



The Jabalia refugee camp in Gaza was hit by Israeli air strikes on Tuesday and Wednesday. Israel claimed a Hamas commander was killed in Tuesday's strike. Reuters RELATED REPORTS, PAGE 16

CHALLENGE TO 2018 SCHEME

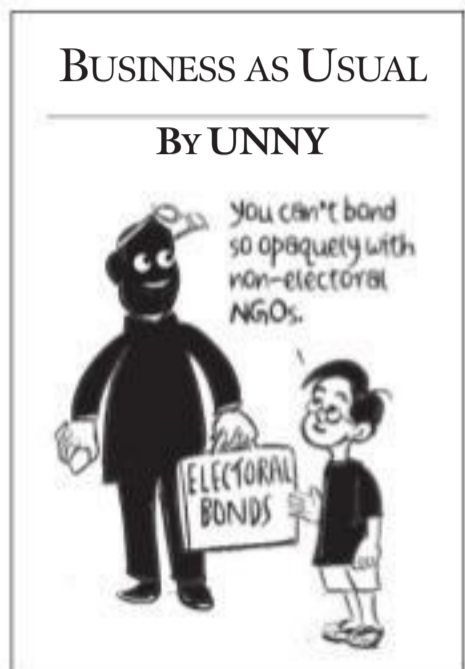
Poll bonds selectively anonymous, ruling party can identify donors, Opp cannot: SC

Veil can be lifted by judicial direction: SG to 5-judge bench

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 1

THE SUPREME Court said Wednesday that the 2018 Electoral Bonds Scheme suffers from "selective anonymity/confidentiality" leading to an "information hole" and wondered whether it leaves scope for misuse because donors, instead of investing a big sum to purchase the bond, may aggregate bonds for smaller amounts from different buyers.

It also flagged concerns that an Opposition party may not know who the donors are, but "donors to the Opposition party



can be ascertained, at least by the investigative agencies".

Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, presiding over a 5-judge Constitution Bench hearing petitions challenging the validity of the scheme, said, "The problem with the scheme is that it provides for selective anonymity/confidentiality. It's not completely anonymous. It's not confidential qua the SBI (the bonds can be purchased only from SBI). It's not confidential qua the law enforcement agency. So, a large donor would never take the risk of buying the electoral bonds for the purpose of tendering it to a political party."

"All that the large donor has to do is to disaggregate the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Govt puts donor's privacy over voter's right to know, and gives itself a waiver

APURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 1

IT IS imperative for the State to protect the fundamental right to privacy of a citizen donating to a political party because the donation is a reflection of her "political affiliation" which is in the "core zone of privacy".

This argument that Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta

EXPLAINED

put before the Supreme Court Wednesday is at the heart of the Centre's defence of the structural opaqueness in the electoral bond scheme.

Indeed, the Government's case is that the donor's right to privacy over-rides the voter's right to know, even if in protecting that privacy, the state gives itself an exemption.

This point was flagged by

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

India staying in middle to have a role in future: Jordan's Ambassador

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 1

DAYS AFTER India abstained from voting at the United Nations General Assembly on a Jordan-introduced resolution that called for an immediate humanitarian truce in the Israel-Hamas conflict, Mohamed El Kayed, Amman's Ambassador to Delhi, said India's call was a sovereign decision and Jordan respected it.

"India had taken abstention to try to stay in the middle, to have a role in the future on both sides," Kayed said in an interview to *The Indian Express* Wednesday.

Last week, India skipped the vote on the resolution which did not mention Hamas or the



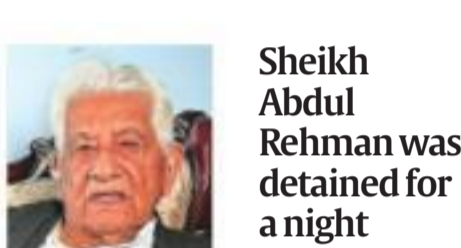
MOHAMED EL KAYED
JORDAN AMBASSADOR TO INDIA

Israelis taken hostage during the Hamas attacks on October 7. The resolution, which was not binding, was carried with 120 votes in favour, 14 against, 45 abstentions.

"We understand very well that each country takes this

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

What wrong did I do: ex-MLA of Jana Sangh, 92, held for planning meet on Gaza



Sheikh Abdul Rehman was detained for a night

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, NOVEMBER 1

BEFORE HE found himself detained on October 20 over a planned solidarity meeting in Jammu for Gaza residents in the Israel-Hamas conflict, Sheikh Abdul Rehman, 92, was known for various firsts in Jammu and Kashmir, most of them associated with the RSS.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

CERT-In, Apple teams to probe snooping alert; Opp MPs want IT panel meet

DEEPTIMANTIWARY & LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 1

A DAY after several Opposition leaders alleged hacking of their iPhones by the government after receiving an alert from Apple warning them of "state-sponsored attackers", CERT-In, the government's nodal agency on computer security, and technology company Apple are learnt to have set up teams to investigate

the exact nature of the attack.

Taking a serious note of the issue, some MPs who are part of the Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology on Wednesday sought a meeting of the panel to discuss the Apple alert sent to Opposition MPs. CPI(M) MP John Brittas said he has written to the committee's chairperson, Shiv Sena's Prataprao Jadhav, seeking a meeting. Congress's Karti

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

GOVT & POLITICS



ALL-PARTY MEET BACKS MARATHA RESERVATION

PM MODI, HASINA INAUGURATE RAIL LINK PROJECT

RS 538-CR ASSETS LINKED TO NARESH GOYAL ATTACHED

PAGES 7 & 8

GST revenue surges 13% in Oct, second-highest since its rollout in 2017

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 1

GROSS GOODS and Services Tax (GST) collections surged 13.4 per cent year-on-year in October — for sales in September — to Rs 1.72 lakh crore, the second-highest level since the July 2017 rollout of the indirect tax regime, according to data released by the Finance Ministry on Wednesday. A pickup in consumption and economic activity along with set-

tlement of disputes by businesses following a spate of notices issued by GST authorities are likely to have contributed to the sharp rise in the GST revenue.

With the latest print, the GST collections have averaged at Rs 1.66 lakh crore per month during April-October 2023, up 11.4 per cent than the monthly average of Rs 1.49 lakh crore during April-October 2022.

Overall, the total GST collections stood at Rs 1,72,003 crore

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Zindagi ke liye SIP

Adhik jaankari ke liye apne MFD/RIA se sampark karein ya scan karein



SIP ke fayde



Market ki timing se azadi



Nivesh raashi chunne ki azadi



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Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

FROM PAGE ONE FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Poll bonds selectively anonymous, ruling party can identify donors: SC

donation, get people who will purchase electoral bonds with small amounts which will be then purchased by official banking channels, not through cash," he said.

The CJJ was responding to submissions by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta who appeared for the Centre and said the scheme was part of several steps taken to weed out black money from politics, something every nation was grappling with.

Mehta told the bench, also comprising Justices Sanjeev Khanna, B R Gavai, J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, "This was the first step. The second step was registration of shell companies. Between 2018-2021, the Government of India identified 238,223 shell companies and actions were taken. This is one of the vehicles through which unclean money passes."

The scheme, Mehta said, does not offer anonymity or opacity but "it is a restricted, limited confidentiality which can be opened and the veil can be lifted by judicial direction".

Justice Gavai asked the Solicitor General about concerns that it may be possible that 100 people buy bonds of Rs 1 crore each and somebody may purchase those Rs 100 crore from them by paying cash.

Mehta said it will be simpler for a person to go to a political

party and say take Rs 100 crore in cash, and not create more accounts.

Justice Gavai said, "The advantage is that the political party will get the amount in white."

Interjecting, the CJJ said, "What will really happen is this: A large donor will never put his or her head on the line by being in the books of account of the SBI having purchased."

But Mehta said donors were purchasing bonds directly. "They are doing it," he said, adding that a possible or potential abuse may not perhaps be the ground to hold the scheme unconstitutional. Stating that the older scheme was even less transparent, he said a return to it would only make things worse.

To build his argument, he referred to statistics of income of parties from unknown sources under the old scheme. "The income of national parties from unknown sources increased by 313% from Rs 274.13 crore during FY 2004-2005 to Rs 1130 crore during FY 2014-15," he said.

Countering the argument that the major share of the bonds has gone to the ruling party, the SG said "more contribution going to the ruling party is the norm". He said it has always been so "whether it's this scheme or the one prior to this".

To a query from the CJJ why the major share always went to

the ruling party, Mehta said, "I wouldn't be able to hazard a guess, but figures say that whoever was ruling party possibly received more."

"This is my reply, not the government's reply. This is my assistance. Generally, every political party has their programme and policies etc. They have their working styles. All people — individuals, corporations — know the working styles. They know that if this party forms a government, it would be more beneficial for us... What is running in the mind of the donor is not possible to decipher. But by and large, they decide as per their interest. They are not doing charity. They are doing their own business. It's market-driven. More powerful the leader, the more capable the party, the more chances of success — the donor feels that he would be more comfortable doing his business," he said.

The CJJ said, "What we are now doing is that in an effort to bring in white money in the process, essentially, we are providing for a complete information hole. That is the problem. The motive may be laudable completely. The question is whether you adopted means which are proportionate or which meets the test of Article 14?"

Mehta reiterated that anything other than keeping it con-

fidential will not be able to address the problem of victimisation. "And victimisation incentivises payment by cash," he said. Justice Khanna said, "Victimisation and retribution is normally by the party in power, not by the party in Opposition. So the figures which you are saying — that the maximum donations are to the party in power and not to the party in Opposition may not, therefore, be logically flowing from that argument."

"The other issue," Justice Khanna said, "is... there are ways to get the information on donations to the Opposition party. And it is easier for the party in power to get that information. The fear is because of this selective confidentiality, the Opposition party may not know who are your donors. But donors to the Opposition party can be ascertained, at least by the investigative agencies. So, they are put at a disadvantage to question you on your donations whereas their donations can be questioned."

Mehta said it was not possible under the scheme for anyone, including the Central government, to know who has contributed to whom. "Nobody can get to know, including the Central government," he said.

He said while every system is prone to misuse, the 2018 scheme offers better protection to "genuine people who want to

contribute without any retribution".

The CJJ said, "But retribution is not avoided by the scheme... Under the Companies Act, as now modified, a company is not required to disclose to which political party it has contributed. But it has to disclose how much it has contributed totally. So a company says I have contributed 400 crore this financial year. Now a party, including a party in power, knows how much has come to it in terms of electoral bonds from that company... You also know from the company's balance sheet how much it has contributed in a macro sense... That mismatch is sufficient to know as to how much money has gone to the party in power. So it's not that the possibility of retribution is avoided from this scheme."

On the SG's argument that under the old scheme, there was greater scope for misuse since cash payments from unknown sources dominated the contributions, the CJJ said, "The malaise is agnostic to political parties whichever side of the political spectrum you are. So we are not here saying that a political party is holier than the other. We have no problem. This figure you have said — we will not say more than that — is 2004-05 to 2014-15. Your chart is not lost to us."

"It still really begs the question in the sense that for us it's not

whether the ruling political party in power presently is going to be beneficiary of that or not. We are testing a question of constitutionality. We take your point that it is part of our political system. Whoever is in power gets the large share of the pie so far as electoral contributions are concerned. We have to deal with this, uninfluenced by all this," he said.

"The donor doesn't necessarily buy this bond. The person who buys the bond may not be the donor. Second, the person who buys, the balance sheets will reflect the amount of bonds. Balance sheets of the purchaser will reflect, not the donor," he said.

Referring to the SG's submissions on the introduction of the Bill in Parliament, the CJJ said, "The then Finance Minister, in his speech, says when cash is given, the source of money, the donor, and where it is spent is not known. Therefore, at least now it will be known" and asked "how will this be known?"

"Suppose an electoral bond is purchased, the source of the money is not known. The donor is not known. Where it is spent is not known. All three are not known," the CJJ said.

Mehta said, "The Minister is envisaging that my balance sheet would reflect that I am buying the bond. The scheme says I can buy only when I am KYC compli-

ant and, therefore, it would be known who has bought an electoral bond... Now when it is given to a political party, the party would deposit it in a designated account. That account also will have to reflect in the statement of accounts of that political party which will be filed before ECI (Election Commission of India). ECI would know at least 500 crore have come by way of clean money. In the case of cash, nobody knew. I may go with a bag of 50 crore to a political party and nobody would know, where the money went, what it was used for."

On Mehta's argument that the SBI is obliged by law to maintain confidentiality, Justice Khanna asked how can the question of quid pro quo be addressed if so.

The CJJ wondered "is it not liable to say (that it will) give rise to kickbacks or legalising kickbacks?"

Mehta said, "If this scheme didn't come, if I had to pay kickback. I will pay the kickback by way of cash. Even considering the case to be the worst case, the amount will now come in white money in channels."

The CJJ remarked, "It is legalising kickbacks."

Mehta said if that is so, it will still be an offence and that he will show it when the arguments resume Thursday.

Donor's privacy

Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud who observed during the hearing, the donor of an electoral bond is not exactly anonymous. While the State, through law enforcement agencies and the State Bank of India, is privy to the donor's identity and, therefore, expression of "political affiliation", this information is protected from the voter exercising her fundamental right to participate in a democracy.

A citizen's fundamental right is exercised against the state. It flows from Article 13 of the Constitution, which mandates that the state cannot make any laws inconsistent with or interogation of fundamental rights.

The secret ballot system of voting, an example of expression of political affiliation, is protected against the State. The constitution places the responsibility to protect is right with an independent arm of the state, the Election Commission.

"The electoral bond(s) do not carry the name of the buyer or payee in order to protect the citizen's right to privacy to its own political affiliation and to choose to fund a political party of its own choice, without the fear of being targeted or suffering vindictive repercussions for owning such a choice."

"It is in furtherance of the State's positive obligation to safeguard the privacy of its citizens, which necessarily includes, the citizens' right to informational privacy, including the right to secure the political affiliation of its citizens," Mehta said in his 123-page submission to the Court.

The Centre stand relies heavily on the Supreme Court's landmark 2017 ruling in KS Puttaswamy v Union of India, in which a nine-judge bench unanimously reaffirmed the right to privacy as a fundamental right under the Constitution.

Ironically, the government, in that case, had argued that citizens do not have a fundamental right to privacy since it did not specifically find a place in the Constitution. The Centre had taken this stand — against elevating the right to privacy to the status of a fundamental right — since 2014 even before smaller benches of the Supreme Court.

In 2021, the Supreme Court in the Pegasus spyware case, refused to accept the government's blanket national security alibi to violate the fundamental right to privacy. Mehta had refused to file a detailed affidavit and had argued that these matters concerned national security and so could not be disclosed in public.

"This free flow of information from the Petitioners and the State, in a writ proceeding before the Court, is an important step towards Governmental transparency and openness, which are celebrated values under our Constitution," the court had then said.

Jordan's envoy

position according to their interests. That's India's decision and we don't interfere in that," he said.

Jordan, he said, also recognises that India is getting involved in international issues very actively and can play some positive role in ending the war.

"As an emerging power in the world now, and after the initiatives it took like the G20 and Voice of Global South Summit, India can play a bigger role," he said.

A day after Israel pounded the biggest refugee camp in Gaza, causing civilian casualties, and also escalating ground attacks, Kayed said that's exactly what Israel wished to do — to displace and transfer people, and Jordan was completely opposed to it. In fact, all Arab countries were united in this, he said, adding that it was a red line for all of them.

On October 23, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had dialled King Abdullah II of Jordan and discussed violence, terror and the loss of civilian lives.

"Exchanged views on the developments in the West Asia region. We share concerns regarding terrorism, violence and loss of civilian lives. Concerted efforts needed for early resolution of the security and humanitarian situation," Modi had posted on X.

Kayed said that during his speech in Cairo, in the wake of the war, the King had spoken about this very clearly. "His Majesty had said that there is human suffering, and that should end. People are getting killed — including children, women and the elderly."

But, he said, the problem was not new. "We are talking about over 50-60 years of the Palestinian problems, so we are not new to the situation. There was some military action before between Gaza and Israel in 2014 and 2018," he said.

The need of the hour, he said, was to effect a ceasefire and prevent the loss of more civilian lives.

GST revenue surges

in October, recording the highest year-on-year growth rate in 10 months. Out of the total GST revenue in October, Central GST — the tax levied on intra-state supplies of goods and services by the Centre — was Rs 30,062 crore; State GST — the tax levied on intra-state supplies of goods and services by the states — was Rs 38,171 crore; Integrated GST — the tax levied on all inter-state supplies of goods and services — was Rs 91,315 crore (including Rs 42,127 crore collected on import of goods); and cess was Rs 12,456 crore (including Rs 1,294 crore collected on import of goods).

Revenues from domestic transactions, including import of services, were 13 per cent higher than revenues from these sources during the same month last year, the Finance Ministry said in a statement. In October, the government settled Rs 42,873 crore to Central GST and Rs 36,614 crore to State GST from Integrated GST. As a result, the total revenue for the month post settlement was Rs 72,934 crore for the Centre and Rs 74,785 crore for State GST.

GST revenues increased across the country in October, with at least 25 states/union territories recording a growth rate higher than 10 per cent. Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu — the states with the highest SGST share — recorded a growth of 14 per cent, 12 per cent, 10 per cent and 9 per cent in GST revenue in October, respectively. Strife-torn Manipur posted a 19 per cent decline in GST revenue, while Himachal Pradesh, which was also hit by floods and landslides, recorded a 2 per cent contraction in GST mop-up.

Post settlement SGST revenue, which accounts for SGST revenue and the share of SGST from the IGST, totalled Rs 4.97 lakh crore during April-October, an increase of 12 per cent from the year-ago period. The Finance Ministry, however, did not provide the state-wise breakup of monthly GST revenue this time for October as has been the norm from the past few years.

With the recent spate of notices being sent by the GST authorities for recovery of non-payment of tax or underpayment or of wrongful availing of input tax credit for the financial year 2017-18 and subsequent years too in some cases, experts said the settlement of disputes through some payments by businesses would have added to the revenues. The government could possibly explore rate rationalisation as the next measure under GST, an expert said. Abhishek Jain, Indirect Tax Head & Partner, KPMG, said, "This significantly increased collection could be linked to settlement of disputes for FY 17-18 as the normal period of limitation was ending on 30th September. A mid-year collection of such an increased number is definitely worth a cheer and the ongoing festivities driven consumption could help this continue."

"The growing emphasis on audits led by specific information available on various databases, not only on the GST portal, has led to a significant increase in compliance across sectors and states. This is also reflected in the upsurge in the GST collections across key manufacturing and consuming states," said M S Mani, Partner, Deloitte India. Going ahead, with consumption expected to pick up further during festive season, GST revenues are expected to improve. "The collections in next month are likely to be on an increased side due to the festive season. Data analytics, artificial intelligence, stricter norms combined with GST authorities in action across India is working well towards the increased collection," said Saurabh Agarwal, Tax Partner, EY.

Central GST collections, after settlement of share from IGST, stood at Rs 4.87 lakh crore during April-October. This accounts for 60 per cent of the Budget target for CGST of Rs 8.12 lakh crore.

CERT-In, Apple teams to probe alert, Opp MPs call for IT panel meet

Chidambaram said he would write too requesting that the affected MPs, ministry officials, and Apple representatives be called before the committee. TMC MP Jawhar Sircar said he would take up the issue at the next meeting.

According to sources in the government, after CERT-In identified certain vulnerabilities in iPhone's operating system iOS and issued formal advisories on October 27, Apple released a new batch of updates. It is possible that there were attempts to hack iPhones in which the software was not updated, the sources said. But independent experts pointed out that many amongst those who did not update the iOS but still did not receive such alerts from Apple.

The sources said Apple is expected to explain what exactly did its system detect to trigger the alert mails to some users, whether computer security organisations in other countries point out similar instances, and if it was a simple virus attack or a coordinated attack.

When asked about the investigation, Union IT Minister Ashwani Vaishnav refused to divulge details but said CERT-In, the national nodal agency for responding to computer security incidents, has started the investigation.

Former Jana Sangh MLA, 92, detained for planning meet on Gaza

A former MP and two-time MLA, Rehman, a victim of Partition, remains the only Muslim elected president of the J&K unit of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS), the BJP's precursor, serving in the post in 1972 and 1973. He also remains the only Muslim to have won from the predominantly Hindu Jammu North Assembly constituency (now Jammu East and Jammu West) as a Jana Sangh candidate, in 1972.

The constituency was earlier represented by Pandit Prem Nath Dogra, who was instrumental in the formation of the RSS-affiliated Jammu Praja Parishad in 1947 and called for the total integration of J&K into India. Dogra himself proposed Rehman's name for Jammu North after deciding against contesting over his poor health. After Rehman visited Dogra to seek his blessings on being elected, the latter put his turban on the new legislator's head, symbolically naming Rehman his political successor.

The same year, Rehman was unanimously elected president of the Jana Sangh's state unit.

His 1973 re-election, however, was marked by trouble after party delegates defied the high command in the general secretary election. As a result, sitting general secretary Yagya Dutt Sharma, a founding member of the Jana Sangh, dissolved the party's elected state working committee. Rehman opposed the decision as unconstitutional. When the party's national working committee endorsed Sharma's decision, Rehman resigned.

Rehman, who lost 16 family members, including parents, uncles, brothers and sisters, to riots in Bhabherwah following Partition, and could attend school only till

Class 10, had an interesting path to the Jana Sangh.

As president of the National Conference's (NC's) Bhabherwah student wing when still barely in his teens, he was tasked with delivering to and receiving messages from NC founder and former J&K chief minister Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, who was lodged in a Bhabherwah jail around the time of Partition. Since Abdullah was allowed a limited number of visitors, Rehman would send his Hindu classmates on the pretext of offering prayers at the temple on the prison premises. During their visits, students would deliver letters to Abdullah and bring back his messages for party workers.

Rehman's break with the NC came during the violence of Partition, when local party leaders apparently refused to take action on complaints of theft and an attempted abduction of a Hindu woman in Bhabherwah. In October 1947, Sheikh Abdullah was appointed Head of J&K's Emergency Administration, with Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad as deputy head. In March 1948, the administration got upgraded to a popular interim government headed by Sheikh Abdullah as 'Prime Minister' and Bakshi Ghulam as 'Prime Minister'.

In 1948, Bakshi Ghulam visited Bhabherwah. When he was told that Rehman had left the party and returned to his native village Khalu, Bakshi summoned him. Rehman, however, said he would come only the next morning. Angry at this "snub", Bakshi was said to have remarked, "The boy does not know that I am now the Deputy PM and minister in charge of the Home Department. He is digging his own grave."

The next day, as the story goes,

the Constitution and to uphold the democratic ethos of our nation."

He said he wanted the committee to examine issues such as "the nature and credibility of the security threat identified by Apple"; "the extent of vulnerability of Indian iPhone users to hacking, attempts"; "the potential involvement of state-supported hackers and their motivations"; and "the adequacy of cyber security measures in place to protect the privacy and security of mobile phone users in India".

Sircar said senior MPs in the committee had already started consultations on how to deal with the issue. "We are going to ask the chairman to set aside the agenda of the next meeting and take this up. This is a serious issue. The government stands directly accused. Already, the committee is seized of matters related to privacy. We have been talking about being caught between big tech and big state. This is the most snooping state in the history of India," Sircar said.

He said they would also ask the chairman to take up the issue of leak of Aadhaar data of 80 crore Indians.

TMC MP and committee member Mahua Moitra, who was among those who alleged hacking of her phone, has writ-

ten to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla: "I ask you to immediately provide us the protection required for us to continue doing our duties as a vibrant Opposition... I trust you will... seek accountability from the concerned authorities into this flagrant breach of law, Constitutional freedoms, and our rights as Members of Parliament."

Meanwhile, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, who was earlier the committee chairperson, called for changes in the Information Technology (IT) Act to bring all "kinds of surveillance using sophisticated software" under judicial purview. Tharoor was among those who received the Apple notification.

"Such surveillance is being done without a warrant from a judge... Searching my phone is as much an invasion of my privacy as searching my home. Using extremely expensive software for surveillance like this, totally bypassing every practice and procedure built into our legal system, needs remedy," he told *The Indian Express*.

"The IT Act of 2008 is due for revision anyway. I strongly believe that one revision that is needed is regarding any kind of surveillance using sophisticated software. It must come under judicial purview," he said.

