

DAY AFTER BIHAR SURVEY

Does Cong want to take away minority rights, asks PM on caste census demand

Says Cong for 'jitni abaadi utna haq', should Hindu majority take all rights



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses an event at Jagdalpur in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh on Tuesday. PTI

JAYPRAKASH SNAIDU
RAIPUR, OCTOBER 3

A DAY after Bihar released its caste survey data which also estimated that Muslims comprised 17.70 per cent and Hindus 81.99 per cent of the state population, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, picking on the Congress leadership for demanding a nationwide caste census, asked whether it wanted to take away the rights of the minorities since the party had been pushing for 'jitni abaadi utna haq' – rights according to the size of the population.

Addressing a rally Tuesday in Jagdalpur in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh where Assembly elections are due later this year, Modi also accused the Congress leadership of being "in league with anti-national forces" and said the party was "out to divide Hindus at any cost and destroy

Bharat".

Without mentioning the Bihar caste survey or Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's demand for a nationwide caste census, the Prime Minister said, "The Congress began a new chant yesterday. *Congress ke neta kehate hai jitni abaadi utna haq, mei kehta hoon agar is desh me sabse badi koi abaadi hai toh woh abaadi gareeb hai... Aur gareeb ka kalyan yahi mera maqsad hai* (Congress leaders say rights should be according to the size of the population. I say the largest population in the country is that of the poor. The welfare of the poor is my goal)."

"I wonder what former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh Ji must be thinking. He used to say the minorities, and Muslims even among the minorities, had the first right on the nation's resources. Now the Congress is saying that the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

DELHI POLICE RAID 50 PREMISES, SEIZE LAPTOPS, PHONES

Founder-editor among 2 held under UAPA, 46 questioned in crackdown on news portal

Police action on NewsClick comes amid ED probe into source of funding with 'China link'; those questioned say asked about CAA, Delhi riots, farm protests

JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

INVOKING THE Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, the Delhi Police Special Cell Tuesday arrested news portal NewsClick founder and editor-in-chief, Prabir Purkayastha, and head of its human resource department, Amit Chakravarty, after day-long searches at over 50 locations linked to the news portal, its employees and contributors.

After the searches, across the National Capital Region and Mumbai, police said a total of 46 "suspects" had been questioned and their "digital devices" seized. Police also sealed the news portal's office in Delhi.

Sources said the police action was based on an FIR filed on August 17 based on the Enforcement Directorate's inputs that NewsClick had allegedly received illegal funding from China, routed through the United States. The ED had searched NewsClick's premises in February 2021 as part of its probe into foreign remittances allegedly received between 2018 and 2021.

Sources added that the FIR has a reference to US businessman Neville Roy Singham and has flagged funding to the tune of Rs 80 crore. In August, an investigation by *The New York Times* had alleged that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Outside the NewsClick office during the raid by Delhi Police's Special Cell on Tuesday. PTI

Centre using agencies to persecute and suppress media, says Opp bloc

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

THE DELHI Police raids on NewsClick and its journalists triggered a political row on Tuesday, with the Opposition INDIA bloc calling it a "fresh attack on the media" and the government asserting that investigative agencies are independent and work in accordance with law.

Criticising the raids, the INDIA bloc said the BJP government has, in the last nine years, "deliber-



ately persecuted" and "suppressed the media" by deploying investigative agencies. It asked the government to focus on "genuine issues of concern" to the nation and the people, and stop attacking the media to distract attention from its failures.

While the Congress said the raids were a "fresh distraction from the explosive findings of the caste census in Bihar and the growing demand for caste census across the country", the CPI(M) said "such a largescale

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PARITY IN STAFF PRESENCE

Amid row, India asks Canada to withdraw 40 of its diplomats

Move set to impact visa processing time for Indian students, professionals

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

DAYS AFTER India asked Canada to reduce its diplomatic presence in the country amid the raging diplomatic row over the killing of a Canada-based pro-Khalistan separatist, New Delhi has now told Ottawa to withdraw about 40 of its diplomats to bring parity with the Indian diplomatic presence in Canada.

India has about 20 diplomats in Canada, while Canada has three times more than the Indian presence, about 60 diplomats, sources said. They said that the principle of reciprocity is being invoked here, and Delhi wants the diplomatic strength to be equal in both countries.

Three days after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations of a potential Indian government link to the killing of Khalistan separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, India had rejected the allegations as "absurd" and "motivated", and on the issue of diplomatic presence, Ministry of External Affairs' official spokesperson Arindam Bagchi had said on September 21 that



Canada has 12 offices across India, including the High Commission in Delhi. File

the matter has been taken up with the Canadian government. "We have informed the Canadian government that there should be parity in strength and rank equivalence in mutual diplomatic presence. Their numbers here are much very much higher than ours in Canada. The details of this are being worked out. But I assume there will be a reduction," Bagchi had said.

Responding to a question, he had said that Canadian diplomats are "interfering in India's internal affairs".

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Rohit puts to rest shadow of past: 'Yes, we have not won; it is fine... It happens'

Ahead of World Cup, skipper says he wants team to be fit, in a 'good space'

DEVENDRA PANDEY & SRIRAM VEERA
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 3

THE LAST time India won an ICC tournament was in 2013, when MS Dhoni lifted the Champions Trophy. A decade later, captain Rohit Sharma says he wouldn't allow the decade-long futile Cup chase to pull down his team during the 50-over cricket carnival that starts on Thursday, when defending champions England take on New Zealand in Ahmedabad.

"Yes, we have not won; it's fine! I'm not a person who over-thinks and puts myself in a tough place where I'm not able to make a decision. England started winning now; in 2019 they won the World Cup after so many years. It happens. Australia is the only consistent team who have won. After 2007, they won the ODI World Cup in 2015. They won the T20 World Cup in Dubai," Sharma told *The Indian Express*.

So who will win the Cup? "I don't have an answer for it. How can I say that now? All I can hope is that the team is in a good space. Everybody is fit and fine. That's all I can hope for. I cannot say beyond this. Space is such an



Whatever I have created today, it's because of myself... I didn't expect anything from anyone

important factor and it's a very key thing now," he said.

Sharma also stressed he would be glad if the expectations from the fans aren't too high. "What people are expecting we can't control. In India wherever we go, be it airports or hotels, they say, 'World Cup jeetna hai sir' (You have to win the World Cup). It happens everywhere. It will never stop," he said with a smile.

India's record in the ICC events has been a point of contention. They have often done well to reach the business end of the tournaments but have been unable to win the knockout

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

New proposal: States say will settle for lower, but an assured pension

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

IN A NEW proposal before the Finance Secretary-led committee set up to review the New Pension System for government employees, some states have proposed a middle path which entails a lower pension, but one that is assured.

Some states have specifically demanded an assured pension linked to the minimum of a pay level, and not the last-drawn salary as it is under the Old Pension Scheme (OPS). "One issue that is coming up from OPS is that the minimum pension need not be 50 per cent of the last drawn salary, but a minimum pension at a certain level which

EXPLAINED
Can this be the middle path?

WHILE REVERTING to OPS is unsustainable, the panel on NPS may be open to considering proposals which do not burden states with pension liability that remains unfunded. An assured return – even if low unlike the OPS – promise can be made only if there are enough financial instruments in the market that provide specified returns over very long terms.

is 50 per cent of the lowest (entry-level pay) salary in the pay

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Grief, anger in Nanded as newborns die: 'Don't know how to tell my wife'

VIJAY KUMAR YADAV
NANDED, OCTOBER 3

"I DON'T know how to inform my wife about the death of our son, I fear it will deteriorate her condition." It was only a couple of hours ago that Azeem Khan was told by doctors at Dr Shankarrao Chavan Government Medical College and Hospital in Nanded that his three-day-old son was no more.

The 25-year-old carpenter's wife Nagma, 20, gave birth to a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



A family waits with a newborn at the Dr Shankarrao Chavan Government Medical College-Hospital in Nanded. Deepak Joshi

J&K terror spike prompts relook at pre-winter strategy, deployment

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

THE NEW spurt in terror incidents in J&K, where infiltration peaks before the onset of winter, has prompted security forces to reassess their counter-terror strategy in the Union Territory, and plans to redistribute Rashtriya Rifles (RR) units might not be implemented immedi-

ately, top security sources have told *The Indian Express*.

A RR force from J&K was moved to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh in 2021 following the Chinese incursions.

The reassessment will include enhancing the existing counter-infiltration grid along the Line of Control (LoC) and carrying out re-deployment of troops in the hinterland to draw out dormant or

inactive militants.

The counter-infiltration grid refers to the deployment of troops and equipment along the LoC to prevent infiltration from across the border.

A number of terror incidents have taken place in recent months in J&K, the latest being an encounter Tuesday in Rajouri where two soldiers were injured.

The revised counter-terror

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

In this district, army of schoolkids leads fight against child marriage



TRACKING CHANGE ON THE GROUND, EVERY WEEK

RUPSA CHAKRABORTY
BEED, OCTOBER 3

IN THEIR crisp school uniforms, students convened in the tranquil school courtyard. With heads held high and hands raised, the school premises resonated with a collective oath, re-

cited in Marathi: "We shall not engage in child marriage, either directly or indirectly. We shall neither endorse nor support it..."

Every Monday, this ceremony takes place in 3,657 schools across Beed where over 5.44 lakh children participate, marking a first-of-its kind effort in the drought-prone district, notorious for its high incidence of child marriages in Maharashtra.

The campaign's impact has been palpable – many children have become informers, discreetly dialling the helpline number, 1098, and aiding the district in preventing child marriages, with some "brides" as

young as 10.

"I felt it was my responsibility to act when my 13-year-old cousin was being forced into marriage. Knowing that my parents wouldn't listen, I called the number from a friend's phone," said a 14-year-old student from Beed's Kajj. The call helped authorities intervene at the right time.

Across Beed, in fact, there has been a significant increase in the reporting of child marriage prevention calls – the district now averages 30 calls a month, a stark contrast to the two calls per month the previous year.

The oath became mandatory in private and government



Every Monday, children take an oath to fight child marriage in schools across Beed district, Maharashtra. Rupsa Chakraborty

schools after IAS officer Deepa Mudhol Munde took charge as the new district collector in February. The 12-line verse was originally created to sensitise Women and Child Development officers in Dhule, but was later adapted to suit Beed district's needs. "Children and their parents migrate to cane-cutting factories from October. We launched these oath-taking programmes to sensitise them before migration, when many hasty child marriages occur," she said.

Data collected by *The Indian Express* highlights the transformative impact of these new initiatives. In 2016-17, just 19 calls

to report child marriage were received, which increased to 27 in 2017-18, but dropped to 17 in 2018-19. In 2019-20, this figure rose to 39. During the Covid pandemic, when child marriage incidents increased statewide, reports surged to 41 in 2020-21 and 83 in 2021-22. In 2022-23, there were 132 reported cases.

In water-scarce Marathwada's Beed district, battling agricultural limitations, nearly half the population migrates for better income through sugarcane harvesting elsewhere. This exodus has contributed in making Beed the district reporting the second-highest number

of child marriages in the state. According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS 2019-20), Beed trails only behind Parbhani with a 47 per cent child marriage rate. An alarming 43.7 per cent of women in Beed are wed before reaching 18, far exceeding the state average of 21.90 per cent.

The Indian Express interviewed more than 10 women who were married off before puberty, as their parents sought to protect them from sexual abuse while working in remote sugarcane cutting factories for six months during harvesting. "Local men would target us

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Pushkar Singh Dhama
Chief Minister, Uttarakhand



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PROSPERITY**



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AYUSH and Wellness

Bio Technology

Horticulture and Floriculture

Herbs & Aromatics

Food Processing

Natural Fibers

Key Policies of Uttarakhand

- Service Sector Policy 2023 • Solar Energy Policy, 2023
- MSME Policy 2023 • Start-Up Policy 2023 • Customized Package
- Logistics Policy 2023 • Film Policy 2015 (as amended in 2019)
- Private Industrial Park Policy 2023 • Mega Industrial Policy 2015
- Export Policy 2021 • Tourism Policy 2023-30 • Drone Policy 2023
- IT Policy 2019 • Wellness & Ayush Policy • Excise Policy 2021-23
- Biotechnology Policy 2018-23 • Food Processing Policy
- Pump Storage Projects Policy 2023

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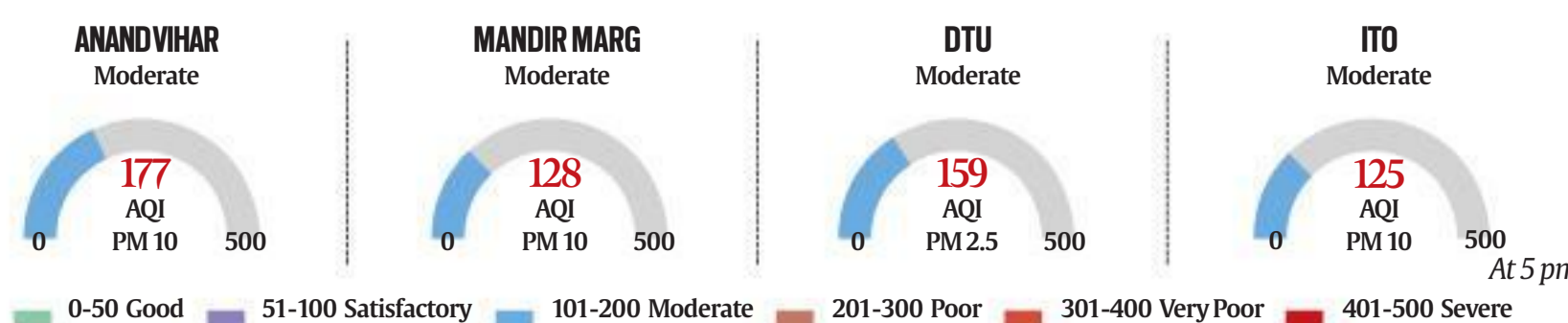
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SKY WATCH

FORECAST: October 4
Clear sky. Mist in the morning.

MAX: 34 (0.2°C below normal)
MIN: 18 (4.3°C below normal)

BRIEFLY

24x7 'Green War Room' begins ops



A team comprising scientists, engineers will work at the station. Praveen Khanna

New Delhi: A 24x7 'Green War Room' to monitor and implement the Winter Action Plan was inaugurated by Environment Minister Gopal Rai Tuesday. A 17-member team comprising scientists and engineers will work at the station. Environmental Scientist Dr Nandita Moitra has been appointed as the war room in charge. The members of the unit will communicate and monitor all complaints received on the Green Delhi app. So far, 70,684 complaints have been received on the app and 90% of these have been resolved, Rai said.

Delhi Police gets custody of Jangpura heist accused

New Delhi: Custody of the Rs 25 crore jewellery heist accused Lokesh Shrivastava has been handed over to Delhi Police and he is being brought from Chhattisgarh on a transit remand, said officers. Police had moved an application for Shrivastava's formal arrest and transit remand and he was produced before the judicial magistrate in Raipur. The court granted a 72-hour transit remand of the accused to Delhi Police. Said an officer, "After the *panchnama* before an executive magistrate, the case property shall be handed over to the IO." **ENS**

Delhi govt begins special audit of DJB

New Delhi: The Delhi government has begun a special audit of the DJB amid the water works agency's rising debt and shrinking revenues, sources said Tuesday. The Finance department of the Delhi government, conducting the audit, will also look into alleged instances of fund diversion by the Board from capital heads to other works, they said. **PTI**

STUDY LOOKS AT 2021 DELHI DATA OVER TWO PERIODS

Nanoparticles from vehicle fumes can cause acute illness

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

NANOPARTICLES IN Delhi's air, a major chunk of which comes from vehicular emissions, can potentially be transported from the respiratory system to other parts of the human body, creating more chronic and acute illnesses, according to a study.

The study analysed nanoparticles (10 to 1090 nanometers in diameter) in the city in 2021, over two periods — from April to June, and October to November. These "very small particles" may come from natural sources or from human activities.

In urban road environments, nanoparticles come mainly from the combustion process in automobiles, the study noted, adding that the concentration of these particles in urban roadside environments varies with human activity, particularly vehicular emissions.

The study, by Rajeev Kumar Mishra and Kanagaraj Rajagopal at the Department of Environmental Engineering, Delhi Technological University (DTU), and S Ramachandran at the Space and Atmospheric Sciences Division, Physical Research



Nanoparticles in road environment can penetrate deeper into respiratory system than other pollutants. Praveen Khanna

Laboratory, Ahmedabad, was recently published in the journal 'Urban Climate.'

Noting that nanoparticles in the road environment can penetrate deeper into the respiratory system than other pollutants, the study stated that in urban environments, ultrafine particles of 1 to 100 nanometers can contribute up to 90% to the total particle number concentration.

For the study, researchers drew data from a monitoring station located adjacent to the DTU campus on Bawana Road in Northwest Delhi. The April to June 2021 period, which saw Covid-related restrictions, expe-

rienced around 31% less concentration of particles, the study found. The recorded vehicle fleet was found to be 49% less than the normal period during this time.

In the second period, which included Diwali, particle concentration increased by 35% compared to normal conditions due to "sudden rise in firework emissions," according to the study.

Researchers also found that the size of these particles varies depending on sources. In the second period, when emission sources were more complex, the size of the particles ranged from 20 nm (nanometers) to 200 nm, while it was 15 to 80 nm in the

first period, when emission sources were restricted on account of Covid restrictions.

Meteorology and other factors can also influence concentration of these particles: With rise in relative humidity, coagulation of these particles results in their concentration becoming high; high concentrations of these pollutants are found during peak morning and evening hours due to vehicular emissions; and higher wind speed can result in dispersion of these particles.

The study stated: "The PNC (particle number concentration) estimates will be useful to determine deposition of particles in the human respiratory system based on various inhalation rates and associated physical activities. The particles in the nano-size range, after deposition, can potentially be transported to other parts of the body, creating more chronic and acute illnesses. The quantitative outcomes of the present study can be used to estimate human health impacts, develop policies/standards, and initiate mitigation measures for pollution events with implications to climate change, and help move towards sustainability measures."



CRACKDOWN ON MOSQUITOES

A fumigation drive being carried out at Mandawali to control mosquito breeding. Delhi has so far recorded more than 3,000 dengue cases along with one fatality this year. Praveen Khanna

If customer is aware, service charge not unfair: Restaurant body to High Court

MALAVIKA PRASAD
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

THE NATIONAL Restaurant Association of India (NRAI) told the Delhi High Court Tuesday that as long as the customer is made aware of the service charge at restaurants and hotels, there is nothing unfair in levying it.

The HC was hearing two pleas — one moved by the NRAI and the other by the Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI) — against the July 4, 2022, guidelines issued by the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) stating that service charge will not be collected from consumers by any other name.

Appearing for the NRAI, advocate Lalit Bhasin argued before a single-judge bench of Justice Prathiba Singh that as long as it is announced clearly on the restaurant's menu card that service charge is being charged and the consumer agrees to consume the food and enjoy the experience, there is an "implicit contract" which can't be overridden. Bhasin thereafter said, "The petitioner is conscious of the fact that the awareness of customer is of utmost importance and so long as the customer is made aware, there is nothing unfair in charging the service charge."

Bhasin also argued that there is "no legal bar" on levying service charges. He said that such charges have always been a matter of contract between management and workmen. The charge

According to L-G House officials, the last enrolment of home guards was in 2011; since then, their tenure has been extended from time to time with the L-G's approval. Rule 8 of Delhi Home Guards Rules provides that "the term of office of a member of the Home Guards shall be 3 years".

The HC was hearing pleas against guidelines stating that service charge will not be collected from consumers by any other name. Archive

'Rarely came home, did not know much about his life: Kin of arrested ISIS terror suspect

ARNABJIT SUR
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

A DAY after Mohammad Arshad Warsi (29) was arrested by the Delhi Police Special Cell, along with two others, for allegedly being operatives of an ISI-sponsored module, his father said the family did not know much about his life.

Waris Khan, a government school teacher, said his son used to come to the village in Jharkhand's Garhwa once or twice a year during Eid and never spoke about anything "connected to what he has been accused of".

"Arshad mostly remained outside our village since he studied at Aligarh Muslim University. We hardly got a chance to know much about his life... he took home tuitions for maths and science and taught at an institute in Delhi. I used to visit him at his home in Batla House where he stayed with his wife and a six-month-old child. On Monday, I got a call from a Special Cell officer informing me of the arrest," he said.

Waris has two more sons, both engineers, and a daughter in school.

According to police, the module was an "advanced stage of planning terror strikes in India" using specially designed IEDs



Three men were arrested by the Special Cell, Monday

tested in forest areas over months.

Four days a week, Warsi used to teach Physics at a coaching institute in Jamia Nagar for two hours to 20 students from classes IX and X.

Azam Hussain, one of the founders of the centre that has been operating for over 10 years, told *The Indian Express* that Warsi joined nearly three months ago as an ad hoc teacher: "We usually recruit teachers through reference but Warsi didn't need one as his educational background — he was pursuing a PhD from Jamia Millia Islamia — was enough. We were shocked after watching the news of him being arrested for being part of terror activities..." he said.

"He never discussed his personal life, all we knew is he lived nearby. We were planning to offer him a permanent teacher post as he had been performing well," said a member of the ad-

ministration department.

Another staff member said Warsi was being paid Rs 15,000.

Abbas, a staff member, said Warsi last came to the institute on Saturday. "... a teacher has taken over his classes," he added.

Meanwhile, a Jamia official confirmed that Warsi was enrolled in a PhD programme in the Department of Management Studies. "His fellowship reports were satisfactory; he had enrolled in the programme in February 2019. He did his B.Tech from AMU. He was supposed to complete his PhD by 2024," said the official.

Police said the accused are Warsi; Shah Nawaz Alam (31), a resident of Hazaribagh in Jharkhand; and Mohammad Rizwan Ashraf (28) from Lucknow. While Ashraf was arrested from Lucknow, Shah Nawaz was arrested from Jaipur and Warsi from Moradabad.

HC vacates stay, services of 17 Assembly fellows in limbo

MALAVIKA PRASAD
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

THE TENURE of 17 research fellows engaged by the Delhi Assembly continues to remain in limbo after the High Court Tuesday lifted the stay granted by it on their disengagement. It noted that the issue was specifically argued before the Supreme Court.

On September 27, the Assembly Speaker directed the redeployment of all Delhi Assembly Research Centre (DARC) fellows and associates, who were removed on the L-G's directions, following the HC's interim order.

Justice Subramonium Prasad, in the September 21 interim order, directed that services of the 17 fellows not be discontinued and stipend paid to them till December 6. The order had come in a plea moved by the fellows. With the stay now lifted, the interim order will no longer apply.

The HC Tuesday said the genesis of the matter pertained to a July 5 letter by which the L-G "disengaged Fellows/Associate

Fellows" of DARC. Justice Prasad said this letter was "specifically challenged" by the Delhi government before the Supreme Court in an application. The application was filed in a pending writ petition challenging the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023, with regard to control over services in the Capital.

The HC observed that with respect to the letter, the government had specifically argued before the SC that the "letter must be stayed". "In the Order dated 20.07.2023, the Apex Court chose not to stay the letter... The contention of the learned counsel for the petitioner is that since the apex court has not passed any order in the I.A. No.13505/2023, it is open for this court to consider the same, can't be sustained," it observed.

The HC said since the top court had "declined" to stay the operation of the letter, propriety demands that the HC should not have passed any interim order. Vacating the stay, the HC said it would be open for fellows to approach the SC for "clarifications".

Excise policy case: Son of YSR Cong MP, bizman allowed to turn approvers

NIRBHAY THAKUR
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

A DELHI court Tuesday allowed Raghav Magunta Reddy, son of a YSR Congress Party MP, and businessman Dinesh Arora, both accused in the excise policy case, to become approvers in the money laundering case being investigated by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

Public Prosecutor NK Matta told *The Indian Express* that the accused were granted conditional pardon so that evidence could be obtained from them under CrP Section 306. The pardon was granted on the condition that they would make a "full and true disclosure" of the circumstances of the offence committed.

The ED had earlier stated that Reddy was one of the key conspirators in the Delhi Excise Policy "scam" and was part of the South Group which paid Rs 100 crore to the Aam Aadmi Party

(AAP) for alleged benefits received from the excise policy. In August, the Delhi High Court granted bail to Reddy after the ED had said he was cooperating with the investigation.

The ED had earlier alleged that Arora was a close associate of former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and was involved at "every stage in the making of the excise policy". The agency also stated that Arora was present during meetings with the other co-accused. Relying on the evidence presented by ED, the court of Special Judge MK Nagpal had noted that Arora was "personally involved in handling or transmission of advanced kickback amounts of around Rs 35 to 36 crore."

Earlier, accused businessman P Sarath Chandra Reddy was also allowed to turn approver in the case. Reddy, who was arrested last November, is the son of P V Ram Prasad Reddy who is the co-founder of Aurobindo Pharma.

#NPSforEquality

NPS एक equality ला रहा है। चाहे वो आदमी है, चाहे वो औरत है, चाहे वो transgender है चाहे वो other gender है, हम सब एक बराबर प्लेटफॉर्म पर हैं।

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EDUCATION


LIFE IN AN IIT: 'IIT INDORE IS MAKING ME INDUSTRY READY,' SAYS BTECH STUDENT

Akshit Raizada is a third-year Mechanical Engineering student at IIT Indore. He has a deep interest in Robotics and wants to pursue a Master's in the field.

ENTERTAINMENT

'SINGERS TODAY HAVE NO INDIVIDUALITY'

A chat with Kumar Sanu, where he talks about both his highs and lows



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EXPRESS AUDIO

RSS tries to revamp image, Mizoram defies orders, and cancer's gender gap

How RSS is trying to shed its 'majoritarian' image, why Mizoram defied the Centre's orders, and what the Lancet report reveals about the gender gap in Cancer in India

FROM PAGE ONE FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Founder-editor among 2 held under UAPA

NewsClick was among organisations funded by a network tied to Singham for allegedly pushing Chinese propaganda across the world.

The FIR was filed under UAPA Sections 13 (unlawful activities); 16 (terrorist act); 17 (raising funds for terrorist acts); 18 (conspiracy); 22 (C) (offences by companies, trusts); along with IPC Sections 153A (promoting enmity between different group) and 120B (criminal conspiracy).

The searches, across Delhi, Gurgaon, Noida, Ghaziabad and Mumbai, began early Tuesday and continued for seven-eight hours. Several journalists, technicians and contributors associated with NewsClick, currently or in the past, faced searches and questioning. Many of their phones, laptops and other electronic devices were seized.

"A total of 37 male suspects... 9 female suspects have been questioned at their respective places of stay, and digital devices, documents etc have been seized/collected for examination. This is in connection with a UAPA case registered with Special Cell. The proceedings are still ongoing. So far, two accused, Prabir Purkayastha and Amit Chakravarty, have been arrested. Further investigation is in progress," Delhi Police spokesperson Suman Nalwa said.

Barring Purkayastha and Chakravarty, the others who were detained for questioning were released in the evening and asked to join the probe on October 5-6.

Among those who were questioned and/or searched were Abhisar Sharma, Bhasha Singh, Urmillesh, Aunindyo Chakravarty, Paranjay Guha Thakurta, Satyam Tiwari, Subodh Verma, cartoonist Irfan, historian Sohail Hashmi and satirist Sanjay Rajoura. In Mumbai, Teesta Setalvad's home and office were also searched.

When contacted, Thakurta said: "Nine policemen came to my home at around 630 am... I voluntarily went to the Delhi Police Special Cell office on Lodi Road. I told them I have nothing to hide, I have been a consultant with NewsClick since May 2018. I raise an invoice, my remuneration started with Rs 1.5 lakh a month, it was reduced after Covid and there have been several months when I haven't raised any invoice. I told them I have a single bank account and they can check all this."

When asked about the ED probe into the source of NewsClick's funding, Thakurta

Centre using agencies to persecute and suppress media, says Opp bloc

authoritarian assault against media organisations and journalists who speak truth to power is totally unacceptable".

Meanwhile, addressing a press conference in Bhubaneswar, Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said probe agencies are independent and work in accordance with law. "I don't need to justify the raids. If someone has done something wrong, the probe agencies do their job. Nowhere is it written that if you have got money through illegal manner or done something objectionable, the probe agencies cannot investigate... The probe agencies are independent and they work as per the law," he said.

Without commenting on the merits of the case, the INDIA bloc said in a joint statement: "In the last nine years, the BJP government has deliberately persecuted and suppressed the media by deploying investigative agencies to suppress the British Broadcasting Corporation, NewsLaundry, Dainik Bhaskar, Bharat Samachar, The Kashmir Walla, The Wire etc, and most recently the journalists of NewsClick."

"The BJP government has also tried to convert the media into a mouthpiece for its partisan and ideological interests by facilitating the takeover of media organisations by crony capitalists," it said.

"The Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) parties strongly condemn the BJP government's fresh attack on the media. We steadfastly stand with the media and for the constitutionally protected freedoms of speech and expression," it said.

The Opposition said both the government and its ideologically aligned organisations have resorted to reprisals against individual journalists who spoke truth to power.

"Furthermore, the BJP government has also spearheaded regressive policies like the Information Technology Rules 2021 that constrict the media from reporting objectively. In doing so, the BJP is not only hiding its sins of omissions and commission from the people of India. It is also compromising India's global standing as a mature democracy," it said.

The BJP government's "coercive actions", the Opposition parties said, are invariably directed against only those media organisations and journalists who speak truth to power.

"Ironically, the BJP government is paralysed when it comes to taking action against those journalists inciting hatred and divisiveness in the nation. In the national interest, it would

behove the BJP government to focus on genuine issues of concern to the nation and the people, and stop attacking the media to distract attention from its failures," the INDIA bloc said.

Leaders of the alliance condemned the raids in separate statements too. While Congress media department head Pawan Khera said the raids were a "fresh distraction from the explosive findings of caste census in Bihar and the growing demand for caste census across the country", Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav said the searches were a sign of a "losing BJP".

"This is not a new thing, BJP rulers have always raided honest journalists. But how many crores of rupees are being given to 'Mitra channels' every month in the name of government 'prachar-prasar' (advertisements), anyone should also print this," Yadav said in a post on X.

CPI general secretary D Raja said "BJP's crackdown on media has already brought India among the bottom 20 countries in press freedom".

TMC MP Mahua Moitra tweeted: "Senior journalists raided and taken for questioning. Their phones and laptops seized. New India takes the press seriously."

"The Modi government is trying to create an atmosphere of terror through the searches on the office of NewsClick and detention of journalists associated with it. I am sure none of them will be cowed down by such tactics. We deplore these incidents," RJD national vice-president Shivanand Tiwary said.

Various journalist organisations also expressed concern over the raids. The Editors Guild of India said the raids were yet another attempt to "muzzle the media". "We remind the government of the importance of an independent media in a functioning democracy, and urge it to ensure that the fourth pillar is respected, nurtured and protected," it said in a statement.

"While we recognise that the law must take its course if actual offences are involved, the due process has to be followed. The investigation of specific offences must not create a general atmosphere of intimidation under the shadow of draconian laws, or impinge on the freedom of expression and the raising of dissenting and critical voices," it said.

The Press Club of India, National Alliance of Journalists, Delhi Union of Journalists, Kerala Union of Working Journalists (Delhi unit) and the Mumbai Press Club were among those which also expressed concern.

Grief, anger

baby boy at a government hospital in Parbhani, 70 km away. But doctors there told Khan that during the C-section operation, contaminated water entered the baby's mouth and that he needed ventilator support. Since the hospital in Parbhani had no ventilator, Khan was referred to the 600-bed hospital in Nanded. However, after three days of treatment at the hospital here, Khan's newborn died. "Despite the Parbhani doctors saying my son needed a ventilator, the doctors did not put my son on a ventilator," Khan told *The Indian Express* on Tuesday.

Between October 1 and 2, the hospital has seen 31 deaths, a sudden spike that has led to outrage, prompting the state government to order an inquiry by a three-member panel of medical experts.

Of the 31 deaths at the hospital 16 were newborns, the oldest being four days old.

According to a senior doctor at the hospital, it was unclear why the number of deaths has risen suddenly. The hospital used to witness 10-14 deaths per day previously, which is also the case in other district hospitals. Although the hospital has been facing a staff crunch – the neonatal intensive care unit has only 12 nursing staff for the 67 newborns there – the hospital has managed to maintain a decent survival ratio among patients, the doctor said.

Sudhakar Bhimrao Solanki, a farmer, got his pregnant daughter Rani Nagesh admitted to a private hospital in Bhokar in Nanded district, where doctors carried out C-section operation on September 29. He was told that the baby's condition was not normal and more treatment would cost Rs 1.5 lakh. Solanki, who could not afford the treatment, got the newborn to the Dr Shankarao Chavan Hospital, 40 km away, the same day. The baby girl died during treatment within hours. "This happened due to hospital's negligence," Solanki said.

In Mumbai, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said the government has taken the issue seriously and the Health Minister as well as the department secretaries have been asked to visit Nanded. He denied reports that the deaths were due to the unavailability of medicines and medical staff. "I cannot comment on the exact cause of the deaths since the final report is awaited. But it is learnt that a few of them were premature babies and senior citizens with serious health conditions," he said.

India to Canada: withdraw 40 staff

On Tuesday, the *Financial Times* reported that India has told Canada that it must repatriate 41 diplomats by October 10, and has threatened to revoke the diplomatic immunity of those diplomats told to leave who remained after the deadline. Canada has 62 diplomats in India and India had said that the total should be reduced by 41, the British newspaper said.

While there was no official word from the Indian government or the Canadian authorities, sources from both sides confirmed the development to *The Indian Express*.

In Ottawa, Canadian Foreign Minister Melanie Joly told reporters that the government believes in having a "strong diplomatic footprint" in India.

