

NEXT IAS

BIG LEARNINGS MADE EASY



Mr. B. Singh (Ex. IES)
Renowned Educationist & Vice Presidential Awardee
CMD, NEXT IAS and MADE EASY Group




Mr. Bhim Sain Bassi (IPS Retd.)
Former Honourable Member of UPSC
Chief Advisor to NEXT IAS & MADE EASY Group

Take your CSE preparation to the NEXT level

1 India's Top Faculties

- Quality teaching
- Concept building
- Thorough coverage
- Current based approach



HOLISTIC SUPPORT
with
1000+ teaching hours for CSE Pre-cum-Main Foundation Course

3 Dedicated Academic Coach

- Personalised support
- Mentoring & answer writing
- Doubt solving & motivation
- Weekly & monthly class tests

2 Proactive Management

- Robust infrastructure
- Tech savvy ecosystem
- Safe learning environment
- Student centric approach

4 Enriching Content Team

- Enriched & updated books
- Daily & weekly current affairs analysis & PDFs
- Monthly current affairs magazine
- All India Pre & Mains test series

GS Foundation Course

New batches announced for CSE 2025

1 Yr/2 Yrs Offline and Live-online Batches



Scan to Enroll

DELHI OFFLINE BATCHES		LIVE-ONLINE BATCHES		BHOPAL OFFLINE BATCH	JAIPUR
Evening Batch	Morning Batch	Evening Batch	Morning Batch	Evening Batch	Offline batches to be announced soon
6th Nov	20th Nov	6th Nov	20th Nov	16th Nov	
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM	8:00 AM - 11:00 AM	6:00 PM - 9:00 PM	8:00 AM - 11:00 AM	5:30 PM - 8:30 PM	

Note : Offline batches will have additional online backup for revision and missed classes.

Optional Foundation Course

Offline and Live-Online Batches

<p>ECONOMICS by VIBHAS JHA SIR Commenced from 3rd Oct</p>	<p>GEOGRAPHY by ALOK RANJAN SIR Commencing from 27th Oct</p>	<p>HISTORY by HEMANT JHA SIR Commenced from 9th Oct</p>	 <p>Scan to Enroll</p>
<p>PSIR by PIYUSH CHAUBEY SIR Commenced from 17th Oct</p>	<p>SOCIOLOGY by RAJ RAI SIR Commencing from 25th Oct</p>	<p>ANTHROPOLOGY by SUDHIR KUMAR SIR Commencing from 25th Oct</p>	

Delhi Centre :
27-B, Pusa Road, Metro Pillar No. 118,
Near Karol Bagh Metro Station,
New Delhi - 110060
Ph : 8081300200

Bhopal Centre :
Plot No. 46,
ZONE - 2, M.P. Nagar,
Bhopal - 462011
Ph : 8827664612

Jaipur Centre :
A-1, Lion's Colony, Sitabari,
Near The Theme Hotel,
Tonk Road, Jaipur - 302018
Ph : 8081300200

www.nextias.com
info@nextias.com



Our Initiatives
MADE EASY SCHOOL
CBSE K-12 School (Delhi & Gurugram)



THE WORLD

AFTER RELEASE OF TREATED NUCLEAR PLANT WATER SCIENTISTS TEST FISH NEAR FUKUSHIMA

A team of international scientists collected fish samples from a port town near Japan's Fukushima nuclear plant Thursday, seeking to assess impact of plant's recent release of treated radioactive water into sea. The study by the UN's nuclear watchdog is the first since the release began in August. **REUTERS**

U.S. GENERAL MEETS PRESIDENT EL-SISI on how to send aid to Gaza via Rafah crossing

ROAD REPAIRING MACHINERY ENTERS STRIP as aid shipments are stockpiled in Sinai Peninsula

GAZA AUTHORITIES SAY BAKERIES SHELLED while Palestinians stood in queues to get bread

Get ready for Gaza ground assault: Israel to troops



Reuters

Whoever sees Gaza from afar, will see it from inside: Defence Minister Gallant

AGENCIES
KHAN YOUNIS, CAIRO
OCTOBER 19

ISRAELI AIRSTRIKES pounded locations across the Gaza Strip on Thursday, including parts of the south that Israel told Palestinians to take refuge, heightening fears among more than 2 million Palestinians trapped in the territory that nowhere was safe. Israel's defence minister told ground troops to be ready to enter Gaza, though he didn't say when the invasion will start.

Meeting with Israeli infantry soldiers on Gaza border Thursday, Defence Minister Yoav Gallant urged the forces to "get organized, be ready" for an order to move in. Israel has massed tens of thousands of troops along the border.

"Whoever sees Gaza from afar now, will see it from the inside," he said. "I promise you." Israel's consent for Egypt to let in food, water and medicine provided the first possibility for opening in its sealing off of the territory. Many among Gaza's 2.3 million residents are down to one meal a day and drinking dirty water.

Israel did not list fuel as a permitted item, but a senior Egyptian security official said Egypt was negotiating for the entry of fuel for hospitals. The official spoke on anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the press.

The Gaza Health Ministry pleaded with gas stations to give whatever fuel they had left to hospitals. UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, gave some remaining fuel stores to hospitals,

according to spokesperson. Machinery to repair roads has been sent through the Rafah border crossing from Egypt into the Gaza Strip in preparation for the delivery of some of aid stockpiled in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, two security sources said on Thursday.

The United States and Egypt have been pushing for a deal with Israel to get aid delivered to Gaza, White House said Wednesday that it had been agreed for up to 20 trucks to pass through, with hopes for more trucks later.

More than 100 trucks were waiting close to the crossing on the Egyptian side on Thursday, though it was not expected that aid would enter before Friday, Egyptian security sources said.

More aid is being held in the Egyptian city of Al Arish, about 45 km from Rafah.

The top US general overseeing American troops in the Middle East made an unannounced trip to Egypt for talks on Thursday with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi that focused on the Israel-Hamas war and how to get aid to the Gaza Strip.

A statement from Sisi's office said the talks with US Army General Michael "Erik" Kurilla, head of US Central Command, included in particular "the developments in the Gaza Strip".

Meanwhile, Israel has bombed and targeted areas with bakeries in Gaza over course of the war while dozens of Palestinians were lining up to buy bread, causing high numbers of dead and wounded, Salam Marouf, head of the Hamas-controlled government media office, said.



(Left to right) Trucks carrying humanitarian aid from Egyptian NGOs for Palestinians wait for the reopening of the Rafah crossing at the Egyptian side to enter Gaza; Palestinians in a refugee camp walk past the Al Nuseirat Bakery destroyed in an Israeli airstrike.

Sunak follows Biden to Israel to show support 'in darkest hour'

NIDAL AL-MUGHRABI & DAN WILLIAMS
GAZA, OCTOBER 19

ISRAEL POUNDED Gaza with more air strikes on Thursday, as British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak followed President of the United States Joe Biden on visits to demonstrate support for the war against Hamas while urging Israel to ease plight of besieged Gazans.

Sunak, who landed in Tel Aviv hours after Biden left, borrowed a phrase associated with Churchill, promising to stand by Israel "in its darkest hour" following the October 7 rampage.

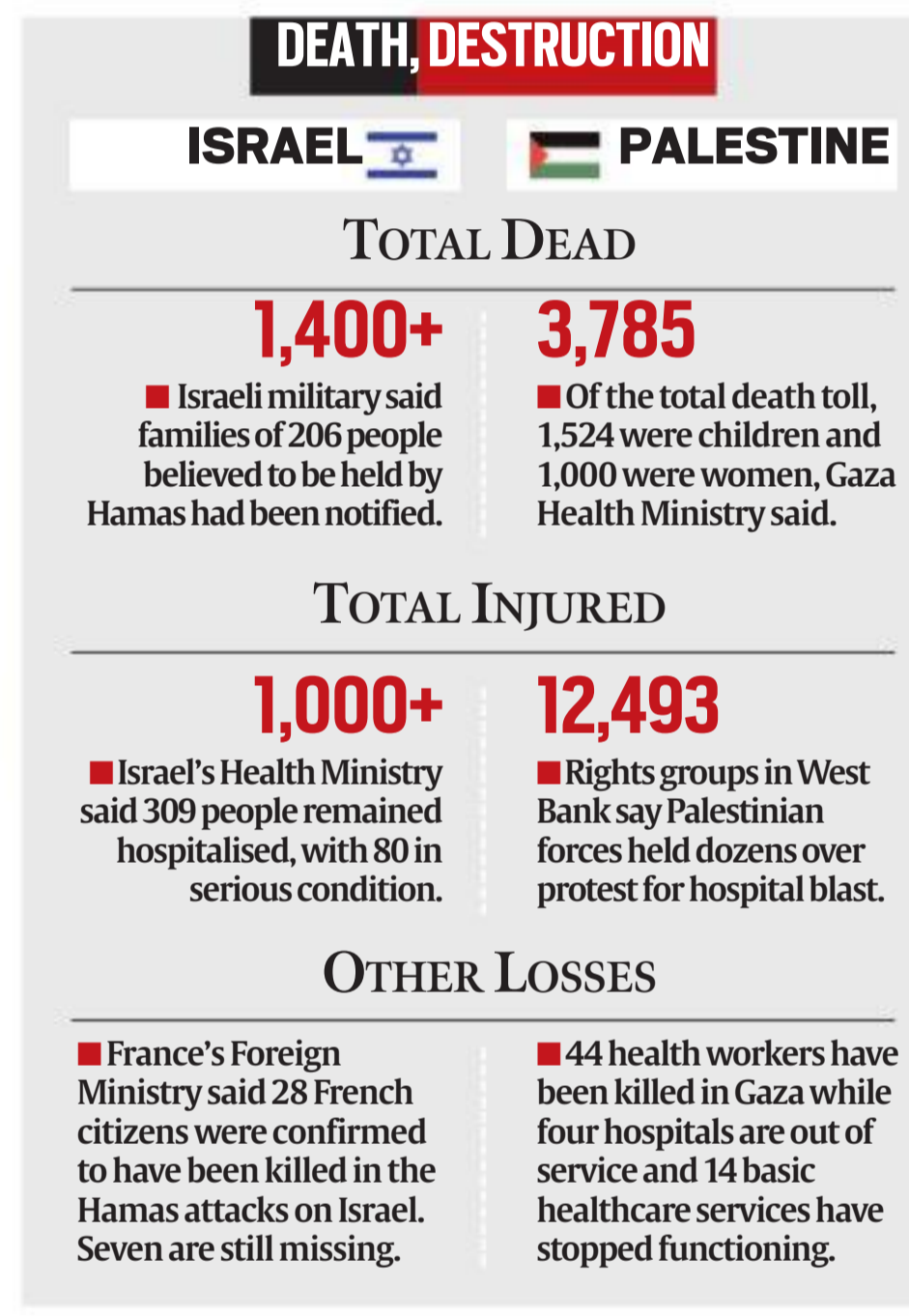
"Above all, I'm here to express my solidarity with the Israeli people. You have suffered an un-speakable, horrific act of terrorism and I want you to know that the United Kingdom and I stand with you," Sunak told Israeli reporters after landing.



Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu during a meeting with his British counterpart Rishi Sunak in Jerusalem, on Thursday. **PTI**

Later appearing beside Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, he said: "I know that you are taking every precaution to avoid harming civilians in direct contrast to terrorists of Hamas which seeks to put civilians in harm's way."

Biden flew home on Wednesday night after an eight-hour trip, and having pledged to stand with Israel but having only limited success in his other mission, to persuade Israel to ease plight of 2.3 million Gazans living under a total siege. **REUTERS**



US intel shows Israel was not behind Gaza hospital blast: White House

LALIT K JHA
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 19

A US analysis indicates that Israel was not responsible for the deadly blast at a Gaza hospital that killed hundreds of civilians on Tuesday, the White House has said, basing its assessment on intelligence overhead imagery, intercepts and open source information.

The assessment by the US came on Wednesday the same day when President Joe Biden made a show of solidarity with Israel during his visit there.

The massive explosion at the Al-Ahli Baptist Hospital late on Tuesday night killed 471 people and injured 314 others, Palestinian Health Ministry has said.

"The US government assesses that Israel was not responsible for an explosion that killed hundreds of civilians yesterday at the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza Strip," White House National Security Council Spokesperson said. "Our assessment is based on available reporting, including intelligence, missile activity, overhead imagery, and open source video and images of the incident," she said. **PTI**

Hamas likely used N Korea weapons: Israel

Seoul: Hamas fighters likely fired North Korean weapons during October 7 assault on Israel, a militant video and weapons seized by Israel show, despite Pyongyang's denials that it arms the militant group. South Korean officials, two experts on North Korean arms analysis of weapons captured point at Hamas using Pyongyang's F-7 rocket-propelled grenade, a weapon used against armored vehicles. **AP**

Guardian fires cartoonist over anti-Semitic imagery

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON, OCTOBER 19

THE GUARDIAN newspaper has fired long time editorial cartoonist Steve Bell after refusing to run a caricature of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that critics said drew on anti-Semitic imagery.

"The decision has been made not to renew Steve Bell's contract," the Guardian said.

"Steve Bell's cartoons have been an important part of the Guardian over the past 40 years — we thank him and wish him all

the best," publisher Guardian News and Media said Thursday.

The cartoon, posted by Bell on social media, shows Netanyahu holding a scalpel and preparing to cut a Gaza-shaped incision in his abdomen, with caption "Residents of Gaza, get out now." It is labelled "after David Levine". Bell said he had been accused of evoking the "pound of flesh" demanded by the Jewish character Shylock in Shakespeare's play *The Merchant of Venice*. He told *Press Gazette* that the play had "nothing to do with cartoon." "I don't promote harmful anti-Semitic stereotypes," he was quoted as saying.

Why Egypt, Jordan are unwilling to take in refugees from Gaza

JACK JEFFERY & SAMY MAGDY
CAIRO, OCTOBER 19

AS DESPERATE Palestinians in sealed-off Gaza try to find refuge under Israel's relentless bombardment in retaliation for Hamas' brutal October 7 attack, some ask why neighbouring Egypt and Jordan don't take them in.

The two countries, which flank Israel on opposite sides and share borders with Gaza and the occupied West Bank, respectively, have replied with a staunch refusal. Jordan already has a large Palestinian population. Egyptian President Abdel

Fattah el-Sissi made his toughest remarks yet on Wednesday, saying the current war was not just aimed at fighting Hamas, which rules the Gaza Strip, "but also an attempt to push the civilian inhabitants to... migrate to Egypt." He warned this could wreck peace in the region.

Jordan's King Abdullah II gave a similar message a day earlier, saying, "No refugees in Jordan, no refugees in Egypt."

Their refusal is rooted in fear that Israel wants to force a permanent expulsion of Palestinians into their countries and nullify Palestinian demands for statehood. El-Sissi also said a mass exodus would risk bring-

ing militants into Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, from where they might launch attacks on Israel, endangering the two countries' 40-year-old peace treaty.

Displacement has been a major theme of Palestinian history. In the 1948 war around Israel's creation, an estimated 700,000 Palestinians were expelled or fled from what is now Israel. Palestinians refer to the event as Nakba, Arabic for "catastrophe."

In the 1967 Mideast war, when Israel seized West Bank and Gaza Strip, 300,000 more Palestinians fled, mostly into Jordan.

The refugees and their descendants now number nearly 6 million, most living in camps and communities in the West Bank, Gaza, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan.

The diaspora has spread further, with many refugees building lives in Gulf Arab countries or the West.

After fighting stopped in the 1948 war, Israel refused to allow refugees to return to their homes. Since then, Israel has rejected Palestinian demands for a return of refugees as part of a peace deal, arguing that it would threaten the country's Jewish majority.

Egypt fears history will repeat itself and a large Palestinian refugee population from Gaza will end up staying for good.

That's in part because there's no clear scenario for how this war will end.

Israel says it intends to destroy Hamas for its bloody rampage in its southern towns. But it has given no indication of what might happen afterward and who would govern Gaza. That has raised concerns that it will reoccupy the territory for a period, fueling further conflict.

The Israeli military said Palestinians who followed its order to flee northern Gaza to the strip's southern half would be al-

lowed back to their homes after the war ends.

Egypt is not reassured.

El-Sissi said fighting could last for years if Israel argues it hasn't sufficiently crushed militants. He proposed that Israel house Palestinians in its Negev Desert, which neighbors the Gaza Strip, until it ends its military operations.

At the same time, Egypt says a mass exodus from Gaza would bring Hamas or other Palestinian militants onto its soil. That might be destabilizing in Sinai, where Egypt's military fought for years against Islamic militants and at one point accused Hamas of backing them. **AP**

Pakistan court forbids arrest of Nawaz Sharif on his return

ASIF SHAHZAD
ISLAMABAD, OCTOBER 19

A Pakistan court on Thursday barred authorities from arresting a former three-time prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, upon his expected return home on Saturday from four years in self-imposed exile, his lawyer said.

Lawyer Azam Nazeer Tarar told reporters that Sharif had been granted protective bail, under which authorities could not arrest him until he himself appears before a court on October 24, adding that Sharif would address a rally in the city of Lahore upon his return.

Sharif's younger brother, Shehbaz Sharif, was prime minister from 2022 until this year, when his government was re-



Nawaz Sharif was sentenced to 14 years in jail in 2018

placed by a caretaker administration upon the dissolution of parliament in advance of a general election due early next year.

The younger Sharif welcomed the court's decision. "He was implicated in absurd cases and subjected to mistreatment," Shehbaz Sharif said on the X social media platform, formerly known as Twitter. **REUTERS**

"Any fair hearing would have established his innocence."

Tarar said Sharif would follow up appeals against his convictions, which have been pending since he left, in the hope of overturning them and campaigning for the general election.

Upon his return on Saturday, he would address a rally in his old stronghold of Lahore, Tarar said. "It is everyone's constitutional rights to freely do political activities," Tarar said.

Sharif's party has said he would like to contest a seat in the general election but that would depend on the court overturning his convictions.

Nawaz Sharif was in 2018 convicted on corruption charges, which he denied, in two cases and sentenced to a total of 14 years in prison. **REUTERS**

Its economy in turmoil, Dhaka seals pact with IMF on bailout

RUMA PAUL
DHAKA, OCTOBER 19

BANGLADESH AND the International Monetary Fund reached a staff-level agreement on the first review of a \$4.7 billion bailout on Thursday, in a boost for the cash-strapped economy as it heads towards a national election in January.

Bangladesh's \$416-billion economy was one of the world's fastest growing for years, but has recently struggled to pay for imported fuel as its dollar reserves have shrunk by more than a third due to costly imports following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Completion of the first review, subject to IMF board approval in the coming weeks, will make about \$681 million in

NEW LOAN TRANCHE AFTER REVIEW

Completion of the first review will make about **\$681 mn** in loans available to the country, the IMF said in a statement

loans available to the country, the IMF said in a statement.

"The authorities have made substantial progress on structural reforms under the IMF-supported program, but challenges remain," the Fund said. "Continued global financial

tightening, coupled with existing vulnerabilities, is making macroeconomic management challenging, putting pressures on the Taka and FX reserves."

The IMF approved \$4.7 billion in loans to Bangladesh in January, with an immediate disbursement of about \$476 million, making it the first to secure such funds out of three South Asian countries that applied last year amid economic troubles.

The Fund said further calibrated monetary policy tightening, greater exchange rate flexibility and a tight fiscal policy would help restore macroeconomic stability in the country.

The IMF projects Bangladesh's growth at 6% in fiscal year 2024, while inflation is projected to moderate slightly above 7% by the end of the year. **REUTERS**

Planning to join China's Belt & Road, say Taliban

JOE CASH
BEIJING, OCTOBER 19

THE TALIBAN administration wants to formally join Chinese President Xi Jinping's huge "Belt and Road" infrastructure initiative and will send a technical team to China for talks, Afghanistan's acting commerce minister said on Thursday.

Beijing has sought to develop ties with the Taliban-run government since it took over in 2021, even though no other foreign government has recognised the administration.

Last month, China became the first country to appoint an ambassador to Kabul, with other nations retaining previous ambassadors or appointed heads of mission in a charge d'affaires capacity that does not involve for-

mally presenting credentials to the government.

"We requested China to allow us to be a part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Belt and Road Initiative... (and) are discussing technical issues today," acting Commerce Minister Haji Nooruddin Azizi told Reuters in an interview a day after the Belt and Road Forum ended in Beijing.

The Pakistan "economic corridor" refers to the huge flagship section of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in Afghanistan's neighbour.

Azizi said the administration would also send a technical team to China to enable it to "better understand" the issues standing in the way of joining the initiative, but did not elaborate on what was holding Afghanistan back. **REUTERS**

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY

Next challenge is to manage the All India Congress Committee.



FIRST CONTACT WITH PALESTINIAN PRESIDENT SINCE HAMAS ATTACK

In call with Abbas, PM condoles Gaza hospital deaths, reiterates India stand

Will continue to send humanitarian assistance for Palestinians: Modi



SHUBHAJIT ROY
JERUSALEM, OCTOBER 19

EXPRESS IN ISRAEL
IN THEIR first phone conversation since the October 7 Hamas attack on Israel and the retaliatory Israeli strikes that have sent tensions soaring across West Asia, Prime Minister Narendra



PM Modi spoke to Palestinian President Abbas

Modi spoke to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas Thursday to convey condolences **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**



'INDIA A FRIEND OF PALESTINE, ISRAEL... HOPE IT WILL PLAY A POSITIVE ROLE'
ADNAN ABU ALHAJJA
PALESTINIAN AMBASSADOR TO INDIA

In West Bank, the other half of Palestine, there's worry, scramble for food

SHUBHAJIT ROY
RAMALLAH (WEST BANK), OCTOBER 19

AT THE Al-Manara Square in downtown Ramallah, a pick-up truck parked on a corner of the road is a focal point, with patriotic songs being played on blaring loudspeakers. A motley group of Palestinians gather

around it, in solidarity with the people of Gaza.

It's about noon on Thursday, and the sun is bright. The roundabout, famous for its four stone lions, is crowded with vehicles, and traffic jams are building up. But, amid the hurried commuters, men and women slowly gather around the truck.

A local resident translates a **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

Centre rolls back its plan to licence laptop, PC imports

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK & ANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

THE GOVERNMENT Thursday rolled out an 'import management system' for IT hardware, including laptops and computers, modifying its initial stance of imposing physical restrictions. The notification comes just days after concerns were raised by US, China, South Korea and Taiwan at a recent World Trade Organisation meeting.

Under the proposed system, IT hardware companies will be required to register and disclose data related to their imports, and countries from which they import, among other things. This comes as a big relief to the industry which feared that the previous licensing notification would

EXPLAINED Why move hurt reforms

THE INITIAL notification that proposed licensing of imports of IT hardware had rung alarm bells in the industry, and complaints to the WTO by countries exporting to India. The new 'import management system' sounds benign, but there are still concerns if registration and data sharing will leave a lot of discretion to bureaucrats.

lead to a kind of quota system. The key idea behind the measure is to check imports of **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

Yr after Kheda flogging, HC orders 14-day jail term for 4 policemen

SOHINI GHOSH
AHMEDABAD, OCTOBER 19

A YEAR after the public flogging of Muslim men who had been detained for allegedly attacking a garba event in Undhela village of Kheda district, a division bench of the Gujarat High Court Thursday sentenced four of the accused police personnel to 14 days in jail and a fine of Rs 2,000 each.

The bench, however, stayed the sentence for 90 days — as provided under the Contempt of Courts Act — to grant them time to appeal the verdict.

Calling the public flogging "inhumane" and an "act against humanity", the bench of Justices A S Supheia and Gita Gopi elucidated the physical and emotional damage that acts of torture or humiliation can cause. It also noted that those arrested have a right to life with dignity.

The bench held the four policemen — A V Parmar, D B Kumavat, Laxmansinh Kanaksinh Dabhi and Rajubhai Dabhi — guilty of contempt of court for violating the guidelines laid out in the D K Basu judgment on the conduct of policemen while taking custody of an accused.

It said custodians of law and order "should not become deprecators of civil liberties, for their duty is to protect and not to abdicate" and that an accused person's "dignity cannot be allowed to be comatose" while in police custody.

It quoted Mother Teresa who had said, "Human rights are not a privilege conferred by the government, they are every human being's entitlement by virtue of humanity. The right of life does not depend and must not be contingent on the pleasure of anyone else, not even a parent or a sovereign."

The bench said the accused policemen "defiled the human **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

AN EXPRESS SERIES

Mumbai holds its breath, alarm bells ring but no one's listening

This week, city's AQI falls, PM 10 levels rise above Delhi's, city braces for second toxic winter in a row



DEATH BY BREATH

PRATIPACHARYA & RUPSA CHAKRABORTY
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 19

DIWALI IS a full three weeks and winter is two months away but Mumbai is already holding its breath — bracing for the choking winter that lies ahead.

This year, the straws in the toxic wind have come unusually early.

On Wednesday, as the city's temperature soared to a four-year high for October, levels of PM10 — Particulate Matter with a diameter of 10 microns or less (human hair is 50-70 microns) and, therefore, inhalable —



The city skyline shrouded under a haze on October 17, the day Mumbai's overall AQI touched 191, which was worse than Delhi's 84. *Amit Chakravarty*

HOW BAD IS IT IN MUMBAI

66 DAYS between Nov 2022 and Jan 2023 saw air quality in the poor or very poor category. Of 62 days between December and January 2021-22, only 20 saw poor air quality.

14,396 PEOPLE succumbed to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) between

2016 and 2021. On an average, 6 people died due to COPD daily in this time.

1,220 MUMBAIKARS died due to bronchitis between 2016 and 2021; 6,757 died due to asthma.

923 LUNG CANCER deaths in 2021; 621 deaths in 2009 *Source: SAFAR and CPCB*

crossed that of Delhi.

A day earlier, Mumbai's overall Air Quality Index touched 191, way worse than Delhi's 84. Andheri and Mazgaon touched 300 plus; Sion and Bandra Kurla Complex crossed 200 — an AQI above 200 is considered Poor, above 300 Very Poor and a serious health hazard.

These alarm bells are loud and clear and yet they have a familiar, disquieting ring.

Records analysed by *The Indian Express* and data obtained by the newspaper under the **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

CASH-FOR-QUERY ALLEGATIONS

Moitra gave me her Parliament login, password: Hiranandani to LS panel; she claims PMO drafted his letter

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

THE CASH-FOR-QUERY allegations involving Trinamool MP Mahua Moitra took a serious turn Thursday with Darshan Hiranandani, CEO of the Hiranandani Group, claiming in an affidavit to the Ethics Committee of Lok Sabha that she provided him her Parliament lo-



TMC MP Mahua Moitra

gin and password so that he could "post the questions" directly "on her behalf when required".

Moitra called the letter "a joke" and said, "The draft of this

letter was sent by the PMO and he (Darshan) was forced to sign it."

In a three-page affidavit submitted Thursday to the committee and released to the press by the Hiranandani Group's corporate communication team, Darshan Hiranandani, who resides in Dubai, said Moitra "thought that the only way to attack Sh. Modi (Prime Minister Narendra Modi) is by attacking **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

Chambal Catch-22 for BJP: C for Change but, also, for Chouhan

LIZ MATHEW
GWALIOR, MORENA, AMBAHA (MP), OCTOBER 19

THE RAVINES of Gwalior-Chambal resonate in popular imagination with runaway dacoits and runaway Bollywood hits. Now, the steep mud hillocks crisscrossed with deep gullies also reflect the treacherous territory in which the BJP finds itself in Madhya Pradesh.

As an electorate that has been ruled by the party now since 2003

overwhelmingly seeks "change", Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the longest-serving Chief Minister of the state, is turning out to be the BJP's biggest asset as well as its greatest liability in this region.

The tightrope walk for the BJP is clear in Chouhan's popularity among women voters, who have been pointedly wooed by the CM with welfare programmes and cash schemes. Even the rest admit they don't hold much against the leader with an image **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

SEATS WON IN GWALIOR-CHAMBAL



(TOTAL: 34)

Party	2008	2013	2018
BJP	16	20	7
Cong	13	12	26
Others	5	2	1

SPORT

INDIA BEAT BANGLADESH, KOHLI SCORES 48TH ODI TON
PAGE 19

Unable to go home after IMA course, Afghan Army officer turns to Hindi films

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

MAN AMAN SINGH CHHINA
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 19

TWO YEARS ago, Lieutenant Eidi Mohammad Amani marched in the drill square of the Indian Military Academy (IMA) in Dehradun, successfully completed his training and became an officer in the Afghan Army. Today, however, he is eking out a living by taking on small roles in Hindi films, mostly as British Army officers.

The Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan in August 2021 shattered the dreams of dozens of young Afghans, who trained in the IMA and the **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**



Lt Eidi Amani (left) with Col Shahi (ret'd) on the sets of a series. *Courtesy Col Shahi*

Officers Training Academy (OTA) in Chennai, of serving in their country's armed forces. Amani and others like him are unwilling to go back to **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

DELHI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Government of India

CONSERVING DELHI'S HERITAGE PRESERVING HISTORY

UNVEILING OF RESTORED HERITAGE STRUCTURES
at Mehrauli Archaeological Park

By **Chief Guest** **Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena**
Hon'ble Lt Governor of Delhi

Guest of Honour **Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi**
Minister of State for Culture, Govt. of India

in the August Presence of **Shri Ramesh Bidhuri**
Member of Parliament, South Delhi

20th October 2023, 5:30 PM

Restoration of Metcalfe's Boathouse, Guesthouse and Circular Monument & other Monuments

Vantage points for mesmerizing view of Qutub Minar

All heritage structures well connected with pathways

Rejuvenated & illuminated water body near Metcalfe Boathouse

Illumination of park and important monuments

Adequate public amenities

Visit our website www.dda.gov.in or dial Toll Free No. 1800110332

[@ddaofficial](https://www.facebook.com/ddaofficial) [@official_dda](https://twitter.com/official_dda)



FREE ENTRY

JHARKHAND

WOMEN'S ASIAN CHAMPIONS TROPHY 2023

MARANG GOMKE JAIPAL SINGH ASTROTURF HOCKEY STADIUM, RANCHI



DRAG FLICK SCORE

27 OCT - 05 NOV
2023

EXPERIENCE THE EPIC BATTLE



WATCH LIVE ON



Title Sponsor



Host Partner



AHF Partners



Official Partner



Official Suppliers



Information & Public Relations Department, Government of Jharkhand

PR-NO-309584 (IPRD) 2023-24

WILL BE INAUGURATED BY PM TODAY

First rapid train to be named Namo Bharat

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

ON THE eve of its inauguration by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, India's first regional rapid train, between Delhi and Meerut, was on Thursday named "Namo Bharat".

While announcing the launch, a statement from the Prime Minister's Office on Wednesday had said the PM would inaugurate the priority section of the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridor and flag off the "RapidX train" connecting Sahibabad and Duhai Depot.

On Thursday, however, government sources said the train was likely to be renamed "Namo Bharat".

Confirming the development, Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said in a post on X: "Inauguration of the country's first Regional Rapid Train #NamoBharat between Sahibabad & Duhai Depot by PM Sh @narendramodi Ji on 20 October 2023 will mark the beginning of a new era of state-of-the-art ultra modern urban



The 17-km priority section of the 82-km-long first corridor of RRTS would begin operations for passengers at its five stations on Saturday. Praveen Khanna

commute in the country."

Later, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs' official handle on X said: "India's first Regional Rapid Train '#NamoBharat' Train is indigenously manufactured with a designed speed potential of 180 kmph and an operational speed potential of 160 kmph."

The 17-km priority section of the 82-km-long first corridor of RRTS would begin operations for passengers from Saturday at its five stations — Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Guldhar, Duhai and

Duhai Depot. The trains would be operational from 6 am to 11 pm. To start with, the frequency of the trains would be 15 minutes and can be increased to every five minutes, as per the PMO statement.

"The Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS is being developed at a cost of more than Rs 30,000 crore, and will connect Delhi to Meerut in less than an hour of travel time going through the urban centres of Ghaziabad, Muradnagar, and Modinagar," the PMO said.

Clear-cut case against Sanjay Singh: ED to HC in excise policy case

MALAVIKA PRASAD
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

WHILE OPPOSING AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh's plea against his arrest and remand in the money laundering case pertaining to the excise policy, the ED told the Delhi High Court Thursday that a clear-cut case was made out against him.

Appearing for the ED, Additional Solicitor General SV Raju argued before a single-judge bench of Justice Swarna Kanta Sharma that Singh's reliance on the Supreme Court verdict in Pankaj Bansal's case was not applicable. He submitted that in the Bansal case, written grounds of arrest were not given, and Singh's case was different as it's an "admitted case that written grounds of arrest were given to him".

Raju said the grounds of arrest point to Singh's role which alleges that he was "part of a conspiracy of collecting kickbacks from liquor groups". "A clear-cut case is made out that he (Singh) is guilty of offence under Section 4 (PMLA). The grounds of arrest make out a case... give reasons of arrest. There has been total compliance of Section 19 (power to arrest under PMLA)," Raju said.



RIVER OF FROTH

The Yamuna at Kalindi Kunj Ghat, Monday. Several major projects aimed at cleaning the river in Delhi are reported to be running behind schedule, as per a recent DPCC report. Abhinav Saha

STUDY CONDUCTED AT 3 SCHOOLS SHOWS

Kids as young as 11 consuming smokeless tobacco in Capital

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

SMOKELESS TOBACCO consumption among children in Delhi is being initiated at a very early age — as young as 11 — through products such as pan masala which they mostly get from grocery stores, according to an observational study conducted by researchers of Maulana Azad Medical College (MAMC) and the National Institute of Health & Family Welfare, Program Advisory Committee.

The study was conducted at three Delhi schools, where a total of 714 students from Class IX to XII were enrolled and were observed for a year.

One of the major findings was that around 11% of students were consuming smokeless tobacco. While schools in Delhi are tobacco-free zones, the major focus on prevention is around smoking and not around smokeless tobacco which makes it easier to access and consume.

According to Dr Akash Deep

Sharma, Senior Resident, Department of Community Medicine at MAMC, and the principal investigator of the study, children consumed smokeless tobacco at a frequency of 6-9 days in a period of one month and a majority of students initiated the use in the age group of 10-11 years.

"Among different smokeless tobacco products, pan masala combined with zarda was found to be the most commonly consumed. Chewing was observed as the main form of consumption," said Dr Akash Deep, adding that another observation was a lot of students had this misconception that smokeless tobacco was not as dangerous as smoking.

Dr Akash said they also mapped the area of 1 km around each school to locate the point of sale of tobacco — grocery stores, pan shops, stationery carts etc.

"... We approached sellers for interviews, who replied that smokeless tobacco was the most commonly sold tobacco product to minors, out of which pan masala with

zarda (earlier known as gutka) and khaini were the most common smokeless tobacco products, followed by cigarettes, bidis." He added that such alarming results in terms of low age of initiation in Delhi is an emerging health problem and adequate cessation programmes and schemes must be developed to ensure youth are tobacco-free.

Dr Akash said, "The current situation warrants focussing more on the pathways of initiation. The reducing age of initiation of smokeless tobacco consumption has to be taken care of appropriately with immediate action."

SOUTHERN STAR JEWELLERY
Today's 22 CT Gold Rate, ₹55,600* Per 10gms
BIS HUID Jewellery
Free Repair & Maintenance of your Old Ornaments of any make
Making Charges - 7.99% on Gold Diamonds - 0% Making Charges
♦ Karol Bagh ♦ Green Park ♦ Pitampura ♦ Dilshad Garden ♦ Janakpuri
8800307899

Indian Overseas Bank
Central Office, 763, Anna Salai, Chennai-2
Ph: 044 - 2851 9630
EMPANELMENT OF INSURANCE BROKERS
Applications are invited for empanelment of Insurance Broker for Bank.
For Further details Refer www.iob.in/tender.aspx for empanelment.
Last date : 10.11.2023
General Manager

To Let

An unfurnished Residential Flat on 2nd Floor of Building at Plot No. S-279, Panchsheel Park, New Delhi. Area approx. 4,000 Sq. Ft., consisting four Bed Rooms with attached Bath Rooms, One Drawing cum Dining Room, One Kitchen, One Car Parking Space. Interested parties may contact at cirpfil@gmail.com.

BRIEFLY

Fake call centre busted in Noida

Noida: Gautam Buddha Nagar police Thursday busted a fake call centre allegedly involved in fraudulent activities. Fourteen people, including six women have been arrested, who are accused of swindling over Rs 50 lakh from victims in the last five years. Officials said the accused duped people on the pretext of bank loan processing fees, insurance policy renewal fees, policy mortgage loans and insurance plans. "The mastermind of the operation, Haseen, was responsible for the theft of personal data from his previous employers," said Shakti Mohan Avasthy, Additional DCP of Noida. He added that 11 lakh in cash and 10 mobile phones have been recovered. An FIR has been registered at Phase 1 police station. **ENS**

AIIMS adds 63 more drugs to its free medicine list

New Delhi: To increase accessibility to health-care, AIIMS-Delhi has added 63 more drugs to the list of medicines being provided free of cost to patients at the premier medical institute. The move will benefit countless poor people, Director of AIIMS, Dr M Srinivas, said. The decision to expand the list of medicines from 296 to 359 was taken recently. "Sixty-three medicines have been added to existing list," he said. **PTI**

Govt will soon frame law to safeguard gig workers: CM

New Delhi: The AAP-Delhi government will soon frame a law to safeguard the interests and security of the capital's gig workers, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal assured a delegation of representatives from the sector Thursday.

A delegation of the Gig Workers Association of Delhi had called on Kejriwal seeking the framing of a law to ensure social security for platform-based gig workers — employed on app-based platforms — in Delhi, whom the CM assured of a law which, however, may take some time to be framed.

The association's memorandum sought job security and benefits like ESI and PF. It also flagged

issues related to low wages and work hours, appealing for the creation of laws in Delhi as well as the establishment of a welfare fund for gig workers. It also suggested the imposition of a cess of up to 2% on app-based private firms, which should be used for the welfare of workers employed by them.

Following the meeting, the government said Kejriwal issued instructions to determine if gig workers fall under the definition of workers as per the Construction Workers Welfare Board which would eliminate the need to create a separate law and allow those employed as such to benefit from existing Delhi government schemes. **ENS**

At ForumIAS, We eat Competition

With more than 600+ selections through various programme, and 8 ranks in top 10, 2 out of every 3 candidates in CSE 2022 is a ForumIAS Academy student.

IAS Rank - 1 IAS Rank - 2 IAS Rank - 3 IAS Rank - 4 IAS Rank - 5 IAS Rank - 7

600+ total selections in CSE 2022

5 in TOP 5

8 in TOP 10

64 in TOP 100

ForumIAS

GS FOUNDATION PRELIMS CUM MAINS CSE 2025

REGULAR BATCH 30 OCTOBER, 2023 D1-8:30 AM

RESIDENTIAL BATCH 10 JANUARY, 2024 D2-8:30 AM

What makes ForumIAS GS Foundation Programme a preferred choice for aspirants?

- Thousands of Success Stories:** ForumIAS through its various programmes have guided thousands of students towards success in CSE. Join the league of Anudeep Durishetty (2017), Ms. Shruti Sharma (2021), and Ms. Ishita Kishore (2022).
- Dynamic Learning:** We stay up-to-date with the ever-evolving Civil Services exam pattern. Our methods evolve, reflecting the dynamic nature of the exam.
- 360 Degree Preparation:** All-encompassing resources for a one-shot exam success. Our resources and content are meticulously designed to empower you with the impeccable knowledge and skills required to clear the exam.
- Mentorship Matters:** We understand that this exam is not just about books; it's a psychological challenge. Our mentors offer the guidance, motivation, and support you need to excel.

Features

- Outcome-Oriented Learning: Regular Benchmark assignments and tests for extensive prelims and mains practice. We believe in power of revision and practice.
- Personalized Attention: Small batch sizes ensure individualized support because timely feedback is critical for success.
- Regular CSAT and Current Affairs classes.
- Hybrid Learning: Access to both online and offline classes for ultimate flexibility.
- Dedicated 24x7 Support for improving answer writing skills through evaluation of descriptive answers with improvement suggestions.

CURRENT AFFAIRS CLASSES 2024 (PRE + MAINS)

MGP + CURRENT AFFAIRS THE WINNING COMBINATION

IAS Rank - 02 Garima Lohia CSE 2022

"I took current affairs classes for mains by Dipin Damodaran Sir. The top notch quality of the content and the versatile perspectives I got from Sir's classes really boosted my score in GS..."

To register for Open Classes Scan the QR code

*Subject to availability of seats

21 Oct. 2023 Batch - 3

GS ADVANCED PROGRAM 2024

What is better than the MGP & Current Affairs Classes? The GS Advanced Program. One, because it includes the MGP and Current Affairs classes. Two, for those of us who have missed a foundation course, done self study or otherwise not had a good static preparation, the GSAP provides a second avenue for course correction.

23 Oct. 2023 Batch - 1

PRELIMS RAPID REVISION CLASSES 2024 BATCH - 1 27 October 2023

CSAT CLASSES for PRELIMS 2024 BATCH - 1 21 October 2023

FORUM RESIDENTIAL COACHING GURGAON
Plot No. 894, Saraswati Vihar, Near MG Rd Metro Station, Gurgaon

FORUM LEARNING CENTERS
DELHI (MUKHERJEE NAGAR)
2nd Floor, AG Palace, E Boring Canal Road, Patna, Bihar - 800001

DELHI (ORN)
19, Pusa Road, 2nd Floor, IAPL House, Opposite Metro Pillar #95-96, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-05

PATNA
2nd Floor, AG Palace, E Boring Canal Road, Patna, Bihar - 800001

HYDERABAD
1st Floor, SM Plaza, RTC X Rd, Indira Park Road, Jawahar Nagar, Hyderabad, Telangana - 500020

9311740400 / 9311740900
admissions@forumias.academy https://academy.forumias.com

FROM PAGE ONE FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

In call with Abbas, PM condoles Gaza hospital deaths

over the loss of civilian lives at the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza City. The Prime Minister reiterated India's "long-standing principled position on the Israel-Palestine issue". "Spoke to the President of the Palestinian Authority H.E. Mahmoud Abbas. Conveyed my condolences at the loss of 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 position on the Israel-Palestine issue," Modi said in a post on X.

The Palestinians have blamed an Israeli missile strike for the deaths at the Al Ahli Hospital while Israel has maintained that a rocket launched by the Palestinian Islamic Jihad had misfired and landed on the hospital, resulting in casualties.

