: A DAY before India's crucial World Cup tie against New Zealand in the picturesque Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) stadium, the state association, in keeping with traditions, conducted a puja to pray that all goes well on the match day and also that rain gods don't play spoilsport. The HPCA, in fact, conducted two pujas in a span of two weeks so that the tournament is blessed by the local god Indrunag.

The puja took place in an ancient temple in Dharmshala and the temple is dedicated to Snake King.

Indian Premier League (IPL) chairman Arun Dharmal, who's a key face in HPCA, says a ritual always takes place before any big event happens inside the stadium. It happened before the first World Cup game that took place and also before India's game to be played on Sunday.

"There is a deity here called Indrunag. Whenever any function happens in this part of the world, be it any home or marriage, a pooja is offered. It is like requesting god to offer her blessings and praying that the function gets concluded nicely," Dharmal told The Indian Express, adding, "That has been the precedent here and everyone follows. We do a small pooja here and another pooja takes place in the temple. The HPCA every year has a Bhandara on April 4. Before this game and a World Cup game, a hawan is done so that our match goes without any problem."

India will be playing against a quality New Zealand side and HPCA is hoping that god's blessing will help them too. Dharmal recalled how once during an IPL game, it was raining in Dharmshala except the stadium part. "And as the match got over, the rain started. We seek God's blessing that his blessings remain for the game," he says.

HPCA has been facing some concern over the outfield when a few World Cup games took place. England captain Jos Buttler had even advised his team-mate to be cautious while fielding and had called the out-field 'poor'. Dharmal came in defence of the outfield and called it unnecessary controversy.

"I felt it was unnecessary controversy. Those who all played the game were fine with it. They said something before the game but when the same team scored 350 runs, they were fine with the outfield. There are two types of grass here, one is for cold and one is for summer. It has a different shade, one is rai and the other is paspalum grass. People thought it was different, there could be misunderstandings by seeing it," he explains. The small ground is already in a buzz and a long queue of VIP have already intimidated the HPCA that they will present for the game. His phone has been buzzing for the past four days and requests for passes haven't stopped. "Everyone wants to be here and we are trying to accommodate each one of them," he adds.

-DEVENDRA PANDEY

SHORT TAKES



Suryakumar Yadav receives medical assistance. PTI

Surya, Shami to be picked in playing XI

Dharamsala: A day after Hardik Pandya was ruled out for India's fifth World Cup game against New Zealand, to be played in Dharamsala on Sunday, the Indian team management has decided to give Suryakumar Yadav and ace pacer Mohd Shami a shot in the playing XI.

The Indian team received a scare earlier in the day when Suryakumar Yadav and Ishan Kishan walked off the optional net session in some anguish. While Surya had sustained a blow to his right wrist, Kishan was stung by a honeybee in the back of his head while batting under the lights at the HPCA Stadium on Saturday. However, it is learnt that the Yadav injury is not serious and he will be fit by Sunday. Yadav and Shami haven't got a World Cup game till date. However, an injury to all-rounder Pandya has opened a door for them to make it to the playing XI with the team management opting to rejig their playing combination.

The Indian Express understands that the team management had already informed both Yadav and Shami about their inclusion for the next game. The team wants to go with five specialist bowlers, because with Pandya not playing, they don't have a cushion for a sixth bowler. Shami, though, didn't turn up for the nets while the evening witnessed the batters taking throwdowns and facing net bowlers.

Coach Rahul Dravid hinted at Shami and Yadav getting a game during the pre-match conference. "Obviously, the three seamers, having someone like Shami sitting out there and bringing him in this game is a great option," Dravid said.

Surya picked up a blow off throwdown specialist Raghu's full toss. The batter was then seen nursing an icepack on his wrist after which he'd strap a bandage on the wrist and leave the nets.

-DEVENDRA PANDEY

STANDINGS

	M	W	L	T	Pts	NR
NZ	4	4	0	0	8	+1.923
Ind	4	4	0	0	8	+1.659
AU	4	3	1	0	6	+2.212
SA	4	2	2	0	4	-0.193
Pak	4	2	2	0	4	-0.456
Ban	4	1	3	0	2	-0.784
Ned	4	1	3	0	1	-0.790
SL	4	1	3	0	2	-1.048
Eng	4	1	3	0	2	-1.248
Afg	4	1	3	0	2	-1.250

DARING APPROACH

In Dharamsala, Rohit looks to unleash lessons from Sun Tzu's Art of War

SANDEEP DWIVEDI
OCTOBER 21

HERE'S AN audacious prediction for Sunday's India-New Zealand game at Dharamsala. Opener Rohit Sharma will hit a boundary off the first ball he faces. Chances are it will be a well-timed flick off the pads to the square-leg fence and will be in response to Kiwi left-arm pacer Trent Boult's pet opening move - the pitched-up-in-swinger. If he misses the first, it will be the second ball.

The basis of this rather adventurous prophecy is Rohit's pattern of batting this World Cup. In the last two games - against Pakistan and Bangladesh - the Indian captain has hit the ground running, wasting no time, pulling his team up the steep run-rate slope.

In Ahmedabad, everybody and their neighbour knew what Pakistan spearhead Shaheen Shah Afridi would bowl first up. That famous in-curler turned up as expected but the early evening heat squeezed the sting out of it. Eager to make an early impact, Rohit's hawk-eye read the trajectory easily and dispatched it for four.

Against Bangladesh, new ball bowler Shoriful Islam's second ball of the innings was pitched outside off. This time Rohit leaned into it and drove through the covers for four.

In both games, this initial burst of aggression would give a hint of the tactics Rohit would adopt all through his innings. In IPL, coaches keep goading batsmen to hit the big strokes on Ball 1 or 2. This, they say, transfers

the pressure to the bowler. Rohit, by carrying the T20 playbook to the crease in World Cup games, was making a conscious effort to unsettle the bowler early in the over. Against Pakistan, 6 of his 13 boundaries came off the over's first or second ball. The corresponding numbers against Bangladesh was 4 out of 7. It sounds like a simple plan, but was tough to pull off. This daring approach, that needs extraordinary skill and a wide range of strokes, helps Rohit set the agenda and dictate terms. It also muddles all the pre-game plans of opposition teams.

This isn't a new strategy, it's as old as the hills. The lessons learnt from ancient wars have, over the years, found their way into team huddles. Rohit's 'quick draw' batting approach is one of them.

Not a big reader, Rohit is unlikely to have sat with the great Chinese military general and philosopher Sun Tzu's book Art of War before the World Cup. However, his tactics mirror the important battle-plan mentioned in the chapter 'Attack by Stratagem'.

"The highest form of generalship is to thwart the enemy's plans," it says. The world would simplify the ancient text to: "When the enemy has made a plan of attack against us, we must anticipate him by delivering our own attack first."

Centuries after Art of War came out, a Black kid from Brooklyn would exhibit the virtues of attacking first inside a boxing ring. Mike Tyson would convey the idea first in the ring and later at post-bout press conferences. With 22 first-round knockouts in title fights,



Rohit Sharma inspects the pitch ahead of India's match against the Kiwis. PTI

Iron Mike spoiled a number of enemy plans. Among his many famous quotes, the one that stands out was: "Everybody has a plan until they get punched in the mouth." Tyson would target the mouth early with his sharp

ROHIT'S OPENING ONSLAUGHT

AGAINST PAKISTAN

- 1st over (Shaheen Afridi)
FOUR: On the pads, Rohit hits four to square leg
- 4th over (Haris Rauf)
SIX: Pulls it over square leg
- 7th over (Shaheen Afridi)
SIX: Another pull to square leg

AGAINST BANGLADESH

- 6th over (Nasum Ahmed)
FOUR: Guides the ball through point

- 8th over (Nasum Ahmed)
FOUR: Sweep to square leg region

AGAINST AFGHANISTAN

- 7th over (Fazalhaq Farooqi)
FOUR: Hits the ball over mid-off
- 18th over (Mohammad Nabi)
FOUR: Sends the ball past short third man
- 20th over (Naveen-ul-Haq)
FOUR: Drive to beat mid-off fielder
- 23rd over (Rashid Khan)
FOUR: Cuts past point. 4, 6 follow

left jab and that big right. As cuckoos would circle the flailing rival's head, all pre-match plans would fade away in the background. India's rivals in the first four games have been having the same feeling.

Not just while playing the new ball, even in the middle overs against the spinners, Rohit has employed the 'first two balls' attack plan. In the two games, he has used his feet, taken risks to get an upper hand in mini-battles. However, his most significant assault was against wrist spinner Rashid Khan, Afghanistan's trump card. In the game against India, around the 20-over mark, Rashid

seemed to be settling into a nice rhythm. His Plan A was working. He was arresting the run-flow, strangling the opposition and forcing them to make a mistake. In his third over, he got Ishan Kishan. The tail was up, Rashid was beaming now.

In his next over, his fourth, Rohit would hit a four on the first ball setting himself for an all-out assault in the 5th. This was the face-off for the ages - two white-ball Grandmasters in an end-game situation. As Rashid jogged in to bowl, Rohit cut him for four. Even Rashid was rankled. He would bowl a long-hop that Rohit would dutifully

dispatch to mid-wicket for four. With the leggie's halo disappearing, Rohit would step down the track and hit a six. 4, 4, 6... the enemy's game plan was thwarted.

From across the border, experts would longingly gaze at Rohit. Wasim Akram, from the television studio, would lament how Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan lacked the enterprise or the tactical acumen to deal with spinners. They are too defensive, Akram would let out a sigh before continuing to praise Rohit.

Deception is another Rohit trait that gives him battle-ground advantage. Unlike Virat Kohli, he doesn't exude an air of urgency when he walks in to bat. The two have the classic Nadal-Federer body language contrast. In the locker room before taking to the court, Nadal would be a bundle of nervous energy, jumping, stretching and shouting 'Vamos, Vamos'. Federer, meanwhile, would be a picture of tranquility, smiling at the attendants. He would stretch his back, shake his legs giving just that tiny hint about the excitement to be seen on court.

Rohit has no game-face. Him seated in the dugout ready to bat and him at a restaurant with friends are the same person. There are times when his misleading expressions even convey boredom. He might even let out a yawn on the way to the crease. But once the umpire shouts 'play', his inner Tyson comes alive. And at the first opportunity, he lunges at the opponent to land a blow on his mouth, forcing his game plan to disappear into thin air.

A team hardened by failures, body shaming and mental health issues

SRIRAM VEERA
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 21

A STORY is told about the South African cricket team shortly before their tumultuous semi-final game in 1992 World Cup, after years in exile due to their apartheid policy. FW de Klerk, their white president that time, had held a referendum in South Africa to the white electorate - should he continue or not? The South African players at the World Cup in Australia were able to cast a vote, and eventually decided that a "no" vote of vent might make them pack their bags and forfeit remaining fixtures.