"We are in contact with the government of India. We take Canadian diplomats' safety very seriously, and we will continue to engage privately because we think that diplomatic conversations are best when they remain private," she said. "In moments of tensions – because indeed there are tensions between both our governments more than ever – it's important that diplomats be on the ground, and that's why we believe in the importance of having a strong diplomatic footprint in India," she was quoted as saying by *Global News*.

Sources said that the unequal presence in diplomatic strength is due to the larger diplomatic presence of Canada in India. Apart from the Canadian High Commission in

J&K terror spike prompts relook at pre-winter strategy

strategy, sources said, will consider that attempts to infiltrate the Valley are likely to rise before winter when heavy snowfall makes such bids difficult.

Sources said the estimated presence of over 200 terrorists in launchpads across the LoC makes this a real possibility. While the number of militants present in the Valley has gone down, there is a likely increase in the overall number of militants in areas south of the Pir Panjal range such as Poonch, Rajouri and Reasi.

"There are chances that the Valley might see more infiltration attempts in the next few weeks than in the areas south of Pir Panjal where infiltration is easier and possible throughout the year," a source said, adding that militants present south of Pir Panjal might

also make attempts to cross over to the Valley.

"There is a leadership vacuum (among militants) in the Valley at present and attempts are expected to be made to fill that in by bringing in militant leaders from across LoC as well as through other non-traditional routes such as the Nepal border," a security source said.

What underlines this militant leadership vacuum in the Valley is that in the recent past, most encounters have been a result of intelligence-based operations carried out by the security forces, whereas in the areas south of the Pir Panjal range, many high-profile attacks were actively initiated by militants.

Post the Kokernag gunbattle, J&K DGP Dilbag Singh and 15

In this district, schoolchildren fight child marriage

when our parents were away for cane cutting. Once, I went with them to the factory, and someone tried to rape me when I went to relieve myself in the fields," said a 13-year-old, who was married off in 2021 and is now a mother. The incentive for married couples to earn Rs 1 lakh from sugarcane contractors or "mukadams", which unmarried cane-cutting labourers do not receive, exacerbates the crisis.

Much like the teenager's situation, most child marriages go unreported. While the state government is yet to entirely address seasonal migration in the face of climate change, district authorities, working with UNICEF, are trying to empower women through the SAKSHUM program, which stands for Sushikshit (educated), Anubhavi (life skill), Kushal (health), Samaan-Surakshit (gender equality and protection), Haqdaar (legal rights), Udyamshel (skill development), and Mukti (freedom from child marriage).

The introduction of this programme and the school oaths on Mondays have yielded dramatic results – between April and August 2023, 149 complaints were recorded, underlining the effectiveness of these initiatives in mobilising communities. An age-wise breakdown of preventable child marriages reveals that girls as young as 10 are forced into wedlock. "A significant number of top-offs are originating from school children, both boys and girls. We have included the helpline number in the oath, and students have memorised it," said Munde, adding that the caller's identity is kept anonymous.

This has also led to an increase in the number of FIRs, reaching 13 in the same five months, whereas there was only one in the previous year and none in 2021-22.

Rohit Sharma puts to rest shadow of past

games that matter.

In 2015, India reached the semifinal only to lose to Australia. Next time, in 2019, they lost in the semifinals again – to New Zealand. In the two recent T20 World Cups, in UAE in 2021, and in Australia in 2022, the team failed to make it to the final. Last year in Australia, Sharma took over the captaincy from Virat Kohli but the jinx continued. Now he has a chance to leave a legacy, but he said he doesn't like to think in those terms.

"Every year there is an ICC trophy now; if you don't win it's an unsuccessful year! People just forget what good work has happened in these 10 months. Rightly, as the Indian cricket team, we are expected to win major trophies. We are one of the top teams in the world. We have to be good at it. It has been disappointing for sure."

At 36, this could be his last World Cup as a leader and probably as a player. Does he feel that the captaincy came to him at the right time or was it delayed? "Obviously, you want to be at your peak for this, say when you are 26-27. But you cannot always get what you want. You are talking about the Indian captaincy and there have been stalwarts in the Indian team. Many more players deserved to be the captain of the team. I had to wait for my turn and that's absolutely fair enough. The guys before, Virat was before me, so was MS (Dhoni)," he said.

"Just look at the names that are missed out: Gautam Gambhir, Virender Sehwag... these are all stalwarts of Indian cricket. Not to forget Yuvraj Singh. He never cap-

ED must give grounds of arrest: SC

The judgement came on a plea by Panjaj Bansal and Basant Bansal, Directors of M3M real estate group, who had challenged an order of the Punjab and Haryana High Court which declined to set aside their arrest by the ED under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Noting that the grounds of arrest were only read to the accused and had not been given to them in writing, the bench said it "reeks of arbitrariness".

Expressing its disapproval, the bench said the "chronology of events speaks volumes and reflects rather poorly, if not negatively, on the ED's style of functioning".

Holding the arrest illegal, the bench said the investigating officer reading out the reasons for ar-

rest to the accused does not fulfil the mandate of Article 22(1) of Constitution and Section 19(1) of the PMLA.

On the need for the agency to be transparent and fair, the bench said, "Being a premier investigating agency charged with the onerous responsibility of curbing debilitating economic offence of money laundering in our country, every action of the ED in the course of such exercise is expected to be transparent, above board and conforming to the pristine standards of fair play in action. The ED, mantled with far-reaching powers under the stringent Act of 2002, is not expected to be vindictive in its conduct and must be seen to be acting with utmost probity and with the highest degree of dispassion and fairness."

PM counters caste census demand

population size will decide who has the first right," he said.

"Is the Congress trying to reduce the rights of the minorities? And if population basis is going to decide, who has the first right? Who has the largest population? Should rights be according to population? The Congress should make it clear," he said.

"Is the Congress trying to remove minorities? Should Hindus, who form the largest population, come forward and claim all their rights?" Modi asked.

"I have been saying this for a while, and I am repeating that Congress people no longer run the Congress party. Congress leaders are sitting with lips sealed. Congress has been outsourced. Those who run the Congress are in league with anti-national forces. Congress is out to divide Hindus at any cost and destroy Bharat," he said.

"Until now, the Congress has not revealed what secret deal it has with another country. I caution you against their conspiracy.. If you (Congress) want to talk about rights, the first right over minerals and property of this country is of the poor, Dalits, tribals and backward people," he said.

Despite a bandh announced by the ruling Congress in Chhattisgarh over privatisation of the Nagarnar steel plant, a huge crowd showed up for Modi's rally in Jagdalpur.

Maintaining that people of Bastar will remain the sole owners of Nagarnar steel plant, he accused the Congress of promoting its own people and family members.

"The steel plant will bring around 55,000 jobs and we will invest thousands of crores more into it. When more investment will be made, the factory will be bigger and the development more rapid," he said.

New pension scheme proposal

matrix. This is one of the demands coming up," a person aware of the development said.

Under the Seventh Pay Commission, the earlier system of pay bands and grade pay was replaced with a pay matrix, with an employee's status being determined by their level within the pay matrix. The 7th Pay Matrix consists of 760 cells, with 19 columns and 40 rows signifying different pay levels for various functional roles of employees and the salary increments they may earn through their career.

So far, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh have already reverted to the Old Pension Scheme from NPS. In March, even the BJP-Sena (Shinde faction) government in Maharashtra gave an approval in principle to extend monetary benefits of OPS to those under the NPS, with the state government likely to increase its share towards pension to 20 per cent of the basic salary plus dearness allowance from 14 per cent now.

At present, while the government contribution is 14 per cent under NPS, an employee contributes 10 per cent of his salary plus DA.

Under the OPS, government employees get defined benefits post retirement – 50 per cent of their last drawn salary as monthly pension. Under the NPS, which covers employees who joined service post January 2004, contributions are defined but benefits depend on the market.

In March this year, the Central government had informed Parliament it is not considering any proposal to restore OPS in respect of its employees recruited after January 1, 2004. The Centre, however, allowed a one-time option to a section of government employees to shift to OPS whose posts were advertised before the notification of the NPS in December 2003.

With government employee unions raising concerns about NPS and its returns, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the formation of a panel to review the pension system for government employees, following which a four-member committee headed by Finance Secretary TV Somanathan was set up in April.

As per its terms of reference, the committee will suggest whether any changes are warranted given the existing framework and structure of the NPS, as applicable to government employees along with suggesting changes with a view to improve the pensionary benefits of government employees covered under NPS ensuring that fiscal prudence is maintained to protect common citizens.



TOURISM PARADISE

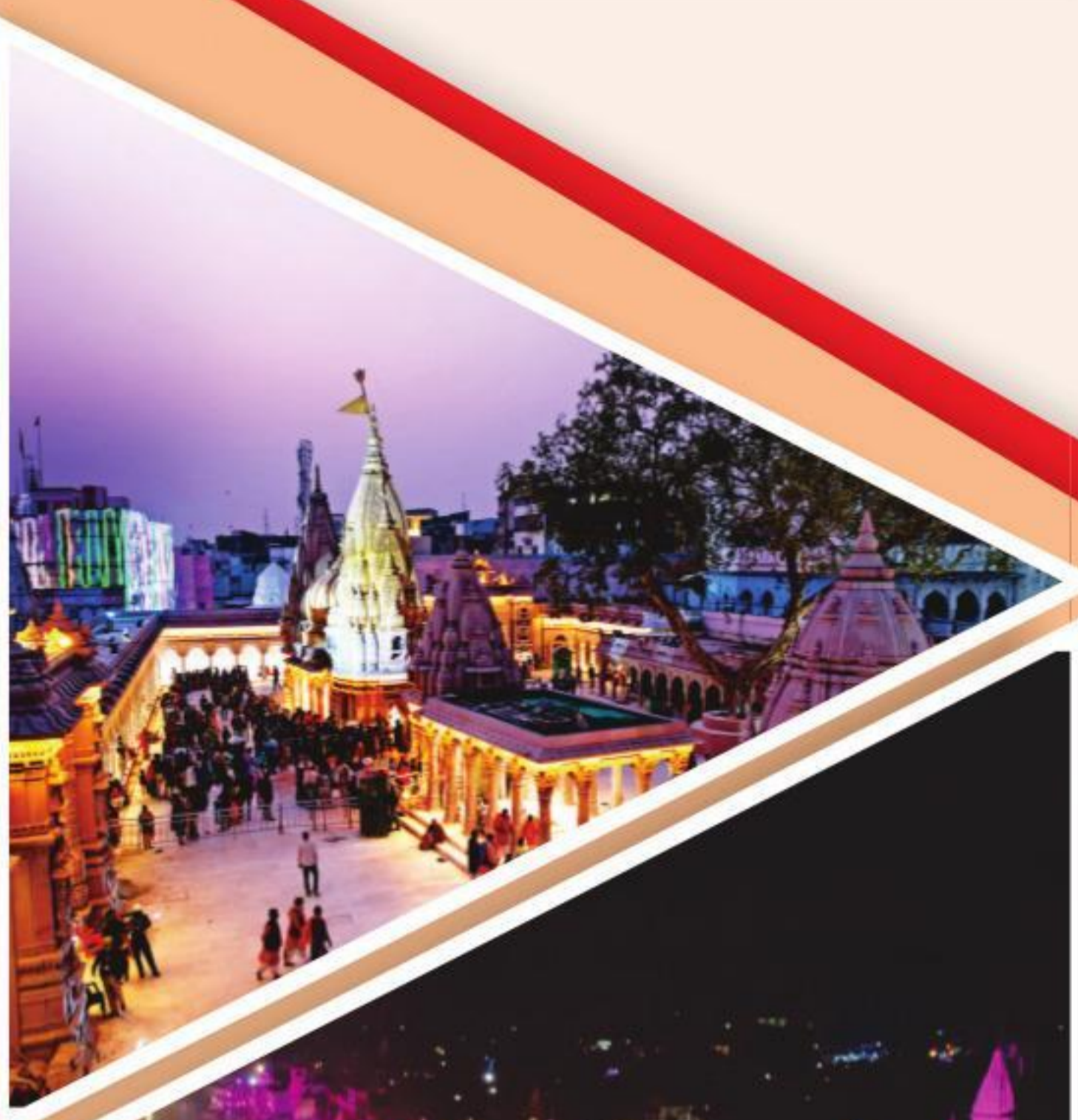
CONFLUENCE OF RICH HERITAGE, CULTURE, AND SPIRITUALITY



Rs 1,51,704 crore Investment proposal received in **UPGIS-23** and expected employment to 3.70 lacs peoples.

Maryada Purushottam Shri Ram International Airport in Ayodhya, is expected to be completed by this year.

A new Jatayu cruise service started on Saryu river in Ayodhya from Guptar Ghat to Naya Ghat.



Spiritual Journey

- Development of Shri Kashi Vishwanath Corridor
- Bhavya-Divya Deepotsav at Ayodhya, Dev Deepawali at Kashi, Krishnaotsav, Rangotsav and Braj Rajotsav at Mathura
- Buddhist Conclaves at Varanasi, Kushinagar, Shravasti and Sankisa
- Formation of Uttar Pradesh Braj Teerth Vikas Parishad, Shri Vindhya Dham Teerth Vikas Parishad, Shri Chitrakoot Dham Teerth Vikas Parishad and Shri Naimisharanya Dham Teerth Vikas Parishad
- Construction of Sugreev Kila Path, Janmbhoomi Path, Bhakti Path at Ayodhya
- Construction of Ram Van Gaman Path from Ayodhya to Chitrakoot
- Establishment of Sant Kabir Academy at Maghar
- Experience spiritual awakening in the sacred city of Prayagraj, where the confluence of the Ganges, Yamuna, and Saraswati rivers is believed to cleanse the soul. **Provision of Rs 2500 crore for Mahakumbh 2025** to be held in Prayagraj

Wildlife Wonders

- Dudhwa National Park, Tiger Reserve at Lakhimpur Khiri, Amangarh Tiger Reserve at Bijnore, Pilibhit Tiger Reserve, Ranipur Tiger Reserve at Chitrakoot
- Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary at Bahraich
- Increase in population of Tigers from 173 in the year 2018 to 205 in the year 2022

Water based activities

- The State is blessed with unique assets in the form of enriched and picturesque rivers, catchment areas and ghats conducive to development of inland water and cruise-based tourism. Water-based infrastructure including jetties, marinas, etc
- MV Ganga Vilas Yatra from Varanasi to Dibrugarh, Longest river cruise of the world
- UP Water Tourism and Adventure Sports Policy-2023 approved

Adventure tourism

- Uttar Pradesh's unique topography conducive to the development of Adventure tourism, especially in the areas like Bundelkhand, Sonbhadra, Chitrakoot and Ramgarh Tal, identified and developed as camping/trail sites with activities including zip lines, ropeway, treks, rock climbing, cave exploration etc. Adventure Tourism Board formed to promote new tourism products and ensure safety and accreditation standards

Heritage Tourism / Integrated Development

- The state government is developing 31 historical forts in Bundelkhand Region (in districts like Jhansi, Banda, Jalaun, Lalitpur, Hamirpur, Mahoba and Chitrakoot) as tourism centers.
- The Uttar Pradesh government has started work on the integrated development of the five tourism centres -- including Bundelkhand region, Buddhist Circuit, Maa Shakumbhari Devi Temple (Saharanpur), Shukar Teerath (Muzaffarnagar), and Prayagraj.

Emerging as the Premier Tourism Destination

In the year 2022, Uttar Pradesh state has a staggering influx of 31.85 crore tourists, reflecting an extraordinary 190% surge compared to the previous year.

For Hindu Studies Centre, DU receives 180 applications

VIDHEESHA KUNTAMALLA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 3

FOR ITS 60 seats on offer, Delhi University's newly approved Centre for Hindu Studies has received about 180 applications until September 30 for the Master's programme, officials said. The centre will begin admitting students in the coming week.

As part of the course, students will learn traditional literary theory, Western limitations on free inquiry, descriptions of Bharat from various sources, the distinction between varna, jati and caste, understand the term 'Hindu', and be familiarised with units of Ramayana and Mahabharata.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Shri Prakash Singh, Director of DU's South Campus and member of the Standing Committee for academic matters, said: "The Centre for Hindu Studies was the vision of Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh. We have already approved the syllabi for the first semester in the previous Executive Council meeting and are seeking approval of a few papers for the second semester. The date for commencing the course is yet to be decided."

Hindu Studies is a two-year Master's programme, Singh said, adding any graduate is eligible for admission and will be evaluated on the basis of merit.

The course will cost a student Rs 9,900 per annum and classes will be taught by university teachers from different departments and colleges in a collaborative mode.

The course will cost a student Rs 9,900 per annum and classes will be taught by university teachers from different departments and colleges in a collaborative mode.

Initial mode.

"Initially, teachers at the centre will have a reduced workload from their respective colleges and departments to ensure they are not overworked with responsibilities at the new centre. We will eventually be writing to the UGC for allotment of new teachers," said Singh.

The centre will have a minimum seven faculty members, comprising a professor, four assistant professors and two associate professors, according to the DU administration.

"The Master's course in Hindu studies being offered by the university is different from any other in the country. We are making it interdisciplinary... Students who choose Masters in Hindu Studies can pick completely different subjects to study as their minor, ranging from computer science to political science, and have the option of pursuing higher education or career opportunities in either of the subjects," said Purna Malhotra, joint director at the Centre for Hindu studies.

According to university officials, students opting for the course can pursue careers in research, lecturership and academia.

NUH VIOLENCE

Court grants interim bail to Cong MLA: 'Till date, no incriminating material'

AISWARYA RAJ
GURGAON, OCTOBER 3

OBSERVING THAT there is no incriminating material against him except his mobile phones and CCTV footage, the reports of which are still pending, a Nuh court granted interim bail to Ferozpur Jhirka MLA Mammam Khan Tuesday. On September 15, a Special Investigation Team of the Haryana Police arrested the Congress MLA in connection with the July 31 communal violence in Nuh that claimed six lives.

Facing four FIRs, Khan was granted bail in two of these on Sunday while he got interim bail till the next hearing on October 18.

Asking state public prosecutor Partap Singh, assisted by the counsel for the complainant, to submit the DITECH report of Khan's mobile phones as well as DVRs at the earliest, Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Ajay Sharma said, "There is no video or CCTV footage of the incident. The applicant is not named in the FIR and no specific role has been attributed to him in the complaint as well as FIR. As per the version of FIR, a mob of a particular community attacked and vandalised the shop and house of the complainant. There is no incriminating material available against him to date. He was not present at the spot at the time of the incident. He has clean antecedents and is not involved in any other criminal case, except three connected cases. The applicant has been in custody since 15.09.2023 and



MLA Mammam Khan (L) being produced before a court last month. P77

nothing was recovered from him except mobile phones."

However, the court said Khan was present in Nuh from July 29-31 and attended many meetings.

The Public Prosecutor argued that bail should not be granted till the report comes from the DITECH (Digital Investigation Training and Analysis Centre) lab, and that it would make everything crystal clear and establish Khan's role in the violence.

Two phones, one of them formatted, four phones of his brother along with 22 DVRs/CCTV footage were sent to the DITECH Lab, the digital investigation centre of the Haryana Police, in Gurgaon.

ASJ Sharma observed that Khan's counsel did not answer why his phone was formatted before it was handed over to the investigating officer.

The public prosecutor said, "The DITECH report, which is corroborative evidence of great importance, will (make) clear the entire picture and role of the

applicant behind the incident. The name of the applicant was not in the FIR as it is settled law that the FIR is just a piece of information and not an encyclopedia. The role of the applicant is subject to investigation, which is pending. The applicant has expressed his intention through his statement, which was made in the legislative assembly on 30.07.2023. The said statement is a breeding ground for riots (that) occurred on 31.07.2023."

The court said it is of view that a fair opportunity be given to the prosecution to establish its case and to conduct a fair investigation. "At the same time, the applicant should also not suffer because of some incriminating material (that) may come on record in future against him," it said, granting interim bail on furnishing Rs 1 lakh with two local sureties.

Singh argued that the involvement of the applicant... "has to be looked at properly and fairly because it's a deep-rooted and multi-layer conspiracy."

The counsel for Khan, including Tahir Hussain Rupary, told the court that 64 days have passed since the date of occurrence, however, nothing incriminating is on record against the MLA to date. "The entire investigation qua the applicant is based on presumptions. The applicant is a peace-loving citizen and the same is evident from this fact that since the date of his arrest, not a single untoward incident has happened in District Nuh against his arbitrary arrest," they said.

Seasonal plants, selfie points part of Ring Road revamp plan

GAYATHRI MANI
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

SEASONAL FLOWERING plants, dedicated cycle tracks and footpaths, and seating areas with selfie points. The stretches from ITO to Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, Shanti Van to Hanuman Setu, and Hanuman Setu to Chandgi Ram Akhara are set to have all this and more as part of the Public Works Department's (PWD) Streetscaping Project for Ring Road between Rajghat and Kashmir Gate.

According to a senior PWD official, "Currently, we have redeveloped a portion of a stretch on Ring Road near Shanti Van - from Ghata Masjid Road to Rajghat cut service road as part of the Streetscaping Pilot project. Like every other sample and pilot stretch, this stretch has a theme-based design - natural floral theme. We have noticed that after the development work, several people, especially pedestrians, have started using this stretch, and can be seen sitting and taking walks in the morning and evening time there."

The official further said, "So, the department is planning to extend this work further till Chandgi Ram Akhara, Civil Lines. Footpaths



A portion of a stretch on the Ring Road near Shanti Van was revamped earlier. Archive

on both sides of the roads will be redeveloped and will be made pedestrian-only with a proper walkability plan. Besides, cycle tracks, green belts on both sides of the roads, statues and flower beds, and decorative street lights will be installed."

Recently, Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena also visited the Hanuman Setu stretch and asked officials concerned to repair and beautify the roads.

Officials said the encroachments on the stretches will be removed and vendors assigned separate spaces for setting up stalls and parking points. There are also

plans to install fountains, said officials. On the kind of plants to be installed, the official said, "They have been picked according to every season. The plan is that if a plant that grows in autumn dies by the end of the season, there will still be other plants."

Further, ornamental poles, decorative tree lights and pergolas, selfie points are also part of the plan for the 7-km stretch between Shanti Van and Chandgi Ram Akhara.

As of now, officials said tenders have been floated to install fountains and statues on the ITO-Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg section.

War of words between BJP and AAP over rural belt development

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

THE BHARATIYA Janata Party (BJP) and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Delhi government clashed over the development of the Capital's rural belt Tuesday.

While the former sought to corner the AAP dispensation over issues ranging from withdrawal of property tax levied on Delhi's villages to pending compensation for acquired land, the latter said the city's countryside had seen unprecedented development under it.

The political tug-of-war took place in the wake of Lieutenant Governor (L-G) Vinai Kumar Saxena approving the release of Rs 800 crore to the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) for



Delhi govt ignoring people in villages: BJP's Sachdeva (L); rapid development since our govt came to power, retorts AAP's Rai

various development projects in Delhi's rural areas.

Welcoming the grant, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said, "Recently, a delegation of senior Delhi BJP leaders and village panchayat heads met the L-G and apprised him of problems being faced by farmers and other residents of village areas. We had urged the L-G to intervene to ensure development funds for village areas are released at the earliest... Taking note, the L-G got the matter speedily examined and has got a huge fund released."

At a press conference, Sachdeva accused the AAP-run Delhi government of "constantly ignoring" the people of the capital's countryside on matters such as crop loss, land acquisition compensation, and providing trans-

port, health, or education facilities. Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri accused the Delhi government of not paying pending compensation to 150 farmers in Jasola and Madanpur villages.

In response to the BJP's charges, Delhi's Development Minister Gopal Rai claimed that development at city villages had not only sped up after the AAP government came to power but had been achieved to an unprecedented level. "Ever since the AAP government came to power in Delhi... there has been rapid development work in the villages... rapid progress has been made in the construction of roads, drains, and community centers within the villages through the Delhi Gram Vikas Board," Rai claimed.

The AAP Delhi government, Rai added, had also opened Mohalla Clinics in villages so that people can get free and quality healthcare near their homes.

"Like urban areas, villages are now receiving 24-hour electricity, and arrangements have been made for water and sewer lines as well. Through the Delhi Gram Vikas Board, numerous development projects are underway on a war footing in the villages," he added.

Graphic anti-tobacco ads meant to be eye-opener: HC

MALAVIKA PRASAD
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

OBSERVING THAT the "graphic description" given in government-issued anti-tobacco advertisements are meant to be an "eye-opener", the Delhi High Court dismissed a plea to prohibit such ads during film

screenings in cinemas, TV, OTT, claiming it contains "graphic or gross images".

A single-judge bench of Justice Subramonium Prasad, in its September 20 order, said, "With a view to deter people from smoking tobacco and tobacco products, the Government of India has brought in advertisements to educate people about

the ill effects of tobacco and tobacco products. The graphic description given in these government-issued advertisements which, according to the petitioner, are gross and graphic imagery, are, in fact, meant to be eye-openers for the people not to use tobacco and tobacco products and is, therefore, in public interest."

The HC said that the purpose of displaying "gross, graphic anti-tobacco imagery" in the health spots played during screening of movies and TV programmes is to bring awareness among people of the ill-effects of consuming tobacco and tobacco products and to show them what tobacco can do to their health.

The court said the plea was a gross abuse of the process of law. It further observed that the aim of the plea was to "restrain" the government from achieving a "noble objective" of a tobacco-free state and to ensure that people do not become tobacco addicts. Dismissing the plea, the HC warned the petitioner not to file "frivolous petitions in future".

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

MAJ VIJIT KUMAR SINGH, SC
06 AUG 1975 TO 04 OCT 2001

Every soldier of the Regiment is proud of your supreme sacrifice and bravery. We wish you were present to guide us. Your heroic deed in which you neutralised 02 insurgents on 04 Oct 2001 will forever motivate us. The way you lived your life is a testimony to the highest traditions of the Indian Army.

CO and All Ranks 17 Para Fd Regt (8 RAJPUT)
Constable Munna Kumar Singh

ITBP salutes its brave hearts Constable Munna Kumar Singh of 49th Bn, who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty on this day in Arunachal Pradesh in 2019.

Resident of : Vill- Manpur, Distt.- Rohtas, Bihar
INDO-TIBETAN BORDER POLICE (ITBP)

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

No. CWC CO-ED07C/68/2023-Tender Cell-CO
Dated: 27/09/2023

Notice Inviting Tender

Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) invites bids for "Appointment of Transaction Advisor for purchase of Industrial Logistic Park located at Kochi" through Government e-Marketplace (GeM) bid number GEM/2023/B/4017868. For more details and downloading tender document, kindly visit www.gem.gov.in. Last date for submitting the e-bid in proper format on GeM is 20.10.2023 up to 15:00 hrs.

Tender Cell, Corporate Office
CWC, New Delhi

राजकीय दून मेडिकल कॉलेज, देहरादून

देहरादून, पटेल नगर, देहरादून - 248001,
फोन नं.: 0135-2726021, 2711346
Email Id: doonmedcollege@gmail.com | Website: gdmcuk.com

ई-निविदा सूचना

अधोस्तक्षर कर्ता द्वारा राजकीय दून मेडिकल कॉलेज, देहरादून के परिसर में छात्र-छात्राओं के भोजन व्यवस्था हेतु स्थापित Boys Mess & Girls Mess के संचालन कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा के माध्यम से प्रतिष्ठित निविदादाताओं से आवेदन आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। निविदा से सम्बन्धित अन्य समस्त सूचनाये उत्तराखण्ड सरकार की वेबसाइट <http://uktenders.gov.in> से दिनांक 04.10.2023 पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

पत्र संख्या- रा.दू.मे.कॉ./विज्ञा०/2023-24/7448
दिनांक : 03.10.2023

भारतीय कंटेनर निगम लिमिटेड
CONTAINER CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.
(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम)
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
(A Navratna Company)

ICD, Tughlakabad, New Delhi - 110 020

PUBLIC AUCTION/TENDER NOTICE

DISPOSAL OF UNCLEARED/UNCLAIMED IMPORTED CARGO THROUGH E-AUCTION

Container Corporation of India Ltd. shall be auctioning scrap items, empty damage containers and unclaimed/uncleared imported cargo landed at the terminals of Area 1 and Area 4 those containers arrived on or before 31.03.2021 through e-auction on 18.10.2023 & 31.10.2023 on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS". All details along with Terms & Conditions of auction sale & cargo details will be available on www.concorindia.co.in & www.mstcecommerce.com w.e.f. 05.10.2023 & 18.10.2023. All importers including Government Undertakings/Departments whose containers/goods are lying unclaimed/uncleared and falling in the said list uploaded in website at respective terminals, because of any dispute, stay by Court/Tribunal/ others or any such reason may accordingly inform the concerned Executive Director at Area 1 and Area 4 CONCOR as well as Commissioner of Customs of the concerned Commissionaries, and file their objections/claims regarding disposal of such goods within 7 (Seven Days) of this notice failing which the goods will be auctioned on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" without any further notice. For full details please log on to www.concorindia.co.in & www.mstcecommerce.com

Executive Director, Area 1

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that a female (depicted in the photo), **Namely: Shehzadi W/o Mohammad Zubair R/o 176, Gali Gadariyan, Hazrat Nizamuddin, New Delhi** has been missing since 14.09.2023 from the area of P.S. Hazrat Nizamuddin, New Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 70A dated 21.09.2023 has been lodged at Police Station Hazrat Nizamuddin, New Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Age: 45 Years, Height: 5', Complexion: Shallow, Build: Fat, Face: Round, Wearing: Black Colour Burqa & Chappal in feet.
Any person having any information/ Clue about this missing female, may inform SHO, Hazrat Nizamuddin, New Delhi at E-mail ld-cic@cbi.gov.in or website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

SHO
P.S. Hazrat Nizamuddin, Delhi
South East Distt., Delhi
Ph. No. 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
DP/10987/SE/2023

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that a female (depicted in the photo), **Namely: Khushbu W/o Jaswant Singh R/o Village Nor Singhpur Khatola, Pani Ki Tanki ke pass, Dhan Singh ka makan, Badi light ke pass, Gurugram, Haryana** has been missing since 30.08.2023 from Bus Stand Kapashera, Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 116A dated 04.09.2023 has been lodged at Police Station Kapashera, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Age: 22 Years, Height: 5', Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, Build: Medium, Wearing: Yellow Colour Suit & Plazo, Red Colour Dupatta and Chappal in feet.
Any person having any information/ Clue about this missing female, may inform SHO, Kapashera, Delhi at E-mail ld-cic@cbi.gov.in or website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

SHO
P.S. Kapashera, Delhi
South West Distt., Delhi
Ph. No. 011-25063758, 25066105
DP/10724/SW/2023 7065036226

कार्यालय उज्जैन नगर पालिक निगम, उज्जैन

घनप्रति शिवाजी भवन आगर रोड उज्जैन

विज्ञप्ति क्र./1086 उज्जैन, दिनांक:-30.09.2023

(Online) निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

निम्नांकित कार्य के लिए प्रपत्र 'अ' (फार्म ए) में प्रतिशत कम या अधिक के आधार पर प्रमुख अभियंता लोक निर्माण विभाग म.प्र. शासन भोपाल के कार्यालय में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से उक्त विभाग में पंजीयन प्रमाण पत्र की प्रमाणित प्रति प्रस्तुत करने पर ऑनलाईन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है, तथा ठेकेदार की (श्रेणी सी) एम.पी. गर्वमेंट व सिरियल क्र. 1 व 2 का टेण्डर फार्म मूल्य 15000/- एवं सिरियल क्र. 3 का टेण्डर फार्म मूल्य 20000/- रहेगा।

सिरियल क्र. 1 से 3 तक का आनलाईन क्रय करने की अंतिम दिनांक 10.10.2023 समय 17:30, ऑनलाईन ई.एम.डी.राशि एवं समस्त दस्तावेज Submission करने की अंतिम दिनांक 10.10.2023 समय 17:30 रहेगी।

विस्तृत निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना एवं अन्य जानकारी वेबसाइट www.mptenders.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती है। यदि उपरोक्त निविदा में किसी प्रकार का संशोधन होता है तो इसकी सूचना ऑन लाईन दी जावेगी। पृथक से समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित नहीं की जावेगी।

क्र.	टेंडर क्रमांक	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित लागत	नगरीय प्रशासन एवं विकास विभाग म.प्र. भोपाल	अर्नेस्ट मनी रु.	समय अवधि
1	2023_UAD_313545_1	मुख्यमंत्री अधोसंरचना चतुर्थ चरण अंतर्गत उज्जैन शहर की नगर निगम सीमा क्षेत्र अंतर्गत विभिन्न सड़कों का डामरीकरण कार्य।	4,39,52,282/-	02-08-2021 UADD ISSR SOR	439550/-	90 दिन
2	2023_UAD_313752_1	कायाकल्प अभियान 2.0 अंतर्गत शहर की अतिरिक्त सड़कों का उन्नयन कार्य।	4,23,72,364/-	02-08-2021 UADD ISSR SOR	423730/-	75 दिन
3	2023_UAD_313659_1	मुख्यमंत्री अधोसंरचना चतुर्थ चरण अंतर्गत उज्जैन शहर की नगर निगम सीमा क्षेत्र अंतर्गत विभिन्न स्थानों पर सीमेंट कांक्रिट सड़क एवं क्रॉसड्रेन निर्माण कार्य।	8,91,55,084/-	02-08-2021 UADD ISSR SOR	891550/-	120 दिन

कार्यपालन यंत्री
नगर पालिक निगम उज्जैन

UJVN LIMITED
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR200715G025866, Website: www.ujvn.com

Letter No: 947 Date Extension Notice- 01 Date: 03/10/2023

Due to unavoidable reasons the Date of Submission & opening of the NIT No. 02/EE(E&M)/DKP BRG/2023-24, invited by the office of the Executive Engineer (E&M), Dakpathar Barrage, Dakpathar, Dehradun is being extended as below:
Last Date & Time for submission of bids Upto 16:00 hrs of 09.10.2023.
Date & Time of Opening of bids at 15:30 hrs of 10.10.2023
The other conditions of tender are remains same.

