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ESE & GATE

THE WORLD

FINAL YOUGov POLL SHOWS AUSTRALIANS TO REJECT INDIGENOUS VOICE

Australians are set to overwhelmingly say 'No' to a proposal to constitutionally recognise the country's Indigenous people in a referendum on Saturday, one of the final opinion polls ahead of the vote showed. Over 4 million have cast their ballot after early voting began on October 2. **REUTERS**

BLINKEN MEETS NETANYAHU IN TEL AVIV:
'We are here, we are not going anywhere'

MORE THAN 2.3 MILLION IN GAZA STRIP
without electricity after plant runs out of fuel

WILL ACT AGAINST PRO-HAMAS OUTFITS,
says German Chancellor, slams Iran leadership

No break in Gaza siege until hostages freed: Israel

Red Cross and Qatar step in, establish contact with Hamas to secure release of Israeli hostages

AGENCIES
JERUSALEM, GAZA, OCTOBER 12

ISRAEL SAID Thursday there would be no humanitarian exceptions to its siege of the Gaza Strip until all its hostages were freed, after the Red Cross pleaded for fuel to be allowed in to prevent overwhelmed hospitals from "turning into morgues".

The US Secretary of State Antony Blinken landed in Israel on a trip to show solidarity with Israel, help prevent the war from spreading and push for the release of hostages, including American citizens.

He will also visit Jordan Friday to meet King Abdullah and Mahmoud Abbas, head of the Palestinian Authority.

An hour after landing in Tel Aviv, Blinken shook hands with Netanyahu and told him: "We're here, we're not going anywhere."

Israel has vowed to annihilate the Hamas movement that rules the Gaza Strip in retribution for the deadliest attack on Jewish civilians since the Holocaust, when hundreds of gunmen poured across the barrier fence and rampaged through Israeli towns last Saturday.

Public broadcaster Kan said the Israeli death toll had risen to more than 1,300 since Saturday. Most were civilians gunned down in their homes, on the streets or at a dance party.

Scores of Israeli and foreign hostages were taken back to Gaza; Israel says it has identified 97 of them.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said it was in touch with Hamas and Israeli authorities as part of efforts to secure the release of Israeli hostages.



Palestinians sit outside their house following Israeli airstrikes in Rafah refugee camp, southern Gaza Strip, Thursday. AP



Israeli tanks head towards Gaza Strip border on Thursday. AP

Gazans rush to buy food as Israel readies ground offensive

AGENCIES
GAZA, OCTOBER 12

MOST OF the 2.3 million people in the Gaza Strip have no electricity and no water. And, with hundreds of Israeli strikes raining down on their tiny enclave, they have nowhere to run.

Gaza's sole power station, which had been working intermittently for days, cut out on Wednesday after running out of fuel. Without power, water can't be pumped into houses. At night there's nearly total darkness punctuated by fireballs and the pin-pricks of light from phones used as flashlights.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, also known as OCHA, also reported that all 13 hospitals in the territory are only partially operational because of severe shortages of fuel and crucial medical supplies. It said the reduction in water supplies due to Israel tightening its siege on the strip has resulted in dire water shortages for over 650,000 people in the territory of 2.3 million.

At a hospital in Khan Younis in southern Gaza, relatives and friends lined up outside the over-

loaded morgue where bodies were laid out on the floor because coolers were full or had no power.

The mourners were desperate to bury their loved ones swiftly before the unseasonable heat took its toll. They spoke over the bodies, praying for the souls to rest in peace, before they carried them to graves nearby, with stretchers if available, or otherwise without.

Palestinians lined up outside bakeries and grocery stores in Gaza on Thursday after spending the night surrounded by the ruins of pulverized neighborhoods darkened by a near-total power outage. Israel launched new airstrikes and said it was preparing for a possible ground invasion.

Lt Colonel Richard Hecht, an Israeli military spokesman, said Thursday that forces "are preparing for a ground maneuver" should political leaders order one. A ground offensive in Gaza, whose 2.3 million residents are densely packed into a sliver of land only 40 kilometers long, would likely bring even higher casualties on both sides in brutal house-to-house fighting.

Lines formed outside bakeries and grocery stores during the few hours they dared open, as people tried to stock on food before shelves are emptied.



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken with Israel's PM Benjamin Netanyahu in Tel Aviv on Thursday. Reuters

Qatar, a frequent mediator between Israel and Hamas, has also confirmed its involvement in the negotiations.

Israeli Energy Minister Israel Katz said there would be no exceptions to the siege of Gaza without freedom for Israeli hostages.

"Humanitarian aid to Gaza? No electrical switch will be lifted, no water hydrant will be opened and no fuel truck will enter until the Israeli hostages are returned home. Humanitarian for humanitarian. And nobody should preach us morals," Katz posted on social media platform X.

Scholz: Iran responsible for helping Hamas grow to a point of attacking

THOMAS ESCRITT & MIRANDA MURRAY
BERLIN, OCTOBER 12

GERMAN CHANCELLOR Olaf Scholz said on Thursday Iran bore responsibility for helping Hamas grow to the point where it launched last weekend's attack on Israel, as he announced a crackdown on organisations that backed the Islamist movement.

"While we have no firm proof that Iran operationally supported this cowardly attack, it is clear that without Iranian support, Hamas would never have been able to launch this unprecedented attack," the chancellor said.

"The statements from top of Iranian regime and some other of-



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz at the lower house of the parliament. Reuters

ficials in the region are abhorrent. The leadership in Tehran shows its true colours without shame, and confirms its role in Gaza."

US, Qatar block Iran's \$6-billion

THE US and Qatar agreed to block Iran's access to \$6 billion in funds transferred as part of a pact between Washington and Tehran that led to release of five jailed Americans from Iran last month. It is unclear whether Biden administration intends to cut off funds permanently. **NYT**

The Islamic Republic has celebrated the Hamas assault but denied that Tehran was behind them. **REUTERS**

Putin visits Kyrgyzstan in first foreign trip since arrest warrant by ICC

REUTERS
BISHKEK, OCTOBER 12

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin held talks in Kyrgyzstan on Thursday, a Central Asian nation with strong ties to Moscow, during what was his first foreign trip since the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an arrest warrant for him in March.

The Kremlin chief has rarely travelled abroad since he sent troops into Ukraine in early 2022 and is not known to have left Russia since the ICC issued a warrant for him, accusing him of overseeing the illegal deportation of children from Ukraine.

Russia does not recognise the ICC's jurisdiction and has rejected its allegations.

Putin attended a ceremony marking the 20th anniversary of the founding of Russia's Kant military airbase outside Bishkek, the Kyrgyz capital, a strategically-important facility which allows Moscow to project power in the region.

"This military outpost significantly contributes to boosting Kyrgyzstan's defensive power

Kim writes to Putin, vows to advance ties

Seoul: North Korea leader Kim Jong Un exchanged letters with Russian President Vladimir Putin Thursday, vowing to advance his ties and wishing him victory over what he called hegemony and pressure from imperialists. Pyongyang's KCNA said. The letters mark the 75th anniversary of bilateral ties and came about a month after Kim's rare trip to Russia in which he and Putin discussed military cooperation. **REUTERS**

and ensuring security and stability in the whole region of Central Asia," said Putin, who said he expected Moscow to expand its military and defence ties with Kyrgyzstan.

His visit coincided with a Russian-led security bloc holding military drills in Kyrgyzstan.



Russia's President Vladimir Putin and Kyrgyzstan's President Sadyr Japarov in Bishkek on Thursday. Reuters

Combat veteran likely replacement for China's 'missing' defence minister

REUTERS
BEIJING, OCTOBER 12

GENERAL LIU Zhenli, the head of the military body responsible for China's combat operations and planning, has emerged as the top contender to replace the country's defence minister, who has not been seen in public for more than six weeks, according to five people familiar with the matter.

The appointment of Liu to replace Defence Minister Li Shangfu - which one of the people said was likely to happen before Beijing holds an international security forum later this month - could boost military engagement with the United States amid regional tensions, three military analysts told Reuters.

Li was sanctioned by the U.S. in 2018 for an arms deal he secured with Russia in an earlier



The appointment of Liu Zhenli (left) to replace Li Shangfu could boost military engagement with the US amid tensions.

role. China has demanded the curbs - which include a visa ban and prohibitions on conducting U.S. financial transactions - be lifted. Liu, 59, is not under Western sanctions.

Currently the Chief of the Joint Staff Department of the Central Military Commission (CMC), Liu was described as Li's



likely replacement by a person with direct knowledge of the matter, as well as two people close to the military and two regional officials with close knowledge of Chinese politics. They spoke on condition of anonymity due to the confidential nature of the information. China's defence ministry and

State Council information office did not respond to requests for comment. Reuters was unable to reach Liu himself for comment.

The US Department of Defense did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Li's absence has not been officially explained, though Reuters reported last month that he was under investigation for corrupt procurement of military equipment in a previous role.

If his departure is confirmed, Li will be the second senior minister to lose his job in recent months.

Qin Gang was removed as foreign minister in July, one month after he was last seen in public.

It is unclear whether Li will retain his position as one of China's five state councillors, a post outranking a regular minister. Qin has not been officially removed from his post as state councillor.

Sri Lanka says it has a deal on its China debts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO, OCTOBER 12

THE SRI Lankan government has confirmed that it has concluded a preliminary deal with China on the restructuring of its debts to Beijing, seen as a "big step" in the cash-strapped country's economic recovery.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, the Ministry of Finance said "The Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka is pleased to announce that it has reached a pact on key principles and indicative terms of a debt treatment with Export-Import Bank of China.

China holds about 52 per cent of Sri Lanka's \$46 billion ex-

WHAT'S THE DEAL?

The pact in principle covers approximately

\$4.2 bn

of outstanding debt.

■ The government has expressed hope that it should also facilitate approval by the IMF of the second tranche of the \$2.9 billion bailout of approximately \$334 million.

ternal credit. The agreement in principle covers approximately \$4.2 bil-

lion of outstanding debt, it said adding that it constitutes "a key step towards restoring Sri Lanka's long-term debt sustainability and will pave the way to a prompt economic recovery".

The terms of the restructuring agreed upon will provide the space for Sri Lanka to implement its reform agenda.

The government has expressed hope that it should also facilitate approval by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) of the second tranche of the \$2.9 billion bailout of approximately \$334 million. "Yesterday marked a big step for Sri Lanka as we reached this landmark agreement in principle on debt treatment terms with our largest single creditor. We thank China Exim Bank for

support in resolving our country's debt situation."

Sri Lanka was hit by its worst economic crisis in history when its foreign exchange reserves fell to a critical low and the public came out on the streets to protest the shortage of fuel, fertilisers and essential commodities.

This agreement constitutes a key milestone in Sri Lanka's ongoing efforts to foster its economic recovery, the Secretary to Treasury Mahinda Siriwardena said.

On Wednesday, State Minister of Finance Ranjith Siyambalapatiya said China's assurance to Sri Lanka to restructure its external debt is an important development for the debt-ridden country's economic situation.

DEATH & DESTRUCTION



A Palestinian woman mourns during a funeral in Khan Younis in the Gaza Strip. Reuters

■ ISRAEL ■ PALESTINE

TOTAL DEAD

1,300+

■ A total of 222 slain Israeli soldiers have been identified, the military confirmed.

1,417

■ 22 entire families killed on Thursday. A strike killed 44 of same family, leaving just six survivors.

TOTAL INJURED

1,000+

■ Israeli, foreign hostages taken back to Gaza; Israel says identified 97 of them.

6,268

■ Nearly 340,000 people in Gaza have been displaced, according to UN

OTHER LOSSES

■ Number of dead US citizens has risen to at least 25, Antony Blinken said during a visit Thursday with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

■ 14 health facilities have been damaged and 10 health workers killed in Gaza Strip by Israeli airstrikes, Palestinian health officials said.

LEADERS SPEAK

We unequivocally condemn the recent terror attacks by Hamas on the State of Israel and express our solidarity with the Israeli people.

G7 FINANCE MINISTERS, CENTRAL BANK GOVERNORS

DIS/AGREE
THE BEST OF BOTH SIDES

Beginning today, a fortnightly column, which will offer not this versus that but the best of both sides to inform the debate

CASTE CENSUS
Count...

BY YOGENDRA YADAV

... Don't count

BY MANISH SABHARWAL

THE IDEAS PAGE

EXPLAINED

EXPERT EXPLAINS

HAM IN GAZA:

WAR & ISRAEL

PAGE 9

After saying yes, Canada Speaker skips G20 meeting

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

AMID THE diplomatic row between India and Canada, the Speaker of the Canadian Senate, Raymonde Gagne, is skipping the two-day G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P20 Summit) that begins here on Friday.

Earlier, Canada had confirmed to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla's office that Gagne would attend the summit. Speaking to reporters last week, Birla had said he would raise "several issues" in his informal talks with the Canadian Speaker.

"The Canadian Speaker is not attending the Summit. Schedules keep changing," sources said. No reason was given for Canada's decision. It is unclear if Canada will have any other representative at the meeting.

Speaking to reporters on Thursday, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Arindam Bagchi confirmed the development. He said that India had invited all G20 members and guest countries, and they were free to take a call on their participation.

Among the other members of the Five Eyes — an intelligence-sharing network that includes the US, UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand — the US is also skipping the summit. With its last Speaker, Kevin McCarthy, being ousted from the post, the US is yet to get a new Speaker. While New Zealand is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



Toilets, donkeys, burqas: The props that Bengaluru's forever crusader pulls out

PAGE 1
ANCHOR

JOHNSON T A
BENGALURU, OCTOBER 12

VATAL NAGARAJ isn't sure of his age. He thinks he was 19 when he was first arrested in 1962, which would make him around 80 now. Others say he was born in 1940 (83 years) while election affidavits filed in the past suggest he is a sprightly 74.

Not that his age matters. Not

UNDER OPERATION AJAY, FIRST FLIGHT FROM ISRAEL TO LAND TODAY

Diplomatic tightrope: Delhi red-flags terror, reiterates stand on Palestine

Universal obligation to observe humanitarian law... fight menace of terrorism, says MEA

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

ON OCTOBER 7, hours after the Hamas's unprecedented attack on Israel, Prime Minister Narendra Modi posted a statement on X expressing his deep shock at the "terrorist attacks" and that "we stand in solidarity with Israel at this difficult hour."

Five days later, in its first official statement on the Israel-Hamas war, New Delhi has sought to nuance this.

Ministry of External Affairs' official spokesperson Arindam Bagchi, in response to questions at the weekly briefing, said that there is a "universal obligation to observe international humanitarian law," and there is also a global responsibility to fight the

THE WORLD



ISRAEL SAYS NO BREAK IN GAZA SIEGE UNTIL HAMAS FREES HOSTAGES

menace of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

The phrase — "universal obligation to observe international humanitarian law" — is seen as aimed at Israel which is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



A dove flies over the debris of houses destroyed in Israeli strikes, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip. Reuters

Retail inflation eases to 5.02%, IIP output hits 14-month high

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

INDIA'S INDUSTRIAL output jumped to a 14-month high of 10.3 per cent in August, primarily driven by a base effect along with an uptick in manufacturing, mining, capital goods and consumer durables.

Inflation rate for consumers, or retail inflation, also eased to a three-month low of 5.02 per cent in September with a sharp moderation in food prices, especially of vegetables, and the impact of the LPG price cut, data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Thursday showed.

Factory output gained on the back of a 9.3 per cent increase in manufacturing, which accounts for 77.6 per cent of the weight of the IIP (Index of Industrial Production). Manufacturing output had grown by 5 per cent in July and had contracted by 0.5 per cent in August 2022. In absolute terms, it improved to 143.5 in August from 141.8 in July

EXPLAINED
Note of caution

WHILE RETAIL INFLATION is below the RBI's upper limit of 6% after a gap of two months, headline inflation remains higher than its stated monetary policy target of 4%. The core inflation — or non-food, non-fuel inflation — has, however, eased to the lowest in 3.5 years.

and 131.3 in the year-ago period.

As per the IIP data, seven of the 23 sectors in manufacturing registered a contraction in August, with furniture, apparel, and computer and electronics among the significant non-performers. Among the performing sectors, fabricated metal products, electrical equipment and basic metals fared better.

"Garments and chemicals witnessed negative growth. This

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

26-WEEK PREGNANCY: MTP PLEA

SC: We cannot kill child, need to balance out rights of unborn child

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

STATING THAT the rights of a woman "must trump" when it comes to a request for Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP), the Supreme Court said Thursday it will also have to "balance out the rights of the unborn child".

"We can't kill the child," said Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud who was heading a

three-judge bench that took up a married woman's request for ending her 26-week pregnancy, a day after a two-judge all-woman bench disagreed on giving the go-ahead for the MTP procedure and referred her plea to the CJJ.

On Wednesday, while Justice B V Nagarathna said the petitioner's "decision" not to continue with the pregnancy "must be respected", Justice Hima Kohli said "my judicial conscience does not permit" to accept her request because "which court

will say stop the heartbeat of a foetus which has a life".

The bench of CJJ Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra asked the woman if she was willing to wait a few more weeks in which case the child would have a better chance of being born healthy and could be given for adoption if she wished.

It asked Advocates Amit Mishra and Rahul Sharma, counsel for the woman, and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Four persons were killed when the North East Express derailed in Bihar's Buxar district on Wednesday night. PTI

Derailment probe: Driver hit emergency brakes after 'rattling' on tracks

SANTOSH SINGH
RAGHUNATHPUR (BUXAR), OCTOBER 12

THE TRAIN accident in Bihar's Buxar on Wednesday night that killed four persons and injured at least 70 was caused when the engine driver applied emergency brakes after sensing a "rattling" on the tracks, Railway officials said, citing preliminary investigations.

Officials on duty at the Raghunathpur railway station, near which the accident took place, said there were no issues with the tracks and ruled out any

possibility of sabotage. The Railways has ordered an investigation by the Commissioner of Railway Safety into the incident.

At 9.45 pm on Wednesday, just as the Guwahati-bound North East Express was about to enter Raghunathpur railway station, all its compartments derailed and four AC coaches towards the rear of the train overturned. The train was not

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

RELATED REPORT
PAGE 7

27-YR LEGAL BATTLE

89-yr-old's plea to divorce wife aged 82 rejected by SC: 'Marriage life-net' in India

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS after a former Armed Forces officer moved court to divorce his wife, the Supreme Court has dismissed the petition, reminding the 89-year-old and his wife, now 82, that "marriage is still considered to be a pious, spiritual and invaluable emotional life-net between husband and wife in Indian society".

The couple married in March 1963 and had two daughters and a son.

Problems began after the officer was transferred from Amritsar to Madras in January 1984. His wife, a teacher, refused to join him, opting to stay with her in-laws and later with her son.

When attempts to reach an amicable settlement failed, the husband filed a petition seeking divorce on the grounds of cruelty and desertion.

He contended that his wife

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPRESS NETWORK



PM OFFERS PRAYERS AT PARVATI KUND

PROTEST IN U.P.: FRENCH NATIONAL AMONG SEVEN HELD

PAGES 6, 8

COAL OVER-INVOICING CASE

4 years on, DRI vs Adani in SC to be heard with jeweller 'smuggling' case

JAY MAZOOMDAAR
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

ON OCTOBER 10, hearing a case regarding the alleged over-invoicing of Indonesian coal imported by the Adani Group, the Supreme Court clubbed the matter with another case related to alleged smuggling of duty-free gold by a Hyderabad-based jeweller.

It was in November 2019, that the DRI had moved the apex court against a Bombay High Court order in favour of the Adani Group. The case has been heard four times in four years since and is yet to reach the argument stage.

The Additional Solicitor General, representing DRI, drew the apex court's attention on October 10 to a recent order by a

different bench in another case involving the agency. Two questions formulated in that order would have relevance in the Adani case, the court said, and ordered that "both the matters be placed before the appropriate Bench" without specifying any date.

The two relevant questions — whether the DRI officers are police officers and whether

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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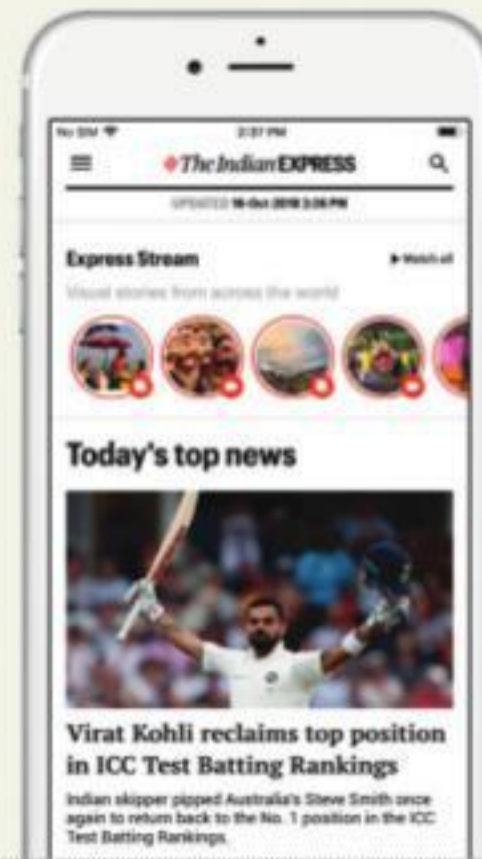
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INDIA HAS TALENT, RESOURCES TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT STRIDES IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, SAYS BILLIONAIRE INVESTOR TIM DRAPER

Billionaire investor Tim Draper was one of the panellists at the plenary session in the Digital Bridge 2023, being held in Astana, Kazakhstan



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EXPRESS AUDIO

India's olympic dreams, Brahmin-Yadav killings in UP, and a prisoner's escape

In 3 Things today, We discuss why India dreams of hosting the Olympics, the aftermath of six murders in UP's Deoria, and the escape of a notorious criminal

FROM PAGE ONE

FULLREPORTSON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Delhi red-flags terror, reiterates stand on Palestine

conducting aerial strikes in Gaza. The clause, "international humanitarian law," also seeks to protect innocent civilians and so this is meant for Hamas, which killed civilians including women, children and the elderly.

The targeted attacks against Israeli civilians have claimed 1,300 lives on the Israeli side, and the death toll in Gaza because of Israeli air strikes rose to more than 1,350, the Palestinian health ministry said.

The formulation, "global responsibility to fight the menace of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations," is a strong signal of support to Israel.

Significantly, Modi had also said that India strongly and unequivocally condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, in his tweets as well as during his phone conversation with Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Israel says roughly 1,500 Hamas militants were killed inside Israel, and that hundreds of the dead inside Gaza are Hamas members.

New Delhi also reiterated its traditional position on the Israel-Palestine conflict, as the MEA spokesperson said India has advocated the resumption of "direct negotiations" towards establishing a "sovereign, independent and viable State of Palestine living within secure and recognized borders, side by side at peace with Israel". Bagchi said, "Our policy in this regard has been long standing and consistent. India has always advocated the resumption of direct negotiations towards establishing a sovereign, independent and viable State of Palestine living within secure and recognized borders, side by side at peace with Israel."

India has sent a chartered flight to bring back about 230

Indian nationals, who are expected to return Friday when another flight may be sent. There are about 18,000 Indians in Israel, and about 16 in Palestine — a dozen in the West Bank and 3-4 people in Gaza, the MEA spokesperson said.

The reiteration of the Indian position on Palestine is the first official comments from Delhi, after the PMO statement on the phone call between Modi and Netanyahu was reiterated by the MEA Tuesday.

Modi's second post on the issue came on Tuesday at 2.38 pm when he received a phone call from Netanyahu. "People of India stand firmly with Israel in this difficult hour. India strongly and unequivocally condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations," he tweeted.

The spokesperson's statements are a part of Delhi's diplomatic imperatives as it has Israel

as a key strategic partner on one side and allies in a divided Arab world on the other including Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Iran and Egypt.

There are an estimated 90 lakh Indians living and working in the West Asia region, and India imports more than 50 per cent of crude from the region.

The Hamas attack has divided the Arab world, too. The UAE and Bahrain, which signed the US-brokered Abraham Accords with Israel, have criticised the attack in a rare departure from the past, where usually the entire Arab world would speak in a chorus against Israel.

Saudi Arabia has tried to strike a balance: it did mention "Israeli occupation forces" and was perceived to be leaning towards Palestine but there was no condemnation of the Hamas attacks. Qatar, Kuwait and Oman have been critical of Israel.

• Retail inflation eases to 5.02%

September compared with 4.31 per cent inflation rate in the previous month, reflecting the impact of the LPG price cut in August. Core inflation — non-food, non-fuel — eased to 4.7 per cent in September, the lowest since February 2020, as per ICRA estimates.

The inflation print, however, continued to remain above the upper limit of the 4+/- 2 per cent band of Reserve Bank of India's medium-term inflation target, marking nearly four years of inflation rate staying above 4 per cent.

Vegetables inflation provided some relief by moderating to 3.39 per cent in September from 26.14 per cent in August, while cereals and products inflation also eased to 10.95 per cent in September from 11.85 per cent in August. The retail inflation rate in September was 16.38 per cent in case of pulses and products, 6.89 per cent for milk and products, 23.06 per cent for spices, 4.96 per cent for prepared meals, snacks, sweets etc., and (-)14.04 per cent for oils and fats.

The overall retail inflation rate in September was higher at 5.33 per cent in rural areas, and 4.65 per cent in urban areas. Food inflation for rural areas was 6.65 per cent in September, and 6.35 per cent in urban areas. Data for 22 major states/UTs shared by NSO showed 13 states recorded higher-than-average retail inflation rate in September, with the highest inflation rate seen in Rajasthan (6.53 per cent), followed by Haryana (6.49 per cent each), Karnataka (6.0 per cent), Telangana (5.97 per cent), and Odisha (5.87 per cent).

• SC on divorce plea

did not even call upon him when he was admitted to an Army hospital following a heart attack and that she complained to his superiors against him to malign his image. All these, he said, amounted to cruelty. He said they have been living separately ever since March 1997 when he filed the divorce petition in a District Court. Citing irretrievable breakdown of marriage, he said the Court should exercise powers under Article 142 of the Constitution and grant a decree of divorce.

His wife, however, said that being an elderly woman, she did not want to die with the "stigma" of a "divorce". She said she "made all efforts to respect the sacred relationship between the parties all throughout and is still ready to look after the appellant (husband) with the assistance of her son".

She also contended that a "mere long period of separation could not tantamount to irretrievable breakdown of the marriage".

The Chandigarh District Court granted them divorce in February 2000. But on an appeal by the wife, a single-judge bench of the Punjab and Haryana High Court reversed the order in December 2000. In February 2009, a division bench of the High Court confirmed the order of the single-judge bench, following which the husband approached the SC. The top court too agreed with the High Court findings on the aspect of cruelty and desertion and said "suffice it to say that the appellant (husband) failed to prove that the respondent had treated the appellant with 'Cruelty' or that the respondent had 'Deserted' the petitioner as contemplated in" law.

The October 10 judgement by the bench of Justices Aniruddha Bose and Bela M Trivedi said, "There is no dispute that the parties are staying separate since last many years and all the efforts to bring them together have failed. Under the circumstances, one may presume that the marriage is emotionally dead and beyond salvation and that there is an irre-

trievable breakdown of marriage between the parties."

"However, the question is, should the irretrievable breakdown of marriage necessarily result in a decree of divorce to be granted under Article 142 of the Constitution of India?" it said.

The ruling pointed out that a Constitution Bench, in Shilpa Shailesh vs. Varun Sreenivasan in May this year, had said that the court can use Article 142 powers to grant divorce on grounds of irretrievable breakdown of marriage. "However, in our opinion, one should not be oblivious to the fact that the institution of marriage occupies an important place and plays an important role in society. Despite the increasing trend of filing divorce proceedings in the courts of law, the institution of marriage is still considered to be a pious, spiritual, and invaluable emotional life-net between the husband and the wife in Indian society. It is governed not only by the letters of law but by social norms as well. So many other relationships stem from and thrive on the matrimonial relationships in the society. Therefore, it would not be desirable to accept the formula of 'irretrievable breakdown of marriage' as a strait-jacket formula for the grant of relief of divorce under Article 142 of the Constitution of India," the bench said.

It said "so far as the facts of the present case are concerned, as stated earlier, the appellant-husband is aged about 89 years and respondent-wife is aged about 82 years. The respondent all throughout her life has maintained the sacred relationship since 1963 and has taken care of her three children all these years, despite the fact that the appellant-husband had exhibited total hostility towards them. The respondent is still ready and willing to take care of her husband and does not wish to leave him alone at this stage of life. She has also expressed her sentiments that she does not want to die with the stigma of being a 'divorcee' woman".

• After saying yes, Canada Speaker skips G20 meeting

not among the invitees, the UK and Australia are attending the summit.

According to official sources, Germany and Argentina are also not attending the summit due to "internal reasons".

While Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the P20 Summit at Yashobhoomi in Dwarka on

Friday, a pre-summit Parliamentary Forum on LIFE (Lifestyle for Environment) was held on Thursday.

According to a government statement earlier this week, over 200 parliamentarians and other leaders from different countries have confirmed their participation at the summit. "The main theme of the

ninth P20 is proposed to be 'Parliaments for One Earth, One Family, One Future', Birla had said earlier. "It will have four sessions on 'transformation in people's lives through public digital platforms', 'women-led development', 'accelerating SDGs', and 'sustainable energy transition'," he had said.

India's relations with Canada

have been under strain after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau alleged a potential India government link to the killing of Khalistan separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar. India has rejected the allegation, calling it "absurd" and "motivated". It has accused Ottawa of not acting against Khalistan separatists in Canada.

• 4 years on, DRI vs Adani in SC

Dubai, Hong Kong, British Virgin Islands (UK) etc for the purpose of artificially inflating its value."

Claiming that the "intermediary firms appear to be either subsidiary companies of Indian Importers or their front" companies, the DRI alert said the "cases under examination suggest huge over-valuation to the extent of about 50% to 100%."

The DRI case against the Adani Group assumes significance as the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) had in November 2017 pointed out that findings of the probe into alleged over-invoicing of Indonesian coal imports by Adani Power would affect the compensation it received from distribution companies in Haryana. The Adani Group has also received compensation from distribution companies in Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

In theory, the overvaluation of coal inflates the production cost, pushing up the power tariff fixed by the CERC or the respective state regulatory commissions, and making the consumers pay more for the consumption of electricity.

The DRI had approached the Supreme Court after the Bombay

High Court had in September 2018 quashed all Letter Rogatories (LRs) sent by the agency to Singapore and other countries while probing Adani Group companies for alleged overvaluation of Indonesian coal imports. An LR is a formal request seeking judicial assistance during an investigation involving a foreign entity.

At the first hearing in January 2020, the SC stayed the Bombay HC order. In the second hearing in February 2020, a three-judge bench headed by then Chief Justice of India SA Bobde ordered to put up the case after one week "in view of the letter circulated by Advocate-on-Record for the respondent (Adani) seeking adjournment for filing counter affidavit."

That one week stretched to nearly three-and-a-half years.

The Adani Group took 22 months to file the counter affidavit in December 2021. It took another 19 months for the case to get its next hearing. It finally came up this July when the apex court asked the DRI to "file rejoinder affidavit as well as the additional affidavit along with the documents" and listed the matter for October 10.

• SC: We cannot kill child

Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, who appeared for the Centre, to talk to her. The matter will be heard again Friday.

On Tuesday, a doctor from AIIMS, in a communication to the ASG, had said the foetus appeared to be "viable" indicating a "strong possibility of survival".

Taking up the woman's plea, the CJ said, "In these matters, consistent as we are about the need for maintaining her autonomy, we can't be oblivious of the rights of the unborn child... We also need to balance out the rights of the unborn child. Undoubtedly, the autonomy of the woman must trump... She has rights under various provisions of the Constitution. But equally, you have to be conscious of the fact that ultimately, whatever you are doing is going to affect the rights of an unborn child."

Referring to the AIIMS report that the foetus was normal but ran the risk of being born with physical and mental deformities if taken out now, the CJ said, "We have to also balance out because, let's put it very bluntly, either we kill the child or we ensure that the day the child is delivered in a state where the child is bound to be born deformed and deformed for life. We can't kill the child."

"Of course, in a given case we may exercise that overriding discretion, for instance, a child who has been subjected to sexual abuse, a girl who does not know she has been subjected to forcible sexual intercourse... The judge's task is all about balancing rights..." he said. "You are conscious of the fact that if the child is born alive right now, there is a very high risk that, the doctors say, the child will be born with serious physical and mental deformities... Now the question is whether she can wait for two more weeks. We are not com-

pellent her to keep the child. The State doesn't say that you must keep the child. But having waited for 26 weeks... to put the child to death is the only other option. All that she has to do is wait another two weeks," the CJ said.

The woman's counsel said the petitioner is not able to even take care of herself and learnt of the pregnancy only in the 24th week as she has been suffering from lactational amenorrhea and depression.

Noting that the woman had already said no to allowing foeticide but didn't want to keep the child even if it survived, he said, "She doesn't want the child and wants to do an abortion. Then why doesn't she do it a few weeks down the line? In that case, the child will have a better chance of survival. It's a viable child. It's not strictly speaking an MTP. They are saying look, we can in that sense do an MTP only by stopping the foetal heart, which is really that they are going to put an end to the life of the child. That's why AIIMS had a serious ethical dilemma."

Justice Pardiwalla asked the woman's counsel to understand what the court was trying to say.

"Either we permit the doctors to stop the heart, which is called foeticide, which you said don't do it... But there is an inherent danger in this. If we take out the foetus today, put it in neonatal care... it will grow with mental and physical deformities. Why do you want to do this?... Persuade your client, keep this pregnancy, deliver when the time comes... Then the infant will be taken care of by the State."

"It's 26 weeks today. Normally, an infant is delivered in nine months, that is 36 weeks. What is falling from My Lord is that we may not wait the full term but direct the procedure to be carried out after 8 months," he said.

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• Train derailment

scheduled to stop at Raghunathpur, with the next halt being 42 km away in Arrah.

Four persons, including a 33-year-old woman from New Delhi and her eight-year-old daughter, died in the accident. As many as 33 passengers were being treated for injuries at government hospitals in Bhopur, Buxar and Patna, while 38 others had been discharged after getting treatment.

Officials said the preliminary investigation into the incident showed that the driver "had to apply emergency brakes when the train was running at a speed of 128 kmph because he sensed rattling on the tracks as the train was entering Raghunathpur railway station".

The Eastern Central Railways' chief public relations officer, Virendra Kumar, told *The Indian Express*, "A probe is being conducted by the Commissioner of Railway Safety. He has already reached the spot. We will soon get to know the reasons behind the accident."

Two of the four AC coaches that tipped over suffered the most damage. Usha Bhandari (33) and one of her twin daughters, Akriti Bhandari (8), were in one of the AC compartments.

"We were told that Usha and her daughter were near the gate of an AC coach. As its gate opened after the emergency brakes were applied, they fell on the track and died," Raghunathpur Community Health Centre head, Dr GK Yadav, told *The Indian Express*.

Officials said Kishanganj resident Abu Zayed (27) was the third dead, while the fourth was yet to be identified.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his condolences to the families of the victims.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar announced Rs 4 lakh ex gratia to the families of the deceased. "The state government will bear the medical expenses of all passengers injured in the accident," he added.

Regarding the situations in which emergency brakes may be applied on a train, a locomotive driver not connected to this incident said, "An engine driver applies emergency brakes only when there is an obstruction, a sudden red signal, or to cover a margin of distance to stop the train... The driver might well have sensed a rattling in the tracks, and would have tried to prevent a major accident by applying the emergency brakes."

• Bengaluru's forever crusader

and Karnataka... and that will continue for a few more decades. It is not going to subside."

The "enthusiasm" was in full flow on September 29, during the state-wide bandh in Karnataka by pro-Kannada activists who were protesting against the release of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu. The sight of Nagaraj stepping out of his home, wearing a burqa and carrying an empty pot on his head, had drawn eyeballs.

For over six decades, Nagaraj, leader of the Kannada Chalavali Vatal Paksha party and three-time MLA from Chamarajanagar in south Karnataka, has been fighting the cause of the Kannada language and as a self-anointed defender of the state's water and farming resources.

Born in Vatalu village in Mysuru district, Nagaraj shifted base to Bengaluru at an early age. According to his election affidavit from 2019, Nagaraj studied up to

Class 10, and owns agricultural land in Nanjangud in Mysuru. The affidavit lists his profession as 'social service', with a total wealth of Rs 6.43 crore that year.

The Kannada Chalavali Vatal Paksha that he runs is almost a one-man party with Nagaraj plunging headlong into innumerable protests, bandhs and movements. The Gokak Movement of 1982 — that led to Kannada being made the state's official language — is among the highlights of his career as an activist.

In recent years, he has backed other causes. While many dismiss his protests as frivolous, for Nagaraj, they are serious business. To protest against rising fuel prices, he has in the past shown up on a donkey and even a bullock cart. On Valentine's Day, he often rides around Bengaluru's Cubbon Park, offering roses and chariot rides to young couples. On another occasion, he brought a set of

toilet commodes to the Raj Bhavan, to push the state government to build more public toilets in Bengaluru.

For all his protests, Nagaraj's political career never quite took off. After a stint as an Independent MLA from Chamarajanagar and two terms as MLA of his Kannada Chalavali Vatal Paksha, the latest between 2004 and 2008, he faded from the political limelight. He, however, kept fighting, including the 2019 Lok Sabha polls from Bangalore South.

Nagaraj, however, has friends across political parties, including JD(S) chief H D Deve Gowda, BJP veteran B S Yediyurappa and Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. Although there has been speculation that Nagaraj's services are often used by mainstream parties who cannot take up prickly issues such as language and rivers, the veteran dismisses it, saying he is his own man.

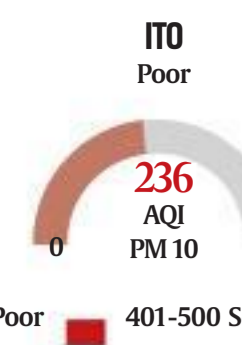
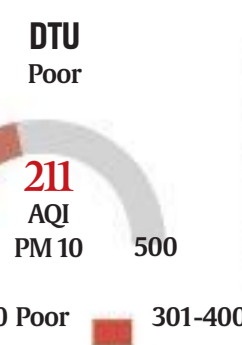
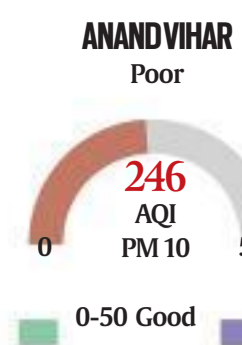
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3 THE CITY



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RESIDENTS HAVE TILL NOVEMBER 30 TO EMPTY OUT

As the last date for vacating flats nears, Signature View residents weigh options

UPASIKA SINGHAL
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

"WE HAVE learnt from the Chintels case, which is why we don't want to go to court," said Dharmendra, the treasurer of the Signature View Apartments RWA, referring to the Gurgaon housing society where at least five towers have been ordered to be vacated this year after being found unfit for habitation. "We know that the DDA will stretch the matter out for 10 to 20 years. So, we choose to compromise," he added. Dharmendra is among the 200-odd residents who have continued to stay in the apartment complex in Mukherjee Nagar despite the buildings being declared unfit for habitation last year following a report by IIT-Delhi.

200-ODD RESIDENTS STILL STAYING AT COMPLEX

Name: SIGNATURE VIEW APARTMENTS
Location: MUKHERJEE NAGAR
Built in: 2010
336: Number of units
Nov 2022: Buildings declared unfit for habitation
Nov 30: Last date for evacuation
144 HIG units: Additional flats to be built

Amount DDA has promised them to cover rent

HIG flat owners	MIG flat owners
₹50,000/month	₹38,000/month



Last year, the buildings were declared unfit for residents.

tered his new home only to see the roof caved in," said Jha. Residents raised the issue with the DDA and even as the land authority carried out repairs, it also continued to sell the flats on the side. In June 2022, the DDA got in touch with IIT-Delhi and Shriram Laboratories to carry out tests on the structural integrity of the apartment buildings. After 184 samples were collected and tested, IIT Delhi submitted its report to the DDA in November, declaring the buildings unfit for habitation. In January this year, the

Lieutenant Governor ordered the DDA to rehabilitate the residents and reconstruct the buildings. However, according to Dharmendra, the treasurer, the tripartite agreement for reconstruction (between the DDA, the RWA and the flat owners) contains a clause that says that the DDA will only start paying rent to the residents once all 336 owners sign the agreement. "We are trying to negotiate with the DDA to reduce the number to 70 per cent of the owners," said Dharmendra.