"68% of the electorate gave Klerk a thumbs up and South Africa stayed in the World Cup. How much did the two have to do with each other? Were we South Africans swayed by the images on their TV screens, by not just being in a World Cup but being welcomed back into the world? It did feel good," Bob Dubery, a passionate South African fan, would tell *The Indian Express*.

"There would be more World Cups, and we wouldn't win any of them. Eventually any innocence we retained would be swept away by revelations of Hansie Cronje's underhanded dealings. But for a short while, and especially in our first World Cup, it was the oldest sporting dream of all come true - all that mattered was

that we were there and were playing."

Finally, now, after years of false dawns, they aren't just out there and playing but bossing around in a World Cup. No wonder the English lay scattered like dead leaves at the Wankhede, after they erred in fielding first on a humid Mumbai afternoon.

It's not a team of superstars, but a team of men hardened by waiting for good news. Many of them have thought about quitting the game at one stage, or at least fell out of love with the sport. Couple of years ago, Heinrich Klaasen found it difficult to breathe, let alone run, after his torrid time with Covid and was genuinely worried about his heart condition that he didn't think he could carry on as a professional.

Reeza Hendricks, forever in the squad but not in the playing XI waiting for either Temba Bavuma or another batsman to get injured, thought his time had past him. Aiden Markram has always had the talent, but the consistency would elude him and push him into self doubts. Quinton de Kock even quit Test cricket after taking breaks previously citing "mental health" issues. Rassie van der Dussen is another late bloomer, who had to wait not just for South Africa but also get into IPL playing XI.

David Miller has taken his own time to mature as an international player. Lungi Ngidi has been body-shamed and also slammed by



South Africa is not a team of superstars, but a team of gritty men.

AP

his cricketing fraternity for his support of Black Lives Matter movement. Their captain Temba Bavuma, who didn't take the field against England due to a stomach bug, is forever under pressure about his own spot in the white-ball team, and finds himself in all sorts of memes - the latest being another rude one involving him wrapped in a blanket. More they hate him, the more his team-mates seem to stand up for him. The Test captain Dean Elgar is a big fan of Bavuma's grace, grit,

courage, and leadership.

This is a team that is intimate with waiting and failures, handling regrets and heartbreaks - but know how to soldier on.

Watching them unite as a powerhouse team under a smoggy Mumbai sky was quite an experience. At one stage, when Klaasen, who could hardly stand in between balls but somehow conjured up the energy to keep whacking sixes, walked off, the entire Mumbai crowd rose in unison to give him a thundering

ovation. Visibly moved, Klaasen stopped near the boundary, turned 360 degrees to acknowledge them, before limping off. "In my bad patches in life, cricket was my saviour. It provides for the family," he once said.

The current SA u-19 coach Shakti Conrad who has worked with him in the past had this to say: "There's very much a 'poor man's MS Dhoni' about him. Heinrich stays very calm in the situation. He doesn't wait for the game to come to him. He is as tough as they come."

The Mumbai fans also loved the murderous onslaught from the tall Marco Jansen, who in his developmental years as a kid used to open the batting. They lapped up the composed hitting from Reeza Hendricks, who must have been under severe pressure to convert this rare chance that came his way due to Bavuma's absence.

And they cheered when the South African bowlers snuffed out all hope out of England pretty early in the piece. Lungi Ngidi extracted bounce from back of length, Jansen allied the bounce with lovely curlers, and Kagiso Rabada, the leader and mentor of the pack, was at his awkward best. And when Gerald Coetzee came on, tying his headband in the fashion of his idol Rafael Nadal, the crowd got excited again at the disconcerting pace he generated. This is an all-round team that not only the opposition fear but has the quality to make a

packed stadium go wow.

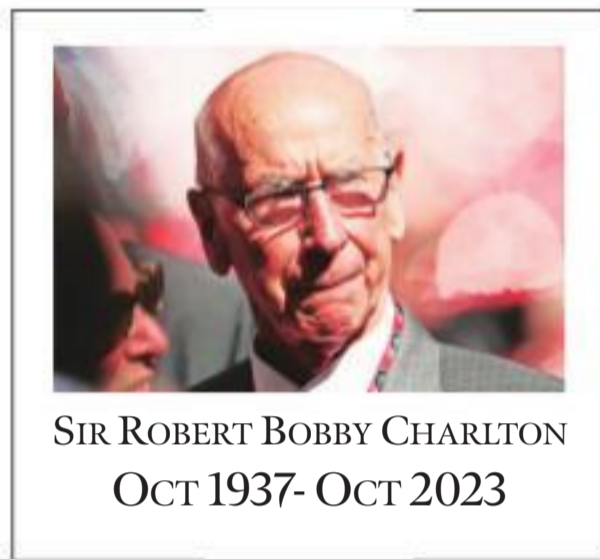
Diversity their best trait

Not many teams are like South Africa, not just in terms of talent but the backdrop of diversity and the challenges it comes with. Their Test captain Dean Elgar put it best to this newspaper: "We all have a unique story, be it black, white, Afrikaans, English Afrikaans; in South Africa, it's just that we have a lot more diversity. South Africa has its own challenges with regards to a lot of dynamics that make up South Africa; it's pretty unique and special. They are important for our social development. The way we have gone and the way things are right now in the team, I have never seen it better. The way guys respect each other and respond to one another is pretty special... Bavuma has come on leaps and bounds as a leader," Elgar says.

Two teams have been the boss in this world cup: India and South Africa. India have been excelling in chases, South Africa whistle through when defending. South Africa have won 57% games batting first and just 44% games while chasing in this WC cycle. Netherlands pounced on that; other teams will now look to do the same.

But if a referendum is now taken in India on who is the most attractive team to watch, barring the hosts, it might not be a surprise if they pick the rainbow nation.

'Sad day for United, football': Sir Charlton dies



SIR ROBERT BOBBY CHARLTON
OCT 1937- OCT 2023

REUTERS
OCTOBER 21

BOBBY CHARLTON, an England World Cup winner and one of Manchester United's greatest players, died on Saturday at the age of 86, the Premier League club said in a statement. Charlton was a key figure in England's 1966 World Cup-winning team, where he played alongside his brother Jack, and he also appeared 758 times for United, scoring 249 goals.

"Manchester United are in mourning following the passing of Sir Bobby Charlton, one of the greatest and most beloved players in the history of our club," the club said.

Charlton spent 17 years at Old Trafford and was part of the "Busby Babes" team that was decimated by the 1958 Munich air crash. He won the European Cup and three English league titles as well as the FA Cup with the club. The announcement of his death led to a flood of tributes from across the sporting world. "Today is not just a sad day for Manchester United & England, it's a sad day for football and everything that Sir Bobby represented," said former United and England midfielder David Beckham.

Regarded as possessing one of the hardest shots of his generation and a player who bridged eras, Charlton earned 106 caps for England and scored 49 goals.

Charlton's appearances in the stands at Old Trafford had become less frequent after it was announced he had been diagnosed with dementia in 2020. His family said he "passed peacefully in the early hours of Saturday morning". "We would request that the family's privacy be respected at this time," their statement said. While Charlton's passing will be felt across the game, nowhere will it hit home as much as Manchester United -- the club where he became a soccer icon and where a stand is named in his honour.

MIHIR VASAVDA
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 21

TO BORROW from Ted Lasso, the Wankhede outfield resembled a 'Renaissance painting portraying masculine melancholy'.

Heinrich Klaasen collapsed near the pitch in slow motion. Drenched, he removed his shoes, pads, gloves and helmet, before burying his face in a towel, not able to move a limb. At the top of his run-up, a cramping David Willey, who had moments ago crashed to the ground, was lying on his back and gently massaging his calves. While over at long-on, Liam Livingstone went down on his haunches like Adil Rashid, who braved a stomach bug, did at the edge of the circle.

Harry Brook, who tirelessly guarded the fence, folded his legs and sat down at deep square-leg, while Ben Stokes, who gave every England player a pat on the back when they were returning to the dressing room, was sapped at mid-off.

On a typical Mumbai October afternoon when you'd melt simply by standing outdoors for a minute, England won the toss and decided to get exhausted first. After more than three hours inside the steaming furnace by the sea, in which 399 runs were scored in 50 overs, these supremely athletic men at the peak of their fitness didn't look like they had an ounce of energy left.

Put against this backdrop, Klaasen's stubborn, unrelenting century that led South Africa to a thumping 229-run win over England, whose title defence is now in tatters, looks even more heroic.

Klaasen didn't have the stamina to run. So, he dealt in sixes. When the bowlers fired yorkers at his feet, he'd take the blows but then return the favour by smashing the next ball into the stands. When the concerned physio came out for the second time, triggering fears that he'd have to retire hurt, Klaasen walked away from him.

How he managed to carry on in such agony only he knows. Then again, Klaasen has endured worse.

Back in 2021, as the pandemic raged on, Klaasen was down with the virus that kept him isolated for almost three weeks. A tougher phase was to follow when he had to regain fitness and return to cricket. Klaasen couldn't even walk 30 metres without his heart rate shooting up. When he was asked to walk for 200m or exercise for a quarter of an hour as a part of his recovery programme, he couldn't do that either.



Heinrich Klaasen smashed 12 fours and four maximums in his 67-ball 109 against England on Saturday.

Reuters

"It took me a long time to just get my heart rate under control so that I could exercise at least a little bit without getting past the phase where it is too dangerous," he was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.

The sultry Mumbai weather that made him sweat buckets, triggered cramps and made running near-impossible would have felt nothing in comparison to the effects of long Covid on his lungs.

Tough times, tough guy

That phase also gave the then South Africa discard some perspective on how to chart his way back into the team - simply by playing on his terms. For far too long, that wasn't happening. When he made his debut against India in 2018, the big-hitting middle-order batsman swore by his natural playing style. But then, he gave away his wicket too cheaply and was dropped from the squad. He slogged on the domestic circuit to

make a comeback but upon his return to international cricket, Klaasen was no longer the aggressive batsman that bowlers - especially slow bowlers - feared. He was conservative, played within himself and feared another failure. That didn't work out quite well as Klaasen's struggles continued. But then, he used the time in isolation while recovering from Covid to reflect and upon return, was his own self.

The outcome of that small mindset tweak has been immense. Since January 2022, Klaasen has averaged nearly 60 in ODI cricket with a strike rate of almost 136. The biggest evidence, if it was needed at all, of his prowess came weeks before the World Cup when he smashed an 83-ball 174 against Australia. So it was no surprise to see him treat the English bowlers the way he did. As Naser Hussain said on TV, this was "one of the best you are likely to see at the World Cup given the conditions."

It was the kind of knock that overshadowed the stories of two other men who know a thing or two about waiting and making comebacks. Before Klaasen's pre-Diwali fireworks was the opening act by Reeza Hendricks. It feels like a lifetime since Hendricks played at the 2008 Under-19 World Cup against Virat Kohli and Steve Smith. It seems like another lifetime since he scored a century on ODI debut against Sri Lanka in Pallekele five years ago.

