MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2023, NEW DELHI, LATE CITY, 18 PAGES

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EC says it needs up

to a year's 'lead time'

for EVMs, VVPATs

One-nation, one-poll:

BUSINESS AS USUAL By UNNY

'Supreme Court has

no time for electoral

bonds issue. If this

isn't in public

interest, what is?"

S Y QURAISHI FORMER CHIEF ELECTION

PAGE 14

patient to bring

down inflation

panel member

to 4%: RBI

HITESH VYAS&

growth shock.

GEORGE MATHEW

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 22

RBI'S MONETARY

Committee member Jayanth R

Varma is of the view that there is

a need to be more patient when

it comes to gliding inflation to

the 4 per cent target, and this is

the price to pay for avoiding a

cent now and an environment of

greater economic stability, how fast should the Reserve Bank of

India go in reining in inflation?

There are differences of opinion

in the Monetary Policy Committee of the central bank.

is great urgency for bringing inflation well below the upper tol-

erance band, we can be more pa-

tient when it comes to gliding

inflation to the target. A more rapid pace of reduction could

impose an intolerable growth

sacrifice. We should be willing to

accept inflation between 4 per

cent and 5 per cent for several

quarters as the price of avoiding

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

THE EXPRESS

"I have been saying for quite some time now that while there

With retail inflation at 5 per

Policy

Can be more

HUMANITARIAN AID INDIA'S INITIATIVE: PALESTINIAN AMBASSADOR

India sends medical supplies, disaster relief aid to war-torn Gaza via Egypt

Looking for India's political support for ending Gaza siege, says envoy



SHUBHAJIT ROY JERUSALEM, OCTOBER 22

DAYS AFTER Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to convey condolences over the loss of civilian lives at the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza City, India on Sunday sent its first humanitarian aid for the beleaguered residents of Gaza via Egypt.

"India sends humanitarian



An Indian Air Force aircraft carrying humanitarian aid arrives in Egypt on Sunday. PTI

aid to the people of Palestine. An IAFC-17 flight carrying nearly 6.5 tonnes of medical aid and 32

tonnes of disaster relief material for the people of Palestine departs for El-Arish airport in

Egypt," the Ministry of External Affairs' official spokesperson, Arindam Bagchi, posted on 'X'

GOVT & POLITICS

RAJA SINGH IN BJP'S

TELANGANA POLLS

U.P. FORMS TEAM

TO PROBE MADRASA

FOREIGN FUNDS P7

FIRST LIST FOR

THE WORLD

PRIORITY TO BRING BACK SAFETY TO CIVILIANS: ISRAELI OPPOSITION LEADER PAGE 12

(formerly Twitter).

"The material includes essential life-saving medicines, surgical items, tents, sleeping bags, tarpaulins, sanitary utilities, water purification tablets among other necessary items," he posted.

Responding to the aid, the Palestinian Ambassador to India, Adnan Abu Alhaija, told *The Indian Express*: "I would like to thank the Government of India for this initiative. Yesterday, only 20 trucks entered Gaza. Before the siege, there were nearly 500 trucks carrying goods to Gaza

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

RITIKA CHOPRA NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 22

EVEN AS the Law Commission is now close to finalising its report on the conduct of simultaneous polls, the Election Commission (EC), in its meeting with members of the law panel earlier this year, is learnt to have underlined the need for a "definite lead time" of up to a year before implementation, citing "steep" logistical challenges in manufac-

turing voting machines.

As first reported by *The Indian Express* on September 27, the Law Commission, headed by Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi, former Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court, is likely to support the idea of holding elections to Parliament and all state assemblies together. It is likely to suggest tentative timelines for 2024 to set the ball rolling by holding some state assembly elections with the Lok Sabha elections, and build that

Where EC stands

THE EC has never op-

posed the idea of holding simultaneous elections, as long as the logistical arrangements for EVM procurement are addressed, there is consensus among political parties, and there are corresponding amendments to the Constitution. The poll panel, however, wants six months to a year to prepare for it.

up to full-fledged simultaneity in 2029.

Sources told The Indian Express that in its feedback to the law panel earlier this year regarding the feasibility of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Kohli carries Team India on his shoulders, like Tendulkar in 2011

DEVENDRA PANDEY DHARAMSHALA, OCTOBER 22

VIRAT KOHLI was just a few metres away from equalling Sachin Tendulkar's record of 49 centuries in ODI cricket. On 95, with only five runs required to chase down New Zealand's 274, he flicked

Matt Henry straight to Glenn Phillips. As he saw the catch, Kohli smiled sheepishly and walked back to the dugout, soaking in the applause of the crowd and waving his bat at them, acknowledging their support. Though he missed the three-

figure on Sunday, it could not be too long before he equals and then breaks the record of his idol. But more importantly for his team, he is playing the Tendulkar

Kohli's 95 helped India beat New Zealand in Dharamshala on RELATED REPORTS, PAGE 16 **Sunday.** PTI

role in the 2011 World Cup. He, like Tendulkar, has been their talisman and the nucleus. The little master was India's highest rungetter in the 2011 edition – 482 runs at 53.55, including two hundreds and as many half-centuries.

India sought diplomatic parity due to Canada's interference: Jaishankar

Says looking at resuming visa services soon; security situation being reviewed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 22

DAYS AFTER Canada announced the withdrawal of 41 diplomats from India, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Sunday that India invoked diplomatic parity due to concerns over "continuous interference" in its "internal affairs" by

Canadian personnel. While he said the India-Canada relationship is going through "a difficult phase", Jaishankar added that India is looking at resuming visa services for Canadians "very soon" if it sees progress in the safety of its diplomats in Canada.

While the Ministry of External Affairs' official spokesperson



Ties going through a difficult phase, says Jaishankar. PTI

Arindam Bagchi had alleged "interference in internal affairs" by Canadian diplomats earlier, this is the first time that Jaishankar is raising the issue.

His comments signal the Indian government's move to draw the red line on the issue of diplomatic parity, a day after the US and UK backed Canada.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 Govt routes sale

of non-basmati white rice to 11 nations via NCEL

HARIKISHAN SHARMA

NEW DELHI. OCTOBER 22

AMID AN export ban, the government has decided to route the sale of 12 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of non-basmati white rice to 11 countries through National **Cooperative Exports Limited** (NCEL), a company set up recently with cooperative societies

as its promoters. On July 20, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) banned exports of non-basmati white rice following a surge in domestic prices. In three separate orders since, it invoked the July 20 notification to approve export of 12.52 LMT through NCEL to UAE, Bhutan, Mauritius, Singapore, Nepal, Cameroon, Côte d' Ivoire, Republic of Guinea, Malaysia, Philippines

and Seychelles. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

Rath prabharis: Kharge writes to PM on 'politicising of bureaucracy, forces'

Public service delivery duty of Govt, in interest of poor: Nadda

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 22

A GOVERNMENT order on roping in senior bureaucrats as "district rath prabharis" (special officers) for a 'yatra' to showcase the BJP government's achievements

triggered a political firestorm on



government machinery'

Sunday with Congress president

Mallikarjun Kharge calling it

Congress

misuse of

"gross misuse of government machinery". chief: 'Gross In a letter to Prime Minister

Narendra Modi, Kharge also objected to an earlier order of the Defence Ministry directing soldiers on annual leave to spend time on promoting government schemes, making them "soldier-**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

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Nawaz has many hoops to jump, takes leap with signal to India in first speech



JAYANTH R VARMA

MEMBER, RBI MPC

CRAJA MOHAN LONDON, OCTOBER 22

NAWAZ SHARIF may have several legal and electoral hoops to jump through before he gets to be Pakistan's Prime Minister again. And he has no magic wand to pull his nation out of its polycrisis. Yet. in his address to a large gathering in Lahore Saturday night, he sought to reorient Pakistan's do-



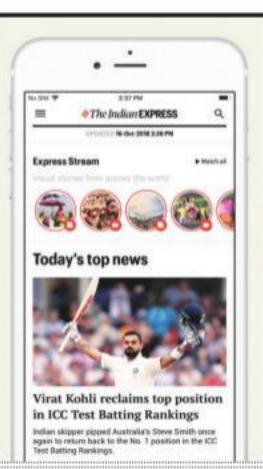
Former Pakistan PM Nawaz Sharif at a rally in Lahore after his return from a self-imposed exile in UK on Saturday. Reuters

mestic discourse on India. In insisting that no country can progress while fighting with its neighbours, Sharif, who served thrice before as Prime Minister, made a strong public case for renewed engagement

with India. To reinforce his argument. Sharif pointed to how far Pakistan has fallen behind its neighbours. He made a special reference to economic progress in Bangladesh that was East Pakistan until 1971. Pakistan's per capita GDP today (at around \$1500) is about \$1000 lower **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

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NEWS EXPERIENCE



ZIONISM: HOW A MOVEMENT OPPOSED BY MOST JEWS SPAWNED IDEA OF ISRAEL

For much of the 19th century when the Zionist movement emerged, it was opposed by majority of Jews. Critics have concentrated upon the continued expansion and occupation of Palestine by Israel. Adrija Roychowdhury finds out why the movement received the backing of the major world powers and led to the birth of Israel

TECH



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EXPRESS

Why India are firm **favourites at Cricket World Cup**

The Indian cricket team has been largely untroubled at the ongoing World Cup, winning first four games. Venkata Krishna B joins hosts Mihir Vasavda and Amit Kamath to talk about India's campaign so far

FROM PAGE ONE

FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

India sends aid to Gaza via Egypt my condolences at the loss of

and that was not enough."

"So, after 15 days of siege, nothing entered Gaza, we need a lot, and let me say this border should be opened as soon as possible. All this humanitarian aid to the people, including water, electricity, medicine, petrol and oxygen should go to Gaza as soon as possible... All our hospitals are (facing) lack of medicine and oxygen, and petrol for the generators," he said.

He said the Palestinian Authority had not specifically asked for aid, and it was part of "India's initiative". "We are looking for political support from India to Palestine for ending the siege of Gaza, so that all this humanitarian aid is sent to Gaza as soon as possible," he said. The first humanitarian aid

convoy of 20 trucks entered the besieged Gaza Strip on Saturday,

through the Rafah crossing with Egypt, even as Israel's bombardment continued. It included food supplies and medicines but no fuel, which aid groups say is "absolutely critical" for Gaza's 2.3 million residents.

Meanwhile, Israeli air raids continued on Saturday across the Gaza Strip, including in the south, where Israel had earlier asked its residents to relocate. On Thursday, in his first

phone conversation with Abbas since the October 7 Hamas attack on Israel and the retaliatory Israeli strikes that have sent tensions soaring across West Asia, Modi had reiterated India's "long-standing principled position on the Israel-Palestine is-"Spoke to the President of

the Palestinian Authority H.E. Mahmoud Abbas. Conveyed

civilian lives at the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza. We will continue to send humanitarian assistance for the Palestinian people. Shared our deep concern at the terrorism, violence and deteriorating security situation in the region. Reiterated India's long-standing principled posi-

tion on the Israel-Palestine is-

sue," Modi had posted on 'X'.

In his first reaction to the Gaza hospital incident, Modi had posted on 'X': "Deeply shocked at the tragic loss of lives at the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza... Civilian casualties in the ongoing conflict are a matter of serious and continuing concern. Those involved should be held responsible." This was perceived as a message to both Israel and the Hamas.

Modi's call to Abbas came

days after he spoke to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to extend solidarity. Following his conversation with Netanyahu, Modi had posted: "People of India stand in solidarity with Israel in this difficult hour... India strongly and unequivocally condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations".

Later, Delhi, in its first official statement on the conflict, sought to balance its position. "We have strongly condemned the horrific terrorist attack on Israel, and we believe the international community must stand together in combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations," MEA spokesperson Bagchi said.

"As regards Palestine, we have reiterated our longstanding position of advocating the

resumption of direct negotiations towards establishing a sovereign, independent and viable State of Palestine living within secure and recognised borders, side by side at peace with Israel," he said.

"We have also expressed our concern at the civilian casualties due to the ongoing conflict. We also remain concerned about the humanitarian situation. We would urge the full respect and strict observance of international humanitarian law," he said.

The phone call to Abbas was perceived as a balancing act. For Delhi, the diplomatic challenge was to balance between the many sides in West Asia where India has deep strategic ties with Israel on the one hand, and Saudi, UAE, Qatar, Iran and Egypt – to name a few – on the other

did not want to be identified.

• 1-nation, 1-poll: EC says it needs up to a year's 'lead time'

conducting simultaneous polls, the EC flagged concerns about the global shortage of semiconductors and chips, which is an essential component for manufacturing Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) & Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (or VVPAT) machines. This shortage posed significant challenges in meeting the EC's additional voting machine requirements (about 4 lakh) for just the Lok Sabha polls in 2024, not taking into account the additional number required for conducting all elections together.

"They (EC) felt that a definite lead time of up to a year would be required for ramping up the voting machine production lines, keeping in view the current commitments of the two manufacturers (Bharat Electronic Ltd. and **Electronics Corporation of India** Ltd). Moreover, the shortage of semiconductors, in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war, has further messed up the timelines for EVM procurement," said a source who

This isn't the first time the EC has raised concerns about production challenges related to the semiconductor shortage. Earlier this year, in its submission to the **Parliamentary** Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law, and Justice, the poll panel attributed its inability to spend over 80 per cent of the budget allocated for procuring EVMs in 2022-2023, till January 31, to the global shortage of semiconductors, which resulted in delays in the machine manufacturing process.

The EC is firmly against roping in private manufacturers to increase production capacity, fearing potential damage to the credibility of the electoral process and public faith. The EC has provided esti-

mates to the Law Commission on the additional number of EVMs and VVPAT machines it would require if assembly and Lok Sabha polls are held simultaneously in 2024 and 2029. A

voting machine essentially consists of three parts: a control unit, a ballot unit, and a VVPAT. For 2024, an additional 11.49 lakh control units (which initiate the voting process), 15.97 lakh ballot units (on which voters casts their vote), and 12.37 lakh VVPATs (which produce a printout post-voting to verify the voter's choice) will be needed, with an additional cost of approximately Rs 5,200 crore.

If elections were to be held simultaneously in 2029, the EC would require a total of 53.76 lakh ballot units, 38.67 lakh control units, and 41.65 lakh VVPATs. The anticipated shortfall is 26.55 lakh ballot units, 17.78 lakh control units and 17.79 lakh VVPATs, for which the government would need to allocate close to Rs 8,000 crore. The increased demand for voting machines and VVPATs in 2029 is due to the growing number of voters and polling stations. The latter is expected to increase from 11.8 lakh in 2024 to 13.57 lakh in 2029.

• EAM: Sought diplomatic parity due to Canada's interference

Speaking at the Kautilya Economic Enclave here on Sunday, Jaishankar said: "There's this whole issue of parity... how many diplomats there are of one country versus how many diplomats there are of the other country. Parity is very much provided for by the Vienna Convention, which is the relevant international rule on this. But in our case, we invoked parity because we had concerns about continuous interference in our affairs by Canadian personnel. We haven't made much of that public. My sense is, over a period of time, more stuff will come out and people will understand why we had the kind of discomfort with many of them, which we did."

"The relationship right now is going through a difficult phase. But I do want to say that the problems we have are with a certain segment of Canadian politics and the policies which flow from that," he said. On resuming visa services, Jaishankar said: "If we see progress there, I would very much like to resume the issue of visas. My hope would be that it would be something which should happen very soon."

"Some weeks ago, we stopped issuing visas in Canada because it was no longer safe for our diplomats to go to work to issue visas. So their safety and security was the primary reason we had to temporarily stop the issuance of visas," he said.

uation would improve in the sense that our people would have greater confidence in being able to do their basic duty as diplomats because, as you know, ensuring the safety and security of diplomats is the most fundamental aspect of the Vienna Convention," Jaishankar said.

"My expectation is that the sit-

"And right now, that is what has in many ways been challenged in Canada, that our people are not safe, our diplomats are not safe," he said, adding that India would start the visa services if there is progress in the safety of its diplomats.

Sources said the security situation that led to the suspension of visa services is being reviewed. If the security is found to be adequate, then the Indian High Commission will resume visa

services. Last month, India had asked Canada to downsize its diplomatic presence, in the wake of the row over Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations of a potential India government link

'Can be more patient to bring down inflation to 4%' a growth shock," Varma, Professor On October 6, while announca resolve to raise rates, but does

of Finance and Accounting, IIM Ahmedabad, told The Indian Express in an interview.

In its meeting on October 6, the MPC had retained the main policy instrument, repo rate, at 6.50 per cent and decided to stick to the stance of "withdrawal of accommodation". Two weeks later on October 20, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said monetary policy must remain actively disinflationary to ensure that ongoing disinflation process progresses smoothly in the current situation.

Addressing the Kautilya

Economic Conclave in New Delhi, Das said price stability and financial stability complement each other. In fact, price stability is an anchor for financial stability, but the trade-off between the two becomes a close call at times. "It has been our endeavour to manage these complementarities and trade-offs as efficiently as possible. While according priority to price stability keeping in mind the objective of growth, as mandated under the law, we treat financial stability as non-negotiable," he said.

According to Varma, while there is great urgency for bringing inflation well below the upper tolerance band, "we can be more patient when it comes to gliding inflation to the target". Headline retail inflation has moderated sharply to 5 per cent in September 2023 with correction in vegetable prices.

ing a status quo the bi-monthly monetary policy, Das emphatically said the inflation target is 4 per cent and not 2 per cent to 6 per cent. "Our aim is to align inflation to the target on a durable basis, while supporting growth," Das emphasised.

The RBI has projected headline

retail inflation at 5.4 per cent for 2023-24. "As evident from our survey of September 2023, there is further progress on anchoring of inflation expectations which entered single digit zone for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic," Das said. RBI Governor doesn't see any

issue on the growth front, stating that economic activity in India exhibits resilience on the back of strong domestic demand. "Real GDP growth for 2023-24 is projected at 6.5 per cent and India is poised to become the new growth engine of the world," he said.

There's also difference of opinion on withdrawal of accommodation, or loose monetary policy with higher liquidity in the system. Withdrawal of accommodation is expected to bring down liquidity and aid in bringing down inflation. When the MPC talks about "withdrawal of accommodation" it can refer only to increases in the repo rate which is within its mandate, and not to something that is outside the ambit of the MPC. As such, when meeting after meeting ends with

not actually do so, that creates a dissonance between words and deeds, Varma said. Varma says reduction in the

repo rate need not wait for the 4 per cent inflation target. "Monetary policy acts with lags and must therefore be forward looking. What matters is that projected inflation falls close to 4 per cent on a durable basis and not that actual inflation does so. Second, if a real reportate of 1 per cent is required to glide inflation to target, then the required nominal repo rate falls with falling inflation projections," Varma said.

For example, if projected inflation falls durably below 4.5 per cent, then the current reporate of 6.5 per cent would translate into a real rate of 2 per cent which would probably be excessive. There would then be a need to cut the repo rate to maintain the real rate at a reasonable level, he said.

On the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, Varma said there is no question that the conflicts there pose risks to the world economy. "What I find reassuring is that oil prices have remained range bound in the face of these conflicts. This is in my view suggestive of depressed global demand putting a lid on prices. Of course, a bigger flare up in the region that takes us back to 1973 would be a very different situation, but as of now there is ground for guarded optimism," he said.

than that of Bangladesh. In the last few weeks, Sharif drew a

contrast between India landing on the moon and Pakistan scouting around for a few billion dollars. Sharif's image as a builder

and economic moderniser provides the developmental case for re-engaging India. Sharif's talk of a new beginning with India generates much scepticism in Delhi. That is no surprise, given the dismal

record of the India-Pak peace

process. To be sure, Delhi has its

own conditions for re-engage-

ment — ending cross-border terror. Delhi will keep its fingers crossed on how successful Sharif's fourth shot at becoming the prime minister will be but his return marks an important turn in Pakistan's domestic politics. Sharif also brings a measure of credibility when he speaks

of engaging India. For one, Sharif had no reason to put talks with India at the top of his political agenda when he is trying to reclaim Pakistan's leadership after four years in exile. There is no political mileage in Pakistan for wanting peace with India. On the contrary.

In fact, one of the reasons for Sharif's ouster from power in 2017 was his enthusiasm for engaging Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Against the advice of the Pakistan establishment, Sharif showed up at the swearing-in ceremony of Modi in May 2014.

The absence of a direct reference to Kashmir in the joint statement that Sharif negotiated with Modi at the bilateral meeting in July 2015 on the margins of a multilateral meeting in Ufa, Russia invited vicious attacks in Pakistan.

Sharif's call on the Army leadership in late 2016, reported in the Dawn newspaper, to stop the terror activities of the militant groups that were causing enormous harm to Pakistan's regional and international position, generated much anger in Rawalpindi. The so-called 'Dawn Leaks Case' set the stage for his ouster a few months later in 2017.

Second, if engaging India has

been a matter of conviction for Sharif, he also had the unique opportunity to negotiate with all the Prime Ministers of India since 1990. His three tenures as the PM over the last three decades and more saw Sharif hold talks with Chandra Shekhar, PV Narasimha Rao, Inder Kumar Gujral, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Manmohan Singh and

That raises the key question: If the army always pulled the plug on Sharif's outreach to India, why would it let him go ahead now?

All indications are that Sharif's return to Pakistan is part

the Army allowed Sharif back after it got rid of him in 2017? The army leadership, which rigged the 2018 general elections and installed Khan in power, did not take long to suffer from buyer's

of a deal with the Army. Why has

Few civilians have launched such a direct assault on the Pak Army in the manner that Imran did. For Pak Army chief Gen Asim Munir, the principal contradiction in domestic politics is with Imran Khan, and Sharif is part of

the answer.

Does bringing Sharif back mean Rawalpindi is now in favour of a sensible relationship with Delhi? Not necessarily. But the fact is that Gen Munir's predecessor, Gen Qamar Jawed Bajwa did negotiate a ceasefire agreement in February 2021 with the Modi government.

Bajwa was betting that the ceasefire would be followed by small steps such as restoration of high commissioners and trade in selected items. But Imran Khan apparently vetoed that proposal.

It is reasonable to assume Gen Munir has bought into his predecessor's argument that the time has come for Pakistan to focus on economic development rather than pursue unreasonable geopolitical ambitions.

What about Jammu and Kashmir, the perennial problem in the India-Pakistan engage-

 Many hoops to jump, Nawaz takes leap with signal to India in first speech In his speech Saturday, Sharif did refer to resolving the Kashmir question in a general way; if and when the talks begin, it should not be too difficult to pick up the threads from the 2021 ceasefire agreement that committed both sides to address the core concerns of the other-terror for India and

> Kashmir for Pakistan. Finally, one new factor is the positive role of the Gulf countries in nudging Pakistan to double down on economic reform and the peace process with India. Gen Munir has won promises for major investments from the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia to revive Pakistan's for

Sharif has long enjoyed good relations with Abu Dhabi and Riyadh, which today are major strategic partners for India. Before returning to Pakistan Sharif stopped in Saudi and UAE to consolidate their political

backing. Have the Gulf rulers done the impossible? Have they brought Rawalpindi and Islamabad on the same page in dealing sensibly with Delhi? Pakistan's political developments in the next few

weeks might give us the answer (C. RAJA MOHAN IS A SENIOR FELLOW WITH THE ASIA **SOCIETY AND A CONTRIBUTING EDITOR ON INTERNATIONAL**

AFFAIRS FOR THE INDIAN

EXPRESS)

Kohli carries Team India on his shoulders

ready piled 354 runs at an average of 118 in five games. Barring the Pakistan game, he had a hand in each of India's five wins.

Indian captain Rohit Sharma was speechless when asked about Kohli's form and approach. "Nothing much to say about Virat. We've seen him do this for so many years. He backs himself to do the job," he said during the presentation ceremony.

With five wins in as many matches, India now tops the table. As valuable a player he is to his

own captain, Kohli is a nightmare to the rival captain. "As a captain, you have to be proactive but also work to your plans. Think about match-ups. Virat has a response to most plans," New Zealand's stand-in captain Tom Latham explained his plight. Similar lines were used to describe Tendulkar's batting too. All of Kohli's knocks so far in

this World Cup have arrived at a critical juncture of games and were decisively match-influencing. In the opening game against Australia, he arrived at the crease by the fifth ball of India's pursuit of 201 on a turner. Soon they were three wickets down for two runs. He was offered a life. But unfazed, he batted on and produced a mason turners. This was classical Kohli, tipping and running, nudging singles, hitting the occasional four and slowly dominating the bowlers. He picked an unbeaten half-century against Afghanistan on a belter, a 16 against Pakistan, before he orchestrated a chase with 103 not out against Bangladesh. It was tricky, in that India lost both the openers after a fast start. They needed someone to breathe calmness, exude patience and shepherd the chase.

Kohli was that man. Then, he has

been that man since Tendulkar's

farewell. The man that carries a

billion hopes on his shoulders. It seems metaphorical that Kohli hoisted Tendulkar on his shoulders for the lap of honour at the Wankhede after India's World Cup triumph in 2011. Kohli would then say, poetically: "He has carried the hopes of a nation for so many years. This was that gift from all of those people for him because he kept giving, giving, giving for India and I thought what better way at his home ground to

a lap of honour." For the next decade or so, Kohli would shoulder the hopes of his nation. He was already an established batsman, but in the coming

realise his dream and then he gets

This campaign, Kohli has alterclass on how to anchor a chase years he became the nation's flagbearer, its best batsman across formats, an all-time legend and a successful captain, forging the team in his own image, making them an unbreakable unit.

> If MS Dhoni built the finisher myth, Kohli carved the chasemaster niche. Steep chases channelled the best in him. As many as 23 of his 48 hundreds have come when chasing totals successfully. He averages an astronomical 90.40 in 96 games that India have won batting second. But as much as the numbers, it is the way he goes about the chases that makes for an unforgettable experience. It is one of the genuine spectacles in the game — him settling in, then setting the tempo with fours, then ticking along with a flurry of singles and doubles, and overhauling the target without much fuss. The 95 against New Zealand, in that sense, was classic Kohli.

Every game from here, fans would flock to the stadium and switch on their TV and streaming apps to not only watch India win, but also to see Kohli equalling Tendulkar. Even more gratifying for Kohli and his team would be if someone lifts him on his shoulders for the lap of honour on the night of 19th November, in Ahmedabad.

Kharge writes to PM

ambassadors". "In both cases, of concern not just to the INDIA parcivil servants and soldiers, it is essential that government machinery is kept out of politics, especially so in the months leading up to an election," Kharge said. "In view of protecting our democracy and our Constitution, it is imperative that the orders which would lead to the politicising of bureaucracy and our Armed Forces must be withdrawn immediately," he said.

Kharge's letter came a day after Congress media head Pawan Khera shared on X an order, dated October 18, of the Department of Revenue, under the Finance Ministry, regarding the deployment of officers of the ranks of joint secretary, director and deputy secretary as district "rath prabharis" (special officers) for the "Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra". It mentioned an internal or-

der of the Agriculture Secretary, dated October 14, on showcasing/ celebrating the achievements of the Modi government through the yatra, to be organised across the country from November 20 to January 25. It said the special officers would be appointed in each of the 765 districts in the country, covering 2.69 lakh gram panchayats.

public importance which is of

Calling it a "matter of great

ties but also to people at large, Kharge said the order was a "gross" misuse of government machinery... in service of the ruling political party". "It is a clear violation of the Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964, which directs that no government servant shall take part in any political activity. While it is acceptable for government officers to disseminate information, to make them

'celebrate' and 'showcase' achievements blatantly turns them into political workers of the ruling party. The fact that only 'achievements' of the last 9 years are being considered, gives away the fact that this is a transparently political order in the run-up to the five state elections and general elections of 2024," he wrote. "If senior officers of departments are being deputed for marketing activity of the current government,

Hitting back, BIP president IP Nadda posted on X: "It may be an alien concept to Congress, but public service delivery is the duty of a government. If the Modi Govt wants to ensure all beneficiaries are reached, nobody who has the interest of the poor in his mind can have a problem.'

the governance of our country will

grind to a halt," he wrote.

Sale of non-basmati white rice

"Export will be allowed on the Limited. Krishak basis of permission granted by the Government of India to other countries to meet their food security needs and based on the request of their Government," paragraph 2 (iv) of the July 20

notification said. NCEL, an umbrella body for cooperative sector exports registered under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002, was set up on January 25 this year. It has an authorised share capital of Rs 2,000 crore, with Rs 500 crore as initial paid-up share capital.

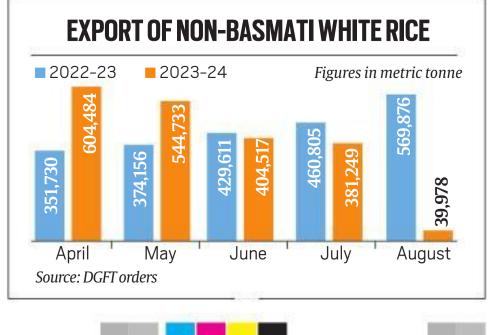
Its chief promoter is the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Limited. The other promoters are: Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative

Cooperative Limited, National Cooperative Agricultural Marketing Federation of India Limited, and National Cooperative Development Corporation. The DGFT orders show that

permission for export to Bhutan,

Mauritius, and Singapore was

granted on August 30, while the notification for UAE was issued on September 25. On October 18, another DGFT order allowed the export of the other seven countries. Sources said while NCEL has shipped the first consignment of 14,000 MT to Mauritius, the other orders are in the process. Cooperation Ministry officials were not available for comment.



in the killing of Khalistan separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar – a charge rejected by India as "absurd" and "motivated". ess.com

CM LAUDS PWD, AAP GOVT

Sarai Kale Khan flyover inaugurated, Ring Road now signal free for 16kms

ALL ABOUT SARAI KALE KHAN HALF FLYOVER

RAMPS

COS1: 75/./UCR

Month of

WHO WILL IT BENEFIT:

Sarai Kale Khan, ISBT,

Okhla, Lajpat Nagar,

among others

Ashram, Maharani Bagh,

(L) People walk through

and bottlenecks in the city,

adding that U-turns and flyovers

will be constructed accordingly.

said, "In other states, PWD stands

for corruption but here in Delhi, it

is synonymous with honesty. The

department works and saves

money... Our work might have

slowed down but it never

stopped despite several obsta-

cles."PWD minister Atishi, who

was also present at the inaugural

ceremony, said, "This flyover has

not only made Sarai Kale Khan

Praising the PWD, Kejriwal

the newly inaugurated

flyover on Sunday.

Abhinav Saha

commencement

of work: JULY 2022

Commuters

between ITO,

East Delhi to

travelling

95 metres

(downside)

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 22

WITH THE promise to ensure a smooth and signal-free ride between ITO, Sarai Kale Khan and Ashram, the much-awaited Sarai Kale Khan flyover was inaugurated by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Keiriwal on Sunday.

With the inauguration of the flyover, commuters are expected to have better connectivity between Central, East, and Southeast Delhi. Reduction in traffic jams as a result of the flyover is also expected to help reduce air and noise pollution levels in the area.

Until now, the area only had a half flyover from Sarai Kale Khan towards ITO but there was no flyover on the parallel side. Keeping in mind the increasing population and rise in the number of vehicles, the Public Works Department (PWD) last year began the construction of this three-laned flyover.

After inaugurating the 630metre long flyover, Kejriwal said that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government has saved Rs 557 crore in various infrastructure projects so far. "The flyover was supposed to be built at a cost of Rs 66 crore, but we built it for just Rs 45 crore, saving Rs 16 crore. In Delhi, we complete all the work on time and save money in the process. In the construction of 30 flyovers, we saved Rs 557 crore. It should be in the Guinness Book that there is a government in India that saves money on every task with complete honesty..." the Delhi CM said.



RRTS Station

Nizamuddin

Railway Station

Kejriwal said that while 72 flyovers and underpasses were built in Delhi from 1947 to 2015, the AAP government has built 30 such structures in the last eight years. Additionally, work is underway on nine flyovers while 16 are undergoing approval process, he said. "We will accomplish in 8-10 years what the previous government did in 70 years," Kejriwal said.

Congratulating the public for the flyover, Kerjiwal said that the corridor will help in reducing the

travel time and help commuters get rid of traffic jams. "With the construction of the DND extension, Ashram Underpass and now this flyover, people can travel without any interruptions. Earlier, there used to be heavy traffic jams in the Ashram area. There are no red lights on the entire Ring Road area within Delhi. be it the area of ITO, Chandgi Ram, Ashram, Moolchand or Dhaula Kuan," he said.

The CM said the Delhi government is studying key points

and Ashram traffic jam-free but now there will be no traffic signal between Chandgi Ram Akhada area and Ashram as well. Now. this stretch of 16 km on Ring Road is completely signalfree." She further said the flyover

will also bring down carbon emission by 5 tonnes per day.

Besides, the department has constructed loops, ramps and Uturns and widened the existing roads at grade along with landscape and footpath for pedestrians to improve the traffic movement and aesthetics of the area, she said. "The additional flyover will take the load off surface traffic coming from ITO/DME and provide free space for buses and local traffic. This additional flyover has been constructed to avoid red light at the ISBT and Sarai Kale Khan T-Junction, which will reduce huge amounts of carbon dioxide emission and noise pollution caused by halted vehicles. This flyover will also decongest the ISBT, Sarai Kale Khan and T-junction where several other projects such as the Rapid Rail Transit System (RRTS) and High-Speed Rail Projects are coming up," said an official.

"All commuters travelling from ITO and Delhi-Meerut Expressway side to Ashram will benefit immensely from the flyover. The congestion of traffic for hours used to lead to a huge mess and nuisance, especially during peak office hours. This will end now. Now we have Ashram Flyover, loops to Sarai Kale Khan, and this three-lane flyover. The entire stretch makes for a signalfree ride," said another official.

'SIM Swap fraud': Advocate receives 3 missed calls

from unknown number, loses money from account

Despite NEP, Delhi schools to continue to admit students under six in Class 1

VIDHEESHA KUNTAMALLA

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 22

SCHOOLS IN Delhi this year will continue to admit students below the age of 6 in Class 1 as opposed to the National Education Policy (NEP 2020) recommendations to raise the minimum age of students for the grade to six years. Senior officials at the Directorate of Education (DoE) Sunday told The Indian Express: "This year, Delhi will continue to follow its existing guidelines in accordance with DSEAR 1973 which is below

Officials further said that no decision has been taken on when the DoE will start implementing the NEP 2020 guidelines.

Meanwhile, schools in Delhi have expressed concerns such as space constraints, commercial aspects, need for additional teaching staff, and financial burden on parents with regard to implementing the NEP 2020 recommendations for admitting students in Nursery, KG and Class 1 this academic session.

Speaking to The Indian Express, Minakshi Kushwaha, Principal of Birla Niketan, Pushp Vihar, said, "We have not received any specific guidelines from the government to follow the new NEP system which suggests three years of preschooling before a student can go to Class 1. Moreover, it will need time, money and permission from MCD etc to expand the schools infrastructurally to accommodate more students due to an increase in class sections. For now, it is the status quo."

