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BISHAN SINGH BEDI • 1946 - 2023

## The wizard of spin and the keeper of Indian cricket's conscience

**SANDEEP DWIVEDI**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

BISHAN SINGH Bedi had a habit of making early morning calls. It would mostly be about something that had kept him up all night. Not known to suffer fools or be easily impressed, Bedi set high standards for cricket players and administrators. A wily left-arm spinner on the field but a straight-talking cricket romantic off it, Bedi truly believed that cricket was a sacred island that needed to be governed by the principles of a fair play and meritocracy.

Monday, after a prolonged illness and hospitalisation, Bedi, 77, passed away. He is survived by wife Anju, son Angad and daughter Neha. With his demise, India has lost a cricketing giant, a voice of wisdom, and the game's well-wisher.

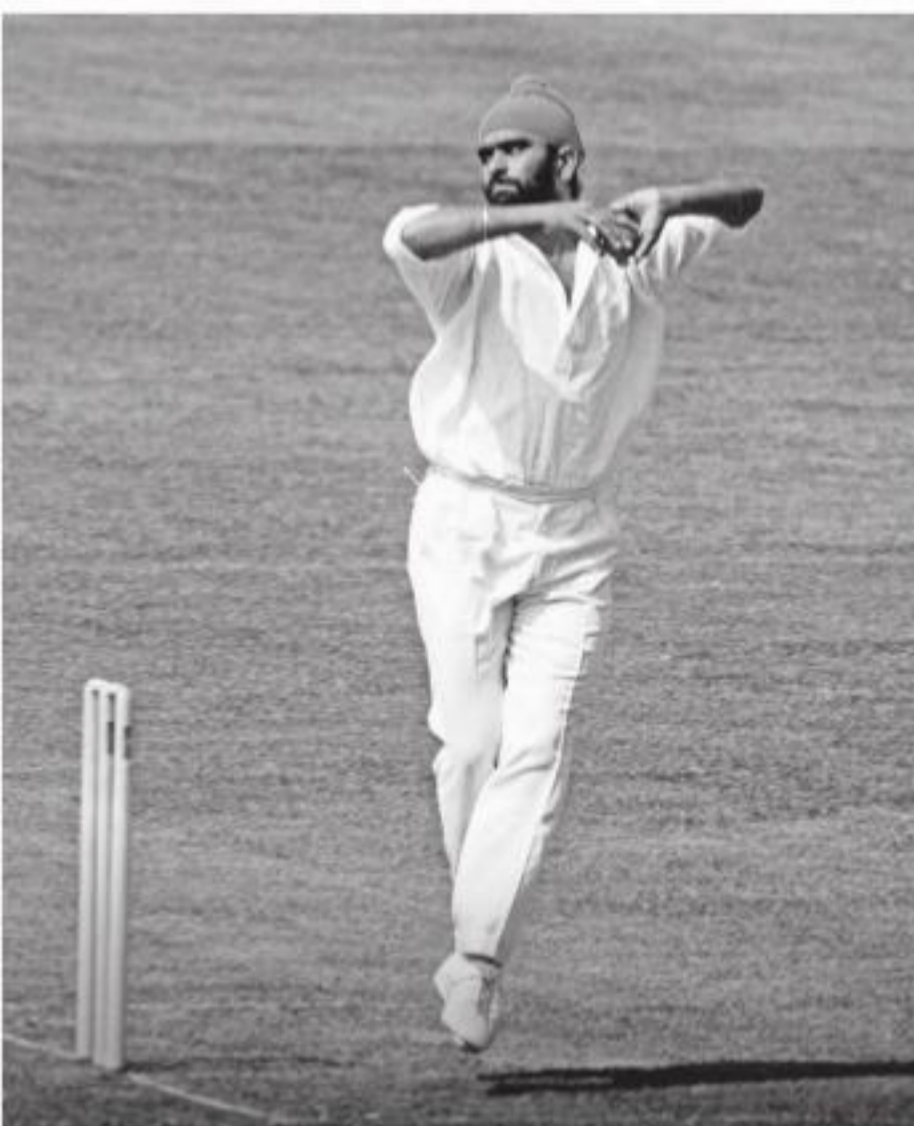
For the last two years, wife Anju had been a pillar of strength, staying by Bedi's side during the recovery and rehabilitation phase.

"He would tell the boys 'the game is never over until the last ball is bowled'.

Doctors would keep telling me, Bishan keeps fighting bravely," she would say, as Bedi sat in a wheelchair, nodding his head.

After suffering a heart attack and brain stroke two years back, Bedi had recently undergone a knee surgery. On

Monday, after a prolonged illness and hospitalisation, Bedi, 77, passed away. He is survived by wife Anju, son Angad and daughter Neha. With his demise, India has lost a cricketing giant, a voice of wisdom, and the game's well-wisher.



Bagged 266 wickets at an average of 28.71 in Tests. ANI

Post-hospitalisation, the Sardar of Spin needed assistance to walk and had trouble speaking, but when his wife would hand him a cricket ball, his eyes would twinkle. Age and illness hadn't taken away the dexterity and power from those fabled wrists. Sitting in his garden, he would toss the ball with a vigorous spin, and it would whirl in the silent evening air.

All through his career, on cricketing grounds around the world, the buzz of the whizzing ball was Bedi's calling card. For the batsmen, it was an early warning of the impending danger; for the wicket-keeper and the close-in fielders, it was a siren to be on high alert. The flight or the subtle spin was tough to read. The trickery would fetch him 266 wickets at 28.71 in Tests, besides 1,560 scalps at 21 in first-class cricket.

"A clockmaker would have been proud to set Bedi in motion — a mechanism finely

## INTERNATIONAL SPOKESPERSON INTERVIEW

# Preparing for ground invasion... three circles of failure (on Oct 7): IDF

'Largest recruiting of reservists in the history of the IDF is on... Hamas needs to be destroyed as a terror entity'



**SHUBHAJIT ROY**  
JERUSALEM, OCTOBER 23

THE ISRAELI Defence Forces (IDF) is preparing for a ground invasion which will aim to destroy Hamas as a "terrorist entity" and ensure that Gaza isn't used as a "staging ground" for attacks, the Israeli military's international spokesperson, Lt Col (reservist) Peter Lerner, told *The Indian Express* Monday. The invasion, he said, is contingent on IDF's "operational superiority" and the government's decision to go ahead.

In an exclusive interview to *The Indian Express* from the Tel Aviv headquarters of IDF, Lerner said that the "top priority," was the freedom of at least 222 Israeli hostages even as he identified "three circles of failure" behind the October 7 attacks: intelligence failure, the collapse of the physical barrier and insufficient defence forces on the ground.

It's been more than two weeks since the October 7 attacks, the Israeli air forces have conducted air strikes in Gaza. What's the objective?

The objective continues to be... to destroy Hamas as a ter-



People help evacuate a Palestinian woman following Israeli airstrikes in her neighbourhood in Gaza City on Monday. AP



Lt Col (reservist) Peter Lerner is the international spokesperson for the IDF

### THE WORLD

**ISRAEL LAUNCHES LIMITED RAIDS IN GAZA, AIRSTRIKES CONTINUE** PAGE 16

rorist government, a terrorist entity and a terrorist military. We are dismantling their apparatus, including striking against its leadership and making sure that they can never utilize the Gaza Strip as a staging ground for attacks against Israel again....

We have conducted thousands of strikes, just over 300 in the last 24 hours. That's representative of the last two weeks... They are in a state of disarray. They have huge command and control problems because we are striking their infrastructure. Their leadership has no idea what is going on, and the individual terrorists are being pursued, attacked and killed.

There have been concerns on

## Centre clears voluntary retirement of Odisha CM's aide Pandian



**V K Pandian** is a 2000-batch IAS officer

**SUJIT BISOI**  
BHUBANESWAR, OCTOBER 23

THE CENTRE on Monday approved the voluntary retirement of 2000-batch Odisha cadre IAS officer V K Pandian, who has been serving as private secretary to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) sent a communication in this regard to the additional chief secretary of Odisha's general administration department.

"In reference to letter... dated 20.10.2023 from Government of Odisha on the above-mentioned subject, I am directed to convey the approval of the competent authority for acceptance of voluntary retirement of Shri V Kartikeya Pandian, IAS (OD-2000) under Rule 16(2A) of All India Services (Death-cum-Retirement benefits) Rules, 1958 with waiver of the notice period as recommended by the State Government," said the DoPT communication.

Pandian, who has been holding the post since 2011 and wields considerable influence in Odisha's corridors of power, is yet to announce his plans for the future.

In recent months, the officer had come under attack from the opposition parties in Odisha for his style of functioning, especially his whirlwind tour of the districts using the state helicopter. The Opposition BJP and Congress had accused Pandian of violating service rules.

He also faced criticism from some leaders of the ruling BJD

## In Maharashtra, both Deputy Chief Ministers support caste survey, cite Maratha quota

**ALOK DESHPANDE**  
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 23

THE MAHARASHTRA government led by Sena (Shinde), BJP and Ajit Pawar's NCP has strongly supported a caste survey of Other Backward Class (OBC) in the state. On Monday, the state's two Deputy CMs — Devendra Fadnavis of the BJP and Ajit Pawar — spoke in favour of a caste survey in the state similar to Bihar's, but one which



Deputy CMs Devendra Fadnavis, Ajit Pawar

stands the scrutiny of courts. "We have to decide a methodology to avoid the condition cre-

ated in Bihar after the results of the caste census there," Fadnavis told reporters in Nagpur. He said the government wants to give reservation to Marathas in such a way that the decision survives in the courts. His views are in variance to the party's otherwise stated opposition to caste surveys.

At present, Maharashtra offers 62 per cent reservation in government jobs and educational institutions; this includes 10 per cent for the economically weaker section (EWS).

In the past too, Fadnavis had a slightly different stance compared with the BJP on pension to government employees. While the BJP was clear it would stick to the National Pension System (where returns are market linked), Fadnavis had said he was not opposed to the OPS (which guarantees pension equal to 50 per cent of last salary drawn) in principle.

At Madha in western Maharashtra, Deputy CM Ajit Pawar said, "It is important that



The fire at the housing society in Kandivali, Mumbai, broke out around noon on Monday. ANI

## Ex-IPL cricketer's sister, her child die in Mumbai fire, were visiting family

**PALLAVI SMART**  
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 23

A WOMAN and her minor son, who were on a family visit to Mumbai from Scotland, died in a fire that broke out in a residential building in Kandivali on Monday.

The two were identified as Glory Valthaty (45) and her son Joshua Gems Robert (8). Glory is the sister of former cricketer Paul Valthaty, who played for Kings XI Punjab and Rajasthan Royals in the IPL. Officials said three persons sustained severe burn injuries in the fire.

Glory, who lived in Scotland along with her family, was visiting their ailing parents at the eight-storey Veena Santoor Cooperative Housing Society in Kandivali where the fire broke out.

Ravinda Ambulgekar, Chief Fire Officer of Mumbai Fire Brigade, said that preliminary information suggests that an unattended burning diya in a first-floor flat in the building's F wing led to the blaze around noon.

"There was a burning diya inside a flat which seems to be the source of the blaze. The fire started inside the flat and spread towards the electrical wiring in

### SPORT



**IN STUNNING WIN, AFGHANISTAN BEAT PAK BY 8 WICKETS** PAGE 19

### THE CITY

**CENTRE CLEARS PROPOSAL TO ALLOW REAPPOINTMENT OF DU V-C** PAGE 3

## Kerala board bans RSS activities on temple premises, Sangh blames CPM

**SHAJU PHILIP**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, OCTOBER 23

TAKING THE cue from a recent High Court verdict, the Kerala government-run Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) has banned the RSS and other organisations with "extreme ideologies" from operating on the premises of temples run by the board.

The RSS has come out against the board's directive, which it claims is part of a CPI(M) bid to take control of the day-to-day affairs of temples in Kerala.

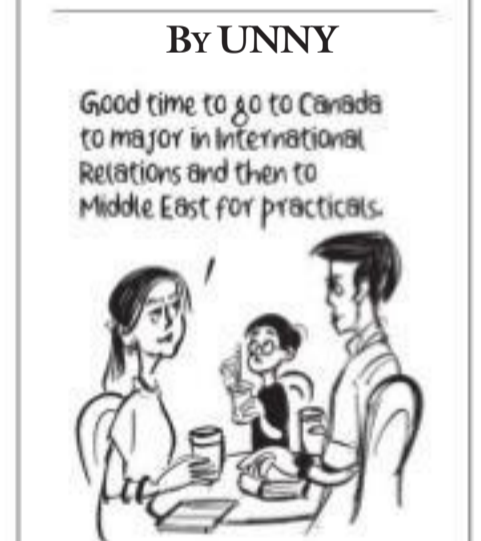
The board, which controls 1,200-odd temples in Kerala, including the hill shrine of Sabarimala, on October 20 issued a circular asking officials to conduct surprise checks at temples to ascertain whether "the RSS or organisations with extreme ideologies conduct their branches, mass drills, gatherings or weapons training at the temples".

It said there have been complaints that the RSS and other groups have encroached on the premises of many temples and are "working against the sanctity" of the temples and the interests of devotees. Under the cover of

**EXPLAINED**  
5 boards, 3,000 temples

KERALA HAS five state-run autonomous Devaswom (temple) boards, which together manage over 3,000 temples — Travancore Devaswom Board (1,250 temples), Cochin board (406), Malabar board (1,357), Guruvayur board (11), Koodalmanikyam board (12).

### BUSINESS AS USUAL



**HARYANA HOME MINISTER ORDERS SUSPENSION OF 372 POLICE OFFICERS** P13

## Maharaja's new clothes: Scindia remoulds as 'karyakarta'

**LIZ MATHEW**  
SHIVPURI, PICHHORE (MP), OCTOBER 23

"Aap log zara side pe baithiye. I do not need any security. Protecting my senapati (commanders) is my duty, and my security is in their hands," Jyotiraditya Scindia tells his security personnel as he walks through a group of BJP booth presidents, who cheer loudly at this acknowledgment by the

senior leader and Union minister. There are around 300 of them gathered under a makeshift pandal at a stadium in Pichhore. The significance of Scindia, the Gwalior royal scion known in these parts as "Maharaj-ji", mingling with them to work out the nitty-gritty of an election campaign is not lost on them.

However, Scindia has had to "readjust", not the least because of his new party colours. While the



Jyotiraditya Scindia with party workers in Pichhore. Liz Mathew

royal demeanour had a place in the old-worldly Congress, there is little patience for it in the new BJP. In an interview with *The Indian Express* recently, Scindia insisted that "the BJP has always been home".

Observers say they could not have imagined the Scindia of old getting off the dais to talk to workers, ask personally if they had what they needed, such as voters' list or even pen and paper, before exhorting them to ensure the party's victory in

### PAGE 1 ANCHOR

**RAVIK BHATTACHARYA & ATRI MITRA**  
JAMALPUR (PURBA BARDHAMAN), OCTOBER 23

WELL INTO his 70s and a decade into retirement, Dwijendra Nath Ghosh refuses to withdraw from his duties as a teacher. Every day, from 10 am to 4 pm, Ghosh sets out from his home to do a job that nobody pays him for — teach at Basantapur Junior High School in Basantpur village of West Bengal's Purba Bardhaman district.

Had it not been for Dwijendra's tireless efforts, the



school would have shut months ago when the last of the 'guest teachers' retired in February 2023. The 75-year-old retired high school teacher is assisted by a skeletal staff of five 'voluntary teachers' and one guest teacher. The voluntary teachers happen to be his former students and, like him, teach for free.

Located in Jamalpur block of the district, the upper primary school was established in 2014 after Dwijendra wrote to the state government for years, requesting that a school be opened in Basantpur village. The school is managed by an ad hoc four-member committee, which Dwijendra is also a part of. If this school shuts down, students will have to travel several kilometres to attend a high school in another village.

"In 2014, the government had appointed four 'guest teachers' and all of them retired in February this year. Since then, the government has appointed



Dwijendra Nath Ghosh, 75, with his former students who teach for free. Partha Paul

only one guest teacher. If there are no teachers, the school will shut down," says Dwijendra, who retired as a high school teacher in 2008.

Basantpur Junior High is housed in a single-storey building which has four classrooms, a kitchen, a library room that doubles up as the staff room for teachers, and toilets. The school has 140 students — 81 boys and 59 girls — who study in classes 5 to 8.

Popularly referred to as 'Mastermohai', Dwijendra says he started teaching for free at the school in the wake of the staff crunch and later even convinced five of his former students to join

him. "They did not let me down," he says.

"Apart from the annual grant that varies from Rs 15,000 to Rs 35,000, the state government provides mid-day meals and other resources needed to run the school. But if there's a special programme like our annual sports day, sometimes I have to pitch in," says Dwijendra.

For Dwijendra's former students, until they get regular jobs, the opportunity helps them practise their skills.

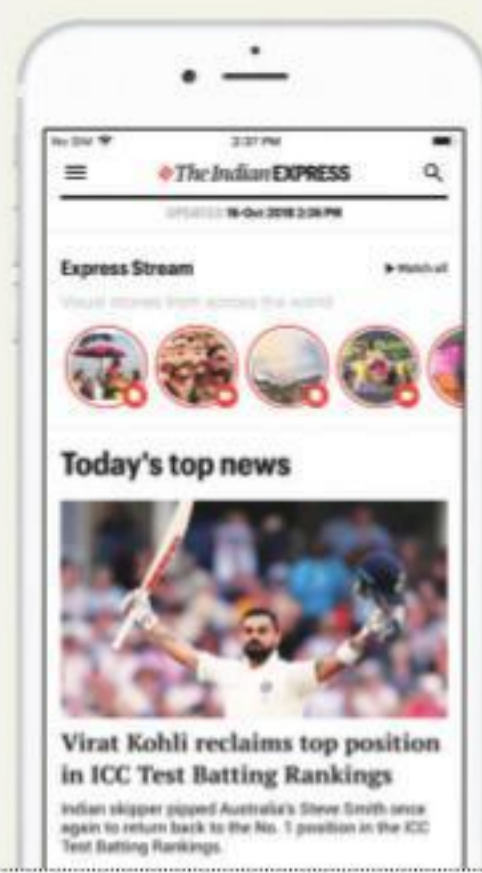
"Mastermohai convinced me to come and teach here. Despite being educated, I am unemployed, so I have time to

spare. I started teaching in February," says Swagata Ghosh, 24, who teaches history at the school. She has a Master's degree in Bengali language and a B.Ed degree.

Another teacher, Suman Majhi, had cleared the teachers' recruitment examination conducted by West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC) in 2016, but did not get a posting.

Suman is among the thousands of youth whose chances of employment were hampered due to the ongoing WBSSC recruitment case where the Central Bureau of Investigation





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EXPRESS AUDIO

Unemployment 'falling', Nithari accused freed, and India-Canada ties

In 3 Things, we discuss the latest insights from the Periodic Labour Force Survey, the acquittal of Moninder Singh Pandher in the Nithari killings case, and the evolving tensions in India-Canada relations.

FROM PAGE ONE FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Preparing for ground invasion... three circles of failure (on Oct 7): IDF

Civilians being killed in Gaza. How do you respond to those concerns?

The optics of war are always going to be tragic, especially against a terrorist government that has established all of its assets within the realm of the civilian arena. For example, we are striking Hamas's pre-positioned explosive drones. They position them on the rooftops of houses. So you strike that position because it is a military target, or they position their command and control positions, that communication position in high-rise buildings...

Of course, there is a huge challenge for any military or any professional military but nevertheless, we are up against the terrorist organization that is doing everything to impact negatively the people of Gaza. Our role is to try and minimize that effect.

There are reports that IDF's preparing for the ground offensive.

We are indeed rallying our forces. We have some 300,000 reservists who have been called up.

Many of them are tasked with preparing for ground operations in Gaza... there are people from the Air Force, the Navy, the Home front. It is the largest recruiting of reservists in the history of the IDF.

Some of them are reinforcing the Northern front with Lebanon, but the majority are preparing for ground operations. Those preparations include equipping, training and tasking. So it's identifying the specific tasks for a specific unit so that they know what they're going to be doing when they confront Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

And training includes the ability to mobilize within urban areas, the ability to operate in tunnels, all of the different types of challenges that we face in the urban arena that Hamas has established because they have turned the entire Gaza Strip as a playing ground for the terrorist activities.

We are currently in the process of around a week of asking and encouraging the people of northern Gaza to evacuate to go to the south, to try and get them out of harm's way. Unfortunately, we

have seen that Hamas is trying to discourage them. They're trying to tell them not to go. They're also preventing them physically by establishing checkpoints along the road, the main road going towards the south, and by doing so they're trying to prevent the people from evacuating.

So this is how we see the operational field. Ground operation, the operational conditions will determine the time and the place of mobilization. And the government instructions, if we're given a green light to mobilize will also determine if we mobilize. There are two conditions: operational superiority on one hand, government decision to mobilize on the other hand but the forces are currently being prepared for that.

There has been criticism of the IDF response on October 7, the intelligence failure... if you could give a sense of what happened and how is IDF going to fix that?

There will be a time for us to investigate exactly the failures.

Currently, we are mostly focused on destroying Hamas and making sure it can never happen again.

I can identify three circles of failure. Obviously, the forewarning of the intelligence that did not identify the principal act or intentions of Hamas to attack Israel. The second failure would be the actual line of defence, the physical barrier that was supposed to prevent infiltration and collapsed or was destroyed in at least 20 different locations across the border and, finally, the physical line of defense forces on the ground was not sufficient to prevent a mass infiltration that took place.

As I said, we will be investigating that at a later time. The head of IDF has taken responsibility on his part; head of Shin Bet has taken responsibility on their part. And we're obviously just at the beginning of this event, this tragic act of terrorism against our people with over 1400 people butchered, murdered and massacred, and now 222 Israelis and foreign nationals being held hostage in Gaza is a strategic change from our posture before October 7. And it calls for a strategic change afterwards. And that's why the government has instructed us to do that change.

Will there be a commission of inquiry to fix the accountability in the October 7 attacks?

Commission of Inquiry is governed by the government, that's not something I can comment on. Of course, the IDF will be conducting its own internal investigations.

What's the status of the hostages? We saw two of them being released.

Well, first of all, the number is 222. That is accurate for today. But that number, as we're seeing, is increasing almost daily and we still have about 100 people unaccounted for, and the intelligence work in order to understand, cross reference, seek and find more bodies in the field which we are finding every day, so you can rule out abduction and identify deaths... this is the challenge that we're facing. I can't say too much

on the issue of hostages, mostly because I want to be respectful to the families of the 222 people that are in despair and concern. And their lives have been torn apart now for 17 days. And also because I don't want to impede and jeopardize any attempts to free rescue or negotiate release. From an operational perspective, it's at the top of our priorities. We're doing everything we can in order to bring them home as quickly as possible.

Hamas are responsible for their well-being and Israel has demanded the international community, and the Red Cross have access to hostages. The hostages, we need to understand, include children from the age of nine months to elderly up to the age of 88. And anything in between: women, young girls, people who were enjoying a music festival, people who were in their bedrooms. So there's a huge, huge spectrum of victims of this brutal massacre and brutal abduction who are just innocents. They need to be released.

Ex-IPL cricketer's sister, nephew die in Mumbai building fire

The duct leading to the blaze," said Ambulgekar.

The building did not have a functional fire fighting system, officials alleged.

"Heavy smoke caused by the fire reached the sixth floor as furniture and other items of the first-floor flat started burning. The flame soon spread to upper floors, trapping residents," said an official.

The Valhatty family lived on the fourth floor of the F wing.

A family member said BJP was visiting to meet her ailing parents, both of whom are bedridden. When the blaze broke out, the entire family was inside the flat.

Paul, along with his wife, children and Glory's elder daughter rushed downstairs. However, Glory and her son along with their two house helps are believed to have been trapped in the staircase while trying to escape.

"Glory's husband, Noel Robert, was inside the flat with the ailing parents. He asked his wife and son to rush out along with house-maids. Ideally, they were supposed to go upstairs toward the terrace. But we do not know why they went downstairs," said Gladstone Behra, a relative.

The two helps - Rajeshwari Adhe (24) and Laxmi Bura (40) - sustained severe burn injuries and were admitted to the Shatabdi Hospital. Rajeshwari suffered 80-90 per cent burns while Laxmi sustained 50-60 per cent burns, said a doctor at the hospital.

Rajeshwari, a native of Yavatmal, has been working with the family since June. "She was appointed here as trained care-taker for patients via an agency from our native place in Yavatmal," said Praveen Mudhe, Rajeshwari's brother-in-law.

Laxmi, who started working at the house just 10 days ago, is from Karnataka's Yadgir district. Also injured in the fire was a 75-year-old resident of the building, Ranjan Shah, who lived on the third floor. She suffered 45-50 per cent burns.

Officials said it took around four hours to control the fire.

The society's secretary, Nielsh Desai, who was among the first responders, blamed encroachment on the land adjacent to their residential building for causing obstacles for the fire brigade. "It has practically blocked our society's second gate. This caused limitations in movement of vehicles of the fire brigade," he said.

Pandian takes voluntary retirement

such as expelled MLA Soumya Ranjan Patnaik, who questioned the spending of public money on the exercise.

Originally from Tamil Nadu, Pandian made a mark during his tenure as Collector of the state's larger districts, such as Mayurbhanj and Ganjam - the Chief Minister's home district. His work in Ganjam is believed to have drawn the Chief Minister's attention to Pandian, and by May 2011, he was in Patnaik's office as his private secretary. Pandian has continued in the post since, not once going for central deputation unlike his colleagues.

His wife Sujata Karthikeyan is also an IAS officer and his batchmate. She is currently posted as commissioner of the Mission Shakti department. The fall of Naveen Patnaik's erstwhile advisor Pyarimohan Mohapatra, a retired IAS officer, following an aborted coup in May 2012, had paved the way for Pandian's entry into the inner circle of the Chief Minister.

Although many feared the BJD would slip out of Patnaik's hands given the clout Mohapatra wielded in the party, Pandian stepped into his shoes and helped Patnaik surprise his doomsayers. Incidentally, it was on Pandian's birthday, May 29, that Patnaik took oath for the fifth time as the Chief Minister of Odisha.

Pandian is considered to be the brainchild of several government schemes and initiatives in recent years. The '5T initiative', which has its footprint in almost every government department, is believed to be his idea. It was launched in Patnaik's fifth term to "overhaul" the administrative apparatus.

The recent infrastructure push by the BJD government also bears his fingerprints, particularly the Rs 3,200 crore development of Puri, redevelopment of SCB Medical College in Cuttack, and renovation of major shrines across Odisha.

Once known to be a camera-shy officer, Pandian now takes his own camera crew along. On Instagram, the only social media platform he is on, Pandian has over 1 million followers.

Even as speculation is rife over his next move, sources said Pandian may take a plunge into politics. "Pandian is a hardworking officer and has made immense contributions to Odisha's development. People of the state welcomed him with great enthusiasm when he visited the districts to attend public grievance meetings. So, there should not be any problem if he takes the political plunge," said a BJD leader, requesting anonymity.

He said the final call, though, will be taken by Chief Minister Patnaik.

Dy CMs support caste survey

the reservation when extended survives in the court. For this, it is important that the caste census is held on the lines of Bihar. Ideally, the census should have been held in 2021. Since it has not happened yet, the caste census will give a clear picture about exact caste-wise percentages.

"The constitutional experts are studying to ensure that Marathas get reservation in the remaining 38 per cent," Pawar said. In other words, he seemed to suggest quota for the Maratha community over and above the present 62 per cent.

"The state government is positive on the caste survey of OBCs. However, a methodology will be finalised to avoid enmity between castes and to gain accurate results," the minutes of a September 29 meeting between Chief Minister, his two Deputy CMs and a delegation of OBC leaders said. The minutes specifically mention the word 'survey' and not 'census'. A census can be undertaken only by the Central government.

This is for the first time any state government led by the BJP has voiced in favour of the survey. In Bihar, the BJP had supported a caste survey when it was in alliance with Nitish Kumar-led JD(U) in the state government. But it was the JD(U)-RJD coalition government which announced the survey's results earlier this month. The announcement by the two Deputy CMs comes a day before the end of a deadline given

by Maratha protesters who are demanding they be included in OBCs so that they can avail benefits of reservation.

The state has been witnessing protests and agitations from different communities demanding reservation over the past several months. The Marathas led by Manoj Jarange-Patil demand reservation in the existing quota by declaring them as OBCs. OBC groups have opposed this, stating they will not accept any decision which reduces OBC quota.

The Dhangar community has been demanding Scheduled Tribe status while the tribals have already hit the streets against the demand. With several castes and communities engulfing in the row over reservation, the Shiv Sena (Shinde)-BJP-Ajit Pawar-led NCP, has veered around to accept a demand to undertake caste survey.

While the earlier Devendra Fadnavis-led government's decision to extend 16 per cent quota to the Marathas in November 2018 (upheld by the Bombay High Court but fixed at 12 per cent in education and 13 per cent in jobs) was struck down by the Supreme Court in May 2021, a separate panel set by the present government recently is working towards allotting Kunbi caste certificates to all Marathas from Marathwada who possess Nizam-era revenue records. A Kunbi Maratha certificate would mean the person will fall under the OBC category.

Maharaja's new clothes: Scindia remoulds as 'karyakarta'

Pichhore, a seat the BJP has not won in three decades.

Talking of the change, a local leader says: "People would always bow before him earlier... touch his feet or stand with folded hands. He would not even bother remembering their names."

Scindia goes the distance

In fact, when Scindia first crossed over to the BJP in 2020 - months after suffering a loss from his Guna Lok Sabha seat - few expected him to "fit in".

Many recalled Prime Minister Narendra Modi's attack on Scindia at a rally in 2016 in the region, saying: "Where is Rajmata Sahab (Scindia's late grandmother and senior BJP leader Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia) and where is your MP (Scindia)? Her position was due to the love of the people... The less said about him, the better. I have never seen so much arrogance in anyone... He has the Congress disease."

How far Scindia has come was apparent over the weekend, when Modi attended the 125th anniversary celebrations of The

Scindia School, set up by the Gwalior royals. The PM claimed double association with Scindia, given the Gwalior royals' contribution to Varanasi (Modi parliamentary constituency), and given that the latter was "Gujarat's son-in-law". Sources said Scindia was advised right at the beginning that he would have to "shed his Maharaja image" in the BJP where "ideology came first".

At the Pichhore booth worker meeting, the new-look Scindia battled for the BJP as much as he attacked the Congress, over an impassioned address lasting more than an hour. He said that Madhya Pradesh was in such a state before 2003 (when the BJP came to power) that "we did not know where the gutter was, and where the road started". Praising Modi, he said: "If our PM can give 18 hours a day throughout the year, why can't we give 25 days for Madhya Pradesh?" Lastly, he exhorted the workers: "He (the PM) put the Indian flag on the moon. We should be able to plant the party flag in this constituency."

Waving his arm energetically, Scindia added: "This is a jung

(war), and you need energy to fight... Dam laga ke haisha (Put all your might in)."

The bigger test ahead

But, these small victories apart, come polling day on November 17, the test for Scindia will be demonstrating his lasting value for the BJP. If the Congress is thirsting for revenge as his rebellion brought down its government in 2020, many in the BJP are resentful at being sidelined following his entry into the party. The BJP made him a Union minister, while eight of the Congress MLAs who crossed over with him were re-elected on BJP ticket in by-elections.

The ticket tussle for the coming elections has already seen four of them return to the Congress. Scindia insists he doesn't expect anything, and is an "aam karyakarta (ordinary worker)", who will do what the party asks of him. However, the talk is incessant of "plans for a bigger role".

At least some backlash is expected on the ground due to Scindia's 2020 move. A Gwalior resident, Gaurav Sharma, ques-

tions his "betrayal" - during his 18-plus years in the Congress, following in the footsteps of his father, Scindia won multiple polls and was close to the powers-that-be. "Scindia may have felt the BJP would be 'safer'," says Sharma, referring to the ED and CBI cases against anti-BJP leaders.

The Scindia stronghold of Gwalior-Chambal has always favoured the Congress and voted overwhelmingly for it in 2018, amid expectation that Scindia would be the CM if the party won. The fact that Kamal Nath was picked by the party was one reason for Scindia's rebellion.

Pichhore is among the seats seen as the least likely to vote for the BJP in the region, having elected the Congress's K P Singh Kakkaju since 1993. However, this time, Kakkaju has been shifted to Gwalior by the Congress.

Scindia starts with another disadvantage. His aunt and BJP leader Yashodhara Rajee has announced she will stay away from the electoral battle, leaving him to shoulder the burden of winning the area for the BJP, against incumbency of nearly 20 years.

Retired teacher, his ex-students

and Enforcement Directorate are probing alleged irregularities in appointment of teaching and non-teaching staff (Group C and Group D postings) between 2014 and 2021.

"Someone has to teach these children. If the school shuts down, many will simply drop out of the education system," says Suman. Their colleague, Saheli Mondol (25), says she gets a lot of questions about why she is teaching for free. "Even after a masters degree in geography and a clearing B.Ed, I did not get a job. Here, I get respect from students. It feels good to teach them," says Shilpa.

Parents of those studying here feel that until the state government appoints permanent teachers, Dwijendra and his staff should be paid an allowance.

Indranath Koley (40), whose 13-year-old daughter Sumana goes to Basantpur Junior High School, says, "These teachers are very particular about the students' education. Perhaps even more sincere than regular teachers. We

are more than satisfied with what our children are learning here."

For other parents like Suryakanta Ghosh (41), it's time that the government thinks of adding more classes. "My 12-year-old son is in class 7. After next year, I will have to shift him to another school for further studies."

Talking to The Indian Express, Jamalpur's Block Development Officer Shuvankar Majumder said the committee's hands are tied as school recruitments come under the state education department's ambit.

"Only the education department recruits teachers. We have already intimated the problem to the district administration. We also think that an honorarium should be given to these teachers. We will discuss the issue in a meeting of the panchayatsamiti," Majumder said.

The chairman of the ad-hoc committee Shuvajit Jash and District Inspector of Schools Anindita Saha declined to comment on the issue.

The wizard of spin

balanced, cogs rolling silently and hand sweeping in smooth arcs across the face," cricketer and broadcaster Tony Lewis would say.

In 1970-71, Bedi was instrumental in India's first Test away wins in England and West Indies. He, along with Erapalli Prasanna, Bhagwat Chandrasekhar and Srinivas Venkataraghavan, took 853 wickets in all. Reducing pace bowling to a formality, they would give India a template to play Test cricket, and also an identity internationally. These pioneers would inspire generations of young cricketers to turn the ball and till date, despite the emergence of world-class pacers in the country, India continues to be seen as an intriguing land of spinners.

An ardent reader and very politically aware, Bedi was equally at ease with his county colleagues in England as he was with the Punjabi-speaking North Indian players. At Lord's, he was Bish; at Kotla, he was the eternal big brother, "Paaji". As India captain, he took on the English establishment by blaming John Lever for using Vaseline. In Delhi's cricket circles, he is remembered as the man who challenged Mumbai's monopoly.

Post-retirement, he would still hold reservations about Mumbai and Mumbai cricketers. When his son Angad, an actor, shifted to Mumbai, he would joke: "He has shifted to enemy territory". Blessed with a sharp sense of humour, he would call a stingy Mumbai cricketer "Crime". When you asked why, he would chuckle, "Crime never pays".

Even years after his retirement, Delhi players considered Bedi as the family patriarch. Some years back, at the end of an ODI at Kotla, Virat Kohli spotted Bedi beyond the boundary as he was taking the lap of honour after the game. He, along with the other Delhi boy, Shikhar, leaped over the in-stadium advertisement hoarding and touched his feet. In fact, Bedi's feet were the most-touched at Kotla.

But a man of strong principles, Bedi wanted to be disassociated from Kotla, when the capital's cricket administrators wanted to name the stadium after the late Union minister, Arun Jaitley. In a scathing letter, he would write: "The place of the administrators is in their glass cabins... Late Arun Jaitley, I'm

told, was an able politician. So it's Parliament, not a cricket stadium, which needs to remember him for posterity."

In Pakistan, he was India's moral voice of stature. A photo of him is in a living room in Birmingham, England, at the home of his dear friend, former Pakistan captain Mushtaq Mohammad. "Champion, it is only a game. Play hard to win, but I want you in my room for a drink at 6.30. This is how he was, one of the finest guys I ever met," Mohammad would tell The Indian Express.

Always game for a good fight, Bedi sided with the underdog and took on the establishment. But while doing so, he remained a proud Indian.

Back in 1984, at the height of the anti-Sikh riots, Bedi had second thoughts about moving to his Mehrauli farmhouse. It wasn't advisable for a Sikh family to be in a secluded area. Not sure what to do, Bedi thought of selling the land and moving to Amritsar. He went to a senior bureaucrat posted at Rashtrapati Bhavan for advice. "Bishan, if I were you, I would leave the country," the bureaucrat told him. Recalling the incident, Bedi would say: "I didn't say a word, but I was fuming inside. I left without any dua-salaam, reached home and told my wife that we are removing the 'For Sale' sign from the land. 'If I get killed, so be it. I will not leave this country. I have every right to be here,' I told her."

That was Bedi. He was suspicious about T20 cricket, sceptical about franchise influence, but remained positive about the health of India and Indian cricket. But he had a complaint about his fellow cricketers and their political correctness. "They don't speak out, buzzdil hain saare," he would say during those morning calls.

At a time when the game is at a crossroads, juggling its priorities, confused about the T20 influence, Indian cricket has lost its conscience-keeper. It has lost the man who would lose sleep over the health of Indian cricket and also stay awake following the highs of the national team.

With India in the middle of a magical run in the ongoing World Cup, he would be appreciative of Rohit Sharma's team and the respectful Delhi boy he once trained. Bedi Saab and his morning calls will be missed.

Kerala temple board bans RSS activities

night, these organisations are conducting weapons training and mass drills, the board said.

The circular said stringent action would be initiated against officials who fail to crack the whip against the functioning of the RSS or extreme organisations at temples. Besides, single-coloured flags, "which resemble those of any political or religious organisations (seen as directed at the RSS)", are not allowed on the temple premises. The circular also asked officials to remove photos of persons not related to temples, symbols of political parties and community organisations and flags from temples or their premises with immediate effect.

While the CPI(M) government in Kerala had earlier too come out against the RSS conducting "mass drills on land owned by temples", the TDB order has several other clauses which derive from a high court order from last month pertaining to the Sree Sarkara Devi temple at Varkala.

Acting on a petition from two devotees, the division bench of the court had directed that the TDB manage properties and affairs at the temple. "No mass drill or weaponry practices shall be permitted in the premises of the said temple," the court said.

RSS prantha karyavahak (state general secretary) P N Eswaran said the ban circular is politically

motivated. "The CPI(M) wants to take control over the temples in Kerala. In the past also, the TDB had issued circulars to restrain the RSS at temples. But this time, the order is harsh covering more activities... A situation has been created in which the role of the devotees has been reduced to pray and pay at the temples. There is no tension at any temple now over the RSS functioning. This directive is not going to stop RSS activities in Kerala," he said. He claimed advisory boards in many temples have been disbanded and replaced with CPI(M) nominees. Adding that they were looking at legal remedies, Eswaran said officials at temples have not acted against the RSS so far based on this circular. "In many temples, RSS people are actively engaged in daily affairs. It is not that easy to keep our workers away from temple affairs."

Senior CPI(M) leader and TDB president K Ananthagopalan said there was nothing political in the latest directive. "It is meant to protect the interests of devotees, who want peaceful temple premises. They are against arms training at temples. In the past also, the board issued circulars. But the incident at Sarkara temple showed that arms training and conduct of mass drills could not be prevented. Hence, we have brought out the fresh circular with stringent conditions," he said.



## 50% garbage hotspots cleaned so far, Mayor extends deadline



MCD Mayor Shelly Oberoi

**SAMAN HUSAIN**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

AS PART of its flagship 'Ab Dilli Hogi Saaf' campaign, the AAP-led Municipal Corporation of Delhi had recognised 158 Garbage Vulnerable Points (GVPs) that need to be cleaned. But only 50% of GVPs have been cleaned so far, Mayor Shelly Oberoi said Monday. These points were set to be cleared by the first week of October.

Extending the deadline till Diwali, Oberoi said the elimination of GVPs is the corporation's 'Diwali Gift' to the citizens of Delhi. "About 50% of Delhi's 158 GVPs have been cleared; the remaining points will be cleared within the next 20 days," Oberoi said a statement Monday.

Out of the 158 GVPs, 11 were found in the Central Zone; 15 in Shahdara South Zone; 13 in Karol Bagh; and 10 each in Shahdara North, Keshav Puram, Najafgarh, Narela, West and South Zone. Meanwhile, a maximum of 37 GVPs were found in Rohini zone, and 22 in Civil Lines zone.

Urging citizens to maintain cleanliness in their surroundings, Oberoi said, "During Diwali we clean our houses, similarly it's our duty to keep our Delhi clean... the MCD and councillors will work in this regard, but we need equal contribution from citizens also."

"All garbage vulnerable points in Delhi will be cleaned within 8 days," Oberoi had earlier claimed on September 29, adding that "Delhi will soon get rid of garbage piles on streets...158 garbage vulnerable points have been recognised in all 12 zones...These will be cleaned within 8 days."

To avoid re-collection of garbage at these points, MCD's Department of Environment Management Services officials have been instructed to regularly monitor sites.

Meanwhile, MCD opposition leader and former Mayor Raja Iqbal Singh criticised Oberoi and alleged the AAP has turned Delhi into a garbage capital. "There are 40% unauthorised colonies in Delhi where garbage dumps are causing severe problems. Garbage dumps are scattered in various places in the city, such as empty plots, road sides, under flyovers, alleys, parks," Singh said in his press statement.

# DU V-C can be re-appointed now, Centre clears the decks

**VIDHEESHA KUNTAMALLA**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

IN AN intriguing turn of events last week, the union government resurrected a nearly decade-old proposal and granted approval for an amendment to the Statutes of Delhi University (DU), enabling the re-appointment of the Vice-Chancellor (V-C).

Previously, the Statutes under the Delhi University Act prohibited a second term for the Vice-Chancellor via re-appointment. He or she could have stayed in office, beyond five years, until a replacement is appointed by the government and the new appointee takes over. In the gazette notification issued on October 17, Statute 11-F (4) has been amended to now state that the "Vice Chancellor shall hold office for a term of five years and shall be eligible for re-appointment for another term."