What began as a promising career soon derailed as Hendricks played for South Africa in ODIs only 29 times after that. And his 30th cap came only because captain Temba Bavuma caught a stomach bug on the morning of the match.

Bavuma's dream to play at the ground where his childhood hero Sachin Tendulkar played will have to wait. But Hendricks continued his dream return to the Proteas lineup. His entertaining knock of 85 (79 balls) in-

cluded one of the shots of the day when he got into the perfect position to smash a Joe Root delivery that was straight and a little short into the stands over long-on.

Agony for English

Hendricks' innings set the stage for Klaasen and snuffed out the hopes of an England side that was already looking tired. They were only kept alive by a valiant Reece Topley who, like Klaasen and Hendricks, is finally enjoying his moment under the sun on the big stage.

But very nearly, another major event ended in agony for Topley. The England left-arm pacer, who'd sent Quinton de Kock back to the pavilion on the second ball of the match, hurt his right index finger while trying to stop a back-foot punch from Rassie van der Dussen. As the physio took him back to the dressing room to assess the seriousness of the injury, Topley, in a fit of rage, flung a chair and smashed a window pane. In his mind, the big-tournament curse had hit again.

For, Topley's career has been beset by injuries at marquee events. At the 2016 T20 World Cup in India, he played just twice after being ruled out of the tournament due to a shoulder injury that required an operation. He then missed the 2019 World Cup because of a back surgery. At the 2021 T20 World Cup, he received a call-up as an injury replacement midway through the competition but was never used.

Bad luck continued to haunt him at the T20 World Cup in Australia last year, when - while warming up for a warm-up game in Brisbane, he tripped backwards over the boundary ropes and ruptured his ankle. And then, at the IPL this year, he dislocated his shoulder. Unlike all those occasions, Topley returned to the field - with his index and middle finger taped together - and made an instant impact by taking two wickets in the first 10 balls of his second spell.

That's the last time any England player smiled, or celebrated, on Saturday as Klaasen's big-hitting masterclass swung the match in South Africa's favour.

The World Cup may not end in heartbreak for Topley, who didn't come out to bat, but the defeat could well end England's title defence, as the melancholic faces in their dugout portrayed.

Brief scores: South Africa 399 for 7 (Klaasen 109, Hendricks 85, Jansen 75*, van der Dussen 60) beat England 170 (Wood 43*, Coetzee 3-35, Ngidi 2-26, Jansen 2-35) by 229 runs

DENMARK OPEN

With tempers flying high, old foe Marin trumps Sindhu in semifinals

SHIVANI NAIK
OCTOBER 21

FIRST, PV Sindhu needed to return to combat mode. The cutting scythe of an attack was her always. The cruise mode of 2019 will follow. The ever-tempestuous Carolina Marin had drawn the best out of Sindhu at the 2016 Rio Games as the Indian debuted her roars. And it was Marin again in 2023 that crystallised a resurgent Sindhu's aggression at the Denmark Open semifinals, as the Indian backed her excellent badminton with an equal measure of blistering verbals, giving it back to a blustering Marin in a heated faceoff at Odense.

Marin won 21-18, 19-21, 21-7. But just like Prannoy had rattled Viktor Axelsen at Japan before beating him at the Worlds, Sindhu's unyielding resistance in the first two sets ensured doubts are sowed in the Marin mind for months to come.

The surest sign of PV Sindhu getting into Marin's head happened when, in trying to push the pace, the 30-year-old crossed an unspoken line of courtesy in badminton. The Spaniard had watched the Indian level the set scores 21-18, 19-21 and had started stabbing

out her racquet under the net to drag back the shuttle from the way in, to rush the serve and resume the next point. The second time she did it, racquets clashed like swords under the meshing, and in an unprecedented eyeball confrontation, words were exchanged at 9-2 with Marin leading in the decider.

Both were issued yellow cards for unsportsmanlike behavior and misconduct after the rarest of these incidents were witnessed on a badminton court.

Earlier, as both traded some whiplash winners, and the midcourt exchanges saw neither willing to blink, the umpire had already been cueing up a litany towards Marin. First, he asked both to tone the celebrating down as scores went back and forth though Marin was clearly more of a culprit. She was warned thrice at least. Later, Marin, who's always used her pace to get the better of Sindhu, tried to hustle and hurry the Indian and was repeatedly told to not serve before Sindhu was ready to receive.

The umpire had been kept busy, and an eager Sindhu was faulted for her racquet touching the net on a front-court scythe. But it was during one of the many serve receptions at 8-2 in the third that Sindhu pulled out, and with dripping irony, told the



CALM AFTER THE STORM

Things happen in the heat of the moment Carolina. Especially when we were fighting for every point as hard as we were. See you soon, the dessert is on you this time

MARIN
POST MATCH

Thanks for a good battle. Both of us were fighting to win that game but on my side I never wanted to fight against you personally. In front of everyone SORRY to show this kind of behaviour. See you soon mate!

PV SINDHU
TO MARIN

umpire, "I'm giving her time to shout." The underhand clash of the racquets would happen soon after, and both argued at the net as the encounter went truly into a confrontational zone.

Marin who kept coming back from 3-11 down in the second to 10-11, and then from

11-14 to 14-16, was amping up the pace and collecting points in a bunch. Sindhu had done brilliantly well to catch Marin on her backhand low defense on the forecourt to string up a good lead and used her steep smashing to the flanks to get there to 11-3 in good time. What began thereafter was stinging eyeball-

clashing rallies, fast-paced back and forths from midcourt and Sindhu not backing down under the pressure of Marin's aggression. Each time Marin closed in, Sindhu would slap it back with some rad flat defence, before getting her winning kills.

Marin too dug deep, and even as Sindhu pushed towards a decider at 20-16, the Spaniard saved three of those set points with her accelerated attack to come to within 20-19. One of Marin's masterpieces was her half-tum pivot on the backhand defense from the backcourt corner from which she recovered in a snap to take the next shuttle. Sindhu would send a net push fast and follow it with her round-the-head smash for 21-19 to drag Marin into the decider.

The Spaniard did well to claim the first three points of the third set, undeterred after having lost the second. Her plan - which worked - was to not allow Sindhu a breather, and crowd her with pace during a rally, and beyond it. Things would get very testy in the process. At some level, Sindhu allowed herself to be pulled into the swirl of stomping noise and web of Marin's antics and lost sight of the match to be won and it ended 21-7 in Marin's favour. But she had managed to leave posers buzzing in the brain of the Hueleva cham-

pion, with her second set pushback.

The first set was the best badminton-wise.

Sindhu played some eclectic exchanges. Her striding to the net to trap Marin at her short backhand corner was persistent. She had the crosscourt smashes steaming, piercing deep. And there were oodles of aerial deception as she struck the shuttle at a high point and dropped it in empty spaces in from net court. While her confident lunges and explosive strides at the net have been noted by many, it is her racquet positioning at the net that has acquired lethal abilities. Be it the backhand stretched pop to send the shuttle tipping like a hairpin or the stick-push straight racquet wristknocks. Marin had few answers to some of Sindhu's round-the-head smashes and crosscourt-powered hits with quick reaction times on the bird.

Both are coming back from injuries and being pushed to the fringes while the Fab Four - Yufei, SeYoung, Tai Tzu and Yamaguchi took over on the Tour. The time away and smaller power reserves than before plus patched-back fitness at this age have added to the desperation of holding onto leads, and led to things brimming over on Saturday. Clash No 17 will be keenly awaited, as the rivalry acquires a racy edge in the coming months.



POINT OF VIEW, PAGE 2

Celebrating Two Worlds

Couturier Rahul Mishra on his French connection, finding hidden textile histories and reliving the Van Gogh experience



BOOKS, PAGE 3

- What makes London publishing house Fitzcarraldo Editions a Nobel winners' perch
- Review of Fali S Nariman's *You Must Know Your Constitution*
- Review of John Zubrzycki's *Dethroned*

In the changing landscape of central Delhi lie stories of previous regimes shaping the meaning of the Capital and capturing the imagination of a people

SEAT OF CHURN

Swapna Liddle

IT SEEMS trite to say that Delhi is a site at which many ruling powers have felt impelled to create capitals. After all, almost all talk of Delhi's history tends to begin with a list of its several 'cities' — starting from Lal Kot, established in the mid-11th century, and going through to New Delhi, founded in the 20th century by the British. But behind such banal, bald statements of fact, lies a complex history of how the place came to be invested with this aura of power.

The name, in its earliest mentions — 'Dhilli' — is not very ancient and first came to be applied to a fortified city established around 1052, in what is familiar to us as the area around Qutub Minar. It was established as a capital by a king called Anangpal, who ruled over a fairly modest kingdom. Human habitation and even urbanisation was not new here, as it was already an important centre of trade and Jain pilgrimage, known as Yoginipura. Rather, the term 'Dhilli' came specifically to be applied to the place after it became a fortified, political centre.

A real boost to the city's political importance came in the 13th century, as it became the capital of a growing empire, the Delhi Sultanate. Some idea of how this may have been viewed by those who lived in the city at that time, may be had from an inscription, dating to August 1276, that was originally installed in a stepwell at Palam, close to Delhi's present-day airport. This Sanskrit inscription commemorates the construction of the well by a local landowner, Uddhara, and gives us very interesting information.

A significant part of it is devoted to extravagant praise of the then ruler, Ghiyas-ud-din Balban (1266-1287). The extent and influence of his empire is expressed in hyperbole — as encompassing territories from Afghanistan to Bengal to the far south of the subcontinent. The inscription goes on to comment in equally extravagant terms about Delhi. In the eyes of the author of the inscription (Pandit Yogishwar) the significance of the city does not lie in a glorious past. In fact, so recent is its fame, that he has to specify that the city of Dhilli is better known as Yoginipura. Neither does he refer to any sacred significance, though there are other sources that link the site of Delhi with nearby Indraprastha, where god Indra is believed to have performed sacrifices. Rather, the Palam Baoli inscription attributes the significance of Delhi to being the seat of an empire with great territorial extent.

This political significance, a relatively new phenomenon in Balban's time, was strengthened as time went on. The eponymous Delhi Sultanate, under a succession of dynasties, ensured that the name of the city was etched in the popular mind as a centre of imperial power. Incidentally, during this time the name Dhilli acquired its Persianised form, 'Delhi', in the official record. In popular usage, it probably continued as Dhilli for much longer, slowly morphing to Dilli, which is still in use today. Later, the British would make it 'Delhi'.

One consequence of the association of the name 'Delhi' with imperial power, was its ultimate disassociation from its original physical site. For various practical reasons, as time went on, successive Sultanate rulers shifted their capitals to other sites in the Delhi area. Thus, Jalaluddin Khilji (1290-96) moved his capital to Kilugarhi, to escape the influence of rival factions in the older capital. Incidentally, all that seems to have survived of the capital of Kilugarhi is the name Kilokari, one of Delhi's numerous 'urban villages'.