The admission process for Nursery, KG and Class 1 for general category in Delhi's private unaided recognised schools will

begin on November 23

According to Suruchi Gandhi, Principal of Bal Bharati School: "Implementing the NEP 2020 guidelines which says that students should spend three years in pre-school before being admitted to Class 1 is not that simple. We need to take into account several aspects like space constraints; if there are going to be more sections, there are going to be more students too. The government will have to address how public schools can be provided with more space. Secondly, how will parents react to this change? Apart from the financial burden which will increase, parents will also wonder why they should have to put their child through the burden of an extra year of school."

She further said, "Right now, we are prepared for two years of pre-school as usual...We have set aside a few rooms for additional classes and have been providing our teachers NEP training."

A principal of a Delhi school, on the condition of anonymity, said, "We would need more teaching staff, would need to raise their pay, which would be difficult as the government has allowed very minimal fee hike in the past years for public schools."

Police said no suspects have

been identified vet. A case has

been registered with the cyber

cell and transactions are being

checked to identify the accused.

of SIM swap or phone hacking

scam in Delhi wherein the ac-

cused usually steal mobile

phone numbers and assign it to

a new SIM card with the help

of a mobile carrier. Police say

the accused procure details of

This is the third or fourth case

36 cameras on each Namo Bharat train to detect 'unlawful activities'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE GHAZIABAD, OCTOBER 22

EACH NAMO Bharat train, the country's first semi-high speed regional rail service in Uttar Pradesh, has been equipped with 36 cameras, which will issue alerts regarding any unauthorized entry, unclaimed luggage or overcrowding, said the official on Sunday. The Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) was inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi on Friday. Currently the five stations —Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Guldhar, Duhai and Duhai Depot — of the 17-km priority section of the 82km-long Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor are operational.

Officials of the National Capital Region Transport Corporation, which has been tasked to implement the RRTS project across NCR, said that they are ensuring two-level monitor ing, at the station level and at Central Security Control level.

These points equipped with CCTV cameras will capture any suspicious behavior, vandalism or wrongful acts.

"Artificial Intelligence (AI) enabled security systems equipped with the latest technologies are now operational in the priority section to detect any unlawful activities. The security screening of commuters at the station entry points is being conducted by Multi Zone Door Frame Metal Detector. DFMD will conduct a full head-to-toe screening of commuters, and prevent any suspicious item from reaching inside station," said NCRTC.

In addition to this, the baggage scanners will be AI equipped. "These AI techs include a Dual

View Generator X-Ray Baggage Inspection System that will scan the upper and lower parts of the bag passing through the scanner. The AI system will automatically identify the restricted/prohibited items and alert the operator," said the agency. The UP government has entrusted the Uttar Pradesh Special Security Force to oversee the security of all stations. Quick Reaction Team, Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad and Dog Squad Team etc. have also been deployed by the UP Police.

SOUTHERN

STAR JEWELLERY

Today's 22 CT Gold Rate



Tilak Nagar on Sunday. Amit Mehra

Hundreds at West Delhi rally, Congress celebrates 'success' in effort to put 1984 behind

JATIN ANAND

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 22

"GURU GOBIND Singhji ka Sikh hoon, Congress ka sipahi hoon, darnewale dil se paida nahin hua hoon (I am Guru Gobind Singhji's Sikh, a soldier of the Congress; I wasn't born with a heart prone to fear)," Delhi Congress president Arvinder Singh Lovely declared at the first large public gathering organised by the party at Sikh-dominated West Delhi in over three decades on Sunday. Pitching Lovely as "Dilli ka

Sardar", the party was quick to declare the event – over a week in the making and staged in the middle of bustling Tilak Nagar, populated mostly by Sikh and refugee Punjabi families – a success. The hundreds in the audience in these parts must have been heartening for the party, which admittedly "lost touch with them" since, and due to, the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.

In the run-up to Sunday, the Congress held a hundred corner meetings across the West Delhi Parliamentary constituency, and party sources claimed that many in the crowd were "walk-in" supporters and bystanders. Stinging attacks on the Aam

Aadmi Party (AAP) and BJP governments in Delhi and at the Centre respectively, the nostalgia of the three successive Sheila Dikshit-led regimes that brought "development to the Capital", and a reminder of the Congress's relationship with the Sikhs before the aftermath of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's assassination formed the core of the Congress 'Pratigya Rally'. At the meeting held metres

ess.com

from local AAP MLA Iarnail Singh's office, Lovely said: "The people of Delhi have taken a pratigya (pledge) to defeat the BJP in all the seven parliamentary seats in the Capital in the 2024 elections... Delhiites now fondly recall the 15-year development-oriented governance by the Congress government of Sheila Dikshitji." "People want development, not politics of hatred... not the BJP's agenda of pitting people against each other... For 15 years, the BIP was in power in the MCD and now the AAP has assumed power... Soaring corruption in the MCD has robbed Delhiites,"

Lovely, who was considered close

to the late Dikshit, said.

He quoted from both the Guru Granth Sahib and a couplet attributed to Lord Ram to attack the BJP's agenda of "promoting religious divide". "The Guru Granth Sahibji says 'Awwal Allah noor upava, kudrat ke sab bande (First, Allah created the Light; then He made all mortal beings)'... Today is Ashtami, the day after, we will all celebrate Dussehra together... Lord Ram's chaupai says 'Nirmal man jan so mohi pawa, mohi kapat chhal chhidra na bhawa (Only those whose heart is pure can attain God)'," Lovely said, adding

deserve in the coming elections". A Congress source said that earlier efforts by the party in the area had met with a lukewarm response, with people turning away despite vehicles being mobilised to get them. "Today, not a single bus or vehicle was deployed by us, but supporters came from as

that Lord Ram "himself will mete

out to them (the BJP) what they

far as Matiala and Najafgarh." The Congress is also seeing the West Delhi rally as proof that its

two-pronged strategy to resurrect itself in the Capital – of attacking the AAP with the 2025 Assembly elections in mind; and awakening its "dormant support base of traditional Congress families" – was a success. A senior party leader said that

for the corner meetings held before the Sunday rally, former MLA Mukesh Sharma established contact with many such families. "All of them came out today," the leader said, pointing out that Tilak Nagar had "become a BJP stronghold following the 1984 anti-Sikh riots". On the fact that the AAP was a Congress partner in the IN-DIA coalition, a senior leader said they were only following their "duty" as a political party. "The two parties are in a larger, national alliance against the BIP. But has it stopped the AAP from contesting against us in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh Chhattisgarh?" a leader said, adding: "Till an alliance is formally announced for the seven Lok Sabha seats in Delhi, the two parties are free to pursue their respective political paths."

In his speech, Sharma, who referred to Lovely as "Dilli ka Sardar". spoke about the Congress's association with the Sikh and Punjabi communities and former Delhi Congress president Subhash Chopra's refugee roots. "Who made the Guru Tegh Bahadur Memorial at Delhi's border? The Congress, Sheila and Arvinder (Lovely) did. Who gave Punjabi the status of a second language in Delhi? We did." As reported by The Indian Express earlier, the Congress is planning to crisscross the four corners of the Capital in

weekly shows of strength before

the Lok Sabha polls.

The incident was **EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 22 reported on October 18, when the advocate A CITY-BASED advocate from who practices in trial North Delhi has become the latest victim of the phone hacking and high courts, told scam or SIM swap in the national capital after she received three missed calls from unknown

her bank account. The Delhi Police's Cyber Cell said that the lawyer neither answered any phone calls from the accused nor did she share any personal details or OTP, but, the accused managed to extract all her personal information including banking details and stole her

The incident was reported on October 18, when the advocate who practices in trial and high courts, told the police that she lost lakhs of rupees from her account. The police refused to divulge details about the cheated

(Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on following date.

redeem the secured assets.

Branch Name &

Address of Borrower

Mortgagor / Guarantor

Sheohar Branch (3132)

Borrower-M/s Kiran Store

Prop- Kiran Devi, Mortgagor

Kiran Devi W/o- Prabhaka

Sheohar Branch (3132)

Borrower/Mortgagor-Shr

Ram Snehi Singh, S/o- Vipir

Kanti Branch (0991)

Singh

Bihari Singh

numbers and lost money from

the police that she lost lakhs of rupees from her account

amount. According to an officer, the 35-year-old advocate received three missed calls from a mobile number. Later, she called the person from another number, but was told that it was a courier delivery call.

"She had only shared her house address with the accused thinking she would be receiving a package from a friend and she even received it. Later, two messages from her banking services application about two withdrawals, without her knowledge,

केनरा बैक 📣 Canara Bank

िसिटिकेट Syndicate

[Rule 8 (1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property) [Section 13 (4)]

Whereas: The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Canara Bank under Securitisation And

Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in

exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement

Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice on below mentioned date calling upon the following borrower to repay the

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public is

powers conferred on him / her under section 13 (4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 & 9 of the Security Interest

The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and

ny dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Canara Bank**, for below mentioned amount

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of section 13 (8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to

that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of

below mentioned amount in the notice to repay within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

Date of Demand

Notice/Amount

Dues & Date of

Possession

03.06.2023

20,89,075.87/

plus Int. &

other charges

19.10.2023

02.03.2022

2,92,955.45/

plus Int. &

other charges

19.10.2023

08.08.2023

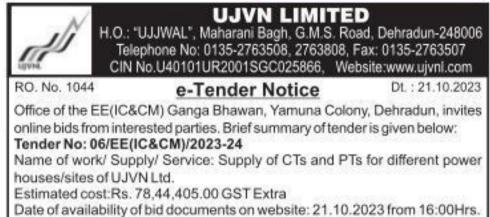
not shared any banking details, OTP or password. When she approached us, we found money was debited several times without her consent," said the officer who termed the case as 'SIM Swap fraud'. The investigation further re-

alarmed her. The advocate had

vealed that the woman had an "unusual" browser history to sites and portals, which weren't accessed by her. "She also received SMSs with regard to phishing links; a suspicious message of some UPI registration has also been found. The woman told us she was not dealing with UPI or any such website," added the officer.

"The woman in her complaint has also said that she received a call (after the scam) from a man, who portrayed himself as an IFSO officer, seeking her bank statement. Luckily, she didn't share any details with him." the officer said.

their targets with connections BIS HUID Jewellery at mobile companies, use other ree Repair & Maintenance of your connections with mobile carri-Old Ornaments of any make ers to swap the SIM cards. Once Making Charges - 7.99% on Gold they have control of the SIM Diamonds -0% Making Charges card, they manage to get OTPs Karol Bagh and password details to access Green Park Pitampura Dilshad Garden Janakpuri the bank accounts of their tar-8800307899



For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal http://uktenders.gov.in" EE(IC&CM) 'Avoid wasteful use of electricity

Last date for submission of bids on website: 13.11.2023 up to 16:00 Hrs.

Head Office: "Lokmangal". Pune - 411 005

Bank of Maharashtra, one of the Leading Listed Public Sector Banks having Head Office in Pune with 2341 pan India Branch Network invites applications from the eligible candidates for the following posts.

Sr.	Name of the Post	Scale	Mode of applications	No. of Posts
1	Credit Officer	II	Online	50
2	Credit Officer	III	Online	50

Details are available on Bank's website https://www.bankofmaharashtra.in. The eligible candidates may apply online from 23.10.2023 to 06.11.2023.

Date: 23.10.2023 **General Manager** Place: Pune

HRM



RESERVE BANK OF INDIA FOREIGN EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT, KANPUR

NOTICE

In exercise of powers conferred on it under Section 10(3) of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, the Reserve Bank of India, has revoked the Full-Fledged Money Changer (FFMC) licence of the following company due to voluntary surrender of Licence Name and Registered License Issued Revocation Office Address On Number Order Date Omsons Holiday-Inn Pvt. Ltd. FE.KAN.023/ March 01 September Holiday Regency, Om Enclave, 9 Km. FFMC 2022 12, 2023. NH 24. Delhi Road, Moradabad-

244001, Uttar Pradesh Consequent to the revocation, Omsons Holiday-Inn Pvt. Ltd. shall not undertake or transact money changing activities as specified in the Master Direction on Money Changing Activities dated January 01, 2016, updated from time to time, and available on the RBI website (https://www.rbi.org.in)

For list of FFMCs/ Authorized Dealers authorized by Reserve Bank of India, Kanpur, kindly Authorised Officer (Canara Bank refer to RBI website: https://rbidocs.rbi.org.in/rdocs/FEMAMASTER/PDFs/10021.PDF

Chandra Bhagat S/o- Ran Sewak Bhagat

Sitamarhi Branch (2312) Borrower- Smt. Priy Kumari, D/o- Sri Arvind Kuma Jha, Co- Borrower- Shr Kashi Nath Pandey Mortgagor- Smt. Neeta Pandey W/o- Shri Kashi Nath Pandey, Guarantors- Kumar Sharad Ratna S/o- Shri kashi

Nath Pandey and Kumar

Shishir Ratna S/o- Shri Kashi

Nath Pandey

Borrower/Mortgagor-Bhada Ram, S/o- Late Ram Jeevar 9,00,136.67/-Ram Guarantor- Shir plus Int. & other charges

19.10.2023 19.05.2023

6,88,320.62/plus Int. & other charges

17.10.2023

of Smt. Neeta Pandey, W/o- Shri Kashi Nath Pandey, Location- Anchal- Riga, Mauza- Sitamarhi, Thana No-259, Ward No- 1 (Old) Ward No- 2 (New) Naya Tola Riga Road, Sitamarhi- 843302 Khata No- 126, Khesra No- 124 Jamabandi No- 2654, Area- 1 Katha 13 Dhur Boundry: North: Nij Number Haja Manmokir, South: Budhu Mahto,

Description of the Immovable Property

All that part and parcel of the property consisting in the name

of Mrs. Kiran Devi, W/o- Prabhakar Singh Location

Mauza- Sheohar, Thana No- 163, J. No- 9822, Thana

Sheohar, Dist- Sheohar. Residential Land and Building a

Thana Number- 163, Khata No- 1496, Khesra No- 212, Ward

Decimal Boundry: North: Hari Kishore Tiwari, South: Ashok

All that part and parcel of the property consisting in the name

of Shri Ram Snehi Singh, S/o-Vipin Bihari Singh Location

Mauza-Bishunpur Kishundeo, Thana No-165, J. No-985,

P.S- Sheohar, Dist- Sheohar, Khata No- 38, Survey No

317, Thana No- 165, Area- 3 Decimal Boundry: North: Ram

Naresh Singh, South: Rampujan Singh, East: Maksudan

All that part and parcel of the property consisting in the name

of Sri Bhadai Ram, S/o- Late Ram Jeevan Ram, Location

Mauza- Kanti Kasba, Anchal- Kanti, SRO- Motipur

Muzaffarpur, Bihar- 843109. Residential Khata No- 219

Khesra No- 1269, Area- 10 Decimal Boundry: North: Fuden

Devi W/o- Late Shiv Nandan Ram, South: Mahendra Ram

S/o- Late Bechu Ram, East: Vacant Land of Sunder Ram

All that part and parcel of the property consisting in the name

No- 2, Nagar Panchayat, Sheohar, Pin- 843329, Area-

liwari, East: Kreta, West: Road

Singh, West: Chandeshwar Mahto

East: Nij Number Haja Manmokir, West: Rasta

SKYWATCH

MAX: 31

0.8°C below normal

IGI AIRPORT

FORECAST: October 23

Mainly clear sky.

MIN: 17 0.2°C below normal

SEVERAL CRORES FOUND IN ACCOUNT: COPS

Police probe money, trafficking angle in Swiss woman murder

JIGNASA SINHA

NEW DELHI. OCTOBER 22

THE DELHI police are probing the source of "several crores" of rupees discovered in the account of the man accused of killing a Swiss woman in Delhi.

According to sources, after Rs 2 crore was found during raids at the house of the accused Gurpreet Singh (33), his bank accounts were investigated, and several crores were found.

Delhi police sources said they have now sought the assistance of Income Tax officials to ascertain the source of the money.

The accused, 33-year-old Gurpreet Singh, is a resident of Janakpuri. He met Nina Berger on a dating app in 2021 while he was travelling to Zurich, Switzerland, to meet his relatives. However, police said, Singh soon started pressuring Berger into marrying him and proposed to her 5-6 times. When she refused, police said Singh started suspecting Berger of having an affair.

Berger's body was found in West Delhi last week. Singh was arrested after CCTV footage showed a "turban-clad" man and a white car near the spot, said DCP (West) Vichitra Veer.

"We have found the chains, plastic bag and other evidence he used to chain and wrap the





The deceased Nina Berger and accused (R) Gurpreet Singh

woman with before strangling her. It is still difficult to establish his motive because he has been changing his statements every hour or so. Initially, he even lied about knowing the woman or going to Switzerland," said Veer.

Meanwhile, investigators, while trying to look for murder evidence, raided Singh's house and found Rs 2 crore cash which the accused could offer no explanation for, they said. "Further checking of bank accounts and assets revealed several more crores. We are shocked since we don't know the sources but since it is in nationalised bank accounts, it can't be all black money... It could be his family's money..." said an officer. Veer refused to comment on the amount found in Singh's bank accounts.

Meanwhile, police said they are yet to receive information from the Ministry of External

Affairs and the Swiss Embassy about Berger's family. "It looks like they haven't been able to trace the woman's family. We only have a few details based on Singh's interrogation and her documents. We are seeking help from MEA to find the family at the earliest," said another officer.

Police to add human trafficking charges

On Sunday, senior officers, who refused to be named, said they are contemplating adding human trafficking charges against

Singh after analysing his phone. A source said, "We have found multiple photos of Singh with different women and girls. There are videos as well. We also found chats between him and these women/girls. We suspect he was involved in human trafficking in and around Delhi-NCR."

How a tip-off brought a murder accused former Navy man back to life after 20 years

ARNABJITSUR&JIGNASA **SINHA**

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 22

FROM ZIPPING across the neighbourhood on his rundown scooter for grocery shopping to frequently organising kirtans on the ground floor of his two-storey house and flaunting his naval background, 63-year-old Aman Verma stayed hidden in plain sight in one corner of Najafgarh in the national capital since 2011.

A tip-off by a police informer on September 28 blew the lid off the sexagenarian's carefully constructed life of nearly 20 years. With the arrest of "Aman Verma" from his house in Roshan Garden, the Crime Branch successfully resurrected Balesh Kumar from the dead after two decades.

A history-sheeter and a former Navy steward, the police said Balesh managed to evade arrest by Delhi and Rajasthan police by faking his death by killing two people in 2004.

The life and crimes of **Balesh Kumar**

Having retired from the Navy in 1996, Balesh, a resident of Uttam Nagar, started inter-state cargo transport in a truck registered in his brother Mahender's name. Four years later, Balesh, his father Chandrabhan and friend Rajesh allegedly stole crockery and other valuables from the Naval Officers Mess at Kota House on Shahjahan Road. The trio was

arrested but released on bail. In 2004, the police said, Rajesh fell out with Balesh over his inter-



101-200 Moderate 201-300 Poor

Rajesh would tell the police about their criminal activities, Balesh allegedly killed Rajesh and dumped his body in an isolated plot.

Investigators said Balesh hatched a plan to fake his death, allegedly inspired by crime shows and Hindi movies. On May 1, 2004, he went to Transport Nagar and hired labourers Mohit and Manoj, who hailed from Bihar.

According to the police, Balesh took Mohit and Manoj to Jodhpur in Rajasthan, where he plied them with liquor and food. As the duo slept in the truck, Balesh allegedly set it on fire and fled to Punjab. When the burnt truck and the bodies were discovered by police, they contacted the truck owner — Balesh's brother, Mahender.

Though DNA tests were available in 2004, Jodhpur Police dismissed the incident as an "accident". Chandrabhan was summoned to identify the charred remains and "identified" one of the bodies as his son Balesh, sources said. They said the IO simply accepted Chandrabhan's word DNA test or an autopsy. Even the Delhi Police believed the findings of the case and closed all the cases against Balesh. He was now a free man, but officially a dead one.

19-yr-long cover-up

So how did Balesh manage to stay under the radar for nearly two decades?

An investigating team led by ACP Pankaj Arora and comprising Inspector Devender Kumar, SI Ishpal and SI Mahak Singh, said Balesh got help from his family. While he played dead, his wife Santosh received over Rs 10 lakh as compensation from the Navy and the insurance company for his death — Rs 3.5 lakh for the truck and Rs 6 lakh for Balesh's "death". The police said Santosh also received a pension of around Rs 18,000 per month. On the run since Balesh's arrest, Santosh has been named as his accomplice.

For over three years after the truck incident, while Santosh and their sons lived in Uttam Nagar, Balesh started a new life in Punjab.



(Above) Balesh Kumar in earlier days, and now, at 63; (Left) the house where he lived in West Delhi with his family. Express

He got a job driving a truck. To be a little closer to his family, Balesh shifted to Panipat in 2007 and took up similar jobs. After years on the run, in 2008, Balesh realised that no one was looking for him anymore. All he needed to live with his family once again was a new identity. As luck would have it, the police said, the government launched the Aadhaar card. Balesh was now Aman Verma.

As Aman Verma, Balesh built a new house for his family. However, he realised that if he wanted to live with them once again, they would need to move to a new neighbourhood full of strangers. In 2011, the family sold off their Uttam Nagar house and moved to Naiafgarh, but his wife helped keep the charade of his death alive. Neighbours said they recall Santosh telling people that she was a "Navy officer's widow" and would introduce Balesh as "her brother-in-law Aman who lived with her and her children".

Police officers said Santosh also used her "widow status" to file pleas in courts seeking the re-

For first time this season, air

lease of her elder son Naveen from jail on humanitarian grounds, by claiming that he was the sole breadwinner. Naveen is allegedly involved in three cases.

Undoing & the arrest

For decades, the Delhi Police was unaware of the family's wrongdoings. In 2019, an informer approached an IO with information about "a man involved in a burglary who had been declared dead but was actually alive and living in Delhi for two decades". This, though, was only a drop in the ocean.

later. In September, another informer approached a Crime Branch officer and alleged that Aman was earlier in the Navy and was leaking sensitive information to "enemies". This time, the police located Balesh's case file and started working backwards. "We checked

Their luck turned a few years

with the insurance company about the compensation received by his wife. Then, we got Balesh's death certificate from the Jodhpur civic body. We analysed court documents and discovered that his family had used that death certificate to get all the court cases against him closed," said an IO.

Though the police arrested Balesh on September 28, his wife and sons managed to escape. Besides matching Balesh's fin-

gerprints with those on file, the police said DNA samples from "Aman" have matched with the DNA of Balesh's brothers.

The Crime Branch has also written to Rajasthan Police in connection with the 2004 Jodhpur

BRIEFLY

16 rescued as fire breaks out in building

New Delhi: Sixteen people, including six children, were rescued after a fire broke out in a flat in central Delhi's Subzi Mandi area on Sunday, Delhi Fire Service officials said. A call was received at around 7.40 am about the blaze on the second floor of a building and eight fire engines were pressed into service. "The police station concerned was informed as well. We have rescued 16 people comprising six children, seven women and three men," said an official.

Relief to kin of guard who died of Covid

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has directed the Centre and Safdarjung Hospital to release Rs 50 lakh to the wife of a security guard deployed at the hospital, who died on duty during the Covid-19 pandemic. The high court said the central government cannot take such a narrow approach that only such persons who were posted in the Covid-19 ward or centre will be covered by the "Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package: Insurance scheme for health workers fighting Covid-19". PTI



All Set For Dussehra

A passerby walks past decorated effigies of Ravana in Tagore Garden, West Delhi, ahead of Dussehra on Sunday. Along with Ravana, effigies of Kumbhkaran and Meghnad are also being prepared and carried to different Ramlila sites in the city to be **set ablaze on Dussehra on Tuesday.** *Renuka Puri*

Supreme Court rejects plea by management of Roshanara Club to get back possession of premises

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 22

THE SUPREME Court has rejected a plea by the management of the Roshanara Club, which was sealed following expiry of its lease, to restore possession of the premises to it.

A bench of Justices A S Oka and Pankaj Mithal said, "At this stage, there is no question of

restoring the possession of the club in favour of the petitioner as the lease granted in favour of the petitioner has expired and as of today, the authorities have not renewed the lease". The court further added that "moreover, an order of eviction under the Public (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act,

1971, has already been passed". The bench which perused the case papers said in its October 19 order that "it is very clear that the Delhi High Court has not taken any final decision on the question of allowing Delhi Development Authority to run the club. That is the reason why the High Court has said that the scheme formulated shall be circulated to the respective counsel for the parties so that everybody can be heard".

The court further said, "Therefore, at this stage, it not necessary for us to interfere with

the directions...as the same are not final. The High Court will hear the parties on the scheme before

issuing the directions..." The club had moved the top court against the October 6 order of the Delhi High Court Division Bench on a plea by the DDA challenging an April 21 order of a single bench asking the Authority not to take any coercive action against the club solely on the ground that its lease had expired.

quality dips to 'very poor' **EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

NEW DELHI. OCTOBER 22

DELHI'S AIR quality on Sunday deteriorated to the 'very poor' category, the first 'very poor' air day so far this season. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the AQI on Sunday was recorded as 313 with PM2.5 being the main pollutant; it deteriorated from 248 on Saturday. AQI from 301 to 400 is considered to be 'very poor' and can cause "respiratory illness on prolonged exposure", according to the CPCB.

A forecast issued by the Air **Quality Early Warning System** on Sunday said that the air quality is likely to be in the 'very poor' category from October 23-25. For the subsequent six days, it is likely to remain in the 'very poor' to 'poor' category. It also mentioned that the AQI on Sunday would be in the 'poor' category, but air quality deteriorated further. Meanwhile, calm conditions prevailed on Saturday night, according to the early warning system.

The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) invoked stage-II of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) on Saturday considering the forecast that pointed to the likelihood of air quality deteriorating to be in the 'very poor' category.

With the temperature beginning to dip in Delhi, the maximum and minimum temperatures were below normal on Sunday.

writings, Safvi, in her book, further

said, "Metcalfe did not use the

ground floor rooms and built a

suite of rooms in the verandah

surrounding the central hall. The

building was octagonal in shape

an oratory and two entrance halls,

and consisted of

my father's bed-

room and library.

a drawing room

and my bed-

room, a spare

bedroom and

dressing room, a

tiny room called



AQI on Sunday was recorded at 313. Abhinav Saha

To rein in dust, PWD asks engineers to install sensors at construction sites

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 22

FOLLOWING THE Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) orders, the PWD has issued a set of directions to engineers to control dust pollution at all the construction sites in the city.

The executive engineers of all the divisions have been directed to mandatorily visit their worksites for effective monitoring of dust emissions. Orders have been issued to install sensors at all construction sites to monitor particulate matter and pollution levels. and to monitor the data everyday.

The engineers have been tasked to upload details of everyday inspection on the 'Delhi E-

monitoring' Mobile App. "Engineers should check each factor responsible for causing dust pollution and suggest immediate remedial measures. The inputs collected within a period of seven days will be utilized to initiate remedial measures for mitigating dust emissions, as per CAQM guidelines." said an official.

A senior PWD official said that showcause notices will be issued to engineers, if they fail to conduct inspections. "In case of failure to carry out inspections, a showcause notice will be sent to the concerned engineer with a copy to the higher office. Any lapse in this regard shall be viewed seriously and the delinquent official shall be liable for penal action,' read a circular issued by the PWD.

to the structure by Metcalfe, au-

thor Sohail Hashmi said, "When

Thomas Metcalfe commissioned the mausoleum, he dug out the

grave of Quli Khan and trans-

formed that space into the dining

A Mughal-era tomb that served as a honeymooners' paradise for the British

VIDHEESHA KUNTAMALLA

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 22

FROM A Mughal-era mausoleum to the summer retreat of a British Governor of India, the tomb of Muhammad Quli Khan, popularly known as Dilkusha, is an example

of reuse of built heritage. According to the Department of Archaeology, in the early 17th century, the tomb was constructed for Quli Khan, son of Maham Anga — the wet nurse of

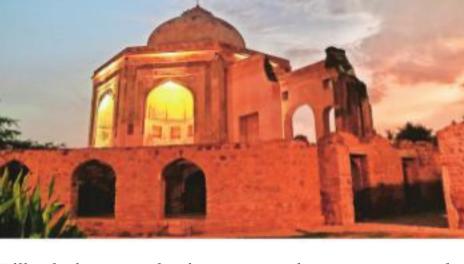
Mughal emperor Akbar. Two centuries later, somewhere between 1835 and 1853, Sir Thomas Theophilus Metcalfe, the Governor General, turned it into a residence and converted the enclosure around into a garden with terraces, watercourses and pavilions — which was at that

time called "Dilkhusha", loosely translated to something that gladdens the heart.

Situated inside what is now the Mehrauli Archaeological Park, the tomb stood on a high platform, which is octagonal in plan from outside. The interior of the mausoleum is painted with plaster work while the exterior bears designs of stucco plaster.

Last week, Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena unveiled six renovations inside the park—one among these was the tomb of Khan.

Speaking to The Indian Express, author Rana Safvi said, "I am glad to hear that Muhammad Quli Khan's tomb in Mehrauli has been recently restored. It is a very important monument for it shows the reuse of built heritage by subsequent people of influence and



Dilkusha is among the six structures that were renovated recently in Mehrauli Archaeological Park. Abhinav Saha

resources. This was done based on the authority and power wielded

It is believed that the tomb was bought by Metcalfe (1795–1853) from the descendants of Khan. "It was thereafter renamed Dilkusha and converted into his summer residence. He used the main room as his dining hall and made subsequent additions to it for his living quarters.

Some very British features were added to it, such as a boathouse and a waterfall. Not only did he enjoy the view from it during the monsoons, but he also gave it out on rent to honeymooning couples," Safvi added.

In her book Where Stones Speak: Historical Trails in Mehrauli, the First City of Delhi, Safvi wrote, "This tomb in the Mehrauli Archaeological Park is octagonal in shape and was the tomb of Mohammed Quli Khan, the brother of Adham Khan. He was Maham Anga's son and Akbar's foster brother...."

by a big stone dome".

east and west, which were In her memoirs, Emily reached by flights of steps from Metcalfe describes Dilkusha as a the outside'." "delightful residence, and a very Safvi further wrote in her book that Emily had spent her honeyquaint one, for it was originally a Mohammedan tomb surrounded

moon in Dilkusha. "Since Thomas Metcalfe was given to delusions of Highlighting Emily Metcalfe's grandeur, he made many additions to the existing tomb. He also built three or four rooms for accommodation of gentlemen in the garden, including a hammam, a bath or swimming pool in the building to entertain his guests," Safvi wrote.

PIN CODE

110001

In another part of the book, Safvi wrote, "Dilkusha

SO was charming... that according to Emily Metcalfe, when the mutiny broke out in 1857, Emperor Bahadur Shah II 'sent out a guard and took possession of the place, with strict orders that noth-

ing was to be touched, but kept strictly guarded, as the King himself intended to...live there'.' Expanding on changes made

hall and built two-storeyed structures around the mausoleum which were guest houses...' Throwing light on the water body near the structure, Hashmi said, "Aravali had a lot of streams which used to eventually reach the Jamuna. One of these was flowing in the vicinity of the mausoleum. Metcalfe diverted the stream by connecting it to another stream, which eventually would end up at the Yamuna at Tughlaqabad. It is probably that stream which he diverted into a depression to create the Boat House. That is where the lake has been created just now during the restoration."

INDO-GERMAN RELATIONS ARE STRONGER THAN EVER!

While the Germany-India love affair continues to grow in areas of common or strategic interest such as renewable energy, sustainable development, academia, culture, and defence, there's a lot more the people of both countries can and need to learn from each other, says **Achim Fabig**

he personal is political' - a phrase that goes back to feminist and civil rights movements - fitly symbolises the connection between personal experience and sociopolitical structures. In many ways, this is also true for Indo-German relations, as they grow, and rapidly so, first and foremost with the movement of people from our countries, forging ever stronger connections in the private and political arena. With the legislative groundwork laid out in last year's Comprehensive Migration and Mobility Partnership, we are experiencing a growing pull of students, professionals, and families to come to Germany.

These days, when I scan through visa applications, the number of parents, siblings, and close friends visiting their dear ones in Germany is quite striking. Grandparents wanting to support their children after childbirth, parents looking after their children, and family popping in – and while at it, travelling around Germany a bit. Today's travellers from India are often on a private journey. No small wonder, with the number of Indian students having surpassed 43,000 this year (making Indians the largest group of foreign students), the majority of blue card holders (Europe's equivalent to the US Green Card) coming from India, and the number of Indians working in STEM-related professions in Germany rising by a staggering 635% over the last ten years (let me just repeat that: 635%!). The Indian



Federal Republic of Germany in Mumbai
diaspora is growing, hovering now at about 2,47,000 and thus ranging

Consul General of the

among the top European destinations. If we were to re-invent the Big Mac-Index into the numbers of Saravana Bhavans operating in a country, out of the 11 European Saravana Bhavan restaurants currently operating, you will find five restaurants in Germany alone. The Consulate General in Mumbai alone has been issuing Schengen visas, almost twice as many as in the same period last year. As a matter of fact, the German Consulate Mumbai stands a good chance this year of becoming the second busiest visa section in the network of German missions globally.

This reflects in growing – and very balanced – bilateral trade numbers.

last year reaching more than 32.56 billion US dollars. With another increase in the first few months of 2023, India is becoming a more important trading partner, ranking higher than Vietnam and Korea. The latest rise reflects higher imports of mineral oil products from India and a growing number of machinery and chemicals from Germany. Considering that bilateral trade has been stagnant for quite some time in the early Modi years, it has seen almost dramatic growth after the pandemic (bilateral trade in 2020 was still at 21.76 billion US dollars). I do come across a lot of German companies that are very happy with business in India and are considering expanding and reporting largely double-digit growth rates.

This is being paired with a growing network of political exchange and regular forums for working groups, experts, politicians, and governments to meet. The Indo-German Strategic Partnership goes back some twenty-plus years; bilateral government negotiations have been taking place since 2012. Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have met on numerous occasions in India and Germany in the context of the G7, UN, or other forums. India's skilfully managed and executed Presidency of the G20 this year gave an excellent pretext for members of the German government to come, not just to engage with the G20 discussions on trade, the economy, health, energy, climate, or the environment, but

to add a few extra days and travel the land, meet and engage with the people, and feel and experience India first-hand.

But with all the areas of common or strategic interest defined, be it in the field of renewable energy or sustainable development, academia, culture, or defence, I believe we still can and need to work on better understanding each other. What is India today to the average German (transcending ideas of yoga, Bollywood, and beautiful travel destinations), and what is Germany to the average Indian (beyond Autobahn, Oktoberfest, and fast cars)? This lays out my work for me: where do we find old and new communalities, can we talk about them, and how. India has been particularly successful at this year's Asian Games. But did you know that some of the big names in athletics have trained in small towns in Germany? Academic cooperation between India and Germany dates back some 100 years when Einstein and Bose exchanged ideas on physics. Bombay Talkies, in its early years, had German technicians, set designers, and directors. And there are plenty of areas to be discovered, rediscovered, or put in the spotlight. I am anxiously awaiting some filmmakers to portray the lives of young Indians in Germany. They have hit literature, with Mithu Sanyal's intriguing and bestselling novel 'Identity' shortlisted for the 2021 German Book Prize. Now something for the screens, please!