What this means is that previously, an incumbent Vice-Chancellor, if desiring another term, would have had to reapply along with other candidates and compete for the same position once again. Reappointment essentially means the incumbent Vice-Chancellor would receive another term if the government wishes, without reopening the position for new applications.

Notably, the President's approval was based on a decade-old resolution passed by DU's Executive Council (EC) in March 2014 when Dinesh Singh was the university head. Speaking to *The Indian Express*, DU's current V-C Yogesh Singh said, "This is not a new proposal. This was approved by the EC under the leadership of Dinesh Singhji and has now been approved by the Visitor too." President Droupadi Murmu is the Visitor of all central universities.

Yogesh Singh was appointed as DU V-C in September 2021 and still has almost three years left in his term. With this amendment, he is, technically, now eligible for reappointment once his term ends in 2026.

DU was among the few central universities in the country where the V-C was not eligible for re-appointment. Jawaharlal Nehru University is another such central university.

It's not clear why the union government dusted off a decade-old proposal now. When asked about this, DU Registrar Dr Vikas Gupta said, "I can't comment on that. All I can say is this resolution of the EC (Executive Council) was approved by the university court and forwarded to the (education) ministry the same year. We haven't done anything new."

During Singh's term as V-C, aside from approving a resolution on giving the V-C another term, the EC, DU's highest decision-making authority, had also passed resolutions increasing retirement age of several office bearers, such as the dean of colleges and the pro-vice chancellor, from 65 to 70 years. This change was approved by the Centre.

They met through a common friend and Parmar promised to find her employment opportunities. He called her to UP Bhawan, took her to a room he had booked there, and raped her... The woman was in the room for around 30 minutes... CCTV footage showed her exiting the premises along with Parmar around 2 pm... they went to India International Centre (IIC) and attended an event for another 30 minutes, after which she is seen leaving IIC... officials said, citing the chargesheet.

Officials said it further states that Parmar's private security guard, apart from the driver, was with him in the car when he and the victim went from UP Bhawan to IIC.

On the three staffers, officials said the chargesheet states, "The staffers, who were in charge of the reception area, were negligent... it is revealed that they did not register Parmar's entry and exit (in the) records during his period of stay there."

CCTV footage at both premises; call details records of the woman and Parmar; and the woman's statement before the magistrate are the primary evidence produced by police before the court against Parmar.

"Officials of IIC and UP Bhawan were questioned during the course of the probe and it was corroborated that the woman and Parmar were present at both places... on the day of the incident," officials added, citing the report.

Sources said the Delhi Police has written to the UP government again to take action against the accused staffers. They have, however, not been named in the chargesheet.



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## UP BHAWAN RAPE CASE

# Maharana sena chief lured victim on pretext of job: Police chargesheet accused

**ARNABJIT SUR**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT of the Maharana Pratap Sena, Rajyavardhan Singh Parmar, who was arrested in June for allegedly raping a woman inside UP Bhawan, lured the victim on the pretext of offering her a job, said officers in the Delhi Police.

Police have filed a chargesheet in the case before the Patiala House Court. The court is yet to take cognizance. It is learnt that the chargesheet says that in May, the victim met Parmar at a coffee shop, where he allegedly claimed to be related to a union minister and was a political leader heading the Maharana Pratap Sena. Officials said the report also outlines the role of three staffers who were later suspended for alleged negligence.

"They met through a common friend and Parmar promised to find her employment opportunities. He called her to UP Bhawan, took her to a room he had booked there, and raped her... The woman was in the room for around 30 minutes... CCTV footage showed her exiting the premises along with Parmar around 2 pm... they went to India International Centre (IIC) and attended an event for another 30 minutes, after which she is seen leaving IIC... officials said, citing the chargesheet.

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Rajyavardhan Singh Parmar, president of the Maharana Pratap Sena, was arrested in June by Delhi Police

# IAS officer seen offering office chair to priest, felicitating him in video; Delhi govt seeks reply

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

THE DELHI government has taken cognizance of a video in which the Southwest Delhi District Magistrate was seen offering his office chair to a priest and felicitating him.

The officer in the clip, DM Lakshay Singhal, felicitates the

priest with a shawl and speaks to him with folded hands.

Soon after the video went viral, the Revenue Department took cognizance of the matter and sought a reply from Singhal.

"We have taken notice of the video and asked him to furnish a reply as to why he did this in a public office, to which he said that the priest is his guru who advised him to pursue civil serv-

ices. So, he invited the priest to felicitate him as a token of gratitude and respect," said a senior revenue department officer.

In his reply to the department, Singhal said, "Sir, he has been my guru since I was born. I invited him to felicitate him. He was the only person who advised me when I was in college to prepare for UPSC civil services. My father used to consider him

as his father since I lost my grandfather when my father was just 23."

"He (the priest) stayed just for 30 minutes and left. However, I am sorry Sir. I didn't know that this would happen. I will stay alert the next time. This was just for the purpose of conveying respect and doesn't pertain to interference in official work," Singhal said.

**AGRICULTURAL SCIENTISTS RECRUITMENT BOARD**  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & EDUCATION,  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
KRISHI ANUSANDHAN BHAVAN-I, NEW DELHI-110012  
File No. 10(02)/2023-Recrt.I

**NOTICE**

**ASRB invites online applications for filling up 03 Research Management Positions (RMPs) to be filled up on tenure basis for a period of five years at ICAR Headquarters, New Delhi. Candidates are required to apply online using the application form link available on the web site: <http://www.asrb.org.in> only. No other mode of filling of application is allowed.**

The closing date and time for submission of online application form for all the positions shall be 20.11.2023 (05.00 PM).

Detailed Advertisement for these positions regarding the posts/ pay scale/ pay level and eligibility conditions may be accessed and downloaded from the web site of the Board <http://www.asrb.org.in>

**SECRETARY, ASRB**

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GROSS NPA  
3.13%  
Reduction By **38%\***  
(in % terms)

\*Q2'2023-24 Vs Q2'2022-23

**Extract of Audited Financial Results for the period ended 30.09.2023 (₹ in Crores)**

Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended		Half Year Ended		Previous Year Ended	
		September 30, 2023 (Audited)	June 30, 2023 (Audited)	September 30, 2022 (Audited)	September 30, 2023 (Audited)	September 30, 2022 (Audited)	March 31, 2023 (Audited)
1.	Total Income from Operations	1,176.96	1,143.50	791.56	2,320.46	1,577.75	3,483.04
2.	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary items)	379.90	439.54	276.31	819.43	616.17	1,139.25
3.	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary items)	379.90	439.54	276.31	819.43	616.17	1,139.25
4.	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary items)	284.73	294.58	184.30	579.31	410.27	864.63
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/ (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	265.41	153.35	102.60	418.75	227.43	825.89
6.	Paid up Equity Share Capital	2,284.60	2,284.60	2,284.60	2,284.60	2,284.60	2,284.60
7.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	4,296.01	4,005.80	3,353.71	4,296.01	3,353.71	3,650.57
8.	Securities Premium Account	-	-	-	-	-	-
9.	Net worth	6,580.61	6,290.40	5,638.31	6,580.61	5,638.31	5,935.17
10.	Paid-up Debt Capital/Outstanding Debt	39,850.19	39,941.73	30,230.36	39,850.19	30,230.36	40,165.28
11.	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-	-	-	-
12.	Debt Equity Ratio	6.06	6.35	5.36	6.06	5.36	6.77
13.	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -						
	1. Basic:	1.25	1.29	0.81	2.54	1.80	3.78
	2. Diluted:	1.25	1.29	0.81	2.54	1.80	3.78
14.	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-
15.	Debenture Redemption Reserve	421.12	409.55	374.83	421.12	374.83	397.97
16.	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	Not Applicable					
17.	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	Not Applicable					

**Notes:**

- The above results have been recommended by the Audit Committee of Directors and approved by Board of Directors in their respective meetings held on 23.10.2023.
- The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly financial results filed with stock Exchanges under Regulation 52 of the LODR Regulations. The full format of the quarterly financial results is available on the website of the company viz. [www.ireda.in](http://www.ireda.in) and on the websites of stock exchanges viz [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) & [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com).
- For the other line items referred in regulation 52(4) of the LODR Regulations, pertinent disclosures have been made to stock exchanges and can be accessed at [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com) respectively.

Date : 23.10.2023  
Place : New Delhi

**For and on Behalf of the Board of Directors**  
Sd/-  
**Pradip Kumar Das**  
Chairman & Managing Director  
DIN No. 07448576

**INDIAN RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY LIMITED**  
(A Government of India Enterprise)

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**SPECIAL DRIVE TO CLEAR PENDING CASES OF APPOINTMENT OF COMPASSIONATE GROUNDS**

**10th NOVEMBER 2023 SPECIAL ADALAT**

Special Adalat will be held on 10.11.2023 at 11.00 hrs. in DRM Office premises of Delhi, Lucknow, Moradabad, Firozpur, Ambala and Northern Railway HQs. Office, Baroda House, New Delhi.

**DISPOSAL OF PENDING CG CASES ON THE SPOT**

You can submit your grievances regarding appointment on compassionate grounds in two copies alongwith relevant papers to Senior Divisional Personnel Officer of respective Divisions and in the case of HQs. Division to Dy. Chief Personnel Officer (R.) latest by 31.10.2023.

Note : Application regarding Compassionate Grounds cases related to workshop and extra Divisional Offices be send to adjoining division.

**Dy. Chief Personnel Officer (R)**  
Northern Railway Headquarter  
Baroda House, Kasturba Gandhi Marg,  
New Delhi - 110001

**Senior Divisional Personnel Officer**  
Divisional Railway Manager Office,  
Northern Railway, State Entry Road,  
New Delhi - 110001

**Senior Divisional Personnel Officer**  
Divisional Railway Manager Office,  
Northern Railway, Hazrat Ganj,  
Lucknow - 226001

**Senior Divisional Personnel Officer**  
Divisional Railway Manager Office,  
Northern Railway, Rail Vihar,  
Ambala Cantt., Ambala - 133001

**Senior Divisional Personnel Officer**  
Divisional Railway Manager Office,  
Northern Railway, (Near Railway  
Stadium) Moradabad - 244001

**Senior Divisional Personnel Officer**  
Divisional Railway Manager Office,  
Northern Railway, Station Road,  
Firozpur Cantt., Firozpur - 152001

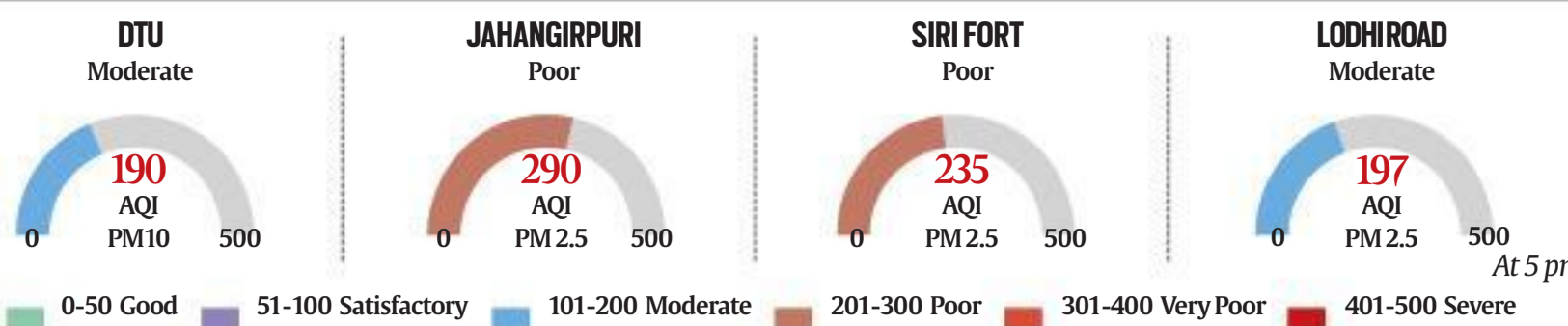
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# 4 THE CITY



**S K Y W A T C H**  
**FORECAST: October 24**  
 Mainly clear sky. Mist in the morning. AQI forecast: Likely to be very poor  
**MAX: 32** | **MIN: 17**  
 0.2°C below normal | 0.2°C below normal

## AQI LIKELY TO BE 'VERY POOR' OVER NEXT 3 DAYS

# Public transit boost, a suppressant to control dust: Delhi steps up measures

# Need officials who are serious about tackling pollution: Rai

In letter to CM, he points to absence of seniors at meeting



EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

INCREASING THE frequency of metro trains, hiring private buses and spraying a 'dust suppressant' is how the Delhi government plans to tackle the city's deteriorating air quality.

With Delhi's air quality having dipped to the 'very poor' category Sunday, Environment Minister Gopal Rai said on Monday that actions as per stage II of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) have kicked in.

"There are 13 hotspots identified in Delhi, where pollution levels are higher than in other places. Now, monitoring shows that in addition to those 13, there are eight other points where the AQI was over 300 — Shadipur, ITO, Mandir Marg, Nehru Nagar, Patparganj, Sonia Vihar, Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, Moti Bagh. At these spots, MCD Deputy Commissioners have been directed to deploy special teams to inspect and identify local sources," he said.

On Monday, the AQI was 263, in the 'poor' category, better than the 313 recorded on Sunday. A forecast issued by the Air Quality Early Warning System on Monday said the air quality is likely to be in the 'very poor' category from October 24 to 26.

Under GRAP Stage II, public transport services are to be intensified in the city. "Delhi Metro has been directed that where the interval between trains is 7 to 8 minutes, that be reduced to 5 to 6 minutes, and where the interval is 5 to 6 minutes, it be reduced to 2 to 3 minutes, so that more people use public transport. The DTC has been directed to start the process of hiring private buses to augment the existing fleet," Rai.

Starting October 26, the 'Red Light On, Gaadi Off' campaign to get people to switch their engines off at signals will begin.

### Effect of stubble burning minimal

On why the AQI worsened on Sunday and the impact of stubble burning, Rai said, "It is getting colder and the wind speed is re-



On Monday, the AQI was 263, in the 'poor' category; (below) smog guns deployed at construction sites to help keep dust in control. Photos: Abhinav Saha

### STEPPING UP POLLUTION FIGHT

- Metro, bus frequency to be increased
- Special teams to be deployed at 8 more polluted locations, in addition to 13 pollution hotspots
- Dust suppressant powder to be mixed with water and sprinkled on roads
- Traffic Police to monitor 91 congestion points
- Monitoring to ensure regulations on DG sets are followed



ducing. There has been no major impact of stubble burning. The increase in AQI is because of the cold and wind speed."

VK Soni, scientist at the India Meteorological Department, also said the contribution of stubble burning to Delhi's pollution levels was negligible. "It looks like the main reason (for the deterioration in AQI) is that

during the day time, some winds were there, but at night, it is becoming calm. There are no winds and that helps in accumulation of pollutants. The stubble contribution is very minimal, almost negligible since the fire counts are not much," he said.

On Monday, Punjab recorded 152 instances of stubble burning, while Haryana saw 29, accord-

ing to data from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI). From September 15 to October 23, Punjab has recorded 1,946 instances of crop residue burning which is less than the 4,598 such instances recorded over the same period last year, 6,058 instances in 2021, and 13,894 instances over the same period in 2020.

Similarly, in Haryana, there have been 743 instances till October 23 this year, lower than the 1,110 recorded over the same period in 2022, 1,726 in 2021, and 1,560 in 2020.

VK Sehgal, Principal Scientist, IARI, said, "We are seeing substantially lower counts compared to the past two years. This time, we had three rainfall events which could have masked certain events, but these happened last year also. The real picture will emerge in another few days."

Data from SAFAR shows that last year, daily peak contribution of stubble burning to PM 2.5 levels in Delhi was 34% on November 3, lower than 48% in 2021, 42% in 2020, and 44% in 2019.

Data was not available from SAFAR on Monday on the contribution of stubble burning to PM 2.5 levels so far this year. The real-time source apportionment study under way in Delhi to determine sources of PM 2.5, also did not display any data on its online dashboard on Monday.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

POINTING OUT that senior officials in Delhi had not attended Monday's meeting to discuss the implementation of Stage II of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), Environment Minister Gopal Rai has written to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal asking that a meeting of the National Capital Civil Services Authority be held to appoint officials who are sensitive towards the matter of pollution and can work actively to deal with it.

In his letter, Rai wrote: "An important meeting was called today with officials of different departments. In implementing measures under GRAP Stage II, Environment Department, DPC, Revenue Department and Transport Department officials have an important role to play. But I regret to inform you that in today's very important meeting, Principal Secretary of the Environment Department AK Singh; DPC Chairman Ashwani Kumar; and Principal Secretary and Commissioner of the Transport Department Ashish Kundra were absent, because of which taking important deci-



Environment Minister Gopal Rai. Archive

sions and ensuring their execution is difficult."

It added: "To deal with this serious situation of pollution, I request you to call a meeting of the National Capital Civil Services Authority soon, to appoint such officials who are sensitive towards the matter of pollution and can work actively to deal with it."

At a press conference after the meeting, Rai said implementation of these measures is not possible if "senior officials" don't consider the matter a priority.

"Secretaries of all departments were called. We noticed in today's meeting that secretaries... heads of different departments... for them pollution has not become an important is-

sue. Not a single secretary joined today's meeting... My request to the heads of different departments is that this one month is the time to work on a war footing. I would like to tell the Chief Secretary also to depute officials for this. Until senior officials work actively, it becomes difficult to implement work in any department," he said.

Responding to what Rai said was his absence at the meeting, Kundra said, "It is not in my notice which meeting it was. A meeting was held a few days ago where CAQM Chairman, Union Environment Minister, and Delhi Environment Minister were also present. It was a video conference and the entire course of measures were discussed at length."

Singh and Kumar did not respond to a request for comment.

Sources in the bureaucracy, however, said there was no notice for the meeting, neither was the Chief Secretary intimated about it. "The Chief Secretary has already issued detailed instructions and constituted Committees under guidance of senior IAS officers... wherein detailed instructions have been issued to curb pollution in Delhi," officials said.

# What are dust suppressants & have they worked in the past?

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

DUST SUPPRESSANTS will be used in Delhi to mitigate pollution from dust. This, however, is not the first time it has been used in the Capital and parts of NCR.

Dust suppressants may be salts of calcium or magnesium that can absorb moisture. Environment Minister Gopal Rai said the "dust suppressant powder" would be mixed along with water and sprayed on roads to keep the dust down for longer.

In 2019, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) told the NCR states that they may consider using dust suppressants on excavated earth surfaces, piles of construction and demolition waste, and access roads in construction areas.

The CPCB wrote to states that a study was awarded by it on the use of dust suppressants, and its effectiveness was studied for the control of dust generation at cer-

tain roads and sites.

"Findings of the study indicate that use of dust suppressant along with water is relatively more effective in control of pollution than conventional methods of dust control i.e. water spraying. About 30% reduction in dust concentration (PM10, PM2.5, and PM1) was observed up to six hours for construction sites as well as roads with the use of dust suppressant," the CPCB said. The effectiveness of the suppressant was evaluated at three sites in Delhi — construction of the Sarai Kale Khan Road, a building construction site at Narela, and a Dilshad Garden flyover construction site.

An advisory issued by the Delhi PWD in 2019 also noted that the "use of dust suppressants in water can be more effective than plain water sprinkling as it shows more efficiency to reduce particulate matter emission". The advisory, which men-

tioned "magnesium chloride hexahydrate flakes," added that the dust suppressant with bio-additives helps to reduce dust for five to six hours as compared to plain water which lasts for 15 to 30 minutes. Magnesium chloride absorbs moisture.

In 2019, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee had also issued directions that all construction agencies will use dust suppressants to control dust emissions and road-owning agencies will use it on dusty patches.

Anumita Roychowdhury, executive director, research and advocacy, Centre for Science and Environment, said, "We don't have any information about its efficacy. They claim that if you mix the suppressant, the effect stays for longer, but we are not sure how much longer, and what effect this has in the long term. We haven't really looked into this."

# Swiss woman murder: Police plan psychoanalysis test on accused

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

POLICE ARE planning to conduct a psychoanalysis test on 33-year-old Gurpreet Singh, who allegedly killed a Swiss woman in Delhi, tied her limbs with chains, and dumped the body near a West Delhi school last week.

While an appeal for the test is yet to be submitted in court, police sources said investigators are planning to do so to get "clearer answers" from the accused. Police said Singh had frequently changed his statements during questioning, making it difficult to ascertain the motive

and sequence of events.

The accused met the victim, Nina Berger (36), on a dating app in 2021 while he was travelling to Zurich, Switzerland, to meet his relatives. However, police said, Singh soon started pressuring Berger into marrying him and proposed to her 5-6 times. She rejected his proposal citing multiple reasons even as they continued dating, said police. Feeling dejected, police said Singh started suspecting Berger of having an affair.

On October 11, Berger came to India and stayed at a hotel in Delhi. On October 18, Singh allegedly killed her in his car and dumped the body near an MCD

school Friday. Singh was arrested after CCTV footage showed a "turban-clad" man and a white car on October 18, the date of the incident, near the spot, said DCP (West) Vichitra Veer.

The DCP said police are checking Singh's movements from October 18-20. "It's not clear if someone helped him or if he dumped the body alone... He is not cooperating... He is talking about black magic and some issues he had with Berger. He later said he wanted to teach her a lesson as she refused to listen to him..." said an officer.

Investigators said they'll call doctors and specialists to examine Singh.



# CRANE CRASH LEADS TO BRIDGE COLLAPSE

A portion of a foot-over-bridge near East Delhi's Laxmi Nagar collapsed after a loaded crane crashed into it in the early hours of Monday. Police said the crane driver has been arrested. No casualty was reported and the road was later cleared. Praveen Khanna

# High-speed access from NCR towns to Delhi: Noida body wants 50-yr roadmap

DHEERAJ MISHRA NOIDA, OCTOBER 23

WHAT IS the best way to connect NCR towns of Uttar Pradesh with the national capital? The Noida Authority is looking for high-speed solutions for the next 50 years.

With mega projects, such as the Jewar Airport, Noida-Greater Noida Metro-rail, Dedicated Freight Corridor and industrial hubs coming up in the area, the authority has initiated work for the preparation of a Regional Comprehensive Mobility plan (CMP) for Noida region.

The authority said the aim of the project is to provide a long term traffic and transportation strategy for efficient, sustainable and equitable mobility.

Last week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first phase of the Regional Rapid Transport System (RRTS) train between Sahibabad and Duhai on the Delhi to Meerut line. The complete section is expected to be completed by 2025. "This area is surrounded/interconnected with old towns of Ghaziabad, Meerut, Hapur, Bulandshahr, Khurja etc. Two areas are under planning to be developed as new township namely Greater Noida Extension and Dadri Noida Ghaziabad Investment Region. The area will

**The authority said the project aim is to provide a long-term traffic and transportation strategy for efficient mobility**

become a big megalopolis in next 50 years and population will rise to around 10 million including population of NCR," states the tender document.

The authority issued a tender Saturday for selection of a consultant for the said work. The last date of bid submission is November 14 and the technical bid will be opened on November 16.

"25 years back, travel time to Delhi from these areas (i.e. Gurgaon, Faridabad, Noida, Greater Noida and Ghaziabad) to Delhi was 35-40 minutes, but in the current scenario due to increase in traffic, travel time has increased from 90-120 minutes even after construction of DND flyway, Noida-Greater Noida Expressway, Delhi-Meerut Expressway etc... Number of vehicles has enhanced and congestion has also increased," it added. It says the plan should include an in-depth analysis of all modes of transportation including for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport.

# Imported for G20, saplings find home at Lutyens' park

SAMAN HUSAIN NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

G20 SAPLINGS imported from 17 countries have found their permanent home at Nehru Park in Lutyens' Delhi. The saplings, from 10 G20 member countries and seven other nations, were intended to be planted on the second day of the Summit by member country heads, but due to certain logistical issues, they were finally planted on Monday.

The ceremony was attended by envoys of the US, UK, Egypt, Nigeria, Germany, and South Korea, along with other representatives of G20 nations and in-

ternational organisations, who planted a sapling each, keeping in mind the Indian agro-climatic conditions.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Union Minister of Housing & Urban Affairs Hardeep Puri, Delhi L-G VK Saxena, and India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant also participated in the event; they planted a Banyan sapling, the national tree of India, also known as the "Tree of Life".

"For us Delhiites, Nehru park has a particular symbolism, so I am sure that in the years to come, when we take our morning and evening walks here, the G20 trees will always be here to look back at what was one of our



(L-R) Union Minister Hardeep Puri, Delhi L-G VK Saxena, MEA S Jaishankar, and India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant at the G20 tree plantation ceremony, Monday. PTI

achievements," Jaishankar said during the ceremony.

The Indian Express had earlier reported that saplings of Silver Tree were imported from South Korea; Date Palm from Saudi Arabia; Olive from Italy and Turkey; Real Yellowwood from South Africa; Winterlinde from Germany; Cockspear Coral from Argentina; Camphor Laurel from China and Japan; and Golden Wattle and Northern Black Wattle from Australia for the ceremony.

Before being planted, the saplings were kept at a post-entry quarantine facility at ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, Pusa for over three

months.

Jaishankar also said India's G20 Presidency will be remembered as "G20 for the future" due to its strong focus on environment and sustainability. "There is a very strong green-global-south image that has come out of the G20, it can be remembered as a green, sustainable and, in many ways, a G20 of the future," he said.

"... Thank G20 members, the guest countries, and International Organisations for their contribution and participation. India's #G20 Presidency played the role of a unifier in a deeply divided world," said Jaishankar in a post on 'X'.





# The Third Belt and Road Forum For International Cooperation

## Building an Open, Inclusive and Interconnected World For Common Development

THIS year marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) I proposed. The BRI, drawing inspiration from the ancient Silk Road and focusing on enhancing connectivity, aims to enhance policy, infrastructure, trade, financial and people-to-people connectivity, inject new impetus into the global economy, create new opportunities for global development, and build a new platform for international economic cooperation.

...Belt and Road cooperation has expanded from the Eurasian continent to Africa and Latin America. More than 150 countries and over 30 international organizations have signed Belt and Road cooperation documents. We have held two sessions of the BRF before, and have established over 20 specialized multilateral cooperation platforms under the BRI.

Belt and Road cooperation has progressed from "sketching the outline" to "filling in the details", and blueprints have been turned into real projects. A large number of signature projects and "small yet smart" people-centered programs have been launched.

Belt and Road cooperation has expanded from physical connectivity to institutional connectivity. Important guiding principles for high-quality Belt and Road cooperation have been laid down, which include the principle of "planning together, building together, and benefiting together," the philosophy of open, green and clean cooperation, and the goal of pursuing high-standard, people-centered and sustainable cooperation.

Over these 10 years, we have endeavored to build a global network of connectivity consisting of economic corridors, international transportation routes and information highway as well as railways, roads, airports, ports, pipelines and power grids. Covering the land, the ocean, the sky and the Internet, this network has boosted the flow of goods, capital, technologies and human resources among countries involved and injected fresh vitality into the millennia-old Silk Road in the new era.

...Belt and Road cooperation is based on the principle of "planning together, building together, and benefiting together." It transcends differences between civilizations, cultures, social systems, and stages of development. It has opened up a new path for

exchanges among countries, and established a new framework for international cooperation. Indeed, the BRI represents humanity's joint pursuit of development for all.

...Our achievements in the past decade are truly remarkable, and there is so much we can draw from them.

**We have learned that humankind is a community with a shared future.** China can only do well when the world is doing well. When China does well, the world will get even better. Through Belt and Road cooperation, China is opening its door even wider to the world, with its inland regions turning from "fullbacks" into "forwards," and coastal regions scaling new heights in their opening-up. China's market has become even more closely integrated with the global market. China has become a main trading partner of more than 140 countries and territories and a primary source of investment for more countries. Both Chinese investment overseas and foreign investment in China have boosted friendship, cooperation, confidence and hope.

**We have learned that win-win cooperation is the sure way to success in launching major initiatives that benefit all.** When countries embrace cooperation and act in concert, a deep chasm can be turned into a thoroughfare, land-locked countries can become land-linked, and a place of underdevelopment can be transformed into a land of prosperity. Countries taking the lead in economic development should give a hand to their partners who are yet to catch up. We should all treat each other as friends and partners, respect and support each other, and help each other succeed. As the saying goes, when you give roses to others, their fragrance lingers on your hand. In other words, helping others is also helping oneself. Viewing others' development as a threat or taking economic interdependence as a risk will not make one's own life better or speed up one's development.

**We have learned that the Silk Road spirit of peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit is the most important source of strength for Belt and Road cooperation.** I once said that the pioneers of the ancient silk routes won their place in history not as conquerors with warships, guns, horses or swords. Rather, they are remembered as friendly emissaries leading camel caravans and sailing ships loaded with goods. Belt and Road cooperation is based on the belief that flame runs high when everyone adds wood to the fire and that mutual support can get us far. Such cooperation seeks to deliver a good life not only to people of just one country, but to people in other countries as well. It promotes connectivity, mutual benefit, common development, cooperation and win-win outcomes. Ideological confrontation, geopolitical rivalry and bloc politics are not a choice for us. What we stand against are unilateral sanctions, economic coercion and decoupling and supply chain disruption.

What has been achieved in the past 10 years demonstrates that Belt and Road cooperation is on the right side of history. It represents the advancing of our times, and it is the right path forward. We need to remain clear-eyed and undisturbed in a volatile world, and we need to be keenly aware of our responsibility for history, for the people and for the world. We should jointly address various global risks and challenges, and deliver a bright future of peace, development, cooperation and mutual benefit for future generations.

...Now, I wish to announce eight major steps China will take to support our joint pursuit of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.



On Oct. 18, 2023, President Xi Jinping attended the opening ceremony of the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation and delivered a keynote speech in Beijing (a few paragraphs are omitted from the original text).

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**First, building a multidimensional Belt and Road connectivity network.** China will speed up high-quality development of the China-Europe Railway Express, participate in the trans-Caspian international transportation corridor, host the China-Europe Railway Express Cooperation Forum, and make joint efforts to build a new logistics corridor across the Eurasian continent linked by direct railway and road transportation. We will vigorously integrate ports, shipping and trading services under the "Silk Road Maritime," and accelerate the building of the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor and the Air Silk Road.

**Second, supporting an open world economy.** China will establish pilot zones for Silk Road e-commerce cooperation, enter into free trade agreements and investment protection treaties with more countries. We will remove all restrictions on foreign investment access in the manufacturing sector. In light of international high-standard economic and trade rules, we will further advance high-standard opening up in cross-border service trade and investment, expand market access for digital and other products, and deepen reform in areas including the state-owned enterprises, digital economy, intellectual property and government procurement. China will hold the Global Digital Trade Expo annually. In the next five years

(2024-2028), China's total trade in goods and services is expected to exceed USD 32 trillion and USD 5 trillion respectively.

**Third, carrying out practical cooperation.** China will promote both signature projects and "small yet smart" livelihood programs. The China Development Bank and the Export-Import Bank of China will each set up a RMB 350 billion financing window. An additional RMB 80 billion will be injected into the Silk Road Fund. Together, they will support BRI projects on the basis of market and business operation. Cooperation agreements worth USD 97.2 billion have been concluded at the CEO Conference held during this Forum. China will carry out 1,000 small-scale livelihood assistance projects, and enhance vocational education cooperation through Luban Workshops and other initiatives. We will also step up joint efforts to ensure the safety of BRI projects and personnel.

**Fourth, promoting green development.** China will continue to deepen cooperation in areas such as green infrastructure, green energy and green transportation, and step up support for the BRI International Green Development Coalition. China will continue to hold the BRI Green Innovation Conference, and establish dialogue and exchange mechanisms for the solar industry and a network of experts on green and low-carbon development. China will implement the Green Investment Principles for the Belt and Road, and provide 100,000 training opportunities for partner countries by 2030.

**Fifth, advancing scientific and technological innovation.** China will continue to implement the Belt and Road Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation Action Plan, hold the first Belt and Road Conference on Science and Technology Exchange, increase the number of joint laboratories built with other parties to 100 in the next five years, and support young scientists from other countries to work on short-term programs in China. At this Forum, China will put forward the Global Initiative for Artificial Intelligence (AI) Governance. We stand ready to increase exchanges and dialogue with other countries and jointly promote the sound, orderly and secure AI development in the world.

**Sixth, supporting people-to-people exchanges.** China will host the

Liangzhu Forum to enhance dialogue on civilizations with BRI partner countries. In addition to the Silk Road International League of Theaters, the Silk Road International Arts Festival, the International Alliance of Museums of the Silk Road, the Silk Road International Alliance of Art Museums, and the Silk Road International Library Alliance that have been set up, China has also launched the International Tourism Alliance of Silk Road Cities. And we will continue with the Chinese government scholarship Silk Road Program.

**Seventh, promoting integrity-based Belt and Road cooperation.** Together with its cooperation partners, China will release the Achievements and Prospects of Belt and Road Integrity Building and the High-Level Principles on Belt and Road Integrity Building, and establish the Integrity and Compliance Evaluation System for Companies Involved in Belt and Road Cooperation. We will also work with international organizations to carry out research and training on promoting integrity in Belt and Road cooperation.

**Eighth, strengthening institutional building for international Belt and Road cooperation.** China will work with its BRI partner countries to strengthen the building of multilateral cooperation platforms covering energy, taxation, finance, green development, disaster reduction, anti-corruption, think tank, media, culture and other fields. China will continue to host the BRF and establish a secretariat for the Forum.

...The past decade has been a journey of dedicated cooperation and fruitful outcomes. Belt and Road cooperation was proposed by China, but its benefits and opportunities are for the world to share. Let us meet the expectations of the people, assume responsibilities entrusted on us by history, closely follow the trend of the times, and press ahead with energy and enterprise. Let us deepen Belt and Road international cooperation, and bring Belt and Road cooperation to a new stage of higher-quality and higher-level development. Let us advance modernization of all countries, build an open, inclusive and interconnected world for common development, and jointly build a community with a shared future for mankind...



Chair's Statement of the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation



List of Practical Cooperation Deliverables of the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation



List of Multilateral Cooperation Deliverables of the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation



The Belt and Road Initiative: A Key Pillar of the Global Community of Shared Future

## A Decade of BRI



## Remarks by Wang Yi at the Press Conference of the Third BRF



On October 18, 2023, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister Wang Yi held a press conference for Chinese and foreign media.

THE past decade has witnessed historic achievements in Belt and Road cooperation. A path of cooperation, opportunity and prosperity that leads to common development has been found. Benefiting over 150 countries, the BRI has become the most popular international public good and largest international cooperation platform in today's world. This BRF was attended by over 10,000 registered representatives from 151 countries and 41 international organizations.

...During the BRF, we convened three high-level forums on digital economy, connectivity and green development; six thematic forums on trade connectivity, people-to-people bonds, think tank exchanges, clean Silk Road, subnational cooperation and maritime cooperation; and a CEO Conference.

...It is a conference of unity that has further consolidated the consensus on Belt and Road cooperation, a conference of win-win outcome that has further enriched Belt and Road cooperation, and a conference of development that has broadened the bright prospects of Belt and Road cooperation. ...Let me underscore four points.

**First, the clearest message from this Forum is unity, cooperation, openness and win-win outcome.**

Today's world is confronted with a multitude of crises and challenges; Cold War mentality and bloc confrontation have resurfaced. Yet all the participants have made it clear that they have come for friendship, for cooperation and for development.

President Xi Jinping pointed out in his keynote speech that humankind is a community with a shared future; win-win cooperation is the sure way to success in launching

major initiatives that benefit all; and the Silk Road spirit of peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit is the most important source of strength for Belt and Road cooperation. From Beijing, a clear and unambiguous message has been sent to the world, that is, we need unity, cooperation, openness and win-win outcomes, not division, confrontation, isolation or zero-sum mentality. Amidst great transformations unseen in a century, Belt and Road cooperation will always bring stability and positive energy to the world.

**Second, the most important consensus of this Forum is to usher in a new stage of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.**

...At the High-Level Forum on Connectivity in an Open World Economy, the participants supported efforts to further boost connectivity; build high-quality, sustainable and resilient infrastructure; enhance cooperation in such areas as transportation, energy, resources and irrigation; steadily increase institutional connectivity in infrastructure; and build an open world economy.

At the High-Level Forum on Digital Economy as a New Source of Growth, the partici-

pants called for expedited efforts to build a Digital Silk Road; fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment for digital development; promoting deep integration of digital technologies and the real economy; and advancing the healthy, orderly and secure development of artificial intelligence (AI). To that end, China has put forward a Global Initiative for AI Governance, which has drawn great attention.

...At the High-Level Forum on Green Silk Road for Harmony with Nature, the participants highlighted the need to further build the Green Silk Road, meet the climate challenges together, step up cooperation on biodiversity protection, build investment and financing partnerships for green development, and empower green development.

At the thematic forums, the participants shared their desire to fully advance practical cooperation, boost trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, improve the business environment, support the development of the blue economy, build a clean Silk Road, deepen subnational exchanges, and carry out a variety of cultural, educational, science, tourism, health and sports activities.

**Third, the most ambitious vision of**

**this Forum is to realize global modernization through joint efforts.**

Realizing modernization is the common aspiration and due right of all peoples. The BRI offers a cooperation platform for common development and helps many developing countries accelerate their pace toward modernization. President Xi Jinping proposed for the first time that global modernization should be pursued through the joint efforts of all countries to enhance peaceful development and mutually beneficial cooperation and bring prosperity to all. This ambitious goal is consistent with China's vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind, and sets the direction for high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.

...President Xi Jinping pointed out that the modernization China pursues is not for the country alone, but for all developing countries through joint efforts... Chinese financial institutions will set up new RMB financing windows and support BRI projects based on well-informed studies. China will promote local employment through cooperation projects and carry out 1,000 small-scale livelihood assistance projects...

**Fourth, the defining feature of this**

**Forum is that it is action-oriented, efficient and pragmatic.**

To advance Belt and Road cooperation, we need to build consensus for collaboration and, more importantly, take concrete actions... During this BRF, 458 outcomes have been reached, far exceeding the number of the last Forum. They include important cooperation initiatives and institutional arrangements such as the Beijing Initiative for Deepening Cooperation on Connectivity, the Beijing Initiative for Belt and Road Green Development, the Beijing Initiative on the Belt and Road International Digital Economy Cooperation, the Green Investment and Finance Partnership, and High-Level Principles on Belt and Road Integrity Building. They also include specific targets including providing 100,000 training opportunities on green development for partner countries by 2030, and increasing the number of joint laboratories to 100. Commercial agreements worth USD 97.2 billion have been concluded at the CEO Conference, which will help generate jobs and growth in relevant countries. The Forum also decided to establish a BRF secretariat to facilitate institution-building and project implementation...



# 6 DECISION 2023

CHHATTISGARH • MADHYA PRADESH • MIZORAM • RAJASTHAN • TELANGANA

ELECTION IN NUMBERS

2,57,344

The 2.6 lakh voters serving outside their home states and posted abroad in the 5 poll-bound states who can vote via postal ballots

FARMERS KEY TO ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

## Cong repeats its 2018 Chhattisgarh promise: loan waiver to farmers

Chhattisgarh CM also promises OPS, CM Awas Yojana, free bus for students



Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel during a public meeting in Jagdalpur ahead of the state Assembly elections. PTI

JAYPRAKASH SNAIDU  
RAIPUR, OCTOBER 23

CHHATTISGARH CHIEF Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Monday promised farmers of the state another loan waiver if voted back to power. The Congress had made the same promise before the 2018 elections, and soon after winning, waived off around Rs 9,000 crore in loans and another Rs 350 crore in irrigation tax.

Justifying his loan waiver offer, Baghel told mediapersons: "Supporting our farmers has strengthened our economy. In the last five years, we saw an increase in trade and business. Price rise, the effect of which has been felt strongly in other states, is hard to find in Chhattisgarh. The money which went into the pockets of farmers came back to the market. That doesn't happen when you give money to big industrialists. The Centre waived off bad loans to industrialists worth Rs 14.5 lakh crore, but what positive effect did it have on our economy?... But when we waived off farmers' loans, it brought positive change in the lives of farmers and traders." Baghel made the loan waiver

announcement while accompanying Assembly Speaker Charan Das Mahant, the MLA from Sakti. He made four other promises, with the promise of a caste census for OBCs being seen as a potentially critical factor in 51 seats.

His third promise is to set up a Chief Minister's Awastha Yojana for 17.5 lakh poor families. This is in response to the PM's recent criticism of the state government's alleged failure in imple-

menting the PM Awastha Yojana, and promise to implement it in the state if the BJP is voted to power.

Baghel also promised to launch a free bus service for students in the state.

Between 2019 and January 2023, the Congress government in Chhattisgarh took loans worth Rs 54,491.68 crore in total, 66.35% of the amount taken by the state government since

Chhattisgarh's formation. The principal amount in the total unpaid loan from 2000 to January 2023 is Rs 82,125 crore. This doesn't include the interest. Any loan waiver will add to this figure.

Baghel had also announced implementation of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) earlier this year, which will add an additional burden to the loan amount. Further, a 5% hike in dearness allowance has been announced to state employees, which will cost the state exchequer Rs 1,000 crore annually.

His other promises included rice procurement of 20 quintals per acre, a 5 quintal increase in what was being previously procured. Under Congress rule, both the amount of rice procurement and the number of rice cultivators has significantly increased due to an additional input subsidy being given by the state government over the MSP given by the Centre.

In earlier statements, Baghel had said, "Procurement of paddy at Rs 2,500 per quintal (including the Centre's Minimum Support Price (MSP), which increases every year, and an additional constant input subsidy of Rs 750 per month per acre given by the state government under the Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyaya Yojana, has helped increase the production of paddy from 56 lakh metric tonnes in 2019 to 107 lakh metric tonnes in 2023."

Farmers are key to the state Assembly elections, to be held over two phases, on November 7 and 17.

## Another ED case, says Rs 175 cr went to 'higher powers' in rice milling

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
RAIPUR, OCTOBER 23

AFTER ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) investigations into three alleged corruption cases under the Congress's Bhupesh Baghel-led government — in the coal levy commission, the illegal liquor sales and the Mahadev betting app cases — the central agency has now alleged that the Chhattisgarh State Rice Millers Association colluded with officers of the Chhattisgarh State Marketing Federation (MARKFED) to hatch a conspiracy to pay exorbitant amounts to rice millers in exchange for kickbacks to the tune of Rs 175 crore for the "benefit of higher powers".

