

In Israeli border town, hospital moves ER two floors underground

EXPRESS IN ISRAEL
SHUBHAJIT ROY
ASHKELON, OCTOBER 17



ON OCTOBER 7, when the Hamas launched its surprise land-air-sea assault, Ashkelon was among the towns near the Israel-Gaza border which was targeted.

Ten days later, its streets are empty, and the shops and markets are all closed. Many families have either fled, or remain indoors.

But the 600-bed Barzilai Medical Centre in the town, about 57 km from Tel Aviv, is buzzing, overwhelmed by the flow of patients since the attacks.

The hospital was also targeted in rocket attacks — the damage is visible in its paediatric wing. The

Dr Omri Lubovsky in the underground section of the Barzilai Medical Centre in Ashkelon. Shubhajit Roy

office of the head of the paediatric department has a huge hole in the wall, caused by a blast.

"The paediatric head was sitting in his office when he heard

GAZA MINISTRY: 500 KILLED IN AIRSTRIKE ON HOSPITAL
PAGE 14

C-JI, JUSTICE KAUL PROPOSE
civil union, cite previous rulings

5-JUDGE BENCH UNANIMOUS:
Right to marry not a fundamental right

BENCH DOESN'T TINKER
with SMA, lobs ball to Parliament

Same-sex marriage will have to wait

SC flags rights, prejudice but refuses to tweak law for same-sex union

ANANTHAKRISHNANG
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

IN A ruling Tuesday that disappointed LGBTQ+ rights campaigners, a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court unanimously rejected their prayer to grant legal recognition to same-sex marriage and left it to Parliament to change the law for such a union.

Citing "institutional limitations", a five-judge bench, comprising Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, S Ravindra Bhat, Hima Kohli and P S Narasimha, in four separate judgments, declined to strike down or tweak provisions of the Special Marriage Act, 1954 (SMA), saying there is "no unqualified

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



right" to marriage, and a same-sex couple cannot claim it as a fundamental right under the Constitution.

The bench recognised equal rights for queer people and their



LGBTQ+ members in the Supreme Court complex during the pronouncement of the verdict on same-sex marriage on Tuesday. Tashi Tobgyal

EXPLAINED

SIMPLY PUT
TWO VIEWS ON FOUR KEY ISSUES
PAGE 13

EXPRESS NETWORK

BJP TO OPP, MOST PARTIES SILENT ON COURT ORDER

DISHEARTENING... HEARTBREAKING, SAY PETITIONERS
PAGE 7

On gay rights, SC moves the needle forward — but walks back on its role

APURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

EVEN AS it underlined the limitations of the judiciary on entering the domain of law-making to recognise same-sex marriages, the Supreme Court, by recognising non-heterosexual relationships and articulating that they are de-

terminating of equal rights and state protection, has moved the needle on the journey of queer rights.

"Is this the end where we have arrived? The answer must be an emphatic 'no'," Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul wrote in his minority opinion. The minority view, by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud and Justice Kaul in

THE MAJORITY



Justice Bhat Justice Kohli

Marriage not fundamental right; only Parliament can decide; no right to adopt children jointly; government to decide on other rights

THE MINORITY



CJI Chandrachud Justice Kaul

No fundamental right to marry; they have right to civil union; right to adopt children jointly

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

COURT STOPS SHORT

BY PRATAP BHANU MEHTA

DOOR IS AJAR

SC fails to seize the moment. But its verdict opens up some valuable space for a vulnerable minority PAGE 10

PM spells out ISRO goals: Space station by 2035, Indian on Moon by 2040

HARIKISHAN SHARMA & ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

TWO MONTHS after the successful Moon landing and launch of a mission to study the Sun, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced on Tuesday two new targets for space agency ISRO: setting up an Indian space station by 2035 and taking the first

EXPRESS NETWORK



ECONOMIC CORRIDOR WILL CREATE JOBS, SAYS PM
PAGE 9

Safe houses, sensitising police: CJI lists measures against discrimination

ANANTHAKRISHNANG & OMKAR GOKHALE
NEW DELHI, MUMBAI, OCTOBER 17

UNDERLINING THAT recognition of a same-sex marriage can only be through the legislative route, Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, in his ruling Tuesday, issued a string of direc-

tions to "obviate discrimination" towards same-sex couples including creation of Garima Grehs or safe houses in all districts to "provide shelter to members of the queer community who are facing violence or discrimination".

The CJI's ruling called upon the Centre, States and Union Territories to ensure that the

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UTTAR PRADESH EMBRACING EASE OF LIVING FOR ALL

Uttar Pradesh not only ranks among the nation's top states in terms of 'ease of doing business', but it also prioritizes 'ease of living'. Ease of living in Uttar Pradesh can be assessed based on various factors, including infrastructure, healthcare, education, employment opportunities, safety, and quality of life.



9 crore

beneficiaries under **Ayushman Bharat and Mukhyamantri Jan Arogya Yojana**, Medical insurance coverage of **Rs. 5 lakh** per family

1.75 crore

families benefitted from **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana**

55.20 lakh

houses built under the **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and Mukhyamantri Awas Yojana**

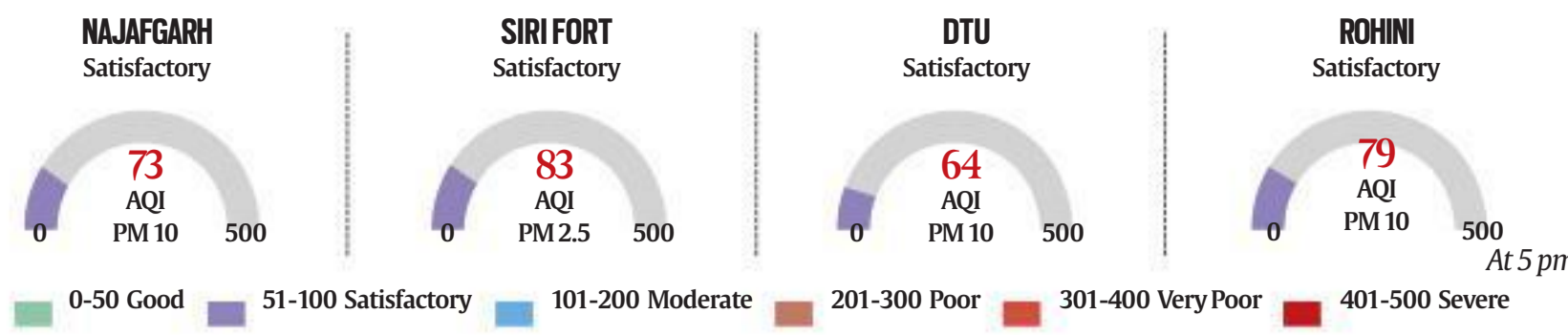
All 95,767 villages

in Uttar Pradesh have attained '**ODF Plus**' status during the second phase of the **Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)**, marking a **100% achievement rate** for the state.

- ❖ The state has made significant strides in infrastructure development. Modern highways, 13 expressways (6 operational & 7 Under construction), 21 Airports, metro rails, and improved transportation networks have made travel within and outside the state more convenient.
- ❖ Enrollment of 1.92 crore children under 'School Chalo Abhiyan'
- ❖ Establishment of 3 state universities and 78 state colleges
- ❖ Letter of Intent issued to 15 private universities.
- ❖ Accessible and affordable medical facilities, Medical Colleges- 65 operational and 22 under construction. AIIMS at Gorakhpur and Raebareli
- ❖ Establishment of Health ATMs in all PHCs
- ❖ 552 Ayurvedic Hospitals developed as Health Wellness Centre
- ❖ Mukhyamantri Arogya Mela is held regularly every Sunday in UP.
- ❖ 250 Community Healthcare Centres (CHCs) are operational with 24-hour emergency service, free admission, medicine, and diagnostic services.
- ❖ 361 CHCs offering Tele-radiology services
- ❖ The state's diverse economy offers employment opportunities in sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, IT and services. Initiatives like "One District One Product" aim to boost employment and entrepreneurship at the local level.
- ❖ Action against 75,746 mafia/criminals. Illegal property worth Rs 11,841 crore confiscated/demolished
- ❖ Distribution of free ration to 15 crore people
- ❖ Drinking water facilities in 35,495 Gram Panchayats under the Har Ghar Nal Yojana
- ❖ Tap water connection to more than 1.71 crore households
- ❖ Uninterrupted power supply of 18 to 20 hours in rural areas
- ❖ Construction of 2.61 crore individual toilets
- ❖ Sewerage Connection in 7.06 lakh houses
- ❖ More than 98.28 lakh vulnerable individuals, including destitute women, senior citizens, and physically challenged receive a monthly pension of Rs 1,000 per person
- ❖ 2.63 crore farmers received Rs 60,845 Cr under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana
- ❖ 16.24 lakh daughters benefitted from Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana
- ❖ Under Operation Kayakalp 1.40 lakh schools rejuvenated



3 THE CITY



SKY WATCH
FORECAST: October 18
 Mainly clear sky.
 Mist in the morning
MAX: 28 | **MIN: 16**
 4.6°C below normal | 2.4°C below normal

DELHI CM NOD TO CAB AGGREGATOR SCHEME

Bike taxis can ply — only the electric kind

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

DELHI Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has approved the much awaited 'Delhi Motor Vehicle Aggregator and Delivery Service Provider Scheme', which legalises bike taxis and outlines comprehensive regulation and licensing of app-based aggregators and delivery service providers.

Bike taxis, however, have to be completely electric, with the policy curtailing the presence of petrol or diesel-fuelled bikes. Apart from this, the government has also set timelines for other modes of vehicles — both passenger service providers and delivery service providers — to convert to electric. The file now awaits the Lt-Governor's approval, following which the policy will be notified.

Kejriwal, in a statement shared by the government, said the scheme "marks a significant milestone in Delhi's fight against pollution". He said Delhi has become the first state/UT in India, and among very few cities globally, "to mandate a time-bound



Scheme marks a significant milestone in Delhi's fight against pollution: Kejriwal

The government, through this policy, aims to convert fleets of all aggregators and delivery service providers to electric by 2030.

The policy, however, does not mention anything about surge pricing. Sources in the government said, "Aggregators will have to follow the price set by the government for taxis in Delhi."

The scheme also prevents operators/e-commerce entities running delivery and passenger services from getting licences to operate buses, limiting them to two-, three- and four-wheelers.

Once notified, the scheme mandates that all existing or new operators obtain a licence within 90 days of notification or before commencing operations. Licences will be valid for five years, with annual fees applicable, and zero fees in case of electric vehicles. A 50% rebate is also provided for vehicles that are less than two years old.

"The scheme is stringent in enforcing compliance, with violations attracting monetary penalties ranging from Rs 5,000 up to Rs 1,00,000 per instance," said officials.

transition of commercial vehicle fleet of aggregators, delivery service providers and e-commerce entities to zero-emission electric vehicles."

Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot said it is the first time in the country "that any aggregator scheme has defined targets for them to convert their fleet into e-vehicles, promoting green and sustainable mobility in the city".

"... this scheme is poised to usher in a new era of transportation services in Delhi," he said, adding that the scheme "holds the potential to not only safeguard our environment but more significantly, enhance the well-being of citizens of Delhi".

'Botched probe', torture claims: Behind the acquittal of accused in the Nithari killings

MALLICA JOSHI & JATIN ANAND
 NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17



Accused Moninder Singh Pandher and (right) Surinder Koli

UNSATISFACTORY 'EVIDENCE', procedural loopholes, improbable possibilities, alleged tutoring and torture — the Allahabad High Court judgment in the Nithari case comes down heavily on both the Uttar Pradesh Police and the CBI's investigation which began in the mid-2000s.

In acquitting Surinder Koli and Moninder Singh Pandher — accused of raping, killing and dismembering several minors and a domestic help — the court pointed to a brazen violation of basic norms of collecting evidence. But the most crucial of them all was "failure" to probe the "possible" angle of organ trade.

In its judgment, the court noted that the house of the accused was adjacent to one belonging to a doctor who "apparently was a suspect in a case of organ trade (kidney transplant)". It said that despite specific recommendations made by the high-level committee constituted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, investigators did not look into the matter, calling it a "betrayal of public trust by responsible agencies".

The court also pointed to the

testimony of a local resident, saying he saw a human hand with flesh covered in polythene when he jumped the wall towards the drain in March 2005 — from where skeletal remains were recovered — to recover a cricket ball. "He claims that on enquiry from elders, he was informed that police had come and assured that there is nothing to worry (about)," the order stated.

While Koli was acquitted in 12 cases, Pandher was acquitted in two cases. Both had been awarded the death penalty in these cases relating to rape, murder, destruction of evidence among other charges by a CBI court in Ghaziabad. In 10 of the cases, Koli was the sole accused while in two cases, he was accused along with Pandher.

Calling the prosecution's case circumstantial, the court highlighted several procedural lapses.

While the defence alleged the arrest was made on December 27, 2006, the prosecution said it was made two days later. The court said the prosecution had failed to prove the circumstance of the arrest and there was no arrest memo on record.

Disclosure statement

The court noted that the accused's disclosure statement was not placed on record and prosecution evidence regarding the place and time of making the alleged disclosure statement is "full of contradictions". It is for this reason, the court stated, that discovery of bones, skull, or skeletons recovered from the drain behind the house can't be placed in evidence.

The sole independent prosecution witness said a large crowd had already gathered at the spot when he arrived, which the court

says suggests "some incriminating material had already been found". The witness also admitted digging at the spot had already started by the time he arrived.

Confession

Calling the failure to comply with requirements of recording confessions "shocking", the court raised questions about the 60-day-long police and CBI custody for Koli. It said that CBI's explanation that there were different investigating officers in the 16 separate FIRs lodged against him was "not convincing" and that if Koli had already confessed to the police on December 29, 2006, "there is no reason as to why he was not produced before the Magistrate before March 1, 2007, for recording of his confessional statement".

"Accused, at the first opportunity, retracted from confession and alleged he was brutally tortured while in police custody. He offered to be medically examined as his genitals were burnt and his nails had been extracted but the accused was not examined medically," the court said.

"There was no legal aid given to the accused and legal aid given for 5 minutes by the ACMM, Delhi on March 1, 2007, amounts to its denial... no legal aid was given to the accused... at the time when his confession was being

video-graphed," it said, adding that there was no independent corroboration of murder, rape or cannibalism in the confession with other evidence and that the events mentioned in the confession were "highly improbable".

Slamming the investigators, the court said the "casual and perfunctory manner" in which important aspects were dealt with "is most disheartening." The court also said it appeared the investigation opted for the easy course of "implicating a poor servant" of the house by "demonising him", without probing aspects of possible organ trading.

Speaking about Pandher's involvement, the court noted the evidence, at best, indicated he "lived a promiscuous life and indulged in physical relations with young girls, or would get drunk and enjoy the company of young ladies". "Apart from it, we find no other evidence on record to implicate him," the court said.

While Pandher is expected to walk free, Koli will remain in prison as he is serving life sentence in another case related to the killings. His lawyer, Payoshi Roy, said, "... We will approach the SC in the light of this judgment. He has been acquitted on the basis of the same evidence in the 12 cases."

Yamuna revival: NGT seeks fresh CPCB report

New Delhi: Terming the status reports on the rejuvenation of the Yamuna submitted by states and authorities "deficient" and "cryptic," the National Green Tribunal Tuesday directed the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to verify the facts and figures in them, and to "file a comprehensive report reflecting the correct position".

The CPCB informed the tribunal that 44 drains discharge waste water into the Yamuna and that sewage flowing into Yamuna exceeds the treatment capacity.

The Delhi government said, the "water quality of river Yamuna has improved in the period of January 2023 to September 2023," compared to the corresponding period in 2022.

The matter was being heard by the Tribunal's Principal Bench headed by Chairperson Prakash Shrivastava. **ENS**



SOME RESPITE
 Delhiites enjoy the change in weather at Kartavya Path, Tuesday. With rainfall and strong winds on Monday, Delhi's AQJ on Tuesday had improved significantly to 89, in the 'satisfactory' category, from the previous day's 207 ('poor'). *Praveen Khanna*

AAP MP Raghav Chadha gets to keep his house, for now

HC allows plea against trial court order

MALAVIKA PRASAD
 NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

AAP MP Raghav Chadha won't have to vacate his bungalow for now after the Delhi High Court Tuesday allowed his plea against the trial court order that had paved the way for the Rajya Sabha Secretariat to dispossess him of it.

Allowing Chadha's plea, Justice Anup Jairam Bhambhani revived the April 18 interim order which stopped the Secretariat from evicting him, observing that it will stay in force until Chadha's application for interim relief before the trial court is decided.

Chadha had moved the High Court against the October 5 order of the Additional District Judge (ADJ) of Patiala house courts, who had vacated an April 18 interim order. Against this interim order, the Secretariat filed a review that was allowed by the ADJ, holding that Chadha had not shown urgency as sought and returned the plaint (a pleading in a lawsuit) to him, asking him to serve a notice to the Secretariat.

The HC Tuesday directed Chadha to re-present the plaint within three days of today's pronouncement. It also directed the trial court to first decide the application and then hear the main lawsuit as per law.

Justice Bhambhani observed that Chadha had sued only the Rajya Sabha Secretariat "as an institution or body" and not its secretary general, who is a person.

As per Section 80(1) of the Civil Procedure Code (CPC), a suit against a public officer or government cannot be filed without giving a two-month notice. However, under Section 80(2), a suit for urgent relief can be filed without giving notice after getting the court's permission; an interim order cannot be passed without hearing the public officer/government.

The HC said Chadha had

BRIEFLY

My arrest 'malicious': AAP's Sanjay Singh to HC

New Delhi: AAP leader Sanjay Singh told the Delhi High Court Tuesday that his arrest was "malicious" and "flouting procedure", while arguing against his arrest and remand in the money laundering case related to alleged irregularities in the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy. Singh also sought his immediate release from custody. He was arrested on October 4. He was then remanded to five-day ED custody. Subsequently, on October 13, Singh was sent to 14-day judicial custody.

Entry of CNG, e-public transport, cracker ban: Rai's suggestions for NCR to fight pollution

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

POSSIBILITY OF allowing the entry of only electric or CNG public transport vehicles from NCR states into Delhi is among the suggestions that Environment Minister Gopal Rai seeks to discuss with his counterparts in NCR states to control pollution levels in the national capital.

Rai wrote to Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav Tuesday, requesting a meeting to hold of all environment ministers in the NCR, urging them to "take effective steps".

Other points Rai had listed to be discussed with other NCR states include putting a stop to instances of stubble burning; ensuring all industrial units in NCR that still run on dirty fuel switch to PNG; ensuring brick kilns use zigzag technology; providing electricity in all housing societies in the NCR to prevent use of diesel generator sets; a complete ban on firecrackers in the NCR like the one that is in place in Delhi; and diverting traffic that is not destined for Delhi through the Eastern and Western Peripheral Expressways.

"In the winter, pollution levels turn severe. The Delhi government is taking various measures under the winter action plan like an anti-dust campaign, efforts to control pollution levels at the hotspots... But till sources of pollution in the NCR states are not controlled, these steps that are being taken will not be effective,"



Minister Gopal Rai wrote to Union Minister Bhupender Yadav

read Rai's letter.

A Centre for Science and Environment report says that "31% of the pollution in Delhi is from sources within the city itself, and 69% are from sources of pollution in NCR states," Rai wrote.

He requested the Union Minister to "call a meeting of the environment ministers of the NCR states to prepare an action plan on these points so that the level of pollution can be reduced."

Certain restrictions on vehicular traffic entering Delhi kick in under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP).

Under the 'severe +' category of GRAP — which is to be invoked three days ahead of the AQI crossing 450 based on the forecast — entry of trucks into Delhi except CNG, electric trucks and those carrying essential commodities, is to be stopped. As part of this stage, light commercial vehicles that are not electric, CNG, or BS-VI diesel ones, are also not permitted to enter Delhi, except for those carrying essentials.

With rainfall on Monday and strong winds, the AQI in Delhi on Tuesday had improved significantly to 89, in the 'satisfactory' category, from 207, in the 'poor' category on Monday.

Blurred footage, leftovers: How cops cracked 2016 triple murder

JIGNASA SINHA
 NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

BLURRED FOOTAGE from a local eatery, a stolen phone, and fingerprints on utensils — this is how the Delhi Police caught seven people, including two juveniles, for allegedly murdering realtor Sanjay Kumar (50), his wife Jyoti (48) and their son Pawan (23), inside their house in Rajinder Nagar in 2016.

The murders came as a shock to residents of the Central Delhi locality as the bodies were found hidden inside the house — in a cupboard. Jewellery and cash were missing.

A team led by Joint Commissioner Parmaditya (who was then DCP) had initially read Rai's letter.

"It was a complete blind case. Later we found Sanjay's call records; there was an unknown number in the call logs," said JCP Parmaditya.

The investigating officer, Inspector Rajvir (currently posted as SHO Vikaspuri), said: "The accused had meticulously planned the murder. It was a near-perfect plan since they used a stolen phone and SIM to contact Sanjay and gain entry to his house."

Police also found leftover food at the house and traced it to a local eatery. Witness statements and blurred camera footage from



Five men and two juveniles were caught for the crime. Express

the shop helped police nail the accused. Further, fingerprints on the utensils that matched with those of the accused cemented the case.

The accused — Rajan Singh, Rajendra Singh, Sanjay Kumar, Harender, Ram Kishore and the two juveniles — allegedly committed the crime on January 9, 2016, and were arrested a week later.

According to police, three years before the murder, Rajan, the mastermind, was in Tihar jail for a rape-murder case while Sanjay was also jailed for cheating. "Sanjay had bragged about making big deals... Even after they were released, he kept in touch with Rajan and told him once he earned lakhs for a house. Rajan, thinking Sanjay had stored cash at his house, formed a gang (to target him)," said an officer.

They met Sanjay on the pretext of buying property. Some among the accused took Sanjay to his room where they strangled him to death. The accused then strangled Pawan with his mother's dupatta. Police said

sought a restraint on the Secretariat from taking any action pursuant to its March 3 order, which cancelled his bungalow allotment. It said the Secretariat does not fall within the ambit of a person who could be a government officer or serving under the government. "... clearly a public officer must be a natural person, and that term cannot refer to an institution or body," the court said.

It further said the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, being the permanent administrative office of the Rajya Sabha, is a "separate and distinct institution from the government", which is the "executive wing of the State".

The court said in this case, "government" under Section 80 of the CPC would not include the Secretariat; hence, it is not necessary for the court to decide whether Chadha had established urgency. Chadha was earlier allotted a type VI bungalow in July last year. He made a representation for the allotment of a type VII bungalow in August 2022, which was approved in September 2022.

RRTS priority section to be opened to public on Oct 21

New Delhi: The 17-km priority section of the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS corridor is slated to be opened for passengers on October 21, a day after its inauguration, official sources said Tuesday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate this section on October 20. **PTI**

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 e-Open Tender in two packet system for and on behalf of IRCON International Limited is invited from bidders meeting qualifying requirements for the work of "Design and construction of Industrial Sheds with Pre-Engineered Steel Structures (PEB) excluding its civil works in connection with the Setting up of Detachment Free Examination Facilities (Phase-II) at Exchange Yard of Bondamunda, South Eastern Railway".
 Estimated Cost of the Work (incl all taxes) Rs. 3385.23 lakhs
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 For further details, visit website: https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app. Amendement(s)/if any, would be hosted only on the website. AGM/CIVIL/EBP Flat-202, Arshad Manzil, Gafour Colony, Udit Nagar, Rourkela, Distt-Sundargarh, Odisha-769012

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EXPRESS AUDIO

Wooing farmers, hostage situations, and GI Tag for Goan cashews

In 3 Things, we discuss why the farm voters will matter this time, why terrorist groups continue to take people hostages, and the significance of Goan Cashews getting a GI tag

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MEET NAO, THE SOCIAL ROBOT SPEARHEADING NEW WAVE OF AUTISM TREATMENT

NAO, a humanoid robot developed by April, a research organisation in Astana, Kazakhstan, deploys traditional methodologies to treat children with autism

ENTERTAINMENT

5 GEMS FROM SMITA PATIL'S FILMOGRAPHY

She emerged with films such as 'Bhumika', 'Bazaar', 'Mandi', 'Arth', 'Umbartha' et al.



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FROM PAGE ONE Same-sex marriage will have to wait

protection, and called for sensitisation of the public to ensure they are not discriminated against. All the judges agreed on the point of tasking the committee, to be constituted under the Cabinet Secretary as promised by the Centre, for the purpose of defining and elucidating the scope of the entitlements of queer couples.

as a fundamental right. As explained above, this would mean that even if Parliament and the State legislatures have not created an institution of marriage in exercise of their powers under Entry 5 of the Concurrent List, they would be obligated to create an institution because of the positive postulate encompassed in the right to marry. This argument cannot be accepted.

sued under the JJ Act, lays down that only married couples can adopt. This provision, the CJ ruling said "though facially neutral, indirectly discriminates against atypical unions (such as the relationship between non-heterosexual partners) which have not been recognised by the State. Queer marriages have not been recognised by the State and queer persons in atypical unions cannot yet enter into a marriage which is recognised by the State".

In Israeli border town, hospital moves ER two floors underground

the air siren. He had about 30 seconds to reach the hospital's underground bunker. He ran and just about managed to escape being hit by the rocket," said Dr Omri Lubovsky, who heads the orthopaedic department. "Thankfully, there were no children at the hospital, so there were no casualties," he said.

Clarity, precision needed for Bills to replace IPC, CrPC, says think tank

need for clarity and precision. "There are too many errors, ambiguities, inconsistencies and even incomplete sentences. The new codes should provide clear and precise definitions of procedures and legal provisions to minimise ambiguity and variances in interpretation," the report said.

From equal rights to state protection, small step forward for queer rights

the 3:2 verdict, also fell short of recognising same-sex marriage, but walked halfway in permitting civil unions for same-sex couples. For the first time, the verdict puts the ideas of civil unions, domestic partnerships and cohabitation agreements in public consciousness.

Safe houses, sensitising police: CJI lists measures against discrimination

queer community is not discriminated against because of gender identity or sexual orientation; that there is no discrimination against them while accessing goods and services available to the public; take steps to sensitise the public about queer identity including that it is natural and not a mental disorder; establish hotline numbers which members of the community can contact when they face harassment and violence in any form.

PM spells out ISRO goals: Space station 2035, Indian on Moon 2040

Indian to Moon by 2040. The Prime Minister also called on the scientists to work towards a Venus Orbiter Mission and a Mars Lander Mission. The directions came at a high-level meeting chaired by Modi to assess the progress of Gaganyaan Mission, India's human space flight programme under which the first test vehicle is slated to fly on October 21.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR At: Ambapua Po: Engineering School Near Income Tax Office, Berhampur-760011 (E-Mail:- serwhpr2004@yahoo.com, Tel/Fax:- 0680-2404287)

Safe houses, sensitising police: CJI lists measures against discrimination

their families," the CJI observed. His ruling directed that "before registering an FIR against a queer couple or one of the parties in a queer relationship (where the FIR is sought to be registered in relation to their relationship), they shall conduct a preliminary investigation... to ensure that the complaint discloses a cognizable offence".

Safe houses, sensitising police: CJI lists measures against discrimination

to being queer but also (and equally) the woman who works in a farm in an agricultural community. Persons may or may not identify with the labels 'queer', 'gay', 'lesbian', 'trans', etc. either because they speak languages which are not English or for other reasons, but the fact remains that many Indians are gender queer or enter into relationships with others of the same sex".

7 kids injured after van hit by mini bus at Delhi Cantt



Mini school bus driver has been apprehended. Express

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

AT LEAST seven school children along with their van driver were injured after their vehicle was hit by a mini school bus Tuesday afternoon. The incident took place in Delhi Cantonment when the children, who study at Kendriya Vidyalaya, were returning home. According to police, the driver of the mini bus, belonging to a private school, was allegedly speeding and driving on the wrong side when he hit the van in front of Radha Krishna Mandir, Sadar Bazaar road.

DCP (Southwest) Manoj C said, "We received a PCR call at 1.18 pm. The van was ferrying students, aged six to seven years. The investigation officer, along with other staff, rushed to the spot... The van was completely damaged from the front and its driver and children were injured."

Police said the children were rushed to Army Cantt Hospital and their parents were informed, who took them to other hospitals. All children were out of danger. "They study at KV No. 1 in Delhi Cantt. The van driver, Balvir Singh (21), was taken to DDU Hospital for further treatment. He is severely injured and is undergoing treatment," said an officer.

The mini school bus driver, Naveen Singh (25), who fled the spot after the incident, has been apprehended, police said.

Police said he is a contractual employee and legal action has been initiated against him.

KILLED 2 LABOURERS TO FAKE HIS DEATH: POLICE

Declared dead in 2004, former Navy man shows up in Delhi, arrested

ARNABJIT SUR
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

TILL A few weeks back, former Indian Navy steward Balesh Kumar was considered "dead" by both the Rajasthan and Delhi Police and his family alike. In 2004, he and another person were purportedly charred to death in a truck in Jodhpur. Balesh's father, Chandrabhan (he died in 2021) even identified the body, which was burnt beyond recognition, as that of his son.

In the second week of September this year, however, a Delhi Police team received a tip-off that Balesh may not be dead after all and was living under a different name — Aman Singh — in Najafgarh. Balesh, in fact, was wanted in a murder and a burglary case. The team, comprising inspector Devendra Kumar and sub-inspector Mahak Singh, under the supervision of DCP (Crime) Ankit Kumar, swooped in and arrested the 63-year-old.

According to Special CP (Crime) Ravindra Yadav, Balesh retired from the Navy in 1996 and took to transporting cargo inter-state in a truck, registered in the name of his brother.

In 2000, Balesh, his father and one Rajesh alias Khushiram were involved in a high-profile burglary at Kota House on Shahjahan Road where high-end crockery and other valuable items were stolen from the officer's mess. The trio were arrested and subsequently granted bail.

In 2004, Balesh, along with his brother Sunder Lal, allegedly murdered Rajesh at Samaypur Badli Transport Nagar and disposed of the body in Outer Delhi's Bawana. A police source said, "On the day of the incident, the three men were consuming alcohol. Soon, heated arguments broke out between Balesh and Rajesh — the latter accused Balesh of hav-

DEAD MAN WALKING, 19 YEARS LATER

1996: Balesh Kumar retired from the Navy
2000: Balesh, his father and another man, Rajesh, stole crockery and valuables from Kota House. They were arrested and got out on bail
2004: Balesh and brother Sunder Lal had a tiff with Rajesh and strangled him; they dumped his body in Bawana

MAY 1, 2004: To evade police, Balesh picked up two workers in a truck, got them drunk, and burnt the vehicle; killing the duo. Balesh was declared dead in official records after his father identified one of the charred bodies as him



Accused Balesh Kumar

■ Balesh's wife and father created a fake death certificate; transferred insurance claims of Indian Navy and the truck to his wife

2023: After remaining in hiding for several years, Balesh moved back to Najafgarh three months ago; changed his name to Aman Singh

ing an affair with his wife... they also argued over money. Balesh and Lal then strangled Rajesh."

To evade police in both cases, Balesh hatched a plot to fake his own death, just like he had seen in the movies, said officers.

When questioned regarding the circumstances surrounding his apparent death, he told police that on May 1, 2004, a few weeks after Rajesh's murder, he picked up two labourers — Mukesh and Manoj, both hailing from Bihar — from Samaypur Badli and offered to drop them at a nearby construction site.

"He also gave them alcohol and waited for them to get inebriated. Following this, he parked the truck in a corner of the road and set it on fire by pouring kerosene on cardboard already kept inside... the men were charred to death and Balesh fled the spot," said an officer.

Later, Chandrabhan identi-

fied one of the bodies as Balesh's. "His family managed to forge a death certificate and transferred his insurance claim benefits, pension from the Navy, and insurance from the burnt truck to his wife..." said another officer.

As he was accused in Delhi in the two cases, his family showed his fake death certificate in court. As for Balesh, he remained in hiding across states all these years. It was three months ago that he moved back to Najafgarh to continue living with his wife and three adult children.

He fabricated a new identity as Aman Singh and got his documents — Aadhaar and PAN cards — under that name.

Police will also take action against Balesh's wife, Santosh, who is currently absconding, as she was in the know of the plan and helped forge his death certificate. Police will move court for a non-bailable warrant against her.

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE RULING

Disappointment, resignation after SC verdict: 'Expected it to be on our side'

UPASIKA SINGHAL & SAMAN HUSAIN
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

SOME SAT in huddles, others anxiously paced about the lawns, and all had phones raised to their ears intently listening to the live stream of the Supreme Court's proceedings. The morning's earlier hubbub had simmered to a hushed, tense silence.

After a point, the court's lengthy verdict was met with confusion. "Are they approving it or not?" one person asked. Eventually, an air of resignation set in once it became clear that the apex court had declined to legalise same-sex marriage.

Aadi, the founder of the Ramjas queer collective, was among those sitting outside the court, eagerly waiting for the five-judge bench's judgment. "This is regressive... I don't have words to express how I feel right now... we were expecting the verdict to be on our side, we need to stop looking down on homosexuality," he cried later.

Amrita Tripathi, partner of



Members of the LGBTQ+ community outside SC. Tashi Tobgyal

petitioner Rituparna Borah, was attentively listening to the judgment with her headphones on. "I am very disappointed; there is some progress but I don't think it's enough... Apart from marriage rights, there were other things in this petition like adoption rights and the right to have a chosen family, but queer couples should also have the right to marry the person of their choice," she said.

Tripathi also expressed her disappointment in the verdict not getting passed due to the lack of one vote: "The CJ and Justice

(Sanjay Kishan) Kaul had come up with some great advice but it always boils down to one vote."

Suhail Abbasi, co-founder of Humsafar Trust and chairperson of the Integrated Network for Sexual Minorities (INFOSEM), said it was time to go back to the drawing board and re-strategise. INFOSEM, a coalition of 110 community organisations, was also a petitioner for equality in marriage rights. Added Abbasi, "We will keep at our fight... we'll have to do stronger advocacy with the parliamentarians somewhere

down the line." Petitioner Aditi Anand said: "The petition (Aditi Anand ANR vs. the UOI) had demanded the right to be included in the Special Marriage Act and the right to marry... The judgment was disappointing, but we have only reached this far due to the judgment five years ago and we recognise constitutional and legal challenges."

For some, not all hope was lost. "Personally I feel grateful to the generations before us, the lawyers and activists who have gone through so much to achieve basic rights for us," said Jayne, from the youth wing of Humsafar Trust. "I agree to a certain degree, that the Supreme Court can't make laws. This is a part of the process and it is not a full stop but a comma," they said.

Others expressed their anger at the verdict. Ankur, a Master's student from JNU, said, "They've put the ball in the legislature's court but how can you expect us to beg the state for our rights when the state has vehemently made a case against it in court?"

For petitioners from IIT in Section 377 case, Tuesday's ruling a missed chance for equality

VIDHEESHA KUNTAMALLA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

FOR SEVERAL alumni and students of IIT-Delhi, who were among those who had challenged Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code — and got a verdict in their favour from the Supreme Court in 2018 — Tuesday's ruling by the apex court in the same-sex marriage case came as a blow.

Twenty former and current students from IITs across the country, part of an informal pan-IIT LGBTQ group called Pravritti, had filed writ petitions challenging Section 377. Apart from Pravritti, which was formed in

2012, each IIT has its own LGBTQ group on campus.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Varun, who pursued BTech at IIT-Delhi and was the youngest amongst the petitioners, said, "The culmination of years of petitions building up to this has been a once-in-a-lifetime chance missed by the Supreme Court — to (give us) equal rights as queer individuals."

For Balachandran Ramaih, who passed out of IIT-Delhi in 1982, the verdict was "not positive news for the community". "The Pravritti members are disappointed with the verdict as it doesn't really take things forward apart from the status quo... Basically, no rights either for marriage or civil union were

granted. Initially, the mood was favourable when the Chief Justice was reading his judgment, but his was the minority judgment..." said Ramaih, who is currently based in Mumbai and is an investment professional and academic.

Debottam Saha (32), also among the main petitioners, said his optimism has dipped after the verdict. Looking back at his journey and struggles to gain equal rights in society, Saha, who is currently finishing his PhD at IIT-Delhi, said, "The idea of the petition came up in 2018 when we, on behalf of the Indian Institute of Technology, wanted to show that IITians are not just engineers but can also be queer supportive. When the Supreme

Court's verdict on Right to Privacy came out, that was the time when Section 377 was also being discussed."

For Akhilesh Godi, the verdict was a "gut-wrenching loss". "There were a lot of moral platitudes and empathy... a lot of words were used to recognise the struggles faced by queer persons and queer relationships in general... But, I would like to think that it has not materialised into anything... Everything that was said in a positive light, about the directions to the central and state governments, has happened in multiple cases in the past..." said Godi, an engineer based out of Bengaluru.

The 30-year-old graduated from IIT-Madras in 2015.

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IACC-NIC's 7th Business Leadership Awards
26th September 2023, Hotel the Lalit, New Delhi

ADVERTORIAL

IACC, NIC 7th Business Leadership Awards Nite honored selected Indian and US Industry stalwarts and organizations who have contributed towards a strong bilateral relationship.

