

HEZBOLLAH, ISRAEL TRADE FIRE AT
Lebanon border as Gazans flee south

IRAN FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS
 Hamas chief in Doha, hails attack

US SENDS 2ND CARRIER GROUP IN
 warning to Iranian proxies in region

War clouds on two fronts, Israelis abroad are rushing home to defend their nation

Volunteers, reservists respond to call for mobilisation, largest since 1973 war



EXPRESS IN ISRAEL

SHUBHAJIT ROY
TEL AVIV, OCTOBER 15

EIGHT DAYS ago, Ori Nachmani and his wife were on vacation in Japan when he heard that the Palestinian militant group Hamas had infiltrated Israel and carried out large-scale killings, targeting mostly unarmed civilians.

Shaken and restless, the sturdy 44-year-old said his first instinct was to return home and be a part of his country's response to the attacks.

"When I saw the images and heard about the news of the attacks, I just couldn't sleep. Although I was thousands of kilometres away, I wanted to be with my brothers, fighting

against Hamas," Nachmani told *The Indian Express*.

And the moment he got a call from the unit where he had served, the couple decided to return home.

And while they planned their return — not many flights were available for the passage to Israel — Nachmani, without wasting time, began mobilising people over WhatsApp to coordinate supply of food, essential equipment. Till the time he got a flight connection via Addis Ababa a week later, he worked the phone to mobilise deliveries to the Israel Defense Forces (IDF).

A founder of a tech startup, who did not wish to be identified, was vacationing in Brazil with his partner when he too got a call from his unit, a few days after the attack. They left for Tel Aviv and landed Sunday morning.

"I am good with the tech side of things, and my mates reached out to me for cyber warfare, which is part of the toolkit to respond," the tall young man, in his

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



An Israeli woman is welcomed upon her return at the Tel Aviv airport on Sunday. Shubhajit Roy

Colour-coded maps, a detailed plan show Hamas knew Israeli secrets, weaknesses

PATRICK KINGSLEY & RONEN BERGMAN
KIBBUTZ MISHMAR HA'EMEK (ISRAEL), OCTOBER 15

THE 10 gunmen from Gaza knew exactly how to find the Israeli intelligence hub — and how to get inside.

After crossing into Israel, they headed east on five motorcycles, two gunmen on each vehicle,



Israeli armoured vehicles near the Gaza border, Sunday. AP

shooting at passing civilian cars as they pressed forward.

Ten miles later, they veered off the road into a stretch of woodland, dismounting outside an unmanned gate to a military base. They blew open the barrier with a small explosive charge, entered the base and paused to take a group selfie. Then they shot dead an unarmed Israeli soldier dressed in a T-shirt.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Citing deepfakes, Govt looks at IT rules to make WhatsApp disclose source ID

Traceability provision needs to be invoked to put brakes, says Minister

SOMUYARENDRA BARIK
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

AS THE country heads to Lok Sabha elections in 2024, the Centre is looking to invoke a controversial law that would require WhatsApp to share details about the first originator of a message on account of rising artificial intelligence (AI)-led misinformation on the messaging platform, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

The basis for this are multiple deepfake videos of politicians circulating on WhatsApp, and the government is understood to be in the process of sending an order to the messaging company under the Information Technology (IT) Rules, 2021, seeking the identity of the people who first shared the videos on the platform.

A deepfake is a video of a person in which the face or body has been digitally altered so that he or she appears to be someone else, typically used to spread false information.

"It's not about partisanship. The videos in question depicted deepfakes of politicians from different political parties. Such fake videos of politicians from across the political aisle have been brought to our notice, which we

EXPLAINED
The concern, the debate

THE IT law provision that the Government looks to invoke is at the centre of a debate given that WhatsApp has called it a threat to its end-to-end encryption system which keeps communications private from even the company itself. The platform says enforcement of such a measure will lead to mass surveillance. The government, on its part, says normal functioning of WhatsApp will not be impacted.

believe can cause harm to electoral integrity in India. So we are planning to send a first originator notice to WhatsApp," a senior government official said, requesting anonymity.

This would be the first time that the Central government will directly send an Internet platform an order under Section 4 (2) of the IT Rules, 2021.

The move could be **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



INSIDE

NETANYAHU HOLDS EMERGENCY CABINET MEET, SAYS WILL DEMOLISH HAMAS

SUPPLIES RUN LOW IN GAZA, HOSPITALS WARN THOUSANDS COULD DIE

PAGE 10

EXPLAINED HISTORY
HOW JEWS FIRST MIGRATED TO PALESTINE **PAGE 11**

After its outreach to Pasmanda Muslims, BJP ready with plan to enlist Sufi support

VIKAS PATHAK & LALMANI VERMA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

AFTER THE much-talked-about Pasmanda Muslim outreach of the BJP, endorsed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself, the ruling party has set in motion a parallel outreach programme with the country's largest religious minority in mind — the Sufi Samvad Maha Abhiyan or the Sufi dialogue.

The BJP's Minority Morcha organised a programme under the Sufi Samvad Maha Abhiyan in Lucknow on October 12 where nearly 200 Sufis from more than 100 dargahs were present. They were requested to take the message of the Modi government's policies and schemes to Muslims across India.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi admires the Sufis as an important part of Bharatiya tradition. The Sufi lived among the common people, taught pluralism, and were inclusive towards all, irrespective of religion, caste, creed or belief. He wants the BJP



A 'Sufi Samvad' at the BJP office in Lucknow, Thursday. Twitter @BJPMinorMorcha

to reach out to the Sufis across the country to share the vision of the PM and information about the welfare policies of the government. This is a specific outreach apart from the Pasmanda outreach. It is aimed at taking through Sufi spiritual leaders the message of the BJP among their followers, who come from all strata of society, particularly Muslim society," Minority Morcha president Jamal Siddiqui

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Afghanistan celebrate after defeating England in New Delhi. Abhinav Saha MORE REPORTS, P.15, 16

Afghans upset defending champs England, spice up World Cup

TUSHAR BHADURI
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

FOR ALL the brilliance and dominance displayed by the hosts in their first three outings, a World Cup doesn't catch fire, at least for the neutrals, until there are a few close finishes or an underdog overturning a fancied side.

And on a pleasant Delhi evening, in front of a big crowd in their corner, Afghanistan — the feel-good story in international

cricket over the past decade and a half — delivered the upset the tournament craved, defeating defending champions England no less by 69 runs.

Afghanistan are always touted as a team capable of bringing a big team down, but they hadn't shown it on the big stage, until now. They have mystery spinners — in much demand in franchise cricket — but 50-over cricket demands some pedigree with the bat. Their batting had always held them back

but once they put up 284 on the board, the variety in their bowling attack took care of the rest.

Coming into the tournament, Afghanistan skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi had claimed that their batting had the ability to get big scores, and on Sunday, they provided a score that proved too much for Jos Buttler's men.

It was a poignant moment for the team, with their country reeling from recent earthquakes.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Atal turned down suggestions to become President in 2002: His Adviser

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

IN 2002, the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee shot down suggestions from his team to become the President and leave the premiership to his deputy L K Advani. He said an incumbent Prime Minister becoming the President would not augur well in a parliamentary democracy like India and would set a "very dangerous precedent", according to a new book written by his

media adviser.

In his book *"The Reverse Swing: Colonialism to Cooperation"*, veteran journalist Ashok Tandon, who was in-charge of media relations in the Vajpayee PMO from 1998 to 2004, also says that it was Vajpayee who disclosed the name of A P J Abdul Kalam to main opposition Congress leaders, who expressed surprise over the NDA's choice for the President's post.

Published by Prabhat Prakashan, the book will be re-

leased by Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, and Housing and Urban Affairs, on October 18.

Tandon, who was granted the rank of an additional secretary, recounts tales from his PMO days in a section in the book called *"From the Author's Personal Diary"*.

Recounting the suggestions to make Vajpayee the NDA's presidential candidate, Tandon writes, "Vajpayee outright dismissed suggestions emanating from within his own team to



Ashok Tandon (right) was in Vajpayee's PMO 1998-2004

move to Rashtrapati Bhavan and leave the premiership to his number two L K Advani."

"He warned that an incum-

bent Prime Minister becoming a President with the help of a majority in the Electoral College wouldn't augur well in a parliamentary democracy like India and would set a very dangerous precedent and that he would be the last person to support such a move," the book says.

Later, Vajpayee, who still had two years left as Prime Minister, invited Congress leaders to evolve a consensus for the President's post.

"I remember, Sonia Gandhi, Pranab Mukherjee and Dr

Manmohan Singh came to meet him. Vajpayee virtually surprised them by disclosing officially for the first time that the NDA had decided to field Dr A P J Abdul Kalam for the Presidential election," Tandon writes.

"There was a pin-drop silence for a few seconds. Sonia Gandhi broke the ice and said 'We are flabbergasted by your choice. We have no option but to support him. But will discuss your proposal and take a decision.' The rest is history." Samajwadi Party supremo

Mulayam Singh Yadav later also announced his party's support to Kalam. According to the book, announcing his party support, Mulayam said, "Dr Kalam is my choice".

Tandon also recounts that before the Kalam's name was announced, there was "speculation" that the NDA might consider the then Maharashtra Governor Dr P C Alexander as its presidential candidate for the 2002 elections.

"I was in the Vajpayee PMO and some influential people

were closely in touch with Dr Alexander at a personal level and were sounding him for the top post, giving the impression as if they were Vajpayee's emissaries," Tandon writes in his book.

"They would try to convince Vajpayee that fielding Dr Alexander, a Christian, would embarrass Congress president Sonia Gandhi and in a way block her chances of becoming the Prime Minister in future as the country couldn't afford to have Christians as President as well as Prime Minister," he writes.

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ENTERTAINMENT



'KHATRON KE KHILADI 13' WINNER INTERVIEW

I was there on the show and there were no biases: Dino James



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EXPRESS AUDIO

Ujjal Dosanjh on the India-Canada tensions and the Khalistan gap

In *The Sandip Roy Show*, Ujjal Dosanjh, the former Premier of British Columbia and federal minister explores the India-Canada tensions, what Trudeau aims to achieve through it, and why Khalistan is a 'western' movement now.

Conveyed to G20 members India doesn't support terror in any form: Birla

New Delhi: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Sunday said he has conveyed to his counterparts from G20 nations that India does not support terrorism or terror activities in any form.

He was responding to questions on the bilateral meetings he had with Speakers of G20 nations during the Parliament 20 Summit that concluded Saturday.

"The position of the government is very clear in this regard. The prime minister has also said it in his statement. The government has made it clear that terrorism and terror activities have no place in India," the Lok Sabha speaker said while briefing reporters on the P20 Summit.

He was responding to a question on whether any Speaker from the G20 countries had raised the issue of presence of people in India who were pursuing separatist activities abroad.

"It is a clear government policy... terrorism, be it of caste or religion... terrorism is terrorism, and no form of terror will find any support in India. This is the clear government policy," Birla said. PTI

FROM PAGE ONE FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM
Israelis abroad are rushing home to defend nation

early 30s, said.

Noa, a psychologist, also returned to Tel Aviv Sunday to help. "This country needs all of us to come together at this hour of need and crisis, so I came back," she said.

The IAF personnel, the techie and the psychologist are among the growing number of men and women rushing back to their homeland to defend it.

This rush by Israelis to get into the country is one feature of this conflict that stands out — most foreigners, including some Indians, are rushing to get out of the country. So far, more than 900 Indians have returned on four special flights arranged by the Indian government under Operation Ajay.

Around 3 am Sunday, when these Israeli citizens landed in Tel Aviv, bleary-eyed after hours of flying yet yearning to be home, their anxious families, and some complete strangers, welcomed them with open arms.

A group of young boys and girls, waved Israeli flags, clapped, sang and cheered the homecoming. Yael, a 16-year-old, said, "They have come back to help the war, so we are here to encourage them and appreciate them." He and his friends were part of the young and boisterous crowd receiving these

men and women.

Over the past week or so, the IDF has asked volunteers and reservists to come and join their units and help the war effort. Almost every day since last Sunday, Israelis, mostly in the working age group up to 50 years, are returning to the country. While the IDF gave the call to more than 3.5 lakh people, many have enthusiastically returned and joined in.

Most reservists were already in Israel at the time of the call, the largest such compulsory mobilisation since the 1973 Yom Kippur War. But those who were out of the country cancelled their plans and have returned.

All these men and women have done the mandatory military service during their youth.

Military service is compulsory for the majority of Israelis when they turn 18. Men have to serve 32 months and women 24 months. Israel's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lior Haiat told The Indian Express, "Since last Saturday, many Israeli citizens around the world are looking for ways to come back to Israel. We know thousands have already arrived, and there are others who are waiting to come here and to be here to support us at this very

difficult time." Officials estimate that about 10,000 people have returned to join the war effort.

"We may have our differences with the current Israeli government on their policies, but right now we need to come together. The tough questions of failures need to be answered, but right now, the need of the hour is to defend and survive," the tech startup founder said.

Noa said her WhatsApp groups of psychologists are just blowing up. "This is going to be a nation of PTSDs (post traumatic stress disorder)... We are all going to help out whoever needs help at this time, be it civilians or soldiers," she said.

Ori was more direct on what his part would be. "They (the Hamas) came for our women and children, we will not let them go unchallenged. We have to protect our families, so we will respond. It is our duty."

Then there are mothers like Ricky Shay, an Indian-origin Jew in Israel. "I have two sons and two daughters... The sons have been called back to their combat units, they are just 24 and 25. We have to fight back." Ricky is a second-generation Indian-origin Jew whose parents moved to Israel when they were young and she was

born here.

The October 7 attacks by Hamas has led to massive mobilisation of resources — both in terms of personnel and equipment — across Israel.

The country is preparing for an all-out offensive against Hamas in the Gaza Strip. On Sunday, the Israeli military said it would continue to let people of Gaza to evacuate to the Strip's south — before it launches the ground assault.

As Iran sent a warning to Israel — Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian met Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Qatar's capital Doha and, according to a Hamas statement quoted by news agency Reuters, "agreed to continue cooperation" while hailing the attack on Israel as a "historic victory" — Israel's northern border saw its troops trading fire with Lebanese militant group Hezbollah.

The US, meanwhile, is sending a second carrier strike group to the region, signalling to Iranian proxies in Lebanon and Syria not to widen the conflict. The USS Dwight D Eisenhower strike group will join the USS Gerald R Ford strike group in the Mediterranean waters near Israel, not far from Hezbollah strongholds in Lebanon.

• BJP reaches out to Sufi Muslims

told *The Indian Express*.

Siddiqui said the idea was not to make Sufis join the BJP but to begin a dialogue with them and reach out to common Muslims. "The party will get to know about the problems they face or the demands they have and these can be conveyed to the government," he said. The Minority Morcha leader said committees had been formed to reach out to Sufis in 22 states. He said he believes support for terrorism weakened wherever Sufism strengthened and it struck deep roots wherever Sufism weakened.

The outreach comes months before the Lok Sabha elections and just before Assembly polls in five states. In Uttar Pradesh alone, the party is set to organise outreach to connect with the heads of more than 10,000 Sufi dargahs.

"The party will try to contact all the Sufis in the state. It will hold meetings with those who show a positive response and convey to them how Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji regards Sufis. The PM believes that the influence of Sufism spreads the message of love, peace and brotherhood. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is also a saint like them. They will be told how Opposition parties like the Congress and Samajwadi Party (SP) spread false propaganda in the Muslim community against the BJP," said Kunwar Basit Ali, UP

president of the Minority Morcha.

Ali said a slogan was coined at the Lucknow meeting — "Na doori hai na khaai hai, Modi hamara bhai hai (there is neither a distance nor a gorge, Modi is our brother)". He added, "If Muslim people in any locality express the desire that a senior BJP leader should meet them, the party will send a minister, MP or MLA to meet them and listen to what they say."

Sufi saints, he said, believe in brotherhood among all communities and can be a good medium to develop the BJP's reach among Muslims.

Having already consolidated among large sections of the Hindu vote in north, central, western, and eastern India, the BJP is now slowly trying to address Muslims, not as a homogeneous community but in segments. The Pasmaanda outreach is aimed at backward-class Muslims and also pushes forward the idea that caste, seen as hierarchical and divisive, is not just a phenomenon in Hindu society but pervades all communities in India. The latest outreach to sections of Muslims through Sufis who are seen as more inclusive, particularly if one looks at the Chishti Order. With this, the BJP is also projecting the idea that Sufis strike a contrast with the "dogmatic" sections of Muslim society.

• Afghans upset defending champions England

"This is the kind of opportunity we have been working hard for. I want to dedicate this award to the people back home, who have been affected by the earthquake. This is something we could do as a team and I could do myself as a player," Mujeeb ur Rahman, the player of the match, said at the presentation ceremony.

Head coach Jonathan Trott, ironically a former England batsman, had said on the eve of the match that while none of his players had their near and dear ones among the earthquake casualties, they were worried about the situation back home and have even donated a part of their prize money to the relief efforts. Their biggest star Rashid Khan, Trott said, had pledged his entire amount. It was probably fitting that it was Rashid who put the finishing touches to the landmark victory — unarguably their biggest in ODIs — by getting the last two wickets, sealing the deal when Mark Wood missed an ugly heave to be bowled, ending the England innings for 215 in 40.3 overs.

Rashid reacted with both hands in the air, a pose somewhat like what Shahid Afridi used to make, but apart from the hugs and handshakes, the celebrations were rather low-key. It showed that the result was not a total surprise for them, they believe they have what it takes to upset big teams.

It was 22-year-old Mujeeb, Rashid's protégé, who made the decisive incisions, claiming the wickets of top-scorer Harry Brook, England's best player Joe Root and all-rounder Chris Woakes, who has the ability to get crucial runs. Mujeeb had earlier made a vital 28 off just 16 balls to propel Afghanistan to a competitive total. Skipper Shahidi indicated that the players won't be satisfied with just one scalp. "The belief is there, the trust is there, and the talent is also there. Looking forward to the rest of the tournament. This was the first win for us (since 2015 in the World Cup) but not the last one," he said.

Haseebullah Siddiqi, a childhood friend of Afghanistan opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz, who watched the game at the Kotla, told *The Indian Express*: "I am just running with the Afghan flag in the Metro. We are singing songs. This is a very emotional moment for the entire Afghan community in Delhi and those who are living abroad." Nazamuddin Asar, a final year PHD student at Delhi University who watched the match on TV, said, "This is historical right? The English never won a war against the Afghans, and now we defeated them in their own sport. What a moment!"

Earlier, the ebbs and flows of an ODI — that make it distinct from a T20 game — were on full display during the Afghanistan innings.

It could be divided into three parts: the first when Rahmanullah Gurbaz carted the England bowlers to all parts in a century opening stand with Ibrahim Zadran, the second when England pulled Afghanistan back with their spinners Adil Rashid, Livingstone and Root leading the way, and then Ikram Alikhil, Mujeeb and Rashid getting vital runs towards the end to ensure a respectable total. Gurbaz was at his belligerent best, scoring 80 off just 57 balls, before being run out. His assault during the powerplay left England skipper Buttler with few answers and although the run rate dropped appreciably after his dismissal, Afghanistan got the finishing kick required to post a total they could defend.

Their varied bowling attack — apart from Rashid and Mujeeb, they have veteran off-spinner Mohammad Nabi, left-arm pacer Fazalhaq Farooqi and medium pacer Naveen-ul-Haq as their heroes — did the rest.

As far as England are concerned, they were thrashed by New Zealand in the tournament opener and while they won over Bangladesh, this loss will make whispers about this being an ageing side louder, as it features more than a few who participated in the 2019 campaign at home. "You got to let these defeats hurt. Let it hurt, try to figure out where we need to get better," Buttler said.

• Colour-coded maps, a detailed plan show Hamas knew Israeli secrets and weaknesses

For a moment, the attackers appeared uncertain about where to go next. Then one of them pulled something from his pocket: a colour-coded map of the complex.

Reoriented, they found an unlocked door to a fortified building. Once inside, they entered a room filled with computers — the military intelligence hub. Under a bed in the room, they found two soldiers taking shelter.

The gunmen shot both dead. This sequence was captured on a camera mounted on the head of a gunman who was later killed. *The New York Times* reviewed the footage, then verified the events by interviewing Israeli officials and checking Israeli military video of the attack.

They provide chilling details of how Hamas, the militia that controls the Gaza Strip, managed to surprise and outmaneuver the most powerful military in the Middle East last Saturday — storming across the border, overrunning more than 30 square miles, taking more than 150 hostages and killing more than 1,300 people in the deadliest day for Israel in its 75-year history.

With meticulous planning and extraordinary awareness of Israel's secrets and weaknesses, Hamas and its allies overwhelmed the length of Israel's front with Gaza shortly after dawn, shocking a nation that has long taken the superiority of its military as an article of faith.

Hamas planning documents, videos of the assault and interviews with security officials show that the group had a surprisingly sophisticated understanding of how the Israeli military operated, where it stationed specific units, and even the time it would take for reinforcements to arrive.

The Israeli military says that, once the war is over, it will investigate how Hamas managed to breach its defenses so easily.

'Hamas in the Kibbutz!'

The terrorists were inside Addi Cherry's home, on the other side of an unlocked door.

Cherry, her husband and their three children were hiding inside their eldest son's bedroom, listening to the gunmen wander around their living room. "Please help us," Cherry texted a friend as one of the assailants walked closer and closer to the bedroom door.

Then he gripped the door handle.

The Cherry family's day had begun with a burst of rockets

from Gaza, not long after 6 am.

Cherry, an economist, and her husband, Oren, an engineer, rushed with their children into their eldest son's bedroom, which doubled as a bomb shelter.

Initially, the events of the morning felt distressingly familiar. The Cherry family lives in Kibbutz Nahal Oz, a rural village of some 500 residents in Israel, a few hundred yards east of the border with Gaza. Early morning rocket fire — and the ensuing rush to the safe room — is a frequent feature of life in the region.

"Like always," Addi Cherry remembered thinking.

But this morning soon felt different. The rockets kept coming, many of them headed deep into Israeli territory. Then, from the fields around the village, came the sound of gunshots.

Oren Cherry left the bedroom and peeked through the shutters on their living room windows. "Oh, God," Addi Cherry remembered her husband shouting. "Hamas in the kibbutz! Hamas in the kibbutz!" It was 7.20 am.

Hundreds of Hamas invaders, carrying guns and shoulder-borne rocket launchers and wearing the group's green headband, were streaming through the village fields.

It was part of a coordinated assault that, documents and video show, assigned squads of assailants to precise targets. As some swept through military bases, others charged into residential areas, ruthlessly kidnapping and killing civilians. They would reach the Cherrys' street within minutes.

The family had to act quickly. Their bomb shelter — a teenager's bedroom — had no lock. The parents grabbed a chair and wedged it under the door handle — making it harder to open. They dragged a small cabinet and pressed it against the chair. Then they waited. There was an army base next to the village. Its troops would be here within minutes, Addi Cherry remembered thinking.

What she didn't know was that many of them were already dead.

All along the border, the Hamas gunmen had already overrun most, if not all, of the Israeli border bases. Footage from the attackers' head-mounted cameras, including the video of the raid on the intelligence hub, showed Hamas gunmen — from its highly trained Nukhba brigade — smashing through the barricades of several bases in the first light of the morning.

After breaching, they were merciless, gunning down some soldiers in their beds and under-

wear. In several bases, they knew exactly where the communications servers were and destroyed them, according to a senior Israeli army officer.

With much of their communications and surveillance systems down, the Israelis often couldn't see the commandos coming. They found it harder to call for help and mount a response. In many cases, they were unable to protect themselves, let alone the surrounding civilian villages.

A Hamas planning document — found by Israeli emergency responders in one village — showed that the attackers were organised into well-defined units with clear goals and battle plans.

One platoon had designated navigators, saboteurs and drivers — as well as mortar units in the rear to provide cover for the attackers, the document shows.

The group had a specific target — a kibbutz — and the attackers were tasked with storming the village from specific angles. They had estimates for how many Israeli troops were stationed in nearby posts, how many vehicles they had at their disposal and how long it would take those Israeli relief forces to reach them.

The document is dated October 2022, suggesting that the attack had been planned for at least a year.

Elsewhere, other assailants were posted to key road junctions to ambush Israeli reinforcements, according to four senior officers and officials. Some units had specific instructions to capture Israelis for use as bargaining chips in future prisoner exchanges with Israel. "Take soldiers and civilians as prisoners and hostages to negotiate with," the document said.

The terrorists smashed their way into the Cherrys' house shortly before 10 am, according to texts that Addi Cherry sent friends at the time.

At the Cherrys' house, they forced in the door. Then they charged in, shouting and ransacking the house, Addi Cherry said. The family waited in terrified silence, hoping the intruders would ignore the door to the bedroom and assume everyone was away.

Addi Cherry and her husband put all their weight against the cabinet, to brace the chair underneath the door handle. Guy, 15, their eldest son, stood next to the door, holding an 18-pound dumbbell. Then the handle twitched. The parents began to push the cabinet. The handle continued to rattle.

Then it stopped. The assailant walked away. -NYT

• New shelters, special fuel, batteries: Indian armour gets ready for winter in Ladakh

maintenance of modern tanks and keeping them battle ready 24x7 is a logistical nightmare, the official said.

A tank consists of a firing gun system and tracked chassis. The hydraulics in the gun system gets impacted due to the extreme cold weather; in the chassis, it is the fuel system, and the lubrication is affected by the cold weather.

"Exposure to sub-zero temperature and oxygen-deficient atmosphere freezes the fuel and lubricants and impacts the mechanical efficiency of the platforms. The hydraulics, electronics and batteries of the heavily sophisticated platforms are also impacted," the official said.

To counter this and to ensure the platforms are battle-ready and can be started at short notice, the Army has turned to special fuel and multigrade lubricants which are resilient to extreme

cold temperature ranges. Such fuel and lubricants were developed for the alpine regions and have now been introduced by Indian companies.

Officials said common all-temperature diesel have undergone trials and would be procured for the fleet which will reduce the need to procure and stock multiple types of fuel. "Moreover, better hydraulic fluids that do not freeze at lower temperatures or lose viscosity due to extensive operations — for both tanks and artillery guns — are also being introduced in the region," the official said.

The Army is also getting Pure Lead Tin (PLT) batteries for the heavy vehicles deployed in eastern Ladakh — these are known to have better tolerance to low temperatures as compared to normal lead-acid batteries. "These are being used for trucks and are being

tested for heavier armoured vehicles. These batteries deliver high current and are vital for starting tanks in extremely low temperatures," an official said.

Officials said most armoured vehicles stay in heated shelters that have been constructed in the last few years in eastern Ladakh. "Air blowers are used here to maintain temperature and the complete fleet can be housed in these temperature-controlled shelters," an official said, adding that special covers for the platforms and heated shelters for the tank crew are also in place.

Continuous operational checks, movement drills and day-night training are being held regularly to keep the tanks and the crew battle ready round-the-clock. The Army has also been working to identify multiple routes to induct tanks and BMPs up to the LAC.

Another official said that transportation of tanks needs roads with smaller gradients and larger turning radius to enable the Tatra-based tank transporters to move. Moreover, transport aircraft and helicopters of the Indian Air Force have been extensively used to induct heavy equipment along with the platforms such as guns and spare parts.

As reported by *The Indian Express*, the IAF has airlifted nearly 70,000 Army troops and heavy platforms like tanks, artillery guns and BMPs weighing over 9,000 tonnes as part of efforts towards enhancing the overall operational preparedness in eastern Ladakh.

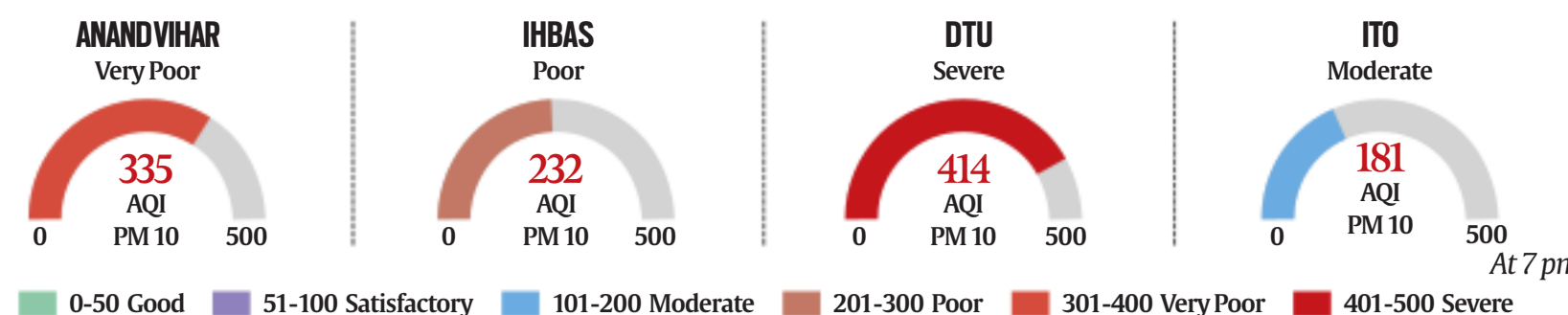
Officials said that availability of infrastructure for these heavy platforms has gone up manifold and more is being made available to the Army for further induction of platforms in Ladakh, if needed, adding that eventually the T-90

tanks will be the mainstay of the Army in the region.

An official said the Army has developed a tailor-made operational logistics philosophy to mitigate adversity of extreme weather and altitude conditions.

"These include civil-military infusion under Project Gati Shakti for engineering support, supply chain management, development of state-of-the-art infrastructure and inter-services synergy," the official said.

"At the operational and tactical level, introduction of specialist equipment to include rectifiers, PLT batteries, utilisation of specialist grade FOL (fuels, oils, lubricants), preventive maintenance and development of best practices have enabled operational readiness of 95% which contributes significantly to the operational preparedness of the Army."



SKY WATCH
FORECAST: October 16
 Generally cloudy sky. Very light rain/thundershowers.
MAX: 32 | **MIN: 20**
 1.2°C below normal | 0.4°C above normal

SEASON'S WORST AQI SO FAR WAS SEEN ON SATURDAY AT 257

Not one good or satisfactory air day so far this Oct, Delhi pins hope on rain

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

RAIN IS expected to come to Delhi's rescue, but only for a little while.

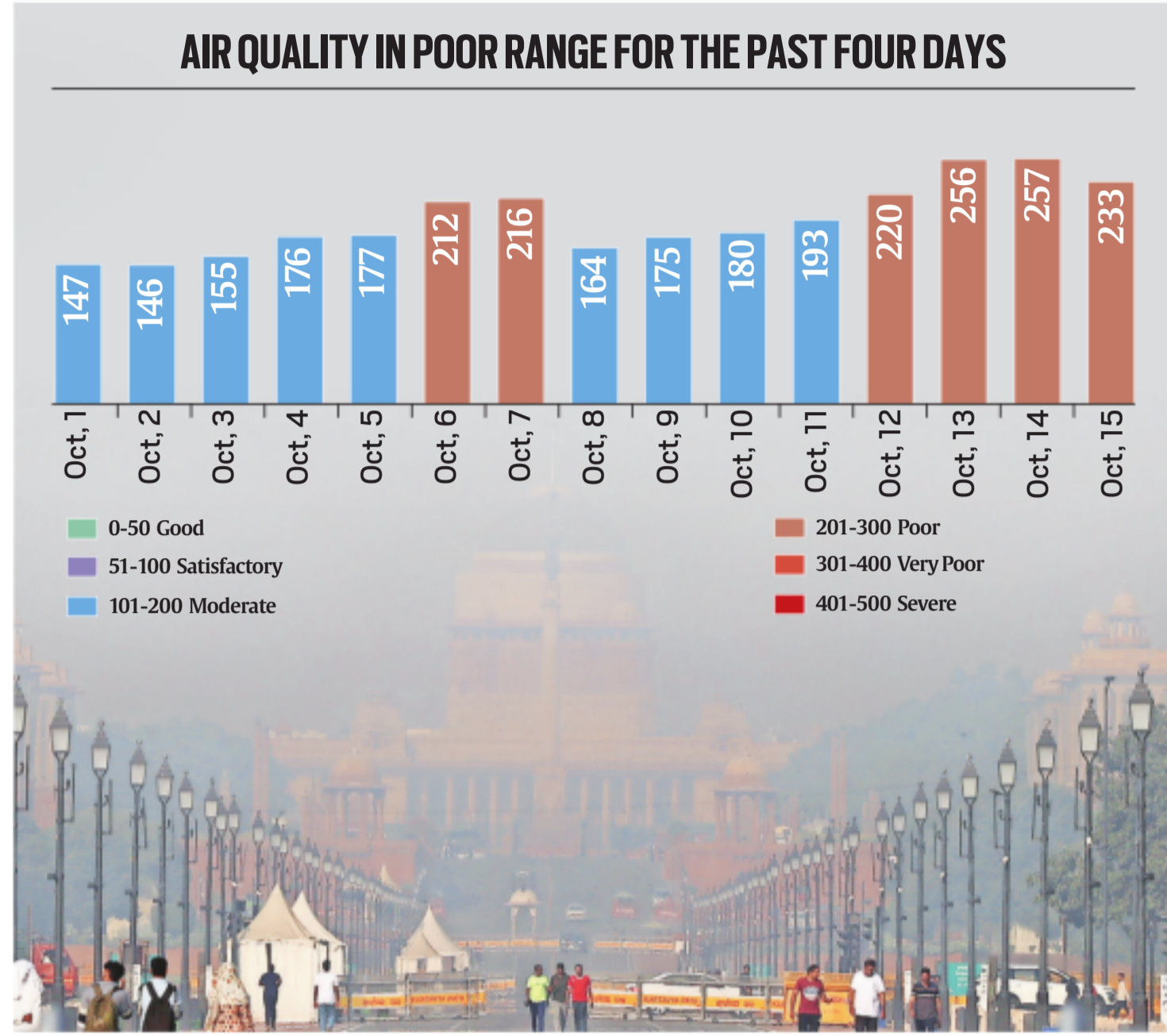
The city's air quality, which has been in the 'poor' range for the past four days, is expected to improve on Monday and Tuesday, with a change in wind direction and a chance of light rains. The season's worst air quality so far was seen on Saturday with the average AQI for the day being recorded as 257. On Sunday, this improved slightly to 233.

According to IMD officials, this was because by Sunday evening, the direction of wind had changed from northwesterly to easterly, which also brought in moisture and led to trace rainfall in a few parts of the city.

"On Monday and Tuesday too we can expect light rain and easterly winds. The air quality is expected to be in the moderate range," said an official.

Winds coming from the northwest, especially during the harvest season, carry pollutants from Punjab and Haryana towards Delhi. On Sunday, 69 farm fires were reported from Punjab and 127 from Haryana.