Last week, the ED conducted searches on the premises of the MARKFED's former managing director, the Chhattisgarh Rice Millers' Association's treasurer and office-bearers, district marketing officers (DMOs), and several rice millers.

The ED has alleged that till kharif year 2021-22, a special incentive of Rs 40 per quintal of paddy was paid by the Congress government to rice millers for the custom milling of paddy. But the incentive was subsequently increased to Rs 120 per quintal.

"The office-bearers of the

ACTIVE ED CASES

Other three "scams" under investigation

₹540 cr  
Coal levy commission case

₹2,160 cr  
Illegal liquor sales case

₹5,000 cr  
Mahadev betting app case

Chhattisgarh Rice Millers' Association led by treasurer Roshan Chandrakar in connivance with Manoj Soni, MD, MARKFED, started collecting kickbacks of Rs 20 per instalment for each quintal of paddy milled from the rice millers," the ED alleged.

The Congress has denied the charges, linking the case to elections. "The ED connives with the BJP in Chhattisgarh to write scripts," the party said.

The state government has earlier claimed rise in paddy production and procurement. Last year, 249 new rice mills were set up in the state, with the number of registered millers rising from 2,035 to 2,284.

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KEY PLAYERS

STARTING WITH RAMAN SINGH, SIX KEY BJP FACES IN CHHATTISGARH

BJP DOMINANCE IN MP SINCE 2003, AND CONGRESS SLOWLY CHIPPING AWAY

NUMBER SPEAK

CHHATTISGARH: PARTY-WISE MLAS WITH CRIMINAL CASES

Party	Total cases	Share of total MLAs	Serious cases	Share of total MLAs
Congress	18	25%	11	15%
BJP	3	21%	0	0
TOTAL	21	24%	11	13%

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

I HEREBY DECLARE



LALDUHOMA, 73  
Zoram People's Movement's CM face. He is contesting from Serchhip

MOVABLE ASSETS (including of spouse)  
₹114 CRORE

IMMOVABLE ASSETS  
₹3 CRORE including agricultural land, non-agricultural land

and residential buildings  
LIABILITIES: Rs. 21.54 lakh (loans)  
SOURCE OF INCOME: MLA salary; farm products  
EDUCATION: Bachelor of Art, North Eastern Hill University



LALSAWTA, 77  
Congress candidate from Aizawl West-III

MOVABLE ASSETS (including of spouse)  
₹62.33 LAKH  
IMMOVABLE ASSETS  
₹4.99 CRORE including non agricultural land

LIABILITIES: None  
SOURCE OF INCOME: Politician  
EDUCATION: BA (Public Administration), IGNOU

## Second list's white flag does not stop Rajasthan BJP hostilities, protests



Supporters of Chittorgarh MLA Chandrabhan Singh Aakya protest after he was denied a ticket. Express

DEEP MUKHERJEE  
JAIPUR, OCTOBER 23

WITH ITS first list of nominees for the November 25 elections to the 200-member Rajasthan Assembly sparking discontent among aspirants denied tickets, the BJP did not field any more of its MPs and named only anticipated candidates in its second list, but the party is still facing widespread resentment and protests across the state.

In its second list of 83 candidates released last week, the BJP repeated over three-fourth of its 70 sitting MLAs while denying tickets to just a handful of them.

In Chittorgarh, two-time incumbent MLA Chandrabhan Singh Aakya has been left out, with the BJP choosing to field Narpal Singh Rajvi in his place.

Rajvi, the incumbent MLA from Vidhyadhar Nagar, the son-in-law of former vice-president late Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and seen as a loyalist of former chief minister Vasundhara Raje, was earlier denied a ticket from his traditional seat, provoking protests. Rajvi won the elections to the Chittorgarh Assembly seat in 1993 and 2003.

Aakya blamed state BJP chief and Chittorgarh MP C P Joshi for him being denied a ticket, and said the latter nursed a grudge against him. He also raked up Joshi's roots in the Congress.

"This is a local fight. I was an ABVP worker and our brother C P Joshi ji was working with NSUI

MEANWHILE, TICKET ASPIRANTS IN MP

- Congress faces protests in around 40 seats
- Resignations reported from five seats.
- BJP sees protests in 22 seats
- Former minister Rustom Singh and former Tikamgarh MLA K K Shrivastava resign from party

(Congress students' wing)... Since that time our college rivalry is going on... Somewhere he has a grudge against me. I knew... he will deny me a ticket," Aakya told reporters, adding that will let the public decide whether he should contest the elections as an Independent candidate.

Joshi has earlier too drawn barbs from his Congress rivals for his Congress background.

Ever since Aakya was denied a ticket, his supporters have been turning up in large numbers to show their support for him.

While Joshi has tried to downplay the protests saying the decisions related to ticket distribution were taken collectively and not by any individual, the supporters of the sitting Chittorgarh MLA have so far not let up, burning Joshi's effigies and posters to vent their anger.

The discontent among the BJP supporters has also flared in Rajsamand, where the BJP has again fielded incumbent MLA Deepti Kiran Maheshwari, the daughter of former legislator late Kiran Maheshwari. Deepti had won the seat in a bypoll in 2021, which was necessitated by her mother's demise.

In videos that have gone viral on social media, purported BJP workers are seen allegedly damaging furniture in the Rajsamand BJP office, angry over the ticket being given to Deepti, whom they termed an outsider. On Sunday, the state BJP disciplinary committee suspended four workers — Ajay Prajapat, Devi Lal Jatiya, Himmat Kumawat and Mukesh Sharma — from the primary membership of the party over the incident.

In Udaipur, where Tarachand Jain has got the ticket, the BJP is facing the ire of the city's deputy mayor, Paras Singhvi, who has taken aim at Assam Governor and former Udaipur MLA Gulab Chand Kataria, accusing the latter of interfering in local politics.

In Jaipur, the supporters of sitting Sanganeer MLA Ashok Lahoty, who is also a former mayor of Jaipur, protested outside the party office Sunday. Lahoty has been denied a ticket, with the party replacing him with Bhajan Lal Sharma on the seat.

Earlier this month, following the release of its first list of 41 candidates, including seven sitting MPs, the BJP had witnessed massive protests by workers.

## STEP BY STEP

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan with wife Sadhna Singh during 'Kanya Puja' as part of the Navratri festivities in Bhopal on Monday. PTI

## Dushyant Chautala aims for rural outreach, via camel cart in Rajasthan

VARINDER BHATIA  
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 23

JANNAYAK JANATA Party (JJP) leader Dushyant Chautala is using the Rajasthan Assembly polls to bolster his image of a farmer leader, canvassing across constituencies aboard a camel cart.

The JJP plans to contest 25-30 of the state's 200 Assembly seats and has set up several local offices. On October 19 and 20, Dushyant held roadshows in Kotputli, Jaipur and Bharatpur.

As per the 2011 Census, at least 75% of Rajasthan's population lives in rural areas. The JJP is focusing on Rajasthan districts Hanumangarh, Jhunjhunu, Churu, Sikar, Jaipur, Alwar and Bharatpur, which border Haryana. In the 62 constituencies in these districts, the Congress won 28 and the BJP 21 in 2018.

"It is the first Vidhan Sabha election in Rajasthan after the JJP was constituted and the party will contest with its full strength," Dushyant has said.

In his campaign, he is projecting the JJP as the party of the poor, farmers and working class. He is talking about measures by the Haryana government such as reservations for locals in private sector jobs, purchase of crops at the MSP, and quick disbursal of



JJP is focusing on Rajasthan districts which border Haryana

crop-loss compensation directly into farmers' bank accounts.

He has also emphasised the gains from having a regional party in the state Assembly, saying this ensures that farmers and the poor are represented in policy formation through MLAs from local communities.

The JJP, an offshoot of the former Haryana CM Om Prakash Chautala-led Indian National Lok Dal, was constituted by Dushyant and his father Ajay in 2018, and is a part of the BJP-led government in Haryana. In December 2017, when he was the youngest MP at 29, Dushyant had driven a tractor to Parliament to underline his farmer image.

## Along BJP vs Cong faultlines, family bad blood in MP polls

ANAND MOHAN J  
BHOPAL, OCTOBER 23

FROM BROTHERS vying for political supremacy to uncles taking on their nephews, the Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections have divided several families along political lines.

Hoshangabad

Brothers Girija Shankar Sharma and Sitasaran Sharma earlier made Hoshangabad a BJP bastion, winning the seat seven consecutive times between them from 1990 to 2018.

In 2018, though, after the BJP renominated Sitasaran from the Hoshangabad seat, Girija resigned from the party as he had also staked his claim over it. He rejoined the party a few months later, but in September, left again.

The Congress has fielded Girija from Hoshangabad, while the BJP has renominated Sitasaran, setting up a fight between the brothers for the first time.

Dabra

Staunch loyalist of Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and minister, Imarti Devi, 48, will be facing off against a distant relative and sitting Dabra MLA Suresh Raje, 62.

Devi's political stint has been mostly with the Congress.

She was elected from Dabra in 2008 for the first time and retained the seat till 2020 as a Congress MLA.

However, following Scindia's defection to the BJP, Devi followed him. In the ensuing by-poll, she lost to Congress candidate Raje. The latter switched to the Congress after Devi quit it.

Deotalab

Girish Gautam and Padmesh Gautam are uncle and nephew who are contesting against each other in Deotalab constituency.

Girish, 70, is a four-term BJP MLA from Deotalab seat. He started his career with the CPI, but later joined the BJP and won his first election from Mangawan seat in 2003, then moved to Deotalab, and won three elections from there.

His nephew Padmesh, 40, will make his debut on the Congress ticket. The bad blood in their family had intensified when he played a key role in defeating Girish's son in zilla panchayat polls.

Sagar

The Congress has fielded Nidhi Jain from Sagar against brother-in-law Shailendra Jain, the three-time BJP MLA from the seat. Nidhi is the wife of Shailendra's brother Sunil.

Sunil was a Congress MLA from Deori in 1993. When asked

about the fight with her brother-in-law, Nidhi told the media: "We do not have *manbhed* (discord) but have *matbhed* (differences of views)."

Shailendra, 60, has said he will be contesting the elections on the "principles of Raj Dharma" and called upon his party workers to fight with full strength "to protect the honour of the BJP".

Shailendra has been dominating this seat, which has a considerable Jain presence and won the 2018 election by a margin of 17,366 votes.

Timarni

A close fight is on the cards in Timarni between the BJP's Sanjay Shah, 50, and his 31-year-old nephew and Congress leader Abhijeet Shah, who was defeated by the former in the 2018 election by 2,213 votes.

Abhijeet is said to have worked hard in the constituency. The three-time MLA Sanjay, the brother of forest minister Vijay Shah, has drawn criticism for "not being approachable", BJP insiders said.

Abhijeet has accused his uncle of being allegedly against tribal communities. Sanjay has rejected this charge as baseless, even as both of them race to consolidate their support base among the tribal voters in this BJP stronghold.



# 7 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



## BID TO WIN

WITH JUST A week to go for the closing of the e-auction of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's gifts and mementos, the response during this edition is yet to pick up. Models of 'Ram Darbar' and 'Golden Temple', besides a souvenir of Jerusalem, are among the popular items in the latest round of bidding, say officials. A painting by Paresh Maity with a base price of Rs 64 lakh has so far attracted the highest bid of Rs 74 lakh. Some digital prints are yet to receive a bid.

## SURPRISE, SURPRISE

BANDI SANJAY Kumar appears to be the most sought-after leader in the Telangana BJP. Kumar, a national general secretary who was the state party chief till recently, has been touring the state. Being the most vocal critic of the ruling BRS, his removal from the state party chief's post had come as a surprise to many. Despite being one of the most prominent leaders in Telangana, Kumar's name figured in the star campaigners' list for Chhattisgarh last week. This came as another surprise and gave way to talks that the party did not want him to campaign in his home state. But on Sunday, when the party released the candidates' list for Telangana, Bandi's name was there from Karimnagar seat.

## Marandi protege Bauri is Jharkhand BJP's new LoP face after four years

ABHISHEK ANGAD RANCHI, OCTOBER 23

FIRST AS A revenue minister in the previous BJP government, then as the head of party's Schedule Castes (SC) Morcha, and now appointed the BJP Legislature Party leader, the 45-year-old Dalit leader and two-time MLA Amar Kumar Bauri's rise in the saffron party ranks has been meteoric.

With Bauri's elevation, the Jharkhand Assembly is now set to get the Leader of Opposition (LoP) after four years once the winter session gets underway. As soon as he was named as the BJP Legislature Party leader, Bauri took to X to thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other top BJP leaders at the central and state levels, including Babul Marandi, for posing "faith in a chhota karyakarta (small worker) like him".

"But the message was clear that it was Babul Marandi who brought him to this post," said a BJP source.

Marandi has been Bauri's mentor, although they fell out for some years after the 2014 state Assembly elections. Bauri was then elected as an MLA from Chandankiyari on the ticket of Marandi's Jharkhand Vikas



Amar Kumar Bauri and Babul Marandi. (Facebook/Amar Kumar Bauri)

Morcha-Prajatantrik (JVM-P) ticket, but soon he, along with five other party MLAs, joined the BJP-led coalition government, merging their breakaway JVM (P) Legislature Party with the BJP.

After remaining at loggerheads for a period, Marandi and Bauri sank their differences as the former merged his JVM (P) with the BJP in February 2020.

Cut to July 2023, when the BJP leadership appointed Marandi as the state unit chief and within months Bauri was picked to succeed him as its Legislature Party leader.

"It was Marandi who suggested Bauri's name. Dalits are around 12-15% of Jharkhand's population, roughly 50 lakh in numbers, and Bauri would help

### EXPLAINED Why the delay of four years

FORMER JHARKHAND chief minister Babul Marandi was on February 24, 2020 elected as the BJP Legislature Party leader, days after he merged his Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (Prajatantrik) party with the BJP. Marandi, however, was not accorded the Leader of Opposition status so far due to an anti-defection petition pending against him before Speaker Rabinranath Mahto.

us reach most of these voters. The initial disagreement did not matter as in 2014 Bauri had informed Marandi about his decision, reasoning that his politics would get a boost. But he was that as it may, Marandi himself merged his party with the BJP. *Matbhed tha, lekin manbhed nah tha* (There was difference of opinion, but there was no hatred)," a party source said. The son of a police constable, Bauri was the first in his family to have passed class 10 who continued his study in Jamsheedpur and

went on to complete his post-graduation in history. BJP stalwart Atal Bihari Vajpayee's speeches and policies left a mark on him early in his career.

Bauri made his electoral debut in 2004 as an Independent candidate unsuccessfully. In the 2009 election, he contested on the JVM (P)'s ticket, but lost by a slim margin.

In the previous Raghuraj Das Cabinet, Bauri was inducted as revenue and tourism minister. An officer says that as a minister he took some significant decisions such as building the Patratu Valley road and launching several religious tourism festivals.

Sources said he digitised a part of the land records and also started the popular Re 1 charge on properties registered in the name of women members in 2017 in a bid to empower them within their households – a scheme which was scrapped by the current JMM-led government headed by CM Hemant Soren in 2020.

"Bauri was seen as a meticulous person during his ministerial tenure," said an official.

A year after the BJP lost power in Jharkhand, the party in 2020 appointed Bauri as its SC wing head. Party sources say he revamped the wing with several Dalit outreach programmes.

## EC to look into complaint against plan to involve officers in yatra on govt's 'feat'

DAMININATH NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

THE ELECTION Commission has received a Model Code of Conduct (MCC) violation complaint regarding the government's plan to involve bureaucrats in a "yatra" to showcase the Narendra Modi government's achievements, according to EC sources Monday.

The EC had "just received the complaint" and would "look into it", a top official said.

In an October 14 order, the Union Agriculture Ministry made plans for holding a nationwide "Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra" from November 20 to January 26 to create awareness about the Modi's government's work over the past nine years even as the EC on October 9 announced Assembly poll schedule in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Mizoram and Telangana.

The MCC came into force from the time polls were announced.

In a letter to the three-member Commission on October 21, retired IAS officer EAS Sarma said the instructions issued by the Department of Personnel on October 17 to all ministries to nominate officers as "district rath prabharis" was a "brazen infringement" of the MCC. He said that the instructions would be a misuse of government machinery for influencing voters. Sarma asked the EC to direct the government to revoke the instructions and impose a penalty on those involved.

On Monday, in another letter to the EC, Sarma said public servants taking part in any activity that was likely to influence voters was a violation of the Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules.

## NEW CRIMINAL LAWS REPORT

# Two House panel members seek time to study draft

Chidambaram, Derek are learnt to have written to the panel head against haste

MANOJ CG NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

WITH THE Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs set to meet on Friday to adopt its report on the three Bills that seek to replace the Indian Penal Code, CrPC and Evidence Act, two members of the committee are learnt to have written to the panel's Chairman seeking more time to peruse the draft reports.

The draft reports reached the members on Saturday night. It is learnt that Congress's P Chidambaram and Trinamool Congress's Derek O'Brien have written to the panel's chairman, Brijlal, asking him not to rush through the process of adopting the draft reports.

The Opposition members of the committee had already been complaining that the panel did not consult enough experts. It is learnt that the two have flagged once again that there have not been enough consultation with the stakeholders. Pointing out that the three drafts – Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshya Bills – are important, the MPs have told the Chairman that five days are not enough.

Chidambaram and O'Brien had last month written to the Chairman suggesting that the panel meet the representatives of the Councils of different states,



P Chidambaram and Derek O'Brien

the Bar Council of India, the Supreme Court Bar Association, international organisations, human rights organisations, media organisations, and law enforcement agencies.

They also suggested that the panel should hold consultation with judges of SC and HC, senior practitioners of criminal law, experts on juvenile justice, cyber-crime, technology, prison officials, reform advocates, legal scholars, academic institutions, MPs, MLAs and members of local councils.

On August 11 this year, the Central government unveiled the three new criminal law Bills in Parliament with an aim to supplant India's prevailing colonial criminal legislation, the Indian Penal Code of 1860, the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, respectively. Union Home Minister Amit Shah disclosed that these Bills will be referred to a standing committee tasked with presenting recommendations on the Bills to Parliament during its winter session.

## ONE NATION, ONE ELECTION

# Law Commission likely to meet Kovind panel tomorrow

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

THE MEMBERS of the Law Commission, which is likely to release its report on the proposal of holding simultaneous polls, are likely to meet the high-level committee chaired by former President Ram Nath Kovind on Wednesday, said sources.

The committee under Kovind has been tasked with looking into ways to hold Lok Sabha, Assembly and local body elections together in "national interest".

According to the sources, the Law Commission, chaired by Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi, finalised its report on one nation, one election plan earlier this month. In the meeting with the Kovind panel, it is expected to back the idea of holding simultaneous polls and suggest timelines for upcoming election cycles.

The Kovind panel, which was set up by the government on September 2, held its first meeting on September 23 where it decided to invite recognised national and regional political



Ram Nath Kovind is heading a high-level committee looking into the possibility of simultaneous polls

parties, parties with state governments and those having their representatives in Parliament to give their suggestions.

The committee, which includes Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, also decided to "invite the Law Commission of India to make its suggestions/viewpoints on the issue of simultaneous elections in the country", the Law Ministry said.

The BJP had included simultaneous elections in its party manifestos in 2014 and 2019, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi has several times spoken of the "need" to hold simultaneous polls.



Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah distributes membership certificates to National Cooperative Exports Limited members in New Delhi on Monday. Union Ministers Piyush Goyal and BL Verma are also seen on stage. PTI

## Farmers will get 50% of profit through coop export body: Shah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

THE NATIONAL Cooperative Exports Limited (NCEL), the newly-created umbrella organisation for cooperative sector exports, has received orders worth Rs 7,000 crore, Union Cooperation and Home Minister Amit Shah said Monday, while orders worth Rs 15,000 crore are under negotiations.

Addressing a national symposium on cooperative exports, Shah said, "So far, we have received orders worth Rs 7,000 crore, and the negotiations are on for [orders worth] Rs 15,000 crore." At least 50 per cent of the export profits will go to farmers

through National Cooperative Export Limited, and they will get it directly into their bank accounts, he said.

"It is just beginning," Shah said, adding, "We are operating from a temporary office. The recruitment of employees is going on."

About 1,500 cooperatives have become members and with time, Shah said, the National Cooperative Export Limited will also emerge as a successful venture like IFFCO, KRIBHCO and Amul.

The NCEL, an umbrella body for cooperative sector exports registered under the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002, was set up on January 25 this year. It has an authorised share capital

of Rs 2,000 crore, with Rs 500 crore as the initial paid-up share capital.

The NECL's chief promoter is the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Limited (GCMMF). Shah said that NCEL will become an organisation representing the entire cooperative sector and in the coming days, efforts will be made to develop it into a complete export ecosystem covering all aspects like procurement, storage, processing, marketing, branding, labelling, packaging, certification and research and development.

The NCEL will also work on connecting with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of External Affairs and our embassies abroad, he said.

# As state polls draw near, Centre shines brighter in BJP

Party cadre talks of shrinking opportunities in power, being cut out of decision-making, and phasing out of a robust second rung

LIZ MATHEW NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

MONTHS AHEAD of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, ground reports from the poll-bound states indicate the continuing popularity of Prime Minister Narendra Modi even as the inherent tensions within the INDIA bloc come to the fore. However, while the BJP will draw solace from this – beyond how things turn out for the party in the coming elections – there are signs of some disquiet at the local level.

As the party seeks votes in the name of the BJP, with local satraps consciously sidelined, the cadre are talking of shrinking opportunities for them in power. Among those higher up the ladder, there are murmurs that the concentration of powers has shut them out of deci-

sion-making. BJP leaders question the phasing out of a robust second rung, and fear this will eventually tell on the party – particularly as this puts it apart from rivals.

There is no lack of communication, with the BJP high command continuously interacting with state units over action plans and outreach programmes. However, leaders say that many a time, this is a one-way exercise, with the central command taking decisions unilaterally, including on strategies in their area.

This has coincided with the digitisation push, which has ended up taking intermediary leaders out of the picture. While earlier they built a network of give-and-take through projects and welfare schemes, systems can now be directly monitored by the Centre. Down the ranks, communi-

cation channels, too, are limited. The Indian Express had earlier reported how Union ministers and MPs fielded for the Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections got to know of their nomination only 48 hours before the announcement.

Recently, supporters of former Jharkhand chief minister Raghuraj Das barely concealed their surprise over his sudden transfer as governor to Odisha.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's assertion recently that ministers who have served multiple terms in the Rajya Sabha should contest the Lok Sabha elections has also set off a nervous guessing game. As the clock ticks towards 2024, a leader hopes they will come to know in advance, so that they can nurture the constituency allotted

to them. Some leaders point out that the Madhya Pradesh list with such big names, without any prior warning, meant that discontent spilled into the open.

In Rajasthan, after initial hesitance, the central leadership went out of its way to oblige former chief minister Vasundhara Raje. Sources said a number of her supporters were accommodated in the second list after a survey showed the damage an angry Raje might cause.

"The party did not want to repeat what happened in Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka," a party leader says, referring to the BJP's poll defeats in the two states where the state units were divided. In Madhya Pradesh, the BJP

has come around to accepting the importance of CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan, after suggesting that the "fatigue factor" over him lay at the heart of the anti-incumbency against the party government, and that sidelining him was the way around it.

A senior party leader says there was a clear plan behind the fielding of the big guns for the Assembly polls. "They are not contesting in comfortable seats, but in those where the BJP has lost more than once," he says, but admits that the party has not been able to communicate this effectively to cadre.

While initially, senior leaders including PM Modi refrained from mentioning Chouhan in their speeches, there has been a course correction. Recently, Modi lauded the initiatives of the state government, mentioning Chouhan by name.

In Chhattisgarh, too, the BJP has fallen back again on Raman Singh, under whom the party suffered a defeat last time, after realising that no party leader matched his stature in the state. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who had earlier said that "every vote in Chhattisgarh should be cast in the name of Modi", was present when Singh filed his nomination from Rajnandgaon last week.

In Telangana, the BJP is in the midst of amending its strategy too, after the national leadership's attempts to extend tacit support to the ruling Bharat Rashttra Samithi (BRS) appeared to be not going down well. Sources said that party surveys had shown that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's charge that the BRS, AIMIM and BJP are working together for the November 30 elections was getting some traction.



DECISION 2023



SC to hear judge's plea for expunction of 'disparaging observations' against him

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

THE SUPREME COURT has agreed to hear the plea of a Gauhati High Court judge seeking expunction of "certain disparaging remarks" against him by a bench of the HC while reversing his May 2017 order as Special NIA Court Judge, convicting some persons facing terror charges.

Issuing notice to the NIA, a bench of justices A S Bopanna and PS Narasimha by its October 20 order allowed the request to list the case "without disclosing the identity of the petitioner". The petition filed through advocate Somirani Sharma sought expunction of the remarks "such as...attributing deep rooted bias in favour of the prosecution...acting in a sheerly partisan bent of mind that by any means, the accused/appellant...had to be convicted...virtually predetermined conclusion and...of committing an act of rank judicial impropriety while delivering the judgment..."

He contended that "the said observations/remarks were not necessary for deciding the appeal and rendering the impugned judgment and therefore ought to have been avoided".

"The remarks have deeply hurt the petitioner's reputation before his colleagues, lawyers and litigants and is disturbing his peace of mind besides affecting his duties with calm and confidence. The remarks can also adversely affect the petitioner's career in future," said the plea.

The plea said the SC had in a 2001 ruling said that while "the existence of power in higher echelons of judiciary to make observations even extending to criticism incorporated in judicial orders cannot be denied, however, the High Courts have to remember that criticisms and observations touching a subordinate judicial officer incorporated in judicial pronouncements have their own mischievous infirmities. Firstly, the judicial officer is condemned unheard which is violative of principles of natural justice...Secondly, the harm caused by such criticism or observation may be incapable of being un-

done. Thirdly, human nature being what it is, such criticism of a judicial officer contained in the judgment of a higher court gives the litigating party a sense of victory not only over his opponent but also over the Judge who had decided the case against him..."

The judge said the HC had failed to adhere to the well-settled principles as discussed by the apex court in many judgments.

"There is always a thin line of difference between 'criticising a Judge' and 'criticising a ruling'. It is often said that a Judge, who has not committed an error, is yet to be born. This dictum applies to all the learned judges at all levels from the lowest to the highest," the judge said.

By his May 22, 2017 order as Special Judge, NIA Court, Guwahati, the appellant had convicted 13 persons for offences under the IPC and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 and the Arms Act, 1959, and also sentenced them.

On appeal, the HC set aside the conviction and sentencing order. The SC will now hear the matter on November 10.

BATTLE FOR BELAGAVI

Ministers lobby for Cong LS tickets for children

Satish Jarkiholi is close to CM Siddaramaiah and Laxmi Hebbalkar to Deputy CM DK Shivakumar

AKRAMM BENGALURU, OCTOBER 23

THE RACE to the Lok Sabha ticket for the Belagavi constituency in Karnataka is turning out to be a major headache for the state Congress unit, months after the party registered a landslide win in the state elections.

According to sources, two prominent leaders from the district, who are also ministers in the Karnataka Cabinet — Public Works Department Minister Satish Jarkiholi and Women and

Child Development Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar — are lobbying to secure the ticket for their children, Priyanka and Mrinal, respectively.

Satish Jarkiholi is from the powerful Jarkiholi family of sugar barons. Apart from Satish, two of his brothers Ramesh and Balachandra are BJP MLAs, while another — Lakhan Jarkiholi — is a Congress MLC. Satish is considered a close aide of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, and followed him into the JD(S) from the Congress over 15 years ago.

Hebbalkar, on the other hand,

is associated with Deputy CM DK Shivakumar's camp. Her younger brother Channaraj Hattiholi was elected to the Legislative Council in 2021. By fielding a member of her family, Shivakumar is looking to extend his influence in the politically significant Belagavi district, which has two Lok Sabha seats, Belagavi and Chikkodi, and, crucially, 18 Assembly segments, the highest outside Bengaluru Urban district.

Both senior Congress leaders are eyeing the Belagavi seat for their respective children, because both consider the Lok Sabha con-

stituency their stronghold.

While this battle for supremacy has mostly continued behind the screens, Satish Jarkiholi recently said that he did not have any differences with Laxmi Hebbalkar. "Sometimes, our calculations do not work and we have to work together... During the MLC elections, we made sure that her brother won the polls even when my brother Lakhan contested," he said, referring to the 2021 MLC polls, in which Hattiholi was elected. Lakhan too, later became an MLC, in 2022.

The names of three possible candidates from each seat for the Lok Sabha polls are expected to be sent to the party leadership in the coming days. For Belagavi district, the Congress plan is to give one ticket to an OBC candidate and another to a Lingayat. Hebbalkar is a Panchamasali Lingayat, while the Jarkiholis are Valmiki, a Scheduled Tribe, making both candidates suitable. "Discussions are still on, and there are several aspirants, including Priyanka and Mrinal. The party high command will take a final call," sources added.

Father kills girl for eloping with Dalit boy in Bengaluru

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU, OCTOBER 23

A 50-YEAR-old man surrendered before the police in Bengaluru Saturday after killing his daughter for eloping with a Dalit boy.

The accused is a resident of Mysuru in Karnataka. A police officer said the 17-year-old victim, who belonged to the Vokkaliga Gowda community, was in a relationship with a boy from the Dalit community.

The incident took place at the accused's sister-in-law's Bengaluru home around 10 am Saturday.

The accused fatally attacked his daughter with a machete, who succumbed to serious injuries sustained to her neck and head. When his wife tried to intervene, she too was attacked, and then he fled the scene. He later encountered his sister-in-

law's husband, whom he also attacked. Later, he surrendered before the Parappana Agrahara police. The accused told the police he was angry as his daughter was neglecting her studies and not because she was in love with a Dalit boy. The police have registered a murder case and the accused has been remained in judicial custody.

Police said the man was furious because his daughter's relationship with the Dalit boy was "tarnishing the family's reputation". "The accused forced his daughter to quit college and sent her to his sister-in-law's place in Bengaluru to prevent the duo from contacting each other," said a police officer. On October 14, the girl went missing. On October 18, they filed a police complaint, and on October 20, the police traced the duo. The Dalit boy was arrested and the police have filed a Pocsso case against him.

Consumer body issues notices to IAS coaching centres for 'misleading' ads

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

THE CENTRAL Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA), the country's top consumer watchdog, has sent notices to 20 IAS coaching institutes across the country for issuing "misleading" advertisements, a top official said on Monday.

CCPA Chief Commissioner Nidhi Khare said IAS coaching institutes lure civil services aspirants by resorting to "misleading and exaggerated" claims. Taking cognizance of such advertisements, the CCPA has issued no-

tices against them for violation of provisions of Section 2(28) of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, Khare said.

The Section 2(28) of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 defines "misleading advertisement" in relation to any product or service which— (i) falsely describes such product or service; or (ii) gives a false guarantee to, or is likely to mislead the consumers as to the nature, substance, quantity or quality of such product or service; or (iii) conveys an implied representation which, if made by the manufacturer or seller or service provider thereof, would consti-

tute an unfair trade practice; or (iv) deliberately conceals important information.

Citing examples of misleading claims made by a coaching institute, Khare said the institute claimed credit for 682 of 933 selected candidates in the 2022 UPSC exam. When the CCPA sent notice to the institute, it clarified of the 682 candidates, 673 took mock interview at its institute and 9 enrolled in courses like test series and general studies, the official said, adding that the coaching institute did not specify that the majority of successful candidates availed only mock interviews and tests.



PAPERS PARAMOUNT

BSF personnel check documents of civilians at Sishumara Ghat of Brahmaputra River along the Indo-Bangladesh International riverine border in South Salmara-Mankachar district of Assam on Sunday. PTI

No final order on GST to casino firm sans HC nod: Tax dept

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA PANAJI, OCTOBER 23

THE GOA Bench of the Bombay High Court on Monday restrained tax authorities from passing any final order on the GST notices seeking payment of alleged tax shortfall issued to the casino gaming company Delta Corp Limited.

The court also issued a notice to the Centre, saying that a section of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act has been challenged in Delta Corp's plea against the notices.

According to regulatory fil-

ings, in September, Delta Corp and subsidiaries had received notices for payment of alleged tax shortfall to the tune of Rs 16,822 crore from the Directorate General of GST Intelligence, Hyderabad, for the period between July 2017 and March 2022. Last week, a subsidiary of the company received a notice for the payment of tax shortfall to the tune of Rs 6,384 crore from the Directorate General of GST Intelligence, Kolkata.

The company, which operates casinos in Goa and Sikkim, and its two subsidiaries—Hightstreet Cruises and Entertainment Private Limited and Delta Pleasure Cruise Company Private Limited—filed writ petitions challenging a notice dated

September 27.

The company has argued that the tax amount mentioned in the notices was based on "the gross bet value of all games played at the casinos".

"Demand of GST on gross bet value, rather than gross gaming revenue, has been an industry issue and various representations have already been made to the Government at an industry level in relation to this issue," the company said in regulatory filings.

In an order on Monday, a Division Bench of Justices Bharat P Deshpande and MS Sonak said the petitions challenged Rule 31A of the CGST Rules, 2017. "There is also a challenge to section 15(5) of the CGST Act and to

certain notifications and circulars issued under the CGST Act and rules made thereunder," the court said.

The senior standing counsel appearing for the tax authorities said they would not pass any final orders on show cause notice without the court's permission.

"This statement about not passing any final orders on the impugned show cause notice is accepted and the concerned respondents will have to abide by the same," the court said.

Senior advocate Harish Salve, who appeared for the petitioners, submitted that they would file a response to the show cause notice by December 15, 2023.

The court will now hear the matter on February 5, 2024.

After the proceedings, Salve said, "The challenge is to the imposition of service tax based on the amount of betting that takes place...not what the casino earns or not on what chips are sold. The contention is you can't impose this tax under GST law. Today, the court has admitted the petition. In the meanwhile, there are other factual details on which we will file a reply..." A senior official of Delta Corp said, "The court has given a relief in a limited sense at this point of time." In July, stakeholders of the casino industry in Goa had criticised the GST Council's decision to levy a uniform 28% tax on "full face value" for online gaming, casinos and horse-racing, calling it "illogical".

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE. Table with columns: SR. NO., NAME OF BOARD/CORP/AUTH, NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER, OPENING DATE, AMOUNT/TEND, WEBSITE OF THE BOARD, NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE. Table with columns: SR. NO., NAME OF BOARD/CORP/AUTH, NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER, OPENING DATE, AMOUNT/TEND, WEBSITE OF THE BOARD, NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL.

UTTARAKHAND JALSANSTHAN OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MAINTENANCE DIVISION, NEW TEHRI. Letter No.- 2039/E-tender -JUM / 2023-24/31. Date: 21/10/2023.

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING e-Tender Notice INVITATION FOR BIDS

Executive Engineer, Maintenance Division, Uttarakhand Jalsansthan, New Tehri on behalf of "Chief General Manager Uttarakhand Jalsansthan" online tenders are invited on the website http://www.uktenders.gov.in from Technically and financially capable bidders, registered with Uttarakhand Jal sansthan/Uttarakhand Payjal Nigam, for water supply scheme as specified in bid document for following water supply project in District Tehri Garhwal in Single bid system as per description & schedule given below for the construction of following works:-

Table with columns: SI, District, Block, Name of Work/Scheme, Earnest money, Cost of e-tender document, Completion Period.

Date of Online Publication: 25/10/2023 at 17.00 hr. Pre Bid Meeting: 30/10/2023 at 11.00 hr. Bid Submission Start Date: 01/11/2023 at 17.00 hr. Bid Submission End Date: 07/11/2023 at 17.00 hr. Physical submission of Bid Document: 07/11/2023 at 14.00 hr. Date of Bid Opening: 08/11/2023 at 15.30 hr.

Executive Engineer

HARYANA SEEDS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (A STATE GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKING) BAYS 3-6, SECTOR-2, PANCHKULA U01122HR1974SGC007442

NOTICE Notice is hereby given that following Share Certificates have been reported lost.

Table with columns: Sr. No., Name of Share holder, Share Certificate No., No. of Share, Distinctive No.

The request has been received for issuing above Duplicate Share Certificates. The public is hereby warned against purchasing or dealing on anyway with the above Share Certificates. Any person(s) who has any claims in respect of the above said Share Certificates should lodge such claims with the Corporation at its Registered Office at the address given above within 15 days of publication of this notice, after which no claim will be entertained and the Corporation will proceed to issue Duplicate Share Certificates.

After issuance of Duplicate Share Certificates, the original Share Certificates shall stand cancelled and any person dealing with the original Share Certificates shall be doing so at his/her risk as to costs and consequences and the Corporation will not be responsible for it in any way.

Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR

22183/Hry

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY E-TENDERING NOTICE

Divisional Railway Manager (Electrical/ Gati Shakti Unit), North Eastern Railway, Varanasi for and on behalf of President of India, invites Online (E-Tendering) "Open" tenders for the following works. S.No. 1. Tender reference no.: E-Tender-GSU-L-33-23-24. Name of work: Provision of Electrical work under MEA for Station development of SV and THE of BSB Division under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. Approx Cost (in Rs.): 17265123.69. Earnest Money (in Rs.): 236300/-.

Completion period: 120 Days; Date & Time of Closing Tender: 15.11.2023 at 14:30 hrs.; Date & time of Opening Tender: 15.11.2023 at 14:30 hrs.; S.No. 2. Tender reference no.: E-Tender-GSU-L-34-23-24; Name of work: Provision of Electrical work under MEA for Station development of MW, CPJ and DEOS of BSB Division under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. Approx Cost (in Rs.): 1715078.66; Earnest Money (in Rs.): 23500/-.

Completion period: 120 Days; Date & Time of Closing Tender: 15.11.2023 at 14:30 hrs.; Date & time of Opening Tender: 15.11.2023 at 14:30 hrs.; For full details of above E-Tender works and to participate in tenders, please visit Indian Railway website www.irps.gov.in. Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/GSU CPRO/Elect-184 Varanasi

WESTERN RAILWAY - VADODARA DIVISION ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

E-TENDER NOTICE No. DRM-BRC 091 to 092 of 2023-24; Sealed Tenders for and on behalf of The President of India are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (WAC), Western Railway, Pratapnagar, Vadodara-390 004 for the following works: Sr. No. (1) Tender No. & Name of Work: DRM BRC 091 of 2023-24. Providing new Service Building at LC No. 7.9.37.44.46 of Anand-Godhra section & LC 297 of Vadodara-Genapur Section including associate electrical work in connection with replacement of Mechanical Lifting Barrier to Electrical Lifting Barrier. Approximate cost of the work: ₹ 1,66,14,625.67/- Bid Security to be deposited: ₹ 2,33,100.00/- Sr. No. (2) Tender No. & Name of Work: DRM BRC 092 of 2023-24. Supplying of potable water by Road tanker for 24 months under jurisdiction of SSE/W/ Bharuch. Approximate cost of the work: ₹ 7,39,366.95/- Bid Security to be deposited: ₹ 14,800.00/- All Tender above as same: Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender: Tender is to be submitted on 09.11.2023 before 15.00 Hrs. and is to be opened on same date at 15.30 Hrs; Website particulars and notice for location where complete details can be seen & Address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased: Website @ www.irps.gov.in Divisional Railway Manager (WAC) Western Railway, Pratapnagar, Vadodara-390 004 WVG23/NIT of 2023-24 dated 18.10.2023 206

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केंद्रीय भंडारण निगम CENTRAL WAREHOUSING CORPORATION (A Govt. of India Undertaking) WAREHOUSING FOR EVERYONE. PRESS NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Sr. No. Name of Work Estimated Cost (in Lakh) Last date of on line submission of tenders

Table with 4 columns: Sr. No., Name of Work, Estimated Cost (in Lakh), Last date of on line submission of tenders.

Executive Engineer

Kind Attn. Rail Passengers! IMPORTANT NOTICE

It is notified for the information of all concerned that the Railways have decided to change Train no. of 04044/04043 Hazrat Nizamuddin-Ambikapur-Hazrat Nizamuddin Special to Train No. 22408/22407 Superfast with revised timings from the dates shown as under:-

Table with columns: Existing Train No, Revised Train No, STATIONS, ARR., DEP.

Table with columns: Train No. 22408, STATIONS, Train No. 22407, ARR., DEP.

Days of Run: 22408 Ex. Hazrat Nizamuddin from 06.02.2024 & 22407 Ex. Ambikapur from 08.02.2024

For any kind of information, passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App.

Visit RailMadad website www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in RailMadad Helpline No. 139

Download RailMadad app. Please join us on

75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

NORTHERN RAILWAY Your Convenience-Our Concern Visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Punjab cop attacked in eatery, dies

Chandigarh: A Punjab Police Head Constable was killed when he was attacked by a group of men at an eatery in Barnala where he had gone to resolve a dispute over bill payment, officials said on Monday. The incident took place on Sunday night after an altercation broke out between the four accused, stated to be Kabaddi players, and the

owner of the eatery, they said.

According to officials, the accused were arguing over payment of the bill so the restaurant owner called the police. Head Constable Darshan Singh, who was part of a police team, reached the spot to resolve the matter. Singh was allegedly attacked by the accused and he sustained a serious head injury. He was taken to Barnala Civil Hospital where he succumbed to injuries, they said.

The accused, who fled after the incident, have been identified and a murder case has been registered, they said. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann announced an ex gratia of ₹1 crore for the kin of the policeman. PTI

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY E-Tendering Tender Notice No.: 60/2023

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.) North Eastern Railway Iztanagar for and on behalf of president of India invites "OPEN" e-tender through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following work. S.No.-1, Description of works: Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plant for mechanical Laundry at Kathgodam & Lalkuan station including its operation and maintenance for 05 years. (Under sanctioned work Design, Development, Supply & Installation of Effluent Treatment Plant for mechanized Laundry at Kathgodam and Lalkuan and WRP for Lalkuan and Tanakpur) Approx. Value (Rs.): ₹ 1,62,72,403.25, E.M.D. Money (Rs.): ₹ 2,31,400/-, Cost of Tender Forms (Rs.): Nil. Completion time/Period from the date of issue of acceptance letter: 03 Months.