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(Anti-Clockwise) Dr. Raghupati Singhania, Chairman & Managing Director, J K Tyre & Industries; Dr. Atul Chauhan, President, Amity Education Group; Mr. Amol Chitnis, Co-Founder & Director, Reliable Autotech Private Limited; Dr. Abhay Sinha, Director General, SEPC India; Mr. Vinod Aggarwal, Managing Director & CEO, Volvo - Eicher Commercial Vehicles Ltd; Mr. Rajiv Dixit, Director, Invest UP, Govt of UP; Mr. Nirmal Reddy, Director, OHM Automotive Pvt. Ltd; Mr. Utpal Nath, Partner, BlueBrett Consultants India LLP; Dr. Nitin Seth, Vice Chairman, G.D. Foods Mfg (I) (P) Ltd; Mr. Abhishek Khaitan, Managing Director, Radico Khaitan Limited; Dr. Bina Modi, Chairperson, Modi Enterprises; (Center Anti-Clockwise) Dr. P N Arora, Chairman, Yashoda Super Specialty Hospitals; Mr. Jasmohan Singh, Managing Director, Frick India Limited; Mr. Arun Tripathi, Head-Energy Business, Regulatory & HSE, Hero Future Energies Pvt Ltd; Mr. Manoj K Singh, Founding Partner, S & A Law Offices; and Dr. Lalit Bhasin, National President, IACC.

6 DECISION 2023

CHHATTISGARH • MADHYA PRADESH • MIZORAM • RAJASTHAN • TELANGANA

ELECTION IN NUMBERS

₹ 130 CRORE

Total cumulative seizures by law enforcement agencies in Telangana. This includes Rs 71.55 crore in cash and 72.267 kg gold.

ROADMAP FOR POLLS AND BEYOND

Cong's 'modern' vision for MP: IPL team to metro trains to AI centre

Party promises caste census, 27% OBC quota in government jobs and schemes

MANIFESTO HIGHLIGHTS: 59 PROMISES, 101 MAIN GUARANTEES. Includes ₹25 lakh medical insurance, ₹1,500 to women per month, 100 units of free electricity, 27% OBC reservation, An IPL team, LPG cylinders for ₹500, Farm loan waiver up to ₹2 lakh.

ANAND MOHAN J BHOPAL, OCTOBER 17

MADHYA PRADESH'S own Indian Premier League (IPL) team, an artificial intelligence centre, a promise to conduct the caste census, 27% OBC reservation, and sops for women, farmers and the unemployed youth.

The 106-page document, which lists 59 promises and 101 main guarantees, was unveiled by former Chief Minister Kamal Nath in Bhopal. The manifesto has sops for farmers and unemployed youth, the two major vote banks on which the party has staked its bets.

Mirroring the pro-women policies of the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government, the Congress has promised to provide women a monthly stipend of Rs 1,500, and LPG gas cylinders for Rs 500. Chouhan routinely attacks Kamal Nath, claiming the Congress leader stopped the Kanya Vivah Yojana in which financial assistance was provided to poor families for their daughters' marriage.

Nath announced the Beti Vivah Yojana under which assistance of Rs 1.1 lakh will be provided. Similarly, on the lines of the Ladli Laxmi Yojana that earned Chouhan the "Mama" tag, the Congress promises to provide Rs 2.51 lakh to girls from birth to their marriage under the "Meri Bitiya Rani Yojana".

this year, has promised free bus rides to women, loans up to Rs 25 lakh to women-led startups, and 5,000 sq ft plots to homeless women in rural areas.

For farmers, the party has promised loan waivers, free five horsepower electricity for irrigation, waiver of electricity bills, and support price of Rs 2,600 for wheat and Rs 2,500 for paddy, promising to increase it up to Rs 3,000.

For the unemployed youth, the party has promised unemployment assistance of Rs 1,500 to 3,000 per month, fill two lakh government job vacancies, create 1 lakh new positions in villages, and turn the state into an industrial hub.

The announcement of an IPL team and the artificial intelligence centre were made to present the party's vision of Madhya Pradesh as a modern state, said party insiders.

Nath rued that the state has no metro or IPL team of its own. "It is a matter of sadness and I feel ashamed that when I was a central minister I helped other states with metro. In Madhya Pradesh, nobody even got a proposal for a metro. We will make full effort to get our own IPL also," said the state Congress president.

The Congress has also promised to start the Padho-Padhao

Yojana under which government schoolchildren from classes 1 to 8 will get Rs 500 per month, those in classes 9 and 10 will get Rs 1,000 per month, and those in classes 11 and 12 will get Rs 1,500 per month. It has also promised to bring free education to the state.

The Congress has promised 27% reservation to OBCs in government jobs and schemes, along with the promise to conduct a caste census, something which has been promised by senior Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. The manifesto also talks about the implementation of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) (PESA) Act in notified tribal areas of the state.

Focusing on tribal votes, the Congress has said it will raise labour charges of tendu leaf collectors to Rs 4,000 per standard bag.

To consolidate its position among the Scheduled Caste voters, the party has promised to set up the Sant Shiromani Ravidas Kaushal Unnayan (Skill Enhancement) University in Sagar district.

Nath promised to constitute the Narmada Parikrama Parishad and start the Narmada Parikrama Yatra — a part of the party's soft Hindutva card. In the health sector, the party has promised health insurance of up to Rs 25 lakh for the family and accident insurance of Rs 10 lakh.

'Tear clothes': Kamal Nath, Digvijaya's stitch in time; dismiss talks of tension

ANAND MOHAN J BHOPAL, OCTOBER 17

AS THE BJP latched on to a video where Kamal Nath seemed to be taking a swipe at Digvijaya Singh, the two Congress stalwarts in Madhya Pradesh came together on Tuesday to nip the speculation in the bud.

With the Congress's hopes resting on state president Kamal Nath and ex-chief minister Digvijaya pulling their weight together, the two made light of the video at a press conference here, where the party released its manifesto.

The video featured supporters of former Kolaras BJP MLA-turned-Congress leader Virendra Raghuvanshi, angry over Raghuvanshi not getting a ticket. When they confronted Kamal Nath over this on Monday night in Bhopal, he was caught on video saying that Digvijaya was handling ticket distribution and that "they should tear his as well as his son (Jaivardhan Singh's) clothes" to vent their anger.

The BJP said the video indicated the tension within the Congress, which has so far been more fleet-footed than its rival this election. CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan also commented, saying: "This is the real face of the Congress. A former CM is saying this about another former CM."

What fanned the rumours was Digvijaya's cryptic post on X: "When a family grows large, there is both collective happiness and collective conflict. Wisdom says that elders should patiently find a solution."

On Tuesday, with Digvijaya sitting beside him on the dais for the manifesto launch, Kamal Nath said he first wanted to clear the air over the video. Having just shared



Congress leaders Kamal Nath and Digvijaya Singh at the release of the party's poll manifesto in Bhopal Tuesday. PTI

a joke with Digvijaya, which had the two chortling, Kamal Nath said: "Before the press conference, you asked me a question regarding tearing of Digvijaya Singh's clothes. In my reply, I said that if he doesn't listen to you, then you can also tear his clothes."

Digvijaya butted in on cue, saying that it is the PCC president whose signature is on the nomination form. "So whose clothes should be torn, tell me?" he asked, with all Congress leaders present on the stage bursting out in laughter.

Kamal Nath went on to say that his relationship with Digvijaya was not political, and that his colleague held "the power of attorney" to take abuse on his behalf. "It is a relationship of laughs and jokes, of love... It is an old relationship, a family relationship," the state Congress chief said.

Digvijaya said they were like "Shankarji (Lord Shiva), whose job is to drink poison". "So we will drink it (the abuses)."

After the press conference, Digvijaya posted about his "fam-

ily relationship" with Kamal Nath, which "goes back to 1980". "There have been differences of opinion... it is natural for two friends to have differences of opinion. But there is no discord."

The tough love on display at the Congress press conference would not have been unfamiliar to people in the state. The two veterans, both loyalists of the Gandhi family, have both had each other's back at various times, including when Digvijaya served as CM in the early 1990s.

For a long time, they were also aligned against their common enemy, Jyotiraditya Scindia. During the 2018 elections too, Digvijaya and Kamal Nath are said to have ganged up to sideline Scindia, ensuring that Kamal Nath was picked as CM ahead of the Gwalior royal family scion. A Congress leader acknowledged the role of Digvijaya, who belongs to the rival Raghogarh erstwhile royal family, in keeping Scindia out.

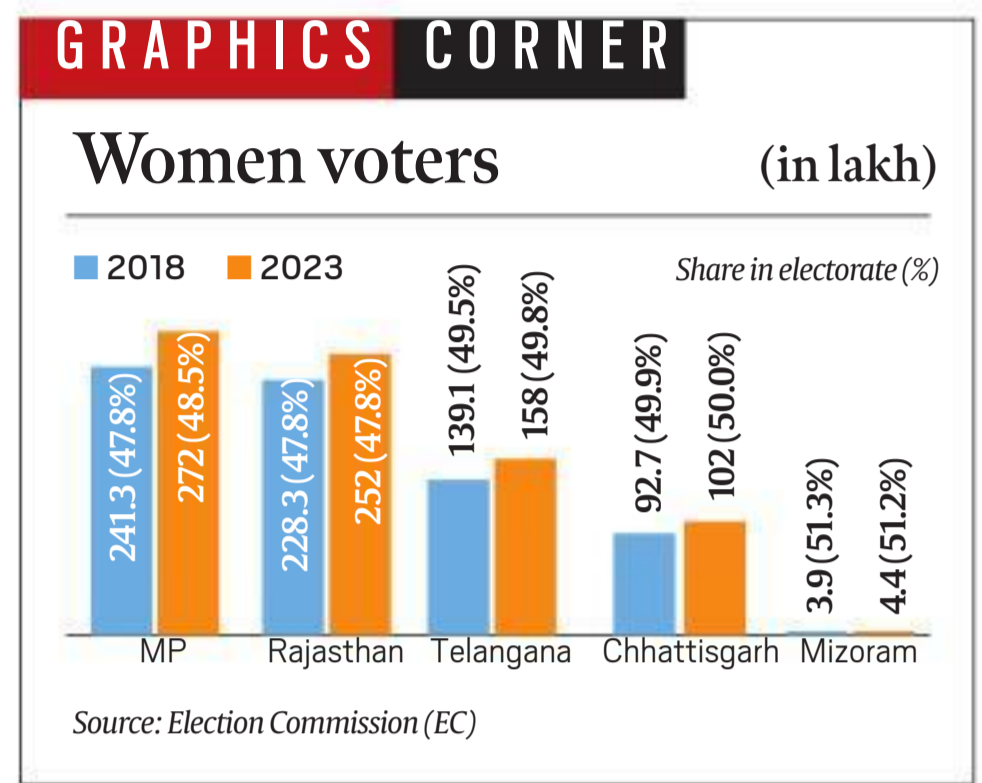
The bad blood led to Scindia's exit and the collapse of the Kamal Nath government. However, he and Digvijaya stuck together.

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KEY PLAYERS: BRS MASCOT KCR AND ITS OTHER CRUCIAL LEADERS IN TELANGANA

MINISTERS, REBELS, TURFS: THE 18 CRUCIAL CONTESTS IN MP



'Baba' and Alwar MP feted by BJP runs into trouble as ex-MLA throws hat in the ring



Balak Nath is also the chief priest of a Mutt in Haryana.

DEEP MUKHERJEE JAIPUR, OCTOBER 17

LAST WEEK, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat and yoga guru Ramdev all converged at the Baba Mastnath Mutt in Haryana's Rohtak to pay their respects to the BJP's former Alwar MP Mahant Chand Nath. All three also heaped praises on "Baba" Balak Nath, the incumbent BJP MP from Alwar who succeeded Chand Nath as Mahant before the latter died in 2017.

This signifies the importance the BJP-Sangh's top leaders attach to the MP who is among the party's parliamentarians from Rajasthan in the fray in next month's Assembly elections. While Balak Nath may have the approval of the BJP's top leaders, his candidacy from Tijara in Alwar has triggered protests from local leaders angry at being overlooked. Former BJP MLA Maman Singh Yadav, a retired teacher who represented the seat from 2013 to 2018, has announced he will contest the elections as an Independent after being denied a ticket. Yadav is among several BJP leaders who have openly criticised the party after being denied ticket, illustrating that one of the BJP's biggest challenges this election will be staying united and on message.

Soon after Balak Nath's candidature was announced, videos went viral on social media in which a tearful Yadav said he would contest the election if the public asked him to and otherwise he would leave Tijara. Eventually, it was decided at a panchayat meeting that Yadav would contest as an Independent. Since then, the former legislator has been busy touring the constituency, drawing crowds and reminding people that the only election the BJP won in Tijara was with him as the candidate. Yadav was denied a ticket in 2018, too, but he didn't

contest the elections. "Baba ji is not going to win the elections under any circumstances. If you help me, I will make Baba ji lose his deposit. No person can make him win. I have seen the public's mood," Yadav said while campaigning in the area on Sunday.

The communities that are electorally significant in Tijara are Meo Muslims (around 65,000-70,000 voters), Yadavs (52,000-55,000 voters), and Scheduled Castes (30,000-35,000 voters).

The BJP is hoping to placate Yadav and convince him to withdraw. "Maman Singh Yadav is still in the BJP and we hope that after talking to the high command he will respect their opinion and won't contest the elections," Alwar North BJP president Umed Singh Bhaya told The Indian Express.

However, at the moment, Yadav seems unapacified as he keeps publicly attacking Balak Nath and labelling him an outsider. "If you bring Baba, then don't dream of your own MLA in the future. Do you want to stop the political future of Tijara's youth? I will become older before the next elections and from then onwards it will be the youth. For the future of the youth, it was decided by all communities in Tijara that I contest the elections," Yadav said.

Balak Nath, who was born in a Yadav family in Alwar district, is also the Chancellor of the Baba Mastnath University in Rohtak. Meanwhile, BJP's Jaipur Rural MP Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore was shown black flags by supporters of an overlooked ticket-seeker from his party as he started his campaign in Jhotwara. According to a video of the incident that surfaced on social media on Monday, Rathore was shown black flags by Rajpal Singh Shekhawat's supporters who confronted him with slogans "Colonel kehna maan le, boria bistar bandh le (Colonel, follow our advice, pack your bags and return)".

— WITH PTI INPUTS

BJP's Chhattisgarh challenge has a number: 10% lead for Cong in 2018

JAYPRAKASH S NAIDU RAIPUR, OCTOBER 17

THE CHHATTISGARH contest will pit the Congress government's welfare schemes, including direct cash transfer and loan waiver, and its regional identity card, against the BJP's corruption allegations against Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and its Hindutva plank.

On paper, the BJP has a tough climb. Having ruled for 15 years, the party came crashing down in 2018 to 15 seats out of 90 and 32.9% vote share (from 49 seats and 40.04% votes in 2013). The Congress surged to 68 seats and 43.04% of the votes (from 39 seats, and 40.29% votes in 2013).

The 10.1% vote difference between them in 2018 was a huge leap from the usual 3% separating the winner and the runner-up since the state was formed.

The Congress has also won all the five bypolls held in Chhattisgarh since, taking its tally to 71. The BJP goes in with only 13 sitting MLAs, having lost a seat in a bypoll while another constituency is vacant since an MLA's death.

First Phase: Of the five states going to elections, only Chhattisgarh, with its Maoist problem, is voting in more than one phase.

Of the 20 constituencies voting in the first phase on November 7, eight fall in the Durg division and 12 in Bastar. All these 20 seats, barring former CM Raman Singh's Rajnandgaon, are held by the Congress.

In 2013 too, the Congress had done better, the BJP in these 20 seats, winning 12 seats to the BJP's 8. Hoping to retain its hold, the Congress is stressing on the

Baghel government's hike in MSP coverage to 67 forest produce from 60, apart from that for millets, as well as its funds for developing a religious site for tribals, Devgudi, and organisation of a 'national tribal dance festival'.

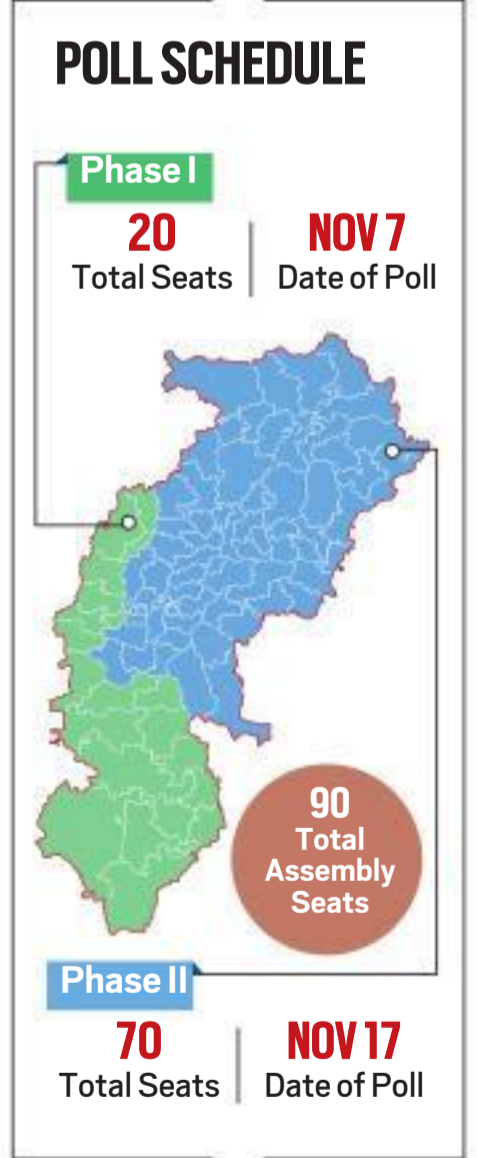
Congress leaders talk of other benefits, for tribals as well as villagers, such as haat bazar bus clinics, higher price for paddy, implementation of PESA (Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, release of tribals arrested in "fake" Maoist cases, and government-run English schools.

The BJP is invoking the communal violence in Kawardha in 2021, as well as alleged religious conversions in Bastar. Party leaders claim gains in Narayanpur and Kondagaon, which have reported incidents of tribal Christians being targeted.

The BJP, which claims to be tough on national security compared to the Congress, accuses the Baghel government of "going slow" on the Maoist issue. Corruption is another constant in the BJP attacks against the Baghel government, with several leaders in the CM's inner circle under investigation in alleged coal and liquor scams.

What is also worrying for the Congress is the proliferation of smaller parties in the run-up to the elections, which might end up splitting the anti-BJP vote. Among the new parties in the fray are the Sarva Adi Dal, formed by Christian tribals who claim to have suffered violence over conversion allegations, and Hamar Raj, a tribal party formed by former Union minister and Congress leader Arvind Netam.

Second phase: These constituencies fall in the Surguja, Bilaspur, Durg and



Raipur divisions. In 2018, the Congress won 52 of these 70 seats in its sweep of the polls, reducing the BJP to 15. It was a change from 2013, when the BJP had won 41 of the seats and the Congress 27.

Both Baghel's seat Patan in Durg and Deputy CM T S Singh Deo's Ambikapur in Surguja will vote in this phase.

In these seats, the Congress is banking on its farmer schemes, unemployment allowance, and promises such as revival of the Old Pension Scheme, and buying of 20 quintals of rice at MSP.

It's also here that Baghel hopes that his regional and soft-Hindutva card will trump the BJP's nationalism gambit.

The CM often talks of reviving the 'Mahatari (Chhattisgarh



Congress MP Rahul Gandhi on his way to the home of former Mizoram CM Lal Thanhawla, in Aizawl Tuesday. PTI

MNF and ZPM are entry points for RSS, Rahul says in Mizoram

SUKRITA BARUAH GUWAHATI, OCTOBER 17

ON THE second day of his Mizoram visit, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi sharpened his pitch against the two main regional parties in the fray — the Mizo National Front (MNF) and the Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) — saying that both parties are entry points into the state for the RSS.

Rahul reiterated this point on Tuesday at a media interaction in Aizawl and a public meeting in Lunglei, the second largest town in Mizoram. During the course of the two days of his visit, his attack has largely been against the BJP and, through that, against the MNF and ZPM for their existing and potential alliance with the saffron party, which by itself does not have a sizeable presence in the state. It's largely being seen as a three-cornered fight in Mizoram among the Congress, the ruling MNF and the ZPM, which is the second largest party in the state Assembly.

Taking an aim at Assam CM and North East Democratic Alliance convener Himanta Biswa Sarma for his role in expanding the reach of the BJP in the northeastern region, especially through alliances with regional parties, Rahul said in Aizawl, "Different states in the Northeast are being attacked by the BJP and the RSS. The RSS believes that India should be ruled by one ideology and one organisation... We want the people of Mizoram to take decisions for their future... The Chief Minister of Assam is acting to help them [BJP] with the cultural annihilation of the Northeast... We believe that culture, religions and traditions of the Northeast are central to the idea of India."

At Lunglei, the Congress MP said both the MNF and the ZPM are open to allying with the BJP and are acting as "entry points for the RSS into the state".

"The BJP has no problem with the ZPM or the MNF. It is perfectly happy if either of these parties rule Mizoram," he said.

7 GOVT & POLITICS SAME-SEX MARRIAGE VERDICT

'Full of sound and fury, signifying nothing'

Same-sex marriage petitioners say SC verdict disheartening

UDHBAV SETH & PREMANKUR BISWAS
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

IT WOULD have been a perfect fourth anniversary celebration for Kajal and Bhawna. They have been together since October 17, 2019. They have been in hiding since then, hounded by Bhawna's parents, moving in and out of shelter homes, changing cities and jobs to ensure safety. They are among the 21 petitioners, including same-sex couples, trans people and organisations, who are seeking marriage equality in India. A special bench of the Supreme Court on Tuesday didn't grant legal recognition to same-sex marriages. "We had planned a lot of things. We had decided we would get married immediately after and come out and tell our parents that they can't separate us anymore. The legal sanction of our union would have changed our lives, but now we have to go back in hiding," says Kajal.

Pooja Srivastava and Nibedita Dutta met on Facebook almost five years ago and have since married, but are forced to write 'single' on government documents which don't provide for same-sex couples. They own an apparel business and live together but can't nominate each other in health and life insurance policies. Srivastava says, "This verdict was very disheartening. It's 2023 but the SC is giving such a judgment. They've left everything to a government which says our marriage is against culture, ethos, only for the elite... the government won't do anything. This was just a two-hour-long lecture."

"There has been no change [in our legal status] since Nibedita and I got married. Why is it a third party's concern what my relation to my spouse is, or what inheritance I get from my family? They shouldn't have entertained the case, because today, the people [against our marriage] are just

happier. I am feeling less human," she says.

Maya Sharma, an LGBTQ+ activist from Vadodara and a petitioner in the case, echoes the sentiment. "It's full of sound and fury signifying nothing. What the judges said has already been stated in the NALSA verdict and the 2018 verdict, there is nothing new in it. The ball is back in the court of the central government and we all know what they feel about it," says Sharma.

Sharma doesn't believe in the institution of marriage but she believed that a favourable verdict would have been a strong step towards equality. "One of the judges said that this will adversely affect women. Are we not women? Don't rights of lesbian women count?" asks Sharma.

Udit Sood took a 20-hour long flight from Los Angeles to hear the judgement on Tuesday, managed to reach the Supreme Court on time, but he wasn't prepared for the disappointment. "I was optimistic. But this is devastating," says Sood, who practises law in the US. Fellow petitioner, Saattvic, an economist settled in Canada, feels his decision to leave the country in 2020 stands vindicated now. "It's heartbreaking that my own country doesn't take me as I am," he says.

Malobika, a lesbian activist from Kolkata who is a veteran of over three decades in the queer activism field, however, chooses to focus on the positives. "As a petitioner, I am disappointed. But I want to focus on the fact that there were a lot of things that were highlighted in the verdict that had not been talked about before. The CJ, for the first time, spoke about the violence of natal family and said that there is not only one kind of family. He recognised that there is migration due to discrimination and persecution in the queer community. I feel this gives us a platform to regroup and strategise our next course of action," says Malobika.



THE DISAPPOINTMENT

Members of LGBTQ+ community, their supporters outside the Supreme Court on Tuesday. Tashi Tobgyal

SC: Unmarried couples, including queer, can't adopt

SADAF MODAK
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 17

AGREEING UNANIMOUSLY that one's sexual orientation cannot decide the capability or suitability of being adoptive parents, the Supreme Court in a 3:2 split verdict on Tuesday, however, held as valid the existing regulations that deny unmarried couples, including queer, the right to adopt a child as a couple.

The five-bench Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud, which declined to recognise same-sex marriages, also considered the issue of adoption by non-heterosexual couples.

The current adoption rules of the country under the Central Adoption Resource Authority



The five-judge bench comprising CJI D Y Chandrachud and Justices S K Kaul, S R Bhat, Hima Kohli and P S Narasimha pronounced the verdict on Tuesday. PTI

(CARA) allow unmarried persons to adopt children only in an individual capacity. Unmarried couples, including queer couples, cannot jointly adopt a child. The eligibility criteria for prospective adoptive parents under Regulation 5 (3) require a couple to have been in at least two years of "stable marital relationship".

CJ Chandrachud said that this

Regulation was discriminating against the queer community and hence was violating the Article 15 of the Constitution. The majority view by Justices S Ravindra Bhat, Hima Kohli and P S Narasimha acknowledged that the needs of such couples to have and raise family in every sense of the term has to be accommodated within the framework of

the law, but held that the regulation cannot be held void.

"This exclusion has the effect of reinforcing the disadvantage already faced by the queer community. Law cannot make an assumption on good and bad parenting based on the sexuality of individuals. Such an assumption perpetuates a stereotype based on sexuality that only heterosex-

Experts should examine rights of queer couples: SC

OMKAR GOKHALE & APURVA VISHWANATH
MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, OCT 17

UNDERLINING THAT "genuine human concerns" of queer couples will be addressed administratively, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta had told the Supreme Court in May that the Centre will set up a high-level committee to look into the issue.

These administrative "concerns" range from allowing a same-sex couple to jointly open a bank account to ensuring the right to access the remains of the spouse from the natal family.

Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud in his minority opinion on Tuesday noted Mehta's assurance that the Central Government will constitute a committee chaired by the Cabinet Secretary to "define and elucidate" the scope of entitlements of queer couples in unions.

The SC said the panel shall include experts with domain knowledge and experience in dealing with the social, psychological and emotional needs of persons be-

longing to the queer community.

The CJ said the committee, before finalising its decision, shall conduct a wide stakeholder consultation with persons belonging to queer community, including those from marginalised groups and also state governments and Union Territories.

The panel is required to consider enabling the partners in queer relationships to be treated as part of the same family to avail ration cards and facility of joint bank account, with option to name partners as nominee in case of death of either person.

The panel report shall be implemented at the administrative level by the Centre, state governments and UTs, the CJ noted.

S-G Mehta, during the hearing in May, had that the Centre will form such a panel to examine suggestions by the LGBTQIA community related to issues faced by them in cohabitation with persons of the same gender.

The five-judge bench had termed it a "very fair suggestion" and had remarked that it will be a "substantial advancement" from the present status.

Need for new law to end bias: Apex court

SADAF MODAK
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 17

STATING THAT the current laws against discrimination of people based on their sexual orientation are fragmented, the Supreme Court on Tuesday said that there is a need for a new law.

Justice S K Kaul, part of the five-judge Constitutional bench which unanimously ruled against legalising same-sex marriages, made the observation about the need for a separate anti-discrimination law.

"Presently, there are several laws that have an anti-discrimination aspect to them. However, they are fragmented and may fail to capture the multitudinous forms of discrimination," he said.

Article 15 of the Constitution prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth and is a fundamental right of every citizen. In previous judgments, the Supreme Court has given an expansive interpretation to the term "sex" in Article 15, to include sexual identity.

The J S Verma Committee formed to review laws on sexual crimes too had recommended that the interpretation include sexual orientation, to address discrimination faced by many.

On Tuesday, Justice Kaul said that while Article 15 prohibits discrimination by state and private persons, there are significant challenges for marginalised communities to access courts through writ petitions to safeguard their rights. He said an anti-discrimination statute can be a fitting solution to this. Such a law should recognise discrimination in an 'intersectional' manner, he said.

"That is to say, in assessing any instance of discrimination, the court cannot confine itself to a singular form of discrimination. Instead, discrimination must be looked at as a confluence of factors — as identities and individual instances of oppression that 'intersect' and create a distinct form of disadvantage," the court said.

It said that laws can only be effective if they address the types of inequalities that have developed in society. It suggested duties under the new law can be proportionately distributed between different actors depending on factors like who has control over access to basic resources, impact on their negative liberty. It also suggested that such a statute must have methods to redress discrimination and bridge the "advantage gap" through policies that distribute benefits to disadvantaged groups. It also suggested that such a statute must have methods to redress existing discrimination and bridge the "advantage gap" through policies that distribute benefits to disadvantaged groups.

Silence to 'studying verdict': BJP, Opp on same page

MANOJ G G
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

THE POLITICAL class was hoping that the Supreme Court takes a final view on the question of legalisation of same-sex marriage and not put the "politically uncomfortable" and "inconvenient" ball in Parliament's court. On Tuesday, the court did precisely that as a five-judge Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud declined to recognise same-sex marriage, ruling that it is for Parliament to decide.

Most political parties either chose to remain silent on the top court's judgment or took a stance that it has to be studied in detail.

Without commenting on the verdict, the Congress said it has always stood in favour of protecting the freedoms, choices, liberties and rights of citizens. Significantly, Congress-ruled Rajasthan was among the states which opposed the pleas for same-sex marriages.

While the RSS and VHP welcomed the top court's verdict, the



LGBTQ+ community supporters and members react to the Supreme Court verdict in Mumbai on Tuesday. AP

ruling BJP remained silent, which was predictable given that the government was opposed to the pleas. The Centre had earlier told the court that it was willing to form a Cabinet Secretary-headed committee to consider administrative measures for addressing "genuine, human concerns" faced by same-sex couples, stopping short of accepting the pleas.

The Opposition voices that ar-

gue in favour of same-sex marriage believe the government is simply shilly-shallying. "I have no doubt that the government neither intends nor will bring in the desired legislation for such a purpose," Abhishek Singhvi, senior Congress leader and one of the key lawyers in the case, told *The Indian Express*. Congress MP Shashi Tharoor said, "We know the ruling party is the least likely to

do so. At least the court heard all the arguments on both sides. I doubt the BJP will even want the issue discussed in Parliament, let alone bringing a law."

Officially, Congress communication head Jairam Ramesh said, "On the same-sex marriage and related issues we are studying the different and differing judgments delivered in the Supreme Court today and will have a detailed response subsequently. Indian National Congress has always stood with all our citizens to protect their freedoms, choices, liberties and rights. We, as a party of inclusion, firmly believe in non-discriminatory processes — judicial, social, and political."

While the JD(U) said it was not in support of same-sex marriage, the SP and BSP said they were studying the judgment.

JD(U) spokesperson K C Tyagi told *The Indian Express* that while no one was against anybody's freedom, his party was not in support of same-sex marriage. He said the JD(U) will not stand in support if the government brings

a Bill in Parliament.

Calling the issue a "legal matter", SP MP Javed Ali Khan declined to comment. BSP MP Ramji Gautam said he will comment only after studying the judgment.

The CPI(M) and CPD did not issue statements. It is another matter that they were the only parties that took a clear position supporting decriminalisation of same-sex relations when Delhi High Court first ruled in 2009 that consensual intercourse between two adults was not illegal.

Senior CPI(M) leader Brinda Karat told *The Indian Express*, "I agree with the approach of the Chief Justice of India in a minority judgment. Jurisdictional issues as far as not having a law which is why they did not want to legalise it leaving it to Parliament... but at least the acceptance of a union which the CJ has spoken about... that should have at least been the major gain... But unfortunately it was only a minority opinion. But there is still a way before there can be justice for those with alternative sexuality."

There should be a proper law governing same-sex marriage.

"I am content with how society has responded to our daughter's marriage. People shouldn't interfere in others' choices. Some did pass some remarks but I dealt with those my own way," Rani said.

She said that their relatives and friends have also been supportive after the marriage.

"My husband works at a construction site and we both wanted our child to be happy, so we supported her. My son-in-law is very supportive. We don't care about anyone's opinion. Children should be allowed to make their own choice," she said.

Special Marriage Act: SC says smaller bench can look into issues

KHADIJA KHAN
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

DRAWING THE curtain on the question of same-sex marriage under the Special Marriage Act (SMA), 1954, the five-judge Constitution Bench, led by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud and comprising Justices S K Kaul, S Ravindra Bhat, Hima Kohli and P S Narasimha, also ruled against "civil unions" for non-heterosexual couples in a 3:2 verdict.

During the course of the hearing, from April to May, some senior advocates like Abhishek Singhvi and Raju Ramachandran attempted to address the "notice and objections regime" in the SMA, under Sections 5-9, which stipulate a set of procedural pre-conditions for solemnisation of marriages under the Act.

In its 366-page ruling, the Supreme Court indicated that this was not a question of law that necessitated a five-judge bench ruling. "Hence this issue was to be left for consideration by a numerically smaller bench," the court said.

On May 10, when the court was examining the arguments for a neutral reading of the SMA to allow recognition of marriage between any two persons, Singhvi, appearing for a petitioner, said that personal laws in the country "don't discriminate unlike the SMA", while arguing against the mandatory 30-day notice period in it.

To this, the court responded that the mandatory 30-day notice inviting public objections to an intended marriage under the SMA is "patriarchal" and makes it "open for invasion by society". While Justice Bhat said these patriarchal laws were made "when women did not have an agency", CJ Chandrachud noted that "this

EXPLAINED Why 30-day notice period under SMA

THE 30-DAY notice period is referred to in Section 5 of the SMA, which says that parties to a marriage are required to give a notice, in writing, to a "marriage officer" of the district in which at least one party has resided for at least 30 days before giving the notice. Section 6 says that once the officer receives notice, he shall publish it in his office conspicuously, inviting objections to the marriage within 30 days.

is like laying them open for invasion by society, including the Superintendent of Police, the District Magistrate, etc". Additionally, the CJ said if the intent behind the notice period was to prevent possibly unlawful marriages, the method was not proportional.

Reminding the court that it had earlier said it wouldn't consider this aspect, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, on behalf of the Centre, said, "We didn't respond to this. Your Lordship said will not go into this notice..."

This led the CJ to say that the notice-period aspect "will be dealt with separately". However, Singhvi reminded the court that petitions filed by him and Ramachandran were already pending before the court on this aspect. The CJ said the "notice applies to those who are entitled to marry undoubtedly", thereby hinting at its irrelevance in the present case owing to the petitioner's absence of such a right to marry in the first place.

DALIT WOMAN ON DAUGHTER'S SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

'If two people are happy, why should anyone object?'

KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR
BATHINDA, OCTOBER 17

PRITI RANI, a 44-year-old Dalit woman who works as a help in a Bathinda office, was not even aware of LGBTQ+, let alone know about same-sex marriage until two years ago. But on Tuesday, Rani, who studied till Class 12, waited impatiently for the Supreme Court decision on the same-sex marriage issue.

What was at stake for her was not just a matter of legal recognition but the life of her daughter, 21-year-old Manisha.

Manisha, a graduate, married

her partner, Dimple (27) from Mansa at Gurdwara Kalgidhar Sahib on September 18, as per the rituals performed under Anand Karaj (wedding ceremony).

It was a momentous occasion. The families of both the women were present and the marriage was solemnised after their consent. The women, ahead of the wedding, had submitted their Aadhaar cards, mentioning their genders as female. A marriage certificate issued under the letterhead of the gurdwara allegedly described one of the partners as male. Dimple had arrived at the gurdwara dressed as a traditional Sikh groom, wearing a turban.



Dimple (in turban) with Manisha after their wedding on September 18

However, their union soon triggered controversy with political parties objecting to it. On Monday, the Akal Takht black-listed the priests — Hardev Singh and Ajayab Singh — ragi Sikandar Singh, tabla player Satnam Singh, and the management committee of the gurdwara for five years.

The decision was announced by Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Raghbir Singh after a meeting of the Panj Singh Sahibans (five Sikh clergymen) at Amritsar.

After the SC verdict on Tuesday, Priti Rani said, "I am still not able to properly understand the verdict. I have called a few journalists who covered my daughter's marriage.

8 EXPRESS NETWORK



MINORITY VOICE

THE CHIEF Justice of India being in the minority in a crucial Constitution bench verdict has been a rare occurrence in the Supreme Court. So far this has happened only in a dozen instances in the 1,500-odd Constitution bench rulings that the CJI has been a part of. The idea is that the CJI, who picks the bench, would persuade his colleagues to join him in the majority. However, both CJI DY Chandrachud and his predecessor U U Lalit have found themselves in the minority despite setting up the benches. While CJI Chandrachud and Justice Sanjay Kaul were in the minority in the marriage equality verdict on Tuesday, in November last year, former CJI Lalit and Justice Ravindra Bhat were in the minority in the 3:2 verdict upholding the EVS quota.

RIGHT FACE

TRIPURA'S FORMER CM Biplab Deb may have been removed from the post, but many in the party still consider him the BJP's face against the Communists. Deb was in Tamil Nadu on Tuesday and the BJP's state chief K Annamalai, who has resumed his *En Mann En Makkal* (my land, my people) yatra, requested him to be part of his march near Coimbatore, where the Left parties have pockets of influence. Deb was a prominent face for the Kerala BJP during his term as the CM of Tripura (2018 to 2022), a state where the BJP had ended an unchallenged 25-year rule of the Left parties in 2018.

SHORT & STRAIGHT

LOKSABHA MP Kunwar Danish Ali has received a one-line response from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to his three-page letter in which he had drawn the PM's attention to the use of "unparliamentary language" by BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri during the special session of Parliament last month. Ali had urged the PM to make a public statement condemning Bidhuri's behaviour. The PM's letter states: "Dear Shri Danish Ali, I have received your letter of September 29, 2023." In a post on X, Ali thanked the PM for acknowledging his letter and added, "We all hope you'll break your silence & set an example."

House panel summons officials over denial of loan to MP's kin

MANOJ CG & DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

NON-DISBURSAL OF loan to a family member of a BJP Rajya Sabha MP on grounds of being "politically exposed" has resulted in senior officials of the Reserve Bank of India, Ministry of Finance and Department of Revenue being summoned before a parliamentary committee later this month.