Hundreds of farmers in the region set fires to their farms after the paddy crop is harvested as it is the quickest and easiest, but harmful, way of getting rid of stalks that remain on the ground



On Sunday, the air quality improved slightly to 233. Praveen Khanna

after the harvest. The air quality early warning system bulletin said, "The predominant surface wind is likely to be coming from East/Northeast directions in Delhi with wind speed 8-20

kmph. A generally cloudy sky and light rain/thundershowers are expected on Monday." On Tuesday, the wind is expected to blow from the southeast at a speed of around 8-16 kmph, it

said, adding that very light rain is expected. On both days, the AQI is expected to be 'moderate'.

The relief will be short-lived, with the wind direction changing on Wednesday and the pollution

levels are expected to reach the 'poor' range again. The day temperatures, meanwhile, are also expected to see a slight dip.

According to IMD, on Sunday the maximum temperature was recorded as 34.6 degrees Celsius, a degree above normal, while the minimum was 21.6 degrees Celsius, two degrees above normal. The maximum temperature on Monday and Tuesday is expected to be 32 degrees Celsius, while the minimum is expected to be 20 and 19 degrees Celsius.

Thereafter, a gradual increase is expected with the week ending at a maximum of about 34 degrees Celsius, accompanied by clear skies.

On Saturday, Delhi L-G VK Saxena wrote to the chief ministers of Punjab and Haryana, asking them to ensure that fires in their states are controlled. While calling Punjab the only "non-performing outlier" among the states that impact Delhi's air quality, Saxena also expressed worry over the rising cases in Haryana.

He pointed out how that incidents of crop residue burning in Haryana between September 15 and October 11 had reached 340. "...Last year Haryana performed exemplarily as far as controlling burning of parali is concerned and had helped mitigate the problem, which primarily occurred due to smoke/smog from Punjab" Saxena stated in his communication to Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar.

Plea seeks stay on Jewar Airport until wetland protected, UP govt to inform about status in 4 weeks

DHEERAJ MISHRA
 NOIDA, OCTOBER 15

FOLLOWING A petition seeking a stay on the construction of Jewar Airport until Dhanauri Wetland is granted protection, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Friday granted the state government four weeks' time to inform about the status of notifying the wetland in Greater Noida as Ramsar Wetland Site. The proposal for the same is pending before the Uttar Pradesh Wetland authority.

The petitioner, bird-watcher Anand Arya, has demanded that the construction work on Noida International Airport (NIA) at Jewar be restrained until the Dhanauri Wetland is notified as Balmiki Ramsar Wetland and Sarus Sanctuary/Conservation Reserve.

While referring to the environmental clearance granted to the airport, he said that one of the conditions for the same was that protection shall be ensured in letter and spirit. "The conservation report on the impact of the airport project on the Dhanauri Wetlands had been prepared by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), following the clearance. The report has expressly recommended the declaration of the Dhanauri Wetlands as a Wildlife Sanctuary or Conservation Reserve, as soon as possible," said Arya.

While hearing the petition, the counsel for the state government submitted to the bench of chairperson Prakash Shrivastava and



The application of the petitioner stated that Dhanauri Wetland is home to over 217 species of birds. Express

Dr A Senthil that the proposal for notifying the wetland was submitted to the Wetland Authority on August 4, 2022.

Noting that certain objections were raised and some more documents were required by the authority, the counsel said the same was submitted by the Conservator of Forests concerned on April 1, 2023. He further stated that after the submission of the documents and clarification, the authority is now considering issuance of the required notification.

Mapped in the National Inventory of Wetlands and spread across around 98 hectares, the Dhanauri Wetlands is located among the villages of Dhanauri, Thasrana, and Aminpur Bangar in Dankaur Tehsil, Greater Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA), the land-owning agency, gave a no-objection certificate on June 9, 2022 to declare it as a Ramsar Site and Sanctuary.

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for the conservation of wetlands and their resources.

The convention was adopted in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971 and came into force in 1975. The application of the petitioner stated that Dhanauri Wetland is home to over 217 species of birds and has been recognised as an important birding area by Bird Life International.

"It is complete apathy that the state government has failed to submit the proposal of Ramsar Convention for declaring Dhanauri Wetland as a Ramsar Site despite multiple Letters and emails of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change since 2019. Dhanauri Wetlands is home to over 150 Sarus Crane, which is UP's state bird and these numbers can be seen at Roosting Time during March to May," said the petitioner.

Soon, all 15 districts to have kennels to house Delhi Police dog squad



Specialised kennels would be allotted at select police stations.

ARNABJIT SUR
 NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

SOON, ALL 15 districts of Delhi will have kennels of their own to house the K9 dogs of the Delhi Police to ensure quick response and speedy deployment on the ground.

Senior officers told *The Indian Express* that Delhi Commissioner of Police Sanjay Arora, in an order passed nearly two months back, issued the direction that to ensure effective deployment in cases of bomb calls or calls from the crime scenes, the dog squad should be extended to all police districts of Delhi, adding specialised kennels should be allotted to them on the premises of select police stations in each district.

Currently, nine police districts, including New Delhi, North Delhi, and South Delhi, have at least six kennels each and the plan is to construct such facilities in the remaining six districts. "The order was passed after it was noticed that a few districts had to ask for

dogs from other districts. It was leading to a time-consuming process in deployment and effective action on assignments...now, all districts will have designated space inside a few police stations for dog kennels," said an officer.

Officers said the canine squad, controlled and monitored by the Crime Branch, has written to the six remaining districts to identify requisite space for the construction of these kennels based on the approved structure.

"Kennel spaces usually have space allotted for a ground for the dogs to roam, a building to house the dog kennels, a room for their cook, and another for their handlers," said an officer. The officer further said that amid staff crunch, a request for 40 more handlers. "As of now, there are 79 dog handlers with the force," he added.

Presently, there are almost 100 dogs in the Delhi Police's K9 dog squad, with nine tracker dogs, three for detecting narcotics, and more than 80 explosives detection dogs.

Retd judge to be Police Complaints body chief

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

THE POLICE Complaints Authority (PCA) is soon expected to get a new chairperson in Justice Poonam A Bamba, a retired judge of the Delhi High Court. Baba retired from Delhi High Court in August. She will take over as Chairperson of the PCA from Justice P S Teji (retd) whose tenure ended on August 13. The body deals with complaints relating to Delhi Police.

Set up in 2018 on directions of the Supreme Court and guidelines of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the body accepts complaints regarding misconduct by police personnel from the public or from the National Human Rights Commission and the Lieutenant Governor, Delhi Chief Secretary, Principal Secretary (Home). Anonymous complaints are not entertained.

Misconduct would include cases of custodial deaths and rape, grievous injury in police custody, extortion and arrest or detention without due to process. The body is headed by the chairperson with three members, out of which one has to be a woman. In case a woman is appointed as chairperson, it shall not be mandatory to have a woman member. The term of the chairperson and members of the authority is three years.



BEFORE THE FINAL ACT

Artistes preparing in green room for full dress rehearsal ahead of Ramleela at Kamani Open Air Kendra in New Delhi. Praveen Khanna

New bus route to connect outer Delhi to Rithala Metro

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

IN A bid to strengthen the last mile connectivity for the people of Outer Delhi, the Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot Sunday inaugurated a new bus route connecting Bawana Chowk in north-west Delhi to Rithala Metro Station.

The new route 990C, will cater to the residents living in Bawana

village, Bawana industrial area, Barwala, Pooth Khurd and Prahlad Pur as well as provide access to the Rithala Metro station.

"The introduction of the 990C bus route signifies our commitment to provide convenient public transportation options for the citizens of Delhi. This route will not only improve connectivity, but also ease the daily commute for the residents particularly in the northwest regions of Delhi," Gahlot said.

Student dies in bike mishap at JNU

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

A 22-YEAR-OLD Jawaharlal Nehru University student was killed and three others were injured after a two-wheeler hit two persons early Sunday.

According to the police, two students, including the deceased, were roaming around the campus on a bike when they accidentally hit two pedestrians near the Godavari bus stop inside the campus. Anshu Kumar, who was

killed, was a first-year BA student in Russian Studies and lived in the Sutlej Hostel and owned a KTM bike. Doctors said he died on the spot. His friend, Vishal Kumar, 23, also on the bike, suffered injuries and is undergoing treatment.

Vishal, who is not a JNU student, and Anshu are from the same village in Gaya, Bihar.

Manoj C, DCP (Southwest), said they received a call from AIIMS Trauma Centre early morning about the accident at JNU. "A speeding bike had hit two pedestrians inside the university cam-

pus. The investigating officer was sent to the spot and the hospital," the DCP said.

The police found that the bike hit the two other students and later crashed on the side of the road. Due to the impact of the accident all four were rushed to the hospital. The pedestrians were identified as JNU students Sachin and Mriganj Yadav, both 25-year-olds, who are pursuing their Master's in Political Science and live in campus hostels. The police said that while Sachin is critical, Yadav is stable.

Lessons in compassion, love & tolerance at Capital's lone synagogue

UPASIKA SINGHAL
 NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

WALKING DOWN the posh neighbourhood of Humayun Road near Khan Market, one is likely to miss the inconspicuous gates leading to Delhi's only synagogue. Serving around 15 Jewish families in the capital, along with diplomats and tourists, the synagogue has quietly coexisted amongst the grand houses of this South Delhi neighbourhood since the 1950s.

Behind the gates, the Judah Hyam synagogue features a powder blue facade, adorned with Star of David motifs above its entrance.

At the centre of the prayer room, you will find the bimah, an elevated platform, with a tivat or a reader's desk, adorned with opulent ochre and cream throws

with gold embroidery. In one corner stands the Aron Kodesh, a sacred cabinet containing the Torah, the Jewish sacred scriptures, behind a grey curtain. The room is illuminated by chandeliers, and a brass incense burner suspended in front of the Aron Kodesh.

The Jewish community is said to have come to India 2,000 years ago in Cochin as traders of spices and silk.

The subcontinent also finds mention in the Book of Esther of the Old Testament where King Ahasuerus's kingdom is described to stretch from the banks of the Sindh to Ethiopia.

Over time, the Jewish community in India saw three distinct groups being formed: the Bene Israeli, the Baghdadi Jews, and the Cochin Jews. The Cochin Jews are said to be the first to arrive on the shores of India as



traders in 50 CE. The community was apparently granted a village to stay by the rulers of Cochin, called Anjivannam.

The Bene Israeli, the largest Jewish group in India, are primarily found in the Maharashtra and Konkan regions; local legend suggests that they arrived around 1600 to 1800 years ago after a shipwreck on the Konkan coast and found shelter in a village called Nawgaon, near what

is now Mumbai.

Baghdadi Jews, considered one of the more recent Jewish communities to set foot in India, migrated in the 18th and 19th centuries and settled in British port cities such as Calcutta (now Kolkata), Bombay (now Mumbai), and Rangoon (now Yangon in Myanmar), where they played a significant role in developing a thriving entrepreneurial class.



(L) Inside the synagogue; (above) Rabbi Malekar.

Smaller sub-sects also exist such as Bnei Menashe in parts of Manipur and Mizoram, and the Bene Ephraim from Machilipatnam in Andhra Pradesh who claim to be descendants of one of the lost 10 tribes of Israel.

Both sects identify with the sons of Prophet Joseph. The Judah Hyam synagogue was originally built in 1956 by Baruch Ben-Sion Benjamin, the

president of the Jewish Welfare Association.

In the 1970s, the synagogue was expanded with a library which contains books and spiritual scriptures from nine major faiths, and an interfaith study centre. In the winters, the synagogue welcomes around 10,000 visitors from across the world.

The synagogue's Rabbi Ezekiel Isaac Malekar leads the Friday prayers here every week.

But here's the twist: Rabbi Malekar likes to invite everyone to these prayers—Jewish or non-Jewish. This is not the only rule that Rabbi Malekar likes to bend: He insists on having no partition between the male and female at-

tendees, for the minyan (quorum required for a prayer meeting) he counts to 10 people instead of 10 men, and he is also open to performing interfaith marriages.

Originally a lawyer, the Rabbi felt his true calling was to "keep the flame of Judaism burning". Yet what he propounds the most is interfaith peace.

"India is the only place in the world where the Jewish people didn't face persecution," he said.

According to him, that is the true culture of India.

"All religions basically say the same thing — to have compassion, love and tolerance," he added.

BJP organises 'exhibition' on CM's residence

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

THE DELHI BJP on Sunday inaugurated a two-day pictorial and live 'exhibition' of what it said were pictures of the Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's official residence.

Delhi BJP Vice-President Virendra Sachdeva called the house "proof of corruption" and asked people of Delhi to visit the exhibition.

Leader of opposition Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said, "Delhi CM has spent Rs 52 crore... The residences of 21 other class one government officials were demolished."

The Aam Aadmi Party could not be reached for comment.

Posing as ED officials, men rob trader of over Rs 3 cr

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

DELHI POLICE claimed to have busted a gang of robbers who, posing as Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials, robbed a businessman in Dwarka of more than Rs 3 crore. Police said the accused first abducted the trader, who was roaming

around in his locality, in their car and, claiming to be officers from the ED, asked him to point him to the "hawala money" at his home on Friday night. The fake raid resulted in recovery of a huge amount of cash, which the victim had apparently collected following a land deal, which the gang took away. Police said the accused also asked the victims to come for questioning later.

Around 1.15 am on Saturday, the victims called the police who set out to search the accused in Mitraon Village, Dwarka. Police said they have detained four persons, including a man called Vicky (37), who has been booked in a case of Arms Act for possessing an illegal firearm and for trying to attack police with it. Police said they re-

covered Rs 70 lakh from the possession of Amit, who is a history sheeter currently out on bail. "A total of Rs 30 lakh was received from the other accused...It looks like they were given small tasks. The main conspirator is still on the run," added an officer. Harsha M Vardhan, DCP (Dwarka), said more than Rs 1 crore of robbed money has been

recovered, adding that in all, Rs 3.2 crore in cash and mobile phones of the complainant and his mother were robbed. Police said a total of eight men were involved in the crime, adding raids are being conducted to look for others. "Further raids are being conducted in Delhi, Haryana and UP by several teams of Dwarka District," said Vardhan.

SCHOOL DIDN'T ACT DESPITE COMPLAINT: KIN

5 of Noida school booked for harassing minor girl

DHEERAJ MISHRA
NOIDA, OCTOBER 15

The girl's father said he had named the principal and director, too, in his police complaint but their names were not included in the FIR

GAUTAM BUDDHA Nagar police have registered an FIR against five students of a premier school in Noida for allegedly sexually harassing and threatening a minor girl on the campus. The FIR was lodged on Friday.

Before the FIR, the victim had written two complaints to the school's principal and director but no action was taken, the girl's father said, adding that the accused had even thrashed her on the campus "with the intention of killing her". He said he had named the principal and director, too, in his police complaint but their names were not included in the FIR.

Police said the matter is under investigation and CCTV footage from the campus are being checked. In her complaint to the principal on October 9, the girl wrote: "...This guy is sexually harassing me using vulgar slang! His classmates were all involved just laughing along. Please have a talk regarding this. (the accused) has crossed all the limits." The e-mail was copied to three faculty members as well as the director of the school.

Next day, she wrote an email to the school director. "Just wished to bring this to your notice. This email is regarding the incident that took place yesterday afternoon which involves...(the main accused) and others who just laughed along and encouraged it while putting me down. I was called to their table and was asked to kiss by (accused no. 1) multiple

times regardless of saying NO and when asked to stop, he demanded me to involve in sexual activities with his friends. I backed away making it clear that I was severely uncomfortable, but the catcalling wouldn't stop from behind," reads the second email by the victim. She further added that the accused boys made remarks while referring to her body parts. "The guys came late to the lesson and all of them occupied the chairs right behind me and started the act. Regardless of being asked to stop multiple times, he continued harassing me and making sexual threats while his other guy friends mocked me and laughed along," wrote the victim.

The victim's father asked why nobody has been arrested so far despite the FIR being registered under serious sections. "The school administration is equally responsible in this matter...The sole reason for the lack of action by the school is that they do not want any reduction in their fees (due to possible disrepute)...Children of influential people study here," he told *The Indian Express*.

In his complaint to the police, the girl's father said when he asked the principal about the incident, he only assured him of an in-

quiry. The girl's father said that despite being told in writing that the accused had threatened that he could go to any extent, the principal and the school director did not do anything.

"On October 13, in the afternoon, I got a call (from the victim) that these boys were again talking obscene and shameless things. I immediately called Principal Sir to ask what was happening. He only kept giving assurance of inquiry. Then, with the intention to kill her, he (the accused boy) made a fatal attack by kicking and punching (her). When he got tired of beating, he left her and said that next time I will kill you, you don't know me," reads the complaint of the victim's father.

Noida's Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police Shakti Mohan Avasthy said, "A notice has been sent to the school seeking a response as to why they did not take any action on the complaint sent by the victim. The CCTV footage is being checked and the matter is being investigated thoroughly. The statement of the victim and the accused will be recorded before the magistrate soon."

The FIR against the five students, all minors, was registered under sections 147 (rioting), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 352 (assault or criminal force otherwise than on grave provocation), 354A (sexual harassment), and 506 (criminal intimidation).

The school management did not respond to calls and messages from *The Indian Express*. On Saturday, the school released a statement saying it had initiated an internal inquiry into the girl's allegations.

**OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
CONSTRUCTION DIVISION, P.W.D. KASGANJ**
Short Term Notice inviting E-Tender

शुक्रवार: 12/09/17 रू. दिनांक: 09.10.2023

The Executive Engineer, Construction Division, U.P.P.W.D. Kasganj on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the Percentage rate bids from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP, P.W.D. Road work. The Bidder may submit bids for any or all of the works. Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 4 of the Instructions to Bidders to qualify for the award of the contract.

Sl. No	District	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs. in Lac)	Bid Security (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of Document (in Rs.)	Time of Completion	Category of Contractor
1	Kasganj	Under Special Repair CC in 240 mtr Length and Renewal Work is Done by PC in 310 mtr Length of the Abadi Portion of Etah Ganjundwara to Tajpur Road.	21.20	2.12	500+300+ 144= 944	1 Month	A B C D
2	Kasganj	Under Special Repair CC Work in Abadi Portion of Balharpur Link Road.	19.00	1.90	500+300+ 144= 944	1 Month	A B C D
3	Kasganj	Under Special Repair CC Work in Abadi Portion of Dariogaon Patiyali Road to Beenpur Village School.	14.40	1.44	500+225+ 131= 856	1 Month	A B C D
4	Kasganj	Under Special Repair CC Work in 200 mtr length Abadi Portion and Renewal Work is Done by PC in Remaining Portion of Dhumari Patiyali Road to Nagla Sahjeet Road.	17.00	1.70	500+300+ 144= 944	1 Month	A B C D
5	Kasganj	Under Special Repair CC Work in Abadi Portion of Samothi Road to Shekhpur Road.	15.10	1.51	500+300+ 144= 944	1 Month	A B C D
6	Kasganj	Under Special Repair CC Work in Abadi Portion of Dhumari Patiyali Road to Mudha Link Road.	8.50	0.85	500+225+ 131= 856	1 Month	A B C D
7	Kasganj	Under Special Repair CC Work in Dhumari Patiyali Road to Utarna Road.	11.30	1.13	500+225+ 131= 856	1 Month	A B C D
8	Kasganj	Under Special Repair CC Work in 200 mtr Length Abadi Portion of Dhumari Patiyali Road to Nagla Tika Via Beenpur Road.	15.10	1.51	500+300+ 144= 944	1 Month	A B C D
9	Kasganj	Under Special Repair CC Work in Abadi Portion of Sidhpura Patiyali Road to Nagla Karan Road.	7.50	0.75	500+225+ 131= 856	1 Month	A B C D
10	Kasganj	Under Special Repair CC Work in Abadi Portion of Dharampura Kurli to Pipal Tiraha Via Nagla Jhamman	20.30	2.03	500+300+ 144= 944	1 Month	A B C D
11	Kasganj	Under Special Repair CC Work in Abadi Portion of Aliganj Soron Road to Adhapura Road.	11.60	1.16	500+225+ 131= 856	1 Month	A B C D
12	Kasganj	Under Special Repair CC Work in Abadi Portion of Sanodi Khas Road to Gangpur Road.	17.10	1.71	500+300+ 144= 944	1 Month	A B C D
13	Kasganj	Under special repair, Renewal work with special repair by PC in 1.500 km length of Gobdi Nagla to Nagla Abdal road.	18.20	1.82	500+300+ 144= 944	1 Month	A B C D
14	Kasganj	Under special repair, Renewal work by PC of Ganjundwara Aliganj Road to Nagla Pahalan road.	20.40	2.04	500+300+ 144= 944	1 Month	A B C D
15	Kasganj	Under Special Repair CC Work in Abadi Portion of Aliganj Soron Road Km 23 Rokari to Nagla Munshi.	9.40	0.94	500+225+ 131= 856	1 Month	A B C D
16	Kasganj	Under Special Repair CC in Abadi Portion of Thana Dariogaon to Village Badhola Road.	8.90	0.89	500+225+ 131= 856	1 Month	A B C D
17	Kasganj	Under Special Repair CC Work in Abadi Portion of Aliganj Soron Road to Sahpur Road.	12.30	1.23	500+225+ 131= 856	1 Month	A B C D
18	Kasganj	Under Special Repair CC Work in 400 mtr (Chowki Atanpur) Abadi Portion of Chowki Atanpur to Bhargain.	29.30	2.93	500+300+ 144= 944	1 Month	A B C D
19	Kasganj	Under special repair, Renewal work by PC of Amartpur Road to Bakawali Via Magthara.	10.25	1.03	500+225+ 131= 856	1 Month	A B C D
20	Kasganj	Under special repair, Renewal work by PC of Sidhpura Ganjundwara Road to Dhuviyai.	6.30	0.63	500+225+ 131= 856	1 Month	A B C D
21	Kasganj	Under Special Repair CC Work in Abadi Portion of Etah Ganjundwara Road to Magthara Road.	22.50	2.25	500+300+ 144= 944	1 Month	A B C D
22	Kasganj	Under Special Repair CC Work in Abadi Portion and PC Work in Remaining Portion of Mohanpur Ganjundwara Road to Sainoth.	9.10	0.91	500+225+ 131= 856	1 Month	A B C D
23	Kasganj	Under Special Repair CC Work in Abadi Portion of Akhtau Mangadpur Road to Nagla Kumar (Nagla Khanji).	6.90	0.69	500+225+ 131= 856	1 Month	A B C D

Bids can be downloaded online from date 17.10.2023 at 12:00 Noon to 26.10.2023 at 12:00 Noon. And bid can be submitted online on or before 26.10.2023 at 12:00 Noon. The technical bids will be opened online on Date 26.10.2023 at 12:30 PM. Technical evaluation of tenders is to be done by Prahari Software, the details of which are available in NIT enclosed with Bid Document. All terms & conditions can be seen on website <http://etender.up.nic.co.in>

Executive Engineer
Construction Division, P.W.D.,
Kasganj

UPID-196048 Dt. 14.10.2023
www.up.gov.nic.in

**Executive Engineer
PD, P.W.D., Bulandshahr**
E- Procurement Short Term Tender Notice

शुक्रवार: 12/09/17 रू. दिनांक: 09.10.2023

On behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, U.P.P.W.D., Bulandshahr invites following percentage rate short term bids online through <http://etender.up.nic.in> from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with P.W.D. class as per column no. 10 below Road work Category as applied from Date 17.10.2023 to 25.10.2023 upto 12:00 Noon as per the prescribed T-1 of Govt. of U.P. The technical bids will be opened online on date 25.10.2023 at 12:30 P.M. 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 any 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.

Letter No. 6607/1A Dated: 06.10.2023

Sl. No	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs. In Lac)	Bid Security (Rs. In Lac)	Time of Completion work including rainy season	Tender Cost (In Rs.)	Address of Executive Engineer	Address of Superintending Engineer	Address of Chief Engineer	Category
1	Under Special repair Year 2023-24								
1	Special repair of Dhara Achejha Ghat link road.	22.45	2.25	01 Month	300-500+18% GST 144.00 = Rs.944.00	Executive Engineer PD, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer, BSR Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer, Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A.B.C.D (Road Work)
2	Special repair of Maukheda to Bhoor link road.	7.55	0.76	01 Month	225-500+18% GST 131.00 = Rs.856.00	Executive Engineer PD, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer, BSR Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer, Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A.B.C.D (Road Work)
3	Special repair of Aukheda Ghat to Kiryawali link road.	30.50	3.05	01 Month	300-500+18% GST 144.00 = Rs.944.00	Executive Engineer PD, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer, BSR Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer, Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A.B.C.D (Road Work)
4	Special repair of Jaalkheda link road.	26.60	2.66	01 Month	300-500+18% GST 144.00 = Rs.944.00	Executive Engineer PD, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer, BSR Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer, Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A.B.C.D (Road Work)
5	Special repair of Jollygarh to Aulina link road.	21.35	2.14	01 Month	300-500+18% GST 144.00 = Rs.944.00	Executive Engineer PD, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer, BSR Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer, Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A.B.C.D (Road Work)
6	Special repair of Bulandshahr-Saidpur road to Dhameda Kirat link road.	4.15	0.42	01 Month	150-500+18% GST 117.00 = Rs.767.00	Executive Engineer PD, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer, BSR Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer, Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A.B.C.D (Road Work)
7	Special repair of Bulandshahr-Saidpur road to Sujapur link road.	10.65	1.07	01 Month	225-500+18% GST 131.00 = Rs.856.00	Executive Engineer PD, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer, BSR Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer, Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A.B.C.D (Road Work)
8	Special repair of Mansagarhi to Nagliya link road.	16.70	1.67	01 Month	300-500+18% GST 144.00 = Rs.944.00	Executive Engineer PD, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer, BSR Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer, Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A.B.C.D (Road Work)
9	Special repair of Nawada link road.	31.25	3.13	01 Month	300-500+18% GST 144.00 = Rs.944.00	Executive Engineer PD, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer, BSR Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer, Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A.B.C.D (Road Work)
10	Special repair of Bulandshahr-Saidpur road to Sharifpur Bhainsroli link road.	20.30	2.03	01 Month	300-500+18% GST 144.00 = Rs.944.00	Executive Engineer PD, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer, BSR Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer, Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A.B.C.D (Road Work)
11	Special repair of Bhatwara Kurala to Hazipur Bhatola link road.	16.45	1.65	01 Month	300-500+18% GST 144.00 = Rs.944.00	Executive Engineer PD, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer, BSR Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer, Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A.B.C.D (Road Work)
12	Special repair of Lodhai to Bhalai link road.	10.65	1.07	01 Month	225-500+18% GST 131.00 = Rs.856.00	Executive Engineer PD, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer, BSR Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer, Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A.B.C.D (Road Work)
13	Special repair of Lodhai to Rajpur link road.	17.85	1.79	01 Month	300-500+18% GST 144.00 = Rs.944.00	Executive Engineer PD, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer, BSR Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer, Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A.B.C.D (Road Work)
14	Special repair of Madona to BB Nagar link road.	10.80	1.08	01 Month	225-500+18% GST 131.00 = Rs.856.00	Executive Engineer PD, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer, BSR Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer, Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A.B.C.D (Road Work)
15	Special repair of Mathura Nangal link road.	9.85	0.99	01 Month	225-500+18% GST 131.00 = Rs.856.00	Executive Engineer PD, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer, BSR Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer, Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A.B.C.D (Road Work)
16	Special repair of Lakhwati-Saidpur to Nisurkha link road.	21.65	2.17	01 Month	300-500+18% GST 144.00 = Rs.944.00	Executive Engineer PD, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer, BSR Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer, Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A.B.C.D (Road Work)
17	Special repair of Shekhpura to Jawasa link road.	18.95	1.90	01 Month	300-500+18% GST 144.00 = Rs.944.00	Executive Engineer PD, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer, BSR Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer, Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A.B.C.D (Road Work)
18	Special repair of BB Nagar Kuchesar to Bahpur link road.	17.25	1.73	01 Month	300-500+18% GST 144.00 = Rs.944.00	Executive Engineer PD, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer, BSR Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer, Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A.B.C.D (Road Work)
19	Special repair of Parwana Mahmoodpur link road.	9.85	0.99	01 Month	225-500+18% GST 131.00 = Rs.856.00	Executive Engineer PD, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer, BSR Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer, Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A.B.C.D (Road Work)
20	Special repair of Jadaul Muradgarhi to Bahirkheda link road.	33.55	3.36	01 Month	300-500+18% GST 144.00 = Rs.944.00	Executive Engineer PD, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer, BSR Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer, Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A.B.C.D (Road Work)
21	Special repair of LPK to Khidarpur link road.	32.75	3.28	01 Month	300-500+18% GST 144.00 = Rs.944.00	Executive Engineer PD, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer, BSR Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer, Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A.B.C.D (Road Work)
22	Special repair of Kuchesar to Baghwala link road.	16.40	1.64	01 Month	300-500+18% GST 144.00 = Rs.944.00	Executive Engineer PD, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer, BSR Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer, Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A.B.C.D (Road Work)
23	Special repair of Sihali Jhaya link road.	27.20	2.72	01 Month	300-500+18% GST 144.00 = Rs.944.00	Executive Engineer PD, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer, BSR Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer, Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A.B.C.D (Road Work)
24	Special repair of BB Nagar Hingwada to Darauli link road.	24.45	2.45	01 Month	300-500+18% GST 144.00 = Rs.944.00	Executive Engineer PD, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer, BSR Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer, Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A.B.C.D (Road Work)
25	Special repair of LPK to Jawasa link road.	9.55	0.96	01 Month	225-500+18% GST 131.00 = Rs.856.00	Executive Engineer PD, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer, BSR Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer, Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A.B.C.D (Road Work)
26	Special repair of Dugra to Chahrai link road.	26.55	2.66	01 Month	300-500+18% GST 144.00 = Rs.944.00	Executive Engineer PD, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer, BSR Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer, Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A.B.C.D (Road Work)
27	Special repair of Pipala Ekhaspur Bypass link road.	17.25	1.73	01 Month	300-500+18% GST 144.00 = Rs.944.00	Executive Engineer PD, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer, BSR Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer, Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A.B.C.D (Road Work)
28	Special repair of Jahangirabad-Aahar road to Jalilpur link road.	22.15	2.22	01 Month	300-500+18% GST 144.00 = Rs.944.00	Executive Engineer PD, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer, BSR Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer, Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A.B.C.D (Road Work)
29	Special repair of Bulandshahr-Saidpur road to Manpur link road.	4.00	0.40	01 Month	150-500+18% GST 117.00 = Rs.767.00	Executive Engineer PD, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer, BSR Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer, Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A.B.C.D (Road Work)
30	Special repair of Balka to Naubatpur link road.	14.35	1.44	01 Month	225-500+18% GST 131.00 = Rs.856.00	Executive Engineer PD, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer, BSR Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer, Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A.B.C.D (Road Work)
31	Special repair of BA road to Noorpur Urf Karanpur link road.	19.20	1.92	01 Month	300-500+18% GST 144.00 = Rs.944.00	Executive Engineer PD, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer, BSR Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer, Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A.B.C.D (Road Work)
32	Special repair of BA road Km-18 to Badarkha link road.	20.40	2.04	01 Month	300-500+18% GST 144.00 = Rs.944.00	Executive Engineer PD, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer, BSR Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer, Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A.B.C.D (Road Work)
33	Special repair of Bajheda to Shivnagla link road.	22.70	2.27	01 Month	300-500+18% GST 144.00 = Rs.944.00	Executive Engineer PD, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer, BSR Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer, Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A.B.C.D (Road Work)
34	Special repair of BA road to Shivrampur Jinai link road.	16.70	1.67	01 Month	300-500+18% GST 144.00 = Rs.944.00	Executive Engineer PD, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer, BSR Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer, Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A.B.C.D (Road Work)
35	Special repair of Charora to Khadana link road.	26.20	2.62	01 Month	300-500+18% GST 144.00 = Rs.944.00	Executive Engineer PD, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer, BSR Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer, Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A.B.C.D (Road Work)
36	Special repair of Lodhai to Shyorampur link road.	21.40	2.14	01 Month	300-500+18% GST 144.00 = Rs.944.00	Executive Engineer PD, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer, BSR Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer, Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A.B.C.D (Road Work)
37	Special repair of Salagwan link road via Dharamshala Jinai to Shivnagla.	12.25	1.23	01 Month	225-500+18% GST 131.00 = Rs.856.00	Executive Engineer PD, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Superintending Engineer, BSR Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr	Chief Engineer, Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A.B.C.D (Road Work)
38	Special repair of Dugra link road.	8.70	0.87	01 Month	225-				



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



FILM & HISTORY

UNION HEALTH Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, while speaking at an event — 'Amrit Kaal Vimarsh' — at IIT Guwahati on Sunday, urged the students to watch the movie Mohenjodaro. He said the film shoot near the ancient site of Dholavira provides insights into the civilisation that was present in India nearly 5,000 years ago. He said they had water harvesting, town planning, and mud-plastered walls, remnants of which are still there. Mandaviya added that in his previous post in the Ministry of Port, Shipping, and Waterways, he worked to visualise Lothal, another Harappan site in Gujarat, as the port city that it once was.

CLAIMING THE RIGHTS

SAMAJWADI PARTY MP from Mainpuri, Dimple Yadav, on Saturday participated in the 'Women's Rights Conference' organised by the DMK in Chennai along with other women leaders of the INDIA bloc. It was the first such big political platform outside Uttar Pradesh where Yadav represented her party and shared the stage with prominent leaders from different parties. Speaking at the event, she said the SP has always stood for women's rights and equal participation in society, upholding the true values of socialism. A three-time MP, Dimple has started participating in political programmes in Uttar Pradesh after her election from Mainpuri in a bypoll last year.

Alliance hopes hit dead-end in MP as Cong, SP eye same seats, release list

ASAD REHMAN
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 15

HOPES FOR an alliance between the Congress and the Samajwadi Party (SP) in Madhya Pradesh have seemingly disappeared after the former on Sunday announced candidates for four of the seven seats where the Akhilesh Yadav-led party has already declared candidates. In a strong signal to its INDIA alliance partner, the SP then declared a list of nine more candidates.

The four seats in question are Chitrangi, Mehgaon, Bhandar, and Rajnagar. Last time, the Congress won Mehgaon, Bhandar, and Rajnagar. The SP leadership in Bhopal and Lucknow is most unhappy with the Congress for fielding a candidate from Bijawar in Chhatrapur district that the party won in 2018. The SP has yet to name a candidate there.

SP state president for Madhya Pradesh Ramayan Singh Patel told *The Indian Express* that "all possibilities of an alliance with the Congress are over". "We had some talk with the Congress leadership, but it all fell through on Sunday. We will contest seats on our own," he added.

