

Neeraj strikes javelin gold, Jena silver; India tally its finest at Asiad



**THE INDIAN HAUL**

On Day 11 of the Hangzhou Asian Games, India surpassed its previous best medal tally.

**PREVIOUS BEST:** Jakarta 2018 GOLD 16, SILVER 23, BRONZE 31 **TOTAL: 70**

**NEW HIGH (After Day 11):** Hangzhou, 2023 GOLD 18, SILVER 31, BRONZE 32 **TOTAL: 81**

Neeraj Chopra and Kishore Kumar Jena after their win in the javelin throw event on Wednesday. Reuters **PAGE 20**

## HELD AFTER RAID AT HOME; THIRD AAP LEADER IN CUSTODY

# Sanjay Singh, AAP MP, arrested by ED in Delhi excise policy case

Illegal, shows nervousness of Modi, says Kejriwal; Opp parties slam Govt

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

A DAY of searches at his official residence on Wednesday ended with the arrest of Aam Aadmi Party Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh, who was picked up by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with the Delhi excise policy case.

This is the third high-profile

arrest in the case — while AAP's communication in-charge Vijay Nair was arrested in September last year, Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia was arrested in February this year. Both are still behind bars.

The ED action against Singh, who has emerged as the AAP's

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

**FULL COVERAGE PAGE 4**



AAP's Sanjay Singh during the ED raid at his home in New Delhi. Anil Sharma

**EXPLAINED** Faultlines deepen

LEADERS OF the AAP have come under intense scrutiny of the CBI and ED. The arrests earlier of Manish Sisodia and Satyendar Jain deepened the faultlines in Delhi politics and Sanjay Singh's arrest will add to the acrimony between the AAP and BJP in the run-up to 2024.



Free tickets & coupons on offer, women to pack stands today for World Cup opener

**DEVENDRA PANDEY & NIRMAL HARINDRAN** AHMEDABAD, OCTOBER 4

THE STAGE is being set for an estimated 30,000-40,000 women from across Ahmedabad to watch for free the opening match of the cricket World Cup between defending champions England and New Zealand at the Narendra Modi Stadium Thursday.

The BJP's city ward-level network is mobilising women to pack the stands with local leaders distributing tickets and assuring complimentary coupons for tea and lunch.

Lalit Wadhawan, BJP vice-president of Bodakdev area, said the idea to bring women to the

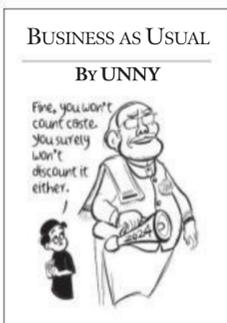


Local BJP leader Lalit Wadhawan distributes World Cup tickets in Ahmedabad, Wednesday. Nirmal Harindran

stadium was inspired by the passage of the women's reservation Bill in Parliament last month.

"Around 30,000 to 40,000

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



**INSIDE**

**77% VOTE IN KARGIL LAHDC POLLS, ITS FIRST SINCE 2019 P 7**

**BETTING APP: ED SUMMONS RANBIR P 8**

## Flash flood in Sikkim: Five dead, 22 soldiers among 42 still missing

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** KOLKATA, OCTOBER 4

AT LEAST five persons died and 42 people, including 22 Army personnel, went missing on Wednesday after heavy rainfall triggered a lake outburst in parts of the highly vulnerable Lhonak Lake in north Sikkim and resulted in a flash flood in the Teesta river basin, officials said.

They said a search operation was on to trace those missing.

The Army's Eastern Command said that some establishments along Lachen valley were affected by the flood, which



A flood-affected area at Singtam in Gangtok district of Sikkim on Wednesday. PTI

was worsened by the release of water from Chungthang dam. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

We will look at immunity of MPs and MLAs if acts involve element of criminality: SC

**ANANTHAKRISHNAN G** NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

THE SUPREME Court said Wednesday that it will examine if MPs or MLAs are entitled to immunity in respect of a vote given or speech made in Parliament or Assembly where there is criminality attached to such acts but added that it will restrict itself to the question of reexamining the question of privileges only so far as the offence of bribery is concerned.

"You are entirely right because we should not be entering **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

Police FIR draws on ED claims, links NewsClick to Navlakha-Maoist case

**MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL, JIGNASA SINHA & NIRBHAY THAKUR** NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

A DAY after it invoked the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act to arrest Prabir Purkayastha, founder and editor-in-chief of news portal NewsClick, and Amit Chakraborty, the portal's administrative officer, the Special Cell of Delhi Police obtained their custody Wednesday for 7 days in connection with its probe into alleged routing of funds to the portal and Purkayastha's "friendship since 1991" with rights activist Gautam Navlakha who is under house arrest in the Elgar

**THE EDITORIAL PAGE**

**THE MORNING KNOCK**

Case related to NewsClick's funding must take its course but UAPA, seizing devices, is brazen short-circuiting of due process **PAGE 12**

Parishad-Maoist link case.

Advocate Arshdeep Singh, who appeared for NewsClick before Additional Sessions Judge Hardeep Kaur at the Patiala House Courts, was granted a copy of the police remand but the hearing on his plea for a copy of the FIR was moved to Thursday since the Public **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

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**BAGHBAN: A MANIPULATIVE PROPAGANDA FILM MASQUERADING AS WHOLESOME ENTERTAINMENT; A CULT MOVIE THAT DESERVES TO BE CULLED**

Starring Amitabh Bachchan and Hema Malini as victims of self-inflicted elder abuse, the family drama Baghban remains one of the most horrifically ill-conceived movies in recent Bollywood history.



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**VIOLENCE DURING 2015 YATRA**

# Varanasi court allows dropping of charges against all accused barring UP Cong chief

**ASAD REHMAN**  
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 4

A VARANASI special court on Wednesday gave its nod to drop the charges of rioting, attempt to murder among others against 81 out of the 82 accused, including a current minister in the UP government, in a case of arson and violence during the 2015 'Anyar Pratikar Yatra' organised by saints and local politicians.

The court's order came on an application filed by the Prosecution.

The only person against whom the charges have not been dropped is state Congress president Ajay Rai, who was then a Congress MLA from Pindra. Rai, who was arrested after the violence during yatra, was released on bail.

Among those against whom charges have been withdrawn are Minister of State (Independent Charge) Daya Shankar Mishra 'Dayalu', Swami Avimukteshwarananda, Mahant Santosh Das 'Satua Baba', Mahant Balak Das, members and office bearers of Hindu Yuva Vahini (HYV), Bajrang Dal, Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Shiv Sena.

The case dates back to October 5, 2015, when a yatra was taken out in Varanasi city against the ban on the immersion of religious idols in Ganga. At least 20 people, including policemen and journalists, were injured in the violence. A total of 48 people were arrested for rioting, attempt to murder, voluntarily causing hurt to deter public ser-

**FROM PAGE ONE** FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

# Sanjay Singh, AAP MP, arrested by ED

voice in the Rajya Sabha alongside Punjab MP Raghav Chadha, evoked a sharp reaction from Delhi Chief Minister and party-national convener Arvind Kejriwal. He called the arrest "completely illegal" and said that "it shows Modi's nervousness". "They will arrest many more opposition leaders till the elections," he tweeted.

Singh was arrested from his residence at North Avenue, outside which he had put up a poster that read: "Phakkad house main ED ka swagat hai (ED is welcome at this penitential house)".

A video released by the AAP shows him taking blessings from his mother before he is taken away by ED officials. "Chinta na karo, himmat rakho (Don't worry, stay strong)," he can be heard telling her.

The AAP also released a video recorded by Singh before his ar-

rest. "I have consistently been raising my voice against the corruption of the Narendra Modi government and Adani's mega scam... there was no action on such complaints, but today the ED suddenly turned up at my door, conducting its investigation for hours. They found nothing, but despite this, I am being forcibly placed under arrest. But we are all soldiers of the Aam Aadmi Party and we want to tell Modi ji that you are losing the elections and that too spectacularly. This signals your disappointment, your defeat," he said in the video.

Several allies of the AAP in the opposition's INDIA bloc, including the RJD, JDU, TMC, Shiv Sena (UBT) and PDP, also slammed the government.

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav said, "The BJP is troubling regional parties which are doing good work. The fact is that if you speak the truth, speak against the present government, ask questions, raise the voice of the people... then there will be attempts to crush you." The excise policy case pertains to the now-scrapped liquor policy, which was introduced by the Delhi government with the stated objective of increasing revenue and weeding out corruption by privatising the sector. The policy was scrapped after allegations emerged that some private players had been extended undue benefits.

In the prosecution complaint filed by the ED in the case, Singh's name appears in a statement by businessman Dinesh Arora, an accused. According to the complaint, he told the agency that he initially met Singh, through whom he eventually met Sisodia, at a party in a restaurant. The complaint, which is akin to a chargesheet,

● **Police FIR draws on ED claims, links NewsClick to Navlakha-Maoist case**

Prosecutor was not present in court.

The Indian Express has learnt that in its FIR against NewsClick, the Special Cell has alleged that the portal had been receiving funds since 2018 from three different entities - two linked to US-based businessman Neville Roy Singham and a third to his wife's NGO.

In August this year, an investigation by The New York Times had alleged that NewsClick was among organisations funded by a network tied to Singham for allegedly pushing Chinese propaganda across the world.

In its application seeking the police remand of Purkayastha and Chakraborty, the Special Cell referred to a case registered on August 14 by the Enforcement Directorate against PPK NewsClick Studio Pvt Ltd - the ED had searched NewsClick's premises in February 2021 as part of its probe into foreign remittances allegedly received between 2018 and 2021.

The Special Cell FIR, registered in August, has also mentioned Purkayastha and Navlakha's "friendship relation" since 1991.

The FIR was registered on the basis of a complaint filed by an Inspector of the Special Cell police station and an ACP was appointed investigation officer.

In its remand application, the Special Cell stated there were "secret inputs" that "foreign funds in crores have been infused illegally in India by Indian and foreign entities inimical to India in pursuance of conspiracy with the intention to disrupt sovereignty and territorial integrity of India, to cause disaffection against India and to threaten the unity, integrity, security of India".

"Since April 2018, such fraudulent funds in crores of rupees have been received by M/S PPK NewsClick Studio Pvt Ltd through illegal means during a short span of five years from M/s Worldwide Media Holdings LLC, USA and others," the remand application stated.

It stated that an analysis of 427 lakh emails showed that the accused were "in direct touch with each other" and were "discussing how to create a new map of India without Kashmir and to show Arunachal Pradesh as disputed area" and to this end, they had received "more than Rs 115 crore" in the "guise of foreign funds".

The remand application claimed that the arrested persons were trying to create "disaffec-

● **Flash flood in Sikkim: Five dead, 22 soldiers among 42 still missing**

"Release of water from the Chungthang dam led to a sudden increase in water level up to 15-20 feet high downstream. This led to Army vehicles parked at Bardang near Singtam getting affected. 23 personnel have been reported missing and some vehicles are reported submerged under the slush. Search operations are underway," it said in a statement.

Later in the evening, one of the missing soldiers was rescued. His condition was stated to be stable.

Sikkim received nearly 41 mm of rainfall between 8 am of Tuesday and Wednesday, which was almost five times the normal rainfall expected around this time, rainfall data from the India Meteorological Department showed. In fact, South Sikkim received rainfall that was 33 times more than normal while East

Central Water Commission, flood occurred at midnight on October 3... around 1 am on October 4, the major flooding of the Teesta river was reported from Chungthang... by 2.30 pm, the flood had reached the low-lying areas of the remaining districts, causing serious destruction to public properties and public infrastructure," it said.

Mahendra Chettri, Gangtok Sub-Divisional Magistrate, said five bodies were recovered from Golitar and Singtam region. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said three unidentified bodies were found near the Teesta Barrage area in Jalpaiguri district of North Bengal and those could be of victims from Sikkim. But there was no confirmation.

PM Narendra Modi spoke to Sikkim CM Prem Singh Tamang and assured "all possible support".

caused severe damage in Mangan, Gangtok, Pakyong, and Namchi districts," it said in a statement.

Lhonak Lake, located at a height of 5,200 metres above sea level, is one of the several glacial lakes in Sikkim vulnerable to bursting under stress. The ISRO said satellite images showed that this is what seemed to have happened in the intervening night between October 3 and October 4.

"It is observed that the lake is burst and about 105 hectares (about one square km) area (of the lake) has been drained out which might have created a flash flood downstream," it said, releasing satellite images of September 28 and October 4 for comparison.

The state disaster management authority said the floods had caused serious damage in downstream districts. "According to the

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● **We will look at immunity of MPs & MLAs if acts involve element of criminality: SC**

issues which strictly don't arise before us... We will not revisit except on the issue of bribery," said Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, presiding over a 7-judge Constitution Bench, which is re-examining "the correctness" of a 1998 five-judge Constitution Bench judgment in the PV Narasimha Rao case, where the majority had held that legislators were immune to prosecution on bribery charges for their speech or vote in Parliament.

At the very outset, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, told the bench, also comprising Justices A S Bopanna, M M Sundresh, P S Narasimha, J B Pardiwala, Sanjay Kumar and Manoj Misra, that he and Attorney General R Venkataramani would be arguing that the minority view in the Rao case by Justice S C Agarwal "is the correct view".

The minority ruling said that an MP "does not enjoy immunity under Article 105(1) or under Article 105(3) of the Constitution from being prosecuted before a criminal court for an offence involving offer or acceptance of bribe for the purpose of speaking or by giving his vote in Parliament or in any committees thereof".

"Both majority and minority opinions (in the Rao judgment) go into two aspects - immunity etc under Article 105 and Prevention of Corruption Act... Irrespective of contours of immunity, privilege etc, both come to the conclusion that offence is complete when there is an offer for bribe and it is accepted. That is the statutory position prior to the amendment of the PC Act in 2017 and even thereafter. Narasimha Rao is before 2017. The PC Act was amended thereafter in 2017. That is the position," Mehta said.

"The offence of bribery is complete when I offer money to an MP or MLA and they accept. Whether

they perform the part of their bargain inside the House or not has nothing to do with the criminality attached," he said, adding that it is therefore "essentially... more a question of interpretation of the PC Act rather than Article 105".

The CJ, however, said: "But a further question as to whether there is immunity still survives. Because the majority has held that irrespective of the criminality, immunity attaches. And the only exception they made was to a person who does not fulfil their part of the bargain. Because they said the words used in Article 105 are in the past tense - votes given or speech made. So they say if there is no vote cast or no speech made though the bribe was taken, then there is no immunity."

"So we will have to ultimately deal with the issue of immunity as well as to whether they are right on the broader immunity. And what we have to do is this -- since we are sitting in a bench of 7, we need not look at all the circumstances, what is the extent of the immunity enjoyed, we have to decide a very narrow issue, will immunity be attached when there is an element of criminality?"

Mehta said that in the event the part of the bargain by the elected member is not relevant, whether he voted or did not vote or whether he spoke or did not speak "may not have relevance because the offence is committed outside the House. Then the privilege question will not arise".

"Therefore, the respectful interpretation of the PC Act may be more relevant than Article 105," he said.

The CJ said: "That's how we approach it. You are right. But it's good. Now the controversy really narrows down because you are also of the view that the view of Justice Agarwal speaking for two judges is the more correct view..."

The SG said that "the only worry is because of the facts of bar bribery etc, (Article) 105 may not be revisited except in case of bribery".

With the CJ agreeing to the suggestion, Mehta said that in which case his submission would be that inside the House, the legislator would have as much independence as in any other organ of the state.

"Absolutely, the whole purpose is to encourage free speech, have an unrestrained dialogue in Parliament and state legislatures. And that we must preserve. It's a very important part of our nation - the legislature, both in the union and the states," the CJ responded.

During the hearing, the CJ said that "what seems to have weighed with the majority (in the Rao judgment) is if you cannot be responsible in respect of a vote given or a speech made in any court in a proceeding, then the underlying motive for the casting of the vote or the speech, whether it's criminal or otherwise is equally immune..."

He said "the question is therefore whether you stretch that... to cover an underlying motive or an underlying consideration being criminal, as also being immune. Or does it stop with the vote cast or the speech which is given? And does it really also extend to the possible criminal demeanours in the casting of the vote or the giving of the speech?"

Senior Advocate Raju Ramachandran, appearing for the appellant, Jharkhand MLA Sita Soren, in whose case the question of revisiting the Rao judgment had arisen, urged the court to not interfere with what he said was "a carefully considered and well-reasoned judgment". He said the judgment "was not unconscious of constitutional morality and there is no ground to upset the view taken".

Senior Advocate P S Patwalia, who was appointed Amicus Curiae in the case, said: "What is essential for the court to see is what is the ob-

● **Free tickets and coupons on offer, women to pack stands for World Cup opener today in Ahmedabad**

women from Ahmedabad will be watching the game in the stadium tomorrow. Our volunteers have been asked to send the names and tickets were handed to them today. Tickets upar se aaya hai (We got these tickets from the top). Kya hai na, 33 per cent women reservation Bill bhi pass hua hai (See, even the 33 per cent women's reservation Bill has been passed). These women will be reaching the stadium on their own and will be given tea and food coupons," Wadhawan told The Indian Express.

Asked if the party had made a special effort to mobilise women for the opening match, Gujarat BJP spokesperson Yamal Vyas said, "We have not made any effort at the party level for anything like that. If they (women) go in large numbers, fine. But the party is not making any special effort for that."

The process of mass mobilisation had kicked off in the city a couple of days ago with BJP ward members asking their workers, through a WhatsApp message, to list the names of women from societies, apartments and their

booth areas who were interested in watching the World Cup game. The message asked the workers to send the names and mobile numbers of the women to the assigned local leader.

"The passes will be valid only for women, who will be provided two tokens for tea, one for breakfast and one for a food packet. The workers had sent all the names by 5 pm Monday," stated a message that had been forwarded.

Meanwhile, the game between England and New Zealand, the teams involved in the thrilling World Cup final four years ago, has not been sold out with the capacity of the largest cricket stadium in the world being more than 1.3 lakh.

A senior cricket official of the Gujarat Cricket Association (GCA) said, "Elsewhere, school-children are invited to see the game since it fills up the stadium and builds an atmosphere. The only difference here is there will be women in the stands," he said. Asked who had availed and paid for the tickets, the official declined comment.



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- PRE FOUNDATION CLASSES**  
Includes Pre Foundation classes (60 classes) for understanding of Key GS concepts & fundamentals of NCERTs & Basic Books

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

**DELHI: 22 SEPT, 9 AM | 10 OCT, 1 PM | 27 OCT, 5 PM**

<b>CHANDIGARH</b> 21 NOV 9 AM	<b>LUCKNOW</b> 20 OCT 5 PM	<b>BHOPAL</b> 20 OCT 5 PM	<b>PUNE</b> 20 NOV 8 AM & 5 PM	<b>JAIPUR</b> 5 OCT 7:30 AM & 4 PM	<b>HYDERABAD</b> 10 OCT 8 AM
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# फाउंडेशन कोर्स सामान्य अध्ययन 2025, 2026 & 2027

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

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

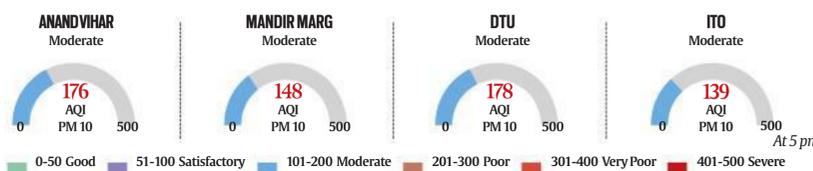
*Open Session*  
**ANALYSIS & DISCUSSION**  
**UPSC CIVIL SERVICES**  
**MAINS 2023 PAPER**  
GS PAPER 4: 5<sup>th</sup> OCT, 1 PM  
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**AHMEDABAD | BHOPAL | CHANDIGARH | GUWAHATI | HYDERABAD | JAIPUR | JODHPUR | LUCKNOW | PRAYAGRAJ | PUNE | RANCHI | SIKAR**



**SKYWATCH**

**FORECAST: October 5**  
Clear sky. Mist in the morning.

**MAX: 34** **MIN: 18**  
0.2°C below normal 4.3°C below normal

## CM KEJRIWAL, CABINET COLLEAGUES PROTEST MP'S ARREST IN EXCISE POLICY CASE

# 'Sanjay Singh sher hai, PM can't scare us'

**GAYATHRI MANI**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

AS ITS Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday evening, the rank and file of the Aam Aadmi Party as well as a few opposition leaders showed up at his residence to express solidarity.

Arriving at 8.40 pm at Singh's house, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said, "Sanjay Singh sher hai... Prime Minister Narendra Modi is under the misconception that he will scare us by arresting everyone... We have always walked on the path of honesty and our fight will continue."

He was accompanied by his wife, Sunita. Kejriwal added that the AAP will move court against the arrest. He also sharpened his attack on PM Modi and said, "He tried very hard to defame us in the public... inhone mere piche saat janam chhan maare par inhe kuch nahi mila... they have been singing a new song on the excise liquor scam for the last one year..."

He said in the last one year, the ED carried out over 1,000 raids and arrested several people but could not recover a penny. "Sanjay Singh has been vocal and fearlessly raised his voice against Modi ji," said Kejriwal.

Kejriwal also said the BJP has been scared ever since the formation of the INDIA alliance ahead of Lok Sabha polls next year.

Security was stepped up outside Singh's house as AAP workers and his supporters staged a protest. Before leaving, Singh touched his mother and father's feet and asked his wife to be strong.

His wife Anita Singh said, "Bahadur pati ki patni ho darma



(Clockwise from top) Singh waves to his supporters before he is taken away; police outside his house; Kejriwal addresses media after meeting Singh's family. Tashi Tobgyal/PTI

nahi, he told me before leaving... they searched every corner of the house, files, computer and found nothing. They just arrested him because he raised the Adani scam matter."

His father, Dinesh Singh, said: "ED officials came around 6-6.30 am. I was sleeping, Sanjay woke me up and told me about it. They asked me to show my Aadhaar card, account number and other documents... I told Sanjay, 'you

are a son of brave of father, don't worry...nothing happens to honest people'."

Ministers Atishi, Gopal Rai, Imran Husain and senior party MLAs Dilip Pandey, Durgesh Pathak, Akhilesh Pati Tripathi and former party leader leader Ashutosh also visited Singh's home. AAP Delhi convener Gopal Rai announced that the AAP would stage a massive protest outside the BJP head-

quarters Thursday.

### Opposition hits out

Singh's arrest, meanwhile, intensified the political conflict between BJP and opposition parties. While the Congress did not officially react, its leader Abhishek Singhvi told *The Indian Express*: "The need of the hour is for unity and resolute determination to fight this continuous illegal misuse of agencies."

### HOW IT UNFOLDED

**JULY 8, 2022:** Chief Secy submitted report to L-G Office, alleging procedural lapses in implementation of excise policy, post tender benefits to licensees

**JULY 22:** Saxena wrote to MHA, recommending CBI inquiry in the matter

**JULY 30:** Amid controversies, then Deputy CM Manish Sisodia announced that govt would revert to old excise policy

**AUG 19:** CBI raids 21 locations in Delhi, including Sisodia's house

**SEPT 28:** Vijay Nair, AAP communication in-charge, arrested by CBI. Same day, ED arrested Indospirits owner Sameer Mahendru

**NOV:** ED files first prosecution complaint alleging excise policy was "formulated with deliberate loopholes" which "promoted cartel formations through back door" to benefit AAP leaders

**JAN 2023:** ED files 2nd prosecution complaint, stating CM Kejriwal allegedly spoke to Mahendru in purported video call, asked him to continue working with Nair

**JAN 14-FEB 19:** CBI questions, searches Sisodia's home

**FEB 26:** Sisodia arrested

While Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav said the BJP is troubling regional parties, senior TMC leader Derek O'Brien said the "ED is not functional in BJP ruled states."

"Yesterday, journalists were targeted and today Sanjay Singh was arrested. BJP is troubling regional parties which are doing good work. If you speak the truth, speak against the present government, ask questions, raise the voice of people... there will be attempts to crush you... stifle your voice and tarnish your image," Yadav said.

RJD MP Manoj Jha also met Singh's family. Hugging his father, Jha said, "Sanjay Singh's arrest was not just an arrest, it was the arrest of freedom of thought and speech. They are showing that if you speak against Adani, they will knock on your door."

"Look at the background. The report of the Bihar caste survey has come... PM is rattled," he added.

Condemning Singh's arrest, senior JD(U) leader K C Tyagi said investigating agencies are being misused at the instance of the government.

PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti also hit out at the BJP, saying the ruling party seems to be on a spree to arrest opposition leaders ahead of next year's elections and accused it of destroying the level playing field.

CPM general secretary Sitaram Yechury said, "The ED under Modi routinely arrests political opponents on grounds of 'non-cooperation' for not accepting their fabricated statements. For the sake of 'India that is Bharat' Modi govt must go."

NCP leader Supriya Sule alleged that an "invisible hand" is exploiting central agencies.

## Why has party that got proceeds of crime not been made accused in case: SC

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

THE SUPREME Court Wednesday asked the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which are probing the Delhi excise policy case, why it had not made the political party that allegedly received the proceeds of the crime an accused.

"As far as PMLA (Prevention of Money Laundering Act) is concerned, your whole case is that it went to a political party. That political party is still not an accused. How do you answer that? He is not the beneficiary, the political party is the beneficiary," Justice Sanjeev Khanna, presiding over a two-judge bench, asked while hearing former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's plea seeking bail.

The AAP leader was arrested on February 26.

The bench, also comprising Justice S V N Bhatti, posed the query to Additional Solicitor General (ASG) S V Raju who appeared for the two agencies. The ASG said he will respond to the query when the court hears the matter Thursday.

The top court also asked the ASG to explain the position with regard to Cabinet notes, and whether the court can examine them. "I believe there are Constitution bench judgments barring us from examining Cabinet notes. I do not know if it applies to Delhi, because it is a Union Territory," Justice Khanna

told Raju.

Appearing for Sisodia, Senior Advocate A M Singhvi said the agencies were relying on "vague statements" to try and link Sisodia with co-accused Vijay Nair, but there is "no specific allegation" and "no money trail".

"The allegation is that Vijay Nair is said to be Sisodia's close associate. But there is no material to prove he was my agent. The reliance is on various vague statements that have to be proven during trial... There is no specific individual allegation against Sisodia. Vague allegation is that he assisted in the proceeds of crime. But there is no money trail," Singhvi contended.

The senior counsel said that every other accused in the case had got bail except Sisodia. "Unfortunately, in public life, there are some high-value targets and they won't get bail," he submitted.

Underlining that the liquor policy was a "collective decision", Singhvi said that it stopped cartelisation and increased revenue. "The new policy restricted the scope for unreasonable profits and capped it at 12%. There were massive leaks in the old policy," he said, adding that "the old lobby wanted the status quo to continue".

He said that some of the accused had managed to get bail after they gave statements implicating Sisodia and added, "Judges have to read between the lines also and I urge your lordships to do so. Everything cannot be black and white."

## Proverbial handcuffs are reaching CM: BJP

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

TAKING A dig at the AAP following Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh's arrest in the excise policy case, BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said the proverbial handcuffs were reaching the Chief Minister himself. "The right hand of the mastermind of the liquor scam has been behind bars for 7.5 months; today his left hand, Sanjay Singh, too is gone. Now it's the 10-headed corrupt Ravan Arvind Kejriwal's turn," he said.

Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said that the masks being worn by the staunchly honest were slowly slipping: "The law is doing its job, and now the investigation is reaching the mastermind of the scandal... Those who, together, committed a liquor scam, are now revealing the truth and naming names."



BJP MP Manoj Tiwari and other leaders staged a protest outside the AAP office, Wednesday. Express

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said Singh's arrest attested to the fact that the truth always prevails. "...it was known right from the beginning that Sanjay Singh is one of the kingpins of the scam with close contact with an accused, Dinesh Arora, who after turning approver led to clinching evidence against Singh," he claimed.

Northeast Delhi BJP MP Manoj Tiwari also said the Delhi CM's arrest wasn't a distant possibility after Singh's arrest.

BJP national spokesperson Anil K Antony wrote on X: "Very ironic that a party that was once formed on an anti-corruption plank has its whole top leadership implicated in various scams with the liquor scam the biggest. These are open and shut cases as the ones behind bars including Manish Sisodia and Satyendar Jain haven't got bail... in months. Yet AAP cries political vendetta after each action."

## In ED's complaint, first mention of Singh was made by approver

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

THE FIRST mention of Aam Aadmi Party's Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh in the Enforcement Directorate's investigation into the excise policy case was in a prosecution complaint filed by the agency in court.

The ED relied on businessman Dinesh Arora, an accused turned approver in both the CBI and ED cases related to the liquor policy, to find a link to Sanjay Singh.

In its prosecution complaint, the ED claimed that Arora told them he had first made Singh's acquaintance and through him, met Delhi's former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia at a party in a restaurant.

The ED claimed that Arora told them he had spoken to many restaurant owners "on request of Mr Singh" and "arranged cheques amounting to Rs 82 lakh for collection of party funds for the upcoming elections".

Another reference to Singh in the prosecution complaint is also part of Arora's statement, where he claimed he had spoken to Sisodia 5-6 times and also met Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal at his residence with



(Top) AAP workers protest outside Sanjay Singh's house following his arrest; (left) he takes blessings from his mother before being taken away. Express

time, Singh had condemned the searches in the houses of two of his associates — Ajit Tyagi and Sarvesh Mishra — in relation to the excise case.

Tyagi and Mishra have been closely associated with Singh since the India Against Corruption movement. Mishra was recently appointed AAP's UP spokesperson and manages the party's digital and social media. Tyagi, meanwhile, is close to Singh's family and managed his travel and out of town plans.

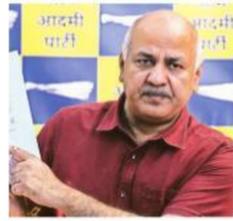
## With Singh's arrest, AAP loses its advisor, vocal voice in Parliament

**MALLICA JOSHI**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

OVER THE last few months, whether it has been thrashing out the Aam Aadmi Party's role in and conditions for an opposition alliance with Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal or taking on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP government at the Centre, Sanjay Singh has been at the centre-stage.

A founding member of the AAP, Singh is known in the party as the go-to man to help reach a consensus between people with differing views as well as parties. According to senior party leaders, Singh was the face of AAP at meetings where an alliance between opposition parties was discussed before it was formalised.

"His position as one of AAP's first Rajya Sabha MPs gave him the unique ability to interact and form political relationships across board. Whether it was meeting leaders in Congress or convincing his own party colleagues to agree to an alliance, he was the person. His arrest leaves a void in that area," said a senior party leader who has worked with Singh for several years.



Former Deputy CM Manish Sisodia was arrested on February 26. Archive

Party leaders said that searches in his house were expected, especially after houses of his associates were raided in May this year. "We did not expect that he would be arrested," said a close associate.

"After Manish Sisodia's arrest, Arvind ji would rely on Sanjay ji and Raghav (Chadha) for political advice and inputs.

Now the circle of people he is close to and listens to is shrinking. When it comes to running the government, he can rely on ministers and advisors, but things are getting tougher in terms of consultation on politics," said a party leader.

Another leader said that since Singh is known as a vocal

critic of the Centre and BJP and a strong voice in the Parliament, the party may suffer a little on those fronts.

"But we don't see this as something permanent, it is transient. We see it as a price of growing so quickly. The mood inside the party is resolute and ED's action will only bring the party closer together. AAP's obituary is written every year but it lives on," the leader said.

Others questioned why Singh was arrested in the first place. "The allegation in the excise policy case is that the policy was tweaked to grant undue benefits to certain players. Even if that were the case, which it is not, what role does Sanjay Singh have in policy formulation? He is an MP and is in no way connected to policy making in Delhi. What he is one of the strongest voices in the parliament against the Modi government and is being targeted for that," the leader said.

AAP Punjab MP Chadha's name has also found mention in a supplementary chargesheet filed by the ED. It names Chadha, quoting the statement given to the ED by Sisodia's former secretary C Aravind on December 23, 2022, which states that he was present in a meeting at Kejriwal's house along with some officials from Punjab.

## ISIS terror accused has riots link, say police; fourth man detained

**JIGNASA SINHA**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

ARSHAD WARSI (29), one of the alleged suspects arrested by the Special Cell along with two of his associates in connection with the Pune-ISIS terror module case, also features in the 2020 Northeast Delhi riots chargesheet, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

The chargesheet, filed in 2020, mentions Warsi's name and indicates that though he wasn't made an accused, he was in touch with persons allegedly involved in the riots "conspiracy", including JNU student Sharjeel Imam. Police are now investigating Warsi's alleged involvement in the riots.

Warsi, Shahnawaz Alam (31),

and Mohammad Rizwan Ashraf (28) were arrested Monday from Lucknow, Jaitpur in Delhi and Moradabad respectively. Police had said iron pipes, chemicals, time devices, pistol cartridges, and bomb-making manuals, among other items used to make explosives, were recovered from Shahnawaz's possession. Special Commissioner of Police HGS Dhaliwal had told the media that the three men were "heavily religiously indoctrinated".

Warsi, a Jharkhand resident, studied B.Tech in Mechanical Engineering from Aligarh Muslim University (AMU). He was pursuing his PhD in 'Islamic Principles in Management' from Jamia Millia Islamia.

Meanwhile, a fourth person has been detained by the Special

Cell in the case. Sources told *The Indian Express* that the suspect, Muaz (29), was detained from Aligarh Sunday. He studied MA English Literature at AMU.

He is accused of "sheltering" the other accused and helping them with their "bomb-making strategy". As per police, Muaz rented a small portion of his Aligarh home to a man named "Hari", an aide of Shahnawaz.

Muaz's family said they don't know Shahnawaz and only know Harif as a student who came from Delhi. They said Harif went by another name, Abud Jana, while renting the place. Nida, Muaz's sister, said, "We rushed to Delhi... a few officers assured us they will release him but we are scared... He has no connection with those three men..."

### OKHLA LANDFILL: PROGRESS REPORT

Timeline	Target	Garbage cleared (approx.)
Quarter 1 (Nov 7, 2022 to Feb 6, 2023)	1.8 lakh MT	4.2 lakh MT
Quarter 2 (Feb 7 to May 6)	5.4 lakh MT	3.9 lakh MT
Quarter 3 (May 7 to Aug 6)	5.4 lakh MT	2.95 lakh MT
Quarter 4 (Aug 7 to Nov 6)	5.4 lakh MT	1.59 lakh MT*



## No MCD committee behind delay in waste removal at Okhla: CM

**SAMAN HUSAIN**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

WASTE REMOVAL at Okhla landfill is running behind target due to the absence of the MCD's standing committee, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said during an inspection of the site Wednesday.

The CM said the current agency that has been hired to clear the site is unable to meet the set target, adding that the civic body is planning to hire a second agency for the purpose. "The process of hiring a second agency is almost complete. However, the delay is due to non-formation of the standing committee in the MCD. The matter is in the Supreme Court. Once the court's

order is received, the committee will be constituted, and a second agency will be hired," he said.

The standing committee is an 18-member decision-making body that effectively manages the corporation, with functions such as providing financial approval to projects, discussing, finalising and implementing policies, among others.

Mayor Shelly Oberoi, who was also present during the landfill visit, said round-the-clock work was underway to make Delhi garbage-free. "If anyone sees the garbage hills now, they can say that the height has been significantly reduced," she added.

Meanwhile, hitting out at the AAP, the BJP Delhi unit said the Kejriwal government and the MCD have "totally failed Delhi"

in the matter of clearance of landfill sites.

"It was shocking to see CM Kejriwal admit that the work is very slow and far behind schedule. Delhiites now very well know how hollow AAP's claims on landfill sites clearance were," Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said in his statement to the press.

Notably, while presenting its election manifesto for the civic body elections, the AAP had promised that the "mountain of garbage" in Okhla will be cleared by December 2023. The MCD had later pushed the deadline to March 2024.

As against its target of 18 lakh MT, the MCD has cleared only 12 lakh MT of garbage by the ongoing fourth quarter.

**BRIEFLY**

**Delhi Police ACP dies by suicide**

New Delhi: A Delhi Police officer was found dead at his home in Bhogal, officers said. Police said Anil Kumar Sisodia, who was posted as an ACP (HQ) in Southwest district, committed suicide using a revolver. "His body was discovered Wednesday evening after the staff reached his home, situated on the top floor of a house at Masjid Lane in Bhogal as he was not responding to calls and messages being sent to him," said DCP (Southeast) Rajesh Deo.

**Roshanara Club moves High Court**

New Delhi: Roshanara Club, which was sealed last week, has moved the Delhi High Court in a contempt plea against the Delhi Development Authority for "non-compliance of a court order". A single-judge bench of Justice Anup Jairam Bhambhani renounced the matter on October 11. Senior advocate Sandeep Sethi, appearing for the club, submitted that on April 21, a bench of the HC had said that no coercive steps will be taken against the club "solely" on the ground of lease expiry.

**'Mechanical sweeping for nano-particles'**

New Delhi: Mechanical sweeping will be carried out in the streets of Delhi to address the problem of nano-particles coming out of Delhi's roads, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced Wednesday. The mechanical sweeping will start with a 1,480-km stretch of road that comes under the Public Works Department. ENS

**TRIAL RUN EXPECTED IN FEB: OFFICIALS**

**65 flights likely in initial phase from Noida airport**

**DHEERAJ MISHRA**  
NOIDA, OCTOBER 4

AS MANY as 65 flights could be made operational from Noida International Airport (NIA), which is being built at Gautam Buddha Nagar's Jewar, when it starts commercial operations, as estimated, by the end of 2024, government officials said.

At present, sources said, the Uttar Pradesh government and Yamuna International Airport Private Limited (YIAPL), the developer of the NIA, are in discussion to finalise the exact number of flights that will be made operational from Noida airport. Sources said that the trial run of the flight is expected to begin by the end of February 2024.

Out of around 65 flights that are under consideration, 25 would be of "Normal" category, connecting to major cities such as Mumbai, Kolkata and Bengaluru. Apart from this, a total of 37 flights would be of "Regional" categories; these will fly to smaller cities, which witness less frequency of aircraft.



Work on paving the runway in full swing. NIA/airport

Along with this, sources said, two international flights and one cargo plane will start operations from Noida airport.

For International carriers, airlines operating from Dubai and Singapore are under consideration. "If the attempt to select two foreign airlines does not work out, Indian airlines will be chosen for international travel from Noida Airport," said the official.

According to the Techno-Economic Feasibility Report (TEFR), around 5 million passengers are estimated to use the air-

port in its first year. "The challenge will be to attract passengers, to develop a complete environment so that people choose Jewar in place of IGI Airport for their travel," said the official.

Spread across 1,334 hectares in Jewar, the site is strategically connected to NCR and Western UP: It is 72 km from IGI Airport, 40 km from Noida, and 130 km from Agra. It is also about 30 km from State Highway 22A (which connects Palwal and Aligarh) and 700 metres from the Yamuna Expressway.

**Between Oct '22 and Sept '23, Delhi most polluted city in country: Report**

**EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

EVEN AS its air quality has "improved marginally," Delhi topped a list of the 10 most polluted cities in the country from October 2022 to September 2023, according to a recent report that analysed data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

Going by the report by Climate Trends, a research-based consulting initiative that focuses on environment and climate change, and Respirer Living Sciences, a climate tech start-up, Delhi recorded a PM2.5 level of 100.1 µg/m3 from October 1, 2022, to September 30, 2023. While this is slightly better than the 103.9 µg/m3 recorded October 2021 to September 2022, the Capital was still found to be the most polluted city in the country.