The agreement also violates the "asis, where is" clause, said Jha. The DDA plans to construct 144 additional HIG flats on an empty plot next to the buildings, which would alter the placements of blocks A, B, K and L. "Many residents of these blocks who have paid a premium to own corner-facing flats for better ventilation and sunshine would now face another building," said Dharmendra. Besides, the rent amount offered by DDA is no match to the going rate for flats in the area, residents said. Some residents have already shifted to nearby Parsvnath Tropicana Apartments and M2K Apartments where rent is between Rs 1.2 and 1.8 Lakh. Most residents, according to Dharmendra, are still paying the EMIs for their houses. The other option — for the DDA to buy back their flats — is also not a palatable one, said Dharmendra. The DDA has negotiated to pay a 10.6 per cent flat interest upon the price paid originally. "It doesn't make sense. People who bought the HIG flats in 2010 for around Rs 90 lakh and those who bought the MIG flats in 2017 for around Rs 1 crore will be paid almost the same amount," said Dharmendra. According to Pradeep Bareja, who bought an HIG flat in 2012, the current market price for an HIG flat is between Rs 2.5 and 3 crore.

'Cab driver had seatbelt on when he got dragged'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12



The victim was dragged for a kilometre on the road; accused had plans to pose as cab drivers and rob more people

A DAY after a cab driver was killed after being dragged under his own car near the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport by two carjackers, Delhi Police Thursday said the accused pushed the victim multiple times since he was wearing a seatbelt and was stuck between the seat and the ground. They later removed the seatbelt to dislodge the body of the 43-year-old, said sources. Investigation has revealed that the duo booked Shah's cab from Saket Select Citywalk Mall on Tuesday night. The accused were planning to use the stolen car to pose as cab drivers and rob more people near the airport after luring them into the vehicle but fled the city after the cab driver died on National Highway 48, police said. Interrogation in the case revealed that the victim, Bijender Shah, fell under his car because the accused pushed him in the middle of the road while he was wearing a seat belt. As he fell, the police said, he got stuck because of the seat belt and was later pushed to the ground. On Wednesday night, the police arrested two men, identified as Mehraj Salmani, 33, and Asif Anwar, 24, from Meerut and

booked them for murder. Police said they were being brought to Delhi. Salmani has over six criminal cases against him, and Asif nine. These include theft and armed robbery. On Tuesday night, the victim was approached by the men who posed as passengers and boarded his cab. The police said the men asked Shah to drop them at the airport but later pushed Shah out of his car. "They told Shah they wanted to go to IGI Airport, and when the car reached a secluded stretch (Shankar Vihar) at Mahipalpur, they asked Shah to take a different route. Shah got suspicious and asked them to leave his car. They then grabbed him and pushed him by opening the car door, he was wearing a seat belt. So, he was stuck and was dangling from his car. The accused grabbed the wheel and pushed him again. This time, he came under the wheel. He tried stopping them and was holding onto the seat belt, but the accused ignored him and sped towards the airport," said an officer. Police found several videos shot by passersby on NH 48. The accused allegedly dragged the man for a kilometre and later left him as they heard others honking at them, said the police. Special Commissioner Sagar Preet Hooda had said the men were identified as CCTV footage helped police trace the car. Shah is survived by his wife and their five children. The family hailed from Bihar's Motihari.

Two Arsh Dalla gang members arrested in Moga Congress leader murder case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

NEARLY A month after Congress leader Baljinder Singh Balli was shot dead at his home in Punjab's Moga, Delhi Police arrested two men after a brief encounter in the capital Thursday. The police said the arrested duo, Kishan and Gajender, are associates of fugitive gangster Arsh Dalla.



Kishan and Gajender (top) held after a brief encounter

Balli (45), who was also known as 'namberdar' locally, was the Congress block president in Ajitwal village. Two assailants who came on a motorbike shot him dead on September 18. Delhi Police's Special Cell said that it had received a tip about the accused. "We were told about two shooters of the Arsh Dalla gang. Following the information, a team intercepted the duo on Outer Ring Road but when they were asked to surrender, Krishan fired one round towards the police team. His associate also took out a live hand grenade from his bag to attack us. Before he could remove the safety pin, our team jumped at him and overpowered the duo," said a police officer. HGS Dhaliwal, Special Commissioner of Police, said: "The accused had also committed another murder in broad day light in Talwandi, Punjab. Both murders were committed at the

direction of Arsh Dalla... Police caught them near Outer Ring Road (north of Sarai Kale Khan) and asked them to surrender but they attacked the police team." The police said they recovered a live hand grenade, a pistol and five live cartridges. The accused are being questioned about the involvement of the Arsh Dalla gang in the murder, they added. Hours after Balli's killing, Arshdeep Singh Gill alias Arsh Dalla, a native of Dala village in Moga believed to be hiding in Canada, took to Facebook and claimed responsibility for it.



FINISHING TOUCHES

An artisan giving final touches to Durga idols in Jhandewalan on Thursday. The 10-day Durga Puja celebration is set to kick off on October 15. Amit Mehra

Centre, UNICEF, WHO officials visit DJB plants

New Delhi: Officials from the Centre, UNICEF and the WHO visited the water treatment plants at Sonia Vihar and Wazirabad and studied their operations. Water minister Saurabh Bharadwaj said the officials wanted to understand how DJB ensures the availability of clean water to Delhiites. "In Western countries, no city carries out the massive task of purifying and distributing water on such a large scale... DJB delivers clean water to nearly 2.5 crore residents of Delhi... The officials praised DJB's achievement," Bharadwaj said. ENS

HC stays order on FIR against Hero MotoCorp

MALAVIKA PRASAD
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12
THE DELHI High Court Thursday stayed till December 6 a magisterial order directing registration of an FIR and all proceedings emanating from the FIR lodged against Hero MotoCorp Limited for alleged cheating. "In the meantime, the parties will try and explore possibilities of compromise. Counsel for respondent 2 (Brains Logistics Private Limited) states that he will seek instructions regarding compromise," Justice Sharma said. The order came in the company's plea seeking quashing of the FIR and the MM's order.

Patients paying for implants at Sushruta: Govt orders inquiry

Centre out of implants, patients pay the price



The Indian Express had reported the issue last month.

ANKITA UPADHYAY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

THE DELHI health department has started an inquiry at the Sushruta Trauma Centre looking into procurement of implants for patients over the last six months. The non-availability of implants was forcing patients to purchase them at high cost from private vendors even though they are supposed to be provided for free. The Indian Express had reported on September 17 how touts were forcing patients to pay for implants at the Delhi government hospital. Sources at the hospital said that a report has been sought from Dr Vinod Kumar, HOD, Orthopaedics at Maulana Azad Medical College, who also looks after the orthopaedic department at the Trauma Centre. The office of the Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj, responding to queries by the Indian Express, said that the Secretary (Health & Family Welfare), was directed to conduct a vigilance inquiry into the issue and submit the report within three weeks. "But due to the recent amendment in the GNCTD Act, this ac-

tion too was either not initiated by the Department or if initiated, no information was sent to the Office of Health Minister till date," it said, adding that under the new Act, which effectively hands over bureaucratic control to the Lieutenant Governor, secretaries and departments have "no accountability towards their Ministers". "Directions are being given but there is no administrative mechanism to ensure that directions are complied," it said. According to health department officials, the issue of non-availability of orthopaedic implants was reiterated by the Health Minister in the one-on-one meetings held with the Medical Superintendent of Delhi Government Hospitals in April, but no action had been taken. Addressing the matter earlier, health minister Saurabh Bharadwaj had accepted that the Sushruta Trauma Centre does not have implants, and had blamed health department officials for the issue and said a vigilance inquiry should be initiated against officers "who have not made any progress in procuring the implants" in spite of his "clear directions".

Stalled for 9 mths, appointment of prosecutors for CBI's POCSO cases in Delhi courts gets nod

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

FACING PROCEDURAL delays for more than nine months, the process of appointing special public prosecutors for the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act cases being pursued by the CBI in various Delhi courts is expected to now gain speed. L-G Vinai Kumar Saxena has given his nod to a proposal moved by the Delhi government in this regard a fortnight after he recalled the related file and referred the matter to the Ministry of Home Affairs. The L-G then invoked provisions under Rule 19 (5) of the Transaction of Business of GNCTD Rules 1993 in public interest and said the Delhi government had been "inordinately sitting on file for more than 9 months". "The government has finally sent the file for the L-G's approval, conceding that the opinion of the L-G shall be required for the appointment of SPPs for the CBI to conduct trial in PoCSO cases in various special courts of the capital," an L-G House official said. "Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had earlier taken a stand that the L-G does not have the power to grant sanction for approval of SPPs in these cases." After receiving a communication from the L-G secretary, the home minister sought the opinion of the law department, which said the matter needed to be processed expeditiously for obtaining the L-G's opinion so that the notification for appointing special public prosecutors may be issued, said officials.

Film city coming up near Jewar airport: Production houses, actors first off the block to buy bid documents

DHEERAJ MISHRA
NOIDA, OCTOBER 12

ACTORS AND producers from the Indian film industry, alongside production houses are the first ones off the block to buy bid documents for the first phase of the film city that is set to come up near the Jewar airport near Greater Noida. Producer Boney Kapoor, actor Akshay Kumar, Golden Bird Entertainment, a studio from South Korea and another from Dubai are among the ones to have bought the documents, officials said. Sources said that in response to the authority's global e-tender issued on September 29 to develop the film city on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) basis, six bidders



Actor Akshay Kumar and producer Boney Kapoor (R) are among those who have bought the documents.

have bought the bid documents so far. Other prominent film production houses are expected to apply soon, they added. This is the third time that the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) has floated a tender for the first phase of the project, which will be

spread over an area of 230 acres. The film city will come up in YEIDA Sector-21, near the upcoming Noida International Airport in Jewar. Under the Phase-1 of the project, a total of 230 acres will be developed, which will include 75 acres (33%) of commercial and 155 acres (67%) of industrial area.

According to the tender document, the bidder may be a single entity or a group or consortium. The total estimated project cost for the developer has been estimated to be around Rs 1,510 crores and the construction period is three years. The pre-bid conference is scheduled on October 26, where the objections or suggestions by the bidders will be discussed, and the last date for the bid submission is November 30. The technical bids will be opened on December 5, 2023. In a meeting held in Lucknow on August 21, it was decided that the film city will be developed in a phased manner, instead of developing the entire 1,000-acre area in one go. The concession period, which is lease of land, has been increased to 90 years. Earlier, it was 60 years with an option to

renew it for another 30 years. Officials said that an advisory company will be appointed to provide a comprehensive plan for the development of the remaining 770 acres. Meanwhile, Yamuna Authority will get a dividend on the basis of the annual turnover of the company. Before issuing the tender, the Authority held talks with Hollywood film production studios, Fox and Universal, seeking suggestions for project development. The first global tender for the film city was floated in November, 2021. But due to no response from the bidders, the authority issued a second tender in October, 2022. The deadline for this was extended up to February 14, 2023, and then February 28, 2023, and then again to March 31, 2023, but no bid was received.

SHOOTOUT CASE: DELHI POLICE SPECIAL CELL COP WAS KILLED IN 2008 'Not rarest of rare': HC commutes Batla House convict's sentence to life term

MALAVIKA PRASAD
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

THE DELHI High Court Thursday commuted to life imprisonment the death penalty awarded to Ariz Khan by the trial court in Batla House shootout case, in which Inspector Mohan Chand Sharma of the Delhi Police Special Cell was killed in 2008.

The HC, however, upheld the March 8, 2021 judgment of the trial court convicting him of various IPC offences including sections 302 (murder), 307 (attempt to murder), 333 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt to deter public servant in the discharge of his duty), and sections of the Arms Act among others.

The court partly allowed Khan's appeal against the judgment of conviction and order on sentence awarding him death penalty. The bench was also hearing the reference for confirmation, sent by the trial court, of the death sentence.

As part of procedure, when a trial court sentences a person to death, the judgment is to be examined by the HC to confirm the death penalty.

A division bench of Justice Siddharth Mridul and Justice Amit Sharma observed that the "shoot out which took place at Batla House was neither pre-planned nor pre-meditated".

The bench said that it was the

HOW THE CASE UNFOLDED

SEP 13, 2008: Serial blasts rock New Delhi, killing 39 people and injuring 159

SEP 19: Encounter takes place in Batla House during which inspector Mohan Chand Sharma (in pic) is killed

JULY 2009: Ariz Khan and Shahzad Ahmad declared proclaimed offenders by trial court

FEB 2010: Shahzad Ahmad is arrested

JULY 2013: Ahmad awarded life imprisonment by trial court



FEBRUARY 2018: Khan arrested after being on the run for a decade

MAR 8, 2021: Khan convicted of murder and other offences by trial court

MAR 15: Trial court awards death penalty to Khan

JAN 10, 2022: HC issues notice to police on appeal by Khan against the trial court orders

OCT 12, 2023: Delhi High Court upholds conviction of Khan for killing inspector Sharma but commutes death penalty to life term

prosecution's case that a raid was conducted for apprehending the suspect, Atif Ameen alias Basir, and police party reached the flat and were subsequently fired upon.

The court noted that prosecution had no prior information about Khan as he was neither a suspect nor a person being investigated at that stage, adding that he had not been convicted.

On the issue of Khan's reformation, the bench said that it had

called for a psychological assessment report on Khan, adding it "does not reflect" that he is incapable of reformation.

The bench stated: "In view of the principles discussed here, we are of the opinion that the present case does not fall under the category of a 'rarest of rare case'. Accordingly, this Court is of the considered view that the sentence of rigorous imprisonment for life would be an appropriate sentence," the bench said.

Engineering aspirant who took to terror: Who is Ariz Khan?

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

A STUDENT WHO dreamed of becoming an engineer but allegedly ended up as an operative of the Indian Mujahideen's (IM) 'Azamgarh Module' which triggered bomb blasts across four states, police say that 38-year-old Ariz Khan sought to resurrect the banned terrorist outfit in India.

Khan was arrested by the Delhi Police Special Cell, from near the Indo-Nepal border in February 2018.

On Thursday, the Delhi HC commuted the death penalty awarded to him by the trial court to life imprisonment.

Police claimed that Khan was behind blasts, which killed over 160 people between November 2007 and September 2008, in incidents ranging from blasts outside courts in Lucknow, Faizabad and Varanasi as well as serial blasts at Jaipur, Ahmedabad and Delhi.

Born in Azamgarh, Ariz allegedly told police that he came to Delhi to prepare for engineering entrance exams, where he



Khan was arrested by Delhi Police Special Cell

met Atif Ameen, an alleged commander of the IM, who was gunned down during the Batla House encounter, which Ariz flee.

Both trained for, but failed to clear, the entrance exams, after which Ariz took admission in a B.Tech (Information Technology) at a university in Muzaffarnagar, but dropped out in second year.

On September 19, 2008, days after the Delhi serial blasts, a Special Cell team raided the alleged hideout at Batla House where Ariz, Atif and two other alleged members of the IM were present; Ariz is alleged to have escaped with one of them.

He then, the police claimed, slipped into Nepal; he was contacted by one of the alleged founders of the IM, Riyaz Bhatkal, who asked him to reach Dammam in Saudi Arabia.

In February 2018, Ariz allegedly slipped into India.

Man stabs ex-girlfriend, cabbie's intervention helps nab him

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

A WOMAN, on her way to conduct a job interview, was stabbed multiple times in her face, neck and thighs, allegedly by her ex-boyfriend in South Delhi's Saket on Thursday.

The police said the woman was boarding a cab when the accused, Gaurav Pal, attacked her. The cab driver intervened and nabbed him.

In a purported video shot by the locals, the woman is seen covered in blood and seeking help, saying, "Please, take me to the hospital."

The clip also showed Pal in blood-stained clothes. He was later arrested.

Police said the woman suffered a total of 12-13 stab wounds on her head, face, neck, thighs and hands. As per the doctors, she is now out of danger after being operated upon. She had a cut below the jaw which tore her artery.

Pal hails from Ghaziabad and works at a private firm in

In a purported video, the woman is seen seeking help saying, "Please, take me to the hospital."

Gurgaon. Police said he had been stalking the woman for months and was threatening her.

The woman wanted to end the relationship and had rejected his advances, said police.

Chandan Chowdhary, DCP (South), said, "We received a PCR call around 6.30 am from Lado Sarai. The caller told us that a woman was lying injured after being stabbed by a man. The police reached the spot where the victim was present. Upon inquiry, it was revealed that the accused and the woman were in a relationship for two years."

Recently, the woman had expressed the wish to end the relationship, which angered the accused who had asked her to meet him near her house.

"They had a fight and after some time, the woman booked a

cab. She entered the cab, Pal also entered forcibly. He stabbed her multiple times and she was left bleeding. The cab driver rushed to help the woman and caught the accused," said an officer.

Pal has been booked in a case of attempted murder and is being questioned by the police.

During investigation, police found out that on September 10, the woman had made a PCR call informing the cops about a man who was standing in front of her house and harassing her.

After a police team was rushed to the woman's house, inquiry revealed that Pal was fighting with her over some borrowed money.

"We didn't take any action against Pal because the woman refused to lodge a case or take any action against him," added the officer.

On September 27, the accused again broke into her house and allegedly tried to strangle her. Her family has levelled allegations against the police for not taking their complaint "seriously".

'Mummy, I'm dying...': Kin say not first time accused targeted woman

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

ASSHE sat in the backseat of the cab, covered in blood and in shock, the 23-year-old woman kept calling out for her mother.

The purported video of the incident shows her calling out for her mother and asking people to help her.

The 23-year-old works at a recruitment firm in Noida. She lives with four siblings and mother in Lado Sarai.

Her father died a few years ago and she and her mother work to support the family. Her family said she was leaving for an interview when the accused attacked her.

Her mother said, "She got up early at 5-6 am and left the

house since she had to interview someone in Lajpat Nagar. She booked a cab on the main road. When she reached there, he (the accused) followed her and started arguing with her. She asked him to leave and sat in her cab but he got inside. He closed the doors and stabbed her. She was helpless."

The woman called her mother soon after the incident and said, "Mummy, I am dying..."

The mother alleged Pal has been stalking her daughter for almost a year after she rejected his proposal.

"I took her to the Saket police station myself...had they done something, my daughter would be safe," added the mother.

The victim's maternal uncle said, "She had told us several times about Pal. She would show

us his videos and photos and tell us that he was harassing her. He would stalk her and had attacked her on several occasions. We even approached the police last month but they didn't lodge an FIR or do anything."

The DCP denied allegations of police's inaction and said the woman never lodged a complaint.

Initial interrogation revealed that Pal spoke to the woman at around 8 am Wednesday. She later blocked his number.

"He told us that he tried to talk to her but she refused and slapped him four-five times. He then tried to snatch her phone. She screamed for help and they started arguing," said the DCP.

When her cab arrived, she sat inside but Pal followed her and stabbed her," the DCP added.

PM Modi to inaugurate RAPIDX in Ghaziabad next week



The under construction Rail bridge of Delhi-Meerut RRTS, over Kalyanpuri Chowk in New Delhi. Praveen Khanna

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GHAZIABAD, OCTOBER 12

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi will inaugurate India's first Rapid rail line, also called RAPIDX, in Ghaziabad. According to sources, the inauguration programme will be held by the end of next week.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday in-

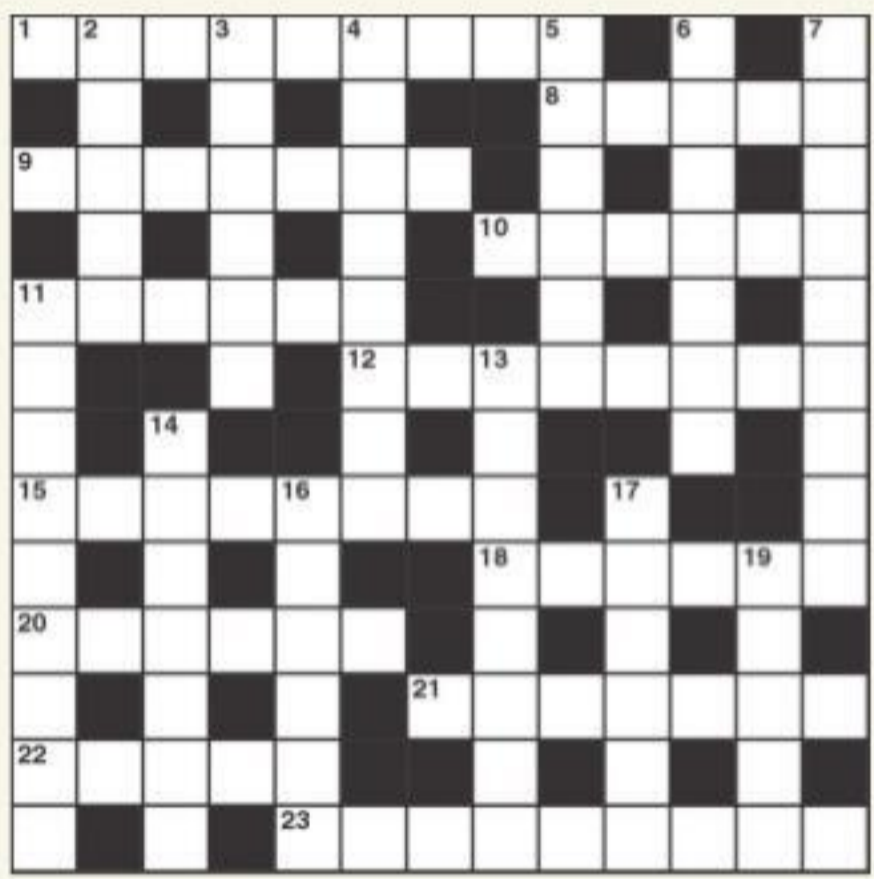
spected the Sahibabad station of RAPIDX and the place where the Prime Minister will inaugurate the Rapid Rail line.

He held a review meeting with the public representatives, party officials and officials of National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NRTC), which has been assigned the task of implementing the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) project across the NCR.

After the inauguration, the first phase of the 82-km-long Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS corridor will become operational, which will include a total of five stations — Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Guldhar, Duhai, and Duhai Depot.

It will cover a distance of 17 km and take around 12 minutes to complete the distance, which normally takes more than 35 minutes by road.

CROSSWORD 5181



- ACROSS**
- 1 Accounts for all the members of the family (9)
 - 8 Works and plays to music (5)
 - 9 Put wrong interpretation on one's dream perhaps (7)
 - 10 It's certainly not out of action (6)
 - 11 Join me in the money (6)
 - 12 I'm put to the test and made better (8)
 - 15 Stock reactions to panic (8)
 - 18 Mountain retreat needs freezer for fish (6)
 - 20 We go in for duck (6)
 - 21 Train one to interrupt (5,2)
 - 22 Collect more pay (5)
 - 23 It's rough and could be smoother (9)
- DOWN**
- 2 The very best from France (5)
 - 3 One is prone to use this example of inflation (3,3)
 - 4 I can't change. I've become lazy (8)
 - 5 Rather earlier (6)
 - 6 Take in but not in an accommodating way (7)
 - 7 Blunt note about a job seeker (9)
 - 11 This feature inspires angry comment (9)
 - 13 Shaved in advance to be ready (8)
 - 14 Innkeeper's profit is cheap at the price (7)
 - 16 Examines surgical instruments (6)
 - 17 Am having a nap going up country (6)
 - 19 Number take cover from rebuke (5)

Solutions Crossword 5180 Across: 1 Closing, 4 Steam, 7 Butt, 8 Location, 10 Tallor-made, 12 Speech, 13 Movies, 15 Astonished, 18 Lardboard, 19 Magi, 20 Style, 21 Leaflet
Down: 1 Cabot, 2 Outsider, 3 Gloomy, 4 Stand to win, 5 Evil, 6 Menaces, 9 Touchstone, 11 Highball, 12 Strolls, 14 Corral, 16 Drift, 17 Fray

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



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 clue.

We're all proud of making ___ mistakes. It gives us the feeling we don't make any ___
-Andy Rooney (6,3,4)

DGEEEO ABELLT
 VIIST LOOBGN

SOLUTION: GEODE, EVIDE, VISIT, BALEET, ORLONC
 Answer: We're all proud of making little mistakes. It gives us the feeling we don't make any big ones - Andy Rooney

SUDOKU 5349

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

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

SUDOKU 5348

8	5	2		7				
9		6	7	3	1			
	3	4		8		2		
	2	1					9	
6		4	3				8	
4					5	7		
	6		7		9	5		
3	9		8	5			4	
1		3	6			2		

SUDOKU 5348

6	2	9	5	1	4	7	3	8
4	3	7	9	8	2	1	6	5
5	8	1	6	3	7	9	4	2
8	7	4	2	5	9	3	1	6
1	9	5	3	7	6	2	8	4
3	6	2	8	4	1	5	7	9
7	5	8	4	2	3	6	9	1
9	4	3	1	6	5	8	2	7
2	1	6	7	9	8	4	5	3

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
 There is no way that past memories can be erased, but this time around you need to run your life in an entirely different spirit from the one you once knew. Both at work, and at home, expect the unexpected. Maybe this is the time for change.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
 One of the best ways to get on with family members is to share their ambitions. The more interest you show in them, the more they'll show in you, and a way will be found to settle current dilemmas and disputes.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
 It is absolutely and definitely time to take an overview of all your affairs, both the overtly public and the intensely personal. Consider your plans and actions from a moral perspective, and see if there is room for improvement. I'm sure there is. If you find it, act with courage.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
 Watch out for legal complications, and always act only out of the highest of motives. In matters concerning you and you alone, do whatever you wish, but if others are involved you must consider their position very carefully indeed. You're in one of your secretive moods.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
 It's a day of potential tumult and turbulence for almost everybody. You are more likely to be an onlooker than a direct participant, in which case your Geminian wisdom will be much appreciated by those who are locked in emotional battles, with themselves, and you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)
 While events are moving as fast as they are, there may be little you can do to influence the situation. However, what does lie in your hands is an ability to change your attitudes and preconceptions, so try to see what exactly it is within you which sometimes causes you to waste material resources.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
 You have a simple choice. Either you must throw yourself into whatever is happening, even if changeable, with 110% commitment. Or you may stay at the sidelines. However, if you choose to stand aloof, circumstances may well force your hand at last. Just work according to your surroundings.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
 An approaching lunar pattern could be one of the most important planetary happenings in your chart for some time. This doesn't mean that the earth is going to move, although it could do. What is more important is a sense of opportunity and an awareness.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
 Someone, somewhere, is thinking of you. You never know, getting in touch with people you haven't seen for a long time could be a very pleasant way to spend your energy. You may have a few doubts but it's perfectly acceptable to seek reassurance from people you trust.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
 You may be a little confused as to why work and other routine activities seem to require a return to the past. It's not necessarily that mistakes were made, just that you still have certain lessons to learn. Tie up lingering loose ends and you'll feel a whole lot better.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
 Responsibilities for children and younger relatives could be among those duties which have been tying you down. However, the psychological lesson for all Virgos is to return to and begin to question certain aspects of your childhood conditioning.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
 When other people are falling out, it must be in your interests to get them working together again. If you have become accustomed to playing the peacemaker, you may have to use your valuable diplomatic skills today. Don't let your thin skin hold you back.

In battleground Telangana, BRS, BJP, Cong find common ground: 10% quota for tribals

REENIVAS JANAYALA HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 12

WITH BATTLELINES being drawn for the Telangana Assembly elections scheduled for November 30, state BJP president and Union minister G Kishan Reddy has said that the saffron party would try to ensure 10 per cent reservation for tribals if the party comes to power by clinching the polls.

Kishan Reddy, who is also an MP from Secunderabad, made this promise after offering prayers at the Medaram temple of tribal goddesses Sammakka, Sarakka in Mulugu district Wednesday. He was visiting Mulugu days after PM Narendra Modi announced that a Central Tribal University would be set up in Mulugu at a cost of Rs 900 crore.

Over a year ago, Bharat Rashttra Samiti (BRS) government led by Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao or KCR had issued a notification for increasing the ST (Scheduled Tribes) quota from 6 per cent to 10 per cent in the state.

The Telangana Congress is also likely to make a similar pledge for tribals in its manifesto.

The point however remains that increasing the ST quota would breach current 50 per cent reservation ceiling for SCs (Scheduled Castes), STs and OBCs (Other Backward Classes), set by Supreme Court, and could not be officially implemented without possibly enacting a constitutional amendment. Any proposed hike in ST quota beyond this cap has to be approved by the Centre.

The leaders from the BRS, BJP and Congress parties say that in undivided Andhra Pradesh, the ST population was 6 per cent but following the state's bifurcation it went up to 10 per cent in the separate Telangana state.

"Our promise to increase the ST quota is based on tribal population in Telangana which is around 10 per cent," Kishan Reddy said on Thursday. He also claimed that till the Centre approves this proposal, there would be other ways of implementing it.

"The BJP is looking to win the tribal votes in the 11 ST Assembly constituencies in Telangana with this promise. The five ST con-

stituencies in the erstwhile undivided Khammam district and three in Adilabad can be very crucial," a BJP leader said. The Adilabad parliamentary seat is also reserved for ST and the BJP's Soyam Babu Rao had won from there in the May 2019 Lok Sabha election.

The key contenders in the Telangana poll fray are now looking at the Centre's August 2021 go-ahead empowering the states to allocate quotas to communities based on their population. They are also arguing that the Supreme Court has also stated in its 50 per cent reservation cap order the states could increase quota under special circumstances.

On September 17 last year, KCR had made the announcement to hike the ST quota while speaking at Telangana Adivasi-Banjara Atmiya Sabha. He had then said that he was "tired of waiting" and would go ahead with implementing the 10 per cent quota for STs in educational institutions and state government jobs even without getting the

Centre's approval. However, the recruitment in government jobs under the enhanced ST quota has not been implemented so far.

Currently, Telangana is implementing 50 per cent quota in education and employment, including 25 per cent for BCs (Backward Classes), 15 per cent for SCs, 6 per cent for STs and 4 per cent for Muslims.

If the proposed increase in the ST quota to 10 per cent comes into effect, the total reservation in the state would go up to 54 per cent.

Senior Telangana Congress leader Mohammed Ali Shabbir said that the Congress is in favour of hiking the ST quota.

In April 2017, the Telangana Assembly had passed the Telangana Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes (Reservation of Seats in Educational Institutions and of Appointments or Posts in the Services under the State) Bill, 2017, hiking the quotas for tribals from six to 10 per cent and for the Muslim community from four per cent to 12 per cent under the BC-E category. The Bill was referred to the Centre for clearance, where it has been pending.

SC extends interim bail of Nawab Malik

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, OCTOBER 12

THE SUPREME COURT Thursday extended by three months the temporary bail granted to former minister Nawab Malik on medical grounds in a money laundering case, pending his plea seeking bail on health grounds.

A bench of Justices Bela M Trivedi and Dipankar Datta passed the order Thursday.

On August 11, a bench of Justice Aniruddha Bose and Justice Bela M Trivedi granted temporary bail on medical grounds for two months after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing ED, did not object to it.

"We are passing the order strictly on medical conditions and have not entered into merits," the SC had clarified.

The Bombay HC on July 13 rejected a plea by Malik seeking bail on health grounds in money laundering case. His plea on merits is pending before the court.

Malik had sought relief from the HC, claiming he was suffering from a chronic kidney disease.

WhatsApp, FB inciting communal hatred: INDIA bloc writes to Zuckerberg, Pichai

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

ACCUSING FACEBOOK and YouTube of "abetting social disharmony" and "inciting communal hatred in India" besides suppression of content put out by Opposition leaders, the top leadership of the INDIA bloc has written to these platforms asking them to ensure that their operations in India remain "neutral" and are not used to cause "social unrest" in view of the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections.

In a strongly worded letter to Meta Platforms chief executive Mark Zuckerberg and Alphabet Inc chief executive Sundar Pichai, INDIA bloc leaders Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, Sharad Pawar, Uddhav Thackeray and Akhilesh Yadav said "such blatant partisanship and bias towards

one political formation by a private foreign company is tantamount to interfering in India's democracy".

The leaders drew Zuckerberg and Pichai's attention to articles published by The Washington Post recently on the "role of WhatsApp and Facebook in aiding the communal hatred campaign of ruling BJP" and role of "YouTube in propagating communal hatred and dividing Indian society".

Another article, they said, has "elucidated with evidence the blatant partisanship by Facebook India executives towards the ruling dispensation", which they said was "well known to us in the Opposition for a long time and have even raised it several times in the past."

They said the probes by The Washington Post show that Meta and YouTube are "culpable of abetting social disharmony and inciting communal hatred in India".

PROBE AGAINST VIVO

Many Chinese nationals in India violated visa conditions: ED to court

NIRBHAY THAKUR NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

MANY CHINESE nationals travelled to "sensitive places of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh" and grossly violated the Indian visa conditions, ED told a Delhi court in its remand papers after arresting four persons in connection with a money laundering probe against smartphone maker Vivo.

"During investigation, it came to light that various Chinese nationals have been travelling across India, including J&K and Ladakh, in gross violation of Indian visa conditions," the agency said.

Among the persons arrested were a Chinese national and the managing director of Lava International Ltd, which manufactures electronics.

In its remand application, the ED alleged that the accused had cheated the government by entering India in a "disguised and fraudulent manner to set up an elaborate Chinese-controlled network throughout the country... carrying out activities prejudicial to the economic sovereignty of India".

The four arrested - Hari Om Rai, MD, Lava International Ltd, Chinese national Andrew Kuang, and chartered accountants Nitin Garg and Rajan Malik - were sent to three-day ED custody by Additional Sessions Judge Devender Kumar Jangala Tuesday.

It was further alleged by the ED that Vivo employees worked without appropriate visas and were acting in a way that was in grave violation of employment visa rules for entry into India.

According to the ED, its investigation revealed that "huge sums were siphoned out of India", and there were alleged violations of FDI norms by Vivo from 2014 to 2018. The ED said that it had found during its investigation that remittances over Rs 1-lakh crore were allegedly transferred outside India to "trading companies" so that Vivo couldn't be noticed by the government of India. The agency said that zero profits were shown from 2014 to 2020 and no income tax was paid in India.

A Vivo spokesperson said, "The recent arrest deeply concerns us. We will exercise all available legal options."

General Administration Department SUGGESTIONS AND INFORMATION INVITED ON NOMINATIONS RECEIVED FOR THE POSTS OF ONE CHAIRPERSON, ONE JUDICIAL MEMBER AND ONE NON-JUDICIAL MEMBER OF THE INSTITUTION OF LOKAYUKTA, BIHAR

Admission to the Ph.D. Programme (December Cycle, 2023) Applications are invited for admission to the Ph.D. programme (December Cycle, 2023) of the Institute through online mode in different disciplines. For eligibility criteria, submission deadline, seat matrix and other details, please visit: www.iiests.ac.in

Advt. No. 21/2023 Government of India Search-cum-Selection Committee Department of Defence Production Ministry of Defence Invites applications for the post of Director (Submarine & Heavy Engineering) IN Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Last date of receipt of applications in DDP/MoD By 1500 hours on 13th November, 2023 For details login to website http://www.ddpmod.gov.in/vacancyandcircular

उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग हरिद्वार रिक्रूटमेंट नंबर 24944 संख्या: 541/17/E-5/डी.आर./प्र.श्रे.0-दो/2023-24 दिनांक: 12 अक्टूबर, 2023 विज्ञापित विज्ञापित एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि राजकीय औद्योगिक प्रशिक्षण संस्थानों में प्रधानाचार्य (श्रेणी-दो) समूह-ख के रिक्त 18 पदों पर सौधी मर्ती द्वारा चयन हेतु पात्र अभ्यर्थियों से ऑनलाइन आवेदन-पत्र आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। ऑनलाइन आवेदन के क्रम में प्रमुख विधियां निम्नवत् हैं-

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक punjab national bank ...भरोसे का प्रतीक! Circle SASTRA Office, Bhagalpur (Ground Floor-Naulakha Apartment), Opp DIG Kothi, Badi Khanjarpur, Bihar-812001, (Email : cs8197@pnb.co.in) Possession Notice [Under Rule 8 (1) of security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002] As per the powers conferred under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and under Section 13(12) of the Securities Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 read together with Rule 8, the Authorized Punjab National Bank. The undersigned as an officer issued demand notice as mentioned in the table below, asking the borrowers/guarantors to pay the amount specified in the respective notices against their names in the table within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said intimation writing. was asked to The following borrowers/guarantors have not paid the amount specified in the respective notices issued under section 13(2) within the stipulated time, the aforesaid borrowers/guarantors and the general public are hereby informed that the undersigned has made payment against the property concerned have taken symbolic possession of the properties (guaranteed assets) mentioned in the following table in compliance with the powers conferred on them under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules on the dates mentioned. In particular the aforesaid borrowers / guarantors and the general public are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties mentioned in the following table and any transaction with the said properties shall be effected on the amount mentioned in the relevant column of the table and thereon. The interest will be subject to the charge of Punjab National Bank.

GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE Rampur Road, Haldwani (Nainital) Tel. & FAX: 05946-255255, 255926, 282578, FAX: 05946-282578, website: www.gmchld.org REQUIREMENT "Walk-in-Interview" will be held on every working Friday starting from 13th October 2023 (Friday) to 29th December 2023 from 11:00 a.m. to 02:00 p.m. at "Office of the Principal", Government Medical College, Haldwani (Nainital) Uttarakhand. The Government Medical College, Haldwani reserves the right to increase or decrease the post(s) as per needs and also reserves the right to fill or not to fill the post(s). No T.A./D.A. will be admissible for attending the interview.

BIHAR COMBINED ENTRANCE COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION BOARD L.A.S. Association Building, Near Patna Airport, Patna-14. POST GRADUATE DENTAL ADMISSION COUNSELLING (PGDAC)-2023 for MDS in Govt./ Private Dental colleges of Bihar Advt. No.- BCECEB(PGDAC)-2023/12 Dated : 12.10.2023 bceceboard.bihar.gov.in Notice for Stray Vacancy Round Online Counselling Fresh Online Registration and submission of Application form are invited from such qualified, eligible & interested NEET(MDS)-2023 candidates for appearing in the Stray Vacancy Round Online Counselling of Post Graduate Dental Admission Counselling (PGDAC)-2023, who are not admitted in any Dental Colleges of India, on the vacant seats of Government / Private Dental Colleges of Bihar.

ADITYA BIRLA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED Registered Office- Indian Rayon Compound, Veraval, Gujarat - 362266 Branch Office- G Corporation Tech Park, Kasarvadavali, Ghodbunder Road, Thane -400607 (MH) DEMAND NOTICE (under Rule 3 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002) SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF NOTICE U/s 13 (2) OF SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the borrowers as mentioned below that since they have defaulted in repayment of the Credit facility availed by them from Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited (ABHFL), their loan accounts have been classified as Non-Performing Assets in the books of the Company as per RBI guidelines thereto. Thereafter, ABHFL has issued demand notices under section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act) on the last known addresses of the said borrowers thereby calling upon and demanding from them to repay the entire outstanding amount together with further interest at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. as stated in the said demand notices. However, the demand notice is also being served by way of publication, as per Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (SARFAESI Rules):

ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL ADITYA BIRLA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED (under Rule 3 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002) SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF NOTICE U/s 13 (2) OF SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the borrowers as mentioned below that since they have defaulted in repayment of the Credit facility availed by them from Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited (ABHFL), their loan accounts have been classified as Non-Performing Assets in the books of the Company as per RBI guidelines thereto. Thereafter, ABHFL has issued demand notices under section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act) on the last known addresses of the said borrowers thereby calling upon and demanding from them to repay the entire outstanding amount together with further interest at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. as stated in the said demand notices. However, the demand notice is also being served by way of publication, as per Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (SARFAESI Rules):

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank सिंडिकेट Syndicate Regional Office : A.P.Colony, Gaya BRANCH:-Bhabhua

POSSESSION NOTICE [Section 13(4)] (For Immovable Property) Whereas: The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Canara Bank under Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 19th Jan 2022 calling upon the borrower M/ S ANIS HARDWARE STEEL IRON, Proprietor: Mr. Satyendra Tiwari S/O Late Ram avtar Tiwari Resident of NDR- DTO Office, Bhabhua, Kaimur, Bihar, 821101. Guarantor 1: Mr. Ramakant Tiwari S/O Late Shiv Murat Tiwari resident of ward No- 01, Rampur Colony, Kaimur, Bihar, 821101. Guarantor 2: Smt. Kamlawati Devi W/o Ram Avtar Tiwari, Resident of Vill+ Post- Mokari, PS- Bhabhua, Kaimur, Bihar, 821101 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, being Rs. 8,90,716.04/- (Rupees Eight lakhs ninety thousands seven hundred sixteen and paise four only) and interest there on within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under section 13 (4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rule on this 11th October 2023. The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Section 13 (8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Canara Bank for an amount Rs.8,06,784.04 [Rupees Eight lakhs six thousands seven hundred eighty four and paise four only] in A/C NO 334728500005 & 3347755000062] and interest there on.