Executive Engineer (E&M)

कार्यालय प्रधान महाप्रबन्धक (आर)
UPSIDA
उपरो राज्य औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण
ए-1/4, लखनपुर, कानपुर

पूर्व सहायक ई-निविदा सूचना

एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि प्राधिकरण के औद्योगिक क्षेत्र में विद्युत संकेी विकास कार्य हेतु उपरोक्त विभागों / संसंजीकृत उपक्रमों / निगमों / प्राधिकरणों / परिवहनों / नगर निगमों में पंजीकृत फार्म / ठेकेदारों से ई-निविदाये आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्रमांक	कार्य का नाम	कार्य की लागत रु. (लाख में)
1	Upgradation of street light network in industrial & residential sectors at IA. TDS. City, Ghaziabad.	314.47

निविदा दिनांक 05.10.2023 को 11:00 बजे से दिनांक 25.10.2023 को 18:00 बजे तक अपनोईन की जा सकती है, जिसे दिनांक 28.10.2023 को 11:00 बजे या इसके पश्चात् कोता जावेगा। निविदादाताओं द्वारा अपनोईन किये गये श्राव्य पत्रों की मूल प्रतियाँ निविदा खोलने के बाद 03 कार्य दिवस में पंजीकृत डाक / व्यक्तिगत रूप से कार्यालय में जमा की जा सकती है।

नोट: 1. निविदादाता अपनी निविदा में समस्त कर सहित देव अंकित करें, अलग से मात्र जीए/एच/टीडी देव होगा। 2. विद्युत कार्य हेतु निविदादाताओं को निविदा अपनोईन करते समय "विद्युत सुरक्षा विभाग" उपरोक्त शासन, लखनपुर में 'क' श्रेणी अनुमोदित लाइसेंस एवं Eligibility Criteria के अनुसार समस्त प्रपत्र अपनोईन करना अनिवार्य होगा, अन्वय निविदा पर स्वाधित लिंक वृत्तीएलसी की website: www.onlineupsida.com पर स्वाधित लिंक वृत्तीएलसी की website: <https://tender.up.nic.in> पर देखी जा सकती है। **सहित प्रत्यक (रु.) उपरोक्त औद्योगिक, कानपुर**

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 **Nadeem, H.No. 689 Gali No.18 Bhajanpura, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **CR Case/456/2019 U/s 498A/406 IPC P.S. Kalyanpuri, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused **Nadeem**, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Nadeem**, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Nadeem, of CR Case/456/2019 U/s 498A/406 IPC P.S. Kalyanpuri, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **03.11.2023**

By Order
Ms. Shazadi Halima Sadiya
Metropolitan Magistrate
Mahila Court-2
Karkadooma Courts, Delhi

DP/10930/ED/2023 (Court Matter).

7 GOVT & POLITICS



BJP's TN-SION

THE AIADMK'S exit from the NDA has triggered speculation over the BJP's next move in Tamil Nadu. The party's state chief, K Annamalai, has been camping in the national capital to discuss the future course of action, but has not been able to meet the BJP's top leadership so far. While one section in the BJP is saying that the split would help both the parties keep their support base intact and even help the BJP expand it, and the other section is asking whether it would suit the BJP's plan to improve the party's tally in the Lok Sabha polls. They also point out that fighting separately to protect its support base did not work for the JD(S) in Karnataka. The divide in the BJP over Annamalai's leadership in Tamil Nadu also continues, with one section pitching for his aggressive posturing and the other saying that the party would do better in the southern state if it adopts a softer approach. BJP's Mahila Morcha national president Vanathi Srinivasan's name is doing the rounds as the front-runner to replace Annamalai, but nothing is final yet, said sources.

SIZE MATTERS

ANNOUNCING THE impact of the cleanliness drive held on October 1, the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry on Tuesday said that the area cleaned was "more than the size of some countries", but later withdrew the claim. In a press release, the ministry said, "The collective effort of people on October 1, at 10 am, resulted in the cleaning of approx. 1.5 lakh sq kms of area (more than the size of countries like Greece and England)! During this one hour, people also cleaned approx. 1.2 lakh kms of length which translates to 30 trips from Kashmir to Kanyakumari!" The release was later deleted from the PIB website and replaced with a version that made no mention of the size of the area cleaned. This, according to sources, was due to a "mix-up".

EMERGENCY EXIT

THE TREMORS felt in Delhi-NCR on Tuesday afternoon pushed a press briefing at the Union Health Ministry back by half an hour, as officials as well as the minister, Mansukh Mandaviya, rushed out of the building and assembled in the open parking area outside. The minister said when it comes to such emergencies, everyone is equally scared. The press briefing started after all the officials and reporters came back inside.

Speculation rife as Shinde, Fadnavis leave for Delhi

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 3

AS DEPUTY Chief Minister Ajit Pawar remained absent from the state Cabinet meeting on Tuesday, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis flew to Delhi urgently by evening after being called by the central leadership of the BJP.

Ajit-led NCP and Shinde's Shiv Sena claimed that his absence was because of his sore throat. He did not even attend the meeting of NCP ministers at his official residence by evening citing ill-health and ongoing medical treatment.

The speculation over the discontent within the ruling alliance is rife since the meeting between Shinde, Fadnavis and Ajit on Saturday night at the CM's official residence where they could not reach on a conclusion over the issues of allotting district guardian ministry to NCP ministers.

Both Shinde and Fadnavis who travelled to Delhi on short notice

are likely to meet BJP president JP Nadda and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Sources in the government hinted that the ongoing disqualification proceedings against Shiv Sena MLAs, including Shinde, and the Supreme Court proceedings, the issue of caste census as well as the upcoming hearing at the Election Commission in relation with the dispute on control over the NCP, were on the agenda.

On Tuesday, Ajit-led NCP leaders tried to play down the controversy surrounding guardian ministry. "This is not a serious issue for us at all. Decision in this regard will be taken at the right time," said Ajit group's state unit president Sunil Tatkare.

The opposition, however, did not miss the opportunity to slam the government. While Leader of Opposition in Assembly Vijay Wadetiwar termed Ajit's illness as "political", Sharad Pawar-led NCP leader Supriya Sule taunted that even before the completion of the government's honeymoon, disagreements were spilling out.

'Forward Muslims among EBCs': BJP counters Opp demand

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

IN LIGHT of the Bihar caste survey findings, the BJP has countered the Opposition's renewed push for a caste census by projecting the survey as a cover for appeasement politics and arguing that its social engineering formula has been far more effective in empowering backward castes.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi took the lead on Tuesday in poll-bound Chhattisgarh, saying at a rally in Jagdalpur, Bastar, that the Opposition was "trying to divide the country in the name of caste". Referring to his predecessor Manmohan Singh's speech at a meeting of the National Development Council in December 2006, Modi said, "He (Singh) used to say that the minority has the first right to the country's resources... But now the Congress is saying that the population of the community will de-

but also Muslims," senior MP and former Bihar BJP MP Sanjay Jaiswal said. "Interestingly, both these leaders have assimilated Muslims into the EBC community with executive orders. This has taken all the reservation meant for the genuine EBCs."

"And this is a violation of B R Ambedkar's original intention regarding reservation. In fact, the Sarkaria Commission and Mandal Commission recommended only those who are originally lower castes should be given reservation," Jaiswal said. State BJP leaders said the Thakur, Shekhora, and Kulaiya Muslim communities were treated as forward groups but were added to the EBC list in the last few years. Kulaiya Sheikh Muslims, they said, were those whose ancestors were from Yemen and came to India with the Mughals. During the tenure of RJD leader Mohammad Taslimuddin as the

Union Minister of State (MoS) for Home Affairs these groups were categorised as EBCs. "If you look into the EBCs of Seemanchal, you would not find a single original Hindu one. At least seven per cent of EBCs added to the list in the past are such forward-caste Muslims," said Jaiswal. Senior BJP leaders said the caste survey report was unlikely to have any major impact on its prospects as it has been empowering even the numerically smaller backward communities by providing them opportunities in the organisation as well as the list of poll candidates. The BJP's social-engineering formula and the OBC status of PM Modi, whose appeal transcends caste lines, helped the BJP shed its upper-caste Baniya party and rally the backward communities behind it since 2014, especially in states such as Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

PROTEST IN CAPITAL OVER CENTRAL FUNDS

Police oust TMC leaders from minister's office, CM says 'dark day for democracy'

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

DELHI POLICE on Tuesday night removed TMC leaders from Krishi Bhavan in New Delhi, where they were sitting on a dharna after Union Minister of State for Rural Development Sadhvi Niranjani Jyoti refused to meet more than five members of the TMC delegation, which comprised over 30 people. The TMC delegation had gone to meet the minister over Central funds for MGNREGA workers in West Bengal, pending for almost two years.

Police forcibly took away members of the delegation, led by TMC general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, from the ministry in two buses. TMC MP Mahua Moitra, who was among those to be taken away, shouted out from the bus that the delegation had been manhandled and physically removed from the ministry. She later posted a video on social media showing women police personnel forcibly lifting her off the floor and whisking her away.

Sources said police took them to Mukherjee Nagar. Later, TMC MP Mahua Moitra tweeted that the MPs were being detained at Kingsway Camp. They were later released by the police.

"Today is a dark, sinister day for democracy, a day when BJP revealed their disdain for the people of Bengal, their disregard for the rights of the poor and a complete abandonment of democratic values," TMC supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee posted on X.

"First, they callously withheld crucial funds meant for the poor of Bengal. And when our delegation arrived in Delhi, determined



TMC leader Abhishek Banerjee and others during their protest at Jantar Mantar on Tuesday.

to peacefully protest and draw attention to the plight of our people, they were met with brutality — first at Rajghat and then at Krishi Bhavan," she added.

Around 6 pm, a delegation of TMC MPs and leaders walked to Krishi Bhavan office from Jantar Mantar, where they held a protest earlier in the day. They were accompanied by a group of MGNREGA cardholders.

Carrying bundles of letters from MGNREGA beneficiaries whose payments were allegedly stopped by the Centre, the delegation reached Krishi Bhavan for a scheduled meeting with the Union minister.

TMC sources said after the delegation reached the ministry's office, they were asked to wait for an hour as the minister was busy. After some time, the minister reportedly asked five members from the delegation to meet her. But TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee rejected the offer, saying that the

minister must meet the eight MGNREGA cardholders who were accompanying him.

After the minister did not meet them, TMC leaders sat on a dharna outside her office. Around 8.30 pm, a contingent of Delhi Police personnel was seen going inside the Krishi Bhavan, and around 9.15 pm, the TMC leaders were removed by the police.

"Today, I wasted 2.5 hours. Today, I kept waiting for Trinamool MPs till 8.30 pm. TMC MPs and the West Bengal minister had taken an appointment for a 6 pm meeting. But they came along with TMC workers, who masqueraded as common people and insisted on meeting me. This is against the system. They stepped away from agreed points of discussion because their intention was not to meet but to do politics. This is shameful on the part of the TMC," the Union minister posted on X.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Centre bans two Tripura insurgent groups for 5 years

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

THROUGH A gazetted notification on Tuesday, the Ministry of Home Affairs banned Tripura-based insurgent groups — the National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) and the All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF) — as well as their associate organisations for five years "for their involvement in various subversive activities" and "threatening the country's sovereignty and integrity".

The notification, issued by Additional Secretary Piyush Goyal, said that "the aim of the NLFT and the ATTF is the establishment of an independent nation by through secession of Tripura from India through an armed struggle in alliance with other armed secessionist organisations of the North-eastern state and to incite the indigenous people of Tripura..."

"The Centre is of the opinion that NLFT and ATTF have been engaging in subversive and violent activities, thereby undermining the authority of the government and spreading terror among people for achieving their objectives. The two groups are engaged in activities which are prejudicial to the sovereignty and integrity of India," Goyal said.



IN AMRITSAR

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi performs sewa at the Golden Temple on Tuesday. PTI

BJP: 'MNREGA scam in Bengal'

New Delhi: Leader of opposition in the West Bengal Assembly Suwendu Adhikari on Tuesday demanded a CBI probe into the purported "siphoning off" of Central funds for MNREGA through "fake job cards" in the state.

Talking to reporters at the BJP central office, Adhikari alleged that thousands of "TMC panchayat pradhans were siphoning off of thousands of crores of funds for MNREGA to favourites through fake job cards with the help of state officials". "It will turn out to be the biggest scam since Independence," he said, hitting out at "bua-bhatija", a reference to CM Mamata Banerjee and her nephew Abhishek Banerjee. **ENS**

Remark against judiciary: Gehlot tenders apology

HAMZA KHAN
JAIPUR, OCTOBER 3

RAJASTHAN CHIEF Minister Ashok Gehlot on Tuesday tendered an "unconditional apology" for his remarks where he had alleged corruption in the judiciary.

On August 30, Gehlot had alleged that there was rampant corruption in the judiciary and that he had heard that some lawyers write judgments which are then pronounced. Following his statement, advocate Shiv Charan Gupta had filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) with a plea that the Court takes suo motu cognisance of contempt of court. Following the PIL, a Bench of Justices Manindra Mohan Shrivastava and Ashutosh Kumar had issued notices to Gehlot and listed the matter for October 3.

In the submission filed by the CM through his counsel Prateek Kasliwal and others on Tuesday, Gehlot said he has full faith in judiciary. However, if the Court feels that by his statement "he has in any manner attempted to lower down the respect or dignity of the judiciary in the mind of the public at large, the answering Respondent tenders his unconditional apology for the same."

Apex court to hear Bihar caste survey matter on October 6

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Tuesday said it will take up the Bihar caste survey matter on the scheduled date of hearing on October 6 after petitioners mentioned before the top court that the Bihar Government had published the data.

The petitioners pointed this out to the Bench presided by Justice Sanjiv Khanna and urged the court not to delete their challenge to the August 1, 2023, decision of the Patna High Court to uphold the survey, from the cause list — which is the list of business for the court — for October 6.

The Bench also comprising Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia agreed to do so and assured that it will be heard on the scheduled date. The SC had heard the

matter last on September 6.

The appellants have challenged the Patna High Court ruling, saying the survey is clearly in violation of the SC nine-judge bench's verdict in the 2017 'K S Puttaswamy vs Union of India' privacy case. The bench had held that the state cannot encroach on the privacy of individuals without a law to back it.

The survey, however, was carried out on the basis of an executive order, the petitioners contended. The pleas have also challenged the legislative competence of the Bihar government to carry out the survey saying it is actually a census in the garb of a survey and that only the Centre can conduct a survey under the law. **ENS**

Modi claims KCR sought to join NDA; no truth in it, says BRS

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 3

OPENING A new front in the battle for Telangana, Prime Minister Narendra Modi claimed on Tuesday that Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) chief and Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao had sought to join the NDA after the BJP's impressive performance in the December 2020 Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) elections.

At a public meeting in Nizamabad, after inaugurating several projects for the poll-bound state, Modi said he had declined KCR's request as he did not want the NDA or the BJP to be associated with the BRS's "deeds".

BRS leaders, including senior minister T Harish Rao, dismissed the claim. "Modi can say anything at any place. There is no truth in this," Rao said.

BRS Politburo member B Vinod asked why Modi had raised this after nearly three years. "Why did the PM not talk about this till now? There is no truth in these claims," Vinod said.

Taking aim at both BJP and BRS, Congress MP Rahul Gandhi posted on X, "Today Modi ji openly accepted what I had said — BRS means BJP. Rishitedaar Samiti. The BJP-BRS partnership has destroyed Telangana in the last 10 years. People are intelligent and have understood their game — this time they will reject both of them and form a Congress government with six guarantees."

During his speech, Modi said: "Earlier, KCR used to receive me at the airport, but suddenly he stopped. After the BJP won 48 seats in the municipal elections, KCR needed the party's support. He came to meet me in Delhi and requested that he join the NDA. I said, 'We will sit in the Opposition but will not support him, as I cannot be associated with his deeds'. The BJP government at the Centre gave funds to the BRS government meant for the welfare of the people of Telangana, but that money was



Narendra Modi and K Chandrashekar Rao

looted and misappropriated by the BRS."

Modi added: "KCR told me he wanted to hand over the reins to KTR (his son K T Rama Rao). I asked, 'Are you a king to pass on the throne? Only people of Telangana can decide that'."

Attacking Modi, BRS spokesperson Manne Krishank said the PM should go to Bhagyalakshmi temple at Charminar and swear that he is telling the truth. "Next time a CM goes to meet the PM, he should take a camera and record because Narendra Modi can stoop to any level with lies for political benefit," he added.

Modi also criticised the Congress and BRS for their "dynasty politics", saying this had led to corruption. "Opposition parties have made loktantra into loot tantra," he quipped.

Like in his Chhattisgarh speech Tuesday, Modi also attacked the Congress over the caste census demand, using Rahul Gandhi's call for 'Jitni aabadi utna haq' to accuse the Opposition party of gross injustice to minorities. "It is like backstabbing the minorities," he said, interpreting the call to mean that the minorities being a minority deserved lesser access to resources.

The PM also raised the merger of the Hyderabad princely state with the Indian Union after Independence, referring to it as "liberation", as the BJP has been doing.

He said that "a son from Gujarat" (meaning Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel) had ensured "liberation" from Nizams, and that "another son of Gujarat (Modi) has come for your prosperity, development and welfare".

Jitni aabadi, utna haq will lead to majoritarianism: Singhvi posts, then deletes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

AMIDST the heated political debate over a caste census, senior Congress leader Abhishek Singhvi left the party red-faced on Tuesday, with a social media post questioning the call for reservation as per population. As the statement led to a controversy, Singhvi claimed the post was a "careless forward by a staff (member)".

"Equality of opportunity is never the same as equality of outcomes. People endorsing #jitni-abadiutnaahaq have to first completely understand the consequences of it. It will eventually culminate into majoritarianism," the post on the account of Singhvi, a member of the Congress Working Committee, said.

After the Congress distanced itself from the remark, saying this was Singhvi's personal opinion, he deleted the post and issued another statement endorsing the call for a caste census.

Singhvi's post was particularly embarrassing for the Congress as the catchphrase of "Jitni aabadi, utna haq" was first used by Rahul Gandhi, in the midst of the Karnataka Assembly elections earlier this year.

Singhvi's post came the same day as Prime Minister Narendra Modi used the catchphrase to attack the Congress, during his poll speeches in both Chhattisgarh and Telangana.

As Singhvi's post became viral, Congress communications head Jairam Ramesh posted on X: "Dr Singhvi's tweet may be a

reflection of his own personal view but in no way does it reflect the position of the Indian National Congress — the essence of which is contained both in the Raipur Declaration on 26th February, 2023, and in the CWC Resolution of September 16th, 2023." First in the Raipur Declaration, and then in the CWC resolution, the Congress had said that caste census was the need of the hour.

Asked for his comment after he deleted his post, Singhvi said: "Careless forward by a staff (member) which was deleted with a slight time lag when I came out of a felicitation function in the SC and saw it, and thereafter deleted (it) immediately."

He also said he has always supported a caste census. Pointing out that courts have on many occasions said that decisions on reservation have to be taken on the basis of facts, he said caste census was needed for bringing out those facts.

The "Jitni aabadi, utna haq" slogan used by Rahul was essentially a rehash of BSP founder Kanshi Ram's famous slogan "Jiski jitni sankhya bhaari, uski utni hissedari (Share as per one's strength)". At the Kolar rally where he raised the slogan, Rahul suggested that reservation for SCs and STs should be proportionate to their population, and demanded removal of the Supreme Court-mandated 50% cap on quota.

Since then, Rahul has been vociferously demanding a caste census, and extended the demand to an OBC quota within the women's reservation recently cleared by Parliament.

Assam begins round 2 of crackdown on child marriage, 916 arrested

SUKRITA BARUAH GUWAHATI, OCTOBER 3

MORE THAN 900 people across Assam have been arrested in an overnight drive as part of the state government's second crackdown against child marriage this year, with more people likely to be arrested in the coming days.

The 916 people have been arrested across the length and breadth of the state, with police saying 706 FIRs have been registered as part of this drive, and 1,041 people have been named as accused. Of those arrested, 551 are men accused of marrying underage girls, 351 are relatives of either the husband or wife, and 14 are religious functionaries who had solemnised these marriages.

While the arrests so far have taken place in 31 of 35 police districts and Kamrup (Metro), which Guwahati city comes under, the highest number of arrests were witnessed in Dhubri and Barpeta districts at 192 and 142 respectively, followed by Hailakandi (59), Kamrup (50) and Karimganj (47).

Superintendent of Police, Barpeta, Amitava Sinha said that all 142 who had been arrested in the district were picked up during the night. "We had collected the information from a number sources, including panchayat secretaries appointed as child marriage prohibition officers during the last drive. Different sources in the community came forward with a lot of names, and arrests were initiated after gathering all the information," he said.

A police official in Nagaon district, where 30 people have



In a massive crackdown against child marriage, Assam Police has arrested over 800 accused persons in a special operation which began in the early hours of dawn

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA ASSAM CHIEF MINISTER

been arrested, said the accused had been rounded up from their homes.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter) on Tuesday morning, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma wrote: "In a massive crackdown against child marriage, Assam Police has arrested over 800 accused persons in a special operation which began in the early hours of dawn."

In February this year, the Assam government had launched an unprecedented punitive crackdown against child marriage in the state in which 3,141 people were arrested over a month. Like this time, those arrested included men who had married underage girls, as well as family members and religious leaders who facilitated these.

An analysis by The Indian Express of records of those ar-

rested in the last crackdown had shown that 62.24% of those arrested were Muslims while the rest were Hindus or people from other communities.

While most of those arrested in the last crackdown had been booked under the stringent Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, along with the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, records accessed by The Indian Express had shown that 62% of those arrested had already been granted bail by the end of February.

Masud Zaman, a lawyer based in Dhubri, has represented 18 families that faced arrests in the last crackdown. He said that all had been granted bail, and that now, eight have recently received summons from courts since the chargesheet has been filed. He said he does not anticipate that there will be convictions under POCSO in these cases.

"The wives have not given their statement under Section 164 of the IPC before a magistrate in any of the cases, so we have to see how these cases will stand," he said.

Aman Wadud, founder of ASD Legal & Associates, a law firm based in Guwahati representing the accused in more than 20 cases from the last crackdown, said all their clients have been granted bail.

"The courts had been by and large sympathetic during the course of bail hearings... Most of the chargesheets have now been filed. However, in some of these cases, while the chargesheets have been filed under POCSO, the court has not framed charges under POCSO, and only under the child marriage act instead," he said.

107 MPs and MLAs have hate speech cases against them: ADR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

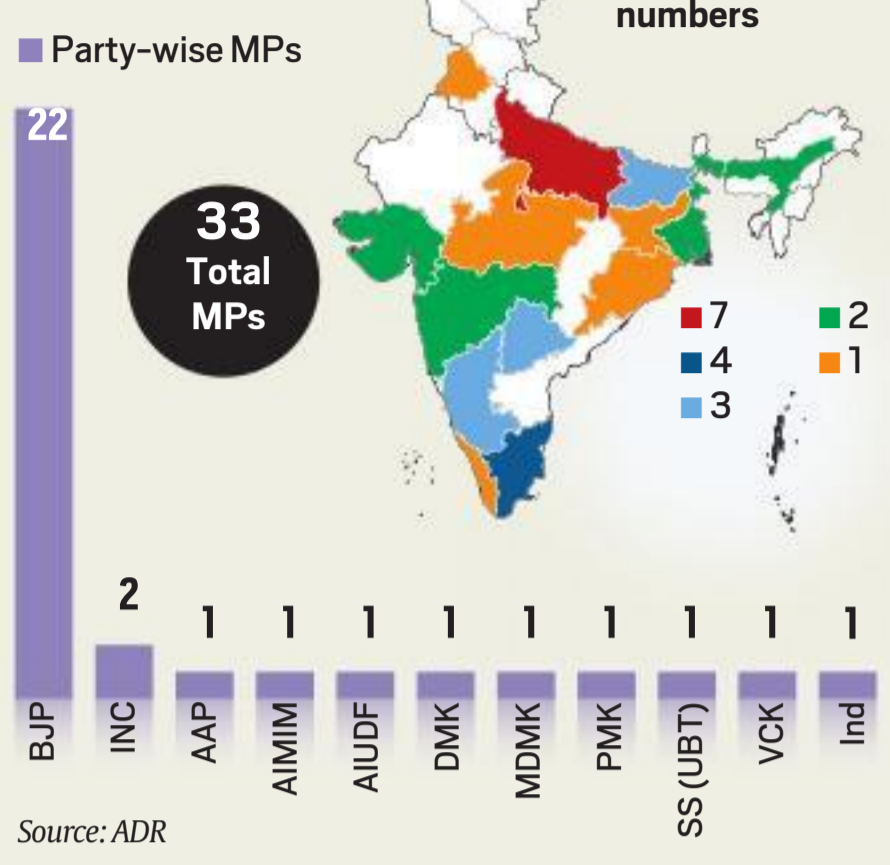
A TOTAL of 107 MPs and MLAs have hate speech cases against them and 480 candidates with such cases have contested elections in the last five years, according to poll rights body Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

The ADR and National Election Watch (NEW) have analysed the self-sworn affidavits of all the incumbent MPs and MLAs, besides the unsuccessful candidates in the Assembly and Lok Sabha polls held in the country in the said period. The analysis is based on the affidavits submitted by the MPs and MLAs prior to the last election they contested.

According to the analysis, 33 MPs — seven from Uttar Pradesh, four from Tamil Nadu, three each from Bihar, Karnataka and Telangana, two each from Assam, Gujarat, Maharashtra and West Bengal and one each from Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Odisha and Punjab — have

HATE SPEECH CASES

A total of 107 elected representatives (MPs and MLAs) have hate speech cases against them, and in the last five years, 480 people with such cases had contested polls



PROTECTION UNDER SECTION 17A OF PC ACT

SC seeks papers from Andhra showing date of inquiry into Naidu case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

THE SUPREME COURT on Tuesday asked the Andhra Pradesh government to produce documents, including those indicating when the inquiry had begun into the alleged multi-crore AP State Skill Development Corporation scam in which former Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu is an accused.

A bench of Justices Aniruddh Bose and Bela M Trivedi said this after the state contended that Naidu was not entitled to the protection of Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act that mandates prior sanction from the competent authority to conduct investigation against a public servant for acts done in the discharge of his duties, as the provision was introduced only in 2018 while the alleged crime occurred during the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) government's 2014-19 tenure.

"17A came in July 2018. Though the FIR is of 2021, the inquiry arose prior to the insertion of 17A," Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the state, contended and agreed to produce the relevant records.

Naidu had approached the SC, challenging the AP High Court's

September 22 order refusing to quash the FIR against him. The HC had turned down his reliance on Section 17A saying it cannot be applied to offences committed before July 2018 and that the alleged acts were not done in pursuance of his official duties.

Appearing for Naidu on Tuesday, Senior Advocate Harish Salve said the High Court had wrongly interpreted the provision and that its finding that Section 17A does not apply to prior offences is "not correct".

"This is pure procedure. Sanction has to be obtained. It has nothing to do with the date of the offence but the date of the inquiry," Salve told the court.

Pointing out that the date of the start of investigation is the relevant date, Salve added "this is to prevent the abuse of process of law. I don't say so. The people who introduced the law say so."

Senior Advocate A M Singhvi also appearing for Naidu said the purpose of the amendment was to provide a filter of protection and that must be interpreted to extend the benefit to the accused. He also pointed out that "the (HC) judge had said it is a cabinet decision. So, prima facie, it is in discharge of official duties".

The court will hear the matter next on October 9.

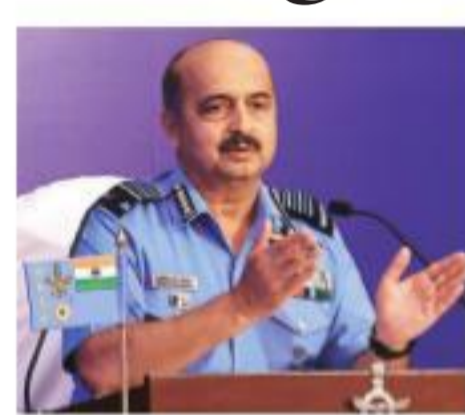
Well-equipped to counter adversary using better tactics, training: IAF Chief

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

THE INDIAN Air Force (IAF) is constantly monitoring Chinese buildup of resources and capabilities across the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and is well-equipped to counter the adversary using better tactics and training where the latter cannot be matched up in numbers, Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari said Tuesday.

"We are constantly monitoring the situation along the border through persistent ISR (Intelligence-Surveillance-Reconnaissance). We make notes of the buildup of resources and capabilities across the borders, our operational plans are dynamic and keep changing based on the developing situation across any front," he said while responding to questions in the annual press conference ahead of the 91st Air Force Day on October 8.

The IAF Chief said in places where the adversary cannot be countered in sheer numbers, it will be countered through better tactics and training and this also holds true for situations arising due to a strong collusion between Pakistan and China. Stating that the two countries



Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari at a press conference ahead of the 91st Air Force Day celebrations on October 8, in New Delhi on Tuesday. Amit Mehra

are transferring technology among each other, he said Pakistan is manufacturing JF-17 fighter aircraft and inducting the J-10. "We keep an eye on the developments between these two countries."

"Our focus remains dynamic at all times, we do not have a fixed mindset in terms of deployment of assets in particular areas, but we have flexible and dynamic war plans which we keep revising every now and then based on the ISR inputs we get," he said.

Talking about Chinese buildup of weapon systems and equipment across the LAC, he said that it has significantly strengthened

SC dismisses Sanjiv Bhatt's plea in drugs planting case, slaps Rs 3L fine

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

THE SUPREME COURT on Tuesday dismissed three petitions by former Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Sanjiv Bhatt alleging bias on the part of the trial judge hearing a case in which he is accused of planting drugs to falsely implicate a Rajasthan-based lawyer.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Rajesh Bindal also imposed a cost of Rs 3 lakh on him for filing the petitions — Rs 1 lakh for each petition, and asked him to deposit it with the Gujarat High Court Advocates Welfare Fund.

Bhatt's petitions challenged Gujarat High Court's orders dismissing his prayers to transfer the trial to another court, to audio and video record trial court proceedings and seeking permission to summon 19 witnesses.

The bench was annoyed that Bhatt was repeatedly approaching the court.

World Congress on Disaster Management in Dehradun

Dehradun: Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama on Tuesday informed that the 6th World Congress on Disaster Management will be held from November 28 to December 1 in Dehradun at the Uttarakhand State

Disaster Management Authority. The event is organised jointly by the Hyderabad and Uttarakhand State Council of Science and Technology. The heads of the Indian Space Research Organisation, DRDO, Atomic Energy Commission, Chief Scientific Advisor to the Government of India as well as representatives of United Nations, and climate experts from India and abroad have been invited.

Women can multitask, world needs more in leadership roles

THE FIRST woman to head the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) DR N KALAISELVI feels women are the leaders of the future, in science and other fields as well, because of their inherent abilities at multitasking. In an interview with ANONNA DUTT, Kalaiselvi, an electrochemical scientist known for her expertise in lithium batteries, also says that the restructuring of the scientific awards, including the Bhatnagar Prize, was the need of the hour. Excerpts:



THE EXPRESS INTERVIEW WITH DR N KALAISELVI DIRECTOR GENERAL, COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

You are the first woman to head this organisation in 81 years since its inception. What are the challenges you faced growing up and reaching here?

Actually, I was born with two brothers, and grew up as the third son in the family. My family gave me equal freedom as my brothers. I have been fortunate when it comes to education as well. I have never had a hurdle, hiccup, or any big challenge. Moreover, I believe that any challenge that one encounters can be converted into opportunities. I am a big proponent of repurposing, redirecting, and reorienting to whatever the requirement is. But I should say that I have been blessed with the right kind of support system — whether it was in school, in the family, I have been bestowed with the right support system to be able to do science and maintain a work-life balance.

How do you maintain a work-life balance?

Maintaining a work-life balance needs just a little bit of

planning. I know the days I need to work longer hours, so I try to complete all my family-related work in advance. For example, I remember asking my daughter to revise for the monthly test when it was not at all time for the test. She realised that I would be away the next week and that is why I was asking her to revise in advance. Initially, perhaps I had to inform them that I would be busy in the coming days, now they know. And, they support it. Also, when it comes to domestic chores, I just sit down and prioritise and finish things well in advance.

How can we ensure more women in STEM as well as in leadership positions?

Bringing in more women in STEM will no longer be a challenge

Govt issues guidelines to prevent suicide among students

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

THE UNION Ministry of Education (MoE) on Tuesday released the draft guidelines for schools to prevent suicide among students, prescribing in its 'plan of action' the setting up of wellness teams, orientation of teachers and family members, and immediate response to students exhibiting warning signs.

Titled UMMEED (Understand, Motivate, Manage, Empathise, Empower, Develop), the guidelines aim to serve as "directions to schools for enhancing sensitivity, understanding, and providing support in case of reported self-harm".

"A school wellness team (SWT) may be formed under the leadership of the school principal, where each member is oriented in handling crisis situations. When a student displaying warning signs has been identified by any stakeholder, they need to be reported to the SWT, which takes immediate action," the guidelines state. The guidelines recommend an orientation a year for teachers and family members, to help build awareness around student suicides. These orientations will be conducted by the schools for the capacity-building of various stakeholders.

Stressing the need for immediate response to a student exhibiting warning signs, or found attempting self-harm, the guidelines list the actions that may be taken by an individual at the school, or the member of the wellness team on coming across such a case.

CORRIGENDUM - 02 AGAINST TENDER NOTICE NO.: CON/2023/AUG/02, Dated: 08-08-2023. Corrigendum-02 for Tender No. CE/CON/KM/MB/2023/09 has been published...