A day earlier, Modi had re-

acted to the Gaza hospital incident. "Deeply shocked at the tragic loss of lives at the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza. Our heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims, and prayers for speedy recovery of those injured."

"Civilian casualties in the ongoing conflict are a matter of serious and continuing concern. Those involved should be held responsible," he said in a post on X — this was perceived as a message to both Israel and Hamas.

His remarks were in line with the statement earlier by the Ministry of External Affairs whose spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said there was an universal obligation to observe international humanitarian law, and also a global responsibility to fight the menace of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Modi's call to Abbas came days after he spoke to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to extend solidarity.

On October 10, Modi thanked Netanyahu "for his phone call and providing an update on the ongoing situation" and said "people of India stand in solidarity with Israel in this difficult hour".

He said "India strongly and unequivocally condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations".

Later, Delhi, in its first official statement on the Israel-Hamas war, had sought to balance its position. MEA spokesperson Bagchi, in response to questions at a weekly briefing, said, "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."

"As regards Palestine, we have reiterated our long standing position of advocating the resumption of direct negotiations towards establishing a sovereign, independent and viable State of

Moitra gave me Parliament login, password: Hiranandani to LS panel; she claims PMO drafted his letter

Sh. Gautam Adani and his group as both were contemporaries, and they belong to the same state of Gujarat."

The affidavit comes days after BJP MP Nishikant Dubey wrote two letters — one to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla claiming there are allegations that Moitra took bribes to protect the interest of the Hiranandani Group, and the other to IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, urging him to investigate the IP addresses of Moitra's log-in credentials for Lok Sabha to check if they had been accessed by someone else.

Hiranandani, in his affidavit, said, "Ms. Moitra drafted a few questions that would have elements to embarrass the Government by targeting the Adani group; questions that she could raise in Parliament. She shared with me her email ID as Member of Parliament, so that I could send her information, and she could raise the questions in the Parliament. I went along with her proposal."

"She... requested me to keep

supporting her in her attacks on the Adani group and provided me her Parliament login and password so that I could post the questions directly on her behalf when required," he stated in the affidavit.

In a press release late at night, Moitra, who called Darshan "a dear friend", claimed, "They were threatened with a total shutdown of all their businesses... They were told they will be finished, the CBI would raid them and all government businesses would stop and all PSU bank financing would be stopped immediately."

She noted that three days ago (October 16), the Hiranandani Group put out an official press release stating that all charges levelled against them were "baseless". "Today, an 'approver affidavit' has been leaked to the press... This affidavit is on a white piece of paper with no letterhead..." she pointed out.

In a statement to The Indian Express on Tuesday, the Hiranandani Group had said, "We have always been in the

business of business and not in the business of politics. Our group has always worked with the government in the interest of the nation and will continue doing so," a spokesperson for the Hiranandani Group had said.

In his affidavit, Hiranandani also claimed that Moitra was "getting help from other people like Sucheta Dalal... who were feeding her with all kinds of unverified information relating to Sh. Gautam Adani and his companies".

In response to social media posts on Hiranandani's affidavit, Dalal, a journalist and Managing Editor of MoneyLife, said on X, "...the very fact that he (Darshan Hiranandani) has named me makes this whole letter and his 'solemn' statements a farce... I don't know @MahuaMoitra — and I think she can confirm it. The question of helping her simply does not arise. NOR did the EVER reach out and ask me for any help either!"

Earlier, Moitra, after Dubey's letter to the IT Minister, had asked the government to release

location and log-in details of all MPs along with their call detail records. "All parliamentary work of MPs done by PAs, assistants, interns, large teams. Respected @ashwinivaishnaw please release details of location & login details of ALL MPs with CDRs. Please release info on training given to staff to login," she had said in a post on X.

In his affidavit, Hiranandani also claimed Moitra made frequent demands of him and kept asking him for various favours, which he said he "had to fulfill in order to remain in close proximity with her and get her support".

"The demands that were made and favours that were asked included, gifting her expensive luxury items, providing support on renovation of her officially allotted bungalow in Delhi, travel expenses, holidays, etc. apart from providing secretarial and logistical help for her travels within India and to different parts of the world. I could ill-afford to displease her," he stated in the affidavit.

Afghan Army officer turns to Hindi films

Afghanistan under the Taliban's regime.

"I passed out of IMA with the 149th Regular Course in December 2021 after training for one-and-a-half-years. I was part of the Poonch Company in the Cariappa Battalion. Then President of India Ram Nath Kovind was the reviewing officer of the parade," Amani told *The Indian Express* on Thursday in Amritsar, where he was shooting for a small role as a British officer in an upcoming series on Jallianwala Bagh by director Ram Madhvani.

Amani did a Journalism degree from Al Beroni University in Afghanistan's Golbahar before

joining IMA. Following his IMA training, he was commissioned into the Afghan Army infantry as a Lieutenant.

After finding out about the situation in Afghanistan and learning that the Indian Army has no policy for inducting Afghans trained by it, Amani enrolled in Lovely Professional University in Jalandhar for a one-year course in Digital Marketing.

Now, he lives in Malviya Nagar in New Delhi. He has no permanent job, and makes a living by doing odd jobs including small acting roles. "I also acted in an Akshay Kumar movie in July. I played a British officer in that, too. A friend of mine got me these roles," he

said.

"The biggest problem that I and other Afghan Army officers trained in IMA and OTA face in getting jobs is the lack of bonafides. Our visas have expired, the Afghan embassy has shut down, and we have no Indian paperwork to prove our identity. This causes a lot of problems," Amani said.

His IMA coursemates in the Indian Army are now about to become Captains and are posted in various parts of the country.

In an effort to get a "respectful job", he has requested the help of Colonel Bhupinder Shahi (ret'd), the military consultant for the series being shot in Amritsar.

"My family is in Afghanistan. My father has passed away, but my mother, two brothers and a sister live there," Amani said. However, he does not wish to return as of now due to the conditions in his country.

Colonel Shahi said there were many such Afghan Army officers in India desperately looking for jobs. "They must be helped to find gainful employment. They are not only trained soldiers, but also officers who can lead troops," he said.

For now, dressed in khaki shirt and shorts with a replica rifle in his hands, the closest he comes to realising his dream of serving in the Army is by playing British officers in small acting roles.

In West Bank, the other half of Palestine, worried people stock up food

line from one of the patriotic songs being played: "We are waiting so long, there is hope, they told us."

As time passes, the gathering swells. Many of them wave the Palestinian flag, some are wearing the ruling Fatah party's yellow ribbon on their arms. They shout slogans, all with a common theme — asking Israel to stop the bomb attacks.

Hamza, 30, is an English teacher at a high school. Asked about the Hamas attacks on October 7, he says, "We are defending our country, this is our homeland... We are against the

killing of civilians, but civilians of Gaza have also been killed. Each one of them has martyrs in their family."

In a corner of the square is a shop selling men's clothing. Inside is a well-built man, in his early 30s, who is one of the owners. He doesn't want to give his name. As the war clouds hover, he says: "The situation is going to be bad... politically, economically, even travel between Israel and Palestine... fearing the worst, people have already started stocking up on food."

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Mustafa Barghouti,

leader of the Palestinian National Initiative and among the top politicians in the West Bank, says: "History does not begin on October 7. I do feel very sorry for the deaths of so many Palestinians and Israeli citizens, civilians. But, at the same time, I must say that what happened on October 7 was one of the consequences of Israeli behaviour in the West Bank, where the Israeli Army, along with the Israeli illegal settlers, was conducting a joint campaign of terror against the Palestinian civilian population, which led to the deaths of 248 Palestinians, including 40 children, even before

the war started in Gaza."

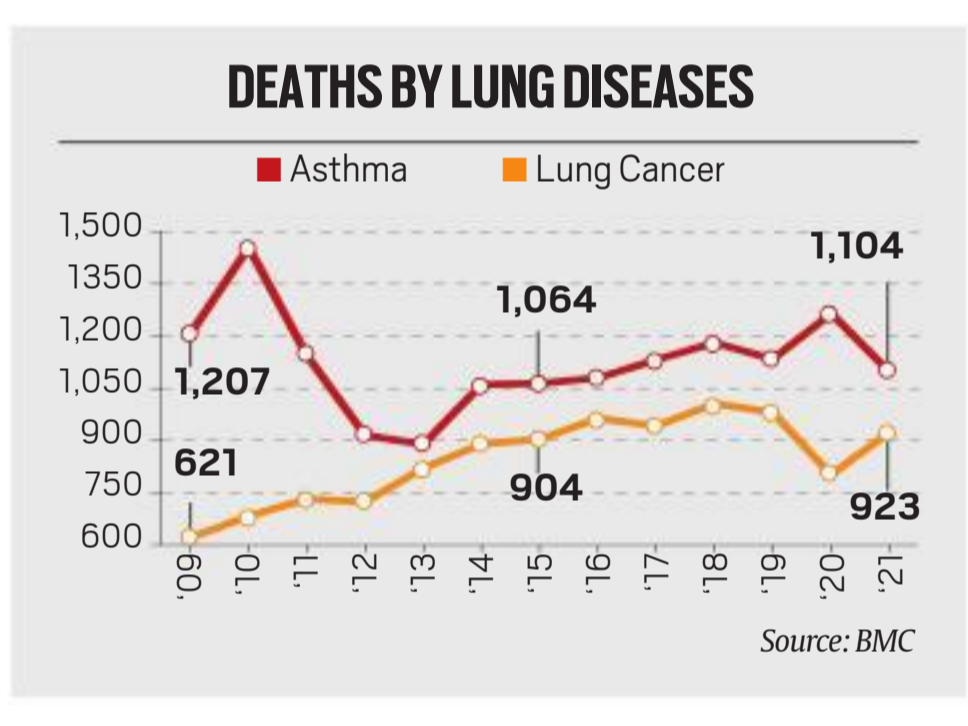
"The Hamas was trying to interfere and respond to all these things, and the situation went out of control... what happened, has happened. But since then, in my opinion, what Israel is doing now in Gaza is not like a reaction, it must have been planned, and (Israel was) waiting for the opportunity. They think they now have the opportunity, and... are now conducting horrible war crimes. These war crimes were preceded by a big campaign to dehumanise Palestinians," says Barghouti, former Palestinian information minister.

Mumbai holds its breath, alarm bells ring but no one's listening

Right to Information Act show a pattern emerging — and hardening. Of steadily worsening air — and an action plan gathering dust severely undermining the quality of life in the country's financial capital.

The warnings came as early as last year when several counters clocked alarm: The number of Poor air quality days in December-January 2022-23 almost doubled from 17 in that two-month period in 2019-20.

Data from the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecast and Research (SAFAR) — under the Ministry of Earth Sciences — showed that Mumbai recorded its worst AQI last winter with the city registering Poor and Very Poor AQI on as many as 66 of the 92 days between November 2022 and January 2023 — compared to an average of 28 during those months over the previous three years.



over the past couple of years, the wind pattern has changed due to which the process of wind reversal is taking as many as 15 days — earlier, this used to happen every two days.

"Now, due to the delay in wind reversal, the suspended particulate matter lingers in the lower atmosphere for a longer period of time thus worsening AQI. Also, over the past few years several infrastructure and redevelopment projects have come up, due to which construction is ongoing everywhere, this has increased the proportion of particulate matter in the air, which in turn has worsened the AQI."

Indeed, "dust arising from construction sites and construction debris" has been identified as one of the top five sources of air pollution (see adjacent story) by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation in its Mumbai Air Pollution Mitigation Plan released only in March this year.

The other four are: road dust and its displacement; open burning of solid waste and garbage; usage of unclean fuels in restaurants, dhabas, bakeries and roadside eateries; and a range of industries that include those using Ready Mix Concrete (RMC) plants and casting yard plants.

What this translates into is the need for what experts call a "holistic" action plan that tackles these simultaneously.

"The Union Ministry's National Clean Air Program (NCAP) aims towards improving the current AQI standards by 20%-30% but data shows that there has been an incremental increase in PM10 components in Mumbai in just one year and this is the result of absence of a holistic policy," says Bhagwan Keshbat, CEO, Waatavaran Foundation, that works on hyper local projects aimed at slowing down the climate change and its impact on communities.

For example, there are several areas across Kalyan, Navi Mumbai, Bhiwandi where open burning of garbage and scrap happens at a massive scale. "The particulate matter often drifts towards Mumbai due to air movement and, in return, plays havoc with the AQI. Issues like these can only be addressed when all

agencies would work together," said Keshbat.

Over the next days and weeks, *The Indian Express* will report on each aspect of Mumbai's air pollution crisis and the possible solutions and interventions needed.

One imperative that is likely to drive change, experts agree, is the public health cost of pollution.

Warning bells sounded

Nothing moves the needle more effectively than a city and its residents suffering in hospital wards, say experts. "That affects our children, our loved ones... that's the alarm bell that's heard the loudest. That was heard in Delhi and that needs to be heard in Mumbai. This needs awareness on a scale that we have never seen," said a senior official.

One of them ringing a bell regularly is renowned pulmonologist and epidemiologist, Lancelot Pinto at Hinduja Hospital.

When AQI hits 300, as it did in several areas in Mumbai this week, indicating a PM2.5 level of 120, it implies that the air quality at this level carries a health impact equivalent to inhaling the particulate matter from about 5-6 cigarettes each day, says Pinto.

"Of even greater concern is the exposure of school children to this air quality (akin to smoking 5-6 cigarettes each day) particularly while they are developing lungs remain vulnerable. This carries the potential for serious consequences, including the risk of respiratory diseases in their future," adds Pinto.

Data obtained from BMC by *The Indian Express* under the Right to Information Act reinforces this concern: the steady uptick in casualties — an average of six a day — to Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, COPD is a common lung ailment that hinders airflow and can lead to lung damage or phlegm congestion, causing breathing difficulties.

Over a six-year period from 2016 to 2021, a total of 14,396 individuals in Mumbai lost their lives due to COPD. Additionally, during the same period, records

show, 1,220 people in Mumbai passed away from bronchitis, and 6,757 deaths were attributed to asthma, with 619 of these occurring in the M East ward, which encompasses Govandi. This area faces elevated air pollution levels due to the presence of Asia's oldest dumping yard in Deonar.

That's not all.

Mumbai has witnessed a gradual rise in lung cancer fatalities from 621 in 2009 to 923 in 2021, reflecting a 48.6% increase over 12 years. Daksha Shah, the BMC's executive health officer, told *The Indian Express* that mortality figures for 2022 are currently under scrutiny.

In hospital after hospital, there are reports of a rising curve when it comes to asthma and respiratory illnesses. For example, records from Sion Hospital show asthma-related admissions going up, from 62 in 2018 to 86 in 2022. Dr Sangita Checker, a Consultant Chest Physician at Wockhardt Hospitals, says that each winter, when reduced wind speed causes pollutants from construction sites and traffic to accumulate in the air, there is a surge in the number of patients with comorbid conditions like asthma, COPD, and bronchitis.

Prolonged exposure and respiratory health

Air pollution worsens the issue as PM2.5 particles bypass natural nose and respiratory defences.

"Micro air pollutants, such as PM2.5, deeply penetrate the respiratory system. These fine particles reach the alveoli where gas exchange occurs. They trigger inflammation, oxidative stress, and damage to lung tissues. Prolonged exposure can lead to chronic respiratory ailments, worsen existing conditions, and increase the risk of lung infections, ultimately compromising respiratory health," said Dr Jalil Parker, pulmonologist at Lilavati Hospital. "PM2.5 can thus access internal organs, posing a significant threat."

Global studies have observed associate air pollutants with lung cancer. The PM2.5 can induce mutations in normal cells, potentially leading to cancer. Regions with elevated air pollution exhibit a greater prevalence of lung cancer in non-smokers compared to areas with lower pollution levels.

Dr Sewanti Limaye, director of oncology and precision medicine at Sir HN Reliance Hospital, cites a recent UK study involving approximately 45,000 individuals that revealed a link between dust particles larger than 2.5 microns and a particular lung cancer type driven by specific EGFR gene mutations.

Said Limaye: "This mutation is present in 25% of lung cancer cases in India, predominantly affecting non-smokers."

Year after Kheda flogging, HC orders 14-day jail term for four policemen

rights and dignity of the complainants as if they were conferred with the privilege to do so."

According to the police complaint, around midnight October 3, 2022, a mob of 150-200 people allegedly attacked a garba event at Undhela village by pelting stones in a Swaminarayan temple and "hurting religious sentiments". Seven persons, including a policeman, were injured in the incident. Videos surfaced on social media of the police publicly flogging several of the detained men the next day at the village square, holding them against an electric pole.

Five victims of the police action moved a contempt petition before the Gujarat High Court, submitting that the flogging was in violation of guidelines that police are required to follow while making arrests and detentions.

Jahirmiya Malek (62), Maksudabanu Malek (45), Sahadumia Malek (23), Sakilmiya Malek (24) and Shahidraja Malek (25) accused

the police personnel of not only flogging them and detaining them illegally but also violating guidelines enshrined in the Supreme Court judgment of D.K. Basu versus the State of West Bengal. The victims also sought to be compensated for infringement of their rights.

Jahirmiya, who is also the prime accused in the police FIR on the October 3, 2022 incident, said the High Court verdict was "satisfying". "The entire community in the village feels vindicated... I had been humiliated in public and there was no way I was going to accept the compromise offer. Even though it is only a 14-day simple imprisonment, it is symbolic and holds much value as it sends a message that should deter policemen from taking law into their own hands, Jahirmiya told *The Indian Express*.

Senior advocate I.H. Syed, representing the petitioners, called the verdict "unprecedented" for the State of Gujarat.

— WITH ADITIRAJA IN VADODARA

Chambal Catch-22 for BJP

of a benevolent "Mamaji", but for the fact that they want "bad-laav (change)" in the November 17 election.

There is an additional layer to this yearning. While seen as a BJP bastion, in 2018, the Gwalior-Chambal region, had voted for the Congress in 26 of its 34 Assembly constituencies. Then followed the defection of 22 MLAs from the Congress led by Jyotiraditya Scindia, and the subsequent bypolls helped the BJP climb to 16 seats in the region.

Scindia's "betrayal" — felling the Congress government and bringing the BJP back to power — is still a talking point here, the bastion of the erstwhile Gwalior royal family to which he belongs. As is the fact that the feud between his people and older BJP leaders continues three years later; ahead of polls, it has resulted in a mini-exodus from the BJP, including of four senior leaders.

While BJP insiders talk confidently of such doubts dying once its campaign machinery led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi kicks in, many ask why the party leadership did not effect a change at the top earlier, and why this "last-minute" introduction of multi-term MPs and Union ministers in the race now.

'Can't have one CM forever'

"Why should Union ministers and senior leaders from the centre contest Assembly elections? Don't they have anyone here to give ticket to? This shows how threatened the BJP is," says Harish Soni, who sells dupattas in front of a temple in Gwalior city.

Soni admits he holds a grudge with the local administration, having had to pay a bribe a few years back to get his confiscated cart back. But his sentiments are echoed by Gopal Das Jindal, a fifth-generation brass utensil merchant and an ardent supporter of the BJP.

"The message (in fielding central leaders) is clear, that we have to win anyhow: saam, daam, dhand, bhed (persuade, purchase, punish or exploit). The party knows that people are tired of seeing the same face as CM," says Jindal, adding that it would be a mistake to write off the Congress.

'Last-minute revisits'

Beyond Chouhan too, there is anti-incumbency against BJP MLAs after the party's long stint in power, with many voters talking of "corruption" in the local administration, incomplete development projects and "unequal" implementation of welfare schemes.

"The police and local officials keep harassing us," says Rohit Pachauri, 23, who owns

an e-rickshaw.

Soni, who says he is a BPL card holder, dismisses Chouhan's welfare agenda: "We do not get any benefit from his schemes... They say some people get houses, jobs or money, haven't got any."

Among the leaders who might face this ground-level resentment is Union minister Narendra Singh Tomar, who has been fielded from Dimni. Voters in this Assembly constituency complain of "absence" of their political representatives, including MP Tomar (from Morena). The unhappiness in party ranks over the ticket to Tomar, ignoring local aspirations, could also hurt his chances.

In nearby Morena, Vishnu Yadav, who aspires for a police job, uses the BJP's language to say the ruling party has resorted to "revidis (freebies)". "Whatever Mamaji (Chouhan) is giving, it is last minute... *Voh to abhi revdi baant rahe hain* (They are giving freebies now). But they should have helped us find a stable income instead," Yadav says.

'Money should have gone to men'

Some show barely concealed resentment towards Chouhan's pro-women push, especially his Ladli schemes — including Ladli Behna Yojana, under which Rs 1,000 is sent to bank accounts of married women aged between 23 and 60. Banti Kushwaha, a flower-seller in Morena town, says "this does not help the family". "He should have given the money to the men. It is the men who earn and feed them... Even if the Congress fields a donkey, we will vote for it."

Srivastava agrees, saying: "Instead of money to women, the young men in the family should have been supported."

As for women, the pivot that Chouhan is counting on to turn this election, while they match men both in voter numbers and turnout in the state, he could end up falling short even among them.

Many, at least publicly, say they will vote as "the family decides". Others say that while they are happy with the money Chouhan puts in their hands, the BJP's lack of clarity regarding him is making them think again.

Anuradha Rajender of Ambah scorns at the assumption that she will vote for the BJP because she got two instalments under the Ladli Behna scheme. "I will not decide my vote just because I got Rs 1,000. I have so many complaints... If they are giving me water through pipe, they are charging for it. The money belongs to us."

Govt rolls back plan on laptops

laptops and computers, especially since a majority of them come from China, which has New Delhi worried.

There are carve outs for imports by Special Economic Zones (SEZs) along with imports of spares, parts, assemblies, sub-assemblies, components, and notified IT hardware items essential for capital goods. There will be no restrictions on imports under baggage rules, and import of one laptop, tablet, personal computer or ultra-small form factor computer, including those purchased from e-commerce portals through post or courier, will also be exempted.

The Indian Express had reported in September that the Centre was planning to loosen its stance on import curbs, and was building the so-called import management system as a measure to monitor imports. Government officials maintained that the tweaks have been made to make it an "end-to-end" online system to monitor imports and ensure such items come from trusted sources.

India has seen an increase in imports of electronic goods and laptops/ computers in the last few years. During April-June this year, the import of electronic goods increased to \$6.96 billion from \$4.73 billion in the year-ago period, with a share of 4-7 per cent in overall imports.

The highest share of imports is in the category of personal computers including laptops, and palmtops, under which im-

ports from China stood at \$558.36 million in April-May this year as against \$618.26 million in the year-ago period. China accounts for roughly 70-80 per cent of the share of India's imports of personal computers, laptops.

As per Thursday's notification, companies in the "denied entity list" will not get the authorisations, including firms which have not fulfilled or defaulted export obligations by availing benefits of schemes like advance authorisation and Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG); or having DRI (Directorate of Revenue Intelligence) cases against them, Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) Santosh Kumar Sarangi said. Companies looking to import second-hand goods or refurbished items would also not be allowed to apply for this authorisation.

Laptops, personal computers (including tablet computers), microcomputers, large or mainframe computers, and certain data processing machines have been covered under the new imports monitoring system. The system will ensure that it will be faceless and contactless, and there will be no hassles for importers to fill in their details, Sarangi said.

The Department of Revenue is also part of preparing the new system, with the entire application process expected to take about 10 minutes in an automated system, officials said.

ports from China stood at \$558.36 million in April-May this year as against \$618.26 million in the year-ago period. China accounts for roughly 70-80 per cent of the share of India's imports of personal computers, laptops.

As per Thursday's notification, companies in the "denied entity list" will not get the authorisations, including firms which have not fulfilled or defaulted export obligations by availing benefits of schemes like advance authorisation and Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG); or having DRI (Directorate of Revenue Intelligence) cases against them, Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) Santosh Kumar Sarangi said. Companies looking to import second-hand goods or refurbished items would also not be allowed to apply for this authorisation.

Laptops, personal computers (including tablet computers), microcomputers, large or mainframe computers, and certain data processing machines have been covered under the new imports monitoring system. The system will ensure that it will be faceless and contactless, and there will be no hassles for importers to fill in their details, Sarangi said.

The Department of Revenue is also part of preparing the new system, with the entire application process expected to take about 10 minutes in an automated system, officials said.

ports from China stood at \$558.36 million in April-May this year as against \$618.26 million in the year-ago period. China accounts for roughly 70-80 per cent of the share of India's imports of personal computers, laptops.

As per Thursday's notification, companies in the "denied entity list" will not get the authorisations, including firms which have not fulfilled or defaulted export obligations by availing benefits of schemes like advance authorisation and Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG); or having DRI (Directorate of Revenue Intelligence) cases against them, Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) Santosh Kumar Sarangi said. Companies looking to import second-hand goods or refurbished items would also not be allowed to apply for this authorisation.

Laptops, personal computers (including tablet computers), microcomputers, large or mainframe computers, and certain data processing machines have been covered under the new imports monitoring system. The system will ensure that it will be faceless and contactless, and there will be no hassles for importers to fill in their details, Sarangi said.

The Department of Revenue is also part of preparing the new system, with the entire application process expected to take about 10 minutes in an automated system, officials said.

ports from China stood at \$558.36 million in April-May this year as against \$618.26 million in the year-ago period. China accounts for roughly 70-80 per cent of the share of India's imports of personal computers, laptops.

As per Thursday's notification, companies in the "denied entity list" will not get the authorisations, including firms which have not fulfilled or defaulted export obligations by availing benefits of schemes like advance authorisation and Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG); or having DRI (Directorate of Revenue Intelligence) cases against them, Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) Santosh Kumar Sarangi said. Companies looking to import second-hand goods or refurbished items would also not be allowed to apply for this authorisation.

Laptops, personal computers (including tablet computers), microcomputers, large or mainframe computers, and certain data processing machines have been covered under the new imports monitoring system. The system will ensure that it will be faceless and contactless, and there will be no hassles for importers to fill in their details, Sarangi said.

The Department of Revenue is also part of preparing the new system, with the entire application process expected to take about 10 minutes in an automated system, officials said.

ports from China stood at \$558.36 million in April-May this year as against \$618.26 million in the year-ago period. China accounts for roughly 70-80 per cent of the share of India's imports of personal computers, laptops.

As per Thursday's notification, companies in the "denied entity list" will not get the authorisations, including firms which have not fulfilled or defaulted export obligations by availing benefits of schemes like advance authorisation and Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG); or having DRI (Directorate of Revenue Intelligence) cases against them, Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) Santosh Kumar Sarangi said. Companies looking to import second-hand goods or refurbished items would also not be allowed to apply for this authorisation.

Laptops, personal computers (including tablet computers), microcomputers, large or mainframe computers, and certain data processing machines have been covered under the new imports monitoring system. The system will ensure that it will be faceless and contactless, and there will be no hassles for importers to fill in their details, Sarangi said.

The Department of Revenue is also part of preparing the new system, with the entire application process expected to take about 10 minutes in an automated system, officials said.

ports from China stood at \$558.36 million in April-May this year as against \$618.26 million in the year-ago period. China accounts for roughly 70-80 per cent of the share of India's imports of personal computers, laptops.

As per Thursday's notification, companies in the "denied entity list" will not get the authorisations, including firms which have not fulfilled or defaulted export obligations by availing benefits of schemes like advance authorisation and Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG); or having DRI (Directorate of Revenue Intelligence) cases against them, Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) Santosh Kumar Sarangi said. Companies looking to import second-hand goods or refurbished items would also not be allowed to apply for this authorisation.

Laptops, personal computers (including tablet computers), microcomputers, large or mainframe computers, and certain data processing machines have been covered under the new imports monitoring system. The system will ensure that it will be faceless and contactless, and there will be no hassles for importers to fill in their details, Sarangi said.

The Department of Revenue is also part of preparing the new system, with the entire application process expected to take about 10 minutes in an automated system, officials said.

ports from China stood at \$558.36 million in April-May this year as against \$618.26 million in the year-ago period. China accounts for roughly 70-80 per cent of the share of India's imports of personal computers, laptops.

As per Thursday's notification, companies in the "denied entity list" will not get the authorisations, including firms which have not fulfilled or defaulted export obligations by availing benefits of schemes like advance authorisation and Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG); or having DRI (Directorate of Revenue Intelligence) cases against them, Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) Santosh Kumar Sarangi said. Companies looking to import second-hand goods or refurbished items would also not be allowed to apply for this authorisation.

Laptops, personal computers (including tablet computers), microcomputers, large or mainframe computers, and certain data processing machines have been covered under the new imports monitoring system. The system will ensure that it will be faceless and contactless, and there will be no hassles for importers to fill in their details, Sarangi said.

The Department of Revenue is also part of preparing the new system, with the entire application process expected to take about 10 minutes in an automated system, officials said.

ADVERTORIAL

UPSC CSE Preparation Strategy, Planning and Approach for Working Professionals

-Team Vision IAS

In the quest for a sense of purpose, diverse career opportunities, leadership, respect, prestige, and working for a cause larger than oneself, many working professionals aspire to join civil services. While other jobs might seem more suitable, remunerative or convenient, the UPSC civil services allow one to pursue a career with a sense of purpose and turn this endeavor into reality.

The UPSC CSE Consists of 3 stages. Firstly, the Preliminary stage of the Examination consists of two objective-type papers with multiple choice questions i.e., General Studies Paper I and General Studies Paper II (CSAT). Secondly, the Mains examination includes a written stage and Interview for the final selection of candidates for the various Services and posts.

The written stage comprises nine papers including Essay, Ethics GS Papers I, II & III, Optional Papers I & II and Language papers. Lastly, the Interview stage of the examination assesses the personality suitability of the candidate for a career in public service.

Attaining success in these stages of examination not only grants direct entry into the Indian civil services but also empowers individuals to actively contribute to the implementation of government policies, fostering socio-economic transformations in Indian society. Simultaneously, it opens the door to a profession that promises a high quality of life and enjoys elevated social prestige. This dream to serve the country shall not be confined to thoughts and shall manifest into tangible reality.

Holistic Preparedness with Resources Optimization

To prepare thoroughly, a working professional shall have a well-planned, smart and researched strategy. For this, decoding the UPSC syllabus with the simultaneous allocation of resources for

different subjects is the first and foremost step to start the civil services preparation.

A working professional should concentrate on maximizing performance through limited but excellent resources in order to ensure multiple revisions. In this regard, coverage of standard textbooks like NCERTs & reference books for different subjects, self-made notes, daily newspapers and monthly Current affairs magazines will suffice the requirements. Alongside, working professionals should focus on the Previous Year's Questions (PYQs) analysis to understand the evolving trends in UPSC papers dynamics and recurring themes in different subjects.

Mastering the Symphony of Time

The journey of the UPSC civil services examination should start at least nine to ten months before the preliminary exam for the working professional. This enables laying a strong foundation for the Prelims and Mains stages of UPSC CSE. Simultaneously, choosing the right Optional subject is a crucial decision for a working professional. It is best to make this choice early, but be sure to do thorough research and seek guidance to make an informed decision.

Working professionals should aim to begin their day early in the morning so that they can allocate four to five hours daily for UPSC preparation.

Further, they should study for a considerable number of hours during holidays and weekends. To utilize this time, it is pertinent to have fixed and specific targets such as one can choose to cover the bigger chapters of subjects like Polity, History and Geography rather than doing them in silos over many weeks.

Further, to make the most of work breaks, working professionals can stay abreast of current events by reading newspapers or listening to videos about current affairs, and solving small quizzes of MCQ.

Knowledge of current affairs is essential for success in the examination as it helps in informing about changing domestic and global situations, evolving national and international issues and connecting historical events with contemporary times. It forms the backbone of all stages of the examination - Prelims, Mains and Personality Test.

To make a strategic utilization of leaves for exam preparation, it is vital to strategize leaves close to the exam date so that the targeted focus can be given for the

Prelims/Mains examination. To make the most use of time, divide leaves, for instance, two weeks before the Prelims and one month before the Mains.

Steer clear of unnecessary gatherings or

after-work excursions with coworkers. Rather, spend time on concentrated study. Every hour saved can help in giving adequate time for preparation, and assessment. For this, create a dedicated study space free from distractions. Also, disable notifications on electronic devices to reduce interruptions.

Enduring Stress and Managing Work

Working professionals must learn to deal with stress while preparing for the UPSC examination. It might be difficult to

manage a full-time work and intense study schedule, but stress can be reduced by using techniques:

☑ **Dedicated Schedule:** A well-structured study schedule can help not only in covering the syllabus but also is a key to reducing stress. Allocating specific time slots for various subjects creates a sense of well-structured and organised preparation which in turn reduces the anxiety associated with last-minute cramming.

☑ **Work-Life Balance:** It's critical to keep a positive work-life balance. Set aside time for restricted socializing, adequate exercising, and proper resting. Adequate sleep, pursuing hobbies, physical activity, and spending time

with loved ones are all effective ways to decompress.

☑ **Stress-reduction activities** such as yoga, deep breathing exercises, mindfulness, and meditation methods assist in maintaining composure and concentration during exam preparation.

Smart Revision through Test series, Post-test Analysis & Expert Feedback

Smart revision is pivotal to develop good command over important subject and key areas therein. It allows memorization and reinforcement of the key learning in accordance with exam requirements.

It is advisable to revise on daily, weekly and monthly basis which facilitates long term retention of the

Practicing mock tests is equally important to excel in this examination. Here, the

prelims test series provides an excellent opportunity for students to assess their preparation level and simulate the civil services prelims examination conducted by UPSC. Through post-test analysis, one can identify learning gaps and areas that need focused attention and help them to adopt smart revision techniques, validate score maximization strategies, and enhance their psychological readiness.

Similarly, for the UPSC mains examination, mock test papers matching UPSC standards are sine-qua-non for the development of effective answer-writing skills. They not only familiarize students with the demands and pattern of the examination but also provide crucial insights into the nuances of effective

answer writing. When combined with comprehensive, insightful and expert feedback, students can develop the requisite skills and proficiency to convey their ideas and knowledge to the examiner in an efficient manner while maintaining relevance, preciseness and

impact in their answers.

Integrated preparation of both prelims and mains test series, post-test analysis, and seeking constructive feedback are indispensable strategies for aspiring Civil Servants.

Further, through self-awareness, regular guidance cum elocution sessions help to excel in the final interview stage of this exam.

The Value of Personalized Guidance: Performance Enhancement

Personalized mentorship is essential for course correction, performance



INSPIRING INNOVATION
enhancement, and encouragement. A mentor can provide precise strategies, identify strengths and weaknesses, and assist in specific inputs that help overcome the limitations of the working professional.

This personalized approach boosts confidence and helps them reach maximized performance.

A strong continuous connection with a mentor will help to address strategy-related challenges, help set realistic goals and keep the working professionals motivated during the downs of this preparation. Though it seems to be

challenging to juggle UPSC Preparation with routine work, one can succeed with dedication and the correct approach. Remember that work experience is not a drawback and might work to the advantage in the UPSC journey. Remain committed and laser-focused on the goal of passing this

important exam by maintaining an optimistic outlook. Visualize your success and remind yourself of the reasons you embarked on this journey. Stay confident in your ability to handle both your job and UPSC preparation.

"Arise awake and stop not till the goal is reached"
Swami Vivekananda



Scan QR code for
How to approach Current Affairs



Scan QR code for
Instant Personalized Mentoring



Scan QR code for
All India Test Series



Scan QR code to download
UPSC Toppers Preparation Approach and Strategies



LIVE/ONLINE Classes Available
www.visionias.in



To know more, Register or for Free Counseling connect with our Expert

Foundation Course

GENERAL STUDIES

PRELIMS CUM MAINS 2025, 2026 & 2027

(Includes 70 Pre Foundation Classes)

- PERSONAL GUIDANCE SIMPLIFIED**
One to One guidance on a regular basis for clearing doubts & keeping you motivated
- ALL INDIA TEST SERIES**
Opted by every 2 out of 3 successful candidates. Post test analysis, corrective measures and continuous performance improvement
- READ BY ALL. RECOMMENDED BY ALL**
Up to date study material as Monthly Current Affairs magazine, PT 365, Mains 365 and News Today
- PRE FOUNDATION CLASSES**
Includes Pre Foundation classes (70 classes) for understanding of Key GS concepts & fundamentals of NCERTs & Basic Books

Pre-foundation classes are designed to provide a strong foundation in core UPSC CSE subjects, utilizing NCERTs and basic textbooks. They serve as the initial step in the comprehensive preparation journey for the UPSC Civil Services Examination by providing conceptual clarity in core GS subjects such as History, Polity, Geography, Economy, and Environment. Further, Pre-Foundation Classes act as a transition platform toward the VisionIAS Regular Foundation Course Program, 2025.

DELHI: 10 OCT, 1 PM | 27 OCT, 5 PM | 17 NOV, 9 AM

CHANDIGARH 21 NOV 9 AM	LUCKNOW 20 OCT 5 PM	BHOPAL 20 OCT 5 PM	PUNE 20 NOV 8 AM & 5 PM	JAIPUR 5 & 16 OCT 7:30 AM & 5 PM	HYDERABAD 10 OCT 8 AM
-------------------------------------	----------------------------------	---------------------------------	--------------------------------------	---	------------------------------------

फाउंडेशन कोर्स सामान्य अध्ययन 2025, 2026 & 2027

▶ प्रारंभिक, मुख्य परीक्षा और निबंध के लिए महत्वपूर्ण सभी टॉपिक का विस्तृत कवरेज

DELHI: 21 नवंबर, 9 AM | **BHOPAL: 10 जनवरी, 9 AM** | **LUCKNOW: 10 जनवरी, 9 AM** | **JAIPUR: 5 & 16 अक्टूबर, 7:30 AM & 4 PM**

ESSAY ENRICHMENT PROGRAM
Learn the art of Essay writing by understanding how to build and interlink different concepts
28 OCT | 1 PM

CSAT CLASSES 2024
In-depth understanding of analytical skills, logical reasoning, comprehension, general mental ability and basic numeracy.
ENGLISH Medium 31 OCT 5 PM | **हिन्दी माध्यम 31 OCT 5 PM**

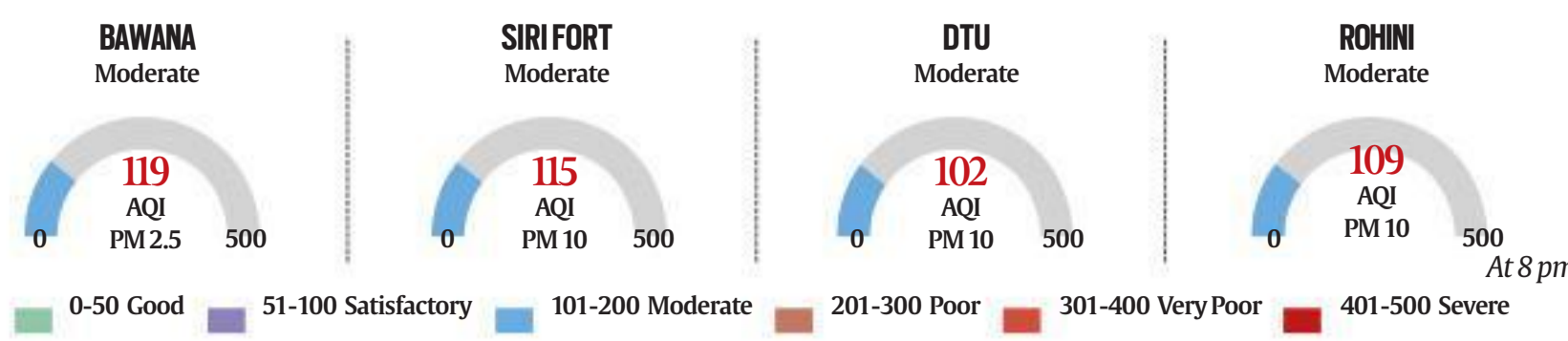
DAKSHA MAINS MENTORING PROGRAMME 2024
(A Strategic Revision, Practice, and Enrichment Mentoring Programme for Mains Examination 2024)
▶ Targeted Revision & Consolidation
▶ Continuous Performance Assessment and Feedback
▶ Development of Advanced Answer Writing Skills
26 OCTOBER

ALL INDIA PRELIMS & MAINS TEST SERIES
▶ General Studies ▶ CSAT **15 October 15 अक्टूबर**
▶ Sociology ▶ Philosophy ▶ Essay ▶ PS & IR
▶ Anthropology ▶ Geography
15 October 15 अक्टूबर

DELHI: HEAD OFFICE: Apsara Arcade, Near Gate-7 Karol Bagh Metro Station, 1/8 B, Pusa Road | CONTACT: 8468022022, 9019066066

AHMEDABAD | BHOPAL | CHANDIGARH | GUWAHATI | HYDERABAD | JAIPUR | JODHPUR | LUCKNOW | PRAYAGRAJ | PUNE | RANCHI | SIKAR

6 THE CITY



SKY WATCH
FORECAST: October 20
 Clear sky, Mist in the morning
MAX: 31 | **MIN: 16**
 1.6°C below normal | 2.4°C below normal

100-yr-old trees cut down brutally with no application of mind, says Delhi HC

MALAVIKA PRASAD
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

THE HIGH Court Thursday sought responses from three Delhi government officials in a contempt plea against them after permission was allegedly given to cut several 100-year-old trees along a road in North Delhi.



The tree along 'Lok Marg/Om Mandir Marg'

A single-judge bench of Justice Jsmmeet Singh, after perusing photographs of the trees along 'Lok Marg/Om Mandir Marg' which were part of the plea, said that it "shows a shocking state of affairs" as "100-year-old trees" have been "brutally cut down without any application of mind."

While issuing notice, the HC, directed the respondents — Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) Department of Forests and Wildlife, Tree Officer (North Forest Division) and Engineer-in-Chief, Public Works Department — to maintain a "status quo" with respect to transplanting or felling of trees along the stretch. The matter is next listed on January 15, 2024.

The HC was hearing a plea seeking initiation of contempt against the respondents for non-compliance of its previous orders. Appearing for the petitioner, advocate Aditya N Prasad alleged that the respondents were in wilful disobedience of various HC orders, including one issued in April last year, where the HC had

said the tree officer will state the reason for granting or denying permission for cutting any tree.

Prasad referred to another HC order from November 2, 2022, where it was stated that orders for felling trees under Delhi Preservation of Trees Act will be uploaded within 48 hours of being passed on the department website. He contended that these were heritage trees planted during colonial times from Kingsway Camp to the Coronation Pillar.

