

MOITRA ROW
No iota of truth in Hiranandani claim about us: Shardul, wife



TMC MP Mahua Moitra, Darshan Hiranandani, CEO, Hiranandani Group

GEORGE MATHEW & HITESH VYAS
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 20

SHARDUL SHROFF, Chairman, Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Company, one of India's leading law firms, and wife Pallavi Shroff, a lawyer and daughter of former Chief Justice of India P N Bhagwati, Friday rejected Hiranandani Group CEO Darshan Hiranandani's claim that Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra was getting their help to target Prime Minister Narendra Modi and malign businessman Gautam Adani. In a statement, they warned of legal action against Hiranandani.

According to BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, Darshan Hiranandani was the businessman to whom Moitra gave her Parliament login and password details to ask questions. In his complaint to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, the BJP MP alleged that Moitra received bribes and expensive gifts from Hiranandani.

On Thursday evening, Hiranandani submitted an affidavit to the Lok Sabha Ethics Committee and said Moitra was targeting the Prime Minister and Gautam Adani.

"Ms Moitra, in her endeavour, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

OTTAWA HALTS VISA, CONSULAR SERVICES IN 3 INDIAN CITIES

Canada recalls 41 diplomats, Trudeau says India making life hard for millions

Delhi hits back: Canada continues to interfere in our internal affairs

DIVYA A
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

HOURS AFTER his government announced the withdrawal of 41 diplomats from India, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, in remarks Friday that will deepen the diplomatic row between the two countries, targeted the Indian government for



Canada's Foreign Minister Melanie Joly and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in Ottawa, Wednesday. Reuters

making "life as usual" "unbelievably difficult" for "millions of people" in India and Canada.

Minister Melanie Joly announced that 41 Canadian diplomats and their 42 family

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Visa delay likely, shadow on winter enrolment plans of Canada-bound students

PALLAVI SMART, SANATH PRASAD, ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA
MUMBAI, BENGALURU, JALANDHAR, OCTOBER 20

THE WITHDRAWAL of Canadian visa and consular services from Chandigarh, Mumbai and Bengaluru has created a significant hurdle for students getting

ready to enrol in universities for the winter session starting January next year, as they are likely to face delays in visa processing due to the reduced staff strength.

Addressing a press conference, Marc Miller, Canada's Minister of Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship, assured that new visa applications

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Sprinklers, teams of monitors: BMC wakes up to clear Mumbai dirty air

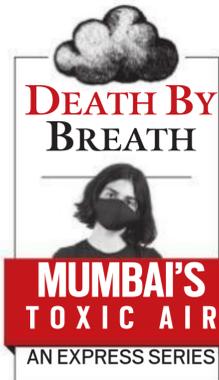
PRATIP ACHARYA
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 20

ITS SET of construction guidelines issued in March flagrantly breached across Mumbai and the city's air quality rapidly deteriorating, raising the spectre of a second toxic winter in a row, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation announced a new sweeping set of dust and pollution control norms Friday.

These include enclosing building construction sites with 35-foot-high sheets; covering the entire building with cloth and installation of sprinklers at all construction sites within 15 days and setting up a smog gun system within a month. Also, ward-wise monitoring teams will be set up to keep a track of the construction activities from nearly 6,000 construction sites across Mumbai.

Apart from these, BMC commissioner and its state-appointed administrator Iqbal Singh Chahal also announced guidelines for vehicles transporting construction debris, including covering of vehicles with tarpaulin sheets.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



DEATH BY BREATH
MUMBAI'S TOXIC AIR
AN EXPRESS SERIES
BUSINESS AS USUAL
By UNNY
Thanks to pollution, Mumbai gets an advanced food delivery system.

This is India's own train: PM flags off first Nammo Bharat rapid rail

DHEERAJ MISHRA
GHAZIABAD, OCTOBER 20

INAUGURATING INDIA'S first Regional Rapid Transit System (RTS) in Ghaziabad, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Friday that the Nammo Bharat train that will run on the 82-km Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor is India's "own train" and it gives a glimpse of the country's future.

The launch of the RTS service in Uttar Pradesh is just the beginning, he said, adding that similar services will be introduced soon in Haryana and Rajasthan as well.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the crew of India's first RTS train in Sahibabad near Delhi on Friday. PTI

Israel chip maker Tower makes second bid to enter India with fab unit

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

ISRAEL-BASED chip manufacturing company Tower Semiconductor has revived its interest in India's chip incentive scheme for a second time, and is considering setting up a semiconductor fabrication plant in the country, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

Tower was among the first three applicants to evince interest in setting up a chip fab in India, but had pulled out owing to a delayed merger with Intel.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED Why it's a big deal

It will be an important milestone for India if Tower sets up a fabrication unit. Besides mega FDI, the venture could potentially spawn an ecosystem that will become a critical factor for other such companies planning to expand their geographical presence.



BIG PICTURE
ISRAEL-PALESTINE
A LIFE ON THE HYPHEN
PAGE 9

MARUTI SUZUKI

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ENTERTAINMENT



'OLD DADS' MOVIE REVIEW Bill Burr's directorial debut is a painful experience



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EXPRESS AUDIO MP Ladli Behna scheme, arrest of a 'dead man', and India's wine surge

3 Things: MPCM's 'Ladli Behna' scheme to gain the support of women voters, a man presumably dead for 19 years arrested by Delhi police for murder, and why Indians are choosing wine over rum or whiskey

FROM PAGE ONE Canada recalls 41 diplomats from India

members had been withdrawn from India since they were "in danger of having immunity stripped on an arbitrary date" and that would have "put their personal safety at risk".

Canada-India has about 20 diplomats in Canada. Following Joly's remarks, Trudeau, at a televised press conference in Brampton, Ontario, criticised Delhi's actions.

having regard to circumstances and conditions in the receiving State and to the needs of the particular mission. Canada said India's decision will impact the levels of services to consulates in both countries.

• Visa delay likely, shadow on Indian students' plans for winter enrolment

would still be accepted but acknowledged that these would be processed "unfortunately more slowly than before". Consultants and agents, who assist prospective students with their applications and visa formalities, estimate a delay of up to 60 days in students getting their visas "in hand".

from Dindigul, Tamil Nadu, who has secured admission to a one-year PG diploma course in Saskatchewan Polytechnic College, in Saskatchewan Province, is among them. He has taken an education loan to fund his education in Canada and has already invested nearly Rs 20 lakh.

tract interest on my loan while I am still a student. The loan is in interest for two years." Given that delays are now certain, consultants and agents are advising students preparing to leave for the winter session to file their visa application as soon as possible.

two countries. "More than the adverse impact on visa (approval), there are other apprehensions among parents. Earlier one would worry about undercurrents of racism there. But now there are concerns about who is pro-Khalistani and who isn't. Based on the news reports, parents are likely to worry over safety," Doshi said.

• Israel chip maker

In August, Intel cancelled its plan to acquire Tower Semiconductor for \$5.4 billion due to regulatory issues. If Tower's proposal comes through, it would be the first semiconductor company with real fabrication pedigree to apply for India's \$10 billion chip manufacturing scheme, and could be a big boost to New Delhi's chipmaking ambitions.

• This is India's own train: PM flags off first Nammo Bharat rapid rail

"This rapid rail is also made in India. Ye Bharat ki apni train hai (This is India's own train). The screen door of the platform is also made in India. Nammo Bharat is a glimpse of future India. This is also proof that when the economic strength of the country grows, the whole picture changes. This is just the beginning," Modi said at the inauguration event at Sahibabad RapidX station.

RRTS project. Today, Nammo Bharat operations have started from Sahibabad to Duhai Depot. I have said this before and am saying it even today, whose foundation stone we lay, we also inaugurate it," he said. "I will be there at your service when this Delhi-Meerut stretch is completed after a year or a year and a half."

stretches of the east-west corridor of Bengaluru Metro - Baiyappanhalli to K R Pura and Kengeri to Challaghatta. He said the two stretches will improve connectivity in the IT hub.

will be created in other parts of the country also... this decade is the decade of rejuvenation of India. You will see the entire railway changed in these 10 years. And I am not in the habit of dreaming small. I guarantee the young generation that by the end of this decade, you will find Indian trains second to none."

Under Amrit Bharat, the work of modernizing the railway stations of the country is also going on at a fast pace. "This Triveni of Amrit Bharat, Nammo Bharat and Vande Bharat will become a symbol of modernisation of Indian Railways," Modi said.

While India has managed to attract big names such as Micron Technology to set up a chip packaging plant in the country, it is yet to receive a feasible application for a fabrication plant. While securing Micron's \$825 million investment commitment for its packaging plant was a big win for India's chip ambitions, having a chip foundry would be an big milestone and help draw further investments in the chip space.

• No truth in Hiranandani claim about us: Shardul, wife

was getting help from other people like Sucheta Dalal, Shardul Shroff and Pallavi Shroff, who were also in touch with her, and who were feeding her with all kinds of unverified information relating to Sh. Gautam Adani and his companies," he said in his affidavit, released to the press by the Hiranandani Group's corporate communication team.

media platform X. "I welcome answering questions to CBI & Ethics Committee (which has absolute majority of BJP members) if and when they call me..." In his affidavit, Hiranandani, son of Mumbai realtor Niranjan Hiranandani, had said, "She (Moitra) requested me to keep supporting her in her attacks on the Adani group and provided me her Parliament login and password so that I could post the questions directly on her behalf when required."

2015 with the split in the family firm Amarchand & Mangaldas. "Ms Moitra has never asked for any help from us to help or facilitate her to attack and harm the Adani family or the Prime Minister. We would never agree or participate in such an attempt. We have never participated or taken sides or aggressive positions in favour of or against any political party or person as we are apolitical," the Shroff couple said. "We do not put it beyond imagination that rival firms in the legal profession or persons who may have animus against us could have put up Mr Hiranandani to make such false accusations against us. This needs to be investigated as this is a clear attempt to harm our reputation," the statement said.

• BMC wakes up to clear Mumbai dirty air

Appealing to the state government's transport department to not allow any diesel vehicle whose age-limit has passed to enter the city, Chahal said the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) and BMC will depute experts to verify the level of pollution caused due to refineries, Tata Power plant and Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers plant, and check their installations for their pollution-control measures.

announced on October 23. In March this year, the BMC had released Mumbai Air Pollution Mitigation Plan (MAPMP) guidelines that laid down procedures to be followed during construction and other activities that cause dust and pollution. In the MAPMP, the BMC also stated that action will be taken against violators who flout dust mitigation plans.

ward level to carry out visits to every under construction site. Chahal said that 50 teams will be created in all the 24 municipal wards and each team will be assigned the task of carrying out surprise inspections at construction sites. "If during the visit it is found that any site is flouting the dust mitigation norms, a stop work notice would be issued immediately," Chahal said.

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EXCISE POLICY CASE

Won't insinuate political motive to ED: HC junks Singh's plea

MALAVIKA PRASAD
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

WHILE DISMISSING AAP leader Sanjay Singh's plea against his arrest and remand in the excise policy-money laundering case, the Delhi High Court Friday said it won't "insinuate or impute any political motives" to the ED in the "absence of any material on record".

A single-judge bench of Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma said, "This Court without there being any evidence on record would desist from imputing political affiliations to a premier investigating agency as the reputation of... agency of a country has direct relation to the reputation of a country..."

On Singh's argument that the case was politically motivated, HC said it involves deciding and holding that the investigation agency is "under control of a political party". The court said it won't be part of either this "discussion or adjudication" unless the matter in issue with material is placed before it for adjudication.

Addressing Singh's argument that approver Dinesh Arora's statement was taken "under pressure", the HC said Arora's statement was "recorded with due process" and the under pressure argument cannot be considered at this stage by the HC.

A perusal of records, the HC said, revealed that all essential ingredients of Section 19 PMLA (power to arrest) have been complied with by ED.

On Singh's contention that his fundamental right was violated as he wasn't informed about grounds of arrest, the HC



Sanjay Singh was arrested on October 4. Archive

said that the grounds of arrest were provided in writing and were also placed before the sessions court for perusal.

"The arrest order 04.10.2023, which is in the prescribed format as also directed to be followed by the Hon'ble Apex Court in case of Pankaj Bansal, records that the authorised officer had reasons to believe that the petitioner was guilty of an offence under PMLA... the Sessions Court while granting remand of the petitioner vide order 05.10.2023 had specifically asked the investigating officer as well as the counsel for the petitioner as to whether the grounds of arrest had been supplied to him or not, and it was stated that the same had already been supplied," the court noted.

Perusing through the remand orders, the HC said that they were "well reasoned" and the sessions court had taken into account all "aspects and contentions", referred to the law including judicial precedents, had applied its judicial mind, recorded the "satisfaction regarding the necessity of arrest and custody remand" of Singh.

Nithari case: Acquitted by Allahabad HC, Pandher walks out of Noida prison

DHEERAJ MISHRA
NOIDA, OCTOBER 20

MONINDER SINGH Pandher, who was arrested in the horrific 2006 Nithari killings case, walked out of Noida prison Friday after he was acquitted by the Allahabad High Court on October 16.

Officials said he was released around 2 pm after completing all formalities. Sources also said nobody from the Pandher family had come to receive him.

Wearing black sunglasses, a striped kurta and a brown sleeveless jacket, Pandher walked out holding his lawyer's hand. When asked about the judgment and the case, he folded his hands, sat in the car, and left. "He is on the way to his home in Chandigarh. His health is not very good. He will soon hold a press conference and will talk about the judgment," said the lawyer.

Pandher (66) was in jail for around 13 years after he was first arrested on December 12, 2006, along with his house help Surinder Koli, in the case.

Jail Superintendent Arun



Moninder Singh Pandher leaves the jail complex, Friday. PTI

Pratap Singh said Pandher was transferred to Noida Jail as part of a programme to decongest prisons. "He was shifted to this prison on June 4 from Dasna Jail in Ghaziabad. Along with him, many other prisoners from Bulandshahr, Ghaziabad, Saharanpur and Muzaffarnagar were shifted here. When he came here, he was in a wheelchair (he suffers from tuberculosis). He was kept in a separate isolation ward for TB patients. He was given care and medication," said Singh.

Setting aside their death sentences, the High Court Monday had acquitted Pandher and Koli saying the prosecution failed to prove their guilt. In its judgment, the court had pointed to the violation of basic norms of collecting evidence. But the most crucial of them all was "failure" to probe the "possible" angle of organ trade.

While Koli was acquitted in 12 cases, Pandher was acquitted in two cases. Both had been awarded the death penalty in these cases relating to rape, murder, destruction of evidence among other charges by a CBI

court in Ghaziabad. Koli will remain in prison as he is serving life sentence in another case related to the killings.

Woman's body with tied limbs found near school

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

THE BODY of a woman in her 30s, with burn marks, and her limbs tied with a chain, was found dumped near a school in West Delhi, officers said Friday.

DCP (West) Vichitra Veer said that they received a PCR call that a body was found near an MCD school wall. "From initial circumstances, it appears to be a case of murder. Forensic and crime teams were called to examine the spot," said the DCP.

The woman's hands and legs

were tied with a chain and it seems that she was dumped there by a vehicle, as per the CCTV footage, the DCP added.

"The accused covered her with a plastic sheet before fleeing the spot... the woman appears to have been killed two days ago; we are trying to ascertain her identity and the exact timing of her death... some injury marks have also been noticed apart from burn marks," added an officer.

A case of murder has been lodged and efforts are on to identify the accused, said officers.

Gang of 4, one posing as cop, rob man of Rs 50L

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

THREE MEN have been arrested for allegedly robbing a man of Rs 50 lakh from his car, after one of them posed as a traffic policeman and signalled him to stop, in Central Delhi's IP Estate, officers said.

Police named the accused as Mahender, Sandeep, and Harender. Police said a case was registered on the complaint of Inderalp, an assistant accountant at a pan masala company in Najafgarh, on receiving a PCR call on October 12.

On October 11, the complainant received a payment of Rs 50 lakh from Kucha Ghasi Ram in

Chandni Chowk and the money bag was kept in the boot of the car.

"At 4.45pm, when he reached near Saleem Garg flyover, two persons came on a motorcycle — one was in a traffic police uniform — and they signalled the car driver to stop," said Special CP (Crime) Ravindra Yadav.

Meanwhile, two others came on another motorcycle and fled with the bag; the person in uniform also fled, police said.

Mahender was arrested from Alwar and Sandeep from Greater Noida. A traffic police uniform, four face masks with the Delhi Police logo, and a toy wireless set were recovered following Sandeep's arrest, police said. A search is on for the fourth accused.

NCCSA writes to CM seeking next meeting date

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

THE NATIONAL Capital Civil Services Authority (NCCSA) Friday wrote to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal seeking a date and time for the next meeting. As per officials, the authority has sent the agenda of the meeting to the CMO.

"The original certified copies of the agenda will be made available once the CM gives his date and time... for holding the next meeting," said an official. Five of the

eight matters listed in the agenda are vigilance cases. The authority has sought permission under Section 17A of POC act for registering a case against 10 officers of Hedgewar hospital and probe against two PWD engineers.

Matters over disciplinary proceedings against three professors from Delhi Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research and a DANICS Trade Taxes officer will be discussed. Other matters include powers to appoint authorities, board commissions or statutory bodies as per the GNCTD Act.

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Re: Credit Facilities with our Hazaratganj, (e Dena Bank) Branch

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Nature & type of facility	Limit Rs (in Crore)	Rate of Interest	O/S (Contractual Dues) as on 04.09.2023
Fund Based Cash Credit	Rs.1.00 Crore	Base Rate i.e. 10.25%	Total Dues Rs.6,33,29,838.28/- + All other charges, expenses and Interest from 05.09.2023
Bank Guarantee (now converted in term loan)	Rs.10.00 Crore	+2.05%=12.30% Per Annum	
Car Loan (I and II)	(i) Car Loan-30 Lacs (ii) Car Loan-30 Lacs	MCLR i.e 9.40% +0.50% =9.90 % per annum (for both car loan)	

Security agreement with brief description of securities:- 1. Mortgage of Land & Building at Plot No. B-3/209, measuring 364.25 Sq. Mtr situated at Vishal Khand, Ward-Rafi Ahmad Kidwai Nagar, Gombi Nagar Lucknow standing in the name of M/s J.B. Test Commissioning Private Limited having Boundary as under: **East-Plot No. 3/208 & 3/206, West-09 Mtr wide Road, North-Plot No. 03/210, South-09 Mtr wide Road.**

2. Mortgage of Leasehold Commercial Land & Building at plot No. C-44, measuring 96.36 Sq. Mtr situated Vibhuti Khand, Ward-Gombi Nagar standing in the name of Mr. Prashant Singh having Boundary as under: **East-Shop No. C-45, West-12 Mtr wide Road, North-Shop No. B-8, South-12 Mtr wide Road.**

3. Mortgage of Residential Land and Building measuring 450 Sq. Mtr situated at Plot No. 16 Block-A Sector 50 NOIDA District-Gautam Budhha Nagar standing in the name of M/s SVY INFRASTRUCTURE Pvt. Ltd having boundary as under: **East-Plot No. A-41 Sector-50, West-30 mtr wide Road, North-Plot No. A-17 Sector-50, South-Plot No. A-15 Sector-50.**

4. Hypothecation of stock including raw material, S/P, Goods in transit, store, spares, consumables and Book Debt.

5. Hypothecation of Car bearing registration No. UP32HL4500 and UP32HQ3333

1. In the letter of acknowledgement of debt dated 30.03.2021 you have acknowledged your liability to the bank. The outstanding stated above include further drawings and interest upto 04.09.2023

2. As you are aware, you have not complied with the terms and conditions of repayment of loan account, consequent upon which your loan account has been classified as Non-Performing Asset.

3. Consequent upon the defaults committed by you, your loan account has been classified as non-performing asset on 19.02.2022 in accordance with the Reserve Bank of India directives and guidelines. In spite of our repeated requests and demands you have not repaid the overdue loans including interest thereon.

4. Having regard to your inability to meet your liabilities in respect of the credit facilities duly secured by various securities mentioned in para 1 above, and classification of your account as a non-performing asset, we hereby give you notice under sub-section (2) of Section 13 of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and call upon you to pay in full and discharge your liabilities to the bank aggregating **Rs.6,33,29,838.28/- (Rupees Six Crore Thirty Three Lacs Twenty Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty Eight and Twenty Eight Paise only)** + Other Charges and Interest charges from 05.09.2023, within 60 days from the date of this notice. We further give you notice that failing payment of the above amount with interest till the date of payment, we shall be free to exercise all or any of the rights under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the said Act, which please note.

5. Please note that, Interest will continue to accrue at the rate specified in para 1 above for each credit facility until payment in full is received.

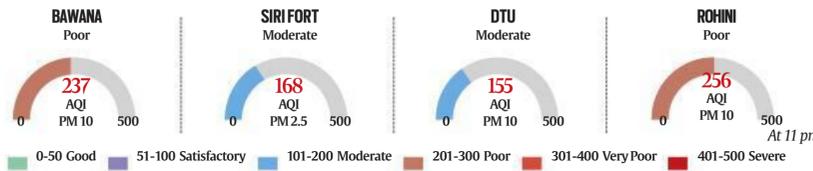
6. We invite your attention to sub-section (13) of Section 13 of the said Act in terms of which you are barred from transferring any of the secured assets referred to in para 1 above by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of business), without obtaining our prior written consent. We may add that non-compliance with the above provision contained in sub-section (13) of Section 13 of the said Act, is an offence punishable under section 29 of the Act.

7. We further invite your attention to sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the said Act in terms of which you may redeem the secured assets, if the amount of dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank is tendered by you, at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction/inviting quotations/tender/private treaty. Please note that after publication of the notices as above, your right to redeem the secured assets will not be available.

8. Please note that this demand notice is without prejudice to and shall not be construed as waiver of any other rights or remedies which we may have, including without limitation, the right to make further demands in respect of sums owing to us.

Date: 11.09.2023 Place: Prayagraj

Authorised Officer
Bank of Baroda, Allahabad



SKY WATCH
FORECAST: October 21
 Mainly clear sky. Mist in the morning
MAX: 32 | **MIN: 16**
 0.4°C below normal | 2.4°C below normal

STARTING NOVEMBER 1

Only CNG, electric and BS-VI diesel buses to ply between Delhi-NCR

UPASIKA SINGHAL
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

STARTING NOVEMBER 1, only electric, CNG, and BS-VI diesel-compliant buses can ply between Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR) states, announced the Commission for Air Quality Management. The move is aimed at promoting cleaner and more sustainable public transport services within NCR to reduce emissions and improve air quality.



The move is aimed at reducing emissions and improving air quality. *Abhinav Saha*

Haryana

All bus services between any city/town in Haryana and Delhi must be operated only through EVs, CNG, or BS-VI diesel buses from November 1, 2023.

Rajasthan

All bus services between any NCR city/town in Rajasthan and Delhi, as well as to any other city/town in NCR, must operate only with EVs, CNG, or BS-VI

Diesel buses from November 1, 2023.

All bus services from non-NCR areas of Rajasthan to Delhi shall also be exclusively EVs, CNG, or BS-VI Diesel buses from January 1, 2024.

Uttar Pradesh

All bus services between any NCR city/town in Uttar Pradesh and Delhi must be exclusively EVs, CNG, or BS-VI Diesel buses from November 1, 2023.

Bus services operating within eight NCR districts of UP shall use BS-VI diesel-compliant buses from April 1, 2024.

Buses operating between non-NCR areas of the state to Delhi and NCR areas of other states shall also use BS-VI diesel-compliant buses from July 1, 2024.

These directives extend to all bus services, whether operated by state public sector units or private entities. The transition to

operating only such buses throughout NCR is anticipated to be complete by July 1, 2024.

The transport department and traffic police of the Delhi government and NCR states have been directed to ensure strict compliance through regular monitoring of implementation.

The plan, formulated in consultation with NCR states, outlines a three-tier approach for transitioning to cleaner bus services. The long-term goal, to be achieved within five years, is to convert the entire NCR's bus fleet to electric vehicles. In the medium term, within three years, the focus will be on EVs and CNG buses.

Haryana, Rajasthan, and UP have committed to phasing out older BS-III and BS-IV diesel buses and replacing them with new BS-VI ones. Procurement of CNG buses and EVs, as per respective state EV policies, is also underway.

Premium buses get Kejriwal nod, bid to get upper middle class to use public transport

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

DELHI CHIEF Minister Arvind Kejriwal Friday approved the much-awaited 'Premium Bus Aggregator Policy 2023', a move, he hoped, would encourage the upper middle class to switch to public transport. The file has now been sent to Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena for final approval.

Announcing that the scheme will strengthen Delhi's transport system and reduce traffic and air pollution, Kejriwal said, "Ever since coming to power in Delhi in 2015, we endeavoured to introduce the Premium Bus scheme with the goal of reducing traffic and air pollution. After a long struggle of eight years, it is likely to become a reality soon."

He added, "Since the Delhi Metro became operational, many Delhiites have opted for it over their personal vehicles. Gradually, the Metro became crowded, so people had to switch back to their vehicles. In a survey, we found that DTC buses are not that crowded; at present, mostly the lower middle and economy classes use them... To break that myth and encourage the upper and middle classes to use buses, we have introduced this scheme."

Under this, aggregators of premium luxury buses will be granted licenses. This would mean that one licence holder can ply 25 luxury buses. The air-conditioned buses would have a

WHAT'S IN IT FOR COMMUTERS

- Luxury AC buses (mini, midi, standard size)
- They will be equipped with WiFi, CCTVs, GPS
- Fares will be higher than DTC buses
- Tickets can only be bought through an app
- There will be no frequent stops, passengers will be picked up from their desired location
- No standing travel allowed
- Routes will be decided by licensees



The CM said the file is being sent to the L-G. *PTI*

minimum of 9 seats and be equipped with facilities such as WiFi, GPS and CCTVs. Further, no standing travel will be allowed. "Seats can only be booked online; there will be no 'on-the-bus booking' facility. Individuals can book their seats on an app just like airline seats. These buses won't stop frequently and passengers will be picked up from their desired location," said the CM.

Initially, CNG buses older than three years will be allowed to ply. After January 1, 2025, only electric buses can be inducted. To encourage EVs, the government will not levy any licence fee for new electric buses under this

EVENT AT RAMLILA MAIDAN

Theme different than what was projected, Delhi Police tell HC on revoking nod to group

MALAVIKA PRASAD
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

THE DELHI Police told the High Court Friday that the permission given to an organisation for a meeting at Ramlila ground was revoked, after they found the theme of the event was "different" from what was projected.

The HC was hearing a plea by the organisation "Mission Save Constitution" (which works to create awareness among masses about their constitutional rights) which challenged an October 16 letter by DCP, Central Delhi, alleging that permission for the event was revoked "unilaterally," in an "arbitrary manner".

The police's counsel said before a single-judge bench of Justice Subramonium Prasad that the organisers had sought permissions for a meeting to educate people about their constitutional rights and it was granted with conditions including those preventing provocative speeches.

He said they should have applied for permissions for a mahapanchayat, which would have allowed police to "consider and decide whether permission can be given or not". Later there were complaints made by persons and the matter was reassessed where they found the theme of the event

is different from what was projected by the organiser. He also said the order passed by the DCP gives "reasons".

The petitioner said permission was granted, for the event on October 29, after a series of meetings with officials of respondents including Delhi Police and taking several clearances. The revocation letter said police had found that "the language written on posters available on social media... shows the agenda of the event appears to be communal."

"... such an event during festive season and at such a sensitive place may spread communal hatred and dent the peace... of the area," it read. It said amid the "tension in Arab countries due to ongoing war between Israel and Hamas," such a meeting may lead to a law and order situation where mixed populations live together.

The counsel for the petitioner said the idea for seeking a NOC is informing the police about the number of attendees at the event, which had been disclosed. He said that there was nothing offensive or communal about the language in the posters and they were ready to modify the poster and change the date, if so required.

The HC reserved its verdict and listed it for pronouncement on October 25.

Zippering across NCR on rapid rail

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS), 'Namo Bharat RapidX', in Ghaziabad on Friday. Here are 10 things to know about the project:

What is the Regional Rapid Transit System?
A high-speed, high-capacity, comfortable commuter service connecting regional nodes in NCR

How is it different from the Metro?
It has fewer stops and travels at a higher speed, caters to passengers looking to travel longer distances

What has opened now?
A 17-km priority section of the 82-km-long Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Corridor, with five stations in UP. The full corridor is likely to open in 2025

How many stations will the train halt at?
Linking five towns around NCR, the priority section will connect Sahibabad station to Duhai Depot, and halt at three other stations — Ghaziabad, Guldhar and Duhai

What is the frequency of trains?
A train will be available every 15 minutes



The 17-km-long priority section will open to commuters today. *PTI*

What time does the first train start?
At 6 am. The trains will be operational till 11 pm

How many trains are operational now?
Currently, 10. A single rapid rail will have space for about 1,700 passengers. Each train has 6 coaches with 72 seats per standard coach and 62 seats in the premium coach. Once the entire route is finished by 2025, a total of 30 rapid trains are likely to be pressed into service

What is the expected daily footfall for the whole line?
8 lakh. It will take around an hour to reach Meerut from Delhi

Police chief: Use video conferencing facility to examine witnesses in cases

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

THE DELHI Police Commissioner has issued an order asking all supervisory officers to make use of video-conferencing facilities in case of examination of the complainant of witnesses in a case.

In an order, Commissioner of Police Sanjay Arora stated, "In the busy life of a metropolitan city, quite often, complainants, relevant witnesses or alleged persons are either reluctant or unable to physically join enquiries for various reasons."

Non-examination of complainant or witnesses only delays the enquiry process, which can be avoided by appropriate use of technology. "In such enquiries, video-conferencing can be used as an easy and viable solution to expedite matters... all supervisory officers are hereby advised to make good use of video-conferencing optimally where legal or procedural mandates are not required," said the order.

"Soft copy of the conversation recorded during the video-conferencing should also be preserved for at least six months or till the time enquiry proceedings have been completed," it said.

Facelift of monuments, lake revamped with fountains & lights: Mehrauli Archaeological Park wears a new look

SAMAN HUSAIN
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

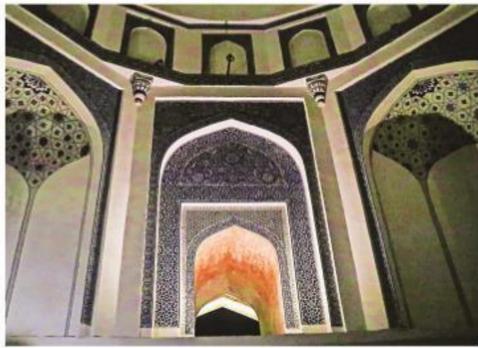
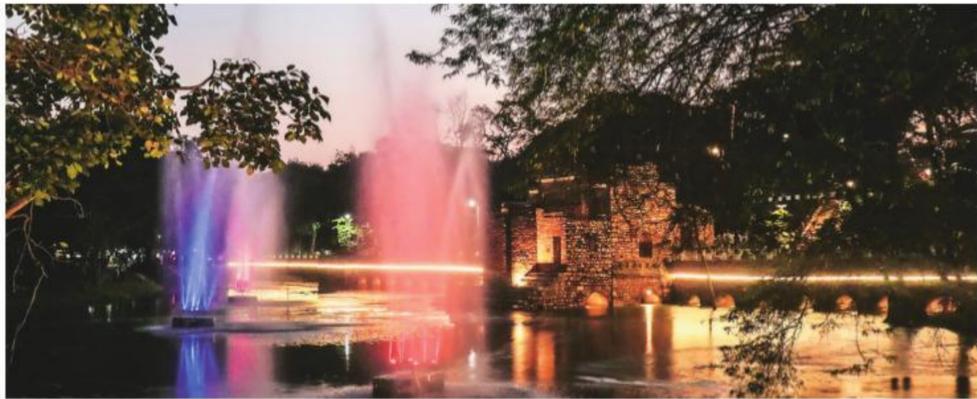
A TOMB revived from a bed of weeds, a lake replenished and now sporting fountains, monuments lit up in various shades of yellow — a revamped Mehrauli Archaeological Park was unveiled to the public on Friday.

Thrown open by Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena, the park is dotted by several famous historical sites in and around it like the Jamali Kamali Mosque, Qila Rai Pithora, the tomb of Mohd Quli Khan, and adjacent Qutub Minar.

Fifty-four notable historical ruins and monuments that are housed within the 199-acre park were revamped by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), in a bid to revive the city's historic architecture, at an estimated cost of Rs 2.6 crore.

"The place has transformed within 6 to 7 months. People in Delhi deserve good places where they can spend time with their family and we are making all efforts to revive heritage places," Saxena said.

Among the monuments that have undergone detailed interior restoration include Balban's Tomb, which was earlier totally buried in weeds, and the Quli



Metcalf's Boathouse and Quli Khan tomb were revamped. The renovated park was unveiled by L-G VK Saxena. *Pallavi TO*

Khan Tomb, which was formerly in disrepair. Vantage locations have also been created within the park for visitors to view the Qutub Minar.

Moreover, visitors can now access the 55 heritage structures in the park as pathways have been created by the DDA that connect the monuments to one another; these were previously lacking. The longitudinal lake situated alongside the Metcalfe's Boathouse has been refilled with water and replenished with features such as aerator fountains, a cascade, and lighting. Conservation work on the water body began in March.

Public amenities such as dustbins and benches have been placed across the park and a cafe has also been set up for visitors to grab snacks at affordable prices.

The DDA claims all repair and conservation work has been completed, while preserving the structures' originality and historical significance. To improve tourist experience, the DDA also suggested appropriate adaptive reuses for some park areas. "The Master plan, 2021, and Unified Building Bye Laws, 2016, of Delhi immensely promote adaptive reuse of historic buildings and this principle has been applied in the Park," it said in a statement.

BRIEFLY

No President nod to Delhi Electricity Reforms Bill

New Delhi: The Delhi Electricity Reforms (Amendment) Bill 2022 passed by the Delhi Assembly, which sought to raise the retirement age of Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) members and chairman from 65 years to 70, has been denied approval by the President, Delhi Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel said Friday. CM Arvind Kejriwal said he was not apprised of the matter. "I will get it checked," Kejriwal said at a press conference. No immediate comment was available from the President's office.

Rs 1 crore-gratia to kin of 2 more Covid warriors

New Delhi: CM Arvind Kejriwal Friday announced that the government will provide an ex-gratia of Rs 1 crore each to the families of two more "Covid warriors" who lost their lives during the pandemic. One of them is Satpal, who worked as a nursing orderly, while the other is Delhi Police constable Amit Kumar. The CM said the government has provided an ex-gratia of Rs 1 crore each to the families of 92 Covid warriors. *PTI*

392 shops in Lajpat Nagar to be desealed

New Delhi: Mayor Shelly Oberoi announced Friday that 392 shops in old double-storey Ladies Garment Market, Lajpat Nagar 4, that were sealed will now be desealed, given that the owners of the shops cater to certain legal formalities. This was done after the Supreme Court Monitoring Committee ordered the de-sealing of the shops in 2018. Meanwhile, the BJP accused AAP of falsely taking credit without doing anything for it. *ENS*

Summons to Mahua: LS panel to decide after Oct 26

Ethics Committee asks Dubey, Dehadrai to present oral evidence; war of words between BJP, TMC leaders continues

VIKAS PATHAK NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

THE ETHICS Committee of the Lok Sabha will take a decision on summoning TMC MP Mahua Moitra and others named in the letter sent to the panel by businessman Darshan Hiranandani...

else to summon for examination, The Indian Express has learnt.

The controversy surrounding the charges against Moitra showed no signs of abating with Dehadrai claiming on X that he was being coerced to withdraw his complaint in exchange for Moitra's dog, Henry, over whom they are engaged in a custody battle.

Dubey immediately took to X, tagging the Lok Sabha Speaker and the TMC handle, and alleged that Moitra was putting pressure on Dehadrai.

In a post in the evening, Dubey compared Moitra to JMM general secretary Pankaj Mishra. "There was a JMM general secretary Pankaj Mishra. He used to



TMC MP Mahua Moitra and BJP MP Nishikant Dubey

say daily via newspapers, tweets and social media that the CBI and ED are welcome. One day an agency indeed came and he has been in jail for two years now.

In another post, he seemed to address the people of West Bengal and also contrast Moitra with her party chief Mamata Banerjee. "The MP whose party leader wears only saree and slippers, forces her friends to gift her LV and Gucci and then talks

about Bengali culture," he said, adding that "he understood Bengal as his maternal aunt was the queen of Mahishadal state in Bengal".

Moitra too remained active on X, offering to answer questions posed by the CBI and the Ethics Committee, while also attacking the panel. "I welcome answering questions to CBI and Ethics Committee (which has absolute majority of BJP members) if and when they call me.

Two hours later, she put out another post on X: "Chairman Ethics Committee openly speaks to media. Please see Lok Sabha rules... How does 'affidavit' find its way to media? Chairman should first do enquiry into how it was leaked. I repeat - BJP 1-point agenda is to expel me from LS and shut me up on Adani."

Mahua's lawyer withdraws from case as Delhi HC says he played role of 'mediator'

ENS & PTI NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

TRINAMOLU CONGRESS MP Mahua Moitra's counsel withdrew from a case in the Delhi High Court Friday seeking restraint orders for BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, an advocate and multiple media houses from circulating alleged 'defamatory content' against her.

Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan withdrew himself from the matter after advocate Jai Anant Dehadrai informed the High Court he had been contacted by Sankaranarayanan over phone Thursday night and asked to withdraw his CBI complaint against Moitra.

Moitra has sought relief; Sankaranarayanan said Dehadrai had asked him in the past and that was why he had approached him. He also said he had told his client, Moitra, that Dehadrai was a member of the Bar and he had earlier assisted him in a case so let him speak to the latter, to which she agreed.

Dehadrai said the senior lawyer spoke to him for nearly 30 minutes over phone and asked him to withdraw the CBI complaint in exchange for a dog, Henry. Justice Sachin Datta said he was "appalled" and added since Sankaranarayanan tried to play the role of a mediator, is he still eligible to appear in the matter? "It's something you need to answer yourself," the judge said. The court listed on October 31.