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, BALANGIR (R&B) CIRCLE: BALANGIR. e-Procurement Notice. BID IDENTIFICATION No: CCE(R&B) BGR/27/2023-24.

Govt. of Jharkhand OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, Road Construction Department, Road Division, Manoharpur. ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या - RCD/MANOHARPUR/07/2023-24 दिनांक: 30.09.2023.

RAJASTHAN HOUSING BOARD. Bids for (1) Construction of SFS & SRS Houses MIG-A 08 Nos. (Size 8.00 X 15.00 Mtr.) & MIG-B 26 Nos. (Size 9.00 X 18.00 Mtr.) & HIG 09 Nos. (Size 10.50 X 20.00 Mtr.) Houses at Gadi Thoriyan, Beawar (2) Construction of SFS & SRS Houses MIG-A 22 Nos. (Size 8.00 x 15.00 Mtr.), MIG-B 10 Nos. (Size 9.00 x 18.00 Mtr.) & HIG 02 Nos. (Size 10.50 x 20.00 Mtr.) Houses at Khoda Ganesh Road, Phase-I of Phase-IV, Kishangarh (3) Replacement of Street Light from HPSV and Fluorescent Light to LED Light and Operation and maintenance of Old LED Street Lights, Road Lights and High Mast lights in various sectors of Pratap Nagar, Jaipur (4) Supplying, installation, testing and commissioning of CCTV Cameras in Coaching Hub, Sector-16, Pratap Nagar, Jaipur are invited from interested bidders from 05.10.2023 to 25.10.2023 upto 6:00 PM.

राजीव गांधी प्रौद्योगिकी विश्वविद्यालय एयरपोर्ट रोड, गांधी नगर, भोपाल- 462 033 दूरभाष : 0755-2678893, 2678855, फैक्स : 0755-2742006 ई-निविदा आमंत्रण एफ-3/रामग्रीव/प्रशा./2023/4211 भोपाल, दिनांक : 03.10.2023 राजीव गांधी प्रौद्योगिकी विश्वविद्यालय निम्नलिखित हेतु पंजीकृत निविदाकर्ता/ऐजेंट्सों से ई-निविदाये निर्धारित प्रपत्र में आमंत्रित करता है:-

Joint operation in Rajouri to flush out militants: 3 soldiers injured

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, OCTOBER 3

TWO PARA Commandos were among three security forces personnel injured in the early hours of Tuesday during an ongoing operation to flush out militants hiding in the dense forests of Kalakote area in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district.

Officials said a joint operation was launched on Monday evening by the Army, CRPF and J&K Police after they received specific information about the presence of militants at Broh in Kalakote's Tata Pani. Two-three militants were believed to be in the area, and the search parties used drones and helicopters to reach their exact location.

According to officials, the operation is ongoing and security forces have moved deeper into the forest, using drones and speculative firing to avoid chances of an ambush.

16 held for killing 5 of family in Deoria, cross-FIRs filed

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 3

SIXTEEN PERSONS were arrested in connection with the murders of five members of a family at Fatehpur village of Uttar Pradesh's Deoria district in a purported retaliation to the killing of a man whom they had a long-standing land dispute with, police said on Tuesday.

All the arrested accused belong to the group that killed the five family members, officials said.

On Monday morning, Prem Prakash Yadav (53), a former zila panchayat member, was hacked to death allegedly by Satya Prakash Dubey and his family members when he went to their house in the village. In retaliation, a group of people linked to Yadav killed Satya Prakash Dubey (54), his wife Kiran Devi (52), his son Dipesh, alias Gandhi



CM Yogi Adityanath meets Anmol Dubey, 8, the only survivor in a family of six, at BRD Medical College, Gorakhpur, on Tuesday. P/T

(15), and daughters Saloni (17) and Nandini (10).

Dubey's one son Anmol (8) survived the attack and was admitted to hospital with critical injuries. A large police contingent has been deployed in the village and the situation is under control, Rudrapur Circle Officer

Jila Jit said. Cross-FIRs were registered at the Rudrapur police station late Monday night.

On Tuesday, teams of the district administration and the revenue department inspected the disputed land and said they would submit a report to the officials concerned. The teams were measuring the properties, including agricultural land and house, belonging to Prem Prakash Yadav and his family, it is learnt.

In the first FIR, Dubey's daughter Shobhita Dwivedi (27), who is married, named 27 persons and nearly 50 unidentified people in the killing of her family members.

In the second case, Prem Prakash's uncle alleged that it was Satya Prakash Dubey and four of his family members (who eventually died) who murdered his nephew.

Deoria SP Sankalp Sharma said, "All the five persons booked for the murder of Prem Prakash

are dead. So far, we have arrested 16 persons for the murder of Satya Prakash and his family members. Of those arrested, 12 were named in the FIR and the role of the remaining four came to light during the investigation." The police are conducting raids to trace the absconding accused.

In her complaint, Shobhita Dwivedi mentioned a previous incident in 2014, when Prem Prakash Yadav had kidnapped her uncle Gyan Prakash Dubey and forcibly made him transfer his agricultural land, which led to a court case, which allegedly was the reason behind the attack.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday visited Baba Raghav Das Medical College in Gorakhpur and met the eight-year-old Anmol Dubey who survived the attack on his family members. The CM directed the hospital authorities to ensure the best possible treatment to Anmol.

Centralised I-T assessment may be required: Apex court to Gandhis' lawyer

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

THE SUPREME Court on Tuesday said that centralised assessment may be required for income tax purposes where there are cross-transactions between individuals.

Justice Sanjeev Khanna, presiding over a two-judge bench, said this while hearing a clutch of petitions by Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, certain trusts linked with the Gandhis and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), challenging the decision of the Income Tax authorities to transfer their tax assessment from faceless to central court.

The Delhi High Court had dismissed the petitions on May 26 following which they approached the SC.

Appearing for the Gandhis, Senior Advocate Arvind P Datar told the bench, also comprising Justice SVN Bhatti that after the faceless was introduced in 2019, several proceedings were

started. But then following the search in a case involving alleged arms dealer Sanjay Bhandari, there is an arrest and the matters of his clients were tagged together "because of Robert Vadra, who is the son-in-law of one of the parties".

Fugitive arms dealer Bhandari is wanted by agencies in India on multiple counts.

Responding to Datar's submission, Justice Khanna said that "insofar as individuals are concerned...if there are cross-transactions, centralised assessment may be required".

The court also pointed out to Senior Advocate A M Singhvi, who appeared for AAP, that there was a five-month delay in filing the appeal and said that "in cases like this, delay can be fatal".

Singhvi said this was because of overlapping subject matters. He added that the HC had said that it is not looking at the files but it relied on the IT Department's counter which said about the Satyender Jain case.

He said that if at all the de-

partment had to transfer, it could not have been a simpliciter transfer order. The HC acknowledges that there is a two-step procedure but had said that it is not mandatory, he added.

Singhvi said it is not a case where the court would let the five-month delay affect the legal issues involved.

Justice Khanna said it is important to note that the matter is not being transferred out of Delhi. He said it is the IT Department's prerogative to transfer.

"I am not concerned with the politics but only the legal provisions," he said, adding that the two-step procedure is only an administrative order.

Fixing the matter for hearing next on October 9, the bench said it would also require clarity whether it is the computer that chooses the officers, verification committee etc. in the case of faceless assessment.

Justice Khanna also asked about the stage of proceedings and said that original files be produced.

Firing on AMU campus; ex-student among three injured in 2 incidents

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 3

THREE PERSONS were injured in two firing incidents on the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) campus on Monday night, police said on Tuesday. Officials said the first incident of "indiscriminate" firing was reported from V M Hall around 9:30 pm where people on motorcycles shot several rounds and fled. Later, some armed people reached the S S North Hall and fired several rounds around 10 pm.

The injured were identified as Dr Sadiq Ali, a Moradabad resident and former AMU student; Firoz Alam and Abdulah, both residents of Aligarh. All three injured people are reportedly stable. Dr Ali is currently preparing for his PhD from the AMU. The police said the firing was the fall-

out of a dispute between some people living illegally in the AMU.

Inspector (Civil Lines) Vijay Singh told The Indian Express, "We have booked 15 people and are looking for the accused. The case has been registered under Indian Penal Code section 307 (attempt to murder). The accused are outsiders who live within the varsity illegally. It is unclear why the firing happened, but we have been told there was a row over authority within those who illegally stay in the varsity's hostels. We will soon arrest the accused and send them to judicial custody."

AMU Proctor Wasim Ali said strict action as per law would be taken against those found guilty in the incidents. "All those who indulged in firing are outsiders. We are going through CCTV footage to ascertain how they got inside the varsity," said Ali.



GUPKAR MEMBERS MEET

National Conference president Farooq Abdullah, PDP president Mehbooba Mufti and other members of the Gupkar alliance address the media after a meeting, in Jammu, Tuesday. P/T

Leaders of Opposition parties including NC, PDP, Congress, CPI(M) and CPI on Tuesday decided to hold a peaceful protest in Jammu on October 10, against "suspension of the Constitution" in J&K.

The absence of leaders from Democratic Progressive Azad Party, Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party, Aam Admi Party and the People's Conference, was notable. Sources said they were not invited.

NC leader Farooq Abdullah termed the delay in holding local body and assembly polls an "assault on rights of the people," even after the government has spoken about the improved situation in J&K.

698 elephant deaths in state in eight years, says Odisha Forest Minister

SUJIT BISOYI
BHUBANESWAR, OCTOBER 3

AS MANY as 698 elephants perished in Odisha in the last eight years, of which a number of deaths between 2015-16 and 2022-23 were due to avoidable reasons, said Forest and Environment Minister Pradip Kumar Amat in a written reply to the Assembly Tuesday.

The minister said most jumbo deaths were caused because of diseases, electrocution, train-hitting, road accident, poaching and poisoning.

A total of 48 leopards and seven Royal Bengal tigers also

died due to various reasons during the period, said Amat.

The minister said the state government has been taking various steps to prevent the deaths of elephants, leopards and Royal Bengal tigers, which include protecting their habitats, creating prey base, development of water-bodies inside the forests, prevention of forest fires, holding anti-poaching camps, deployment of special squads for frequent patrolling in jungles and utilising advance technologies to track movement of elephants and poachers.

Responding to a separate question, the forest minister said that elephant attacks have claimed 602 lives in the past five

years — 2018-19 to 2022-23.

The number of elephants in Odisha was estimated at 1,796, according to the last elephant census in 2017.

The Odisha government has decided to carry out a fresh survey of elephant corridors to ensure uninterrupted movement of jumbos within their habitats, said forest department sources.

The Orissa High Court had earlier expressed concern over the rising number of deaths of elephants due to electrocution. It had directed four power distribution companies in Odisha to prepare a plan to survey human habitations where there was attacks and crop destruction by wild animals.

ATTEMPT TO MURDER CASE

Kerala HC rejects Lakshadweep MP's plea to suspend conviction

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
OCTOBER 3



NCP MP Mohammed Faizal. File

THE KERALA High Court on Tuesday rejected the plea of Lakshadweep MP Mohammed Faizal to suspend his conviction in a murder attempt case.

However, the suspension of sentence of Faizal and three others, as per an earlier High Court order, would continue pending final disposal of their appeal.

A Bench of Justice N Nagesh considered the matter after the Supreme Court on August 23 set aside the High Court's earlier order suspending his conviction, 10 years of imprisonment, for attempting to kill Mohammed Saleh, son-in-law of late Congress leader and former Union minister P M Sayeed, during the 2009 Lok Sabha polls. The apex court

had directed the HC to decide the matter afresh in six weeks.

In his order, Justice Nagesh on Tuesday said as there are materials prima facie evidencing the criminal acts on the part of the accused, "this is not a fit case to suspend the order of conviction imposed on the second petitioner (Faizal). The prayer for suspension of the order of conviction is therefore rejected. The suspension of sentence of the four accused, as per the High Court order of January 25, and the conditions subject to which the sentence is suspended, will continue pending final disposal

of the appeal." "Proliferation of crime in the election process could garner momentum to cripple Indian democracy... If persons with criminal antecedents are permitted to continue as Members of Parliament/Legislatures even after conviction by a competent court, that would only send wrong signals," said the judge.

On January 11, 2023, a Kavaratti sessions court sentenced Faizal and three others to 10 years in jail and imposed a fine of Rs 1 lakh on each of them in the murder attempt case. The Lok Sabha Secretariat then notified Faizal's disqualification as an MP. On January 25, the High Court suspended Faizal's conviction and sentence, noting the LS polls were only one-and-a-half years away and a bypoll at this juncture would lead to wasteful expenditure.

Suspected fraud in Odisha scholarship scheme: CAG report

SUJIT BISOYI
BHUBANESWAR, OCTOBER 3

THE COMPTROLLER and auditor general (CAG), in a report tabled in Assembly Tuesday, observed "suspected fraud and corruption" in implementation of Post-Matric Scholarships (PMS) and the Medhabruti scheme implemented by two different departments of the Odisha government.

In its performance audit report of the two scholarship schemes, the CAG found suspected syphoning of Rs 15.79 crore, due to lack of detailed procedure for inspections of institutions by District Welfare Officers (DWOs), before issue of User IDs for the scholarship portal.

According to the report, the audit noticed that 30 institutes in six sampled districts registered in the portal meant for PMS during 2017-20, had obtained affiliation from the Bharat Sevak Samaj (BSS), Tamil Nadu and the National Council of Vocational Research and Training (NCVRT), New Delhi — which were not eligible agencies to grant affiliation to institutes for running Diploma courses.

"... due to the non-incorporation of detailed criteria in the system, as well as lack of monitoring on the part of the department, 5,185 students had already been granted scholarships of Rs 15.79 crore, irregularly," said an audit officer quoting the report.

While joint physical inspection of 16 institutes affiliated by NCVRT and BSS were carried out

in September and October 2021 in presence of the auditor, it was found that eight of these 16 verified during the joint verification were not in existence. The other eight had stopped functioning from 2020, after rejection of their applications by the DWO.

One institute in Mayurbhanj district did not have its own physical infrastructure like classroom, workshop and staffroom and was using the infrastructure of another neighbouring institute. In seven other institutes, the infrastructure was found to be inadequate compared to the number of students admitted. In one institute, only classrooms were available for 792 students and the institute had no workshop for students.

The CAG recommended the state government to investigate the suspected fraud in the payment of PMS in all districts to fix responsibility on the defaulting officials. It also asked the state SC/ST development department, implementing agency of the PMS, to frame detailed guidelines for inspection of institutes, prior to their registration on the scheme portal.

The audit report also stated that as many as 2,996 students of 22 sampled institutes in six sampled districts had been paid PMS, amounting to Rs 7.36 crore during 2017-18 to 2020-21, even after their discontinuance of the concerned courses. Due to non-interlinking of softwares meant for PMS and Medhabruti scheme, 11,880 students had been granted both PMS and Medhabruti during 2017 to 2021 — observed the CAG.

MUMBAI NURSING HOME SEALED

Infant-selling racket busted, 6 women held

MOHAMED THAYER
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 3

THE MUMBAI police on Tuesday sealed a nursing home in Shivaji Nagar area from where infants were allegedly being sold for Rs 5 lakh to couples who didn't have children. Six women were arrested and two infants aged five days and 45 days respectively were rescued, police said.

According to police, the main accused Julia Fernandes who has six similar offences against her in the past would use a network of agents, nurses and unlicensed "doctors" to lure women into selling their children for Rs 1 lakh. The accused would pay for the expenses of these women during their pregnancy.

A team lead by sub-inspector Sharad Nanekar pretended to be interested in purchasing an infant and "struck a deal" with the accused who agreed to sell a baby

girl for Rs 5 lakh.

When they handed them the baby, the police team arrested the accused. During interrogation, police found that another 45-day-old infant was "purchased" by the accused. "We have recovered the girl and send her to a children home," an officer said.

DCP (zone VI) Hemraj Rajput said that of the six arrested accused, Fernandes is a habitual offender who has six cases of selling children in the past. Along with the accomplices of the main accused, he sixth arrest was that of Gulabshah Shaikh, the mother of the five-day-old girl.

The accused would look for pregnant women and would convince them to sell their child to them after delivery for Rs 1 lakh. They would also agree to take care of the medical expenses during pregnancy and would further tell the women that their child would have a better quality of life," Nanekar added.

8.75 crore people participated in Oct 1 cleanliness drive: Ministry

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

OVER 8 crore people volunteered during the national cleanliness drive on October 1, cleaning 9 lakh sites across the country, the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry said on Tuesday.

The special cleanliness drive — 'Ek Tareekh, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath' — was organised under the Swachh Bharat Mission on the eve of Gandhi Jayanti and the ninth anniversary of the launch of the mission. From PM Modi and Union ministers to government staff, RWAs, market associations and citizens participated in the one-hour sanitation drive from 10 am. Municipal corporations and government departments were then asked to upload photos of the cleaning activities on a portal.

"The aggregates indicate the participation of nearly 8.75 crore people participated in over 9 lakh sites," the Ministry said.

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY KANPUR. IIT Kanpur is an Institute of national importance declared as such under the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961, to provide for education and research in various branches of engineering, technology, science and arts. The Institute invites online applications for different posts, from eligible Indian nationals for appointment on regular/contract basis. For detailed advertisement, please visit the Institute's website www.iitk.ac.in/infocell/recruitment. Interested candidates can apply through ONLINE mode latest by 05:00 PM of October 26, 2023. Advt. No. 1/2023

Public Auction Notice Debts Recovery Tribunal. A.B & F Wings, Karpuri Thakur Sadan, Ashiana Digha Road, Patna—800025. Punjab National Bank, Gorsara Branch (BO NO.2784) Located at Ramgarh, Post office and Police Station-Ramgarh, District-Kaimur, Pin-821110. M/s Maa Bhagwati Rice Mill through its proprietor Binod Kumar Singh and others (In R.P. Case No.330/2017 arising out of Certificate No. OA. 251/2016). E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE. As per order dated 02/09/2023, under mentioned Property will be sold by Public Online e-Auction On the date and time mentioned herein for recovery of Rs. 36,61,364.00 from M/s Maa Bhagwati Rice Mill through its proprietor, Binod Kumar Singh and others The sum is recoverable together with interest, cost, charges, as per the certificate. The auction sale will be by way of Online e-Auction. Description of Property: Table with columns: S/N/ Lot No., Description of Property, Reserve Price, EMD, Date and time of Auction. Name and address of e-auction agency: M/s e-procurement Technologies Limited-Auction Tiger, Address: B-704, Wall street-II, Opp. Orient Club, Near Gujarat College, Ellis Bridge, Ahmedabad- 380006, Gujarat (India) Website: https://drt.auctiontiger.net. Bidder Support: Mobile No. 9265562821 Landline No. 07968136837/842/881/880, E-mail Address- support@auctiontiger.net, hardik@auctiontiger.net. Facilitating Centre: (I) Office of Recovery officer, DRT, Patna, A, B & F Wing, 2nd Floor, Karpuri Thakur sadan, Ashiyana-Digha Road, Patna-25 and (ii) Punjab National Bank, Circle Sastra Centre-Ara. Contact Person: Rakesh Kumar Pathak, E-Mail Address : cs8187@pnb.co.in, Mobile No. 9051805046. Branch Head : Dharendra Kumar, Senior Manager, Punjab National Bank, Gorsara Branch, E-mail-bc2784@pnb.co.in, Mobile No. 9889028173. ACCOUNT DETAIL FOR ONLINE MONEY TRANSFER. Table with columns: ACCOUNT NO. & NAME, NAME, IFSC CODE. TERMS & CONDITIONS OF SALE: 1. The Property shall be sold "as is where is basis". 2. The intending bidders should register the participation with the service provider well in advance and get user ID and password for participating in E-auction. It can be procured only when the requisite Earnest Money Deposit be paid by prescribed mode. 3. To take part in Auction, each bidder shall deposit Earnest Money (EMD) @ of 10% of the Reserve Price which shall be paid by Electronic transfer to the concerned Bank's EMD Account or through DD/pay Order drawn in favour of Recovery Officer, DRT, Patna along with copy of PAN card, Address proof and Identity proof with E-mail ID, Mobile No. of bidder. The Envelop Containing EMD along with details of documents should be superscribed R.P.No.330/2017 and in case of the company copy of resolution by the Board members of the Company or any other document confirming representation/attorney of the company should reach on or before 4.00 P.M. of 30/10/2023 in the office of Recovery Officer, DRT, Patna or should credit the amount in respective Bank's/Financial Institutions account. EMD received there after shall not be considered. 4. The successful bidder shall have to pay 25% of the sale proceeds (including EMD) on the Next working day of sale through the mode as stated above. 5. The purchaser shall deposit the balance 75% of the sale proceeds before the undersigned on or before 15th day from the date of sale of the Property, exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day be Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office day after the 15th day along with the poundage fee @ 2% upto Rs.1,000/- and @ 1% on the excess of such gross amount over Rs.1,000/- by prescribed mode as stated above. 6. In case of default of payment within the prescribed period, the property shall be resold, after the issue of fresh proclamation of sale. The deposit, after defraying the expenses of the sale, may, if the undersigned thinks fit, be forfeited to the Government and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may subsequently be sold. 7. The Recovery Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject any bid or bids or to postpone or cancel the e-auction without assigning any reasons. 8. EMD of unsuccessful bidder shall be returned the same day of auction by DRT/Bank by credit to the account of bidder mention in bid form. 9. Prospective bidder may avail online training from service provider. 10. Prospective bidders are advised to go through the website for details terms and conditions of sale before submitting their bids or contact branch Manager of the concerned Branch. (Manoj Kumar) Recovery Officer. Date : 30.09.2023



WORDLY WISE
ALL INTEREST IN DISEASE AND DEATH IS ONLY
ANOTHER EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN LIFE.
— THOMAS MANN

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY
RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

Historic with a small 'h'

Counting caste is first step towards honest political engagement with the real differences and disparities



SATISH DESHPANDE

REVENUE UPTICK

Data on Central finances shows healthy direct tax collections. There is little risk of government not meeting fiscal deficit target

DATA ON CENTRAL government finances released a few days ago by the Controller General of Accounts paints a healthy picture of the government's finances, dousing concerns over tax collections falling short of expectations. At the aggregate level, the Centre's gross tax collections, which had been subdued in the first four months of the year (April-July), grew at a staggering pace in August. As a consequence, tax collections in the year so far (April-August) have grown at a healthy pace of 16.5 per cent. This is higher than the growth that was factored in the Union budget. While the momentum in collections may moderate in the second half, the fiscal arithmetic so far looks manageable.

The disaggregated data shows that the sharp uptick in collections has been driven by healthy direct tax revenues. So far this year, direct taxes have grown at 26.6 per cent, while indirect taxes have grown at a subdued 7.5 per cent. Under the rubric of direct taxes, income tax collections have grown by a robust 35.6 per cent, while corporate tax collections, which till July were lower than levels seen last year, have grown handsomely in August, pushing up overall growth this year to 15 per cent. On the indirect tax side, goods and services tax collections have continued to hold steady. GST collection rose to Rs 1.62 lakh crore in September, up 10.2 per cent over those last year. Excise collections though are lower than levels seen last year. Revenue from disinvestment also continues to disappoint. As against a budgeted target of Rs 61,000 crore, the government has so far garnered only Rs 6,949 crore through this route. However, robust growth of non-tax revenue, driven largely by the higher-than-budgeted dividend from the RBI, could in part help offset this shortfall. On the expenditure side, the government has maintained its spending momentum — capital spending is up 48 per cent so far this year. However, some expect the momentum to moderate in the second half of the year as the country approaches the national elections.

The momentum in the economy is expected to slow down in the second half of the year. As per the RBI's projections, GDP growth is likely to fall from 7.2 per cent in the first half of the year to 5.9 per cent in the second half. This could have implications for the government's tax revenues. And on the expenditure side, there is the possibility that additional allocations will have to be made for NREGA. However, as per analysts, there is little risk of the government not meeting its fiscal deficit target for the year. The government's market borrowing numbers of Rs 6.55 lakh crore for the second half of the year also seems to indicate so.

STAKES IN MALE

Indo-Maldives ties could be tested by the election of Mohamed Muizzu as president. Delhi must continue to pursue its interests

IT IS EASY for New Delhi to both read too much into or underestimate the significance of the results of the presidential elections in the Maldives. The somewhat surprising victory of Mohamed Muizzu after a second-round run-off election earlier this week is widely seen as being to China's benefit. India's ties with the Maldives, including in defence and through infrastructure investments, were among the primary issues in the campaign. Muizzu accused incumbent president Ibrahim Mohamed Solih of acting in India's interests, and continued the "India Out" campaign, earlier spearheaded by former president Abdulla Yameen. When it was last in office, Muizzu's Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM) was perceived to be close to China and there were crackdowns on protest and dissent. The current president-elect was then the housing minister and undertook infrastructure projects connected to Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Geographical proximity, convergent security interests and cultural affinities have meant that Male and Delhi have had a deep and close relationship. As China's footprint and ambitions in the Indo-Pacific and Indian Ocean Region have expanded, Maldives is among the littoral nations to have become a part of Beijing's economic-strategic calculus. India too has invested heavily in the country during Solih's tenure: Under the Neighbourhood First policy and Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR), security cooperation between the two countries has grown. This is in addition to the Colombo Security Conclave, which includes Sri Lanka, India and the Maldives. Delhi has also provided financial assistance for the Greater Male Connectivity project, among other infrastructure collaborations.

There is little doubt that Muizzu, like Yameen, is close to Beijing. The president-elect ended up as the Opposition's consensus candidate after the ruling Maldivian Democratic Party saw major defections, including former president Mohamed Nasheed. In fact, Muizzu is seen by many as a proxy for Yameen, who could not contest elections because of his conviction and imprisonment on corruption charges. Nasheed, after switching sides, has emerged as a king-maker of sorts and was perceived as not being anti-India. Issues of governance and the economy too played a part in these elections, as they invariably do. The election results notwithstanding, Delhi continues to have stakes in the country. The sign of a stable and mature bilateral relationship is its ability to transcend governments. Keeping that possibility open with the new government in Male is now the challenge for India's foreign policy establishment. Perhaps the greatest silver lining for India and other well-wishers of the Maldives is the peaceful transition of power in a country which has often seen political turmoil.

THE MRNA PROMISE

Nobel Prize for Medicine acknowledges possibilities of mRNA vaccines for tackling diseases from cancer to malaria and HIV

EVERY OCTOBER, KATALIN Kariko's mother would faithfully listen to the radio, hoping to catch the news that her daughter had finally won a Nobel Prize. "Many scientists work very very hard," Kariko recalled pointing out to her, in an interview published by the University of Pennsylvania this week. And for a Nobel, Kariko had never even got a grant for her dogged pursuit to unlock the potential of mRNA to help cure diseases, with her research being described as "unworkable". That she has, along with her fellow pursuer of the seemingly impossible, Drew Weissman, won the Nobel Prize for Medicine this year, comes as a vindication of their conviction that mRNA research holds the key to unlocking the future of medicine.

Kariko and Weissman sought to use mRNA — the messenger which carries instructions from DNA to our cells on manufacturing specific proteins — as an agent that could help the body develop its own cures. This went against the prevailing orthodoxy which had long dismissed the possibility of introducing mRNA into the body without it being attacked by the body's immune system. This had been seen in numerous trials on animals, in whom synthetic mRNA led to severe inflammation. Kariko and Weissman's discovery was that the mRNA could be modified in a specific way, so that the immune system wouldn't attack it. But this elicited little interest and the 2005 paper documenting the breakthrough was largely ignored. It drew attention only in 2020, when its potential to develop effective vaccines quickly to arrest Covid-19's devastating sweep through the world, began to be explored.

The vaccines developed using Kariko and Weissman's discovery saved millions of lives. Beyond that, their work has also opened a wide vista of possibilities for tackling a range of other diseases, from cancer — with mRNA being possibly tailored to target individual patients' tumours — to malaria, HIV and Zika. The Nobel Prize is an acknowledgement of this promise.

FOR FAR TOO long, any decision to collect caste data has been seen as self-evidently "political", whereas the equally deliberate decision to not collect it has somehow been placed outside or beyond politics. Now that the results of the Bihar caste count (officially termed a comprehensive caste survey, or CCS) are out — and the skies have not fallen, nor is the earth shaking — let us ask the questions that can no longer be silenced: What is the politics of not counting caste? Who benefits from the absence of caste numbers and data?

Before we explore answers, the Bihar CCS must be placed in proper perspective. It is indeed a historic event because it is the first such large-scale exercise where results have been made public. The states of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, as well as the Union government itself (in the ill-fated Socio Economic and Caste Census 2011), have collected comprehensive caste data in the past, but for reasons that remain unclear, never revealed it. On the other hand, the Bihar government is yet to release the all-important supplementary data (on the socio-economic status of caste groups) that will allow us to make social sense of the bare caste counts made public. It is hoped that this data, too, will be released shortly and that the state government will not falter after having boldly come this far — for without inferential information on existing caste inequalities, numbers alone will merely feed speculations in electoral arithmetic that are worthless for understanding society. So, until further notice, the Bihar CCS is historic but only with a small "h".

To begin answering questions about the politics of not counting caste, we must first revise Max Weber's famous dictum about the modern state. Today, states are no longer defined by their monopoly over legitimate violence within a specified territory. They are defined as much, or even more, by their monopoly over aggregated social statistics. Nation-wide numbers are priceless resources crucial for the exercise and maintenance of political power in modern electoral

democracies because they are critical to the management of public perceptions, beliefs, and feelings. This has usually been seen in terms of control over the media. Such control remains crucial, as is evident to Indians today. But to take a step forward in the struggle for total power, it is also necessary to gain control over the possible content that the media could use. In short, totalitarian regimes need to control the news, not just news channels.

Social statistics — numbers that describe our collective self — are always big news precisely for that reason. That is why the first moves towards authoritarianism are often aimed at controlling institutions that produce social statistics on growth, employment, health, and inflation — in general, numbers that say something about the well-being (or otherwise) of the electorate. Caste data is a special case within the more general category of social statistics. It tells us about the smaller identity-containers (castes) that form the larger national whole. It is important because this data has the potential to highlight social inequalities, likely to lead towards social discontent and tension, which in turn threaten to weaken or break the political hegemony of the ruling regime.

The strongest, most enduring and common argument against caste enumeration has been that it will harden caste divisions and delay or prevent the movement towards a casteless society. There is some truth here, but it is overshadowed by a larger and more compelling truth — the realities of caste inequalities in the present must be acknowledged and addressed before we can arrive at a caste-free future. To censor or suppress caste divisions is not to overcome them. This difference has been ignored by our leaders since the freedom struggle, and it was almost erased in the Nehru era. But only the most brutal authoritarian can suppress a social reality lived daily by millions. Whatever his other faults, Nehru was not a brutal autocrat. As a result, the outing of caste inequalities could only be postponed, until it fought its

way into national politics in the 1990s. Ironically, for all the vitriol the current regime has directed at Nehru, it is attempting once again — from a very different vantage point and with very different methods — the muting not of caste differences themselves but of talking about them.

The counting of caste is not a magic wand that will wave away the evils of caste inequality and oppression. Instead, it is a messy, contentious, complex exercise that is sure to have its flaws and inadequacies. But it is also the inescapable first step towards an honest political engagement with the real differences and disparities of caste. And for that reason, it is imperative that India no longer evade.

As a caste society, we have yet to realise that the most important reason to count caste has nothing to do with refining welfare programmes or electoral manoeuvring. Caste must be counted because it counts — it is arguably the most important regulator of life chances today. This means that caste differences are real differences. To call for "unity" without addressing these differences is to practice dishonest politics. Just as courage is not the absence of fear (which could be mere foolishness) but its overcoming, true political unity is the negotiated overcoming of differences, not their denial or suppression.

Fake unity is fake politics. By pretending that we are all "one", we lower the standards of accountability by which our politicians must be measured. The Western liberal ideal of the "pure" individual unencumbered by any social identities may not be in our future. But political representation that is accountable across acknowledged differences certainly is. Messy and contentious though it is, counting caste will eventually take us there. The best reason to cautiously welcome the Bihar CCS is that it might be the small first step.

The writer is a former teacher of Sociology, currently with the Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru

Caste must be counted because it counts — it is arguably the most important regulator of life chances today. This means that caste differences are real differences. To call for 'unity' without addressing these differences is to practice dishonest politics. Just as courage is not the absence of fear (which could be mere foolishness) but its overcoming, true political unity is the negotiated overcoming of differences, not their denial or suppression.



REKHA SHARMA

UNLIKE A TEACHER

JNU VC does her position disservice by drawing lines between 'us' and 'them'

TO HEAD THE Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) is a great honour. Today, education is not a preparation for life, it is life itself. So, when a teacher speaks, she opens the doors to wisdom.

Unfortunately, JNU Vice Chancellor Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit, who recently spoke at the launch of the book *Jagala Pokharnari Davi Walvi* by Abhijit Jog, left many of us disappointed. She proclaimed that she is a Hindu, and said she is proud to be so. She has every reason to be proud. Hinduism teaches love and speaks against repression. It is a way of life which makes life worth living. It paves a path which leads to moksha. As a Hindu and a teacher, Pandit is in a unique position.

However, it was disappointing that her speech betrayed the JNU VC's dislike — in fact, hatred — for leftists. She maintained that the influence of leftists and their cultural Marxism has led to the rise of "cancel culture".

Pandit seems to forget that a university is not a place of learning if it does not fire the mind. The teacher should impart knowledge — guide, but not dwarf the mind. Let students go down their own path. Let them dream and turn their dreams into reality. Let us not treat their ideas, convictions and thoughts as signs of degeneration. The VC has openly declared her leanings towards Hindutva, and her association with the RSS. She is most welcome to do that. She

is entitled to listen to the voice within her, but then, so is her student. Teach the student, guide her, but do not protest if she disagrees with you or, in her wisdom, decides to choose her own path. Let JNU be a cradle and not a tomb.