The plea also alleges that earlier this month, the petitioner came across several trees along Lok Marg/Om Mandir Marg; they were "completely devoid of everything but their main trunk". On enquiring with workers at site, it was learnt that the "Department of Forests & Wildlife had given permission to remove the trees, apparently to widen the road".

LITTLE IMPROVEMENT IN DAYS AHEAD Delhi seeing a more polluted October so far since 2020

MALLICA JOSHI
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

THIS OCTOBER in Delhi is turning out to be the most polluted since 2020, data shows, and there is little improvement expected in the coming days.

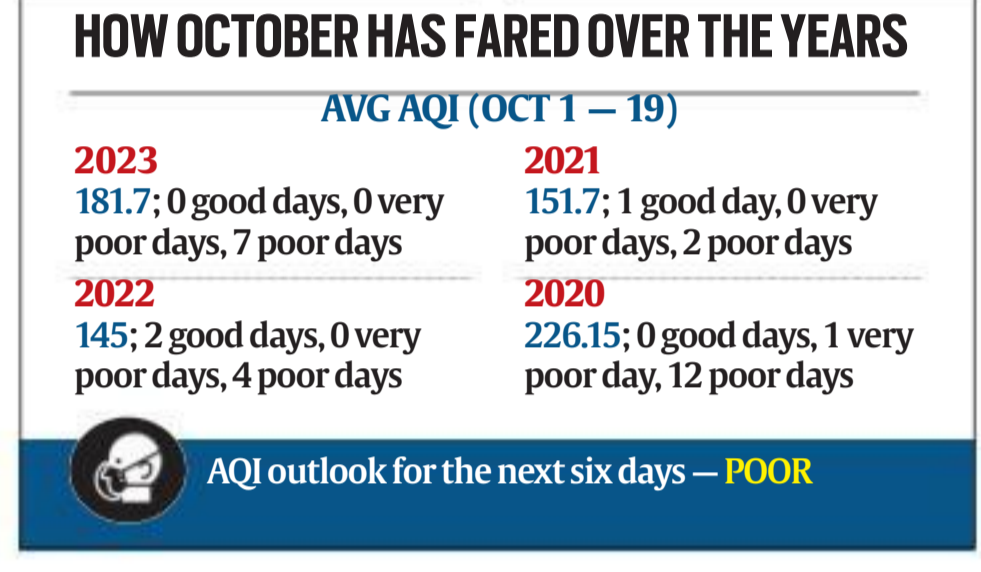
The city's average Air Quality Index (AQI) in the first 19 days is 181.7, which is higher than the average in both 2022 and 2021. It is better than the average AQI recorded in 2020 at 226.1.

According to the forecast, improvement is unlikely, with the AQI expected to slip into the poor range on Friday and likely to remain there over the next six days.

According to IMD officials, wind speed, which has been in the range of 6 to 8 km/hour on Thursday, is expected to dip to 4 to 8 km/hour on Friday and Saturday. A slight increase is expected on Sunday, but the AQI will remain poor, officials said.

The reason behind the AQI in 2022 being the best that the city has seen in at least six years was the late withdrawal of monsoon and frequent rains after that owing to western disturbances (WD). In 2021, the reason behind better was also a higher number of rainy days.

This year, only one WD has impacted the city despite late withdrawal and had resulted in a day of rain. In 2022, the city saw six rainy days. This number was seven in 2021.



Over the last three days, the city saw an improvement in AQI — from poor to satisfactory and

moderate — because of a spell of rain and strong winds. The impact, however, is short-lived.

The AQI is expected to slip into the poor range on Friday. *Abhinav Saha*

IMD officials said that there was a possibility of very light rain in parts of the city on Sunday. Conditions, however, are not favourable for the deterioration of AQI beyond the poor category so far. A ventilation index of less than 6000 m2/s with average wind speed less than 10 kmph is unfavourable for dispersion of pollutants. Neither of the two conditions are expected in the coming week.

Court: Serious injury to democracy if press is not allowed to operate independently

NIRBHAY THAKUR
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

STATING THAT it would cause serious injury to the foundations of democracy if the press is not allowed to operate independently, a Delhi court Wednesday rejected a plea moved by the Delhi Police against an order to release electronic devices seized from the editors of *The Wire* during searches conducted in October last year.

The devices were seized after an FIR for forgery, defamation and criminal conspiracy was lodged against them by BJP IT cell head Amit Malviya.

The Court of Additional Sessions Judge Pawan Singh Rajawat noted that the investigating agency, by continuous seizure of electronic devices, impinged upon the fundamental right of the news portal. "The Press is considered the Fourth Pillar of our great Democracy and if it is not allowed to function and operate independently, it would cause serious injury to the foundations of our Democracy," noted the court.

The court upheld the previous order which was passed in September directing the release of the seized devices.

It was argued by police that the earlier order passed by a Delhi court was illegal and that the magistrate had not "correctly" understood Section 76 of the IT Act. Police further submit-

ted that the devices were required for further investigation and, if released, the accused could tamper with them.

The Wire argued that mirror images of the electronic devices had already been taken which were exact copies of the actual devices and, therefore, the seized devices were no longer required for investigation.

The court rejected the police's arguments, stating that Section 76 of the IT Act is applicable only after the conclusion of trial. Citing various provisions of the CrPC, the court held that it had powers to "make orders as it thinks fit for the proper custody of property produced before it" during any trial. It further cited, relying on other judgments, that the power of the court remains when the investigation hasn't concluded.

The court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Siddhartha Malik had earlier in September ordered the release of electronic devices of *The Wire*'s editorial team, noting that the devices had been in possession of the police for a long time and that there were no reasonable grounds to hold on to them.

The devices of Siddharth Varadarajan, MK Venu, Sidharth Bhatia, Jahnvi Sen, and Mithun Kadambi were seized by police while investigating an FIR filed by Malviya alleging damage to his reputation following *The Wire*'s claim that Malviya had special powers to order the takedown of posts on Instagram.

Nithari killings judgment being reviewed: UP Deputy CM

DHEERAJ MISHRA
NOIDA, OCTOBER 19

UTTAR PRADESH Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya Thursday said the state government is going through the Allahabad High Court judgment in the Nithari killings case and looking for legal options available to it. "The judgment is being reviewed at the government level and, if required, we will appeal to the Supreme Court," said Maurya, while speaking to reporters in Gautam Budh Nagar after monitoring the works of different departments.

Setting aside their death sentences, the High Court Monday had acquitted Nithari killings prime accused Surinder Koli and his former employer Moninder Singh Pandher saying the prosecution failed to prove their guilt. While Koli was acquitted in 12 cases, Pandher was acquitted in two cases. Both had been awarded the death penalty in these cases relating to rape, murder, destruction of evidence among other charges by a CBI court in Ghaziabad. In its judgment, the court had pointed to the violation of basic norms of collecting evidence. But the most crucial of them all was "failure" to probe the "possible" angle of organ trade.

Besides, Maurya also spoke about illegal constructions on the Yamuna floodplain and said, "I have directed officials to conduct a thorough survey of constructions (on the floodplain). Strict action should be taken against any officers and builders found guilty during the survey."

3 held for rape of DU student, friend in park

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

A DELHI University student and his friend, Bangladeshi nationals in their twenties, from the LGBTQ community, were allegedly gangraped and assaulted by five men in a park in East Delhi. Police Thursday said they arrested three of the five accused in the case and are investigating the matter.

The incident took place in the early hours of Wednesday when the complainants had gone to attend a fair near their home.

Police said the complainants knew one of the accused as they met on a dating app while back.

According to police, a PCR call about the incident was made around 1 am. Police said they went to the complainant's house, where the DU student said he lives with a friend who is a student from Bihar. The duo had invited another friend.

Additional DCP (East) Achin Garg said, "All three men are members of the LGBTQ community. The complainant further alleged that he met a man, 'X', on a dating app and was in a relation-

ship with him."

On Tuesday night, the two complainants left the house to attend the fair. "Around 11.30 pm, X, who was accompanied by two other friends, met the complainants (at a park)... After some time, two more friends of X joined them. The five men started beating the complainants, all forced them to have sex," Garg said.

After the incident, the complainants told their friend about the assault, who called police.

Investigators said the complainants were taken to the hospital and medically examined,

after which a case under sections of causing hurt and unnatural offences was registered.

Garg said a team of 20 police personnel were deployed to arrest the accused.

"The complainants didn't know the identity of the accused persons and their addresses. More than 50 CCTVs were scanned... Within the next 12 hours, we were able to identify the accused," he said.

Police said the arrested men are residents of the same locality. 'X', and a minor who was also involved, are on the run, added police.

At sexual literacy session, school students recount instances of harassment

VIDHEESHA KUNTAMALLA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

AROUND 90 students on Wednesday, about 100 students from classes IX and XI lined up in two separate groups for a discussion on a range of topics that are still considered taboo — from normalising talking about one's own body, good and bad touch, conversations about sex and the concept of consent.

The 180-minute session on Sexual Literacy, called 'Aao Baat Karein', was organised in two classrooms at a government school by the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) along with NGO Parwaris Cares Foundation.

With the girls seated on the left and the boys on the right, 28-year-old Aman Kumar, the coordinator of the session, began by saying, "It's my body and it is my right" — emphasising why it's important for one to be fully aware of their bodies.

In a bid to break the ice and get students talking, he said: "You are all scientists here today and scientists don't laugh when they talk about their own bodies... you might feel uncomfortable talking about these issues today but please, put such thoughts aside."

In the class of about 70 ninth-graders, more than half said this was the first time they had ever had an interaction on "sexual literacy". Several students also

The 180-minute session on Sexual Literacy, called 'Aao Baat Karein', was organised in two classrooms at a government school by the DCPCR and an NGO

came forward to share a few instances of abuse or harassment they faced.

Said a 16-year-old girl, "There were many things that I wasn't aware of. I got to learn that from this session. While I was learning about good and bad touch, I recollected an incident from a few months ago... I was at a park next to the house where my mother used to work (as a domestic help), waiting for her to take me home... I had to use the wash-room in the park and remember that a few boys were teasing me. I walked past them silently back then, but now I know how to say no and save myself from such situations. I could only share this incident with my friends... I could not even tell my mother about it... I was scared to share it with her."

A class IX student shared how her younger sister was harassed by a few men in her street, a year ago. "Now I will teach my siblings what I have learned in this session. I will teach them how it is important to firmly say

'No' and be safe and take care of ourselves no matter how old or young one is," she said.

Several boys expressed how the session created menstruation awareness among them.

"I got the opportunity to talk about things at the session, that I can never share with my parents. We got to understand the concepts of menstruation and reproductive systems and learned that there is nothing shameful about it. It is natural," said a Class XI student.

The session ended with a practice session on saying 'NO', where Kumar gave each student an opportunity to scream the word at the top of their voice. The awareness session is among nine held at seven Delhi government schools in Northwest B1 and B2 districts, starting October 12.

It has so far reached out to about 600 Delhi government school students.

"We have divided the information in these sessions as per age...", said Kumar, who has been holding sessions on sex education, pubertal changes and child sexual abuse for about eight years now.

"Post these sessions, a few students reach out to us personally with issues they have faced and we convey that to the school principals and request school counsellors to take care of them... In extreme cases, the DCPCR intervenes and provides the required care to students," Kumar, who is with the NGO, added.

Amid inflation, Delhi govt hikes minimum wages of workers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

TO REDUCE challenges of inflation being faced by the working class, Delhi Labour Minister Raaj Kumar Anand has issued an order to increase minimum monthly wages of unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled workers, the AAP said in a statement Thursday. The new wages are applicable from October 1.

"This step has been taken to provide relief to the underprivileged and working class in Delhi who are grappling with the challenges of inflation," Anand said.

The monthly wage of skilled workers and matric-pass employees has been increased by Rs 312. The monthly salary of semi-

skilled workers and non-matric employees has been increased by Rs 286. An increase of Rs 260 has been provided to unskilled labourers. For employees with educational qualifications of graduate and above, the salary has been hiked by Rs 338.

In addition to this, the Delhi government has announced a dearness allowance. "Minimum wage given to labourers in Delhi is the highest compared to any other state in the country... the Arvind Kejriwal government increases the dearness allowance every six months to give relief to all workers... it will benefit unskilled, semi-skilled, skilled and other workers in all scheduled employment categories," Anand said.

The last revision in dearness allowance was done in April.



The new wages are applicable from October 1. *Archive*

THE NEW WAGES (IN RS)

Category	Old salary	Revised salary
Unskilled labourers	17,234	17,494
Semi-skilled workers	18,993	19,279
Skilled labourers	20,903	21,215
Non-matric employees	18,993	19,279
Matric pass employees	20,903	21,215
Those who are graduates and above	22,744	23,082

'MOVING WITH THE TIMES'

Selfie points to reels: Ramlila organisers' bid to attract young audiences

VARSHA SOMARAJ & DIPANITA NATH
NEW DELHI/PUNE, OCT 19

THE ANNUAL tradition of the Ramlila has geared up to battle a problem of the modern age — the shrinking attention span of young people who are hooked to mobile phones. To get more youngsters to engage with the story of the *Ramayana*, which is being performed episodically at present across North India, a number of major organisers have turned to social media and

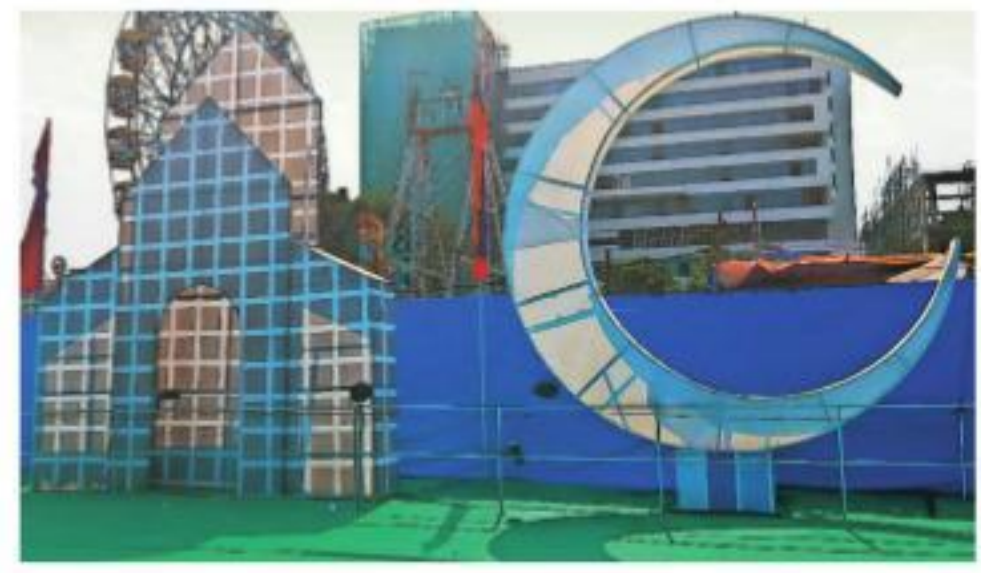
other technology. From Dwarka Ramlila to Shri Ramlila committee Indraprastha, there are selfie points and constant updates on Facebook, YouTube, X and Instagram.

In Delhi, the Luv Kush Ramlila, which is visited by Presidents and Prime Ministers, including former President Ram Nath Kovind and Narendra Modi, has been posting 30-second reels of their previous Ramlila shows for the first time. Their other initiatives include a special *Ramayana* performance by 80 school students for an audience

of 2,000 other students, their parents and teachers.

"When we were younger, we used to watch Ramlila performances sitting on durries and munching peanuts. We didn't have mobile phones but now every child holds one in their hands. We want young people to engage deeper with the Ramlila, *aur unke andar sanskar aa sake*," said Arjun Kumar, President Luv Kush Ramlila.

Organisers also said they are concerned that mobile phone-focused children are gradually moving away from Indian cul-



Towers and selfie points at Dwarka Shri Ramlila, Sector 10

ture. "Children today may not be able to tell you about Ram or Hanuman, but, they will give you information about Western superheroes and their adventures. We want children to watch short Ramlila reels while scrolling social media," said Kumar.

He added that they have recreated the Kashi Vishwanath temple and named the main gate as Kashi Vishwanath Corridor "so that the youth learn about Indian traditions".

Selfie points have also come up at another prominent and old Ramlila in the city, the Nav Shri

Dharmik Leela Committee, on Red Fort grounds, which also has spot competitions to keep children and young people glued to the story.

"We have also designed the Ramlila to keep everybody interested; this includes having a stylised way of delivering dialogues. Even Ramlila must move with the times," said Prakash Chand Barathi, Secretary of Nav Shri Dharmik Leela Committee.

Another famous Ramlila, 'Ayodhya ki Ramlila' organised at Ayodhya's Ram Katha Park, has always had an array of parliamen-

tarians and Bollywood stars in its lead roles — this time, it only has the latter. Prominent names from the film industry are Bhagyashree who plays Vedmati and Poonam Dhillon as Sabari. The only politician with a role is BJP's Gorakhpur MP and Bhojpuri actor Ravi Kishan, who plays Parashuram.

"We have changed because it is our aim that a large number of young people watch the Ramlila, and see the love that brothers have for each other and the respect that Ma Sita received," said Shubham Malik, general secretary of the Ramlila.

Hold digital crop survey from July 2024, Centre tells states

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

HIGHLIGHTING THAT the present system of estimation of crop area and production is "completely manual", resulting in "delay" and "manual errors", the Centre has asked states and UTs to digitise the process by adopting the Digital Crop Survey system from July next year.

According to sources, the Economics, Statistics and Evaluation Division (ESED), which comes under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, has finalised the guidelines coming up with agricultural production estimates, and has shared them with states and UTs. "All states/UTs shall automate/digitise the process of area enumeration/girdawari of crops at field level, i.e. Digital Crop Survey, from 2024-25 Agricultural Year," the guidelines said. In India, the agriculture year begins in July and ends in June,

the following year. Under the guidelines, states and UTs "shall use GPS enabled mobile application for collecting crop sown data of each plot for each season and share the village level aggregated data with DA&FW (Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare) through API only."

According to the ministry, currently, the collection and compilation of crop statistics is "completely manual" except in a few states, resulting in "delay" and "manual errors". "Only a few of the states like Karnataka, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh have established a digital data collection system in the form of GPS-enabled mobile applications for crop area and CCEs data collection directly from the field. States like Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh have also developed such digital systems but only for crop area recording," a source said.

"A need was felt to reform the existing production estimation system through the use of

technological intervention," the source added.

Questions have been raised about agricultural production data under the existing system, with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman saying in September that India "suffers" for want of reliable agricultural production estimates and stressing on the need for "a real time assessment estimate" of crops.

Under the guidelines issued by ESED, states must develop a digital application for "recording weekly sowing progress, and the same is to be shared with DA&FW through API on a weekly basis".

As part of the Digital Crop Survey, the ministry has asked states to collect information on "basic parameters", including village name, year, season, farmer ID, farm ID, crop name (at farm plot level), crop variety, crop sown area (at farm plot level), geotags of crop photos and farm boundary where the crop is sown.

ED can't make PMLA arrests on whims: HC

MALAVIKA PRASAD
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

THE DELHI HC on Thursday said that the ED's power to arrest someone under section 19 of PMLA was not untrammelled and that "authorities do not have the power to arrest on their whims and fancies".

A bench of Justice Anup Jairam Bhambhani also said that the power to issue summons under section 50 of the PMLA did not include the power to arrest, and that the two are distinct.

The court made the observations while dismissing the plea of one Ashish Mittal, who was seeking the quashing of an enforcement case information report (ECIR) filed in relation to a PMLA case against the Educamp Group. Mittal had sought a direction that ED be restrained from taking any coercive steps against

him, arguing that he had "strong apprehension" that he would be illegally detained or arrested by ED and would be made a "scapegoat to protect the interest of the main promoters/alleged main beneficiaries" of the company.

The court said that Mittal was not an accused in the PMLA proceedings, and hence it could not agree with his apprehension that he may be subject to coercive measures. It went on to say that under section 50 of the PMLA, ED officers have the power to enforce the attendance of any person for recording statements under oath. However, Justice Bhambhani added, "To be sure, the power to arrest is conspicuously absent in section 50 of the PMLA."

Though section 19 of the PMLA grants power of arrest to designated ED officers, "it is clear the power to arrest does not reside in section 50, nor does it arise as a natural corollary of summons

SC orders hiring of dist officers for effective implementation of POSH Act

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

FLAGGING "LACUNAE and lack of uniformity in the implementation of the POSH (Prevention of Sexual Harassment) Act by various state governments, the Supreme Court on Friday issued a series of directions to the Centre, states and Union Territories.

A bench of Justices Ravindra Bhat and Dipankar Datta directed that "the concerned Principal Secretary of the State/UT Ministry of Women and Child [or any other Department]...will personally ensure appointment of a district officer in each district within their territorial jurisdiction, as contemplated under Section 5 (of the Act) within four weeks from the date of this judgment".

Noting that "the language used in Section 5 is 'may', the bench said the "District Officer, is the most important functionary in the system, tasked with keeping the redressal and monitoring framework both intact, and smoothly running" and therefore, "treating Section 5 as directory, would leave a glaring hole in the otherwise clearly delineated workflow and redressal mechanism, and the efficacy of this legislation, as a result, falls flat".

It asked the appropriate government or district officers in question, to also "undertake effort to spread awareness on the existence of local committees, and make them approachable for the unorganised sector".

The judgement came on a petition by an NGO, Initiatives for Inclusion Foundation, seeking directions for implementation of the Act. Among others, the petitioner also urged the court to direct the different governments to ensure that the annual compliance reports collected by the district officers are consolidated and the reports are published in the public domain. On this, the court said "while there is no need for such an express direction...the Central government, and state government...in the interest of transparency and good governance may consider to make these statistics public..."

Nagaland Institute of Medical Sciences and Research
Kohima : Nagaland

ADVERTISEMENT

No: NIMS-6/Faculty appt2023(Vol-I) Dated Kohima October 2023
Applications are invited from eligible candidate to be filled up for NIMS, Kohima.

PROFESSOR	09
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR	18
ASST. PROFESSOR	06
SR. RESIDENT/ TUTOR	12

The details of the Qualification, Experience, Pay Scale, Application Form etc. may be obtained from the website <https://nimsr.nagaland.gov.in>

Sd/-
Director cum Dean
NIMS,
Kohima: Nagaland

King George's Medical University, UP, Lucknow
Website: www.kgmu.org, Email: nowe261123@gmail.com

NURSING OFFICER RECRUITMENT-2023
CORRIGENDUM

Notice No 155/NR/Exam/2023 Dated: 19.10.2023
[Vide previous notice 113/NR/Exam/2023: Advt. no. 15 & 16/NATS/2023 dt. 22-06-2023]
This is being notified that examination shall now be conducted as a pen-paper based MCQ test on OMR sheet (instead of Computer Based Test), rest remains same.
Examination centers have been revised and all registered candidates may give their center preference online.
Application process is being re-opened for next 07 days. New applications are also invited online.
Please check website www.kgmu.org for details. Date of Examination is November 26, 2023.

Coordinator Examination

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Bank of India
Rajlaxmi Complex Opposite Vishal Mega Mart
A.P Colony, Gaya-823001, Tel. - 0631-2220129
Email: zo.gaya@bankofindia.co.in

APPENDIX - IV, Rule 8(1)

Possession Notice (for Immovable Property)

Whereas,
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the BANK OF INDIA, Gaya Nain Branch, Bishwa-Deo Complex Manjhiw Kothi Rangbahadur Road Gaya-823001 under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 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 as detailed in the table hereunder written calling upon the below mentioned borrowers to repay the amount shown in the respective notices mentioned against their names in the table, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower/s and/or guarantor/s mentioned below having failed to repay the amount shown in the respective notices issued u/s 13(2) within the stipulated time, notice is hereby given to the below borrower/s and/or guarantor/s and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies (Secured Assets) described in the table given below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this the 17th day of September of the year 2023. The borrower/s and/or guarantor/s in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies mentioned in the table hereunder written and any dealings with the said property/ies will be subject to the charge of the BANK OF INDIA, (name of the Institution) for the amount shown in the respective column of the table and interest thereon. The borrower/s and/or guarantor/s attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of Borrower	i. Branch, ii. Date & Amount as per Notice u/s 13(2)	Description of the immovable property	Date of Possession of Assets
M/s Sanasar Jewellers (Prop.: Mr. Gayan Kumar S/o Kishori Lal Verma alias Mahavir Prasad and Mr. Sujan Kumar S/o Kishori Lal Verma alias Mahavir Prasad) Guarantor- Ashok Kumar S/o Kishori Lal Verma alias Mahavir Prasad	(i) Gaya Main Branch (ii) Demand Notice Date: 24.02.2021, ₹ 8,33,635.94 and interest thereon	All the part and parcel of the property consisting as under Deed No-2423, in the name of Mr. Gayan Kumar and Sujan Kumar, Holding No. 26, 25(O), 54(N), Area- 72.5 sq.ft, Deed No. 11749, in the name of Mr. Gayan Kumar and Sujan Kumar, Holding No. 26, 25(O), 54(N), Area- 65 Sq.Ft. Location- At Durga Shankar Road, Ward No. 22 P.S.-Kotwali, Dist.- Gaya, Boundaries:- Deed No 2423, North: Nij Lakhari Shop, South- Birendra Prasad, East-Bijay Babu, West-Lekhyadhargarin, Deed No. 11749, North- Road, South- Lekhyadhargarin, East-Bijay Babu, West- Lekhyadhargarin, Location- At Durga Shankar Road Ward No.22, P.S-Kotwali, Dist.-Gaya	17.10.2023

* With further interest at applicable rate till repayment.

Date: 17.10.2023
Place: Gaya
Authorized Officer
Bank of India

Delhi Tourism
दिल्ली सरकार
दंडिया महोत्सव

Dance to the Rhythm of Joy:

Dandiya Festival

21-22 October, 2023 • 6:00 pm - 10 pm
Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, Delhi

Highlights:
Celebrity Artist: Get ready to groove with our special guest artist!
Unlimited Dandiya Masti: Two days of non-stop fun and dance.
Mouth-Watering Food: Indulge in a variety of delicious dishes.
Dandiya Gear Sale: Find the perfect accessories to elevate your dance moves.

21st October 22nd October

ENTRY FREE THROUGH GATE NUMBER 3& 5

www.delhitourism.gov.in www.facebook.com/delhitourism

CHANDIGARH POLICE
PRESS NOTE

RECRUITMENT OF CONSTABLES (EXECUTIVE) IN CHANDIGARH POLICE

It is hereby informed that recruitment for the post of 700 constables (executive), both male and female, in Chandigarh Police had been announced by Chandigarh Police on 20.05.2023. Total 100029 candidates had appeared in the written examination, which was conducted at various examination centres in Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh. 7050 candidates were shortlisted for Physical Efficiency and Measurement Test (PE&MT), which was held from 25.09.2023 to 09.10.2023. Finally, 700 candidates have been provisionally selected in the merit list and a waiting list of 176 candidates has also been prepared. The list of selected candidates has been uploaded on the official website of Chandigarh Police i.e. <https://chandigarhpolice.gov.in>

RECRUITMENT OF ASI'S (EXECUTIVE) IN CHANDIGARH POLICE

It is hereby informed that recruitment for the post of 44 ASI (executive), both male and female, in Chandigarh Police had been announced by Chandigarh Police on 15.06.2023. Total 8613 candidates had appeared in the written examination, which was conducted at various examination centres in Chandigarh. 424 candidates were shortlisted for Physical Efficiency and Measurement Test (PE&MT), which was held from 10.10.2023 to 11.10.2023. Finally, 44 candidates have been provisionally selected in the merit list and a waiting list of 11 candidates has also been prepared. The list of selected candidates has been uploaded on the official website of Chandigarh Police i.e. <https://chandigarhpolice.gov.in>

Chandigarh Police
Issued in the Public Interest.

MAHARASHTRA METRO RAIL CORPORATION LTD.
(A joint venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Maharashtra)
"Metro Bhavan", VIP Road, Near Dikshabhoomi, Ramdaspath, Nagpur-440010. E-mail : md.nmrc.tenders@gmail.com

Tender No. N2-022/Ele-05/2023 Dt. 28.09.2023

Name of work : Modification of 400 kV EHV S/C Overhead Lines at Ch. 6118.37, Automotive Square to Kanhan River Section in Reach -2A of Maha-Metro NMRP Phase-II Project.

Cost of Documents : INR 23,600/- (inclusive of GST).

Date Of Prebid Meeting : 25.10.2023

Tender No. N2-023/Ele-06/2023 Dt. 27.09.2023

Name of work : Modification of 132kV EHV D/C Overhead Lines at Reach -3A & Reach -4A.

Cost of Documents : INR 35,400/- (inclusive of GST).

Tender No. N2-024/Ele-07/2023 Dt. 27.09.2023

Name of work : Modification of 132kV EHV D/C Overhead Lines at Reach -1A & Reach -2A

Cost of Documents : INR 23,600/- (inclusive of GST).

Date Of Prebid Meeting : 20.10.2023

Interested Bidders may visit www.mahametro.org or CPP Website : <https://eprocure.gov.in> for NIT. Bid documents can be download from <https://mahatenders.gov.in>.

Executive Director/ Procurement
Maha-Metro
Nagpur Metro : City's Transport Solution

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Bank of India
Rajlaxmi Complex Opposite Vishal Mega Mart
A.P Colony, Gaya-823001, Tel. - 0631-2220129
Email: zo.gaya@bankofindia.co.in

DEMAND NOTICE

Issued u/s 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3(1) of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The captioned notice was served upon Mr. Prithwi Raj Goswami S/o-Gupteshwar Goswami Situated at Mauza- Magadh Colony Ward No-29, P.S. M.M. College (P.S.No-180) Dist.-Gaya by the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Bank of India in exercise of powers conferred u/s 13(2) read with rule 3 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to the Borrower (s) Mortgagor(s)/ Guarantor(s) listed hereunder (hereafter referred to as the borrower(s) calling upon them to repay the amount mentioned in respective Demand Notice (s) within 60 days from the date of respective Notice as per the details given below as the accounts have been classified as "NON PERFORMING ASSETS". Mr. Prithwi Raj Goswami as per Postman report the borrower/guarantor are not residing at his address. The undersigned has reason to believe that the said borrower/guarantor is avoiding service of Demand Notice issued to them. The undersigned has pasted the notice on the premises of last known address as of the borrower(s) Copies of such Notice(s) is/are available with the undersigned and the borrower(s), may, if they so desire, collect the said copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal working hours. In connection with the above, Notice is hereby given once again to the Borrower(s)/guarantor(s) to pay Bank of India within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, the amounts indicated herein below against their respective names together with further interest at applicable rates as detailed in the said demand notice(s) along with the cost, charges etc. till the date of payment / realization, under various security documents executed by the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) in favor of the Bank. For due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged/hypothecated with Bank of India by the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s). If the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) fail to make payment to the Bank as aforesaid, the Bank shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the said Act and the applicable rules entirely at the risk of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) as the cost and consequences. The Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) is/are prohibited under the Act to transfer the aforesaid assets whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without prior written consent of the Bank. Any person who contravenes the said Act or Rules made thereunder shall be liable for imprisonment and /or penalty as provided under the Act. The Notice is issued without prejudice to our rights and remedies at your risk and costs.

Name of Account /Borrower's/ Guarantor's & Name of Branch	Description of secured assets/ Name of the owner	(a) Date of Demand Notice (b) Total Outstanding
Mr. Prithwi Raj Goswami S/o-Gupteshwar Goswami Magadh Colony Ward No-29 (Magadh Medical College), Lane No. 1, Road No.11, Mohalla + PS- Chandauti, Dist.- Gaya, Pin No-823001	(1) Hypothecation of stocks, (2) EQM of Immovable Property in the name of Mr. Prithwi Raj Goswami, S/o. Guptaeshwar Goswami Situated at Mauza- Magadh Colony, Ward No. 29, P.S.: M.M. College (P.S. No: 180) Dist.: Gaya, Khata No.:167 (New) 40 & 102 (Old), Plot No.: 654 (New) 466 & 468 (Old), Area: 578 sq. ft., Deed No.: 2811, Date 19.02.2018, Boundary: North: Road, South: Nij, East: Sharma ji (Fauzi), West: Nij, (3) In the name of Mr. Prithwi Raj Goswami S/o Guptaeshwar Goswami Situated at Mauza: Chandauti Gauram Nagar, Ward No.: 29, P.S.: Chandauti (No:180) Registry office: Gaya, Khata No.: 64 (O) 157 (New) Plot No.: 93 (O) 466 (New), Area: 2193 Sq.ft., Deed No.: 19676 Date :30.11.2018 Boundary: North: 15 ft. Road, South: Block No-G, East: Pind, West: Block No.	(a) : 17.10.2023 (b) : ₹ 69,37,235.84 (Contractual dues upto the date of notice) with further interest thereon @ 10.85% p.a. compounded with monthly rests and all costs, charges and expenses.

Date : 19.10.2023
Place : Gaya
Authorized officer
BANK OF INDIA

यूको बैंक UCO BANK
सहजमान जायके विश्वास का Honours your trust

Zonal Office : 75/4, Siddhi Sadan, Halsey Road
Near Badshahi Naka Police Station, Kanpur - 208001
E-mail : zokanpur.rec@ucobank.co.in

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES [See proviso to Rule - 8(6)]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property(ies) mortgaged/charged to UCO Bank Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of UCO Bank Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 10.11.2023, for recovery of Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) to UCO Bank Secured Creditor. The details are described as below.

Sr. No.	Name & Address of Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date	Description of Immovable Property(ies) with known encumbrances, if any	Bank's Dues	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit
3.	Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantors: Mr. Gajadhar Singh S/o Ram Swaroop R/o 22, Kishan Nagar, Bamba Bypass Road Sukhmalpur Nizamabad, Firozabad- U.P.-283203 Guarantors: Mr. Satyendra Kumar Sharma S/o Mr. Gajadhar Singh R/o 22, Kishan Nagar, Bamba Bypass Road Sukhmalpur Nizamabad, Firozabad- U.P.-283203	24.04.2023 28.06.2023 (Symbolic Possession)	All that part and parcel property situated at of Double story building House No. 22, Kishan Nagar Mauja-Sailai, Bamba Bypass Road Firozabad, measuring area 1250 Sq. ft. as per Book No.1, Volume No. 1433, Sr. No. 4958, Page No. 77 to 78, registered on 28.02.1989 at Sub-Registrar Office Firozabad District Firozabad standing in the name of Mr. Gajadhar Singh S/o Mr. Ram Swaroop, resident of 22, Kishan Nagar, Bamba Bypass Road Sukhmalpur Nizamabad, Firozabad- U.P.-283203 Details of Boundries (As per deed): East: Plot of Shri Bhagwan, West: Plot of Kriparam, North: Plot of Shyam Lal, South: Known Encumbrances, if any - Nil	Rs. 16,10,991.95 (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Ten Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety One & Paise Ninety Five Only) as on 24.04.2023 (inclusive of Interest Upto 30.11.2022) plus further interest thereon at the contractual rate, costs, charges and Expenses etc. till date of Payment.	Rs. 36,02,000/- Rs. 3,60,200/-

Last Date for submission of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) for Bid : 09.11.2023 upto 4:00 PM as per (IST)
Date & Time of E-auction :- 10.11.2023 from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM as per (IST) with unlimited extension of 10 minutes each with Bid Incremental Amount of Rs. 10,000/-

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit the websites <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp> & <https://www.ibapi.in>
The Borrower's and/or Guarantor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section 8 of section 13 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.
Note:- Hindi & English versions of this Notice are being published in Hindi & English Newspapers respectively. It is clarified that in case of any contradiction in Hindi and English version of the Notice, the English version of the Notice will prevail.

Date :- 20.10.2023 Place :- Firozabad Authorized Officer (UCO Bank)

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, MEDICAL EDUCATION & TRAINING, U.P.
6th Floor, Jawahar Bhawan, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

No. ME-3/2023/2541 Lucknow Dated 19 October, 2023

TIME SCHEDULE FOR 2nd STRAY VACANCY ROUND ONLINE COUNSELING OF UP NEET UG-2023 (BDS COURSE)

As per the Letter No.-U-11011/01/2023- MEC(pt-II) dated 13 October 2023 issued by Government of India the time schedule for Second stray vacancy round online counseling for admission to undergraduate courses (BDS) of Government/Private Dental Colleges/Institutions/Universities is as follows :-

Sr. No.	Description	Dates	Total Days
1.	Date of Online Registration	20 th October 2023 (From 11:00 AM) To 23 rd October 2023 (Till 11:00 AM)	03 Days
2.	Date of deposition of Registration & Security money	20 th October 2023 (From 11:00 AM) To 25 th October 2023 (Till 5:00 PM)	06 Days
3.	Date of on-line Document Verification	20 th & 21 st October 2023 And 25 th October 2023 (Till 5:00 PM)	03 Days
4.	Date of Merit List Declaration	25 th October 2023	01 Day
5.	Date of On-line Choice filling	26 th October 2023 (From 11:00 AM) To 27 th October 2023 (Till 5:00 PM)	02 Days
6.	Date of Result Declaration	28 th October 2023	01 Day
7.	Date for downloading the allotment letters and Admission	30 th October 2023 To 31 st October 2023	02 Days

- Second Stray vacancy round, will be held online for the vacant seats of BDS course.
- To participate in 2nd Stray vacancy round, it will be mandatory for all the eligible candidates to register themselves online on the website <https://upneet.gov.in> by depositing the registration fee of Rs. 1000/- (Rs. One Thousand only.)
- Security Money Rs. 30,000/- (Rs. Thirty Thousand Only) for Govt. Dental Colleges, Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rs. One Lakh Only) for private Dental Colleges is mandatory to be deposited online by the candidates.
- Candidates allotted through the First/Second Counseling, Mop-up & Stray Vacancy Round of UP NEET UG-2023 counseling and candidates admitted through any round of All India Quota counseling will not be eligible for the 2nd Stray Vacancy Round.
- Such unallotted candidates whose Security money has already been deposited during First/Second counseling, Mop-up & Stray Vacancy Round are not required to deposit the Security money again for the 2nd Stray Vacancy Round of UP NEET UG-2023 counseling.
- Candidates whose original documents have been verified at the time of First/Second counseling, Mop-up & Stray Vacancy Round of UP NEET UG-2023 counseling need not get re-verified.
- Only those candidates will be eligible for choice filling, whose documents have been verified online and deposited the security money.
- All information related to UP NEET UG-2023 counseling will be uploaded on website <https://upneet.gov.in> and www.dgme.up.gov.in

(Director General)



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



UNIQUE SEND-OFF

AS PART of a convention, every Supreme Court judge on the day of their retirement sits in court number 1 with the Chief Justice of India. However, the 'ceremonial bench' for Justice Ravindra Bhat, who is set to retire on Friday, will sit in court number 2 as CJ D Y Chandrachud is not available on the day. Justice Bhat will be part of an unusual four-judge bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, the second senior most judge of the SC, on his last working day.

EC's ED Fix

THE ENFORCEMENT DIRECTORATE'S proposal in the Supreme Court to implicate the AAP in the Delhi Liquor Policy case didn't just pique interest in political circles; it also left many in the Election Commission wondering how it might respond if the party were to face conviction under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. Given the poll panel's experience seizing record amounts of cash every election season, it even prompted some to share lighthearted banter about whether this move by the ED would open the floodgates for similar action against political parties across the nation.

RACE AGAINST TIME

DAYS BEFORE the government began its annual campaign for file disposal and cleanliness, all the ministries set up an ambitious target to look at 1,451 references from MPs, 298 Parliamentary assurances, 136 PMO references, 1.12 lakh public grievances, 3.49 lakh files for review and closure. The third phase of this special campaign is now the highlight of most ministries, but it remains to be seen if they would be able to meet these ambitious targets in a span of a few weeks.

INDIA BLOC PARTNERS SPAR OVER SEAT-SHARING

Chill deepens in Opp, Akhilesh hits out at Cong over MP tie-up

ASAD REHMAN & MAULSHREE SETH LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 19

AMID RISING tension between the Opposition INDIA bloc allies, the Congress and the Samajwadi Party (SP), over the collapse of their alliance talks for the Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections, SP president Akhilesh Yadav Thursday accused the Congress of having "cheated" his party.



Akhilesh Yadav in Sitapur, UP, Thursday. Twitter/@yadavakhilesh

Akhilesh's statement came soon after UP Congress chief Ajay Rai asked his party to withdraw from the MP fray in favour of the grand old party, saying the SP did not have any base there.

Rai also said that as an INDIA bloc partner the SP should rally behind the Congress if it wants to fight the ruling BJP in MP.

Speaking to reporters in Sitapur Thursday, Akhilesh hit out at the Congress and slammed Rai. "Which leader are you talking about? The state president (Ajay Rai) has no 'haisiyar' (status). He was not there at the meeting (of INDIA) in Patna or Mumbai. What does he know about the INDIA alliance," he said, adding "Congress should not get statements made by their 'chirkut' (small-time) leaders about our party."

The SP chief also went after the Congress's MP heavyweights and ex-CMs, Kamal Nath and Digvijaya Singh, charging they kept the SP leaders waiting till 11 am, when they had gone to meet them for seat-sharing talks. "This means that you're cheating other parties. These people are hand in

glove with BJP. The Congress people are with BJP. If I had known that the alliance is not at the state level, then I wouldn't have sent SP leaders to Digvijay Singh ji or Kamal Nath ji," he said.

Akhilesh claimed that the Congress camp had indicated that six seats could be allotted to the SP, which would include its lone sitting seat. He also said if the INDIA alliance is only meant for the national elections and not the state polls, then the SP would pay back in the same coin over the UP seat-sharing in Lok Sabha polls.

The fissures between the two allies became evident Sunday, when the Congress announced candidates for four of the seven seats in MP, where the SP has already declared candidates. In a strong signal to its INDIA ally, the SP then declared a list of nine candidates. On Wednesday, the SP released a list of 22 more candidates.

Akhilesh on Tuesday said the Congress must clarify its stand on

the alliance among the INDIA bloc partners and whether the sharing of seats would be applicable at the state or the national level.

On Wednesday, speaking to The India Express, Ajay Rai said, "Congress is standing with strength in Madhya Pradesh, so Samajwadi Party should support Congress as part of INDIA alliance, instead of contesting on seats when they have no base there." As for Akhilesh's warning, he said, "One should wait for Lok Sabha elections and let the results of five state polls come."

Rai also said that while a decision about the alliance in UP for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections is to be taken by the Congress high command, the party's UP unit is preparing to contest on all 80 parliamentary seats in the state.