Asked for a meeting at the earliest, he said: "Such an examination is crucial to protect the rights of citizens enshrined in

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7 AIR		8 AIR		9 AIR		11 AIR		12 AIR		13 AIR		14 AIR		15 AIR		16 AIR		18 AIR		19 AIR		20 AIR	
WASEEM AHMAD BHAT FOUNDATION COURSE CLASSROOM, LAKSHYA, ABHYAAS, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT		ANIRUDDH YADAV ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ETHICS CASE STUDIES		KANIKA GOYAL ALL INDIA TEST SERIES		PARSANJEET KOUR ALL INDIA TEST SERIES		ABHINAV SIWACH ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, PT 365, ABHYAAS, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT		VIDUSHI SINGH ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT		KRITIKA GOYAL TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS		SWATI SHARMA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS		SHISHIR KUMAR SINGH ABHYAAS		SIDDHARTH SHUKLA LAKSHYA, ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ESSAY TEST SERIES, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT		LAGHIMA TIWARI ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT		ANOUSHKA SHARMA LAKSHYA, ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ESSAY TEST SERIES, PT 365, MAINS 365 PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT	
21 AIR		22 AIR		23 AIR		25 AIR		26 AIR		27 AIR		28 AIR		29 AIR		30 AIR		31 AIR		32 AIR		33 AIR	
SHIVAM YADAV PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT		GVS PAVANDATTA ABHYAAS, MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS CLASSES, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT		VAISHALI PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT		SANKHE KASHMIRA KISHOR ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ESSAY TEST SERIES		GUNJITA AGRAWAL LAKSHYA, ABHYAAS, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT		YADAV SURYABHAN ACHCHELAL ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS, ETHICS CASE STUDIES		ANKITA PUWAR ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS		POURUSH SOOD ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT		PREKSHA AGRAWAL ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT		PRIYANSHA GARG ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS, PT 365, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT		NITTIN SINGH ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT		THARUN PATNAIK MADALA ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS, ESSAY TEST SERIES	
34 AIR		37 AIR		38 AIR		39 AIR		40 AIR		41 AIR		42 AIR		43 AIR		44 AIR		46 AIR		48 AIR		49 AIR	
ANUBHAV SINGH ALL INDIA TEST SERIES		CHAITANYA AWASTHI ABHYAAS		ANUP DAS ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT		GARIMA NARULA FOUNDATION COURSE CLASSROOM, LAKSHYA, ABHYAAS		SRI SAI ASHRITH SHAKHAMURI ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS		SHUBHAM ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS		PRANITA DASH ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT		ARCHITA GOYAL LAKSHYA, ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT		TUSHAR KUMAR ALL INDIA TEST SERIES		MANAN AGARWAL FOUNDATION COURSE CLASSROOM, LAKSHYA, ABHYAAS		AADITYA PANDEY PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT		SANSKRITI SOMANI ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS	

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फाउंडेशन कोर्स सामान्य अध्ययन 2025, 2026 & 2027

DELHI: 21 नवंबर, 9 AM **BHOPAL: 10 जनवरी, 9 AM** **LUCKNOW: 10 जनवरी, 9 AM**
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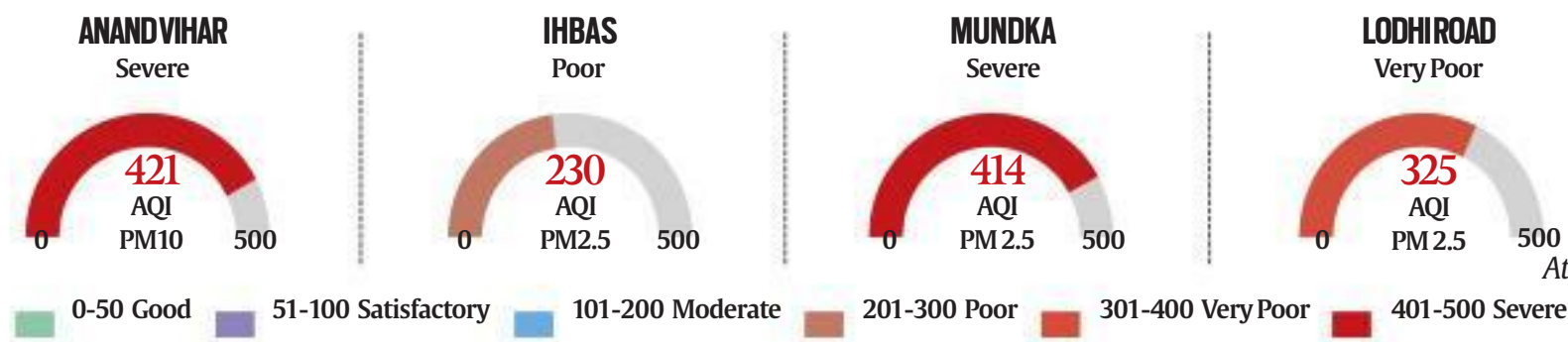
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4 THE CITY



SKY WATCH
FORECAST: November 2
 Clear sky. Mist/shallow fog in the morning.
AQI forecast: Likely to be very poor
MAX: 32 1.5°C above normal
MIN: 15 0.3°C below normal

DIED OF INJURIES THREE DAYS LATER

In Panchsheel Park, accident victim lay bleeding on road — for 30 mins

ARNABJIT SUR
 NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 1

FOR ALMOST 30 minutes on Saturday night, Piyush Pal lay bleeding on a road in the South Delhi locality of Panchsheel Park as several passersby gathered around — not one of them took him to a hospital. If the public apathy was not bad enough, someone from the crowd allegedly stole his belongings.

The 30-year-old filmmaker sustained head injuries after his bike allegedly collided with another bike and crashed into a tree. He died of injuries Tuesday.

The incident took place at 9.45 pm, as visible from CCTV footage of the incident. Police, however, claimed to have received a PCR call only at 10.11 pm.

It was Pankaj Mistry, a passerby who was on his bike with his brother, who spotted a huge gathering on the road and

stopped to check. "I saw a man on the road, bleeding heavily from his head, with his bike a few metres away. No one bothered to help him, call an ambulance or police," Mistry told *The Indian Express*.

He added that he and two others, one of them a bike taxi driver, picked up Pal and hailed an auto. While one of them sat in front with the driver, Mistry and the other man got into the backseat with Pal and tried to stop the blood flow.

"We went to a nearby hospital but since it was not equipped with required medical facilities, we took Pal to PSRI Hospital... that took another hour," said Mistry.

By the time a police team reached the spot at 10.30 pm, they found that both persons had been shifted to separate hospitals. Officers said Pal's mobile phone, wallet and bag appeared to have been stolen by a bystander. Mistry added, "It was only when we reached the hos-



Piyush Pal (30) worked as a filmmaker

pital that we found Piyush's belongings were not on him."

According to DCP (South) Chandan Chowdhary, CCTV footage showed Pal's bike hit Bunty (26), a resident of Badapur who worked as a driver in Gurgaon. Footage shows the bike taking a sudden left turn, without an indicator, and crashing into another bike on the side. Both vehi-

cles lose balance — one drags on the road while the other goes a little distance before falling.

Based on Bunty's statement and footage, a case under IPC sections pertaining to rash driving and causing hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others was lodged.

According to the FIR, Bunty claimed he was returning from his employer's shop in Malviya Nagar. Around 9.45 pm, near Panchsheel Park Metro station, a two-wheeler hit his bike from behind. He fell on the road and sustained injuries on his arms.

The DCP said on October 31, they got information of Pal's death. The postmortem was carried out on Wednesday and the body handed over to the family.

'If only bystanders had responded quickly...'

Meanwhile, Pal's friends and colleagues recalled how he was passionate about filmmaking.

They said he was going home to Kalkaji from a shoot in RK Puram when the incident occurred.

Abhishek Halder, Pal's friend and colleague, said, "Piyush was an engineering graduate but ended up in filmmaking... he used to freelance for some time before working as an in-house cinematographer for a Gurgaon-based firm."

He said they got to know of the incident from Pal's parents who were informed by police.

Pal had recently bought the bike second-hand. Police traced its registration details which eventually led them to his family.

Sunny Swarnendu Bose, Pal's friend, said, "More than the police, if bystanders would have responded quickly instead of taking videos, our friend might have received better medical treatment."

Pal is survived by his father and mother, who run a general goods store in Kalkaji, and an elder sister who works in a bank.

At nearly 2,000, farm fires in Punjab highest in a day; bad air continues in Delhi



Stubble being burnt in a field at a village near Patiala. Harmeet Sodhi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 1

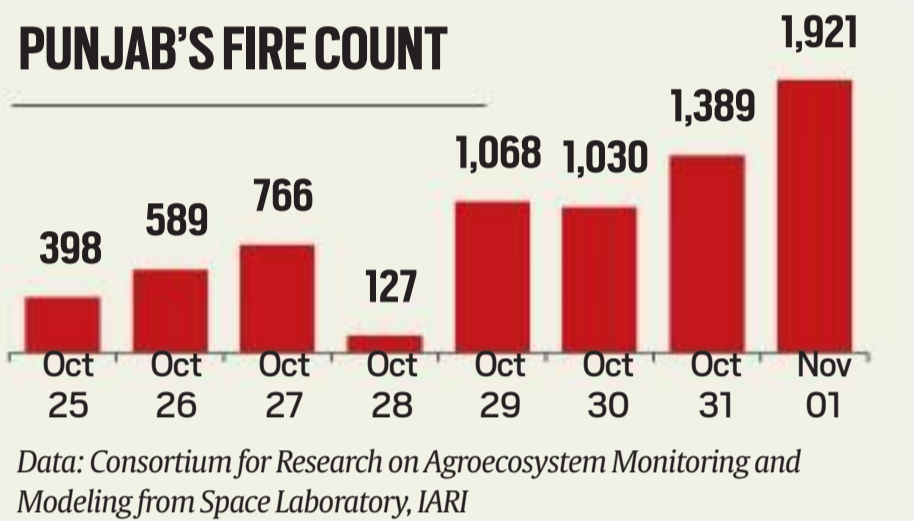
WITH THE harvest picking up pace, instances of stubble burning have been seeing a sharp rise in Punjab. On Wednesday, the state recorded 1,921 instances of burning — the highest single day count so far — up from 1,389 on Tuesday, and 1,030 on Monday.

Delhi's air quality, meanwhile, remained in the 'very poor' category for the fifth day in a row Wednesday. The AQI was 364, marginally worse than Tuesday's 359. AQI at Punjabi Bagh, Mundka and Anand Vihar was in the 'severe' (401 to 500) category Wednesday evening.

Environment Minister Gopal Rai, who held a meeting on implementation of GRAP Stage II measures Wednesday, said if the AQI remains above 400 at hotspots in the city over the next one week, "then all construction work within a km radius of that hotspot can be directed to be stopped."

According to the Decision Support System (DSS) developed by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, the contribution of biomass burning to PM 2.5 levels in Delhi on November 1 was 12.96%, up from 7.17% on Tuesday. The highest biomass burning contribution that the system has recorded so far this year is 23.48% on October 27.

Data from SAFAR shows that last year, daily peak contribution of stubble burning to PM 2.5 lev-



Data: Consortium for Research on Agroecosystem Monitoring and Modeling from Space Laboratory, IARI

els in Delhi was 34% on November 3, while it was 48% in 2021, 42% in 2020, and 44% in 2019.

In Haryana, the fire count on Wednesday was 99, up from 51 on Tuesday. This was the second highest single-day count in the state so far this year, after 127 on October 15.

The count, however, is lower than what it was in previous years in both states. Till November 1, Punjab recorded 9,594 instances of burning, lower than 17,846 over the same period in 2022, 15,065 in 2021, and 37,078 in 2020.

In Haryana, the cumulative count so far this year is 1,296, as against 2,083 in 2022, 3,038 in 2021, and 2,495 over the same period in 2020.

An IMD scientist said, "Over the next three-four days, the easterly, south-easterly component is likely to prevail when it comes to

wind direction. Wind speed is set to remain low. At night, calm winds will prevail, with a low speed of 4 to 6 kmph during the day. Local pollutants are accumulating in the same place and not dispersing. Wind direction has mostly been easterly so far, which is why the impact of burning has not been as high."

Northwesterly winds usually help carry smoke from crop residue burning to Delhi. "For the situation to improve, we either need rainfall, which has been elusive as there has been no active western disturbance. There is no likelihood of an improvement in wind speed in the next 3-4 days," he added.

A forecast issued by the Air Quality Early Warning System on Wednesday said the air quality is likely to remain in the 'very poor' category from November 2 to 4, and for six days thereafter.



CM summoned by ED today: BJP going after Oppn, says Chadha

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 1

CHIEF MINISTER Arvind Kejriwal has been summoned to appear for questioning before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the excise policy matter Thursday. This comes six months after he was questioned by CBI in another case related to the policy.

AAP leaders, however, remained tight-lipped about its preparations for Thursday and whether party volunteers and members would accompany him to the office, like they did when former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia went to the CBI office for questioning. Sisodia was arrested by the agency in February. His bail plea was rejected by the Supreme Court earlier this week.

AAP Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha, meanwhile, said that BJP was targeting the INDIA alliance leaders ahead of the 2024



AAP leaders were tight-lipped on whether party volunteers and members would accompany Kejriwal to the office. PTI

Lok Sabha polls. He said that since 2014, 95% of cases registered by investigative agencies have been against opposition leaders.

"Now after the formation of the INDIA alliance, the BJP is rattled. We have learnt from sources that they have hatched a plan to

target top leaders from the alliance. The first arrest in this plan will be of CM Kejriwal," he said.

"The BJP knows it's losing all seven Lok Sabha seats in Delhi. It is planning to get Kejriwal arrested so that AAP is not able to contest the polls," Chadha added.

AAP got Rs 37 cr in donations last year: Report filed with EC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 1

THE AAM Aadmi Party (AAP) received over Rs 37 crore in donations in 2022-23, according to AAP's contribution report filed with the Election Commission.

According to the report, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, ministers Gopal Rai and Atishi, and former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia, Rajya Sabha MPs Sanjay Singh and Raghav Chadha donate to the party regularly.

While Kejriwal and Rai have donated Rs 1.2 lakh each — they donated Rs 10,000 each 12 times during the financial year — Sisodia donated Rs 60,000 and Atishi Rs 42,000.

The party's Rajya Sabha MP and treasurer, ND Gupta, do-

minated Rs 3 lakh and Sanjay Singh donated over Rs 2.5 lakh — Rs 21,000 in 12 tranches.

A resident of Hyderabad, meanwhile, has made over 370 donations to the party — most of them amounting to Rs 30. He has also on some occasions, donated Rs 1,000 to AAP.

The party's donations for the year have dipped to Rs 37.10 crore, down from over Rs 38 crore in 2021-22.

Prudent Electoral Trust was the only electoral trust to make contributions to the party — a total of Rs 90 lakh in the year.

In the past, donations from trusts have run into a few crores for the AAP, which got the national party status earlier this year.

Since 2018, the lowest donation that the party has received is Rs 11.33 crore in 2020-21 — the Covid year.

BRIEFLY

Student held for molesting, assaulting classmate

Noida: Gautam Buddha Nagar police Wednesday arrested a first-year law student for allegedly molesting and assaulting his classmate after forcefully entering her flat in a high rise. Police said the student was arrested Wednesday. Five others, who accompanied the prime accused and threatened the victim's family, were arrested earlier. Police said a case was immediately registered after receiving a complaint and the accused has been produced before a local court.

Forest dept obligated to ensure AQI is low: HC

New Delhi: The Delhi HC Court Wednesday, while hearing a matter concerning creation of alternative forest land in Delhi, remarked it is the obligation of the forest department to ensure AQI level comes down. A single-judge bench of Justice Jasmeet Singh, which was also hearing a matter on filling up vacancies in the forest department, told Principal Secretary (Environment and Forest), Delhi government: "You're responsible for quality of air we breathe. By the post you hold, it's your obligation to ensure AQI comes down." **ENS**

High-end tech, gadgets: How gang hacked, stole & sold 200 cars to make Rs 50 crore

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 1

ONE OF the biggest car hacking theft gangs in the city has been busted after the Delhi Police Crime Branch arrested four men who allegedly stole more than 200 cars using a palmtop, sophisticated software, and high-tech sensors.

Police said the accused hacked into cars including Fortuner, Creta, Alcazar, Honda City, and i20. In less than a year, the accused managed to earn more than Rs 50 crore, they said.

The accused are Passang, Sagar, their leader Sablu (24) and associate Asif (22).

To evade police, the accused would travel more than 1,000 km and sell the cars in Northeastern states. The gang also hired auto thieves and receivers in Delhi to steal the cars.



The gang used a software which would intercept the radio signals between the car and an electronic key. Express

Ravindra Singh Yadav, Special Commissioner of Police (Crime), said the gang used a software which would intercept the radio signals between the car and an electronic key. After breaking into the system, it decrypted the lock and emulated it to another code to control the

car and block the original key. It took the police more than a year to understand the gang's 'pattern' and nab them.

A team led by Inspector Devender Kumar and ACP Pankaj Arora found that only specific brands and models were being stolen.

Police said as these cars could be traced using GPS, the accused would manipulate it. They later smuggled the vehicles to Moradabad and other places where fake documents were made and delivered them to Siliguri, Guwahati, and Itanagar.

For each car, the accused would earn Rs 8 lakh-15 lakh. Yadav said their aides in the Northeast would even demand specific models, which they stole during the night.

Police said they followed the stolen cars' trail around Delhi using technical surveillance and found that all of them were soon shifted to UP and Northeast India.

The accused were caught with 10 stolen cars, 50 master keys, 10 fake number plates and forged registration certificates.

Police said they are looking for more associates.

2020 riots: HC to hear afresh bail pleas in 'larger conspiracy' case

MALAVIKA PRASAD
 NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 1

IN JANUARY 2024, the Delhi High Court will begin hearing afresh the bail pleas of several people, including Sharjeel Imam and Gulfisha Fatima, who were booked in the Delhi Police's larger conspiracy case pertaining to the 2020 Northeast Delhi riots.

A division bench of Justice Suresh Kumar Kait and Justice Shalinder Kaur Wednesday fixed the hearing of a batch of 10 pleas on different dates in January and February. The bench will begin with hearing Imam's plea which has been listed on January 15, 2024. Imam, who has been in jail

for over three years, moved the HC last April, wherein arguments have not commenced yet.

Previously, the batch matter was being heard by a special bench of Justice Siddharth Mridul and Justice Rajnish Bhatnagar, who had also reserved verdict in three pleas moved by Mohd Saleem Khan, Shifa Ur Rehman, and Salim Malik. However, after Justice Mridul's appointment as Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court last month, the entire batch (including the ones in which the verdict was reserved) will now be heard afresh.

The state's plea against bail granted to former Congress councillor Ishrat Jahan will also

be heard by the bench.

Apart from Imam and Fatima, Abdul Khalid Saifi, Athar Khan, Meeran Haider and Shadab Ahmed among others have also been booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for allegedly being the "masterminds" of the February 2020 riots.

On October 18, 2022, the bench of Justices Mridul and Bhatnagar had denied bail to Umar Khalid who was also booked in the same FIR. In its 52-page judgment, the bench had examined the phraseology used by Khalid in his speeches, holding that a call to revolution may affect many beyond those who were visibly present.

ONLY FOR Rs 20 PER HOUR

Now, leave your bag in a smart locker at a Delhi Metro station

UPASIKA SINGHAL
 NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 1

METRO COMMUTERS can now lock away their luggage in smart lockers and travel easily around the capital using the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation's (DMRC) newly launched Momentum 2.0 app.

All one needs to do is download the app and select "rent a locker"; this will lead them to a page where they can select from 50 stations to store their luggage. The app was a joint initiative between DMRC and AutoPe

Payment Solutions. Currently, commuters can book a locker for one to six hours, starting at Rs 20/hour. The lockers are available in three sizes — small, medium and large — and charges vary based on size. So far, no penalties have been introduced for people who surpass the six-hour limit.

There are also no limitations set on how many lockers one can book on one mobile number. However, different pins will be generated for different lockers. Officials said the lockers can also be used as pick-up and drop-off points for courier serv-



Currently, commuters can book a locker for 1-6 hrs

HOW TO RENT A LOCKER

- Open Momentum 2.0 app
- Select rent a locker
- Select station
- Select date and time
- Select number of hours
- Select locker size
- Select slot
- Pay for the locker
- At the locker, enter phone number and OTP
- Your locker opens

ices. AutoPe Payment Solutions has partnered with leading courier services to provide secure, tech-enabled management of parcels and products, ensuring swift delivery and retrieval. They can even be used by banks to deliver items like cheque books, debit cards, and credit cards, as well as by e-commerce companies.

On how the Delhi Metro will ensure no dangerous or prohibited items are stored in the locker, officials said baggage checking at the entry of every station will ensure the lockers are not used to store such items.

The app can also be used to buy QR Metro tickets, shop at virtual stores, and pay utility bills such as electricity, gas, mobile, DTH, and FASTag. The DMRC will slowly migrate its users from their current DMRC Travel app to the Momentum 2.0 app, said officials.

The app offers integrated QR tickets for all Metro lines, including the Airport Line. Additionally, one can also recharge their Metro card on it. Users can also set up an auto-pay option for when their card balance falls below a certain threshold.

TUSSLE OVER POSTING HOME GUARDS & CIVIL DEFENCE VOLUNTEERS AS BUS MARSHALS

CM seeks action against two secys, L-G says follow process

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 1

THE DEPLOYMENT of Home Guards, including Civil Defence Volunteers (CDVs), as marshals aboard state-run buses snowballed into a full-blown tussle between the bureaucracy and AAP-Delhi government Wednesday.

At its core is the issue of livelihoods of thousands of CDVs — their services were discontinued on November 1 and they are now supposed to be inducted into the Home Guard provided they meet the eligibility criteria.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal directed Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot to ensure Home Guards were deployed as bus marshals — including former CDVs since they were experienced at the job — and that there was no reduction in their numbers for the sake of safety of women bus commuters.

In the note to the Transport Minister, Kejriwal issued directions to ensure that all pending payments to bus marshals be released immediately, not later than Diwali, in addition to the "expeditious deployment of Home Guards as bus marshals".

Kejriwal also issued directions to initiate disciplinary proceedings against Ashish Kundra and Ashish Verma, the



Civil Defence Volunteers protest outside Delhi Secretariat after their services were discontinued, Wednesday. Express

principal secretaries of the Transport and Finance departments respectively, for allegedly being responsible for the delay in salaries due to CDVs for months.

According to Delhi government sources, this would entail putting up the matter before the National Capital Civil Services Authority (NCCSA) which is empowered to take decisions regarding transfer and posting as well as vigilance matters concerning bureaucrats posted in Delhi.

Meanwhile, sources in the bureaucracy said L-G V K Saxena issued directions to examine the action proposed against the officers by their departments and the Directorate of Vigilance (DoV) before it is taken up with the NCCSA.

With regard to the services of

Home Guards, sources in the bureaucracy said engagement of CDVs as Home Guards would be undertaken after "following due process of law, including a physical fitness test".

Behind the tussle

At the core of the tussle was a proposal to absorb as many CDVs as possible into the ranks of the Home Guard, which is in the process of inducting as many as 10,000 personnel.

While the AAP government said this arrangement was CM Kejriwal's idea, Raj Niwas claimed L-G Saxena had mooted it after receiving a proposal to discontinue the CDV service from November 1.

Bus marshals, Kejriwal had

noted, as per the government, had helped in mitigating pickpocketing and other petty crimes on buses. Their "arbitrary removal" would jeopardise their financial well-being as they came from humble backgrounds.

The CM, as per the government, had asked for the prompt formulation of plans in this regard and had separately proposed to the L-G to appoint them as Home Guards — which L-G House officials had contended.

According to the latter, it was the CM who proposed the termination of services of CDVs with effect from November 1. Following this, Saxena issued directions that their employment as Home Guards be explored, and done.

When it came to action proposed against both Kundra and Verma — both AGMUT cadre IAS officers — sources in the bureaucracy said, "The matter is to be examined by the DoV and the Department concerned firstly. Thereafter, further action would be taken depending upon the outcomes of such examination."

"It is premature to say the matter is referred to the Authority, as is being made out," sources also said, adding that in the interest of the livelihood of bus marshals, Saxena had turned down Kejriwal's proposal for the engagement of CDVs as bus marshals.

Cong for all-party solution to issue

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 1

THE DELHI Congress Wednesday said an all-party meeting with L-G V K Saxena was the first step towards finding a way forward given the question mark over the livelihoods of thousands of civil defence volunteers (CDVs) whose services were terminated.

Days after the BJP called on them to express solidarity, Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee president Arvinder Singh Lovely met thousands of CDVs, formerly employed as bus marshals, outside the Delhi Secretariat.

"Congress will strive to find a solution to the demands of the marshals — regularisation of their jobs and pending wages. I appeal to the BJP and the AAP to join hands with the Delhi Congress to solve the marshals' problems instead of politicising the issue," Lovely said.

"If policies and programmes of the BJP and AAP are in favour of bus marshals, they should join the Congress delegation to meet the L-G... and unanimously request to find a satisfactory solution," he said.

The Congress alleged the Delhi government, without making any amendments to the Civil Defence Act, had employed CDVs as marshals through a government order



DPCC President Arvinder Singh Lovely at the CDVs' protest. Prem Nath Pandey

"with full knowledge that it was a wrong step" and it recommended to the L-G to remove them from service.

Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva, addressing marshals last Saturday, alleged they had not been paid their salaries for the last five months. He had also accused the Delhi government of trying to give their agitation a political colour.

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'Violations' at CM house: NGT grants more time to file report

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 1

THE NATIONAL Green Tribunal (NGT) has granted four weeks' time to a joint committee to file a report on the matter of alleged violation of norms in felling trees at the official residence of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

In May, the NGT's Principal Bench had constituted a joint committee comprising the Delhi CS; Principal Secretary (environment and forest); a nominee of the Delhi Urban Art Commission (DUAC); and the district magistrate, North Delhi to furnish a factual report after a petition alleged that constructions at 6 Flagstaff Road and 45-47 Rajpur Road were against environmental norms.

The petitioner, Naresh

Chaudhary, had alleged that permission for removing trees were taken by "manipulation and circumvention" of standing orders, and that work began without taking clearance from DUAC.

Hearing the matter Monday, the NGT noted the joint committee has not filed its report, and that a report on behalf of the Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF), Central, says only a "preliminary inquiry has been registered with the CBI".

"DCF, Central... has sought time stating the joint committee will be conveyed for filing the report in terms of the order of the Tribunal," the NGT said. The PWD has also sought two weeks to place on record relevant documents related to permissions and compensatory plantation in the matter, the NGT said.

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1. Last date of receipt of the application is 5th Nov 2023.
2. Depending on the requirement, the company reserves the right to cancel/restrict/enlarge/curtail the requirement process without any further notice and without assigning any reason thereof.
Shailender Kumar Joshi - Manager Human Resources, Asian Paints Ltd, Rohtak, Plot No- 01, Sector 30 B, HSIIDC, IMT, Rohtak, Haryana -124001
Phone - 0126204640

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Adv. No. 03/Senior Resident/IGIMS/Estt./2023-Oct.
A Walk-in-Interview of eligible Indian citizen, for the appointment of Senior Resident post in different departments of IGIMS, has been fixed on 16-11-2023 to 17-11-2023 in the office chamber of the Director, IGIMS, Patna-14. (Interested candidate must report on or before 10.30 AM). Document verification will be done one day prior to the interview from 11.00 am in the Chamber of Director. For details and application form, please visit the website: www.igims.org.
Dy. Director, IGIMS, Patna

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NOTICE
Extract of Standalone Financial Results for the quarter/six months ended on 30th September 2023

Particulars	Quarter ended on 30.09.2023	Quarter ended on 30.06.2023	Quarter ended on 30.09.2022	Six months ended on 30.09.2023	Six months ended on 30.09.2022	Financial year ended on 31.03.2023
	Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited
Total revenue from operations	33,223.17	34,692.59	34,642.81	67,915.76	68,917.59	1,38,770.84
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before tax and exceptional items)	5,050.39	5,631.87	3,042.67	10,682.26	10,948.15	20,531.14
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional items)	(7,942.38)	5,620.63	3,023.24	(2,321.75)	10,873.92	19,750.67
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax	(8,530.60)	4,604.97	2,214.54	(3,925.63)	8,077.98	14,468.34
Total comprehensive income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(8,335.87)	4,761.93	2,290.89	(3,573.94)	8,158.57	14,566.85
Paid-up equity share capital [Face value ₹ 1 per share]	1,222.40	1,222.40	1,222.37	1,222.40	1,222.37	1,222.40
Reserves excluding revaluation reserves						1,33,446.15
Securities premium reserve	31,290.24	31,290.24	31,288.89	31,290.24	31,288.89	31,290.24
Net Worth	1,24,573.20	1,37,307.82	1,26,136.19	1,24,573.20	1,26,136.19	1,32,545.89
Paid-up Debt Capital	10,625.88	10,624.84	12,908.26	10,625.88	12,908.26	15,058.49
Net Debt Equity Ratio	0.32	0.29	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.29
Basic earnings per share of ₹ 1 each (not annualised) - in Rupees (after exceptional items)	(6.94)	3.74	1.80	(3.19)	6.57	11.77
Diluted earnings per share ₹ 1 each (not annualised) - in Rupees (after exceptional items)	(6.94)	3.74	1.80	(3.19)	6.57	11.77
Debt Redemption Reserve	1,328.75	1,328.75	2,046.00	1,328.75	2,046.00	2,046.00
Debt Service Coverage Ratio	2.49	1.11	5.33	1.50	2.82	3.88
Interest Service Coverage Ratio	7.90	10.13	6.72	8.94	14.55	10.54

Extract of Consolidated Financial Results for the quarter/six months ended on 30th September 2023

Particulars	Quarter ended on 30.09.2023	Quarter ended on 30.06.2023	Quarter ended on 30.09.2022	Six months ended on 30.09.2023	Six months ended on 30.09.2022	Financial year ended on 31.03.2023
	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
Total revenue from operations	55,681.93	59,489.66	59,877.52	1,15,171.59	1,23,307.59	2,43,352.69
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before tax and exceptional items)	159.71	1,841.95	2,624.55	2,001.66	14,570.05	18,121.86
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional items)	(6,739.19)	1,855.37	2,605.12	(4,883.82)	14,511.38	18,235.12
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax	(6,511.16)	524.85	1,297.06	(5,986.31)	9,011.06	8,075.35
Total comprehensive income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(7,285.35)	(2,647.86)	(2,116.91)	(9,933.21)	(1,013.82)	(5,773.72)
Paid-up equity share capital [Face value ₹ 1 per share]	1,221.24	1,221.24	1,221.21	1,221.24	1,221.21	1,221.24
Reserves (excluding revaluation reserves) and Non controlling interest						1,03,953.97
Net Worth	86,577.53	97,935.69	1,04,880.94	86,577.53	1,04,880.94	1,00,462.79
Net Debt Equity Ratio	0.79	0.69	0.63	0.79	0.63	0.61
Earnings per equity share						
Basic earnings per share ₹ 1 each (not annualised) - in Rupees (after exceptional items)	(5.07)	0.52	1.24	(4.56)	7.60	7.17
Diluted earnings per share ₹ 1 each (not annualised) - in Rupees (after exceptional items)	(5.07)	0.52	1.24	(4.56)	7.60	7.17
Debt Redemption Reserve	1,328.75	1,328.75	2,046.00	1,328.75	2,046.00	2,046.00
Debt Service Coverage Ratio	0.21	0.47	3.14	0.32	3.23	2.79
Interest Service Coverage Ratio	1.12	3.55	4.11	1.97	10.48	6.01

Note:
The above is an extract of the detailed format of Standalone and Consolidated financial results for the quarter/six months ended on 30th September 2023 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 and Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Standalone and Consolidated results for the quarter/six months ended on 30th September 2023 are available on the websites of the Stock Exchanges (www.nseindia.com/www.bseindia.com) and the Company's website (www.tatasteel.com).