6 GOVT & POLITICS

Report on PMAY-G points to 'bribes' in Bihar, 'cut' in Bengal, 'extortion' in MP

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

A POLITICAL party taking "cut money" for funds in West Bengal; panchayat officials collecting bribes in Bihar; the "stopping" of funds by a village secretary in Rajasthan; and the sarpanch "forcibly" taking funds in Madhya Pradesh.

These are among the cases flagged by the National Level Monitoring (NLM) agents after assessing the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) — the BJP-led Centre's flagship programme to provide pucca houses to eligible beneficiaries — in the three reports on the same available with the Union Ministry for Rural Development. The reports were compiled by the Delhi-based CMI Social Research Centre and have been submitted to the ministry.

The ministry can depute NLM agencies for regular monitoring of its major schemes; special monitoring of an individual scheme; and in case of complaints or enquiries.

The special monitoring exercise was rolled out in three phases: 42 NLM agents visited 85 districts in 10 states (January 2022); another 45 went to 111 districts across 25 states (May 2022); and 43 agents visited 110 districts across 24 states (December 2022).

The NLMs were required to visit the selected districts to "assess the ease of living from the experience of PMAY-G beneficiary and the ease of governance from the point of view of the efficacy of implementation processes".

The Phase-I report speaks of instances of "rent-seeking or corruption", which although are "reported in very small numbers", point "towards a corrupt practice".

It cited two separate cases from West Bengal, where PMAY-G beneficiaries were allegedly required to pay "cut money" of Rs 10,000 and Rs 2,000 each to the panchayat member. The report also said the beneficiary's family was "continuously pressurised to pay the amount and threatened".

Flagging instances of problems with execution, the Phase-III report quoted a case from the Bharatpur district in Rajasthan. The beneficiary here reportedly complained to the NLM team members that he had been forced to give Rs 5,000 to the village secretary after the first installment was credited into his account.

"The beneficiary has since managed to complete his house till the roof level and is awaiting further sanction of the next installment in order to complete the construction of the house. However, he complained that the village secretary wanted another Rs 10,000 for filing the due report."

It added that the "requisite geo-tagging of the structure was being deliberately delayed" and "when queried, the functionaries claimed that they were unaware about this issue and assured that they would look into the matter at the earliest".

Officials from the rural development departments of West Bengal and Rajasthan were contacted. Their response is being awaited.

COVERAGE UNDER SPECIAL MONITORING OF PMAY-G

	Phase-I (Jan 2022)	Phase-II (May 2022)	Phase-III (Aug-Sept 2022)
States	10	25	24
Districts	85	111	110
Blocks	334	322	327
Gram Panchayat	971	1,231	1,238
Beneficiaries interviewed/Dwelling units verified	4,051	5,281	5,700

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INAUGURATES, LAYS FOUNDATION FOR PROJECTS WORTH ₹4,200 CR Developing border roads govt priority: PM in Uttarakhand

AVANEESH MISHRA
DEHRADUN, OCTOBER 12

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi Thursday inaugurated and laid the foundation for multiple development projects in Uttarakhand worth around Rs 4,200 crore while attacking the state's previous government for "lack of development in border areas".

Addressing a gathering after the event, Modi said the government's priority is to develop border roads.

"The projects he inaugurated include those related to roads, power, irrigation, drinking water, horticulture, education, health and disaster management.

"They (the previous government) did not develop the border areas, fearing that our enemies might use them to enter the state. India today has left such thoughts behind and moved forward... Over the last nine years, we have made over 4,200 km of road, 250 bridges, and 22 tunnels in the border areas. We are also planning to bring trains to our borders," he said.

India is touching new heights, he said, emphasising on the connection between Uttarakhand and the Chandrayaan-3 success as the landing point is called Shiv-Shakti Point. "...In a world surrounded by challenges, India's voice is getting stronger," he said.

Modi said that the decade-old demand for "One Rank One Pension" was fulfilled by his government which has given over Rs 70,000 crore to ex-servicemen, benefiting more than 75,000 families in Uttarakhand.

On connectivity between Kedamath and Manaskhand, the PM said the Manaskhand Mandir Mala Mission that started Thursday will make many temples more accessible to devotees in the Kumaon region and boost tourism.

"People do not know much about this area. But when they see Modi has visited, they will think there must be something. Be prepared, the number of tourists is going to increase," he said.



PM Modi at Parvati Kund in Pithoragarh Thursday. P71

The PM said that Rs 4,000 crore will be provided to Uttarakhand over the next four-five years to deal with natural disasters.

Earlier, Modi visited Parvati Kund in Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district. He landed at Jolingkong helipad in Pithoragarh district at 8.45 am and travelled half a kilometre by car to reach Parvati Sarovar and the Shiva Temple. He meditated for 25 minutes, a government statement said.

Modi also visited Adi Kailash in Pithoragarh. Adi Kailash, at an altitude of over 14,000 feet, is adjacent to the China-Nepal border, which Hindus believe is the residence of Lord Shiva's family.

Then, at Gunji village, he spoke with residents about the Centre's 'vocal for local' scheme and other development projects. He also met the people of Ran Samaj Kalyan Samiti and interacted with Army, ITBP and BRO personnel. Ran community members gave the PM an urn filled with holy water from Mansarovar. Uttarakhand plans to develop 16 temples in the Kumaon division under its ambitious Manaskhand Mandir Mala Mission, including the Jageshwar Mahadev Temple in Almora, Chitai Golu Temple, Suryadev Temple in Katarmal, Kesar Devi Temple, Nanda Devi Temple and Patal Bhuvaneshwar Temple in Pithoragarh among others.

Modi's visit to Gunji irks Nepal opposition

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE
KATHMANDU, OCTOBER 12

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi's visit to Gunji near Kalapani, Uttarakhand has triggered an uproar in Nepal.

Nepal's Opposition parties claimed Modi "came to our territory" without informing authorities and asked how it happened.

Prominent Nepalese parliamentarians, including Thakur Prasad Gaire of main opposition Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist, Rabi Lamichhane of Rastriya Swatantra Party and Dipak Bahadur Singh of Rastriya Prajatantra Party, claimed "Gunji in Kalapani was Nepal's territory" and the visit by Modi there without "permission" was a breach of diplomatic traditions.

Kalapani, Limpiadhura and Lipulekh on the India-Nepal border are included in the official maps of both countries, although they are under India's administration. Nepal PM Pushpa Kamal Dahal, after a visit to India in June, said Modi assured him of "doing everything to resolve the dispute".

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



SECULAR HISTORY

SPEAKING AT a book launch on Wednesday, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat batted for secularism by narrating a conversation he had with former President, late Pranab Mukherjee. Bhagwat said he had sought an appointment with Mukherjee and was allotted 10 minutes. However, a ruckus erupted in Parliament over 'ghar wapsi'. "I thought Pranab da would not meet me but I was told that my appointment was on. I prepared myself for a grilling since all fingers were pointing at us. But he asked why people were talking about unity in diversity now. He said we have been secular for 5,000 years," Bhagwat said.

ENTERTAINMENT SESSION

AFTER BJP MP Sunny Deol's film Gadar 2 was screened in Parliament in August, the upcoming session in the new Parliament building will have MPs watching an animated series on the unsung heroes of India's freedom struggle, especially women and tribals. Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur on Wednesday launched the trailer of "Bharat Hain Hum", which will be showcased on Amazon Prime Video and Netflix as well as government-run Doordarshan, simultaneously. The series is being produced in 12 Indian languages, and will also be dubbed in several international languages.

NO ESCAPE

BJP NATIONAL spokesperson Syed Zafar Islam on Wednesday faced a barrage of questions on the Israel-Palestine situation as he talked to reporters about the economy being in the "pink of health". Steering clear of the topic, he said he was there to talk on specific issues concerning the economy and other matters could be raised on another day. Pat came a new question: "how would the Israel-Palestine conflict affect the Indian economy as oil prices could soar?" He replied that this would not happen and the economy would do well. Then came another question: "since Israel was one country and oil-rich Arab nations were many, should India stand with Arab nations for the sake of the economy?" Zafar Islam chose not to make any specific comment beyond what the Prime Minister had tweeted on October 7, hours after the sudden, multi-front attack on Israel by Hamas. This brought the meeting to an end.



RAJNATH MEETS FRENCH COUNTERPART

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with his French counterpart Sebastien Lecornu in Paris. They discussed a potential collaboration in niche domains such as space, cyber and artificial intelligence, and the advantages of co-development and co-production in India. Xj@rajnathsingh

Priyanka promises free education, stipend for school students, caste census in MP

ANAND MOHAN J
BHOPAL, OCTOBER 12

CONGRESS GENERAL secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Thursday promised free education and monthly stipends for schoolchildren in poll-bound Madhya Pradesh.

At the Congress's Jan Akrosh rally in tribal-dominated Mandla, Priyanka promised to implement the Padho aur Padhao (learn and teach) Yojana. "The education of children from classes 1 to 12 will be free of cost. This scheme is named Padho aur Padhao Yojana... Under this plan, children from classes 1 to 8 will receive Rs 500 every month, those in classes 9 and 10 will receive Rs 1,000 per month, and students in classes 11 and 12 will receive Rs 1,500 per month," she said, reaching out to parents as well as women voters in the state.

According to the EC, there are a total of 5.52 crore voters in Madhya Pradesh — 2.85 crore men, 2.67 crore women and 1,336 transgenders. According to the EC, there are 945 women voters for every 1,000 men, as opposed to



Cong leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra with the party's MP unit chief Kamal Nath at a rally in Mandla district on Thursday. P71

917 women in 2018.

Priyanka also made emotional appeals to the people invoking her grandmother Indira Gandhi and reminded them of the work she did for the tribal community. "It's not just my resemblance (with Indira Gandhi), there is something deeper... You trusted Indira-ji because she worked for you, you called her mata (mother). This is a big responsibility. I stand before you, what I say is the truth."

The Congress leader proceeded to attack the BJP government for levelling corruption al-

legations in the education sector. "There are so many scams — the Poshan Ahaar scam, the mid-day meal scam, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan scam, scholarship scam, recruitment scam... What will happen to the future of the children? There is a scam at every level. They are not recruited. If the upcoming generation doesn't see a future and has no hope, how would it move forward," she said.

She also spoke about the need to conduct a caste census, another Congress poll promise aimed at gaining the OBC support.

EXPLAINED

Wooing women voters

CONGRESS INSIDERS say the "Padho aur Padhao Yojana" is a counter to Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's Ladli Behana Yojana as it would help target parents and first-time voters. The announcement, coupled with former CM Kamal Nath's Nari Samman Yojana promise — monthly aid of Rs 1,500 for women and LPG cylinders at Rs 500 — is aimed at helping the Congress woo women voters, say party sources.

Attacking the BJP government for "handing out slippers, shoes and umbrellas" to people, she said, "Is your respect tied to slippers, shoes, and umbrellas? Do you not deserve the earnings of your hard work? They hand you a pair of slippers, but they don't know your size. They just assume that these slippers or shoes will make you silent," she said.

Under fire, CPM's Shailaja drops 'terror' tag from Hamas post

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
OCTOBER 12

COMING UNDER fire after dubbing Hamas as terrorists, CPI(M) central committee member and former Kerala minister KK Shailaja Thursday in a fresh Facebook post, dropped the "terror" tag.

Extending an unflinching support for the Palestinian cause in the conflict, the CPI(M) has always refrained from referring to Hamas as a terror outfit.

"I have noticed my Facebook post on the Israel-Palestine war is being debated in different ways. What I have mentioned on Facebook is that Israel and the imperialistic forces that support them are responsible for the heinous cruelty being faced by the Palestinian people since 1948. The Left has always expressed solidarity with Palestine people and criticised the Israel invasion into their land. But I had mentioned in the earlier post

Kerala ex-health minister KK Shailaja

that the cruelty shown by Hamas towards war prisoners and ordinary people cannot be justified. For years, Israel had shown the same cruelty towards Palestine," she said.

Expressing her anguish over killings on both sides, Shailaja Wednesday had said anyone with a conscience would deplore the attacks carried out by Hamas terrorists in settlements in Israel.

CPI(M) state secretariat member, M Swaraj said, "Whatever it might be Palestine had done so far, they are innocent... There are people who are struggling to explain their stand and people trying to do balancing... Categorically stating, injustice is meted out the moment one starts an impartial analysis putting Israel and Palestine on two sides," he said on Facebook.

Karnataka BJP unease over JDS alliance deepens as Sadananda Gowda flags turmoil

Following its debacle in Assembly election, state BJP remains in disarray: Key appointments yet to be made, several leaders may join Congress

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

WHILE THE BJP's central leadership is engaged in firming up its proposed alliance with the Janata Dal (Secular) in a bid to boost its prospects in Karnataka ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the party's state unit continues to be reeling from the humiliating loss it suffered at the hands of the Congress in the May Assembly polls.

Amid the growing buzz in the BJP circles that several party leaders are gearing up to switch to the Congress — especially those who had defected to the

BJP as part of the alleged Operation Kamala that had led to the collapse of the then JD(S)-Congress government in 2019 — party veteran and ex-Union minister D Sadanand Gowda has mounted a scathing attack on the BJP's national leadership.

BJP sources said Gowda's outburst "just reflects the growing uneasiness among the party leaders who believe that their future is closely linked to the state of affairs in the Karnataka unit".

In an interview to a Kannada newspaper, Sadanand Gowda has blamed the party's central leaders for its debacle in the Assembly polls, charging that the Karnataka BJP leaders were

unhappy with their "dictatorial attitude" that "weakened" the state unit. The ex-chief minister also said that the Congress was currently ahead of the BJP in 10-15 Lok Sabha seats. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP had swept the state, bagging 25 of the total 26 seats.

Voicing the resentment among a section of the state BJP leaders over the party leadership's move to forge an alliance with the JD(S), Gowda claimed that none of the state leaders, including even B S Yeddyurappa, was taken into confidence for this decision.

The state BJP has still not been able to come up with a plan

of action as it "lacks guidance and leadership", said a party leader. Some key organisational appointments in the state unit — including that of its new chief and the Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Assembly — have not been made so far, leaving it open for the Congress to attack the party as a "rudderless ship".

Gowda's remarks came on Thursday, a day when former BJP MLA Ramappa Lamani joined the Congress, even as speaking on the occasion Deputy CM and Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president D K Shivakumar claimed that he had applications from 42 leaders from the Opposition parties

for joining the Congress.

"Gowda's public remarks and the MLAs' moves just reflect the fears, apprehensions and uncertainty in the state BJP unit. Because the future of these leaders is closely linked to the future of the BJP and what is happening in the party currently," said a BJP source.

According to sources, at least six BJP MLAs might cross over to the Congress soon. "The Congress in its buoyant mood wants to prove a point. For D K Shivakumar, he can prove to his leadership that the Congress has paid back to the BJP in the same coin," added the source.

The Congress had lost 14 of

its MLAs in 2019 in the "Operation Kamala 2.0" allegedly conducted by the BJP to bring back the Yeddyurappa-led party dispensation to power after it failed to prove a majority after the 2018 polls due to the coming together of the Congress and the JD(S).

The BJP's rivals use the term "Operation Kamala" to describe its alleged bids to make the lawmakers who have won on the tickets of other parties to defect to it by bypassing the anti-defection law.

BJP sources in Karnataka said that despite the central leadership's explanation that the BJP-JD(S) alliance would help the

party to shore up its numbers in the Lok Sabha elections, the state leaders and cadre have "not been able to comprehend the move". Both the parties have bitterly fought against each other in a number of constituencies in the past, they said.

At least three leaders from Karnataka said there had not been any detailed discussions with the state leaders over the issue.

With the BJP-JD(S) tie-up being aimed at rallying the support bases of both the parties — BJP's core and Lingayat votes and the JD(S)'s Vokkaliga votes — for the Lok Sabha polls, the possibility of Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje, a Vokkaliga leader,

being named as the state party chief has "diminished", party sources said.

The alliance talks have also triggered rebellion in the JD(S) camp, with two of its Muslim leaders having resigned from the party. The JD(S) enjoys the backing of a section of the minority community in some of its strongholds.

"Karnataka BJP leaders are clueless about the central leadership's plans for the state. The party has started preparation for the Lok Sabha elections in almost every state. But what strategy the BJP has for Karnataka is still unclear. The wait has been long," said a party leader.

7 EXPRESS NETWORK

No bail for ISRO staffer accused of cyber terror, says Gujarat HC

SOHINI GHOSH
AHMEDABAD, OCTOBER 12

THE GUJARAT High Court indicated Wednesday that it was not inclined to grant regular bail to a technical officer working with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), facing charges of cyber terrorism for allegedly being in contact with "unknown woman" in Pakistan. The HC also said that the accused, Kalpesh Turi, could file for regular bail before it only after six months if the trial against him did not proceed by then. Turi was arrested by the Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) in Ahmedabad in January. He was working in the mechanical integration team as the antenna mechanical engineer at the Space Applications Centre (SAC) unit of ISRO in Ahmedabad when he was arrested. He had been working with ISRO since 2012. The ATS lodged the FIR on January 7, charging Turi with cyber terrorism under Section 66 F(1)(B) of the IT Act. A district court in Ahmedabad had earlier refused to grant him bail. After the HC indicated it was not inclined to entertain the bail request, the application was withdrawn. The ATS officers, who were probing the case, were decorated with the Union home minister's medal for excellence in investigation on Independence Day.

Bihar train accident: Among survivors, 39-year-old who lost wife and daughter

SANTOSH SINGH
RAGHUNATHPUR (BUXAR), OCTOBER 12

AS HE set out with his family to his paternal home in Assam's Tinsukia, 39-year-old Dipak Bhandari, who works at a bar in Delhi, posed with his wife and eight-year-old twin daughters for a selfie at the Anand Vihar railway station from where they were about to board the North East Express on Tuesday. However, 14 hours later in Bihar's Buxar, he saw the lifeless body of one of the twins who had fallen out of the derailed train. He entrusted a nearby shopkeeper to look after the other twin while he walked around the accident site looking for his wife. A few metres away, he found her, 33-year-old Usha, also lying dead. Dipak's wife and daughter were among four persons who died after the Guwahati-bound North East Express derailed near Raghunathpur railway station in Buxar on Wednesday night. Abu Zayed (27), who ran a small business at Bishanpur in Kishanganj, also died in the accident. He was returning home from Delhi, where he had gone to see off his sister and brother-in-law, who were on their way to the UAE. The fourth deceased was yet to be identified. "They were all brought dead with signs of multiple injuries. Usha and her daughter Akriti had suffered fatal injuries after



There were 33 passengers under treatment at government hospitals in Buxar, Arrah and Patna as of Thursday. Most of them work in Delhi and were on their way home. Express

falling off the train," said Dr G K Yadav, in-charge of the Raghunathpur Community Health Centre where the bodies were brought after the accident. There were 33 passengers under treatment at government hospitals in Buxar, Arrah and Patna as of Thursday. Most of them were people who work in Delhi and were on their way home. Another 38 passengers were discharged from the hospitals after getting preliminary care. Sudip Ravidas (19) was admitted to Arrah Sadar Hospital with a fractured leg. He works as a tailor in Delhi and was on his way to his West Bengal village for Durga Puja. Lying in his hos-

pital bed, he was unable to speak due to sedation. Tapan Ravidas, who was travelling with him, said: "We had been working in Delhi for the past four years as tailors and would send money home to support our parents. We had to get down at Barsoi railway station, from where we could have gone to our village of Beniapur in West Bengal." Sudip has been referred to AIIMS, Patna. All the injured were given Rs 50,000 cash by the Railways, which also promised transfer of Rs 2 lakh to their bank accounts. Other injured included being treated at the Arrah hospital included Laibahadur Kshetriya

from Kalimpong. The 37-year-old, who had mild head injuries, worked as a cook in Delhi, and was heading home to be with his family during Durga Puja, due to start from October 15. Saharsa resident Dayanand Kumar (17) was getting treated for head and chest injuries, and has also been referred to AIIMS, Patna. He has been working as a school bus conductor in Delhi for two years. A group of volunteers were standing near the injured passengers to offer them help. "Until their families arrive, volunteers like us will take care of them," said Arrah resident Mohan Kumar.

'Unconventional warfare' tops anti-terror meet talks

33 foreign delegates attend first such conference in India

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

AS THE Israel-Hamas war entered the sixth day Thursday, an anti-terror conference of special forces held in Delhi discussed the challenges of combating "unconventional warfare" in the light of ongoing conflict in the region with 33 foreign delegates, including from Israel, attending the conference. The two-day conference, organised by the National Security Guard, was attended by representatives from all special anti-terror forces in the country including those raised by state police, central armed police forces and the armed forces, making it the first such conference ever organised in the country. "While the basic aim of the conference was to achieve synergy and coordination among all special units India and friendly countries to deal with emergency situations, the conference is cognisant of the developments in the Middle East that have taken place over the weekend. On the sidelines, a discussion was also held on how to prepare for unforeseen and unprecedented scenarios as witnessed during the Israel-Hamas conflict," a Ministry of Home Affairs

(MHA) official said. Although a senior Israeli military officer was supposed to address the conference, the official said, "He was called back to duty last minute. But Israel was represented by embassy officials here." Among others, there were representatives from the US, UK, France, Germany, Japan and Uzbekistan. An official, who attended the conference, said, "The conflict has several lessons. The key among them is that technology cannot replace manpower. Technology can be overwhelmed with numbers. It was discussed that the skill level of special unit personnel has to be of the highest level. Technology is important but ultimate redeemers are men and their guns." Hamas fighters were able to breach Israel's hi-tech perimeter wall by destroying sentry posts, dropping IEDs from drones and then demolishing the wall with bulldozers, sources said. This effectively disabled the alert mechanism allowing over 1000 fighters to enter and overwhelm the security ring. "The wall was built to decrease manpower but collapsed in the face of greater manpower of the enemy. The iron dome similarly was overwhelmed by a barrage of rock-

ets fired. Naturally, a tech-driven system cannot intercept all. For a conventional enemy, there is a deterrence of reprisal. But in an unconventional war, it is a challenge," another official said. The conference, titled "Sub Conventional Threats-Challenges and Prospects for Definite and Enduring Solutions", brought together experts, practitioners and leaders from the special anti-terror forces to use their collective expertise in creating a unified front against the threats posed by terrorism, sources said. "During the seminar, a session will be held on the threats of IEDs Friday, where critical issues of responding to multi-city, multi-target terror attacks will be discussed which requires coordinated approach amongst NSG, special forces of states and other government agencies. The deliberation will help in developing effective strategies and contingency plans, delineating a clear role for each special force as first responders before NSG takes over any counter-terror operation. Such discussions assume greater significance especially in the aftermath of the recent multiple terror attacks in the Israel-Hamas conflict," an MHA official said.



President Droupadi Murmu with J&K L-G Manoj Sinha at the Vaishno Devi shrine on Thursday. Express

Murmu visits Vaishno Devi; inaugurates skywalk, revamped Parvati Bhawan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 12

PRESIDENT DROUPADI Murmu paid obeisance at Vaishno Devi shrine and inaugurated a skywalk and remodelled Parvati Bhawan at the shrine, on Thursday. On a two-day visit to the state, the President was accompanied by Jammu & Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for the inauguration of state-of-the-art pilgrim-centric facilities at the shrine. The 250-metre long skywalk is built at an elevation of 20 feet above the existing track at a cost of Rs 15.69 crore with an aim to overcome the problem of multidirectional flow of pilgrims and a chaotic condition between Manokamna Bhawan and Gate No-3, the scene of stampede on new year's day in 2022 in which 12 people lost their lives and 16 were injured. The skywalk is laced with modernised facilities like the wooden floors, waiting hall, seat-

ing arrangements for about 150 pilgrims, LED screens, resting rooms and two emergency exits. The entry and exit routes leading to the shrine have been separated to decongest the flow of pilgrims and help in better crowd management. Besides, the President inaugurated a remodelled Parvati Bhawan which included 1,500 digital lockers, a waiting lounge, washrooms and toilets for the pilgrims. The aim of consolidating multiple facilities under one roof is to curtail the crisscross movement of pilgrims seeking locker facilities and bathing spaces in the Bhawan area and channelize them towards the skywalk. It has been linked with the skywalk to ensure that pilgrims proceed directly to the shrine after depositing their luggage. The retrofitted Parvati Bhawan is a free-of-cost facility that will be able to facilitate between 10,000 to 15,000 pilgrims per day. On return, the President also visited the Bhairon temple via passenger ropeway.

Misuse of social media is not an organised crime: NCM panel on Nuh violence

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

GIVING A clean chit to the local Haryana administration for the violence in Nuh earlier this year, National Commission for Minorities Chairperson Iqbal Singh Lalpura placed the responsibility of the violence on the "misuse of social media", and said it was not an incident of "organised crime". "The event was disappointing, the whole episode snowballed due to misuse of social media, however, it was not an organized crime. NCM monitored the events that occurred during the violence proactively. From visiting Nuh and Gurugram to meet the victims to seeking a detailed report on the matter, the Commission has been at the forefront in all aspects. We also released an 'Appeal for Maintenance of Peace and Communal Harmony' in this regard," said Lalpura at a press conference in New Delhi today. Lalpura said that the Commission paid visits to affected areas and met with different communities, reiterating that local residents were not involved in the incidents of violence. Lalpura also spoke on Khalistan as well as the PM's 15 Point Programme and other upcoming projects of NCM. The Chairperson highlighted Commission's recent achievements in the matters related to minorities including security to Jain Dharmgurus during their travel/stay, resolving Sammed Shikharji issue, implementation of Anand Marriage Act in various States/UTs, and resolving the issues faced by Indian Hajjis.

Erroneous, malafide intent: India rejects global hunger report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

INDIA RANKED 111th out of 125 countries in the Global Hunger Index-2023, which was rejected by the government as erroneous and having malafide intent. The index, released on Thursday, also stated that India has the highest child wasting rate in the world at 18.7 per cent, reflecting acute undernutrition. India ranked 107th out of 121 countries in the 2022 edition of the GHI, a tool for comprehensively measuring and tracking hunger at global, regional, and national levels. With a score of 28.7 in the GHI-2023, India has a level of hunger that is serious, according to a report based on the index. India's neighbouring countries Pakistan (102nd), Nepal (69th) and Sri Lanka (60th) have fared better. South Asia and Africa South of the Sahara are the world regions with the highest hunger levels, with a GHI score of 27 each, indicating serious hunger. "India has the highest child wasting rate in the world, at 18.7 per cent, reflecting acute undernutrition," the report stated. Wasting is measured based on children's weight relative to their height. According to the index, the rate of undernourishment in India stood at 16.6 per cent and under-five mortality at 3.1 per cent. The report also said that the prevalence of anaemia in women aged between 15 and 24 years stood at 58.1 per cent. The government, however, rejected the index calling it a

flawed measure of "hunger" that does not reflect India's true position. The Women and Child Development Ministry said the index suffers from "serious methodological issues and shows a malafide intent". "The index is an erroneous measure of hunger and suffers from serious methodological issues. Three out of the four indicators used for calculation of the index are related to the health of children and cannot be representative of the entire population. The fourth and most important indicator 'Proportion of Undernourished (PoU) population' is based on an opinion poll conducted on a very small sample size of 3,000," it said. The ministry said that since April 2023, the measurement data of children under five years uploaded on the Poshan Tracker has consistently increased - from 6.34 crore in April 2023 to 7.24 crore in September 2023. "The percentage of child wasting, as seen on the Poshan Tracker, has been consistently below 7.2 per cent, month-on-month, as compared to the value of 18.7 per cent used for child wasting in the Global Hunger Index 2023," the ministry said in a statement. The ministry further said two other indicators, namely stunting and wasting, are outcomes of complex interactions of various other factors like sanitation, genetics, environment and utilisation of food intake apart from hunger which is taken as the causative/outcome factor for stunting and wasting in the GHI. Also, there is hardly any evidence that the fourth indicator - child mortality - is an outcome of hunger, it said.

Sanatan Dharma reason world looks towards India, Modi: Yogi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 12

UTTAR PRADESH Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Thursday said that only Sanatan Dharma guarantees peace and it is the reason why when there is a "sankat" (trouble) in the world, every country looks towards India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "There is turmoil happening around the world, but the guarantee of world peace lies only in Sanatan Dharma and India. Whenever there is a "sankat" or there is a global crisis, every country looks towards India and PM Narendra Modi with great hope. When 140 crore Indians come together behind this hope, it becomes a strength for the whole world," said Adityanath. Referring to the Ram temple in Ayodhya, Adityanath said, "Those who did not believe in Sanatan Dharma, used to run away at the mention of the name of the Ram Temple. But those who had faith in Sanatan Dharma, had faith in their actions. What was once deemed impossible, the new India has made it possible". Adityanath was addressing an event at the Baba Mastnath Math in Haryana's Rohtak. A Hindu saint, Baba Mastnath is considered as a reincarnation of Guru Goraknath, the founder of the Nath monastic movement. Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat, Union Minister V K Singh, Yoga guru Ramdev, Congress leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda and his son and Rajya Sabha MP Deepender Singh Hooda, Math's chief Mahant Baba Balaknath and seers from across the country were present. Meanwhile, Bhagwat said Sanatan Dharma is "synonymous" with India and the country's culture is based on it. "Sanatan Dharma he Hindu rashtra hai, ye apne rashtra ke saath ekroop hai (Sanatan Dharma is Hindu rashtra, it is synonymous with the country)," he said.

Israel-Hamas war: 'Act against those spreading hatred'

MAULSHREE SETH
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 12

UTTAR PRADESH Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday directed police officers in his state to take stern action against those trying to spread hatred and whip frenzy over the issue of Palestine amid the ongoing Israel-Hamas war in West Asia. The CM said that "any activity contrary to the views of Government of India would not be accepted on this issue", an official said. "The CM ordered that be it on social media or any religious place, no controversial statement should be issued by anyone, and if someone makes a malicious attempt to do so, then strict action should be taken against them immediately," the government spokesperson said.



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat offer prayers at the 'samadhi' of Baba Mastnath in Rohtak on Thursday. PTI

Delhi thaw? Naidu's son feels the warmth as he meets Shah

Home Minister enquired about TDP chief's health, assured Lokesh Centre has nothing to do with cases against his father

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

FIGHTING A challenging legal and a taxing political battle, senior TDP leader Nara Lokesh had a surprise ice-breaking meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah Wednesday night, during which Shah enquired about the health of former Andhra Pradesh chief minister and Lokesh's father N Chandrababu Naidu, who has been in judicial custody since his arrest a month ago. Shah reportedly told him that he "felt bad" over the arrest of Naidu, 73, and said the YSRC-led Andhra Pradesh government

was trying to blame the Centre for the cases against Naidu. He also told him that he had asked for a report from the state government on the cases. G Kishan Reddy and D Purandeswari, the presidents of the BJP's Telangana and Andhra Pradesh units, were present at the meeting. Speaking to a select group of journalists, Lokesh, the TDP general secretary, said politics was not discussed during the meeting. However, the presence of Reddy and Purandeswari, who is also Lokesh's aunt, indicates that the discussion may not have only been about Naidu's arrest and the corruption cases against him. Shah's meeting with Lokesh



TDP leader Nara Lokesh

incidentally came days after the senior BJP leader met Andhra Pradesh CM and YSRC chief Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy. Neither the TDP nor the YSRC is averse to a tie-up with the BJP, and the party, it seems, is weighing its options ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. A part of the NDA earlier, the TDP had walked out in 2018 citing the Modi government's re-

fusal to grant special category status to Andhra Pradesh. Though the TDP expected gains from this in the 2019 Assembly elections, it had lost badly and has since failed to recover much ground. Recently, it has been making overtures for a return to the BJP, helped by mutual friend Pawan Kalyan of the Jana Sena Party. Lokesh declined to talk about whether the TDP would tie up with the BJP ahead of the coming poll season. He said Shah expressed his sympathies over Naidu being in custody for a month and told him to "be strong", while accusing the YSRC of attempts to blame the BJP for the cases.

Lokesh appreciated Shah's clarification, saying that senior YSRC leaders had been signalling that the BJP was behind the cases against Naidu, and that the BJP national leadership's silence had strengthened this suspicion. Lokesh also said that he had got a call from Reddy regarding the meeting with Shah, and that he had rushed to Delhi to meet the Home Minister. "He (Shah) was very kind... I explained to him all the facts and the legal position. He also enquired about the case for which I was called for questioning," said Lokesh. He said Shah enquired about Naidu's health. "I told him that he is not able to bear the warm

weather, in Rajahmundry jail. It is very humid. He had suffered from dehydration," Lokesh said, adding that he had also flagged the issue of Naidu's safety as several Naxalites were lodged in the same jail. Naidu has been in judicial remand since September 11 in connection with a case regarding the Skill Development Department. He has also been booked in Amaravati Inner Road alignment and FiberNet scam-related cases. Lokesh said he told Shah that the cases were nothing but "regime revenge" and political vendetta. FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

'Overlooking court orders undermines judiciary'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

THE CENTRE seeking an extension in tenure of Enforcement Directorate director S K Mishra despite rulings of the Supreme Court is challenging the legitimacy of the judiciary, former Orissa High Court Chief Justice S Muralidhar said on Thursday. "The minute court orders are not respected and are overlooked, the legitimacy of court functioning is challenged... The most recent example is the extension of the term of the Director of ED... where the Central govt came back and said

that notwithstanding your judgment, we still need more time to find a replacement," he said. Muralidhar, who retired in August, was speaking at the Academy For Advanced Legal Studies and Training at the Kerala High Court on independence of judiciary. Apart from the ED Director's case, Muralidhar cited the Centre's decision to seek a review of a recent SC ruling requiring the ED to furnish grounds of arrest in writing to an accused, as another example of the state undermining judicial independence. The former judge was talking about ways in which judicial independence is examined.

Arms supply to Maoists: Court finds 24 security personnel guilty

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 12

A RAMPUR court on Thursday convicted 24 officials of Uttar Pradesh Police, Pradeshik Armed Constabulary (PAC) and CRPF for supplying arms and ammunition to terrorists and Maoists in connection with a case registered in 2010 and would pronounce the quantum of punishment on Friday. One of the accused died during the trial that lasted for more than a decade.

Rampur Additional District Government Counsel (Criminal) Pratap Singh Maurya said, "...A probe team was formed which had on April 29, 2010 visited Rampur and arrested three persons—Yashodhanand, Vinoj Paswan and Vinesh Kumar. An FIR was filed and the accused remanded in judicial custody. Upon identification by Yashodhanand, one Nathiram Saini was arrested from Moradabad." Officials said a total of 25 people were booked in the case. "Yashodhanand had provided a diary with names of accused persons and details of bank accounts.

J&K Police arrests 'major drug magnate' from Ludhiana

Rs 5 crore cash, fake passports and badges seized after raid, say police

ARUN SHARMA JAMMU, OCTOBER 12

THE JAMMU and Kashmir Police on Thursday said they have arrested eight people, including a "major drug magnate", and seized over Rs 5 crore cash among other things following a raid on a house in Ludhiana with the help their Punjab counterparts in connection with the seizure of 30 kg cocaine-like substance from Ramban district last month.

Among the other seized materials are seven passports, including a fake one, two fake badges of BJP and Punjab Police, one fake sticker of Punjab government, 14 cheque books, two fixed deposit receipts, 22 pass-books, 12 Aadhaar cards, nine ATM cards, two pen drives, 38 fake number plates of vehicles, one fake driving licence, 14 RCs, one PAN card, eight mobile phones, one German-made revolver, four diaries and a cur-



J&K DGP Dilbag Singh looks at number plates, cash and passports in Jammu on Thursday. PTI

rency counting machine. The police also seized 44 gm of gold and 385 gm of silver. Though the J&K Police did not name the arrested "drug magnate", sources identified him as Manjit Singh of Nawanshehar. The police said the fake vehicle number plates were of Punjab,

Himachal Pradesh and Haryana. Manjit's father Satnam Singh had been declared a proclaimed offender in a case registered under provisions of the NDPS Act at Garhshankar police station, the sources said. Earlier, J&K's DGP Dilbag Singh said that 30 kg cocaine like

substance had come from across the Line of Control (LoC). Two Punjab-based drug peddlers were arrested on the spot by the police team headed by Ramban SSP Mohita Sharma and a case was registered at the local police station. To ascertain the linkages, the Ramban SSP deputed special teams to both Kashmir and Punjab, Singh said.

"Technical intelligence was gathered and a truck bearing registration No JK04F-8057 was seized," he said, adding that its driver had delivered the seized contraband to Punjab-based drug peddlers after receiving Rs 45 lakh cash at Parimpora, was arrested. Following questioning, the truck driver disclosed the name of another peddler who was arrested from Kupwara district. To nab the kingpin, "continuously technical and human intelligence was gathered" and it led to the arrest of three more peddlers from Kupwara district, and cocaine like substance weighing 4 kg 198 gram was recovered.

Priyanga treated with respect, says Puducherry Lt-Governor

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHENNAI, OCTOBER 12

DAYS AFTER the resignation of Puducherry's lone woman legislator and minister, S Chandira Priyanga, Lieutenant-Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan Wednesday refuted her allegations, highlighting that Chief Minister N Rangasamy had even shown paternal concern for her.

Priyanga, who was the first woman to hold a ministerial post in Puducherry in 40 years, cited casteism, gender bias, overwhelming politics of conspiracy, the dominating presence of money power as reasons for her departure from the AINRC-BJP coalition cabinet.

The Lieutenant-Governor recalled that Rangasamy had expressed concerns regarding Priyanga's overall performance six months ago. The L-G said she had advised the chief minister to communicate and assist Priyanga in enhancing her work. Soundararajan said Priyanga was treated with utmost respect and care, akin to a daughter, by the CM and denied any caste-based discrimination against her. Elected on an AINRC ticket from the Nedungadu reserved seat in Karaikal for a second term during the 2021 Assembly polls, Priyanga held significant portfolios, including transport, housing, and labour and employment.

GORAKHPUR STIR SEEKING LAND FOR DALITS Activist Darapuri, French national among seven held

ASAD REHMAN LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 12

SIX ACTIVISTS, including 79-year-old retired IPS officer SR Darapuri, and a French national have been arrested in Gorakhpur district after allegedly participating in a protest at the Commissioner's office on Tuesday demanding one acre of land for landless Dalit families in the state. Police said the activists had gathered at the Commissioner's office despite section 144 being in place and indulged in vandalism and threatened officials present there.

The French national has been identified as Valentine Jean, in his thirties, a research scholar working on poverty in India. Police said Jean was seen at the protest and had been arrested in a separate case under the Foreigners Act after it was found that he was in India on a business visa with an incorrect address.

"He had given an incorrect address in his visa application. He was arrested and sent to judicial custody. We are probing how he reached Gorakhpur while his address was Dhanbad in Jharkhand. He was seen at the protest. Other arrested persons are Indian activists," said Circle Officer (Cantt) Manush Pareek. The arrested six activists have been identified as — retired IPS of-

ficer SR Darapuri (79), Shruvan Kumar Nirala (50), Rishi Kapoor Anand (32), Jai Bheem Prakash (41), Neelam Baudh (38) and Ramu Siddharth (50). In a Facebook post before his arrest, Darapuri said, "I had come yesterday (Tuesday) to attend a public meeting organised by Gorakhpur Ambedkar Jan Morcha on issues of Dalit and Civil Rights and the meeting concluded peacefully. This (Wednesday) morning, Gorakhpur police took me to the police station."

Darapuri was arrested in December 2019 during anti-CAA protests in Lucknow.

In the FIR, other activists — Seema Gautam, Rajendra Prasad, Savita Baudh, Didi Nirdesh Singh, Ayub Ansari, Devi Ram and Sudhir Kumar Jha — and 10-15 unidentified people have been booked.