Responding to the SP camp's charge that the Congress did not give them even the one seat that they had won in MP in the 2018 polls, Rai said even that MLA had

later defected to the ruling BJP. "The fight in MP has long been between Congress and BJP. So instead of contesting on its own SP should support Congress," he said.

The SP argues that by going by its MP rationale, the Congress with just one MP and two MLAs in UP should support the former in UP where it is the BJP's principal rival.

In the 2017 UP polls, the then incumbent SP had fought the elections in alliance with the Congress, with both Akhilesh and Rahul Gandhi addressing joint rallies in favour of the alliance candidates. Out of 403 seats, the SP had contested 311 seats while the Congress fought from 114 seats. There were then still 11 seats on which both of them fielded their candidates.

In last month's Assembly bypolls, the Congress supported the SP in UP's Ghosi and refrained from fielding its candidate. SP candidate Sudhakar Singh trounced the BJP's heavy-weight OBC leader Dara Singh Chauhan by 42,759 votes there.

In Uttarakhanda's Bagheshwar bypoll, however, despite being a marginal player in state politics, the SP fielded its candidate, who could secure just 637 votes. The ruling BJP managed to retain the seat, defeating the Congress by 2,405 votes.

In the wake of these bypoll results, Rai had blamed the SP for the Congress's loss in Bagheshwar, charging the SP with not following the "gathbandhan (alliance) dharma" in contrast to his party's gesture in the Ghosi bypoll.

DA case: HC rejects Shivakumar's plea, gives CBI 3 months to complete probe

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU, OCTOBER 19



Karnataka Deputy CM had sought quashing of case

THE KARNATAKA High Court on Thursday rejected Deputy Chief Minister and state Congress chief D K Shivakumar's plea seeking the quashing of a disproportionate assets (DA) case registered against him by the CBI in 2020 for allegedly amassing illegal wealth to the tune of Rs 74 crore. The CBI has been asked to complete the probe within three months.

Shivakumar had cited various reasons for quashing the case, including the lack of government sanction under Section 17 A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, introduced in 2018, political malice and the prolonged investigation in the case spanning over three years.

The CBI had filed an FIR in October 2020 against Shivakumar on charges of corruption, based on the findings of the Income Tax Department during searches carried out in August 2017 at around 70 premises linked to the Congress leader. The probe agency has alleged that Shivakumar amassed Rs 74.93 crore of wealth disproportionate to known sources of income between April 2013 and April 2018, when he was the energy minister in the Congress-led Karnataka government.

The HC bench, headed by Justice K Natarajan, rejected Shivakumar's argument of delay in the investigation on the grounds that he had "himself

produced voluminous documents to the Investigating Officer, which is under verification of the officer".

"The CBI is hereby directed to complete the investigation and file the final report within three months from the date of receipt of the copy of this order," the HC told the CBI.

The court also rejected Shivakumar's arguments that the CBI had not obtained a sanction for his prosecution as a public servant, as envisaged in Section 17 A of the PC Act of 1988 (amended in 2018), on the grounds that his alleged acts of corruption did not occur during the dispensation of an official role and that the 2018 amendment came after the alleged crime. The sanction for the prosecution of Shivakumar was granted in September 2019 during the tenure of the BJP government.

Referring to reports on the progress in investigations placed before the court by the CBI, the HC observed that 98 bank accounts linked to Shivakumar and his family are under scrutiny.

The HC also observed that the CBI's case was built on the investigations of the I-T department and later the ED and that "the FIR cannot be considered mala fide or political malice".

Kharge condemns Hamas attacks, Israel's bombing of civilian areas in Gaza

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19



Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge

DAYS AFTER the Congress Working Committee (CWC) reaffirmed the party's long standing support to the Palestinian cause without mentioning the Hamas attack on Israel, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge Thursday did a balancing act by mentioning the Palestinian militant group and its "brutal attacks" while calling for an immediate ceasefire and humanitarian assistance to the "beleaguered people of Gaza."

men, women and children is both unjustifiable and a grave humanitarian tragedy for which the perpetrators must be held accountable."

He said the Congress had on October 8 "condemned the brutal attacks by Hamas on the people of Israel". He was referring to the official reaction of the Congress issued by the party's communication head Jairam Ramesh. Ramesh's reaction did not have any mention of Hamas or terror.

While referring to the Hamas attacks, Kharge said "also unacceptable are the indiscriminate actions by Israel's military forces in civilian areas, that includes a siege of the Gaza Strip and bombings in it."

SC notice to police on plea against NewsClick arrests

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday issued notice to Delhi Police on a plea by Prabir Purkayastha, founder and editor-in-chief of news portal NewsClick, and its HR department head Amit Chakravarty, challenging the Delhi High Court decision upholding their arrest under UAPA for allegedly receiving Chinese funding.

A bench of Justices B R Gavi and P K Mishra decided to hear the matter again on October 30. Purkayastha and Chakravarty were arrested by the Special Cell of Delhi Police on October 3. They moved the Delhi HC challenging the arrest as well as the seven-day police custody.

The HC, while dismissing their plea on October 13, rejected their contention that they should have been provided the grounds for their arrest and said that UAPA does not mandate furnishing written grounds. It said it would be "advisable" that the police henceforth provide the grounds of arrest in writing to an accused after redacting "sensitive material".

Days after opposing BJP alliance, Ibrahim sacked from JD(S)

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU, OCTOBER 19



Will take legal action: C M Ibrahim

JANATA DAL (SECULAR) national president H D Deve Gowda on Thursday dissolved the party's Karnataka unit and sacked the JD(S) state president, C M Ibrahim, days after the latter opposed the party's decision to align with the BJP for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Former CM H D Kumaraswamy, the second son of Deve Gowda, was appointed the party's ad hoc state unit chief. Speaking at a news conference, Deve Gowda said: "We have all decided that he will continue as JD(S) legislature party leader and also as the state president."

Reacting to his sacking, Ibrahim said he will take legal action against the decision and even write to the Election Commission of India. "Under what provisions did you appoint an ad hoc president. Do you (Deve Gowda) have the powers?" he said, adding that Deve Gowda's decision showed JD(S) remained a "family party".

Ibrahim said he will "remain with the JD(S)" and travel across the state to "rally against dynastic politics". He claimed that most of the JD(S) legislators are with him and they are being "threat-

ened by the family".

Ibrahim termed Deve Gowda's decision "Vinash Kaale Vipareeta Buddhi (as the doom approaches, one's intelligence functions perversely)" and warned of mounting a legal challenge against it, besides asserting that he will reach out to the people.

Ibrahim, who was appointed the JD(S) president in April 2022 following his switch from the Congress, had on Monday (October 16) criticised the JD(S) leadership over the alliance with the BJP. Claiming to be the "original JD(S)", he had said that the regional party will not go with the BJP-led NDA, but would back the Opposition's INDIA bloc.

Dismissing Ibrahim's claim, Deve Gowda said all the state units of the JD(S) had given their consent to align with the BJP.

Allying claims that leaders from the minority community were deserting the party, the JD(S) president said "leaders such as MLC B M Farooq and others have remained steadfast in their support to the party".

Caste census if Cong is voted to power: Rahul in Telangana

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 19



Rahul Gandhi interacts with employees of the Govt-owned Singareni Collieries Company Ltd in Telangana, Thursday. PTI

QUESTIONING PRIME Minister Narendra Modi why the results of caste census conducted by the UPA regime were not made public, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said the exercise will be taken up in the country once the Congress comes to power.

The AICC leader raised the issue while addressing several rallies in poll-bound Telangana.

Exuding confidence that his party will come to power in the state after November 30 Assembly polls, he said, "Congress wave is coming in Telangana like a tsunami." He also attacked the K Chandrasekhara Rao-led government over alleged corruption, particularly in irrigation projects, and targeted the BJP and BRS alleging that both the parties have tacit understanding, a charge denied by BRS working president K T Rama Rao.

Telangana BJP president G Kishan Reddy also hit back at Rahul Gandhi's allegations on the saffron party's "association" with BRS, saying it was Congress party that entered into an alliance with KCR's party in 2004 and both shared power at the state and in Centre.

Addressing corner meetings and public rallies in Bhupalpally,

Peddapalli and Karimnagar districts, Rahul said: "BRS has to be defeated here in Telangana and the BJP in Delhi. A Congress wave is coming in Telangana like a tsunami. First it will come in Telangana and next in Delhi."

He said the biggest issue in the country is with regard to caste census and termed it an 'X-ray' that will throw light on the condition of Dalits, tribals and OBCs. He added that the caste census will also determine how the country's funds are being distributed.

Urging people to question Modi and Chandrasekhara Rao as to when they will conduct the caste census, he said if the Congress is voted to power in Telangana then the first thing his

party's government will do is to take up 'X-ray' in the state. He noted that Congress-ruled states-Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Karnataka - have been told to conduct caste census.

During the campaign, Rahul Gandhi also interacted with the workers and employees of state-owned mining firm Singareni Collieries. He assured that the mines of Singareni Collieries will not be privatised and alleged that there was an attempt to sell it to Adani, but "we got it stopped".

Referring to Congress' five 'poll guarantees' implemented in Karnataka, Rahul said the party would similarly implement all six guarantees announced in Telangana, as soon as it forms the government in the state.

LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD. [Rule 8 (1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property) Includes details of property possession notices for various plots in Muzaffarpur, Bihar.

Table with columns: S.No, Date, Shop Name, Address, Sector, and Contact Info. Lists various shops like Indian Jhatka Meat Shop, Abdul majid halal meat shop, etc.

AHEAD OF ASSEMBLY

Punjab Gov withholds nod to GST Bills

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 19

HOURS BEFORE the Punjab government is slated to hold a two-day Vidhan Sabha session to ratify Centre's GST Laws, Governor Banwarilal Purohit on Thursday not only withheld his approval to these Bills but also threatened that he would be forced to complain to President of India if the government goes ahead with the "patently illegal" session.

In a letter to Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, Purohit asked the government to take the legal recourse. The government has, however, decided to go ahead with the session. Sources said that the CM may the matter up with the Centre. Meanwhile, Purohit said that besides the GST Bills, he was also withholding The Indian Stamp (Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2023. All three are money Bills and were to be tabled Saturday.

9 EXPRESS NETWORK

'India friend of Palestine, Israel; hoping for positive role'

PALESTINIAN AMBASSADOR to India, **ADNAN ABU ALHAJJA**, called on the international community to find a solution to the ongoing conflict in an interview to **DIVYAA**. Edited excerpts:

What is your assessment of the current situation?

What I have heard from the Israelis themselves, and let me say what I have seen of the Americans and some European countries like Britain and France, when they use veto in the United Nations, it means they are covering Israel's crimes and they don't want this war to end.

We are looking for a ceasefire as soon as possible. We are looking to stop the siege of Gaza. Humanitarian aid should reach people as soon as possible, especially medicines, oxygen, water, electricity and food. We are working hard with all our friends to stop this war as soon as possible.

What do you think of India's response so far?

We have noticed the tweet of

the Indian Prime Minister at the beginning, and later his phone call with Israeli PM (Benjamin) Netanyahu. We hope India will play a positive role with people who are working hard for a ceasefire, for breaking the siege of 2.2 million people living in Gaza. But the (attitude of) Indian people in general — what we notice from social media — has changed from the time this conflict started on October 7.

We are always looking to India to play a positive role, especially because it is a friend of both Palestine and Israel. Stability in West Asia is very important for India itself.

What role does Palestine expect the international community to play?

The Palestinian people are looking for a ceasefire and for breaking the siege of Gaza. But the international community is responsible for finding a political solution, and going back to what we signed 30 years ago — the Oslo Agreement, which says



the Palestinian state should exist on the land of 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

After the hospital attack, do you think the understanding

of the world may have shifted?

Yes, the majority, but they are criminals. First, they said we bombed (the hospital) because members of Hamas were there. Then they changed (their stand). Now, they say the rocket was from Islamic Jihad.

The creation of Israel itself comes from lies. The truth is that Israel is a military base for the American and Western countries, and the normal Jewish people are victims like the Palestinian people. I am sure there are nice Jewish people, and we are not against any Jew in the world. We are against the Zionists, against the occupation. We don't fight the Jews because there are Palestinian Jews as well, and we used to live together in Palestine.

Some Opposition leaders from India met you, what was the conversation about?

It was a lot of solidarity and understanding. They still have the traditional attitude of India towards the Palestinian cause,

and they have their understanding about the apartheid regime of Israel and the occupation itself. They present their solidarity and they are also with the two-state solution.

Civilians on both sides are suffering. How can that be stopped?

We signed the Oslo Agreement 30 years ago, and we were expecting to have our independent state in 1999. Those who are leading Israel now are not looking for peace. They killed the Oslo Accord, destroyed the two-state solution. When they came and invaded the Al Aqsa Mosque, there was the second Intifada... But the regime became popular and the Israeli society also became extreme.

Israel says about 200 people, including foreign nationals, have been taken hostage by the Hamas.

I heard from the Hamas spokesman that they will release all the civilians without any con-

ditions. Some people captured were military and some were civilians. The Hamas said they will release all the civilians, but, because of the war, it's not safe for them to release them just like that... They are waiting to check if any other parties also have civilian hostages (so as to) take them and release them.

We are against the killing of civilians, whether they are Palestinians or Israelis... The Israelis have never condemned the killing of Palestinian civilians.

What do you call the October 7 attack on Israeli territory by the Hamas?

You can't take October 7 just as October 7, because of what's going on in Gaza and in the West Bank. The killings, arrests, confiscation of land, building settlements, and attacks on mosques have been going on for a long time. Since the beginning of this year, before October 7, they have killed 260 people in West Bank...

FULL INTERVIEW ON
www.indianexpress.com

ESCAPE FROM HOSPITAL

Lawyer, her aide who helped drug racketeer flee held, Pune cops tell court

CHANDAN HAYGUNDE
PUNE, OCTOBER 19

PUNE CITY police told a court on Thursday that drug racketeer Lalit Anil Patil's escape from the Sassoon General Hospital was planned by two women and other accomplices along with him over the last "three to four months".

Patil told mediapersons on Wednesday that he did not escape from Sassoon hospital in Pune on his own, but was "made to escape". He was arrested by Mumbai police from Chennai on Tuesday night.

Around 5.10 pm on Wednesday, a team of Pune city police arrested two women, including a lawyer Pradnya Arun Kamble alias Pradnya Rohit Mahire (39) and Archana Kiran Nikam (33), both residents of Nashik, in connection with Patil's escape on October 2.

Police submitted to the court that the two women and other accused in the case "conspired" for the last "three to four months" and planned Patil's escape from custody. Police said primary investigation revealed that after escaping, Patil had a meeting with Kamble and Nikam in Nashik on October 4 and October 5, where the women allegedly gave him Rs 25 lakh cash.

Police also submitted that the two women held meetings multiple times with Patil in Pune before his escape. Police suspect they allegedly planned his escape during these meetings. Police told the court that evidence is being gathered about the place where the meetings took place.

Police said Nikam had a meeting with Patil just two days before he fled from the hospital. Police have seized cellphones of Nikam and Kamble and claimed they were in contact with Patil. A probe is on to know whether more persons are involved in Patil's escape.

According to police, Kamble was a resident of Space Orion Society in Nashik, the same place where Patil was also residing before he was arrested along with 21 others by Pimpri Chinchwad police following the seizure of 20 kg of mephedrone worth Rs 20 crore from Chakan in October 2020.

After his arrest in the Chakan case, Patil was lodged in the Yerawada Central Prison, where he allegedly reported medical problems from time to time and spent about 16 months in hospital.

On September 30, police arrested Patil's aide Subhash Janaki Mandal from a spot near Sassoon hospital with over 1.71 kg of mephedrone estimated at Rs 2.14 crore.

Probe revealed that Patil, who was under treatment at ward number 16 of Sassoon hospital, allegedly supplied the contraband to Mandal through hospital canteen worker Rauf Rahim Shaikh (19).

Police then seized two iPhones, each worth Rs 1.1 lakh, from Patil during a search at the hospital ward.

An FIR was lodged against Patil, Mandal and Shaikh under the NDPS Act. While probe was on in this case, around 7.40 pm on October 2, Patil fled from Sassoon hospital, where he was admitted for treatment on "hernia" since June 3 this year.

In Karnataka, Aadhaar payment scam hits those registering properties

AKRAMM
BENGALURU, OCTOBER 18

SEVERAL CASES of fraud involving Aadhaar Enabled Payment Systems (AEPS) where people have been defrauded after using Aadhaar data during the registration of properties have emerged in Karnataka prompting the state police to launch investigations in multiple locations.

According to the police, more than 20 cases have been registered in recent months. The police suspect the role of intermediary agencies offering authentication services between the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), and state and central agencies in the fraud reported in recent weeks in Bengaluru and Mangaluru.

The amounts reported to be lost in the AEPS linked cyber crimes is less than Rs 10,000 in every case due to a cap on AEPS transactions, but several cases

have been reported in Karnataka over the past few months, according to sources in the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) and the cybercrime police.

AEPS allows a person to remove Rs 10,000 per day from banks with biometric data (in the form of the thumb impression) and the Aadhaar number as authentication.

Four members of a family in Bengaluru fell victim this October to the fraud after they used Aadhaar data while registering a property in the Tumkur region of the state. "It was first detected in my wife Asha's account on October 6. Subsequently, we discovered that money was debited from the account of my brother-in-law Ramamurthy, his son Shreyas and sister-in-law Vijayalakshmi," the victim Rajgopal Sharma said.

Similar cases have been reported in Mangaluru, where more than 15 people have lost money after registering properties in the sub-registrar's office.

Cyber frauds: CBI searches 76 places, seizes gadgets

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

THE CBI on Thursday conducted searches at 76 locations across the country under Operation Chakra-2 after registering five separate cases of cyber-enabled financial fraud, including a Rs 100-crore crypto scam.

"This audacious scheme, under the guise of a fake crypto mining operation, targeted unsuspecting Indian citizens, resulting in a staggering loss of over Rs 100 crore to Indian victims," a CBI spokesperson said.

The searches were conducted at locations in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Delhi and West Bengal. "In the wake of Operation Chakra-II, 32 mobile phones, 48 laptops/hard disks, images of two servers, 33 SIM cards, and pen drives were confiscated and numerous bank accounts were frozen. The CBI also seized a dump of 15 email accounts, illuminating the intricate web of deceit spun by the accused," the spokesperson said.

The officials said that the case was registered based on critical inputs provided by the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU). "Two cases were registered on a complaint from Amazon and Microsoft that the accused ran call centres and posed as technical support of the companies to target foreign nationals. Nine call centres were searched by the Central Bureau Investigation (CBI) under the operation," the official said. "In these cases, the accused impersonated a global IT major and a multinational corporation with an online technology-driven trading platform. The accused...operating across five states/UTs, systematically preyed on foreign nationals, masquerading as technical support representatives," the spokesperson said.



FESTIVE SPLENDOUR

A Durga Puja pandal at Mudiali Club in Kolkata. Partha Paul

■ With the city geared up for the Durga Puja extravaganza, the West Bengal Met office Thursday said revellers will not be troubled by rain till October 22.

■ Kolkata Metro recorded a massive rise in the daily passenger count on *Chaturthi*, with North-South Metro (Blue Line) recording nearing 7.5 lakh footfall.

Police busts inter-state racket of mule bank accounts in Odisha, 3 held

SUJIT BISOIYI
BHUBANESWAR, OCTOBER 19

THE SPECIAL task force (STF) of Odisha Police has arrested three persons for their alleged involvement in running an inter-state racket of mule bank accounts.

The accused have been identified as Sheikh Hapizul and Sheikh Jahangir of Olamara in Balasore district and Sheikh Jamaluddin of Rampura of West Medinapur, West Bengal.

During a raid, the STF also seized various incriminating materials such as mobile phones, pre-activated SIM cards, bank passbooks and Aadhaar cards. A case has also been registered in this regard under different sections of the Indian penal code and the Information Technology Act.

According to STF sources, the racket operates mainly in the tri-junction area of Odisha, Jharkhand and West Bengal, especially in the districts of Balasore, Mayurbhanj, East Midnapore, West Midnapore, East Singhbhum, West Singhbhum and Seraikela-Kharsawan.

As per the police investigation, the modus operandi of the gang is to offer Rs 2,000 per account to each person who gives documents to open the bank accounts. However, the mobile numbers linked with bank accounts are provided by the gang members. The rate of 2,000 per account also differs depending on the bargaining/awareness level of the villager.

The gang members sell mule bank accounts at the rate of Rs 15,000 to Rs 20,000 per account.

Man wanted in rape case held after 43 years in J&K's Poonch

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, OCTOBER 19

POLICE IN Dhargloom village of Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district have arrested a man in a rape case filed against him and his accomplice in 1979.

Abdul Khaliq, 63, had an arrest warrant issued against him by the Poonch Sessions Court on September 19, 1992.

According to the police, while his accomplice was arrested, Khaliq had fled to the Gulf where he worked as a labourer.

Of late, as the case gathered dust and his accomplice was out on bail, Khaliq had started to make discreet visits to his village close to the Line of Control.

He was arrested Sunday based on a tip-off about his pres-

ence, police said.

"When we reached there, he was supervising labourers cutting grass on his land," SHO of Mendhar police station Sajid Baniya said, adding that the man has been sent to judicial custody.

When contacted, Poonch SSP Vinay Sharma said that the district police have launched a drive to arrest absconders, particularly those in cases of murder, rape and militancy-related incidents.

After taking over as the district police chief on May 29 this year, Sharma said, he asked all the SHOs to prepare a list of the accused and ensure their arrest at the earliest.

"We sent teams to Baramulla and Kupwara in Kashmir, and even outside the Union Territory in search of the absconders," Sharma said, adding that the dis-

trict police arrested 58 people in less than five months.

As a police team arrived to arrest him, a perplexed Khaliq denied he was the man they were looking for. His women relatives even tried to prevent policeman from taking him into custody.

At the village, Khaliq's arrest came as a surprise as nobody seemed to be aware of the old alleged crime. Even the few elderly villagers had forgotten the incident.

Meanwhile, the police in Kishtwar district Thursday claimed to have apprehended a murder accused five years after the crime was committed.

Police said Nazir Khatana, son of Haji Yaqoob Khatana, of Kot village in Reasi district, was arrested in Kashmir's Shopian district.

Caught in PM's allegations and ED case, Maharashtra co-op bank gets govt boost

VALLABH OZARKAR & ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 19

THE MAHARASHTRA Cabinet on Thursday decided to give recognition to the Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank (MSCB) by allowing banking transactions of government offices and investment funds from Public Enterprise Corporations through the bank. This comes less than four months after Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterated the allegation of financial irregularities in MSCB and its alleged links with the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), without naming Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar.

According to the officials, the state cooperative bank plays an important role in the cooperative sector. The decision was taken due to the need to empower this bank and increase rural credit,

said the officials.

They said the bank has been qualified for banking transactions and additional investment from corporations considering the factors such as the bank having Rs 16,000 crore or more in deposits with nationalised banks.

A finance department official said, "The State Cooperative Bank, Mumbai has a net worth of over Rs 4,000 crore and has been profitable for five years. Audit also has allocated an A class status to the bank for the five consecutive years and capital adequacy ratio is more than 12%. The bank has not been imposed any financial sanctions or immediate corrective action by RBI. Since the bank has fulfilled all these criteria, it has been qualified for the transactions." From time to time, the finance department will take action to increase the minimum limit of cash value, the official said.

"Also, the list of banks will be

updated by including or excluding the names of the relevant banks on this criteria after reviewing every year."

Ajit Pawar, who is now the state Finance Minister, is sharing power with the BJP and Shiv Sena. The BJP in the past had accused him of involvement in "financial irregularities" related to the bank. The ED had in April filed its first chargesheet in the case against Guru Commodity Services Pvt Ltd, Jarandeshwar Sugar Mills Pvt Ltd and chartered accountant Yogesh Bagrecha in connection with the MSCB scam. The ED had alleged links of Ajit Pawar and his wife to the two companies but they were not named then.

The case relates to loans given to sugar factories allegedly without following procedure by officials of MSCB even after they turned into Non-Performing Assets and their sale to kin of the accused below market value.

'Ensure no child has to sit on floor': Bihar looks at new model to boost its school infrastructure

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, OCTOBER 19

THE BIHAR education department has directed district magistrates (DMs) to make sure that all government schools have the required benches and desks — "ensure that no child sits on the floor at school" — and other basic infrastructure such as toilets.

To implement this, the department has asked the DMs to develop a model under the "feeder area concept and school cluster concept". In this model, each secondary school will function as the nodal guardian institution for all primary and middle schools that come under a 10-km radius of it. The secondary schools, which would then be called "cluster centres", will be responsible to ensure that primary and middle schools have the necessary infrastructure.

Of the 72,663 government schools in Bihar, over 15,000 do not have benches and desks, and the students sit on the floor. Most of these are primary (class 1 to 5) or middle (class 6 to 8) schools. A total of 3 crore children study in government schools in the state.

The funding for the infrastructure will come from the unutilised funds that have been allocated to secondary schools. According to officials, the education department learnt during recent field inspections that many government schools faced infrastructure constraints. However, it was also noted that 2,286 secondary schools had a combined total of Rs 1,090 crore in funds that had been allocated to it, but was unutilised.

In a letter sent on October 11 to the DMs of all 38 districts of Bihar, the education department's Additional Chief Secretary K K Pathak explained the model

under which the necessary infrastructure should be ensured by spending the unutilised funds. By denoting secondary schools as "cluster centres", they are empowered to spend funds at their disposal to make sure that schools that come under feeder area have desks, benches and toilets.

The secondary schools are also tasked with taking care of other learning, training and educating needs of the primary and middle schools that come under it. The district education officers (DEO) and block education officers (BEOs) concerned will coordinate with secondary schools to ensure compliance of basic requirements of the schools in a feeder area.

In his letter, Pathak said: "We request you to take inspiration from the school cluster concept to get secondary schools with adequate funds to provide furniture and build toilets in primary and

middle schools in its feeder areas. It should be ensured that no child sits on the floor at school. If a secondary school does not have enough funds to buy furniture for middle or primary schools, it should at least buy them carpets, so that children do not have to sit on the ground in winters."

Pathak added that secondary schools had used only Rs 24 crore of the funds allotted for school development, and that there was a surplus of nearly Rs 1,100 crore. He said that with these funds, the government has decided to develop the school cluster concept, which is also envisaged under New Education Policy (NEP) that stresses on the need for the "establishment of a grouping structure called school complex, consisting of one secondary school together with all other schools offering lower grades in its neighbourhood..."

Ayodhya seer found murdered in room, juvenile among two held

Lucknow: A 40-year-old seer was found murdered at an ashram in Ayodhya's Hanumangarhi temple on Thursday morning. Police have detained his two disciples — a minor and a 22-year-old in connection with the murder.

"The seer, a native of Sant Kabir Nagar, was stabbed with a sharp-edged weapon. We found a stab wound in his stomach. The post-mortem, which was conducted by a panel of doctors, concluded shock and haemorrhage to be the cause of the death," said Senior Superintendent of Police (Ayodhya) Raj Karan Nayyar, who reached the spot to conduct the preliminary investigation after receiving information around 7 am.

A senior police officer, who is a member of the probe team, said that Rs 70,000 was recovered from one of the accused. **ENS**

10 DECISION 2023

CHHATTISGARH • MADHYA PRADESH • MIZORAM • RAJASTHAN • TELANGANA

ELECTION IN NUMBERS

7,88,39,000

Between 2018 and 2023, the number of women voters across the 5 poll-bound states rose by 83 lakh, a rise of 11.7%, from 7.1 crore



Meriam Hrangchal is daughter of ex-Dy CM. Express

Congress debutant's first challenge is 'marriage to non-Mizo'

SUKRITA BARUAH GUWAHATI, OCTOBER 19

FOR A while, it seemed the Congress would rethink its decision to give a ticket to Meriam Hrangchal. But the party finally pushed ahead.

Last week, the Mizo Ziralai Pawl (MZP) — the most influential students' body in the state — had declared that it would oppose the candidacy of women who had married outside the community. MZP president H Lalthianghlama added that they were disappointed to hear that a party had selected such a name.

Though the MZP took no names, it was a clear reference to Meriam Hrangchal, 49, an entrepreneur, who is married to Deepen Zoliana, a Gorkha, with a Mizo surname.

The Congress has given Hrangchal a ticket from Lunglei South, an ST reserved seat. While she is making her debut, her father Lalmingthanga was a senior politician with the Mizoram People's Conference and a multiple-time MLA, including from Lunglei South in 2003, as well as a former deputy chief minister.

The MZP has now announced a rally against Hrangchal's nomination on Friday. "We cannot demand that she withdraw... it is her right. But we can appeal to the Mizo people not to vote for her," MZP general secretary Chinkhnamanga Thomte told *The Indian Express*.

"We are a small minority, so we need to preserve Mizo society... According to our customary law, she lost her tribal status by marrying a non-tribal. She is a very successful businesswoman, which shows that there is no discrimination in our society. But it's not something that we can accept for the Assembly," he said.

Hrangchal did not respond to attempts to reach her. Following the MZP "warning", the Congress initially announced candidates for 39 out of the 40 seats in the Assembly, barring Lunglei South.

Mizoram Congress president Lalsawta said he did not want to comment beyond saying that "Hrangchal is very qualified".

Senior party leader Lal Thanazara said he did not anticipate a major backlash. "The student body will also realise that her husband's family has been living here for generations, and self-identify as Mizos."

CONG'S RAJASTHAN CRUNCH

Ashok Gehlot makes his move: 'The CM post won't leave me'

The Rajasthan Congress list still stuck, the senior leader battling detractors, within and outside, addresses a press conference at AICC headquarters; signals he remains in the race

MANOJ G G NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

IN THE five years of his third term in power, dealing with opponents within the party and outside, Congress Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has time and again proved that, for him, offence is the best form of defence.

On Thursday, amidst the tussle over the party list for Rajasthan, the only poll-bound state where the Congress has failed to declare any names so far, Gehlot unveiled his hand, virtually signalling that it would be a mistake to rule him out of the CM race if the party wins.

Adding enough caveats to allow wiggle room for himself and his party — which has spent the better part of the past five years placating Gehlot's rival Sachin Pilot — Gehlot took a swipe by suggesting that those openly aspiring for CM post seldom got it in the Congress, himself raised the Pilot issue, and then argued that while he "wants to leave the top post", "the post is not leaving me and may not do so".

The setting was also interesting. Gehlot was addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters, in the midst of hectic meetings to draw up the party's candidate list. As *The Indian Express* reported, one major reason for the names being held up is Gehlot's objections.

One of the promises the Congress is believed to have repeatedly made to the impatient Pilot, who believes the CM post should have been his after the 2018 win, is that he would even-



Gehlot with ticket-seekers at AICC office in New Delhi Thursday. He is opposed to dropping of some names. Anil Sharma

tually get the top job.

Asked about the delay in the release of the Congress list and whether it was because of differences, Gehlot took an aim at the party's rivals. And then he addressed the elephant in the room: "Aap Sachin Pilot ki tarafishara kar rahe honge (You must be hinting at Pilot)... All the decisions are being taken after consultations with everyone... Jo Sachin Pilot saab ke supporter bhi honge, un sab ke faislon mein main bhagidaar ban raha hoon unke paksh mein (All those who are supporters of Pilot, I am intervening on their behalf in all the decisions)... Only the BJP should be worried, no one else."

Asked whether he would oppose giving tickets to those who had rebelled in 2020, along with

Pilot, Gehlot said he believed in "forgive and forget". "The only criteria now is winnability."

He then added that the tickets of those who went with Pilot are being cleared. "You can gauge the love inside the party."

Asked whether he would continue as CM if the Congress retained power, Gehlot said the first decision of Sonia Gandhi when she became Congress president in 1998 was to name him to the post. "I was not a candidate for the CM post. Aur Congress mein umeedwar nahin banana zyada behतर rehta hai (And in the Congress, it is better not to be an aspirant)."

Then the CM recounted a recent conversation with an old woman after a free heart transplant in the state. Gehlot said she

wished he became the CM again. "I told her... *Main mukhyamantri pad chodhna chahta hoon, par yeh pad mujhe nahi chodh raha hai* (I want to leave the CM post, but this CM post is not leaving me)... I am saying again today that I want to leave but the post is not leaving me... *Aur shayad chodhega bhi nahin* (And maybe it will not leave in the future too)."

Gehlot rushed to say that these comments were in a lighter vein. "The high command has reposed immense trust in me... There must be some reason that Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi have faith in me... the family which is keeping the Congress together."

Vowing his support to Rahul, Gehlot added: "He is the only leader taking on Narendra Modi. So it is our responsibility to strengthen his hands, instead of talking about posts."

But, on whether the party would deny tickets to 30% of its sitting MLAs, as suggested by state Congress chief Govind Singh Dotasra, Gehlot said a sitting MLA can be replaced only when there is an alternative face or when facing some charge.

About Vasundhara Raje, who is having a hard time in the BJP, Gehlot said she should not be "punished" by her party just because she had "saved" his government during the 2020 rebellion. The remarks are unlikely to do Raje any good, as her detractors accuse her of being too friendly towards Gehlot.

FOR MORE LOG ON TO INDIANEXPRESS.COM/ELECTIONS



KEY PLAYERS

TOP 5 CONGRESS HEAVYWEIGHTS TO WATCH OUT FOR IN MADHYA PRADESH

BRS'S VOTE SHARE UP FROM 2014 TO 2018, KCR HAS DOMINATED TELANGANA

NUMBER SPEAK

MADHYA PRADESH: PARTY-WISE MLAs WITH CRIMINAL CASES

Party	Total Cases	Share of Total MLAs	Serious Criminal Cases	Share of Total MLAs
BJP	39	30%	20	16%
Congress	52	54%	25	26%
BSP	1	100%	1	100%
Independents	1	33%	1	33%
Total	93	40%	47	20%

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

Source: ADR, Election Commission

Rajasthan BJP ticket troubles simmering, Nadda steps in to calm ruffled feathers

One of the fires he might have put out involves Raje loyalist Bhawani Rajawat



Campaign material of different parties on sale in the Walled City of Jaipur on Thursday. Rohit Jain Paras

DEEP MUKHERJEE JAIPUR, OCTOBER 19

TEN DAYS after the BJP released its first list of 41 candidates for the November 25 Rajasthan polls, including seven sitting MPs, discontent is simmering in various regions of the state.

Disgruntled BJP leaders include senior legislators and ex-MLAs, known to be loyalists of party heavyweight and ex-chief minister Vasundhara Raje.

In Sanchoor for instance, where sitting Jalore-Sirohi MP Devji Patel has been fielded, his cavalcade was pelted with stones by angry party workers, resulting in a police case.

Yet to come out with a second list, the BJP leadership has mounted a damage-control exercise, with national president J P Nadda touring various divisions of Rajasthan, addressing party workers and holding marathon meetings.

On Monday, Nadda was in Udaipur and held a meeting where senior leaders, including the party's Rajasthan in-charge Arun Singh, state unit chief C P Joshi and Raje were present.

In a statement issued later, the BJP said that in his address to party workers, Nadda said: "We are known because of the party, and the party not known because of you."

This was seen as a message from the Rajasthan BJP leadership — long riven by divisions — to close ranks.

On Tuesday, Nadda along with Union Home Minister Amit Shah held a meeting in Delhi with all senior Rajasthan leaders, including Union ministers Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Arjun Ram Meghwal, C P Joshi, Raje and Union Minister Prahlad Joshi, who is the party's Rajasthan election in-charge.

The next day, Nadda returned to Rajasthan and visited the Kota

and Ajmer divisions. Later, he claimed that the BJP would win all the 17 seats in the Kota division, which is considered to be a stronghold of Raje.

One of the fires Nadda might have put out involves former MLA and Raje loyalist Bhawani Singh Rajawat. A three-time MLA between 2003 and 2018, Rajawat was denied ticket in the 2018 Assembly elections and was replaced in his Ladpura constituency with Kalpana Devi, a member of the erstwhile Kota royal family, who went on to win the election.

However, Rajawat did not rebel or contest as an Independent. In the last five years, as Raje was increasingly sidelined in the party, Rajawat consistently asserted that the former CM was the tallest BJP leader in the state.

Earlier this month, Rajawat said he has written a letter to the BJP high command, informing it that if he is denied a ticket again, he will contest the election as an Independent and would be free to join any party.

He also accused Kalpana Devi of "ignoring" party workers.

However, after meeting Nadda Wednesday, Rajawat softened his stance, saying he was waiting for the party to decide about his ticket. He however stuck to his charge that the incumbent party MLA has ignored party workers in Ladpura.

"My association with Naddaji goes back a long time as I was with him in the national executive of the BJYM. It is the desire of party workers that I contest the election. Vasundhara is our national vice president and the party is doing all after consulting her," Rajawat told *The Indian Express* on Thursday.

Asked if he would still contest as an Independent if denied a ticket, Rajawat said he will wait for the party decision, stressing that he is a "dedicated worker".

'Modi in MP', 'MP in Modi': It's PM all the way for the BJP in state elections, as he starts with a letter to voters

LALMANI VERMA NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

UNDERLINING A poll campaign to retain power in Madhya Pradesh that is centred around the charisma of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP on Thursday released a 'Modiji ki chitthi' (Modi's letter) for the people.

The BJP has also unveiled a campaign theme whose tagline is 'MP ke mann mein Modi (Modi in the hearts of MP)'. On Wednesday, the party flagged off vans modified as chariots for Bhopal that carried the slogan, and released campaign songs all seeking votes in the PM's name.

The letter written by Modi will be distributed across all 64,523 polling booths in the state, said a BJP leader, who

added that Modi had addressed nine rallies in MP in the 2018 Assembly elections, and would address more this time.

The PM seeks votes directly in his name, highlighting the development done in the state in 20 years of BJP rule and drawing attention to the "double-engine sarkar". It also accentuates the fact that the party does not have a chief ministerial face.

One of the songs to be played in BJP publicity vehicles goes: "Modi ke mann mein basey MP, MP ke mann mein Modi (MP is in the heart of Modi, and Modi is in the heart of MP)."

On Wednesday, the state BJP also posted a video on X asking voters to elect a "Modi-BJP" government in the state.

Expectedly, Modi towers over all other party leaders in the



BJP campaign vehicles, with PM Modi front and centre, being flagged off in Bhopal on Thursday. PTI

campaign material.

The party has also compiled data to claim that the Modi government has taken more care of the state than the Manmohan Singh-led UPA government, including that Modi has toured the

state five more times compared. "The Modi government has given more than Rs 1 lakh crore for various projects in MP. On the other hand, the Singh government allotted schemes worth only Rs 14,929 crore," reads one

of the data points, which also contain the dates of Modi's visits to the state.

This data sheet has been shared with party workers, with instructions to highlight it during door-to-door campaigns and public meetings.

BJP spokesperson Rakesh Tripathi said, "The party is using the achievements of Modiji because the people trust him and his name and face impresses them the most." BJP state governments work under his leadership, he added.

Congress spokesperson K K Mishra described the BJP's Modi-centric campaign as a trap. "Misdeeds of Shivraj Singh Chouhan's 18 years as CM have been exposed. Hence, the BJP is trying to divert attention. We will focus on Chouhan," he said.

FAMILY PLOT

Digvijaya to power of 4: MP leader displays muscle with kin

Those in the race include seasoned son Jaivardhan, brother Lakshman, nephew Priyavrat, and distant relative Ajay Singh

ANAND MOHAN BHOPAL, OCTOBER 19

WITH THE announcement of the first list of Congress candidates in Madhya Pradesh, the BJP has trained its guns on former chief minister Digvijaya Singh, pointing out that four of his family members have got tickets.

BJP president V D Sharma says: "Digvijaya Singh's whole family is in the list. The Congress guarantee in Madhya Pradesh is one of dynastic politics."

Congress spokesperson K K Mishra counters, saying "the BJP has also given tickets to family members of sitting MLAs".

The four from Digvijaya's family in the race:

JAIVARDHAN SINGH, 37

Digvijaya's son Jaivardhan is focusing on Scindia strongholds

in the Gwalior-Chambal region. He was recently credited with bringing some Scindia loyalists back to the Congress.

A Doon School and Columbia University alumni, Jaivardhan entered politics in 2013 when he won the Raghogarh Assembly seat by over 59,000 votes, the highest for all Congress candidates. He retained the seat in 2018 by over 64,000 votes, and was a minister in the short-lived Kamal Nath government.

LAKSHMAN SINGH, 68

Digvijaya's younger brother is a three-time MLA. Known for his outspoken and controversial statements, he has often criticised his own party's decisions and strategies. The incumbent MLA from Chachoura, Lakshman faces a three-way fight.

The Singhs were born into the erstwhile Raghogarh royal



Digvijaya, one of the power centres in MP Congress, at the conclusion of his 'Gau Mata Bachao' Yatra in Ujjain. PTI

family and their father Balbhadra Singh was an MLA. Lakshman began his political career by winning the family seat Raghogarh in 1990. He won

the seat again in 1993 when his brother Digvijaya became the CM. In 1993, Lakshman won a Lok Sabha bypoll from Rajgarh. In 2004, Lakshman switched

over and won the Rajgarh seat on a BJP ticket. He remained in the BJP till 2010, when he was expelled for speaking against then party president Nitin Gadkari.

In 2018, he returned to the state and won from Chachoura.

PRIYAVRAT SINGH, 45

Digvijaya's nephew is currently the MLA from Khilchipur. He hails from the erstwhile royal family of Khilchipur.

Priyavrat has spent his political career in the Congress, starting out as a zilla panchayat member in 1998 at the age of 21. His first Assembly election was from Khilchipur in 2003, which he won with a huge margin. He became a popular face due to his development initiatives, and was re-elected in 2008. He lost the Assembly polls in 2013 to the BJP's Kunwar Hajirial Dangli. In 2018, after he won back

Khilchipur, he was made Energy Minister by Kamal Nath.

AJAY SINGH 'RAHUL', 68

Ajay Singh 'Rahul', the son of the late Congress heavyweight and ex-Union minister Arjun Singh, is married to Digvijaya's niece. Though not a blood relative, Ajay is known as a confidant of Digvijaya.

Ajay started his political career in 1985, when he won the bypoll from the Churhat Assembly seat, which was vacated by his father. He retained it in 1991, but lost it to the BJP in 1993. He regained it in 1998 and served as a minister in Digvijaya Singh's Cabinet. He won the seat again in 2003, 2008 and 2013, but lost to the BJP in 2018.

Ajay has a strong base in the Vindhya region, especially in Sidhi, where his family has held political control for decades.