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



IN GOOD TASTE

UNION MINISTER Gajendra Singh Shekhawat is known for being a warm host among the BJP leaders in Delhi. This week, party leaders from Rajasthan also got a taste of his hospitality during the BJP's marathon meetings for poll candidates' selection at Union minister Pralhad Joshi's residence.

No PAWS-ITIVE VISITORS

IF DOGS could read, the new signboard at cardio and neuroscience centre at AIIMS would have made a lot more sense. The new white and red-coloured board displaying the name of the building has three specific warnings - 'No Smoking', 'Spitting is Prohibited' and 'Entry of Dogs is Prohibited'.

NAME CHANGE

The NDA government is planning to launch Grameen Samvad Yatra, a mega outreach campaign for saturation of Central schemes and showcasing its nine years of achievements ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. However, it is learnt now that the government has changed the name of the proposed campaign from Grameen Samvad Yatra to Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra.

SC junks BRS plea on poll symbols

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Friday refused to entertain a plea of Telangana's ruling party, BRS challenging Election Commission's move to allot two local parties of Telangana election symbols which are "deceptively similar" to its 'car' symbol.

these poll symbols will cause "serious prejudice" to it as a political party. Senior advocates Mukul Rohatgi and Meenakshi Arora appeared for BRS and sought quashing of the EC's September 25 notification allotting 'road roller' and 'chapati roller' as poll symbols to Yuga Tulasi Party and Alliance of Democratic Reforms Party respectively.

Malegaon blast victims write to LS panel against hearing Purohit, say trial going on

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, OCTOBER 20

VICTIMS of the Malegaon 2008 blast case have written to the Committee on Petitions of Lok Sabha opposing the scheduled hearing of Lieutenant Colonel Prasad Purohit, an accused in the case, next week on a representation seeking initiating criminal cases against government servants without obtaining prior sanction for prosecution.

Mumbai. The case is nearing conclusion with the court currently recording the statements of the accused under CrPC Section 313.

The letter also states that the issue of sanction to prosecute Purohit was dealt with by the Bombay High Court in its order in January this year. The court had dismissed Purohit's plea seeking discharge from the case on ground there was no valid sanction to prosecute him as an accused.

The letter quotes the HC order stating it had observed he was not discharging duty as an Indian Army officer while attending the alleged meetings of a group called Abhinav Bharat, where the conspiracy was hatched, as per NIA.

Special Judge AK Lahoti is hearing the blast case daily in

In minority outreach for LS polls, BJP to hold 'affection' dialogues

JATIN ANAND NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

THE BJP will hold "affection dialogues" with minority community beneficiaries of central government schemes across the country till the Lok Sabha elections.

The party's outreach - Alpsankhyak Sneha Samwad - will entail knocking on the doors of Muslim and Christian households to reinforce PM Modi's "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayaas" approach.

"It is well documented that a significant chunk of the beneficiaries of central schemes the country over belong to the minority communities but the party has more or less, not been able to establish an interface with them; this program seeks to remedy that," a senior party leader said.

As per the leader, the BJP Minority Morcha will implement the outreach in six clusters in which all states and Union Territories have been divided. These have further been segregated into separate clusters depending on the region.

BJP national president JP Nadda has appointed an in-charge for each cluster in addition to three to four co-incharges for each of these. He will preside over a meeting on October 27 to chalk out future course of action. In the

North East, the outreach will be effected in Meghalaya, Tripura, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim. In the East, at West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha and at Madhya Pradesh, Chhatisgarh and Uttar Pradesh in the central cluster.

The North cluster includes J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh, Punjab, Chandigarh, Uttarakhand, Haryana and Delhi. Rajasthan, Gujarat, Daman & Diu, Goa and Mumbai constitute the West cluster.

In the South, the programme will be implemented in Telangana, Andaman & Nicobar, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Puducherry.

BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD (IRRIGATION WING) CORRIGENDUM-23 NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERING WITH E-REVERSE BIDDING NIT No.: 786/23/TS

FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi-110002 FSSAI has invited bids for 'Procurement of Equipment for NFL, Ghaziaba', through GeM. The last date for submission of bids is 30.10.2023 (1600 hrs).

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER GURDWARA ELECTION, HARYANA, GROUND FLOOR, PLOT NO. 9 DHL SQUARE, SECTOR 22, PANCHKULA

Public Notice All Sikhs residing in the State of Haryana are hereby informed through this notice that the person who has already applied for registration of his/her name for registration as voter for the election of the Haryana Sikh Gurdwaras Management Committee is required to submit the following self-declaration in Punjabi or Hindi :-

Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology, Shibpur Faculty Recruitment Notification Advt. No. RO/OC/23/16 Date: 20.10.2023

DAKSHIN BIHAR GRAMIN BANK Regional Office, Sasaram Rule 8 (1) POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immoveable Property)

Advt. No.: SHKM/Rectt/2023/05 GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA Advertisement for filling up the posts for S.H.K.M. Government Medical College, Nalhar, Nuh

Director Eighty Three (83) posts of Senior Residents are proposed to be filled up on Tenure basis for SHKM Gvie Nalhar, Nuh. The Tenure for senior resident posts will be for yearly basis extendable up to a maximum 03 (three) years, subject to satisfactory work and conduct report.

Advertisement No. 49/2023 Government of India Public Enterprises Selection Board invites applications for the post of Director (Finance) in The Braithwaite Burn & Jessop Construction Company Ltd. (BBJ)

कुटेशन नोटिस हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन नारनील में वाहनों की मुरम्त के लिए हाईवेयर/पैटी आईटम्स/कॉन्ट वलोथ इत्यादि की अगले एक वर्ष के लिए खरीद की जानी है।

SELECTION & ENGAGEMENT OF SENIOR RESIDENT DOCTORS Applications are invited from eligible candidates for a 'WALK-IN-INTERVIEW' on 07.11.2023 (Tuesday) at 11.00 am at Medical Director's Office, Central Hospital, South Eastern Railway, 11, Garden Reach Road, Kolkata-700043

दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि० कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, चित्रकूट अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

PUBLIC NOTICE This Public Notice is being issued by M3M India Pvt. Ltd. having registered office at 41st Floor, Tower-1, M3M International Financial Center, Sector-66 Badshahpur, Gurugram, Haryana 122101

M3M INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED Registered Office : 41st Floor, Tower-1, M3M International Financial Center, Sector-66 Badshahpur, Gurugram, Haryana 122101

6 DECISION 2023

CHHATTISGARH • MADHYA PRADESH • MIZORAM • RAJASTHAN • TELANGANA

ELECTION IN NUMBERS

23,71,12,000

The 5 poll-bound states home to nearly 24 crore people in 2023, or 17% of country's population, as per Census 2011 projections

THE 'MAHARAJA' AS 'AN ORDINARY WORKER OF PARTY'

'People want double-engine of Modi, Chouhan... CM has done stellar work'

"The BJP was always home, I grew up with BJP around me... Congress spends too many nights thinking about me"

LIZ MATHEW
PICHHORE (MP), OCTOBER 20

THE BATTLE for the Gwalior-Chambal region in Madhya Pradesh, with its 34 Assembly seats, is both political and personal for Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia. A scion of the erstwhile Gwalior royal family, the longtime Congress face-turned-BJP leader needs to win enough seats here to prove his value to his new party. On Thursday, after delivering a nearly 90-minute motivational speech to booth workers in Pichhore, Shivpur, Scindia spoke to *The Indian Express*. Excerpts:

Can the BJP overcome the anti-incumbency of almost two decades in power?

There is no anti-incumbency in MP. The government has proved its worth, lifted the tag of BIMARU from MP and turned it into a *bemisal pradesh* (unmatched state) — whether the rise in per capita income from Rs 11,410 in 2003 to Rs 1,40,062, expansion of road lengths from 44,000 km to 5,00,000, or number of doctors... If anything, peo-

ple want to continue with the development agenda of the double-engine *sarkar* of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

The word people keep repeating is *badlaav* (change), even if there is no deep anger against Chouhan.

I personally think Shivraj Singhji has done a stellar job in the last 15 years... for many of the reasons I identified earlier.

How do you see your role in this election? Is it confined to Gwalior-Chambal?

I am going everywhere the party asks me to, very much like in 2018 (when he was in the Congress). I will be campaigning across the state.

But there seems to be a lot of resistance from the local unit.

I think that part is behind us. I am an ordinary worker of the BJP. I am very clear that the strength of my party is my *aam karyakarta* (ordinary worker)...

Should the party field you for the Assembly polls, like it has

other MPs, which seat would you prefer?

I do not answer hypothetical questions.

Would you volunteer for this?

I would never answer hypothetical questions. I am an ordinary worker and will do whatever the party asks me to do.

How do you see the OBC factor, which the Congress is raising in a big way, including with its demand for a caste census?

It was the Congress that opposed an OBC commission... that opposed Mandal... The number of women candidates, youth, new faces and OBCs are much higher in the BJP list than in the Congress.

How do you see the Chouhan government's Ladli Behna scheme, offering money to women? What is different between this and 'revdis', for which the BJP keeps attacking the Opposition?

There is a difference between *revdis* and empowerment.



THE EXPRESS
INTERVIEW
WITH
JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA
UNION MINISTER, STEEL, CIVIL AVIATION

Millions of women in this country have no source of income. Should we not empower them? Now, Rs 1,250 goes into a woman's account without corruption... Add a poor farmer getting Rs 1,000 a month, and there is enough income for an eco-

nomically impoverished family. That is the Prime Minister's vision... to see every Indian... contribute to nation-building.

There is criticism that it hurts state finances, that the annual cost could be as high as Rs 45,000 crore if benefits go up to Rs 3,000 per month, as promised by Chouhan.

We have 1.31 crore *ladli behnas* and Rs 1,250 a month adds up to roughly Rs 18,000-19,000 crore. We have the capability... Under the BJP in 15 years, the GDP of Madhya Pradesh has grown almost 10-fold.

In 2022, the Congress won the local body elections in Gwalior after 55 years. One reason cited was the infighting in the BJP, particularly between You and Union minister Narendra Singh Tomar, who is fighting the Assembly polls.

That is complete nonsense... There are elections you win, and elections you lose. Post 2020 (when Scindia left the Congress along with 22 MLAs), by-elections were held in 28 constituen-

cies then held by the Congress... If bringing down the Kamal Nath government was so bad, why did the Congress win back only nine of these 28 seats?

Are you comfortable in your new party?

The BJP is my family. I grew up with the BJP around me. My grandmother (Vijayaraje Scindia) was one of the founding figures of the BJP. My father (Madhavrao Scindia) started his political career in the BJP... Even when in the Congress, I had wonderful relationships with many in the BJP. The BJP was always home.

The Congress calls you a 'traitor'...

The Congress, unfortunately, spends many sleepless nights thinking about me. But that's their problem... If only they had delivered to the people what they promised, this would not be the situation... If on one side, you have a forward-thinking leader like PM Modiji, the choice for someone like me is very clear. On the other side, you have an organisation and a party (the Congress) that is in decay.

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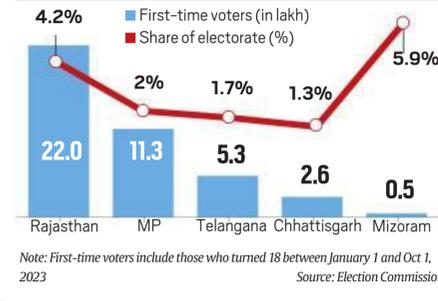


KEY PLAYERS
CONG'S 2ND LIST FOR MP: THREE REVISIONS TO 1ST LIST, 8 MLAs OUT

RAJASTHAN: INCUMBENT CURSE FOR BJP TOO, BUT ITS LOSSES NARROWER

NUMBER SPEAK

FIRST-TIME VOTERS IN POLL-BOUND STATES



Old player, new avatar: A tribal party may upend poll math in south Rajasthan



Bharat Adivasi Party leaders at a meeting in Salumber. They plan to contest 17 seats, "open to alliance". Facebook

while Damor came second. "All BTP cadre have shifted to the BAP, including MLAs, pradhans, and sarpanches. We plan to contest at least 17 seats in southern Rajasthan. We are open to alliance with national parties if they are willing to raise issues impacting tribals. For a long time, there has been a demand for a separate state for Bhils. Neither Congress nor BJP governments have followed the Constitution and adhered to a reservation policy for tribals in southern Rajasthan. The public is with the BAP, which is raising these issues," says Roat. On October 9, the Election Commission allotted the symbol of a hockey stick and ball to the BAP for Rajasthan. In Madhya Pradesh, the party will have the symbol of autorickshaw. In recent years, a section of the tribal population has emerged as a strong voice against Hindutva in southern Rajasthan and has been at loggerheads with organisations affiliated to the BJP and RSS-affiliated outfits such as the Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram that works among tribals. "We are against this game of portraying Adivasis as Hindus. Our culture doesn't match with the Hindu culture. There is massive support among the public for the issues we are raising about the rights of tribals," BAP national president Mohanlal Roat told *The Indian Express*. BAP leaders said the party plans to contest several Assembly seats in districts of Udaipur, Banswara, Dungarpur, Pratapgarh and Sirohi, including the constituencies of Udaipur Rural, Jhadol, Salumber, Dungarpur, Sagwara, Choras, Aspur, Banswara, Kushalgarh, Bagidora, Ghatol, Pratapgarh, Dhariyawad, and Pindwara.

DEEP MUKHERJEE JAIPUR, OCTOBER 20

BACK IN 2018, the Bharatiya Tribal Party (BTP) was the surprise element in Rajasthan Assembly polls, winning two seats and finishing a close second in some constituencies in the southern part of the state in what was its first elections. Five years later, tribal groups in Rajasthan have floated another political outfit called the Bharat Adivasi Party (BAP) after breaking away from the BTP. Both BTP MLAs — Chorasli MLA Rajkumar Roat and Sagwara MLA Ramprasad Dindor — have quit the party and joined the BAP. While both the Congress and the BJP are trying to reach out to tribals in the state — the 2011 Census put the number of Scheduled Tribes (STs) at 13.48% of the population — the BAP could change the electoral arithmetic. The party is looking to contest at least 17 seats in south Rajasthan, besides debuting in Madhya Pradesh. "Back in 2018, we invited the Chhotubhai Vasava-led BTP (a party from Gujarat) to Rajasthan because, at the time, we felt the need for a political platform after years of social movements in southern Rajasthan. But later, we noticed that the BTP high command would make unilateral decisions. For example, during the Dhariyawad bypoll, they chose a candidate who was not the choice of the party's local organisation. These factors led us to create the BAP," says Rajkumar Roat, the MLA from Chorasli in Dungarpur district. In that bypoll, state BTP leaders supported Independent candidate Thawarchand Damor instead of the party's official choice. The Congress won the bypoll,

Urination row fades in BJP stronghold of Vindhya Pradesh: 'Can't rebel against party'

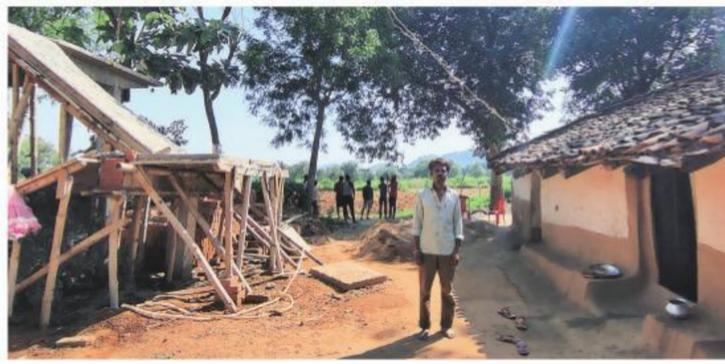
ANAND MOHAN J
SIDHI, REWA, OCTOBER 20

IN THE BJP stronghold of Vindhya Pradesh, a new home for 40-year-old Kol tribe member, Dashmat Rawat, was a promise by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

The contrast is stark as Rawat, a tribal, stands between his old mud-brick home, and the new home being built with multiple rooms. The change in Rawat's fortunes came after a video in July showing an alleged supporter of sitting Sidhi BJP MLA Kedarnath Shukla urinating on him.

Wary of tribal backlash in this region, the BJP has replaced Shukla, a four-time MLA, with Lok Sabha MP Riti Pathak as its Sidhi candidate. While the BJP had won only 16 of the 47 ST-reserved seats in MP in 2018, it had kept its grip on Vindhya Pradesh, winning 24 of 30 seats, largely due to the Kol tribe and Brahmin voters.

The jilted Shukla has declared that he will contest as an Independent. The Congress has also fielded an upper caste, Thakur leader Gyan Singh. Rawat is conscious of the attention is already moving on. "The government is racing to build my home. But what after that? I can't work because of my security escort (the Shuklas in the region, who are Brahmins, are angry since the episode). I got Rs 6 lakh in compensation and used at least 5 lakh on the home... My wife's Ladli Behna money helps sustain my family. I want a government job," he says. Rawat wasn't the only one the BJP government tried to pla-



Dashmat Rawat, the tribal urinated upon, says he has spent almost all his money on building his new home (the old one is on the right). He wants a government job. Anand Mohan J

cate ahead of the elections. CM Chouhan, who took the lead in offering "penance" to the tribal and washed his feet as the media watched, has rushed in development projects here recently.

Walking his sheep across a field in Madhuri Kothar village, Ramesh Kumar Mishra, 36, nods towards a JCB machine working on a railway platform. "The railway line from Rewa to Sidhi was announced in 2011. Three elections have passed," he says. Officials attribute the delay to Covid and land negotiations.

Mishra long stopped paying heed to these reasons, and moves on to talk about the stray cows eating his crops. However, he doesn't blame Chouhan — underlining the dilemma the BJP faces in this election, where the electorate that wants change also has little bad to say about its four-time CM.

"The CM is good," says Mishra. "It's the corrupt officials who are the problem."

Mishra is also unhappy over the denial of ticket to Shukla, a fellow Brahmin. But again, he is willing to forgive. "Party se bagawat nahin kareng, Riti Pathakji humari bahu-beti hain (We won't rebel against the party. Riti Pathak is like our daughter, daughter-in-law)."

At Naudhiya village, serving tea at his ramshackle shop, Suresh Kol, a father of four, says he took a loan of Rs 90,000 to set up the structure. What about schemes for tribals like him? "Do you think people from my community run offices?" he says. "They are all corrupt."

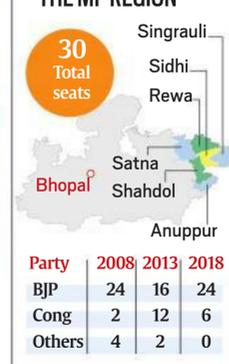
However, like Mishra, Suresh doesn't see an alternative to the BJP. "See, the party hasn't done anything great, but they also

haven't done anything wrong... The government has given electricity and roads, that is enough."

Fellow tribal Chotelal Kol, 35, whose 11-member family shares a mud-brick home, got government benefits such as a hand-pump and a solar street light nearby, two months ago. "The government also made toilets, though of poor quality," he says. Among the group of Dalit women sweeping roads in the village is Sumantra Saket, 31, a mother of six, who largely survives on the state government's flagship Ladli Behna Yojana stipend of Rs 1,250 per month.

As the CM ratchets up his pro-woman pitch, Saket knows where to draw the line. The roads leading to her home are "the only development", she says, adding that the government tends to work like this near elections. "They repaired

POLL TRENDS IN THE MP REGION



CHHATTISGARH BATTLE

Sarma target is state's only Muslim MLA, biggest 2018 winner

JAYPRAKASH NAIDU
RAIPUR, OCTOBER 20

DURING HIS recent poll speech in Chhattisgarh, BJP star speaker and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma trained his guns on one Congress leader in particular. Mohammad Akbar, the leader he targeted, is the only Muslim MLA of Chhattisgarh, a minister in the Bhpuresh Baghel government, and the candidate who had the biggest victory margin in the state in 2018. Akbar had won from Kawardha with nearly 70% of the votes, trouncing his BJP rival by nearly 60,000 votes. The Kabirdham district in which Kawardha falls is, incidentally, the birthplace of former BJP

CM Raman Singh.

The Congress has nominated the 67-year-old from Kawardha. But what is new this time is that the elections are coming after the 2021 communal violence in Kawardha, which followed an unauthorised rally by Hindu right-wing groups, leaving dozens injured.

The BJP is trying to cash in on the tension in the area since, and has fielded one of the accused in the case, Vijay Sharma.

Sharma spent two months in jail on charges of rioting. He is contesting his first Assembly election. Additionally, from Bemetara which neighbours Kabirdham, the BJP has fielded Ishwar Sahu, whose son Bhuneshwar was



Akbar, here with CM Baghel, regularly attends Hindu festivals in his constituency Kawardha, says an aide. Express

killed in a communal riot in Bemetara this August. During a recent poll speech, Union Home Minister Amit Shah referred to Sahu's candidacy as a symbol of

the BJP's promise of justice for the "martyrdom" of Bhuneshwar. Sarma was more direct in his address. "Earlier, in Uttar Pradesh, we used to hear the name Babur...

7 GOVT & POLITICS



Union minister Giriraj Singh

NREGS funds for Bengal after Centre satisfied on transparency: Union Minister

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

THE CENTRE will release funds to West Bengal under MG-NREGS and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) on the day it is "satisfied" about "transparency" in the state, Rural Development Minister Giriraj Singh said on Friday.

Addressing a press conference on "9 Years' achievements of Rural Development", Singh said the Centre has been providing funds to West Bengal under other Central schemes including the Old Age Pension scheme.

Referring to the TMC delegation that came to meet Minister of State for Rural Development Sadhvi Niranjani Jyoti on October 3, Singh said their purpose was not to meet the minister but to create ruckus.

Asked why the Union Rural Development Minister did not meet the TMC delegation, Singh replied, "Don't we want to meet? Sadhvi Niranjani Jyoti was sitting there till 08:30 pm and they continued their nautanki (gimmick). Does anyone bring a delegation of 5,000 people?... the delegation's purpose was not to meet but to create ruckus to hide their sin." Asked when the funds would be released to West Bengal, Singh said, "It will be released on the day, (we are) satisfied about transparency."

"Haven't we given money to West Bengal? We are providing funds to West Bengal under the Old Age Pension [Scheme], Disability Pension [Scheme]... and for construction of roads. There is no department to which we are not releasing funds," Singh said.

A TMC delegation led by party leader Abhishek Banerjee had come to meet Mos Rural Development at Krishi Bhawan on October 3, demanding release of Central funds under the MG-NREGS and PMAY-G. However, he was not present in Delhi. The Centre invoked Section 27 of the MNREG Act, 2005, and stopped the release of funds to the state in March 2022. The Centre has also stopped funds to Bengal under the PMAY-G scheme.

Baghel govt of scams and mafia, says Thakur



Spoke at a rally in Bijapur, Chhattisgarh

Bijapur: Union Minister Anurag Thakur on Friday said incidents of Maoist violence have declined by 52% in Chhattisgarh under the Narendra Modi government at the Centre.

Addressing a rally here, the Union Information and Broadcasting minister also said the Congress dispensation under Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel in the state was a "government of scams and mafias".

Assembly polls will be held in Chhattisgarh in two phases on November 7 and 17, while votes will be counted on December 3. Thakur's rally was held after former state minister Mahesh Gagda filed his nomination papers from Bijapur (ST) seat, where polls will be held in the first phase.

"In Chhattisgarh, incidents of Naxalite violence have declined by 52 percent during Modi ji's government. The Modi government has taken several steps for development of Bastar region," he said.

Accusing the Baghel government of corruption, Thakur said people of Chhattisgarh are fed up with "Bhu-play", a term coined by the BJP as a play on the name Bhupesh Baghel and a digital payment system.

CONG LEADERS HIT BACK: 'SAMAJWADI PARTY CHIEF ARROGANT'

MP row deepens, Akhilesh asks: If Cong behaves like this, who'll be with them?

ASAD REHMAN & MAULSHREE SETH
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 20

THE WAR of words between Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and the Uttar Pradesh Congress intensified on Friday, with Akhilesh saying: "If the Congress behaves like this, who will stand with them?"

A day after accusing its INDIA ally of "cheating" the SP, following failed talks for the Madhya Pradesh elections, Akhilesh said: "Only during the MP polls did I find out that the INDIA alliance is only for the Lok Sabha. The question is about credibility. If the Congress behaves like this, who will stand with them?... The BJP is a big, well-organised party. In a fight against them, there shouldn't be any confusion in the Opposition ranks. Or you will lose."

Uttar Pradesh Congress chief Ajay Rai, who was described as "chirkut (small fry)" by Akhilesh on Thursday, hit back saying little could be expected of a man who did not respect his own father.

The INDIA allies have been sparring after their talks to reach an arrangement for the MP polls fell through, with the SP now declaring candidates for nearly 30 seats. The Congress has questioned the SP decision to field candidates in MP, a state where it is in direct contest with the BJP.



Akhilesh Yadav

The SP, which demanded at least a few constituencies, has said the Congress should expect tit-for-tat treatment in Uttar Pradesh, where the SP is much stronger.

Akhilesh, who was in Shahjahanpur Friday, told reporters: "The Congress should have been clear. If you weren't going to give seats, you shouldn't have held talks with us... You should have told us whatever support you needed, and maybe the SP would have stood by you. But they didn't share any information with us. Hence, the SP is contesting in places where our organisation is strong."

Akhilesh had also taken a swipe at MP Congress chief Kamal Nath on Thursday. Asked about this, Kamal Nath seemed to dismiss the SP, telling reporters late Thursday: "Arrey bhai chodho Akhilesh ko (Forget about Akhilesh)."

Reacting to Akhilesh remarks that he had no "haisiyat

(stature)" to ask the SP to do anything, Ajay Rai Friday said the SP president should show "a big heart" like the Gandhis to be seen on a par with them.

"A person who did not respect his own father — the honorable Mulayam Singh Yadav, who was respected by us and would be in the future too — how can he be expected to show others any consideration?" said Rai. He claimed that SP leaders also felt humiliated within the party.

Congress MLA Virendra Chaudhary, one of the only two party legislators in UP, came to Rai's defence, accusing Akhilesh of "ghamand (arrogance)" and "galat samajh (wrong thinking), and wishing him "wisdom". "Being a national leader, he should have been careful in using such language for the state president of another party," he told *The Indian Express*.

"The kind of respect and autonomy that the Congress state president gets, it would be difficult for the SP president to understand it because he (Akhilesh) fails to give the same respect and autonomy to his state president," Chaudhary said, adding that SP UP chief Naresh Uttam "never gives any statement or speaks in the open".

In a post on X, Chaudhary hinted it was because the SP state chief was a "Kurmi", and said the entire state knew this.

INDIA grouping parties want coordination panel to play peacemaker

LALMANI VERMA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

OTHER CONSTITUENTS of the INDIA bloc are worried about the intensifying tussle between the Congress and SP, after the latter publicly aired its dismay and anger at the former's alleged reluctance to share seats in Madhya Pradesh. On Friday, several INDIA partners suggested that the coordination committee of the alliance intervene to resolve the issue.

At the heart of the tussle is differing perceptions regarding the scope of the alliance. The Congress insists that the seat-sharing among parties of the bloc is for the 2024 LS elections, while many of the smaller parties feel the larger idea is to work together to defeat the BJP — be it in the state elections or the national polls next year.

In the shadow of the SP-Congress tussle, the AAP — also a constituent of INDIA — has fielded candidates in states like MP, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh.

Sources said some of the INDIA parties have reached out to the Congress, asking it to show a "big

heart" and part with some seats for the SP. Congress leaders, on the other hand, argue that every seat is important. The elections, the last stiped before the Lok Sabha battle, are key for the party.

However, the blood being spilt between the SP and Congress in the wake of the MP falling out has left leaders of other parties worried. Senior JD(U) leader KC Tyagi said the INDIA coordination committee should intervene in the matter. "If relations get spoiled in these state elections, it will have an impact at the all-India level."

RJD Rajya Sabha MP Manoj Kumar Jha said the INDIA alliance, whose electoral tagline is "Judega Bharat-Jeetega INDIA", should decide such matters with sensitivity. "If any such thing happens among us, the public would not like it. People are looking at the INDIA alliance with hope," Jha said, hoping the issue between the SP and Congress will get resolved soon.

"INDIA constituents are feeling uncomfortable. There is discontent among constituents from Bengal, UP, Delhi, Punjab and Bihar," said a leader who did not want to be named.

Why does BJP always talk of religion, caste before polls: Priyanka

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, OCTOBER 20

CONGRESS LEADER Priyanka Gandhi on Friday asked the people to not get distracted by the use of emotive issues such as religion and caste by the BJP and instead ask the BJP leaders of their promises when it comes to development.

Addressing a rally in Dausa, Priyanka said, "You have to understand BJP's perspective, because every time there are elections, they talk of religion and caste which are connected to your heart and emotions."

She said that no "Hindustani" can deny the talk of protecting one's religion as it is something which is connected to everyone's emotions. "But you have to carefully understand why these things are being raised during elections. Why do they talk of these things during elections, instead of things concerning your development? Why aren't they telling you why they cannot give you money under Old Pension Scheme (OPS)?"

Appealing to the people of Rajasthan to break the revolving-door tradition of forming government and re-elect her party's government, she warned if the BJP government comes back to power in Rajasthan it will stop various welfare measures of the Congress government.

Praising CM Ashok Gehlot, she listed his various welfare schemes such as the OPS. With both Gehlot and Sachin Pilot on the stage, she said while Gehlot has immense experience, Pilot is a young leader working for the progress of the state.



Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Sachin Pilot at a temple in Dausa, Friday. X/@ashokgehlots1

KCR, Owaisi and BJP help each other, says Rahul

Hyderabad: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday wrapped up his three-day whirlwind tour to the state touching upon various issues including better support prices to farmers and "BRS-BJP-AIMIM alleged nexus".

Speaking at different meetings, he said the coming elections in the state were between Doral (feudal lords') Telangana and Prajala (people's) Telangana. Alleging that Telangana CM K Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) indulged in massive corruption, Gandhi said there was no CBI, ED or IT inquiry against him, while there are cases against opposition leaders in the country. This means the BJP "protects" the BRS and the saffron party, the BRS and the Asaduddin Owaisi-led AIMIM help each other, he said.

BRS's working president KT Rama Rao hit back: "Let me remind Rahul there is no bigger dictator in India's independence history than Indira Gandhi." PTI



PRESIDENT IN BIHAR: President Droupadi Murmu during the third convocation of the Central University of South Bihar in Gaya on Friday. PTI

■ Murmu said girls' excellent performance in education over past few years was a "reflection of India's progress in building a better society".

■ Bihar CM Nitish Kumar, who attended convocation ceremonies of another varsity and AIIMS Patna, Thursday, skipped Friday's event.

■ Winding up her three-day visit to Bihar, Murmu said the country was proud of the fact that the world's first republic was nourished in Bihar.

Assembly session cut short, Mann says will move SC against Gov stalling Bills

KANCHAN VASDEV
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 20

THE PUNJAB Vidhan Sabha was adjourned sine die Friday, hours after proceedings began on the first day of the two-day session as Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said his government will move the Supreme Court against the Governor for not approving the three Bills that were to be tabled in the House.

Mann told Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan that his government will not table any of the Bills, and urged him to adjourn the assembly sine die.

"I do not want this issue to

reach a flashpoint. I do not want any bitterness with Raj Bhavan. We will not table any Bill till the time we assure Punjabis that this session is legal. We will move the court on October 30," Mann said in the House.

Following Mann's request, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Balkar Singh moved a resolution to adjourn the Assembly sine die, which was passed by the House.

Amid the ongoing tussle between the Raj Bhavan and the AAP government, Governor Banwarilal Purohit Thursday wrote to Mann, withholding his approval for the three Bills. Purohit also "strongly suggested" that the government call

either a monsoon or winter session instead of choosing to continue on this "precarious course". He said if the government continued with the "patently illegal session", he would be compelled to consider an appropriate course of action, including reporting the matter to the President.

In the House, Mann said that they will get a direction from the SC and then reconvene the session in November and get the Bills tabled. He attacked the Governor, referring to him as "laat sahib" and alleging that Purohit is behaving as if "Punjab is under Governor's Rule or that he is the Lt Governor of Delhi".

Govt not clearing all Collegium picks in one go disturbs seniority, says SC

Top court notes pending appointment or transfer of 21 high court judges

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

FLAGGING THE pendency in appointment and transfer of 21 high court judges, the Supreme Court on Friday expressed concern over the Government selectively clearing names from the list recommended by the Collegium.

A three-judge bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sudhanshu Dhulia and Manoj Misra said that when some names from one Collegium resolution are notified and some are held back, it leads to seniority issues.

"The whole concept of seniority gets disturbed," Justice Kaul said.

The bench was hearing two petitions — one filed by lawyers' body Advocates Association Bengaluru and the other by an NGO — seeking contempt of court proceedings against the Centre for the alleged delay in deciding on the SC Collegium's recommendations on appointment and transfer of judges.

Lauding the Centre for clearing names recommended by the Collegium two weeks ago and appointing them "without delay", Justice Kaul called it a "positive development" and an indication that the "current process is working well". But we have to

unstuck the stuck, he said. The court recorded in its order that "the current position is 5 reiterated names are pending, 5 recommended for the first time pending, 11 transfers are pending".

Appearing for some of the petitioners, senior advocate Dushyant Dave said selectively clearing names from the Collegium list makes some candidates to withdraw.

Justice Kaul then asked Additional Solicitor General Balbir Singh, who appeared for the Centre: "What is being put to you is: Suppose there are five names, you notify four and hold back on one... What about that?"

"This should not happen... Some people have accepted it, some people out of frustration have withdrawn... There are a lot of good people. I keep saying it's a challenge these days to make people come to this side (bench)...," he said, adding it "will become a greater challenge" unless things change.

Singh responded by saying he will take instructions and appraise the court on the next date of hearing on November 7.

On Dave's concerns, Justice Kaul said "time fixation... also we gave some leeway... it may be so that something occurs and causes delay... but this time it got very much delayed. All those delays now have been dealt with..."

Deve Gowda puts LDF in spot with remarks on JDS-BJP tie-up, retracts

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, OCTOBER 20

THE AFTER-EFFECTS of the JD(S)'s alliance with the BJP in Karnataka continue to be felt in Kerala. Muddying waters further, JD(S) supremo H D Deve Gowda has claimed that the party's Karnataka tie-up had the blessing of its ally in Kerala, the ruling CPI(M).

A day after Deve Gowda made the claim, CPI(M) Politburo member and Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan called Deve Gowda's statement "rubbish". "Deve Gowda is trying to find justifications for his political somersault. The JD(S) has been traditionally with the LDF in Kerala. The party's state unit has now snapped its ties with the national leadership. The CPI(M) never meddles in the internal matters of another party," he said.

Later on Friday evening, Deve Gowda posted on X that the CPI(M) appeared to have not "followed what I said nor the context in which I said". He claimed he had never said that the CPI(M) in Kerala supports the BJP-JD(S) alliance. "I only said my party unit in Kerala is getting along with the LDF government as things within my party units outside Karnataka remain unresolved after our alliance with the BJP."

With the JD(S) own Muslim leaders in Karnataka questioning the party's decision to align with the BJP, Deve Gowda said

CPI(M) didn't follow context of what I said: Deve Gowda

EXPLAINED Cautious in Kerala

LAST MONTH, when Deve Gowda first announced the JD(S) pact with BJP-led NDA, its Kerala unit distanced itself, saying any such alliance would weaken the anti-BJP front in Kerala. However, the Kerala unit remains with Deve Gowda, while CM Vijayan has held off pressure from Congress-led UDF to remove the sole JD(S) minister.

Thursday that all its state units, including in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Maharashtra, had provided their consent to the tie-up.

About the Kerala unit, Deve Gowda said: "After they understood the situation, they said that they would support us fully... and our ministers in the Left government in Kerala have given their consent. CM (Vijayan) has given the full concurrence to go forward in Karnataka with the BJP, to save the party."

100 not out: Long march of former Kerala CM, Comrade V S Achuthanandan

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, OCTOBER 20

HE IS Kerala's crimson sun, one of the brightest stars in its socio-political space for decades, shining long past his career entered the twilight years. On Friday, Velikkathu Sankaran Achuthanandan, or VS as he is fondly known, turned 100.

It has been five years since the legendary Communist and former chief minister retreated from active public life after a stroke. But in public imagination, he remains the fighting fit nonagenarian, who kept both his party (CPI(M)) and the rival Congress on their toes at his peak, both as CM from 2006 to 2011, and as Leader of the

Opposition in 1991-1996, 2001-2006 and 2011-2016.

In the 2016 Assembly polls, when VS was 93, the LDF picked him as the face of its campaign to wrest power from the Congress — and won. After the polls, though, the CPI(M) retired VS, who was by all accounts raring to go on, euphemistically dubbing him the "Fidel Castro of Kerala" — in a reference to the legendary Cuban leader who reigned supreme till he was similarly phased out.

From 2016 to 2021, VS held the largely honorary post of chairman of the State Administrative Reforms Commission, even as the CPI(M) control passed on to his arch rival Pinarayi Vijayan.



V S Achuthanandan, Pinarayi Vijayan and other leaders at a Central Committee meeting in New Delhi in 2009. Archive

lost both his parents by the age of 11. By 12, he had dropped out of school and started working at his elder brother's tailoring shop.

Like many early Communist leaders, the Congress was VS's launching pad, and he joined it at the age of 15. Two years later, he switched to the CPI, and made his mark working among fishermen,

toddy-tappers and coconut climbers of Alappuzha. In early 1940s, after he joined a coir factory at Alappuzha, he came in touch with legendary comrade P Krishna Pillai. Recalling those years, VS said: "I would stay in a house at Cherukara for party work, located in a paddy field with streams. I would walk kilometres along narrow ridges to reach workers."