Patna came a close second on the list with a PM2.5 concentration of 99.7 µg/m3, followed by Muzaffarpur, also in Bihar, with a level of 95.4 µg/m3 during this period. Faridabad, Noida, Ghaziabad,

**TOP 10 POLLUTED CITIES**

City	PM 2.5 (Oct '21-Sept '22)	PM 2.5 (Oct '22-Sept '23)	levels in µg/m3
Delhi	103.9	100.1	
Patna	80.7	99.7	
Muzaffarpur	87.4	95.4	
Faridabad	101.5	89.0	
Noida	89.5	79.1	
Ghaziabad	104.6	78.3	
Meerut	86.7	76.9	
Nalbari	-	75.6	
Asansol	49.7	74.0	
Gwalior	43.1	71.8	

Source: Climate Trends, and Respirer Living Sciences report based on CPCB data

and Meerut, which are all in the NCR, followed on the list.

The PM2.5 levels in Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Noida, and Meerut have also decreased compared to figures from October 2021 to September 2022, with the largest percentage fall of 25% being no-

ticed in Ghaziabad.

The report draws on CPCB data for 131 non-attainment cities identified by the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

The cities where the monitors recorded data for more than 70% of the time for both years were

considered for analysis. Delhi was found to be the most polluted among 73 cities where the monitor uptime was more than 70%.

Last winter, from October to December, PM2.5 levels dropped in Delhi, Faridabad, Noida, Ghaziabad, and Meerut in the NCR compared to figures from the same period in 2021, going by the report. While this indicates an improvement in air quality, the report stated, "How much of this was due to climatic factors (rain, wind) and how much due to policy intervention is a matter of deeper study."

In Delhi, for instance, the PM2.5 level from October to December last year was 157.1 µg/m3, down from 174.4 µg/m3 in 2021. In contrast, from January to March this year, Delhi saw a marginal increase in PM2.5 levels from 121.2 µg/m3 last year to 124.2 µg/m3 this year, though this is still below the 149.3 µg/m3 recorded from January to March 2021. The report noted that this indicates "that more measures are needed to reduce pollution consistently."

**L-G transfers Sukesh plea to MHA**

**EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

THE DELHI Lieutenant Governor (L-G) has transferred alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekhar's complaint on "threat calls from associates of the Delhi CM" to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for further necessary action, officials said on Wednesday.

In his complaint,

Chandrashekhar has claimed that certain persons, who claimed to be speaking on behalf of CM Arvind Kejriwal and former Delhi Home Minister Satyendar Jain, had threatened him with consequences if he did not retract his statements against the two AAP leaders.

On July 8, through his advocate Anant Malik, Chandrashekhar also requested L-G VK Saxena to get him and his

wife Leena Paulose transferred out of Delhi to any jail, which is "not under the control of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)". The duo is presently lodged in Mandoli jail.

The L-G Secretariat forwarded the complaint to the Home Department of the Delhi government for further necessary action; the Home Department, in turn, recommended that the same be sent to the MHA.

**EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

THE TWO children, both adults, of suspended Delhi government's Women and Child Development Department officer Premoday Khakha, who has been accused of allegedly raping a minor girl for several months and impregnating her, have moved the Delhi High Court seeking anticipatory bail.

The two separate pleas are listed Thursday before a single-judge bench of Justice Saurabh



**Suspended WCD dept officer Premoday Khakha**

Banerjee. A suo motu plea initiated by the HC concerning the incident is also pending.

On September 14, the HC had implored the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) in the suo motu plea. The DCPCR had then submitted before a division

bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Sanjeev Narula that the body seeks to be impleaded and shall indicate the steps taken by it in the case. This matter is next listed on October 6.

Police arrested and booked the accused and his wife on charges of rape under the IPC and provisions under the POCSO Act after the girl alleged she was raped by the officer several times between 2020 and 2021, and that his wife allegedly terminated her pregnancy by giving her abortion pills.

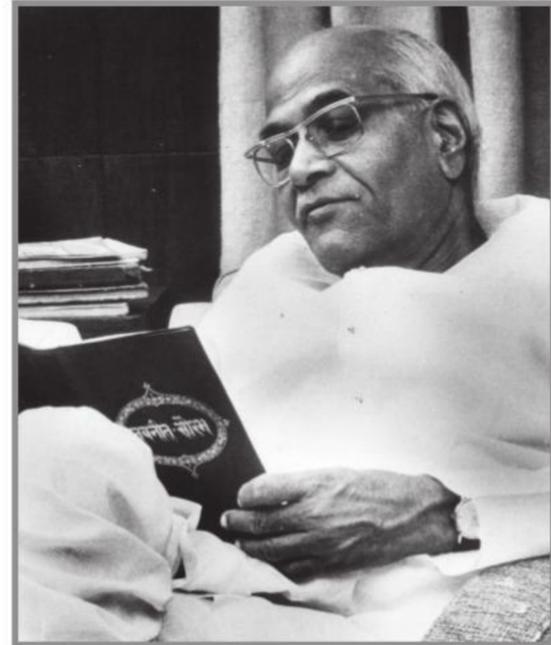
The officer and his wife are presently in judicial custody. As reported by *The Indian Express*, in the FIR, the teenager alleged: "From November 2020 to January 2021, uncle raped me... aunty (wife) was strict and would hit me when I would score less marks. The last time he sexually assaulted me was in January 2021 and then I missed my period. Aunty said that they will get abortion done since it's the first month... I had told XXX and YYY (children of the accused) about the incidents but they didn't believe me..."

**RANI LAKSHMI BAI CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, JHANSI**  
Advertisement No: RLBCAU/11/2023 Dated: 04.10.2023  
**Short Vacancy Notification**  
Through advertisement no. RLBCAU/11/2023, applications from eligible Indian Nationals are invited for recruitment on 32 teaching and 29 non-teaching positions of College of Veterinary & Animal Sciences and College of Fisheries at Datia.  
For more details viz. essential qualifications, category of reservation, pay scale, application fee, application form and other instructions, please visit university website [www.rlbcu.ac.in](http://www.rlbcu.ac.in). The closing date for receipt of application will be 18 November, 2023. Number of posts may increase or decrease. Registrar

**Shri Ramnath Goenka**

April 18, 1904 - October 5, 1991

“ Be forthright, be frank,  
Be fearless, whatever the odds.  
Never hesitate to take a stand if you believe in it.  
Never hesitate to speak out boldly against the wrongs.  
And always, ensure that you illuminate the truth behind the events. ”



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**Schedule of Admissions to B.E./B.Tech., B.Tech. (Lateral Entry), B.Arch., B.Pharmacy & B.Pharmacy (Lateral Entry) Courses for the session 2023-24.**  
It is for the information to all the admission seekers & general public that the revised Schedule of admissions to the all Govt./Private institutions & State University Departments under the ambit of HSTES in the following Courses for the session 2023-24 is as under:

Course Name	Last Date of Admissions	Last Date for institutes for Online Updation on HSTES Portal	Last Date of Full Fee Refund in case Cancellation of Admission
> B.E./B.Tech.	15.10.2023	16.10.2023	11.10.2023
> B.E./B.Tech (Lateral Entry)	15.10.2023	16.10.2023	11.10.2023
> B.Arch.	31.10.2023	02.11.2023	26.10.2023
> B.Pharmacy	30.12.2023	31.12.2023	26.12.2023
> B.Pharmacy (Lateral Entry)	30.12.2023	31.12.2023	26.12.2023

The interested candidates/stakeholder can approach to the concerned institutes as per their eligibility for the admissions in the above said courses for the session 2023-24.  
For complete details regarding eligibility, please visit HSTES websites for admission brochure available at [www.hstes.org.in](http://www.hstes.org.in) and [www.techadmissionshry.gov.in](http://www.techadmissionshry.gov.in).

[techadmissionshry.gov.in](http://techadmissionshry.gov.in) [hstes.org.in](http://hstes.org.in)  
21622/HRY Joint Director, HSTES

**EXPERIMENTAL STOPPAGE OF TRAINS**  
This is notified for the information of rail passengers that Railways have decided to provide stoppages to the following trains on the stations shown against each on experimental basis as under:-

Train No. & Name	Station	Timings		Date (From Originating Station)
		Arr.	Dep.	
12555 Gorakhpur-Bathinda Jn. Superfast Express (Daily)	Bhattu	10:13	10:15	From 14.10.2023
12556 Bathinda Jn.-Gorakhpur Superfast Express (Daily)	Bhattu	15:51	15:53	From 15.10.2023
14733 Bathinda Jn.-Jaipur Jn. Express (Daily)	Bawani Khera	01:25	01:27	With Immediate Effect
14733 Bathinda Jn.-Jaipur Jn. Express (Daily)	Kosli	02:54	02:56	With Immediate Effect
19415 Ahmedabad Jn.-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Express (Weekly)	Kosli	11:47	11:49	From 08.10.2023
19415 Ahmedabad Jn.-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Express (Weekly)	Charkhi Dadr	12:13	12:15	With Immediate Effect
19416 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-Ahmedabad Jn. Express (Weekly)	Kosli	05:11	05:13	With Immediate Effect
14085 Tilak Bridge-Sirsa Express (Daily)	Jatusana	20:55	20:57	With Immediate Effect
14086 Sirsa-Tilak Bridge Express (Daily)	Jatusana	06:18	06:20	With Immediate Effect
19611 Ajmer Jn.-Amritsar Jn. Express (Bi-Weekly)	Charkhi Dadr	00:49	00:51	From 05.10.2023
19612 Amritsar Jn.-Ajmer Jn. Express (Bi-Weekly)	Charkhi Dadr	01:43	01:45	From 05.10.2023
19613 Ajmer Jn.-Amritsar Jn. Express (Bi-Weekly)	Charkhi Dadr	00:49	00:51	With Immediate Effect
19614 Amritsar Jn.-Ajmer Jn. Express (Bi-Weekly)	Charkhi Dadr	01:43	01:45	From 06.10.2023
12983 Ajmer Jn.-Chandigarh Jn. Express (Tri-Weekly)	Charkhi Dadr	00:49	00:51	From 06.10.2023
12984 Chandigarh Jn.-Ajmer Jn. Express (Tri-Weekly)	Charkhi Dadr	01:08	01:10	From 07.10.2023
19027 Banda (T)-Jammu Tawi Express (Weekly)	Luni	02:31	02:33	With Immediate Effect
19028 Jammu Tawi-Banda (T) Express (Weekly)	Luni	00:08	00:10	With Immediate Effect

Note: Train no. 14085 Tilak Bridge-Sirsa (Daily) Express has also been revised at Kosli station from (Existing Arrival/Departure-20.54/20.56; Revised Arrival/Departure 21.06/21.08) due to stoppage at Jatusana station.  
For any kind of information, passengers are advised to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.  
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# 6 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



## WEBSITE REVAMP

THE SUPREME Court has invited suggestions from all stakeholders for revamping its official website. Sources say the existing one was designed more than a decade ago and Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud had been thinking of giving the website a new look even before he assumed office of the CJI. The idea is to provide users a simplified and user-friendly interface. A collaborative effort of the National Informatics Centre and the IT team of the Supreme Court, the relaunch of the website is expected to take at least two months. The CJI is monitoring the work on a weekly basis.

## DIFFERENT CAUSE

NATIONAL COMMISSION for Protection of Child Rights Chairperson Priyank Kanoongo has given a twist to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for "Swachhata hi Seva hai" campaign to mark the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. He has written to women and child development departments of all States and UTs to carry out "rescue operations" of street children from identified hotspots in their areas. Though such operations are carried out on a regular basis, especially pursuant to last year's Supreme Court order, this time it will be done in a mission mode.

# Ajit made Pune guardian minister, but Shinde Sena keeps 2 districts

MANOJ MORE  
PUNE, OCTOBER 4

MAHARASHTRA DEPUTY Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, who was "upset" over the delay in redistribution of district guardian minister posts in the state, was finally placated Wednesday after Chief Minister Eknath Shinde made a long-pending announcement to appoint him as the Guardian Minister of Pune district. But the BJP leadership in Delhi refused to give the guardian ministership of two more districts to his NCP group, sources said.

Ajit Pawar, who has been calling the shots in Pune for several years, will replace BJP's Chandrakant Patil, who has been given the responsibility of Amravati and Solapur districts. The state announced 12 new district guardian ministers,

## EXPLAINED On Ajit mind: Rivalry with ally, fight against uncle

THE TUSSELE between BJP and NCP to maintain supremacy in Pune, an important city and district of Maharashtra, has tilted slightly in the latter's favour. Ajit Pawar has held the post of Pune's guardian minister thrice since 2004. The post will also strengthen his hand in a factional fight he may face in his home district against uncle Sharad Pawar.

which includes seven out of the nine NCP ministers from the Ajit Pawar group, on Wednesday.

In Maharashtra, guardian ministers are appointed for every district and are meant to bring their personalised attention to its development. If a district has no representation in the cabinet, an outsider is appointed. A minister can serve as guardian minister for more than one district.

to get the guardian minister's posts in Raigad and Nashik districts. "It is not just Raigad, even issues of Nashik and Ahmednagar are pending," said Sunil Tatkare, president of the Ajit Pawar faction of NCP.

The NCP led by Ajit Pawar had demanded the guardian minister's posts of Pune, Raigad, Nashik and Satara districts among others. Seven out of nine NCP ministers have been given district guardian responsibilities, except senior minister Chhagan Bhujbal and the only woman minister in the cabinet, Aditi Tatkare.

The Shinde Sena, which has its ministers in Nashik, Raigad and Satara, refused to concede these districts. "The BJP might have shown large-heartedness but the Chief Minister put his foot down on Raigad and Nashik districts," said a leader from Shinde Sena.

# President rule in 2019 was on Sharad Pawar suggestion: Fadnavis; NCP chief denies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 4

MAHARASHTRA DEPUTY Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said Wednesday that President's rule was imposed in Maharashtra in 2019 on Sharad Pawar's suggestion and that the NCP chief backed out at the last minute before the short-lived BJP-NCP government was sworn in. The NCP chief rejected the claim soon after.

"President's rule was imposed in Maharashtra on Sharad Pawar's suggestion. At that time the NCP and the BJP were in talks for government formation. The talks were underway with Sharad Pawar's leadership. He told us that it would not be possible for him to take a U-turn so soon. So let the state be under President's rule for some time. In the meantime, Sharad Pawar said he would tour Maharashtra, then come up with a narrative that people want a stable government and therefore, the NCP has to join the BJP," the senior BJP leader said at the *India Today* Conclave in Mumbai.

"When President's rule is enforced, all parties are issued letters and asked if they want to form a government. The letter was typed in my house. As suggested by Sharad Pawar, corrections were incorporated," Fadnavis said.

"With Sharad Pawar's approval, Ajit Pawar and I discussed details of cabinet portfolios. At the last minute, Sharad Pawar changed his decision. But Ajit Pawar refused to budge as he believed backtracking would



Dy CM Devendra Fadnavis claimed Pawar backed out at 'last minute' before NCP-BJP govt was formed in 2019

amount to betraying the commitment made to the BJP. So the early-morning swearing-in took place. But then it was short-lived," he added.

Speaking at the same event later, Sharad Pawar rejected Fadnavis's claim about his "U-turn". The NCP president said the BJP is in the government at the Centre. "If they decide to impose the President's Rule, why should we say no? They have the numbers, why would they listen to me," he asked.

Terming Fadnavis's claims "baseless", NCP's chief spokesperson Mahesh Tapase said their party under Sharad Pawar has consistently upheld the principles of democracy and the will of the people.

"We would like to remind Mr Fadnavis that the decision to impose the President's Rule in Maharashtra was taken by the Central government, and any insinuation that it was influenced by Pawar is false and misleading," said the NCP leader.

Replying to a question, Fadnavis also said, "There are no discussions between Sharad Pawar and me. If Sharad Pawar and Ajit Pawar are in talks, I am not aware of it"

## Court rejects anticipatory bail plea of former Punjab minister Manpreet Badal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
LUDHIANA, OCTOBER 4

THE COURT of additional district and sessions judge of Bathinda on Wednesday dismissed the anticipatory bail plea of former Punjab finance minister Manpreet Singh Badal, who was booked in connection with alleged irregularities in the purchase of a property in the district.

Badal's counsel Sukhdeep Singh Bhinder told the media in Bathinda that they will now move the high court in the matter.

The Vigilance Bureau (VB) had booked Badal and five others in connection with alleged irregularities in the purchase of two plots measuring 1,560 square yards in Model Town phase-1 Bathinda.

Three persons had already been arrested in this case, while arrest warrants were issued in the name of Badal on September 26.

Several teams of the Punjab VB had conducted raids at various locations in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Rajasthan but Badal was yet to be nabbed.

Badal earlier had applied for anticipatory bail on September 23 but on September 24 an FIR was lodged against him because of which the anticipatory bail was withdrawn on September 26 and a fresh bail application was filed on September 28.

# In 2 schemes for which funds stopped, Bengal tops demand

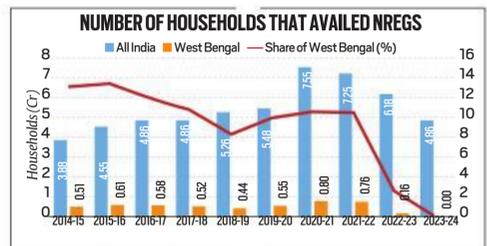
HARIKISHAN SHARMA  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

AS THE Trinamool Congress (TMC) holds a protest in Delhi over the Centre stopping release of funds under Union government schemes to West Bengal, ferrying hundreds of leaders and workers from the state for the purpose, official data shows that for two of the schemes in question, Bengal was at the top in demand.

As per the data, 51-80 lakh families availed the MNREGS, which guarantees 100 days of work in rural areas per family, annually between 2014-15 and 2021-22. In terms of number of families, this meant that West Bengal stood first among all states and Union Territories in 2015-16; second on five occasions - 2014-15, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2020-21 and 2021-22 - third in 2019-20; and fourth in 2018-19.

In case of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) too, for which Central funds are stopped, West Bengal was a better performer compared to other states. The data available on the MNREGS portal shows that the number of households employed under the MNREGS stood at 51 lakh in 2014-15, rose to 61 lakh in 2015-16, dipped for three consecutive years - 58 lakh in 2016-17, 52 lakh in 2017-18 and 43.89 lakh in 2018-19 - before rising to 54.57 lakh in 2019-20, 79.64 lakh in 2020-21, and 75.97 lakh in 2021-22 (overlapping with the Covid pandemic years, when the demand for MNREGS shot up).

After the Centre invoked



Section 27 of the MNREG Act, 2005, and stopped the release of funds to the state in March 2022, the number of families seeking work under the scheme plunged. It stood at 16.29 lakh in 2022-23, and only 7,598 in the ongoing financial year of 2023-24. (See the graph.) Corresponding data available on the dashboard of PMAY-G, which was launched in April 2016, shows that the number of rural houses built under the scheme in West Bengal stood at 5.89 lakh in 2017-18, 7.39 lakh in 2018-19, 2.86 lakh in 2019-20, 6.78 lakh in 2020-21, and 9.59 lakh in 2021-22. Amidst the Centre stopping the release of funds to West Bengal under the PMAY-G, the number came down to 1.47 lakh in 2022-23.

The Centre has alleged siphoning off of money allotted to the MNREGS in West Bengal as the reason for stopping the funds.

In a statement on Monday, as the TMC began its Delhi protest, Union Rural Development Minister Giriraj Singh alleged that the West Bengal government issued 25 lakh fake MNREGS job cards, through which crores of government funds were siphoned.

"The Union minister said... that the Government of India was continuously exposing the rigging in the MGNREGA and housing schemes going on in West Bengal, but the state government failed to take appropriate action only," said the statement issued by the Ministry.

The statement further said, "The Central government also sent a monitoring team, but no timely action was taken on their report by the state government... The state was asked by the ministry on several occasions to submit a comprehensive action-taken report (ATR), but no action was taken... Finally, the state was informed that non-submission of ATR on time could also lead to withholding of funds under MGNREG Act, 2005. After this, an ATR report, protecting the culprits, was presented by the state government."

The number of job cards issued under the MNREGS in West Bengal stood at 1.37 crore as on October 2, 2023, of which 0.93 crore job cards were active. The number of total MNREGS workers stood at 2.57 crore, of whom 1.39 crore were active.

FULL REPORT ON [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

# ED can redact 'sensitive' portions from document recording grounds for arrest, SC said in ruling

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

IN ITS October 3 judgement directing the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to furnish the grounds of arrest in writing to accused persons, the Supreme Court also gave the agency liberty to redact any "sensitive portions" that may find mention in the document "so as to safeguard the sanctity of the investigation".

It also said the ED should not categorise anything short of an admission of guilt from a person summoned for interrogation as an "evasive reply".

"We may also note that the grounds of arrest recorded by the authorized officer, in terms of Section 19(1) of the Act of 2002, would be personal to the person who is arrested and there should, ordinarily, be no risk of sensitive material being divulged therefrom, compromising the sanctity and integrity of the investigation," a bench of Justices A S Bopanna and P V Sanjay Kumar said.

"In the event any such sensitive material finds mention in such grounds of arrest recorded by the authorized officer, it would always be open to him to redact such sensitive portions in the document and furnish the

edited copy of the grounds of arrest to the arrested person, so as to safeguard the sanctity of the investigation," the bench said.

On Tuesday (October 3), the Supreme Court had underlined that the ED is "not expected to be vindictive in its conduct" and ruled that the agency must furnish the grounds of arrest in writing to the accused at the time of arrest.

In the ruling, details of which were made available Wednesday, the court noted a lack of uniformity in the manner in which the agency informs the reasons of arrest.

It pointed out that in the case of Tamil Nadu minister Senthil Balaji, the grounds were communicated in writing, but were only read over in the case of Basant Bansal and his son Pankaj Bansal, Directors of M3M real estate group. This was the case the bench was dealing with on Tuesday.

On the agency's contention that Pankaj "was evasive in providing relevant information", the bench noted that "it was however not brought out as to why Pankaj Bansal's replies were categorized as 'evasive' and that record is not placed before us for verification".

FULL REPORT ON [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

# HIS SECOND DISQUALIFICATION FROM LS NCP's Lakshadweep MP Faizal disqualified as Lok Sabha member

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

NCP leader Mohammed Faizal P was disqualified as member of the Lok Sabha on Wednesday after the Kerala High Court rejected his plea for suspension of his conviction in an attempt to murder case.

"In view of order dated 03.10.2023 of the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala, Shri Mohammed Faizal P.P., Member of Lok Sabha representing the Lakshadweep Parliamentary Constituency of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep, stands disqualified from the membership of Lok Sabha from the date of his conviction, i.e. 11th January, 2023," a Lok Sabha Secretariat bulletin stated.

This is the second time Faizal has been disqualified as member of the Lok Sabha.



Mohammed Faizal P is convicted in attempt to murder case

He was disqualified as Lok Sabha member on January 25, days after a sessions court at Kavaratti had convicted him and three others on charges of attempting to murder P Salih and sentenced all the three to rigorous imprisonment for 10 years.

Faizal's disqualification was revoked on March 29, months after the Kerala High Court suspended his conviction and sentencing in the case.

In August 2023, the Supreme Court set aside the Kerala High Court order on an appeal filed by the Union Territory of Lakshadweep.

# Before Telangana polls, Cabinet picks up state's pending issues

Announcements on tribal varsity, river water dispute between Andhra and Telangana, turmeric board

DIVYAA  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

WITH THE announcement of Telangana Assembly elections imminent, the Centre on Wednesday made several announcements to address long-pending demands of various

sections of the state, including setting up of a tribal university, formation of a national board to facilitate turmeric farmers, and approval of the terms of reference of the tribunal to govern the division of the river water between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Briefing media after a meet-



I&B minister Anurag Thakur in New Delhi Wednesday. PTI

ing of the Union Cabinet, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said after the formation of Telangana, there was a provision in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, that one tribal university each would be established in both the states. "Andhra Pradesh established a university in 2019, but it took a long time to get land in Telangana. Now that land has been allotted," he said, adding that the Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University (named after tribal goddesses

Samakka and Sarakka) will be set up in Mulugu district at a cost of Rs 889 crore. For this, the government will introduce the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2023 in Parliament to amend the Central Universities Act, 2009, which got the Cabinet's approval during the meeting on Wednesday.

Union Minister G Kishan Reddy, also the state BJP President, told the reporters that the new university will create additional capacity and strive to remove regional imbalances.

Earlier this week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had unveiled developmental projects worth Rs 13,500 crore.

The Cabinet has also approved the terms of reference of the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal that will govern the division of the river water between Andhra and Telangana. Thakur said the tribunal will allocate water for projects in both states that are intended for developmental or future purposes.

FULL REPORT ON [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

# Rahul's Golden Temple visit: Another chapter in his engagement with 1984

MANOJCG  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

AFTER REFLECTING on the essence of Hinduism and its central tenets on the pages of *The Indian Express* last Sunday, Rahul Gandhi this week undertook a spiritual trip to the Golden Temple in Amritsar where he offered sewa at the community kitchen, carried the Palaki Sahib on his shoulder, served rotis at the langar and shared food with them.

The "personal" time at the preeminent spiritual site of Sikhism, over Monday and Tuesday, coincided with Gandhi Jayanti, but the Nehru-Gandhi family's traumatic memories of the month were not lost on anyone. It was on October 31 that

Indira Gandhi had been assassinated by her Sikh bodyguards.

But sources close to Rahul said history is not weighing him down, and that he felt Gandhi Jayanti was the most appropriate day to offer sewa. They also repeated that Rahul has time and again depicted that he is deeply spiritual, including being an ardent practitioner of Vipassana meditation.

Be that as it may, Indira's decision to send the Army into the Golden Temple in 1984 to flush out militants led by Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, her assassination and the anti-Sikh riots that followed, and Rajiv Gandhi's "when a big tree falls, the earth shakes" remark about the riots, have haunted the Congress for the last four decades.



Cong leader Rahul Gandhi at Golden Temple on Tuesday. PTI

Although the SGPC extended all cooperation to Rahul during his visit to the Darbar Sahib, it also raked up 1984 and questioned

the purpose of the Congress leader's stay, which was longer than that of any other non-Sikh politician at the shrine ever.

During his nearly two decades-long political career, Rahul has tried to engage with the Sikh community many times, and has spoken about his pain over his grandmother's assassination more than once, even contradicting himself at times in trying to hit the right note on the difficult issue.

And it is not just Rahul. The anti-Sikh riots have politically haunted the Congress despite the fact that the party gave the country its only Sikh prime minister, Manmohan Singh, who even apologised for the riots in Parliament.

"wrong" and that those involved should be brought to justice.

He also said his family never held a grudge against the Sikhs. "There was a tragedy in 1984. My mother and father never held any animosity against anybody. When my grandmother lost the elections in 1977, it was the Sikhs who rallied behind her, giving her strength," he said then.

In January 2013, he invoked his grandmother's assassins Satwant Singh and Beant Singh at the AICC session in Jaipur, where he was appointed the party vice-president. He recalled that he used to play badminton with the two as "friends" and revealed how his father Rajiv Gandhi was "broken inside" after her assassination.

In 2014, Rahul was confronted with questions related to the riots

during a TV interview with then Times Now editor-in-chief Arnab Goswami. To repeated questions on whether he would apologise, Rahul said: "First of all, I wasn't involved in the riots at all. It wasn't that I was part of it." When asked if he would apologise on behalf of his party, he added, "I think all riots are horrible events. Frankly, I was not in operation in the Congress party."

It was quickly projected by the media as Rahul (and by extension, the Congress) being unapologetic about the riots.

He made amends in another interview later that year, saying: "The Prime Minister of the UPA has apologised and the president of the Congress party (has) expressed regrets. I share their sentiments completely."

Rahul was also asked about the riots during an interaction at the University of California, Berkeley, in 2017. He condemned the violence: "I fully support any action that is taken against anybody who is carrying out violence."

In 2018, he again triggered a row when, during an interaction with politicians in London, he said the Congress was not involved in the massacre of Sikhs in 1984. Later during the same trip, he nuanced his position, recalling that Manmohan Singh had apologised for the riots.

In January, Rahul visited the Golden Temple when his Bharat Jodo Yatra crossed Punjab. Then too, he was asked questions on the 1984 riots. He responded by calling the Sikh community part of the country's backbone.

# 7 EXPRESS NETWORK

## HC stays order suspending licence of Sanjay Gandhi Hospital in Amethi

ASAD REHMAN  
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 4

THE ALLAHABAD High Court on Wednesday stayed the order suspending the licence of Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital in Amethi's Munshiganj area over a case of medical negligence.

A Bench comprising Justice Vivek Chaudhary and Justice Manish Kumar stayed the Amethi Chief Medical Officer's September 17 order while hearing a petition filed by hospital administration.

The licence of Sanjay Gandhi Hospital — run by a Trust led by former Congress president Sonia Gandhi — was suspended on September 17 and the facility was sealed after a woman who was admitted there for a minor operation died in a Lucknow hospital on September 14. The woman's husband, who got an FIR registered against the Sanjay Gandhi Hospital, alleged that she died due to an overdose of anaesthesia.

"The (High) court has stayed the order suspending the registration of the hospital. The court has given the ground that negligence can happen at hospitals, but there is a greater public good in the hospital functioning than it being shut down. The court said that only because there is an allegation of negligence against the hospital, it is not reason enough to shut down the hospital as that would result in more people suffering," Senior Advocate Jaideep Narain Mathur, who appeared on behalf of the hospital, told *The Indian Express* after the High Court's order.

Mathur said that he argued that CMO passed the order even though he lacked the jurisdiction.

Government Counsel Rahul Shukla said that the High Court has granted time to the state to file a counter affidavit in the case.

## LADAKH AUTONOMOUS HILL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL POLLS



Voters in Kargil on Wednesday. PTI

## Hopes, anxieties converge as Kargil logs 77% voting in first poll since 2019

NAVEED IQBAL  
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 4

VOTERS IN the Kargil area of Ladakh turned out in large numbers to elect representatives to the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (Kargil), the first electoral exercise in the area since August 2019.

Kargil recorded a polling percentage of 77.6 percent on Wednesday, the district administration said. Voters queued up at the stations before polling started at 8 am, and 65 percent polling had been completed till 1 pm. Of the 26 constituencies electing representatives to the LAHDC, the highest turnout was recorded at Saliskut with 90 percent votes polled.

At polling booths, several voters expressed dissatisfaction over the functioning of the region as a Union Territory and said they are

exercising their franchise to empower the councils to protect their identity and their land.

The National Conference-Congress combine hopes to leverage this discontent with the administration and the Centre. NC vice-president Omar Abdullah termed this election a "referendum" against the Centre's move to separate Ladakh from J&K.

Still coming to terms with the shift in the administrative structure in Ladakh as a UT, Najaf Ali, a resident of Kaksar village, said: "Now the Centre governs through the Lieutenant Governor and we do not have a stake in our own futures and those of our children." He said that earlier, people could petition their MLAs or the chief minister of their state, "but now, one cannot meet the LG or the MP or go meet ministers in the central government".

At the same village, women waiting in queues said that since August 2019, when Ladakh was separated from the former state of Jammu and Kashmir and took shape as a UT, "there is so much talk of development, but we still struggle for basics". One of the voters, Zubaida, said she and others from her village gather around two taps supplying drinking water at 6 am. "In the winter, we carry water up from the river on horseback since the taps are frozen," she said.

"Hum khush nahin hain (We are not happy). We would like to be a part of J&K as we were before," she said.

For irrigation of their fields, locals said, "we have to carry a white flag down to the canals that are directly opposite Pakistani military posts so we can water our fields".

While the elections are being fought around the issue of devel-

opment in the Kargil region, keeping the BJP out of the 30-member council is the key objective for all other parties.

Lodged between Srinagar and Leh, where the last council polls were held in 2020, Kargil is affected by the politics of both regions and its population of over 1.40 lakh (majority Shia) has been struggling to find alignment.

In the last council in Kargil, the BJP had three members. This time, the party has fielded 17 candidates.

The 30-member council has 26 elected and four nominated members. In the outgoing council, while the NC had 10 members, the Congress had 8 and Independents 5.

Polls drew to a close at 4 pm on Wednesday. Kargil now awaits results on October 8 to decide not just its representatives for the next five years but also its future as a Union Territory.

## DEATHS IN NANDED, SAMBAJINAGAR

# HC takes cognisance of deaths in two govt-run Maharashtra hospitals

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 4

THE BOMBAY High Court Wednesday took suo motu cognisance of the deaths of patients in government hospitals in the Nanded and Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar districts.

The division bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhya and Justice Arif S Doctor said it would hear the matter Friday.

On Tuesday, advocate Mohit Khanna had approached the court over the issue.

The bench also directed advocate Khanna to file a proper petition after he submitted a letter over the deaths in Nanded and Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar.

The bench said the loss of lives due to a shortage of staff and medicines cannot continue.

It also asked Advocate General Birendra Saraf for the state government to inform it about the budgetary allocation for health as well as the availability of specialist doctors and other staff and vacancy of such posts during the hearing on Friday.

In this letter, Khanna raised concerns over 31 deaths since September 30 at Dr Shankarrao Chavan Government Medical College and Hospitals (GMCH) in Nanded and at least 14 mortalities at Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar Government Hospital between October 2 and 3.

He had referred to *The Indian Express* reports on the same.

He also said the government had failed to perform its duty under Article 47 of the Constitution.

## 2 days after her newborn died, mother passes away unaware of daughter's fate

VIJAY KUMAR YADAV  
NANDED, OCTOBER 4

ANJALI WAGHMARE, 22, who was undergoing treatment at the Dr Shankarrao Chavan Government Medical College & Hospital in Nanded, died Wednesday, unaware that her baby girl had died two days ago. As many as 31 lives were lost at the hospital within 48 hours.

Anjali was first rushed to a primary healthcare centre by her family, and after which she was referred to a sub-district hospital.

Since her condition was not improving, the family followed the doctor's instructions and took her to the Dr Shankarrao Chavan Hospital on September 30 where she delivered a baby girl early Sunday. However, the infant died the next day.

"Since my sister's health was not in good condition, we didn't inform her about her baby's death. But she, too, died during treatment today," said Anjali's brother, Nagnath Tompe.

At the hospital, the family members were struggling to console Anjali's mother who was grieving her daughter's death.

"My family and relatives are in deep grief and don't know how to handle a situation where two of our family members died in

## Didn't even see their faces, says mother of twins

Nanded: Sangita Manoj Khairwar, 32, from Nanded has not slept for two days and has been crying relentlessly. She delivered twins on September 28 but lost them during treatment at the Dr Shankarrao Chavan Government Medical College and Hospital in Nanded on October 2. "I could not take them in my arms and didn't even see their faces... I even sold my mangalsutra for their treatment..." said the distraught mother who is yet to come to terms with the loss. Sangita's twins were among the 18 infants who died at the state-run hospital in two days since September 30. The hospital document states the two infants were 1.5 kg and 1.4 kg in weight. VKY

just a matter of three days," Tompe said. Anjali was living with her husband, Manchek, who works in a brick factory.

## Journalists protest NewsClick arrests, write to CJI; BJP defends police action

SAMAN HUSAIN  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

JOURNALISTS BELONGING to different media organisations on Wednesday staged a protest at the Press Club of India over Delhi Police's action against NewsClick, a day after the arrest of news website's founder Prabir Purkayastha and its administrative officer Amit Chakraborty under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

During the protest, Siddharth Vardharajan of *The Wire* read out a letter addressed to the Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud and signed by a coalition of 16 media organisations, including the Press Club of India, DigiPub News India foundation, The Indian Women's Press Co., Foundation for Media Professionals, Chandigarh Press Club, Kerala Union of Journalists, among others.

The letter requested the judiciary to "confront power with a fundamental truth — that there is a Constitution to which we are all answerable to". The letter also stated that the invocation of UAPA was "specially chilling" while requesting the higher judiciary's intervention to put an



Journalists protest at the Press Club in New Delhi on Wednesday. Tashi Tobgyal

end to the "increasingly repressive" use of probe agencies against the media.

The letter also criticised the seizure of mobile phones and computers with no word on data's safety and privacy. "On October 3, 2023, the Special Cell of the Delhi Police raided homes of 46 professionals connected in one way or another to the online news portal, NewsClick... Journalism cannot be prosecuted as terrorism. Enough instances in history abound to tell

us where that eventually goes... the country's investigating agencies have been misused and weaponised against the Press. Seditious and terrorism cases have been filed against editors and reporters and frivolous FIRs have been used as an instrument of harassment against journalists," the letter stated.

Meanwhile, justifying police action against NewsClick, the BJP said that "those involved in anti-India activities will face the

strictest action as people have given the mandate to the Modi government to deal firmly with such elements".

Addressing the media at BJP headquarters in New Delhi, its national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia slammed the Congress and other opposition parties of the 'INDIA' bloc for coming in support of the news portal and said police have taken action against NewsClick based on "solid evidence".

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

DEFENCE MINISTER Rajnath Singh on Wednesday released the fifth positive indigenisation list of 98 items for which there would be an import ban beyond indicated deadlines against them. He released this list—comprising a range of weapons, ammunition, and sensors—alongside other announcements during the plenary session of 'Swavlamban 2.0', the



Union Minister for Defence Rajnath Singh at Swavlamban 2.0. ANI

## Defence Minister releases fifth positive indigenisation list at 2-day Navy seminar

two-day seminar of Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIO).

The list includes Futuristic Infantry Combat Vehicle, Articulated All-Terrain Vehicles, Remotely Piloted Air Borne Vehicles up to 25 Km with 2 Kg Payload for Army, Naval Shipborne Unmanned Aerial System, Medium Upgrade Low Endurance Class Tactical Drone, Electric Light Vehicle for Army, Medium Range Precision Kill System for Artillery, Next Generation Low Level Light

Radar for Army. At the event, he also launched 76 challenges for the industry under 10th Defence India Start-up Challenges (DISC 10) and DISC 10 PRIME of Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) and five problem statements under iDEX for Fauji. In addition, two INDUSX challenges under 'INDUS-X Mutual Promotion of Advanced Collaborative Technologies' (IM-PACT) challenges finalised by iDEX and US Department of Defense (US DoD) were launched by Rajnath.

## Dominican Republic V-P, Dhankhar hold talks on enhancing cooperation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

VICE-PRESIDENT JAGDEEP Dhankhar on Wednesday met his Dominican Republic counterpart Raquel Pena Rodriguez and discussed enhancing cooperation in sectors such as trade, pharmaceuticals and agriculture.

Two cooperation memorandums of understanding (MoUs) were signed after the meeting, an official statement said.

The first MoU was signed between India's CSIR-NIO (National Institute of Oceanography) and the Dominican Republic's National Institute of Maritime Affairs for scientific cooperation in ocean sciences.

The second MoU was signed between Union Health Ministry's Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation and Drug Regulatory Authority of Dominican Republic on medical product regulation.

Rodriguez and Dhankhar had a detailed and fruitful discussion on enhancing cooperation in diverse sectors, including trade, pharmaceuticals, ICT, agriculture, food processing, space, higher education, capacity building, Ayurveda and yoga, the statement said.

Rodriguez on Wednesday also said India stands as a global example of social and economic development, increasing its sphere of influence in international affairs, walking the path of meritocracy.