Jalaluddin's successor Alauddin Khilji moved his capital to Siri (1303), where he had quartered his army during his standoff against the invading Mongols. The Tughlaqs, too, built new capitals. Balban built Tughlaqabad (1320-21) for strategic reasons on a rocky stronghold; Muhammad bin Tughlaq founded Jahanpanah (1326-27), in the midst of a newly fortified area, and Firoz Shah, by building Firozabad (1354) next to the Yamuna, took advantage of the benefits of the river as a waterway as well as a source of water.

Though these new cities all had their own distinct names, the original site in Mehrauli, by the mid-14th century, had begun to be called Delhi-e-Kuhna, i.e. 'Old Delhi'. Implicit in this appellation was the idea that the name 'Delhi' itself moved to each of these new cities, in turn as each became the capital.

Circumstances dictated eventually that the capital of the Delhi Sultanate move away from

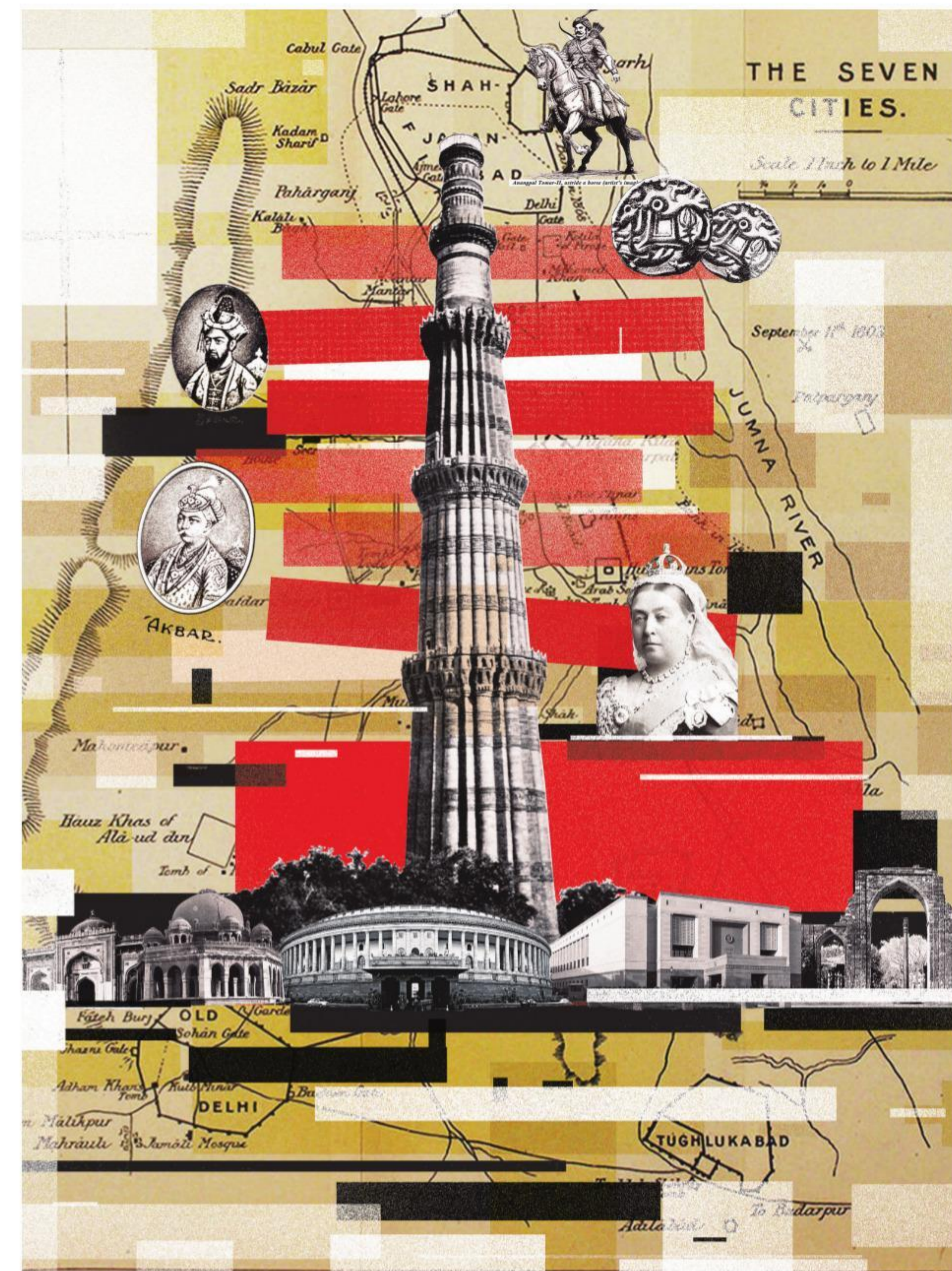


ILLUSTRATION: SUVAJIT DEY

Delhi altogether, as it did under Sikandar Lodi, who moved the capital to Agra in the early 16th century. The Lodis were soon replaced by a new power, the Mughals, who were to found a new long-lived dynasty. The founder of the dynasty, Babur, wrote in his memoir soon after he had defeated Ibrahim Lodi at Panipat in 1526: "The capital of all Hindustan is Delhi". Clearly, the association of Delhi with power was stronger than Agra, even two decades after the shift of the capital. Moreover, after a decisive battle, before moving to Ibrahim's capital in Agra, Babur first came to Delhi. Here, he went for a sort of pilgrimage to the tombs of several previous rulers.

Babur's successor Humayun built a city in Delhi, named Dinpanah (1533), from where the Suri ruler Sher Shah and his successors also ruled. Akbar however would move the capital again to Agra in the 1560s and it would

One consequence of the association of the name 'Delhi' with imperial power, was its ultimate disassociation from its original physical site... Delhi continued to be associated with power even two decades after the shift to Agra

remain the capital till 1648. Yet, Delhi's association with imperial power did not diminish, despite the capital moving away. A Sanskrit inscription from Mandasaur in Madhya Pradesh, dating to 1607 during the reign of Jahangir, refers to the emperor's father, Akbar, as Dillishvara, the 'lord of Delhi', even though it had been many decades since

Akbar had moved the capital away from Delhi. Jahangir himself, who never reigned from Delhi, is described as Shahanshah-e-Delhi, or the 'emperor of Delhi', in a Persian inscription on a bridge he commissioned in 1621 that leads to the Salimgarh Fort in Delhi. Jahangir's successor Shahjahan, after several years reigning from Agra moved the

Mughal capital back to Delhi, founding a new city, around 1638. Shahjahan's decision to build a new city is not surprising. To someone who had a deep interest in architecture, the laying out of a new city was the ultimate way to leave his mark in history. The specific choice of Delhi as a site was no doubt influenced in large part by the desire to invoke the aura associated with the name of Delhi. And though the city was given the name Shahjahanabad — 'founded by Shahjahan', the unspoken assumption was that this was the new Delhi.

Syed Ahmad Khan, writing in the mid-19th century, said of Shahjahanabad, that this was where "Delhi now is". With the founding of Shahjahanabad, the previous Mughal city in Delhi — Humayun's Dinpanah — was given the title of 'Old Delhi'. Which is incidentally why we still refer to Purana Qila (old fort)

as such, though there are several older than this.

The Mughal empire eventually declined. The British Indian empire, for reasons connected with the history of the establishment of British rule in India, had its capital in Calcutta. Even so, when in 1876 Queen Victoria decided to assume the title of 'Empress of India' it was decided that the announcement of this to the people and princes of India would be made at a grand event in Delhi. Similar coronation durbars were held to mark the accession of Queen Victoria's successors, Edward VII and George V, to the title of emperor. Each time the justification given for choosing Delhi as the venue was that in the minds of the people of India, Delhi was the real capital, and ultimately, the main aim of the durbars was to package British rule for Indian consumption.

Following the Durbars of 1911 the British actually moved the capital to Delhi, again a decision based on a perception of what would be a popular move among Indians. Like many other rulers before, they also built a new capital city. This latest Delhi was unambiguously named 'New Delhi', and in a pattern that was being repeated once again, relegated Shahjahan's city to the status of 'Old Delhi'.

New Delhi's site, plan and architecture were carefully chosen, drawing on historical associations. Nevertheless, the heavy symbolism in the buildings failed to serve its intended purpose. Indians were not convinced that the British had their interests in mind, and barely 16 years after the formal inauguration of the new city, the British left Indian shores.

With Independence in 1947, the government of the free nation chose to occupy the site that the British had created, instead of building a new capital. The reason, partly, was pragmatic. A country that had just emerged from a prolonged period of colonial oppression had other priorities. The basic needs of its population had to be met, at the same time the foundation for a strong and independent national economy had to be laid out. This was no time for symbolic gestures, nor was there a need for them. It did not matter that it was a colonial viceroy for whom a house had been built, as long as an Indian president occupied it. As for Parliament House, it had always been built for what had by the 1920s become a largely Indian representative body, a result of concessions extracted from the colonial government through prolonged national struggle. Much less was there any need for a new capital.

Nevertheless, in the decades that followed Independence, New Delhi saw a transformation. At and around its core, which we call Central Vista, new government buildings were built, to accommodate new departments and ministries, which were needed as the new government's functions went into areas beyond the colonial government's main concerns of defence, policing and extraction of revenue. There was also a greater democratisation of the space, as new public institutions, such as the National Museum and the National Gallery of Modern Art, and, later, the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts. In this manner, the post-Independence state appropriated and re-inscribed the city of New Delhi, thus giving it a new meaning.

In a sense, this re-working of the colonial city was another Delhi. In recent years, the process of the removal of many of the landmarks of the post-Independence era has been accelerating. We are likely to be left with a situation where, while we can see the older cities of Delhi inscribed as monuments and historic sites, we will be left without traces of the city created after Independence.

Through many changes in regime over the centuries, rulers have made and remade Delhi, drawing on its past but also seeking to give it new meaning. In the process, Delhi came to signify more than a physical site. It became an idea, a name associated with political power; to be invoked in the exercise of power, but also equally in challenges to entrenched authority. Nizamuddin Auliya, reminding Emperor Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq of the limits to his power had said 'Delhi durast' — Delhi is yet far. In our times, following Subhash Chandra Bose, many who seek redress from the central authorities have raised the slogan 'Dilli chalo' — march to Delhi.