It was during these days that VS mastered his halting and winding oratory — to reach out to an audience spread out over fields, without a public address system. VS gradually climbed up the CPI ranks, from Alappuzha district secretary, to member of the state committee, and then member of the state secretariat in 1957. That year, the CPI formed the first non-Congress government in India.

In 1964, VS was one of the 32 party leaders who walked out of the CPI to float the CPI(M). He is one of only two founders of the CPI(M) now alive, the other being 102-year-old N Sankaraiah, from Tamil Nadu. A year after the CPI(M) was formed, VS contested his first election from the Ambalappuzha Assembly seat, but lost. He went on to win the seat in 1967 and 1970. In 1980, by which time the era of coalition politics had begun, VS was elected as state secretary of the party; a post he held for 12 years until 1992.

It was during this innings that he showed his inflexible political side. In 1986, VS's hand was seen in the ouster of powerful leader M V Raghavan, over an overture to get the Muslim League to the LDF. In 1994, he was instrumental in

scuttling the chances of firebrand Communist K R Gouri Amma of becoming CM.

As the LDF convener in 1996, VS faced public ire for leading an agitation against replacement of paddy with other crops. After the LDF won in 1996, VS hoped to become the CM. However, his own shock defeat from party stronghold Mararikulam put paid to that. However, his clout remained undimmed.

Several leaders who struggled to grow under VS's shadow veered towards Pinarayi Vijayan, also an Ezhava leader, who slowly carved out a powerful Kannur lobby, named after his home district. In the years that followed, CPI(M) politics would be marked by the VS vs Vijayan feud, which played out in public.

17 years after he got Indian citizenship, Pak man held for spying

RIJIT BANERJEE & AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA
AHMEDABAD, NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

ORIGINALLY FROM Pakistan, Labhshankar Duryodhan Maheshwari arrived at Tarapur town in Gujarat's Anand district in 1999 with his wife for "fertility treatment". He stayed on, established himself as a successful businessman, and got Indian citizenship by early 2006. However, on Thursday, Gujarat Anti-Terrorism

Squad (ATS) arrested him for allegedly helping Pakistani agents access sensitive information about the Indian Army. The ATS alleged that Maheshwari helped Pakistani agents access an Indian SIM card, which they used to hack the phones of Indian defence personnel's wards in Army schools. The ATS said Maheshwari did his return for Pakistani officials' help in getting visas to the country for members of his family. His arrest came on the back of specific intelligence from the

Military Intelligence (MI) that Pakistani operatives were using an Indian SIM card to target Indian defence personnel. Maheshwari (53) lived with his in-laws, who had migrated from Pakistan. "He applied for a long-term visa, and with the support of his in-laws, he established himself as a successful businessman, running a grocery store and renting out multiple stores and a house in Tarapur," defence sources said. Maheshwari and his wife did not have any children. In early 2006, he got Indian citizenship. In 2022, he visited his parents in Pakistan and is believed to have been "cultivated" by



Labhshankar Maheshwari was arrested by Gujarat ATS

Pakistani agents during the processing of his Pakistani visa. During his six-week stay with his parents, he is believed to have been in touch with a Pakistani intelligence agency, sources said. After his return to India, he facilitated the delivery of a SIM card registered in the name of a Jamnagar resident, Mohammad Saqlain Umar Tahim, to a Pakistan embassy contact, the ATS said. Maheshwari was connected with this embassy contact through his Pakistan-based cousin, Kishorebhai alias Savai

Jagdishkumar Ramwani, the ATS said. Maheshwari had contacted this cousin for help with visas to Pakistan in 2022. After Maheshwari travelled to Pakistan with his wife, he got visas for his sister and his niece. He then sent the SIM card through his sister to the cousin, who in turn, got it delivered to Pak agents, ATS said. Om Prakash Jat, SP, ATS, told *The Indian Express*: "An unknown man connected with Ramwani (Maheshwari's cousin) told Maheshwari that his sister would get her visa, but

she would also receive a SIM card in which she needs to activate her WhatsApp and send the OTP to him. The man also told Maheshwari that after the visa process is done, and his sister goes to Pakistan, she needs to bring the SIM card with her." Maheshwari has been booked for espionage, and under sections of the Information Technology Act. He was remanded to seven-day custody, the ATS said. (WITH INPUTS FROM ADITI RAJA IN VADODARA)

No.19/29/2018-ESIT. INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH V.RAMALINGASWAMI BHAWAN, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi-110029 Dated, 17th Oct., 2023.

Corrigendum Reference advertisement dated, 20th Sept., 2023, for Engagement of two Hindi Translator on contractual basis in ICMR Hqs. It is hereby informed that the last date for receipt of applications for engagement of two Hindi Translator on contractual basis in ICMR Hqs. has been extended to 31st Oct., 2023 up to 5.30 P.M. Candidates are informed that applications should reach to the undersigned before due date through Speed post/By hand.

Digitally Signed by Jagdish Rajesh Date: 18-10-2023 10:09:04. Reason: Approved Assistant Director General(A)

CBC-17152/12/0026/2324

UJVN Ltd. (An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprises) H.O. "UJJWAL" Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006 Telephone: 0135-2763808 Fax: 0135-2763508 CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866 Website: www.ujvn.com

RO No. 1036 TENDER NOTICE Date: 20.10.2023

Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil), UJVN Ltd., Kalagarh, Pauri Garhwal, invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below

Tender No. : 13/EE(Civil)/Kalagarh/Pauri Garhwal/2023-24

Name of Work: "Leakage Treatment of Sun sheds and Newly Allotted Type-I & Type-II Residences at Hydrel Colony Kalagarh."

Estimated Cost: Rs. 8,46,156.50 (GST extra)

Date of availability of bid document on website: From 17:00 hrs of 20.10.2023

Last Date for submission of tender: Up to 15:00 hrs of 17.11.2023

For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website, the tender document can be downloaded from the Nigam's website www.ujvn.com

Executive Engineer (Civil)

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely (1) Neetu Sharma, W/o Manoj Sharma, (2) Manoj Sharma, S/o Tara Chand, Both R/o: D-93, South Ganesh Nagar, Shakarpur, Delhi, Also at: Village Kurthal, District Muzafar Nagar, U.P., have committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case **CC No. 12795/2019 U/s 138 NI Act** registered at P.S. Karol Bagh, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said (1) Neetu Sharma, and (2) Manoj Sharma cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said (1) Neetu Sharma, and (2) Manoj Sharma have absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant), Proclamation is hereby made that the said (1) Neetu Sharma, and (2) Manoj Sharma accused of **CC No. 12795/2019 U/s 138 NI Act** P.S. Karol Bagh, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **28.11.2023**

By Order, Ms. Bhujali, Metropolitan Magistrate 01, (NI Act), Court Room No.-201, Second Floor, CBA-II, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/11844/CD/2023

JAIPUR-MUMBAI TRAIN KILLINGS

Chargesheet filed against ex-RPF man

VIJAY KUMAR YADAV
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 20

THE GOVERNMENT Railway Police (GRP) in Borivali on Friday filed a 1,097-page chargesheet at a city court against former RPF constable, 33-year-old Chetansinh Chaudhary, who allegedly gunned down his senior officer and three passengers onboard the Jaipur-Mumbai Central Express on July 31.

More charges have been added against Chaudhary in addition to already invoked sections 302, 153A, 341 and 342 of the Indian Penal Code and 151, 152 and 153 of the Indian Railways Act. The police have added sections 364 (kidnapping for murder), 427 (mischief and causing loss), 506-2 (death threats) of the IPC and Section 3 of the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act.

On the other hand, the police have dropped Section 363 and replaced sections 3, 25 of the Arms Act with Section 27 of the same Act, which defines misuse of a firearm allotted to a uniformed public servant.

Talking to *The Indian Express*, GRP officers said they have filed a watertight chargesheet against Chaudhary and based on the investigation, are hopeful they would secure conviction in the form of a death penalty to him.



Charged with kidnap, murder among other sections

The chargesheet has accounts of 169 witnesses that also include GRP and RPF personnel as well. "There are a total of 39 eyewitnesses. We have direct witnesses who saw Chaudhary firing on his superior and passengers. Every killing has eyewitnesses," a GRP officer said. The police have recorded statements of three persons before the magistrate under the provisions of Section 164 of CrP. Investigators have also attached footage of more than three CCTV cameras of the train that show Chaudhary's movement during the firing, an officer said.

Ballistic tests reports of bullets found at the crime scene and in victims' bodies have also come positive and have been attached to the chargesheet. The forensic report on Chaudhary's mobile phone hasn't come as yet as the locked phone could not be opened yet, a source said.

Regarding his motives, the GRP did not seem to have gone to much lengths and focused on proving Chaudhary's "intention" of consciously firing at innocent people and killing them out of "hatred" towards a particular community.



SET FOR LAUNCH

An ISRO rocket carrying the Test Vehicle (TV-D1), a crew module to test the safety of astronauts for the Gaganyaan human space flight programme, at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on Friday. It is scheduled to lift off at 8 am on Saturday. ANI

NIA arrests absconding PFI worker in Kerala murder case

Thiruvananthapuram: The NIA has arrested an absconding worker of banned Popular Front of India with regard to the 2022 murder of an RSS worker in Kerala. Shihab alias Babu was nabbed from his residence in Malappuram, said NIA in a release.

RSS worker Srinivasan was hanged to death by an alleged PFI gang on April 16, 2022, in Palakkad, a day after a local PFI leader was murdered allegedly by RSS men.

"Shihab was an integral part of the terror ecosystem being operated by the Popular Front of India (PFI), which was responsible for orchestrating the murder of Srinivasan," the NIA said.

Shihab had been on the run since the incident. NIA's dedicated absconder tracking team successfully traced him down to his residence and subsequently arrested him. In March, the NIA filed a chargesheet against 59 accused in the case. Later in May, the agency arrested absconder Saheer K V. So far, a total of 69 individuals have been named in the conspiracy. ENS

Completely eradicate manual scavenging: SC to Centre, states

Orders Rs 30L to families of those who die while cleaning sewers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

OBSERVING That manual scavengers have lived in bondage, systematically trapped in inhuman conditions for a long time, the Supreme Court Friday asked the Centre and state governments to completely eradicate manual scavenging across the country.

Issuing a series of directions to achieve this, the court directed the Central and state governments to pay Rs 30 lakh as compensation to the next of kin of those who die while cleaning sewers. "Union and States are duty bound to ensure that the practice of manual scavenging is completely eradicated," a bench of Justices S Ravindra Bhat and Aravind Kumar said. The judgement came on a PIL

seeking court's intervention to put an end to manual scavenging. The court also ordered enhancement of compensation to be paid in case of permanent disablement while manual scavenging to Rs 20 lakh and not less than Rs 10 lakh for other forms of disablement.

The apex court issued a set of 14 directions to ensure effective implementation of the Rehabilitation Act, 2013.

Justice Bhat read out the operative part of the judgement which said, "If you have to be truly equal in all respects, the commitment that Constitution makers gave to all sections of society by entrenching emancipatory provisions such as Articles 15(2), 17 and 23 and 24, each of us must live up to its promise..." "Each of us owe to this large

segment of the population, who have remained unseen, unheard and muted, in bondage systematically trapped in inhuman conditions," the court said.

"It is not without reason that our Constitution has placed great emphasis on the value of dignity and fraternity. All of us today, who proudly bask in the achievements of our republic, have to awake and arise so that the darkness which has been the fate of generations of our people is dispelled and they enjoy these freedoms and justice — social, economic and political — that we take for granted," the court said.

The bench posted the PIL for further monitoring on February 1, 2024. As many as 347 people died while cleaning sewers and septic tanks in India in the last five years, according to government data cited in the Lok Sabha in July 2022.

Adigalar, who led women into priesthood, dies at 82

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, OCTOBER 20



BANGARU ADIGALAR 1941-2023

IN THE diverse tapestry of godmen and godwomen in South India, Bangaru Adigalar of Melmaruvathur, who passed away Thursday, was a luminary. He was 82.

Adigalar, born G Subramaniam, was not just the custodian of a significant religious movement, but also the torchbearer of a spiritual renaissance among the lower middle class Tamil population, especially women devotees. His legacy finds its roots in the unique confluence of venerable traditions and pioneering reforms, tailored to facilitate a space for women devotees in the spiritual regime, equal to what Tamil men found in places like Sabarimala or Lord Muruga temple in Palani.

As a school teacher in Sotherpakkam, Adigalar traversed the dusty streets on his bicycle. His people skills, spiritual talents, and uncanny ability to resonate with the masses made him emerge as a godman of Adhiparasakthi temple, which started from a thatched cottage in Melmaruvathur over five decades ago. At the kernel of his spiritual movement was its radical inclusivity. In an era marked by stringent religious rituals and customs, especially in traditional Hindu temples, Adigalar's Melmaruvathur became a beacon for those often sidelined by strict Vedic practices. His temple doors were open to all, obliterating the boundaries of caste, creed, and notably, gender.

Women, particularly from the lower middle class, found in Adigalar an advocate like no other. When devout male pilgrims from Tamil Nadu, clad in black, thronged Kerala's Sabarimala Ayyappa temple in

1980s and 90s, or journeyed to Muruga temples, draped in green, Adigalar carved a space for women.

Allowing them to don radiant red sarees, he established a compensatory spiritual regime for women at his Sakthi Peetam, where he gave preferential treatment for women from Tamil Nadu's rural corners. He also bestowed upon them the right to perform rituals, transforming them from mere devotees to priests.

His Melmaruvathur Adhiparasakthi Siddhar Vaara Vazhipaatu Mandram, mostly led by women priests, has presence in many Tamil Nadu villages.

Adigalar was also one who detached himself from everything that was power-caste, politics and Brahminical Hinduism, which, probably, brought a few Periyar followers on his list of admirers.

When corporate strategies entered his spiritual mission, he too started many engineering, medical colleges and institutions, beginning from Adi Parasakthi Polytechnic inaugurated by then Chief Minister MG Ramachandran in the 1980s. Tamil Nadu CM M K Stalin said the funeral would be conducted with state honours.

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement System)

S. N.	Tender Notice No. & Date	Name of work with its location	Approx. Cost of work	Amount of Earnest Money	Completion period of the work	Date & Time for submission of tender & opening of tender
1	32-W-BR-1254-1289-MB DL 20.10.23	Replacement of badly corroded rivets & members of Lateral bracing angles, Cross frames & Gusses plates of Br. No. 1254 DN & 1289 DN on MB-SRE section under jurisdiction of SSE/BR/MMB	1813550.41	363000/-	03 Months	Upto 15:00 hrs on 14.11.2023 Opening of tender after 15:00 hrs on same day
2	32-W-FOB-SUNAM-UMB Dt. 20.10.23	Erection of FOB of Sunam under Ambala division.	5296448.00	105900/-	06 Months	Upto 15:00 hrs on 14.11.2023 opening of tender after 15:00 hrs on same day

Note: Above tenders are available on website, IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in, where complete details of Tender can be seen & downloaded.

3296/23

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत निर्माण खण्ड, केस्को, आर०पी०एच०, कानपुर अति अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

ई-निविदा सं.	विवरण	धरोहर धनराशि	निविदा धनराशि	ई-निविदा अपनोड करने की अंतिम तिथि व समय	ई-निविदा के प्रथम भाग खोलने की तिथि व समय	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत (लाख में)
29/कास्को/2023-24	Installation of Additional Distribution Transformer and capacity enhancement of Distribution Transformer. Laying additional LT Circuit under various division of EUDC-I, Kesco, Kanpur	31,200/- (NEFT/RTGS) के रूप में।	3540/- (NEFT/RTGS) के रूप में।	01.11.2023 समय 12.00 बजे तक	01.11.2023 समय 03.00 बजे से	रु. 31.18 (कर अतिरिक्त)
30/कास्को/2023-24	Installation of Additional Distribution Transformer and capacity enhancement of Distribution Transformer. Laying additional LT Circuit under various division of EUDC-III, Kesco, Kanpur	75,100/- (NEFT/RTGS) के रूप में।	3540/- (NEFT/RTGS) के रूप में।	01.11.2023 समय 12.00 बजे तक	01.11.2023 समय 03.00 बजे से	रु. 75.04 (कर अतिरिक्त)
31/कास्को/2023-24	Installation of Additional Distribution Transformer and capacity enhancement of Distribution Transformer. Laying additional LT Circuit under various division of EUDC-IV, Kesco, Kanpur	94,400/- (NEFT/RTGS) के रूप में।	3540/- (NEFT/RTGS) के रूप में।	01.11.2023 समय 12.00 बजे तक	01.11.2023 समय 03.00 बजे से	रु. 94.32 (कर अतिरिक्त)
32/कास्को/2023-24	Replacement of Damaged LT Under Ground cable work, Kesco, Kanpur	85,700/- (NEFT/RTGS) के रूप में।	3540/- (NEFT/RTGS) के रूप में।	01.11.2023 समय 12.00 बजे तक	01.11.2023 समय 03.00 बजे से	रु. 85.61 (कर अतिरिक्त)
33/कास्को/2023-24	Bifurcation of 11 kV Feeder and Under Ground Work of 11 kV Over Head Line in various Division of EUDC-I,II,III and IV, Kesco, Kanpur	65,100/- (NEFT/RTGS) के रूप में।	3540/- (NEFT/RTGS) के रूप में।	01.11.2023 समय 12.00 बजे तक	01.11.2023 समय 03.00 बजे से	रु. 65.04 (कर अतिरिक्त)
34/कास्को/2023-24	Under Ground Work of 33 kV Over Head Line and Strengthening of 33 kV Under Ground Line in various division of all circle, Kesco, Kanpur	67,100/- (NEFT/RTGS) के रूप में।	3540/- (NEFT/RTGS) के रूप में।	01.11.2023 समय 12.00 बजे तक	01.11.2023 समय 03.00 बजे से	रु. 67.09 (कर अतिरिक्त)

उपरोक्त ई-निविदा की पूर्ण प्रक्रिया एवं समस्त शर्तें उद्घोष सरकारी की ई-टेंडरिंग वेब साइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> के माध्यम से की जायेगी एवं भविष्य में यदि कोई संशोधन अथवा निविदा खोलने की तिथि में विस्तार होता है तो इसकी सूचना ई-टेंडर वेब साइट पर ही उपलब्ध होगी। ई-निविदाओं में निर्धारित ई-निविदा शुल्क एवं धरोहर धनराशि केस्को के बैंक खाता सं०-628850151266 आईएफएससी-ICIC0006288 में जमा कराये जायेगी। केस्को प्रबंधन के पास बिना कोई कारण बताये किसी एक अथवा समस्त निविदाओं को स्वीकृत / अस्वीकृत करने के सर्वाधिकार सुरक्षित हैं।

अधीक्षण अभियन्ता (निर्माण खण्ड)

Govt. of Bihar State Society for Ultra Poor & Social Welfare (SSUPSW) Deptt. of Social Welfare, Govt. of Bihar

2nd Floor, Apna Ghar, Behind Lalit Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna - 800023, Bihar Website: www.ssupsw.in, Tel: +91-612-2546510/11, Email: ssupsw@gmail.com

Re-Invitation of Bid

For Supply & Installation of Tally Prime Software

State Society for Ultra Poor and Social Welfare (SSUPSW) working to protect and promote the rights of women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities (PwDs), ultra poor and beggars by ensuring their care, protection, development, socio-economic and cultural empowerment through enabling policies and programmes.

SSUPSW requires the Tally Prime software for implementation of computerized accounting & for efficient organizational management, roll-up organizational accounting information from each functional Units to the Dept.'s HQ via synchronization - Easy access/exchange of accounting information across Buniyad kendra. Design the training program and Train the personals as per the mandate.

SSUPSW, Bihar, Patna invites bids from qualified reputed, organizations (Original Equipment Manufacturer/Authorized Agencies) for the supply, installation, synchronization of legacy data, training & maintenance of Tally Prime Software across 101 locations in Bihar

1.	Downloading of Document from website www.ssupsw.in	Uptill 20 / 11 / 2023
2.	Pre-bid Meeting	02 / 11 / 2023, 11.00 AM
3.	Last date of submission of bid	21 / 11 / 2023, 03.00 PM
4.	Opening of bid	21 / 11 / 2023, 03.30 PM
5.	EMD	Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rs. One Lakh)
6.	Performance Security	5% of Contract Value

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

(Prashanth Kumar CH, IAS)
Chief Executive Officer

PR-010667 (Ni Ni) 2023-24

बिहार में शराब का व्यापार, विक्री एवं सेवन अथय है। संबंधित शिकायत इस नंबर पर दर्ज करायें आपकी जानकारी गुप्त रखी जाएगी।

टॉल फ्री नं- 15545 या 1800 345 6268

9 BIG PICTURE



Photos: AP

ISRAEL-PALESTINE A LIFE ON THE HYPHHEN

SHUBHAJIT ROY travelled across Israel – from the Gaza border in south Israel to the Palestinian territory of West Bank – to find two sides united by the searing pain of seeing their loved ones, and their idea of home and country, coming under attack



**EXPRESS
IN ISRAEL**

NINETEEN-YEAR-OLD RONI Ashel's last text message to her mother was on October 7 at 9:27 am: "Mom, I'm okay, don't worry about me. Love you." The 19-year-old soldier was on duty at the Israel-Gaza border that day when she was abducted by Hamas militants, one of about 200 Israelis who were taken hostage and are now believed to be in Gaza.

In Tel Aviv, Roni's aunt Tair remembers her niece, who "loves Taylor Swift and Maroon 5", as she says, "So far, no one knows anything about her. We are desperate to receive any sign of life."

So the aunt sent Roni a text message: "Well, honey, we will find you. We will get you back. Your parents love you. Your family loves you. Stay strong. We know you have high resilience. Use it now. Till we come and get you... We love you." She hasn't heard back.

Over 60 km away, in Ramallah, in the Israel-occupied West Bank, 23-year-old Dana is in her fifth month of pregnancy, and her doctors have recommended rest and self-care. But the urban planning engineer has turned up at the Al-Manarah square in downtown Ramallah for a protest demonstration against the Israeli air strikes on Gaza.

taking shelter in the hospital when the blast happened," she says. Tair and Dana are on two vastly different sides of a conflict that has riven a region with one of the most complex and intractable geographies. Yet, the two are united by the searing pain of seeing their loved ones, and their idea of home and country, coming under attack.

Since October 7, when Palestinian militant group Hamas breached Israel's famed defences to launch a coordinated attack – the worst in Israel's 75-year history – that left 1,400 people dead and over 4,600 wounded, the conflict has spun out of control, threatening to spill over into the larger Middle East region.

While Israel has, in response, pounded the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip – killing more than 2,800 Palestinians in an area that's one of the most densely packed in the world – what holds them back from launching an all-out offensive are the 200 Israelis that Hamas militants have abducted and taken to Gaza.

The stakes are immensely high, but like everything else in this hyphenated part of the world, there are two sides to everything.

The displaced

As shelling and rocket-and-missile attacks continued, Israel began evacuating people from the border areas in the south, which faced the brunt of the Hamas and Islamic Jihad attacks, and those from the northern areas who were vulnerable to attacks by Hezbollah forces in Lebanon. Those evacuated – an estimated 3 lakh of them – from these border towns and villages have been accommodated in some of the biggest hotels of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, among other Israeli cities.

While most of those displaced are from southern Israel, including the towns of Sderot and Ashkelon, an estimated 30,000 people have been displaced from the north.

The Israeli army has got about 5 km of border areas evacuated and the government has sanctioned funds to house the internally displaced. Private companies have also come forward to help and hospitals have volunteered with medical care for the elderly.

In Tel Aviv's Crowne Plaza hotel, one of the 12 hotels earmarked for hosting the displaced families, help desks have been set up by the social services department of the local municipality. A social worker manning the desk said, "We are here to help with whatever these families need – medical advice, toys for kids, a pair of shoes if someone needs it, psychological help, or just an ear if someone needs to talk."

Aviya Davidi, a resident of Sderot, is among those at the hotel. "We try to believe that in the end, we will have a normal life. I have been forced to run away from my city, leave my house, see my friends and family running away from the things they know, all to be able to stay alive."

In another part of the country, at the Herbert Samuel Hotel near the old city of Jerusalem, a young mother of three is trying to keep up with her toddler while handling another baby in the stroller. "My husband has gone to fight the war, and I am here with my in-laws and children... we have to be strong and take care of ourselves."

Down Route 50 that connects Jerusalem to Ramallah in the West Bank is another group of displaced – the Gazans. On the outskirts of Ramallah, in a large community hall in the Al-Ram neighbourhood, more than 100 workers sit around, their belongings bundled into large, black garbage bags. Residents of Gaza, they were working as construction and agricultural workers in Israel when the conflict broke out, following which Israeli authorities rounded them up and brought them to the West Bank.

Sadeq, a 69-year-old daily-wage construction worker who earned about 300 to 350 shekels (less than \$100 or Rs 7,000 a month) in Israel, is now away from his family in Gaza. "I am grateful to the Palestinians here that I am being taken care of. But I am worried about my family in Gaza. I spoke to



(From top to bottom) Photos of Israelis missing and held captive in Gaza displayed on a wall in Tel Aviv; buildings turned to rubble in the Israeli bombardment on al-Zahra, on the outskirts of Gaza City; Dana, 23, turned up at the Al-Manarah square in downtown Ramallah for a protest against the Israeli air strikes on Gaza

them on the phone, but I am not sure when things will go bad," he says.

The banquet hall where they have been staying for the last few days is run by a wealthy Arab family from Jerusalem, but Sadeq and the others may have to move out soon – there have been rumours of Israeli soldiers swooping in since the community hall is located very close to the Israel-West Bank border.

The hostages

While the Israeli government has declared its intent to go after Hamas in Gaza, one of the major challenges facing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is that of the Israelis that Hamas has held hostage in Gaza.

The Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) has admitted that about 200 Israeli citizens are in the Gaza Strip, around 30 of them children. Additionally, about 100-200 Israelis are considered missing, with no information available about their location. Most of those held hostage in Gaza are believed to be alive, but as the hours pass by, Netanyahu's challenge gets tougher.

"Almost everyone knows someone who has either been killed or abducted or in-

jured," said Ashley Perry, a former senior Israeli government advisor who has worked with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defense and Intelligence, adding that there is "maximum two degrees of separation" between the victims and most citizens.

Almost every day, the Israeli Foreign Ministry has been getting families of hostages and victims to share their stories, in a bid to shape international public opinion against Hamas.

While most families seek revenge and want the Israeli government to go after the Hamas leadership, some – especially those whose family members have been taken hostage – advise caution.

On October 7, Hamas militants took away Ditzza Heiman, 84, a former social worker, from the Nir-oz kibbutz in southern Israel. Ditzza's family is emphatic about their position: they "don't want Israel to destroy Gaza".

Ditzza's daughter, Neta Heiman Mina, a member of the Israeli chapter of the Women Wage Peace organisation, recently wrote in an Israeli newspaper, "My mother and her friends in the kibbutz were people of peace. In her name, do not destroy Gaza."

Ditzza's grandson Moran broke down as

he spoke to *The Indian Express* on phone. "We want our grandma to come back home. If they destroy Gaza and bomb Gaza, then it's a problem," he said, his voice quivering.

Yakov Argamani, whose daughter Noa was seen in a video being captured by motorcycle-riding Hamas attackers during the attack on the Supernova music festival, said in an interview to local media, "Gaza parents are in pain, too. I'm fighting in my own way. Not with anger, but through dialogue."

United in crisis

An embattled Netanyahu is being criticised for having taken his eye off the security apparatus at the Gaza border as he was focussed all his attention on the contentious judicial reforms.

Dr Ilana Shpaizman, Professor, department of political studies at the Bar-Ilan University in Tel Aviv district, said, "Over the last 10 months, the government's attention was focussed on the judicial reforms, and they prioritised that over the security and welfare of citizens. The attention of the Israeli government was very limited on the security at the Gaza border; rather it was more focussed towards the West Bank. That is one of the reasons for the October 7 attacks."

"Our enemies watch us very carefully... They saw the country was divided and seized the opportunity," said Perry, the former senior Israeli government advisor.

Yet, for now, as the country battles its worst crisis, Israelis have come together to back the government in its "national mission".

Talking about how this unity comes from the "existential threat" that Israelis face, Perry said, "As former Israeli PM Golda Meir told Joe Biden in 1973: We Jews have a secret weapon in our struggle with the Arabs – we have no place to go."

As this sense of fear and insecurity plays out, the tensions between Israeli Jews and Israeli Arabs – one of the many fault lines that mark its society – have sharpened.

Jonathan Spyer, a Jerusalem-based analyst who is director of research at the Middle East Forum, said the issue of co-existence is a matter of concern in these times of heightened anxieties since 20 per cent of Israel's population is of Arab ethnicity, making them the largest minority group.

"Thankfully, there has been little or no incident of any Israeli Jew targeting those of Arab origin. So far, there has been no such misguided vengeance since there is a general sense of solidarity and of a national mission that needs to be completed," he said.

Dr Tareq Abu Hamed, an Israeli-Arab resident of southern Israel, who heads the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies, said that despite Hamas's atrocities, there is no substitute for dialogue.

"We will all have a very difficult time overcoming this trauma. We all hope that this war will end very soon. Both sides are suffering. No one wins in a war, civilians on both sides are suffering and dying. The only way to stop this cycle of violence, this cycle of war is to talk, build understanding, and build trust."

Sitting in a cafe run by an ex-Israeli special forces personnel in downtown Ashdod, south Israel, Oshrit Birvadker 35, a foreign policy analyst and an Indian Jew whose parents moved from Maharashtra to Israel in the 1960s, says, "Maybe we needed a war to regain our unity."



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

A GOOD ROLLBACK

Government does well to review and revise its policy on imposing licence requirements on laptop imports

IN AUGUST, THE central government had issued an order imposing licensing requirements on the imports of laptops, tablets and other devices with immediate effect. The rationale for the move was ostensibly two-fold: One, to provide a fillip to domestic manufacturing, and two, to curb imports from China. The move came under severe criticism as it raised the spectre of the government marching back to the era of the infamous licence permit raj. There were fears that such a regime could lead to the imposition of import quotas, create space for arbitrary action in other sectors, and increase the room for bureaucratic discretion, hurling India back by decades to a time many bad economic policy ideas can be traced to. The government, subsequently, deferred the deadline for the implementation of the licensing requirement. But the contentious policy continued to draw criticism from all quarters. For instance, at a recent meeting of the World Trade Organisation, countries like the US, China, South Korea and Taiwan raised concerns over this move. The government has now modified its position on the issue. This is welcome.

On Thursday, it rolled out an import management system for IT hardware, which includes laptops and computers. Under the new system, companies will only have to register and reveal data that relates to their imports, and the country of origin. As reported in this paper, the system will help to monitor imports and ensure that items come from trusted sources. There are carve-outs for special economic zones, hardware that is essential for capital goods, among others. The system will be faceless and contactless, ensuring a hassle-free experience for importers. However, companies in the "denied entity list" will not receive authorisation for imports.

While the government has done well not to press ahead with its earlier plan, this episode is unfortunately not the only instance where it had considered such a policy approach. Proposals such as bringing credit card spending outside the country under the liberalised remittance scheme underline concerns over the government's inclination to adopt the playbook of a long-gone era, when the state machinery exercised greater control over every aspect of the economy. This backsliding must be avoided. In this specific case, a heavy-handed attitude, imposing licensing requirements, is the wrong way to pursue its objectives. The government has already put in place a production-linked incentive scheme for IT hardware. And as per reports, several firms, both contract manufacturers and original equipment manufacturers, have applied under the scheme. A more prudent approach would involve creating a more conducive environment for development of a strong and vibrant manufacturing ecosystem. The policy framework must be geared towards ensuring greater openness and more freedom to operate.

CLOSING THE MIND

Bid to silence writers, students, cartoonists on Israel-Palestine conflict puts up walls, shrinks spaces in a precarious time

AT THE HEART of Adania Shibli's third novel *Minor Detail*, longlisted for the 2021 International Booker Prize, is a true incident — the rape of a young Arab woman by Israeli troops in 1949. But the brutality is only the point of origin of the Berlin-based Palestinian writer's contemplations on violence and dispossession. It pushes its readers to confront larger questions of choice and empathy in the face of persistent attempts at disenfranchisement and erasure. Like empathy, disenfranchisement also comes in varying degrees. At the ongoing Frankfurt Book Fair, where Shibli would have received the 2023 LiBeraturpreis for the novel, a postponement of the award ceremony to a later, undisclosed date and a "less politically charged atmosphere" was announced, ostensibly keeping the volatile situation in West Asia in mind. Other changes were also made — reiterating its commitment to Israel, Fair organisers declared additional platform and extra time to Israeli participants.

The postponement of the award ceremony has rightly drawn criticism from various quarters, including in the form of an open letter signed by over 600 writers, that has several Nobel and Booker Prize winners such as Abdulrazak Gurnah, Annie Ernaux, Olga Tokarczuk, Anne Enright and Ian McEwan among its signatories. As the Israel-Palestine offensive continues in the aftermath of Hamas' attack, attempts to downplay and stifle voices of protest, voices that disagree, has not been unique or confined to Frankfurt alone. Across Stanford, Columbia and other elite universities in the US, where students have spoken up in favour of the Palestinian cause and pointed to Israel's complicity in the region's crisis, pushbacks by authorities have been swift and, in several instances, tone-deaf. Soon after criticism from its former president Larry Summers for its apparent silence on Israel's suffering in the aftermath of the Hamas attack, the Harvard University leadership issued a statement condemning the attack and distinguishing itself from its student groups that had signed a statement of solidarity with Palestine. In the UK, *The Guardian's* long-time cartoonist Steve Bell was let go, citing concerns over his alleged anti-Semitic stance in a cartoon of Israeli leader Netanyahu.

In any situation of conflict, perspective, especially among those removed from its spiralling immediacy is crucial. It relies on the ability to call out violence against all innocent people as wrong, irrespective of who the perpetrator is or what one's political ideology dictates. The bid to silence writers and cartoonists, students and protestors does not just show misdirected energies in a precarious time. It also frames the limitations of a public rectitude whose capacity for empathy is outweighed by its disproportionate interest in appearing to be "fair" and "balanced".

BACK WITH A BANG

Kohli's form is a promise — many more records will be broken and many more tournaments won

THERE WAS A time not too long ago when Virat Kohli was considered to be past his best. A prolonged slump prompted speculation on whether he could get back to being the run-machine. Losing the captaincy and admitting to "faking intensity" were perceived as signs that Kohli didn't have enough left in the tank.

But in hindsight, taking a break at the end of last year would prove to be the best decision he could have taken. At 34, Kohli looks rejuvenated. Playing with the energy of a player in 20s during the ongoing World Cup, he notched up a sublime hundred against Bangladesh.

Coming to bat in the 13th over with 169 runs to get for victory, Kohli scored an unbeaten 103, once again proving his mastery over the 50-over format. This is the version of the game in which he first made his name. He is now just one century behind Sachin Tendulkar's tally of 49 ODI tons. The manner in which Kohli got his 48th may have raised a few eyebrows, with Kohli and KL Rahul turning down singles so that the former could farm the strike, with the runs needed for a win and his hundred the same. But with India reaching their target with 51 balls to spare, there was scope for targeting a personal milestone along with the team goal. In fact, by showing urgency to get to three figures, Kohli ended up boosting India's net run rate as well. The scenario may have been different if the equation had been tighter or if India were batting first.

Kohli's form is an ominous sign for India's future opponents. If he and his teammates continue in this vein, the hosts may have a lot to celebrate in about four weeks. As for the man himself, though he is about to turn 35, he shows no signs of slowing down. There are many more records to be broken and World Cups to be won.

Middle East, middle ground

India should not conflate Israel with Netanyahu, must strengthen Palestinian Authority against Hamas



RAJA MANDALA

BY C RAJA MOHAN

IF THERE WAS one big idea that captured the essence of independent India's early thinking on the Middle East, it was the preference for the region's modern secular nationalists. Delhi was uncomfortable with religious forces in the Middle East. The region, however, did not evolve according to India's preferences.

The division between secular republics and conservative monarchies was too simplistic. Several developments in the Middle East since the late 1970s led to the rise of violent religious extremism and Islamic republicanism that today threaten both secular and conservative regimes.

Over the last few years, India has drawn closer to Arab moderates and Israel. This has been facilitated by the converging interests and expanding engagement between Arab moderates and Israel. They have become valuable partners for Delhi in countering religious extremism, accelerating India's economic modernisation and expanding India's security footprint in the region.

The horrific bloodletting in Southern Israel and Gaza over the last two weeks has cast a shadow over India's recent gains in the Middle East. The challenge for Indian policy in the coming days is to prevent the current crisis from breaking up the emerging coalition of Arab moderates and Israel and limiting the rise of forces seeking regional chaos.

Three imperatives stand out for Indian policy. The first is to encourage greater moderation in Israel. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was right in expressing solidarity with Israel in the wake of the horrendous terror attack on Southern Israel on October 7. Although Israel will make its own choices and is unlikely to be compelled by anyone else, Delhi must caution Tel Aviv against allowing its quest for retribution to overwhelm the need for a careful assessment of the consequences of its planned invasion of Gaza to "eliminate Hamas".

It is unlikely that Hamas and the violent religious extremism it espouses can be defeated, let alone destroyed, through military

means. In fact, the massive costs of Israel's invasion will lend greater legitimacy to Hamas and weaken that of Tel Aviv. More immediately, it will invite Israel's adversaries to open additional fronts, further isolate Israel in the international community, and undermine its moderate Arab partners. A Tel Aviv locked in a costly, unwinnable and extended urban counter-insurgency warfare in the densely populated Gaza strip is precisely where its adversaries want it to be.

Just a few weeks ago, Tel Aviv hoped to see several Muslim nations step forward to recognise Israel after the much-awaited normalisation of ties between Israel and Saudi Arabia. The Gaza war has compelled Saudi Arabia to suspend dialogue with Israel. Muslim countries, including Pakistan and Bangladesh, that were looking at engaging Israel are walking away from that idea. Despite being the victim of a barbarous terror attack, Israel has not drawn empathy in much of the Global South. A prolonged military campaign in the Gaza Strip will lose Israel more friends even in the developed North.