The Standing Committee on Finance, which met on Tuesday, summoned the officials on October 30.

It is learnt that an immediate family member of BJP MP Radha

Mohan Das Agrawal was recently denied loan by a bank on account of being in the category of "Politically Exposed Persons". This issue apparently came up for discussion among MPs a few days ago and it was learnt to have been taken up during the panel's meeting on Tuesday.

The issue listed to be discussed during the committee meeting was related to Non Banking Financial Companies. Officials of the Department of Financial Services, Reserve Bank of India and Small Industries Development Bank of India were supposed to give "Oral evidence ... on the subject 'Issues relating to NBFCs'", according to the Parliament website.

It is learnt that the matter was first raised by Congress MP Manish Tewari and then all other MPs, across party lines, joined the issue.

According to the RBI, "Politically Exposed Persons (PEP)" are individuals "who are or have been entrusted with prominent public functions by a foreign country, including the Heads of States/Governments, senior politicians, senior government or judicial or military officers, senior executives of state-owned corporations and important political party officials".

According to a 2011 master circular of the RBI, "Banks should gather sufficient information on

any person/customer of this category intending to establish a relationship and check all the information available on the person in the public domain."

"Banks should verify the identity of the person and seek information about the sources of funds before accepting the PEP as a customer. The decision to open an account for PEP should be taken at a senior level which should be clearly spelt out in Customer Acceptance policy. Banks should also subject such accounts to enhanced monitoring on an ongoing basis. The above norms may also be applied to the accounts of the family members or close relatives of PEPs," it said.

Defamation case: Rahul moves Bombay HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 17

CONGRESS LEADER Rahul Gandhi recently approached the Bombay High Court seeking to quash a defamation case filed against him by an RSS worker and lawyer for allegedly linking the Sangh to the killing of journalist Gauri Lankesh.

He has also challenged the 2019 order of magistrate court in Borivali that refused to dismiss the defamation complaint.

In February 2019, Maharashtra-based RSS worker and lawyer Dhritiman Joshi had filed a defamation case against Rahul Gandhi and CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury for allegedly linking the Sangh to the killing of Gauri Lankesh. Lankesh was shot dead outside her house in Bengaluru in September 2017.

69TH NATIONAL FILM AWARDS



President Droupadi Murmu presents the Dadasaheb Phalke Award to Waheeda Rehman in the presence of Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur during the 69th National Film Awards at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on Tuesday. *Express*

Waheeda Rehman conferred with Dadasaheb Phalke Award

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

CALLING SCREEN icon Waheeda Rehman a trailblazer for refusing "to use any other name to work in films, even though it was a trend at that time, President Droupadi Murmu Tuesday conferred the 'Chaudhvin Ka Chand' and 'Guide' actor with the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award, considered the highest national honour for contribution to films.

"She chose many films in which her roles broke the barriers associated with women. Waheedaji has set an example that women themselves should also take initiative for women empowerment," Murmu said

during her address at the 69th National Film Awards ceremony at New Delhi's Vigyan Bhawan.

"Sympathetic and artistic portrayal of female characters will increase sensitivity, respect for women," the President said. Actors Alia Bhatt and Kriti Sanon received Best Actor (Female) Award for 'Gangubai Kathiawadi' and 'Mimi' respectively, while Allu Arjun bagged Best Actor (Male) for 'Pushpa: The Rise'.

R Madhavan's 'Rocketry: The Nambi Effect', based on the life of ISRO former scientist Nambi Narayan, bagged the Best Feature Film award, while Sanjay Leela Bhansali's biographical drama 'Gangubai Kathiawadi' also won the Best Screenplay (adapted)—written by Bhansali

and Utkarshini Vashishtha — and the Best Dialogues Award for Vashishtha and Prakash Kapadia.

Bhansali, who was not there to receive the award, was also named the best editor for the film, while Preetishsheel Singh D'souza won the award for best make-up artist. Actors Pankaj Tripathi and Pallavi Joshi received the best supporting actor awards for 'Mimi' and 'The Kashmir Files', respectively.

'The Kashmir Files' won the Nargis Dutt Award for Best Film on National Integration. President made a special mention of 'RRR', which bagged several awards. Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting Anurag Thakur, Mo S&BB L Murugan, and other senior officials were also present.

OCTOBER 14 MURDER IN MUMBAI

Woman's brother, father held for killing inter-faith couple

MOHAMED THAYER
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 17

THE MUMBAI Police has arrested three persons and apprehended three minors in connection with the murder of a couple who married from different communities last year, on October 14.

According to police, the family members of Gulnaz Khan (20) were unhappy with her marriage to Karan Ramesh Chandra (22) in 2022, following which her father and brother allegedly murdered the couple with the help of a few friends. Both the families reside in Banda of Uttar Pradesh.

An officer said that the murders came to light when personnel of RCF police station were investigating the case of an unidentified body of a man found in a well at an isolated telecom factory area in Govandi on October 14. Police registered a murder case after the body was found with throat slit. Police also published his photograph asking for information on him.

Inspector Pramod Kokate said that with the help of technical evidence, they managed to establish that the body belonged to Chandra, a resident of Uttar Pradesh who came to the city a

few days ago with his wife. "When we started looking for her wife, Gulnaz, she was also missing," Kokate said.

After preliminary investigation, police found that Gulnaz's family had been unhappy about her marrying outside their religion and had called them to the city to resolve the issue.

"We began questioning Gulnaz's father Gora Raisuddin Khan (50) and brother Salman Khan (22) and found that they murdered the couple," said DCP (zone VI) Hemraj Rajput.

Police arrested the duo, along with Salman's friend Mohammad Kaif, and detained three other minors alleged to be involved in the murder.

Gora and Salman who were into garment business would often come to Dharavi in Mumbai for work and stay for long periods. Last year, Gulnaz told her family about her relationship with Chandra. Despite the family's opposition, the couple got married.

"When relatives came to know, the girl's father and brother decided to kill Chandra," the officer said. An officer said that they arrested the accused on Monday and produced them before the court on Tuesday when they were remanded in police custody for 11 days.

Mahua moves Delhi HC, seeks damages from BJP MP, lawyer

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17



Mahua Moitra,
TMC leader

TMC LOK Sabha MP Mahua Moitra Tuesday moved the Delhi High Court, seeking to restrain BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, an advocate and several social media platforms and media houses from posting, circulating or publishing any alleged fake and defamatory content against her.

Justice Sachin Datta is likely to hear the matter later this week. Moitra sought permanent injunction and damages against Dubey, advocate Jai Anant Dehadrai, social media platform X, Google, YouTube and 15 media houses and to restrain them from making, publishing, circulating per se defamatory, ex facie false and malicious statements against her. She has

sought a direction to the defendants to remove or take down all the alleged defamatory and scurrilous content, including posts, tweets, re-tweets, caption, posted at their respective platforms against her.

Moitra further sought a decree and an order directing the defendants Dubey and Dehadrai to publish a retraction and an apology to the plaintiff in three English, three Hindi and three Bengali newspapers for the false and defamatory statements/ allegations made by them against her. She has also provisionally valued the damages at Rs 2 crore.

India justified in accusing Canada of neglect: Saran

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17



Pankaj Saran

INDIA IS justified in accusing Canada of wilful neglect of the former's concerns about terrorists like Hardeep Singh Nijjar, said Pankaj Saran, former Deputy National Security Advisor and Convenor, NatStrat.

Saran, who was in conversation with *The Indian Express* Diplomatic Editor Shubhajit Roy during an Explained Live webinar on Tuesday, discussed the recent diplomatic row between India and Canada. The row began last month after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told Parliament that it is possible the Indian government had a hand in the murder of a Khalistani separatist in Canada.

"For more than a year, we have had private conversations with the Canadians about Hardeep Singh Nijjar. (We asked the Canadians) to give him back as he is a wanted criminal... We have shared with them a list of Khalistani terrorists through the Interpol and Red Corner notices, saying these are all people living in safe sanctuary in Canada. So either you act upon them or give them back to us through the legal route. We have given you concrete documents and evidence but you're not taking any action. So, we are completely justified in concluding that there is wilful neglect of India's concerns and that you (Canada) are providing a haven or an ecosystem that will give sanctuary to such people who then sit there and through technology, mastermind killings, shootings and chaos in India and seek asylum in a foreign land. This is unacceptable in today's day and age by any international standard,"



said Saran.

Talking about the allegations of PM Trudeau, Saran said, "India interfering in someone else's affairs is quite absurd because it is India, which is the victim out here. We find foreign nationals, in this case, Canadian nationals are busily interfering, which is a mild word, in India's internal affairs. They are masterminding and plotting gang wars. These drug-related syndicates and the killing of Sidhu Moosewala last year in Punjab didn't happen through benign actions. These were actions intended to sow chaos in India and any government in India, whether it is the current government or the previous government or any other government will have no option, but to take every step to protect in India."

Saran added that acknowledging that there is a problem, which is affecting India, a friendly partner country, is the core issue. "If you're a democracy, so are we, so what is preventing you from responding to our entreaties and repeated urgings to you under international law? What is it going to take for Canada to be more responsive and sensitive? I think that is the core of the issue," he added.

Akhilesh on seat-sharing within INDIA bloc: 'Cong has to decide if alliance is at state or national level'

ASAD REHMAN
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 17



Akhilesh Yadav,
SP president

WITH THE chances of an alliance between the Congress and Samajwadi Party (SP) fading in poll-bound Madhya Pradesh, SP president Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday said that it is up to the Congress to clarify its stand on the alliance among the INDIA bloc partners and whether sharing of seats would be applicable on the state or national level.

Speaking in Kanpur, Akhilesh said, "Yeh Congress ko batana

padega ki INDIA, Bharat gath-bandhan agar desh ke sthar pe hai, toh desh ke sthar pe hai. Agar pradesh ke sthar pe nahi hai, toh bhavishya mein pradesh star pe bhi nahi hoga. Yeh toh Congress ko batana hai, main isme kuch nahi bol sakta (The Congress will have to clarify about the INDIA block. If it is on the national level, then in the

future, it will not happen on the state level. I can't say anything on this because the Congress should clarify on this.)"

"The (seat-sharing) discussion stretched till 1 am. It didn't work out so it didn't work out," added Akhilesh, referring to the talks between the two parties for the Madhya Pradesh elections.

On Sunday, the Congress announced candidates for four of the seven seats in Madhya Pradesh where SP has already declared its candidates.

In a strong signal to its INDIA alliance partner, the SP then declared a list of nine more candi-

dates. SP state president for Madhya Pradesh Ramayan Singh Patel told *The Indian Express* that "all possibilities of an alliance with the Congress are over now".

A senior SP leader considered close to Akhilesh Yadav accused the Congress of not being interested in defeating the BJP.

Madhya Pradesh Congress spokesperson Piyush Babele said the final call on seat sharing would be taken by the party's high command. Meanwhile, a Congress leader said the SP was trying to get more seats than it was capable of winning.

Alleging that a person from

the Sikh community was gravely injured by BJP workers in Kanpur, Akhilesh said the ruling party was "so arrogant that they aren't treating humans like humans".

"Injustice and atrocities are at their peak in the BJP government. BJP has become very arrogant... The BJP government, which talks about zero tolerance towards crime, has given a free hand to its workers to beat up anyone and even take away their eyesight. No matter how much injustice and atrocities they commit on the public, bulldozers will not be used on their houses," the former CM alleged.

Students to Asha workers: On frontlines of Assam's fight against child marriage



SUKRITA BARUAH
HOJAI, OCTOBER 17

SCHOOL-GOING CHILDREN and the elderly made up most of the audience gathered under the shamianna pitched in the small town of Kaki in Assam last week.

As two young men moved among the audience distributing black gram as the afternoon's refreshments, local leader Monwar Hussain spoke into a mic, "There are not many people

who are not aware of the law against child marriage... Parents, don't give your young daughters in marriage. Our little sisters, if you hear of a friend or classmate about to get forcefully married off, tell your teacher or quietly call 1098. If everybody and all students work together, we should be able to aim to end child marriage by 2026."

This public meeting, organised by the All Assam Minority Students' Union (AAMSU) in an area where the population largely comprises Bengali-origin Muslims, was being held a week after 31 people from the district, Hojai, were arrested overnight in a police crackdown against child marriage. 13 of those arrested were men who had allegedly married underage girls and 18 were relatives booked for al-

legedly facilitating the marriages.

In February, 219 people were arrested from the district over the course of a few days in an unprecedented crackdown on child marriage in the state. While Assam's punitive anti-child marriage drive has largely been viewed as affecting the state's Bengali-Muslim community, for long, campaigns such as the one AAMSU held in Hojai's Kaki last week and community-led initiatives have worked to push back against the problem.

On its part, at each of its meetings, AAMSU has been specifically underlining education — girls' education in particular — as the only way forward. But they also claim to have intervened and stopped several child marriages. Fakhruhin Islam, an AAMSU activist from Islam



Monwar Hussain speaks at a gathering in Kaki village, Assam.

Nagar village in the district, said he personally intervened and stopped two marriages: one in 2019, and the other, that of a Class 9 student, last December.

"When we first started, there was so much resentment against us. One good thing that came out of the government's drive is that many people were thankful to us and told us that if we hadn't in-

tervened, they would have been in jail," he laughed.

A provincial school in the district too has been advocating against child marriage over the past few years. Badrul Islam Beg, the principal of Doboka Higher Secondary School, said the school has been talking about the issue during parent-teacher meetings, and health and hy-

giene workshops. However, he said, all efforts have been disparate and disorganised due to lack of institutional intervention.

Beg added, "Ideally, there should be intervention by the (education) department so that campaigns at the grassroots level can be organised at the school level on the lines of those conducted by anti-tobacco and eco-clubs. The arrests are preventing child marriages because of fear, not awareness. At the end of the day, without awareness, young girls will still be seen as a burden by their families."

The government, however, said it has been doing its bit to change mindsets. The administration held awareness meetings and appointed Gaon Panchayat secretaries as village-level Child Marriage Prohibition Officers

(CMPOs). At Islam Nagar, Gaon Panchayat Secretary Shahabuddin said he had attended a meeting at the District Collector's office a few months ago with other secretaries. At the meeting, he said, they had been told that they should check age certificates to issue no-objection certificates for marriages in their respective villages.

Since no written order or notification was issued regarding the new responsibilities, Shahabuddin said the panchayat too has not taken any steps towards building awareness. At Ashinagar, a village in the same district, panchayat members said an awareness meeting had been held by block-level officials earlier this year.

ASHA workers too have been roped in. At the village level, ASHA workers work most con-

sistently to spread the message and as grassroots health workers, they also have their ears closest to the ground.

An ASHA worker in a village in Hojai district says that before the February crackdown, she attended a training session at a local hospital. "Earlier, while maintaining our records on pregnant women, we would just ask their age and write whatever they told us. Now, we have been told to check their Aadhaar cards and write down their date of birth instead," she said.

But this advocacy, she said, has resulted in suspicion and wariness from the village community. Thanks to the crackdown on child marriages, the community assumes that she will use the information she collects on the job to point the police in their direction.

BRIEFLY

JAMMU & KASHMIR
Soldier killed
in Poonch

Jammu: An Army personnel died Monday night of a bullet injury to his head, in J&K's Poonch district. The soldier was identified as Ridham Sharma of Katra, Reasi district. ENS

UTTAR PRADESH
5 killed in blast
in Meerut

Meerut: At least five people were killed and six seriously injured when a building housing a soap-making unit collapsed after a blast in the boiler in Meerut's Lohia Nagar locality Tuesday morning, officials said. ENS

DISQUALIFICATION PLEAS AGAINST MAHARASHTRA MLAs

Speaker not doing his job, giving final opportunity, says top court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

THE SUPREME COURT on Wednesday said it was giving a "final opportunity" to the Maharashtra Assembly Speaker to fix the time schedule to decide the disqualification petitions pending against MLAs.

Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud presiding over a three-judge bench said the Speaker "is not doing his job" but "goes on to give interviews that we are a co-equal branch of the government, the Supreme Court is supreme in its own way".

The bench also comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra was hearing petitions by Shiv Sena (Uddhav Thackeray) MLA Sunil Prabhhu and Jayant Patil of NCP (Sharad Pawar) against the alleged delay by the Speaker in deciding the disqualification petitions filed by them.

Hearing it on October 11, the bench had told the Speaker that it will fix the time schedule if he fails to do so. It said that a Speaker deciding disqualification petitions under the 10th Schedule of the Constitution acts as a tribunal and was amenable to the jurisdiction of the court. Taking it up again on

Wednesday, the bench said: "We are not satisfied with the time schedule which has been indicated... since adhering to that time schedule will not result in any immediate or foreseeable conclusion in the disqualification proceedings".

Appearing for the Speaker, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta urged the court to grant him some more time to have "one to one" conversation with the Speaker. At this, the CJ said "he has to decide... He has been giving interviews. He is not doing his job. He is amenable to the jurisdiction of this court. We are not controlling what is happening on

the floor of the House which is absolutely supreme. But while hearing a disqualification proceedings, he is a tribunal and amenable to the court's jurisdiction." Stating that he had no knowledge of the interviews, the SG conveyed his apology.

The CJ reminded that disqualification proceedings are summary proceedings and said "we want to set down our time frame for him to come to a final conclusion". He added the Speaker "must first deal with the petition filed by the Uddhav Thackeray faction" last year and also with the NCP matter. The court will hear the matter on October 30.

India, Europe & Middle East economic corridor will create jobs: Modi

AVINASH NAIR
AHMEDABAD, OCTOBER 17

THE INDIA-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor will reduce business costs, increase logistical efficiency and create a large number of jobs, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in Mumbai on Tuesday.

"Recently under India's initiative, a step has been taken that has the potential to revolutionise the global maritime industry in the 21st century. During the G20 summit, a historic consensus happened for the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor. Several years ago, silk route had sped up global trade. This route became the foundation for the development of many countries. This historic corridor too will change the face of regional and global trade," the PM said as he virtually addressed the third edition of Global Maritime India Summit.

"The construction of next generation mega ports and international container transshipment ports, island development, inland waterways, expansion of



PM Narendra Modi inaugurates the third edition of Global Maritime India Summit virtually

Tuna Tekra in Gujarat that was described as an "international trade hub as part of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor" at the inaugural event of the summit. However, the Prime Minister did not touch upon the greenfield container terminal in his speech.

He said the capacity of major ports have doubled in the last decade. "The turnaround time for container vessels in 2014 was about 42 hours. This has reduced to less than 24 hours in 2023," he added. The Prime minister also said that in the past one decade, the coastal shipping traffic has doubled, while the cargo handled by inland waterways, have grown four times.

"India will be among the top five ship-building nations in the next few decades," PM Modi said, pointing out that ship leasing activities have begun in GIFT City where "four major ship leasing companies have already registered with GIFT IFSC". He also referred to the under construction National Maritime Heritage Museum being built in Lothal.

Bringing Jharkhand rural areas closer with fleet of 250 buses

ABHISHEK ANGAD
RANCHI, OCTOBER 17

IN A MEETING chaired by Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Tuesday, the state government has decided to propose a public transport scheme, 'Mukhyamantri Gram Gaadi Yojna', for the rural population of the state.

The CM plans to propose the scheme in the Cabinet meeting on Wednesday for faster approval.

Starting with a fleet of 250 buses in its first phase of implementation, the scheme aims to connect the remote, tribal and rural areas with other parts of the state.

Although a timeline for the scheme has not been fixed yet, Hemant Soren said that the scheme will be put up in the state Cabinet meeting on Wednesday.

The plan had been in the talks since early this year and the meeting on Tuesday was held by the chief minister Soren to expedite the process as not only the public transport will help senior citizens, school and college students, differently-abled, HIV positive, widows and "all revolutionaries who worked for Jharkhand state" to commute hassle-free but they all will get free access to travel, according to official sources.

Soren said, "Our priority is to strengthen the road transport and traffic system in rural and remote tribal areas

of the state. The aim is to connect rural areas with block, sub-division and district headquarters. So that people living in remote villages can get access to an accessible transportation system."

The scheme will give a boost to people living in remote locations as more than 70 per cent of the current estimated population of four crore in Jharkhand reside in the rural areas, the source said.

"After the cabinet clears it, the process will begin to invite applications to run the buses and then work permits will be issued. It may or may not happen before the state elections due November-December, 2024," he added.

The transport department officials, also present in the meeting, said that the routes will be determined keeping in mind public places like hospital, school, college, weekly market, local market and railway station locations.

Soren said that a mobile-based application will also be launched so that the villagers will get the location of the buses regularly and "villagers would not have to wait for buses due to lack of information".

Under this scheme, bus operators on prescribed routes will be given subsidies on vehicle purchase but that its implementation process may take a long time, said the source.

DISMISSES FORMER PUNE POLICE COMMISSIONER'S CLAIM

Yerawada project was nixed as firm was facing ED probe: Ajit

MANOJ MORE
PUNE, OCTOBER 17

Denying allegations that he has put pressure for the sale of a prime police land in Yerawada area to a private builder, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar Tuesday said that the project cancelled by the state government as the private party which was supposed to implement it got embroiled in an ED case.

He denied claims by former Pune Police Commissioner Meeran Borwankar who said the deal did not go ahead because she opposed it.

Borwankar in her book claimed that as the Guardian Minister of Pune district in 2010, Pawar allegedly asked her to hand over three acres of land belonging to the police because it had been auctioned to a builder.

Without naming Borwankar, Pawar, at a press conference in Mumbai, said, "Some people are claiming that because they opposed the project, it was cancelled. The claim was made in a book and at a press conference in Delhi Monday. This is not true. The ED had taken action against the company in a particular case and therefore, the state government had decided to cancel the project."

Conceding that he had indeed met Borwankar, as claimed, Pawar said, "As the District Guardian Minister, I am supposed



Maharashtra Deputy CM Ajit Pawar concedes he met former Pune Police top cop Meeran Borwankar

to review the implementation of various projects in the district. When the district officials told me that the police commissioner had opposed the Yerawada project, I called her for a meeting. At the meeting, she (Borwankar) said she did not agree with the project. I then said that it is fine."

In the same breath, Pawar said, "I might be strict but I am never rude to IAS and IPS officers. You can get it verified from the officers."

Borwankar had alleged that Pawar had lost his cool and had thrown the map of the project on the glass table placed before the two.

"The decision about any land transfer is taken by the state cabinet and revenue department. The guardian minister had nothing to do with it," he said.

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

सर्वजनिक सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि 10 मैक्स डिजी इन्फोटेक प्राठ लि0 द्वारा भूखण्ड संख्या-02, सैक्टर-140ए, नौराडा (क्षेत्रफल 1,08,800 वर्ग मी0) के सम्मुख उपलब्ध 18 मी0 चौड़े मार्ग को 24 मी0 चौड़ा किये जाने हेतु अनुरोध किया गया है। उक्त मार्ग को 24 मी0 चौड़ा करने हेतु अतिरिक्त भूमि आवंटि संस्था द्वारा ही प्राधिकरण को निशुल्क उपलब्ध करायी जायेगी एवं मार्ग को चौड़ा करने पर समस्त फिजीकल इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर/सुविधाओं पर आने वाला व्यय भी आवंटि संस्था द्वारा वहन किया जायेगा।

अतः उपरोक्त के संबंध में यदि किसी जनसामान्य को कोई आपत्ति/सुझाव हो, तो विज्ञापित प्रकाशन की तिथि से 15 दिन के अन्दर लिखित रूप में नौराडा प्राधिकरण अथवा ई-मेल (captinoida@gmail.com) के माध्यम से प्रेषित कर सकते हैं। निर्धारित अवधि के उपरान्त प्राप्त होने वाले आपत्ति/सुझाव पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा।

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भारत सरकार
प्रधानमंत्री संग्रहालय एवं पुस्तकालय

द्वारा आयोजित
वार्ता
स्वामी करपात्री (1907-1982) का लेखकीय अवदान: एक सर्वेक्षण

में
आप सादर आमंत्रित हैं।
वक्ता - डॉ कमल कुमार मिश्रा
जूनियर फेलो, प्रधानमंत्री संग्रहालय एवं पुस्तकालय

दिनांक : 19 अक्टूबर 2023, गुरुवार समय: अपराह्न 3:00 बजे
संगोष्ठी कक्ष, पुस्तकालय भवन
प्रधानमंत्री संग्रहालय एवं पुस्तकालय
तीन मूर्ति भवन, नई दिल्ली - 110011

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CBC 09142/12/0040/2324

इंडियन बैंक
ALLAHABAD

INDIAN BANK
Patna Main Branch, Budh Marg,
Near Kotwali Police Station,
Patna - 800001 (Bihar)

APPENDIX - IV [Rule-8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rules 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice u/s 13(2) on the date noted against the Accounts as mentioned hereinafter, calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notices.

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 and 9 of the said rules on the date noted against the accounts as mentioned hereinafter.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank for the amounts noted against the accounts as mentioned hereinafter and interest thereon.

We draw attention to the provisions of section 13 (8) of the SARFAESI Act, and rules framed there under which deals with your rights of redemption over the securities.

| Sl. No. | Name of the Account & Branch | Name of the Borrower/ Guarantor (Owner of the Property) | Description of the Immovable Property | Date of Demand Notice Date of Possession Notice | Amount Outstanding as on Date of Demand Notice |
|---------|--|--|---|--|---|
| 1 | (1) Sri Binod Kumar Mishra, S/o Sri Surya Nath Mishra (2) Sri Surya Nath Mishra, S/o Late Pujra Ram Mishra (3) Sri Nikhilesh Ranjan (4) Sri Umesh Shukla. Branch : Patna Main Branch | (1) Sri Binod Kumar Mishra, S/o Sri Surya Nath Mishra (2) Sri Surya Nath Mishra, S/o Late Pujra Ram Mishra (3) Sri Nikhilesh Ranjan (4) Sri Umesh Shukla. | All that part and parcel of the property situated at : Mortgage of immovable properties at Mauza - Paharpur, Thana No - 14, Mohalla - Police Colony, Anishabad, Patna, Samiti Plot No - 194, Grade - C, Ward No - 06, Patna, Area - 172.26 Sq. Meter equivalent to 1854 Sq. ft. in the name of Sri Suryanath Mishra. Bounded as follows : Boundaries :- North - Branch Road, South - Branch Road, East - Samiti Plot No - C/195, West - Samiti Plot No - C/193. | 08.08.2023 17.10.2023 | Rs. 10,08,850/- (Rupees Ten Lakh Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Only) as on 08.08.2023 and interest and other charges thereon. |

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(Recognized by NCTE, Affiliated to CRSU, Jind)
Purkhas Road, Near Sugar Mill, Sonapat-131001
Ph: 09812020033, 09812118466, 09812421919
Web: www.spces.edu.in | Em.: southpoint9@gmail.com

STAFF REQUIRES FOR B.P.Ed. COURSE:
Head-1, Associate Professor-2, Assistant Prof.-6,
Assistant professor (Part-time)-3, Sports Trainer (Part-time)-3,
Yoga Trainer (Part-time)-1, Dietician (Part-time)-1,
Physiotherapist-1, Music Teacher/Band Master (Part-time)-1.

Qualification & Salary as per norms of NCTE/UGC/CRS University, Jind.
Apply as per prescribed proforma alongwith attested copies of all certificates to the college campus and one copy of the same to The Dean of Colleges, CRS University, Jind within 21 days i.e.07 Nov. 2023.

MOIL LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)
MOIL Bhavan, 1-A, Katol Road, NAGPUR-440013
Website: www.moil.nic.in Fax: 0712-2592073
CIN No.:L99999MH1962GOI012398

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MOIL Ltd, Miniratna category-I, schedule "A" CPSE under Ministry of Steel, Govt of India, invites on-line applications as under:

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| 1 | Mine Foreman-I (NE-08) | 01 |
| 2 | S G Mine Foreman /Tr. S. G. Mine Foreman (NE-09) | 05 |
| 3 | Mine Mate-I (NE-05) | 15 |
| 4 | Blaster-II(NE-04) | 11 |

For details log on to our website www.moil.nic.in on the link "Recruitment". Any amendment/modification relating to this advertisement will be notified on MOIL's website only.
Last date for submission of on-line applications: 09.11.2023.
General Manager(Pers.)

SH. SUDHIR KUMAR SIROHI
Special Judge, NDPS Act.
Room No. 35, P. Building
Patiala House Courts
New Delhi

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
(See Section 82 Cr.P.C.)
SC No. 46/2021
NCB Vs Madan Lama & Ors.

1) Whereas complaint has been made before me that Mr. Madan Lama, S/o Sh. Lal Zumba Lama, R/o. House No- 216 & 245, Top Floor, Gali No-3, Sant Nagar, East Of Kailash, New Delhi has committed (or suspected to have committed) the offence punishable under section 08, 20(b) and 29 of NDPS Act 1985 and it has been returned to a warrants of arrest thereupon issued that the said Mr. Madan Lama, S/o Sh. Lal Zumba Lama cannot be found and whereas it has shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Mr. Madan Lama, S/o Sh. Lal Zumba Lama has absconded, (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

2) Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on the day of 20.11.2023.

Sd/xxxx
Special Court, NDPS Act
Patiala House Courts
New Delhi

cbc 19126/11/0015/2324

In MP, Punjab, textile major Trident Group faces I-T raids

RAAKHI JAGGA
LUDHIANA, OCTOBER 17

AROUND 40 teams of the Income Tax (I-T) Department on Tuesday raided manufacturing units and offices of Trident Group in Punjab and Madhya Pradesh Tuesday morning.

Accompanied with paramilitary forces, I-T sleuths raided business premises of fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) company Cremica group of industries in Ludhiana, the manufacturing units of Trident at Budhni in Madhya Pradesh and Barnala, Dhaura and Ludhiana in Punjab. The company manufac-

tures yarn, home textiles, paper and stationary, chemicals and adaptive power in their units.

In Punjab, Trident has manufacturing units in Barnala and Dhaura and a corporate office in Ludhiana's Kitchlu Nagar. Over 35 teams of the I-T Department have come to Ludhiana alone, sources said. Ludhiana-based businessman Rajinder Gupta, a Padma Shri awardee, Chairperson Emirtus of Trident Group. In June last year, the Punjab government appointed him vice chairman of the State Economic Policy and Planning Board of Punjab for three years. In Ludhiana Stock Exchange, officials are checking details of a few stock brokers.

I-HUB QUANTUM TECHNOLOGY FOUNDATION, IISER PUNE
First Floor, Main Building, IISER Pune Campus, Dr. Homi Bhabha Road, Pune 411 008
Tel: 020-25908647 Email: jobs@quantech.org.in Website: www.quantech.org.in

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Online applications are invited from Indian nationals having excellent academic record and relevant work experience for the position of Chief Executive Officer, purely on temporary and contractual basis.

For detailed advertisement, please visit quantech.org.in and click on the 'Opportunities' header.
The last date for submission of applications is: 15-11-2023.
Adv. No.: 01/2023, Dated: 13/10/2023 PROJECT DIRECTOR, I-HUB QTF

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH PUNE
(An Autonomous Institution of the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)
Dr. Homi Bhabha Road, Pune-411008. Website: www.iiserpune.ac.in

RECRUITMENT : NON-TEACHING POSITION
Institute invites online applications from Indian nationals having excellent academic record for the position of 'Library Information Assistant' (Pay Level-6, Un-reserved).

For detailed advertisement and filling online application, please visit www.iiserpune.ac.in and click on the link 'Opportunities- Non-teaching / Project'. The last date for submission of online applications is 07-11-2023.
Adv. No.: 64/2023 dated 17.10.2023 Registrar

OFFICE OF THE
COMMISSIONER GURDWARA ELECTION
HARYANA, GROUND, FLOOR, PLOT NO. 9
DHL SQUARE, SECTOR-22, PANCHKULA
Tele: 0172-4004268,
Email: gurdwaraelectionhry@gmail.com
Web: https://gurdwaraelectionshry.in.

PUBLIC NOTICE

All Sikhs residing in the State of Haryana are hereby informed that last date for registration of names for preparation of electoral roll for the election of Haryana Sikh Gurdwaras Management Committee has been extended from 16.10.2023 to 31.10.2023. Any Sikh who fulfils the requisite qualification and has not yet been registered is advised to get his name registered immediately through Patwari in rural area and Secretary of Municipality in urban area. Application forms are available with the Patwari and Secretary of Municipality or it can be downloaded free of cost from the official website of this office i.e. https://gurdwara-electionshry.in. Requisite qualification for registration of name in the electoral of Haryana Sikh Gurdwaras Management Committee is given as under:

ANY PERSON WHO:
i. has been ordinarily resident of the ward for not less than 6 months at the time of registration as voter;

ii. is a Sikh of not less than 18 years of age (as on 1st January, 2023);

It is also informed that the person who is a Patit or trims or shaves his beard or Keshas, uses Tobacco, Kutha (Halal Meat) or Intoxicants and takes Alcoholic Drinks shall not be eligible.

Justice H.S.Bhalla
Commissioner
Gurdwara Elections, Haryana

21953/Hry



WORDLY WISE
THE MASTER'S TOOLS WILL NEVER
DISMANTLE THE MASTER'S HOUSE.
— AUDRE LORDE

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY
RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

DOOR IS AJAR



PRATAP BHANU MEHTA

In marriage equality case, it enunciates principle of discrimination, only to limit its applicability

Court stops short

SC fails to seize the moment on marriage equality. But its verdict opens up some valuable space for a vulnerable minority

THE SUPREME COURT'S judgment on legalising same-sex marriage in India shifts the onus of the decision on to the legislature, leaves the door ajar for change. Asserting that "there is no unqualified right to marry", the five-judge bench of the Supreme Court, headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, ruled against granting constitutional validity to same-sex marriage. But if the outcome stopped well short of the expectations of a landmark judicial decision that would expand the ambit of individual rights and freedoms, in its recognition that "homosexuality or queerness" is not an "urban" or "elite" concept, that there is a pressing need for an anti-discrimination law and necessary protections, and that members of the LGBTQIA+ community have "the right to choose one's partner", the judgment has opened up valuable room for finding a way forward. The bench, comprising the CJI, Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Justice S Ravindra Bhat, Justice Hima Kohli, and Justice PS Narasimha, had reserved its judgment on May 11 after a 10-day hearing in April.

In 2018, in its ground-breaking reading down of the provisions of Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, a colonial-era legislation that had effectively criminalised homosexual relations in India, the Supreme Court had drawn upon landmark decisions such as the 2014 NALSA judgment that recognised transgender individuals as the "third gender", and the 2017 right to privacy verdict, to uphold the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community. In these last five years, there has been a slow but steady shift in attitudes, emanating from the essential spirit of emancipation underlined and reinforced by that judgment. In June this year, for instance, a Pew Research Centre survey on attitudes to same-sex marriage in 24 countries around the world showed that 53 per cent Indians are in favour of legalising same-sex marriages. Despite the Centre's discomfort with the petitions and its argument in a 56-page-long affidavit in March that "the notion of marriage itself necessarily and inevitably presupposes a union between two persons of the opposite sex", hopes had been raised that the apex court would seize the moment to take a less conservative stance. But while the 3:2 judgment makes a strong case for building in safeguards for protection from discrimination — at home and by the State — it stops short of making the institution of marriage more equal by extending the provisions of the Special Marriage Act 1954 to LGBTQIA+ unions. By accepting the government's proposal of an expert committee to look into the matter of rights for the community, the court has kept its role limited to an advisory framework, pushing the ball back into the Centre's court for addressing the concerns of citizens seeking redress for a continuing injustice.

The court did not go far enough even as it has prised open some space and widened the room for manoeuvre for an embattled minority. Its categorical no to same sex marriage can also be said to make many of its empathetic observations on rights and discrimination seem like tokenism. In the end, therefore, the verdict points at the larger battles that still remain to be fought — the necessity of safeguards both within the home and outside, the recognition of civil unions as a possibility for the community, and the realisation, above all, that like all battles for equal rights, this, too, has a long and arduous road ahead.

IN ITS LATEST judgment, the Supreme Court of India has taken some steps to protect same sex unions from discrimination, and granted those unions some legal rights. But in the final analysis, the Court limited itself to providing a mere *modus vivendi*: Protecting a few rights, but stopping well short of granting full recognition to same sex marriage.

The Chief Justice was not aligned with at least three of his colleagues, but what is odd about his judgment is that it was not allied with its own logic. This judgment will only prolong the long and arduous struggle to create the conditions where same sex couples could live a life without fear, in the sweet elixir of freedom, and the imprimatur of equal recognition.

The Chief Justice's judgment begins with a profound reiteration of the values that protect the dignity of individuals: A regard for their autonomy, privacy, freedom to choose and their well-being. The basic thread around which it constructs an argument is this: No one can be denied a human good that should be available to them solely on account of their sexual orientation. It then gives a series of directions to protect same sex unions from interference by the state, or in some cases, parents. But it stops well short of extending the provisions of the Special Marriage Act to same sex unions.

It could be argued that this was a wise course of action given two background features of this case. The first is whether this is a matter for the judiciary or Parliament to decide. I am very sympathetic to this question. The Court should not wade into policy. But here the issue is whether a statute discriminates against a class of people with no reasonable nexus for that classification.

The Court argued that it could neither invalidate the Special Marriage Act nor read it in a more inclusive non-discriminatory way. This, to be honest, is a very odd position to take, if what is at stake is discrimination. In effect, the Court is saying that, for the moment, a certain institutional practice, marriage, that this society recognises as a central pivot around which to publicly express unions between two people, is not available to same sex couples. All judges seem to agree that the institution of marriage flows from the statutes created by

the state. They argue that it follows from this that there is no fundamental right to marriage, and that such an institution cannot be modified by the Courts.