Inspector, Cantt, Randhir Mishra confirmed the Tuesday protest was held, demanding one acre from the state government for landless Dalit families. The protest was held under the banner of Ambedkar Jan Morcha and led by Shruvan Kumar Nirala. The complaint, Rajesh Kumar Sharma posted at the Gorakhpur Divisional Commissioner's office, alleged some people had set up tents at Commissioner's office Tuesday morning despite section 144 being in place, and later, they indulged in vandalism.

Manipur: 2 injured in fresh firing

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE GUWAHATI, OCTOBER 12

At least two people sustained bullet injuries in firing incidents on Thursday at Sabungkok Khunou in Manipur, which borders Meitei-dominated Imphal East district with Kuki-Zomi dominated Kangpokpi district.3 An official said firing started in the morning and when security forces tried to move into the

area, there was resistance from groups led by Meitei women who blocked the road. The official said the firing subsided at around 9:30 am, but resumed at 2:45 pm. Meanwhile, an army spokesperson said a cache of weapons, including a 9mm carbine gun, tear gas gun, improvised mortar, was recovered from the Gohal-Phoulijang area in Chura-chandpur district by a joint team of Assam Rifles, BSF and local police on Thursday.

Meanwhile, an army spokesperson said a cache of weapons, including a 9mm carbine gun, tear gas gun, improvised mortar, was recovered from the Gohal-Phoulijang area in Chura-chandpur district by a joint team of Assam Rifles, BSF and local police on Thursday.

Submit original records on remission to Bilkis convicts: SC to Centre, Gujarat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

THE SUPREME Court on Thursday directed the Centre and the Gujarat government to submit by October 16 the original records related to the remission of sentence of 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano gangrape case and murder of seven of her family members during the 2002 Gujarat riots.

After an 11-day hearing that began in August, a bench of Justice BV Nagarathna and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan reserved its order on the pleas challenging the remission granted to the convicts.

The bench heard submissions by Bilkis Bano's counsel advocate Shobha

Gupta, Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, senior advocate Indira Jaising and advocates Vrinda Grover, appearing for petitioners who have filed public interest litigations (PIL), as well as senior advocate Sidharth Luthra and Rishi Malhotra, representing the convicts.

The counsel for the Gujarat government informed the top court that since the original records are in Gujarati, their English translation will be submitted before the bench.

"In the circumstances, learned counsel is directed to furnish the original records as well as the English translation to the Court on Monday. The respondent — Union of India — also to submit the original records on Monday. Judgment

reserved," the bench said. While hearing the matter on September 20, the top court had asked whether convicts have a fundamental right to seek remission.

While hearing the arguments on August 17, it had said that state governments should not be selective in granting remission to convicts and the opportunity to reform and reintegrate with society should extend to every prisoner.

Besides the petition filed by Bilkis Bano contesting the remission granted to them by the Gujarat government, several other PILs, including one filed by CPI(M) leader Subhashini Ali, independent journalist Revati Laul and former vice-chancellor of Lucknow University, Roop Rekha Verma, have challenged the relief.

Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra has also filed a PIL against the remission and their premature release.

2 accused in murder of AIADMK leader killed in encounter, three cops injured

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHENNAI, OCTOBER 12

TWO HISTORY-sheeters were killed in an encounter by the Tamil Nadu Police in Tiruvallur district, early Thursday. The deceased were involved in multiple murders and criminal cases, including extortion and kidnapping, officials said.

According to the Avadi police, the deceased identified as Muthu Saravanan, 28, and Sunday Sathish, 26, were reportedly hiding in a building near Sholavaram and had attacked the police team while trying to escape. Three police personnel sustained bullet injuries in the incident, officials added.

The police noted that Saravanan was the mastermind of AIADMK functionary Parthiban's murder in August. A special team formed to nab the criminal had been conducting a sev-

eral search operations for the past 40 days, officials said.

"We got a tip-off that Saravanan was hiding in an old building in Marambedu and his plan was to extort money from small-time businessmen and escape to another place. When we reached the place around 5.30 am, he and the other accused, armed with country-made weapons, opened fire twice on police and three of them sustained bullet injuries. In self-defence, we opened fire on four occasions and shot dead the accused," a senior police official told The Indian Express.

The police had earlier arrested other accused involved in Parthiban's murder. According to the police, Saravanan was involved in extorting money from small-time businessmen around the Sholavaram area through his gang members.

"Saravanan has around six murder cases against him. Sathish also had five murder cases registered against him," said the officer.

Bastar BJP leaders get CRPF cover before polls

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE RAIPUR, OCTOBER 11

AFTER FOUR BJP leaders or functionaries were murdered by banned Communist Party of India (Maoist) this year in Chhattisgarh's naxal-affected Bastar region, the union home department has provided 'X' category security to 24 BJP leaders in the region till December 31.

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), fighting Left Wing Extremism in the state for over a decade, has been tasked with security cover for leaders in view of Assembly elections, starting in November and two-phase voting.

Some leaders, who are now under security cover, told The Indian Express that the four murders, threats and kidnapping of the BJP local leaders completely halted party work and campaigning in remote areas as some even resigned or stayed away from the party.

On February 10, Sagar Sahu, 47, deputy chief of BJP's Narayanpur district, was gunned down at his home by suspected Maoists.

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

Second-in-Command Anusya Prasad Kunyial ITBP salutes its braveheart Second-in-Command Anusya Prasad Kunyial of 44th Battalion, who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty on this day in Karnataka in 2011. Resident of : 1401, Defence Account Department Colony, Sector-35B, Chandigarh (UT) INDO-TIBETAN BORDER POLICE (ITBP) Constable (GD) Gammar Angu 13 October, 2002 "Sashastra Seema Bal" fondly remembers the selfless and valiant act of the braveheart CT(GD) Gammar Angu of 12th Bn SSB, who made the supreme sacrifice of his life for Nation in the line of duty. He attained martyrdom on this day, while fighting with the militants during an attack by the militants near Jawahar Market, Srinagar in Jammu & Kashmir. He will always be remembered for his courage, valour and supreme sacrifice for the nation. "SASHASTRA SEEMA BAL"

CHAUDHARY CHARAN SINGH HARYANA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, HISAR.

(Established by Parliament Act No. 16 of 1970) Advertisement No.2/2023 (BEFORE APPLYING FOR THE POSTS, THE CANDIDATES SHOULD GO THROUGH THE INSTRUCTIONS/CONDITIONS CAREFULLY) Applications are invited from eligible candidates through online mode for filling up various Class-I tenurial alongwith Class-I and Class-II teaching posts. The postwise details alongwith pay-scale, application processing fee, essential qualifications, general instructions/conditions, reservation, etc. can be downloaded from the University Website. The eligible candidates may apply through the University online portal https://hau.ac.in and https://recruitment.hau.ac.in from 18.10.2023 midnight onwards which will be closed on 17.11.2023 midnight. The candidates are also requested to visit University website regularly for notifications/ updates/ corrigendum/amendment, if any, with respect to above advertisement. Sd/- REGISTRAR

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 e-Procurement Notice No. ACE, RBB - 11/2023-24

Table with 2 columns: Item No., Description. 1. Type of Work :- Flood Protection Work. 2. Total No of Works :- 01 (One) No. 3. Amount put to tender :- Rs 818.09 Lakh. 4. Period of completion :- 12 (Twelve) calendar months

Table with 4 columns: Procurement officer, Bid Identification No., Bid Amount (Rs. in lakh), Availability & Submission of Bid On-line. Procurement officer: Additional Chief Engineer, (BNID) Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur. Bid Identification No.: ACE,RBB 21/2023-24. Bid Amount: 818.09. Availability & Submission of Bid On-line: From 20.10.2023, 10.00 A.M. to 06.11.2023, 5.00 P.M.

Date of opening of the Technical Bid:- 07.11.2023 at 11.30 A.M. Further details can be seen from the Govt. website www.tendersodisha.gov.in Sd/- Additional Chief Engineer, Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur OIPR-32411/11/0014/2324

punjab national bank SECURITY DEPARTMENT, ZONAL OFFICE: DELHI, 2nd FLOOR, BHIKAJI CAMA PLACE, NEW DELHI Email: zodlsec@pnb.co.in

E-TENDER NOTICE Punjab National Bank, Zonal Office, Delhi invites open e-tender in two bid system for Rate Registration Of Customized Cash Vans On Hiring Basis For The Purpose Of Cash Remittances From Branches to Currency Chests And Vice-Versa for the Branches/ Currency Chests under ZO: Delhi. Full details for e-tender are available on our website www.pnbindia.in and https://etender.pnbnet.in Any corrigendum/ clarification in respect of this Advertisement shall be released only at Bank's website https://pnbindia.in & https://etender.pnbnet.in which may be visited regularly. Last date of submission of e-tender: 03/11/2023 Asstt General Manager Security Department-ZO Delhi

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY OPEN TENDER NOTICE Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (General), West Central Railway, Kota for and on behalf of President of Union of India invites E-tenders for following works. (1) Tender No.: EL/50/170/2023-24 Description of Work: Kota Division-Improvement to Track Machine siding to facilitate Rail Grinding Machine (RGM) operation at Morak. Bhawani Mandi, Shri Mahaveerji, Gangapur City & Bharatpur. Approx. cost of the work: ₹ 17,94,338.40/- Earnest Money: ₹ 35,900/- Completion Period: 03 Months (2) Tender No.: EL/50/171/2023-24 Description of Work: Provision of surveillance monitoring system for Escalators and Lifts at platforms of Ramgarh Mandi and Bharatpur Railway Station. Approx. cost of the work: ₹ 34,18,677.60/- Earnest Money: ₹ 68,400/- Completion Period: 24 Months (3) Tender No.: EL/50/172R/2023-24 Description of Work: Kota Division-Off Trade (Top Portion & Battery maintenance) of Passenger/Express Train No. 12 059 12 06 0, 19803/19804,20985/20986, 19807/19808, 19813/19814, 19811/19812, 19815/19816,22981/22982, 22997/22998, 22983/22984, 59811/59814 and 59831/59834/59838 for a period of three years. Approx. cost of the work: ₹ 2,16,05,895.71/- Earnest Money: ₹ 22,58,000/- Completion Period: 36 Months Date & Time for submission and opening: Tender Sr.No. 1,2 and 3: Submission upto 31.10.2023, 15.00 hrs. and opening at 15.15 hrs. The offer will be accepted only through E-Tendering on website http://www.ireps.gov.in/ The bidders should have class III digital signature certificate and must be registered on IREPS portal. No tender will be accepted manually. Please read tender terms & conditions before the tendering. Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (General) West Central Railway, Kota

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE e-tender is invited on behalf of the President of India for the under mentioned work:- e-Tender No.: ECR-CAO-C-S-ETEN-43-23-24, S.No.: 1. Name of work : Construction of proposed new 2 lane ROB on Bagodar to Rajdhanwar Road in lieu of LC No. 20/SPL/T at Km. 345/32-34 between Hazarbag Road and Keswari BH Station at GC line in E.C. Railway. Approx. cost of the work in (Rs.): 73,66,30,033.75. Cost of Tender form in (Rs.): 0.00. Earnest money in (Rs.): 38,33,200.00, Period of work completion : 18 (Eighteen) Months, Date and time for closing of tender : 30.10.2023 at 15:30 hrs. Any e-tenders which is sent by Post/Courier/ Fax or by hand will not be accepted. All such manual submission of tender even if it is on firm's letter pad or received in time will not be accepted. The above e-tender document alongwith full information is available on website http://www.ireps.gov.in. Note: In case of any discrepancies found in tender notice, English version will be final. Tenderers are requested to visit the website http://www.ireps.gov.in at least 15 days before last date of closing, for latest corrigendum/corrections etc. in connection with this e-tender. Any change/addendum/ corrigendum will be published on IREPS website only. CAO/Con/South E.C. Railway, MHX, Patna PR/01390/CONS/ENGG/T/23-24/40

उप प्र० पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लि. ई-निविदा सूचना सं० 37 ईसीटीसी/ मुगदाबाद/2023-24, ई-टेंडर चार माह की वैधता हेतु दो भागों में भाग-1 & भाग-2 अधोलिखित विवरण के अनुसार आमंत्रित किया जात है। विधिपूर्वक संख्या 01 पर अंकित निविदाओं के प्राप्त होने/खोले जाने की दिनांक व समय 17.11.2023 14.00 बजे एवं 18.11.2023 14.00 बजे है। विधिपूर्वक संख्या: 01; कार्य का नाम: विद्युत पारंपरिक खण्ड-बदौत के अन्तर्गत विभिन्न उपकेन्द्रों पर वी०सी०टी० टूरिवर की फाउण्डेशन एवं ट्रेन्च बनाने से सम्बन्धित जानपदीय कार्य। निविदा प्रपत्र ई-प्रोक्वीरीमेंट वेबसाइट http://etender.up.nic.in से ही स्वीकार किये जायेंगे। उक्त निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण यथा तकनीकी विशिष्टीकरण, कार्यावधि प्रशोहर राशि निविदा प्रपत्र की लापत इत्यादि एवं किसी प्रकार के संशोधन, परिवर्तन, शुद्धि पत्र हेतु http://etender.up.nic.in www.upptl.org पर लॉगिन करके साइट पर देखा जा सकता है एवं प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। "राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाव" हस्ता./- अधीक्षक अभियन्ता, पत्रांक- 1622 / दिनांक: 12/10/2023

Notice Inviting E-Tenders - original MD-cum-CEO, Dharamshala Smart City Limited invites online tenders from the eligible bidders for the following work:

Table with 9 columns: Sr. No., Name of Work, Estimated cost of Work, Earnest Money Deposit, Cost of Tender Document, Whether Tender Document Fee and EMD exemption permitted to MSME's, Date of Issue of tender Document online, Last date of sending pre bid queries, Last date of online submission of Bids, Date of opening of Pre-Qualification & Technical Bid. 1. "Installation of Public Taps with Real Time Quality Monitoring System in Dharamshala."

Note: 1. All the tender documents can be downloaded from the website: www.hptenders.gov.in 2. All Addendums/Corrigendum's will only be published in the above website 3. For any queries please contact us at dscltender@gmail.com or phone no. 01892-226677 / 226075

---Sd--- Managing Director-cum-CEO Dharamshala Smart City Ltd.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM Table with 5 columns: Sr. No., NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH, OLD REFERENCE/NET NO., NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM, BOARD CORP./AUTH, NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL. 1. UHVN, FA/COLLECTION/PH/09/2023 DATED 08.09.2023, ENGAGEMENT OF COLLECTION AGENCY/FIRM FOR COLLECTION OF ENERGY BILLS IN CASH FROM CONSUMERS AT NEARBY COVERTS AND IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN ALL CIRCLES OF UHVN ON PREPAID MODULE. THE DATE OF CLOSING OF TENDER HAS BEEN EXTENDED UPTO 19.10.2023 TILL 01.00 PM. CORRIGENDUM: 1.NET-360/PBD/VC CABLES (2023) BID NO. B-720 FOR CREATION OF 11 KV SWITCHING SUBSTATION OF SURKHEE NAGAR PANPAT ON TURKEY BASIS - THE EXISTING CLAUSE AT POINT 1.5 (IV) UNDER SCORE OF BID OF INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS IS AMENDED AND BE READ AS - THE LINES ARE TESTED SATISFACTORILY FOR INSPECTION, BY THE AUTHORIZED OFFICER NOMINATED BY SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER/OP CIRCLE PANPAT. * SECTION VI BOQ / SCHEDULE OF PRICES (COMPONENT WISE ITEMS) ELECTRICAL/CIVIL BOQ AS PER ATTACHMENT BE ADHERED. * THE DATE OF CLOSING OF THE TENDER AND OPENING OF PART-1 ARE AS UNDER - DATE OF CLOSING OF ONLINE E-TENDER FOR SUBMISSION OF 25.10.2023 TECHNICAL BID, SUBMISSION OF BID AND (UPTO 1500 HRS) PRICE BID ON WEB PORTAL OPENING DATE OF PART-1 OF PROPOSAL ON WEB PORTAL: 26.10.2023 (AT 1500 HRS) NET NO. 356/PBD/KNL/2023, BID NO. B-708, CONVERSION OF EXISTING OVERHEAD 11 KV & LT ELECTRIC LINES TO TRENCHLESS UNDERGROUND 11 KV & LT CABLE SYSTEM & INSTALLATION OF COMPACT SUB-STATION (CSS), KING MAIN UNIT (RMU), FEEDER & SERVICE PILLARS COMPATIBLE WITH SCADA ETC. FROM MEERUT CHOWK TO MEERA GHATI CHOWK AND CIVIL HOSPITAL CHOWK TO MEERATHA GANDHI CHOWK UNDER SMART CITY PROJECT UNDER OP CIRCLE KARNAL ON TURKEY BASIS CLOSING DATE 25.10.2023 UPTO 1500 HRS OPENING DATE 26.10.2023 AT 1500 HRS DATE OF CLOSING OF ONLINE E-TENDER FOR SUBMISSION OF TECHNICAL BID AND PRICE BID ON WEB PORTAL HAS BEEN EXTENDED UPTO 25.10.2023 AT 23.00 HRS. AND DATE OF OPENING PART 1 OF PROPOSAL ON WEB PORTAL SHALL BE 27.10.2023 AT 15.00 HRS. NET NO. 358/PBD/2023-24 BID NO B-710 TECHNICAL BID AND PRICE BID ON WEB PORTAL HAS BEEN EXTENDED UPTO 25.10.2023 AT 23.00 HRS. AND DATE OF OPENING PART 1 OF PROPOSAL ON WEB PORTAL SHALL BE 27.10.2023 AT 15.00 HRS. NET NO. 352/PBD/2023 BID NO B-703 TECHNICAL BID AND PRICE BID ON WEB PORTAL HAS BEEN EXTENDED UPTO 17.10.2023 AT 13.00 HRS. AND DATE OF OPENING PART 1 OF PROPOSAL ON WEB PORTAL SHALL BE 19.10.2023 AT 15.00 HRS. LRP WORKS UNDER REGS PROJECT FOR CIRCLES DISTRICT ROHTAK ON FULL TURKEY BASIS CLOSING DATE: 25.10.2023 OPENING DATE: 26.10.2023 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

SPECIAL DIESEL JOYRIDE TRAINS ON DHR SECTION It has been notified for running of 04 (four) Diesel Special Joyride Trains on DHR Section, to cater the maximum number of tourists in upcoming winter season 2023, with effect from 13-10-2023 to 05-01-2024. 02547 Darjeeling-Ghum-Darjeeling Special Diesel Joyride, 02548 Darjeeling-Ghum-Darjeeling Special Diesel Joyride, 02549 Darjeeling-Ghum-Darjeeling Special Diesel Joyride, 02550 Darjeeling-Ghum-Darjeeling Special Diesel Joyride. ARR. DEP. ARR. DEP. STATIONS ARR. DEP. ARR. DEP. 10:05 10:25 12:10 12:30 Darjeeling 14:10 14:35 16:15 16:35 10:55 13:00 Darjeeling 15:05 17:05 Composition: Diesel loco + 3FCZ General Manager (Operations) NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY "SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE"

Gaza war and markets: No impact for now, but need for caution



GEORGE MATHEW

THE RAGING conflict between Israel and Hamas in West Asia initially led to uncertainty in the markets, with Monday, the first trading day after violence broke out on October 7, witnessing a sharp sell-off and investors opting for safe havens like gold. However, markets recovered as the scope and spread of the war became clearer. The war doesn't seem likely to spill out of the region for now, and while there's nervousness, markets are resilient globally.

How have the markets reacted?

The BSE Sensex fell by 0.73%, or 483 points, on Monday. It gained 961 points, or 1.46%, to close at 66,473.05, and the NSE Nifty Index went up by 300 points, or 1.53%, to 19,811.35 on Tuesday and Wednesday. On Thursday, the BSE Sensex shed 0.10%, or 64 points at 66,408.39 and the NSE Nifty Index declined 0.09%, or 17 points, at 19,794.00. The Dow Jones index of the US has gained 400 points to 33,822.20 this week.

How have markets traditionally responded to wars?

On February 24 last year, when Russia attacked Ukraine, domestic stock markets crashed like ninetins. The 30-share pack Sensex tumbled 2702.15 points or 4.72% to close at 54,529.91. Its broader peer NSE Nifty tanked 815.30 points or 4.78% to 16,247.95. However, the markets gradually rebounded and crossed the 66,000 mark to an all-time

peak of 66,052.11 on July 13 this year.

During the Kargil war between May 3, 1999 and July 26, 1999, the Sensex gained 38% in less than three months.

During World War II, between 1939 and 1945, Dow Jones was up a total of 50%, a rise of 7% per year.

What led to the recovery this time?

The resilience of the US economy, the declining US bond yields, and the hope that the Israel-Hamas conflict will remain a localised crisis and won't impact crude prices, analysts said. A Bloomberg report on China preparing a stimulus to help its economy also supported the mood.

However, there's still some uncertainty as giant real estate developer Country Garden warned it would be unable to meet its offshore payment obligations on time. "Steadily declining trend in the dollar in-

dex and the US bond yields, declining crude, and sharp dip in FPI selling in the cash market are big positives. If the US CPI inflation data dips below 3.6%, it will be a shot in the arm for the bulls," said VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

The concerns triggered by the Israel-Hamas conflict had resulted in the creation of big short positions in the market, and now these shorts are being covered, pushing the markets up.

What concerns remain?

Analysts warn that if the Israel-Hamas conflict spreads to other countries, markets could be hit. Crucial here are oil prices — if crude oil prices cross \$ 100 per barrel, countries like India, which are dependent on oil imports, would be impacted.

On Thursday, oil prices rose about 1%, reversing earlier falls, on expectations that US

interest rates had peaked, but a lower demand growth forecast for next year from the International Energy Agency and higher US inventories limited further gain.

If Iran, Syria or Lebanon join the conflict, it can affect sea routes and push up transport and insurance costs. This will affect India's balance of trade and CAD, thus putting pressure on the rupee.

What is the road ahead for investors?

Investors should remain cautious since the situation can take a turn for the worse. However, indications are in the favour of the prevailing tone to continue.

There was cautiousness in the market after the release of US Fed meeting minutes, revealing a hawkish tone towards future rate hikes. Though retail inflation in India has come down, US inflation has remained high, keeping investors on the edge. Investors are still pumping money into

equity schemes of mutual funds despite profit-taking in September. Inflows into equity mutual fund schemes declined by 30% to Rs 14,091.26 crore in September, mainly due to the profit booking in large cap funds.

What about inflation, corporate results?

India's retail inflation declined to a three-month low of 5.02% in September, mainly due to easing food prices, as against 6.83% in August. This is expected to give some relief to the policymakers and markets.

However, US inflation was higher than forecast at 3.7% in September, raising the prospect that the Federal Reserve may raise interest rates following similarly robust recent data on the strength of the jobs market.

Another major factor to influence markets is the corporate performance in the quarter ended September 2023. Results of TCS were a mixed bag, with the top line disappointing and the bottom line and margins coming good.

EXPLAINED CLIMATE

GIANT OZONE 'HOLE' FOUND OVER ANTARCTICA: REASON TO WORRY?

SATELLITE MEASUREMENTS over Antarctica have detected a giant 'hole' in the ozone layer above the frigid continent. The 'hole' spans an area of 26 million sq km, roughly three times the size of Brazil. The recordings were made on September 16 by the Copernicus Sentinel-5P satellite of the European Space Agency (ESA).

duction in the use of 'ozone depleting substances' and consequently, the 'hole' has slowly shrunk.

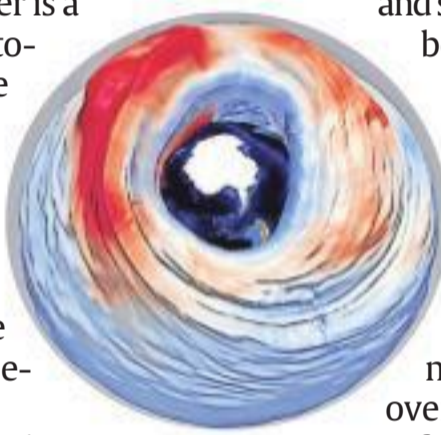
As per latest estimates, most of the ozone layer will be restored to its 1980 state by the 2040s, with the 'hole' over the Antarctic — the biggest of them all — set to be repaired by 2066.

What about the latest 'hole' then?

The size of the 'hole' over the Antarctic is linked to unique meteorological conditions — temperature, pressure, wind speed and direction — that prevail over the continent. In fact, the 'hole' grows and shrinks throughout the year, being at its largest between September and November.

Claus Zehner, ESA's mission manager for the Copernicus Sentinel-5P, told DW that the 'hole' opens up due to Earth's rotation. "The winds create a mini climate, creating a shield over Antarctica preventing it from mixing with surrounding air. When the winds die down, the hole closes," he said.

A 3D rendering of the ozone hole over Antarctica, as of September 23.



He added that the size of the 'hole' this year could be due to a particularly violent volcanic eruption off the coast of Tonga in 2022, which sent a lot of water vapour and other chemicals to the stratosphere.

So, is there reason to worry?

Scientists are confident that this year's 'hole' is not a cause for concern.

However, in recent years, climate change has shown signs of undoing the progress made over the past three decades.

Scientists have found that global warming-induced wildfires, which are getting more frequent and intense around the world, might be depleting ozone layers once again. The larger-than-usual Antarctic ozone holes in both 2020 and 2021 were linked to wildfires.

ENS

EXPLAINED WAR IN GAZA

Hamas and Israel

Israel and Hamas have been uncompromisingly hostile towards each other. Two questions are key: the timing of the attack by Hamas and its attributing factors, and the seeming failure of Israeli intelligence

EXPERT EXPLAINS



ALVITE NINGTHOUJAM

THE MILITARY conflict between Israel and the Gaza Strip-based militant group Hamas began exactly 14 months after the truce that ended the brief confrontation between Israel and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad on August 7, 2022. The ongoing battle is seen as unprecedented since the establishment of Israel in May 1948 because of the way Hamas was able to breach some of the world's most advanced border fencing mechanisms and intelligence and surveillance capabilities. Several days after the conflict began, two questions remain key: the timing of the attack by Hamas and its attributing factors, and the seeming failure of Israel's famed intelligence capabilities.

But first, who are Hamas?

Hamas or Islamic Resistance Movement was founded in 1987 as a political arm of the Muslim Brotherhood after the First Intifada, a Palestinian uprising against the Israeli occupation of Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem. The group has major influence inside Palestinian territories, particularly in the Gaza Strip. Its armed wing, Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, has carried out several rocket attacks against Israel. Its actions, including suicide bombings, began in the early 1990s, when its military capabilities were not very sophisticated.

Following Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip in 2005, and particularly after Hamas took control of the strip by defeating Fatah, its political rival in the 2006 elections, there were frequent outbreaks of violence, which resulted in casualties on both sides. Hamas also developed expertise in digging sophisticated military tunnels, which have become important conduits for cross-border infiltration.

What is Hamas' position on Israel?

Since its inception, Hamas has considered Israel its sworn enemy (and vice versa). One of its main goals is the destruction of Israel; its Covenant says: "Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it, just as it obliterated others before it."

Hamas strongly condemned the Israel-Egypt peace treaty signed in 1979 following the Camp David Accords of the previous year, and continues to disapprove of any kind of



Israeli tanks have arrived near Gaza ahead of a possible ground assault. Reuters

normalisation between Israel and other countries in the region, including the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan, which were parties to the US-mediated Abraham Accords signed in late 2020.

In what could be considered as defying its own charter, Hamas in 2017 came up with a new document stating its acceptance of a Palestinian state based on the 1967 borders, but this did not lead to a political breakthrough with the Israelis. Hamas still refuses to recognise Israel, and is unlikely to change its position in the foreseeable future.

Is Hamas a terrorist organisation?

In October 1997, the US designated Hamas as a Foreign Terrorist Organisation. The European Union (EU) too, has included Hamas in its list of terrorist groups. In the light of the Hamas assault on Israel targeting civilians, including children and senior citizens, the call by Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for a wider designation of Hamas as a terrorist organisation will gain further traction with the international community.

But the Palestinians have a similar accusation — they consider Israel's military operations, now and earlier, which have led to loss of civilian lives, as acts of "terrorism" and war crime, and its policy of encouraging and abetting Jewish settlements in the West Bank a flagrant violation of international law.

These reciprocal accusations will intensify as a result of the actions of both the warring parties in the current conflict.

What could have triggered Hamas to launch its invasion on October 7?

The answer lies in a mix of internal, political, religious, and geopolitical reasons.

FIRST, there has been no movement on the stalled Israeli-Palestinian peace talks for several years now. Barring the failed Trump Peace Plan (billed as the "deal of the century") of January 2020, no serious efforts have been made to resolve the longstanding dispute.

Also, as moderate Arab countries increasingly move to normalise ties with Israel, the Palestinians have got the impression that the historical Arab-Israeli conflict is now more of an Israeli-Palestinian issue. This has frustrated the wider Palestinian population — and Hamas has sought to bring the "ignored" Palestinian cause back in the spotlight.

They fully understand the consequences Israel's military campaign will bring — and they have proved that the security of the Middle East, let alone that of Israel, cannot be guaranteed without settlement of the Palestinian issue.

SECOND, Israel's government, formed in December 2022, is considered the most hardline in its history. It has talked of allowing the expansion of Jewish settlements on Palestinian land, and of the possibility of annexing part of the West Bank. This was part of Netanyahu's deal with the Jewish ultra-nationalists who helped him form the ruling coalition.

Earlier this year, Israel's minister for national security Itamar Ben-Gvir visited the Al-Aqsa mosque complex in Jerusalem and declared that Israel was "in charge" of the disputed site that is sacred to both Muslims and Jews. A similar visit by Ariel Sharon (then an opposition leader) to the site is considered to have triggered the Second Intifada or

the Al-Aqsa Intifada (Sept 2000 to Feb 2005).

Hamas codenamed the current military assault "Al-Aqsa Flood", suggesting that it was retribution for the desecration of the holy site. It was also a surprise attack like the one that started the Yom Kippur or Ramadan War almost exactly 50 years previously on October 6, 1973, when combined Arab forces led by Egypt and Syria launched a military campaign in the Sinai Peninsula and the Golan Heights. Symbolically, Hamas wanted to convey to the Israelis and the international community that Jerusalem is undividable.

THIRD, there is a growing perception in Palestinian society that Israel's diplomatic recognition and political acceptance are on the rise in the wider Middle Eastern region. After the normalisations of the Abraham Accords, political-diplomatic signals about the possibility of Israel and Saudi Arabia signing a normalisation agreement — also backed by the US — have grown louder.

Striking Israel at this juncture, and provoking the inevitable heavy retaliation which would likely draw regional and international condemnation, could be part of Hamas' plan to derail the probable Israeli-Saudi agreement. The normalisation process will be kept aside for now, even if its revival in the future cannot be ruled out.

Do the attacks show a failure of Israel's intelligence mechanisms?

The launch of such well-orchestrated strikes when Israel's "eyes" are supposedly "never far away", is a considerable blow to the reputation of Israel's intelligence apparatus, including its cyber capabilities, which are admired by countries around the world.

Either the Israelis ignored or underestimated red flags or warnings, or Hamas has become experienced in evading Israeli technical surveillance. The militants have also shown the ability to operate in the air (paragliding), on land, and at sea, all at the same time.

There is also discussion on whether the massive protests in Israel against the government's attempts at overhauling the judiciary, and the resultant differences between Netanyahu and his military-security officials, led to a failure of coordination.

This episode will compel Israel to re-look at, and re-strategise its policies pertaining to counter-terrorism, counter-intelligence, surveillance, and collecting both signal intelligence (SIGINT) and human intelligence.

(The author is Assistant Professor at the Symbiosis School of International Studies, Symbiosis International (Deemed University), Pune. Views are personal.)

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An Indian war hero in Italy: The glorious story of Naik Yeshwant Ghadge

ARJUN SENGUPTA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

DEFENCE MINISTER Rajnath Singh on Thursday paid tributes at the VC Yeshwant Ghadge Sundial Memorial in Montone, Italy.

Singh's visit to the memorial harkens to a shared military history from World War II — that of the participation of Indian soldiers in the campaign to liberate Italy. However, these soldiers have long been relegated to relative obscurity; it is only earlier this year that Italy opened the memorial in Montone.

A forgotten hero

Naik Yeshwant Ghadge was not even 23 when he succumbed to German sniper fire in Montone, a commune in the Italian province of Perugia. He had been in service for at least four years at the time, and had been promoted to the rank of Naik, commanding his own rifle section.

On July 10, 1944, a Company of the 5th

Mahratta Light Infantry attacked a strongly defended position. Naik Ghadge's section came under heavy machine gun fire at close range: every soldier except Ghadge himself was killed or wounded.

With literally no one to provide covering fire, Naik Ghadge, without fear for his own life, charged to the machine gun post, braving a barrage of bullets. He lobbed a grenade into the post, which immobilised the gun, and emptied the clip of his Thompson submachine gun into one crewman. Not having time to change the magazine, he took hold of his gun by the barrel and beat the remaining two Germans to death with the butt of his weapon.

All the while, enemy snipers pumped bullets into his back and chest, wounding him mortally. But he breathed his last only after he had captured the post.

For his gallantry, Naik Ghadge was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross (VC), Britain's highest military honour. "The courage, determination, and devotion to duty of this Indian NCO in a situation where



Naik Ghadge (left) was one of six Indian soldiers to be awarded a VC during the Italian campaign. Indian forces in Italy, December 1943. Wikimedia Commons

he knew the odds against him gave him little hope of survival, were outstanding," the citation reads.

The Italian campaign

Naik Ghadge laid down his life during World War II's Italian campaign (1943-45).



In the War, Nazi Germany and Italy, along with Japan, were partners, together known as the Axis Powers. They fought against the Allies, comprising the Americans, the British (and Commonwealth forces), and the Soviets.

After German expansionism had

brought all of Europe under Axis control, the Allies decided to begin their counter-attack with an invasion of Italy. The Allied war planners believed that the campaign would be able to knock Italy out of the war and, after Rome had fallen, the Allies would drive through the Italian peninsula and break into the "soft underbelly" of the Axis.

The Allied forces landed in Sicily in July 1943, and advanced up the Italian mainland. The Fascist Italian regime collapsed almost immediately, but Germans resisted furiously. They concentrated their resources along a series of defensive lines running across the Italian mainland, from the Tyrrhenian Sea to the Adriatic Sea.

Naik Ghadge died in action here: between the Trasimene/Albert Line and the extremely important Gothic Line.

The heroism of Indian soldiers

The Indian Army, then under the British, contributed over 2.5 million men to the Allied war effort. About 50,000 fought in the Italian campaign, and 5,782 laid down their lives on Italian soil. Indian soldiers

comprised the third largest Allied contingent in Italy, after the British and Americans. They stayed in the country from 1943 through 1946. The 4th, 8th and 10th Indian Divisions along with the 43rd Independent Gurkha Infantry Brigade were involved in the campaign.

After being involved briefly in the campaign in Sicily, the 8th Indian Division led the assault on the German defensive Bernhard Line in October 1943, and crossed the Sangro River. The 4th and 8th Indian Divisions took part in the crucial battles of Monte Cassino, forcing the Germans to withdraw to the Gothic Line, the last major line of defence. This line would be breached only in the final stages of the War, again with Indian troops playing a major role.

"The Indian Army's increasing professionalism and successes in the Italian campaigns were duly noted by many Allied commanders... the Indian Army formations were at times in the forefront of the campaigns," historian Daniel Marston wrote in *The Indian Army and the End of the Raj* (2014).



WORDLY WISE
THE BEST WAY TO PREDICT
THE FUTURE IS TO DESIGN IT.
— ABRAHAM LINCOLN

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY
RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

Violence of pure identity

Palestine-Israel conflict is a reminder of the dangers of flattening shared histories



SANJAY SRIVASTAVA

THE RECURRING TRAGEDY that is the Palestine-Israel relationship should have something to tell us about the dangers of interpreting human histories through the constricting lens of religious imagination. It should also warn us against thinking that colonial ideas about identity and community have "ancient" — hence local — origins. Palestine's tragedy — and the extraordinary human suffering it has caused — is a cautionary tale for all societies that seek to flatten complex histories of co-existence among populations into the fiction of the "superiority" of any one group over others.

The history of the so-called Promised Land (Eretz Israel) that, according to Jewish tradition, rightfully belong to Jews, is one of both shifting narratives about borders and mythic memories. In an ancient land, controlled at different times by a multiplicity of ruling powers and settled by just as heterogeneous mix of populations, the territories of Eretz Israel have always been in flux. Historians of the region — those not beholden to either the Israeli or Palestinian advocacy circle — suggest that even Jewish sources have differing accounts of the boundaries of the territory apparently promised by god to the Jewish people.

Historians also point to a further complication — one of many, given the nature that the region is situated at the cultural and social crossroads of great complexity. It pertains to the exclusionary claims to territory put forward by one group. If biblical claims to territory are to be accepted as grounds for occupation, then a particular complication of identity comes into play. The entangled histories of the people of the region also give us entangled lineages of holy personages. This, in turn, does not give us any straightforward story of one group having clear rights to ownership of land by virtue of a covenant between its ancestors and god. This "ancestry" is — for the purposes of claiming an exclusive identity — not at all clear cut or exclusive. For, the descendants of Prophet Abraham — whose special relationship with god is at the heart of Jewish ideas about the Promised Land — are also those the Muslims claim as their own. How then to claim that a particular piece of

land can be attributed clear ownership such that all others — with equally strong proof of their connection — must be excluded?

This is where the story of Zionism, colonialism and the self-serving role of western powers come in. Religious texts are not historical documents but their use as such can convert them into instruments of historical injustice and contribute to human suffering. A significant part of the modern history of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict lies in the flattening of histories of co-existence and belonging to produce black and white narratives of origin. Though historians have struggled to find irrefutable evidence of a Promised Land, politicians and British colonialists did not have any such difficulty. They achieved this through producing narratives that completely severed the historical cultural and social links between the Muslims and Jews of the region. This could only be done through inventing a modern history of Jewish (and hence Muslim) identity that sidestepped the long history of interactions and mutualism among them.

The modern idea of the Promised Land required the making of an exclusive identity which could, in turn, lay exclusive claim to this imagined territory. The collapse of the Ottoman empire, the so-called Balfour Declaration of 1917 (that expressed British support for Jewish homeland), and colonial rivalry between the British and French provided fertile conditions for the making of a Jewish identity — and the Promised Land — which drew upon a biblical tradition with no basis in history — or, at least, a history that neutral historians might recognise as such.

The colonial arrangement known as the British Mandate of Palestine (1918-1948) eventually gave way to the partitioning of lands occupied by Arabs and the creation of the Israeli state. The invention of a modern religious mythology — that of definitive Promised Land — was a collaborative project between the European Zionist movement, the colonial powers and an international body that largely represented the interests of the latter, the United Nations. The establishment of the Israeli state was a direct result of the ideology of the zero-sum game: Occupants of

hundreds of Arab villages fled their homes, their dwellings razed to the ground. A large-scale influx of Jewish immigrants into the new country ensued and this population started its life in Israel as the new owner of Arab property and other resources.

It was fair of the Arabs to ask — as many did — if they were being made to suffer for European guilt about the historical treatment of their Jewish populations.

Just as histories of territories are invariably mongrel, so are traditions and customs. Attempts to discard such hybridities in the Middle-East and establish a national identity in the name of a "pure" identity — enforced through military and economic might — have not led to a lasting solution. The key outcome has been only more bloodshed, generations of young people growing up in violence and the despair that invariably and periodically manifests as further violence.

The historical roots of contemporary Israeli-Jewish identity lie in acts of forgetting actual relations on the ground and reaching out to a mythical — ancient, textual — past. Brute force — both Israeli and of its western allies — has ensured periods of unstable and inherently fragile peace. It can only ever be this way in all contexts where identities and aspirations are either fostered or constrained through the force. For force always attracts counterforce, particularly from those who have nothing more to lose.

Finally, while there are differences between Indian and middle-eastern modernities, there are similarities too. We too nowadays seek to recast Indianness through by-passing certain epochs and reaching out to an "ancient" and "unsullied" period. And the Indian present is also characterised by an urge to constrain the expression of multiple identities — that actually exist — in favour of a monolithic one that is sought to be established by force. The Israeli path to national identity-formation should convince us that that is a highway to a recurring tragedy.