Classifieds

PERSONAL
It is for general information that I, Shivaji Mendiratta, W/o Anshu Mendiratta, R/o B-100, Phase-1, Ashok Vihar, Delhi-110052, I declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Shivaji Gupta in my minor Son Rajveer Mendiratta aged 14 years in his school Records. The actual name of mine Shivaji Mendiratta, which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements.

It is for general information that I, Rambir Saini, S/o Phul Singh Saini, R/o Flat No.904, GE old student welfare org., Pech-20, Sector-52, Gurugram, Haryana-122001, declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as Rambir and Phool Singh in my service-record. The actual name of mine is 'Rambir Saini' and Father's Name is 'Phul Singh Saini', which may be amended accordingly.

It is for general information that I, Raghav S/o Hari ram R/o House No-937, Gali No-19 New Baselwala Colony, Old Faridabad, Faridabad Haryana-121002, declare that my name has been wrongly written as Rinku in my 10th & 12th Class School Certificate Cum Marksheet. The actual name of mine is Raghav, which may be amended accordingly.

It is for general information that I, MANJU BALA W/O VIJENDER SINGH, R/o Plot No-37B/37C, Shiv Park, Saini Mandir Wali Gali, Kakrola, Delhi-110078, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as MANJU in my minor son PARTH MEHRA aged 12 years in his School Records. The actual name of mine is MANJU BALA, which may be amended accordingly.

It is for general information that I, Bhuvanahamurthi Lakshmi Narasimhan S/o Narayanaswamy Bhuvanahamurthi R/o E-26, First Floor, Green Park Main, South Delhi, Delhi-110016 declare that name of mine, my wife and my minor son has been wrongly written as B Lakshmi Narasimhan, L Swarnamala and L Sudarshan in my minor son Lakshminarasimhan Sudarshan aged 17 years in his 10th-Class Educational Documents. The actual name of mine, my wife and my minor son are Bhuvanahamurthi Lakshmi Narasimhan, Lakshminarasimhan Swarnamala and Lakshminarasimhan Sudarshan.

It is for general information that I, Bhuvanahamurthi Lakshmi Narasimhan S/o Narayanaswamy Bhuvanahamurthi R/o E-26, First Floor, Green Park Main, South Delhi, Delhi-110016 declare that name of mine, my wife and my minor son has been incorrectly spelled in the documents issued by the Government and educational institutions as Ramesh Chandra Sharma instead of Ramesh Chander Sharma. The correct name of my father is Ramesh Chander Sharma as per the Affidavit sworn in before Notary Public on 19.10.2023.

It is for general information that I, Bhuvanahamurthi Lakshmi Narasimhan S/o Narayanaswamy Bhuvanahamurthi R/o E-26, First Floor, Green Park Main, South Delhi, Delhi-110016 declare that name of mine, my wife and my minor daughter has been wrongly written as B Lakshmi Narasimhan, L Swarnamala and L Shruti in my minor daughter Lakshminarasimhan Shruti aged 15 years in her 10th-Class Educational Documents. The actual name of mine, my wife and my minor daughter are Bhuvanahamurthi Lakshmi Narasimhan, Swarnamala and Lakshminarasimhan Shruti.

I, Zainab Fatma, D/o Aqeel Ahmad, R/o E-107, Vijay-Vihar, Phase-1, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Zainab Fatima, for all purposes.

I, Vanshita, D/o Naresh Kumar Arora Add-39/1, 1st-Floor, old Rajinder-Nagar, New Delhi-110060, changed my name to Vanshita Arora.

I, VIVEKANAND MURLIDHAR PALWANKAR, S/O-MURLIDHAR RAMCHANDRA PALWANKAR, residing at, G-1104, MAPLE HEIGHTS, SUSHANT LOK-C, GURGAON, HARYANA-122009, have changed my name to VIVEK MURLIDHAR PALWANKAR, for all, future purpose.

I, VASANTRAO BAPURAO BHOYAK, father of, Ravi Vasantrao Bhoiyar, Presently residing at, H.No.830, Near-N.M.C.Garden, Navabpura, Mahal, Nagpur, Maharashtra-440032, have changed my name, from VASANTRAO BAPURAO BHOYAK to VASANT BAPURAO BHOYAR, vide Affidavit, dated-19.10.2023.

I, Muskan Khan Pathan, D/o Ibrahim Khan Pathan, R/o, Ward, no.25, Chand Pol Bahar, Rajsamand Rajasthan-313324, have changed my name to Muskan Khan, for all, future purposes.

I,TAJUSI CHOUDHARY,W/O MANOJ CHOUDHARY,R/O 9/99,FLAT NO-A2, SECTOR-3, RAJENDER NAGAR,SAHIBABAD, GHAZIABAD,UTTAR PRADESH-201010,changed my name to TAJUSI KUMARI CHOUDHARY.

I,Sushil Kumar,S/o Munshi Ram Kataria,R/O 1/4735,Street No.-6,Balbir Nagar Extn., Shahdara,Delhi-110032,have changed the name of my-minor daughter Preehu age-14-years and she shall hereafter be known as Peehu Kataria.

I,Shyam Sunder S/O,Late Bichha Ram R/O,H.No.8256, Gali-Atma Ram-Chhotey Lal,Rani Jhansi-Road, Delhi-110006,have changed my name to Shyam Sunder Goyal.

I,Sheetal D/o S/O Siddharth Sharma,R/O H.No.2194-A,3rd-Floor,Shora Kothi,Clock Tower, Delhi-110007,have changed my name to Sheetal Sharma.

I,SUNIL GULATI,S/O-VISHNU DUTT GULATI R/O F-26/95, FIRST-FLOOR, SECTOR-7,ROHINI,DELHI-110085.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SUNIL KUMAR GULATI.

I,SATISH KUMAR GOEL,S/O DARSHAN LAL GOYAL,R/O 120,PASCHIM ENCLAVE, PASCHIM VIHAR,DELHI-110087.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SATISH KUMAR GOYAL.

I,SATISH BABBAR/SATISH CHANDER S/O RAM PYARA MAL,R/O E-15/90,SECTOR-8,ROHINI,DELHI-110085.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SATISH KUMAR.

I,SALMAN,S/O SABIR ALI/R/OJ-762-GALI NO-2, KUSHAK ROAD SWAROOP-NAGAR DELHI-110042.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MOHD SALMAN.

I,SALEEM,S/O BHUROO,R/O-1050,GALI MADARSA-HUSSAIN BAKSH MATIA MAHAL JAMA MASJID,DELHI-6,HAVE CHANGED THE NAME-OF MY-MINOR DAUGHTER FROM ESHA TO ISHA

I,ADAOQAT ALI,S/O LIYAKAT ALI,R/O 39, UJ COLONY, NEAR PF OFFICE, JODHPUR, RAJASTHAN-342008.CHANGED MY SON'S NAME, FROM SHAD ALI TO SAAD ALI, FOR ALL PURPOSES

I,Rounak Mishra,S/O-Krishan Kumar Mishra,R/O-H.NO-A-9/1,East Krishna Nagar galino.5,Delhi-110051,have changed my name to Ronak Mishra.

I,RUBI S/O SABIR ALI/R/OJ-762-GALI NO-2 KUSHAK ROAD SWAROOP NAGAR DELHI-110042, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RUBY.

I,RAVI VASANTRAO BHOYAR,father of,SAKSHAM,Presently,residin g at,H.No.830, Near-N.M.C.Garden,Navabpura, Mahal, Nagpur, Maharashtra-440032, have changed my-minor son's name, from SAKSHAM to SAKSHAM RAVI BHOYAR, vide affidavit dated-19.10.2023.

I,RAJINDER KUMAR ROHILLA S/O ROOP LAL R/O A-136,ASHOK VIHAR PHASE-2 DELHI-110052, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAJINDER KUMAR.

I,Priyanka D/o Ram Gopal Solanki R/O B-450, J.J.Colony, Camp-No.2, Near-Budh Bazar-Road, Nangoli, Delhi-110041, have changed my name to Priyanka Solanki.

I,Piyaa Mishra, S/O-Krishan Kumar Mishra, R/O-H.NO-A-9/1, East Krishna Nagar galino.5, Delhi-110051, have changed my name to Piya Mishra.

I,Pardeep S/O Anand Singh, R/O Quarter No.307, Third-Floor, Bock-B-1, Haryana Apartment, Shalimar-Bagh, Delhi-110088, have changed my name to Pardeep Singh, for all future, purposes and not my religion

I, Kamal Kumar S/O-Gaya Prasad Gupta, Add-L-1786, 11-Avenue-Gaur City-2 Sector-16-G, Greater-Noida Shipra Sun-City, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201014, changed my name to Kamal Kumar Gupta.

I, Narveer S/O Karampal Yadav, R/O, H.No-320, Village-Mirzapur, Sec-74, Post-Neemka, Ballabgarh, Faridabad, Haryana-121004, have changed my name to Narveer Yadav.

I, Muskan Khan Pathan, D/o Ibrahim Khan Pathan, R/o, Ward, no.25, Chand Pol Bahar, Rajsamand Rajasthan-313324, have changed my name to Muskan Khan, for all, future purposes.

I, Mayank S/O, Ram Gopal Solanki R/O, B-450, J.J.Colony, Camp-No.2, Near-Budh Bazar-Road, Nangoli, Delhi-110041, have changed my name to Mayank Solanki.

I, MUKESH KUMAR, S/O BALBIR SINGH, H.NO-773, SHAHPUR(168)HISAR HARYANA-125004, have changed my name to MUKESH KUMAR SAINI, for all, future purpose.

I, Kamal Singh Bisht S/O. Gopal Singh Bisht R/o. 1/439, Block No-1, Trilok Puri Delhi-110091 have changed my name from Gopal Singh to Gopal Singh Bisht for all purposes.

I, Krishan Pat Singh, S/O-Rajender Singh R/O Flat.No.H-401, GLS Avenue-51, Tower-H, Opposite Shanti Vihar, Sector-92, have changed my name to Krishn Pal Singh.

I, Gurvinder Singh Sethi, S/O Kuldip Singh, R/O II-1/77, First Floor, Lajpat-Nagar-II, New Delhi-110024, have changed name of my minor daughter Mangun to Mangun Kaur.

I, JAI HIND MISHRA, S/O, RAM SAMUJH MISHRA, ADD-KHAMRU, NO.41/5, GALLI.NO-6 GAUTAM-COLONY NARELA, OUTER-NORTH DELHI-110040, changed my minor-son name PRIYANSHU to PRIYANSHU MISHRA, for all, future purposes.

I, Ishita Gupta, W/o-Rajeev Gupta, R/O-2753, Gali.No-22, Beadon Pura Karol-Bagh, Delhi-5, have changed my name to Ishita Khandelwal.

I, B.N Borā, S/o-Bhola Nath Borah, R/O-79 Kalangpar-Road Near-Bhadramam Rajkhowa, School, Khulikatia Khuti Katia Nagaon Assam, have changed my name to Birendra Nath Borah.

I, Ameet Raman Mahajan, S/O-Raman Rukhadas Mahajan R/O-H.NO-4, SECOND FLOOR, STREET, NO-H-09, SEC-8, Vatikā, India Next Gurgaon-122004, Haryana, Have Changed My Name To Amit Kumar Mahajan.

I, Akhila Kalpathi Venkatraman alias Akhila K V alias K V Akhila, D/o Kalpathi Easwar Venkatraman, R/o, H.No. 418, Road No.-10, Sonari West Layout Po, Sonari, Sonari, Jamshkedpur-Purbi, Singhbhum Jharkhand-831011, have changed my-name to Akhila Kalpathi Venkatraman.

I, Akbar Bhashan Mohammad, S/o Mohammad Bhashan, R/O E-12/22, Fourth Floor, Hauz Rani, Malviya-Nagar, New-Delhi-110017, have changed my name Mohammad Akbar, for purposes.

I, Ajay Kumar, S/O-Krishan Kumar, R/O-WZ-1385, Third Floor, Left Portion, Rani Bagh, Delhi-110034, have changed my minor daughter name from Arshiya to Aarshiya.

I, Aarti Singh, W/o Parvinder Singh, R/O, H.No. -30, Village & Post-Office, Basai, Gurgaon (Haryana), have changed my name to Aarti.

I, AJAB SINGH BHATI, S/O, MAHI PAL SINGH, ADD-A-26, A-NORTH BLOCK WEST VINOD-NAGAR, EAST-DELHI-110092, changed my name to AJAB SINGH, for all, future purposes.

I, YATENDER KUMAR S/O LAXMAN SWAROOP GOEL R/O H.NO.1/37, LINK ROAD, OLD FARIDABAD, HARYANA-121002, CHANGE MY NAME TO YATENDER GOEL FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.

I, Vidhi Luthra W/o Anshul Biala, R/O D-33, Bhagat Singh Road, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi-110033, have changed my name to Vidhi Biala for all purposes

I, VINEET S/O Bhim Singh R/O D-704, Ace Platinum, Sector Zeta-1, Greater Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201308 have changed my name to Vineet Kumar permanently.

I, Sulakshan Kumar S/o Sh. Prabhat Chandra Goyal R/o C-94, Jalvayu Vihar, Pocket-4, Greater Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201310, have changed my name to SulAKSHAN KUMAR GOYAL for all purpose.

I, Shobha Pandey W/o Rajeev Pandey R/O 2/41, Awās Vikās Colony, Mainpuri, UP have changed my name to Shobha Mishra.

I, Rajeev Kumar S/O Hemchandra Pandey R/o-2/41, Awās Vikās Colony, Mainpuri, UP have changed my name to Rajeev Pandey.

I, Ramshankar Asthana S/O Jai Narayan Asthana R/O AE-58B, First Floor, Avantika, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Ram Shankar Asthana forever.

I, Punit Kumar S/O V.P Sharma R/O House No.216, Block-N, Sector-25, Jalvayu Vihar, Noida, Distt-Gautam Budh Nagar, Up-201301 Have Changed my name from Punit Kumar to Punit Kumar Sharma for all purpose.

I, Mau Irfan S/o Sattar R/o 678, Laliyana, Meerut UP have changed my name to Irfan.

I, Malaram S/O Totaram R/O Gaam Post Charla Teh, Sujangarh Charla, Churu, Rajasthan-331517, have changed my minor son's name from Om prakash aged 17 years to Om prakash Babriya forever

I, Ashwani Kumar, S/o Subhash Chand Taneja, R/O 24/716, 2nd Floor, Madangir, D.D.A. Flats, Pushpa Bhawan, Delhi-110062, have changed my name to Ashwani Kumar Taneja, for all purposes.

I, Anil Kumar Singh S/O Hriday Raj Singh, R/O Flat No- C-116 Katyayani CGHS, Plot No-8, Sector-6, Plot No- 8, Dwarka Sec-6, South West Delhi-110075. I have changed the name of my minor Son Atharva Singh aged about 15 Years and He shall hereafter be known as Atharv Singh

I, Dayanand S/O P Ahlani R/O 52B, First Floor, GGP Block, Vikasipuri, New Delhi-110018 have changed my name to Dayaanand A Pillai for all purposes.

I, Dharti known as B Swarnamala W/o Bhuvanahamurthi Lakshmi Narasimhan R/O E-26, First Floor, Green Park Main, South Delhi, Delhi-110016 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Lakshminarasimhan Swarnamala.

I, Dharti known as B Lakshmi Narasimhan S/o Narayanaswamy Bhuvanahamurthi R/O E-26, First Floor, Green Park Main, South Delhi, Delhi-110016 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Bhuvanahamurthi Lakshmi Narasimhan.

I, Sarla Sharma W/o Subhash Chandra Sharma R/O Patara Khurd, Kamlapur, Sitapur, Kamlapur, Uttar Pradesh-261302, have changed my name to Suman sharma

I, RAMESH BABU KRISHNAN S/O SHRI P KRISHNAN R/O 150, MEDHA APARTMENTS (ECGHS), MAYUR VIHAR PHASE-1 EXTN, OPP. CHILLA SAH MANDIR, NEW DELHI -110091, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM K RAMESH BABU TO RAMESH BABU KRISHNAN AND BOTH ARE SAME PERSONS, FOR ALL PRESENT AND FUTURE RECORDS AND PURPOSES

I, Mamta Bhardwaj W/o. Shri. Ajay Sharma R/O. B-3/32 3rd Floor, Sector-17, Rohini, North West Delhi, Delhi 110089 declare that Mamta Bhardwaj and Mamta Sharma both are one and same person.

I, KAMLESH AND KAMLESH DEVI HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO KAMLESH CHANDELA, WIFE OF AZAD SINGH, ADDRESS- HABIBPUR GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR

I, Ritu D/o Anun Kumar R/O H.no 174, Vill Dhanwapur Po, DaulTabad, Gurgaon-122001, have changed my name to Ritu Dahiya.

I, Himanshu S/O Chiranj Lal R/O E-20/134-135 Sec 3 Rohini Raja Pur Kalan Delhi 110085 have changed my name to Himanshu Kumar.

I, Divya D/o Late Shri Badri Parsad W/o Virender Kumar R/O 3013/D1, Gali No.17, Near Shiv Chowk, Ranjit Nagar, Patel Nagar, South Central, Delhi-110008 have changed my name to Durga for all purposes.

I, ASha Dargy W/o Y S Sirohi R/O, P-18/3 Army Hospital R and R Delhi-Cant., South-West Delhi-110010, have changed my name to Lucky Asha Sirohi.

I, Rachana W/o Satyawan R/o Vill Kailash, Kailash (Part) (2), Karnal, Haryana-132001, have changed my name to Rakesh

I, Vivek Bhargava & Mrs. Sumita Bhargava R/O Flat.No.-EF26, Tower-B, Tata Primitiv Housing, SPR Road, Sector-72, Gurgaon, have lost Possession Letter & Possession Certificate of my property Flat.No.1101, Tower-4, The Palms Apartment, South City-1, Sector-30, Gurgaon. Founder please inform at.9810133990.

I, Punit Kumar S/O V.P Sharma R/O House No.216, Block-N, Sector-25, Jalvayu Vihar, Noida, Distt-Gautam Budh Nagar, Up-201301 Have Changed my name from Punit Kumar to Punit Kumar Sharma for all purpose.

I, ASha Dargy W/o Y S Sirohi R/O, P-18/3 Army Hospital R and R Delhi-Cant., South-West Delhi-110010, have changed my name to Lucky Asha Sirohi.

I, Rachana W/o Satyawan R/o Vill Kailash, Kailash (Part) (2), Karnal, Haryana-132001, have changed my name to Rakesh

I, Vivek Bhargava & Mrs. Sumita Bhargava R/O Flat.No.-EF26, Tower-B, Tata Primitiv Housing, SPR Road, Sector-72, Gurgaon, have lost Possession Letter & Possession Certificate of my property Flat.No.1101, Tower-4, The Palms Apartment, South City-1, Sector-30, Gurgaon. Founder please inform at.9810133990.

I, Punit Kumar S/O V.P Sharma R/O House No.216, Block-N, Sector-25, Jalvayu Vihar, Noida, Distt-Gautam Budh Nagar, Up-201301 Have Changed my name from Punit Kumar to Punit Kumar Sharma for all purpose.

I, ASha Dargy W/o Y S Sirohi R/O, P-18/3 Army Hospital R and R Delhi-Cant., South-West Delhi-110010, have changed my name to Lucky Asha Sirohi.

I, Rachana W/o Satyawan R/o Vill Kailash, Kailash (Part) (2), Karnal, Haryana-132001, have changed my name to Rakesh

PUBLIC NOTICE
THIS IS HEREBY PUBLIC NOTICE that my client Ms. Megha Gupta, D/o Sh. Laxmi Narain Gupta, W/o Sh. Gautam Gupta, R/o H.No.6, Ground Floor, Gali No.4, Roop Nagar, Delhi-110007 has executed a gift deed in respect of 1/8 Share of Agriculture Land Measuring 39 Bigha 16 Biswas (i.e., 04 Bigha 19 Biswa 10 Biswas), out of Khazra Nos. 38/14/16, 24/16, 34/16, 44/16, 54/16, 59/16/48, 44/16-4, & 54/16, situated in the revenue estate of Village Chandpur, Delhi-10881 (PROPERTY), in favour of Ms. Sunam Gupta, W/o Sh. Gaurav Gupta, S/o Sh. Laxmi Narain Gupta, R/O H.No.83, Tagore Park, New Delhi 110009 on 23/07/2021 and now my client want to know that a Complaint is pending in Economic Offences Wing, Mandir Marg Complex, Delhi against the abovesaid property. Anybody dealing with Sh. Gaurav Gupta, S/o Sh. Laxmi Narain Gupta regarding the said property, will do so at his/her/their own risk and responsibilities and my client will not be responsible for any act, deed or dealing done by Sh. Gaurav Gupta, S/o Sh. Laxmi Narain Gupta.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Mau Irfan S/o Sattar R/o 678, Laliyana, Meerut UP have changed my name to Irfan.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Malaram S/O Totaram R/O Gaam Post Charla Teh, Sujangarh Charla, Churu, Rajasthan-331517, have changed my minor son's name from Om prakash aged 17 years to Om prakash Babriya forever

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Ashwani Kumar, S/o Subhash Chand Taneja, R/O 24/716, 2nd Floor, Madangir, D.D.A. Flats, Pushpa Bhawan, Delhi-110062, have changed my name to Ashwani Kumar Taneja, for all purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Anil Kumar Singh S/O Hriday Raj Singh, R/O Flat No- C-116 Katyayani CGHS, Plot No-8, Sector-6, Plot No- 8, Dwarka Sec-6, South West Delhi-110075. I have changed the name of my minor Son Atharva Singh aged about 15 Years and He shall hereafter be known as Atharv Singh

PUBLIC NOTICE
THIS IS HEREBY PUBLIC NOTICE that my client Ms. Megha Gupta, D/o Sh. Laxmi Narain Gupta, W/o Sh. Gautam Gupta, R/o H.No.6, Ground Floor, Gali No.4, Roop Nagar, Delhi-110007 has executed a Special Power of Attorney in respect of 1/8 Share of Agriculture Land Measuring 39 Bigha 16 Biswa (i.e., 04 Bigha 19 Biswa 10 Biswas), out of Khazra Nos. 38/14/16, 24/16, 34/16, 44/16, 54/16, 59/16/48, 44/16-4, & 54/16, situated in the revenue estate of Village Chandpur, Delhi-10881 (PROPERTY), in favour of Ms. Sunam Gupta, W/o Sh. Gaurav Gupta, S/o Sh. Laxmi Narain Gupta, R/O H.No.83, Tagore Park, New Delhi 110009 on 23/07/2021 and my client has terminated the said Special Power of Attorney vide legal notice dated 18/10/2023. Anybody dealing with Ms. Sunam Gupta, W/o Sh. Gaurav Gupta regarding the said property, will do so at his/her/their own risk and responsibilities and my client will not be responsible for any act, deed or dealing done by Ms. Sunam Gupta, W/o Sh. Gaurav Gupta.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Dharti known as B Swarnamala W/o Bhuvanahamurthi Lakshmi Narasimhan R/O E-26, First Floor, Green Park Main, South Delhi, Delhi-110016 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Lakshminarasimhan Swarnamala.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Dharti known as B Lakshmi Narasimhan S/o Narayanaswamy Bhuvanahamurthi R/O E-26, First Floor, Green Park Main, South Delhi, Delhi-110016 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Bhuvanahamurthi Lakshmi Narasimhan.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Sarla Sharma W/o Subhash Chandra Sharma R/O Patara Khurd, Kamlapur, Sitapur, Kamlapur, Uttar Pradesh-261302, have changed my name to Suman sharma

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, RAMESH BABU KRISHNAN S/O SHRI P KRISHNAN R/O 150, MEDHA APARTMENTS (ECGHS), MAYUR VIHAR PHASE-1 EXTN, OPP. CHILLA SAH MANDIR, NEW DELHI -110091, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM K RAMESH BABU TO RAMESH BABU KRISHNAN AND BOTH ARE SAME PERSONS, FOR ALL PRESENT AND FUTURE RECORDS AND PURPOSES

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Mamta Bhardwaj W/o. Shri. Ajay Sharma R/O. B-3/32 3rd Floor, Sector-17, Rohini, North West Delhi, Delhi 110089 declare that Mamta Bhardwaj and Mamta Sharma both are one and same person.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, KAMLESH AND KAMLESH DEVI HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO KAMLESH CHANDELA, WIFE OF AZAD SINGH, ADDRESS- HABIBPUR GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Ritu D/o Anun Kumar R/O H.no 174, Vill Dhanwapur Po, DaulTabad, Gurgaon-122001, have changed my name to Ritu Dahiya.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Himanshu S/O Chiranj Lal R/O E-20/134-135 Sec 3 Rohini Raja Pur Kalan Delhi 110085 have changed my name to Himanshu Kumar.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Divya D/o Late Shri Badri Parsad W/o Virender Kumar R/O 3013/D1, Gali No.17, Near Shiv Chowk, Ranjit Nagar, Patel Nagar, South Central, Delhi-110008 have changed my name to Durga for all purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, ASha Dargy W/o Y S Sirohi R/O, P-18/3 Army Hospital R and R Delhi-Cant., South-West Delhi-110010, have changed my name to Lucky Asha Sirohi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Rachana W/o Satyawan R/o Vill Kailash, Kailash (Part) (2), Karnal, Haryana-132001, have changed my name to Rakesh

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Vivek Bhargava & Mrs. Sumita Bhargava R/O Flat.No.-EF26, Tower-B, Tata Primitiv Housing, SPR Road, Sector-72, Gurgaon, have lost Possession Letter & Possession Certificate of my property Flat.No.1101, Tower-4, The Palms Apartment, South City-1, Sector-30, Gurgaon. Founder please inform at.9810133990.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Punit Kumar S/O V.P Sharma R/O House No.216, Block-N, Sector-25, Jalvayu Vihar, Noida, Distt-Gautam Budh Nagar, Up-201301 Have Changed my name from Punit Kumar to Punit Kumar Sharma for all purpose.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, ASha Dargy W/o Y S Sirohi R/O, P-18/3 Army Hospital R and R Delhi-Cant., South-West Delhi-110010, have changed my name to Lucky Asha Sirohi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Rachana W/o Satyawan R/o Vill Kailash, Kailash (Part) (2), Karnal, Haryana-132001, have changed my name to Rakesh

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Vivek Bhargava & Mrs. Sumita Bhargava R/O Flat.No.-EF26, Tower-B, Tata Primitiv Housing, SPR Road, Sector-72, Gurgaon, have lost Possession Letter & Possession Certificate of my property Flat.No.1101, Tower-4, The Palms Apartment, South City-1, Sector-30, Gurgaon. Founder please inform at.9810133990.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Punit Kumar S/O V.P Sharma R/O House No.216, Block-N, Sector-25, Jalvayu Vihar, Noida, Distt-Gautam Budh Nagar, Up-201301 Have Changed my name from Punit Kumar to Punit Kumar Sharma for all purpose.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, ASha Dargy W/o Y S Sirohi R/O, P-18/3 Army Hospital R and R Delhi-Cant., South-West Delhi-110010, have changed my name to Lucky Asha Sirohi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Rachana W/o Satyawan R/o Vill Kailash, Kailash (Part) (2), Karnal, Haryana-132001, have changed my name to Rakesh

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Mau Irfan S/o Sattar R/o 678, Laliyana, Meerut UP have changed my name to Irfan.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Malaram S/O Totaram R/O Gaam Post Charla Teh, Sujangarh Charla, Churu, Rajasthan-331517, have changed my minor son's name from Om prakash aged 17 years to Om prakash Babriya forever

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Ashwani Kumar, S/o Subhash Chand Taneja, R/O 24/716, 2nd Floor, Madangir, D.D.A. Flats, Pushpa Bhawan, Delhi-110062, have changed my name to Ashwani Kumar Taneja, for all purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Anil Kumar Singh S/O Hriday Raj Singh, R/O Flat No- C-116 Katyayani CGHS, Plot No-8, Sector-6, Plot No- 8, Dwarka Sec-6, South West Delhi-110075. I have changed the name of my minor Son Atharva Singh aged about 15 Years and He shall hereafter be known as Atharv Singh

PUBLIC NOTICE
THIS IS HEREBY PUBLIC NOTICE that my client Ms. Megha Gupta, D/o Sh. Laxmi Narain Gupta, W/o Sh. Gautam Gupta, R/o H.No.6, Ground Floor, Gali No.4, Roop Nagar, Delhi-110007 has executed a Special Power of Attorney in respect of 1/8 Share of Agriculture Land Measuring 39 Bigha 16 Biswa (i.e., 04 Bigha 19 Biswa 10 Biswas), out of Khazra Nos. 38/14/16, 24/16, 34/16, 44/16, 54/16, 59/16/48, 44/16-4, & 54/16, situated in the revenue estate of Village Chandpur, Delhi-10881 (PROPERTY), in favour of Ms. Sunam Gupta, W/o Sh. Gaurav Gupta, S/o Sh. Laxmi Narain Gupta, R/O H.No.83, Tagore Park, New Delhi 110009 on 23/07/2021 and now my client want to know that a Complaint is pending in Economic Offences Wing, Mandir Marg Complex, Delhi against the abovesaid property. Anybody dealing with Sh. Gaurav Gupta, S/o Sh. Laxmi Narain Gupta regarding the said property, will do so at his/her/their own risk, cost and responsibility. My clients SMT. AFROZ MEMON, SH. IZZAR MEMON, SH. MOHD. ALI MEMON & MASTER ABDUL HAADI MEMON (THROUGH HIS MOTHER SMT. AFROZ MEMON) shall not be responsible for any act of deeds of him in any manner.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Dharti known as B Swarnamala W/o Bhuvanahamurthi Lakshmi Narasimhan R/O E-26, First Floor, Green Park Main, South Delhi, Delhi-110016 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Lakshminarasimhan Swarnamala.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Dharti known as B Lakshmi Narasimhan S/o Narayanaswamy Bhuvanahamurthi



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY
RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

A POLITICAL HIKE

Magnitude of increase in minimum support prices for wheat cannot be justified by economic reasons alone

THE NARENDRA MODI government has hiked the minimum support price (MSP) of wheat to be sown in the coming 2023-24 rabi season by Rs 150 to Rs 2,275 per quintal. That's the highest spike since the same level of increases in the two consecutive crop years of 2006-07 and 2007-08 during the previous United Progressive Alliance (UPA) regime. The latest procurement price raise has both a political and economic dimension. Politically, this is the last one before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and ahead of next month's state assembly polls, with wheat a key rabi crop in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Cumulatively, the Modi government's MSP increase of Rs 875/quintal for wheat over 10 years works out more than the Rs 770 during the UPA's tenure, and so is the case of common paddy (Rs 873 versus Rs 760/quintal).

As far as economics goes, the current MSP rise has been largely prompted by wheat stocks in government warehouses, at 239.95 lakh tonnes (lt) on October 1, hovering just over the required normative minimum of 205.2 lt for this date. There are also worries over the prospects for the new crop, given that water levels in the country's major reservoirs are only 82.4 per cent of last year's and 94.4 per cent of the 10-year average for this date. Moreover, a strengthening El Niño, which is projected to continue through the winter and spring till May, could affect rainfall during the rabi season. Winter rains, at least a couple of spells, provide moisture as well as help sustain low temperatures that the wheat crop requires. The Modi government obviously wants to take no chances in an overall tight supply situation, especially in the run-up to national elections.

But that does not justify the magnitude of MSP hike granted, for two reasons. First, wheat is a default crop option for farmers with access to irrigation in much of northern and central India. They don't need any special incentive, over and above assured government procurement, for growing it. Wheat accounts for almost half of the country's total area under all rabi crops. If acreage goes up further this time, it will hardly be courtesy of a Rs 150/quintal higher purchase price. Secondly, if tight supplies are a concern, the government can import. European Union export prices for wheat have fallen from \$360 to below \$250 per tonne in the last one year. Russian wheat is available cheaper at \$230-235 per tonne. Even after adding ocean freight, insurance and other costs, imports would be viable, at least on government account, for building its own stocks. On balance, the MSP decision has been forced more by political than economic considerations.

PUNJAB VS DRUGS

Chief Minister Mann must confront the drug scourge in the state. Stakes are high, he must lead to win

EARLIER THIS WEEK, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann led a large prayer gathering of schoolchildren, in which they pledged to reject the scourge of drugs. The Opposition has predictably labeled it as an admission of defeat. But it's evident that Punjab continues to grapple with the menace that has plagued it for over a decade. Seasoned police officers describe it as narco-terrorism, propagated by an unfriendly neighbour. The state's vulnerable geography makes it a hotspot for smuggling of heroin and other opioids across the border. For years, every government in Punjab has risen to power with the solemn promise of eradicating this poison. Former Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh's pledge to eliminate drugs within two months at his high-profile swearing-in ceremony was seen as a response to a major factor behind his election victory. In the lead-up to the 2017 assembly elections, the current chief minister would conclude every campaign meeting with his viral ditty on "chitta" (heroin).

The AAP government rode to power on the high hopes of voters who believed it would magically turn off the deadly tap. But drugs continue to infiltrate the state, often delivered by unconventional means like drones. There are accounts of traffickers employing innovative techniques, including crossing flooded rivers. The Director-General of Police regularly updates the public on drug seizures, citing an alarming annual tally of 12,000 to 14,000 cases filed under the NDPS Act, alongside a record seizure of 1,100 kg of heroin in 2023. However, this hasn't yielded a discernible impact on the ground, as police operations frequently target small end-users rather than the major players within the drug network. Drug overdose deaths continue — as per the government's own report, 266 persons have died of drugs between April 2020 and March 2023.

Many villages have formed their own anti-drug committees, whose actions occasionally verge on vigilantism. Responding to this groundswell, the police have initiated some creative approaches to wean the youth away from this poison. Some police districts have introduced gully cricket, while others have instructed constables to mentor addicts. Cops are also harnessing the power of social media, with district police chiefs often leading these initiatives. The prayer gathering at the Golden Temple was an attempt in this direction. While persuasive communication can be potent, the menace will persist unless the drug mafia is dismantled. Just last week, a High Court bench rebuked the Punjab police for their absence in drug trials. This is the challenge that Chief Minister Mann must confront, and overcome. It's a battle for Punjab's future, and he must lead the state to a win.

FESTIVAL OF LIFE

In Puja season, faith is only the starting point of celebrations

DESPITE HIS WORD that he will not be available on loan to an overseas club this year, there he is, Lionel Messi, in Kolkata, at the Shree Bhumi Sporting Club pandal, holding aloft the World Cup trophy. A 75-foot statue of the Argentinian World Cup skipper is the pièce de résistance of one of the city's most sought-after Durga Puja pandals, which will be inaugurated by another footballing great — Brazil's Ronaldinho. Across the city, Hatibagan's Nabin Pally has morphed itself into scenes from Sukumar Ray's book of nonsense poems, *Abol Tabol*, that celebrated 100 years of its publication last month. Houses in the lane have been painted white and black, with imagery and snatches of poetry from the book painted on them; the mandap is a replica of Ray's family publishing house that had first brought the book out and there is an old printing press that finds pride of place next to the *protima* inside.

If it's Durga Puja, you can trust the city — and the state — to show how festivals are done, by the people and for the people. The transformation of the state into an open-air carnival over the five days of the festival that begins today, has at its heart, the community, and a shared idea of conviviality. It encompasses faith and rituals, but also the idea of rest and recuperation, of fasting but also feasting. And, most of all, homecoming and togetherness.

In the folkloric iteration of the annual festival, Durga is the daughter returning to her maternal home for some much-needed R&R and that other integral component of homecoming, *pet pujo*. Dress up in your finest. Eat and drink to your heart's content. Throw in a cultural performance or two, pandals that are works of art, the intoxicating beat of the *dhak*, and a city awash in light, hope and nostalgia, and you have a festival where faith is only the starting point of celebrations.



SUHAS PALSHIKAR

PUBLICATION OF INITIAL statistics from the Bihar caste census has evoked cynicism, anxiety and excitement. All three are predictable responses and manifest the limitations of our public sphere.

The cynical response comes from the ruling party at the Centre. While occasionally flaunting its OBC credentials, it has consistently opposed a caste census (though in Bihar, it has taken a somewhat different position). In its opposition, the party seeks to hide behind the convenient fig leaf that such a census will undermine (Hindu) unity. In any case, a government that postponed the basic task of conducting a census cannot be expected to employ sound information as the basis for public policy.

Anxiety over the caste census is witnessed among self-appointed cosmopolitans who think that by not counting caste, we can make it disappear. This group includes well-meaning critics who think that a caste census will encourage sharper caste identities and the politicisation of caste. Such anxiety represents the thinking of the Indian state in the matter of social justice.

But what is more worrying is the misplaced excitement caused by the caste census. Some opponents of the BJP wrongly think that the caste issue can be a counter to the BJP's Hindutva. Even if this were a correct assessment — which it is not — it would be a bad way of upholding a measure aimed at addressing the question of caste-based inequalities. Some excitement emanates from the belief that counting caste is the weapon for doing away with caste.

It is true that Bihar's caste census opens the door for a more informed public policy on matters of social justice. However, merely conducting a caste census is no guarantee of such a policy shift — particularly in view of the populist pressures parties have themselves built and under which they operate. The Bihar government announced the "numbers" and much of the discussion today surrounds these primary numbers almost without reference to the complex phenomena they may reveal once they are put to further analysis. Above all, the Bihar census has not yet published the socio-economic information also gathered through this historic exercise. The second backward classes commission (Mandal commission) was handicapped not only by the lack of contemporary enumeration but also a methodologically adequate



MADAN SABNAVIS

IN A DEMOCRACY, people vote political parties to office. The party or coalition that crosses the halfway mark forms the government and decides on where to spend public money. No referendum on the expenditure allocation or priorities is taken.

The choice of expenditure, where the money is actually spent, is fraught with controversy. The general belief is that governments should get the most economic value from their spending. This means that the multiplier effect to society and the economy at large should be maximised. This happens when more is allocated towards capital expenditure. However, more is allocated towards "non-development expenditure" which can also empower the recipients.

The basic principles of public economics talk about the state as being responsible for fostering equality through redistribution. The analogy with Robin Hood is stark though legal means are used. A progressive tax structure is followed. The concept of redistribution is, however, nebulous. For some, it can mean giving a "freebie" to the poorer sections of society.

The common man will prefer having "regular" trains, perhaps not Vande Bharat. For instance, an a/c chair car from Mumbai to Nashik costs Rs 380 on a normal train (Panchvati Express) while Vande Bharat charges Rs 720.

Caste census plus

Counting caste will be a pseudo-radical gesture unless coupled with fundamental shifts in social justice policy

quate database to measure backwardness.

A valuable exercise such as the caste census invites many questions of critical importance. But the publication of primary numbers has produced excitement irrespective of the real implications of a caste census. One is the finding that the OBCs (as understood by the current methodology of deciding which classes are backward) account for over 60 per cent of Bihar's population. But we forget that while the count tells us which caste has what numbers, backwardness of these groups is still something to be defined, debated and measured.

Current political wisdom takes recourse to the idea that all "shudra" communities are backward. This is a problematic and dangerous logic. Problematic because it refuses to take into account contemporary backwardness in the social and educational realm; dangerous because it accepts the idea of the Hindu social order as the prism through which backwardness and social justice are to be understood. In 1979-80, this was an unavoidable path adopted in the absence of verifiable and authentic data on the socio-economic condition of various groups. With the tool of the caste census now, it is necessary that the prism of varna status is downplayed and concrete factors defining social and educational backwardness taken into consideration.

Secondly, the Bihar numbers have already given rise to discussion about the inadequacy of 27 per cent reservation for the OBCs. This is indeed an important issue and politically attractive agenda given the numbers of communities that currently qualify as backward. But rarely does one see in the ongoing discussion any mention of principles that should inform the question of extent of reservation. Rather, the principle of gross numbers alone is invoked: OBCs are above 60 per cent, so let us move beyond the 27 (and overall 50) per cent cap. This argument receives traction in view of the demands by various dominant communities for their inclusion among the backward classes. In other words, "reservation" as a tool of public policy is commonly understood as a proportionality mechanism. Ironically, this is the argument adopted by the less backward rather than the more backward.

A corollary to this, which will inevitably follow, is the argument that all castes need to receive the benefits proportionally. This will benefit the castes with larger numbers and federative organisational existence. The pro-

portionality argument also ignores its impact on political representation. An investigation into the share of different caste blocs in positions of power has advantages and yet, if we stretch that logic, the same idea restructures the concept of representation to mean that every community can be represented truly only by its own members. This cuts at the roots of the idea adopted by the Constitution, whereby it is possible for a representative to represent a mixed electorate.

In this backdrop, how can we make better use of the data that a caste census will throw up? It is necessary to insist on publication of all data — particularly data on socio-economic conditions of caste groups. Communities trapped in menial work, traditional occupations and precarious employment need to be identified.

The next step equally testing our collective patience will be to use the socio-economic data to map backwardness afresh. This step will face a hurdle from numerically larger and relatively less handicapped castes. For them and for politicians seeking shortcuts to momentary popularity, it is far too convenient to adhere to pre-existing wisdom on backwardness and adopt radical postures without necessarily serving the cause of social justice. But this second step will truly determine whether we are willing to engage with the question of caste and social justice or want to engage in shadow-boxing in the context of empirically untested wisdom.

The third step will be to ensure that the more backward communities not only get the benefits of affirmative action in large measure but also on priority basis. This will require a revisiting of the so-called reservation regime and reimagining social justice policy. This would require three moves: Understanding backwardness holistically, that is, resulting from multiple systems of social discrimination; doing away with frozen blocks of more and less backward sections and experimenting with a backwardness index, and thirdly, incentivising in private employment inclusion of persons with high backwardness index.

After all, counting caste can only be a pseudo-radical gesture unless coupled with more fundamental shifts in the social justice policy.

The writer, based in Pune, taught political science and is chief editor of Studies in Indian Politics

AN EXPENDITURE CAP

As parties step up election promises, norms on government spending are needed

The argument goes that when bad loans of industry are provided for by banks or written off from their books, the depositors' money is being unfairly treated, while a loan waiver comes clean as it is being provided for by the government for a vulnerable section. How then are governments to decide where to spend their limited resources?

The common man will vote for projects which generate employment and income, not make them worse off, if, for instance, this involves giving up their land for the larger good. The issue of compensation is still contentious. And besides the landless labour attached to the land will be out of employment. But this decision is left to the government. This is why there are varied views on spending priorities.