A senior SP leader close to Akhilesh Yadav alleged "the Congress is not interested in defeating the BJP". The party functionary said, "It seems their primary objective is to defeat the SP, not the BJP. Our alliance with the Congress will be for the Lok Sabha polls but in MP we will go alone. There were talks with the Congress leadership and we wanted 10 seats. They were offering fewer seats and suddenly they announced so many candidates without keeping us in the loop. This is not how an alliance works."

The SP leader said the party would most likely field 30-35 candidates in total. What "hurt" the SP leadership, according to party insiders, is Bijawar, where the Congress decision to field Charan Singh Yadav seems to have irked it even more. Charan Singh is a cousin of Deep Narayan Yadav, a senior SP leader in Bundelkhand.

"It is hurtful that they have announced a candidate in a seat we won in 2018 and were preparing to contest. They didn't consult us or talk to us," said the SP functionary. Bijawar has a sizable Yadav and Brahmin population and in 2018 it went to SP's Rajesh Kumar Shukla, also known as "Bablu Bhैया", who switched over to the BJP in 2020 after the Kamal Nath-led state government collapsed. The SP claims it is a seat where it will do well.

State Congress spokesperson Piyush Babele said the final call on seat sharing lay with the party's high command. A Congress leader



Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav. File

said the SP was trying to get more seats than it was capable of winning. "They don't have a footing in MP. How are they expecting so many seats? And the seat they are upset about... Their MLA joined the BJP. Hopefully, something can be worked out but the SP needs to understand the ground realities".

Why SP is driving a hard bargain

Among the nine constituencies where the SP announced candidates on Sunday are: Sirmour, where former BJP MLA Laxman Tewari is its candidate; Niwari, where it has fielded former MLA Meera Deepak Yadav; Rajnagar, where Brijgopal Patel, also known as "Bablu Patel", is the candidate; Bhandar (reserved for Scheduled Castes), where retired district judge D R Rahul from the Ahirwar community is in the fray; and Sidhi (reserved for Scheduled Tribes) where Vishwanath Singh Markam is the SP nominee.

Last month, Akhilesh started his party's Madhya Pradesh campaign with a public meeting in Sirmour. At an event in Lucknow on October 1, the SP president said he wants his party and the Congress to contest the state elections together to defeat the BJP.

In Chhattisgarh, which is also going to polls next month, the SP is considering contesting 40 of the state's 90 constituencies. Party insiders said the objective of contesting these seats was to force a hard bargain in Uttar Pradesh, where it is strong, for the Lok Sabha elections.

On September 14, the 14-member coordination committee of the INDIA bloc met at Nationalist Congress Party president Sharad Pawar's home in New Delhi to discuss how to begin seat-sharing talks. Even at the time, they knew that seat sharing was going to be tricky, especially in states such as Punjab, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal where members of the alliance are fierce rivals. The consensus was that there would be no across-the-board or uniform formula and the disparate parties appeared to be banking on their chemistry to get their arithmetic right.

CONGRESS FIRST LIST FOR THREE STATES OUT

69 MLAs among 144 candidates, Ramayan actor pitted against CM

ANAND MOHAN J
BHOPAL, OCTOBER 15

THE CONGRESS on Sunday released its first list of 144 candidates for the coming Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, with former chief minister Kamal Nath and 68 sitting MLAs making it to the list.

Kamal Nath, Congress's state unit chief, will contest from his home bastion of Chhindwara. While former Opposition leader and seven-time MLA Dr Govind Singh will once again contest from Lahar, former CM Digvijaya Singh's son Jaivardhan Singh has been fielded from Raghogarh, and former Cabinet minister Jitu Patwari will contest from the Rau Assembly constituency.

A surprise inclusion in the list was actor Vikram Mastal, who played the role of Hanuman in the 2008 reboot of Ramayan on TV. He will be pitted against CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan in Budhni. In Madhya Pradesh, the Congress has been taking what is being seen as a 'soft Hindutva' approach to counter the BJP. This has manifested in Kamal Nath portraying himself as a Hanuman



MP Congress chief Kamal Nath with actor Vikram Mastal, who played the role of Lord Hanuman in a TV series. X/@VikramMastal

devotee, holding religious events, and setting up a massive Hanuman idol on his political turf Chhindwara. Fielding Mastal against Chouhan is being seen as an extension of these efforts. The release of the party's list also comes on the first day of Sharad Navratri.

Other candidates who have been dispatched to take on rival BJP heavyweights include MLA Sanjay Shukla, who will contest against BJP national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya, (Indore-1),

Awadhesh Nayak against State Home Minister Narottam Mishra (Data), former finance minister Tarun Bhanot against four-time MP Rakesh Singh (Jabalpur).

However, some sitting MLAs have not been fielded. These include Jhabua MLA Kantilal Bhuria who will vacate his seat for his son, Vikram Bhuria, former Assembly Speaker NP Prajapati will be replaced by Shekhar Chaudhary, Katangi MLA Tamal Sahare will make way for Both Singh Bhagat,

and Gunnaur MLA Shivdayal Bagri will be replaced by Jeevan Lal Siddharth.

Out of the 144 Congress candidates, 39 are from the OBC category, 22 from the SCs, and 30 from the STs. Six candidates were from minority communities. The party has given tickets to 19 women. The high number of OBC candidates have been fielded considering the Congress battling for the caste census and OBC reservation in women reservation bill and also to build its OBC leadership which was eroded by the BJP over the years. The list also has 65 candidates under the age of 50.

Congress state vice-president J P Dhanopia told *The Indian Express*, "These were the high performing MLAs in our surveys and that's why they made the list. If you look at the BJP list, it's made up of union ministers and MPs which is a signal that they don't have winning candidates, we have filled young candidates and fresh faces in this election."

Congress said, the delay in its first list was due to the time it took to consult a wide range of leaders in the party, "unlike the BJP, in which the Central Government was running the show".



In Telangana, 3 MPs, old-timers in list

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 15

IN TELANGANA, the Congress is aiming to win its second state in south India and has surged in recent months in the race to unseat the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) from power. On Sunday, the party released its first list of 55 candidates for the elections to the 119-member Assembly. Here are four takeaways from the Congress's list:

Old-timers rewarded:

The Congress has given a majority of the tickets to leaders who have been with it for long, with only three in the first list going to leaders who recently joined from the BRS. They are Kollapur strong-

man and five-time Congress MLA Jupally Krishna Rao who returned to the Congress in August and will contest from his turf. Former BRS MLA Mynampally Hanumantha Rao's gamble to quit the BRS last month also paid off. Not only has he got the ticket from Malkajgiri, but his son will also contest from Medak. Rao quit the BRS after it decided against fielding Rohit.

All 3 Lok Sabha MPs from the state named:

Malkajgiri MP and state Congress president A Revanth Reddy will contest from his home constituency of Kodangal while former state Congress chief N Uttam Kumar Reddy, the Nalgonda MP, will be in the fray from Huzurnagar. Bhongir MP Komatireddy Venkat Reddy will

contest from Nalgonda. Revanth Reddy won from Kodangal in 2009 and 2014 but lost to the BRS in 2018. Uttam Kumar Reddy won from Huzurnagar in 2009, 2014, and 2018 but vacated the seat after winning the parliamentary election in May 2019. The BRS wrested the seat in the bypoll. Venkat Reddy won from the Nalgonda Assembly constituency in 1999, 2004, 2009, and 2014 but lost the seat to the BRS last time.

Other notable names:

Uttam Kumar Reddy's wife Padmavathi Reddy will contest from Kodad, which she won in 2014 but lost four years later. Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka will be in the fray from the Scheduled Caste (SC)-reserved

Madhira seat and, Danasari Anasuya, a former Maoist popularly known as Seethakka, has been renominated from the Mulug constituency, which is reserved for Scheduled Tribes (STs). Sangareddy strongman Thurupu Jayprakash Reddy, popularly known as Jagga Reddy, has been renominated. Former journalist Dr Kota Neelima will contest from Sanathnagar while former MP M Anjan Kumar Yadav will contest from Musheerabad.

Reddys dominate list:

The list is dominated by 17 from the Reddy community. There are 12 each from the Backward Class and SC communities, seven Velamas, two STs, three Muslims, and two Brahmins.

Line-up of big guns in Chhattisgarh, a message to BJP

JAYPRAKASH S NAIDU
RAIPUR, OCTOBER 15

THE CONGRESS on Sunday declared its first list of 30 candidates in Chhattisgarh, including 19 of the 20 constituencies at stake in the first phase on November 7. While eight sitting MLAs have been dropped, top leaders and ministers have been retained.

With this, the party underlines the advantage it seemingly has over a BJP still struggling to find its feet and sends the Opposition party the message that it is the favourite to retain power come December 3, when the results will be announced. Of the 90 Assembly seats, the Congress won 68 in 2018 and the BJP won 15. After several bypolls, the Congress's tally is 71 at present and the BJP's is down to 13.

Of the 14 heavyweights whose candidature have been declared are Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel (Patan), Deputy CM T S Singh Deo (Ambikapur), Speaker Charan Das Mahant (Sakti), and Cabinet ministers Amarjeet Bhagat (Sitapur-ST), Umesh Patel (Kharsia), Jai Singh Agrawal (Korba), Shivkumar Dahariya (Arang-SC), Anila Bhendia (Dondi Lohara-ST), Tamradhwaj Sahu (Durg Rural), Ravindra Choubey (Saja), Guru Rudra Kumar (Nawagarh-SC), Mohammad Akbar (Kawardha), Mohan Markam (Kondagaon) and Kawasi Lakhma (Konta).

Chhattisgarh Congress president Deepak Baij, the Lok Sabha MP from Bastar, has been fielded from Chitrakot that he won in 2018 but vacated the following year to contest the parliamentary elections. Eight MLAs dropped

There are some big names among the eight MLAs denied tickets. In Kankeer, former IAS officer Shishupal Shori has been replaced by former MLA Shankar Dhruv while in Dantewada the party has re-

placed Devati Karma, the wife of Mahendra Karma who had started the Salwa Judum anti-Naxal militia, with their son Chavindra. Maoists killed Mahendra and several senior Congress leaders in the 2013 Jhiram Ghati attack in Sukma. Devati won the 2013 election but lost to the BJP's Bhima Mandavi five years later. But after Mandavi was killed in a 2019 Naxal attack, Devati won the ensuing bypoll against Mandavi's wife.

Pandariya MLA Mamta Chandrakar has been replaced by Neelkanth Chandrawanshi, a grassroots leader, while in Dongargarh, which is reserved for Scheduled Castes, Harshita Baghel is the new candidate in place of Bhuneshwar Baghel.

In Khujji, MLA Chhanni Chandu Sahu has made way for Bhola Ram Sahu who unsuccessfully contested the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. In Antagarh, MLA Anoop Nag was denied a ticket and has been replaced by first-time candidate Roop Singh Potai.

The other MLAs who have been dropped are Rajman Benjam (Chitrakot) and Gurudayal Banjare, who has made way for state minister Guru Rudra Kumar in Nawagarh. On the reason why the MLAs were dropped from the list, Congress media cell chief Sushil Anand Shukla said, "The decision was taken based on multiple factors like popularity, winnability, and most importantly, surveys by a private agency and former and present Congress party workers and leaders."

Of the 30 seats for which the Congress declared candidates, 14 are reserved for Scheduled Tribes and three for Scheduled Castes. In nine of the remaining 13 seats, the Congress has fielded OBC candidates, while four tickets have been given to those in the general category — ministers Baghel, Singh Deo, Agrawal and Choubey. Four candidates are women, including two MLAs and a minister.

KCR poll sops: Cheaper LPG, life cover, pension hike

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 15

WITH THE Bharat Rashtra Samithi's (BRS) manifesto, party president and Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao has set out a vision for the state's development, pitching it directly against the Congress's six poll guarantees that were announced last month.

BRS has promised several sops and doles. All ration card holders will receive 5 kg of fortified rice through public distribution system (PDS) shops instead of normal rice. All 93 lakh families living below the poverty line (BPL) would be provided life insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh through the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) under the KCR Bima scheme, with the government paying the premium.

The Aasara monthly pension for senior citizens, widows, beedi workers, filaria victims, single women, and handloom weavers



Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao

would be raised to Rs 5,000 in the next two years from the existing Rs 3,016, KCR said. The BRS has promised to increase the monthly pension for handicapped persons from Rs 4,016 to Rs 6,016, and the Rythu Bandhu farm investment support to Rs 12,000 per acre per farmer from Rs 10,000 right now. The CM said he aimed to gradually increase it to Rs 16,000 per acre per farmer. Eligible women will receive Rs 3,000 per month and LPG cylinders for Rs 400. The limit of the flagship Aarogyasri

health insurance scheme will be increased to Rs 15 lakh.

The government has also promised to construct homes for the urban and rural poor while women's organisations will get their own buildings. The sops have been announced to blunt the effect of the Congress' guarantees that include providing LPG cylinders for Rs 500, an increase in farm support to Rs 12,000, and an increase in pension amounts.

Releasing the manifesto, KCR said the state's Budget outlay had been increased to Rs 3 lakh crore while the state's GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product) had increased two and a half times under the BRS.

His government had given equal priority to welfare and development, the CM said, adding that Telangana had become a model for the country in welfare and capital expenditure.

Referring to the financial assistance announced for women, the CM said the BRS had given importance to women's welfare. Most of the scheme benefits were provided in the name of women, KCR said.

Regarding LPG cylinder subsidy, the CM said, "The BJP at the Centre has increased the gas cylinder prices abnormally and put an unbearable burden on the common man. The BRS is announcing another guarantee with a humanitarian aspect due to the large number of requests from women to avoid this burden. We promise that the BRS government provide a gas cylinder for Rs 400 to deserving poor women and the rest of the burden will be borne by the government," he said.

These sops announced by the BRS in its manifesto are a way of ensuring that the Congress's messaging on welfare politics does not take hold. After the KCR

government launched a new welfare scheme to provide financial assistance to eligible beneficiaries from the backward classes, the Congress came up with a "Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) Declaration" and was working on a "Minorities Declaration" to counter the BRS narrative.

Since the Karnataka Assembly elections, where the Congress's focus on hyperlocal issues pushed it to a massive victory, the party has received a second wind in the neighbouring state.

Putting the dismal result in the 2018 Assembly polls behind, the party has been working to dismantle the welfare agenda and narrative of the BRS government and has regained a lot of the Opposition space it had ceded to the BJP.

For the BRS, its focus on welfare politics — especially its projection as a pro-poor and pro-farmers party — is crucial to its efforts to win power for a third straight term.



Supporters around Ashok Gehlot's car in Delhi. PTI

Ticket seekers stop Gehlot's car

New Delhi: Some people surrounded the vehicle of Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot outside Jodhpur House in Lutyens' Delhi over distribution of tickets for the upcoming state polls, police said on Sunday. Some party workers raised slogans against Gehlot over the issue, police said. "...some people were talking to the chief minister over the issue of ticket distribution. However, heavy police force deployment was made there to maintain law and order," police said. PTI

GOVT. OF BIHAR
BIHAR COMBINED ENTRANCE COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION BOARD
L.A.S. Association Building, Near Patna Airport, Patna-14.
POST GRADUATE MEDICAL ADMISSION COUNSELLING (PGMAC)-2023
for MD / MS / PGD / DNB (Degree & Diploma) in Govt/ Private Medical Colleges of Bihar
Advt. No.- BCECEB(PGMAC)-2023/18 Dated : 15.10.2023 bceceboard.bihar.gov.in
Notice for PGMAC-2023 Stray Vacancy Round Online Counselling
Fresh Online Registration and submission of Application form are invited from such qualified, eligible & interested NEET(PG)-2023 candidates for appearing in the Stray Vacancy Round Online Counselling of Post Graduate Medical Admission Counselling (PGMAC)-2023, who are not admitted in any Medical Colleges of India, on the vacant seats of Government/ Private Medical Colleges of Bihar.
2. Stray Vacancy Round Counselling will be conducted Online.
3. The candidates who fall under below mentioned conditions are not eligible to participate in Stray Vacancy Round Counselling of PGMAC-2023 based on NEET(PG)-2023:
(a) Admitted through PGMAC-2023 Round 1 / Round 2 / Round-3 Counselling.
(b) Admitted through AIQ on the basis of NEET(PG)-2023 Round 1 / Round 2 / Round-3 Counselling.
(c) Admitted through NEET(PG)-2023 Round 1 / Round 2 / Round-3 / Stray Vacancy Round Counselling conducted by Other States.
If any candidate duly submits Fresh Online Application form by providing wrong information, his / her Security Deposit amount paid for participating in Stray Vacancy Round Counselling will be forfeited and he / she will become not eligible for Stray Vacancy Round Counselling as Data will be scrutinized before preparation / publication of Merit List.
4. The online Registration and submission of Application Form will start from 16.10.2023 and close on 17.10.2023 (2.00 PM).
5. Detailed programme and process for Stray Vacancy Round Counselling of PGMAC-2023 [MD / MS / PGD / DNB (Degree & Diploma) Course] has been published through Adv. no. BCECEB(PGMAC)-2023/17 dt. 15.10.2023 which is uploaded on Board's website : bceceboard.bihar.gov.in. All concerned are requested to go through the advertisement uploaded on Board's website and act accordingly.
Controller of Examination

Tika Ram Education Society (Regd.), Sonapat
TIKA RAM GIRLS COLLEGE, SONEPAT
(Haryana Govt. aided)
(Affiliated to M.D.University, Rohtak) (Ph: 7027232613)
Website: www.trgc.edu.in Email: principal.trgc@gmail.com
Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the Haryana Govt. aided vacant post of Principal (Female) on regular basis in Tika Ram Girls College, Sonapat run by the society. Age, Qualification, pay scale and latest norms & selection criteria (Revised) dated 18.04.2023 as per Haryana Govt., U.G.C and M.D.University, Rohtak. Application form can be downloaded from the college website. Prescribed application form complete in all respects, with self attested photocopies of certificates/documents/testimonials with fee of Rs. 500/- for General and Rs. 250/- for SC/BC candidates in form of DD in favour of Principal, Tika Ram Girls college, Sonapat payable at Sonapat may apply to General Secretary and send/submit at Tika Ram Model School, Sonapat by 05-11-2023 till 4 p.m. i.e., within 21 days of publication of this advertisement. Following the instructions of the DGHE vide memo no. 8/91- 2017 C IV(1), regarding qualifications, selection criteria, pay scale, age and its relaxation, the applicants must see/read the websites of UGC, Department of higher education, Haryana(PI. also see instructions of DGHE Haryana regarding minimum qualification, pay scale and API score issued vide memo no. 7/79-2017 C IV(3) dated 11.11.2022) & M.D.University, Rohtak. A copy of the application along with all self attested testimonials be sent to the Dean (Colleges), M.D.University, Rohtak.
Note:- 1.No objection certificate from the present employer must be attached. 2.API Score Proforma, duly filled in, to be submitted with the application form. 3.No consideration for incomplete, after date and postal delay applications.
Surinder Singh Dahiya
President, Tika Ram Education Society (Regd.), Sonapat.



NCP chief Sharad Pawar at a party rally in Mumbai on Sunday. PTI

Collapse of law and order, BJP misusing power: Sharad Pawar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 15

UNDER THE present governments, there is total collapse of law and order at national as well as state level, said Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Sharad Pawar on Sunday, adding that the ruling BJP is misusing power and it is necessary to unitedly stand against such a party.

Addressing a party rally in Mumbai, Pawar said, "What we see today is a total collapse of law and order. In Maharashtra, thousands of girls and women are missing. In Delhi, police are being used against journalists and arrest political opponents. The ruling BJP is misusing power..."

"All of us are part of INDIA. We are in it, which means you also are a part of it. We all are together in this. We will snatch the power from those who are misusing it and hand it over to the common people," said Pawar. The move to choose former corporator Rakhi Jadhav as Mumbai unit president comes two weeks after Ajit Pawar-affiliated NCP chose former Lok Sabha MP Sameer Bhujbal as its Mumbai unit chief.

Pawar said, "The difference between two appointments is that our president has never gone to prison." Bhujbal and his uncle and present minister Chhagan Bhujbal have spent more than two years in the jail. Commenting on Ajit group's state president Sunil Tatkare who had earlier claimed Sharad had held talks with the BJP in the past, NCP MLA Jitendra Awhad said holding talks and joining hands are different.

18% votes, 34 seats: Dalits key for BJP, Cong in Rajasthan

DEEP MUKHERJEE
JAIPUR, OCTOBER 14

ITS 2018 Assembly election victory in Rajasthan had also seen the Congress regaining the support of a large section of the Dalit community, which has for long been considered as one of the party's core vote banks in the state. The Scheduled Castes (SCs) account for 17.83% of the state's population.

The Dalit support had come as a breather for the Congress, because in the 2013 Assembly polls, the community's voters had largely voted for BJP, making the latter victorious in 32 of the 34 SC-reserved seats in Rajasthan. At that time, the BJP had won 163 seats while the Congress's tally had plunged to just 21 MLAs.

In the 2018 elections, the Congress won 19 of 34 SC-reserved seats. BJP won 12 of these seats and the Rashtriya Loktantrik Party (RLP) got two seats, while in one constituency a Congress rebel won as an Independent.

In the upcoming Assembly polls, while the Congress hopes to repeat its 2018 performance and win most of the SC seats, the

FORMER DIV COM DENIES EX-PUNE CP'S CLAIMS OF IRREGULARITIES AGAINST AJIT PAWAR

Yerawada land auction: Ex-official says deal was for benefit of police personnel

MANOJ MORE
PUNE, OCTOBER 15

FOLLOWING THE revelation by former Pune Police Commissioner Meeran Borwankar in her book, *Madam Commissioner*, about how she stopped a prime piece of police land being handed over to a private party by the then district minister, the then Divisional Commissioner Dilip Band on Sunday denied her claims and said "because of her negative attitude, a project meant for welfare of police personnel remained stranded for years".

"I think her allegations pertain to three acre of land on which Yerawada police station is located. In 2010, a proposal had come forward from a builder who had at least 8 acre of land around the Yerawada police station. He wanted continuity in his

land holding. The Yerawada police station was located in the middle of his land holding. And, therefore, he suggested to us that we should hand over two acre of land to him," Band told this paper on Sunday.

The developer, Band said, in turn promised to build the Yerawada police station on an alternative plot and even a police complex at the same spot. "Besides, he promised to redevelop the police quarters at Shivajinagar which had become old and dilapidated. There he promised to reconstruct nearly 500 quarters at his own cost," Band said.

Not just these two projects, Band said, the builder also promised to construct residences of the Additional Police Commissioner and DCP at Shivajinagar. "He promised all these projects would have ample parking space and other amenities," Band said.

Band's reaction came following allegations made by Borwankar in her book—reported by *The Indian Express* in Sunday's edition—then District Guardian Minister had summoned her to hand over the prime piece of land to the private bidder. In her book, she has referred to him as "district minister" who was addressed as "dada." She told *The Indian Express* though that she was referring to Ajit Pawar.

When contacted for her response, Borwankar said, "Mr Band had mentioned that a proposal had come from a builder (and not from police) and he already owned land around Yerawada police station and wanted continuity in his land. So he suggested the Yerawada Police station be relocated and he would construct as he promised....Is it not abundantly clear that it was the builder whose interest was

paramount? Whom are we fooling by projecting that the 'auction' and the proposed exchange was for the 'welfare of police men/women'? The comment itself proves that it was to accommodate a particular bidder. Do I need to say anything more when it has been admitted by the then Divisional Commissioner himself?"

Band said the proposal had come from the developer when Satyapal Singh was the Pune police commissioner and he (Band) was the divisional commissioner. "We had set up a committee for the purpose. I was the chairman of committee. There were top officials in the committee including then police commissioner, district collector and additional police commissioner. Then Additional Chief Secretary (Home) had held a few meetings in this connection. She had also visited the Yerawada

area at the time," he said.

Band said after the committee had given the go-ahead, the proposal went to the Additional Chief Secretary (Home) office. "It was discussed with RR Patil, then Home Minister, who gave the go-ahead for an auction for the two-acre land...The proposal was finally approved by the Additional Chief Secretary (Home) who was the rightful authority. We had received 7 bids. The contract was then given to the highest bidder."

Asked about Ajit Pawar's involvement, Band said, "Ajit Pawar was the district guardian minister. The land belonged to the Home Ministry. And therefore, it concerned RR Patil. Ajit Pawar was not involved. When the project remained stranded, Ajit Pawar sought to know the reason... And he held a meeting with Meeran Borwankar... I was not present at the meeting."



Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Ahmedabad on Sunday. PTI

Direct young minds to libraries: Shah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GANDHINAGAR, OCTOBER 15

THE future of India and Gujarat lies in their libraries, Union Minister Amit Shah said in Mansa Sunday urging teachers to direct the young minds of the country towards reading.

"I will insist, whichever teachers of primary and higher secondary schools are listening, direct children and youths towards libraries. The future of Gujarat and the country lies in the libraries. If we make a student a subject expert, then Gujarat and the country will get a good citizen who can contribute," Shah said while addressing a public meeting after inaugurating a memorial of martyrs and a library at Samau village of Gandhinagar district.

Samau, which falls within the Mansa Assembly constituency that is part of the Gandhinagar Lok Sabha seat represented by Shah, assumes significance as 12 persons from the village were hanged during the Revolt of 1857. The memorial and the library have been built at a cost of Rs 2 crore in the memory of the martyrs.

Shah expressed happiness over the kind of books, including a Gujarati dictionary and grammar book, kept in the library that can seat around 100 persons.

Drawing parallels to a "lighthouse", he said, "The library will function like a lighthouse for keeping alive the culture under which the martyrs made the supreme sacrifice."

On how they decided to choose Samau to house the library, Shah said he had got an anonymous postcard from Mansa informing about the 12 martyrs. After verifying the letter's content, it was decided to build an honourable memorial in their memory, he said.

He also suggested the village residents appoint a committee of 11 persons who could maintain the memorial and the library.

'We need bailout from Centre...NDA has big chance of winning 2024 polls'

LAST WEEK, Mizoram Assembly Speaker **LALRINLIANA SAILO** resigned from his post after his party, Mizo National Front, denied him a ticket to contest the coming Assembly election. He then went on to join the BJP. Speaking to **SUKRITA BARUAH**, he pointed to the state's financial dependence on the Centre as a factor that influenced his decision to join the BJP. Excerpts:



WITH **LALRINLIANA SAILO**
FORMER SPEAKER, MIZORAM ASSEMBLY

What prompted your decision to join the BJP?

Considering the financial strain and crisis in Mizoram, we need help from the Centre – a bailout. I also think the BJP and the NDA have a big chance of winning the general election in 2024. This is why I joined the BJP.

So far, the BJP has not had a sizeable presence in Mizoram, which elected its first BJP MLA in 2018. Do you think this could change?

Yes, the party will grow. Due to the Manipur crisis, there was a feeling that it would be difficult for the BJP in Mizoram. But things have changed now after people realised the situation regarding the ethnic clashes in Manipur. The party's condition is improving day by day.

Recently, the BJP's Mizoram vice president resigned, saying he believes the BJP government in Manipur and Centre supported the "massive demolition of churches" during the violence there. Won't the crisis have a bearing on BJP's chances here?

As I said, there is now a realisation of the actual situation in Manipur. It is not a Hindu or BJP issue, it is an ethnic clash. People are understanding that aspect of the Manipur situation.

The only seat that the party currently holds is from a Chakma-majority area. Isn't it difficult for the BJP, with its Hindutva ideology, to make

BJP MP accuses Mahua of 'cash for query'; she denies, says probe him first

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

BJP MP Nishkant Dubey on Sunday wrote to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla alleging that Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra took bribes for raising questions in Parliament to "protect the interest of a business group". He urged the Speaker to set up a committee to probe the allegations and sought her suspension from the House till the panel submitted its report.

Dismissing his charges, Moitra said the Speaker should first probe the "multiple breach of privileges pending against Dubey and other BJP leaders" before initiating any motion against her.

In March this year, the TMC MP had sought the termination of Dubey's Lok Sabha membership alleging that his MBA and PhD degrees were "fake".

In his letter, Dubey alleged that he had received documents from an advocate, Jai Anant Dehadrai, who, he claimed, "shared irrefutable evidence of bribes exchanged" between the TMC MP and a businessman "to ask question(s) in Parliament".

Dubey mentioned Moitra had till recently asked "approximately 50 questions in Parliament, out of total 61 posted by her, which sought information with the intent of protecting business interests of a company". He alleged that "it is nothing but a re-emergence of cash for query" by Moitra.

Hitting back at Dubey, Moitra tweeted: "Multiple breach of privileges pending against fake degrewala & other @BJP4India luminaries. Welcome any motions against me right after the Speaker finishes dealing with those. Also waiting for @dir_ed & others to file FIR in Adani coal scam before coming to my doorstep."

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Vikas Prabhakar, S/O Charanjeet Lal Prabhakar R/O Flat No. A 704, Gokul Apartment, Plot 5B, Sec -11 Dwarka, Delhi-110078, Have Changed My Name to Vikash Prabhakar for All Purposes.

0040693848-1

I, Intezar Ali S/O Chaudhary Khurshad Ali R/O 186, Maharajpur, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Chaudhary Intzar Ali.

0070868546-1

I, Km Dipti Chaturvedi W/O Dharmendra Kumar Pathak R/O 165, Amritpur, Farrukhabad, UP have changed my name to Dipti Chaturvedi forever.

0070868583-1

I, Jaibuneesa W/o Chaudhary Intzar Ali R/O 186, Maharajpur, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Zabunnisha.

0070868548-1

I, Nidhi, D/o Ravinder Singh, R/O S-169, Third Floor, Aram Bagh, Chitragupta Road, near Durga Pooja Park, Paharganj, Delhi-110055, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Nidhi Gusanin.

0040693874-1

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WISHES AND BLESSINGS

Happy birthday dear bubby (Deb Sen) From your wife Anindita.

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Office of the Executive Engineer Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Ghaziabad No. 3222/4A-Camp Date- 09.10.2023 Short Term E-Procurement Notice Inviting Tenders							
S. No.	DISTRICT	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Bid Security (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of Tender	Category (Road)	Time of Completion
1	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on Shahzadpur Ujanda mixer Patti from km 1 of Rawali road.	11.10	1.11	500+225 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
2	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on Rawali road in Km. 8 to Khawasani Road	4.80	0.48	500+225 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
3	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on the road from Kakra Raywaha road from Ramdasi Kollis to Sahdev Tyagi's Gher.	8.60	0.86	500+225 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
4	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on Ranspur to Sadsapur road	28.40	2.84	2000+300 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
5	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on pipeline to Bahadrapur road	18.50	1.85	500+300 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
6	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on pipeline to Makreda Road	18.60	1.86	500+300 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
7	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on Kumbhada to Gyanpur road	21.40	2.14	2000+300 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
8	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on the road from Kumbhada to the canal bridge.	29.90	2.99	2000+300 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
9	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on Didoli Canal to Shahzadpur road	15.70	1.57	500+300 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
10	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on Muradnagar station, Ujanda minor track till Rawali road pipeline via Muradnagar city	29.30	2.93	2000+300 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
11	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on Basantpur Saithi to Shobhapur road.	12.20	1.22	500+225 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
12	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on pipeline from Bhadauli road to Milak road.	12.90	1.29	500+225 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
13	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on Rawali road in Km. 10 to Khazipur road	14.90	1.49	500+225 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
14	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on Rawali Inter College to Suthari road.	12.90	1.29	500+225 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
15	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on Dahai to Hissali road.	14.60	1.46	500+225 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
16	Chhatarpur	Special repair work of Bamheta to Lakhna road	13.50	1.35	500+225 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
17	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on the pipeline to Navipur link road.	4.90	0.49	500+225 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
18	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on Nahal Madrasa to Nahal Idgah road.	10.40	1.04	500+225 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
19	Chhatarpur	Special repair work of the remaining part of Raghunagar link.	13.90	1.39	500+225 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
20	Chhatarpur	Special repair work of Manouta road from Km. 33 of Highway 58.	8.50	0.85	500+225 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
21	Chhatarpur	Special repair work of Jalalabad link road.	4.80	0.48	500+225 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
22	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on the road from Mahamoodpur Loni Gate to the village.	11.50	1.15	500+225 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
23	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on Loni Rattal road from Kharkhadi gate to Chisari Kharkhadi road.	3.90	0.39	500+225 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
24	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on Mirpur Hindu to Badapur road.	29.50	2.95	2000+300 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
25	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on Mirpur to Pachauri road.	26.10	2.61	2000+300 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months

26	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on Abapur to Didoli road.	10.10	1.01	500+225 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
27	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on Bakharwa to Rori road	16.80	1.66	500+300 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
28	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on Latifpur Tibda to Jahangipur Patti road.	25.90	2.59	2000+300 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
29	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on Modinagar Budana Mavi road	22.30	2.23	2000+300 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
30	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on Modinagar-Hapur road to Gadana road	6.40	0.64	500+225 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
31	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on the road from Datadi to Garhganj	12.50	1.25	500+225 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
32	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on Dahri Abhapur to Makipur Garhi road.	7.70	0.77	500+225 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
33	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on Mahamoodpur Sajapur road from km 0-5 of Bhagpur Piliban road.	16.40	1.64	500+300 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
34	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on Mohiddinpur Kharkhonda road from Sadsapur Deela road.	13.30	1.33	500+225 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
35	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on Dahri Abhapur to Makipur Madhya road.	1.60	0.16	500+225 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
36	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on Modinagar Tibda road to Latifpur road.	4.70	0.47	500+225 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
37	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on Khazipur to Jahangipur Patti link road.	6.90	0.69	500+225 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
38	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on Khazipur road from Modinagar Municipality border	4.20	0.42	500+225 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
39	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on Khazipur road from km 0-4 of Modinagar-Hapur road.	7.80	0.78	500+225 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
40	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on the road from Nizampur Gate to Sakri Devi Temple.	10.90	1.09	500+225 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
41	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on Nangla Hair Temple to Jahangipur bypass road.	8.00	0.80	500+225 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
42	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on Niwadi to Aghaia road	27.20	2.72	2000+300 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
43	Chhatarpur	Special repair work from Dharampur drain bridge to Saunda Marg via Vikram culvert.	20.80	2.08	2000+300 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
44	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on Modinagar Hapur road to Aurangabad Fazalgarh road.	12.50	1.25	500+225 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
45	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on Modinagar Niwari to Budana Mavi road.	20.50	2.05	2000+300 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
46	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on Hridaypur Bhandala to Sadsapur road.	4.40	0.44	500+225 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
47	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on Bhoolgarhi to Jajalgarh's Madhya Road	18.40	1.84	500+300 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
48	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on Shahjahanpur Abadi Talhata bypass road.	16.60	1.66	500+300 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
49	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on Firozpur Kaithawadi road to Dubana road.	10.30	1.03	500+225 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
50	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on Niwari to Paenga road.	20.50	2.05	2000+300 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
51	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on Khindaura Mohamoodpur road to Matarur road.	7.70	0.77	500+225 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
52	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on NH-24 to Mubarkpur road	20.70	2.07	2000+300 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months
53	Chhatarpur	Special repair work on Modinagar Hapur to Jahangipur Patti road	19.40	1.94	500+300 + GST 18%	A-D	1 Months

3- Terms / conditions and details related to the tender can be seen in the office of Executive Engineer, Construction Division-2 PWD, Ghaziabad, Superintending Engineer, Bulandshahar Circle, PWD, Bulandshahar and Chief Engineer, Meerut Zone, PWD Meerut

4- The terms / conditions and details related to the tender are available on the website <http://etender.up.nic.in>

5- In PWD technical evaluation of tenders is to be done by Prahari Software URL for Prahari is <http://wms.uppwd.gov.in/Prahari/>

UPID-196063 Date 14/10/2023
www.upgov.nic.in

Assistant Engineer
C.D.-2, PWD, Gzb.