ONA GOOD ROLL

Two of the world's biggest economies are looking to further strengthen their bilateral ties, says **Ivor Vaz**

Tust a few days ago, Germany commemorated the anniversary of the Unification. It's been 33 vears since 'East' and 'West' Germany reunited. After the end of World War II, Germany was split into the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic, the latter being a Soviet Union-controlled state during the Cold War period. In 1961, this split was manifested by the 155 km Berlin Wall, which didn't just stretch through Berlin, as the name might suggest, but through the entire country, separating entire families for decades. West Berlin however remained outside the jurisdiction of the GDR. A revolution in the GDR eventually led to the 'Fall of the Wall'. On November 9, 1989, the checkpoints between the two countries were opened and people were allowed to travel freely. The following year, free elections were held, which resulted in the GDR being dissolved and Germany officially reuniting on October 3, 1990.

Flash-forward to 2023. Today, Germany is regarded as a great power with a strong economy. It has the largest economy in Europe, the world's fourth-largest economy by nominal GDP and the fifth-largest by PPP. As a global power in industrial, scientific and technological sectors, it is both the world's third-largest exporter and importer. As a developed country it offers social security, a universal health care system and a tuition-free university

From an Indian standpoint, Germany is one of its most important partners in the EU. India was among the first countries to establish diplomatic ties with the Federal Republic of Germany after World War II. On March 7, 2021, India and Germany marked the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Since India embarked on a course of reform and opened up its economy in 1991, the volume of trade between the two countries has increased rapidly. India and Germany have had a



Chancellor Olaf Scholz and PM Narendra Modi

'Strategic Partnership' since May 2000, which has been further strengthened with the launch of Intergovernmental Consultations in 2011 at the level of Heads of Government which allows for a comprehensive review of cooperation and identification of new areas of engagement. India is among a select group of countries with which Germany has such a dialogue mechanism.

Only last month, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Olaf Scholz, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in New Delhi. It's worth noting that this was Scholz's second visit to India this year, following his State Visit to India in February 2023.

The bonhomie between the two leaders is not to be missed. While the German Chancellor congratulated the Indian PM on the success of the G20 Presidency, the latter thanked Germany for its support during India's G20 Presidency, marked by high-level participation at various G20 meetings and events. Scholz and Modi also reviewed the progress in their bilateral Strategic Partnership. They discussed ways to deepen cooperation in areas like defence, green and sustainable development, critical minerals, mobility of skilled personnel and education. The leaders also exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest.



ELECTION IN NUMBERS

With each polling booth restricted to 1,500 voters, the Election Commission has allotted nearly 1.8 lakh booths in the five states

CHHATTISGARH • MADHYA PRADESH • MIZORAM • RAJASTHAN • TELANGANA

PINK BOLLWORM HITS SRI GANGANAGAR, HANUMANGARH

Echo in Rajasthan cotton belt: 'Will Cong or BJP govt compensate for loss?'

Days before poll dates came, Gehlot govt announced a Rs 1,125-cr relief package. Farmers say money has not reached

ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA HANUMANGARH, SRI GANGANAGAR, OCTOBER 22

FOR KHUBI Ram Godara, the November 25 Assembly elections are far from mind.

The 47-year-old from 2 C village in Sri Ganganagar district of northern Rajasthan is only worried about the paltry 35 kg of *narma* (raw un-ginned cotton) harvested from 1 of his total 20 bigha (12.5 acres) land under the crop.

"Picking is still on in 19 bighas, but the vields will be more or less the same even there. In normal conditions, I get around 7 quintals (700 kg) per bigha," says Godara, who has brought his produce to the wholesale APMC (Agricultural Produce Market Committee) mandi in Sri Ganganagar.

This farmer's crop — like that of many in Rajasthan's two major cotton-growing districts of Sri Ganganagar and Hanumangarh has been destroyed by gulabi *sundi* or pink bollworm. The 20 bighas on which Godara sowed cotton include 13 taken on an annual lease of Rs 22,000 per bigha. At the market rate of Rs 6,500 per quintal, the 35 kg he has harvested would be worth Rs 2,275 — not even covering his cultivation cost of Rs 15,000-16,000 per bigha.

"Will the party in the state (Congress) or in the Centre (BJP) compensate me for my crop loss? Even if I take out my anger on the day of elections, will it be of any help?" asks Godara. This belief is almost universal among cotton

growers in Rajasthan, which has seen an all-time-high 8.25 lakh hectares area sown with cotton this kharif season.

Most farmers The Indian Express spoke to reported narma yields of 1.5-2 quintals per bigha — the average is 6-7 quintals. The pink pest has literally taken the shine off the White Gold.

The two districts account for 11 Assembly constituencies (six in Sri Ganganagar, including two reserved, and five in Hanumangarh, including one reserved). Officials put the number of families in each district involved in agriculture activities at around three lakh. Almost every farmer in the two districts grows cotton.

Along with Bikaner, the two saw area under cotton cultivation jump 24% to 5.25 lakh hectares. Lower Rajasthan districts Bhilwara, Nagaur and Merta (around 3.10 lakh hectares) also grow cotton, but their crop has been safe from pink bollworm. The young larvae of the pest

burrow into the bolls or fruits of the cotton plant in which the white lint fibre and seeds grow. The infestation starts around 40-45 days of the crop's duration of 170-180 days. The pest's own short life cycle of 25-35 days enables at least 3-4 generations in a single season.

"The larvae are small and not easily visible. Pesticides are useless since these can only be sprayed on the plants or outside of the bolls, whereas the larvae do all their work inside," says Gurmail Singh, a 40-bigha farmer of Akkanwali village in Sri Ganganagar.

The Ashok Gehlot-led gov-



A group of cotton growers and labourers at the Hanumangarh produce market. Express



THE BOLLWORM DAMAGE

Seats won in Ganganagar & Hanumangarh in 2018: **BIP: 5; Cong: 4; Others: 2**

6 lakh No. of farmer families in the two districts

vield in good kharif

1.5-2 quintals/

bigha: Average

yield this kharif

bigha: Normal

6 quintals/

5.25 lakh hectares (up 24%) Total area sown in upper Rajasthan (Ganganagar, Hanumangarh, Bikaner)

ernment announced a Rs 1,125crore relief package a couple of days before the poll schedule was announced. However, says Singh, who sowed cotton on 25 of his 40 bighas and guar (cluster bean) on the rest, "We only heard about it, but haven't got any compensation. Officials haven't even come to do girdawari (crop loss assessment)."

ANAND MOHAN J

BHOPAL, OCTOBER 22

IN POLL-BOUND Madhya

Pradesh, discontent in sections of

the ruling BJP and the Opposition

Congress has intensified over can-

didate lists. Over the last few days

angry BJP workers held protests at

the party's offices and surrounded

Union ministers, while Congress

workers burnt effigies of senior

leaders. Here is a look at the dis-

senting voices in the two parties.

"I planted cotton on 5 bighas more from last year. Normally I harvest 7-8 quintals per bigha over three *chugai* (pickings). This time, I got an average of 1.5-2 quintals. Sab kuchh ek hi chugai mein khatam ho gaya (the entire crop was harvested in a single picking)," he says.

At the Hanumangarh Town APMC, Baljinder Singh says: "If it was serious, the government should have announced the compensation earlier (before the Model Code of Conduct). The impact of the pest was known over two months back."

Other farmers around such as Sukhdev Singh, Madan Lal, Vinod Kumar agree. They want compensation of Rs 50,000 per bigha. However, none is vocal about

how this will play out come polling day. "That we will decide closer to the date. Let us see what they (the parties) promise."

Ashok Nath Pal has brought the first picking of 40 quintals narma from his 47 bighas. He expects a similar harvest from his second and final picking around 10 days from now. "My total yield won't be more than 2 quintals per bigha," says the farmer from Kulchasar in Hanumangarh.

The extent of crop loss can also be gauged by market arrivals. October is usually the peak marketing season for cotton, when the APMC mandi in northern Rajasthan is bustling. This time it is hard to find farmers with small heaps of *narma* both in the Sri Ganganagar and Hanumangarh APMC yards.

Labourers who pick the cotton or handle the crop at the mandis have also been hit. "We are sitting idle the whole day, as there is very little work. I haven't seen such low arrivals of narma in my five years here. We will not be able to earn even half of what we normally do in the season," says Manish Sahu, a labourer at Sri Ganganagar APMC.

In this district's main market yard, hardly 7,000 quintals of narma has arrived so far in the current season, from September end, compared to over 15,000 quintals last year during the same period.

In Hanumangarh Town APMC Mandi, 2.68 lakh quintals of the crop arrived in the previous year. This year, arrivals have totalled just around 86,000 quintals as on date.

party workers waving black flags

Khategaon have quit over "Joshi

being parachuted into their con-

stituency," a party worker said.

SEWDA

Several party leaders from

Damodar Singh Yadav, the

president of the party's state OBC

unit, resigned after he lost out to

Ghanshyam Singh, a member of

former CM Digvijaya Singh's

camp. After the announcement,

his supporters burnt effigies of

Digvijaya and his son Jaivardhan

seat on the Azad Samaj Party's

ticket. In a jibe at Digvijaya, he said,

"A feudal leader wants to make his

incompetent son the CM and, un-

der his influence, Kamal Nath is...

son Jaivardhan's car was sur-

rounded by irate party workers

over Pankaj Kaneria bagging the

ticket. Three leaders from the dis-

trict were vying for the ticket with

their supporters demanding a lo-

cal candidate be named instead.

J P Dhanopia said, "There is

anger, it is natural... Kamal Nath

and Digvijaya Singh are speak-

ing to them... and they are cool-

ing their tempers. Once we form

the government, the disgruntled

leaders will come back smiling."

Congress state vice-president

In Digvijaya's stronghold, his

Yadav will now contest the

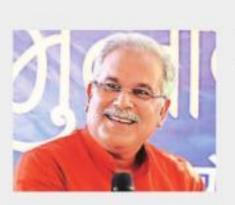
in Bhopal on Saturday.

taking wrong decisions."

GUNA

while he was out campaigning.

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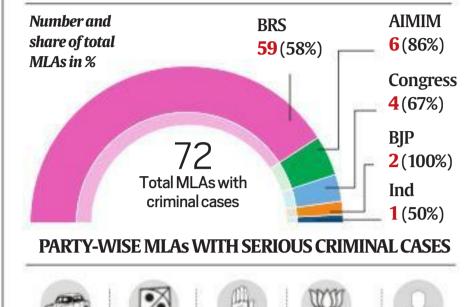


• KEY PLAYERS

IN CHHATTISGARH, **CONGRESS IS BANKING ON** THESE FIVE FACES

BJP STEADIES RAJASTHAN BOAT: RAJE. LOYALISTS, LOCAL LEADERS IN 2ND LIST

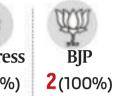
NUMBER SPEAK



TELANGANA: MLAS WITH CRIMINAL CASES

BRS AIMIM 38(38%) 2 (29%)







Note: Serious cases include offences for which the punishment is five years or more, bribery, assault, murder, kidnapping, rape, and crimes against women Source: Election Commission

Four women MLAs since its formation, Mizoram fray sets a higher glass ceiling

SUKRITA BARUAH GUWAHATI, OCTOBER 22

AMONG THE 174 candidates in Mizoram who have filed their nominations for the November 7 Assembly poll, 16 are women. But as they head into the electoral battle, the odds are stacked against them: The 40-member Assembly currently does not have a single woman legislator and has seen only four women MLAs since its formation.

Currently, of the women candidates in the fray, three are from the BJP and two each from the Mizo National Front (MNF) Zoram People's Movement (ZPM), and the Congress. The rest are Independents.

Of these women candidates, only the Congress nominee, Vanlalawmpuii Chawngthu, has been an MLA previously. She is contesting from the Aizawl-II seat.

Chawngthu won the Hrangturzo seat in the 2014 bypoll and became the state's first woman MLA since 1987. She was subsequently inducted into the then Congress ministry and allotted the sericulture, fisheries and cooperation portfolios.

However, Chawngthu lost the 2018 elections — she was then the only woman candidate fielded by the Congress — as the state returned to an Assembly without any women representatives. The MNF, which formed the government, had not fielded a single woman candidate in 2018. Of the 16 women who had contested, all but two forfeited their deposits.

In the 2013 polls, only eight women were in the fray. The state, however, has a higher number of



Congress candidate Vanlalawmpuii Chawngthu

female electors, who register larger voting percentage than male voters.

Currently, there are 4,38,925 female electors and 4,12,969 male electors in Mizoram. In 2018, 81.09% women voted, while there 78.92% men voted.

The Challenges

R Biaktluangi, the BJP's Lunglei West candidate, says she is the first woman to be fielded in this constituency. "I feel I am in a strong position. This is the first time for the people here to have a woman candidate but they are being very kind," says Biaktluangi, 65, who has worked for 42 years in the state government.

Baryl Vanneihsangi, 32, a corporator in the Aizawl Mizoram Council, has been fielded by the ZPM from Aizawl South-III. She says it is important for her to change the perceptions about

"We are fighting among men, but I take it as a challenge and not a disadvantage. People think they will be ruled by a woman MLA But we are not going to be giving orders. We will work for them and raise the voices of the unheard,

women MLAs with her campaign.

Vanneihsangi said.

Goud, a Supreme Court advocate

who moved to Delhi after several

years of practice at the High Court.

From 2004 to 2009, Goud was a

Government Pleader in the

Andhra Pradesh High Court.

All its 2018 MLAs now in Cong, why BSP still has its hopes up in Rajasthan



LALMANI VERMA

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 22

AT A time when it has been on a

steady electoral decline, especially

in Uttar Pradesh, the Bahujan

Samaj Party (BSP) is optimistic

about its chances in Rajasthan de-

spite the setback of seeing all six

of its MLAs jump ship to the

Congress in 2019. And the major

reason is the impact it had on the

200 seats in 2018, winning 4.03%

of the vote, the third-largest after

the Congress and BIP. But what

gives the party a boost going into

the election next month is that in

30 seats, it had polled more votes

than the victory margin. This in-

dicates that while it did not man-

age to win those seats, it damaged

the prospects of the runner-up

the Congress won 17, BJP 10, and

Independents three. The most

Of these 30 constituencies,

and had a say in who won.

The BSP contested 190 of the

Assembly elections last time.

In 2018, BSP had won more votes than the victory margin in 30 seats

heavily hit was the BJP, losing 17 seats on account of the BSP — the Congress took 16 and one went to an Independent. Had the BJP won all those seats, its tally would have gone up from 73 to 90 and the Congress's would have dropped from 100 to 84. For the Congress, the damage count due to the BSP was 11, including nine seats bagged by the BIP and two by Independents.

left to join the Congress. such moves of MLAs."

The party has so far named 12 candidates but plans to contest all 200 seats, said state president Bhagwan Singh Baba, adding that the BSP was focusing on 60 seats where it has won or finished second and third in past polls.

Post 2018 elections, all six BSP

Explaining what was different this time, a BSP leader said, "Our MLAs went there to be part of power. This time, the party is more cautiously selecting candidates. The party has also kept the doors open for a post-poll alliance... to prevent

JABALPUR NORTH Angry supporters of BIP leader Sharad Jain created ruckus at the party office in Jabalpur Saturday, where they cornered Union minister Bhupender Yadav. They refused to listen to Yadav and when a security guard tried to intervene, he was assaulted. The local police have registered an FIR over the in-

> been arrested. Jain won the Jabalpur North seat in 2003, 2008 and 2013, but lost in 2018 by 578 votes. His supporters were expecting Jain to get a ticket again but the party named Abhilash Pandey instead.

cident and three persons have

A BJP leader from Jabalpur said, "The party should give tickets to those who do well in surveys. We don't know what (state leaders) are thinking."

Ticket anger in MP: Union ministers,

seniors feel the heat in both Cong, BJP

Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia sitting with angry party workers outside the Jai Vilas Palace in Gwalior Sunday. Express

GWALIOR EAST

On Sunday, supporters of Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia loyalist and ex-MLA Munnalal Goyal lay down in front of Scindia's car in Gwalior to protest against the BJP's decision to field Maya Singh from the seat. In 2018, Goyal won the seat as a Congress candidate. But after de-

fecting to the BJP, he lost the ensuing bypoll to the Congress. A Goyal supporter said, "Somebody who is unable to even walk has been made the candidate there. We are serving the seat

to the Congress on a platter." **CHURAI** BJP leader Ramesh Dubey's supporters protested at the BIP district office after Lakhan Verma was given a ticket from Churai.

The angry crowd raised slogans

AADAR Party

against Union minister Prahlad Patel and tried to resign enmasse.

Dubey had won the 2013 poll in former CM Kamal Nath's Chhindwara district bastion.

State secretary Rajneesh Agrawal said BJP leaders are actively "troubleshooting" against the discontent. "Our organisation will successfully talk to disgruntled leaders and they will fight for the party," he said.

Congress KHATEGAON

Former minister Deepak Joshi, who joined the Congress from the BJP five months ago, was fielded from Khategaon, which half a dozen party leaders were eyeing.

Joshi, the son of senior BJP leader and former CM Kailash Ioshi, was met with protesting

Yuga Thulasi Party:

symbol road roller The Yuga Thulasi Party was founded in 2016 by Kolisetty Shiva Kumar, 46, a businessman, agriculturist and social worker, who runs a large cow shelter on the

Incidentally, the party had also contested the Munugode bypoll, winning 1,880 votes. Then too, the BRS had opposed the allotment of the road roller symbol to it.

Founder Kumar is famous for another reason. It was he who actually "founded" the Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party, now better known as the YSRCP. in 2010. A staunch follower of the late Congress leader Y S Rajashekara Reddy, he "handed over" the party to his son YS Jagan Mohan Reddy in May 2011. The YSRCP, of course, is now the dominant party of Andhra Pradesh.

He says he founded the Yuva Thalasi Party to promote protection of the cow and thalasi (tulsi). "I want the cow to be declared as our national animal," he says.

Alliance of Democratic Reforms Party; symbol chapatti roller

Goud says he founded the party with the aim of "encouraging people from the backward classes to join mainstream politics". "We want as many backward class candidates as possible to contest elections. Our motto is to see a backward class person as Telangana CM by 2028. We will

field candidates in all 119 constituencies and give 60% tickets to backward classes," Goud says.

MORE THAN A SYMBOL

The case of the road roller and the chapatti roller which look 'too much like car'

SREENIVAS JANYALA HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 22

THE SUPREME Court on Friday refused to entertain a petition filed by the ruling Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS) in Telangana, challenging the allotment of election symbols that it said were similar to its car symbol. The BRS had objected to the symbols 'road roller' and 'chapatti roller', allotted to a 'Yuga Thulasi Party' and 'Alliance of Democratic Reforms Party', respectively.

The BRS contended that on the EVMs, these symbols looked too

much like its car symbol and would confuse voters. The Supreme Court, how-

ever, declined its petition, saying voters were intelligent enough to differentiate between a car and a road roller.

Earlier, weeks before the Munugode bypoll in November 2022, the BRS had similarly expressed apprehension over symbols allotted to new political parties and Independents. In its petition to the Election Commission (EC), it had urged that symbols such as road roller, camera, *chapatti* roller, television, ship, sewing machine and soap

dish not be allotted, calling them too similar to its symbol.

The BRS had also moved the Telangana High Court at the time, urging it to direct the EC to request its petition. Then too, the court had dismissed the plea, saying it cannot interfere in a by-election with the poll panel having set the process in motion.

BRS leader Ravula Sridhar Reddy said the party had reason to be anxious. "We have lost votes in several seats in the past due to confusion among voters."

According to the party, at least four of its candidates had lost previously for this reason, or



the Alliance of Democratic **Reforms Party**

won very narrowly.

BRS leaders give the example

of the 2014 election loss of its can-

the Nagarkurnool parliamentary constituency, with over 50,000 votes going to an Independent candidate allotted the symbol 'auto-rickshaw' that, they said, resembled the BRS's car. Another example the party cites is the Dubbaka bypoll in

didate Manda Jaganaddam from

2020, which the BRS won by a slender margin of 1,400 votes, and where Independent candidate Bandaru Nagaraju had the chapatti roller symbol and polled more than 3,700 votes. These are the two parties over

whose symbols the BRS is apprehensive this time:

outskirts of Hyderabad.

The party was founded in April

by 62-year-old E Seshagiri Rao

GOVT & POLITICS

Modi, ministers wish Amit Shah on birthday

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 22

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi heaped praises on Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation Amit Shah on his birthday Sunday, calling him an 'outstanding administrator' and lauding his "contributions to enhancing India's security apparatus".

Wishing him a "long life and wonderful health", the PM tweeted that Shah "He has made a mark as an outstanding administrator, making notable contributions to enhancing India's security apparatus and further developing the cooperatives sector".

leaders including Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Foreign Minister S Jaishankar, Union Minister Smriti Iirani, BJP President J P Nadda and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath lauded Amit Shah on his birthday.

Several other ministers and

Raja Singh, 3 MPs find place in BJP first list of 52 Year after being suspended for remark

SREENIVAS JANYALA HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 22

REVOKING HIS suspension from the party, the BJP on Sunday named controversial MLAT Raja Singh, who was arrested last year for his alleged remarks against the Prophet, in its first list of 52 candidates for the November 30 Telangana Assembly elections.

The party also fielded three sitting MPs — former state unit president Bandi Sanjay Kumar, Dharmapuri Arvind and Soyam Bapu Rao. The BJP's decision to renominate Raja Singh from his Goshamahal seat came after the MLA said he would contest as an Independent if the party did not revoke his suspension and give him a ticket.

In a statement on Sunday, Telangana BJP chief and Union

against the Prophet, MLA gets ticket Minister G Kishan Reddy said the BJP central disciplinary committee's decision to revoke the MLA's suspension came after "due consideration of his explanation" in response to the showcause notice served by the party.

> Among the other candidates named in the first list, the BJP has fielded its state election committee head and MLA, Etela Rajender, from his existing seat Huzurabad as well as Gajwel.

> > In Gajwel, Rajender is pitted

against Chief Minister and BRS supremo K Chandrashekar Rao or KCR, who is also contesting from Kamareddy. Party MP and former state unit president Bandi Sanjay Kumar has been fielded from Karimnagar. In the December 2018 Assembly elections, Kumar had lost from the same seat but went on to win from the Karimnagar Lok Sabha constituency just months later



BIP MLAT Raja Singh celebrates after his suspension was revoked, in Hyderabad on Sunday. PTI

DECISION

2023

in May 2019.

Of the two other MPs fielded by the BJP in the Assembly polls, Dharmapuri Arvind will contest from Koratla while Soyam Bapu Rao will fight from Boath.

In 2019, Arvind had handed a shock defeat to then incumbent BRS MP K Kavitha, KCR's daughter, in the tary seat. Rao had also pulled off a surprise win by trouncing the BRS's

Nizamabad parliamen-

Nagesh. The BJP has named

BJP chief spokesperson K sitting MP from Krishna Sagar Rao said that Adilabad Godam Reddy is a Union Minister as

12 women candidates in TELANGANA its first list. They include Sridevi from

dened". BJP leaders said the party has given importance to women and candidates from backward classes in its first list.

Amarajula Bellampalli (SC), T Aruna Tara from Jukkal

UP forms SIT to probe madrasa foreign funding

MANISH SAHU

LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 22

THE UTTAR Pradesh government has formed a three-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by an Additional Director General rank officer to probe funds received from abroad by madrasas across the

There are around 25,000 madrasas in Uttar Pradesh and over 16,500 of them are recognised by the Uttar Pradesh Board of Madrasa Education.

"During the probe, we will check the accounts of madrasas which are receiving funds from abroad. We will see how the money received through foreign funding is spent. Is the money being used to run the madrasas or for any other activities," said Additional Director General, ATS, Mohit Agarwal, who is heading the SIT. The other two members of the SIT are the director of the Minority Welfare Department and the Superintendent of Police, Cyber

The government has not given any specific time period or financial year from which the transactions will be checked.

The SIT is likely to focus more on madrasas active in districts located along the India-Nepal border, including Siddharth Nagar, Bahraich, Shrawasti, Balrampur and Maharajganj.

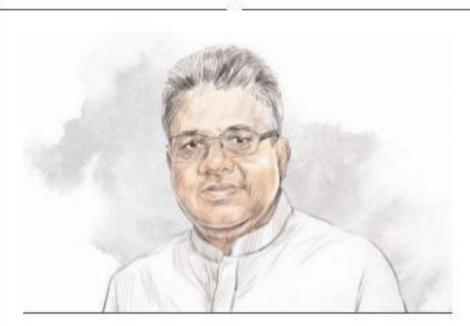
Sources said the SIT would check if such foreign funds are used for any illegal activities, including terror and religious conversion.

In January this year, the government had ordered district magistrates in the districts bordering Nepal to conduct a probe into the source of funding of unrecognised madrasas that declared zakat (money from charity) and donations as their primary source of funds.

Minister for Minority Welfare, Muslim Waqf and Haj Dharmpal Singh had then said that there are several madrasas in the areas along the Nepal border that have reported zakat and donations as their chief source of funds. But survey teams found that people living in these areas are poor and not able to give zakat and donations. Such madrasas have been identified and directions issued for rechecking their source of funding. These madrasas were not revealing names of their donors, Singh had said, adding that it appeared that the funds could be from outside.

In August last year, the Yog Adityanath-led government had directed district magistrates to conduct a survey of unrecognised madrasas. During the two-month survey, 8,449 madrasas which were not recognised by the state madrasa education board were found to be functioning.

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



TICKET, TROUBLE

UNION MINISTER Bhupender Yadav, who is in-charge of BJP's electioneering in Madhya Pradesh, faced a tough time dealing with supporters of ticket aspirants in Jabalpur the other day. A video has surfaced in which a security officer is seen latching on to his gun when the minister was mobbed by the disgruntled supporters of those who missed a place in the list of candidates. Yadav, however, looked unfazed as he called the party workers inside a room and calmed them down. Sources close to the minister said the officer in the video was not his personal security officer as he [Yadav] doesn't keep one. Insiders say such situations do crop up and the party should be prepared to handle them.

SPEAKING SPREE

Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud nowadays is on a visit to the United States where engagements are keeping him busy. On Saturday, he spoke at Harvard Law School, his alma mater, on the state of the legal profession and the role of the judiciary in India, and was presented with the 'Award for Global Leadership'. He delivered the keynote address of the Sixth International Conference on the Unfinished Legacy of Dr B R Ambedkar at Brandeis University. On Monday, he will speak at Georgetown University Law Center on comparative constitutional law, and share the stage with former associate justice of the US Supreme Court Stephen Breyer.

Moitra stand clear, TMC awaits House panel report, says Derek

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA KOLKATA, OCTOBER 22

THE TRINAMOOL Congress on Sunday said since its MP Mahua Moitra has already clarified her stand on the allegations of bribe for questions raised, the party would now await the probe by the parliamentary ethics committee as the matter has to do with "her rights and privileges".

Rajya Sabha MP Derek O'Brien said that Moitra "has been advised by the party leadership to clarify her position... She has already done that... let the matter be investigated by the right forum..."

Earlier, the TMC had distanced itself from the controversy — the allegation that Moitra had accepted favours from Darshan Hiranandani, the CEO of group Hiranandani, in exchange for raising questions in Parliament.

repeats 15 ministers, 15 MLAs Cabinet ministers Shanti Dhariwal AINEC **HAMZAKHAN**

Cong releases list of 43 names,

THE CONGRESS on Sunday declared its second list of 43 candidates for the Rajasthan Assembly elections, mostly names of sitting ministers and MLAs from their



current seats, apart from accommodating five Independent MLAs who have supported the Ashok Gehlot government. The list in-

cludes Cabinet ministers, five Ministers of State and 15 sitting MLAs apart from the Independent MLAs. The party also named seven candidates from seats currently being held by the BJP. The only MLA to be "dropped" is Shafia Zubair from Ramgarh. The party has fielded her husband Zubair Khan instead from the seat. So far, the party has now announced candidates for 76 out of the total 200 seats.

Chief Minister Gehlot's imprint is apparent on the names an-

Backing his MLAs: CM'

 return gift MLAs: CM's

CHIEF MINISTER Ashok Gehlot has been keen to repeat the sitting MLAs, despite possible anti-incumbency against them, as they had stuck to him and saved his government twice – in 2020 and in 2022. The two candidates' lists so far clearly show that Gehlot has had his way with the Congress high command.

nounced so far, with the party repeating almost all sitting MLAs as well as supporting Independents. Gehlot camp has credited the MLAs for saving his government twice, during the 2020 rebellion and in September 2022, when the party high command apparently wanted to replace Gehlot with Sachin Pilot as the CM.

However, three Gehlot loyalists who were the architects of the 2022 "rebellion" did not figure in the second list either. They are

and Mahesh Joshi, and Dharmendra Rathore, Chairman Rajasthan Tourism of Development Corporation.

The Cabinet ministers who have retained their seats include Bulaki Das Kalla (Bikaner West). Govind Ram Meghwal (Khajuwala), Pratap Singh Khachariyawas (Civil Lines), Shakuntala Rawat (Bansur) and Vishvendra Singh (Deeg Kumher). The Ministers of State who have retained their seats are Brijendra Singh Ola (Jhunjhunu), Rajendra Singh Yadav (Kotputli), Murari Lal Meena (Dausa), Sukhram Vishnoi (Sanchore), and Arjun Singh Bamniya (Banswara). So far, 21 out of 30 ministers, including CM Gehlot, have been given tickets.

The 15 MLAs who have been repeated include Raghu Sharma (Kekri), Mahendra Choudhary (Nawan), Ameen Kagzi (Kishanpol), Rafeek Khan (Adarsh Nagar) and Rohit Bohra (Raja Khera).

The five Independents fielded are Babulal Nagar (Dudu), Laxman Meena (Bassi), Om Prakash Hudla (Mahwa), Khushveer Singh (Marwar Junction) and Sanyam Lodha (Sirohi).

Cong releases third list of 7; drops 4 MLAs

Chhattisgarh

Annapurnamma Aleti from

Balakonda, Boga Sravani from

Rani from Ramagundem and

brother of state minister and BRS

leader Errabelli Dayakar Rao

Rao resigned from the BRS in

August last year to join the BJP.

Former TDP MP from Adilabad

Ramesh Rathod, who joined the

BJP in 2021, has been nominated

from Khanapur (ST), from where

Reddy, who is the Secunderabad

MP, is not contesting. Telangana

well, so "he is not being bur-

Twenty of the 52 candidates be-

long to the backward classes.

State BJP chief G Kishan

he won in 1999.

The party has also given ticket to Errabelli Pradeep Rao,

Megha Rani from Chariminar.

Raipur: The Congress on Sunday declared its third list of the remaining seven MLA candidates for the Chhattisgarh Assembly polls in which four more MLAs have lost their tickets, making it a total of 22 MLAs losing tickets of the total 90 seats.

Sitting MLAs Ambica Singh Deo of Baikhuntpur and Kuldeep Juneja, from the Raipur city north have been retained. The four MLAs who lost tickets were Kismat Lal Nand, who has been replaced by Chaturi Nand, a local SC leader. Vinod Chandrakar was replaced by Rashmi Chandrakar, the party's district head. Shakuntala Sahu lost her seat to Sandeep Sahu, a youth leader. Lakshmi Dhruw lost her ticket to Ambika Markam, a former MLA.

In Dhamtari, Congress has fielded a new face, Omkar Sahu. "The 22 MLAs lost their tickets based on feedback of Congress workers," said party spokesperson Vikas Bajaj.

Four more women have been given tickets in the final list, taking the total tally of women candidates to 22.

NCBC hearing on Bengal demand to include 87 castes in OBC list on Nov 3

New Delhi: The National Commission for Backward Classes will be holding a hearing on November 3 on the proposal of the West Bengal government to include 87 castes in the OBC list. In a notice to the West Bengal

government, the NCBC has also sought information from the state government under various heads.

Among the information sought are caste-wise details of the candidates selected in the 87 OBC castes, caste-wise details of Class III, Class IV and Safai

Committed to cause of Marathas,

Karmacharis, details of scholarships disbursed to the students belonging to the 87 OBC castes in the educational institutions run under the state during the last three years and the current year and the caste-wise details of the beneficiaries thereof.

The NCBC said it had recommended that the reservation of OBCs in state should be increased from 17 per cent to 22 per cent, but till date no positive action has been taken on the recommendation of the commission.

RESERVATION FOR MARATHAS ROW

Protest leader threatens fast again, bans entry of politicians in villages

VALLABH OZARKAR MUMBAI, OCTOBER 22

ASTHE deadline of October 24 set for the state government to announce reservation for the Maratha community is set to expire, Manoj Jarange Patil, the Jalna-based activist, who became the face of agitation after he sat on hunger strike last month, has warned of intensifying the stir if the demand is not met by Tuesday.

Announcing that he would start fast-unto-death again and will not allow any politician to enter the villages, Patil said, "No political leader will be allowed in our villages until the issue is resolved. If you want to come to our villages, come with the reservation.



A banner proclaiming a ban on entry of politicians. Express

If not, we will not even let you cross the village borders." He was speaking at a press conference in Antarwali Saraati village in Jalna district where he had fasted for 17 days, demanding reservation for the Maratha community.

Nearly 600 villages with size-

able numbers of Maratha community members have imposed a ban on politicians till the Maratha reservation issue is resolved. The villagers have put up banners saying "no entry to politicians till the Marathas get reservation". Some villages have passed resolutions while some have written to the authorities informing about the same. Some have also passed resolutions to boycott the upcoming elections.

"The government had asked for 30 days, we gave them 40 days. Now, if justice is not delivered on October 24, I will start hunger strike again from October 25... I will not even take a medical assistance or water," Patil said. adding that from October 25, political leaders will be banned in villages.

says Shinde; asks for more time **EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 22

CHIEF MINISTER Eknath Shinde on Sunday said the state government, led by him and the two deputy CMs Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar, is committed to provide reservation to Marathas and implored the community members to keep patience and not take any extreme steps.

Shinde appealed to Marathas to give the government some time and assured them that the state will fulfill the promise of reservation to them.

"I have promised to secure reservation for Marathas... please do not take any extreme steps like suicide. The state government is trying its best to provide reservation that fits within the frame-



Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde at Durge Durgeshwari temple in Thane, Sunday. PTI

also stand in the court and is long lasting," said CM Shinde in Thane, Sunday. The appeal comes in the wake of a third alleged suicide in Marathwada on Saturday.

Earlier a Maratha activist

work of the law, and which will from Jalna had allegedly died by suicide in Mumbai last week. While interacting with the

> press in Thane, the CM elaborated on the effort being made by the state government on the

Surat diamond workers face gloomy Diwali as conflicts abroad hit business

KAMAAL SAIYED SURAT. OCTOBER 22

IN A normal year, Diwali is the time for sales boom, and salary bonus and gifts for workers, in diamond hub Surat. But this year, thousands of skilled diamond polishers engaged in the sector are staring at a gloomy picture and a possible salary cut. This is because of a slowdown in business, primarily due to conflicts abroad, first the Russia-Ukraine war and then the Israel-Hamas war, according

to diamond traders. With the supply chain from mining to the diamond market hit, Harshad Sanghani (36), who migrated from Amreli district to Surat 15 years ago to become a diamond polisher, said he is not sure

if his employer will reopen his factory in Katargam after Diwali.

Diwali to Christmas marks the peak sales period for diamond business, but this year the diamond units are saddled with a large unsold inventory, with a slowdown in the biggest markets the US and China. Diamond businessmen are not sure if they can give Diwali bonuses and some have even reduced working hours to five days a week.