The unfolding violence is also sharpening the divisions within the Israeli polity. Although outrage and grief dominate the Israeli popular sentiment today, a significant part of the anger is directed at the failure of the government led by Benjamin Netanyahu to prevent such a large-scale attack by Hamas. Sections of the political class are pointing to the extremist policies of Netanyahu that have brought Israel to such an impasse. Netanyahu has been a great political survivor, but his prospects for enduring the present crisis appear remote. It would be a huge mistake for India to conflate the interests of Netanyahu and those of Israel.

That brings us to the second imperative: The need to strengthen the moderate voice of the Palestinian Authority against Hamas. In India, the widespread and enduring political support for the "Palestinian cause" is not matched by the recognition of the massive divergence between the PA and Hamas.

The rise of Hamas, there is no doubt, is a consequence of Israel's persistent effort to undermine the Palestinian Authority. A weakened PA lost to Hamas in the Gaza Strip in 2007. Any strategy to counter Hamas today must necessarily restore the political salience of the PA; this, in turn, involves a serious effort to address its demands for full statehood.

If the PA come from the tradition of ethnic nationalism and a modern outlook on state building, Hamas represents a religious nationalism and wants to impose Islamic law in Palestine.

The rise of Hamas, there is no doubt, is a consequence of Israel's persistent effort to undermine the Palestinian Authority. A weakened PA lost to Hamas in the Gaza Strip in 2007. Any strategy to counter Hamas today must necessarily restore the political salience of the PA; this, in turn, involves a serious effort to address its demands for full statehood.

The third imperative demands a recognition of the regional ambitions of Iran and Turkey. Iran's support for Hamas and Hezbollah and Turkey's support to the Muslim Brotherhood, although dressed up in the ideology of Islamic solidarity, is about gaining greater political sway over the Arab world.

In Jammu and Kashmir, India is at the receiving end of Turkey's Islamic internationalism under the leadership of Recep Tayyip Erdogan. But neither Indian policy nor its discourse on the Middle East engage with Iran's disruptive role in the Arab world. Although Delhi has good reasons to develop a productive bilateral relationship with Tehran as a major regional power and an important neighbour, it can't turn a blind eye to Iran's destabilisation of its Arab neighbours.

India has much to lose if the current crisis in Gaza explodes into a wider regional war. The triumph of violent religious extremism and the weakening of moderate regimes will have security and political consequences for India. Strengthening moderates in Israel and Palestine, supporting reconciliation between them, and promoting a wider coalition of moderate states is critical for India's long-term prospects in the Middle East.

The writer is a senior fellow at the Asia Society Policy Institute, Delhi and a contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express



BRIJ KOTHARI

SARAH SUNNY MADE history recently by becoming the first deaf advocate to use Indian Sign Language (ISL) to argue a case in the Supreme Court, in the presence of the Chief Justice of India. Soon thereafter, Rahul Bajaj, a blind advocate, made the case for media accessibility in cinema halls, in the Delhi High Court while two ISL interpreters made the proceedings accessible to Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) persons. Under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, Bajaj is battling the entertainment ecosystem to make reasonable accommodations.

While no stakeholder overtly disagrees with the need for media accessibility, the entertainment industry sees it as an onerous task for two reasons. One, media accessibility is only for the benefit of a small minority of hearing and visually impaired viewers but detracts from the experience of the overwhelming majority. Two, making films accessible on all the devices and platforms where content is consumed is complicated and costly.

Beyond the offensive portrayal of people with disabilities as a burden on the rest of us, these lines of argument rest on fundamentally flawed assumptions. Saying that media accessibility only serves DHH and visually impaired people is erroneous. There is compelling global evidence that media accessibility features are useful for all, including the hearing and the sighted, albeit in different ways. The Billion Readers (BIRD) initiative has shown that features like Same Language Subtitles or Captions (SLS/SLC) will advance the reading literacy and language skills of a billion TV viewers. Hearing viewers often use SLS in noisy environments —

most homes — for improved media access.

BIRD's surveys in rural government schools in several states have found that almost all children, parents and teachers prefer and want entertainment content with SLS. The industry may not have fully grasped the demand for SLS on video-based entertainment among India's majority low-income viewers, including children, youth, and adults, who instantly see its value for furthering their own reading, language skills and education.

Achieving media accessibility across the entertainment system is not as complicated, or costly as the industry claims, if we adopt a systems approach. The entertainment industry encompasses the creation, distribution, and consumption of content in more than 23 Indian languages. The core idea in a systems perspective is that accessibility features should become an integral part of all content.

Video, for instance, includes separate files for the visuals and the audio. We propose the inclusion of accessibility features as separate files in the Digital Content Package (DCP). This is most cost-effectively achieved across platforms, channels and devices.

The prime advantage of marrying accessibility to content is that any stakeholder can turn the accessibility features on or off at practically no cost. Compliance with the RPwD Act and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting's (MIB) Accessibility Standards, 2019, then becomes a managerial decision.

MIB has oversight over all entertainment content, therefore, it would simply need to set guidelines and standards for content creation. For instance, the Central Board of Film

Certification (CBFC) can require SLS/SLC and Audio-Description (AD) files to be deposited with CBFC, after a film has been certified. For the life of the film thereafter, the accessibility features can readily be turned on/off by any distribution channel, consumer, or device.

Cinema halls can schedule and announce special shows with SLS/SLC or AD. The deaf and blind then have the option of enjoying an immersive theatre experience. The decision to offer media accessibility on TV and OTT becomes straightforward. In an earlier hearing, the Delhi High Court directed Yash Raj Films to deposit SLS/SLC and AD files for *Pathaan*, with CBFC. This needs to become the new norm for all films.

India's disability rights groups are asking for four accessibility features to be included as separate files in any digital film package: SLS (SLS implied), AD, translated English captions/subtitles and ISL video interpretation for picture-in-picture display. Media accessibility becomes a default and choice in any content distribution and consumption scenario.

The first two accessibility features are critical. If MIB and CBFC simply require that SLS/SLC and AD files are deposited for every film, it will nudge the entire entertainment system to honour media accessibility.

According to WHO, "among those older than 60 years, over 25 per cent are affected by disabling hearing loss." Right now, and in the future, all 1.4 billion Indians will benefit from media accessibility.

The writer is the Founder of PlanetRead and co-leads the Billion Readers (BIRD) initiative

REACHING OUT TO INCLUDE

Making media accessible to persons with disabilities serves everyone

There is compelling global evidence that media accessibility features are useful for all, including the hearing and the sighted, albeit in different ways. The Billion Readers (BIRD) initiative has shown that features like Same Language Subtitles or Captions (SLS/SLC) will advance the reading literacy and language skills of one billion TV viewers. Hearing viewers often use SLS in noisy environments — most homes — for improved media access.

OCTOBER 21, 1983, FORTY YEARS AGO

A STRONG CENTRE

THE ALL INDIA Congress Committee (I) has stressed the need for a strong Centre and maintaining national unity to tackle the problems facing the country effectively. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Congress (I) leaders, were unanimous in their approach to face the challenges before the country. Mrs Gandhi accused the opposition of a non-cooperative attitude towards the government.

AICC BLAMES AKALIS

THE ALL INDIA Congress Committee (I) has

squarely placed the blame for the present situation in Punjab on the Akali Dal. A political resolution proposed by the Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Mohsina Kidwai states that the grave situation, tension and conflict in Punjab are a direct result of the Akali Dal's policies of fuelling the flames of violence and condoning crimes against persons and property.

GRENADA PM KILLED

THE ARMED FORCES maintained a tight curfew on the island of Grenada after announcing they had killed Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and three cabinet ministers. Citizens

were warned to remain at home or risk being "shot on sight". The army commander, Gen Hudson Austin, reported that a "revolutionary and military" council had been established to rule the island and all schools and businesses would remain closed until "normality is returned."

ZIA'S ALLEGATION

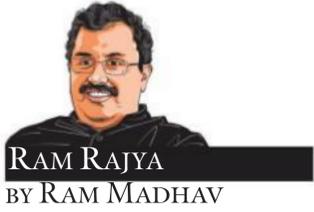
PRESIDENT GEN ZIA-UL-HAQ has alleged that the Soviet Union has a "hand" in "a very strong underground movement for subversion in Pakistan" and suggested that India, too, might be "involved", an American TV show reported.



11 THE IDEAS PAGE

At stake for Israel

A new regional order that was taking shape through initiatives like I2U2 to India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor will be the victim of this conflict



RAM RAJYA
BY RAM MADHAV

IT HAS BEEN two weeks since the deadly attack by the Palestinian terrorist group Hamas resulted in the death of hundreds of Israelis on Sukkot — a Jewish harvest festival. Israel has faced such situations many times in the past and it has come out stronger on each occasion. It will, this time too. However, the Hamas attack is not just another terror incident.

It has wider ramifications for Israel as well as the world — military, political, strategic and global. This was an attack on the image of “omnipotence” that Israel had cultivated over decades. Its ability to neutralise adversaries, tackle enemies that are four or five times larger in military strength, and the almost mythical proportions its intelligence agency Mossad acquired — all stand under scrutiny today.

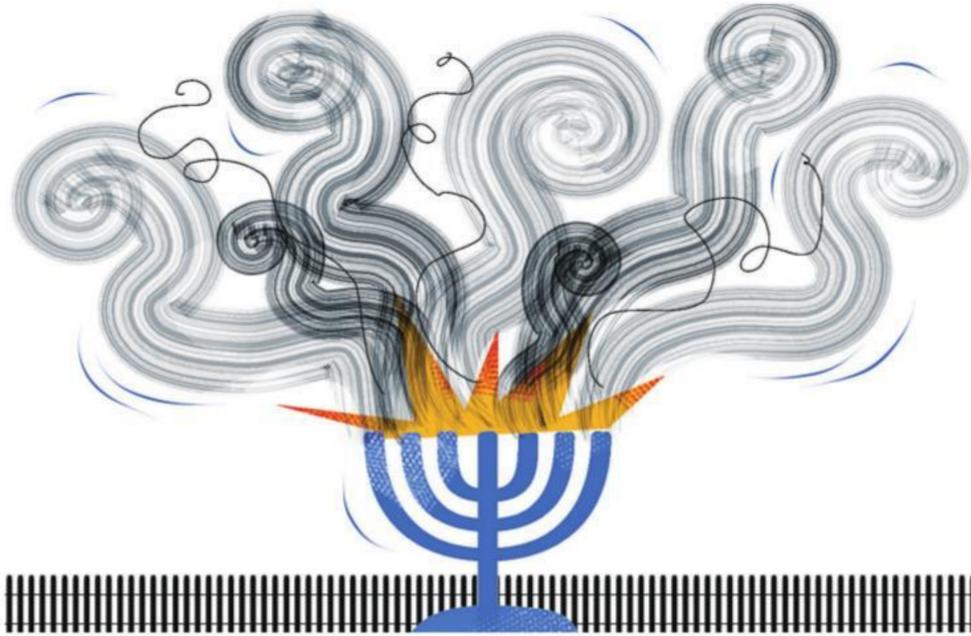
Of particular significance is its intelligence failure. Its well-known external agency Mossad and the lesser known but equally powerful military intelligence wing called Aman and the internal security organ called Shabak — all appear to be facing the charge of a collective failure.

Hamas and its more radical ally, the Palestine Islamic Jihad, were successful in their counter-intelligence operation of pretending to be normalising relations with the government in Jerusalem by allowing more job permits for Gaza residents to work in Israel and receiving financial support for developmental activity in Gaza. A false sense of complacency was created in the Israeli system, which was over-dependent on its tech-int capability and ignored the hum-int factor.

The political fragmentation witnessed in Israel in the last several months over the Netanyahu government’s attempts at judicial reform, that resulted in political unrest, also created a conducive atmosphere for such an attack. The situation turned alarming when the reservists in the Israeli military announced their decision not to return to duties and air force pilots declared their intention not to fly.

This internal political strife could be partly responsible for the delayed response of Israel’s security establishment to the terror attack. For the first six hours, citizens were left to defend themselves before the organised fight-back by the military could begin. The failure to form a national unity government and the creation of an emergency war cabinet instead, on the specific condition that Netanyahu’s government wouldn’t take up any business other than war related, is another indication of the systemic challenge.

The strategic implications of this terror attack cannot be missed. While engaged in a non-stop conflict with the Palestinian groups on both sides — West Bank and Gaza — Israel simultaneously tried to build bridges with



CR Sasikumar

several Arab nations using its image of military omnipotence and technological preponderance. Egypt and Jordan had long-standing relations with the country, while it entered into agreements in 2020 for the establishment of diplomatic relations with other Arab countries like Bahrain, Sudan, Morocco and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Even Saudi Arabia, the most influential Arab country, which stoutly opposed the United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine for the creation of Israel in 1947, moved closer to clinching a peace deal with Israel under the aegis of the US. The deal, coming from the country that did not establish diplomatic relations with Israel until now, would have changed the geopolitics of the Middle East forever.

Israel stands to lose that advantage gained over decades of efforts in neutralising opposition in the Sunni Arab world. Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman was not only compelled to put the deal on ice, but also take the first phone call from President Ebrahim Raisi of Iran. A new regional order that was taking shape through initiatives like I2U2 to IMEEC (India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor), to the growing bonhomie of the Global South, will be the victim of this evolving conflict. With fires raging from West Asia to Eastern Europe to Western Pacific, the world seems to be heading towards what can be called the “Great Global Disorder”.

In a conflict that is live 24/7 on media and social media, politics of emotions, rather than politics based on facts, is bound to complicate matters for Israel. The latest incident involving bombardment of the Al Ahli Baptist Hospital in Gaza has already led to massive uprisings in several Arab capitals including Beirut, Damascus, Cairo and Amman. The mood in the Arab world appears to be that while Hamas may be a tyrant, it is “our

While engaged in a non-stop conflict with the Palestinian groups on both sides — West Bank and Gaza — Israel simultaneously tried to build bridges with several Arab nations using its image of military omnipotence and technological preponderance. Egypt and Jordan had long-standing relations with the country, while it entered into agreements in 2020 for the establishment of diplomatic relations with other Arab countries like Bahrain, Sudan, Morocco and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

bloody tyrant”, to borrow FDR’s words.

Hamas and its cronies will do everything possible to escalate these revolts as they suit their geopolitical objectives. Hamas may try to fuel a new round of intifada in the West Bank and incite Egyptian militias for attacks from the south, while Hezbollah, with its arsenal of 1.5 lakh rockets, will continue to harass Israel from the north.

Israel has called it a war. This “war on terror”, not against the people of Gaza, but against the new terror avatar of al Qaeda and ISIS, must go on. Like the earlier war on terror, which culminated in the decimation of Osama bin Laden and Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi along with their networks, this war also should end in Hamas, Islamic Jihad and their mentors fully neutralised.

David Ben-Gurion, father of the Israeli nation, told his people that “the fate of Israel depends on two things — its strength and its righteousness”. Israel should display both strength and righteousness in this war. The majority of Palestinians are prisoners in the hands of groups like Hamas. Unlike in a conventional war, collateral damage will be higher in the war on terror as the terrorists use populated areas as war zones. Israel needs to be extra cautious about civilian security in Gaza.

As victims of terror, we in Bharat understand Israel’s pain and hence our immediate response to stand by the people and government of Israel. At the same time, we continue to uphold our traditional support to the “two-state solution” in the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Finally, irrespective of the consequences, Israel will fight, because, as Golda Meir told Joe Biden five decades ago, “we have no place else to go”.

The writer, president, India Foundation, is with the RSS

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“Sadly, much of the Western media, parroting the line their governments have taken, have become cheerleaders for Israel. Therefore, in the interest of balanced coverage, it is important that outlets that make an effort to project the Palestinian point of view are allowed to work freely.” — DAWN, PAKISTAN

The case of the guerrilla artist

Defamation case involving Banksy prompts questions on whether anonymous artists can be proceeded against in court



OPENING ARGUMENT
BY MENAKA GURUSWAMY

THE FAMOUS GRAFFITI-STREET artist Banksy (known as Britain’s unlikely national treasure) is being sued for defamation for over 1.3 million pounds over his use of Instagram to urge shoplifters to strike a Guess (a branded clothing chain) store. Banksy’s work can be found online, or on the walls of a variety of places in Bristol, London, New York, Bethlehem, Kyiv and Detroit. More recently, one of his works of art that shreds itself sold for 18 million pounds. Who is Banksy? That is a matter of much speculation. And it is this self-enforced legal character of anonymity that throws up fascinating questions.

First, let us address some preliminary definitions. The term “graffiti” comes from the Italian word “graffiato” or scratched — designs scratched into the surface. Graffiti is usually simple words that are spray-painted without permission. It is different from street art — which is typically commissioned and legal. By the late 1970s, graffiti and street art started merging as youth started spray-painting images in cities. This spray-painting was done without permission. You can see commissioned street art in Delhi in Lodhi colony and Shahpur Jat. While clearly not commissioned, graffiti can be seen in a multitude of streets in the capital. Banksy follows a unique model of street art with graffiti-like qualities. His works are done clandestinely without the permission of authorities but are elaborate artworks with a message.

Now back to our defamation lawsuit. Banksy alleges that Guess used his work without his permission. The image in question is a striking one — a youth wearing a mask in a fighting pose throwing a bouquet of flowers. Here the flowers replace the traditional weapons of rioters/fighters/rebels — Molotov cocktails or rocks. Guess used this on their storefronts. The company alleges defamation since those who viewed the Instagram post including Banksy’s 12 million followers will believe that Guess had stolen Banksy’s artwork. This case is expected to be decided shortly.

Importantly, the defamation claim has resulted in not only the likely identification of this anonymous and reclusive artist, it also brings forth larger issues of whether anonymous artists or creators can be proceeded against in court and, correspondingly, defend their interests in their work and reputation. Can an interest only be protected when the owner asserts her identity? What, then, of anonymous social media accounts that may create art or allegedly defame people?

In the defamation case, the identity of the artist Banksy, while much speculated about, is still largely unknown. Is this one person? Or a collective of artists? Many

British newspapers have speculated that Banksy is in fact the pseudonym of a Bristol artist, Robin Cunningham. The co-defendant in the defamation suit is the artfully named Pest Control Ltd, a company established by Banksy that sells his art. Robin Cunningham is the other defendant. If Robin Cunningham is proven to be Banksy, he may not only be liable for defamation but also may be wanted by the authorities in multiple jurisdictions on charges of trespass and damage to private property.

Banksy as an anonymous artist pushes more legal boundaries — not just in defamation law but also in copyright and trademark law. In 2018, lawyers on behalf of Banksy had successfully applied for trademark protection of his work within the European Union. Banksy asserted these interests when a greeting card company used his famous image of a monkey wearing a placard on one of their cards without taking the artist’s permission. Banksy’s artwork is called “Laugh Now” and comprises 10 monkeys — six carry a sign with the words “Laugh now one day we will be in charge” while four have empty placards.

This dispute resulted in a court case titled *Full Colour Black Limited* (the card company) v *Pest Control Office Limited* (Banksy’s representatives who handle his intellectual property interests), that was decided by the Cancellation Division of the European Union Intellectual Property Office on May 18, 2021. The card company’s lawyers argued that Banksy had proceeded in “bad faith” since the work that is sought to be registered is a “work of graffiti sprayed in a public place”, and that is “free to be photographed by the general public and has been disseminated widely”. They further argued that Banksy himself in his book *Wall and Piece* wrote that “copyright is for losers”.

The ruling discusses important issues of monopolisation of artwork and anonymous artists. Since Banksy cannot be identified, “would (this) hinder him from being able to protect this piece of art under copyright laws without identifying himself, while identifying himself would take away from the secretive persona which propels his fame and success”? The Cancellation Division eventually found in favour of the applicant or the card company that sought cancellation of Banksy’s European Trademark.

Indian law is seized of the question of the assertion of an anonymous artist’s interest. Section 23 of the Copyright Act 1957 asserts that in the case of a literary, dramatic, musical or artistic work (other than a photograph), which is published anonymously or pseudonymously, copyright shall subsist for 60 years. This includes the protection of the anonymous work of joint authors. Section 53 of the same statute provides a definition of “owner of copyright” as being either an exclusive licensee or an anonymous publisher. Undoubtedly, these and many other questions will come to court, as anonymous creations of art and words not only on walls in our cities but also in the un-walled world of social media will permeate our consciousness. Will this result in the decline of the anonymous artist or in the increased need to protect her?

The writer is a Senior Advocate at the Supreme Court

The green finance challenge

An agenda to unlock private funding for the people and the planet



AMÉLIE DE MONTCHALIN

IN JUNE, MORE than 100 countries as well as representatives from global private sector entities gathered in Paris to affirm a single goal: No country should have to choose between fighting poverty and fighting for the planet. The Paris Pact for People and the Planet was the result of close work with India, who co-chaired the Summit’s steering committee and was represented in Paris by Minister of Finance Nirmala Sitharaman. This outcome has been enshrined in the G20 Leaders’ Declaration at the historic Delhi Summit in September. The achievement reflects the spirit of the Indo-French partnership for the planet — we act together to overcome the artificial North/South divide and seek to find tangible solutions to the greatest challenges of our times.

Transforming the international financial system to better support sustainable development is one such challenge. In order to address the overlapping challenges of poverty reduction, climate change and biodiversity protection, we need a shift from billions to trillions in global investments. Much discussion and controversy have focused on the public sector, especially the commitment by developed countries to provide USD 100 billion in climate finance per year between 2020 and 2025. This goal is now expected to be met in 2023 for the first time. France has not only contributed its fair share, but exceeded its commitment by providing Euro 7.6 billion in climate financing in 2022, illustrating that President Emmanuel Macron’s pledge to “make our planet great again” was not mere words. Here, too, India is a priority partner for us — since 2012, the French

Development Agency has committed more than Euro 2 billion for sustainable development projects in India.

France will continue to honour its commitments. But we know that public sector financing will not be sufficient for the cause. What we also need is a positive shock from private-sector funding. The role of the private sector has so far been somewhat of a blind spot.

The Paris Pact for People and Planet seeks to address this. It proposes actions aimed at scaling up private capital flows to transform emerging and developing economies. It resonates with World Bank President Ajay Banga’s commitment to ensure each dollar of lending from the World Bank is complemented by at least one dollar of private finance. How can we unlock more private-sector funding to face the climate and development crises?

First, we should engage in a review of the global vertical climate funds in order to optimise the use of their resources and increase partnerships between peers and with the rest of the climate-finance architecture.

Second, it is time to review the post-2008 financial regulation with respect to its unintended impacts on the mobilisation of OECD savings towards non-OECD countries. In a nutshell, we need more simplicity and consistency in the rulebook to lower risk and risk perception for global investors who fund sustainable projects in developing countries. However, prudential rules are not the only determinants of private actors’ investment choices: Providing the right signals and labels to invest in sustainable projects, maintaining a stable and transparent

environment, and promoting investment opportunities are also essential.

Third, credit-rating agencies must be included in the reform agenda of multilateral development banks (MDBs). We don’t want MDBs to be penalised and lose their rating because of the reforms introduced to make them more effective. Rating agencies should take into account the innovative blended finance schemes we are designing and use the new data on actual defaults. This new data shows that in many developing economies, contrary to most OECD countries, projects with good multi-lateral guarantees are less prone to default than companies, which are less likely to default than sovereigns.

Fourth, we should push further the thinking on the “green finance” framework to make the most of the global savings pool. The objective is to align the financial sector with the objectives of the Paris Agreement, something that has led to misunderstandings and distrust between developed and developing countries. In essence, it simply means harnessing the full trust of private finance to support low-carbon and resilient pathways around the globe. We should use mitigation costs as a compass to make every dollar spent the most effective marginally. In this respect, country-led, multi-actor partnerships such as Just Energy Transition Partnerships are the right way to raise the required investments. These partnerships are already operative in Indonesia, Vietnam, South Africa and Senegal. We should do more with countries willing to phase out coal from their electricity mix.

On many of these issues, India’s G20

Presidency has enabled path breaking progress. We now need to jointly support the G20 Brazilian presidency to bring this agenda to the finish line.

Finally, unlocking private sector finance for the green transition does not exonerate governments from addressing debt vulnerabilities in developing countries. Too many low- and middle-income countries face unsustainable debt trajectories. This was also a key topic of the Paris Summit in June — how to accelerate debt suspension and treatments when needed, and find new tools such as climate-resilient debt clauses. Every major creditor country must live up to its responsibility. We have also seen in India’s neighbourhood, the impact of debt traps on vulnerable economies. In the case of Sri Lanka, the Paris Club and India have stepped in to create a successful platform for debt restructuring. All major creditors in the region should now avoid contributing further to debt vulnerability.

In these endeavours, I believe India has a crucial role to play because of its economic size, but more than that, because of its unique capacity to build bridges rather than stir up divisions within the international community. In Paris on July 14, President Macron and Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted that our partnership is a force for “advancing cohesion in a fragmenting world”. This spirit, which is that of India’s *vasudhaiva kutumbakam*, must guide our efforts to make the global financial system more efficient and more just.

The writer is economist, former French minister and current Ambassador of France to the OECD

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BELL’S LEGACY

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘The cartoon hurts more’ (IE, October 20). Please be good enough to congratulate E P Unny (on my behalf) for his brilliant article on the Ideas page in today’s Express — to the effect “that a brilliant cartoonist must draw blood for sure since this is part of a robust editorial tradition”. How far this remains in India, after the sacking of the well-known cartoonist Steve Bell of *The Guardian*, is something that needs sound editorial policy, and some intuitive thinking on behalf of management! Bravo, Mr Unny!

Fali S Nariman, via mail

CENSUS DATA

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘Caste census plus’ (IE, October 20). The government has released the data of a total of 209 castes in Bihar. Caste-based discrimination is still prevalent in many parts of India. A caste census can help identify disadvantaged groups and bring them to the forefront of policymaking. The data must not become a weapon for deepening faultlines and increasing polarisation to win elections. It should not lead to the splintering and shrinking of the very notion of representation in a large and diverse democracy. It is crucial for policymakers to carefully consider the arguments for both sides for a more equitable and just society.

SS Paul, Nadia

QUESTION OF MSP

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘A political hike’ (IE, October 20). MSP is the guaranteed price at which the government will procure the grains from farmers. But this will only happen in April/May 2024. So what is the hurry in declaring it now? In the unlikely event of a shortfall, wheat import is a viable option to maintain the stock. The principles embodied in the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) should be respected and observed. If this MSP announcement has the potential to influence voters in MP and Rajasthan, it is at odds with MCC.

LR Murmu, New Delhi

ROLE OF FREEBIES

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘An expenditure cap’ (IE, October 20). Since all major political parties are offering freebies now, we should survey whether freebies affect voters’ electoral choice. This is because every party also promises to eradicate corruption and offer employment and poverty eradication but recent show mixed outcomes. AAP failed to lure Gujarat but won in New Delhi; the Congress party won in Karnataka and HP but not in UP because of a lack of popular state leaders in UP. Lastly, even if freebies influence voters, they will prefer leaders capable of fulfilling the commitment, thus making trustworthiness a key factor.

Y C Chouksey, Pune

12 THE WORLD

BID TO BECOME SPEAKER OF LEADERLESS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES JIM JORDAN LOSES THIRD U.S. HOUSE VOTE

Hardline conservative Republican Jim Jordan on Friday lost a third vote to become speaker of the US House of Representatives, leaving the leaderless chamber unable to respond to Biden's request for aid to Ukraine and Israel. Jordan got 194 votes, well short of 214 he needed to be a speaker. **REUTERS**

RELEASED A U.S. MOTHER, HER DAUGHTER for humane reasons after Qatar mediation: Hamas

TUNNEL, ARMS DEPOT AMONG 100 TARGETS struck across Gaza Strip, says Israel military

TOWN NEAR LEBANON BORDER EVACUATED as Israel prepares to launch Gaza ground invasion

Hamas says 2 US hostages freed, Israeli strikes on

No plan to control Gaza life after war with Hamas: Israel Defence Minister

AGENCIES
GAZA, KHAN YOUNIS,
OCTOBER 20

THE ISLAMIST group Hamas said Friday it had released two US hostages - a mother and daughter - for what it called "humanitarian reasons" following Qatari mediation efforts.

Hamas armed wing spokesman Abu Ubaida issued a statement announcing the release, the first since gunmen from the Islamist militant group burst into Israel on October 7, killing 1,400 people, mainly civilians, and taking 200 hostages.

Israel's Channel 13 News said Israel had confirmed the release of two hostages but gave no further details.

Israel bombed the Gaza Strip early Friday, hitting areas where Palestinians had been told to seek safety, and it began evacuating a sizable Israeli town near the border with Lebanon, the latest sign of a potential ground invasion of Gaza that could trigger regional turmoil.

Amid the fighting, Israel's defence minister said the country did not have plans to maintain control over civilians in Gaza after its war against the Hamas militant group.

Defence Minister Yoav Gallant's comments to lawmakers were the first time a top Israeli official discussed its long-term plans for Gaza. Gallant said Israel expected a three-phase war, starting with airstrikes and ground maneuvers. It anticipates then defeating pockets of resistance, and finally, ceasing Israel's "responsibility for life in the Gaza Strip."

The Israeli military said it had struck more than 100 targets across Gaza linked to the territory's Hamas rulers, including a tunnel and arms depots.

UN officials said that with the bombings across all of Gaza, some



Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant. Reuters file

Sunak meets leaders from Palestine, Egypt

Cairo: British PM Rishi Sunak met Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas in Cairo Friday, agreeing with them on need to let aid into Gaza and avoid civilian casualties in Israel's war with Hamas. Sunak stressed imperative of avoiding a wider regional conflict, his office said. **REUTERS**

Palestinians who had fled the north appeared to be going back. Israel has evacuated its own communities near Gaza and Lebanon, putting residents up in hotels in the country. The Defence Ministry announced evacuation plans Friday for Kiryat Shmona, a town of more than 20,000 residents near the Lebanese border. Three Israelis including a 5-year-old girl were wounded in a rocket attack there Thursday, according to Israeli health services.

Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group, which has a big arsenal of long-range rockets, has traded fire with Israel along the border on a near-daily basis and hinted it might join the war if Israel seeks to annihilate Hamas. Iran supports both armed groups.



This satellite image from Planet Labs PBC shows a truck convoy carrying aid on the Egyptian side of the Rafah border crossing on Thursday. AP

UN chief visits Rafah crossing, aid convoy awaits entry

ASSOCIATED PRESS
GAZA, OCTOBER 20

UNITED NATIONS Secretary General Antonio Guterres arrived at the Rafah border crossing between Egypt and the Gaza Strip Friday and called on all international parties to work together to ensure humanitarian aid reaches Palestinians in besieged Gaza.

Speaking to the media in front of the border crossing, he said the lorries packed with vital aid were a "lifeline" for Palestinians in Gaza, "a difference between life and death," and needed to be moved into enclave as quickly as possible.

Guterres pointed out that the deal reached between Egypt and Israel to allow aid to flow into the Gaza Strip has some conditions and restrictions.

The UN chief also reiterated his call for a cease-fire between the warring parties.

Satellite photos analyzed by The Associated Press show a massive convoy of semitruck trailers lined up at the Rafah border crossing on the Egyptian side, likely waiting for approval to cross into the besieged Gaza Strip as the Israel-Hamas war rages.

The images, shot Thursday by Planet Labs PBC, show 55 trucks waiting in two lines, just half a

kilometer away from the border. There are over 50 smaller vehicles visible in the image as well, many appearing to be with aid organizations, waiting at the crossing.

The deal to get aid into Gaza through Rafah, the territory's only crossing not controlled by Israel, remains fragile. Israel said the supplies could only go to civilians and that it would "thwart" any diversions by Hamas. More than 200 trucks and some 3,000 tons of aid were positioned at or near Rafah.

The Gaza Strip, home to over 2 million Palestinians, has been cut off from food, water and electricity by Israel since October 7.



The Greek Orthodox Saint Porphyrius Church damaged in an Israeli strike in Gaza City on Friday. AP

Explosion at historic Gaza church kills, displaces those seeking shelter

AGENCIES
BEIRUT, OCTOBER 20

AN EXPLOSION struck a Greek Orthodox church housing displaced Palestinians late Thursday, resulting in deaths and dozens of wounded.

Mohammed Abu Selmia, director general of Shifa Hospital, said dozens were hurt at the Church of Saint Porphyrios but could not give a precise death toll because bodies were still under the rubble.

Palestinian authorities blamed the blast on an Israeli airstrike, a claim that could not be independently verified.

The Greek Orthodox Patriarchy of Jerusalem issued a statement condemning the attack and said it would "not abandon its religious and humanitarian duty" to provide assistance.

A survivor told Qatar's Al Jazeera Arabic television that there was no warning from the Israeli military beforehand.

Named after the Bishop of Gaza from 395 to 420, St. Porphyrios is located in the al-Zaytun section of Gaza's Old City.

Its thick limestone walls house an elaborate interior of gilded icons and ceiling paintings.

It became a mosque in the 7th century before a new church was built in the 12th century during the Crusades.

Video from the scene showed a wounded boy being carried from rubble at night. A civil defence worker said two people on upper floors had survived; those on lower floors had been killed and their bodies were still in the rubble.

DEATH, DESTRUCTION

ISRAEL

TOTAL DEAD

1,400+

Israel said it struck over 100 targets across Gaza.

TOTAL INJURED

1,000+

Three Israeli wounded in a rocket attack.

PALESTINE

TOTAL DEAD

4,137

13 Palestinians killed in battle with Israeli troops.

TOTAL INJURED

13,000+

Two more UN staffers confirmed dead in Gaza.

India should take a balanced stand, demand immediate ceasefire: Palestine's Barghouti



MUSTAFA BARGHOUTI, the Secretary General of Palestinian National Initiative and a former minister, speaks about the way forward for India in the aftermath of the Hamas attack, in an interview with **SHUBHAJIT ROY**. The interview was conducted before PM Narendra Modi's phone call to President Mahmoud Abbas. Edited excerpts:

What's your response to what happened on October 7?

My response is history did not start on October 7. I feel very sorry for the death of so many Palestinian and Israeli citizens, but at the same time, what happened on seventh was one of the consequences of Israeli behaviour in the

West Bank. This led to the deaths of 248 Palestinians, including 40 children before the war started in Gaza. In his United Nations speech, Netanyahu declared the map of Israel which included the annexation of the West Bank, all the occupied West Bank, Gaza Strip and Golan Heights. Hamas tried to interfere and respond and things went out of control. In my opinion, what Israel is doing now in Gaza is not like a reaction, it must have been planned and had been waiting for an opportunity.

Were women and children targeted in these attacks?

Yes, but it was planned in advance. I don't know the details. They say they were taken by surprise because the whole Israeli defence fell in a strange manner. There was a flood of people that went to Gaza. So maybe the failure here was they couldn't control what happened later. This is be-



THE EXPRESS
INTERVIEW
WITH
MUSTAFA BARGHOUTI
SECRETARY GENERAL,
PALESTINIAN NATIONAL INITIATIVE

cause the Israeli army disappeared, which is very strange. Usually even if a little thing comes too close to the border, they will

react. This led to this terrible disaster where innocent people were hurt. I don't think Hamas was planning to take civilians. Israel isn't attacking commerce now, they are attacking Palestinian people.

As a way forward, what do you want India to do?

Take a balanced position, and demand an immediate ceasefire. Open passage to bring in Gaza aid and support initiating a process of exchange of prisoners because Israeli airstrikes are killing their own prisoners too. I don't think Netanyahu cares about them; so far, he has killed 22. If he cared, he would accept, at least temporary ceasefire and prisoner swap but he doesn't care. I think India should support a ceasefire, and then support a solution which entitles Palestinians to be free from occupation, have a State of their own. **FULL INTERVIEW ON www.indianexpress.com**

Biden compares Hamas to Putin as he pitches for aid to Israel, Ukraine

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 20

THE WHITE House on Friday asked Congress for nearly \$106 billion to fund ambitious plans for Ukraine, Israel and US border security, but offered no strategy for securing money from a broken Congress.

The move came after President Joe Biden launched a new mission on Thursday to convince Americans they should spend billions more on supporting Israel and Ukraine in the prevailing conflicts, arguing that only the US's involvement can prevent global chaos.

"American leadership is what holds the world together. American alliances are what keep us, America, safe," Biden had said.

Biden sought to link Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip who attacked Israel to Russian President



US President Joe Biden delivers a prime-time address to the nation. Reuters

Vladimir Putin, whose forces invaded Ukraine in February 2022.

"Hamas and Putin represent different threats, but they share this in common: They both want to annihilate a neighbouring democracy," he said.

Some Republican lawmakers have grown sceptical of the need to fund Ukraine's war with

EXPLAINED Republican opposition

BY LUMPING the Israel and Ukraine priorities together in one package, Biden is testing whether Republican lawmakers can be persuaded to set aside their opposition and go along with spending on Ukraine.

Russia, and have threatened to halt the government altogether to put an end to chronic US budget deficits and fiscal spending fueled by \$31.4 trillion in debt. Biden also wants more than \$9 billion for humanitarian relief, including for Israel and Gaza, where the population faces a worsening humanitarian crisis.

Meloni and her partner separate after his sexist comments on TV

REUTERS
ROME, OCTOBER 20

ITALIAN PRIME Minister Giorgia Meloni said on Friday she had separated from her television journalist partner Andrea Giambruno, who has drawn criticism in recent weeks for sexist comments.

Meloni told reporters last month she should not be judged over Giambruno's remarks and in future would not answer questions about his behaviour.

The split comes as the 46-year-old prime minister celebrates her first year in office at the head of a right-wing coalition government that has defied the traditional family as one of its policy hallmarks.

"My relationship with Andrea Giambruno, which lasted almost



Italian PM Giorgia Meloni and her partner Andrea Giambruno. Reuters file

10 years, ends here," Meloni wrote on her social media accounts. "Our paths have diverged for some time, and the time has come to acknowledge it," she added.