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JOBS, STILL

Labour force participation is up and unemployment is down, but questions over the quality of employment persist

THE ISSUE OF jobs has been at the heart of economic policy discussion, especially in recent decades when the link between economic growth and employment generation has been seen to be rather tenuous. The pandemic has been a major trigger of economic disruption, causing widespread financial distress, touching off a surge in unemployment and leading to mass migration back to villages. Seen against this backdrop, the latest periodic labour force survey for 2022-23 throws up several interesting trends. As per the survey, the labour force participation rate has continued to rise across the country. Alongside, the unemployment rate has continued to decline. This should, on the face of it, be indicative of an improvement in the labour market. However, the survey also documents a decline in the share of regular wage/salaried employment and a rise in self-employment. These trends require closer examination.

At the all-India level, the labour force participation rate (15 years and above) has increased from 49.8 per cent in 2017-18 to 57.9 per cent in 2022-23. While participation rates have increased in both rural and urban areas, the rise is to a much greater extent in the former. Much of this increase has been driven by females, whose participation rate in rural areas has risen from 24.6 per cent in 2017-18 to 41.5 per cent in 2022-23 — an increase of roughly 17 percentage points over this period. While this should be encouraging, considering the low levels of female participation in the country, some have suggested that this rise in participation is indicative of the economic distress in rural areas, which is pushing women to work in order to augment their family incomes. After all, work under MGNREGA, where wages are lower than in other non-farm occupations, has seen a steady uptick over the years (even excluding the pandemic years of 2020-21 and 2021-22), and women person days under the programme have also been steadily rising.

Alongside this increase in labour force participation rates, the share of the self-employed has risen from 55.6 per cent in 2020-21 to 57.3 per cent in 2022-23, while the share of regular wage/salaried employed has fallen from 21.1 per cent to 20.9 per cent. The percentage of workers engaged in informal sector enterprises in the non-agricultural sector has also gone up from 71.4 per cent in 2020-21 to 74.3 per cent in 2022-23. While unemployment rates have declined across board, and among the youth (those in the age group of 15-29 years), this falling share of regular wage/salaried and rise in self-employment reinforces concerns that the economy is unable to generate sufficient productive and remunerative forms of employment to absorb the millions entering the labour force each year. Inadequate job creation was, and still remains, the biggest challenge confronting policymakers.

A STORYTELLER RESISTS

Salman Rushdie's upcoming memoir, in the aftermath of the assassination attempt on him, is an act of defiance

IN VICTORY CITY, Salman Rushdie's novel published earlier this year, Pampa Kampana, fictional poet, princess and the book's protagonist, deliberates on the nature of hubris and the only thing that outlives it: "I have lived to see an empire rise and fall./ How are they remembered now, these kings, these queens?/ They exist now only in words/ While they lived, they were victors, or vanquished, or both./ Now they are neither./ Words are the only victors. What they did, or thought, or felt, no longer exists.../ All that remains is this city of words." A year into a near-fatal attack that left him with grievous physical injury and probably a far more insidious psychological scar, Rushdie has announced a resurrection of his city of words. *Knife: Meditations After an Attempted Murder*, to be published in April 2024, will document the aftermath of the assassination attempt and the 76-year-old's slow waltz back to life.

A memoir is an intimate narrative, meant as much for an audience as for its author. Written after a considerable passage of time, it offers solace for the injustices and failings of the past, documented in the immediate aftermath of life-changing events, it can be an act of resistance. Rushdie, of course, has never been short of courage. Like the proverbial phoenix, he has risen over and over again from the ashes, to make his voice heard. If that first image of his in *The New Yorker* six months after the Chautauqua attack was validation of his ability to cock a snook at authoritarianism, the three harrowing decades he spent, some of them in hiding, after Ayatollah Khomeini's fatwa against him following the publication of *The Satanic Verses* (1988) were proof of his faith in, and activism for, freedom of expression.

To live a life shadowed by violence takes its toll. But a storyteller, Rushdie writes in *Joseph Anton*, his 2012 memoir in third person chronicling his life after the fatwa, always knows how to put the broken pieces back together: "This in the end was who he was, a teller of tales, a creator of shapes, a maker of things that were not. It would be wise to withdraw from the world of commentary and polemic and rededicate himself to what he loved most, the art that had claimed his heart, mind and spirit ever since he was a young man, and to live again in the universe of once upon a time, of *kan ma kan*, it was so and it was not so, and to make the journey to the truth upon the waters of make-believe."

FROGS & PRINCESSES

Long-held beliefs about the amphibian have been busted. Time to do the same for the tales they feature in

IF ONLY WALT Disney had access to the latest research on frogs, published recently in the *Royal Society Open Science* journal. Far more than the original macabre tales by the Brothers Grimm, it is Disney's animated films (the company started by Walt Disney is now, arguably, the most influential entertainment behemoth in the world) that have shaped how people across generations see frogs, princes and rags-to-riches princesses. As it turns out, both *Snow White*, Disney's first feature-length film from 1937 and *The Princess and the Frog* could have done with data from the study.

The research around the female European common frog has shown that the amphibian "plays dead" to avoid eager males during mating season. This evidence, in addition to the observation of other techniques, including physical avoidance, has changed long-held beliefs about the timid and docile nature of female frogs — as well as the perceived aggression of their male counterparts. In the world of Disney — and so many other influential stories and archetypes — similar assumptions are built in. Perhaps now, they can evolve. Take the fairy tale frog that needs to be kissed to become the privileged, bratty prince he truly is. Why is the burden of his emancipation on a woman? Or, as so many are asking through cinema and on social media, what's so "charming" about the prince who kissed an unconscious Snow White?

As it turns out, myths about the passivity of female frogs were busted as early as 1758 in a book by Rösels von Rosenhoff. But they were likely either ignored, or not taken seriously. Recently, there have been attempts to retell Disney stories, and others, in ways that are a little closer to reality — where characters are closer to people with agency than vehicles for ideas steeped in inequalities. Hopefully, for both frogs and people, a new, more equal fairy tale will be told.



HARIVANSH

INDIA CELEBRATED ITS 74th Republic Day earlier this year, marking the moment when the Constitution of India was officially adopted on January 26, 1950, declaring India as a sovereign republic. This year is of special significance because India is the current president of the G20 — a forum of immense significance, comprising the world's most advanced and emerging economies. India's leadership role in G20 is undoubtedly a manifestation of its increasing importance and clout in global politics.

India's journey as an inclusive democracy and the largest in the world, with a multi-dimensional diversity and a pluralistic society, is a fascinating and inspiring story. At the heart of India's success story is its ability to address the challenges of nation-building in a setup replete with social, cultural, economic, and regional complexities and disparities.

Our visionary Constitution makers paved the way for a multi-party democratic political system in India immediately after Independence, despite the challenges of illiteracy and widespread poverty. Defying all odds, the country has consistently witnessed the successful conduct of free and fair elections by the Election Commission of India — an independent constitutional body, which has consolidated its democratic credentials. At a time when most post-colonial countries were battling a turbulent political environment, India's ability to adopt and continuously practise electoral democracy by overcoming governance challenges acted as a beacon of hope for democracy in the developing world.

With time, India not only witnessed considerable socio-economic development but also the increased political participation of citizens, especially the youth. Over the years, voter turnout in India has registered an impressive increase. A very important and encouraging

ALL OUR PARLIAMENTS

P20 summit will bring parliamentary dimension to global governance framework

trend has been the increasing participation of women voters and an increase in the number of elected women representatives, especially at the grassroots level. India's democratic discourse has witnessed the development of an immensely competitive electoral landscape in which political parties representing the interests of diverse constituencies have emerged. This indicates a vibrant democracy.

As a nation committed to democracy and multilateralism, India's G20 Presidency is a watershed moment in her history. The G20 meetings held across India provided unique opportunities to present and share the Indian story with the global community, including its diversity, culture, democracy, development, and technological transformation. Numerous nations in the Global South regard India as a positive model of pluralistic democracy and development. They believe they can emulate India's trajectory. India's recent achievements during and after the Covid pandemic have only deepened that admiration.

The G20 New Delhi Summit provided an occasion for the demonstration of India's contemporary technology advancement as well as our heritage, culture, and traditions. The emerging of the international economy, availability of greater resources for development, expansion of tourism, global workplace opportunities, stronger food security through millet production and consumption, and a deeper commitment to biofuels are among the prominent outcomes of the G20 Summit that will benefit the entire nation. The conclusion of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor Agreement and the Global Biofuels Alliance during the Summit were also developments of considerable significance.

Parliament is the supreme law-making body of any democratic country and repre-

sents the voice of the people. The P20, since its inception in Canada in 2010, has come a long way, thereby bringing in a critical parliamentary dimension to the global governance framework. It is sanctified through the elected representatives and becomes socially acceptable and legally tenable in such countries.

There will be four high-level sessions organised during the P20 Summit, to be hosted by Parliament from October 12-14 on (1) Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Showcasing Achievements, Accelerating Progress, (2) Sustainable Energy Transition — Gateway to Green Future, (3) Mainstreaming Gender Equality, From Women's Development to Women-led Development and (4) Transformation in people's lives through Public Digital Platforms. These sessions will bring together the G20 members and guest countries for wide-ranging discussions on "How Parliaments can effectively advance the objectives of the P20".

This year, the P20 summit will also emphasise the "LIFE is Beautiful" initiative, through a pre-summit event. This initiative recognises communities that practise environmentally conscious lifestyles as "Pro-Planet People" (P-3), and seeks to leverage these practices to build a sustainable ecosystem based on the principle of "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle".

The theme of this year's P20 Summit, "One Earth, One Family, One Future", embodies the spirit of unity, collaboration and shared destiny. It underlines our commitment and shared responsibility to address the pressing challenges facing our world. It reminds us that despite our differences, we are part of one global family and our actions today will shape the future we leave for generations to come.

The writer is Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha



OCTOBER 13, 1983, FORTY YEARS AGO

LEBANON CLASHES

RIVAL MUSLIM AND Communist militias battled with machine guns and rocket propelled grenades in Lebanon's northern port city of Tripoli for the second day. Forty seven combatants were killed. Militiamen of the fundamentalist "Tawheed Islami" movement overran several communist party offices in Tripoli.

ZIA-OPPN TALKS

THE POSSIBILITY OF a dialogue between pres-

ident Mohammed Ziaul Haq and the Opposition in Islamabad emerged after recent talks between the Jamaat ulema-e-Pakistan religious party and the Pakistani ruler. General Zia intends to talk with Pakistani religious party chiefs and the heads of at least four parties in the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) coalition.

CONTAMINATED FOOD

SIXTY-EIGHT CHILDREN WERE hospitalised for suspected food poisoning after they had

consumed food at a nutritious noon meal centre at Kodimangalam, about 20 km from Madurai, the police said. The police told UNI that the children began to vomit after consuming the food.

FESTIVE SEASON

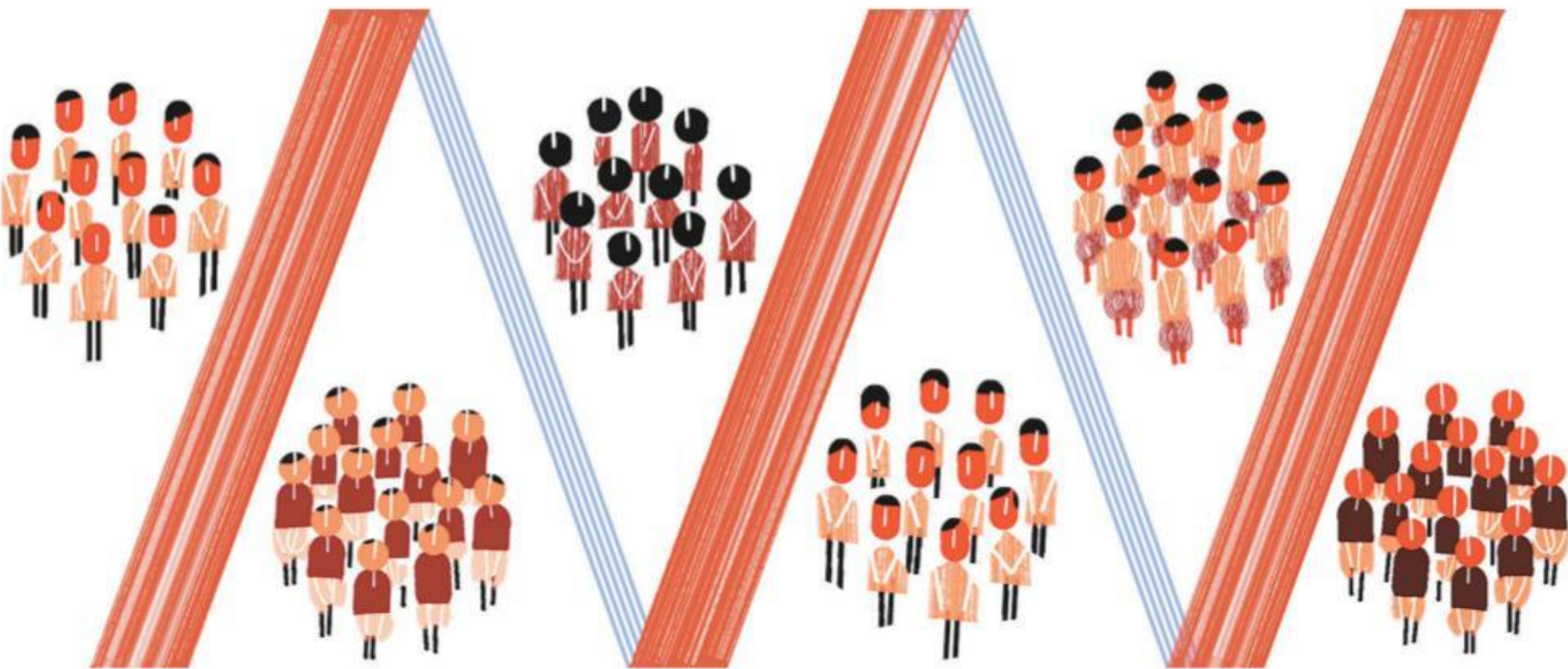
NIPPY EVENINGS AND pleasant days have added to the festive spirit in the Capital, starting with Dussehra, Durga Puja and Navratri, and continuing till Diwali. Ram Lila and Durga Puja pandals dot the city.

THE IDEAS PAGE

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DIS/AGREE
THE BEST OF BOTH SIDES

Beginning today, a fortnightly column, which will offer not this versus that but the best of both sides to inform the debate



Last week, the Bihar government released the results of its caste survey. It has touched off a larger question, ahead of 2024. Is a caste census necessary and urgent? To what end?

Count

Caste census is necessary for any policy to reduce social inequality. Even critics of reservation should welcome it



YOGENDRA YADAV

LET US BEGIN with the X-ray question. Are you for it, or against it? A reasonable answer would be, "It depends. Normally yes, if it is required and possible. But in some cases no, if it is risky or unaffordable." This commonsense can guide us on the caste census too.

We have here five considerations for endorsing or opposing an investigation or evidence collection exercise like the caste census. One, there should be, prima facie, a problem, a disease or a condition. Two, the investigation should be relevant to that condition and expected to yield information that can help the diagnosis. Three, it should be feasible in the real-life conditions and time available. Four, the material cost of the investigation should not be impossible. And five, the investigation should itself be not so risky that its side effects outweigh its possible benefits. Apply these to the caste census and you know why such enumeration is not just permissible, but essential.

The first point is self-evident: Caste appears to be an issue in Indian society. From the left to the right, every thinker, ideology or party says that the caste system is a disease, that caste inequalities need to be eradicated. So, prima facie there is a condition that merits investigation.

The second point needs clarity about what a caste census is and what it does. Most opponents of the caste census — as also many supporters — assume that it is just a simple head count of different castes. Actually, a census is a store-house of multi-dimensional and multi-layered information. It records the age, sex, education and occupation of each person. It also records for each household the type of house, source of electricity and water, type of cooking fuel and assets like four-wheeler and computer. So a caste census would reveal not just the population of each caste, but also their educational, social and economic profile. And this information would be available at the national, state, district and lower levels right down to each family.

This data is not only relevant, but necessary for any well designed policy to reduce social inequality. The census provided us the data we need on gender hierarchy, on rural-urban inequality and even on the disparity among religious communities. The only piece missing from this data basket is caste-based inequalities other than SC and ST. This is an absolute must for any fine-tuning or review of the reservation policy. It is a scandal, perhaps unparalleled in any country that follows affirmative action, to have a legal regime of reservation for a group we refuse to count!

Granular socio-economic profile of each caste should help settle intractable questions: Has caste ceased to be a key vector of inequality?

Should reservation be based only on caste or on economic status or both? Have a few castes captured the OBC quota? Should there be sub-quotas within OBC reservation? What, if any, should be the cutoff for the creamy layer? So, any honest critic of caste-based reservation should demand the caste census as much as its supporters. The caste census would also place under the sunlight authentic information about the privilege enjoyed, or not, by the "upper caste" Hindus, a social group everyone recognises but the Indian state refuses to categorise. This should be the benchmark to measure social inequalities.

As for feasibility, Bihar has shown what professionals always knew: A caste census was not as difficult as it was made out to be. If Bihar could carry it out and publish the data in a few months, so can the country. If Bihar can afford it, so can the country. If held with the general census, caste enumeration is just about adding one extra column. The additional cost would be minuscule.

Finally, let us consider a possible side effect: Caste census could accentuate caste consciousness and caste cleavages. There is some merit to this concern, if it is not overplayed. We need to remember that everyone in a village and basti knows everyone's caste and that every politician walks with an unofficial caste count of each polling booth. We should also ask why regular census enumeration of language and religion and, indeed, of castes within SC and ST has not caused the explosion that is feared from the enumeration of OBCs and upper castes.

Here are three ways to mitigate this possible side effect. One, articulate the demand for caste census as an element in a larger multi-dimensional ideology of social justice that includes gender, class and location. Two, develop a cross-party consensus. And three, concede it quietly, rather than create a national row about it. In any case, this limited side effect cannot outweigh all the benefits outlined above.

Finally, let us go back to the X-ray and note some arguments that fly in the face of any commonsense. We know that we cannot wish away a fracture by not carrying out an X-ray. But why do we allow critics of the caste census to pretend that caste would disappear if we don't recognise it through a formal census? We don't discuss the doctor's motives in prescribing an X-ray, unless we know for sure that it is unnecessary and exorbitant. Then why is the debate on the caste census so focused about the motives of politicians, as if those who oppose it have no political motives? Finally, we think it is perverse to say "Let's not do an X-ray, lest it reveal a serious condition that requires an operation". So how do we allow this logic on the caste census: Let us not carry out a caste census, for it might lead to demands for more reservation?

Such perverse reasoning suggests we are up against centuries of entrenched privilege. Caste census would help break this stranglehold, realise the constitutional promise of equality of opportunities and move towards Babasab's dream of annihilation of caste.

The writer is member, Swaraj India

Don't count

This is not the time to expand reservation. India is ready for simultaneous pursuit of justice, equality, excellence



MANISH SABHARWAL

A GOOD DEMOCRACY doesn't weigh citizens but counts them. Everybody is equal and judged as individuals, not as a member of groups. The challenge lies in the gap between this ideal and the reality every society tries to bridge through policy. But is discrimination between applicants for jobs and education the most effective policy tool to deliver equality? Is it possible to discriminate in favour of one group without discriminating against another? It's hardly time to end reservation but expanding it — the Bihar caste survey is a cynical attempt to do so — is unfair to future generations and divisive. Radically rebooting India's infrastructure of opportunity, employment, employability and education offers a powerful policy alternative to reservation without dividing society.

Laws that make discrimination based on caste, gender, and religion illegal (which should always exist) find it hard to coexist with reservation policies that discriminate based on caste, gender and religion (which should always be temporary, if justified). An argument against reservation doesn't simply the 299 remarkable innovators who wrote our Constitution did something wrong or unnecessary by introducing reservation. They recognised that voting was only one step in creating equality and that some discrimination, though undemocratic, was temporarily necessary. I have also heard reasonable arguments that 75 years are insufficient to right centuries of historical wrongs.

As every doctor knows, the dose makes the poison. Anything powerful enough to help has the power to hurt if the dosage is too small or for too long. The many decades since Independence need us to expand our goals to pursue equality and excellence. Equality without excellence is neither sustainable nor satisfying. Pursuing both means a new definition of equality. That means equal treatment, unbiased competition and impartially judged outcomes, not equal outcomes achieved by unequal treatment, biased competition and preferential judging. This pursuit needs to shift from discriminating between children based on their parents to creating the infrastructure of opportunity that allows the pursuit of excellence and judging them on the sweat of their brow and the courage in their heart.

Rebooting our infrastructure of opportunity requires accelerating reforms to our 3Es of education, employability, and employment. But I suggest three low-hanging fruits. In education, state governments must fix government schools without wasting more energy on small class sizes, teacher qualifications or teacher salaries but focusing on the binding constraints of performance man-

agement (fear of falling and hope of rising), governance (allocation of decision rights), and soft skills.

In employability, we must attract massive new financing for skills from employers by redesigning the system around the five design principles of learning by doing, learning while earning, learning with qualification modularity, learning with multimodal delivery, and learning with signalling value. This requires ending regulatory cholesterol that restricts linking degrees to apprenticeships, confuses apprenticeships with jobs, judges vocational universities like traditional ones and blunts online higher education growth.

In employment, massive non-farm, high-wage, formal job creation requires cutting the regulatory cholesterol for employers that breeds litigation, compliance, filings and criminalisation by passing new labour codes. There is a lot of work in manufacturing, less anchored to large employers with offices, and mostly without index-linked, defined benefit pensions. But our current labour laws hate small employers, breed corruption, and encourage substituting people with machines.

Many academics position jobs and skills as a chicken-and-egg problem: Do jobs breed skills? Or do skills attract jobs? It's a bit of both. But from a practitioner's perspective, the best way to solve such a problem is to become vegetarian, that is, do something different. State governments must pursue fiscal discipline, macroeconomic stability, good urbanisation, lower self-exploitation in self-employment, with only 10 per cent of their labour working in farms.

A modern state is a welfare state and being a good ancestor requires a government that uses society's resources to subsidise and deliver quality food, education, healthcare and housing to those who need it. But this safety net should not become a hammock: Unemployed workers cannot get the same income as those working because people get much more from work than income. And rich people should not get cheap food, gas or diesel. Policy must accelerate the Aadhaar-enabled Direct Benefit Transfer revolution for subsidies. This digital and financial plumbing must combine with a new HR regime for 25 million civil servants because the effective and efficient delivery of public services also matters greatly for equality.

Gandhiji believed that Sarvodaya (development of all) would be accomplished through Antyodaya (welfare of the weak). Philosophers have built on his thinking and concluded that if you were designing the world without knowing your place in it, you would ensure fairness for all. Reservation is a valuable tool for social justice but after years of Poorna Swaraj, it's time to discard something often subject to political manipulation for something more universal over the next few decades. India is ready for the simultaneous pursuit of justice, equality, excellence. Indians should create a glide path to reach 100 years of Independence with 100 per cent reservation for 100 per cent of its people.

The writer is co-founder of Teamlease Services

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Questioning the territorial integrity of South Asia's states is a bad election ploy that will only add to toxic regional relations. Instead of Akhand Bharat, South Asians deserve a region free from hate, violence and poverty, where prosperity and development are available to all."
— DAWN, PAKISTAN

A case of arithmophobia

The Union government's fear of numbers has led to data drought and crackdown on those who bring crucial information to light



ZERO HOUR

BY DEREK O'BRIEN

ALL IN ONE week, Arundhati Roy faces prosecution in 2023 for statements she made in 2010! Raids at the residences of 46 journalists, editors, writers and professionals associated with the news portal Newsclick.in. The figurative act of "shooting the messenger" has taken on a frightening reality. I still can't figure out why Siddique Kappan had to endure over two years in jail for reporting on the Hathras rape and murder. Those who are expressing themselves or bringing crucial information into the public domain by doing their jobs as journalists or writers are being stifled. This government is skittish about sharing information. Their modus operandi has been to create an information drought on all platforms — Parliament, policy think tanks, credible data sources and even their own ministries.

Let me begin by giving you an example from Parliament. In August, a Special Session was announced. The agenda for the session was shrouded in mystery, and only two working days before the commencement of the session was the agenda announced. This is a parliamentary democracy, not an army operation. In an army operation, one needs secrecy, surprise, and stealth. In a parliamentary democracy, one needs cooperation, collaboration, and sharing of views. Even in the articulation of the agenda, the inclusion of the phrase "not to be taken as exhaustive" cast a veil of opacity over the discourse. And true enough, an important bill was slipped in during the Special Session to make it seem Parliamentary procedure is not a chorus, but a selfish solo.

The devil is in (the lack of) data. The horrors of mid-2021 are etched in our collective memory. Where is the data on deaths caused by Covid-19? How many doctors died during the pandemic? The Union government might know, but they certainly aren't telling us. It's a trend. From the undocumented plight of migrant workers to unreported farmer deaths during the protests, to the alarming incidents of mob violence — there is now an extensive blank catalogue of unavailable data.

The Narendra Modi government has a chronic case of arithmophobia, the correct term for the fear of numbers. Evasion of data is not about simply "not knowing", it is often about knowing but preferring not to tell. We are already running two years late for conducting the Census. While it is understandable that a force

majeure event like the pandemic in 2021 didn't make it feasible for a nationwide exercise to be conducted, there is no rationale for the persistent delays. Whatever happened to administrative feasibility when election rallies were nonchalantly held during the devastating second wave of Covid-19? Or when currency notes were made worthless overnight?

The Union government still relies on 2011 data to account for welfare eligibility, resulting in a significant chunk of the population being excluded from essential schemes. Over 15 crore people are cut off from a basic necessity, the Public Distribution System (PDS). Antiquated data, if I may stretch an analogy, is like calculating strike rates for a 50-over match based on a batsman's performance in T20! It takes you nowhere. So, when we look at the World Economic Forum's population projection of 141 crore, we see a disparity of approximately 20.7 crores between the population of 2011 and 2023. The situation gets grimmer when one realises that the approximately 80 crore people covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) form just 57 per cent of India's population — well short of the 67 per cent, as mandated by the Act.

Behind these numbers are real people. Real stories. Like 50-something Nupur Hati from Hooghly district in Bengal, who clutches on to her laminated job card because she hasn't received the MNREGA wages due to her. Or Manjul Sheikh from Karnataka, who has another story of heartbreak. The lack of data about citizens is not just an administrative crisis. It is now a humanitarian one. And all that we get from this government is obfuscation. This delay in the Census, combined with vague allusions to a certain "delimitation" exercise, particularly in light of the recently passed Women's Reservation Bill, has only added to the mystery. We must not make welfare a privilege reserved for the statistically favoured.

Another important tool through which Parliament keeps the Union government in check is parliamentary questions. The Union government, in reply to countless questions, keeps admitting that it does not have any data available on multiple subjects — people who lost their jobs during the pandemic, and its adverse impact on the economy, the number of journalists arrested while performing their duty; deaths of Right to Information (RTI) activists, among others. That's why No Data Available (NDA) has become a worn-out joke.

A few weeks ago (September 28) was the International Day for Universal Access to Information. The day slipped by without even a fleeting whisper in the Indian political discourse. The times we live in.

The writer is Member of Parliament and Leader, All India Trinamool Congress Parliamentary Party (Rajya Sabha). Additional research by Rohini Narayanan

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AN UNCIVIL WORLD

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'I saw darkness in Jerusalem' (IE, October 12). Israel's retaliation at the mayhem carried out by Hamas is expected. The ferocity of the war is being covered by the world media, including ours, not only to bring the facts before us, but also to raise viewership. The world, already bearing the brunt of Russian-Ukrainian conflict, is getting further polarised by Israel's resolve to finish off Hamas and wrest control of the Gaza strip. As countries and their leaders choose sides, the mounting deaths, civilians as well as military, and increased destruction paint a grim picture of a supposedly modern, civilised world.

Vijai Pant, Hemptur

A FAILED CM

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Rebuilding trust' (IE, October 11). By using words like "illegal migrant", "outside infiltrator" or "drug mafia" while addressing communal and ethnic violence in Manipur, Chief Minister N Biren Singh cannot absolve himself of his failure. While holding the drug mafia responsible for the unrest, he does not detail what he is doing to address the issue, and end the alienation that has crept into a section of society. Throughout his interview with The Indian Express, he has proven that he is the master of blame games. Though he says, "I want my people to feel confident and secure", he has, so far, failed to do so, as is evident from his mishandling of violence and the brazenly partisan character of

his governance.

SH Quadri, Bikaner

2024 LITMUS TEST

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Five to go' (IE, October 10). In the run up to the Lok Sabha elections, five states going for assembly polls next month could prove to be a litmus test for the BJP at the Centre. This time, the INDIA bloc is working on the ground, unlike 2019. Among the varied narratives in public discourse, Bihar's caste survey will set the cat among the pigeons and strengthen the OBCs' demand for reservations. For the BJP, it has significant political implications since over the past decade, the saffron party has tried co-opting the OBCs into the larger Hindutva agenda in an effort to create a united Hindu vote. The Opposition with the demand of a national caste census is hoping that it will lay the foundation for the second phase of Mandal politics.

Nischai Vats, Sultanpur

CALL TO ACTION

THIS REFERS TO the article, "Gender reality check" (IE, October 12). Nobel Prize winner Claudia Goldin's findings are derived from a study of women's labour force participation in the US labour market over more than two centuries. Where the situation varies in India is that women keep experiencing more hurdles in terms of not only male insecurity but family, culture, and social taboos. Goldin's research should spur us into corrective action.

Y G Chouksey, Pune

UCO BANK (A Govt. of India Undertaking) PREMISES REQUIRED UCO Bank desires to take premises on rent having carpet area between 1000-1200 sqft on ground floor including Space of ATM. The premises are required with in the limits of Darbhanga town municipal corporation area for shifting of Darbhanga Main branch.

उत्तराखण्ड पावर कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड (उत्तराखण्ड सरकार का उपक्रम) कार्यलय अधीनस्थ, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल (ग्रामीण), 18, इंदीरा रोड, देहरादून "ई-निविदा सूचना" दिनांक 12.10.2023 अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता द्वारा अनुमति/प्रतिष्ठित तथा उत्तराखण्ड शासन द्वारा विद्युत अधिग्रहण कार्य के लिए अधिकृत "ए" क्लास लाइसेन्सधारी ठेकेदार जो ईन्कम टैक्स, उत्तराखण्ड जीएआरटीओ, इंडीपीएफओ तथा इंडीपीएआई में पंजीकृत हों से ई-निविदा संख्या 53/EDCRDDU/2023-24 आमंत्रित की जाती है।

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE Sr. No. NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH. NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER. OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME) AMOUNT/ EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH. NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PWD NAGAON & HOJAI ROAD CIRCLE, NAGAON No. SE/NRC/TB/NIT/12/2021-22/59 PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER The Superintending Engineer, PWD, Nagaon & Hojai Road Circle, Nagaon on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites bid from Assam PWD registered contractors for 1 (one) no work under SOPD, G under Kaliabor and Samaguri Road Division for the year 2023-24 amounting to Rs.107.99 Lakhs (approx.).

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PWD NAGAON & HOJAI ROAD CIRCLE, NAGAON No. SE/NRC/TB/NIT/12/2021-22/57 PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER The Superintending Engineer, PWD, Nagaon & Hojai Road Circle, Nagaon on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites bid from Assam PWD registered contractors for 2 (Two) nos of work under SOPD-G for the year 2023-24 under Nagaon LAC amounting to Rs.143.41 Lakhs (approx.).

GOVT. OF ASSAM OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, PWD (ROADS), ASSAM, CHANDMARI, GUWAHATI-3. No. CE/PMGSY/98/2022-23/13 SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER The Chief Engineer, PWD (Border Roads), Assam on behalf of Governor of Assam invites the item rate bid in electronic tendering system for construction of Roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, PMGSY-III, Batch-1, for the year 2022-23, for, for 1 no. of road (9.400 km) in the districts of N.C Hills with an estimated cost of Rs. 442.35 Lakhs (Approx, excluding GST) including Routine Maintenance for five years from approved and eligible contractors registered with Assam Public Works Department (Roads) or contractors registered with other State/Central Government Departments, institutions, Undertaking and Authorities.

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY E-TENDERING NOTICE On Line Bid based open E-Tenders are invited by Sr. D.M.E./C&W/North Eastern Railway/Lucknow for and on behalf of the President of India for the following works. S.No.-1, Tender Notice No.: 12-2023-CW, Description of works: "Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of PERC Dry Cleaning Machine (Capacity 12 to 15 Kg/hr) at Gorakhpur Laundry (02 Qty.)", Approx Value (in Rs.): ₹ 26,01,000/-, E.M.D. Money (in Rs.): ₹ 52,00,000/-, Contract period: 90 Days.

SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON General public is hereby informed that one person namely Hari Kishan S/o Jai Chand R/o B-7/13 J.J. Colony Bhalswa Dairy Delhi. Age 46 years, Height 5'8", Complexion Shallow, Built Strong, Face Round, wearing Pink T-shirts, Pant, & Sleeper in feet has been missing since 07.10.2023 from his House. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out this person but no clue has come to light so far. In this regard a DD No. 84-A dated 07.10.2023 has been lodged at PS Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi.

तेलुगु and Sanskrit Akademi G-3, Prime Hill Crest Building, Vaddeswaram, Mangalagiri, Guntur-522502, Cell: 7337360600 Notification No: 01/APTA/2023, Notification Dt: 11-10-2023 A.P. Telugu and Sanskrit Akademi which is premier body in the domain of spreading knowledge in Telugu publishes books in various subjects in both Telugu and English media including Text books for Intermediate, U.G. & P.G. Program books and Books for Competitive Examinations conducted by various bodies including APPSC and UPSC.

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, PWD (ROADS), ASSAM CHANDMARI :: GUWAHATI-3 No. CE/STBR/II/30/2023-24/03 SHORT NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST AND FINANCIAL PROPOSAL FOR EMPANELMENT AND ENGAGEMENT OF CONSULTANTS FOR PROVIDING CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR PREPARATION OF DETAILED PROJECT REPORT (DPR) FOR CONSTRUCTION OF 2 LANE FLYOVER FROM NH-31C TO GOSSAIGAON CIVIL SUB-DIVISION AT HABRUBIL IN KOKRAJHAT DISTRICT

ANNUAL OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF DG SETS, ELECTRICAL SUBSTATION ETC. Tender Notice No. Dy. CEE/CON/NJP/ E/07/2023; Dated: 09-10-2023. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work Tender No. E-C-NJ-IA-1-23-24-S-R-RT. Name of work : Annual operation and maintenance of DG sets and 11/0.433KV Electrical Substation (Darjeeling & Gangtok), HT & LT OH&UG network, indoor & outdoor electrical assets including wiring of 415V/230V system of Railway Officers Rest houses (Construction Unit) at New Jalpaiguri (VIP & Station), Kalighat & Bhawanipur/koikata, Khelgaon/Delhi, Gangtok and Darjeeling including CE, Dy.CE, Dy. CSTE, Dy. CEE, Sr. AFA/CON officers, and all Construction Sr. Subordinate Offices at New Jalpaiguri etc. and annual maintenance of 2 nos. lift (Thyssen Lift) at Gangtok & Darjeeling for a period of two nos. in connection with Sivok-Rangpo (NL) Project. Tender Value: ₹ 78,08,977.97; Earnest Money: ₹ 1,56,200/-; Date & time of closing of tender at 14:30 hrs. on 03-11-2023. Date & time of opening of tender at 15:30 hrs. on 03-11-2023. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available website www.ireps.gov.in

Timber e-Auction Forest Department, Gujarat State This is to inform all the traders who are interested to participate in the e-auction, For purchase of Teak/non-teak Timber and Fuel wood to be held in Dang North/South division of Valsad Circle from 26/10/2023 to 06/11/2023. All interested traders are requested to participate in the e-auction. The procedure for participation in e-Auction and the details of lots of Teak/ non-teak timber and fuel wood is available on the website http://forestauction.nprocure.com

भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान बरहमपुर Indian Institute of Science and Research Berhampur Established by the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India Transit Campus: Govt. ITI Berhampur - 760010 e-Tender Notice IISER Berhampur invites e-Tenders for the below-mentioned goods/services:

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA EXCISE & TAXATION DEPARTMENT NOTICE FOR INVITING E-TENDERS FOR REALLOTMENT OF ONE ZONE OF RETAIL LIQUOR VENDS OF DISTRICT JHAJJAR IN THE STATE OF HARYANA FOR THE REMAINING PERIOD OF THE EXCISE POLICY YEAR 2023-2024. 1. It is notified for the information of general public that e-tenders for re-allotment zone of retail liquor vend of Country Liquor and Indian Made Foreign Liquor (L-2L-14A) of district Jhajjar in the State of Haryana, as mentioned below, are hereby invited for the remaining period of excis e policy year 2023-24.