Last month, the national Gems & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), in a letter to the industry, appealed for a freeze on import of rough diamonds from October 15 to December 15, given the large inventories of unsold finished diamonds.

One of Surat's top diamond manufacturers, Hari Krishna

Exports, which claims to have more than 8,000 "skilled assets" and is famous for giving away flats, cars, scooters and jewellery to its employees on Diwali, said it has no such plan for gifts this year. Its promoter Savji Dholakia

told *The Indian Express*, "Business is not doing well this year. We have not witnessed such a recession in the diamond industry. The diamond factory owners are somehow running the factories, their capital jammed, trying to maintain their brand image. Every year, we give gifts during Diwali, this year there will be no gifts to the diamond polishers." With uncertainty looming,

Sanghani, who earns Rs 25,000 a month from polishing diamonds, said his wife has taken up a job of embellishing saris. The couple



Over 6 lakh workers are engaged in the 5,000 diamond units

have three school-going children. "We had a good Diwali last year. This year, the industry is not

doing well and we also understand the situation of factory owners. We are getting less salary and

ing children, and also to pay the house rent, it is difficult. We are also not sure if our factory will reopen after Diwali. I have started looking for jobs in another sector in Surat. If nothing goes well, I will return to my native place and start farming," said Sanghani. Surat has nearly 5,000 dia-

to run a family of three school-go-

mond units employing over 6 lakh workers, and polishes 8 of 10 diamonds in the world.

The downslide began after the US imposed sanctions on one of the biggest diamond miners, Alrosa, in Russia in April last year, after it went to war with Ukraine. And just when the diamond industry was exploring new markets in smaller countries of the Far East like Cambodia, Vietnam and the Gulf countries late September,

the Israel-Hamas war broke out. raising concerns. Although small. Israel is a market for diamonds exported from Surat.

With the slowdown in the US and China markets, the GJEPC had on September 29 organised a two-day international Buyer Seller Meet for gems and jewellery in Mumbai, which was attended by over 30 buyers from the UAE, Egypt, China, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Panama and US.

GJEPC Chairman Vipul Shah said, "The gem and iewellery industry has encountered its fair share of difficulties in recent times, primarily due to decreased demand caused by global economic downturns and geopolitical instability. Nevertheless, we are dedicated to enhancing exports by exploring new markets..."

gross exports of cut and polished diamonds fell by 9.78 % in the financial year ending March 2023 while imports of rough diamonds fell by 8.42%, compared to the previous financial year. Gross imports from April 2023 to September 2023 fell by 20.81 % compared to the corresponding period last year. The exports of finished diamonds show a decline of 28.76 % in the same period this year. Rakesh Patodiya (60), owner of Vaishali gems at Katargam

GIEPC data shows the overall

which employs 500 diamond polishers, said his business went down by 50%. "Last year, we gave one month's salary as bonus to our employees and this year we are not in a position to even give them their full salary and our employees are aware of this," he said.

WORDLY WISE

THERE ARE NO MILITARY SOLUTIONS — DIALOGUE AND DIPLOMACY ARE THE ONLY GUARANTEE OF

LASTING PEACE. — MARTIN McGuinness

The Indian EXPRESS

∽ FOUNDED BY ∽ RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

DIPLOMACY IN CRISIS

President Biden in Israel leads western effort to push for moderation in region. For now, deck is stacked against it

S PRESIDENT JOE Biden deserves credit for taking great personal risk in travelling to Israel last week to defuse the crisis triggered by the deadly attack by Hamas on October 7. The Israeli military response has led to an even larger number of Palestinian deaths, and its demand for evacuation from Northern Gaza has created a massive humanitarian problem. Wading boldly into a crisis with little apparent room for compromise between the Israeli demand for retribution and the plight of the Palestinian civilians caught in the crossfire, Biden sought to create room for diplomacy. But the bombing of a hospital in Gaza cast a dark shadow over the US President's visit and led to the cancellation of a planned summit in Jordan with the moderate Arab neighbours of Israel. Biden's effort, however, is being reinforced by the western allies, including German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.

The western effort involves several dimensions. One, it's an expression of solidarity with Israel, which has seen one of the worst massacres in its history as a nation. For the US and Europe, the commitment to Israeli security is absolute and is unlikely to change despite growing criticism of Tel Aviv's policies across the western world. Second, even as he expressed unflinching solidarity with Israel, Biden urged Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu not to let the justified Israeli rage overwhelm a prudent assessment of the consequences of a campaign to occupy Gaza in order to eliminate Hamas. Biden publicly cautioned Netanyahu against repeating the US mistakes after the terror attack on New York and Washington on September 11, 2001. The US had lost considerable global sympathy by overreacting to the attack. Third, Biden was also focused on getting humanitarian aid through to Gaza by working with Israel and Egypt. Fourth, the West is actively working with Qatar, which is a major supporter of Hamas and hosts its leaders in Doha, to secure the release of nearly 200 hostages held in Gaza. Finally, the US and its allies are encouraging Israel and the Arab states to think about the day after in Gaza. The hope is to construct a moderate post-Hamas regime with the support of Arab states and begin the long overdue economic and social reconstruction of Gaza.

Biden's Gaza diplomacy reveals a paradox — for all the talk of US decline, Washington remains the only major power with the will and capacity to push for moderation in the region. But the deck is stacked against Biden's diplomacy. Netanyahu might have been persuaded to delay the invasion of Gaza but not end the plans for it. The moderate Arabs are struggling to cope with the massive anti-Israeli sentiment within their populace and will find it hard to nuance their positions. Two silver linings from Biden's diplomacy have come into view in the last few days — a couple of hostages have been released, and aid is beginning to trickle into Gaza. But they might not last once Israel's Gaza invasion begins.

HOLDING STEADY

High frequency indicators suggest that economic momentum is sustaining, even as pain points remain

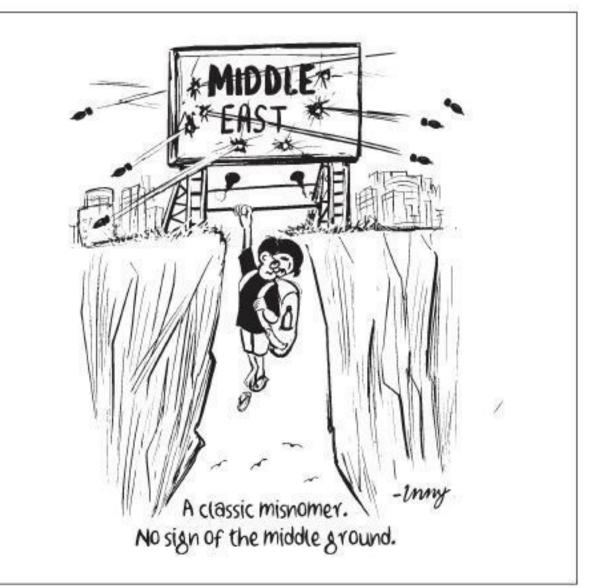
HE INDIAN ECONOMY grew at a healthy 7.8 per cent in the first quarter of the ongoing financial year. Going by the high frequency indicators, the economic momentum has continued in the weeks and months thereafter, and may sustain due to the impetus from spending during the festive season. In the latest state of the economy report, economists at the Reserve Bank of India also express optimism, pegging growth at 6.8 per cent in the second quarter, marginally higher than expectations. This is good news.

The report presents data on a plethora of economic indicators to make its case. These point towards a sustained momentum. For instance, the purchasing managers index for manufacturing and services continues to remain in expansionary mode. Sales of automobiles show an uptick, driven by the three-wheeler segment. Steel consumption is up almost 18 per cent, while cement production has risen by almost 19 per cent, indicating robust construction activity. Residential real estate markets across the country are witnessing a steady growth momentum even as interest rates remain high and property prices surge. Toll collections have expanded by a healthy 20 per cent and both air cargo and railway freight have registered high growth. Alongside, the unemployment rate has declined further in both rural and urban areas.

However, pain points remain. Exports continue to contract, signalling sluggish global demand. There are few signs of a broad-based pick-up in the investment cycle even though the corporate sector is in much better financial shape. And while the labour force participation rate has edged upwards, especially for females, there has been a concomitant increase in self-employment, indicating that the economy is perhaps not being able to create enough high quality jobs for the millions entering the labour force. Demand for work under MGNREGA remains higher than last year, and above pre-pandemic levels. Some FMCG companies have in fact pointed out in their quarterly results that rural demand remains under pressure, and continues to lag the urban market. Alongside, the sharp rise in household borrowings has also raised concerns. Data from the RBI shows that household financial liabilities rose from 3.8 per cent of GDP in 2021-22 to 5.8 per cent in 2022-23. While part of the credit has been used to finance purchase of houses and vehicles, some have argued that this surge in borrowings is also indicative of growing financial distress. In any case, there are limits to debt-fuelled consumption. Any slowdown in credit will have implications for the growth momentum in the wider economy.

FREEZE FRAME

E P UNNY



Through a narrow lens



In marriage equality case, SC ends up privileging majoritarian morality over constitutional morality

Faizan Mustafa and Kunal Sharma

THERE IS A saying amongst Muslims, which translates to, "...went to get exemptions from prayers (namaz), instead got the additional duty of fasting". This sums up the verdict in the marriage equality matter, Supriya Chakraborty v Union of India. Forget the recognition of marriages for sexual minorities or civil unions of queer people, it appears that even others seem to have lost the fundamental right to marry in heterosexual marriages.

Unlike Navtej Singh Johar (2018), which was a unanimous ruling decriminalising homosexuality, the present judgment had the majority (3:2) favouring the refusal of legal recognition to unions other than heteronormative ones. The central government in this matter — unlike in *Navtej* where it left the decision to the wisdom of the Court — strongly opposed recognition of marriages outside the traditional and religious ideas of heterosexual unions. This fact possibly made a difference.

Despite dissenting opinions of the Chief Justice of India and Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, who accorded recognition to the right to establish unions and jointly undertake adoption, the bench was surprisingly unequivocal in asserting that there is no fundamental right to marriage under the Indian Constitution.

The petitioners had requested the Court to reimagine the contours of the Special Marriage Act (SMA), 1954, to embrace samesex unions or, alternatively, declare it unconstitutional on the ground that it relegates the diverse LGBTQIA+ community to the margins. After months of anticipation, the verdict is a profound letdown for the LGBTQIA+ community and constitutional law teachers.

The decision appears to have succumbed to majoritarian morality rather than oft-repeated "constitutional morality". The Court firmly expressed its reluctance to engage with any innovative and creative interpretative exercise, citing the limits of its jurisdiction and emphasising the exclusive legislative authority over such matters. Further, the Court emphasised the SMA's inherently secular and progressive nature, and in rejecting the plea to declare it unconstitutional, underscored the potential regression that might transpire if such a measure were

The most feeble aspect of the 366-page verdict, consistent in both the minority and majority opinions, is the palpable reluctance to engage in an interpretative analysis of SMA due to apprehensions about encroaching on legislative prerogative. However, such interpretation has not been unfamiliar terrain for the constitutional courts. Previous cases have witnessed the judiciary imbuing diverse terms with

distinct meanings, thereby extending the reach of statutes and amplifying the expanse of rights safeguarded under the aegis of the

adopted. One would like to see how the Court would examine the constitutionality of "love jihad" laws, which are patently against the spirit of the SMA.

Known for delivering progressive and liberal judgments such as *Puttaswamy* (2017), Navtej (2018), and Sabarimala (2018), Justice Chandrachud's stance in this matter has significantly disappointed his admirers. Despite acknowledging the extensive scope of Article 32 and the judiciary's duty to safeguard citizens' rights, regardless of whether such discrimination arises from state action or inaction, the CJI chose to withhold recognition of non-heterosexual marriages. In Navtej (2018), he had held that "the Court has to be guided by the conception of constitutional morality and not by the societal morality. In the garb of social morality, members of the LGBT community must not be outlawed or given a step-motherly treatment of malefactor by the society". The Court has even restricted the scope

of the nine-judge bench in *Puttaswamy* (2017) by holding that it merely upheld the right to privacy but not to marry. Once a right to union has been accepted as a fundamental right, it is difficult to understand why a right to matrimonial union cannot be derived. The privacy judgment upheld decisional privacy or privacy of choice, which should ideally include the choice of entering into a matrimonial relationship.

Citing institutional constraints, the CJI declined to interpret the SMA to encompass same-sex couples within its ambit. However, this position seems problematic, given the interpretation in Article 15(1) of the term "sex" to include "sexual interpretation". In paragraph 126, he quoted Shafin Jahan (2018) but reached a contrary conclusion. In Shafin Jahan, the Court accepted that "Our choices are respected because they are ours. Social approval for intimate personal decisions is not the basis for recognising them. Indeed, the Constitution protects personal liberty from disapproving audiences."

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legislative prerogative. However, such interpretation has not been unfamiliar terrain for the constitutional courts. Previous cases have witnessed the judiciary imbuing diverse terms with distinct meanings, thereby extending the reach of statutes and amplifying the expanse of rights safeguarded under the aegis of the Constitution. For instance, in NALSA (2014), the word sex was interpreted to give it a wider meaning: "The expression 'sex' used in Articles 15 and 16 is not just limited to the biological sex of male or female, but intended to include people who consider themselves to be neither male or female". Moreover, various rights, including the right to self-determination of gender, right to information, rights to privacy, dignity and shelter, right to livelihood and the right to be forgotten. which are considered inherent to Article 21 were not explicitly mentioned in the text of Constitution but the judiciary's liberal interpretation of the right to life and liberty led to the recognition of these valuable rights. Are we going to dilute all judicially created fundamental rights, if yes, it would be turning the clock back.

Once it is conceded that there is a right to association or union, the denial of the fundamental right to matrimonial union is frustrating. Is it not implicit in human dignity and even the right to life if procreation is accepted as the central aim of such unions? Is it not like saying that you have the right to food but not to eat? Assuming the conservative position of procreation to be the primary purpose of marriage — though Justice Chandrachud did see its utility beyond procreation — how is marriage not an extension of the right to life? If the right to marry is just a statutory right, the government may delete its provision from statutes. In the privacy case, the Union had argued that privacy is a statutory right but the Court did not agree. The judgment on this issue must be reviewed and, who knows, like in Suresh Kumar Koushal (2013), judges may change their minds. We must be optimists.

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A YEAR OF SUNAK

Constitution.

UK PM needs to articulate hopeful vision, has a fierce battle ahead

RISHABH BHANDARI

IT'S NOT just Narendra Modi who might have liked last month's successful G20 summit in New Delhi to go on for a bit longer. His British counterpart Rishi Sunak probably felt the same way. Drawing on his Indian heritage, the considerable local interest generated by his trip was unparalleled and Sunak could be forgiven for momentarily setting aside his political travails at home. Approaching a year in office, it is clear that Sunak has ushered in a much-needed calm. But with Labour on the rise, an agitated backbench in his party and voters fatigued after nearly 13 years of Tory rule, Sunak has a fierce battle ahead.

Last week's twin by-election losses to Labour in Mid-Bedfordshire and Tamworth underlined this. Mid-Bedfordshire bore witness to the largest numerical majority overturned in a British by-election while Tamworth saw the second biggest swing from Tories to Labour at a bye-election since 1945. The tide in British politics may be turning.

To recall, Sunak assumed office after Liz Truss's brief and tumultuous premiership came to a close. It's just over a year since Kwasi Kwarteng's mini-budget tore apart Britain's reputation for fiscal prudence. A Tory party that stood for economic competence triggered market volatility and skyrocketing mortgage bills for voters. Investors panicked over a tax cut and spending package funded by borrowing. Against this backdrop, Sunak's warnings about combating inflation turned out to be prescient. It was no surprise that the Tories turned to him in a moment of crisis.

A year later how has he fared? At the start

Sunak has performed better than his recent predecessors. He has brought in a sense of focus and determination and deserves a measure of appreciation for restoring stability to government. He has continued to urge restraint in public sector pay discussions given inflation. But voters are increasingly impatient. Warning signs surfaced when the Tories lost over a thousand seats in local elections earlier this year.

of his tenure Sunak made five key pledges focused on halving inflation, growing the economy, reducing national debt, cutting down NHS waiting times and combating illegal migration. On each, progress has been slower than he'd have liked. Inflation continues to be a key concern. The looming winter looks to be a troublesome one for the NHS with elongated waiting times. The government's policy of deporting illegal migrants to a "third country", namely Rwanda, is up for scrutiny before the Supreme Court. National debt continues to rise while the IMF forecasts just 1 per cent growth for the economy next year.

For all that, Sunak has performed better than his recent predecessors. He has brought in a sense of focus and determination and deserves a measure of appreciation for restoring stability to government. He has continued to urge restraint in public sector pay discussions given inflation.

But voters are increasingly impatient. Warning signs surfaced when the Tories lost over a thousand seats in local elections earlier this year. Labour has leapfrogged ahead in opinion polls and Keir Starmer is expected to benefit from a mood of anti-incumbency.

What should Sunak prioritise? First, combating inflationary headwinds by focusing on fiscal responsibility would be vital. Second, targeted investment in infrastructure and education should be prioritised. But these should not spawn open-ended costs. Further, a competitive British tax regime to boost entrepreneurship and a fit-for-purpose approach to immigration would be core as well. Alliances with like-minded democracies such as India will need to be cemented too. Sunak's rapport with his Indian counterpart during the G20 summit was encouraging. Rebuilding relationships with European allies should also be factored in.

Sunak will also need to be receptive to voter concern that cuts across the "red wall" Northern seats traditionally held by Labour and the marginals across the South. The recent headline-grabbing delay on the ban of new diesel and petrol vehicles from 2030 to 2035 is to be viewed in this context. Sunak has calculated that he'd rather be viewed as pragmatic than ideologically fixated. It remains to be seen if other pivots lie ahead in the coming months.

Truss was correct in recognising that Britain suffered from low growth and needed to create greater incentives for investment. But she did not confront the hard truth that lower taxes and increased spending are incompatible. Managing this tension will not be easy for Sunak either.

Voters have signalled that while they value competence, they also need a hopeful vision for the future. In this narrative, a focus on stability and a push for growth are not mutually exclusive. Sunak needs to boldly articulate this truth. It also remains to be seen if the Tory party is prepared to rally behind him when the going gets tough. If the party falls back on old-fashioned feuding, it may ultimately find itself reflecting on the opposition benches.

> The writer is a London-based lawyer and political commentator

OCTOBER 23, 1983, FORTY YEARS AGO

ARRESTS IN PUNJAB

MORE THAN 55 persons have been arrested so far in the combing operations launched by the police, the Border Security Force and the Central Reserve Police Force against terrorists and anti-social elements in Punjab. The operation was extended to Patiala district where 13 persons, mostly Akali Dal workers, were arrested from Bassi Pathana.

SRI LANKA'S CLAIMS

THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS in Sri Lanka affecting the Tamil minority there came into focus in the United Nations with a clash be-

tween India and Sri Lanka in which India rejected allegations of interference in the internal affairs of Sri Lanka. The issue was raised by India in the Special Political Committee during consideration of its agenda item concerning international co-operation to avert new flows of refugees.

CURFEW IN BIHAR

AT LEAST TWO persons were killed and 21 injured in police firing in Khagaria town in north Bihar leading to the imposition of curfew there. The police resorted to firing after it failed to disperse an angry mob that surrounded and allegedly stoned the police station. The mob was protesting against a clash between some policemen and shopkeepers over payment of groceries bought by the latter.

SINO-INDIAN TALKS

THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT came out with a statement saying it will approach the Sino-Indian talks with a constructive spirit. The 67-word statement is conciliatory in tone, and tends to convey to the Chinese that while India is prepared to explore possibilities of improvement of relations in several spheres, the resolution of the boundary question has to remain central in the Sino-Indian dialogue.

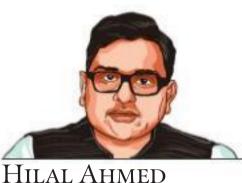


THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2023

THE IDEAS PAGE

Wooing the Sufi

BJP's Sufi dialogue could be part of its attempt to produce a relatively more open-ended meaning of Hindutva — linked to the idea of winnability



THE BJP'S SUFI Samvad Maha Abhiyan (Sufi dialogue) is an interesting programme. It aims to reach out to spiritual leaders associated with various Sufi shrines to propagate the party's messages to Muslim communities. Yet, the programme's purpose is "not to make Sufis join the BJP". The party's Minority Morcha president Jamal Siddiqui has clarified that the objective of this initiative is to establish communication with Muslim communities so that the party "will get to know about the problems they face or the demands they have".

Two simple and uncomplicated explanations are offered to explain the BJP's "Sufi outreach". The first argument is electioncentric. It is claimed that the BJP would like to expand its electoral base among Muslims. This interpretation is not entirely unjustifiable. Assembly elections in four crucial states — Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Telangana — are a serious political consideration for the party. In this context, it is obvious for the BJP leadership to reach out to Muslim voters in these states. At the same time, one cannot ignore the long-term impact of this socio-religious engineering, especially in relation to the 2024 Lok Sabha election. The second explanation is slightly more

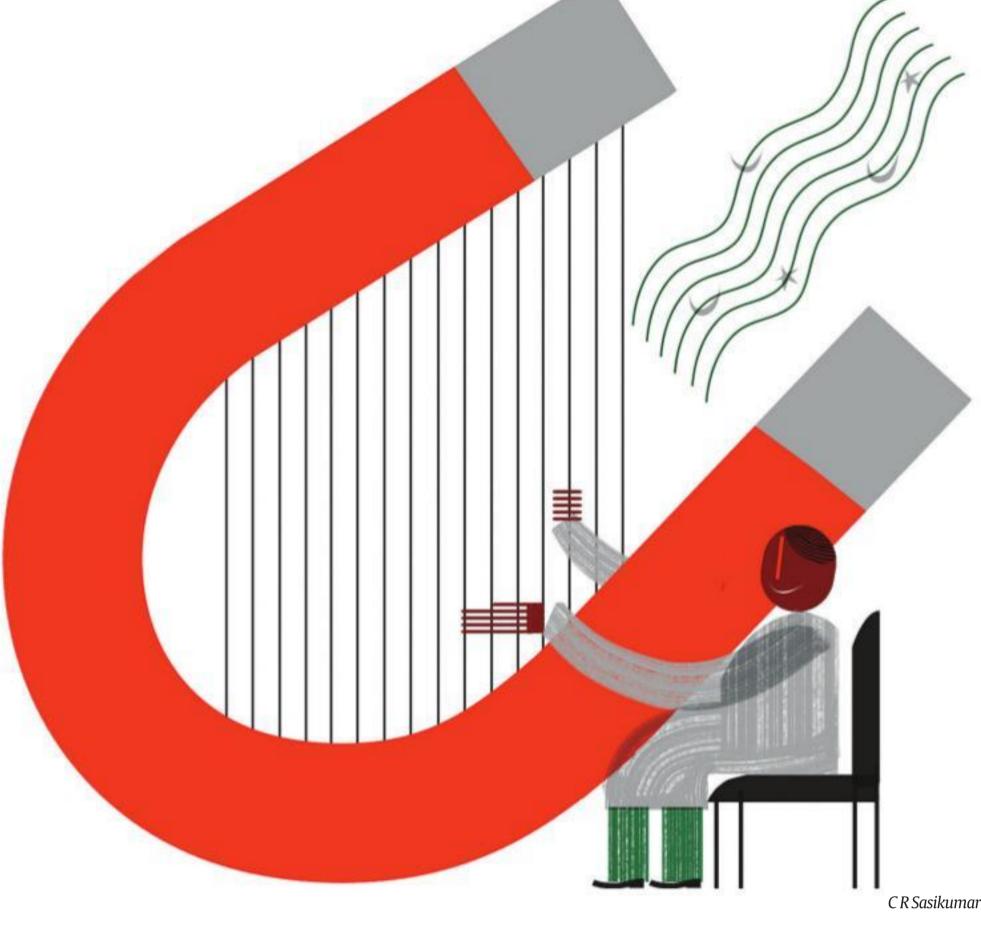
critical. The Sufi dialogue is also construed as a disruptive strategy of the BJP to create a divide among Muslims. Many political observers have argued that the BJP and, for that matter, the Sangh Parivar, want to disrupt the collective strength of Muslims as a constitutional minority for consolidating the Hindutva constituency. In fact, the party's selective emphasis on the Pasmanda identity and the caste-based Muslim marginalisation has been criticised as a political gimmick. This criticism is based on the premise that the Muslim outreach will be meaningless if the anti-Muslim propaganda supported by a section of media continues to determine the terms of political discourse.

These elementary readings of the BJP's attitude towards Muslim communities are, no doubt, useful. However, there is a need to situate the party's Sufi outreach in its entirety. One must ask two very basic questions: What is the placing of Sufism in the intellectual framework of contemporary Hindutva? And, what are the political-electoral expectations of the party from Sufis as political stakeholders?

For the sake of analysis, we must make a distinction between the Hindutva of the RSS and the Hindutva of the BJP. RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat delivered three lectures in 2018 to clarify RSS's position on the concept of Hindutva. He identifies three foundational beliefs — patriotism, ancestral pride and culture. He said: "... the collective notion of values belonging to the religions that are sprung from the entirety, that is India, is known as Hindutva...Therefore, Hindutva is synonymous with the notion of patriotism".

Bhagwat does not elucidate the place of Indian Islam in this formulation. However, he made an interesting comment about the inclusive nature of the Hindu nation. Bhagwat said: "Hindu Rashtra does not mean it has no place for Muslims. The day it is said that Muslims are unwanted here, the concept of Hindutva will cease to exist".

Does it mean that the Hindutva of contemporary RSS is different from Savarkar's



Hindutva, which cherishes India as the fatherland (pitribhu) and the holy land (pun*yabhu*) of Hindus? Does it also mean that Indian Islam, and for that matter, Indian Sufism, could legitimately be called an Indian religion since this land is also revered as a holy land by these religious traditions? We do not find clear answers to these questions.

The BJP's adherence to Hindutva is wellknown. However, one finds a strange ambiguity here. The party leadership uses the term Hindutva very carefully. Unlike the older generation of BJP leaders like LK Advani or Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who defined Hindutva as a form of cultural nationalism, senior BJP leaders, especially Prime Minister Narendra Modi, avoid any direct discussion on this issue. A speech delivered by the PM in 2018 is relevant to clarify this point. He said, "Hindutva...is a rich heritage... this Hindu knowledge is so profound ... so vast, and so ancient...No one can claim that he or she has complete knowledge of it. Even the sages never claimed to have full knowledge of Hindu and Hindutva".

This statement, in a way, underlines the fact that the contemporary BJP leadership is interested in producing an open-ended meaning of Hindutva. This might be the reason the term Hindutva is not mentioned in the Party's Constitution. It is also not described as a constituent of the BIP's political philosophy. This relative openness gives space for accommodating programmes such as the party's Sufi outreach. It goes well with the party's Pancha Nishthas (five principles) which also includes "positive secularism". After all, the party has shown a great interest in the figure of Dara Shikoh in recent years.

This brings us to our second question. The electoral success of the BIP after 2014 is inex-

constituency of committed voters; and second, it has to expand its social base.

CSDS-Lokniti surveys show that the BJP gets around 8 per cent to 9 per cent Muslim votes at the national level. Although it is correct that the Muslim perceptions about a Modi-led BJP are not homogeneous or onesided, initiatives like the Sufi outreach will not give immediate electoral advantages to the BJP, at least in this round of elections.

However, the BJP establishment is fully aware of the nature of its support base. The "committed voters" of the BJP come from different socio-economic, religious and cultural backgrounds. The anti-Muslim narrative produced and sustained by a section of the media does not necessarily attract those voters of the BJP, who do not want to be associated with any hate campaign. The Sufi shrines, on the other hand, are very much part of the religious universe of Indian communities. It is possible that a committed voter of the BJP might be a committed devotee of a particular dargah. The BJP establishment is keen to protect this kind of support base simply by creating a possible configuration in which the politics of Hindutva and Sufi devotion could survive without any confrontation.

The writer is associate professor, CSDS

tricably linked to the party's professional attitude and its adherence to the idea of winnability. The BJP leadership, it seems, is very aware of the strengths, weaknesses and even limitations of its aggressive style of electoral campaigning. Relying on the figure of Narendra Modi, the BJP has created and nurtured an effective constituency of committed voters. The party, in this sense, faces two kinds of challenges. First, it has to protect the

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"In the long run, the money sitting idly in banks is good for no one. At the start of this festive season, here is hoping that the country's top state officials and economic policymakers can feel the pain of ordinary folks and will do what is needed to perk their lives." —THE KATHMANDU POST

Towards a politics of presence

Next step after Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam is to seize this historic moment and ensure that its promise is transformed into substantive equality



BIJAYALAXMI NANDA, Nupur Ray

IN SEPTEMBER, history was made with Parliament passing the Women's Reservation Bill, the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam. A compelling imperative for all political parties to acknowledge the importance of the role of women in an inclusive polity, it is a clarion call to women to recognise their agency, assume equal responsibilities as citizens and define their destinies. It is a significant achievement of the women's movement in the country.

The journey for the Bill's approval in Parliament took 27 years. However, the movement for women's participation as equal stakeholders in the nation's future predates its Independence. The arguments in feminist discourses have been layered, even contradictory at times. These range from Sarojini Naidu's strong rejection of quotas for women during the Constituent Assembly debates, to Sushma Swaraj's request, in 2014, to fellow parliamentarians asking them to support this landmark legislation. At moments, male members of Parliament and civil society expressed concerns about the balance of power in politics and potential threats to "Indian values" because of women "stepping out of their homes". The fact that the Bill was approved by an overwhelming majority is a testimony to the present government's commitment to women's empowerment.

An often-overlooked question is why women need reservations, whether for seats in public transport or Parliament. Does the demand for a quota contradict the principle of equality? This article tries to substantiate the relationship between affirmative action policies -- such as the Women's Reservation Bill -- and the political equality of women.

First, implementing a mandatory quota in line with proportional representation can transition us from the politics of rhetoric to the politics of presence. India is among the few countries that granted full and equal citizenship rights to women at Independence. The idea of political equality is integral to the Constitution, making the inclusion of women in politics a moral imperative for the state. However, the political sphere has been largely dominated by men and masculinist politics, with women marginalised and treated as beneficiaries. Women are often seen as a "category" in welfare schemes.

Advocates like Anne Phillips have championed the concept of a "politics of presence". They argue that women can bring unique skills and political strategies rooted in their life experiences, making them role models for future generations. The presence of women ensures fair negotiations and deliberations between genders on various issues, free from preconceived notions. This revitalises democracy.

The second argument is that women in India have consistently rejected invisibility and marginalisation. During the freedom struggle, women from all walks of life and

regions made significant contributions. Their pivotal role in movements like Noncooperation, Civil Disobedience, Khadi, and Swadeshi under Mahatma Gandhi, are integral to the historical narrative. In 1974, the "Towards Equality" report

shone the light on gender-based inequalities in various spheres, paving the way for the emergence of movements that took up issues such as violence against women, access to education and employment, the right to abortion, and discrimination against the girl child. These movements were often precursors to groundbreaking pieces of legislation. Recent measures like the extension of

property rights to women in tribal communities and the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiatives are the outcomes of the efforts of both the government and women's movements. The 73rd and 74th amendments empowered women at the panchayati raj level dispelling earlier doubts about their capabilities at local governance.

Eloquent and erudite speeches by women parliamentarians have often reshaped deliberations, leading to progressive pieces of legislation. Women have held positions at the highest level - the President of India, Prime Minister, chief ministers, Lok Sabha speakers, state assembly representatives and parliamentarians. Women are also informed, responsible, and demanding voters.

In contemporary times, women have made significant strides in the education sector, with increasing enrollment in higher education. They are making their presence felt in fields such as aviation, bureaucracy, medicine, space science, arts and literature. They have proved adept in navigating layers of power structures and overcoming vertical and horizontal inequalities. Their aspiration to be a part of the country's success story is evident in all spheres.

While there are procedural constraints - these include delimitation based on the post-2026 census data -- for the actual implementation of the quota for women, the Act represents people's mandate for gender equality in politics. The next step is to seize this historic moment. Training women to join politics should include encouraging them to pursue higher education in subjects such as public policy, political science and law. Established women politicians could become mentors.

In conclusion, we advocate the theory of reflective autonomy which combines a sense of individuated selves with a commitment to a shared set of values. This idea is based on three "E"s - engagement, emancipation, and empathy. Women aspiring to be members of Parliament need to engage with local issues and facilitate local solutions to local problems. This will provide them with a sense of confidence and commitment. A sense of empathy needs to be nurtured that goes beyond the realm of rights and underlines harmony in society. All these will ensure that the formal equality promised by the passage of the Act will transform into substantive equality for women.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



A security breach in Israel

point.

Hamas attack has drawn attention to perils of over-reliance on technology

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SUBIMAL BHATTACHARJEE

SEVERAL WESTERN analysts have said that the October 7 attacks on Israel is the country's 9/11 moment. Closer home, a few observers compare the attacks to the 26/11 terror strikes on Mumbai. Both these comparisons ignore historical contexts. At the same time, it cannot be denied that these attacks were intelli-

gence failures in multiple ways. From 2001 to 2008 to 2023, the world has seen a massive transformation of intelligence functioning with the infusion of technology. Digital footprints have become the guiding indicators of information and are crucial for building surveillance. Israel's reliance on technology for its overall security ecosystem is perhaps second to none. The country has deployed a vast network of surveillance cameras along its borders – these include thermal-imaging cameras, pan-tilt-zoom cameras, and other advanced video analytics systems. These cameras provide real-time monitoring and help detect and track suspicious activities and individuals. Israel has constructed physical barriers, such as fences and walls, to secure its borders. The most well-known example is the West Bank Barrier, aimed at preventing unauthorised access. The country employs drones to conduct constant aerial surveillance along its borders. These machines are equipped with advanced sensors and cameras for monitoring and detecting potential security threats.

Israel also uses biometric systems —fingerprint scanners and artificial intelligenceenabled facial recognition technology —at border crossings to verify the identity of people entering and exiting the country. The country's security agencies utilise sophisticated algorithms and data mining techniques to analyse large volumes of data collected from various sources. This helps them identify patterns, trends, and potential security threats. These are accompanied by cyber security drills and web monitoring on a round-the-clock basis from security operation centres to monitor suspicious activities.

It seems all of these failed when it was needed the most. The Hamas killers could beat tech systems and undertake multiple tasks —from meticulous planning to execution on many fronts. They chose their dates around a major festival where the gathering would be large and people would be in festive spirit. They foxed the border perimeter

security systems, shot and killed soldiers and civilians alike and took hostages. How could it go so wrong for a country that had a system that had never failed and had agile and trained manpower on the ground? While very little is known of Hamas' capabilities in matters regarding technology or even its capabilities to dodge digital footprints, except for some cyber attacks in the past, the fact that it evaded Israel's tech radar is intriguing. It is highly unlikely that Hamas built electronic corridors that don't leave traces —it is almost impossible to undertake such a massive operation, that involves several personnel and multiple locations, without communicating and coordinating. So then were signals missed at some place, resulting in altering the response mechanism?