Executive Engineer
C.D.-2, PWD Gzb.

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida - 201301 (U.P.)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened / downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/ amendments & corrigendum etc.

S. No	JOB NO.	NAME OF WORK	AMOUNT
1	30/DGM(NTC)/SM (NTC)/2021-22	P/L Thermoplastic Paint on Edgeline, Broken Line, Zebra Strips on Internal Roads in Sector-34 & 52, Noida	3942120.00
2	31/DGM(NTC)/SM (NTC)/2021-22	P/L Thermoplastic Paint on Edgeline, Broken Line, Zebra Strips on DSC Road From NSEZ Metro Station to Hindon Bridge, & Internal Roads in Sector-80, Noida	4069520.00

Which can be uploaded by date 25.10.2023 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 26.10.2023 at 11.00AM

Which can be uploaded by date 31.10.2023 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 01.11.2023 at 11.00AM

Dy. General Manager
Noida Traffic Cell

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

7 EXPRESS NETWORK

BRIEFLY

WEST BENGAL
Three die after house catches fire in Howrah

Kolkata: A family of three died after their house caught fire late on Saturday in Uluberia area of Howrah district, police said on Sunday. The three, identified as Yasin Mallick (32), Mahima Begum (27) and their daughter 10-month-old Humaira Khatun, were sleeping inside the house when the fire broke out. "The incident took place in Parijat Dakshinpara in Uluberia, Howrah where a couple and their child died. The actual cause of fire is yet to be ascertained," said a police official. **ENS**

JAMMU & KASHMIR
Soldier injured in mine blast near LoC

Jammu: An Indian soldier was injured in a mine explosion on Sunday near the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's border of Rajouri district. Identifying the injured as Rifleman Gurcharan Singh, police sources said he had been patrolling the area along the LoC in Nowshera sector's Kalsian village when he accidentally stepped over the landmine. He was taken to a nearby hospital from where he was airlifted to Army's Command Hospital at Udhampur for special treatment. **ENS**

TRIPURA
Won't spare those trading in narcotics: CM

Agartala: Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha Sunday said foreign nations are involved in the sharp rise of the narcotics trade in the state and issued a terse warning to those involved in it saying his government would spare no steps to catch them and bring them to justice. He also warned Mog tribal leaders against rising cases of child marriages in Tripura. **ENS**

UTTAR PRADESH
Man arrested for posing as CM's security officer

Lucknow: The Special Task Force (STF) of Uttar Pradesh Police has arrested a man, along with his accomplice, for allegedly duping people of a large amount of money by posing as a "security officer" of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Ramshankar Gupta, would pose as special secretary (investment) in the government and cheat people by promising them help to get transfers and postings. **PTI**

12 die as mini bus rams truck on Maharashtra expressway; driver, 2 RTO officials arrested

SAGAR RAJPUT
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 15

TWELVE PEOPLE, including a five-year-old girl, died after the driver of a minibus allegedly lost control and rammed a stationary truck on Samruddhi Mahamarg near Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar district, also known as Aurangabad, in Maharashtra early Sunday. The Aurangabad rural police have arrested the driver of the container and two assistant inspectors of Regional Transport Office (RTO) as it came to light that stopping the container truck on the highway without following appropriate procedure was the cause of the accident.

According to police, the accident took place on the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday when 35 members of a family from Nashik were returning home after paying a visit to the Sailani Baba Dargah in Buldhana.

Aurangabad SP Maneesh Kalwaniya said, "The two RTO personnel had stopped the container truck around 10 kilometres before the Jambargaon toll plaza. They took the vehicle documents and licence from the driver, identified as



At the accident site on Samruddhi Mahamarg, Express

Brijeshkumar Kamalsingh Chandal, after which they asked him to go ahead, claiming that they shall stop him again."

The two assistant inspectors identified as Pradeep Rathod and Nitin Ganorkar later stopped another vehicle after the toll naka and subsequently instructed Chandal to stop his container truck.

"Chandal parked his vehicle on the fourth lane of the highway and the driver of the trailing mini bus could not gauge it, due to which the vehicle rammed the container," said Kalwaniya. RTO commissioner Vivek Bhimanwar. He said that the two assistant in-

spectors have been suspended for not following highway rules. "All the passengers were admitted to government hospitals in Aurangabad and Vajapur," said a senior police official. "Another 23 passengers are injured and around 10-15 persons are admitted, of which three are critical," said the official.

Soon after the incident, the relatives of the victims along with the Leader of Opposition in the Maharashtra Legislative Council, Ambadas Danve, raised questions on the RTO's role in the accident. "Action should be taken against RTO officials who pur-

posely stop vehicles on this expressway," Danve said. The Aurangabad rural police registered a case under relevant sections under Indian Penal Code and the Motor Vehicle Act against Chandal, Rathod and Ganorkar.

President Droupadi Murmu and PM Narendra Modi expressed grief over the loss of lives in the accident. "I am deeply saddened by the news of several casualties in a tragic road accident in Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar district of Maharashtra. I express my condolences to the bereaved family members and pray for the speedy recovery of those injured," Murmu said in a post on X.

PM Modi's office posted a message on X saying, "Pained by the loss of lives due to an accident in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar district. My thoughts are with those who lost their loved ones. I wish the injured a speedy recovery. An ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh from PMNRF would be given to the next of kin of each deceased. The injured would be given Rs 50,000."

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has directed a probe into the incident and announced financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh to the families of the deceased.

14 killed in two accidents in Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAIPUR, TIRUVANNAMALAI, OCTOBER 15

SEVEN PEOPLE died and eight sustained injuries in a collision between a truck and a vehicle in Rajasthan's Dungarpur district on Sunday, police said. The accident occurred near the Ratanpur border on the Delhi-Mumbai National Highway, Bichhiwada police station SHO Madanlal said. All seven died on the spot and the bodies were strewn on the road, the officer said, adding that three critically injured people were referred to Dungarpur.

According to police, the truck rammed into the Force Trax Cruiser — a multi-utility vehicle (MUV) capable of seating up to 13 people — after its brakes failed. Due to the impact, the MUV overturned, they said.

Police said 21 people were travelling in the vehicle that was headed to Ahmedabad from Dungarpur while one of the occupants claimed that some peo-

ple were even sitting on the roof. "Some of the passengers were sitting on the roof of the MUV when the accident occurred. The driver of the vehicle was also killed," he said.

Meanwhile, seven persons, including two children, were killed and a woman was seriously injured after a car and truck collided head-on near Tiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu on Sunday, police said.

While the cause of the accident is being probed, initial enquiries reveal that the car had swerved to the opposite direction of the road, a Chengam police official said.

Chief Minister M K Stalin, in a statement, condoled the deaths of seven persons and said he has ordered a solatium of Rs two lakh to the families of each of the deceased. The accident occurred on the Tiruvannamalai-Bengaluru highway and the occupants of the car were returning to the Karnataka capital after visiting a temple in Tamil Nadu.

Major gets 5 yrs RI over sexual assault of minor

MAN AMAN SINGH CHHINA
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 15

A GENERAL Court Martial (GCM) of the Army in Ferozpur, Punjab has sentenced a Major to five years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) and cashiering from service after convicting him for the sexual assault of a domestic help's minor daughter.

The officer belongs to the Corps of Army Air Defence and was posted in New Delhi when the offence took place. Cashiering refers to dishonourable dismissal from service and the convict is not authorised any military benefits subsequent to such sentence. The Major had been charged with two offences under Section 69 (civil offences) of the Army Act along with relevant provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act 2012.

The prosecution counsel, Colonel Mirza Aslam Beg (retd), argued before the court that the charges had been well proved and that the accused and his family were educated and knew the gravity of the crime which the accused had committed. An official complaint against the Major was lodged with the Army authorities at the Station Headquarters Delhi Area, Delhi Cantonment, by the domestic help in January 2022.

70-yr-old murdered in UP, police point to land dispute

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 15

A 70-YEAR-OLD farmer was killed by unidentified assailants in a farm at Madhuva village of Sultanpur on Saturday, police said on Sunday. Police suspect that the crime may be the fallout of a land dispute between the victim, Tulsiram Nishad, and his neighbour Monu Nishad (28). Monu and an associate of his have been detained for questioning, police said.

According to the police, on Saturday morning, Tulsiram's body was found with injuries inflicted using a sharp-edged weapon.

Tulsiram has two sons who work with private firms in Mumbai and Nagpur. He used to stay at night in a hut he built on a farm, around 100 metres from

his ancestral residence. On Saturday evening, Tulsiram went to the farm and did not return home. His daughter-in-law asked a neighbour to check. The neighbour found the body and the police were informed.

Tulsiram's daughter-in-law claimed to the police that on Saturday afternoon, Monu, under the influence of alcohol, verbally abused her father-in-law. An FIR has been registered against Monu and others, police said.

ASP Vipul Kumar Srivastava said that the victim's family members also alleged that the suspect had threatened to kill Tulsiram earlier on Saturday. The two had been allegedly involved in a dispute over a plot of land behind their respective residences, police said, citing the family's claims. A probe is on, said Sultanpur SP Somen Barma.



DURGA PUJA GRANDEUR

Inside Tala Prattoy Durga Puja pandal in north Kolkata on Sunday. Durga Puja festivities in West Bengal start from October 20 this year. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee virtually inaugurated many Durga Puja pandals on Saturday and Sunday. On Monday, Home Minister Amit Shah will also be visiting Kolkata to inaugurate a pandal. Partha Paul

Flash flood: Army rescues 245 from Sikkim village

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, OCTOBER 15

INDIAN ARMY'S Trishakti Corps troops rescued 245 people stranded in Rabom village due to the flash flood in Sikkim, officials said on Sunday. Trishakti Corps have been undertaking rescue operations in villages cut off from the rest of the state following the flash flood.

In a statement issued by Trishakti Corps on Sunday, the rescue mission went on from October 7-13. "Troops of Trishakti Corps conducted a rescue mission in north Sikkim from October 7-13. Moving through mountainous terrain with thick jungles and undergrowth in challenging weather, the troops reached the 245 persons stranded in the village of Rabom



Air Force personnel rescue civilians from a flood-affected area in Sikkim on Sunday. PTI

in North Sikkim. The troops shared food and medical aid with the stranded people," Trishakti Corps wrote on its 'X' handle.

"The soldiers carved a 14.8 km route and rescued 97 workers of

Kundan Hydro Power Project and 80-100 locals. The troops have created a helipad in the village, created a safe foot track and continue to assist the stranded people of Rabom, Mensithang and

Chubinbin," it further said.

Earlier, an Indian Air Force statement informed that over 1,700 persons have been evacuated from various flood-affected areas of Sikkim. As per the state-

ment, Indian Air Force's Chinook and Mi-17 V5 helicopters continue operations in the flood-affected areas of Sikkim, with the induction of over 200 personnel to boost the relief efforts. "The IAF helicopters have also delivered nearly 99 tonnes of relief material in the 200 sorties flown till date. Operations shall continue till the requirements exist," it said.

The Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA) reported that as on October 11, the death toll due to the flash flood stood at 37, while 78 were reported to be missing.

On October 3, a glacier in Lhonak lake burst and breached one side of the lake leading to the rise in the water levels in Teesta river. The flash flood in Teesta inundated several areas of Sikkim, leaving dozens dead and thousands of tourists stranded.

Bengal student dies in Sweden, kin seek Centre's help in probe

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, OCTOBER 15

A 32-YEAR-OLD woman from Durgapur in West Bengal's Paschim Bardhaman district died in Sweden where she was pursuing post-doctoral research, her family said.

Alleging the victim, Roshni Das, was murdered, her family has sought the Centre's help in probing the matter and bringing her body back home.

Roshni studied zoology honours from Burdwan Raj College and biotechnology from Kalinga University in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, before moving to Sweden, it is learnt. Her family members, who live in Durgapur, said they last spoke to her on September 29 and could not es-

ablish any contact with her thereafter. It was on October 12 that the Swedish authorities contacted the Indian embassy and informed them about her death, they said.

The family was informed that her body was recovered from inside an apartment and a Swedish national has been arrested. Roshni's brother Supratim Das said, "On October 13, we got the news that she was found dead in an apartment. Then we contacted the local MP. The embassy staff do not know much on this but they are in contact with the local police." Surinder Singh Ahluwalia, BJP MP from Burdwan-Durgapur, said, "The Swedish authorities will not release the body right now as an investigation is going on in the matter."

Hinduism not way of worship but dharma: Bhagwat in J&K

ARUN SHARMA
KATHUA, OCTOBER 15

GIVING A call to maintain unity and harmony, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat Sunday said that Dharma unites all and uplifts them. He was addressing RSS workers at the sports stadium in Kathua, Jammu and Kashmir.

"Hinduism is not a way of worship but a Dharma. The one who not only tolerates, but accepts and respects all ways of worship and customs is a Hindu," he said, adding, "This is the ideology of Bharat since centuries. Dharma does not take the extreme path, but the middle one."

Alluding to various experiments over the last 2,000 years across the world to ensure that mankind can lead a prosperous



RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat visits Kali Mata temple on the first day of Navratri festival, in Jammu on Sunday. PTI

and happy life, Bhagwat said that pursuing those did not end its woes. "With the Russia-Ukraine war under way, conflict in Israel has started," he said, adding that comforts are also creating problems with many fearing that the world of tomorrow might be run

by machines. "In such a scenario," he said, "the world feels only Bharat can show them the way because its people, despite their differences in religions, castes and regions, have lived in harmony for 3,000 years."

Former poll panel chief M S Gill dies at 87

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 15

FORMER CHIEF election commissioner and Padma Vibhushan awardee Manohar Singh Gill died at 87 in a Delhi hospital on Sunday.

A distinguished figure in bureaucracy and politics, Gill's journey as a civil servant, Punjab-cadre, in 1958. He retired as the Chief Election Commissioner of India, a position he held from 1996 to 2001. It was during his tenure as CEC that the Election Commission introduced Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs).

After his retirement, Gill joined the Indian National Congress and represented Punjab in the Rajya Sabha from 2004 to 2016, marking two successful terms as a member of Parliament. During this period,

he held portfolios of Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports and Minister of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

Gill was known for his sharp intellect and plain speaking. He was a prolific writer and scholar, delving into topics close to his heart, particularly those related to Punjab.

His book 'Agriculture Cooperatives: A Case Study of Punjab', which originated during his study leave in Cambridge in 1974-75, showcased his deep understanding of agricultural issues. He was an advocate of a consensus-based resolution to river water disputes that have long plagued the region. He believed that dialogue and not the Supreme Court held the key to the resolution of the contentious Satluj Yamuna Link Canal issue.

Born in undivided Punjab on June 14, 1936, Gill never stopped lamenting what he called the



MANOHAR SINGH GILL 1936-2023

"second division" of the state in 1966. Linking the water dispute with the trifurcation of Punjab (Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana), he once told The Indian Express, "The division was unfair with many Punjabi-speaking areas going to Haryana; our riparian state was given a raw deal and forced to share its river water."

He would also bemoan the "loss" of Chandigarh, the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana, which was made a Union Territory. "Punjab's capital is under the control of the Centre. A station house officer in Chandigarh can charge the Punjab chief minister legally, as he is only a tenant there. So is the Haryana chief minister," he said.

Gill also felt very strongly about the degradation of Punjab's soil and water due to chemical intensive agriculture. "We have overused our soil to fill the granaries of the country, and look at the fallout," he would often say.

His views against capital punishment were well known and he openly defied the Congress while opposing the death penalty awarded to Balwant Singh Rajoana for the assassination of Chief Minister Beant Singh in 1995. "It is a bar-

barian concept that should be abolished immediately through legislation," he said.

He also served as the president emeritus of the Himalayan Club. His stint as Deputy Commissioner of Lahaul and Spiti and his mountaineering training at Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling, underscored his abiding passion for the mountains.

His books — Himalayan Wonder: Travels in Lahaul and Spiti and Tales from the Hills: Lahaul's Enduring Myths and Legends — offered insights into his experiences in the remote and captivating landscapes of Himachal Pradesh. Gill was awarded the Padma Vibhushan for his contribution as the chief election commissioner and the 'Nishan-e-Khalsa' on the 300th anniversary of the Khalsa Panth.

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

Don't count, they say



VIVEK YADAV

India deserves a better liberalism, that does not rebuke politics of social justice, but embraces it as an ally

A PATH IN THE CRISIS

On Middle East, Delhi must stay with abiding principles, remain clear-eyed on interests, find points of convergence

IT IS BEGINNING to dawn on India's political class that the Middle East is too important for the country's economic prosperity and national security to allow the region's unfolding tragedy to become domestic football between the ruling BJP and the Opposition Congress. Ever since the horrific attack on southern Israel on October 7, it has been disconcerting to see domestic politics overwhelm the discourse on an international crisis in the neighbourhood. Congress has been accused of being soft on terror and pandering to the so-called Muslim vote bank. The BJP, in turn, has been charged with the dilution of India's traditional support for Palestine and pandering to its Hindutva base. After some inexplicable twists and turns, a Congress spokesperson has condemned "attacks on the innocent civilians of Israel by Hamas." Prime Minister Narendra Modi's quick reaction in denouncing the terror attacks and expressing solidarity with Israel was uncharacteristically unambiguous. Days later, a spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs reiterated India's long-standing support for Palestinian statehood.

The question for India, however, is not about being, and appearing to be, "balanced" or "both-sided". It is about staying true to abiding principles and clear-eyed interests that come together on the question of terror. Delhi has long believed, and rightly so, that violence against innocent people is terrorism and cannot be justified by claims of a higher political morality. The consideration of interests has seen Delhi reject the notion that "resolving the root cause" is necessary to end terrorism. As a party at the national helm for several decades, Congress is surely aware how Pakistan has long justified its support and complicity in cross-border terror by invoking Kashmir. The Congress party, therefore, must rework its CWC resolution to clearly articulate that terror, the killing of civilians, is no bargaining chip. The ruling BJP, on its part, must draw the line against attempts to turn solidarity with Israel and condemnation of Hamas terror into minority-baiting at home.

Insulating India's domestic politics from the unending turmoil in the Middle East is a core interest of the Indian state. Using the Middle East for political gains at home will be extremely costly for the polity. Delhi's challenge will become sharper as the crisis escalates amid the planned invasion of Gaza by Israel. India must publicly urge Israel to respect the humanitarian laws of war and abide by the principle of proportionality in dealing with Hamas. Unleashing mass casualties in Gaza in retaliation against a brutal terror attack is unjust and misguided and will only lead to Israel losing ground in world public opinion. India must also work with its Arab partners to facilitate the early release of Israeli hostages held by Hamas. In the past, taking broad positions in the Middle East seemed good enough for the Indian political class. Given India's growing commercial and security stakes in the Middle East today, however, Delhi needs to go beyond proclaiming positions. It must actively join the international effort to dispel the looming catastrophe over the Middle East. At home, the government must initiate regular consultations with Opposition parties, brief them on the rapidly unfolding crisis, and attempt to forge a consensus on dealing with its consequences. Last month's G20 consensus shows that India has both the space and the standing. Its growing bilateral relationship with Israel and its ties with all key players in the region — from Iran and Qatar to Saudi Arabia and Egypt — will help in finding a path ahead in the fog of this new war.

THE PUBLICATION OF the caste survey data by the Bihar government has, for the first time in nearly a century, furnished us with a reliable snapshot of the caste makeup of our society. Even as the implications of this move remain unclear, speculation is rife about the political fallout of the numbers.

Some supporters of the move predict that the information has the potential for causing a political earthquake. Critics have, in the meanwhile, raised an alarm. The BJP's fear is quite understandable: It is afraid that the numbers, if they become public knowledge, might rip apart the winning caste coalition that it has so carefully stitched together. More puzzling, however, is the fear that seems to have gripped a section of the liberal commentariat. Don't count, they say. For, social justice is a mirage that will lead our politics astray. And besides, what does counting castes have to do with addressing injustice in society? Don't publish, they plead. The genie that will emerge out of the bottle, along with the numbers, will be impossible to put back in.

The liberals' opposition to the publication of the caste survey data is baffling. The policy of keeping information from the public has, after all, long been regarded by liberals everywhere as one of the principal sources of tyranny.

What, then, should we make of the Indian liberals' fear of the caste census data? Perhaps if we could better know the demons that haunt our liberal friends, we might be able to exorcise them. We might persuade them to shed their suspicion of the politics of social justice. Then, perhaps, India might get what it deserves — an Indian liberalism that is more awake to the possibilities of the present historical moment.

If there is a ghost that has all critics of the politics of social justice spooked, it is that of reservation. The only reason why anyone would want to know the caste census data, they reason, is to put in place a system of reservation. And the latter, they argue, is a most ineffective tool, if not also positively harmful.

The efficacy and desirability of reservation can be debated. But this move so typical of the critics of the politics of social justice — of reducing it to merely a demand for reservation — is disingenuous. Surely, reservation is only one instrument wielded by the politics of social justice, which is in fact animated by a more general sentiment, a desire for greater equality in social conditions than currently exists. To this essentially democratic sentiment, which lies at the heart of the politics of social justice, the critics appear to be curiously deaf.

Now, the efficacy and desirability of reservation can be debated. But this move so typical of the critics of the politics of social justice — of reducing it to merely a demand for reservation — is disingenuous. Surely, reservation is only one instrument wielded by the politics of social justice, which is in fact animated by a more general sentiment, a desire for greater equality in social conditions than currently exists. To this essentially democratic sentiment, which lies at the heart of the politics of social justice, the critics appear to be curiously deaf.

If anything, they ought to be the most enthusiastic supporters of a caste census. For, nothing could better fortify their argument, that no caste inequalities exist, than hard reliable data. But this is not what the critics really want. By criticising the instrument — reservation — they seek to deny the larger problem — caste inequality. Could it be that their real fear is that the caste census data shall unveil the privilege of the privileged?

Then there is the phantom of caste politics, the worry that publication of the results of the caste census shall lead our already caste-afflicted politics to become even more caste-ridden.

The plausibility of this argument may be judged from the fact that not collecting data on caste for 90 years has neither prevented politics from taking place on caste lines, nor caste from being politicised. Democratic politics everywhere in the world feeds off social divisions, and whether we like it or not, caste remains one of the major axes of social division in India today. Not counting castes will not change this fact. All it will do is ensure that politics moves in the dark.

However, the critics also have a deeper anxiety. Releasing the census data would have the effect of officially recognising caste groups, which in turn shall further consolidate caste identities. The source of this widely shared fear is a hypothesis popularised by certain historians of colonial India, who have argued that the colonial census transformed what was until then a fluid and shifting order of jatis, into

an iron-clad hierarchy of official castes. Without denying the power of the state to shape citizens' identities, it is possible to question the rather simplistic understanding of identity upon which this unproven hypothesis rests. The idea that the state simply inscribes identities onto its citizens elides the element of self-identification, which is a crucial part of the concept of identity. The fact is that individuals exercise at least some agency in choosing their identities.

But perhaps the most terrifying of all spectres is that of caste majoritarianism. This fear, too, is not entirely unfounded. In the past, certain political parties in UP and Bihar have, in the name of social justice, simply replaced the rule of the upper castes with an equally tyrannical rule of the subaltern castes, and in the process given the politics of social justice a bad name.

But this is no reason to believe that caste majoritarianism is the only form that the politics of social justice could possibly take in the future. There is no reason to suppose that a politics seeking to address caste injustice cannot also subscribe to a set of robust liberal values. The champions of social justice can, and must, learn from their liberal critics and develop an outlook more fastidious with regard to individual rights. They must not allow the democratic sentiment for equality to become a depraved passion for brute majoritarianism.

Must we in India condemn ourselves to replaying the same fractious ideological battles that have drained the political energies of liberals and the practitioners of identity politics in Europe and the US? There is certainly no law of history that prevents us from forging our own unique version of liberalism in India, one that does not look upon the social justice agenda with suspicion, but which joins cause with it. India deserves a better liberalism, one that does not rebuke the politics of social justice, but which instead embraces it as an ally.

The writer teaches Political Theory at Ashoka University

HELPING THE TEACHER

Addressing mental health needs of teachers, as a Bihar government survey aims to, is essential for a better classroom

WHERE DO THEY feel greater stress, at home or in school? Are they able to complete the syllabus on time? How does stress impact their teaching? These are some of the questions that the over four lakh teachers in Bihar's government schools will be asked as part of a mental health survey to be conducted by the end of the month. The State Council of Educational Research and Training has been tasked with this job in response to the growing number of complaints about rising teacher absenteeism and inability to teach the syllabus in time as well as reports of corporal punishment meted out to students.

While the challenges that teachers face, especially in government schools, are well known, any policy that seeks to relieve some of their pressure would require identifying the factors involved. The Bihar government's survey is an important step towards that. Teachers have pointed to the demands of non-teaching assignments such as election duty and the conduct of the recent caste survey in the state, as well as the management of the mid-day meal scheme which all too often keep teachers from doing justice to their primary duties. Addressing these concerns will ensure that teachers are equipped to perform the demanding job of nurturing young minds. It could also mark a turnaround for a state that has, in the past, benefitted from creative interventions in the field of education: For example, the 2006 Mukhyamantri Balika Cycle Yojana, one of the pet schemes of the Nitish Kumar government, under which girls from Class 9 to 12 were given free bicycles to go to school, resulted in the secondary school enrollment of girls increasing by 30 per cent within a year.

A majority of the students who enroll in government schools belong to socially and economically backward sections of society. It is important that they not only stay in school, but also receive quality education. The role of the teacher in creating the right environment cannot be overlooked. For Bihar — and, indeed, for other states — this is an end worth pursuing. Helping teachers do their jobs better would serve the larger cause of ensuring a better education for the nation's young — a vision outlined in the National Education Policy, 2020 as well. Not just children — adults in the classroom need the right environment too.



KHUSHBOO BALANI, SANDHYA VENKATESWARAN, AMRITA AGARWAL

WE NEED MORE DOCTORS

But scaling up medical education raises issues of feasibility and quality

THE DEMAND FOR doctors exceeds supply in large parts of India. At the same time, the demand for medical education also exceeds the number (supply) of seats. Reducing the demand-supply gap in medical education has been an elusive goal. This can impact the gaps in doctor availability to some extent.

Over the last decade, the country has made rapid strides in expanding medical colleges and seats at the postgraduate (PG) and undergraduate (UG) levels. Between 2010-11 to now, UG seats have nearly tripled, PG seats have almost quadrupled, while medical colleges have doubled. Despite this expansion, in 2021, the number of medical graduates per lakh population was 4.1, well below 6.2 in China (2018), 6.9 in Israel (2020), 8.5 in US (2021), and 13.1 in UK (2021).

Two drivers of the increase in medical graduates are the number and size of medical colleges. While the number has increased rapidly, the size of medical colleges remains a critical barrier to increasing the supply of doctors. The average number of UG seats per college is 153 in India as against 220 in Eastern Europe and 930 in China.

The small size is an outcome of regulatory and financial constraints. For instance, a seat expansion in a public medical college from 150 to 200 required an expansion of books in the library from 11,000 to 15,000, daily OPD footfalls from 1,200 to 2,000 and a doubling in the number of nursing staff required, as per the draft guidelines for establishment of new medical colleges by upgrading district/referral hospitals (2015). Some of these have been relaxed, but seats per college have not risen proportionately. They have improved from 122 in 2010-11 to 153 now.

Two drivers of the increase in medical graduates are the number and size of medical colleges. While the number has increased rapidly, the size of medical colleges remains a critical barrier to increasing the supply of doctors. The average number of UG seats per college is 153 in India as against 220 in Eastern Europe and 930 in China.

Scaling up might be a riskier proposition for private medical colleges. Investments in physical infrastructure, hiring teaching faculty and other staff may raise feasibility questions when seats remain vacant and costs are not recovered, often leading to price distortions with high capitation fees.

Scalability constraints hold for both public and private colleges, with teaching faculty shortages across both, despite a better remuneration structure in the former. Government colleges are only able to provide medical education at lower prices, but their costs continue to remain high, with the gap between the two being bridged by subsidies. The lowering of costs will entail regulatory reform to further rationalise some of the human and physical infrastructure requirements and a greater integration to innovation and technology in curriculum design and pedagogy.

So far, the argument by the government has been that the competency-based curriculum design in the country is focused on maintaining the quality of Indian doctors. Any attempts to scale disproportionately will impact the quality of the pedagogy and, in turn, the doctors produced. There cannot be more than 15 students surrounding a bed or in any other practical class. Small-group teaching, even though resource-intensive, is the key to maintaining the quality of the workforce. Thus, the nature of curriculum in turn dictates the constraints to scalability and has implications for the future pipeline of doctors.

The competency-based curriculum being implemented by India is similar to the one implemented in the US. The US has innovated in resource utilisation to scale the production of doctors. Besides its focus on mainstreaming

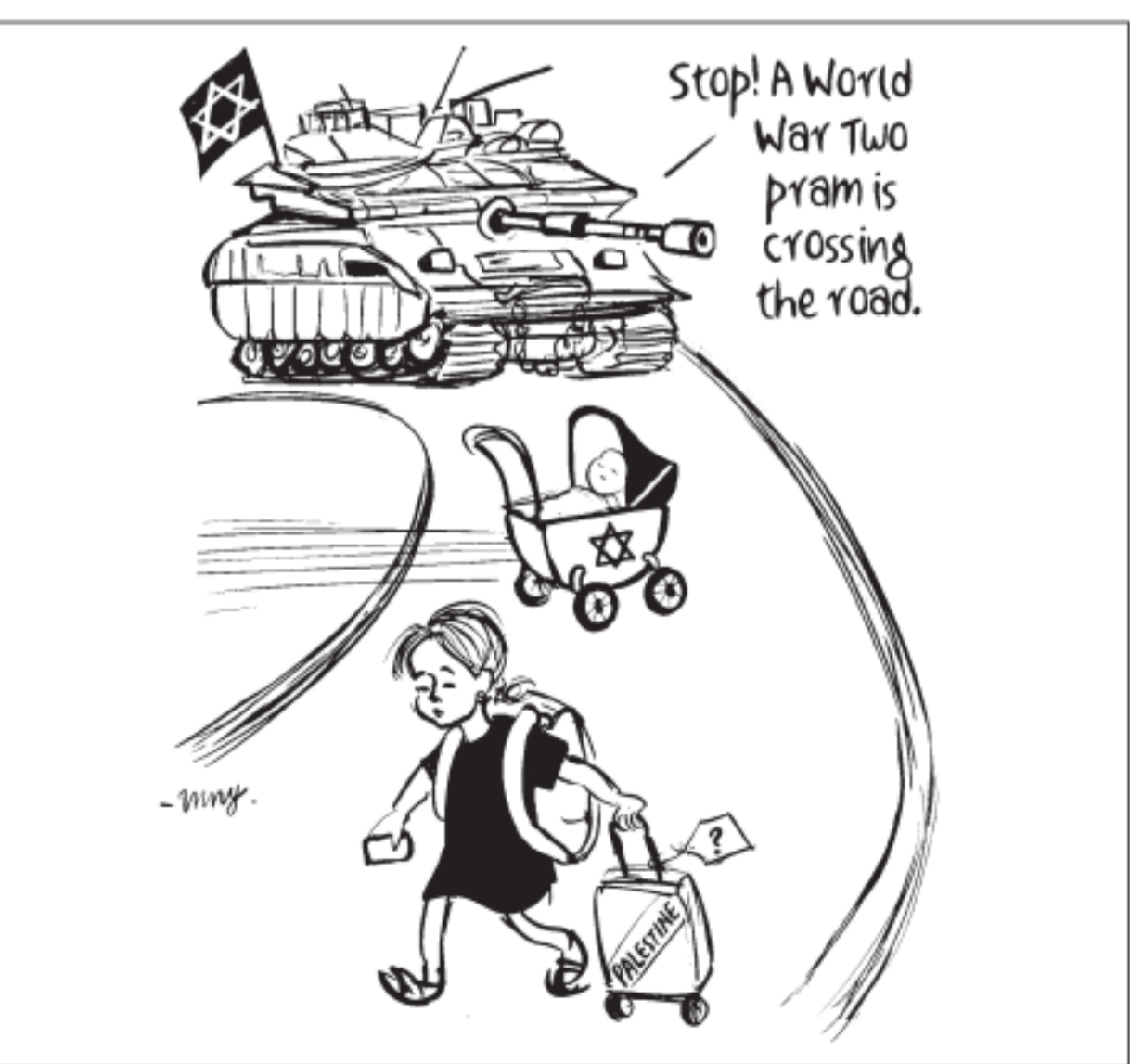
technology and providing better financial incentives to teachers, it employs other innovations. The use of practising MD doctors who observe and mentor medical students in a clinical setting; integrating interprofessional education (IPE) into the curriculum, where doctors, nurses and pharmacists are taught together; improves quality, reduces teaching faculty requirements and enables optimal utilisation of resources.

While there is a perceived trade-off between quality and scale, there are also concerns about equity. The argument for increased productivity and scale needs to be viewed in the context of the overarching policy goal. While scale is needed, the National Medical Commission has currently prioritised equity. The previous cap of 250 UG seats has been revised to 150 for new medical colleges from 2024-25. Read alongside the requirement of 100 seats per 10 lakh population and restrictions on locating new medical colleges within 15 km of an existing college reveal the government's focus on evenly distributed, localised production of doctors. But, this will not lead to efficient production due to inter-state migration of doctors from high-producing states like Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Thus, the goal of equity requires attention to incentives and encouraging migration to low-availability areas rather than restricting production. The policy focus, therefore, should be on addressing the barriers to scale.