But surely this is to miss the Court's own logic twice over. First the issue is not whether marriage is a statutory right. It is whether an important institution can be denied to two people wanting to create a union solely on account of their sexual orientation, which is what the Special Marriage Act does. So the CJI enunciated the principle of discrimination with one hand, only to limit its applicability to the real issue at stake. And second, as Justice Ravindra Bhat pointed out, if the Court is reluctant to employ the discrimination logic to the Special Marriage Act, why apply it to regulations regarding parenting etc? Is the Court saying the question of discrimination cannot apply to something that is not a fundamental right?

The second is a tricky issue of how far society should proceed without a deep consensus. To what extent can courts instigate moral change, without incurring a backlash? As Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul said rightly, constitutional morality cannot be shaped by social morality: That argument would equally apply to parenting practices that the Court seeks to modify, as it would to the institution of marriage. The current law embodies a discriminatory assumption that only heterosexual parents can, as a couple, be appropriate parents. The Chief Justice's opinion rightly questions this. But why not wait for Parliament on this question as well?

If one is sympathetic to the courts, one can say this. They have followed an incrementally ameliorative logic. They do not feel confident about the administrative and social consequences of reinterpreting the Special Marriage Act and they are letting the social debate play out. But this would be very charitable. The genius of the strategy to use the Special Marriage Act to grant same sex unions recognition was that it, for the moment, leaves the whole wider gamut of personal laws intact. It was not a whole-scale transformation of marriage practices as much as the recognition of discrimination.

Why is the non-recognition of marriage discriminatory? Whether we like it or not,

marriage is a privileged social institution. Justice Kaul seems to think some of the aims of marriage can be achieved by a form of civil union. Justice Chandrachud wants to grant some rights, like those of a civil union, without quite specifying what kind of a union it is. Again, this relegates same sex union to a fugitive identity that cannot even be clearly named, let alone fully recognised.

The meaning of marriage, the conception of the goods it supports, has undergone a profound transformation. But two related ideas remain central. The first is its "publicness". It is a social institution. It has to be publicly affirmed and recognised by society. The second element is commitment. The idea behind commitment is not that a bond cannot be dissolved: That depends on circumstances. It is the idea that this relationship is meant to be non-instrumental. The parties are committing not merely to use each other as means, but to treat each other's well-being as an end in itself.

It is not merely a transactional existence, but comes with a deeper set of rights and obligations, which at their best, are an expression of that non-instrumentality. It is true that this non-instrumentality can be expressed in non-legal forms. But society's recognition of marriage is a public recognition of that form of commitment that is being denied here. The point of overlapping consensus that could be crafted between different ideologies is that granting recognition to same sex marriage would have signalled a society commitment to the publicness and non-instrumentality embodied in that relationship. Same sex marriage is an affirmation of the value of marriage, not a departure from it.

There is a quip going around about the current Court: They proclaim values with the high-mindedness of philosophers, thread fine lines on process with the ingenuity of lawyers, give history lessons with an erudition that shames historians. But ultimately, the directions cause the executive no discomfort. Alas, in its ameliorative confusion, the Court has done nothing to dispel that notion.

The writer is contributing editor, The Indian Express

A FERRY TO JAFFNA

Resumption of sea travel between India and Sri Lanka is welcome. New Delhi must make it more viable

LAST SATURDAY, 50 people boarded a ferry, Cheriyanani, from Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu to cross the Palk Strait and travel to Kankesanthurai in Jaffna, Sri Lanka. The maritime service, begun in the early 1900s, was discontinued in the 1980s in the wake of ethnic strife in Sri Lanka. Reactivating the sea route had been on the agenda of governments of both countries for more than 12 years. India and Sri Lanka signed an MoU for sea connectivity in 2011 and a ferry service between Tuticorin and Colombo began that year. It was discontinued in less than six months, because of logistical reasons. Cheriyanani will take about 3.5 hours to travel 110 km. The sea-route rejuvenation will give a much-needed fillip to commerce between India and Sri Lanka, and encourage people-to-people contact between the two neighbours.

The Narendra Modi government has located India-Sri Lanka ties within its Neighbourhood First policy. In July, during Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe's visit to India, the two governments came out with a vision document that emphasised maritime connectivity, including the development of ports at Colombo, Kankesanthurai and Trincomalee and the revival of sea routes. Besides improving business ties between the Indian Ocean neighbours, Cheriyanani is likely to bring pilgrims to religious centres in southern Sri Lanka and temple towns in south India.

In recent decades, Beijing has loomed large over Delhi-Colombo ties. China is Sri Lanka's biggest bilateral creditor and has roped in the island nation in its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Besides a \$4-billion aid package, Delhi has sought to counter Beijing's influence by underlining the civilisational aspects of its ties with Colombo, that involved the movement of people and ideas over centuries. It is significant, therefore, that the ferry service was launched a day before President Wickremesinghe left for China for a BRI meet. However, there are early concerns that at more than Rs 7,600, the one-way ticket is priced a little too steep, and booking facilities are not available on popular tourist portals. The government must address these worries and remove the glitches. It must also expedite resumption of the Rameshwaram-Talaimannar ferry service, mooted during President Wickremesinghe's visit.

OTTER TODDLERS & OTHERS

Baby animals snuggling with their mothers, or frolicking in the water — what's not to like

IN THE FRENZIED times of 24/7 news, social media slug fests and what feels like the permanent anxiety of living on a planet buffeted by disasters, man-made and natural, there's something deeply relaxing about watching baby animals be their adorable, bumbling selves. Few things can soothe frayed nerves as effectively as watching an orangutan infant snuggling with its mother or a bevy of otter toddlers frolicking in the water. This may be why Netflix has launched a show called Baby Animal Cam, on which the interested viewer can watch, once a week, for two hours straight, live feeds of animal toddlers going about their business in Cleveland Metroparks Zoo.

Cynics may suggest that this is one way for the OTT platform to cope with the labour dispute that rocked Hollywood in recent months. It's also true that there is little that is dramatically compelling in watching animals on a live camera feed, in enclosures where they are safe and well-fed — unlike documentaries which craft narratives of survival, conflict and sexual politics in the wild. But that is precisely the point of animal cams — to offer a break from drama, lulling an over-stimulated nervous system into a meditative calm.

It comes down to the innate homo sapien urge for connection, whether intra-species or cross species. This is why even as humans have domesticated animals for food and other purposes, they've also nurtured relationships that are more akin to companionships. Watching animals go through the rhythms of birth, feeding, mating and death is a gentle reminder that even as controversies and conflicts shake the human world, the business of life goes quietly on.



GURU PRAKASH

THOSE CONGRESS CANNOT SEE

It has often opposed an expansion of rights, representation for the marginalised

KHUSRUPUR, A SMALL village near Patna, was in the news recently as a woman from the Dalit community was made to suffer the in-sufferable. Last month, she was reportedly stripped, and subject to unprintable humiliations because her husband had taken a loan worth Rs 1,500 and had not paid the interest to a local moneylender who belonged to the dominant OBC community. This unfortunate event did not receive the attention it deserved. On meeting the victim, I experienced a deep sense of anxiety as the aggrieved was seemingly in a state of shock, unable to speak or comprehend the horrors she underwent.

An equally unfortunate incident happened on the streets of Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh where a young girl was spotted on the move seeking help in a severely disturbing state. Rightfully, this was tweeted and discussed by leaders across the political spectrum. The accused in this case has been nabbed by the Madhya Pradesh police. The worrying distinction between Khusrupur and Ujjain is the lack of empathy from a section of our political establishment. There are stark memories of the photo-op visit of the first family of the Congress party to Hathras, and the narrative paraphernalia that accompanied the trip. There was a tweet by Rahul Gandhi about the Ujjain incident. But there has been disconcerting silence from the senior Congress leadership about the Khusrupur case. This is telling. Creating an artificial distinction between marginalised sections on the basis of the states

and the ruling political party is unpardonable in a constitutional democracy.

Sonia Gandhi led the Opposition's charge on the Nari Shakti Vandan Bill. This can be a template for more progressive reforms in the future where long-pending reforms are transformed into legislation at such an encouraging pace. Her leading the Opposition came as a surprise to several keen political observers.

The Nehruvian "consensus" was and is not accommodative of socially and educationally backward communities. As Professor Surendra Mohan noted in *Mainstream Weekly* in 2010: "...there was the issue of preferential opportunities for the backward castes. Lohia had been referring to several Articles in the Constitution providing for it and was appalled when Nehru rejected the report submitted by the Kaka Kalelkar Commission appointed to make recommendations on that behalf." Then there was the official demise of the first-ever Backward Classes Commission, also known as the Kaka Kalelkar Commission, which advocated for radical representation of the weaker sections.

Rajiv Gandhi opposed the recommendations of the Mandal Commission. He said, "that this operation is not scientific, is not technically sophisticated and it is not even academically satisfying." He added, "You have taken the country to the edge of caste wars... We have problems if caste is defined to enshrine casteism in our country."

A recent report by a scholar from TISS re-

vealed that historically, Congress has not risen to the occasion when it came to the sharing of power. A caste-wise, party-wise analysis shows that the BJP has had the highest share (30.9 per cent) of OBC CMs, while this number is the lowest for Congress (17.2 per cent). The share of non-Congress non-BJP parties among OBC chief ministers is 28 per cent.

For long, the unvoiced and the unheard were treated as a commodity in the political discourse. The elevation of Droupadi Murmu, the first woman from a marginalised community, to the highest constitutional office in the country, has brought a fundamental transformation in the aspirations of marginalised communities. Arjun Ram Meghwal is the only Dalit after B R Ambedkar to become Law Minister. These elevations have had a massive impact. Ilaiyaraaja is the first Dalit person to reach the Upper House of the Bharatiya Parliament as a presidential nominee — and this too has sent a message.

Representation and dignity have been in political vogue for the last few years. This is in line with the thoughts of Deendayal Upadhyaya, an original Indian thinker and political philosopher. His philosophy of integral humanism and Antyodaya — the rise of the last person in the line — has been the guiding philosophy of the present dispensation.

The writer is Assistant Professor of Law at Patna University and National Spokesperson, BJP



OCTOBER 18, 1983, FORTY YEARS AGO

POLICE ATTACKED

IN CONTINUED INCIDENTS of violence in Punjab, one armed police sub-inspector was killed and a head constable injured in Amritsar district while two unexploded hand grenades with their pins removed were found in two police stations in Chandigarh. Reports said two unidentified persons boarded a Punjab Roadways bus and escaped after gunning down sub-inspector Amar Singh and injuring the head constable.

TAMILS DRIVEN OUT

TULF LEADER A Amirthalingam told PM

Indira Gandhi that the Sri Lankan government had started an operation to drive out Tamils from the northern and eastern areas of the island. Amirthalingam and TULF president Siva Chidambaram, also met the External Affairs Minister P V Narasimha Rao, and briefed him on the situation. Amirthalingam said he had urged Mrs Gandhi to get the talks between the Sri Lankan government and the Tamil leaders expedited.

CLOSED ESCAPE ROUTES

THE DELHI POLICE are setting up an obstacle course for criminals. The next one get-

ting in or out of the capital will have to encounter the police at one or the other of the new "drop gates" being set up. Seven drop gates have already come up.

ASSAM MIGRANT TALKS

MANY MORE JUDGES have given their consent to man the tribunals for the detection of post-1971 migrant foreign nationals living in Assam without valid papers. The tribunals will start functioning this month following the promulgation of an ordinance by the Centre. CM Hiteshwar Saikia said four judges had already joined and 15 more judges would be joining "very soon".

THE IDEAS PAGE

The day after, a disquiet

In same-sex marriage verdict, principles on which majority on bench has proceeded suggest a narrow, technical approach, which could have been avoided on a minority right



GOPAL
SANKARANARAYANAN

AT AROUND 11 am on Tuesday, all eyes were on the Supreme Court where the Chief Justice and four of his colleagues had convened to pronounce the judgment in the batch of cases concerning what is now popularly known as "same sex marriage". Over several weeks, lawyers had traded punches on the scope of marriage laws in India, and of whether they could include in their compass relationships among members of the LGBTQ+ community. Stemming from this were questions of other civil rights made available through the recognition of the institution of marriage — those of inheritance, adoption and property rights, as well as more run-of-the-mill matters that many of us take for granted, nominees for insurance, bank accounts, medical claims, etc.

The central questions framed by the Court included: (a) whether there is a fundamental right to marriage; (b) whether the words in the Special Marriage Act could be given a gender-neutral meaning; (c) whether a civil union could be recognised under Indian law, and (d) whether an obligation could be placed on the State to recognise the relationship (and hence the rights) by law.

As Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud commenced reading his judgment, hope sprang from the petitioners' benches. He reiterated the authority of the Court to examine the issues at hand and rejected the government's opposition to it. The nature of queerness was the next foray, and the Court found that it had sound Indian roots, and was neither urban nor elite. Most significantly, while holding that the right to marriage was not a fundamental right, the verdict declared that the right to enter into a union was unrelated to sexual orientation and was a feature of the fundamental rights in Articles 19 and 21 of the Constitution. He then proceeded to issue a slew of directions to the various authorities to ensure that discrimination against the community could be averted.

In a brief 17 page judgment of his own, Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul agreed with the views of the Chief Justice, and while concluding that the Special Marriage Act was in fact discriminatory as its objective to regulate only heterosexual relationships was illegitimate, he also refrained from making any interpretation that would benefit the community, noting the cascading effect it could have across various laws.

By this point, it had begun to dawn on all assembled that there were differences on the Bench as both Justices Chandrachud and Kaul had expressed their disagreements with the draft opinion that had been circulated by Justice S.R. Bhat.

Justice Bhat, speaking for himself and Justice Kohli, agreed with the Chief Justice that there is no fundamental right to marriage, but proceeded to conclude that a right



CR Sasikumar

to relationship enures under Article 21 of the Constitution. He found himself unable to go further (as the Chief Justice did) to locate a right of self-development in Articles 19, 21 and 25, or to place an obligation on the State to give recognition to civil unions by law. He aligned with the Chief Justice on the validity of the Special Marriage Act but did not believe a right of adoption and other rights could be afforded to LGBTQ+ couples through judicial diktat. In all of this, Justice Narasimha joined Justices Bhat and Kohli, who thereby constituted the majority.

For lawyers and academics, there is much material in this judgment to chew on — the rarity of the Chief Justice being a part of the minority, the deference to a government committee to consider how the community's rights could be given effect to, the interplay of religion and sexual choice while interpreting core provisions of our Constitution, and the general nature of judicial restraint.

However, as the dust settles on the heated television debates of the evening and a new day dawns, there is a grim sense of disquiet. This group of five judges are quite easily among our most erudite, sensitive, intelligent and empathetic individuals in the Supreme Court. Yet, even here, there were differences of opinion on how a practical solution could be provided to those of the LGBTQ+ community who wished to live normal lives without harassment and unpleasant obstacles. To have a spouse, to be a parent, to entrust and to align are some of the most basic needs of a human being. It is unfortunate that the syntax of another age has made it difficult for

In deferring to the legislature and to the executive (the Committee suggested by the Solicitor General), it appears that the Court has lost a golden opportunity to address a human problem. For decades, when groups came before the Supreme Court canvassing for the rights of undertrials, sexually harassed women at the workplace, voters not being given access to information about candidates or regarding unregulated inter-country adoption, the lack of vigilance oversight over the CBI and vacuums in environmental regulation, the Court was swift to lay down guidelines until the law was made in that regard.

the interests of the LGBTQ+ community to be recognised, and it is this problem that the judges have attempted to grapple with, all in different ways.

In deferring to the legislature and to the executive (the Committee suggested by the Solicitor General), it appears that the Court has lost a golden opportunity to address a human problem. For decades, when groups came before the Supreme Court canvassing for the rights of undertrials, sexually harassed women at the workplace, voters not being given access to information about candidates or regarding unregulated inter-country adoption, the lack of vigilance oversight over the CBI and vacuums in environmental regulation, the Court was swift to lay down guidelines until the law was made in that regard.

When the right to have a family, to live with dignity and the right to privacy have been read as fundamental rights under Article 21 of the Constitution, it is a little hard to believe that non-heterosexual couples (and even unmarried heterosexual ones) need to prove that the right to marriage is a fundamental right for them to have a mechanism in place to enjoy their civil rights. The principles on which the majority has proceeded suggests a narrow, technical approach which could have been well avoided when a minority right was in contemplation. In this, the Court has lost an opportunity — one that has been availed by this very institution on innumerable occasions, with less to lose.

The writer is Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India

We will get there

Marriage equality verdict was not what we had hoped for. But a change is underway



ADITI ANAND AND
SUSAN DIAS

"Inqilab aa ega raftar se, mayus na ho/ bahut ahista nahii hai, jo bahut tez nahii" (revolution will come quickly, don't be despondent/ one that is not too slow, not too fast!)

— Ali Sardar Jafri

IT HAS BEEN over five months since the Supreme Court hearings on marriage equality in which we were one among many petitioners. A recurring argument, both within and outside the courtroom, was whether Indian society was ready for marriage equality. We cannot claim to know the answer to this but we can offer our experience over the last five months to perhaps further this debate.

Though the intervening months felt like the calm after the storm, we had a few thundershowers of our own. In what is universally recognised as a significant and difficult event, we moved homes. We have moved many homes in our 11-year-relationship but this one felt different. We have always been in a city surrounded by our friends and colleagues. For the first time, we were in a new city not knowing what to expect. Curious neighbours, judgemental building uncles, cooks who give us the side eye? But overwhelmingly, our family of four, including our child and dog, was welcomed by our new neighbours and community wholeheartedly. Without any legal recognition, one of us still lives in this home as a tenant of the other. But socially we are recognised as the family unit that we are.

In what is also universally recognised as significant and perhaps more difficult, our son started school. We selected a school that we felt best matched our values. But we were the first same-sex couple to enrol their child there and we were hesitant as we scratched out "Father's Name" to write one of ours in their admission form.

Six months into his school life though, our son has learned to hold his family up with pride, just like his classmates. Recently, we saw our son and his friends huddled around an art board where each child's family tree was displayed. They were deep in discussion with one of them explaining to the others: "Kisi kisi ke ghar main mama papa hote hain, kisi kisi main

mama mama aur kisi kisi main papa papa." (Some homes have a mother and a father, some two mothers and some two fathers).

To which our son added, "Kisi kisi ghar main Bombil bhi hota hai." (Some homes have Bombil, too). Bombil is our dog.

These children are the society of tomorrow and that they will grow up without inherent homophobia means everything to us. As does the fact that the school management and fellow parents are complicit in effecting this change.

Finally, less significantly, but more visibly, we grew a year older during these months. If time, experience, and our new greys have taught us anything, it is that change is all around us. Since the hearings, we have got to know many other petitioners and learned of their lives leading up to the petition. These are a diverse set of people whose commonality is not simply that they are LGBTQIA+ persons but that they are all thriving parts of Indian society. By living their lives with pride and dignity, they change society one day at a time.

There are many Indians who still do not accept non-heterosexual relationships and strongly oppose their inclusion in the institution of marriage. But our biggest learning has been this: So long as there is a compassionate and continuous process of engagement, we will get there. Revolutions take many forms and the courage to live your truth will result in slow but sure change.

This group of petitioners and all the lawyers representing them are testament to this. To see the best legal minds of our country argue for equality and inclusion has been humbling.

There is still a lot of ground to be covered to make our country equitable and safe for LGBTQIA+ persons. But there are many good people fighting for this to happen both socially and legally. And so, for us and especially for young LGBTQIA+ Indians, there is help and hope for a life made better with rights and safeguards.

When we filed our petition before the Supreme Court, we did so nervously, with what felt like the weight of the world on our shoulders. We were only looking ahead to what we hoped was a better future. The verdict has not been what we hoped for but as we write this, we are now able to look back and see the might of what has always stood behind us — our families, friends, colleagues, community, lawyers and we hope, our country. And along with them, we are ready for whatever tomorrow may bring.

The writers are among the couples who petitioned Supreme Court to legalise same-sex marriage in India

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

OLYMPIC CHALLENGE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Olympic dreams' (IE, October 17). PM Modi's announcement for the 2036 Olympics makes India's global ambitions obvious as it has also expressed an interest in the Youth Olympics, which is a precursor to the main event. India wants to encash its stellar 107-medal show at the recently concluded Asiad. Ever since Abhinav Bindra won the nation's first-ever individual Olympic gold in 2008, there has been a steady uptick in performances. While such confidence is not entirely missing, conducting a mega event such as the Olympics, is a big challenge. Costs are often prohibitive, as seen from the fierce public outcry during both Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020. Recently, Australia pulled out of hosting the 2026 CWG.

Sanjay Chopra, Mohali

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Olympic dreams' (IE, October 17). It is gratifying to learn that PM Modi has shown interest in hosting the Olympics in 2036. For that, we would need to spruce up the entire sporting ecosystem and invest in infrastructural development. After the G20 summit, this is the next mega event for India to earn global laurels. However, the euphoria should be taken with a pinch of salt as we have a history of rampant corruption that blemished the sheen of our hosting of the Commonwealth Games.

Ravi Mathur, Noida

CRICKET LESSONS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'A famous win' (IE, October 17). The Afghanistan cricket team's story is a powerful testament to the human spirit and ability to survive and thrive. The team is a source of inspiration for young people across the globe. We can learn many life lessons from them, such as the importance

of never giving up, the power of hard work and dedication, and the crucial role of teamwork in achieving success. They are never scared of opponents, despite being the underdogs. They show us how we can face up to our problems, no matter how challenging they may seem — and take a pledge to work hard, irrespective of the outcome.

Zaid Wazi, Varanasi

HAMAS ATTACK

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'An unwinnable war' (IE, October 17). The surprise terror attack by Hamas on Israeli soil seems like a part of a larger strategic game plan that has less to do with the century-old territorial tension in the Levant region and more with the overall political tension in the West Asian region. The immediate response from a number of powers to hold the Iranian regime responsible, without any concrete evidence, shows the desperation among a group of nations to prioritise demonising it at the cost of a humanitarian catastrophe and is noteworthy.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Barasat

IT'S ALL CONNECTED

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'A path in the crisis' (IE, October 16). To ask to keep domestic politics in the country insulated from international affairs is ineffective and counter-productive. Rather, political debates between ruling and opposition parties carry the potential to carve for the country a saner and pragmatic foreign policy on a particular front as was seen in 1960s USA. Searching for the white and black in the Middle East war is futile. Instead, at home, the parties can agree to disagree on an array of actions either by Hamas or by Israel but they can definitely unite and concur on abiding by the Geneva Convention.

Sagar Ganesh Borade, Thane

With strings attached

Behind support for women's reservation, an ethical crisis of the political class



NIVEDITA MENON

THE BIHAR CASTE survey highlights a factor that remains invisible in the women's reservation issue, that of caste, and the significance of the "quotas within quotas" position.

The Prime Minister claimed that God had chosen him to empower women by shepherding the passage of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam. Did God also suggest the stratagem of postponing its implementation to a distant future by imposing the two pre-conditions of census and delimitation? Or was the Prime Minister guided in this by shrewd mortals?

There are other issues such as the impropriety of claiming to be chosen by God in a space sanctified by the Constitution of a democracy that came out of an anti-imperialist struggle; the patronising title of the legislation that sets up women as idols receiving worship from men rather than as active citizens; and the patriarchal invocation in the Prime Minister's speech of women as "mothers, daughters and sisters" of presumably male citizens. Then the question of why the Nari Shakti of the wrestlers battling sexual harassment by a BJP MP was not worthy of *vandana*, and why the devotion to women expressed by this regime is matched by the impunity of widespread increase of violence against women all over the country during its tenure. Not to mention that delimitation is a politically charged strategy to increase the BJP's seats in the Hindi heartland into which it has now been corralled.

But let us focus on what one-third reser-

vation for women in Parliament would actually achieve. This legislation was first introduced in 1996 by the Deve Gowda United Front government and its last incarnation lapsed in 2014 with the dissolution of the Lok Sabha. What is the purpose of the Women's Reservation Bill (WRB) and why has it been held up for so long?

Reservation for women had come up in the Constituent Assembly but been rejected by women representatives as it was seen to underestimate the strength of women to compete as equals. In 1974, the Committee on the Status of Women in India (CSWI) considered the same question. Arguments in favour were mainly that generally patriarchal political parties fielded very few women candidates, and that reservation for women would enable them to act as a strong lobby. Arguments against were mainly that this violated the principle of equality in the Constitution; and that women cannot be equated to socially backward communities, not being a socially homogeneous group. Finally the CSWI by a majority decided to uphold the position taken in the Constituent Assembly and rejected reservation for women in Parliament and state assemblies.

In 1996, however, there appeared to be a general consensus across the political spectrum, including the women's movement, that the time for women's reservation had come. Two developments explain this shift.

One, the democratic upsurges of the 1980s and 1990s which transformed Parliament

from a largely upper-class and upper-caste body to one with a large OBC presence. Caste and social justice came to the forefront of Indian political discourse.

The other development was that women had emerged as a significant force in politics since the struggle against the Emergency, and from the 1980s feminist issues were firmly on the public agenda — dowry, equal wages, violence against women. At the same time it was clear that there were very few women in representative bodies. By 1996 then, the women's movement acknowledged that abstract citizenship was only a cover for male privilege.

Thus, the emergence of women as a significant grouping in Indian politics and the transformation of the caste composition of Parliament through the growing presence of backward castes through successive elections, produced two different, mutually opposed sets of concerns — feminist and dominant caste — that tied in at this particular juncture to produce the sudden general acceptability of women's reservation.

The opposition to the legislation, which held it up for so long, was not simply patriarchal. It expressed the legitimate apprehension that a blanket reservation of 33 per cent for women would replace non-dominant caste men with dominant caste women. An immediate reservation of one-third of the existing seats for women, is likely to benefit largely those women who already have the cultural and political capital to contest elections, and these are bound to be elite women. How else

to understand the BJP's determined opposition to the Mandal Commission reservations for OBCs and its equally fervent support for women's reservations?

The experience of reservation for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) since 1992 has been positive for many women, but another consequence is the strengthening of the entrenched power of dominant caste groups of the area. That is, men of less dominant castes in PRI have been replaced by women of dominant castes. Hence the opposition to the WRB had insisted on "quotas within quotas", demanding a further reservation within the 33 per cent, for OBC and Muslim women. (The SC/ST reservation is a constitutional requirement that comes into operation automatically.) But quotas within quotas have been firmly resisted by all non-OBC parties across the political spectrum, which raises the suspicion that the objective of reservations for women is indeed to replace non-dominant caste men with dominant caste women. After all, the parties that have unanimously passed this legislation have fielded only 6.11 per cent to 9 per cent women from 1999 to 2019.

It seems that the sudden passing of this legislation after 27 years (its implementation indefinitely deferred, and with quotas within quotas off the table) reflects at some level the ethical crisis of the political elite as a whole.

The writer is Professor, Centre for Comparative Politics and Political Theory, School of International Studies, JNU

दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि०
कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, चित्रकूट

अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता द्वारा निम्नलिखित विवरणानुसार दो भागों में दिनांक - 26/10/2023 को समय 18:00 बजे तक प्रेषित एवं योग्य ठेकेदारों / निविदादाताओं से निम्न कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है एवं दिनांक - 27/10/2023 को समय - 13:00 बजे खोला जायेगा। विस्तृत जानकारी 3030 शासन की आधिकारिक ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट पोर्टल <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है।

1. ई-निविदा विधि/टीकर संख्या - 37/SE/EDCCKT/2023-24: कार्य - विद्युत वितरण खण्ड-कर्वी चित्रकूट के अनर्गल पटेल चौक से ट्रांसमिशन लाइन एवं पटेल तिराहा से देवागंगा घाटी तक कार्गो लेन मार्ग चौड़ीकरण एवं सुदृढीकरण करने हेतु 11 केवी एवं एल0टी0 लाइनों के विद्युत पोलों तथा परिवर्तकों को शिफ्ट करने के कार्य। धरोहर धनराशि-रु० 82,000.00, निविदा शुल्क-रु० - 3540.00 (जी0एस0टी0 सहित)।

पत्र संख्या- 1046 / विधि/मं०/ 2023-24 अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
निविदा प्रकल्प, दिनांक- 13/10/2023 विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, चित्रकूट
"सुनहरा भविष्य बनाये, राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचाए"

दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि०
कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल
132 केवी विद्युत परकेंद्र, ओटपुपु, हाथस 204101

निविदा विधि संग्रोहन सूचना

इस कार्यलय द्वारा आमंत्रित ई-निविदा संख्या 94 / 2023-24 जिनकी खोले जाने की तिथि दिनांक 21/10/2023 निर्धारित है। अपरिहार्य कारणों से उपरोक्त निविदा को खोलने की तिथि का संशोधन कर उपरोक्त निविदा दिनांक 25/10/2023 को खोली जायेगी। निविदा की अन्य नियम व शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।

अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, हाथस
निविदा दिनांक- 17/10/2023
"सुनहरा भविष्य बनाये, राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचाए"

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, CUTTACK
Letter No. 3830 Dt. 16.10.23

1st CORRIGENDUM

TO TENDER CALL NOTICE NO. Tender On Line RWC-24/23

The tender uploaded in the above Tender Call Notice No - Tender Online RWC-24/23 invited vide the Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Cuttack vide letter no. 3431 dt. 26.09.2023 is hereby modified for the work-

- Construction of Transit House for Judicial At Kujanga in the District of Jagatsinghpur For the year 2023-24.
- Construction of Canteen cum Bar Association for Judicial Deptt. At Kujanga in the District of Jagatsinghpur For the year 2023-24. The details are as follows:-

| Sl. No. | Items | As per TCN | As per 1st corrigendum |
|---------|--|---|---|
| 1 | Availability of Tender online for bidding | From 03.10.2023 at 11:30 A.M to 17.10.2023 upto 5.00 P.M. | From 03.10.2023 at 11:30 A.M to 30.10.2023 upto 5.00 P.M. |
| 2 | Last date & time of bidding tender clarification | 17-10-2023 up to 2:00 P.M. | 30-10-2023 up to 2:00 P.M. |
| 3 | Date & Time of opening of tender (Technical Bid) | 18-10-2023 at 11:30 A.M. | 30-10-2023 at 11:00 A.M. |
| 4 | Date & Time of opening of Tender (Financial Bid) | Will be intimated later on to the Successful Bidders | Will be intimated later on to the Successful Bidders |

All other terms & conditions of the said tender call notice remain unaltered.

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer,
Rural Works Circle, Cuttack
OIPR-25097/11/0030/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE : SUNDARGARH
RAT/PO- SANKARA, SUNDARGARH-770020
E-mail address- serv_sundargarh@yahoo.com

No. Tender Online - RWCCESNG-36 of 2023-24, Letter No. 3004/Dtd. 16.10.2023

E-Procurement NOTICE

- Type of the Work : Bridge (OMBADC)
- Class of Contractor : As specified in the column-6 of the Annexure
- Time of Completion : As specified in the column-5 of the Annexure
- Detail Projects : As per Annexure attached
- Estimated Cost : As specified in the column-4 of the Annexure
- Other details :

| Procurement Officer | Bid Identification No. | Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From To | Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification | Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid | Date & Time of opening of tender Financial Bid |
|---|------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh | RWCCESNG-36 of 2023-24 | 25.10.2023 11:00 AM to 11.11.2023 5:00 PM | 10.11.2023 5:00 PM | 13.11.2023 11:00 AM | Will be intimated separately |

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh
OIPR- 25133/11/0050/2324

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDERING TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (Traction Distribution) N. C. Railway, Jhansi for and behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following work.

| E-Tender No. | Description of work | Approx Cost (Rs.) | Earnest Money/Bid Security (Rs.) |
|-----------------------|--|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| JHS-TD-TENDER-2023-17 | OHE Modification in connection of Proposed construction of New ROB in between 1183/15-17 (1183/17-19) at CNB end or Moth Yard of JHS-CNB section of Jhansi division. | 1513816.21 | 30300.00 |
| JHS-TD-TENDER-2023-18 | OHE Modification to make Un-insulated overlap from BT type Insulated overlap in Jhansi Division. | 13595601.84 | 218000.00 |
| JHS-TD-TENDER-2023-19 | Provision of sacrificial mast at various locations of Elect/TRD in Jhansi division. | 9279752.62 | 185600.00 |

Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter : 06 Months

Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter : 09 Months

Date of closing Tender : 10.11.2023, 15:00 pm

* Tender on line can be submitted up to 15:00 hrs on 10.11.2023 .

* For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in 1687/23(P)

North central railways www.nctr.indianrailways.gov.in northcentralrailway CPRONCR

कार्यालय महाप्रबन्धक,
उ.प्र.राज्य औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण,
ए-1/4 लखनपुर, कानपुर

ई-निविदा सूचना

एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि विभिन्न औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों के अनर्गल विकास/अनुसूचित/उपेक्षित कार्यों हेतु संचालित विभाग/सार्वजनिक उपकरण/निगम/प्राधिकरण/परिषदों/नगर निकायों में पंजीकृत फर्मों/ठेकेदारों से ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है, जिसको अंशोत्तर करने की समयसीमा निम्नवत् है-

- क्रम सं. 1 से 3 पर अंशित कार्यों की निविदा दिनांक 20.10.2023 को पूर्णतः 11:30 बजे से दिनांक 09.11.2023 को अपरन्त 5:00 बजे तक अपलोड की जा सकती है, जिसे दिनांक 10.11.2023 को पूर्णतः 11:30 बजे खोला जायेगा (पूर्णकालिक)।

निविदादाताओं द्वारा केवल प्रारम्भिक की मूल प्रति ई-निविदा प्रणाली में उल्लिखित दिनांक तक कार्यालय में जमा की जा सकती है। ई-निविदा के माध्यम से आमंत्रित की जाने वाली निविदाओं का विवरण निम्नवत् है -

| क्रमांक | कार्य का नाम | कार्य की लागत रु. (संक्षेप में) |
|---------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. | Maintenance/Upgradation of road at I.A. Surajpur Site-4 Distt. G.B. Nagar | 263.31 |
| 2. | Maintenance/Upgradation of road at I.A. Surajpur Site-C (Housing) Distt. G.B. Nagar | 179.61 |
| 3. | Maintenance/Upgradation of road at I.A. Surajpur Site-5 Distt. G.B. Nagar | 891.52 |

नोट- निविदादाता अपनी निविदाओं में समस्त कर सहित दर अंकित करें। जी.एस.टी. अलग से देय होगा।

निविदा सूचना वित्तृत जानकारी प्राधिकरण की [website : www.onlineupsidc.com](http://www.onlineupsidc.com) पर रिक्त है।
ई-सिक एच यूएलसी की [website : http://etender.up.nic.in](http://etender.up.nic.in) पर देखी जा सकती है। अन्य जानकारी हेतु कार्यालय के सहायक प्रबन्धक (सिविल) के मोबाइल नं. 9044197166 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।

महाप्रबन्धक (सि.वि.)
उ.प्र.राज्य औ.वि.प्रा., कानपुर

"IMPORTANT"

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दक्षिण पूर्व मध्य रेलवे

निविदा सूचना संख्या: कॉम/कां/पीएच/23 दिनांक: 09.10.2023

- कार्य का नाम: बिलासपुर मंडल के पैसंजर हॉल्ट रेलवे स्टेशन से यात्रा करने वाले यात्रियों को कमीशन के आधार पर अनारक्षित टिकट जारी करना। स्टेशन के नाम: धुरवासिन, 3. अनुबंध की अवधि: पांच वर्ष, 4. निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य: रु 1000/-, 5. निविदा प्रारंभ की तिथि: 13.10.2023, 6. निविदा प्रपत्रों के जमा करने की तिथि समय एवं स्थान: 13.11.2023 के 11:00 बजे से 13.11.2023 के 15:00 बजे तक, वरिष्ठ मंडल वाणिज्य प्रबंधक, दक्षिण पूर्व मध्य रेलवे, बिलासपुर, 7. निविदाएं खोलने के लिए तिथि व समय: 13.11.2023 के 16:00 बजे।

नोट: यदि, अंतिम तिथि एक सरकारी छुट्टी या घोषित छुट्टी किसी भी कारण के लिए होती है तो, निविदाओं को अगले कार्य दिवस पर खोला जाएगा।

- पात्रता मानदंड:
 - निविदा की तारीख पर आवेदक की आयु 18 वर्ष से कम नहीं होनी चाहिए। कक्षा दसवीं पास के मार्क शीट में दर्शित जन्मतिथि ज्ञापन में मॉग्ये गए जन्मतिथि के आधार के रूप में लिया जाएगा।
 - आवेदक को उसी हॉल्ट स्टेशन का स्थायी निवासी होना चाहिए। आवेदक को आवासीय प्रमाण के लिए डाइविज लाइसेंस, वोटर आई डी राशन कार्ड आधार कार्ड या तहसीलदार द्वारा जारी निवास प्रमाण पत्र की प्रति निवास प्रमाण के रूप में संलग्न किया जाना चाहिए।
 - आवेदनकर्ता दसवीं कक्षा पास हो और उसे साधारण हिन्दी व अंग्रेजी पढ़ने का कार्यकारी ज्ञान हो जिससे वह स्टेशन का नाम तथा टिकट की कीमत को पढ़ सके। संश्लिष्ट प्रमाण पत्र की स्वयं द्वारा सत्यापित प्रति आवेदन फार्म के साथ संलग्न करना अनिवार्य है।
 - आवेदक को आवेदन फार्म के साथ सरकारी डाक्टर द्वारा जारी स्वस्थ प्रमाण पत्र की मूल प्रति संलग्न करनी होगी। इसमें यह स्पष्ट होना चाहिए कि वह किसी भी प्रकार की संक्रामक बीमारी से मुक्त है एवं उसका स्वास्थ्य सक्रिय सेवा करने के लिए ठीक है।
 - आवेदक को आवेदन पत्र के साथ जिला अधिकारी / पुलिस अधीक्षक / अपर जिला अधिकारी / उप-जिला अधिकारी / एस.डी.ओ. / सी.डी.ओ. या तहसीलदार के द्वारा जारी चरित्र प्रमाण पत्र प्रस्तुत करना होगा।
 - आवेदक को अपने स्थानीय पुलिस स्टेशन से इस आशय का प्रमाण पत्र प्रस्तुत करना होगा कि उसके विरुद्ध कोई भी अपराधिक प्रकरण लंबित नहीं है।
- निविदा दस्तावेज, पात्रता मानदंड विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए, कृपया वरिष्ठ मंडल वाणिज्य प्रबंधक दक्षिण पूर्व मध्य रेलवे, बिलासपुर कार्यालय से किसी भी कार्य दिवस पर संपर्क करें एवं निविदा दस्तावेज हमारी वेबसाइट www.secr.indianrailways.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।

हस्ताक्षर:
पदनाम: **वरिष्ठ मंडल वाणिज्य प्रबंधक**
सीपीआर/10/255 **व.पू.म.रेलवे, बिलासपुर**

Govt. of Bihar

SUPAUL COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, SUPAUL
BEENA ROAD, WARD No- 24, SUPAUL - 852131
E-mail-supaulcollege@gmail.com

SHORT TERM RECRUITMENT NOTICE

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR GUEST TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

Advt.No.- SCE/04/2023-24

Supaul College of Engineering, Supaul is going to conduct a walk-in-interview for the empanment of GUEST ASSISTANT PROFESSORS/ GUEST TECHNICAL ASSISTANTS/ GUEST LAB INSTRUCTORS in various department/subject for the current academic session. Interested and eligible candidates may appear for the walk-in-interview with all their original Academic Certificates, Category Certificate, Residential Certificate, a hard copy of CV, 02 sets of photo copies of original documents/certificates, and 02 recent passport size photographs as per the following schedule.

| S.No. | Guest Assistant Professor | Guest Lab Instructor | Date and time of Interview | Venue |
|-------|--------------------------------|--|----------------------------|---|
| 1 | Computer Science & Engineering | Electronics Trade (For ECE Dept.) | 30/10/2023 | Supaul College of Engineering, Beena Road, Ward No. 24, Supaul-852131 |
| 2 | -- | Electrician Trade (For Electrical Engg. Dept.) | 3 | |
| 3 | -- | Fitter Trade (For Mechancial Engg. Dept.) | | |

For further details please visit : www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar

Principal
Supaul College of Engineering, Supaul

PR. No. 010361 (Science & Tech.) 2023-24

नये से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

Govt. of Bihar

BIHAR STATE HYDROELECTRIC POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
2nd Floor, Sone Bhawan, Birchand Patel Marg, Patna - 800001, Phone No. 0612-2227746
Website: www.bshpctd.com

Tender Notice No.03/Elect./2023-24

NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR PROVIDING SECURITY SERVICES

E-tenders tenders are invited from registered and experienced security agencies for providing security personal for the security of projects and stores of BHPCL located in different districts of Bihar on contract basis. The detail tender program is as below-

- Date of Online Sale of bid documents - Up to 01.11.2023 (18:00 Hrs.)
- Pre Bid Meeting - 26.10.2023 (11:30 Hrs) at BHPCL HQ
- Last Date of online submission of offer/ Bid - 02.11.2023 (Upto 18:00 Hrs.)
- Submission of form fee & EMD in Hard copy/ Original - 03.11.2023 (Upto 15:00 Hrs) at BHPCL HQ
- Date of opening of technical & commercial bid - 03.11.2023 (at 16:00 Hrs)
- Date of opening of Financial Bid - Will be announced later by competent Authority

For details please visit: www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in & state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar

PR- 010332 (Energy) 2023-24

Chief Engineer (E)

नये से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

Bihar Education Project Council
Shiksha Bhawan, Rashtra Bhasha Parishad Campus Saidpur, Rajendra Nagar, Patna- 800004

Govt. of Bihar

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
(<https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>).