The only saving grace was the Iron Dome missile defence system, developed and deployed by the country for years to intercept and destroy short-range rockets and artillery shells. It has been protecting against threats from various directions, including rockets launched from the Gaza Strip, Lebanon and other hostile entities. The Iron Dome intercepted many rockets during the current conflict. But it is not a foolproof defence system and cannot provide 100 per cent protection against all potential threats.

What went wrong then? Were digital footprints tricked or missed or did the overreliance on tech bring in a sense of comfort and reduced alertness? Many security experts have pointed out that over-reliance on tech solutions could have been a wrong strategy for Israel. Did the lack of physical presence in Gaza hurt Israel? Both humint (human intelligence) and sigint (signals intelligence) needed a balance of planning and deployments along with the presence of security personnel. Others have argued that Israel approached Gaza casually compared to the firmness it has used in the West Bank where systems like the Blue Wolf have been deployed with competitive zeal among security units. A lot of these failures will be analysed. But for now, this is a reminder that solving problems in the real world is more crucial than over-relying on tech.

The writer is Visiting Scholar, Ostrom Workshop, Indiana University Bloomington USA and a cyber security analyst

A WELCOME RELIEF

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'A good rollback' (IE, October 21). India has to walk a tightrope by being open to the world while also being "vocal for local". It loosened its restrictions on import of IT hardware, which is a relief for both manufacturers and consumers. It will help keep the price down, which is crucial for a "price-sensitive" market like India. But with import also comes the question of data security of consumers that has raised the eyebrows globally. While the government has made companies localise their data centres, hardware is where India lags behind.

Sanjay Kumar, Jammu

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'A good rollback' (IE, October 21). In a welcome move, the plan to introduce licencing for imports of PCs, tablets and laptops has been dropped. But this needs to be implemented with care. The domestic IT hardware industry didn't match pace with the software sector. However, the demand for PCs, tablets and laptops has majorly been met through imports. The production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for IT hardware may have attracted the industry, but it will take a few years for domestic industry to gain ground in the market.

Sanjay Chopra, Mohali

India's interest

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'At stake for Israel' (IE, October 21). Further deterioration of the Israel-Hamas situation would harm India's interests, particularly in the crude oil-dependent sectors. Oil price increases can exacerbate the country's current account deficit. Also, the recently announced IMEEC may be affected by the conflict, leading to concerns in the supply chain scenario. Moreover, Israel is India's third-largest trading partner in Asia. Given this context, the Israel-Hamas war could impact India's ambitions of playing a bigger

Khokan Das, Kolkata

GUARDIAN IS WRONG

role in global trade.

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The cartoon hurts more' (IE, October 20). The Guardian's firing of cartoonist Steve Bell is preposterous. It points to the newspaper's pro-Israel stand in the ongoing crisis. By sacking a veteran cartoonist, management has sent a message that there is no room for views critical of Israel in its columns, and that it can cost reporters and writers their job. Having sacked the doyen of cartooning, The Guardian should now deliver fewer homilies on the freedom of thought and expression. **SH Quadri,** Bikaner

ess.com

10 EXPRESS NETWORK

Electricity returns to Chhattisgarh village

Infiltration bid foiled, 2 militants killed in J&K's Uri sector: Army

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 22

THE ARMY has said that two militants have been killed after an infiltration attempt by them was foiled when they tried to sneak into the valley in North Kashmir's Uri sector. The operation attempt against the infiltrating militants has been suspended due to inclement weather and will resume once it clears up, the Army said.

"Based on specific inputs from intelligence agencies and J&K Police of a likely infiltration in Uri Sector by heavily armed terrorists from across the LoC, troops were put on high alert and counter infiltration grid was strengthened," the Army said in a statement on Sunday evening.

"Taking advantage of bad weather marked by incessant rainfall and poor visibility, a group of armed terrorists attempted to infiltrate across the LoC. At around 3 pm, the group was intercepted by alert troops resulting in heavy exchange of fire. Intense firing continued till last light resulting in the two terrorists being eliminated."

The Army added the other members of the infiltrating group took the bodies of the slain militants as they withdrew to the enemy side of the LoC. "On 22 October, a thorough search of the incident site was conducted leading to the identification of telltale signs and the recovery of heavy war like stores including two AK series rifles, six pistols, four Chinese grenades, blankets and two blood stained bags containing Pakistani and Indian currency notes, Pakistani medicines and eatables," the statement said.

"As per our own assessment, the recovery of two blood stained bags confirm that at least two terrorists were grievously injured, forcing them to shed their load and flee across the LoC. Due to inclement weather, the search operation is suspended and will resume once the weather clears up. Operation under progress."

20 years after Maoists destroyed network

JAYPRAKASH S NAIDU RAIPUR, OCTOBER 22

REMOTE village in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district finally got back its electricity connection this week, two decades after it was cut off due to Maoist activities. Kunded village, home to around 600 people, falls in the Konta development block where 142 villages are struggling without electricity, solely dependent on solar lights. "Two decades ago, Naxals de-

stroyed the existing electricity supply network, cut wires and broke poles, forcing villagers to live in darkness away from development. The villagers are happy now. Their children will be able to study and be connected to the world through television and mobile phones," said Sukma Superintendent of Police Kiran Chavan.

Konta forms the southern



At Kunded village in Chhattisgarh's Konta block, where 142 villages are still without electricity.

end of Sukma district bordering Odisha and Telangana. Minister Kawasi Lakhma, 70, is a five-time MLA from here. Over 60 per cent of Sukma is still seen as Naxalism-affected area and security forces consider it and

neighbouring Bijapur district as

a "war zone".

Security forces set up a police camp in Kunded, 110 km from the city area of Sukma, to flush out the Maoists before restoring electricity. Kunded falls under the Jagargunda police station. Jagargunda is the violent attacks leaving several jawans dead. Hidma and his People's Liberation Guerrilla Army

birthplace of Maoist leader

Hidma, who has been linked to

(PLGA) battalion 1 are also said to be hiding in an area which is 18 to 20 km from Kunded. Before 2000, Kunded village,

with a literacy rate of just 9 per cent, had a road and a bus stop. Later, the roads were damaged and all communication severed. It was only three months ago that a public distribution system (PDS) centre was set up for villagers.

The process of rebuilding the road has started, and in five to six months, the government intends to restore bus services to Kunded.

"After a security camp was set up in Kunded December 18 last year, 10 months later, we have been able to make the village Naxal-free, built trust

among villagers and informed them how Naxal propaganda has impeded development work like roads, education, health and electricity," Chavan said.

With the camp in place, the number of people using mobile phones increased but the network was weak, and to bolster it, the government plans to install a mobile tower in two to three months.

In the next four to five months, the forces are aiming to bring electricity to 10 more villages. In all, 142 villages will see electricity connections.

"For the remaining villages, there is a two-pronged strategy. First, ensuring a sense of security in villagers by setting up security camps and building trust towards the government. Once that is done, we will make roads and electricity will follow. Within two years, most of the villages will be electrified," an official said.

Sent to different

DAYS AFTER FORGERY CONVICTION

jails, Azam, son say 'threat to life'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 22

SENIOR SAMAJWADI Party leader Azam Khan and his son Abdullah Azam Khan were shifted to different jails in Uttar Pradesh from the district prison in Rampur amidst the former state cabinet minister expressing fear that they might be killed in an encounter.

The move comes four days after Azam, his wife Tanzeen Fatima, and Abdullah, a former MLA, were convicted and sentenced to seven years in jail in a 2019 case of alleged forgery of Abdullah's birth certificate. This is the fourth case in which Azam has been convicted in the past one year. While Azam was transferred to the Sitapur district jail, Abdullah was taken to the district prison in Hardoi. Tanzeen will continue to be lodged in the Rampur jail.

Speaking to reporters while being shifted to Sitapur, Azam said, "Humara encounter bhi ho sakta hai. Kuch bhi ho sakta hai (We might be killed in an encounter. Anything can happen)".

A senior police officer in Rampur said the decision to shift Azam and his former MLA son was taken by the state government. "The decision was taken keeping in mind the security of the inmates after gathering reports from the departments



SP leader Azam Khan and his son Abdullah Azam being shifted from Rampur **jail on Sunday.** PTI

such as intelligence, prison, and

police," said the officer. **Director General of Prisons** SN Sabat said Azam and his son

were taken to the jails in separate vehicles with adequate security cover. The two stepped out of the Rampur jail at around 4:40 am and reached their destinations at around 9 am, another officer said. Khan was earlier lodged at

the Sitapur jail for almost two years in multiple cases before being released in May 2022, after getting bail from the SC. SP president Akhilesh Yadav, who has on multiple occasions said that Azam and his family are being targeted for being Muslim, tweeted on X in Hindi, "The vicious cycle of harassing and torturing Mr Azam Khan and his family is condemnable."

— With PTI inputs

Allahabad varsity assistant prof booked for hurting Hindu sentiments: Police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW. OCTOBER 22

AN ASSISTANT professor of Allahabad University was booked on Sunday for allegedly hurting the religious sentiments of Hindus in his social media posts, police said. A case was registered against

Vikram Harijan (40), a Dalit who is an assistant professor in the varsity's Medieval and Ancient History Department, under Sections 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups), 295-A (deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs) of the Indian Penal Code and under the Information Technology Act, it is learnt.

In his complaint, Vishwa

Tecnam aircraft VT-RBT oper-

ated by the Redbird Flight

Training Academy made an

emergency landing in Katfal vil-

lage near Baramati on the field

that the trainee pilot woman

identified as Parvati Vinod Nair

and trainer pilot Ayan Amar Das

were in the aircraft. Both sus-

tained minor injuries and were

taken to a hospital in Baramati.

The officials of the Redbird Flight

Training Academy came to the

hospital immediately after the

incident." said an officer from

Pune Rural police.

"Initial information suggests

owned by Nandu Bhure.

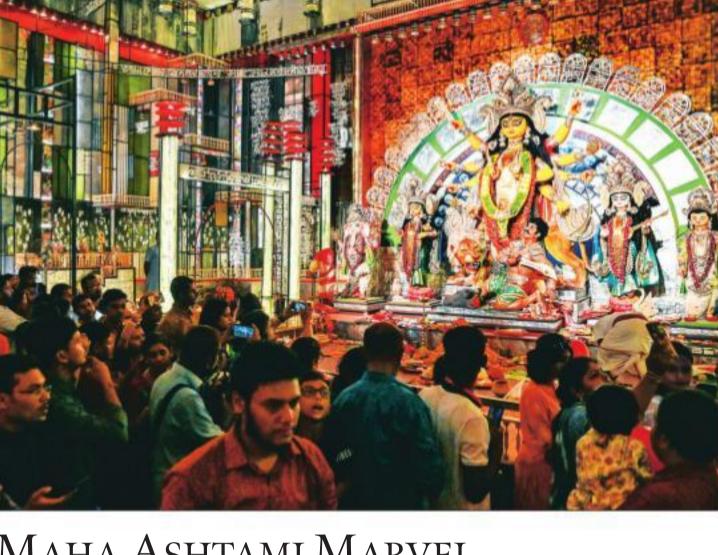
Hindu Parishad's Prayagraj district coordinator Shubham said, "Vikram Harijan of Allahabad University keeps writing demeaning and hateful posts against Hindu gods and goddesses on his X account. There is anger among students at the university over the issue. Even today, he made some comments against Lord Ram and Krishna."

Colonelgani Station House Officer (SHO) Brijesh Singh said the investigation into the case has been initiated. "No arrest has been made, but we have started a probe into the matter," he said.

A university official said the institution is currently closed and the matter will be looked into once it reopens.

In September 2019, Harijan had gone on leave, expressing fear that he might be lynched on the campus.

Bay of Bengal



Maha Ashtami Marvel

Devotees at a puja pandal during the Durga Puja festivities in Kolkata on Sunday. PTI

The damaged training aircraft near Pune on Sunday. PTI

Another aircraft crash-lands near Pune, probe ordered place around 6.45 am when the

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE PUNE, OCTOBER 22

WITH ANOTHER incident of an aircraft making emergency landing in Baramati injuring two persons Sunday — three days after a similar accident happened near Baramati— the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau of the Ministry of Civil Aviation has begun their investigation into the two back-to-back incidents.

Officials Pune Rural police said that they will base their further course of action based on the findings of the AAIB.

The incident on Sunday took

Accident Relief Train (ART) of PRYJ, CNB &TDL

cyclone warning: Collectors told to stay prepared **PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

BHUBANESWAR, OCTOBER 22

THE DEPRESSION over the Bay of Bengal may become a low-intensity cyclonic storm by October 24, the India Meteorological Department said on Sunday. The depression lies centred around 610 km south of Odisha's Paradip, the IMD said. "The system is likely to further

intensify into a deep depression over the next 24 hours. It will move northwestwards in the subsequent 12 hours and then move towards the Bangladesh-West Bengal coasts in the following three days," it added.

"Though there is a possibility of the formation of a cyclonic storm, it is likely to be a very weak system. It will have a marginal impact on Odisha," said weather scientist Umashankar Dash of the Regional Meteorological Centre.

If this system intensifies into a cyclone, it will be called Hamoon, a name given by Iran. SRC Satyabrata Sahu has asked the collectors to remain prepared.

Agniveer dies at Siachen glacier; Army Chief condoles death

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 22

AN AGNIVEER died in the line of duty in Siachen, the Army's Lehheadquartered Fire and Fury Corps said Sunday. Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande and all ranks of the force condoled the death of Agniveer Gawate Akshay Laxman, who hailed from Maharashtra, who died in the early hours of Saturday.

"All ranks of Fire and Fury Corps salute the supreme sacrifice of #Agniveer (Operator) Gawate Akshay Laxman, in the line of duty, in the unforgiving heights of #Siachen and offer deepest condolences to the family," the Fire and Fury Corps tweeted.

Military sources said the terms of engagement of Agniveers include emolument in case of demise as a battle casualty. Accordingly, the next of kin of a deceased battle casualty Agniveer will receive Rs 48 lakh as non-contributory insurance as

Separately, the next of kin will also get an amount from the Seva

well as an ex-gratia of Rs 44 Lakh.



Army personnel pay tribute to Agniveer Gawate Akshay Laxman, an operator who died at Siachen. PTI

Nidhi contributed by the Agniveer (30 per cent), with equal matching contribution by the government and interest there on.

The next of kin will also receive pay for the balance tenure from date of death, till completion of four years (more than Rs 13 lakh) as per balance residual tenure, the sources said. The fam-

ilv of the deceased will also receive a contribution of Rs 8 lakh from the Armed Forces Battle Casualty Fund, the sources said.

The Siachen glacier at a height of around 20,000 feet in the Karakoram range is known as the highest militarised zone in the world where soldiers have to battle frostbite and high winds.

ARUN SHARMA JAMMU, OCTOBER 22

Local bodies' terms in

J&K ending soon, no

sign of polls before '24

WITH THE terms of corporation, councils and committees coming to an end soon, there is no sign of elections being announced by the Jammu and Kashmir government this year. The last elections in J&K were held in 2018, before abrogation of Article 370.

The five-year term of elected Srinagar Municipal Corporation Jammu Municipal Corporation will end on November 5 and 14 respectively, while that of municipal councils and committees by December 26 this year.

According to officials, Panchayats will cease to exist on January 9, 2024, adding that elections to these urban and rural local bodies are now expected to be delayed till next year as the I&K government is yet to take a call on reservation for OBCs in these institutions of grassroots level democracy and also because Bharatiya Janata Party's local unit has been pushing for deferring the exercise at least till the 2024 parliamentary polls.

Official sources in the administration told The Indian Express that post abrogation of Article 370 in J&K in 2019, all provisions of the Indian Constitution are applicable to the Union Territory including provision for reservation for OBCs. When asked whether the OBC reservation

70 urban local **O** bodies

IN NUMBERS

2 municipal corporations: in Jammu and Srinagar

19 municipal councils **7** municipal

committees **4,490** village panchayats

35,096 panches

was mandatory in the case of local body elections, a senior official, while referring to the Supreme Court judgement, said it has laid down triple conditions for providing this reservation including setting up of a dedicated commission to collect empirical data on the OBC population, specifying the proportion of reservation and ensuring that cumulative share of reserved seats do not breach 50 per cent of the total seats, he added.

Mainstream opposition parties including NC, PDP and Congress, however, say that the municipal and panchayat elections were being delayed as the political atmosphere in J&K was not in favour of the BJP.

www.indianexpress.com

FULL REPORT ON

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Date: 18.10.2023 e-tender notice No: SP-2-Mech-OnF-WP-PRYJ-23 E-Tender Notice Tender through e-tendering system- "Open Tender in Single Packet System" for and on behalf of the President of India are invited for the work of "Supply & commissioning

of metal moulded wooden packing (Wood type- Sal Wood) of different sizes to

Approx. value of work (in ₹): 36,87,751.52 Bid Security(in ₹): 73,800.00 Cost of tender form(in ₹): NIL Period of completion: 3 months Date & time of closing tender: 08.11.2023 at 15.00 Hrs. Date & time of opening tender: 08.11.2023 at 15.30 Hrs The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available. up to 15.00 hrs of 08.11.2023 in website http://www.ireps.gov.in. The tenderen require submitting their e-tender on this website only. 2. Tenderers other than in the form of e-tendering shall not be accepted against above e-tenders. For this purpose contractors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along wit class III digital signature certificates. 3. Rates entered into rate page and dully signe digitally shall only be considered. Rates in any other financial entity on any other form letter if attached by tenderers shall not be considered. 4. Documents being attache should be signed digitally by the tenderer. 5. Bid Security: All the tenderers/Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards Bid Security through ONLINE payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card cred card etc. However, the Bid Security shall be deposited either in cash through e payment gateway or submitted as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents. The Bank Guarantee bond shall b as per Annexure-VIA and shall be valid for a period of 90 days beyond the bid validit period. 6. Tender will be opened at the specified time & date. In case the specified dat is declared a holiday, the tender would be opened at the same time on the next workin day, 7. In case of any difficulty help desk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 8. Any conditional offer will be summarily rejected. Other terms & condition

1704/23(K) @northcentralrailway 17 North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 21

UTTAR PRADESH Chief Minister Yogi Aditvanath on Sunday launched the 'Mission Mahila Sarathi' initiative under the state's Mission Shakti Abhiyan and flagged 51 buses that will be operated exclusively by women as drivers and conductors.

During the programme in Ayodhya, the chief minister said, "There could not be a more appropriate occasion when the date of 'Maha Ashtami' is being linked with Mission Shakti along with the launch of Mission Mahila Sarathi. The initiative seeks to connect and empower

women drivers and conductors." "The Uttar Pradesh State RoadTransport Corporation (UP-

SRTC) is your companion in times of crisis. Now, daughters symbolising 'Mission Shakti' will drive these vehicles as drivers, fulfilling the role of companions," he added.

Adityanath said that the safety, respect, and self-reliance of women had always been a challenge for the state. "That is why Indian society has always believed that where women are respected, their dignity is protected. The UP government has consistently promoted this idea in the fourth phase of Mission Shakti," he said.

Adityanath said that so far, more than 1.5 lakh women have been employed on various posts in Uttar Pradesh Police and the state government. "But, the dream of having women as drivers and conductors in the UP-



Yogi flags off 51 buses to be operated by women drivers, conductors

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath flags off the buses in Ayodhya on Sunday. PTI

SRTC has also been realised. Now, daughters have become fighter pilots too," he said.

He said that the UPSRTC is considered the lifeline of transportation within the state. "India

became independent on August 15. 1947. but the first bus of the corporation had started operations in May 1947. Since then, the transport corporation has been

setting long-distance routes.

progress and expanding its operations. Bus stations in the state will now be like airports, for which work has already begun," the chief minister said.

Now, UPSRTC is making

"During the COVID-19 pandemic, around 40 lakh people from Uttar Pradesh working in different parts of the country became jobless and returned home. UPSRTC rose to this challenge. Around 11,000-12,000 buses with drivers and conductors converged at the borders, where they helped UP citizens return home, and people from other states reach the UP border," he said.

"Now, the focus is shifting from buses running on diesel towards electric buses. There will be a significant increase in the number of electric buses in the UPSRTC fleet and contracts.

These buses will not cause pollution, noise, and have better speed," he said. The CM said that the state government will provide incentives worth Rs 20 lakh to individuals buying electric buses. "We have allocated Rs 400 crore in this regard," he added. Adityanath also said that the

government needed to buy several buses as part of preparations for the 2025 Kumbh Mela. "For better connectivity, the UP government has formulated an Electric Vehicles (EV) policy. Electric buses do not use diesel petrol, or CNG; they will be charged with electricity. They can travel up to 300 km on a single charge," the CM said.

Meanwhile, earlier during the day, Adityanath offered prayers at Chhoti Devkali temple on Ashtami and met the saints there.

may be seen in tender documents. 9. The said supplier of goods and/or services would be subjected to GST ACT and Rules as applicable from time to time. (As per railway board letter no 2016/AC-II/1/6 dated 12 may 2017

COMBINED M-CAP DECLINES

'We should be willing to

accept inflation between

4-5% for several quarters'

New Delhi: The combined market valuation of the top 10 valued companies plunged Rs 1,52,979.78 crore last week, with Reliance Industries and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) taking the biggest hit in an overall weak trend in equities. PTI

TO RELEASE ₹40,000 CRORE OF RUPEE LIQUIDITY INTO BANKING SYSTEM

Forex swap maturity: Banks get ready to return \$5 billion to RBI

HITESH VYAS MUMBAI. OCTOBER 22

WITH \$5 billion forex swap between the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and banks set to mature to-

day, a majority of lenders have arranged for dollars to be delivered to the RBI. In April last year, the RBI conducted a dollar/rupee (USD/INR) sell-buy swap auction for an

amount of \$ 5 billion. Under the swap, the central bank sold dollars to banks with an agreement to buy back those dollars at maturity, which is October 23. "The market is completely

covered (arranged dollars to deliver to the RBI). I don't see any issue," said a forex market dealer.

The absorption of \$5 billion forex swap by the RBI will release Rs 40,000 crore of rupee liquidity into the banking sys-

Higher demand for dollars created some temporary dollar liquidity shortage in the banking system. In order to meet their dollar demand, banks, in the last

MUKESH JAGOTA

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 22

SENIOR OFFICIALS from the

World Trade Organisation

(WTO) member countries are

meeting in Geneva from Monday to lay the groundwork

for the next ministerial confer-

ence of the global trade regulat-

ing body which will involve re-

viewing the status of progress on

the decisions of the previous

ministerial conference and re-

forms in the global trade regu-

ahead of the 13th ministerial

conference of the WTO which is

scheduled for February next year

in Abu Dhabi. The meeting of of-

ficials will provide necessary po-

litical push and help address spe-

cific problems to advance work

for the 13th ministerial confer-

G20 Delhi Declaration avowing

to guard against protectionism

and give a fresh impetus to the

rule-based multilateral trade lib-

eralisation, ending a long hiatus

of the WTO member countries

are in Geneva for the two-day

conference, they will also be par-

ticipating in the Trade

Negotiations Committee of the

General Council. The General

Council is the highest decision

making body of the WTO at

Geneva. It has the authority to act

on behalf of the ministerial con-

ference which meets once in two

including Additional Secretary in

the commerce ministry Peeyush

Kumar, will be heading the

From India, senior officials,

While the top trade officials

The ministerial follows the

ence, an official said.

for the world body.

The two-day meeting comes

lating body.

Food stock-holding,

e-commerce tax on

WTO meet agenda

The RBI had announced the forex swap last year.

market participants to deliver

dollars to the RBI. These swaps

are of shorter tenure with matu-

which is supplying dollars to the

the forex swap to mature today,

market through select banks.

Forex dealers said it is the RBI

Though banks are expecting

On agenda for the meetings

of officials would be to provide

guidance on the agriculture ne-

gotiations with focus on ad-

dressing food security chal-

lenges. Developing countries led

by India are demanding a per-

manent solution to provision of

public stockholding and govern-

ment purchases at administered

prices which they say is an im-

portant building block of food

security superstructure. The bog

food exporters, however, main-

tain that removing trade distort-

ing subsidies would serve that

agreed to at the Bali Ministerial

Meeting in 2013 and allows

them to carry on with their do-

mestic support programmes but

they want to make it permanent.

ending the moratorium on taxes

on cross-border trade through e-

commerce. The decision on not

taxing cross-border electronic

transmissions was taken in 1998

and the waiver has been ex-

tended every two years. Now as

the e-commerce has grown

multifold India wants the waiver

sue is being discussed in detail

by the officials at the WTO. Next

month the WTO report on the is-

sue prepared in collaboration

with the International Monetary

Fund, World Bank, United

Nations Conference on Trade

and Development, Organisation

for Economic Cooperation and

Development (OECD) will be re-

leased that will guide the talks

further. The officials are aiming

to arrive at the possible solutions

to the issue and place it before

the Abu Dhabi ministerial con-

ference. **FE**

The e-commerce taxation is-

Another big issue for India is

Developing countries already have a 'peace clause' that was

purpose well.

rity of one to two days.

few days, bought dollars under they are not certain how the RBI is going to take the delivery of USD/INR buy-sell swap either from the interbank market or dollars. from exporters or other forex

Some market participants feel that the central bank may stagger the absorption of dollars over a few days so that banks do not have to supply the entire \$5 billion in one go.

Spreading of the dollar delivery will not exert pressure on the rupee. This will also mean that the entire Rs 40,000 crore rupee

resilience programmes

DISRUPTIONS

IN COMPANIES

2019

2023

'Crisis management, cyber

resilience take centre-stage'

A PwC India survey accentuates the need for businesses to

adapt, bringing in teams with the right skills to steer

liquidity will not come back to the system in one day.

The RBI has been maintaining that it does not want excessive liquidity in the system as it can pose risks to both price and financial stability.

Bankers said that even if the Rs 40,000 of rupee liquidity comes back to the system today, the RBI can use instruments such as variable reverse reporate auction or OMO-sales (open market operations sales) to manage liquidity.

"Today, we are in a very odd situation where we have a significant durable liquidity surplus but a frictional liquidity deficit. From a frictional liquidity perspective, Rs 40,000 crore of rupee liquidity will make it neutral but from a durable liquidity perspective, this will increase the excess durable liquidity. So, whether the RBI is going to look more closely at the durable liquidity or frictional liquidity, will determine its action," said a

The RBI had announced the forex swap last year to elongate the maturity profile of forward book and smoothen the receivables relating to forward assets. This also supported the rupee which came under pressure due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

The announcement to conduct the said swap came at a time when the Russia-Ukraine caught policymakers and central banks worldwide caught offguard. In the immediate aftermath of the war, global commodity prices increased led by oil, and global financial markets too saw heightened volatility.

"A flight to safety ensued which put pressure on EM currencies such as India. Hence, while the announcement for the auction was said to be to adjust the maturity profile of RBI's forward book, it also had an impact on the exchange rate," said a Bank of Baroda report. With the maturity of the swap approaching this week, it is almost ironical that the world has once again found itself in the midst of another unforeseen crisis in the form of the Israel-Hamas war, it said.

96% Businesses to elevate their cyber

resilience blueprints

97% Poised to significantly

invest in crisis management

58% Calibrating resilience based on

specific competency areas

67% Rallying behind the integration of

Making dedicated roles, such as the

36% initiatives are propelled by CEOs

PTI

Chief Resilience Officer, a

technology to bolster

resilience strategies

mainstay

stance and action, which does not enhance the credibility of the MPC. Can you elaborate further on it? When the MPC talks about

disconnect between policy

You have said there is a

IAYANTH R VARMA, one of the

members of the Monetary Policy

Committee (MPC) of the Reserve

Bank of India (RBI), says the

stance of 'withdrawal of accom-

modation' can only refer to rise

in the reporate. "When meeting

after meeting ends with a re-

solve to raise rates, but does not

actually do so, that creates a dis-

sonance between words and

deeds," he says. Varma, Professor

of Finance and Accounting at

Indian Institute of Management-

Ahmedabad, tells HITESH VYAS

and GEORGE MATHEW that

though bringing inflation below

the upper tolerance band is re-

quired, there is a need for being

more patient when it comes to

gliding inflation to the 4 per cent

target. "A more rapid pace of re-

duction could impose an intol-

erable growth sacrifice," he says.

Edited excerpts:

"withdrawal of accommodation", it can refer only to increases in the reporate which is within its mandate, and not something that is outside the ambit of the MPC. As such, when meeting after meeting ends with a resolve to raise rates, but does not actually do so, that creates a dissonance between words and deeds.

When do you see inflation reaching the 4 per cent target on a sustainable basis?

I have been saying for quite some time now that while there is great urgency for bringing inflation well below the upper tolerance band, we can be more patient when it comes to gliding inflation to the target. A more rapid pace of reduction could impose an intolerable growth sacrifice. We should be willing to accept inflation between 4 per cent and 5 per cent for several quarters as the price of avoiding a growth shock.

Do you see reduction in the repo rate only after the 4 per cent inflation target is achieved?

No, for two reasons. First, monetary policy acts with lags and must therefore be forward looking. What matters is that projected inflation falls close to 4 per cent on a durable basis and not that actual inflation does so. Second, if a real reporate of 1 per cent is required to glide inflation

THE EXPRESS INTERVIEW

JAYANTH R VARMA MEMBER, MONETARY POLICY COMMITTEE OF RESERVE **BANK OF INDIA**

to target, then the required nominal reporate falls with falling inflation projections. For example, if projected inflation falls durably below 4.5 per cent, then the current repo rate of 6.5 per cent would translate into a real rate of 2 per cent which would probably be excessive. There would then be a need to cut the repo rate to maintain the real rate at a reasonable level.

could be some volatility in food prices which may lead to short-lived inflation spikes. In September, CPI eased to 5.02 per cent. Do you see inflation accelerating to above 6 per cent again in the coming months?

You mentioned that there

There are some risks regarding prices of pulses and cereals, but it is hard to say how high the spike will be. The important point is that these spikes would be transient and would not in my view require a monetary policy response.

Are there any risks to inflation and growth given the ongoing conflict in the Middle East?

There is no question that the conflicts there pose risks to the world economy. What I find reassuring is that oil prices have remained range bound in the face of these conflicts. This is in my view suggestive of depressed global demand putting a lid on prices. Of course, a bigger flare up in the region that takes us back to 1973 would be a very different situation, but as of now

US emerges as India's biggest trading

there is ground for guarded optimism.

You have said that the medium-term growth outlook has become stronger but there are several headwinds. What major challenges lie ahead for growth?

There are three headwinds. First, external demand is weak due to the sluggishness in the world economy. Second, the revival in private capital expenditure is still too tentative and muted. Third, fiscal consolidation amounts to a withdrawal of the pandemic era government spending stimulus.

There's a perception that the dollar's growing strength is a global risk. US yields have almost hit 5 per cent. What will be the impact in India?

Inflation targeting central banks respond to domestic growth-inflation dynamics and not to perceived exchange rate and capital flow considerations. The RBI and the government have other tools to deal with issues related to the external account, and, therefore, they do not in my view constrain monetary policy. In any case, exchange rate issues lie outside the remit of the

MPC says there are signs of a revival in investment now after more than a decade. Don't you think this is because of public sector capex? Why is private investment yet to take off in a big way?

I agree that the muted private investment is one of the headwinds to economic growth What we seem to be encountering is a situation where economic growth would have to drag capex up along with it. rather than one where rising capex lifts economic growth.

One of the MPC members (Ashima Goyal) said prudential tightening, such as raising LTV ratios or risk weights, would be preferable for raising policy rates further. What's your view on

I think this is not in the MPC resolution but in the statement of one member. I would prefer not to comment on matters of prudential regulation that are not within the mandate of the MPC, but I agree that the situation regarding household credit does not require an interest rate response at this stage.

Govt likely to infuse capital in PSU general insurers in Q4

"The numbers from the 2023 survey aren't just statistics - they're a reflection

of the urgent shift in mindset needed across the board. Resilience is no longer a

buzzword; it's a business imperative," said Puneet Garkhel, Partner, PwC India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 22

FINANCE MINISTRY would consider capital infusion in three loss-making public sector general insurance companies based on their financial performance of nine months.

The infusion if required would be made in the fourth quarter of the current financial year, sources said.

According to sources, the finance ministry last year asked three insurers -- National Insurance Company Limited, **Oriental Insurance Company** Limited and United India Insurance Company -- to chase bottomlines rather than topline

and underwrite only good proposals.

The financial review would give some idea about the impact of restructuring initiated on the profitability numbers and the solvency margin, sources said.

The solvency margin is the extra capital the companies must hold over and above the claim amounts they are likely to incur. It acts as a financial backup in extreme situations. enabling the company to settle

all claims. The government last year provided Rs 5,000 crore capital to three insurers -- National Insurance Company Limited, **Oriental Insurance Company** Limited and United India

Kolkata-based National

Insurance Company Limited was given the highest, Rs 3,700 crore, followed by Delhi-based **Oriental Insurance Company** Limited (Rs 1,200 crore) and Chennai-based United India Insurance Company (Rs 100 crore).

According to sources these companies have been asked to improve their solvency ratio and meet the regulatory requirement of 150 per cent.

The solvency ratio is a measure of capital adequacy. A higher ratio reflects better financial health and the ability of the company to pay claims and meet future contingencies and business growth plans.

partner during Apr-Sep this fiscal **PRESSTRUSTOFINDIA**

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 22

THE US has emerged as India's biggest trading partner during the first half of the current financial year despite global economic uncertainties and declining exports and imports, according to government data. According to the provisional

data of the commerce ministry, the bilateral trade between India

and the US has declined by 11.3 per cent to \$59.67 billion during April-September 2023 against \$67.28 billion in the same period last year. Exports to the US have come down to \$38.28 billion during April-September 2023 from \$41.49 billion a year ago.

Imports also declined to \$21.39 billion during the first six months of the current fiscal compared to \$25.79 billion in the same period last year. Similarly, the twoway trade between India and

China also dipped by 3.56 per cent to \$58.11 billion. Exports to China contracted marginally to \$7.74 billion during the first half of the current fiscal from \$7.84 billion in the year-ago period. Imports fell to \$50.47 billion from \$52.42 billion a year earlier.

Trade experts believe that though exports and imports are declining between India and the US due to global demand slowdown, the growth rate will enter a positive zone soon.

BRIEFLY —

Indian team.

Tata Motors developing petrol engine

New Delhi: Tata Motors is developing a new petrol powertrain which would be utilised in its premium sports utility vehicles ---Harrier and Safari, according to a top company official. PTI

Pollution board fines IOC, BPCL

New Delhi: Central Pollution Control Board has fined state-owned Indian Oil Corporation and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd for not installing pollution control devices at their petrol pumps. PTI

FPIs pull out ₹12k-cr from equities Oct so far; invest ₹5,700 cr in debt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 22

FOREIGN PORTFOLIO investors (FPIs) have withdrawn over Rs 12,000 crore from Indian equities this month so far, mainly due to a sustained rise in US bond yields and the uncertain environment resulting from the Israel-Hamas conflict.

However, the story takes an intriguing turn on observing FPI activity in Indian debt as they have infused over Rs 5,700 crore into the debt market during the period under review, data with the depositories showed.

Going ahead, the trajectory of FPIs' investments in India will be influenced not only by global inflation and interest rate dynamics but also by the developBefore the outflow, FPIs were incessantly buying equities in the last six months and bought shares worth Rs 1.74 lakh crore

ments and intensity of the conflict. Israel-Hamas Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director - Manager Research, Morningstar Investment Adviser India, said.