Swapna Liddle is a Delhi-based historian, who has authored *The Broken Script: Delhi under the East India Company and the Fall of the Mughal Dynasty, 1803-1857* (Speaking Tiger); and *Shahjahanabad: Mapping a Mughal City* (Roli Books)

DOWN IN JUNGLELAND
RANJIT LAL Author, environmentalist and bird watcher



HEAD START
 Fruit bats hanging from a tree
 RANJIT LAL

Being All Ears

Bats' computing power helps them home in on their targets with the precision of a missile

THANKS TO Nipah and Covid-19 (and rabies), which they have been accused of spreading, bats are not currently a favourite among most people. But we tend to overlook their invaluable pollination and pest control services. They're the only mammals known to fly properly — and in hunting prey in pitch darkness, home in on their targets with more precision than a heat-seeking laser-guided missile. Even the brains of the biggest bats cannot be very large, but their computing power is stupendous. Bats use echolocation to target their prey; emitting high-pitched, ultrasonic squeaks and waiting for their echoes to get a fix on their target (which is how we got our ideas for radar). But there are several hurdles the bat has to overcome to ensure it hits a target that is moving fast (like a moth, for example). First of all, its calls must be strong enough to hit the target and actually form an echo, which returns to base. But high-frequency sounds die out quickly and

Bats use echolocation to target their prey; emitting high-pitched squeaks, waiting for their echoes to get a fix on their target

only work when the bat is within 10-12 m of its target — and this is for the larger bats (it's much less for the little ones). The calls spread out like the beam of a flashlight and some species emit two such beams — one straight ahead, scanning for targets and the other sweeping low (so it can get an idea of its altitude). The calls are loud — 138 decibels in the case of the big brown bat. This can be deafening for the bat itself so it shuts its middle ear while emitting the call and opens it in time to catch the returning echo. Even as it gets closer to its target, it ensures that the returning echo remains at the same volume and doesn't get intolerably loud. The calls are emitted in a stream of pulses, the frequency of which may be so high that they meld into a continuous stream. But to prevent outgoing and incoming calls from bungling into each other, the bat has to match every outgoing call with its incoming echo. It does this by emitting extremely short calls. An outgoing call is only emitted once it has received the echo of the previous call, so there is no overlapping. The time it takes for an echo to return tells the bat how far the prey is: The quicker the returning echo, the closer the prey. But the bat must also know what the prey is likely to be. Its ears and brain are so finely tuned that they can figure this out by the (infinitesimal) difference in the time it takes the returning echoes bouncing off various parts of say a moth, thus painting a kind of 'sound picture' of the insect. To further hone the picture, pulses are emitted at different frequencies — the low-frequency ones bounce off the larger parts of the prey, while the higher-frequency ones fill in the details of the sound picture. Now it knows how far its prey is, what it looks like and how and in which direction it is moving. All this is happening while both the bat and its prey are flying at top speed. To find its target, the bat emits long loud pulses in a narrow-frequency band. If it receives an encouraging echo it switches to a broader frequency so that it can gauge the distance and the form of its victim, calling more frequently to receive updates on its position. A small target against a large background can also cause problems because the echoes from the background are louder and snuff out those from the target. The common big-eared bat, from Canada, the US and Mexico has cracked this problem ingeniously: it positions itself in front of its target and hovers up and down before it, gathering echoes and information from various angles — and kind of etching out its victim in bas relief as it were, from the background. Bats often fly in groups and this can cause confusion if they are all sending out echolocation beeps at the same time. So, some, like the big brown bats, direct their calls away from one another or keep quiet when other bats call. But this can only work when there are a few bats flying around — not when there are millions streaming out of a cave. Scientists are still trying to figure out how echolocation works in such situations. Perhaps bats don't use it now and rely more on other senses. If bats can do it, so can we: many blind people are learning to echolocate much the way bats do, emitting clicks and picking up the echoes as they make their way unerringly through streets and market-places and even ride bicycles. Of course, bats are way ahead in the game, but then they had a head start.



CELEBRATING TWO WORLDS

Couturier Rahul Mishra on his French connection, finding hidden textile histories and reliving the Van Gogh experience

Rinku Ghosh

IN MANY ways, couturier Rahul Mishra knew France from his childhood as he would leaf through the works of the Impressionist masters on lazy summer afternoons. He was particularly riveted by Henri Rousseau whose series of jungle paintings inspired his rainforest collection of layered foliage and floral appliques, each fold and flap nudging you to another surprise beneath them. "I could connect his work to our traditional Pichchvai paintings, where artists depict Nature with the delicacy of the subtlest detail like a leaf vein. Both came alive in my collection," says the designer, who has showcased his works in Paris for 13 seasons and has recently been conferred the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French government for attempting a culture dialogue.

Now that Paris is almost his second home, Mishra uses his spare time to visit museums to see the originals that inspired him. Monet had shaped his sense of tonality, while he devoured the works of another post-Impressionist artist, Georges Seurat. "Did you know that Monet went back to the cathedral he painted every decade and retouched them to catch the changing play of light and shadow as it happened that day? This was his way of keeping his artwork relevant," says Mishra. There were other reasons why France feels like home. Having enrolled at the National Institute of Design (NID), Ahmedabad, much against his father's wishes, he had started out by making wedding lehengas. He may have debuted in 2006 with the Lakme Fashion Week and innovated with heritage textiles in 2009, making reversible dresses with Kerala mundu and Banarasi, but he never got the recognition he deserved. It was not until the Woolmark prize of 2014, and fashion critic Suzy Menkes' appreciation note, that Mishra was accepted. For that show, Mishra had used lotus motifs on Chanderi fabric and woollen zardozi embroidery, done by craftsmen from Kolkata. "I was influenced by Dutch graphic artist Maurits Cornelis Escher. And that made me the only Indian to win that award." Life turned full circle in August this year when he showcased his We The People collection, where he replicated the forests of Sunderbans imagined by artisans from all across India.

The Woolmark honour took him to Paris, where he began with ready-to-wear lines before moving to haute couture. "I gradually moved up from the afternoon slots at the fashion week, to 4 pm on Saturdays. So I got a big high the day I was slotted between Hermes and Miu Miu," says Mishra. And like every Indian artist before him, he took to the Parisian streets. "I would walk around with my wife Divya (also a NID designer) and find inspirations in the alleys. Paris is not exactly a maxi-



ELEGANCE WITH TRADITION

(Clockwise from top) A model in Rahul Mishra's We The People Collection inspired by the Sunderbans, at the Paris Haute Couture Week, on July 3; a model sporting a foliage look; Mishra at Montmartre; two looks from Mishra's haute couture showcase

alist city, architecture wise, but look at the friezes and panels and you will find the most intricate mesh of creativity. The artist is as involved in the focal point of the artwork as to the smallest detail in hidden corners. Even something as utilitarian as a gate to a back alley or a cosy park has such character. These memories influenced the grammar of my design and technique and pushed the artist in me. Then there were the French knot and chintz, both colonial imports from China and India, but rarefied by French royalty," says Mishra, who takes time to compile textile histories of India and France. Like the story of a French officer in Pondicherry who sent samples of Indian chintz back home with letters detailing how it was made.

Some of Mishra's best inspirations come from French gardens, which had inspired Rousseau's foliage series of paintings as well. And though a vegetarian, he loves how the simplest food comes together for a multi-sensory experience. "A French breakfast is appetising because of the smell of freshly-baked breads and coffee. That's how I learnt the simplest things in life can be elevated to a luxurious indulgence," he says.

He loves the way history is rooted in daily existence and Parisians do not have to be reminded about it. "After three seasons, we rented an office space in the art district just opposite a boulangerie that makes the best croissants, in my view. But it was not until a Colette representative came to buy at our store that we realised it was 100 years old," he adds. That's how he walked into Galigani, the bookstore that is being run by the sixth generation of the owner-family, and was a favourite of fashion czar Karl Lagerfeld and Picasso. "Seeing my interest in art and French gardens over the years, the owner puts together a recommendation that even AI cannot compile. No matter how short my trip to Paris is, I usually keep a day for the bookshop. And my home library owes a lot to it," says Mishra.

For the couturier, the discovery of Paris isn't over yet. So he checks into Airbnb that rents out quaint mansions. That's how he discovered Loire Valley, just two hours outside Paris. Calling it the best Van Gogh experience, he stayed in a small chateau in the middle of a farm surrounded by flowers bobbing their heads on the banks of a small lake. The lights went out after sunset and he understood how Van Gogh could have conceived *The Starry Night*. "Paris is much like fashion itself, it changes every season. You just have to walk to unpeel its layers. I remember landing on a no-car day and it was really chilly. Yet post-show, we biked across the city, which looked like a big mosaic of chintz at night," he says. Now we know why he pores over an applique of 150 coloured *resham* threads on a 4x4-inch cloth to get the tonality and shades of each petal and leaf just right.

The Rewards of Reinvention

After a career spanning two decades, actor Mona Singh is enjoying the phase of playing meaty and nuanced roles in web shows

Alaka Sahani

IN SEPTEMBER 2003, actor Mona Singh made a much-hyped entry into the world of entertainment as a spirited plain Jane, whose chunky spectacles, braces and bangs kept her real looks hidden. As she played the protagonist of the big-ticket daily soap *Jassi Jaissi Koi Nahin*, hoardings and billboards were put up everywhere, whipping up intrigue around Jassi. "No one knew how I looked. But hearing about the reaction to the show was pretty overwhelming. On certain days, when I would return early from shooting, I could hear *Jassi Jaissi Koi Nahin* playing on television on every floor of my building. But no one knew that I lived there," says Singh.

When her face was finally revealed, it created another round of unexpected frenzy around her. Two months after the show started airing, Singh was taken to Delhi for her first public appearance. People threw themselves on the car in which she was travelling. There

was chaos at the mall where she was supposed to be present. Amid the melee, Singh called up her father and said, "Papa, I have become a star." Yet, once *Jassi* wrapped up in 2006, Singh decided to not take up another daily soap soon. "I was aware that there can't be anything bigger than *Jassi* at that moment. Any show I did next would be compared to *Jassi*," she said. Instead, this non-dancer took part in *Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa* (2006), a reality dance show, and ended up winning it. Later, she even hosted it. Throughout her career, spanning two decades, Singh has tried to reinvent herself. As she appears as a chief medical officer investigating a mysterious disease in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the just-released web-series *Kaala Paani* on Netflix, Singh says she is proud of her journey so far. "Whatever I am today, it's because of a lot of hard work. However, I am not satiated yet," says the actor, who is excited over the changes in the popular narrative that streamers have brought in. "There is great content to be part of. Women characters are given more attention on OTT. They are well-



BOLD AND AMBITIOUS

(Clockwise from top) Mona Singh; in stills from *Jassi Jaissi Koi Nahin* and in *Laal Singh Chaddha*

written and nuanced," says the actor, whose recent performance as the sassy and sensitive Bulbul Jauhari in *Made in Heaven* Season 2 was much appreciated.

For nearly eight years now, Singh has taken a break from television after being part of shows like *Radhaa Ki Betiyaan Kuch Kar Dikhaayengi* (2008-2009), *Kya Huaa Tera Vaada* (2012-2013) and *Pyaar Ko Ho Jaane Do* (2015-2016). She made her film debut with *3 Idiots* (2009). Since one can't leave a television show midway, she had to let go of several film projects before that. "In 2008, I was hosting an awards function in America where I met Rajkumar Hirani. When he said he had a role for me, I didn't believe he was serious. Five months later, he called me to his office and they gave me a narration." Following this, she has acted in several movies like *Utt Pataang* (2011), *Zed Plus* (2014) and *Amavas* (2019). But it's her compelling portrayal of a strong mother in *Laal Singh Chaddha* (2022) that was talked about.