(1) On line e-tender can be submitted upto 15:00 hrs. of dated 22-11-2023. (2) For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways IREPS website www.irps.gov.in

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.) CPRO-W-372 Iztanagar

RailTel Corporation of India Limited (A Govt. of India Undertaking) CIN No. L64202DL2000GO107905

e-Tender No. RailTel/E-Tender/OT/WR/RO/2022-23/HMS/02 Dated 11.10.2023

RailTel/Western Region invites open E-Tender for "Supply & Installation of Desktops, Printers, Display units, Switches and other IT related items in Divisional Railway Hospital, Sub Divisional Railway Hospital & Health units of Pune Division, Central Railway" Tender Notice and Tender Document are available on https://www.railtelindia.com/ and can be downloaded from the e-tendering portal https://www.irps.gov.in/ All future Addendum/Corrigendum will be uploaded on RailTel website and e-tendering portal only.

Western Railway Microwave Complex, Sanapati Bapat Marg, Mahalaxmi, Mumbai-400013, Phone: 91 (22) 24923907 Fax: 91 (22) 24923913

NORTHERN RAILWAY Tender Notice

Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems) Dy CMM/C, Northern Railway, Kashmir Gate, Delhi-110006, for and on behalf of the president of India invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items.

Table with columns: Sr.No., Tender No., Brief Description, Qty., Closing date.

Note:- 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.irps.gov.in for details. 2. No manual offer will be entertained.

No.: Dy.CMM/C/NS/40235389/2023 Dated: 23.10.2023 3313/23

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE



## Malegaon blast: Lok Sabha panel defers hearing of Purohit

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

THE COMMITTEE on Petitions of Lok Sabha, which was scheduled to hear Malegaon blast case accused Lt Colonel (ret'd) Prasad S Purohit's views on a representation regarding initiating criminal cases against government servants without obtaining prior sanction for prosecution on October 25, is learnt to have postponed its meeting.

However, there is no clarity on the next date of meeting.

It is learnt that the committee, headed by BJP member Harish Dwivedi, was scheduled to hear Purohit's views on October 25. The committee had also circulated a notice of the meeting among its members.

However, the committee has now postponed the meeting and the members are informed.

"To hear the views of Lt. Colonel Prasad S. Purohit (ret'd) on the representation of Shri Sunil V Abhyankar regarding initiating criminal cases against government servants without obtaining prior sanction for prosecution as laid down under Section 197 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, & other matters connected thereto," read committee's notice circulated on October 11.

Besides hearing Purohit's views, the committee was also scheduled to have a "briefing/oral evidence" of the representatives of the Ministry of Defence (Department of Military Affairs) on Abhyankar's representation in its October 25 meeting.

This has also been postponed, it is learnt.

## WORRIED BY POOR NAAC PERFORMANCE

# Bihar to conduct its own ranking of colleges, sets up panel for inspection

Only 35 colleges under state varsities got NAAC seal this year. In 2021, it was 95

SANTOSH SINGH  
PATNA, OCTOBER 23

CONCERNED BY the poor performance of the state's colleges in the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) grading process, the Bihar government has set up a committee to assess the colleges.

The state has also decided to rank the colleges by its own parameters, and these rankings could later be used to decide the government grants given to the colleges, officials said.

According to education de-

partment, three-member committee, which will include Education Secretary Baidya Nath Yadav as a member, will assess performance of all 270 constituent colleges of state universities.

Only 35 colleges coming under state universities have managed to get NAAC accreditation this year. In 2021, this figure was 95. NAAC accreditation is decided on the basis of assessment of student-teacher ratio, quality of teachers, availability of labs, quality of education, research, and infrastructure of colleges.

"From November 10 onwards, each of the 270 constituent col-

leges will have to make a PowerPoint presentation on its academic activities and performance," an Education Department official told *The Indian Express*.

The idea is to prepare a database to rank colleges, the official said, adding, "We are adopting almost similar criteria as NAAC has for its ranking. It is very important to know where the government money is being spent. We also want to know how constituent colleges have been faring and why most of them have not yet received NAAC accreditation."

On whether the state's move to assess the colleges would put

the government in conflict with the Governor, the chancellor of state universities, the official said that the government and the Governor have clashed recently on a number of issues, including the salaries of officials and the advertising of posts.

However, on the issue of the new committee and rankings, Raj Bhavan sources said that there would not be any problem as long as it leads to improvement in the quality of education. "But if it ends up as a method to curtail annual grants for colleges, it will not be good for higher education," a Raj Bhavan source said.

## SI shifted out for 'disrespecting' Tricolour during cricket match in Chennai

JANARDHAN Koushik  
CHENNAI, OCTOBER 23

THE CHENNAI police transferred a sub-inspector for allegedly disrespecting the tricolour at the MA Chidambaram Stadium during a World Cup cricket match between Pakistan and Afghanistan Monday. A video of the incident where the officer is seen recovering the flag from the bin and hurriedly folding it to keep it in a police van has gone viral.

When some fans tried to enter the stadium with the national flag, they were allegedly stopped by the officer on duty near Gate 4 on the Victoria Hostel Road.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Triplicane DCP Deshmukh Shekhar Sanjay said there was no ban on carrying any flags, and that the police on duty were asked to watch out only for flags and banners with controversial themes.

"There is absolutely no ban on fans carrying any flags. As per the information we received, the officer stopped a couple of fans from carrying the national flag and later put it in a nearby bin and then took it. We conducted an initial inquiry and the officer was transferred to the control room," the DCP said.

Meanwhile, state Tamil Nadu BJP president K Annamalai lambasted the police. "The police outside the stadium disallowed fans from carrying the Indian flag to today's match in Chapeau. Who gave TNCA this right?" he wrote on X.

## STUBBLE BURNING IN HARVEST SEASON

# Punjab breathes easy as farm fires down by half

KANCHAN VASDEV  
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 23

PUNJAB IS breathing easy this year having recorded an over 50 per cent decrease in paddy stubble fires in the ongoing harvesting season as compared to last year. From September 15 till October 22, Punjab had reported 1,794 farm fires as against 3,696 such incidents recorded last year. The state had reported more than 4,300 such cases in 2021.

On Sunday (October 22) this year, only 30 fires were reported compared to last year's 582. The lesser stubble fires have resulted in lower air quality index (AQI) with Amritsar (AQI 88) falling in 'satisfactory' category, and Khanna (100), Ludhiana (107), Jalandhar (124), and Patiala (136) in 'moderately polluted' category. Mandi Gobindgarh, with an AQI of 167 was the most polluted, with experts blaming the bad air quality there on the furnaces and foundries of the steel industries.

Data available with the Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) indicated that out of 23 districts, four have recorded more incidents of stubble fire this year compared to last year. These are Mansa, Mohali, Sangrur and Nawanshahar. In Mansa, there were 61 fires till Sunday against 24 last year.

Similarly, in Mohali it was 61 compared to 29, in Sangrur these were 117 against 112, and in Nawanshahar three against two last year.

The rest of the districts have reported lesser number of fires



On Sunday (October 22) this year, only 30 fires were reported compared to last year's 582. File

this year. They are Faridkot, Muktsar, Barnala, Malerkotla, Hoshiarpur, Ropar, Bathinda, Fazilka, Patiala, Moga, Fatehgarh Sahib, Ferozepur, Ludhiana, Kapurthala, Jalandhar, Amritsar, Gurdaspur and Tarn Taran. Pathankot district has not reported a single fire yet.

An official of the department of environment said that they had worked hard to check the number of fires. "The Deputy Commissioners of all districts have held meetings with the farm union leaders. As many as 3,000 awareness camps have been organised to deter the farmers from setting stubble ablaze. Several biomass handling units have been engaged, the brick-kilns have been mandated to use stubble as fuel. This has helped."

The experts, however, warn that it was too early to celebrate. "The month of October has meant relief from the menace of stubble burning. But there are many factors that were responsible. Punjab farms will burn and

Delhi will choke around Diwali. Our window of stubble fires has shifted this year due to inclement weather and delayed harvesting.

Our peak will be from October 27 to November 15. Diwali, which falls on November 12 will worsen the situation. And there will be no wind at that time," said an expert.

The expert said that the farmers wait for sunny days to set their fire to paddy stubble. This month, rains kept the fields wet and also delayed the harvesting.

A government official, however, said they would not let that happen. "After the incidence of 1,764 fires till Saturday, the sub-divisional teams in the districts visited 1,181 sites within 48 hours. Red entry was made in the girdawari of 101 farmers and 475 farmers were imposed environment compensation of over Rs 11 lakh and Rs 1.35 lakh have already been recovered," the official said.

# 'A vote of conscience': CJI on his verdict in same-sex marriage at US university

KHADIJA KHAN  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

STANDING BY his minority opinion in the recent same-sex marriage ruling by the top court, Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud said that often judgments given on issues of constitutional importance are a "vote of conscience".

"Generally speaking, chief justices have not been in the minority. There are 13 significant cases in our history where chief justices have been in the minority. I do believe that sometimes it's a vote of conscience and I stand by what I said," the CJI said answering a question on his minority opinion in the same-sex marriage case, at the



Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud. File

Georgetown University's third edition of the comparative constitutional law discussion co-hosted by the Society for Democratic Rights (SDR), New Delhi, on "Perspectives from the Supreme Courts of India and the United States" in Washington DC.

Responding to a question on what led him to arrive at his de-

cision, the CJI said that the basis for a judge's decision should not be to give effect to social majority but instead to "constitutional morality" which is grounded in the constitutional values of liberty, equality, fraternity, the right to freedom of speech and expression and the "unique oneness of our civilisation", among others.

Elaborating on the minority opinion in the five-judge bench ruling, he said there are many foundational constitutional principles which allow for same-sex unions in terms of civil unions such as the right(s) to association, life and liberty, free speech and expression; and conscience.

On the lack of agreement between the bench on key issues like recognising civil unions, he said, "Three of my colleagues recog-

nised the right but said that we cannot elevate this to a constitutional right", while adding that the majority deemed it best to leave its recognition to the Parliament.

Similarly, he said that he was in the minority by upholding the right of non-heterosexual couples to adopt and said, "In India, an individual man and woman cannot adopt but same-sex couples cannot adopt jointly. Why should queer couples be deprived of such a right just because they are in a relationship?"

"We couldn't by judicial fiat enter into a very complex area which wasn't just confined to marriage but went into other areas like adoption, inheritance, succession, tax, etc. Therefore, we said it is for the Parliament to act," the CJI said.

## Himachal NIT student found dead in hostel, drug overdose suspected

Hamirpur: A first year M.Tech student of the National Institute of Technology, Hamirpur, was found dead inside his hostel room on Monday, likely of drug overdose, police said.

A case of culpable homicide has been registered under section 304 of IPC, said Hamirpur SP Aakriti Sharma.

Police have arrested three NIT students and a fourth doing BEd for allegedly supplying 'chitta', a form of heroin, on campus. The four have been booked under Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, Sharma said. Police have also questioned about a dozen students living in hostel and recovered drugs in various quantities in raids. Such raids were conducted in girls' hostels too.

A forensic team from Mandi attributed the death to consumption of some intoxicant. The death comes amid the NIT annual festival, 'Hill Fair', which has been going on for the last three days.

According to police, students were up till late Sunday dancing to the DJ on the institute's campus. Around 4 am, the deceased student got a call on his mobile. He was later found dead in his room, students said. The official spokesman for the institute said the student was found dead when his friends went to wake him up. A health team which came with the police declared the student dead. The father of the student has called into question the security arrangements on the NIT administration. The NIT director did not respond to the phone calls. PTI

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**Extract of Consolidated Financial Results for the Quarter and Half year ended 30-Sep-2023**

Particulars	[₹ in crores except per share data]		
	Quarter Ended 30-Sep-2023	Half Year Ended 30-Sep-2023	Quarter Ended 30-Sep-2022
	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited
Total Income from operations (net)	2660	5251	2291
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax and exceptional items	559	1090	463
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax and after exceptional items	559	1090	463
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax and exceptional items	386	764	312
Total Comprehensive Income (after tax)	363	781	253
Equity Share Capital	169.23	169.23	169.23
Other Equity excluding Revaluation Reserve*			
Earnings per share (of ₹ 5/- each) :			
Basic	11.39	22.57	9.22
Diluted	11.39	22.57	9.22

\* Other Equity excluding Revaluation Reserve as on 31-Mar-2023 was ₹ 6029 crores.

**Notes :**  
1 Summary details of stand-alone audited financial results of Torrent Pharmaceuticals Limited : [₹ in crores]

Particulars	Quarter Ended 30-Sep-2023	Half Year Ended 30-Sep-2023	Quarter Ended 30-Sep-2022
Net income from operations	2146	4267	1928
Profit before tax	482	957	413
Profit after tax	327	650	272
Total Comprehensive Income (after tax)	324	680	242

2 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Financial Results for the quarter and half year ended 30-Sep-2023 filed with Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the same, along with the notes, are available on [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com), [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and on the Company's website [www.torrentpharma.com](http://www.torrentpharma.com).

Place : Ahmedabad, Gujarat  
Date : 23-Oct-2023

**NTPC Limited**  
(A Government of India Enterprise)

Corporate Identification Number : L40101DL1975GOI007966  
Registered Office: NTPC Bhawan, Core-7, SCOPE Complex 7, Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003, Tel: 011-24367072, Fax No: 011-24361018  
Email: [idsa@ntpc.co.in](mailto:idsa@ntpc.co.in), Website : [www.ntpc.co.in](http://www.ntpc.co.in)

**NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the Company has fixed **Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2023** as the Record date for the purpose of payment of Interim dividend for the financial year 2023-24, if declared by the Board of Directors in its meeting scheduled to be held on **Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2023**.

The Members whose names appear in the Register of Members/Beneficial owners as on record date i.e. **4<sup>th</sup> November, 2023** shall be entitled to receive Interim dividend, if declared by the Board.

For NTPC Limited  
Sd/-  
(Arun Kumar)  
Company Secretary

Date: 23-10-2023  
Place: New Delhi

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**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**56th ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING**

The 56th Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) of the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA) will be held on **16th November, 2023 at 1100 hours** at the MP-IDSA Auditorium. Individual invitations to Life Members/Members are being sent by e-mail/post. However, any Life Member/Member who may not have received the same due to any reason, may treat this as a notice for the meeting.

Please note that only **LIFE MEMBERS AND MEMBERS** form the General Body of the Institute

For any clarification please contact : **Ms Neelam Rawat, Membership Cell**  
Tele-26717983, Extn. 7319  
E-mail - [membership.idsa@nic.in](mailto:membership.idsa@nic.in)

**Col Rajeev Agarwal (Retd) Assistant Director**  
Tele : 2671 7983, Extn. 7301  
Fax : 26154192 (DG)  
26154191 (DDG)  
26146833 (AD) (Telefax)  
cbc-10113/11/0005/2324

**APPENDIX IV-A**  
[See proviso to rule 8(i)]  
Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Properties mortgaged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 28.11.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 3,71,86,513/- (Rupees Three Crore Seventy One Lakh Eighty Six Thousand Five Hundred Thirteen only) pending towards Loan Account No. HLAAPDM00415676, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 12.10.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 13.10.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from Chaudhary Ventures Private Limited, ASPEK Media Private Limited (Through Director), Dharamvir Singh, Harish Chaudhary and Savtri.

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Properties will be Rs. 4,80,00,000/- (Rupees Four Crore Eighty Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 48,00,000/- (Rupees Forty Eight Lakh only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

LEFT SIDE OF NORTHERN PORTION CONSISTING OF ONE SHOP ON LOWER GROUND FLOOR AND ONE SHOP ON GROUND FLOOR WITH ROOF RIGHTS, CONSTRUCTED UPON PART OF PLOT BEARING MCD NUMBER 1512, AREA MEASURING 125 SQUARE YARDS, KHASRA NUMBER 346 SITUATED IN WAZIR NAGAR, KOTLA MUBARAKPUR, NEW DELHI - 110003.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. [www.indiabullshomeloans.com](http://www.indiabullshomeloans.com). For bidding, log on to [www.auctionfocus.in](http://www.auctionfocus.in)

Sd/-  
Authorized officer  
Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

Date : 17.10.2023  
Place : NEW DELHI

**MORE FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2023**

In order to clear extra rush of passengers, Railways have decided to run the following Deepawali / Chhath Puja Festival Special Express Trains as per details given below:-

04033/04034 New Delhi - Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan - New Delhi Superfast Express Special		02 Trips	
Train No.:	04033	STATIONS	Train No.:
ARR.	DEP.		ARR.
---	23:30	New Delhi	09:30
10:55	---	Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan	22:05

DATE OF RUN: 04033 from New Delhi on 27.10.2023 & 04034 from Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan on 01.11.2023.

STOPPAGE: Sonapat, Panipat, Kamal, Kurukshetra, Ambala Cantt., Ludhiana, Jalandhar Cantt., Pathankot Cantt. & Jammu Tawi Stations.

ACCOMMODATION: AC-3 Tier.

05656/05655 Guwahati - Anand Vihar (T) - Guwahati Express Special		02 Trips	
Train No.:	05656	STATIONS	Train No.:
ARR.	DEP.		ARR.
---	05:15	Guwahati (T)	12:30
15:30	---	Anand Vihar (T)	23:00

DATE OF RUN: 05656 from Guwahati on 27.10.2023 & 05655 from Anand Vihar (T) on 01.11.2023.

STOPPAGE: Kamakhya, Rangiya, Barpeta Road, New Bongaigaon, Kokrajhar, New Cooh Behar, New Jalpaiguri, Kishanganj, Barsoi, Katihar Jn., Barauni Jn., Palliputra, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn. & Govindpur Stations.

ACCOMMODATION: AC-2 Tier, AC-3 Tier, Sleeper & General.

For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table and stations enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

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THE UNIVERSE IS A PRETTY BIG PLACE. IF IT'S JUST US,  
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— CARL SAGAN

## The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY  
**RAMNATH GOENKA**

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

### PRELUDE TO FLIGHT

ISRO has rightly stressed a safety-first approach to Gaganyaan. With Saturday's trial, it is a step closer to its mission

ON SATURDAY, ISRO carried out its first test with the aim to launch an Indian astronaut in space in the next two years — the Gaganyaan mission. On trial was the project's safety system. A snag in the ignition rocket caused a delay of about two hours. But ISRO scientists quickly identified and corrected the anomaly, after which a rocket carried a payload comprising the Crew Escape System and an experimental test vehicle, the crew module, 17 km into the atmosphere. The module plays a critical role in ensuring the astronauts' safety and comfort during the space mission. ISRO has, therefore, done the right thing in giving priority to the mission's nerve centre. Even though, by all accounts, the Gaganyaan vehicle is robust, the space agency doesn't want to leave anything to chance. It wants to ensure that in case of any emergency, astronauts can return to safety. In fact, crew safety was among the considerations behind ISRO's request to the Centre to relax timelines — in his Independence Day speech in 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi talked of a manned space mission by 2022. Saturday's trial takes ISRO one step closer towards making Gaganyaan's systems foolproof.

ISRO's Policy Planning Committee first endorsed a crewed space mission in 2004. It has taken close to 20 years to conduct the safety trials. This only underscores the complexity of the venture. Human spaceflight is harder and more expensive compared to the Mars mission or the recently successful mission to the Moon. It requires space agencies to build capsules in which astronauts can live in Earth-like conditions. Satellites normally launched by ISRO, for communication or remote sensing, remain in space even when their life is over. Chandrayaan too will not return to Earth. ISRO's challenge, therefore, is to develop a module that can take humans to an orbit of 400 km and bring them back. Chandrayaan's success has been a big shot in the arm for the space agency's human spaceflight venture. It will use the same launch vehicle that was used for the moon mission — Saturday's trial, though, was conducted using a lighter rocket. The space agency also worked on parachute systems that ensure the crew module slows down and safely splashes in the water after the mission. Saturday's trial showcased the success of this emergency escape mechanism.

The module was fitted with instruments which will gather data to help ISRO with future tests and the final mission. In the coming trials, the space agency will test more complex safety mechanisms including ascertaining Gaganyaan's performance on all parameters other than crew presence. It plans to send a robot to space as a prelude to the crewed mission. The agency has done the right thing by not finalising Gaganyaan's launch. In the coming months, its trials will be watched with excitement.

### STARS WITHOUT BORDERS

Bombay HC is right — banning Pakistani artistes from working in India deprives both countries

THE BOMBAY HIGH Court did well last week to dismiss a petition seeking a total ban on Pakistani artistes working in India. Calling the petition "a retrograde step in promoting cultural harmony, unity and peace" that has "no merit in it", Justice Sunil B Shukre and Justice Firdosh P Pooniwalla schooled the petitioner, a cine worker, on the joys of cross-border cultural cooperation: "Arts, music, sports, culture, dance and so on are the activities which rise above nationalities, cultures and nations and truly bring about peace, tranquility, unity and harmony in nation and between nations." The petitioner had sought directives from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Home Affairs prohibiting the employment of Pakistani actors, technicians, singers, musicians and lyricists in India.

Over the last decade, the casualties of the political chill between India and Pakistan have, sadly, been arts, culture and sports. In the early 2010s, the success of Pakistani serials such as *Humsafar* (2011) and *Zindagi Gulzar Hai* (2012) had made room for Indian television channels such as Zindagi to rise above syndicated shows from across the border and for Pakistani stars like Fawad Khan and Mahira Khan to sign up projects in Bollywood. In music, the popularity of Atif Aslam or Rahat Fateh Ali Khan made their nationality irrelevant. The September 2016 Uri attack put an end to these cross-border exchanges with resolutions from the Indian Motion Pictures Producers Association and the Federation of Western India Cine Employees barring Pakistani artistes from working in the Indian film industry. In 2019, the Pulwama strikes brought forth a resolution by the All-Indian Cine Workers Association, upholding the 2016 ban.

Yet, there's no denying the ameliorative effect that sports and cultural exchanges can have on relationships weighed down by shared trauma and shrill narratives of parochial nationalism. The sight of a Pakistani fan rooting for both her team's victory and Virat Kohli's success at the recent Asia Cup or the massive fan following that actor Fawad Khan has in India or that Dilip Kumar enjoyed in Pakistan show what entrenched political positions often miss: That when it comes down to the people, reconciliation — and hope — can come in many forms. In a song by your favourite musician or a century from the cricketer you adore, or even, in the form of your favourite star from across the border, lighting up the big screen with his dimples and twinkling eyes.

### CRICKET'S ROMANTIC

The rise of modern Indian cricket began during Bishan Bedi's time. He sowed the seeds of fight and bravado

Indian cricket lost its eternal romantic on Monday. Bishan Singh Bedi was not only one of the greatest spinners the country has produced, but also one of its greatest personalities. There was no more artful a practitioner of left-arm orthodox spin than Bedi in his prime. His run-up comprised slow, measured strides; the action was smooth and fluent. It was part of the larger scheme of deception as he deliberately slowed things down and made the batsman wait. He would then tease him with flight and drift, before he foxed him with drop and turn. The trickery was multilayered, and it fetched him 266 wickets at 28.71 in Tests, besides 1,560 scalps at 21 in first-class cricket. He purchased wickets in every corner of the cricketing globe and was instrumental in conceptualising India's first Test victories in England and West Indies, in 1970-71.

But Bedi was more than just a cricketer. Jovial and amiable, he made friends for a lifetime and left a lasting impression on the shores he set foot on. His captaincy was largely unsuccessful, but he drilled into his team a sense of identity, and led from the front as he showed the way. The rise of modern Indian cricket began during his time. He sowed the seeds of fight and bravado and always stood up for his men.

He was also a man of strong opinions, a reason he had his share of critics too. Often, he was outspoken, famously dismissing Muttiah Muralitharan as a "shot-putter, whose wickets are all run out in my eyes". He would deride his own under-performing team after a defeat in the Rothmans Cup to Australia at Christchurch in 1990 when he was the manager: "The entire team should be dumped into the Pacific." Later, he wanted his name to be removed from the stands after Arun Jaitley's statue was installed at the Feroz Shah Kotla, later renamed after the politician. He had zero tolerance for chucking and looked upon the doosra-bowling off-spinners with scepticism. But to those he loved, he gave his heart, life and soul — just as he did to Indian cricket.

# Vienna gives Delhi the right

India is well within its rights to ask Canada to scale down the size of its mission operating on Indian soil



PRABHASH RANJAN

THE BILATERAL RELATIONS between India and Canada, already reeling from allegations about the former's involvement in the killing of a Khalistani extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar on Canadian soil, have nosedived further. Canada's latest accusation is that India has unilaterally revoked the diplomatic immunity of Canadian diplomats based in India, thus violating international law. Canada calls this a violation of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (VCDR) — an international treaty that provides the framework for the conduct of diplomatic relations between independent countries. VCDR strives to balance the interests and imperatives of receiving states (the host country where a diplomatic mission is based) and sending states (the country that sends the diplomatic mission to another country).

Canada's charge is very serious, but not borne out by the facts. India did not revoke the immunity of Canadian diplomats. It asked Canada to cut down the size of its mission by taking back several diplomats based on the principle of parity. India's demand was communicated to Canada through regular diplomatic channels, and Ottawa was given adequate time to perform this task. At the most, it can be argued that had these diplomats continued to stay in India, they would have lost their diplomatic immunities. But this would be a logical outcome of the sending state (Canada) not taking back these diplomats despite the receiving state's (India) demand. This is different from Canada's charge that India has revoked diplomatic immunities. India didn't declare any of these diplomats persona non grata (unacceptable person). However, as the receiving state, India has the right to do so under Article 9 of VCDR without explaining its decision to the sending state (Canada).

The real question is whether India has the right to ask Canada, or any country, to cut down the size of its mission operating on Indian soil. The answer is an unequivocal yes. As the Ministry of External Affairs in its press

release has said, India's action is in accordance with Article 11(1) of the VCDR. This provision regulates the issue of the size of a mission and provides "in the absence of specific agreement as to the size of the mission, the receiving state may require that the size of a mission be kept within limits considered by it to be reasonable and normal, having regard to circumstances and conditions in the receiving State and to the needs of the particular mission".

Thus, this provision gives the receiving state (India) the right to ask the sending state (Canada) to keep the size of its mission within limits that the receiving state considers to be "reasonable and normal". It is critical to note that the test laid down in Article 11(1) is a subjective, not an objective one. It gives the receiving state the right to unilaterally determine what is "reasonable and normal" considering the domestic circumstances. The negotiating history of the VCDR corroborates this point.

During the negotiations, it was proposed that a receiving state shall have the power to limit the size of the mission "within the bounds of what is reasonable and customary" (an objective test). But countries rejected this and replaced it with the subjective test of what a receiving state "considers reasonable and normal". As the MEA press release states, India believes that the "much higher number of Canadian diplomats in India, and their continued interference in (India's) internal affairs" necessitates a parity in the mutual diplomatic presence in both countries. International law gives India the right to make this determination unilaterally and come to the conclusion that it has reached. As Gerald Fitzmaurice, a judge at the International Court of Justice, believed, since the basic principle is that a receiving state must give its consent for any mission to exist on its soil, the logical corollary is that it can also control the size of the mission.

Internationally, there is sufficient state practice to support what India has done. As Eileen Denza, a former legal councillor to the

Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UK, wrote in her commentary on VCDR in 1971, the United Kingdom imposed a ceiling on the Soviet Union mission in the UK when it found several Russian diplomats engaged in "inadmissible activities". The UK cited Article 11 of the VCDR to back its decision. In 1979, the United States used its power to limit the number of Iranian diplomats based in Washington. Earlier this year, Moldova and Estonia asked Russia to downsize its mission based on the principle of parity. Both Moldova and Estonia relied on Article 11 of the VCDR to justify their actions. Moldova alleged the involvement of Russian diplomats in destabilising the internal situation in Moldova. Likewise, Estonia contended that Russian diplomats were actively undermining Estonia's security.

Apart from Article 11(1), India has other legal options too. Under Article 41(1) of the VCDR, persons enjoying diplomatic privileges and immunities are obliged not to interfere in the internal affairs of the receiving state. Thus, if these Canadian diplomats, as the MEA press release asserts, were interfering in India's internal affairs, it is a breach of the VCDR by Canada. This can also be grounds to restrict or withdraw diplomatic immunities. In this context, it is also worthwhile to look at the Diplomatic Relations Act of 1972 that India enacted to give effect to the VCDR. Section 4 of this Act empowers the central government to restrict diplomatic privileges and immunities to a country that fails to comply with its obligations under the VCDR.

Given this, India's actions are consistent with its international law obligations. But the larger picture is a lack of trust between Ottawa and New Delhi today. Both sides need to work towards adopting confidence-building measures. Allegations of breaching international law will only add insult to injury.

The writer teaches at the Faculty of Legal Studies, South Asian University. Views are personal

The real question is whether India has the right to ask Canada, or any country, to cut down the size of its mission operating on Indian soil. The answer is an unequivocal yes. As the Ministry of External Affairs in its press release has said, India's action is in accordance with Article 11(1) of the VCDR.



SUNITA SHEEL BANDEWAR AND AMAR JESANI

### IT IS NOT WOMAN VS FOETUS

Conferring personhood on a foetus at expense of a woman's agency is problematic

IN LESS THAN a year, pregnant women were made to go through two extremes by the Supreme Court. On September 29, 2022, a three-judge bench of the SC headed by the Chief Justice of India (CJI), in a case seeking permission for abortion, took a strongly principled stand by pronouncing that, "The right of every woman to make reproductive choices without undue interference from the state is central to the idea of human dignity. Deprivation of access to reproductive health-care or emotional and physical well-being also injures the dignity of women" (*X vs Principal Secretary, MoHFW, GoI*).

The optimism due to the recognition of self-determination to abortion lasted for just about a year. On October 16, another three-judge bench headed by the CJI, refused a woman the choice to undergo abortion because her pregnancy had crossed the 24 weeks of gestation — the foetus was medically normal and her mental health condition, though severe, was pronounced to be manageable. The court seems to have privileged a narrow medical opinion against the principled position of giving primacy to the choice of abortion by the pregnant woman.

In the US, anti-abortion activists and conservative judges juxtaposed the rights of pregnant women against the equal right of the foetus to deny the right to abortion. In India, the courts have, by and large, not gone into the issue of conflicting rights. On the contrary, as in the SC's 2022 verdict, the judiciary has entertained petitions to help pregnant women extend the boundaries of their reproductive right to abortion. This activism recently contributed to the eventual amendment of the law to make available medical termination from 20

to 24 weeks of gestation, and thereafter, on the advice of a medical board in cases of foetal deformity or risk to the woman's life.

The SC's latest verdict seems to signal the limit of judicial activism for extending the right to abortion beyond 24 weeks of gestation. Even if safe-abortion activists in India take this limitation in their stride, the exchanges between doctors, lawyers and judges give out dangerous signals for right to abortion in India.

The 24+ week pregnant woman had approached the SC on October 6 with a request for an abortion. The AIIMS medical board in its report had clearly stated that the foetus did not have any defect and was viable. On October 9, the two-judge SC bench of Justices Hima Kohli and B V Nagarathna, upheld the woman's choice. It referred to last year's verdict and allowed the termination of the viable foetus. The termination was to be carried out in AIIMS on October 10. However, one doctor in the medical board sent an email to the ASG saying that the October 9 judgment would require "a foeticide (stopping the foetal heart)... before the termination". The two-judge bench, when requested by the CJI to decide on this issue, could not come to unanimity. Justice Kohli changed her position and declined abortion while Justice Nagarathna reinforced her position to allow abortion by focusing on the woman as the sole agent.

The first danger signal is that the courts are reinforcing the primacy of a limited medical opinion at the expense of the self-determination of a pregnant woman. In this case, it was established that the woman had given birth to a child only a year back and since then was suffering from severe postpartum depression — this became persistent due to the failure of

contraceptive protection afforded by the lactational amenorrhoea. She appealed that her physical, mental, and emotional condition would get worse if the abortion was not granted. Ironically, medical professionals, who are supposed to care for her, did not consider her opinion to be in her best interests. The judiciary's efforts to interrogate the medical opinion seem inadequate.

The second danger signal is the excessive reliance on the viability of the foetus — the conversation seems to have veered toward discussions on a cut-off point, when the foetus, if born, could survive. This again puts decision-making in the hands of medicine and its technologies at the expense of women's self-determination. Also worrying is the sudden concern for "foeticide," and "beating heart". All abortions are foeticides and all foetuses above six weeks have "beating hearts". This is an attempt to tilt the concern in favour of the foetus — who is accorded personhood — while the full-fledged adult woman as a person is ignored. Such a tilt was the basis of the US Supreme Court's June 24, 2022, judgment overturning the women's right to abortion.

Last year when the US judgment on abortion came out, many in the Indian establishment — legal and medical — expressed pride that India has a liberal abortion regime. This pride will come to nought if the seriousness of the danger signals emanating from the medical and judicial episode described above are not recognised and taken care of.

Sheel Bandewar is a bioethicist and Secretary General, Forum for Medical Ethics Society and Jesani is Editor, Indian Journal of Medical Ethics

### OCTOBER 24, 1983, FORTY YEARS AGO

#### BEIRUT EXPLOSIONS

MORE THAN 145 American and French soldiers were killed in two massive explosions in Beirut. One explosion was at the headquarters compound of the American Marine Force at Beirut International Airport, which killed over 120 American servicemen and injured over 100, and the other at a building in the centre of the city occupied by French soldiers, which killed over 25 of them.

#### UNITED FRONT-CENTRE

THE FIVE-PARTY United Front urged the Centre to resume without delay tripartite

talks on Punjab. At the same time, it appealed to the Akali Dal to suspend its agitation to pave the way for negotiations. A resolution adopted at the meeting accused the government of pursuing the path of confrontation and dishonestly laying the blame for the Punjab problem on the opposition.

#### BJP'S RESOLUTION

THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE of the Bharatiya Janata Party in its resolution on Centre-state relations demanded reorganisation of "some unwieldy states" into smaller and more manageable units for better administration. While advocating a strong Centre as

well as states, BJP opposed the proposal made by some opposition parties that the Centre's jurisdiction should be confined to defence, external affairs, currency and communications.

#### FIVE-DAY WEEK

THE MOVE FOR the introduction of a five-day week and round-the-clock operations in all industries has not found favour with the Union Labour Ministry. According to the ministry, these two measures will not necessarily result in increased productivity. On the other hand, a blanket decision for a five-day week may become counter-productive.





# THE IDEAS PAGE

## In Jaipur, on knife's edge

For both BJP and Congress, victory in Rajasthan will depend on how each addresses issues concerning youth and women



SANJAY LODHA

SINCE THE 10TH state assembly elections in Rajasthan in 1993, political power has regularly oscillated between the two principal political parties – the BJP and the Congress. The foremost question, therefore, is this: Will the pattern hold in the forthcoming 16th assembly election, marking the BJP's return to power or, in a departure from this trend, will Congress assume the seat of power again? Buoyed by the effective management of the Covid-19 pandemic and enthused by the implementation of many welfare schemes in the fields of health, education, poverty reduction, employment generation, inflation relief as well as the creation of 20 new districts and three divisions, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot proclaimed "Mission 156" as the goal of the party – it had last achieved this goal in the 1998 elections.

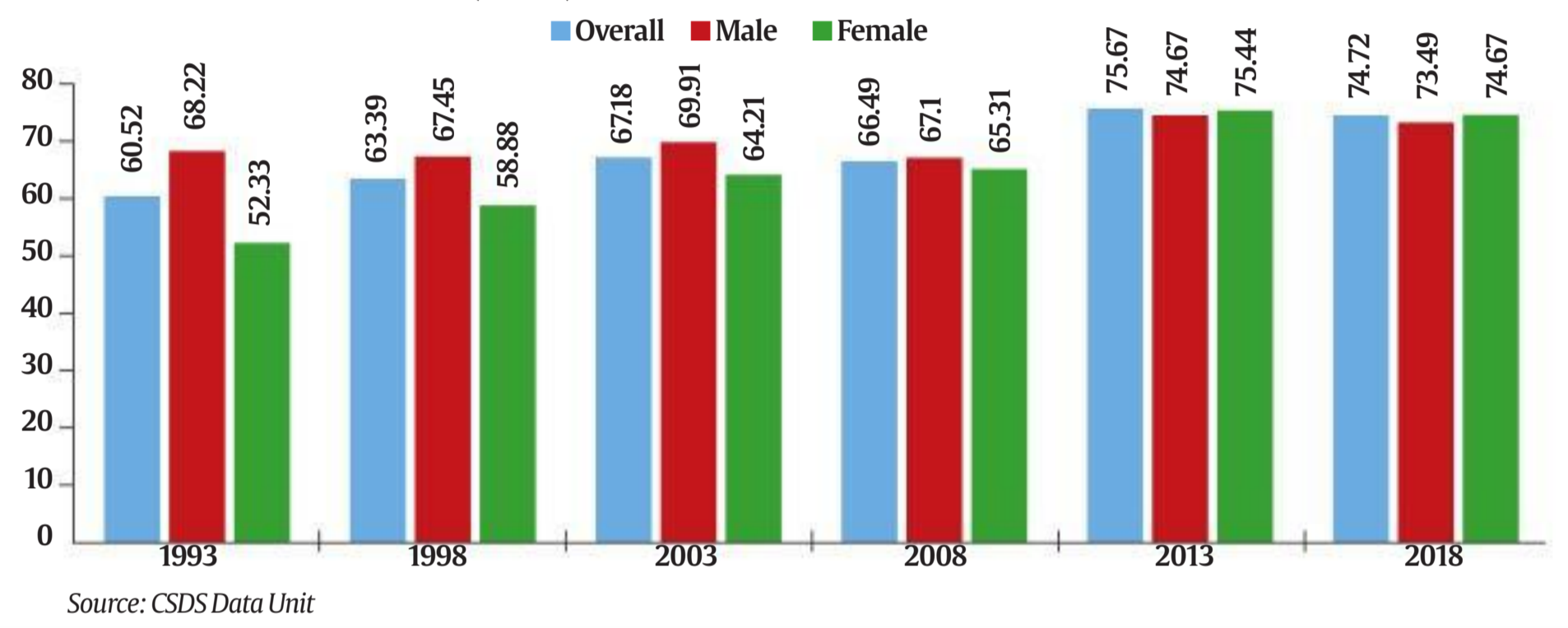
Leading from the front, Gehlot criss-crossed the entire state earlier this year, trumpeting the successes of his government before being confined to his home for nearly two months due to an injury. To make up for lost time, the Chief Minister launched a major statewide campaign on Independence Day – Mission 2030 – with the avowed objective of making Rajasthan the "Number One" state in the country. More than 3.66 crore inputs were received from the people on how to achieve the goal set by the chief minister. Constituting welfare boards for different caste groups in the state and a caste survey were among the final decisions of the government as the election date was announced.

As things unfold on the eve of elections, the battle for the ballot in Rajasthan may come down to Gehlot versus the BJP, with the CM seeking to defy the "revolving door" nature of the electoral outcome in Rajasthan. But one cannot overlook the intense factionalism within the Congress party which has apparently kept it from declaring candidates for many constituencies with hardly a fortnight left before the last date for filing nominations. On the governance side, question paper leaks, law and order issues, reported atrocities against women and Dalits and allegations of corruption against senior ministers will affect the party adversely.

The BJP, on the other hand, appears to be confused as to which foot it should put forward as its best. Turning a Nelson's eye to the statewide popularity of Vasundhara Raje, a former two-time chief minister, the party is pinning its hopes on the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The PM has visited the state nine times since January 2023. The party launched the Jan Akrosh Yatra in December 2022 and followed it up with the Parivartan Yatra in September, 2023. Top BJP leaders including party chief J P Nadda, Home Minister Amit Shah and a host of other Union ministers have frequented the state in the past few months declaring sops and promises. The party had a head start over the Congress when it declared its candidates for 41 Assembly constituencies, seven of whom



VOTER TURNOUT (IN %) IN VIDHAN SABHA ELECTIONS FROM 1993 TO 2018



Source: CSDS Data Unit

C.R.Sasikumar

are Members of Parliament. But that move appears to have backfired, as in a number of these constituencies, there is strong dissent from local aspirants, most of whom are Vasundhara loyalists. In its attempt to project leaders in different parts of the state as a sign of collective leadership, the party seems to have added to the confusion, affecting the morale of the cadre.

Although principally a two-party state, one can hardly overlook the presence of other political parties, both national as well as regional, in the state. Notable among these are the BSP, NCP, the Communist parties, AAP, SP, RLD, AIMIM and sub-regional outfits like the Rashtriya Loktantrik Party (RLP), the Bharatiya Tribal Party (BTP) and the Nationalist Unionist Zamindara Party (NUZP), among others. Together, these parties secure nearly 10 per cent of the valid votes and about 10 of the 200 seats in the state assembly. Lacking leadership and manpower, most of them come into play only after the BJP and the Congress have declared their candidates. Except for the Communist parties, the other forces derive their presence from the disgruntled elements of the BJP and Congress. It has also been observed that many candidates who fail to get a party symbol contest the elections as independents. In each of the state elections since 1993, their representation has not been less than 12 seats and they secure about 20 per cent of the votes. As political competition in the state gets tighter, the importance of these fringe forces increases.

In the 1993 Assembly elections, about 52 per cent women voted, compared to 68 per cent men. Women voters have not only bridged this gap but have, in fact, outnumbered male voters on the past two occasions. Both the main political parties, when in power, go the extra mile to address the female constituency in their policy making exercise. As such, a crucial factor in the coming elections will be the manner in which the women are going to vote.

One distinguishing feature of electoral politics in Rajasthan over the last two decades has been the phenomenal increase in the turnout of women voters and the persistent rise in the overall voter turnout. In the 1993 Assembly elections, about 52 per cent women voted, compared to 68 per cent men. Women voters have not only bridged this gap but have, in fact, outnumbered male voters on the past two occasions. Both the main political parties, when in power, go the extra mile to address the female constituency in their policy making exercise. As such, a crucial factor in the coming elections will be the manner in which the women are going to vote.

Finally, one factor which is going to play a critical role in the assembly elections is the remarkable surge in the number of young voters who have secured their voting right between January 1 to October 1, 2023. Their number, according to data given by the Election Commission of India, is a little above 22 lakh, which is nearly 12 times more than the vote gap between the Congress and the BJP in the 2018 elections.