Hypothetically, if all possible avenues of discretionary expenditure (which excludes fixed commitments like salaries, defence and interest payments) were put to a vote, individual choices would lean towards "freebies". The Amma meal in Tamil Nadu, free electricity scheme in Delhi, free travel for women in public transport — these would find favour with the majority as most people belong to the lower end of the income distribution. The views of the richer/elites would be sidelined. This is why it has been observed that states tend to be more inclined to give freebies as they are closer to the citizens than the Centre.

States also have a different position on so-called freebies. There is an argument that when cycles, saris and dhotis are distributed for free, the expenses incurred are not totally wasteful as they do incentivise production in their respective industries. The same holds for free or subsidised meals. In fact, free power

and water to farmers in Punjab has been deflated on the grounds of wheat prices being kept subdued as in the absence of the same, the costs would have gone up. These arguments may be considered fair by some.

This line of thinking can also be extended to loan waivers. The argument goes that when bad loans of industry are provided for by banks or written off from their books, the depositors' money is being unfairly treated, while a loan waiver comes clean as it is being provided for by the government for a vulnerable section.

How then are governments to decide where to spend their limited resources?

When parties contest elections, promises are made to the voters. While there is a divergence between promises and delivery based on fiscal constraints, in general parties do try not to renege. But this is a competitive arena as each party promises more than the other.

One way out is to put a cap. And to ensure that there is parity across all the levels of government. There is a need to revisit the subject of expenditure allocations. The next Finance Commission may consider drawing up such norms.

The writer is Chief Economist, Bank of Baroda and author of Corporate Quirks: The darker side of the sun. Views are personal

OCTOBER 20, 1983, FORTY YEARS AGO

BOMBAY MILLS ISSUE

THIRTEEN MORE SICK mills of Bombay have come into the hands of the National Textile Corporation which is still struggling to make viable 100-odd mills for many years. Through a presidential ordinance approved by the Union Cabinet, the government took over the management of 13 Bombay mills. NTC has been made the custodian.

NOBEL FOR PHYSICS

THE 1983 NOBEL Prize for physics was awarded jointly to Indian-born American Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar and fellow

American William Fowler. Chandrasekhar, of the University of Chicago, won the prize "for his theoretical studies of the physical processes of importance to the structure and evolution of the stars". Prof. Fowler, of the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, was honoured for "his theoretical and experimental studies of the nuclear reactions of importance in the formation of the chemical elements in the universe."

PUNJAB POLICE RAIDS

IN THEIR FIRST collective operation against extremists, the Punjab police conducted raids in ten villages of Amritsar district to ferret out

the killers and their arms. According to the inspector-general of police (law and order), P S Bhinder, some arms were recovered and some people were detained for interrogation.

ARRESTS IN J&K

ABOUT 80 PERSONS have been arrested under various charges following anti-national slogans and rowdiness by a section of the crowd during the one-day international cricket match between West Indies and India in Srinagar. This follows a directive by CM Farooq Abdullah. Those taken into custody are reported to be having links with some secessionist organisations.



13 THE IDEAS PAGE

The cartoon hurts more

'The Guardian' sacked its longtime staff cartoonist Steve Bell for his drawing of Netanyahu. He drew blood for sure but then that was part of a robust editorial tradition



E P UNNY

THIS PAPER'S LEGENDARY cartoonist Abu Abraham used to sign his work as Abraham till 1956. That was when he joined *The Observer*, London's biggest Sunday newspaper. Editor David Astor had a worry. He wondered if "Abraham", a telltale Jewish name, would create "a false slant". Then, as now, relations between Israel and the Arab world were tense, all of which could wade into cartoons. To make sure readers saw the cartoon as political and not remotely faith-led, how about a pen name?

The cartoonist picked what his school friends called him — "Abu" — and scribbled the ultra-short signature like a visual flourish. A great cartooning career began slant-proofed. An equally illustrious one just ended on a perceived slant. *The Guardian* sacked its longtime staff cartoonist Steve Bell for his drawing of Benjamin Netanyahu. The cartoon shows the Israeli leader as a surgeon in boxing gloves, readying for an abdominal incision on himself at a surgery site called Gaza.

The editors were quick to decide that the image was a direct reference to the "pound of flesh" demanded by Jewish moneylender Shylock in *Merchant of Venice* and, therefore, antisemitic and offensive. Bell said nothing Shakespearean crossed his mind. He had been alluding to a classic 1960s cartoon by David Levine on US President Lyndon Johnson. The star illustrator of *The New York Review of Books*, Levine was a master who brought context to caricature. He wouldn't stop at getting the resemblance and exaggerating the face and the form; he would improvise to suit the occasion. President Johnson, having recovered from a gallbladder surgery, had shown the surgical scar to reporters. Levine worked on this well-publicised event, changing the scar to the map of Vietnam.

Back then, in the 1960s and '70s, cartoonists everywhere followed the Vietnam War from the same side. They found no merit in the napalm bomb. Cartoon art shines in times of such one-sided clarity as it did during World War II when greets like Britain's David Low and America's Herblock led their reluctant appeasing nations into an unequivocal fight against Hitler and fascists. Cartoonists saw through Hitler and Mussolini sooner than the pundits who made policy.

Cartoon historians say that it is through the inter-war years and the Great Depression in between that display cartooning got honed into a fine editorial art. While the war kept the leaders in the limelight, cartoonists never lost sight of the breadlines that followed the Wall Street collapse. Breadwinners mattered as much as winners and losers. Soon after the war, the global cartooning capital shifted from London to multiple American cities and American cartoonists became increasingly wary of their own elected governments. Herblock coined the word "McCarthyism" in his 1950 cartoon in *The Washington Post*.

At his lethal best in the Watergate era, he always drew President Nixon with a five o'clock shadow and once went so far as to show the President crawl out of a sewer. The wily politician knew readers trusted the cartoonist more than the President and admitted he had to rid himself of the "Herblock image".

Younger practitioners on both sides of the Atlantic took on successive governments that kept tweaking external threats to manipulate domestic politics. Cartoons were constantly voicing the thought that elected governments weren't much better than autocracies when it came to what they did between elections.

This was how adversarial the work practice had gotten when Steve Bell joined the profession in late 1970s. He sharpened the wicked pencil even more as rookies are wont to. Visceral rather than cerebral, he distilled the image till it was grotesque enough to meet the acidity level he sought to achieve. He also employed recurring devices, what David Low called a tab of identity, to serially provoke. The recipient of this favoured treatment was John Major, Britain's Conservative PM in the late 1990s. Major was always drawn as a sad Superman wearing spotted underpants over a grey suit.

Like the best of cartoonists, Bell came into his own in war — US President George Bush's war on Iraq. Packaged as a global campaign against terror, this conflict wasn't as easy to cartoon as the World War or the one in Vietnam. How can you criticise an organised war on sly schemers who blew up people and places? Cartoonists ignored the propaganda and focussed on the collateral damage to democracy. Practitioners like Mike Luckovich showed they could nuance as well as they exaggerated — enough to differentiate between terror and religion. Cartoons called out every sign of Islamophobia.

Bell himself was at his merciless best. He launched a double-barrelled assault on



Like the best of cartoonists, Bell came into his own in war — US President George Bush's war on Iraq. Packaged as a global campaign against terror, this conflict wasn't as easy to cartoon as the world war or the one in Vietnam. How can you criticise an organised war on sly schemers who blew up people and places? Cartoonists ignored the propaganda and focussed on the collateral damage to democracy. Practitioners like Mike Luckovich showed they could nuance as well as they exaggerated — enough to differentiate between terror and religion. Cartoons called out every sign of Islamophobia.

President Bush and his own Prime Minister Tony Blair. It seemed he was swimming across the Atlantic every cartooning day to chronicle this war-mongering duo. The twin targets remind you of the wartime comic character David Low created, mashing Mussolini and Hitler into "Muzzler".

Bell was a diligent practitioner. He would attend party conventions and sketch at breakneck speed, perfect the caricatures of emerging leaders, sustain a difficult style rich in detail and distortion and submit the day's art work for editorial clearance, cursing early deadlines all along.

He has been no more of an offender than the best in the business. Cartoonists worth their name, David Low to Abu Abraham, have been accused of causing offence. Editors take it in their stride and publishers keep running cartoons. Strangely, it is always the single cartoon like Bell's one on Netanyahu that is pulled out to cite offence. In a newspaper art meek to be serially followed through days, weeks and years, what could be so decisive about an individual artwork?

Bell's body of work spanning 40 years is very much part of *The Guardian's* legacy. The newspaper was as much a beneficiary as the cartoonist. Bell drew blood for sure but then that was part of a robust editorial tradition. India owes its cartooning and cricket to colonial Britain. Post-colonial British press has sent out a sad message: Veteran Bell is only as good as his last cartoon. Was Don Bradman only as good as his last innings?

ep.unny@expressindia.com

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The achievement of the BRICS is rare good news for the global economy in crisis. The modernisation we are pursuing is not for China alone, we... [are] committed to promoting modernisation that will enhance peaceful development, mutually beneficial cooperation, and bring prosperity to all." — GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

Requiem for a dying tree

No living being likes to be uprooted. Not people, not trees



ROHINI NILEKANI

FOR EXACTLY 25 years, almost every morning, I have drawn open the curtains and saluted the sun's rays diffused through the branches of the magnificent old mango tree outside. Recently, we acquired the site on which it stood, hoping to create an urban mini-forest and add ecosystem services in the vicinity.

The *Mangifera Indica* along with its many denizens has pride of place in our new design. Dozens of species have been feeding, nesting, and roosting on this heavily branched tree. Koels and kites, barbets and bulbuls, shikras and sunbirds, owls and orioles, to name just some birds. There are squirrels and fruit bats, butterflies and moths, spiders and ants. The list seems endless. "For me, trees have always been the most penetrating of preachers," said Hermann Hesse. I have spent hours learning from this 60-foot-high tree draped with its fragrant blossoms, its small fruits much prized for their tasty pulp.

Just recently, we woke up to a shocking sight. The previous night's heavy thunderstorm had uprooted the tree. At 3 am sharp, it had simply keeled over with a painful thud, knocking down the retaining walls.

It was a revelation that one could feel such physical pain from the loss of a tree. Eyes streaming, I tried to make sense of what had happened. We were creating an urban wetland a few metres from the tree. An extra retaining wall was underway. But the unexpected fury of an October rain shower, put paid to all plans. It felled a thing of ethereal beauty, a 50-year-old companion to birds and bees, a giver of shade, an absorber of sound and air pollution and a veritable king of trees.

Carl Linnaeus described the mango tree in 1753 as belonging to the *Anacardiaceae* family and probably originating between Myanmar, Bangladesh, and Northeastern India. There are at least 500 varieties of mangos in India. Together with cricket and cinema, the national fruit probably is one of the best unifiers of our people. Who doesn't love mangos? Who doesn't boast that their regional one is the best? How many childhood memories are associated with the messy pleasures of sucking the last sweet drop from its seed, or of wincing at the sharpness of a raw mango drowned in chilli and salt?

How does one make reparations for the loss of a tree? By planting 10 more? A 100 more? By prayer or fasting or some other penance? I have planted hundreds of trees in my life and plan to plant hundreds more, but that seems inadequate. You cannot compensate for the time it takes, the wind

and sun, the soil and water it takes, and the incredible mutuality it takes to grow a tree to its full-blown grandeur.

Emerging science has shed much new light on the life of trees above our heads and below the ground. Thanks to pioneers like Suzanne Simard and Margaret D Lowman, we have learnt how tree roots use mycorrhizal fungi to communicate with each other on the Wood Wide Web. We know that treetop canopies are like an eighth continent sustaining myriad life, and critical against climate change.

Millions of people around the world understand that those trees that can be saved, should be. Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai's Green Belt Movement in Africa and India's Chipko agitation are only two examples.

India has 2,603 species of trees and at least 650 are endemic. Almost a fifth of them now face extinction.

Why do some people care so deeply, while others are more pragmatic about cutting trees for development? Maybe, like trees themselves, people are diverse in their thinking and attitudes, shaped through nature and nurture.

Trees will fall. They will die. Not every tree can or should be saved. Many trees are wrongly planted, especially on urban avenues. Several well-intentioned tree planting drives need to be reimaged because trees don't belong on floodplains or grasslands.

But no living being likes to be uprooted. Not people, not trees.

We decided to replant the tree to renew its lease of life. Swiftly, the benevolent giant had to be chopped down to its bare trunk first. Tree experts prepared the pit with biocides and nutrients. An excavator was brought in, to level the ground. A crane was called for to lift back the tree. More rain made the ground slushy, dangerous. Puzzled bats and kites whizzed about in the absence of the familiar canopy.

Eventually, the tree was put up. A shrunken version of itself, somewhat away from its original spot, but upright again. We heartily hope the replanted tree will survive. We will water it; we will pray; and we will watch keenly for signs of life.

Men and machines had worked late into the night. Masala chai and biscuits were shared around. No one complained about the hour.

Vriksho Rakshathi Rakshatah (Those who protect trees will be protected by them) — workers nodded at the phrase.

If this credo remains intact in our *samaj*, we might yet save ourselves from the worst fears unleashed by our own ambitions. To paraphrase EO Wilson, maybe we won't destroy our species-rich ecosystems to cook our development dinner. Maybe we will preserve our irreplaceable ancient forests and regrow our dying ones, even as we build dams and highways.

Then the requiem for any dying tree can also become a hymn to an emerging forest.

The writer is chairperson, Arghyam, a foundation working on sustainable water

Agents of prosperity

Farmer Producers' Organisations have become engines of agri-innovation in UP



DEVESH CHATURVEDI

THE GOVERNMENT HAS sought to fulfil its vision of enhancing farmers' income by adopting a multi-pronged strategy — enhancing productivity, reducing costs, improving marketability, crop diversification, risk mitigation and adopting climate resilient technologies. Fragmented holdings are one of the major challenges faced by this sector. They prevent economies of scale and discourage investment in agriculture. In recent years, Farmer Producers' Organisations (or Companies) have countered this challenge. An FPO is a collective of farmers who have holdings or work in a geographical cluster. It can be registered under the Companies Act or as a cooperative under the Societies Registration Act. FPOs have demonstrated their potential to trigger cluster-based farming, bringing in economies of scale in input management facilitating agri-extension, enabling technology adoption, providing quality assurance and helping farmers market their produce.

The Centre's scheme to form and promote 10,000 FPOs envisages collaboration amongst farmers in activities like input management. Such cooperation can enhance the capacities of agriculturists, help in value addition and facilitate the creation of links with markets.

The Uttar Pradesh government has constituted a dedicated FPO cell to handhold these outfits. The objective is to ensure convergence

of schemes, address compliance issues and provide continuous support to FPOs so that they become agents of prosperity in the rural economy. The state government also has a scheme of its own to form FPOs. With the synergistic implementation of Central and state-sponsored schemes, one FPO will be formed in each of the 826 blocks in UP every year for five years, starting from 2022-23.

The FPO Shakti portal has been launched to provide a platform to all active FPOs in UP. It is a one-stop solution for grievance redressal, forging business partnerships and fostering convergence. As of July 15, close to 1,600 FPOs, with a total turnover of Rs 229 crore have registered on the portal. More than six lakh farmers are associated with these organisations.

The Centre has constituted the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund to provide interest subvention of 3 per cent for credit extended to develop post-harvest infrastructure. This incentive is available to FPOs. The UP government provides an additional 3 per cent subvention to FPOs and agriculture entrepreneurs, thus reducing the overall interest on such loans to around 3 per cent. This is in addition to the capital subsidies under various Central and state-sponsored schemes. Such incentives could encourage these farmer collectives to develop post-harvest facilities like warehouses, cold storage,

cold chains and ripening chambers. The government is fostering the convergence of various schemes including those related to farm mechanisation, seed production and processing, agri-marketing, MSP-based procurement, nutrition mission, services for the supply of inputs like seed, fertiliser, pesticides, technological interventions like agri-drones and organic farming.

The efforts have already started yielding significant outcomes. FPOs are playing a pivotal role in crop diversification and value addition. UP's FPO portal shows 1,316 of these outfits are involved in cereals, 378 are in the business of horticulture products, 338 are involved with pulses, 231 with oilseeds, 48 work on millet products, 101 focus on medicinal and aromatic crops and 170 in sugarcane-based products. Hundred FPOs have established seed processing units in UP. Several of these units sell their seeds in the open market; others have signed MOUs with state and National Seed Corporations for buy-back arrangements. More than 480 of these collectives have established Farm Machinery Banks which provide farm mechanisation services at reasonable rents. They contribute to managing paddy stubble. Climate resilient strategies like direct seeding of rice are being channelised through FPOs.

FPOs are becoming engines for innovations when the UP government introduced

its flagship scheme, One District One Product, Siddharthnagar district was tasked with farming Kalanamak rice. An FPO has spearheaded this initiative. Several of these outfits are working to improve nutrition by developing the value chain of high-nutrient agri-products like millets, mushrooms, moringa and fortified cereals. In Rampur, the FPO collaborated with the district administration for the "Aahaar Se Upchar Tak" campaign to supply nutrition-rich products to anganwadi kendras. Their efforts led to an improvement in nutritive outcomes in the area.

Close to 200 MoUs have been signed between 68 FPOs and 37 companies in areas of commodity marketing, input supply, technical dealership and financial linkage. The government is facilitating this collaboration. More than FPOs have entered into dealership agreements for seeds, fertilisers and agri tech. These outfits have succeeded in registering local products under GI — these include Adam Chini rice, Banarasi langda, jaggery, Ramnagar (Varanasi) Bhanta (Brinjal) and Banarasi pan.

In the past two years, Eastern UP has emerged as a hub of vegetable and fruit exports. Progressive farmers have associated with FPOs of the region and become agents of change.

The writer is additional chief secretary, agriculture, UP

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SAVING LIVES

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Cease the fire' (IE, October 19). Hamas's inhumanity is inarguable but Israel must think more deeply about civilian casualties. The hospital attack marks a new phase in the war with Jordan cancelling its meeting with President Biden during his Israel visit. We should uphold the principle of protecting civilians and finding a lasting solution to this unending cycle of death and destruction. It's essential to provide humanitarian assistance to those trapped in the Gaza Strip. Hamas's October 7 actions have made things despairingly worse but Israel and its allies must avoid making it worse.

Sanjay Chopra, Mohali

BURDEN OF CARBON

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Carbon conundrum' (IE, October 19). Climate researcher Grimalda is morally correct in following the principle of slow means of travel to keep a check on the carbon footprint even as it clashes with his employer's commercial considerations. We must be more careful as a society to reduce our carbon footprint. However, it is not only individuals but also corporations that must be more mindful of such things as individuals do not command even a fraction of the total. It is time we control contamination of water bodies, and reduce air pollution, soil adulteration and deforestation. If we hope to leave a healthy environment for our children, we have no option but to drastically reduce our carbon footprint now.

Subhash Vaid, New Delhi

LACK OF JUDGMENT

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Door is ajar' (IE, October 18). The institution of marriage predates the modern state. The idea of a marital alliance and the concept of family have evolved over centuries. The government of India has been pessimistic about the very concept of marriage equality and has time and again reiterated its stance on same-sex marriage, which it does not believe in. Allowing the same government, then, to revisit its stand wasn't a well-thought-out decision by the Supreme Court. The constitutional bench should have constituted an independent committee to study the issue better and the judgment should have been based on the committee's findings.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Barasat

A GREEN LEGACY

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Revolution and its sutradhar' (IE, October 19). The silent contribution of M S Swaminathan to Indian agriculture and his actions both in the form of policy inputs to the government and guidance to agricultural communities, is invaluable and less recognised. The brief timeline provided in this article is helpful for younger generations to see how India underwent the green revolution which contributed not only to self-sufficiency in food grain production but also to the confidence of food grain exports. Therefore, Swaminathan rightfully deserves the Bharat Ratna for his enormous contribution to Indian agriculture and the masses.

DJ Babu, Mumbai

MAHARASHTRA METRO RAIL CORPORATION LTD. PUNE METRO RAIL PROJECT. Tender Notice No. P1A-Consul-02/2023. Executive Director (Procurement & Contracts) Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation Ltd.

Loss of Share Certificate(s) Notice is hereby given that Share Certificate No. 100722 for 100 equity shares of Rs. 10/- (Rupees Ten only) each bearing Distinctive 19549427 to 19549426 of Eicher Motors Limited, having its registered office at 3rd Floor, Select Citywalk, A-3 District City Centre, Saket New Delhi 110017 registered in the name of ARPAN ACHARYYA (Deceased) have been lost.

कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, युनिट-49, कन्स्ट्रक्शन एण्ड डिजाइन सर्विसेज, उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय) इ-6, प्रियदर्शनी नगर, लिफ्ट वी.डी.ए. ऑफिस, बरेली प्रधान कार्यालय टी.सी.-38 वी, विभूति खण्ड, गोमतीनगर, लखनऊ. अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

NORTHERN RAILWAY e-OPEN TENDER NOTICE. Sr. Divisional Engineer-I/Northern Railway, New Delhi for and on behalf of President of India invites e-tender on the prescribed form for the under noted works.

S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER e-Tender Notice No. EL-G-RNC-OT-SCADA-13-23, dated 19.10.2023. e-Tender is invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G) Ranchi, S.E. Railway for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work which is scheduled to open on 09.11.2023 at 16.00 hrs. or later.

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH SURVEY AND LAND RECORDS DEPARTMENT. SCHEDULE. 1. Name of the Work: Supply of 75 GNSS Rovers with Internal External radio (Package wise) for ASR district under Resurvey Project in Andhra Pradesh. 2. Opening Date & Time for Sale of Tender Document: 20.10.2023 @ 10.30 AM. 3. Closing Time & Date for Sale of Tender Document: 06.11.2023 @ 3.00 PM. 4. Time and Date for Pre-Bid Meeting Link: https://meet.google.com/caf-jsio-ttb

कार्यालय अभियंता का कार्यालय पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, खूँटी सूचना पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, खूँटी अन्तर्गत IRQP Work of SH-03 to Ulihatu Road (Km 0.00 to Km 12.870) (Total Length 12.870 KM) का ई0-निविदा प्रसंग संख्या:- RCD/KHUNTI/837 दिनांक 10.10.2023 एवं P.R. 308812Road (23-24) #D को अपरिहार्य कारण से निविदा रद्द की जाती है।

कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, युनिट-49, कन्स्ट्रक्शन एण्ड डिजाइन सर्विसेज, उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय) इ-6, प्रियदर्शनी नगर, लिफ्ट वी.डी.ए. ऑफिस, बरेली प्रधान कार्यालय टी.सी.-38 वी, विभूति खण्ड, गोमतीनगर, लखनऊ. अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

KARNATAKA STATE MEDICAL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED. No.1, Dr. Siddhiah Puranki Road, KHB Colony, Magadi Road, Bengaluru - 560079. Phone: +91-80-2967801. Email: md.ksmscl@gmail.com. No: HFW/KSMSCL/EQPT/TND/SBC-BTB/45/2023-24 Date: 18-10-2023 TENDER NOTIFICATION

PUBLIC NOTICE (1) M/s IRCON Renewable Power Limited, Registered Office at No.C-4, District Centre, Saket, New Delhi, India-110017, represented by its authorised Signatory Mr.P.Jyothi Basu / Karnan Subbiah Sr. Manager and (2) Smt. S. Nalini W/o V.S. Karunakar Reddy residing at D.No. 01, Gummaghatha Village, Pavagada Taluk, Tumkur District, Karnataka-561202 are hereby notified that, the Power of Attorney dated 10-07-2023 purported to have been executed in favour of the 1st of you by my client Smt. Lavanya W/o late Nagamohana Reddy on behalf of her minor son Jashvanth Reddy in respect of their land measuring 18 acres 22 guntas including karab of 05 guntas in Sy.No. 63/2 of Vallur village, Nagalamadake Hobli, Pavagada Taluk, Tumakuru Dist., residents of Vallur village has been revoked by issuing a legal notice dated 16-10-2023 for the reasons stated therein. In view of revocation of Power of Attorney, the 1st of you are restrained with immediate effect from acting as the attorney of my client and from dealing with the aforesaid land in any manner. My client states that the said Power of Attorney was created fraudulently by the 1st of you in collusion with the 2nd of you. The general public is also hereby notified that no one could deal with the aforesaid M/s IRCON Renewable Power Limited and Smt. S. Nalini W/o V.S. Karunakar Reddy who have no manner of right, title or interest in respect of the aforesaid land which is owned and possessed exclusively by my client Smt. Lavanya and her minor son Jashvanth Reddy. In spite of the legal notice and this public notice, if any transaction is made or taken place in respect of the aforesaid land which is in any manner not binding on my client and her minor son Jashvanth Reddy. I. Devananda, Advocate No. 11/3, Sanjeevanika lane, Avenue road cross, Bangalore - 560002. Mobile: 99802 25000. Date: 19-10-2023

NORTHERN RAILWAY e-TENDER NOTICE. Sr. DEE/EMU/GZB for and on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender for the under noted work: 1. Tender Notice No.: 232-Elect-EMU-WC-06-23-24. Name of the work: (A) Repairing/Reconditioning and Supply of broken old axle drive of Tower wagon No. 2011020064 and 2012060101. (B) Machining of new tower wagon (No. 8429) powered axle, Removal of gear box assembly from powered axle, Re-fitting of removed gear box assembly on new machined powered axle. Testing and Commissioning of the complete axle drive assembly in Tower Wagons.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE. SR. NO. NAME OF BOARD/ CORP/AUTH. NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER. OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (APPROX) IN (TIME) AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX) IN RUPEES. WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP/AUTH. NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL.

कार्यालय अभियंता पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, खूँटी. PR.NO.309598 Road(23-24):D

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE. SR. NO. NAME OF BOARD/ CORP/AUTH. NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER. OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME) AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX) IN RUPEES. WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP/AUTH. NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE. SR. NO. NAME OF BOARD/ CORP/AUTH. NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER. OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME) AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX) IN RUPEES. WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP/AUTH. NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED SEE SECTION U/S 82 Cr. P.C. Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Manthan S/o Dhanraj R/o C-19, Harijan Basti Near Fruit Mandi Dabri, Delhi, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in FIR No.84/23 U/s 307/34 IPC, P.S. Mayapuri, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused Manthan cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Manthan has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Manthan of FIR No.84/23 U/s 307/34 IPC, P.S. Mayapuri, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 12.12.2023.

Government of Jharkhand Directorate of Information and Public Relations (Information and Public Relations Department) Re-Tender for selection of Public Sector Insurance Company. Directorate of Information and Public Relations, Government of Jharkhand invites sealed tenders for implementation of Jharkhand Rajya Patrakar Swasthya Bima Yojna 2021 from IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India) accredited Public Sector insurance companies.

कार्यालय अभियंता पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, खूँटी. PR.309646 (IPRD)23-24'D Director

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE. SR. NO. NAME OF BOARD/ CORP/AUTH. NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER. OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME) AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX) IN RUPEES. WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP/AUTH. NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE. SR. NO. NAME OF BOARD/ CORP/AUTH. NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER. OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME) AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX) IN RUPEES. WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP/AUTH. NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL.

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE ASSAM, KHANAPARA, GUWAHATI-22. Notice Inviting e-Tender (IFB) Re-Bid. The Director of Agriculture, Assam, invites re-bids against the bid no. AGRI/ ENGG/ DAO/SDAO /APART /7017/2023-24/85 dated. 21/09/2023 for Establishment/Construction of Office Building of District Agriculture office from eligible Contractors with a validity of 90 (Ninety) days from the date of opening of the bids. Details of the bids may be seen in the e-portal <assamtenders.gov.in>. The Bidders must be registered with the E-tendering system (ETS) of the Govt. of Assam. (Website: http://www.assamtenders.gov.in).All terms and conditions will be as per the Bidding Documents.

महाराष्ट्र शासन विभागीय वन अधिकारी, सामाजिक वनीकरण विभाग, पुणे सर्व्हे नं. ४९, वनवसाहत, नरेन हिलसमोर, साळुंखे विहार, वानवडी, पुणे- ४११०२२ ई-निविदा सूचना क्र. ६ खालील निर्देशित केलेल्या ई-निविदा विभागीय वन अधिकारी, सामाजिक वनीकरण विभाग, पुणे (दुरुवनी क्र. ०२०-२९८०५११) अधिकृत ठेकेदारकडून मागविण्यात येत आहेत. मराठी राज्यस्तरीय वृक्षपत्रासाठी

कार्यालय अभियंता पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, खूँटी. PR.309646 (IPRD)23-24'D Director

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE. SR. NO. NAME OF BOARD/ CORP/AUTH. NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER. OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME) AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX) IN RUPEES. WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP/AUTH. NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE. SR. NO. NAME OF BOARD/ CORP/AUTH. NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER. OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME) AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX) IN RUPEES. WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP/AUTH. NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL.

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY Yelahanka, BANGALORE - 560 054. Tender Notice No. No: RWF/S/146/2023-24/06. On behalf of the President of India, The Principal Chief Materials Manager/RWF invites tender for the following work online through the website http://www.ireps.gov.in from experienced/reputed contractors in the field.

महाराष्ट्र शासन विभागीय वन अधिकारी, सामाजिक वनीकरण विभाग, पुणे सर्व्हे नं. ४९, वनवसाहत, नरेन हिलसमोर, साळुंखे विहार, वानवडी, पुणे- ४११०२२ ई-निविदा सूचना क्र. ६ खालील निर्देशित केलेल्या ई-निविदा विभागीय वन अधिकारी, सामाजिक वनीकरण विभाग, पुणे (दुरुवनी क्र. ०२०-२९८०५११) अधिकृत ठेकेदारकडून मागविण्यात येत आहेत. मराठी राज्यस्तरीय वृक्षपत्रासाठी

कार्यालय अभियंता पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, खूँटी. PR.309646 (IPRD)23-24'D Director

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE. SR. NO. NAME OF BOARD/ CORP/AUTH. NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER. OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME) AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX) IN RUPEES. WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP/AUTH. NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE. SR. NO. NAME OF BOARD/ CORP/AUTH. NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER. OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME) AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX) IN RUPEES. WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP/AUTH. NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL.

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE ASSAM, KHANAPARA, GUWAHATI-22. Notice Inviting e-Tender (IFB) Re-Bid. The Director of Agriculture, Assam, invites re-bids against the bid no. AGRI/ ENGG/ DAO/SDAO /APART /7017/2023-24/85 dated. 21/09/2023 for Establishment/Construction of Office Building of District Agriculture office from eligible Contractors with a validity of 90 (Ninety) days from the date of opening of the bids. Details of the bids may be seen in the e-portal <assamtenders.gov.in>. The Bidders must be registered with the E-tendering system (ETS) of the Govt. of Assam. (Website: http://www.assamtenders.gov.in).All terms and conditions will be as per the Bidding Documents.

महाराष्ट्र शासन विभागीय वन अधिकारी, सामाजिक वनीकरण विभाग, पुणे सर्व्हे नं. ४९, वनवसाहत, नरेन हिलसमोर, साळुंखे विहार, वानवडी, पुणे- ४११०२२ ई-निविदा सूचना क्र. ६ खालील निर्देशित केलेल्या ई-निविदा विभागीय वन अधिकारी, सामाजिक वनीकरण विभाग, पुणे (दुरुवनी क्र. ०२०-२९८०५११) अधिकृत ठेकेदारकडून मागविण्यात येत आहेत. मराठी राज्यस्तरीय वृक्षपत्रासाठी

कार्यालय अभियंता पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, खूँटी. PR.309646 (IPRD)23-24'D Director

कार्यालय अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, राँची ई-निविदा सूचना (PR 308393 REO (23-24)_D) पत्रांक- ई-निविदा संख्या- 10/RE/2023-24/RWD/EE/RANCHI दिनांक-

कार्यालय अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, राँची ई-निविदा सूचना (PR 308393 REO (23-24)_D) पत्रांक- ई-निविदा संख्या- 10/RE/2023-24/RWD/EE/RANCHI दिनांक-

TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH E-TENDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (E-Submission) NCB No.27/ FUGSS to Aruppukottai (CS)/ KFW/ DO II/ 2023/ Dated: 16.10.2023. E-bids are invited from the eligible bidders for the following work as per the procedure of TWAD Board under two cover system conforming to the Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act, 1998 and Rules 2000.

उ० प्र० पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लि० ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना, अनुभवी फर्मों / ठेकेदार / कार्यदायी संस्थाओं से विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल मेरठ के अन्तर्गत निम्न कार्यों हेतु मोहरबन्द ई-निविदाओं के पोर्टल (www.etender.up.nic.in) पर दो भागों में आमंत्रित की जाती है। कृपया विस्तृत जानकारी, डाउन लोड धरोहर राशि एवं निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क जमा करने तथा अन्य संशोधनों एवं ई-निविदा प्रस्तुत करने के दिनांक तक विस्तार आदि के सम्बन्ध में www.etender.up.nic.in पर लॉग आन करें। निविदा का विवरण निम्न प्रकार है:- ई-निविदा संख्या, कार्य का विवरण, निविदा के प्रथम भाग खुलने की दिनांक, धरोहर राशि एवं निविदा का मूल्य (कर सहित) को क्रम में पूजा जाये। 1. टी-27/23-24:- विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड बडौत के अन्तर्गत 132 के०वी० विद्युत उपकेन्द्र निरपुडा की क्षमतावर्द्ध हेतु 01 नम 63 एम०वी०० परिवर्तक की स्थापना से सम्बन्धित कार्य। दिनांक 09.11.2023, रु. 5,00,00,00/-, रु. 590.00/-अधीक्षण अभियंता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल, 130-डी, "पारेषण भवन" विक्टोरिया पार्क, मेरठ। "राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचाव" पत्रांक/No. 2512 वि० पा०००/ETC/मेरठ/MT/TENDER, दिनांक:-19/10/2023

कार्यालय अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, राँची ई-निविदा सूचना (PR 308393 REO (23-24)_D) पत्रांक- ई-निविदा संख्या- 10/RE/2023-24/RWD/EE/RANCHI दिनांक-

कार्यालय अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, राँची ई-निविदा सूचना (PR 308393 REO (23-24)_D) पत्रांक- ई-निविदा संख्या- 10/RE/2023-24/RWD/EE/RANCHI दिनांक-

कार्यालय अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, राँची ई-निविदा सूचना (PR 308393 REO (23-24)_D) पत्रांक- ई-निविदा संख्या- 10/RE/2023-24/RWD/EE/RANCHI दिनांक-

EXPLAINED GLOBAL

IN CHINA, PUTIN'S STAFF SEEN CARRYING 'NUCLEAR BRIEFCASE': WHAT IS THE BAG



Two Russian naval officers carry what is believed to be Russia's nuclear briefcase, while accompanying President Vladimir Putin at the Belt and Road Forum in Beijing, China, on Wednesday. Reuters

RISHIKA SINGH
 NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

DURING RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin's recent visit to China, officers accompanying him were seen carrying what is known as the 'nuclear briefcase'. After a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping on Wednesday, Putin was seen in a video footage being followed by two Russian naval officers in uniform, each carrying a briefcase. One of these is likely to be the nuclear briefcase.

What is the 'nuclear briefcase'?

Also known as the 'Cheget', named after a mountain in Russia, the briefcase is part of a larger system in place for authorising the launch of nuclear strikes. It's part of a secured communication setup, meant to convey orders for a nuclear strike to the rocket forces of the country. Apart from the Russian President, the Defence Minister and the Chief of General Staff have a briefcase each, and the three are supposed to coordinate in case of a potential order to strike. The President carries the briefcase on his visits abroad.

Has the nuclear briefcase ever come close to being used?

According to the US-based Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation (CACNP), the first and only known instance of a nuclear briefcase being 'opened' during a crisis was in 1995. A 1998 report in *The Washington Post* said the briefcase was "a product of the final phase of the Cold War, during the tense early 1980s, when Soviet leaders feared a sudden attack launched from Europe or nearby oceans. They needed a remote command system to cut down reaction time." The briefcases were first put into service just around the time Russian President Mikhail Gorbachev took office (1990-91). By 1995, Boris Yeltsin had succeeded him. The CACNP said that on January 25, 1995, Russian officers at the Olenegorsk Radar Station in the northwestern region

of Russia detected the "launch" of a rocket off Norway's northern coast and mistook it for a hostile American missile.

In reality, it was the Black Brant XII, an aeronautical research rocket sent to study the Northern Lights phenomenon. Even though the joint US-Norway project had been announced earlier, Russians were not aware of it and had their strategic forces put on high alert. This is when the briefcases were handed to the leaders to plan a response.

Eventually, the nature of the launch became clear to the Russians and the attack was held. The possibility of a strike emerging and the standing down of forces all happened within a few minutes.

How did the system work?

Once radar operators sent out alerts of possible enemy action, the Russian electronic command-and-control networks were activated. "The duty general received his information from the radar operator on a special notification terminal, Krokuz. He then passed it to the Kavkaz, a complex network of cables, radio signals, satellites and relays that is at the heart of the Russian command and control," the *Post* report notes.

The alert then reached the three nuclear briefcases. "Yeltsin immediately got on the telephone with the others holding the black suitcases, and they monitored the rocket's flight on their terminals," the report added. Yeltsin later announced that he had used the nuclear briefcase for the first time.

Do other countries have such a briefcase?

Yes, the American President has a similar briefcase officially called the Presidential Emergency Satchel. It is thought to have come into use in the era of John F Kennedy, who was concerned about how, in the era of the Cold War, orders for a nuclear strike could be verified quickly.

LONGER VERSION
indianexpress.com/explained

YOUR GO-TO INSTITUTE FOR GENERAL STUDIES PREPARATION

VAJIRAM & RAVI
 Institute for IAS Examination

Prelims cum Mains	Prelims cum Mains	Optionals
General Studies Comprehensive Programme	General Studies Fledgling Comprehensive Programme	Optional Subjects Course
10 Months	2 Years	5 Months
JAN 2024	4th NOV 2023	OCTOBER 2023

080-6220-6330 | www.vajiramandravi.com

EXPLAINED SCIENCE

Safety test for Gaganyaan

On Saturday, ISRO will test the performance of the Crew Escape System of India's planned human space flight mission. Crew safety is top priority for the mission, and this is the first of a series of tests before ISRO attempts to lift a human to space. The space agency will also demonstrate its new low-cost Test Vehicle

JOHNSON T A
 BENGALURU, OCTOBER 19

ON SATURDAY, less than two months after the Chandrayaan-3 Moon landing, ISRO will carry out the first of a series of tests of systems and procedures with the aim to ultimately launch an Indian astronaut into space, perhaps in 2025.

The Flight Test Vehicle Abort Mission-1 (TV-D1) will demonstrate the performance of the Crew Escape System of the Gaganyaan project. The flight will be the first of two abort missions to test the safety mechanisms that will allow the Gaganyaan crew to leave the spacecraft in an emergency.

The test exercise will see the rocket rise to an altitude of almost 17 km before an abort signal is triggered, leading to the separation of the Crew Module, which will descend using a parachute for a splashdown in the Bay of Bengal.

The test mission will last a total 532 seconds from liftoff at 8 am to the Crew Module splashdown about 10 km from the Sriharikota coast. The rocket, ISRO's new, low-cost Test Vehicle, will reach a peak relative velocity of 363 metres/ second (about 1307 km/ hr) during the flight. The Crew Module will be empty for the test.

What will be tested?

Saturday's TV-D1 flight will demonstrate, first, the new Test Vehicle — this is the reason why the test has been named Test Vehicle-Demonstration 1 (TV-D1).

Second, it will demonstrate a basic version of the Crew Module — the capsule in which the astronauts will be seated during the Gaganyaan human space flight. The test will check the functioning of systems for separating the Crew Module from the rocket in case of a mid-flight emergency (abort mission) and the escape of astronauts.

ISRO's technical definition of the TV-D1 mission is, "In-flight Abort Demonstration of Crew Escape System (CES)". The flight will "simulate the abort condition during the ascent trajectory corresponding to a Mach number of 1.2 encountered in the Gaganyaan mission", including Crew Module separation and its safe recovery.

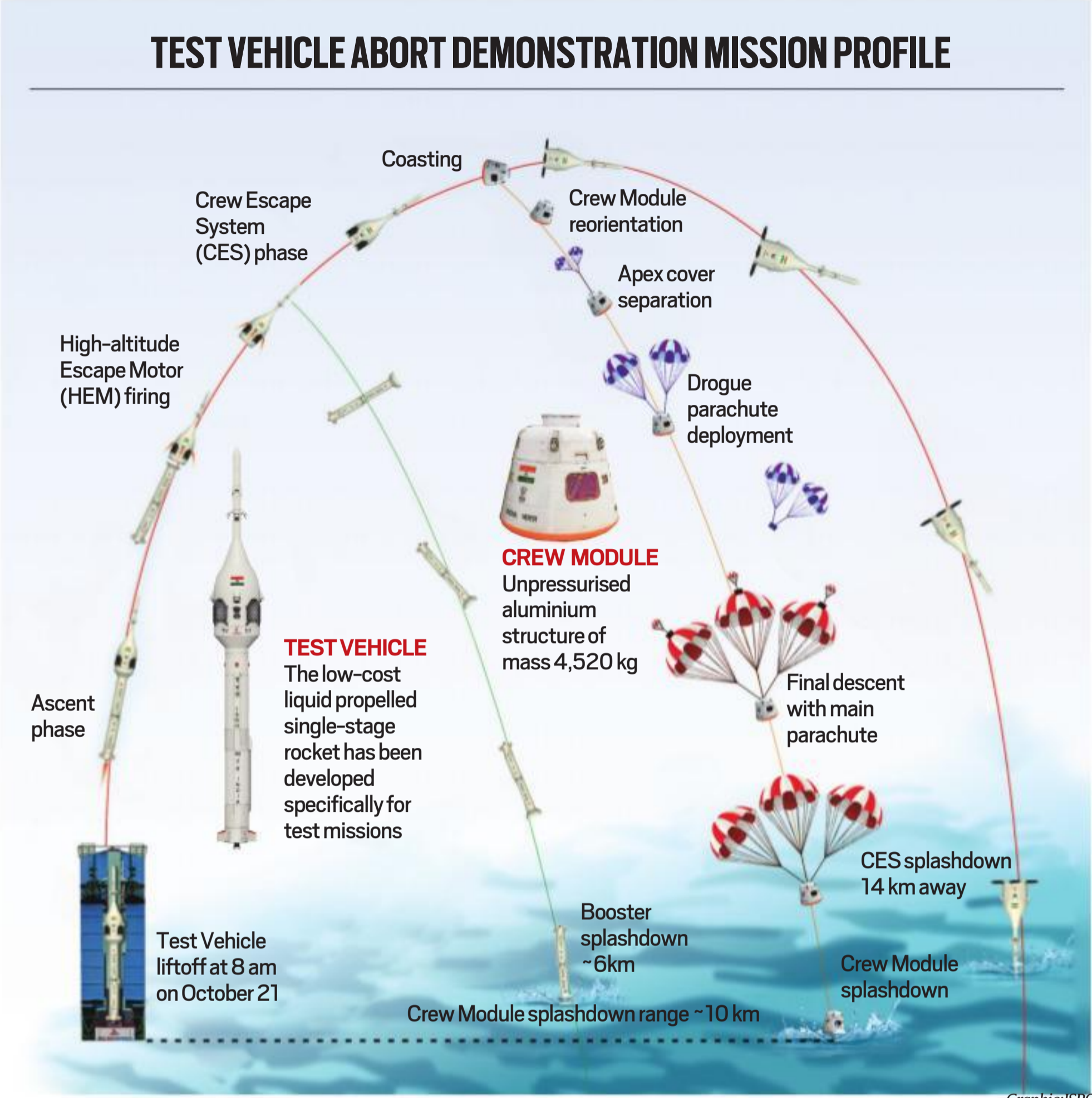
The new Test Vehicle

While the full-fledged test flight of the Crew Module into space and back will be carried out on the human-rated LVM3 rocket (an upgraded version of the heavy lift GSLV Mk III rocket) in 2024, for the TV-D1 mission, ISRO will use a low-cost basic rocket that it has built specifically to test systems.