Meloni said she would not be distracted by difficulties in her pri-

Nawaz Sharif to return to Pak today after 4-yr exile

REUTERS
ISLAMABAD, OCTOBER 20

PAKISTAN'S THREE-TIME prime minister Nawaz Sharif heads back home on Saturday after four years of self-imposed exile in London, seeking to wrestle back support for his party three months ahead of a general election.

Sharif's return comes as his main rival, Imran Khan, is in jail, but the cricketer-turned-politician remains popular across Pakistan following his ouster from premiership in 2022.

Sharif "will need to reenergise a support base at a moment when the party's popularity has taken big hits thanks to Imran Khan's large vote bank," said Michael Kugelman, South Asia Institute Director at The Wilson Center.

Sharif, who was ousted in a



Sharif cannot run again for election

1999 coup, is returning to Pakistan for the first time since leaving for London in 2019. He was serving a 14-year prison sentence after being found guilty in two corruption cases before being allowed to travel abroad for medical treatment for a limited time.

The convictions are still in force in Pakistan, but a court on Thursday barred authorities from arresting Sharif until October 24.

His lawyer has said he will contest the convictions. Sharif cannot run again for election or hold public office because of his convictions, even though his party has said he aims to become PM.

Xi offers to help cash-strapped Lanka, buy more of its exports

REUTERS
BEIJING, OCTOBER 20

CHINA IS willing to offer assistance to Sri Lanka without political conditions and buy more of its exports, President Xi Jinping told his Sri Lankan counterpart on Friday in Beijing, state media said.

The assurances came a week after the crisis-hit island nation said it had reached agreement with the Export-Import Bank of China on \$4.2 billion of debt, a fraction of the roughly \$7 billion it owes Chinese lenders, both bilateral and commercial.

"The two sides should make every effort to promote Colombo port city and Hambantota," Xi told Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe, a summary of their meeting in Beijing showed,



Chinese President Xi Jinping with Sri Lanka's President Ranil Wickremesinghe in Beijing on Friday. Reuters

referring to major projects China has backed in its 'Belt and Road' effort.

Wickremesinghe was in the Chinese capital for the Belt and Road Forum that ended on Wednesday as well as talks on restructuring debt.

Six of rare earth firm countering China arrested

Hanoi: Police in Vietnam have arrested six people accused of violating mining regulations, including the chairman of a company at the forefront of a drive to create a rare earth industry that could challenge China's dominance of the sector. Vietnam's government is planning to auction new mining concessions for rare earths later this year, and officials from at least one company, Vietnam Rare Earth JSC, that had been due to bid were among those arrested. VIRE's chairman, Luu Anh Tuan, was accused of forging value added tax receipts. **REUTERS**

मंत्रिमंडल सचिवालय विभाग (बिहार राज्य अभिलेखागार निदेशालय)

निविदा सूचना

बिहार राज्य अभिलेखागार निदेशालय, पटना एवं इसके नियंत्रणाधीन क्षेत्रीय अभिलेखागारों के अभिलेख प्रकोष्ठ में परिरक्षित विभिन्न प्रकार के महत्वपूर्ण अभिलेखों का वाह्य स्रोत से डिजिटल इजेशन का कार्य करने का प्रस्ताव है। यह प्रस्ताव वितीय वर्ष 2023-24 तक के लिए किया जा सकेगा, कार्य सप्ताहप्रद होने पर उभयपक्ष की सहमति पर इसे अगले वर्ष (आगामी दो वर्षों तक) के लिए विस्तारित किया जा सकेगा। निविदादाता को अभिलेखों के डिजिटल इजेशन हेतु उच्च कोटि का डिजिटल इमेज ओवरहेड स्कैनर के माध्यम से तैयार करना, भेटा डाटा, इडेक्सिंग एवं सर्वेबल पी.डी.एफ (Multilanguage OCR) का निर्माण इत्यादि सॉफ्टवेयर का अनुप्रयोग कर मुख्यालय में अधिष्ठापित सर्वर, आधिकारिक वेब पोर्टल एवं स्टोरेज में स्टोर करना एवं उसका बैकअप हार्डडिस्क ड्राइव में देना होगा एवं उसकी बैकअप की Compatibility NAS Storage Device के साथ होनी चाहिए। अतः इस क्षेत्र में कार्य करने वाले प्रतिष्ठान/ संस्थान/ गैर सरकारी संगठन से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

2. इच्छुक प्रतिष्ठान/ संस्थान/ गैर सरकारी संगठन इत्यादि दिनांक 06/11/2023 समय 5.00 बजे अपराह्न तक निबंधित डाक/ स्पीड पोस्ट/ कूरियर के माध्यम से निदेशक, बिहार राज्य अभिलेखागार निदेशालय, (अभिलेख भवन), बी.पी.एस.सी. के बगल में, बेली रोड, पटना-800001 को भेज सकते हैं। निर्धारित समय के पश्चात् प्राप्त निविदा पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदा की विस्तृत जानकारी विभागीय वेबसाइट-state.bihar.gov.in/csd तथा निदेशालय के वेबसाइट archives.bihar.gov.in से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।

3. निविदा को स्वीकार करने अथवा बिना कारण बताये अस्वीकार करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरी को होगा। उक्त सूचना state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर भी देखी जा सकती है।

(सुमन कुमार) निदेशक

PR. No. 010532 (CSD) 2023-24 नरी से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

बिहार पुलिस रेडियो, मुख्यालय, नेहरू मार्ग, पटना निविदा सूचना संख्या- 05/2023-24/पीओओ

- 1. विभाग का नाम- पुलिस महानिदेशक का कार्यालय, बिहार, पटना।
2. विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता- पुलिस अधीक्षक (वित्त), बिहार, पटना।
3. निविदा समर्पित करने की तिथि एवं समय- निविदा प्रकाशित होने की तिथि से किसी कार्य दिवस में दिनांक-13.11.2023 के 15:00 बजे तक।
4. निविदा के तकनीकी भाग को खोलने की तिथि- दिनांक-13.11.2023 को 16:00 बजे।
5. निविदा समर्पित करने का स्थान- बिहार पुलिस रेडियो, मुख्यालय, सरदार पटेल भवन ई ब्लॉक, छठी मंजिल, कमरा नम्बर-612, नेहरू मार्ग, पटना।
6. अनुमानित राशि- रु-15,00,000/- (पन्द्रह लाख रुपये) या उससे अधिक।
7. मद का नाम- Motorola NI-CD Li-on 7.4 Volt 2250 MAh Battery for Motorola O5 Watt Digital Hand Held Vhf Set Model-XIRP 8668i (Original Motorola Bty.)

विस्तृत जानकारी state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar से प्राप्त की जा सकती है। पुलिस अधीक्षक (वित्त) बिहार, पटना PR-010622 (Police) 2023-24 नरी से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE. Table with columns: SR. NO., NAME OF BOARD/CORP/AUTH, NAME OF WORK/NOTICE TENDER, OPENING DATE, AMOUNT/ESTD, WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP/AUTH, NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL. Includes details for Municipal Corporation Gurugram.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE. Table with columns: SR. NO., NAME OF BOARD/CORP/AUTH, NAME OF WORK/NOTICE TENDER, OPENING DATE, AMOUNT/ESTD, WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP/AUTH, NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL. Includes details for MICAD Division, Rohtak.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE. Table with columns: SR. NO., NAME OF BOARD/CORP/AUTH, NAME OF WORK/NOTICE TENDER, OPENING DATE, AMOUNT/ESTD, WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP/AUTH, NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL. Includes details for The Panipat Co-op. Sugar Mills Limited Panipat.

बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लि0 पटना (बिहार सरकार का उपक्रम) राष्ट्रीय स्वयंसेवक संघ-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं0-44/2023-24

- 1. विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता- मुख्य महाप्रबंधक, बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लि0, अस्पताल रोड, शास्त्रीनगर, पटना-800023
2. निविदा आमंत्रण की तिथि- दिनांक: 17.10.2023
3. निविदा कगजात प्राप्त (हाथगोद) करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय- दिनांक: 01.11.2023 से 22.11.2023 को 15:00 बजे तक।
4. निविदा उभार (अपलोट) करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय- दिनांक: 23.11.2023 के 15:00 बजे तक।
5. निविदा बिक्री का स्थान- केवल वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर
6. प्री-बीड मीटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान- दिनांक-16.11.2023 को 16:00 बजे संबंधित उप महाप्रबंधक के कार्यालय (कक्ष में)
7. प्री-बीड मीटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान- दिनांक: 17.11.2023 को 16:00 बजे, मुख्य महाप्रबंधक, बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लि0, अस्पताल रोड, शास्त्रीनगर, पटना-23
8. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय (टेकनीकल बीड)- दिनांक: 24.11.2023 को 15:00 बजे।
9. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय (फाइनल बीड)- तकनीकी मूल्यांकन के बाद।
10. निविदा देवता की तिथि- 120 दिन
11. कार्य का विवरण-

Table with 9 columns: 1. क्र. 2. विभाग का नाम 3. कार्य का नाम 4. अनुमानित राशि (रु.) 5. अनुमानित राशि (रु.) 6. अनुमानित राशि (रु.) 7. अनुमानित राशि (रु.) 8. अनुमानित राशि (रु.) 9. अनुमानित राशि (रु.)

Table with 9 columns: 1. क्र. 2. विभाग का नाम 3. कार्य का नाम 4. अनुमानित राशि (रु.) 5. अनुमानित राशि (रु.) 6. अनुमानित राशि (रु.) 7. अनुमानित राशि (रु.) 8. अनुमानित राशि (रु.) 9. अनुमानित राशि (रु.)

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कसदुपन एच डिजाइन सर्विस, यूनिट-35
उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय)
 (30 रोक कार का उपकरण)
 भाग 798, सेक्टर-7 (जल मंदिर के पास)
 आवास विकास कॉलोनी, सिविल, आगरा-282007
 प्रधान कार्यालय - टीसी-38 वी, विद्युत, आगरा,
 मोहलीनगर, लखनऊ-226010
 e-mail: cdsupjn35@gmail.com
 Visit us at: www.cdsupjn.org

पत्रिका : 13/13ई-टेंडर/2023
 दिनांक : 11.10.2023

ई-निविदा सूचना

उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम की ओर से अधीनकारी द्वारा जनपद आगरा के थाना सदर में CONSTRUCTION OF TYPE-B RESIDENCE AT POLICE THANA SADAR, DISTRICT AGRA के निर्माण कार्य अनुमानित लागत रु. 87.51 लाख (सी.एस.टी. रॉकेट एवं लेबर सेस सहित) हेतु सी.एच.डी.एस. में यथोचित श्रेणी में भवन कार्य हेतु पंजीकृत टेकरदारों से दिनांक 11.11.2023 के अग्राहक 14.00 बजे तक ई-निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। उक्त कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा प्रारंभ दिनांक 21.10.2023 से दिनांक 11.11.2023 के मध्य उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की e-procurement वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> से डाउनलोड किये जा सकते हैं तथा ई-निविदा दिनांक 11.11.2023 को अग्राहक 15:00 बजे सी.एच.डी.एस. यूनिट-35 उ.प्र. जल निगम, आगरा में निविदा खोली जायेगी। ई-निविदा प्रश्न का मूल्य रु. 50000+ GST (18%) अतिरिक्त देय होगा।

निविदा से सम्बंधित विस्तृत विवरण विभाग की वेबसाइट www.cdsupjn.org एवं प्रोक्वेमेंट पोर्टल <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है। समस्त शुद्धि पत्र (Corrigendum) <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर ही अपलोड किये जायेंगे, इनका पृथक से कोई प्रकाशन नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदादाताओं को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे उक्त वेबसाइट का समय-समय पर अवलोकन करते रहें।

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
HINDU RELIGIOUS & CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS DEPARTMENT
ARULMIGU KAPALEESWARAR TEMPLE
 Mylapore, Chennai - 600004
e-Tender Notice - Two Cover System
e-Tender Notice No : 02 / 2023 - 24 Dated : 21.10.2023

e-Tenders are invited by the Joint Commissioner/ Executive Officer, Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple, Mylapore, Chennai - 600004 for the following work in R.A.Puram, Chennai - 600028. The tender documents can be downloaded from the website "<https://tntenders.gov.in>" from **26.10.2023 to 23.11.2023** until **5:45 p.m.** The filled e-Tenders will be received upto **24.11.2023, 3:00 p.m.** All received tenders will be opened on **24.11.2023 at 4:00 p.m.** The EMD amount should be remitted through online only from any nationalised bank in the name of Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar temple. All documents should be uploaded in PDF format. All tender documents, further notifications, corrigendum will be published through website <https://tntenders.gov.in> only and not in news paper.

Sl.No	Name of Work	Tender value	EMD Amount	Period of Work	Contractor eligibility
1	Construction of Cultural Centre Building in the Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple land at Greenways Road, R.A.puram, Chennai - 600 028	Rs. 23,84,71,820	Rs. 12,02,500	17 Months	Contractors of Eligible class registered in Government Department / Government organization with required experience

Mr. O. Pottipatti Vijayakumar Reddy, Chairman, Board of Trustee
Mrs. P.K.Kavenitha B.A., B.L., M.H.A.M., Joint Commissioner / Executive Officer
Mrs. Ranjini Manian, Mr. P. Thirunavukkarasu, Mr. C.T. Arumugam, Mr. M.P. Maruthamuthu
 DIPR / 5696 / Tender / 2023

बिहार सरकार
कार्यालय, मुजफ्फरपुर नगर निगम, मुजफ्फरपुर
 Website : <https://mymmc.org>,
 E-mail ID: muzaffarpur.ub@gmail.com, mmc-muz-bih@nic.in, Control Room- 7870031117
 ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं-13/MMC/2023-24
 ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं-13/MMC/2023-24

- विज्ञापन दाता का नाम एवं पता
- निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत की तिथि
- टेंडर कागजात डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड करने की तिथि/समय
- ग्री बिड मीटिंग का समय/स्थान/तिथि
- तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि/समय
- वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि/समय
- सभी मूल शर्त पत्र, मूल Existing Commitment, अग्रदान राशि के रूप में जमा बैंक गारंटी मूल प्रति / ऑनलाइन जमा प्रति प्रति मूल में, परिपूर्ण विपणन का ऑनलाइन जमा प्रति प्रति मूल में एवं जमा करने की तिथि/समय एवं स्थान

क्र. सं.	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (लाख रु० में)	अग्रदान की राशि (रु० में)	परिपूर्ण निवृत्त का मूल्य (अग्रत्यर्पणीय) (रु० में)	Bid Processing Fee (Through online payment) (अग्रत्यर्पणीय) (रु० में)	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि (इन्कलुडिंग मॉन्थ्स अवधि माह में)
1.	वार्ड सं-19 अनर्गत कृष्णा सिनेमा से गांधी युक्तकालय नामा खुलाश अडिग हाउस गली 1, 2, 3 तक पीएलसीओ सड़क एवं आरसीओ नाला निर्माण कार्य।	9971500.00	199500.00	10000.00	As per e-Proc2	6 Months
2.	वार्ड सं-47 अनर्गत पीएलसीओ-6 उचा रोड होटे हुए शास्त्री नगर दुर्गा मंदिर तक पीसीसी सड़क एवं आरसीसी. नाला निर्माण कार्य।	12129700.00	242600.00	10000.00	As per e-Proc2	8 Months
3.	वार्ड सं-48 एवं 49 अनर्गत खादी मण्डार रोड राजगुरु हॉल से बेला रोड राजगुरु द्वार तक पीएलसीओ सड़क एवं आरसीओ नाला निर्माण कार्य।	16130500.00	322700.00	10000.00	As per e-Proc2	9 Months
4.	वार्ड सं- 49 अनर्गत इगली चौक के नजदीक दुर्गा मंदिर से दाहिने तरफ सुम्गा बिहार कॉलोनी पथ संख्या-03 सुन्दर चौधरी के मकान से सुधीर कुमार के मकान तक पीएलसीओ सड़क एवं आरसीओ नाला निर्माण कार्य।	1962900.00	39300.00	5000.00	As per e-Proc2	2 Months

नोट:- Bidder should submit Bid Processing fee through on-line payment as per amount generated on website <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in/>
 विस्तृत जानकारी state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर देखी जा सकती है।
PR-010661 (Ni Ni) 2023-24 (नवीन कुमार) नगर आयुक्त मुजफ्फरपुर नगर निगम, मुजफ्फरपुर।

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY
 Email: dycemngkpd@gmail.com
 Website: www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in & www.tenders.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE No. 08 DT 19/10/23
Invitation of tenders through e-procurement system

Dy Chief Material Manager, North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur and on behalf of the President of India, invites tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items. Complete description of the item and other condition are available on website www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in & www.tenders.gov.in

Sr. No. 1. Tender No & Due Date: 10235033B Dt. 21/11/23, Brief Description of Stores : Supply and Installation of Retro Fitment of Revised Wiring etc. Qty Required : 260 Set. Earnest Money(Rs.): 951080/-

Sr. No. 2. Tender No & Due Date: 10235032B Dt. 21/11/23, Brief Description of Stores : Supply and Installation of Retro Fitment of Revised Wiring etc. Qty Required : 260 Set. Earnest Money(Rs.): 951080/-

Sr. No. 3. Tender No & Due Date: 10238041 Dt. 07/11/23, Brief Description of Stores : Bogie Frame Assembly for 120KN Air Spring Type Flat etc. Qty Required : 10 Nos. Earnest Money(Rs.): 64550/-

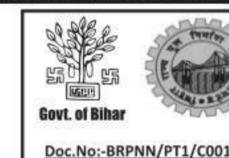
Sr. No. 4. Tender No & Due Date: 10238096 Dt. 09/11/23, Brief Description of Stores : MEMU Item : Supply and Testing of Traction Transformer Complete etc. Qty Required: 01 Nos. Earnest Money (Rs.): 84960/-

01- Above tenders are available on IREPS site www.ireps.gov.in. The firm desirous in participating against e-tender are advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to obtain class-III digital certificate (if already not obtain) from certifying agencies authorized under govt. of India IT Act, 2000. Manual offers will not be accepted. 2- Advertised tender and bulletin tenders of Dy.CMM/Depot office, NER are being opened through EPS (E-Procurement system) only. Firms desiring to participate in Dy.CMM/Depot. Tenders should obtain necessary digital certificate and get themselves registered with CRIS/New Delhi. Necessary details in this regard can be obtained from the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>

3- In case of difference between English and Hindi version of the tender notice the English version shall prevail.

4- Head of allocation towards, S D money in 00844517 and Earnest, money in 00084506. 5- The Tender Cost & EMD will be accepted through On-Line payment on IREPS Portal only for the tender published on or after 01.09.2016 against all the Dy. CMM/Depot/NER/GKP tenders except Global Tender.

Dy. Chief Material Manager/Depot N.E. Railway, Gorakhpur
 CPRO/S - 83
 Never travel on roof and foot boards



बिहार राज्य पुल निर्माण निगम लिमिटेड
 (बिहार सरकार का एक प्रतिष्ठान) कार्य प्रमंडल, पटना-1

वेबसाइट: <http://www.brpnln.bihar.gov.in>
 ईमेल:- spe-patna-1@brpnn.co.in,
 ISO-9001:2008 Reg.no.:RQ91/8550

SHORT NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
 (Only through e-tendering system on website (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in))

Bihar Rajya Pul Nirman Nigam Ltd (BRPNLN), A Government of Bihar undertaking, invites Proposals for Construction and Erection of pre-cast concrete boundary wall with gate etc from the contractors registered with BRPNLN Ltd in Two Bid System (Technical and Financial) from eligible Firms/Contractors/Agencies or Companies for the following work on **Percentage Rate Basis**.

क्र. सं.	प्रश्न का नाम	अनुमंडल का नाम	जिला का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (लाख रु० में)	परिपूर्ण निवृत्त का मूल्य (रु० में) (अग्रत्यर्पणीय)	अग्रदान की राशि (लाख रु० में)	Bid Processing Fee (Online Payment) (रु० में) (अग्रत्यर्पणीय)	कार्य की अवधि (माह में)
1.	नौलपुर	दानापुर	पटना	78.40	10000.00	1.57	3540.00	03 माह
2.	पीर	पीर	भोजपुर	130.93	10000.00	2.62	3540.00	04 माह
3.	दुर्गाबती	मोहनिया	कैमूर (भूमंडल)	78.21	10000.00	1.56	3540.00	03 माह
4.	बासबट्टी	सेरघाटी	यमना	105.54	10000.00	2.11	3540.00	04 माह
5.	रफीगंज	औरंगाबाद	औरंगाबाद	84.31	10000.00	1.69	3540.00	03 माह
6.	मदौर	मदौर	सारन	85.53	10000.00	1.71	3540.00	03 माह
7.	जसीली	मुजफ्फरपुर पश्चिमी	मुजफ्फरपुर	103.32	10000.00	2.07	3540.00	04 माह
8.	पत्ता	शिवा प्रो	पाठ्यारण	382.76	10000.00	7.66	5900.00	06 माह
9.	पारसपुर	महुआ	वैशाली	92.36	10000.00	1.84	3540.00	03 माह

SCHEDULE:

Sl. No.	Activity	Duration
1.	Download date of Bid documents	From 01.11.2023 (10:00 Hrs.) to 06.11.2023 (15:00 Hrs.) (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
2.	Last Date/Time for submission/ uploading of offer/Bid	07.11.2023 upto 15.00 Hrs. (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
3.	Last Date of Submission of Bank Draft, bid security and Hard copies of document in original.	09.11.2023 upto 15: 00 Hrs. at BRPNLN Office.
4.	Date & time for opening of Technical Bid	09.11.2023 at 16:00 Hrs. (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
5.	Date, time and place of opening of Financial Bid	To be informed later to technically qualified bidder. (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

6. The detailed information like eligibility criteria, detailed Scope of work etc. can be seen/downloaded from website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in & www.brpnln.bihar.gov.in

For further details please visit website state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar
PR-010720 (Ni Ni) 2023-24 नरो से बनानी दूरी है, क्योंकि परिवार जरूरी है

Senior Project Engineer,
 B.R.P.N.N.Ltd,
 Works Division, Patna-1

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.
 Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Mr. Gulfam Khan, S/o Mr. Irfan, R/o:** H.No. 67/1, Fakharuddin Ali Ahmed Nagar, 1 Lisari Gate, Meerut, U.P.-250002, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **CC No. 16999/2018 U/s 138 NI Act** registered at P.S. Karol Bagh, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said **Mr. Gulfam Khan** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Mr. Gulfam Khan** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Mr. Gulfam Khan** accused of **CC No. 16999/2018 U/s 138 NI Act** P.S. Karol Bagh, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **29.11.2023**

By Order
Ms. Sakshi Jaiswal,
 Metropolitan Magistrate-05, (NI Act),
 Central, Court Room No.- 2, Ground Floor,
 CBA-I, Tis Hazari Courts, New Delhi
DP/11829/CD/2023

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
(See Section 82 Cr.PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Rahul, S/o Om Prakash R/o H.No.57, Gali No.10, Paharganj, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No.142/2020 u/s 27/61/85 NDPS Act, P.S. Kamla Market, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Rahul** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Rahul** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Rahul** of **FIR No.142/2020 u/s 27/61/85 NDPS Act, P.S. Kamla Market, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **21.12.2023**.

By Order,
Meena Chauhan
 Metropolitan Magistrate-02 Central
 Room No.272, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi
DP/11742/CD/2023

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

Where as complaint has been made before me that one accused **Kapil Dhingra S/o Lt. Satpal Dhingra, R/o H.No. A-63, DDA Chaukhandi, Budha Bazar Road Near Shani Mandir, Tiak Nagar, Delhi** have Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 403/17 u/s 354B/506/509/34 IPC** has been registered at **P.S. Rajouri Garden, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Kapil Dhingra** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Kapil Dhingra** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Kapil Dhingra** of **FIR No. 403/17 u/s 354B/506/509/34 IPC** has been registered at **P.S. Rajouri Garden, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **20.11.2023**.

By Order
Ms. Akansha Gautam
 Metropolitan Magistrate, Mahila Court-04,
 Room No.252, 2nd Floor,
 Tis Hazari Court, Delhi
DP/11674/WD/2023 (Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
(SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused **Rajiv @ Golu, S/o Late Virender, R/o S-92, Gali no. 13, 3rd Pusta, Bharampur, Delhi,** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 013262/2020, U/s 379/411 IPC,** registered at **P.S. Sadar Bazar, Delhi,** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused **Rajiv @ Golu,** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Rajiv @ Golu,** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Rajiv @ Golu,** of case **FIR No. 013262/2020, U/s 379/411 IPC, P.S. Sadar Bazar, Delhi,** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **16.12.2023**.

By order
Arjinder Kaur,
 Metropolitan Magistrate,
 Room no. 247, Second Floor,
 Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi
DP/11813/N/2023 (Court Matter)

SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON

General public is hereby informed that one person namely **Israr Khan S/o Intzaar Khan R/o H.No. C-31/32, Ansar Nagar, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi, Age 50 years, Height 5'6", Complexion Shallow, Built Normal, Face Oval, wearing Black Colour T-Shirt, Black Colour Lower & Black Slippers** in feet has been missing since 07.10.2023 from his house. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out this person but no clue has come to light so far. In this regard a DD No. 95-A dated 13.10.2023 has been lodged at PS Laxmi Nagar, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing person may kindly inform to the following.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
 Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
 Fax: 011-23011334 PS Laxmi Nagar, Delhi
 Ph: 011-23014046, 23015218 Ph.: 8750870622, 9899490606
DP/11870/ED/2023 E-mail: sho.laxminagar@delhipolice.gov.in

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

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Jitender Chaudhary, R/o: Village & Post Office Navla, Police Station Mansarpur, District Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 1005/2015, U/s 498A/406/34 IPC, P.S.: Burari, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Jitender Chaudhary** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Jitender Chaudhary** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Jitender Chaudhary** accused of **FIR No. 1005/2015, U/s 498A/406/34 IPC, P.S.: Burari, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **24.11.2023**.

By Order
Ms. Reetika Jain
 Metropolitan Magistrate, Mahila Court-03
DP/11759/N/2023- (Court Matter) Room No. 149, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

UJVN LIMITED
 H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
 Telephone: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
 CIN No.U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com

Letter No:1032 e-Tender Notice Date: 20/10/2023
 Office of the EE(IC&M) Ganga Bhawan, Yamuna Colony, Dehradun, invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:
Tender No: 05/EE(IC&M)/2023-24
Name of work/ Supply/Service : Procurement of testing equipments for different Power Houses of UJVN Ltd.
Estimated cost : 49,48,462.00 GST Extra
Date of availability of bid documents on website: 20.10.2023 from 16:00 Hrs.
Last date for submission of bids on website: 11.11.2023 upto 16:00 Hrs. For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in>
Executive Engineer
 EE(IC&M)

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

Government of Maharashtra
Public Works Department P. W. Division, Panvel
 Telephone No. : 022-27452778
E-Tender Notice No. 101 (Open ONLINE) Year 2023-24
 E-mail address : panvel.lee@mahapwd.gov.in Fax Number : 022-27467440
EXECUTIVE Engineer, P. W. Division, Panvel invite B-1 Tender From Registered Contractor with Govt. of Maharashtra. Detail Tender Notice available on www.mahapwd.gov.in and www.mahatenders.gov.in Portal.
Note : Total 4 Works include in Tender notice.
Online Tender Download & Bid Preparation Period Date : 21.10.2023 at 10.00 AM To Date 28.10.2023 18.00 PM.
Online Tender Bid Preparation Last date : 28.10.2023 At 18.00 PM.
 Sd/-
Executive Engineer
 P. W. Division,
 Panvel
 E-Tender/O.No./P.W./PNL/
 Office of the Executive Engineer,
 Public Work Division, Panvel,
 Dist. Raigad.
 Date : DGIPR/2023-24/4372

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one boy namely **Bobby S/o Ramanand R/o: Jhuggi No. 50/1, Ambedkar Camp, Haiderpur, Delhi, Age: 12 years, Height: 4', Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Thin, Face: Round, Wearing: Grey colour Shirt, Red colour Pant and Black colour Leather chappal in feet,** has been missing/kidnapped from his house since 10.07.2015 at 8:00 PM. In this regard a case vide **FIR No. 915/2015 U/S 363 IPC,** dated **03.08.2015** has been registered at **P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the boy but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about him please inform undersigned.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in> SHO
 E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
 Fax: 011-24368639 P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi
 Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641 Ph.: 011-27495198,
DP/11857/NW/23 27497179, 8750870226

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, KENDRAPARA- JAJPUR
 AT/PO- NAYABAZAR, CUTTACK-753004,
 Tel No. 0671-2444488, Email: senw.kpd@yahoo.com

Letter No- 4099 Date :- 19.10.23
1st Corrigendum Notice
1st Corrigendum to Bid Identification No. Tender Online RCK-36/23 invited this office Letter No- 3822, Dt.- 10.10.2023. The changes as detailed below are hereby made in the above N.I.T:-

1 Clause no-06 of NIT modified below:-

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification		Date & Time of opening of tender	
		From	To	From	To	Technical Bid	Financial Bid
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara- Jajpur	Tender RCK-36/23	19.10.23 to 11:30 A.M	20.11.23 to 05:00 P.M	16.11.23 to 11:30 P.M	16.11.23 to 02:00 P.M	17.11.23 to 11:30 A.M	17.11.23 to 11:30 A.M

All other conditions of NIT remain unaltered.

Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer
 Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara- Jajpur
 OIPR- 25129/11/0044/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, ANGUL
 No. 2623 Dt. 18/10/23

e-Procurement Notice for Road works in Odisha

- Name of the work : Road works
- Total No. of work : 12 Nos.
- Estimated Cost : Rs. 244.02 to 1398.16 Lakhs
- Class of Contractor : As per annexure.
- Period of completion. : As per annexure.
- Other details. :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification		Date & Time of opening of tender	
		From					

Canadian visas, and the many Indian students who apply

DIVYAA
 NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

CANADA HAS stopped visa and consular services at its Chandigarh, Mumbai, and Bengaluru consulates. These services will now be available only at the Canadian High Commission in New Delhi. This has happened after Canada withdrew 41 diplomats from India after New Delhi said it would revoke their diplomatic immunity.

resident residents to visit for up to two years at a time; Business Visa, related to an investment or starting a business; Transit Visa; and Permanent Resident Visa, for those seeking to migrate to Canada.

The number of Indians migrating to Canada has tripled since 2020, as per official data. As many as 1.18 lakh Indians became permanent residents in Canada in 2022; the number is expected to reach the 20-lakh mark this year. A large chunk of visa applications are for Study Permits, from Indian students who seek to study in Canadian universities.

lakh, the Education Ministry told Parliament earlier this year. In fact, the number of Indians choosing to study abroad rose from 4.5 lakh in 2017 to 5.2 lakh in 2018 to around 5.86 lakh in 2019, as per government data.

Canada is the second largest overseas destination for Indian students after the United States. As of December 31, 2022, Indian students comprised 39.5% of the international student population in Canada. Other preferred destinations for Indian students include the UK, Australia and New Zealand.

quality of education in Canada. Canadian degrees are considered to be as competent as those from the US or UK. It has also become a popular destination for vocational and diploma courses among international students. The cost of studying and living in Canada is relatively low, while the standard of living is high, making it an attractive destination for students.

Canada is a vast country with a low density of population, and offers a range of permanent and part-time job opportunities. It is easier to move from being an international student to having permanent residence (PR) status in Canada, especially when compared to countries such as the US.

nounced a Post-Graduation Work Permit Extension programme, under which international students may stay on for up to three years after graduation, gaining work experience and potentially a secure job in Canada.

How does having international (including Indian) students help Canada?

Indian students make a substantial contribution to the Canadian economy through tuition fees for colleges and universities, and by spending on living expenses such as food, accommodation, and transportation.

Canada, with Indian students accounting for over 170,000 of these positions.

What happens now after the slowing of the visa process?

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), which is responsible for processing visas, has said that it is reducing the number of employees in India from 27 to 5. The Canadian daily *The Globe and Mail* reported that the cutting of staff could lead to a backlog of 17,500 decisions on applications from India.

What is the expected fallout of this?

The downsizing of Canada's diplomatic corps and halting of visa and consular services in three major Indian cities will lead to a slowdown of Indian visa applications for Canada.

Canada offers seven categories of visas for Indian citizens: Visitor Visa, commonly used for tourism, visiting family or friends; Study Permit; Work Permit; Super Visa, a multiple-entry visa that enables parents or grandparents of Canadian citizens or perma-

How many Indian students are there in Canada?

As on December 31, 2022, a total 3,19,130 Indian students were registered in Canada. Of them, 209,930 were pursuing undergraduate degrees, 80,270 were pursuing post-graduate degrees, and 28,930 were studying for diplomas or certificates.

Indians going abroad for higher education touched a six-year high in 2022 at over 7.5

Why do so many Indian students want to study in Canada?

The number of international students is steadily increasing due to the generally high

Also, Canada's government has been working proactively to attract foreign students. In 2022, it launched the Student Direct Stream (SDS), a fast-track visa processing programme for students from India, China, the Philippines, and Vietnam. In April 2023, it an-

Canada is generally welcoming of immigrants, and the Canadian economy benefits from the labour of international students in critical sectors. In 2022, international students filled approximately 370,000 jobs in

However, the 10 visa application centres that are operated by third-party contractors will not be impacted. The Canadian authorities have said that even now, 89% of visa applications from India are processed outside the country, through IRCC's global network.

"Remaining staff will continue to focus on the work that can't be moved out of the country, such as urgent cases, visa printing, and working with visa application centres," Canada's Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Minister Marc Miller said.

EXPLAINED DIPLOMACY

EXPLAINED SCIENCE

ASTRONOMERS DETECT 8 BN-YR-OLD 'FAST RADIO BURST': WHAT IS IT?



Artist's impression of the path of a fast radio burst from the distant galaxy where it originated to Earth, in one of the Milky Way galaxy's spiral arms. Reuters

ASTRONOMERS HAVE detected an intense flash of radio waves coming from what looks like a merger of galaxies dating to about 8 billion years ago — the oldest-known instance of a phenomenon called a fast radio burst that continues to defy explanation.

This burst in less than a millisecond unleashed the amount of energy our Sun emits in three decades, researchers said. It was detected using the Australian SKA Pathfinder, a radio telescope in the state of Western Australia. Its location was pinpointed by the European Southern Observatory's Very Large Telescope in Chile.

magnetized neutron star, called a magnetar. These stars are stellar corpses the mass of the Sun but only the size of a small city. They are some of the most extreme objects in the universe, which you would need to produce such extreme bursts," Shannon said.

"There are more energetic events in the universe, associated with stellar explosions or a black hole shredding a star apart. But FRBs are unique in that they produce all their energy in radio waves, with nothing seen in other bands — optical light or X-rays for example — and that the signals are so short," Shannon added.

A fast radio burst, or FRB, is a pulse of radio-frequency electromagnetic radiation. It lasts a small fraction of a second, but outshines most other sources of radio waves in the universe. Radio waves have the longest wavelengths in the electromagnetic spectrum.

"The radio waves in FRBs are similar to those used in microwave ovens. The amount of energy in this FRB is the equivalent to microwaving a bowl of popcorn twice the size of the Sun," said astronomer Ryan Shannon of Swinburne University of Technology in Australia, co-leader of the study published this week in the journal *Science*.

They also are more common, he said, with upwards of 100,000 thought to occur somewhere in the universe daily. Far fewer have been detected.

"Galaxies in the distant universe look different than those nearby — they don't have nice spiral arms — so it wasn't clear if what we were seeing was one galaxy with a few clumps, or a few smaller galaxies. It is likely that the source is a few galaxies, possibly merging," Shannon said.

Until now, the oldest-known such burst dated to 5 billion years ago, making this one 3 billion years older. The universe is about 13.8 billion years old. For comparison, Earth is about 4.5 billion years old. In seeing objects and events from long ago, astronomers peer across vast cosmic distances, making this burst also the farthest of any FRB ever detected.

"The most likely source is a hyper-

The researchers said that studying these bursts also can help to detect and measure the immense amount of matter believed to populate the expanses of space between galaxies. As these radio waves zip through the cosmos, they can flag the presence of this intergalactic plasma — gas so hot that some or all its atoms are split into the subatomic particles electrons and ions.

"Most of the normal matter in the universe — this is the regular matter that makes up stars, planets, humans — is thought to reside in a diffuse cosmic web of gas between galaxies," Shannon said.

EXPLAINED LAW & POLICY

Questions in Parliament

Why do questions asked by MPs matter? What is the procedure for MPs to ask questions, and what do's and don'ts must they follow? What are the various categories of questions, and how are they answered?

ALIND CHAUHAN
 NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

ON OCTOBER 26, the Ethics Committee of Lok Sabha will hear "oral evidence" from BJP MP Nishikant Dubey on his allegation that TMC MP Mahua Moitra had accepted "bribes" to ask questions in Parliament targeting the Adani Group. Moitra has denied the allegation.

On Thursday, Darshan Hiranandani, CEO of the Hiranandani Group, one of India's biggest real estate developers, claimed that Moitra had given him "her Parliament login and password so that I could post the questions directly on her behalf when required".



MPs Mahua Moitra and Nishikant Dubey in Parliament. X/sansad_tv, PTI

When and how can an MP ask a question in Parliament?

When in session, Lok Sabha generally starts with Question Hour — a period of an hour that is provided to MPs to ask questions of Ministers, and to hold them accountable for the functioning of their ministries.

The procedure for raising questions is governed by Rules 32 to 54 of the *Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha*, and Directions 10 to 18 of the *Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha*.

To ask a question, an MP has to first give a notice addressed to the Secretary General of the House, intimating their intention to ask a question. Usually, the period of notice for a question is not less than 15 days.

The notice usually contains the text of the question, the official designation of the Minister to whom the question is addressed, the date on which the answer is desired, and the order of preference, in case the MP tables more than one notice of questions for the same day.