- Bihar Education Project Council(BEPC), Patna, invites "Request for Proposal (RFP) for Empanment of Agency for Supply of Teaching Learning Material for Class I to III Under Rate Contract" from eligible agency.
- The complete tender documents can be seen on and downloaded from the website <https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in>.
- Schedule of Events:

| Sl. | Information | Details |
|-----|--|---|
| 1 | RFP Issuing Authority | State Project Director, Bihar Education Project Council (BEPC) |
| 2 | RFP No. and Date of availability | Supply of TLM/BEPC/2023/6668, Dated 13.10.2023 Available for download from 16/10/2023, 5:00 PM onwards till 11/11/2023, 4:00 PM on e-proc-2 website |
| 3 | Last date for submission of written queries for clarifications | 25/10/2023, 5:00 pm Email: ssabihar@gmail.com |
| 4 | Date of pre-bid conference | 26/10/2023, 4:30 pm https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81546272058?pwd=SilRZlVhVGVYd0F0MzZMMWY5UT09 Meeting ID: 815 4627 2058 Passcode: abc123 Virtual Mail e-mail: ssabihar@gmail.com |
| 5 | Release of response to clarifications | 28/10/2023, 5:00 PM |
| 6 | Last date of submission of bid | 11/11/2023, 4:00 PM |
| 7 | Opening of Technical Bids | 11/11/2023, 4:30 PM |
| 8 | Opening of Financial Bids | To be intimated |
| 9 | Contact person for queries | The State Project Director, Bihar Education Project Council, ShikshaBhawan, Bihar RashtraBhashaParishad Campus, Saidpur - 800 004, e-mail : ssabihar@gmail.com |

For further details please visit : www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar

Administrative Officer
Bihar Education Project Council

PR-010425 (Ni.Ni.) 2023-24

नये से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

Prisons and Correctional Services
Home Department (Prisons)
Government of Bihar

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Request For Proposal

(Through e-Procurement mode only) (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

Tender Notice No: Kara/Kray-04-31/2023/02 (2023-24)

Inspectorate of Prisons and Correctional Services, Home Department (Prisons), Govt of Bihar invites Request For Proposal (RFP) to welcome interested capable and reputed firm(s)/agency(s) for the Selection of agency for Setting up of Semiautomatic powerloom setup with all accessories on Engineering Procurement Construction (EPC) mode for weaving of good quality blankets and Durri.RFP Documents containing further information can be downloaded from :- (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

| Sl. No. | Scope of work | Cost of tender document (To be paid through e-payment mode only through(NEFT/RTGS/ Credit/Debit Card/ Net Banking) (In Rupees) | Tender processing Fee (Non Refundable) (Inclusive of GST @18.00%) (To be paid through e-payment mode only through(NEFT/RTGS/ Credit/Debit Card/ Net Banking) (In Rupees) | Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (To be paid through e-payment mode only through(NEFT/RTGS/ Credit/Debit Card/ Net Banking) (In Rupees) |
|---------|---|--|--|--|
| 1 | Selection of agency for Setting up of Semiautomatic powerloom setup with all accessories on Engineering Procurement Construction (EPC) mode in Central Jail Buxar for weaving of good quality blankets and Durri and Training to prisoners and carry out pilot production using the supplied Machinery and Equipment. | Rs 10,000 /- | As per Beltron | Rs 2,96,000 /- |

RFP Schedule/Programme

| Sl. No. | Activity | Date/Time : Duration |
|---------|---|---|
| 1. | Online Sale/Download date of RFP document on (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) | From 18/10/2023 to 09/11/2023 Upto 18:00 Hrs.) |
| 2. | Date/Time of Pre-Bid Meeting | 30/10/2023 at 11:00 Hrs |
| 3. | Last Date/Time for submission/ uploading of offer/Bid | Till 10/11/2023 upto 18:00 Hrs. |
| 4. | Date & time for opening of Technical Bid | 13/11/2023 upto 11:00 Hrs. |
| 5. | Date & time for opening of Financial Bid | Date to be announced later by competent authority on |
| 6. | Contact person/Nodal Officer for queries | Sri. Rajeev Kumar Singh Assistant Inspector General(HQ), Prisons and Correctional Services Mob no- 7250448267 Sri. Pritish Parijat Project Management Officer Prisons and Correctional Services Mob no- 9006595839 |

For support related to e-tendering process, bidders may contact at following address in junction Services private limited RJ CEMX 2nd floor,Canera Bank campus, Khajpura, Aashiyana Road, P.S Shastri Nagar, Patna-800014 Toll Free No: 18005726571, E-mailid eproc2support@bihar.gov.in, Working Hours:8:00 AM to 7:00PM(All days in week except few selected state holidays) or may visit the link at (eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

For further details please visit : www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar

PR-010398 (KARA even Sudhar) 2023-24 **Tender Inviting Authority**

नये से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता,सहारनपुर वृत्त, लो.नि.वि., सहारनपुर
ई-निविदा सूचना (अल्पकालीन)

दिनांक 11.10.2023

पत्रांक 7008 / 96एच/ई० टेण्डर /23-24

1 महामहिम, राज्यपाल उ०प्र० की ओर से अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सहारनपुर वृत्त, लो.नि.वि., सहारनपुर द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्यों हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदाएं वेबसाइट <http://etender.up.nic.in> के माध्यम से आध्यात्मिक रजिस्टर्ड निविदादाताओं से दिनांक 19.10.2023 प्रातः 11 बजे से 27.10.2023 मध्याह्न 12.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा की प्री-क्वालिफिकेशन / टैक्नीकल बिड दिनांक 27.10.2023 को दोपहर 12.30 बजे अधोहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय कक्ष में उपस्थित /अधिकृत रजिस्टर्ड फर्म के प्रतिनिधियों के समक्ष गठित समिति के सदस्यों द्वारा ऑनलाइन खोली जायेगी। टैक्नीकल बिड में क्वालिफाई पाये गये ठेकेदारों की फाईनेंशियल बिड खोले जाने के दिनांक व समय हेतु पृथक से सूचना इस कार्यालय द्वारा जारी की जायेगी। कॉमम 5 एवं 7 में दर्शायी गयी धनराशि **E-Tender Portal** पर **Net Banking** के माध्यम से जमा करना अनिवार्य होगा। कार्यालय बन्द होने अथवा छुट्टी होने की दशा में प्री-क्वालिफिकेशन / टैक्नीकल बिड उसी क्रम एवं समयानुसार अगले कार्य दिवस में खोली जायेगी। कार्यों का विवरण निम्नवत् है-

| क्रम | विवरण | कार्य का नाम | सूचीकृत लागत (रु० लाख में) | अधीक्षण अभियन्ता (रु० लाख में) | कार्य पूरा करने की अनुमानित अवधि (दिनों में) | विशेष नोट्स | वेबसाइट पर निविदा खोलने की तिथि (दिनांक व समय) |
|------|-------|--|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--|-------------|--|
| 1 | | | | | | | |
| 1 | | मुजफ्फरनगर-सहारनपुर मार्ग (राज्य मार्ग सं० ३०) पर लखनपुर से लखनपुर होते हुए सहारनपुर तक ३०० मीटर चौड़ाई का सिमेंट 1 से ६ मि मीथेन पथ बनाया जायेगा। | 150.00 | 9.50 | 1 वर्ष | 2714 | "प" से "प" तक |
| 2 | | दिल्ली-मुजफ्फरनगर मार्ग से मुजफ्फरनपुर मार्ग पर सिमेंट पथ बनाया जायेगा। | 41.00 | 4.05 | 1 वर्ष | 2714 | "प" से "प" तक |
| 3 | | मुजफ्फरनगर-सहारनपुर मार्ग की विविध मरम्मत का कार्य। | 89.21 | 6.46 | 1 वर्ष | 2714 | "प" से "प" तक |
| 4 | | सहारनपुर-इलाहाबाद मार्ग पर बीसी द्वारा मार्ग पर सिमेंट पथ बनाया जायेगा। | 257.89 | 14.90 | 1 वर्ष | 2714 | "प" से "प" तक |
| 5 | | एतद्वारा सूचित कार्यों के लिए सहारनपुर वृत्त में सिमेंट पथ बनाया जायेगा। | 58.52 | 4.83 | 1 वर्ष | 2714 | "प" से "प" तक |

3-समस्त प्राप्त निविदाओं का तकनीकी मूल्यांकन प्रहरी साफ्टवेयर के माध्यम से किया जायेगा, जिसका URL <http://wms.uppwd.gov.in/Prahari/> है। उक्त को खोलने पर लॉगिन पेज खुल जायेगा, जिस पर **Contractor Select** करने पर लॉगिन किया जा सकता है। निविदादाता का लॉगिन आई-डी एवं पासवर्ड प्रहरी साफ्टवेयर द्वारा प्रहरी साफ्टवेयर पर दिये गये निर्देशों के अनुसार अपनी समस्त सूचनाएं/दस्तावेज अपलोड करने होंगे। यदि निविदादाता द्वारा अपनी समस्त सूचनाएं/दस्तावेज अपलोड नहीं किये जाते हैं तो निविदादाता द्वारा खोली गई निविदा का तकनीकी मूल्यांकन किया जाना सम्भव नहीं होगा, जिसके लिये निविदादाता स्वयं उत्तरदायी होगा। निविदा से सम्बंधित नियम/शर्तें तथा विवरण वेबसाइट <http://etender.up.nic.in> एवं <http://wms.uppwd.gov.in/Prahari/> पर उपलब्ध है।

(सीपीओ सिंह)
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता,
सहारनपुर वृत्त, लो.नि.वि.,
सहारनपुर

(मोहित गुप्ता)
अधीक्षारी अभियन्ता,
निर्माण खण्ड, लो.नि.वि.,
सहारनपुर

(महामहिम राज्यपाल की ओर से)
ई-मेल : sepwdre@gmail.com

UPID-196178 Date 16/10/2023
www.upgov.nic.in

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (ROADS), PUBLIC WORKS ROADS DEPARTMENT, ASSAM, GUWAHATI-03

No. CE/DEV/TB/132/2023-24/02

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Chief Engineer (Roads), PWRD, Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3 invites bid on behalf of Governor of Assam for 1 (One) no. of package for "Improvement and Strengthening of Road from Urimghat to Borpathar in stretches (Balance portion) from Ch 0.00km to 7.415 km, Ch.10.215 km to Ch. 15.915 km & Ch. 18.915 Km to Ch. 23.515 Km (Length= 17.715 Km) under SOPD-G for the year 2023-24 under Golaghat District" amounting to **Rs. 3608.21 Lakhs** (approx.) including GST & LC etc. from approved & eligible Contractors registered with PWRD, Assam.

Details may be seen from **27-10-2023** at website www.assamtenders.gov.in. Amendment / Addendum to the SBD, if any, and further notifications shall appear in this website and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours. The contractor/bidder must be registered with the Electronic Tendering System (ETS) of PWRD, Assam website www.assamtenders.gov.in.

Scheme is not yet sanctioned by the competent authority. In the event of non-sanction of the scheme, the bid may be cancelled and no claim what so ever on this account shall be entertained from the bidders.

Note: N.I.T Value is inclusive of GST (12%), Labour cess (1%) etc.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Roads), PWRD, Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3.

JANASANYOG/CF/3145/23/18-OCT-23

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
Assam Urban Infrastructure Investment Program (AUIIP)
3rd Floor, Tripti Tower, Ganeshguri, Guwahati -781005, Assam, India
Email: pnu.auiip@assam.gov.in Tel: Website: <https://auiip.nic.in>

No. AUIIP/AUSD/EOI/01

NOTICE INVITING EOI

This EOI is issued by the undersigned inviting "Express of Interest" from eligible consultants for shortlisting of them to participate in the RFP process for selection of most suitable among them to provide necessary consultancy service for **PREPARATION OF DETAILED PROJECT REPORT FOR TWO WATER SUPPLY PROJECTS FOR DHUBRI AND BONGAIGAON TOWN IN THE STATE OF ASSAM.**

Reference No: REOI No 1 of 2023-24 Dated: 17.10.2023

| Sl. No. | Key Information/ Events | Time/Venue/Address |
|---------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Title of the Assignment | Consultancy service for PREPARATION OF DETAILED PROJECT REPORT FOR TWO WATER SUPPLY PROJECTS FOR DHUBRI AND BONGAIGAON TOWN IN THE STATE OF ASSAM. |
| 2 | Date of issue of the EOI document | Date: 17/10/2023 |
| 2 | Last date of download of EOI document | Date: 31/10/2023 |
| 3 | Pre-submission meeting | Date: 25/10/2023 Time: 2:00 PM Venue: Conference hall of AUIIP |

EXPLAINED GLOBAL

Why Egypt is keeping Gaza's Rafah border crossing shut

THE RAFAH crossing between the Gaza Strip and Egypt is the sole route for aid to enter Gaza directly from outside Israel, and the only exit that does not lead to Israeli territory. It has become a focus in the intensifying conflict between Israel and the Palestinian militant group Hamas, as hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have headed towards south Gaza after Israel warned them to leave Gaza City and the enclave's north.



Where is the crossing?

The crossing is at the south of the Gaza Strip, a narrow slither of land home to 2.3 million people and wedged between Israel, Egypt and the Mediterranean Sea.

The crossing is controlled by Egypt.

Why is access across Rafah restricted?

Egypt is wary of insecurity near the border with Gaza in northeastern Sinai, where it faced an Islamist insurgency that peaked after 2013 and has now largely been suppressed.

Since Hamas took control in Gaza in 2007, Egypt has helped enforce a blockade of the enclave and heavily restricted the flow of people and goods. Like the main crossings with Israel, restrictions have sometimes been eased but not lifted, and travellers need security clearance and lengthy checks to pass.

In 2008, tens of thousands of Palestinians crossed into Sinai after Hamas blasted holes in border fortifications, prompting Egypt to build a stone and cement wall.

Egypt has acted as a mediator between

Israel and Palestinian factions during past conflicts and periods of unrest. But in those situations it has also locked down the border, allowing aid to enter and medical evacuees to leave but preventing any large-scale movement of people.

What efforts are being made to open the border?

The United Nations has urged Israel to avert a "humanitarian catastrophe" in Gaza, warning that food, fuel and even drinking water supplies are running dangerously low.

Hospitals say they are struggling to cope with the wounded as back-up generators run low on fuel. Egyptian aid trucks moved closer to the crossing on Tuesday but it was unclear when or whether they would be able to cross into Gaza.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Tuesday the United States and Israel had agreed to develop a plan to get humanitarian aid to civilians in Gaza without benefiting Hamas.

REUTERS

The human brain has a dizzying array of mystery cells

AN INTERNATIONAL team of scientists has mapped the human brain in much finer resolution than ever before. The brain atlas, a \$375 million effort started in 2017, has identified more than 3,300 types of brain cells, an order of magnitude more than was previously reported. The researchers have only a dim notion of what the newly discovered cells do.

The results were described in 21 papers published Thursday in Science and several other journals.

Ed Lein, a neuroscientist at the Allen Institute for Brain Science in Seattle who led five of the studies, said that the findings were made possible by new technologies that allowed the researchers to probe millions of human brain cells collected from biopsied tissue or cadavers.

"It really shows what can be done now," Lein said. "It opens up a whole new era of human neuroscience."

Still, Lein said that the atlas was just a first draft. He and his colleagues have only sampled a tiny fraction of the 170 billion cells estimated to make up the human brain. Future surveys will certainly uncover more cell types, he said.

With funding from the National Institutes of Health, Lein and his colleagues set out to map the brain by inspecting how brain cells activated different genes. At least 16,000

genes are active in the brain, and they are turned on in different combinations in different types of cells.

The researchers collected brain tissue from several sources, including people who had recently died and those who were undergoing brain surgery.

Some of the newly identified cells were found in layers of cerebral cortex on the brain's outer surface. This region is essential for complex mental tasks such as using language and making plans for the future.

But the new studies reveal that much of the brain's diversity lies outside of the cerebral cortex. A vast number of the cell types uncovered in the project lie in the deeper regions of the brain, such as the brain stem that leads to the spinal cord.

The researchers found many new types of neurons, cells that use electric signals and chemicals to process information. But neurons make up only about half the cells in the brain. The other half are far more mysterious.

Astrocytes, for example, appear to nurture neurons so that they can keep working properly. Microglia serve as immune cells, attacking foreign invaders and pruning some of the branches on neurons to improve their signaling. And the researchers found many new types of these cells as well.

THE NYT



PAPER CLIP
NEW RESEARCH

P S NARASIMHA

Can the state's omission to create a classification, and further, its absence of a policy for a distinct group, which in the court's opinion deserves favourable treatment, amount to violation of Article 15? There is no known jurisprudence or case law (yet).
— JUSTICES S RAVINDRA BHAT & HIMA KOHLI

A review of the impact of legislative framework on the flow of benefits requires a deliberative and consultative exercise, which the legislature and executive are suited to undertake.
— JUSTICE P S NARASIMHA

D Y CHANDRACHUD

Homosexuality or queerness is not solely an urban concept... We have an innate need to see and to be seen — to have our identity, emotions, needs fully acknowledged, recognised, and accepted.
— CJ D Y CHANDRACHUD

The capacity of non-heterosexual couples for love, commitment and responsibility is no less worthy of regard than heterosexual couples.
— JUSTICE S K KAUL

EXPLAINED LAW

Two views on four key issues

The Supreme Court has rejected the plea for same-sex marriage. The verdict unpacked: here are the majority and minority views on queer couples' right to marry, to adopt children, and to enter into civil unions, and on the Special Marriage Act

APURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

A FIVE-JUDGE Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud on Tuesday refused to grant legal status to same-sex marriages. While two judges — the CJI and Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul — recognised that queer couples can form "civil unions", they were in the minority. The majority of three judges said that the issue lay exclusively in the domain of the legislature.

Here's what the judges said on four key questions.

On the fundamental right to marry

The petitioners had argued that there exists a fundamental right to marry a person of one's own choice under the Constitution, and that the court must address the denial of that right. If the court recognised this as a fundamental right (like it did in the case of privacy in the 2017 Aadhaar ruling), then it would cast an obligation on the state to protect this right.

MINORITY VIEW: CJI Chandrachud did not agree with the petitioners' argument that marriage is an inherent right that the state only regulates. The minority view stated that marriage may not have attained the social and legal significance it currently has, if the state had not regulated it through law.

"Thus, while marriage is not fundamental in itself, it may have attained significance because of the benefits which are realised through regulation," the verdict said.

MAJORITY VIEW: Agreeing with the CJI on this issue, the majority view differentiated between what is "fundamentally important to an individual" from an enforceable fundamental right. "The fundamental importance of marriage remains that it is based on personal preference and confers social status. Importance of something to an individual does not per se justify considering it a fundamental right, even if that preference enjoys popular acceptance or support," Justice Bhat said.

The majority opinion also noted that the logic in many decisions by courts in the US that have underlined the rationale for declaring the right to marry a fundamental right as "being essential to the orderly pursuit of Happiness" (as it appears in their Declaration of Independence) by free persons" may not be sound.

On the interpretation of Special Marriage Act

The key framing of how the court can recognise same-sex marriage was by allowing a gender-neutral interpretation of the



LGBTQ+ community supporters and members in Mumbai watch the Supreme Court pass its verdict on the marriage equality petitions on Tuesday. AP

legislation that governs a civil marriage in which the state, rather than religion, sanctions the marriage.

The SMA was enacted in 1954 to enable marriage between inter-faith or inter-caste couples without them giving up their religious identity or resorting to conversion.

The petitioners had asked the SC to interpret the word marriage as between "spouses" instead of "man and woman". Alternatively, the petitioners had asked for striking down provisions of the SMA that are gender-restrictive.

MINORITY VIEW: On the expansive reading, CJI Chandrachud said the court could not allow that, because it would "in effect be entering into the realm of the legislature". If the court were to instead grant the second option to read down the SMA to the extent that it is gender restrictive, "it would take India back to the pre-Independence era where two persons of different religions and caste were unable to celebrate love in the form of marriage."

MAJORITY VIEW: While arriving at the same conclusion, Justice Bhat stated that the court could not interpret the SMA to include same-sex couples since the objective of the legislation is not to include same-sex couples within the realm of marriage.

"The provisions and the objects of the SMA clearly point to the circumstance that

Parliament intended only one kind of couples, i.e., heterosexual couples belonging to different faiths, to be given the facility of a civil marriage," Justice Bhat said.

On queer couples' right to adopt a child

The petitioners had argued that the guidelines of the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), which does not allow unmarried couples to jointly adopt children, is discriminatory against queer couples who cannot legally marry.

The guidelines allow only a couple who have been in at least two years of a stable marital relationship to be eligible to adopt. Individually, queer persons can adopt as single people. However, a single male is not eligible to adopt a girl child — even though a single female is eligible to adopt a child of any gender.

MINORITY VIEW: The CJI in his opinion struck down certain CARA regulations on the grounds that the legislation's object is not to preclude unmarried couples from adopting a child. "In fact, all the other criteria ensure the child's best interests. The Union of India has not proved that precluding unmarried couples from adopting a child (even though the same people are eligible to adopt in their individual capacity) is in the child's best interests," the CJI wrote.

The minority view added that the exclusion of same-sex couples from adopting has the effect of "reinforcing the disadvantage already faced by the queer community. Law cannot make an assumption on good and bad parenting based on the sexuality of individuals".

MAJORITY VIEW: The majority view largely agreed with the discriminatory aspects of preventing queer couples from adopting children. Justice Bhat termed this as having the "most visible" discriminatory impact on queer couples, and in principle agreed that a couple "tied together in marriage are not a 'morally superior choice', or per se make better parents".

Yet, the majority view said that this change cannot be "achieved by the judicial pen".

"...The fact that Parliament has made the legislative choice of including only 'married' couples for joint adoption (i.e., where two parents are legally responsible), arises from the reality of all other laws wherein protections and entitlements flow from the institution of marriage. To read down 'marital' status as proposed may have deleterious impacts that only the legislature and executive could remedy..." Justice Bhat wrote.

On the option of civil unions for queer couples

The halfway approach of recognising civil unions for queer couples was debated during the hearing. Before full marriage rights were recognised for same-sex couples by the US Supreme Court, several states had allowed civil unions.

However, the petitioners argued that civil unions are not an equal alternative to the legal and social institution of marriage, and "relegating non-heterosexual relationships to civil unions would send the queer community a message that their relationships were inferior to those of heterosexual couples."

MINORITY VIEW: The CJI located the right to form intimate associations within the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression. The CJI stated that for this right to have "real meaning", the state must recognise "a bouquet of entitlements which flow from an abiding relationship of this kind". The minority view noted Solicitor General Tushar Mehta's statement that a committee chaired by the Cabinet Secretary would be constituted to set out the rights which would be available to queer couples in unions.

MAJORITY VIEW: Justice Bhat disagreed with the view that the court can prescribe a "choice" of civil unions to queer couples. The majority opinion said that the state should facilitate this choice for those who wish to exercise it, is an outcome that the community may agree upon.

A looming invasion: Implications for Gaza, Hamas, Palestinian cause

EXPERT EXPLAINS

KHALED AL-HROUB

AS PRESIDENT Joe Biden heads to Tel Aviv and Amman on Wednesday to meet with the leaders of Israel, Jordan, Egypt, and the Palestinian Authority, the US, while backing the overthrow of Hamas, has expressed concern over the massive destruction and civilian deaths that Israel's imminent ground invasion of Gaza will likely bring.

What are the implications of an Israeli ground invasion for Gaza and Israel?

If this were to happen, it would lead to one of the most horrific humanitarian catastrophes of the 21st century. Gaza is a narrow strip of land, among the mostly densely populated areas in the world. Hamas mili-

tary men will be hard to find, and innocent civilians will be easy targets, as we have seen in the past few days of the massive Israeli retaliation.

Politically and strategically, there does not seem to be a clear Israeli roadmap for what comes next after Hamas is supposedly destroyed. A direct Israeli reoccupation of Gaza will mean more loss of lives on both sides, and will encourage more resistance from Hamas splinters.

We hear of Hamas whenever it launches an attack on Israel. But Hamas is also a religious movement and political party. What other roles does it play in the everyday life of Palestinians?

Hamas is — and is seen by the Palestinians — as a multifaceted social, religious, political, and military organisation, not an isolated or marginal group that could be squashed by a security strike. Its mother organisation, the Palestinian Muslim Brotherhood, was founded during the British Mandate in the 1940s. It continued to exist after the creation

of Israel in 1948, but did not engage in resistance or confrontation like other nationalist or Marxist Palestinian organisations. Their focus was on charities, social services, mosques, universities, proselytising, etc.

In 1987, they changed their strategy and adopted resistance as their goal. The deep, multi-dimensional integration of the movement in Palestinian society sets it apart from other extremist groups on the fringes. After 2000, when peace talks between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation became fruitless, Hamas and its strategy of resistance gained the support of more Palestinians, leading to its winning the Palestinian legislative elections in 2006.

Since then, Hamas has been caged in the Gaza Strip along with 2 million Palestinians, many of whom see the movement as their vehicle of resistance against Israeli occupation.

Some analysts say Israel, ironically, helped strengthen Hamas in order to ensure a continuing political rift

between Hamas and Fatah (the party of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas).

Since 2005, the Israeli strategy has been to create splits within the Palestinians and secure an environment that sustains a deep Palestinian divide between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. In line with the classical colonial strategy of divide and conquer, this succeeded — and was helped along by the rivalry and politics among Palestinian factions. Israel would monitor both parties, and if it observed the balance of power tilting to one side, it would ease some restrictions on the other to keep both strong enough to keep competing with each other.

What is the future of Hamas?

It is difficult to imagine how Israel could eliminate Hamas completely, because this is a movement that is deeply entrenched within the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, and enjoys support abroad. You could eliminate ISIS from this country or that because it was imposed on the people, and it never enjoyed internal support. Hamas

has been internally evolved; people see their sons, brothers, friends as part of it.

If Hamas is militarily destroyed in Gaza and its rule is removed, there will be long-term chaos, unless a broader political solution gives hope to the Palestinians. The alternative to Hamas would most likely be more extreme splinter groups.

What role can Fatah and President Mahmoud Abbas play in this crisis?

Fatah is divided internally, mostly between those who support the status quo of Mahmoud Abbas — and whoever would come when he is no longer there — in coordination with Israel, and those who want to change the entire game and stop functioning under the overarching Israeli control.

There were intense debates within Fatah recently, and the outcome of these debates including who would succeed Abbas will influence the future of the Palestinian Authority and its relations with Hamas. In the short term, it is difficult for Hamas to replace the PA in the West Bank because of the Israeli de facto

occupation of the West Bank.

What would be the implication of the October 7 attacks on the ongoing peace process between Israel and Arab nations?

In the short term, the [US-mediated] Abraham Accords have been discredited in the eyes of many Arabs because of the devastating scenes coming out of Gaza. Saudi Arabia has announced that talks for normalisation with Israel have been frozen. The events of October 7 have derailed or at least delayed the train of normalisation between some Arab states and Israel.

Prof Khaled Al Hroub is professor in residence at Northwestern University in Qatar. His research is focused on Middle Eastern studies, Islam and politics, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and Arab media studies. He has written two books on Hamas: *Hamas: A Beginner's Guide (2006/2010)*, and *Hamas: Political Thought and Practice (2000)*. These are edited excerpts from his interview with Alind Chauhan

14 THE WORLD

CHINA, IRAN, UAE AMONG 14 PARTICIPANTS PAK AIR FORCE'S 'INDUS SHIELD-2023'

Air Force units from 14 nations are taking part in an exercise hosted by the Pakistan Air Force. Azerbaijan, Bahrain, China, Egypt, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Kuwait, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, UAE, and Uzbekistan are participating in the exercise.

US PRESIDENT IS ALSO EXPECTED TO MEET Jordan's King Abdullah, Egyptian President

US SAYS ISRAEL HAS AGREED TO A PLAN to get humanitarian aid to Gaza civilians

UN AGENCY SAYS ONLY AROUND 14 PER CENT of Gazans left with access to water

Air strike on hospital kills 500: Gaza ministry

Sharp escalation in Israel-Hamas war; Biden heads to Israel for talks with Netanyahu

REUTERS & AP TEL AVIV/GAZA, OCTOBER 17

THE GAZA Health Ministry said an Israeli airstrike Tuesday hit a Gaza City hospital packed with wounded and other Palestinians seeking shelter, killing hundreds. If confirmed, the attack would be by far the deadliest Israeli airstrike in five years since 2008.

Several hospitals in Gaza City have become refuges for hundreds of people, hoping they would be spared bombardment after Israel ordered all residents of the city and surrounding areas to evacuate to the southern Gaza Strip.

Israeli military spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said there were still no details on the hospital deaths: "We will get the details and update the public. I don't know to say whether it was an Israeli air strike."

US President Joe Biden will visit Israel on Wednesday to show support for its war on Hamas after Washington said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had agreed to let humanitarian aid reach besieged Gazans.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Biden's planned



Rescue work underway at a residential area hit by Israeli strikes in Khan Younis in southern Gaza Strip on Tuesday. Reuters

visit at the end of hours of talks with Netanyahu, in which he said Netanyahu had agreed to develop a plan to get humanitarian aid to Gaza civilians.

Biden will "hear from Israel what it needs to defend its people," Blinken said. He will also hear how Israel will carry out operations in a way that minimises civilian casualties and lets humanitarian aid into Gaza to help civilians "in a way that does not benefit Hamas".

Washington is also trying to rally Arab states to

help head off a wider regional war after Iran pledged "preemptive action" from its allies which include the Hezbollah in Lebanon. After Israel, Biden is expected to travel to Jordan to meet King Abdullah and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi.

He will also meet Mahmoud Abbas, president of the Palestinian Authority, which exerts limited self rule in the Israeli-occupied West Bank but lost control of Gaza to Hamas in 2007. The PA on Tuesday accused

Israel of genocide and ethnic cleansing in Gaza.

The United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, said only around 14 per cent of Gazans had access to water. "People will start dying without water," UNRWA said.

Israel says 199 hostages were taken to Gaza during the militants' raid. Hamas released a video of one French-Israeli hostage, Maya Schem, calling on world leaders to help her and other captives get home.

Japan reaches out to Iran: Talk to Hamas, dial down tensions

REUTERS TOKYO, OCTOBER 17

JAPANESE FOREIGN Minister Yoko Kamikawa asked his Iranian counterpart on Tuesday to talk to the militant Palestinian group Hamas to try to ease tension in the conflict with Israel, the Japanese Foreign Ministry said.

Kamikawa and Abdullahian agreed to cooperate to improve humanitarian access to Gaza, a foreign ministry statement said. Kamikawa said there were currently about 900 Japanese citizens in Israel and the Palestinian territories, and Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Hideki Murai later said the government planned to evacuate them with Japanese military aircraft this week.

Khamenei: Israel must halt Gaza assault

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has described Israel assault on Gaza as a genocide of Palestinians and said it must stop immediately, state TV reported on Tuesday.

A senior commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guards (IRGC) also warned of further action by



Iran's Ayatollah Khamenei

Don't push refugees: Jordan

Berlin: Jordan King Abdullah on Tuesday warned against trying to push Palestinian refugees into Egypt or Jordan, adding that the humanitarian situation must be dealt with inside Gaza and the West Bank. "That is a red line, because I think that is the plan by certain of the usual suspects to try and create de facto issues on the ground. No refugees in Jordan, no refugees in Egypt," King Abdullah said after a meeting with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz in Berlin. REUTERS

Tehran-backed militant groups against Israel if it did not cease its attacks. "The world is witnessing the Zionist regime's genocide of Palestinians in Gaza," he said.

"We must respond, we must react to what is happening in Gaza," Khamenei said.

Aid for Gaza arrives at border, but no plan for delivery yet

REUTERS CAIRO, OCTOBER 17

EGYPTIAN AID trucks moved closer on Tuesday to the only crossing to Gaza not controlled by Israel, but with no agreement in place to deliver relief and the Palestinian side still closed due to strikes it was unclear when they might pass through.

At least 49 people were killed in overnight Israeli bombardment of Rafah, where the crossing is located, and the nearby town of Khan Younis, Gaza's interior ministry said.

Some people with dual citizenship who have gathered in recent days awaiting the opening of the Rafah crossing began approaching the border on Tuesday, but many said they were staying away due to the air strikes.

After nine hours of negotiations, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said early on



Trucks with humanitarian aid from Egyptian NGOs wait at Rafah crossing from the Egyptian side for a decision for it to open, to enter Gaza. Reuters

Tuesday he had agreed with Israel "to develop a plan" to get aid into Gaza.

Egypt says the Rafah crossing, a vital artery before the fighting and now a key route for desperately needed supplies into the Israeli-besieged Palestinian enclave, has not been officially closed but has become inoperable due to the Israeli air strikes on the Gaza side.

Early on Tuesday some 160 trucks left al-Arish in Egypt's Sinai peninsula, where hundreds of tonnes of aid have been awaiting an agreement on aid delivery, an eyewitness told Reuters.

Ahmed Salem of the Sinai Foundation said that the trucks heading for the border contained Egyptian aid, and that the international aid remained in warehouses in al-Arish. Salem and another security source said Egypt had repaired the roads within the crossing that had been damaged by Israeli strikes.

The World Health Organization (WHO) said on Tuesday it needs urgent access to Gaza to deliver aid and medical supplies.

Newly appointed US envoy for humanitarian affairs in the Middle East, David Satterfield, is going to meet with the Israelis and start hammering out the details of the plan.

UNSC rejects Russian resolution for ceasefire

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA UNITED NATIONS, OCTOBER 17

THE UN Security Council has rejected a draft resolution proposed by Russia that called for a humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza but made no mention of Hamas' attack on Israel, while a vote on a rival Brazilian text will be held on Tuesday. The 15-nation Council met on Monday evening to vote on the Russian-led draft resolution, the first such text that was considered by the UN body.