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY Details of the Tender Notices of S.C. Railway can be seen on our website: www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in E-Auction Programme for the month of November & December - 2023. NOVEMBER e- Auction - 2023. DATE DIVISION/DEPOT 01.11.23 GUNTUR 02.11.23 NANDED 03.11.23 GUNTAKAL 06.11.23 SECUNDERABAD 07.11.23 HYDERABAD 08.11.23 VIJAYAWADA 09.11.23 LALLAGUDA 10.11.23 RAYANAPADU 13.11.23 TIRUPATI 14.11.23 VIJAYAWADA, HYDERABAD, GUNTAKAL, GUNTUR, NANDED, SECUNDERABAD, LALLAGUDA, RAYANAPADU, TIRUPATI 15.11.23 GUNTUR 16.11.23 NANDED 17.11.23 GUNTAKAL 20.11.23 SECUNDERABAD 21.11.23 HYDERABAD 22.11.23 VIJAYAWADA 23.11.23 LALLAGUDA 24.11.23 RAYANAPADU 28.11.23 TIRUPATI 29.11.23 GUNTUR 30.11.23 VIJAYAWADA, HYDERABAD, GUNTAKAL, GUNTUR, NANDED, SECUNDERABAD, LALLAGUDA, RAYANAPADU, TIRUPATI

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION General public is hereby informed that an unidentified deadbody of male Age : About 25-30 years, Height : 5'6", Complexion : Shallow, wearing light blue colour T-shirt and brown colour trouser, was found dead on train accident on 10.10.2023 at Elect. Pole Km. No. 17/43-45 near Palam Railway Station, New Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 02-A dated 10.10.2023 has been lodged at P.S. Delhi Cantt. Railway Station, New Delhi. Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

UJVN Limited (An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprises) H.O.: "UJWAL", Motarani Bugh G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006 Phone No.: 0135-2763898 & Fax No.: 0135-2763508 CIN No. U40101UR2001SG025866 Website: www.ujvn.com R.O. No.: 994 Tender Notice Date: 12.10.2023 Office of the Executive Engineer (G), Chilla Power House invites bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tenders are given below: Tender No:-11/EE(G)/Chilla/2023-24. Name of work/supply/services etc. Annual Maintenance of electrical works of Chilla Power House. Estimated cost : Rs. 9,86,977/- Plus GST extra. Date of availability of bid document on website: 13.10.2023 from 16:00 Hrs. Last date for submission of bids : 02.11.2023 upto 11:00 Hrs. For full & further details, kindly visit Nigam's website i.e "http://ujvn.com" Executive Engineer (G) "Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

JHARKHAND STATE RURAL ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY 3rd Floor, F.F.P. Building, Dhurwa, Ranchi - 834004 Letter No. JSRRDA - 764/2023-1839 Dated: -11.10.2023 CORRIGENDUM PR No- 307869 dated 28.09.2023 Following correction/ modification is hereby made in RFP for Setting up a PMU for Non FDR (Road/Bridge) in JSRRDA publish e-tender no- 91 / 2022-23 dated 27.09.2023 as given below:-

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY General Public is hereby informed that one male Namely: Unknown S/o: Unknown, Address: Unknown was found unconscious on Footpath at Gate No. 02, Lady Hardinge Medical College, Bhagat Singh Marg, New Delhi and admitted to Lady Hardinge Medical College vide MLC No. 1883/23. During the treatment Doctors declared brought him dead on 07.10.2023. The body has been preserved in Lady Hardinge Medical College's Mortuary, Delhi for 72 Hrs. In this regard a case has been lodged vide DD No. 69A dated 07.10.2023 at P.S. Mandir Marg, New Delhi. The description of the dead male is as under:- Age: Approx 60 years, Sex: Male, Height: 5'3", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Hair: White, Built: Normal, Wearing: Purple colour T-shirt and grey colour pant. If any one having any information about this dead male please inform undersigned. SHO P.S. Mandir Marg, New Delhi DP/11558/NDD/2023 Ph: 011-23366730, 8750870522

विकास एवं पंचायत विभाग, हरियाणा निविदा / कोटेशन सूचना हरियाणा के राज्यपाल की ओर से विभिन्न निविदाओं के माध्यम से 1. जलपुर 2. पूर 3. जलपुर 4. निवायल 5. वार्ड नं 02 निवायल 6. वरना चौक 7. मायापरी 8. वार्ड नं 08 निवायल 9. दुर्जनपुर 10. डानी चौक 11. बोहल 12. सुखपुर 13. बानी चौक 14. नीरी जलन 15. वार्ड 16. रेवाड़ी चौक 17. वार्ड नं 1 बानी चौक 18. वार्ड नं 8 निवायल 19. बुधाल कला 20. चौकना 21. शिगना जलियन 22. दुहल 23. अलवरनगर 24. सिवायनी 25. खरकड़ी 26. पोखरा 27. सोहनपुर 28. मण्डीली कला 29. चहल कला 30. वापु 31. बलन 32. पोखरपुरा 33. पुरा 34. वरना 35. ओरवा 36. गैरवायल 37. कलादी 38. सुया कला 39. डानी चौक 40. वार्ड नं 09 निवायल 41. सोनरी 42. तुमरली 43. रैवा 44. सिरोड 45. खरन वार्ड 46. सुखपुरा हेतु water tanker having capacity 5000 ltrs के खरीदे जाने हैं। इसका एम्पलमेंट/संयोजन मण्डल सार्वजनिक अधिष्ठाता पंचायत वन निवासी ने शुभकर चौधरीन दिनांक 13.10.2023 सुबह 10 बजे तक जमा करना है। प्रत्येक निविदा/कोटेशन के साथ सार्वजनिक अधिष्ठाता पंचायत की वन के वन में डीपोजिट के रूप में 300000/- का की वसूली प्रति जमा करानी होगी। एम्पलमेंट के लिए निविदा/कोटेशन वदर होनी 1 निविदा/कोटेशन को दिनांक 13.10.2023 को दोपहर बाद 2:00 बजे बयौलियावाली की कार्यस्थल में करना होगा। Specification for Water Tanker: 1. Water Tanker Having Capacity 5000 Ltrs 2. Zinc Sheet 10 gauge 3. Size Length 10' 4. Dia 4.5'(54") 5. Chassis 7"x3" 6. Drum Sport Channel3"x1.5" 7. Pump 2.5"x2.5" 8. Excel & Rim 3" 9. Tyre new Branded 12020 10. Color with Primer & Paint 1" quality & complete in all respect. Eligibility criteria: 1. The firm should have valid GST No. & Pan No. 2. The firm should have last financial year turnover of Rs. 25.00 lacs with duly signed by C.A. 3. All Over guarantee minimum should be five years. 4. The firm should have overall supply orders of water tankers having minimum amount of Rs. 25.00 lacs in any Govt. Department. Other conditions: 1. The quotation can be rejected at any time without giving any notice. 2. The payment will be released after necessary deductions as per govt. guidelines. 3. The payment will be done without GST& GST will be refunded after submission of the proof of deposit of GST amount/bills by the firm duly signed by C.A. 4. Earnest Money will be converted into security deposit and will be released after completion of five years from date of complete supply of water tankers. 5. After receiving the supply order notice, the L-1 firm will show sample (one tanker) to this office within 3 days and it should meet the above mentioned specifications. 6. After acceptance of sample, the firm should supply the said tankers within 20 day. 7. The firm should adhere to timelines given above otherwise penalty @1000/- per day for delay will be imposed on firm which will be deducted from the EMD deposited. 8. The other terms & conditions may be incorporated during issue of supply order. कार्यकारी अधिष्ठाता पंचायत वन निवासी। 21835/HRY epaper.indianexpress.com

EXCISE AND TAXATION DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA Subject: Industry consultation workshop for e-Governance solution for Haryana Tax Administration System The Excise and Taxation Department, Government of Haryana, intends to develop a new e-Governance solution to replace the existing solution deployed in the department. For this purpose, the department intends to float a Request for Proposal (RFP) in due course of time, the scope of RFP shall inductively cover the following: 1. New system to be envisaged comprising of an integrated Web portal, Excise and VAT solution along with mobile application. 2. Business continuity plan of the existing system, till the transition to the new system is complete. In the above context, the department intends to conduct an industry consultation workshop to discuss in brief the solution being envisaged as per the following schedule: ● Date - 18.10.2023 ● Time - 11.00 AM ● Venue - Conference Hall, 3rd Floor, Vanijya Bhawan, Sector 5, Panchkula All the interested industry and domain experts are cordially invited to attend this workshop. We wish to specify that this workshop is not a part of any bid, neither is it intended for any solution demonstration by any solution provider. The findings of this workshop will not result into any formal contract or any preferential treatment to any of the participants. Please confirm your participation on above schedule by reverting on email to aetc-gst.etc@hry.gov.in latest by 5:00 PM on 17.10.2023. For any query regarding the same please contact 0172-2590935. Excise and Taxation Commissioner, Haryana. 21819/HRY

Field Supervision in 25 PIUs: Key Expert No. of PIUs No. 1 Resident -cum-Site Engineer 25 Nos. Supervision on every PU 25 2 Quantity surveyor 25 Nos. Supervision on every PU 25 3 Lab Assistant 25 Nos. Supervision on every PU 25 4 Multi-Purpose Worker 25 Nos. Office Work at PU 25 Other Staff 1 Computer Operator 18 Office Work HQ FullTime 1 2 Multi-Purpose Worker 18 Office Work HQ Fulltime 1 Field Supervision in 25 PIUs: Key Expert No. of PIUs No. 1 Resident -cum-Site Engineer 25 Nos. Supervision on every PU 25 2 Bridge Expert 25 Nos. Supervision on every PU 25 3 Lab Assistant 25 Nos. Supervision on every PU 25 4 Multi-Purpose Worker 25 Nos. Office Work at PU 25 * Qualification of GIS Analyst- M.Sc. / M.Tech. of equivalent in Geo science / Geo information with minimum 3 years experience. # Retired Forest Officer of good working knowledge of Forest Diversion act, FRA& obtaining Forest clearance from Forest Department including wild life sanctuary / Reserve Forest by Gol/GoJ. Chief Engineer JSRRDA, Ranchi PR 308980 Rural Work Department (23-24)_D

DECEMBER e- Auction - 2023. DATE DIVISION/DEPOT 01.12.23 NANDED 04.12.23 GUNTUR 05.12.23 GUNTAKAL 06.12.23 SECUNDERABAD 07.12.23 HYDERABAD 08.12.23 VIJAYAWADA 11.12.23 LALLAGUDA 12.12.23 RAYANAPADU 13.12.23 TIRUPATI 14.12.23 VIJAYAWADA, HYDERABAD, GUNTAKAL, GUNTUR, NANDED, SECUNDERABAD, LALLAGUDA, RAYANAPADU, TIRUPATI 15.12.23 GUNTUR 18.12.23 NANDED 20.12.23 SECUNDERABAD 21.12.23 HYDERABAD 22.12.23 VIJAYAWADA 26.12.23 LALLAGUDA 27.12.23 RAYANAPADU 28.12.23 TIRUPATI 29.12.23 VIJAYAWADA, HYDERABAD, GUNTAKAL, GUNTUR, NANDED, SECUNDERABAD, LALLAGUDA, RAYANAPADU, TIRUPATI Principal Chief Materials Manager, A1578 Secunderabad For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at https://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

Life insurance firms' new business declines 13% in first half of FY24

GEORGE MATHEW MUMBAI, OCTOBER 12

THE LIFE insurance industry has reported a lacklustre performance in the first six months of the financial year 2023-24 (FY24) with the new business premium falling 12.97 per cent, mainly due to the decline in premium mobilisation by Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) and the changes in the tax structure in high value policies.



The lacklustre performance comes mainly due to the decline in premium mobilisation by LIC and the changes in the tax structure in high value policies. File

The total premium collection (new business) declined to ₹1,58,376 crore during the six months as against ₹1,81,976 crore in the same period a year ago. LIC's premium collection fell to ₹92,642 crore during the period from ₹1,24,191 crore. LIC's group single premium for the six months witnessed the highest decline at ₹64,522 crore as against ₹96,878 crore a year ago.

is despite the regulator launching several initiatives to increase insurance penetration," said an insurance official.

A pivotal development affecting the industry has been the imposition of the new tax regime. This regulatory change, effective from April 01, 2023, has had visible implications on the sector's activities during this period, consequently leading to a subdued performance in the first half of FY24.

The poor performance of the industry is also evident from the number of policies which remained flat at 11.764 million during the six months ended September 2023 as against 11.766 million policies a year ago. "At this rate, the life industry won't be able to achieve the last year's new business premium of ₹3.70 lakh crore. The poor show

The Union Budget 2023 removed the tax incentives on income from high-value insurance policies. The new rule was announced in an attempt to limit the undue tax-saving advantage enjoyed by high net-worth individuals (HNIs) because of the tax exemptions on insurance policies. Similarly, in the previous budget, tax exemptions for ULIPs with premiums above ₹2.5 lakh were removed. If a savings insurance policy has a premium of more than ₹5 lakh, the maturity benefit or income from the policy will be taxed.

the dip in LIC premiums. While private insurance companies have maintained growth, their pace was comparatively subdued in comparison to the previous year. Total new business of private players rose 13.75 per cent to ₹65,734 crore in the first half of FY24.

The private sector has a larger share in the non-single sub-segment (mainly individual premiums), while LIC continues to dominate the single premium sub-segment, especially the group business. Pension plans, general annuity and group gratuity schemes account for a significant chunk of the group while general annuity plans dominate individual single premiums, Care Ratings said.

One reason for the lacklustre show is that insurers are not keen on focussing on non-participating policies. A non-participating policy does not share the surplus earnings, and therefore does not receive a dividend payment. That is profits are not invested in non-participating programmes and no distributions are paid out to policyholders. It will be retained in the company, thus boosting the overall profitability of the insurer.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

Infosys cuts top end of FY24 revenue outlook

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, OCTOBER 12

IT MAJOR Infosys Ltd Thursday reported a 3.2 per cent jump in its consolidated net profit at Rs 6,212 crore in the quarter ended September as against Rs 6,021 crore in the year-ago period.

Infosys also revised its FY24 revenue guidance downward to 1-2.5 per cent from an earlier guidance of 1-3.5 per cent given during the June quarter results. The operating margin guidance has been retained at 20-22 per cent.

The results of the No.2 Indian software-services exporter come a day after industry leader Tata Consultancy Services warned that clients were still hesitant to spend on discretionary projects amid inflationary pressures and high interest rates.

"We had our highest large deals value at \$7.7 billion in Q2 spread across all verticals and geographies. This, in an uncertain macro-environment, is a testament to our ability to pivot and stay relevant to the evolving client needs, by delivering the benefits of transformation as well as productivity and cost savings at scale," the company's CEO

and Managing Director Salil Parekh said.

"Digital transformation programs and discretionary spends are low and decision-making is slow," said Parekh.

The Infosys board announced an interim dividend of Rs 18 per equity share. Its consolidated revenue grew 6.7 per cent to Rs 38,994 crore in the September quarter as compared to Rs 36,538 crore in the year-ago period.

Strong H1 performance with significant large deal wins, builds a solid foundation for the future, Parekh said, adding that the growing adoption of the company's generative AI offering is helping expand market share.

Chief Financial Officer Nilanjan Roy said the Q2 operating margin of 21.2 per cent demonstrates the early benefits of the recently unveiled margin improvement plan and is a clear reflection of the company's ability to continuously identify opportunities for improving operational efficiencies. "In line with our capital allocation policy, the Board has announced an interim dividend of Rs 18 per share, an increase of 9.1 per cent over last year," Roy said. Attrition fell to 14.6 per cent in the quarter.

Religare plans to approach SEBI, RBI with fresh valuation reports

PIYUSH SHUKLA & RAJESH KURUP MUMBAI, OCTOBER 12

THE BOARD of financial services company Religare Enterprises plans to approach the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) with fresh valuation reports from two independent advisory firms, as it believes that the open offer price offered by the Burmans of Dabur is below fair value.

A source said the company's trajectory has been up since 2018, and this is the first time that the share price has gone down from ₹280 to ₹230. "We are going to create two valuation reports and that will go to exchanges and regulators," the source said.

This comes close on the heels of the Burman family making an open offer for acquiring an additional 26% stake in Religare on September 25. The four entities belonging to the Burman family already have 21% in Religare Enterprises and the open offer was triggered once it decided to acquire 5% in the company.

The Burmans intend to acquire over 90 million shares at ₹235 per share, at a discount of 13.5% to the previous day's closing share price.

HCLTech too trims full-year revenue outlook

REUTERS BENGALURU, OCTOBER 12

HCLTECH TRIMMED its full-year outlook for revenue growth on Thursday, signalling near-term weakness in spending as its clients remained cautious due to uncertain demand and a challenging macro environment.

The company expects organic growth in FY24 to be between 4-5 per cent year-on-year in constant currency terms from the 6-8% it expected earlier. It also expects growth including German acquisition ASAP to be between 5-6 per cent.

HCLTech, India's No.3 IT firm by market capitalisation, said in July it would buy automotive engineering services firm ASAP Group for \$280 million.

Consolidated net profit rose 9.8 per cent to ₹38.32 billion in the second quarter ended September 30. Consolidated revenue from operations rose over 8 per cent to ₹266.72 billion.

Wadia Group stays away from Go First insolvency process

SWARAJ BAGGONKAR & SACHIN KUMAR MUMBAI, OCTOBER 12

AFTER ANNOUNCING to the world that it would continue to steer Go First, the airline it set up in 2005, the Wadia group appears to have quietly deplaned. The erstwhile promoter of the airline has chosen to sit out of the bidding process, which kicked started in July and was later expanded to September 28.

This is a volte-face from the company's stance in May when Go First's CEO Kaushik Khona stated that the airline's promoters are committed and have no plans to exit the company.

Since there hasn't been any default by the airline to banks, to which it owes ₹6,521 crore, the Wadia group was technically allowed to bid for the airline.

A loss of ₹1,808 crore for FY22 (₹870-crore loss in FY21) alone pushed the accumulated losses to ₹4,400 crore. Go First had a negative net worth of ₹3,300 crore at the end of that year.

In comparison, the group's four listed companies - Britannia Industries, Bombay Dyeing, Bombay Burmah Trading and National Peroxide - posted a combined net profit of ₹1,300 crore. The loss at Go First pulled the group into the red to the tune of nearly ₹500 crore.

It is this growing drag on the financials that forced the Wadias to halt fund infusion in the airline and seek help under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code. The airline filed for bankruptcy in May, blaming "faulty" Pratt & Whitney engines for the grounding of about half its fleet.

The Wadias claimed to have injected ₹6,500 crore into the embattled airline since inception, including ₹3,200 crore in the last three years.

IN MOROCCO: GATHERING OF G20 FINANCE MINISTERS, CENTRAL BANK GOVERNORS; IMF, WORLD BANK MEETING



IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva with World Bank President Ajay Banga. World Bank shareholders Thursday endorsed further reforms and a vision statement committing the bank to work for 'a world free of poverty on a liveable planet'. Reuters

Sitharaman asks World Bank to align processes with other MDBs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday asked the World Bank to align the processes and procedures with other Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) as it will benefit developing nations.

Participating in the 108th Meeting of the Development Committee Plenary of the World Bank Group in Marrakech,

Morocco, Sitharaman said it is encouraging to see the progress towards G20 countries' common goal of creating a 'Better, Bigger and more Effective' World Bank to address the national and global challenges for maximising developmental impact.

"We believe that the direction of the World Bank's evolution will set the template across the MDB ecosystem," she said.

India supports the World Bank's new vision to create a world free of poverty on a "live-

able planet", its new mission to end extreme poverty and boost shared prosperity on a liveable planet that gives World Bank a formidable mandate to both fight poverty and address global challenges, she said.

The Finance Minister encouraged "the World Bank to take the lead in aligning the processes and procedures, to the extent possible, with other MDBs - this will significantly benefit client countries who have to deal with multiple MDBs."

G20 panel on MDBs suggests shifting from project-based approach to country platforms

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

THE G20 expert panel on strengthening multilateral development banks (MDBs) wants these institutions to shift from an approach of individual projects and prioritise programmes identified by national governments with sectoral focus and long-term transformation plans.

In the second volume of its report, the panel with N K Singh and Lawrence Summers as co-conveners recommended that MDBs should focus on helping countries build and operationalise "country platforms", or voluntary country-level mechanisms set out by respective governments to foster collaboration among development partners on the basis of a shared strategic vision and priorities.

The second volume of the Independent Expert Group on Strengthening Multilateral Development Banks is being taken up at the ongoing meeting of the finance ministers and central bank governors of the G20 countries in Marrakech, Morocco. Apart from recommending that the MDBs operate more in sync with developmental priorities of



N K Singh and Lawrence Summers are co-conveners of the expert panel. File

individual nations and co-create multi-year programmes, the expert group also called for bringing private sector engagement to the centre of MDB operations, and significantly raising MDB financing. It also listed out suggestions on how these goals may be achieved.

In the first volume of the report submitted at the July meeting of the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors, the expert group had listed a triple agenda for MDB reforms, calling for tripling of annual sustainable lending levels to \$390 billion by 2030, adopting a triple mandate of eliminating extreme poverty, boosting shared prosperity, and contributing to global public goods, and expanding and modernising funding models to broaden the investor base in flexible and innovative ways.

"In the Delhi Declaration, the G20 Leaders recognized a need for a "big push on investments" to deliver on national development priorities, to respond to global challenges and to meet agreed international objectives, including the Paris COP21 agreement and the SDGs. They therefore called for strengthened MDBs to support this," the panel said in the second volume of the report, adding that this volume focuses on the changes that will be required to implement the "G20 leaders' vision of a strengthened MDB system".

The latest volume also attempts to provide a roadmap for rapid implementation of MDB reforms.

Additionally, the panel recommended that the G20 finance ministers should establish a mechanism to advise and independently assess the first-year implementation of the proposed roadmap.

According to the expert group, MDBs should focus their operations - financial as well as analytical - on helping national governments create and operationalise their respective country platforms for the highest priority sustainable development goals and global public goods sectors or themes. FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

BRIEFLY

SEBI official's caution on AIFs

Mumbai: There are rampant malpractices in the alternative investment funds industry and those are widespread, SEBI Whole Time Member Ananth Narayan G said on Thursday. PTI

RBI to vet IDBI bidders soon

Mumbai: RBI is expected to accelerate a process of vetting IDBI Bank's potential buyers and complete it by October end, helping speed up the sale of a majority stake in the lender, sources said. REUTERS

MoS to attend FE Best Banks Awards today

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

Union Minister of State for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Electronics & IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar will be the Chief Guest at the FE Best Banks Awards in the country's financial capital on Friday. The minister will preside over the ceremony to be attended by leading lights of the financial and corporate sectors.

An entrepreneur-turned politician and policy-maker, Chandrasekhar has theoretical as well as practical knowledge of the entire gamut of technology. A former chip designer, who was among the first breed of entrepreneurs to run a mobile business when the sector was thrown open to private players, he has been at the forefront of



MoS Rajeev Chandrasekhar. File

digital rights and privacy.

He is currently engaged in encouraging global players to set up chip manufacturing plants in the country. The next big thing on which his ministry is work-

ing is the Digital India Bill.

One of the highlights of the function will be a fireside chat with KV Kamath, NabFID chairman. Kamath, who has had an illustrious career having worked with leading institutions in India and overseas, will share his insights into the world of finance.

As in the last two decades, the FE Best Banks Awards will celebrate the success of stand-out performances by banks, NBFCs, small finance banks and Fintechs. The awards will also recognise the work of individuals who are the scriptwriters of the success of India's financial sector success story. FE

Advertisement for India's Best Banks Awards, featuring logos for IRB, FE, and other sponsors.

CBIC says no GST on Gangajal

New Delhi: The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) Thursday said that there is no GST on Gangajal, amid Congress claims that the government has imposed an 18 per cent tax on it.

"Gangajal is used in puja by households across the country and puja samagri is exempt under GST. All these items have been exempt since the introduction of GST," CBIC said in a post on X.

The CBIC said that GST on 'puja samagri' was discussed in detail in the 14th and 15th meetings of the GST Council held on May 18-19, 2017 and June 3, 2017, respectively and it was decided to keep them in exempt list. Earlier in the day Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the government has imposed 18 per cent GST on Gangajal. PTI

Govt opens 12th city gas bid round

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

THE UNION government Thursday offered for bidding CNG retailing licences in seven areas, mostly in North East and J&K, that are expected to see investments of \$4.5 billion in setting up gas infrastructure, as the government looks to expand the reach of environment-friendly

fuel in the country.

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board offered seven geographical areas of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland, Sikkim, Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh under the 12th city gas distribution bidding round for retailing of CNG to automobiles and piping the fuel to household kitchens and industries.

Indigo flight cancellations, delays hit 76,000 flyers in Sept: DGCA

Mumbai: More than 76,000 IndiGo passengers were affected due to the airline cancelling its flights or delaying them by more than two hours in September, DGCA data revealed Thursday. Besides IndiGo, 24,758 passengers of Air India and 24,635

passengers of SpiceJet were affected on account of their airlines delaying some flights by over two hours in September.

Domestic air passenger traffic grew 29.10 per cent at 1.22 crore in September, against 1.03 crore in September last year. PTI

RBI IMPOSES FINE ON PAYTM PAYMENTS BANK

Bengaluru: RBI Thursday said it has fined Paytm Payments Bank ₹5.39 crore for non-compliance with some provisions. RBI said Paytm Payments Bank had failed to identify beneficial owners of entities on-boarded by it for providing payout services. REUTERS

Advertisement for Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) e-Tender Notice, including details of items and bid submission dates.

Advertisement for Kerala Water Authority e-Tender Notice, including tender details and contact information.

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Satendra Kumar, s/o Shri Ram Prasad Residing at Plot No.190, Ground Floor, Kh. No.98/22, H.N.131, Keshav Mohalla, Ghitori, New Delhi-110030, hereby notify that I have officially changed my name Satish Kumar to Satendra Kumar for all purposes. 0040693394-1

I, Samar Shahzad s/o. Shahjad Ali, R/O-D-436, Gali-No.17, Mustafabad-Brijpuri, Delhi-110094 have changed my name to Samar Shahjad. 0040693447-2

I, Ruma Sinha w/o Pratap Singha R/o Ashchini Bill, Haticamp, Namtola Charaideo, Assam-785690 have changed my name to Ruma Sinha 0070868168-1

I, Rajdeep S/o Balbir Singh R/O E-39, Sushant Lok-3, Sector-57, Gurgaon-122001 have changed my name to Rajdeep Singh 0070868169-1

I, Radhakrishna Pillai, dependent (father) of SGT Rajesh R, R/o Ambady, PO-Edanad, Distt-Kollam, Kerala-691579, have changed my name from Radhakrishna Pillai to T Radhakrishna Pillai vide Affidavit dated 10/10/2023. 0070868166-1

I, Pratap Sinha S/o Biraj Singha R/o Ashchini Bill, Haticamp, Namtola Charaideo, Assam-785690 have changed my name to Pratap Singha 0070868154-1

I, Pankaj S/o Jai Patil, 06/111, MCD flats Ambedkar Vojna, old name A4 T Huts Rohini ext, sector-20, Pooth Kalan, North West Delhi-110086 have changed my name to Pankaj Kumar 0070868179-1

I, Mohd Asif Qureshi S/o Mohd Shakir Qureshi, R/o 7470, TF, Qasab Pura, Sadar Bazar, Delhi-6, declares my father name is Mohd Shakir Qureshi but he also known as Mohd Shakir both the names belongs to my father. I will use my father's name as MOHD SHAKIR QURESHI for all purpose 0040693396-1

I, MOHINDER VERMA SON OF LATE SH. CHETI LAL VERMA RESIDENT OF E-9, PUSHANJALI FARMS, BIJWASAN, NEW DELHI-110061, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM MOHINDER KUMAR VERMA TO MOHINDER VERMA FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES. 0040693384-1

I, Kiran Kumar S/o Sh. Appa Chaugule R/O A-615, Shipra Krishna Vista, Ahinsa Khand-1, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201014 have changed my name from Kiran Kumar to Kirankumar Appa Chaugule for all future purposes. 0040693445-1

I, KUNDAN SINGH S/O SHRI.CHATAR SINGH R/O-1-3/74, SECTOR-16,ROHINI DELHI-110089, have Changed my name to KUNDAN SINGH GUSAIN, for all future purposes. 0040693400-2

I, Jagdeep Singh S/o Jawand Singh Rekhi R/O D-171 Second Floor, New Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060 have changed my name to Jagdeep Singh Rekhi for all purposes. 0040693399-1

I, Inder Kumar Verma, S/O Sunder Dass , R/O H. No. 192/12, Ward no 10, Near Mini Park, Jawahar Nagar Camp, Palwal, Haryana - 121102 have changed my name to Inder Kumar for all future purposes. 0070868084-1

I, Husain Elahi S/o Shafi Ilahi, R/O-1134, Gali-No.37, Jafrabad, Delhi-110053 Have changed my name to Husain Ilahi. 0040693447-3

I, Ruchika Rohilla/Ruchika Chaudhary W/o-Gaurav Chaudhary R/O-QU-308C, Pitampura, Delhi-34 have changed my name to Ruchika Rohilla Chaudhary for all purposes. 0040693408-1

I, ANANT KUMAR RAO S/O Sh. Mansha Ram R/o H.No. C-64, Gali No.3, Amar Colony, Nangloi, Delhi-110041, I have declared that my name is wrongly written as ANAND KUMAR instead of ANANT KUMAR RAO. In future I will be known as ANANT KUMAR RAO for all purposes. 0070868183-1

I am Raminder Singh, residing at WZ-588 A, First-Floor, Street No.21, Shiv-Nagar Extn., New Delhi-110058. I have a daughter named Saira Kaur from my first wife, Upkar Kaur. I married my second wife, Jasmeet Kaur on 20th-April-2021. 0040693474-7

I, Surender Sah S/o Sh. Jay Lal Sah R/O H.No.391/A2, Jhandewali Gali, Mandawali Fazalpur, East Delhi, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092 have changed the name of my minor son from Bablu Gupta alias Swaraj Sah to Swaraj Sah for all purposes. 0040693382-1

I, Anubhav S/o Sh. Anil R/O E-1/178, Ground Floor, Sector-11, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Anubhav Anajana for all purposes. 0040693382-2

I,ASHA DAHIYA RAN7A W/O MANOJ KUMAR R/O E-2/128,SECTOR-16, ROHINI,DELHI-110089, have changed my name to ASHA RANI. 0040693468-2

I, AMIR S/O MOHD RAMAN SAIFI,H.NO-C-84,BLOCK-C,RADHEY SHYMA-PARK EXTN,DELHI-110051, have changed my name to AMIR AHMAD,for all,future purpose. 0040693411-5

I,MOHAMMAD REZA EQBAL, S/O.MOHAMMAD HASSAN JAN,H.NO-313/101/N,SECOND-FLOOR,GALLI,NO-13 INDERLOK,TULSI NAGAR,ONKAR NAGAR ,NORTH DELHI-110035, changed my name to MOHD REZA IQBAL,for all,future purposes. 0040693474-1

I,Kumar Mamta Kumar,C/O-Rajendra Kumar,R/O-F-13 B,Pocket-F,MIG Flats,Hari Kunj,Hari Nagar,Delhi-110064,have changed my name to Mamta Kumar. 0040693479-1

I,Harshdeep Kaur,W/O-Chhavinder Pal Singh Kohli,R/O 43,Sweet Home Apartment,Sector-14, Rohini,Delhi-110085,have Changed my name to Harshdeep Kaur Kohli. 0040693479-2

I, GITA MAURYA, W/O LAL MAN MAURYA HOUSE, NO-4-E, BLOCK, PART-1, GOYLA DAIRY QUTUB-VIHAR, SOUTH WEST-DELHI-110071, changed my name to GEEITA MAURYA, for all, future purposes. 0040693455-3

I, Chhavinder Pal Singh, S/O Dalip Singh Kohli, R/O-43, Sweet Home Apartment, Sector-14, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have Changed my name to Chhavinder Pal Singh Kohli. 0040693479-3

I, Ankush Kumar Garg, S/O Ashok Kumar Garg, R/O-ZP-43, Third Floor, Pitampura, Delhi-110034, have changed my minor son name from Vyansh Garg to Vivanish Garg. 0040693479-4

I, AZAM ALI, S/O ALATAF ALI, R/O 400, NEAR CHAND MASJID, DARGA SARIF MURADNAGAR, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-201206, changed my name to AZAM ALI. 0040693411-9

It is for general information that I, Soni, D/O Mohammad Akram, R/O 46, Master Abbas Wali Gali, Kureni, North-West-Delhi-110040, declare that name of my father has been wrongly-written as Moh Akram in my-10th and as Akram in my-12th educational documents. The actual name of my father is Mohammad Akram, which may be amended accordingly. 0040693455-10

It is for general information that I, Kavita Dugar, W/o, Gagan Deep Dugar, R/O E-17/5 Upper, Ground-Floor, Krishna Nagar, East-Delhi, Delhi-110051, declare that name of mine and my Husband has been wrongly-written as Kavita Jain and Gagan Jain in my minor son Eklavya Jain Aged-16 Years 5-months School Record (CBSE-Marksheet). The Actual name of mine and my husband are Kavita Dugar and Gagan Deep Dugar respectively, which may be amended accordingly. 0040693458-10

I, Brij Lal S/o Ram Chander R/O 96/A, G.F. B-32, Sainik Enclave, Gali No-3, Near Vijay Vidyalaya Vikas Nagar, D.K Mohan Garden, Uttam Nagar, West Delhi-110059, have changed my name to Narendra 0070868157-1

I, Sonu Bhati R/O B-53, Ganesh Nagar-2, Shakarpur, Delhi-110092 have changed my minor daughter name from Mishtha to Mishtha Bhati 0070868167-1

In my High school and Intermediate marksheet my mentioned name is Gury Dayal Verma which is wrong my real name is Gury Dayal Verma and my fathers name is Vijay Kumar Verma for all future purposes me and my father shall be known as Gury Dayal Verma and Vijay Kumar Verma, vill- koirapur, Post- Harahua bazar, Dist-Varanasi 221105, U.P. 0040693395-1

I, hitherto known as RAJEEV KUMAR VERMA alias RAJEEV VERMA, S/O- RAJPAL, R/O-1898 A-1, KASTURBA-NAGAR, KOTLA MUBAKPUR, LODHI-RAOD, CENTRAL, DELHI-110003, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RAJEEV VERMA. 0040693455-9

I, VISHAL S/O KAMAL SWAMI, R/O H.NO.D-1 D.D-BLOCK JAIN NAGAR, EXTENSION, KARALA, DELHI-110081, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO VISHAL SWAMI. 0040693411-3

I, Tayyab G/O, Abdul Khaliq H.No-207, Gali No-9-A, Block, Phase-2, Bhagirathi Vihar Delhi-110039, have changed my name to Toyaba. 0040693455-8

I, Sweta D/o Sunil Kumar Raman R/O Plot No. E-100/1, Block-E, Pratap, Vihar Part-3, Kirari Suleman Nagar north, west Delhi-110086, have changed my name to SONAM Singh. 0040693480-4

I, Ransnik Kaur Sandhu, W/o Harinder Pal Singh Sehgal, R/O-492, New Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060, have changed my name as Ransnik Kaur Sehgal, for all future purposes. 0040693464-6

I, Amir Singh S/O-Fakirya dangi, House no-104, Sonipat road vikas nagar rohtak, haryana-124001, changed my name to Amir Singh Dangi. 0040693411-2

I, Sikander Khan, S/o- Abbas Ahmad Khan R/o-24 A,K-Block, Saket, Malvia Nagar, Hauz Khas, South-Delhi, Delhi-110017, has changed the name-of my-minor daughter-Myisha Khan alias Mysha Khan Aged-14Years and she shall hereafter be known as MYSHA KHAN . 0040693458-2

I, Minto Raikwar S/o Hai Kutta Raikwar, R/O-S-126/541, Kanak Durga-Colony, Sector-12, R K Puram, Delhi, Have Changed my name from Minto Raikwar to Mintu Raikwar. 0040693411-7

I, Riya Naresh Kumar Goe/W/O Rahul Jain R/O 30/LU Block Pitampura Delhi-110034 changed my name to Riya Jain 0040693468-6

I, Mansi Sethi, D/o-Krishan Kumar Sharma R/o.C-302, Divya Apartments, Plot.No-21, Sector-10, Dwarka, Delhi-110075, have change my name to Mansi Sharma. 0040693480-2

I, MOHD FAROOQUE, S/O-MOHD SAED, R/O-2139, Fourth Floor, Katra Gokul Shah, Sitaram Bazar Delhi, have changed my name to MOHD FAROOQ, for all purpose 0040693464-4

I, LIYAKAT ALI, S/O AZAM ALI, R/O 399, DARGAH KE PASS, NAYA NOORGANJ, MURADNAGAR, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-201206 changed my name to SAYYED LIYAKAT. 0040693411-8

I, Kirtika Talwar W/O Ashwin Bhakuni, R/O 452, Varun-Appartment C-58/28, Sector-62, Noida, UP-201301, changed my name to Kirtika Talwar Bhakuni. 0040693411-4

I, KHWAHISH, D/O SHEKHAR CHANDRA, RESIDING AT, N-27/B-3, POCCKET-N, DILSHAD GARDEN, DELHI-110095, have changed my name to KHWAHISH SHIRIN, for all, future purpose. 0040693411-6

I, KAWAJEET KAUR, W/O BALRAJ SINGH BAWA, R/O A-57, JANTA COLONY SHIVAJI VIHAR, New Delhi-110027, have changed my name to KAWAJEET KAUR BALRAJ SINGH BAWA. 0040693476-7

I, Jefrina Sultana Bora, D/o Sh. Imran Hussain Bora, R/o S-1, Second-Floor, Khirki Extn., Near Shri Sai Mandir, Malviya-Nagar, South Delhi, Delhi-110017, have changed my name, from Jefrina Sultana Bora to Jefrina Bora, for all purposes. 0040693409-8

I, Jatinder Kumar Bagga, S/O, Gulzari Lal Bagga, R/O J-3/30, DIF Phase-2, Gurgaon Haryana-122002, have changed my name to Jatinder Bagga. 0040693455-6

I, Honey S/o Harbans Lal R/O-425/2 Block-A Shastri, Nagar Delhi-110052, have changed my name to Honey Dhingra. 0040693476-3

I, HARISH KAMRA, S/O BHAGWAN DASS, R/O H.No. P-19, NEW COLONY, GURGAON (Haryana), HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO HARISH ARORA. 0040693480-3

I, HARBANS, S/O-SH. KHAJAN SINGH, R/O-16/685-1 BAPA NAGAR, PADAM SINGH ROAD, KAROL BAGH, NEW DELHI-110005, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME HARVANT SINGH TO HARBANS SINGH FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES. 0040693479-5

I, Divya W/o Vivek Kumar Chopra, R/O-F-143, Sudarshan Park, Moti Nagar, New Delhi-110015, have changed my name to Monia,, for all purposes. 0040693474-2

I, Dinesh Kumar, S/O Raddheshyam Dixit, R/O LIG 338, Sector-10, Avas Vikas Colony, Agra 282007, have change my name to Dinesh Kumar Dixit. 00406933474-5

I, Dhup Singh dhangsi, S/O-Amir Singh Dangi House no-104, Sonipat road vikas-nagar, rohtak haryana-124001, changed my name to Dhup Singh Dangi. 0040693411-1

I, Neema W/o Manu kohli, R/O T-164, 4th floor flat no-303 Shri Ramji apartment, Uttam Nagar-110059, have changed my name to Neema kohli. 0040693476-8

I, Navinbhai Gulshan Bhatia, S/O Sh. Gulshan Bhatia, R/O H.No.7505, 1st-floor, DLF Phase-4, Sector-43, Gurugram, Haryana-122009, have changed my name from Navinbhai Gulshan Bhatia to Navin Bhatia, for all future purposes. 0040693458-4

I, NITIN KUMAR, S/O SH.UDAY CHAND, R/O-79, RAM NAGAR, KRISHNA NAGAR, NEAR GURUDWRA, EAST DELHI, DELHI-110051, have changed my name from NITIN KUMAR KANOJIA to NITIN KUMAR, for all future purposes. 0040693458-8

I, NASEEM KHAN, S/O-QAMAR SHAH KHAN, R/O-6341, Gali Ishwari Prasad, Bara Hindu Rao Delhi, have changed my name to NASEEM AHMED KHAN, for all purpose 0040693464-5

I, Mukesh Kumar Paswan, S/O Ram Dayal Paswan, R/O Jhuggi No.240, 1st Floor, BLK-AU, Ekta Camp, Pitam Pura, Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Mukesh Paswan. 0040693458-3

I, NASEEM KHAN, S/O-QAMAR SHAH KHAN, R/O-6341, Gali Ishwari Prasad, Bara Hindu Rao Delhi, have changed my name to NASEEM AHMED KHAN, for all purpose 0040693464-5

I, NITIN KUMAR, S/O SH.UDAY CHAND, R/O-79, RAM NAGAR, KRISHNA NAGAR, NEAR GURUDWRA, EAST DELHI, DELHI-110051, have changed my name from NITIN KUMAR KANOJIA to NITIN KUMAR, for all future purposes. 0040693458-8

I, DEEWAN SINGH NEGI, S/O-NANDA SINGH, HOUSE-NO-6, DELHI GOVERNMENT STAFF-QUARTER (PWD) DWARKA SEC-3, SOUTH-WEST DELHI-110075, have changed my name to DIWAN SINGH NEGI, for all, future purposes. 0040693455-2

I, BRAHAMACHARI DILIP, S/O-SWAMI KARSHNI GURUSHARANANAND, R/O H-NO-10, GALLI, NO-4, WEST-CHANDRA NAGAR, KRISHNA-NAGAR, DELHI-110051, have changed my name to KARSHNI DARSHANANAND. 0040693474-3

I, Usha, dependent (mother) of SGT Rajesh R, R/o Ambady, PO-Edanad, Distt-Kollam, Kerala-691579, have changed my name from Usha to G Ushakumary vide Affidavit dated 10/10/2023. 0070868164-1

I, Bhawna Dhupar, D/o Sunil Dhupar R/o G-1/4 Block-G Model, Town-3, Delhi-110009, inform that, my name Bhawna Dhupar and Bhavna Dhupar is same, and one person 0040693476-2

I, BALVANT KUMAR SINGH, S/O. NAND KISHOR SINGH, ADD-466, BABAFAR WEST PURI PATEL-NAGAR WEST, CENTRAL, DELHI 110008, changed my name to BALVANT SINGH, for all, future purposes. 0040693476-5

I, Asya Begum, W/O Mohd Salim, R/O H.No-1104, Gali Neem Wal, Shish Mahal, Kishanganj, Teilwara Azad Market, Delhi-110006, have changed my name to ASHIYA BEGUM. 0040693476-1

I, Ashish S/o Sunil Kumar Raman R/o Plot No. E-100/1, Block-E, Pratap, Vihar Part-3, Kirari Suleman Nagar north, west Delhi-110086, have changed my name to Ashish Raman 0040693468-4

I, Ankur Gupta, S/o Vedprakash Gupta, R/o H.No.X/3854, Gali.No.13, Shanti-Mohalla Delhi-110031, has changed my Name to Anshuk Gupta, for all Purposes. Ankur Gupta And Anshuk Gupta, is one and the same person. 0040693458-1

I, Sumant Devi, W/o Late, Subhash Sharma R/o 120 Bhanuata Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-203207, have changed my name from Suman Sharma to Sumant Devi for all future Purposes. 0070868161-1

I, Shyam Swaroop Shrivastava S/o Narayan Prasad R/O-11782, Gaur City-1, G. Noida have changed my name to Shyam Swaroop Srivastava. 0070868149-1

I, ARVIND KUMAR KARN, S/O Dev Narayan Lal Karn, R/O 81A, Second-Floor, Prabhu Krishna Apartment ward. No.4 near Water Tank Mehrauli-South, Delhi-110030, declare that name of mine and my wife has been wrongly written as ARVIND KUMAR and RUSY & RUBY the actual name of mine and my wife are ARVIND KUMAR KARN and GITANJALI KARN. Rusy, Rubi and Gitanjali Karn is same person. 0040693411-10

I, M JYOTHI MARY, W/O, PETER MICHAEL, ADD-920, PHASE-3, MADANPUR KHADAR, JJ COLONY, SARITA VIHAR S/O, SOUTH, DELHI-110076, changed my name to JYOTI MICHAEL, for all future purposes. 0040693295-8

I, MOHD SHAHID, R/O K-418/419, New Seelampur, Delhi-110053, have changed the name of my minor daughter's from Safiya to Safia Ansari for all future purposes. 0040692981-9

I, Raghav Dikshit S/o Sandeep Dikshit R/o 604, Highland Apartment, Vasundhara Enclave, Delhi-96. I have to State and declare that my father name is misspell and wrongly printed as "Sandeep Dikshit" instead of "Sandeep Dikshit" in my Passport No. J0932446.