"The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court opened the court on a Saturday night to give Teesta Seetalvad bail. Will it happen for us?" the VC asked. What she means by "us" is baffling. Be that as it may, is it a crime to hold court on a non-working day and administer justice? The SC has done so in the past when the peculiarity of a case so demanded. Should law discriminate on the basis of political ideology, especially on issues related to the fundamental right to freedom and personal liberty? Would it have been right to deny Teesta Seetalvad justice because of her political leaning?

Kabir Das, the 15th-century saint and poet, puts teachers on a pedestal higher than god. A teacher affects eternity, and as the American jurist Robert Green Ingersoll says, one good teacher is worth a thousand priests. But are some of our present-day teachers imparting knowledge or impairing it?

Two horrific incidents were reported recently from schools, one in Muzaffarnagar and another in Kathua. The incidents elicited immense public outrage. In Muzaffarnagar, a teacher made students hit a fellow student, a seven-year-old Muslim

boy, as punishment for failing to do his class assignment. She allegedly also insinuated that Muslim mothers do not pay attention to their children's studies. The incident was captured on camera, and the video of the same was uploaded on social media.

Close on the heels of this incident, in Kathua district of Jammu, a Class X student of a government school was beaten up by a teacher and the principal for writing "Jai Shri Ram" on the classroom board. They also allegedly told the boy that if he did such a thing again, they would kill him. The boy had to be hospitalised for five days.

These incidents tell us that it is not the wayward students who are polluting the temples of learning, but in some cases, it is the teacher. Both incidents could have snowballed into communal violence. Mercifully, they did not. Unfortunately, bigotry and bias are getting embedded in our lives.

Let us mix our differences with togetherness. Diversity needs to be accepted as a strength. Let us keep young minds free from bias, hate and "ism" of any kind. The onus lies on teachers, both at the school and university level. Time to remember the golden words of American poet Gwendolyn Brooks: "We are each other's harvest/ We are each other's business/ We are each other's magnitude and bond".

The writer is a former judge of the Delhi High Court



OCTOBER 4, 1983, FORTY YEARS AGO

ECONOMIC SUMMIT

ASSESSING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS of her summit meetings, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi says participants reached a consensus on pressing economic questions and issues relating to peace and global security. "I believe we did achieve broad agreement on the need to make international financial institutions more responsive to the needs of development," Mrs Gandhi said.

NSA DETAINEES

TWO PROMINENT AKALI leaders Jagdev

Singh Talwandi and Sukhjinder Singh, and Bharpur Singh Balbir, chief editor of the *Akali Patrika* were detained under the NSA in Punjab. Talwandi, former president of the Akali Dal, was detained at his village, and Bharpur Singh Balbir was held at Jalandhar.

DMC CHAOS

THE DELHI MUNICIPAL Corporation witnessed unprecedented rowdy scenes as both ruling party and opposition members brandished chappals, waived mikes and chairs and traded filthy abuses. A Congress (I) member fell unconscious and was taken to the

hospital, in a free-for-all between the ruling party and BJP members in the house.

OPPOSITION MEET

THE ORGANISERS OF the opposition conclave in Srinagar are hopeful that solutions will be found to vital problems facing the states and the country. On their part, the hosts have done everything possible to have smooth deliberations at the biggest ever opposition leaders' conference, in which over 40 national leaders, many of them chief ministers of non-Congress (I) states and presidents or senior office-bearers of their parties, will be present.

11 THE IDEAS PAGE

Riding the kinship wave

An ethnic reconfiguration is underway in Mizoram. MNF government's refusal to collect biometric data of Myanmarese refugees taps into that sentiment for electoral gains



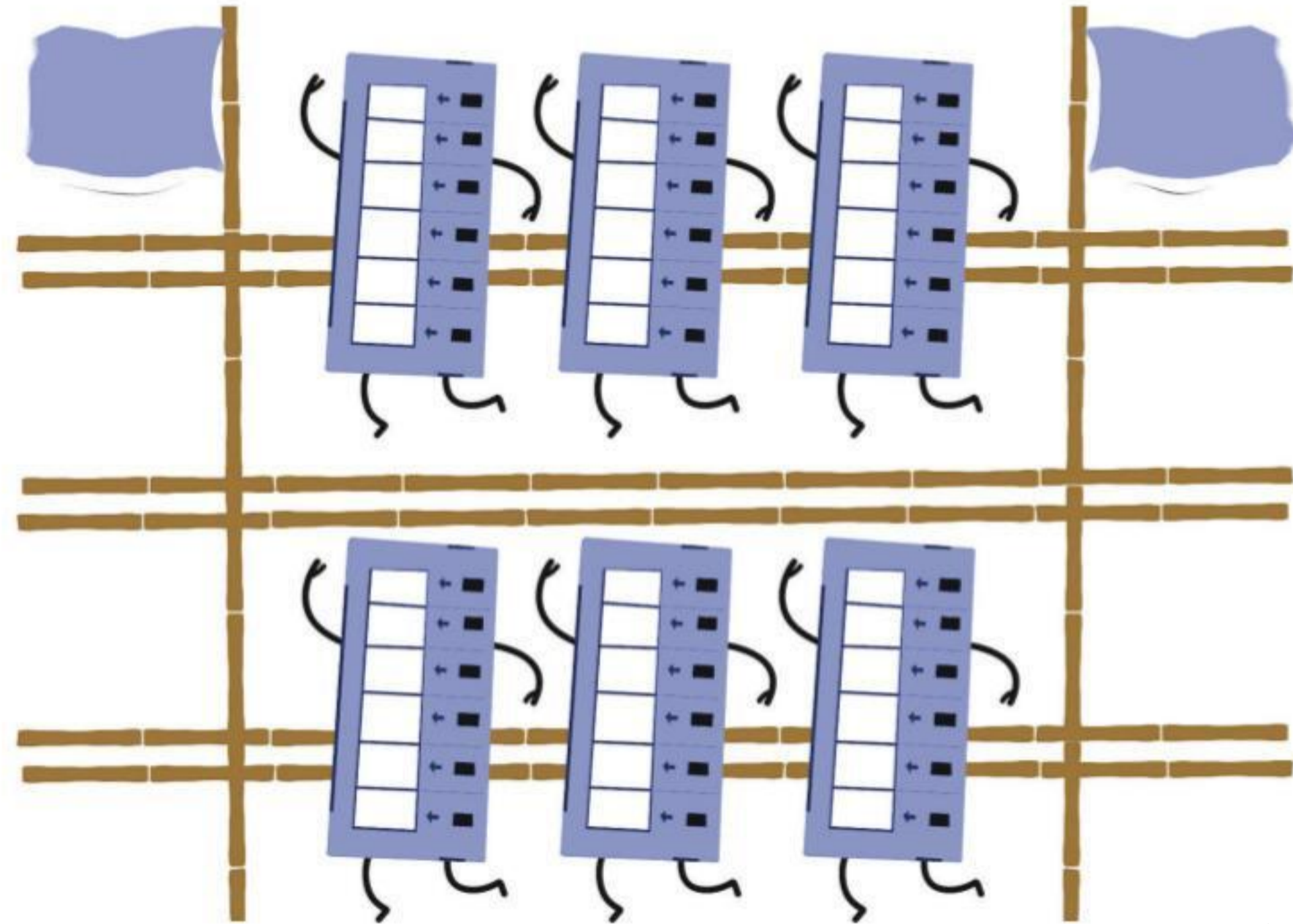
JOY L K PACHUAU

THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY the Mizo National Front (MNF) government in Mizoram last week to go against the Centre's directive to collect biometric data of Myanmarese refugees has surprised many, especially since a pilot exercise had already been conducted in July in all the districts of the state.

The reason for the backtracking is clearly because the MNF has its eyes on the assembly elections at the end of the year — although the dates are yet to be announced. The MNF's record under Zoramthanga in the past term has not been good — development promises have not been kept, nepotism in government jobs is rampant and anti-incumbency seems to be in the air. All indications appear to suggest that a next term in office will only be possible after a good fight. The popular mood, especially in urban areas, seems to favour the Zoram People's Movement (ZPM), led by Lalduhawma, which initially began as an alliance of independents. The ZPM gave the MNF a run for their money in the last elections with a good vote share, although they were able to acquire only six seats (out of a 40-member assembly, with the MNF winning 28). The Indian National Congress, which did badly in the last elections, seems to have rejuvenated itself under a new leader (Lalsawta) and other leaders.

Considering the impending elections in the state, most of the decisions of the government cannot but be seen in this light. Nevertheless, it is important to try and understand the volte face of the government especially when the MNF supports the North-East Democratic Alliance, a political coalition formed by the BJP. It shows how new equations are being churned out in the Northeast, along tribe and ethnicity lines, which political parties have to pay heed to.

Ever since the signing of the peace accord in 1986 under the leadership of Rajiv Gandhi and Laldenga, Mizoram has been relatively peaceful, occasional ethnic conflagrations notwithstanding. Since 1989, when the second assembly elections were held, the government has changed hands between the Congress and the MNF every two terms. The politics of the state has been mainly propelled by the issue of development, or its lack thereof, alleged corruption of those in power, and, of course, the issue of the Mizoram Liquor (Prohibition) Act, 2019, which has the support of the Church. In 2018, interestingly, intra-ethnic issues came to the forefront stridently for the first time just before the elections. Widespread protests were held over the inclusion in the electoral rolls of some Brus who were originally from Mizoram and had settled in Tripura since the late '90s. Brus are generally not regarded as ethnic Mizos. The attempt to create voting booths for them in Tripura escalated tensions in Mizoram. Mizos saw it as an attempt by the Centre to intervene in the ethnic politics of the state and a means for the BJP to gain a foothold. Identity mobilisation, especially as seen in the last



CR Sasikumar

elections, has largely been driven by what are termed NGOs in Mizoram and not by political parties. The NGOs refer to social organisations such as the Mizo Zirlai Pawl and Mizoram Secular Alliance (both student bodies), the Young Mizo Association, the Mizo Hmeichhe Insuihkhawm Pawl (a statewide women's organisation) and the Mizoram Upa Pawl (an association of the elderly). Following their protests, political parties had to join in, much of their stands and statements reflecting the position of the NGOs. In other words, it was the NGOs that drove the pre-poll narrative rather than the political parties.

As the election draws closer, the electorate's attention has turned to what is poetically rendered as *Zohnahthlak* or *Mizohnahthlak*, which can be loosely translated as "branches of the Mizo/zo tree". The crisis in Manipur has also aggravated the issue. The term implies the idea of being part of the same "stock". Mizo history writing, especially in the vernacular, has always speculated on who they are and where they have come from. In this speculation, the idea of kinship of various tribes (mentioned in colonial records as Kuki-Chin-Lushai) looms large and the notion that a separation was brought about by colonialism feeds the narrative. Terms such as the *Mizohnahthlak* are newer ways of expressing obsolete and awkward colonial categories. The prevalence of such terms suggests that kinship among such clans and communities has always been recognised; in reality, it has never been constant. Sometimes, even academics are prone to suggest a pre-colonial unity among what would have been rather discrete and independent chieftaincies who fought each other while, at the same time, exercising distinct notions of proximity and distance to the various groups around them. The MNF movement under Laldenga was not only a

struggle for independence, but also a struggle for kindred Mizo tribes to come together to form Greater Mizoram. It included ethnic groups of the neighbouring regions. This call was not necessarily appreciated by all — the Kukis felt abandoned even as they participated actively in the struggle, but were not factored in at the time of the peace negotiations. Other political parties — such as Brigadier T Sailo's party, the Mizoram People's Conference — have not abandoned this vision of a Greater Mizoram, although how it is politically visualised is not clear. The coup in Myanmar in 2021 and the refugee crisis it created led many to move to Mizoram. It brought out a reaction that was quite unprecedented. The welcome that the refugees received from NGOs, whether in terms of financial donations or as material help, was unforeseen. In some ways, this is surprising, because a few decades ago, people from Myanmar were often looked at with suspicion. However, it appears that feelings of being kindred have been actively cultivated by various interested groups over the years and times of crisis reveal the success of these activities. Social media has had a very important role to play in this cross-border dissemination. Better connectivity and cross-border trade have helped bring down what once were natural and political boundaries. Diasporic communities in the US and elsewhere have also had a role to play in this ethnic reconfiguration. It is the success of such trans-national, trans-border movements and ideas that determines Mizoram's politics today. The MNF and other political parties seek to ride the wave and reap political benefits. Whether it will be beneficial for the state of Mizoram remains to be seen.

Considering the impending elections in the state, most of the decisions of the government cannot but be seen in this light. Nevertheless, it is important to try and understand the volte face of the government especially when the MNF supports the North-East Democratic Alliance, a political coalition formed by the BJP. It shows how new equations are being churned out in the Northeast, along tribe and ethnicity lines, which political parties have to pay heed to.

The writer is professor of History at the Centre for Historical Studies, JNU, New Delhi

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Without unlocking growth, Mr Sunak faces being a high-tax politician who fails to spend the money to fix Britain, at a time when the public expect more from the state now than in decades past. No wonder the prime minister is courting unpopularity." — THE GUARDIAN

From water cooler chat to Nobel

Katalin Kariko and Drew Weissman braved lack of support from employers and funder apathy to develop mRNA vaccine, save lives during Covid



K SRINATH REDDY

KATALIN KARIKO NEVER imagined a water cooler conversation would lead to worldwide recognition. A Hungarian immigrant to the United States, she diligently pursued her research into mRNA technology as a potential vaccine development and therapeutics platform, while working at the University of Pennsylvania in the 1990s. Her research found no encouragement from funding agencies or from her university. She was allowed to stay on at UPenn in 1995, only when she accepted a pay cut and a demotion. By then, interest in mRNA technologies, which was sparked in the 1980s, had dissipated as lab-made mRNA had provoked undesirable inflammatory immune responses. Without even a research team to support her, Kariko stochastically pursued her belief that mRNA vaccines would be a game changer.

Then, by chance, she met Drew Weissman. A fellow researcher at UPenn, he shared an interest in exploring the potential of mRNA vaccines. They joined forces to continue research in an area dismissed by peers and funders as an unproductive scientific pursuit. Their collaboration paved the way for the development of mRNA vaccines. A seminal paper in 2005 led to the Nobel in 2023.

Messenger Ribonucleic Acid (mRNA) carries instructions from the Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) in genes to the protein-producing ribosomes in our cells. Synthetic mRNA produced earlier lacked several features of natural mRNA and provoked an inflammatory response. Kariko and Weissman modified the base pair chemical structure of the synthetic mRNA to make it functionally resemble the natural mRNA. Substitution of uridine with pseudouridine in the base pair stimulated desired protein production while reducing the risk of an inflammatory response.

A problem still remained. Lab-made mRNA needed to enter the human cells easily and get released without being destroyed, for it to pass on protein-making instructions to the ribosomes. Work on lipid nanoparticles by Peter Cullis, at the University of British Columbia, overcame that barrier. Lab-made mRNA, containing the protein production code, could safely enter the cell's cytosol when it was smuggled in by a lipid nanoparticle wrapping. There the mRNA would be released, to instruct the ribosomes. It could now be tailored to specific protein antigens of different microbes and delivered to human cells as a vaccine. Such a vaccine could be produced with speed, at a large scale.

When Kariko found no encouragement in the US, she moved to Germany to join BioNTech, founded by two Turkish immigrant scientists. She continued to collaborate with Weissman on mRNA vaccines. Cullis, meanwhile, advanced biotechnology development in Canada and co-founded an enterprise called Acuitas

Therapeutics. In 2009, Weissman reached out to him. The collaboration that would lead to mRNA vaccines was cemented between the three scientists.

Weissman then worked on a vaccine aimed at the Zika virus. That was still in the works when Covid-19 unleashed a pandemic that brought the world to its knees. Kariko at BioNTech commenced work on an mRNA vaccine for Covid-19, using the spike protein of the SARS-CoV-2 virus as the coding antigen for in-vivo production in the human cells. Acuitas Therapeutics shared the lipid nanoparticle wrapping technology with BioNTech. The first Covid-19 mRNA vaccine was soon injected into people's arms across the world.

While several vaccine production platforms have been used to produce vaccines directed at the SARS-CoV-2 virus, mRNA vaccines attracted the most attention because of their novel technology. Scientists are now exploring mRNA technology's potential for developing vaccines against other pathogens, cancer therapies and treating autoimmune diseases. While sceptics have raised concerns about the potential intrusion of mRNA into a cell's DNA, such a reverse pathway has been ruled out by most scientists. Some critics have pointed out adverse vaccine associated events like myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) and thrombosis (in arteries and veins). However, their incidence has been low compared to the high level of protection conferred by the vaccines against severe illness and death.

Spike protein-specific Covid-19 vaccines are now facing the challenge of immune evasion by rapidly emerging variants which change their spike protein configuration. Inactivated virus vaccines (like Covaxin) offer many more antigens to stimulate a broader immune response. A safer protein subunit vaccine may suffice if a surge against the spike protein is needed. India did not use the mRNA vaccines, as their marketing terms were unacceptable. Instead, it depended on domestically manufactured vaccines produced on other platforms.

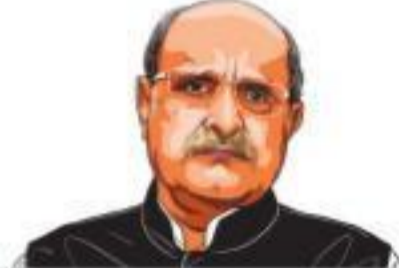
Debates on the mRNA Covid-19 vaccines will continue. However, what the Nobel Prize to Kariko and Weissman celebrates is ingenious scientific innovation combined with indomitable determination to pursue scientific goals despite a lack of support and encouragement from employers and funders. The prize is as much for perseverance as for the product of research. As Thomas Perlmann (Secretary General of the Nobel Committee) pointed out, Kariko was "a woman and a foreigner", pursuing an unpopular area of research without support in a leading US university. Undeterred, she stayed true to her conviction. It is that triumph over adversity that we must celebrate.

What about Cullis? The trio of Kariko, Weissman and Cullis won many prestigious global awards last year for having jointly contributed to the development of effective mRNA vaccines. Cullis may have been overlooked by the Nobel Committee but the trio has shown that pleasure, pride and prizes of true scientists lie in the faithful pursuit of path breaking research, not in the awards and acclaim that may come much later.

The writer is a Distinguished Professor of Public Health, PHFI. His most recent book is Pulse to the Planet

Social justice, more robust

Bihar caste survey raises questions about representation, political strategies



K C TYAGI

BIHAR HAS CREATED history under the chief ministership of Nitish Kumar by providing a fresh perspective on its social composition through the release of the 2022 caste-based survey. After Independence, various political classes, ideologies and actors emerged, and reservation was enshrined in the Constitution to weaken the roots of the caste structure and improve the lot of the deprived sections. However, this system applied initially to only Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. A large section of the country, including castes with traditional occupations — such as artisans, weavers, fisherfolk, gardeners and section of entertainers — were not under the reservation system. These diverse groups provided services and goods but had minimal land ownership.

In 1977-76, the Karpoori Thakur government in Bihar initiated conversations on social justice by implementing the Mungeri Lal Commission report's provisions of OBC reservation. With the publication of the 2022 caste survey, that process has been revived. Karpoori Thakur was criticised and there were protests across Bihar when he implemented the Mungeri Lal Commission report. But he knew that stratification was a part of India's social structure and hence, one has to be prepared to tolerate opposition. Nitish Kumar has shown the same confidence.

In a data-driven economy, this survey will not only reveal the exact number of Dalits and Backward Classes, but will also reveal the levels of education, standard of living, occupation (private, government, gazetted, non-gazetted etc), work efficiency, other sources

of income and number of earning members in the family. Accurate information will also be available about the number of dependents on one person and the number of castes in a village. This will help the state government in formulating development policies. The survey also sets the stage for complex debates, reconfigured political landscapes, and discussions about social justice. The caste survey will enable us to know the economic, social and educational status of any caste. This will make it easier to make plans for their betterment.

This survey data not only presents a detailed picture of caste demographics but also raises important questions about representation, social justice, and political strategies in Bihar and India as a whole.

Among the significant findings are the proportions of various caste groups, with Rajputs at 3.45 per cent, Yadavs at 14 per cent, Bhumihars at 2.86 per cent, Brahmins at 3.65 per cent, and Noniyas at 1.9 per cent. Backward Classes constitute 27.13 per cent, Extremely Backward Classes 36.01 per cent, and General category 15.52 per cent of the state's population. These numbers underscore the fact that caste continues to play a pivotal role in shaping Bihar's social landscape. Additionally, the survey highlights the presence of marginalised communities. Bihar's population of Scheduled Castes stands at 3,54,63,936, while the Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs) account for 4,70,80,514 individuals. The Scheduled Tribes comprise 2,56,89,820 people, and the Mahadalits number 2,19,9,361. This distribution points to the persistent disparities and the need for tar-

geted policies to uplift marginalised groups.

The religious composition data is equally noteworthy. Bihar's religious demographics indicate that 82 per cent of its population identifies as Hindu, while 17.7 per cent follow Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, and other religions constitute smaller fractions. This mosaic of religious beliefs and practices underscores the state's religious diversity and pluralism.

The caste-based survey data has several implications for the state's sociopolitical landscape. First, it highlights the complex nature of caste identities. Political parties in Bihar have long relied on caste-based alliances and strategies to garner votes. With the fresh data, political equations may see adjustments as parties aim to woo specific groups. Parties will need to recalibrate their outreach and policies to cater to specific caste groups, potentially leading to new coalitions and realignments.

The significant numbers of SCs, EBCs, STs, and Mahadalits speak of the urgent need for policies that promote social justice and economic empowerment. Political parties and policymakers will be pressured to address the unique challenges faced by these communities, including access to education, employment, and representation. Empowering these groups will contribute significantly to Bihar's overall development. The data will pave the way for the central government to implement the Justice Rohini Commission's recommendations. The Commission was tasked with recommending the correction of repetitions, ambiguities, inconsistencies, and errors of spelling or transcription, examining the ex-

tent of inequitable distribution of benefits of reservation among the OBCs, and working out the mechanism, criteria, norms and parameters in a scientific approach, for sub-categorisation within such OBCs (quota within quota).

The findings will also influence the national discourse on the need for a pan-India survey. According to the report, EBCs constitute 36 per cent of the population, while they get 18 per cent reservation in jobs. OBCs constitute 27 per cent, but get a 12 per cent quota. At present, there is a provision for 30 per cent for EBC and OBC together in Bihar, whereas according to caste-based calculation, their population is at 63 per cent.

Now, under the Karpoori formula in Bihar, Nitish Kumar's formula will provide reservation to the EBCs in proportion to their numbers. When Karpoori Thakur became the chief minister of Bihar for the second time in June 1977, out of the total reservation implemented in Bihar in 1978, he had earmarked 12 per cent for the "extremely backward" and 8 per cent reservation for the "backward". This provision of reservation — quota within quota — is called the Karpoori formula. Nitish Kumar is following in Karpoori Thakur's footsteps.

While the data provides a comprehensive snapshot of caste identities, it is necessary to ensure that this information should be used constructively for targeted development rather than misused for identity-based politics.

The writer, a former MP, is National Spokesperson for the JD(U)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CENSUS MATTERS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Justice counts' (IE, October 3). If there is no precise knowledge of the demographic and numbers of those less privileged, any effort to uplift them will be unfeasible. Hence, there is a need for a caste-based Census. The data provided by the Bihar government should not be merely used as a political tool to gain votes; it should also be effectively implemented on the ground. Both the implementation and execution should be transparent and promote social cohesion, avoiding any further stratification or discrimination in society.

Zaid Wazi, Varanasi

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Justice counts' (IE, October 3). In India, caste is an important social determinant of opportunity and mobility. However, apart from this, other welfare policies would also require hard data to be able to work out the allocation of resources. Bihar's caste survey data has revealed the detailed caste composition. This will alter the contour and content of politics in North India, and pitch the forces of social justice against Hindutva. It exposes the RSS-BJP Hindu consolidation which obfuscates upper caste hegemony, beguiling the lower castes for Hindu Rastra and Islamophobia.

LR Murmu, New Delhi

HOLLOW PROMISE

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'After the hurrahs' (IE, October 3). The passage of the women's reservation bill is only a tactic, as women can't hope to benefit from it anytime soon. The euphoria evaporated soon after it became clear that the law would be implemented only after delimitation had been carried out, which is a process that can commence only after the national Census. Home Minister Amit Shah made it clear that the decadal Census and other processes will not be completed by 2029. Then, why the hurry and drama of a special session?

SS Paul, Nadia

STAR POWER

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'The new players' (IE, October 3). The fact that Ranveer Allahbadia was able to interview Union ministers and the press has not been given the same opportunity speaks volumes about the change in perspective with regard to media and publicity. It seems influencers are the preferred choice to give voice to the government's policies. The rise of TikTok also pointed to a change in the demographic of influencers. As the editorial suggests, we should take this phenomenon more seriously and not dismiss the power of influencers.

Alisha Jain, Pune

Be it known that my client Sh. Hundi Lal Chaudhary S/o Late Mohar Singh & Smt. Sujata Chaudhary W/o Sh. Hundi Lal Chaudhary, R/o B-203, Jai Bhawan...

The General Public is informed at large that Anil Kumar Agarwal, S/o K.K. Agarwal, has made representation that he is the absolute owner of Lease hold Built Up Property No. 6, Block B, Sector 35, Noida...

BID No: GEM/2023/B/4028370, Dated: 01.10.2023. Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer, Eastern Railway Workshop, Kancharapara, Carriage / Loco Complex, North 24 Parganas, Po. Kancharapara, Pin. 743145, West Bengal invites open GeM Service Tender for the following work:

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Sealed Tenders for and on behalf of the President of India are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (W A/C) Western Railway, Pratnagar, Vadodara-390 004 for the following works. Sr. No.1: Tender No. DRM BRC 086 of 2023-24.

NORTHERN RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM 1st Corrigendum for GeM Bid Number GEM/2023/B/3935111 Dated: 11.09.2023 Published on GeM.

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

झारखण्ड सरकार ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय 102, द्वितीय तल्ला, अभियंत्रण भवन, कचहरी रोड, राँची

Government of Odisha Office of the Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur E-Mail ID: serwicrclesbp@yahoo.com

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD O/o Chief General Manager (Engg), STP Circle-II, HMWS&S, Khairatabad, Hyderabad-04, TS

GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND Agriculture, Animal Husbandry & Co-operative Department, (Co-Operative Division) OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR, CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES JHARKHAND, RANCHI INTEGRATED CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (I.C.D.P.) CELL, RANCHI

उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रॉन्समिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना (2023-24) विद्युत जानपद पारेषण मण्डल आगरा

TAMIL NADU POLICE HOUSING CORPORATION LTD (A Government of Tamil Nadu Undertaking) NORTH CIRCLE No.1&7, Inspector quarters, PGR Line, Behind CPO Building, Annadhanapatti, Linemedu, Salem - 636 006.

Moradabad Municipal Corporation Pili Kothi, Jalkal Compound, Moradabad-244001 (U.P.) E-Procurement Tender Notice Ref. No: 96/Env. Eng./NNM/2023-24 Date 03.10.2023

योजना एवं विकास विभाग कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन, कार्य प्रमंडल-02, पकड़ीदयाल, पूर्वी चम्पारण, मोतिहारी। निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या - 11 (SBD)/2023-24, ई-टेंडर

NOBEL PRIZE 2023 PHYSICS

Watching superfast subatomic particles move

Experiments of the three laureates 'have given humanity new tools for exploring the world of electrons inside atoms and molecules'



AMITABH SINHA

IN OUR everyday lives, we are familiar with processes that happen so fast we are unable to observe them completely. For example, when a bullet is fired at an apple, we see the outcome — the smashed apple — but are unable to capture the entire process, which takes barely a few milliseconds. With the help of a camera that has a very high shutter-speed, it is possible to see every step of the bullet piercing the apple and coming out of it, destroying the apple in the process.

But there are a lot of other processes in the universe that are incredibly faster, especially at atomic and subatomic levels.

Atoms or molecules make movements, or changes, that take just a few picoseconds (a trillionth of a second, or 10⁻¹² seconds) or femtoseconds (10⁻¹⁵ seconds). Scientists

found innovative ways to observe these processes, using unimaginably short pulses of light, similar to using extremely high shutter-speed cameras. But then they hit a barrier.

A matter of attoseconds

There were processes that were even faster, happening within a few attoseconds (thousandth of a femtosecond, or 10⁻¹⁸ second) — the motion of electrons within the atom, for instance. For a long time, femtosecond 'photography' was considered the limit. Production of shorter pulses of light, in the attosecond range, did not seem possible. Till the works of Pierre Agostini, Ferenc Krausz and Anne L'Huillier made it possible.

The 58-year-old Frenchman Agostini, 61-year-old Hungarian Krausz, and 65-year-old L'Huillier, also French, were on Tuesday awarded the 2023 Nobel Prize in Physics "for experimental methods that generate attosecond pulses of light for the study of electron dynamics in matter". In the process, L'Huillier became just the fifth woman to win the Physics Nobel.

"This is a fantastic recognition. All the three have produced some wonderful science which can be very transformative. Another person who made tremendous contributions in this

FOR LIGHT PULSES THAT LAST A QUINTILLIONTH OF A SECOND



ON WEDNESDAY: Nobel Prize in Chemistry **IN 2022:** The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2022 was awarded jointly to Carolyn R Bertozzi, Morten Meldal and K Barry Sharpless 'for development of click chemistry and bioorthogonal chemistry'

field was Paul Corkum, who provided the scientific insight into the experimental data that was being generated by the three winners," said M Krishnamurthy of the Hyderabad centre of Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, who works in a related field.

Attosecond science

To observe any process, the measurement must be made at a pace quicker than the rate

of change. That is how clear images of moving objects are generated: for example, by making the shutter open and close faster than the motion being captured. But there is a limit to how fast the shutter speed can be.

Light pulses, the only plausible tool to capture processes at the atomic level, cannot be made indefinitely shorter. Light consists of waves, or vibrations in the electromagnetic field. The shortest possible pulse would have to

be at least one cycle long, equivalent to its wavelength. For all sorts of light produced by laser systems, this cycle used to take at least a few femtoseconds to complete. This was longer than the sub-atomic motion that was happening in a matter of attoseconds. Scientists were therefore unable to glimpse the motion of electrons with existing technologies.

"Femtosecond pulses had enabled scientists to observe the processes happening at the atomic or molecular level. But when one moves further down, at the sub-atomic level, things start to happen even faster. The dynamics of the electron, for example, are 100 to 1,000 times faster than that of the atom. A lot of that has to do with inertia. The atom is heavier, because of the nucleus, and has greater inertia. Lower the inertia, faster the dynamics," said Sivarama Krishnan, an associate professor at IIT Madras, who uses femtosecond and attosecond light pulses to study the dynamics in nano-scale systems.

Working independently, Agostini, Krausz and L'Huillier developed innovative methods, usually by mixing lights of different wavelengths, to produce attosecond pulses, which, the Nobel Prize committee said, "opens windows... to explore phenomena that were previously impossible to observe".

Watching electron dynamics

It is natural for scientists to try and observe every step of a process, so they can fully understand it. More importantly, it allows scientists to control the process by tweaking the intermediate steps and obtaining desired results.

As Krishnan said, "Scientists are interested not just in watching the film, they would also like to script the next film."

In fact, this is the third Nobel Prize in this field in the last three decades, underscoring the potential benefits of the science. The 1998 Nobel Prize in Chemistry to Egyptian scientist Ahmed Zewail, and the 2018 Nobel Prize for Physics to Gerard Mourou, Donna Strickland and Arthur Ashkin, were for breakthroughs in related science.

Potential uses

Attosecond science has potential applications in a variety of areas, from electronics to medicine, across disciplines in physics, chemistry and biology.

"One of the active areas of research using this technology is in medical science, particularly in finding therapies for cancer care," said Kamal P Singh of IISER Mohali, who too works with femtosecond lasers.

EXPLAINED SCIENCE

SECRET OF DURABILITY OF ANCIENT BUILDINGS AROUND THE WORLD

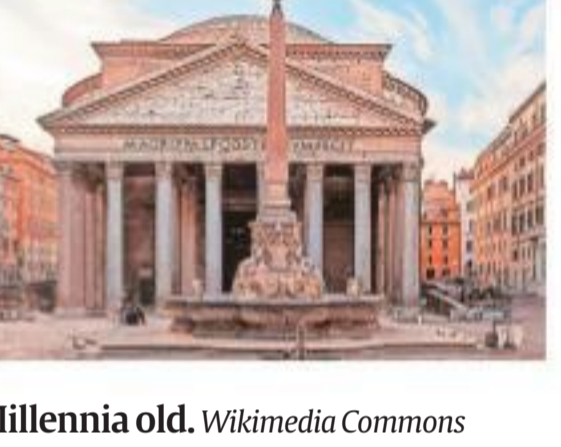
ANCIENT STRUCTURES are still standing thousands of years later, while scores of more recent structures are staring down their expiration dates: the concrete that makes up much of our modern world has a lifespan of around 50 to 100 years. Scientists have been studying materials from long-ago eras — chipping off chunks of buildings, poring over historical texts, mixing up copycat recipes — hoping to uncover how they've held up for millennia.

This reverse engineering has turned up a surprising list of ingredients that were mixed into old buildings — tree bark, volcanic ash, rice, beer, and even urine.

Rome: self-healing concrete

According to records from ancient architects like Vitruvius, builders mixed materials like burnt limestone and volcanic sand with water and gravel, creating chemical reactions to bind everything together. Now, scientists think they've found a key reason why some Roman concrete has held up: the ancient material has an unusual power to repair itself.

In a study published earlier this year, Admir Masic, a civil and environmental engineer at the MIT, proposed that this power comes from chunks of lime studied throughout the Roman material instead of being mixed in evenly. When cracks form, water is able to seep into the concrete, which activates the leftover pockets of lime, sparking up new chemical reactions that can fill in the damaged sections. Marie Jackson, a geologist at the University of Utah, found that the key could be in the specific volcanic materials used by the Romans. This naturally reactive material changes over time as it interacts with the elements, allowing it to seal cracks that develop.