The one-page draft resolution failed to garner enough votes and was not adopted by the Council.

The draft text that called for an "immediate, durable and fully respected humanitarian ceasefire", the release of all hostages, aid access and safe evacuation of civilians received five votes in favour from China, Gabon, Mozambique, Russia, and the UAE.

For a resolution to be adopted in the Council, it must receive at least 9 votes in favour.

Infographic titled 'DEATH, DESTRUCTION' comparing Israel and Palestine. It shows 1,400+ deaths for Israel (including 200 hostages) and 2,800+ deaths for Palestine (including 27 in Rafah and 30 in Khan Younis). It also shows 1,000+ injured in Israel and 9,700+ injured in Palestine. Other losses include 4,000 displaced people in UN schools and 400,000 displaced people in UN facilities.

Sikh assaulted in US for wearing turban

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW YORK, OCTOBER 17

IN A SUSPECTED hate crime, a 19-year-old Sikh was assaulted and injured in New York for wearing a turban while travelling in a shuttle bus, the police said.

The attack took place early on Sunday when the Sikh teen was riding a shuttle bus in Queens, a borough of New York City, CBS News channel reported.

According to the police, the suspect approached the victim, asking him to remove his turban and said, "We don't wear that in this country and take that mask off!" The attacker then repeatedly punched the teen in his face, back, and the back of his head, causing minor cuts. He also tried to remove the victim's turban from his head before getting off the bus, the report said.

Police described the suspect as "a male, 25-35 years of age, dark complexion, slim build, ap-

proximately 5'9" tall, with brown eyes and black hair," and sought the public's help to find him.

The New York Police Department hate crime unit is investigating the incident, and the police department is calling it a hate crime assault, NBC New York TV channel reported.

No arrests have been made in the case yet, The Messenger news portal reported.

The victim, who was not named, refused further medical treatment at the scene, police said in the statement.

"Right now, the victim is very traumatised," community activist Japneet Singh was quoted as saying by ABC7 television station. "The family is very scared for him," Singh added.

Though he refused treatment at the scene, Singh says the victim was injured badly enough that he won't be able to work for the next few days. "We are in contact with the survivor and working with him to provide support as needed," police said.

Putin meets 'dear friend' Xi in Beijing

REUTERS BEIJING, OCTOBER 17

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin arrived in Beijing on Tuesday to meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping on a widely watched trip aimed at showcasing the trust and "no-limits" partnership between the countries even as the war in Ukraine raged on.

In only his second known trip abroad since the Hague-based International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an arrest warrant for him in March, Putin and his entourage flew into the Beijing Capital International Airport on Tuesday morning where he was greeted by the Chinese Commerce Minister Wang Wentao. It is also the Kremlin chief's first official trip outside of the former Soviet Union this year, after visiting Kyrgyzstan, a former Soviet republic, this month.

Xi last saw his "dear friend" in Moscow just days after the warrant was issued. At the time, Xi invited Putin to attend the



Russian President Vladimir Putin with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing on Tuesday. Reuters

third Belt and Road forum in Beijing, an international cooperation forum championed by the Chinese leader.

As Putin arrived at the Great Hall of the People for an evening banquet organised for global leaders and dignitaries attending the forum, Xi was all smiles as the two men shook hands.

Putin, as the forum's chief guest, stood to the right of Xi as

world leaders posed for group photographs at the Great Hall.

On Wednesday at the forum, Putin will also speak after Xi gives his opening speech.

Putin last visited China for the Beijing Winter Olympics in February 2022 when Russia and China declared a "no-limits" partnership days before the Russian president sent troops into Ukraine.

US leaders should learn to respect: Putin

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday rejected comments by US President Joe Biden, saying in an interview in Beijing that Moscow's interests could not be suppressed, and that US politicians should learn to respect others.

Putin was responding to comments by US President Joe Biden in an interview with CBS News, where he said: "Imagine what happens if we, in fact, unite all of Europe and Putin is finally put down where he cannot cause the kind of trouble he's been causing".

In a brief interview, Putin said: "This is not about me personally. This is about the interests of the country. And it is impossible to suppress the interests of Russia. They have to be taken into account." Putin said that both Biden, and the wider American political elite needed to learn to "respect" Russia. AP

Man accused of killing Swedish football fans in Brussels shot dead

ASSOCIATED PRESS BRUSSELS, OCTOBER 17

POLICE ON Tuesday shot dead a suspected Tunisian extremist accused of gunning down two Swedish soccer fans in a brazen assault on a Brussels street that sent shockwaves through Belgium and Sweden.

Hours after the suspect disappeared into the night and a manhunt was launched in the Belgian capital, Interior Minister Annelies Verindon posted on X, formerly Twitter, that "the perpetrator of the terrorist attack in Brussels has been identified and has died." She thanked Belgium's intelligence and security services, as well as prosecutors, "for their swift and decisive action." The man was shot in the Schaarbeek neighbourhood near where the rampage took place. The weapon used in the assault was recovered.

Amateur videos posted on social media of Monday's attack showed a man wearing an orange fluorescent vest pull up on a scooter, take out a large weapon and open fire on people getting out of a taxi.

He chased them into a building to gun them down. He was also filmed calmly loading his weapon as cars drove slowly by. Questions remain unanswered over how a man who was on police files, thought to be radicalised and being sought for deportation, was able to obtain a military weapon and launch such an attack.

Not far from the scene of the shooting, the Belgium-Sweden soccer match in the national stadium was suspended at halftime and over 35,000 fans were kept inside as a precaution while the attacker was at large. Caroline Lochs, a fan from Antwerp, said the alarm left her feeling "frustrated, confused, scared".

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Nagender, M/S Laxmi Paswan R/o WZ-163, M-13, SF, Hari Nagar, Delhi-110064 have changed my name to NAGENDRA PASWAN

I, NIKKUMAN S/O PAKASH MAN R/O/H/NO.-65, VPO GHEVRA VILLAGE. DELHI-110081 THAT HAVE DECLARE NIKKU MAAN and KHUSHIRAM BOTH NAMES SAME AND PERSON.

I, NIKHIL VISWANATHAN S/O V P VISWANATHAN R/O 146-B, POCKET A-2, MAYUR VIHAR PHASE-3, EAST DELHI-110096 have changed the name of my minor daughter NIYA N VISWANATHAN aged 04 years and she shall hereafter be known as NIYA NIKHIL.

I, Mun Mun Atlas Mumtun Kaur D/o Paramjeet Singh Walia R/O D-41, Khalsa Garden Gurudwara, Jagtaji Vasant Vihar Saharanpur Uttar Pradesh-247001 have Changed my Name to Munmun Kaur for all Purposes

I, Meera Sinha Doyal/W/O CHANDRA MAULSEHWAR PRASAD SINHA R/O Flat W-303, AMRAPALI SAPPHIRE PART2; Sector-45 Noida UP, have changed my name to MEERA SINHA for all purposes.

I, Manveer Singh S/O Johan Singh R/O R.C.-7984, New Ajanta Park, Khoda Colony Ghaziabad, U.P.-201001, have changed my name from MANBIR SINGH to MANVEER SINGH for all future purposes.

I, Mamta W/o Mritunjay Kumar R/o Flat No.25162, Tower-14, Mahagun Mywoods Greater Noida West, UP-201318 declares my name is wrongly mentioned as MAMTA DEVI in birth certificate of my son SHUBH KUNWAR instead of MAMTA. My correct name is MAMTA for all future purposes.

I, MOHD SAMEER, S/O ABDUL AZIZ, R/O H.NO-102/2, GALI NO-2, RAJVEE GANDHI NAGAR, NEW MUSTAFABAD, NORTH EAST DELHI-110094 have changed my name to SAMEER AHMAD

I, MEENA DEVI W/O NO.4085808Y RANK EX.LNK RAJENDER SINGH D/O KISHAN SINGH BISHT R/O H.No. 1105, GALI NO.24, BLOCK-L-II, SANGAM VIHAR, KHANPUR, DELHI-110062 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MEENA BISHT VIDE AFFIDAVIT DT.17.10.23 BEFORE

I, MAYURI AMRUTKUMAR VAGHELA w/o RAJAN CHAUHAN R/O House No.-29, 1st Floor, Road No.-62, West Punjabi Bagh, Delhi-110026 have changed my name to MAYURI CHAUHAN permanently.

I, Kamal Kumar S/O Vinay Gupta R/O-B-76/4, Niti-Vihar Kirari Suleman Nagar, Delhi-110086, have changed my name to Kamal Bansal, Permanently.

I, JOGINDER SINGH CHAUHAN S/O GYANENDER SINGH CHAUHAN R/O HOUSE, NO.97, CHILLA-VILLAGE, DELHI-110091, confirm that my son's name and DOB has been Wrongly mentioned in Star health insurance policy as Rishal Chauhan and DOB-08/08/2017. Correct name and DOB is Yuvraj and DOB-14/08/2017.

I, Harpreet Kaur Suvinder Singh Bagga W/o Suvinder Singh Bagga R/o #402, Block E, Mahajan Shree Cghs, Plot No-13, Sec-23 Dwarka Delhi have changed my name to Harpreet Kaur Bagga.

I, FAREEN d/o RAKIB r/o 3/8, Street No.-6, J-Extension, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092 have changed my name to FAREEN RAKIB permanently.

I, Bharat Bhushan S/O J C Bajaj, R/O B-164, MIG Flats Suvindh Apartments, Ashok Vihar-4 Delhi-110052 have changed my name to Bharat Bhushan Bajaj.

I, Annie Deep W/o Bhushan Diwaker R/o 120/2, Kanta Sadan, Street No.6, Baldev Park, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051, have changed my name to Annie Diwaker

I, Amanpreet, W/o Arshad Ahmad R/O C-145, WZ-387, SF, Hari Nagar, Delhi-110064 have changed my name to ARSHI BANO

I, Aman S/o Amarjeet Singh, R/O A-126, Karam Pura, New Delhi-110015, have changed my name to Aman Deep Singh, for all purposes.

I, ARIBA D/O SATTAR ALI R/O, 5267 KUCHA REHMAN NEAR TOWN HALL CHANDNI CHOWK DELHI-110006, have changed my name to ARIBA ALI Permanently.

I, ANIL KUMAR s/o KAILASH CHAND R/O F-151, Main Market, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092 have changed my name to ANIL GARG permanently.

I, Manoj Prasad Shrivastav, S/o Baccha Prasad Shrivastav, R/o A-622, New Ashok Nagar, Delhi-110096 inform that my daughter Jivika D.O.B. 13.12.2009 we have chaged her name from Jivika to Jivika Kumari Srivastwa for all future purposes.

I Waseem Ullha Khan/waseem Khan/ Wasim Khan/ Wasim Ullha Khan/ Wasim Ullah Khan S/O, Ahmad Ullah Khan R/o 13/340-342 Dda Flats Madangir New Delhi have changed my name to Waseem Ullah Khan.

I Sarita W/O, Sandeep Pilantia R/O B56, Pocket B, Ina Colony, New Delhi 110023 have changed my name to Sarita Pilania following marriage.

I Sanjay Kumar Narula S/o Sh.Tilak Raj R/o WZ-2135, Upper Ground Floor, Rani Bagh, Delhi-110034 have changed my name to Sanjay Narula for all purposes.

I Sachendra S/o Sh.Narendra Kumar Chaudhary R/o 2/902, Indigo Tower, S G Impressions-58, Main Road, Near Gol Chakkarg, Rajnagar Extension, Ghaziabad, U.P.201001 have changed my name to Sachendra Chaudhary for all purposes.

I Ram Chand S/O, Narain Singh R/O B-19, Sainik Nagar, Nawada, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059 have changed my name to Ram Chand Garg.

I Bharti Jattav D/o Maahavir Singh R/O A-53, gali no-9, Om Vihar, Phase-5, Uttam Nagar, DK Mohan Garden, Delhi-110059 have changed my name to Bharti.

I Arun Kumar Bhatara S/o-Sh. J.N Bhatara R/O-H.No-139, Pocket-11, Sector-24, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Arun Bhatara for all purposes.

I, MANISH AGGARWAL, S/O.ASHOK KUMAR ADD-2/115,F,F,SUNDER VIHAR PASCHIM VIHAR,WEST-DELHI-110087,changed my name to MANISH KUMAR,for all, future purposes.

I,FAHMEEDA SIDDIQUI W/O AASHIQUE SIDDIQUI R/O C-121/2,THIRD-FLOOR,GALI.NO.13,NEAR-CHURCH,PHASE-2 VIJAY VIHAR,ROHINI,DELHI-110085.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO FAHMEEDA SIDDIQUI.

I,BABITA,W/O.ATAR SINGH MEENA, ADD-B-21,KRISHNA RESIDENCY,VIJAY CGHS SECTOR-18A,DWARKA,DELHI 110075.Changed my name to BABITA MEENA,for all,future purposes.

I, am Raminder Singh, residing at,WZ-588A, First-Floor, Street.No.21, Shiv-Nagar Extension, New-Delhi-110058.have a daughter named Saira kaur, from my first wife Upkar Kaur. I married my second wife, Jasmeet Kaur, on 20 Jan 2021, henceforth known as Jasmeet Kaur, the mother of my-daughter.

I, Vineet S/o Bheem Singh R/O D-704 ACE Platinum Sector-Zeta-1 Greater Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201008 have changed my name to Vineet Kumar permanently

I, Mohd Abdullah, S/o Mohammad Shoyab, R/o B-138, Gali, No.-20, Subhash Mohalla, North Ghonda, Delhi-110053, declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as Mohd Shoyab Qazi in my-10th class-record. The actual name of my father is Mohammad Shoyab, which may be amended accordingly.

I,subhash aya,s/o sh.vedi dass arya, H.no.-468,sec-14,sonipat, haryana,have change my name subhash chand aary,for all purpose.

I,savita w/o-kartar singh,H.No-94,E-Extn,Nyayvihar,Phase-1, dindarpur,shajargarh, delhi-110043,have changed my name to savita devi,for all purpose.

I,Sushma Kumari,W/O Anil Kumar, R/O H.No.143, Ward.No.18,Near Ram-Mandir Kaziwara,Sohna, Gurgaon(Haryana), have changed my name to Sushma.

I,Surinder Garg S/o Pawan Kumar and Kusum Lata W/o Surinder Garg both R/O H.No.23,Upper Ground-Floor Pocket-11A Sector-22,Rohini Delhi-110086,changed my minor son name Mehal Garg to Mehul Garg

I,Subhash Chandra,S/O Mithu Lal Bansal Resident-B-21,Vinobha-Kunj Apartments, Sector-9,Rohini,Delhi-110085,have changed my name to Subhash Bansal.

I,Simmi Pandita, Wo Rahul Pandita R/O C/31/12,Nelson Mandela Road, Near FAB India,Vasant Kunj,Delhi,have changed my name to Simmy Pandita.

I,Shyam Lal S/O Iswar Singh R/o 297, Bagh Kare khan kishan gari,Delhi-110007,have changed my name to Shyam Lal Dahiya.

I,MUKESH KUMAR father of ANNISSA ANAND,Presently residing at Sec-MTR&S, Unit-412 Air Force Station, Race Course, Lak Kalkyan Marg,New Delhi-110003,have changed my minor daughter's name,from ANNISSA ANAND to ANISHA GUPTA, Vide-affidavit,dated-17.10.2023.

I,MITHLESH KATIYAR,W/O DINESH KUMAR R/O FLAT.NO-H-1001,CLOUD-9,ANSAL FLAT,SECTOR-1,VAISHALI,GHAZIABAD UTTAR PRADESH-201010,changed my name to MITHLESH.

I,Shubham,S/O-Parveen Kumar Verma, H.no. - B-281/1A, Street.no-7, Near-Krishna Mandir Subhash-Vihar,North Ghonda-Delhi-110053,have change my name Shubham Verma, for all purposes.

I,MD JUNAID KHAN,S/O.ZAHEER KHAN, ADD-F-21,NAFEES ROAD,JOGA BAI-EXTN JAMIA-NAGAR,SOUTH EAST-DELHI-110025,changed my name to JUNAID KHAN,for all,future purposes.

I,Satyendra Kumar,S/O Late Pradeep Kumar R/O D-376,second-floor/Pul Prahlad-Pur New-Delhi -110044,Have Changed my name to Satyendra Kumar Narain,Permanently.

I,Satyaveer Singh S/o Asha Ram R/O A 211, Dabua Colony,Faridabad have changed my name to Satbir Singh.

I,SUMAN GOTHWAL,W/O-MAHENDER SINGH GOTHWAL,H.NO.10567,3rd-FLOOR, GALI.NO.4,PARTAP NAGAR GULABI BAGH, DELHI-110007,changed my name to SUNITA.

I,SHASHI BALA,W/O SATISH BHUTANI RESIDENT HOUSE NO-206,SECTOR-15, SONIPAT, HARYANA HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHASHI BHUTANI.

I,SHAKTI SINGH,S/O Satchida Nand Singh R/O,Flat.No-261, J-Block, DLF Capital Green, Shivaji-Marg,Moti Nagar,Karam Pura,Delhi-110015,changed my name to SHAKTI KUMAR SINGH.

I,SHAKTI SINGH S/O RAJ SAMAL R/O H.NO.36/208,ARYA SAMAJ GALLI,SIRASPUR, DELHI-110042.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHAKTI SINGH RANA.

I,Roshni D/o Rajender,R/O A-193, Sector-24, JJ Colony,Rohini,Delhi-110085,have changed my name to Roshni Choudhary

I,SABA FIRDAUS,W/O,AJAY SINGH,3/20 THIRD-FLOOR SAKET-BLOCK MANDAWALI FAZALPUR,EAST-DELHI SHAKARPUR DELHI 110092,AFTER-MARRIAGE I, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RIYA SINGH,FOR ALL,FUTURE PURPOSE.

I,Rajesh Kumar,S/o Sadhurnar R/o VPO Tumbaheri, distt & tehsil jhajjar 124109,have changed my name to Rajesh Kumar Sharma.

I,Raj Kumar Dawar,S/o Chander Bhan,R/O R-102 DLF The Ultima Sector-81,Gurgaon (Haryana)-122004,have changed my name to Raj Kumar.

I,RAJIV KUMAR GUPTA S/O KAMTA PRASAD GUPTA R/O 23/218,MANDI ANAND GANJ,BARAUT,BAGHPAT,UTTAR PRADESH.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAJEEV KUMAR GUPTA.

I,Puneet Singh,S/O Dinesh Singh,R/O A-20 A, Jain Park, Matiyala,Uttam Nagar,West Delhi-110059,have changed my name Puneet Singh,for all purposes.

I,Pramjit Kaur W/o Banta Singh R/O B-232 Gurudwara Buta Singh Punjabi Basti Sabzi Mandi Delhi-110007, changed my name to Manjeet Kaur

I,Parvinder,S/o Ranjeet Singh,R/O H.No.30, Village & Post-Office,Basai,Gurgaon (Haryana),have changed my name to Parvinder Singh.

I,PAWAN KUMAR S/O MOHAN LAL R/O E-4/1,SECTOR-7,ROHINI,DELHI-110085.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PAWAN KUMAR GUPTA.

I,Niva Kumari@Nibha Kumari,D/o-Shiv Bodhan Singh,W/O Dilip Kumar,R/O Flat.No.I-98, First Floor, Emerald Hills,Sector-65, Gurugram(HR),122018,have changed my name to Nibha Singh.

I,Navneet Kaur,W/O-Harpreet Singh Anand, Add-Wz B-51,Street.no.12 Krishna-park Extn.,Tilak-Nagar West-Delhi-110018,have changed my name to Navneet Kaur Anand.

I,NO 2979384F EX HAV Surendra Pal Singh S/O Late Sh. Prem Singh R/O Village Khairpur Gurjar Po, Bisrakh Teh. Dadri Distt Gautam Buddh Nagar.(U.P)201306 inform you that in my Army Records my wife's name wrongly mentioned as MAHANDRI DEVI. Whereas her correct name is MAHENDRI DEVI.

I,NO 2979384F EX HAV Surendra Pal Singh S/O Late Sh. Prem Singh R/O Village Khairpur Gurjar Po, Bisrakh Teh. Dadri Distt Gautam Buddh Nagar.(U.P)201306 inform you that in my Army Records my wife's name wrongly mentioned as MAHANDRI DEVI. Whereas her correct name is MAHENDRI DEVI.

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I,ATTAR SINGH,S/O.PRITAM SINGH MEENA, ADD-B-21,KRISHNA RESIDENCY, VIJAY CGHS SECTOR-18A,DWARKA,DELHI 110075,changed my name to ATAR SINGH MEENA,for all,future-purposes.

I,MAMTA CHAUDHARY,W/O BIKASH CHANDRA CHOUDHARY,HOUSE.NO-1703,THAPAR-LE ARTHAH PLOT.NO.15 SECTOR-4,VAISHALI GHAZIABAD,UP-20110,CHANGED MY NAME TO MAMTA CHOUDHARY,FOR ALL PURPOSE.

I,MAHENDER SINGH S/O SHISH RAM,R/O H.NO.10567,3rd FLOOR,GALI.NO.4,PARTAP NAGAR GULABI BAGH,DELHI-110007,changed my name to MAHENDER SINGH GOTHWAL.

I,Lalit Dhamija,S/o Leela Kishan Dhamija R/O,Flat.No-B502, Corona Gracieux,Sector 76,Gurgaon(Haryana),122001,h ave changed my Minor Daughter's name,from Hinaya to Hinaya Dhamija.

I,LEENA SAHAI,W/O Vijay Thapa,R/O.404, Neel Kanth Apartment,Om-Vihar Phase-1, Uttam Nagar,Delhi-110059,changed my name to LEENA THAPA.

I,Hem S/o Leeladhar Kandpal,R/O E-17 Indira Gandhi-Marg East Vinod-Nagar,Delhi 110091,Have changed my name to Hem Kandpal,for all purposes.

I,Harsh S/o Pardeep Kumar,R/o Bhadani (94),Distt.Jhajjar (Haryana),have changed my name to Harsh Kumar.

I,Harsh S/o Pardeep Kumar,R/o Bhadani (94),Distt.Jhajjar (Haryana),have changed my name to Harsh Kumar.

I,PRAKASH SHARMA,S/O OM PRAKASH SHARMA R/O-Block A-3,Flat.No-24 Saakshara, Apartment Paschim,Vihar Delhi-110063,have changed my name to HARSH SHARMA.

I,Geeta Rani Dawar,W/o Raj Kumar Dawar,R/o R-102,DLF the Ultima Sector-81, Gurgaon(Haryana)-122004,have changed my name to Geeta Dawar.

I,DEEPAK S/O Shyam Lal Dahiya,R/O 297, Bagh Kare khan kishan ganj,Delhi-110007have changed my name to Deepak Dahiya.

I,Deepak Malhotra S/o Rajinder Nath Malhotra,R/O 9/17,FF,East Patel-Nagar Delhi-8,have changed my name to Deepak Kumar Malhotra.

I,DEEPAKKUMAR DUBEY, F/O, ANSHKUMAR DEEPAKKUMAR, R/O-1203,EMERALD HEIGHTS, KHERI-ROAD,SECTOR-88, FARIDABAD-121002,HAVE CHANGED MY MINOR-SON NAME TO ANSH DIPAK UPMANYU,FOR ALL PURPOSE.

I,DEEPAKKUMAR DUBEY, F/O, ANSHKUMAR DEEPAKKUMAR, R/O-1203,EMERALD HEIGHTS, KHERI-ROAD,SECTOR-88, FARIDABAD-121002,HAVE CHANGED MY MINOR-SON NAME TO ANSH DIPAK UPMANYU,FOR ALL PURPOSE.

I,Abhey Kumar R/O H.No.110A, Vill-Gamri, Gargi Mendu, North-East Delhi-110053, have changed my Son's name from Satyam Kumar to Satyam Dedha for all purposes.

I,Aarti W/o Parvinder Singh,R/O H.No.-30, Village & Post Office,Basai,Gurgaon (Haryana),have changed my name to Aarti Singh.

I,AASHMITA BHATTIA,D/O RAMAN DEEP SINGH BHATTIA,R/O.H.NO.501,TOWER-B1 MAPSKO CASABELLA SEC-82,GURGAON(Haryana),HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ASHMITA BHATTIA.

I,KARAN,S/O RAJU,R/O A-150/1,SUKHDEV NAGAR,KOTLA MUBARAK PUR,NEW DELHI-110003,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM KARAN TO KARAN KASHYAP.

I,Yogendra Kumar Sharma S/o Babu Lal Sharma R/O T-11/208, Panchsheelwinesh, Sec-1, Greater Noida West, Gautam Budh Nagar, UP-201306, have changed my name to Yogendra Sharma for all future purposes.

I,Yogendra Prasad S/o Late Jeetvach Yadav R/o 32, Servant Quarters, Firozshah Road, New Delhi have changed my minor son name from Maneesh to Maneesh Kumar for all future purposes.

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I,Varsha Agarwal W/o Sumit Jain R/O-WZ-43-D/4-B, Posaingpur-Village, Janakpuri,Delhi-110058 have changed my name to Shipra Jain after marriage, for all purposes.

I,VIJAY KUMAR,S/O Late Shreeram/R/O Supertech Eco Village-1, Flat.No.1303/F7, Sector-1, Greater Noida(West), Bisarakh, G.B.Nagar, UP-201306, confirm That my name is wrongly recorded as VIJAY KUMAR DWIVEDI instead of VIJAY KUMAR in Transfer Certificate of my son namely AARAV DWIVEDI. The correct name of mine is VIJAY KUMAR for all future purposes.

I, tanuj Upadhyay, S/o-Gauri Shankar, R/O: D-360, Gali.No.9, Mandoli Extn., Mandoli, Delhi-110093, Declare that Name of My Father have been wrongly written as Gauri Shanker in My Class-10th Marksheet and Certificate. The actual Name of My Father is Gauri Shankar which may be amended accordingly.

I, Tajinder Singh, S/o Shiv Charan Malhotra R/O C-139, UGF, Hari Nagar, Delhi-110064 have changed my name from Tajinder Singh to TAJINDER SINGH MALHOTRA

I, Sonali Gupta w/o Suchit Gupta, R/o WZ-450, Gali No.1, Sringar, Shakurpur, Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Sonali, for all purposes.

I, SIRESHA MANDADAPU, W/O MANDADAPU KRISHNA, R/O-House No-26G, First Floor, Block No-8A, Karol Bagh, Central Delhi, Delhi-110005 inform you that MANDADAPU SIRESHA and SIRESHA MANDADAPU both are same and one person.

I, SANDEEP KAPOOR,S/O PREM NARAYAN KAPOOR, R/O D-135, F.F. AJAY ENCLAVE, SUBHASH NAGAR, DELHI-110018, Have Changed My Minor Daughter's (Dob-22.07.2010) Name From YATIKA KAPOOR TO MANKIRAT KAPOOR For All Purposes

I, Rishab Gupta S/o Sh. Rajeev Gupta, R/O H.No. 3194, Lal Darwaza, Bazar Sitaram, Delhi-6, have changed my name to Rishab Gupta for all future purposes.

I, Rajender Kumar Garg, S/o Nanak Chand R/O-H.No-539, Sector-46 Faridabad, Haryana-121010, have changed my name to Rajender Prasad Garg, Permanently.

I, Pardeep Kumar Chauhan S/o Sh. Dharam Pal Singh, R/O F-35, Ground Floor, Gali No.4, East Vinod Nagar, Delhi-110091 have changed my name from Pardeep Kumar Chauhan for all future purposes.

I, POONAM w/o ANIL GARG r/o F-151, Main Market, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092 have changed my name to POONAM GARG permanently.

I, Ashok Jain S/o Sh.Lachhi Ram Jain R/o 3/10, Roop Nagar, Delhi-110007 have lost my Original Sale Deed vide Registration No.2495 Additional Book No.1, Volume No.586 on Pages 299 to 308 dated 20.04.1961 executed by Shri Ram Singh S/o Late Karan Singh in favour of Sh.Laxman Prasad S/O Late Sarni Mal regd.in the office of Sub-Registrar, Delhi of above said property.Finders may contact at above address.

I, Mohit Bhatia, S/o, Harish Bhatia, lost the original-sale deed.No.4894,Dated-23/01/1960 and general Power of Attorney,Agreement Deed,Will Deed,Receipt and Affidavit all Dated-15/09/1980 of property.No.B-28-A,Gali No.13, New-Gobind Pura,Shahdara,Delhi-110051, founder may inform,#8860802423

I, Ashok Jain S/o Sh.Lachhi Ram Jain R/o 3/10, Roop Nagar, Delhi-110007 have lost my Original Sale Deed vide Registration No.2495 Additional Book No.1, Volume No.586 on Pages 299 to 308 dated 20.04.1961 executed by Shri Ram Singh S/o Late Karan Singh in favour of Sh.Laxman Prasad S/O Late Sarni Mal regd.in the office of Sub-Registrar, Delhi of above said property.Finders may contact at above address.

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SALUTE THE SOLDIER



Lt Dheerendra Singh Atri, Kirti Chakra (Posthumous) (12 Sep 1978-18 Oct 2003)

This historic day fills our hearts with pride and sorrow alike when in the highest traditions of the Indian Army, you laid down your life in the line of duty. World is a lesser place without you but we know that you are with the gods above and even heavens have improved by your gracious presence.

Fondly remembered by CO and All Ranks of 3 RAJPUT

Prisons and Correctional Services Home Department (Prisons), Government of Bihar

NOTICE INVITING TENDER Request for Proposal (Through e-Procurement mode only) (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

Tender Notice No: Kara/Kray-04-31/2023/03 (2023-24) Inspectorate of Prisons and Correctional Services, Home Department (Prisons), Govt of Bihar invites Request For Proposal (RFP) to welcome interested capable and reputed firm(s)/agency(s) for the Selection of agency for Setting up of Semiautomatic powerloom setup with all accessories for weaving of good quality blankets.

Table with 5 columns: Sl. No., Scope of work, Cost of tender document, Tender processing Fee, Earnest Money Deposit.

RFP Schedule/Programme

Table with 3 columns: Sl. No., Activity, Date/Time : Duration

Inspectorate of Prisons and Correctional Services, Home Department (Prisons), Govt of Bihar invites Request For Proposal (RFP) to welcome interested capable and reputed firm(s)/agency(s) for the Selection of agency for Setting up of Semiautomatic powerloom setup with all accessories for weaving of good quality blankets.

For further details please visit : www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar सहायक कारा महानिरीक्षक (मु) कारा एवं सुधार सेवाएँ बिहार, पटना

PR- 010399 (Ni.Ni.) 2023-24 नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार

योजना एवं विकास विभाग

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन, कार्य प्रमंडल-01 बेतिया निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या - SBD 01/2023-24

(केवल ई-टेंडर प्रकृति के अनुसार वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

बिहार के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से बिहार राज्य के किसी भी कार्य विभाग/निगम/अन्य राज्य सरकार/केन्द्र सरकार/सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रम या राष्ट्रीय या अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्थापित के किसी भी एजेंसी में समुचित श्रेणी में निविदा संवेदकों से प्रतिशत दर निविदा दो बीड प्रणाली (तकनीकी एवं वित्तीय) अन्तर्गत आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। यदि संवेदक बिहार राज्य के किसी कार्य विभाग/निगम में पूर्व से निविदा नहीं है, तब एकरारनामा के पूर्व निम्नलिखित कार्य का स्वीकार पत्र (लेटर ऑफ एक्सेप्टेंस) प्राप्त होने के बाद बिहार राज्य के किसी भी कार्य विभाग/निगम (जिसमें निबंधन की प्रक्रिया लागू हो) में निबंधन कराना अनिवार्य होगा।

Table with 7 columns: Sl. No., कार्य का नाम, अधिकार प्राप्त की राशि, अंदाजा की राशि, परिमाण-विशेष का मूल्य, बीड प्रोसेसिंग शुल्क, कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि

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- विज्ञापन निर्गत करने की तिथि: दिनांक -13.10.2023
निविदा कागजात अपलोड करने की प्रारम्भिक तिथि एवं समय: दिनांक 08.11.2023 को 10:00 बजे पूर्वानुक्रम से।
प्री-बीड मीटिंग का समय, स्थान एवं तिथि: दिनांक 03.11.2023 समय 3:30 बजे, मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय, स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन, विधेयश्वरिया बंगला, चतुर्थ तल, कमरा नं-423, बेतो रोड, पटना-800015

विरुद्ध जानकारी state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar से प्राप्त की जा सकती है। PR- 010336 (Planning) 2023-24 कार्यपालक अभियंता स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन, कार्य प्रमंडल-01 बेतिया

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार

INSTITUTE OF HUMAN BEHAVIOUR & ALLIED SCIENCES (IHBAS) Hospital based autonomous academic institute, under Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, dealing with "Brain - Mind Problems & Their Solutions"

F.No.14/23/PS(M)/IHBAS/2022/375 Dated: 13.10.2023 NOTICE INVITING TENDER The following tenders are being uploaded on the E-procurement site (http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in) of Delhi Govt./GeM portal/IHBAS website:-

Table with 3 columns: S. No., Name of items, Uploading Site

Interested firms/suppliers may please see the detailed Terms & Conditions of the respective Tenders from the above mentioned sites before submission of the tender. Sd/- DIP-SHABDARTH-CLASSIFIED-0188 Officer In-charge Purchase

Prisons and Correctional Services Home Department (Prisons), Government of Bihar NOTICE INVITING TENDER Request for Proposal (Through e-Procurement mode only) (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

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Table with 5 columns: Sl. No., Scope of work, Cost of tender document, Tender processing Fee, Earnest Money Deposit

RFP Schedule/Programme

Table with 3 columns: Sl. No., Activity, Date/Time : Duration

(i) For support related to e-tendering process, bidders may contact at following address m junction Services private limited RJ Complex, 2nd floor, Canera Bank campus, Khajpura, Aashiyana Road, P.S Shastri Nagar, Patna-800014 Toll Free No: 18005726571, E-mail id eproc2support@bihar.gov.in, Working Hours: 8:00 AM to 7:00PM (All days in week except few selected state holidays)

For further details please visit : www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar सहायक कारा महानिरीक्षक (मु) कारा एवं सुधार सेवाएँ बिहार, पटना PR- 010402 (Ni.Ni.) 2023-24

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार

Prisons and Correctional Services Home Department (Prisons) Government of Bihar

NOTICE INVITING TENDER Request for Proposal (Through e-Procurement mode only) (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) Tender Notice No: Kara/Kray-04-31/2023/01 (2023-24)

Inspectorate of Prisons and Correctional Services, Home Department (Prisons), Govt of Bihar invites Request For Proposal (RFP) to welcome interested capable and reputed firm(s)/agency(s) for the Selection of agency for Setting up of Semiautomatic powerloom setup with all accessories on Engineering Procurement Construction (EPC) mode for weaving of good quality cloths.

Table with 5 columns: Sl. No., Scope of work, Cost of tender document, Tender processing Fee, Earnest Money Deposit

RFP Schedule/Programme

Table with 3 columns: Sl. No., Activity, Date/Time : Duration

For support related to e-tendering process, bidders may contact at following address m junction Services private limited RJ Complex, 2nd floor, Canera Bank campus, Khajpura, Aashiyana Road, P.S Shastri Nagar, Patna-800014 Toll Free No: 18005726571, E-mail id eproc2support@bihar.gov.in, Working Hours: 8:00 AM to 7:00PM (All days in week except few selected state holidays)

For further details please visit : www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar PR- 010397 (KARA evenm Sudhar) 2023-24 Tender Inviting Authority

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार

NORTHERN RAILWAY Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (e-Procurement Systems) Dated : 17.10.2023

INDIAN RAILWAYS GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAILWAY BOARD) E-TENDER NO. 2023RS19547TC

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSONS ACCUSED (See Section 82 Cr. PC) Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely Md. Mohsin S/o Manjoor Khan R/o C-204/19, Kalyan Cinema Gali No. 2, Chouhan Banger Delhi Also at Vill Sherpur PS Bahadurgarh, Distt: Hapur UP has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 328/2023 U/s 302/34 IPC at P.S. Jafrabad, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrants of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Md. Mohsin cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Md. Mohsin have absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

उपरोक्त निविदाएं दिनांक 20.10.2023 को पूर्णतः 11:00 बजे से दिनांक 09.11.2023 को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक अपरेश्वरी की जा सकती है, अपर ई-निविदाओं को दिनांक 10.11.2023 को पूर्णतः 11:00 बजे या इसके पश्चात् खोला जायेगा। निविदादाताओं द्वारा अपरेश्वरी किये गये समस्त शर्त प्रश्नों की मूल प्रतियों को पंजीकृत कर अपर व्यक्तित्व रूप से दिनांक 14.11.2023 की राय 5:00 बजे तक कार्यालय में प्राप्त कराना अनिवार्य है अन्यथा निविदा को Consider नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदा सम्बन्धी विस्तृत जानकारी website: www.upsida.com पर स्थित ई-सिक एवं यूट्यूब की website: www.etender.up.nic.in पर देखी जा सकती है।

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

Table with 6 columns: SRI No., NAME OF BOARD/ CORP./ AUTH, NAME OF WORK/ NOTICE TENDER, OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME), AMOUNT/END (APPROX.) IN RUPEES, WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./ AUTH

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

GOVT. OF ASSAM OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, PWD (ROADS), ASSAM, CHANDMARI, GUWAHATI-3

No. CE/STBR/11/32/2023-24/4 SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Chief Engineer, PWD (Roads), Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3, invites Bid on behalf of the Governor of Assam from eligible contractors registered with Assam PWD (Roads) for the work "Construction of ROB at LC Gate No. ST-5 at Km-8/2-3 on R.K. Choudhury M.G. Road under Construction of ROB on 50:50 Cost Sharing Basis" for a total amount of Rs. 5554.81 Lakh (Approx.).