LOST & FOUND

I, have Lost Original Share Certificate of Safari Industries (India) Ltd. having Folio-No.H00140, Certificate-No.0095, No. of Shares(s)-500, Distinctive-No.(s) 00052506 to 00053005 in the name of Harish Kumar Malhotra and Fatanchand Malhotra, both R/O B-202, Derawal Nagar, Model Town, Delhi-110009. 0040693409-10

I, Indu Yadav W/o Mr. Sushil Kumar Yadav R/O 83C/4S Chotta Baghara, Allahbad, UP have lost the Original Builder Buyer Agreement Property Bearing No. A-208, 2nd Floor, Tower-A, Maxblis Grand Kingston, Gh Eco City Plot No.12, Sector-75, Noida, UP-201301. Finder may please contact on my Residential Address. 0040693404-1

I, Ramesh Kumari W/O Late Shri P C Sharma have lost original property paper of B-263, Saraswati Vihar, Pitampura, Delhi-110034 in the name of my husband. Finder please contact above address. 0040693398-1

I, Rachna Chauhan D/o Rappal Chauhan R/O H.No.41, Near Chauhan Chopal, Bakoli, Delhi-110036, have Lost my Original B.Tech Marksheet and Degree No:-1328210909 Lucknow University Uttar Pradesh. 0040693409-9

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the general public at large that my client Smt. Archana Paul W/o Late Sh. Parveen Shaukat R/O 43A, Block C Millennium Apartments, Sector-18, Rohini, Delhi-110089 has disowned her son namely Manish Paul and his wife Smt. Chantu Paul from all her movable and immovable property and she has severed all the relations from them as they are disrespectful towards her and are residing separately since their marriage. Any person dealing with them shall be doing so at his/her own risks and responsibilities.

Sd/-
R. P. Singh Patil
Advocate
Ch. No. 81, Western Wing
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

Information to the General Public:- My wife Smt. SHEELA DEVI W/O LATE SHRI OM PARKASH R/O L-81, SHAKURPUR, DELHI-110034, have severed all the relations from my daughter SMT BHARATI W/O SHRI MANISH DIO LATE SHRI OM PARKASH R/O BAPU DHAM NDMC, NEW DELHI and her children (1) VARUN A RONI, as she is disobedient, rude and under the control of my clients abroad/From hereafter my client Manish DIO and his daughter SMT BHARATI W/O SHRI MANISH DIO LATE SHRI OM PARKASH R/O BAPU DHAM NDMC OTRS, NEW DELHI and her children (1) VARUN A RONI, from all movable and immovable properties with all Bank Accounts. If any person or organization, institution does any transaction with them does so at their own risk, for that my clients shall not be responsible for any matter.

Sd/-
R. GOPAL (Advocate)
Enr.No. D/29862016

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information for the public at large that my client, namely Shri Gourav Kumar Arora, Mobile No. 9177556351 has agreed to purchase a property no. 10853 R/O No. 17 & 18, Sector-16, Mayapuri, Pratap Nagar, Delhi, from Sh. Sumit Sachdeva, Any Person / Financial Institution having or claiming any rights, title or interest of any kind whatsoever, most and in full, immediately and maximum within 90 days from the issuance of this notice failing which my client will go ahead with the deal and no objection of any kind whatsoever shall be entertained after the expiry of the aforesaid stipulated period.

Sd/-
Deepak Garg, Advocate
Enrol. No. 257120163
Ch. No. T-53, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the public at large that my clients OM PARKASH S/O. Sh. Asa Nand and his wife KAMLESH GAKHAR, R/O 831 Upper Ground Floor, Sector-66, Gurugram-122003, Haryana and Presently Residing At:- Flat No. 108, Pocket-F, Sector-3, Rohini, New Delhi-110058, hereby declaring/ debaring/ disowning their son namely UDAY GAKHER and his wife Pooja Gakher from all movable and immovable properties and estate, lives, professions and estate movable or immovable situated at Delhi or outside of Delhi because they are not under the control of my clients. My clients will not be responsible/ liable for any act, deed and thing done by them since today.

Sd/-
(JASVIR KHANNA) Advocate
Office Address:- 22/107, West Patel Nagar, New Delhi-110008

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that my client Raj K. Gangwani S/o. Late Ram Gangwani and Neelam Gangwani W/o Raj K. Gangwani both r/o W-1915, Western Avenue, Sainik Farms, Delhi-110052 have disowned their son Sahaj Gangwani because of his activities from all the movable and immovable properties and have severed all social and economical relations with him. All persons dealing with him and claiming an interest in the said property or any part thereof by way of sale, gift, lease, inheritance, exchange, mortgage, charge, lien, trust, possession, encumbrance through Sahj Gangwani shall be doing so at their own risk and its fallout and under no circumstances shall my aforesaid clients shall have any liability. Jasmine Dewani, Advocate. Off: B-12/29 Parswan Vihar, N Delhi-63

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that my clients Babu Lal S/o Lakhmi Chander and Rama Devi W/o Babu Lal both R/O RZA1119, Sector-16, West Delhi-110045 have severed all their relations with their sons Pramod Kumar, Sudhir Kumar and Anil Kumar and their families (their legal heirs), excluding children of my younger son Pramod Kumar, i.e. Devender Pratap Singh, Naveen Kumar due to their bad habits. My clients are also disowned and debarred from all movable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with them will do so at his/her own risk and responsibilities and my clients will not be responsible for any act, deed or dealing done by them. Bhaskar Dhillon, Advocate D-333, Dispensary Road, Madipur, Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is intimated to general public through this public notice that as per office record Shop No.98, Block 20/42 situated at NVM, Ballabgarh falling within the notified market area of Market Committee, Ballabgarh (Faridabad) was allotted to Sh. Tiak Raj Ahuja S/o Sh. Roopendra Singh Sh. Tiak Raj Ahuja had given on dated 23.09.2022. Smt. Anura Ahuja w/o Late Sh. Tiak Raj Ahuja has given an affidavit in this office stating that her husband has died, so in office record this shop may please be transfer in my favour. Smt. Anura Ahuja W/o Late Sh. Tiak Raj Ahuja has given the certified copy from Tehsildar of legal heirs of LI Sh. Tiak Raj Ahuja with application in this office in which Smt. Anura Ahuja (wife) & Payal Ahuja (daughter) are mentioned here as legal heirs. Payal Ahuja gave her consent to transfer this shop in favour of her mother Smt Anura Ahuja. So this shop is to be allotted in favour of Smt. Anura Ahuja. Before initiating the procedure of re-allocation of this shop no. 98, Market Committee, Ballabgarh is hereby intimates that if any person has any objection on this re-allocation procedure, may file his/her written objection in person within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice in the office of Market Committee, Ballabgarh in any working day. In case no objection is received by this office with in stipulated time period, the re-allocation shall be completed & no objection will be entertained later on.

Sd/-
Deepak Kumar
Advocate
(E. No. P/366/2015)
Chamber at 753
Lawyers Colony, Block-2, Saket District Courts, New Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client ICICI Bank Ltd., Plot no. 308 Udoy Vihar, Phase 2, Gurgaon is in the process of advancing a loan to Mr. Rahul Jain for purchase of Apartment No. X-054, 5/F, Super, area near admeasuring 165.051 Sq. Mtrs., DLF City, Phase-IV, Near Galleria Market, Gurugram, Haryana-122009 from Ms. Seema Chibber & Ms. Sonia Chibber Tewari, who have represented that they are the absolute owners of the said property on the basis of inheritance after the death of Mr. Satya Pal Chibber & Mrs. Swaran Chibber being their only Class-I Legal heirs, who were the owners of the said Property on the basis of Conveyance Deed dated 10.05.2001 (Reg. No. 1960). If anybody, person, body corporate has any right, lien or claim whatsoever on the said Property or objection to its sale & mortgage, then he/she/it may contact the undersigned with documentary proof of claim within 10 days of publication of this notice, otherwise it shall be deemed that either there are no claims or the same have been waived off. No claim shall be entertained thereafter and my client shall proceed to advance the loan by mortgaging the said property.

Vishal Chopra, Advocate
GNA & Associates
D-28, Jangpura Extension, New Delhi-110014.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the public at large that my Client has entered into an Agreement to Sell with respect to Entire Basement and Ground Floor in a residential building constructed on Plot No.3 Block and B-7, measuring 50 sq. yds., situated at Safdarjunge Enclave, New Delhi, along with 32.5% indivisible, indivisible and impartible ownership rights in the said flat with all the rights, title and interest, easements, privileges and appurtenances thereto, with all fittings, fixtures, electricity and water connections, structures standing thereon with all the rights in common entrance, passages, stairs, lift and other common facilities and amenities provided in the said Property) with Mrs. Sangeta Dhanwan wife of Mr. Jatinder Dhanwan, the Owner of the Said Property (Owner). As such, my Client is getting the right, title and interest of the Owner investigated over the Said Property and will execute Sale Deed of the Said Property with absolute and exclusive ownership rights. Any person including an individual, a Hindu Undivided Family, a Company, Banks, Financial Institutions(s), Non-Banking Financial Institutions(s), an association of persons or a body of individuals whether incorporated or not, lenders and/or creditors having any objection, claim, right, title, share and/or interest in respect of the Said Property or any part thereof, by way of sale, memorandum of understanding, exchange, mortgage, pledge, charge, gift, trust inheritance, succession, possession, lease tenancy, maintenance, assessment, license, bequest, share, assignment, lien attachment, development rights, right of way, his-pendence, reservation, agreement, FS consumption, development rights, or any liability or commitment or otherwise, however, are hereby requested to make the same known in writing along with supporting documentary evidence in respect thereof, to the undersigned having their office as mentioned herein below, within a period of (three) days from the date of publication hereof failing which, the claim, if any of such person's will be deemed to have been waived and abandoned for all intents and purposes and not binding on my Client.

Dated this 13 day of 10, 2023.

(Gaurav Jaggi, Advocate)
H.K.J. & Associates
2nd Floor, Misha Chambers
Mayur Vihar, Phase-II
Delhi - 110091
PH: 011-2272666/4306319
E-mail: partner@hkjlaw.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

SCHEMATICALLY HIS MOST IMPORTANT PAPERS INCLUDING HIS ORIGINAL REGISTERED CONVEYANCE DEED OF HIS GROUP HOUSING FLAT AT SWAMI DAVANAND C.G.HS, FLAT NO-104, PLOT NO-09, SECTOR-08, DWARKA, DELHI-110075, HAS BEEN LOST. THE SAID DEED IS EXECUTED BY DELHI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, VIKAS SAMITI LTD., UTTAR PRADESH IN FAVOUR OF SOHAN SINGH DEED REG. NO. 3052, IN BOOK NO. 1, VOLUME NO. 5811, PAGES 49,50, DATED 20/02/2018. HE HAS CARRIED THEM FOR PHOTOCOPIING NEAR HIS HOUSE AND LOST THEM. THESE DOCUMENTS ARE VERY IMPORTANT FOR HIM. THEREFORE REQUEST YOU TO PUBLISH NOTICE DEED ADVERTISEMENT IN YOUR NEWSPAPER. WILL BE THANKFUL TO YOU.

Sd/- SOHAN SINGH ADVOCATE
CHAMBER A-30A, WESTERN WING GATE NO.3, TIS HAZARI COURTS, DELHI-6

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public in general is hereby informed that Mr. Balbir Singh W/o B-23 Vaidhi Enclave, New Delhi and Mr. Amrik Singh R/O House no 16, Road no 22 East Punjabi Bagh New Delhi are selling out their Property Bearing No. H-32, 2nd Floor, Sector 16A, Halli No. S-1 VASUNDHARA PARISHAD, DELHI-110052 with all its roof terrace rights. Situated at Rajendra Nagar main market, in the area of Vijaya Basai Bazar, New Delhi. It is requested that they are the present/only owners of the said property and My Clients Mr. Jaskaran Singh Madan and Mrs. Gurpreya Kaur Madan both R/o H-15, Kirti Nagar, New Delhi, are the intending beneficial buyers. Any person having any rights, title, claim or interest in the said property, by way of sale, inheritance, possession, succession, mortgage, lien, lease and gift or otherwise shall intimate the objection in writing to the undersigned with supporting documents within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. If size any such claim shall not be considered and shall be deemed to have been waived and/or abandoned and my client shall proceed to execute the deal in good faith.

ADVOCATE PRADEEK ALAGH
SWASTIK REALTY
Mobile: 9891593333, 9891493333
praateek@swastikrealty.in

"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.

The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking

TENDER NOTICE

E-tenders are invited for the supply of following items.

(1) 77549 - 415V, 1600 AMPS, ACB Enclosed in Panel, (2) 77523 - Purchase of Tyre in sets in size 10.00 X 20 - 16 PR (N).

Note: For more details, log on to website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

PRO/AAM(M)/90/2023 GENERAL MANAGER

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

STATE INSTITUTE OF HOTEL MANAGEMENT
TITILAGARH ROAD, BALANGIR - 767001 (ODISHA)

No.463/SIHM/2023-24/TENDER Date: 12.10.2023

E-tender invited by SIHM, Balangir from individuals/companies/firms registered in India for supply / Outsourcing of Manpower at SIHM, Balangir for the academic session 2023-24.

Interested parties may kindly visit the below mentioned website for further details:
www.tenderwizard.com/SIHM or www.sihmbalangir.org

Sd/-
Principal

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, BALANGIR (R&B) CIRCLE : BALANGIR
Mail ID:- sepwdbalangir@gmail.com

e-Procurement Notice
BID IDENTIFICATION NO: CCE (R&B) BGR29/2023-24
Letter No- 5434 // Dtd. 09.10.2023

The Chief Construction Engineer, Balangir (R&B) Circle, Balangir on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate composite bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE for the construction of works detailed in the table below from "B" & "A" Class Contractors registered with the State Governments and contractors of equivalent Grade/Class registered with Central Government/ MES/ Railways for execution of Civil works. The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the bid.

- Nature of Work : Building Work
- No. of tender : Building Work- 01 No.
- Tender Cost : Rs. 10,000/-
- Class of Contractor : "B" / "A" & Special Class.
- Date & Time of sale & Receipt of Bids : From Dt. 11.10.2023, 10.00 A.M. to Dt. 25.10.2023 up to 05.00 P.M.
- Date of opening Bid : Dt. 26.10.2023 at 11.00 A.M.

The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <http://tendersorissa.gov.in>. All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE Mode only.

Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer
Balangir (R&B) Circle, Balangir
OIPR- 34131/11/0031/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, NORTHERN (R&B) CIRCLE: SAMBALPUR
Mail ID :- sepwdsbpr@rediffmail.com

e - Procurement
BID IDENTIFICATION NO CCE/NC (R AND B) / 20/ 2023-24
No. 5312 Dtd. 09.10.2023

The Chief Construction Engineer, Northern (R&B) Circle, Sambalpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE for the construction of Road works and Bridge works as detailed in the DTCN from the eligible class of contractors.

- No. of works : 25 (Twenty Five) (Road & Bridge Works)
- Tender Cost : Rs. 10,000/-
- Class of contractor : "B", "A" and "Special" Class
- Date & Time of available in web site & receipt of Bids From 16.10.2023 to 17.00 Hours of 30.10.2

**Office of Executive Engineer,
Construction Division, P.W.D. Amroha**

Short Term E-Procurement Notice Inviting Tenders

No 1103/E-Tender/23-24 Dated : 07.10.2023

1. The Executive Engineer, Construction Division PWD Amroha on behalf of the Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids online from the eligible and approved Contractor registered with UP PWD Class A, B, C & D (For Road Works) The Bidder may submit bids for any or all of the works, Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 4 of the Instructions to Bidders to qualify for the award of the contract.

2.

Sl. No.	DIS-TRICT	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs. in Lakh)	Bid Security (Rs. in Lakh)	Cost of Tender documents including GST (In Rs.)	Time of Completion of the work (including rainy season)	Category of Road Contractor eligible
1	Amroha	Special Repair on NH-24 to Atari Muridpur Road	17.50	1.75	854.00	30 Days	A, B, C & D
2	Amroha	Special Repair Bhawalpur Adde to Ghosipura via Pipli Meekhand Road	22.00	2.20	854.00	30 Days	A, B, C & D
3	Amroha	Special Repair Hasanpur Atrasi Road to Jalalpur Road	25.50	2.55	854.00	30 Days	A, B, C & D
4	Amroha	Special Repair Hasanpur Atrasi Road to Daudpur Road	13.00	1.30	766.00	30 Days	A, B, C & D
5	Amroha	Special Repair Dagarpur to Basera Khurd Road	22.00	2.20	854.00	30 Days	A, B, C & D
6	Amroha	Special Repair Sabdalpur Sumali to Patai Bhoor Road	15.50	1.50	854.00	30 Days	A, B, C & D
7	Amroha	Special Repair Pipli (Peethkhera) to Tarlokpur Road	17.50	1.75	854.00	30 Days	A, B, C & D
8	Amroha	Special Repair Chandanpur to Khuriya Road	21.50	2.15	854.00	30 Days	A, B, C & D
9	Amroha	Special Repair Bhikampur Sharki to Bahapur Road	21.00	2.10	854.00	30 Days	A, B, C & D
10	Amroha	Special Repair Garabpur to Kharsoli Road	23.00	2.30	854.00	30 Days	A, B, C & D
11	Amroha	Special Repair Hasanpur Rehra Gawon Road Km 34 to Dehri Khadar Road	12.00	1.20	766.00	30 Days	A, B, C & D
12	Amroha	Special Repair Rehra Gawon Road to Chakpheri Road	24.50	2.45	854.00	30 Days	A, B, C & D
13	Amroha	Special Repair Garapur Fayyaznagar mor to Saida Milak Road	8.50	0.85	766.00	30 Days	A, B, C & D
14	Amroha	Special Repair Fajpur Dugar to Kudali Road	8.50	0.85	766.00	30 Days	A, B, C & D
15	Amroha	Special Repair Dehri to Kundarki Bhoor Road	23.00	2.30	854.00	30 Days	A, B, C & D
16	Amroha	Special Repair Ujhari Dhabarsi road to Karanpur Sakatpur Road	19.00	1.90	854.00	30 Days	A, B, C & D
17	Amroha	Special Repair Shekhpur Jharki to Haihapur Banjara Road	13.00	1.30	766.00	30 Days	A, B, C & D
18	Amroha	Special Repair Sambhal Adampur Road to Shahbazpur Dola Road	16.50	1.65	854.00	30 Days	A, B, C & D
19	Amroha	Special Repair NH-24 to Kudaina Chak Road	19.00	1.90	854.00	30 Days	A, B, C & D
20	Amroha	Special Repair Fathepur to Kandwa Road	18.50	1.85	854.00	30 Days	A, B, C & D
21	Amroha	Special Repair Ogpura to Pashua Nagla Road	26.50	2.65	854.00	30 Days	A, B, C & D
22	Amroha	Special Repair Osapur to Bagad Nadi Approach Road	22.00	2.20	854.00	30 Days	A, B, C & D
23	Amroha	Special Repair Machrat to Manota Road	32.00	3.20	854.00	30 Days	A, B, C & D
24	Amroha	Special Repair Hasanpur Rehra Gawon Road to Guretha Road	28.00	2.80	854.00	30 Days	A, B, C & D
25	Amroha	Special Repair Hasanpur Rehra Gawon Road to Lathira Gulampur Road	13.50	1.35	766.00	30 Days	A, B, C & D

3. The Rate adopted in the BOQ all other taxes excluding GST.

4. Tender should be deposited online by Net Banking as per Column 5 in the table.

5. As per Go No 480/ ईई-7-2021 दिनांक 12.04.2021 एवं सूचना अधिनियम लो.नि.वि. लखनऊ के प्रां.क 395/ए.ए.टी./सामान्य वकील/ए.टी.2020 दिनांक 23-04-2021 L-1 Contractor shall be upload an undertaking regarding to deposit earnest money as per earlier after opening of financial bid in case undertaking not uploaded with the bid documents then tender will not be consider.

6. Bid must be downloaded online from 10:00 AM on date 16.10.2023 to 3:00 PM on dated 21.10.2023 and the technical bid will be opened online dated 21.10.2023 at 03:30 PM and Financial bids of the qualified bidders will be opened on date and time as notified. According to the provisions of Government Order No 1/2018/3070/78-2-2018/42 IT /2017 (22) dated 03.01.2018 after opening of the Technical and Financial Bids. The Qualified bidder has to submit original document personally in Department/Office. In the event of norm submission of original document by the bidder, the appropriate action will be taken in accordance with the provisions of GO all terms and conditions can be seen on website <http://tender.up.nic.in>.

Executive Engineer,
Construction Division P.W.D. Amroha
For and on behalf of Governor of UP

UPID-195725 Dt. 11.10.2023
www.up.gov.nic.in

NORTHERN RAILWAY

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

DRM'S OFFICE, STATE ENTRY ROAD, NEW DELHI

Name of work and its location	30-Elect-21-T-2023-24-E3, Comprehensive annual maintenance contract (CAMC) of Johnson make lifts installed at Gate No. 2A, 2B, 2C & 2D Railway board & 02 nos. lifts installed at block no. 05 CNKP for three years.
Approx cost of the works in	Rs. 25.55 lacs
Address of the office	Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi
Bid Security	Rs. 51100.00
Date & time of submission of tender	06.11.2023, 12.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender	06.11.2023, 12.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi

3174/2023

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Gaurav Kapoor** S/o Shyam Kapoor R/o 70/60 & 70/62 Second Floor, Mangolpur Kalan, Sector-2, Rohini, Delhi & D-7/18 Ground Floor, Sector-15, Rohini, Delhi and 390, First Floor, Mangolpur Kalan, Sector-2, Rohini, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **Case Reg. No. 1622/2020 U/s 138 NI Act** registered at P.S. Mangolpuri, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued stating that the said **Gaurav Kapoor** could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the accused **Gaurav Kapoor** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Gaurav Kapoor** is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before **21.12.2023**.

By Order
Sh. Rishabh Kapoor,
Metropolitan Magistrate, North West
Room No. 105,
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/11428/OD/2023
(Court Notice)

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice

Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

N.I.T. No. : 31(A,B,C,D,E)/23-24/WE

Name of work with its location:

(A) Repair to road in back side of officers bungalow no 1 to 11, Kacha lane of Block 17 to 18, 21 to 22, 19 to 20, Repair to nallah and its path near IOW office, Repair to vacated quarters in Tilak bridge and college Lane Railway colony, Repair to wooden Jafferi with frame in Tilak Bridge Railway colony in the s/o SSE/WBH under ADENE-III.

(B) Repair to officers Bungalow no 1/A, 1/B, 3/B, 4/A, 5/A, 6/A, 7/B, 8/A, 11/A, 14/A, 14/B, and 15/A by provision of additional room in Tilak Bridge Railway colony in the s/o SSE/WBH under ADENE-III/NDLS.

(C) Repair/Renovation of MANORANJAN Sadan to Barat Ghar at Sewa Nagar Railway Colony in the S/o SSE/WHZN under ADENE-III.

(D) Repair of damaged balconies, sunshade, chajjas, columns etc. and plaster work of block no. 193, 196, 170, 173, 169, 192, 191, 155, 156, 157, 242, 208, 207, 190, 197, 202, 203, 186 198, 199, 200, 201, 160, 179, 180, 181, 185 and over head tank at Basant lane railway colony in the section of SSE/WPG under ADENE-I.

(E) Improvement of fire fighting system, addressable alarm system, PA system provision of fire sprinkler system in record room and DAO building as per instruction of Delhi fire service for obtaining NOC from DFS and annual maintenance contract of fire fighting system for two years at DAO building and Rail Niwas in the s/o SSE/WIT.camp under ADENE-I.

Approx. Cost of work : (A) Rs. 1,24,99,979.77, (B) Rs. 99,99,861.12, (C) Rs. 99,99,996.11, (D) Rs. 1,49,99,993.95, (E) Rs. 1,59,99,967.99

EMD amount : (A) Rs. 2,12,500.00, (B) Rs. 2,00,000.00, (C) Rs. 2,00,000.00, (D) Rs. 2,25,000.00, (E) Rs. 2,30,000.00

Completion period of work : (A) 06 Months, (B) 06 Months, (C) 06 Months, (D) 06 Months, (E) 02 Years

Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender : Closing date of tender on 07.11.2023 at 15:00 hrs.

Website particular notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. : Above tender available on website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

No. : 128-W/269/OET/23-24/WE/NIT/31(A,B,C,D,E) Dated: 11.10.2023 3172/23

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75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav

E-AUCTION NOTICE

E-Bids are invited for licensing out shops/sites/activities at various Tourist Complexes of Haryana Tourism Corporation Ltd. The e-auction will be held on 26th October, 2023 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. Last date for submission of documents is 25th October, 2023 till 11:00 am. For enquiry please contact concerned DDO of the complex.

E-Auction documents along with details of activities are available at the website of HTC i.e. www.haryanaturism.gov.in as well as on NIC portal <http://eauction.gov.in> for online participation. Managing Director, HTC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reasons.

21856/HRY

ISSUED BY
MANAGING DIRECTOR

E-AUCTION FOR VINYL WRAPPING CONTRACT

E-auction for Awarding of Vinyl wrapping contract exterior surface for Mail express trains over Tinsukia Division; Auction Catalogue No.: ADVT-TRAIN-04; Auction Start Date & Time (All Lots) : 11:00 hrs. on 02-11-2023; Auction Close Date & Time : 12:50 hrs. on 02-11-2023; Rate Unit: Annual Licensing Fee, Trips/Days: 1096.

Seq No.	Lot No./Category	Description
AA/1	ADVT-EFF-128593-22-1 (Advertising - Train Exterior (Full Face))	Vinyl wrapping contract at 20503/20504 and 20505/20506 for the period of 03 (Three) years.
AA/2	ADVT-EFF-130039-22-1 (Advertising - Train Exterior (Full Face))	Vinyl wrapping contract at 15903/15904 for the period of 03 (Three) years.
AA/3	ADVT-EFF-179116-23-1 (Advertising - Train Exterior (Full Face))	Vinyl wrapping contract at 22504/22503 for the period of 03 (Three) years.
AA/4	ADVT-EFF-130502-22-1 (Advertising - Train Exterior (Full Face))	Vinyl wrapping contract at 15910/15909 for the period of 03 (Three) years.
AA/5	ADVT-EFF-130042-22-1 (Advertising - Train Exterior (Full Face))	Vinyl wrapping contract at 15960/15959 and 15962/15961 for the period of 03 (Three) years.
AA/6	ADVT-EFF-129361-22-1 (Advertising - Train Exterior (Full Face))	Vinyl wrapping contract at 15930/15929 for the period of 03 (Three) years.
AA/7	ADVT-EFF-128600-22-1 (Advertising - Train Exterior (Full Face))	Vinyl wrapping contract at 15968/15967 & 15928/15927 for the period of 03 (Three) years.
AA/8	ADVT-EFF-130041-22-1 (Advertising - Train Exterior (Full Face))	Vinyl wrapping contract at 15934/15933 for the period of 03 (Three) years.
AA/9	ADVT-EFF-129358-22-1 (Advertising - Train Exterior (Full Face))	Vinyl wrapping contract at 22501/22502 for the period of 03 (Three) years.

The auction catalogue has already been published on 09-10-2023 through IREPS website.

DRM (C) / Tinsukia

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

"SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE"

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

PUBLIC WORKS ROADS DEPARTMENT

O/O THE CHIEF ENGINEER (EAP)

ARRTI CAMPUS, FATASIL AMBARI, GUWAHATI- 25,
Email-id: as-ce.asbp@assam.gov.in

RFB No.: No CE/EAP/ARRBP/111/TENDERS/2023/

REQUEST FOR BIDS (RFB)

E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE – Open Competitive Bidding (Two-Envelope Bidding Process with e-Procurement)

The Government of Assam through Government of India has applied for financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the Assam Resilient Rural Bridges Program (ARRBP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds to the eligible payment under the contract. Bids are invited online from the eligible bidders from India for the following works as detailed in the table below.

TABLE

Sl. No.	Package no.	Name of the work	Approx. Estimated Amount (Rupees in Lakh)	Bid security (Rupees in Lakh)	Tender Processing fees (INR)	Completion Period (month)
1	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB /Bridge-1/Barpeta/05	Construction of Bridge in Barpeta district: i) Br. No. 1/1 on Pakhura to Kukurmara Road	205.56	4.11	5000	24
2	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB /Bridges-3/Kamrup/12	Construction of Bridges in Kamrup district: i) Br. No. 2/1 on Ukiam Bazar to Akhalpara via Ukiam BOP ii) Br. No. 2/1 on Bajar to Nunmati via Akhalpara Road iii) Br. No. 1/1 on Satopara Road	541.87	10.84	5000	30
3	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB /Bridges-2/Kamrup/13	Construction of Bridges in Kamrup district: i) Br. No. 1/1 on Makeli Muslimpara Road ii) Br. No. 1/1 on Gohalkona Rajapara Road	680.56	13.61	5000	30
4	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB /Bridge-1/Kamrup/14	Construction of Bridge in Kamrup district: i) Br. No. 1/1 on Saster Barsali to Milpar Road	704.02	14.08	5000	24
5	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB /Bridges-3/Nalbari/05	Construction of Bridges in Nalbari district: i) Br. No. 1/1 on Makrapar Barpit Parghat ii) Br. No. 1/1 on Fulguri LP School to Barogopal Than iii) Br. No. 1/1 on Dhamdhama Chataibari Road to Dhamdhama Anchalik College near Dhamdhama Market	818.07	16.36	5000	24
6	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB /Bridge-1/Majuli/04	Construction of Bridge in Majuli district: i) Br. No. 9/1 on NLK Road	1088.54	21.77	5000	30
7	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB /Bridges-2/Majuli/05	Construction of Bridges in Majuli district: i) Br. No. 1/1 on 1 No. Phutuki to 2 No. Phutuki Road ii) Br. No. 3/1 on Guwal Gaon Chilikola Road	728.56	14.57	5000	24
8	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB /Bridges-2/Tinsukia/02	Construction of Bridges in Tinsukia district: i) Br. No. 2/1 on Makum Road to Samdang TE Road ii) Br. No. 3/1 on Tirap Colliery to Bisa Gaon Road	697.39	13.95	5000	24
9	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB /Bridge-1/Sivasagar/06	Construction of Bridge in Sivasagar district: i) Br. No. 3/1 on Rajmao Ali Road ii) Br. No. 1/2 on Mohkhuti Station Road	454.44	9.09	5000	24
10	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB /Bridges-2/Sivasagar/08	Construction of Bridges in Sivasagar district: i) Br. No. 2/1 on Shantipur Ali Road ii) Br. No. 1/1 on Bhuyanekhat Koibarta Gaon Road	587.68	11.75	5000	24
11	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB /Bridges-2/Sivasagar/09	Construction of Bridges in Sivasagar district: i) Br. No. 1/1 on Boliaghat Taxi Ali ii) Br. No. 1/1 on Namdang Gohain Gaon Road	1335.92	26.72	5000	30
12	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB /Bridges-2/Lakhimpur/06	Construction of Bridges in Lakhimpur district: i) Br. No. 8/1 on Bihpuria Narayanpur Road at Kawaimari to Lagasung Missing ii) Br. No. 1/1 on NLKB Road to Irrigation Colony	387.35	7.75	5000	24
13	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB /Bridge-1/Lakhimpur/07	Construction of Bridge in Lakhimpur district: i) Br. No. 1/1 on Kekuri Madhupur to Chelajan Kachari	558.78	11.18	5000	24
14	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB /Bridges-2/Dibrugarh/04	Construction of Bridges in Dibrugarh district: i) Br. No. 2/1 on Bamunbari Bharali Road to Thengal ii) Br. No. 1/1 on Tingkhong No. 3 to Puwali Pathar Road	343.48	6.87	5000	18

The bidding documents will be available online on <http://www.assamtenders.gov.in> from 17/10/2023 to 17/11/2023. Bidders will be required to register on the website which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC). Bids must be submitted online on <http://www.assamtenders.gov.in> on or before 14:00 Hours on 17/11/2023. Other details can be seen in the bidding document. The method of paying Bid Security, Tender Processing fees as indicated in the table above of this e-procurement shall be required to be submitted online on <http://www.assamtenders.gov.in> by selecting "Pay Online" option.

Chief Engineer, (EAP) PWRD Assam,
Fatasil Ambari, Guwahati-25

JANASANYOG-CF-3091-23-13-OCT-23

NORTHERN RAILWAY

NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/Freight, Delhi Division, Northern Railway, in terms of Railway Board letter no. 2022/TC/FM/10/04 dated 13.06.2022, invites bids through e-Auction (www.ireps.gov.in) for leasing of parcel space of SLR compartments and Parcel Vans (on round trip basis) for a period of two years as per detail and schedule given below:-

S. No. of e-Auction	Date & time	Assets to be auctioned
1.	14.10.2023 at 10:30 am	12045 (F1), 12963 (F1), 14152 (F1), 14164 (F1, F2 & R1), 14681 (F1), 20938 (F1 & R1), 22401 (F1)
2.	16.10.2023 at 10:30 am	12265 (F1), 12444 (F1), 12463 (F1), 12584 (F1), 13430 (F1), 14035 (F1, F2 & R1), 14212 (F1), 14521 (F1, F2 & R1), 14553 (R1), 22806 (F1), 22868 (F1)
3.	19.10.2023 at 10:30 am	12191 (F1, F2 & R1), 12276 (F1), 12457 (F1, F2 & R1), 12918 (F1), 14041 (R1), 14316 (F1), 14507 (F1, F2 & R1), 15035 (F1 & R1), 15116 (F1), 19338 (F1), 20914 (F1, F2 & R1), 20946 (F1), 22418 (F2), 22429 (F1), 22463 (F1)
4.	20.10.2023 at 10:30 am	12068 (F1), 12428 (F1), 13430 (F2 & R1), 14011 (F1 & R1), 14731 (F1 & R1), 15060 (F1 & R1), 20409 (F1), 20473 (F1 & R1), 22168 (F1 & F2), 22950 (F1), 22986 (F1)
5.	21.10.2023 at 10:30 am	12005 (F1), 12038 (F1), 12148 (R1), 12481 (F1, F2 & R1), 14316 (R1), 14714 (F1), 22421 (F1, F2 & R1), 22438 (F1), 22482 (F1 & F2)
6.	23.10.2023 at 10:00 am	01 LVPH (24 tonnes) on round trip basis in each train - 12226/12225, 12236/12235, 12264/12263, 12284/12283, 12425/12426, 12432/12431, 12442/12441, 12445/12446, 12454/12453, 12488/12487, 14033/14034, 20408/20407, 22412/22411, 22420/22419, 22428/22427, 22429/22430, 22434/22433, 22460/22459 & 01 VP (23 tonnes) on round trip basis in train number: 22418/22417
7.	25.10.2023 at 10:30 am	12034 (F1), 12284 (F1), 12958 (F1), 14303 (F1 & R1), 14305 (F1 & R1), 14331 (F1, F2 & R1), 14545 (F1, F2 & R1), 20488 (F1, F2 & R1), 22222 (F1), 22654 (F1)
8.	26.10.2023 at 10:30 am	12011 (F1), 12017 (F1), 12029 (F1), 12040 (F1), 12148 (F1 & F2), 12432 (F1), 12455 (F1), 14041 (F1), 14208 (F1), 14553 (F2), 15035 (F2), 22454 (F1, F2 & R1), 22482 (R1)
9.	27.10.2023 at 10:30 am	04304 (F1, F2 & R1), 12013 (F1), 12015 (F1), 12031 (F1), 12448 (F1), 12459 (F1), 12986 (F1), 22210 (F1), 22414 (F1), 22472 (F1, F2 & R1), 22540 (F1), 22812 (F1)

Important notes: 1. For more information, requirement and various aspects regarding these e-Auctions, interested bidders are advised to visit https://www.ireps.gov.in/html/helpdesk/learning_centre.html (e-Auction leasing section). 2. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) : 5% of the total contractual bid value to be deposited online during the auction. EMD of the successful bidder will be retained as Security Deposit. 3. Railway Administration reserves the full and absolute rights to short terminate these contracts at any point of time and/or for taking any decision regarding the discontinuation/continuation of these contracts with modified/additional terms and conditions depending upon the continuation/discontinuation of these trains or commencement of new train services.

3176/2023

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

SOIL INVESTIGATION DIVISION, ADVANCE PLANNING, ROAD CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT, RANCHI

NirupanBhawan, 3rd Floor, Room No. 401, 56-Set, Doranda, Ranchi-834002

e-Procurement (Very Short Tender Notice)

Letter of Invitation (LOI) No.-21/2023-24

1st Call

e-Tender Ref No.-RCD/SID/AP/RAN/21/2023-24 Date:-11.10.2023

1	Name Of Work	Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Construction of Bridge/High Level Bridge over NALKARI River near PVUNL Patratu including Approach Road, Land Acquisition proposal including Ownership details all complete as per latest guidelines, Resettlement and Rehabilitation Proposal, Forest Diversion Proposal and Proposal of Utility Shifting in details etc. As required by the Department (if any) under Ramgarh District in the State of Jharkhand. *Empaneled consultant with RCD under category-II vide letter No. 3063(S) WE Dated 22.08.2022 are allowed to Bid.
2	Tentative Length of Bridge	100 m
3	Period of Completion of Work	30 Days
4	Cost of Tender documents	Demand Draft/Banker Cheque of any Scheduled Bank (non-refundable fee) of Rs 5,000/- (Five Thousand) only. EMD:- 2 % of the quoted amount (Net of GST) in the form of current issue of NSC, Fixed Deposits of a Scheduled Bank (all the above mentioned form of Security deposits money issued within the State of Jharkhand) and Bank Guarantee issued by any Scheduled bank anywhere in India duly pledge in favour of Executive Engineer, Soil Investigation Division, Advance Planning, Road Construction Department, Ranchi for a period of 45 days beyond the validity of Bid. e-tendering(http://jarkhandtenders.gov.in)
5	Mode of Bid Submission	
6	Date/Time of Publication of Tender on Website	13.10.2023, 10:30 AM
7	Last Date/Time of Bid Submission	25.10.2023 12:00PM
8	Last Date/Time of Submission of Tender Fee & EMD	25



TODAY'S MATCH
New Zealand vs Bangladesh, 2pm
Live on Star Sports network

INDIA VERSUS PAKISTAN AT AHMEDABAD

Global gaze on city of contradictions

Ahmedabad, a riverfront city with 75 communal spots, 18 places for art and Gandhi's ashram, is tasked with putting on a hospitable show and let cricket's greatest rivalry take centre stage

SRIRAM VEERA
OCTOBER 12, AHMEDABAD

AJAY CHOUDHARY swivels in his chair in his large office room at Shahibaug in Ahmedabad. He is one of India's leading abstract-painting artists, who has exhibited his work in Paris and New York. He is also the joint-commissioner of police. On Saturday, the city will host the most anticipated game of the World Cup; nothing else, unless India and Pakistan meet again in the final at the same venue, is going to flutter the heartbeats as much. Not just the game, but the city itself has been caught in the Indo-Pak chatter.

The former PCB chairman Najeem Sethi had set the cat among the pigeons when he said he wouldn't like Pakistan to play India at Ahmedabad. Interpretations and curiosity abounded: Was it because of the perception of the city after the 2002 riots? Was it because it's the home state of the prime minister Narendra Modi? Not just Pakistan, even in a few places in India, Ahmedabad conjures a certain stereotype: business-money-minded Gujaratis who snack in the streets in the moonlit nights, the riots of course, and a city seen as a disembodied voice of capitalism, almost soul-less.