How many questions can an MP ask?

Question Hour in Lok Sabha, a document published by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, says:

"A Member is allowed to give not more than five notices of questions, both for oral and written answers, in all, for any day. Notices received in excess of five from a Member for a day, are considered for the subsequent day(s) concerning that Minister(s) during the period of that session only."

The Lok Sabha Secretariat holds a ballot of questions received from MPs for a particular day. The questions selected in the ballot are then answered by the respective Ministries.

How are the notices for questions submitted?

There are two ways by which an MP can submit the notices of their questions. First, through an online "Member's Portal", to access which they have to enter their ID and password. Second, through the printed forms available in the Parliamentary Notice Office.

The Lok Sabha Secretariat examines the notices of the questions in the light of laid-down rules, and decides whether a question, or a part thereof, is or is not admissible.

How is admissibility decided?

A set of rules govern the admissibility of a question raised by an MP. For example,

questions shall not ordinarily contain more than 150 words. They should not contain arguments or defamatory statements, or refer to the character or conduct of any person except in their official or public capacity.

Questions that raise larger issues of policy are not allowed — the reason being it is not possible to enunciate policies within the limited compass of an answer to a question.

Also, a question is not admissible if its subject matter is pending judgment before any court of law or any other tribunal or body set up under law, or is under consideration before a Parliamentary Committee.

A question that seeks information, the free availability of which may weaken the unity and integrity of the country, is not allowed.

Are all questions answered in person by the concerned Minister in the House?

No. There are four types of questions: starred, unstarred, short-notice questions, and questions addressed to private Members.

■ A starred question is answered orally by the Minister in charge of the concerned department. Each MP is allowed to ask one starred question per day. Starred questions have to be submitted at least 15 days in ad-

vance, so that the Minister has the time to prepare the answers. On any day, only 20 questions can be listed for oral answers. When a question is answered orally, supplementary questions can be asked thereon.

■ An unstarred question receives a written reply from the Ministry. These questions too, need to be submitted at least 15 days in advance. Up to 230 questions can be listed for written answers in a day. No follow-up questions can be asked to an unstarred question.

According to a report by PRS Legislative Research, while starred questions are better suited to inquire about the government's views on issues and its policy inclination, unstarred questions are more conducive for getting answers to queries related to data or information. (*Engaging as a Parliamentarian: How to Intervene Effectively*, May 2019)

■ Short notice questions are those that pertain to a matter of urgent public importance. They can be asked with less than 10 days' notice, with reasons for the short notice. Like a starred question, they are answered orally, followed by supplementary questions.

■ A question to a private Member is addressed to the Member. It is asked when the subject matter pertains to any Bill, Resolution or any matter relating to the Business of the House for which that MP is responsible.

Why is the raising of questions in Parliament important?

Asking questions is an "inherent and unfettered" parliamentary right of an MP, according to *Question Hour in Lok Sabha*. The exercise acts as a parliamentary device to practise legislative control over executive actions.

The government, on its part, can use these questions to gauge the public reaction to its policies and administration. At times, questions lead to the formation of a Parliamentary commission, a court of inquiry or even the enactment of legislation.

Affidavit, sworn under oath: What do these terms mean?

KHADIJA KHAN
 NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

DARSHAN HIRANANDANI, CEO of the Hiranandani Group, has given a "sworn affidavit" to the Ethics Committee of Lok Sabha making allegations against TMC MP Mahua Moitra and several other individuals. Moitra has rejected Hiranandani's "approver affidavit" on a "white piece of paper with no letterhead".

Lawyers Shardul Shroff and Pallavi Shroff, whom Hiranandani has named, pointed out that his statements were not made on oath or verified before an Oath Commissioner.

Institute of the Cornell Law School says an affidavit is a "sworn statement a person makes before a notary or officer of the court outside of the court asserting that certain facts are true to the best of that person's knowledge".

Section 3(3) of India's General Clauses Act, 1897, defines an "affidavit" as an "affirmation and declaration in the case of persons by law allowed to affirm or declare instead of swearing".

In its 1977 ruling in *Chhotan Prasad Singh vs. Hari Dusatth*, a three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court said "it is an essential characteristic of an affidavit that it should be made on oath or affirmation before a person having authority to administer the oath or affirmation."

In *Chhotan Prasad Singh*, the court referred to Section 4 of the Oaths Act, 1969, and made it clear that "all courts and persons having by law or consent of parties" the authority to receive evidence are authorised to administer such oaths and affirmations — but they can only do so "where they are otherwise acting in the discharge of the duties or in exercise of the powers imposed or conferred upon them" by law.

Additionally, the court observed that only those magistrates who were acting in the course of their duty could administer oaths and affirmations to the persons making the affidavits, and failure to meet this requirement would render the affidavits as "inadmissible" evidence.

of legal proceedings or trials. They can also be made for other purposes, such as registering one's property, or to declare one's legal heir(s).

What is an "approver affidavit"?

In legal terms, an "approver" is a person who is directly or indirectly concerned, involved or privy to an offence. An accomplice or an accused in a case can later turn approver, siding with the prosecution in return for a lesser sentence or pardon. Section 306 of the CrPC has provisions for tender of pardon for an accomplice in a crime "on condition of his making a full and true disclosure of the whole of the circumstances [of the offence] within his knowledge relative to the offence".

There is no legal definition of an "approver affidavit", the expression used by Moitra.

Can anyone make an affidavit at any time?

What is a sworn affidavit?
 The public-service Legal Information

EXPLAINED ECONOMICS

What are proxy advisory firms, opposed to Anant Ambani for RIL board?

HITESH VYAS
 MUMBAI, OCTOBER 20

A PROPOSAL to appoint 28-year-old Anant Ambani, the youngest son of Mukesh Ambani, on the board of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) is facing opposition from two proxy advisory firms.

The firms, Institutional Investor Advisory Services India Ltd (IIAS) and Institutional Shareholder Services (ISS), have advised RIL shareholders to vote against the proposal. However, they are backing the appointment of Anant's older siblings, Isha and Akash, both 31 years of age, to RIL's board.

What are proxy advisory firms?

Proxy advisory firms position themselves as independent firms that provide advice to individual shareholders, minority shareholders, or institutional investors on the exercise of their rights in a company, including making recommendations on public offers or voting on agenda items.

Proxy advisors are regulated by markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). Some of India's major proxy advisory firms are IIAS, Stakeholders Empowerment Services (SES), and InGovern.

Why are the two proxy firms opposing Anant's appointment on the RIL board?

IIAS and ISS have cited Anant's age as the reason for not supporting the proposal for his appointment on the RIL board.

"At 28 years of age, his (Anant's) appointment as a Non-Executive Non-Independent Director does not align with our voting guidelines," IIAS said in a report, while recommending to shareholders to vote against the proposal.

According to a Bloomberg report, ISS in an October 12 note said, "A vote against this resolution is warranted as Anant Ambani's limited leadership/ board experience of around six years raises concerns on his potential contribution to the board."

On September 25, RIL, in a postal ballot notice, sought approval from members of the company, by way of a remote e-voting process, for the appointment of Isha, Akash, and Anant as non-executive directors of the company.

The e-voting started on September 27 and will end on October 26.

As per IIAS report the appointments of Isha, Akash and Anant are expected to be effective before December 31, 2023.

Why are proxy advisory firms important?

Proxy advisory firms closely look at listed companies, their performance and

resolutions, and advise shareholders about their rights. They work in the interest of shareholders who might not always be able to analyse the impact of a resolution adopted by a company. These firms suggest to investors which way they should vote (for/ against) on corporate decisions.

"Our idea is to educate investors in such a manner that they can protect their rights. This begins by giving them our opinion on the resolutions so that information is sufficient for them to make informed decisions," J N Gupta, Co-founder and Managing Director, Stakeholders Empowerment Services (SES), said.

Proxy advisory firms also work with companies to improve their corporate gov-

ernance practices.

Should investors necessarily follow the proxy advisory firms' advice?

The proxy advisory firms' role is to educate investors. Their recommendations are not binding on investors. The firms themselves advise that investors should do their own research to arrive at a voting decision.

"Our suggestion should not be taken as the gospel truth. One should analyse various aspects before voting," Gupta said. At the same time, he said, it remains very important for a proxy advisory firm to present to investors opinions that are unbiased, conflict-free, and focused.

16 REVIEWS CINEMA & MUSIC



KAALA PAANI

Directors: Amit Golani and Sameer Saxena **Cast:** Mona Singh, Ashutosh Gowariker, Sukant Goel, Amey Wagh, Vikas Singh, Chinmay Mandlekar, Radhika Mehrotra, Virendra Saxena **Streaming on:** Netflix

Survival of the Fittest

SHUBHRA GUPTA

THERE'S SO much going on in *Kaala Paani*, a slightly futuristic (2027) survival drama set in the Andamans, that its first episode runs an hour plus. And it is barely enough to contain the multiple strands of information that come flying out at us, in rapid succession: a lethal disease threatening to spread like wildfire among the residents and the hundreds of tourists gathered for a big festival, an administration flailing about, a greedy corporation with too much money and too little conscience, a medical team fighting against tremendous odds to keep death at bay, the dark jungles where the original people of the islands have carved out precarious spots for themselves, the whole surrounded by the spectacular blue of the ocean, which is as much boon as bane. It was called Kala Pani because it was impossible

to escape from the Cellular Jail in Port Blair: will these frantic, desperate people be able to get away in time?

A couple of things strike you as soon as the seven-episode series opens: the first is that *Kaala Paani* has the courage of its very ambitious convictions, taking time to build its big themes up despite its evident hurry to get going, necessary for a story like this in which humans seem to be just one step away from doom. When you destroy nature and want to only pilfer its natural resources, you are asking for it, and *Kaala Paani*, unusually for an Indian series, doesn't shy away from showing just how high the stakes are.

The body count starts rising from the beginning. No beating about the bush, just bam, a life is snuffed out. It startles you, but it also tells you that the storytellers are serious about their intent, that there will be no waffling, just cutting to chase. This willingness to sacrifice even some

of its most sympathetic characters runs right through the series, though I am definitely going to quibble about the too-early bowing out of a primary character, who makes you want to know more about what must have been a complicated past. But the mix of known and unknown faces playing characters with a degree of complexity keeps our interest high: Mona Singh as a dogged public-spirited doctor who has an inkling of just how terrible the coming pandemic can be, Ashutosh Gowariker, as the unctuous LG of these stunningly beautiful islands, makes you want to see more of him as an actor, Sukant Goel as a local taxi-driver who loves his land even as he betrays it, Amey Wagh as a cocky cop whose only desire is to look out for himself, Vikas Singh as a stranded tourist who learns the Darwinian rule of the survival of the fittest in the cruelest manner, Chinmay Mandlekar as the doctor who is a stickler for protocol, Radhika Mehrotra as

the newbie researcher who has vital knowledge, Virendra Saxena as an eccentric old man who holds a crucial key, Arushi Sharma as a nurse who circles back to a lost love. There are a few other characters who make us watch as well.

The attempt at going back and forth in time — the point where the Japanese had arrived on the island just when World War 2 was about to end, stumbling upon an ancient secret known only to the original inhabitants — falters at times, but I liked that the portrayal of the tribal community is done with empathy and respect. That added layer gives the series a sense of timelessness, where the past and present are presented as a continuum, where life and death is as circular as the prison that once held key figures of India's freedom struggle.

Kaala Paani is marred by its contrived parts, where characters are made to jump to conclusions just because the plot finds it

expedient. They jar even more in a series that has taken so much care to keep things believable. One of the most jarring ones in which an up-until-then-uncertain character switches from a 'hypothesis' — a word we hear several times — to complete conviction about how a cure can be found, which leads to a great deal of blather about the morality of sacrificing a few lives to save multitudes. The greedy corporate bosses have, in their employ, a large bodyguard, who cheerfully goes about thumping people on their heads, a very Bollywood touch. A couple of quirks-in-characters, meant to be humorous, outstay their welcome.

But those are not deal-breakers in this handsomely-produced series, which is fashioned as a cautionary tale. It may be set in the future, but it is just near enough to remind us about the years in which humankind was nearly destroyed by a virus, and a warning to not repeat our mistakes.

STREAMING WATCH LIST

BY ALAKA SAHANI



SILVER DOLLAR ROAD

PRIME VIDEO
This documentary by Raoul Peck follows the story of the Reels family as told by the matriarch Mamie Reels Ellison and her niece Kim Renee Duhon, two fierce women trying to safeguard their ancestors' land and their brothers and uncles, who were wrongfully imprisoned for eight years. Based on the 2019 ProPublica article, it highlights the covert ways to keep Black land ownership fragile and the racial wealth gap growing.



DREAM GIRL 2

NETFLIX
Karam (Ayushmann Khurrana) secretly turns his female alter ego into a dancer and woos a millionaire's son in hopes of paying family debts and impressing his fiancée's father. This, as expected, leads to several cases of mistaken identities, and complications ensue. The film's cast also features Ananya Pandey, Paresh Rawal, Vijay Raaz, Manjot Singh, Seema Pahwa and Abhishek Banerjee.



TALK TO ME

BOOKMYSHOW STREAM
When a group of friends discover how to conjure spirits with an embalmed hand, they become hooked to the high-stakes party game — until one of them goes too far and unleashes terrifying supernatural forces. *Talk to Me*, a 2022-Australian supernatural horror film, directed by Danny and Michael Philippou, is a gripping tale and available in multiple Indian languages including Telugu, Hindi and Tamil.



WHERE IS THE FRIEND'S HOUSE?

MUBI
As a young protagonist embarks on a humble quest, a beautiful allegory of friendship and morality is revealed. The film follows young Ahmad's attempt to return his friend's school notebook at his home in a neighboring village, to prevent the latter from being expelled. The first film in Kiarostami's Koker trilogy, *Where is the Friend's Home?* is a unique mélange of poetry, documentary and fiction.

Colour Me Grey



ROHAN NAAHAR

IN THIS film about father-son relationship, famed documentarian Errol Morris deploys his usual tactics to perform a psychological analysis of his subject, legendary spy novelist John le Carré. Morris has previously profiled Donald Rumsfeld and Steven Hawking, among others.

The writer seems as familiar with Morris' work as the filmmaker is with his novels. Prepared for what they imagine will be a heady conversation.

The Pigeon Tunnel almost immediately identifies the core event that shaped most of le Carré's later life (and creative output). He was born to a swindler named Ronnie Cornwell, who, by le Carré's estimation, spent around six years of his life in prisons across Europe. A confidence trickster who duped innumerable people, but never accumulated any money himself. Living with him was so impossible that his wife, le Carré's mother, abandoned them both and disappeared without a trace when le Carré was just five.

The film charts his youth, and then follows him to Oxford, from where he was recruited into the British Secret Service. He served at both the MI5 and MI6 in the early stages of the Cold War, and closely witnessed the erection of the Berlin Wall. He was also a spectator to the greatest espionage scandal in his country's history

— the unmasking of British intelligence agent Kim Philby as a Soviet spy. A significant portion of the movie is devoted to this episode, during which le Carré excitedly offers his theories about why Philby continued to provide information to the Soviets even after being identified, humiliated, and then exonerated.

Familiar with interrogation tactics, le Carré assures Morris that he is determined to speak plainly, keenly aware that this might be his last chance to come clean, as it were. He was right, of course; he died in 2020, shortly after this film was

shot. But there isn't a single moment where he isn't in complete control of the conversation. He reveals only as much as he comfortably wants to. If they weren't so cordial to each other, *The Pigeon Tunnel* would be indistinguishable from psychological warfare.

Despite never being seen on camera, Morris is a near-constant presence in the film — curious but never caustic. And then there's the ever-so-gentle suggestion that it is entirely conceivable for the son of a conman to be one himself. Forever fascinated by the concept of betrayal, le Carré seems to enjoy toying with the audience, on one occasion going out of his way to tell Morris, to not blindly believe everything he says. His books were a blend of fact and fiction; it makes sense for *The Pigeon Tunnel* to be just as difficult to pin down.

THE PIGEON TUNNEL

★★★★

Director: Errol Morris
Cast: John le Carré, Errol Morris
Streaming on: Apple TV+

MY NAME is David Glatzel. When I was 11, I was possessed by the devil." Opening lines don't get better than this, but it's a pity that Netflix's *The Devil on Trial* isn't able to live up to the promise. A retelling of the real-life events that inspired the third installment of *The Conjuring* — the film is a slapdash, surface-level examination of a truly fascinating modern American tragedy.

When David began displaying erratic behaviour in 1980, his seemingly regular family decided that it must be the doing of the devil. David's mother summoned the infamous demonologist duo Ed and Lorraine Warren, who had the unique knack of becoming associated with that era's most talked-about paranormal stories, including the Amityville haunting, the Annabelle curse, and the Enfield poltergeist.

Based on their own five-step metre to gauge such incidents — permission, infestation, oppression, possession, destruction — the Warrens estimated that David was already on step three. They reached out to their associates in the Catholic Church, and after filling out the necessary paperwork — who knew that expunging your soul of demons required you to briefly turn into Mussadi Lal — arranged for a 'minor' exorcism. During the ritual, a family friend invited the devil to try him on for size and leave the boy alone, a twist that even the seasoned Warrens weren't prepared for. It violated step one of their guidelines: permission. The family friend, David's sister's boyfriend Arne, appeared unaffected in the moment, but would later murder an acquaintance. His trial became known as the

Nothing Spooky About It



THE DEVIL ON TRIAL ★★

Director: Christopher Holt **Cast:** David Glatzel, Adam Hunt, Arne Cheyenne Johnson
Streaming on: Netflix

'Devil Made Me Do It' case, because it was the first known court case in America wherein demonic possession was used as a defence.

It's all malarkey, of course. And the movie knows it, which is why it's so strange for it to pretend otherwise for a full hour. Director Chris Holt rounds up the remaining members of the Glatzel family, including David and his two estranged brothers, Arne, the detective who investigated the murder and a random priest. But he takes a unidimensional approach to a story that is begging for better

telling. Long after you've probably given up all hope, the documentary is able to confront a truth that *The Conjuring* movies have been willfully turning a blind eye to for a decade. Being terrible horror movies is the least of their crimes; they are actually propagating the legacy of some rather duplicitous people. But just because *The Devil on Trial* is aware of the larger context, it doesn't absolve it of trying to milk them for more 'content'. A better filmmaker would've immediately sensed that this isn't the real story at all. **RN**

Enfant Terrible

GANAPATH ★

Director: Vikas Bahl
Cast: Tiger Shroff, Kriti Sanon, Amitabh Bachchan, Ziad Bakri, Girish Kulkarni, Jameel Khan, Rahman

TIGER FIGHTING. Tiger dancing. Tiger Shroff flicks depend heavily upon these two things that he does best, and it's no surprise that the so-called plot in *Ganapath* necessarily includes one set piece after another, with everything else, and everyone else bidding

their time for their bit.

What does come as a surprise is just how terrible this film is, with practically no redeeming feature in its nearly two-and-half-hour runtime. The fighting-dancing Tiger, chest gleaming and bronzed, working hard both in the ring and on the dance floor, can't do a thing to stop our eyes from glazing over from this relentless rinse-and-repeat.

The film is set in the kind of future that dystopian Hollywood films keep showing us, where bombed-out shelters containing poverty-stricken folk are prey and the super-rich, in their flowing capes, are predators. A mention of *Mad Max Fury* is thrown out, even as Ganapath gets ready to wade into yet another fight sequence. Which basically means that the film is bathed in mud-brown colours, both in landscape and costumes, for the large



part: it becomes psychedelic when it moves to the city with its skyscrapers and fancy clubs, the only kind of locations that seem to exist, using some of the most inept computer graphics we've seen.

So, of course, our hero has to have a coming-of-age track, as he has no idea of who he really is, and his journey takes him fast cars and slick girls and a couple of smirking mentors (Jameel Khan and Girish Kulkarni, both hopelessly miscast) to a vast, arid landscape where he meets a mysterious guru (Rahman) and a kohl-eyed girl (Sanon) who can keep up her end in a fight. There's also a backstory in which Ganapath's sage grandpa (Bachchan) prophesies about a saviour who will save his people from perdition. And there's a blue-eyed villain (Bakri) who's always dressed in black; occasionally, there's mention of a supervillain, who is kept as a reveal for the end.

But basically, it's all a slack rigmarole, signifying nothing. Can it be that we also need a story along with Tiger fighting and dancing, dancing and fighting? What a thought. **SG**

RBI not looking to tighten norms on unsecured lending by banks

REUTERS MUMBAI, OCTOBER 20

INDIA'S CENTRAL bank is currently not looking to tweak existing norms related to banks' unsecured lending portfolios as a sector-wide buildup of stress is not yet in sight, two people familiar with the matter told Reuters.

Indian banks have seen a sharp rise in unsecured loans - mostly personal loans and credit cards - that has outpaced the overall bank credit growth of about 15% over the past year, catching the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) attention.

Banks' outstanding receipts from credit cards rose to ₹2.18 trillion as of August 25, from ₹1.68 trillion a year earlier, latest data from the RBI showed. Outstanding personal loans rose 26% in the same period.

"The problem is not systemic at this point and is restricted to select four-five banks," one of the people. "The RBI has already cautioned these banks and has strengthened its vigilance around unsecured loans, but increasing risk weights on unsecured lending may not be necessary at this point."

Both the sources declined to be identified because they are not authorised to speak to the media. The RBI did not reply to a Reuters' email seeking comment.

'CENTRAL BANKS MUST REMAIN VERY AGILE AMID GLOBAL UNCERTAINTIES'

Rate cuts not on agenda, RBI remains 'extra vigilant' on inflation, says Das

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

STATING THAT interest rate cuts are not on the agenda of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Governor Shaktikanta Das on Friday said the central bank remains "extra vigilant" about inflation. Das said monetary policy will remain "actively disinflationary" in the current situation, adding that financial stability is non-negotiable.

Speaking at the Kautilya Economic Conclave, Das said there is a need for a sustained decrease in inflation and the RBI wants to reduce it to 4 per cent.

Das said the RBI is focused on growth-inflation dynamics and will take whatever action is needed. "If you take a cue that the Reserve Bank of India is thinking of reducing interest rates, sorry there is no such agenda about it. Interest rates will remain high. How long they will remain high, I think, only time and the way the world is evolving will tell," he said.

Referring to the Israel-Palestine conflict in West Asia, Das said central banks "need to remain very agile" amid global uncertainties. "...we all thought the period of uncertainty is over but I think as you would have seen in



RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das in New Delhi on Friday. ANI

the last fortnight, new uncertainties have been thrown up. Therefore, central banks need to remain very agile and more than central banks, the first line of defence are the financial institutions and markets themselves... custodians of financial market infrastructure, stock exchanges, other exchanges, other regulators, financial sector entities, banks, (and) NBFCs themselves will have to remain agile," Das said.

The RBI governor underlined that in good times, the seeds of future vulnerabilities are sown, and hence, buffers are best built up during these times. "Banks, NBFCs and other financial sector entities

should remain vigilant and complete the pending repairs, if any, to their houses," he said.

Retail inflation rate fell to a three-month low of 5.02 per cent in September, but it has remained over the RBI's medium-term target of 4 per cent for four years. The RBI has raised the repo rate by a cumulative 250 bps between May 2022 and February 2023 and left it unchanged since then.

Flagging risks from uncertainties such as the West Asia conflict, Das said it has driven US bond yields to all-time highs, which has implications for other economies, but macro fundamentals in India remain strong.

4% target top priority, show MPC minutes

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, OCTOBER 20

THE MONETARY Policy Committee (MPC) will remain focused on aligning inflation to its target of 4%, and only after it achieves that on a sustained basis will its attention shift to the objective of growth, the October meeting minutes showed.

"Our fundamental goal is to align inflation with the 4% target and anchor inflation expectations," Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das said in the minutes released on Friday.

Recurring incidences of large and overlapping supply side shocks bring with them the risks of generalisation of inflation impulses, possible loss of monetary policy credibility and de-anchoring of inflation expectations, Das said at the meeting.

Retail inflation eased to a three-month low of 5.02% in September on the back of softer vegetable prices. In the October policy, the MPC unanimously decided to leave the repo rate

unchanged at 6.5 per cent for the fourth consecutive time. With a majority of 5:1, it also retained the monetary policy stance of withdrawal of accommodation.

MPC member Ashima Goyal, who voted for 'withdrawal of accommodation', said that the stance rules out a rate cut but permits an increase only when there are second round effects from the recurring supply shocks, the minutes of the meetings held on October 4-6 showed.

However, one of the external members of the MPC, Jayanth Varma, while supporting the decision to keep the repo rate unchanged, expressed reservation on the stance on withdrawal of accommodation. He has done so previously as well.

"Successive meetings that promise to withdraw accommodation while actually keeping rates unchanged do not enhance the credibility of the MPC. I would much prefer a stance in which words are consistent with the actions," Varma said at the meeting. -WITHREUTERS



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Chairman of the 15th Finance Commission N K Singh and French economist Jean-Pierre Landau in New Delhi on Friday. ANI

FM: Businesses need to factor terror in investment decisions

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

BUSINESSES CAN no longer make their investment decisions just on the basis of policies or by openness of an economy, but have to take into account the additional factor of terrorism, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said Friday. She also said the government will ensure the burden of servicing debt is not passed on to the next generation.

"It is no longer an occasional attack or no longer only one region that is repeatedly a terrorism target, it is anybody, anywhere, single or well-organised. And that level of uncertainty and that level of risk which comes into business decision making or investments is going to be a permanent uncertainty and high-cost risk. Businesses can no longer be attracted by just policies or by just openness of an economy, they are also going to factor in the magnet that is going to attract terrorist targeting," she said at the Kautilya Economic Conclave.

The Finance Minister said that that there needs to be some thought put into where to source food from and the quantities and regions for dependence for food. "Do we need to draw food from so many different sources, or can you have food security because you have planned your agriculture well, at least to bring in self-sufficiency for your country's consumption... not speaking just for India, the global food security issue," she said. Sitharaman added that food, fertilisers or fuel

should not become instruments in war or disruption.

She said the government is mindful of fiscal deficit management. "We are conscious of matters related to macroeconomic stability of the country and responsibility with which we deal with our fiscal and also the fiscal management and so for every decision that we take today, we are conscious of what burden is going to leave for the next generations," she said.

She said India's debt is not as high as other countries, but the government is looking at how some emerging market countries are managing their debt. "We are looking at ways in which we can bring down the overall debt," she added.

On globalisation, she said there is pessimism about it and there is talk of re-globalisation and how strategic blocks are re-shaping itself. "Who is grouping with whom, who has left the group and who and who is remaining outside of all these groups or forming new groups. So re-globalisation but with different shades and colour and flavour," she said.

On climate finance, Sitharaman said India used its own resources to fulfill its Nationally Determined Commitments (NDCs) as outlined in the Paris Agreement. Anyone suggesting that this should be an obvious course of action must also consider that developing countries may not have the financial capacity for such significant climate financing, she said.

BRIEFLY

JSW posts Q2 profit on India demand

Bengaluru: JSW Steel, India's largest steelmaker by capacity, reported a second-quarter profit on Friday, helped by robust domestic demand and lower input costs. The company reported a consolidated net profit of ₹27.60 billion (\$332.15 million) in the quarter ended September 30 from ₹8.48 billion loss a year earlier. Total revenue from operations rose 6.7% to ₹445.84 billion. Total expenses slipped nearly 6% due to an almost 10% contraction in key raw material costs. REUTERS

EPFO adds 16.99 lakh net members

New Delhi: Retirement fund body EPFO has recorded net member addition of 16.99 lakh in August 2023, according to the payroll data released on Friday. Around 9.26 lakh new members have enrolled in August. Data shows 11.88 lakh members exited & rejoined EPFO, an increase of 10.13 per cent compared with August 2022. PTI

Forex reserves halt five-week losing streak

Mumbai: Foreign exchange reserves snapped a five-week losing streak and rose to \$585.9 billion as of October 13, RBI data showed Friday. Reserves rose \$1.16 billion from an over five-month low in the previous week. Forex reserves had declined \$14.2 billion in the previous five weeks. REUTERS

India most preferred emerging market, says Morgan Stanley

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, OCTOBER 20

EVEN AS the BSE Sensex fell over 1,000 points in the last four sessions, US investment bank Morgan Stanley said it has increased its overweight (OW) stance on the Indian equity market, terming it as its most preferred emerging market.

"Relative economic/earnings growth is improving and the macro-stability setup looks sufficient to withstand the higher real rate environment," Morgan Stanley said in its latest report. "The 'DREAM' run of domestic flows continues and multipolar world dynamics are driving both FDI and portfolio flows toward India," it said.

"Recent high-frequency trends also support our bullish stance with inflation concerns abating and the trade balance improving," Morgan Stanley said.

"We remain structurally bullish on India with the key thesis of our market upgrade intact. Our India Economics Team's recent tracker shows projects under implementation have recorded broad-based growth and PMI manufacturing remains in the expansionary zone since July 2021, likely driven by strong domestic demand amid a broad external weakness," it said.

Moreover, the previous concerns of a higher inflation causing abrupt changes in monetary policies have somewhat abated after

September CPI moderated to 5 per cent and core CPI slowed further to 4.6 per cent, with the team forecasting below 5 per cent in October, Morgan Stanley said.

The trade deficit has also narrowed with service trade balance improving sequentially in September. "India has been structurally outperforming MSCI EM by 45.5 per cent (in USD terms) from early 2021 until October 2022, and we expect outperformance to continue, with India starting to show a material breakout in relative EPS versus EM and having relatively low correlation/revenues from both the US and China," it said.

On Friday, global equities fell and oil and gold prices climbed as investors responded to the threat of a weekend escalation that would spread the conflict between Israel and Hamas to the wider Middle East region. The sight of US government bonds yields hitting 5 per cent for the first time since 2007 amid the conflict in West Asia left investors searching for safety.

"Nifty fell on October 20 showing persistent weakness. However, it has formed a doji after a fall, suggesting possibility of a bounce," said Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities.

The BSE Sensex fell 0.35 per cent, or 232 points, to 65,397.62 and the NSE Nifty Index declined by 82 points to 19,542.65.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

China curbs graphite exports

China Friday introduced export permits for some graphite products 'to protect national security'. This comes after it brought curbs on gallium and germanium, used in chips.



Graphite is a key part of batteries in electric vehicles and China is the world's top producer. Top buyers from China include Japan, the US, South Korea — and India. REUTERS

WHY THIS MATTERS

The average quantity of graphite used in an EV battery pack for anodes, the battery's negative electrodes. Graphite is the largest EV battery component by weight.

50-100 kg

of global supplies of natural graphite are from China.

90% of the world's graphite is refined by China into material used in virtually all EV battery anodes.

250% The level by which the battery end-use market for graphite has soared globally since 2018.

-REUTERS

Google pushes deeper into AI, publishers see fresh challenges

REUTERS NEW YORK, OCTOBER 20

YOU MAY never have to read another news story in your life, if you have artificial intelligence that can digest all the web's information and serve up a summary on demand.

That's the stuff of nightmares for media barons as Google and others experiment with what's called generative AI, which creates new content drawing from past data.

Since May, Google has begun rolling out a new form of search powered by generative AI. Search Generative Experience (SGE) uses AI to create summaries in response to some search queries, triggered by whether Google's system determines the format would be helpful.

If publishers want to prevent their content from being used by Google's AI to help generate those summaries, they must use the same tool that would also prevent them from appearing in Google search results, rendering them virtually invisible on the web.

Google says that the AI-generated overviews are synthesized



Since May, Google has begun rolling out a new form of search powered by generative AI. Reuters

from multiple web pages and that the links are designed to be a jumping off point to learn more.

To publishers, the new search tool is the latest red flag in a decades-long relationship in which they have both struggled to compete against Google for online advertising, and relied on the tech giant for search traffic.

The still-evolving product — now available in the US, India and Japan — has raised concerns, according to four major publishers who spoke to Reuters.

Those concerns relate to web traffic, whether publishers will be credited as the source of information that appears in the

SGE summaries, and the accuracy of those summaries, those publishers say. Publishers want to be compensated for the content on which Google and other AI companies train their AI tools.

Publishers want clicks to secure advertisers, and showing up in Google search is key to their business. The design for SGE has pushed the links further down the page, with potential to reduce traffic to those links by as much as 40%, according to an executive at one of the publishers.

More alarming is the possibility that surfers will avoid clicking links if the SGE passage fulfills the need for information.

Adani gets \$3.5 bn loan to refinance debt from deal for ACC, Ambuja

REUTERS BENGALURU, OCTOBER 20

THE CEMENT business of billionaire Gautam Adani's flagship group said Friday it had secured a new \$3.5 billion loan to refinance debt it had taken to buy ACC Ltd and Ambuja Cements last year.

The refinancing of the loan was concluded with 10 interna-

tional banks including DBS, First Abu Dhabi Bank and Mizuho Bank for a tenor of 3 years, the group said in a statement, adding that it would save Adani Cement about \$300 million in costs.

Adani Group entered the cement sector last year with a \$10.5 billion deal to buy Ambuja and ACC from Swiss giant Holcim. In August, it bought another local cement maker, Sanghi Industries,

for \$295 million. Shares in ACC, which were down over 3% before the announcement, trimmed losses to 2.5%, while shares in Ambuja pared some losses to trade around 1.1% lower.

Adani Cement plans to increase its cement manufacturing capacity to 100 million tonnes per year by 2025 from 67 MTPA currently.

Advertisement for Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) regarding a tender for construction and maintenance work. Includes details on the project, location, and contact information.

Advertisement for Kerala Water Authority (KWA) regarding a tender for construction of water treatment plants. Includes tender details and contact information.

Advertisement for Institute for Autoparts & Hand Tools Technology regarding a tender for service, maintenance and upgrade of SCADA operating systems. Includes tender details and contact information.

Advertisement for Government of Telangana Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board regarding a tender for providing group mediclaim insurance policy. Includes tender details and contact information.