Geopolitical tensions tend to elevate risk, which typically hurts foreign capital inflows into emerging markets like India, he

According to the data with the depositories, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) sold shares worth Rs 12,146 crore this month (till October 20).

This came after FPIs turned net sellers in September and pulled out Rs 14,767 crore. Before the outflow, FPIs were

incessantly buying Indian equities in the last six months -from March to August -- and bought shares worth Rs 1.74 lakh crore. The latest outflow appears to be in response to the current global uncertainties.

Geopolitical issues, particularly the conflicts in Israel and Ukraine, have cast shadows of instability over international markets, prompting FPIs to adopt a cautious stance in the Indian equity arena, Mayank Mehraa, smallcase manager and principal partner at Craving Alpha, said.

Rural recovery for FMCG firms takes a pause for second straight FY24 quarter

VIVEATSUSANPINTO& BINDUD MENON MUMBAI, OCTOBER 22

RURAL GROWTH has remained weak for the second straight quarter of FY24 for most fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) companies pointing to a lag in recovery in the hinterlands. A recovery in rural is critical for FMCG companies as it contributes over a third of their total sales. A thriving rural economy is also good for FMCG companies as the possibility of improving overall FMCG penetration grows, experts tracking the market said.

While the June quarter of FY24 was plagued by unseasonal rains, the September quarter has seen uneven rainfall and food inflationary pressures. These factors have



E-commerce continues to do well for FMCG makers.

hurt consumption in rural areas, has been inching up in the last one firms such as Hindustan Unilever (HUL), Marico, Dabur and Godrej Consumer Products (GCPL) said.

In contrast, urban demand has remained resilient, these compaabove \$93 to a barrel. nies said, providing much-needed respite amid a challenging environment. For perspective, crude sourced from the industry, urban

month, following a production cut by OPEC and Russia. The ongoing Israel-Hamas war in Gaza has only added to the woes, with benchmark Brent crude remaining

According to NielsenIQ data

volume growth was ahead of both rural volume growth and the overall FMCG volume growth by 200-300 basis points in Q2. While urban volume growth came in at 10 per cent in the September quarter, rural volume growth was 7 per cent and the overall FMCG volume growth was 8 per cent. NielsenIQ data shows. "FMCG demand is likely to

continue, albeit gradually, with tailwinds from the upcoming festive season. We are seeing a very resilient consumer when it comes to urban metros," Rohit Jawa HUL's CEO & MD said in a virtual briefing on Thursday. Jawa cautioned global commodity prices including crude remained volatile, with the company keeping a close watch on crop output and reservoir levels following uneven monsoon distribution this year. **FE**

Argentines began voting Sunday in a national election where a far-right libertarian leads the race, a shift in the political landscape due to fallout from country's worst economic crisis in two decades. Libertarian economist Javier Milei is one of three candidates likely to split the vote. **REUTERS**

266 PALESTINIANS, INCLUDING 117 CHILDREN,

killed in Israeli strikes in 24 hrs: Gaza Ministry

ISRAEL ADDS 14 COMMUNITIES TO EVACUATION

plan in the North near Lebanon, Syria

EGYPT BORDER GUARDS INJURED

after being hit by fragments of shell from Israeli tank

Israel hits Syria, Lebanon; US boosts military assets

Lloyd says deploying more aid in face of recent escalations by Iran, proxy forces

AGENCIES

GAZA, JERUSALEM. OCTOBER 22

CONCERNS ABOUT the risk of the Israel-Hamas war mushrooming into a wider Middle East conflict rose on Sunday with the US sending more military assets to the region as Israel pummelled Gaza anew & hit Hamas supporters in Lebanon and Syria.

US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin said Washington would send more military assets to the Middle East in support of Israel and strengthen the US defence posture in region after "recent escalations by Iran and its proxy forces" — a reference to Hezbollah and Palestinian Islamist militants.

Gaza's Health Ministry said 266 Palestinians, including 117 children, had been killed by Israeli air strikes in the past 24 hours in enclave, to which Israel laid "total siege" after a deadly mass infiltration into Israel by Hamas gunmen October 7.

In neighbouring Syria - where Hamas's main regional backer Iran has a military presence -Israeli missiles hit Damascus and Aleppo international airports early on Sunday, putting both out of service and killing two workers, Syrian state media said.

Along Israel's northern border with Lebanon, where Iranbacked Hezbollah has skirmished increasingly with Israeli forces in support of Hamas, the Israeli military said it struck several Hezbollah targets overnight, including what it called a compound from which a missile had

AGENCIES

CAIRO, OCTOBER 22

A SECOND convoy of aid trucks

entered the Egyptian side of the

Rafah border crossing on

Sunday, heading towards the

Gaza Strip, according to Egyptian

ambulances were heard near the

Rafah crossing between Egypt and

the Gaza Strip Sunday afternoon,

shortly after a second aid convoy

had entered the crossing from the

The cause and the exact loca-

A total of around 19 trucks

carrying medical and food sup-

plies had been inspected by UN-

RWA, the UN's Palestinian

refugee agency, the sources said.

of badly needed supplies en-

tered Gaza on Saturday.

The first convoy of 20 trucks

Egyptian side, witnesses said.

tion of the blast were not clear.

An explosion and the sound of

security and sources at Rafah.

Second aid convoy on

reaches Rafah crossing

its way to Gaza Strip

[If Hezbollah launches a war against Israel], it will make the mistake of its life. We will cripple it with a force it cannot even imagine and the consequences for it and the Lebanese state will be devastating"

- BENJAMIN NETANYAHU PRIME MINISTER, ISRAEL

been fired at one of its drones. In later incidents, Israeli forces struck three groups of fighters who launched or were preparing to launch anti-armour missiles across the border, the military said, adding that it also shot down a drone approaching from within Lebanon.

Israeli aircraft struck a compound beneath a mosque in the occupied West Bank early on Sunday that the military said was being used by militants to organise attacks, and Palestinian medics said at least one person was killed

With violence around its borders increasing, Israel Sunday added 14 communities close to Lebanon and Syria to evacuation plan in the north of the country.

Several Egyptian border guards sustained minor injuries on Sunday after being accidentally hit by fragments of a shell from an Israeli tank, a spokesperson for the Egyptian army said.

Israel's military earlier said one of its tanks accidentally hit an Egyptian position near the border with the Gaza Strip.

Israel imposed a blockade

The Rafah crossing had been

The UN humanitarian

and launched air strikes on Gaza

in response to a attack on Israeli

out of operation since shortly af-

terwards, and bombardments

on the Gaza side had damaged

agency, known as OCHA, said

Saturday's convoy carried about

4 per cent of an average day's im-

ports before the war and "a frac-

tion of what is needed after 13

humanitarian situation was "un-

der control," as OCHA called for

Martin Griffiths told Reuters on

Saturday that work was under-

way to develop a "light" inspec-

tion system, whereby Israel

could check the shipments but

ensure a sustained flow.

The Israeli military said the

UN humanitarian chief

days of complete siege."

100 trucks a day to enter.

roads and buildings.

soil by Hamas on October 7.



Palestinians look for survivors after the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip in Deir Al-Balah on Sunday. AP

Priority is to bring back safety to civilians: Israeli Opp leader



EXPRESS IN ISRAEL

SHARREN HASKEL, is a member of Israel's parliament, the Knesset, and is part of the National Unity — an Israeli political alliance. She spoke to **SHUBHAITT ROY** about the aftermath of the October 7 attack. Edited excerpts:

How do you see the situation since October 7, and what's happening in Israeli society right now?

Hamas has pushed us to a war we didn't want. On October 7, probably over 3,000 terrorists crossed the border and invaded 22 Israeli towns and cities, going from house to house massacring entire families. When Hamas declared war, they forced us unfortunately to go back into Gaza.

There's been criticism of Israel's response in form of air strikes killing Gaza civilians.

What do you say to that? The only response that world can live with, is to completely eliminate them. This is not a territorial war, but one of extremism. These are extremists who have waged jihad on our citizens. We have to eliminate them no matter how long it takes. Israel's actions will determine if Iews can live in our land or not in freedom.



THE EXPRESS INTERVIEW

SHARREN HASKEL MEMBER, NATIONAL UNITY ALLIANCE

As an opposition leader, were you fighting against the current government led by Netanyahu against the judicial reforms bill?

I left the Likud party about three years ago, and we've been fighting the last year for the socalled judicial reform legislation here in Israel.

Did political divisions, especially on the judicial reforms, lead the Netanyahu government to drop the ball in defending the country?

We have internal challenges, as anyone else. Can you tell me if

France, Canada says Israel did not bombard other countries don't face internal challenges? That's not an excuse Gaza hospital for anyone to wage a war, to go in (and) murder innocent civilians. We will be able to overcome in-**REUTERS** ternal things. But we are united

when it comes to safety and secu-

rity. On October 7, the opposition

said it will back this government.

What do you think is going to

be the impact of this in Israeli

society, between Israeli Jews

and Arabs here? Do you feel

This will determine whether

Jews and Arabs can live side by

side in Israel. There are many

Israeli Arabs who feel it their duty

to serve the country, in the mili-

tary. When a terrorist group mur-

ders innocent civilians on a large

scale, many Arab Israelis would

want to join the fight against that.

They, for me morally, have no

right to live in Israel. They can eas-

ily get Palestinian citizenship.

There will be massive challenges

If Arab Israelis join in on this fight.

On the question of the judicial

reforms law, what does that

law mean for Israel, as a free

All issues that don't concern

the war have been postponed

from the coalition and from oppo-

sition — that was our agreement.

We're going to concentrate on

how we win this war and bring

safety and security back to people

www.indianexpress.com

FULL INTERVIEW ON

of Israel.

society as a democracy?

fault-lines will be exposed

after the attacks now?

OCTOBER 22

NATIONAL CANADA'S Department of Defence said on Sunday that Israel was not behind the Al-Ahli hospital strike in Gaza on October 17.

After US and

"Analysis conducted independently by the Canadian Forces Intelligence Command indicates with a high degree of confidence that Israel did not strike the Al-Ahli hospital on 17 October 2023," it said in a statement.

The strike was more likely caused by an errant rocket fired from Gaza, the Defence department said based on analysis of open source and classified reporting.

Canada's findings are similar to conclusions by France and the United States.

Canada said its assessment is informed by an analysis of the blast damage to the hospital complex, including adjacent buildings and the area surrounding the hospital, as well as the flight pattern of the incoming munition.

Palestinian officials said 471 people were killed in the blast at Al-Ahli al-Arabi Hospital on Tuesday. Gaza's health ministry blamed an Israeli air strike, while Israel said the blast was caused by a failed rocket launch by militants.



How two US hostages were freed from Hamas

EXPLAINE

THE NEW YORK TIMES JERUSALEM, OCTOBER 22

ON OCTOBER 7, a few hours after Hamas began its devastating attack on Israel, Antony Blinken, the American secretary

of state, spoke by telephone with Qatar's prime minister. Hamas gunmen had

just slaughtered more than 1,400 people and kidnapped more than

200, including Americans, and Blinken raised the issue of the hostages with the prime minister, according to two senior State Department officials. The hope among many diplomats was that Qatar could play the middleman. That's exactly what it did.

Over next two weeks, Blinken and other US officials, their Oatari counterparts and representatives from Turkey, Egypt, France and many other countries held talks about how to get the captives out — or least start the process.

Qatar played an outsized role. It's an American ally with open lines to Hamas — many of Hamas's political leaders reside at least part-time in Doha, Qatar's capital — and it has a long history of brokering deals with groups that the United States considers terrorists.

On Friday night, when Hamas released two captives, Judith and Natalie Raanan, an American-Israeli mother and daughter, one of the first things American officials did was thank the Qataris. The Raanans were the first

> hostages to emerge from captivity, and families of remaining 200 or more captives hope this is just the beginning.

Yaakov Peri, a former head of the Shin Bet, the Israeli security service,

said Israel may have agreed to let humanitarian aid enter Gaza on Saturday morning in light of the hostages' release Friday night. He said Hamas's motive might have been to inspire Israelis who have loved ones in captivity in Gaza to pressure government to delay the impending ground invasion until more hostages are released.

Another obvious reason the Raanans were chosen, Robert D'Amico, a former FBI. agent who worked on hostage cases overseas, is that they are Americans — though there are up to 10 more Americans in captivity. Hamas might be trying to temper Israeli retaliation on Gaza by gaining some good will from the Biden administration. President Biden and his team have been closely advising Israel on how it is waging its war on Gaza.

DEATH, DESTRUCTION

ISRAEL

TOTAL DEAD

1,400+

■ The bodies of four Nepali students killed in Israel have been brought back to Kathmandu.

■ Israeli forces killed six Palestinians in occupied West Bank Sunday, bringing the toll to 91.

TOTAL INJURED

5,000+

been displaced, said

Gaza's Health Ministry.

Over a million of Gaza's 2.3 million people have

14,254

4,651

■ 70% of of the wounded people are children and women, Gaza's Health Ministry said.

'Collaborated with US govt': Iran sentences two women journalists

ASSOCIATED PRESS DUBAI, OCTOBER 15

A COURT in Iran sentenced two female journalists to up to seven years in prison for "collaborating" with the United States government among other charges,

local reports said. Both have been imprisoned for over a year following their coverage of death of Mahsa Amini in police custody in September 2022. This preliminary sentenc-

ing can be appealed in 20 days. The two journalists, Niloufar Hamedi, who broke the news of Amini's death for wearing her headscarf too loosely, and Elaheh Mohammadi, who wrote about her funeral, were sentenced to seven and six years in jail respectively, reported the judiciary news website, Mizan on Sunday. **Tehran Revolutionary Court**

charged them with "collaborating with the hostile American government," "colluding against national security" & "propaganda against the system," according to Mezan. Hamedi worked for the re-

formist newspaper Shargh while Mohammadi for Ham-Mihan. They were detained in September 2022.

Teenager 'brain dead'

A teenage Iranian girl, who fell into a coma earlier this month following an alleged encounter with officers over violating country's hijab law, is said to be "brain dead", Iran state media reported Sunday.

Right groups like Kurdish-Iranian Hengaw were the first to make Armita Geravand's hospitalisation public, posting photos of the 16-year-old that showed her unconscious with a respiratory tube and bandage over her head, visibly on life support.

In a first, South Korea, Japan and US perform joint aerial exercises

ASSOCIATED PRESS SEOUL.OCTOBER 22

THE SOUTH Korean, US and Japanese militaries conducted their first-ever trilateral air drill Sunday in response to evolving North Korean nuclear threats, South Korea's air force said.

The training held near the Korean Peninsula was to implement the three countries' earlier agreement to increase defense cooperation and boost their joint response capabilities against North Korean threats, the air force said in a statement.

The drill involved a nuclearcapable B-52 bomber from the United States and fighter jets from South Korea and Japan, the statement said. South Korea and Japan are both key US allies in Asia, which together host about 80,000 American troops.

The three countries have occasionally held trilateral maritime drills, such as anti-subma-



During the trilateral air drill. Reuters

rine or missile defense exercises. but Sunday's training marked the first time for them to perform a trilateral aerial drill.

In South Korea, expanding military drills with Japan is a sensitive issue, because many still harbor strong resentment against Japan's brutal 1910-45 colonial rule over the Korean Peninsula. But the North's advancing nuclear program has pushed South Korea's conservative president, Yoon Suk Yeol, to move beyond historical disputes with Japan and beef up a trilateral security cooperation.

In August, Yoon, US President Joe Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida met at Camp David in their countries' first stand-alone trilateral summit and agreed to bolster their

defense cooperation to deal with North Korea's nuclear threats. The three leaders decided to

hold annual trilateral exercises and put into operation by year's end the sharing of real-time missile warning data on North Korea. North Korea has long bristled at US training exercises with South Korea, calling them an invasion rehearsal and responding with missile tests.

North Korea slammed the Camp David agreement, accusing the US, South Korean and Japanese leaders of plotting nuclear war provocations on the Korean Peninsula. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called Yoon, Biden and Kishida "the gang bosses" of the three countries.

Worries about North Korea's nuclear program deepened after it enacted a law that allows preemptive use of nuclear weapons last year and has since openly threatened to use them in potential conflicts with US and South Korea.

China and Philippines trade charges on crash in South China Sea

REUTERS BEIJING/MANILA, OCTOBER 22

CHINA AND the Philippines traded accusations over a colli-

sion in disputed waters of the South China Sea as Chinese vessels blocked Philippine boats supplying forces there on Sunday in the latest of a series of maritime confrontations.

The two countries have had numerous run-ins in the South China Sea in recent months, especially in the disputed Second Thomas Shoal, part of the Spratly Islands. The Philippines has sent supplies to troops stationed on a rusted World War Two-era transport ship used as an outpost on the shoal, prompting China's coastguard to repeatedly deploy

vessels to block the resupply. China's coastguard said there had been a "slight collision" between one of its ships and the

Philippine boat while the coastguard was "lawfully" blocking the boat from transporting "illegal construction materials" to the warship. Manila responded by condemning "in the strongest degree" the Chinese vessel's "dangerous blocking manoeuvres". China's "dangerous, irre-

sponsible and illegal actions' were "in violation of Philippine sovereignty", Manila's Task Force for the West Philippine Sea said in a statement. Beijing claims sovereignty

over almost the entire South China Sea, including parts of the exclusive economic zones of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam. The Permanent Court of Arbitration in 2016 said China's claims had no legal basis.

The US expressed support for the Philippines, denouncing China's "disruption of a legal Philippine resupply mission".

#ExpressExplained

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

THIS WORD MEANS

VIENNA CONVENTION

As India asks Canada to downsize its diplomatic staff, both countries have invoked the 1961 Vienna Convention. The US and UK have mentioned it too

RISHIKA SINGH NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 22

AMID THE ongoing standoff between India and Canada, the Canadian government last week announced it had recalled 41 diplomats posted in India. Canada's Foreign Minister Melanie Joly said this was because they were "in danger of having immunity stripped on an arbitrary date" and that would have "put their personal safety at risk".

Earlier this month, India had sought parity with Canada, asking it to downsize its diplomatic staff here. India has about 20 diplomats in Canada and said there should be a similar number of Canadian diplomats in India as well.

The US and UK have backed Canadian diplomats' presence. Further, they spoke of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, which has also been mentioned by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, S Jaishankar.

What has India said?

India rejected Joly's contention, where she said that the "unilateral revocation of the diplomatic privilege and immunity is contrary to international law" and a violation of the Convention on Diplomatic

In a press release, the MEA said, "The state of our bilateral relations, the much higher number of Canadian diplomats in India, and their continued interference in our internal affairs warrant a parity in mutual diplomatic presence in New Delhi and Ottawa." It added, "Our actions in implementing this parity are fully consistent with Article 11.1 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations."

And what is the Vienna Convention? The Vienna Convention on Diplo-



Jaishankar has justified India's demand for diplomatic parity. File

matic Relations (1961) is a United Nations treaty that set some common principles and terms on how countries must treat each other's diplomatic representatives, in order to ensure friendly relations and maintain proper communication channels between countries.

One prominent example of such principles is that of diplomatic immunity. It's the privilege of exemption from certain laws and taxes granted to diplomats by the country in which they are posted. It was framed so that diplomats could function without fear, threat or intimidation from the host country.

Diplomatic immunity flows from two conventions, popularly called the Vienna Conventions – the 1961 Convention and the Convention on Consular Relations, 1963.

The 1961 Convention says, "Article 29: The person of a diplomatic agent shall be inviolable. He shall not be liable to any form of arrest or detention. The receiving State shall treat him with due respect and shall take all appropriate steps to prevent any attack on his person, freedom or dignity."

Today, 193 countries have ratified the convention, meaning they agree it should be legally binding on them.

EXPLAINED ECONOMICS

Has Bidenomics worked?

If Joe Biden is defeated in the 2024 elections, it could mean a policy shock for the US and the world order. To a substantial degree, his fate depends on what the voters think of Bidenomics



Udit Misra

APART FROM India, there will be another significant election to watch out for in 2024 – in the US, where President Joe Biden is likely to run for re-election.

With just about 12 months left, Biden is facing a stiff challenge from Donald Trump, the man he defeated in 2020. Among the things voters will express their approval — or disapproval – for is Bidenomics.

Why does Bidenomics matter?

Biden's loss could result in a policy shock, both to the US and the global order. That's because of two reasons.

a) Many of Trump's policies were radical departures from the established US positions or the global consensus. For instance, under Trump, the US walked out of the Paris agreement on climate change. Similarly, Trump saw US trade deficits as necessarily bad, especially when they were against countries like China that are challenging the US economic domination. This, in turn, dealt a huge blow to continued globalisation.

b) When Biden took charge, he unveiled his own version of a radical shift in economic policies — Bidenomics — that have since attempted to turn the clock back half a century. A Trump victory could lead to several reversals yet again.

When it comes to Bidenomics, there are two main concerns: one, whether it is working. Two, whether enough voters are convinced that it is working. That the US electorate is arguably the most polarised it has been in many decades further complicates the reading of these issues.

But none of these factors take away from the significance of Bidenomics.

That's because not only is there a genuine groundswell in its favour in the US, but even outside the US, Bidenomics is being seen as a blueprint for the kind of change that people want. For instance, in the UK, the Labour Party, which is widely expected to win in 2024, is reportedly taking notes on Biden's more interventionist approach.

There are others who are worried that Bidenomics, with its focus on providing subsidies for domestic producers, could be unleashing a global subsidy race where each country does the same and, in the process, increases inefficiency and inequity.

So, what is Bidenomics?

In common parlance, Bidenomics is a term that is used to refer to any and every pol-

icy choice made by the Biden administration. But the term was not coined by Biden or his team, even though they have adopted it over the years. Bidenomics is essentially a reaction to the dominant way in which the US economy was structured, especially since 1981 when Republican President Ronald Reagan took office. Under Reagan/Reaganomics, the idea was

INCOME GROWTH UNDER BIDEN

■ Total

■ Middle 40%

Real factor Income growth in %

CHARTT

■Top 10%

5%

4%

3%

2%

■Bottom 50%

to provide tax cuts to businesses in a bid to incentivise economic activity, even as the role of the government in the economy was reduced. The hope was that the resultant benefits of lower taxes and faster economic growth would trickle down to the broader economy.

To some extent this happened. But broadly speaking, over the decades since, this topdown approach made the rich richer without necessarily bringing about widespread prosperity. The sharp rise in inequality — be it of income or wealth — in the ensuing decades is an indictment of this approach.

A June statement by the Biden White House explained why Bidenomics was unveiled: "Even as they faced an immediate economic and public health crisis—with a raging pandemic, elevated unemployment, snarled supply chains, and hundreds of thousands of small businesses at risk of shuttering—the President and Vice President understood that it wouldn't be enough to simply go back to the economy we had before the pandemic. That economy was saddled with longstanding challenges that held America back—including rising inequality and disinvestment from communities across the country. President Biden recognised that some of those challenges were rooted in a failed trickle-down theory..."

Biden, in fact, bluntly stated: "Trickledown economics has never worked. It's time to grow the economy from the bottom



and the middle out."

What are the main principles of **Bidenomics?**

According to the White House, Biden's economic vision is centered around three key

1.Making smart public investments in

2.Empowering and educating workers to grow the middle class.

3. Promoting competition to lower costs and help entrepreneurs and small businesses

In other words, Bidenomics involves poli-

cies that improve US's infrastructure, reduce its trade dependence on rivals such as China, raise the living standards and opportunities available for the middle 40% and the bottom 50% of the US population and, in doing all these things, boost job creation within its borders. To achieve these goals, the Biden adminis-

tration has tweaked both the tax regime as well as its spending choices. On the one hand, it aimed to raise \$737 billion via more and higher taxation, while on the other, it decided to make fresh spending worth \$500 billion towards investments in clean energy and in reducing healthcare costs. It has also taken several steps to contain

the concentration of economic powers in the hands of the few and tried to empower labour unions to safeguard labour rights.

How far has it worked?

As things stand, if one looks at the macro indicators — GDP, unemployment and inflation — the Biden administration seems to have done quite well.

In terms of GDP growth, the US has outperformed all the major developed countries.

In fact, the US economic growth level is just 1.4% below the pre-pandemic trend. For perspective, according to RBI's calculations, India would get back to the pre-pandemic trend level by 2035.

The US economic recovery has been so robust that even a sharp and sudden increase in the interest rate by its central bank — in a bid to contain historically high inflation — has not caused a recession that many had predicted

Same holds true for the unemployment rate, which has fallen sharply since Biden took charge and hit a historic low. The US economy continues to create millions of jobs at such a fast pace that there are two vacancies for every unemployed person in the economy.

The only, albeit substantial, downside is inflation, which spiked to its highest levels in four decades in 2022 in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine war. High energy prices and supply bottlenecks exacerbated the ill-effects of excess money that the government pumped into the economy (immediately after Covid) in a bid to revive it. Inflation has moderated considerably since then but still hasn't reached the target level of 2%.

Bidenomics? There are two broad reasons. One has to do with the fact that

Then why are so many unhappy with

Bidenomics has not had the kind of improvement in terms of income and wealth inequal-

ity that many may have expected. To be sure, it has been just two and a half years. The second reason has to do with the ide-Given its rationale and its components, the

ological disagreement with Bidenomics.

final goal of Bidenomics is to reduce existing inequalities in the economy. While many Americans seem to be benefiting on this count, almost an equal number are not.

One of the claims of the Biden Administration is that the strong labour market recovery has also led to better pay and working conditions.

It is indeed true that real incomes have risen by 3.5%. But the chart also shows the real income growth for the richest 10%, the middle 40% and the bottom 50% of the working population. The noteworthy line is in blue colour showing the real income growth for the middle 40%. It shows that not only is real income growth in the negative for the American middle class (as of March 2023) but also that this growth has remained in the negative territory for most of the Biden presidency.

To go with Biden's words, while America may be growing from the bottom up, it is not necessarily growing from the middle out.

At the ideological level, many argue that Bidenomics is regressing to many policy choices that will not only increase inefficiency and corruption within the country but also lead to a global subsidy war that will eventually hurt the poorest nations.

> **LONGER VERSION** indianexpress.com/explained

How seasons affect metabolism: what a study on mice found first of its kind to examine light hours' in-

A STUDY conducted on mice to find the link between seasons and the metabolism of humans discovered that the eating habits of mice during winters may be better for their metabolic health than in summers, scientists said.

The mice exposed to 'winter light' gained less weight and fat than those exposed to 'summer light', the

scientists from the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, "They have more rhyth-

micity in the way they eat over a 24-hour period, which then led to benefits in metabolic health," said Lewin Small, who carried out the research while a postdoc at **Novo Nordisk Foundation** Center for Basic Metabolic Research at the university.

Thus, the duration of exposure to light may affect how we eat and how we burn energy and could help us understand the link between seasons and the metabolism of humans, the researchers said in their study published in the journal Cell

They added that this study was the

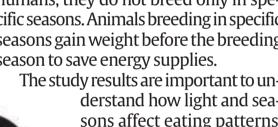
fluence on metabolism in mice, which are not considered seasonal animals as, like humans, they do not breed only in specific seasons. Animals breeding in specific seasons gain weight before the breeding season to save energy supplies. The study results are important to un-

sons affect eating patterns, which might help us understand if and why some people gain more weight at a specific time of the year, according to Small.

ings can not be extended to humans just yet, the researchers said. "This is a proof of princi-

does. Further studies in humans may find that altering our exposure to artificial light at night or natural light exposure over the year could be used to improve our metabolic health," said Juleen Zierath, senior author of the study and professor

NEW RESEARCH



derstand how light and sea-

However, the study find-

ple. Do differences in light hours affect energy metabolism? Yes, it

PTI



GLOBAL

Jagannath temple's treasure room: row over its opening

SUJIT BISOYI

BHUBANESWAR, OCTOBER 22

AS ASSEMBLY and General elections draw closer in Odisha, the demand to open the Ratna Bhandar (treasure room) of the Puri Jagannath Temple is growing again. The BJP and the Congress have both raised the issue.

What is Puri temple Ratna Bhandar?

The precious ornaments of sibling deities Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Goddess Subhadra, given by devotees and erstwhile kings over centuries, are stored in the Ratna Bhandar of the shrine. It is located within the temple and has two chambers— Bhitar Bhandar (inner chamber) and Bahara Bhandar (outer chamber).

While the outer chamber is opened reg-

opened in the past 38 years.

ularly, the inner chamber has not been

Who wants it opened, and why? Demands to open the Ratna Bhandar

gained strength after the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), the custodian of the 12th-century shrine, gave a requisition for repair/conservation of the chamber. There are apprehensions that cracks have emerged in its walls that could endanger the precious ornaments stored there.

Servitors, devotees, and temple managing committee members have asked for the reopening to ascertain the safety of the structure and its contents, and to make an inventory.

When was it last opened?

According to official sources, the last in-

ventory of the Ratna Bhandar was made between May 13 and July 23, 1978. Though it was opened again on July 14, 1985, the inventory was not updated.

According to a reply made by former law minister Pratap Jena in the state Assembly in April 2018, in 1978, the Ratna Bhandar had 12,831 bhari (one bhari equals to 11.66gm) of gold ornaments fitted with precious stones and 22,153 bhari of silver utensils, among others.

What is the process to open the room? Permission of the Odisha government is

required. Following a direction from the Orissa High Court based on ASI reports, the state government had attempted to open the chamber for physical inspection on April 4, 2018. However, keys of the chamber could not be found.

Have the missing keys been found?

On April 5, 2018, the then Puri collector Arvind Agarwal stated in a temple committee meeting that there was no information on the keys, which led to state-wide outrage The Puri collector is the custodian of the key of the inner treasure room.

On June 4, 2018, Chief Minister Naveen

Patnaik ordered a judicial inquiry to probe the loss of the keys. Days later, on June 13, Agarwal said an en-

velope with "duplicate keys of inner Ratna Bhandar" written on it had been found in the record room of the collectorate. Meanwhile, the commission submitted

a 324-page report to the Odisha government on November 29, 2018. Its findings are yet to be made public. **LONGER VERSION**

indianexpress.com/explained

Amid divide, Bedouin Arabs serving in the Israeli army: history, present

MANRAJ GREWAL SHARMA

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 22

AMONG THE casualties on the Israeli side in the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict are at least four Bedouin soldiers. A popular video on social media shows Israelis expressing their gratitude to a Bedouin commander named Ashraf for putting up an effective defence against Hamas fighters.

EXPLAINED The Bedouins are a nomadic Muslim Arab people who live mainly in the Negev desert of southern Israel. They have traditionally been pastoralists with no powerful or exclusive national affiliation, who would, until about a century and a half

and the Sinai with their livestock.

How did the Bedouins come to join the

ago, wander the area between Saudi Arabia

Israel Defence Forces?

During the last several decades of Ottoman rule, the Bedouin began to settle into a largely sedentary life. Before the formation of Israel, groups of Bedouin were employed by early Jewish settlers to guard clusters of their communities in Palestine. During the Arab-Israeli war of 1948-49, many Bedouin provided valuable intelligence to the Jewish militias and the newly

formed Israel Defence Forces

(IDF). Some of them also

fought against the Arab

armies alongside the Jews.

In the 1950s, Israel recognised a large number of Bedouin as its citizens, and helped build settlements for them in the Negev. Many Bedouin continued to serve in the IDF, primarily in scouting or tracking units. In 1970, a Bedouin scouting unit was established in the IDF's Southern

Command, and similar units have since

אוסאמח תופיק נעאמנה ١٠ اسامه توفيق نعامله. 2. 12. 2010 (70) עבדאללה כארם חגאגירה אחמד חושיין נגיידאות פורסאן עבדאללה חייב סאלח מוחמד גדיר חוסיין מוחמד חוגייראת נסים אברהים אלהואשלה

A memorial to Bedouin warriors on a hilltop in Galilee. Manraj Grewal Sharma

been established in other areas. In 1986, a desert-scouting unit was formed, and stationed near the Gaza Strip. In 2003, the IDF created several specialised search and rescue units of mainly Bedouin personnel to serve in the border areas.

In 1993, Israel inaugurated a memorial to Bedouin warriors on a hilltop in Galilee, bearing the names of 154 Bedouin soldiers who lost their lives in the service of the country. The Garden of the Broken Heart is dedicated to Bedouin soldiers whose burial places remain unknown.

Is it compulsory for the Bedouin to

train with the IDF? No. Army training is compulsory only for the Jewish population. However, many Bedouin youth volunteer.

In 2021, a record number of around 600 Bedouins voluntarily enlisted in the Israeli military.

How integrated are they in society?

Many of the Bedouin serving in desert reconnaissance units hail from the north of Israel. In communities like Shibli in the north, Bedouin have coexisted with Jewish and Arab communities since the 1950s.

The Bedouin population in Israel currently numbers 210,000 individuals, with a significant presence in the Negev desert.

In November 2022, the Israeli government launched Operation Negev Shield, one of the goals of which is to help Bedouin communities integrate into society through educational programmes aimed at steering young men away from criminal activity. Each week, IDF officers visit schools in various Bedouin communities to educate children.

(The reporter visited Israel at the invitation of the Israeli govt in November 2022) **LONGER VERSION**

indianexpress.com/explained

DEA

14 IDEA EXCHANGE NEWSMAKERS IN THE NEWSROOM

The most sensitive institution for the nation, the EC, is appointed by the government of the day. Several of my predecessors and I have been writing to the government that we should be appointed through a collegium

Damini Nath: After your retirement in 2012 you'd said that you became a selfappointed spokesperson of the Election Commission (EC) and felt the need to defend it. After the 2019 election, you found it difficult. Going into the 2024 elections, where do you see its credibility?

I defended the EC on everything when the criticism came up. My dilemma was that if I made a critical comment, people might say, 'Look, just yesterday he was the CEC himself and he's now commenting. What an undignified man'. If I called everything they did as wonderful then I'd appear stupid. Therefore, I used to couch it in clever language, saying that whenever I hear any criticism of the EC, it hurt me as if somebody was hitting me in my face. But the fact is that there were questions raised. Why were there no questions in our time? Or in N. Gopalaswami's time? Questions have been raised in the past. People used to say that we should demand contempt of court powers. In fact, I wrote one article opposing it. You have a right to attack us and you should attack us all the time. It's also a question of individual style. The incumbent is a bold and steely man. So things will be different. Some are weaker and spineless, and some tow to the powers that be. That doesn't mean the institution has been affected. These are passing temporary phases.

Damini Nath: Are there any instances where you felt that the EC could have asserted the authority that it already has to ensure free and fair elections?

Article 324 is a reservoir of powers. In a historic judgment, the Supreme Court had said that all that power is actually available. Before the introduction of the EVMs, we had ballot papers. We'd take 10 ballot boxes randomly, put them into a drum, roll the drum, make bundles of 50 each, and count so that nobody would know which village or polling booth has voted for which party because there used to be revengeful and vindictive action. After the introduction of the EVMs, there is a secrecy of voting available to the individual but it has to be available to the constituency, the booth too. We have heard instances of a minister saying, "You didn't vote for me. I will see how you will get water for five years."

We wrote to the government and asked our two companies to develop what is called a totaliser. Just as you get the ballot papers from 10 boxes, we started connecting 10 machines, totalling them, and jumbling them. We made the mistake of asking the government and for 20 years we have been chasing them. Finally, a Parliament committee sat in judgment and said that it isn't in the national interest. Now who will ask them what is national interest and why this is not in national interest?