Millennia old. Wikimedia Commons

Mayan sculpture: tree juice

According to a study published earlier this year, the secret to the structures' longevity might lie in the trees that sprout among them. Local masons told researchers about using extracts from local *chukum* and *jote* trees in the lime mix. When researchers tested out the recipe — collecting bark, putting the chunks in water and adding the resulting tree "juice" into the material — they found the resulting plaster was especially durable against physical and chemical damage.

India: depending on climate

In India, builders crafted blends of local materials to produce different properties, said Thirumalini Selvaraj, a civil engineer and professor at Vellore Institute of Technology. According to Selvaraj's research, in humid areas of India, builders used local herbs that help structures deal with moisture. Along the coast, they added jaggery, which can help protect from salt damage. And in areas with higher earthquake risks, they used super-light "floating bricks" made with rice husks. "They know the region, they know the soil condition, they know the climate," Selvaraj said. AP

TELLING NUMBERS

Demand for jobs is falling, employment rate lower than in 2017: what data show

UDIT MISRA
 NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

THE GOVERNMENT of Bihar on Monday released data from a survey of castes in the state that it carried out between mid-April and mid-September this year. The findings of the survey, although not uniquely revelatory, are significant because of the massive political implications of caste, especially as elections to Lok Sabha approach.

The data from the survey could become the basis for new demands for increased quotas for backward classes in government jobs. Caste breakups have not been released since the census of 1931. Even the aggregate numbers are from 2011, when the last census was carried out.

Some caste-disaggregated data on employment and unemployment status over the years are available through the Consumer Pyramids survey of the think tank Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), which covers more than 174,000 households with more than 560,000 members above the age of 15 years.

This is what the CMIE data show on selected employment metrics.

LFPR, UER, ER

The labour force participation rate (LFPR) gives a sense of how many Indians are "demanding" a job. The labour force consists of persons of age 15 or older who are either (i) employed, or (ii) unemployed but willing to work and actively looking for a job. LFPR is expressed as a percentage of the working-age population.

Unemployment Rate (UER) is the number of people in the labour force who are looking for a job but have not found one yet. UER is expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

In India, the UER often underestimates the extent of joblessness because the LFPR itself keeps falling. This happens because many unemployed people who fail to find a job get discouraged and, over time, stop actively looking for one. When these unemployed people leave the labour force, the ratio of the unemployed to the total labour force falls.

In fact, the UER in India is often seen to fall not because more people have got jobs,

TABLE 1
LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE: BY CASTE, ALL INDIA

Year	All castes	Upper castes	Intermediate castes	OBC	SC	ST	Caste not available
2016-17	46.22	42.35	45.5	46.38	48.36	51.51	41.16
2017-18	43.71	40.37	42.61	43.31	46.1	49.96	40.54
2018-19	42.85	40.51	41.77	42.34	45.03	48.18	38.04
2019-20	42.68	40.63	41.77	41.99	44.68	48.73	38.5
2020-21	40.03	38.04	39.44	39.43	41.46	47.09	34.71
2021-22	40.09	37.58	39.57	39.4	41.76	47.95	34.8
2022-23	39.48	37.21	39.09	38.49	41.13	48.35	35.64
Change*	-6.74	-5.14	-6.41	-7.89	-7.23	-3.16	-5.52

TABLE 2
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: BY CASTE, ALL INDIA

Year	All castes	Upper castes	Intermediate castes	OBC	SC	ST	Caste not available
2016-17	7.42	8.62	7.19	7.74	6.54	4.66	16.19
2017-18	4.69	5.68	4.64	4.5	4.29	3.51	11.59
2018-19	6.25	8.31	6.1	5.92	5.63	4.31	10.15
2019-20	7.45	9.83	7.16	7.02	6.94	4.87	12.29
2020-21	8.75	9.47	7.85	8.25	9.98	6.15	12.32
2021-22	7.65	9.24	7.83	7.05	8.04	5.01	11.2
2022-23	7.53	9.09	8.31	7.13	7.36	4.66	13.03
Change*	0.11	0.47	1.12	-0.61	0.82	0	-3.16

TABLE 3
EMPLOYMENT RATE: BY CASTE, ALL INDIA

Year	All castes	Upper castes	Intermediate castes	OBC	SC	ST	Caste not available
2016-17	42.79	38.7	42.23	42.79	45.2	49.12	34.49
2017-18	41.66	38.08	40.63	41.36	44.12	48.21	35.84
2018-19	40.17	37.15	39.22	39.83	42.5	46.11	34.18
2019-20	39.5	36.64	38.78	39.04	41.58	46.35	33.77
2020-21	36.53	34.44	36.34	36.18	37.32	44.2	30.43
2021-22	37.02	34.11	36.47	36.63	38.4	45.55	30.9
2022-23	36.51	33.82	35.84	35.74	38.1	46.09	30.99
Change*	-6.28	-4.88	-6.39	-7.05	-7.1	-3.03	-3.5

* Change (2017 vs 2023). Source: CMIE Consumer Pyramids survey. Intermediate castes refer to Marathas, Jats, Gujjars, and others who often aspire to be included in the OBC category.

but because the LFPR has fallen — that is, more people who failed to get a job and gave up looking.

As such, the best metric to look at is Employment Rate (ER), which simply looks at the number of employed people as a percentage of the working-age population. By not basing itself on LFPR, the ER avoids the problem of a falling LFPR artificially dragging down the unemployment rate.

Caste-wise LFPR

Since 2016-17, LFPR has fallen for every category (Table 1). If one discounts the "caste not available" category, LFPR was the lowest for the so-called "upper" castes — 37.21% — in 2022-23. In other words, the demand for jobs was the lowest among the upper castes.

The biggest fall in LFPR since 2016-17 has been among the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Scheduled Castes (SCs). This means OBCs and SCs have been the worst affected by the negative trend of India's LFPR.

Unemployment rate

The post-pandemic economic recovery notwithstanding, UER (all castes) was, at 7.53%, higher in 2022-23 than six years ago (7.42%). This trend is also visible in all individual caste categories except the OBCs, among whom the unemployment rate has fallen marginally since 2017. (Table 2)

That UERs are higher despite LFPRs falling points to the more worrying trend — that UER is higher even when the proportion of people demanding a job has come down. The fall in the UER for OBCs is seen even as LFPR for them has witnessed the biggest fall (minus 7.89%) among all caste groups.

Employment rate

Table 3 (ER) best captures the combined reality of falling LFPR and high UER for each caste category. ER has fallen for every caste group since 2016-17, the data show. In other words, the proportion of people in the working-age population who are employed has been coming down for every caste.

Again, while the upper castes have the lowest employment rate (36.51% in 2022-23), the biggest fall in ER has been witnessed among the SCs (minus 7.1%) and the OBCs (minus 7.05%).

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What the sections of anti-terror UAPA invoked against NewsClick say

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

THE DELHI Police has sealed the office of news portal NewsClick, alleging it received money for pro-China propaganda. The FIR against the portal invokes the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), the stringent anti-terror law.

Terror charges

The main allegation in the FIR against NewsClick is that the news portal allegedly received illegal funding from China routed through the United States.

It is learnt that the FIR has been registered under various sections of the UAPA.

Among the key provisions invoked is Section 16, which prescribes punishment for terrorist acts.

Section 15 of the UAPA defines "terrorist act" and is punishable with imprisonment for a term of at least five years to life. In case the terrorist act results in death, the punishment is death or imprisonment for life. This is an offence that describes violent acts that are serious in nature.

The provision reads: "Whoever does any act with intent to threaten or likely to threaten the unity, integrity, security, [economic security], or sovereignty of India or with intent to strike terror or likely to strike terror in the people or any section of the people in India or in any foreign country..."



Material confiscated from NewsClick is taken away on Tuesday. PTI

The provision describes the use of "bombs, dynamite or other explosive sub-

stances; causing death or loss/damage/destruction of property; disruption of any supplies or services essential to the life of the community in India; damage to the monetary stability of India by way of production or smuggling or circulation of high quality counterfeit Indian paper currency, coin or of any other material" as terrorist acts.

The other provisions invoked against NewsClick include Section 13 (unlawful activities), 16 (terrorist act), 17 (raising funds for terrorist acts), 18 (conspiracy), and 22 (C) (offences by companies, trusts) of the UAPA, along with IPC sections 153 A (promoting enmity between different group) and 120B (criminal conspiracy).

UAPA framework

UAPA presents an alternative criminal

law framework where the general principles of criminal law are reversed. By relaxing timelines for the state to file chargesheets and its stringent conditions for bail, the UAPA gives the state more powers compared with the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Enacted in 1967, the UAPA was strengthened by the Congress-led UPA government in 2008 and 2012.

The test for denying bail under the UAPA is that the court must be satisfied that a "prima facie" case exists against the accused. In 2019, the SC defined *prima facie* narrowly to mean that the courts must not analyse evidence or circumstances, but look at the "totality of the case" presented by the state. In *NIA v Zahoora Ahmed Watali*, the SC read the bail provisions strictly, holding that courts must only be satisfied that a *prima*

facie case can be made out to deny bail, and not consider the merit or the admissibility of the evidence.

Section 43D(5) reads: "Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code, no person accused of an offence punishable under Chapters IV and VI of this Act shall, if in custody, be released on bail or on his own bond unless the Public Prosecutor has been given an opportunity of being heard on the application for such release."

It adds: "Provided that such accused person shall not be released on bail or on his own bond if the Court, on a perusal of the case diary or the report made under section 173 of the Code is of the opinion that there are reasonable grounds for believing that the accusation against such person is *prima facie* true."

14 THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD



Robin Williams died in 2014

UNITED STATES

Robin Williams' daughter slams his AI recreation

Los Angeles: Hollywood icon Robin Williams' daughter Zella Williams has criticised efforts to replicate her father using artificial intelligence, calling these recreations "Frankensteinian monster" that is personally disturbing. According to Entertainment Weekly, Zella, 34, shared a post on her Instagram Stories over the weekend criticising non-consensual AI replicas of her late father. Oscar winner Robin Williams, known for his work in films such as "Good Will Hunting", and "Awakenings", died in 2014. AP

UNITED STATES

US to get tallest Ambedkar statue abroad

Washington: The tallest statue of the principal architect of India's Constitution, B R Ambedkar, outside India is set to be unveiled in Maryland on October 14, the organisers have said. The 19-foot statue, named "Statue of Equality", is part of the Ambedkar International Centre (AIC) being built on 13-acre land in Accokeek city of Maryland, approximately 35 kms south of Washington. "This is the largest statue of Babasaheb outside India and has been installed as a part of the Ambedkar Memorial being constructed at this centre," said the AIC. AP

PAKISTAN

Naveed Ashraf appointed new Pak Navy chief

Islamabad: Pakistan Navy on Tuesday announced the appointment of Vice Admiral Naveed Ashraf as its new chief amid several security challenges facing the cash-strapped country. Ashraf will replace the Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Amjad Niazi, after his retirement. According to the Pakistan Navy spokesperson, the change of command ceremony will be held on Saturday. AP

MEXICO

Migrants' flow: President flays US sanctions

Mexico City: Mexico's president said Monday that about 10,000 migrants per day are heading to the US border, and he blamed US economic sanctions on countries like Cuba and Venezuela for the influx. President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said the number of migrants reaching Mexico's northern border with the US was partly due to about 6,000 migrants per day crossing into Mexico from Guatemala over the past week. López Obrador seemed to join Colombian President Gustavo Petro in blaming the situation on US sanctions on countries like Venezuela and Cuba, whose citizens make up a large part of migrants. AP



TWO QUAKES RATTLE NEPAL

A collapsed building after 6.2 magnitude earthquake strikes Nepal, in Bajhang on Tuesday. ANI

■ Two earthquakes rocked western Nepal on Tuesday, injuring 17 people, damaging homes and triggering a landslide that blocked a major highway

■ The landslide after the quakes of magnitude 6.3 and 5.3 in the district of Bajhang, bordering India, blocked the road to the southern plains, interior ministry said.

■ The tremors, centred in Talkot and Chainpur, struck at an interval of about 30 minutes. Tremors were felt as far away as the Indian capital of New Delhi,

■ Tremors were also felt at various places in Uttarakhand, including Pauri, Chamoli, Uttarkashi, Haridwar and Pithoragarh. People ran out of their houses in panic.

Pak sets Nov 1 deadline for illegal immigrants to leave country

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ISLAMABAD, OCTOBER 3

PAKISTAN'S CARETAKER government has set November 1 as the deadline for thousands of illegal immigrants to leave the country or face deportation as the government intensified its crackdown against those involved in militancy and smuggling, Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti said on Tuesday.

Speaking at a press briefing after a high-level meeting of the Apex Committee chaired by caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar and attended by Army Chief General Asim Munir among others, Bugti said that soon law enforcement agencies will get directions against the illegal immigrants.

He said that the meeting held at the PM House took the decision to remove illegal residents under the National Action Plan which was devised in 2015 to deal with the threat of militancy.

"We have given them a deadline of November 1 to willingly return to their countries and if they don't, all law enforcement agencies (LEAs) will deport them," Bugti said.

McCarthy calls US House vote on challenge to his leadership

REUTERS WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 3

EMBATTLED US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy on Tuesday teed up a vote on a challenge to his leadership by a fellow Republican, in an intra-party dispute that could plunge Congress into chaos.

McCarthy said the House of Representatives will vote later in the day on a motion by Representative Matt Gaetz, a McCarthy antagonist, that could potentially remove him from his post. If successful, it would be the first time in US history that House lawmakers voted their leader out. "I'm confident I'll hold on,"



Speaker Kevin McCarthy hours before House vote in Washington. Reuters

McCarthy told reporters.

The House will likely take up Gaetz's motion around 1:30 p.m. The chamber could hold a straight up or down vote, or could hold a

vote to sideline it. If McCarthy hangs on to his job, Gaetz could potentially push for another vote. The leadership fight comes just days after Republican infighting took Washington to the brink of a partial government shutdown.

Several Republicans said they were sticking with McCarthy as they emerged from a closed-door meeting in which they said he received multiple standing ovations. "I don't think there's any question that there's only one person prepared to lead our party. That's understood by over 95% of the members," said Republican Representative Darrell Issa.

Gaetz did not speak to reporters after the meeting.

Pay & use FB, Instagram in Europe likely

ASSOCIATED PRESS LONDON, OCTOBER 3

META PLANS to give Facebook and Instagram users in Europe the option of paying for ad-free versions of the social media platforms as a way to comply with the continent's strict data privacy rules, the Wall Street Journal reported Tuesday.

The company wants to charge

users about 10 euros a month to use Instagram or Facebook without ads on desktop browsers, the newspaper reported, citing unnamed people familiar with the proposal. Adding more accounts would cost 6 euros each.

Prices for mobile would be higher, at roughly 13 euros a month, because Meta needs to account for commissions charged by the Apple and Google app stores on in-app payments, the

newspaper said. Meta reportedly is hoping to roll out paid subscriptions in the coming months as a way to comply with European Union data privacy rules that threaten its lucrative business model of showing personalised ads to users.

Meta would give users the choice between continuing to use the platforms with ads or paying for the ad-free version, the WSJ said.

Escaping extradition to India for 'murder' of adopted son, couple back in UK court

ADITI KHANNA LONDON, OCTOBER 3

AN INDIAN-ORIGIN couple from London who escaped extradition to India four years ago on charges of the murder of their adopted 11-year-old son and his brother-in-law in Gujarat are back in a UK court this month facing other criminal charges.

Arti Dhir, 58, and husband Kaval Rajjada, 35, have now been charged by the UK's National

Crime Agency (NCA) with one count of exporting cocaine to Australia and 12 counts of money laundering. Their trial is scheduled to begin at the Southwark Crown Court in London on October 30.

"Arti Dhir and Kavaljitsinh Rajjada have both been charged with one count of exporting cocaine to Australia and 12 counts of money laundering," said an NCA spokesperson.

"We won't be providing commentary or comment while

the case is ongoing, but the trial is due to commence on 30 October at the Southwark Crown Court," the spokesperson said.

India's extradition request for the duo had been turned down by Westminster Magistrates' Court in London in July 2019 on human rights grounds under Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights. Judge Emma Arbuthnot "discharged" Dhir and Rajjada noting that if extradited, they will be subject to an "irreducible sen-

tence" in India.

According to details of the case that emerged in court, the murder allegations against the duo relate to their adopted son Gopal Sejani and his brother-in-law Harsukhbhai Kardani in February 2017 in India.

Gujarat police claimed that the accused had hatched a plot to adopt Gopal and then insure him for around Rs 1.3 crores before staging his kidnapping and murder in India to split the life insurance payout. PTI



CONGRATULATES PRESIDENT-ELECT

Xi: Will deepen Maldives ties

Chinese President Xi Jinping Tuesday pledged to deepen ties with the Maldives as he congratulated President-elect Mohamed Muizzu, whose party campaigned for forging close ties with Beijing.

LINKS TO KURDISH MILITANTS

Turkey detains nearly 1,000 for blast in Ankara

840 firearms confiscated in operation

ASSOCIATED PRESS ANKARA, OCTOBER 3

POLICE DETAINED almost a thousand people in raids across Turkey on Tuesday, including dozens with alleged links to Kurdish militants, days after a suicide bomb attack in the Turkish capital.

Police detained at least 67 people across Turkey on Tuesday in a sweep targeting people with alleged links to Kurdish militants, days after a suicide bomb attack in the Turkish capital. Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said police carried out raids in 16 Turkish provinces, detaining 55 people suspected of being part of the "intelligence structure" of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK. At least 12 others suspected PKK members were rounded up in a separate operation in five provinces, Yerlikaya wrote on X.

Yerlikaya later said that 928 people suspected of holding unlicensed firearms or being connected to firearms smuggling were also arrested during the operation, but he did not immediately make it clear if the suspects arrested for illegal firearms were suspected of connections to the PKK. He added that over 840 firearms were confiscated during

EXPLAINED

E Insurgency lasting for decades

THE PKK has led a decades-long insurgency in Turkey and is considered a terror organisation by the US and the European Union. Tens of thousands of people have died since the start of the conflict in 1984.

the operation.

On Sunday, a suicide bomber detonated an explosive device near an entrance to the Interior Ministry hours before President Recep Tayyip Erdogan was set to address Parliament as it returned from its summer recess. A second would-be bomber was killed in a shootout with police.

Two police officers were slightly wounded in the attack. The suspects arrived at the scene inside a vehicle they seized from a veterinarian in the central Turkish of Kayseri after shooting him in the head, officials said.

The PKK claimed responsibility for the attack, according to a news website close to the group.



Donald Trump at a Manhattan court, in New York. Reuters

Trump turns fraud case trial into a poll campaign stop

ASSOCIATED PRESS NEW YORK, OCTOBER 3

DONALD TRUMP'S court appearances are no longer distractions from his campaign to return to the White House. They are central to it. The dynamic was on full display Monday as the former president and GOP front-runner returned to New York for the opening day of a civil fraud trial accusing him of grossly inflating the value of his businesses. Trump was under no obligation to appear Monday and did not address the court. But he nonetheless seized the opportunity to create a media spectacle that ensured he was back in the spotlight. And he once again portrayed himself as a victim of a politicised justice system — a posture that has helped him emerge as the undisputed leader of the 2024 GOP primary.

The scene was much like the one that has played out over and over since the spring as Trump has reported to courthouses and a lo-

cal jail to be processed in four criminal indictments. Once again, reporters waited in line overnight to snag seats in the courtroom; news helicopters tracked his motorcade journey from Trump Tower to the courthouse in lower Manhattan; and cable networks carried the spectacle live on TV. The appearance demonstrated how deftly Trump has used his legal woes to benefit his campaign.

The former president's Monday appearance gave him a fresh opportunity to file up his base and gin his fundraising with claims that the cases he faces are nothing more than a coordinated attempt to damage his campaign.

"It's a scam, it's a sham," he said. "It's a witch hunt and a disgrace." While some rivals had once thought Trump's long list of legal woes might dissuade Republican voters from choosing him as their nominee, his standing in the GOP primary has only improved since before the indictments and helped him raise millions of dollars.

MILITARY AND CIVILIAN OFFENDERS, PRESSED INTO 'STORM-Z' SQUADS, HAVE BEEN SENT TO FRONTLINES IN UKRAINE

'They're just meat': Russia's punishment battalions, a Stalinist echo

POLINA NIKOLSKAYA & MARIA TSVETKOVA LONDON, OCTOBER 3

DRUNK RECRUITS. Insubordinate soldiers. Convicts. They're among hundreds of military and civilian offenders who've been pressed into Russian penal units known as "Storm-Z" squads and sent to the frontlines in Ukraine this year, according to 13 people with knowledge of the matter, including five fighters in the units.

Few live to tell their tale, the people said. "Storm fighters, they're just meat," said one regular soldier from army unit no.

40318 who was deployed near the fiercely contested city of Bakhmut in eastern Ukraine in May and June. He said he'd given medical treatment to a group of six or seven wounded Storm-Z fighters on the battlefield, disobeying an order from a commander - whose name he didn't know - to leave the men. He claimed that it typified how Storm-Z fighters were considered of lesser value than ordinary troops by officers.

The soldier, who requested anonymity, said he had sympathy for the men's plight: "If the commanders catch anyone with the smell of alcohol on their breath, then they immediately send them



A Storm-Z squad protest treatment by commanders. Reuters

to the Storm squads."

When contacted by Reuters, an officer at unit no. 40318 declined to comment on Storm-Z and ended the call. The Kremlin referred Reuters questions to the Russian defence ministry, which didn't respond to a request for comment.

Russian state-controlled media has reported that Storm-Z squads exist, that they took part in intense battles and some of their members received medals for bravery, but it has not disclosed how they are formed.

Like the soldier from unit no. 40318, the 13 people interviewed - who also include four relatives

of Storm-Z members as well as three soldiers in regular units who interacted with the squads - all requested anonymity. Reuters verified the identities of all the fighters involved using criminal records, social media accounts, or by speaking to their fellow servicemen and their families.

The penal squads, each about 100-150 strong and embedded within regular army units, have typically been sent to the most exposed parts of the front and often sustain heavy losses, according to Reuters interviews with the people. Three of the five Storm-Z fighters and the relatives of three other Storm-Z fighters, described



Armenian lawmakers attend the session of the National Assembly in Yerevan on Tuesday. AP

Armenia House votes to join ICC, straining ties with ally Russia

ASSOCIATED PRESS YEREVAN, OCTOBER 3

ARMENIA'S PARLIAMENT voted Tuesday to join the International Criminal Court, a move that further strains the country's ties with its old ally Russia after the court issued an arrest warrant for President Vladimir Putin over events in Ukraine.

Moscow last month called Yerevan's effort to join the ICC an "unfriendly step," and the Russian Foreign Ministry summoned Armenia's ambassador.

Countries that have signed and ratified the Rome Statute that created the ICC are bound to arrest Putin, who was indicted for war crimes connected to the deportation of children from Ukraine, if he sets foot on their soil.

Officials have argued the move has nothing to do with Russia and was prompted by Azerbaijan's aggression against the country. Lawmakers voted to ratify the Rome Statute by a vote of 60-22.

UK visa fee hike comes into effect this week

ADITI KHANNA LONDON, OCTOBER 3

A PROPOSED visa fee hike announced by the British government will become effective from Wednesday, when a visit visa for under six months will cost GBP 15 more and student visas will be GBP 127 more expensive for travellers from around the world, including Indians.

Following the legislation tabled in Parliament last month, the UK Home Office said the changes mean that the cost for a visit visa for less than six months will rise to GBP 115 and the fee for applying for a student visa from outside the UK will rise to GBP 490 - to equal the amount charged for in-country applications.

"It is right and fair to increase visa application fees so we can fund vital public services and allow wider funding to contribute to public sector pay," a Home Office spokesperson said.

It comes after British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak had announced in July that the fees and health surcharge paid towards the UK's state-funded National Health Service (NHS) by visa applicants are set to rise "significantly" to meet the country's public sector wage increase. The Home Office indicated a 15 per cent increase in the cost of most work and visit visas, and an increase of at least 20 per cent in the cost of priority visas, study visas and certificates of sponsorship.

"Income from fees charged plays a vital role in the Home Office's ability to run a sustainable immigration.

15 ECONOMY

SENSEX: 65,512.10 ▼ 316.31 (0.48%) NIFTY: 19,528.75 ▼ 109.55 (0.56%) NIKKEI: 31,237.94 ▼ 521.94 HANG SENG: 17,331.22 ▼ 478.44 FTSE: 7,491.76 ▼ 18.96 DAX: 15,115.25 ▼ 131.96

GOLD	USD RATE	OIL	SILVER
₹57,550	₹83.21	\$93.46	₹71,500

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of October 2

International market data till 1900 IST

SECTOR WATCH TAXATION

E-gaming cos look to absorb GST through cashbacks, bonuses

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

EVEN AS the industry deals with the fallout of the new goods and service tax (GST), online gaming companies have come up with a new idea to avoid losing customers – by absorbing the GST deduction and compensating users for it for at least the next two to three years.

The move comes after amended legal provisions and rules for online gaming, horse racing and casinos kicked in from October 1, bringing into effect the 28 per cent tax at face value at entry level under the GST regime.

Fearing that passing on the GST deduction on deposits to their wallets could result in a loss of customers, many online gaming companies have decided to foot the bill for “as long as possible”, a senior gaming company executive told *The Indian Express*.

“The bigger ones may be able to absorb the GST costs for around three years, some of the smaller ones may be able to do so for two years. But many of the upcoming companies will not be able to do this and as a result may shut down,” another senior executive said, requesting anonymity.

Dream11, the most popular fantasy app, has started offering users ‘discount points’ to offset the cost of the GST deduction. If a user adds Rs 100 to their account, they will receive Rs 78.12 as the deposit amount (after accounting for the 28 per cent GST deduction of Rs 21.88), but the exact deduction will be offered to the user by Dream11 as part of discount points. In effect, this means that if Dream11 was not absorbing the GST hit, a user’s balance on the deposit of Rs 100 would have shown Rs 78.12. So, basically, Dream11 is paying the remainder Rs 21.88 to keep the total balance at Rs 100 so that the user does not have to pay additionally to take the balance to that amount.

However, in Dream11’s case, 22 per cent of the amount used to join contests will be deducted from a user’s discount points balance after all other available discounts are applied at the time of join-

ON OFFER

DREAM11: Dream 11, the most popular fantasy app, has started offering users ‘discount points’ to offset the cost of the GST deduction

WINZO: WinZO is offering users a “bonus” ranging from Rs 10-Rs 50 depending on the amount a user deposits in their account

MOBILE PREMIER LEAGUE: Mobile Premier League is also giving a cashback to users which is exactly the amount of the GST deduction

ing contests. Discount Points will be valid for 90 days from the date of credit.

Mobile Premier League (MPL), which also offers a fantasy platform along with other games on its app is also giving a cashback to users which is exactly the amount of the GST deduction. This paper added Rs 50 to an MPL wallet, and Rs 10.93 was deducted from it as GST charges, but MPL credited the wallet with Rs 10.93 to keep the original deposit of Rs 50 intact.

WinZO, which aggregates different online games such as Poker, Ludo and Rummy on a single platform, is offering users a “bonus” ranging from Rs 10-Rs 50 depending on the amount a user deposits in their account. For every Rs 100 deposited, WinZO is offering a bonus of Rs 50.

As the amended GST rules came into force, concerns about compliance and the applicability of the amended legal provisions have been raised as some states are still in the process of clearing the amendments for their respective State GST (SGST) laws.

On Saturday, in a letter written by All India Gaming Federation to the Ministry of Finance, a copy of which has been seen by this paper, online gaming companies have asked the government to reconsider the amendments, citing the fact that around 15 states are yet to make changes to their respective GST statutes.

EXPORTS TO EUROPE BECAME RELATIVELY MORE LUCRATIVE

India’s Sept diesel exports to Europe highest so far in ’23

SUKALP SHARMA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

INDIA’S DIESEL exports to Europe in September were at their highest in 2023 as lower supplies to the continent from West Asia and the United States (US) due to the autumn refinery maintenance season amid strong European demand appeared to have created an arbitrage opportunity for Indian suppliers, shows an analysis of data provided by energy cargo tracker Vortexa.

India’s diesel exports to Europe in September were at around 333,000 barrels per day (bpd), up nearly 47 per cent from August export volumes, and 57 per cent higher on a year-on-year basis, according to Vortexa data.

In the January-August period, India’s diesel exports to Europe averaged at around 215,000 bpd. India’s export-oriented private sector refiners Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) and Nayara Energy Ltd (NEL) accounted for almost all of diesel exports to Europe in September, the data shows.

“The East-West diesel arb (arbitrage) has re-opened after months of being shut. Tighter supplies from the Middle East and the US in lieu of autumn refinery maintenance, coupled with robust demand in Europe are the key drivers behind this,” said Serena Huang, Head of Asia-Pacific Analysis at Vortexa.

Diesel cracks, or margins, in the international markets have been strong over the past few months due to supply tightness. According to trade sources, diesel exports to Asian hubs like Singapore were more profitable for Indian refiners for a few



Fuel exports from India may be subdued as a few Indian refineries are undertaking maintenance shutdowns. Reuters

months preceding September due to relatively lower freight costs vis-à-vis Europe.

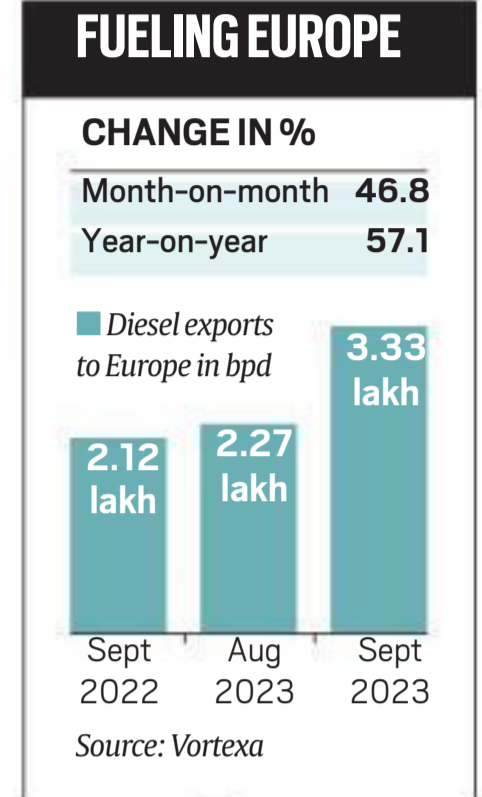
However, with the difference between Asian and European diesel prices having expanded considerably, exports to Europe became relatively more lucrative. This is understood to have been precipitated by falling supplies from West Asia and the US, as well as lower fuel production within Europe, as a number of refinery units enter the maintenance period in the three regions even as the continent’s diesel demand remains robust.

Although India—the world’s third-largest consumer of crude oil—depends on imports to meet over 85 per cent of its oil requirement, the country is a net exporter of petroleum products thanks to its refining capacity of over 250 million tonnes per annum, or 5 million bpd, which is higher than its domestic demand. As a large refining hub that has ramped up purchases of discounted Russian

oil following Moscow’s February 2022 invasion of Ukraine, India now finds itself playing an increasingly prominent role in the global crude oil and refined products supply map.

Going ahead, while diesel cracks continue to be strong with the recent fuel export ban announced by Russia adding to an already tight market, fuel exports from India may be subdued for a month or two as a few Indian refineries, including some units at RIL’s giant Jamnagar facility, are undertaking maintenance shutdowns. Also, India’s domestic fuel consumption is expected to pick up as the October-December festival season usually sees strong fuel demand, which is likely to be prioritised over exports by Indian refiners, according to industry watchers. Between June and September, fuel demand in India usually dips due to the monsoon rains.

In a surprise announcement on September 21, Russia, the



world’s second-largest exporter of diesel, announced a temporary ban on diesel and petrol exports in a bid to ease runaway fuel prices within Russia due to fuel shortage in some regions. Although analysts expect the ban to be short-lived, Moscow has so far not commented on how long it plans to continue with the curbs.

While Europe’s Russian diesel imports have declined significantly since the war in Ukraine broke out, Russia’s fuel export ban could still push up European diesel cracks. This is because a lot of the Russian diesel was being exported to countries like Turkey and Saudi Arabia, which in turn were able to redirect their own diesel production to Europe. With Russian diesel exports on hold, Turkey and Saudi Arabia might be forced to curb exports to Europe. Similarly, some of the diesel supplies to Europe from the US could potentially be diverted to Brazil—another major buyer of Russian diesel.

Indian economy likely to grow at 6.3% in FY24: World Bank

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

THE INDIAN economy is estimated to grow at 6.3 per cent in the current financial year 2023-24, showing resilience despite elevated inflation and global headwinds, the World Bank said in its India Development Update released Tuesday. Though the growth estimate by the Bank has been retained from its earlier update in April, it is 20 basis points lower than the 6.5 per cent growth estimate both by the government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for FY24.

The World Bank, however, raised the inflation forecast for FY24 to 5.9 per cent from 5.2 per cent in its April update, citing risks from the monsoon deficiency and its evolving impact on prices, El Niño phenomena, and global supply chain disruptions. With inflation expected to remain sticky, the Monetary Policy Committee of the RBI, which will begin its meeting from Wednesday, is expected to keep the repo rate unchanged.

“While the spike in headline inflation may temporarily constrain consumption, we project a moderation. Overall conditions will remain conducive for private investment,” Dhruv Sharma, Senior Economist, World Bank and the lead author of the report, said.

Adverse weather conditions contributed to a spike in inflation in recent months, with headline inflation rising to 7.8 per cent in July due to a surge in prices of food items like wheat and rice. Inflation is expected to decrease gradually as food prices normalise and government measures increase the supply of key commodities, the Bank said.