Classifieds

PERSONAL

It is for general information that I, Baldev Krishan Madaan, S/O Ram Lal Madaan, R/O-X/1749, Gali No. 10, Rajgarh Colony, Gandhi Nagar, Delhi-110031, declare that name of mine has been, wrongly written, as B.K. Madaan in my minor, son Divyansh Madaan, aged-15, year, School Record. The actual name of mine is, Baldev Krishan Madaan, respectively which may be amended accordingly. 0040694684-4

It is for general information that I, SALIN KUMAR SON of RAM KISHAN, R/O P.O. Bhaini Khurd, Near Navidas Mandir, Dadupur (83), Karnal, Haryana-132116, declare that name of mine and my wife has been wrongly written as SALIN and MAHINDRO respectively in my minor son SHIVAM aged 16 years in his Secondary School Marks Statement Cum Certificate. The actual name of mine and my wife is SALIN KUMAR and MAHINDRO DEVI respectively, which may be amended accordingly. 0070869504-1

It is for general information that I, Ravinder Kumar R/O, H.No. 33, Gali No. 5, Krishan kunj extn. Part-1, Laxmi Nagar, DELHI-110092, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Rohit Kumar. 0040694675-4

I, Vipin Kumar, S/O-Devi Charan, Add-41/B-2nd Floor, Laxmi Dairy, F/O Old Govindpura, Govind pura, Delhi-110051, changed my name to Vipin. 0040694675-3

I, Vijay Kumar Alias Vijay Vishraj S/O, Ghanshyam Dass R/O, RZ-1101-A1, F/F, Gali No. 11, Sadh-Nagar-II, Palam-Colony, Palam-Village, South-West Delhi-110045, have changed my name to Vijay Vishraj. 0040694677-6

I, VACHASPATI, S/O SURENDR KUMAR R/O DA-521, SHALIMAR BAGH, DELHI-110088, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO VACHASPATI GUPTA. 0040694684-3

I, Simran Singh, F/o-Jaskaran Singh Sareen, R/O C-24/C, Acharya Kripalani Road, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi-110033, have changed my son's name Jaskaran Singh to Jaskaran Singh Sareen. 0040694681-4

I, Siddhika D/o Anil Kumar Goel R/O, B-16, Subhash-Park Ext., Near Rajapuri-Road, Uttam-Nagar, Delhi-110059, have changed my name to Siddhika Goel. 0040694677-5

I, SURJIT SINGH S/O MOHAN SRINGH, R/O C-16, BLOCK-C, PRATAP NAGAR, DELHI-110007, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SURJIT SINGH DHINGRA, FOR ALL PURPOSES. BOTH SURJIT SINGH AND SURJESH SINGH DHINGRA ARE SAME-PERSON. 0040694675-6

I, Preeti Gilani, W/o Gulshan Kumar, R/O E-47, Third-Floor, Sector-1, Rohini, Delhi-110085, inform that in my son Rudransh Gilani birth-certificate my name was written as Priti Gilani, whereas my correct name is Preeti Gilani. 0040694681-5

I, Pooja w/o Roshan Kumar Yadav, Presently residing at, Sarehua kala, Bathawar, Chandauli, Uttar Pradesh Pin-232109, have changed my name from Pooja to KM Pooja, vide-Affidavit dated-20.10.2023. 0040694675-10

I, PIYUSH ARORA S/O, Pankaj Arora, R/O-17/118, 4th-Floor, Geeta-Colony, Shahadara, Delhi-110031, that name of my father has been wrongly-written as PANKAJ KUMAR in my-Passport No.L5793707. The correct name of my father is PANKAJ ARORA. 0040694677-7

I, PATIL SANJAYSINGH RAJARAM, father of, PATIL SHAURYA SANJAYSINGH, Presently residing at, Qtr.No.25/1, Marut-Camp Air-Force Station, New Delhi-110003, have changed my minor son's name from PATIL SHAURYA SANJAYSINGH to SHAURYA SANJAYSINGH PATIL, Vide-affidavit dated-20.10.2024. 0040694679-10

I, Mohamad Arif@ Shekh Arif, S/O Shekh Alam, No.258, Gali No.11, Devi Lal Colony, Gurugram(HR.) 122001, have changed my name to Sheikh Arif. 0040694681-7

I, MEENA RADHAKRISHNAN, W/O... RADHAKRISHNAN, ADD-5174, SHYAM LAL BUILDING, BASANT-ROAD, PHARGANJ, CENTRAL DELHI-110055, changed my name to MEENA NAIDU, for all future purposes. 0040694681-2

I, Kashinath Dubey, S/O-Raghu Banshi Dubey, R/O-1-19-49, Rasoolpura, Begumpet, Hyderabad, Telangana, 500003, have changed my name to Kashi Dubey, for all purposes. 0040694677-2

I, Indrajit Khandai, S/O, Sh. Nilmani Khandai R/O, 15/36, Indiranagar, Lucknow-226016, solemnly affirm that my name Indrajit Khandai and Indrajeet Khandai are one and the same person. 0040694675-9

I, Mohd Naem S/O, Aziz Ahmed R/O 6496 Bara Hindu Rao Delhi 110006 have changed my name to Naem Ahmad. 0040694631-1

I, HARSHITA KAKAR, W/O, DHHRUV KUMAR, ADD-S-357-2ND-FLOOR, GREATER KAILASH PART-2, NEW DELHI-110048, changed my name to HARSHITA KUMAR, for all future purposes. 0040694681-1

I, Gulshan Kumar, S/O Thakur Dass Gilani, R/O E-47, Third-Floor, Sector-1, Rohini, Delhi-110085, inform that in my son Rudransh Gilani birth-certificate my name was written as Gulshan Gilani, whereas my correct name is Gulshan Kumar. 0040694681-6

I, Gouri Shanker Agrawal, S/O Satya Narayan Agrawal, R/O WZ-650, SF, Street No. 2, Sri Nagar, Delhi 110034, have changed my name to Gauri Shankar Garg, for all purposes. 0040694677-1

I, EX Army No12974752Y, Lance NK Ashiq Hussain TelWani, S/O Gh Hassan Telwani, R/O-Hussipora, Tehsil-Chadoora, District-Budgam. At the time of enrolment my cast has been wrongly mentioned as Ashiq Hussain Wani instead of Ashiq Hussain Telwani as in certificates. It needs corrections. Objections be filed to 162 Inf Ban TA/JAKLI within seven days. 0020466553-1

I, DEEPAK S/O, SITA RAM CHADHA R/O, H.No. 1515, Ranjeet Street, Pahar Ganj, Delhi-110055, have changed my name to DEEPAK CHADHA, for all purposes. 0040694684-2

I, Ruchie Rai, W/o Sanjay Rai, R/O C-36, Sushant Lok-I, Galleria DLF-IV, Gurgaon (Haryana)-122009, have changed my name to Ruchi Rai. 0040694677-3

I, DEEPAK CHADHA S/O, SITA RAM CHADHA R/O, H.No. 1515, Ranjeet Street, Pahar Ganj, Delhi-110055, have changed the name of my minor Son, from SAHAJ to SAHAJ CHADHA for all purposes. 0040694684-1

I, DAYAWATI BHATI, W/O, AJAB SINGH, ADD-A-26-A, NORTH BLOCK WEST-VINOD NAGAR EAST DELHI 110092, changed my name to DAYAWATI, for all future purposes. 0040694681-3

I, DANISH S/O MUEVEN AHMED, R/O HOUSE NO. 111-A, GALLI, NO. 4, AMBEDKAR NAGAR, HAIDERPUR VILLAGE, DELHI-110088, have changed my name to DANISH AHMED. 0040694675-1

I, Ayushi Sajwan, D/O JC470301P Rank Ex SUB Rampal Singh, R/O S-1A, Pandav Nagar, Opposite, Mother Dairy near Jain Mandir, Delhi-92, have changed my name to AAYUSHI SAJWAN VIDE-AFFIDAVIT. DATE 20.10.23, BEFORE. DELHI. 0040694675-2

I, Anil Pandey, S/O Ramesh Chand Pandey, R/O, H.No.C-246, Street, No-12, Gali Pandey Wali, First Pusta, New Usmannpur, Delhi-110053, have change my name Anil Pandey, for all purpose. 0040694675-5

I, Anil Kumar S/o Mahender Singh R/O, B-16, Subhash-Park Ext., Near Rajapuri-Road, Uttam-Nagar, Delhi-110059, have changed my name to Anil Kumar Goel. 0040694677-4

I, ABHISHEK PANDEY, S/O VIRENDRA NATH PANDEY, R/O, HOUSE, NO-B-11/202 SHALIMAR-GARDEN EXTENSION-2, GHAZIABAD, UTTA R-PRADESH, 201005, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME, FROM ABHISHEK KUMAR PANDEY TO ABHISHEK PANDEY, FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040694675-7

I, YASHRUB HAMEED IDRISHI S/O IDRISH KHAN R/O B-9B, Gali, No. 2, Near Police Both, Kanti Nagar Extn. Krishna Nagar Delhi-110051 have changed my name to ABDUL HAMEED for all future purposes. 0070869479-1

I, Tanvi Shanker D/o Ratnesh Shanker, R/O Flat No 09, Manzil Apartment, Plot No 07, Sector 09, Dwarka, New Delhi-110077 Have changed my name to Tanvi Shanker for all Future purposes. 0040694620-1

I, Suneta Bhati W/o SGT Ramvir Singh Bhati R/O C-504, Alpha Homes, Alpha-1, Greater Noida, U.P. declare that my name has been wrongly spelled as Sunita Bhati in my husband's service records. My correct name is 'Suneta Bhati' which may be amended apropos. 0070869484-1

I, Satish Kumar S/O Raj Pal Singh, R/O Plot N-73 Sainik Enclave, Kali Mata Mandir Ke Pas, Vipin Garden, Uttam Nagar, West Delhi-110059. I have changed the name of my minor Son Lakki aged about 14 Years and He shall hereafter be known as Vansh Kumar 0070869434-1

I, SARVESH KUMAR, S/O MR. BANSI LAL, R/O-5800, NEW CHANDRAWALL SUBZI MANDI, MALKAJ GANJ, S.O.-NORTH DELHI-110007, inform that in my, son's (ASHISH KUMAR GAUTAM), 10th Marks sheet his DATE-OF-BIRTH-14/01/2007 wrongly-written instead of correct DATE-OF-BIRTH-04/01/2007 and also my name wrongly-written SARVESH KUMAR GAUTAM instead of correct name SARVESH KUMAR, P.S. amendment accordingly. 0040694675-8

I, Hema Kumari D/o Sh. Fakir Singh R/O B-10, Saraksha Vihar, Near Madina Masjid, Vikas Nagar, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059 have changed my name to Himani Bisht for all purposes. 0040694610-2

I, SANGITA DEVI W/O ANIL R/O D-12, AMAR COLONY, NANGLOI, DELHI-110041 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as SANGEETA DEVI in my minor son ROHIT aged 15 years in his school records. The actual name of mine is SANGITA DEVI 0070869475-1

I, Badshah Khan S/O Matloob Hussain, R/O H.No.V-1452, Gali, No-04, Vijay Park, Delhi-110053, have changed my name to SHAMSHUL HUSSAIN, Permanently. 0040694681-9

I, Rajni w/o Deepak Kumar R/O 9/54, T.F. Moti Nagar, New Delhi-110015, have changed my name after marriage to Rajni Kumari for all purposes 0070869513-1

I, Munesh Sharma (UID: 8369 1766 8340 and DOB: 01.07.1973) W/o Dr. Pawan Kumar Sharma R/O 515, Friends Society, Sector-12, Vasantdaha, Ghaziabad, have change my name Munesh to Munesh Sharma for All Future Purposes 0070869513-1

I, Manoj Kumar Kandpal S/O Suresh Chandra Kandpal my Permanent address House No.145 Ward No.7 Mohalla Gujran Chowk, Bahawal Rewari Haryana Pin-123501. 0040694623-1

I, Mahima Aggarwal, D/O Shri Nand Gopal Aggarwal, R/O A-187/1, Near Shastrī Statue, Main Bazar, Shastrī Nagar, Delhi-110052, do hereby declare that Mahima Aggarwal and Tanya Aggarwal, are the same woman. Henceforth, I have changed my name from Tanya Aggarwal to Mahima Aggarwal for all future purposes. 0040694618-1

I, LATA, W/o Tarvinder Kumar, R/O B-51A, Third Floor, Khanpur Extn. Khanpur, Delhi-110062, have changed my name to HEM LATA for all purposes. 0040694614-1

I, KOMAL D/O SANJAY SAHU R/O 7016-18, GALI TANKI WALI, GHAS MANDI, PAHARI DHIRAJ, DELHI-110006 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written KOMAL SAHU in my 12th class marks-sheet, certificate and provisional certificate. The actual name of mine is KOMAL 0070869514-1

I, GOURAV KUMAR SONI S/O KESHAV SONI R/O H.NO.9 DWARKA MOD, VIPIN GARDEN, UTTAM NAGAR WEST DELHI-110059 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO GOURAV SONI FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE. 0040694649-1

I, Areena Malik D/O Gulsher Ali, R/O D-113, Gali No. 2, Chand Bagh, Gokal Pur, North East Delhi-110094, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Shabana Khan 0070869432-1

I, hereby known as ANKITA SUSHIL SHARMA, D/o. Sushil Sharma R/O B-3/4, Block B3, First Floor, Janakpuri (W), New Delhi-110058, Delhi have removed middle name "Sushil" from my name and shall hereafter be known as ANKITA SHARMA for all future purposes. 0040694627-1

I have changed my name from Afsana Malik to Lavishka after my marriage. I will be recognised as Lavishka D/O Sattar Malik Residence at House.No.16, Sunderpuri, Ghaziabad in the future for all the purposes. 0070869479-1

I, Veena Sharma D/o Shri Leela Dhar Sharma R/O D-5/28, Sector-15, Rohini, Delhi-110089 have changed my name after marriage to Anu Sharma W/o Nareesh Kumar for all purposes. 0040694638-1

I, Sanjeev Kumar Agarwal S/O, Madan Mohan Agrawal R/O D 505, Paramount Floraville Sector 137 Noida have changed my name to Sanjeev Agarwal. 0040694630-1

I Rohit S/o Shri Ravinder Pal Sareen R/O House No.G-1/322, Govardhan Park, Dal Mil Road, Uttam Nagar West, Delhi-110059 have changed my name to Rohit Sareen for all purposes. 0040694610-3

I, Rakesh Kumar S/O Kewal Krishan R/O House No-290, Prajapat Wali Gali, Taj Pur Kalan, Delhi-110036, have changed my name to Karan Rajput 0070869486-1

I, Amit Kumar S/O Sh. Nathi Lal R/O Pocket-B, 133C, Second Floor, Dilshad Garden, Chetak Complex, Delhi, Jhilmil, East Delhi, Delhi-110095 have changed the name of my minor son from Aakarshit Kumar to Devesh Kumar for all purposes. 0040694610-1

I, Jaspal Singh, S/O Nirmal Singh, R/O B-801, The Olive Heights, 36B Ambedkar Road, Sector-56, Gurugram(HR.)122011, have changed my minor daughter's name, from Pravleen Jaspal Kaur to Pravleen Kaur. 0040694681-8

I, Chirag S/O Late Sh. Mahesh Kumar R/O 76, Third Floor, Milansar Apartment, DDA MIG Flats, Paschim Vihar, West Delhi, Delhi-110063 have changed my name to Chirag Arya for all purposes. 0040694610-4

I, Lalit Rajput S/O Rana Singh R/O 766, Garhi Bakhtawar Pur, Delhi-110036, have changed my name to Karthik Rajput 0070869475-1

I, Hari Krishan S/O-Kedar Nath R/O G-2/8, First Floor, Sector-16, Rohini, Delhi-110089 have changed my name to Hari Kishan for all purposes. 0040694636-1

I, Nandan Saikia S/O Khagendra Nath Saikia R/O Flat No. 1C Golden Woods Luxuria Assam have lost my Allotment letter of Flat No. A602, 6th Floor PMO Co-operative Housing Society Ltd., Sector-62 Noida, Dist. G.B. Nagar-U.P. 0070869494-1

I, UDAY SHANKAR MEHRA, S/O-LATE JAI SHANKAR MEHRA, R/O-H-9 FIRST-FLOOR, JANGPURA EXTENSION, NEW DELHI-110014, inform that, my property Previous owner HARBHAJAN SINGH, Ownership Original Papers i.e., Agreement, to Sale, GPA, Will, Possession Letter, Receipt, Affidavit of regarding of H-9, FIRST-FLOOR, JANGPURA EXTENSION, NEW DELHI-110014, has been Lost. If found, contact me, +91-9810081138. 0040694684-6

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UPSC/ STATE PSC LEARN INDIAN ECONOMY for UPSC/PSC in Simple language in 50 Hours for Rs 1500/- only in ONLINE MODE Starting from 23 October, Monday FIRST 3 CLASSES ARE FREE CLASS TIMINGS- 7 AM TO 9 AM WhatsApp/CALL- 97186 22902

Notice is hereby given to public at large on behalf of my client Kanti Mahendra Bank Ltd., Delhi that original Share Certificate dated 17.07.2016 issued by The Jharkhand Minerals CBIS, in respect of property No. 509, Block-3, Fifth Floor Aravansh CBHS, Plot No. 1, Sector-5, Dwarka, Delhi in favour of Mr. Pradeep Kumar, in respect of his membership No. 541 in the said society. The same is lost and online F.I.R. No. 836/180/2023, No. 430/2014, U.T. Police. Any person/Institution/Individual found finds the same may please send it to the address mentioned herein. Anyone possessing the same shall be liable for action under relevant provisions of the Law of the Land. Mr. Khushi Hussain (Advocate) H.No. 211/353/2022, G-325, KKD Courts, Delhi, Mob. 9821039167/2

Notice is hereby given to public at large on behalf of my client Smt. Omwati W/o Late Sh. Rakesh, Resident of P-23, Shyam Colony, B-28, Sector-19/2, Sultan Puri C Block, Delhi-110086, have severed all relation with her son Tej Prakash Sharma S/o Late Sh. Rakesh Sharma and his wife Jyoti I.e. (Daughter-in-Law) and their children's Aashish Sharma & Savera. They all are also obtained from her all movable and immovable properties and all other articles due to her respect, desecration, trespassing their out of control/ abusive nature and threat for in any form, my client will not be responsible in any form of nature. Aysha Usman (Advocate) Enrol. No. D11353/2022, G-325, KKD Courts, Delhi, Mob. 9821039167/2

Notice is hereby given to public at large that I, RINKI GUPTA W/o Rajesh Kumar Gupta R/O E-45/2, MS Park Shahdara Delhi-32, have lost my original property Documents i.e sale deed of Plot No-J-82 West Side Regd Nagar Shahdara Delhi-32 vide Regd No-3772 Book No-1 Vol. No- 2624 Page No-9/16 dated 04/10/1994 S/R-19/ Seemantpur Delhi. I also logged FIR vide LR No-1043535/2023, 19/10/23 P.S. Crime Branch Delhi. In future if I found these Documents, I will not miss it, anyone found it please contact 9810930413

Notice is hereby given to public at large that I, Sanjay Kumar (Advocate) H.No. 26/161, Basement, Vikram Vihar, Sector-19, New Delhi 110024

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PUBLIC NOTICE Re: Entire Ground Floor without roof rights & Entire Second Floor with roof rights "said floors" built on Property bearing No. A-36, area measuring 312.15 sq. mtrs., situated in the residential colony known as Surya Nagar, Ghaziabad, Tehsil and District Ghaziabad, U.P.; hereinafter referred as the "said property". Be it known to all that our clients Mrs. Pooja Jain and Mr. Rajat Kumar Jain (hereinafter called the "Purchaser") respectively intend to purchase the entire Ground floor without roof rights and entire Second Floor with roof rights from Mr. Hamidul Syed and Mrs. Humay Syed alias Humay Chadwal (hereinafter called the "Seller"). In this connection, the seller has informed the purchaser that they are the joint owners of the said floors. In this connection, the seller has further informed the purchaser that the said property was owned by Mrs. Khawar Sharq and Ahmed Saad vide Transfer deed registered as Doc No. 680, 681 and 683 on 29.09.1978 and later on the said property was conveyed to Mr. Hamidul Syed and Mrs. Humay Syed executed by GDA in their favour and registered as Document No.5940 and 5941 in book No. 1, Volume N, 1065/118, on pages 263/198-203 on 31.10.1990 (SFC Chakrabarti) Mr. Ahmed Saad and Mrs. Khawar Sharq alias Talat Saied expired and the said property developed on Mrs. Humay Syed Khan and Mr. Hamidul Syed. This said property was mutated in their names by GDA vide Mutation letter dated 21.08.2012. Thus, they became joint owners of the said property including ground floor and second floor with roof rights. The seller has also informed the purchaser that the said floors are not mortgaged anywhere and there is no charge or dispute or any litigation pending regarding the said floors. Any person including Banks, Financial Institutions, relatives having any claim, right, title or any interest of any nature whatsoever in or upon the above referred property is hereby called upon to make the same known, in writing, with documentary evidence, by Registered AD Post, to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below within 07 days of publication of this notice and in the event of no response having been received to the notice, the title of the seller to the said floors shall be deemed to be clear of any charge or encumbrance of any nature whatsoever and any subsequent claim shall not bind our client, purchaser, in any manner whatsoever. Amit Kumar Khurana, Advocate, For M/s Intellectual Law Offices, 74, Lower Ground Floor, Defence Colony, New Delhi-110024

PUBLIC NOTICE This is to inform the public at large that my clients Sh. Ashok Kumar Seth, Sh. Mohan Lal Seth and his wife Smt. Poonam Seth both R/O 448, Kakrola Housing Complex, Kakrola, New Delhi-110078, presently residing at- Plot No-310/7, Second floor front side Block-R, Navada Housing Estate, Sector-Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110078 have severed all the relationship and ties with their son Mr. Rahul Kumar Seth and his wife Smt. Mansi Seth and child namely Naini both out from the wedlock of aforesaid Mr. Ashok Seth and Mrs. Poonam Seth and responsible for their acts, deeds and things done by Ravinder Kumar, his wife Mrs. Gitanjali and his daughter Niyashi in past, present and future. Anyone who deals with their son, daughter and wife shall not be responsible for any acts and any manner whatsoever done by them. If anybody deals with them will do so at his/her own costs, consequences. Rakesh Kumar (Advocate) Ch. No. 442, Civil Lines, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

PUBLIC NOTICE It is for general information that I, GUIDA W/O LATE SH. PAMPAM KUMAR R/O 136/1, STREET NO 14, THIAN SINGH NAGAR, ANAND PARVAT, KAROL BAGH SO.1, CENTRAL DELHI, DELHI-110005 declare that name of mine and my minor son has been wrongly written as SARITA and MOHIT in my minor son MOHIT KUMAR aged 14 years in his birth certificate and name of my wife has been wrongly written as SARITA in my minor son MOHIT KUMAR in his school records. The actual name of mine and my minor son are GUIDA and MOHIT KUMAR, which may be amended accordingly. 0040694684-1

PUBLIC NOTICE Gaurav Mehra is hereby informed that my clients, Sh. Ashok Kumar Seth, Sh. Mohan Lal Seth and his wife Smt. Poonam Seth both R/O 448, Kakrola Housing Complex, Kakrola, New Delhi-110078, presently residing at- Plot No-310/7, Second floor front side Block-R, Navada Housing Estate, Sector-Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110078 have severed all the relationship and ties with their son Mr. Rahul Kumar Seth and his wife Smt. Mansi Seth and child namely Naini both out from the wedlock of aforesaid Mr. Ashok Seth and Mrs. Poonam Seth and responsible for their acts, deeds and things done by Ravinder Kumar, his wife Mrs. Gitanjali and his daughter Niyashi in past, present and future. Anyone who deals with their son, daughter and wife shall not be responsible for any acts and any manner whatsoever done by them. If anybody deals with them will do so at his/her own costs, consequences. Rakesh Kumar (Advocate) Ch. No. 442, Civil Lines, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

PUBLIC NOTICE My clients Mrs. Satya Devi W/o Late Sh. Subhan Lal R/O 144, Gurugram, Delhi-110018, has severed her relations from her son Mr. Ravinder Kumar, S/o Late Sh. Sohan Lal, his wife Mrs. Gitanjali W/o Sh. Ravinder Kumar and his daughter Niyashi. He, S/o Late Sh. Sohan Lal R/O Wz-203, Gali No. 1, First Floor, Krishna Puri, New Delhi-110018 disowned and debarred them from all movable and immovable properties and shall not be responsible for their acts, deeds and things done by Ravinder Kumar, his wife Mrs. Gitanjali and his daughter Niyashi in past, present and future. Anyone who deals with their son, daughter and wife shall not be responsible for any acts and any manner whatsoever done by them. If anybody deals with them will do so at his/her own costs, consequences. Shiv Datta (Advocate) SR-18-B, Janakpuri, Delhi-110058

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems) Sr.DMM, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement System for supply of the following items:-

Government of Maharashtra Public Works Department P.W. Division, Panvel Telephone No. 022-27452778 E-Tender Notice No. 103 (Open ONLINE) Year-2023-24

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF PUNJAB Dr. Ambedkar Centre of Excellence Admission Notification for 2023 Batch Advt. No. CUPB/COE/DACE/872 Date: 12.10.2023

NORTHERN RAILWAY OPEN-E-TENDER NOTICE The Sr. Divisional Engineer-II, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work. NIT No.: 33

ANDHRA PRADESH POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LIMITED NOTIFICATION FOR e-Procurement NIT/RFX. No. 610001364 APGENCO invites open tenders for "Providing of 1 No 500TPH Capacity Mini Crusher(fixed/movable) on hire basis, feeding of raw coal into crusher unit, crushing of raw coal to an output size of (-) 20mm at 300 to 500 T PH with minimum output of 1.0 lakh Ton per Month, transporting of crushed coal to the stock yard of Dr.NTPS/ APGENCO, including Provision, Installation, Operation & Maintenance for a period of 24 months.

राजस्थान सहकारी भर्ती बोर्ड, जयपुर 10-वीं झालाना संस्थागत क्षेत्र, झालाना डूंगरी, जयपुर फोन नं. 2710072/2709827 फैक्स नं. 91-0141-2710072

THE HP STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LIMITED TOTU, SHIMLA 171 011. No: 497/P&I-8/21-XIV SHORT TENDER NOTICE H.P. Milkfed invites annual rate contract for the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in 2 bid system for the following item on F.O.R basis:-

U.P. EXPRESSWAYS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (UIPEIDA) Notice For Development of Public Charging Stations along various Expressways in the State of Uttar Pradesh through PPP Mode

NMDC Limited (A Government of India Enterprise) 'Khanij Bhavan', 10-3-311A, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad-500028. Corporate Identity Number (CIN) - L13109TG1958G0001674

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY Tender Notice E-Tenders are invited for execution of the following works by Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), E.C. Railway, Dhanbad:

बिहार सरकार योजना एवं विकास विभाग कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन, कार्य प्रमंडल-01, गया। निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या - 01SBD/2023-24 (केवल ई-टेंडर पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

झारखण्ड सरकार ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, तृतीय तल्ला, नया समाहर्णालय भवन, पपरवाटाड़, गिरिडीह, झारखण्ड - 815301

GeM (फेर) निविदा कार्यालयचे नाव : चिपळूण नगर परिषद, जि. रत्नागिरी GeM निविदा मागविणारी सूचना क्र. ११६ सन २०२३-२४ चिपळूण नगर परिषदेकडील GeM निविदा सूचना क्रमांक : ११६ सन २०२३-२४ चिपळूण नगर परिषद हद्दीमधील निर्माण होणाऱ्या सुक्या कचऱ्यावर प्रक्रिया करण्यासाठी ३टन क्षमतेचा गॅसिफायर (Multi Jet High Temperature Updraft Gasifier (Capacity 3TPD)) पुरविणे करणेकरिता GeM निविदा प्रणालीद्वारे GeM निविदा मागविण्यात येत आहेत.

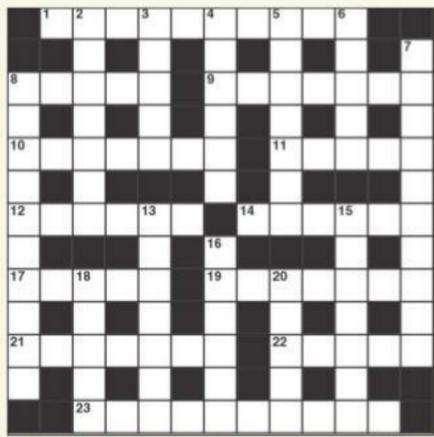
GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION, NASHIK E-Tender Notice No. 40 for 2023-24 (Online) ONLINE E-Tenders in "B-1" Form for the following works invited by Executive Engineer, P. W. Division, Nashik; Phone No. : (0253/2583761-64, 2575324) for and on behalf of Governor of Maharashtra State from capable of P.W. Deptt. Registered/ Unregistered Contractor or International Contractor whose Sub company/ branch in India and also complete terms and conditions mentioned in tender document.

RAILTEL (A Govt. of India Enterprise) RailTel Region invites 09 separate open e-tenders from eligible bidders for the work of "Construction of single room and double rooms masonry buildings (brick structure) at various Railway Stations for Northern Region of RailTel".

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-Tender Notice Batch No: 13/2023 E-Tender Notice for supply of materials "Participation in through" Web Portal of IREPS-ww.ireps.gov.in Offers are invited for supply of the following material.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 145EE23-24 The DRM (Engg./SEE for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open E-Tenders for the following works. The last date of online E-tendering is 13.11.2023 up to 13:00 hrs. All information and tender documents related to E-tender is available on website - www.ireps.gov.in

CROSSWORD 5188



- ACROSS**
- 1 Off-putting food? (3,7)
 - 8 Blame fracture for mount's pace (5)
 - 9 Being brighter is less confused (7)
 - 10 It may be caged but could be paroled (7)
 - 11 They employ devious ruses (5)
 - 12 Fat? Pull everything in (6)
 - 14 Worst cry of pain to give (6)
 - 17 More of a player perhaps (5)
 - 19 Note proposal of love for example (7)
 - 21 Extremely important stations (7)
 - 22 A very rich man delves into his pocket perhaps (5)
 - 23 Business Initiative (10)
- DOWN**
- 2 Rile mob maybe and start trouble (7)
 - 3 It can laugh though it doesn't get the lion's share (5)
 - 4 Go back and make a further concession? (6)
 - 5 Die frozen stiff (3,4)
 - 6 A common plant in Spring or September (5)
 - 7 Blows that aren't felt directly (10)
 - 8 In a way almost lent shares (10)
 - 13 Hoping to benefit from a reduction in the fare (2,1,4)
 - 15 Robbers appear the night before breaking into this (7)
 - 16 No rise for those more advanced in service (6)
 - 18 All-male crew of a novel boat (5)
 - 20 Decoration only given to subordinates? (5)

Solutions Crossword 5187 Across: 1 Sector, 4 Stated, 9 Canopus, 10 Alarm, 11 Elope, 12 Oppress, 13 Elastic band, 18 Staunch, 20 Again, 22 Ether, 23 Navetá, 24 Tidied, 25 Aghast
Down: 1 Sacked, 2 Canto, 3 Orpheus, 5 Trump, 6 Trade-in, 7 Damask, 8 Astonishing, 14 Leashed, 15 Bearing, 16 Assent, 17 Intent, 19 Nerve, 21 Arena

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Delays or obstacles you meet over the next few days may hark back to something that took place at the beginning of the week. Perhaps you should get to grips with a personal issue that you've successfully avoided until now, especially if it concerns work or health.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

If the tide of fortune is turning in your favour you have only yourself to thank. It is natural that you should still feel uncertain about a number of personal issues, but there is no need for concern. Continue to keep your plans to yourself until next week, if you wish.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Although you find it easier than most to take a flippant and light-hearted attitude, Mercury, planet of communication, is pushing you towards deeper interests, and perhaps more spiritual attitudes. You see, you want to expand your mind, exploring new possibilities.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

You're in a particularly ambitious mood at the moment, so don't expect to have a lazy weekend. One way or another you are going to have to put a great deal of effort into both personal and shared activities. Remember, though, that your health comes first.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

One thing you have learnt is that partnership and co-operation is not always a panacea. In fact, as you now know, the closer you get to other people the more likely you are to realise that their interests may not coincide with yours. That's why you have to meet them half way.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

You have a deep affinity with Pisces, your opposite sign, one which may be surprising. You may develop this side of your personality by learning from close partners about emotional sensitivity and tuning in to their intentions. Remember - your facts tell only part of the story.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

On a purely personal level you will enjoy proving that, although you may have remained on the fringe, you have kept up with everything that has been going on, and perhaps understood the real situation better than anybody. You have never missed a trick.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

Mercury, the planet for your mind, is edging towards a challenging relationship to Pluto, which rules your unconscious passions. In the first instance you can expect long-forgotten dreams or desires to resurface. And once they do, you'll be ready for the next, vital step.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

Life is not always easy, but then it's not supposed to be, is it? But looking back you may find some of the week's events rather comical. The easier you find it to recover your sense of humour, the happier you will be. As the old saying goes, laughter is the best medicine.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

There's a great deal of uncertainty and secrecy about at the moment. You may have kept your emotions in check for too long. However, letting go doesn't necessarily mean giving other people a hard time. Instead, it should be your aim to make someone close feel loved and appreciated.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

The stars are lined up for a sociable weekend. Forget small gatherings, you'll be happiest mixing in large groups where you'll have the stimulation of meeting new people. You have to talk to partners - there's no point in expecting them to read your mind.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Financial worries may cloud the horizon. Perhaps you feel that a long period of good luck has come to an end. Others may have given up hope of ever achieving true prosperity. Don't worry, though - it's just a phase you're going through. All it requires is a redoubling of your efforts.

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given clue.
Just as a candle cannot burn without fire, men cannot live without a _____. - Buddha (9,4)

MAEIR

EFILLT

TVIIS

ILTFPU

SOLUTION: RAMEIL, VISIT, FILLT, UPLIF. Answer: Just as a candle cannot burn without fire, men cannot live without a spiritual life. - Buddha.

SUDOKU 5357

Difficulty Level 2s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

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

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

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5356

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

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. NO.	NAME OF BOARD/ CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK/ NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE/ CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1.	GURUGRAM UNIVERSITY	HIRING OF VEHICLES FOR GURUGRAM UNIVERSITY, GURUGRAM	19.10.2023 02.11.2023	24000/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	8860423228 conduct@gurugramuniversity.ac.in

22149 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. NO.	NAME OF BOARD/ CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK/ NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE/ CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1.	THE ROHTAK CO OF MILK PRODUCERS UNION LIMITED	ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR PROCESS CONTROL INSTRUMENTS WITH CALIBRATION	21.10.2023 04.11.2023	AS PER DNIT	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9996577829 vitarotak@gmail.com

22144 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

Jharkhand Education Project Council, JEPC

JSCA Stadium Road, Sector-3, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004
Phone - 0651-2444501/502, email - jepranchi1@gmail.com

Letter Ref.No.: JEPC/ICT/52/54/2023/4126 Dated: 19/10/2023

E-Procurement Notice

JEPC invites separate technical & financial bids through GeM Portal (GeM Bid Reference No.-GEM/B/2023/411379) from eligible and interested bidders for establishment of ICT Lab cum Computer Lab which includes Supply, Installation & maintenance of Hardware in all 268 Block Resource Centers of Jharkhand. Interested and eligible bidders are requested to submit their proposal latest by **22.11.2023 at 03:00 PM** through website <http://gem.gov.in> only. A Pre-Bid Meeting in this regard is scheduled on **31.10.2023 at 11:00 AM** at our above mentioned office. By order of State Project Director, JEPC.

PR309658 (School Education and Literacy)23-24*
Sd/- (Jayant Kumar Mishra) Administrative Officer

CENTRAL RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

For & on behalf of President of India, Dy.Chief Engineer (Bridge, Line) HQ @ Central Railway, G. M. Building, 2nd Floor, CSMT Mumbai - 400 001 invites e-bids at e-Procurement website "<http://www.ireps.gov.in>" for the following work:

Tender Notice No. & Date	Name of Work	Approx Cost of Work (In Rs.)	EMD (In Rs.)	Completion Period
CR-BrMMR26 2023-2024 Dated 18.10.2023	Painting of Track Girder bridges over various section of Mumbai Division. (5 Brides)	43,86,168.54	87,700	12 Months (Excluding Monsoon)
CR-BrMMR27 2023-2024 Dated 18.10.2023	Provision of Footpath, Inspection Ladder and Jacking Brackets & Repairing works of TGB's on ET-CWA, Amla-NGP, BTBR-Umrer, BD-NGP & WUN-PKMT section over NGP (17 Bridges)	1,31,18,021.09	2,15,600	12 Months
CR-BrMMR28 2023-2024 Dated 18.10.2023	Improvement of Structural life of Track Girder Bridge by Sand Blasting, Metalizing & Painting and Replacement of corroded rivets below channel sleeper on Various Sections - LNL-PA, PA-MRJ, MRJ-KOP & LNN-Phaltan of Pune Division	2,64,06,526.79	2,82,000	24 Months (Excluding Monsoon Period)
CR-BrMMR29 2023-2024 Dated 18.10.2023	Improvement of structural life of track girder bridge by Sand Blasting & Metalizing of Wadibunder Viaduct br. on CSMT-CLA (HB) Line	1,84,41,836.21	2,42,200	15 Months (Excluding Monsoon Period)

All Above Tender Document Cost: Nil & Date & Time of Closing: 20.11.2023 at 15:00 Hrs. Complete information of above e-tender notice is available on website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> Bids other than in the form of e-bids shall not be accepted against the above Tender.
Dy. Chief Engineer/Br.Line/HQ For Chief Bridge Engineer

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Notice of Invitation E-Tender
Divisional Railway Manager, N.W. Rly. Bikaner for and on behalf of President of India invites sealed open tender for the following works on the date shown as below. **Tender No. S&T/BKN/ ET 262R2. Name of Work with its Location:** "Annual Maintenance Contract at 02 stations of Electronic Interlocking System of Medha make at Satrod & Lalgarh station for 02 years over Bikaner Division"; **Approx. Cost of Work:** 3503176.32; **Bid Security:** 70100.00; **Date & Time for submission of Tender & opening of tender:** Up to 15.00 Hrs. of 16.11.2023; **Website from which complete Tender details can be seen & download:** www.ireps.gov.in **1116-AN/23**

Please join us on www.facebook.com/NWRRailways

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY G2

YELAHANKA, BENGALURU - 560 064.
Website: www.nwf.indianrailways.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE NO. RWF/S/06/2023-24 DATED: 20.10.2023

On behalf of the President of India, the Principal Chief Materials Manager invites Electronic Open Tenders from experienced Manufacturers/authorised dealers for supply of the following items on the Indian Railways e-portal www.ireps.gov.in. The tender documents and the Corrigendum to the Tenders if any, will be available on the portal only.

Tender No. P2235726
Description: PIG IRON. Quantity: 1200 MT
Closing Date & Time for Tenders: 16.11.2023 at 14.00 Hrs.

Tender details can be viewed on our website www.nwf.indianrailways.gov.in or www.ireps.gov.in
PRINCIPAL CHIEF MATERIALS MANAGER

"IMPORTANT"

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

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, BALANGIR (R&B) CIRCLE: BALANGIR

e-Procurement Notice
BID IDENTIFICATION NO: CCE/R&B BGR/32/2023-24
No. 5771 / Dtd. 19.10.2023

The Chief Construction Engineer, Balangir (R&B) Circle, Balangir on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate composite bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE for the construction of works detailed in the table below from "B" & "A" Class Contractors registered with the State Governments and contractors of equivalent Grade/ Class registered with Central Government/ MES/ Railways for execution of Civil works. The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the bid.

1. Nature of Work	: Composite & Building Work
2. No. of tender	: Composite work 1 No & Building Work 5 No
3. Tender Cost	: Rs. 10,000/-
4. Class of Contractor	: "B" & "A" Class
5. Date & Time of sale & Receipt of Bids	: From Dt. 25.10.2023, 10.00 A.M. to Dt. 08.11.2023 up to 05.00 P.M.
6. Date of opening Bid	: Dt. 09.11.2023 at 11.00 A.M.
7. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: http://tenderodisha.gov.in . All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE MODE only.	

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer, Balangir (R&B) Circle, Balangir OIPR-34131/1103323-24

Information & Public Relations Department, Government of Jharkhand

Request for Proposal (RFP)

Tender No:
Name of the work: Conceptualisation, Design, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Temporary Projection Mapping and/or Multimedia Show including related Mechanical, Structural, Electrical work during Jharkhand Women's Asian Hockey Champions Trophy 2023 (27th October to 05th November 2023) at different locations in Ranchi and/or other districts Jharkhand.