In view of the above, the answer to the question as to which political party will emerge triumphant in the forthcoming assembly elections in Rajasthan will rest upon the manner in which the two principal contenders address the issues of youth and women.

The writer is former Professor and Rajasthan State Coordinator, Lokniti-CSDS

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"It is hoped that California can become a prism that allows more people to see the pragmatic cooperation between China and the US... China welcomes the arrival of American officials who embrace a sincere and pragmatic cooperative attitude."

—GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

## Player, fighter, friend, maestro

Bishan Singh Bedi may have been angry or upset with many things, yet he fought all his battles with a sense of gratitude for what life had offered him



PRADEEP MAGAZINE

BISHAN SINGH BEDI combined in him many diverse traits that make him a rare, colossal figure in our sporting fraternity. He was a giant among us, a man who loved a good fight and would battle to the end regardless of what the consequences could be.

Generous to a fault, yet never meek – in the middle of a difficult, unequal fight, standing up to the might of errant sports administrators, he would cloak himself in unbending steely resolve. A resolve whose nourishment came from his deep spiritual roots. Right from his childhood in Amritsar, when his father had introduced him to the Guru Granth Sahib, to the end of his journey today, he was essentially a believer who had strayed onto a cricket field.

His two lifelong companions were a cricket ball and his "Sikhi", which, as he put it, taught him to never give up and "fight for the just rights of his fraternity."

The craft he purveyed required a subtlety that could be mastered only through great discipline of body and mind. Never shy of taking a dig at himself, he would remember with great delight how flabby he was as a child and how his friends would say "Look, football is playing football" when he would play the game. He shifted to cricket and right from the day he bowled for the first time and uprooted the stumps of a more reputed batsman, Bedi had found his calling.

The flabby child grew up to become one of the greatest spin wizards of the game, an iconic figure whose control of the spinning ball, the variations of speed, line and length and the fluidity of his action inspired many writers to go lyrical. I remember watching him in a North Zone versus England match in 1974 in Amritsar, and wondering why were the batsmen finding it so difficult to play his innocuously tossed-up deliveries. So simple was his execution of a very difficult craft that the batsmen were literally lulled into a sense of false security. The maestro slowly and steadily entangled the batsmen in a web of deception from where the only escape route for them was to the safety of the dressing room.

He never talked about his own skills and how he honed them but he loved to talk about the greatness of others, especially his legendary spin colleagues, Prasanna, Chandrasekhar and Venkat. "Without them, I was nothing," he would say. He loved it when a batsman would hit him for a six. He would chuckle and say, "I would clap when a batsman would hit me outside the ground." The clap meant Bedi was succeed-

ing in letting the batsman think he had the upper hand. They were doomed after that.

Once, the great Barry Richards came out to bat against him in a county match in England, where Bedi played for Northamptonshire for many years. "I played on his ego. Packed the inside cordon, which incensed him so much that soon enough he played an indiscreet stroke and got out," he would recall.

The genius of Bedi the bowler is strewn with many such stories that make him the most loved and admired spinner the world has seen but the Bedi story does not end here. It is Bedi the rebel captain, Bedi the seeker of justice and Bedi the voice of the marginalised that he would want people to remember even more than his on-field accomplishments.

Among the legion of battles he fought and the accusations he faced, he felt the most hurt when he was dropped and removed as the Northamptonshire captain in the year 1977. It hurt him immensely that the MCC accused him of chucking, post the Vaseline affair, when Bedi had charged England pace bowler John Lever of applying Vaseline on the ball in the Delhi Test match. The Englishmen did not forgive the humiliation of being called cheats and the establishment in England reacted by dubbing one of the finest bowling actions ever known to the cricket world as being "impure".

He was not new to controversies nor to facing the wrath of the administrators, who feared his fearless voice, on the cricket field or outside of it. In the 1977-78 series in the West Indies, where his team chased the then world record of 404 runs to win a Test match, his batsmen were treated to a barrage of short-pitched deliveries. Fearing serious injuries to his tail-enders, Bedi made a bold statement and declared. He went public in his criticism as keeping quiet was not in his character – what is wrong was to be expressly stated.

In Pakistan, he withdrew his batsmen from a one-day game in protest against umpires who were not calling short pitched deliveries as wides. But his greatest battles were fought on the home pitch. Be it for better amenities for the players who represented India or Delhi or for the wider community of sportsmen, which included Arjuna awardees. He was not a political animal but the hounding out of Sikhs in Delhi in the 1984 riots and the treatment he himself got riled him up a lot.

He may have been angry or upset with many things, yet he fought all his battles with a sense of gratitude for what life had offered him. He was the soul and wit of any gathering. Bedi's loud and generous laughter while he narrated, with humour and care, his unending treasure trove of anecdotes, will continue to ring in the ears of those fortunate enough to have known him well.

The writer is author of Not Quite Cricket and, more recently, Not Just Cricket, A Reporter's Journey Through Modern India

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### AID FOR GAZA

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Diplomacy in crisis' (IE, October 23). Only providing humanitarian aid to Gaza won't solve the plight of Palestinians. It is imperative for Western democracies to recognise the sovereignty of Palestine with the same urgency and commitment that they did for Ukraine. They have only supported the Palestinian cause on paper, with zero implementation on-ground. This vague stance is leading to significant losses on both sides, creating a difficult situation. This problem needs a comprehensive and integrated solution with the consent of both sides, which involves a two-state settlement with defined borders and shared access to Jerusalem and the redevelopment of Palestine with all its basic necessities.

Zaid Wazi, Varamasi

proper implementation of the newly passed Women's Reservation Bill.

Nidhi Dwivedi, Jammu

### MARRIAGE VERDICT

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Through a narrow lens' (IE, October 23). Favourable opinion about "same-sex marriage" among significant sections of the population is essential for wider acceptance of these marriages at the grass-roots level. In that light, one cannot find much fault with the Supreme Court's refusal to accord "legal recognition" to marriages between persons of the same sex. With the ball in the legislature's court now, LGBTQIA+ activists and groups can play their role in changing minds regarding same-sex marriages. By doing so, they can hope to have our lawmakers under pressure and bring in appropriate legislation.

SS Paul, Nadia

### FOR INCLUSIVITY

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Towards a politics of presence' (IE, October 23). Even as India was one of the few countries to give equal citizenship rights to women at the time of independence, it took the government 27 years to legalise it as a law. In India, women have traditionally been overlooked in the political realm compared to their male counterparts, whether in the Parliament or other branches of the government. Historically, the role that women played in national movements has been that of rejecting marginalisation and invisibility, be it during the non-cooperation movement, or swadeshi movement. For women to finally feel like full citizens, we must ensure

The writer taught at Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi

## If caste is at the centre

Politics of caste diverts attention from more difficult task of building institutions



M N PANINI

AS SATISH DESHPANDE points out in 'Historic with a small h' (IE, October 4), caste counts and it must be enumerated for an honest appraisal of the social inequalities that confront India. As he says, caste is the most important regulator of life chances. Honest counting is, therefore, needed to combat social inequalities. But I doubt whether the politics of caste allows such honest counting and appraisal of social inequalities. Serious scrutiny of the political discourse in the country reveals that while samata or social equality is good rhetoric to mobilise votes, it also contributes to the consolidation of power in political dynasties. These dynasties have gained and consolidated their power by appealing to caste and communal sentiments.

The Constitutional provision for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Class citizens was based on the Gandhi-Ambedkar compromise that relied on proportional representation as the path to empowerment. The hope was that such a strategy of representation would somehow trigger widespread social mobility because the beneficiaries of reservations would act as role models for other members of their communities, instil in them a sense of self-respect, kindle their aspirations for a better life and open up opportunities for upward social mobility. Unfortunately, experience shows that the anticipated demonstration effects have not worked in the desired fashion. The politics

of caste-based reservation has taken a new turn. Creamy layers within the OBC, SC and ST categories have consolidated their hold over the benefits of reservations. This is, perhaps, the reason for the demands from the more oppressed and deprived marginal castes and subcastes for special quotas within broader reservation categories. That is why there are demands for inclusion from castes and communities that are left out and for reclassification to the SC or ST category from some castes that find the competition in the OBC category disadvantageous. That is why we still hear reports of atrocities perpetrated on Dalits and vulnerable castes.

The demand for reservations from even dominant castes who operate the levers of power (in states if not at the level of the Centre) offers a clue to the formation of creamy layers whose members do not allow the benefits of reservations to trickle down to the deprived sections. Even the bible of the Backward Classes movement – the Mandal Commission – had accumulated evidence that pointed to the formation of creamy layers within the SC category. An honest appraisal of social inequality and a proper strategy to combat it require closer scrutiny of this phenomenon of creamy layer formation.

Creamy layers are formed because castes and communities that have been the early beneficiaries of reservations can build powerful social and cultural capital to monop-

olise the privileges to which they are entitled. This early bird syndrome accentuates the disadvantages of the latecomer castes and communities within the reserved categories. The distinguished Harvard scholar, Suraj Yengde, has bemoaned this phenomenon among Dalits and argued that the more successful Dalits have subverted the larger cause of social justice.

Sociologists point out that the formation of a creamy layer and the consequent class differentiation is a universal phenomenon. But in India, it becomes more pernicious because of the institution of the family. Sociologist Andre Beteille once made a precise and sharp comment that Indian intellectuals who become proud anti-caste warriors and condemn the institution of caste do not even acknowledge the role of family and kinship in sharpening social and economic inequalities. Kinship ties and reverence to familial dharma valourise what in the West is termed nepotism. Nepotism is about favouring nephews but in India all members of the family become important. That is why the Indian tradition of valourising the family is stronger and more durable. Politicians enhance their public credibility by touching the feet of their mothers. A radical solution to social inequality in India, therefore, requires that the battle against caste be stretched to the battle against the institution of the Indian family. When politicians and public servants deviate from their oath and prioritise familial obligations

at the cost of public interest, it is accepted as a normal, if not expected, behaviour. There are instances galore of wives, brothers and children of politicians making spectacular gains in business and real estate exploiting the social capital to which they gain access. That is why dynasties are prominent in all spheres of social, economic and political life.

The politics of caste, including the latest discourse on the counting of castes, diverts attention from the more difficult task of building and nurturing public institutions, especially in education and health sectors. In one of its early reports, the Knowledge Commission, constituted by the UPA government, pointed out that India is woefully short of such institutions, both in terms of numbers and quality. In recent years, private universities and professional institutions have proliferated. Unfortunately, because engaging in caste politics gives richer rewards, our policymakers and politicians tend to neglect and, thereby, contribute to the general trend of decline in the quality of our public institutions.

The politics of equality requires the dismantling of institutions that perpetuate elitism. But here is the contradiction – building and sustaining public institutions requires a certain degree of cultural pride that leans towards elitism.



## Classifieds

### PERSONAL

**We, Devendra Kumar (Father) and Priya (Mother) R/o H.No. 107, Block-H, Sector-9, Vijay Nagar, Ghaziabad, U.P. are the parents of Master Jai Chaudhary (DOB: 14.04.2016) and that Jai Chaudhary and Jai Kumar is one and same person, as per the Affidavit sworn in before the Notary Public on 27.09.2023.**

**I, T.Indra Rani Agarwal, W/o Baldev Raj Agarwal, R/o B-34, Behind-Laxmi Bai College, Satywati Colony, Ashok Vihar, Delhi-110052, Have Changed My Name to Indra Rani Agarwal, for all, future Purposes.**

**ITIS For General Information That I, Amit Kumar Jain, S/o, S.K.Jain, R/o C-6/5, G.F., Krishna-Nagar, Delhi-110051, Declare That Name Of Mine Has Been Wrongly Written As Amit Jain In My D.L.No.P0762001210339 And In My Passport No.DL1071213748017. The Actual Name Of Mine Is Amit Kumar Jain, Which May Be Amended Accordingly.**

**I, Viswas Tiwari, S/O Sanjay Kumar Tiwari R House-cno-66, 2nd floor A-Block Ashok Vihar, Phase-1, Delhi-110052, have changed my name to Vishwas Tiwari.**

**I, Vishnupriya rao, W/o Raghu ram, R/o PT 62/4, sansad Kunj Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019, have changed my name to Rachakonda Vishnupriya, for all, future purposes.**

**I, Surinder Pat S/o Joginder Singh Pahwa R/O B-1102, Omaxe Forest Spa, Sector 93B, Noida, G.B.Nagar, U.P. 201304, have changed my name to Surinder Singh Pahwa, for all future purpose.**

**I, Shilpi Singhal, D/o Vinod Kumar Singhal W/o Sushil Malhotra, R/o-2479-A, Gali No.12, Bihari Colony, Shahdara Delhi-110032, Have Changed My Name To Shilpi Malhotra, For All Purposes.**

**I, SANTOSH KUMAR PASWAN S/O SITARAM MANJHI R/O B-7/91, SECOND-FLOOR, NEAR MUSKAN APARTMENT, PKT-7, SECTOR-17, ROHINI, DELHI-110085, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SANTOSH PASWAN.**

**I, Rajesh Kumar, S/o Sat Narain, R/o D-23B, Extn-4 Block-A, Mangoli Delhi-41, have Changed my name to Rajesh Kumar Kaushik.**

**I, RAJEEV SEHGAL, S/O KASTURI LAL, R/O.1007, MAPPLE HEIGHTS JAGRATI VIHAR EXTENSION ROAD CHANKYAPURI JAGRATI-VIHAR, MEERUT, UP-250004, changed my name to RAJEEV KUMAR.**

**I, Pradeep Singh S/o Raghuvir Singh, R/O 210 Pana Tahyia VPO Barahi Jhajjar Haryana-124505, changed my name to Pardeep Singh.**

**I, Narinder Kaur Ghai, W/O Jaswinder Singh R/O VB-111, f.f, gali no-4, Virender-Nagar, Janakpuri B-1, New Delhi-110058, have changed my name to Narinder Kaur, for all Purposes.**

**I, NARENDER KUMAR, S/O ISHWAR CHAND JAIN R/O U-27, BUDH-VIHAR PHASE-1, BUDH VIHAR, DELHI-110086, have changed my name to NARENDER JAIN**

**I, Manjusha, W/o Gaurav Sehra, R/o 478 sector-22A, Gurgaon-122001, Haryana Have changed my name to Manjusha Sehra.**

**I, Mohammed Umar S/o Ajaz R/o 3175 Phatak Teliyan Turkman Gate Delhi-16 have changed my name to Md Umar.**

**I, MOHIT CHANDRA SAXENA, F/O JANVHI SAXENA, R/O C-360, Paramount Golf Forestte, Surajpur-Site-C, Greater Noida, Gautam-Budh Nagar (UP)-201306, have changed my daughter's name, from JANVHI to JANVHI SAXENA.**

**I, MOHD NAFEE, S/O WALI MOHAMMAD, ADD-E-87/A, BLOCK-E, HARI NAGAR-PART 2, JAIPUR-EXTN, BADARPUR, SOUTH-EAST DELHI 110044, changed my name to MOHAMMAD NAFEE, for all, future purposes.**

**I, Kuldeep Kaur Dhindsa, W/o Gurprit, R/O Village Karondi Majra-Post Akajhri Distt. Shivpuri Madhya Pradesh-473781, have changed my name to Kuldeep Kaur.**

**I, Bhim Singh, S/o Bhupal Singh Negi, R/o JK29, Gali No.5, Sidhatri Enclave, Mohan Garden, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059, have changed my name to Bhim Singh Negi, for all purposes.**

**I, Jaswinder Singh Ghai, S/O Daya Singh R/O VB-111, f.f, gali no-4, Virender-Nagar, Janakpuri B-1, New Delhi-110058, have changed my name to Jaswinder Singh, for all Purposes.**

**I, ISHWAR CHANDER S/O HARDE RAM JAIN R/O T-26, PHASE-1, BUDH VIHAR, DELHI-110086, have changed my name to ISHWAR CHAND JAIN.**

**I, Gurpreet Singh, S/o Keshri Singh, R/O Village Karondi Majra-Post Akajhri Distt. Shivpuri Madhya, Pradesh-473781, have changed my name to Gurprit.**

**I, DILSHAD CHAUDHARI, S/O MALKHAN R/O HOUSE NO-241, MODINAGAR ROAD, TYORI, TAUR-13, BISWA GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-245304 changed my name to DILSHAD KHAN.**

**I, ARUN ADLAKHA, S/O HARISH CHAND, H.No. 54, WARD-9, SHASTRI NAGAR, GANOUR, SONIPAT, Haryana, HAVE CHANGE MY NAME TO ARUN, FOR ALL PURPOSE.**

**I, AMITABH GHOSE, S/O AMIYO KUMAR GHOSE, ADD-W-1306, THE ESSENTIA, PHASE-2, OPPOSITE POWER GRID, ALWAR BYPASS-ROAD, SECTOR-22, BHIWADI ALWAR, RAJASTHAN 301019, changed my name to AMITAVA GHOSE, for all, future purposes.**

**I, AFTAB AHAMED ANSARI, S/O, SAMIULLAH ANSARI, ADD-C-280/4, 2ND-FLOOR B/S SHAHEEN BAGH JAMIA NAGAR, OKHLA, SOUTH-EAST DELHI-110025, changed my name to AFTAB AHAMED ANSARI, for all, future purposes.**

**I, Nitheerto known as Durga Rani D/O Telu Ram W/O Mahinder Kumar Batra R/O 2089, Rani Bagh Shakur Basti, Saraswati Vihar, North West Delhi 110034 Have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as DEEPIKA BATRA It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.**

**I, Vijay Kumar Rawat S/O Rajju Singh R/o Flat No-E-1441, Galaxy North Avenue-2, Gaur City-2, Sector-16C, Greater Noida West, U.P.-201009 have changed my name to VIJAY RAWAT for all future purposes.**

**I, Surya Kant S/O Shiv Charan Singh R/o E-202, Skytech Mattrot, Sector-76, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, 201301, Uttar Pradesh have changed my name to Suryakant tomar**

**I, Shabana Begum, W/o Mohd Gulam Nabi, R/O 137/11, Street No.11, Champyon Gyn Zakir Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025, have changed my name to Shabana Nabi.**

**I, Rajesh Srivastava S/o Late Sohan Lal R/o Flat No.105, 1st Floor, Neelam Vihar, Kaushambi, I.E.Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201010, have changed my name from Rajesh Kumar Srivastava to Rajesh Srivastava for all future purposes.**

**I, Krishan Murari, S/o Bhullu Ram, R/O 2120, Ganesh Pura-B, Narang Colony Main Road, Tri Nagar, Delhi-110035, have changed my name to Krishan Murari Kansal.**

**I, RAHUL, S/O PAWAN KUMAR R/O C-52 SECOND FLOOR MAYFIELD GARDEN SECTOR 50 GURUGRAM HARYANA-122018, have changed my name RAHUL to RAHUL KHATRI for All Future Purposes.**

**I, Pankaj Sethi S/o Mr. Mohan Lal Sethi, R/O C-12, 1st Floor, Sector-50, Noida, G.B. Nagar, U.P., do here by declare that Saumyaa Sethi and Jisha Sethi are same girl. Henceforth I have changed my minor daughter's name from Saumyaa Sethi to Jisha Sethi for all future purposes**

**I, NANI GOPAL BHOWMICK S/O PARISHA Ranjan Bhowmick, R/o 1889-C, Street No.17, Govindpuri Extension, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as NANIGOPAL BHARDWAJ.**

**I, Mujeebur Rehman, S/O S U Shamsi, R/O M-107A, Abul Fazel Enclave Part-1, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025, have changed my name to Mujeeb Ur Rehman Shamsi.**

**I, Monika Pal W/o Suryakant Tomar R/O E-202, Skytech Mattrot, Sector-76, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, 201301, Uttar Pradesh have changed my name to Monika Tomar**

**I, HEMANTA KUMAR BEHERA, father of, AAYUSH, Presently, residing at, Air-Force Station, New Delhi-110033, have changed my minor son's name from AAYUSH to AAYUSH BEHERA. Vide- affidavit dated-23.10.2023.**

**I, Dileep Mishra S/O Diwaker Mishra R/O Kudwa, Kurwa, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh-273007, have changed my name from DILEEP MISHRA to DILIP KUMAR MISHRA for all future purposes.**

**I, BABUL SABINA, D/O, BABUL, ADD-1441, 2ND-FLOOR, GALI GONDANI WALL, KALAN MAHAL, DARYAGANJ, CENTRAL DELHI-110002, changed my name to SABINA, for all future purposes.**

**I, AMBARISH BHOWMICK S/O Nani Gopal Bhowmick, R/O 1889-C, Street No.17, Govindpuri Extension, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AMBRISH SINGH BHARDWAJ.**

**I, Taniya Kumari alias Tanya Kumari D/o Sh. Amit Kumar R/o 7/1, 2nd Floor, Ramesh Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi-110015 have changed my name to Ritika Kumari for all purposes.**

**I, Parvesh Kumar alias Pravesh Gupta alias Pravesh Kumar alias Parvesh Chander alias Parvesh Kumar Gupta S/O Sh. Ishwar Chand Gupta R/O B-447, New Friends Colony, South East Delhi, Delhi-110025 have changed my name to Parvesh Kumar Gupta for all purposes.**

**TKM NISHA SRIVASTAVA D/O VIRENDRA KUMAR SRIVASTAVA R/O A-117 A-BLOCK SECTOR-46 NOIDA G.B.NAGAR U.P-201301 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO NISHA SRIVASTAVA FOR ALL THE FUTURE PURPOSES.**

**I, SARWARI KHATOON, W/O. Aaftab Ahamed Ansari, Add-C-280/4, 2ND-FLOOR B/S, SHAHEEN-BAGH JAMIA-NAGAR, OKHLA, SOUTH EAST, DELHI-110025, changed my name to SARWARI KHATUN**

**It is for general information that I, Aman Sharma S/o Umesh Chander R/O House No-MCF-B-276, Bhagat Singh Colony, Bohra Public School, Ballabgarh, Faridabad, Haryana-121004, declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as Umesh Chander Sharma in my Secondary School Marks Statement Cum Certificate. The actual name of my father is Umesh Chander, which may be amended accordingly.**

### LOST & FOUND

**ORIGINAL ALLOTMENT LETTER OF D-74, MANDAKINI, APARTMENTS OF THE GARHWAL CGHS LIMITED, PITAMPURA, DELHI-110034, IN THE NAME, ALLOTTEE N.S. NEGI WAS LOST, FINDER CONTACT-9205166938.**

**Lost my original DDA Site Possession Letter of my HD-36, Pitampura, Delhi-110034. Finder may Contact-Davinder Kaur W/o- Late Shri Avtar Singh, Ramandeep Singh S/o- Late Shri Avtar Singh & Harvinder Singh S/o- Late Shri Avtar Singh at above noted address.**

**I, Ravinder Pal Singh S/O. Harcharan Singh R/O 174, Kamal-Vihar CGHS Ltd. Plot.no. 5, sector-7, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075, have lost my Original CBSE 10th-certificate, roll no.13650 (15 December-1969), DOB-23 September-1951.**

**Builder buyer agreement OF FLAT C 5/1003 IN SRS RESIDENCY, SECTOR 88, FARIDABAD IS LOST CONTACT- VIKAS RASTOGI -9811953640**

**I, Shalender Kumar Bhyana, S/O A. N. Bhyana, R/o B-205, Yojna Vihar, Delhi-110092, have lost my Original Certificate of Diploma in Pharmacy, Year-1988, Roll No.5268, issued by Board of Technical Education, Delhi. If found please contact 9312108915.**

**I, Archana Srivastava D/o Arun Srivastava, C-417, Brij vihar, chander nagar, ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201011 have lost my original diploma certificate which enrollment no. is 0921002894. Finder pls contact 9718518585**

**I, Suresh Bhati S/o Late Kati Charan R/O S-107A, Sunder Block, Shakarpur, Delhi-110092 have lost my original Relinquishment deed from DM office complex, Geeta Colony, Finner contact 9810239065**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Under the instructions of my client Rajeev Sharma S/O Narenda Kumar Sharma currently residing at 3091, ATS Advantage, Plot No. 17, A/S-1, Khati Out-1, Indrapuram Ghaziabad U.P, my client lost the original mark sheets and certificate of the following class X, Roll No. 6317524, Certificate / Sanad of class X Roll No. 6317524, Marksheet of class XII Roll No. 6613401, Certificate / Sanad of class XII Roll No. 6613401, and Diploma in Mech. Engineering Roll No. 962513 from photocopy in Shipra Market, Shipra Sun City Indrapuram Ghaziabad. If anybody finds the above mark sheets and certificate, kindly approach my client to return the same within 7 days from the day of this publication.  
R. K. GUPTA (Advocate)  
Chamber No. 102, Block-III Delhi High Court, N.D.-110003

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Know all men by these present that my client GULFAN S/O SUBEDAR and REHANA W/o GULFAN R/O RZ-188, GALI NO. 13, DURGA PARK, NASIR PUR, NEW DELHI 45, have debarred their son named SALMAN from all their movable and immovable properties and severed all relations with him. Any person dealing with him then shall be going so at his/her/their own risk and responsibilities.  
H.K. BABBAR (ADVOCATE)  
Office: C-3266, JANAK PURI, NO 58

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
IT IS HEREBY INFORMED THAT MY CLIENT MS. KALASH CONSTRUCTION & CO THROUGH ITS PROPRIETOR SHRI UJWAL SHARMA IS THE OWNER OF FREEHOLD UPPER GROUND FLOOR WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS OF FREEHOLD PROPERTY NO. D-35-A, MEASURING 198.50 SQ. YDS. OUT OF KHASRA NO. 1913 & 2010, BLOCK-D, PANDAV NAGAR, SHARADKA, DELHI IN THE PROPERTY SHRI MOHINDER SINGH & SMT SUDHESH KUMAR ARE EXPRIED & MS. KALASH CONSTRUCTION & CO THROUGH ITS PROPRIETOR SHRI UJWAL SHARMA DOES NOT POSSESS THE SMC. IF ANY OTHER CLAIMANT HAS ANY RIGHT IN THE AFORESAID PROPERTY, HE/SHE SHOULD INFORM & GIVE INTIMATION TO THE UNDERSIGNED WITHIN 15 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF ISSUE OF THIS NOTICE.  
Sd/-  
Subhash Gupta (Advocate)  
Earl-D-446/2002

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
My clients Mrs. Manish Gupta W/o Sh. Manish Kumar Gupta and Mr. Manish Kumar Gupta S/o Late Sh. Gagan and Ganga, both are residents of House No.7679-B, Singh Sabha Road, Near Achut Wala, Bagh, Sahib, Mandi, Malvi, Gurgaon, North Delhi-110007, after due deliberation and consideration have concluded that they have decided to discontinue the legal proceedings against their daughter namely Ms. Yashika Gupta, Adhar No. 2704 - 42171611 and from their entire movable and immovable properties and severed their relations with her for all intent and purposes. Henceforth she shall be no right, title or the property of my clients. Any person dealing with her shall do so at his/her own risk and peril because of the lack of consent of my clients.  
Sd/-  
GODSON GEORGE  
Advocate  
Chamber No-131, Block-1, Ti Haziari Courts, Delhi-54

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
IT IS HEREBY INFORMED THAT MY CLIENTS SHRI SHUKRO SINGH AND SMT. SUPNA RANI ARE THE OWNER OF FREEHOLD FIRST FLOOR WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS OF FREEHOLD PROPERTY NO.WC28232, THE MEASURING 40.50 YDS. OUT OF KHASRA NO. 1919, KHAYALA AND THE COLONY VISHVA GARDEN, GALI NO.13, DURGA PARK, PROPERTY SHRI KARNAL SINGH, IS EXPRIED & SMT. KUNSHIRO SINGH AND SMT. PUSHPA RANI DOES NOT POSSESS THE SMC. IF ANY OTHER CLAIMANT HAS ANY RIGHT IN THE AFORESAID PROPERTY, HE/SHE SHOULD INFORM & GIVE INTIMATION TO THE UNDERSIGNED WITHIN 15 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF ISSUE OF THIS NOTICE.  
Sd/-  
Subhash Gupta (Advocate)  
Earl-D-446/2002

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
My Clientess namely Smt. Rajbala Wife of Late Shri Raj Singh Panchal R/O House No. 355, Chhela Ram Wali Gali Bhogarth, Narela Delhi has disowned her daughter and son Prasad Kumar from all her movable and immovable properties of whatsoever nature. My clientess has no connection of what so ever nature with her daughter and son ill & hostile behavior and bad conduct. Any person dealing with him in whatsoever manner, shall do so at his/her own risk and consequences and my clientess shall not be responsible for such dealing in any manner.  
Sd/-  
GOVIND KANT SHARMA  
Advocate  
Ch. No. 1101, Lawyer's Chamber Block Rohini Courts, Delhi-110085

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY INFORMED THAT MY CLIENT SH. JAGMAL ARYA R/O HOUSE NO. 234, UPPER GROUND FLOOR, BLOCK-46, PASCHEM VIHAR, NEW DELHI-110064 HAVE SERVED ALL RELATIONS WITH HIS DAUGHTER SMT. JAYANTI KARNAGAL W/O SH. RAJESH KUMAR AND REDEBARRED HIS DAUGHTER SMT. JAYANTI KARNAGAL FROM ALL OF HIS MOVABLE AND IMMMOVABLE PROPERTIES (ANYBODY DEALING WITH SMT. JAYANTI KARNAGAL WILL DO SO AT HIS/HER OWN RISK AND RESPONSIBILITY) AND MY CLIENT SH. JAGMAL ARYA WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ACT, DEED OR DEALING DONE BY SMT. JAYANTI KARNAGAL.  
Sd/-  
LOKESH BARMAN  
Advocate  
Earl. No. D29819  
Office No. 28, Sector-14, Phase-1, East of Kailash, Delhi-110065

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This is to inform the public at large that my client Smt. Archana Bhanagar & her husband Sh. Anur Bhanagar R/o E-32, DDA Flats Pocket-3 Badliapal Near Shanti Bazar Chowk, New Delhi 110095 have cut off their family relations and have disowned their son Sakshay Bhanagar R/o 16 Midway Drive, Scarborough, Ontario M1B6B6 & his wife Garima Duggal R/o 48 Chate Road North York, Ontario M2J 3V4 from their movable immovable properties. my clients neither hold back be responsible for any act of Sh. Sakshay Bhanagar & his wife Sant Garima Duggal in any manner.  
Sd/-  
Sunderdeep Tandi (Advocate)  
Earl-D-148/04  
SUITE NO.11, 3RD FLOOR, PLOT NO.15-16, SUPREME PLAZA SECTOR-29, DWARKA, NEW DELHI-110075

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
I, Suresh Kumar S/O SH. SINGH KOHLI R/O HNO. C-244, THIRD FLOOR, VIKAS PURI, DELHIA-110028, OWNER OF PROPERTY NO. 99, BLOCK-BC MANGOL PURI INDUSTRIAL AREA PHASE-B DELHI. My client has lost the original Certificate of POSSESSION, APPROVED BY THE OFFICE OF SURINDER PAL S/O SH. RAM SARKAN IN FAVOUR OF BALJEET KAUR, W/O SH. HARVINDER SINGH, dated on 14.05.2002, has been lost. An FIR vide LR No. 10428/42023 dated 18.10.2023 has been filed in P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi for loss of property documents. In case of any person found original documents of my client of above mentioned property, contact to my client immediately at above address/phone No. 9810100051.  
NAVEEN KHERANA  
Advocate  
Earl.No.2299/2022

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
1. My client Praveen Kumar Srivastava, son of Late Mahesh Prasad Srivastava, aged about 52 years, residing at 6314/27, Sector-19, Faridabad, Haryana, PIN-121001, 226016, does hereby declare that he has disowned his son, Mr. Harish Srivastava, son of Praveen Kumar Srivastava, residing at 6314/27, Jamia Ganj Fazlabad, Uttar Pradesh-201016.  
2. He does not have any connection with his son, Mr. Harish Srivastava, wife of Harish Srivastava, Children of Harish Srivastava, or any of his family members in present and future. My client does not want to be acquainted any of his properties, movable or immovable, Mr. Harish Srivastava, as he has betrayed, shame and dishonoured my client's name and status to the extent of making his miserable situation my client to suffer boycott from them.  
Rahul Advocate  
DL/306/42023

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This Notice is hereby given to general public that Mr. Jansvinder Singh who claimed to be owner and in possession of the Property No. E-16, area measuring 125 Sq. Yds. Out of Kharsa No.303 & 304, Situated at Village Chaudhawali, in the block E-Block, Mansarovar Park, G.T. Road, Ilaga, Shahdara Delhi-110032 by virtue of the Deed of Gift bearing Date 29.09.2023 Document No.7948, now Mr. Jansvinder Singh is selling said property to Mr. Gyanendra Singh and Mr. Gyan Singh has approached IDFC First Bank Ltd. for financial assistance and therefore shall be mortgaged with the said Bank. We give this public notice that if any person having any claim/objection regarding ownership and/or creating mortgage of the said property or any part of the said property in favour of IDFC First Bank Ltd. is/are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to undersigned with supporting documentary evidence at the address mention below within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which any claim, if any, of such persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan against the said property and subsequent creation of Mortgage in respect thereof.  
For Juris NextGen Law Offices  
E-56, LGF, Greater Kailash Enclave Part-I, New Delhi-110048

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This Notice is hereby given to general public that Mr. Anuj Seltis who claimed to be owner and in possession of the House No.7207, Ground Floor, Type-MIG-B, area measuring 182.73 Sq. Yds., in the Residential Colony Known as Housing Board Colony, Sector-77, Gurgaon, Haryana, District Gurgaon, Haryana, by virtue Sale Certificate dated 11.10.2023 Document No.9004, now Mr. Anuj Seltis is selling said property to Mr. Rajat Tayal and Pooja Agarwal and Mr. Rajat Tayal and Pooja Agarwal has approached IDFC First Bank Ltd. for financial assistance and therefore shall be mortgaged with the said Bank. We give this public notice that if any person having any claim/objection regarding ownership and/or creating mortgage of the said property or any part of the said property in favour of IDFC First Bank Ltd. is/are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to undersigned with supporting documentary evidence at the address mention below within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which any claim, if any, of such persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan against the said property and subsequent creation of Mortgage in respect thereof.  
For Juris NextGen Law Offices  
E-56, LGF, Greater Kailash Enclave Part-I, New Delhi-110048

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Known to all through this public notice that my client Sh. Ramesh Gupta S/o Late Sh. Kesho Ram and his wife Smt. Rekha R/o H.No- 1313, Baghichhi Tansukh Rai, Chowk, Shah Mubarak, Jangra, Gola, Delhi-110016, have debarred their son namely Akshay Gupta (Aadar No- 33458/308826) from their all movable and immovable properties and have severed all relations with them, due to their irresponsible & quarrelsome behavior as he is not under control of my clients, if any body deals with them, in that circumstances my clients shall not be responsible for the same.  
ARUN RANJAY (ADVOCATE)  
DELHI HIGH COURT  
CH. No. G-220  
KARKARODOMA COURT, DELHI

**POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH**  
**XXXVI CONVOCATION**  
The XXXVI Convocation for conferring academic degrees will be held on 2nd November, 2023 in the Bhargava Auditorium of PGIMER, Chandigarh. A full-dress rehearsal will be held on Wednesday, the 1st November, 2023 at 10:00 A.M. in the Bhargava Auditorium. It is compulsory for all recipients of degrees/medals to attend the rehearsal. Those who fail to participate in the rehearsal will not be allowed to take part on the day of Convocation. Kindly intimate the confirmation for participation in the Convocation by 25th October, 2023 through email (pgicovncav2023@gmail.com). The list of awardees & detailed information is available on the website of the Institute. (http://pgimer.edu.in) UMMED MATHUR, REGISTRAR

**NORTHERN RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM**  
Ref: i) Tender Notice No.61/2023-2024 dated 19.10.2023  
ii) Tender No. 15235092A due on 16.11.2023  
01. In reference to above tender, the item description is changed from "Fully Thyristorised Controlled DC ARC WELDING RECTIFIERS CAPACITY 600 AMP with Remote Control Current Regulator with 25 Mtr. Long Remote Cable as per specification attached, Make/Brand: ADOR, ESAB, KEMPP, MIGATRONIC, LINCOLN OR L&T" to "Fully Thyristorised Controlled DC ARC WELDING RECTIFIERS CAPACITY 600 AMP with Remote Control Current Regulator with 25 Mtr. Long Remote Cable as per specification attached, Make/Brand: ADOR, ESAB, KEMPP, MIGATRONIC, LINCOLN, L&T or Quality Engineering/QE". All other terms & conditions remain unchanged. The Corrigendum has been published on website www.reps.gov.in. 3309/2023 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**  
General Public is hereby informed that a male namely **Hukamchand S/o Lt. Shri Aasaram, R/o H. No. C-17, 1st Floor Kotla Village Mayur Vihar 1 Gali No.3 Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped from New Secretariat Bus Stand Delhi from the jurisdiction of P.S. I.P. Estate, Delhi. In this regard a **DD No. 55A dated 02.10.2023** has been lodged at P.S. I.P. Estate, Delhi. The description of missing/kidnapped man is as under:  
**Age : 65 years, Height : 5'7", Face : Round, Complexion : Shallow, Built: Thin, Wearing : Sky Blue T-Shirt Grey Color Pant & Left Leg Artificial and Right Leg None.**  
If anyone having any clue/information, about the missing/kidnapped male kindly inform to the following:-  
Website : http://cbi.nic.in  
e-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in  
Fax : 011-24368639  
Ph : 011-24368638, 24368641  
DP/11397/CD/2023

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**  
(SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.)  
Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused **Geetanjali Thakur, W/o Raj Kumar, D/o Late Shivbhan Singh, R/o (1) Permanent) Jalesar, District Etah, (2) Geetanjali Home, Credit Indian Finance Limited, Third Floor, Infinity Tower, T.C.B.L.F. Cyber City, Gurgaon, Haryana, (3) Harsh Village, C-23, Old DLF Gurgaon, near Sector 14, Gurugram, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Ct. Cases/4994130/2016, U/s 498/506 IPC, registered at P.S. Kapashera, Delhi, and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused **Geetanjali Thakur**, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Geetanjali Thakur**, has absconded (or is concealing herself to avoid the service of said warrant).  
Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Geetanjali Thakur**, of case Ct. Cases/4994130/2016, U/s 498/506 IPC, P.S. Kapashera, Delhi, is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 24.11.2023.  
By order  
**Apoorva Rana,**  
Metropolitan Magistrate,  
Court no. 316,  
Dwarka Court, Delhi**

**APPENDIX-IV-A**  
(See proviso to rule 8 (6))  
Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property  
E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.  
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to **Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L69922DL2005PL336029] ("Secured Creditor")**, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 10.11.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of **Rs. 32,68,786/- (Rupees Thirty Two Lakh Sixty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty Six only)** pending towards Loan Account No. HHLRHN00501143, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 12.10.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 13.10.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from **RUPESH KUMAR and SANTOSH KUMARI @ SANTOSH KUMARI SEN**.  
The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be **Rs. 28,50,000/- (Rupees Twenty Eight Lakh Fifty Thousand only)** and the Earned Money Deposit ("EMD") will be **Rs. 2,85,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh Eighty Five Thousand only)** i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.  
**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**  
BUILT UP PROPERTY / PLOT BEARING NO. 29, ENTIRE THIRD FLOOR LAND AREA MEASURING 80 SQ. YRDS. WITH ROOF RIGHTS, OUT OF KHASARA NO. 78/B, SITUATED AT REVENUE VILLAGE HASTNAL NEW COLONY KNOWN AS OM VIHAR PHASE - 03, UTTAM NAGAR DELHI - 110059, WITH RIGHT TO COMMON SMALL CAR PARKING AT PARKING AREA WITH COMMON RIGHTS OF SUBMERSIBLE SEWERAGES, INSTALLATION OF DISH TV ANTENNA ON THE ROOF / TERRACE, ENTRY PASSAGES, STAIR CASE WITH SEPARATE ELECTRIC / WATER CONNECTION ALONG WITH PROPORTIONATE LAND RIGHTS UNDER THE SAID PROPERTY. BOUNDED BY :-  
EAST : ROAD NORTH : OTHER PROPERTY  
WEST : OTHER PROPERTY SOUTH : OTHER PROPERTY  
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com. For bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in  
Sd/-  
Authorized officer  
Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

**GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM**

Sl. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./ AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/ NOTA NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./ AUTH	MODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	URBVN	NIT NO 353/P&D/2023-24 BID NO B-704	LRP WORKS UNDER RDSS PROJECT FOR CIRCLE/DISTRICT JHAJJAR ON FULL TURNKEY BASIS AMENDMENT IN BID CAPACITY CLAUSE.	www.urbvsn.org.in	01722570431 cpcc@urbvsn.org.in
2	URBVN	NIT NO 353/P&D/2023-24 BID NO B-705	LRP WORKS UNDER RDSS PROJECT FOR CIRCLE/DISTRICT JHAJJAR ON FULL TURNKEY BASIS AMENDMENT IN BID CAPACITY CLAUSE.	www.urbvsn.org.in	01722570431 cpcc@urbvsn.org.in
3	URBVN	NIT NO 359/P&D/2023-24 BID NO B-711	LRP WORKS UNDER RDSS PROJECT FOR CIRCLE/DISTRICT PANIPAT ON FULL TURNKEY BASIS AMENDMENT IN BID CAPACITY CLAUSE.	www.urbvsn.org.in	01722570431 cpcc@urbvsn.org.in
4	URBVN	NIT NO 359/P&D/2023-24 BID NO B-712	LRP WORKS UNDER RDSS PROJECT FOR CIRCLE/DISTRICT PANIPAT ON FULL TURNKEY BASIS AMENDMENT IN BID CAPACITY CLAUSE.	www.urbvsn.org.in	01722570431 cpcc@urbvsn.org.in
5	URBVN				



# 13 EXPRESS NETWORK

**J&K admin bars DGP from transferring DSPs on his own**

**ARUN SHARMA**  
JAMMU, OCTOBER 23

THE JAMMU and Kashmir administration has restrained Director General of Police Dilbagh Singh from ordering the transfer of Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs) on his own, stating that he henceforth needs to forward the proposal to the Home Department.

A Home Department circular dated October 5 addressed to the DGP states: "Henceforth no transfers at the level of DSPs be effected without obtaining the prior approval of the Government, and the proposals for transfers and postings of DSPs be forwarded to the Home Department, along with complete details."