This Test Vehicle will use existing liquid propulsion technology, but has innovations such as the throttleable and restartable L110 Vikas engine (which forms the core second stage of the LVM3 rocket), which is capable of controlling propellant use.

The only previous test flight of the Crew Module — called the Crew Module Atmospheric Re-Entry Experiment or CARE — on December 18, 2014, used a GSLV Mk III rocket. But since each GSLV Mk III launch costs Rs 300-400 crore, ISRO has developed the cheaper Test Vehicle. The Gaganyaan human space flight programme has a budget of around Rs 9,000 crore.

"We will have many tests flights of the human capsule using a developmental launch vehicle called the Test Vehicle..." ISRO chairman Dr S Somanath had said in 2018, when he was director of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, which has developed the new



rocket. "It (the Crew Escape System of the Gaganyaan mission) is the key, and we need to test it a number of times without incurring large costs."

ISRO will use the Test Vehicle for several concepts that are under development, including the Scramjet engine technology for re-usable space launch vehicles.

Crew Escape System

On October 11, 2018, a failure of the Russian Soyuz FG rocket led to a premature end of Expedition 57 to the International Space Station (ISS). As soon as the failure was detected at an altitude of 50 km, the Crew Module was separated from the rocket in an emergency operation, and the two astronauts aboard the mission, Alexey Ovchinnikov of Roscosmos and Nick Hague of NASA, landed on Earth 402 km from the launch site at Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. The failure of the Soyuz MS 10 mission was the first mid-flight failure of a Soyuz rocket since 1975, and the first failure of the Soyuz FG rocket in 55 launches.

ISRO has put safety of the crew at the centre of the Gaganyaan project, and has persuaded the union government that the 2022 deadline set by the Prime Minister on August 15, 2018 should be relaxed in order to ensure a safe and successful mission.

The Crew Module must be safe for astronauts under conditions of very high heat and

pressure, and must have a reliable escape mechanism in the event of an emergency. ISRO is developing environmental control and life support systems for the Crew Module, as well as an integrated vehicle health management system which can sense anomalies that could put the life of an astronaut at risk, and trigger actions to abort the mission.

Some of these systems will be tested in the TV-D1 flight. The 2014 CARE test had assessed technologies including "the performance of parachute-based deceleration system, and a "Pad Abort Test - PAT" was conducted in July 2018.

Stages of TV-D1 mission

After a flight of about a minute, at an altitude of 11.7 km, the Crew Escape System will separate from the Test Vehicle; and after about 90 seconds, the Crew Module will separate from the escape system. It will deploy parachutes, and descend slowly to the surface over about seven minutes. A diving team and ship of the Indian Navy will recover the Crew Module from the Bay of Bengal.

"This Test Vehicle mission with this CM (Crew Module) is a significant milestone for the overall Gaganyaan programme as a near-complete system is integrated for a flight test. The success of this test flight will set the stage for the remaining qualification tests and unmanned missions, leading to the first Gaganyaan mission with Indian astronauts,"

ISRO has said.

Status of preparations

Dr Somanath has said that the timeframe for the Gaganyaan mission is now 2024 and even beyond, if failures are experienced in the development stages. "...We do not want to rush... The primary objective of human space flight is a sure-shot, safe mission. We have redefined it in such a way that we will achieve success in the very first attempt," he said earlier this year.

"The current schedule is that there will be an unmanned mission in the beginning of next year. This year we will have the abort missions. The manned mission is being talked about for the end of 2024 or early 2025. It depends on various other scenarios," the chairman said.

ISRO has completed the human rating of the LVM 3 rocket which will be used for the Gaganyaan mission. On May 13, 2022, it completed the static test of a human-rated solid rocket booster (HS200) that will be used in the first stage of the rocket. The testing of the human-rated versions of the liquid propellant L110-G engine for the second stage of propulsion and the third stage C25-G engines with cryogenic propellant has also been completed.

Four astronauts from the Indian Air Force selected for the mission have undergone training in Russia. They will undergo further training ahead of the final mission.

PM to flag off RRTS : How this latest mass transport system can benefit NCR

JATIN ANAND
 NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi will inaugurate the first leg of the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS), India's first mass rapid system dedicated to regional connectivity, on Friday. Capable of running at speeds up to 180 km/hour, trains on the first section will eventually cut the travel time between Delhi and Meerut to less than an hour.

What is the RRTS project?

With semi high-speed rail connectivity at its core, the RRTS is an integrated, mass transit network which aims to ensure "balanced and sustainable urban development" through better connectivity and access across the NCR. The idea of such a network lies in a study which the Indian Railways was commissioned to carry out in 1998-99. The study identified the possibility of an RRTS network to connect various locations in the NCR through fast commuter trains. The proposal was re-examined in 2006, with the extension of the Delhi Metro lines to some NCR towns such as Gurgaon, Noida, and Ghaziabad. It was soon taken up by the National

Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB), which identified and recommended eight RRTS corridors to connect NCR towns. For details of the complete project being implemented, see graphic.

Who built the Namo Bharat, which PM Modi will inaugurate?

The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC), a joint venture of the Centre and the governments of Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, has built the RRTS also known Namo Bharat.

How is the RRTS different from metro, railways?

Compared with metros, the RRTS network is faster. It will cater to commuters who want to travel relatively longer distances across the NCR in a shorter time. Compared with the Indian Railways, though the RRTS train will cover smaller distances, it will do so at higher frequency and provide more comfort than the average Railways coach.

What is the objective behind RRTS?

The RRTS seeks to "unlock the entire potential" of the NCR in addition to enhancing multi-modal connectivity. One of the most significant aims of the project is to nudge

commuters towards public transportation and relieve congestion on its roads as well as metro and railway networks.

In terms of the economy, the project aims to give a push to employment generation and the opening up of newer commercial hubs along the current contours of the NCR. Shorter travel times are expected to increase the overall economic productivity of the region and allow more economic activity in and around suburban locations in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Haryana.

How fast will it run?

RRTS trains will operate at 160 km/hour but are designed to be able to run at speeds up to 180 km/hour. Delhi Metro trains can operate at 100 km/hour to 120 km/hour, depending on the line. The fastest line, the Airport Express Line, operates at 120 km/hour.

By when will the entire project be operational?

PM Modi will inaugurate a 17-km stretch classified as the 'priority section' of the 82-km Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS corridor, which has 16 stations. Of these, the priority section has five: Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Guldhar, Duhai and Duhai Depot. The entire corridor is expected to be operational by 2025.

FASTER THAN METROS, MORE FREQUENT THAN TRAINS

180 km/hr DESIGN SPEED | 160 km/hr OPERATION SPEED | 100 km/hr AVERAGE SPEED

60 Min
 TIME TO TRAVEL 100KM

CORRIDORS- UNDER RRTS PHASE I

- Delhi - Ghaziabad - Meerut Corridor
- Delhi - Gurugram - SNB - Alwar Corridor
- Delhi - Panipat Corridor

OTHER CORRIDORS

- Delhi - Faridabad - Ballabhgarh - Palwal
- Ghaziabad - Khurja
- Delhi - Bahadurgarh - Rohtak
- Ghaziabad-Hapur
- Delhi-Shahadra-Baraut

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr.P.C.) Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Manju, R/o H.No. 16B, LIG Flats, Madhuban Enclave Madipur, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case Cr. Case No. 1417/2018 & FIR No. 694/2016 U/S 323 IPC PS Punjabi Bagh, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Manju can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Manju has absconded (or is concealing herself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Manju of Cr. Case No. 1417/2018 & FIR No. 694/2016 U/S 323 IPC PS Punjabi Bagh, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 16.12.2023.

By Order Shilvi Talwar Metropolitan Magistrate Mahila Court-01, West District Room No. 358, 3rd Floor Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi DP/11615/WD/2023

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that one girl namely Laxmi D/o Hari Mohan R/o H.No. 644, New Basti Pandoo, Colony Bakner Narela, Delhi has been missing since 08.10.2023 at 04.30 PM from her house in the area of P.S. Narela, Delhi. In this regard a case vides FIR No. 691/23 Dated 12.10.2023 has been registered at PS. Narela, Delhi. The description of missing girl is as under :

Name : Laxmi, Age : 17 years and 10 Months, Height : 5'5", Complexion : Shallow, Face: Long, Build: Medium, Wearing : Blue Color Suit and Salwar and Chappal in feet. If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned.

SHO P.S., Narela, Delhi Ph.: 011-27280435 7065036323 Website : http://cbi.nic.in e-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in Fax : 011-24368639 Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641 DP/11800/ON/2023

Appeal for Identification

General public is hereby informed that one person Namely: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 35-40 Yrs., Height: 5'6", Sex: Male, Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Hospital Clothes, Place of Recovery: Found dead in Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan Hospital, Delhi.

In this regard FIR No. 540/23, Dated 07.10.2023 has been lodged at Police Station: Kotwali, Delhi. Any clue come to notice please inform undersign.

SHO P.S.: Kotwali, Delhi Ph.: 8750870121, 7683055601 DP/11834/N/2023

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C. Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Imtiyaz S/o Mohd. Naseem R/o B-58, Block-C, Rama Road, Moti Nagar, Delhi has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 706/17 U/S 411 IPC, PS. Moti Nagar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Imtiyaz cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Imtiyaz has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant); Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Imtiyaz of FIR No. 706/17 U/S 411 IPC, PS. Moti Nagar, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 01.12.2023.

By Order Ms. Shagun Metropolitan Magistrate Room No. 268, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi DP/11632/WD/2023(Court Matter)

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY E-Tender Notice Dy.CE (TMC) Line JHS acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tender through E-Tenders with closing date mentioned against each.

Government of Odisha OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER CUTTACK (R&B) CIRCLE, CUTTACK ('e'-PROCUREMENT NOTICE) B-1096

UJVN Limited HO "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006 Telephone: 0135-2763808 Fax: 0135- 2763508 CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866 Website: www.ujvn.com

उत्तराखण्ड पावर कॉर्पोरेशन लि (उत्तराखण्ड सरकार का उपक्रम) कार्यालय अधीन अभियन्ता, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल (ग्रामीण) 18 ईंस्टी रोड, देहरादून दरभंगा +91-135-2653601

UJVN LIMITED H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006 Telephone: 0135-2763808 Fax: 0135-2763508 CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866 Website www.ujvn.com

NATIONAL FERTILIZERS LIMITED (A Govt. of India Undertaking) Nangal Unit, Naya Nangal-140126 (Punjab) Tel.No.011887-220568, E-mail: ypbhagat@nfl.co.in

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON See Section 82 Cr.P.C. Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused persons namely Jitender S/o Ram Singh R/o H.No. RC-619, Adarsh Nagar, Khoda Colony, Near Aman Hotel, Ghaziabad, U.P. has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence vide CC No. 633983/2016 u/s 138 N.I. Act. P.S. Greater Kailash-1, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Jitender cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the Jitender has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation u/s 82 Cr.P.C. is hereby made that the Jitender accused of CC No. 633983/2016 u/s 138 N.I. Act. P.S. Greater Kailash-1, New Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 20.11.2023 at 10:00 A.M.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY E-Tender No.: CEN05GWL1423 E-TENDERING TENDER NOTICE Deputy Chief Engineer (Construction), N.C. Railway, Gwalior for and on behalf of the President of India invites open on line e-Tenders (Single packets system) for the following work:

Jharkhand Education Project Council, JEPCC JSCA Stadium Road, Sector-3, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004 Phone - 0651-2444501/502, email - jepcranchi1@gmail.com

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY E-Procurement Tender Notice No.: E.T.D./C.N.B./2023-24/20 Date: 16.10.2023 E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE On behalf of the President of India, The Assistant Materials Manager, E.T.D./Kanpur invites the following e-procurement tender

NATIONAL FERTILIZERS LIMITED Tender No. NFL/PN/SPX/2023/69 Dated: 20.10.2023 Tender Notice On-line bids in Two Part Bid System on open tender basis are invited through GEM portal for the following:

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY Open Tender Notice No. SRDEE-TRD-IZN-2023-24-T13 Dated 17.10.2023 Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/ TRD, North Eastern Railway, Iztanagar for and on behalf of President of India, invites sealed "OPEN" E-Tender for the following work:

Jharkhand Education Project Council, JEPCC JSCA Stadium Road, Sector-3, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004 Letter Ref.No: 03/47/2019(P)/4074 Dated: 18/10/2023 E-Procurement Notice JEPCC invites Separate Technical & Financial Bids through Government e-procurement (GeM) Portal from eligible and interested bidders for Supply, Installation, Commissioning and 3/5 years onsite maintenance of equipments required for setting up Vidya Samiksha Kendra (VSK) at MDI building. Interested and eligible bidders are requested to submit their proposal latest by 16.11.2023 at 05:00 PM.

कार्मिक, प्रशासनिक सुधार तथा राजभाषा विभाग प्रेस विज्ञापित संची, दिनांक 18 अक्टूबर, 2023 एतद् द्वारा श्री प्रभात कुमार, डा0प्र0से0, निलबित, मुख्यालय- प्रमंडलीय आयुक्त का कार्यालय, दक्षिणी छोटानागपुर प्रमंडल, संची को सूचित किया जाता है कि अधिसूचित पद (भूमि सुधार उप समाहर्ता, जामताड़ा) पर योगदान नहीं करने एवं अनधिकृत रूप से अपने कर्तव्य से अनुपस्थित रहने संबंधित आरोप के लिए विभागीय अधिसूचना सं0-21637(HRMS), दिनांक 14.06.2023 द्वारा आयुक्त का कार्यालय करतें हुए मुख्यालय प्रमंडलीय आयुक्त का कार्यालय, दक्षिणी छोटानागपुर प्रमंडल, संची निर्धारित किया गया है। साथ ही, उक्त प्रतिवेदित आरोपों को विभाग स्तर पर आरोप-पत्र में गठित कर विभागीय पत्रांक-3632, दिनांक 26.06.2023 द्वारा आपको निर्धारित मुख्यालय प्रमंडलीय आयुक्त का कार्यालय, दक्षिणी छोटानागपुर प्रमंडल, संची के पते पर भेजकर आपसे एक पक्ष के अंदर स्पष्टीकरण की मांग की गयी है, किन्तु आपके द्वारा निर्धारित मुख्यालय प्रमंडलीय आयुक्त का कार्यालय, दक्षिणी छोटानागपुर प्रमंडल, संची में योगदान नहीं किये जाने के कारण संबंधित पत्र प्रमंडलीय आयुक्त कार्यालय से वापस लौट आयी है। तदुपरांत प्रेस विज्ञापित के माध्यम से आपको निर्धारित मुख्यालय में योगदान देना तथा कार्मिक विभाग में उपस्थिति होकर आरोप-पत्र प्राप्त कर स्पष्टीकरण समर्पित करने हेतु निदेश दिया गया है। साथ ही, आरोप पत्र की प्रति आपके Whats app एवं e-mail id पर भी भेज दिया गया है, इसके बावजूद भी आपके द्वारा अब तक न तो निर्धारित मुख्यालय में योगदान किया गया है और न ही आरोप पत्र की प्रति प्राप्त कर स्पष्टीकरण समर्पित किया गया है। अतः पुनः प्रेस विज्ञापित के माध्यम से आपको निदेश दिया जाता है कि समाचार पत्र में सूचना प्रकाशन की तिथि से 7 दिनों के भीतर निर्धारित मुख्यालय में योगदान देना तथा कार्मिक विभाग में उपस्थिति होकर आरोप-पत्र की प्रति प्राप्त कर अपना स्पष्टीकरण समर्पित करना सुनिश्चित किया जाय, अन्यथा यह संप्रसा जायेगा कि इस संबंध में आपको कुछ नहीं कहना है तथा विभाग द्वारा एकपक्षीय निर्णय लेते हुए अग्रतर कार्रवाई की जाएगी।

UJVN Limited H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006 Telephone: 0135-2763615, 2763808 Fax: 0135-2763508 CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866 Website : www.ujvn.com

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER Construction Division-2, P.W.D, Bulandshahr No. 29577A E- Tender Notice On behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Executive Engineer, Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Bulandshahr invites following percentage rate bid online through http://etender.up.nic.in from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP PWD, from Date 25.10.2023 10.00 A.M. to 31.10.2023 upto 12.00 Noon as per the prescribed T-1 of Govt. of U.P. The technical bids will be opened online on dated 31.10.2023 at 12:30 Noon. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened online on the next working day, at the same time and validity of bid will be considered from the original date. The date and time of opening of the financial bid shall be notified on the website.

Table with 7 columns: Sl. No., Name of Work, Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs), Bid Security (Rs. in Lacs), Work Completion, Tender document fee including GST, Contractors Category. Lists various road repair and maintenance work items.

Table with 7 columns: Sl. No., Name of Work, Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs), Bid Security (Rs. in Lacs), Work Completion, Tender document fee including GST, Contractors Category. Lists various road repair and maintenance work items.

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, PWD (ROADS) ASSAM, CHANDMARI, GUWAHATI-03 No. CE/CW/25/2023-24/01 PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER The Chief Engineer, P.W.D (Roads), Assam on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites bid from approved and eligible contractors registered with Assam PWD (Roads) for one work, under SOPD (G) for the year 2023-24 in Kamrup (Metropolitan) district of Assam.

Office of the Resident Commissioner, Jharkhand Bhawan Government of Jharkhand Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110057 VERY SHORT TENDER NOTICE Sealed tender is invited from firms/individuals for sale (as is where basis) of the below mentioned used Government Vehicles as per the following terms and conditions.

FOXCONN, DOMESTIC FIRM DIXON LIKELY FRONTRUNNERS FOR MANUFACTURING

Google to make Pixel phones in India

SOUAMYARENDRA BARIK NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

GOOGLE WILL start manufacturing its premium smartphone Pixel in India, with the first made in India phones expected to roll out in 2024, the company announced Thursday.

In doing so, it has taken a leaf out of its competitor Apple, who has been manufacturing smartphones in India since 2017 and has found great success doing so, becoming the flag bearer for the government's production linked incentive (PLI) scheme.

At its annual Google for India tech event, the company said that it will partner with international and domestic manufacturers to produce Pixel smartphones locally. Domestic contract manufacturer Dixon Technologies and Foxconn are said to be the frontrunners to manufacture the Pixel in India.

Google has found it difficult to break into the smartphone segment globally, and would be hoping that its decision to locally manufacture the Pixel in India will give it a sizable pie of the country's growing premium smartphone segment, which is dominated by Apple and



Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw with (right) Sanjay Gupta, vice president and country head of Google India, and Rick Osterloh, senior vice president for devices and services of Google, in New Delhi on Thursday.

Samsung. As per Counterpoint Research, even though overall smartphone shipments declined in India in the second quarter of 2023 declined by 3 per cent, the premium smartphone segment presented a different picture, growing 112 per cent year-on-year in Q2 to contribute a record 17 per cent to the overall shipments.

As per CMR, Pixel has consistently held less than a 0.2 per cent market share in India for the past five years. Android is the most used mobile operating system in India, but a number of its users buy phones from the budget end, a segment where Samsung and Chinese players like Oppo, Vivo and Xiaomi rule the roost.

At the event, Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that he has asked Google to further deepen its electronics manufacturing push in India, by producing its Tensor chip - which powers the Pixel Fold in the country in the next three years. Currently, India does not have an operational fab.

The minister also said that he has urged Google to start producing the Pixel Fold in the country next. Rick Osterloh, senior vice president, devices and services at Google said, "India is a priority market for Pixel smartphones, and we're committed to bringing the best of our hardware and underlying built-in software capabilities to people across the country."

Google Cloud to help farmers reap benefits of ONDC, power super app for citizen's services

NANDAGOPAL RAJAN NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

TO HELP farmers benefit from ONDC, Google Cloud is partnering with Sign Catch to help farmers' producers organisations (FPOs) build catalogues and reach out to merchants across the country. Farmers across the country will be able to use the power of Google Cloud's generative AI and language capabilities with just a few clicks and for the first time gain the ability to transact at scale.

As part of Google For India, Google Cloud also announced it is working with Axis My India to "democratise information on citizens services" with a super app called the 'A App' that uses Google Cloud's scalable and secure infrastructure. "We are looking to impact over 250 million Indian households which really translates to impacting the lives of over a billion Indians and making sure they are able to have easier lives," Bedi said, underlining how this signals India

moving forward as a society. "Generative AI technology is now capable of two-way communication in 13 Indian languages, and will be a crucial bridge between the government and the corporate social services as well as citizens". One of the use cases of the app will be to show Ayushman Bharat hospital near a certain user. It will also curate information for similar such queries users might have.

The company is also partnering with Bhashini and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology to use generative AI and language models to make government services more "language responsive". Bedi said Google Cloud is launching a centre of excellence on generative AI and language. Bhashini teams will essentially leverage Google Cloud Generative AI's secure data architectures, Gen AI app building tools and our foundation models to essentially build responsible generative AI models that are trained on Government of India datasets, and Bhashini's language translation technology.

Broad-based uptick in overall economy, says RBI report

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, OCTOBER 19

HIGH-FREQUENCY economic indicators show a broad-based gaining of momentum in economic activity in August and September amid the decline in inflation to the five-per cent level, a Reserve Bank of India (RBI) article said on Thursday.

According to the article on 'State of the Economy' published in the latest RBI Bulletin, high-frequency indicators for the services sector reflect a broad-based uptick in overall economic activity in September 2023. Higher year-on-year growth in air cargo, railway freight and construction indicators of steel consumption and cement production validated the uptick, it said.

"The festival season is all set to light up volumes of e-commerce sales. Entry-level prices of electronics are poised to fall in spite of the focus on 'premiumisation'," the report said.

"Consumer confidence is upbeat on online shopping, with wider choices, competitive pricing and the convenience of easy return and exchange lifting up the online shopping experience. In response, pan-India demand for warehousing has outgrown supply by an estimated 1.4 times, with an average growth of 10 per

'DOLLAR STRENGTH NOW A GLOBAL RISK'

Mumbai: The US dollar's strength is now a global risk, tightening the already tight financial conditions even more, the RBI's 'State of the Economy' report said. Even as energy importers reel under the impact of soaring crude oil prices that resurrect the spectre of inflation alongside external vulnerabilities, the US dollar gets ever stronger on the heft of surging treasury yields, creating a pernicious feedback loop, it said. "The more this toxic vortex persists, the greater is the pain for the world," the RBI said.

tions in advanced economies even as several emerging market economies posted growth surprises. Surging yields and soaring crude oil prices have emerged as proximate risks to global growth, the RBI article said.

In India, a broad-based gaining of momentum is discernible in high frequency indicators. Deleveraging and higher capacity utilization have enabled capital-heavy industries to gain traction. "The Indian rupee (INR) is exhibiting low volatility. Inflation has moderated from its July peak, bolstering macroeconomic fundamentals," it said.

"A major positive development is the relative stability in core inflation, with services inflation muted. While risks are evenly balanced, with weather conditions and volatile global energy and food prices weighing in on the upside, firms across manufacturing and services sectors expect moderation in growth of selling prices," it said.

The softening in inflation by 180 bps to five per cent came from a strong negative momentum of around 110 bps and a favourable base effect of around 60 bps. Food prices recorded a m-o-m decline of around 180 bps while fuel prices fell around 390 bps month-on-month. The index of core prices (CPI excluding food and fuel) remained unchanged, the RBI said.

BRIEFLY

US demand falls, Nokia to cut 14k jobs

Stockholm: Nokia will cut up to 14,000 jobs to reduce costs, it said Thursday, warning it did not expect a market recovery soon after posting a 20% drop in third-quarter sales on weaker demand for 5G equipment. A slowdown in the US and one of the more profitable markets for Nokia and Ericsson had forced them to look for growth in other regions such as India. But India is also expected to normalize after a stellar 2022.

Tata Motors buys 26% in Freight Tiger

Mumbai: Tata Motors has acquired a 26.79 per cent stake in Freight Commerce Solutions Pvt Ltd (Freight Tiger) for a consideration of Rs 150 crore. The securities subscription agreement also includes a provision enabling Tata Motors to further invest Rs 100 crore over the next two years, at the then prevailing market value. Freight Tiger is a digital platform that provides end-to-end logistics value chain solutions for cargo movement in the country.

Prices of food essentials to be stable: govt

New Delhi: Prices of essential food items will remain stable during the festival season, Union Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra said Thursday. He said curbs on some commodities to keep prices in check won't be removed in the near future.

Tata weighs \$1 bn infusion into Neu app

Bengaluru: Tata Group is considering a \$1 billion capital infusion into its super app Neu, Bloomberg reported. Tata may provide the capital in 2024, the report said, adding talks are ongoing and details could change.

Demand tepid, FMCG & retail firms see muted Sept quarter

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

IT'S BEEN a dull second quarter for the early birds in the fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) and retail spaces, with revenue growth muted amid tepid consumer demand and a delayed festive season. Companies have taken price increases where possible and reined in costs to try and expand margins.

Revenues at Hindustan Unilever grew by just 3.6% y-o-y in the September quarter on the back of a volume increase of 2%, the slowest in the last six quarters. ITC's revenues were up just 2.6% y-o-y while at Shoppers Stop, sales were virtually flat.

Foods major Nestle posted a 9.5% increase in revenue y-o-y. Managing director Suresh Narayanan said domestic revenues had gone up by 10.3%, thanks to a mix of volume and price increases. Nestle's operating profit margins expanded by 250 basis points y-o-y.

On the whole, management commentary has been circumspect. Kavindra Mishra, ED and CEO, Shoppers Stop told analysts the slowdown in the consumer discretionary space, post last Diwali, had continued into Q2 as



ITC's revenue was up 2.6%. HUL's revenue grew by 3.6%. File

well with the demand being impacted by adhik maas and the delayed festive season. "The demand environment remains weak across cities, towns and categories unlike in earlier quarters where it was driven more by non-metro and rural," Mishra said.

Rohit Jawa, MD & CEO, HUL, said the firm was cautiously optimistic. "FMCG demand is likely to continue a gradual recovery with tailwinds from the upcoming festive season, sustained buoyancy of services and government's thrust on capex," he said. Jawa cautioned the volatile commodity prices and the impact of the monsoon on crop output need to be watched. Operating profit margins at HUL increased by 130 bps while net profits grew by just 3.8% y-o-y in Q2FY24.

Analysts highlighted weak rural demand and intense competition as factors that impacted revenues.

At Avenue Supermarts, revenues rose 18.5% y-o-y, much of which was led by an addition in area of about 12% y-o-y and some improvement in same store sales.

Neville Noronha, CEO & managing director, Avenue Supermarts said the company's gross margins continued to be lower than in Q2FY23 due to a smaller contribution from the higher margin general merchandise and apparel businesses. Net profits were down by 9% thanks to higher tax expenses while operating margins were down by about 50 bps y-o-y. At United Breweries, profits were down by nearly 20% y-o-y though revenues were up 14.2% y-o-y.

SETBACK TO MNCs

DTAA can't be enforced unless notified under Income Tax Act: SC

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

IN A significant ruling with respect to the interpretation of the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements (DTAAs), the Supreme Court Thursday stated that a notification under Section 90(1) of the Income Tax Act is "necessary and a mandatory" condition for a court, authority, or tribunal to give effect to a tax treaty that has the effect of altering existing provisions of law. The ruling essentially implies that a country can claim benefits under DTAA from the time of its treaty pact and not a later date when some other country would have gained from entering into another treaty.

The SC ruling was in a case related to bilateral treaties on issues linked to whether there is any right to invoke the most-favoured nation (MFN) clause when the third country with which India has entered into a DTAA was not an OECD member yet (at the time of entering into such DTAA); and secondly whether the MFN clause is to be given effect to automatically or if it is to only come into effect after a notification is issued.

Nestle SA, Concenter Services Netherlands and other multinational companies had argued that Netherlands, Switzerland and France are members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and given that India's treaties with these countries have the MFN clause, the beneficial 5 per cent withholding rate in treaties with Slovenia, Lithuania and Columbia should also apply to them.

Amit Maheshwari, Tax Partner, AKM Global, said: "Many taxpayers had taken a concessional tax rate for remittances such as royalties and fees for technical services and for dividends after 1.04.2020 (post abolishing dividend distribution tax). The decision of the apex court will have wide repercussions for the industry and could result in millions of dollars of additional tax revenue for the government. The decision would also entail revival of pending matters in the form of fresh action by tax authorities by initiating proceedings, raising demands or denying lower withholding in respect of these remittances made in the past. This may not go well with our tax treaty partners."

Bond issuances: SEBI brings sops for some large corporates

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, OCTOBER 19

TO DEEPEN the bond market, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Thursday introduced sops for large corporates (LCs) that have raised more than the mandated share of 25% of their qualified borrowing through the bond route.

The market regulator's circular said that these LCs will be incentivised through reductions in the annual listing fee of its debt instruments. The company's contribution to the Core Settlement Fund (CSF) will also be reduced.

The framework will be available from January 1 for companies following January-December as a financial year and April 1 for firms using the April-March calendar. At the same time, large corporates that have a shortfall will be disincentivised by being asked to pay an additional contribution to the CSF, added the circular.

Need to set up India-based 'protection & indemnity' entity, says Sitharaman

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, OCTOBER 19

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman Thursday said there is a need to set up a protection and indemnity (P&I) entity that is owned by India and based domestically.

P&I or shipowner's liability insurance is a form of insurance that provides cover to shipowners and operators against any risk associated with the operations of a vessel. It covers liabilities arising from loss of life, injury of crew, and passengers, damage caused to cargo during operations, oil spills and war.

Such an entity will help the country reduce its vulnerability to any international sanction or pressure, Sitharaman said at the Global Maritime India Summit. The three-day event, one of the world's largest maritime summits, anchored Rs 10 lakh crore investment before concluding Thursday. Sitharaman said: "A need has been felt to have a full-



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Mumbai on Thursday.

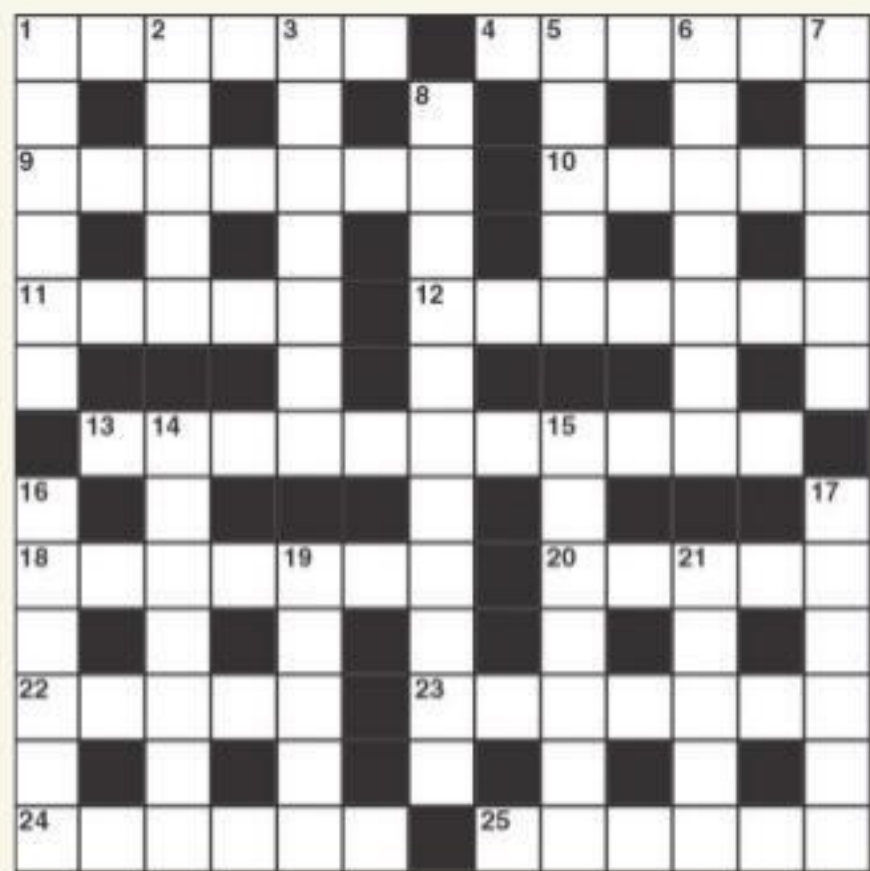
fledged India-owned and India-based P&I entity." Explaining the rationale, the FM said: "It would reduce India's vulnerability to international sanctions and pressures to provide greater strategic flexibility in the shipping operations."

The entity would provide protection against liabilities to the ships operating in coastal as well as inland waters during their operations. It would also provide a foothold into specialised segments of the protection and indemnity business which is dominated by few players, she said.

CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD. Notice for inviting e-tenders for allotment of Built-up Dwelling Units/Commercial Units in U.T. Chandigarh. Includes details on tender process, dates, and contact information.

TATA POWER RENEWABLE ENERGY. Extract of Standalone Financial Results for the Quarter Ended 30th September, 2023. Includes financial table with metrics like Total Income, Profit, and Debt Ratios.

CROSSWORD 5187



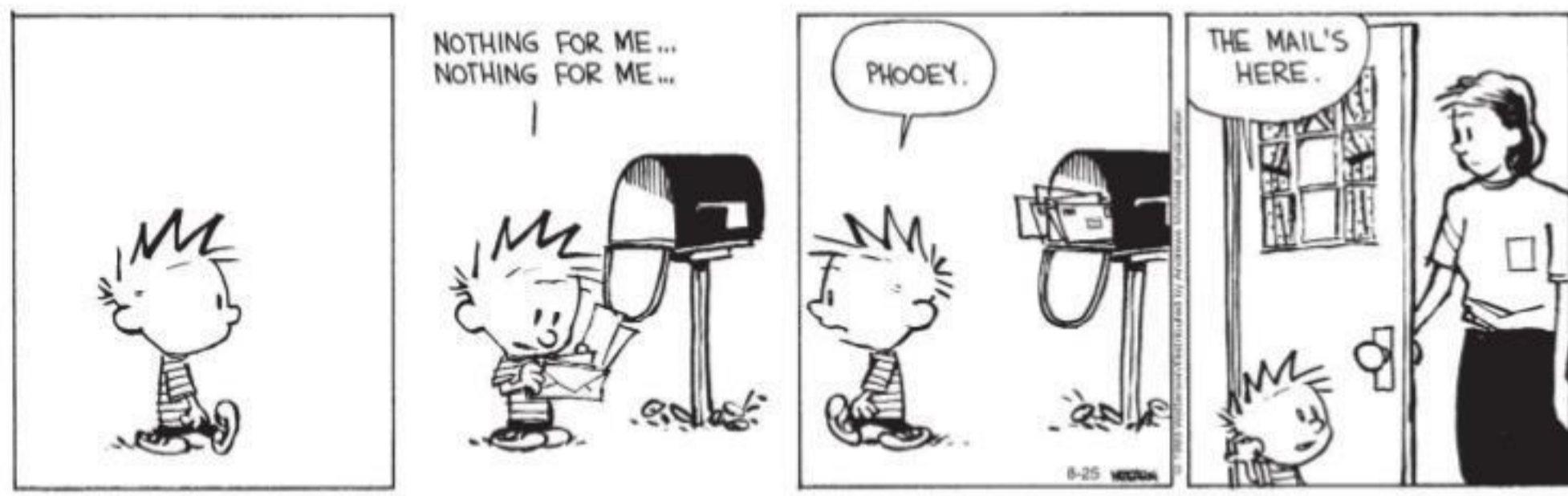
- ACROSS**
 1 Dry and stony hill area (6)
 4 Way change of date may be expressed (6)
 9 Star able to work (7)
 10 This may cause a number to take up weapons (5)
 11 Run away from tunnel opening (5)
 12 Overburdened journalists with work (7)
 13 Flexible binder used extensively in offices (7,4)
 18 Reliable way to stop bleeding (7)
 20 On the contrary it looks like a profit (5)
 22 It may be there in space (5)
 23 Odd native with Eastern simplicity (7)
 24 Brought to order it turned and passed on (6)
 25 Horrified - has the wrong tag showing outside (6)
- DOWN**
 1 Acted like a vandal and was dismissed (6)
 2 Simply cannot love this part of poem (5)
 3 Noted visitor to the underworld (7)
 5 Vessel for man always on the move (5)
 6 Somehow trained in part payment (5-2)
 7 Material mother makes on request (6)
 8 Nothing is as strange or surprising (11)
 14 Lead on? (7)
 15 What the loser gets is punishment (7)
 16 Maintain a lock-up (6)
 17 Eager to be camping? (6)
 19 Steel or brass (5)
 21 Engagement ring? (5)

Solutions Crossword 5186 Across: 1 Lumbago, 5 Ricks, 8 Perfectionist, 9 Elite, 10 Retrial, 11 Digest, 12 Emboss, 15 Rubbers, 17 Viola, 19 Venetian blind, 20 Sissal, 21 Elector
 Down: 1 Lapse, 2 Marriage bans, 3 Ageless, 4 Outcry, 5 Roost, 6 Criminologist, 7 Settles, 11 Derives, 13 Movable, 14 Escape, 16 Extol, 18 Adder

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given clue.
 Every time you overhear something ____, I want you to do something ____, for someone else. -Size Orman (7,4)

HMIRT ORSDHU
 FKLNU DEORFK

SOLUTION: MIRTH, FLUNK, SHROUD, FORKED
 Answer: Every time you overhear something **hurlful**, I want you to do something **kind** for someone else. -Size Orman

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

3	2	1	7		8			
8				4	1			
		2	9		5	4		
7	4	5			2	6		
6							9	
5	1			3	4		8	
5	4			3	2			
		6	9					2
1			8	6	7	3		

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5355

1	7	2	5	3	9	6	8	4
4	9	5	7	8	6	3	2	1
6	3	8	1	2	4	7	9	5
7	1	6	4	9	5	2	3	8
8	4	3	6	1	2	9	5	7
2	5	9	8	7	3	1	4	6
3	6	4	9	5	7	8	1	2
5	2	1	3	6	8	4	7	9
9	8	7	2	4	1	5	6	3

SUDOKU 5356

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

MORE FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAIN - 2023
 In order to clear extra rush of passengers during forthcoming festival season, Northern Railway has decided to run the **GATI SHAKTI Superfast Special Express Train** as per details given below:-
 04071/04072 New Delhi - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra - New Delhi **GATI SHAKTI Superfast Special Express Train**

TRAIN NO. 04071		STATIONS		TRAIN NO. 04072	
ARR.	DEP.			ARR.	DEP.
---	23:30	New Delhi		05:35	---
11:25	---	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra		---	18:10

 Days of Run : 04071 Ex. New Delhi on 20.10.2023 and 04072 Ex. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra on 22.10.2023.
 Accommodation : 1st AC, AC 2 Tier & AC 3 Tier.
 Stoppages : Sonapat, Panipat, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Ambala Cantt., Ludhiana, Jalandhar Cantt., Pathankot Cantt., Jammu Tawi & Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan stations.
 RailMadad Helpline No. **139**
 Visit RailMadad website: www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in
 Download RailMadad App
 Follow us on :- **NORTHERN RAILWAY**
 Your Convenience - Our Concern
 Visit us at : www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in
 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking
 (OF THE BRIHANMUMBAI MAHANAGARPALIKA)
TENDER NOTICE
 E-tender is Re-invited for the supply of following item.
 (1) 77435
 Note : For more details, log on to website: https://mahatenders.gov.in
 PRO/AAM(M)/95/2023 GENERAL MANAGER

CENTRAL POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE
 P.B. No.8066, Sadashivnagar PO, Bengaluru - 560 080
 Telephone No: 080-2207 2271, e-mail: purchase@cpri.in
 web site: http://www.cpri.res.in
 NOTICE INVITING GLOBAL TENDER - CPRI/BLR23NIT 05 Date: 19/10/2023
 Online e-tenders are invited from eligible manufacturers/suppliers for the following information to National / International standards wherever applicable:-
 1) 1200 kV, 12 A series Resonant Test System with Partial Discharge/Radio Interference Voltage measuring System
 Tender documents with detailed specifications, terms & conditions, instructions, and other details be kindly availed/downloaded from CPRI website: http://www.cpri.res.in and CPRI e-procurement portal: www.tenderwizard.com/CPRI from 19/10/2023 onwards.
 CPRI/ADVT/13/2023 Purchase Authority-CPRI
 CBC-34104/12/0015/2324

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice
 Following e-tenders are invited by XEN/WS/All/NWR-Ajmer at 15:00 Hrs. on the mentioned date. **Tender no. 03-Workshop-All -2023-24**. Name of work: CSD/All- Developing steel yard with proper raking to keep angles and other steel structures, sheets etc with required cover shed boundary wall, hard flooring etc low height boundary wall with fencing at appropriate height, locking arrangement of approx. size 100x25 mtr. Approximate cost: Rs. 8861378.19; Earnest money/Bid Security: Rs. 177200.00/-; Tender closing date: 24.11.2023 at 15:00 Hrs. The detailed information of the above Tender is available on website www.ireps.gov.in and at the notice board of this office. 1108-AN/23
 Please join us on @NWRRailways

"IMPORTANT"
 Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

DAY TODAY BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
 Your mood will change during the day. A feeling of heaviness should lift, allowing you to feel much happier about the future. Get travel plans underway, deal with far-flung places and look to the distant future. Plus, if you can settle a legal hassle now, please do so.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
 Your planets provide you with an abundance of cheek, humour and brazen self-confidence. You could do with a little of this valuable quality right now, especially if you are to brush aside recent embarrassments. Deal with financial pressures today, rather than tomorrow.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
 Your financial interests could become more important as the day progresses. However, it may just be a case of getting to grips with relatively ordinary, if highly necessary, items of domestic expenditure. In love, you're still driven by your fantasies. But are they realistic? Only you can say.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
 Siblings, or close friends who you treat as family, seem destined to play a vital role in your life for some time yet, perhaps for another few years. However, anyone who has exerted a restraining influence will soon be going their own way.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
 If you decide to strengthen certain emotional contacts, then you will simply have to say goodbye to a number of other close ties. The point is that it may be time to concentrate your energies on those associations that are truly and deeply meaningful.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)
 Recent lunar aspects have proved enervating. Today, the Moon reinforces its presence in your chart, acting as a celestial tonic and boosting your prospects of health, happiness and domestic contentment. I should think this benevolent alignment will continue over the next couple of days.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
 Recent family tiffs may have involved professional obligations - not yours, perhaps, but a partner's. Hopefully, discussions can, in future, take place in an atmosphere of mutual respect. Be sure to appreciate your civilised and pleasurable lunar influences.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
 Stay alive to the opportunities presented by Venus, planet of love and harmony. You see, a mutual friend may soon offer you the means to restore your links with people with whom an unfortunate rift seems to have arisen. And that could also benefit family relationships.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
 You've said 'yes' too often in the past, but the moment seems to have arrived when you must say 'no'. It is surprising how easy other people have found it to push you around, but now that the planetary configurations are shifting, you must stick to your guns.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
 Putting your own interests first may seem alien to your wonderfully selfless Aquarian nature, yet in the wake of the last set of powerful Lunar alignments you really must insist that you have your fair share of the goodies. You may also be ready to shoulder at least some of the burden being borne by a partner.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
 Travel plans and contacts with people from abroad are being highlighted. You may not be actually embarking on a journey just yet, but news received over the next couple of days may take a little time to digest. Feelings could run high, but family pressures take first place.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
 Venus and Jupiter are now lined up in a perfectly romantic relationship. Pisceans young and old should all exploit the current phase to wallow in love, affection and sheer sentimentality. Plus, you have a chance to up your income, so use it.