U.R. Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Pashu Chikitsa Vigyan Vishwavidyalaya  
Evam Go-Anusandhan Sansthan, Mathura (U.P.) - 281001  
Advertisement No. 01/2023 Date: 05/Oct/2023

**CORRIGENDUM**  
The vacant post of Dean, College of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry, Mathura was advertised vide no. 01/2023 dated 15 Sept, 2023 with last date for submission of application being 15 Oct, 2023. However, 14th Oct, 2023 and 15th Oct, 2023 are holidays, therefore the last date for submission of application is revised to 16th Oct, 2023 (5.00 pm). All other terms and conditions remain same. For details please visit University website www.upvetuniv.edu.in. All Correspondence/queries, if any, may be sent to duvasurecruitment@gmail.com.. REGISTRAR

**PDPM Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design & Manufacturing Jabalpur**  
(An Institute of National Importance established by an act of Parliament, under Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)  
Dumna Airport Road, PO: Khamaria, Jabalpur-482005(MP)INDIA

**Advertisement for Faculty Positions**  
Dated :04/10/2023

PDPM Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing Jabalpur, an Institute of national importance, established by an act of Parliament under Ministry of Education, Government of India invites online applications from well qualified and strongly motivated candidates for faculty positions of Assistant Professor Grade I (Level 12), Assistant Professor Grade II (on contract) (Level 10 & 11) in the disciplines of Computer Science and Engineering, Electronics & Communication Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Smart Manufacturing, Liberal Arts (English), Design and Natural Sciences (Physics & Mathematics). For complete details please visit the Institute website www.iiitdmj.ac.in. For applying online please visit portal https://iiitdmjrec.samarth.edu.in from 09/10/2023 onwards. Last date for online application is November 05, 2023 till 05:00 pm and receipt of signed hardcopy of the application is November 17, 2023 till 05:00 pm. Registrar

**एसजेवीएन लिमिटेड SJVN Limited**  
(भारत सरकार एवं हिमाचल प्रदेश सरकार का संयुक्त उपक्रम)  
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of H.P.)  
An ISO 9001:2015 Company, A Mini Ratna & Schedule 'A' PSU  
CIN No. L40101HP1988GOI008409

**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN A GROWING ORGANISATION**  
Advt. No. 115/2023 Closing Date: 14/11/2023

SJVN Limited, a Mini Ratna, Category-I and Schedule-'A' CPSE under administrative control of Ministry of Power, Govt. of India, was incorporated on May 24, 1988 as a joint venture of the Government of India (GOI) and the Government of Himachal Pradesh (GOHP). Beginning with a single project and single state operation, the company has a total portfolio of approximately 58000 MW and commissioned seven projects totalling 2091.5 MW of installed capacity which includes company's largest 1500 MW Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station (NJHPS).

Commensurate to its ambitious growth plans & swift growth trajectory, SJVN intends to engage manpower on Fixed Tenure basis in following disciplines and invites applications from promising & committed individuals. The engagement shall be purely temporary & on contract basis for an initial period of 3 years. The contract period can further be extended on yearly basis for 2 more years depending upon the work requirement and performance of the individual. The engagement will not entitle him/her to claim for any regular employment in SJVN or any relaxation in case of any requirement for any post in SJVN, however, the selected candidates shall be considered for regularization in SJVN in line with SJVN's policy for regularization of Fixed Tenure Appointees.

**TENTATIVE VACANCIES & EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

Sr. No.	Designation	Tentative No. of posts	Qualification Requirement	Percentage of Marks	Upper age limit
1.	Field Engineer (IT)	02	Full time B.E./ B.Tech in Computer Science/ Computer Engineering/ Information Technology from a recognized Institute/University of India.	Aggregate 50% marks for SC/ST/PWD and 55% marks for others in prescribed qualification.	30 years
2.	Jr. Field Engineer (IT)	02	Full Time Diploma in Computer Science/ Computer Engineering/ Information Technology from a recognized Institute/University of India.		
3.	Field Officer (Architecture)	02	Full Time Degree in Architecture from a recognized Institute/University of India.		
4.	Field Officer (Strategic Management/ International Business)	10	Graduate with two years full time MBA/Post Graduate Diploma with specialization in Strategic Management/ International Business		
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>16</b>			

**Note:** (i) Number of posts shown above are tentative and can be changed at the discretion of management as per requirement.  
(ii) For detailed advertisement and applying for above posts please visit SJVN website www.sjvn.nic.in

**IMPORTANT DATES**

1. Commencement of Online Registration for submitting applications	25/10/2023
2. Closing date for submitting applications through website	14/11/2023

**SHARED VISION: 25000 MW by 2030 and 50000 MW by 2040**

## 2 Hizb militants killed in Kulgam encounter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 4

TWO HIZBUL Mujahideen militants were killed in a gunfight with security forces in Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, police said. The slain ultras were identified as Basit Amin Bhat of Frisal and Saqib Ahmad Lone of Hawoora, Kulgam.

Acting on a specific input regarding the presence of terrorists in the Kujjar area of Kulgam in south Kashmir, a cordon and search operation was launched by security forces there, a police spokesman said.

During the operation, the hiding terrorists fired indiscriminately at the search party, which retaliated effectively, he said.

In the ensuing encounter, two terrorists linked with the proscribed terrorist outfit Hizbul Mujahideen were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of the encounter, the spokesman said. According to police records, both were involved in several terror crime cases, he said.



Security forces during the encounter with terrorists in Kulgam on Wednesday. ANI

Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition, including two AK series rifles, were recovered from the site of the encounter.

Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar, termed it a big success and congratulated the joint team of police and security forces for conducting the operation without any collateral damage.

Cordon and search operation will continue in the area, the spokesman added.

## ED summons actor Ranbir Kapoor for 'promoting online betting app'

SAGAR RAJPUT MUMBAI, OCTOBER 4

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) on Wednesday summoned Bollywood actor Ranbir Kapoor for allegedly promoting Mahadev Online Book betting app with officials saying he is suspected to have received money in cash.

A senior official from the ED said that the actor has been instructed to appear for questioning on October 6. "We have sent him a summon. We have also reached out to him and informed him about it," said an official requesting anonymity. The source added that several other celebrities are likely to be summoned.

According to the ED, Mahadev Online Book provides online platforms for illegal betting in different live games such as "poker" and other card games, chance games, cricket, badminton, tennis, football and



Told to appear for questioning on Oct 6

others, even providing an avenue to bet on various elections in India. It also provides a facility to play several card games such as "Teen Patti", "poker", "Dragon Tiger" and virtual cricket games among others.

According to sources, the agency learnt about celebrities endorsing these betting entities and performing at their functions, taking hefty fees layered through dubious transactions that were ultimately paid from the proceeds of online betting.

The ED began its probe into the case earlier this year and arrested four people based out of Raipur in August — businessmen brothers Sunil and Anil Dammani, assistant sub-inspec-

tor Chandra Bhushan Verma and Satish Chandrakar.

Two main promoters Sourabh Chandrakar and Ravi Uppal who hail from Bhilai in Chhattisgarh are wanted in connection with money laundering. The agency is also in the process of issuing Red Corner Notices against the two. A special PMLA court in Raipur has also issued NBWs against the absconding suspects to get the RCNs issued against them. So far, the ED has conducted searches at 39 locations across Raipur, Bhopal, Mumbai and Kolkata and seized illegal assets worth Rs 417 crore.

An ED officer had earlier said, "M/s Mahadev Online Book is run from a head office in the UAE and operates by franchising 'panels' or branches to their known associates and small punters on 70:30 profit ratio... Large scale hawala operations are done to siphon off the proceeds of betting to off-shore accounts. Large expenditure in

cash is also being done in India for advertising the betting websites and self-aggrandisement is necessary to attract new users and franchise seekers," the officer added.

The probe agency had also said that celebrities were hired to perform at the marriage of Chandrakar in February 2023, who ran the online gambling operations from Dubai along with fellow promoter Uppal.

"In February 2023, Sourabh Chandrakar got married at RAK (Ras Al-Khaimah), UAE and for the ceremony, the promoters of Mahadev App spent around Rs 200 crore in cash. Private jets were hired to ferry family members from Nagpur to UAE, while celebrities were hired to perform at the function. Wedding planners, dancers and decorators were hired from Mumbai and hawala channels were used to make payments in cash," the agency had said in its statement.

## Kheda flogging: Gujarat HC starts framing charges against four cops

SOHINI GHOSH AHMEDABAD, OCTOBER 4

EXACTLY A year after several men were publicly flogged in Undhela village of Kheda, the Gujarat High Court Wednesday commenced framing charges against four police personnel under the Contempt of Courts Act.

The division bench of Justices AS Supreya and MR Mengdey, relying on the inquiry report of a magistrate in Nadiad, initiated contempt proceedings under section 2(b) (civil contempt) read with Section 12 (punishment for contempt) of the Act against the four accused for violating "the law enunciated by the SC in the case of DK Basu versus the State of West Bengal". The court, following a request by the counsel of police officials that they be permitted to cross-examine the applicants in the case, granted them time to file an affidavit in their defence by October 11.

Last year, the five victims of alleged unauthorised detention and public flogging had moved a contempt petition against 15 police officers, including Ahmedabad Range IG, Kheda SP, 10 constables of Matar police station in Kheda as well as the local crime branch, Kheda local crime branch inspector as well as two sub-inspectors from Matar police station and Kheda local crime branch.

Seeking compensation, petitioners Jahirmiya Malek (62), Maksudabanu Malek (45), Sahadmiya Malek (23), Saklimiya Malek (24) and Shahidraja Malek (25) had said that the 15 officers should be "punished for contempt and non-compliance" of the directions issued by the apex court in the D.K Basu case that provides for guidelines to be followed by police during arrest and detention.

The four police officials identified and their role attributed in the flogging incident by the

Nadiad magistrate include inspector AV Parmar, sub-inspector DB Kumavat, constable Rajubhai Rameshbhai Dabhi and head constable Kanaksinh Laxmansinh.

Parmar was seen hitting the buttocks of Sahadmiya, Saklimiya and Shahidraja with a stick. Kumavat was seen sitting in a chair and in some screenshots, standing in the background. He was not seen with a stick or beating any of the applicants. Kanaksinh was seen holding a white pipe and pushing the applicants towards a van and also raising the pipe on Sahadmiya in one screenshot. Raju is seen holding the hands of the three applicants to the pole, while Parmar hits them.

Meanwhile, in response to Kumavat's contention that he cannot be held liable for contempt as he was not seen hitting/flogging the applicants, the division bench refused to concur with the submission. The court, in its order Wednesday, observed, "The incident of flogging has happened in broad daylight before a crowd. Presence of (Kumavat) is not in dispute. (Kumavat) has not made any efforts that the applicants who are being brutally flogged in public view by other respondents are rescued, no efforts are made to stop the flogging. On the contrary, his presence in the chowk with other assailants shows he accompanied other respondents and has played an active role in bringing the applicants to chowk from the police station. They were tied and mercilessly beaten. Hence, there is tacit consent or approval by (Kumavat) in carrying out the illegal and humiliating act. Hence, no immunity can be granted to (Kumavat) from framing the charges under Contempts of Court Act."

Additionally, the bench dropped the proceedings against 11 other respondent police personnel.

## Ujjain rape accused's house demolished

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA UJJAIN (MP), OCTOBER 4

THE ADMINISTRATION in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain city on Wednesday demolished a house belonging to a man accused of raping a 12-year-old girl.

The structure stood on government land, an official said.

As in some other BJP-ruled states, the alleged illegal structures belonging to persons accused of committing heinous crimes have been demolished in Madhya Pradesh in recent years.

Bharat Soni, an autorickshaw

driver, was arrested three days after the girl, a resident of Satna district, was found walking on the streets in injured condition and seeking help on September 25.

Medical examination confirmed that she had been raped. City Superintendent of Police (CSP) Deepika Shinde said a

house and a shop belonging to the accused, constructed on government land near the Nanakheda bus stand, were demolished on Wednesday.

A small temple also stood on the land, and the idols installed there were shifted elsewhere by following the proper ritual before it was pulled down, she said.

**केन्द्रीय भंडारण निगम**  
CENTRAL WAREHOUSING CORPORATION  
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

No. CWC CO-EDOTC/70/2023-Tender Cell-CO Dated: 03.10.2023

**Notice Inviting Tender**

E-Bid Invitation Notice for development of storage facility through PPP under DBFOT model at 34 locations across India

Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) invites e-bids from interested parties for development of storage facility through PPP mode under DBFOT model at 34 different locations across India namely Raipur-III, Pimpri, Indore III, Indore-I, Nagpur, Nampally, Nashik-Ambad, Nashik-Nashik Road, Kolhapur II, Raipur-I, Amravati, Kolhapur-I, Warangal, Gurugram, Kirti Nagar, Okhla 1, Okhla 2, RP Bagh, Dadri, Lucknow 2, Gorakhpur, Saharanpur, Coimbatore, Royapuram, Ambattur, Moolapalayam, Madurai, Pudukchery, Erode, Anakapalle, Nellore, Ernakulam, Kozhikode, and Mangalore. For more information and to download the tender, [www.cwceprocure.com](http://www.cwceprocure.com) or [www.cwacor.nic.in](http://www.cwacor.nic.in) can be visited. The last date for submission of e-bid in the prescribed format is 17.11.2023 till 1500 hrs.

Tender Cell, Corporate Office  
Central Warehousing Corporation, New Delhi

**Paschimanchal Vidut Vitran Nigam Ltd.**  
Victoria Park, Meerut.

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTICE Short-term E-tenders are invited for supply of: - (I) 3800 Nos. 11 KV TVM Cat (C) Meter against tender specification no. PVVNL-MT/COM/11(s)/23-24. EMD is Rs. 1,21,600/- (2) 3500 Nos. LT TVM Cat (C) Meter against tender specification no. PVVNL-MT/COM/12(s)/23-24. EMD is Rs. 84,000/-. Above tenders are to be submitted by 14:00 hrs of 19.10.2023 and the Part-I of tenders shall be opened after 14:30 hrs of the same date. In case of amendment in NIT or extension in opening date, information will be published on e-tender website [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) and on [www.pvvnl.org](http://www.pvvnl.org) Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Commercial) "SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION" "Help line Number for Information of Theft of Electricity: "1800-180-3002 (Meerut) & 1800-180-8752 (Lucknow)" संचिका 1683 दिनांक 04.10.2023

**Government of Manipur**  
Public Works Department  
REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI):  
NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION (NGO)  
FOR  
IMPHAL RING ROAD PROJECT  
OPEN COMPETITIVE BIDDING (OCB)  
No. 22/PD/EAP/IRR/PROC-NGO/2023/1

Public Works Department, Manipur has invited for EOI for services of NGO as an Implementation Support for Imphal Ring Road Project which is to be implemented with assistance of ADB. The detailed description of EOI is available on ADB website <http://csrn.adb.org>

Sd/-  
Y. Joykumar Singh  
Project Director-cum-Chief Engineer  
PIU, EAP, PWD, Manipur.

**OFFICE OF MUNICIPAL COUNCIL SIKAR**  
Near ambedkar park Sikar-332001  
Ph: 01572-270422 E-mail: sikarulb.jaipur@gmail.com

MCS/2023-24/Tender/11733 Date: 30.09.2023

**NIB No. 12/2023-24**  
Short term Notice inviting online bids

Municipal council sikar, invites online unconditional bids through e-procurement portal <http://eproc.rajabastan.gov.in> from eligible bidders in accordance with the RTTP Act 2012 and RTTP Rules 2013, amended up to date, and under Open Competitive Bidding (OCB) National with single stage-two envelope Bidding procedure for following works.

S. No.	Work No.	Total Cost (INR in Lacs)	Bid Security (INR in Lacs)	Period of completion
1	Development of Nehru bal bhawan sikar	373.00	7.46	12 Months

The details of NIB can be seen at e-procurement portal of state government [eproc.rajabastan.gov.in](http://eproc.rajabastan.gov.in) and [eproc.rajabastan.gov.in](http://eproc.rajabastan.gov.in) from date 30.09.2023 at 1600 Hours till the end date of online submission of bids i.e. 06.10.2023 up to 1800 Hours. Any subsequent addendum/corrigendum shall be published only at the e-procurement portal. NIB CODE NO. - DLB2324A7444 UBN No. - DLB2324WSOB26973

Commissioner  
Municipal Council Sikar

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

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Kishor, S/o. Jayanti Ram, R/o K-1159, Mangolpuri, New Delhi**, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 291/2021 U/s 188/269 IPC** registered at P.S. Raj Park, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said **Kishor** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Kishor** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Kishor** accused of **FIR No. 291/2021 U/s 188/269 IPC** P.S. Raj Park, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **04.11.2023**

By Order  
Ms. Deepali Shrivastava,  
Metropolitan Magistrate (North West),  
Room No. 107, First Floor,  
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/11138/OD/2023

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

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Sh. Bharat Kapoor, S/o. Sh. R.K. Kapoor, R/o F-1/14, Ground Floor, Sector 15, Rohini, Delhi**, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 8966/2018 U/s 138 NI Act** registered at P.S. South Rohini, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said **Sh. Bharat Kapoor** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Sh. Bharat Kapoor** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Sh. Bharat Kapoor** accused of **FIR No. 8966/2018 U/s 138 NI Act** P.S. South Rohini, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **16.11.2023**

By Order  
Ms. Deepali Shrivastava,  
Metropolitan Magistrate (North West),  
Room No. 107, First Floor,  
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/11123/RD/2023

**म.प्र. राज्य पर्यटन विकास निगम मर्यादित**  
पर्यटन भवन, भद्रभद्रा रोड, भोपाल- 462003

फोन नं. : +91-755 4027100, 2774340/42, वेबसाइट : [www.mpstdc.com](http://www.mpstdc.com)  
क्रमांक 407/यात्रिका/पविनि/23 दिनांक : 04.10.2023

**निविदा सूचना क्र. 240/2023\_STDC\_314780\_1**

मध्यप्रदेश राज्य पर्यटन विकास निगम भोपाल द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ऑनलाइन (Online) निविदा प्रपत्र APPENDIX 2.10 पर म.प्र. लोक निर्माण विभाग में उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत टेकदारों से आमंत्रित की जाती है।  
कार्य का नाम : भोपाल स्थित मोती महल का संरक्षण कर म्यूजियम में विकसित करने का कार्य (द्वितीय आमंत्रण)। (18 माह)। कार्य की अनुमानित लागत राशि रु. 1785.40 लाख

वेबसाइट पर ऑनलाइन भुगतान कर निविदा प्रपत्र (टेण्डर डाक्यूमेंट) वेबसाइट के माध्यम से क्रय किये जा सकते हैं। निविदा प्रपत्र ऑनलाइन क्रय करने की अंतिम तिथि 25.10.2023 समय सायं 05:00 बजे तक निर्धारित है। कार्य का विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाइट <https://mptenders.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।

म.प्र. माध्यम/112412/2023 कार्यपालन चंत्री

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES  
Office of the Additional Chief Engineer,  
Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur - 760004  
e-mail id: [se\\_sicbam@yahoo.com](mailto:se_sicbam@yahoo.com)

**e-Procurement Notice No. ACE, RBB -08/2023-24**

1. Type of Work : Flood Protection Work.  
2. Total No. of Works : 01 (One) No.  
3. Amount put to tender : Rs 343.05 Lakh  
4. Period of completion : 11 (Eleven) calendar months

Procurement officer	Bid Identification No	Bid Amount (Rs. in lakh)	Availability & Submission of Bid On-line
Additional Chief Engineer, Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur	ACE, RBB, (BNID)-18/2023-24	343.05	From 10.10.2023, 10.00 A.M. to 25.10.2023, 5.00 P.M.

Date of opening of the Technical Bid:- 26.10.2023 at 11.30 A.M.  
Further details can be seen from the Govt. website [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in)

Sd/-  
Additional Chief Engineer,  
Rushikulya Bahuda Basin,  
Berhampur  
OIPR-32411/11/0011/2324

**WESTERN RAILWAY**  
CORRIGENDUM - 1

To Tender No. Bid/Package No. DyCE-C-I-IND-MKT-OM-EPC-1 Dated 24/08/2023. In connection with the above, following changes have been made in NIT & tender documents.

Description	Already Printed in NIT & Tender Document	Now to be Read
Submit its Financial Bid and Technical Bid at <a href="https://ireps.gov.in">https://ireps.gov.in</a> on or before up to.	Up to 11.00 hrs. on 11.10.2023	Up to 15.00 hrs. on 30.10.2023.
Submission of Power of Attorney, bank guarantee and Joint Bidding Agreement etc. physically by the Bidder on or before.	Up to 11.00 hrs. on 17.10.2023	Up to 11.00 hrs. on 06.11.2023
Date of Opening of tender.	17.10.2023 at 16.00 hrs.	06.11.2023 at 15.00 hrs.

All other Terms & Conditions will remain the same. 0698

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**SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL**

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Gudiya Kumari, D/o Sambhu Chaudhary, R/o H.No. 105, Saurabh Ka Makan, Chhuriya Mohalla, Tehkhand Village, Okhla Phase-1, New Delhi & Permanent Address Village Hatarupol, PS Bhairav Sthaan, District Madhubani, Bihar. Age 16 years, Height 4'2", Complexion Fair, Round Face, Thin Built, Wearing Green colour suit salwar and chappal in feet** has been missing since 26.09.2023 from area of PS Okhla Industrial Area, New Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out this girl but no clue has come to light so far. In this regard a case FIR No. 690/2023 dated 27.09.2023 U/S 363 IPC has been registered at PS Okhla Industrial Area, New Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing girl may kindly inform to the following.  
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> SHO  
Email: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) PS: Okhla Industrial Area  
New Delhi  
Fax: 011-23011334 Ph: 011-23014046, 23015218 Ph.: 011-26816677, 26818572  
DP/10979/SE/2023 8750871623

**Govt. of NCT of Delhi**  
Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board  
Vikas Kutir, I.P.Estate,  
New Delhi-110002

**E-Auction Notice**

Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board re-invites online e-auction for allotment of vacant land for the purpose for running parking sites on temporary basis as per prescribed terms & conditions for an agreement period of Two years from the date of taking over the possession and further extendable by one year subject to satisfactory performance of the agency and enhancement of bid price by 10% after each year.

**DATE OF E-AUCTION**  
10.11.2023 (Friday) from 11.00 AM to 05.00 PM  
Online registration starts :06.10.2023 (Friday)  
Last date for online registration/mandatory documents with EMD is 27.10.2023 (Friday) upto 6:00 PM

For further details of parking sites and Procedure kindly visit the e-auction website [www.tenderwizard.com/DUSIB](http://www.tenderwizard.com/DUSIB) or DUSIB website [www.delhishelterboard.in](http://www.delhishelterboard.in).

Sd/-  
Dy. Director (RP)  
(Mob. No.8826697456 )  
DIP/SHABDARTH/classified/0164/23-24

**Govt. of NCT of Delhi**  
Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board  
Vikas Kutir, I.P.Estate, New Delhi-110002

**E-Auction Notice**

Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board re-invites online e-auction for allotment of open ground designated as Chunk-B, Nand Nagri near Gagan Cinema on temporary utilization for the purpose of organizing Marriage / Social Cultural / Religious functions, Fair / Fates, Exhibition and Cultural Event as per prescribed terms and conditions of agreement for a period of two years from the date of taking over of the possession subject to enhancement of bid amount by 20% after completion of one year.

**DATE OF E-AUCTION**  
03.11.2023 (Friday) from 11.00 AM to 02.00 PM  
Online registration starts :06.10.2023 (Friday)  
Last date for online registration/mandatory documents with EMD is 23.10.2023 (Monday) upto 6:00 PM

For further details of the sites and procedure kindly visit the e-auction website [www.tenderwizard.com/DUSIB](http://www.tenderwizard.com/DUSIB) or DUSIB website [www.delhishelterboard.in](http://www.delhishelterboard.in).

Sd/-  
Dy. Director (RP)  
(Mob. No.8826697456)  
DIP/SHABDARTH/CLASSIFIED/0166/23-24

**OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA**  
NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR  
E-mail ID: [cebbuildings\\_orissa@yahoo.co.in](mailto:cebbuildings_orissa@yahoo.co.in)  
[cebbuildings@rediffmail.com](mailto:cebbuildings@rediffmail.com), Tel. (0674)- 2391523

**INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)**  
File No.-No-B-IV-H(H&D)-53/20 Lr. No.- 40991  
Bhubaneswar, the 29th Sept.,2023

**Invitation for Bids**  
Bid Identification No. C.E. (B) —31/2023-24

1. The Chief Engineer, Buildings, Odisha, Bhubaneswar, on behalf of Government of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE only, for the work, "Construction of OPD, IPD and MCH Complex (G+5) at SDH, Gunupur in the District of Rayagada" amounting to Rs. 22,00,76,258/- (Approximate) as detailed below.

2. Nature of work	: Building work
3. No. of work	: 1 No.
4. Bid Cost	: ₹10,000/- (each)
5. Class of Contractor	: Special / Super Class
6. Availability of Bid Documents in the website	: From dt.05.10.2023 to 17.00 Hours of dt.19.10.2023.
7. Date of Opening of Bid	: Dt.20.10.2023 at 11:30 AM.
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: <a href="https://tendersodisha.gov.in">https://tendersodisha.gov.in</a> . Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.	

Sd/-  
Chief Engineer, Buildings,  
Odisha, Bhubaneswar  
OIPR- 34117/11/0066/2324



## MANALI-LEH ROAD CLOSED

Vehicles lined up on the Manali-Leh Highway as it shut down due to heavy snowfall, on Tuesday. ANI

**IIT-B professor: Fine on students 'disgraceful', mess segregation 'social illness'**

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 4

AN INDIAN Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay professor has termed the imposition of fine on students who protested against the designated 'veg-only' space "disgraceful".

A fine of Rs 10,000 was imposed by one of the mess councils at the institute on students for protesting the designated veg-only space in one of the hostel messes. Another professor has called the segregation "social illness".

Meanwhile, students' wing of Nationalist Congress Party's (NCP) Sharad Pawar group has warned of an agitation against the authorities if the fine is not withdrawn. Assistant professor at Centre for Policy Studies at the IIT Bombay Anupam Guha tweeted on X, "The fine on student who protested is disgraceful. Academics who care even a little bit about their institutions ought to resist this in speech and act. I certainly will."

Suryakant Waghmore, Professor of Sociology at IIT Bombay, tweeted, "Bhartiya vegetarianism of purity and segregation is a social illness. It needs to be cured, not institutionalized!"

While the mess council email had already sparked controversy, a few students on September 28 protested the decision by eating non-vegetarian food on one of the six 'veg-only' tables.

**SEVERAL BJP LEADERS DISMISS UNION MINISTER'S DEMAND**

## Sanjeev Balyan's pitch for west UP statehood sets off churn in region

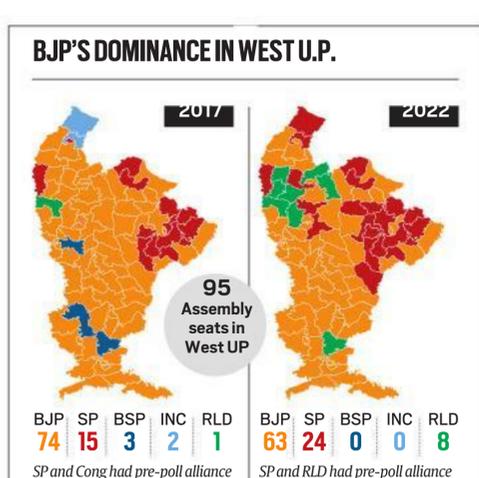
LALMANI VERMA  
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 4

UNION MINISTER of State Sanjeev Balyan, the BJP's Muzaffarnagar MP, has created a stir in Uttar Pradesh politics by calling for the state's division to enable the creation of west UP as a separate state with Meerut as its capital.

Addressing an "International Jat Parliament" held in Meerut last Sunday, Balyan made this demand, claiming that west UP with a population of over eight crore would be "best and most prosperous state" in the country.

Balyan's demand was rejected within hours by the BJP's firebrand and former Sardhana MLA Sangeet Singh Som, who said the formation of west UP state would mean the creation of a "mini Pakistan". Som said the population of a particular community was constantly increasing, claiming that its population was around 80 per cent in several urban local bodies like Nagar Palika Parishads and Nagar Panchayats. "Do you want Hindus to become minority there?" Som asked while speaking to media Tuesday and added that nobody from west UP wanted it to be a separate state.

Balyan was not available for his response, but several BJP leaders in west UP dismissed his demand as just "an attempt in his personal capacity to appease Jat voters" ahead of the 2024 LS polls.



"In 2019 Lok Sabha elections, Balyan had won from Muzaffarnagar with a narrow margin of 6,526 votes against RLD's Ajit Singh. Then RLD had an alliance with SP and BSP. Performance of SP-RLD alliance in west UP was impressive in 2022 Assembly polls. BJP also lost Khatauli seat - part of Muzaffarnagar parliamentary seat - to RLD in a bypoll last year. These results indicate that Balyan needs to work more among Jats ahead of 2024 polls," said a BJP leader from the region. The leader said that in urban local body polls held earlier this

year, the BJP and the RLD had won one each of the two Nagar Palika Parishad chairperson seats in the region. In the Nagar Panchayat chairperson seats, the BJP drew a blank as independent candidates won five seats with the SP, RLD and AAP winning one each. Another BJP leader from west UP said that Balyan's remark has not evoked "any positive response" from the public in the region. "For a long time no one is talking about a separate state. Jats and Muslims are going to play a key role in the 2024 Lok Saha polls here," he said. West UP comprises 18 dis-

tricts, including districts such as Baghpat, Muzaffarnagar, Shamli, Meerut, Bijnore, Ghaziabad, Hapur, Bulandshahr, Mathura, Aligarh, Hathras, Agra and Moradabad, which account for significant Jat populations. The community has relatively smaller numerical presence in four districts of the region, which include Rampur, Amroha, Saharanpur and Gautam Budh Nagar.

The Jat community has influence in a dozen Lok Sabha constituencies and about 40 Assembly seats across west UP. They are estimated to make up 10-15 per cent of the population in the 17 districts, but are vocal as well as socially dominant with the capacity to build up a political atmosphere.

The BJP suffered a minor setback in west UP at the hands of the SP-BSP alliance in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, even as it won 12 of the region's 19 parliamentary seats. Of the remaining seven seats, the BSP won four and the SP won three. The BJP later wrested the Rampur seat from the SP in a bypoll held last year. West UP accounts for 95 of the state's total 403 Assembly seats.

Ahead of the 2012 Assembly polls, the BSP government in November 2011 got a resolution - on splitting UP into four states, Purvanchal, Paschim Pradesh, Bundelkhand and Awadh Pradesh - passed in the Assembly.

FULL REPORT ON  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

**100 MBBS SEATS FOR 10 LAKH**

## Curbs on new medical colleges draw TN ire

Stalin says encroachment on state rights, urges PM to hold it

ARUN JANARDHANAN  
CHENNAI, OCTOBER 4

A RECENT notification from the National Medical Commission (NMC) limiting the opening of new medical colleges has invited the wrath of the Tamil Nadu government, with Chief Minister M K Stalin calling it a "direct encroachment" on state rights. Stalin, appealing to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to place the contentious guidelines on hold, also called the guidelines "legally untenable".

The contentious NMC guidelines proposed that starting from academic year 2023-2024, new medical colleges will only receive permission for annual intakes of 50, 100 or 150 students. Moreover, these colleges must adhere to a ratio of 100 MBBS seats for every 10 lakh (1 million) population in the respective State or Union Territory.

This directive, according to Stalin, disproportionately penalises states like Tamil Nadu, which have invested heavily in public health infrastructure.

"Progressive states like Tamil Nadu have been strengthening their tertiary healthcare network for many decades. This has led to ample availability of doctors and



Stalin says guidelines legally untenable

nurses, which has manifested in their better performance in terms of various health indicators," Stalin said, adding that the criterion proposed for such restriction - higher doctor-population ratio at the state level as compared to the norms - is not appropriate.

"Chennai has emerged as the healthcare capital of India. In both public and private sectors, our skilled medical professionals have been able to successfully serve not only the people of Tamil Nadu but also of other states and nations. This has generated huge demand for quality health services and new institutions are absolutely necessary for us to cater to it in the future," he said.

According to the new stipulations, regions that have already exceeded the prescribed MBBS seat limit would be barred from opening new medical colleges or expanding existing ones.

"Even when there is adequate availability of doctors at the state level, there are districts where their availability continues to be a

persistent issue. This problem can be effectively addressed only by opening new medical colleges in such backward areas. Any restriction on new medical colleges based on state level criteria will deprive these deserving districts of much needed tertiary institutions," Stalin said.

He also cited a recent Supreme Court ruling from September 2022, emphasising that the NMC's directive might be "legally untenable" as the court had previously determined that states could only enforce reasonable limitations through official legislation, not executive orders. Stalin's appeal to Modi comes amid heated debates on federal directives, and state autonomy emerging as the central focus of ruling and opposition alliances.

While Stalin's letter revolves around the conviction that states which have invested heavily in healthcare shouldn't be hamstrung by central regulations, especially when they have shown demonstrable progress in health indicators, he also pointed out that the onus of Tamil Nadu's high doctor-population ratio fell largely on the efforts of the state government and the private sector, with limited investment from the Union Government.

## Appointment of V-Cs in violation of norms not valid: UGC to TN

RAUNAQ SARASWAT  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

OBJECTING TO the search-cum-selection committee formed by the Tamil Nadu government for the selection of the vice-chancellors of the University of Madras, the chairman of UGC, Mamidala Jagadesh, on Wednesday said that "appointment of the V-C of a university in violation of the UGC regulations is not valid".

"UGC's stand has been consistent on this issue. The selection for the post of V-C should be through proper identification by

a panel of three to five persons recommended by a search committee. One member of the search cum-selection committee shall be nominated by the chairman of the UGC for selection of vice-chancellors of state, private and deemed to be universities. Appointment of vice-chancellor of a university in violation of the UGC regulations is not valid," said Mamidala. UGC had earlier written to the chief secretary of the Tamil Nadu government regarding the same. Mamidala's remarks come in the wake of the omission of the name of the UGC chairman

nominee Prof. HCS Rathore, from the search-cum-selection committee for the V-C of University of Madras by Tamil Nadu government. The name was omitted in the gazette notification published by the government.

The governor of the state had first announced the committee on September 6, comprising the nominee of the UGC chairman. Omitting the nominee, the Tamil Nadu government had retained three of the four members who were a part of the earlier panel announced by Governor RN Ravi in a gazette notification on September 13.

## SC pulls up Punjab for not constructing its part of SYL canal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

NOTING THAT Haryana had already constructed its portion of the Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) canal, the Supreme Court on Wednesday pulled up the Punjab government for not completing construction of its part of the canal and asked the Centre to survey the land allocated for the project in Punjab so as to assess the work progress.

A bench presided by Justice SK Kaul recalled that it had earlier stayed Punjab's attempt to release the land to farmers and appointed a receiver. The bench, also comprising Justices C T Ravikumar and Sudhanshu Dhulia, told Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati who appeared for the Centre that "we would like the Union of India to survey the portion of the land allocated for the project in Punjab to ensure that the land is protected..." and to know "how much has been made and what has been made".

The SC said "we are concerned with the decree for the construction of the SYL canal in the Punjab portion, as Haryana has already

constructed" and asked the Punjab government to extend full cooperation to the survey.

The bench was referring to the 2002 decree in Haryana's favour on a suit filed by the state against Punjab wherein the SC had directed construction of the canal. The court noted that the "decree stands" and added "this kind of a matter possibly has political ramifications... something will have to be done..."

The bench told Senior Advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, who appeared for the Punjab government, that the ball is in the state's court and that it will have to find a solution. "You will have to find a solution. Don't compel us to find troublesome orders... Otherwise, unpalatable it might be, we will have to do something."

It told the Centre that it should actively pursue mediation between the two states. The Punjab government cited shortage of water as the reason for not executing the decree in favour of Haryana. Senior advocate Shyam Divan, appearing for Haryana, said, "The only thing that remains is construction. Punjab, of course, has to cooperate; that is what federalism is about."

## 2 Indian syrups contaminated with toxic levels of chemicals, finds CDSCO

ANONNA DUTT,  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

AT LEAST five batches of syrups, for cough and allergic rhinitis, from two Indian manufacturers have been found to contain higher than permissible levels of contaminants - diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol, as per the report released by Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), country's apex drug controller.

Earlier, the World Health Organisation had raised alerts when several syrups exported by India were found to be allegedly contaminated with the chemicals known to be toxic to humans and can cause abdominal pain, fever, vomiting, diarrhoea, inability to pass urine, and acute kidney injury that may result in death especially in children.

Two syrups of a Gujarat based company - one for the treatment of cough and another for allergic rhinitis - were found to be contaminated when tested in August. The cough syrup contained 0.118% ethylene glycol while the allergic rhinitis syrup contained 0.171% ethylene glycol and 0.243% diethylene glycol, according to the CDSCO's monthly inspection report. The acceptable safety limit for both ethylene glycol and diethylene glycol is no more than 0.10%, according to the WHO. Three batches of a paracetamol syrup by a Tamil Nadu based company were also found to have the contaminants.

The WHO had raised an alert against the same company in August after samples collected from Iraq by a news organisation were found to be contaminated.

WHO spokesperson Christian Lindmeier in an email said, "To date, this situation has impacted more than 20 products with two countries of origin (India & Indonesia) and more than 15 different manufacturers."

## 'From outside CIS countries, Indians rank 3rd in number of business travellers to Russia'

NOTING THAT Indians rank highly among business travellers to Russia, the Russian authorities are now drawing up plans to tap this segment, especially in the wake of economic sanctions from the West post the war with Ukraine. Outside of the 12 Commonwealth of Independent States countries, a regional grouping of the former Soviet nations, Indians rank third in the number of business travellers, EVGENY KOZLOV, Chairman, The Moscow City Tourism Committee, told DIVYA A in an interview. Excerpts:

**Have the dynamics of business tourism to Russia changed over the past one year? In the post-conflict world, how has this panned out?**

Moscow is implementing many initiatives at once to increase its tourist attractiveness. This year, we brought the tourist flow to 90 per cent of what it was

before the pandemic. Almost one million foreign tourists came to Moscow in the first half of 2023. The leader in tourist traffic among non-CIS countries was China. Also in the top are Iran, the UAE, Turkey and India. Prior to the outbreak of the pandemic, there was an annual increase of 12-15 per cent in the number of tourists from India. We are now making strides towards recovery.

**What are the measures planned to ease the procedure of arrival and stay in Russia?**

More than 30,000 tourists have used the e-visa in the first month itself, since it was introduced on August 1. Indian tourists currently rank third in the number of business travellers from outside CIS countries.

**What is Moscow going to attract international business with? What are the countries**



THE EXPRESS  
INTERVIEW  
WITH  
EVGENY KOZLOV  
CHAIRMAN, THE MOSCOW CITY TOURISM COMMITTEE

**they would be focusing on at this juncture, even as most of Europe is out of picture in**

**terms of business/business tourism?**

We are focusing on developing business tourism by arranging business missions and preliminary visits to Moscow. The Moscow City Tourism Committee has organised eight business missions across eight nations, with over 70 companies from the UAE, India, and Iran participating. We are also implementing an online training and certification programme to promote Moscow as an attractive destination for business tourism. The city will host the Global MICE Congress on October 6, bringing together professionals from 14 countries, including India, China, Indonesia, and Malaysia.