The circular issued by Additional Secretary, Home, Dr Arvind Karwani further states: "I am also directed to request you to kindly share the list of Deputy Superintendents of Police who have been prematurely transferred during the past three months on immediate priority."

A senior police officer said such decisions could affect the "smooth functioning" of the "system".

"It is the DGP as the head of the police organisation who knows better than anybody who in his force is to be placed where and who is perfectly suitable for a certain job at a particular time and particular place," he said.

The circular comes at a time DGP Singh has attained the age of superannuation and is due to retire by month-end.

Many within the Jammu and Kashmir Police had been speculating that he may get an extension, and that the circular may be linked to the tussle for supremacy between IAS and IPS officers.

Principal Secretary, Home, R K Goyal did not respond to calls seeking a comment.

## Haryana minister asks DGP to suspend 372 probe officers over delay in cases

**VARINDER BHATIA**  
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 23

IN AN unprecedented move, Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij on Monday directed the state Director General of Police to suspend 372 Investigating Officers over delay in cases being handled by them.

"It is a tough stance taken in public interest," Vij told *The Indian Express*.

"People cannot be left to run from one officer to another seeking justice. It is the police's duty to provide prompt redressal to complaints lodged with them. I have instructed the DGP to hand over all such cases to Deputy Superintendents of Police who would take action on these cases within a month, failing which



**Anil Vij says his 'tough stance taken in public interest'**

they would also be liable for action," he said. The Investigating Officers facing action are in ranks of Assistant Sub Inspectors to Inspectors.

Sources said in some cases there were allegations of corruption leading to intentional delays against them, while in some there were allegations of bias due to which the complaints had been pending for more than one year.

In his letter to DGPSS Kapur, Vij said, "I have asked many times for early disposal of the FIRs registered in the state. Last

month, I ordered that explanation be sought from all the Investigating Officers who have not finalised/disposed of the FIRs that were pending for over a year. The number of such cases is very high... 3,229."

"I am pained to know that despite my instruction, still 372 Investigating Officers are such who have not finally disposed of the pending cases and reasons quoted by them are not satisfactory. They are making people move from one pillar to another for getting action on their complaints. This is a very serious matter and cannot be ignored," he wrote.

"I would like that all these Investigating Officers be put under suspension immediately and their cases be transferred to respective Deputy Superintendents

of Police (DSPs) for final disposal within a month, otherwise action will be taken against those officers also," he wrote.

Giving a breakup of the Investigating Officers against whom he sought action, Vij said 66 of them are in Sirsa followed by Gurgaon (60), Yamunanagar (57), Faridabad (32), Karnal and Rohtak (31 each), Ambala (30), Jind (24), Hisar (14), Panchkula (10), Sonapat (9), Rewari (5) and Panipat (3) among others.

Vij told *The Indian Express* that an explanation had earlier been sought from these police officers for the delay in their cases.

"When I sought a report from the Home department's senior officers, I was informed that there were 3,229 such cases in which action was pending for

over a year," the minister said.

"I asked the senior officers to seek explanation from these Investigating Officers for the reasons why action was not taken in the cases pending with them. I was informed that the replies were either not furnished to the explanations sought or were not satisfactory in cases of 372 Investigating Officers. Thus, I issued these instructions today."

On whether such action can be challenged, a senior government officer said, "The Home Minister is well within his rights to issue such instructions to the Home Department or the Director General of Police. And, the DGP is bound to implement the instructions issued by the minister. There is no question of not implementing these instructions."

## INJURED WARDING OFF DOGS Wagh Bakri director dies week after fall while escaping dogs

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
AHMEDABAD, OCTOBER 23

WAGH BAKRI Tea Group executive director Parag Desai died at a private hospital in Ahmedabad on Sunday days after he suffered a head injury when he fell while warding off stray dogs. He was 49. Parag was a fourth-generation member of the Desai family - the promoters of the Gujarat Tea Processors and Packers Limited, popularly known as the Wagh Bakri brand. The tea company, which boasts to be one of the largest suppliers and exporters of tea in India, was founded by his great-grandfather Narandas Desai in 1892.

Parag Desai was hospitalised on October 15 at around 6 pm, said an official at Shalby Hospitals after he suffered a brain haemorrhage due to the head injury. He was at the hospital for 24 hours, the official added, following which he was shifted to Zydus Hospital.

A statement from Shalby Hospitals on Monday said, "On October 15th, around 5.30pm, Shri Desai was taking a leisurely evening walk in his residential society close to his bungalow when stray dogs rushed towards him, which caused him to run towards his residence compound which caused him to lose his balance, unfortunately resulting in a severe brain hemorrhage due to fall."

It further added, "He was immediately transported to a private hospital by his family and a surgical procedure was conducted the next day in a valiant attempt to save his life. Despite the best efforts of the medical team, they could not save him. Regrettably, Shri Desai peacefully passed away on the late evening of Sunday, October 22nd."

The Sarkhej police station in Ahmedabad has made a note of the incident as an accidental death case, police officials confirmed to *The Indian Express*.

After Desai succumbed to the injuries at Zydus Hospital late on Sunday, hundreds of people, in-



**Parag Desai, 49, had suffered a head injury and was hospitalised on October 15.**

cluding Wagh Bakri's employees, family members, and trade and industry leaders, turned up on Monday morning at the Thalje Crematorium in Ahmedabad where his last rites were held. Before the final rites, a funeral service was held at his home, "Parag", at Santossa Park in the Ambli locality of Western Ahmedabad.

Parag went to the United States to pursue a Master's degree in marketing in 1992. His close associates say that during his stint in the US, he would utilise his weekends meeting shopkeepers and distributors and sharing samples of the tea brand that his great-grandfather started over 100 years ago.

Parag and his cousin Paras joined the family business in the '90s. An MBA from Long Island University in the US, Parag was one of the two executive directors on the board of Wagh Bakri Tea Group. He used to spearhead the company's sales, marketing, and exports, and was an "expert tea-taster" and evaluator. He is survived by his wife Vidisha and daughter Prisha.

Several politicians and industry leaders also condoled his demise. "Very sad news coming in. Parag Desai, director and owner of Wagh Bakri tea passed away. May his soul rest in peace. My condolences to the entire Wagh Bakri family," read a post by Shaktisinh Gohil, president of the Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee, on the microblogging site X.



### MEMORIES SAKE

Children stand in front of Dussehra effigies for a photograph at Polo Ground in Vadodara on Tuesday. *Bhupendra Rama*

### PM Modi speaks to Jordan's King, shares concerns on terrorism

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi spoke to Jordan's King Abdullah II amid the Israel-Hamas conflict as the two leaders shares concerns regarding terrorism, violence and loss of civilian lives.

Modi said on X that concerted efforts are needed for an early resolution of the security and humanitarian situation. "Spoke with His Majesty @KingAbdullahII of Jordan. Exchanged views on the developments in the West Asia region. We share concerns regarding terrorism, violence and loss of civilian lives. Concerted efforts needed for early resolution of the security and humanitarian situation," he said.

Israel has launched an attack on the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip after militants affiliated to the group killed hundreds, including civilians in large numbers, in an assault on the country.

### Sugar mill linked to Maharashtra ex-CM gets govt security for Rs 147-crore loan

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 23

A CO-OPERATIVE sugar mill related to former chief minister and Congress MLA Ashok Chavan has been given Rs 147.79 crore loan from the Maharashtra State Central Co-operative Bank with a guarantee from the state government.

The state cabinet in September 2023 had cleared the proposal to extend loans from

the state co-operative bank with government guarantee to co-operative sugar mills facing financial difficulties.

The state co-operative department Monday issued the government's resolution whereby Bhaurao Chavan Co-operative Sugar mill at Nanded district is one of the recipients from the scheme.

Among other sugar mills include Beed district's Jai Bhavani Co-operative Sugar mill which is linked to former MLC and Ajit

Pawar loyalist Amarsinh Pandit, which has been given a Rs 150 crore loan.

Shri Chhatrapati Co-operative Sugar mill, also linked to Ajit Pawar loyalists, has been given a Rs 128 crore loan.

The two other mills included in the scheme are Sahkar Shiromani Vasantrao Kale co-operative sugar mill, which has been given a loan of Rs 146.32 crore; and Sant Kurmadas Co-operative Sugar mill, which has been given a Rs 59.49 crore loan.

### Under-construction bridge collapses in Gujarat, 2 people crushed to death

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
GANDHINAGAR, OCTOBER 23

TWO PEOPLE were crushed to death after girders of an under-construction bridge on National Highway 58 in Palanpur city of Banaskantha collapsed Monday afternoon. Taking serious note of the incident, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, who handles the Roads & Buildings (R&B) Department portfolio, rushed a team of senior engineers to Palanpur to know the primary reason behind the accident.

According to Palanpur police, the incident happened around 3 pm near RTO Circle where a three-leg elevated bridge that had been under construction collapsed. Police rushed to the spot and are in the process to register a case in the incident.

"The incident happened around 3pm when the girders fell. A rickshaw was stationed below the under-construction bridge and as the girders toppled, two persons - including one sitting in the rickshaw - died. We have sent their bodies for postmortem to Palanpur Civil Hospital," Palanpur East Police Inspector S K Parmar said.



The collapse site. *Express*

The two deceased have been identified as Ajay Shrimali (30) and Mayur Parmar (20).

An official statement from the Chief Minister's Office stated that the CM has taken serious note of the accident and ordered three senior engineers - Superintending Engineer of R&B's Quality Control, Superintending Engineer of Design Circle and Superintending Engineer of Gujarat Engineering Research Institute - to reach the spot immediately to ascertain the primary reasons behind the collapse. According to R&B

Department Secretary Ashok Patel, a Railway Over Bridge is being constructed by the state government's National Highway division at the site.

"This is a railway overbridge connecting Ambaji with Palanpur. Though the construction of the bridge has been going on for some time, the girders that collapsed were launched on the pillars a week back, but had not been tied to the structure as yet," Banaskantha Collector Varunkumar Baranwal said.

Sources said the contract to build the bridge worth Rs 89 crore was given to GP Chaudhary Infrastructure, a private firm, in 2021. "A total of six girders of the under-construction bridge collapsed. There could be some defect, but the exact reason behind the accident will be known after a team of our senior engineers visit the spot (and submit its report)," Ashok Patel said.

"Experts told me that it has happened due to a mechanical failure in launching the girders. Still, a Quality Control team of R&B is coming from Gandhinagar. Once they are through it, we will get to know more about what exactly happened," Baranwal told *The Indian Express*.

### 'Our biggest fear has come true': Family of Agniveer who died in Siachen

**VIJAY KUMAR YADAV**  
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 23

AKSHAY GAWTE, 22, from Buldhana of Maharashtra fulfilled his childhood dream by joining as an Agniveer three months ago much against the wishes of his family members. However, he couldn't live his dream for long and died on October 21 in Siachen glacier where he was deployed on duty.

The family was inconsolable when his mortal remains were brought to his village in Saray of Pimpalgaon where the funeral was held on Monday. The Army informed that Akshay died of a heart attack, family members said.

According to the family, Akshay was passionate about joining the Indian Army since he was in Class 10. "My wife and I were worried about him and would regularly speak to him. We always discouraged him from joining the Army, fearing that if anything happened to him, what would we do in our old age?" said his father Laxman Gawte, who is a farmer.

Giving details of the compen-



Family of Agniveer Akshay Gawte at his funeral in Pimpalgaon on Monday

sation, ADG of Public Information posted on social media, "As per the terms of engagement of Agniveers, emoluments authorised to a deceased Battle Casualty will comprise: non Contributory insurance sum amounting to Rs 48 lakh, Seva Nidhi contributed by the Agniveer (30 per cent), with equal matching contribution by the govt, and interest there on, ex gratia of Rs 44 Lakh, pay of balance tenure from date of death, till completion of four years (more than Rs 13 lakh), contribution of Rs 8 lakh from Armed Forces Battle Casualty Fund and immediate financial assistance of Rs 30,000 AWWA."

### Meet the fashion designer who got band-baaja welcome home after separating from husband

**ABHISHEK ANGAD**  
RANCHI, OCTOBER 23

ARDUOUS LEGAL proceedings, father's cancer, a dog that gave hope, and a grand welcome home - 23-year-old Sakshi Gupta has seen incredible highs and lows over the past year and a half.

The Ranchi-based fashion designer made news earlier this week when videos emerged of her father picking her up from her in-laws' residence and taking her back home, accompanied by a band-baaja-baraat traditionally reserved for big fat Indian weddings.



23-year-old Sakshi Gupta now plans to complete her fashion designing course and start work.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Sakshi said: "Sometimes I would wonder if it was better

to die. But my family gave me hope, and my dog, Bella, who is like a child to me, gave me purpose."

It was in April last year that Sakshi married a state government employee. Soon after, though, the couple had marital discord - while her husband filed a case alleging mental harassment, she moved for divorce and filed a domestic violence case.

"We spent lakhs on her wedding and sent her off to her new family. It seems it was my fault in not assessing the situation correctly. I realised she has to be given the same welcome when she returns home, and that is

why I went to her in-laws' house (with the band)," said her father Prem Gupta, who recently got surgery for cancer.

According to him, as things turned sour, Sakshi returned home. "But as legal proceedings stretched on, she returned to her in-laws' residence on her first wedding anniversary and asserted that she had the right to stay there. Later, since she felt lonely, I gave her a dog," he said.

The dog, a Shih Tzu named Bella, became Sakshi's life. "Bella used to wipe my tears, hug me. Now I feel like Bella is my child... it understood what I was going through. As much as my parents supported me,

there are moments when you can't burden them with all kinds of information. That was when Bella became my backbone," said Sakshi.

"A month and a half ago, my husband and I decided that we will both withdraw from our cases and go for a mutual divorce. The process will begin by November-December," she said.

She now plans to complete her fashion designing course and start work.

"There are so many things life teaches you, and after I came home, I went for a religious tour to Rajasthan and Mathura. I feel thankful now," she said.



**EXPLAINED ECONOMICS**

# Why sales of automatic cars are booming

They are easier to drive; innovation in auto tech has also made automatics cheaper, mileage comparable to manuals. The stick shift may be on the way out

**ANIL SASI**  
 NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

THE COUNTRY'S biggest carmaker, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd, said last week that it had logged sales of a million automatic vehicles. Maruti also said it had sold close to 1 lakh automatic cars in the current financial year.

The ease of driving an automatic in stop-start traffic in congested Indian cities and a narrowing of the mileage gap between manuals and automatics are among the reasons for the increasing adoption of non-manual gearboxes.

But the key factor is technological innovations and improvements that have allowed manufacturers to customise an array of automatic technologies across multiple price points. A decade ago, automatics were dependent largely on a technology called 'torque converter' — and were available only in top-end trims which cost a lot more than manual variants, and had poor mileage. Not any more.

**Which cars, sold where**

Maruti Suzuki now offers automatic transmission variants across almost all its 16 models. Sales of the company's non-manual

variants rose from under 10% in FY21 to more than 25% in FY23. Automatics make up more than 25% of overall sales for Hyundai Motor India, and more than 60% for Volkswagen Passenger Cars India.

According to data from London-based JATO Dynamics, a global supplier of automotive business intelligence, automatic variants as a proportion of total passenger vehicle sales have risen from around 15% in 2018 to more than 28% now.

Customers of Maruti Suzuki's higher-end NEXA retail channel are about 58% of the carmaker's total automatic sales; these buyers prefer high-end variants. Customers of Arena, Maruti's non-premium retail platform, contribute 42% of sales, and prefer mid-variants while buying an automatic, according to the company.

Sales of Maruti Suzuki's automatics are the highest in Delhi-NCR in the north and Maharashtra in the west, followed by Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Kerala.

**Types of automatics**

In manual transmission vehicles, the driver presses the clutch and slots the stick through a set of gears; in automatics, the engaging of the clutch and upshifting/down-

shifting of gears happens on its own, depending on the car's speed and rev range.

Broadly speaking, automatic transmissions available in India can be put under five broad heads: AMTs and iMTs, CVTs, DCTs, and torque converters. There is also the e-CVT option that is now increasingly being deployed in hybrids.

**AMT:** Automated Manual Transmission is the most common in India, especially at the lower end of the price bracket. It is similar in working to manual transmission, but sensors and actuators do the work of the clutch and shifting of gears. The actuator is operated by an Electronic Controller Unit; the system can assess dynamic driving conditions and adjust gear shifts to deliver optimal driving performance.

Given that the transmission is essentially a manual with add-ons, an AMT allows manufacturers to price models at a smaller premium. The AMT also does not compromise on mileage. Downside: the shifts are less smooth compared to other automatics, even though AMTs have got better over the years.

**Cars:** Maruti Suzuki offers AMTs in the Celerio, S-Presso, Wagon-R, and Ignis. Renault uses AMT in the Kwid and Triber. Tata Motors offers AMTs in its Tiago hatchback; Hyundai offers this in i10 and the new Exter.

**iMT:** Intelligent Manual Transmission is a clutchless manual in which the driver has to still manually operate the gear lever to up-shift or downshift. The gear lever in an iMT is mated to an intention sensor, an actuator, and an electronic control unit. As the driver slots the gear out of the gate, the sensor picks up the action and the actuator kicks in.

In city traffic, the iMT is far more convenient than a manual variant, fuel efficiency is almost as good, and buyers don't have to pay a huge premium.

**Cars:** Hyundai's i20 and Venue, and the Kia Sonet have iMT transmission in their turbo-petrol variants.

**TORQUE CONVERTER:** The most common automatic transmission globally offers reasonably good performance and fuel efficiency, is reliable, and not very expensive to build. It has three main components: torque converter unit, planetary gear arrangement, and hydraulic controls. The torque converter functions as the hydraulic coupling that transfers power from the engine to the transmission, and the planetary gear system helps to modulate speeds to meet different driving requirements. For seamless shifts, the gear ratios have a dedicated wet clutch system operated by the hydraulic controls.

**Cars:** Maruti Suzuki offers this in the

Grand Vitara, XL6, Fronx, Jimny, and Baleno.

**CVT:** This is essentially a single-speed auto gearbox with two cone-shaped pulleys connected by a drive belt. One pulley is connected to the engine, the other to the wheel shaft. They move in tandem with engine revs, with the two cones moving independent of each other, and thereby imparting the mechanism infinite gear ratios (depending on the length of the drive belt).

A CVT is extremely fuel-efficient and smooth compared to conventional automatics, but involves the so-called 'rubber band effect' — a lag between when throttle input is received and when it kicks in. As a result, in normal driving conditions, especially when the driver accelerates hard, there is a perceptible disconnect between the soaring engine rev and the actual rate of acceleration.

**Cars:** Toyota, Honda, and Nissan use CVTs in the City and new Elevate SUV, Magnite, and the non-hybrid Innova Hycross.

**DCT:** There are two clutch packs controlled by a sophisticated network of electronics and hydraulics. The clutches operate independently — one controls the odd-numbered gears, the other the even gears. When the first gear is engaged, the 'odd' clutch is in use, but the 'even' clutch has already pre-selected the second gear and is ready for the

upshift, thus allowing quick shifts without interrupting the flow of motive power to the transmission.

The downside: the mechanism is complex, and could involve major repair costs if things were to ever go wrong.

**Cars:** Hyundai and Kia offer DCT gearboxes in Creta and Seltos, as do Volkswagen and Skoda in the Virtus and Slavia sedans.

**E-CVT:** The gearbox is distinct from the CVT automatic, as there's no belt here. Instead, there are two electric motor-generators connected to a planetary gearbox, with the engine at one end and the driveshaft at the other. One of the motor-generators is deployed to start the engine, but can act as a generator to charge the hybrid battery at other times. The second motor-generator can deploy as a drive motor, on its own or with the engine, and also double up as a generator to perform a regenerative braking role when the vehicle is slowing down.

**Cars:** The mechanism enables electric-only drive by decoupling the engine (without the need for a clutch), and is deployed by Toyota in its hybrid Urban Cruiser Hyryder and Innova Hycross.

**LONGER VERSION**  
[indianexpress.com/explained](https://indianexpress.com/explained)

**EXPLAINED GLOBAL**

## WHAT IS THE CYPHER CASE IN WHICH FORMER PAK PM IMRAN WAS INDICTED

FORMER PAKISTAN Prime Minister Imran Khan and ex-Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi were indicted by a special court in the cypher case on Monday. This pertains to the disclosure of a classified cable sent to Islamabad by Pakistan's ambassador in Washington early last year. Imran and Shah Mahmood have been accused of making the document public.

Although Imran has claimed that the cable is proof of a US conspiracy to push him out of office, he has denied revealing its content publicly.

**What was the classified cable?**

The document contained an account of a meeting that took place on March 7, 2022, between then Pakistani ambassador to US Asad Majeed Khan and US State Department officials, including Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs Donald Lu.

The complete text of the purported cable hasn't been disclosed yet as it is protected under Section 5 of the Official Secrets Act 1923 of Pakistan. However, in August, American news organisation *The Intercept* reproduced a section of the document. The outlet said it received the document from a source in Pakistan's military.

In the meeting, the US officials expressed their displeasure regarding

Imran's visit to Moscow on February 24, 2022, when Russian President Vladimir Putin announced the invasion of Ukraine, according to *The Intercept* report.

Lu purportedly went on to say: "I think if the no-confidence vote against the Prime Minister succeeds, all will be forgiven in Washington because the Russia visit is being looked at as a decision by the Prime Minister. Otherwise, I think it will be tough going ahead."

Asad Majeed sent the details of the gathering to Islamabad through a cable, labelled "Secret".

Notably, just a day after the meeting, on March 8, Imran's political rivals in Parliament moved a key procedural step towards the no-confidence vote.

The US State Department has denied that its officials encouraged their Pakistani counterparts to oust Imran.

**And what is the case?**

Imran talked about the secret document for the first time on March 27, 2022, at a gathering in Islamabad. Since then, he has repeatedly brought up the classified cable.

In response, in July this year, the Pakistan Muslim League (N)-led government accused the former PM of "exposing an official secret document".

The next month, just days after *The Intercept* published its report, Imran was booked under Section 5 of the Official Secrets Act, 1923. **ALIND CHAUHAN**



Imran has denied leaking the cable. AP

**ANONNA DUTT**  
 NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

NAGALAND GOT its first medical college earlier this month — the Nagaland Institute of Medical Sciences and Research at Phriebagei in Kohima will have 100 MBBS seats for the coming academic session.

The government has been emphasising on an equal distribution of medical colleges. A regulation issued by the medical education regulator, National Medical Commission (NMC), in August put a hold on new medical colleges and expansion of existing colleges in states with more than 100 medical education seats per million population.

The notification has angered the southern states, none of which are now eligible for any more medical education seats. The NMC has argued that the guidelines will bring down regional disparities in the availability of doctors, and ensure effective quality education for all. "With this ratio, there will be still potential for the addition of about 40,000 MBBS seats in the country if the medical colleges are evenly distributed," the NMC said in a statement on October 9.

**How are seats currently distributed?**

The table shows the number of seats in medical colleges in all states and Union Territories, as against their projected populations. The data show that it isn't just states in South India that have exceeded the NMC's new recommended population-to-seats ratio.

At least 13 states and UTs have more than 100 seats/ million population. Tamil Nadu — whose Chief Minister MK Stalin has said the NMC guidelines are a "direct encroachment" on the state's rights and asked the Prime Minister to intervene — has the most seats (11,225), followed by Karnataka (11,020) and Maharashtra (10,295). However, while TN and Karnataka have exceeded the NMC's norm by 46% and 63% respectively, Maharashtra, with its estimated 12.6 crore population, is well below the threshold.

The deficiency of medical college seats in relation to population is the most acute in Meghalaya, Bihar, and Jharkhand, all of which are in deficits of more than 75% from the

**EXPLAINED POLICY**

## The uneven spread of medical colleges, debate over regulator's new guidelines

### HOW STATES STACK UP AGAINST NMC'S RATIO

Name of the State/UT	Total Seats	Projected population	Total MBBS seats allowed	% more than allowed
Puducherry	1,630	16,46,000	165	890.28
Andaman & Nicobar	114	4,03,000	40	182.88
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	177	6,99,000	70	153.22
Sikkim	150	6,89,000	69	117.71
Telangana	7,415	3,80,90,000	3,809	94.67
Manipur	525	3,22,3,000	322	62.89
Karnataka	11,020	6,76,92,000	6,769	62.8
Tamil Nadu	11,225	7,68,60,000	7,686	46.04
Kerala	4,605	3,57,76,000	3,578	28.72
Himachal Pradesh	920	74,68,000	747	23.19
Chandigarh	150	12,31,000	123	21.85
Goa	180	15,75,000	158	14.29
Andhra Pradesh	5,635	5,31,56,000	5,316	6.01
Uttarakhand	1,150	1,16,37,000	1,164	-1.18
Gujarat	6,600	7,15,07,000	7,151	-7.7
Jammu & Kashmir	1,147	1,36,03,000	1,360	-15.68
Maharashtra	10,295	12,63,85,000	12,639	-18.54
Mizoram	100	12,38,000	124	-19.22
Delhi	1,497	2,13,59,000	2,136	-29.91
Chhattisgarh	1,945	3,01,80,000	3,018	-35.55
Rajasthan	5,075	8,10,25,000	8,103	-37.37
Haryana	1,835	3,02,09,000	3,021	-39.26
Punjab	1,750	3,07,30,000	3,073	-43.05
Tripura	225	41,47,000	415	-45.74
Odisha	2,325	4,62,76,000	4,628	-49.76
West Bengal	4,825	9,90,84,000	9,908	-51.30
Madhya Pradesh	4,180	8,65,79,000	8,658	-51.72
Assam	1,450	3,57,13,000	3,571	-59.4
Uttar Pradesh	9,253	23,56,87,000	23,569	-60.74
Arunachal Pradesh	50	15,62,000	156	-67.99
Jharkhand	980	3,94,66,000	3,947	-75.17
Bihar	2,565	12,67,56,000	12,676	-79.76
Meghalaya	50	33,49,000	335	-85.07
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,01,043</b>	<b>138,81,63,000</b>	<b>1,38,816</b>	

Source for seats: *Rajya Sabha* answer by government on March 14; Census projection for population

NMC's ratio. Meghalaya has only 50 seats for an estimated 33.5 lakh people; these numbers for Bihar and Jharkhand are 2,565 and 12.7 crore, and 980 and 3.9 crore respectively. Uttar Pradesh, the most populous state, has 9,253 seats, a deficiency of 61%.

The stark deficiencies in some states are in spite of a push from the government to increase the number of seats. Over the last nine years, the government has doubled the numbers of both undergraduate and postgraduate medical seats. (Critics say this has come at the cost of the quality of education.)

**Will states with an excess have to start shutting colleges or cutting seats?**

No. The notification says the ratio will be applicable only if new medical colleges are sought to be established or seats in existing colleges are sought to be increased from the 2024-25 batch.

**So is there merit in the NMC's argument?**

With the increasing numbers of private medical colleges, experts agree there is a need to rationalise. Prof Vivek Saoji, vice-chancellor of Bharati Vidyapeeth, Pune, and former VC of KLE Academy of Higher Education and Research of which Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Belagavi, is a part, said: "This move was necessary to ensure a good distribution of medical colleges across the country." Opening of more colleges in, say Bihar, could result in a reverse migration of staff from the southern states, he said.

Dr Nandini Sharma, a former dean of Delhi's Maulana Azad Medical College, said the NMC's ratio is based on the WHO's recommended number of physicians per unit of population. "We have seen what happened with dentistry. With a very high number of dental students graduating, many don't really practise. They get into some government programme or an allied field," she said.

Dr Sharma pointed out that despite the number of medical colleges and seats having increased in the last few years, there is a shortage of faculty even at hospitals like MAMC and AIIMS in the capital.

NMC has said it has been cautioned by courts earlier to ensure colleges are not bunched together.

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## Ramleela in Trinidad: How indentured labourers carried their culture abroad

**ARJUN SENGUPTA**  
 NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

RAMLEELA IS one of India's most famous folk theatre traditions, performed across north India during Dussehra celebrations. It has also travelled to distant corners of the world with the Indian diaspora. One such instance is that of Trinidad, an island in the Caribbean with a significant Indian population.

**EXPLAINED CULTURE**

**A sour sweet story**  
 When slavery was abolished in the British Empire in 1834, it created a massive problem in many colonies whose economy depended on slave labour. The island of Trinidad, where sugar formed the backbone of the economy, was one such.

Plantation owners, desperate to keep their economy afloat, turned to indentured labour from India. On May 30, 1845 the first boatload of indentured Indians came to Trinidad.

While considered more humane than slavery, indentured servitude was brutal for labourers. 'Agents' back in India would lure unsuspecting Indians to it with the promise of riches and opportunity. A part of their wages would be withheld till the end of the contract. This way, labourers would effectively be under bondage while working in back-breaking conditions on the plantations.

Today, Indian-origin people — mostly descendants of these labourers who continued to enter Trinidad as late as 1917 — form the largest ethnic group in Trinidad, at around 35% of the population. Most came



The Ramleela in Trinidad innovated to stay relevant. National Trust of Trinidad and Tobago

from the present-day eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

**Carrying nothing but culture**

When travelling to these distant lands, indentured individuals were unable to carry many material possessions. What they did bring, though, was their culture.

"Although Indian Hindus carried only a few belongings to Trinidad, they are said to have brought the *Manas* [*Ramcharitmanas*], either in memory or book form," the academic Paula Richman wrote in the 2010 paper *Ramleela in Trinidad*. Most, she wrote, grew up hearing the text recited and watching it enacted.

This is how Ramleela arrived in Trinidad. In villages in the countryside, thronged by Indians speaking Bhojpur, Ramleela saw widespread participation of the community. "Elders who used to play particular roles coach new players. Experts supervise ritual preparation of the grounds. Someone with a large work shed or garage lets the

stage crew use it to construct the effigy... Teams of women cook mouth-watering culinary specialties roasted over open fires and served hot each night of the performance," Richman wrote.

**A gradual decline**

By the later half of the 19th century, however, the popularity of Ramleelas was waning. As formal education spread, Bhojpur was slowly replaced by English among the Indian population. As a result, younger generations were not as familiar with the *Ramcharitmanas* as their predecessors. This decline was made worse by a steady migration of Indians into urban spaces, leaving behind their former social life that revolved around Hindu festivals. Now, youth encountered other cultural influences like the Carnival, an annual cultural high point for Trinidadians.

**Innovation and rejuvenation**

But these factors also made Ramleela ripe for innovation — as audiences dwindled, troupes got more experimental. Today, gender and caste restrictions on participation have been loosened, new dramatic techniques embraced, and dialogue simplified to appeal to younger audiences.

Most importantly, increased financial backing has meant that production values have skyrocketed. As Indian-origin Trinidadians have become more powerful in the country's politics, Ramleela has parallely enjoyed renewed attention. However, the basic essence of the story and performance remain the same. "The fundamental anchor of Ramleelas in Trinidad remains the *Ramcharitmanas*. A Hindi verse from it begins each scene even though the rest of the scene is in English," Richman wrote.



# 15 ECONOMY

<b>GOLD</b>	<b>USD RATE</b>	<b>OIL</b>	<b>SILVER</b>
₹61,600	₹83.18	\$93.85	₹75,000

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg. Crude oil (Indian basket) as of October 20

SENSEX: 64,571.88 ▼ 825.74 (1.26%) NIFTY: 19,281.75 ▼ 260.90 (1.34%) NIKKEI: 30,999.55 ▼ 259.81 HANG SENG: 17,172.13 ▼ 123.76 FTSE: 7,372.77 ▼ 29.37 DAX: 14,703.40 ▼ 95.07

International market data till 1900 IST

## MONTHLY ECONOMIC REVIEW

# Strong fundamentals to help India's growth momentum: FinMin report

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

THE OUTLOOK for the Indian economy for the current financial year 2023-24 remains "bright and is solidly underpinned by strong domestic fundamentals" even as there are significant headwinds and fresh challenges from adverse geopolitical turns and volatile crude prices, the Finance Ministry said in its monthly economic review for September on Monday.

The report noted that headline inflation has eased and remained within the upper tolerance limit of the medium-term target of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) at 5 per cent in September indicating that the increase in inflation during July-August was only temporary, caused by the seasonal and weather-driven supply constraints in a few food items.

However, the risks remain tilted to the downside to the



The ministry pointed out that the fiscal position of the government remains solid with steady revenue growth. File

near-term global outlook amid high inflation and tighter monetary policies, it said.

"Global uncertainties have been compounded by recent developments in the Persian Gulf. Depending on how the situation develops, crude oil prices may push higher. Further, the relentless supply of US Treasuries and continued restrictive monetary policy in the US (with further

monetary policy tightening not ruled out) could cause financial conditions to be restrictive. At current levels, US stock markets have greater downside risk than upside. If the downside materialises, it will have spillover effects on other markets. Fraught geopolitical conditions can cause a general increase in global risk aversion. If these risks worsen and are sustained, they can af-

fect economic activity in other countries, including India," it said.

Both private consumption and investment demand are firming up, with additional growth levers in broad-based industrial growth and buoyant residential property markets along with improvement in industrial capacity utilisation.

"Investment has hitherto been propelled mainly by the capital spending of the Union Government and the crowding-in it induced for private corporate investment. While this continues unabated, increasing demand for residential properties, supported by responsive housing loan financing, has given a fillip to construction activity and the property markets... while the Union Government's relentless focus on capital spending has been propelling aggregate investment since FY22, there are strong indications that households' increased propensity to invest in

residential properties will drive investment further," it said.

The ministry pointed out that the fiscal position of the Union Government remains solid with steady revenue growth, especially in direct taxes, and prudent rationalisation of revenue expenditure which has "enabled the front-loading of capital expenditure while keeping the market borrowing programme tied to the budgeted target."

Employment trends are encouraging, with improving labour force participation rate and declining unemployment rate, it said.

On the external front, there is sluggish export demand, which is expected to improve going ahead.

"Sluggish global demand is affecting India's trade, but this is projected to recover from H2FY24. Nonetheless, with a lower trade deficit and a comfortable forex reserve position, India's external account looks robust," it said.

## 'Workforce, infra critical factors cos consider for locating manufacturing ops'

EDWARD KNIGHT, Chairman of USIBC (US-India Business Council) and Executive Vice Chairman of NASDAQ, sees a progressive ramping up of the collaboration between India and US, especially in the area of critical and emerging technologies. In an interaction with ANIL SASI and P VAIDYANATHAN IYER over the course of an India visit last week, Knight said the need for upskilling of the Indian labour force and the continued development of infrastructure could be critical elements as the two countries look to build on their engagement. Edited excerpts:



What is the key focus of this India visit?

So, our goal is to deepen the relationship between the two governments and the two business communities. It is a partnership, but it's also a friendship between the two countries... And so, and in doing that, well, it means you have to listen as well as talk. And so we did a lot of listening, about where the country is going, what the priorities are. We had a very interesting trip to Mumbai. We visited the port. We visited a solar panel manufacturing facility there. You know, you saw with your own two eyes how dynamic the Indian economy is, through all the activity in the port and all the expansion that's going on there. We visited the GIFT city... and our delegation looked at exploring, you know, what is our role there, and how can we take advantage of the incentives there are to do business, and from NASDAQ's perspective, the intention is to create a, if you will, an easier portal to the international markets for Indian investors. And we very much support that... But I think there is a need to educate people about GIFT city and to educate Americans generally about India, and it's an ongoing process. But the momentum in the relationship is palpable. You can feel it here. You can fill it in the United States...

What are the concerns that USIBC members may have about doing business in India?

Well, I mean, there are two, if you will, what I call arrows in flight that we need to make sure hit their target one.

One is the collaboration between the US business community and the Indian (community) to facilitate the ability of the Indian economy, and government, to manufacture their own defence capabilities and build on the foundation of their very strong technology base that you have here. And then there's the initiative on

THE EXPRESS  
INTERVIEW  
WITH  
EDWARD KNIGHT  
CHAIRMAN OF USIBC AND  
EXECUTIVE VICE CHAIRMAN OF  
NASDAQ

How do you see critical technologies and collaboration in the semiconductor sector shaping up?

You see, Micron, for instance, announcing that it is going to build a chip assembly facility here in India. But I think there is, as in the United States, there's a need to raise our game in this area. The nature of the hardware that's needed to efficiently and effectively process the data, and the large language models that are used in AI require reimagining of datacenters, reimagining of how the Cloud operates. And, you know, that's something that we have to do in the United States, but, but I think you also have to do it here in India. And we can learn from each other. So I'm hopeful that you will develop the capabilities to be innovative in this area like you have in so many other technology areas.

critical and emerging technologies that has focused on, of course, the supply chain for chips. And helping to build out India's role in that, which is very critical. But there are other topics that could fall within that one area that's very important to NASDAQ is artificial intelligence and it is something that we apply in our business from day to day...

But the benefits that people are talking about around artificial intelligence and the more broad use of it, I think are not hype... This is a tool that could increase the efficiency of just about any operation by as much as 30 per cent. And it could unlock doors in the medical field.

In terms of analysing the mountains of data that need to be analysed, could be analysed, in a more comprehensive way to find cures for cancer. So it is changing our economy and it is something that I think people should be excited about.

And just like with electricity when it was first developed, there were safety issues. We work through those.

We will work through these, and it's an area where we can collaborate with India and help India develop its capabilities. You have the largest pool of English speaking, STEM educated employees.

The strong legal system, the democracy that you have, all of those things create the foundation, I think for continued innovation in your economy.

Will incentives alone be enough in pushing chip manufacturing?

Well, we learned in speaking with your education minister, you know, there is a skilling need, in terms of upskilling of the workforce, to make them able to participate in this new enterprise of AI and its development. But this upskilling, and also the continued development of your infrastructure, are two things that are critical elements that when technology companies and other companies think about locating manufacturing facilities, it's the strength of the infrastructure, the ability to get the raw materials, and how to get the finished products out and have the skilled employees and a stable workforce to do the work... We saw in Mumbai, the solar power panels being manufactured there, close to the largest port in India, for export to the United States, and I think you're going to see more of that.

FULL INTERVIEW ON  
www.indianexpress.com

## Senior citizens savings scheme collection surges, PPF rates steady

AANCHAL MAGAZINE  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

COLLECTIONS UNDER small savings schemes have seen a pickup in April-September, with deposits for the Senior Citizens Savings Scheme surging over 2.5 times year-on-year to Rs 74,675 crore. This marks a 160 per cent increase over Rs 28,715 crore collected in the corresponding period a year ago, a senior government official said. Additionally, collections under Mahila Samman Savings Certificate, which was introduced in Budget this year, stood at Rs 13,512 crore during April-September.

The interest rate for Senior Citizens Savings Scheme was hiked to 8.2 per cent from 8 per cent in April-June this year and has been kept unchanged since then. The investment limit for the scheme for elderly was raised to Rs 30 lakh from Rs 15 lakh from April this year. Other small savings rates were broadly kept unchanged for October-December quarter, with an increase of 20 basis points in interest rate of one small savings scheme — 5-year recurring deposit. The interest rate for the Public Provident Fund scheme has remained unchanged at 7.1 per cent, which the official said has been kept in mind factoring in the tax benefits for the scheme. "There is a conscious thought towards it (keeping PPF rate unchanged). The Shyamala Gopinath Committee in 2016 had given a formula for the small savings schemes rates... what the committee missed out was possibly the tax benefits given to schemes like PPF. Our priority is

The interest rate for Senior Citizens Savings Scheme was hiked to 8.2% from 8% in April-June and has been kept unchanged since then

for schemes for senior citizens and women like Sukanya Samridhhi Account Scheme. PPF still remains the scheme with one of the highest returns. But we have to factor in the costs when we pay interest as there is revenue loss on the receipts side also due to tax benefits," the official said.

There has been no change in PPF interest rate since April 2020, when it was cut to 7.1 per cent from 7.9 per cent. For April-June 2021, the government had further proposed to cut it to 6.4 per cent from 7.1 per cent. The decision was, however, withdrawn a day later.

Small savings schemes play a crucial role in government finances as Centre and some states borrow against the National Small Savings Fund. For FY24, the government has said it will use Rs 4.71 lakh crore from NSDF collections to finance a part of its overall fiscal deficit.

Despite the pickup in small savings collections, the government has stuck to its FY24 borrowing plan. In September, the government announced it would borrow Rs 6.55 lakh crore during October-December, which is 42.45 per cent of the total Rs 15.43 lakh crore gross borrowings budgeted for the whole financial year.

## Central govt surpasses 50% of budgeted capex so far in FY24

AANCHAL MAGAZINE  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

THE GOVERNMENT has crossed 50 per cent of its budgeted target for capital expenditure, or the Rs 5-lakh-crore mark, so far in the ongoing financial year 2023-24, a senior government official said Monday, adding that overall trends in revenue and spending were along expected lines and the Centre should be able to meet its stated fiscal deficit target of 5.9 per cent of the gross domestic product.

"There is not much worry on the tax part. Overall receipts are fine and are expected to meet the budget target. As on date, receipts seem to be going as predicted. Expenditures are also as predicted. So, let me say that I don't

have any reasons to believe that we would not be meeting it (2023-24 fiscal deficit target), based on the information available to us now," the official said, adding that the government is looking to maintain its glide path for fiscal consolidation.

The finance ministry is in the process of holding pre-budget discussions with various ministries. Additional demand is expected to come in from some of the key government schemes such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and expenditure on fuel and fertiliser subsidies amid global geopolitical tensions.

"Additional demands for MN-REGS would be considered within the limits of prudence," the official said.

On the recent spike in govern-

ment bond yields amid the sharp rise in US Treasury yields and fresh geopolitical tensions, the government official said it is "not much of a concern right now".

"We are watching things...if they go beyond tolerance levels, we will take appropriate remedial measures. So far, we are fine with it," the officials said.

The government had budgeted Rs 10 lakh crore target for capital expenditure for the current fiscal, an increase of 36 per cent over the previous financial year. As per Controller General of Accounts data, the government's capital expenditure stood at Rs 7.36 lakh crore 2022-23 against the budget target of Rs 7.5 lakh crore and revised estimate of Rs 7.28 lakh crore.

FULL REPORT ON  
www.indianexpress.com

## High volatility in vegetable inflation haunts economy, says Crisil report

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 23

WITH DEMAND outpacing supply, vegetable inflation has trended up in the past four years with consumer price index (CPI) vegetable inflation averaging 5.7 per cent during fiscals 2020 to 2023, rating agency Crisil said.