Chief Engineer, PWD (Roads) Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3. JANASANYOG/CF/3142/23/18-OCT-23

ई-निविदा सूचना (२०२३-२४) क्र. १०

पुरातत्व व वस्तुसंग्रहालय संचालनालयाच्या अधिपत्याखालील सहाय्यक संचालक, पुरातत्व विभाग, महाराष्ट्र शासन, नाशिक हे प्राचीन व ऐतिहासिक वा तत्सम वारसा वास्तूची जतन दुरुस्ती कामाचा पुरापुर अनुभव असलेल्या वास्तुविशारदकडून निविदा ब-१ प्ररूपत खालील जतन दुरुस्ती कामाच्या प्रस्तावसाठीची टक्केवारी निविदा मागवीत आहे.

Table with 4 columns: कामाचे नाव, सुरक्षा ठेव, बयाणा रक्कम (रुपये), निविदेची किंमत (रुपये)

http://mahatenders.gov.in या वेबसाइटवर ई-निविदा प्रसिद्ध करण्यात आली असून निविदा फॉर्म, कामाच्या अटी व शर्ती इत्यादी सविस्तर माहिती वेबसाइटवर दिलेली आहे.

स्वाक्षरी/(आ. म्. आठे) सहाय्यक संचालक, पुरातत्व विभाग, महाराष्ट्र शासन, नाशिक. डीजीआयपीआर/२०२३-२४/२२६५

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-Tender Notice E-Tenders are invited for execution of the following works by Chief Project Manager (GATI SHAKTI), E.C. Railway, Dhanbad Dt. 14.10.2023 - Sl.No.-1, E-Tender No. -36-GS-DNH-2023-24, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Improvement of traffic circulation, Beautification of Circulating area, Improvement of facade and elevation & provision of entrance porches of Chopan, Renukoot & Nagarunarti for Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, 09 (Nine) Months, Approx. cost of work (In Rs.), : 18,09,71,815.81. Earnest Money (In Rs.) : Earnest Money is applicable as shown in http://www.irops.gov.in Portal, Date & Time for closing and opening of e-tender : Date of closing of e-tender at 17:00 hours on 06.11.2023. Date of opening of e-tender from 12:00 hrs. on 07.11.2023. Website particulars : http://www.irops.gov.in No manual tender will be accepted against e-tendering. Note : (i) In case of difference between information in Hindi and English languages, only English languages will be valid. (ii) Prospective bidders are directed to take note of any changes and corrigendum in the process of issue of this e-tender, at least fifteen days prior to the date of losing of bid on the website http://www.irops.gov.in. Chief Project Manager (GS) East Central Railway, Dhanbad PR/01417/DHNGS/ENG/7/23-24/44

दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण नि 0 लि 0 अर्जा भवन, 220 के.वी. विद्युत उपस्थान नाई-पास रोड, मिर्जापुर, आगरा-282007 ई-निविदा सूचना ई-निविदाकरण सं 03/वीवीएनएल - एएमए / 3427-2023: Testing Bench - 5 Set, Turn Ratio Set with Lead - 5 Set, Motorised Oil BDV Tester - 5 Set, Resistance Meter with Bench - 5 Set, Megger (Insulation Resistance Tester) - 5 Set, Vernier Callipers - 5 Set, Screw Gauge - 5 Set, Tonge Tester/ Clamp Meter - 5 Set, Vernier Callipers Electronic - 21 Nos., Digital Outside Micrometer - 21 Nos., Weighing Scale (Weight 10 kg. Plate) - 21 Nos., Measurement Tap 30 Mtr. (Freemars/Standard make) - 21 Nos., Weighing Scale capacity 500gram. - 10 Nos., निविदा प्रश्न का मूल्य: ₹ 3,540.00 (जीएसटी सहित), धारक शर्त: ₹ 85,000/- उपरोक्त निविदा के संपादन ऑनलाइन बिड दिनांक 08/11/2023 को समय 13:00 बजे तक ऑनलाइन अपलोड की जा सकती है एवं निविदा खलने को दिनांक 09/11/2023 को सायं 16:00 बजे होगा। निविदा प्रश्न 03/00 शासन के ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल https://etender.up.nic.in पर अपरेश्वरी को जायेगा, वहाँ से निविदा प्रश्न डाउनलोड एवं अपरेश्वरी किये जा सकते हैं।

निविदा शुरू करने से पूर्व, D.V.N.L.F. AGRA की वेबसाइट www.dvnl.org के माध्यम से ही स्वीकार किया जायेगा। विवरण के लिए कृपया निविदा प्रश्न ध्यानपूर्वक पढ़ें। पत्र संख्या- 4313/अपी0अपी0 (साओ-1) आगरा/विज्ञापन, दिनांक : 17/10/2023 अधीक्षण अभियंता (साओ-1) दक्षिणोच्च निविदा, आगरा "सुनहरा भविष्य बनाये, राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचाए"

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17 ECONOMY

SENSEX: 66,428.09 ▲ 261.16 (0.39%) NIFTY: 19,811.50 ▲ 79.75 (0.04%) NIKKEI: 32,040.29 ▲ 381.26 HANG SENG: 17,773.34 ▲ 132.98 FTSE: 7,661.50 ▲ 30.87 DAX: 15,162.39 ▼ 75.60

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|------------|---------------|
| | | | |
| GOLD | USD RATE | OIL | SILVER |
| ₹60,150 | ₹83.24 | \$91.61 | ₹73,700 |

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of October 16

International market data till 1900 IST

SECTOR WATCH TECHNOLOGY

How Google's manufacturing plans could help India cut down imports

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

AS GOOGLE expands its manufacturing capabilities in India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai discussed the company's plan to establish an electronics manufacturing ecosystem in the country. According to an official statement issued by the Indian government, the Prime Minister appreciated Google's partnership with Hewlett Packard (HP) to manufacture Chromebooks in India.

Google's manufacturing plans in India
Google recently started producing its Chromebook laptops in India through a partnership forged with HP, in a major boost to the country's electronics manufacturing ambitions.

The move puts Google among the most high-profile names to kickstart manufacturing in India as companies across the world look to diversify their supply chains in the wake of turbulent geopolitical times. The Chromebooks — laptops that run on Google's Chrome operating system — will be manufactured at the Flex facility near Chennai, where HP has been producing a range of laptops and desktops since August 2020. The production has started from October 2 and will cater to the demand for affordable PCs in India, mainly from the education sector.

Chromebooks are among the most popular laptops used in educational institutions worldwide, but are yet to find mainstream traction in India, where laptops running on the Windows operating system continue to rule the roost. The move will help Google compete more effectively with Windows computers from companies such as Dell, Lenovo, and Asus.

Why local electronics manufacturing is important for India
The development is in line with India's ambition to establish itself as a "trusted partner" in global supply chains, especially at a time

when companies, especially from America, are looking to diversify from China — the traditional hub of such manufacturing for decades. While India has a big domestic demand for laptops and computers, almost all of it is currently being fulfilled by imports from China, something New Delhi wants to change as soon as possible. India has seen an increase in imports of electronic goods and laptops/computers in the last few years. During April-June this year, the import of electronic goods increased to \$6.96 billion from \$4.73 billion in the year-ago period, with a share of 4-7 per cent in overall imports. The highest share of imports is in the category of personal computers, including laptops and palm-tops, under which imports from China stood at \$558.36 million in April-May this year as against \$618.26 million in the year-ago period.

China accounts for roughly 70-80 per cent of the share of India's imports of personal computers, laptops. As the window for the Centre's production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme closed in August, over 40 companies — including Dell, HP, Asus, Acer and Lenovo — applied to participate in the programme to manufacture laptops, computers and servers in India.

Apple has opted to skip it. The government is expected to clear applications of around 30 companies soon, a majority of whom will start production from next April, it is understood.

Beyond manufacturing
Even as India has turned towards incentives to kickstart a manufacturing industry that has traditionally not existed in the country in a meaningful way, it has also adopted policy changes to discourage imports from China.

In August, the government had attempted to impose a licensing requirement on the import of laptops and computers, but was forced to delay the directive's implementation till October 31 after strong pushback from the industry. **FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com**

DABUR INDIA RECEIVED A TAX DEMAND OF OVER ₹320 CRORE As GST notices pile up, FMCG, auto, insurers face the brunt

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17



DABUR INDIA on Tuesday became the latest entrant to the steadily expanding list of companies receiving tax notices, with a goods and services tax (GST) demand of over Rs 320 crore, a charge that the consumer goods company said it will challenge before the relevant authorities.

Over the last few months, companies in sectors ranging from fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) to automobiles to mattresses makers and insurance companies have received a spate of show cause-cum-demand notices from the GST authorities for issues relating to "short payment" of taxes, "wrongful availing" of credit and mismatch of details in their returns dating back to 2017-18. Insurance companies such as LIC, Bajaj Allianz, ICICI Prudential, ICICI Lombard, Star Health and Allied Insurance along with other companies such as Maruti Suzuki, Akzo Nobel, Sheela Foam are among those that have received GST show cause notices in the last few months. This is in addition to the notices being sent to various online gaming companies and casinos for alleged under-

Experts said these notices will now translate into further demand and appeals, marking the start of a long legal battle.

payment of GST. Experts said most of these notices have been sent as the time limitation period of three years for sending notices for financial year 2017-18 was coming to an end this fiscal. The limitation period begins after the filing of annual returns for the year to which the demand is related. Deadlines for filing annual returns had got repeatedly extended during the initial GST implementation phase and later during the Covid-19 pandemic, hence, the limitation period for 2017-18 came to an end in September this year. GST authorities have sent out a spate of notices before this deadline for the year 2017-18, which was the first year of the indirect tax regime after its rollout in July 2017. "With approaching normal period of limitation for FY2017-18, there was a general expectation of notices being issued on the matter. Industry has been evaluating the said ruling on their specific facts and taking an appropriate view also keeping in mind that a similar matter is pending disposal at Supreme Court," Abhishek Jain, Indirect Tax Head and Partner, KPMG said. Also, as there were teething troubles in the initial period of implementation of the GST, many such notices have risen out of mismatch between GSTR-1 and GSTR-3B, the returns reflecting sales and the summary

States to spend 29% more on capex in FY24, says ICRA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

STATES ARE on course to spend 29 per cent more on capital expenditure in the ongoing fiscal, aided by additional central grants and market borrowings, a report said on Tuesday. The increased capex spending will see their debt-level in relation to their gross domestic product rising to 30 per cent from 28.9 per cent in FY23, a report by Icria Ratings said. The combined capital spending of 13 major states will rise 29 per cent this fiscal to Rs 6.2 lakh crore from Rs 4.8 lakh crore in FY23, the report said. However, despite the year-on-year growth, the capex spending is likely to be Rs 50,000 crore lower than the FY24 Budget estimates of Rs 6.7 lakh crore, Icria said.

The aggregate fiscal deficit of these states for FY24 is expected to go up by Rs 60,000 crore to Rs 8.3 lakh crore as against the budgeted estimate of Rs 7.7 lakh crore, the ratings agency said.



RECALLING MODEL X The US auto regulator on Tuesday said Tesla will recall 54,676 Model X vehicles manufactured between 2021-2023, as the vehicle controller is likely to fail to detect low brake fluid and not display a warning light.

New Delhi: The government will sell up to 7 per cent stake in Housing & Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) at a floor price of Rs 79 per share.

The Offer For Sale (OFS) for over 14.01 crore shares or 7 per cent stake will open for institutional investors on Wednesday. Retail investors can place bids for HUDCO shares on Thursday. At Rs 79 apiece, the 7 per cent share sale in HUDCO would fetch about Rs 1,000 crore to the exchequer. "Offer for Sale in HUDCO opens tomorrow for non-retail investors. Retail investors can bid on Thursday. Government will divest 7 per cent equity, including a Green Shoe Option of 3.5 per cent," Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said on X. PTI

Maruti Suzuki to issue ₹12,841 cr shares to SMC for Gujarat plant

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 17



THE BOARD of Maruti Suzuki India Ltd (MSIL) has approved the acquisition of Suzuki Motor Gujarat Private Ltd, owned by Suzuki Motor Corporation, Japan for a total purchase consideration of Rs 12,841 crore.

The purchase consideration payable by the company for the purchase of 100 per cent of SMG's equity shares will be discharged by way of issue and allotment of 1.23 crore equity shares of the company having face value of Rs 5 each to SMC, at a price of Rs 10,420.85 per equity share, on a preferential basis. Maruti shares gained 0.31 per cent at Rs 10,742.05 on the BSE on Tuesday.

The board of Maruti approved the acquisition of 1.284 crore equity shares of Rs 10 each representing 100 per cent paid-up equity share capital of Suzuki Motor Gujarat. "The proposed transaction is being done at "arm's length", taking into account the valuation report issued by RBSA Valuation Advisors LLP, independent registered Valuer, in accordance with the applicable laws," Maruti said. The acquisition of purchase shares will be subject to such regulatory and statutory approvals as may be required under applicable laws including the approval of the minority shareholders of the company by way of postal

Maruti shares gained 0.31 per cent at Rs 10,742.05 on the BSE on Tuesday

MSIL announced the acquisition of SMG from Suzuki in July to enhance production efficiency

ballot, it said. Suzuki's stake in Maruti will increase from 56.48 per cent to 58.19 per cent after the transaction. The Gujarat manufacturing plant which has an annual capacity of 750,000 units, produces cars for MSIL under a contract manufacturing agreement (CMA) signed with SMG in 2015. In July this year, MSIL announced the acquisition of SMG from Suzuki to enhance production efficiency and streamline its corporate structure, in line with its ambitious plan to nearly double production capacity by 2030-31.

Laptop imports: US, Korea raise concerns on Indian restrictions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

THE US, China, Korea and Chinese Taipei have raised concerns on India's decision to impose import restrictions on laptops, and computers, in a meeting of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), an official said. The concern was flagged in the meeting of WTO's Committee on Market Access. It was chaired by Renata Crisaldo of Paraguay on October 16, in Geneva. The US has stated that the decision will have an impact on trade of these products, including US exports to India, once they are implemented, the Geneva-based official said.

America has also said that the decision is creating uncertainty for exporters and downstream users. On August 3, India imposed import restrictions on a host of IT hardware products as laptops, personal computers (including tablet computers), micro computers, large or mainframe computers, and certain data processing machines with a view to boost domestic manufacturing and cut imports from countries like China. The regime would come into effect from November 1. However, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal last week said that India will not impose licensing requirement on imports but will only monitor their inbound shipments.

BRIEFLY Govt cuts windfall tax

New Delhi: The government on Tuesday cut special additional excise duty (SAED) on crude petroleum to Rs 9,050/tonne with effect from October 18. In the last fortnightly review on September 29, windfall tax on domestically produced crude oil was set at Rs 12,100/tonne. Besides, the SAED or duty on export of diesel will be reduced to Rs 4/litre, from Rs 5 per litre currently. The duty on jet fuel or ATF will be reduced to Rs 1/litre from Rs 2.5/litre currently. PTI

Uttarakhand GIS 2023: Investment MoUs worth ₹5,450 cr signed for tourism, infra

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17



CM Pushkar Singh Dhami in Dubai.

UTTARAKHAND CHIEF Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Tuesday held a meeting with representatives of industry groups in the road show organised in Dubai for the Uttarakhand Global Investor Summit 2023. So far, investment MoUs worth Rs 5,450 crore have been signed with multiple industrial groups in Dubai in the presence of the Chief Minister, an official

the summit to be organised in Dehradun on December 8 and 9. Dhami said that an investment friendly system has been developed in Uttarakhand and that a lot of work has been done in the field of infrastructure in the state. The Chief Minister said that bilateral relations between India and the United Arab Emirates have become stronger than before. Uttarakhand, he said, is keen to cooperate on the planned development of its cities and establishment of new cities.

FinMin fixes ceiling for ad hoc bonus at ₹7,000 for govt staff

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

THE FINANCE Ministry on Tuesday fixed the ceiling for computing non-productivity linked bonus (ad hoc bonus) for central government employees at Rs 7,000 for 2022-23. In an office memorandum, the Department of Expenditure under the Finance Ministry said non-productivity linked bonus (ad hoc bonus) equivalent to 30 days emoluments for the accounting year 2022-23 has been granted to the central government employees in Group 'C' and all non-gazetted employees in Group 'B', who are not covered by any productivity-linked bonus scheme. The ceiling for payment of ad hoc bonus under these orders will be monthly emoluments of Rs 7,000, it said. The payment of ad hoc bonus will also be admissible to the eligible employees of Central Para Military Forces and Armed Forces.

Bajaj Finance Q2 net profit up 28%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

BAJAJ FINANCE Ltd (BFL) on Tuesday reported a 28 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit to Rs 3,551 crore for the second quarter ended September 30. The non-banking finance company had posted a net profit of Rs 2,781 crore in the July-September quarter a year ago. Its total consolidated income increased to Rs 13,382 crore dur-

ing the July-September period against Rs 9,974 crore a year earlier, BFL said in a regulatory filing. The Pune-headquartered company's total expenditure rose to Rs 8,624 crore compared to Rs 6,222 crore in the year-ago period. Its consolidated assets under management as of September 30, 2022, grew by 33 per cent to Rs 2,90,264 crore from Rs 2,18,366 crore a year ago. Capital adequacy ratio (including Tier-II capital) as of September 30, 2023, was 23.19 per cent. The Tier-I capital was 21.88 per cent, it said. The board at its meeting held on October 5 has approved raising of capital through a qualified institutions placement (QIP) for an aggregate amount not exceeding Rs 8,800 crore by issue of equity shares of face value of Rs 2 each. Besides, the board has also approved preferential issue of up to 15,50,000 warrants convertible into equivalent number of equity shares to Bajaj Finserv Limited, for an aggregate amount not exceeding Rs 1,200 crore.

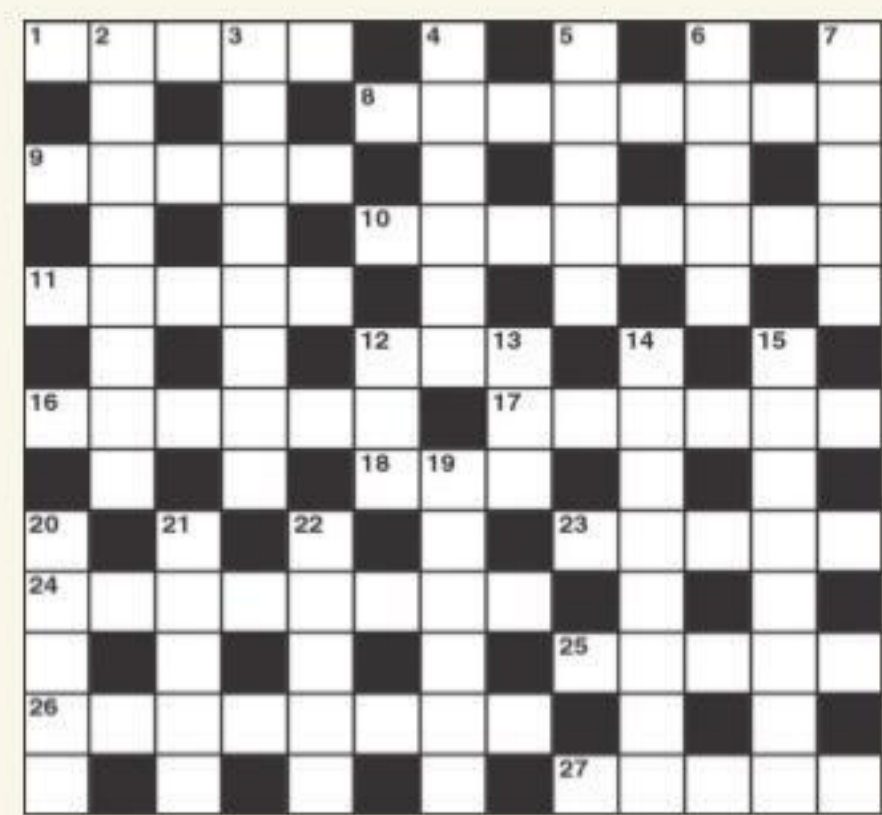
KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : 103/2023-24/KWA/PHC/D3/TVM/RT2
JJM Aryanadu and Uzhamalakkal panchayaths Supply, laying, testing and commissioning of 200mm DI K9 Clear Water Pumping Main from WTP to 5.5 LL OHSR and 7.5L GLSR and 300mm DI K9 Clear Water Gravity Main from WTP to 9LL OHSR at Pallivetta- EMD : Rs. 500000/-, Tender fee : Rs. 19518/-, Last date for submitting Tender : 09-11-2023 03:00:pm Phone : 04712322303, Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Superintending Engineer PH Circle Thiruvananthapuram
KWA-JB-GL-6-1386-2023-24

MPL MAITHON POWER LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Tata Power and DVC)
Registered Office: Corporate Center, 34 Sant Tukaram Road, Carnac Bunder, Mumbai-400009, Maharashtra, India. CIN-U74899MH2000PLC267297, Website: www.tatapower.com/mpl
EXTRACT OF FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2023
(₹ Crores, unless otherwise stated)

| Particulars | Quarter Ended | Quarter Ended | Year Ended |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | 30 th September, 2023 | 30 th September, 2022 | 31 st March, 2023 |
| | Unaudited | Unaudited (Restated) | Audited (Restated) |
| 1 Total income from operations | 762.16 | 810.04 | 3,027.95 |
| 2 Net Profit for the period before tax | 93.79 | 87.71 | 372.94 |
| 3 Net Profit for the period after tax | 90.20 | 80.07 | 339.20 |
| 4 Total comprehensive income for the period | 90.20 | 80.07 | 338.38 |
| 5 Paid-up equity share capital (Face Value of ₹10 each) | 1,508.92 | 1,508.92 | 1,508.92 |
| 6 Reserves (Excluding Revaluation Reserve) | 828.42 | 551.64 | 551.30 |
| 7 Net worth | 2,337.34 | 2,060.56 | 2,060.22 |
| 8 Outstanding debt | 1,639.79 | 1,667.87 | 1,615.18 |
| 9 Debt equity ratio | 0.70 | 0.81 | 0.78 |
| 10 Earnings per share (EPS) (of ₹10 each) | | | |
| Basic (₹)* | 0.60 | 0.53 | 2.25 |
| Diluted (₹)* | 0.60 | 0.53 | 2.25 |
| 11 Debenture redemption reserve | 129.05 | 129.05 | 129.05 |
| 12 Debt service coverage ratio * | 3.80 | 3.84 | 1.63 |
| 13 Interest service coverage ratio * | 4.15 | 3.45 | 3.88 |

* Quarterly ratios are not annualised
Notes:
1. The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 16th October, 2023.
2. This Company has restated financial result for the quarter ended 30th September, 2022 and year ended 31st March, 2023 due to additional depreciation charge arising from allocation of railway assets to other major items of Property, plant and equipment.
3. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the annual financial results is available on the website of stock exchange www.nseindia.com and Company's website www.tatapower.com/mpl.
Place: Mumbai Date: 16th October, 2023
Vijay Namjoshi
DIN: 08626492
Chairman

CROSSWORD 5185



- ACROSS**
 1 Sense to ask for a loan (5)
 8 He breaks more than one union law (8)
 9 MP and Sue frolic in the foam (5)
 10 Shattering discovery in Moab tomb (4,4)
 11 Silly Annie gets confused (5)
 12 Always in prayer (3)
 16 A strain people are willing to stand for (6)
 17 Repaired a large number and finished (6)
 18 The second person to be addressed (3)
 23 Singular example of Ibsen's work (5)
 24 Night air coming through the window? (8)
 25 It should be enough to cover the roof (5)
 26 Exhausted and insensitive to the rhythm (4,4)
 27 Excessively large number (5)
- DOWN**
 2 Con man? (8)
 3 American people prepared to become coachmen (8)
 4 Finish first attempt in icy conditions (6)
 5 Game in which Harry is superior to mother (5)
 6 At heart this Athenian is sanctimonious (5)
 7 Wounds in a most absent-minded way (5)
 12 Girl may appear confused (3)
 13 Permanently grounded Australian flier (3)
 14 Broadcasting another perhaps about one (2,3,3)
 15 Extreme comfort for those who have retired (8)
 19 Stern test or transaction (6)
 20 A team competing away (5)
 21 Money raised by word of mouth (5)
 22 Cuts up foodstuff on board (5)

Solutions Crossword 5184 Across: 1 Out of order, 6 Stab, 10 Speed, 11 Perplexed, 12 Campaign, 13 Runic, 15 Useless, 17 Scissors, 19 Assumes, 21 Interns, 22 Traps, 24 Nickname, 27 Priceless, 28 Galen, 29 Olga, 30 Heartthrob Down: 1 Oast, 2 Teenagers, 3 Fed up, 4 Repairs, 5 Errands, 7 Toxin, 8 Bad actress, 9 Alarmist, 14 Put a stop to, 16 Enmeshed, 18 Scrambler, 20 Sincere, 21 Incisor, 23 Aping, 25 Night, 26 Snub

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given clue.

Whoever loves becomes humble. Those who love have, so to speak, pawned a part of their narcissism. - Sigmund Freud (10)

NYAIR **INNERS**

SAMIS **ELSUCM**

SOLUTION: RAINY, AMISS, SINNER, MUSCLE
 Answer: Whoever loves becomes humble. Those who love have, so to speak, pawned a part of their narcissism. - Sigmund Freud

DIFFICULTY LEVEL 5s

SUDOKU 5354
 Instructions
 To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.



DIFFICULTY LEVEL
 1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5353



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

- ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)**
 A number of bright ideas may have occurred to you over the past twenty-four hours. You must try and follow through any plans which emerge in a burst of enthusiasm and not allow other people, or your own lack of confidence, to put you off. You must believe in yourself.
- LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)**
 Problems which once appeared complicated will seem nothing if not elementary. One solution may be to spend more, or at least make better use of your available resources. Yet there's something inside you which is happier giving money away than earning it.
- TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)**
 Modern medical experts are now catching up with the astrological law that a prime cause of poor health is stress. The basic preventative measure, which you must follow now, is to take adequate rest and relaxation. A spot of day-dreaming is also perfectly acceptable.
- SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)**
 You have been given ample warning not to overstate your case. The facts are not yet clear, so how can you possibly proceed without any assurance that you are right? Tread cautiously, for although you're confident, you're also a little over-emotional and therefore more vulnerable.
- GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)**
 A superb alignment between planets in professional and financial regions of your chart should bring the rewards you deserve. Good fortune could more than compensate for recent disappointments. Thus will the swings and roundabouts balance each other out.
- SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)**
 You are not renowned for your temerity, yet now that the Moon is closeted in a singularly discreet area of your chart you may be reluctant to take life on with your usual gusto. Your priority should be to have plenty of peace and quiet, so tuck yourself away if that's what you want.
- CANCER (June 22 - July 23)**
 If someone has been giving you the runaround in a personal or business matter you are partly to blame for not sorting out your own ideas and opinions. People who seem to be against you may in fact be very well disposed. They may think that what they're doing is good for you.
- CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)**
 Make the most of the favourable relationship between those two gracious planets Venus and Jupiter, to get your domestic affairs back into some sort of order. There seems to be little point in going it alone at this stage. You could also be in line for an increase in your earnings, so play your hand with care.
- LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)**
 Take care to temper your Leonine resolve with an appropriate measure of consideration for others. You see, some people, even rivals, do seem to have your best interests at heart, even if you are completely unaware of the fact. Appearances are, for once, deceptive.
- AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)**
 You'll be infusing a great deal of emotional power into your need to be recognised as somebody special by your peers. Working Aquarians should be putting in extra effort. The rest of you must find a suitable outlet for your unique gifts and talents.
- VIRO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)**
 A series of business plans or financial propositions should now be on the horizon. The seeds are being sown of future triumphs but, first, you must resolve the past. Maybe there is someone you need to say sorry to. Or someone else to whom you owe a favour.
- PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)**
 Deep inside, your nomadic tendencies are stirring. A set routine may be necessary for some individuals, but now you will benefit from change and the need to go where the mood takes you. Cash questions are shooting up the agenda. In fact, I'd say they're urgent.

H.P. STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED
 (A State Government Undertaking)
 Block No. 16 & 17, SDA Complex, Kasumpti, Shimla-171009
 PHONE: 0177-2621583, E-mail: himapurtimd@gmail.com

GLOBAL E-TENDER NOTICE
 Himachal Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited, Shimla invites Global E-Tenders for the procurement of **FORTIFIED SOYA REFINED OIL for three months supply/six months supply (as the case may be)**. The detailed tender notice, tender documents and other instructions can be down-loaded or viewed on-line from the portal <https://hptenders.gov.in>. The last date of submission of sample shall be till **03.11.2023 upto 3.00 PM** and earnest money deposit, tender document fee, processing fee shall be till **02.11.2023 upto 5.00 PM**. On-line tenders shall be till **17.11.2023 upto 5.00 PM**. The tenders of Fortified Soya Refined Oil shall be opened on **18.11.2023 at 11.00 AM**.
MANAGING DIRECTOR

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that a dead body of a male namely **Vipul, S/o: Mahilal, R/o: Rain Basera ODRS, Delhi was found dead on 14.10.2023 at ODRS Rain Basera, Delhi**. In this regard **DD No. 05 A, dated 14.10.2023** has been lodged at Police Station, Lahori Gate, Delhi. Dead body has been preserved in Subzi Mandi Mortuary for 72 Hrs. Identification of dead body of male is as under:

Name: Vipul, Age: About 35 Years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Thin, Face: Oval, Wearing: Mahepali T-Shirt and Green Colour Lower.

If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.

SHO
 Police Station Lahori Gate, Delhi
 Ph.: 011-23953776, 8750870122
 DP/11747/N/2023

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DEE/EMU/GZB for and on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender for the under noted work:

| | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Tender Notice No : 232-Elect-EMU-WC-07-23-24 |
| 2 | Name of the work : Complete overhauling of Kirloskar make Transmission type KTC-100.20 of Tower wagon for the period of 03 years. |
| 3 | Tender cost : NIL |
| 4 | Approximate cost : Rs. 92,81,753.36 inclusive of GST |
| 5 | Earnest Money : Rs. 1,85,600.00 (online payment mode available on IREPS website) |
| 6 | Completion period : 36 Months |
| 7 | Validity of offer : 60 days |
| 8 | Date & Time from tender advertised on IREPS website : 16.10.2023, 17:53 hrs. |
| 9 | Date & Time from tender submission start and end : 24.10.2023 to 07.11.2023 (11:00 Hrs.) |
| 10 | Tender closing Date & Time : 07.11.2023 (11:00 Hrs.) |
| 11 | Date & Time of tender Opening (immediately when tender submission ends) : 07.11.2023 (11:00 Hrs.) |
| 12 | Publication cost allocation : 07041132 |

Note 1: All participant Tenderer/Tenders will submit their requisite documents along with their tender offer. "No post tender correspondence for submission of additional document shall be entertained after opening of the Technical & Commercial offer. Even suo-moto post tender letters of the tenders shall be treated as null & void".
 Note 2: Duplicate documents should not be enclosed/uploaded.
 Tender Notice is available on website of www.ireps.gov.in
 No.: 232-Elect-EMU-WC-07-23-24 Dated: 17.10.2023 3223/2023
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

कार्यालय प्रबन्ध निदेशक पश्चिमंचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि. विक्टोरिया पार्क, मेरठ

अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना विद्युतचक्र संस्था: पश्चिमंचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि./07/दोवा क्रिस्टल/2023-24 के अनर्गत बाध्य एजेंसी के माध्यम से पश्चिमंचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि., मुह्यालय मेरठ पर तैयार निदेशकाली हेतु विभागीय प्रयोग्य 04 नम SUV वाहन इलेक्ट्रिक (सोबरे गैस, वायुवाहक, डीजल चलित, वाहन चालक सहित, वाणिज्यिक पंजीकृत) (मॉडल 03 वर्ष से पुराना न हो) हेतु, दिनांक 01.11.2023 अगस्त 12.00 बजे तक अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा आमंत्रित है। निविदा में यदि कोई संशोधन अथवा निविदा खुले की तिथि में विस्तार होता है, तो इसकी सूचना ई-वेबड वेबसाइट www.ctender.up.nic.in पर तथा www.pvnl.org पर उपलब्ध कराई जायेगी। हस्ता./- अधीक्षण अभियन्ता (पु.) कृते प्रबन्ध निदेशक राष्त्र तिर में विक्ली बचपये "विक्ली चोरी की सूचना हेल्थलाईन नम्बर पर दै: 1800-1800-3002 (मेरठ), 1800-180-8752 (सम्बन्धक)" परांक- 1272 दिनांक: 17.10.23

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified deadbody of male **Age : 40 years, Height : 5'6", Build: Thin, Identification: A tattoo of "ऊँ" on right hand, wearing blue colour T-shirt and grey colour pant, was found dead on 09.10.2023 in Parking, Gate No. 2, Kashmere Gate Metro Station, Delhi**. In this regard a **DD No. 39-A dated 09.10.2023** has been lodged at P.S. Kashmere Gate Metro, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO - P.S. Kashmere Gate Metro, Delhi
 Tel. No. : 011-23923015, 8376860770
 DP/11703/Metro/23

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that one male person was found unconscious condition in Safdarjung Hospital, Delhi dated 24.09.2023. He was admitted in Safdarjung Hospital, Delhi. During the treatment declared dead by doctor dated 11.10.2023. In this regard a **DD No. 62A dated 24.09.2023** has been lodged at P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, Delhi. The description of the dead body is given as under **Name: Unknown S/o: Unknown, R/o- Unknown, Age: 65 years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Sallow, ID Mark: Mole on Neck.**

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.

SHO
 P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, Delhi
 Ph. : 8750938971, 7065036231
 DP/11719/UZ/2023

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY E-Tendering Tender Notice

Tender Notice No. : 8420232024 Date: 13.10.2023

Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering)/ North Central Railway/Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites E-TENDERS on prescribed form for the following work up to 13.30 hrs. on 08.11.2023. The details of the Tender are as under:-

| S No. | Tender No. | Name of work | Approx Cost of work (₹) | Bid Security (₹) |
|-------|------------|---|-------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | 235 | Repair and standardization of sand humps under Sr. DEN/IV/PRYJ. | ₹ 5546931.00 | ₹ 110900.00 |

Completion Period : 06 Months. Date of Opening of Tender : 08.11.2023. Eligibility Criteria for Similar work: Any Civil Engineering work. Note : 1. E-Tender Forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenderers. 2. The complete information along with tender document of above E-TENDER is available on Website www.ireps.gov.in upto 13:30 hrs. on the due date of tender opening i.e. 08.11.2023. 3. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 4. The tenderers shall submit a copy of certificate as given in tender document in standard format, without which their tender may not be considered and shall be summarily rejected. 5. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 6. The tenderer has to submit necessary documents in compliance of clause 10 to 18 (Part-I) of GCC April 2022 mandatorily, otherwise offer will be considered as incomplete Offer and accordingly shall not be considered. 1669/23(DG)
 North central railways @CPNCRCA @northcentralrailway www.nctrailways.gov.in

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ROAD CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT ROAD DIVISION, KHUNTI

CORRIGENDUM -01
 TENDER REFERENCE NO.: RCD/KHUNTI/858
 PR. No. 309195 Road (23-24)_D

NAME OF THE WORK : CONSTRUCTION OF H.L. BRIDGE OVER BARTOLI NALA IN 15TH KM OF KARRA MORE (TORPA) TO KARRA ROAD.

CORRIGENDUM TITLE : Availability of Tender on line (Date and time)

CORRIGENDUM DETAIL:

| AS PUBLISHED | TO BE READ AS |
|--|--|
| Last date / Time for receipt of bids 21.11.2023 up to 12:00 Noon | Last date / Time for receipt of bids 08.11.2023 up to 12:00 Noon |

Executive Engineer
 RCD, Road Division, Khunti
 PR 309376 Road(23-24)#D

SECURITY PAPER MILL, NARMADAPURAM-461005 (M.P.)
 (A Unit of Security Printing & Minting Corporation of India Limited)
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 Miratna Category-I CPSE & ISO 9001 : 2015, 14001:2015, 45001:2018, 50001:2018 & IEC 17025:2017 Certified
 CIN : U22213DL2006GH144763, GSTIN : 23AAJCS611J32E
 Tel. No.: 07574-255259, Fax No.: 07574-255170.
 Email : gm.spm@spmcil.com, Website : <http://spmnarmadapuram.spmcil.com>

Advt. No. 164 Dated: 18.10.2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Chief General Manager, Security Paper Mill, Narmadapuram (M.P.) Pin 461005 invites sealed tenders for following work/material purchase. Interested Manufacturers/Suppliers may visit our website <http://spmnarmadapuram.spmcil.com> or <http://eprocure.gov.in> for detailed tender specifications/terms and conditions of tender enquiry.

| Tender No. | Description/Work of Item | Please visit for Quantity, details & Submission of Bid | Last Date/Time for receipt of tenders |
|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| No.GeM/2023/BU/4041753 dated 09.10.2023 | Hiring of Manpower Services i.e. 03 Cook, 06 Attendants & 01 Data Entry Operator for Guest House at SPM, Narmadapuram | http://gem.gov.in | 07.11.2023 (Upto 15:00 Hrs) |
| 6000018434 dated 29.09.2023 | Providing and fixing of concertina Coil on boundary wall and cement concrete boundary path and boundary wall | http://eprocure.gov.in | 07.11.2023 (Upto 11:00 Hrs) |

Any updates, Corrigendum, etc against the above tenders shall be published on said website only. Those shall not be published in any other newspaper or media.