"For *Laal Singh Chaddha*, I got a call in April 2019 for an audition and was asked to come in my simple look without any makeup. I was given two scenes during the test. One was the dying scene and another was Laal's school admission. In July, I heard from Aamir Khan Productions. I had a narration with Atul Kulkarni. We started shooting in October," she says. The process of bagging the role of Bulbul

Jauhari was less formal. "I was in Goa with my husband (Shyam Rajagopalan) when I got a call from Tiger Baby Films in 2021. Zoya Akhtar called me, explained the graph of Bulbul and shared the script with me. Because of the lockdown, I tested over Zoom."

Though often praised for her "spontaneous" performance, Singh says she is still figuring out how to achieve that on screen. "When actors know their lines and cues, attend workshops and find their body language in front of the camera, it becomes easier to deliver their best shot organically," she says. However, rehearsing too much doesn't work for her as it gets a bit technical. Instead, before facing the camera, she takes some time to listen to music and relax. As an artist, she is extremely disciplined. "I practise Ashtanga yoga and meditation in the morning."

While she is happy that streamers have offered her exciting roles, she believes in "trying something new and pushing the envelope". Singh says, "I'm getting more ambitious by the day. I want to work with all the good directors. I want to work with Zoya again. I want to work with Homi Adajania, Raj and DK." That apart, she, along with her husband, has been writing some stories. "We want to tell our stories. Someday, I would like to wear the producer's hat... It's important to keep reinventing yourself. Otherwise, somewhere you may get lost in your past. I don't want to get complacent and comfortable," says Singh.





A MATTER OF TASTE
Rosie Brown, Tamara Sampey-Jawad, Jacques Testard and Joely Day in Fitzcarraldo's one-room office in London; a Jon Fosse book published by Fitzcarraldo

Arjun Sengupta

A Winning Hand

Fitzcarraldo Editions has four of the last nine literature Nobel laureates on its list. Its founder on the indie publishing house's unusual success story

THE TOP prize in literature is notoriously elusive, with many publishing titans not even coming close to winning it in their whole lifetimes. Fitzcarraldo Editions, a tiny independent press launched in 2014 in London, publishes four out of the last nine authors to have won the Nobel in Literature.

This year's recipient Jon Fosse is Fitzcarraldo's latest Nobel laureate, with Svetlana Alexievich (2015), Olga Tokarczuk (2018) and Annie Ernaux (2022) as past winners. Behind this improbable feat has been a great taste in literature, a sprinkling of luck and an unwavering commitment to their authors.

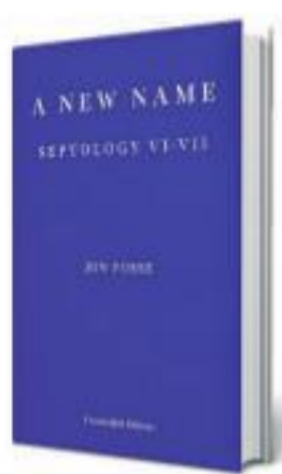
"We publish authors rather than books," says Jacques Testard, the 38-year-old publisher of Fitzcarraldo Editions. "When you start publishing someone, it's unlikely you're going to get a best seller with the first book. We are interested in offering stability... Even if your first three books don't sell well, we'll still do the fourth one," he says.

As Testard sees things, it is all about developing a body of work. If he chooses to publish someone, he wants to publish them for a lifetime. In an industry dominated by corporate publishing houses constantly chasing best-sellers and dropping authors after a single commercial failure, Testard thinks of publishing as an intellectual project. "Fitzcarraldo exists to publish ambitious, innovative contemporary writing," he says. "The prose should be of high quality... it's the sentences really, that's where it all starts."

Judging the quality of prose, of course, is a subjective endeavour, steered by the publisher's own taste. Growing up in a bilingual environment, Testard developed his by reading the best of French and English literature. An additional benefit of this has been that French publishers are also keener and quicker

to publish translated work than English ones. This gives Testard early (often exclusive) access to writing that would be inaccessible for a majority of his peers. For an indie publisher with limited means, this is a major advantage, allowing him to introduce 'new' writers to English readers. "In the case of Annie (Ernaux), in 2017, only two of her books had ever been published in the UK," Testard says. Fitzcarraldo started publishing her work, two books a year, and rapidly built up a readership in the UK. Today, Ernaux is among Fitzcarraldo's best-sellers. Of course, a Nobel helps in this regard. Before Ernaux won the prize last year, she had sold 41,000 copies with Fitzcarraldo in about five years. In a single year since then, she has sold 110,000 copies. And it is not just the Nobel laureates who reap the benefits of the award. "It gives additional visibility to the whole catalogue," Testard says.

In the world of corporate publishing, where the publishing process has become homogenised, Testard is very conscious about developing a catalogue. Each Fitzcarraldo book bears the publisher's imprint, most overtly in its cover design. Borrowing from French publishing traditions, the minimalist, series-style look developed by artist Ray O'Mara make the books instantly identifiable. Blue covers are for fiction, white for non-fiction. "We want people to be loyal to the brand itself, even if they



don't know about the author," Testard says. "They might pick up a Fitzcarraldo book because they would know that it's something unusual, something distinctive, something of a high literary quality that they might not find with any other publishing house."

Writer Kate Briggs, whose debut novel was published by Testard, says the experience has been "transformative". "It's not just about the success or otherwise of one book, it's about co-building a body of work in the long-term. My sense is that this approach is unique within the UK landscape, especially for emerging writers... My books are written alone at my desk, but publishing with Fitzcarraldo I feel I am participating in a much broader conversation, one that's happening between and across the books on the list: together we are exchanging ideas about form, the essay, the novel, about translation, aesthetics, politics and the environment (among other questions). It makes publishing feel less isolating, less individualised and self-interested, more co-dependent and collaborative," she says.

In fact, when reading a submission, one of the questions Testard seeks to answer is this: "Is this something I can imagine being published by more mainstream press?" If the answer is yes, it is unlikely to be picked up by Fitzcarraldo. So far, this formula has worked, carving a unique niche for the press and mak-

ing Testard a cult figure in the industry.

But Testard fell into publishing almost by chance. As a young man, he had wanted to be a journalist. He worked briefly for the *Sunday Times* and even had a summer-long stint at *The Indian Express* in 2008. But after a couple of internships in publishing houses in New York, he pivoted, never to leave the industry again.

In 2011, he launched a literary magazine, *The White Review*, with friend Ben Eastham. It gave Testard confidence in his literary tastes. He then published his first book, Deborah Levy's *Things I Don't Want to Know: On Writing* in 2013 for indie publisher Notting Hill Editions. After being let go by the company, he set off on his own venture.

With investment from a well-wisher, he had enough money to publish 10 books and pay rent in London for 18 months. As luck would have it, one of the 10 books he published was the English translation of Belarusian author Svetlana Alexievich's *Second Hand Time*. Alexievich won the Nobel a year later, bringing her international attention and doubling Testard's initial investment. "I could sell the rights (to *Second Hand Time*) in America, India, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. That enabled me to employ someone and start publishing more," he says.

Fitzcarraldo published six books in its first year. Last year, it published 24. Growth has been rapid, yet organic, never departing from Testard's founding philosophy. As he puts it, he is neither chasing commercial success, nor critical one. He is simply publishing quality literature he feels passionate about.

There is, of course, a risk to doing things this way. That is why Testard named his publishing house 'Fitzcarraldo' after the 1982 Werner Herzog classic. "The name is a not very subtle metaphor on the stupidity of setting up the publishing house... But it's also supposed to signal a willingness to take risks, and to be ambitious in the kinds of books that we're publishing," he says.

How the Mighty Fell

John Zubrzycki's latest is an account of the complex political manoeuvres behind the dissolution of the princely states at the time of Independence

Bakhtiar Dadabhojy

GERMAN CHANCELLOR Otto von Bismarck had to win a few wars before he could unify Germany. India's own Bismarck, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, accomplished a far bigger and more complex unification before and after Independence. When his initial plans for an independent India went awry, a desperate Lord Mountbatten turned to his senior-most Indian civil servant VP Menon, giving him a single night to come up with a plan. Menon met his deadline, presenting his Menon Plan which would play midwife to India's birth as a free nation. John Zubrzycki's *Dethroned* focuses on the period 1947-50, which saw the end of the Raj and the dissolution of the princely order.

The main protagonists in this drama are Patel, who was states minister, and Menon, his deputy in the states department. Together, they prevented the Balkanisation of India, coaxing, threatening and arm-twisting 565 princely states into acceding to India. But there were moral and legal compromises involved and promises given to the princes that were not kept. The princes thought that they were signing over rights only concerning foreign policy, communications and defence but soon, this encroached into other areas.

The integration has been made out to be a largely bloodless affair but this is far from the truth. Operation Polo which was the code name for the "police action" in Hyderabad, for instance, resulted in at least 25,000 deaths. Still, it could have been worse. Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev remarked, "How did you Indians manage to liquidate the princely states without liquidating the princes?" That India narrowly averted being Balkanised is largely due to Patel's pragmatism and Menon's tactical skills. They persuaded hundreds of rulers to sign the Instrument of Accession and, by August 15, just a few states had refused to accede.

Nehru accused Patel of communalism and there is some substance to this charge. The annexations of Junagadh and Hyderabad were accompanied by communal violence, much of it due to calculated inaction. For his part, Patel was irked by Nehru's reluctance to use force while dealing with Junagadh, Hyderabad and Kashmir.

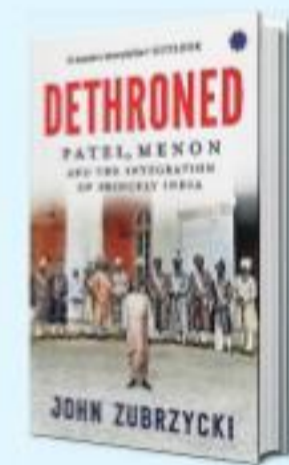
When Junagadh's ruler Mahabat Khan announced his state's accession to Pakistan, Patel immediately recognised that this would set a precedent for Hyderabad. Not challenging the accession would give Pakistan the right to object to the Hindu ruler

of Muslim-dominated Kashmir opting for India. This made him insist that India intervene militarily. Patel also clashed with Nehru over his offer to hold a plebiscite in Junagadh, calling it "unnecessary and uncalled for." The Junagadh crisis was resolved when Khan fled to Karachi but a more serious one erupted in Kashmir when Maharaja Hari Singh refused to accede to either nation. It required Patel's firm hand to deal with the crisis.

Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, a colonel at the time, narrated how an angry Patel asked Nehru whether he wanted to keep Kashmir or give it away. When Nehru replied in the affirmative, Patel asked him to give orders to that effect. Before Nehru could respond, Patel turned to Manekshaw and said, "You have your orders." It was Patel who took the initiative to prepare for a military intervention to stop Hyderabad's bid for independence too. Once again, Nehru opposed using force to end the crisis.