Global headwinds will continue to persist and intensify due to high global interest rates, geopolitical tensions, and sluggish global demand. As a result, global economic growth is also set to slow down over the medium term, the report said.

“An adverse global environment will continue to pose challenges in the short term...tapping public spending that crowds in more private investments will create more favourable conditions for India to seize global opportunities in the future and thus achieve higher growth,” World Bank’s Country Director in India Augustine Tano Kouamé said.

On the fiscal deficit side, the World Bank India said India may see a “surprise on the upside” in its fiscal deficit target of 5.9 per cent of the GDP in this financial year, supported by revenue mobilisation and buoyancy in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections.

When asked if a fiscal impact could be seen due to the elections, Kouamé said he sees “almost zero risk” of fiscal slippages and the Indian government is moving in the right direction with respect to the fiscal deficit target. “We are not building into our forecasts a lot of volatility in fiscal policy due to the elections. We are not envisaging a relaxation of the government’s stated fiscal consolidation path...states have to maintain their fiscal deficit at less than 3 per cent. These dole outs, if they happen, will happen at the state level. And the fact that states have to maintain their deficit below 3 per cent (of the GSDP), will constrain those risks. So, personally, I see almost zero risk of fiscal slippages overall in India this time due to the elections,” he said.

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India’s corporate credit rating upgrades moderate in H1 FY24

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 3

CORPORATE INDIA’S credit profile continued to remain strong in the April-September 2023 but the number of rating upgrades declined during the first six months, according to rating agencies.

The number of corporates that witnessed credit rating upgrades in H1 of FY24 outnumbered those who faced downgrades, they said.

According to Crisil Ratings, the credit ratio—the proportion of rating upgrades to downgrades—moderated in the first half of this fiscal to 1.91 from 2.19 in the second half of last fiscal. A ratio above 1 means upgrades outnumbering downgrades. The rating agency upgraded 443 corporates while downgraded 232 companies.

The first-half upgrade rate dipped marginally to 12.7 per cent compared with 13.46 per cent in the preceding half, Crisil said. However, it continues to be above the decadal average of around 10 per cent.

The upgrades were driven by an expected expansion in cash flows this fiscal for sectors linked to domestic demand and for those benefiting from high government spending. These sectors, such as infrastructure, services and con-

sumables, kept the overall upgrade rate elevated, the rating agency said.

Crisil said the overall downgrade rate, meanwhile, rose to 6.65 per cent (6.14 per cent in the previous half), inching closer to the average of nearly 7 per cent for the past decade.

“The downgrade rate was seen inching up for export-oriented sectors as well, even as strong balance sheets somewhat cushioned the impact of heightened risks overseas,” the rating agency said.

Icra Ratings said in H1 FY24, both the investment grade as well as the non-investment grade categories showed a net improvement in their credit profiles, even as the pace of improvement moderated in comparison with the previous two fiscals.

While the upgrade rate of the investment grade ratings moderated to 15 per cent (annualised) in H1 FY2024, printing below the past 10-year average of 16 per cent, against a high of 21 per cent in FY2022, the downgrade rate at 6 per cent (annualised) remained well below the 10-year average of 8 per cent, it said.

Six sectors, that constitute 37 per cent of Icra’s rated portfolio, accounted for almost half of the total instances of upgrades in H1 FY2024—hospitality, auto com-

Manufacturing PMI slows in September

Mumbai: India’s manufacturing activity eased to a five-month low in September as new orders moderated, impacting the production growth.

The seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers’ Index (PMI) eased to 57.5 last month from 58.6 in August. Although the lowest for five months the reading remained firmly above the no-change mark of 50 and its long-run average (53.9), signalling a sharp rate of expansion. **ENS**

ponents, realty, power, roads, and financials.

In April-September, India Ratings and Research upgraded ratings of 146 issuers, representing 17 per cent of the reviewed portfolio.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

SANCTIONING LOANS

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman handed over sanction letters under various government schemes during the Credit Outreach Programme in Coimbatore. @nsitharamanoffc

IL&FS repays ₹35,650 cr of its ₹99K-cr dues till Sep

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 3

INFRASTRUCTURE LEASING & Financial Services (IL&FS) on Tuesday said it repaid around Rs 35,650 crore of its aggregate debt as of September 30, 2023.

The repayment has been made through monetization of assets, auto debits by banks and debt repayment (including interim distribution) across entities, IL&FS said in a press release.

This amount is part of the Rs 57,000 crore debt addressed by the group so far out of the total debt of over Rs 99,000 crore as of October 2018.

The group has completed an aggregate payment of around Rs 10,000 crore by way of interim distribution across 14 companies – including two vertical holding companies – IL&FS Transportation Networks (ITNL) and IL&FS Financial Services (IFIN) – and the group holding company (IL&FS Ltd).

It initiated pay-outs to eligible creditors under the interim distribution framework in three companies – IL&FS Ltd, IFIN and ITNL – totalling to over Rs 2,400 crore in September 2023. This is in addition to nearly Rs 7,600 crore already paid to creditors across 12 group companies under the approved interim distribution framework in the last one year.

The group said it has also completed debt payment of Rs 2,150 crore to senior secured

creditors in IL&FS Tamil Nadu Power Company Ltd (ITPCL) on September 30. This disbursement reduces the outstanding debt of the company by over Rs 1,900 crore. Some of the banks that have been paid this amount include – Punjab National Bank, Bank of India, and Union Bank.

The company is in an advanced stage of securing approval from a few other financial creditors for disbursing additional Rs 300 crore towards this obligation, the release said.

LIC receives ₹84 cr penalty order from I-T

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 3

STATE-RUN Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) on Tuesday said it has received an order from Income Tax authority demanding a penalty of Rs 84 crore. The penalty relates to assessment year 2012-13, 2018-19 and 2019-20, LIC said in an exchange filing. The insurer said it will file an appeal before the appellate authority.

Separately, general insurance player Bajaj Allianz General Insurance (BAGIC) has received a Rs 1,010 crore show cause cum demand notice from the Directorate General of GST Intelligence, Pune.

The alleged demand and the impugned show-cause cum demand notice pertains to non-payment of GST (goods and services tax) on the co-insurance premium and on re-insurance commission accepted during July 2017 and March 2022, Bajaj Finserv said in an exchange filing.

The show cause cum demand notice refers to the two matters that are industry wide issues and based on the advice of its tax advisors, the company said.

The general insurer will be filing appropriate responses to the show cause cum demand notice.

SEBI announces system to report demise of investor

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 3

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Tuesday announced a centralised mechanism for reporting and verification through the KYC Registration Agency in the case of the demise of an investor.

The regulator has put in place operational norms, including the obligations of regulated entities and registered intermediaries that have interfaces with investors or account holders. The new framework will come into effect from January 1, 2024, SEBI said in a circular. SEBI said that listed companies wishing to provide beneficial access to such a mechanism to their investors holding securities in physical form can establish con-

nectivity with KRA through their RTAs.

After receiving intimation about the demise, the concerned intermediary will have to obtain the death certificate along with the PAN from the notifier or nominee and verify the death certificate. If the concerned intermediary is not in a position to obtain the certificate, it will have to inform the nominee that the KYC status of the deceased has been flagged off as “On Hold” and require them to furnish the death certificate.

After verification, the concerned intermediary will have to submit a KYC modification request to the KRA and also upload the relevant documents. Besides, the intermediary will have to block all debit transactions in the account or folios of the deceased investor.

India is the world’s third-

Puri urges OPEC to be pragmatic, make crude affordable

SUKALP SHARMA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

HIGHLIGHTING the rise in crude oil prices due to production cuts by major oil producers and its adverse impact on major oil consuming nations, Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Tuesday urged oil producers’ cartel OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) to “imbue a sense of pragmatism, balance and affordability in the oil markets”.

According to an official statement, Puri held talks with OPEC Secretary General Haitham Al-Ghais in Abu Dhabi and called for “balancing global energy markets by ensuring that crude oil prices do not outstrip the paying ability of the consuming countries”.

largest consumer of crude oil and depends on imports to meet over 85 per cent of its requirement. Given the country’s extremely high import dependency, India’s economy is sensitive to oil price volatility. Apart from inflationary pressures, high oil prices could have implications for India’s trade balance, foreign exchange reserves, the rupee, and the over-



Oil prices have been volatile for some time now, but the general direction has been upward. File

which could in turn hit global oil demand.

“During the discussions, the minister highlighted that due to the production cuts carried out by OPEC and OPEC+ countries from August 2022 onwards, effectively around 5% of the total global oil availability has been removed from the market, causing crude oil price to rise around 34% in just (the) last 3 months. These cuts have been made despite growing energy demand. Brent Crude oil prices jumped from around \$72/bbl in June to around \$97/bbl in September 2023, placing severe strains on the capacities of most oil importing consuming countries,” the petroleum ministry said in the statement.

“Minister wondered whether the global economy is again going to witness a situation similar to the economic turmoil of 2008

which had become a self-fulfilling prophecy. Brent prices had initially soared from \$93.60/bbl in January 2008 to \$134.3/bbl in July 2008, fueling an accelerated global economic meltdown, leading eventually to demand destruction and very low oil prices,” it added.

Oil prices have been volatile for some time now, but the general direction over the past three months has been upward. The rise in prices is due to a combination of some inter-dependent factors, which include production cuts by major oil producing countries, signs of improved macroeconomic conditions and easing of inflation in major oil consumers like the US, and global oil demand touching record highs with expectations of further demand expansion.

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Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Army No.-13999878L, HAV/ORASwami Satyendra Narayan, Unit-Command Hospital, Lucknow R/o Village Hari Nagar Gali No.-4, TaliSilwai, Namkum, Ranchi, Jharkhand-835103 declare that in my service Records my wife's Names wrongllymentioned as KUMARI SONI. Her correct names SONI NARAYAN for all future purposes. 0060106353-1

I, Shiv Dhan Singh Chauhan S/o Lakan Singh Chauhan R/o 95 LG, Barra-2, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh 208027 have changed my name to Shiv Dan Singh Chauhan for all the future purposes. 0070859616-1

I, Poonam Rani W/o Raj Kumar R/o E-90, Ji Colony, Madipur, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110063 have changed my name to Poonam permanently 0040691938-8 0070866610-1

It is for general information that I, MANOJ KUMAR S/o BHAGAT RAM, R/O A-1, Guru Nanak Road, Kewal Park Extension, Shanjar Pur, North West Delhi-110033, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as MANOJ BANSAL in my minor daughter KAASHWI BANSAL aged 13 years in her school record. The actual name of mine is MANOJ KUMAR, which may be amended accordingly. 0070866706-1

It is for general information that I, Abdul Sattar S/o Meer Hasan R/o 80, Fatehpur Pelo, Fatehpur Pulo, Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh-247129, declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as Ameer Ahmed in my Passport No-P 3754374. The actual name of my father is Meer Hasan, which may be amended accordingly. 0070866705-1

It is General Information that I, RAM KUMAR KANOJIA, S/O LATE CHOTEY LAL, R/O-26, Devi Prasad Sadan, Halley-Line, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001, declare that name of mine and my wife has been wrongly written as RAM KANOJIA and MINAKSHI KANOJIA in my minor son age school-record. That actual name of mine are RAM KUMAR KANOJIA and my-wife MEENAKSHI KANOJIA respectively, which may be amended accordingly. 0040691933-10

I, YASMEEN BANO, W/O MOHD AFZAL, R/O R-300/A, JOGABAI-EXT JAMIANAGAR OKHLA NEW DELHI-110025, IN MY PASSPORT MY PARENTS NAME WRONGLY-MENTION MAQBOL HUSSAIN AND HAFIZUN NISHA CORRECT-NAME ARE MAQBOL HUSAIN AND HAFIJUNNISHA. 0040691939-7

I, VARINDER KUMAR GUPTA, S/O, BALBIR SHARN GUPTA, ADD-E-137, FIRST-FLOOR, PREET-VIHAR DELHI-110092. Changed my name to VIRENDER KUMAR GUPTA, for all, future purposes. 0040691935-11

I, Urvshi Geru W/o Saroj Kumar Geru R/o Flat-03, Block-B, Sustain White, Sector-45, Noida (U.P.) have changed my name to Urvashi Geru for all purposes. 0040691869-1

I, Tenzing Thoesam, S/o Lhakpa Dhondup, R/o P/2-575, Tashiling Tibetan Settlement PO Jarli-Colony, Pandoh, Mandi, Himachal-Pradesh, have changed my name, from Tenzing Thoesam to Tenzin Thoesam, for all purposes. 0040691939-6

I, TARVINDER SINGH, S/O CHHABIL SINGH AHUJA, R/O-8/22, 2ND AND 3RD FLOOR, EAST PATEL-NAGAR, PATEL-NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110008, have changed my name to TARVINDER SINGH AHUJA, for all, future purposes. 0040691938-2

I, TAN VEER ASHRAFS, S/O ASHRAF ALI, R/O- C-1/93 YAMUNA-VIHAR GARHI MENDU DELHI-110053, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO TANVIR ASHRAF. 0040691933-1

I, Surendra Kumar, S/o Bakshi Ram Malhotra R/o 7-B, DDA Flats, Pocket-B, West Gorakhpark, Shahdara, Delhi-32, have changed my name to Surender Malhotra. 0040691932-3

I, Suheet Nath, father of Rivaan Nath R/O-C-488, 1st-floor Defence Colony, New Delhi-110024, have changed my Minor Son name, from Rivaan Nath to Rivan Nath, for all future purposes. 0040691932-1

I, Simran D/o Late Omkar Singh Dogra, W/o Rajesh Kumar Singh, R/O, H.No.476, Ground Floor, Sector-17A, Gurugram(HR.)-122001, have changed my name to Beenu Dogra. 0040691933-7

I, Shubham, S/o Ashok Kumar, R/o H.No. 2064, 1st Floor, Sector-4, Gurgaon (Haryana), have changed my name to Shubham Garg. 0040691933-6

I, Satish Sharma, S/o Laxman Dass Sharma R/o 502, EH-2, Eldeco Utopia, Sector-93A, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201304, Have Changed The Name-Of My Minor-Son, From Samrtha To Samrth Sharma, For All Purposes. 0040691933-5

I, Narendra Saini, s/o Rishi Pal Saini, R/o Q-550, Plot-8 Pocket-14 Jalvayu-Vihar Greater Noida (U.P.) 201306, have changed my name to Narendra Saini, for all purposes. 0040691938-7

I, Sanjay Kumar, S/o Sh. Dalip Singh, R/o H.No-98, Sector-5, Part-3, Gurugram, Haryana, have changed my daughter's name, from Kanishka to Kanishka Joon, for all, future purposes. 0040691932-7

I, SUDESH SIKRI, S/O MADAN LAL SIKRI R/O 280, DOUBLE STORY, BHARAT NAGAR, ASHOK-VIHAR, DELHI-110052, have changed my name to SUDESH PAL SIKRI. 0040691933-3

I, SONAM W/O GHARENDR, R/O -KH.NO-80/7, GALLI-NO-14 VASHIT ENCLAVE BURARI DELHI-110084, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SONAM DEVI. 0040691933-4

I, SHUBHAM, S/O VIRENDER GOSWAMI, R/O A-270-F NEAR-SAMRAT CHOWK SECTOR-11, VIJAY-NAGAR GHAZIABAD, U.P.-201009, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHUBHAM GOSWAMI, FOR ALL, FUTURE PURPOSES. 0040691938-3

I, SHUBHAM, S/O VIRENDER GOSWAMI, R/O A-270-F NEAR-SAMRAT CHOWK SECTOR-11, VIJAY NAGAR GHAZIABAD UTTAR PRADESH-201009, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHUBHAM GOSWAMI, FOR ALL, FUTURE PURPOSES. 0040691935-6

I, SHISHPAL, S/O GHISA RAM, R/O TC-976, BLOCK-B, TRANSIT CAMP, ANAND PARBAT, NEW DELHI-110005, have changed my name to SHISHPAL BHATT. 0040691938-6

I, SARTHAK, S/O RAKESH CHUTTANI, ADD-CU-5A USHA PARK, HARI NAGAR, SOUTH WEST-DELHI-110064. Changed my name to SARTHAK CHUTTANI, for all, future purposes. 0040691939-4

I, Roselet Parakkal Jose, W/o Baiju P John, R/o Aark Residency, Flat.no-18, 2nd Floor, Plot.no-121, Bamnoli-Village-Dwarka, Sector-28, New-Delhi-110077, have changed my name to Roselet Jose. 0040691938-4

I, Rakesh S/o Hari Gyan, R/O-B-59, Pocket-00, Amarpal, Sector-1, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Rakesh Jangra. 0040691935-3

I, Rajesh Kumar Pruthi, S/o Ashok Kumar, R/o H.No.507, Maharathi Colony, Jawala-Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi, have changed my name to Rajesh Kumar. 0040691946-2

I, RUBENA W/O-TANVIR ASHRAF R/O-C-1/93 YAMUNA VIHAR GARHI MENDU DELHI-110053, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RUBEENA PARWEEN. 0040691933-2

I, RAM SRI, W/O KALU RAM, R/O, H.NO. 27, PARVATIYA CAMP, SECTOR-4, R.K.PURAM, NEW DELHI-110022, changed my name to RAM SARI. 0040691939-7

I, RAKESH KUMAR, S/O, HARBANS LAL BINDLISH, ADD-E-196, GREATER KAILASH PART-II, SOUTH, DELHI-110048, changed my name to RAKESH BINDLISH, for all future purposes. 0040691935-7

I, RAJESH KUMAR, S/O MADHAV DAS, R/O G-29, 2/3 SECTOR-03 AVANTIKA-ROHINI DELHI-110085, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAJESH ANANDANI. 0040691932-4

I, RAHUL KUMAR JHA, S/O SHRI RANJIT JHA, ADD-E423 HARINAGAR PART2 JAIPUR BADARPUR, SOUTH-DELHI 110018, Have Changed My Name to RAHUL JHA, for all, future purposes. 0040691935-8

I, RADHIKA DEVI, W/o Ashok Kumar Jha, R/o-199, Main-Road, Firani-Wala, Village-Bakoli Delhi-110036, declare that name of mine and my husband has been wrongly written as RADHA and ASHOK NAND in my minor daughter ROSHNI age-14, years in her school records, the actual name of mine and my husband are RADHIKA DEVI and ASHOK KUMAR JHA. 0040691939-8

I, Parvinder Singh Matta, S/o Amar Singh Matta, R/o Flat No.1602, Tower-6, RPS Savana, Sector-88, Faridabad have changed my name to Parvinder Singh. 0040691946-1

I, POONAM, W/O DEPAL SINGH, ADD-RZ-10C, SECOND-FLOOR, RAVI-NAGAR EXTN, KHYALA, TILAK-NAGAR WEST-DELHI 110018, changed my name to POONAMPREET KAUR, for all, future purposes. 0040691935-9

I, MEHBOOB S/O AZAD BEG, R/O, H.No.60, Thakur Dwara Baghatpud (UP)-250609, have changed my name to AZAD BEG, for all, future purposes. 0070866687-1

I, MEHBOOB S/O AZAD BEG, R/O, H.No.60, Thakur Dwara Baghatpud (UP)-250609, have changed my name to MEHBOOB KHAN, for all, future purposes. 0040691933-8

I, AMARJIT KAUR BAKSHI W/O SAURABH KUMAR R/O BI-39C SHALIMAR BAGH DELHI-110088, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO AMARJEET KAUR. 0040691932-6

I, ANIL JAIN S/O SHRIKRISHAN JAIN R/o-30/85A STREET.No-7, VISHWAS NAGAR SHAHDARA, DELHI-110032, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ANIL KUMAR JAIN. 0040691938-7

I, MANDEEP S/O-SANJAY KUMAR SEHWAL, R/O-261 NEAR HOLY CHOWK BAKKARWALA DELHI-110041, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MANDEEP SEHWAL. 0040691856-2

I, MALVIKA GUPTA W/O-SANJEEV AGARWAL R/O-C-28, POCKET-P-7, CIVIL SERVICE-OFFICERS, WELFARE-SOCIETY GREATER-NOIDA, GAUTAMBUDDH-NAGAR U.P.-201306, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MALVIKA GUPTA. 0040691933-3

I, Kurtaj S/o Nasrudin, R/o H.No.81, Nijampur, Taoru, Mewat Nuh-122105, have changed my name to Kurtaj Mohammad, for All Purposes. 0070866660-1

I, Kartar Singh, S/o Gangra Ram, R/o C-1229 J, colony Tigri, Delhi-110062, have changed name to Kartar, for all, future purposes. 0070866676-1

I, Srinivas Venkataraman, S/o Mr.-R.V.Raman, R/O-Flat.No.B-405, Shree Balaji C.G.H.S. Ltd, Plot-No.37, Sector-6, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075, I, have Changed my name from Venkat Raman Srinivas to Srinivas Venkataraman, for all future purposes 0040691856-3

I, INDIRA CHAWLA W/O LATE JAGDISH CHAWLA, R/O 1290 Sec-15 PART-2 GURUGRAM-122001, Have Changed my NAME TO INDIRA CHAWLA. 0040691939-9

I, Gurudev, S/o Jeevan Singh, R/o Ward.No.2, Gurudwara Mohalla, Sohna, Gurugram(HR.)-122103, have changed my name to Gurdev Singh. 0040691935-2

I, Faisal Majeed Awan, S/O Abdul Majeed, R/O 2836/6, Rehman Building, Bulbuli Khana, Bazar Sita-Ram Delhi-110006, have changed my name to FAISAL AWAN, permanently. 0040691946-4

I, Sunil Kumar S/o Harkishan, R/o 749 Jain Gali Tali-Mandi Ward-17, Hodal Palwal (Haryana), have changed my name to Sunil Garg. 0040691935-5

I, Dharambir, S/O Satya Prakash, R/o-572 Chauhan Mohalla Madanpur-Khadar Sarita Vihar, New Delhi-110076, have changed my name to Dharm Bir, for all purposes. 0040691939-3

I, Deepika, W/o-Shri Gaurav Singh, R/o-7, Upper Ground Floor, Ganesh Nagar-2, Chaudhary Dairy, Shakarpur, East Delhi, Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Babita Singh for all purposes. 0040691939-2

I, DEVI RAJESH, wife of, Rajesh K S Presently residing at Kochuveedu, Thazam North, Chathanoor(P.O.), Kollam-691572, have changed my name from DEVI RAJESH to DEVI VIJAYAN. Vide affidavit dated-30.09.2023. 0040691938-10

I, DEPAL SINGH DEVGUN, S/O, RAJENDER SINGH, ADD-RZ-10C, SECOND-FLOOR, RAVI NAGAR EXTN, KHYALA, TILAK-NAGAR, WEST DELHI-110018, changed my name to DEPAL SINGH, for all, future purposes. 0040691935-10

I, Chirantan Garg S/O Himanshu Shekhar born on 11-05-1970 R/O of Flat 232, Tower-2, ATS Village, Sector 93A, Noida, UP-201301 have changed my name to Chirantan wide affidavit dated 06-09-2023 at Noida. 0070866626-1

I, Poonam Kanwar alias Poonam Wadhawan D/O Surender Kumar Wadhawan, W/O Vijay Kumar Relia R/O D-71, Panchsheel Enclave, Delhi-110017, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Poonam Wadhawan Relia 0070866620-1

I, Pinky Behl, W/o Deepak Wahal, R/o H.No.-144-A, Near Gyan Park, Ram Nagar extension-4, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051 have changed my name to Parveen Wahal for all future purposes 0070866695-1

I, Pankaj Jain S/O Nemi Chand Jain, R/O House no-A-20, Near Metro Depto Wall, Aali Ekra Village, Sarita Vihar, South Delhi-110076, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Pankaj Nemichand Jain. 0070866623-1

I, Nilam Nayyar W/o Surendra Nayar, R/O B-33 Greater Kailash Part-1 New Delhi-110048 have changed my name to Neelam Nayyar for all purposes. 0040691965-1

I, Narendra Saini s/o Rishi Pal Saini, R/O Q-550 Plot-8, Pocket-14, Jalvayu-Vihar Greater Noida (U.P.) 201306, have changed my name to Narendra Saini, for all purposes. 0040691932-9

I, Naem Ahmed, S/o Mohd. Ibrahim R/O B-176, Sec-20, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P.I have changed my name Naem Ahmad To Naem Ahmad for all future purposes. 0070866668-1

I, hitherto known as KAMINI D/O TEJ PAL SINGH R/O 1211, ADARSH COLONY, ARTHALA, MOHAN NAGAR, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-201007 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known 0040691936-1

I, hitherto known as KAMINI D/O TEJ PAL SINGH R/O 1211, ADARSH COLONY, ARTHALA, MOHAN NAGAR, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-201007 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known 0070866687-1

I, Kumkum, W/O Ashwani Kumar Employ as Sr CMO(HAG), Ministry Of Health and Family Welfare R/O 4157, Sector-D, Pocket-4, Vasant Kunj, South West Delhi-110070, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Kumkum Sharma 0070866643-1

I, Tarvinder Kaur W/o Mahinder Singh, R/O A-29, Vishal-Enclave Rajouri Garden, Delhi-110027, have changed my name to Tavinder Kaur, Permanently. 0040691856-2

I, Sunil S/o Ramprath R/o-95/46A Village-Jagat Pur Extn, Near-Hanuman Chowk, Delhi-110084 have changed my name to Sunil Kumar, Permanently. 0040691856-1

I, Sudhir Baranwat S/o Kfshina Nand Baranwat R/O B-1009, 10th-Floor, Star Rameshwaram, Raj Nagar Extension, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Sudhir K Baranwat. 0070866622-1

I, Sudheer Yadav S/o Mohan Yadav R/O Meerpur, Meerpur Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh-275204 have changed my name to Aayush Yadav 0070866676-1

I, Srinivas Venkataraman, S/o Mr.-R.V.Raman, R/O-Flat.No.B-405, Shree Balaji C.G.H.S. Ltd, Plot-No.37, Sector-6, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075, I, have Changed my name from Venkat Raman Srinivas to Srinivas Venkataraman, for all future purposes 0040691856-3

I, Shamina W/o Mohd Babu Khan, R/o A-363/485, Gali-No.3/5, Chauhan-Bangar, Delhi-110053 Have changed my name to Sameena Begum. 0040691899-1

I, Seema W/o Late Mahesh Rathee R/o House No-150, Main Road, Village Nilothi, Nangloj Jat, West Delhi, Delhi-110041 have changed my minor Daughter's name from Kefiya aged 14 years to Kefiya Rathee forever 0070866696-1

I, Savita dagar W/o Munish Kumar R/o H.No.88, Sahipur Village, Shalimar Bagh, North West Delhi Delhi-110088, have changed my name to Savita for all future Purposes. 0070866657-1

I, Sampada, W/o Vikas Kumar, R/O F31, First Floor, Vipul World, F-Block, Sector-48, Gurgaon-122018 (Haryana) have changed the name of my Minor Child aged 8 yrs from Aadya to Aadya Hooda. 0070866680-1

I, Sam Woon Chung S/O Ming Yearn Chung R/O-1203, Aditya Mega City, Indirapuram, Vaibhav Khand, Ghaziabad-201014 (U.P.), have changed my name to Sam Chung for all future purposes. 0070866617-1

I, Sajid Usmani S/o Mohammad Ikbali Usmani R/O B-176, Sector-20, Noida G.B. Nagar, U.P.-201301 have changed my name to Mohammad Sajid Usmani for all future purposes. 0040691923-1

I, Sadaf W/o Junaid Hussain, Z-2/549, Imambara Street, Welcome-Seelampur, Delhi-110053 Have changed my name to Sadaf Hussain. 0040691899-2

I, Pragya W/o Mr. Ram Vallabh Singh R/O B-105, Parsvnaht Platinum, Swarn Nagri, Greater Noida, G.B.Nagar, have changed my name from Pragya to Pragya Berwal Singh for all future purposes. 0070866626-1

I, Chirantan Garg S/O Himanshu Shekhar born on 11-05-1970 R/O of Flat 232, Tower-2, ATS Village, Sector 93A, Noida, UP-201301 have changed my name to Chirantan wide affidavit dated 06-09-2023 at Noida. 0070866626-1

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I, Nilam Nayyar W/o Surendra Nayar, R/O B-33 Greater Kailash Part-1 New Delhi-110048 have changed my name to Neelam Nayyar for all purposes. 0040691965-1

I, Narendra Saini s/o Rishi Pal Saini, R/O Q-550 Plot-8, Pocket-14, Jalvayu-Vihar Greater Noida (U.P.) 201306, have changed my name to Narendra Saini, for all purposes. 0040691932-9

I, Naem Ahmed, S/o Mohd. Ibrahim R/O B-176, Sec-20, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P.I have changed my name Naem Ahmad To Naem Ahmad for all future purposes. 0070866668-1

I, hitherto known as KAMINI D/O TEJ PAL SINGH R/O 1211, ADARSH COLONY, ARTHALA, MOHAN NAGAR, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-201007 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known 0040691936-1

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I, Kumkum, W/O Ashwani Kumar Employ as Sr CMO(HAG), Ministry Of Health and Family Welfare R/O 4157, Sector-D, Pocket-4, Vasant Kunj, South West Delhi-110070, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Kumkum Sharma 0070866643-1

I, Kumari Jyoti Singh D/o Jai Prakash Singh R/O Flat- FF03, Tower-10A, Palm Valley, Sector-1, Greater Noida West, UP-201306 have changed my name to JYOTI SINGH for all future purposes. 0070866659-1

I, Jaskirat Singh Makkar S/o Gurmeet Singh Makkar R/o C-84, FF, Hari Nagar, Clock Tower, Delhi-110064 have changed my name to JASKIRAT SINGH 0040691868-2

I, Jagriti Sharma D/o Shri Narender Sharma R/o H-50B, H-Block, Shakarpur, Delhi-92 have changed my name from Jagriti Sharma to Jagriti Sharma for all purpose in 0070866658-1

I, Jafar Mirza S/O Zahir Mirza, R/O JG-2/243, Vikas Puri, Delhi-110018, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Zafar Mirza. 0070866622-1

I, Hashmeet Kaur Thukral, W/o Harpreet Singh, R/o 118-B DDA MIG Flats Rajouri Garden, New Delhi, Delhi-110027, have changed my name from Hashmeet Kaur Thukral to Hashmeet Kaur for all future purposes and both are same persons. 0070866703-1

I, Harpreet Singh Thukral, S/o Balbir Singh, R/o 118-B DDA MIG Flats Rajouri Garden, New Delhi, Delhi-110027, have changed my name from Harpreet Singh Thukral to Harpreet Singh for all future purposes and both are same persons. 0070866699-1

I, Harivansh S/O Jagan Nath Khatri R/O G-42 Kiran Garden Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-59 have changed my name to Harivansh Khatri. 0070866621-1

I, Gurmeet Singh S/o Labh Singh R/o C-84, FF, Hari Nagar, Clock Tower, Delhi-110064 have changed my name to GURMEET SINGH MAKKAR 0040691868-1

I, Gori Shankar Sharma S/O Chotey Lal Sharma R/O Flat No.4, Triveni Apartment, A-6, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110063, have changed my name to Gauri Shankar Sharma s/o Chhote Lal Sharma. 0040691881-1

I, Ex No-9089275N, Naik Javaid Ahmad Laway, R/O-Hanad Chawainag, Tehsil/District-Kulgam states. That in my service records names and D o B of my children's has been wrongly mentioned son as Shakib Javaid Laway D o B 24-03-1999 instead of Saqib Javaid Laway D o B-12-12-2000 and daughter as Shareena Javaid D o B-05-06-2002 Instead of Sahreena Javaid D o B-19-06-2006 as in Matriculation certificates. It needs corrections. Objections be filled to Zila Sainik welfare office Srinagar within seven days from the date of publication. 0020465580-1

I, Dharmender Kumar, S/o Suresh Chand Sharma, R/o K-122, Gali No.3, Gautam Vihar, Garhi Mendu, North East Delhi, Delhi-110053, have changed the name of my minor daughter KOMAL aged 17 years and she shall hereafter be known as KOMAL SHARMA. 0040691867-1

I, Ashok Kumar Pruthi S/o Amrik Lal, R/O 1/18/B, Block-A, Arjun-Nagar, Delhi have changed my name to Ashok Kumar. 0040691946-3

I, Devendra Singh S/o Generaj Singh R/O C-26, Surya Nagar, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201011, have changed my name to Devendra Kumar Singh for all purposes. 0070866614-1

I, Devendra Kumar Singh S/o Generaj Singh R/O C-26, Surya Nagar, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201011, have changed my daughter name from Anika to Anika Singh. 0070866615-1

I, DINA ARORA, D/o Sunil Kumar Arora, W/o Rohan Kharbanda, R/O 56/17, U.G.F. Old Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi-110060, have changed my name after marriage to DINA KHARBANDA for all future purposes. 0040691865-1

I, Chirag Kathuria S/o Krishan Lal R/O 595 2nd Floor, West Paramanand Colony, Dr. Mukherjee Nager, Model Town, North West, Delhi-110009, have changed my minor Daughter's name from Priyal aged 7 years to Priyal Kathuria forever 0070866631-1

I, Bina Basnett D/o Mr. Purna Bahadur Chettri (Basnett) R/O 216-A/5B, Gautam Nagar, Near Father Agnel School, New Delhi-110049, permanent R/O Om Shanti Niwas, Lower Marchak, NH-10 (Old NH 31A), Near Petrol Pump, Ranipool, East Sikkim-737135, have changed my name to Shanthi Basnett for all purposes. 0040691859-1

I, Baljit Sarup S/O Gurudev Sarup, R/O H no-141, Ground Floor, KH no-61, Village Rajpur Khurd, South Delhi-110068. I have changed the name of my minor daughter Bahrhoor aged about 8 years and she shall hereafter be known as Bahrhoor Sarup 0070866646-1

I, Anjali W/o Vipul Gugnani R/O Flat no 224 Bank Vihar Apartments Plot 16 Sector-22 Dwarka New Delhi-110077 have changed my name to Anjali Magu 0070866627-1

I, Army No.15704357M, Rank:-L Hav, Name:-VENKATA REDDY PANDUGULA, father of, SUTEKSHANA REDDY PANDUGULA Presently, residing at, H.No.2-100-B, Kottur Colony, Mohalla:-Kottur-Colony, V.P.O. Pasupugallu, Tehsil Telegraphoff, P.S. Mundlamuru, Distt. Prakasam, Andhra Pradesh-523265, have changed my minor daughter's name, from SUTEKSHANA REDDY PANDUGULA to PANDUGULA SUTEKSHANA REDDY, for all, future purposes. 0040691946-9

I, Army No.15704357M, Rank:-L Hav, Name:- VENKATAREDDY PANDUGULA, son of, Late Chinassubba Reddy, Presently, residing at, H.No.2-100-B, Kottur-Colony, Mohalla:-Kottur-Colony, V.P.O.Pasupugallu, Tehsil Telegraphoff, P.S. Mundlamuru, Distt. Prakasam, Andhra Pradesh-523265, have changed my name, from VENKATAREDDY PANDUGULA to VENKATA REDDY PANDUGULA, for all future purposes. 0040691946-10

I, Anup Kumar Tiwari S/o Mukti Narayan Tiwari R/O French Apartments, Flat 702, Tower H, G. Noida West, Sec 16B, 201301. I have changed my name to Anup Kumar Tiw



SELF-MADE CAPTAIN

‘Whatever I have created today, it’s because of myself ... I didn’t expect anything from anyone’

Growing up in hardship has helped Rohit Sharma appreciate the highs in life without forgetting where he came from. As he prepares to lead India at the World Cup, he tells **SRIRAM VEERA** and **DEVENDRA PANDEY** how he shields himself from the social media noise, focusing on bonds with teammates

ROHIT SHARMA is about 11 years old, staring angrily at a group of boys. Behind him, a couple of his teammates have fled. Rohit hears their panicked departure, but stands his ground, still angry at the opponents for brazenly cheating during their cricket game.