**Was the event in Delhi a stand-alone effort with India in mind, or part of a series of such events globally?**

We place a certain emphasis on business tourism, which can

create a steady high flow of tourists to the city. We see India as one of the best. One of the goals of the event is to present Moscow to the international MICE community as an attractive place for organising business events of various sizes.

**Are there any specific practical issues that a tourist going to Russia currently might face?**

We are doing our best to establish cooperation with all India's states. Currently, there are 10 regular flights from Moscow to different cities in India. Of course, in the case of a significant increase in tourist traffic - both corporate and private travellers - more flights will be required. We expect that the mutual tourist flow between our countries will continue to grow. We feel the need to launch direct flights with other cities, primarily Mumbai, but also Kolkata, Bangalore and Chennai.

## Amid standoff after break-up, AIADMK, BJP keep restraint

ARUN JANARDHANAN  
CHENNAI, OCTOBER 4

DAYS AFTER the AIADMK's move to snap ties with the BJP, both the parties seem to have adopted a wait and watch policy in Tamil Nadu. While AIADMK chief Edappadi K Palaniswami or EPS remains unyielding over his party's decision to exit from the BJP-led NDA alliance, the two camps are displaying restraint too.

The two erstwhile allies are said to have chosen to steer clear of any public showdown until

December this year, which would mark the conclusion of a crucial round of state Assembly elections.

The outcome of four of these state polls - in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Telangana - is likely to be a crucial indicator of the BJP's standing and prospects on the national stage ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Highly-placed sources in the BJP have confirmed that the leadership has asked Tamil Nadu party chief K Annamalai to refrain from targeting the AIADMK for now.



Sources said BJP has told TN state chief Annamalai to pipe down; EPS says no channels open with BJP

Annamalai has been at the centre of discord between the AIADMK and the BJP, with a war

of words involving them over the former's critique of Dravidian stalwart C N Annadurai leading to their break-up.

On Wednesday, Annamalai, who returned to Chennai from Delhi, was diagnosed with a viral infection. A private hospital bulletin while confirming it also revealed the doctors' advice given to him: two weeks of bed rest.

While the meeting of the state BJP's district presidents will take place Thursday as per schedule without Annamalai's presence, his ongoing padayatra through all the constituencies in

the state would now resume from October 16 instead of October 6 as planned earlier.

Amid the standoff between the two parties, EPS is holding fast to his parting of ways with the BJP. The split, he said Wednesday, reflected the "sentiments of the AIADMK's vast cadre". "Let it be Amit Shah or Nadda, no one put forth any demands or troubled us," he said.

Addressing the party leaders and activists at Salem Monday, EPS highlighted their resolve to forge a "major alliance" without the BJP for the 2024 parliamentary elections.

Speaking to reporters Wednesday, EPS vehemently denied reports that the BJP and AIADMK were still engaged in talks. Maintaining that the AIADMK did not have a tie-up with the BJP any longer, he said Annamalai's statement that their alliance still existed might be his own wish.

"We have already clarified about our decision to exit from the BJP and NDA alliance. That was a unanimous decision taken by the AIADMK high-level meeting considering the sentiments of party cadres. Our decision is clear. And it has been announced

also. What is the point in asking again and again about an alliance with BJP?" EPS replied to repeated questions from media persons. "We will form a major alliance in 2024 and you will have to wait and see how big it will be," he added.

A senior AIADMK leader told The Indian Express that they will continue to make "fitting retort" to Annamalai's "confrontational statements" but would remain silent vis-a-vis the BJP national leadership. "We need not change our stand but we will wait and watch until December 2023," he said.

**CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**SMPS BASED IPS**  
 Advt. Tender Notice No. e-11/2023 dt. 04.10.2023. **E-Tender is invited by Dy. CMM (C) CSMT.** Details are as under: **Tender No. : 03235127.**  
**Description:** SMPS Based IPS. **City:** 20 Sets. **T.O.D.:** 31.10.2023. Details to be seen on website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)  
**AK-570**  
**DOWNLOAD UTS APP FOR TICKETS**

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED**  
**(See Section 82 Cr.Pc.)**  
 Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Pintu Kumar S/o Subhash Prasad, R/o E-32, Gali No.3, Sheelampur, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 235/2016 U/S 420 IPC PS Kotwali, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Pintu Kumar can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Pintu Kumar has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).  
 Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Pintu Kumar of FIR No. 235/2016 U/S 420 IPC PS Kotwali, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on 04.11.2023.  
**By Order**  
**Ms. Meena Chauhan,**  
 Metropolitan Magistrate-08,  
 DP/1149/N/2023 **Room No. 272, 2nd Floor, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi**

**SALUTE THE SOLDIER**  
**ASI Chandar Mani**  
 ITBP salutes its brave hearts ASI Chandar Mani of 27th Bn, who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty on this day in Chhattisgarh in 1916.  
**Resident of :** Vill- Durgapur, Distt.- Mandi, Himachal Pradesh  
**INDO-TIBETAN BORDER POLICE (ITBP)**

**MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF DELHI**  
**OFFICE OF THE EX. ENGINEER (PR)-II, CENTRAL ZONE UNDER SEWA NAGAR FLYOVER, NEW DELHI-110003**  
**PRESS NOTICE FOR NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
**FOR ONLINE TENDERING TIME TABLE PLEASE REFER https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app. NIT No.EE(Pr.-II)/CNZ/TC/2023-24/03 Date: 03-10-2023**  
**Name of Work :-** Remodeling and Construction of sludge drain from Rajasthani Pahlri on Shiv Mandir Road to Mehrauli Badarpur road via Shooting Range road in ward no. 169, 170 (old 83-S) Sangam Vihar, Central Zone.  
**Estimated Amount Rs.11,90,48,000/-, Tender Amt. Rs.10,90,38,217/-, Earnest Money Rs.23,80,960/-, Time of Completion 18 Months, Tender Cost Rs.5,900/-, H/A XL-VIII-H (ii) (AMRUT 2.0)**  
 Bidding Documents with detailed terms and condition can be downloaded from the website <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app>. **Last Date of Download/Purchase Tender Document 17.10.2023 upto 03:00 P.M. Closing of Bid 17.10.2023 at 03:00 P.M. opening of Financial Bid 17.10.23 03:05 P.M.** All details of Revision, Clarification, Corrigendum/Addendum, Time Extension etc., if any, respect of above tender(s) will be uploaded on MCD website <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app>. Bidders should regularly visit the website to keep themselves regularly updated in respect of these tenders. **Sd/- R.O. No.50/DPI/MCD/2023-24 E.E (Pr.-II)/Central Zone**

**S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER**  
**E-Tender Notice No. : e-Tender/2023/42.**  
 For and on behalf of President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), South Eastern Railway, Kharagpur-721301 invites e-tender for the following works before 15:00 hrs. on the date mentioned against items and will be opened at 15:30 hrs. **Sl. No., Tender No. & Description of work are as follows: (1) E-KGP-South-35-2023.** Construction of Flyover near Nidhipanda bridge (Br. No. 259) at Km. 222/8-10 in between Haldipada-Balasore section under jurisdiction of ADE/BL/S. **Tender Value : ₹ 12,37,98,800.56. Earnest Money : ₹ 7,69,000/- (2) E-KGP-WEST-29-2023.** Execution of new works, additions and alterations to the existing structures, special repair works, supply of building materials, subject to the value of each work not exceeding ₹ 5,00,000/- including all ordinary repairs and maintenance works from 01.07.2023 to 30.06.2025 in the section of KKQ (Ex)-CKU (Ex) under ADE/Jhargam, (2nd call). **Tender Value : ₹ 1,90,00,096.62. Earnest Money : ₹ 2,45,000/- (3) E-KGP-EAST-40-2023.** Execution of works of (1) Howrah-Kharagpur-TTR (FS+TWS+WCMS)-49 sets & TTR (DS) - 18 sets (2) Howrah-Santargachi Jn.-TTR (FS+CS+CMSC)-23 sets (1.8.5) (3) Kharagpur-Bhadrak-TSR (P)-2.81 Tkm & Bagnan-Balachak-TSR (P)-2.165 Tkm under the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/EAST/KGP. **Tender Value : ₹ 7,84,08,438/- Earnest Money : ₹ 5,42,100/- Cost of Tender Document : 0 for each. Date of Opening : 17.10.2023 for Sl. No. 1 & 19.10.2023 for Sl. No. 2 & 3 each. Completion period of the work : 9 months for Sl. No. 1, 24 months for Sl. No. 2 and 16 months for Sl. No. 3. Bidding Start Date: For Sl. No. 1 from 10.10.2023 and upto 15:00 hrs. on 17.10.2023 and for Sl. No. 2 to 3 from 05.10.2023 and upto 15:00 hrs. on 19.10.2023. Interested Tenderers may visit website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for full details/description/specification of the Tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these works will be accepted. **N.B. : Prospective Bidders may regularly visit [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) to participate in all tenders. (PR-663)****

**TENDER NOTICE**  
 Sealed tender are invited from Ex Servicemen and Spouses of War Windows/Windows of Defence Personnel by Commanding Officer, MCU, AF Sln Palam, Delhi Cantt-110010 for running of Unit Cafeteria. Interested individuals may collect tender from Unit Adjt at a cost of Rs.100/- from 05 Oct 23 to 16 Oct 23 between 0800 Hr to 1400 Hr Tender forms completed in all respect is to be deposited in Tender Box kept at Sub Guard Room, AF Sln Palam, Delhi Cantt-110010 between 16 Oct 23, 0900 Hr till 20 Oct 23 by 0900 Hr. Tender opening is scheduled on 20 Oct 23 at 0930 Hr. Queried if any will be entertained through email on [customs.mcu@nic.in](mailto:customs.mcu@nic.in)

**दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि०**  
**कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता**  
**विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, चित्रकूट**  
**अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना**  
 अद्योहस्ताक्षरकर्ता द्वारा निम्नलिखित विवरणानुसार दो भागों में दिनांक- 12/10/2023 को समय 18:00 बजे तक प्रेषित एवं योग्य दस्तावेजों/निविदापत्रों/अनुमति प्राप्त हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है एवं दिनांक - 13/10/2023 को समय- 13:00 बजे खोला जायेगा। विस्तृत जानकारी 3090 शासन की आधिकारिक ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है।  
**1. ई-निविदा विधि/प्रक्रिया संख्या - 36/S E / EDCKT/2023-24 : आपूर्ति - विद्युत वितरण खण्ड, चित्रकूट / रानापुर की सोमनाथन आगामी अनुरक्षण माह हेतु "प्रिवेन्टिव मेन्टेनेंस" कार्य हेतु एल्यूमीनियम लान, कॉपर एल पोल, विभिन्न प्रकार के टैप, विभिन्न साइज के फ्यूज वायर आदि सामग्री की आपूर्ति।**  
**ब्यांकर घनराशि - ₹ 2,00,00.00, निविदा शुल्क - ₹ 1180.00 (जीएसटीडीसी सहित)।**  
 एच संख्या- 997 / विधि.मं.चि/023-24/निविदा प्रकलन अधीक्षण अभियन्ता दिनांक- 04/10/2023 विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, चित्रकूट  
**"सूचना हेतु भविष्य बनाये, राष्ट्रहित में विजली बचाये"**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**OPEN-E-TENDER NOTICE**  
 No. 128-W/280/e-Tender Notice/NIT/47/2023-24/W-3 Dated : 03.10.2023  
 The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work:-  
**Name of work** Creation/Improvement of infrastructure of DLI loco outpit to cater the load of increased holding of NR due to homing of electric locos in Diesel sheds at Delhi Main Station in the section of SSE/WDL/Line under ADE/NDLI  
**Approx. Cost of work** Rs. 1,33,99,417.84/- (Rupees One Crore Thirty Three Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Four Hundred and Seventeen Rupees and Eighty Four paisa only)  
**Earnest Money to be deposited** Rs. 2,17,000/- (Two Lakh Seventeen Thousand Rupees)  
**Cost of tender document** Rs. 0.00/-  
**Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender** 27.10.2023 at 15:00 Hrs.  
**Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen** [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)  
 • The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for participating in the e-tender system. • For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. • No manual offers are acceptable. • Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.  
**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE** 3066/23

**BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION**  
**MADHYA PRADESH**  
 Shivaji Nagar, Bhopal-462011  
**No./1351/DATE/2023 Bhopal, Dated : 04.10.2023**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
 Online tenders are invited for Selection of Agency to Generate Secure Codes for previous years result data of the Board. The Tender document is available on <https://mptenders.gov.in> in detailed terms and conditions are mentioned in the tender document.  
**KEY DATES AND TIME**  
 To submit online tenders logon to <https://mptenders.gov.in>  
 Important dates for Online submission are :-  
 1. Tender Document available : 04.10.2023 at 5 : 00 P.M. on Portal  
 2. Download Tender document : 05.10.2023 upto 5:00 P.M.  
 3. Last date for submission of : 28.10.2023 upto 2:00 P.M. Online Bid  
 4. Technical Bid Opening : 30.10.2023 at 3:00 P.M.  
 5. Commercial Bid Opening : 01.11.2023 at 3:00 P.M.  
**M.P. Madhyam/112394/2023 SECRETARY**

**Purvanchal Vidyut Vitaran Nigam Limited**  
**Vidyut Vitaran Nigam, P.O.- BLW, Varanasi - 221004**  
**E-Tender Notice Corrigendum**  
 E-tender are invited for the following materials. The tender will be accepted upto at 15:00 hrs. Please visit website [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) for details/download and for any other corrections/ amendments/modifications / extensions till the date of submission of bids. **Date of Publication reference: 2585 Dt. 20.09.2023, Description of E-Tender: Short Term E-Tender Notice: Last date & Time for online Submission of tender document: 06.10.2023 15:00 Hrs., Description of E-Tender: Short Term E-Tender Notice: Date & Time for online opening of tender part-1: 07.10.2023 15:00 Hrs., Revised Description of E-Tender: Short Term E-Tender Notice: Last date & Time for online Submission of tender document: 12.10.2023 15:00 Hrs., Description of E-Tender: Short Term E-Tender Notice: Date & Time for online opening of tender part-1: 13.10.2023 15:00 Hrs., Sd/- SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (MM-I) "Save Electricity in the interest of Nation" फ़ॉक: 2616/ दिनांक: 03.10.2023**

**"IMPORTANT"**  
 Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE**  
 The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work:-  
**Name of Work** Repairs to green patches at 1st & 2nd entries & maintenance of lawns, flower pots & other horticulture work in the S/o SSE/WDL/Line under ADE/NDLI.  
**Approx. Cost of work** ₹94,92,442.01 (Rs. Ninety Four Lakh Ninety Two Thousand Four Hundred Forty Two and one Paisa only)  
**Earnest Money to be deposited** ₹1,89,900/- (Rs. One Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Only)  
**Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of Tender** 27.10.2023 at 15:00 Hrs. **Cost of tender document** ₹0.00  
**Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen** [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)  
 • The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for participating in the e-tender system. • For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. • No manual offers are acceptable. • Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.  
**No.: 128-W/280/e-Tender Notice/NIT/58/2023-24/W3 Dated : 03.10.2023 3069/2023**  
**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**TENDER NOTICE**  
**Re-Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement System)**  

S. N.	Tender Notice No. & Date	Name of work with its location	Approx. Cost of work	Amount of Earnest Money	Completion period of the work	Date & time for submission of tender & opening of tender
1.	32-W-BE-101-BE-ALJN DI 04.10.23	Removal of existing cracked and corroded trough plates and providing lateral bracings, gussets with rivets at Br. No. 101 (33x24.4m) at Kms 116/7 to 117/9 between BBA-RG stations on BE-ALJN section on MB Division under jurisdiction of SSE/BR/MB	Rs. 1,01,59,499.82	Rs. 2,00,800/-	(06) Six Months	Upto 15.00 hrs. on 27.10.2023 Opening of tender after 15.00 hrs. on same day

**Note:** Re-invitation of above tender is available on website, IREPS site i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) where complete details of Tender can be seen & downloaded. 3082/2023  
**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**योजना एवं विकास विभाग**  
**कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय**  
**स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन, कार्य प्रमण्डल-2 हिलसा (नालन्दा)**  
**निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या-03/SBD/2023-24**  
 (केवल ई-टेंडर पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर)  
 बिहार के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से बिहार राज्य के किसी भी कार्य विभाग/निगम/अन्य राज्य सरकार/केन्द्र सरकार/सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रम या राष्ट्रीय या अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्थायिक के किसी भी एजेंसी में समुचित श्रेणी में निबंधित संवेदकों से प्रशिक्षित दर निविदा दो बीड प्रणाली (तकनीकी एवं वित्तीय) अनर्गल आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। यदि संवेदक बिहार राज्य के किसी कार्य विभाग/निगम में पूर्व से निबंधित नहीं है, तब एकरारनामा के पूर्व निम्नलिखित कार्य का स्वीकार पत्र (लेटर ऑफ एक्सेप्टेंस) प्राप्त होने के बाद बिहार राज्य के किसी भी कार्य विभाग/निगम (जिसमें निबंधन की प्रक्रिया लागू हो) में निबंधन कराना अनिवार्य होगा।  
**1. कार्य की विवरणी :-**

**Government of Uttar Pradesh**  
**Directorate of Animal Husbandry, Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow-226007.**  
**No./Pur.Cell/E-Tender/Instruments(II)/2023-24, Dated: October, 2023**  
**E-TENDER INVITATION NOTICE**  
 Hereby online tenders through e-procurement system are invited for rate approval of "Veterinary Equipments/Machinerys & Instruments etc. for A.I., Surgical, Pathological, Laboratory & Hospital use" (As per Schedules of requirement of e-tender) under the Department of Animal Husbandry, U.P. (for the financial year 2023-24) from Sole manufacturers, possessing valid manufacturing license or registered as Small Scale Industry for production and having 05 years experience for production of quoted items. Original Authorized Supplier for those equipment for which the Sole Manufacturer does not do marketing itself. Tenderer should produce valid Manufacturing License, and ISO certificates. The Tenderer should have BIS/ISI Certificate for the items for which BIS/ISI mark is required. Only those Tenderer will be eligible to participate in tender whose turnover for last 03 years is not less than Rs. 5.00 crore each year. MSME/SSI units of U.P. are being exempted from turnover Condition & MSME/SSI units of U.P will be given purchase preference as per government policy. It is also to inform that only those tenderers who are registered for e-tendering (documentary proof for registration in U.P. Electronics Corporation Ltd., (UPLC), Lucknow is necessary to enclose/land having digital signatures in reference to this office memorandum No.3157/Pur.Cell/Kra.NI/E-pro/2016-17 dated 15-03-2017, shall be eligible to participate in e-tendering in Department of Animal Husbandry, U.P. Details regarding e-tender and tender form would be available on the departmental website [www.animalhusd.upscd.gov.in](http://www.animalhusd.upscd.gov.in) and U.P. Govt. e-Tender portal <http://etender.up.nic.in> within the stipulated period.

Particulars	Earnest Money (EMD) Rs.	Tender Documents cost Rs.
e-Tender for approval of rate of "Veterinary Equipments/Machinerys & Instruments etc. for A.I., Surgical, Pathological, Laboratory & Hospital use" for the financial year 2023-24 (As per Schedules of requirement of e-tender) under the Department of Animal Husbandry, U.P.	As per schedule of requirement Section III(B) of tender documents, for estimated value of the goods upto Rs. 1.00 lakh (one lakh) Rs. 1500.00 and for each additional Rs. 1.00 lakh and part there of Rs. 1000.00 as bid security.	Rs. 25000.00+ GST

Cost of Tender Form (Non-refundable) in shape of Demand Draft of any nationalized/scheduled bank in the name of Director, Administration & Development, Animal Husbandry, U.P., Lucknow and amount of Earnest Money in shape of Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR) of any nationalized/scheduled bank pledged in favour of Director, Disease Control & Farms, Animal Husbandry, U.P., Lucknow should compulsorily be deposited in the Directorate of Animal Husbandry, U.P., Badshahbag, Lucknow. The scanned copy of the Cost of Tender Form and e-Bid Security/EMD must be submitted along with the e-Bid and the original should reach to Director, Disease Control & Farms, Department of Animal Husbandry, U.P., Lucknow preferably on or before end date of submission of e-Bid but in any case, not later than 5 days after end date of submission of e-bid. Online e-bid should be submitted through U.P. Govt. e-Tender website <http://etender.up.nic.in>

The Scheduled dates and time for the Tender are:-  
 1- Availability of Online Tender Forms: Date 09-10-2023 from 04.00 PM  
 2- Start date of Online Tender Forms Submission: Date 09-10-2023 from 06.00 PM  
 3- Pre bid meeting: Date 16-10-2023 at 04.00 PM  
 4- Last Date/time for online submission of tender form: Date 30-10-2023 up to 12.00 PM  
 5- Opening of Online Tender Forms (Technical bids): Date 30-10-2023 at 03.00PM  
**UPID-195222 Date 03/10/2023 www.upgov.nic.in**  
**Director**  
**Disease Control & Farms**  
**Animal Husbandry, U.P., Lucknow**

**GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE**  

Sr. No.	Name of Board/Corp./Auth	Name of Work/Notice/Tender	Opening Date Closing Date (Time)	Amount/Ten (Approx.) in Rupees	Website of the Board/Corp./Auth	Nodal Officer/Contact Details/Email
1.	HSAMB PANCHKULA	PDG, HIGH MAST LIGHTING INSTALLATION, SERVICE LINE ALONG WITH STREET LIGHT IN NVM AT SONIPAT..	CLOSING DATE 13.10.2023	51.27 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	8882633384 xenelect2021. hsambpk@gmail.com

**21601/HRY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in)**

**GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE**  

Sr. No.	Name of Board/Corp./Auth	Name of Work/Notice/Tender	Opening Date Closing Date (Time)	Amount/Ten (Approx.) in Rupees	Website of the Board/Corp./Auth	Nodal Officer/Contact Details/Email
1.	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE BAWAL	CONST. OF 03 NOS. SHED IN SHAMASHAAN GHATA IN MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE BAWAL.	27.09.2023 06.10.2023	16.68 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	8901202433 secy.mc.bawal@gmail.com

**21624/HRY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in)**

Sl. No.	कार्य का नाम	परिमाण विवरण (लाख रु में)	अवधि की शर्त (लाख रु में)	परिमाण-विवरण का मूल्य (अवधि/वर्ष में)	बीडिंग शुल्क (अवधि/वर्ष में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि (माह में)
01	नालन्दा जिला अनर्गल हिलसा प्रखंड के अखाड़ी पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	295.23842	5.905	10,000.00	3,450.00	18
02	नालन्दा जिला अनर्गल कराय परसुराय प्रखंड के मोरुबिनास पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	295.73911	5.915	10,000.00	3,450.00	18
03	नालन्दा जिला अनर्गल नगरनौसा प्रखंड के अरियावाडी पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	296.54100	5.931	10,000.00	3,450.00	18
04	नालन्दा जिला अनर्गल चम्पडी प्रखंड के मंत्री पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	295.03332	5.901	10,000.00	3,450.00	18
05	नालन्दा जिला अनर्गल चम्पडी प्रखंड के माधोपुर पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	293.45925	5.870	10,000.00	3,450.00	18
06	नालन्दा जिला अनर्गल एकमरसराय प्रखंड के महामपुर जमुआवा पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	294.61697	5.893	10,000.00	3,450.00	18
07	नालन्दा जिला अनर्गल एकमरसराय प्रखंड के सोनियावाडी पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	296.09466	5.922	10,000.00	3,450.00	18
08	नालन्दा जिला अनर्गल एकमरसराय प्रखंड के अमनारखारा पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	295.10561	5.903	10,000.00	3,450.00	18
09	नालन्दा जिला अनर्गल इरसामपुर प्रखंड के रानीपुर पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	295.24039	5.905	10,000.00	3,450.00	18
10	नालन्दा जिला अनर्गल इरसामपुर प्रखंड के बेरवाक पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	295.99211	5.920	10,000.00	3,450.00	18
11	नालन्दा जिला अनर्गल इरसामपुर प्रखंड के कोरवा पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	292.61086	5.853	10,000.00	3,450.00	18

**Government of Maharashtra**  
**Forest Department**  
**Mumbai Mangrove Conservation Unit- Mumbai**  
 68/B, Kamgar nagar, Kurla (E), Mumbai - 400024.  
 Email- [dformcu@gmail.com](mailto:dformcu@gmail.com)  
**Parent Portal: <http://mahatenders.gov.in>**

**Tender Notice No. DFO/MMCU/06/2023-24**  
**ONLINE Tender Forms in B-1 Format, for the following work are invited by the Divisional Forest Officer, Mumbai Mangrove Conservation Unit, Mumbai. 68/B, Kamgar Nagar, Kurla (E), Mumbai - 400024 from the contractors registered with the Government of Maharashtra in appropriate class of Tender Notice.**  
**The blank tender documents should be downloaded from Government website <http://mahatenders.gov.in> from 06.10.2023 till 11.00 am to 30.10.2023 03.00 pm.** Blank Tender documents will not be sold by this office; interested contractors have to download tender documents from the website. For any queries in this regard the interested contractors can contact on telephone no. **022-25220097/35433101** during office hours.  
 All requisite information required for the submission of Bid Capacity documents is available on the above said website. If any assistance is required regarding e-Tendering (uploading/downloading) please contact NIC Help Desk number: **1800 3070 2232.**

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.)	Time limit for completion	Cost of Blank Tender Form (Non-Refundable)
1	Construction of RCC Protection Wall (2.55m Height) with 2.45 mm dia G.I Pipe (Rezan/concentric deleted ire 0.75mm dia) on Y-type angle and barbed wire fencing with seven rows of wire in survey no.80 (CTS No.06) at Mandale in TCFS Range in Mumbai Mangrove Conservation Unit.	83,57,901/-	83,579/- online net banking mode	3 Months	Rs. 1000/- + GST Online net banking mode.

1) No changes are to be made by the contractor in the tender documents published on the website. If any changes are made the tender documents will be rejected & action accordingly will be taken against the contractor. Information published on the government website will be final.  
 2) Right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason there of is reserved.  
**Sd/-**  
**Divisional Forest Officer,**  
**Mumbai Mangrove Conservation Unit.**  
**DGIPR-2023-24-3951**

**GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM**  
**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, PWD (BORDER ROADS & NEC WORKS), ASSAM, CHANDMARI, GUWAHATI-3**  
**No-CE/Maint/PR/2023-24/18**  
**PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
 The Chief Engineer P.W.D (Border Roads & NEC Works), Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3 on behalf of Governor of Assam invites rebids amounting to Rs.98.71 Lakh (approx) for the work Periodic Renewal of road from (1) Manikpur Nowagaon to Kokila Road constructed under PMGSY Package No-AS-0217 under Periodic Renewal of PMGSY works for the year 2023-24 in 1 (one) no of package in Bongaigaon Districts of Assam. Detail may be seen in the website <http://pmgsytendersasm.gov.in> and also in the office of the undersigned in the "Maintenance Cell" during office hours from **05.10.2023 to 19.10.2023.**  
**Chief Engineer, PWRD**  
**Border Roads & NEC Works**  
**Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3**  
**JANASANYOG/CF/2954/23/5-OCT-23**

**Govt. of NCT of Delhi**  
**Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board**  
**Vikas Kutir, I.P.Estate,**  
**New Delhi-110002**

**E-Auction Notice**  
 Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board re-invites online e-auction for allotment of open grounds designated as Chunks (as per list available on website) on temporary utilization for the purpose of organizing Marriage / Social Cultural / Religious functions, Fair / Fates, Exhibition and Cultural Event as per prescribed terms and conditions of agreement for a period of two years from the date of taking over of the possession subject to enhancement of bid amount by 10% after completion of one year.  
**DATE OF E-AUCTION**  
**03.11.2023 (Friday) from 11.00 AM to 02.00 PM**  
**Online registration starts :06.10.2023 (Friday)**  
**Last date for online registration/submission of mandatory documents with EMD is 23.10.2023 (Monday) upto 6:00 PM**  
 For further details of the sites and procedure kindly visit the e-auction website [www.tenderwizard.com/DUSIB](http://www.tenderwizard.com/DUSIB) or DUSIB website [www.delhishelterboard.in](http://www.delhishelterboard.in).  
**Sd/-**  
**Dy. Director (RP)**  
**(Mob. No.8826697456 )**  
**DIP/SHABDARTH/classified/0165/23-24**

## SEARCH FOR MISSING BOY



General public is hereby informed that one boy (depicted in the Photo) **Namely: Aditya Dilip S/o Sh. Dilip, R/o: 40 E, Pocket-A1, Mayur Vihar, Phase-3, New Delhi, Age: 17.5 Years, Height: 6', Complexion: White, ID Mark: Scars Mark behind the Head, Wearing: Light Blue color School Dress (Pant and Shirt), Missing Since 06.04.2022 from outside of Kerla, SMS Marg, Delhi under area of P.S. Tilak Marg, New Delhi.**

In this regard a **FIR No. 55/2022 Dated 06.04.2023** has been registered at P.S. Tilak Marg, New Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this boy but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this boy kindly inform to the following.

**E-Mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in**  
**Website: http://cbi.nic.in**  
**Ph. 011-24368639**  
**Fax: 011-24368638, 24368641**

## STORES E-PROCUREMENT

E-Procurement Tender Notice No. 33/2023; Dated: 29-09-2023. E-tenders are invited for the following work:- **SN. 1. Tender No. 04235245. Description: 50 Pair X 0.63mm dia armoured polythene jelly field cable. Tender Quantity: 5 Km. Tender Due date: 19-10-2023. NOTE:- For full details of Tender notice and tender Documents, Tenderer may log on to the website (www.ireps.gov.in) prospective bidder who intend to participate in above tenders are required to log in themselves with the above website and submit their offer electronically, if they are already registered with IREPS. In case they are not registered with IREPS, they are advised to obtain class-III Digital Signature Certificate from the certifying agencies under Govt. of India IT Act 2000 and participate in the above tender.**

**Principal Chief Materials Manager/ Con/Maligaon Northeast Frontier Railway (Construction Organisation) "Serving Customers with a smile"**

SR. NO	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	PWD B&R KARNAL	CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUS STAND AT VILLAGE SEVAH DISTT. PANIPAT (PGD. 100 KVA DG SET)	03.10.2023 11.10.2023	9.13 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01842265696 pwd-eeed-karnal@hry.nic.in
2	PWD B&R KARNAL	REPLACEMENT OF 1 NO. 8 PASSENGER AND 2 NO. 10 PASSENGER LIFTS IN MINI SECTT. BUILDING DISTT. KARNAL.	03.10.2023 23.10.2023	43.80 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01842265696 pwd-eeed-karnal@hry.nic.in
3	PWD B&R KARNAL	CONSTRUCTION OF 10 MTR. SHOOTING RANGE AT HISSI RAJ DISTT. SONIPAT (PGD. H/MAC WORKS)	03.10.2023 02.11.2023	186.06 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01842265696 pwd-eeed-karnal@hry.nic.in
4	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING SIRSA	BHAMBOOR:- PROV. AND LAYING OF RCC PIPE INLET CHANNEL 600MM DIA. CONST. OF U.G.R. 31.50X21.00X3.50M, PC 8.53X3.96, ROAD AND PATH, PUMPING MACHINERY, DG SET, TRANSFORMER, HEAD WORKS, RAW WATER RISING MAIN, STEEL TRUSS BRIDGE AND CONST. S/S TANK 130X40X5.5 M, WTP 1.00 MLD, RCC C.W.T. 10.25X7.00X2.5M-2 NOS., PC 15X5M-INO., BOUNDARY WALL - 520M, ROAD AND PATH, HEAD WORKS PIPE LINE, PUMPING MACHINERY, DG SET, DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM, FHTC-614 NOS. AT VILL. BHAMBOOR, CONST. OF B/STN. AT VILL. MOHADPUR SALARPUR, UGR 7.5X5.0X2.5M, PC 4.50X3.65M, B/WALL, ROAD AND PATH, HEAD WORKS PIPE, PUMPING MACHINERY, DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM, FHTC-254 NOS. CONST. OF B/STN. AT VILLAGE ALANOOR (NANAKPUR) CONST. OF UGR 7X5X2.5M, PC 4.50X3.65M, B/WALL, ROAD AND PATH, HEAD WORKS PIPE, PUMPING MACHINERY, DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AND FHTC-281 NOS. + 2 WORKS	29.09.2023 09.10.2023	1375.36 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01666221925 ee2sirsa@phedharyana.gov.in
5	PANCHAYATI RAJ FATEHABAD	BALIYALA- CONSTRUCTION OF SWM SHED AT VILLAGE BALIYALA, BLOCK RATIA, DISTT. FATEHABAD, + 2 WORKS	29.09.2023 10.10.2023	13.33 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01667230855 preseeng_fb@hry.nic.in
6	PANCHAYATI RAJ FATEHABAD	PIRTHALA - CONST. OF IPB FIRNI FROM SANIYANA TOHANA ROAD TO THARYI ROAD AND SANIYANA TOHANA ROAD TO STADIUM BLOCK TOHANA DISTT. FATEHABAD	29.09.2023 20.10.2023	130.45 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01667230855 preseeng_fb@hry.nic.in
7	PANCHAYATI RAJ FARIDABAD	PAVEMENT OF STREET WITH IPB AT VILLAGE KHRI GUJARAN BLOCK FARIDABAD DISTRICT FARIDABAD GP 20 + 2 WORKS	30.09.2023 06.10.2023	38.97 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0129-4313645 preseeng_fdb@hry.nic.in
8	PANCHAYATI RAJ SONIPAT	CONSTRUCTION OF BALMIKI CHAUPAL AT VILLAGE AURANGABAD BLOCK RAI UNDER VAGY SCHEME (CM CODE 25284) + 3 WORKS	CLOSING DATE 11.10.2023	46.53 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	sdopra4@gmail.com 9416468685
9	PANCHAYATI RAJ SONIPAT	COMPLETION OF GENERAL CHAUPAL DAHIYA PANA AT VILLAGE BHADANA BLOCK SONIPAT. + 5 WORKS	29.09.2023 10.10.2023	39.78 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9996001199 vijaypal2315@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in)

**ANDHRA PRADESH POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LIMITED**  
**Tender Notice**  
**ap e-Procurement Notification**  
Notice Inviting Tenders NIT No. 01/CE/Civil/Supply/SGS/CP/AGP/2023-24. APGENCO invites tenders for "APGENCO-Polavaram HEP(12x80MW) - Construction of Road Bridge on Downstream side of Power House across Tail Race Channel" through AP E Procurement platform (<https://tenders.approcurement.gov.in>) ECV is Rs.20,30,42,320/-, Schedule Available date & Time 11-10-2023, 10:00AM. Visit [www.apgenco.gov.in](http://www.apgenco.gov.in) for further details. RD No. 2392PP/CL/ADVT/11/2021-22

**Telangana State Technology Services Ltd., HACA Bhavan, Hyderabad-500063, Telangana**  
**Tender No. - LT.No.TSTS/CS/CP/2023**  
TSTS on behalf of The Commissioner, Printing, Stationary & Stores Purchase Department, Chanchalguda, Hyderabad issues OCB tender call notice inviting proposals from reputed suppliers for Supply, Installation & Maintenance of  
1. Sheet Fed Offset Machine 20"x30" - Single Colour  
2. Plate Exposer - Auto System Dual Vacuum-30"x40"  
3. Wire Stitching Machines  
4. Hand Numbering Machines (6 digits)  
5. Hand Numbering Machines (7 digits)  
**Bid Closing Date: 09-10-2023 @03.00pm on procurement Portal**  
For details please visit [www.tsts.telangana.gov.in](http://www.tsts.telangana.gov.in), <https://tender.telangana.gov.in>  
R.O. No. : 7691-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2023-24 SD/- Managing Director

**NATIONAL FERTILIZERS LIMITED**  
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)  
GOHANA ROAD, PANIPAT-132106 (HARYANA)  
**NOTICE FOR PREQUALIFICATION**  
Ref. No.: NFP/MPC/Prequalification/2023-26 Date: 05.10.2023  
Applications are invited for pre-qualification of parties for various mechanical works at NFL, Panipat for a period of three years (2023-26) last date of submission of application is extended to 25.10.2023 till 3.00 PM. Applications received after closing date will be considered during next review of prequalification. For further details, visit our website [www.nationalfertilizers.com](http://www.nationalfertilizers.com) and CPP portal [www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in) DGM (Mechanical & Civil)  
@NFL\_Kisan @nationalfertilizers National Fertilizers Limited

**Bihar Agricultural University Sabour, Bhagalpur- 813210 (Bihar)**  
**E-tender No. 13 & 14 NOTICE date :.04.10.23**  
E-tenders are invited from registered and reputed manufacturers/agencies/firms/companies/suppliers for the "Supply of Liquid Nitrogen Plant/ Machinery & its installation and other Equipments like Apochromatic Stereo Zoom Microscope with Imagine Facility, Compound Microscope upgradable to integrated imagine system and Routine Stero Zoom Microscope. Details are available on [www.bausabour.ac.in](http://www.bausabour.ac.in) and [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)  
Sd/- O/I, Central Store  
BAU, Sabour, Bhagalpur

**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH PUNE**  
(An Autonomous Institution of Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)  
Dr. Homi Bhabha Road, Pune-411008. Website: [www.iiserpune.ac.in](http://www.iiserpune.ac.in)  
**NOTICE**  
IISER Pune is in process of Upgradation of 500MHz Bruker NMR Spectrometer from M/s Bruker Switzerland AG on proprietary basis. If any other Agency is manufacturing these, the same may be intimated to IISER Pune within 15 days on publication of this Advertisement on email ID [purchase@iiserpune.ac.in](mailto:purchase@iiserpune.ac.in). However, no correspondence shall be entertained in this regard after the stipulated time limit and all rights in respect of procurement are reserved with Director IISER Pune, whose decision in this matter shall be final and binding upon whomsoever it may concern.  
Advt. No. IISER/S&P/09/23-24 Dated 04/10/2023 Director

**WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**"EMANELMENT OF ADVERTISING AGENCIES"**  
No.-WCR/HQ/PR/2023/Advt. Agencies Date 04.10.2023  
Applications are invited from **INS accredited advertising agencies** for emanelment with West Central Railway for Public Relations works. Application form can be downloaded from <https://wcr.indianrailways.gov.in> from 05.10.2023 to 27.10.2023 or can be obtained from the office of the Chief Public Relations Officer, West Central Railway, Jabalpur M.P.-482001 on any working day from 09.30 hrs to 17.00 hrs from 05.10.2023 up to 26.10.2023 on payment of Rs. 5900 (Rs. 5,000/- + 18% GST Rs. 900/-) in cash (non-refundable). Application must reach the above address by 11.00 hrs on 27.10.2023 after which application will not be accepted. Detailed information is also available on W.C. Railway website <https://wcr.indianrailways.gov.in>.  
Chief Public Relations Officer, Jabalpur