Despite Patel's antipathy towards the princes, he honoured his promises to them by enshrining their privy purses in the Constitution. In 1971, Indira Gandhi abolished them. Written in engaging prose, the book holds the readers interest with lively anecdotes and unusual details. However, Zubrzycki's largely stereotypical portrayal of princes as dictators given to wild excesses shows his uncritical acceptance of British portrayals of princely India. Many of the personal excesses were wild exaggerations, if not fiction, and a play by the British to delegitimise native authority. Zubrzycki does refer to progressive rulers but only within the old cliché-ridden framework.

Dadabhojy is an author, most recently of, *Homi J Bhabha: A Life*



DETHRONED: PATEL, MENON AND THE INTEGRATION OF PRINCELY INDIA
BY JOHN ZUBRZYCKI
Juggernaut
360 pages; ₹ 799

SHELF LIFE

Healing Touch

Five Palestinian and Israeli poets whose work questions the relentless cycles of violence in the region

Udbhav Seth

of continuity."

MAHMOUD DARWISH: A towering figure in Palestinian poetry, Darwish is, according to Arab American poet Naabi Nihab Nye, "the Essential Breath of the Palestinian people, the eloquent witness of exile and belonging..." A good starting point for his work is 'Mural', which, according to critic Charles Bainbridge in a 2008 essay, is a "brilliant outcry at having little but language to uphold a sense

AGI MISHOL: She was a popular Israeli poet who rose to acclaim by banishing the oppressor from her verses to examine the oppression. To express her metaphorical ability, critic John Taylor invokes pieces of hers in a 2008 essay in *The Antioch Review* which describe the "uprooting of Palestinian olive trees near Israeli settlements, a frequent act of humiliation and oppression... and a Palestinian woman, 'only twenty / and your first pregnancy is a



SPEAKING UP
(Top) Agi Mishol, Noor Hindi

bomb,' who blows herself up in a bakery."

NOOR HINDI: A Palestinian-American poet and reporter whose poem, *Fuck your lecture on craft, my people are dying*, has a vast online fandom for responding to writing-workshop techniques and subjects ('*Colonisers write about flowers. / I tell you about children throwing rocks at Israeli tanks*'). Hindi is one of the most popular young poets writing today. She has recently published a collection *Dear God, Dear Bones, Dear Yellow* about language as a means of activism.

YEHUDA AMICHAI: A prolific and renowned Israeli poet who wrote in Hebrew, Amichai, according to translator Robert Alter, "is the most widely translated Hebrew poet since King David." His works have been translated by, among others, poets Ted Hughes and CK Williams. Fleeing

Hitler's Germany, he moved to Palestine as a 12-year-old and fought on the side of the Israeli army. In a 1992 *Paris Review* interview, he said all poetry is political because "real poems deal with a human response to reality, and politics is part of reality, history in the making."

FADY JOUDAH: Born to Palestinian refugee parents in the United States and growing up in Libya and Saudi Arabia, Joudah, 52, is a practising physician in the US who also works with Doctors without Borders. He has translated multiple collections by Mahmoud Darwish. On some of his own pieces which deal with dispossession, he said in a 2008 interview, "I know our most natural tendency when we speak about the Other is to isolate ourselves as if we had nothing to do with them... (I want) the reader to feel we can't just stop with the 'they.'"

For the People

With insights into its provisions, amendments and interpretations, Fali S Nariman establishes why the Indian Constitution was conceived for a functioning democracy and not an electoral autocracy

Coomi Kapoor

would intimidate the layman.

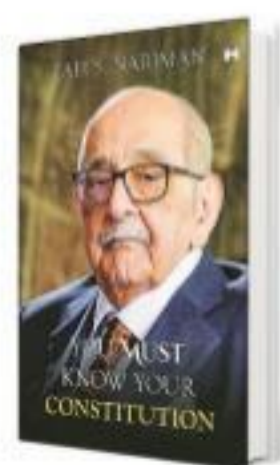
The Indian Constitution, Nariman points out wryly, was drafted and conceived for a functioning democracy and not an electoral autocracy. Enacted in 1950, it is the longest constitution in the world, with more than a hundred amendments. Respected Commonwealth historian Ivor Jennings superiorly panned our Constitution for its length, rigidity and wordiness. But the drafters of the Indian Constitution had the last laugh over Jennings, who was entrusted with drafting the Sri Lankan Constitution. That constitution lasted only 14 years. Ours has stood the test of time for 70 years, an impressive record, considering the average age for a constitution is only 17 years.

A Constitution does not survive on its contents, it is the spirit of constitutionalism among the representatives of the people which keeps it alive and functioning, the author points out. In the last 75 years, there have been two sets of majoritarian governments at the Centre: Congress governments from 1952 till 1989 and BJP control from 2014 onwards. Neither's record was inspiring. India's Constitution assigns more power to the executive wing than in most. In no other Commonwealth country does the chief executive at the centre (the President) and the chief executives in the states (the governor) have the power to legislate by ordinance, except in a state of emergency.

The dominance of the executive is reinforced by the fact that there is no period prescribed for the duration of Parliament sessions and state legislatures. The decision is left entirely to the respective governments. In theory, the government executes legislation confined to it. In practice, it is the government that makes the laws, and through its majority, gets Parliament to consent to them. A significant feature of the Constitution is the extent and nature of jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, which acts as an all-pervasive ultimate court. In the early years of our Independence, the Supreme Court generally went along with the

legislators' interpretation of the Constitution. But by the late 1970s and early 1980s, there was a turning point. "Consistent legislative and executive encroachments on judicial power ultimately alerted the court to its true role — that of conscience keeper of the nation." In the landmark Kesavananda Bharati case, Supreme Court formulated the proposition that the legislature did not have the power to amend or alter the basic structure or framework of the Constitution, including guarantees of a citizen's fundamental rights.

The author discusses the arguments for and against the renewed push for a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) vis-a-vis the Constitution. While Article 44 states that the State shall endeavor to secure a UCC throughout the country, this expression of intent is expressly made not enforceable under Article 37. Nariman believes that because the debate in constitutional democracies is based on majority rule, courts lean in favour of minorities — not because minorities are necessarily right — but



YOU MUST KNOW YOUR CONSTITUTION
BY FALI S NARIMAN
Hay House Publishers
500 pages
₹ 899

because they do not have the necessary votes to translate their aspirations into law. In his view, an enforced regime of personal laws imposed only at the will of the majority is not secularism. He cites the example of Parsi personal law where there was a demand for change in intestate succession law as it was discriminatory towards women. Indira Gandhi refused to amend the Act unless there was first an overwhelming consensus in the community. The law was changed years later in 1991 when the Bombay Parsi Panchayat agreed that the community unanimously desired this reform.

Reservations is another contentious subject on which constitutional clauses can be interpreted both ways. For three-and-a-half decades, policy makers have been frequently enlarging the ambit of socially and educationally backward classes. The Supreme Court has decided several cases on Articles 15 and 16, but none of the judgments specify a time limit for reservations. Incidentally, a deadline of 80 years from the commencement of the

Constitution has been set for the provision regarding reservation of seats for SCs and STs in the Lok Sabha, but clearly, this cut-off date will not be met. The Supreme Court has imposed a maximum permissible reservation of 50 per cent, and yet, the 103rd Amendment passed by Parliament in 2019 provided an additional 10 per cent reservations for economically weaker sections of society, other than SCs, STs and OBCs. A 2022 constitutional challenge to the 2019 amendment in Janhit Abhiyan vs Union of India was turned down.

The 94 year old Nariman is prescient in choosing the Constitution as the subject of his latest book, since it is a topic which is likely to figure prominently in public debate and political discourse in the days to come. What with a parliamentary select committee reframing criminal justice laws, a bill for downgrading the status of the Chief Election Commissioner and talks by the ruling party of introducing a UCC and synchronising elections. Nariman warns that governments with a huge majority, led by populist leaders, tend to slowly bend the written and unwritten rules which condition the correct functioning of a liberal democracy.

Coomi Kapoor is contributing editor, *The Indian Express*

CAPSULES

[0-13 YEARS]

How infant brains work



RESEARCHERS AT Yale University, US, looked at how infants' brains work and how these processes can be disrupted by pre-term birth. While term and pre-term infants had similar patterns of controllability, its extent within individual brain regions differed between groups. Many brain regions with the greatest differences in controllability were areas that underlie known deficits observed in children born pre-term, including brain regions linked to language development and social processing. However, researchers also found that pre-term infants were able to "catch up" with their term-born peers, showing more rapid development of regional controllability.

[13-18 YEARS]

Gay teens prone to binge-eating



A NEW study in the *Journal of Eating Disorders* finds that lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) adolescents in the US are more than twice as likely to report binge eating than their heterosexual peers. "Young people who identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual may face discrimination, bullying and stigma because of their sexual orientation. These stressors can lead to poor self-esteem and disordered eating," says lead author Jason Nagata, MD, associate professor of pediatrics at the University of California, San Francisco. "Binge-eating can result in psychological effects like depression, anxiety and long-term physical problems like diabetes and heart disease."

[18-50 YEARS]

AI can detect abnormal heart rhythms



INVESTIGATORS FOUND that an artificial intelligence (AI) algorithm can detect an abnormal heart rhythm in people not yet showing symptoms. The algorithm, which identified hidden signals in common medical diagnostic testing, may help doctors better prevent strokes and other cardiovascular complications in people with atrial fibrillation — the most common type of heart rhythm disorder. However, the authors suggest the neuropeptides identified in this study may be promising targets for drug treatments adapted to treat eating disorders and obesity. This algorithm works in diverse settings and patient populations.

[50+ YEARS]

Golf can improve cognitive function



WANT TO protect your thinking skills as you age? Swing that golf club or go for a walk. A new study found that walking about 3.7 miles or playing 18 holes of golf improved cognitive function. Nordic walking, a type of full-body walking using poles, showed the same benefit. "These findings underscore the value of age-appropriate aerobic exercise, such as golf, Nordic walking and regular walking, in maintaining and enhancing cognitive function among older adults," said Julia Kettinen, a doctoral researcher at the University of Eastern Finland. "Previous research has shown that exercise holds promise as a potential strategy for arresting cognitive decline," she added.

INTERPRETATIONS OF MALADY

DR SURANJIT CHATTERJEE

How nanoparticles are hurting your lungs, brain

Their small size allows them to bypass many of the body's natural filtering mechanisms

MUCH HAS been talked about the impact of air pollution on our health across cities. But while we talk about PM 2.5 (particulate matter with a diameter of 2.5 micrometres) and PM 10 (particulate matter with a diameter of 10 micrometres), it is nanoparticles that have emerged as a silent but potent threat. These minuscule particles, measuring approximately 600 times smaller than the width of a human hair, possess the ability to infiltrate the body, reaching not only the lungs but even the brain.

Due to their ultra-fine size, they can be suspended in the atmosphere for a long time and can travel longer distances, causing several health issues after exposure.