All bids must conform to the guidelines set out in the RFP Document.
Off-line tenders (RFP) under QCBS (Quality and Cost Based Selection) method are invited in Two Bid System from competent Company/Firm/Agency, who satisfy the eligibility criteria enumerated in the Tender Documents (RFP), and having experience of similar nature of work of **Conceptualisation, Design, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Temporary Projection Mapping and/or Multimedia Show including related Mechanical, Structural, Electrical work during Jharkhand Women's Asian Hockey Champions Trophy 2023 (27th October to 05th November 2023) at different locations in Ranchi and/or other districts Jharkhand**

Interested Agencies may download the tender documents from the website of the department i.e. prdjharkhand.in & submit the tender documents to Information & Public Relations Department, Government of Jharkhand, Address: 2nd Floor, Suchana Bhawan, Mayer's Road, Beside- Audrey House, Ranchi, Jharkhand-834008 as per the following schedule:-

SCHEDULE:

1	Bid Document Published Date	21-10-2023	10.00 A.M.
2	Bid Document Download Start Date	21-10-2023	10.00 A.M.
3	Bid Document Download End Date	26-10-2023	12.00 noon
4	Bid Submission Start Date	25-10-2023	10.00 A.M.
5	Bid Submission End Date	26-10-2023	12.00 noon
6	Technical (Techno-Commercial) Bid Opening Date	26-10-2023	12.00 noon
7	Date Place of Technical Presentation	Suchana Bhawan, Ranchi, Jharkhand & 26-10-2023	01:00 PM
8	Financial Bid Opening Date	26-10-2023	02:00 PM

PR 309780 IPRD(23-24)#D
Sd/- Director

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: EL/HWH/25/21 (Notice)/540, dated 20.10.2023. Open e-tender is invited by Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah, DRM Building, near Railway Station, Howrah, 711101 for the under-mentioned electrical works: **Tender No.: EL-HWH-25-21-3193-R. Name of work:** Provision of pump-motor set along with control over Howrah Division. **Tender Value:** ₹ 47,95,734/-; **Bid Security (Earnest Money Deposit):** ₹ 95,900/-; **Completion Period:** 12 Months. **Closing date and time of tender:** 10.11.2023 at 15.00 hrs. In case the date of closing mentioned in the Notice Inviting Tender is declared a holiday/bandhs/strike on any account, the date of closing tender online will not be changed as the application in the website of IREPS does not permit submission of any offer after closing date and time of the tender. However, opening of tenders online will be on any convenient day after closing date and time of the tender. The details of tender are available at website www.ireps.gov.in. Tenderers are requested to submit their offer online on the above website. (HWH-315/2023-24)
Tender Notice is also available at websites: www.indianrailways.gov.in or www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at: [@EasternRailway](https://www.facebook.com/EasternRailway) [@EasternRailway](https://www.instagram.com/EasternRailway)

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM

SR. NO.	NAME OF BOARD/ CORP./AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HVRPL	2023_HRC_310057_JIE-TENDER ENQUIRY NO 06/CNR/2023-24 DATED 25.07.2023	CORRIGENDUM NO.06, THE LAST DATE OF ONLINE BID SUBMISSION IS EXTENDED UPTO 02.11.2023 (13.00 HRS)	www.hvrvn.org.in	0172-2583789 pepc@hvrvn.org.in
2	HVRPL	NIT NO. 353/P&D/2023-24	CORRIGENDUM-1/ EXTENSION OF DUE DATE OF ONLINE BID SUBMISSION UPTO 26.10.2023 TO 17.00 HRS. & 20.10.2023	www.hvrvn.org.in	0172-2583789 pepc@hvrvn.org.in
3	HVRPL	QDP NO 1425 GEM PORTAL BID NUMBER GEM/2023/W/3803445 DATED 09.08.2023	THE LAST DATE OF ONLINE BID SUBMISSION IS EXTENDED UP TO 02.11.2023 UP TO 06.00 P.M.	www.hvrvn.org.in	0172-2583789 pepc@hvrvn.org.in

22139/HRY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

SPORTS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF TAMIL NADU

Jawaharalal Nehru Stadium, Raja Muthiah Road, Periyar, Chennai - 3
Phone: +91 44 2561 1522 | e-mail: sdatt@tn.gov.in
GST No.: 33AAALS025C2ZN

Notice Inviting e-Tender

e-Tender No. 7038 / SE1 / 2023, Date: 20.10.2023

Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu, Chennai invites online Bids under two cover system for the following works:

Name of the Work	Request for Proposal (RFP) for Engagement of Overlays Design & Planning Agency for Khelo India Youth Games 2023, Tamil Nadu
Pre-bid Meeting on	27.10.2023 at 3.30 P.M. in the Conference Hall of SDAT Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium, Raja Muthiah Road, Periyar, Chennai - 600003
Last date for submission of online tender	03.11.2023 @ 05.00 PM
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs.60,000/-
Date of opening of technical bids	04.11.2023 @ 05.00 PM

Tenders available all further information/notices shall be published online in the e-procurement portal <https://tenders.gov.in>. DIPR / 5697 / TENDER / 2023

J. Meghanatha Reddy
Member Secretary, SDAT.



TODAY'S MATCH

Netherlands vs Sri Lanka, 10.30 am;
England vs South Africa, 2 pm.
Live on Star Sports network

SCORECARD

AUSTRALIA vs PAKISTAN

CHINNASWAMY STADIUM, BENGALURU

Toss: Pakistan, chose to field

AUSTRALIA

D Warner c sub (Shadab) b H Rauf 163 (124b, 14x4, 9x6)
M Marsh c Mir b S Afridi 121 (108b, 10x4, 9x6)
G Maxwell c B Azam b S Afridi 0 (1b)
S Smith c & b U Mir 7 (9b)
M Stoinis lbw b S Afridi 21 (24b, 1x4, 1x6)
J Inglis † c Md Rizwan b H Rauf 13 (9b, 3x4)
M Labuschagne c sub (Shadab) b H Rauf 8 (12b, 1x4)
P Cummins (c) not out 6 (8b)
M Starc c S Shakeel b S Afridi 2 (3b)
J Hazlewood c † Md Rizwan b S Afridi 0 (1b)
A Zampa not out 1 (1b)
■ Extras (b1 lb 10 w14) 25
■ Total (50 overs) 367/9

■ FoW: 1-259 (Mitchell Marsh, 33.5 ov), 2-259 (Glenn Maxwell, 33.6 ov), 3-284 (Steven Smith, 38.1 ov), 4-325 (David Warner, 42.2 ov), 5-339 (Josh Inglis, 44.2 ov), 6-354 (Marcus Stoinis, 47.1 ov), 7-360 (Marcus Labuschagne, 48.3 ov), 8-363 (Mitchell Starc, 49.1 ov), 9-363 (Josh Hazlewood, 49.2 ov)

■ Bowling: S Afridi 10-1-54-5, H Ali 8-0-57-0, I Ahmed 8-0-37-0, H Rauf 8-0-83-3, U Mir 9-0-82-1, Md Nawaz 7-0-43-0

PAKISTAN

A Shafique c Maxwell b Stoinis 64 (61b, 7x4, 2x6)
Imam-ul-Haq c Starc b Stoinis 70 (71b, 10x4)
B Azam (c) c Cummins b Zampa 18 (14b, 3x4)
Md Rizwan † lbw b Zampa 46 (40b, 5x4)
S Shakeel c Stoinis b Cummins 30 (31b, 5x4)
I Ahmed lbw b Zampa 26 (20b, 3x6)
Md Nawaz st † Inglis b Zampa 14 (16b, 1x6)
U Mir c Starc b Hazlewood 0 (3b)
S Afridi c Labuschagne b Cummins 10 (8b, 2x4)
H Ali c † Inglis b Starc 8 (8b, 2x4)
H Rauf not out 0 (1b)
■ Extras (b1, lb 7, w11) 19
■ Total (45.5 overs) 305
■ FoW: 1-134 (Abdullah Shafique, 21.1 ov), 2-154 (Imam-ul-Haq, 23.4 ov), 3-175 (Babar Azam, 26.2 ov), 4-232 (Saud Shakeel, 34.2 ov), 5-269 (Iftikhar Ahmed, 38.5 ov), 6-274 (Mohammad Rizwan, 40.5 ov), 7-277 (Usama Mir, 41.5 ov), 8-287 (Mohammad Nawaz, 42.6 ov), 9-301 (Hasan Ali, 44.5 ov), 10-305 (Shahen Shah Afridi, 45.3 ov)
■ Bowling: M Starc 8-0-65-1, J Hazlewood 10-1-37-1, P Cummins 7-3-0-62-2, A Zampa 10-0-53-4, G Maxwell 5-0-40-0, M Stoinis 5-0-40-2

Warner jump-starts Australia

Stitches a 259-run opening partnership with Marsh as Cummins & Co. thump Pak by 62 runs for second win on the trot

SANDIP G

BENGALURU, OCTOBER 20

THE SUN over the Bengaluru horizon had quietly slipped into twilight when David Warner completed his hundred. He celebrated with the trademark leap, like being propelled by a spring, and the violent punch of the air - his riff off the Allu Arjun Pushpa style. In a week, he turns 37. Next year, he plans to retire from all formats. In the last few years, he has seemed his age. But at the Chinnaswamy, with his career in its twilight zone, he turned the clock back, batting as though he had rediscovered his youth, taking his team to a second win on the bounce after two defeats to start their World Cup campaign.

His 163 off 124 balls and 259-run opening stand with Mitchell Marsh (121 in 108 balls) propelled Australia to 367/9. Pakistan, boosted by a 134-run first-wicket partnership of their own between Abdullah Shafique (64) and Imam-ul-Haq (70), but the target was too steep for them as they folded for 305, going down by 62 runs for their second successive defeat.

It was, in a sense, Warner's tribute to Warner. After the customary Ashes travails, he had revived himself in 50-over cricket, his favourite format, one wherein he should be counted among the all-time greats of his country. But in none of his outings, even during his hundreds against England and South Africa this year, he had looked so brutally youthful, or exuded the sense of daring as he showed in this game. Everything could have been different had Usama Mir, who took a pair of splendid catches later on, not shelled a simple one at mid-on when he was on 10. He was grassed on 113 too, which cost Pakistan 50 more runs. But Warner took optimum advantage of the lapses.

There is no better example of this than the six in Haris Rauf's first over. After being pummeled through point the previous ball, short and wide, Rauf went fuller on middle and leg. Warner simply moved inside the line, got under the ball and scooped it behind square-leg, with a ferocious whirl of his wrists. The power he imparted on the ball seemed to destabilise him - he seemed to lose his shape and fall over, and for him the stable base is fundamental - but he was statue-still when the wood made its chunky contact with the leather.

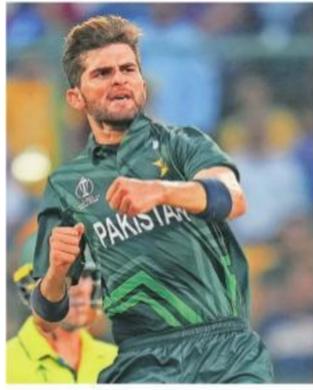
Warner has the gift of freezing his movements while batting. He looks a mess when executing the shot, seemingly short of time, his balance off-kilter, the upper body plunging, but somehow he always pulls off those strokes.

But as much as the execution, it was his sense of adventure that has stood out. In recent years, his explosive power waning, he had resorted to percentage shots, his ability to manipulate gaps, and the running between the wickets. It's even more so the case when he starts an innings, a trifle watchful, a bit conscious of his own decline. Leaving the attacking duties to Travis Head before he got injured and then Marsh, whose glorious hundred was shaded out by Warner's sky-riser.

Sedate start

Their start was sedate by the frantic standards of the times. The first eight overs yielded 43 runs. Then steamed in Haris Rauf, all boundless energy, and ended up bleeding 24 runs in the over. Marsh crunched three successive fours to wrap up the over, but the Warner scoop-six set the pace, shaped the destiny of Pakistan's bowlers and charted the path the game was to take. In the next nine overs, Australia would rattle 100 runs.

During the phase, Warner just intimidated, looking broader and taller than he is. A figure of coiled muscle. He exhibited the ruthlessness of his slipping youth. Anything marginally short was clobbered, those Popeye-forearm muscles flexing furiously; anything full was thundered down. The raw



Fast bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi took five wickets but Australia had piled on too many runs. PTI

NUMBER PLATE

367/9

Australia's total in Bengaluru on Friday is the highest against Pakistan at ODI World Cups. Sri Lanka's 344 for 9 in Hyderabad was the previous best.

power was back. Yet, the most tell-tale sign of Warner in full flow is when he drives through the covers. It's an under-appreciated shot of his - perhaps because he does not lean into it in the classical fashion, or does not have a flamboyant follow through, or it is just an impression that he is all graceless power - but when he drives, it is a clear sign that he is in sinister touch.

The drives came much later, when he was past his hundred. But they carried an understated beauty. For all other strokes, the effort tells on his face and body, but when driving in full flow, he does so with natural simplicity. In his 20s, he did have a full-throttle drive, but after Stuart Broad worked him over, he shelved his drives, unless the ball was very full. Later on Friday, as he raced to 150 - the only batsman to have three 150-plus scores in the history of the tournament - he unzipped a gorgeous four off Shaheen Afridi, stretching and creaming his off-cutter through the covers.

Soon he would complete his 150, with a huge six off Usama Mir - off merely 117 balls. This is the fastest (strike rate of 131) he has batted for a three-figure score in six years, after his highest of 179 in Adelaide.

This was his fifth hundred in the World Cup and only Rohit Sharma and Sachin Tendulkar have more.

The conditions could not have been better - the surface was flat, the bowlers were wayward, the dimensions of the ground were small, and the fielders were generous - but still dictate the tempo at a time when his forces are supposedly diminishing takes a lot of self-conviction.

The innings also showed how central he still is for his country and how central he is to their fortunes this campaign.

He was Australia's second-highest run-getter in 2007 as well, where he won a World Cup; he was the tournament's second highest run-getter in 2019, a run behind Virat Kohli; he is his country's second highest run-getter in World Cups (1,220 at 61). His value magnifies even more in the context of Steve Smith's patchy form and the flimsiness of their middle order, which the Pakistan bowlers exposed after Warner's departure. After his exit in the 43rd over, Australia managed only 42 runs in the next seven overs. Thus, in the twilight of his career, Warner is shining brightly - even finding a fresh bloom of youth



David Warner celebrates reaching a century with his trademark jump at the Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. PTI

SANDIP G

BENGALURU, OCTOBER 20

MUCH OF the stadium had emptied out when Australia applied the finishing touches to an eventually-comprehensive victory. Some lingered in the aisles, wondering whether the game would have one final twist. Some clung on to cheer for David Warner, the ageless crowd-puller, receiving the Player of the Match plaque and waving at them.

But the one final turn did not arrive, though until the 40th over, a miracle circled over the stadium like the eagles.

It's both the beauty and burden of watching Pakistan. They ignite hopes of the impossible, the inviting aroma of a miracle, and then suddenly pack up. They can be thrilling to watch, and nerve-wracking too. It's an assault on the senses of their supporters, neutrals and even the fans of their opponents. Half the reason the audience believed in a miracle was Pakistan's own thrilling chase against Sri Lanka a week ago. But Australia are no Sri Lanka, they possess a well-drilled attack, which has yet to click in unison, but they somehow get the job done.

The moment Australia put on 367 - it could have been more had not Pakistan's bowlers made a stirring comeback in the last 10 overs - it was always going to be something akin to a wild goose chase. Only three bigger chases have ever been accomplished in this format.

But Pakistan hoped, as they always do.



Imam-ul-Haq (L) and Abdullah Shafique laid a strong foundation with a 134-run opening stand. PTI

For a chunk of the game, they seemed justified too. But all hopes were stubbed out when Adam Zampa snatched Rizwan, hero of the tournament-record chase against Sri Lanka. He could not be a miracle worker again in the space of a week. Try as he did, in his typically busy fashion, slugging and lofting with the eye of a sniper, he fell to the wiles of Zampa, who is making quite a comeback in the tournament. The googly is his most devilish weapon.

It fetched him the two most important wickets in the game. When Rizwan and Iftikhar Ahmed were throwing the kitchen sink at everything, rewriting their own chase-record seemed plausible. But Zampa just strolled in, ripped a wrong'un and had Ahmed trapped in front.

He would deliver the biggest blow a few

overs later, with a shorter and less skiddy googly that Rizwan completely missed. He reviewed to no avail, and as he walked back, Pakistan could see their hopes drifting into the dark and ominous skies. The crowd would slowly file out of the stadium, disappointed at the tepid finish, but enthralled by the glut of runs.

Leaking runs

It was vindication that Pakistan could no longer hinge on miracles to win games. The Lanka heist was a one-off. A repeat, or a semi-repeat, was unrealistic. The semifinal spot is not out of their reach, but they have deeper problems to address, like their new-ball bowling, their profligacy in the middle overs, and their listless fielding. Their bowling at the death was exceptional, but that does not always compensate for the early shoddiness. Two 340-plus totals against them in three games paint an ugly picture.

That there were moments Pakistan ignited realistic prospects of hauling down the total would be little consolation. Abdullah Shafique and Imam-ul-Haq soaked all the pressure of an imposing total and batted freely, sustaining the run rate without resorting to risks. Shafique especially looked undaunted, driving crisply and pulling emphatically. Imam showed clinical finesse in punishing loose balls, which Australia were unusually liberal with.

By the 15th over, they had purred to 94/0. Shafique was especially severe on Pat Cummins, whom he pulled for a couple of sixes, besides a languid drive. Five overs later,

they breezed to 131. Pakistan could sense something special unravelling; Australia could sniff panic. Cummins wore a shocked and pallid look. He had played every trick he knew. Pakistan has plastered a solid foundation, but the night was still young.

Just then, when Shafique and Imam seemed as invulnerable as Marsh and Warner, Marcus Stoinis breathed hope. The all-rounder had been largely ineffectual thus far in the tournament, struggling with both bat and ball. But with his first ball, he made Shafique miscue a pull. The ball was barely 130kph, but well-directed into his body and a trifle slippery. Stoinis could be quicker than what his casual run-up indicates. His night would get sunnier, as he despatched Imam. The ball, again, was nothing special, just well-directed and Imam top-edged. Stoinis celebrated wildly, flexing his hulk-like biceps as though this was a Mr Universe contest.

Pakistan's dilemma was understandable; they couldn't afford to play out a few overs. The run rate would soar. But they couldn't afford to take risks, for every single wicket would push them down the slope.

Pakistan chose the route of chaos, but controlled chaos. Somehow, the boundaries kept coming. Even Babar's departure didn't matter; the exit of the frenetic Saud Shakeel did not bother: Iftikhar perished to a ripping wrong'un from Zampa, but there was no relenting. Without Shadab Khan, their batting was shallow, but nothing would matter as they counterpunched with abandon. In fact, there was no other path, and the path eventually led them to perdition.

PRIZED POSSESSION

A Dutchman rattled India in '03, then his quest for Sachin's autograph began

PRATYUSHRAJ

LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 20

NETHERLANDS ALL-ROUNDER Bas de Leede picked up four wickets and scored a brisk 67 in the World Cup game against Pakistan in Hyderabad. Twenty years ago, his father Tim de Leede troubled India with a spell of 4 for 35, also accounting for the wickets of Sachin Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid, the current India coach.

Tim, 55, who is with the Netherlands A team in Spain for the European T10 League, says the regret of not pulling off an upset after restricting India to 204 remains. Netherlands lost by 66 runs that day.

"I think about it every now and then. I regret that we didn't get the runs. It was our golden opportunity to beat India. We missed out," Tim tells *The Indian Express*.

Interestingly, Tim's first-ever wicket in international cricket was that of Tendulkar's. "I have kept that ball," Tim, who has played in three World Cups, says.

"We played the 1996 World Cup, and then we missed out in 1999 but we did manage to qualify for the South Africa World Cup in 2003. I thought that would be my last World Cup. I had never taken a wicket and hadn't scored a fifty. I was 35 then, I trained as hard as I have ever done. I thought no mat-

ter if I get a wicket or score a fifty, I must give 100 per cent to the team. Luckily I got a wicket in the first match, and it was Tendulkar's."

He picked up some prized wickets in the 2003 World Cup, Dravid of course and also Pakistan great Inzamam-ul-Haq.

"I got Inzi's (Inzamam) wicket as well. I played in 2007 as well, where I was lucky enough to get the wickets of Adam Gilchrist and Matthew Hayden," he adds.

Tim was adjudged player of the match for his exceptional spell against India, but it took him almost a year to get the match ball signed by Tendulkar.

"I was man of the match at Paarl. I had to attend the press conference. After the presser, I walked past the umpire Peter Willey who asked, 'you want the match ball because you are not going to take Sachin's wicket again.' I said yeah, why not. Willey said get it signed then. I knocked on that dressing room gate, but nobody answered, they had already left. In my mind, I thought, I probably will never see that guy again. I kept that white cricket ball."

Lucky break

A year later, when the Indian team was playing a tri-series, also involving Pakistan and Australia in Amstelveen, Tendulkar was injured.



Tim de Leede with the match ball which Tendulkar signed. (Top right) His son Bas.

But soon a fortuitous break came Tim's way. Tendulkar was in The Hague to consult a physio for a tennis elbow injury. He happened to be Tim's friend.

"A friend of mine, who is a physio from The Hague, called me up and said, 'you will never guess who I am treating now.' I asked who? he replied, 'it is Sachin Tendulkar.' My

friend said 'he will be here every single day.'"

The next day, he took the ball, got on his bi-cycle and rushed to the clinic around lunch time.

"Sachin was walking in the streets of The Hague, nobody recognised him. He loved it. We had a 45-minute chat. He remembered that game and told me an interesting story.



"India came to the World Cup after losing against New Zealand (5-2). Then we bowled them for 200 hundred, and then they lost the next match (Australia) as well. He said 'my wife

said, Sachin, you have to do something because people are going crazy'. Sachin had to come on national TV to tell people everything will be alright. He scored 98 against Pakistan, he must be under so much pressure but he did it. Which is so admirable," he added.

Tendulkar had to make a plea for support on the eve of their do-or-die game against Zimbabwe.

In Calcutta, an effigy of India's captain Sourav Ganguly had been burnt, and in Allahabad, Mohammad Kaif's house was splashed with paint and oil. Tendulkar had said: "We are very disappointed with the kind of performances we have put up and I also understand the disappointment you have gone through. I am just here to assure all of you that we will be fighting in all the games until the last ball is bowled. So please continue to support us, as you have done in the past, which will surely help us."

Twenty years down the line, his son Bas de Leede picked up two wickets in the

SHORT TAKES

STANDINGS

	M	W	L	T	PTS	NRRC
NZ	4	4	0	0	8	1.923
Ind	4	4	0	0	8	1.659
SA	3	2	1	0	4	1.385
Aus	4	2	2	0	4	-0.193
Pak	4	2	2	0	4	-0.456
Eng	3	1	2	0	2	-0.084
Ban	4	1	3	0	2	-0.784
Ned	3	1	2	0	2	-0.993
Afg	4	1	3	0	2	-1.250
SL	3	0	3	0	0	-1.532

Injured Pandya at NCA, will miss NZ game

India all-rounder Hardik Pandya will be missing India's next game against New Zealand to be played in Dharamsala on October 22. Pandya will be rushed to National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru where he will be treated by a specialist doctor from England and probably administered injections. Pandya is expected to join the Indian team in Lucknow and the team is hopeful he will be available for the game against England.

"He will be heading to Bengaluru where he has been asked to report to the NCA. The medical team assessed his ankle scan report and it looks he will be fine by taking an injection. The BCCI consulted a specialist doctor in England and they too were of the similar opinion. He will be missing the next game," a BCCI official said. "Team India vice-captain Hardik Pandya sustained an injury to his left ankle while fielding on his own bowling during India's match against Bangladesh at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium, Pune. The all-rounder was taken for scans and is advised rest. He will be under the constant supervision of the BCCI Medical Team. He will not be taking the flight to Dharamsala with the team on 20th October and will now join the team directly in Lucknow where India play England," BCCI said in a statement. **DEVENDRA PANDEY**

India is overdoing its energy and intensity: Ian Healy

Former Australia cricketer Ian Healy believes that the Indian cricket team needs to save their enthusiasm despite its solid start to the World Cup campaign. He said on an Australian radio show that he had a "new fear" for the Indian cricket team. "If you see the energy that's going into their wins, my fear is that they're going to have an emotional letdown," Healy said on SENQ Breakfast. "They're putting a whole lot of (energy into it), they might just be overdoing it. The intensity, the gestures in the field when someone bowls a bad ball, the over-enthusiasm of good fielding efforts, all that sort of stuff. The crowd were going off at Pune. But I just worry for that (overdoing it), but yes they've got a great team." Healy then pointed at specific moments which he felt illustrated his point, such as when Virat Kohli pulled off a good bit of fielding. "Virat goes in and does a great piece of fielding at short cover and the crowd go off, the team go off and he's just done a good piece of fielding, stopping a little single. I just worry in the next half a dozen games, to go where they're going, they need to go to another level. They won't be playing against Bangladesh and then they need all their intensity (later in the tournament). Don't waste it now." Australia will take on Pakistan on Friday. They're currently in sixth spot in the standings, with only the top four teams progressing to the semis. **ENS**

The Crown is shaky

After two defeats in three games, defending champs England can't afford another hiccup as they face SA, smarting from a Dutch shock

MIHIR VASAVDA
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 20

JOS BUTTLER sat there gushing about the enduring beauty of Wankhede when, on the match eve, the stadium premises looked anything but beautiful. On match day minus one of a potential World Cup classic – with both England and South Africa desperate to get their faltering campaign back on track – Wankhede, much like the rest of Mumbai, resembled a construction site.

It's the last-second hustle that's become India's dubious distinction while hosting major events, leaving the stadium complex dusty, dirty (ironically the brand-new waste bins wrapped in plastic were spotless) and with cables hanging loose that would make old Delhi's overhead wired webs look regal. Almost like Wankhede remembered, just yesterday, that it had to host a World Cup game on Saturday. The two countries will play in the shadow of the bigger game. That will be the Rugby World Cup semifinal later in the night, relegating the corresponding cricket match to a mere side dish. Yet, the enormity of the game isn't lost on both sets of players.

The two teams come into this fixture on the back of what have been two biggest upsets of the tournament – England first lost to Afghanistan and then, the next day, South Africa succumbed to the Netherlands.

And in all the chaos at the Wankhede, Buttler exudes confidence. It bred familiarity with the venue where the England captain is one of the highest run-getters in the IPL, having started his journey with the Mumbai Indians. Crucially, the belief also has roots in the fact that the last time the two teams met at Wankhede in a World Cup game – in a similar, desperate situation for England – in 2016, it was a humdinger that went in their favour. South Africa set a target of 230 in the World T20, and England won with two wickets and two balls to spare.

Buttler made 21 off 14 before he was stumped. He called it one of his 'favourite' games. "So great memories of that night, albeit a long time ago," he said. Although there'll be no time for him, or England, to reminisce about something that happened nearly eight years ago, there's a lesson or two in the 'fearless' brand of cricket that Buttler wants his team to play in this World Cup.

Like they do on Saturday, England went into that match in 2016 against South Africa on the back of a crushing defeat (against the West Indies). And while they've since transformed into one of the most feared attacking units, the record run chase was one of the turning points for a team that was looking to forge a new identity after the 2015 World Cup.

"Absolutely, that style is a different format," Buttler said, talking about how that match is a good reference point on the 'style



England's Ben Stokes with teammates during practice at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Friday.

Reuters

that we play'. "(But) We want to find ways to make a play, to put the opposition under pressure in lots of different ways. That doesn't always mean hitting fours and sixes, it means can we push back when the opposition is on top or can we really take the initiative in different ways and that's what we want to live by as a team. We know when we commit to that it gives us the best chance of positive results."

In hindsight, that match can be viewed as England's first step towards what eventually got christened as 'Bazball', the attacking brand of cricket that Buttler effervescently spoke about and helped England win the 2019 World Cup. Now, with their title defence on the line, England will hope to rekindle the memories of Wankhede 2016. For that, they'll need their big guns to start firing.

A lot of their build-up to this match – a must-win in a way as a defeat would mean they'll have to win their remaining five matches – has revolved around the impending return of a fit-again Ben Stokes. The tal-

isman is certain to play his first match of this World Cup and like Buttler, he too urged his teammates to 'not be timid'.

Whether Root, Buttler, Jonny Bairstow, Dawid Malan and the rest heed the rallying cry remains to be seen. But the South African bowling attack floundered during the death overs.

The Netherlands thrashing left the Proteas reeling, with the team using the off days to have 'hard conversations'.

"Probably, our bowling at the death hasn't been at the best," captain Temba Bavuma accepted. "I guess it's more (about the) mental side of it during those periods. Also, to understand that we're going to get put under pressure in the death again. It's not going to be maybe the Netherlands in the play-off games if we get there, but there will be a team that will put us under pressure, so how do we react differently within that period?"

Compared to England, South Africa's worries seem a little less pronounced. Bavuma called the Netherlands defeat a 'blip', reminding his players to 'not forget all the

good work' they've done coming into the World Cup and in the first two games of the tournament.

They even got a message of support from the Springboks, which was played during the team meeting where Quinton de Kock dug deep into his Mumbai Indians experience to give a debrief about the playing conditions at the Wankhede.

There's a heightened sense of anticipation on both sides to play at the venue – lush inside, rubble outside – that suits their styles. Buttler talked glowingly about the pitch, his love for the stadium that he said was 'one of the great grounds in India'.

Bavuma dipped into nostalgia. "For me, growing up, idolising a guy like Sachin Tendulkar, Wankhede was a stadium you always heard about," Bavuma said. "So, to have that opportunity to be playing, that's another tick off my list as a cricketer."

On Friday, the only thing that could be heard was the sound of the drills and clanking irons at a venue that's still getting ready for its World Cup date.

Springboks on their minds, Proteas hope for a Super Saturday

MIHIR VASAVDA
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 20

TEMBA BAVUMA knows the Proteas won't be the only team South Africa will rally behind on Saturday. If anything, his team will have to pull off something extraordinary to grab their country's imagination as one of South Africa's biggest obsessions, the Springboks, will also be in action in the World Cup – also against England – albeit in a match of more consequence. Hours after South Africa and England's cricket teams wrap up their crucial preliminary round encounter in Mumbai, the focus will shift to the highly-anticipated rugby World Cup semifinal in Paris, which will begin half past midnight in India.

"A lot of us love our rugby so we'll definitely be supporting the Springboks and I'm sure they'll be supporting us as well," Bavuma said on Friday. "We play first so I guess the responsibility's on us to get things going the right way and then obviously we'll be supporting the guys after the game."

While the cricket match is a battle of equals – England, if at all, will be the marginal favourites – the Springboks will be favourites against the team they defeated four years ago in the final. And before they took the field, the Boks sent a message of support to Bavuma's team on Friday. "They actually sent us a message today in our meeting. I guess you know trying to encourage us with our game so yeah, I think as a fan for South Africa, even for England, you obviously will be glued to your screens. And I guess, again, for us as players, we have that responsibility to put smiles on our countrymen's faces, and make sure we go out and entertain, and bring back the win," Bavuma said.

A lot of us love our rugby so we'll definitely be supporting the Springboks and I'm sure they'll be supporting us as well. We play first so I guess the responsibility's on us to get things going the right way...



TEMBA BAVUMA
SOUTH AFRICA CAPTAIN

Markram's journey from a deflated teen to SA mainstay

RAHUL PANDEY
DHARAMSALA, OCTOBER 20

A 17-year-old Aiden Markram is at a social gathering with his family, thinking if he should bother playing the sport he loves more than anything else. In the final year of his school and bearing the frustration of the U19 provincial team rejection, he is confused and deflated as per one of the family friends, in whom Markram confides at a breaking point.

Pierre de Bruyn remembers the flat response he had for Markram: "No. You can't make that decision. You just can't."

A former first-class cricketer himself, de Bruyn would offer Markram an alternative. To come with him to the University of Pretoria and join the local cricket academy where he coached. The intervention seems to have worked wonders for the Proteas number four at the ongoing ODI World Cup. Barring the off night against the Netherlands that saw the entire batting lineup crumble, Markram has helped South Africa resurface as one of the title contenders. He scored the fastest hundred in tournament history against Sri Lanka followed by a match-winning fifty against five-

time champions Australia.

For the swashbuckling batter, dealing with expectations is nothing new.

Soon after he was convinced to not turn his back on cricket, Markram became the first – and only – South Africa captain to hold aloft a World Cup trophy – 2014 U19 edition. Less than four years later, he was captaining the senior side in a home ODI series against India. It's the gig that de Bruyn believes took Markram four steps back on his journey as he was only starting to establish himself.

As did South Africa, losing 5-1. "I'll never forget the discussion with him after, over a beer. He said that innings in Port Elizabeth when he got out and while he was walking back he didn't remember how he got out. That was how mentally tired he was," de Bruyn added.

From Cricket South Africa's point of view though, it wasn't a blindfold pitch. Hashim Amla and AB de Villiers remained the only remnants of a golden generation. There was an urge to cling to the exciting future. Full-time skipper Faf du Plessis being injured presented an opportunity to test Markram. The U19 triumph hype was backed by the junior side coach Ray Jennings, who defined Markram as a 'likeable politician' in the dressing room. His



Aiden Markram scored a century against Sri Lanka.

Reuters

initiation to the senior team saw him lead the scoring charts in the fiercely-contested sandpaper gate Test series. Captaining the national team at the age of 23? There were comparisons made with one Graeme Smith. The outcome was a nightmare.

The frustrations piled on a year later as Markram fractured his wrist, punching a solid object in the dressing room following his twin ducks during the tour of India. "It was a buildup

of frustration. Of insecurity. Of not knowing where he stands. He wanted to do well so desperately and it didn't work out then," says his mentor before adding, "It was a good lesson for him. He was very embarrassed and disappointed in that reaction but is much more mature about it now."

Forging ODI identity

De Bruyn terms this World Cup as Markram's biggest test so far as it's a format he's wrestled with.

Markram finally seems to have forged his identity as a number four batter for South Africa. Consistency had been an issue – up until 2023, Markram hadn't registered back-to-back fifty-plus scores in the format. His last six ODI scores include two centuries, a 93, and another fifty. Pacing the innings was another argument stacked against him.

Having looked at his knock against Australia, de Bruyn believes one can cross that off as well. "When he got his fifty, he wasn't as fluent (in the start). He wasn't in sharp positions but he managed to get through that. In the past, he didn't reset as quickly to get through that phase. That 100 he got (vs Sri Lanka), it was a fluent start. There was rhythm

in his batting but the next day, it wasn't the case. That was pleasing for me." Markram flicking the switch has reflected in South Africa's run rate in the middle overs passage (11-40) this year. With the likes of Rassie van der Dussen, Heinrich Klaasen and David Miller accompanying him in the middle order, the Proteas have a better scoring rate (7.28) during that phase of the game than any other team at this World Cup.

De Bruyn believes it's a big reason why the sentiment back home is transitioning from a Murphy's Law outlook towards the national team to the ever-so-dangerous territory of hope. "The public is very harsh when it comes to our cricket teams and how they operate at the World Cup. We've had teams in the past with great players like de Villiers, Amla, Kallis, Smith, and they couldn't win it. Now they look at this team and say, 'whatever happens, happens'. That will change after the way we've started and as we move closer to the semis," he says. His parting thoughts have a sound of satisfaction. "People are going to look at Aiden to continue building the innings in the middle order. Other players may feel the pinch, but Aiden? No. He doesn't get too fazed about that now."

BACKING THE MEN IN BLUE

Young Tibetans of McLeodganj hooked to cricket and Team India

RAHUL PANDEY
DHARAMSALA, OCTOBER 20

INSIDE ONE of the shops at the Namgyal Monastery in McLeodganj, a priest lets his disagreement be known with a stern shake of the head. "No cricket, monk only do puja," he adds with a laugh when asked if there was anyone watching the ongoing India-Bangladesh ODI World Cup game.

On a cursory glance around the place, one wonders if he's right before a security person adds context: most of the young ones who do watch it with passion are busy preparing for their upcoming exams.

Back at the shop, the priest's voice transitions to that of deeper concern while recollecting his spiritual leader's connection with the sport. "Earlier he used to watch. Now, bad knee," he says of the 14th Dalai

Lama, who has been one of the frequent visitors at cricket in Dharamsala since the early IPL days but is now facing health issues.

Situated some eight kms above the HPCA Stadium, the monastery in McLeod Ganj has been a big tourist attraction. Outside on a gray wall, a freshly painted text in green, yellow and red carves out a picture. "Tibet is my country, my people, my political history."

Tenzin Geche, who works at the Monastery office, tells this paper: "I was maybe four when my family came here. My father, who's passed away, was in the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) before he came to Tibet and met my mother. He brought us all back here but my mother's parents still live there."

Geche speaks of the different influences among the Tibetans here.

"By culture, we're Tibetan. But there's a



Passang works at Serkong House - a centre for the preservation of Tibetan arts and culture in Dharamsala.

very deep influence. The young ones want to listen to Bollywood songs," he says. How can cricket be far behind?

For Passang, who works at Serkong House – a centre for the preservation of Tibetan arts and culture in Dharamsala – and has lived all his life in India, the bat-and-ball sport is a passion.

"I have been into it since my childhood. I used to play it in our locality in Chandigarh, Sector 22," says the 57-year-old, who's been to two of the three World Cup games at the HPCA Stadium.

Support for the home team

As the Indian bowlers start to make inroads into the Bangladesh innings, Passang starts looking ahead. "Now I think we need to beat New Zealand. South Africa, England, inse darr nahi hai. Pakistan se bhi nahi hai (South Africa and England shouldn't con-

cern us, neither should Pakistan). New Zealand will be tough," he claims.

His father, who'd moved from Tibet in the late 50s, had little to do with Passang's sporting obsession. He lets us in on the man responsible,

"First, I watched Kapil Dev. I loved his bowling action. We used to watch him on the black-and-white TV and whenever he used to bowl, there was a halla (noise) from the beginning. Almost like everyone knew he'd take a wicket."

There is another memory, from 1984, of having watched an India-England match in Chandigarh. "Back then, the stadium wasn't in Mohali, it was in Sector 16. I watched Kapil Dev, Yograj Singh – this was 83-84. Also, Allan Lamb." Passang recalls before the conversation veers back to cricket in Dharamsala.

Do the young Tibetans, who grow up in the

hill city, also have as strong a bond with the sport as he had with his early years in Punjab?

"In Namgyal, the younger monks play it. I remember there was a tournament in Chandigarh some 10-15 years ago where one of the monastery teams from here won the entire thing. They had monks from Shimla, Dehradun and a couple of other places."

Tenzin Phuntsok, who is among those at Namgyal preparing for upcoming exams, holds football above cricket. An ardent Indian national team fan, he shares his agony of having watched the men's team go down 5-1 against China at the recent Asian Games.

"I didn't think they would beat China three or four nil but I thought they would give them tough competition, like a draw. A miracle might happen. 1-0, I was hoping for that," he says with a wry smile.