On the other hand, CPI vegetable inflation averaged zero per cent during fiscals 2016 to 2019, with interim periods of sharp deflation and steep inflation, mostly led by weather shocks, it said. "Vegetable inflation in India has been trending up, with more frequent price spikes in recent years. In fact, vegetable inflation also has

been the most volatile in the food category," Crisil said.

In comparison, average food inflation rose to 6.2 per cent during fiscals 2020 to 2023 from 2.8 per cent between fiscals 2016 and 2019. 2. The frequency of vegetable price spikes has increased. In the past 100 months, CPI vegetable inflation was above its period average of 3.8 per cent in 49 months. It was above 7 per cent in 35 months, above 10 per cent in 30 months and above 20 per cent in 13 months.

"The inflation volatility is bad for consumers and farmers, and also distracts policymakers in the short term, forcing frequent and repeated price smoothing measures. Demand for vegetables

has outpaced supply," Crisil said. Population growth and demographic transition, income growth and the changing dietary preferences that come with it are some structural factors behind the surge in demand, it said.

While vegetable production — including per capita production — has grown, it has not kept pace with the surge in demand, Crisil said. Apart from losses due to weather disturbances and pest attacks, post-harvest wastages during storage and transportation further cut the stock available in the market, it said.

It said food inflation is back to haunt the Indian economy.

FULL REPORT ON  
www.indianexpress.com

## Sikkim HC stays ₹628 cr GST demand against Delta

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

THE SIKKIM High Court has granted a stay on about Rs 628 crore GST demand order against Delta Corp, the casino and online gaming company said in a regulatory filing on Sunday.

The government has raised a total GST demand of around Rs 23,000 crore against the company till date which includes recovery of the shortfall of taxes for casino and online gaming business of the Delta Corp group.

The Directorate General of GST Intelligence, Hyderabad on September 22 issued three demand notices against the company including a demand of over Rs 628 crore for the shortfall of tax paid by Delta Corp Limited in relation to Casino Deltin Denzong based out of Sikkim.

## India's reliance on crude oil imports rises to 87.8% in Apr-Sept from 86.5% a year ago

SUKALP SHARMA  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

INDIA'S RELIANCE on imported crude in the first half of the current financial year ending March rose to 87.8 per cent from 86.5 per cent in the corresponding April-September period of last year as consumption of fuels and other petroleum products increased while domestic oil production was flat, latest oil ministry data showed.

The reliance on imported crude in April-September was also higher than the previous fiscal's 87.4 per cent, which was the highest-ever for a full year. If the trend seen so far in the ongoing fiscal holds, oil import dependency could hit a fresh high again this year.

While the government wants to reduce India's high dependency on imported crude oil, sluggish domestic oil output



The country's domestic crude oil production in April-September was flat year-on-year at 14.7 mn tonnes. File

in the face of continually growing domestic demand has led to reliance on imports rising over the years.

In early 2015, the government had set a target to reduce reliance on oil imports to 67 per cent by 2022 from 77 per cent in

2013-14, but the dependence has only grown. Heavy reliance on imported crude oil makes the Indian economy vulnerable to global oil price volatility, apart from having a bearing on the country's foreign trade deficit, foreign exchange reserves, rupee's exchange rate, and inflation.

At 116.2 million tonnes, the volume of India's oil imports in April-September was a tad higher than 115.7 million tonnes in the year-ago period, while petroleum product exports declined to 30.9 million tonnes from 31.5 million tonnes. Domestic consumption of petroleum products for April-September was at 113.7 million tonnes, up from 107.4 per cent a year ago. The computation of import dependency is based on the domestic consumption of petroleum products and excludes petroleum product exports as those volumes do not

represent India's demand.

According to the Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell (PPAC) of the oil ministry, total production of petroleum products from domestic crude oil in April-September was 13.9 million tonnes, which translates to a self-sufficiency of just 12.2 per cent.

In the corresponding six months of last year, petroleum product production from indigenous crude was 14.5 million tonnes and self-sufficiency stood at 13.5 per cent.

The country's domestic crude oil production in April-September was flat year-on-year at 14.7 million tonnes. With refining capacity of nearly 254 million tonnes per annum, India—the world's third-largest consumer of crude oil and also one of its top importers—is a net exporter of petroleum products.

FULL REPORT ON  
www.indianexpress.com

## Sensex, Nifty fall over 1% on rising concerns over Israel-Hamas conflict

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 23

DOMESTIC EQUITY indices came under pressure, falling over 1 per cent on Monday amid growing tensions over the ongoing Israel-Hamas war and worries over more rate hikes by the US Federal Reserve. The 30-share BSE Sensex closed at 64,571.88, down 825.74 points, or 1.26 per cent, and the NSE's Nifty 50 slipped 260.9 points, or 1.34 per cent to end at 19,281.75. The markets fell for the fourth consecutive day. Global equities fell as the 10-year US Treasury surged to 5 per cent.

"Benchmark indices witnessed severe pounding in the last



Investor confidence remained pessimistic. File

hour trades as simmering geopolitical tension in the Middle-East region triggered a wave of selling pressure and prompted investors

to offload equity holdings. Investors are already worried about further interest rate hike and inflation, and with the addition of the Israel-Hamas conflict, the uncertainty has increased further and leading to weak sentiment in global equities," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd. Despite the healthy performance of private banks and marginal reductions in oil prices, investor confidence remained pessimistic, and a widespread consolidation persisted in the domestic markets, said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

FULL REPORT ON  
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## Forex swap: Delivery of entire \$5 bn to RBI goes through smoothly, say banks

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 23

AS THE \$5 billion forex swap matured on Monday, banks delivered the entire amount to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in one go, market participants said.

The \$5 billion dollar/rupee (USD/INR) sell-buy swap auction was conducted by the RBI in April last year. Under the swap, the central bank sold dollars to banks with an agreement to buy back those dollars at maturity.

"The delivery (of \$5 billion

forex swap) happened without any issue. The entire \$5 billion has gone from the banking system to the RBI. It was a contract undertaken by the RBI with the various banks one-and-a-half years back, so automatically the dollars went from the banks' account to the RBI's account," said a treasury official at a public sector bank.

Earlier, some market players said that they were not certain about how the RBI will take the delivery of dollars. They believed that the central bank may stagger the absorption of these dollars over a few days as it would not ex-

ert pressure on the rupee. Bankers said the RBI is likely to use the dollars received under the forex swap in the spot market to protect the rupee from depreciation.

"Whatever dollars have been delivered through the swap route, will come back into the market through the spot route in some days," said a forex dealer.

The delivery of \$5 billion to the RBI will, in turn, release Rs 40,000 crore of rupee liquidity into the banking system.

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# 16 THE WORLD

**436 PALESTINIANS KILLED IN LAST 24 HOURS**  
by Israeli air strikes, says Gaza health ministry

**ISRAEL JETS HIT TWO HEZBOLLAH CELLS,**  
claims they were planning to launch missiles

**THIRD AID CONVOY ENTERS RAFAH CROSSING**  
from Egypt for besieged Gaza Strip, says UN

## Israel mounts limited ground raids in Gaza, airstrikes on

US suggests delay in ground assault to allow time for negotiations to release hostages



A Palestinian woman with her children, who were wounded in an Israeli strike, at Shifa hospital in Gaza. Reuters

## Gaza teen sees family killed after seeking safety in south

**NIDAL AL-MUGHRABI**  
GAZA, OCTOBER 23

When the Israeli army told Palestinians in the Beach refugee camp in Gaza City to flee south because it was safer, 18-year-old Dima Al-Lamdani's family prayed they would escape air strikes.

But days later, Lamdani was left to identify the bodies of her relatives at a makeshift morgue in the southern city of Khan Younis. She said she lost her parents, seven siblings and four members of her uncle's family in an Israeli air strike.



18-year-old Dima Al-Lamdani. Reuters

**AGENCIES**  
GAZA, JERUSALEM  
OCTOBER 23

ISRAEL BATTERED Gaza from the air on Monday, killing more people, while its soldiers fought Hamas militants on the ground in raids inside the besieged Palestinian enclave before a potential new stage to the conflict.

The US advised Israeli officials that delaying a ground offensive would give Washington more time to work with regional mediators on securing the release of people captured by Hamas, according to a US official.

Gaza's health ministry said 436 people died in Israeli aerial attacks in past 24 hours, most of them in the south of the narrow, densely populated Gaza Strip.

el-Deen al-Qassam Brigades, said its fighters engaged with an Israeli force that infiltrated Gaza and they destroyed Israeli military equipment.

The group said the infiltration by what it described as an armoured force took place east of Khan Younis in southern Gaza.

The Al-Qassam Brigades said they were firing missiles at southern Israeli towns.

Warning sirens blared out on the Israeli side.

The Israeli military also said it had struck more than 320 targets in Gaza over 24 hours, including a tunnel housing Hamas fighters, dozens of command

### EU to call for 'humanitarian pause'

Brussels: European Union leaders will call this week for a "humanitarian pause" in the Israel-Hamas war so that aid for Palestinians in the Gaza Strip can safely reach those in need, according to draft conclusions of an EU summit.

EU officials said text could still change before the October 26-27 summit. Some countries have voiced against calling for a ceasefire, arguing it could be seen as curbing Israel's right to self-defence.

Leaders of the 27 countries that make up the EU will convene in Brussels for what is called a European Council, and the crisis in the Middle East will be high on their agenda.

"The European Council supports the call of UNSG (UN Secretary-General Antonio) Guterres for a humanitarian pause in order to allow for safe humanitarian access and aid to reach those in need," the draft conclusions of the summit said. **REUTERS**

and lookout posts, and mortar and anti-tank missile launcher positions.

Early on Monday, Israeli warplanes struck two Hezbollah cells in Lebanon that were planning to launch missiles and rockets toward Israel, Israeli military said. Israel also hit a Hezbollah compound and an observation post.

Meanwhile, a third aid convoy from Egypt has entered Gaza. Juliette Touma, director of communications for the UN's Palestinian refugee agency, confirmed the arrival of the convoy "with 20 trucks" in Gaza on Monday, but provided no other details.

## Will act if US troops come under attack, say Blinken, Austin

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
REHOBOTH BEACH,  
OCTOBER 23



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken (left), Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin. File

SECRETARY OF State Antony Blinken and Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin said Sunday that the United States expects the Israel-Hamas war to escalate through involvement by proxies of Iran, and they asserted that the Biden administration is prepared to respond if American personnel or armed forces become the target of any such hostilities.

"We don't want to see our forces or our personnel come under fire. But if that happens, we're ready for it."

Austin, echoing Blinken, said "what we're seeing is a prospect of a significant escalation of attacks on our troops and our people throughout the region." He said the US has the right to self-defence "and we won't hesitate to take the appropriate action."

The warning from the high-ranking US officials came as the

## Iraq says it will pursue militants who attacked bases housing US troops

Baghdad: Iraq's army spokesman says the state will go after militants who have carried out attacks against army bases housing US troops in the country.

Major General Yahya Rasoul said in a statement Monday that military advisers from the US-led coalition are in the country "at the invitation of the government" and their mission is to train Iraqi forces.

Rasoul said the prime minister has ordered the country's security agencies to go after those who carried out attacks and prevent any attempt to harm Iraq's national security.

Over the past week, several bases housing US troops in Iraq came under rocket and drone attacks that were believed to have been carried out by Iran-backed groups.

There are about 2,500 US troops in Iraq, whose main mission is to train Iraqi forces and prevent a resurgence of the Islamic State group. **AP**



At a UN-run school where Palestinians have taken refuge, in Rafah, in Gaza Strip. Reuters

## US teen freed by Hamas doing 'very good', says her father

**CLAIRE SAVAGE, MELISSA WINDER & LISA BAUMANN**  
ILLINOIS, OCTOBER 23



Natalie Raanan, who was taken hostage, with her father Uri Raanan. AP

THE FATHER of freed American teen hostage Natalie Raanan said Friday she's doing well following two weeks in captivity after she and her mother were abducted in Israel by Hamas and held in Gaza.

Uri Raanan of Illinois told The Associated Press that he spoke to his daughter Friday by telephone. "She's doing good. She's doing very good," said Uri Raanan, who lives in the Chicago suburbs. "I'm in tears, and I feel very, very good."

The 71-year-old said he saw on the news earlier Friday that an American mother and daughter would be released by Hamas, and he spent the day hoping that meant his daughter and her mother, Judith Raanan.

Knowing Natalie may be able to celebrate her 18th birthday next week at home with family and friends feels "wonderful. The

best news," her father said.

Ben Raanan, Natalie's brother, said before her abduction he and his sister had spoken of getting matching tattoos to mark her birthday.

Instead, he got a tattoo this week in her honor, incorporating their names along with their brother's name.

The family's text message chain sharing updates on Friday moved from tentative hope to outright celebration, tempered by an awareness than other fam-

ilies still are living in fear for their loved ones. Ben Raanan told Associated Press at his home in Denver.

"When I see her again, I think there aren't going to be words to express what's going on," he said. "It's going to be like this intense hug that is bigger than words and bigger than what we could actually communicate verbally."

Uri Raanan said he believes Natalie and Judith to be in transit to Tel Aviv to reunite with relatives, and that both will be back in the US early next week.

An Israeli army spokesman said the two Americans were out of the Gaza Strip and with the Israeli military. Hamas said Friday it released them for humanitarian reasons in an agreement with the Qatari government.

They were the first hostages to be released since Hamas militants, according to Israel, abducted roughly 200 people during their October 7 rampage.

Joe Biden was among the many celebrating the news that the Raanans had been freed. **AP**

### BRIEFLY

- Hospital blast likely caused by Gaza missile: Britain**  
BRITAIN HAS concluded that a blast at a hospital in Gaza was likely caused by a misfired missile from Palestinian territory, rather than an Israeli strike, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak told lawmakers in the House of Commons. **AP**
- Fuel running out in hospital's neonatal wards, says doctor**  
THE HEAD of the neonatal unit in Nasser Hospital in the southern city of Khan Younis said it will run out of fuel within 48 hours. Dr Hatem Edhair said there are eight babies in the intensive care unit and 10 others in the neonatal department. **AP**
- Norway offers to assist probe of alleged war crimes**  
NORWAY IS willing to assist in a possible probe of alleged war crimes in Gaza and Israel, its justice minister said Monday. Norway earlier contributed to International Criminal Court to investigate possible war crimes, including in Ukraine. **AP**

## SRI LANKA INFLATION RATE EASES

Compared to 2.1% in August, consumer price inflation for September eased down to **0.8%**

the statistics department said on Monday.

■ The National Consumer Price Index captures broader retail price inflation and is released with a lag of 21 days every month.

■ Food prices fell 5.2% in September after declining 5.4% in August, from a year earlier. Prices for non-food items, however, climbed 5.9% in September after rising 9% year-on-year in August. **Reuters**

## Pakistan top court says military trials of civilians 'null and void'

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
ISLAMABAD, OCTOBER 23

PAKISTAN'S SUPREME Court on Monday declared the trial of civilians arrested following the violent protests on May 9 in military courts as "null and void" and ordered authorities to conduct their hearing in ordinary courts.

A five-member bench of Supreme Court led by Justice Ijazul Ahsan in its verdict ordered that 102 accused held under Army Act be tried in criminal court.

The court ruled that the trial of any civilian if held in military court has been declared "null and void".

The bench comprising Justices Ahsan, Muneeb Akhtar, Yahya Afridi, Mazahir Naqvi, and Ayesha Malik - announced its verdict on a dozen petitions challenging the trial of more than 100 civilians in



Violent protests took place on May 9 following the arrest of former PM Imran Khan

military courts following the unprecedented violence after the arrest of former prime minister Imran Khan on May 9.

The pleas were filed by former PM Imran Khan, the Supreme Court Bar Association, eminent lawyer Aitzaz Ahsan, former chief justice Jawwad S Khawaja and members of the civil society among others.

## Ex-PM Imran charged in cipher leak case

Islamabad: A special court in Pakistan on Monday indicted former prime minister Imran Khan and ex-foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi for the alleged leaking of a diplomatic cable and violating the secret laws of the country. Khan was arrested in August after a case was filed against him for allegedly disclosing a secret diplomatic cable (cipher) sent by the Pak embassy in Washington in March last year. **PTI**

## 20 killed, several injured in collision between two trains in Bangladesh

**ANISUR RAHMAN**  
DHAKA, OCTOBER 23

AT LEAST 20 people were killed and several others injured on Monday when a freight train hit a passenger train in Bangladesh's northeastern Kishoreganj district, officials said.

The accident took place when the freight train headed towards Chattogram hit the rear coaches of the Dhaka-bound Egarosindur Godhuli Express around 3.30 pm (local time) in Bhairab area of Kishoreganj district, some 60 kilometres of the capital Dhaka, Bhairab Railway Police Station duty officer Sirajul Islam told the media.

"Twenty bodies have been recovered so far. We are extending our all possible support to the rescue operations," an official of



Rescuers at work after a cargo train hit a passenger train at Bhairab, Kishoreganj district, Bangladesh, Monday. PTI

the elite anti-crime Rapid Action Battalion told reporters.

Fire service officials on the spot said three passenger carriages were upturned and feared

"We expect to find more bodies as well as injured passengers during the rescue process," a fire service official told reporters.

A rescue train with cranes has left for the accident site.

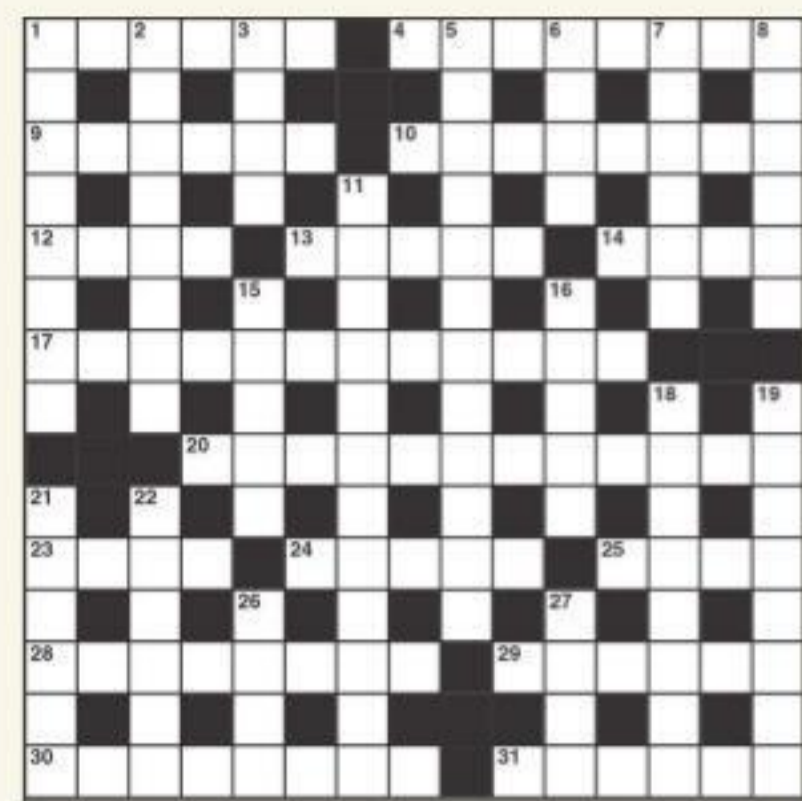
Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defence media chief Shahjahan Sikder said that over a dozen units of the fire service are conducting rescue operations.

"An initial report said that the freight train crashed into the Egaro Sindur from behind, striking two of the carriages," Anwar Hossain, superintendent of Dhaka Railway Police, was quoted as saying by the *bdnews24* news portal.

Nazmul Islam, acting general manager (east) of Bangladesh Railway, said that the container train had disregarded a signal and rammed into last three carriages of the passenger train, the *Daily Star* newspaper reported. **PTI**



## CROSSWORD 5190



- ACROSS**
- Named flier set the pace (6)
  - Insisted on a fresh dessert (8)
  - Are led astray by the one in charge (6)
  - Expedition to the French metropolis goes around a river (8)
  - An ill-considered breakout (4)
  - Falls short of a pound note, counterfeit perhaps (5)
  - Fuel designed to deal with the smoke problem (4)
  - Wrong impression of a key worker (7,5)
  - An air of conviviality (8,4)
  - Entry at gunpoint (4)
  - Going on twelve inches (5)
  - Still one unresolved Himalayan myth (4)
  - Ragged retines, hungry and rapacious (8)
  - Made miserable to a certain extent by death (6)
  - Makes converse? (8)
  - Urges some simple modification (6)
- DOWN**
- A love letter disposed to show forbearance (8)
  - A wing consisting of ten parts (8)
  - Some people believe nobody is on the level (4)
  - Describing the fish that got away? (4,8)
  - Every variety of ache (4)
  - A sweet little thing to play with (6)
  - It supports a light sleeper (3,3)
  - Merely a whim to overtake? (7,5)
  - New stars played major roles in Russia (5)
  - Make a false impression (5)
  - Sharp decline in air traffic (8)
  - A most unfair condition (8)
  - A lust that's understood (6)
  - Supports what a peacock does (6)
  - False witness who turns up to abuse (4)
  - Notice a large number appear (4)

**Solutions Crossword 5189 Across:** 1 Tulip, 4 Post-war, 8 Orb, 9 Easter egg, 10 On and on, 11 Onset, 13 Triads, 15 Adored, 18 Canon, 19 Ingrate, 21 Electrify, 23 Ice, 24 Kneaded, 25 Degas Down: 1 Tookout, 2 Librarian, 3 Head, 4 Posing, 5 Steroid, 6 Wos, 7 Right, 12 Streaming, 14 Denoted, 16 Deepens, 17 Pried, 18 Cheek, 20 Guyed, 22 Eve

## OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



## CALVIN & HOBBES 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.  
Often the best way to overcome desire is to \_\_\_ it - W. Somerset Maugham (7)

**MSSAI**      **GILUTY**

**SSOFL**      **EELRYF**

SOLUTION: AMISS, FLOSS, GUILTY, FREELY

**SUDOKU 5360**

Difficulty Level 4s  
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.

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

**SOLUTION SUDOKU 5359**

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

**SUDOKU 5359**

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

## DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

- ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)**  
Today's lively Moon will make it very much easier to take a valuable step up the slippery ladder of success. The fact is that others may benefit from the fallout of your very worthwhile efforts. However, don't imagine that there's not a lot of hard work ahead.
- LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)**  
A few smart moves could slash your domestic and routine chores. Labour-saving gadgets could help, as will delegation of duties to others. However, your main challenge will be to face the fact that certain long-held opinions must now be cast to the four winds.
- TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)**  
You'd probably do well to take care of financial affairs today, especially joint arrangements. In other words, it's the optimum moment to settle debts and balance the books. The best period for professional initiatives is just around the corner.
- SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)**  
You'll certainly have a few brilliant ideas, but whether they'll be of any use is quite another matter. It's probably best to play about with all your different options in a spirit of pure experimentation. If anything is finalised today it may be cancelled by this week.
- GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)**  
If ever you dreamt of the perfect moment to seek a rise in your income, now could be it. The main advice is to look for an approach which is slightly out of the ordinary. You will, though, have to offer something unusual in return. But what might it be?
- SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)**  
The poetry in your soul is stirring, so it's time for emotional dreams and choices. The romantic situation is beginning to look decidedly more colourful for everyone in search of love. You might form the most unexpected and surprising attachments.
- CANCER (June 22 - July 23)**  
Your remarkable intuition, coupled with your innate Cancerian common sense, should be advising you to follow the line of least resistance. Assuming that partners are on hand to take care of the practical dimension, go for the most romantic and unrealistic choices.
- CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)**  
Certain family matters may be somewhat confusing, but there's nothing wrong with that. And there's probably nothing new in it either. What you need is a sense of humour, plus a realisation that if other people want to make mistakes, that is their business.
- LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)**  
Even a long, drawn-out wrangle over finances should soon be settled. The best way out of a mess may actually be to work through the muddle, and then make a quick getaway. Have your fallback position ready, and see to it that you're not trapped in a corner.
- AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)**  
You're plugging directly into deep wells of unconscious wisdom at the moment, so it's a perfect moment for coming up with strokes of genius. This development is directly applicable to your financial situation, and you may follow a hunch if you want to make a mint.
- VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)**  
It's time for a spot of lateral thinking, making connections which evade ordinary people, and finding answers in the most unusual places. You've got to forge the links which can help you break free from a current dilemma. The solutions may be just around the corner.
- PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)**  
The Sun's gentle passage through your chart should steer you into a new and more advantageous position. Come up with as many suggestions as you want, but give yourself all the time you need to mull things over. And remember, if a job is worth doing, you'll probably have to do it yourself.

**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
TENDER ID : 14922  
Director Civil Aviation, Government of Gujarat, C/o Gujarat State Aviation Infrastructure Co. Ltd. (GUJSAIL), A Government of Gujarat Undertaking, GUJSAIL Complex, Nr. Torrent Sub-station, SVPI Airport, Ahmedabad-380004, Ph.-079-2288 2000 & 2403  
TENDER INVITED FOR SET-UP OF FT0 AT AMRELI, MEHSANA AND ANKLESHWAR AIRSTRIPS OF GUJARAT STATES.  
Pre Bid Meeting Date: 27/10/2023 at 12:00 hrs.  
Last date of Online Bid Submission: 20/11/2023 at 18:10 hrs.  
Interested bidders/agencies can download the tender document and relevant details from the website <https://tender.nprocure.com/>

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED**  
See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C.  
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Rajni Kant S/o Gajender R/o H-1/38, Aman Vihar, Kirari, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 644/2013 U/S 325/379/356/341/427/506/34 IPC, P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Rajni Kant** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Rajni Kant** have absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).  
Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Rajni Kant** of case FIR No. 644/2013 U/S 325/379/356/341/427/506/34 IPC, P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint/case on or before 17.01.2024.  
By Order  
**Sh. Navdeep Gupta**  
Metropolitan Magistrate  
Room No. 109, First Floor,  
Rohini Courts, Delhi  
DP/11917/RD/2023(Court Matter)

**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
TENDER ID : 15420  
Director Civil Aviation, Government of Gujarat, C/o Gujarat State Aviation Infrastructure Co. Ltd. (GUJSAIL), A Government of Gujarat Undertaking, GUJSAIL Complex, Nr. Torrent Sub-station, SVPI Airport, Ahmedabad-380004, Ph.-079-2288 2000 & 2403  
INVITES TENDER TO PROVIDE MEDICAL SERVICES WITH ADVANCED MEDICAL EQUIPMENTS FOR THE AIR AMBULANCE OPERATION THROUGH SUPER KING AIR B200 AIRCRAFT  
Pre Bid Meeting Date: 01/11/2023.  
Last date of Online Bid Submission: 20/11/2023 at 18:10 hrs.  
Interested bidders/agencies can download the tender document and relevant details from the website <https://tender.nprocure.com/>

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**  
See Section 82 Cr.P.C.  
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Arhar Rashidi @ Alam R/o GC-11, 2nd Floor, Pul Prahlad Pur, New Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence of FIR No. 225/14 u/s 420/34 IPC P.S. Pul Prahlad Pur, New Delhi has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Arhar Rashidi @ Alam** could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Arhar Rashidi @ Alam** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Arhar Rashidi @ Alam** accused in FIR No. 225/14 u/s 420/34 IPC P.S. Pul Prahlad Pur, New Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 24.11.2023.  
By Order: **Sh. Himanshu Tanwar**  
Metropolitan Magistrate-10  
Room No. 307, 3rd floor,  
Saket Court, New Delhi  
DP/11943/SE/23

**NEW INDIA ASSURANCE** Regd. & Head Office  
87, M.G. Road, Fort, Mumbai-400 001  
CIN Number : L66000MH1919GOI000526  
IRDAI Registration Number : 190  
THIS is with reference to our Notification No.: NIA-HO/INV/BROKEREMPANEL/01/2023-24. The New India Assurance Co. Ltd invites applications for empanelment of new share brokers. Last date for submission of application is 21.11.2023. For further details, Notification/Addendum/ Corrigendum visit our web site <https://www.newindia.co.in>  
DGM (Investment Dept-Front Office)

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**  
General public is hereby informed that one person Namely **Arun Pramanik S/O Underjeet R/o H.No. 182 Chandrabati Village Road Podra Sanskrali Howrah West Bengal-711109** has been missing/kidnapped from shop no. 4826 Gali no 45 Raigarpura, Karol Bagh. since: 15.09.2023. In this regard, a case DD no. 82A dated 21.09.2023 has been registered at P.S. Karol Bagh, Delhi. The description of the missing person is as under.  
Age: 37 years, Height: 5'3", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Wearing: Brown colour army T-shirt & Red Colour lower & chappal. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out him but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing person then please inform **P.S. Karol Bagh, Delhi** at following Tel No./ e-mail: [cic@c-bi.gov.in](mailto:cic@c-bi.gov.in) and Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>, providing clue about the person.  
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641  
Fax No. 011-24368639  
DP/11791/CD/2023  
Sd/-S.H.O.  
Karol Bagh, Delhi  
Tel No. 8750870430

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**  
General public is hereby informed that a male namely **Emran Gouri, S/o: Khursid, R/o: Gaon Katratha, Distt Sikar, P.S. Sikar, Rajasthan-332024** has been missing since 13.10.2023 at 11:20 PM from Hanuman Murti, Gol Chakkar, Karol Bagh, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 106 A dated 14.10.2023, has been lodged at Police Station Karol Bagh, New Delhi. The description of missing male is as under:  
Name: **Emran Gouri, Age: 21 Years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Dark, Built: Normal, Face: Long, Hair: Black, Wearing: Green Colour Shirt & Black Colour Pant and Black Colour Shoes in Feet.**  
If anyone has any information about this missing male please inform P.S. Karol Bagh, New Delhi.  
Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 SHO  
Police Station, Karol Bagh, New Delhi  
DP/11762/CD/2023 Ph: 011-28726870, 8750870430

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**  
See Section 82 Cr.P.C.  
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Daljeet Singh S/o Gajendra Singh R/o A-78B, Gulab Bagh, Nawada, New Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence FIR 46/2019 u/s 279/338 IPC P.S. Khyala, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Daljeet Singh** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Daljeet Singh** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Daljeet Singh** accused of FIR 46/2019 u/s 279/338 IPC P.S. Khyala, New Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 25.11.2023.  
By Order : **Ms. Shagun**  
Metropolitan Magistrate-04 (West),  
Room No. 268, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi  
DP/11778/WD/23

**Shield Finance Private Limited**  
Regd. Office: 314, RG, Mall, Sector-9, Rohini, New Delhi-110085 India  
Mob: + 9810051580 CIN: U74899DL1994PTC062299  
E-mail: [shieldfinance94@gmail.com](mailto:shieldfinance94@gmail.com) and [vanik.fn@gmail.com](mailto:vanik.fn@gmail.com)

**Public Notice**  
This public notice is being issued jointly by Shield Finance Private Limited (the "Company"), Mr. Rahul Garg (Acquirer) and Mr. Rishabh Agrawal (Acquirer) pursuant to Paragraph 5- Requirement of Prior Public Notice about change in control/ management of the RBI Notification No. DNBR. (PD) 029/CGM(CDS)-2015 dated July 09, 2015.

**Background**  
The Company is a non-deposit taking non-systemically important non-banking financial company registered with the RBI in terms of the certificate of registration dated 14th November 2002 bearing registration number B-14-02739. The paid capital of the company is INR. 1,89,50,000 (18,95,00,000 equity shares of face value of IN 10 each ("Equity Shares")).

**Proposed Transaction**  
a) Mr. Rahul Garg and Mr. Rishabh Agrawal seek to acquire a stake of 99% and 1% respectively.  
b) Mr. Rahul Garg and Mr. Rishabh Agrawal will also be appointed as directors of the company.  
c) The Name of the company will be changed from Shield Finance Private Limited to "VANIK FINCORP PRIVATE LIMITED" (together referred to as the "Proposed Transaction").

Upon consummation of the Proposed Transaction, the Acquirer shall acquire 100% control of the Company and the management of the Company shall change by 100% upon appointing Mr. Rahul Garg and Mr. Rishabh Agrawal as director.

The Proposed Transaction will be affected after fulfilment of regulatory approvals (including the approval from RBI) and the expiry of 30 (thirty) days from the date of publication of this notice in accordance with Paragraph 61 of the RBI Directions.

**RBI Approvals**  
The Company has sought prior approval from RBI for change Acquisition and Transfer of Control under Paragraph 61 of the Master Direction - Non-Banking Financial Company - Non-Systemically Important Non-Deposit taking Company (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2016 dated September 01, 2016.

RBI, vide e-mail dated October 12, 2023, has granted its prior-approval for change in management and control of the Company and NOC for change in the name of the Company.

This notice is issued in compliance with RBI direction and intended to provide to the public a notice of the proposed change in control of the Company, change in its shareholding, and change in name of the company. Any clarifications and/or objections in this regard may be sent to the Company within 30 (thirty) days from the date of this notice, addressed to Mr. Vikram Sharma (Director) 314, RG, Mall, Sector-9, Rohini, New Delhi-110085 India or email at: [shieldfinance94@gmail.com](mailto:shieldfinance94@gmail.com) and [vanik.fn@gmail.com](mailto:vanik.fn@gmail.com).

SD/-  
Place: Delhi      Shield Finance Private Limited  
Date: 24.10.2023

**NORTHERN RAILWAY (GATI SHAKTI) TENDER NOTICE**  
Subj: NIT no. 13-DyCEE-GSU-DLI-23-24R2  
The Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Gati Shakti/Northern Railway, DRM Office, New Delhi-110001 has invited e-tender for the under noted work. It will be uploaded to IREPS website on date 23.10.2023

1. Name of work and location:	OHE modification work in connection with construction of 12 meter wide FOB on ABSS Stations Over Delhi Division (Part A-06 stations: TKJ, FDN, BVH, PWL, PTRD & SZM. Part B-05 stations: MSZ, NRW, JIND, ROK, BGZ. Part C-05 stations: SNP, GHNA, NUR, SMQL, MDNR)
2. Tender Notice no.:	13-DyCEE-GSU-DLI-23-24R2
3. Earnest Money amount:	Rs. 3,69,100/- (Rs Three Lakh, Sixty Nine thousand one hundred only)
4. Approximate cost:	Rs. 4,38,12,989.18 (Rs. Four Crore, Thirty Eight Lakh, Twelve thousand Nine hundred Eighty Nine and Eighteen Paise only)
5. Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender:	Tenders will be uploaded on date 23.10.2023 on IREPS web site i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> . The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened at 11:30 hrs on 14.11.2023
6. Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document:	The detailed e-tender notice and tender document is available on <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> . Above tender document will be available for submission of offer on IREPS web site i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> from 31.10.2023 to 14.11.2023. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.

No. 13-DyCEE/GSU/DLI/23-24R2 Dated: 23.10.2023      3316/2023  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**U.PRAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD**  
HARDUAGANJ THERMAL POWER STATION, KASIMPUR (ALIGARH)  
E-Tender Notice  
Superintending Engineer, Coal Handling Circle, Kasimpur (Aligarh):  
Tender No. STET-08/CHC/CHD-I/DTPS/HTPS/2023-24. In Coal Handling Division-II 'D' TPS, "Work of Lifting, handling, and transportation of 3,50,000.00 MT coal (Road Cum Rail) from Pit Head Stocks of Amrapali OCP (SM) (Pit Head Stock), Tapin South, Tapin North & Rajrappa of M/s CCL Mines to M/s. CCL Siding/ Railway good shed siding & loading in the railway rakes for dispatch to Harduaganj Thermal Power Station by Rail.". Period for the work of 40 days. The same will Upload on e-procurement system of UP Government <https://etender.up.nic.in> on dated 21.10.2023. Estimated cost Rs.1646.00 Lacs. Earnest Money Rs. 32.92 Lacs, Last date of E-bid Submission 04.11.2023.  
Note- Total quantity of work, tender specification and other terms & condition is as per tender documents available on the e-portal. Corrigendum, Addendum, Extension if any shall be uploaded only on the above website. Bidders are advised to visit the website regularly for updated information from time to time. Part-I shall contain Tender Cost/Earnest money and other necessary documents as per pre-qualifying conditions and Part-II will contain price bid as per bill of quantity. Tender specification may be downloaded from the website (<http://etender.up.nic.in>) and other specification details can be seen on Nigam website [www.uprvnl.org](http://www.uprvnl.org). The contractors have to submit the hard copy before the schedule date/time in the concern office in sealed envelope containing details of the tender mentioned on the envelope. Tenders are advised to send their hard copy directly to the concerned tendering authority of the Circles/Division. Who reserve the right to unaccept/cancel any or all the tenders without assigning any reason there of.  
Superintending Engineer (H.O.)  
पत्रांक : 44/अपीओअिओ(मु)/विज्ञापन/कैम्-1(37)/23 दिनांक 21.10.2023  
"Save Electricity Enhance National Productivity"

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED**  
(See Section 82 Cr.P.C.)  
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Vijay Mehta S/o Sh. Dhram Chand Mehta R/o L-1/431, 1st Floor Budh Vihar Phase-1, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Case Reg. No. 10908/2017 U/s 138 NI Act PS North Rohini, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Vijay Mehta** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Vijay Mehta** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).  
Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Vijay Mehta** of Case Reg. No. 10908/2017 U/s 138 NI Act PS North Rohini, Delhi required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 25.11.2023.  
By Order  
**Deepali Shrivastava,**  
Metropolitan Magistrate, (North West)  
Room No. 107 1st Floor Rohini Courts, Delhi  
DP/11975/RD/2023



When you always think of pleasing those at the top, you make wrong calls, you become servile, you lose self-respect. That's happening even today ... The courage of conviction is missing.

We are a nation with a high percentage of young, progressive minds. It's a mirage. Even the young and educated are joining the political conundrum, reluctant to raise their voice. The reason: sycophancy.

BISHAN SINGH BEDI FROM EXPRESS ARCHIVES

# Gutsy, graceful, great

Former captain, a master of subtlety renowned for his classical action, deceptive change of pace and trajectory, passes away at 77

SANDIP G  
OCTOBER 23

THE BREATHLESS deception of Bishan Singh Bedi began with him adjusting his turban, the colour getting brighter with the years and the wickets. He would roll the kada on his right hand upwards, as though it would disrupt his rhythm. He would toss the ball from one hand to the other, and would embark on his six-step diagonal run-up, with all the sweet time in the world, without fuss or haste, as though he floated to the crease.

The movements were relaxed and graceful, leisurely and hypnotic. From the deep edge of the crease, he released the ball like a loose-limbed yogic, every cell choreographing and culminating in that action of gods. It was later that he developed the whiskey waistline. The pivot was a pirouette, the follow-through is so smooth you wonder whether he had one at all.

Little wonder then that the legendary off-spinner Jim Laker once described his idea of cricketing heaven thus: "Lord's Cricket Ground, bathed in sunshine, with Ray Lindwall bowling at one end and Bishan Bedi at the other." Michael Holding, himself possessing one of the smoothest actions, called his action, "sheer poetry in motion."

For the watcher, his bowling was akin to a heavenly experience. But for batsmen, it was slow-burning hell. His action stopped time, the ball in flight suspended time. The batsmen would wait for an eternity, with both fear and wonder, as the round object curled and curved into him, dulling his feet, hands and brain, taking him to a sense of drunkenness. But then, the ball explodes, it abruptly drops and turns viciously. In half a second, a benign red sphere became an object of violence. He turned from Gandhi to Terminator.

There are a few old footage of his escapades on Youtube. The most watchable one is where he picks five for 55 in Brisbane. All were left bewildered, even the seasoned Bob Simpson, who thought he would use the feel and smother his spin.

He shimmied down the track and tried to hit him through cover, inside out, but the ball dropped alarmingly, turned and bit his outside edge to the hands of Sunil Gavaskar at first slip. Bedi's own favourite was the wicket of Greg Chappell during a game between Rest of the World and Australia in 1971-72. The ball drifted into his middle stump, wind-assisted, landed on middle and leg, before it spat past his outside edge to hit the off-stump.

His slowness deluded batsmen into believing that he could be dealt with using the feet. Mike Brearley in his college days, before playing the great man, once wrote in a newspaper that Bedi could be nullified by using feet. He blasted his countrymen for playing him from the crease.

When he eventually encountered him, next year when Bedi joined Northamptonshire and Brearley played for Middlesex, the Englishman stepped out to him in his first over, but was beaten in the flight and was stumped. "Like most great bowlers, his variation was subtle. Of all the slow bowlers of Bedi's time, none forced you to commit yourself later than he did. The er-



BISHAN SINGH BEDI • 1946-2023

ror of judgment induced in the batsman could be as much as a yard in length and a foot in width," Brearley would later write in Wisden.

### Master of subtlety

He was a master of subtlety, nuanced in the art of using the crease and adjusting his release points, which he often changed at the last possible seconds. The difference between his orthodox left-arm spinner and the arm-ball was often indecipherable. For the former, he would snap his wrists more and release the ball slightly higher. This was the relatively shorter of his ball too.

The arm-ball was slightly undercut, a bit quicker (not as quick as some of the modern-day practitioners though) and fuller. He would land the ball on middle stump, rather than outside the off-stump as he did with his stock ball.

He could make it fizz, when he wanted. A case in point is the 1978 Sydney Test when Australia's Kim Hughes charged out to him

**266**  
WICKETS IN  
67 TESTS  
AVERAGE: 28.71  
ECONOMY: 2.14  
BBI: 7/98

**7**  
WICKETS IN  
10 ODIs  
AVERAGE: 48.57  
ECONOMY: 3.45  
BBI: 2/44

**1,560**  
WICKETS IN  
370 FC MATCHES  
AVERAGE: 21.69  
ECONOMY: 2.24  
BBI: 7/5

to launch him into the upper tier arcade and then to the straight boundary. Bedi slipped in his quickest armer next and it whizzed past the attempted cut to take out the off stump; Bedi would twirl around in joy and pump his fist. But Bedi would resort to the variation only when he wanted to, not because he was wary of over-using it, but because he thought the orthodox tool sets sufficed.

Often forgotten in the aesthetics of his bowling was his accuracy of lengths and discipline. As is his arm-speed that got lost in the slow riffs of his bowling. He would often pound the same spot for overs on end—he still has the fourth-most economical figures in the ODIs (an unbelievable 12-8-6-1).