Nanoparticles have dimensions typically ranging from 1 to 100 nanometers, making them vastly smaller. Their small size allows them to bypass many of the body's natural defence mechanisms, such as the filtering action of the nose and the mucus lining of the respiratory tract.

Consequently, nanoparticles can penetrate deep into the lungs, posing serious health risks.

One of the most significant concerns surrounding nanoparticles is their ability to reach the lower respiratory tract, including the alveoli — tiny air sacs where oxygen is exchanged with carbon dioxide. The small size of nanoparticles allows them to travel deep into the lungs, where they can trigger inflammation, oxidative stress and even cell damage. This damage can be especially harmful to individuals with pre-existing respiratory conditions like asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), as well as children and the elderly.

Nano particles accumulate more rapidly, exceeding the macrophage clearing capacity, and hence the defence mechanisms of the lungs fail to operate, resulting in lung injury. Some human studies have shown that breathing in diesel soot causes a general inflammatory response and alters the system that regulates involuntary functions in the cardiovascular system, such as control of heart rate. Findings suggest that

nanoparticles can travel from the lungs into the bloodstream and reach susceptible areas of the cardiovascular system where they could increase the likelihood of a heart attack or stroke. Exposure to nano particles through active and passive smoking is associated with a thick septum and a certain shortness of breath.

In addition to their lung-related threats, nanoparticles have shown the ability to breach the blood-brain barrier, a protective barrier separating the bloodstream from the brain. This barrier is designed to keep harmful substances out of the brain and protect this vital organ. However, certain nanoparticles, due to their small size and unique properties, have been shown to cross this barrier, potentially causing neurological damage. While the mechanisms behind nanoparticle transport to the brain are not fully understood, they can pose risks to brain health.

Research has linked exposure to nanoparticles to cognitive impairment, neuroinflammation and neurodegenerative diseases, including Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

Now that we understand the hazards posed by nanoparticles, let's explore practical strategies for dealing with this microscopic menace.

There are things you can do at the individual level. Use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) if you are exposed to nanoparticles at your workplace. This may include masks, gloves and full-body suits designed to prevent the inhalation or contact with nanoparticles. At home, utilising high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters in air purifiers and maintaining good ventilation can help reduce indoor nanoparticle exposure. Avoid areas with high levels of air pollution, particularly during peak traffic hours, as much as possible to reduce inhalation risks. Moreover, opting for natural and organic products, when possible, can lower the potential for exposure to nanoparticles in consumer goods.

(Dr Chatterjee is Senior Consultant, Internal Medicine, Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, New Delhi)

NEED TO KNOW

Nanoparticles can reach the lower respiratory tract, including the alveoli, the tiny air sacs where oxygen is exchanged with carbon dioxide

Heart attack couldn't scar him

This 21-year-old had angioplasty as he put on weight and developed high cholesterol while dealing with grief and mental health issues. Now he knows all about mindful living

Ankita Upadhyay

WHEN 21-YEAR-OLD BBA student Anuraj Singh collapsed after a major heart attack, he could not even inform his friends with whom he was planning a get-together that evening. Sensing that the shooting back pain and the tightening of his chest were abnormal, he had the presence of mind to rush to hospital. By the time his friends managed to track him down, he had already had an angioplasty. Yet he did not have the conventional risk factors like family history, a smoking or drinking habit. "But I had not dealt with the grief and mental stress after my mother's death. And over time, bottling up emotions also clogged my heart."

Now he prioritises self-care, eats well to live well, spends time with nature and strums the guitar. He still has another clot that is expected to dissolve with medication soon. Then he will gradually scale up his physical activity as part of a cardiac rehabilitation programme. And he's back to preparing for his CAT (Common Admission Test) exams for an MBA course. "Everyone should take preventive measures and know what BMI (body mass index), cholesterol and blood sugar mean for your heart health. And all of these risks are self-created if you do not control them in time," he says.

Studies suggest that high levels of stress hormones like cortisol can increase blood cholesterol, triglycerides, blood sugar and blood pressure. These are common risk factors for heart disease. Stress also changes the nature of blood vessels in the coronary artery and promotes build-up of plaque deposits. According to Dr Sanjeev Gera, Director and HOD, Cardiology, at Fortis Hospital, Noida, Anuraj did not realise that his stress created risk factors for heart disease. "His mother died after a liver transplant procedure and he was a donor. Wracked by guilt at not being able to save her, he gave up on life. With erratic meals, binge-eating, sleepless nights and rarely feeling the urge to step out of his home, he gained weight to the point of obesity. Being young, he never got tested for cholesterol but the damage was done," he says.

Dr Gera was not at all surprised by Anuraj's deranged cholesterol levels at such a young age. He has treated over 100 patients for heart disease over the last six months, 50 per cent of whom are below 50 years of age. Now half the number of patients in this category are below 35 years of age. "I have treated almost 30 patients in the 25-30 age group," he says.

While the jury is still out on whether COVID-19 has made young people more susceptible to heart attacks, Dr Gera feels Indians, who are genetically prone to developing symptoms of heart disease at least a decade earlier than other populations, need to track risk factors. "If you have even a few of the markers such as family history of disease, sedentary lifestyle, high cholesterol, BP and prediabetes, they can cause heart disease at any age," he warns. Which is why a



GAJENDRA YADAV

basic heart screening test should be done in the 20s, he feels. Particularly, if you are a smoker or a regular drinker. Most of Dr Gera's patients are IT professionals who work under stress, have no fixed sleeping hours, eat out and confine their existence to a couch or chair.

They also tend to ignore warning signals before a heart attack. "Sometimes you can have intense gas bouts a week before, though people tend to ignore them," says Dr Gera. Anuraj had been having similar complaints and some pain in his chest before his birthday on September 4. When the pain did not go away, he visited a doctor at Fortis Hospital, who prescribed some antacids and an ECG in 24 hours. On September 5, the intensity of pain had increased so much that he drove to the hospital and collapsed. The ECG report showed two clots in his heart in the left and right ventricle.

So what got Anuraj in the depression trough? For more than a year, after his mother's death last April, he had been living alone. With no siblings and father in a transferable job as an engineer in a private sector firm posted in Lucknow, life had come to a standstill. His sole companion was gone and while he would hang out with his friends and cousins, he did not really share his emptiness or was able to process his feelings.

"I got involved in my studies and tried to be strong," Anuraj says. While he had lost

weight to be a fit donor for his mother before her liver transplant surgery, he stopped focussing on his body after her death. Compounding matters was the fact that after college sessions ended last June, he signed up for a work-from-home internship at a Noida firm. Without social interaction, he slipped deeper into depression, ordered his food from restaurants, was tied to his work station and bed and put on weight uncontrollably.

While the clot in his right ventricle required an angioplasty, a procedure where a balloon is used to stretch open a narrowed or blocked artery, he didn't need a stent. The clot in his left ventricle has decreased significantly and once it is out, he can start some exercises. Meanwhile, through dietary correction, Anuraj has lost about eight kg and his body mass index (BMI) has gone down from 29 to 27. Currently, he is on blood thinners, antacids and clot prevention tablets. "I now have an early dinner and go for walks every day early evening and post-dinner," he adds.

Anuraj's biggest learning has been to take care of his mental health and not let any kind of stress get to him. He is planning to take up yoga once his clot gets cleared for good. Now, his father has sought a transfer to be with him. "I do not feel isolated, and am preparing for my MBA," he says as he has learnt his life lesson early and is determined to live fit and happy.

LIFE POSITIVE



FACT OF THE MATTER

High levels of stress hormones like cortisol can increase blood cholesterol, triglycerides, blood sugar and blood pressure. These are common risk factors



Scan the code to read more health special stories

Living long with diabetes

A new study says diagnosis at a younger age can cut your life short but management is key, says diabetologist Dr Anoop Misra

Anonna Dutt

A DIAGNOSIS of diabetes at a younger age can literally cut your life short, according to a recent paper in the journal *Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology*. Every decade of early diagnosis was associated with a loss of three to four years of life. So people diagnosed at the age of 30 years died 14 years earlier as compared to those without diabetes. Those diagnosed at the age of 40 died 10 years earlier and those diagnosed at 50 years died six years earlier, according to an analysis of data from 19 high income countries.

Why does an early diagnosis lead to loss of years of life?

Dr Anoop Misra, chairman of Fortis C-Doc Hospital for Diabetes and Allied Sciences, finds two key reasons. "One, early diagnosis means early onset of complications. Diabetes takes 20 years to affect the organ systems. The organs of a person diagnosed in their 30s will get affected when they are 50 but for someone who is diagnosed at 50, the damage will happen at the age of 70 years when they have already lived most of their life. Two, the diabetes detected earlier in life is likely to be more severe resulting in more harm," he explains.

The study further links an early diabetes diagnosis with deaths due to conditions like heart attack, stroke, neurological conditions and even infectious diseases. "I do not want to discourage my patients by saying that they



WATCHLIST

If a person strictly controls their blood glucose levels, they are likely to live as long as their counterparts without diabetes'

will die younger if they are diagnosed with the condition. If a person strictly controls their blood glucose levels, they are likely to live as long as their counterparts without diabetes," says Dr Misra. He says how diabetes is managed is a more important factor that the study does not take into consideration

Are Indians more at risk of early onset diabetes?

Dr Misra adds that Indians are at an even higher risk of developing diabetes early on in life than Caucasian populations. "The Indian genetic makeup and body type is such that we are more prone to central obesity that increases the risk of diabetes at an earlier age. The disease is also known to progress faster among Indians," says Dr Misra. Another reason is that most people aren't able to keep their blood glucose levels in check. "Nearly 60 per cent of people living with diabetes in our country do not have it under control," he reveals.

Is it more difficult to manage diabetes that develops at a younger age?

There is a need to aggressively control the diabetes that has been detected earlier in life as it is not likely to be mild. "Those days are gone where you would prescribe a low dose medicine, wait for a year and then increase it as needed. We now know that we have to effectively treat diabetes from Day 1 so that it does not get the opportunity to cause complications," advises Dr Misra.

For young patients, more than one — two or sometimes three — diabetes medicines have to be used in combination to ensure

that the levels remain under control.

How do the newer drugs help?

Several new classes of diabetes medicines such as SGLT-2 inhibitors and GLP-1 receptor analogues — the famous drugs Ozempic and Mounjaro that are also being used for curbing appetite and weight loss — are powerful. They tackle multiple pathways of diabetes and help in better controlling the condition. "The analysis probably does not look at data after treatment with the newer class of drugs. They help in controlling blood sugar levels better and are likely to further reduce any life years lost due to diabetes and its complications," Dr Misra says.

What should a person do to minimise this loss of years?

Dr Misra says it is important for anyone diagnosed with diabetes to control three parameters — blood glucose, blood pressure and cholesterol levels. "Persons diagnosed with diabetes will have to be very disciplined — they have to eat right, work out regularly, keep checking their parameters regularly, and have regular follow-up with doctors. This has to be throughout life," he says.