T V Narendran
Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director
Mumbai: November 1, 2023

Koushik Chatterjee
Executive Director & Chief Financial Officer

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FOR LAST FOUR YEARS, BJP WAS INVISIBLE AS OPPOSITION: SACHIN PILOT

'Congress collective will see victory. It has been Rahulji, Khargeji's initiative'

"The issues I raised were not about individuals... but principles... that had resonance then and have meaning today"

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 1

SACHIN PILOT, 46, is set to play a key role in the incumbent Congress's campaign for the November 25 Rajasthan Assembly elections. In an interview with *The Indian Express*, Pilot speaks on issues relating to the Congress's strategies and a roadmap for the polls. *Excerpts:*

holders along. It has been the initiative of Rahulji (Rahul Gandhi) and Khargeji (Mallikarjun Kharge)... In the last 30 years, we have not been able to repeat a Congress government. The last time when we fought elections when in government (in 2013), we were reduced to 21 seats, the lowest since Independence. It took a lot of effort for us to come back to a majority. I feel that we can break that trend. That will happen when everybody is equally, fully committed to delivering the state for the Congress. When I say this, I speak for all the top leadership of the state Congress.

You led the Congress to victory in Rajasthan as the state party chief in 2018. How different is the election this time for you? You are perhaps not at the centre of action?

Yes, I think this is a collective effort. We have a state Congress president, we have a Congress Chief Minister, but we all work in team spirit, and it is the collective will and the collective of the party that will deliver the victory for us. So we are all equally committed to making sure that the Congress wins.

There is so much stress on this collective now. Why?

Because there is a lot of disunity in the other party, the BJP, and people tend to compare two organisations in a bipolar contest. So the effort is to take all stake-



Sachin Pilot at a rally ahead of filing his nomination from Tonk on Tuesday. PTI

Chhattisgarh are looking extremely good for us... I think we are heading towards a clear majority for the Congress.

You say the Congress government has implemented most of its 2018 manifesto promises and done 'good work'. But it is you who waged a rebellion in 2020 and recently sat on a dharna against the government.

Please take a deeper look at the issues I had raised. It is not about individuals... but principles and people's interest... They had resonance and reasoning then

and have today also. We wanted to see reorganisation in the ministry. I wanted that Congress workers who had toiled hard for five years... put in their sweat and blood... those people should be given respect, honour and adequate accommodation in the structure of the government.

After our understanding with the top leadership of the Congress in 2020, a lot of changes come about. Many leaders and workers were given prominence, posts and, more importantly, a say in the government. Many got chairmanship of boards and corporations. That was missing in the first two

years of our government. There was no minister from the Dalit community. Now we have four. Those were issues I had raised.

Was enough done on your demand for a probe into corruption charges against the earlier government?

Yes, that is something I had raised... Because as party president from 2014-2018, I was on the street raising those same issues. Some of them have been taken up in courts.

The other issue that I had raised was reforms in the Public Service Commission. Admittedly,

that reform is still lacking. That is why the recent appointment of one gentleman... even the government had to admit that it was a wrong appointment... People who are conducting interviews and tests for the next generation of public servants should be above board and have a certain minimum qualification...

But the manifesto we brought out in 2018, we have tried to fulfill it in terms of social security, education, health... all that has happened and one can see that on the ground.

The Congress is banking heavily on CM Gehlot. Is it the right strategy, given that Rajasthan has a tradition of voting out the incumbent?

We are fighting as the Congress party. It is the party which fights the elections, not the government. It is because of the party that this government was formed. So the Congress strategy is to take everyone along together to first contest wholeheartedly and get a mandate, and then figure out who gets what responsibility. The MLAs will sit down together and discuss it with the leadership in Delhi and decide roles, and who will lead the next government. That is a very open, transparent tradition and practice of the Congress.

It is not a question of dependence or over-dependence... but of fighting the elections together.

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KEY ISSUES
KCR TO MODI GOVT:
DALITS STILL
ATTACKED IN
NORTH INDIA NOW

A BUZZWORD A DAY: LPG SUBSIDY IS A COMMON PROMISE ACROSS STATES

NUMBER SPEAK

SITTING MLAs WITH LOWEST ASSETS

 Ram Kumar Yadav (Cong) ₹30,464 CHHATTISGARH	 Ram Dangore (BJP) ₹50,749 MADHYA PRADESH
 T J Lalnuntluanga (MNF) ₹43.6 lakh MIZORAM	 Rajkumar Roat (BTP) ₹1.2 lakh RAJASTHAN
 Syed Ahmed Pasha Quadri (AIMIM) ₹19.8 lakh TELANGANA	

Source: ADR, Election Commission

In 2018 Rajasthan, Cong won by much higher margins than BJP, swept rural seats

LALMANI VERMA & HAMZA KHAN
NEW DELHI, JAIPUR, NOVEMBER 1

AS THE BJP seeks to capitalise on anti-incumbency against the Ashok Gehlot government in the Rajasthan Assembly polls, a scrutiny of the 2018 results shows that its rival Congress had bigger victory margins.

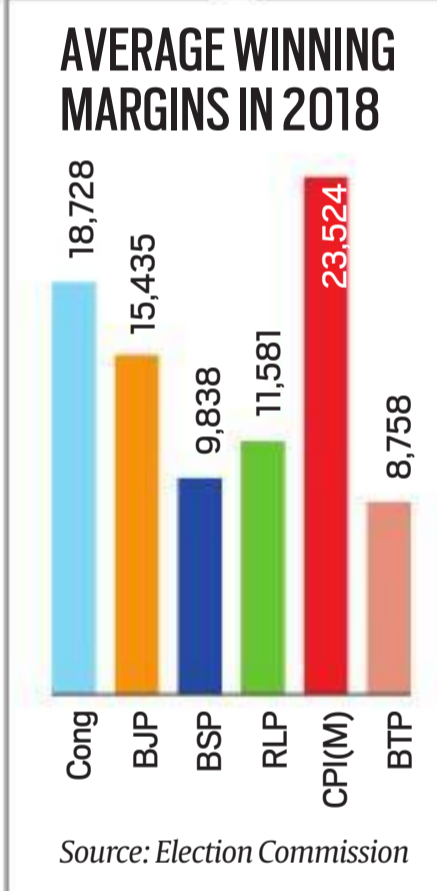
The Congress also got a higher average number of votes per seat — 71,832 — across the 195 seats it contested, with the BJP contesting in 200 with an average 69,145 votes in each. However, the BJP's average across the 73 seats it won (84,604 votes) was marginally higher than the Congress's share in 100 seats (83,370 votes).

With its 100 seats, the Congress finished just short of the majority mark in 2018. This was a big change from 2013, when the BJP had won 163 seats.

In the 100 seats where the Congress won, the average margin between its candidates and their nearest contenders was much higher than the BJP's average winning margin in its 73 seats — 18,728 votes, to 15,435.

In 64 seats where the BJP won and the Congress was the runner-up, the average victory margin was 14,537 votes. The Congress won by a larger average margin of 18,804 votes in 90 seats where the BJP was its nearest rival.

Of the 100 seats the Congress won, 85 were rural seats, where the party got an average 82,054 votes per seat, and its average winning margin was 18,784 votes. The



BJP's average number of votes in the 58 rural seats it won was comparatively better, at 85,038 votes. However, its average winning margin, at 15,438 votes, was lower than the Congress's.

In the 15 urban seats won by the Congress, the party got 90,827 votes on an average, with the average victory margin of 15,421. The BJP also won 15 urban seats, but with an average of 82,931 votes and an average margin of 15,421.

Among others that won seats in 2018, the CP(M) had an average victory margin of 23,524 votes in the 2 seats it won. The BSP won 6 seats by an average margin of 9,838 votes. The Bharatiya Tribal Party won 2 seats by an average 8,758 votes. The Rashtriya Loktantrik Party won 3 seats by an average 11,581 votes.

In tour to steer MP campaign, Shah meets dissidents, tells leaders not to lose their focus

ANAND MOHAN J
BHOPAL, NOVEMBER 1

CONVERSATIONS with disgruntled party workers and steering of the BJP campaign were the focus of Union Home Minister Amit Shah's three-day tour of poll-bound Madhya Pradesh that began on October 28.

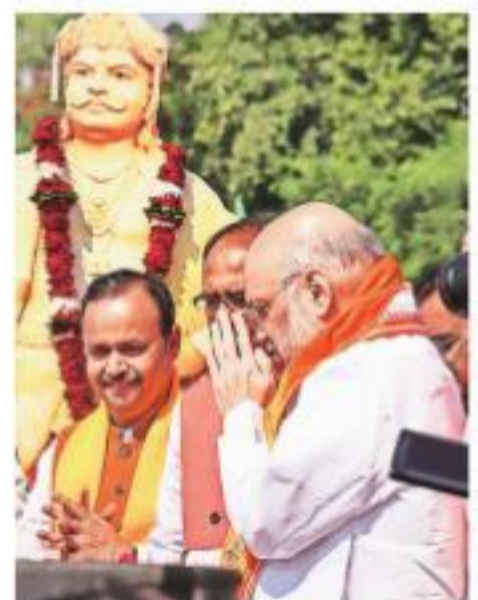
For Shah, who has given direction to many a successful campaign for the party, the task in MP is cut out: To buck years of anti-incumbency and leverage the social welfarism of Shivraj Singh Chouhan. To that effect, he networked with a range of rebels and disgruntled party leaders at the ground level, convincing many to step back or aside.

"He is guiding us in every aspect," said a senior leader. "His primary focus is ensuring mobilisation and voter turnout."

Apart from rallies in Jannardeo (Chhindwara) and Ujjain, he held closed door meetings with *karyakartas* in Ujjain, Rewa, Bhopal, Gwalior and Jabalpur.

Shah's visit came after protests broke out on October 21, following the BJP's fifth list.

The minister's peace-making efforts started in Jabalpur, which saw aspirants target Union min-



Shah pays tribute to Raja Bhoj while campaigning in Bhopal on October 29. PTI

ister Bhupendra Yadav, who is the BJP's Madhya Pradesh election in-charge. Yadav's appeals to party workers to maintain restraint were ignored by the leaders.

Shah proceeded to hold similar meetings in Bhopal and Gwalior. "He spoke directly to leaders who were identified as the source of the anger, and asked them to work for the party's interests. He said we must identify all leaders, no matter how small, and pacify them," said a BJP leader.

One of the dissidents Shah spoke to was Dheeraj Pateria, who

had earlier been denied a BJP ticket to contest from the Jabalpur North seat in 2018. He had then contested as an Independent, getting 29,479 votes, with BJP candidate Sharad Jain losing by a mere 578 votes. Pateria has now declared he won't be contesting this time.

However, Shah could not put out all the fires, with Prabhat Sahu resigning as the BJP's Jabalpur city chief. Party insiders said Sahu was disappointed over not getting a ticket from Jabalpur West or Jabalpur North Central Assembly segments.

In Gwalior, a BJP leader said, Shah met dissidents and also took stock of details on the ground. He laid emphasis on strengthening and empowering booth-level workers, the leader said.

Shah also told party workers not to worry too much about the dissidents and wait for them to come around.

A party leader said that Shah urged BJP leaders to focus on seats where triangular contests are expected, "like where the SP and BSP are contesting". "He asked us to keep a watch on how they damaged the Congress's chances."

Rajneesh Aggarwal, the state BJP secretary, said: "Amit Shah looked at the challenges and gave us solutions."



POSTER PEOPLE

At a rally of Telangana CM K Chandrashekar Rao at Sathupalli in Khammam, Wednesday. PTI

Head of BJP's Telangana manifesto panel returns to Cong, with eye on LS tickets

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, NOVEMBER 1

TELANGANA BJP leader G Vivekanand Wednesday resigned from the party and joined the Congress in the presence of Rahul Gandhi in Hyderabad. The former MP from Peddapalli had joined the BJP in 2019 from the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) and chaired the BJP's manifesto committee.

Vivekanand, 66, won as a



Former MP G Vivekanand

Congress candidate from the Peddapalli Lok Sabha seat in 2009. He lost to the BRS in 2014.

Earlier, Vivekanand, vice-chairman of Visaka Industries and promoter of V6 Telugu news channel and Telugu newspapers,

had joined the BRS in 2016, and served as adviser in the K Chandrashekar Rao government.

He had left the BRS when he denied a ticket in 2019 polls, and joined the BJP. He played a crucial role in the BJP's winning by-poll strategy in Dubbaka and Huzurabad. But recently, Vivekanand had been staying away from BJP programmes.

Sources said he is seeking a ticket from the Congress for himself and his son G Vamsi, who also met Rahul on Wednesday.

ON THE GROUND

Riot scars still fresh, BJP taps into discontent in Kawardha, Cong stays on message

JAYPRAKASH NAIDU
KAWARDHA (CHHATTISGARH), NOVEMBER 1

SINCE THE communal flare-up in Kawardha in 2021, a majority of Hindus in this town in Chhattisgarh's Durg region, flanked by agrarian villages and forests, have developed a sense of resentment that the BJP is hoping to use to its advantage and unseat Congress star MLA and sitting Law Minister Mohammad Akbar.

The riots in October 2021 were triggered by an altercation over the hoisting of two flags, one saffron and another green, and led to the destruction of property and affected traders as curfew remained in place for several weeks. Among those arrested and jailed was BJP leader Vijay Sharma, a

well-known local leader. This time, he is taking on Akbar.

The BJP has built its campaign in the area around the feeling of discontent and resentment among several Hindus. On October 19, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma set the tone when he said at a public meeting here that "one Akbar would bring 100 more Akbars". Last week, he received a show-cause notice from the Election Commission following a Congress complaint.

"The biggest issue is the politics of Akbar due to which people are under fear and terror. They have misused the law though he is the law minister. People have called me and said they will support me. The biggest public issue of Kawardha is its fight for its self-respect, a war of liberation to end terror," BJP candidate Sharma,

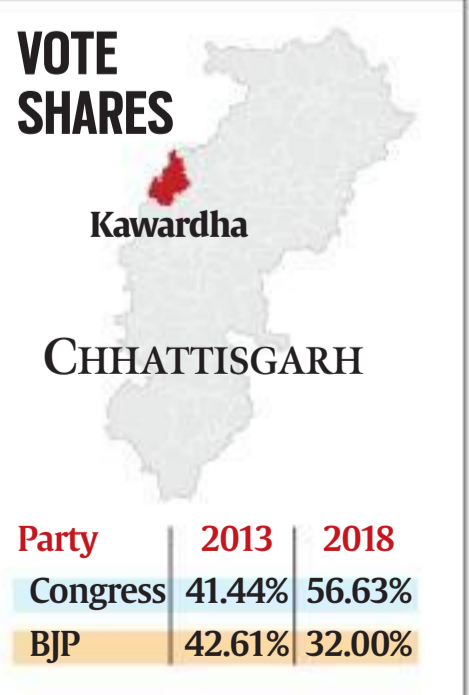


Congress's Rahul Gandhi with farmers ahead of his rallies in Kawardha and Rajnandgaon last week. PTI

who has been with the party for over 20 years and is a zila panchayat member, said.

A narrative of outsiders versus insiders has also found resonance

with some people in the area. A government servant who requested anonymity said Akbar is an outsider while Sharma is a local and deserving. Before



Kawardha, the Congress leader represented the neighbouring Pandariya seat.

Another worrying sign for the Congress will be an apparent di-

fficult to say what will happen this time. Everyone knows Sharma here due to his work."

The Congress is banking on the pro-farmer policies of the Bhupesh Baghel government to see it through in the constituency. On Sunday, Rahul Gandhi addressed a rally in the constituency, promising paddy procurement at a higher price and monetary help for landless farmers.

Before Rahul gave his speech, Akbar, a four-time MLA, took the mic to speak about the developmental work done by him, steering clear of the BJP's attacks.

"Last time, I did not have anything to say, but this time I have a lot to say. I am head of the manifesto committee and a full loan waiver (to farmers) was my idea, Baghelji agreed with me and announced it the next day. We im-

plemented a universal PDS (public distribution system) and now 74.54 lakh people have ration cards. For the people of Kawardha, we made the Sakri bridge," Akbar said.

As the crowd dispersed, 23-year-old Mohan Das Anand indicated the message had struck home. "I will vote for the Congress as they waived my loan of Rs 50,000 last time and will again waive my Rs 50,000 loan."

The owner of a general store who did not wish to be named said, "Akbar has given a lot of money to all communities to build community centres. He made the bridge, which was a big demand, that Raman Singh could not... The BJP candidate has no money to spend. Polls are all about money.. But Hindus are also angry about the communal incident."

ROW OVER PLAQUES

Bengal Gov: Tagore is emotion, his memory cannot be obliterated

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 1

MAINTAINING THAT Rabindranath Tagore was an emotion, West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose on Wednesday said that the Nobel laureate's memory cannot be obliterated or ignored.

Bose made the comment when asked by reporters about the row over the plaques installed at the Visva-Bharati, founded by Tagore, to mark the UNESCO world heritage tag.

The plaques installed at the central university's Santiniketan campus in Birbhum district do not have Tagore's name, but bear those of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is the chancellor, and Vice-chancellor Bidyut Chakrabarty.

"Tagore is a feeling, an emotion felt in the heart of Indians. There cannot be any instance where Gurudev's memory is obliterated or ignored. Gurudev enjoys the highest respect in the minds of all Indians," said Bose, who is also the rector of the varsity, on the sidelines of a programme at the Raj Bhavan.

Santiniketan, where Tagore built Visva-Bharati over a century ago, was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in September.



CV Ananda Bose. PTI

The omission of Tagore's name led to a row between the state government and the varsity authorities following which Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee demanded immediate replacement of the plaques.

The Trinamool Congress is holding a demonstration outside the varsity demanding removal of the plaques as they do not have Tagore's name on them.

"Established in rural West Bengal in 1901 by the renowned poet, Rabindranath Tagore, Santiniketan was a residential school and centre for art based on ancient Indian traditions and on a vision of the unity of humanity transcending religious and cultural boundaries," according to a UNESCO website.

Tagore set up a university there in 1921. Ten years after his death, Visva-Bharati was declared a central university and an institution of national importance by an Act of Parliament in 1951.

ED attaches Rs 538-cr worth properties linked to Jet and Goyal family

VIJAY KUMAR YADAV & OMKARGOKHALE
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 1

A DAY AFTER filing chargesheet against founder-Chairman of Jet Airways Naresh Goyal, his wife Anita Goyal and others, the Enforcement Directorate Directorate Wednesday said it has provisionally attached properties worth Rs 538.05 crore under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) 2002, in the case against the airline company.

The attached properties include 17 residential flats/bungalows and commercial premises in the name of various companies and persons viz., Jet Air, Jet Enterprises, Naresh Goyal, his wife Anita Goyal, and son Nivaan Goyal situated in London, Dubai and different states of India, ED officials said.

In its prosecution complaint filed on Tuesday, the ED said its probe revealed Jet Airways under Naresh Goyal siphoned off funds to the tune of Rs 5,716.34 crore obtained from a consortium of banks led by state-owned banks, SBI and PNB.

Goyal was arrested on September 1 and is currently in



Goyal's provisionally attached assets include residential flats. File

judicial custody.

Since the Enforcement Case Information Report, the ED's formal entry of a complaint, was based on a FIR registered by the CBI after Canara Bank alleged wrongful loss of nearly Rs 538 crore during 2011-19, the agency said it was restricting the proceeds of crime for now to just Rs 538 crore. The agency, however, said it estimated the total proceeds of crime at Rs 5,716 crore.

In the CBI complaint, Canara Bank had alleged offences of cheating, criminal conspiracy, criminal breach of trust and criminal misconduct committed by Jet Airways and its promoter and directors resulting in bad loans of Rs 538.62 crore. ED's investigation revealed Jet siphoned the loans from the consortium of

banks led by SBI and PNB.

ED alleged Goyal implemented a massive financial fraud in which Jet Airways funds were systematically diverted in the garb of irrational and inflated General Sales Agent (GSA) commissions, large unexplained payments to various professionals and consultants by granting of loans to JetLite Limited (100% subsidiary to acquire Air Sahara), and subsequently write-off of the loans by making provisions in the balance sheets.

The agency said its probe established that GSA commissions were wrongfully paid to Jet Air (GSA of Jet Airways), Jet Airways LLC Dubai (Global GSA of Jet Airways India) and Jet Airways India wrongfully paid for the operational expenses of these GSAs.

Before Debts Recovery Tribunal-III, Delhi
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building,
Parliament Street, New Delhi - 110001

Notice under section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993

In the matter of T.A. No. 154/2022/DRT-III
PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK
Vs
Applicant
M/S RIDCOR INFRA PROJECTS LTD AND ORS.
Defendants

To
D-3 State Bank of India, Earlier Known as State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, 1st Floor, Sun N Moon Chambers Link Road, Near Ajmer Puliyra, Jaipur - 302001

D4 Bank of Baroda, Earlier Known as Vijaya Bank, 1-B Alka Apartment, S V Road Andheri West, Mumbai 400058

D-5 Vistra ITCL India Ltd., Earlier Known as IL and FS Company Ltd., Regd office - Plot No C22, G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex Bandra (E) Mumbai - 400051 Also at: A 266 1st Floor, Bhishma Pitamah Marg, Defence Colony, New Delhi - 110024

D-8 The Govt. of Rajasthan Acting Through Principal Secretary, Public Works Department, Rajasthan

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in this Tribunal 13-11-2023 at 10.30 A.M.

Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.

All the matters will be taken up through Video Conferencing and for that purpose:-
(i) All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the Cisco Webex application / software;
(ii) Meeting ID and Password for the next date of hearing qua cases to be taken by Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar/Recovery Officer-I and Recovery Officer-II shall be available one day prior to the next date at DRT Official Portal i.e. drt.gov.in under the Public Notice Head.
(iii) In any exigency qua that, the Advocates/Litigants can contact the concerned official at Ph. No. 23748469
Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the 07th day of Oct. 2023
By Order of the Tribunal
DRT-III, Delhi

KSKV KACHCHH UNIVERSITY
Mundra Road, Bhuj-Kutch.

Advertisement FOR THE POSITION OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Applications are invited for the post of Vice Chancellor, Krantiguru Shyamji Krishna Verma Kachchh University, Bhuj Kachchh, Gujarat. Notice available on the website of Kachchh University (<http://kskvku.ac.in>) may be referred for the detailed advertisement and terms and conditions. The applications should reach in this office within Twenty One(21) days (i.e. on or before 22-11-2023) from the date of publication of this advertisement. The application can also be sent through e-mail address: searchcommittee@kskvku.ac.in.

Date: 01-11-2023 **REGISTRAR**

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ोदा
Bank of Baroda

Head Office: Alkapuri, Vadodra 390 007
Corporate Office: Baroda Corporate Centre, C-26, "G" Block, Bandra Kurla Complex Bandra (East), Mumbai 400 051

Notice of Specified / Cut-off Date
(In respect of Election of One Shareholder Director)

The Bank has decided to initiate the process of Election of One Shareholder Director amongst the Shareholders other than the Central Government.

Pursuant to Bank of Baroda General (Shares & Meetings) Regulations 1998 as amended (The Regulations) and other applicable Rules, Notice is hereby given that **Friday, 17th November 2023** has been fixed as the **Specified (Cut-off Date)** for the purpose of determining the list of Shareholders who shall be entitled to participate (i.e., **nominate, contest and vote**) in the Election of One Director of Bank of Baroda, to be elected by the Shareholders other than the Central Government from amongst themselves, to be conducted pursuant to Section 9(3)(i) of the Banking Companies (Acquisition & Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 at the ensuing Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the Shareholders of the Bank proposed to be held on Thursday, 21st December 2023 through Video Conferencing (VC) / Other Audio Visual Means (OAVM). It is further informed that pursuant to the Regulation 65 (ii) of the Regulations the **Last Date** for submission of the nomination forms etc., will be upto 4.00 pm. on **06th December 2023**.

The Notice for the Meeting along with the relevant Forms for the election will be issued in due course and also will be hosted on the Bank's website.

Date: 02nd November 2023
Place: Mumbai

For Bank of Baroda
P K Agarwal
Company Secretary (87723-24)

Govt to depute national level monitors to oversee livestock schemes' implementation

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 1

THE CENTRE has decided to deploy National Level Monitors (NLM) to oversee the implementation of its livestock schemes including National Livestock Mission and Rashtriya Gokul Mission.

Speaking to The Indian Express, Alka Upadhyaya, Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, said, "A scheme for NLMs has been approved. The department has begun the process of empaneling the NLMs which will take between one and one and a-half months."

Apart from the National Livestock Mission and Rashtriya Gokul Mission, the Department of Animal Husbandry also implements the National Programme for Dairy Development and Livestock Health and Disease Control programme. These programmes

will also be monitored by the NLMs. As per the appointment terms of reference for NLMs, two types of monitoring will be conducted by them - regular and special.