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE**  
The Sr. Divisional Engineer-I/III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work:  
1 Name of work Reconditioning of Points and Kings & SEJs in the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN-III/DLI.  
2 Approx. cost of work ₹ 89,98,279.66/- (Rupees Eighty Nine Lakhs Ninety Eight Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Nine and Sixty Six paise only)  
3 Earnest Money to be deposited ₹ 1,80,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Eighty Thousand only)  
4 Cost of tender document ₹ 0.00/-  
5 Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender 27.10.2023 at 15:00 Hrs.  
6 Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)  
7 Allocation 04-200-32  
The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for participating in the e-tender system. For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. No manual offers are acceptable. Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only. No. 128-W/280/E-Tender Notice/NIT/55/2023-24/W-3 Dated:- 29.09.2023 3067/2023  
**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE**  
The Sr. Divisional Engineer-I/III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work:  
1 Name of work Repair/Improvement to drainage & sewer-line of circulating area, Running Room & GRP Transit at Delhi Station and Repair to flooring, boundary wall, pipe line & miscellaneous work at Ranney well & maintenance of pipe line from ranney well to Delhi Main Stn. In the section of SSE/W/DLI Stn. under ADEN/DLI  
2 Approx. cost of work : Rs. 1,86,96,376.21/- (Rupees One Crore Eighty Six Lakhs Ninety Six Thousand Three Hundred and Seventy Six Rupees and Twenty one paise only)  
3 Earnest Money to be deposited : Rs. 2,43,500/- (Two Lakh Forty Three Thousand Five Hundred Rupees)  
4 Cost of tender document : Rs. 0.00/-  
5 Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender : 27.10.2023 at 15:00 Hrs.  
6 Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen : [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)  
7 Allocation : 04-500-32  
The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for participating in the e-tender system. For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. No manual offers are acceptable. Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only. No. 128-W/280/E-Tender Notice/NIT/57/2023-24/W-3 Dated:- 03.10.2023 3068/23  
**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that one girl **Namely: Suniti, D/o: Balbir, R/o: Anil Yadav Ka Makan, H.No. 1137, Gali No.8, Near Radha Krishna Mandir, Kapashera, Delhi, Age: 17 Years 06 Months, Height: 5'0", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Wearing: Brown Colour Suit, Blue Colour Pajama, Dharidar Dupatta and Hawai Slippers in feet, has been missing/kidnapped since 16.08.2023 from her House. In this regard **FIR No. 387/2023, Dated 16.08.2023, U/s 363 IPC** has been registered at P.S.: Kapashera, New Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing/kidnapped girl. Please inform to the following.  
**SHO Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 Website: http://cbi.nic.in P. S.: Kapashera, New Delhi Ph.: 011-25063758, 25066105, E-Mail ID: cbc@cbi.gov.in Fax: 011-24368639 DP/9710/SW/2023 7065036226, 9718241856**

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of **male Age : 30 years, Height : 1.65 Mtr., Face: Oval, Complexion : Wheatish, Identification: Raju** written on left hand, wearing light blue colour lower, was found dead on 18.09.2023 at Ambedkar Nagar Park, Tigri, Delhi. In this regard **DD No. 45-A dated 18.09.2023** has been lodged at P.S. Tigri, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved for identification for 72 hours in the mortuary of AIIMS Hospital, New Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.  
**SHO - P.S. Tigri, Delhi Tel. No.: 09868988607, 07065569304 DP/11177/SD/23**

**UJVN LIMITED**  
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006  
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508  
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: [www.ujvnl.com](http://www.ujvnl.com)  
पत्रक सं. 953 दिनांक 03.10.2023  
**Tender Notice**  
Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil-I), UJVN Limited, Srikot-Srinagar, Garhwal invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:-  
Tender No.: 10/EE (Civil-I)/Srikot/2023-24  
Name of work: Annual maintenance and upkeep of UJVNL office/filled hostel at Srikot Srinagar in District Pauri Garhwal.  
Estimated Cost: Rs 6.43 Lakh (Plus GST extra)  
Date of availability of bid document on website: 04.10.2023 from 17:00 Hrs onwards  
Last date for submission of Tender: 27.10.2023 up to 16:00 Hrs  
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvnl.com"  
Executive Engineer (Civil-I)  
"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

## GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RUARAL WORKS DEPARTMENT

**E-PROCUREMENT PRESS NOTICE PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA**  
NIT No: EE/RWD/LML/NIT/PMGSY-III/41/2023-24 Dated: 06/10/2023  
The Executive Engineer/DPIU, Rural Works Division Lumla, Tawang District, on behalf of the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh invites item rate bids in electronic tendering system from approved and eligible contractors registered with CPWD/APPWD/BRO/MES/Railways/Other State Government under appropriate class for 5 (Five) nos. of packages for PMGSY-III Road Works in the district of Tawang. Details 2023-24. Details i.e. Name of works, Tender cost, bid security & other particulars can be viewed in the SBD available for download from [www.pmgstyendersarn.gov.in](http://www.pmgstyendersarn.gov.in) between 09/10/2022 (1100 hrs.) to 28/10/2022 (1600 hrs.)  
Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement is 28/10/2023 upto 1600 hrs.  
Sd/- (Executive Engineer/DPIU) Rural Works Division Lumla, Tawang District  
DIPR/ARN/8580-82/23

## POLICE HEADQUARTERS, CHHATTISGARH, ATAL NAGAR, NAVA RAIPUR (1ST CALL)

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
Raipur, Dated : -30/09/2023  
Sealed tenders are being invited by the Director General of Police, Chhattisgarh on behalf of Governor of Chhattisgarh from manufacturers (OEM) or authorized firm of manufacturer (only one firm) for the following item -  
Sl. No. Name of Item Qty. (No.) EMD in Rs.  
1 Satellite based Personal Tracker 45 33,750/-  
Note - Quantity will be variable.  
The tender offer in the prescribed tender form along with all the relevant documents sealed and completed in all the respect, must be submitted as per the schedule below -  
**SCHEDULE FOR TENDER**  
a) Address for submission of Tender Document:- Block No. 4, Ground Floor, SIB, Police Headquarters Sector 19, Nava Raipur.  
b) Last Date and Time of Submission of Bids 02/11/2023 till 03:00 pm  
c) Place, Time and Date of opening Technical Bid:- Block No. 1, Room No. 105, Police Headquarters, Sector 19 Nava Raipur, Chhattisgarh 02/11/2023 at 4:00 pm  
d) Place, Time and Date of opening Financial Bid :- Shall be intimated later.  
e) Date till which the Bid to remain valid 180 days from the scheduled date of submission of the Bid. The validity period will be extended with mutual consent.  
Note:- 1. In case of tender opening date being declared as holiday, tenders will be opened on next working day. 2. Tender documents can be downloaded from our website [www.cgpolice.gov.in](http://www.cgpolice.gov.in) and at the time of submission of document tender fee of Rs. 3000/- will be paid in the form of DD of State Bank of India/Scheduled Bank (other than Cooperative Bank) payable at Raipur in favor of Director General of Police, Chhattisgarh, Atal Nagar Raipur Or State Govt. Challan of Rs. 3000/- to be deposited in the Head of Ac/-0055-Police-800- other receipt. Tender fee is non refundable and can't be exempted in any condition. 3. Modification/Amendments/Corrigendum, if any shall not be advertised in the news paper but shall be published in the aforesaid web site only and the time of submission of bid will also be extended if required. 4. If any bidder sends tender documents through Courier/Speed post, the tender documents will be accepted till 03:00 pm on 02/11/2023 at Block no.4, Ground floor SIB Police Headquarters, Sector 19, Nava Raipur only. Received tender documents in any other address at PHQ on stipulated date and time, will not be accepted.  
Sd/- I.G. of Police (SIB) For-Director General of Police

**उ.प्र. आवास एवं विकास परिषद**  
कार्यालय अजितक अभियान, सिंग कूलर कॉम्प्लेक्स, गुरु नानक रोड, बंगला, दिल्ली-110044, सेक्टर-4, नया रायपुर, गाजियाबाद, उत्तर प्रदेश  
पत्र सं. 834 / M-6ED-II / 63 दिनांक: 04.10.2023  
**अत्यकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना**  
अहोरात्रिकी द्वारा मच्छला विहार योजना, गाजियाबाद में सेक्टर-2 में विस्थापित (किसान) के भूखण्डों में वायु विद्युतीकरण (अप्टर ग्राउण्ड सिस्टम) के कार्य हेतु अर्ह श्रेणी में परिषद में फंजीकृत फर्मों से टेंडरिंग प्रक्रिया पर अत्यकालीन ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है, जो कि डबल बिड प्रणाली के अन्तर्गत ई-प्रोक्वेस्ट सिस्टम द्वारा दिनांक 20.10.2023 को खोली जायेगी। शेष नियम व वृत्त परिषद की वेबसाइट [www.upavp.com](http://www.upavp.com) एवं एनआईसीओ की वेबसाइट <http://tender.up.nic.in> तथा अतिरिक्त अभियान, विद्युत खण्ड-दिल्ली, उच्च आवास एवं विकास परिषद, कंसुआ, गाजियाबाद के कार्यालय में देखी जा सकती है।  
**अपीलन अभियान (वि/वि)**

**नियम 92 (1) (क) (ii) ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना का प्रारूप**  
मध्यप्रदेश शासन, नगर पालिका निगम, ग्वालियर  
दिनांक : 03/10/2023  
//निविदा सूचना// दिनांक : 03-10-2023  
जनसंकेत RO क्रमांक 696  
मिनटिकृत कार्य हेतु केम्पिड प्रणाली में फंजीकृत टेण्डरों से ऑनलाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा का विवरण निम्न वेबसाइट <http://gmc.mptenders.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।  
क्र. सं. टेंडर क्र./ जारी दिनांक कार्य का नाम कार्य की सम्पत्ता एवं लागत निविदा प्रक व ई.ए.के. निविदा की अंतिम तिथि  
1 2023\_UAD\_312398\_1 27.09.2023 वार्ड 62 सुरों से हीरामन का पुरा तक डामरीकरण रोड निर्माण कार्य। 180 लि 1,63,23,690/- 12500/- 81618/- 27.10.2023  
नोट : निविदा सम्बंधित किसी भी प्रकार में संशोधन का प्रस्ताव ऑन लाइन <http://gmc.mptenders.gov.in> की वेबसाइट पर ही किया जायेगा। पत्रक से सम्बन्धित सभी प्रश्नों का उत्तर ऑन लाइन <http://gmc.mptenders.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है। कार्यपालन यंत्री, नगर निगम, ग्वालियर

**Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University, Lucknow**  
(A State University established under U.P. Act no. 28 of 2005)  
Sector-D-1, LDA Colony, Kanpur Road Scheme, Lucknow  
**Tender Notice**  
Sealed tenders are invited for the following supply in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University, Lucknow:-  
• Empanelment of vendors for supply of Books etc.  
• Empanelment of vendors for supply of Journals/ Periodicals on Subscription  
Tender document, Terms & Conditions and other details may be downloaded from University website <http://www.mlnlu.ac.in> from 05.10.2023. The last date of the submission of tender is 20.10.2023 till 5:00 PM.  
**REGISTRAR**

**UJVN LIMITED**  
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006  
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508  
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: [www.ujvnl.com](http://www.ujvnl.com)  
Letter No: 960 E-Tender Notice Date: 04/10/2023  
Office of the Executive Engineer (Maint.), Chibro Power Station, invites online bids from interested parties.  
(1) E-Tender No: CH(Maint.)-23/2023-24 Procurement of various Fasteners for 60 MW machines of Chibro Power Station  
(2) E-Tender No: CH(Maint.)-24/2023-24 Replacement of 01 No 9000 LPM VT Dewatering Pump with motor at Chibro Power Station  
(3) E-Tender No: CH(Maint.)-25/2023-24 Supply of Self Lubricating Guide Vane Bushes (Top, Middle & Pivot Ring) of 60 MW Machine at Chibro  
Estimated cost- 1) ₹ 4,33,356.2/ ₹ 21,51,500.3/ ₹ 29,50,920 (GST extra)  
Date of availability of bid document on website- 07.10.2023, 11:30 hrs.  
Last date for submission of bid on website- 28.10.2023, 12:00 hrs.  
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal "http://uktenders.gov.in" (Executive Engineer, Maint., Chibro)  
"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

## "IMPORTANT"

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**कार्यालय मुख्य कार्यपालन अधिकारी**  
छत्तीसगढ़ आरोग्य चिकित्सा शिक्षण एवं अनुसंधान स्वशासी समिति/  
स्व. श्री लखीराम अग्रवाल स्मृति शासकीय चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, रायगढ़ (छ.ग.)  
Bendrachuwa, Raigarh, Chattisgarh, Ph. 07762-215619 E-mail-[gmcrailgarh.2013@gmail.com](mailto:gmcrailgarh.2013@gmail.com)  
क्रमांक/चिकि.महा./क्रय/2023-24/9407 रायगढ़, दिनांक 29.09.2023  
**ई-निविदा सूचना**  
स्व. श्री लखीराम अग्रवाल स्मृति, शासकीय चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय रायगढ़ (छ.ग.) के अधीनस्थ विभिन्न विभागों के लिए **Hand Instruments** क्रय करने जाने के संबंध में दर अनुबंध (Rate Contract) करने हेतु ई-टेंडर के माध्यम से इच्छुक फर्म/प्रदायकर्ता/डिलर/निर्माता कंपनी से खुली ई-निविदा आमंत्रित किया जाता है।  
निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क-रु. 2000/- (रु. दो हजार मात्र)  
अमानत राशि (EMD) निम्नानुसार देय होगा  
के नाम से प्रस्तुत EMD का प्रकार अमानत राशि (EMD) रु. में  
Chhatishgarh Arogya Chikitsa Shiksha Avam Anusandhan Samiti, Raigarh (C.G.) Demand Draft (DD) Hand Instruments के लिए रु. 45,000/-  
निविदा प्रपत्र तिथि दिनांक 05/10/2023 समय 10:00 AM से  
वेबसाइट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in/> के माध्यम से दिनांक 04/11/2023 समय 11:59 AM के पूर्व  
ई-निविदा प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि  
दस्तावेजों की हार्ड कॉपी जमा करने का अंतिम तिथि एवं समय दिनांक 06/11/2023 समय 03:00 PM के पूर्व  
निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय दिनांक 06/11/2023 समय 04:00 PM  
निविदा के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए महाविद्यालय के वेबसाइट [www.gmcrailgarh.edu.in](http://www.gmcrailgarh.edu.in) में अवलोकन कर सकते हैं। निविदा शुल्क की राशि 2,000/- वापसी योग्य नहीं है।  
स्व./  
मुख्य कार्यपालन अधिकारी  
छ.आ.चि.सि एवं अनुसंधान स्वशासी समिति  
स्व. श्री लखीराम अग्रवाल स्मृति शास. चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, रायगढ़ (छ.ग.)  
05898

## GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DEPARTMENT OF ARCHEOLOGY NAGPUR DIVISION INVITING NOTICE

The Assistant Director Of Archaeology, Directorate of Archaeology and Museums Nagpur Division (Phone No. 0712-2561187, Email-nagpurada0712@gmail.com) invite E-Tender for the following works form eligible experienced Contractor firms for following works.  
Sr. No. Name Of Work Tender ID Last Date Amount  
1 Restoration and Conservation Work For Kaal Bhairav Temple, Nagara, Dist. Gondia 2023\_TCADM\_949883\_1 Date : 03.10.2023 TO 10.10.2023 61,81,948/-  
2 Restoration and Conservation Work For Vishnu Temple, Manikgad, Dist. Chandrapur 2023\_TCADM\_949893\_1 Date : 03.10.2023 TO 17.10.2023 2,47,56,418/-  
The details of E-tender Displayed on website of <http://mahatenders.gov.in>  
Assistant Director of Archaeology, Directorate of Archaeology Nagpur Division reverses the right to select or reject any all tenders and to increase/decrease terms & conditions. The bidder or an person will have no right ask why the tenders is accepted/rejected.  
sd /- (Amol Gore) Assistant Director Department of Archaeology Nagpur



## The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY  
RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

# A fraught border crossing

BJP's politicisation of diaspora, drawing it into diplomacy and domestic politics, is a double-edged sword



SANJAYA BARU

RECENT EVENTS PERTAINING to pro-Khalistan activists in Western countries once again bring into focus the diabolical role of some overseas Indian groups working in tandem with various anti-India elements. This is a manageable challenge for the Indian State, even when caught on the wrong foot. One must, however, distinguish between the threat posed by such anti-India elements and the challenge posed by the growing political activism of overseas Indians, both in host and home countries. The latter draws attention to the complex nature of the political relationship between India and its worldwide diaspora.

The growing political engagement of overseas Indians in host and home country politics has become a challenge for Indian diplomacy. Political elements in the Indian diaspora critical of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's politics are one side of the same coin that the Bharatiya Janata Party tries to encash through overseas Indians. Drawing the diaspora into both diplomacy and domestic politics can cut both ways.

By mobilising overseas Indians every time Prime Minister Modi travels abroad, encouraging them to cheer "Modi! Modi! Modi!", and drawing them into domestic political campaigning in India, the BJP has helped politicise the diaspora. So, if in London, New York, Houston and across the world pro-Modi groups are shown on Indian television, those politically opposed to his leadership also seek media visibility. The PM's highly personalised style of diplomacy and its use in domestic politics has blurred the distinction between the diaspora's loyalty to the motherland and support for an individual politician.

The ruling dispensation in New Delhi would know that it, in fact, took the first step in the political mobilisation of the diaspora. If the BJP ensured publicity at home for pro-Modi groups overseas, others have sought publicity for not just anti-Modi groups but also anti-India elements. Sections of the Indian media have played along with the BJP and interpret every criticism of the PM as criticism of the country. This trend has created great concern in countries that host the Indian diaspora. Many of them have begun to keep a close watch on political activists among overseas

Indians for fear that Indian political rivalries could spill into their own domestic politics or derail diplomatic relations.

Interestingly, the leadership of the Indian national movement was fully alive to the political challenge that free India could face from the political activism of the diaspora. After all, in 1947, anti-colonial movements were spreading across the British Empire and other European colonies, inspired by India's example and achievement. In most British colonies, overseas Indians were active in such movements. What relationship should India, the mother country, maintain with its diaspora under such circumstances? This question exercised the minds of the national leadership.

In an essay on 'India and Its Diaspora' (Indian Foreign Affairs Journal, Oct-Dec 2006), diplomat Niranjan Desai recorded three strands of thinking within the leadership of the national movement on the potential relationship between overseas Indians and the home country. Persons like the Aga Khan and Sir Pherozshah Mehta were in favour of India retaining a close relationship with British imperial territories worldwide and using them as destinations for Indians. They hoped that an over-populated India could relieve itself of this burden by continuing to encourage Indians to settle overseas.

A second group, comprising Tej Bahadur Sapru, G A Natesan, V S Srinivasa Sastri and Purshottamdas Thakurdas went a step further. They asserted the rights of migrant populations and demanded equality of status and treatment of overseas Indians along with native populations across the British empire. As subjects of the empire, the group believed, both migrants and natives deserved equal status irrespective of national and ethnic origin. They, therefore, advocated that the government of free India be proactive in securing the rights of overseas Indians in their host countries.

However, Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru disagreed with all of them. Describing theirs as a "humanitarian" view, Desai notes that both Gandhi and Nehru wished that in overseas British territories, Indian communities should eventually merge with the native population and integrate with the host country. They should not retain any "dual loyalty" between home and host coun-

try. Nehru would often remind overseas Indians that they should seek to integrate themselves into their host countries, securing for themselves all the rights of citizenship of their host country.

This concern was based on the fact that during the freedom struggle, the Indian National Congress had branches and activists around the world who campaigned for India's freedom from colonial rule. From V K Krishna Menon to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, important political leaders campaigned for India's freedom from abroad. Nehru was keen that independent India should draw a line between domestic politics and the politics of overseas Indians. He told the Lok Sabha in 1947, "Our interest in them (overseas Indians) becomes cultural and humanitarian and not political." This view, expressed in the context of British territories, would be relevant today for the entire Indian diaspora. Once overseas Indians become citizens of other countries, they should cease to be involved in the politics of the motherland.

The BJP has, in recent years, taken a different view, increasingly mobilising overseas Indians for political gain at home. In doing so it may have contributed to the politicisation of the diaspora and its greater involvement in Indian politics. By blurring the distinction between religion and politics the BJP has also contributed to the politicisation of what was essentially social and cultural activity of overseas Indians. That this has had an impact on India's diplomatic relations with nations hosting overseas Indian communities should not have come as a surprise to those well aware of the possibility.

Some diaspora politicians seem to be willing to play along with this. British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has worshipped cows in England and ensured high visibility to a temple visit in New Delhi ostensibly to woo Hindu votes in England and the friendship of rulers in New Delhi. This mixing of religion and politics, of politics and diplomacy and of the identity of a nation with an individual is a dangerous cocktail that does not serve India's relations with the world.

The writer was advisor to former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh

## THE MORNING KNOCK

Case related to NewsClick's funding must take its course but UAPA, seizing devices, is brazen short-circuiting of due process

THIS IS HOW Delhi Police on Tuesday, at the end of a day-long search, seizure and questioning at more than 50 locations across the National Capital Region and Mumbai linked to NewsClick, framed it: "A total of 37 male suspects have been questioned... 09 female suspects have been questioned..." The language used for describing those linked to the news portal, including journalists, employees, even contributors, may be police speak. But what it spelt out was chilling: The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act has been invoked against the news portal, whose editor-in-chief Prabir Purkayastha and head of human resources Amit Chakravarty were also arrested Tuesday. And its ominous shadow hangs over many more. This is guilt presumed by association — it raises grave questions about press freedom, a crucial part of the citizens' fundamental right to know. Moreover, seizing a citizen's laptop and phone breaches several constitutionally guaranteed rights. The chronology of the case against NewsClick — it faces allegations of receiving illegal funding from China, routed through the United States — underlines apprehensions of Police-ED being weaponised and a draconian law being deployed to intimidate a media organisation.

An FIR was filed by the Economic Offences Wing of the police in August 2020 for alleged violation of FDI norms and other laws; the ED searched premises linked to NewsClick in February 2021; the Delhi High Court directed the ED not to take any coercive action against the outfit in June 2021. That protection was subsequently extended by the court — the matter is listed for hearing on October 9. Invoking the UAPA and the police action Tuesday is a flagrant attempt to cut through due process, and escape the checks built into it for protecting freedoms against a transgressing state. There are other disturbing straws in the wind. The high court felt compelled to note, more than once, that a copy of the Enforcement Case Information Report was not provided to NewsClick. In August 2021, the court asked why custodial interrogation was required in the case. And on Tuesday, more than one of the journalists questioned by the police said that they were asked about the coverage of Delhi riots, anti-CAA protests and farmers' agitation — politically contentious issues, all, on which the government has questions to answer.

While the case related to NewsClick's funding must take its course, it must do so by giving primacy to due process. The state should not brazenly wrest more power to circumvent restraints under a stringent law that, in this matter, is clearly uncalled-for — in which the general principles of criminal law are reversed, timelines are relaxed for filing chargesheets and bail is immensely more difficult. In April, in the MediaOne case, a bench headed by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, powerfully underlined why "national security claims cannot be made out of thin air," and how the state using national security as a "tool" to deny citizens remedies is not compatible with the rule of law. The bench also flagged why the protection of critical views is vital to the health of the press. These words need to be recalled, those lines need to be redrawn. In a constitutional democracy, they are vital for the protection of fundamental freedoms of individuals and institutions — when the state comes knocking on the door, at midnight or, as in this case, early morning.

## UNDOING REFORM

Governments should not be guided by short-term political gains from proposed shift to a lower but assured pension scheme

THE DEMAND FOR returning to the old pension scheme is gaining traction. Several states such as Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Punjab and Himachal have already announced a shift back to the OPS. In April, the Union finance ministry had formed a committee headed by Finance Secretary TV Somanathan to look into the issue of pensions. The committee will consider if any changes are needed to the NPS framework to improve pensionary benefits while ensuring fiscal prudence. Now, as per a report in this paper, a new proposal has been put forth by some states.

Under this proposal, states have sought an assured pension that is linked to the minimum level of pay, not the last drawn salary, as it stood under the old pension scheme. So while this does involve a lower pension, it is assured. In comparison, under OPS, a defined benefit scheme, government employees would receive 50 per cent of their last drawn salary as pension, while under the NPS, contributions are defined, not benefits. Another model, earlier reported on in this paper, talked about combining elements of the old pension scheme and the new pension scheme — under this framework, there was both a "defined contribution" by employees, and "defined benefits". Considering the electoral cycle, there is a possibility of some sort of adjustment being made which defines the contributions of employees, and also their benefits. After all, political considerations could well overpower economic logic. However, any such structure which seeks to provide assured returns, even if they are lower than those under the OPS, could be moving backwards. The burden of fulfilling any "defined benefit" will fall on governments.

The difference between OPS and NPS is stark. According to a recent study by the RBI, the burden of switching back would be roughly 4.5 times that of the NPS, "with the additional burden reaching 0.9 per cent of GDP annually by 2060". Allocations towards pensions already account for a significant share of both central and state government expenditure. As of March 2023, NPS had 23.8 lakh central government subscribers, and 60.7 lakh state government subscribers. A return to defined benefits, in whatever form, could thus have adverse fiscal implications for governments. It would leave less space for more productive forms of spending. Governments must resist the temptation of short-term fiscal and political gains, and take into consideration the long-term implications of their policies.

## ROTI CANAI, ROTI PRATA

One is No 1, the other No 12, on a list of best breads. What the ranking misses is the complex history that links them

IS ROTI CANAI the best bread in the world? The recent rankings by Taste Atlas, the global food catalogue and review website, places the popular Malaysian street food in the top spot, followed by Colombia's pan de bono, India's butter garlic naan, Iran's nan-e-Barbari and Ecuador's pan de yuca. While fans of the southeast Asian nation's diverse, cosmopolitan cuisine have welcomed the ranking, there has predictably been some grumbling from devotees of the breads that didn't make it to the top spots.

One way to respond to any ranking that seeks to create a hierarchy of cuisines and dishes is to laugh it off. To take seriously what is clearly designed to be attention bait is to walk willingly into an internet slugfest. And yet, there is some value in such lists, which often bring little known dishes to wider global attention: The Taste Atlas ranking, for example, is notable for not featuring any of the obvious selections — the baguettes, focaccias and sourdoughs of Europe — in the top five, giving space instead to breads from places not usually known for them.

The real problem, however, is that lists and rankings focus on the differences between the foods of different nations, rather than the complex histories that link them. For example, the origins of roti canai and Singapore's roti prata, ranked No 12, both unleavened, layered breads made of refined flour, were shaped by colonialism and the migrations of labour that it engendered. There is certainly a link between the two, as there is between them and the South Indian parotta and, further back in history, perhaps with certain West Asian unleavened breads — and maybe even the scallion pancakes that were originally made by Uighurs in what is today China's Xinjiang province. Can any ranking do justice to this rich history?

## GANDHI ON CAMERA

His life was intimately documented, much of it by his own design



VANDANA KALRA

ON JANUARY 30, 1948, when Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated at a prayer meeting at Birla House in Delhi, there were no photographers to capture the fateful moment. French photographic icon Henri Cartier-Bresson had paid him a visit just 90 minutes earlier, and photojournalist Homai Vyarawalla had set out on her bicycle to cover the meeting but turned back. It was a regret that would stay with both photographers.

One of the 20th century's most photographed figures, Gandhi's life was intimately documented, much of it according to his desire and design. Realising the universal language of images, he used it carefully as a means to an end — if it helped further the cause of independence, he was willing to make his private life as accessible as his public outings. In fact, according to some accounts, an additional photo opportunity was intentional when three days after making salt at Dandi in violation of British law, Gandhi collected salt granules again at a public meeting in Bhimrad on April 9, 1930. With his son Manilal and activist Mithuben Petit standing behind him, this became one of the iconic photographs associated with the march.

Gandhi was still in South Africa when his life began to be documented in pictures, first as a practising lawyer, and later, as a proponent of Satyagraha fighting to repeal the Black Act that restricted the entry of Indians into the province of Transvaal. A photograph from 1914 shows the young leader dressed in

white, mourning the death of Indian strikers killed during a police firing in South Africa. When he returned to India at the behest of social activist Gopal Krishna Gokhale, the camera followed him from the moment he disembarked with his wife Kasturba at Apollo Bunder in Bombay in January 1915.

In the following years, he allowed a chronicling of his life and work in pictures. For a brief period, he reportedly kept track of his internationally published photographs and news mentions through agencies. In his later years, he would also charge Rs 5 for autographs to generate money for the underprivileged.

What began as a more formal relationship with the camera transitioned into a relatively intimate approach by the 1930s. Swiss photojournalist Walter Bosshard recalls a conversation with the leader in his book 'Indien kämpft!' (1931), where Gandhi told him that he had sworn never to pose for a photographer again and Bosshard could try his luck by just being around him. The resulting set of prints reveal an unguarded Gandhi — shaving, reading the newspaper, spinning the charkha, sleeping, and relishing onion soup.

The most privileged among the many local and international photographers who documented his life was, perhaps, his grand-nephew Kanu, who shadowed the leader until his death. He wasn't present at Birla House on that fateful day on the instructions of Gandhi, who had asked him to continue to work in

Noakhali in East Bengal. Still a teenager when he joined the staff at Sevagram ashram in the mid-1930s, Kanu had the unique privilege of being able to focus his Rolleiflex lens on his grand-uncle at any hour. The only rules that needed abidance were no flash or asking Gandhi to pose, and that the ashram would not fund his photography. He became Gandhi's photo-biographer of sorts who recorded the quotidian moments and momentous events, including Gandhi's 1940 visit to Santiniketan to meet Rabindranath Tagore.

An opportunity to be able to film Gandhi more closely was no guarantee even for those considered mavericks. In 1946, when American photographer Margaret Bourke-White wanted to photograph the Mahatma spinning his charkha, she was advised to first learn to spin the wheel herself. She was possibly the last journalist to interview Gandhi hours before his assassination. Among the questions she asked him was whether he still desired to live till the age of 125 years, which he had earlier said was the full span of life. Gandhi replied, "I have lost that hope because of the terrible happenings in the world. I don't want to live in darkness."

Gandhi left in that moment of darkness, but as the Father of the Nation he was to live in public memory forever — through his ideas, philosophy and the photographs that immortalised him.

vandana.kalra@expressindia.com

## OCTOBER 5, 1983, FORTY YEARS AGO

### US ARMS SUPPLY TO PAK

PRIME MINISTER INDIRA Gandhi warned against a growing atmosphere of conflict and violence in India's neighbourhood. She said the US move to supply to Pakistan yet more sophisticated weapons "is a matter of concern" to every individual and the nation as a whole. She was asked to comment on the assurance of the US Secretary of Defence Casper Weinberger to President Zia-ul-Haq.

### BIHARI VAJPAYEE AND CHARAN SINGH TO PERSUADE THEM TO END THE BOYCOTT OF THE SRINAGAR OPPOSITION CONCLAVE. BUT NDA SOURCES INDICATED THAT THERE WAS NO LIKELIHOOD OF THE LEADERS CHANGING THEIR STAND. PATNAIK WAS SENT AS AN EMISSARY OF FAROOQ ABDULLAH WHO MADE YET ANOTHER BID ON THE EVE OF THE CONCLAVE TO SECURE THE PARTICIPATION OF THE BJP AND LOK DAL LEADERS.

THE UNION GOVERNMENT is considering a proposal to set up a public sector wages commission — a move that will have far-reaching implications for public sector units. The proposal has been mooted to bring uniformity in

the wage structure of the public sector units and also prevent competitive wage increases.

### OPPOSITION CONCLAVE

JANATA PARTY LEADER Biju Patnaik met the National Democratic Alliance leaders Atal

### CHINA'S INVITE

CHINA HAS RENEWED its invitation to External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao to pay an official visit to Beijing. The Chinese Foreign Minister, Wo Xue Qian, renewed the invitation during a 35-minute meeting with Rao in New York. His predecessor, Huang Hua had invited Rao last year. Both leaders expressed the hope that talks between the two countries at the officials' level to be held in New Delhi from October 24 would lead to progress on the boundary question.



# 13 THE IDEAS PAGE

## Caged parrots & universities

If by academic freedom we mean the unfettered pursuit of knowledge, a society must ensure that the universities are guaranteed free spaces



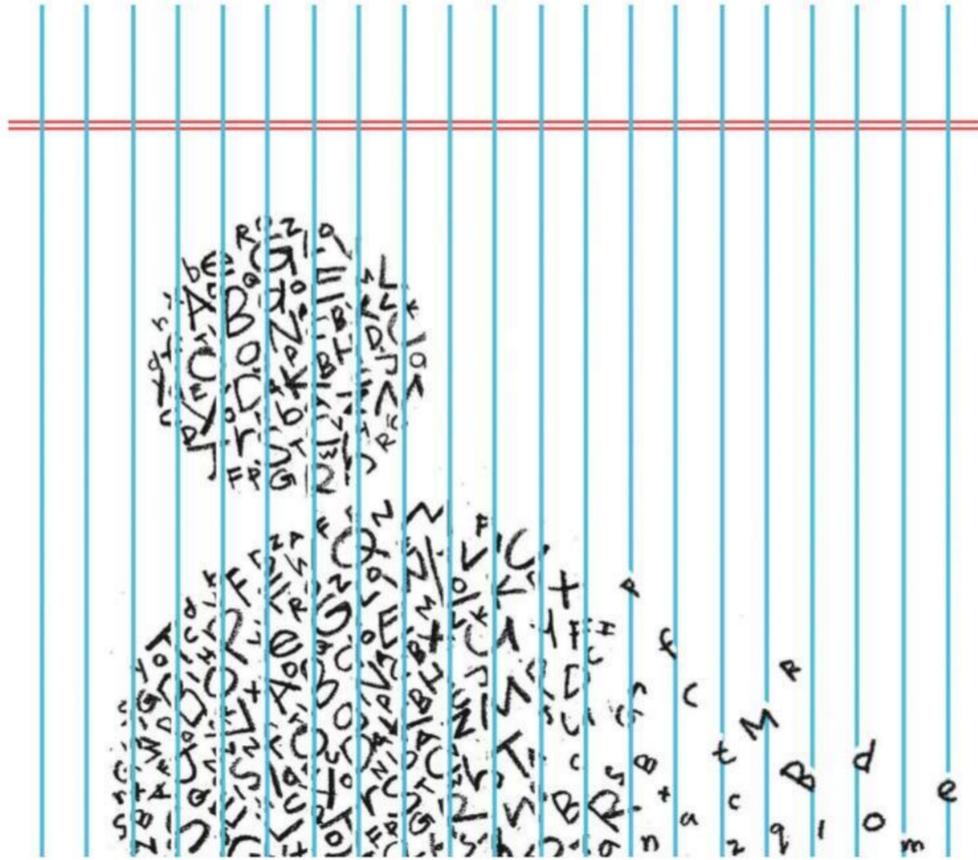
PULAPRE BALAKRISHNAN

RECENT WEEKS HAVE seen a heated debate on academic freedom in India's universities. In the English-language press, the view that appears to have prevailed is that there is none, having been snuffed out through political interference. What the view is among speakers of the Indian languages we cannot say, but it would be important for us to know, as this is a matter of national importance. The debate itself is timely though, as we have witnessed an unprecedented expansion in the university sector, to be understood as including all institutions of higher learning and research. Data from UNESCO show India to be the country in which public spending per student in higher education in relation to that in primary schools is the highest. Public policy in India has privileged higher education for decades now. Whether this was justified when schooling was woefully under-provisioned is not a question that can be brushed aside. But I shall overlook this to focus on the question whether academic freedom is so necessary to India's universities.

Academic freedom is, at times, confused with free speech when actually the issues at stake can be different. Arguably, there should be reasonable restrictions on free speech, excluding from its ambit hate, violation of privacy, defamation, spreading misinformation and threats to national security. Of course, the breaching of national security is not to be confused with the charge of "sedition", which in India has, conveniently for the state, been interpreted as fomenting disaffection against the government of the day. As the question of academic freedom arises in the context of the pursuit of knowledge, it would be difficult to argue for any kind of restriction being placed on it. Hate speech, spreading lies and jeopardising national security cannot be construed as the pursuit of knowledge. Of course, grey areas do have a habit of intruding upon us unexpectedly but this does not weaken the commitment to the principle of academic freedom.

The recent debate on academic freedom in India has focused exclusively on its status in the newly established private universities, many of which identify themselves as universities for the "liberal arts", understood as subjects other than medicine, engineering, law and accountancy, also termed "the professions". From this has followed the rhetorical question whether the liberal arts can be engaged in without academic freedom. However, such a framing misses the point of why we have universities at all, irrespective of what subjects they teach. The university is to be understood as an entity devoted to the pursuit of knowledge, and freedom is central to this exercise, whatever the body of knowledge or "discipline".

Historically, some of the major battles won in the cause of advancement of knowledge took place in the field of the natural sciences, though these did not always play out in universities. We may think of the response to the ideas propounded



CR Sasikumar

by the astronomer Galileo Galilei or of the biologist Charles Darwin. Both faced strong opposition from religious forces in their societies, the former quite menacingly. Though perhaps less overarching in its implications, a recent instance of a scientist facing the wrath of the state appeared in the field of epidemiology. Jay Bhattacharya of the Stanford Medical School had, in an academic paper written in 2020, queried the efficacy of lockdowns implemented during COVID-19. Angered, the US government tried to block his access to social media to argue his case. A legal battle ensued, and the US courts ruled against the government's attempt to curb free speech, implicitly upholding the scientist's right to propagate his research findings. Significantly, his university did not disown him while it was on.

The inconvenient truth is that universities without academic freedom need not fail. There are, after all, areas of an economy where critical thinking may not be so central to performance as an understanding of the technology once operations have been routinised and protocols exist for all actions. Now, only commercial considerations are relevant. Think of the function of managing other people's money by investing in the stock market. Here, the task is not to uncover the functioning of the world, often not even of the economy, but to merely figure out the stock that is likely to be the most attractive to the other punters. When engaged in the task of producing a work force for deployment in routine tasks in the economy, universities are unlikely to encounter too many issues related to aca-

ademic freedom. In fact, as the professions make up a large part of the economy, universities can coast along without so much as giving a thought to it. Their continuity is assured. But we also create universities to imagine our common future. This task requires facing the question of how much of what we find today is inevitable and how much of it needs and can be changed. It is inextricably tied to a critique of present arrangements, involving scrutiny of the special interests in society, represented by religion, business and political parties. It would be impossible to craft a vision of the future without doing this, an exercise that is bound to rub vested interests the wrong way. So, in India, we cannot avoid asking the question whether we want to produce techno drones performing routine tasks or worldly philosophers imagining a better future for humankind. Drones and philosophers, representing mindsets, exist across all disciplines.

Unless they are convinced that the present is the best of all possible worlds, academics must engage in the task of envisioning a better future. If by academic freedom we mean the unfettered pursuit of knowledge, a society must ensure that the universities are guaranteed it. One can think of universities as having been set up by society to hold up a mirror to it. I have already mentioned how much India spends on its public universities. To set them up at public expense and turn them into caged parrots would count as a perverse logic.

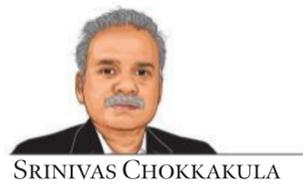
The writer is an economist

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Azerbaijani authorities promised 'sustainable reintegration' of Karabakh Armenians in society, which should be supported by confidence-building measures... Armenian and Azerbaijani leaders are due to meet soon; hopefully the framework of a permanent peace deal can emerge..." — DAWN, PAKISTAN

## Drawing lines in Cauvery waters

Resolution of dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu can pave the way for addressing interstate river water conflicts



SRINIVAS CHOKKAKULA

THE CAUVERY DISPUTE has flared up again, the first time after 2018 when the Supreme Court (SC) re-adjudicated the dispute after a tribunal gave its award. The Court also directed the creation of the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) to implement the decision. Has it helped? If it has, how? If not, what are the policymaking lessons?