WV Raman, the former India opener, tells a story from when Bedi was India's manager in 1990, years after his retirement. At the nets, when the young

spinners on tour Venkatapathy Raju and Narendra Hirwani tell him that there is no turn on offer, Bedi grabbed the ball, and spun

out a batsman. "He then turned to the two spinners and said, 'Boys! The ball won't turn, you have to turn it!'" Raman recalled on his YouTube channel.

At the heart of his craft were his strong yet supple digits.

The strength of his digits was accidental. Growing up in Amritsar, during the horrific partition time, his only past-time was playing marble with his friends. He was so fond of it that he became one of the deadliest marble players in his locality. He had a collection of close to ten thousand marbles too. Another habit too helped, that he always washed his own clothes.

Naturally, when he started bowling finger spin, after being dissuaded from bowling fast, the strong index finger would play a big role in getting the wickets and bowling tirelessly.

The technical robustness would make him a threat everywhere in the world. He averaged 27 in Australia, 24 in New Zealand and grabbed five-wicket hauls in every country, barring Pakistan, that he had toured. But seldom are statistics made to look more insufficient than when Bedi bowls.

It was pure art, a forgotten one in this era of left-arm pragmatists. And watching him, as the lucky generations have, was an idea of cricketing paradise as Laker described him.

### WHY RAJIV GANDHI KHEL RATNA AWARD

I was a member of the selection committee that declared the Arjuna Awards. That particular year, we were told that there is also going to be a Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award. I had raised my dissent at the meeting then. Rajiv Gandhi was a good pilot, might have been a good politician also, but what was his contribution to Indian sport, and why should the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award be over and above the highest sports award, the Arjuna Award? When I registered my dissent, I was removed from the selection committee.

### CAN'T BE PART OF JAITLEY STADIUM

The place of the administrators is in their glass cabins. Since DDCA doesn't understand this universal cricket culture, I need to walk out of it. I can't be part of a stadium which has got its priorities so grossly wrong and where administrators get precedence over the cricketers. Please bring down my name from the stand with immediate effect. You needn't worry about me or my legacy. God Almighty has been very kind to me to keep me alive with my cricketing convictions. I don't wish my strength of character to be maligned by my silence or association with this unsporting act.

### ON DONATING BLOOD IN PAKISTAN

General Zia was very impressed... Just by donating one pint of blood, I had the entire Pakistan at my feet, literally. The taxi guys didn't take money from me. People did not let me pay when I bought things from their shops. Somebody told me, you are so popular here, if you fight an election, you will win. I asked, do elections happen here (laughs)?



"Sashu," he'd say with warmth that only he possessed. To Bishan Paaji, I wasn't just another cricketer; I was like a son. Under his nurturing guidance, I scored my first 100 in England. On chilly NZ evenings, we'd sit over meals, and I'd hang on to every story he told, every piece of wisdom he shared. Today, there's an echoing silence where his voice used to be. The world seems a little emptier without you, Paaji. Rest in the eternal peace you so deserve"

SACHIN TENDULKAR

'Khuda hafiz, my friend... keep a glass of red wine ready for me'



INTIKHAB ALAM

WHO WILL call me every then and now in the evening and will request me to sing a Louis Armstrong song? Who will give me compliments about my singing? Who will pull my leg about some of my random dismissals during my playing day?

I am heartbroken. I have lost a part of my heart today. I can't express in words how I am feeling. I have lost a friend, a younger brother. Last year, around the same time, we met at the Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara. He forced me to sing Louis Armstrong's songs, held my hand, we smiled, we cried. Those were some of the most beautiful few hours of my life. I can still recall his smiling face, waving us goodbye once he crossed the border.

I have known him since 1971. I was playing county cricket for Surrey. Bishan was there with the Indian team for their England tour. The first time we interacted was in a match during that tour. India was playing Surrey and they had fielded three spinners, Prasanna, Chandrasekhar and Bishan. I hit two or three sixes off Bishan's bowling. All of them were over his head and those were massive ones. After the third six, he came to me and said "Kaptaan ji dusre bhi bowler hai, mujhe balsh do, mere peeche kyu pad gaye (Captain, there are other bowlers as well. Please show some mercy, why are you after my life)."

After the day's play, he came to Surrey's dressing room. I was dying to talk to someone in Punjabi. Then we never looked back.

The same year, we spent five months in Australia playing for the World XI. There were players from six or seven different countries. Gary Sobers was the captain. I was the vice captain. Bishan came up with the idea that since it is a long tour, we should at least meet once a week outside the ground. I made a Sunday club. Once a week, we used to hang out. We used to eat, drink, sing and dance. I used to sing for them. This is where he listened to Jazz for the first time and fell in love with Louis Armstrong's songs. We were similar in every sense.

People always talk about his action, and how great a bowler he was. I used to tease him "Oye Sardar tu bowling karta hai ya Ghalib ke sher sunata hai" (You are bowling or you are reciting Ghalib's poem). Such a beautiful action he had. He was a magician with the ball but besides that, he was a great human being. I have never seen anyone as genuine as Bishan. There was no fakiness in him. He was the same inside out. I used to get worried because of his personality. Whenever I used to warn him, 'Bishan, sometimes it is okay to be diplomatic.' In his younger days, he would reply, 'I will try.' After his retirement, he would say, 'ab toh aadat daal lo (At least get used to it now).'

I can go on and on and on about Bishan. It is indeed a sad day for world cricket. We have lost a gem. Our friendship will continue till the time I am alive.

He loved me like his elder brother. I loved him like my younger brother. I may never sing Louis Armstrong's songs. Maybe, once we meet in another life.

Today, I will dedicate a Kishore Kumar song, another favourite singer of ours. This, from the movie Yaarana, is for Bishan, "Tere jaisa yaar kahaan, kahaan aisa yaarana, yaad karegi duniya, tera mera afsana."

Khuda hafiz, my friend. Keep a glass of red wine ready for me. Until next time!

Intikhab Alam, a former Pakistan captain, spoke to Pratyush Raj

# 'Bish always liked to be morally right, not popularly right'



MICHAEL HOLDING

MY EARLY memories of running into Bishan Bedi weren't exactly pleasant.

It was the controversial 1976 Test series in West Indies and in particular, the Sabina Park game, where Bishan was the captain and declared the second innings with five wickets in hand. Bishan and India didn't like the amount of bouncers we bowled in that game.

I was a kid, doing my thing, and I didn't quite warm-up to Bishan then. A few months later, on our tour of England, I would run into him at Lord's. He was there, warming up with his Northamptonshire county teammates, and we were at the nursery end, about to get into our training. I remember turning and looking in his direction, and he sort of looked away as if he didn't want anything to do with me!

I could understand his anger though. My own Mother hadn't liked what I bowled at Sabina Park, giving me a flipping tongue lashing at the end of that game. 'Mikey, those are human beings. How can you bowl bouncers? That's not good. What gets into your head when you have the ball'. All I can say, 'Momma, but that's cricket.' She didn't like it. She hated it. She never watched boxing for the same reason. If she could react like that being a West Indian, I could see why Indians who were at the receiving end react the way they did.

Luckily for me, I would get to know Bish closely in the coming years. I remember both of us were in the same team—the Cavaliers XI—on a tour of Pakistan in the early 80s, put together by Rohan Kanhai. It was supposed to act as a preparation for Pakistan who were about to tour Australia as I remember playing with Kookaburra balls in that series. That's when I really got to know Bish, and began to appreciate and respect the man.

Let me put it this way, Bishan Singh Bedi was the greatest moral voice of Indian cricket. Bish liked to be morally right; not popularly right. He was never afraid of giving opinions; it was his opinion and he said it the way he saw it. I like that about people and like to



Bishan Singh Bedi, Bhagwath Chandrasekhar (in pic), Erapalli Prasanna and S Venkataraghavan formed India's famous spin quartet.

think I am similar to him in that vein. He never looked to get something out of the game by any means. A man of morals who didn't care if his views weren't popular.

He is one of the great romantics of the game; he genuinely loved the sport and was wary about the negative tentacles spreading around it. He was morally against all things that were bad. That's the way you need to be. You don't need to be afraid to speak out. He never was. The secret to that confidence is he knew he was speaking the truth to the power. Truth is something to never be afraid of.

He was also popular wherever he went. In the West Indies, the fans loved him; even his colourful turbans were a hit. Because of the heat and the sweat, he would often change them every session and the crowd liked it. His bowling of course was great; he was a genius. I remember being always confused about his tricks and also have heard many great batsmen genuinely rave about his art. How the ball would seemingly be there - but not quite there when you reach out for it. Oh, he was a great bowler, a master, no doubt about it.

He was popular in Pakistan, Australia, and England of course where he played county cricket — and was this magnet of attraction

among cricketers. You tended to gravitate towards him; he had that kind of personality—the sense of humour, the laughter, and above all the fine brave bold mind.

Each time I came to India, I would run into him somewhere. The last time I came to the country was in 2014, and he was in Mumbai for some reason — and our families went out for a lovely dinner.

Over the years we have kept in touch; in the smartphone era, we would WhatsApp each other. I was shocked when he fell ill a couple of years ago. I spoke to his wife a couple of times, and once I remember she put us on a FaceTime video chat and though he wasn't very responsive then — it wasn't long after his surgery — it was nice to have a chat. We have a mutual friend who kept me updated on Bish till today in fact. He would constantly send me pictures and videos; I remember seeing a few from his birthday where he was seated on a chair with wellwishers around him.

Bish would always call me, "Mikey boy!"; I would miss that. This isn't just a loss to Indian cricket but a loss of a true rare moral voice of the sport.

Michael Holding, a cricketing legend from the West Indies, spoke to Sriram Veera



SHORT TAKES

Motivated by poor record against B'desh: Markram

Mumbai: South Africa are motivated by the desire to prove themselves against Bangladesh, Aiden Markram said on Monday as he called on the team to build on their massive 229-run World Cup victory over England. Bangladesh have won three of their last four one-day international meetings with South Africa, including a 38-run win at the 2019 World Cup. "We haven't done particularly well against them in the past, so that's extra motivation for us to come out and replicate what was a good performance against England," Markram told reporters ahead of Tuesday's game in Mumbai. "From an intensity level and a standards level, that's something that we're going to try to focus on and trust that if we take care of those sorts of things, hopefully it's enough for us on the day." PTI

Shakib backs bowlers to restrict SA batsmen

Mumbai: Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan believes an on-song South Africa are not impregnable and can be restricted to smaller totals in the World Cup like the Netherlands did, adding that he would need his fast bowlers over spinners to deliver. Shakib told the media ahead of Bangladesh's training here at the Wankhede Stadium on Monday. "The spinners will not play a big role in this venue, which is relatively a smaller ground. It is a high-scoring ground. Still, we are planning to restrict them for a lower total. We are taking inspiration from how the Netherlands restricted them. We have been looking at their weaknesses for the last one or two years." PTI

Carse replaces injured Topley in England squad

Inexperienced pacer Brydon Carse has been added to England's 15-member World Cup squad as a replacement player for injured Reece Topley, the ICC said on Monday. Topley broke his left index finger during England's match against South Africa on Saturday and was subsequently ruled out for the remainder of the tournament. The reigning champions decided to go for Carse after having resisted the urge to throw World Cup winner Jofra Archer a lifeline. As per the requirements, the inclusion of Carse to England's squad was approved by the tournament's Event Technical Committee. PTI

Kohli's knock made the difference: Mitchell

Dharamsala: New Zealand batter Daryl Mitchell feels Indian star Virat Kohli's sublime knock of 95 was the difference between the two teams in their World Cup match here. "He's a world class player and he'll go down as one of the greats of the game for a reason. A very good knock under pressure I thought and although he didn't get 100, he got his team across the line," Mitchell said after the four-wicket loss on Sunday. Mitchell praised New Zealand's bowling effort and said the conditions got better for batting under lights. PTI

STANDINGS

	M	W	L	T	Pts	NRR
Ind	5	5	0	0	10	+1.353
NZ	5	4	1	0	8	+1.481
SA	4	3	1	0	6	+2.212
Aus	4	2	2	0	4	-0.193
Pak	5	2	3	0	4	-0.400
Afg	5	2	3	0	4	-0.969
Ban	4	1	3	0	2	-0.784
Ned	4	1	3	0	2	-0.790
SL	4	1	3	0	2	-1.048
Eng	4	1	3	0	2	-1.248

"We always had belief, and at the start of the tournament, I told my team I wanted to make it a historic one for our country and our people. We did that against England, and now today against Pakistan."

HASHMATULLAH SHAHIDI, AFGHANISTAN CAPTAIN

# One Day to remember

Afghanistan win first ODI in eight attempts against Pakistan with all-round display to throw World Cup wide open at halfway stage

VENKATA KRISHNA B  
CHENNAI, OCTOBER 23

NEARLY 24 years after Pakistan had their moment in Chennai, it was Afghanistan's turn to get a standing ovation from Chepauk. They might have come into the game as underdogs, but from the time this fixture was scheduled at the venue — known to suit their strength with spin — Afghanistan would have fancied their chances. And when the day arrived, the eight-wicket win — their first against Pakistan — didn't seem like an upset. If anything, it was a statement, that after beating England earlier in the World Cup, Afghanistan once again showed they are not pushovers.

As they went on a celebratory run, Mikail, a four-year old from Kabul joined them in the victory lap, refusing to go back to his family. Their proud coach Jonathan Trott brought him to the press conference later. At the stands, hundreds of Afghanistan fans were dancing, staying back till their team left the stadium.

Standing tall in Afghanistan's biggest moment in the World Cup were their spinners. Once their fab four did the job of restricting Pakistan to 282/7, it was the turn of their batsmen led by Ibrahim Zadran to finish the job in the most thrilling fashion. There was an air of confidence in whatever the Afghans did on the day, and they even successfully managed to keep their emotions under check against their biggest rival.

Not even when the game appeared to drift away at the start with the ball, did they panic. Instead, with Mohammad Nabi and Rashid Khan choking Pakistan in the middle overs, left-arm wrist-spinner Noor Ahmad — the youngest of the four — stood out with a three-wicket haul.

Beyond Nabi, Rashid and Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Noor has already shown at the IPL that he is the next big thing coming out of Afghanistan. And playing his first World Cup match, he showed how ready he was. When Babar Azam was beginning to cut loose, it was Noor who put an end card. "I knew he would come hard at me so I wanted to avoid bowling full deliveries. And once he hit me, I just focused on using my variations," he would say later, about the googly that fetched him Babar.

For a batting unit that has crumbled when put under pressure, they were in punishing mood all through the evening, playing shots at will, being smart in running between the wickets, and showing the maturity to seize control of the game whenever Pakistan threatened to come back.

This defeat will sting Pakistan. With two wins from five matches, their campaign seems to be heading for a quick finish. Each game from here on becomes a must-win. But going by how they went about the evening under lights, where their bowling — considered their biggest suit — appeared toothless, any chance of Cornered Tigers 2.0 looks impossible.

If defeats against India and Australia made their search for answers, this one against Afghanistan will need plenty of soul-searching. Not once with the ball did Pakistan look like they could defend. At the innings break, chasing 283 sans dew, Afghanistan head coach Jonathan Trott's message to their batsmen was simple: "You have to bat the 50 overs and don't get over-excited."

With all the focus on Rahmanullah Gurbaz, it was Zadran who put Pakistan in all sorts of trouble. As Pakistan attacked Gurbaz, Zadran teed off with back-foot punches, drives and cuts. Unlike the rest of his globetrotting teammates, he has featured only in the Bangladesh Premier League, but the 21-year-old already has four centuries in ODIs. From the first over, where he got off the mark with an elegant cover-drive, he flowed like a calm river. When Haris Rauf conceded four boundaries of his first over to Gurbaz, wheels began to come off for Pakistan in the first powerplay.

With their new-ball bowlers proving ineffective again, a lot depended on their two spinners Shadab Khan and Usama Mir. On the same pitch where Afghanistan's tweekers found bite, the duo were flat and were put under early pressure by Gurbaz and Zadran. Pakistan's attack was neutralised as early as the 20th over as Afghanistan had 128 on board



Afghanistan skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi, who made a 45-ball 48, hit a boundary to round out the run chase. PTI

SCORECARD

PAKISTAN vs AFGHANISTAN  
CHEPAUK, CHENNAI

Toss: Pakistan, elected to bat

**PAKISTAN**  
A Shafique lbw b N Ahmad 58 (75b, 5x4, 2x6)  
Imam-ul-Haq c Naveen b A Omarzai 17 (22b, 2x4)  
B Azam (c) c Md Nabi b N Ahmad 74 (92b, 4x4, 1x6)  
Md Rizwan † c M Ur Rahman b N Ahmad 8 (10b, 8x4)  
S Shakeel c R Khan b Md Nabi 25 (34b, 3x4)  
S Khan c Md Nabi b Naveen 40 (38b, 1x4, 1x6)  
I Ahmed c A Omarzai b Naveen 40 (27b, 2x4, 4x6)

S Afridi not out 3 (3b)  
Extras (lb4 nb 1 w12) 17  
Total (50 ovs) 282/7  
Fov: 1-56 (Imam-ul-Haq, 10.1 ov), 2-110 (Abdullah Shafique, 22.3 ov), 3-120 (Mohammad Rizwan, 24.4 ov), 4-163 (Saud Shakeel, 33.6 ov), 5-206 (Babar Azam, 41.5 ov), 6-279 (Iftikhar Ahmed, 49.2 ov), 7-282 (Shadab Khan, 49.6 ov).  
Bowling: Naveen-ul-Haq 7-0-52-2, Mujeeb Ur Rahman 8-0-55-0, Mohammad Nabi 10-0-31-1, Azmatullah Omarzai 5-0-50-1, Rashid Khan 10-0-41-0, Noor Ahmad 10-0-49-3

**AFGHANISTAN**  
R Gurbaz c U Mir b S Afridi 65 (53b, 9x4, 1x6)  
I Zadran c † Md Rizwan b H Ali 87 (113b, 10x4)  
R Shah not out 77 (84b, 5x4, 2x6)  
H Shahidi (c) not out 48 (45b, 4x4)  
Extras (nb 1 w8) 9  
Total (49 overs) 286/2  
Fov: 1-130 (Rahmanullah Gurbaz, 21.1 ov), 2-190 (Ibrahim Zadran, 33.3 ov).  
Bowling: S Afridi 10-0-58-1, Hasan Ali 10-1-44-1, Haris Rauf 8-1-53-0, Usama Mir 8-0-55-0, Shadab Khan 8-0-49-0, Iftikhar Ahmed 5-0-27-0

without losing a wicket.

Though Gurbaz would perish soon, Zadran and Rahmat Shah would ensure Pakistan would not come back. They didn't shut shop, instead went for boundaries that deflated their opponents. It was Shah's measured innings for go with Zadran's that shut all the doors for Pakistan's re-entry. Shahidi came in at No 4 to ensure there were no twists and turns as Afghanistan coasted.

## 'Knowledgeable Chennai crowd' lives up to its sporting reputation

VENKATA KRISHNA B  
CHENNAI, OCTOBER 23

KNOWLEDGEABLE CHENNAI crowd. It is a phrase that has stuck with Chennai for a long time now. Youngsters who have grown up hearing that phrase — appreciating quality cricket even when India are not involved or on the losing side — are now middle-aged. And the fans who turned up at the MA Chidambaram Stadium showed that the phrase will remain relevant for years to come.

On a Monday evening, after Afghanistan stunned Pakistan to throw the former champions' campaign into crisis mode, it was the former's turn to take a lap of honour, much like the latter did on that famous day in 1999. It wasn't just a win, it was a statement from Afghanistan as they won by 8 wickets while chasing 283 to defeat Pakistan for the first time in this format.

It was not the older generation that turned up in numbers to keep the 'knowledgeable' tag alive. Out of the 21,500 in attendance, almost a majority of them were below 30, who cheered and cleared their throats almost every delivery, keeping the proud legacy of the venue intact. The sizeable crowd kept shifting their allegiance between Pakistan and Afghanistan. It happened often for the same delivery. For instance when Iftikhar Ahmed launched the ball into the twilight sky in the last over, there was a collective roar anticipating the ball to travel the distance, but as Azmatullah Omarzai pounced it at long-on, the decibel levels once again went up.

Long before the game began, at Wallajah Road there were a sizeable number of fans who were buying t-shirts with Babar Azam's name printed at the back with number 56. When local news channel cameramen hovered over them, a fan even requested not to picture him with a Pakistan jersey fearing backlash.

But as he saw more and more around him



Rashid Khan celebrates on Monday.

in a dark green t-shirt, he would eventually show his face. They would even request few of those newsmen to normalise them wearing Babar t-shirt. 'It is same as wearing Williamson for the previous match. We are here for cricket. Not for hatred,' that fan would say. At one of the gates, a couple of them would check with policemen on duty if they can buy a Pakistan jersey, before wearing it over the CSK one.

In the middle, both Pakistan and Afghanistan ensured they put up a contest that only elevated the World Cup to another level. On a slow pitch, where spinners were expected to call the shots, the batting from both the teams stood out. Of course, Afghanistan's batting would eventually overpower Pakistan, but not before Babar played a knock that seemed to be worth a lot more than the 72 he registered on the board.

That DJ Zen greeted Babar to the number "Karupu-Vellai (black and white)" from "Vikram Vedha" only added to the theatrics as

Chepauk roared when he got off the mark with a cover-driven boundary. There is indeed something black and white about Babar. Despite having 19 ODI centuries, there is criticism around his strike-rate of 88.95, which is considered low by modern standards. But, in a team where there aren't many all-weather, reliable batsmen around, it is easy to empathise with his approach which is built on a safety-first mentality. On Monday, against a tricky opponent, he anchored the batting effort, shielding the lower-order from being exposed to the Afghan spinners.

Despite showing promises of being back to his free-flowing best, he once again resorted to playing a grinding knock. He is a captain under pressure, and with his team's dwindling fortune, his inability to inspire those around him is already leading to several Pakistan greats calling for him to step down. That he appeared clueless on the field later on while his struggled to defend 282 was definitely not lost on the occasion.

Instead of being proactive on the field, he let the game drift away waiting for the never-arriving hope that Afghanistan will self-destruct as Chepauk got firmly behind the underdogs. Not even hundreds of school kids who were seated at G stand, chanting "Pakistan, Pakistan" could lift Babar's men as they looked deflated when Afghanistan was all over them.

And as Afghanistan threw the World Cup wide open, beating their arch-rival against all odds, Chepauk joined in the celebration with the Afghan fans who had turned up in numbers. Each time Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Ibrahim Zadran, Rahmat Shah and Hashmatullah Shahidi dared to dream, Chennai cheered along.

As the DJ played "Enga Ooru Madras, athuku nanga thaana address (we are from Madras and we are the identity of the city)" during the chase, it seemed every bit fitting. A lot of things have changed over the past two decades.

ACE IN THE FIELD

## Engelbrecht goes from plucking 'best-ever catch' to part-time international

NAMIT KUMAR  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

FROM RAVINDRA Jadeja and Virat Kohli to Kane Williamson and Steve Smith, the 2008 Under-19 World Cup gave wings to several of modern cricket's best players. But for Sybrand Engelbrecht, one of the players who provided the tournament with some of its most memorable moments with his athletic fielding abilities, it did not provide the same kind of platform.

A cursory YouTube search of Engelbrecht's feats in 2008 labelled it as 'the best ever catch in cricket history'. Engelbrecht may be playing in the Dutch orange at the ongoing Cricket World Cup in India, but back then he was in the colours of South Africa.

In a group match against Papua New Guinea, Engelbrecht, fielding at gully, flew in the air with hang time reminiscent of a bird taking flight, and caught a thick outside edge

off Alfred Amini with both hands at full stretch.

Later, as South Africa met India in the final, in another feat of fielding prowess, Engelbrecht plucked a Kohli drive from thin air at backward point, his feet high in the air as he got both hands on the ball. He took another crucial catch in the circle during the final, before running out India's top scorer on the day, Tanmay Srivastava.

"I remember them (the catches) very well. It's a long time ago, obviously, I look back on it fondly," Engelbrecht, now 35, tells *The Indian Express* in New Delhi, where the Dutch contingent has arrived ahead of their match against Australia on Wednesday.

Engelbrecht asserts that those moments of fielding magic were no feats of chance, but a result of the kind of meticulous preparation of the junior side of a top-level cricketing nation, similarities of which he sees in his existing dressing room.

"I think sometimes you can look at some-



Sybrand Engelbrecht. PTI

thing like that and think it's a fluke or whatever. But during that time, the amount of effort that went into preparation, as a fielding team, is what enabled that. Very similar to way back then, I'm experiencing that now. The level of detail, preparation, focusing on small details, professionalism. I'm seeing all of that in the Dutch dressing room now. A lot of similarities between the two environments," he says.

His reputation as a gun fielder has preceded him so far — Engelbrecht was, in fact, a fielding substitute the day he took that famous catch against Papua New Guinea. The idea that he was most useful in the field, rather than with the ball or the bat, was not always a positive. But he's not keen to hide behind that fact as the reason for where his cricketing career has ended up in the 15 years since.

"I think when you're young, sometimes you can get pigeonholed into a certain type of role, and because there's a lot of energy

around it, you try to live up to it," Engelbrecht says. "I do think it (the perception that he was a fielder first) played a big part in my development as a player, but it's no excuse, really."

Like many cricketers representing associate nations, cricket, especially on the international stage, is only a part-time occupation for Engelbrecht.

He retired in 2016 having never represented South Africa internationally. He took a job at an investment firm after finishing his education concurrently with his cricket, and later went on to do his MBA.

When his job, which is still his primary occupation, took him to the Netherlands, he and his wife were working out ways in which they could assimilate into the country's culture. That led Engelbrecht to club cricket — the platform many of the Dutch players used prior to turning into international cricketers.

"Once I picked up the bat again for the first time since I retired in 2016 and started

playing more regularly, (I) realised how much I missed it. It formed such a big part of my life at one stage, so it became easy to get back into the groove and then one thing led to another," he says.

Many of his Dutch teammates are not, or have not always been, full-time cricketers. And those that do, make their living abroad. Engelbrecht believes it is the responsibility of this generation of players to create interest back home to get the next generation full-time professional contracts.

"I also think there's a common goal within this team's environment to play a kind of brand of cricket and achieve success that generates positive momentum that leads to capital investment in Dutch cricket that enables up-and-coming players to play this sport professionally, full time and earn a proper living.

"The common driver is to professionalise the game even more in the Netherlands," he says.



## Nobody else could've played those shots: Kohli's coach

RAHUL PANDEY  
OCTOBER 23

COACH RAJKUMAR SHARMA remembers calling Virat Kohli exactly a year ago. "Tune poore desh ki diwali bana di. You've given the best Diwali gift to India," he'd tell him. A year later, he's likely to have had a similar conversation as Virat Kohli led another successful Indian run chase at another World Cup.

It's been a habit the two have continued since Kohli's formative years in cricket. "No matter what, I don't miss a single ball when he is batting. We talk about his innings, his shots, which ones he played well," Sharma tells *The Indian Express*.

A year ago in Melbourne, the twin sixes off Haris Rauf's 19th over were the highlight of the call. A flat-batted-standstill-six down the ground immediately followed by one of his signature swat-flick shots over square leg. Two ginormous hits that Sharma believes only his ward could've played at that juncture in the game with 28 required to win off eight balls against Pakistan.

"Shots of the century. I think nobody else could've played those. This is what Virat is capable of doing. I would rate them as one of the best shots ever played which I have seen." Speaking to Sharma over a call from Australia after the game, his long time mentee only had a phrase to offer though, "Pata nahi sir, kaise hua ye! (I don't know sir, how I played them)"

His childhood coach however, puts it down to years and years of a particular habit. Something he has imbibed for all at the West Delhi Cricket Academy - where Kohli trained - over the years.

"If someone is struggling with a particular shot, we make them bat that shot the whole day. This was the same during Virat's time as well. If you're playing a straight drive, be it short ball, length or full, you have to play the same shot," Sharma describes.

On Sunday, he displayed another stroke that may be courtesy of the aforementioned habit. A flat pull off Trent Boult over cow corner by picking a back of a length delivery angled in from round the wicket. No footwork, just a quick stretch of the midriff and using the angle of the ball to his advantage. Almost as if he had done it over and over again, living by Canadian scribe Malcolm Gladwell's famous words, "It takes ten thousand hours to truly master anything."

Or it may even be down to the *mahoul* (atmosphere) on the given day. Something that Kohli is known to thrive under. "It is the momentum, the atmosphere, the occasion, being pumped up to do well. Like the match against Pakistan, he wanted to do well. He's the star batter. And he knows what he's capable of. So he took the challenge."

The words used by Indian skipper Rohit Sharma were distinctly similar after Kohli starred in the chase the other night. "He has done this for us so many times. He backed himself to do the job."

It's a phrase that his coach reckons comes with a flip side. "Since he's set such a high benchmark, every time he goes, we expect a hundred." Just like they were in Dharamsala and from a record number of screens all over India. A record equaling 49th ODI ton which didn't come as Kohli was caught at 95.

But by the time he was, he'd teed up the fireworks in Dharamsala. Or as his childhood coach would say, "Tune poore desh ki diwali bana di."

# The other awards ceremony where medal drops from sky

DEVENDRA PANDEY  
DHARAMSALA, OCTOBER 23

THE INDIAN team management's decision to have a 'dressing room medal ceremony' has become an instant hit on social media during the ongoing ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.

The *Indian Express* understands that the idea came in after the team's fielding wasn't up to the mark at Asia Cup held in Sri Lanka recently and a few games in West Indies. As a result, the team management came up with this exercise to reward the best fielder during the game. Earlier, the team coaches used to just praise players post every game and there used to be no medal ceremony.

To make it competitive among its group, the team management decided to start this practice for the World Cup and apart from earning plenty of engagement with fans, it has become hugely popular in the dressing room too. We have already seen Ravindra Jadeja and Shreyas Iyer celebrate catches by gesturing medals around their necks.

"The team coaches used to orally praise



Virat Kohli and Shreyas Iyer with the fielding medals.



the performer of the day's play earlier, however, the team management felt after Australia's three ODI series that in order to keep the environment more competitive among the players, an exercise should take place where the best fielder should get a medal," a BCCI official said.

It is a novel concept that has certainly got the attention. In order to give more colour to

the medal ceremony, Indian team fielding coach T Dilip has been finding new ways to announce the winner after each game. Earlier, during the India vs Bangladesh game in Pune, the name of the winner - Jadeja for his catch at point - was shown on the big screen at the venue.

Dilip in a video posted by bcci.tv explains the importance of the medal and why it

shows the fighting spirit of this team.

"Like we've been speaking about the medal a lot and I think it's just not our medal. We made something that is beautiful but also is testament of our skill, fitness, and the will to put your bodies on the line. Today's winner (signaling towards the big screen in the ground which shows the image of Ravindra Jadeja)."

India dropped three catches against New Zealand on Sunday in Dharamsala. However, amidst dropping some sitters, the men in blue did a few brilliant things with their ground fielding especially when Shreyas Iyer latched on to Devon Conway in the fourth over of the innings to put the Blackcaps on the backfoot early doors.

"One guy was like a fish in the water, natural and swift just outstanding start with a brilliant catch at square leg and finished off some outstanding stops out there, especially in the field... Shreyas Iyer," Dilip said.

And this time the name of the winner was announced through a spidercam which carried a frame of Iyer's picture. To make it interesting, Dilip asked his team to come to the ground and guess the winner's name.

### No trekking for Indians

The Indian team management has informed Indian players that no players can go trekking during the two day rest period they have received after India vs New Zealand game in Dharamsala. Few players had expressed their desire but it is learnt that coaching staff made it clear that it won't be advisable, especially during such an important juncture of the WC. India has been given a two-day break in Dharamsala which attracts a lot of mountaineers. The management felt that the security of players was also one of the reasons for not allowing players to trek. "The team management has informed players that they can't go trekking, they can go out but can't do trekking. At the same time during the series no Indian player can go paragliding as it can go against the contract," a BCCI official said. **DEVENDRA PANDEY**

# Rainbowling unit

After bowling England out for 170, Proteas bowlers will look to next hassle the left-hander heavy Bangladesh

ANIL DIAS  
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 23

SOUTH AFRICAN spinners are very clear about what they are aiming for. Two ropes on the 22-yard pitch mark the centre strip, and two plastic discs are placed to indicate good length. There's another disc just outside the off stump at full length for a left-hander, but Keshav Maharaj and Tabraiz Shamsi aren't really targeting that. They are aiming for perfection and judging by their optional nets session on the eve of their clash against Bangladesh at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Monday, they're just about there.

While it's the South African batsmen who were the star of the show after scoring 399 runs in their mammoth 229-run victory over England in unbearable hot and humid conditions on Saturday, the fact that the rainbow nation bowled out the defending champs for just 170 runs cannot be overlooked.

The variety in their bowling prowess makes them a definite force to reckon with, alongside title contenders New Zealand and India. The only time they struggled was in their shocking 38-run loss to the Netherlands.

Their opponents were struggling at 140-7 but managed to post 245-8. South Africa coach Rob Walter blamed poor bowling in death overs as the cause of the loss, saying, "At 140 for 7, you're in control of the game really. So, to not be able to close it out at the death is disappointing."

Their pedigree is undeniable. While Kagiso Rabada spearheads the attack, it's Marco Jansen who's given the new ball. The 6ft 7in bowler, like India's Jasprit Bumrah, gets the ball to move both ways and more importantly, gets an incredible bounce due to his height. Jansen's opening partner Lungi Ngidi extracts bounce from back of length and is outstanding with the new ball mainly because of his disciplined bowling, like Mohammed Siraj.

Then there's tearaway pacer Rabada who comes in first change. Having to lead and mentor the attack in the absence of aces pacers Anrich Nortje and Sisanda Magala, Rabada has shown that he can be depended on, claiming some important scalps in his eight wickets so far.

Despite his different role as the first



Lungi Ngidi extracts bounce from back of length and is outstanding with the new ball.

PTI

change, he has seamlessly managed to bowl hard lengths that could unsettle any lineup. Gerald Coetzee is another incredible option that South Africa possess. The Rafael Nadal fan - headband and all - can bowl at good speed and get the ball to skid, just like his idol's blistering forehands down the line.

### The role of tweakers

Playing in the subcontinent means that it's imperative to have an incisive spinner and with Maharaj, South Africa have shown that they don't lack anything in that department. Maharaj, who has become their primary spinner, made a miraculous recovery from an Achilles tendon injury to play his first World Cup.

He's been economical this tournament, conceding 157 runs in the 31 overs he's

bowled. He clearly relies on lines and lengths judging by his nets session and can be a handful for left-handers. Bangladesh, who have three fiery left-handers in their Shakib-Al-Hasan - who said he's fit to play on Tuesday - Tanzid Tamim, and Najmul Shanto, will have to watch out.

Completing the incredible lineup of bowlers is wrist-spinner Tabraiz Shamsi. The 33-year-old who can turn the ball both ways, was South Africa's go-to guy when Maharaj was absent but has just warmed the bench so far this tournament and will be raring to go if the opportunity arises.

South Africa's one blip against the Netherlands wouldn't be at the back of their minds considering their big win over England. They will however also need to be mindful of the fact that despite India hav-

ing the best-performing bowling unit, Kuldeep Yadav faced a rare off-day against New Zealand where he conceded 73 runs, and put India under pressure. Riding on Virat Kohli's 95, India managed to pull through, and South Africa know that might be too much of an ask for their batsmen. The Bangladesh openers, Litton Das and Tanzid Tamim had struck some form against India before losing their way in the mid overs, and are capable of standing upto speedsters.

South Africa will be wary of their opponents on Tuesday, knowing that their record in World Cups isn't great - they've won two and lost two. Considering that their next matches are against Pakistan and New Zealand, before facing hosts India, they'll need their bowling to be at its best. And they've practised for their aim to be spot on.

### BRIEFLY

#### Para Asiad: India wins 17 medals on day one

Hangzhou: On day one of medal events at the fourth edition of Asian Para Games, Tokyo Paralympics champion Avani Lekhara was among the gold medalists while track and field athletes expectedly contributed to India's tally in Hangzhou. India won a total of 17 medals on day one and are placed fourth on the table. India's count for the day stood at 6 gold, 6 silver, and 5 bronze with five of those gold medals coming from athletics. India also won a first-ever Taekwondo medal at the event thanks to Aruna Tanwar. **ENS**

#### Guiu scores in Barcelona debut

Madrid: Another teenager has made history for Barcelona in the Spanish league. Seventeen-year-old Marc Guiu scored about 30 seconds into his first-team debut to give the Catalan club a 1-0 win over Athletic Bilbao on Sunday, becoming the second-youngest player this century to score in his league debut. "They told me to go out there and give everything I have, that I would have my chances," Guiu said. "I dreamed about this so many times. I won't sleep tonight." **AP**

#### Verstappen earns 50th career F1 victory

Austin(Texas): In a season of easy victories, career win No. 50 finally made Max Verstappen sweat. Even if it was just a little bit. Verstappen had to work through the field after starting sixth instead of from pole position, then held off the charging Mercedes of Lewis Hamilton over the final laps in the Texas heat to win the United States Grand Prix on Sunday at the Circuit of the Americas. Hamilton's best finish in five months was later wiped out when he and sixth-place finisher Charles Leclerc of Ferrari were disqualified more than three hours after the race for rules violations found with the skid blocks under their cars. Verstappen's record-tying 15th win of the season also made the Dutch driver just the fifth Formula One driver in history to reach 50 in a career. **REUTERS**

### SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST

# Clinging onto No 1 unnecessary, fitness for Paris ought to be priority

SHIVANI NAIK  
OCTOBER 23

SATWIKSAIRAJ RANKIREDDY and Chirag Shetty had their share of World No 1 glory, and India was glad for it. But pragmatism and a little consideration for their well-being demands that Indian badminton fans don't hanker after them to sit atop that peak unendingly. The pace of modern badminton is scalding. Realism dictates that they approach coming tournaments as semi-downtime, and aim for the next ascent at All England next March, after a peek-in at the year-ending World Tour Finals, if they feel upto it.

A very arduous and long season is drawing to a close after things peaked for Asian shuttlers at Hangzhou Games, so any wins from hereon are a bonus.

Satwik-Chirag won Swiss, Asian Championships, Indonesia, Korea and the Asian Games, and had to gulp down early exits at Singapore and China and quarters disappointment at World Championships - a rollercoaster of reacting to losses and plotting the title wins. Satwik's taped shoulder could do without needless exerting.

Most top names from Asia are on depleted energies and niggling fitness bases, and could log withdrawals or losses in the rest of the year. Even wins will come amidst severely

knackered fields and will need to be seen in that perspective with an asterisk of a fatigued competition.

Should a step-down or mini-slide happen in the coming year, and Satwik-Chirag settle in the World Nos 2-6 ranking bracket, it ought to be considered alright. The duo might not necessarily be able to withdraw from tournaments and rest it out at home or take long training breaks, because of BWF compulsions and the Olympic qualification dynamics. But a breathless craving for them to win every match from hereon with an eye on accumulating points on the non-stop treadmill that is the BWF calendar is unreasonable.

Staying fit and fresh for the Paris Games ought to be the topmost, if not only priority. The Badminton World federation has their own reasonings for continuously adding events, players have their discretion to run the race at their own pace.

Every Indian player has a team of coaches, trainers and doctors around them, best equipped to determine their target tournaments, and decide on where and when they ought to exert. And depending on body structure and proclivity to injuries, targets will need to be improvised for the doubles duo, Prannoy, Srikanth, Lakshya and Sindhu in cannily picking the tournaments to go all in.

India's strongest fitness base for day in-day out badminton belonged to Saina



Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy won gold at the Asian Games.

Nehwal, a decade ago, and she made it count with 10 Super Series titles. Once injuries intervened, her style of play which relied on physical fortitude, made it difficult to stay on that treadmill.

Akane Yamaguchi or Tai Tzu Ying experienced great success on the Tour, but Chen Yufei nailed the Olympics. She too has complained about burnouts, while Tokyo champ

Viktor Axelsen isn't too thrilled with the calendar either though his planning of peaking is meticulous. But feeling the strain at this World Championships and a subsequent pullout last week, Axelsen made the strongest case for guarding fitness over consistency stats in the long run.

For most part of her career, PV Sindhu did the smarter thing of focusing exclusively on

the Majors because the power game she played needed her to put in large blocks of training ahead of big tournaments, and not go globetrotting chasing titles with high intensity every week. It was as much a choice, as a compulsion given her attacking style of play which can't survive the high tempo for three straight weeks, and month after month.

For a tall woman with constant agility demands and needing strength reserves in her aggressive game, the week in-week out schedule was a non-starter. Still, she lapsed into a defensive playing style attempting a go for several titles, and that didn't work out too well. The mental and physical fatigue of that grind - with international travel thrown in - and court mileage is enormous.

Mistaking herself to be a machine while thinking she's capable of gunning for several smaller titles rather than a few big ones, wasn't the smartest of experiments and she faltered at both. Going forward, Sindhu too ought to back herself to be a contender at the biggies, filling in the missing blanks like All England. She should obviously play as much as she wants, to rediscover her rhythm, but the confidence can't be a hostage to number of titles by bringing on pressure of winning every tournament she enters, and entering the smaller meets at the expense of training.

If HS Prannoy, another tall specimen whose power game is crucial to winning and

which extracts so much from the back, is to lead Indian hopes in Paris, he will need to be shrewd with how much he extends himself in the lead-up.

Lakshya Sen's is the most curious contradiction - he's young and capable of medalling at Paris, but his game style with reflex, retrieving defense, a callous error count and a still-forming attack drags him into deciders, putting a strain on his shoulder. While he's expected to go prancing around from one venue to next winning every match because he's young and has particularly restless fans, he is yet to strike a scheduling balance. India's finest clutch player is best suited to grab the key moments, but he'll need to stay fit.

Consistency on the badminton circuit - winning every title on offer, week in week out - is frankly severely overrated. Satwik-Chirag have shown they are capable of beating any pairing. Tactically and mentally, they have looked sharp when trapping down titles this year. The Worlds disappointment might well be a blessing in disguise and keep them hungry for Paris, as they plug gaps in their game. But, both tall men who have missed out due to injuries previously will know they don't need to perennially stay in headlines chasing after smaller titles.

The World No 1 box is ticked. The All England and more crucially Olympics, remains. All other matches are dry runs.