Manager (Material)

Lalit Kala Akademi National Academy of Art
 Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi-110001

Tender Notice Expression of Interest

Lalit Kala Akademi, Ministry of Culture invites **Expression of Interest** from interested applicants for 'Empanelment of Reputable Institutions and Agencies for Conceptualizing, Designing and/or Fabricating Creative Installations, Tableaus, Set Designs etc. for Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India'. The tender document can be downloaded from www.lalitkala.gov.in and www.indiaculture.gov.in

The due date for submission of Expression of Interest is 23rd October 2023 by 11am.

Prof. V. Nagdas
 Chairman, Lalit Kala Akademi
 CBC 09105/12/0004/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE ASSAM, KHANAPARA, GUWAHATI-22

NIT No- AGRI/ENGG/DAO/SDAO/APART/7017/2023-24/98

Notice Inviting e-Tender (IFB)

The Director of Agriculture, Assam, invites bids from registered contractors of Agriculture department for Repairing/Renovation of Existing 19 Nos. of DAO/SDAO/EE/AEE Office Building at different districts of Assam with a validity of 90 (Ninety) days from the date of opening of the bids. Details of the bids may be seen in the e-portal assamtenders.gov.in. The Bidders must be registered with the E-tendering system (ETS) of the Govt. of Assam. (Website: <http://www.assamtenders.gov.in>). All terms and conditions will be as per the Bidding Documents.

JANASANYOG/CF/313923/18-OCT-23

"IMPORTANT"

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Netherlands coach Ryan cooks up the perfect recipe for landmark victory

PRATYUSH RAJ
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 17

ON TUESDAY in Dharamsala, Netherlands pulled off one of the biggest upsets in ICC Men's Cricket World Cup history, as they brought down the high-flying South Africa. Overseeing the result was coach Ryan Cook, who did not have the greatest of starts for his stint. He got the role after the then-coach Ryan Campbell suffered a series of cardiac arrests in April 2022. In Cook's first match as a coach in June 2022, England almost breached the 500-run mark (498 for 4) against the Dutch.

But after initial turbulence, things steadied. They gave Pakistan a run for their money, only losing two ODIs by 17 and nine runs. By then, Ryan was cooking something. He has started to apply Gary Kirsten's school of thought in his coaching and the results followed. First they defeated Zimbabwe and South Africa in the ICC T20 World Cup in

Australia. The Dutch followed it with an incredible run in the ODI World Cup qualifiers, the highlight being the tied match against against West Indies that they won it in the super over.

For Cook, it all started in 2013, when he travelled to India as an assistant coach of the South Africa U-19 team. He wrote to Kirsten, trying to understand the conditions in India. "He wrote me a big mail. Explained all the venues, and conditions beautifully. There was a very minute detail in it," Cook had told The Indian Express ahead of their World Cup campaign.

"Gary was very specific about why the players should be put first," he said. "The most interesting thing that he wrote was that cricket is a team sport and you need the brilliance of 11 to win a game. A couple of good performances should not be good enough."

Cook, whose elder brother Stephen Cook and father Jimmy Cook have played cricket for South Africa, took on board the inputs



For Ryan Cook, it all started in 2013, when he travelled to India as an assistant coach of the South Africa U-19 team.

given by a former Proteas superstar and India's World Cup-winning coach in Kirsten. "I worked with him for a few months in

Cape Town at his cricket academy. It was a great learning experience. I understood the importance of mental health," he said. "Ahead of the ODI World Cup qualifier in Zimbabwe, we had a mental and cultural camp in Cape Town. Every single person on the squad was asked to speak up about their aspirations. What they want to see in the team. I remember Bas de Leede saying 'let's go to India and show them we are not pushovers.'"

Inspirational figure

"Scott (Edwards) is an inspirational leader. He has created a great atmosphere in the team. I personally told the boys that I want to have 11 Ryan ten Doeschate in the Dutch team. That's the goal," he added.

When asked what made the Netherlands team believe in themselves, Cook recalled the horrendous experience of the first ODI in charge against England. "They were playing book cricket. Phil Salt, Dawid Malan and Jos Buttler scored cen-

tries but the brightest part was that our shoulders were not down. We knew we could only learn from that game," he said.

While the Netherlands are obviously short on top-flight cricket experience, they are rich in talent. Players like Edwards, Logan Van Beek, and Bas de Leede have shown that there is an abundance of talent, and many of them ply their trade in English league cricket as well. Several Dutch players like Paul van Meekeren have also played in T20 leagues.

"Let me tell you a story. When we were chasing 374 against West Indies. I told the boys at the break look we chased down the Nepal's 167 runs target in 28 overs and if we can just double our score in the last 20 overs, we have a chance. We tied the game and then Logan van Beek blasted 30 runs (4, 6, 4, 6, 6, 4) in the super over. What a match it was," he recalled.

The Dutch arrived in India two weeks before the start of the tournament. They played three practice matches against Karnataka

and they didn't go well. Their official warm-up games against India and Australia were also washed out. Their campaign then started with two defeats.

On Monday, when asked about the Dharamsala outfield ahead of their match against South Africa, Cook said it is better than where they train in the Netherlands. It offered a peek into the team's mindset. And as they stunned the Proteas with clinical efficiency, they did so tapping into all the attributes that Cook spoke about.

The only aim for Cook from this World Cup was that he wanted his team to rub shoulders with the best and set a lofty ambition to win three or four matches. "People often refer to us as cricket minions. We see ourselves as a cricketing nation that plays in a good style. We compete against the best teams in the world. We'll be putting everything in to get those three or four victories in our bag," he said.

He can place one massive tick next to that particular task on his checklist.

Dutch douse Protea fire

After upsetting SA at last year's T20 WC, Netherlands repeat the dose as Van der Merwe stars



Logan van Beek celebrates with Roelof van der Merwe after taking the wicket of South Africa's Keshav Maharaj. PTI

RAHUL PANDEY
DHARAMSALA, OCTOBER 17

ALL-ROUNDER Roelof van der Merwe had stressed ahead of the game that facing his former national side South Africa 'dragged the same weight for him' as playing any other team at the World Cup. But on Tuesday, that barely looked the case as soon as he was done bowling his first delivery. A wide-arm slider angled in from round the wicket left Proteas skipper Temba Bavuma's middle and leg stumps topped. Van der Merwe's joyous scream could be heard reverberating around the HPCA Stadium.

Most of the 10,000-plus crowd in the stands seemed to be behind the Men in Orange, perhaps with some foresight of what was to follow. A night that saw the Dutch upsetting the Proteas at a Cricket World Cup for the second time in less than a year with a 38-run margin. The Netherlands, who were reduced to 82/5 and later 140/7, managed to reach 245 in 43 overs in the rain-reduced encounter, before bundling out South Africa for 207. For Van der Merwe, whose decibel levels

only got higher as the Dutch turned the screws, it was a night of closure. Twelve years ago, he'd missed out on playing in an ODI World Cup in the subcontinent for South Africa. That opportunity - a second go at the dream of playing in the sport's marquee tournament - would finally come in 2023. At the age of 38, following a switch of allegiance from his motherland to his mother's land. That he was a key protagonist in scripting Tuesday's win - with both bat and ball - only felt fitting. But he wasn't the only Dutch hero on the night.

For Paul van Meekeren, who cleaned up Aiden Markram soon after van der Merwe had castled Bavuma, it was an evening of living up to his word. Ahead of the competition, when asked what the expectations were within the group going into the 10-team tournament as the only associate member, he'd proclaim, "We're here to cause chaos."

Also causing chaos was Logan van Beek, who finished with the best bowling figures on the night, and had his own moment of fulfillment at the world stage. The Christchurch-born all-rounder was also forced to relocate from his country of birth to fulfill a World Cup dream. He wasn't the first Van Beek to change

colors in international cricket. Logan's grandfather Sammy Guillen had played three Tests for New Zealand having started his cricket career with the West Indies. Against South Africa, his grandson would be the first in the family to claim a World Cup win.

It was van Beek who'd remove the final hurdles in the Dutch path by dismissing both Heinrich Klaasen and David Miller, who were counter-attacking after an early flurry of wickets. A short one to Klaasen - which he hit straight to the fielder at fine leg - was followed by a delivery in Miller's arc which a swipe missed. And his third strike saw Keshav Maharaj sky the ball straight to wicket-keeper-captain Scott Edwards to cap off a memorable evening for Dutch cricket. Perhaps even more so than the one they had in Adelaide last year.

While the T20 World Cup win against the same opposition in Australia was a big outcome in itself, the Netherlands' besting South Africa in the 50-overs tournament holds more weight, given the requirements of the format. On the eve of the game, Proteas captain Temba Bavuma would emphasise that while his team remembered the result from last year, ODIs re-

quired 'more consistency' for teams to pull off something similar.

Responding to his comments, Netherlands head coach Ryan Cook stated, "The 50 overs is a format that we pride ourselves a lot in. It's a format that we play a lot. We don't play Tests, and not a lot of T20s. We understand the consistencies that come with playing 50-over cricket for a long time."

Less than 24 hours later, as he joined his players in post-match celebrations, they'd proved their coach right.

Skipper Edwards, who was also the Player of the match and is known for being a man of few words, would emphasise again that his team was not satisfied with one-off wins and was not here to just make up the numbers. "We came into the tournament where we wanted to have a chance in the semi-finals and if you want to do that you have got to beat teams, and South Africa are one of the favourites the way they are playing."

Facing the Netherlands next will be Sri Lanka, who have lost three in a row at the start of their campaign. As they look for their first win at this World Cup, they would take the Dutch lightly at their own peril.

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA vs NETHERLANDS

HPCA STADIUM, DHARAMSALA

Toss: South Africa elected to field

| NETHERLANDS | |
|--|---------------------|
| V Singh c Klaasen b Rabada | 2 (16b) |
| M O'Dowd c f De Kock b Jansen | 18 (25b, 4x4) |
| C Ackermann b Coetzee | 12 (25b, 1x4) |
| B Leede lbw b Rabada | 2 (7b) |
| S Engelbrecht c Jansen b Ngidi | 19 (37b, 1x4, 1x6) |
| T Nidamanuru lbw b Jansen | 20 (25b, 3x4) |
| Scott Edwards not out | 78 (69b, 10x4, 1x6) |
| L van Beek st f De Kock b Maharaj | 10 (27b, 1x4) |
| R Merwe c f De Kock b Ngidi | 29 (19b, 3x4, 1x6) |
| Aryan Dutt not out | 23 (9b, 3x6) |
| Extras (lb 10, nb 1, w 21) | 32 |
| Total 43 Ov (RR: 5.69) | 245/8 |
| FoW: 1-22 (Vikramjit Singh, 6.1 ov), 2-24 (Max O'Dowd, 7.1 ov), 3-40 (Bas de Leede, 10.5 ov), 4-50 (Colin Ackermann, 15.1 ov), 5-82 (Sybrand Engelbrecht, 20.2 ov), 6-112 (Teja Nidamanuru, 26.6 ov), 7-140 (Logan van Beek, 33.5 ov), 8-204 (Roelof van der Merwe, 39.5 ov) | |
| Bowling: Lungi Ngidi 9-1-57-2, Marco Jansen 8-1-27-2, Kagiso Rabada 9-1-56-2, Gerald Coetzee 8-0-57-1, Keshav Maharaj 9-0-38-1 | |

SOUTH AFRICA

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| T Bavuma b van der Merwe | 16 (31b, 2x4, 1x6) |
| Q de Kock c f Edwards b Ackermann | 20 (22b, 3x4) |
| R van der Dussen c Dutt b van der Merwe | 4 (7b) |
| A Markram b van Meekeren | 1 (3b) |
| H Klaasen c Singh b van Beek | 28 (28b, 4x4) |
| D Miller b van Beek | 43 (52b, 4x4, 1x6) |
| M Jansen b van Meekeren | 9 (25b, 2x4, 1x6) |
| G Coetzee c f Edwards b de Leede | 22 (23b, 5x4, 1x6) |
| K Maharaj c f Edwards b van Beek | 40 (37b, 5x4, 1x6) |
| K Rabada c Engelbrecht b de Leede | 9 (6b) |
| L Ngidi not out | 7 (24b) |
| Extras (lb 2, nb 1, w 5) | 8 |
| Total 46.3 Ov (RR: 4.79) | 207 |
| FoW: 1-36 (Quinton de Kock, 7.6 ov), 2-39 (Temba Bavuma, 9.1 ov), 3-42 (Aiden Markram, 10.2 ov), 4-44 (Rassie van der Dussen, 11.2 ov), 5-89 (Heinrich Klaasen, 18.5 ov), 6-109 (Marco Jansen, 24.6 ov), 7-145 (David Miller, 30.6 ov), 8-147 (Gerald Coetzee, 33.1 ov), 9-166 (Kagiso Rabada, 35.1 ov), 10-207 (Keshav Maharaj, 42.5 ov) | |
| Bowling: Aryan Dutt 5-1-19-0, Logan van Beek 8.5-0-60-3, Colin Ackermann 3-0-16-1, Paul van Meekeren 9-0-40-2, Roelof van der Merwe 9-0-34-2, Bas de Leede 8-0-36-2 | |

We need to have some conversations with the boys. You got to let the emotion to seep in. It will hurt. Our campaign is not over by any stretch of imagination.

TEMBA BAVUMA
SOUTH AFRICA CAPTAIN



FAN FOLLOWING

South African fans enjoy World Cup fever and trace their Indian roots

RAHUL PANDEY
DHARAMSALA, OCTOBER 17

Soon after landing in the Indian capital, Natalie Nel would be questioned by the lady at the immigration counter whether she really was South African? The Cape Town local makes a facepalm while sitting at the HPCA Stadium in Dharamsala as her husband Seton narrates the incident.

"She (the immigration official) kept looking at her ID. 'South African? No, you must be Indian,'" he says before Natalie finally breaks from a laugh to reveal that the lady at the counter may not have been totally wrong. It's a first Cricket World Cup experience that's brought the 41-year-old for a maiden visit to the homeland of her great-grandfather.

"My maternal great-grandfather was from Surat," she shares. "Unfortunately, I never got to meet him or my grandfather. They came to South Africa and were classified as white to not Indian. So, we grew up

never really knowing about it. I was only told about it some 20 years ago. A cousin of mine did a lot of research into exactly where we come from."

Seton adds that the two could just as easily have been in France at this point of time. "Well, she gave me the option. Do I want to go to the Cricket World Cup or Rugby? But it was quite obvious that we would want to come here. It's a well known fact that Indians are the most extreme, passionate cricket supporters."

That passion is audible at the HPCA Stadium when the covers were being taken off the pitch. "That's what we want," remarks Seton, anticipating the start of the South Africa-Netherlands game which had been delayed owing to continuous showers since the morning.

For Natalie, who concedes not being a big rugby or cricket fan, the visit involves a bigger purpose. "I never knew where I actually came from. I always thought it was from my dad's side - Spanish or Portuguese. It's been really surreal exploring my roots here."



Natalie Nel's maternal great-grandfather was from Surat. Rahul Pandey

It's a trip that's cost the Nels roughly half a million in Indian currency, one that also takes them to South Africa's next game against England in Mumbai, other than visits to Delhi, Jaipur and Agra.

"We haven't really kept a check of how much we've been spending," Natalie concedes before her husband interjects, "A lot more than what the budget was, because Natalie loves to shop. You may or may not have the best cricket team but you definitely have the best salespersons."

Speaking of best, what about the cricket scenery on offer at the venue? For the two Cape Town locals, where does the Dharamsala cricket stadium stand among the most picturesque venues in the sport? "We don't get snow on our mountain. That's maybe a point or two in their favour," Seton weighs in. But they're both beautiful and have unique factors. I feel I've been lucky to be at this venue and at Newlands."

The conversation then veers towards who has been the best team at the tournament so far, and why it's South Africa? Seton

reminds about the scars of the past but hopes his first Cricket World Cup trip can be the lucky charm for the Proteas. "We came here not anticipating being one of the favourites. But the two performances so far... I think we have a really good chance of going all the way."

As the conversation veers towards a close, the sun has started beating down on the stadium for the first time in the day. The match was about to begin after a two-hour delay. With his wife seated by his corner, a thought takes over Seton. "What if it's a South Africa-India final? Wouldn't it be just wow?"

Who'll Natalie support in her family derby? She takes a while before choosing "South Africa." Much to the delight of her partner, who pumps his fist.

"Just to keep the peace. Sports is not really my thing. I'll watch if there's a big rugby match and we have friends over or we are watching the cricket socially with friends. But my life doesn't revolve around sport that much," says Natalie, who admits being content with the bigger takeaway from her trip.

AT AHMEDABAD

Inappropriate conduct during India game: PCB files complaint

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

PAKISTAN CRICKET Board on Tuesday said that they have lodged a complaint over what they termed 'inappropriate conduct' aimed at Pakistan players during their match against India at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

PCB also said that they have raised concerns to the International Cricket Council regarding delay in visas for Pakistani journalists as well as the absence of fans from the country for the World Cup campaign.

The governing body wrote on their official social media handle, "PCB has lodged another formal protest with the ICC over delays in visas for Pakistani journalists and the absence of a visa policy for Pakistan fans for the ongoing World Cup 2023. The PCB has also filed a complaint regarding inappropriate conduct targeted at the Pakistan squad during the India vs Pakistan match held on 14 October 2023."

At the toss of the match, captain Babar Azam was booed loudly when he attempted to speak to broadcaster Ravi Shastri. Videos later emerged on social media after the match where Pakistan cricketer Mohammad Rizwan was shown to be at the receiving end of 'Jai Shri Ram' chants as he walked back to the dressing room.

Before the highly-anticipated contest in Ahmedabad on Saturday, PCB had already called on the country's foreign secretary to step in and solve the ongoing impasse for their journalists and fans. According to PCB spokesperson Umar Farooq, the board's management committee chairman Zaka Ashraf had met Pakistan foreign secretary Syrus Sajjad, raising concerns about the visa delays faced by their journalists and fans for their travel to India. This meeting comes three days after the PCB first wrote to the ICC flagging concerns about the delay faced by journalists and fans from Pakistan.

Pakistan are playing their first tournament in India since the 2016 T20 World Cup.

After the defeat against Ahmedabad in front of an almost entirely Indian crowd, Pakistan director Mickey Arthur had said that the event did not feel like a World Cup match when asked how it felt to play in front of virtually no support. "It didn't seem like an ICC event to be brutally honest. It seemed like a bilateral series; it seemed like a BCCI event. I didn't hear Dil Dil Pakistan coming through the microphones too often tonight," Arthur had said.

STANDINGS

| | M | W | L | T | PTS | NRR |
|-----|---|---|---|---|-----|--------|
| Ind | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 6 | +1.821 |
| NZ | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 6 | +1.604 |
| SA | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4 | +1.385 |
| Pak | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4 | -0.137 |
| Eng | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | -0.084 |
| Afg | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | -0.652 |
| Ban | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | -0.699 |
| Aus | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | -0.734 |
| Ned | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | -0.993 |
| SL | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | -1.532 |

Their game against England was a perfect illustration of what they could do in conditions that suit them. Naveen, sensing the two-

GLOBE-TROTTING AFGHANS

Well-travelled means well-prepared

Be it IPL, CPL or BBL, players are much sought after, which makes them experienced and capable to deal with a variety of situations



NAJIBULLAH ZADRAN
12 teams/6 countries

Barbados Tridents, St Lucia Zouks (CPL); Dambulla Giants, Galle Titans, Kandy Falcons (LPL), Quetta Gladiators, Karachi Kings (PSL), Khulna Tigers (BPL), MI Emirates (ILT20), Montreal Tigers, Vancouver Knights, Winnipeg Hawks (Global T20)



RASHID KHAN
16 teams/9 countries

SRH, GT (IPL), Warriors, Tridents, Patriots (CPL), MI Emirates (ILT20), MI Cape Town (SA20), MI New York (MSL), Heat (Manzi), Strikers (BBL), Victorians, Qalandars, Gladiators (PSL), Sussex (T20 Blast), Rockets (Hundred), Maratha Arabians (T10).



MUJEEB UR RAHMAN
16 teams/ 8 countries

PBKS, SRH (IPL), Heat, Renegades (BBL), Royals, Tallawahs (CPL), Victorians, Bharisal, Riders, Warriors (BPL), Dubai Capitals (ILT20), Hampshire (T20 Blast), Superchargers (The Hundred), Zalmi (PSL), B-Love Kandy (LPL), Tigers (T10).



MOHAMMAD NABI
15 teams/ 6 countries

SRH, KKR (IPL), Royals, Vikings, Victorians (BPL), Renegades (BBL), Tallawahs, Patriots, Zuks (CPL), Kent, Leicestershire (T20 Blast), London Spirit (The Hundred), Karachi Kings, Quetta Gladiators (PSL), Sharjah Warriors (ILT20).



NAVEEN UL HAQ
14 teams/ 9 countries

LSG (IPL), Warriors, Tallawahs (CPL), Sixers (BBL), Gladiators (PSL), Colombo Stars, Kandy Tuskers (LPL), Sharjah Warriors (ILT20), Vancouver Knights (GlobalT20), Leicestershire (T20 Blast), Barishal, Thunder, Rangpur Riders, Khulna Tigers (BPL).



RAHMANULLAH GURBAZ
11 teams/6 countries

Gujarat Titans, Kolkata Knight Riders (IPL), Guyana Amazon Warriors (CPL), Islamabad United, Multan Sultans (PSL), Jaffna Kings, Kandy Tuskers (LPL), Fortune Barishal, Khulna Tigers, Rangpur Rangers (BPL), Sharjah Warriors (ILT20).

VENKATA KRISHNA B
CHENNAI, OCTOBER 17

AFGHANISTAN IS yet to play an international fixture at home. Lack of cricketing infrastructure and facilities means they train in the UAE. Yet the team that upset world champions England looks a well-prepared side that has been quick to adapt to conditions. It doesn't come as a surprise when one traces the cricketering journeys of various individuals in this exciting squad.

Afghanistan has a handful of players with vast experience and exposure of playing in different countries and conditions. Every T20 league around the world has a liberal sprinkling of Afghan players. Sharing the dressing room with the game's greats, learning from the best cricketing minds and using the best facilities across the globe; franchise cricket has helped shape a team of travellers.

In Rashid Khan, they have a pioneer globe-trotter, who has played for 16 teams in 9 countries. But it doesn't end with Rashid these days. The corresponding numbers for the other key members of the squad are equally impressive.

Sample this: Mujeeb Ur Rahman (16 teams, 8 countries), Mohammad Nabi (15 teams, 6 countries), Noor Ahmad (9 teams, 7 countries), Naveen-ul-Haq (14 teams, 9 countries), Rahmanullah Gurbaz (11 teams, 6 countries) and Najibullah Zardari (12 teams, 6 countries)

Afghanistan skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi underlines the benefits of having a well-travelled team. "League cricket benefits our cricket. Like the players who played leagues, you know, that international pressure becomes a little bit less with that because they are used to being with big players," he said.

Like the West Indies in the last decade, who thrived on playing in T20 leagues, the current lot of Afghanistan players are entering a similar territory. The wealth of experience that these leagues provide is being gobled by the national team now.

Be it playing in front of huge crowds in different landscapes or playing in varied conditions and rubbing shoulders with the best, they are benefitting from the experience. In every edition, the number of Afghan players featuring in the IPL, Big Bash League, Pakistan Super League and Caribbean Premier League has only been increasing.

Their game against England was a perfect illustration of what they could do in conditions that suit them. Naveen, sensing the two-

paced nature of the Kotla surface, bowled the cutter that castled Jos Buttler. Mujeeb, 22, was able to read the conditions better than anyone else, using his variations with precision to leave England flummoxed.

Raw talent

As several T20 leagues begin to sprout back home in Afghanistan, several IPL scouts have their ears and cameras aligned to Kabul these days. One of them was even open to travel to Kabul to scout a couple of teenagers, but decided against it because of tensions in the region.

There is an underlying theme to why there are so many lenses on Afghan prodigies, more than on those from Sri Lanka and Bangladesh – two teams which have plenty of spinners and batsmen suited to the conditions in which IPL teams play.

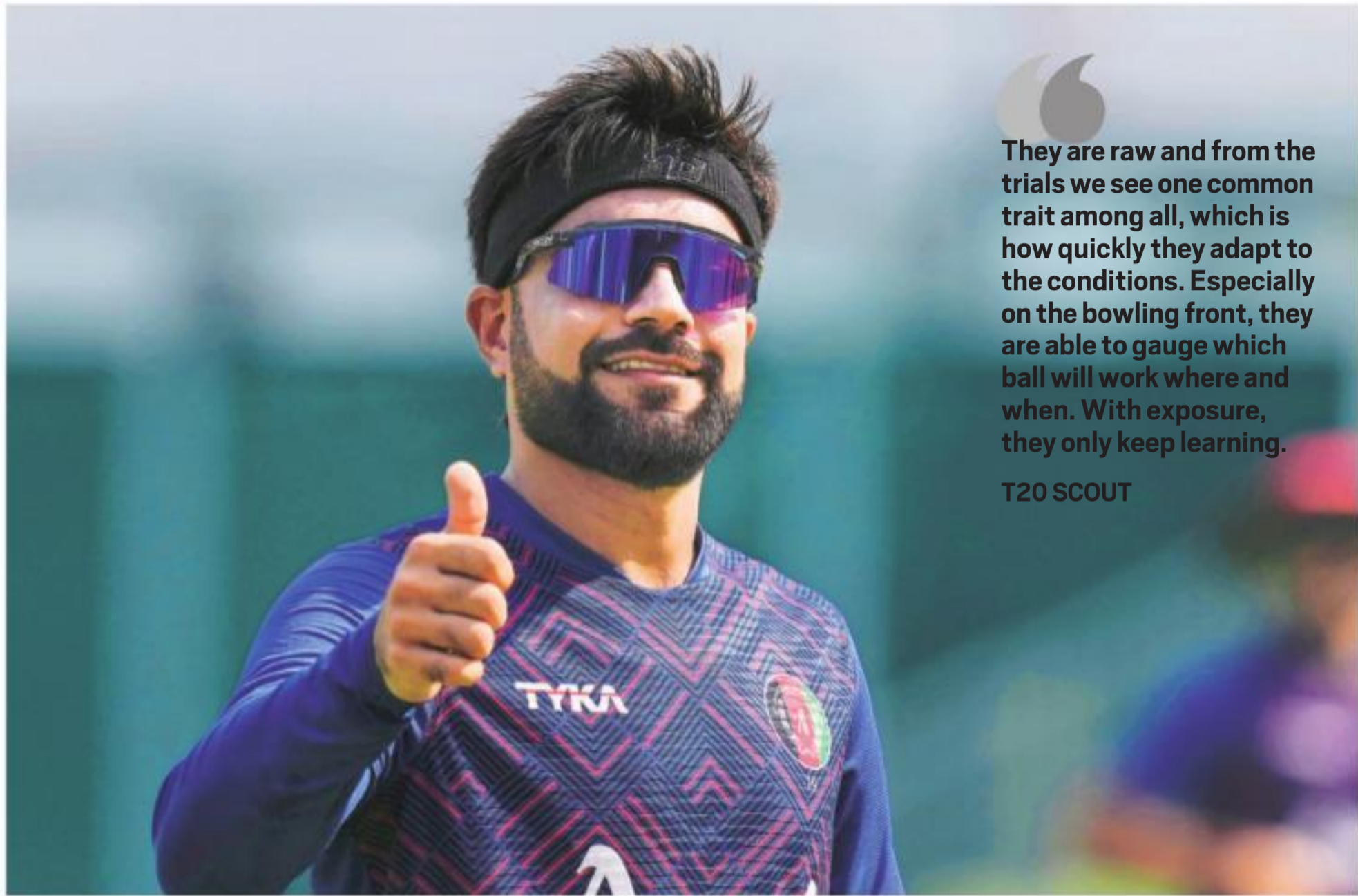
"They are raw and from the trials we see one common trait among all, which is how quickly they adapt to the conditions.

Especially on the bowling front, they are able to gauge which ball will work where and when. With exposure, they only keep learning," says a T20 scout.

Last IPL, Allah Mohammad Ghazanfar, 15, was registered in the IPL auction as more than one franchise had their eyes on the off-spinner. "Since they don't have strong foundations, most of these players before being picked are part of various teams as net bowlers or cover. And once they spend a season or two and get exposure in some other league, they look totally different cricketers," the scout added.

Mujeeb is a case in point. Though he looked more of a No.10 or 11 in his initial years, in the last couple of years there has been a gradual improvement in his batting. With only limited overseas spots available and multi-dimensional players having an edge in selection, Mujeeb of late has been working extensively on his batting as well. Before the Asia Cup, batting at No.9, he scored 64 against Pakistan. And against England on Sunday, he made a vital 28 to propel Afghanistan to 284.

Though the seam-bowling ranks are still a work in progress, in sub-continental conditions they are a force to reckon with. It is the reason why Afghanistan's fixtures in Delhi, Chennai and Lucknow have generated plenty of interest. In the southern metropolis, where they are set to face New Zealand and Pakistan in back-to-back matches, Afghanistan know they can cause another upset or two, provided their batting unit complements their bowlers.



Rashid Khan has played for 16 teams across nine countries, including in T10 cricket.

They are raw and from the trials we see one common trait among all, which is how quickly they adapt to the conditions. Especially on the bowling front, they are able to gauge which ball will work where and when. With exposure, they only keep learning.

T20 SCOUT

Training with lighter ball helped Mujeeb

RAHUL PANDEY
DHARAMSALA, OCTOBER 17

GROWING UP in the scenic town of Khost, Mujeeb Ur Rahman barely went anywhere without a cricket ball in his hands and it's not an exaggeration, his childhood coach Mohammad Khan Zadrans stresses.

"Ball haath mai hi raha hai humesha (he's always kept the ball in his hands). Whether he was at the academy, at home or traveling from one place to another," he tells The Indian Express. It shouldn't come across as a surprise that when it came to Afghanistan stunning the world champions on Sunday, it was the cricket ball addict from the Khost province who led the dismantling of the English batting in Kotla.

Zadrans, who also coached the other Afghanistan protagonist of the World Cup upset in Rahmanullah Gurbaz, takes us 12 years back when he first met Mujeeb.

A boy not older 10-11, who'd lost his father at a young age with no other source of income in the family, but with an immense passion for cricket. "Bowling se mohabbat thi

usey (He was in love with bowling)," the Khost province coach recalls before sharing a choice that he gave the young spin-bowling enthusiast an early lifeline in the sport.

"I told him, 'Don't worry about the fees.' We don't take it from the boys who come from poor households," Zadrans shares. The investment from the regional coach proved invaluable for Afghanistan, who registered only their second win in a third ODI World Cup outing.

Following his three-wicket haul against the defending champions, Mujeeb revealed of a conversation he'd have with his skipper before they came out to defend 284 in Delhi. "We knew that dew was going to come into play later on, which is why I was asking the captain to throw me the ball in the powerplay." Mujeeb would say at the end of the game.

It was a strategy that worked well for the Afghans as their off spinner removed England's top scorer at this World Cup, Joe Root. An angled delivery that held its line kept low before rattling the off stump. It may have been the biggest wicket he registered on the eve, but it certainly wasn't his most dexterous. Despite having lost six wickets,

England were still in the chase with more batting to come and tough conditions to grip the ball on offer. Enter Mujeeb for a final spell to produce a couple of rippers inside the span of two overs to get rid of Woakes and Brook.

While taking the initiative with the new ball is something Zadrans recalls Mujeeb had from his early days, the long-time coach elucidates on what's made his ward good with gripping the ball under tough conditions. "He used to shuffle between the hard ball and the light tennis one. Bowling with the latter, the force being generated from your finger to turn the ball is tested. If you're able to turn the light ball, it becomes easier to do so with the hard one. Also helps that his fingers are huge," Zadrans has a crack.

On the speed of the carrom ball Mujeeb used, Zadrans adds, "The gripping habits of the tennis ball also help with the speed. Getting those revolutions with the lighter one helps when you switch to the hard ball which skids more."

It's now a habit that Zadrans inculcates to all of his young enthusiasts. "Be it the quicks or the spinners, we ask them to train with the lighter ball atleast twice a week."

CRICKET AND THE CITY

Kenya's upset win forgotten, Pune hopes India's march continues

SHIVANI NAIK
PUNE, OCTOBER 17

BOTH THE minnows and the mighty of Pune's iconic 1996 Cricket World Cup moment at the Nehru Stadium are lost to the sands of time. Neither West Indies, who were shot out for 93, nor the giant-killers of yore Kenya, qualified for this World Cup. No such crazy caper is likely to unfold on Thursday when a staggering Bangladesh meet a rampaging India.

Pune's otherwise breezy MCA stadium, the city's newer cricket venue, instead will stir up one bubbling cauldron with India fans clamouring for another pounding of opponents like in Ahmedabad. Bangladesh has beaten India thrice in the last four meetings but their triumphs have been at home or on neutral venues.

The majority of the crowd, which is under-25 that is used to driving down to the Gahunje stadium for IPL games, weren't born when Kenya upset West Indies and will need the blue shirts, flags, face-paint and the ceaseless India-cheering frenzy to sit through the 8 hours of a format.

The Maharashtra Cricket Association hasn't needed to advertise the game with hoardings inside the city. Its officials, constantly harangued for tickets, carried creased foreheads with mobiles stuck to the ear as demand cranked up even more in the days leading up to the match.

"The MCA stadium has hosted 68 matches including IPL already, but the World Cup tends to be a pressure game for organisers. More than pressure, we are excited, given hopes from the Indian team have increased," says Maharashtra Cricket Association secretary Shubhendra Bhandarkar. Hosting organisers saw a renewed surge of requests for tickets after India beat Pakistan.

With nearly no public transport in existence ferrying the flock towards the stadium, the MCA has taken hold of 42 acres of land surrounding the stadium for parking cars. Huge blimps will fly out into the sky, numbered to help locate parking zones. Stadium boxes have a fresh coat of paint and lights are all LED now. As the World Cup branding phase took off on Monday – cutouts and mammoth cloth scrolls rolling down the stadium facades – the stadium lost its local flavour. The inner city's most iconic 'Puneri paatyā' – boards with sardonic and cutting humoured instructions that dot the heart of the city and make merchants seem standoffish if not entirely rude – were sorely missing.

Still, in one of the narrow approach lanes, the Cup seemed to have caught on with the city's reputation and a tilted ICC board proclaimed: 'NO TICKETS sold here.' (To be read as: don't linger around unnecessarily looking for counters just because you see a gate.)



The MCA stadium, the venue for India-Bangladesh match on Thursday. Shivani Naik

As happens with steadfastly branded international sporting events, in this World Cup also one venue remains indistinguishable from the other. So, F&B stalls are more likely to hot-sell Cajun Veg Burgers rather than the garlic-coconut chutneyed local vada-pav.

Inside, the architecture of the stadium is flaunted as utilitarian. A single concourse runs the rim of the whole arena, making access relatively easy. The entire stands are not covered, and a 2 pm start means the notorious October heat of Pune will beat down on many of the 37,406 spectator seats in the early part.

But uncovered stands and only a handful

of canopies also mean no beams blocking view, and an uninterrupted action of the cricket. "The beauty of this stadium is whichever chair you sit on, first row or last, you can clearly see the boundary ropes. At other places, you need to stand up but not here," Bhandarkar says.

The sand-based ground has provisions to drain out within 45 minutes of rains stopping, even heavy rains, Bhandarkar informs. The Maharashtra Premier League final did get postponed to next day, after a severe lashing of rains in July. But the heat looks like a bigger challenge with cloudless October skies.

ICC officials trooping into the stadium

and first-timers bombarded with images of how pretty the Dharamshala venue looks from pictures, call the Gahunje ground, 'mini Dharamshala'. A quarter of the stadium has a stunning backdrop of a couple of mesmeric hillocks. Pune's favourite hiking haunts of 'tekdis' find a fine representation at the venue. Low-rise residences and ambitious towers can be seen on the horizon on the flanks but don't pervade the open view. The hillock-facing view is quite fetching in fact, and the wide, white staircases offer great sunset vistas.

A neat DB Deodhar statue stands at the entrance. Though Pune doesn't have many cricketers of international repute, there's high hopes from Rituraj Gaikwad. After a hat-tip to the two Jadhavs, Dheeraj and Kedar along with Hrishikesh Kanitkar, the stadium leans on its Sachin-love.

The choice of frames, mostly pre-2000 unwittingly links the natty Gahunje facility to the older Nehru Stadium. Memorable moments like Sachin Tendulkar's Astra won at Sharjah 1998 and another with Tendulkar, Brian Lara and Ricky Ponting, the OG Thrilling Three of batting, are slung along walls inside the dens. Some are captioned, and others not given an explanation in Pune's figure-it-yourself style.

The Nehru Stadium used to be a concrete

block of cramped spaces. Street noises would filter in and the poky dressing rooms were wholly make-do. It's smartened up a tad, and holds junior summer camps and nets now. The exciting cricket, the underdog upsets and giant-slayings often stepped up, to make up for the drab facilities. The Gahunje fans though will be hungry for what constitutes Youtube Team India melanges – run-fests, a six-smashathon and daddy centuries from India's Top Six. When the Indian team turned up full-strength for optional practice, the first thing they did was clear out the lower tier of stands at long on and long off, warning that sixes might rain down in training.

Fans will also zoom in on magical deliveries of Jasprit Bumrah and Kuldeep Yadav, micro-obsessing on the speed and angles and movement of the ball, and their new-age celebrations. Even Gahunje's stunning backdrop view might not detract from the one-dimensional India win focus of fans, though Bangladesh, labouring to stay on track in the tournament, are expected to put up a fight.

Pune, famous for its most renowned World Cup upset, might not have an appetite for one involving India, though coach Rahul Dravid might have unpleasant memories of Bangladesh from 2007. Rohit Sharma slamming his third straight World Cup century against Bangladesh after 2015 and 2019 or Virat Kohli adding his jumpy excitable cayenne capers to the field, are more or less the predictable picture lines Pune will come to watch.