Agarwal is visiting fellow, Balani is Research Associate and Venkateswaran is Senior Fellow, Centre for Social and Economic Progress

FREEZE FRAME

E P UNNY



OCTOBER 16, 1983, FORTY YEARS AGO

PUNJAB VIOLENCE

CONDEMNING THE CURRENT wave of violence and terrorism, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi said violence was not going to succeed in settling any problem. Replying to a spate of questions on acts of terrorism, extremists' activities, the killing of innocent people in Punjab, and the bomb blasts in the capital, Mrs Gandhi said all these had created a dangerous situation, threatening the unity and integrity of the country.

CHANDIGARH BLAST

THREE PERSONS WERE killed and 24 injured, three of them seriously, when a hand grenade

was thrown at a gathering watching a Ramlila function in Chandigarh. The blast made hundreds of people scurry out, resulting in a stampede. It is believed the hand grenade of HE36 variety was lobbed by some unidentified persons from the main Bajiwara Road.

NO TO REFUGEES

MRS GANDHI MADE it plain that India will not take refugees from Sri Lanka. While India had no intention of interfering in Sri Lanka's internal affairs it "cannot, and is not in a position to have millions of refugees here," she said. She said the problem in Sri Lanka could not be solved without talking to those who were mainly con-

cerned. "We can only hope that the President and his party will not take an extreme view and will speak to the representatives of the Tamil people," she said.

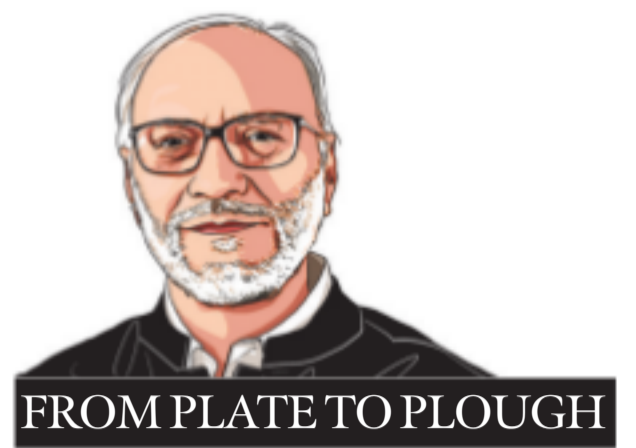
HAWKEYES FOR PAKISTAN

PAKISTAN IS TO receive the Hawkeye radar surveillance and command and control aircraft from the United States. Pakistan is reportedly to receive four of the planes. They were used to great effect by Israel over Lebanon, shooting down 60 MiGs. The Hawkeye is in active service with the US armed forces and several other countries, including Japan.

9 THE IDEAS PAGE

Keep water at the centre

Minimising climate risk in agriculture will require rewarding farmers to switch from irrigation-heavy crops like paddy and sugarcane to less water-intensive crops like millets, pulses and oilseeds



FROM PLATE TO PLOUGH
BY ASHOK GULATI

OCTOBER 16 IS observed as World Food Day to mark the founding of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in 1945. Its main purpose was to ensure food and nutrition security around the world in the aftermath of World War II. How far the world has moved to achieve this goal is an open question. While there is ample food being produced on this planet that can easily feed eight billion people, its access is quite skewed across nations.

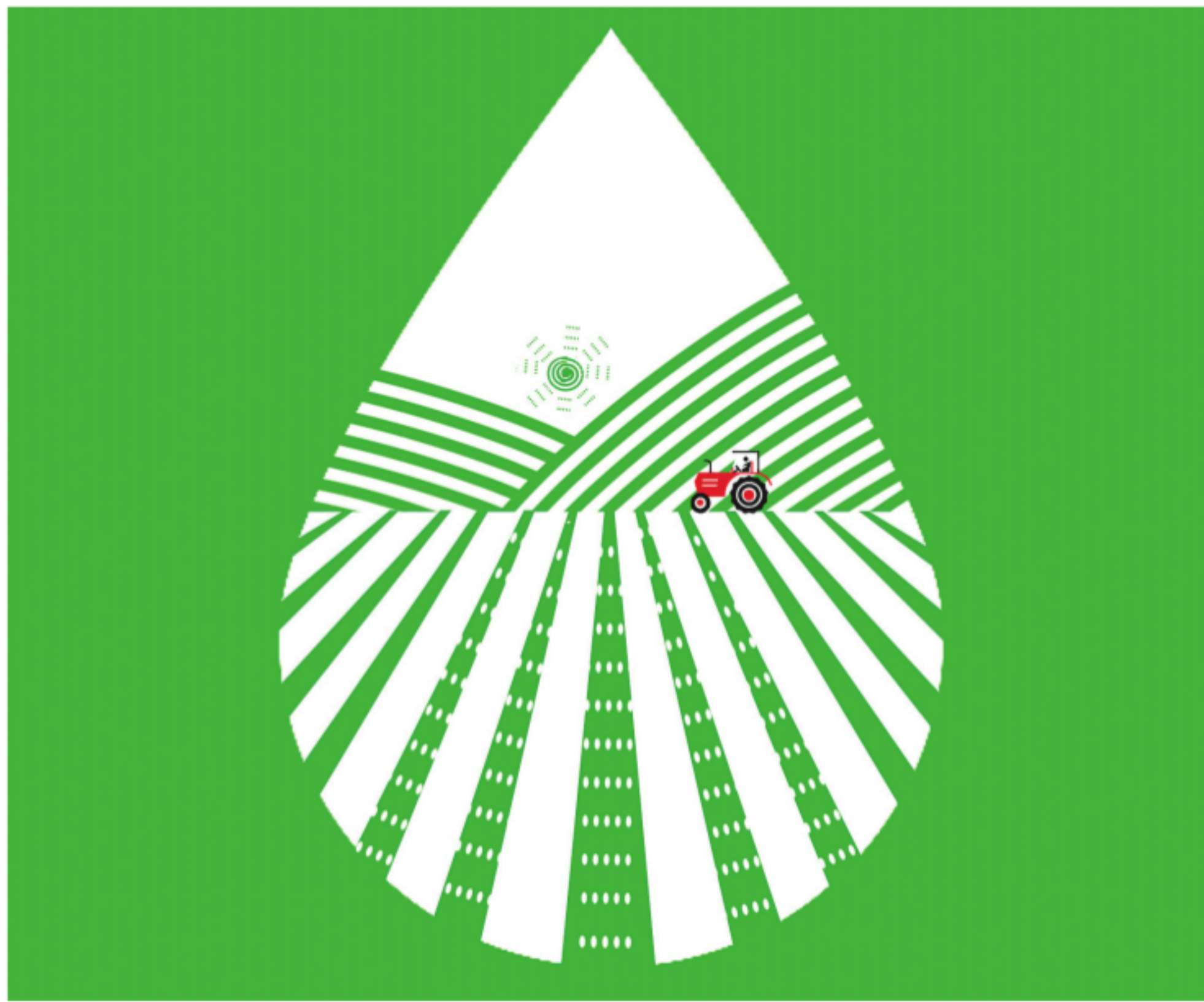
This year's theme for the World Food Day is "Water is Life. Water is Food". In this context, it would be good to review how far India has progressed in achieving food security, and how it is using its water resources in agriculture.

First on the food security front. Having been through a journey of "ship to mouth" in mid 1960s, India has come a long way. Only in the last three years, 2020-21 to 2022-23, India exported 85 million tonnes (MT) of cereals, mainly rice, wheat and corn. This it did even after giving free food (rice or wheat) to more than 800 million people under the PM Garib Kalyan Yojana. This is a stupendous achievement. India has also made major strides in milk production which has shot up from 17 MT in 1951 to 222 MT in 2022-23. The country is the largest producer of milk by far. Since 2000-01, poultry and fishery production has been growing at a fast rate. So, from the green and white revolution, India has also now ushered in a pink (poultry) and blue (fishery) revolution.

However, access to sufficient nutritious food remains a challenge for many. According to the latest National Family Health Survey, almost 16.6 per cent of India's population is malnourished (2020-22), 35 per cent of its children below the age of five years are stunted (low height-for-age) and 32 per cent are underweight (low weight-for-age). Progress on this front has been rather slow, and in a business-as-usual environment, India will not be able to achieve its Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of zero hunger (including malnutrition) by 2030.

Now, how is India using its water resources in agriculture? It is important to note that while India is home to almost 18 per cent of the world's population, it has only 4 per cent of global freshwater resources. Much of this water is used in agriculture. While FAO puts this figure at 90 per cent, the Indian Central Water Commission says it is 78 per cent. With rising population, and rising incomes, there will be a need to produce not only more food but also save water for drinking purposes as also for manufacturing and growing urbanisation.

Thus, India needs to adopt a two-pronged strategy with respect to water in agriculture. First, on the supply side, it must augment buffer stocking of water during



CR Sasikumar

the monsoon season in its reservoirs, and recharge groundwater through check dams and watersheds, etc. Second, it must work on the demand side to ensure more rational allocation and efficient use of water across crops. This calls for not only institutional reforms in the Indian irrigation sector but also in the pricing of water and power for irrigation. While almost half of India's gross cropped area is irrigated today, we need to take it to at least 75 per cent if we have to cope with weather vagaries associated with climate change. This would require massive investments. India has not succeeded in attracting private sector investments in reservoirs and canal networks as water is almost free. The government does not have enough funds to invest in this, after doling out large food and fertiliser subsidies costing more than Rs 4 lakh crore. The state governments do not have the political will to charge for power that is used for groundwater irrigation. Under such a scenario, Indian agriculture remains a risky venture in the wake of climate change.

If we have to minimise this climate risk, we need a paradigm shift in our thinking. First and foremost, we need to shift focus from land productivity to water productivity. For example, we need not look at say so much tonne/hectare, but of kg of grain per cubic metre of irrigation water. Once we start looking at productivity from a water angle, we can identify the inefficiencies in the allocation and use of water in agriculture. In one of our studies at ICRIER on water productivity of 10 major crops, across all the major districts in which they are grown, we found out that while in Punjab land productivity of rice is one of the highest, its irrigation water productivity is the lowest. That means that Punjab is one of the most inefficient growers of rice in terms of water used.

We need to shift focus from land productivity to water productivity. For example, we need not look at say so much tonne/hectare, but kg of grain per cubic metre of irrigation water. Once we start looking at productivity from a water angle, we can identify the inefficiencies in the allocation and use of water in agriculture. In one of our studies at ICRIER on water productivity of 10 major crops, across all the major districts in which they are grown, we found out that while in Punjab land productivity of rice is one of the highest, its irrigation water productivity is the lowest. That means that Punjab is one of the most inefficient growers of rice in terms of water used.

we found out that while in Punjab land productivity of rice is one of the highest, its irrigation water productivity is the lowest. That means that Punjab is one of the most inefficient growers of rice in terms of water used. On top of this, Punjab also emits the highest levels of carbon emissions (CO₂e), almost 5 tonnes/ha of paddy cultivation.

All this calls for a revamping of policies, farm practices, and products, keeping water at the centre of agriculture. Can one reward farmers for switching from water-guzzling crops like paddy and sugarcane to less water-intensive crops like millets, pulses and oilseeds? Talk of green water credits! In our research on Punjab, we have found the subsidy from power and fertilisers in paddy cultivation amounts to roughly Rs 30,000/ha. Can this amount be given to farmers in Punjab who are willing to switch from paddy to pulses, oilseeds, and millets? This will create a level playing field across crops and would be good for the environment as well as nutrition. Above all, it will save Punjab from water disaster as roughly 78 per cent of its blocks are over-exploiting groundwater.

Farming practices such as direct seeded rice (DSR) and alternate wet and dry (AWD) irrigation, or zero till, etc., can also be rewarded as they will save water. And also drip irrigation, especially in sugarcane, which can save half the water. The bottom line is that unless we use water efficiently, ensuring sustainable food security is difficult.

Gulati is Distinguished Professor at ICRIER. Views are personal

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The US, the EU, the UK, and Canada must join others to call for immediate ceasefire, safe entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza, and concerted efforts to bring about a two-state solution."
— DAILY STAR

Lessons from deluge

Glacial lake floods, like in Sikkim, could increase due to global warming. These lakes must be monitored, risk-management systems developed



SHARAD JAIN

IN THE EARLY hours of October 4, the southern bank of the South Lhonak Lake in Sikkim burst open, leading to an outflow of huge amounts of water. Flowing over the steep mountain slopes in the Teesta basin, a lethal mix of icy water and debris washed away whatever came in its way. The floods caused heavy damage to the Chungthang Dam and hydropower projects of NHPC. More than 35 people were killed, 14 bridges were washed away or submerged, 1,320 houses were severely damaged, drinking water supply lines and sewage networks were damaged and widespread damage to highways was reported in North Sikkim, Gangtok, Pakyong, and Namchi districts. The floods damaged sections of National Highway 10, connecting Sikkim with the rest of India.

Since the lake region is too remote and has scarcely any monitoring network, we do not yet know the exact cause of this glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF). There are several hypotheses — one or more spells of intense rainfall in the lake area, a landslide or avalanche or an earthquake. In 2021, a collaborative study by researchers from IIT, Roorkee, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, University of Dayton, USA, University of Graz, Austria, and the Universities of Zurich and Geneva in Switzerland highlighted that the South Lhonak Lake had grown significantly in recent times and was susceptible to a GLOF.

Glacial lakes are formed near the snout of glaciers when meltwater accumulates. In recent times, such lakes have been forming with increased frequency because the increased warming of the troposphere has glacier melting. The embankments of these lakes consist of loose deposits of glacier moraine, rocks, boulders, soil and ice. Since these embankments are not properly compacted, they have a high vulnerability quotient. They can fail if the lake water level rises rapidly due to intense rainfall or if a portion of the glacier is detached from the main body and plunges into the lake, generating high waves. These waves could hit the embankment forcefully. Earthquakes could also destabilise the embankment and water seeping in through the embankment could cause erosion.

Catchments of the three river basins in north and northeast India have a large number of glacial lakes. In March, the ISRO's National Remote Sensing Centre (NSCRC) released a glacial lake atlas of the Himalayan River Basins. NRSC used images acquired by RESOURCESAT-2 satellite during 2016-17 to prepare this atlas, which has identified more than 28,000 glacial lakes of more than 0.25 ha.

In a widely quoted scientific paper in Nature Communications this year, geologist Caroline Taylor and her colleagues noted that GLOFs can arrive with little prior warning. The authors concluded that more than nine million people in High Mountain Asia (HMA) — its surrounded by the mountain

ranges of Tien Shan, Pamir, Hindu Kush, and the Karakoram in the west, the Himalaya in the south and southeast, and Qilian Shan in the east — are vulnerable to glacial lake outbursts. This is a cause for concern.

The Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority has identified more than 300 glacial lakes in the state. Of these, 10 have been identified as vulnerable to outburst floods. NRSC has identified 733 glacial lakes in Sikkim. The Geological Survey of India has found that 13 of the 486 glacial lakes in Uttarakhand are vulnerable to GLOFs. A 2021 study led by Delhi University scientist Suraj Mal reported that Jammu and Kashmir has the highest number of vulnerable glacial lakes followed by Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim. Different studies use different data and methodologies. Hence, their outcomes are not always comparable. But one thing is certain: GLOF threat is rising with time. India has witnessed at least three highly devastating GLOF events in the Ganga and Brahmaputra basins over the last decade — at Kedarnath in 2013, Chamoli in 2021 and Sikkim in 2023.

Threats from GLOFs are likely to increase with time due to global warming. Multi-pronged action is, therefore, required to address such dangers. Intense monitoring of meteorological events near the snout of vulnerable glacier lakes is an urgent necessity. Data should be gathered at observatories and communicated to a centralised office. It should be processed in real-time to forecast the behaviour of glacial lakes and alert people. Water levels in rivers downstream of vulnerable lakes should also be monitored continuously. A nationwide programme to regularly monitor vulnerable glacier lakes by satellites and drones should be initiated. Hydrometeorological information and data gathered through monitoring should be combined to issue forecasts and warnings.

GLOF floods are different from floods caused by intense precipitation. Given increased threats due to GLOFs, standards to ensure the safety of projects in mountainous areas should be revised at the earliest. Infrastructure projects in mountains — dams, bridges and highways — must be subjected to stringent quality control measures. GLOFs and other floods in mountainous regions have shown that buildings constructed close to rivers were the first and the worst sufferers. Construction close to rivers should, therefore, be carefully regulated.

Scientific studies on glaciers in the country must be scaled up. Lack of funds and skilled personnel today mean that very few glaciers are monitored. Climate projections indicate that glaciers are receding in the Himalayan region. This means that new lakes are likely to form and the existing ones could expand. Glaciers are among the best indicators of climate change. It is, therefore, necessary to understand how these ice bodies respond to climate change in the different Himalayan zones — among the most data-scarce regions in the country.

The Himalayan region requires a comprehensive risk assessment that accounts for projected temperature rise, changes in precipitation patterns, and land-use/cover changes. This assessment should inform disaster risk-reduction strategies.

The writer was Director, National Institute of Hydrology and is now visiting professor IIT, Roorkee

Bridges yet to be built

Bihar caste survey, Gaza conflict point to faultlines Constitution makers warned of



DUSHYANT DAVE

TWO RECENT EVENTS, though unrelated, have far-reaching implications for India and demand serious introspection. The first is directly related to India — the Bihar caste survey results. The second is indirect — the killing of innocent civilians in Israel. On both, the Constituent Assembly debates and prophetic words of B R Ambedkar and Sardar Patel throw significant light.

Ambedkar was not just a constitutional expert — he was a great social philosopher. Sadly, while this great man is remembered on his birth and death anniversaries by our political leaders — from the Prime Minister to the Leader of the Opposition — no one wants to truly understand him, much less follow his advice. Speaking before the Constituent Assembly on November 24, 1949, Ambedkar emphasised that to maintain democracy, we must hold fast to constitutional methods of achieving our social and economic objectives. Not content with mere political democracy, he said, "We must make our political democracy a social democracy as well. Political democracy cannot last unless there lies at the base of it social democracy." He defined social democracy as a way of life which recognises liberty, equality and fraternity and called them a "union of trinity" in the sense that to divorce one from the other is to defeat the very purpose of democracy. He expressed his fears stating, "We must begin by acknowledging the fact that there is complete absence of two things in Indian society. One of these is equality. On the social

plane, we have in India a society based on the principle of graded inequality which means elevation for some and degradation for others. On the economic plane, we have a society in which some have immense wealth as against many who live in abject poverty."

He said, "On January 26, 1950, we are going to enter into a life of contradictions. In politics, we will have equality and in social and economic life we will have inequality." He gave a grim warning: "We must remove this contradiction at the earliest possible moment or else those who suffer from inequality will blow up the structure of political democracy which this Assembly has so laboriously built up."

Seven decades on, there is no real social and economic equality. Social inequalities are deeply rooted in our society and are actively manifested in every village, town, and city. In every institution — political, economic, religious, educational and social — the stark reality of our social life is chilling. A national caste Census is the first step in acknowledging the prevailing situation. Only then can we take ameliorative measures to remove the social inequalities. For thousands of years, inequality has been recognised, be it in the Vedas, Upanishads or the great holy text, the Gita. But the time has come for every Indian to change. Those who have been denied their rightful status and rights for over 2,000 years now deserve the correction of this situation through all means available to the state, including affir-

native action.

We must wake up. Economic equality may be a distant dream. But the least that can be done is to bridge the gap between rich and poor. The nation's resources deserve proper and fair allocation. Poverty is a curse and must be rooted out.

Last Saturday's events in Gaza should be an eye-opener for the world. The following words of Edmund Burke were quoted by Ambedkar before the Constituent Assembly on November 17, 1946:

"The use of force alone is but temporary. It may subdue for a moment, but it does not remove the necessity of subduing again, and a nation is not governed which is perpetually to be conquered... My next objection is its uncertainty. Terror is not always the effect of force and an armament is not a victory. If you do not succeed, you are without resources; for, conciliation failing, force remains; but, force failing, no further hope of reconciliation is left. Power and authority are sometimes bought by kindness but they can never be begged as alms by an impoverished and defeated violence."

Then Ambedkar said, "These are weighty words which it would be perilous to ignore." Two years later, on November 4, 1949, he warned that "to diehards who have developed a kind of fanaticism against minority protection I would like to say two things. One is that minorities are an explosive force which, if it erupts, can blow up the whole fabric of the State."

When the Constitution was drafted, Sardar Patel, as the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Minorities, echoed these words: "We on our part, taking this responsibility of laying the foundations of a free India which shall be and should be our endeavour both of the majority — largely of the majority — and also of the minority community, have to rise to the situation that is demanded from all of us, and create an atmosphere in which the sooner these classifications disappear the better." While commending minorities to trust the good sense and sense of fairness of the majority and to place confidence in them, he advised, "So also it is for us who happen to be in a majority to think about what the minorities feel, and how we in their position would feel if we were treated in the manner in which they are treated."

The Hamas attack must be condemned by all. However, for over seven decades, Israel, which has a right to exist, has unfortunately denied the existence of the Palestinian state. As a result, millions of Palestinians are living in occupied territories in miserable conditions, suffering politically, socially and economically. Israel has been using force — brute force — to subdue violence. The global community has been sitting quietly, ignoring the two-state solution advocated for long. Edmund Burke's warning appears to have come true for Israel.

The writer is a Senior Advocate at the Supreme Court of India

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

IN BAD TASTE

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Babasaheb's conversion' (IE, October 14). To listen to a leader of an organisation that has only promoted upper-caste Hinduism talk about anti-caste values left a bad taste in my mouth. The writer got his facts wrong. He states that Ambedkar did not promote inter-caste marriages or inter-dining/meeting experiences, as a way to mitigate caste divides. There is clear evidence that he said these actions would help. Ambedkar also says that for the caste system to end, Hinduism needs to. The writer's attempts to sanctify Ambedkar's breakaway, clearly reveals his masked bigotry.

Keshab Mansukhani, Pune

A PETTY POLITICS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'A crisis of politics' (IE, October 14). The Netanyahu government's petty politics if focussed on consolidating their hold. That is why they ignored the country's security concerns, and this, despite the fact that Hamas has always been a threat to Israel, with the not-so-friendly nations of West Asia giving the Palestinian cause open support. It's ironic that the Hamas attack has brought the political leaders together. The damage has been done. Worse, the situation has spiralled out of control.

Vijai Pant, Hempur

BEYOND CELEBRITIES

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'On the loose' (IE, October 15). People have no problem watching movies with smoking scenes but they judge celebrities for promoting these products outside of film. There are other factors that enable this industry. The government continuously imposes heavy taxes on tobacco-based products to make money. Being public figures, celebrities should reconsider signing deals just based on financial factors. But a bigger change is needed.

Nidhi Dwivedi, Jammu

EQUAL GROWTH

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Best woman for the job' (IE, October 12). Claudia Goldin's research has debunked an age-old myth. There has been a common misconception that with economic growth, gender gap in the workforce will reduce. Her research reveals that only when women have greater access to education and contraceptives, does the gender gap start to bridge. Even in developed countries, there is massive pay disparity. This shows that economic growth needs to be coupled with effective policy measures.

Udi Gupta, New Delhi

RAISI TELLS MACRON WAR COULD EXPAND

if Israel doesn't end Gaza siege

HOSPITALS TO RUN OUT OF FUEL IN 2 DAYS

across Gaza, warns United Nations

CONTINUING TO ALLOW GAZANS TO EVACUATE,

says Israel; Netanyahu vows to 'demolish' Hamas

Fighting erupts in north: Israel, Hezbollah trade fire

Attack in retaliation for Israeli shelling that killed three, says Hezbollah

AGENCIES
JERUSALEM, BEIRUT,
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 15

AS THE Israeli military said it would continue to allow Gazans to evacuate south ahead of an expected ground assault by its forces on the Gaza Strip in retaliation for unprecedented attacks by Hamas militants eight days ago, cross-border fire erupted in the north between Israel and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah early Sunday, killing at least one person on the Israeli side of the border.

Hezbollah said it shelled Israeli military positions in the northern border town of Shtula. The group said the attack was in retaliation for Israeli shelling that killed Reuters videographer Issam Abdallah Friday and two Lebanese civilians on Saturday.

Israel responded by targeting the outskirts of the town of Ait el-Shaab, the Israeli military said. Hamas' armed wing Al Qassam Brigades said it fired 20 rockets from Lebanon at two Israeli settlements.

Hamas announced early Sunday that three of its members from Lebanon had been killed after crossing the border from Lebanon into Israel and clashing with Israeli forces.

Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh met with Iran's Foreign Minister on Saturday in Qatar, where they discussed the Palestinian militant group's deadly attack in Israel "and agreed to continue cooperation" to achieve the

group's goals, Hamas said.

At the meeting in Qatar's capital Doha, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian praised the rampage as a "historic victory" that had dealt a setback to Israel's occupation of Palestinian territory.

Iran's hard-line president spoke with France's leader on Sunday, warning that war would expand if Israel's siege of Gaza doesn't stop, state-run media reported. IRNA said Ebrahim Raisi and Emmanuel Macron spoke over the phone.

"The situation will be complicated if the crimes by the Zionist regime, including the killing of people and blockade of Gaza, aren't stopped" he said.

A Syrian war monitor said Israel's military has attacked the international airport in Aleppo, putting it out of service.

Al-Watan daily said Saturday strike hit runway of Aleppo airport - putting it out of service hours after it was fixed following a similar Israeli strike Thursday.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported that the strike also hit the runway at Aleppo airport.

The attack on Aleppo airport came shortly after a rocket was reportedly fired from Syria into the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights.

Meanwhile, the Biden administration is sending USS Dwight D Eisenhower carrier strike group to the Eastern Mediterranean to support Israel, two defence officials told The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity.



Palestinian children look at a building destroyed in Israeli airstrikes in Rafah, Gaza Strip. AP



At al-Aqsa hospital, in central Gaza on Sunday. AP

Gaza hospitals warn of mass deaths amid supply crunch

NAJIB JOBAIN
& SAMYA KULLABA
KHAN YOUNIS, OCTOBER 15

MEDICS IN Gaza warned Sunday that thousands could die as hospitals packed with wounded people ran desperately low on fuel and basic supplies. Palestinians in the besieged coastal enclave struggled to find food, water and safety ahead of an expected Israeli ground offensive in the war sparked by Hamas' deadly attack.

Hospitals in Gaza are expected to run out of generator fuel within two days, endangering the lives of thousands of patients, according to the UN Gaza's sole power plant shut down for lack of fuel after Israel completely sealed off the 40-kilometer long territory following the Hamas attack.

In Nasser Hospital, in the southern town of Khan Younis, intensive care rooms are packed with wounded patients, most of them children under the age of 3. Hundreds of people with severe blast injuries have come to the hospital, where fuel is expected to run out by Monday, said Dr. Mohammed Qandeel, a consultant at the critical care complex.

There are 35 patients in the ICU who require ventilators and another 60 on dialysis. If fuel runs out, "it means whole health system will be shut down," he said, as children moaned in pain in the background.

"All these patients are in danger of death if the electricity is cut off."

Shifa hospital in Gaza City, the territory's largest, said it would bury 100 bodies in a mass grave as an emergency measure after its morgue overflowed, with relatives unable to bury their loved ones.

Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya, the head of pediatrics at the Kamal Adwan Hospital in northern Gaza, said it did not evacuate despite Israeli orders. There are seven newborns in the ICU hooked up to ventilators, he said. "We cannot evacuate, that would mean death for them and other patients under our care." AP

Gaza residents flee further south as Israel prepares ground assault

AGENCIES
GAZA, OCTOBER 15

THE ISRAELI military said on Sunday it would continue to allow Gazans to evacuate south ahead of an expected ground assault by its forces on the Gaza Strip in retaliation for unprecedented attacks by Hamas militants eight days ago.

Hundreds of thousands of Gaza residents sought to heed Israel's order to evacuate roughly the northern half of the territory, while others huddled at hospitals in the north.

Israel's PM Benjamin Netanyahu vowed Sunday to "demolish Hamas" as his troops prepared to move into the Gaza Strip.

Netanyahu convened Israel's expanded emergency cabinet, including former opposition lawmakers, in a show of unity. "Hamas thought we would be demolished. It is we who will demolish Hamas," he said.

The 2.3 million civilians of Gaza are facing a deepening struggle for food, water and safety, and braced for a looming invasion over a week after Hamas militants launched an assault on Israel.

People are struggling to flee from northern Gaza while also grappling with a growing water crisis after Israel stopped the flow of resources to the Gaza Strip. The Israeli military said Sunday that it would refrain from targeting a single route south from 10 am to 1 pm, again

urging Palestinians to leave the north en masse. The military offered two corridors and a longer window the day before.

The army said hundreds of thousands had moved south.

The hospitals are running short of medical supplies and struggling to cope with the flow of injured. Gaza's hospitals are expected to run out of fuel for emergency generations within two days, according to the UN.

As Israeli airstrikes continued ahead of ground operations, some Gazans said they had decided to return home to the north as nowhere was safe.

Some Palestinians who went south said they were heading back north as they were attacked from skies wherever they went.

Blinken extends his Middle East tour, will return to Israel today

HUMEYRA PAMUK
CAIRO, OCTOBER 15

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken will return to Israel on Monday, a State Department official said, extending his Middle East shuttle diplomacy by a day as Israel prepares for a ground offensive in the Gaza Strip and the United States works to stop the conflict from spreading.

The diplomat arrived in Israel Thursday and has since visited six Arab countries. He is currently in Egypt and is expected to meet with President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi.

Before departing for Cairo, Blinken held talks with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, one of the most powerful leaders of the region, a meeting the top U.S. diplomat described as "very productive."



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken

Meanwhile, White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said on Sunday that the Biden administration hopes to push a new weapons package for Israel and Ukraine through Congress that will be significantly higher than \$2 billion.

Joe Biden spoke with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas about assistance for Gaza, the US President posted on X Sunday. Biden said he told Abbas he was working with partners in the region to ensure humanitarian supplies reach civilians in Gaza. REUTERS

BRIEFS

Water runs out at UN shelters as refugee numbers swell

WATER HAS run out at UN shelters across Gaza as thousands packed into the courtyard of the besieged territory's largest hospital as a refuge from a looming Israeli offensive and overwhelmed doctors struggled to care for patients they fear will die. Across Gaza, families rationed dwindling water supplies, with many forced to drink dirty or brackish water. AP

Regional WHO chief appeals to reopen Egypt-Gaza border

THE REGIONAL head of the WHO said Sunday that evacuating hospitals from northern part of Gaza Strip is "impossible" and said Israel's demand for the evacuation of medical facilities there goes against international law. Al-Mandhari urged for the reopening "immediately, with no delay." Egypt has yet to reach a pact with Israel and Hamas to reopen Rafah border. AP

Putin to visit Beijing, meet Xi to deepen 'no limits' partnership

GUY FAULCONBRIDGE
& LAURIE CHEN
MOSCOW/BEIJING
OCTOBER 15

Russian President Vladimir Putin will meet Xi Jinping in China this week in a bid to deepen a partnership forged between the United States' two biggest strategic competitors.

Putin will attend the Belt and Road Forum in Beijing on Oct. 17-18, his first trip outside the former Soviet Union since the Hague-based International Criminal Court issued a warrant for him in March over the deportation of children from Ukraine.

China and Russia declared a "no limits" partnership in February 2022 when Putin visited Beijing just days before he sent tens of thousands of troops into Ukraine, triggering the deadliest land war in Europe since World War Two.

The United States casts China as its biggest competitor and Russia as its biggest nation-state



Russian President Vladimir Putin with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, in 2022. Reuters file

threat while U.S. President Joe Biden argues that this century will be defined by an existential contest with between democracies and autocracies.

"Over the past decade, Xi has built with Putin's Russia the most consequential undeclared alliance in the world," Graham Allison, professor at Harvard University and a former assistant secretary of defense under Bill Clinton, told Reuters.

"The U.S. will have to come to grips with the inconvenient fact that a rapidly rising systemic rival and a revanchist one-dimensional superpower with the largest nuclear arsenal in the world are tightly aligned in opposing the USA."

Biden has referred to Xi as a "dictator" and has said Putin is a "killer" and a leader who cannot remain in power. Beijing and Moscow have scolded Biden for

those remarks.

Since the Ukraine war, Putin has mostly stayed within the former Soviet Union, though he visited Iran last year for talks with Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Once the senior partner in the global Communist hierarchy, Russia three decades after the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union is now considered a junior partner of a resurgent Communist China under Xi, China's most powerful leader since Mao Zedong.

Putin and Xi share a broad world view, which sees the West as decadent and in decline just as China challenges U.S. supremacy in everything from quantum computing and synthetic biology to espionage and hard military power.

But Xi, who leads a \$18 trillion economy, must balance close personal ties with Putin with the reality of dealing with the \$27 trillion economy of the US - still the world's strongest military power, and the richest. REUTERS

Week after thousands killed in Afghanistan, another quake rattles region

Kabul: A powerful 6.3 magnitude earthquake struck western Afghanistan on Sunday, just over a week after strong quakes and aftershocks killed thousands of people and flattened entire villages in the same province.

The US Geological Survey said the latest quake's epicenter was about 34 km outside Herat, the provincial capital, and eight kilometers below the surface.

Save the Children said four people have died and that Herat Regional Hospital has received 153 injured.

Several villages have been destroyed, according to the aid group.

Authorities have given lower casualty numbers.

The earthquakes on October 7 flattened villages in Herat, in one of most destructive quakes in the country's recent history. More than 90% of the people killed a week ago were women and children, UN officials reported Thursday. AP

Iran film director, his wife found stabbed to death in their home

LEILY NIKOUNAZAR
TEHRAN, OCTOBER 15

DARIUSH MEHRJUI, a prominent Iranian filmmaker, was killed in his home near Tehran on Saturday along with his wife, according to the police.

Mehrjui, 83, who is considered one of the pioneers of Iranian cinema's new wave movement, and his wife, Vahideh Mohammadifar, 54, a screenwriter and costume designer, were found dead by their daughter when she came to the family house in Karaj, in Alborz Province, on Saturday night, according to Hanif Soroori, Mehrjui's assistant. Their throats had been slit, he said.

Hamid Hadavand, the Alborz police chief, said in an interview with the Iranian news agency ISNA that a motive for the killings remained unknown. According to a post on the Tasnim News Agency, some gold items appeared to have been stolen.

Mehrjui's close studies of contemporary life in Iran have inspired a generation of filmmakers. One of his best-known



Dariush Mehrjui and wife Vahideh Mohammadifar at a film directors' meeting in Tehran in 2015. AP file

films, *The Cow* (1969), depicting a poor farmer's love for his cow and his anguish after its death, was produced with funding from the shah of Iran but promptly banned for its stark portrayal of rural life.

In the months leading up to the 1979 revolution, Mehrjui filmed the revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, then in exile in France, who proved to be a valuable ally once he came into power. After the revolution,

Mehrjui's films centered around chic middle- and upper-class characters in Tehran as they discussed religion, art and money.