We could have used Article 324. Nobody would have dared to challenge it. We did not. The Constitution gives the basic framework in Article 324. Under that, the Representation of the People Act was passed in 1950 followed by another in 1951, both of which give details. So wherever the law is made, there our hands are tied. But where the law is silent, we have all the power. The Supreme Court actually blasted us: "If a situation develops where you have to make a decision, you will not pray to God, please guide me on how to do this. The power is with you and you have to exercise it independently." Equipped with that, if we're still looking over our shoulder, and we're looking around for guidance from here and there, that's wrong.

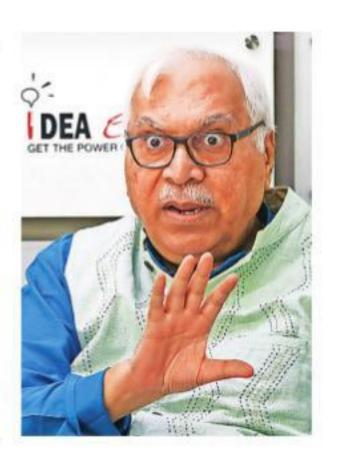
Damini Nath: Recently, a bill has been brought by the government to change the way the election commissioners are appointed — one of the root causes of issues with the EC that you've identified. You and some former CECs wrote to the government on this. What compelled you to do so?

Several of my predecessors and I have been writing to the government that we should be appointed, not by the government of the day but through a collegium. After all, our entire judiciary is appointed by a collegium. You can keep it aside because it's a different collegium. But there is a collegium for the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) and the Central Information Commission (CIC) and they are not even constitutional bodies; they are statutory bodies. There is the collegium for the Director of the CBI. He's not even a statutory body but the head of the department, like the Director of Agriculture, except for the nature of the job. Which is why the Supreme Court says that this institution should be neutral and look neutral. The most sensitive institution politically and for the nation, the EC, is appointed by the government of the day. Once appointed, you cannot be removed, except through the impeachment process, which is for the Supreme Court judges. So, obviously, there

WHY SY QURAISHI

The former Chief Election Commissioner of India, SY Quraishi, an IAS officer of the 1971 batch, has written extensively on elections and democracy. His latest book, India's Experiment with Democracy: The Life Of A Nation Through Its Elections, comprises a slew of his new and old essays on the role of the Election Commission,

pending reforms, and society. With India's global ranking among democracies dipping and questions being asked of the ECI's conduct, particularly during the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, Quraishi writes that it's an 'embarrassing paradox' that India is a flawed democracy despite being an electoral wonder for carrying out massive elections



The time has come that we should have a single-phase election. The kind of hate, rumour, fake news, and nonsense that is spread over twoand-a-half months endangers the safety of the citizens

The SC had no time for electoral bonds issue. If this wasn't in public interest, what was?'

In this idea exchange, former Chief Election Commissioner of India, SY Quraishi, spoke on the government's new bill that lays down the procedure for the appointment of the Election Commission, the need for transparency in political funding and the credibility of the EVMs. This conversation was moderated by Assistant Editor Damini Nath



Former Chief Election Commissioner SY Quraishi in conversation with Assistant Editor Damini Nath Abhinav Saha

is an equivalence in the minds of the Constitution framers. So to disturb that equation is something which is undesirable. Because the issue is live and our request is pending with the government, I'd rather not comment on it (the former CEC's letter to the PM). In the proposed bill, there were some positive things. The only thing on which we were concerned was that it was being downgraded from Supreme Court judge to a Cabinet Secretary. A Supreme Court judge is a constitutional authority. The Cabinet Secretary, however high a civil servant, is a bureaucrat. So you want us to be reduced to a *babu*? Half the commissions in the world have judges. When they come and deal with us, we speak from a position of higher authority. But suddenly, they downgrade us to save a few thousand rupees? We are trying to be a vishwaguru in the world for all other things but in elections, we already are.

Liz Mathew: Recently, the ED told the Supreme Court that there will be a case against the Aam Aadmi Party. So what happens to the party?

This issue is still developing. But prima facie, my view is that the law of the land is the presumption of innocence. And the 233 MPs, who have criminal cases pending against them in Parliament, when we say they should be debarred, what do they tell us? Presumption of innocence. The same law of the presumption of innocence should apply to a party. It will be a mistake if the EC treats them as guilty only on the basis of an allegation and accusation.

Liz Mathew: Going by what is happening around us, we won't be surprised that they are found guilty. What happens in that case?

I don't know what will happen because we haven't come across such a case. If some serious cases of corruption (come along), we will see whether it is a violation of an oath, which is signed by every party when it registers. Under the oath, they are to be loyal to the Constitution, not disobey the orders of the EC, and not violate the moral code of conduct

Liz Mathew: Credibility is the most important factor when it comes to the EC. What do you think when the CEC talks of the so-called alleged *revdis*. At the same time, the same CEC is not talking about electoral bonds. Will it affect the credibility of the EC?

These are two different issues. My revdi is your welfare scheme. If I do it, it is a welfare scheme and you call it *revdi*, and if you do it, then it's other way around.

Even if political parties promise you the moon, legally, it cannot be faulted. The Supreme Court also did not say it is a corrupt practice. But they ordered the EC to call all the political parties and make guidelines. It was definitely a perfunctory kind of passing the buck and the EC also went through this exercise. They called the political parties and got a banging from them. They said that how dare you question us? If I have to promise something to my voters, how else will I promise? Which law is it violating? So the EC came out with some guidelines, which advise them to be careful.

Actually, there is a lot of good in freebies. NT Rama Rao was the first one to announce them — a kg of rice for one rupee. Free rations have made sure that there are no starvation deaths. Another way is to create a prosperous developed country and wait 200 years for that. Nitish Kumar has provided female students with bicycles. The enrollment increased and the dropout rate declined. Now, is it a bad freebie? It's a very good development measure.

Liz Mathew: But the CEC is not talking about electoral bonds.

When electoral bonds were announced, the EC wrote a very strongly worded letter to the government. For two to three years in the Supreme Court the EC's been opposing them. But suddenly they find electoral bonds as a good thing. I was hearing the budget speech when Arun Jaitley was in Parliament. He said that without transparency of political funding, free and fair elections are not possible. This was music to my ears because that is exactly what we have been saying. His next sentence: for the last 70 years we have failed to achieve that. What is the third sentence that you expect? That he was going to introduce transparency. It

> After one election, if there is no election for five years, there will be nothing to do. This will be best for us (the EC). But our convenience cannot be the consideration

was just the opposite of all that. Whatever transparency that existed was destroyed. What was the level of transparency? Every transaction and donation of more than Rs 20,000 was reported to the EC, which made it public. Now no one would know who gave a party Rs 20 crore or Rs 200. The reason given: donor wants secrecy. Why? Because he wants to hide quid pro quo — the licences and the contracts, which he will get in return, and the loans which he will take and run away to London or Antigua or wherever. So these are the return favours, which is why he wants to keep it a secret. But his wanting it as a secret cannot be a consideration, it is about what the people want. Corruption in elections has become the root cause of all corruption in the country. The corruption is because of the spending power – companies are giving crores of rupees. What for? And Supreme Court had no time for this kind of public interest issue. If this was not in public interest, what was? But now that it is coming before the court, hopefully, they will clinch it and to the satisfaction of the nation.

Liz Mathew: With this one nation-one election theory, what would happen to the role of the EC?

Once in five years will mean that we will have more time to play golf. After one election, if there is no election for five years, there will be nothing to do. This will be best for us. But our convenience cannot be the consideration. The benefits are that the voter is the same, the polling station is the same, the people who conduct

the elections — the district administration and the security apparatus are the same. Therefore, it is logical that instead of pressing one button, you can press but-

tons in one go and rest for five years. The reason given is that political workers don't get time to do their work. Apart from electhere should be an OBC quota.

tions, what other important things do the political workers have? The Centre for Media Studies in the last election (2019) estimated Rs 60,000 crore being spent on elections. We can bring it down from Rs 60,000 crore to Rs 6,000 crore. Just put a cap on party spending. Now this disturbs

the level-playing field. According to the Model Code of Conduct, no new scheme will be ordered, no new transfer will be made. Why is it that these bright ideas come to the government's mind four years 11 months after they have been in power? Then they say, what a *nalayak* EC. A new scheme can be allowed with the prior permission of the EC. Once, in my time, the government of the day wanted to reduce the petrol price. Normally a petrol price reduction would mean that many votes would suddenly go there. There must be a gap of two months. We don't think like babus or clerks. We are thinking individuals. In the broader national interest, we allowed it. The time has come that we should have a single-phase election. The kind of hate, rumor, fake news, and nonsense that is spread over two-and-a-half months endangers the safety of citizens. One phase election is the best election.

Nishant Shekhar: In the women's reservation, panchayat elections get ignored. If a seat is reserved for women and a local leader doesn't stand for election, he gets his wife to stand for it. How can this be addressed?

In the beginning, it may happen that a husband gets disqualified because the seat got reserved; so he gets his wife to take it. But within a week, she'll start giving him dictation. Slowly, over many elections, women will come into their own. Rabri Devi came from the kitchen and became the CM. With bureaucratic assistance she ruled a big state. If this problem is happening here and there, why should other women be denied? This is one of the factors that bring us down in the democracy index, that we don't give importance to women. In Muslim countries, where women are considered backward, in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Maldives, they have 20 to 30 percent reservation.

Vikas Pathak: There was a demand from many political parties that within the women's reservation bill,

OBC reservation is a different issue. It should happen separately. If we apply this for SC and ST, that 50 seats are reserved for ST and of them, 33 candidates would be women, no issue. OBC reservation is a good case and should be examined. If for SC or ST, you take out one-third and give it to women; similarly for OBC. If you mix issues, it dilutes the focus.

Ritika Chopra: Is the Model Code of Conduct still an effective document?

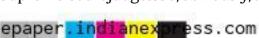
I still think it is very effective. It is one of the unique features of an election worldwide because it is not a law. It is a voluntary code of conduct by a political party for good behaviour. A lot of people criticise the EC and say that it's toothless and spineless, and only gives warnings. Once, Parkash Singh Badal told our CEO Kusumjit Sidhu that you're acting very independent because of the EC. Once you come back to our cadre, I'll see to you. With model code violation, he threatened the election staff. I wrote a stiff letter to Mr Badal. The same day he wrote a profuse apology. Politician images get dented. It shakes people that a model code notice came and that they were found guilty. Thirdly, our plenary power. I'm happy I didn't use it in my time. But subsequently, in this regime, some CECs use 324 and if you violate the model code, you can't campaign for three days. These are top leaders. If you debar them from going for three to four days, it's a major punishment.

Jatin Anand: The credibility of EVMs is challenged almost on a regular basis. What is needed to ensure that the people of this country trust the EVMs?

I've always defended the EVMs and I'll do it today. The result of Karnataka, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, and Punjab, is where BIP lost — what more proof does one need that the EVM is dependable? Therefore, I defend the EVMs totally. We improved the EVM through VVPAT, which is the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail. In 2009, it was the BJP that was opposing the EVM. They wrote a book called *Democracy* in Danger by GVL Narasimha Rao who was rewarded and became an MP. Mr Advani wrote the foreword. But we proved them wrong. We threw an open challenge - try and manipulate it.

Jatin Anand: What do you think is the feasibility of voting rights for NRIs?

Many people say they should have no right to vote. They're not paying any taxes here. Secondly, internet voting should be allowed. Now we are an IT superpower, it's child's play for us, but we will not do it for totally non-technical reasons. Suppose Internet voting was allowed, I'd enter your house with a pistol and force you to vote for someone. Or I give you Rs 5,000, I'll vote for everyone. We can't guard your integrity at home. The election can't get looted. EVM is one of the best systems. But improvements are necessary.



1 Dated and removed (4,3)

3 Quietly direct to pray (5)

(7)

misery(3)

7 Just correct (5)

the move (9)

sympathy (6)

act(3)

He shelves work done by others

4 Working for a model employer?

5 Editor's written about a drug

6 We write about nothing but

14 Indicated it is not in action

16 Makes harder to fathom? (7)

18 Lip is part of one's face (5)

20 Ridiculed the conductor audibly

12 New emigrants continuously on

- 1 Switch lit up bulb (5)
- 4 Employment struggle after hostility(4-3)
- 8 Sphere of some junior bookkeeper(3) 9 It may be present in March or
- April (6,3) 10 Continuously playing with
- article to put on (2,3,2)11 A charge on collection (5) 13 Ordered raid on backstreet to

find secret societies

- (6)15 Worshipped bustle and colour
- 18 Clergyman is able to get on (5) 19 He doesn't appreciate where the 17 Letter bound to have shown coal goes (7)
- 21 Rouse the fiery Celt perhaps (9)
- 23 Carbon that is about to freeze (3)
- 24 Worked as a masseur as
- required we hear (7)

22 First offender caught in the very 25 Artist when old retires south (5)

Solutions Crossword 5188 Across: 1 Red herring, 8 Amble, 9 Clearer, 10 Leopard, 11 Users, 12 Tallow, 14 Bestow, 17 Extra, 19 Emotion, 21 Termini, 22 Dives, 23 Enterprise Down: 2 Embroil, 3 Hyena, 4 Recede, 5 Ice cube, 6 Gorse, 7 Crosswinds, 8 Allotments, 13 On a diet, 15 Thieves, 16 Senior, 18 Three, 20 Order

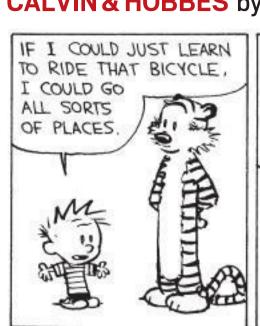
OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis

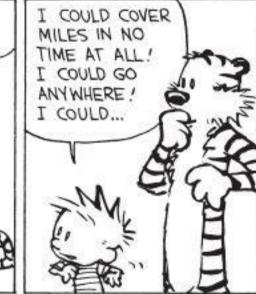






CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson









MARVIN by Tom Armstrong







JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip. The ____should be an entrance into the world, not an escape from it. - John Ciardi (9)

AOR	ELECTS
ORDS .	IOPYCM

Алѕwет: Тhe **classroom** should be an entrance into the world, not an escape from it. -SOLUTION: RATIO, SWORD, SELECT, MYOPIC

Difficulty Level 3s Instructions To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the

SUDOKU

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

nine vertical columns, in

rows and in each of the

nine boxes.

6s = Genius

Date: - 21.10.2023

Dated: 19.10.2023

Tender Documents Rs.

each of the nine horizontal

		4						
2				7	6		8	9
2						4		5
		8	3				9	
		7		8		3		
	1				4	5		
6		1						2
5	9		6	1				4
						6		

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5358 3 2 7 8 5 9 1 5 6 8 5 9 3 6 8 9 4 9 6 8 7 4 3 1 9 5 2 7 8 9 1 3 4

DAY TODAY

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23) **ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)**

If you're still wondering what it was that hit you, then the answer is the planet Mars. What that means in practice is an unexpected and rather large obstacle. The planetary message now is that the best escape route is pleasure, so put your cares behind you.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21) When the Moon challenges your

sign, close partners will take even little complaints as some sort of cue to have a go at you. Listen carefully, for there may actually be a great deal of sense in their ideas even if they sometimes choose the wrong words

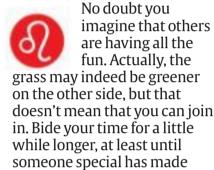
GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) If the day could be

summed up in one word, it would be duty. This is therefore a moment to fulfil all your responsibilities and avoid all distractions, no matter what size, shape or form they come in. You may never know the trouble you'll avoid if you take a few simple precautions.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23) The fact that

passion is running high doesn't mean that you'll be falling in love, or anything like that. What it does imply is that, whatever area of life you're involved in, a little enthusiasm will be worth more than a ton of experience. Oh, and don't take anyone - or anything for granted.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)



VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

their mind up.

The Sun and Mercury are on the move, which could mean that your judgment is slipping. And, in that case, watch out for financial pitfalls — and for the odd moral dilemma. It also happens to be a reasonable moment to rely on your intuitions, so follow a hunch if that looks like the best option.

BY PETER VIDAL

You may take your pleasures where you find them, but remember you will have to pay eventually. In point of fact, you might now be coming to realise the emotional cost of one particular personal venture. Oh, and at work, nothing less than the truth will do.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23) The Moon is aligned



your chart which traditionally denotes extraordinary intelligence. This I take as an indication that, for once, you'll have all the best ideas. But that doesn't mean that you'll know what to do about them.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22) There is so much to

say that the problem may be knowing where to begin. You may decide to follow a prudent path and keep certain ideas or feelings to yourself until you are sure that partners are ready. Take other people's feelings seriously, otherwise they may grow resentful, and that would be

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

a shame.

Financial matters do seem to be growing steadily more important. What seems to be vital now is should know better aren't

to make sure that people who allowed to rock the boat. You might find it impossible to keep order this week, however hard you try.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19) The ball is in your court at the moment, and the best thing you can

do today is to aim for enhanced status and prestige. You may show people how experienced you are and demonstrate that you are indeed the right candidate to take on increased responsibility.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20) In general, it's an

emotional period for all twelve signs, a fact which suits you. You'll be in your element as all around you friends, colleagues and relatives get in touch with their feelings, discovering for the first time the things that you have known for years.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, 5th E/M CIRCLE, P.W.D. HALDWANI (NAINITAL) Website: http:/pwd.uk.gov.in

Tel./Fax: 05946-220782 E-mail ID- seemhld.pwduk@gov.in

Tender Notice No. 2271/18 C.B-05/23-24 **National Competitive Bidding**

https://uktenders.gov.in from 02.11.2023 after 05.00 P.M.

The Superintending Engineer, 5nd E/M Circle, PWD, Haldwani on behalf of "Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand" invites online tender for the following work in two bid system. The Bid Documents will be available online at website

(e-Tender)

SI. No		Earnest Money (Rs.)	Validity of Tender	Time of completion	Tender Cost	Contractor of Registration
	Beautification & Illumination Work of Shree Jageshwar Dham, Almora	22,00,000.00	120 Days	05 Months	Cost of Tender Rs. 5000.00 and 18% GST Extra	OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) / Authorized Dealer

Government of Uttar Pradesh

Directorate of Animal Husbandry, Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow-226007

NOTICE FOR OF E-TENDER

Online tenders through e-procurement system are invited for rate approval of Mineralised Cattle Lick ISI

(01 kg pack as brick) marked (As per Schedules of requirement mentioned in table below) under the

Department of Animal Husbandry, U.P. (for the financial year 2023-24) from (1) Sole manufacturers, (2)

Repacking license holders, (3) such Third party manufacturers (who are producing for Tenderer), (4) loan

quoted Mineralised Cattle Lick ISI marked. Tenderer should not be blacklisted or debarred in any state/

department/government institution in the country for last 02 years and quoted products are not found Not

of Standard Quality by the Competent Authority for last 3 years. If the Central Bureau of Investigation

(CBI) or any other investigating agency recommends the existing rate contract of the concerned firms for

staying or cancellation, the action shall be taken accordingly as per U.P. Procurement Manual 2016.

Tenderer should have valid Manufacturing License, Non-Conviction Certificate, Performance Certificate,

Market Standing Certificate, Good Laboratory Practices (GLP), Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and

ISO certificates and other eligibility as per detailed tender documents. The Tenderer should have BIS/ISI

Certificate for the items for which BIS/ISI mark is required. Only those tenderer will be eligible to

participate in tender whose turnover for last 03 years is not less than Rs. 5.00 crore each year MSME/SSI

units of U.P. are exempted from Turnover condition & MSME/SSI units of U.P. & Government of India

Undertakings (C.P.S.E.) will be given purchase preference as per government policy. It is also to inform

that only those tenderers who are registered for e- tendering and having digital signatures in reference to

this office memorandum No. 3157/Pur.Cell/Kra,Ni./E- pro/2016-17 dated 15-03-2017, shall be eligible to

participate in e-tendering in Department of Animal Husbandry, U.P. Detailed Terms and Conditions and

other details alongwith proforma for Tender Documents would be available on the departmental website

http://animalhusb.up.nic.in and U.P. Govt. eTender portal http://etender.up.nic.in within the stipulated

Tender for approval of rate of As per schedule of requirement Rs. 15,000.00 + GST

Cost of Tender Form (Non-refundable) in shape of Demand Draft of any nationalized/scheduled bank in

the name of Director, Administration & Development, Animal Husbandry, U.P., Lucknow and amount

of Earnest Money in shape of Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR) of any nationalized/scheduled bank pledged

in favour of Director, Disease Control & Farms, Animal Husbandry, U.P., Lucknow should

Maineralised Cattle Lick ISI (for the Section III(B) of tender documents,

financial year 2023-24) as per schedule for estimated value of the goods upto

and for each additional Rs. 1.00 lakh and part there of Rs. 1000.00 as bid

Earnest Money (EMD) Rs.

Rs. 1.00 lakh (one lakh) Rs. 1500.00

censee and (5) bearer of import license; who have minimum 05 years manufacturing experience for the

No. 2130/Pur.Cell/E-Tender(II)/Minerised cattle lick/2023-24,

UJVN LIMITED H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006 Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508 CIN No.U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website:www.ujvnl.com

Tender Notice Office of the Executive Engineer (Test) Vidyut Bhawan, Dakpathar, invites sealed tenders from interested parties Brief summary of tender is given below: Tender No. 10/EE(Test)/DKP/2023-24

Work Name: Supply and installation of HMI screen on control desk of Unit no. 01 & supply of governor panel spares for Khodri Power Station. Estimated cost :₹ 15,75,800.00+ GST extra

Date of availability of tender on website: 23-10-2023 from 11:00 Hrs. Last date for submission of tender: 20-11-2023 up to 13:00 Hrs. For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website www.ujvnl.com Executive Engineer (Test), Dakpathar

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"



UJVN LIMITED H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006 Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508 CIN No.U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website:www.ujvnl.com

Office of the Executive Engineer (Test) Vidyut Bhawan, Dakpathar. invites sealed tenders from interested parties Brief summary of tender is given below: Tender No. 07/EE(Test)/DKP/2023-24, Work Name: Retrofitting of Turbine Gauge Panel with Static Relay and SCADA compatibility for Units-3 and spares of TG panels at Chibro Power House

Last date for submission of tender: 20-11-2023 up to 13:00 Hrs. For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website www.ujvnl.com

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

Tender Notice

Estimated cost :₹ 1953800.00+ GST extra Date of availability of tender on website: 23-10-2023 from 11:00 Hrs.

Executive Engineer EE (Test), Dakpathar

आधारभूत संरचना विकास प्राधिकार

Email-md@idabihar.com , Web-www.idabihar.com, Phone: 0612-2675933, 2675935, Fax no-2675934 अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या : 53/TEN/IDA/23

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

विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता

2. निविदा डाउनलोंड करने की अवधि एवं समय

3. पी-बिंड मीटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान

अग्रधन राशि की मूल प्रति अथवा इलेक्ट्रोनिक भूगतान का

. वितीय बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय

कार्य का विवरण :--

Ø0

कार्यपालक अभियंता (पीoडीoएo), आधारभृत संरचना विकास प्राधिकार, प्रथम तल, उद्योग भवन, गांधी मैदान के पुरब, पटना-800004

बजे तक (on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) दिनांक 31.10.2023 को 15:00 बजे आधारमृत संरचना विकास प्राधिकार, प्रथम तल, उद्योग भवन, गांधी मैदान के पूरब, पटना।

दिनांक 27.10.2023 से 03.11.2023 को 17:00

दिनांक 04.11.2023 को 17:00 बजे तक (on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

दिनांक 06.11.2023 को 15:00 बजे तक पी०डी०ए० शाखा, आधारभृत संरचना विकास प्राधिकार, प्रथम तल, उद्योग भवन गांधी मैदान के पुरव पटना-800004

दिनांक 06.11.2023 को 15:30 बजे (on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

तकनीकी बीड के निष्पादन के पश्चात। (on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

120 दिन

कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रू० में)	अग्रधन की राशि (रू० में)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य (अप्रत्यर्पणीय रू० में)	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि (माह में)	
Construction of Road and culvert at Industrial Area, Kumarbagh, West-Champaran (Phase-III)	5,45,42,578.00	10,91,000.00	10,000.00	04 Months	

विस्तृत जानकारी state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

PR. No. 010759 (Ni.Ni.) 2023-24

कार्यपालक अभियंता (TECH-HQ) नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, OMANA, Spouse of Mr PK Rajan resident of Valliaparampil House Elakolloor PO Konni, Pathanamthitta Kerala have changed my name from OMANA to OMANA RAJAN vide affidavit dated 04 Oct 23 at Dist Pathanamthitta Kerala State.

0040695009-1

I Mahboob Ilahi S/o Maqbool Ilahi R/o H.NO. 4496/98, Lambi Gali, Gali Shahtara, Ajmeri Gate, Delhi-110006, have changed my name to "Mehboob Ilahi" Vide Affidavit in-DL82681486554017V at Delhi

0130037509-1

I Dimple Sharma D/o Sh. Umesh Sharma/Smt. Sunita Sharma R/o B-250, Gali No.1, Tej Ram Gali, Subhash Mohalla, North Ghonda, Garhi Mendu, North East Delhi-110053 declare that Shanu Sharma ismy childhood name (As mentioned in LIC policy no. 121080246) and in my other legal documents myname is Dimple Sharma. Shanu Sharma and Dimple Sharma both are one and the same person.

0040694900-1

I, MISHIL HITESH TRIVEDI, S/O HITESH HEMANTKUMAR TRIVEDI, R/O FLAT NO-414, FIRST FLOOR, ANAND KUNJ, VIKAS PURI, WEST DELHI, DELHI-110018 Have changed my name to MISHIL TRIVEDI For all future purposes.

0070869685-1

PARSHWAL, H.NO. 802, BLOCK-C,SECTOR-7,FARIDABAD,HARYANA-121006 changed my Minor-**DAUGHTER Name BARUNI TO BARUNI PARSHWAL.** 0040695014-2

I,pulinder Kaur,W/o Gurdial

Krishna-Nagar,Shahdara

Singh, R/o B-27/5A, East

I,AKHILESH

Delhi-110051, Have changed my name to Phulpinder Kaur. 0040695014-1

I,ARCHANA W/O- AKHILESH PARSHWAL R/O-H.NO.802,BLOCK-C,SECTOR-7, FARIDABAD.HARYANA-121006, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ARCHANA **PARSHWAL**

0040695014-4

I,AKHILESH S/O- MOTI RAM R/O-H.NO.802 BLOCK-C,SECTOR-7, FARIDABAD, HARYANA-121006,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO AKHILESH PARSHWAL.

0040695014-3

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

23 OCT

MAJOR SAJJAN SINGH GAHLAWAT, SC

9 MADRAS (TRAVANCORE) All ranks of TRAVANCORE TERRORS pay homage to Major SS Gahlawat, SC who made the supreme sacrifice while fighting terrorists in Surankote (J&K) on this day in 1997. We salute his brave deeds on

source of inspiration for all of us. **Commanding Officer & All Ranks** 9 MADRAS (TRAVANCORE)

the 26th Anniversary of his martyrdom. You will always remain a

COURT NOTICE

Notice for appearance in Appeals Order 4 Rule 14 CPC, and Rules 1,2,4 and 11 o Chapter IV Karnataka High Court Rule IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNAT KA AT BENGALURU MFA No. 7857/ 2017 (MV-SI)

Appellants
M/S TATA AIG GENERAL INSURANC COMPANY LTD BUKESWAR ARCADE, MILLERS ROAD, BANGALORE-56005 REPRESENTED BY CLAIMS MANAGER By SRI. RAVI S. SAMPRATHI ADV.

I. SHRI B M SATISH R/AT NO. 161, 3RD MAIN, 3RD CROS ANJANEYA TEMPLE ROAD. LAKSHMIDEVINAGAR, NANDIN LAYOUT, BANGALORE-560096 AN Appeal From the Judgement/Award/Ord passed on 26.07.2017 passed in M.V. NO.5893/2013 on the file of the X ADD JUDGE COURT OF SMALL CAUSE AND MACT BENGALURU SCCH-16 SRI ASHOK KUMAR MADAN S/O BRIJ MOHAN, MAJOR IN AGE, NO. AG-458, SANJAY GANDHI TP IAGAR. NORTH DELHI-110 042 Whereas Court. the aforementioned Appe preferred has been registered by this. NOTICE IS HEREBY given to you appear in this Court in person or through Advocate duly instructed or through so one authorized by law to act for you in the case on 22.11.2023 at 10.30 a.m., in ca you intend to contest the appeal. If you fa so to appear, the appeal will be dealt wit heard and decided in your absence. Given under my hand and the seal of the

ASSISTANT REGISTRAL

court on 22nd DAY OF SEPTEMB

By order of the Cou

LOST & FOUND I, Nirmala Devi, W/o Sh. Kishan Chand Chugh, R / o 69, Sainik Vihar, Pitampura, Delhi have lost my original allotment letter, Possession letter and Share Certificate of flat no . 52 of New Subhash CGHS, Paschim Vihar, Delhi.

0050229206-1 I, Satish Kumar Chugh, S/o Sh. Kishan Chand Chugh, R/o 69, Sainik Vihar, Pitampura, Delhi have lost my original allotment letter, Possession

Finder contact at 9582000715

letter and Share Certificate of flat no . 51 of New Subhash CGHS, Paschim Vihar, Delhi. Finder contact at 9999519393 0050229207-1

PUBLIC NOTICE Informed that my client/ Ms. Sujata Goel & Mr. Tarun Goel are the owners of Prop.

No. 1202/81, total area 100

sq. yrd. at Shanti Nagar, Tr

Nagar, Delhi-35. Initially the Plot was the name of Ms. Sharda Devi Later on Ms. Sharda Devi died. Surviving Member Certificate of Late Ms. Sharda Devi was not obtained. Any person having any claim above said mentioned property thereof by way of inheritance, transfer, mortgage or

otherwise, whatsoever, are requested to inform the same in writing with documentary evidence to the undersigned on below mentioned address within ? days from the date of publication hereof together with copies of all documents on the basis which claims area made, filing which any such right, title, interest, or claim, if any will be deemed to have been waived and not binding on my clients. Manoj Kumar, Advocate

Ch. No. 192, Tis Hazari Courts, (Civil Side) Delhi-110054 Mobile No. 9868581889

Chapter IV Karnataka High Court Rules IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURI MFA No. 2072/ 2018 (MV-SJ) M/S TATA AIG GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY LTD

Notice for appearance in Appeals Order 4

Rule 14 CPC, and Rules 1,2,4 and 11 of

3RD FLOOR. JAMBUKESWAR ARCADE, NO.69 MILLERS ROAD, BANGALORE-560052 CLAIMS MANAGER By SRI. RAVI S. SAMPRATHI ADV.

I. SRI D FRANCIS ZAVIER S/O AYANIYEL @ DANIEL, AGEI ABOUT 27 YEARS. R/OF KT NO.332, 14TH CROSS. ST. THOMAS ROAD. KEB COLONY MANDVA CITY-571401 AND OTHERS Appeal From the Judgement/Award/Orde passed on 19.10.2017 passed in M.V.C. NO 1117/2013 on the file of the LADDI SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE AND MAC

Respondents No

S/O BRIJ MOHAN, MAJOR IN AGE, NO. AG-458. SANIAY GANDHI TP NAGAR, NORTH DELHI-110 042 Whereas Court, the aforementioned Appe preferred has been registered by this. NOTICE IS HEREBY given to you appear in this Court in person or through a Advocate duly instructed or through sor one authorized by law to act for you in thi case on 22.11.2023 at 10.30 a.m. in ca you intend to contest the appeal. If you fai so to appear, the appeal will be dealt with heard and decided in your absence. Given under my hand and the seal of th

SRI ASHOK KUMAR MADAN

By order of the Cour ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

court on 22nd DAY OF SEPTEMBER

www.upgov.nic.in

UPID-196526 Date- 21.10.2023

compulsorily be deposited in the Directorate of Animal Husbandry, U.P., Badshahbag, Lucknow on or before the date and time scheduled for submission of e-tender. Online **e-bid** should be **submitted** through U.P. Govt. e-Tender website http://etender.up.nic.in. The Scheduled Date and Time for the Tender are:-1. Availability of Online Tender Forms:

of requirement given below-

Particulars

(IS-920 : 1972) (1 kg pack as brick)

period."

3. Pre Bid Meeting: 4. Last Date for online submission of tender form: 5. Opening of Online Tender Forms (Technical bids):

2. Submission of Online Tender Forms start date:

Director. **Disease Control & Farms** Animal Husbandry, U.P., Lucknow

Date 26.10.2023 from 05.00 PM

Date 26.10.2023 from 07.00 PM

Date 16.11.2023 up to 12.00 PM

Date 30.10.2023 at 03.30 PM

Date 16.11.2023 at 03.30 PM



(बिहार सरकार का एक उपक्रम) प्रथम तल, उद्योग भवन, पूर्वी गाँधी मैदान, पटना

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

. निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय

प्रमाण और परिमाण विपन्न मूल्य भुगतान का प्रमाण जमा करने

6. तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय

की अंतिम तिथि. समय एवं स्थान

. निविदा वैधता की अवधि

RAHUL PANDEY

DHARAMSALA, OCTOBER 22

THE LAST time India beat New Zealand in a

World Cup game was in 2003. The victory tar-

get of 274 was the tallest they had encountered

in the tournament. Wickets had continued to

fall and the conditions favoured bowlers. There

was also fog in the air but Dharamsala wasn't

jittery. They seemed to be sure about the re-

sult, their only concern was about Kohli's hun-

dred. After the game, the pacer Mohammed

Siraj summed up the mood by saying: "Jab

King Kohli batting kar rahe the, hume koi ten-

sion nahi thi. (Till King Kohli was batting, we

have seen him equal Sachin Tendulkar's

record of 49 ODI tons but he did ensure that

India maintained their winning record after

5 games and zoomed at the top of the table.

It wasn't as free-flowing as his knock in Pune

against Bangladesh. Neither was it as grilling

as the one in Chennai against Australia, where

he essentially turned to Test mode. The ap-

proach was sandwiched in between the two

and paced just about right as the chase grew

tricky with wickets falling at the other end.

Boult for four on the second ball of the innings

to start the chase against New Zealand in

Dharamsala on Sunday. Next over, as he

stepped out of the crease to launch the ball over wide long on, the faith was affirmed fur-

ther. By the time the Indian skipper had edged

a harmless Lockie Ferguson slower ball to his

stumps, he had set the tone for India's chase.

HPCA Stadium in Dharamsala going, Kohli's

punch-drive blew the proverbial roof off.