Choudhary, the artist who enforces law, smiles. The young students at National Institute of Design, the country's premier design institute started by Mallika Sarabhai, laugh. The owner's son at the ramshackle street side eatery at a congested artery in the Muslim neighbourhood of Bhatiyar Gully thumps the table in laughter. A NID faculty, in her 50's, sighs about how her city has changed. We first turn to Choudhary, born in Bihar in the 70's to middle-class parents who played cricket with friends who don't hesitate to "use their knives tucked in their waist", and who had the deep urge to go beyond himself at work and go within himself in his passion for art.

He has been busy at work, ahead of the big game. "There are 75 communal pockets in this city with its 1.5 crore population. For a while now, we have senior officers in charge of them; patrolling is being done. We have separate bandobast for the stadium and team hotels. Another system for the rest of the city during the next few days." Just not the streets but in the cyber world too. "We have picked up a person who had issued threats". The threat to Ahmedabad, not just because of this game, comes from many quarters, he says. "From Lashkar-e-Taiba, from Afghanistan and Pakistan-based terrorists, from Khalistan groups as well. The reasons are multifold - the prime minister is from this state, this is one of the most prosperous cities, and there are other reasons too," Choudhary sips his chai.

A cup of chai steams on the table, a fat art book which hosts in its pages a stirring 'white-on-white' art tribute to Gandhi's ahimsa with lacerations on its surface that denotes "wounds in the people's mind who deviate from that path, us the people". Choudhary leans forward.

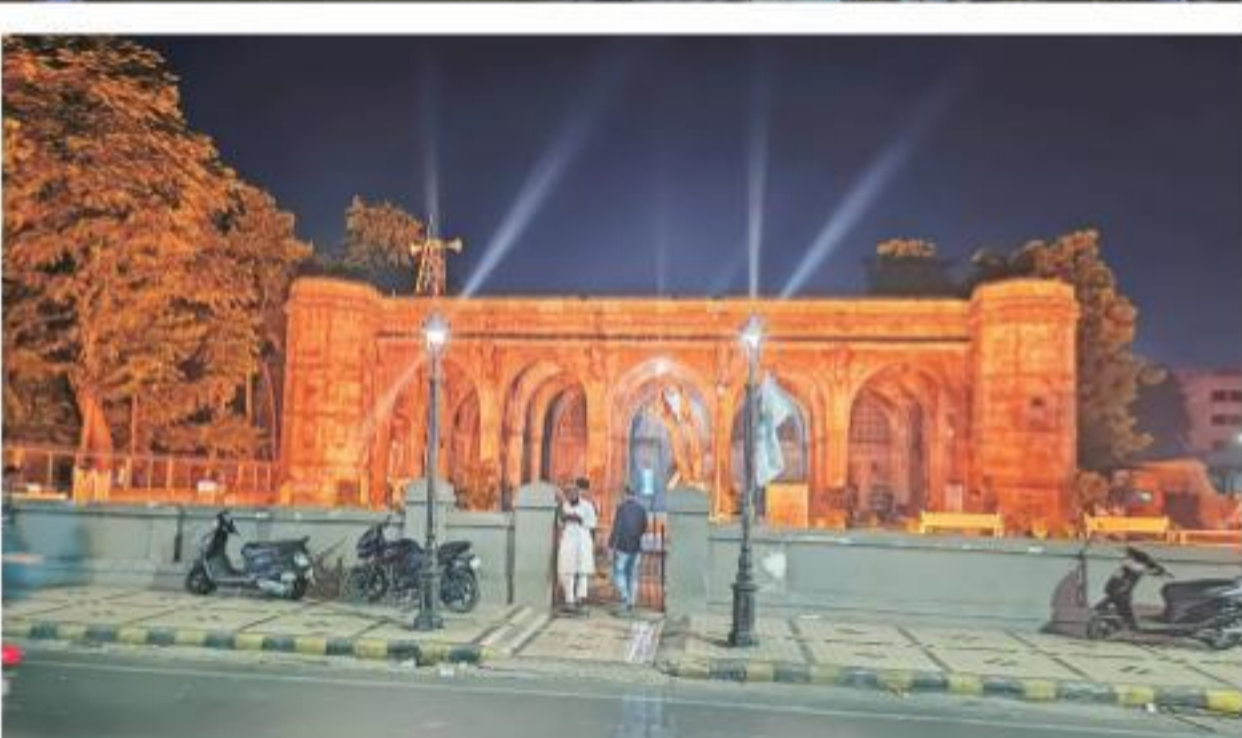
"There are 18 thriving art galleries in Ahmedabad." Eighteen, he re-stresses. "How many cities have this culture?"

A riverfront city with 75 communal spots and 18 sacred places for art, and Gandhi's ashram, a city of contradictions.

A touch of Chandigarh

Choudhary slips into a lovely anecdote about Le Corbusier, the French architect who designed Chandigarh and who was enticed to come to Ahmedabad in 1952 by the mayor to construct a few buildings. "He built seven glorious structures, check out his 'Atma', that's the office of the textile mill owners association." Once, the textile mills dotted the city, flooding in money, trade, and fabric that wrapped around the world.

The Atma indeed is a thoughtfully done three-floored structure. Grand pillared halls, elaborate facades to keep out sun from scorching the insides, but it's the story that's amusing.



(Clockwise from top) The Ellis bridge built across the Sabarmati river; Lal Darwaja that houses the Sidi Saiyyed Mosque; ZK Fry & Moglai, a popular eatery in Bhatiyar gully; Ajay Choudhary, joint commissioner of police & artist; The Pakistan team training at the Narendra Modi Stadium. *Nirmal Harindran/Sriram Veera*

Apparently, when he took the tour of the city, Corbusier would often lie down on the ground, and when the puzzled onlookers that included a 25-year old Balkrishna Vithaldas Joshi, considered the father of Indian architecture, dared to enquire over dinner, he said, "I was using my height and body to get a measure of the breath of the roads and the feel for the place." Choudhary laughs in the retelling of the story told to him by Joshi. "A true original, he was, but also tells us how..

At Paldi, in the South Western part of the city, the 20-year old Madhumati from Nagpur, flashes a smile from her design table at a cosy corner in the leafy campus of NID. Downstairs, past the roomy workshop spaces and down a spiral wrought-iron staircase, the 18-year old Shree Abhirami from Chennai, smiles shyly. Kinjal from Bhopal, Sana from Kerala - the campus is 60-40 in favour of the women - all jump in with their views on the city. "Super-sweet people," Madhumati says,

"they love their bun-maska here; every place thinks they are unique, despite it being just bread and butter - but remarkably they do taste different".

"They don't have any problem even if I can't speak in the local language," says Abhirami ("please include Shree when you write my name") who is from Chennai, which detests the imposition of Hindi. "Food is great," says Kinjal.

Not far from the campus is the Sardar Bridge and some NIDIans view it as a bound-

ary marker of two different worlds. All of them, including a faculty lady, make a point about how safe the city is for women. "I have moved around at nights on my scooter for years, absolutely no problem. I can't think of many such cities in the country." That's a huge factor, say the students.

Dr Shilpa Das, a senior faculty, slips into nostalgia for her childhood.

"That cricket stadium never existed of course. There was nothing but beautiful eucalyptus trees all around that area. In the 60's

and 70's, a sense of Gandhian life did exist, quite simple living in middle-classes. Then things started to change post liberalisation."

Urban ghetto

She addresses the lingering after-effects of the riots.

"Before that, you could see individual Muslim families spread across. No longer. Post that, most moved en masse to Juhapura, along the national highway. Even some of my friends. They don't obviously like it there; as it's an urban ghetto. But that's the effect, lines are drawn after such a cataclysmic event." She then talks about how there were just two restaurants that served non-vegetarian food in the 70's, the lack of bookshops, and the surface-level knowledge of the millennials. "NID was truly avant-garde during its inception. In their soul, in their character. These days, I sense some conservatism in youngsters internally, here and around the city."

The students talk about how they enjoy all the festivals that the city celebrates in spectacular style. A Jain boy from Pune, who says his parents were thrilled with the city for its cuisine and festivals, says, the festivities are 'amazing really, be it navrathiri or Eid'. Otherwise, it can be a bit boring for us students. No fancy places, clubs, activities but during festivals, and also during college-fests, the city becomes something else."

Kavish, from Bangalore, talks about how he desperately tried but couldn't snaffle any tickets for the game. Same sentiments from other students. Plans are being made to watch it in the lounge area. It's a boarding college, the students live in the campus, dotted by canteens and hang-outs. "That's BMW, an open-air eatery inside; 'Behind Mechanical Workshop' is the prosaic explanation.

Outside away from the real BMWs that whizz across the town, the eateries at Bhatiyar gully in the old city wakes up in the nights, just around the corner from the ethereally lit 'Lal Darwaja' that houses the Sidi Saiyyed Mosque famed for its ten-stone lattice-work jaalis on its rear arches with tree-shaped designs, built in 1573, the last year of the Gujarat Sultanate.

Maahil, the young son of the owner, sits in the gullies of the 'ZK Fry & Moglai', a street side eatery.

A few wooden benches are scrambled around plastic tables on the road. Over a plate of keema khichdi and mutton bhuna, with buttered rotis, Maahil starts flashing his phone. "Dekhiye, Taj ka rate: 1 lakh 20 thousand for a night. He yells to the man sweating over the fire tenderising the meat, 'apna chaar-raasta hotel hai na, haan voh, tees hazar ek raat ke liye.'" The meat slips out of the rod, the cook's jaws slip away from the teeth, "kamaal hai!" Maahil announces grandly, "sab cricket ke liye."

The chat veers to the sensitive subjects around religion and riots. "Voh sab ab nahi bhul, Inshallah (all that does not happen now). I can't say what's inside the mind of people, whether they have just put a lid on it, dakh-ke band kar diya ki nahi, but people of my age all just want a good life without any tension. Youth of all religions come here to eat. Mutton Bhuna pey complaint karenge, mere mazhab pey nahi. Sorry sorry, no one complains about the Bhuna here," and he laughs.

The chat veers to the mahoul, the atmosphere in the city for the big match. "India will win bhai. One-and-half lakh people packed at the stadium shouting, I can't see how Pakistan will handle that pressure. But the Pakistan team won't have any problem outside the stadium.

"Take the players of the two teams, itself. Did you see how Shaheen Afridi gifted something to Bumrah for his baby? Did you see how Babar Azam respects apna Virat Kohli? King hai king. They all have such fun, share friendship."

On a moonlit night, Maahil has the last word. "Some people might talk rubbish but kuch bhi bolo, cricket teaches us to respect and love. We just need to see these heroes do it. If they can, we can too, just enjoy. You come here after the match, I will keep some Bhuna!"

SETTING THE STAGE

Art director with *Lagaan*, *Jawan* experience in-charge of pre-game show

SANDEEP DWIVEDI
AHMEDABAD, OCTOBER 12

THE PAKISTAN team hasn't arrived yet and the Indians have the day off but there is a team at the stadium in the middle of a drill that is being timed.

It's a charged atmosphere where the men are being pushed to do some heavy lifting as their supervisor stares at a watch while shouting at the top of his voice.

For a India vs Pakistan game nothing is left to chance, even those involved in the logistics of the pre-game entertainment are following a process and believe in repetition to perfect their routine.

A temporary 40x36 metre stage needs to be dismantled and carried to the training lawns to the storage space under the stadium roof. The 100-odd strong men have 9 minutes to complete their task, they finish in 4. The rehearsal is a roaring success.

The sweaty men and their handler break into a noisy celebration.

On the D-Day, between Bollywood's play-back stars Shankar Mahadevan singing on the stage and openers dancing down the track, the team will have 15 minutes to clear the ground.

The workers are more excited to see the cricketers since they are used to being around film stars. The man in-charge of the team, the show's art director, is Prashant Vichare. He was assistant to the late Nitin Desai and now runs his own firm called Jasmine Arts.

Vichare is inspecting the plastic mesh that is spread on the lawn on which the stage stood a few minutes back. His firm specialises in sporting events besides being involved in top Bollywood projects. "We have a stage that can take the weight of close to 200 people but it doesn't damage the turf below. We have done the IPL and WPL opening ceremonies and will now go for the Goa National Games," says Vichare who worked for films like *Lagaan*, *Jodha Akbar* and *Jawan*.

There are some workers who say that their only previous cricket experience was *Lagaan*,



Prashant Vichare, an art director in charge of the pre-game entertainment show, was an assistant to the late Nitin Desai.

For a India vs Pakistan game nothing is left to chance, even those involved in the logistics of the pre-game entertainment are following a process and believe in repetition to perfect their routine.

the Aamir Khan starrer about a village team getting the better of Englishmen in a cricket game during the days of the Raj. "As compared to *Lagaan* this is nothing, we were in Bhuj for 6 months, we had to build an entire village. *Jodha Akbar* was also tough but its sets were up only in the film city," says Vichare.

In his team there are 23 workers from Mumbai, many of them Tamil origin, and 60 from Ahmedabad. Those from Mumbai have experience of the film industry.

"We just did work on *Jawan*," say Tamilselvan and Gopal. "Shahrukh Khan was

so nice. You remember the Chinese characters, they were all in Aarey colony in Mumbai. Shahrukh would come and chat with us. That movie had a Tamil director and Tamil art director too."

Tamilselvan reckons the stadium work on Saturday will be a breeze.

"You saw our trial run? 4 minutes to set up. That's all. Inside the ground, the distance will be slightly longer but I don't foresee any problem," he says as he bends down and feels the grass. "This is supposed to be some sensitive pure grass. Hence we are using the mesh sheet, over which we build our stage."

The grass on the central square was the focal point when the Indian coach Rahul Dravid and his team of support staff landed early in the afternoon.

They had a long chat with the curator and the Gujarat Cricket Association officials. Later in the day, under lights, the Pakistan pacers - Shaheen Afridi and Haris Rauf - were also seen doing the pitch inspection. As the cliché goes the stage is set, and also dismantled, for this World Cup's biggest game.

SHORT TAKES

STANDINGS

	M	W	L	T	PTS	NRGK
SA	2	2	0	0	4	+2.360
NZ	2	2	0	0	4	+1.958
Ind	2	2	0	0	4	+1.500
Pak	2	2	0	0	4	+0.927
Eng	2	1	1	0	2	+0.553
Ban	2	1	1	0	2	-0.653
SL	2	0	2	0	0	-1.161
Ned	2	0	2	0	0	-1.800
Aus	2	0	2	0	0	-1.846
Afg	2	0	2	0	0	-1.907

Gill back in nets for hour-long session

Ahmedabad: The Indian camp had reasons to smile on Thursday as Shubman Gill, recovering from dengue, was back in the nets, raising hopes of a return for Saturday's World Cup game against Pakistan. However, it can't be said with a degree of certainty whether the team would risk picking the recovering Gill for the 'Battle Royale'. The 22-year-old has already missed the first two games against Australia and Afghanistan but there is a high chance of him making it to the playing XI for the marquee clash against the arch-rivals. In fact, to facilitate a special net session for Gill ahead of the team's arrival in Ahmedabad, the Indian team released its left-arm throwdown expert Nuwan Senewiratne on Wednesday itself. Gill arrived at the Stadium after 11 am and did some strides and sprints under the watchful eyes of team doctor in the main arena before heading to the nets" PTI

Adjusting to variety of surfaces in India is huge challenge: Williamson

Chennai: New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson reckons that quickly adapting to the changing Indian conditions will be the biggest challenge for every team in the ongoing ODI World Cup. The matches are being held at different venues with a few supporting spin bowlers and others offering assistance to fast bowlers. While a few pitches are batting paradise and others slow. The Kiwis have so far a clean slate with wins against defending champion England and Netherlands.

Afghanistan coach Trott sees progress despite two consecutive defeats

Dharamsala: Afghanistan lost their second successive World Cup game on Wednesday after an eight-wicket defeat by India but coach Jonathan Trott says they are making progress and have got to grips with conditions in Delhi where they play England next. Trott said it was a brave decision to bat first but admitted they were well short on a "350-360 wicket". He also said his players would have benefited from having the match at the same venue where they play defending champions England on Sunday. "So a good run out for our boys, a good lesson in how to play cricket here in Delhi."



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

BONHOMIE

Miandad, More and mohabbat

Despite the infamous 1992 WC incident, the duo recalls the love, camaraderie and friendship between players from both sides

SANDEEP DWIVEDI
AHMEDABAD, OCTOBER 12

FOR JAVED Miandad, memories of evenings when touring India are about pyaar, mohabbat, gup-shup in Sunil Gavaskar's room, enjoying the famous Tata hospitality, Dilip saab and a Bollywood party at Manoj Kumar's home that had "Rishi Kapoor, yeh Kapoor, woh Kapoor ... lot of big stars." Kiran More's Lahore nostalgia includes a sumptuous meal at Miandad's place that went on till 3 am and his life-long bond with a Pakistani cricketer who honoured their friendship by naming his daughter Kiran.

While television might still use the 1992 World Cup's More-Miandad monkey-jump clip during dogfight debates to market cricket's "war minus guns" encounters, the men at the centre of the epic face-off dismiss it as a moment of light-hearted banter. It's the oldest exhibit used to underline every toxic cliché that gets thrown in just to hype this "more than a game" — like the latest one at the world's biggest stadium here on Saturday. But both More and Miandad say they have a hearty laugh about that famous on-field incident whenever they meet, like they did after that crucial game more than three decades ago.

Whatever happens stays on the ground, in the evening we would sit together and joke about it and rib each other. " — JAVED MIANDAD

"Woh toh chalta rehta hai (These things happen). There was love, there was friendship. Whatever happens stays on the ground, in the evening we would sit together and joke about it and rib each other. Maybe, one day the world will really understand the mohabbat between the two nations. I tell you, log cricket se bahut galat cheezin le rahe hain (People pick wrong things from cricket)," says Miandad, whose father worked at the residency of the Nawab of Palanpur in Gujarat before he moved with his family to Karachi after Partition.

More lives in Baroda, coincidentally just 250 kms from Miandad's roots in Palanpur. "There was nothing like a fight that day ... no, no, not at all. It was the usual mind games. They would do the same to us. No fight, main unko bas bahut sataata tha (I would get on their nerves), Javed and the other was Salim Malik. Salim-Javed - bahut sataaya dono ko (Got on the nerves of both)," he says as he jogs his memory back to that World Cup match in Sydney when Miandad, irritated by More's constant bouncing-like-a-spring appeals, started mimicking him.

More has been reminded enough times about the incident that doesn't truly define his equation with Miandad. He rarely gets quoted about his time at Miandad's home in Lahore. "Me, Dilip (Vengsarkar), Vishy bhai (G

Viswanath) went to his place. What food, what stories Javed had. We stayed there till 3 am. Till date, Javed, Zaheer bhai (Zaheer Abbas) call at Diwali, I wish them on Eid. It's brilliant ... just brilliant," he trails off.

When Pakistan would tour, the Indians would reciprocate. "Our families would be together. During the day when we would be playing, that would be the time when Vengsarkar's wife would take my wife out for shopping. There was never any trouble for them when they ventured out," Miandad recalls.

The Pakistan legend, who played his last World Cup game in India, misses those innocent times. "Tab game ka yeh haal nahi tha (The state of cricket was not the same). Even fans were not this demanding, they were forgiving. Nowadays, everyone thinks of just 'haar aur jeet' (victory and defeat). Two teams are playing, one has to win, the other has to lose. Who plays well deserves to win," he says before delivering a philosophical punchline.

"Yeh one-day ka World Cup hai par cricket ek din ki nahi hai, woh hai jab tak zindagi rahegi (This is a one-day World Cup but the game is not a one-day affair, this is there for one's entire lifetime)."

Changing times

The current bilateral ties between the two countries wouldn't allow players and their families from Pakistan to go out shopping in Ahmedabad like they used to. The neighbours aren't exchanging pleasantries over the fence

these days. There's already social media outrage, from both sides of the border, when Virat Kohli was seen giving Haris Rauf a warm hug and Shaheen Afridi handed gifts to Jasprit Bumrah for his new-born during last month's Asia Cup in Sri Lanka.

Miandad appreciates how present-day players have continued the long-standing Indo-Pak cricketing bonhomie. "This is so good. Virat, Afridi ko mai mubaarak deta hun," he applauds. More offers a practical reason. "It was always like this, the only difference is the social media. Back then, there was no one to capture our off-field friendship."

The former India stumper recalls a Test in Bangalore when the two teams played Holi on the rest day of the Test match. "We played Holi and the next day we were on the field - both sets of players being very competitive and involved in intense action. Imagine, if this happened today and the entire media would have landed there and questioned us for being friendly with our rivals," he says.

Much before More played for India, he had bumped into a Pakistan player on his cricketing journey. While playing league cricket in England, he ended up rooming with Abdul Raqib. "He was senior to me and took real care of me. Later, he played for

Pakistan and we became real good friends. Till date, we are close family friends, he named his daughter Kiran after me. The girl has grown, she calls often. Abdul became vice-president of Habib Bank, he was selector and manager. He keeps in touch, keeps asking about my mother. In 2004, I went to Pakistan and he hosted us," he says.

More remembers another grand party during the 1989 tour that had many former cricketers. It turned out to be an evening when Manoj Prabhakar learnt to bowl reverse-swing. "The great Sarfraz Nawaz was there at the party. Prabhakar ne usko chaabi diya (Prabhakar wined him). Chandu Borde, our manager, was also there. They reminded Sarfraz about his Australia series wickets and said: 'Paaji, ball kaise banate hai (Paaji how to make a ball)? The very next day at the nets, Prabhakar was swinging the ball,' chuckles More.

It was another case of what Miandad calls 'Pakistan doosri and their love'. "Hamara doosri team se kya lena dena (What have we to do with other teams)? When India is playing some other team, we support India. Aadmi apna maazii kaise bhool sakta hai (How can someone just forget our past)," he says with the pain and angst of Partition reaching across the border.

There was nothing like a fight ... no, no, not at all. It was the usual mind games. They would do the same to us. " — KIRAN MORE

AUS SF HOPES IN JEOPARDY

Thrashing at hands of SA shows Australia a shadow of great past

SANDIP G
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 12

A HAUNTING quietness lingered in the dying moments of South Africa's 134-run thrashing of Australia. Much of the audience had already emptied out of the elegantly-facaded stadium, those that remained were out of courtesy, the famous Lucknowi tehzeeb, and not out of hope of a distant Aussie miracle. Hollow faces peered from Australia's dugout.

It was a defeat dripped in symbolism. It had the feeling of an empire crumbling, perhaps unknown to the emperors themselves, like Premchand's Shatranj ki Baazi woven around the erstwhile nawabs of this city. In the short story, two nawabs are so engrossed in a game of chess that they are oblivious to the Britishers usurping their land. Similarly, no one saw Australia's descent coming, not because the signs were not there, but because they chose to be blind, deluded, by their irresistible history.

Australia could yet enter the semifinals — bouncebackability is a fabled Aussie virtue — but there are distinct and sinister signs of decay and disintegration.

There was a caginess about them even before their first game. There was not the usual swaggering confidence, replaced with a nervous wariness. It did not help that some of their important players were returning from injuries, in a year they were perceptibly fatigued by two long and marquee series (the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, the Ashes); it did not ease



Against South Africa, Australia bowled without a plan and looked equally clueless with the bat. Vishal Srivasta

their fortunes that some of their powerhouses are waning forces. David Warner is clearly not the force he once was; Mitchell Marsh has looked reckless; Steve Smith somehow distracted; Pat Cummins confused with his ODI methods, Mitchell Starc toothless without assistance from the surface.

Simultaneously, the new generation of cricketers have not quite stepped up unlike in the past when players would relentlessly push for spots and fresh players sprouted from nowhere, staking their claims.

Ever a collection of match-winning individuals, all their hopes of completing a heist hinged on Smith's shoulders. With his departure with the score on 50/3, Australia's hopes faded into the distance.

Smith's wicket revved up Kagiso Rabada,

who produced an intimidating spell, in which he hit an off-stump line and bent the ball either way. Australia's methods in defusing spin have looked dodgy, but here they were ripped apart by a pacer.

The South African speedster was a fearless proposition, producing movement, bounce and aggression, giving elaborate send-offs to batsmen and celebrating with wild enthusiasm. There was an element of fortune with his third wicket, Marcus Stoinis caught down the leg-side, but it was the outcome of the relentless pressure he had exerted.

Australia's vulnerability against quality spin is well-chronicled, but they are expected to nullify pace and bounce more competently. They did not. Spin, too, would come to haunt them, on a surface that had none of the djinns they encountered in Chennai. The vastly-underderrated Keshav Maharaj beat Maxwell with drift and dip, and induced a caught-and-bowled. Dip accounted for Marnus Labuschagne.

In a blur, Australia's World Cup-winning hopes lie tattered.

But the emblem of Australia's stasis, their fall from grace, played out in South Africa's innings, when they spilled ridiculously simple catches. They grassed four, none proving too expensive. But it captures their ineptness, feebleness, the departure of that quintessential Australian trait of ruthlessness.

BRIEF SCORES: South Africa: 311-7 in 50 overs (Quinton de Kock 109, Markram 56) bt Australia 177 all out in 40.5 overs (Labuschagne 46; Rabada 3-33)

Before he bids farewell to ODIs, de Kock rediscovers his best form

SANDIP G
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 12

SOMETIME DURING the peak of the pandemic, Quinton de Kock lost his love for the game. The ceaseless bio-bubble-hopping knackered his mind. The burden of all-format captaincy too weighed on his mind. He was expecting his first child, and missed the family. "There are a lot of nerves that go around when it comes to the bubble - lots of small things get into your mind; things that you're not used to in life," he confessed during a Test against Sri Lanka.

He decided to take a mental-health break from the game. A few months earlier, he had refused to take a knee in the T20 World Cup and left the team.

De Kock would, inevitably, make a comeback. But nothing seemed the same, he seemed detached from the game, his mind seemed floating elsewhere, and he was a shadow of the wicketkeeper-batsman he once was. His form plummeted, his stocks in franchise-cricket crashed, he quit Test cricket, and seemed suddenly invisible, an outlier. He suddenly felt cricket all-consuming, eating away into the time he spent with his family as well his favourite pastime, fishing, his catches splashed all over his social-media accounts. His Physical Education teacher Eugene Marx at King Edward VII School in Johannesburg would once tell this paper that "he is essentially a simple, country boy, who just happened to be a supreme athlete."



Quinton de Kock hit five sixes and eight boundaries en route his 106-ball 109 against Australia. Vishal Srivasta

Fame and attention did not intoxicate him. Sport was not an obsession — just as much as he loved the game, he loved life outside it too.

When he announced his retirement from Test cricket, he was branded a T20 mercenary, someone who put money over country. But only De Kock knew the strain the game was putting on his mind and body.

"I am 30, I already feel like 40." Batting, 'keeping, captaining, opening, globe-trotting, everything was taking a toll.

So he said he would quit the 50-over format too after the World Cup. He made a frank admission too: "T20 events - I am not going to deny that there is a lot of money and coming to the end of your career, guys want to get

their final top-up before their career finishes."

Perhaps the admission unburdened him, even made him fall in love with the game again. This World Cup, De Kock has batted as smoothly as he ever has in his career. It's just like how he started his career, with four centuries in his first year. He has seldom looked so effortless. Over time, the languidness of his drives and cuts were overshadowed by the brutality of his leg-side game, lost in the pull, shoves, shovels and heaves through the leg-side that IPL audiences would vouch for.

Back in his element

But this World Cup, he has discovered the timing, the soft brushes of his vintage bat. Two strokes embodied it — one a delicate cut off Josh Hazlewood and then a pull off Pat Cummins over fine-leg. For the cut, he just stood in his crease, opened up his body a fraction and then just dabbed it through third man. The bat did not make any violent flaps, the body was still, bereft of contortions, and the feet moved minimally. It was just those pliant hands that rode the bounce and diverted the ball to the fence.

In both hundreds of his in this World Cup, it's the minimalism of his strokes that has stood out. After the Sri Lanka hundred, he had said: "It was big but just because it was a World Cup, but because I've been wanting a hundred for a while." He had not scored one in 20 months before the one against Sri Lanka. He now has two in as many games, and rediscovers the love for the game, before he bids farewell to the format.

Tough road to Asian glory

India's squash hero Abhay, who weighed 96kgs at 15, almost quit the sport post Covid

AMIT KAMATH
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 12

DESPITE THE towering glass walls of the cage surrounding him, Abhay Singh managed to deposit his racquet into the crowd with an almighty heave. In the days since that moment — which sealed the men's squash team's gold medal at the recently-concluded Asian Games with a win over Pakistan — Abhay has replayed it a fair few times courtesy of clips on the internet.

He admits now that he cannot remember too much of what happened during that adrenaline-soaked, testy final against Noor Zaman.

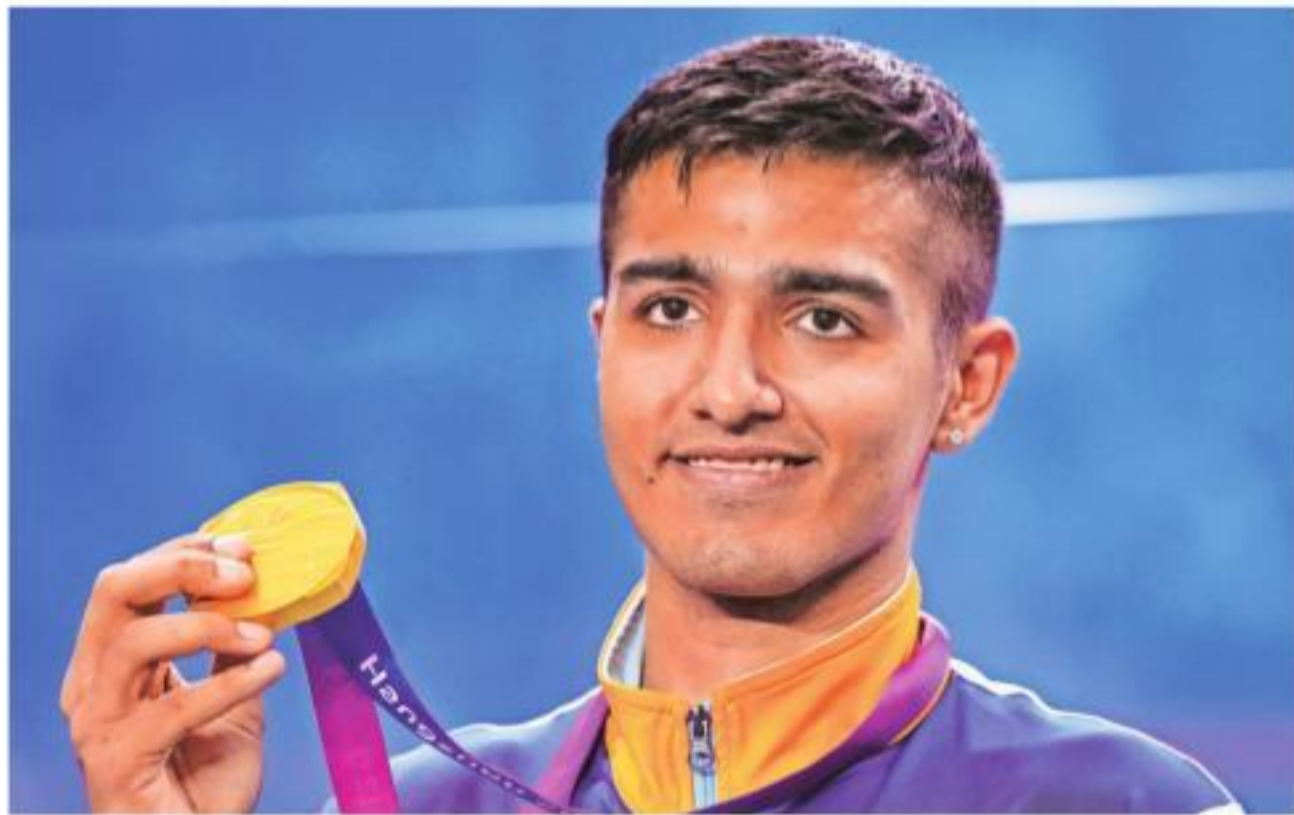
"I lost myself (in that moment) which is why I chucked my racquet into the crowd. I didn't know what was happening. I was really feeling a lot of emotion. Even after everything had settled there was too much going on. So many emotions," Abhay recollected to *The Indian Express* on a Twitter Space earlier this month. "It's the first time I have thrown my racquet into the crowd. It went flying. There is a video on Twitter which I watch over and over. It's funny how different people react to that moment."

It was the sort of gripping match that people talk about decades later. The fate of the gold medal rested on Abhay's match against Noor Zaman after Mahesh Mangaonkar lost to Nasir Iqbal, and Saurav Ghosal defeated Muhammad Asim Khan. Just a few days before the final, both teams had met in another clash, where India had lost. This one too seemed destined to end the same way with Noor two points away from the title.

The India vs Pakistan final had an extra edge. Not that an India-Pakistan game needs one. But after Pakistan had won the group stage encounter, a member of the Pakistani contingent posted a video on how they had beaten their neighbours on social media which the Indians deemed disrespectful.

"Before that video, we wanted the clash to be cordial. But after seeing that, it became a bit more personal. Me being the young, hot-headed one, I took it differently to the other three. They were like let it go. I was like, 'Inko hum dikhayenge.' I took it personally. Maybe it was a lack of maturity in these situations."

While Abhay was playing against Pakistan, back home, his mother wasn't watching. She was instead taking a nap.



Abhay Singh beat Pakistan's Noor Zaman in the deciding match to seal men's team gold. PTI

"My mum is a heart patient so she can't watch me play. She can't deal with the nerves. Usually what happens when I play is that my dad is watching on TV. And he gets pretty excited and starts shouting. And my mum will be in another room where she can figure out what's happening in the match thanks to my dad who is quite vocal. During the Pakistan game, my dad was at work and my mom was home. Their phones started blowing up with messages after the result. That's when they found out I had won."

For Abhay, that moment was a sign that he had made the right decision two years back when he contemplated quitting the sport. "Pre-COVID, I was playing the best squash of my life. But during the pandemic, as an athlete I wasn't able to compete. It was a weird situation. Post-COVID, getting back to sport was not that easy. I struggled with a few results. It just got to a point where I was like if I have given so much to the sport, the least the sport could do was make me happy. And it didn't. Maybe at that point, if I had walked away it would not have been forever. Maybe at some point I would have tried to come back," he said.

"One of the options would have been becoming an assistant coach. It would have been something to do with sport. Maybe I would have pursued an undergrad degree in the UK."

As he ruminated over that decision, he got the email in January 2022 from the squash federation about the trials for the Commonwealth Games in April 2022. That email changed the course of his career.

Peak fitness

At the Asian Games in Hangzhou, Abhay played 13 matches over the space of 10 days. After helping the men's team to a gold medal, he partnered teenager Anahat Singh to claim bronze. It was the sort of thing that required him to be in peak fitness.

"I have put in a lot of work in the summer, to be in the shape and conditioning that it is in now," said Abhay. "On the day I won that game to seal India's gold, I was with the physio till 1:30 am in the morning. My body was busted. I had two very tough matches. The next morning I had to start mixed doubles. I had two matches the next day," he said.

This conditioning is in sharp contrast to when he started playing as a teenager at the Indian Squash Academy in Chennai.

"When I was 15 years old, I was quite overweight. Must have been about 96 kilos. I remember thinking I needed to shed this weight. So I thought playing squash would help. Within months, I not only went into the top 4 in India, but also lost 26 kilos in the span of a year to drop to 70 kg," he said.

NZ VS BANGLADESH

Kiwis ready for Chennai test

New Zealand play back-to-back games at Chepauk; had roped in CSK's Fleming

VENKATA KRISHNA B
CHENNAI, OCTOBER 12

SHORTLY AFTER the World Cup schedule was announced, New Zealand dialled up former skipper Stephen Fleming to come on board as part of the support staff for a brief period. For a team known to maximise its resources on the field, behind the scenes they are masters of paying attention to even the minutest details that have the potential to make a big difference. The call to Fleming was one such move, as they needed his knowledge of Indian conditions, especially those in Chennai where he spends a good two months every year during the IPL with the Super Kings.

Having started their campaign with two wins out of two, including the big one against defending champions England, New Zealand are now in the Tamil Nadu capital. In terms of conditions, it is the polar opposite to what they encounter back home, where playing even a sole spinner is often considered a luxury. But, here they are in Chennai to face Bangladesh and Afghanistan in back-to-back fixtures in conditions where spinners are likely to call the shots.

Against two teams whose biggest strength is their spinners, these two matches can well turn out to be a banana skin for New Zealand. Losing even one of the two before they face India, Australia, South Africa and Pakistan could end up proving costly at the business end of the league phase.

But all said and done, it is New Zealand who look more rounded and better prepared for these conditions. Over the past 12 months when they toured Pakistan multiple times and India and Bangladesh once each, they used the trips to give exposure to Will Young, Rachin Ravindra and Mark Chapman, who were outsiders back then to make the World Cup cut. But injuries and lack of form for Finn Allen and Michael Bracewell meant they got the openings.

With Young, Daryl Mitchell and Glenn Phillips not having much experience of Indian conditions, New Zealand knew their homework had to be spot on.

It is the reason they were not willing to take any chances and preferred having Fleming on board to go with Saqlain Mushtaq in England



Devon Conway, who plays for CSK, is familiar with the Chepauk track. PTI

as support staff. And for the World Cup, they have also included James Foster, who has been working with Kolkata Knight Riders, as part of their support staff and knows the players. If the likes of Bangladesh and Afghanistan have roped in local expertise (S Sriram and Ajay Jadeja) as consultants, the Black Caps have been a tad different, bringing in familiar faces who the players can open up to and feel comfortable with from the word go.

Fleming, who was known to be a master tactician even during his playing days, has evolved into a highly-sought-after coach and conditions in Chennai are as familiar to him as those in Auckland or Wellington. For over a decade, he has been MS Dhoni's trusted ally when it comes to plotting a trial by spin at the MA Chidambaram Stadium. And over the years, the Chepauk has sort of become a second home for many New Zealand cricketers. From Scott Styris, Jacob Oram and Brendon McCullum to Tim Southee, Mitchell Santner, Matt Henry and Devon Conway among the current lot, they have seamlessly adjusted to the conditions, acing the role assigned to them.

Master tactician

One of Fleming's biggest traits with the Super Kings has been his ability to make the most out of these utility players, who are capable of contributing with bat and ball. And it

seems only natural that the Black Caps, who have an army of such players, have relied extensively on Fleming.



And it is these players that the Black Caps are banking as they prepare to take on Bangladesh on Friday. New Zealand's bowling coach Shane Jurgensen revealed how far their players tapped into Fleming about the conditions.

"We've known these games are coming up in advance. No doubt Gary (Stead, head coach) and some of the senior players did tap on him about the conditions here. He is a great man to fall back on and has the experience of knowing these conditions through the IPL. For us, the advantage is that we have many players who have played in the IPL and for CSK. We had some good experiences playing in the subcontinent leading into the tournament. So I think we have given ourselves every opportunity to prepare the best we can," Jurgensen said.


Before the last IPL, Conway — who had a breakthrough season with the CSK — also relied on inputs from former New Zealand A and Northern Districts coach Sriram Krishnamurthy, who has now shifted base to Chennai. For a batsman who grew up learning the game in South Africa before moving to Wellington, Conway used the sweep shot and his unconventional style to pick pockets that other batsmen don't generally explore, helping him amass 672 runs.

And against Bangladesh, who rely heavily on spinners, ready to test them in conditions that are a lot similar to what they encounter on a regular basis in Mirpur, New Zealand look ready for a slugfest. Apart from Conway, in Ravindra, Tom Latham and captain Kane Williamson, who is returning to the side after missing the first two matches, New Zealand have the sort of ideal, nimble-footed batsmen who can nullify their tweakers.



And in Mitchell, Phillips, Chapman, Santner and Jimmy Neesham, they also have the sort of all-rounders who fit into the mould perfectly and provide the sort of balance that can help them lay their hands on the World Cup. Batting depth all the way till No.9 and eight bowling options in these conditions are straight out of the Fleming and Super Kings manual, one which Black Caps believe would be a winning formula.

HONOURING THE BANKS THAT INDIA CAN BANK ON.




Co-presented by





Chief Guest

Rajeev Chandrasekhar

Union MoS for Electronics and Information Technology; Skill Development and Entrepreneurship





Fireside Chat with

K.V. Kamath

Chairman, NaBFID

LIVE STREAM

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