As per these terms, the objectives of this monitoring include ascertaining whether the programmes of the Ministry are implemented according to guidelines prescribed by the Ministry and if prescribed implementation processes are being followed. This monitoring will also determine villagers' views on the programmes, consider their suggestions for improvement and whether the selection of beneficiaries under a programme has been transparent, unbiased and fair.

The terms of reference also stated that the monitoring will determine if incentives to paravets/technicians/ farmers have been distributed as envisaged under the scheme and whether data generated on vaccination, disease monitoring and artificial

insemination has been uploaded on the National Digital Livestock Mission on a real time basis.

"In case of complaints of a serious nature from people's representatives, farmers etc. regarding the misutilisation of funds, irregularities, etc., NLMs are proposed to be deputed to verify facts or for a preliminary enquiry with the approval of the Secretary," stated the terms of reference.

At present, the department monitors the schemes' implementation through "monthly, quarterly and yearly progress reports, management information system, regional review meetings and video conferencing session with participating states."

The Centre's focus on monitoring the implementation of its schemes in the Animal Husbandry and Dairying sector is significant given this sector's rising contribution to the economy. The department has now decided to involve the NLMs to ensure its schemes' monitoring

is "unbiased and objective".

The NLMs will be third-party independent monitors - individuals and institutions deployed by the government. Individual NLMs will be selected from among retired Civil/Defence Services Officers, and academia.

Earlier, the Ministry of Rural Development had deployed NLMs to monitor their schemes. Recently, the NLM teams flagged irregularities in the implementation of the NREGS and PMAY-G schemes across several states.

According to the DAHD, "The contribution of livestock sector in agriculture in terms of output, has increased from 24.32 per cent (2014-2015) to 30.87 per cent (2020-21). The Livestock sector has been growing at a compounded annual growth rate of 7.93 per cent (at constant prices) from 2014-15 to 2020-21... Value of output of livestock sector is Rs 14.49 lakh crore at current price during 2020-21 (as per National Account Statistics 2022)."

Delhi court to hear Gehlot plea on Nov 8

New Delhi: A Delhi court will hear on November 8 arguments on an application filed by Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot against a complaint by Union minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat accusing him of defamation.

Additional Sessions Judge M K Nagpal also said the earlier direction to the magisterial court asking it to refrain from passing the final order on Shekhawat's complaint will continue till November 8.

झारखण्ड सरकार
उद्योग निदेशालय

आवश्यकता

भारतीय अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय व्यापार मेला 2023(14-27 नवम्बर 2023) प्रगति मैदान नई दिल्ली के झारखण्ड पैवेलियन हेतु 10 Boys/ Girls Guide की आवश्यकता है। झारखण्ड राज्य के जैसे इच्छुक छात्र/ छात्राएँ जो नई दिल्ली में रहकर पढ़ाई कर रहे ग्रेजुएट/ अंडर ग्रेजुएट हो तथा उक्त अवधि में झारखण्ड पैवेलियन में आने वाले अतिरिक्त विशिष्ट अतिथियों, पदाधिकारियों आदि को झारखण्ड के विषय में जानकारी दे सकें एवं झारखण्ड की संस्कृति को अनुभव स्वगत करें ये अपने कॉलेज का परिचय पत्र, फोटो स्कैन कर निम्नलिखित email पर अपना बायोडाटा दिनांक 09.11.2023 तक भेज सकते हैं। चयनित Boys/ Girls Guide को विभाग द्वारा निर्धारित मानदेय राशि मेला अवधि में कार्यदिवस के आधार पर देय होगा। साक्षात्कार दिनांक 10.11.2023 पूर्वाह्न 11.00 बजे से स्थानिक आयुक्त कार्यालय, झारखण्ड भवन, कुकुमु पहाड़ी, बसंत बिहार, नई दिल्ली में होगा।
Email: jhr-doi@nic.in

बायोडाटा प्रपत्र

- आवेदक/ आवेदिका का नाम एवं पूर्ण पता (दिल्ली / एन०सी०आर० अवस्थित)
- पिता / स्थानीय अभिभावक का नाम एवं पता-
- दूरभाष संख्या एवं email address-
- झारखण्ड राज्य स्थित पत्राचार का आवासीय) पता एवं मोबाईल नं०-
- महाविद्यालय / संस्थान का नाम जहाँ अध्ययनरत है-
- शिक्षण संबन्धी प्रमाणपत्र-
- अपने विषय में यदि अतिरिक्त जानकारी देना चाहते हैं, तो उल्लेख करें-

संयुक्त निदेशक
उद्योग निदेशालय

PR 310321 Industries, Mines and Geology(23-24).D

केनरा बैंक **Canara Bank**
भारत सरकार का उपक्रम
सिंडिकेट Syndicate

RECOVERY & LEGAL SECTION, REGIONAL OFFICE
Balajee Gharana Complex, Near Asha Sinha More, A. P. Colony, Gaya, Bihar, Email : recrogaya@canarabank.com

PROPERTY FOR E-AUCTION

E-AUCTION Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged / hypothecated/ Pledged / charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive / physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Canara Bank** will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on **17.11.2023**. Details are as under :

Sl. No.	Name / Add. Contact No. of the Branch	Name and Address of the Borrower(s)	Outstanding in Rs.	Details of Property	Reserve Price (Rs.) EMD/Bid Multiplier Amt./Ac.No./ IFSC Code
1	Pachna Branch Mob. 8210998560	Borrower - Sri Anmol Saw S/o Rameshwar Saw R/o-Mauza-Kaithama, P.S.- Sheikhpura, Dist- Sheikhpura 811107 Smt. Fekni Devi (Mortgagor) W/o Sri Rameshwar Saw R/o Mauza- Kaithama, P.S.- Sheikhpura, Dist- Sheikhpura 811107	Rs. 11,55,742.08 as on 31.10.2023 + interest & Other Cost thereon till realization	The property is residential constructed building (Floor - G.F) situated at Mauza- Kaithama, Thana No - 224, Khata No- 82 & 81, Plot no- 1294 & 1293, Near- South Gramin Bank, Anchal - Sheikhpura, Dist- Sheikhpura, Bihar in the name of Smt. Fekni Devi W/o Sri Rameshwar Saw Extent Area- 05 Decimal Boundary : North - P.C.C.Road, South - Mahendra Choudhari, East - 6' wide gali, West - Udit Narayan Singh	Rs. 8,69,400.00 Rs. 86,940/- Rs. 10,000/- A/c - 209272434 IFSC Code - CNRB0001721
2	Faridpur Branch Mob. 8210998541	Borrower- Mr. Yadunandan Yadav , S/o Late Kuldeep Yadav, jointly with Mr. Pintu Kumar S/o Yadunandan Yadav R/o Vill - Vihta, PO - Manana, P.S. - Sheikhpura, Bihar - 811105	Rs. 6,08,286.30 as on 31.10.2023 + interest & Other Cost thereon till realization	Freehold Residential Property situated at Mauza - Vihta, Khata No. - 15, Plot No. - 664, Dist - Sheikhpura, Bihar in the name of Mr. Yadunandan Yadav , S/o Late Kuldeep Yadav, Total Area - 9 Decimal Boundary - North - Niz Rasta Purchaser, South - Ramotar Yadav, East - Guleshwar Chaudhary, West - Lakha Yadav	Rs. 22,90,500/- Rs. 2,29,050/- Rs. 10,000/- A/c - 209272434 IFSC Code - CNRB0005469
3	Dibhiya Branch Mob. : 8210998539	Borrower Cum Mortgagor :- Sri Arvind Kumar Singh S/o Late. Sheoshankar Singh Resident of Vill - Shiwan, PO + PS - Kargahar, Dist- Rohtas, Bihar, 821107 Guarantor: Sri Jit Narayan Singh S/o Late. Sheoshankar Singh Resident of Vill- Shiwan, Po+ P.s. Kargahar, Dist-Rohtas, Bihar, 821107 Mortgagor: Most. Sulakhana Kunwar W/o Late. Sheoshankar Singh Resident of Vill- Shiwan, Po+ P.s. Kargahar, Dist- Rohtas, Bihar, 821107	Rs. 11,24,307.38 as on 31.10.2023 + interest & Other Cost thereon	The property is residential property situated at Plot No- 2069/2289, Thana No- 78, Mauza- Shiwan, PS - Kargahar, Dist- Rohtas, Bihar, Extent of Area- 2.66 Decimal, Boundary : North : Tej Narayan Singh, South : Jagdish Singh, East : Chandradhan, West : Gali & Suresh Name of title holder - Sri Arvind Kumar Singh S/o Late. Sheoshankar Singh & Widow Sulakhana Kuwar W/o Late Sheoshankar Singh	Rs. 4,88,000/- Rs. 48,800/- 10,000/- A/c - 209272434 IFSC Code - CNRB0001737
4	Dehri Branch Mob. : 8210998538	Borrower :- Smt. Rubi Kumari W/o Guddu Kumar Soni And Co-Borrower - Sri Guddu Kumar Soni S/o Kashi Prasad Both Are Resident Of Pani Tanki, Ward No- 26 , Dhantoliya , Mohalla- Dehri, Rohtas, 821307	Rs. 4,54,176.78 as on 31.10.2023 + interest & Other Cost thereon	The Property is residential freehold land & under construction structure situated at Khata No-156, Plot No- 1356, Mauza- Dahaur P.S- Dehri, Sadar Registry Office & District- Rohtas, 821307, Extent of Area- 1361.25 Sft. Boundary - North - Aahar, South : Niz, East : Niz, West - Panchayat bhawan Name of title holder - Smt. Rubi Kumari W/o Guddu Kumar Soni and Sri Guddu Kumar Soni s/o Kashi Prasad	Rs. 6,70,000/- Rs. 67,000/- 10,000/- A/c - 209272434 IFSC Code - CNRB0006337

Last Date of EMD 14.11.2023 For Detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in www.canarabank.com

Authorised Officer (Canara Bank)

Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.
(A Government of Gujarat Enterprise)
CIN: L14100GJ963SGC001206

Khanij Bhavan, 132 Feet Ring Road, Near University Ground, Vastrapur, Ahmedabad - 380 052

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER / HALF YEAR ENDED ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2023
(See Regulation 47(1) (b) of the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015) (₹ in Lakh)

Sr No.	Particulars	STANDALONE					
		Quarter ended on		Half year ended on		Year ended on	
		30-09-2023 (Unaudited)	30-06-2023 (Unaudited)	30-09-2022 (Unaudited)	30-09-2023 (Unaudited)	30-09-2022 (Unaudited)	31-03-2023 (Audited)
1	Total Income from Operations (net)	38,273.63	76,560.27	53,891.57	1,14,833.90	1,69,428.12	3,50,144.75
2	Net Profit for the period (before Tax and Exceptional items)	11,114.20	28,780.90	20,395.56	39,895.10	67,042.88	1,65,717.18
3	Net Profit for the period before tax (after Exceptional items)	11,114.20	28,780.90	20,395.56	39,895.10	67,042.88	1,65,717.18
4	Net Profit for the period after tax (after Exceptional items)	7,646.21	21,552.62	15,060.44	29,198.83	49,550.56	1,21,247.53
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit for the period after tax and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	11,620.59	27,044.10	21,076.97	38,664.69	46,574.96	1,11,017.15
6	Equity Share Capital	6,360.00	6,360.00	6,360.00	6,360.00	6,360.00	6,360.00
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve as shown in the Balance Sheet)						5,69,581.18
8	Earning Per Share (of ₹ 2/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) (not annualised)-						
	1. Basic: (₹)	2.40	6.78	4.74	9.18	15.58	38.13
	2. Diluted (₹)	2.40	6.78	4.74	9.18	15.58	38.13

Sr No.	Particulars	CONSOLIDATED					
		Quarter ended on		Half year ended on		Year ended on	
		30-09-2023 (Unaudited)	30-06-2023 (Unaudited)	30-09-2022 (Unaudited)	30-09-2023 (Unaudited)	30-09-2022 (Unaudited)	31-03-2023 (Audited)
1	Total Income from Operations (net)	38,273.63	76,560.27	53,891.57	1,14,833.90	1,69,428.12	3,50,144.75
2	Net Profit for the period (before Tax and Exceptional items)	11,097.34	28,787.64	20,428.82	39,884.98	67,056.35	1,65,799.02
3	Net Profit for the period before tax (after Exceptional items)	11,097.34	28,787.64	20,428.82	39,884.98	67,056.35	1,65,799.02
4	Net Profit for the period after tax (after Exceptional items)	7,458.71	21,870.23	15,122.12	29,328.94	49,616.65	1,21,573.46
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit for the period after tax and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	11,433.09	27,361.71	21,138.65	38,794.80	46,641.05	1,11,343.08
6	Equity Share Capital	6,360.00	6,360.00	6,360.00	6,360.00	6,360.00	6,360.00
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve as shown in the Balance Sheet)						5,73,468.11
8	Earning Per Share (of ₹ 2/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) (not annualised)-						
	1. Basic: (₹)	2.35	6.88	4.76	9.22	15.60	38.23
	2. Diluted (₹)	2.35	6.88	4.76	9.22	15.60	38.23

Note: The above is an extract of the detailed format of Financial Results for the quarter / half year ended on 30th September 2023 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 and SEBI Circular No. CIR/CFD/FAC/62/2016 dated 5th July 2016. The full format of the Financial Results for the quarter / half year ended on 30th September 2023 along with Explanatory Notes is available on the Stock Exchange websites. (www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com).

Place : Ahmedabad
Date : 01-11-2023

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors
Roopwant Singh, IAS
Managing Director

8 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



PHOTOS ON THE WALL

The Congress may have been steering clear of Sanjay Gandhi, the younger son of former PM late Indira Gandhi, for long, but not its Madhya Pradesh leader Kamal Nath. The residence-cum-office of Nath has a wall with an array of framed photos of the Gandhi family (From Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi to Rahul Gandhi) nailed to the wall in a rectangular pattern. At the centre of the photo-formation is a picture of Sanjay Gandhi with whom he shared good relations.

BONDS VS BUCKET

CPI(M), which is one of the petitioners in the electoral bonds case, had on Tuesday argued that the party deliberately refused to accept funding via the bonds. Responding to this Wednesday, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, without naming the party and referring only to its counsel, said that they have other ways of funding, including what is known as "bucket collection". The mode of collection has often come under criticism from public and opposition who say there is an element of coercion involved in it.

INFLUENCERS' OUTREACH

A new group — Bharatiya Influencer Association — representing the social media influencers started off its outreach to the government on Wednesday. Some representatives, including founding member Neelkant Bakshi of the BJP's communications department, met Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur, and Petroleum Minister Hardeep Puri. The group also includes tech content creator Gaurav Chaudhary and fitness influencer Ankit Baiyanpuria. They expressed concern over more and more influencers facing arrests and legal cases. They also submitted a "vision document" to the ministers, proposing to set up a self-regulatory body and code of conduct for influencers.

'Let me cross-examine complainants': Mahua to ethics panel chief

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 1



TMC MP to appear before the panel today

AHEAD OF her appearance before the Lok Sabha Ethics Committee that is probing the allegations of cash-for-query against her, TMC MP Mahua Moitra has written to its chairperson Vinod Kumar Sonkar, expressing her desire to exercise her right to cross-examine businessman Darshan Hiranandani and advocate Jai Anant Dehadrai.

In addition, she added that if the Ethics Committee seeks a report from any department and wishes to rely on that, she should be given a copy of the report and allowed to cross-examine the department concerned.

Moitra has written the two-page letter, which she shared on 'X' on Tuesday, in response to a letter dated October 28, informing that the Committee will hear her on November 2.

Moitra in her letter has said that she had requested for any date after November 5 given her pre-scheduled Vijaya Dashmi programmes.

"It is thus extremely surprising that the Committee has not acceded to this request, is categorically denying me any further extension, and is forcing me to appear before it on a date that is clearly clashing with my constituency commitments. While registering my protest, I wish to inform you that I will respect the summons and appear

before the Committee on November 2, 2023 at 11 am," she wrote.

Moitra added that in direct contrast, a very different approach has been adopted in the case of BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri, who has a complaint of hate speech pending against him in the Privileges and Ethics branch made by a member of that same Committee, Danish Ali, MP.

Moitra added that Bidhuri was summoned on October 10 to provide oral evidence and informed the Committee that he was away campaigning in Rajasthan and would not be attending. No further date of his hearing has been given so far, she wrote, adding, "I wish to place on record that these double-standards reek of political motives."

Regarding the allegations against her, she added the complainant Dehadrai has provided no documentary evidence to back his allegations neither in his written complaint nor in his oral hearing.

"In keeping with the principles of natural justice, I wish to exercise my right to cross-examine Shri Dehadrai," she wrote.

MARATHA QUOTA STIR

All-party meeting urges Patil to call off fast, denounces violence

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 1

APPEALING TO Manoj Jarange Patil to withdraw his fast, leaders at an all-party meeting chaired by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on the Maratha quota issue on Wednesday unanimously extended support to reservation for Marathas while denouncing the violence during the protests.

While all the parties unanimously extended support to reservation for Marathas, Opposition leaders questioned the Centre's silence on the issue.

"All parties are unanimous on giving reservation to Marathas. Reservations which survive the test of law can be given only after completing the



Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde, Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis and NCP chief Sharad Pawar during an all-party meeting on Maratha reservation in Mumbai Wednesday. PTI

legal formalities and all political parties in the state are ready to work together for this. While action regarding this will be taken at the earliest, it needs to be given necessary time," the resolution signed by representatives

of all political parties stated. It added that the violent incidents in the state taking place during the protests are wrong and are defaming the agitation. "We express deep dislike over this. We appeal (to protesters) to

not take the law into their hands and maintain law and order. We appeal to Manoj Jarange Patil to co-operate in these efforts and withdraw his fast," it said.

The meeting was called by the state government in the wake of the fast unto death by Patil, who has been demanding blanket Kunbi (OBC) certificates to all Marathas, and the violence that followed in different parts of the state, especially in Beed district where houses of elected representatives and government properties were torched.

Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis Tuesday announced such incidents will not be tolerated and cases will be filed under Section 307 of IPC against the protesters. State Cabinet too unanimously agreed to take steps to maintain law and order in the state.

Army's Northern Command to get rooster drones

AVINASH NAIR AHMEDABAD, NOVEMBER 1

INDIGENOUSLY DEVELOPED rooster drones that can roll as a robot and fly as a drone, will be handed over to the Indian Army's Northern Command at an event at Gandhinagar-based Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) on Friday.

"The drone draws its name from roosters that spend most of their time on the ground. They can also fly and perch atop a building or a tree," said Colonel Kanvaljit Singh (retired), acting director of the School of Internal Security, Defence, and Strategic Studies (ISDSS) at the RRU.



IN POLL MODE

BJP national president J P Nadda greets Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the BJP office in New Delhi on Wednesday. The party held a meeting of its central election committee, which was also attended by former chief minister Vasundhara Raje Scindia. Tashi Tobgyal

Rajnath distances BJP from Manipur violence: 'Not done by any party'

SUKRITA BARUAH GUWAHATI, NOVEMBER 1

ON THE campaign trail for elections in Mizoram where the ongoing crisis in neighbouring Manipur, which has a BJP government, has become central to the discourse, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said the ethnic violence has "not been done by any political party".

The state legislative assembly election in Mizoram, where polling will take place on November 7, is taking place under the shadow of the Manipur crisis, where the Kuki-Zomi community — which shares a common ethnicity with the Mizos — is in conflict with the Meitei community. There has been an outpouring of support from the Mizo public, and the state has so far sheltered more than 12,000 displaced people from the community.

Speaking at a public rally in Mizoram's Siaha, Singh sought to distance the BJP from the violence. "In the last nine years, the Northeast has been very peaceful. Insurgency has stopped in every state or has become very less. But the violence that has happened in Manipur this time has pained all of us very much. But I want to honestly say that this violence has not been done by any political party... Such a situation was born between both the communities in Manipur, an insecurity was born,



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh addresses a public meeting in Mizoram's Siaha on Wednesday. ANI

because of which the violence happened," said Singh.

"To end it, I want to request both the communities that they sit together and resolve this problem. The trust deficit in Manipur which has been born in both the communities, they should end that trust deficit. I would like to appeal to all the people of Manipur that violence is not the solution of any problem; a solution needs heart to heart conversation," he said. Singh has not been to Manipur since the conflict broke out on May 3.

In Manipur, the Kuki-Zomi community has been demanding a separate administration, stating that it has no faith in the N Biren Singh-led government. Homes of several prominent BJP

leaders, including Union Minister of State Rajkumar Singh and state BJP president A Sharda Devi, have also been attacked in the Meitei-dominated valley.

Both the Congress and the Mizo National Front are relying on the fallout of the Manipur crisis to swap public support in their favour. While the MNF is hoping that a surge in Mizo nationalism in the wake of the crisis and the party's support to refugees will benefit it, the Congress has been attacking the BJP, stating that the Manipur crisis illustrates the threat that the party poses to Mizo society.

"When Manipur was disturbed, the Congress tried to do politics over this. Though we had told their political leaders not to go at that time, they still went. I believe that the people's wounds will only heal if they are kept away from politics. I want to tell people of the entire country to keep themselves away from Congress's negative and disruptive politics," Singh said.

On Wednesday, Singh spoke both at Siaha and at Mamit, where PM Modi was supposed to address a rally on October 30. These are both areas with a sizeable minority community population and are focus areas for the BJP through which it is seeking to make its presence felt in the Christian majority state where it has a small presence. Modi's visit to the state was cancelled, a development the Congress had linked to the situation in Manipur.

Modi, Hasina flag off cross-border rail link virtually

DEBRAJ DEB AGARTALA, NOVEMBER 1

A DECADE after India and Bangladesh signed an MoU to set up the first Indo-Bangla international railway connectivity in NE India in 2013, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh Premier Sheikh Hasina on Wednesday jointly inaugurated the project from New Delhi and Dhaka respectively. Both Modi and Hasina were present at the event virtually.

In his inaugural speech, Modi said his government signed the Indo-Bangla land boundary agreement that had been pending for decades and resolved the maritime boundary issue. He stressed on infrastructure development and connectivity between the two countries. Calling India "Bangladesh's biggest development partner", he said while bilateral ties between the two nations strengthened, it also boosted the latter's energy sector along with regional connectivity.

Joining the event virtually from Agartala, Tripura CM Dr Manik Saha said the project was crucial for connectivity in the NE region and it would make Tripura the gateway for tourism.

"Tripura is going to be the gateway for tourism and transport between India and Bangladesh. With the establishment of the Agartala-Akhaura railway project, the distance between Agartala and Kolkata via Dhaka will effectively reduce from 1,600 km to 500 km now," he said. Detailing connectivity development under the BJP, Saha said 508 railway stations were being redeveloped under the Amrit Bharat Station scheme. He said 91 of these were being redeveloped in NE India. "Foundation stones were laid

EXPLAINED Bringing ties on track

OF THE 12.24 km Agartala-Akhaura railway line, Tripura has got 5.46 km on the Indian side and 6.78 km on the Bangladesh side. The project, which had its MoU signed in 2013, started with Rs 972.52 crore in 2016 including Rs 580 crore sanctioned for work on the Indian side and Rs 392.52 crore sanctioned for the Bangladesh side. However, the fund was later revised twice. The final project cost is estimated at Rs 1,255.1 crore.

for redeveloping these 91 stations for Rs 5,100 crore. In Tripura, Dharmanagar, Udaipur and Kumarghat, railway stations are being redeveloped under this scheme with an investment of Rs 96.6 crore. Agartala Railway Station is being developed under World Class Station Scheme with Rs 235.45 crore," Saha said.

Tripura shares an 856 km-long international border with Bangladesh — the second longest border between these two countries of any Indian state after West Bengal.

The Ministry for Development of North East Region funded the work on the Indian side while MEA funded the expense for Bangladesh's side. Indian Railway Construction International Limited did the work on the Indian side and Texmaco implemented the work on the other side. A senior official from the Northeast Frontier Railways told *The Indian Express* that a trial for passenger trains might be done soon.



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi interacts with farmers at Jayashankar Bhupalpally district in Telangana Wednesday. PTI

BJP can't make Telangana CM with 2% votes: Rahul

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA HYDERABAD, NOVEMBER 1

TAUNTING THE BJP over its promise to make a backward caste candidate as Telangana CM, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday wondered how the saffron party could do so when it was going to garner only a meagre percentage of votes.

Gandhi, who addressed public meetings at Kalwakurthy, Jachchera and Shadnagar in Telangana, said BJP leaders used to brag about their chances in the state. However, the Congress had "punctured" the four tyres of BJP's vehicle in Telangana.

"You (BJP) will get 2% votes here. How can you make a chief minister?" he asked. Union Home Minister Amit Shah had recently announced in a poll rally that the BJP will make a backward class leader CM if they come to power.

Gandhi further took a swipe at PM Narendra Modi, saying the PM would go to the US and announce

that he will make an OBC candidate President of America. "You will neither be able to make a President in America nor a CM here (Telangana)," he said.

Targetting the AIMIM, Gandhi alleged that the Asaduddin Owaisi-led party fields candidates wherever the Congress fights the BJP by taking money from the saffron party. "Wherever we go to fight the elections... Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Tripura, wherever Congress party fights with BJP, MIM party takes money from BJP and puts up candidates there," he said.

"First, we have to win in Telangana. We will win in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chattisgarh, and later in 2024, we will win Delhi (Lok Sabha)," he said. The Congress leader promised to conduct a caste census if his party was voted to power in Telangana. Gandhi, who alleged that the CM "swindled" ₹1 lakh crore in Kaleswaram project, displayed a mock 'Kaleswaram ATM' made by his party at Shadnagar.

Vote for Cong to ensure peace: Sonia appeals to Mizoram voters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 1

CONGRESS PARLIAMENTARY Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi on Wednesday appealed to the people of Mizoram to elect her party in the assembly polls, saying this is not time for experiments and a vote for the Congress is for peace, progress and prosperity in the northeastern state.

In a video message, she made a personal appeal especially to the youth and the women, saying the Congress is the hand of experience and security.

She said the Congress is the only party that can guarantee the development of Mizoram, empowerment for its people, and protection for the weakest in society and recalled how the party has fulfilled its promises made in other states including Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh.

During her more than three-minute video appeal, Gandhi also recalled her personal bond with the people of Mizoram. She mentioned the visits she made with her husband and former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi to Mizoram.

"You all know Mizoram occupies a very special place in my heart. I visited many times over the years. Your customs and culture, the beauty and richness of your land have left a deep impression on me. Above all I have never forgotten your affection," she said.

In Rajasthan, Yogi Adityanath compares Congress ideology to that of Taliban

Congress symbolises the problems in the country and the leadership of PM Modi offers solutions to every issue, claims Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE JAIPUR, NOVEMBER 1

UTTAR PRADESH Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Wednesday compared the ideology of the Congress to that of the Taliban, saying that the grand old party is the root cause of every problem in the country. He said that this "Taliban-like mindset" has blemished the longstanding traditions of Rajasthan, a region celebrated for its devotion and power.

of BJP candidate Balaknath from Tijara Assembly constituency, Yogi said that the remedy for such "Taliban-like ideologies" lies in 'Bajrangbali's Gada' (mace), pointing out Israel's targeted actions in Gaza as an example.