Soroori, reached at the crime scene, said that the door had been forced in. The house is in a gated community but is somewhat isolated, he said, and no witnesses had so far come forward.

Mehrjui was not considered politically controversial. It was not clear if he had any personal enemies. The authorities said an investigation was underway. NYT

How Jews first migrated to Palestine, and how Israel was born

YASHEE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

THE ISRAELI military has ordered lakhs of civilians to leave Gaza City as it prepares for a possible ground offensive.

While the modern contours of the Israel-Palestine conflict are well-known, how did the Jewish migration to 'Israel' first begin?

Anti-semitism and Zionism

According to the Hebrew Bible, 'Israel' is the name God gave to Jacob, the grandson of Abraham. The descendants of Abraham settled in Canaan, which is roughly the territory of modern Israel. Millennia later, in the late 19th century, the land of Canaan was a part of the Ottoman Sultanate. The followers of Judaism, or Jews, were living in many countries — often as prosperous minorities, but vulnerable to persecution, especially in Europe. Imperial Russia saw pogroms targeting Jews in the 1880s. In France, the Dreyfus affair

of 1894, in which a Jew soldier was falsely convicted of passing on information to Germany, highlighted the prevalent anti-Semitic prejudices. A feeling began to grow in the Jewish community that they would not be safe till they had a country to call their own. This movement — of trying to establish a Jewish homeland — came to be known as Zionism.

Initially, countries like Uganda and Argentina were considered as potential locations for this homeland. However, opinion soon settled on Palestine, where the biblical home of the Jews had once stood, and where many of their holy sites were still located.

Before World War I

Soon, Jewish migration to Palestine began. The migrants bought large tracts of land and set to farming it.

Palestine at this time was just one province of the vast Ottoman empire. Absentee landlordism was common. Thus, land was being

sold to Jews by landowners who did not live in those parts and by Ottoman officials who were open to bribing. Local residents and actual tillers of the land had little say in it.

Unlike the Jews who had always lived in Palestine, these new residents spoke little Arabic and mingled only among themselves. While earlier, Arab labourers were hired to work on their farms, as more and more Jews poured in, this too became infrequent. Alarm and resentment against the newcomers grew.

Outside Palestine, Jews worked to gain international support for their cause.

The Balfour Declaration

What possibly changed the face of West Asia forever was the Balfour Declaration of 1917. The British government needed Jewish backing in its World War I efforts. To secure that, Foreign Secretary Arthur James Balfour, in a letter to Baron Lionel Walter Rothschild, pledged support to the Zionist cause.



Israeli soldiers patrol a kibbutz. Reuters

By now, Palestinian nationalism was growing. Various groups and organisations had come up to voice opposition to the increasing Jewish influence. However, these were ridden by factionalism, and lacked the organisation and single-minded focus of the Jewish bodies.

The long-simmering conflict had created enduring hostility and mistrust between the two communities, and was flaring up into

sporadic instances of violence.

British Mandate

After the defeat of the Ottoman empire in World War I, its erstwhile domains were divided among the Allies. Palestine fell under the British mandate. This period, especially 1930 to 1938, was marked by widespread violence.

The Arab frustration and feelings of being cheated were erupting into attacks on Jewish settlements, on railroad tracks, on civilians. They were also resisting the British, believing that freedom from the British was essential in solving the Zionist problem. Jews by now had efficient intelligence wings and trained, disciplined militias, and were retaliating. The British, in cracking down on the Palestinians, were imposing collective punishment on entire villages.

On the Arab side, broadly two rival factions emerged, under the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem Mohammed Amin al-Husseini and the influential Nashashibi family. The armed

resistance groups were often entirely dissociated from the political resistance factions.

Around this time, the Peel Commission, set up by the British, proposed partition as the only solution to the problem. The Jewish side negotiated for better terms, but the Palestinian side boycotted the suggestion.

In May 1939, a White Paper by the British was much more favourable to the Palestinian side. However, the divided Palestinian leadership did not capitalise on the chance. Eventually, the British decided to withdraw by 1947, leaving the Palestine issue to the UN.

UN resolution

On November 29, 1947, the UN General Assembly voted to divide Palestine into Jewish and Arab states, with Jerusalem under UN control. The outraged Palestinian side rejected the resolution. Israel declared independence on May 14, 1948 — the Palestinian's *Nakba*, or catastrophe.

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SIMPLY PUT

WHAT THE GI TAG CAN MEAN FOR THE CASHEW INDUSTRY IN GOA

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA
PANAJI, OCTOBER 15

RECENTLY, GOAN cashew (kernel) got the geographical indication (GI) tag. Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant hailed the recognition as a great opportunity for the cashew industry in the state and "a milestone towards Swayampurna Goa mission".

A GI tag is conferred upon products originating from a specific geographical region, signifying unique characteristics and qualities. Essentially, it serves as a trademark in the international market.

Challenges industry is facing

Cashew manufacturers and processors in Goa said they hoped the GI tag would help consumers differentiate between authentic Goan cashews and cashews sourced from outside the state, often marketed as 'Goan cashews'.

The application for the GI tag for the Goan cashew — derived from the Portuguese name *caju* or *kaju* in Konkani — was filed by the Goa Cashew Manufacturers' Association (GCMA), with the Department of Science, Technology and Waste Management, Government of Goa, acting as facilitator. Deepak Parab, nodal officer, patent facilitation centre at the State Council for Science and Technology, said, "Goan cashew will come with the GI logo. Traders won't be able to use Goan cashew logo on the packets without registration. The government will promote it."

Rohit Zantye, GCMA president, said Goa cashew nuts are an integral part of Goan identity and "over the years have become synonymous with Goa." Zantye said in the past few years, a chunk of the cashew market has been captured by small traders from other states, who sell cheaper imported cashews by labelling them as 'Goan cashew' for profiteering.

"There are about 300 shops in Calangute alone selling cashews from Benin, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Tanzania, and from other Indian states, marketing them as Goan cashew. These traders and processors do not comply with the norms of quality, packaging, weighing, etc. and products are often of inferior quality. We had received complaints from tourists. All this affects 'brand Goa'," he said.

The influx of cheaper cashews has meant that several processing units and



Cashew apples being squashed in Choroa, Goa. Wikimedia Commons

manufacturers in Goa have been unable to sell all their produce within the state, and have had to find markets outside, curtail production, or shut factories. Higher minimum wages and compliance norms than in states like Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh have also contributed to the decline in sales for traditional Goan cashew processors.

Zantye said the processing units have dwindled down from 40 in 2005 to over 15 at present.

A cashew processor in Goa, requesting anonymity, said, "Earlier, 80 per cent of our sale was in Goa. But now it is difficult to compete on the price front. These smaller traders do not have a permanent labour force. They can avoid fixed input costs of larger factories and labour welfare, and evade compliance. From the naked eye, the consumer cannot tell the difference between Goan cashew or imported cashew. The difference in colour is marginal. The Goan cashew is sweeter in taste."

Madhav Sahkari, GCMA member and president, Goa Cashew Producers Association, said unless there was strict action against illegal marketing practices, the GI tag would not have much of an impact.

How cashew came to Goa

Cashew was native to northeast Brazil and was introduced to Goa by the Portuguese in 1570, mainly as a crop for afforestation and soil conservation.

The story goes that the edible value of cashew nut was discovered by Goan prisoners exiled to the Portuguese territory of Africa (Mozambique) during Goa's freedom movement in the mid-18th century.

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HARISH DAMODARAN

AGRICULTURE MATTERS for India, accounting for nearly a fifth of its gross domestic product (GDP) and over 45% of the workforce. It matters even more for the four major states — Madhya Pradesh (MP), Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Telangana — going to the polls in the coming month.

The accompanying chart shows the share of agriculture (which includes crops, livestock, forestry and fishing) in the country's stock value added (GVA, i.e. GDP net of product taxes and subsidies) and in its employed labour force at 18.4% and 45.8% respectively during 2022-23.

These ratios are more for MP, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. The farm sector contributes 44.2% to MP's GVA, the highest for all states, while Rajasthan's 28.9% is at No. 4, next only to Arunachal Pradesh's 37.2% and Andhra Pradesh's 36.2%. Agriculture's 21.8% share of Chhattisgarh's GVA is just above the national average. But the sector engages 62.6% of its workforce, the highest for any state, with MP's at 59.8% and Rajasthan's at 54.8%.

Agriculture's share in Telangana's GVA (17.7%) is below the national figure, but above that vis-à-vis employment (47.3%). The farm sector's annual growth rate in all the four states, at 5.2-6.1% during 2013-14 to the 2022-23, has exceeded the corresponding all-India average of 3.9% (table).

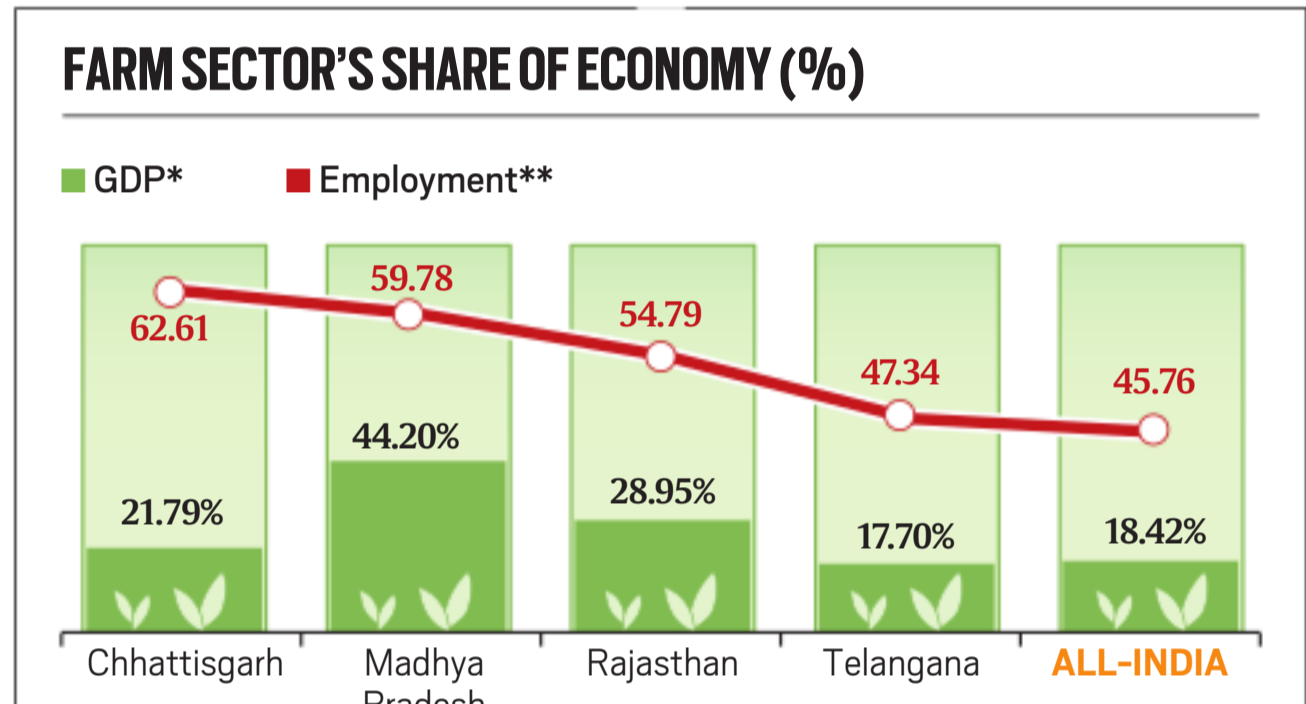
Agriculture's relatively larger role in the economies of the four states also means that farm votes count and issues pertaining to the sector — for instance, soyabean selling below the Centre's minimum support price (MSP) on the back of record vegetable oil imports at low duties — are more likely to come to the fore as the campaign for the Assembly elections heats up.

This merits a closer look at the agriculture profile of the four states.

Rajasthan

The state has the highest net sown area or land under cultivation: 180.3 lakh hectares (lh) in 2019-20. Its agriculture is also, perhaps, the most diversified for any state.

Rajasthan's farmers grow a range of crops, both during the post-monsoon kharif (*bajra*/pearl millet, *jowar*/sorghum, cotton, *moong*/green gram, *guar*/cluster bean, soyabean, groundnut and sesame) and the winter-spring rabi (wheat, mustard, barley, *chana*/chickpea, garlic, onion, *jeera*/cumin, *dhaniya*/coriander, *saunf*/fennel and *methi*/fenugreek) seasons. This is in contrast to Punjab and Haryana that largely cultivate



Note: *% share of agriculture, forestry, and fishing in gross value added at current basic prices for 2022-23; **% share of agriculture in the total employed labour force for 2022-23. Source: National Accounts Statistics and Periodic Labour Force Survey, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

10-YEAR-AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATE FOR AGRICULTURE

	Chhattisgarh	Madhya Pradesh	Rajasthan	Telangana	All-India
Agriculture	5.23%	6.13%	5.54%	5.49%	3.92%
1.Crops	3.98%	5.14%	2.68%	5.11%	1.90%*
2.Livestock	6.78%	12.99%	10.83%	7.67%	7.41%*
3.Forestry	7.29%	5.95%	4.32%	1.04%	4.71%*
4.Fishing	9.59%	15.01%	9.44%	8.26%	8.45%*

Note: Growth is based on gross value added at constant basic prices; *2013-14 to 2021-22. Source: National Accounts Statistics, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

wheat, rice and cotton, with some potato, maize, *bajra* and mustard.

Rajasthan is India's top producer of *bajra*, mustard, *moong*, *guar* and barley; No. 2 in groundnut (after Gujarat), garlic (after MP), *jeera* and *saunf* (after Gujarat), and *methi* (after MP); and No. 3 in jowar (after Maharashtra and Karnataka), *chana* and soyabean (after MP and Maharashtra), sesame (after Uttar Pradesh and MP), and *dhaniya* (after MP and Gujarat). It is also No. 4 in cotton (after Gujarat, Maharashtra and Telangana), and No. 5 in wheat (after UP, MP, Punjab and Haryana) and onion (after Maharashtra, MP, Karnataka and Gujarat).

Rajasthan has, interestingly, also emerged as India's leading milk producer, with its output of 33.3 million tonnes (mt) in 2021-22, as per official data, overtaking UP's 33 mt. It is also the country's top wool producer and has the largest population of goats and camels.

Potential poll issue: Rajasthan's farmers planted an all-time-high 8 lh area under cotton this time. A severe infestation of pink bollworm has taken a toll on the fibre crop, especially in the main northern cotton belt of Sri Ganganagar and Hanumangarh.

"At least a third of the crop in the two districts has suffered damage from the insect pest and excessive rains in September," said Bhagirath Choudhary, director of the Jodhpur-

based South Asia Biotechnology Centre.

Madhya Pradesh

MP's net sown area of 155.1 lh is less than Rajasthan's. But it has the highest total cropped area among states — at 282.8 lh, against Rajasthan's 275.2 lh. Thus, an average field in MP grows 1.8 crops, whereas it is only 1.5 for Rajasthan.

The higher cropping intensity in MP (marginally below the 1.9 of Punjab and Haryana) has to do with access to irrigation. Until 2009-10, government canals in the state barely irrigated 8 lh during the rabi season. That trebled to 23.9 lh by 2014-15 and crossed 32.6 lh in the 2022-23 rabi season.

The expansion was partly due to new investments, completion of unfinished last-mile projects, and improving the utilisation of existing irrigation potential, through timely maintenance (de-silting, cleaning and fixing breaches) and concrete lining of canals. The Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led BJP government also increased the outstanding power connections for irrigation pumps from 13.2 lakh to over 32.5 lakh between 2010-11 and 2020-21.

Augmented irrigation coverage has enabled MP to become India's second largest wheat producer (after UP) and supplier to government procurement agencies (after Punjab). It is also the country's leader pro-

Telangana

The ruling K Chandrababu Naidu-led Bharat Rashta Samithi (BRS) government's trump card has been Rythu Bandhu. It is a scheme launched in May 2018, providing an "investment support" of Rs 4,000 per acre per crop season to all landowning farmers and raised to Rs 5,000/acre/season from 2019-20.

Under Rythu Bandhu, a cumulative sum of Rs 72,815 crore has been disbursed to 65 lakh-plus farmers, over 11 seasons from kharif 2018 to kharif 2023. Between 2014-15 and 2022-23, Telangana's total cropped area has risen from 131 lakh to 238 lakh acres. The state's gross irrigated area has more than doubled, from 62.5 lakh to 135 lakh acres, thanks to the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project and schemes for micro-irrigation and revival of village tanks under Mission Kakatiya.

The BRS government's schemes have led to a quadrupling of the state's rice output from 4.4 mt in 2014-15 to 17.5 mt in 2022-23 and a near six-fold jump in paddy procurement (from 2.4 mt to 14 mt) during this period.

Telangana is today the second biggest contributor of paddy to the Central pool after Punjab. It also ranks No. 1 in cotton procurement and No. 3 in output (after Maharashtra and Gujarat). Further, the state is India's top producer of turmeric, No. 2 in chilli (after Andhra Pradesh) and No. 3 in eggs (after AP and Tamil Nadu).

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Why Odisha's new rural development scheme has triggered controversy

SUJIT BISOIYI
BHUBANESWAR, OCTOBER 15

AHEAD OF the simultaneous General and Assembly elections in Odisha due in April-May 2024, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik last week rolled out a scheme, 'Ama Odisha, Nabin Odisha' (our Odisha, new Odisha), under which every panchayat of the state will get assistance of Rs 50 lakh to take up projects for protecting places of worship, upgrading sites of historical significance, and improving rural infrastructure and digital access, among others.

Why the new scheme is politically significant

The newly launched initiative builds on the 'Ama Gaon, Ama Bikash' (our village, our development) scheme, which turned out to be a game changer for Naveen Patnaik's Biju Janata Dal (BJD) in 2019.

Launched after the BJD suffered a setback in the 2017 panchayat polls and the BJP increased its tally, the scheme helped the party win a fifth consecutive term in the subsequent Assembly elections.

Under the Ama Gaon, Ama Bikash initiative, Patnaik directly interacted with

people in panchayats through videoconferencing and sanctioned projects according to their needs.

Under the new scheme too, the BJD government has allocated funds for various projects based on suggestions by people from rural areas — who comprise around 80 per cent of the state's population — through video conferencing.

On October 10, Patnaik sanctioned Rs 148 crore for 297 panchayats in Keonjhar district and Rs 109 crore for 218 panchayats in Bhadrak district.

Move to address anti-incumbency

The party believes Ama Odisha, Nabin Odisha will replicate the success of the earlier scheme and help beat anti-incumbency. Every village is expected to get at least one project, up to Rs 10 lakh per project.

These projects range from strengthening internet connectivity, developing playgrounds and science parks, training facilities, work hubs and skill centres for rural entrepreneurs, projects to bridge the gap in

education infrastructure, providing banking facilities, and digital infrastructure at the village level.

Controversy over the scheme

The Opposition BJP has questioned the use of the 'conch' symbol in government advertisements for the Ama Odisha, Nabin Odisha scheme, as conch is the electoral symbol of the ruling BJD. The saffron party also questioned the timing of the scheme, coming months before the 2024 polls.

Senior BJP MLA Mohan Majhi said the use of the conch symbol in government ads "shows that the BJD fears defeat" in the up-

coming polls and is trying to "manipulate public opinion". The BJP MLA accused the government of not following proper guidelines while implementing the scheme.

The Odisha Congress also submitted a memorandum to the Governor, stating that the scheme was against the ethos of the Constitution and the panchayat laws.

Earlier, the Orissa High Court had issued a notice to the Odisha government in response to a petition challenging the implementation process of the Ama Odisha, Nabin Odisha scheme. Congress said the government went ahead with the scheme despite the matter being *sub-judice*.



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

PARUL CHAUDHARY AND AVINASH SABLE
INDIAN ATHLETES, ASIAN GAMES MEDALLISTS

‘Winning world medals in distance-running is not easy, but with right thinking, training, it is possible’

Parul Chaudhary talks about the overwhelming reception she received after winning gold in 5000m, and Avinash Sable offers insights into the challenges of steeplechase. The Asian Games medallists speak about the warm bond they share. This Idea Exchange was moderated by Associate Editor Nihal Koshie

NIHAL KOSHIE: Both of you train together in Colorado Springs (USA). How satisfied are you after winning two medals each?

Parul Chaudhary (PC): We felt good about winning the two medals. We train hard — two to three hours in the morning and evening. Our events require speed, endurance and strength. We have to put in a lot of effort to maintain all three. I had a good performance at the World Athletics Championships and also qualified for the Olympics.

Avinash Sable (AS): There were ups and downs in this year's performances. After the good result last year in the season's last race at the Commonwealth Games, I was moving into 2023 with good preparation. However, the result (didn't qualify for final) at the World Championships was not expected. While I had experience in steeplechase, winning a medal in the 5000m race at the Asian Games felt good.

NIHAL KOSHIE: Parul, you said when you were nearing the finish line in 5000m, you thought if you won you would be able to secure a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) post in the UP (Uttar Pradesh) police. Your brother is also in the police, was he an inspiration?

PC: I have liked the police uniform since childhood. My dream has always been to join the UP police at a high post. DSP has clout in villages. So towards the end of the race, I was thinking about winning gold for India, but also said to myself, "Parul, if you win, you get the DSP post." I have always dreamt that my brother and I would serve society together. My parents are also happy that my brother and I would work in the same department.

NIHAL KOSHIE: Avinash, when you joined the Army, you went straight from Mandawa to Siachen, which has a very cold climate. Then, you were posted in Lalgarh Jattan, which is very hot. Can you talk about your Army training?

AS: I joined the Army at 18. The nine-month Army training was quite rigorous. But when I thought about the struggle back home, I was determined to complete the training. When I went to Siachen, I realised the atmosphere was different from what it was at the training centres. I started my sporting journey from Lalgarh Jattan. I joined sports training at the end of 2012 and made my debut in 2015. After I joined the Army, I got into bodybuilding and maintained a specific diet. I gained a lot of weight during that time. So before the PT training with the unit, I would go for a run alone because I had to reduce weight. After finishing my duties, I would again go for PT training. After I came first in the unit's cross-country race, my unit supported me in my sports journey.

NIHAL KOSHIE: Steeplechase and distance running have several quality athletes from Kenya and other countries from Africa. We often hear that their genes help. What do you think after training with them?

AS: I didn't find anything different in them. We trained with them in Colorado Springs last year and this year. They train constantly, while we take a break of one-two months after each major event. This leads to weight gain. Genes are not a factor. When we train with them, we can match

They (African athletes) don't rest after major competitions and practise continuously. If our thinking is positive, we can do it. When we train outside (India), our thinking changes and it helps

their level. Sometimes, we even perform better than them. We might have less experience in how to improve. But I don't think they are different. Maybe, their thought process is different. For a long time, the women's record in 5000m or the steeplechase record, which was held by Lalita Babar, was thought to be unbreakable. The problem is with our thinking. In 2018, when I started steeplechase, the medal would be given for nine minutes. I used to think nine minutes was enough to win. Today, I clock 8:11 and there are others who clock 8:30-8:40, whom we call slow.

PC: As Avinash pointed out, they don't rest after major competitions and practise continuously. If our thinking is positive, then we can do it. When we train outside (India), our thinking changes and it helps us.

MIHIR VASAVDA: What is needed to ensure that Asian-level dominance can be translated into World and Olympic performances?

AS: A few years earlier, even at the Asian level, we got fewer medals in distance running. Our coach, Nikolai, used to tell us to work hard and change our thinking. We shouldn't just win in Asia but win medals at the world level too. I feel we can do that. It's not easy but it is possible.

MIHIR VASAVDA: At the Asian Games and CWC last year, you ran the race at your own pace. How tough is it to do it at the World and Olympic Games?

AS: I went for the race in Birmingham (Commonwealth Games) thinking I didn't do well at Worlds, so I don't want to depend on anyone else. I will do my best and not care about the result. There were three Kenyans. I knew I had to fight hard to win a medal. So I ran that race at my own pace.

At Worlds (this year), I was a bit greedy, thinking I could win a medal. I took the Heats lightly. There wasn't much competition because there was one Kenyan and Ethiopian. Since it was best five progressing (Heats), I thought why I should (take)

lead in the race. In the last two years, I have trained well in Colorado, and I thought I could win a medal anywhere. I didn't even think I would be outside the best five in the Heats at the Worlds. I feel I need to work on my strategy. The mistakes I made this year, it's fine, but for the Olympics I will run only at my pace.

TUSHAR BHADURI: Middle and long-distance running is a very lonely sport, both in training and race (other countries also have pacemakers). How do you cope mentally, stay fresh and deal with disappointments?

PC: Ups and downs happen. We motivate each other. If there are no downs, then perhaps we won't be giving the good results we do. It is important to deal with that. When we don't do well, we run the next race with anger. Like how Avinash did in Birmingham and Hangzhou, after not doing well at the Worlds.

TUSHAR BHADURI: Nowadays, for training and camps there are so many facilities provided by the government and SAI. Have you felt pressure over the money being spent on your training?

AS: Usually, the federation, SAI and JSW, support our training but we believe that we

need to give our 100 per cent and focus on our training. Wherever we are sent for training, we try to do our best. There is never any pressure from their side.

PC: There can be pressure, sometimes, knowing the government is spending so much money on us. But we focus on not leaving any stone unturned when it comes to working hard. But I don't worry about it too much (the result) because I know how fast I can run in practice and have an idea of what my time will be in a competition.

SHIVANI NAIK: In your 5000m race, you cut inside from the left with 50m remaining and overtook the Japanese runner. How many times have you looked at that clip since the race?

PC: I've been so busy since we came back that I haven't had the time to see it too many times. But those coming to my house have told me that they watch the last 20m of my race on repeat. I've only been able to watch the race once. I really liked my race, and after it ended it felt like a dream. I couldn't believe I had won gold. I'm very happy because we had earlier won silver and bronze, but we did not have a gold medal.

SHIVANI NAIK: Netherlands' Femke Bol had a similar push to yours in the last bit of her race. Have you watched that race and were you influenced by it?

PC: I haven't seen that race. I ran according to how my body felt that day and what my coach had explained to me. Avinash had also told me earlier that the Asian Games steeplechase had the World Champion in it and she would win gold but there would be a chance (for gold) in the 5000m and that I

shouldn't let it go. 'End tak fight kama, kyunki kuch bhi ho sakta hai' (fight till the end because anything can happen).

SHIVANI NAIK: When the pack is racing ahead of you and you have to stay behind and pace your own race, how do you maintain the discipline required?

AS: I think that kind of a race is a little difficult for me. You have to stay behind the leading group in that situation and that means you don't get the first track and have to run from the outer lines. The leading pack is also able to clear the hurdles and water jump better. Kenyan athletes have the technique to be quick, so running your own race can be tough sometimes. You can't plan anything.

In steeple, if you get stuck in one spot, getting out of it is very tough. I am often not able to gain positions in that race. When I go for a race thinking I'll lead from the start, those races are easier for me.

NIHIN SHARMA: In your races, what is usually going through your mind?

AS: The 5000 metre race is difficult for me because a lot of questions come to my mind and there are plenty of laps as well. Sometimes, around the 3 km mark, I start thinking about whether I'll be able to win the race or not. The Asian Games race was like that as well. At one point I was feeling tired and all athletes were close to me, so I was wondering how I would win that race. The pace at which we are going, we often wonder whether we should slow down, go to the back. There's a lot of pressure because to win you have to wait till the last lap and even then the finishing and speed matter. But in the steeplechase, I have a different mindset. I know the pace at which I have to run the first kilometre and then the second. The last kilometre in steeplechase is tough. The races I've run in the Diamond League this season, it's that last kilometre where I've gone down in positions. It's tough with lactic building up in the body, jumping hurdles and protecting yourself from injuries.

ANDREW AMSAN: Could you elaborate on the Kozhikode incident, where you applied pain-relief gel by mistake?

AS: That was probably the last time I used that gel. I think it was the Federation Cup, an evening race. My coach, Nikolai, used to always apply a gel. It's like the body is set on fire after applying it. I asked a fellow athlete to apply it on my body, and I applied some on my face and neck. Nothing happened. But after 3 km, the gel started showing its effect. I just wanted the race to get over. The experience after the race was the most difficult. I was asking everyone to apply ice or pour water on me. They made me sit in an ice case, but my body was still burning. I had applied the wrong gel (pain relief gel). It was already hot outside and then I put on the gel. I've never used that gel since, but I still have the bottle.

VINAYAK MOHANARANGAN: Parul, when you look back, has there been a turning point in your career?

PC: In 2018, I couldn't even qualify for the Asian Games. At that point, I decided I'll work very hard for four years so that I achieve everything I want in the next four years. I decided to do two events and get medals in both. Another turning point was in the 2020 Olympics, where I didn't qualify for the 5000 metres. I thought I should chuck it all and take up a normal job. But then I set my mind, thinking two years are left for the Asian Games, I'll work hard.

VINAYAK MOHANARANGAN: What's the first thing you do after reaching the room after a race?

PC: I look at the medal once I am back in the room, and keep it next to god. Then call up my family. After looking at the medal, everything becomes alright. You don't even remember all the hard work you've put in.

ANDREW AMSAN: Avinash, many people say that you are very stubborn. Does that attitude help you become a better athlete?

AS: I firmly believe that I've reached where I have solely because of my stubbornness. It's not like I want to portray something. Many people ask me why do I have so much attitude. I've achieved targets because of my stubbornness. An athlete shouldn't have attitude, but stubbornness is alright. I don't like to lose at all. So it basically makes me stronger.

ANDREW AMSAN: You both have seen each other grow. How is your bond and how important is it to have a friend and supporter in a track event?

AS: It's very beneficial. If you look at it from a sporting context, we have been training together since 2018. You get to learn a lot when you train with one person for a long time. Having a friend keeps you on track. They're there to tell you if you are not training enough or training extra hard. I also tell her if she needs to work out less or more. Especially when we are travelling, we take care of each other's dietary needs. While coaches and support staff play a big role, we have a huge role to play in each other's success.

PC: Our bond is very strong. In fact, when I am training for a race I watch Avinash's videos — especially the race he ran at the Commonwealth Games. I keep watching that video on loop before a big race. In terms of practice, Avinash is very stubborn and dedicated. That motivates me to push myself too.

IDEA EXCHANGE

WHY PARUL CHAUDHARY AND AVINASH SABLE

Parul Chaudhary's 5000m gold medal, where she overtook a Japanese opponent in the last 25 metres, was an iconic moment for India. It was the first gold for the country in the event at the Asian Games. She also won a second medal in steeplechase. Avinash Sable, India's strongest contender in the 3000m steeplechase, justified his top billing to win gold, also India's first in the event. He won a second medal, a silver in 5000m, to complete a double.

13 ECONOMY

MARKET WATCH

6 OF TOP-10 COS GAIN M-CAP

New Delhi: The combined market valuation of six of the top 10 valued firms jumped Rs 70,527.11 crore last week, with Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) emerging as the biggest gainer. **PTI**

BANKS HAVE FILED SUITS AGAINST 36,150 NPA ACCOUNTS AS OF MARCH '23

Wilful defaults likely to spike even further after rising to ₹3.53 lk cr

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 15

AFTER RISING by close to Rs 50,000 crore in fiscal 2023, banks are expected to witness a spike in wilful defaults following the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) proposal to classify a borrower as wilful defaulter within six months of the account becoming a non-performing asset (NPA).

According to TransUnion Cibil, wilful defaults rose by nearly Rs 50,000 crore to Rs 353,874 crore involving 16,883 accounts as of March 2023 as against Rs 304,063 crore (14,899 accounts) in March 2022. The State Bank of India (SBI) reported 1,921 wilful default accounts, involving Rs 79,271 crore, Punjab National Bank Rs 41,353 crore, Union Bank Rs 35,623 crore, Bank of Baroda Rs 22,754 crore and IDBI Bank Rs 24,192 crore.

Banks have filed suits against 36,150 NPA accounts to recover Rs 926,492 crore as of March 2023. Many of these legacy accounts are likely to be added to the wilful default category when the RBI issues the final guidelines.

Interestingly, NPAs – loan accounts in which principal or interest is overdue for more than

RISE IN WILFUL DEFAULTS

Bank	No. of Accounts	Amount
Nationalised banks	11,935	193,596
Pvt banks	2,332	54,250
SBI	1,921	79,271
PNB	2,231	41,353
Union Bank	1,831	35,623
BoB	2,220	22,754
IDBI Bank	340	24,192
Total	16,883	353,874

Source: TransUnion Cibil (As of March 2023) Amount in ₹ crore

90 days – which declined to a 10-year low of 3.9 per cent in March 2023, is expected to fall further to 3.6 per cent by March 2024, the RBI's latest Financial Stability Report said.

As per the RBI classification, a 'wilful default' would be deemed to have occurred if the borrower has defaulted in meeting their repayment obligations to the lender even when they have the capacity to honour the obligations.

On September 21, the RBI proposed that lenders should complete the process of classification of a borrower as 'wilful defaulter' within six months of the

account being declared as non-performing asset. The revision of norms comes after a review of the instructions and consideration of various judgments and orders from the Supreme Court and High Courts, as well as representations and suggestions received from banks and other stakeholders, the central bank said. It said the evidence of wilful default needs to be examined by an Identification Committee, to be set up by lenders.

However, wilful defaulters will be eligible for compromise settlements as per a June 8, 2023 circular of the RBI. As much as 77 per cent of the total wilful de-

faults are accounted by nationalised banks and SBI. A wilful default happens when the borrower has not utilised the finance from the lender for the specific purpose for which finance was availed, and has diverted the funds for other purposes, or siphoned off funds, or disposed of or removed the movable fixed assets or immovable property given for the purpose of securing a term loan without the knowledge of the bank.

On June 8, 2023, the RBI said in a circular that banks can undertake compromise settlements or technical write-offs in respect of accounts categorised as wilful defaulters or fraud without prejudice to the criminal proceeding underway against such debtors. Compromise settlement refers to a negotiated settlement where a borrower offers to pay and the bank agrees to accept in full and final settlement of its dues an amount less than the total amount due to them under the loan contract.

This settlement invariably involves a certain sacrifice by way of write off and/or waiver of a portion of the lender's dues on a one-time basis. Banks had approved several compromise settlements running into hundreds

of crores with huge haircuts – or the reduction of outstanding payment or loans that will not be repaid by the borrowers – between 2000 and 2014, leading to huge losses for banks in the last two decades.

The central bank also directed banks to fix a minimum cooling period of at least 12 months before making fresh exposures to borrowers who had undergone compromise settlements. This means a wilful defaulter or a company involved in fraud can get fresh loans after 12 months of executing compromise settlement.