The current round of contestation began when Tamil Nadu approached the apex court in August, seeking directions to Karnataka to release Cauvery waters at the rate of 24,000 cusecs towards its due share. Karnataka contested it stating unfavourable rainfall. Eventually, the directions to Karnataka last week, asking it to begin release at the rate of 3,000 cusecs, led to widespread protests in the state. The Bengaluru Bandh on September 26, and the statewide bandh on September 29 led to the arrest of hundreds of persons, several cancelled flights and a halted economy.

Though the dispute spans a couple of centuries, it has had frequent flare-ups since the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) began adjudicating in 1990. There have been several episodes of escalation, invariably during distress years.

These episodes often lead to civic unrest and violence, in addition to causing significant economic losses. According to the ASSOCHAM, the previous flare-up in 2016 had caused a loss of Rs 25,000 crore to Karnataka alone. The 2016 episode had also turned into an unseemly national spectacle with the two states haggling almost every day for the release of Cauvery waters.

The Supreme Court's landmark order in December that year asserted its appellate jurisdiction over the dispute — its eventual decision in 2018 modified the CWDT award. If the two states and the nation could find a modus vivendi, it would offer useful lessons for addressing these challenges. This year's flareup is a first after these decisions of the Supreme Court.

A key difference between the earlier escalations and the current one is the positive impact of CWMA. The authority is the first permanent interstate institutional mechanism of its kind to be created to resolve adversarial positions on river water disputes amongst states since 1980 — when Section 6A of the Interstate River Water Disputes Act 1956 (IRWDA) was inserted through an amendment to empower the Centre to constitute a mechanism to implement tribunal awards. Section 6A was used to create the other permanent mechanism, the Narmada Control Authority (NCA). The Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal could achieve a consensus among the party states for constituting the NCA. In contrast, the CWMA emerges from the adversarial proceedings of the Supreme Court's 2018 Cauvery decision.

The CWMA, assisted by its technical arm, the Cauvery Water Regulatory

Committee (CWRC), has been coordinating the implementation of the Cauvery decision. This year's distress conditions are putting this mechanism to the test. Given the sequence of events so far, observers agree that the CWMA made a perceptible difference. The existence of a formal interstate coordination mechanism helped in reducing the scale and intensity of escalation. On earlier occasions, the politically and emotionally charged posturing and brinkmanship had accentuated problems, and not offered solutions. While political equations and configurations matter, the CWMA as a dedicated institutional avenue for objective exchange and deliberation appears to have made an impact.

It may be premature to pronounce the mechanism a success. However, it is an opportunity to recognise the critical importance of interstate institutional mechanisms in river-water disputes and reflect on how to sort them out. There are at least two reasons for this. One, episodes of escalation bust the myth of a permanent resolution of interstate river water disputes. The emerging understanding is that the binaries of conflict and cooperation are no longer valid. In a transboundary water-sharing context, conflict and cooperation coexist. We must supplement legal adjudication with institutional responses that sustain cooperation and mitigate conflict. Two, we need to reflect on how institutions like the CWMA can be improved, depending on the way this episode pans out. We have models like the NCA that evolved out of consensus and the CWMA that was created on Supreme Court directives. A renewed emphasis on consensus building may be needed.

The second policy shift that is being tested is that around the SC's unprecedented assertion of its appellate jurisdiction over interstate river water disputes, and the eventual re-adjudication of the dispute. The episode proves that the Court's adjudication made no difference. Disputes recur and escalate, irrespective of whether adjudicated by the Court or a tribunal. We must accept the nature of interstate river water disputes and acknowledge the wisdom of constitution framers in this respect. Article 262 bars the jurisdiction of courts over interstate river water disputes. Using this provision, the Interstate River Water Disputes Act 1956 bars the jurisdiction of the courts, including that of the Supreme Court.

The Court's decision of 2016 contradicts a long history of its own decisions. In more than 40 decisions, extending to those of Constitution Review Benches, the Court consistently maintained that it had no jurisdiction over interstate river water disputes. Yet, in 2016, it insisted on its appellate jurisdiction and took it upon itself to re-adjudicate the dispute. It did so with an apparent hope that states would comply if the decision were to come from the apex court.

This episode of escalation proves the contrary and may even lead to an embarrassing debunking of the whole rationale. This is a moment of reckoning not only for the Court but also for the amendment to the Interstates River Water Disputes Act which is under Parliament's consideration.

The writer is with the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi. Views are personal

## Women's bill, through our travels

We learnt that women's empowerment is inevitable, won't be denied



HUGH AND COLLEEN GANTZER

We knew it would happen. Before we became travel writers, one of us had been the Judge Advocate of the Southern Naval Command. We brought that legal discipline into our travel writing. When we travelled, we recorded our first impression as they do in courts in the examination-in-chief. When we got home we researched those impressions as the defence does in the cross-examination and in the examination of its expert witnesses. We then analysed all this before we arrived at a conclusion.

This system led us to believe that though societies accept the fundamental role women play in birth, childbearing, home building and problem sharing with other women, which is the basis of civilisation, men have consistently refused to acknowledge this, insisting on the importance of their muscle power. But as society evolves from muscle power to mechanical power to automation and the beginning of artificial intelligence, the predominant role of men diminished. It is significant that in Scandinavian societies, which provide the most cradle-to-grave protection for their citizens, women play a significant role in civic affairs. This was brought home to us when we toured Finland.

In our five decades of travelling around many nations and visiting every state and

Union Territory in our land, we have used the same method of recording, researching and analysing. You don't need to have a doctorate in Social Psychology or Political Science when you can access papers written by experts. Such research has led us in many fascinating directions. Thanks to this system, we got an insight into the might of feminine power when we started our careers in Kerala. There, the martial community of Nairs had invented the ancestor of all Asian martial arts — Kalarippayat. In Nair society, inheritance is through the maternal line and their logic for this is very simple: The fact that you are born from your mother. This is a matter of evidence. But who was responsible for fertilising the egg that became you, is a matter of faith.

The mother is, therefore, the cement of all human society. This basic fact is recognised by the four ancient Indian religions: Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, Bon and their various clones. Significantly, the word for power is also the word for femininity — shakti.

The mystery of conception and birth has always surrounded women with a certain magical aura. One of the most ancient religious idols 25,000 to 30,000 years old is the Venus of Willendorf. It depicts a female figure with her feminine characteristics exaggerated. Such features show the special rev-

erence that primitive humans felt for the female. Males had the muscle, women had the means to add to human society. This gave women a special authority over their tribes. The island of Minicoy in Lakshadweep has a largely Muslim population. And yet unlike the hyper male society of the Taliban, it has a special civic body composed entirely of women. Similarly, when we toured the Muslim nation of Turkey, our guide was a young woman who smoked and mixed freely with her male colleagues. Turkish society follows the Islamic faith but prides itself on the equality of its sexes.

When we were in Manipur, on a commission from the Union Ministry of Tourism, we learnt that one of the traditions of that state was its unique Women's Market, which reportedly started in the 16th century. It hosts 5,000 to 6,000 women vendors who have to be either married or divorced. They sell a variety of products ranging from food items to handicrafts. Vendors have the right to pass on their membership of the market to any eligible members of their family. A single generation in a family is generally taken as 25 years, or four times in a century. This would mean that families have been associated with each other in the market for 20 generations. Is it likely then, that relationships

with fellow vendors established over 20 generations could be broken as easily as they were during the brutal attack by the males of one ethnic and sectarian group on the females of another?

We have seen such inhuman acts of depravity occurring during the Partition of our land but when people are uprooted from their beloved homes, emotions can run high. What deep dark emotions were generated in Manipur to cause the horrors that a certain section of women were subjected to? If 20 generations of Manipuri women have traded together in the unique Women's Market, who or what caused this sudden, and vicious curdling of generations of sisterhood? We have no answers and no one has provided any.

Surprisingly, this very hurtful issue has not featured prominently in our civic debate. The rape of a woman in Delhi rocked the nation. The public humiliation of rape and reported death of many women in Manipur have not caused the national outrage that they should have. How, and why has this happened?

When the power of the female vote improves in Parliament, we shall hopefully get a clear answer to this deeply troubling question.

Hugh and Colleen Gantzer are travel writers

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### ECONOMIC HEALTH

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Revenue uptick' (IE, October 4). The recent report on the central government's finances seems positive. It reveals that tax collections have been growing well, even surpassing expectations. This is good news because it means the government has more money to manage its expenses. The World Bank projects India's growth at 6.3 per cent against RBI's 5.9 per cent. We must keep an eye on economic changes to get a clearer picture of the government's financial health.

Arpita Chowdhury, New Delhi

### MALDIVES ELECTION

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Stakes in Male' (IE, October 4). Mohamed Muizzu won the presidential election on the promise that he will end foreign military presence in the country. He will be closely observed by his supporters on how well he lives up to his words. But while in office, his administration will have to be more pragmatic, there's no zero-sum game in international diplomacy, and taking sides will only restrict their options further. Muizzu will have come out of the shadow of his mentor Abdulla Yameen, to be able to deliver on his other poll promises.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Barasat

### FOCUS ON R&D

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'The mRNA promise' (IE, October 4). The mRNA vaccine offers hope for diseases such as tuberculosis, which has had no effective vaccine since 1921. India has emerged as the world's vaccine pharmacy with a repository of vaccines against typhoid, hepatitis, rotavirus, rabies and many and having supplied vaccines to 100 countries during Covid. But we have never invested much in R&D as India's focus has always been on technology transfers and tie-ups to make cost-effective vaccines. After Covid, India has hopefully learnt that it has to invest more now in R&D.

Devendra Awasthi, Lucknow

Sanjay Chopra, Mohali

# 14 CLASSIFIEDS & TENDERS

## Classifieds

### PERSONAL

**I, Sarthak Singh S/o Sh. Rajendra Kumar Singh R/O J-163, Sector-41, Noida, Disst-G.B. Nagar, U.P.- 201301** have changed my name to **Sarthak Singh** for all future purposes.

0040692137-1

**I, hitherto known as KAMINI D/O TEJ PAL SINGH R/O 1211, ADARSH COLONY, ARTHALA, MOHAN NAGAR, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-201007** have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as **KAVYA**

0070866804-1

**I, Yogesh Kumar S/o Shiv Charan Dass R/O House No. 1-B, 2nd Floor Block-A, Rama Road, Adarsh Nagar, North West Delhi, Delhi-110033,** have changed my name to **Yogesh Kumar Sharma**

0070866843-1

**I, Yesh Pal R/O D-1/112, New Kondli, Delhi-110096** have changed my minor daughter's name from **Harshita** to **Harshita Gautam** for all the purposes whatsoever.

0070866810-1

**I, Arjun Singh S/O Raghbir, R/O RZ-127, Nihal Vihar, Near 500 Gaj Gurudawara, Nangloi, West Delhi-110041.** I have changed the name of my minor son **Saksham** aged about 14 Years and He shall hereafter be known as **Saksham Diwaker**

0070866840-1

**I, Y SUJATHA KUMARI, W/O PAIDI RAJU YANDAMURI,** resident of, H.No.-Shona 07/103(Tejas-Enclave), Vayusena-Vatika, Air Force-Station-Road, Gurgaon, Haryana-122003, have changed my Name, from Y SUJATHA KUMARI to SUJATHA KUMARI PALURU, vide-Affidavit dated-3.10.2023.

0040692106-8

**I, Wardha Shakeel Khan, w/o Saad Ullah Khan, residing at 300-B, Okhla, Jamia Nagar, Near MCD School, New Delhi-110025,** hereby notify that I have officially changed my name **Wardha Shakeel Ahmad Khan** to **Wardha Shakeel Khan** for all purposes.

0040692027-1

**I, Vinod Kumar S/O Meer Singh R/O H.No-40, Mamura, Sector-66, Noida U.P.- 201301,** have changed my minor son's name from **KAMESH MASOTIA** to **KAVYANSH SINGH** for all future purposes.

0070866822-1

**I, Vinod Kumar S/O Meer Singh R/O H.No-40, Mamura, Sector-66, Noida U.P.- 201301,** have changed my minor son's name from **KANISHK MASOTIA** to **KANISHK SINGH** for all future purposes.

0070866829-1

**I, Vijay Kumar S/o Banarsi Das R/O M-336A Sector -23 Sanjay Nagar Ghaziabad -201002** Have changed Name from Vijay Kumar Sachdeva to Vijay Kumar for all future purposes.

0040692037-1

**I, Sushma Devi, w/o Akshay Kumar Upadhaya R/O J-69, Sector-22, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Noida, UP-201301,** have changed my name to **Sushma Upadhaya** for all purposes.

0040692047-1

**I, Sushama Gautam W/O Yudhishtir Gautam R/O 209 Block-B Gulmohar Avenue Sector-46 Noida** have changed my name to **Sushma Gautam** for all purposes, henceforth I will be known by the name of **Sushma Gautam.**

0070866842-1

**I, Shivkumari Jaysawal w/o Santram Jaiswal r/o 19/152, Sarai Rohilla, old rohtak road, Delhi-35** have changed my name to **Shivkumari Jaiswal** for all purposes.

0040692074-1

**I, SUNINA KOUL, W/O VIJAY KUMAR RAINA, R/O PLOT NO C-295, FLAT NO UG-4, SHALIMAR GARDEN, EXTENSION-2, SAHIBABAD, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-201005.** Have changed my name to **SUNAINA RAINA** for all future purposes.

0070866845-1

**I, Ranjana Sahni W/O, Dharamvir Sawhney R/o D-13a/23 Model Town 2 New Delhi-110009** have changed my name to **Ranjana Sawhney** for all purposes.

0040692112-1

**I, Zaid Mohammad S/o Mohammad Shahid R/o-3176 Kucha, Tara Chand Darya Ganj Delhi-110002,** have changed my name to **Mohd Zaid**

0040692105-5

**I, Nawal Kishor Gupta S/O Late Shri Buddha Lal Vijay R/O H.No.325A, Block-K, Street No.4, Mahipalpur New Delhi-110037,** declare that name of my father has been wrongly written in passport as **Late shri Buddha Lal Vijay** The actual name of my father is **Shri Buddha Lal Gupta,** which may be amended accordingly.

0070866825-1

**I, NOOR JAHAN ALAM, w/o MOHAMMAD SHAFI ALAM, ADD:1045,SECTOR-8, R.K.PURAM, NEW DELHI-110022,** changed my name to **NOORJEHAN.**

0040692106-4

**I, Mohd Naim S/o Salimuddin R/O 1969, Kucha Foulad Khan, Delhi-110002,** have changed my name to **Naimuddin,** for all purposes.

0040692020-1

**I, Mahesh Chand Sanwal, S/O Tara Dutt Sanwal, R/O C1003, 9th Floor, Celebrity Heights, Supertech Icon, Nyaykhand-1, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad-201014,** have changed my name to **Mahesh Sanwal.**

0040692111-6

**I, Jyoti Gupta W/o Rajat Kansal R/O B-1585, 1st Avenue Gaur City-1, Noida Extension, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201009,** have changed my name to **Jyoti Kansal** for all future purposes.

0040692030-2

**I, Bandana Rani W/O Rakesh Ranjan R/O 1703 Tower 3 Panchsheel Wellington, Crossing Republik, Ghaziabad-201016** UP have changed my name to **Vandana Rani**

0070866819-1

**I, HARI OM KUSHWAHA S/O LATE SHRI BAJRANG LAL, R/O E-6 ADHYAPAK NAGAR, NANGLOI, NEW DELHI-110041,** that in school record my Daughter name in mentioned as **CHAVI** instead of **CHAVI KUSHWAHA.** do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that **CHAVI** and **CHAVI KUSHWAHA** is one and the same person i.e. my name and finally consider my name as **CHAVI KUSHWAHA** for all Purposes.

0040692042-1

**I, G JAYASRI, D/O MR. GOPALAKRISHNAN, R/O 10 SELVA VINAYAGAR KOVIL STREET KUNJINI NAGAR, SECOND CROSS STREET, LAWSPET, PUDUCHERRY, PIN:605008,** have changed my name from **G JAYASRI** to **JAYASRI** for all purposes.

0070866810-1

**I, Ashutosh Sarwa, S/o Ramawatar R/O Flat-198, Yamuna Enclave, Sector-28, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201301** have changed the name of my minor daughter aged 7 Yrs from **Ayushi** to **Ayushi Sarwa.**

0070866840-1

**I, Arjun Singh S/O Raghbir, R/O RZ-127, Nihal Vihar, Near 500 Gaj Gurudawara, Nangloi, West Delhi-110041.** I have changed the name of my minor son **Saksham** aged about 14 Years and He shall hereafter be known as **Saksham Diwaker**

0070866847-1

**I, Ajay Kumar S/O Late Laxmi Ram, R/O D-17/102, Sector-3, Rohini, North West Delhi-110085.** I have changed the name of my minor son **Deepanshu** aged about 16 Years and He shall hereafter be known as **Deepanshu Khan** for all purposes.

0070866846-1

**I, ASGAR ALI KHAN S/O UMAR ALI KHAN R/o 751, Pocket-1, Paschim Puri, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110063** have changed my Name to **ASGAR KHAN** permanently.

0040692062-1

**I, Vijay Ram S/o Sh. Pitamber Dutt R/O H.No.5A/786, 1st Floor, Street No.1, Fazalpur Primary School, Mandawali Fazalpur, Laxmi Nagar, East Delhi-110092** have changed my name to **Vijay Ram Raturi** for all purposes.

0040692023-3

**I, Trilok Nath Prem S/O Sh Prem Prakash Jaiswal R/O 130/11 tiwaripur bagia, jajmau, kanpur, UP-208010** states that in my daughter school records father's name is erroneously written as **T N Prem** whereas actual name is **Triloki Nath Prem** which may be amended accordingly

0040692034-1

**I, Manjit Singh S/o Baljeet R/O Transamer Wali Gali, H.No-39, Village Pooth Kalan, North West Delhi-110086,** have changed my name to **Manjit for all future purposes.**

0040692030-1

**I, Sweksha D/o Sh. Ravindra Kumar Srivastava R/O B3/74, 3rd Floor, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi-110029** have changed my name to **Sweksha Srivastava** for all purposes.

0040692023-4

**I, Swachhand S/o Sh. Ravindra Srivastava R/O B3/74, 3rd Floor, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi-110029** have changed my name to **Swachhand Srivastava** for all purposes.

0040692023-5

**I, SUKHBIR SINGH DAHIYA S/O RANDHIR SINGH R/O 107/3RD FLOOR SARVAPRIYA VIHAR HAUZ KHAS SOUTH DELHI-110016** HAVE CHANGED MY NAME **SUKHBIR SINGH** TO **SUKHBIR SINGH DAHIYA** FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

0040692029-1

**I, Hsranj Gautam S/o Sh. Roshan Lal Gautam R/o H.No.207, Prangan Apartment, B-9/10, Sector-62, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P.-201301** have changed the name of my minor daughter from **Sanskriti Gautam** alias **Arya Gautam** to **Arya Gautam** for all purposes.

0040692103-3

**I, VINEETA LUNKER D/O RAMESH KUMAR JAIN R/O H.N.B-1076 BLOCK-B SHAHTRI NAGAR DELHI-110052,** HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO **VINEETA JAIN.**

0040692102-10

**I, VARSHA, W/O NAVEEN MAAN, residing at, D-25, SECOND-FLOOR SAKET, DELHI-110017,** have changed my name to **VARSHA MAAN,** for all, future purpose.

0040692108-5

**I, Sneha Sharma/Seneha Sharma/Saneha Sharma/Saneh Lata, W/O-Pradeep Kumar Sharma, R/O-WZ-476, MS-Block, Gali No.7, Hari Nagar, Delhi-110064,** have changed my name to **Saneh,** for all purposes.

0040692109-7

**I, Shamsher Singh, S/O Nafe Singh, H.No.890, sector-23, Sonipat Haryana, have changed my name to Samsher, for all purpose.**

0040692111-4

**I, Shahid S/o Abdul Jamil R/O-3176 Kucha, Tara Chand Darya, Ganj Delhi-110002,** have changed my name to **Mohammad Shahid**

0040692105-6

**I, Savita W/O Jitender Saini R/o, H.No.698, Gali-No.3, Near Shiv Mandir, Mundka, Delhi-110041,** have changed my name to **Savita Saini.**

0040692120-6

**I, Satinder Pal Singh S/o Sardar Swarn Singh Lamba R/O D-58, Prashant Vihar Rohini Delhi-110085,** changed my name to **Satinder Pal Singh Lamba**

0040692105-8

**I, TARA CHAND, S/O. BHIM SINGH ADD-J-3/78, A-1,GF, KHIRKI-EXTN.NEAR KRISHNA MANDIR, MALVIYA NAGAR, SOUTH-DELHI-110017,** changed my name to **TARA CHAND DAHIYA,** for all, future purposes.

0040692110-5

**I, Shatrughan Kumar, S/O-Shri Vigan Ram R/O 313/73-C-69, Anand Nagar, Inderlok, Delhi-110035,** have Changed my name to **Shatrughan Singh** for all Purposes.

0040692117-1

**I, REKHA RANI, W/O, PARVEEN KUMAR, ADD-RZF-11/17/17 GALI-40, SADB NAGAR-II PALAM, COLONY-SOUTH WEST-DELHI 110045,** changed my name to **REKHA DAHIYA,** for all, future purposes.

0040692110-7

**I, MOHAMMAD AARIF KHAN, S/O. MOHAMMAD QAYUM KHAN, ADD-E-241/3/2, SECOND-FLOOR, SHAHEEN BAGH ABULFAZAL ENCLAVE-PART-2, JAMIA NAGAR, OKHLA SOUTH-DELHI-110025,** changed my name to **AARIF KHAN,** for all, future purposes.

0040692110-4

**I, Anita Devi W/O Shri Praveen Kumar, R/O-C-64, Gali No.5, Saboli Extn. Mandoli, Delhi-110093,** have changed my minor son name from **Seenu** to **Mayank.**

0040692117-2

**I, ANITA W/O, KRISHAN SINGH, ADD-427, AARY SAMAJ MANDIR PADHA, KARNAL-HARYANA-132036,** changed my name to **ANITA DEVI,** for all, future purposes.

0040692110-6

**It is for general information that I, SHYAM SUNDER S/O PARMESHWAR R/O H.NO-F-104, LAXMI PARK, NEAR, LAKKAR FACTORY, NANGLOI, WEST DELHI-110041,** declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as **SHAYAM SUNDER** in my minor son namely **ASHISH KUMAR** aged-17, years in his 10th-class marksheet. The actual name of mine is **SHYAM SUNDER** which may be amended accordingly.

0040692120-4

**I, SUBHASH CHAND, S/O-Prabhati Ram, H.No.802, 8th-Floor, BLK-1, Belure Heights-Apartments Plot-1/1, Dwarka Sector-18, Delhi-110078,** changed my name to **SUBHASH CHAND YOGI.**

0040692114-5

**It is for general information that I, VISHVA NATH, son of, PRIKSHIT, resident of, H.No-770, P-1, Sultan Pur Majra, Sultan Puri, Delhi-110086,** declare that name-of-mine has been wrongly-written as **VISHAV NATH SHRIVAS** in my minor daughter aged-16-years Secondary-School Marks-Statement cum-Certificate. The Actual name-of-mine is **VISHWA NATH,** which may be amended-acordingly.

0040692117-4

**I, Pradeep Sharma/Pradeep/Pradeep Kumar Sharma, S/O-Late Shri Lekh Ram Sharma, R/O-WZ-476, MS-Block, Gali No.-7, Hari Nagar, Delhi-110064,** have changed, my name to **Pardeep Kumar Sharma,** for all purposes.

0040692109-6

**I, Prmeeta, W/o Mohinder Pal, R/O, Road-No.23, House-0, 13, Punjabi Bagh Extn., Delhi-110026,** have changed my name to **Parneeta.**

00406921120-5

**I, Pawan Kumar S/O Dharam Chand Salgotra R/O 106-D, U & V Block Shalimar Bagh Delhi-110088,** changed my name to **Pawan Kumar Salgotra**

0040692105-3

**I, PRADEEP KUMAR, S/O HARI KISHAN R/O B-20-D, MAJLIS PARK, ADARSH-NAGAR NORTH WEST DELHI-110033,** HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO **PRADEEP KUMAR AGGARWAL.**

0040692111-1

**I, PRACHI/PRACHI THUKRAL W/O JAYESH VASWAN R/O F-14/4, 2nd-FLOOR, MODEL TOWN-2, DELHI-110009,** HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO **PRACHI VASWANI.**

0040692108-1

**I, PAWAN KHURANA, S/O Late Kedar Nath, R/O-MS Extension-21, Mohan-Garden Uttam-Nagar, New-Delhi-110059,** declare that my name **Pawan Khurana** and **Pawan Kumar Khurana,** both are same person, for all, the, future purposes.

0040692110-3

**I, Nasrin W/O Jan Mohmed Malik, R/O H NO-125, Gali, No-02, Old Mustafabad, Delhi-110094,** have changed my name to **NASRIN MALIK,** Permanently.

0040692102-2

**I, Nasir S/O Shakeel Ahmad, R/O H.NO-X/4354, Gali No.21, Shanti Mohalla Extn.Old Seelampur, Delhi-110031,** have changed my name to **HAJI NASIR.** Permanently.

0040692102-1

**I, NIRMAL KAUR, W/O-Gurinder Pal Singh Kamo, R/O, Flat.No.B-50, Raksha Vikas Society, Vikas Puri, Delhi-110018,** changed my name to **NIRMAL KAUR KAMO.**

0040692114-2

**I, Musrat Jahan, W/O Mohd Kamil R/O H.No-B-175, Gali No-06, Brijpuri, Mustafabad, Delhi-110094,** have changed my name to **MUSSARAT JAHAN.** Permanently.

0040692102-4

**I, Preeti Pal Kaur S/o Satinder Pal Singh Lamba R/O D-58, Prashant, Vihar Rohini Delhi-110085,** changed my name to **Preeti Pal Kaur Lamba**

0040692105-9

**I, Mukesh Kumar S/o Mani Ram R/O WP-122-A Pitampura, north, west Delhi-110034,** have changed my minor son name **Harsh** aged-13, years to **Harsh Kumar**

0040692105-2

**I, Mudassar Nazar Killeddar, R/O-Flat No.2105, Tower-6, Lotus Panache, Sector-110, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P.-201304,** have changed the name of my minor son's from **Mohammad Anzar** to **Mohammad Anzar Killeddar** for all future purposes.

0040692117-3

**I, Meena Devi, W/O-Subhash Chander, R/O-Gali, no.8, near Gohana-road by pass Mayur-vihar sonipat, Haryana, have changed my name to Meena Kumari, for all purpose.**

0040692111-5

**I, Manju W/o-Kewal Kumar Kathwar, R/O-WZ-38, Sant-Nagar, Tilak Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi-110018,** Have Changed My Name To **Manju Dhawan,** For All Purposes.

0040692108-3

**I, MUKESH KUMAR MAGGO, S/O-SHRI INDER JIT MAGGO, R/O-119, ENGINEERS-ENCLAVE, PITAMPURA, SARASWATI-VIHAR DELHI-110034,** HAVE CHANGED-MY NAME **MUKESH MAGGO** TO **MUKESH KUMAR MAGGO.**

0040692106-2

**I, Aashik Ali S/O Abdul Hameed R/O House No-A-120, Street No.03, Shri Ram Colony, Delhi-110094,** have changed my name to **ASHIK ALI.** Permanently.

0040692102-5

**I, Lal Chand S/o Tej Bhan R/O House No.111-112, Pocket-B-5, 3rd-Floor, Sector-7, Rohini, Delhi** have changed my name to **Lal Chand Ahuja.**

0040692109-8

**I, LOVELY W/O ATUL GOEL R/O 962, SECTOR-19, FARIDABAD, HARYANA-121002,** HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO **LOVELY GOEL.**

0040692102-7

**I, LAKSHMI, W/O RAJNEESH SHEKHAR, ADD-FLAT.NO.521, SARGODHA APPT, PLOT.NO.13, SEC-7, DWARKA, SOUTH-WEST DELHI-110075,** changed my name to **LAKSHMI KUMARI,** for all, future purposes.

0040692106-3

**I, JOSEPHINE PAUL, W/O, NIKHIL KUMAR, ADD-B-93, DAKSHIN PURI DR AMBEDKAR NAGAR, SOUTH, DELHI-110062,** changed my name to **PINKY,** for all, future purposes.

0040692110-8

**I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS UMANG KHURANA, S/O-ASHOK KUMAR KHURANA, R/O-B/8/13, First-Floor, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051,** Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As **Racchit Khurana.**

0040692111-3

**I, HITESH, S/O JITENDER, R/O-265 JAHANGIRPUR JAHAGAIRPUR-265, HAJAJAR, HARYANA-124104,** have changed my name, from **ANKIT** to **HITESH,** for all, future purposes.

0040692109-3

**I, GURSIFT KAUR, D/O Gurinder Pal Singh Kamo, R/O Flat.No.B-50, Raksha Vikas Society, Vikas Puri, Delhi-110018,** changed my name to **GURSIFT KAUR.**

0040692114-3

**I, GURMEET SINGH GOG S/O DHARAM SINGH R/O PLOT NO.3534-A, 2nd-FLOOR, TIRTHANKAR-NAGAR, JAIN-NAGAR, DELHI-110081,** HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO **GURMEET SINGH.**

0040692108-2

**I, GURJEET SINGH S/O HAR CHARAN SINGH R/O 73, ORIENTAL APARTMENTS, PLOTNO.50, SECTOR-9, ROHINI, DELHI-110085,** HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO <

**EXPLAINED ENVIRONMENT**

**DISASTER IN SIKKIM: HOW DO GLACIAL LAKE OUTBURST FLOODS HAPPEN?**

**ALIND CHAUHAN**  
 NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

AT LEAST eight people were dead and 48 others, including 22 Army personnel, were missing after South Lhonak lake, a glacial lake at a height of 17,000 ft in north-west Sikkim, burst following incessant rain, leading to flash floods downstream. The glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) led to the Teesta spilling over its banks in at least four districts, Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA) said.

"The lake outburst in portions of Lhonak Lake caused a rise in water levels with very high velocities near about 15m/sec, crossed the CWC (Centre Water Commission) Melli site measuring 227 m, near about 3m above danger level, at 0600 am (on Wednesday)," SSDMA said. For years, several studies have flagged the rapidly growing size of South Lhonak lake due to glacier melts, and have cautioned it is susceptible to GLOF.

**Glacial lakes**

These are large bodies of water that sit in front of, on top of, or beneath a melting glacier. They are mostly dammed by unstable ice or sediment composed of loose rock and debris, and thus become more dangerous as they grow bigger. A breach in the lake wall leads to huge amounts of water rushing down the mountain, and causing what is called a glacial lake outburst flood or GLOF.

GLOF can be triggered by several reasons, including earthquakes, very heavy rain, and ice avalanches. Tom Robinson, professor of Disaster Risk & Resilience at the University of Canterbury, had told The Indian Express in February.

A PTI report on Wednesday evening quoted an unnamed CWC official as say-

ing the "earthquake that hit Nepal (on Tuesday afternoon) might be a cause" of the flooding. "The lake was already vulnerable and was spread across 168 hectares. Its area has now reduced to 60 hectares, so about 100 hectares of volume of water has breached the level," the official said.

In 2013, a GLOF caused by the Chorabari Tal glacial lake caused thousands of deaths in Uttarakhand.

**South Lhonak**

With rising global temperatures, glaciers in the Sikkim Himalayas have been melting, giving rise to many glacier lakes and expanding existing lakes in the region. The number of glacial lakes in the Sikkim Himalayas are currently estimated at more than 300, several of which have been identified as being vulnerable to outburst floods.

The South Lhonak lake has been under observation for years. A paper by Binay Kumar and T S Murugesh Prabhu for a government-funded project, 'Mapping of Glacier Lakes and development of GIS based Glacier Lake Management Information System for the State of Sikkim', said: "Lhonak has grown nearly 1.5 times and South Lhonak nearly 2.5 times of their initial size in 1989... An earthquake of magnitude 4.9 on Sept 21, 1991 (as reported by United States Geological Survey) near the parent glacier feeding the South Lhonak Lake and the recent earthquake (magnitude 6.9) of Sept 18, 2011 approximately 70 km from the lakes and future earthquakes may trigger the GLOF events."

In 2016, the SSDMA and the Sikkim government decided to siphon off water from the South Lhonak lake. Three eight-inch wide and 130-140 metres long high density polyethylene pipes were used to take out water, according to the SSDMA.

**What is the historical background of caste relationships in Bihar, and how did they evolve under Lalu and Nitish? How will knowing the data produced by the caste survey help? What are the social and political implications of the results? A scholar of policy and society in Bihar spoke to ARJUN SENGUPTA**

**EXPLAINED POLITICS**

**Bihar, caste, and survey**

**EXPERT EXPLAINS**  
**M R SHARAN**



**What was the caste landscape like in Bihar historically?**

Bhumihars, Brahmins, Rajputs and Lalas (Kayasthas) have historically dominated Bihar's political and caste landscape. They were the major landowners, and until the 1970s, their dominance was largely unchallenged. Most prominent Bihar leaders have come from one these four castes, or from the "powerful backwards" — comprising the numerically sizable castes of the Yadavs, Koeris (Kushwahas), and Kurmis.

**What changed in the late 1970s?**

First, a backward caste (Nai) leader called Karpoori Thakur became Chief Minister in June 1977. (He was in the post for a few months earlier in 1970-71.) This can be seen as a culmination of a process that began in the late 1960s, when, for the first time, a large number of backward caste members entered the Bihar Vidhan Sabha.

In 1978, Thakur implemented, for the first time, a model of layered reservation, in which a 26% quota was divided into 12% for backwards, 8% for the poor among the backwards, 3% for women, and 3% for the "upper caste" poor.

Second, the movement led by Jayaprakash (JP) Narayan catalysed the arrival of charismatic student leaders — Lalu Prasad, Nitish Kumar, Ram Vilas Paswan, Sushil Kumar Modi, Ravi Shankar Prasad — who would go on to reshape the politics of Bihar in the 1990s.

**What role did Lalu have in the evolution of caste relationships in Bihar?**

The arrival of Lalu was a seminal moment for caste relations. He directly challenged the political power of the four "upper" castes; his powerful and provocative political slogan was "Bhura baal (Bhumihar-Rajput-Brahman-Lala) saaf karo".

Anthropologist Jeffrey L Witsoe argued that Lalu transformed caste relationships by challenging the entrenched power of the upper castes in the bureaucracy and all elite domains, and by empowering local elected leaders, often from the backward castes or Muslims. His rule created historic social churning and, in many places, transformed the social relations between backward and upper castes. However, Lalu "prioritised democracy over development", Witsoe said, which meant that the state as a whole may have suffered in some ways.

The 1990s saw a collapse of law and order and massive corruption and, while the rest of the country was beginning to grow quickly, Bihar stagnated as a whole. The Lalu years were the fire that scorched the caste society of Bihar, but one could argue it burnt down parts of the forest as well.

**How did the Mandal Commission report impact caste consciousness?**

In Bihar, even today and much more 40 years ago, a government job was the lottery ticket to progress for most families. It was hoped that reservations would fundamentally transform the lives of many.

The Mandal recommendations further strengthened the already strong caste con-



**Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav, Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Vijay Kumar Sinha and other leaders during an all parties' meeting on the caste survey in Patna on Tuesday. PTI**

sciousness among the OBCs. Karpoori Thakur was a big leader long before the Mandal discourse began, and the student leaders from backward castes were already influential by the time Mandal came.

What Mandal also did was solidify the bonds among the upper castes as they came together to oppose reservations.

**How did things change with Nitish?**

Nitish understood that Yadavs and Muslims were firmly with Lalu, but upper castes, Dalits, and lower backwards (EBCs) could be wooed for votes. So he brought in policies to target the EBCs and a section of Dalits.

For instance, for the first time in Bihar's history, he implemented reservation in local political positions, not just for women and Dalits, but also for the EBCs — the most backwards who have now emerged as the most populous caste group in the caste survey — and brought targeted policies for this group.

He also understood that within the Scheduled Caste groups, a few were better off than the rest — the Paswans, for instance, were historically bodyguards of powerful landlords, and shared a reasonably good relationship with the feudal powers, but this was not the case for lower Dalits such as Manjhis or Doms. So he carved out a separate "Mahadalit" group from the Dalits, created a Mahadalit Vikas Mission in 2007, and pushed a separate set of policies that discriminated in favour of these Dalit groups.

When it came to picking a successor, Nitish chose Jitan Ram Manjhi to be the first Mahadalit Chief Minister of Bihar for nine months in 2014-15.

**How do EBCs differ from other OBCs?**

Extremely Backward Classes are the most populous caste group in Bihar — 36% — as per the recent survey. The fundamental dispar-

ity between them and the powerful backwards is with regard to land ownership, which puts them at a major disadvantage. The bottom jatis in terms of asset ownership in the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) of 2011 are all Dalits, but many of the jatis immediately above them are EBCs. So not only are EBCs lower than other OBCs in the land-owning and caste hierarchies, but even in the wealth hierarchy, they are near the bottom.

Since OBC reservations is a single category, a lot of the benefit is garnered by the powerful backwards who, according to the survey, constitute 27% of the state's population, significantly less than the EBCs. Nitish and Karpoori Thakur recognised this and introduced targeted policies; now there are numbers to back that assessment.

Nitish does not have a strong caste base — the survey shows that his caste, Kurmis, are under 3% of the population. He needs more castes to rally behind him, and the cynical view is the survey was born out of Nitish's personal politics.

But also, the proponents of the survey — Nitish and Lalu — emerged from the JP movement, and their politics can be traced back farther to the socialism of Ram Manohar Lohia, whose social justice polemics would argue for better enumeration and therefore better representation of castes.

The SECC data, gathered at the national level, was not released for various reasons. But the Indian government has considered obtaining jati data at the local level for at least three decades now.

**How exactly does having data on caste groups help?**

Putting EBCs in the amorphous OBC category does them a big disservice as they remain at the bottom of the hierarchy. It is the

same with the Dalits and Mahadalits. If some groups require more help than others, it is crucial to have data on them — at the very least, it allows the groups to make legitimate claims for themselves.

Here is an example from local governance: reservations for Dalits for the post of Panchayat mukhiya (president) is based on the proportion of Dalits in a particular block (comprising 15 Gram Panchayats). If 20% of people in a block are Dalits, 20% of GP mukhiyas will be Dalit as well. While there has been similar reservation for EBCs at the Panchayat level, the proportion of EBCs in a block was not known — so the government made a rule that up to 20% of seats can be reserved for EBCs.

Now, with this survey, the government has granular jati data at a very fine geographical level, and the caste survey can rationalise policies such as this. And such policies can have serious knock-on effects on governance down the line.

The survey could also help understand how caste functions within Muslim society, in addition to shedding light on the relative well being of Muslims vis-a-vis Hindus.

**With data known, what happens now?**

Beyond parties making claims for more reservation, it is unlikely much will change in the short term. The government will need to spend time number-crunching and designing policies before we see well-tailored programmes on the ground.

Also, all this is conditional on the data being good — and we have no idea about that yet — and the government having the political will and administrative nous to follow through. Not much is known about the specifics of how the data were collected and rationalised, etc.

**Why is BJP leadership opposed to the survey?**

The BJP's position is guided by its goal of maintaining Hindu unity. One of the reasons behind the BJP's electoral success is the consolidation of the Hindu vote — which means that it has managed to make OBCs and Dalits vote as Hindus first, rather than as members of their castes.