The CM said that had Congress been in power at the Centre, the Ram Mandir issue would never have been resolved. However, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a magnificent temple of Ram Lalla is now being constructed in Ayodhya, signifying a period of devel-



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at a rally in Rajasthan on Wednesday. Express

opment in the region, he said. "On one hand, Sardar Patel worked relentlessly to unite the country, while on the other, the Congress created the problem of Article 370 in Kashmir. PM Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah decisively resolved this issue, permanently eliminating the problem and significantly curbing terrorism. This feat, which the Congress has failed to achieve in 70 years, was accom-

plished by PM Modi within nine-and-a-half years," Yogi said. In his address, Yogi also highlighted the achievements of the Central government and the "good governance and development initiatives" in Uttar Pradesh. He said that after the formation of the BJP government in Rajasthan, the "realisation of the concept of Ramrajya will be complete".

"Every Indian feels proud of the rich traditions and heritage of

Rajasthan. We have close ties with Alwar. The land of Yogiraj Raja Bhairathari Nath is a symbol of our heritage," he said, criticising Congress for "tampering the state's glorious traditions", and accused CM Ashok Gehlot of playing politics of appeasement. Yogi said that while Congress symbolises the problems in the country, the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi offers solutions to every issue.

Accusing the Gehlot government of being anti-Hindu, he said, "Professional criminals and goons are given patronage here. Also, the

work of insulting the saints is done under the patronage of the government. The public will have to decide how long this game of appeasement will continue."

The BJP leader said that "if the Congress returned to power, individuals with Taliban mindsets would once again target the dignity of daughters". He called for collective effort to transform Rajasthan into a state that embodies the ideals of Ramrajya, ensuring the safety of cows and the well-being of daughters and mothers.



DECISION 2023 RAJASTHAN

9 EXPRESS NETWORK

BRIEFLY

JAMMU & KASHMIR
Three soldiers wounded in landmine blast

Jammu: Three Indian soldiers were injured in a landmine explosion on Wednesday morning near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district. The mine explosion took place in Phagwara Gali area of Mankote sector of Mendhar when a petrol party along the LoC inadvertently stepped over a landmine, police sources said. Two of the injured have been shifted to a hospital in Rajouri. **ENS**

TRIPURA
Six Bangladeshi nationals held at MBB airport

Agartala: Six Bangladeshi nationals were arrested from Maharaja Bir Bikram (MBB) airport in Agartala Tuesday. A case was lodged under the Passports Act at the Airport police station. Police said they illegally crossed into India via Tripura and were planning to fly to Kolkata. "They failed to produce any valid document," said officer-in-charge of Airport police station Abhijit Mandal. Tripura shares a 856-km long border with Bangladesh, parts of which are unfenced. **ENS**

KARNATAKA
Govt asks Centre to waive taxes on ₹17.5 crore drug

Bengaluru: The Karnataka government has petitioned the Centre to waive import taxes for a life-saving medicine required to save the life of a 15-month-old boy named Maurya. The single-dose medication, Zolgensma, costs Rs 17.5 crore and is used to treat spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), a disease that affects the central nervous system. CM Siddaramaiah also urged the PM to consider allocating monetary support under PM-CARES for the family. **ENS**

KARNATAKA
Surjewala: Don't make remarks on internal matters

Bengaluru: Amid recent remarks by legislators over change in Karnataka CM and cabinet reshuffle, AICC general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala warned party legislators of disciplinary action for making public statements over party's internal affairs and state government. He held a meeting in Bengaluru with CM Siddaramaiah, deputy CM DK Shivakumar and AICC general secretary KC Venugopal on Lok Sabha polls. **ENS**

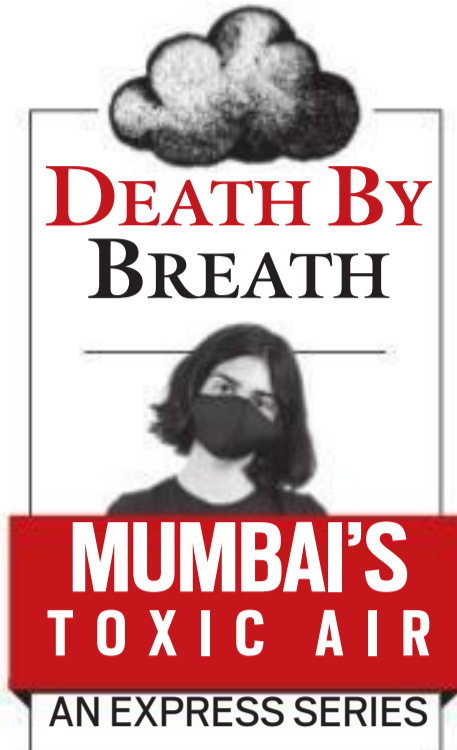
Mumbai's deteriorating air: BMC to set up centre to send out alerts, health advisories

PRATIPACHARYA
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 1

MUMBAI'S GUARDIAN Minister Deepak Keskar on Wednesday said that the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) will set up a command-and-control centre for monitoring Air Quality Index (AQI) to send out alerts and advisories to residents on days when the city records 'poor' and 'very poor' AQI.

The minister's announcement came after *The Indian Express*, as part of 'Death by Breath' series on city's deteriorating air, drew attention to how civic body failed to issue advisory to residents despite the city recording 'poor' and 'very poor' AQI in its report "Air turned very 'poor' or 'severe' but not one health advisory from BMC".

Keskar made the announcement while addressing a press conference at the civic headquarters. Speaking to *The Indian Express* later, he said, "We are planning to set up a command and control centre which will give us hyper-local AQI data. This way, we will have a much improved data system that will alert us whenever any pocket in Mumbai records 'poor' or 'very poor' AQI and, based



The Indian Express report on October 31.

on observations, health alerts or public advisories can be issued."

The Indian Express report pointed out that the civic body, while announcing its budget in February this year, had announced the plan for issuing health advisories. Later, in the Mumbai Air Pollution Mitigation Plan (MAPMP), the BMC also announced issuing notifications to residents on periods of worsening air quality, similar to bulletins issued by the weather bureau for adverse climate events.

Keskar said that air filtration

units will also be installed on top of as many as 350 buses of Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) undertaking. Keskar said that all the proposed systems will become operational in next two months.

A civic official from BMC's environment department said the command and control centre will gather information through sensor-based AQI monitoring devices, which the BMC plans to install in several pockets to record hyperlocal data.

Rohit raises pollution issue: Important that our kids live without fear

MIHIR VASAVDA
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 1



India cricket captain Rohit Sharma. BCCI

UNDERLINING THAT that it is "important for the future generations to live without any fear", India cricket captain Rohit Sharma said he was concerned by the rising level of air pollution in Mumbai and that, in an "ideal world, you don't want a situation like this".

After crisscrossing six cities, the Indian team reached Mumbai, Sharma's hometown, earlier this week for their World Cup encounter against Sri Lanka.

However, the match was not the only thing on Sharma's mind. On a flight to Mumbai from Lucknow, where India beat England on Sunday, Sharma appeared to be shocked by the rising pollution levels in the city and posted a picture on his social media platform with the caption: "Mumbai, yeh kya hogaya (Mumbai, what has happened)".

On Wednesday, before he went into the cricketing bits, Sharma spoke about the pollution issue.

"In an ideal world, you don't want a situation like this. I'm sure concerned people are taking necessary steps to avoid these kinds of situations. It's not ideal, everyone knows that," he said.

"Obviously, looking at our future generations, our kids — my kid — it's important that they get to live without any fear. Every time when I get to speak outside of cricket, if we are not discussing cricket, I always talk about this. We have to look after our future generations," he said.

'Review, correct': Plea in SC against Oct 17 verdict on same-sex marriage

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 1

PETITIONERS SEEKING legal recognition of same-sex marriages have moved the Supreme Court urging it to "review and correct" its judgment denying them the right saying the ruling "suffers from errors apparent on the face of the record and is self-contradictory and manifestly unjust".

The review petition said the 'majority judgment' is facially erroneous because it finds that the Respondents (authorities) are violating petitioners' fundamental rights through discrimination, and fails to enjoin discrimination.

"For example, the majority judgment holds that the respondents' characterisation of marriage for various collateral and intersectional purposes as a permanent and binding legal relationship... between heterosexual couples only (and no others) impacts queer couples adversely," and "has an adverse discriminatory impact" by wrongly depriving them of marriage-related benefits," the plea said.

It added that the ruling "recognises that, while heterosexual relationships have the benefit of the cover of law" which "afford(s) protection, and extend(s) benefits" same "eludes those living in non-heterosexual unions" and "impact, therefore, is discriminatory".

"The majority judgment states that "equality and non-discrimination are basic foundational rights" and concludes that the exclusion of queer couples from "a legal framework which

entitles them and is a prerequisite eligibility criteria for myriad earned and accrued benefits, privileges, and opportunities has harsh and unjust discriminatory consequences, amounting to discrimination land violating their fundamental right under Article 15", the review said.

The review petitioners contended that "the majority judgment neuter's SC's jurisdiction, holding that while "recognition" of discrimination and violation of the petitioners' fundamental rights "is this court's obligation, falling within its remit"... separation of powers prohibits this Hon'ble Court from enjoining the discrimination or otherwise protecting those fundamental rights".

The petitioners contended that "the Majority Judgment overlooks that marriage, at its core, is an enforceable social contract. The right to so contract is available to anyone capable of consenting. Adults of any faith or no faith may engage in it. No one group of people may define for another what marriage means. No contract, nor forceful State action like imprisonment, may curtail an adult's fundamental right to marry".

It said judgment "effectively compels young queer Indians to remain in closet and lead dishonest lives if they wish joys of a real family. It is fallacious that, under these facts, and in the absence of a fundamental right to marry or form a union, the rights to equal protection, dignity and fraternity are insufficient to justify judicial intervention".

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com



PRICEY AGAIN

People queue up to buy onions at a subsidised rate of Rs 25 a kg against the market price of Rs 100 a kg, in Lucknow on Wednesday. Vishal Srivastava

Gujarati businessman, Goa hotels: Cops bust 'sextortion' racket

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA
PANAJI, NOVEMBER 1

GOA POLICE have busted an interstate "sextortion" racket, wherein women working as beauticians in Gujarat were hired by a gang to "honey trap" wealthy Gujarati businessmen in Goa.

Preliminary police investigation has found that the gang, comprising at least 15 women, a lawyer and touts, was acting on the directions of a woman lodged in a jail in Gujarat on murder charge. Police have found that the gang lodged three FIRs in Goa on false charges after threatening to implicate people in rape cases when they refusing to pay money.

Police said the probe began when they received similar complaints from Gujarat-based women, alleging rape and sexual assault, which were found to be false during investigation.

For instance, on August 22, a beautician, her "cousin" and their "driver" — all from Gujarat — arrived at North Goa's Calangute police station. The woman alleged that a businessman from Gujarat had raped her at a hotel in North Goa. The same day, a "settlement" was reached with the businessman for Rs 2 lakh and the complainant gave in writing that she did not wish to pursue legal action.

Two days later, the same trio reached Colvale police station in North Goa to lodge another com-

plaint. This time, the "cousin" claimed to be the victim while the beautician posed as her friend.

It was alleged that a Gujarat-based contractor, whom she met on her Goa-bound flight, had raped her at a resort. On her complaint, police registered an FIR and the contractor was arrested.

Around the same time, another woman from the gang lodged a similar case of rape by a Gujarat businessman. "The complaints had common links and profiles of the women were similar. All alleged victims and accused hailed from Gujarat and had travelled to Goa. A woman would typically get acquainted with a rich businessman in Gujarat on a dating app, they would travel to Goa, and then



Family mourns Manipur cop Ch Anand Kumar, who was killed Tuesday in an attack, in Imphal on Wednesday. PTI

44 DETAINED IN MOREH

Imphal: Curfew back after mob tries to loot arms

SUKRITA BARUAH & JIMMY LEIVON
GUWAHATI, IMPHAL, NOVEMBER 1

FULL CURFEW was reimposed in both districts of Imphal Wednesday which saw a mob attempt to storm the First Manipur Rifles Campus even as 44 people, most of whom police said were Myanmar nationals, were detained in the Indo-Myanmar border town of Moreh.

Tensions were high on Wednesday in both Moreh and Imphal, 100 km apart, as locals reported hearing firing in Imphal city in the evening. A security official said that a mob had attempted to storm the First Manipur Rifles Campus which led to an exchange of fire with the security forces, who successfully stalled any attempt of weapon looting, according to an official.

This incident comes after a Meitei officer with the Manipur Police, Chingtham Anand Kumar, was shot dead Tuesday in Moreh, which is dominated by the Kuki-Zomi community. The 3,000-odd Meitei residents of the town have fled since violence erupted.

The state cabinet had decided to launch a joint operation in Moreh and adjoining areas to nab Kumar's killers. Additional forces of Manipur police commandos were also deployed in Moreh.

The forces were ambushed twice Tuesday while moving to Moreh, and eventually a convoy of 60 commandos reached.

Manipur police stated Wednesday that 44 people have been detained following search operations by security forces in Moreh and 32 of these people were "found to be Myanmar/Burmese".

"10 Myanmar citizens from Moreh were taken to Foreigner Detention Centre, Sajiwa," read a statement by the Manipur police. Tensions have now escalated in the Kuki-Zomi dominated hill areas which had already been pushing back against the presence of Manipur police in Moreh, alleging bias against their community in the ongoing conflict.

Reacting to the increase in deployment of Manipur police in Moreh, multiple Kuki-Zomi community organisations have supported a call for a 48-hour shutdown starting Thursday midnight in areas dominated by the community.

A "shutdown notice" issued by Kuki Student's Organization stated, "while the demand for withdrawal of state forces in the aforesaid town (Moreh) has been gaining momentum following their excesses and total disregard to civil rights and liberties, the moves of the state government in forcefully deploying a convoy of 19 vehicles carrying Manipur police commandos and the Arambai Tenggol added more fuel to the fire in already volatile situation".

Meanwhile, Chief Minister N Biren Singh led his council of ministers, MLAs and other top officials in paying tributes to Kumar Wednesday afternoon.

LUDHIANA TURNED INTO FORTRESS, COPS DETAIN THOSE WHO TRIED TO ENTER VENUE

Opp skips, debate on Punjab turns into one-Mann show

DIVYA GOYAL GOPAL
LUDHIANA, NOVEMBER 1

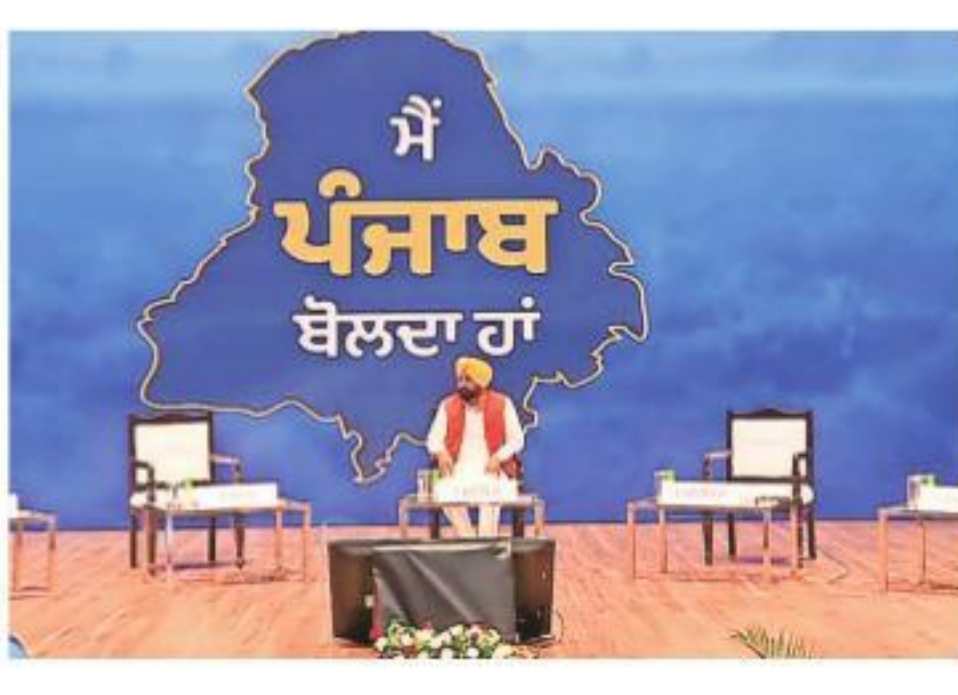
THE OPPOSITION parties in Punjab Wednesday skipped the much touted 'open debate' to which they were challenged by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann to discuss issue pertaining to state, with the event turning into a monologue session for the Aam Aadmi Party leader who said it would have been "better" had the presidents of the political parties come and not "runaway" from presenting their views.

The CM also spoke at length on the Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) canal — the issue on which the Opposition had been demanding the debate but which was never listed as agenda or ever found mention in the statements issued

by Mann and other AAP leaders.

Even as Mann had issued a "khulla sadda" (open invitation) to 'aam aadmi' of Punjab to attend the session, entire Ludhiana city was turned into a fortress and police checkpoints were installed at every few meters on Ludhiana-Ferozepur highway to stop protesters, activists and common people from reaching the venue — Punjab Agricultural University's Dr Manmohan Singh Auditorium.

The entry of media was also also prohibited inside the venue and only "select guests", including AAP MLAs and their supporters, who had invites issued by the CMO were allowed inside. Police detained several protesters from PAU's Gate No. 1 including unemployed teachers, farm union activists, health workers among others who tried to enter the venue



Bhagwant Mann at the PAU auditorium on Wednesday. Express

or raised slogans against the government. In the auditorium, Mann sat alone and addressed a select audience, as chairs placed along

with slips carrying names of Opposition leaders — SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal, Punjab Congress chief Amrinder Singh

Raja Warring, Leader of Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa, and state BJP chief Sunil Jakhar — remained vacant.

As the 'Main Punjab Bolda Haan' which was broadcast live on the official social media and YouTube channel of Punjab government, started, Dr Nirmal Singh Jaura — the moderator appointed by CM — requested Mann to wait for a few minutes in anticipation Opposition leaders might join.

Asked by the moderator to explain his concept of "Rangla Punjab", Mann launched into a monologue saying that people watching the session were "becoming witness to history" on Punjab Day. "It's a debate between me and those who ruled Punjab till now. I wish they had joined the debate, but they had started making excuses since the day 1," said

Mann in his hour-long address.

Targeting opposition parties, Mann alleged that the previous governments compromised the state's interests for political gains by allowing the construction of the SYL canal.

He said that a single Act — the Inter State River Water Disputes Act, 1956 — is applicable throughout the country for resolving water disputes among states.

While the SAD refused to take part in the debate saying it was a "PR exercise and PR stunt" of the AAP, dispensation in Punjab, its ex-ally BJP slammed it as a government sponsored-controlled event. Congress too refused to attend the debate stating that government never extended a formal invite and did not discuss modalities of debate. **FULL REPORT ON**
www.indianexpress.com

Amarmani skips summons & warrant, court declares him proclaimed offender

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 1

ABASTI court has declared former UP minister Amarmani Tripathi a proclaimed offender in a 2001 kidnapping case after he failed to appear before it despite several summonses and dodged a non-bailable arrest warrant issued against him.

Appearing for Tripathi, advocate Rakesh Mishra Wednesday filed an application before the court, seeking its direction to recall the Non-Bailable Warrant (NBW) issued against Tripathi.

"The court, however, rejected my application and declared my client Amarmani Tripathi a proclaimed offender," Mishra said. Confirming this, government counsel Devanand Singh said the court would take up the matter



Four-time former MLA Amarmani Tripathi

next on October 16.

Amarmani is undergoing treatment at different hospitals in different places, Mishra said when asked about the former minister's whereabouts.

On August 24, the UP government ordered the premature release of Tripathi, the four-time ex-MLA, and his wife Madhumani, serving life imprisonment in 2003 murder case of poet Madhumani Shukla in Lucknow. The government had stated that Tripathi and his wife had "good behaviour while serving the term". The prison department had informed the court about their release.

Hasina's daughter next WHO regional head Rajeev vs Pinarayi govt in Kerala: A long-running saga

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 1

BANGLADESH'S CANDIDATE Saima Wazed, who is the daughter of the country's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, was nominated as the regional director of World Health Organization's South East Asia Region Wednesday. She won against Nepal's candidate Dr Shambhu Acharya, who has been working in the office of the WHO director general since 2013. She will succeed India's Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, who was the first woman to hold the office, and completed two five-year terms.

Her nomination will be submitted during the WHO executive board meeting in January and she will assume office in February 2024.

After the announcement, she said on X:

"Thank you to @WHOSEARO Member States for choosing me to be their next Regional Director! I would like to pay tribute to our outgoing RD, Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, for her decade of service to the public health of our region. A special tribute as well for my fellow nominee in this race, Dr Acharya. In his long & distinguished career, he has been an invaluable asset to @WHO - and I hope our



Saima Wazed. @WHOSEARO

region will continue to benefit from his knowledge & experience. I look forward to building a healthier South-East Asia."

the field of autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders. She has been the chairperson of Bangladesh's National Advisory Committee on Neurodevelopmental Disorders since 2012.

She has also been working as a technical expert on autism and mental health disorder at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital since 2022.

Regarding her vision, Saima said it is to work together for the SEARO region to better prepare for the next pandemic.

This is extremely important keeping in mind that the WHO is currently working on developing a legally binding pandemic

treaty that can ensure equitable access to medical countermeasures such as diagnostics, drugs, and vaccines during a health emergency.

Recalling her childhood, Saima says on her website that although people "incorrectly" assume she has lived a life of privilege as the granddaughter of the Father of the Nation (Sheikh Mujibur Rahman), "my earliest memories were that of growing up in India as a refugee."

She completed her high school and college in South India but has lived, studied, and worked in the UK, USA, Canada, and UAE besides Bangladesh and India.

THE BITTER exchange between Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar and Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan over the recent blasts in the state, and the case against Chandrasekhar by the state government, come on the back of frequent clashes between the two sides.

The Union Minister of State, who belongs to Kerala, holds a majority stake in Asianet News. It is via the TV channel that Chandrasekhar and the Vijayan government have often locked horns. The BJP has said that the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government filed the case against Chandrasekhar, the Union Minister of State for Electronics and IT, and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, to "propitiate extremist elements".

It was in 2006 that Chandrasekhar acquired a stake in Asianet channels (Asianet, Asianet News, and Asianet Plus), months after becoming a member of the Rajya Sabha. He was an Independent member of the House till 2018, when he was re-elected from Karnataka. He was inducted into the Union Cabinet in July 2021.

In July 2020, the CPI(M) announced a boycott of news debates



Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan; and Union MoS Rajeev Chandrasekhar.

on Asianet News, accusing the channel of not giving room to its representatives. That boycott was withdrawn in October that year. In April 2022, there was another skirmish between the CPI(M) and Asianet. CPI(M) central committee member and Rajya Sabha MP Elamaram Kareem filed a police complaint against an Asianet News anchor, Vinu V John, for allegedly instigating mob violence against him during a debate. Even as it has now ended its boycott of the channel, the CPI(M) continues to boycott debates on it anchored by John.

In July 2022, after BJP Yuva Morcha worker Praveen Nattaru was killed in Dakshina Kannada district, and a probe found that the assailants had used a Kerala registered bike, Chandrasekhar had accused the state of having become "a safe haven" for radical elements. Naming the now-banned PFI and its political wing, the SDPI, he said outposts such as them "enjoy political protection from some

quarters in the Kerala government". In June this year, a journalist from Asianet News and four others were booked on a complaint by CPI(M) students' union leader Arsho P M, who was deemed 'failed' by the college after initial results showed him as having 'passed' an examination. Last month, the police dropped the case against the journalist, citing lack of evidence.

Recently, Asianet News Executive Editor Sindhu Suryakumar, its Kozhikode regional editor Shajahan Kaliyath and Kannur reporter Noufal Bin Yousaf were booked under the POCSO Act, based on an allegation by CPI(M)-backed legislator P V Anwar that the channel had aired fake news using a minor girl.

What is interesting is that the Kerala BJP too has clashed with Asianet News on and off, including after Chandrasekhar bought his stake in the channel. In 2015, the state unit announced a boycott of Asianet News, claiming the channel was dominated by "journalists with Left background".

This lasted a few months. In 2012, Union minister V Muraliedharan refused to allow reporters from Asianet News at his official press meetings, saying the party was boycotting the channel over its coverage of the post-poll violence in West Bengal. It was only in July 2023 that the BJP decided to end its two-year-old non-cooperation with the channel.