On June 7, 2019, the RBI, in its 'Prudential Framework for Resolution of Stressed Assets', made clear that the borrowers who committed frauds/ malfeasance/ wilful default would remain ineligible for restructuring. Now this change in the framework by the central bank to grant compromise settlements to wilful defaulters came as a shocker to the banking sector as it will not only lead to erosion of public trust in the banking sector but also undermines the confidence of depositors.

Centre likely to top-up MGNREGS with additional ₹30,000-40,000 cr in FY24

PRASANTA SAHU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

WITH 95 per cent of the Budget allocation for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) having already been utilised so far in the current fiscal, the Centre will likely provide an additional Rs 30,000-40,000 crore for the flagship scheme soon, sources said.

Simultaneously, the government will also try and plug leakages in the scheme, given the instances of misappropriation being reported.

Approval for the extra allocation would be sought in the first Supplementary Demand for Grants to be presented in the winter session of Parliament in December. In the interim, the government will ensure fund flows to run the scheme smoothly without disruptions, the sources said.

The Centre has so far released Rs 56,994 crore or 95 per cent of the Budget estimate of Rs 60,000 crore for MGNREGS in FY24.

As against the funds availability of Rs 67,403 crore (including some write-back of funds from the previous year) as of October 15 of the current fiscal, the expenditure stood at Rs 66,704 crore or 99 per cent of the avail-



So far in FY24, 1.93 billion person days of work have been generated under the scheme. **File**

able funds. Given that five-and-half months are left in the year, the Budget expenditure on the scheme may reach Rs 90,000 to Rs 1 trillion as the person-days generated (work provided) under the scheme may be around 3 billion," an official said.

However, the extra allocation for the scheme won't impact the fiscal deficit as it could be adjusted against savings in other schemes expected for the year.

So far in FY24, 1.93 billion person days of work have been generated under the scheme. In FY23, 2.94 billion person days were generated compared to 3.63 billion in FY22 and a record 3.89 billion in FY21, the pandemic year.

According to official data, month-wise work demand has moderated from 33.7 million in June to 18.5 million in September

2023, indicating that people are finding other viable options for casual employment.

Besides person days expected, the average wage increase could also inflate expenditure to some extent even though the Centre is tightening measures to plug leakages in the scheme. Under MGNREGS, the average wage rate per day per person has been on the rise due to minimum wage revisions by states. The average wage stood at Rs 237.96 so far in FY24 from Rs 217.9 in FY23, Rs 208.84 in FY22, Rs 200.71 in FY21 and Rs 182.09 in FY20.

Rampant misappropriation of funds allocated under the flagship scheme is one of the main triggers for the Centre to make a five-year low provision of Rs 60,000 crore in the FY24 Budget for the jobs programme. **FE**

No angel tax scrutiny for DPIIT-recognised start-up companies: CBDT tells officers

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

IN A directive issued to its field officials, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has instructed them not to carry out scrutiny of start-ups recognised by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) for angel tax provisions as amended in Budget 2023-24.

This clarification by the tax department comes after many start-ups had raised concerns about receiving scrutiny notices for angel tax.

"Instances of cases of startups having been picked up for scrutiny under CASS (Computer-Assisted Scrutiny Selection) have been reported," the CBDT circular said, adding that in this context, it is being clarified that procedure has been laid out for the assessment of such start-up companies which have been recognised by the DPIIT.

"Where the case of such Startup Company is selected under scrutiny on the single issue of applicability of section 56(2)(viib) of the Act, no verification on such issues shall be done by the Assessing Officers during the proceedings u/s 143 (2) or u/s 147/143(2) of the Act and contention of such recognised Startup Companies on the issue will be summarily accepted," it said. A similar directive has been issued for scrutiny cases of startups involving multiple issues including section 56(2)(viib) of the Income-tax Act. Angel tax – which is in-



Start-ups had raised concerns about receiving scrutiny notices for angel tax. **File**

come tax at the rate of 30.6 per cent – is levied when an unlisted company issues shares to an investor at a price higher than its fair market value.

Earlier, it was imposed only on investments made by a resident investor. However the Finance Act 2023 proposed to extend angel tax even to non-resident investors from April 1, 2024.

Experts said the circular provides much needed clarity with respect to applicability of angel tax on registered start-ups and is in the nature of administrative guidance to all field officers. Nangia & Co LLP Partner Amit Agarwal said, "The CBDT circular basically means that startups registered with DPIIT and whose case has been picked up for angel tax issues shall not be subject to any Assessment Proceedings, and AO shall be duty-bound to give clean chit to such startups".

The Finance Act, 2023, had amended Section 56(2)(viib) of the Income-tax Act. The provision,

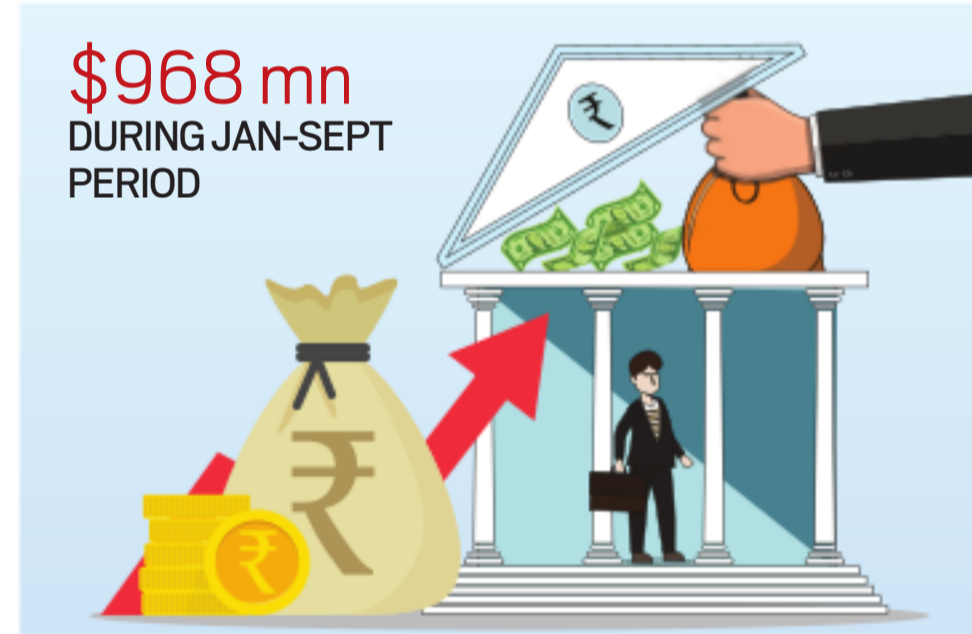
colloquially known as the 'angel tax' was first introduced in 2012 to deter the generation and use of unaccounted money through the subscription of shares of a closely held company at a value that is higher than the fair market value of the firm's shares.

The provision had stated that when an unlisted company, such as a start-up, receives equity investment from a resident for issue of shares that exceeds the face value of such shares, it will be counted as income for the start-up and be subject to income tax under the head 'Income from other Sources' for the relevant financial year.

With the latest amendment, the government had proposed to also include foreign investors in the ambit, meaning that when a start-up raises funding from a foreign investor, that too will now be counted as income and be taxable. The DPIIT-recognised startups were excluded from the angel tax levy.

Investment bankers see highest fee income: Report

This is the highest fee collection by deal makers since records began in 2000, as per an industry analysis



High technology, which saw the greatest number of deals announced in the period captured 9 per cent market share with \$5.9 billion worth of deals

Wall Street Wall Street major Citi's domestic arm took the top position for overall investment banking fees with \$58.6 mn

Source: Refinitiv/PTI

FPIs take out ₹9,800-cr in Oct so far on global uncertainties

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

FOREIGN INVESTORS have pulled out nearly Rs 9,800 crore from Indian equities this month so far owing to a sustained rise in US bond yields and the uncertain environment resulting from the Israel-Hamas conflict.

This came after Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) turned net sellers in September and pulled out Rs 14,767 crore.

Before the outflow, FPIs were incessantly buying Indian equities

in the last six months from March to August and brought in Rs 1.74 lakh crore during the period.

This inflow was largely due to the reduction in US inflation from 6 per cent in February to 3.2 per cent in July. The temporary pause in the US Federal rate hike from May to August also played a role, Kishlay Upadhyay, smallcase manager and Founder of FidelFolio Investments, said.

Going ahead, the trajectory of FPIs' investments in India will be influenced not only by global inflation and interest rate dynamics but also by the developments and

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

Geopolitical tensions tend to elevate risk, which typically hurts foreign capital inflows into emerging markets like India, he added. According to the data with the depositories, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) sold shares to the tune of Rs 9,784 crore this month (till October 13).

The recent flow trend points towards FPIs adopting a cautious stance towards investing in

emerging markets like India.

The sustained rise in US bond yields was the principal factor driving the FPI selling, V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said.

Additionally, the prevailing uncertain environment resulting from the Israel-Hamas conflict, which has generated heightened geopolitical tension in the Middle East region also played a main factor in FPIs selling, Morningstar's Srivastava said. This development has sparked concerns about potential disruptions in oil-related

activities. This could give rise to inflationary shock and FPIs seem to be bracing for it, smallcase's Upadhyay said.

As Israel engages and prepares for a possibly long-drawn battle, FPIs perceive this as an apt time to book profits and show risk-off after a few months of exuberance, he added. In the current scenario, experts believe that there could be an enhanced focus on safe-haven assets such as gold and US dollars. On the other hand, FPIs invested Rs 4,000 crore in the country's debt market during the period under review.

BRIEFLY

DTDC Express looks to invest ₹100 cr in infra

New Delhi: DTDC Express looks to invest at least Rs 100 crore in infrastructure and technology development, among others, this fiscal amid a brighter business outlook, the company's chairman and managing director Subhashish Chakraborty has said. **PTI**

IndianOil to invest ₹1,660 cr

New Delhi: Indian Oil Corporation, the nation's biggest oil firm, will invest Rs 1,660.15 crore as equity in a newly set up joint venture with energy major NTPCLtd for setting up renewable power plants. **PTI**

IDBI Bank has deferred tax assets of ₹11,520 crore, 120 properties

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

THE GOVERNMENT has informed the prospective asset valuers of IDBI Bank that the lender has deferred tax assets of Rs 11,520 crore and 120 properties in the top seven cities including Mumbai, Pune, and Chennai.

In response to the pre-bid queries from prospective asset valuers of IDBI Bank, the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) said the bank has as many as 68 properties in Mumbai, 20 in Pune, nine in Chennai and seven in Ahmedabad. Besides, it has six properties in Kolkata and five each in Delhi and Hyderabad.

"The intangible on the balance sheet of IDBI Bank primarily comprises deferred tax assets of around Rs 11,520 crore," DIPAM

said. Deferred tax asset commonly refers to overpayment of tax by an entity. Such excess tax paid can be adjusted against future tax dues.

DIPAM further said the asset valuer shall further identify intangibles not on the IDBI Bank balance sheet like brand name, branch network and value them. The Terms of Reference for asset valuers included describing and listing of all the properties and assets, including intangibles such as trademark(s), title to property rights, being valued, as provided by the bank. Valuation of intangibles were required to be indicated separately.

Giving details of asset properties in the seven cities, DIPAM informed the asset valuer that such assets account for 94 per cent of the total written down value (after accounting for depreciation)

of fixed assets of IDBI Bank. In response to pre-bid queries from asset valuers regarding a list of assets and properties held by the bank, DIPAM said that a complete list of IDBI Bank's fixed assets and relevant documents would be provided to the appointed asset valuer subsequent to execution of the confidentiality agreement.

The government along with LIC is selling nearly 61 per cent stake in IDBI Bank and has received multiple Expressions of Interest (Eoi) for the same. As part of the sale process, it is now scouting for an asset valuer for conducting valuation of assets of IDBI Bank for its strategic sale. The last date for submitting bids by asset valuer is October 30.

The asset valuer would be required to value IDBI Bank's investments; loans & advances; fixed assets and other assets.

Automakers rain discounts as festival season kicks in, inventories at 5-year high

SWARAJ BAGGONKAR
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 15

WITH THE festival season around the corner and inventories rising to a five-year high, automakers are doling out steep discounts to car buyers.

Attractive deals, ranging from Rs 20,000 to Rs 200,000, are on offer for the buyers. These include cash discounts, exchange, loyalty bonus and corporate discounts.

In addition, dealers are also doing their bit by offering discounts on accessories. While festive offers are valid till October 31, some have been going on for slow-moving models, especially compact hatchback and sedans.

What is interesting is that discounts are being offered even in the sport utility vehicles (SUV) and CNG-powered models –



Maruti Suzuki is offering Rs 61,000 discount on the Alto, Wagon R, Celerio and S Presso. **File**

both perceived as high demand segments. This could be an indicator of the sluggishness in the retail demand.

Bundled with dealer offers, market leader Maruti Suzuki is offering Rs 61,000 discount on the Alto, Wagon R, Celerio and S Presso while the Swift is avail-

able with Rs 54,000 worth of offers.

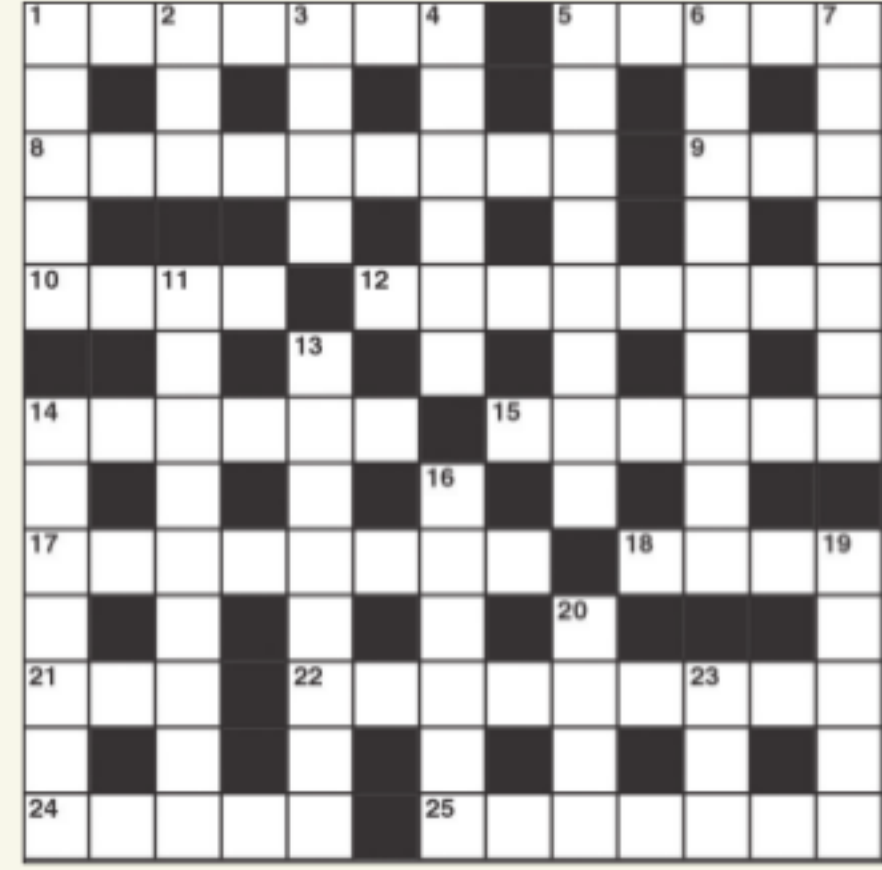
Shashank Srivastava, senior executive officer, marketing and sales, Maruti Suzuki India said, "It is not a general discounting trend across all models because there are some models which have a waiting period. We have

started to modulate production of those models where supply exceeded demand and the inventory was higher."

With the exception of Exter, Venue and Creta, Korean auto brand Hyundai is offering discount on all other models ranging between Rs 10,000 and Rs 200,000. While the Grand i10 Nios has consumer offers of Rs 43,000, the Aura comes with benefits worth Rs 33,000. The all-electric Kona is offered at a whopping Rs 200,000 discount. SUV-specialist Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) is offering discounts of up to Rs 90,000 on the XUV300 and Rs 125,000 on the all-electric XUV400

Its highest-selling models Bolero and Bolero Neo are carrying discounts of Rs 70,000 and Rs 50,000, respectively. There are no offers on the XUV700, Scorpio N and Scorpio Classic. **FE**

CROSSWORD 5183



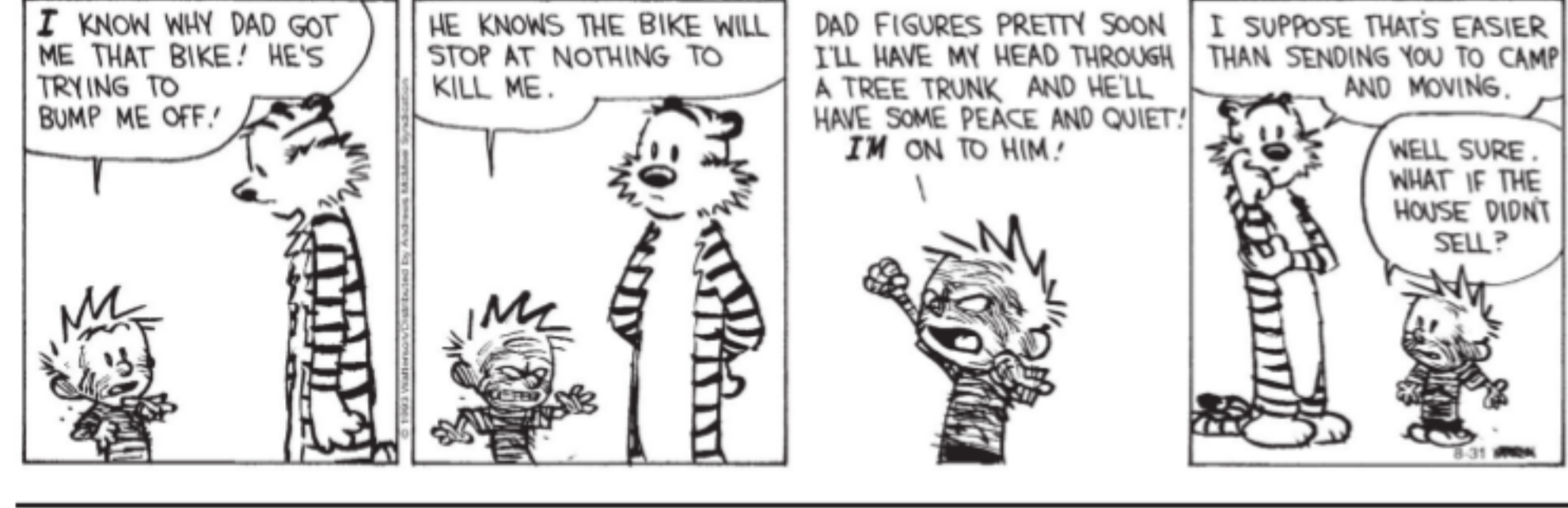
- ACROSS**
- 1 Begin singing the song outside (4-3)
 - 5 Wild party with many a man of music (5)
 - 8 March saint is surprisingly celebrated in December (9)
 - 9 A gold-plated propeller blade (3)
 - 10 Lines of argument? (4)
 - 12 Man of arms (8)
 - 14 A shade partly drawn in good weather (6)
 - 15 He refuses a measure of silk (6)
 - 17 An exploit indeed to be beaten (8)
 - 18 Leading performer you can't see any day (4)
 - 21 There's nothing left in retrospect (3)
 - 22 Any recess regarded as unavoidable (9)
 - 24 Try a paper (5)
 - 25 Simple type but he shows skill in bridge (7)
- DOWN**
- 1 Happen to upset company dog (5)
 - 2 Is it sharper if pricked? (3)
 - 3 Curate's parents hold up part of the church (4)
 - 4 Spirit to drink up; result, uproar (6)
 - 5 Is outwardly relieved but didn't give in (8)
 - 6 One who bows and scrapes? (9)
 - 7 One staggering on all fours (7)
 - 11 Financial gains from the branches (9)
 - 13 Ugly in an awkward way (8)
 - 14 Neat and refined but rather slow (7)
 - 16 Criminals may get cleared by horsemen (6)
 - 19 Material that's light to put on (5)
 - 20 Continent, as I am to start with (4)
 - 23 Expertise in painting (3)

Solutions Crossword 5182 Across: 1 Freehand, 5 Pass, 9 Local, 10 Breeder, 11 Premeditated, 13 Detect, 14 Propel, 17 Above average, 20 Chime in, 21 Trail, 22 Done, 23 Neurotic. Down: 1 Fell, 2 Excerpt, 3 Holy mackerel, 4 Nobody, 6 Audit, 7 Straddle, 8 Letter writer, 12 Advanced, 15 Pageant, 16 Evince, 18 Onion, 19 Alec

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLER WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

The ___ in my opinion, is the man who calls himself a fool at least once a month.
-Fyodor Dostoevsky (9, _2)

GSEEE **EEPLLT**

HARKS **AEOCLV**

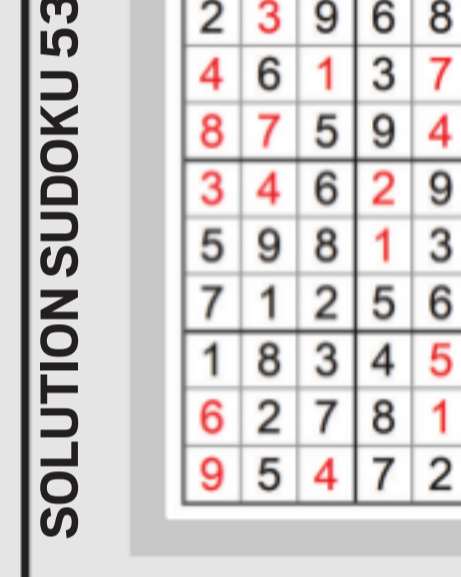
SOLUTION: GSEEE: GEESSE, SHARKS, PELLET, ALCOVE
EEPLLT: The cleverest of all, in my opinion, is the man who calls himself a fool at least once a month. -Fyodor Dostoevsky

SUDOKU 5352

Difficulty Level 2s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.



SOLUTION SUDOKU 5351



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

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
The Moon is already creating problems and challenges in your domestic life, but nothing you can't handle. Try to see partners' criticism as well-intentioned and glean what you can from their helpful comments. After all, there is a great deal of sense in their wise words.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
It is difficult to escape the fact that this is a period for hard work. Lazy Taurians might therefore run into problems, whereas those of you who have a highly-developed work ethic should do just fine. But you may hold certain information to yourself.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Every now and then the planets give you an enormous shot of energy. However, it's entirely up to you whether you use this constructively or destructively. It's important to act with maturity and self-restraint over the coming days.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Venus is in a brilliant relationship with Jupiter, one which is sure to minimise personal friction. Dreams of distant places or foreign romance may be sufficient to distract you from the rigours of family life. Yet, there's still something missing, something you're still striving for.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
It's not like a Leo to chop and change, but it does seem that events may oblige you to alter a number of deeply-held opinions. In such circumstances, flexibility can only be seen as a major virtue. If you make allowances for partners now, they'll do the same for you later on.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
As a Virgo you know better than anyone how important it is to organise your affairs and have all your dates sorted out in advance. Yet, in a week like this, the stars are likely to have different ideas, throwing all your best plans into the melting-pot.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
You frequently appear to be very self-contained and happy with your own company. However, appearances are deceptive and there does seem to be a strong likelihood that you will put yourself at someone else's mercy over the next few days.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
True, you are able to see the underlying truth of any situation better than most people, but that doesn't make it easier for you to settle disputes. Your tendency to get emotionally involved makes you a poor diplomat at the moment, so you may have to leave.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)
You may still feel hard done by, but you have waited too long and worked too hard not to accept an opportunity or invitation. Especially one which will lead to promotion, or increased status in your community, or to romantic bliss.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
Professional Capricorns may have a more intense period than those of you with purely personal schemes and ambitions to pursue. Partners' generosity, or lack of it, still holds the key. You could need to wait while they make up their minds, so be patient. They need their time just like you do.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
You are an impressionable person, often believing what you are told. The message of the next few days' worth of planetary aspects, is that you should believe only what you know to be right for you. Perhaps it's fine to be a little selfish for a change. And it's only natural, everyone does it. Try trusting your gut feeling.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
In spite of the fact that stressful stars are raising the possibility of a conflict or two, you are in an ideal position to sidestep such personal battles and appreciate excellent possibilities for excitement and drama. You see, what at first appears to be difficult can be turned to your advantage.

Bank of Baroda
Zonal Office, Lucknow Zone, "Baroda House" V-23, Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow - 226010

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
The Bank of Baroda invites offers from the owners/Power of Attorney holders of Premises on ground floor with the area of 1) 1100-1628 Sq.ft. for Fatehpur Branch, Dist. - Barabanki, 2) 1100-1628 Sq.ft. for Madhogani Branch, Dist. - Hardoi, 3) 1000-1488 Sq.ft. for Maina Newariya Branch, Dist. - Bahraich, 4) 1800-2608 Sq.ft. for G.B. Marg Branch, Dist. - Lucknow, 5) 1000-1488 Sq.ft. for Rampur Bhagan Branch, Dist. - Ayodhya, 6) 1800-2608 Sq.ft. for Thakurani Bhagan Branch, Dist. - Lucknow, with all facilities including adequate power. The premises shall be ready for occupation. The intending offerers shall submit their offers in two separate sealed cover superscribed Technical bid and Price bid to Zonal Office Bank of Baroda, Lucknow on or before 07.11.2023 upto 3:00 P.M. Priority will be given to the premises belonging to Public Sector Units/Govt. Departments. (For details please log in on tender section of our website www.bankofbaroda.com). The Bank reserves its right to accept or reject any offer without assigning reasons thereof. Any Addendum/Corrigendum in this regard shall be published on Bank's website only.

Deputy General Manager

SBI
IT-Partner Relationship Department, State Bank of India, Global IT Centre, Sector 11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai - 400614

CORRIGENDUM-1
Please refer to RFP No. SBI/GITC/IT-Partner Relationship/2023/2024/ 1042 Dated: 22.09.2023 for Empanelment of IT Companies for Providing Niche Technology Resources for Various Applications and IT initiatives of the Bank skill wise. Please visit 'Procurement News' at <https://www.sbi.co.in> and e-Procurement agency portal <https://etender.sbi/sbi/> for Corrigendum-1 issued on 16.10.2023.

Place: Navi Mumbai
Date: 16.10.2023

Deputy General Manager
IT-Partner Relationship Department

APTRANSCO::VIJAYAWADA
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The APTRANSCO invites bids online for 1) Spec. No. PMM11-e-42/2023 (10 Nos. tenders from A to J): Supply of various Testing/scientific equipment required to monitor the sub-station equipment under Operation and Maintenance (O&M) 2023-24, 2) Spec.No.PMM12-e-43/2023: Supply of 132kV Metering Current Transformers, of ratio:200/1A, Single Core, 0.2S, Burden-5 VA. Date & Time of availability of above tenders is 16.10.2023 at 5:00PM Website: www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in Contact No. CE/Transmission: 0866-2429230. No: 2406/PP/CL/ADVT/1/1/2021-22 Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER, TRANSMISSION

"IMPORTANT"
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Executive Engineer Provincial Division, P.W.D Bijnor

Letter No. 2324 /E -Tender /23-24 Dated : 06.10.2023
(Short Term E-Tender)

1. The Executive Engineer Provincial Division, U.P.P.W.D. Bijnor on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids online from the eligible and approved Contractors registered in Road Works with UP PWD, class A,B,C,D The Bidder may submit bids for any or all of the works. Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 4 of the Instructions to Bidders to qualify for the award of the contract.

Sl. No	DIS-TRICT	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs. In Lakhs)	Bid Security (Rs. In Lakhs)	Cost of Bid Document	Time of Completion	Address of Executive Engineer of the Executing work	Address of Superintending Engineer	Address of Chief Engineer
1	Bijnor	Special Repair of Angakheri Machki Sarfuddinpur Road	18.90	1.89	854/- (Tender Cost be accepted only by Net banking)	01 Month	Provincial Division, P.W.D. Bijnor	Rampur Circle P.W.D. Bijnor	Chief Engineer Moradabad Zone P.W.D. Moradabad
2	--do--	Special Repair of Naiwala to Raipur Berisal via Bhawanipur road	26.80	2.68	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
3	--do--	Special Repair of Bijnor Kotwali Road KM 8 pili chowki Inter college to mangolpura roopchand road	28.80	2.88	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
4	--do--	Special Repair of Village Mubarakpur to PWD road to sirdhami ravidas basti road	9.30	0.93	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
5	--do--	Special Repair of Ganj Fatehpur Chauraha to Kevlanand nigan dham road	16.90	1.69	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
6	--do--	Special Repair of Khadak Jeetpura to Fareedpur Bhoganwala Road	11.60	1.16	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
7	--do--	Special Repair of Islampur Sahu to Suaheri Road	16.00	1.60	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
8	--do--	Special Repair of Village Mundhala to Ulakpur Road	11.20	1.12	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
9	--do--	Special Repair of Akbarpur Angakheri road KM 4 to 6	18.70	1.87	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
10	--do--	Special Repair of Bijnor Nangal Najibabad Road KM 22 to kaboolpur road	31.50	3.15	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
11	--do--	Special Repair of Bijnor Chajlet Road to Sadiyapur road	17.60	1.76	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
12	--do--	Special Repair of Swaheri Gajraula road to ulakpur road	12.00	1.20	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
13	--do--	Special Repair of Narayan to Bilaspur Road	18.00	1.80	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
14	--do--	Special Repair of Mundhala to Kishanpur road	16.00	1.60	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
15	--do--	Special Repair of Bahadarpur Jat to Ganjalpur road	17.20	1.72	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--

16	--do--	Special Repair of Bahadarpur jat to bilaspur road	31.80	3.18	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
17	--do--	Special Repair of Chandpur Khanpur Dattiyana road to jamaluddinpur road	9.70	0.97	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
18	--do--	Special Repair of Dattiyana to Muzaffarpur khader road	7.20	0.72	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
19	--do--	Special Repair of Basta Bahpur road	14.00	1.40	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
20	--do--	Special Repair of Basta Athai Saidpur road	8.40	0.84	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
21	--do--	Special Repair of Chachri road to jalekpur road	24.80	2.48	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
22	--do--	Special Repair of Ratangarh to heempur buzurg road	31.90	3.19	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
23	--do--	Special Repair of Chandpur Feena road to Bahmanshora road	27.20	2.72	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
24	--do--	Special Repair of Gangu Nangla to Mubarakpur Kalan Road	17.60	1.76	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
25	--do--	Special Repair of Kelanpur chukheri remaining portion	6.60	0.66	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
26	--do--	Special Repair of Haldaur Chandpur Road to Mithanpur road	14.60	1.46	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
27	--do--	Special Repair of Khanpur Salempur to Mubarakpur road	28.50	2.85	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
28	--do--	Special Repair of Siau Chachri road to Mundhal road	15.60	1.56	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
29	--do--	Special Repair of BB Road to Talibpur road	20.80	2.08	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
30	--do--	Special Repair of Chandpur Basta road to Akbarpur Jhaja road	22.40	2.24	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
31	--do--	Special Repair of Thurela Link road	13.70	1.37	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
32	--do--	Special Repair of Shadipur Nehtaur to Lakhuwala Road	20.30	2.03	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
33	--do--	Special Repair of Dhanauri to Takipura road	14.60	1.46	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
34	--do--	Special Repair of Kakrala to Mahua Road	24.60	2.46	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
35	--do--	Special Repair of Bijnor Noorpur Chajlet to Shadipur Malakpur road	16.00	1.60	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
36	--do--	Special Repair of kookda to bilai road	17.10	1.71	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
37	--do--	Special Repair of Bilai to Mahua road	31.80	3.18	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
38	--do--	Special Repair of Bijnor Kotwali road to Bankpur to Pandawali road	31.90	3.19	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
39	--do--	Special Repair of Papsara to Lalthamar Milak road	30.40	3.04	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
40	--do--	Special Repair of Bijnor Noorpur road to Bisatb Kalyan road	12.20	1.22	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
41	--do--	Special Repair of Bheemsen Devsthal to rasoolpur road	23.40	2.34	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
42	--do--	Special Repair of Jalalpur hasna to gogli jalalpur road	3.50	0.35	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
43	--do--	Special Repair of Haldaur to Nangal Jat road	31.80	3.18	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--

44	--do--	Special Repair of Shekhpur to Gujarpur jaspal Road	14.40	1.44	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
45	--do--	Special Repair of Ballashepur to Saidpur Puraini road	22.40	2.24	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
46	--do--	Special Repair of PK Road KM 162 to Milak Mukimpur via seda	24.60	2.46	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
47	--do--	Special Repair of Nehtaur Dhampur Jigar Colony to Kotwali road	29.00	2.90	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
48	--do--	Special Repair of Haldaur Rajwaha to Saifi road	15.40	1.54	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
49	--do--	Special Repair of Nangal Jat to Dhanauri road	19.90	1.99	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
50	--do--	Special Repair of BNC to Jainulabedipur road	9.10	0.91	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
51	--do--	Special Repair of Bijnor Chajlet Road to Paniyala Road	30.40	3.04	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
52	--do--	Special Repair of Noorpur Moradabad Road to manupura road	9.10	0.91	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
53	--do--	Special Repair of Mandaura to Ganvri Paniyala road	31.50	3.15	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
54	--do--	Special Repair of Roshanpur to Fezpur road	7.30	0.73	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
55	--do--	Special Repair of Nehar ke kul to Manjhola billoch road	9.30	0.93	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
56	--do--	Special Repair of Saidpur to nangli pathvari jama basera nangla jaju road	11.80	1.18	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
57	--do--	Special Repair of Their to Chajipura road	10.00	1.00	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
58	--do--	Special Repair of SH-77 to Manjhola Gujjar road	6.80	0.68	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
59	--do--	Special Repair of Bijnor Noorpur Chajlet road to Rampur bidar road	23.60	2.36	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
60	--do--	Special Repair of Sherkot Harewali to Kopa road	9.00	0.90	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
61	--do--	Special Repair of NH-74 to Balkishanpur Naseruddinwala road	23.80	2.38	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
62	--do--	Special Repair of Tarkoli madan to Baghdad ansar road	20.30	2.03	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
63	--do--	Special Repair of Dhampur seohara road to hasanpur palki sadober road	22.90	2.29	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
64	--do--	Special Repair of Dasi marg to mohra road	7.30	0.73	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
65	--do--	Special Repair of Purana dhampur to salarpur udupura road	4.50	0.45	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--
66	--do--	Special Repair of Sugar Mill to Ajeetpur Dasi Road	31.20	3.12	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--	--do--

The Rate adopted in the BOQ include all Other taxes but excluding GST. Tender cost should be deposited online through Net Banking as per Column 6 in the table. Bids must be downloaded online from 10:00 AM on date 19.10.2023 to 12:00 PM on date 25.10.2023 and the technical bids will be opened online on date 25.10.2023 at 12:30 PM in Office of Executive Engineer Provincial Division PWD Bijnor and Financial bids of the qualified bidders will be opened on date & time as notified. According to the provisions of Government Order No. 1/2018/3070/78-2-2018/42 IT/2017 (22) Date 03-01-2018 after opening of the technical and financial bids, the qualified bidder has to submit original documents personally in department/ office. In the event of non submission of original documents by the bidder, the appropriate action will be taken in accordance with the provisions of G.O.