“I remember saying it isn’t fair what you guys did.” Outnumbered, he was whacked. “At that time, I would do a lot of *maara-maari* over this and that.” But he was “scared” to go home with a bruised face. “What will my uncles and grandparents say?”

Next day, one of his uncles went head-hunting. “He got hold of each one of them, and we gave it back!” Rohit laughs now. “It was important to let everyone know that you can’t cheat and fight like that *na, bhail!*”

Rohit is just days away from his greatest challenge of leading India in a World Cup at home but even back then, the stakes were high, he says with a chuckle. “There was a lot of prize money on offer in those colony games. Cycles, cash prizes, bouquets - and other stuff. As a kid, you wanted to get those things, but fairly. You can’t cheat, and you have to fight those who do.”

Laughter fills his hotel suite, again. It’s a fairly large living room, with an adjoining bedroom. A young waiter comes with coffee, and Rohit senses the nervousness, and indulges in easy banter with him. Smiles all around.

Suddenly, the mood would shift. Sitting in a corner on a chair near the window, he turns his gaze to the part of the room near the front door. He points out a small rectangular area, and says, “You know, that was our room. 10-11 of us used to sleep. The grandfather on the bed, me, uncles, aunts, grandmother on the floor. That corner,” he points out, though in his mind’s eye he is pointing towards the Mumbai home he lived in three decades back.

“I would curl up. I had a thing, I had to touch someone or something with my leg. I would sleep towards the wall, my leg touching it. Else, I can’t sleep,” he smiles gently. In a small claustrophobic space, the kid wasn’t reaching out for a private free area, but a physical touch.

There is no mention of his parents on those nights as they weren’t there. Financial crunch had hit the family, and the grandfather, the unquestioned respected voice of a leader, had stepped in to tell his son, Rohit’s father, to keep Rohit’s brother with them. “He felt it would be easier financially for my parents to take care of just one. He was a baby.”

Not that Rohit was much older. Not even 3, then. And so, Rohit moved in with his grandparents, into the multitude of people. “Six *chachas*, uncles, and two aunts.”

Dadaji had said, “Rohit *ko idhar chhod de, aur chhote wale ko leke ja apne sath* (leave Rohit with us and take the little one with you). That’s how I stayed in Borivali while my parents and brother stayed in Dombivli (50 kms away). In some 100-odd square feet house, we used to stay, eight of us.”

Sachin Tendulkar was around 12 when he voluntarily, on the advice of his coach Ramakant Achrekar and parents, moved out of his home to live with his aunt to pursue his love for cricket. Rohit didn’t have a choice. Sensing the story was heading towards scenes filled with a maudlin background score or dark silence, Rohit quickly adds with a smile, “My uncles, aunts and my grandparents were wonderful loving people; so that was there!”

He seamlessly switches to the present and life in his 5500 square-foot sea-facing Worli flat where he lives with his wife and daughter.

“Still, as a father now, I can understand the pain and sacrifice. I can imagine it now, how tough it would have been for my parents to leave me then. Being the first child also, they had to take that decision and it was forced. It was not that my mother and father wanted to do this. My grandfather was the boss, he had nine children!”

Laughter floats again. “Financially we were not that sound. It was not like whatever we wanted, we will get it. When my grandfather said something, it was done; he had that kind of respect. It was probably a sensible decision by him, thinking about the future.”

Like taking hard decisions to leave out a few players from the World Cup team? “Ha ha! Well, quite different, but not easy either. But when the thought behind it is clear, for the sake of the team, it has to be done. I contact those who were not picked. It is very important that players know *ki bhai kya chal raha hai* (what is the thought behind the decision). Why is anyone dropped? Players do get upset and it’s valid too. I too have gone through the same thing. My agenda is to get the best from the team, however, we can. I’m not the only one who decides which player I want. It is a collective decision.”

Rohit is a 4 am friend to many of his teammates. His one-time colleague, medium



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

“Gautam Gambhir, Virender Sehwag, Yuvraj Singh ... they never captained India. That’s life. I got it now and I am grateful for it.”

Not many individuals have played a part in my journey, whatever I have created today, it’s because of myself

There is no point in doing *showbaazi*, it’s not in my nature. I’m still not socially comfortable ... I struggle with small talk

pacer Praveen Kumar would call when troubled, irrespective of the time of the day. Pacer Munaf Patel would rave about Rohit’s earthiness. A shy smile curls around his lips when these conversations are quoted. He shrugs as if to say there is nothing to talk about.

“There is no point in doing *showbaazi*, it’s not in my nature. People around me, friends around me whom I have grown up with, have kept reminding me where I have come from. We just live normal lives. Why will I change and why should I change? I’m still not socially comfortable actually because I feel awkward. I am very poor at socialising. I get very uncomfortable at these events, struggling with small talk. I have a bunch of friends who are connected to me because I have connected with them, they have connected to me. Quality matters to me. People who are genuine, who are true, I connect somehow and feel quite comfortable in that atmosphere.”

Suddenly, he opens up. “I have seen those days so I know nothing in life comes easy, I have to work hard. Whatever I’m today is because of the hardship I have gone through. When you get things easily, you don’t understand its importance. The way I grew up, I think, was a great help. I had to make every opportunity count because my past was always in my mind. I know what I had gone through, and didn’t want to be in the same place again. God has given me a great opportunity to make the most of it.”

Much has been said about his natural talent. For a while, when he wasn’t grading up

smoothly in the international arena, it was used as a taunt, but in the developmental years, it must have been a different feeling, knowing what one possessed. “Let me put it this way: I knew that *game toh hai*, and it did give me confidence to reach the place I wanted to. But I wasn’t that confident that I would be successful because I had the game. There have been many who played for a few years and were all gone. But we see so many examples of players who are less talented but make it. Anything is possible if you have the mind right and if you believe what god has given you and can make something out of it.”

The mind went back to the 2012 tour of Australia and to one particular moment beside the India nets. It was the image of Rohit kicking the ground in frustration pre-game and walking away, on his own, in a bubble of discontent. He wasn’t getting the chances then. He had already missed the World Cup that India had won. Things

seemed on a brink; one wrong move either out of self-pity or anger could have dragged him right back to those Borivali nights. “I myself realised what I had to do. Honestly, not many individuals have played a part in my journey,” Rohit says, with an inverted gaze. “Whatever I have created today, it’s because of myself, of course there has been support from my family and friends, everybody. I realised I had to make all this talent etc count. Else, it’s a meaningless word. It’s not like someone has called me and said ‘boss, do this!’ And why will anyone do it? I didn’t expect anything from anyone.”

“Now if I see someone in any situation, I try to use my example. I first ask myself, does this person need any help from me? If I feel so, I offer. When going through rough or bad times, I generally wouldn’t take any advice that came my way at that age, I would welcome that thought though. The tough times I saw when I wasn’t picked for the World Cup and then there were a couple of bad tours that followed. I figured that it’s just my battle and I shouldn’t be expecting that anyone would come and help me. That I need to figure it out on my own. That I have to create my own path from my own struggle. That trait was inbuilt: figure out a way out of any problem, don’t go looking for people to help you.”

He plunged into creating that path. “Rather than sulking in my room, I have to make sure that my captain, coach, selectors think that we need this guy; he will do something for the team. So I started to think on those lines. Many times, the reasons are something different. The team wants to go with some different combination and probably you don’t fit in that combination. I want to do things to ensure the captain should not ignore me ... Being the captain now, I understand that I cannot please everyone.”

Neither can he change their obsessions: like social media. He smiles before saying, “It’s the time we live in. The new generation is more on reel, *Instagram*, different social media; they all are into it.”

But he says he can’t change the others. That would amount to forcing his opinion on them. “I don’t run people’s lives, if people love it, they love it. Social media these days is fake. I saw someone on the team bus in the morning saying, *ki dekha ki nahi, isne yeh bola, usne yeh bola*. (Saw this? He said this, that). They discuss it.”

Since he has become India captain, especially this year, Rohit says he has de-cluttered his social life even further. “You see my phone, you can check it, I don’t have *Twitter* or *Instagram* on my phone for the past nine months. If we have to do any commercial post, my wife handles it. These are distractions, they all are on the phone the whole day. It’s a waste of time and energy. So I have decided not to have it on my phone because if it’s there, I will watch it.”

For someone who overhauled his game on his own, course-corrected, and has become India captain, Rohit has a couple of regrets. That his cricket-crazy grandfather never saw him as a professional cricketer.

“Unfortunately he passed away in 1996 when I just started playing for the Borivali Club. My grandmother at least saw me playing for Mumbai in the Ranji Trophy. She passed away the day we won the Ranji Trophy in 2006 in my first season. I really wished she could see and touch the actual Ranji Trophy ... A few months later, I got selected for India. I always wanted one of them to see me getting an India cap. Unfortunately, both were not there but I’m sure they will be happy. They gave so much of their life to create my life.”

He certainly has created quite a life. It’s to his captaincy philosophy that the chat returns. “The way I think about it is that as a captain, you are not the most important person; the other 10 are. That is my philosophy because eventually you have to get the best out of the other 10.”

That can involve hard and frank talks too. “Of course, I am ready to do that. You have to. I do feel that sometimes you have to get out of your comfort zone and have those hard talks. It is part of this job. The captaincy job is not just on the field or to walk with a paper for the toss.”

“But I like to manage the off-and-on-field differently. Captaincy is on the field. Once inside the hotel, I’m not going to people’s rooms and talking to them. They have their own privacy. Whatever conversation I like to have, it is at the ground, during training, matches and such.”

This World Cup is most probably his last throw of the dice at an ICC event in his brief tenure as India captain. A tournament where reputations are made and broken. 2011 lives on, 1983 still glows, 2007 rankles. What would it be in 2023? Will his hands wrap that trophy?

“I don’t have an answer for it. How can I say that now? All I can hope is that the team is in a good space. Everybody is fit and fine. That’s all I can hope for. I cannot say beyond this. Good space is such an important factor and it’s a very key thing now.”

For a boy who, for years, needed a physical touch as an assurance to sleep, it has been a remarkable dreamy rise, but with his greatest challenge of the World Cup upon him, have sleepless nights returned?

“I’m not a person who overthinks too much. Yes, we have not won an ICC trophy in the last 10 years, but I’m not going to overthink that and put myself in a tough place where I’m not able to make a decision.”

Then, a lovely smile lights up his face as he says: “Sleep is my favourite thing, be it any situation or position.”

MEDALS TALLY				
Country	G	S	B	Total
1 China	161	90	46	297
2 Japan	33	47	50	130
3 South Korea	32	42	65	139
4 India	15	26	28	69
5 Uzbekistan	14	15	21	50
6 Chinese Taipei	12	10	18	40
7 Thailand	10	11	19	40

INDIA'S DAY 10 HAUL:

2 GOLD
ATHLETICS
Women's 5000m: Parul Chaudhary
Women's javelin: Annu Rani

2 SILVER
ATHLETICS
Men's decathlon: Tejaswin Shankar
Men's 800m: Mohammed Afsal

5 BRONZE
ATHLETICS
Women's 400m hurdles: Vithya Ramraj
Men's triple jump: Praveen Chitravel
BOXING
Women's 54kg: Preeti Dahiya
Men's +92kg: Narender Berwal
CANOE SPRINT
Men's double 1000m: Arjun Singh, Sunil Singh Salam

ASIAD CAPSULE

Javelin: Pakistan's Nadeem pulls out due to injury

It could just be a cakewalk for Neeraj Chopra as his nearest competitor and world silver medalist Arshad Nadeem has pulled out of the Games due to a chronic knee injury which has troubled him for some time now. Chopra has won every competition against Nadeem, nine in all, including the 2018 Asian Games, where the Pakistani was third when the Indian stood on top of the podium. PTI

Boxing: Lovlina books ticket to Paris Olympics

World champion Lovlina Borgohain (75kg) locked an Olympic quota for herself by moving into the final at the Asian Games on Tuesday. Borgohain, the Tokyo Olympic bronze medalist, cleverly managed her bout against Asian Championship silver medalist Baison Manikon of Thailand to win by an unanimous 5-0 decision and remain in the hunt for a gold medal in the continental showpiece. PTI

Chess: Indian men held by Iran, women rout Mongolia

The top-seeded Indian men's team was held to a 2-2 draw by Iran in the fifth round. In women's team event, India crushed Mongolia 4-0 in round five with Koneru Humpy and R Vaishali leading the way. The men's team came up against leaders Iran and saw its top player D Gukesh go down to Parham Maghsoudloo, while R Praggnanandhaa beat Seyed Tabatabaei. Both the men's and women's teams are in second spot with eight Match Points each. PTI

Squash: India assured of 3 medals as pairs reach semis

Sourav Ghosal was dominant in his men's singles victory, while the mixed doubles pairs were also equally facile in their waltz to the semifinals of the squash competition, assuring India of three medals in the Asian Games here on Tuesday. Veteran Ghosal was in his elements while scoring 11-5, 12-10, 11-3 win over Japan's Ryunosuke Tsukue, while the mixed doubles team of Anahat Singh and Abhay Singh defeated Yang Yeonsoo and Dongjun Lee. PTI



In the final 50 metres, India's Parul Chaudhary found the 'kick' to surge past Japan's Ririka Hironaka and win gold in the 5000 metres. PTI/Reuters/AP



EXPRESS AT ASIAN GAMES

MIHIR VASAVDA
HANGZHOU, OCTOBER 3

COLLECTIVELY, THEY propelled India closer to her best-ever finish at the Asian Games. Individually, the two gold medalists – Parul Chaudhary and Annu Rani – were driven by their deep-lying motivations and frustrations.

One was fired up by the prospect of finally landing a government job, the other was consumed by the guilt of 'wasting' the government's money, slipped into depression as a consequence and nearly quit.

On a nippy night when India collected half a dozen medals from track and field to take the overall tally to 69, including 15 gold, the two Indian women – both from Meerut – savoured their moments of redemption.

When she came prancing out of the bend, Parul had the gold medal within her sights – and the UP Police on her mind.

After running 12 gruelling laps on the 400m track and entering the final 100m stretch, the long-distance runner saw the tape, looked at the Japanese runner in front of her and, in that split-second, in that moment of heat, thought about the prospect of a government job.

Or to be specific, the position of a Deputy Superintendent of Police under the sports quota.

"Hamari police he aisi hai ki gold medal lekar aayenge toh DSP bana denge (Our Police is such that if I got a gold medal, they'll make me a DSP)," the Meerut resident, currently with the Railways, said with a laugh. "In the last 50m, I was thinking that my government would give me a nice job. DySP is good."

But the last 50m was when the lung-busting race sprang to life. Until then, it had been a slow-burning battle of attrition. And Parul, who finished the race in 15 minutes, 14.75 seconds to finish on the top of the podium, aced the tactical race.

Bouncing back

After sleeping for just three hours the previous night, the daughter of a modest farmer who used to run barefoot as a teenager returns home with two medals, having also won a silver medal in a punishing steeplechase run the night before.

"I was tired after that race and barely could sleep the whole night," Parul said. "But since I wasn't able to win the gold medal, I wanted to win the 5,000m race anyhow."

Her American coach Scott Simmons, who oversees India's long-distance running programme, was conscious about the uphill na-

Gold standard

Parul Chaudhary wins 5000m title with a brilliant finish while Annu Rani puts behind a poor season to top the women's javelin throw



"Hamari police he aisi hai ki gold medal lekar aayenge toh DSP bana denge (Our Police is such that if I got a gold medal, they'll make me a DSP). In the last 50m, I was thinking that my government would give me a nice job. DySP is good."

PARUL CHAUDHARY

ture of Parul's ambitions. "It was a really good field, (and had) several women with better personal bests than she has," Simmons said.

Japan's Ririka Hironaka was one of them. The pre-race favourite's best time of 14 minutes, 52.84 seconds was almost 18 seconds quicker than Parul's and purely going by the



While a job in UP Police motivated Parul Chaudhary, the guilt of 'wasting' government money drove Annu Rani to javelin gold. PTI

personal bests, the Indian was the fifth-best runner in the field.

And for large parts – nearly three miles of the race – this reflected in the positions on the track. Ririka set the pace, followed by her compatriot Yuma Yamamoto, Kazakhstan's Caroline Chipkoech, and the other Indian in the fray, Ankita.

But Parul was never too far behind. Simmons had set her a target of completing one lap in 74 seconds to stay in the medal hunt.

When he glanced at his stopwatch mid-

With silver and national record, Tejaswin emerges allrounder

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
OCTOBER 3

WHEN TEJASWIN Shankar announced a switch to decathlon despite being the national record holder in the high jump event, eyebrows were raised and questions murmured. But on Tuesday, at the Hangzhou Asian Games, the 24-year-old won the silver medal in the men's decathlon event and broke the national record in the process as well.

Shankar's NR beating effort came on the back of three personal bests in the Men's 100m event (11.12s) as well as the discus (39.28m) and pole vault (4.10) events. He also had two season bests – 2.21m in his pet event, the high jump and the shotput event where his best throw was 13.39m. He ended the event cheering eventual winner Sun Qihao on to the finish line and posed with all the decathlon runners in a group photo, just as he had in a moment that went viral, at the Interstate Athletics tournament in Bhubaneswar.

A pre-cursor to how Shankar would fare and feel in Hangzhou, came in Bhubaneswar itself at the decathlon event where he qual-



India's Tejaswin Shankar congratulates China's Sun Qihao at the end of the 1,500 metres. Reuters

ified for the Asian Games. Hot, humid and energy sapping weather in Odisha's capital he managed three personal bests then and it all came together in the final 1500m race where his pragmatism to run a smart race overcame the desire to charge forward and get a better time.

BATTLE BETWEEN TEJASWIN AND SUN

EVENT	SUN QIHAO	TEJASWIN SHANKAR
100m	11.23s, 810 pts, Pos. 7th	11.12s, 834 pts, Pos. 4
Long Jump	7.26m 876 pts, Pos. 4	7.37m, 903 pts, Pos. 1
Shot Put	15.15m, 799 pts, Pos. 1	13.39m, 691 pts, Pos. 5
High jump	1.97m, 776 pts, Pos. 2	2.21m, 1002 pts, Pos. 1
400m:	51.45s, 749 pts, Pos. 2	49.67s, 830 pts, Pos. 1
110m hurdles:	14.76s, 879 pts, Pos. 2	14.78s, 876 pts, Pos. 1
Discus Throw:	42.85m, 723 pts, Pos. 2	39.28, 650 pts, Pos. 1
Pole Vault:	5m, 910 pts, Pos. 1	4.10m, 645 pts, Pos. 2
Javelin throw:	64.41m, 804 pts, Pos. 1	51.17m, 606 pts, Pos. 2
1500m:	5:12.15, 490 pts, Pos. 1	4:48.32, 629 pts, Pos. 2
Total	7816 pts	7666 pts

Yesterday on the second day of the decathlon in Hangzhou, something similar happened where he knew that holding onto the silver with a controlled run in the 1500m was a smarter option than going all out in search of gold, a herculean task in itself after he couldn't better his javelin personal best

of 52.32m, while eventual gold medalist China's Sun Qihao landed a PB of 64.41m in the event.

"I was very happy with my performance. Ab atleast maine itna decathlon nahi kiya hai ki aap mujhse puchoge ki 8,000 points kab todoge. Woh sabh question abhi Neeraj tak

rahe toh theek hai. (I have not done enough decathlon's to be asked when I will touch 8,000 points. Ask questions to Neeraj Chopra.) I've been throwing 50m in javelin in the last three decathlons so all of you should talk to him about it," joked Shankar about his performance.

"Overall, I was expecting more. But considering my physicality today and how I was struggling right after the shotput because of a cramp in my hamstring, it was all about managing and making sure I finished the decathlon rather than worry about the score. Kudos to the Chinese athlete for his performance in the pole vault and later in the javelin today. It had become very difficult to win gold so opted to secure silver instead," he added.

Shankar's been threatening that national record from the moment he debuted in the sport in the Bid 12 Championships in Texas last May when he scored 7,592 points. It was after the end of the Commonwealth Games that he talked about taking up decathlon till the Asian Games and then make a return to high jump. The 'detour' – if a silver medal at the Asiad can be called that – is working well for Tejaswin.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE | INDIA WATCH FOR DAY 11

ATHLETICS: NEERAJ CHOPRA IN ACTION

Neeraj Chopra is the reigning champion and will be looking to cap off another memorable season by defending his title. And reportedly, Arshad Nadeem from Pakistan won't be around to challenge him.

35 KM RACEWALK (MIXED RELAY):

RAM BABOO & MANJU RANI – FINAL – 04:30 AM
MEN'S HIGH JUMP FINAL:
SARVESH ANIL KUSHARE & JESSE SANDESH – 4:30 PM

MEN'S JAVELIN THROW FINAL:

NEERAJ CHOPRA & KISHORE KUMAR JENA – 4:35 PM

WOMEN'S TRIPLE JUMP FINAL:

SHEENA NELLICKAL – 4:40 PM

WOMEN'S 800M FINAL:

KM CHANDA & HARMILAN BAINS – 4:55 PM

MEN'S 5000M FINAL:

AVINASH SABLE & GULVEER SINGH – 5:10 PM

WOMEN'S 4X400M RELAY FINAL:

5:45 PM
MEN'S 4X400M RELAY FINAL:

6:05 PM

BADMINTON:

PV SINDHU, SRIKANTH KIDAMBI, HS PRANNOY, SATWIK-CHIRAG AND CO WILL BE LOOKING TO GET ONE STEP CLOSER TO THE PODIUM AS THE MATCHES GET TOUGHER TOO.

WOMEN'S SINGLES R16:

PV SINDHU – 7:30 AM

MEN'S SINGLES R16:

HS PRANNOY – 7:50 AM

WOMEN'S DOUBLES R16:

TREESA/GAYATRI – 8:10 AM

MIXED DOUBLES R16:

TANISHA/SAI – 8:30 AM

MEN'S DOUBLES R16:

SATWIK/CHIRAG – 9:10 AM

MEN'S SINGLES R16:

SRIKANTH KIDAMBI – 10:10 AM

WOMEN'S DOUBLES R16:

TANISHA/ASHWINI – 10:30 AM

NEERAJ SET TO FINISH SEASON ON A HIGH

Neeraj Chopra takes centre stage, Lovlina Borgohain in final, shuttlers and archers look to impress again



SQUASH:
MIXED DOUBLES SEMIFINAL: HARINDER & DIPIKA – 09:30 AM
MIXED DOUBLES SEMIFINAL: ABHAY & ANAHAT – 10:30 AM
MEN'S SINGLES SEMIFINAL: SAURAV GHOSAL – 3:30 PM

ARCHERY:

(MEDAL MATCHES LATER IN THE DAY):
COMPOUND MIXED TEAM QUARTERFINAL:
06:10 AM
RECURVE MIXED TEAM QUARTERFINAL:
11:50 AM (OLYMPIC QUOTA EVENT)

WRESTLING:

(PRELIMINARIES TO MEDAL ROUNDS):
GYANENDER (GR 60KG), NEERAJ (GR 67KG), VIKAS (GR 77KG), SUNIL KUMAR (GR 87KG) 07:30 IST ONWARDS

KABADDI:

MEN'S INDIA VSTHAILAND, GROUP A (6:00 AM)
WOMEN'S INDIA VS THAILAND GROUP A (1:30 PM)

BRIDGE:

SEMIFINAL: MEN'S TEAM (6:30 AM ONWARDS)

CHESS:

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TEAM EVENTS (ROUND 5 FROM 12:30 PM)

DIVING:

MEN'S 10M PLATFORM PRELIMINARY – SIDDHARTH PARDESHI (10:30 AM)

EQUESTRIAN:

JUMPING INDIVIDUAL QUALIFIERS AND TEAM FINAL, TEJAS DHINGRA, YASH NENESEE, KIRAT SINGH NAGRA (6:30 AM ONWARDS)

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL:

INDIA VS NEPAL, 8:00 AM (CLASSIFICATION)

SPORT CLIMBING:

WOMEN'S SPEED RELAY QUALIFICATION – 09:05 AM



BOXING: LOVLINA BORGOHAIN EYES GOLD

It's been a strange sort of boxing event in Hangzhou (not just for Indians) but Lovlina will have a chance to add some golden gloss to it. Already assured of Paris 2024 birth, the Tokyo bronze medalist will face a tough ask against Tokyo silver medall Li Qian. LOVLINA BORGOHAIN: (75 KG FINAL, 1:15 PM), PARVEEN (57KG SEMIFINAL, 11:30 AM)

HOCKEY:

MEMORIAL TIME FOR MEN'S TEAM
Remember 2018? Well, the men's hockey team surely do and they will be looking to avoid a similar heartbreak as they take on Korea. Remember, Paris 2024 quota at stake for the gold medal.

INDIA VS KOREA, SEMIFINAL (1:30 PM)

Live on Sony Network

Pakistan feel at home

Despite India not coming there, Hyderabad graciously hosts neighbours

SANDIP G
HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 3

A GASP of disbelief first and an applause of admiration next met every stroke of Babar Azam, as he purred along, pulling, driving and even sloggling with stupefying grace. When he retired at 90 off 59 balls the crowd embraced an awkward silence before they rang in the applause as if to say, "Welcome to India."

Later, after the warm-up match was over, Australia winning by 14 runs, the crowd massed near the stands behind Pakistan's dugout and screamed Babar's name until he left the area.

It could be that India might not be playing a game in Hyderabad, but the audience are past the phase of mourning and beginning to soak in the World Cup fervor, putting aside allegiances and rivalries. Not just Babar, but his colleagues too might have felt the blanket of adulation. None more than Shaheen Afridi.

The scattered audience were stretching their limbs to stave off post-meal siesta when the seamer ambled onto the ground for the pre-game stretching. Like the sudden buzz of an alarm, half-awake heads turned and tuned their gaze to the nearly-two-metre frame of Afridi, his tidily-gelled quiff blazing like an aura.

Hastily, they converged to a vantage point beside the chain-linked fence. They neither chanted nor yelled out his name, but stood hypnotized.

Soon joining Afridi was his accomplice Haris Rauf, whose sight prompted someone in the gallery to shriek out Virat Kohli's name, reminding him of the brace of sixes the Indian talisman had struck in Melbourne. Rauf spread a smile and waved at the crowd in a blue jersey.

Though India are not playing a game at this venue—the only World Cup city where they are not stopping for a game, much to the crowd's chagrin—blue was the most ubiquitous shade in the stands, of them numbers 18 (Virat Kohli) and 45 (Rohit Sharma) being the most sighted ones.

Among the 7700-odd crowd, only Pakistan's super-fan Mohammad Bashir, better known as Bashir *chacha*, a hotelier from Chicago, stood out. He passionately wielded the Pakistan flag and was seen engaging with the spectators. The lathi-wielding policemen sniffed around, in case the crowd turned hostile against Bashir, who masked the crushing solitude of a one-man cheerleader with his undimmed



Crowd favourite Babar Azam. AP

The city prides itself on overwhelming hospitality and there has been an overflowing affection for Pakistan even since they landed in the city

the jewel of Nizam. Later, captain for the day, Shadab Khan would rave about the food and hospitality. "I think our fat level and weight might increase because of the tasty food," he said.

Whenever the team bus glides through the highway, there is a gush of excitement, followed by the obvious question to the nearest person: "Did you see anyone?" In a fake exaggerated tone, the other would reply: "I think I caught a glimpse of Babar. I think so."

Envious glances are exchanged. Only that the bus-windows are so tightly curtained that you would not even spot a silhouette.

So much so that the other day some teenagers furiously waved at Australia's bus shouting Babar's name. With their training sessions shut for public, their first warm-up game, against New Zealand, being played in empty stands due to security reasons, it was finally on Tuesday that they saw Pakistan's players in flesh.

The only cricketer who stole the thunder from Afridi and Co was David Warner, the beloved former captain of the city's IPL franchise Sunrisers Hyderabad. He was their captain in the lone IPL triumph in 2016. "Warner *anna*, sexy *anna*," reverberated in the stands whenever he struck a boundary, and he smeared three sixes and four fours in a power-filled 48 off 33 balls. Twice the victim was Afridi and the crowd let out a sigh of disbelief. They are more used to him blasting pads and smacking stumps.

It was finally on Tuesday the World Cup frenzy began to kick in, when the buzz began to bubble and excitement began to shimmer. For much of this week, a freshly-inaugurated 500,000 square feet shopping mall has been the proverbial talk of the town.

There were no signs or signboards celebrating the occasion in most of the city. Even the posters on the red-tiled walls of the neighbouring Survey of India campus were those of a political rally of the Congress Party. But the warm-up between Pakistan and Australia has finally switched the city into World Cup mood.

enthusiasm.

Half of the crowd, which picked up in the evening, wore the blue jerseys, cheap and counterfeit ones. Some others grabbed a pale, near-transparent yellow downmarket ODI cap of Australia. With the unlikelyness of fans crossing the border, there were hardly any jerseys of Pakistan, or any merchandise of theirs.

"Pakistan team humein pasand hain; achhe khiladi hain, lekin hame kya faayda, agar koi fans nahin aate hain?" (We like the Pakistan team, but if no fans are coming here, why do we need to stock their stuff?) asks Prasad, a street-vendor selling flags, jerseys and caps.

He is angry at himself for not hoarding enough jerseys of India, and is wondering whether to cancel the orders for the shirts of Netherlands and Sri Lanka. "We could make some decent profit only if India plays here," he cries.

Collective complaint

It's the city's collective grouse—why only Hyderabad of all the ten venues? But they soon put their angst behind to play gracious hosts to Pakistan, traveling to India after seven years.

The city prides itself on overwhelming hospitality and there has been an overflowing affection for the Pakistan team even since they landed in the city.

Thousands gathered outside the airport on the night of the arrival, a few grabbed selfies with them when they dined out at

Sinner powers past Alcaraz to book China Open final with Medvedev

Beijing: Sixth seed Jannik Sinner produced a masterclass in aggressive tennis to hand Carlos Alcaraz a 7-6(4) 6-1 defeat in the semi-final of the China Open on Tuesday to book a title clash with the in-form Daniil

Medvedev. Sinner edged a tight first set in the latest chapter of his growing rivalry with world number two Alcaraz before the Italian went on the offensive in the next to reel off the games and seal his fourth win

over the Spaniard in seven meetings. "I'd say every match against him is very tough," Sinner said. "We both show great respect and play great. Today I played a little better in the important moments." **REUTERS**

Celebrate Navratras with HARYANA SHEHRI VIKAS PRADHIKARAN e-Auction of Residential, Commercial, Institutional Properties and Multi Storey Apartments

Date: 15 to 31 October, 2023

Sr. No.	Date of e-auction	Category	Name of Zones
1	15 October, 2023 (Sunday)	Residential and Commercial properties (Preferential)	All Zones
2	16 October, 2023 (Monday)	Residential and Commercial properties	Gurugram Zone
3	17 October, 2023 (Tuesday)	Residential and Commercial properties	Faridabad Zone
4	18 October, 2023 (Wednesday)	Residential and Commercial properties	Rohtak Zones
5	19 October, 2023 (Thursday)	Residential and Commercial properties	Hisar Zone
6	20 October, 2023 (Friday)	Residential and Commercial properties	Panchkula Zone
7	21 October, 2023 (Saturday)	Mandi Township (Residential and Commercial properties) and Urban Estate Gurugram (Residential)	All zones
8	22 October, 2023 (Sunday)	Nursing Home and Clinic Sites	All Zones
9	26 October, 2023 (Thursday)	All School sites	All Zones
10	28 October, 2023 (Saturday)	Major Sites (Commercial Complex, Shopping Mall, Hospitals and Institutional Sites)	All Zones
11	31 October, 2023 (Tuesday)	Multi Storey Apartments	All Zones

e-Auction portal for Panchkula Zone: <https://hsvpauction.procure247.com/procure/home>
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