Meet on J&K security situation

Srinagar: The security situation in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir was reviewed at a high-level meeting here on Wednesday in the wake of the recent militant attacks in Kashmir. Top security officials in Jammu and Kashmir took a review of the security situation in the Union Territory and the functioning of the security grid on Wednesday, officials said. The

meeting of the Unified Headquarters discussed the security-related aspects in the Union Territory, the officials said. Senior officers of the police, Army, CAPFs and civil administration attended the meeting. The meeting assumed significance in the backdrop of the recent spate of attacks in the valley in which a police personnel and a non-local labourer were killed, while another policeman was critically injured. The meeting discussed measures to stop the killings of civilians. PTI

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER E-tender No. ETC/MU/T-33/2023-24 is invited for construction of LILO of 132 KV Saharanpur-Chuttamalpur line at 132 KV Substation Dudhali (under construction) under Electricity Transmission Division-I, Saharanpur. E-tender is being uploaded on www.etender.up.nic.in. Estimated cost of work: Rs. 140.23 Lacs only (Excluding GST). EMD cost Rs. 140000.00 Cost of tender documents including GST: Rs. 1770/- Scheduled date & time of submission of bid: Up to 04.12.2023 by 17:00 Hrs., Scheduled date and time of opening of Part-I: 05.12.2023 at 12:00 Hrs. Opening of Part-II of the tender shall be intimated through E-Portal. For Detailed information, please visit website www.etender.up.nic.in for any corrections/ amendments/modifications/ extensions till the date of submission of tender and thereafter. (Manoj Kumar Agrahari) Superintending Engineer Electricity Transmission Circle Muzaffarnagar. "Save Electricity in the interest of the Nation" पत्रांक: 125. 1507/ वि.प.म. (ETC)/मु.नगर (MZN) दिनांक 01.11.2023

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
On behalf of the President of India, acting through Chief Project Manager/Gati Shakti, North Eastern Railway, Iztanagar invites the following e-Tender: S.No. - 1, E-Tender No. - CPM-GS-IZN-2023-31. Name of work: Relocation of RPF Barrek & SSE/C & W office at Lalkuan station in connection with construction of 12.0 mtr. wide FOB under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme and any other works in the jurisdiction of Dy. Chief Engineer/Gati Shakti/ Iztanagar. Approximate Value: 80,06,441.56. Earnest Money - 1,60,100.00. Cost of tender form (Rs.) Nil. Completion Period - 06 (Six) Months. Bidding Start date - 08.11.2023. Last date of submission of above E-Tender up to 15.00 hrs. on 22.11.2023. Date of opening of above E-Tender on 15.30 hrs. on 22.11.2023. Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria, terms & conditions is available on website <http://ireps.gov.in> in Hindi and English version of tender notice, English version will hold good and will be followed. CPROM - 393 Dy. CE/GS/IZN "Never travel on roof and foot boards"

RailTel
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
CIN No. L64202DL2000G0107905
e-Tender No. RailTel/WR/E-Tender/01/2023-24/ IVFT/OFC Work/02 Dated 27.10.2023
RailTel/Western Region invites open E-Tender for "Connectivity of IVFT Organization at 4 locations through OFC network"
Tender Notice and Tender Document are available on <https://www.railtelindia.com/> and can be downloaded from the e-tendering portal <https://railtel.envida.com/>. All future Addendum/Corrigendum will be uploaded on RailTel website and e-tendering portal only.
Western Railway Microwave Complex, Senapati Bapat Marg, Mahalaxmi, Mumbai - 400013
Phone: 91 (22) 24923907
Fax: 91 (22) 24923913

GUJARAT URJA VIKAS NIGAM LIMITED
CIN U40109GJ2004SG0045195
ISO 9001 -2015 Certified Company
Sardar Patel Vidyal Bhavan, Racecourse, Vadodra 390007
PBX: (0265) 2310582-86, www.guvnl.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
GUVNL invites tender for Purchase of Power through Competitive Bidding Process Followed by Reverse E-Auction from 500 MW Grid Connected Hybrid RE Projects with "Greenhouse Option" of additional 500 MW through RfS No. GUVNL / 500 MW / Hybrid RE (Phase I) dated 01.11.2023. For tender documents, please visit the website www.bharatelectronicstender.com and www.guvnl.com. The last date of bid submission is 28-11-2023
Date: 02/11/2023 General Manager (RE)

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system
Principal Chief Materials Manager, 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:-
S. No. Tender No. Brief Description Qty. Closing Date
01 04230114 SHELL GADUS S5 V42P 2.5 GREASE 2114 KGS 24.11.23
02 19230994B GEAR BOX CASE (MACHINED) FOR WAP-5 LOCO 11 NOS 27.11.23
03 14230017D INHIBITOR CORROSION COOLANT PREMIX 6240 LTR 28.11.23
04 06230039A STAINLESS STEEL SHEET 20 SWG 12783 KGS 28.11.23
05 092323277 DOOR CHAINLESS COTTER 13343 NOS 29.11.23
06 09232034 P.U. LINING FOR TOP & BOTTOM HOUSING 2695 SET 30.11.23
07 02232427 DIESEL LOCOMOTIVE STARTER LEAD ACID BATTERY 8V/450AH 321 NOS 30.11.23
08 77235557 DIGGING PLATE ASSEMBLY 36 NOS 01.12.23
09 07231161B DRAW BAR & CASTLE NUT 2532 NOS 04.12.23
10 06225116B M.S. PLATE-2500X10X12500MM 1305000 KGS 05.12.23
11 09232084A CONTROL ROD 5196 NOS 26.12.23
NOTE-1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained.
Tender Notice No.: 65/2023-2024 Dated: 01/11/2023 3417/23
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

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

No. Tender Online RCK - 39/23 Letter No.- 4194 Date - 27.10.23

e-Procurement NOTICE
1. Name of the work : Tender for the Road Works under (CMRL) & Bridge Works under (BSY) in the Dist. of Kendrapara & Jajpur.
2. Class of Contractor : As specified in the Column-6 of the Annexure.
3. Time of Completion : As specified in the Column-7 of the Annexure.
4. Detail Projects : As per Annexure attached
5. Other Details :
Procurement Officer Bid Identification No. Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From To Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification Technical Bid Financial Bid
1 Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara- Jajpur 09.11.2023 11.00 A.M. 24.11.2023 05.30 P.M. 23.11.2023 up to 02.00 P.M. 25.11.2023 at 11.00 A.M. Will be intimated later
Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersorissa.gov.in
Chief Construction Engineer Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara-Jajpur OIPR - 25129/11/0047/2324

शिक्षा विभाग
(Expression of Interest)
(अति अल्पकालीन सूचना)
मकान मालिक/रीयल स्टेट कंपनियाँ कृपया ध्यान दें !
शिक्षा विभाग में हाल ही में 1 लाख से अधिक विद्यालय अध्यापकों को नियुक्ति हुई है, जो बिहार लोक सेवा आयोग से चयनित होकर आए हैं। इन विद्यालय अध्यापकों को शीघ्र ही विभिन्न जिलों के दूरस्थ प्रखण्डों एवं गांवों में स्थित विद्यालयों में पदस्थापित किया जाएगा, जहाँ इनके रहने/आवासन की व्यवस्था हेतु यह विभाग प्रयास कर रहा है। इसके अतिरिक्त शिक्षा विभाग में पूर्व से लगभग 4 लाख शिक्षक कार्यरत हैं, जो विभिन्न प्रखण्ड एवं गांवों के दूरस्थ स्थानों के विद्यालय में जाकर अध्यापन का काम करते हैं।
यह देखा गया है कि पूरे राज्य में, विशेष तौर पर दूरस्थ क्षेत्रों में, मकानों एवं आवासन की अनुपलब्धता के कारण कई शिक्षकों को जिला मुख्यालय में मकान किराए पर लेना पड़ता है, जिससे उन्हें दूरस्थ गांवों में स्थित विद्यालयों में आने-जाने में काफी समय एवं पैसा खर्च करना पड़ता है। उल्लेखनीय है कि शिक्षा विभाग का वार्षिक बजट का लगभग 80% शिक्षकों के वेतन में व्यय होता है। शिक्षा विभाग प्रत्येक वर्ष अध्यापकों/शिक्षकों के वेतन पर लगभग 33,000 करोड़ रुपए खर्च करता है और औसतन 8 प्रतिशत HRA (मकान किराया भत्ता) प्रत्येक शिक्षक को दिया जाता है। इस अनुसार यह 8 प्रतिशत की राशि लगभग ₹ 2500 करोड़ होती है। अतः शिक्षा विभाग का यह विचार है कि उक्त राशि से मकान/भवन पर्याप्त संख्या में लीज एवं किराए पर लिया जाए ताकि शिक्षकों को उनके विद्यालय के समीप बेहतर आवासन की व्यवस्था सुलभ कराई जा सके।
शिक्षा विभाग का यह प्रस्ताव है कि न केवल जिला मुख्यालय स्तर पर अपितु अनुमण्डल/प्रखण्ड स्तर एवं यदि संभव हो तो पंचायत मुख्यालय के स्तर पर शिक्षकों की आवासन की व्यवस्था किराए अथवा दीर्घकालिक लीज पर भवन/कमरे लेकर की जाय जहाँ शिक्षक अपने संबंधित विद्यालय से निकटतम दूरी पर रह सकें। इस हेतु शिक्षा विभाग स्वयं मकान मालिक/लीजकर्ता को मासिक रूप से किराए की राशि सीधे भुगतान करेगा।
अपने अध्यापक/शिक्षकों के लिए आवासन की व्यवस्था दूरस्थ क्षेत्र में भी करने के उद्देश्य से दो प्रकार के मॉडल पर शिक्षा विभाग विचार कर रहा है, जो निम्नवत् हैं:-
(क) इस विज्ञापन के जरिए वैसे मकान मालिक/बहुमंजिली इमारतों के मालिकों से प्रस्ताव आमंत्रित किया जा रहा है कि वे कितने मकान, किस जिले के किस प्रखंड एवं ग्राम में उपलब्ध करा सकते हैं, जो पहले से ही बना हुआ है और शिक्षा विभाग उन्हें किराए/लीज पर तुरंत (फौरी तौर पर) ले सकता है।
(ख) उपरोक्त के अतिरिक्त शिक्षा विभाग Real Estate Companies एवं अन्य फर्मों/व्यक्तियों से भी प्रस्ताव आमंत्रित करता है कि वह जिला मुख्यालय, अनुमण्डल मुख्यालय एवं प्रखंड मुख्यालय पर ऐसी बहुमंजिली इमारतें बनाएँ जहाँ केवल विभाग के शिक्षकों के आवासन की व्यवस्था हो। ये बहुमंजिली इमारतें निजी कंपनियों अपने खर्च पर बनाएँगी और शिक्षा विभाग उन्हें दीर्घकालिक लीज पर लेगा और प्रत्येक माह किराए का भुगतान करेगा।
उपरोक्त सुझाव के अतिरिक्त यदि कोई और मॉडल/सुझाव शिक्षा विभाग को प्राप्त होता है तो उसका भी स्वागत है।
इस विज्ञापन के जरिए शिक्षा विभाग प्रारंभिक रुचि (Initial Expression of Interest) सभी इच्छुक व्यक्तियों/मकान मालिकों/Real Estate Companies एवं अन्य फर्मों से आमंत्रित करता है कि वह कितने फ्लैट/मकान फौरी तौर पर उपलब्ध करा सकते हैं और अगले एक या दो वर्षों में कितने मकान अतिरिक्त बना सकते हैं।
कृपया उपरोक्त के अनुसार प्रारंभिक रुचि हेतु अपना प्रारंभिक प्रस्ताव इस विभागीय वेबसाइट <https://state.bihar.gov.in/educationbihar> पर जाकर संबंधित लिंक पर क्लिक कर आवेदन समर्पित कर सकते हैं। आवेदन भरने की अंतिम तिथि 04 नवम्बर, 2023 संख्या 05-00 बजे तक है।
तत्पश्चात् शिक्षा विभाग द्वारा इच्छुक प्रस्ताव दाताओं के साथ एक गोष्ठी पटना में की जाएगी, जहाँ पर आपके सुझाव पर विस्तृत चर्चा की जाएगी। सभी इच्छुक व्यक्तियों की प्रस्तावों/जिज्ञासाओं का उत्तर दिया जाएगा और तत्पश्चात् विभाग के द्वारा पुनः विज्ञापन निकालकर वित्तीय प्रस्ताव आमंत्रित किया जाएगा।
इस संबंध में एक गोष्ठी दिनांक 08 नवम्बर, 2023 को 12:00 बजे की जाएगी, जिसमें इच्छुक व्यक्ति/फर्म भाग ले सकते हैं और अपना विचार/सुझाव दे सकते हैं। इच्छुक व्यक्ति अपने आवेदन में यह भी इंगित करें कि क्या वह गोष्ठी में भाग लेने के लिए आना चाहते हैं या नहीं, ताकि तदनुसार गोष्ठी के आयोजन की व्यवस्था की जा सके।
उक्त सूचना state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर भी देखा जा सकता है।
PR-011156 (Education) 2023-24
निदेशक (प्रशासन) -सह-अपर सचिव
नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, PWD (ROADS)
ASSAM, CHANDMARI, GUWAHATI-03

No. CE/CW/27/2023-24/01
PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER
The Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Roads), Assam on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites bid from approved and eligible contractors registered with Assam PWD (Roads) for one work, under SOPD (G) for the year 2023-24 in Kamrup (Metropolitan) district of Assam.
Scheme is not yet sanctioned by the competent authority. In the event of non-sanction of the scheme, bids may be cancelled and no claim what so ever on this account shall be entertained from the bidders
Details may be seen at website- assamtenders.gov.in and also at the office of the undersigned in the "City Works Cell", during office hours.
Chief Engineer PWD (Roads), Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3
Janasanyog/CF/3322/23/02-Nov-23

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (ROADS),
PWRD, ASSAM CHANDMARI :: GUWAHATI -3

No. CE/DEV/TB/545/2023-24/01
SHORT NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST AND FINANCIAL PROPOSAL FOR PROVIDING CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR PREPARATION OF DETAILED PROJECT REPORTS (DPRs) FOR IMPROVEMENT/UP-GRADATION OF 1000 KMS (APPROX.) ROADS UNDER ASOM MALA - 02 IN THE STATE OF ASSAM.
The Chief Engineer (Roads), PWRD, Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati -3, invites Expression of Interest and Financial Proposal from eligible Consultants for Preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for Improvement/Up-Gradation of 1000 Kms (Approx.) Roads Under Asom Mala 02 in the State of Assam. Detailed description of project, Eligibility criteria, Scope of Services and payment of Professional fees etc. given in the Terms of Reference may be seen at <http://www.apwd.in> from 06.11.2023.
The last date of submission of proposals by interested Consultants is 22.11.2023 upto 2:00 P.M.
Chief Engineer (Roads), PWRD, Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati - 3

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

No. CE/DEV/TB/08/2023-24/33
CANCELLATION NOTICE
This is for general information to all concerned that bids invited for works under Mukhya Mantri Nagariya Pakipath Nirman Achani (MMNPNA) for the year 2023-24 vide press notice inviting tender no. CE/DEV/TB/08/2023-24/21 dated 27.09.2023 is hereby cancelled due to technical reasons.
Chief Engineer (Roads), PWRD, Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3.
JANASANYOG/CF/3335/23/02-NOV/23

कानपुर विद्युत आपूर्ति कम्पनी लिमिटेड, 14/71, सिविल लाइन्स "केसा हाउस" कानपुर
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Ex-IRS officer Karnani, accused in graft case, granted bail by HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, NOVEMBER 1

THE GUJARAT High Court last week granted bail to former Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer Santosh Karnani, accused of accepting bribe from an Ahmedabad-based realtor group. The court gave him bail on the ground that there was no possibility of the trial being concluded in the near future and that he, being a public servant, would be available for the trial.

In the order made public this week on the bail given to Karnani, who was earlier the additional commissioner (Income Tax, Ahmedabad), Justice MR Mengdey reasoned that the probe by the CBI is over and that the agency has already filed its chargesheet against Karnani.

Noting that the record indicates that the offences alleged against Karnani are punishable with imprisonment up to seven years "and there is no possibility of trial being concluded in the near future," the court also observed that Karnani "being a public servant, would be available for trial."

Earlier, officials had said that when the Ahmedabad city Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) laid a trap to catch Karnani in the act of accepting the bribe, he had managed to escape and had allegedly thrown his phone into the Sabarmati River. The ACB registered a case on October 4, 2022, and owing to the gravity of offence, the case was transferred from the ACB to CBI, officials added. The CBI's Gandhinagar unit went on to register a case against Karnani on October 12, 2022, under Section 7 (offence relating to public servants being bribed) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, which carries a maximum sentence of seven years. In June, the CBI filed its chargesheet against two IRS officers who were ex-income tax officials at Ahmedabad, and another person, all of whom are accused of taking a bribe of Rs 30 lakh from Ahmedabad city-based Safal Construction Private Limited or B Safal Group.

Santosh Karnani, as per the allegations, had demanded and accepted a bribe of Rs 30 lakh which was deposited in an account named 'Vardhman', maintained by an angadia (courier) firm Dhara in Ahmedabad. ACB Gujarat alleged that when their team reached Karnani's office, he escaped from his office by creating a ruckus during proceedings, and before escaping, he had handed over two mobile handsets to Vivek Johri, the then Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax, Ahmedabad. Johri has been chargesheeted by CBI. Johri allegedly facilitated Karnani's escape and also disposed of the said two mobile handsets of Karnani by throwing them in Sabarmati.

Tiger claw case: Karnataka HC stays proceedings against BJP MP Jaggesh for 4 weeks

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 1

THE KARNATAKA High Court Monday granted temporary relief to Karnataka BJP Rajya Sabha MP Jaggesh in the tiger claw pendant case. A single-judge bench of Justice Nagaprasanna stayed the forest department proceedings against him for four weeks until the next hearing on November 29. The forest department had raided his home after he was reportedly seen wearing a pendant made out of a tiger claw. On October 25, a notice was issued to him to appear before officials with the said pendant but the raids were conducted the same day, according to Jaggesh, who had moved the high court on the issue. Jaggesh argued that by conducting the raid on the same day itself, he did not have the opportunity to respond to the notice.

The bench inquired what the "hurry" was as the forest department had already issued the notice. The forest department argued that the raid had been carried out since information had been received that Jaggesh would try to surrender a fake tiger claw pendant instead. This had come in the wake of the arrest of Bigg Boss Kannada contestant Varthun Santosh for wearing a similar pendant. Complaints were also filed against Jaggesh, JD(S) leader Nikhil Kumaraswamy (both actors-turned-politicians), actor Darshan, producer Rockline Venkatesh and others seeking action against them for wearing such pendants in violation of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

'Arab countries are united on this: No more transfer, displacement by Israel'

AMBASSADOR OF Jordan to India, MOHAMED EL KAYED, speaks to DIVYAA about India's abstention at UNGA on the resolution for immediate ceasefire brought in by Jordan, the future of the Israel-Hamas war and possible solutions, and why Arab countries won't take in people displaced by the war. Edited excerpts:

The Israel-Hamas war is already in the fourth week, do you see any sign of a ceasefire any time soon?

I hope so. I hope that we witness a ceasefire in order to save the lives of the children and others dying in Gaza because of the Israeli bombardment.

Jordan has submitted a resolution in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), calling for an immediate ceasefire. The war has been on for over three weeks now and over 8,000 people have been killed so far. The war must stop in order to let humanitarian aid reach Gaza.

India abstained from voting for the resolution that Jordan brought in the UNGA because it did not mention Hamas. What is your comment on that?

This is a sovereign decision by India and we respect that. We understand very well that each country takes a position according to their interests. That's

India's decision and we don't interfere in that. On the other hand, we think, India has an important role to play concerning humanitarian aid and the historic Indian position regarding the problems Palestinians face for long. So, India had abstained from the voting to stay in the middle, to have a role in the future on both sides. I reiterate that this is an Indian decision and we respect the way India took their stand.

India is also perceived to be a friend of both Israel and Palestine. Do you think India has a bigger role to play?

I think India can — as an emerging power in the world now and after the initiatives it took like the G20 and Voice of Global South dialogue and all those things. India is getting involved in international issues very actively and they can play some positive role in ending the war and saving people's lives.

When we talk about saving people's lives, there is also this hostage crisis that Israel has been talking about.

I think Jordan was very clear on this. We call for the release of all hostages, regardless of which side (they come from) and even the resolution submitted to the UN that was adopted by the General Assembly called for the release of all hostages regardless



THE EXPRESS
INTERVIEW
WITH
MOHAMED EL KAYED
AMBASSADOR OF JORDAN TO INDIA

of what's happening. Innocent people ought to be freed.

There's a lot of collateral damage on both sides. What do you think is the way forward for the world to press both sides to prevent civilian killings?

Actually, you should know that the problem is not new. We're talking about over 50-60 years of the Palestinian problems, so we are not new to the situation. There was some military ac-

tion between Gaza and Israel in the past as well — 2014 and 2018.

His Majesty (King Abdullah II of Jordan), in his speech in Cairo, was very clear about this — that there is human suffering, and that should end. People are getting killed — including children, women and the elderly. Her Majesty (Queen Rania Al Abdullah of Jordan) also stressed on the need to end the hostility and to save people's lives.

We in Jordan are very supportive of the two-state solution for the Palestinian problem. And we always say that solving the Palestinian problem is of utmost interest to Jordan, as the lives of Jordanians and Palestinians are intertwined. So, we call for a ceasefire in order to save lives.

Israel is saying that this is going to be a decisive war...

The word war is simplifying the matter; it's a genocide. So, war is not the right term to use, and Israel has always treated the Palestinians in a harsh way. You should ask Israelis when they're going to stop. Mostly, the whole world is asking for the war to stop. It's the responsibility of Israelis: they are invading Gaza, putting their tanks and artillery in Gaza, killing whoever is showing up.

You mentioned Queen Rania's interview with CNN in which she also put the responsibility

on Western countries for aggravating the war

It's not putting responsibility. Her Majesty was saying that Palestinian women and mothers are suffering as well. Why is this different look for the problems faced by Palestinians? We should have international standards regarding this, whether it's a Palestinian, a Ukrainian, or a Jordanian. No double-standards should be applied here.

This offensive is also going to create a lot of displacement and refugee crisis. So, what do you think of those who get displaced?

Israel wishes to displace and transfer people. We are completely opposed to that and we will not accept that. And, I think, all Arab countries are united on this, no more transfer or displacement by the Israeli forces; that's a red line for all Arab countries.

Do you think the UN has been ineffective so far in stopping this conflict?

I think the UN was very clear; the Secretary-General (Antonio Guterres) was very clear in his speech. But would the Israelis allow the UN to work in Gaza? Would they allow the UN agency to do their job in Gaza or not? What I have been saying is that nobody can do his job in Gaza because of the Israeli invasion.

Mamata: Centre planning to arrest all Opp leaders

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 1

FACING THE heat over the arrest of her minister Jyoti Priya Mallick by a central agency in a corruption case, West Bengal Chief Minister on Wednesday defended him and hit out at the BJP-led government at the Centre, saying it was planning to send all Opposition leaders in jail ahead of the Lok Sabha elections.

"Before the next year's (Lok Sabha) elections, they (BJP) are trying to gag the voice of all the Opposition parties. They are planning to arrest all the Opposition leaders so that they can vote for themselves in an empty country. They are hatching a conspiracy," Banerjee, who heads the Trinamool Congress (TMC), told mediapersons at Nabanna, the state secretariat.

"They (Centre) have sent a notice to Arvind (Kejriwal). Five-six MPs have said their phones have been hacked... Let them continue to do it. We cannot humiliate our motherland," she said, referring to the ED summoning Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in an excise policy-linked money-laundering case and recent statements made by Opposition MPs, including TMC MP Mahua Moitra, claiming that they had received an alert



Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. She backed her minister who was arrested over a PDS 'scam'. Express

from Apple warning them of "state-sponsored attackers" trying to hack their phones.

Asked about the arrest of state Forest Minister Jyoti Priya Mallick by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), Banerjee said, "This is a political question. This is not the appropriate platform to answer. My party will answer this. Of course, he (Mallick) is our minister."

Praising Mallick's performance as the Food and Supplies Minister, Banerjee claimed that the alleged ration scam took place during the Left Front regime

Mallick was the latest minister to be arrested by the central probe agency. The 66-year-old TMC leader was arrested from

COURT DISMISSES 'ANTHEM INSULT' PLEA AGAINST CM

Mumbai: Dismissing a complaint by a BJP member against Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee over alleged disrespect to the national anthem, a Mumbai court has observed that she was 'reciting' some words of the anthem and the same was different from 'singing' the entire anthem. Lawyer Vivekanand Gupta, who filed the plea, had alleged that Banerjee began singing the national anthem while seated at a public function in Mumbai in December 2021. He claimed she later stood up, sang two verses of the anthem, and abruptly stopped and left the venue. ENS

his Kolkata residence last Friday after a marathon search and questioning by ED officials in connection with alleged irregularities in the public distribution system (PDS).

The ED has claimed that money received as kickbacks from the ration scam was laundered allegedly by the minister through three shell companies.

FUND EMBEZZLEMENT CASE

SC grants pre-arrest bail to Setalvad and Anand, asks them to cooperate with police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 1

GRANTING ANTICIPATORY bail to activist Teesta Setalvad and her husband Javed Anand, the Supreme Court on Wednesday made absolute its order granting them interim protection from arrest in a case of alleged embezzlement of funds meant for victims of the 2002 post-Godhra riots.

A three-judge bench presided by Justice S K Kaul also asked the two to cooperate with the probe by the Gujarat Police into the charges against them.

The bench, also comprising Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia and Justice P K Mishra, was hearing their plea challenging the 2015 Gujarat High Court order denying them anticipatory bail in the case.

The couple had also sought expunction of certain comments by the HC in its February 2019 order while granting her anticipatory bail. Disposing the plea, the SC said, "It is trite to say that any observation made at the stage of bail will hardly have any influence on the trial. We are not required to say anything more than that."

The bench noted that no

chargesheet has been filed in the case yet. On this, Additional Solicitor General (ASG) S V Raju — appearing for the CBI — said the delay was because Setalvad and Anand were not cooperating.

Asking them to cooperate, the bench said in its order, "The special leave petitions were filed challenging the grant of bail on certain terms and conditions. A considerable passage of time has already elapsed. On our query, we are informed that even the chargesheet has not been filed. Learned ASG submits that there is an element of lack of cooperation on part of respondent and that is why the chargesheet has not been filed. Be that as it may, all that we would like to say at this stage is, respondents will cooperate will investigation as and when they are required to."

The couple is accused of misappropriating funds raised for building a museum at the Gulbarg Society in Ahmedabad in honour of its residents, who were killed in the communal clashes that followed the Godhra train burning. Fifty-nine people were burnt to death when the S6 coach of the Sabarmati Express was set on fire by a mob.

Odisha hospital owner duped by caller posing as minister

SUJIT BISOIYI
BHUBANESWAR, NOVEMBER 1

POLICE IN Cuttack arrested a transgender person Tuesday for allegedly duping the owner of a private hospital last month by mimicking Odisha agriculture minister Ranendra Pratap Swain.

The accused, Soumya Ranjan Pradhan, alias Lucky and Sulagna, (30), is from Angul district.

The complainant, owner of a Cuttack hospital, alleged that her manager received a call on September 7, and the caller posed as the personal assistant to the minister.

"The owner called back from her personal mobile number. The accused spoke to her in the disguised voice of the minister," said a senior police officer. The accused handed the phone to a "religious figure", who said she was organising a hawan and required ₹46,000. "The complainant paid ₹46,500 from her bank account to a UPI number. Later, she found she had been duped," the officer said.

Police said the accused visited the office of the agriculture minister seeking donations, and allegedly learnt how the minister spoke. More than 100 people have been targeted by the accused in the past two years, who has made ₹10 lakh from them, police said.

Chhattisgarh girl 'confined, raped for days' by Pune RPF cop, NGO staffer

ATI KH RASHID
PUNE, NOVEMBER 1

A 17-YEAR-OLD girl from Chhattisgarh who had eloped with her friend and arrived at Pune railway station was allegedly confined and raped for days by a Railway Protection Force (RPF) head constable and a staffer with an NGO that operates for distressed children and the elderly at the railway station.

The NGO staffer, identified as Kamlesh Tiwari (50), was arrested Tuesday, while RPF constable Anil Pawar (45), is absconding. Additional Superintendent of Police (GRP) Ganesh Shinde said.

The alleged crime took place between September 12 and 17 in the rooms of the railway colony which are used by the NGO, said the police.

The case was transferred to Pune Government Railway Police (GRP) on September 30 by the Chhattisgarh Police.

The girl filed a complaint with the local police station in Chhattisgarh after returning home following the alleged assaults and confinement that lasted for over a week.

"Chhattisgarh Police informed us that the boy with whom the girl had eloped had also been booked by the local police and arrested," Shinde said.

The victim, a class 10 student, on September 9 this year, fled her aunt's house with her 25-

year-old friend who promised her marriage. The couple reached Pune on September 12.