All terms & conditions can be seen on website <http://tender.up.nic.in>

UPID-195703 Date 11/10/2023
www.upgov.nic.in



TODAY'S MATCH

Australia vs Sri Lanka, 2pm
Live on Star Sports network

When the World Champions were handed an upset

In a World Cup that has so far been crying out for a thriller or an upset, New Delhi witnessed a result that will be spoken about for ages as Afghanistan defeated England.

1983 INDIA STUN WEST INDIES, NOT ONCE BUT TWICE

India were not favourites in 1983. Not even close. But they made the world sit up and take notice of the talent in the squad when West Indies were first stunned in a group stage fixture. Yashpal Sharma's 89 powered India to a match-winning total in Manchester. India's only previous win in the tournament history had come against East Africa in 1975 while West Indies had not lost a single WC match until that day. And then the famous day at Lord's. One of the most important results in the history of cricket. A stuttering batting effort saw India post 183 and then a collective bowling effort combined with that famous running catch by Kapil Dev to dismiss Viv Richards, took India past the finish line. India went from rank outsiders to World Champions.

1992 SOUTH AFRICA BEAT AUSTRALIA ON DEBUT

The 1992 edition ended for South Africa in bizarre fashion. But it started off magnificently. For starters, the quality in the South African lineup in 1992 doesn't necessarily mark this one as an upset in terms of how the two teams matched up. But it is worth remembering that South Africa had only just returned to international cricket after more than two decades. Allan Donald's 3/34 in 10 overs saw the Aussies fold for 170/9. The defending champions then saw their campaign start off with a defeat as one of their own from the past, Kepler Wessels, led South Africa's run-chase with a superb unbeaten 81. Australia would never recover from that defeat, losing the next match too and missing out on a semifinals spot at home.

2023 AFGHANISTAN OUTPLAY ENGLAND

What a way to register your county's first-ever win against a full-member side in the men's ODI World Cup. Afghanistan did not just defeat England, they dominated for large parts. On Sunday, in front of a good crowd in Delhi, they registered arguably the biggest win in their history. Jos Buttler had said at the start of the tournament, "I don't see us as defending champions. We're very much in the same boat now as everybody sat here on the eve of the tournament trying to win it." And for that, this defeat will sting England, not just for the nature of it but for their hopes of going the distance. "Congratulations to Afghanistan, they outplayed us today," the England captain said after the defeat.

VINAYAK MOHANARANGAN

Gurbaz-ball stuns England

Opener's 57-ball 80 sets the stage for Afghanistan before bowlers give a historic win over the defending champions

TUSHAR BHADURI
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

A 50-OVER innings is a long time, and a team usually needs more than one batsman getting a substantial score to get a match-winning total. But as long as Rahmanullah Gurbaz stayed at the wicket, he single handedly gave Afghanistan hope. And when the lower order provided sufficient ballast, England had a fight on their hands, a fight they would lose handily with Harry Brook playing a lone hand with 66.

What the Afghan opener showed at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Sunday, ignited hope that he could be the first world-class batsman produced by his country. Comfortable against spin and unfazed by pace, Gurbaz gave his team such impetus at the top that a total of 350 was not beyond the realms of possibility. It was only after skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi contrived to get his main batsman run out, in quest of a non-existent single off the first ball he faced, that England could afford to breathe a little easier and Afghanistan finished at 284, using up 49.5 overs. The run rate that was going at sevens and eights till he was at the crease, plummeted to just over four in the passage of play that followed Gurbaz's dismissal.

As it turned out, the underdogs got to a total which eventually proved well beyond the defending champions. Granted that England were sloppy to begin with, but they also seemed shell-shocked by the assault initiated by the 21-year-old from a tribal background, the first from his country to hit a hundred on ODI debut, who already has significant experience in international white-ball cricket as well as franchise outings around the world including for Gujarat Titans and Kolkata Knight Riders in the Indian Premier League.

The Delhi pitch, in contrast to its traditional avatar, has been a batsman's friend in this World Cup, and Gurbaz's 80 off 57 balls, with eight fours and four sixes, carried on the trend seen in the previous two games at the venue. His opening partnership with Ibrahim Zadran (28 off 48 balls), worth 114 runs, was virtually a one-man show.

Afghanistan had got a decent score on the board against India as well, but its inadequacy was confirmed in the first few overs itself. That game was played at the same venue, and armed with prior knowledge, Afghanistan didn't make the same mistake twice. Fazalhaq Farooqi was dealt with contempt a few days ago, but on Sunday, he got the ball to move threateningly into the right-hander and sometimes holding its line to beat the outside edge. One of those inswingers accounted for Jonny Bairstow while Dawid Malan was troubled by the one that held its line.

When Joe Root and Malan were accounted for fairly early in the chase, the cat was among the pigeons. The most impressive aspect of the Afghan performance was that they were in charge for most of the second innings. This was no smash-and-grab result.

Irrespective of the runs or the speed at which Gurbaz scored, the feature that caught the eye were the shots on display. Gurbaz didn't throw the coaching manual away, just made a few modifications to go with white-ball cricket and the demands of the situation, by extending his arms to hit over the top.

The carnage

Chris Woakes is at his most potent in typical English conditions. He is not blessed with express pace, which often makes him cannon fodder if there isn't much help from the surface. A short ball in the third over, that didn't climb much above hip height, was squatted deep over the mid-wicket fence. The Kotla boundaries are on the shorter side, but the shot landed well into the crowd.

That prompted Woakes to pitch the ball up, only to be creamed over and through the off-side repeatedly. At the other end, Reece Topley brought some semblance of control to proceedings but he too faced the brunt of Gurbaz's blade from time to time. Sam Curran, brought

SCOREBOARD

AFGHANISTAN vs ENGLAND

FEROZ SHAH KOTLA, NEW DELHI

Toss: England elected to field

AFGHANISTAN

R Gurbaz run out Willey 80 (57b, 8x4, 4x6)

I Zadran c Root b Rashid 28 (48b, 3x4)

R Shah st †Buttler b Rashid 3 (8b)

H Shahidi b Root 14 (36b)

A Omarzai c Woakes b Livingstone 19 (24b)

I Alkhill c Curran b Topley 58 (66b, 3x4, 2x6)

M Nabi c Root b Wood 9 (15b, 1x4)

R Khan c Root b Rashid 23 (22b, 3x4)

Mur Rahman c Root b Wood 28 (16b, 3x4, 1x6)

Nul-Haq run out †Buttler 5 (6b, 1x4)

Farooqi not out 2 (4b)

■ Extras (lb 1, nb 3, w 11) 15

■ Total 49.5 Ov (RR: 5.69) 284

■ FoW: 1-114 (Ibrahim Zadran, 16.4 ov), 2-122 (Rahmat Shah, 18.4 ov), 3-122 (Rahmanullah Gurbaz, 18.5 ov), 4-152 (Azmatullah Omarzai, 25.6 ov), 5-174 (Hashmatullah Shahidi, 32.1 ov), 6-190 (Mohammad Nabi, 36.1 ov), 7-233 (Rashid Khan, 44.1 ov), 8-277 (Ikram Alkhill, 47.6 ov), 9-277 (Mujeeb ur Rahman, 48.1 ov), 10-284 (Naveen ul Haq, 49.5 ov)

■ Bowling: Chris Woakes 4-0-41-0, Reece Topley 8.5-1-52-1, Sam Curran 4-0-46-0, Adil Rashid 10-1-42-3, Mark Wood 9-0-50-2, Liam Livingstone 10-0-33-1, Joe Root 4-0-19-1.

ENGLAND

J Bairstow lbw b Farooqi 2 (4b)

D Malan c Zadran b Nabi 32 (39b, 4x4)

J Root b Rahman 11 (17b, 2x4)

H Brook c Alkhill b Rahman 66 (61b, 7x4, 1x6)

J Buttler b ul-Haq 9 (18b, 1x4)

L Livingstone lbw b Rashid 10 (14b, 1x4)

S Curran c Shah b Nabi 10 (23b)

C Woakes b Rahman 9 (26b, 1x4)

A Rashid c Nabi b Rashid 20 (13b, 2x4)

M Wood b Rashid 18 (22b, 3x4)

R Topley not out 15 (7b, 3x4)

■ Extras (lb 4, nb 1, w 8) 13

■ Total 40.3 Ov (RR: 5.30) 215

■ FoW: 1-3 (Jonny Bairstow, 1.1 ov), 2-33 (Joe Root, 6.5 ov), 3-68 (David Malan, 12.4 ov), 4-91 (Jos Buttler, 17.2 ov), 5-117 (Liam Livingstone, 20.4 ov), 6-138 (Sam Curran, 27.1 ov), 7-160 (Chris Woakes, 32.6 ov), 8-169 (Harry Brook, 34.2 ov), 9-198 (Adil Rashid, 38.4 ov), 10-215 (Mark Wood, 40.3 ov)

■ Bowling: Mujeeb ur Rahman 10-1-51-3, Fazalhaq Farooqi 7-0-50-1, Naveen ul-Haq 6-1-44-1, Mohammad Nabi 6-0-16-2, Rashid Khan 9.3-1-37-3, Azmatullah Omarzai 2-0-13-0

on quite early by Buttler to stem the runs, fared little better. Gurbaz displayed his versatility with a cover drive, a clip off his pads and a pull for six off successive deliveries. When spin was introduced in the form of Adil Rashid, the leg-spinner was welcomed with a hard sweep for four, to bring up a 33-ball fifty in just the 11th over, and later a pick-up shot for six over deep mid-wicket.

Upper cut a la Sachin

But the shot that really got the crowd going came against the pace of Mark Wood, an upper cut for six reminiscent of Sachin Tendulkar's blow against Shoaib Akhtar at Centurion 2003. The short ball, above shoulder height, was met with an open bat-face that sent the ball soaring beyond third man. When Wood tried to tuck Gurbaz up, he was helped along the way to the fine-leg fence by getting inside the line. One wonders how many Afghanistan would have ended with had someone in the top order provided the opener significant support.

The biggest heroes in Afghan cricket thus far have been the bowlers – Rashid and Mohammad Nabi the names that come to mind readily. But if the team has to rise further in the ranks, they need batsmen who can make runs consistently across formats. And if they are as easy on the eye and technically proficient as Gurbaz, all the better.



Rahmanullah Gurbaz scored 80 of Afghanistan's 284 runs in their World Cup match against England. Abhinav Saha

Accuracy, aggression and variations, the mystery behind Mujeeb's spin

SANDIP G
OCTOBER 15

JOE ROOT is arguably England's finest player of spin in the sub-continent this century. But Mujeeb-ur-Rahman flummoxed with a simple piece of trick. In their early exchanges, Root stepped out and met him on the full to get used to his deception. Mujeeb played along. When Root gets confident, he tends to play spinners off the back-foot, with the turn and using those dexterous hands to stub out the danger, if any.

But here, he lost to Mubeeb the battle of skills as well as wits. He slipped in the off-break – his change-up ball, and therein is the irony of being Mujeeb – that rushed him through the gate to hit the stumps. The ball kept a trifle low, Mujeeb had released this from a slightly lower trajectory. He has an unorthodox grip too, as he holds the ball between the thumb and forefinger. The middle finger acts as a hand-rest, as he releases the ball with a wristy flourish. The carrom ball – his stock ball – would later devour Harry Brook, before the googly, which he floats more than other variations, nailed Chris Woakes.

He is classified as an off-spinner, but one that rarely bowls the off-breaks. He corrects the assumption in self-introductions. "Mujeeb-ur-Rahman, mystery spinner from Khost, Afghanistan," was how he described in an intro video for his previous Big Bash League team. In another interview, with the Sunrises Hyderabad channel, he wonders why he is categorised as an off-spinner and asserts himself: "Call me a carrom-ball spinner."

It's an apt description, for he primarily bowls carrom ball and purchases most of his wickets with this finger-flicker. There is no more a compulsive carrom-ball practitioner than Mujeeb either; there are few better exponents of the ball either. Most bowlers employ



Mujeeb-ur-Rahman (second from left) celebrates England's final wicket. Abhinav Saha

it as a variation, or a change-up or a novelty ball. But Mujeeb uses this all the time – not because that's the only ball he bowls but also because that's the best he has. Just like a googly-bowler – as his teammate Rashid Khan is often referred to – or like an off-spinner or a leg-spinner, why not term him carrom-ball bowler?

Apart from Root, luminous right-handed victims include Virat Kohli and AB de Villiers. In short, Mujeeb works on the inverse logic that batsmen are troubled by the balls that leave them and not come back into them. What confounds the batsman most is that he has a similar grip for both carrom ball and wrong'un. He holds the ball between the index finger and the thumb, with the middle finger under the ball like a cushion, before it propels the ball in anti-clockwise direction. The fundamentals are the same for the wrong'un, only that the release is from the back of the hand.

There are more variations that he sparingly

uses like the under-cutter, a reverse under-cutter, and an in-swinging yorker that he bowls with an angled seam and a slightly quicker action. On how he has developed all these variations he once explained in a Brisbane Heats video: "My first coach is Youtube. I learnt the carrom ball by watching Ashwin, Narine and Mendis bowling it. Then I would try those a thousand times at home or when playing with my friends," he says.

But whichever variation he develops in his bowling lab, he reproduces it in a match only when he has acquired utmost control of bowling it. Little wonder then that his quest for experiments is matched only by his accuracy. "There is not much room for error to bowl wide so I have tried to bowl wicket-to-wicket," he said after his most memorable World Cup spell.

This is a deadly blend – accuracy, aggression and variations. Call him a mystery spinner as he says in self-introductions. Root too would approve.

MINI KABUL ERUPTS

'I am running with the Afghan flag in metro, an emotional moment for us'

PRATYUSHRAJ
OCTOBER 15

AHEAD OF their match against India, the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) requested the International Cricket Council (ICC) for fifty passes to the local Afghan fans, but they didn't get any.

On Sunday, in Delhi's mini Kabul all the Afghan shops were closed as most of them bought tickets for the Afghanistan-England match and those who didn't, got passes from the Afghan cricketers.

Haseebullah Siddiqi was among the handful of Afghan fans, who got tickets, because his childhood friend Rahmanullah Gurbaz managed three for him. Haseebullah, who spent most of his time these last few days with Gurbaz in the team hotel, didn't know how exactly to celebrate.

"I am just running with the Afghan flag in the metro. We are singing songs. This is a very emotional moment for the entire Afghan community in Delhi and those who are living abroad," Haseebullah told *The Indian Express*.

Haseebullah, an actor in Punjabi movies, says this win will give strength to his people back home, who have been living under ter-



Afghanistan fans at the Feroz Shah Kotla Stand. (Right) Haseebullah Siddiqi after the match ended. Abhinav Saha/



ror and those who have been affected by the earthquake.

"I am spending most of my time with Gurbaz. He kept telling me that he wanted to score a century and dedicate it to the people

of Herat. He would just scroll through all the photos and videos of the earthquake. That is why he got so emotional after getting out. He wanted to hit a century and there was a planned celebration as well. I guess we'll have

to wait for another match," says Haseebullah.

Mohammad Almas has not opened his burger shop for the past two days. He has spent all his time either outside the stadium or the team hotel just to get a glimpse of his favourite

cricketers, Mohammad Nabi and Rashid Khan.

"It was impossible to get a ticket for the India match. But for this match, we got very easily and I just wanted to live this moment. I used to travel to Greater Noida and Lucknow as well, where Afghanistan used to play their home matches. A bit of an emotional moment for all of us. We would have never thought that we might be able to beat England ever," says Almas, who was a journalist in Herat and left Afghanistan in 2018.

Meanwhile, Nazamudin Asar, watched the match alone in the mess at a post-graduate men's hostel in Delhi University's North Campus. Asar didn't watch the entire game, but when they took two early wickets, he raced to the hostel mess to watch the rest of the match.

"This is historical right? The English never won a war against the Afghans, and now we defeated them in their own sport. What a moment," laughs Asar.

Asar, 28, hails from Kandahar and has been living in India for nine years and is in the final stage of writing his PhD thesis on the India and Afghanistan trade routes over the years.

"My father is scolding me saying why I was not in the stadium. My mother was telling me that people are on the roads celebrating. I can

I spend most of my time with Gurbaz. He kept telling me that he wanted to score a century and dedicate it to the people of Herat. That is why he got so emotional after getting out. He wanted to hit a century and there was a planned celebration as well."

HASEEBULLAH SIDDIQI
RAHMANULLAH GURBAZ'S FRIEND

imagine it. Good for the team and most importantly for the Afghan people, who are living outside," says Asar.

Nida Dar, a final-year student of Delhi College of Journalism, calls it a significant achievement.

"Between all the sad news about Afghanistan, this is the best I have had since leaving my country. This is a significant achievement for everyone, I mean for every Afghan. The cricket players, despite their challenges, showed their fighting spirit against the defending champions. This is the Afghan way," she says.

SHORT TAKES

STANDINGS

	M	W	L	T	Pts	NRR
Ind	3	3	0	0	6	+1.821
NZ	3	3	0	0	6	+1.604
SA	2	2	0	0	4	+2.360
Pak	3	2	1	0	4	-0.137
Eng	3	1	2	0	2	-0.084
Afg	3	1	2	0	2	-0.652
Ban	3	1	2	0	2	-0.699
SL	2	0	2	0	0	-1.161
Ned	2	0	2	0	0	-1.800
Aus	2	0	2	0	0	-1.846

Mendis happy to take over as Sri Lanka captain

Lucknow: Sri Lanka's Kusal Mendis will not change his aggressive batting approach after taking over the captaincy two games into the World Cup when team mate Dasun Shanaka was ruled out of the tournament with injury.

Shanaka sustained a thigh muscle injury in Tuesday's six-wicket loss to Pakistan and the 32-year-old will need three weeks to recover, with Chamika Karunaratne replacing him in the squad.

Mendis is among the tournament's top scorers with 198 runs in two games and his first match as captain will be Monday's clash with Australia who are also without a win in the group stage. "I am very happy to have the captaincy and I hope to play in the future in the same way as I have played so far, because I don't have anything to change," Mendis told reporters on Sunday. "Speaking about my batting, I aim to maintain this level of performance." REUTERS

Head resumes batting after fracture, eyes open

Lucknow: Australian opener Travis Head has returned to batting for the first time since he fractured his left hand and could join the World Cup squad on Friday, Cricket Australia said on Sunday.

Head broke his finger in a one-day international against South Africa last month but was included in the 15-man World Cup squad as selectors hoped he would be fit in time for the latter stages of the tournament.

If his recovery is on schedule, the left-handed batter is set to fly out of Adelaide on Thursday and land in India a day later, with an eye on a return for Australia's group fixture against the Netherlands on Oct. 25. REUTERS

Morgan criticises Pakistan's batting collapse

Ahmedabad: World Cup-winning captain of England Eoin Morgan was critical of Pakistan's batting effort during their World Cup clash against India on Saturday. He said if The Men in Green have to beat the big sides they cannot collapse like they did in the high-octane clash. "When you want to beat the best sides in the world that are in this tournament, you have to bring your A-game. In a boxing match, you can't have a bad round. You can have a bad blow here and there but it can't be consecutive with lots of wickets or clusters of wickets," said Morgan speaking to Sky Sports. ENS

The way Babar and Rizwan played spin was bizarre



RASHID LATIF

THE CONTINUOUS political interference is ruining Pakistan cricket. I know I might create a controversy but we lost the T20 World Cup a year ago. These are T20 cricketers, who have the mindset of playing in that way. Barring Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan, none of the players knows how to play ODI cricket.

In the past twelve months, we have seen three different persons heading the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB). We have seen Ramiz Raja, then Najam Sethi, and now Zaka Ashraf is at the helm. And not to forget in the same timeline, we have had five selectors as well. Mohammad Wasim, Micky Arthur, Shahid Afridi, Haroon Rasheed, and

now Inzamam-ul-Haq. The selectors should also be blamed because there was no vision. Saud Shakeel, Abdullah Shafiq and Hasan Ali were not in contention a year ago, and suddenly they are in the ODI World Cup. Saud and Abdullah had never played a high-intensity game, and you cannot blame them. Fakhar Zaman was our main player for the past three years and all of a sudden he was dropped. I agree that he was not in good form, but in my opinion, he should have batted at No 4 to face Ravindra Jadeja and Kuldeep Yadav.

Fakhar is the only guy who can play the counterattacking shots but he was warming the bench. Pakistan's current ODI template is old. They want to follow the old ODI template of saving wickets till 40 overs and then target the last ten. The game has changed; we are still stuck in the past. This team is not playing modern-day cricket. We don't have specialists; there is no X factor in the playing XI.

the playing XI. There is a lack of merit in selection as well.

I can go on and on. I don't know if Shaheen Afridi is injured, but he looked fatigued. Haris Rauf will have to learn how to hit the good lengths consistently. In the T20s, the four-over spell can make you a superstar by firing all the cylinders in 24 balls. But in the ODIs and Test cricket, you need that mental toughness that was lacking in Ahmedabad. Shadab Khan's spells against the minor teams are exceptional but when it comes to the top five side, he struggles. Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, Jos Buttler, Glenn Maxwell, and David Miller face the likes of Kuldeep Yadav, Rashid Khan and Tabraiz Shamsi in the nets; they will pick Shadab with their eyes shut.

The appointment of our medical staff are also questionable. Naseem Shah was complaining about his shoulder from the

Afghanistan series, he carried that niggle in the Asia Cup and now he is injured. We rushed Shaheen last year during the T20 World Cup and he collapsed in the final. The injuries of Muhammad Hasnain and Ihsanullah were also not taken seriously.

Wo patti baandh ke khelna wala jamana gaya (Gone are those days when players used to play with the bandages). Anil Kumble was an exception. Nowadays, if you are 80 per cent fit, that player should not play.

Coming back to the India game, the way two of our senior batsmen [Babar and Rizwan] played Kuldeep and Jadeja was also bizarre. They were not able to read Kuldeep and all of a sudden, they started playing sweep shots. Sweep shots are not for the Asian cricketers. Players from England and South Africa used to play sweep when they didn't pick Abdul Qadir or Shane Warne.

Look at the way Shreyas Iyer and Rohit Sharma play spin. Khuda ke liye (For god sake) use your feet, you have got two. One hit down the ground, Kuldeep and Jadeja would have easily given them five singles in one over. But instead, we were trying to sweep against them.

There were two close calls as well.

Call me old school but in my opinion those batters who just sweep against spin in are cowards. They are playing sweep shots because they are scared of the bowlers. Against Kuldeep, we looked timid, we were trying to just play out his ten overs. Not a single Pakistan batsman was able to pick Kuldeep, and I think if he is not rested in a few matches, Kuldeep will end up being the leading wicket-taker of the tournament.

I was surprised that India didn't pick Ashwin. I feel he should play all the matches for India. If Ashwin had played I don't think we could have even got 190 on the board.

I can go on and on about what went wrong on Saturday but one should count Pakistan out at their own peril. The batting collapse was a classic Pakistan but I still won't be surprised if they go all the way. Having said that, you can't deny the fact that we need a robust administration if we want to be a good team. The constant chopping and changes at the top will take our cricket nowhere.

(Rashid Latif is a former Pakistan captain; He spoke to Pratyush Raj.)

Medley of Magicians

This team with its mesmeric specialities with bat and ball could convert cynics into supporters, make you a cricket-addict

SANDIP G
OCTOBER 15

IT WAS just after the ninth over, shortly after Rohit Sharma had smeared Haris Rauf for a pair of sixes, that the edges of a wondrous night in Ahmedabad began to sharpen a little and the destiny of the game assumed crystal clarity. The fate of a crushing India win seemed unchangeable—no tweak or tactic could alter it—for such was the domination India wielded. So much so that not a nerve of anxiety was shed in the ocean of blue the stands was. Pakistan looked shattered, tired of running into dead ends filled with blue shirts.

In three matches of this World Cup, India have blown their opponents away with a streak of ruthlessness reminiscent of Ricky Ponting's Australia that claimed back-to-back titles. But the most fascinating aspect of their game is not merely winning or dominating, but the assimilations of skills and styles that have punctuated their victories.

Watching India, thus, is a vivid and fulfilling experience, a slice of the country's own twinkling diversity. A confluence of varied and distinct cultures tessellating to construct something magnificent and immortal. To get a gist of the variety that makes India, you need not hop into a train that connects Kashmir to Kanyakumari, or taste the wondrous cuisines en route. But just tune into a cricket game of theirs. The experience is both enlightening and educational, in a cricketing sense.

It's a team that you would pay to watch, you would bank office hours, you would lie to your boss or spouse or parent for, you would ensure that you would not miss a ball. The team could convert the cynics into supporters, the doubters to faithful. It could make you fall in love with the game; make you a cricket-addict even. To watch them is to be lost in a beautiful world.

Like a great piece of literature or music, you could pick from anywhere and be marveled. Like the cover drives Shubman Gill authored. In his brief stay, he stroked three. The third was perhaps the most gorgeous. Hasan Ali had found a modicum of out-swing, but Gill just waits for it, gauges and accounts for the movement and merely coaxes the ball through covers. Still eyes, stiller head and



In three matches of this World Cup, India have blown their opponents away with a streak of ruthlessness. PTI

India's performance has been a sort of cricketing perfection. One you would readily pay to watch.

body, he seemed like batting perfection chiseled into human flesh.

Has there been a more aesthetically pleasing opening pair than Gill and Rohit Sharma ever in this format? It's doubtful. Sharma has batted as though fueled by a super-personic engine, batting at a strike rate of 141. Here, he has transformed his batting into an expression of joy and freedom, his child-like passion for the game. He has not let the burden of captaining the country on home soil spoil the joy he gets from batting.

He thrilled the audience with an array of strokes, of which each one deserve a space of its own. The cut, the drives, the glides, the bat twirling in his hands like a magician's wand in soft, rhythmic movements. But the pull still is his most charming, because pull is designed not to charm but to terrorize

bowlers. It's the slap on your face that's more insulting than the more painful punch on your nose. Afridi copped the insult when Sharma pulled Pakistan's most fearsome over fine leg. Such strokes instill a sense of despair among the opponents. You could see the last fume of hope disappearing from Afridi's face.

Sharma took a single and made way for the man the crowd had come to watch the most. There could be a stellar star-cast in this team, but one star is more glittering than the others. That is Virat Kohli. He, like Gill, did not last too long, but in his time in the middle, he thrilled the crowd with his cover-driving. After he was pulled for a four, Afridi responded with a full ball, angling in from around the stumps. Kohli just strode forward, majestically and emphatically and drove him through the covers. He struck the pose in his follow-through that ten thousand cameras would have absorbed to treasure forever. A slice of batting divinity.

Such a top-heavy line-up could obscure the batsman-ship of Shreyas Iyer and KL Rahul. But they are unique in their own ways;

they have their own specialities. Few batsmen step out to spinners in the old-fashioned way of Shreyas Iyer. Who cuts a spinning ball as delicately or clinically as KL Rahul? And for sheer power and bluster, when the need arrives, you have Hardik Pandya.

Then in case if you had missed India's chases, the setting up for targets by the bowlers would be fulfilling enough. The depth of their skills seems bottomless. The Ahmedabad surface did not offer much movement for seamers; there was not much turn for the spinners either. But they somehow coerced the surface into friendship.

Mohammed Siraj produced two cross-seam beauties—one that landed on the leather part that skidded on and one that landed on the seam that stopped and held the line—to define the match. Jasprit Bumrah, the ustaad of Indian bowlers' deathly qawwali, has been hitting notes that only he could hit. His ways to wicket are several—he bowled Mohammed Rizwan with a dreamy off-cutter, he castled Shadab Khan with a standard ball that straightened off the seam. The ball before had landed at the exact spot

INDIA'S MAGIC MOMENTS

- Jasprit Bumrah:** The Mohammed Rizwan off-cutter
- Mohamed Siraj:** The Babar Azam cross-seamer
- R Ashwin:** The carrom ball that beat Steve Smith in Chennai
- Ravindra Jadeja:** Steve Smith bowled in Chennai
- Kuldeep Yadav:** The Saud Shakeel lbw
- Shubman Gill:** Any of the three cover drives he essayed in Ahmedabad
- Virat Kohli:** The second cover drive he hit off Shaheen Afridi
- Rohit Sharma:** The pulled six off Afridi
- KL Rahul:** The cut off Zampa from the stumps

and ducked into Shadab. Bumrah's deception has many layers and faces.

As does those of Ravindra Jadeja and Kuldeep Yadav. Jadeja reaped doubts in batters' minds with the first ball he bowled. It pitched on off-stump and kicked away past Rizwan's blade. The surface offered no substantial turn, but in the batsmen's mind the ball was ripping and turning. Kuldeep is half a decade into the game, his mystery has worn off, but still he confounds and confuses batsmen. He did not produce outrageous turn on Saturday, but just enough, allied with impeccable control, to bargain wickets. The collective chaos they could wreak was demonstrated in Chennai on a semi-turner.

What of the bench-cast—Mohammed Shami, R Ashwin, Suryakumar Yadav and Ishan Kishan. All could run a show of their own. That then is the incredible wealth of this team, one that makes them the outright favourites to kiss the trophy. Whether they are crowned winners or not in the end, whether their domination withers or not, they are an unputdownable proposition, the assimilation of skills is as diverse as the game has ever seen. Just pick a random page from any of the three games, and be fulfilled. India's performance has been a sort of cricketing perfection. One you would readily pay to watch.

MISSION 2036

The long route to India's dream of hosting the Olympic Games in 2036

AMIT KAMATH & MIHIR VASAVDA
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 15

ON SATURDAY evening, Prime Minister Narendra Modi revealed India's ambition to host the Olympics in 2036, stating that the administration would "leave no stone unturned" in getting the Games to the country for the first time.

It is learnt that the Indian government and the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) will form a joint committee in the coming weeks to explore the way ahead for the bid. There will be no decision on awarding the 2036 Olympics at least until the IOC's election next year. It must also be noted that the bid to host the Olympics does not have to be restricted to just one city, it can be a multi-city, a regional, or even a "multinational" bid.

Even before PM Modi made the announcement at the Opening Ceremony of the 141st IOC Session in Mumbai, it is learnt that India had already sent a letter to the International Olympic Committee to join continuous dialogue a "little while ago". It is also learnt that the IOA members had an "informal catch up" with IOC chief PT Usha and Sports Minister Anurag Thakur on the sidelines of the IOC Session.

In the coming years, India will need to take many giant leaps before they are awarded the Olympics. The Indian Express got Jacqueline Barrett, who is the Future Olympic Games

Hosts Director, and IOC's Director of Corporate and Sustainable Development, Marie Sallois, to break down what will happen next.

Barrett mentioned that just like from India, the IOC had also received similar interest from about "double-digit" countries so far.

"It's still early days (for the Indian bid) and there's no rush. But the ambition is clear," Barrett told The Indian Express.

When will the Games be awarded?

Tokyo and Paris were awarded the Olympics seven years before the Games were to be hosted. Brisbane was awarded the 2032 Games 11 years before the Games.

Barrett, who is the Future Olympic Games Hosts Director, pointed out that there is no fixed deadline in place to make a decision as to who will host the 2036 Olympics. She added that the decision could be kept as late as 2030.

"We're not setting artificial deadlines. Things are changing exponentially fast in the world. Be it geopolitically, from the social point of view, or economically. It's too early today to say what might be the situation in 2036. We have been very clear to say that for the next Summer Games in 2036, it'll be the responsibility of the next IOC leadership (the election will happen in 2025)," said Barrett before adding that a decision for 2036 might not be taken before 2026-27, potentially even later.

What are the stages that any bid goes through before the IOC accepts it?



There will be no decision on 2036 Olympics till the 2025 IOC elections to choose Thomas Bach's successor. PTI

Once a city or a region sends a letter to the IOC signalling its intent to host a future edition of the Olympics, the IOC gets into a "continuous dialogue phase" with them. It must be noted that the continuous dialogue does not specifically have to be regarding the 2036 Games. It could also be about a later edition as well.

There is no real timeline for how long the continuous dialogue phase might last as this is a non-committal stage (a host city can dip its feet in the water and back out). Once there is a seriousness in a bid to progress to the next level, the bid will enter the "targeted dialogue phase" where a city/region would be known as a preferred host city.

"The nature of this continuous dialogue is

that there is no start or end. It's an exchange process, where we go at the pace of the interested parties. The idea is to develop each project at its own speed," said Barrett. "Continuous dialogue is not edition specific. It does not force anybody into hosting an Olympics in a year that might not be right for them."

What happens in the continuous dialogue phase?

In the really initial days of conversation, the IOC looks at the vision of the hosts.

"If you're going to come to the table (to bid for an Olympics), why? You'd be surprised at how many countries find that question difficult. It's great to want to host the Games, but what are you trying to achieve through it? It's thinking about that long-term legacy that's really important. After that it's putting together a master plan: where would you want to do it, why are you choosing that region, where would it make the most sense. We want the Games to help an existing ambition develop," said Barrett.

Sallois pointed out that the IOC is not looking for hosts to follow a particular template in hosting of the Games. It does not want one Olympics edition to resemble all the others before it, but an edition to stand out in its own unique way.

"(We're looking at) What are you trying to

achieve from the Games in your local context? It's good to get inspiration from the past, but we want to know how you'll look at the future in your context," said Sallois, who is the IOC's Director of Corporate and Sustainable Development.

Once the bid starts gaining shape, IOC then looks at capacities, infrastructure and the support a bid has from all levels of government, and other stakeholders like the private sector, from the general public.

"Through this new process, we are trying to reduce costs and the number of losers," said Barrett. "It's great when there's excitement and so many people are bidding but the sad part is that only one entity is awarded the Games. We want to make sure that not so much money is spent on winning."

Once a bidding city/region covers these bases, the IOC's Future Host Commission for Summer Olympics can recommend to the IOC Executive Board to enter into a targeted dialogue phase with the bidder.

What happens in the targeted dialogue phase?

Barrett said that it is usually in the targeted dialogue phase that the IOC's team will visit a potential host to look at infrastructure.

"Targeted dialogue is really a deep dive. We would know a lot about the project already by