CONVOCATION—SHARDA UNIVERSITY
 The 7th Convocation Ceremony was being organized at Sharda University Greater Noida Campus. During the Convocation 3099 students were awarded with degrees. Out of which 2264 UG, 798 PG & 37 PhD degrees were awarded. The program was attended by Minister Yogendra Upadhyay, Minister of Higher Education of Uttar Pradesh.

CEREMONY - SGT UNIVERSITY
 Synergy-2023, the grand three-day techno-fest organized by SGT Univ., Gurugram, concluded with its valedictory ceremony. The event was graced by the esteemed R.Juneja, VC & MD of Mankind Pharma Ltd., as the chief guest, & Dr. Sudarshan Jain, Secy. Gen. of the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance, as the guest of honor. In attendance were the Managing Trustee MS Chawla, Chairperson; Smt. MK Chawla, Chancellor.

CONVOCATION—IMS GHAZIABAD
 IMS Ghaziabad organized its grand 32nd Annual Convocation 2023 for PGDM Batch 2021-23 recently at the campus. Distinguished Chief Guest, Prof. TG Sitharam, Chairman, AICTE; Naresh Agarwal, Chairman, IMS Group of Institutions. The dignitaries congratulated the exuberant students and wished them a bright and successful career ahead. And praised the commitment of IMS for quality management education.

MoU—JAMIA HAMDARD
 Jamia Hamdard signed an MoU with the African-Asian Rural Development Organization recently in presence of Prof. (Dr.) M. Afshar Alam, VC, Jamia Hamdard & Dr. Manoj Nardeo Singh, Secy. General African-Asian Rural Development Organization, New Delhi. The objective of the MoU is to conduct joint development and research program, capacity building, knowledge transfer, rural development and upliftment measures for the marginalized society.

CONFERENCE—AMITY BUSINESS SCHOOL
 Amity Business School, Amity University Noida campus organized its 6th Annual Technology Conference "INFINITY 2023" on the theme "Digital Transformation for Futuristic Businesses: Emerging Technologies Leading Growth and Sustainability" recently. The Conference was inaugurated by Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Union MoS for Electronics and IT, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. During the Inaugural Session, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, interacted with the students.

CORPORATE BRIEFS

AWARD—GGSIU
 Three professors from Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University Delhi have been awarded the 2023 Teachers Excellence Award. Prof A K Saini, Prof Varun Joshi, & Dr Durgesh Tripathi were recognized for their outstanding contributions to education. The award ceremony was organized by Delhi Commission for OBC, Govt of NCT of Delhi, & took place in the seminar hall of Delhi Secretariat, ITO New Delhi.

INAUGURATION—SHARDA UNIVERSITY
 To address & advocate for the holistic well-being of students & recognizing the critical importance of mental health of students and staff, Sharda School of Humanities & Social Sciences inaugurates Abhivyakti-A Wellness Clinic at Campus. The clinic was inaugurated by Dr Jayanthi Ranjan, Dean Academic Affairs & Dr. AK Gadpayle, Medical Superintendent.

INAUGURATION—GGSIPU
 There is great depth and range in his play back singing, said VC of IP University Padma R. Mahesh Verma. He was speaking at the inaugural function of 21th Kishore Kumar Memorial Awards organised by Kishore Kumar Memorial Club at Pyarelal Lal Bhavan recently. According to founder of the club Kamal Dhiman, these Awards were given to around two dozens imminent persons from different walks of life.

EVENT—INVERTIS UNIVERSITY
 There was an opportunity to talk to the students with Aman Gupta, co-founder of the boat company. He had reached Bareilly to share his experiences with the students at Inverness University. University Chancellor and Mayor Bareilly Dr. Umesh Gautam welcomed the chief guest Aman Gupta with a bouquet of flowers. The Chancellor inspired all the students to learn from Aman Gupta.

SALUTE THE SOLDIER
 5040207X NK RAN BHADUR PUN, SM 20 OCT
 On this day 5040207X Nk Ran Bahadur Pun, SM of 5/1 Gorkha Rifles made the supreme sacrifice during 'OP PAWAN', Sri Lanka in Oct 1987 in a true act of valour and courage. The brave soldier will always be remembered for his enthusiasm. To this brave heart we pledge that we shall always be guided by his immortal spirit and make his name proud.
CO AND ALL RANKS, 5/1 GORKHA RIFLES

NOIDA New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
 Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida - 201301 (U.P.)
 Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

TENDER FOR SALE OF VEHICLE
 Sealed tenders are invited on behalf of Chief Executive Officer, Noida for sale of following Vehicle "as where is basis" on date 03.11.2023 between 11:00 am to 3:00 pm & same will be opened on 3:30pm in the office of the Sr. Manager (E/M) I. The vehicle may be inspected during the office hours.

S. No.	Registration No.	Type of vehicle	Model	Earnest Money
1	UP-16AT-6074	Tractor	2011	10000.00
2	UP-16AT-6075	Tractor	2011	10000.00
3	UP-16AT-6076	Tractor	2011	10000.00
4	UP-16AT-6077	Tractor	2011	10000.00
5	UP-16AT-6078	Tractor	2011	10000.00
6	UP-16AT-6079	Tractor	2011	10000.00
7	UP-16AT-6080	Tractor	2011	10000.00
8	UP-16AT-6081	Tractor	2011	10000.00
9	UP-16AT-6082	Tractor	2011	10000.00
10	UP-16AT-6083	Tractor	2011	10000.00
11	UP-16AT-6084	Tractor	2011	10000.00
12	UP-16AT-6085	Tractor	2011	10000.00
13	UP-16AT-6086	Tractor	2011	10000.00
14	UP-16AT-6089	Tractor	2011	10000.00
15	UP-16AT-6090	Tractor	2011	10000.00
16	UP-16AT-6091	Tractor	2011	10000.00
17	UP-16AT-6092	Tractor	2011	10000.00
18	UP-16AT-6093	Tractor	2011	10000.00
19	UP-16AT-6094	Tractor	2011	10000.00
20	UP16T-3112	Tiper(Eicher)	2009	10000.00
21	UP16T-3114	Tiper(Eicher)	2009	10000.00
22	UP16T-3115	Tiper(Eicher)	2009	10000.00
23	UP16T-3117	Tiper(Eicher)	2009	10000.00
24	UP16T-3179	Tiper(Eicher)	2009	10000.00
25	UP16T-3180	Tiper(Eicher)	2009	10000.00
26	UP16T-3181	Tiper(Eicher)	2009	10000.00
27	UP16T-3182	Tiper(Eicher)	2009	10000.00

- Terms & Conditions :**
- Enclosed the D.D./FDR of value as shown against the vehicle of any scheduled bank in favour of NOIDA.
 - The earnest money will be forfeited in favour of NOIDA if tenderer makes any changes or refuses after receiving of tender. The earnest money will be also forfeited in favour of NOIDA if success for tenderer fails to take over the vehicle within 10 days after acceptance letter.
 - Conditional tenders will not be entertained.
 - The right for acceptance/rejection of any tender is reserved to accepting authority without assigning any reason.
 - The GST/other taxes which are applicable has to be paid extra.
 - The responsibility will be of the tenderer for transfer of Vehicle in his name.
 - The Tenders are valid for three months.
 - According to the order date 20.07.2016 of their Honourable National Green Tribunal, the running of diesel powered 10 years old Machines/Vehicles is prohibited in the districts of NCR region.

Office Sector-39 DGM (E/M) NOIDA
CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA



TODAY'S MATCH

Australia vs Pakistan, 2pm
Live on Star Sports network

Hardik injures foot, fitness being 'assessed'



Hardik Pandya in pain after he slipped while trying to stop a four.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
OCTOBER 19

HARDIK PANDYA who was injured during the match against Bangladesh, has been taken for scans, the BCCI said on Thursday. The medium pace all rounder had limped off after putting his right foot to stop a drive from Bangladesh's Liton Das and the team management will be hoping that the injury isn't serious. In a medical update, the BCCI said: "Hardik Pandya's injury is being assessed at the moment and he is being taken for scans".

A vital cog in the wheel, Pandya's skill set at the highest level - effective with difficult to pick up bouncers, the surprise heavy ball and ability to clear the ropes - makes him vital to the playing XI's balance.

Hardik lost his balance while trying to stop what was a four off his own bowling and then lost his balance and dragged his right boot while landing on the pitch. He got up and looked in discomfort while bending over. Soon the physio was out in the middle and two senior players Virat Kohli and captain Rohit Sharma were by his side. Play was stopped for nearly five minutes as the physio strapped his ankle. Hardik was back and tried to run but started to hobble. It was clear he would have to go off after bowling just three deliveries, two of which went for fours.

The Pune crowd began cheering when Kohli was tasked with bowling the incomplete Hardik over - three balls. Kohli conceded just row singles. To add to India's woes, Shardul Thakur's next over, the 10th of the innings, went for 16 runs. Thakur is India's next best pace bowling allrounder after Hardik but is not in the same class as Pandya.

Pandya had suffered a back injury post the 2019 World Cup and even after making a comeback he initially didn't bowl and then was only relied on to bowl short spells. During this year's IPL Hardik kept a check on the number of overs he bowled - 25 in 16 games - but spoke about increasing his bowling workload. "I am a turtle right now and not the rabbit. Hoping everything goes right as the World Cup comes," Hardik had said.

I have had a few fifties in World Cups, haven't really converted. I just wanted to finish off the game this time around and hang around till the end, which is what I have done over the years. — VIRAT KOHLI

Chase master closes in on the Master



Virat Kohli exults after reaching his century with a six off spinner Nasum Ahmed. Pavan Khengre

Kohli scores his 48th ODI ton to move within touching distance of Tendulkar's record 49 as India outclass B'desh in seven-wicket win

SRIRAM VEERA
PUNE, OCTOBER 19

GOING BY his reaction on reaching his ton, it was evident that the unbeaten hundred meant a lot to Virat Kohli. On 97, with India needing three for win, he refused a single after driving to long-on. His partner KL Rahul, who had narrowly missed a hundred against Australia, was more than happy to stay put at his end before Kohli whacked the next ball from the spinner Nasum Ahmed over wide midwicket to bring up his landmark.

With a smiling Mushfiqur Rahim watching intently at him from behind the stumps, he raised his bat as he took a few steps down pitch before the emotions suddenly flooded him: he turned, bowed his head, let out a huge roar.

"Sorry for stealing it (Player of the Match award) from Jaddu, I wanted to make a big contribution," he would say later. "I have had a few fifties in World Cups, haven't really converted (he has two World Cup hundreds before this match one each against Pakistan and Bangladesh). I just wanted to finish off the game this time around and hang around till the end which is what I have done over the years."

Now that staying till the end is returning, as he wished, the signature Kohli shot - the brutal bottom-hand powered swat-flick with which he drags even outside-off deliveries from pacers to legside boundary, that has gone missing for some time, too can perhaps be expected to make a comeback. Going by his form and rhythm in his 103 from 97 balls, the reappearance of one of the memorable strokes of modern-day cricket can't be that far away.

However, these days Kohli has had other pressing matters. His focus has been on another shot. Kohli had got out twice to pull shots in the World Cup.

A few minutes before the toss, he was at the batting net - in Pune, it's all out in the main ground in full public view, practising his pull. With a support-staff member throwing him throat-high balls, he whacked the pulls into the net on the leg side. It wasn't mimicking the actual short balls; they weren't bounced but tossed straight and it was more about getting his bat-swing right for the shot.

Even when he waited in the dug-out for his turn, the pundits on television were talking about Kohli and the pull shot. He muttered under his breath and flashed a knowing smile as the split-screen images of pull shots from him and Rohit Sharma were displayed on the big screen. He knew the television game being played. After twice cutting to him, when the cameras returned to him, he put his helmeted head down and stayed in the pose for a while.

When he went to bat, ironically after Rohit had pulled straight to deep square-leg, he copped a few short ones.

It led to one iffy moment when he tried to fetch a Mustafizur Rehman bouncer from outside off, and miscued it tately but safely to the untenanted short mid-on region. He didn't have any issues with the other short balls - often swaying away, and once crunching to the midwicket boundary.

As always, he played the situation perfectly. In the absence of Hardik Pandya, he

SCORECARD

INDIA vs BANGLADESH	
MCA STADIUM, PUNE	
Toss: Bangladesh, chose to bat	
BANGLADESH	
T Hasan lbw b Kuldeep	51 (43b, 5x4, 3x6)
L Das c Gill b Jadeja	66 (82b, 7x4)
NH Shanto (c) lbw b Jadeja	8 (17b)
MH Miraz c †Rahul b Siraj	3 (13b)
T Hriday c Gill b Thakur	16 (35b)
M Rahim † c Jadeja b Bumrah	38 (46b, 1x4, 1x6)
Mahmudullah b Bumrah	46 (36b, 3x4, 3x6)
N Ahmed c †Rahul b Siraj	14 (18b, 2x4)
M Rahman not out	1 (7b)
S Islam not out	7 (3b, 1x6)
■ Extras: (lb 1, w 5)	6
■ Total (50 overs)	256/8
■ FoW: 1-93 (Tanzid Hasan, 14.4 ov), 2-110 (Najmul Hossain Shanto, 19.6 ov), 3-129 (Mehidy Hasan Miraz, 24.1 ov), 4-137 (Litton Das, 27.4 ov), 5-179 (Towhid Hriday, 37.2 ov), 6-201 (Mushfiqur Rahim, 42.3 ov), 7-233 (Nasum Ahmed, 46.5 ov), 8-248 (Mahmudullah, 49.2 ov)	
■ Bowling: Jasprit Bumrah 10-1-41-2, Mohammed Siraj 10-0-60-2, Hardik Pandya 0.3-0-8-0, Virat Kohli 0.3-0-2-0, Shardul Thakur 9-0-59-1, Kuldeep Yadav 10-0-47-1, Ravindra Jadeja 10-0-38-2	
INDIA	
R Sharma (c) c Hriday b Mahmud	48 (40b, 7x4, 2x6)
SGill c Mahmudullah b MH Miraz	53 (55b, 5x4, 2x6)
V Kohli not out	103 (97b, 6x4, 4x6)
S Iyer c Mahmudullah b MH Miraz	19 (25b, 2x4)
KL Rahul † not out	34 (34b, 3x4, 1x6)
■ Extras: (nb 2 w 2)	4
■ Total (41.3 overs)	261/3
■ FoW: 1-88 (Rohit Sharma, 12.4 ov), 2-132 (Shubman Gill, 19.2 ov), 3-178 (Shreyas Iyer, 29.1 ov)	
■ Bowling: Shoriful Islam 8-0-54-0, Mustafizur Rahman 5-0-29-0, Nasum Ahmed 9.3-0-60-0, Hasan Mahmud 8-0-65-1, Mehidy Hasan Miraz 10-0-47-2, Mahmudullah 1-0-6-0	

Kohli had got off to an unusually frenetic start courtesy couple of free-hit freebies from Hasan that he duly looted 10 runs from.

knew there was no use playing to the gallery, and instead focused on sewing up the chase without much flutter. Especially after the openers and Shreyas Iyer fell, going for maximums.

Kohli had gotten off to an unusually frenetic start courtesy couple of free-hit freebies from Hasan that he duly looted 10 runs. From then on, it was like watching a re-run of Kohli knock - the pulsating running, the ping-pong of the gaps, the working of the angles, and the smarts to know which bowler to target and when.

Couple of chances came his way in this innings to unfurl the swat flick - a full toss that he couldn't quite snap his wrists as violently as before. There was a whipped six, though off a slower one off Hasan Mahmud, who had bounced out Rohit.

Mutant form of flick

The bottom hand kicked in and the mutant form of the flick sent the white ball flying over wide long-on; but the swat-flick fans won't count it as they were used to seeing the shot against the pacy deliveries far too often in the past. But perhaps it's all par for the course for Kohli at this stage in his career - fewer risks, unless the situation demands an adrenalin-infused shots of doom. It is bad news for the bowlers, Kohli has turned back the clock, finishing games, and the brutal swat flick too seems round the corner. Then the Kohli re-run will be really on.

'Didn't have to take singles, Kohli did the scoring'

Pune: Indian batsman KL Rahul has praised his team mate Virat Kohli after the ace batsman struck his first hundred in the ongoing World Cup against Bangladesh in Pune. Kohli has been in sublime touch along with top Indian batting line-up as India registered a fourth consecutive win this World Cup.

"On Virat the less you say better about him. He has been notching the numbers for years now that's what he did it today, he got the opportunity and he finished the game for us. Getting a hundred is always very special, really happy for him. Rohit has got hundred now, Virat has got a hundred, so hopefully as the World Cup goes ahead, few of us get hundred and keep winning matches," Rahul said after India seven wicket win on Thursday.

India chased a successful total of 256 and in the end, Rahul intentionally ensured not to take singles as Kohli needed 15 runs to complete his landmark score. He faced only few balls in later stage of the game and he revealed, "Ya, I only got couple of balls in the end so that I didn't have to take singles in the end. And he had to do most of the scoring."

Rahul had a successful day behind the stumps too. He took a stunner left-handed catch to depart Mehdi Miraz as India bounced back in the middle session of the game.

"Good day in the field overall, I did my job, everyone else did their job, good day for us as a fielding unit. Some really good catches, some really good fielding as well. Big tick mark on that aspect of the game," he added.

The Indian team has a specialist wicket-keeper in form of Ishan Kishen, however, the team has continued to back and bank on Rahul for the role behind the stumps. He has fixed his position at number five and India looks stable at the moment.

Rahul explained that he has worked in his fitness and he is happy that he is able to do the job in past four games. India has batted second in all their league games, however, its their bowling unit which has brought back India in dominating position during middle session of days play. Before the World Cup game, the team management has emphasised on cashing on middle-overs as game tend to get slow post 30-40 overs.

"For middle-orders the challenge is to hit boundaries in the middle of the overs. There are more fielders compare to the powerplay. There is less gap as well. In powerplay there is chance of more boundaries and singles are much harder in first ten overs. After that we can rotate the strike and its part of the game we have worked as well. We have worked on that before the World Cup and we have kept on mind and have trained ourselves," he points out.

Rahul and Jasprit Bumrah have made a strong comeback after their respective injuries. They both underwent surgery and took months to recover. Rahul said he is happy to see Bumrah getting stronger.

"We are lucky to have him in our team and we are lucky that we don't have to break our bat with his yorkers. To face him its very difficult in the end, its difficult to face him, we have faced him during the IPL as well. He is a top quality bowler, really happy that his back is fit, we spend lot of time in NCA together in recovering and getting stronger," he recalled.

DEVENDRA PANDEY

KOHLI'S CALCULATED CENTURY

After 38 overs, Kohli was on 73 and KL Rahul on 33. The next 22 balls saw Rahul face just 1 ball as Kohli raced to his 48th ODI century. Rahul remained unbeaten on 34.

39th OVER 1 1 0 0 6 1
● 2nd ball: Rahul pushes ball to cover, Kohli back on strike

40th OVER 4 0 0 6 0 1
● 3rd ball: Kohli refuses single, first sign that he wants a 100

41st OVER 0 wd 2 0 2 0 1
● 2nd ball: Kohli on 92, India needs 8 runs to win. It's a wide.

42nd OVER 0 0 6
● 3rd ball: Kohli's six, India win. All's well that ends well.

ALL-WEATHER ATTACK

Flat pitch, no Pandya, no sweat... India's bowlers still call the shots

SRIRAM VEERA
PUNE, OCTOBER 19

THE FLAT pitch at Pune offered India's greatest test yet this World Cup. The difficulties increased when they lost Hardik Pandya in the ninth over, twisting his ankle trying to stop a ball off his own bowling, and escalated further as Shardul Thakur bled runs at the start of his spell. Bangladesh were cruising at 110 for 1 in 19-odd overs, and India's bowling unit were in the hot seat. Remarkably, they restricted Bangladesh to just 256 when at one stage 320 seemed on cards.

There is no doubt that India have the bowling that can sparkle in conditions helpful for seam and spin. One question mark that remained was how they would do on flat tracks; especially the bowlers barring pacer Jasprit Bumrah and left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav.

The pair's natural skill and variation can help them perform even in such conditions but what about others? With Bangladesh

starting well, the question that is going to always hover until the end of India's World Cup popped up: Why Shardul? Why not R Ashwin or Mohammad Shami? How are they now going to cope in the absence of Pandya?

Enter Ravindra Jadeja, India's best bowler on flat tracks for a while now in Tests. With his ability to get the ball to skid on even on these pancakes, Jadeja always puts up a fight. It's when used in the end overs on such pitches, as he is tried at times in T20, does he really bleed runs as he starts to fire them on a length and in the batsmen's slot. But in this format, he used his skill, experience, and natural talent to outwit Bangladesh batsmen in the middle overs.

Now to that moment in the 20th over. For a brief while before that, Nazmul Hossain Shanto had already shown an alarming tendency to bat away from his body and pitching himself as an lbw candidate. Usually on the front foot, as he would take a tiny step forward and then stretch his upper body inextricably to wrist the ball - the bat would come across from an angle with a fairly big

bat and pad gap. Kuldeep had tried but couldn't squeeze one through to hit the pad.

There were a couple of balls that rolled off the inner half of the bat before Jadeja fired in a skidder. Perhaps due to the pace and the skid, Shanto hurried back but couldn't get any wood behind the leather. And was trapped lbw.

Jadeja was generally bowling on a length or full to the other well-set player Litton Das but a couple of beefy hits in the 24th over would make him change.

Das first walloped a full ball just over Jadeja, who despite the violence in the shot tried to catch. Next ball, a tad slower, was another boundary as Das unfurled the sweep shot to perfection. Jadeja's course correction began; by and large, he began to get the ball to skid from a back of length. Couple of times, Das was beaten and began mistiming on the cut.

Impatient Das

In the 28th over, did Jadeja sense that the impatient Das was about to rush down the



Ravindra Jadeja took two wickets in the middle overs. AP

track at him? For he squeezed out the ball between his thumb and fore-finger, and the ball cut a rather limp trajectory, enough to induce Das to totally mistime his big shot and hole out to long-off.

This is Jadeja's blessing and curse. With any other spinner with such an impressive record as he has in Tests, there won't be any doubt in highlighting the dismissal as a cerebral work from the bowler.

But with him, abetted by himself to an extent as he constantly downplays his arts into binaries of hitting the length and line, and by the watchers' inability to spot special artistry, his art goes unscrutinised as well as it should.

It's a blessing as he always seems to bowl without the pressure of expectation hovering. It's a curse as it isn't appreciated as much. Whatever be the case, the squeezed out ball was enough to push Bangladesh into a tail-spin.

It wasn't just Jadeja of course as one by one, the others too chimed in. Unsurprisingly, Kuldeep's wristy tricks had tied down the batsmen, and he was the first one to strike,

removing a promising knock from the left-handed opener Tanzid Hasan (51). It was the leg break that just about straightened to beat the sweep shot and ping the pad in front of the middle stump.

Siraj too went for his go-to scrambled-seam ball and it worked on this surface. Mehidy Hasan Miraz's dismissal would be credited to the spectacular leg-side catch from KL Rahul but that ball, even though its radar wasn't right, did surprise Miraz by the amount it bounced that forced an awkward jab. Bumrah would return in the end to pick up two wickets with his mix of slower cutters and yorkers.

Even Shardul, who leaked 16 runs in his first over as Tanzid sliced, whacked, and rushed out at him to wallop two sixes and a four, kept things tidy thereafter to end with figures of 59 for 1 from his 9 overs. But it's unlikely that it will stop the critics. But that's a story for another day.

The takeaway from this match is how well on a flat pitch, India soaked up the absence of Hardik Pandya to bowl out the opposition for a below-par total.

SHORT TAKES

Stokes ready to return and rejuvenate England's title defence

Mumbai: Ben Stokes sat cross-legged near the boundary line, completing his media duties and talking up his fitness. For the next two hours, the England talisman walked the talk.

He playfully wrestled with a couple of teammates, sprinted across the outfield with extra purpose, returned to the dressing room for a quick thigh rub and a snack, and returned padded up, launching lusty blows in all directions.

The 32-year-old did everything but bowl. But as he trudged back to the pavilion, Stokes left no doubt that he was ready to make his first appearance in this World Cup when England take on South Africa at the Wankhede Stadium on Saturday.

Forced out by a hip injury, Stokes has spent the last fortnight on the sidelines watching helplessly as England succumbed to defeats in two of the three matches they've played so far.

The losses – against New Zealand and Afghanistan, one of the upsets of the tournament – have threatened England's title defence and they now have very little margin for error in their remaining six games.

If England lose to South Africa, who'd be hurting as well following an embarrassing defeat to the Netherlands, they will have to win all their remaining games to remain in contention for the semifinals.

England have enjoyed a couple of days off, with the players' families joining them in Mumbai. They got down to business on Thursday, training for more than two hours under lights.

But the extent to which England are relying on Stokes, central to them winning the 2019 World Cup, to bring their faltering campaign back on track can be gauged from the fact that ever since they arrived in Mumbai, all the chatter has been about his availability.

Stokes, who came out of retirement just before the World Cup, has so far lent only off-field support to his teammates, carrying drinks and indulging in pep talks. England coach Matthew Mott said Stokes spoke to the squad after the shock loss to Afghanistan in Delhi, underlining the message that the team needs to 'move on'.

—MIHIR VASAVDA

STANDINGS

	M	W	L	T	Pts	NRR
NZ	4	4	0	0	8	+1.923
Ind	4	4	0	0	8	+1.659
SA	3	2	1	0	4	+1.385
Pak	3	2	1	0	4	-0.1377
Eng	3	1	2	0	2	-0.084
Aus	3	1	2	0	2	-0.734
Ban	4	1	3	0	2	-0.784
Ned	3	1	2	0	2	-0.993
Afg	4	1	3	0	2	-1.250
SL	3	0	3	0	0	-1.532

EMOTIONAL ROLLERCOASTER

Rohit's pull, Jadeja's medal and a boundary dance

Jadeja and the medal celebration

AFTER TAKING a superb diving catch at point (or just another day in the office for him), Ravindra Jadeja stood up and celebrated by gesturing a medal around his neck. The story there is that the Indian players have been handed out medals in the dressing room for the best fielding effort after each match by coach T Dilip in a fun post-match ceremony. With KL Rahul (who got the award after the last match and is the incumbent) putting his name in the hat with a diving take, it was Jadeja's way to let his coach know to keep him in consideration.

"I think that celebration was for our fielding coach because after every game we get the best fielder award from him so I was just telling him that I am also here so please look at me whenever we finish the game," he said during the mid-innings break.



A dance near the boundary



Mahmudullah has the feet of a cat, stealthy and sneaky. He backpedaled to consume Shubman Gill's partially mistimed shot at midwicket, dangerously close to the boundary. Upon completion, he shifted to his left side gracefully and effortlessly so that the impetus would not take him

over the ropes. He maintained his balance, ensuring that he did not trespass into the space beyond the boundary. The beauty of the catch was that he did not make it look like it was spectacular. As the ball kept dipping, it seemed that his follow through might take him past the boundary. There was none in sight for a relay catch either. But Mahmudullah had utter control over his limbs, and not for once he looked nervous. Cool and composed, Mahmudullah with the feet of a cat, stealthy and sneaky.



India skipper Rohit Sharma has always backed himself to hit a pull shot. AP

Rohit Sharma and the pull shot: a love story

ROHIT'S LOVE for the pull shots is no secret and he is perhaps one of the best exponents in the modern game. But every now and then, he does tend to get out playing it as well.

Today, we saw it in quick succession. A full-blooded pull went for a six but when he tried to roll his wrists a little bit, it went to the fielder.

But he has always backed himself with that shot.

He had said after one such frustrating dismissal in a 2021 Test match in England.

"I mean yes you feel disappointed, but you know there is very thin line between getting out like that and that same delivery or same ball, if the catch

was slightly away or five yards left and right of the fielder, it could have been either way as well. You got to think positive and that's what my mindset was."

He had a wry smile as he walked away but make no mistake, the next time he sees the ball there to be pulled, he will go for it once again.

Bumrah's perfect yorker

ANY YORKER that achieves its primary objective of beating a batter and hitting the stumps is a good one. But within that spectrum, what Jasprit Bumrah did in Pune was close to perfection. To a well-set Mahmudullah, Bumrah nailed what could only be described as cricket's version of the X-ring arrow in archery. In the last over of the Bangladesh innings, Bumrah hit the very base of the middle stump for a sight that you could watch on loop. Of course, followed by his casual shrug-and-smile celebration.



Virat unleashes throwback pull

FIFTH BALL of the 27th over, Virat Kohli unleashed a pull that whipped up memories of his double hundred against South Africa in the same ground. The ball was a rank long-hop, and at Hasan Mahmud's pace a pure gift, Kohli did not even bother shifting to his back-foot, stood where he was after the front-foot press and hammered the ball in front of the square. In the Test, South Africa's pacers too had tried to rattle him with short balls, after Kohli had repelled all their other measures. Anrich Nortje hustled him a few times, but later on Kohli would pull anything that was marginally short.

Ma-Mu back to rescuing, rebuilding

EVEN AS Bangladesh's top batting order has been critiqued for not getting starts or capitalising on them, two

seasoned players who have not been raked over the coals are Mushfiqur Rahim, dubbed 'Mr Dependable' and Mahmudullah 'Silent Killer', who incidentally arrived in Pune after top-scoring with rearguard scores of 66 and 41 respectively against NZ, so are in the good books of quillers. The affection from superfans and the press for the consistent Mushfiqur has stood the super-whimsical test of time, now into his 5th World Cup. He's been consistent here as well, silently keeping the score ticking with 32 off 37. When Mahmudullah, brought out from cold, tonked a few into the stands on match-even where the pack of 70 odd were sitting and dodging his lobs, they would warn the Indians around with, "He hits those often." The two experienced batters might need to steer Bangladesh once more.



Tamim Junior graduates

Thakur that Tanzid really freed his arms, welcoming him in the 10th over with a calm defense off the first delivery. There was no indication of the violence to follow,

but when Thakur went a tad shorter next ball, Tanzid pounced on it with his wrists clicking into shape for a heaved pick-up over square leg for a 6 as the Bangladesh opening partnership reached 50. He would next step out of the crease and go

elevated over mid-on for a 4 next ball, and he wasn't done yet. Very next ball with Thakur slumping in pace and bowling fuller, Tanzid timed stunningly smacking it



IT WAS graduation day for Bangladesh opener Tanzid Hasan Tamim. Part of the 2019-20 under-19 World Cup winning team, Tanzid came up with a brief but fearless assault on India pacer Shardul Thakur. His 51 gave Bangladesh a fine start on a batting beauty. More than anything, it was his audacious intent starting with a hooked 6 to fine leg, by funneling all of Bumrah's pace into his swish on the final delivery of the 7th over. Bumrah had only given 7 runs off his 3 overs, but Tanzid issued the first threat of going after the bowlers. But it was against the military medium

Santner's reliability, economy is key component of potent Kiwi attack

Pak, Aus ready for big-stakes encounter

VENKATA KRISHNA B CHENNAI, OCTOBER 19

OVER THE past week, at the New Zealand nets, it has been a near-impossible task for the support staff to take the ball from Mitchell Santner's hands. Even when the Black Caps were busy in a game of football as part of their warm-up drills, Santner never missed a moment to get into his bowling action. Every now and then, he would head to the square, take a close look at the pitch, before heading to the practice nets, where he has invariably been the first one to have a bowl.

The Chepauk was a familiar place for Santner. He has been a part of the Chennai Super Kings set-up since 2018, but due to Ravindra Jadeja's presence, the 31-year-old has featured in only three matches at the MA Chidambaram Stadium. Even over all, he has played only 15 matches for the five-time champions, spending most of his time at the IPL warming the bench.

Having grown up playing cricket in Hamilton, Santner isn't new to warming benches. In conditions where playing even one spinner is considered a luxury, Santner knows what it takes to make every opportunity count.

"It was awesome to be back in Chennai and get some games here in front of loyal fans," Santner told The Indian Express. "Of course, I haven't played many games here, but still these are familiar conditions. One thing I have learnt from my time here is that in India, each pitch is different, and you have to adjust accordingly," said Santner, who on Wednesday became only the second spinner from New Zealand to take



Bred on unhelpful New Zealand pitches, Mitchell Santner relies on doing the basics right to climb to the top of wicket-taking charts. PTI

100 ODI wickets.

With an action in which the non-bowling arm tends to be stiff at the point of release because of a back injury he sustained as a teenager, Santner is a master when it comes to keeping it simple. It is the reason why he is leading the wicket-taking charts at this World Cup with 11 scalps, including a five-wicket haul. This unerring accuracy of Santner is what makes New Zealand's attack more rounded and balanced at the World Cup. With a potent pace battery around, it is Santner who is capable of providing the much-needed spark in spin-friendly conditions. In ODIs, only Mohammad Nabi, Shakib Al Hasan and Mehidy Hasan Miraz are more economical than

Santner, who gives away only 4.85 runs an over. Most of it again comes down to his ability to hit the same spot ball after ball, over after over, denying the batsmen any sort of room to work with. And it is an aspect that Santner believes will be of good use in these conditions.

"I guess it comes down to playing in New Zealand, where it's pretty flat and there's not a lot of spin, so you are kind of used to bowling the heavy lengths with the odd change of pace being the key. And that's how I learnt my craft and New Zealanders do try to mix up the pace, but keep it on the same length. So it's no different over here. Obviously, if there's a little bit more spin, you might have more of an attacking role. But nothing really changes," he said.

Kiwi banker

With only four fielders allowed outside the 30-yard circle during the second Powerplay making it all the more challenging for wrist-spinners, at this World Cup, finger spinners are providing teams the control which allows them to attack with fast bowlers at the other end. Santner, for instance, has been partnering with Lockie Ferguson in the middle overs, where he has to switch between holding up an end and going for wickets.

"When there is a little bit of spin, finger spinners can be quite accurate and put a bit of pressure on the batters through consistent lengths. And if there is a bit of spin, they can be quite challenging. So if there is a bit of spin, it makes our job a little bit easier. Just try and hit a good length and spin it. When it's flat, you have to change your pace, like we do back home," Santner said of his modus operandi in the subcontinent.

SANDIPG BENGALURU, OCTOBER 19

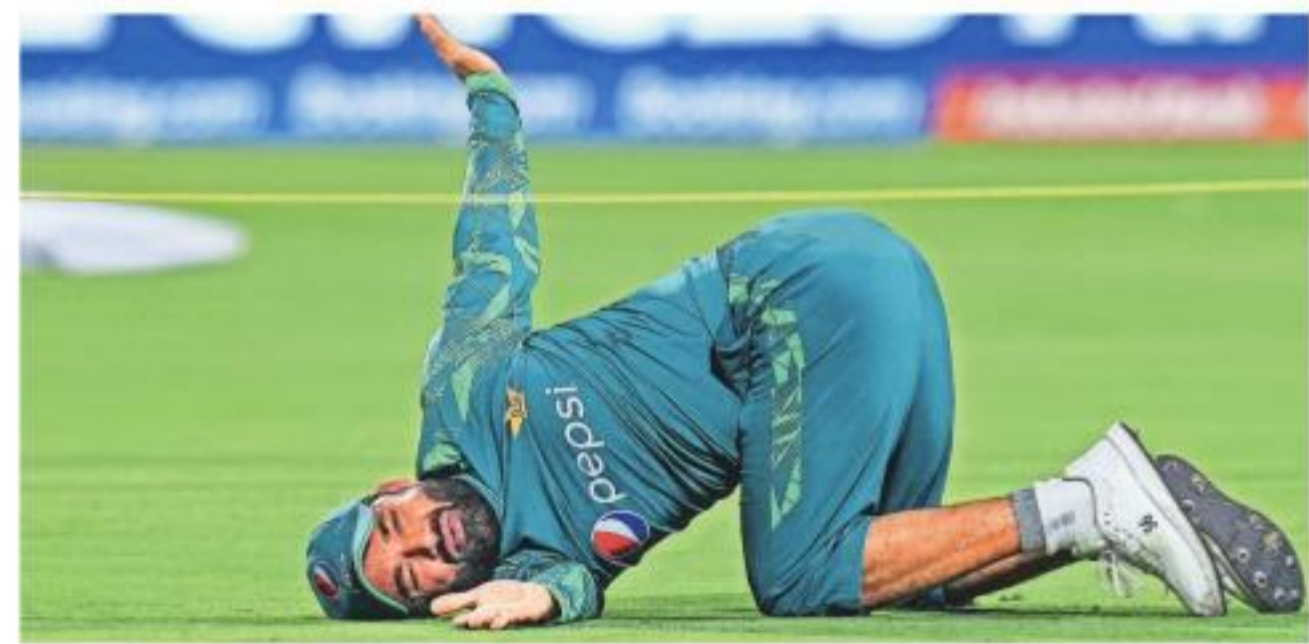
SOME MOMENTS not only take one back in time, but also recreate the exact emotions and passion of the Australia-Pakistan rivalry. Eight years and two World Cups later, Wahab Riaz's spell against Shane Watson reproduces the same cold dread, as though one is watching it for the first time.

There are others of course, Javed Miandad waving his bat at Dennis Lillee, the latter fronting up, puffing his chest, the unbuttoned shirt and headband giving him a rowdy menace. Or Shoaib Akhtar tearing off like an airplane after nailing Steve Waugh with a devilish in-swing in the 1999 World Cup league game.

As the two teams prepare for the latest installment of their rivalry on Friday, two outfits searching for their best form, a lot is at stake.

Whenever they meet, even if they have not been at their healthiest best this World Cup, even if Australia is quite un-Australia and Pakistan un-Pakistan, context and anticipation automatically falls in place. They have traversed the opposite routes this tournament – the only similar thread being their hands and hearts burnt by India. Australia have ended their two-match losing streak and logged in their first points. Pakistan's two-match winning run ended at the hands of India. One seeks momentum; the other wants to find lost impetus.

So, Pat Cummins admitted his team is "in search of perfection", in a sense still striving for their perfect outing so as to be called genuine contenders. Fast bowler Hasan Ali whipped up an apt and hilarious metaphor on their defeat. "Chalte chalte gaadi ruk gaya," he would say, adding, "lekin kaafi door chalna hain is



Pakistan's Mohammad Rizwan during a practice session on Thursday. PTI

gaadi ko," promising two points in each of their next six stops. Leaving the room in splits. Pakistan would seek to reclaim lost momentum and put the wounds of the India hammering behind them.

"A defeat to India could make or break careers, but this is not the end of the world. There are more games to be played," he said.

No time to relax

Though a long tournament offers the chance to regroup, Cummins is aware of the need to extend their winning run. "I think what we're seeing in this tournament is, it's 10 really strong sides. It's not sides that are just making up numbers. They've all qualified and they're all here because they've earned their spot. So, there's no easy games. Everything's pretty full on," he said.

Both Australia and Pakistan are flawed teams, imperfections running through them, fusing over the form of some of their talismans. Australia's finest batsman, Steve Smith,

has been quiet. He has not looked out of sorts, but not looked fluent either, his three innings providing only 65 runs. He vented out his rage in the nets, cutting balls from the stumps and chipping down the track and lofting the net bowlers flat over their heads. In all three games, none of Australia's batsmen have looked utterly authoritative. But it could all change if Smith rediscovers his best touch, and suddenly everything will fall in place.

Similarly, Pakistan have been fretting over the rhythm of Shaheen Shah Afridi. The left-arm rhyeraway has looked constrained, his pace reduced, lengths off-kilter. It has exacerbated the absence of Naseem Shah. Ali pointed out that "only one bowler has changed." What went unsaid is that he happened to be Pakistan's most influential bowler in this format.

But for all their imperfections, a Pakistan-Australia clash never fails to excite. To get into the mood, maybe one could rewatch the Riaz-Watson duel. Or maybe, another iconic moment is just around the corner of MG Road.