It is important to underline though that the opposition to the survey comes from the central BJP, not the party's Bihar unit. The BJP in Bihar has a much broader base, with many EBCs within the party fold and Dalits offering support too.

**Could this be a Mandal 2.0 moment?**

The survey results will act as a driver for the kind of politics the RJD and JD(U) have always done. The data, if they are any good, will add weight and strength to their demands, and will help them make targeted policies for their base. Most parties in the INDIA alliance will make demands for the backwards.

And yet, it may not be a gamechanger, especially for the coming elections. The invocation of Mandal is purely political. But it can definitely be the starting point for something bigger in the longer run.

Mandal was transformational because it, for the first time, took an entire mass of people and recognised their marginal position and gave them reservations. Anything that comes next will build on top of it and hence bring marginal change. The caste survey is great for policy and for a certain kind of politics, but comparing it to Mandal misses just how enormous Mandal itself was for the country.

**LONGER VERSION**  
 indianexpress.com/explained

**EXPLAINED GLOBAL**

**WHY THE PEACE NOBEL IS AWARDED IN NORWAY, AND OTHERS IN SWEDEN**

THE ANNUAL Nobel Prize announcements are underway with three of the 2023 awards unveiled so far by prize committees in Stockholm. The prizes in literature, peace and economics are to follow, with one announcement every weekday until October 9.

The Nobel Prizes were created by Alfred Nobel, a 19th-century businessman and chemist from Sweden. His claim to fame before the Nobel Prizes was inventing dynamite. Interestingly, Nobel decided that the peace prize should be awarded in Norway and all the other prizes in Sweden.

**Sweden's militarism**

Nobel historians suspect Sweden's

history of militarism may have been a factor behind this. During Nobel's lifetime, Sweden and Norway were in a union, which the Norwegians reluctantly joined after the Swedes invaded their country in 1814. It's possible that Nobel thought Norway would be a more suitable location for a prize meant to encourage "fellowship among nations."

To this day, the Nobel Peace Prize is a completely Norwegian affair, with the winners selected and announced by a Norwegian committee. The peace prize even has its own ceremony in the Norwegian capital of Oslo on December 10 — the anniversary of Nobel's death — while the other prizes are presented in Stockholm.

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**NOBEL PRIZE 2023 CHEMISTRY**

**How size of particles changes their behaviour, and why that is important**

**AMITABH SINHA**  
 NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

EVERY ELEMENT exhibits specific properties, usually determined by the number of electrons in its atoms and the distribution of these electrons around the nucleus. Also, every piece of a pure element exhibits exactly the same properties, regardless of its size. A piece of pure gold, for example, has properties very different from a piece of silver or any other element, but every piece of gold, whether it is a large 100-gram piece or a small 10 milligram one, has exactly the same properties. This is one of the fundamental facts of chemistry.

But about forty years ago, scientists started discovering something very remarkable. Very small particles, in the nanoscale range, were found to behave slightly differently from larger particles of the same element. A nanoparticle (sizes in the range of 1 to 100 billionth of a metre) of gold, for example, displayed properties different in some respects from larger particles of gold. Such deviant behaviour had been predicted in theory a few decades ear-

lier, but never observed.

Alexei Ekimov was the first to notice this deviant behaviour in Copper Chloride nanoparticles around 1980. He was also able to manufacture these nanoparticles to show this change in behaviour. However, as he was working in the erstwhile USSR then, his finding was largely unknown in the rest of the world.

A few years later, Louis Brus, an American scientist working independently, discovered similar behaviour in Cadmium Sulphide nanoparticles. He too was able to create these nanoparticles with changed properties. Mounigi Bawendi, who worked with Brus in the initial part of the career, later developed easier methods to efficiently produce nanoparticles that showed some desired deviant behaviour.

For their path-breaking research, done three to four decades ago, Ekimov (78), Brus (80), and Bawendi (62) were awarded the 2023 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

Thanks to their work, nanoparticles with desired deviant behaviour have become an integral part of a variety of modern appliances, including television, computer screens, and LED lamps. There are a

**'FOR THE DISCOVERY AND SYNTHESIS OF QUANTUM DOTS'**



**MOUNIGI BAWENDI**  
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology, United States



**LOUIS E BRUS**  
 Columbia University, United States



**ALEXEI I. EKIMOV**  
 Nanocrystals Technology Inc., United States



**ON THURSDAY: Nobel Prize in Literature**  
**IN 2022: The Nobel Prize in Literature 2022 was awarded to Annie Ernaux 'for the courage and clinical acuity with which she uncovers the roots, estrangements and collective restraints of personal memory'.**

wide range of applications in biochemistry and medicine as well.

**Quantum dots**

The deviant behaviour of small nanoparticles arises because of the emergence of quantum effects. The motion and behaviour of very small particles, like electrons, are radically different, and strange, when compared

with any familiar object in normal human experience. Such strange behaviour at the sub-atomic level is described by the hugely successful Quantum Theory, developed by physicists 100 years ago.

But nanoparticles are much larger compared with atoms. Depending on the size of the atom, a nanoparticle can pack in thousands to millions of atoms. However, it was

theorised, in the 1930s itself, that when the size of particles was reduced to nanoscale, it could give rise to quantum effects.

This was mainly because electrons were constrained in a small space. Usually, electrons move around in a large empty space, relatively speaking, outside the nucleus of the atom. But when the size of the particles is reduced drastically, electrons in the atoms find themselves increasingly squeezed. And this, it was thought, could give rise to the strange quantum effects.

This is what Ekimov and Brus noticed, and this is what they were able to create in their laboratories — nano-sized particles that behaved slightly differently than larger particles of the same element. These nanoparticles with special properties were called quantum dots.

**The discoveries**

One of the most noticeable special properties of the nanoparticles becomes evident when they interact with light. The colour of any material depends on the wavelengths of the light spectrum absorbed or reflected by the material.

Ekimov was working with coloured

glass tinted with Copper Chloride when he noticed something special. He heated molten glass to very high temperatures and then allowed it to cool and harden. Crystals of Copper Chloride, of different sizes, had formed on the glass. He observed that the part of the glass where smaller crystals of Copper Chloride were present had a slightly different colour than the area where there were larger crystals. What this showed was that the same material, Copper Chloride, was absorbing different wavelengths of light depending on its size.

Brus also observed a similar phenomenon, while working on something completely different. He too realised that particles of different sizes, all in the nanometer range, were interacting with light in different ways. This meant that apart from the number of electrons, the properties of the material were also being dictated by its size.

Both Ekimov and Brus could fabricate these nanoparticles, but their methods required extreme conditions and produced particles of unpredictable quality. It was later Bawendi who developed efficient methods to produce nanoparticles with precise desired properties.

**TOP OF THE WORLD**



At a rally outside Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Centre. Reuters

**UNITED STATES**  
**Healthcare workers kick off three-day strike**

Washington: Tens of thousands of nurses and other workers launched a three-day strike at Kaiser Permanente facilities across US Wednesday, after contract talks failed to meet the union deadline for reaching a settlement. The strike against Kaiser, one of the nation's leading healthcare networks and managed-care organisations, marks the largest strike ever in US medical industry. Kaiser Permanente said hospitals, emergency departments would remain open and staffed by doctors, etc. **REUTERS**

**VENICE**  
**21 killed as bus with tourists falls from overpass**

Venice: At least 21 people died on Tuesday and 18 were injured after a bus carrying tourists to a campground crashed off an overpass near Venice in northern Italy and caught fire, city officials said. The bus veered off the road and fell close to railway lines in the district of Mestre, which is connected to Venice by a bridge. The cause of the accident was unclear. Venice city councillor Renato Boraso said one line of enquiry was that the driver, a 40-year-old Italian who was among killed, had been taken ill before crash. **REUTERS**

**USA**  
**Five wounded in shooting at university event**

Baltimore: A shooting interrupted a homecoming week celebration at Baltimore's Morgan State University on Tuesday, wounding five people and prompting an hours-long lockdown of the historically Black college. Students hunkered down for several hours, as police went room to room looking for suspects. No arrests were made. Police Commissioner Richard Worley said the five victims, four men and one woman, are between the ages of 18 and 22. Their injuries were not life-threatening, he told reporters at a news conference early Wednesday. **AP**

**THAILAND**  
**Teen charged with murder after killing two**

Bangkok: Authorities in Thailand charged a 14-year-old boy with pre-meditated murder and illegal possession of a firearm on Wednesday after a shooting spree at a Bangkok mall using what police said was a modified pistol intended to fire blanks. Two people were killed and five wounded in the shooting at Siam Paragon shopping centre on Tuesday, the latest gun violence to shock Thailand in past three years. The suspect had suffered a psychological breakdown in the run-up to the shooting, police said. **REUTERS**

**COUNTRIES WHICH BACK PRO-MALDIVES POLICY WILL BE ALLIES: MUIZZU**

## In message to India, President-elect of Maldives says foreign troops must go

Indian official says will wait and keep watch on new govt policies

**AGENICES**  
MALE, OCTOBER 4

THE PRESIDENT-ELECT of the Maldives said he will stick to his campaign promise to remove Indian military personnel stationed in archipelago state, promising he would initiate the process. Mohamed Muizzu told his supporters gathered Monday night at a celebration of his election victory that he wouldn't stand for a foreign military staying in the Maldives against the will of its citizens. "The people have told us that they don't want foreign military here," he said.

**HE LED 'INDIA OUT' CAMPAIGN**

**"The people have told us that they don't want foreign military here... All the countries which agree to our pro-Maldives policy will be our close friends and allies... We will send back foreign soldiers in the Maldives..."**

**MOHAMED MUIZZU**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT, MALDIVES



■ Muizzu's main poll campaign theme was about an alleged threat to Maldives' sovereignty by some Indian military personnel on an island, part of the party's years-long 'India out' strategy.

"All the countries which agree to our pro-Maldives policy will be our close friends and allies," Muizzu told supporters at Monday's event. "We will send back foreign soldiers in the Maldives," he added

Outgoing President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, who was elected president in 2018, was battling allegations by Muizzu that he had allowed India an unchecked presence in country. Muizzu's party, the People's National Congress, is

viewed as heavily pro-China. Muizzu's main campaign theme was about an alleged threat to Maldives' sovereignty by some Indian military personnel on an island, part of the party's years-long "India out" strategy. Solih insisted that the Indian military's presence in the Maldives was only to build a dockyard under an agreement between the two governments and that his country's sovereignty won't be violated. India, with traditionally close relations to Male, denies that assertion, and is helping to build a naval harbour for the Maldivian forces to be trained by its military. New Delhi, meanwhile, will "wait and watch" Muizzu's policies, a senior Indian government official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. "He has to work with us, and we have to work with him," the official added, emphasising that India was "not anti-Maldives".

The number of Indian troops in the Maldives is unknown. Critics say the secrecy behind the pact between the two governments regarding the placement of military personnel and their role has led to suspicion and rumor. Known activities of the Indian military include operating two helicopters donated by India and assisting in the rescue of people stranded or faced with calamities at sea. Former President Abdulla Yameen, leader of the People's National Congress, made the Maldives a part of China's Belt and Road initiative during his presidency from the year 2013 to 2018. The initiative is meant to build railroads and ports to expand trade — and China's influence — across Asia, Africa and Europe. Yameen was transferred Sunday from jail to house arrest, fulfilling one of Muizzu's campaign promises before he officially takes office on November 17.



Kevin McCarthy leaves the office of the Speaker of the House on his way out of the US Capitol. Reuters

## US House Speaker McCarthy ousted after historic vote

**MOIRA WARBURTON & RICHARD COWAN**  
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 4

A HANDFUL of Republicans in the US House of Representatives on Tuesday ousted Republican Speaker Kevin McCarthy, as party infighting plunged Congress into further chaos just days after it narrowly averted a government shutdown. The 216-to-210 vote marked the first time in history that the House removed its leader, with eight Republicans voting with 208 Democrats to remove McCarthy. McCarthy told reporters he would not make another run for speaker. "I fought for what I believe in," McCarthy said. "I believe I can continue to fight, but maybe in a different manner."

**EXPLAINED**  
**E** Congress in uncharted waters

THE VOTE left Congress in uncharted waters as it scrambles to update farm-subsidy and nutrition programs, pass government funding bills and consider further aid to Ukraine. It was unclear who would succeed McCarthy. The last two Republican speakers, Paul Ryan and John Boehner, retired from Congress after clashes with their right wing.

The House looked set to go leaderless for at least a week, as multiple Republicans said they planned to meet on Oct. 10 to discuss possible McCarthy successors, with a vote on a new speaker planned for Oct. 11. Tuesday's rebellion was led by Representative Matt Gaetz, a far-right Republican from Florida and McCarthy antagonist who finally turned on the speaker after he on Saturday relied on Democratic votes to help pass a bill to avoid a partial government shutdown. "Kevin McCarthy is a creature of the swamp. He has risen to power by collecting special interest money and redistributing that money in exchange for favors. We are breaking the fever now," Gaetz told reporters after the vote. It was the latest moment of high drama in a year when the Republican-controlled House brought Washington to the brink of a catastrophic default on U.S. debt of \$31.4 trillion and a partial government shutdown. McCarthy's ouster as speaker brings legislative activity in the House to a halt, with another government shutdown deadline looming Nov. 17 if Congress does not extend funding. The White House said it hoped the House would move swiftly to choose a replacement speaker, a position second in line to the presidency after the vice president. **REUTERS**

## Iran girl critical after attack in Metro for not wearing hijab

**REUTERS**  
DUBAI, OCTOBER 4

AN IRANIAN teenaged girl is in critical condition in hospital, two prominent rights activists told Reuters on Wednesday, after falling into a coma following what they said was a confrontation with agents in the Tehran metro for violating the hijab law. Armita Geravand's case is highly sensitive, raising concerns the 16-year-old might face the same fate as Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old woman whose death last year in the custody of morality police sparked nationwide protest. While authorities have denied claims by rights groups that Geravand went into a coma on Sunday after a confrontation with officers enforcing the Islamic dress code, Iranian-Kurdish rights group Hengaw posted her picture unconscious

at a Tehran hospital where she was taken after the incident. There was no response from Iran's interior ministry to a request for comment. "We are following her case closely. She is in coma at Intensive Care Unit of the hospital and her condition is critical... her relatives said there is a heavy presence of plain clothes at the hospital," one of the activists in Iran said. CCTV footage, shared on IRNA, showed Geravand without mandatory hijab with two female friends walking toward the train from the metro platform. Upon entering the cabin, one of the girls is seen backing off and reaching for the ground, before another girl is dragged unconscious from the cabin by passengers. In a video posted on IRNA, her parents said that their daughter had suffered a drop in blood pressure, lost her balance, and hit her head inside the metro cabin.



Jewish worshippers pray during the weeklong holiday of Sukkot, next to one of the gates to the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, in Jerusalem. AP

## Israeli police arrest five for acts of hostility towards Christians

**JULIA FRANKEL**  
JERUSALEM, OCTOBER 4

ISRAELI POLICE said Wednesday they arrested several people suspected of spitting in the direction of Christian pilgrims and churches in Jerusalem this week as religious tensions flared anew in the contested capital that the three Abrahamic faiths consider holy. As Jews celebrate Sukkot — the weeklong Feast of Tabernacles that marks the fall harvest and commemorates the desert wandering of the Jews during the Exodus — processions of ultra-Orthodox Jews through the Old City's narrow streets have led to numerous spitting incidents and left Jerusalem on edge. One person was detained after a spitting incident from one of the processions was caught on video and provoked widespread outrage on social media. The video, first captured by an Israeli hotline for anti-Christian assaults, shows ultra-Orthodox

Jews spitting at the feet of foreign Christian worshippers in the Old City of Jerusalem. Police also arrested five other people for allegedly spitting toward churches Wednesday. One was charged with assault, and four were charged with unlawful disorderly conduct, police said. Videos spread on social media Wednesday showed a procession of ultra-Orthodox Jews celebrating Sukkot and spitting at the entrance to an ancient church in Jerusalem. The site, where tradition holds that Jesus was whipped on Pontius Pilate's orders, is known as the Church of Flagellation. Such footage has stirred concerns of rising intolerance among religious Jews and drew rare condemnation on Tuesday from Israel's official rabbi, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other senior officials. Police said they would launch a probe into acts of anti-Christian hate, ramp up surveillance in the Old City — where winding stone alleyways already teem with security cameras — and consider imposing fines on perpetrators. Some Israeli ministers denounced spitting at clergy. But other Netanyahu allies were more equivocal. Israeli media reported that coalition lawmaker Simcha Rothman had joined a Sukkot march during which ultra-Orthodox Jews spit at churches. The reports said that Rothman's brother, Rabbi Natan Rothman, led the parade. The lawmaker's spokesperson, Odelya Azulay, confirmed that Rothman had participated in his brother's religious procession on Wednesday but denied any spitting occurred at the event. Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, who oversees the country's police force, told Israel's Army Radio on Wednesday that "spitting on Christians is not a criminal case." His comment fueled more outrage, particularly among Palestinians. **AP**

## 'Tough decisions': UK PM cancels second phase of high-speed railway project

**ELIZABETH PIPER**  
MANCHESTER, OCTOBER 4

BRITISH PRIME Minister Rishi Sunak cancelled part of a high-speed rail project on Wednesday, ending weeks of uncertainty and provoking anger in his Conservative Party as he sought to reinvent his premiership as one of tough decisions and action. With the Conservatives lagging the opposition Labour Party in polls before an election expected next year, Sunak and his team say he is a politician willing to take long-term "tough decisions" to make people better off. But his flagship "tough decision" to stop construction of the HS2 high speed rail line to Manchester in his closing speech

**Sunak's move comes as he seeks to reinvent premiership**

at party's annual conference in city drew widespread criticism. Ending days of speculation over the second phase of the project, he told his party: "I am cancelling the rest of the HS2 project. And in its place we will reinvest every single penny - 36 billion pounds - in hundreds of new transport projects in the north and the Midlands, across the country." Sunak said those who first backed the project years ago that the circumstances in Britain had changed. **REUTERS**

**REGION OF CALABRIA HAS SIGNED A THREE-YEAR DEAL TO DRAFT IN ALMOST 500 MEDICS FROM CUBA**

## Italy looks to foreigners for a quick fix to sickly health service

**FRANCESCA PISCIONERI & CRISPIAN BALMER**  
LOCRI, OCTOBER 4

DOCTORS FROM Communist Cuba are used to being dispatched to help in medical hotspots in Africa, Asia and South America. But less so to well-off Europe. Highlighting the strains facing health services in Italy, the southern region of Calabria has signed a three-year deal to draft in almost 500 medics from the Caribbean island to help overcome a severe staffing shortage. "It was a surprise for me to think Italy had a healthcare

problem," said Elizabeth Balbuena Delgado, a cardiologist from Santiago de Cuba. She accepted a temporary assignment to work in Locri, a seaside town on the underside of Italy's toe. "None of us had ever been to Europe," Delgado said of the first wave of 51 Cubans who arrived in Italy's poorest region in January. It is not just Calabria that faces manpower problems. Health Minister Orazio Schillaci has said staff shortages nationwide represented "a real emergency". Italy needs to attract more foreign clinicians to its thinly staffed wards, he said.



Authorities are increasingly looking to hire from abroad to fill the many gaps — something Italy has traditionally shied away from, unlike other wealthy nations. Reuters

"We must strike agreements with foreign countries to have an adequate number of nurses," Schillaci told a news conference on Sept. 15, adding that he was close to reaching a deal with India, which has hundreds of thousands of its nurses working abroad. Italy's health ministry declined to provide further details. A senior Indian Health Ministry official said that a memorandum signed after Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni visited India in March contemplated easing labour mobility for nurses and paramedics, including with language training. Without swift action, the sit-

uation in Italy's hospitals could get worse, quickly. Almost a quarter of 102,000 doctors working in public health service are eligible for retirement by 2025, unions say, meaning administrators will face a battle to keep wards, clinics and even whole hospitals open. Authorities are increasingly looking to hire from abroad to fill the many gaps — something Italy has traditionally shied away from, unlike other wealthy nations. The Paris-based Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), a group of 38 member countries that aims to establish international standards,

says foreign-trained doctors made up just 0.9% of all doctors in Italy in 2019 — the most recent year for which data is available. This compared with 11.6% in France, 13.1% in Germany and 30% in Britain. While Italy has previously succeeded in training the vast majority of doctors and nurses it needed, a combination of low salaries and burnout have thinned the ranks — especially in demanding specialties like accident and emergency care. "Italy is not a multi-cultural society. It isn't used to this dynamic," said Andrea Filippi, a medic and national secretary of CGIL union of public doctors. **REUTERS**

MoUs inked worth over ₹19,000 crore

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE DEHRADUN, OCTOBER 4

IN A significant development, Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) totaling Rs 19,385 crore were sealed with various institutions during the Global Investor Summit 2023 roadshow in New Delhi on Wednesday.

The agreements, signed in the presence of Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, encompass diverse sectors, including renewable energy, electronics manufacturing, among others.

The flagship agreement involves a Rs 15,000 crore commitment from JSW Neo Energy for two pumped storage projects in Almora, aiming to generate employment, and contribute to the state's development.

The Global Investors Summit in Uttarakhand will take place in December. Other than London, international roadshows are also expected to be organised in Singapore and Taiwan. There will be six more road shows to be organised in Ahmedabad, Chandigarh, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai and Hyderabad. A target of investment of at least Rs 2.5 lakh crore has been set by the state government through the investors summit.

₹300 PER 14.2-KG CYLINDER Centre hikes LPG subsidy for Ujjwala beneficiaries by 50%

SUKALP SHARMA NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

IN THE run-up to Assembly polls in five states later this year and Lok Sabha elections in 2024, the government on Wednesday increased the cooking gas subsidy for poor households under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) by Rs 100 per 14.2-kg cylinder to Rs 300. The decision is expected to benefit 9.6 crore households that are currently covered under the targeted subsidy scheme.

This decision, which was announced by Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur after Wednesday's meeting of the Union Cabinet, comes around a month after the government announced a price cut of Rs 200 per cylinder for all domestic liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) consumers including PMUY beneficiaries, and expanded the PMUY coverage to cover another 75 lakh poor households over three years.

With Wednesday's decision, a 14.2-kg domestic LPG cylinder in Delhi will effectively cost Rs 603 for PMUY beneficiaries, while for other domestic consumers, it will continue to be priced at Rs 903.



There are currently around 9.6 crore households covered under the PMUY. File

Under the PMUY, beneficiaries pay the full price for the cylinders and the subsidy is transferred to their bank accounts by public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs), for up to 12 refills in a year. The government compensates the OMCs for the subsidy payout.

Ahead of the Assembly polls, the Congress has promised to provide LPG at Rs 500 per cylinder in Madhya Pradesh to voters. Its government in Rajasthan has already cut the effective price to Rs 500 per cylinder for poor households by providing additional subsidy support. Both these

states, along with Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram, are going to polls later this year. The Opposition parties had been criticising the government for high fuel prices, particularly those of cooking gas.

As per official data, there are currently around 9.6 crore households covered under the PMUY and the average LPG refill rate under the scheme was 3.71 cylinders for 2022-23 in terms of 14.2-kg cylinders.

Assuming the beneficiary base and the cylinder refill rate remains constant, the decision to raise

cooking gas subsidy could cost the government around Rs 3,600 crore on an annualised basis. This translates to around Rs 1,800 crore for the remainder of the current fiscal ending March.

In the Union Budget for 2023-24, the government provisioned Rs 7,680 crore as cooking gas subsidy for the fiscal, assuming a per-cylinder subsidy of Rs 200. With Wednesday's decision, the final subsidy burden for the fiscal is likely to be higher than the budget estimate.

The PMUY, which was launched in 2016, was seen as one of the key welfare schemes that helped the Bharatiya Janata Party return to power at the Centre in 2019.

The scheme has played a key role in taking LPG coverage to near saturation in India. The key objective of the PMUY is to discourage poor households from using conventional cooking fuels like firewood, which are a cause of household pollution and have an adverse impact on health.

According to the latest National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) report, LPG is the primary source of energy for nearly 50 per cent of households in rural areas and about 90 per cent of urban households across India.

35% of investment advisors still not registered, says SEBI chief

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, OCTOBER 4

DESPITE A simple registration process, around 35 per cent of investment advisers are still not registered with the regulator, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch on Wednesday.

She sought industry associations' help in getting more advisers to get registered with the regulator.

"We require investment advisers to register... There are a large number, some 35 per cent of investment advisers, still not registered," Buch said at an event organised by the Association of Registered Investment Advisers (ARIA).

"... It's your profession, it is your livelihood, and in all this time, forget other compliances, you have not found time or inclination to come and register," the SEBI Chairperson said.

As per the SEBI website, there are 1,314 registered investment advisers. However, to operate as registered investment advisers (RIAs), these entities have to register with BSE Administration and Supervision Ltd (BASL), a wholly owned subsidiary of BSE, which has been granted approval from SEBI for administration and supervision of Investment Advisers (IAs). At present, there are around 900 BASL registered members. Buch asked ARIA to encourage more numbers of investment advisers to become registered entities.



SEBI chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch. File

age more numbers of investment advisers to become registered entities.

"You (industry associations) are there all over the country. You have presence and people who care about the (investment adviser) community and who spend their time, effort and energy actually working for the community. We really need your assistance starting from something as simple as getting registered," she said.

The capital markets regulator has been tightening the noose on unregistered and unauthorised investment advisers, including financial influencers, also known as influencers, who provide stock specific tips or advice on various social media platforms such as YouTube, Telegram, Facebook, Instagram and X (formerly Twitter). Finance Minister Nirmala

Sitharaman had also asked people to exercise caution while following the advice of influencers. The regulator is working on guidelines for influencers, and has announced advertisement guidelines to stop misleading advertising by investment advisers (IA) and research analysts (RA). In August this year, SEBI floated a consultation paper proposing a set of measures to restrict the association of regulated entities or intermediaries with unregistered influencers.

Buch said that industry associations should be more proactive in informing the regulator about the malpractices in the market. According to her, regulations can't be made sitting in some ivory tower and the regulator needs to be in touch with the market. The only way for this is through feedback from industry associations and their members.

"We need good guys to come and tell us what are the malpractices in the market. We want them to help us craft solutions to address those so that good guys win. We want a million investment advisers," SEBI chairperson said.

She said in order to validate claims of performance made by registered investment advisers, the regulator has come out with a consultation paper on the creation of a Performance Validation Agency (PVA).

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

GST on e-gaming: Consolidation looms large as smaller players may lose out, barriers for new entrants

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

AS ONLINE gaming devise ingenious ways to compensate their customers for goods and service tax (GST) deductions on their deposits, industry executives say the move will force smaller companies to shut down and increase barriers for new entrants in the sector - leading to a significant consolidation in the online gaming space.

The Indian Express earlier reported that as the industry deals with the fallout of the new GST regime, online gaming companies have come up with a new idea to avoid losing customers - by absorbing the GST deduction and compensating users for it for at least the next two to three years.

Companies like Dream11, Mobile Premier League (MPL) and WinZO have all started cashback schemes to foot the bill for the GST deduction of 28 per cent. This, executives say, can only be sustained for the next few years by the bigger companies. "The bigger companies can afford to absorb the GST costs for as long as 2-3 years. But the smaller ones simply do not have the resources for it, and will have no option but to shut down," a senior industry executive said, requesting anonymity.

"If a user is depositing Rs 100 in their wallet, they do not want to see only Rs 78 being credited. The moment you pass on the GST cost



Companies have started cashback schemes. File

to your user, there is going to be a significant drop off," an executive added.

It could shape up to be a situation where the big players only have to wait till the smaller companies run out of money. However, the actual contest that bigger companies are foreseeing is from offshore platforms.

"The big players for now just have to wait out their immediate competitors. It is just a matter of who has deeper pockets to keep compensating users for the GST deduction. Also, you have to remember that the gaming companies are not just fighting their domestic rivals, but also offshore platforms - if they start passing on the deduction to the user, they may move to offshore companies where the compliance with law can be dubious," a second executive said.

There is a sense within the industry that the market will eventually have only three or four big companies that manage to ride out the storm.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

While in the near term it will kill off a number of small gaming companies, in the longer term it will also consolidate the market because the entry barrier to start a business in the sector will be very high. You have to be able to offer discounts from day one which may not be possible for newer entrants," the first executive said.

"We are heading towards a situation where there will be at best, 3-4 companies that will eventually survive in the coming few years," said the second person.

As was reported earlier, Dream11, the most popular fantasy app, has started offering users 'discount points' to offset the cost of the GST deduction. If a user adds Rs 100 to their account, they will receive Rs 78.12 as the deposit amount (after accounting for the 28 per cent GST deduction of Rs 21.88), but the exact deduction will be offered to the user by Dream11 as part of discount points. In effect, this means that if Dream11 was not absorbing the GST hit, a user's balance on the deposit of Rs 100 would have shown Rs 78.12. So, basically, Dream11 is paying the remainder Rs 21.88 to keep the total balance at Rs 100 so that the user does not have to pay additionally to take the balance to that amount.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

Housing sales across top 8 cities at 6-year high in Q2

Sales grew by 12 per cent year-on-year on strong demand, according to Knight Frank



"Although inventory levels have seen a significant rise due to developers launching projects to cater to this robust demand, the overall market health is improving." Shishir Bajjal Chairman and Managing Director of Knight Frank India, said.

JULY-SEPTEMBER QUARTER

2022 73,691 units | 2023 82,612 units



Source: Knight Frank/PTI

Lenders not enthused by Vedanta proposal for six-unit split: Official

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, OCTOBER 4

LENDERS ARE not enthused by the proposal of Vedanta Ltd to split the company into six independent units as it is expected to reduce the fungibility of cash flows across businesses and increase earnings volatility.

While Rs 68,000 crore Vedanta is yet to formally approach lenders with proposal on restructuring to spin off into

six listed entities, besides looking for rationale for recast and structural details, lenders will seek business plans for each unit, approach to financial management and funding, said an official of a leading nationalised bank. Liquidity, debt levels and capex are key aspects for monitoring and the prudence in financials is crucial, the official said.

What has come under the scrutiny of banks is that the group was looking at merging

and delisting at one time and now it is going for carving out businesses and listing them.

Vedanta announced a vertical split of different businesses into six different entities in its pursuit of unlocking value. "This would reduce the fungibility of cash flows across businesses and increase earnings volatility, which could be a concern for lenders," Kotak Securities said in a report.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

RBI forms an external working group for ECL-based framework

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, OCTOBER 4

THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday constituted a nine-member external working group to get independent views on Expected Credit Loss (ECL) based framework for provisioning by banks.

In January this year, the RBI had released a discussion paper for adoption of an expected loss-based approach for loan loss provision by banks. The RBI had sought comments on the paper till February 28. Currently, banks are required to make loan loss provisions based on an incurred loss approach which needs banks to provide for losses that have occurred or incurred.

In a press release on Wednesday, the RBI said several comments have been received from various stakeholders on the issues flagged in the discussion paper, which are being examined by it.

"While the regulatory stance

to be taken in respect of each of the issues shall be examined by the Reserve Bank, it has been decided to constitute a Working Group in order to get independent inputs on some of the technical aspects having a bearing on the significant transition involved," the release said.

The working group will be chaired by Prof R Narayanaswamy, former Professor, IIM Bangalore. The other members include Sanjay Kallapur, ISB, Hyderabad, Rajosik Banerjee, KPMG, S Srinivasa Rao, SBI, Rajendra Khandelwal, ICICI Bank and Susanta Baishya, HDFC Bank. Canara Bank's Adish Yadav, Saraswat Co-operative Bank's Pravin Kumar Taparia and Equitas Small Finance Bank's Sridharan N are also part of the group. The RBI's proposal to implement ECL-based loss provisioning by banks could lead to a transitioning impact of 300-400 basis points, including the provisioning for ECL.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

BRIEFLY

NPCI to sign pact with AI Etihad Payments

New Delhi: NPCI International Payments Ltd will ink an agreement with AI Etihad Payments on Thursday in Abu Dhabi to facilitate cross-border transactions, an official said. PTI

Canara Bank' cleanliness drive

New Delhi: Canara Bank on Sunday organised Swachata Hi Seva campaign at its Bengaluru head office on Sunday. Over 500 participants, including senior management and employees have cleaned the area and collected garbage. ENS

Canva launches new AI-led platform, founder says it will supercharge what creators do

NANDAGOPAL RAJAN NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 4

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE has democratised and accelerated design and visual creativity over the past year. Now with visual communication platform Canva's new AI-powered Magic Studio platform, creating a new design for your marketing campaign or a new social media post for your company has become as simple as a one-line prompt.

Cliff Obrecht, COO and Co-founder of Canva, is convinced AI will "supercharge" what creators are doing on Canva. "We have had our AI products used over 3 billion times and we have learned so much," he told indianexpress.com in an interview, adding that now it is all about making this technology "the

workhorse that powers Canva". Obrecht explained that one of the most important things about Magic Studio is its interoperability across different document types. "For example, if you create a whiteboard, you can turn it into an email or a blog post or even a presentation... we intersect all our document types with AI, that's the true power."

Canva calls this feature Magic Switch, and touts it as an industry first. "Our customers don't wake up in the morning saying I want to use AI. They wake up in the morning with a job to be done... so we really see AI as an enabler to help people get their job done faster, smarter and helping them achieve their goals," added Obrecht, who started Canva in 2013 with Melanie Perkins and Cameron Adams. The platform

now boasts of 150 million active users a month.

With Magic Studio, Canva users will also get access to Magic Media, a text to image and text to video functionality. Then there will be Magic Design which will turn any prompt or own media into fully designed videos or presentations. Brand Voice will make it easier to write in your brand's tone in any design or document by adding guidelines. Magic Morph, meanwhile, will instantly transform words and shapes with a simple prompt.

Explaining how AI makes things happen much faster than before, Obrecht said earlier, to create a presentation, a user would layout the pages, choose a template, click a button for each page. FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

UCO BANK Central Staff College, GE-8, Sector-III, Salt Lake, Kolkata - 700106. NOTICE INVITING TENDER. Tender Ref No: CSC/KOL/2023-24/01 Dated 05.10.2023. UCO Bank invites Request for Proposals (RFP) for Modernization of Existing two Elevators at UCO Bank, Central Staff College, GE - 8, Sector III, Salt Lake, Kolkata.

TENDER NOTICE (Extension of submission date). With reference to our earlier Tender Notice published on dtd 30/08/2023 & Corrigendum dtd. 14/09/2023 regarding supply, installation, testing & commissioning of 6.5MWp Solar Plant under open access scheme, the extended date of submission of Technical bid with EMD is on or before 13/10/2023.

Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Development Project (RFBDP) (funded by the French Development Agency). Office of the Project Director Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Development Project, Aravalli Bhawan, Jhalana Institutional Area, Jaipur-302004, Rajasthan. Telephone - +91-141-2709101/5199654, Email: rfbdp.afd@gmail.com.

CATTLE FEED PLANT-LAMBIYAKALAN (A unit of Raj. Coop. Dairy Federation Ltd., Jaipur). NH-48, Lambiyakalan, Via-Rayla, Distt.-Bhilwara (RAJASTHAN) E-mail: cpllambiyaka@gmail.com. Ref. No.: CFP LAMBIYAKALAN/2023-24/2925-38. Date: 29.09.2023.

# World Cup hero Elliott says lack of spotlight helps Kiwis

With a balanced team and in-form players, perennial underdogs New Zealand get ready for another shot at World Cup

RAHUL PANDEY  
OCTOBER 4

UNLIKE ANYONE else who was present at the Eden Park in Auckland on March 24, 2015, Grant Elliott doesn't remember any of the conversations he had during the World Cup semifinal against South Africa. Especially not while batting in the middle. Well, maybe one. "The only conversation I remember is when (Daniel) Vettori came down with 5 to win off 2 balls, and said 'it's up to you now, you need to take both deliveries'. Yes, my heart started pumping!" he tells *The Indian Express*.

As he tapped gloves with Vettori and went back to take the strike, a thought took over. Not that it was Dale Steyn, arguably the greatest fast bowler of the 21st century, who stood in his way to score those five runs in two official attempts. But that, "If I hit a boundary here, I won't be going to my sister's wedding, and I was the one to tell her to lock in the date! Fate at its finest hour."

Four months before the 2015 World Cup New Zealand's national selectors had told Elliott he wasn't part of their plans. Which is when his sister, Kate would ask him if she could hold her wedding on the same day as the World Cup final.

## Famous knock

He'd agreed but now stood at an awkward juncture. There wasn't much of a choice to be made though. A whiplash of a shot all the way over long on and New Zealand were in the World Cup final for the first time. Not many saw that coming. To think of New Zealand's hero on the night, it almost didn't happen.

But that's been the story of New Zealand at world tournaments - the only team to have reached the semifinals of the last four World Cups. You cannot count them out. "We seem to come together so well in world tournaments and probably



New Zealand's Grant Elliott after hitting the winning runs against South Africa in the 2015 World Cup semifinals.

**You can't walk down the street being an All Black. Black Caps are still very much under the radar compared to rugby. I think we like it that way. Most Kiwis grow up wanting to be an All Black. Maybe 2023 can change that for the 13-year-old watching them lift the trophy."**

GRANT ELLIOTT  
FORMER NEW ZEALAND INTERNATIONAL

one of the reasons we seem to always punch above our weight," says Elliott. As Kane Williamson and Co embark on another campaign, Elliott reckons if anything, having less spotlight on the team as compared to the likes of India, Australia and England helps. "No spotlight on the team and individuals...always under the radar and no following circus of press to jump on every false comment or mistake in the

field." Back home, the fever is red hot for the World Cup - not just for cricket. It is the rugby World Cup going on in France that has gripped the entire nation, which probably helps the team in India.

"You can't walk down the street being an All Black. Black Caps are still very much under the radar compared to rugby. I think we like it that way," says Elliott before a little smile takes him over and he concedes his hopes for the coming month-and-a-half. "Most Kiwis grow up wanting to be an All Black. Maybe 2023 can change that for the 13-year-old watching them lift the trophy."

It was something Elliott and the batch of 2015 had come agonizingly close to making happen. A final loss that rankles him to this day. "At 35 overs we seemed to be coasting at around 150/3 with me and (Ross) Taylor in. We lost our way and couldn't keep the pressure on. A real regret of mine and we should have gotten over 250 from that position."

It had been an emotional tournament even otherwise for New Zealand, as it lay

behind one of its favorite sons. Martin Crowe, who was fighting cancer at the time, had expressed his last wish was to watch New Zealand lift the cup. Elliott, who is born in South Africa, had tuned in to the '92 World Cup to watch Proteas in colours, took an instant liking to the Kiwis and Crowe. Later on, Crowe became his favorite player and maybe a reason for him to trust New Zealand as his cricket haven. Look through their squads over the years, and you know Elliott isn't the only one, but that's a story for another day.

In 2019, a second World Cup final would leave an even bigger scar on Black Caps. Elliott believes even though the Williamson-led side didn't have senior players peak the way Brendon McCullum, Daniel Vettori and Co did, the team had gelled well to exceed all expectations. Defeats such as Lord's 2019, which on the scoreboard wasn't even a defeat, begs the question if there's bad fortune associated with New Zealand at the World Cup. "Nothing unfortunate. You need a bit of luck or someone to step up to the plate and we just haven't had anyone take the game by the scruff of the neck."

## Nerves of steel

In 2023, Elliott believes the 15-member squad comprises players who "won't be scared of a final or a tense moment. If anything they will embrace it!"