"At Pune railway station, we were approached by three people who took us to a uniformed policeman. We were made to sit at the police station for a long time by the policeman, and then taken to a room in the railway colony where we were locked," the victim said in her statement.

Later, the policeman visited them in the room in civilian clothes, she said. He connected her with her family over the cellphone after taking her parents phone number, she added.

"He returned to the room at 1.30 am and sexually assaulted me. I was then again taken to the other room where my friend was locked," she said.

The next day (September 13), a staffer at the NGO that runs the shelter visited them, she said, and he allegedly sexually assaulted her after taking her to a separate room.

He allegedly also demanded Rs 6,000 from the couple, which the boy arranged by calling up a friend back home.

The woman alleged that the two repeatedly raped her until September 17, when her family visited Pune and took her back to Chhattisgarh.

She shared the information about the assaults with the police and later recorded her statement in the presence of a judge.

For protest seeking land for Dalits, 79-yr-old former IPS officer spends 3 weeks in jail

ASAD REHMAN
LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 1

RETIRED IPS officer and social activist S R Darapuri is back at his Lucknow home after spending three weeks in a Gorakhpur jail. Darapuri, who will turn 80 next month, was arrested on October 11 after he took part in a protest at the Gorakhpur Divisional Commissioner's office demanding land for landless Dalit families.

He was among nine activists arrested on charges of vandalism and attempt to murder under IPC section 307. A French research scholar, Valentine Jean, was also arrested, but booked in a separate case under the Foreigners Act after he participated in the protest.

"The police and administration arrested me and the others because they don't want such protests to happen again. They want to send a message," Darapuri said, adding that booking them for attempt to murder was "an afterthought to keep the arrested persons in jail".

"All the IPC sections mentioned in the FIR were bailable. So, they added the IPC section



By arresting me and others... they want to send a message: SR Darapuri. Vishal Srivastava

307, which is non-bailable. The whole FIR was fictitious. There was no truth in any of the allegations. Our protest was peaceful and I was there for just one hour," Darapuri told *The Indian Express*.

Darapuri was granted bail by the Gorakhpur Additional Sessions Court on October 28 and released from Gorakhpur jail on Tuesday evening. Three of the nine arrested are still in jail, waiting for their paperwork to be completed.

On his three weeks in jail, Darapuri said, "It was difficult because of my age and the health issues. I couldn't sit because of Parkinson's. And if I sat, I couldn't get up. Plus, there was overcrowding in toilets. Since I have an issue

in my prostate, I struggled."

The October 10 protest was held under the banner of Ambedkar Jan Morchha, headed by activist Shivan Kumar Nirala.

"I reached Gorakhpur at 10 am on October 10. Then, I went to the protest site and left around 12.30 pm. I spoke for 10-15 minutes only. We were demanding the government to allot one acre of land to landless Dalit families," said Darapuri, who has been raising the issue of land reforms and redistribution of land to backward sections of society, including Dalits, tribals and other communities.

According to Darapuri, police kept him in illegal custody for 12 hours. "Police showed my arrest at 7 pm on October 11, when I was brought to the police station at 7 am that day. That's illegal. The CCTV footage of the hotel, where I stayed, can be checked for corroboration," said the former IPS officer.

Asked about allegations levelled against police by Darapuri, Gorakhpur Circle Officer (Cantt) Manush Pareek said: "I can't comment on the allegations. I have not received any complaint from anyone regarding these allegations. The case is under investigation."

Focus on voters' list, ensure no name skipped: Akhilesh to SP cadre

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 1

IN THE run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav Wednesday convened the party's state executive meeting in Lucknow and instructed party leaders and office-bearers to pay "special attention" to voters' list in the state and start a door-to-door campaign across Uttar Pradesh for updating the list.

The SP has, on multiple occasions, alleged that voters' list in the state has been "altered to suit the BJP and remove SP supporters from it." The state executive meeting on Wednesday was convened by Akhilesh, while national general secretaries Shivalp Yadav, Ram Gopal Yadav and state president Naresh Uttam Patel were in attendance.

Patel said Wednesday that the party has assigned each Vidhan Sabha in the state to a senior leader and has instructed them to work on the booth level to ensure that the voters' list is correct. "In the 2022 Assembly polls, the administration in several places altered the voters' list and removed our (SP) supporters from it. We have told our party leaders that they must focus on getting the voters' list corrected," alleged Patel.

The ruling BJP dismissed the SP's allegations regarding voters' list. A BJP spokesperson said Wednesday: "SP loses elections because people don't support them. There is no other reason."

Akhilesh is attending the first meeting of the state executive being held after its formation in August. The party dissolved its state and national executives after its defeat in the 2022 Assembly polls.



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Opening Session
L to R - Ajay Khanna, Rajeev Batra, Subho Ray, Rahul Sharma, Raman Sidhu, Prema Sagar, Harish Krishnan, K.C. Ravi, T.S. Vishwanath, Vinita Sethi, Virat Bhatia, Medha Girotra, Deepshikha Dharmaraj, Chetan Krishnaswamy, Ishtheyaque Amjad



Ajay Khanna
Forum Chairman & Co-Founder, PAFI



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Sherpa G-20, Government of India



The Road from G20
L to R - Ram Rakkapam, Prema Sagar, Shivnath Thukral, Amitabh Kant, Virat Bhatia, Ajay Khanna, K.C. Ravi



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The Indian EXPRESS

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RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

IN COURT'S COURT

Bombay HC's intervention in pollution crisis is welcome. It must nudge authorities to frame a long-term solution

AN INTERVENTION BY the Bombay High Court has raised hopes of a solution to the city's recurring pollution problem. For the second year running, Mumbai's air quality deteriorated after the withdrawal of the southwest monsoon in October. The metropolis's natural cleansing advantages seem to have been negated by climate vagaries. But as a series of reports in this newspaper has shown, the crisis is, in large measure, a fallout of local governance failures. On Tuesday, a two-judge bench took suo motu cognisance of these reports and sought the response of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board and the Central Pollution Control Board. The court will reportedly also hear other municipalities of cities and suburbs near Maharashtra's capital and pass comprehensive recommendations on November 6.

Judicial involvement has been instrumental in driving action on pollution in other parts of India for more than two decades. In Delhi, where bad air is a persistent hazard, the Supreme Court pulled up the authorities for the umpteenth time on Tuesday. A three-judge bench observed that pollution control measures were not reflecting on the ground and asked the Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh governments to file affidavits, listing corrective measures. The capital's Graded Action Response Plan to tackle particulate emissions is, in fact, a product of the Supreme Court's intervention. In 1998, the apex court's directive — it came into effect in 2001 — made CNG use mandatory for all public transport vehicles in the city. In recent years, the SC has tried to bring Delhi, Punjab and Haryana on the same page to address the longstanding issue of crop stubble burning. Other landmark environmental interventions — closing down polluting units in different parts of the country and the short-lived odd-even scheme in the capital — are either the product of litigation or have been precipitated by court injunctions.

The recourse to the judiciary is symptomatic of a deeper problem — pollution receives attention only when it becomes an emergency. Even in Delhi, authorities continue to treat the symptoms and not the cause for the city's poor air — the complex interplay of geography, particulate matter from tailpipes of vehicles, agricultural activities in neighbouring states and industrial emissions. Building guardrails against pollution without hurting economic growth requires creativity and political will. Concerted action to clean up air rarely makes it manifestos of political parties today. But there's no time to lose. The gravity of the pollution crisis — underlined by several recent reports that join the dots between poor air and public health — makes it imperative for the judiciary to continue nudging state governments, municipalities and pollution control authorities into action. The Mumbai HC must direct the state's authorities to ensure that Maharashtra's capital does not witness a repeat of last year's winter — the city registered "poor" or "very poor" on the Air Quality Index on 66 of the 92 days from November to January.

APPLE'S ALERT

Warning on snooping of Opposition leaders' mobile phones is serious. Government must conduct a transparent investigation

ON TUESDAY, SEVERAL opposition party leaders reported having received a message from Apple that warned them of "state-sponsored attackers trying to remotely compromise" their iPhones. They have alleged surveillance by the government, a charge that Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has refuted. This, however, is not the first time that such allegations have been made. In 2021, as per an investigation by a global investigative journalism initiative, the Pegasus spyware had targeted over 300 mobile phone numbers in India, including those of politicians belonging to opposition parties, civil society and journalists. In August 2022, the Supreme Court did note that the committee formed to probe the issue had found no conclusive evidence of the use of Pegasus spyware on the 29 phones it had examined. But the apex court also said that the central government had not cooperated in the investigation.

The Apple threat notification feature was enabled in 2021. Since then, it has been used to send notifications to individuals in about 150 countries. The company does not provide information on what specifically triggers the warning. But it does note that state-sponsored attackers are "well-funded and sophisticated, and their attacks evolve over time". The technological sophistication in public and private ecosystems means that privacy intrusions today can be greater than before. IT minister Vaishnaw has said that the matter will be investigated — as per reports the investigation would be conducted by CERT-In (Computer Emergency Response Team-India). It must make sure to address all doubts.

The allegations come at a time when the electoral cycle is gathering pace. Five states — Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and Mizoram — are going to the polls in the coming weeks, and the general elections will take place next year. The politicians who have received the warning from Apple span the entire opposition political spectrum — Congress leaders such as Mallikarjun Kharge and Shashi Tharoor, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, CPM's Sitaram Yechury TMC's Mahua Moitra, Shiv Sena (UBT)'s Priyanka Chaturvedi, and AAP's Raghav Chadha. It could well be that private citizens have got similar alerts and have not come out. Such surveillance infringes upon an individual's right to privacy, raises security-related concerns and maligns Indian democracy. The investigation must be carried out in a fair, independent and transparent manner.

OLD AND CHIC

At 88, actor Maggie Smith is the face of a fashion campaign. She makes a strong case for representation

AS THE FACE of Spanish luxury brand Loewe's spring-summer 2024 pre-collection, Maggie Smith cuts a glamorous figure in a faux fur coat, the brand's Puzzle bag in her hand. In another photo, she lounges on a sofa in a black-and-white turtleneck ruffled dress, with another it-bag from the label. In all the images, the British actor looks distinguished. She also looks every bit of her 88 years.

Known for her iconic turns as Jean Brodie (*The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, 1969), Augusta Bertram (*Travels with My Aunt*, 1972), Professor McGonagall (*Harry Potter* films, 2001-2011) and, most recently, Dowager Countess of Grantham (*Downton Abbey* series and films, 2010-2022), Smith, however, is not a trendsetter in her avatar as a model. Despite its abiding fascination with youth, fashion has made a few attempts at age inclusivity in recent years. In 2015, when she was 80, American writer Joan Didion featured in a campaign for the French luxury house Céline. Zeenat Aman, 71, with her silver hair and sass, Rekha, 69, slightly air-brushed but with her appeal intact, have all featured on magazine covers this year. High fashion might be the bastion of the privileged, but on occasions, it is not just for the young.

There's one more reason why the images of Smith, Didion or Aman seem reassuring. It's because they speak of possibilities. Youth can be vexing in its anxieties of trying to make the right impression. Middle age arrives with its fog of fatigue and intimations of mortality. Indeed, as Nora Ephron writes in her collection of essays, *I Feel Bad About My Neck* (2006), "Anything you think is wrong with your body at the age of 35, you will be nostalgic for at the age of 45." Old age is the realm of survivors, those who have made it past the vicissitudes of time. Wrinkled skin and bags under the eyes be damned, if it can come with the promise of their confidence, what's not to like?

The sarkari naukri

Maratha reservation demand underlines a fundamental contradiction in New India's private sector-led story



SANJAY SRIVASTAVA

FOR ALMOST TWO years, one side of the Delhi-Jaipur highway in Gurugram has been the site of an agitation for the creation of an "Ahir regiment". The spot is marked by a large tented space that includes a kitchen, sleeping facilities and toilets. The walls of the tent are decorated with posters of "heroic" figures from Yadav historical memory and banners with traditional as well as modern armaments and slogans. Frequently, men of the community take out marches in the surrounding villages, block traffic ("chakka jam") and hold "interaction sessions" with visiting politicians who are exhorted to support the cause beyond mere words. On my last visit to the site, one of the organisers told me that the "Ahirwal region has provided hundreds of thousands of soldiers. Our community has provided many brave soldiers in significant battles such as Rezang La (1962), Kargil, etc... but still we don't have a regiment! The government is making 28 new regiments, they should also make a 29th, the Ahir regiment."

Since the period of the 11th Five Year Plan (2007-12), various governments have formulated programmes for "skill development" among poor urban and rural youth. This has intensified under the Narendra Modi government. A variety of small and large corporations have been contracted by the government to establish residential Skill Development Centres. The companies, known as Project Implementation Agencies (PIAs), provide training across different "domains" such as Hospitality, Customer Retail Service and Health Care. In 2014, the government created the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), intended to provide a more coordinated focus on training activities that have otherwise been spread across various individual ministries. The Skill India Programme launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015 aimed to train 402 million people by 2022, and the 2015 budget allocated Rs 5,040 crore for skill development. The most significant impetus behind the skills push is to prepare young people for service-sector jobs in the private sector. Some years ago, I was talking to a young man — a Dalit — who was a student at a Skill Development Centre (SDC) in Ranchi. What remains with me of our conversation is his plaintive ques-

tion: "Why can't private jobs be made into government jobs?", he asked. "A government job", he added, "has personality and respect".

Over the past few days, the media has been full of reports of on-going violence in different parts of Maharashtra, relating to the demand for reservations for Marathas. A Maratha activist, Manoj Jarange-Patil, has been on a fast for over a week to force the issue and, on October 30, the house of a politician who made critical comments about Jarange-Patil was burnt down. The reservations-for-Marathas demand has been around for several decades and, over the years, the state government established commissions of inquiry to investigate Maratha "backwardness" as well as offering "Kunbi" or OBC certificates to limited numbers and the courts have weighed on the percentage quota limits.

The Yadav men in Gurugram seeking an Ahir regiment, the skill development trainee in Ranchi, though being trained for a private sector job but seeking a government position, and the Maratha protestors have something important in common. Beyond the obvious politics of caste and concerns with social and economic mobility, they bring to the fore a fundamental conundrum of our times.

This concerns the continuing significance and attraction of the state in the life of the common people at a time when, through multiple sources, we are told that we are in the middle of a very significant transformation. It has become common to suggest that the "New India" is characterised by the overwhelming importance of private enterprise and the unleashing of a creative spirit of entrepreneurialism that had apparently been held in check in previous eras.

The group agitating for a caste-specific army regiment can afford to spend several days at a protest venue as the resources they have acquired through selling land to real estate companies afford them this luxury. The SDCs at which young people are being trained — and where they hanker after government jobs — are run by private companies. And yet in this world, apparently fuelled through the actions of non-state actors, a very large number of people still wish for avenues of social and economic mobility facilitated by the state? Why is this?

An important factor relates to the popular perception that, rather than becoming less important, the state has actually become more so. The arbitrariness of state action against perceived "enemies" of the state has led to a popular perception that the only safe place to be is inside the state. For all its lip service to making people free from the restrictions of excessive state control, we are now in the middle of a situation where state control is even more overwhelming than at earlier points in time. Given this, and the precarity of everyday life for many, it is, perhaps, unsurprising that so many think that they would much rather choose to be where actual power lies. It is all very well to speak of a market-led society and the spirit of free enterprise, but if this happens in a context of an overweening state presence in everyday life, no one is silly enough to actually believe it.

Secondly, while there has no doubt been expansion of private enterprise over the last few decades, this has been accompanied by a situation where the state has abandoned its responsibility towards appropriate regulation of the market. Not over-regulation but just enough to ensure that the most vulnerable are spared the excesses of the market. For example, the persistent efforts at *weakening* labour laws that might ensure decent conditions of work and a modicum of job security has meant that the state has effectively sided with private sector employers over the needs of those least able to protect their own interests. Here too, people recognise that, in the main, state jobs offer a higher standard of "respectability" and security than private sector ones.

In a situation where the state seems the only safe haven against arbitrary action and markets are allowed untrammelled power to determine how we work, it's unsurprising that there is such a strong desire to be part of the state. As long as this state of affairs persists, not many are going to accept Narayana Murthy's advice that a 70-hour week is the way to greater success in life. Smarter perhaps to work half this time and be a part of the state.

The writer is British Academy Global Professor, Department of Anthropology and Sociology, SOAS University of London

A TAX TREATY PROBLEM

As economic realities change, negotiated relations among countries must also adapt



SURANJALI TANDON

TAAX TREATIES ARE not set in stone. The changing contours of legislation and economic circumstances can present interpretive challenges, as observed recently by the Supreme Court. Prior to 1995, India's treaties with France, the Netherlands and Switzerland provided that if it extends the benefit of lower tax rates to other Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) members, that benefit would extend to these three countries. Before 1994, the OECD was a relatively static group and one would imagine India agreed to the terms as it sought foreign capital inflows. Fourteen countries have acceded to the OECD since, including Colombia (2020), Lithuania (2018) and Slovenia (2010).

India, conscious of the economic circumstances in the year of signing the treaty, agreed to special terms with Colombia, Lithuania and Slovenia for the withholding tax on dividends. As it was only in 2020 that India altered treatment of taxable dividends in the hands of the company since 1997, the relative advantages in treaties became relevant. Investors, so far exempt, were now required to withhold taxes on dividends received in India. The accession of the countries to the OECD opened an opportunity for investors from France, Netherlands, and Switzerland to request lower rates. This raised the thorny issue of whether the import of such tax treatment from another treaty could be given automatic effect.

France, the Netherlands and Switzerland issued decrees, under their internal legal

processes to give effect to lower rates retrospectively from the date when Colombia, Lithuania and Slovenia acceded to the OECD. While Switzerland left open the possibility of reversing such an interpretation, in case India disagreed, the others did not. Nevertheless, these were unilaterally issued and in no way indicated India's position.

In the 2021 *Concentrix* case, the Delhi High Court ruled that the beneficial terms of the treaty could be extended without notification. Proceeding on this basis, though knowing well the possibility of a further appeal before the apex court, taxpayers sought a certificate for low tax deduction at source. Taxpayers did not find it useful to seek clarity through an advance ruling. Perhaps this was due to the costs and time involved and the absence of an independent judicial member in the new Board of Advance Ruling. In February 2022, the Central Board of Direct Taxation (CBDT) issued a circular clarifying its position, yet a favourable ruling by the Court would still be available to the taxpayer. Thus, multiple disputes ensued on the matter.

While a most favoured nation (MFN) provision is meant to safeguard against preferential treatment of some countries, the invocation of such benefit without notification undermines the legislative process that needs to be followed for ratification of treaties and amendment of the Income Tax Act.

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While a most favoured nation (MFN) provision is meant to safeguard against preferential treatment of some countries, the invocation of such benefit without notification undermines the legislative process. The beneficial treatment of dividends also varies across the treaties — it is more generally available to all investors in a treaty with Colombia, whereas the other two restrict the

rate to five per cent for investments of more than 10 per cent in the capital and 15 per cent otherwise. The tax department must clarify the exact tax treatment before its application.

The SC's ruling — that a notification is mandatory to invoke MFN — reverses the tax positions for investors. The response to it reveals that there has been interest among investors of other jurisdictions in seeking this route. In fact, insubstantial FDI inflows from Colombia, Slovenia and Lithuania indicate the redundancy of benefits. Shopping for such beneficial terms has been observed in South Africa where investors from the Netherlands sought and availed lower withholding rates on dividends, based on simultaneous interpretation of treaties with Sweden and Kuwait.

Curiously, despite no or low investment flows, the said benefits were retained. More so, since the India-Finland treaty, signed in 2010 a few months prior to Slovenia's accession, carries an MFN provision that explicitly necessitates the notification by the competent authority. The absence of similar words in the treaties in question is noteworthy.

As economic realities change, relations among countries must also adapt. For now, the circular and SC decision clarify India's treaty approach to MFN. There is however a need for periodic review of tax treaties, especially with respect to their economic benefits, and the enforcement of anti-abuse measures.

The writer is Associate Professor, NIPFP

NOVEMBER 2, 1983, FORTY YEARS AGO

INDO-PAK TIES

PAKISTAN WILL NOT allow any temporary setback in Indo-Pakistan ties owing to current difficulties caused by Indian "interference" in its internal affairs to come in the way of the ongoing process of normalisation of relations between the two countries, according to President Zia-ul-Haq. His surmise is that Mrs Gandhi was "taken for a ride" by elements mistakenly portraying a "rosy picture" of a tottering military regime about to collapse.

TRADE TALKS

INDIA AND CHINA have agreed to explore

ways to step up their trade and bilateral exchanges in the fields of culture, education and science and technology. This is the outcome of the just concluded talks between officials of the two governments. Despite the increase in Sino-Indian trade the last few years, both governments feel that the annual trade between the two countries is rather modest.

DIWALI SEASON PRICES

AS WITH EVERY Diwali, the prices of sweets, firecrackers, candles and dry fruits are up by between 10 to 30 per cent this year. The maximum increase has been in the price of dry fruits and nuts. Most shopkeepers have not

bothered to prepare gift boxes of more than 700-800 gms, knowing the demand for dry fruits decreases every year as prices rise.

OPPOSITION PROBLEM

PRIME MINISTER INDIRA Gandhi called upon the opposition to help the governments solve the internal problems of the country. Addressing a public meeting after opening the Mahi Bajaj Sagar multi-purpose dam and the Mahi water irrigation canals, she said that there had been governments of opposition parties in the state earlier also, but never had there been a situation when the unity and integrity of the country had been endangered.



15 THE IDEAS PAGE

No one way to win wars

Role of air power in conflicts in Gaza and Ukraine holds lessons in the multi-pronged approach necessary to secure military solutions

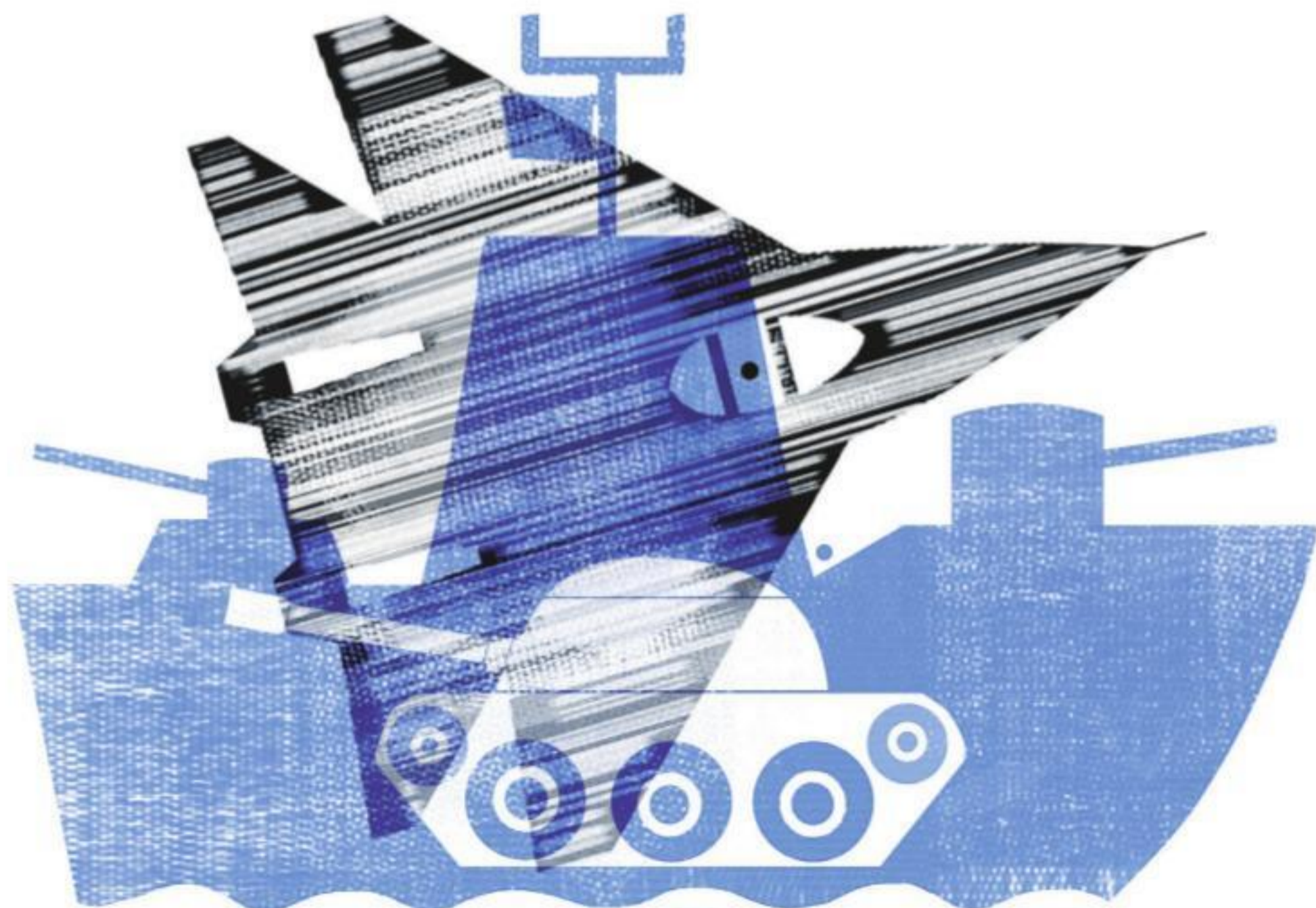


DIPTENDU CHOUDHURY

THE ONGOING RETALIATORY air strikes on Gaza by the Israeli Air Force after the multiple coordinated early morning shock attacks by Hamas militants is a continuation of a long-pursued Israeli response strategy. There is a history behind its chosen strategy of punitive and coercive air strikes. After the Second Intifada (2000-2005), with the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, Hamas took control of the strip by ousting the secular Fatah. Repeated cycles of conflict followed until 2012, when Hamas fired 1,456 rockets into Israel, and in response Israel launched Operation Pillar of Defence. With the total air superiority that the Israeli Air Force enjoys, it carried out punitive air strikes against more than 1,500 targets in Gaza, comprising military assets and the infrastructure of Hamas.

Retaliatory air strikes against increased rocket attacks became the norm by the third round of conflict in 2014 when Operation Protective Edge was launched. This time, the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) followed up the air campaign with shallow ground incursions to search and destroy the extensive tunnel networks of Hamas. This pattern of rocket attacks, eliciting punitive air strikes as a response, continued through 2018 and 2021. The Israeli Air Force gained its professional credibility with its aggressive offensive operations in many hard-won wars in the region from 1967 to 2006. With improvements in Israel's regional relationships and Hamas remaining the primary threat, the Israeli Air Force re-adapted its concept of air operations. Air Defence against rocket attacks, extensive aerial surveillance, and precision air attacks became *de rigueur*. While in the past there was a sense of punitive quid pro quo in Israel's actions, the devastating concentration of current air attacks seeks to wreak vengeance while simultaneously decimating Hamas capabilities prior to a ground offensive.