Shreyas Iyer and KL Rahul had their fair share of highlights in what was a strokeplay exhi-

bition and India looked like easing their way

to 274. Until they didn't. Iyer was trapped off

a short ball again. Even moving outside the

crease didn't save Rahul on a pitch that lost

bounce as the game progressed. And

Suryakumar Yadav fell victim to a 'yes-no'

It was a chase where a lot more could've

gone wrong for the hosts. It'd go right down

the wire, but the Indian number three pro-

duced another one of his ODI memorabilia

knocks to put the Indian juggernaut all but

most precursored it on Saturday as he spoke

about a few ingredients he thought made the

ODI format special. "Someone like Virat Kohli

rotating the strike in the middle overs, that's

a skill as well." It was the foundation of his

knock on Sunday with 51 of his 95 runs com-

ing from running between the wickets. Strike

rotation was the mantra Kohli used to pro-

what felt like the opposition's game plan to

remove him. A consistent offering of width

outside the off stump. It's a delivery Kohli has

nicked behind one too many times in the on-

going World Cup cycle but one he only man-

aged to middle on Sunday. And when he did-

n't, it felt deliberate-like the slower cutter from

Boult. At first, looking to punch it through mid

off, Kohli would open his bat slightly to induce

an edge that ran down the short third for four

as the ball gripped and straightened.

The boundaries would come largely off

long his stay till the very end.

India head coach Rahul Dravid had al-

miscommunication with Kohli.

Kohli drives juggernaut

in the semifinals.

Then his predecessor took over. If Rohit's boundary got the full-house crowd at the

Any Indian nerves would settle down early when Rohit Sharma tucked aside Trent

Kohli fell short of the hundred that would

weren't worried about the outcome)."



TODAY'S MATCH

Pakistan vs Afghanistan, 2 pm. Live on Star Sports network

STROKES OF A GENIUS

The 4s and 6s that stood out in Virat Kohli's match-winning 95 off 104

FERGUSON, 11.4 OVERS

To a length ball pitched slightly outside off, Kohli opens the face of the bat, The ball beats point and

The ball moves a bit but Kohli is ready for it. Kohli transfers weight and manages to play his trademark shot — the cover drive.

"Nothing much to say about Virat. We've seen him do this for so many years. He backs himself to do the job." — ROHIT SHARMA

This is tossed up by the left-arm spinner. Kohli an inside out lofted shot for a six

HENRY, 29.1 OVERS

The ball from the medium pacer is slightly wide but Kohli steps down the track to get close to the pitch of the ball and unleashes a drive through mid-off.

BOULT, 46.1 OVERS

The stroke of the tournament, on par with the six he hit off Haris Rauf in T20 WC. Short ball outside off, Kohli shows great hand speed to hit a parallel six over deep mid-wicket.

W W Winning habit

INDIA vs NEW ZEALAND

Toss: India, chose to field first

NEW ZEALAND

R Ravindra c Gill b Shami **75** (87b, 6x4, 1x6) **D Mitchell** c Kohli b Shami **130** (127b, 9x4, 5x6) Tom Latham Ibw b Kuldeep **5** (7b, 1x4) **Glenn Phillips** c Sharma b Kuldeep **23**(26b, 1x6) Mark Chapman c Kohli b Bumrah Mitchell Santner b Shami **1**(2b) **O**(1b) **Matt Henry** b Shami **1**(5b) **Lockie Ferguson** run out (Rahul) **O**(1b) Trent Boult not out

15

273

■ Extras (b 3, lb 5, w 7) ■ **Total** all out 50 Ov (RR: 5.46)

Mohammed Siraj 10-1-45-1, Mohammed Shami

INDIA

46 (40b, 4x4, 4x6)

■ FoW: 1-71, 2-76, 3-128, 4-182, 5-191, 6-

0, Glenn Phillips 2-0-12-0

cover fielders to race to the square boundary.

FERGUSON, 17.2 OVERS

Virat Kohli falls short of a hundred but he ensures India beat New Zealand and maintain their winning streak — five in a row now

RAVINDRA, 28.1 OVERS

reaches for the ball and plays over extra cover

SCOREBOARD

HPCA STADIUM, DHARAMSALA

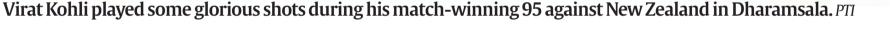
Devon Conway c lyer b Siraj 17 (27b; 3x4) Will Young b Shami

■ FoW: 9-1, 19-2, 178-3, 205-4, 243-5, 257-6, 260-7, 260-8, 273-9, 273-10 ■ Bowling: Jasprit Bumrah 10-1-45-1,

10-0-54-5, Ravindra Jadeja 10-0-48-0, Kuldeep Yadav 10-0-73-2

R Sharma b Ferguson SGill c Mitchell b Ferguson **26** (31b, 5x4) **V Kohli** c Phillips b Henry **95** (104b, 8x4, 2x6) **33** (29b, 6x4) **Slyer** c Conway b Boult **KL Rahul** lbw b Santner 27 (37b, 3x4) Suryakumar Yadav run out **Ravindra Jadeja** not out **39** (44b, 3x4, 1x6) Mohammed Shami not out **■ Extras** (lb 1, w 4) ■ **Total** 48 Ov (RR: 5.70) 274/6

■ Bowling: Trent Boult 10-0-60-1, Matt Henry 9-0-55-1, Mitchell Santner 10-0-37-1, Lockie Ferguson 8-0-63-2, Rachin Ravindra 9-0-46-



It was a chase where a lot more could've gone wrong for the hosts. It'd go right down the wire, but Virat Kohli produced another one of his ODI memorabilia knocks to put the Indian juggernaut all but in the semifinals.

On other instances, he seemed too good to not meet any of the deliveries in that corridor from the middle of the willow. Like the picturesque cover drive he creamed off Ferguson early in his knock. Or dancingdown-the-track off Matt Henry to bisect the two fielders at extra cover and mid off. Certainly the flighted-up delivery from Rachin Ravindra he slammed inside out over extra cover for one of his two maximums. The other was even better.

How many times have we seen him deposit the ball all the way over the ropes without footwork, merely using the bowler's angle to his advantage? With ball movement out of the equation, Trent Boult would be forced to cater to the round-the-wicket angle. He'd manage to not bang it too short and wide and yet, Kohli picked it clean with a flat pull over cow corner with a quick stretch of the midriff. By the time he manufactured the shot, another upset against the Kiwis had started to look improbable again.

The equation had come down to 13 needed off the last 23 and the vociferous Dharamsala crowd were now rooting for a moment of ODI cricket history. It wasn't to be as Kohli holed one off Henry straight to deep mid, falling five short of No 49. For now, Sachin Tendulkar remains all by himself atop the ODI hundred mountain. But underneath the Himalayas, Kohli's ODI stature grew an inch more.

Shami masters the art of bowling out batsmen

SANDIPG

OCTOBER 22

THERE ARE eleven legitimate ways to get a batsman out. But the bowled is perhaps the queen of all dismissals. Even more so when a fast bowler batters the stumps. It's the ultimate spectacle; the sign of a bowler's absolute powers, the picture of a batsman's utter defeat too. In the foothills of the Dhauladhar, Mohammed Shami treated the audience with the spontaneous thrill of blasting batsmen's stumps.

Three of his five dismissals were bowled. The first one speared onto the stumps from Will Young's inside edge. Such 'bowled' dismissals are of a relatively inferior quality the half a centimetre of wood the ball brushes before hitting the stumps robs some punch out of the blow. But the second one produced sudden unfettered joy. Mitchell Santner was just a ball into his innings, but he is no imposter with the bat. He has a Test hundred, could clear the fence with orthodox strokes and could at least preserve his wicket, if not pick the seamers to the ropes.

But Shami not just devastated him, but defeated him. From around the stumps, wide from the crease, Shami galloped in. Santner could read Shami's mind. He would hoop the ball inwards. He could get the bat in time to stab the ball from crash-landing on his stumps. He was hanging on his back-foot so that he gets adequate time to protect his stumps. But as Mike Tyson once said, everyone has a plan until they get punched in the face. The ball kept swerving in at extreme pace. All the spectacled batsmen could spot was perhaps a round, white apparition screeching onto his toes. Perhaps, he would not have seen the ball at all. Santner froze. Just his hands went down,



Mohammed Shami bowled out three batsmen, including Matt Henry. AP

as though he were chopping the ball from danger. But even before the bat was halfway through its descent, he could hear the sound of leather knocking the wood. He did not turn his head back. The sight of the flattened pole would crush his heart.

The poor stick. It bore the brunt of Shami's fury next ball too. Having just watched the previous ball, Matt Henry would have been fearful of the impending misfortune. Shami was in his mind even before he had gone out to face the ball. He stood coiled on the back-foot. Shami, cleverly. pulled his length back a trifle. Henry's eyes twinkled. He unpacked an extravagant straight drive but with absolute disregard to the fundamentals. Swished the thin air, with an emphatic follow-through, only for

Shami's ball to spear inwards and thrash his leg-stump to the vicinity of the wicketkeeper KL Rahul.

Shami let out a scream of joy. But what perverse joy does a bowler get when nailing a lower order batsman? But no fast bowler would resist the sheer joy of the stump flipping and somersaulting, no matter whether

it is a No.11 or No. 1. Henry, mind you, is not the average tailend joe either. A bowled is akin to a thunderous ace in tennis. You are not just beaten, you are defenseless. For the primary purpose of any batsman is to guard his stumps. In that sense, every other dismissal originates from bowled, from the fear of getting bowled. There are more artful and subtler ways of getting a batsman out, but nothing stings a batsman as the bowled. They are action heroes compared to the method actors.

57 out of 176: Bowled

It's the speciality that made Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis more watchable than Glenn McGrath and Courtney Walsh. So is the case with Shami. As many as 57 of his 176 wickets were collected this way. Nearly one in three scalp is a bowled. Every second victim of Akram was bowled, while Younis's rate was 2.7. In comparison, Shami's colleague Jasprit Bumrah gets a batsman bowled every 3.4th delivery though he has an arguably better yorker. Then, Bumrah these days is more than a yorker-spitting machine and has several other modes of deception.

So has Shami — he has had them nicking to the slips, leg before the wicket, caught off bouncers - but the classical Shami wicket is a bowled. The ball hitting back of length or good length and taking off fiendishly into the right-hander's pads. No better ball embodies his craft than the pearler to Shai Hope at the 2019 ODI World Cup. The ball swished straight, before it suddenly cut back sharply to destroy the stumps.

The diversion is quick, the curve of the upright-seamed thunderbolt is so beautiful that even batsmen could be hypnotized. This was how Shami blasted onto the scene too, in Eden Gardens. Six of his 11 wickets were bowled, and often beaten with prodigious seam movement. With Shami, as it was with Akram and Wagar, it is not just about beating batsmen with pace, though speed does play a role, but with swing, angle and movement off the seam too. Imagine the havoc Shami would have wreaked had he operated in the pre-two-new-ball era, like Wagar and Wasim, with his knack of harnessing reverse swing too.

LATE BLOOMER

How Mitchell used his feet, long levers to show Indian bowlers can be tackled

RAHUL PANDEY

DHARAMSALA. OCTOBER 22

WHEN DARYL Mitchell walked into the middle, New Zealand were in a spot of bother in the powerplay with two wickets down and just 19 runs on board. By the time he was dismissed, going for big runs in the final over of the innings, New Zealand had enough on the board for the bowlers to try and defend. Mitchell's 130 off 127 was a mixture of cautious play and some bold hitting, including against the difficult to hit spinners Kuldeep Yadav and Ravindra Jadeja. The standout feature of his innings was the use of his feet and long levers to find the boundaries and unset-

tle the bowlers. Early in his innings, it was evident that Mitchell was not going to let the bowlers dictate terms as they had at the start. Mitchell was New Zealand's man for the mini crisis. He began by making his intentions clear by advancing down the wicket to upset fast bowler Mohammed Siraj's length.

No big shot yet but he is not going to just knock around the ball and look to survive. He took a couple of steps down the track

ess.com

to Sirai. The fast bowler, who had pitched the ball in the 6metre to 8m good length region, changed his tactics. Soon he went for a barrage of short balls angling in on the Kiwi batter. In the attempt to do so though, he'd concede three wides in the same over. Michell tried to be the disruptor, not against just the fast bowlers but when facing spinners too.

Mitchell's middle overs domination of the Indian bowlers, by reaching out for the ball when he didn't reach the pitch and also being agile on his feet worked for him.

The best display of the skill was his takedown of India's chief spinner in Kuldeep Yadav. The left-arm wrist spinner has barely put a foot wrong this year, leading the wickets tally for India in the format. Alongside Jadeja, Kuldeep's presence in the middle overs has been a major reason behind India not conceding big at this World Cup so far. On Sunday though, Kuldeep didn't get much help from the surface. Rachin Ravindra, the New Zealand No.3, with whom Mitchell added 159 runs for the third wicket, said the wicket 'didn't offer much turn'.

Ravindra would play the slower bowlers by tracking back in the crease and using his wrists to carve out late strokes. For his part-



Daryl Mitchell has scored four of his five centuries this year. PTI

ner at the other end though, the first sight of tossed up deliveries, was enough of an invitation to waltz down the track to claim maximums. As evidenced by the three biggies he hit off Kuldeep Yadav.

The first of them - a mighty heave over mid wicket - should've been enough of an omen for the left-arm spinner to change lengths. He wouldn't, and the hits kept on coming. The second was even bigger. The

Mitchell's middle overs domination of the Indian bowlers, by reaching out for the ball when he didn't reach the pitch and also being agile on his feet worked for him.

third was smashed into the sight screen. Kuldeep almost got Mitchell with a tossed up delivery but Jasprit Bumrah at long off spilled the catch.

While shimmying down the track seemed to have been working just fine, as the innings progressed, Mitchell would turn to a different skill set. Shane Watson said on air, "It's his reach. That front foot coming out."

He flexed it against India's premium speedster Bumrah in the death overs as Mitchell latched onto one of his meant-tobe-wide yorkers and lofted it over mid off for four. There was a phase when New Zealand struggled to find boundaries, but the attacking Mitchell hung in there. In the final over from Mohammed Shami, he found 10 runs

with a six and a four, before getting caught at deep mid-wicket.

Years of toil

Mitchell's is a story of years of toiling in the domestic circuit. Years that also saw Mitchell move to Perth, Australia and share the field with the likes of Marcus Stoinis and Andrew Tye in his formative years.

Having made his domestic debut for Northern Districts in 2011 at the age of 20, it wasn't until 2021 that Mitchell received his first ODI cap for the Kiwis. The same year he'd propel the Kiwis to their first-ever T20 World Cup final in the United Arab Emirates. He played another vital innings in the semifinals against England after New Zealand had lost two early wickets.

Mitchell's credentials with the bat have only gotten better since. The following year, he'd cement his status as one of the only five New Zealand batters to have scored tons in three consecutive Test matches.

While it may have taken him the longest to arrive in the 50-overs cricket, Mitchell finally seems to be coming of age in the format — having scored four of his five tons this year alone.

SHORT TAKES

Topley ruled out of World Cup with fractured finger

Mumbai: England fast bowler Reece Topley has been ruled out of the rest of the World Cup after fracturing his left index finger in their 229-run defeat by South Africa, the country's cricket board (ECB) said on Sunday.

Topley injured his finger in the first innings and needed treatment, briefly going off the field. Although he returned to bowl and finished with figures of 3-88, he did not come out to bat in the run chase when England collapsed.

The 29-year-old was England's best bowler at the World Cup with eight wickets in three games.

"Scans in Mumbai on Saturday, after the match at the Wankhede Stadium, revealed the full extent of the injury. Topley will return to the UK in the next 24 hours," the ECB said in a statement.

"He will work closely with the England and Surrey medical teams in respect of his rehabilitation." -REUTERS

Jansen ready to make impact as batsman

Mumbai: The cricketing world might be in awe of Marco Jansen's blistering 42-ball 75 against England, but the South African is firm about progressing further in his journey as an all-rounder, and he is banking on his experience as an 'opener.' South Africa's 229-run win included a sensational maiden ODI fifty in ODI cricket by Jansen, who added 151 runs for a record sixthwicket partnership with Heinrich Klaasen (109). "When I grew up, I opened the batting so for me, I enjoy batting a lot. I'm not as pleasing on the eye like the other guys, but I love batting and I try to work very hard on it," Jansen said. - PTI

Shami had no issues warming the bench

Dharamsala: Mohammed Shami produced a match-winning display in his first appearance at the World Cup and the seamer said he had no issues warming the bench until his recall for the clash against 2019 runners-up New Zealand. "It's not too hard if your team is doing well," said the seamer. 'They are your team mates and if they are doing well then you should be supporting them. If it's in the team's interest, I'm okay with it." -REUTERS

STANDINGS

	- 60	M	W	L	Γ	Pts	NRR
	Ind	5	5	0	0	10	+1.353
	NZ	5	4	1	0	8	+1.481
	SA	4	3	1	0	6	+2.212
	Aus	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

PREVIEW: PAKISTAN VS AFGHANISTAN

Chennai-Pakistan: A 1999 love story

Mural of Wasim Akram-led team on victory lap soaking Chepauk's applause catches Pak's attention as they hope for change in fortunes

VENKATA KRISHNA B

CHENNALOCTOBER 22

WAQAR YOUNIS paused for a moment as one of the local staff of the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association pointed to the wall behind him. It was a mural of the Pakistan team on a victory lap soaking in the Chepauk crowd's applause. It would have definitely brought back fond memories for Wagar, who played that famous Test in 1999.

A little later, a few Pakistan players who were making their way to the practice nets at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, would also stop by, recalling that match which their team had won, one that broke a billion Indian hearts too. There were around 30,000 fans that evening 24 years ago as Wasim Akram and Co won a thriller by 12 runs.

At the Pavilion Sports shop which sits only a stone's throw away from the stadium, there is a photo of Saeed Anwar buying a new cricket bat, with which he smashed 194 against India the next day in the 1997 Independence Cup. For die-hard MS Dhoni faithful, there is his 113 which rescued India from 29/5 to 227/6 in a losing cause in a 2012 ODI against Pakistan.

Yet more than all of it, it is the 1999 Test that has become so synonymous with Chennai. More than Anil Kumble's 6-fer, Saglain Mushtaq's 10-fer, Shahid Afridi's 141, Venkatesh Prasad's 6-fer, and Sachin Tendulkar's 136, it is the image of Chepauk crowd on their feet, appreciating the Pakistan team as they jogged around, that has stood the test of time.

Thalaivar-like frenzy

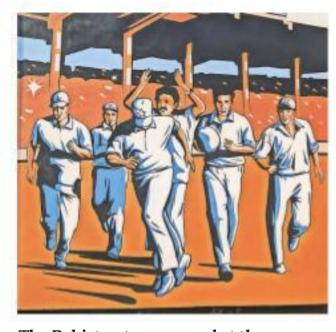
"Whenever there is an India vs Pakistan game, it is similar to a Rajnikanth movie release. There is a huge frenzy and hysteria that you cannot put in words and only those watch Thalaivar's first day, first show will understand. That is what India vs Pakistan is. In that 1999 Test, I felt what it is to be part of it where I felt like a hero. The noise when I got off the mark, still gives me goosebumps," Sadagoppan Ramesh, who made his debut in the Test, recalls to The Indian Express.

As Pakistan return to the same venue, with their World Cup campaign hanging in the balance, there is a sort of feel-good factor that could act as a catalyst for them over the next week in Chennai, where they face Afghanistan on Monday, followed by South Africa on Friday. With two wins from four matches, Pakistan need to win both to keep their semifinal hopes intact. This is a stop-over that Pakistan have been waiting for since the schedule was out. It is the venue their previous PCB chairman wanted to play their match against India. The experience of 1999 has made them feel at home over here, even though there is no remote cultural connection that maybe Mohali and Delhi can provide them with.

With Pakistan's match against Afghanistan coming on a long holiday weekend, to say the city has been waiting for the fixture would be

NUMBER PLATE

That iconic Test match in Chennai between India and Pakistan came down to the wire with the visitors taking the win by a mere 12 runs.



The Pakistan team mural at the **Chepauk Stadium.** Express

a massive understatement. Having been gripped by the release of Vijay-starrer 'Leo', Chennai is turning its eyes to cricket with the arrival of Pakistan.

Before the Test began, there was considerable tension as war clouds were just beginning to loom over Kargil. Ramesh recalls a policeman, who was on security duty at the team hotel, telling him, "vitratha thambi (don't leave them)' as he boarded the bus on first morning.

"Everyone talks about the standing ovation, but right through the Test, the crowd appreciated good cricket. Back then, Pakistan had a great team, and fans wanted to see them play as well because they hadn't played a Test for a long time here. I remember, when Akram bowled Dravid on the last day, some of them near the pavilion stood up and started clapping for that delivery. And at the end, when Pakistan went on a lap, I wasn't surprised about the fans reaction because they got to see a Tendulkar century and then a high-quality match," Ramesh says.

Looking for inspiration

It is something that VK Ramaswamy, one of the umpires who officiated, agrees. "It was nerve-wracking for the fans as the pendulum swung from one side to the other until Pakistan finally won. Although fans came to support India, they never missed an opportunity to appreciate a good performance. I remember Javed Miandad getting pleasantly surprised by the fans' reaction that he asked the team to go on a lap of honour. I won't be surprised if Chennai crowd exhibits the same this time too," Ramaswamy, now 78, says.

As Pakistan look to get their campaign back on track, they would definitely not mind the support. With only a handful of Pakistan fans expected to be in the city because of visa issues, they have been on a nose dive since running into India at Ahmedabad, where they played in front of over 1 lakh Indian supporters. A big defeat to Australia in Bengaluru means Pakistan are in a spot where they can't slip any further. It showed in their practice session on Sunday, where Wagar spent a good 20 minutes talking to their fast bowlers and coach Mickey Arthur.

On Monday, at their favourite hunting ground in India, they face Afghanistan, who can be party poopers. With a well-rounded spin attack to complement the conditions, it won't be an easy task for Pakistan, more so because they will play on the same pitch where India's spinners rolled over Australia a fortnight back. If Pakistan needs any inspiration, they don't need to look elsewhere. They just need to take a look at their phone gallery where they will find the photo of the 1999 mural.



Haris Rauf and Morne Morkel train ahead of Pakistan's World Cup clash against Afghanistan. PTI

Babar should take leaf out of Kohli's book, quit captaincy... there is no shame in doing so



Intikhab Alam

BABAR AZAM should take the leaf out of Virat Kohli's book and must quit captaincy so that he can enjoy his batting and can become one of the greatest batsmen of all time.

There is a lot of pressure on Babar Azam from the outside as well as from the inside. I personally feel he should quit captaincy. He lacks that character. As a captain, one should be bubbly and calling the shots in the ground. He doesn't talk much. I hardly see him talking to the bowlers. As a captain, you can't let your chips down. Against Australia, he looked out of ideas, his shoulders were down. If your bowlers are leaking runs, you need to talk to them, give them plan B if plan A has backfired. When things are going wrong, that's when you need a strong captain. Cricket is a thinking game, and a smart captain must have more tricks in his sleeve. Right now, I think Babar is running out of ideas.

It is my personal opinion, that he would have been a better playing as a batsman than leading this team. Look at Kohli, he left India's captaincy, and it has turned his fortunes around. The other day, I saw his batting against Bangladesh. He is smiling; he looks happy. he is is enjoying his cricket. What can I talk about his batting, he looked so assured. It looked like the entire script was in his mind and he was executing it to

perfection. I feel that leaving captaincy has done wonders to him. I can see Kohli playing till the next ODI World Cup as well. Why not? He is fit, he has got the hunger to score runs and I think the bad phase is behind him. Those three years were tough for all those who have loved Virat's batting but it is in the past now.

Babar should learn from the best. It is not necessary that a good batter can become a good captain. In 1981, in the middle of the Ashes, Ian Botham was sacked from captaincy because he was not performing well. Mike Brearley was appointed captain and it turned out to be a blessing for England as Botham single-handedly helped them won the Ashes. It still is probably one of the most remarkable comebacks in the history of Ashes cricket.

The other facet where we are struggling as a team is our spin department. It is probably one of the weakest spin attacks of Pakistan. Bowling in the middle overs is a grey area for us. If you don't have quality spinners, you will struggle in Indian conditions. Look at India, R Ashwin is warming the bench and has played only one game. He has more than 400 wickets. But you can;t blame them the team management. Kuldeep Yadav is bowling beautifully. The spin, the drift, I hope to see him playing more Test matches. Then there is Ravindra Jadeja, probably the most underrated cricketer of this era. A gun fielder, very good batsman and in those Indian conditions, I don't think there is anyone one better than him.

We have lacked consistency in both bowling and batting in the World Cup so far. Apart from that, there is a lack of vision in our cricket. You need long-term planning, and right now in Pakistan cricket, it is all about stop-gap arrangements. You can't play



With losses against India and Australia, Babar Azam's Pakistan will look to arrest their slide vs Afghanistan. PTI

cricket with that mindset.

With two losses against India and Australia, they have made things difficult for themselves. The Indian team is too strong. In all the three departments, they are a better side than Pakistan. India's batsmen are in form, the pacers are just exceptional, the spinners are world-class. In the field, they are not giving an inch. We were not a competition to India, they were just ruthless. My concern was the way we played against Adam Zampa in Bangalore. He was not even bowling well but ended up taking four wickets. It was not good bowling but just poor batsmanship.

Intikhab Alam is a former Pakistan captain and coach. He spoke to **Pratyush Raj.**

After Mitchell's strong start, Rohit and Kohli fightback



Catch is mine

It had the makings of a classic messup. Even more so as India have been clumsy on the field, dropping some easy catches. So when Jasprit Bumrah, Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul converged under a miscued shot of Glenn Phillips, disaster loomed. But Sharma kept screaming that it was his catch, stopping the advances of his colleagues just in the nick of the time, before he grabbed the steepler. After completing the catch. Sharma let out a scream of relief. Understandably so.

Nifty first-touch

Ronaldinho boasted arguably the best first touch in the game. No matter how hard it was struck, no matter the spin or swerve, the ball listened. So it is with Ravindra Jadeja when intersecting boundary-bound balls near the ropes. Daryl Mitchell had brutally flicked a Jasprit Bumrah full ball just wide of long on. It seemed scorching to the boundary before Jadeja calmly intervened, neatly stopping the ball with his instep.

Flat white like Kane

Though he was not playing the game, the cameras kept following Kane Williamson, with his flowing mendicant beard. Often he has a cup of coffee with him too. He is a coffee aficionado. Back home, he heads to The Luca on the Maunganui Road, where he grabs a magazine, reclines to a table and sips the favourite flat white. Extra hot. The shop's owner, Alex, calls him the Buddha with a coffee mug.

Rachin learns a lesson: You don't play across to Shami

Playing across the line, Rachin Ravindra had tried to hit Mohammad Shami to



mid-wicket. But like many before him, he failed to pull off the ambitious shot. That Shami special, the heavy ball, had landed on the seam and beaten the bat on way to the

keeper. The umpire thought it was out but DRS saved Rachin. While waiting for the third-umpire's call, non-striker Daryl Mitchell was seen having a word with the youngster. From his gestures it was clear what the Kiwi old-hand was telling young Rachin - "You don't play Shami across, you play him straight"



Rohit Sharma opened his account on Sunday with a boundary. PTI

Rohit takes on Boult, just as he did with Afridi

Rohit Sharma has done it to Shaheen Afridi, today it was Trent Boult's turn. Every cricket fan around the world, and their neighbours, know that the two left-armers start their spell by swinging in the first ball. Afridi has got Rohit with that ploy in the past but that's history. This

World Cup Rohit is in a zone. Against Pakistan, Afridi tried the in-curler again but Rohit flicked it for four. Kiwi new ball bowler Boult did the same on the first two balls of the innings. The Indian skipper defended the first but hit a boundary on the second.

Muscle for seamers, sophistry to spinners

Daryll Mitchell could employ both power and sophistry. To the pacers, he mostly relies on his strong shoulders. To negate the swing the surface offered and disrupt the seamers, he would step out, and on one instance he muscled Mohammed Shami over mid-on's head. But when Kuldeep Yadav strode in, he welcomed him with a cute lap sweep. As oppose to facing seamers, he would often hang back and play the spinners with the turn.

Ravindra, like Fleming

There is a bit of Stephen Fleming in the way Rachin Ravindra plays spinners. A similarly lanky batsman like him, he uses the feet a lot and looks both to loft them down the



them through the leg-side. The methods proved successful for Fleming, who averaged 65.45 in Asia in Tests when the likes of Anil Kumble, Muttiah Muralitharan and Saqlain Mushtaq were at their peak.

ground as well work

Ravindra showed his strength in playing spinners by jinking out to Kuldeep Yadav and thumping him over long-on. Mitchell too would ape him and smeared a pair of sixes himself, stepping down the track.



Kohli's brilliance, Jadeja's importance

Virat Kohli anchored yet another runchase in ODIs. He ran hard, but also found the boundaries when he needed to. He has often spoken about this aspect of his game in the past: a target in front of him is when he is the most comfortable on a cricket field. The 49th century didn't happen but with four 50plus scores in five matches, Kohli has set the tournament alight. But equally important for India was also Ravindra Jadeja stepping up with the bat. His wicket could have potentially opened up India's lengthy tail but he overcame a tentative start to keep the scoreboard ticking and crucially, remained unbeaten in the end. For India's World Cup campaign, that 39* was as important as any of the other knocks we have seen so far.

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Behind relay team's memorable run: New-found belief, taskmaster coach

Jamaican coach Dawson says one of the major hurdles he faced is the lack of self-belief among athletes

ANDREW AMSAN NEW DELHI. OCTOBER 22

AFTER INDIA'S Russian-American 400 metre chief coach, Galina Bukharina parted ways with the Athletics Federation of India abruptly last winter, the quarter-milers were left clueless. Galina had joined the Indian setup at 72 and spent five years forging a solid bond with the runners.

Although closer to the end of her stint the relay teams' performances dropped, she was a revered figure among the athletes.

So it was natural the athletes took a while to warm up to Jamaican Jason Dawson, who took over the reins of the 400m camp early this year. But despite the initial resistance Dawson earned the athletes' trust and played a pivotal role in helping the men's 4x400m dip below the 3-minute mark for the first time when they finished second in their hecoats at the World Championships in Budapest. They clocked another sub-three minutes (2:59:92s) timings in the final to finish fifth. The 4x400 men's relay team also won gold at the recently concluded Asian Games, adding to their stellar season.

"When I reached here I realised my work was cut out. I got a lot of pushback, a lot of resistance and that was actually the hardest part of the work. I knew everything I do here would have never been done before. So there was a lot of resistance," Dawson recalls.

The athletes felt Dawson's methods were "too tough" for Indians. "A lot of us suffered from injuries. There was a lot of heavy lifting and the load was just too much," a member of the 400m squad had mentioned earlier

They always think about injury. So I would say to them the only way to stay injury-free is to retire. There is nothing you can do to avoid injury. If you're warming up, you can get injured And I do push them. But their biggest fear was they had never done this before. And they were mentally shut down."

> --JASON DAWSON INDIA'S 400M COACH



this year. But the Jamaican coach wasn't going to relent. As per his philosophy, pushing Premanand. I asked him to talk to him and hard was the only way to achieve higher tarthings improved gradually," he says.

"They always think about injury. So I would say to them the only way to stay injury-free is to retire. There is nothing you can do to avoid injury. If you're warming up, you can get injured And I do push them. But their biggest fear was they had never done this before. And they were mentally shut down," Dawson says.

It took a while for Dawson to earn the quarter-milers' trust with Rajesh Ramesh, who ran the memorable anchor leg at the heats at Worlds, where he momentarily took the lead against the American. "I still don't remember the exact day when things changed but it began with Rajesh. He showed signs of improvement and that came with

the help of senior India relay team coach

Soon the rest followed, but Dawson knew it was just the beginning of the journey. Dawson always had set lofty targets for the Indians. One of the major complaints Dawson had was the lack of self-belief of the relay runners. "They set 'realistic targets' that are sometimes too low. Setting modest targets isn't good enough. There tends to be a little fear before going out for competition and it is a big issue. They were afraid of athletes challenging them," he said.

Dawson realised he needed to guide every athlete individually before working with them as a relay team. The Jamaican's tough-it-out style seems to have worked. Ramesh's anchor leg at Worlds, where he challenged his American opponent, was an

indicator of the Indian team's renewed be-

"So when Rajesh came from behind to challenge the American, he slightly moved away from the inner line to the other making it difficult to accelerate. And I said to myself, 'you're gonna run the run of your life today'. I told Rajesh no matter what happens just keep going. When you leave the track, the nation of India must be smiling," Dawson

The coach feels the bar must go higher from here on. He wants India to be recognised as a respectable competitor on the global circuit. The Jamaican has already drawn up a plan for the team to achieve their next target. For now, it's a short break.

"Well for me what we have achieved now is not the end and we have to move on to newer heights,"

Ponnappa-Crasto, Hooda win titles at Abu Dhabi

VINAYAKK MOHANARANGAN OCTOBER 22

WORLD NO 38 pairing of Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto started the Abu Dhabi Masters as the top seeds and lived up to the billing as they defeated Denmark's Julie Finne-Ipsen and Mai Surrow in a three-game battle. The Indians won 21-16 16-21 21-8 in 58 minutes, overcoming a second-game blip when they had the finish line in sight.

In women's singles, it was an all-Indian affair as 16-year-old Unnati Hooda overcame the challenge of 20-year-old Samiya Imad Farooqui. Hooda won 21-16 22-20 in 40 minutes to clinch the second Super 100 title of her career. She had previously won the Odisha Open in 2022. Ponnappa and Crasto, the pairing of the vet-

eran who has been around for more than a decade and an up-and-coming youngster, came into the tournament on the back of an impressive win against world No 13 Rena Miyaura and Ayako Sakuramoto last week in Finland. They built on that result this week where they started as the favourites. After an opening round bye, they steamrolled Farah Alhajji and Ghadeer Ali Altahri of the United Arab Emirates 21-3, 21-3.

The semifinal was an all-Indian contest as they defeated Sikki Reddy and Arathi Sara Sunil. Incidentally, Ponnappa and Reddy had been a pairing for a long time before ending their partnership last year with the former opting for a reset of sorts with the younger

In the final on Sunday, Ponnappa and Crasto took the opening game rather comfort-

ably and had a 15-10 lead in the second but the Danes fought back, aided partly by errors from the Indians. Finne-Ipsen and Surrow won 11 of the last 12 points to force the decider. Ponnappa and Crasto however, recovered quickly at the start of the third game and coasted to a win.

This was Ponnappa and Crasto's first World Tour title, with their other triumph coming in the Nantes International Challenge.

In singles, both Hooda and Farooqui came into the final on the back of impressive wins in the last four on Saturday. Hooda defeated top seed and world No 46 Thet Htar Thuzar 21-18 21-12. That was her second win against a top-100 player this week, as she had also defeated Kisona Selvaduray of Malaysia earlier. Farooqui's most impressive result also came in the semifinals as she defeated world No 57 and sixth seed Julie Dawall Jakobsen 21-9 19-21 21-17. Farooqui had lost to the Dane rather convincingly last week in the Dutch Open final.

Hooda (world No 152) and Farooqui (world No 105) came into the final with those big wins but it was the former who hit the ground running. Hooda, who had beaten Farooqui on her way to the Odisha Open title as well, took the opening game on a run of five out of six points from 16-15. The second game was an entertaining affair

as Farooqui looked set to force a decider with a 15-9 lead but Hooda fought back superbly to take the match in straight games. The teenager actually went the distance in the singles event without dropping a single game. In men's singles, Kiran George and Raghu

Mariswamy went the farthest as both of them lost their respective semifinals. George was the top seed at the event.



This was Ashwini Ponnappa-Tanisha Crasto duo's first World Tour title. Instagram



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