Winning however isn't the be-all and end-all for them. It's a popular saying in New Zealand for the All Blacks, but it rings true for the Black Caps as well.

From Williamson smiling in the aftermath of the Lord's final to Elliott pausing his celebrations in his finest moment to console a grief-stricken Steyn, the latter admits the 'nice guys' moniker is one the Kiwis take pride in. "I was brought up to be humble in victory and humble in defeat. At the end of the day, you will be measured by the person you were and not the runs and wickets next to your name."

It is the reason that makes New Zealand neutral's favourite. Even before a ball is bowled in the 13th edition of the tournament, the Black Caps seem to have registered their first win with regards to the way they announced their squad. There's a warmth of a closely knit community one gets from watching the kids, wives, mothers, grandmothers announce their World Cup 15. "New Zealand is about community. It's about the sum of the parts and not individuals," believes Elliott.

# Galatasaray hand stuttering United a 3-2 defeat at home

AP/REUTERS  
MANCHESTER, OCTOBER 4

ERIK TEN HAG had started the night by saying there were no excuses for Manchester United's ever-worsening start to the season.

After a shock 3-2 loss at home to Galatasaray in the Champions League on Tuesday, the United manager struggled to come up with an explanation for his team's latest setback.

"When I give an explanation, then you will see that as excuses. ... We can't make the errors we are now making," he said. "We have to do better, it's as simple as that, we have to win our games."

United's sixth loss in 10 games equaled its record at the start of the 1986-87 season, which led to former manager Ron Atkinson being fired and eventually replaced by Alex Ferguson. That change ultimately led to the most successful period in the club's history and Ten Hag is the latest manager to stumble under the pressure of trying to bring the good times back to United after Ferguson's retirement 10 years ago.

The Dutch coach, who is the fifth permanent manager since Ferguson, conceded he was in a "very difficult period" after fans inside Old Trafford jeered his team for the second game in a row.

"We are fighting together, we will stick together, we are behind each other," he said. "Me, the directors and team, all together, we will fight. We know we have to do better and together we will come out."

Mauro Icardi's 81st minute goal secured Galatasaray's first away win in the Champions League since 2013 and increased the pressure on Ten Hag. The striker had already missed a chance from the penalty spot to put the Turkish team ahead. But he was more clinical when racing on to Davinson Sanchez's header and then lifting a shot over United goalkeeper Andre Onana. It was United's second defeat in its opening two matches in Group A of the Champions League to leave it bottom.

To make matters worse for Ten Hag, his team had twice led through goals from Rasmus Hojlund in each half.

But on both occasions Galatasaray produced quick replies to even the score through Wilfried Zaha and Kerem Akturkoglu, while Casemiro was sent off when bringing down Dries Mertens for a penalty in the 76th.

Icardi missed the resulting spot kick, but made no mistake later on.

## Double blow for Arsenal

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta said he is worried about Bukayo Saka's availability for Sunday's league game against Manchester City after the forward went off injured in the first half of their 2-1 Champions League defeat by RC Lens.



Galatasaray's Davinson Sanchez & Sacha Boey celebrate after the match.

Saka was replaced by Fabio Vieira in the 34th minute of Tuesday's game and Arteta said the muscular issue was "big enough not to allow him to continue to play the game and that's obviously a worry for us".

The 22-year-old also limped off the pitch in Arsenal's 4-0 league win at Bournemouth - which was his 87th consecutive Premier League appearance. Before that, he was rested for a League Cup tie against Brentford last week after picking up a knock in a 2-2 home draw with Tottenham Hotspur.

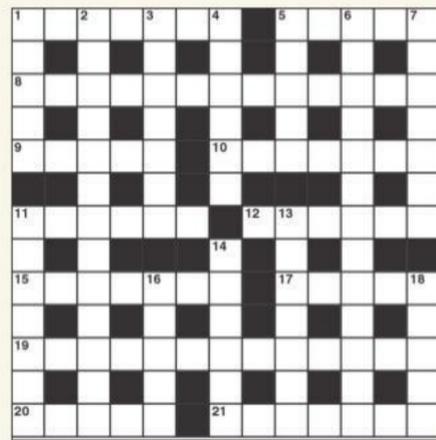
Asked if he regretted starting Saka amid his injury issues, Arteta said: "No, it was a knock that he picked up the other day, and he was perfectly fine ...

"(Saka's previous injuries) were more knocks than any other thing. The last few that he had, he hasn't really missed games. We gave him a break against Brentford in the League Cup, and that was all."

Arteta has been criticised for not resting Saka often enough but the Spanish manager said all the players had been keen to play against Lens. "It was a big Champions League night," he added. "I painted a picture, the scenario, the type of game we are going to have to face today and they all knew about it. But the Champions League is so difficult to win ... and today we take a big lesson as well."

Meanwhile, Real Sociedad picked up its first win in the group stage of the Champions League in two decades with a 2-0 win at Salzburg. Mikel Oyarzabal and Brais Mendez scored first-half goals for Sociedad, which took the Group D lead. The Spanish club reached four points after two matches, while Salzburg stayed on three points.

## CROSSWORD 5174



- ACROSS**  
1 When children are about the dog is tied up (7)  
5 Get to make an impression on the first of February (5)  
8 Protest about taxes put on oil (13)  
9 State of birth (5)  
10 Spots natives around the East (7)  
11 It will flatten a canary (6)  
12 South African currency brought in by an ardent spirit (6)  
15 In this world or possibly another (2,5)  
17 A number get well and live (5)  
19 Showing signs of fight? (6-7)  
20 Out of such groups one is miserable (5)  
21 No longer bound to deliver (3,4)
- DOWN**  
1 Rear to be strict (5)  
21 For one (7,6)  
3 Settle the will (7)  
4 Twice appears as understudy (6)  
5 Saintry man is left money in Swiss banks (5)  
6 Hit or miss affair resulting in wrongful conviction? (5,3,5)  
7 A virtue easily cultivated (7)  
11 Figure the mob rush out to see (7)  
13 Make out a new plan for Marxist flotation (7)  
14 Revising his set subject (6)  
16 Parts with some bread we hear (5)  
18 New gold key for the house (5)

Solutions Crossword 5174 Across: 1 Coronation, 6 Edam, 10 Synod, 11 Signalmen, 12 Overture, 13 Serif, 15 In tails, 17 Covered, 19 Thrusts, 21 Marsala, 22 Extra, 24 Baroness, 27 Scutcheon, 28 Ran up, 29 Disc, 30 Stargazers Down: 1 Cast, 2 Renovator, 3 Nadir, 4 Tissues, 5 Organic, 7 Demur, 8 Men of Ideas, 9 Passover, 14 Distressed, 16 Instance, 18 Road sense, 20 Subject, 21 Mariner, 23 Truss, 25 Norma, 26 Opus

## OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



## CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



## MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



## DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

### ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

The past few weeks seem to have been exhausting, but perhaps more because you've been putting your energy in the wrong direction than as a result of any real increase in your duties. However, you always have to bear in mind that it's very important to learn from your mistakes.

### TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

You are bound to receive a great deal of help from behind the scenes, even if you don't know what's happening. The fact is that you will not be aware of the nature or existence of such discreet assistance until next week - or even next year. There's no hurry.

### GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

There is a chance of a fresh start at work within a few days. The opportunity is slight, to be sure, but if you make the right moves now, events should eventually work out in your favour. Socially, the outlook is still bright, though not outstanding.

### CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Perhaps you need to set an example - and maybe you should take the initiative. You may still have to be discreet in your usual manner, but you must raise various issues for discussion. Deal with joint finances today, and remember that property deals are strongly signified.

### LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Don't give up or give in to feelings of inadequacy. Other people may try to undermine you, or, at least, that is how it seems. Perhaps you would do best to try to see the grain of truth in all criticism, rather than closing your ears to uncomfortable suggestions.

### VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

There's no escape from hard work today. Even social and pleasurable pursuits could require extra effort. However, those of you who pulled your weight yesterday, and the day before, will soon find that you have spare time for socialising and indulging your favourite whims.

### LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

Celestial challenges are on their way. It seems that other people have made unfair emotional demands in the immediate past, but very soon you'll be able to understand their motives, and that should give you ample cause for celebration.

### SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

Planetary activity in the realms of your chart relating to work and money should have brought suitable remuneration for your efforts. Each and every event in your romantic life is to be treasured, by the way, no matter how small. And aside from that, you may press on with practical matters as fast as you can.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

Do try to finalise any major issues now. Mars has been stirring you up for so long, that you may have become used to its slightly aggressive energies, but you should realise that you have only a few more weeks during which it will be so easy to get your own way.

### CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

You can put the record straight and prove just how eager, caring and kind you really are. Don't panic - you won't actually have to do anything. Others should be content in the knowledge that, where you're concerned, it's the thought that counts.

### AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

The cosmos is a wild place, but you have survived pretty well so far. Today is a suitable time to re-orientate yourself and lower your emotional armour, taking a peep at the world around you. You never know - you may like what you see. You might even spot a prospective new partner.

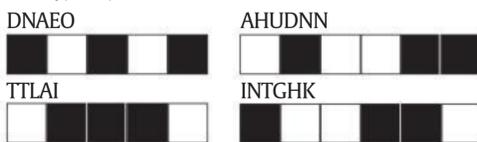
### PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

There has been a spot of middle reactivity, but the position should soon improve quite drastically. I'm not saying that there won't be any further confusion, but at least you'll be responsible for your own success or failure. That means you'll be able to take all the necessary steps.

## JUMBLLED 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.

It is strange what a man may do, and a woman yet think him an angel. - William Makepeace Thackeray (2, 5, 5)

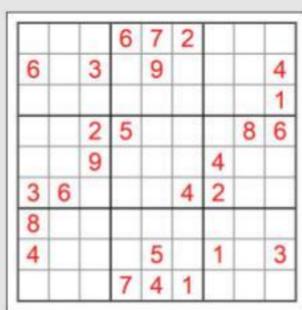


SOLUTION: ANODE, ATTRIT, UNHAND, KINGHT. Answer: It is strange what a man may do, and a woman yet think him an angel.

## SUDOKU 5341

Difficulty Level 5s  
Instructions  
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

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



## SOLUTION SUDOKU 5340





## PREVIEW

## Two golden generations on a similar path

SANDIP G  
OCTOBER 4

AS Eoin Morgan, England's ODI World Cup-winning captain-turned pundit, walked into the captain's roundtable in Ahmedabad, Ravi Shastri asked him whether he had dispensed any advice to his successor Jos Buttler. Giggling, Morgan replied in jest: "I told him don't mess it up." But assuming a graver voice, he said: "I just told Jos Buttler to be Jos Buttler. Be yourself, do not copy anybody."

Buttler's men embellished England's ICC trophy cabinet by winning the T20 World Cup last year, and have lived by Morgan's relentless-aggression ideals. But they land in India without the aura of defending white-ball champions in both formats, with niggles, concerns and without the ruthless quest for the title Morgan's men displayed.

Post the transformational Morgan era, England have won only half of their 14 bilateral 50-over series. Four of them were against Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Ireland and the Netherlands. Buttler's own captaincy record is unflattering, having won a little more than half of the games he has captained in (14 of 27). In the last four years, they have played less than half the number of matches (42) that Morgan's men had (88) in the four-year cycle before that, after picking England from its "lowest ebb", according to Morgan. They have scored runs as fast as Morgan's men did though, between 6.20 and 6.30 runs an over. Their Australian white-ball coach Matthew Mott, though not as fashionable as his Test counterpart Brendon McCullum, has not diluted the dose of aggression he inherited.

That, though, does not imply that England are the shabby bunch of the mid- and late 90s. There is considerable firepower and experience — they have a combined experience of 971 ODIs and all but two members have not lifted some kind of World Cup trophy; 11 of their 15 are well into their 30s — with all but Gus Atkinson having not experienced international cricket in Asia. There is diversity in Adil Rashid's wrist-spin and the whirling speed of Mark Wood.

Apart from three left-arm seamers, a clever seamer in Chris Woakes and spin-bowling all-rounders in Moeen Ali (off-spin) and Liam Livingstone (all sorts), Joe Root and Harry Brook too could be summoned. A setback though is the injury to all-rounder Ben Stokes, though the physios are doing overtime to get him back to peak fitness soon.

Irresistible though is the impression that this could be the last 50-over concert for this incredible band of white-ball virtuosos. Riding a similar curve is New Zealand, the men of valour England defeated by the thinnest of margins in the final four years ago. They too are an ageing side; their talismanic captain and most experienced seam bowler are sweating over injuries.

Neither Williamson nor Southee, 33 and 34 respectively, are likely to be around for another World Cup. So is Trent Boult, 34; nine others are 30 or 30-plus, making this their last bid to redeem successive defeats in World Cup finals. Their coach Gary Stead too has lost two ODI finals, both at Lord's (in 2009 with the White Ferns and 2019 with the Black Caps).

Thus, in many ways, the teams featuring in the most thrilling final are treading a similar path, two golden generations nearing the end of their dazzle.



Ben Stokes is yet to recover from a hip niggle that kept him out of their last warm-up game. Reuters

Whether it's playing in India or away from India, pressure is something that is not going to leave a sportsman

ROHIT SHARMA, INDIA CAPTAIN



On the eve of the 50-over World Cup, all 10 captains gathered in Ahmedabad, the venue for the opener between England and New Zealand, to participate in a Captains' Day. Nirmal Hariindran

# Lull before the toss

Ahmedabad, venue for the opener, isn't shouting from the rooftops, it is engulfed in a comfortable pre-tournament silence

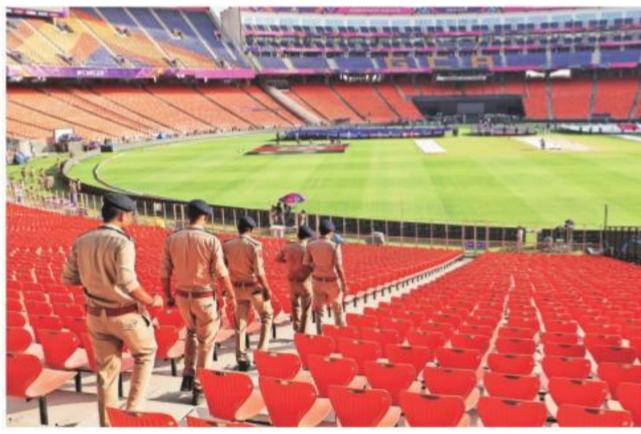
SRIRAM VEERA  
AHMEDABAD, OCTOBER 4

IT'S A breezy morning at the city's most popular tourist spot, the Gandhi Ashram. Around 100-odd sightseers explore the epicentre of the Indian freedom movement by the banks of the Sabarmati river. A few kilometres away lies the epicentre of modern-day Indian cricket — the biggest cricket stadium in the world named after Prime Minister Narendra Modi, where the 2023 World Cup will begin and also end on November 19. Starting Thursday, when defending champions England play New Zealand in the opener, thousands will arrive at the imposing venue, many stopping for Babu's darshan on way to their cricketing pilgrimage.

Be it Ashram Road, or the city's other main arteries, there are no elaborate World Cup signages and fan-park announcements on hoardings. There is a big model of the trophy at the airport; that's about it. Ahmedabad isn't shouting from the rooftops, it is engulfed in a comfortable pre-tournament silence. In the streets, if there is any talk, it's still around the tickets for the India-Pakistan game. A few have landed outside the stadium looking for black-market touts. "2000 rupee (tickets) for 32,000," says one fan. Another says, "I heard it was a lakh!"

Not too far from those willing to pay a Rs 1 lakh to witness India play Pakistan, on the other side of the giant gates of the stadium, sat the 10 captains for the pre-World Cup conference. India skipper Rohit Sharma was asked about the pressure of playing at home, Pakistan and the elusive ICC trophy. Sitting closest to the trophy, which was on display, Rohit paused, swayed his head, smiled, and even as a light laughter began to go around the room, the seemingly confident captain would say, "I know what's at stake."

Sitting next to Rohit was New Zealand captain Kane Williamson, who at one point was likely to miss the tournament due to the nasty knee injury he picked up in the Indian Premier League. After a remarkable recov-



Police personnel at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. Nirmal Hariindran

ery, though he will be missing the first match against England, the team that pipped his team in the final last time, he will soon start playing a role. Ironically, England which used to look down on ODIs less than a decade ago, has been revived first by Irishman Eoin Morgan, who was in attendance on Wednesday in Ahmedabad, and then Ben Stokes, who was born in New Zealand.

For some reason, it's the Kiwi-heads who seem to have cracked the ICC code; they are always in the final. Jos Buttler, however, is the England ODI captain, and spoke a cautious line about every team starting equally.

All captains parroted the line about how they have to take it one game at a time. If there was any bold statement, it came from Afghanistan captain Hashmatullah Shahidi when asked by Ravi Shastri, Indian cricket events' DJ for ever and a day, about how bowling is their strength.

"Our spinners are good, but this World Cup our batting will make a strong statement."

Sitting next to him was Pat Cummins, one of the two clean-shaven captains along with Buttler amidst a beard-fest around them; he turned and nodded his head at the Afghan.

There was also a gentle remark that Pakistan's Babar Azam managed to slip in along with the homilies that triggered knowing nods in the room. Shastri again with a question about how the Hyderabad people have been showering the team with their hospitality, and Babar thanked the people before adding, "it would have been nice to have Pakistani people in the stands".

The visa issue is still unresolvable. Politics and cricket go hand in hand at this venue. It's where Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah first wet their feet in cricket administration with the Gujarat Cricket Association, reshaping an erstwhile-ravine-and-turned-to-stadium into the world's largest cricket arena. Shah's son, Jay, is the powerful BCCI secretary and the face of India's cricket administration. There is a buzz among the officials that the 'Sahib' might

## SKIPPER TALK

"Since we came to Hyderabad, the hospitality we got, the way people welcomed us, from the airport to the hotel, the crowd in the ground and in the last match, we liked it a lot. It would have been better if we had fans from our side."

BABAR AZAM  
PAKISTAN SKIPPER

"There aren't too many events where half the world tunes in to watch, and that is India playing Pakistan in a World Cup for you. Even if you are personally not involved, you watch and feel the passion around the game. There will be easily over 100,000 people here."

PAT CUMMINS  
AUSTRALIA SKIPPER

come for the first game. No one is willing to say anything more as no one knows for sure.

"For sure, he will come for the India-Pakistan match," says an official who doesn't want to be named.

## Gandhi and cricket

Unlike Modi, cricket was a source of pain for Gandhi in some ways. Just before Independence, he would launch a passionate plea to the countrymen to stop the "communal" Pentangular tournament, that was

played along religious lines between teams of Hindus, Muslims, Parsis and a team of Rest following other faiths.

"I would like the public of Bombay to revise their sporting code and erase from it communal matches. I can understand matches between colleges and institutions, but I never understood the reasons for having Hindu, Parsi, Muslim and other communal Elevens. I should have thought that such unsportsmanlike divisions would be considered taboos in sporting language and sporting manners," wrote Gandhi. "Can we not have some field of life which cannot be touched by the communal spirit?"

The tournament would soon be disbanded after Babu's request. Those were different times.

Back at the ashram, there's history, humour, tragedy, pain, historical events, trivia strewn around every pillar. Like Gandhi's letter to Hitler, that starts with "My friend", a plea to stop the war.

Though not at the ashram, there is credible historical reference of Gandhi indulging cricket. Ramachandra Guha, the foremost Gandhi scholar of our times, wrote about the occasion when Laxmi Merchant, the sister of Vijay Merchant, India's most famous opener before Sunil Gavaskar, sought Gandhi's autograph. Gandhi supposedly trawled through Laxmi's book, stopped at a page with the 1933-34 MCC team that toured India led by Douglas Jardine, of Bodyline fame. Gandhi scrolled down, added an extra member to the 16-men squad: "17. M.K. Gandhi".

While cricket is in the pink of health in these parts, the ODI format faces an identity crisis. One-day cricket's younger brother, T20 cricket, is furiously kicking a charming flag around the world with mushrooming leagues. No one anywhere has started a 50-over league.

Befittingly, India, whose 1983 triumph kickstarted an insatiable appetite for the 50-over format, would be voting on its future over the next two months: will the fans turn out in huge numbers even for non-India matches? Rohit was sure they would.

## A CRICKET TRAGIC

## Chicago Chacha, the lone Pakistan cheerleader in India, has Hyderabad roots

SANDIP G  
HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 4

ALONE Pakistan flag fluttered passionately at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium during the warm-up game between Australia and Pakistan. But the voice of its bearer Mohammad Bashir, better known as Chicago Chacha in cricket circles, was the loudest and deepest. He would bounce around the stands throughout the match, wave the flag with furious energy, chit-chat and banter with spectators, and pause occasionally for a swig of water or to catch a quick breath.

"I am getting old, have survived three heart attacks and I am not quite as energetic as I used to be," says the 66-year-old. But the passion for the game remains undiminished.

A familiar face at cricket World Cups — he has not missed one since 2007, suffering multiple heartbreaks of his team ending up titleless and made numerous friends of different nationalities — he has shed his energy in al-

most every cricketing city in the world and watched hundreds of games. "500, 400, frankly I don't keep count. I just carry memories," he says, with a quivering excitement in his tone.

But his most memorable game unfolds on Thursday, he says. For he could be the only fan from Pakistan who would watch the World Cup, at least at the start of the tournament. Stringent visa regulations have been a hurdle for fans from across the border to make the trip in time for Pakistan's first game, against the Netherlands, on Friday. Bashir has an American passport, and hence had no trouble in procuring a visa.

He hopes there will be more fans from Pakistan — the PCB has apparently requested the ICC to expedite the process — but irrespective of the outcome, he would sustain his flag-waving chutzpah.

Rather than feeling lonely or fearing the hostility of the fans, he looks at the prospect of being a one-man cheerleader with relish and added responsibility. "Life is all about



Travelling fan Mohammad Bashir, better known as Chicago Chacha, at the Charminar in Hyderabad. His wife's family hails from the city. Express

"My parents migrated (to Karachi) from Hyderabad. They have told me lots of stories about the city. Then I married a girl from Hyderabad. So I am the city's daamad (son-in-law). I can call it my home."

MOHAMMAD BASHIR

new experiences, and if I were to be the only supporter of my team, that would be a memory of a lifetime. It gives me all the more reasons to support Pakistan. Why do you need to be afraid? The people, be it on the streets or in the stands, have been utmost friendly," he says.

With a streak of mischief in his sparkling eyes, he likes to cater to the gallery. "I would start chanting 'Jeetega bhai jeetega' and pause, and the crowd would chant Hindustan jeetega. I will sing along. There would be occasional banter, but at the end of the day, we leave the ground with a hug, a

selfie. Sometimes we exchange numbers too," he says, listing out the friends he has made in the country, some of them superfans themselves.

He then clears his throat and clarifies: "As much as being a Pakistan fan, I am a fan of cricket and cricketers too. So it does not matter whether I am the only one from the country or there are thousands of others. I like watching Kohli as much as I love Babar," he says. His favourite cricketer was MS Dhoni and he vouched to stop travelling for tournaments once he retired. "But I couldn't resist the game's pull. I couldn't resist missing a World Cup in India, even more so because it is held in India," he says.

It's his third visit to India, and he says it is destiny that Pakistan start off their campaign in Hyderabad.

"My parents migrated (to Karachi) from Hyderabad. They have told me lots of stories about the city. Then I married a girl from Hyderabad. So I am the city's daamad (son-in-law). I can call it my home" he says. It's for

his wife that he usually wears a t-shirt with her picture and the line—"jis desh mein ganga behti hai us desh ki meri biwi hai"—embossed on it.

He and his wife own a restaurant chain in Chicago, Ghareeb Nawaz. Their signature dish invariably is the Hyderabad biryani, which they used to sell at a cheaper rate than other eateries. "We began by serving value-for-money food, and if our business had not flourished I would not have travelled around the world to watch cricket," he says. In a sense, it is a Hyderabad biryani-funded homecoming to Hyderabad.

His phone buzzes relentlessly. Some relative or a friend of his wife would want to meet him, or want to invite him for lunch or dinner, inevitably feeding him with the biryani. "Nothing beats the real one," he says.

He has to maintain his diet, but flag waving, he says, burns all the calories. Many biryani-filled afternoons and evenings await him, so does the call of being his country's sole flag-waver so far in this tournament.

MEDALS TALLY				
Country	G	S	B	Total
1 China	171	94	51	316
2 Japan	37	51	59	147
3 South Korea	33	45	70	148
4 India	18	31	32	81
5 Uzbekistan	16	16	22	54
6 Chinese Taipei	12	14	20	46
7 Thailand	10	12	24	46

INDIA'S DAY 11 HAUL:

**3 GOLD**  
ATHLETICS  
Men's Javelin: Neeraj Chopra  
Men's 4x400m relay: Muhammed Anas, Amoj Jacob, Muhammed Ajmal, Rajesh Ramesh

**ARCHERY**  
Compound mixed team: Ojas Deotale and Jyothi Surekha

**5 SILVER**  
ATHLETICS  
Men's 5000m: Avinash Sable  
Men's Javelin: Kishore Jena  
Women's 4x400m relay: Vithya Ramraj, Subha Venkatesan, Aishwarya Mishra, Prachi.  
Women's 800m: Harmilan Bains

**BOXING**  
Women's 75kg: Lovlina Borgohain

**4 BRONZE**  
ATHLETICS  
35km Race Walk mixed team: Ram Baboo, Rani Manju

**BOXING**  
Women's 57kg: Parveen Hooda  
Men's +92kg: Narender Berwal

**SQUASH**  
Mixed doubles: Abhay Singh, Anahat Singh

**WRESTLING**  
Men's Greco-Roman 87kg: Sunil Kumar.

ASIAD CAPSULE

Disappointing day for Indian riders in Equestrian

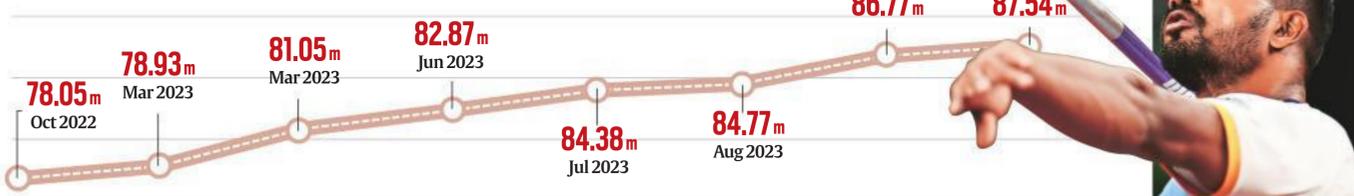
Indian riders failed to qualify for the finals of both individual and team jumping events of equestrian competition at the Asian Games here on Wednesday. In the individual jumping qualifier, Yash Nensee with his horse D A Mour Du Wenuphar finished at 41st position after round 2 with a total penalty of 23 (4 + 19). The other two Indian riders -- Kirat Singh Nagar and Tejas Dhingran, were eliminated. In the team jumping event, India thus failed to advance to the finals. India has won two medals -- one gold in the dressage team event and one bronze in the dressage individual event -- at the ongoing Asian Games. PTI

India women outclass Uzbeks 4-0; men share honours with China in chess

Indian women crushed Uzbekistan 4-0, while the men were held to a 2-2 draw by China in the sixth round of the chess team competition in the Asian Games. Against China, the Indian men saw games on all four boards ending in draws. D Gukesh and Chinese GM Wei Yi played out a draw, while R Pragnanandhaa held Xiangzhi Bu on the second board. India continues to occupy the second spot with 9 match points (2 match points for a win and 1 for a draw) behind Iran (10 MPs). The second-seeded Indian women is in second spot in the standings with 8 match points. PTI

Kishore Jena's rising graph

Kishore Kumar Jena's personal best was 78.05 metres in October last year.



78.93m

Kishore Jena's personal best in March. Nearly 8-and-a-half metres less than his best on Wednesday.

84.77m

At the World Championships in Budapest, he had improved his personal best to 84.77m.

Javelin brings immeasurable joy

Neeraj Chopra wins come-from-behind gold in thrilling fashion; Kishore Kumar Jena improves personal best twice to win silver



EXPRESS AT ASIAN GAMES

MIHIR VASAVDA  
HANGZHOU, OCTOBER 4

LIKE A BUNCH of horticulturists, three men bend forward, squint and pore over a damaged patch of grass. After a minute of careful analysis, one of them looks unhappy and leads the other two to a different hole a few yards away, and the sequence repeats.

It's the final night of track and field at the Asian Games. The Hangzhou Olympic Stadium is packed to its capacity. And under the bright lights, in the middle of the sprawling field, three puzzled technical officials are trying to find the spot where Neeraj Chopra's javelin landed.

Clueless, they turn to the technical officials' desk. But there isn't any help forthcoming. All they see from a distance, like the tens of thousands in the stands, is an agitated Chopra wildly gesticulating at the bench and the officials seated there blankly staring back.

A few days ago, in the final of the 3-Position Rifle, there was a 'missing shot'. On Wednesday, the javelin final turned into the tale of a missing throw.

Chopra won, as he more often than not does, with a throw of 88.88m to lead a gold-silver finish for India with Kishore Jena marking his personal best of 87.54m, which also sealed his Olympic qualification.

Before their fanfare, though, was the farce. The competition began with the most familiar sights of them all: Neeraj galloping down the runway, launching the spear high into the night sky, falling on his fours followed by a roar -- the sign that he was happy with the throw.

It travelled a long distance and fell way beyond the 85m mark; to the naked eye, it looked closer in fact to 88m. "It looked good," Neeraj said later. But it will never be known how far the throw went. Because the most unfamiliar scenes followed.

The officials, it turned out, could not measure the throw. A machine is normally used to calculate the distance. "Apparently, the next athlete threw before they could even measure my throw," Neeraj said. The officials tried doing it manually. "But they lost my mark," Neeraj added.

Dr. Karlos Bartonietz said he'd seen officials at a competition in Portugal before the Tokyo Olympics record wrong measurements. But nothing like this. For close to 15 minutes, Neeraj haggled with the officials. "Ultimately, they asked me to retake the throw. I accepted their offer because other athletes were waiting. Their bodies were cooling down because of the incident and I was telling those athletes sorry again and again as they had to wait because of me," Neeraj said.

And so he went again, amidst allegations and conspiracy theories that travelled faster and farther than the actual throws. But the absurdity wouldn't end there. A few minutes later, a furious Neeraj was back at the officials' desk -- this time fighting for his teammate Jena.

The officials red-flagged the Odisha thrower's second attempt for overstepping the board. But Neeraj's hawkish eyes had noticed that Jena was within the mark and so, he protested. Jena, too, joined in and after the of-



Neeraj Chopra's best throw of 88.88m came in his fourth attempt. PTI

icials reviewed the throw, they were forced to reverse the call. The official incompetence overshadowed the brilliance of the Indian throwers, who made the Asian Games final a friendly battle among themselves, floating in a different orbit compared to the rest of the field.

The next best thrower, bronze medallist from Japan Genki Dean, was a little more than 6m behind Neeraj and 5 short of Jena.

Jena was almost apologetic about throwing down the gauntlet. "I must say that I idolise Neeraj," he said. Neeraj was grateful to his teammate. "Thank you, Kishore Jena. You pushed me to do well. Aaj maza aa gaya."

I was happy for Kishore but there's this competitive spirit within me and I had to come up with a bigger throw.

-NEERAJ CHOPRA

Jena, who finished in the top five of the World Championships in August, set the competition on fire with his third attempt, which travelled a distance of 86.77m -- his personal best and almost two metres ahead of Neeraj's best attempt until that point.

The Olympic and World Champion, who admitted to getting affected by the earlier distractions, had to respond to defend his Asian Games title. And immediately, he did.

A sweeping wave echoed inside the stadium as, on his fourth attempt, Neeraj's javelin flew half-way across the ground for a mammoth throw of 88.88m. "I was happy for Kishore but there's this competitive spirit within me and I had to come up with a bigger throw," Neeraj said.

He reclaimed the first position and it was now Jena's turn to respond. And he did so with utmost grace. Jena casually strolled down the runway before unleashing another gigantic throw that fell at a distance of 87.54m. In consecutive throws, he'd broken his own personal best but the second one wasn't enough to topple Neeraj from the perch.

Jena's silver will shine as brightly as Chopra's gold following an evening when the only thing that could stop the Indian duo is not measuring their scores. And even that couldn't. "We fought, showed how hard we have worked and won medals," Neeraj said.

Indian tally at golden heights

MIHIR VASAVDA  
HANGZHOU, OCTOBER 4

THE DAY began with an arrow piercing the morning chill. It ended with a spear floating across the night sky. Both yielded the same result: a gold medal.

The archers ensured India's best-ever medal tally at the Asian Games when the compound mixed team won the gold. The athletes made sure the gold count, too, would be higher than ever before. The track and field athletes, who won seven medals on Wednesday and have a total haul of 29, took India's medal count to 81 -- 11 more than that at the 2018 Games. The 18 gold medals, too, are two more than the previous edition in Jakarta with javelin and relay providing the final push.

"When we finished our events and posed for photos," javelin gold medallist Neeraj Chopra said, "(silver medal winner Kishore) Jena told me, 'aaj sab taraf apna flag dikh raha hai (our flag is everywhere).'"

While the duo were navigating through a controversial final, Neeraj and Jena saw the Tricolour being hoisted four times. The 35km mixed walk team was the first to be handed their bronze medals after a punishing race in the morning. Harmilan Bains then claimed the silver in the 800m followed by Avinash Sable's battling silver medal in the 5,000m and the women's 4x400m relay team's second-place finish. Then, as Jena and Neeraj embarked on a lap of honour with the flag draped around their shoulders, they spotted four smiling faces on

the opposite end of the field. "I looked up and saw the relay team was celebrating their win," Jena said.

Mohammad Anas, who ran the opening leg, started well. But the oldest man of the team at 28 was still fifth-best in the field. On the final stretch, he ran out of steam and from pushing for first place, he finished far behind the rest of the pack with a timing of 43.60 seconds.

Amoj Jacob covered the gap inside the first 200m, overtook Sri Lanka's Kaushika Dewage and Qatar's Ashraf Osman and as he came out from the curve, he led the second-placed Sri Lankan by nearly a second.

Muhammed Ajmal, with his long strides and unending energy, didn't let the lead slip despite coming under increasing pressure from Qatar's Ismail Abakar, who ran a faster leg. The cushion provided by Jacob came in handy as India were in pole position going into the anchor leg. Rajesh Ramesh, the youngest of the lot aged 23, did not let it fritter away. India finished the race in 3 minutes, 1.58 seconds ahead of Qatar (3:02.05) and Sri Lanka (3:02.55). Behind the smiling faces were stories of sweet redemption. Anas was struggling and virtually written off. Ramesh's prospects faded after a promising start to his career. Until recently, he worked full-time as a ticket checker at Trichy railway station.

The upturn in fortunes was evident at the World Championships in Budapest, where they challenged the mighty Americans in the heats to qualify for the final. The relay gold, India's first since the 1962 Asiad, has now stoked Olympic ambitions.

MEN'S JAVELIN FINAL STANDINGS

Pos.	Athlete	Rd 1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Rd5	Rd 6
1	Neeraj Chopra	82.38m	84.49	X	88.88	80.80	X
2	Kishore Kumar Jena	81.26m	79.76	86.77	87.54	X	X
3	Roderick Genki Dean	78.87m	78.53	X	75.50	82.68	78.67

TODAY'S SCHEDULE | INDIA WATCH FOR DAY 12

SQUASH: SAURAV GHOSAL ON THE BRINK OF GOLD

The grand old man of Indian squash, who has been winning medals at Asian Games since 2006, will have his eyes on the elusive individual gold. He takes on Malaysia's Ng Eain Yow, who he beat in the team semifinal but it won't be easy again. Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu and Dipika Pallikal Karthik are also in the mixed doubles final.



MIXED DOUBLES FINAL: HARINDER & DIPIKA -- 11:30 AM

MEN'S SINGLES FINAL: SAURAV GHOSAL -- 2:30 PM

BADMINTON: CRUNCH TIME FOR TOP SHUTTLERS

PV Sindhu, HS Prannoy, Satwik-Chirag are one win away each from ensuring a place on the

podium. While Satwik-Chirag came through a tricky test in the round of 16 and will be favourites now to reach at least the semifinals, both Sindhu and Prannoy face tough challenges against He Bing Jiao and Lee Zii Jia respectively.

WOMEN'S SINGLES QF: PV SINDHU -- 6:50 AM

MEN'S SINGLES QF: HS PRANNOY -- 7:50 AM

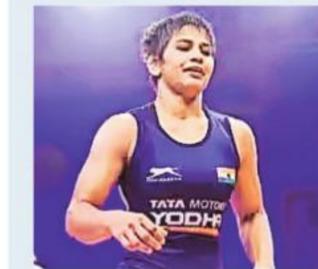
MEN'S DOUBLES QF: SATWIK/CHIRAG -- AFTER 2:30 PM

BADMINTON: CRUNCH TIME FOR TOP SHUTTLERS

Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Ojas Pravin Deotale and Co have been on fire in Hangzhou and they are potentially looking at more medals in the women's and men's compound team events on Thursday.

COMPOUND WOMEN'S TEAM QUARTERFINAL: 6:10 AM ONWARDS

COMPOUND MEN'S TEAM QUARTERFINAL: 12:15 PM ONWARDS



WRESTLING (PRELIMINARIES TO MEDAL ROUNDS): ANTIM (WW 53KG), NARINDER CHEEMA (GR 97KG), MANSI (WW 57KG), POOJA GEHLOT (WW 50KG), NAVEEN (GR 130KG) -- 07:30 IST

GHOSAL EYES SQUASH GOLD

Here's a look at the other main India events to track at the Hangzhou Asian Games

ONWARDS

ATHLETICS:

MEN'S MARATHON FINAL: MAN SINGH, AB BELLIPPA -- 4:30 AM

MEN'S KABADDI:

INDIA VS CHINESE TAIPEI, GROUP A (8:00 AM), INDIA VS JAPAN, GROUP A (1:30 PM)

BRIDGE:

GOLD MEDAL MATCHES BEGIN FOR INDIAN MEN'S TEAM VS HONG KONG (6:30 AM ONWARDS)

CHESS: MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TEAM EVENTS (ROUND 7 FROM 12:30 PM)

SEPAKTAKRAW: MEN'S REGU PRELIMINARY VS THAILAND (6:30 AM) &

PHILIPPINES (11:30 AM), WOMEN'S REGU PRELIMINARY VS VIETNAM (7:30 AM) & CHINA (12:30 PM)

ROLLERSKATING: WOMEN'S INLINE FREESTYLE PRELIMINARY -- SHREYASI JOSHI, MERLIN (6:30 AM) MEN'S INLINE FREESTYLE PRELIMINARY -- SATYAN NANAL, VISHVESH PATIL (11:30 AM)

JU-JITSU: 6:30 AM ONWARDS

SOFT TENNIS: 7:30 AM ONWARDS

SPORT CLIMBING: MEN'S & WOMEN'S BOULDER & LEAD -- 6:30 AM ONWARDS

CANOE SLALOM: CANOE & KAYAK HEATS -- 7:00 AM ONWARDS



HOCKEY: SEMIFINAL TIME FOR WOMEN'S TEAM

The men have done their part to edge through to the final and now the attention shifts to Savita Punia and Co, who will face a stiff test against hosts China.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY: INDIA VS CHINA, SEMIFINAL (1:30 PM)