The air power employment in the more conventional Ukraine war has its own dynamics. The initial months highlighted the doctrinal shortcomings and structural challenges of the Russian Aerospace Forces (VKS), which is dedicated solely to supporting the surface campaign of the Russian army, in the absence of a larger role in line with national political objectives. Control of adversarial airspace is not a part of the VKS's doctrine, and this shortcoming was compounded by an incomplete Suppression of Air Defence (SEAD) campaign against Ukraine. As a result, Russia's military campaign ground to a halt in the initial days, and has progressed slowly. Without some degree of air control, the VKS was largely unable to prosecute depth offensive strikes. The task was undertaken by rockets and missiles, resulting in significant civilian collateral in urban spaces and limited tactical gains. Standoff precision air strikes by the VKS also produced similar outcomes.



CR Sasikumar

Wars that spill over into dense civilian spaces in an urban environment place limits on air power outcomes, and introduce the military challenges of house-to-house fighting. Similarly, the extensive use of drones in a variety of roles has widened the means of prosecuting warfare, but their scale of employment, depth of penetration and destruction capabilities limit their ability to produce strategic war or conflict outcomes on their own. The increase in offensive employment of the VKS in recent months, however, shows a change in Russian air operations. Given that it retains significant firepower and a large fleet of available aircraft with munitions, final air power outcomes in Ukraine and Gaza are yet to be seen.

In the interim, several aspects of air power employment in wars and conflicts are manifest, and relevant in India's security context. First, kinetic air attacks in urban spaces will almost invariably lead to civilian casualties. Despite precision attacks, the lethality of aerial weapons makes it practically impossible to prevent collateral damage in high-density populated areas. This gets more complicated when fighting a numerically smaller adversary in an urban milieu, as both irregular and regular armies can resort to deception and protection, using human shields or locating military assets in benign infrastructure like schools and hospitals. Also, the associated civilian collateral gives oxygen to the narrative of disproportionate force and fuels allegations of war crimes.

Second, there are limits to air power outcomes. Despite the intensive bombings in the past, the Israeli Air Force's and IDF's kinetic actions could not achieve the broader strategic aim of deterring Hamas and restoring a measure of peace to the region. Third, having shifted its air power strategy towards

National security, therefore, needs a comprehensive application of all instruments of military and other elements of national power to come together. And since all future wars and conflicts will impact the lives of civilian citizenry, their resilience, morale, and willingness to accept the consequences, will be the ultimate test of a nation's true mettle.

The writer is a retired air marshal

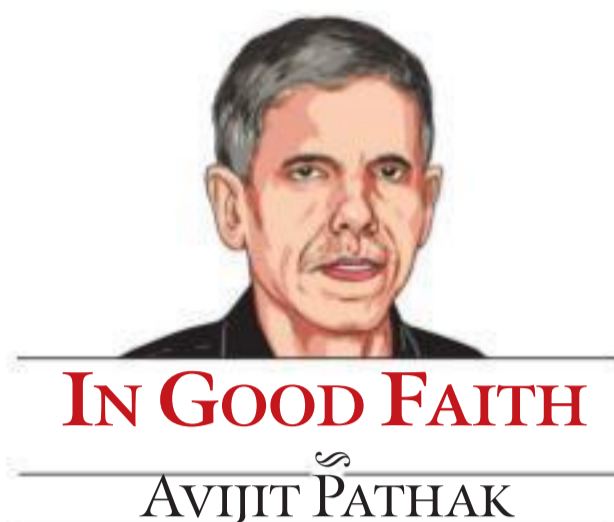
WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The inquiry has a long way to run... judging from this week's evidence, there are huge lessons to be learned not only about appalling errors in the way the pandemic was handled, but also about the Conservative party in government."

— THE GUARDIAN

The tyranny of productivity

There is more to life than working in a cubicle for 70 hours a week and then consuming mindlessly in a supermall in the weekend



IN GOOD FAITH
AVIJIT PATHAK

EVEN THOUGH I do not see myself as a "lazy" person, I find it difficult to give my consent to Infosys founder Narayana Murthy's appeal to the younger generation — I mean the paid employees of the technocorporate world — to work for 70 hours in a week. Well, Murthy — a creative entrepreneur with immensely rich experience — is more aware than an "anarchist" like me of the instrumental logic of neoliberal "productivity" and "economic prosperity".

Possibly, he thinks that nothing matters more in life than the acquisition of a set of techno-managerial skills that equips one with the ability to work day and night, enrich one's career graph, and above all, enhance the profit rate of the neoliberal techno-empire, or, for that matter, help the associated political establishment to feel proud of India's growing economic power. Yes, Murthy's "success story" is likely to sanctify everything he says; and some of us would begin to argue that the rich are rich because they work hard, and the poor are poor because they are lazy!

Yet, my philosophic anarchy gives me the strength to question this sort of instrumental and morally faulty reasoning. Let me make three observations.

First, it is wrong to keep worshipping the fetish of economic prosperity and productivity without looking at what really matters for the growth of a sane and egalitarian society — the practice of distributive justice, or the spirit of non-possessiveness and egalitarian ethos of sharing. In fact, if Murthy opens his eyes, and converses with, say, a housewife in a poor/lower middle class patriarchal family, a daily wage earner, a security guard, an auto-rickshaw driver in Mumbai or Delhi, a landless farmer in Bihar or Uttar Pradesh, or even an otherwise well-qualified "guest" lecturer in Indian universities, he will realise that they are not lazy. In fact, some of them are working day and night — even more than 70 hours in a week.

Yet, they remain poor. In fact, even for a skilled daily wage earner in a state like Bihar, it is difficult to earn more than Rs 16,000 per month. They have not chosen to be poor. The reason behind the cycle of poverty is the very rationale of "productivity" without distributive justice, or "growth" without equity. One need not be

a "communist" for seeing this structural violence; one just needs to be self-introspective and humane. In fact, Murthy can look at the huge discrepancy in the salary structure of some of the leading corporate houses in India. Even in 2023, a report suggests, Infosys is paying young freshers only Rs. 3.72 lakh annually. But then, as the report says, the CEO's pay is almost 2,200 times a fresher's pay.

Second, I would urge Murthy to reflect on what can broadly be perceived as "alienation" in the work sphere. Well, young Karl Marx wrote extensively on "alienation" or "estrangement" — the kind of work that is far removed from creative play, and causes a sense of fatigue and meaninglessness. Yes, a creative artist can spend even 15 hours with absolute mindfulness while portraying, say, an amazing landscape. A work of this kind fulfills her; the artist and her painting become one.

But then, talk to a young computer engineer working for, say, 70 hours in a week, spending two hours every day commuting, and constantly exhausting himself for meeting the deadline. Even an attractive "salary package" will not give him what is needed for his mental health and psychic well-being — the non-utilitarian realm of walking, singing, playing, or, say, watching a Charlie Chaplin film. "Well-paid/well-clothed", yet spiritually impoverished and psychologically wounded over-stressed young workforce — is it what Murthy is pleading for? Is he completely unaware of the existential pain and other health issues relating to what many would regard as the "burnout" effect?

And finally, we need to rescue the power of our imagination or aspiration for good and meaningful life from what Murthy seems to be pleading for — work, work and work with the sole aim of "economic prosperity". Well, Murthy might think that the likes of Henry David Thoreau and John Ruskin were romantic fools. After all, who bothers about them when the industry of bestseller "self-help" books — yes, another product of neoliberalism — is continually preaching us the lessons of becoming a billionaire, acquiring fame and becoming "successful"?

But then, there are still some "mad" people around who seek to whisper in our ears: There is something more to life than the act of being confined to a cubicle in the lavish corporate house, working ceaselessly, and then consuming mindlessly in a supermall on the weekend. Possibly, they are saying that "idleness" is tremendously beautiful; it enables us to know ourselves, and gives us the "surplus" time to look at the sunset and invoke Vincent van Gogh, or meditate on the play of a butterfly with a tiny yellow flower.

Pathak writes on culture, pedagogy and politics

A weak defence

Response to allegations of state-sponsored spyware attack cannot be rhetorical



APAR GUPTA

ON OCTOBER 31, we were alerted to the grave national crisis of "compulsive critics". Public attention was drawn to it by the Minister for Telecom and Electronics and IT, Ashwini Vaishnaw, responding to reports of spyware attacks on members of Parliament and political parties mostly from the Opposition. During the press conference, he claimed to have "already ordered an investigation" as Apple has issued a "vague advisory" that was "issued in 150 countries". He dismissed prior attacks on the phones of the Opposition and journalists by the Pegasus spyware stating, "we conducted a proper investigation that was also supervised by the judiciary... nothing came out of that". The statement ended with calling the Opposition bereft of "substantial issues", attempting to "distract the country from the progress being made under the leadership of Narendra Modi ji's leadership". As a compulsive critic, let me contrast the statement against the facts and law.

The first statement indicates facial earnestness through prompt action. He has ordered an investigation by the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) that is anchored under the Ministry of Electronics and IT. Here, there exists ministerial discretion in appointments, promotions and postings. Suspicion about the outcome of the investigation arises given that their boss has revealed his bias against the charges.

This investigation has a myopic scope and is designed to fail. It will concentrate on a technical evaluation of smartphones, with

notices to Apple and a call to Opposition leaders for submission of their smartphones. Even if they turn them over, the examination of code and network behaviour is a limited path of inquiry which avoids direct examination through summoning witnesses and sworn testimonial statements. Will CERT have the power/motivation to summon the cabinet secretary, who is the senior-most civil servant and oversees the intelligence agencies of the Government of India? Can it ask him to submit a sworn statement on the money trail? How and if India procures spyware, who are the targets and what safeguards are in place?

Do we establish crimes only through technical or forensic evidence, or does a proper investigation require testimony from witnesses and persons who are accused? These obvious issues of autonomy, jurisdiction and conflict of interest could have been mitigated by taking recourse to the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952. Instead, we have a charade.

The minister's second line of defence was to cite support for his position from statements by Apple. So what are these statements? The first is a direct notification by Apple to Opposition leaders whose first line states, "Alert: State-sponsored attackers may be attacking your phone". This is the basis of the allegation rather than a suo motu conspiratorial call. Such a notification system was put in place after the Pegasus files disclosures by Apple in 2021. Over a period of time, it has been historically used in the 150

jurisdictions Apple has sold smartphones. This alert links to a support page managed by Apple, published on August 22. Each sentence indicates that this is a specific alert rather than a general, "advisory". It lists urgent steps a notified user should take and place their phone in, "lockdown mode". This support page was summarised in a press release and circulated yesterday.

Even before this, a disinformation campaign was launched to sow doubt and cause confusion. This started with claims of the alert being an "algorithmic malfunction" and in the later hours of the day turned into twisting the language of a press release issued by Apple. Emphasis was placed on the word, "false alarm" conveniently erasing the sentence and paragraph in which it appears. It states, "State-sponsored attackers are very well-funded and sophisticated, and their attacks evolve over time. Detecting such attacks relies on threat intelligence signals that are often imperfect and incomplete. It's possible that some Apple threat notifications may be false alarms, or that some attacks are not detected. We are unable to provide information about what causes us to issue threat notifications, as that may help state-sponsored attackers adapt their behaviour to evade detection in the future." Hence, the second leg of defence when placed under examination, develops a limp.

The final attempt at substantive response is taking recourse to precedent and proceedings in the Supreme Court of India on the spyware attacks by Pegasus. In an article,

(‘Slowing justice, the committee way’, IE, August 27) I extensively cited parliamentary and court proceedings to demonstrate that the GoI has been evasive and has not denied producing and using it. Further, the minister's statement is curious for the petitioner's apprehension that given they suspect the government itself of hacking their phones was accepted by the Supreme Court. This is the reason it set up its own committee of inquiry as per an order dated October 27, 2021.

It is a curious claim by the minister that, "we conducted a proper investigation", as the government was a witness, or even an accused. Further, the report of this committee is still kept in sealed cover. It has neither been made public nor available to the petitioners. While excerpts of it have been read out in Court, these by themselves cannot lead us to conclude, that "nothing came out of it".

Viewed forensically, the statements in yesterday's press conference reveal a weak defence and a lack of good faith to investigate the invasion of personal privacy and democratic functioning of Opposition parliamentarians. Hence, the label of, "compulsive critics" ends with a homage to the vision and progress under the Prime Minister. Such rhetorical flourish will not prevent calls for accountability when required by reason and evidence. The loyalty of an Indian citizen is not to this government but to their Constitution.

The writer is an advocate based in New Delhi

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A WATER CHALLENGE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Every drop counts' (IE, November 1). Depletion in groundwater levels has been a concerning issue around the world. India relies on groundwater more than any other country in the world. Farmers depend on borewells and tubewells for irrigating their fields. But they aren't aware of the impact of falling water tables on the environment. There is a need for innovation in the water sector so that the crucial groundwater sources get time to replenish. Promoting crops that require less water is one of the ways the government has been trying to tackle the issue. But we need to do more to save natural water resources before it's too late.

Amaan Alam Khan, Jammu

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Every drop counts' (IE, November 1). According to a UN report, India is the largest user of groundwater globally, extracting more water than the US and China. The report indicates that India is in the middle of the worst water crisis, with groundwater getting depleted at unsustainable rates. The enveloping crisis, with serious implications for public health and the economy, needs urgent attention. Over decades, India encouraged and subsidised massive pumping of groundwater. The rapid industrialisation of recent years has also been achieved through intensive groundwater use. According to the World Bank, groundwater is being extracted much faster than it is being replenished. As a result, 60 per cent of the districts are likely to reach critical levels of groundwater depletion within two decades. The augmentation of watersheds that can store more groundwater for agri-

cultural use and other purposes and strict enforcement of pollution control measures are the two key areas.

Khokan Das, Kolkata

NOT JUST QUOTA

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Look beyond quota' (IE, November 1). The government and community leaders should look beyond quotas and start focusing on making economic and educational opportunities available to all communities. Reservations should only be used to uplift the most vulnerable sections of society. The government should provide equitable ways for development and economic opportunities. Community leaders can cooperate with the government to develop and implement policies and programs. Achieving these goals will require a long-term commitment from both sides. It is important to understand that a reservation is a temporary solution and not a long-term solution.

Zaid Wazi, Varanasi

PERCY'S LEGACY

This refers to the editorial, 'Uncle Percy' (IE, November 1). The demise of Sri Lanka mascot and superfan Percy Abeyskara, affectionately known as Uncle Percy, is saddening. Percy had been a fixture at Sri Lankan cricket matches for more than five decades, but gained prominence during the 1996 World Cup, particularly when he was seen parading the Sri Lanka flag around the ground at Lahore. He enjoyed the admiration of many top cricketers over the decades. In the 1980s, Martin Crowe presented one of his Man of the Match trophies to Percy for his passion for the game.

SS Paul, Nadia

16 THE WORLD

NEW YORK CIVIL FRAUD TRIAL

DONALD TRUMP JR TO TESTIFY IN FATHER'S TRIAL

Donald Trump's son Donald Trump Jr is set to testify in a New York civil fraud trial accusing the ex-US president and his family businesses of inflating asset values to dupe lenders and insurers. Donald Jr will be the first of Trump's children to take the stand, followed by Eric and Ivanka. **REUTERS**

TOP OF THE WORLD



The 100-strong guest list includes executives like Elon Musk. **Reuters**

UNITED KINGDOM
Political, tech leaders convene for AI summit

England: Britain will convene governments, academia and companies working at the cutting edge of artificial intelligence on Wednesday at the inaugural AI Safety Summit to debate how, and even if, the risks of the technology can be contained. The meeting is the brainchild of PM Rishi Sunak, who wants to carve out a role for Britain as an intermediary between the economic blocs of the US, China and the EU. The 100-strong guest list includes world leaders, tech executives like Elon Musk and ChatGPT boss Sam Altman, and academics for the event. **REUTERS**

BANGLADESH
Will boycott vote if Hasina stays: Bangladesh Opp

Dhaka: Bangladesh's main opposition party will boycott the next general election if PM Sheikh Hasina does not make way for a neutral government to conduct the poll, two party leaders said, amid a crackdown on opposition politicians and deadly protests. "Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the opposition parties will not go to a fake election," Abdul Moeen Khan, a former minister and member of BNP's highest policy-making body, said. Zahir Uddin Swapon, an ex-BNP lawmaker, said Hasina would be answerable to Western governments if she failed to resign. **REUTERS**

TAIWAN
China sends 43 planes, seven ships near island

Taipei: Taiwan said Wednesday that China sent 43 military aircraft and seven ships near the self-ruled island, the latest sign that Beijing plans to let-up in its campaign of harassment, threats & intimidation. Taiwan's Defence Ministry said the figure was current for the 24 hours up to 6:00 am Wednesday and that 37 of the aircraft had crossed the median line in the Taiwan Strait, which China no longer recognises as an informal divider between the sides. It said Taiwan had monitored the situation. **AP**

AUSTRALIA
Residents urged to evacuate as wildfires blaze

Queensland: Residents in three areas in Australia's northern Queensland state were ordered to evacuate their homes Wednesday, as bushfires burned out of control. Firefighters including those flown in from across Australia and New Zealand have been battling blazes in the state that have already killed two and destroyed dozens of homes. People in two adjacent areas, near the town of Dalveen, were on Wednesday ordered to evacuate immediately. The blazes also affected the neighbouring state of New South Wales (NSW) to the south. **REUTERS**

ISRAEL COORDINATES EXITS WITH EGYPT
which has opened a hospital in the Sinai

QASSAM BRIGADE: 7 HOSTAGES KILLED
during air strikes on Jabalia refugee camp

First departures from Gaza via Rafah, refugee camp hit again

Injured, foreign passport holders wait to cross to safety under deal brokered by Qatar

NIDAL AL-MUGHRABI & DAN WILLIAMS
GAZA, JERUSALEM
NOVEMBER 1

A FIRST group of injured evacuees from Gaza, comprising of at least 320 foreign passport holders and some injured Gazans, crossed into Egypt Wednesday under a Qatari-mediated deal, Egyptian security sources said, as Israeli forces pressed their offensive against Hamas militants in the Palestinian enclave.

The evacuees were driven in ambulances through the Rafah border crossing. Under the deal reached between Egypt, Israel and Hamas, a number of foreigners and critically wounded people will be allowed to leave the besieged territory in which they have been trapped.

The evacuation followed another day of bloodshed in Gaza in which an Israeli air strike on Tuesday killed about 50 people in a refugee camp, according to Palestinian health officials.

Israel said the attack killed a senior Hamas commander and many other combatants.

81 wounded people and an initial list of 500 foreign passport holders were expected to be allowed out of the Gaza Strip in the coming days, sources in several countries said. About 200 people were waiting at the Palestinian side of the border on Wednesday morning, the source said.

Earlier, a first group of injured people crossed in ambulances and



Palestinians with dual citizenship wait outside the Rafah crossing with Egypt in the southern Gaza Strip, on Wednesday. **Reuters**

were examined by Egyptian medical teams who directed them to different hospitals depending on the severity of their conditions.

Nahed Abu Taema, director of Nasser Hospital in the Gaza Strip, said 19 injured patients from his hospital would be among the 81 being evacuated to Egypt.

A Western official said a list of people with foreign passports who can leave Gaza had been agreed between Israel and Egypt and relevant embassies have been informed. An Israeli official who re-

quested anonymity confirmed that Israel was coordinating the exits with Egypt. Egypt has prepared a hospital in Sheikh Zuwayed in Sinai, medical sources said.

Israeli airstrikes hit apartment buildings in a refugee camp near Gaza City for a second day in a row, causing many deaths and injuries.

The din of Israeli war planes, tanks and naval boats pounding Gaza city and the north continued all through the night.

Communications and internet services were cut off in Gaza again Wednesday, telecommunications provider Paltel said. **REUTERS**

DEATH, DESTRUCTION

ISRAEL	PALESTINE
TOTAL DEAD	8,796
1,400+	
TOTAL INJURED	20,000+
5,431	

Bolivia severs ties with Israel, other countries recall envoys over Gaza

DANIEL RAMOS
LA PAZ, NOVEMBER 1

BOLIVIA SAID Tuesday it had broken diplomatic ties with Israel because of its attacks on the Gaza Strip, while neighbors Colombia and Chile recalled their ambassadors to the Middle Eastern country for consultations.

The three South American nations lambasted Israel's attacks on Gaza and condemned the deaths of Palestinian citizens.

Bolivia "decided to break diplomatic relations with the Israeli state in repudiation and condemnation of the aggressive and disproportionate Israeli military offensive taking place in the Gaza Strip," Deputy Foreign Minister Freddy Mamani said.

The three countries called for a ceasefire, with Bolivia and Chile pushing for the passage of humanitarian aid into the zone and accusing Israel of violating international law.

Bolivia is among first countries to actively break diplomatic relations with Israel over its war in Gaza

Colombian President Gustavo Petro called the attacks a "massacre of the Palestinian people" in a post on the social media network X, formerly known as Twitter.

Israel's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Other Latin American countries, such as Mexico and Brazil, have also called for a ceasefire.

Bolivia is among the first countries to actively break diplomatic relations with Israel over its war in Gaza, retaliation for an October 7 attack in southern Israel by Palestinian militant group Hamas who Israel says killed 1,400 people. **REUTERS**

BRIEFLY

34 journalists killed since start of war, says RSF

THIRTY-FOUR journalists have been killed in the war between Israel and Hamas, an international media freedom group said Wednesday, accusing both sides of committing possible war crimes. Reporters Without Borders called on International Criminal Court prosecutors to investigate the deaths. **AP**

Lebanon blames Israel shelling for wildfire eruption

FIREFIGHTERS IN Lebanon were battling wildfires that Lebanese civil defense said had been sparked by Israeli shelling, with flames visible for miles. The fires started around 1700 GMT and were caused by Israeli shells with white phosphorus launched across border, Abdalla Mousaw, head of Tyre Regional Center of Lebanese civil defense said. **REUTERS**

BBC to launch emergency radio service for Gaza

THE BBC will start an emergency radio service for Gazans in response to the conflict, the broadcaster's World Service said Wednesday. The programme will aim to provide those in Gaza with the latest information plus safety advice on where to access shelter and supplies, said BBC. **REUTERS**



Cops sit with detained Afghan nationals as they shift them to a holding centre in Karachi, on Wednesday. **Reuters**

Deadline over, Pak starts detaining, deporting Afghans who lack papers

RIAZ KHAN & ABDUL SATTAR
PESHAWAR, NOVEMBER 1

Pakistani security forces on Wednesday rounded up, detained and deported dozens of Afghans who were living in the country illegally, after a government-set deadline for them to leave expired, authorities said.

The sweep is part of a new anti-migrant crackdown that targets all undocumented or unregistered foreigners, according to Islamabad, though it affects some 2 million Afghans who are in Pakistan without documentation.

The crackdown has drawn widespread criticism from UN agencies, rights groups and the Taliban-led administration in Afghanistan.

Pakistan's interior minister confirmed that the deportations have begun. "Today, we said goodbye to 64 Afghan nationals as they began their journey back home," Interim Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti wrote on X. "This action is a testament to Pakistan's determination to repatriate any individuals residing in the country without proper documentation."

Today, we said goodbye to 64 Afghan nationals as they began their journey back home"

— SARFRAZ BUGTI
INTERIOR MINISTER, PAKISTAN

The authorities said Wednesday's sweeps took place in the port city of Karachi, the garrison city of Rawalpindi, and in various areas in the southwestern Baluchistan and northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces, which border Afghanistan.

On Tuesday, thousands of Afghans headed to the two key border crossing to return home to avoid arrest and deportation.

According to the UN agencies, there are more than 2 million undocumented Afghans in Pakistan, at least 600,000 of whom fled after the Taliban takeover in 2021. In Afghanistan, Zabihullah Mujahid, the main spokesman for Taliban government expressed concerns over forced expulsion of Afghans, saying that past 45 years of wars and conflict in Afghanistan had forced millions to migrate. **AP**

China begins nationwide population survey amid first drop in six decades

REUTERS
HONG KONG, NOVEMBER 1

CHINA WILL begin polling 1.4 million people on Wednesday in a survey on population changes, as authorities struggle to incentivise people to have more children amid a declining birth rate and the first population drop in more than six decades.

The poll, which was announced on October 10 in an unexpected move, will focus on urban and rural areas throughout the country.

The survey will be based on a sample of 500,000 households and last for around two weeks until November 15, China's National Bureau of Statistics said.

It will help provide a basis to monitor China's population developmental changes and for the government and Communist Party to formulate national economic, social development and

EXPLAINED
Number fall

CHINA LAST conducted its once-in-a-decade census in 2020 which showed it grew at slowest pace since the first modern population survey of the 1950s. The country reported a drop of roughly 850,000 people for a population of 1.41175 billion in 2022, marking the first decline since 1961, the last year of China's Great Famine.

population related policies, it said.

Authorities have in recent months increased rhetoric on sharing the duty of child rearing but paternity leave is still limited in most provinces.

OVER 460 PERSONNEL SET OFF TO FINISH CHINA'S FIFTH STATION ON WORLD'S SOUTHERNMOST CONTINENT

Biggest China Antarctic fleet sails to build research station

REUTERS
BEIJING, NOVEMBER 1

TWO CHINESE icebreaker research vessels and a cargo ship set sail on Wednesday for the Antarctic with more than 460 personnel on board to help complete construction of China's fifth station on the world's southernmost continent.

China's biggest flotilla of research vessels deployed to the Antarctic will focus on building the station on the rocky, windswept Inexpressible Island near the Ross Sea, a deep Southern Ocean bay named after a 19th century British explorer.

Work on the first Chinese station in the Pacific sector began in 2018. It will be used to conduct research on the region's environment, state television reported.

China has four research stations in the Antarctic built from 1985 to 2014. A U.S.-based think tank estimated the fifth could be finished next year.

The facility is expected to include an observatory with a satellite ground station, and should help China "fill in a major gap" in its ability to access the continent, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) said in a report this year.

China has four research stations in the Antarctic built from 1985 to 2014. A think tank estimates the fifth could be finished next year.

and telemetry data on rockets launched from Australia's new Arnhem Space Centre, it said.

China rejects suggestions that its stations would be used for espionage.



At the launch of China's first domestically built polar icebreaker Xuelong 2, or Snow Dragon 2, at a shipyard in Shanghai, in 2018. **Reuters file**

with mostly personnel and logistics supplies on board.

The cargo ship "Tianhui", or "Divine Blessings", taking construction material for the station, set off from the eastern port of Zhangjiagang.

The five-month mission will include a survey on the impact of climate change. The two icebreakers will also conduct environmental surveys in the Prydz Bay, the Astronaut Sea in south-east Antarctic, and in Ross Sea and Amundsen Sea in the west.

The mission, China's 40th to the Antarctic, will also cooperate with countries including the United States, Britain, and Russia on logistics supply, state media reported.

U.K. RIPS UP STATE GUARANTEES ON COVID-19 LOANS

The UK gov't scrapped guarantees on nearly

£1bn

or (\$1.2 billion) of bank loans handed out to ailing businesses during the Covid-19 pandemic, leaving lenders on the hook for some of the borrowings that will not be repaid.

■ Previous figures from state-owned British Business Bank — which administers the loan schemes — has removed state guarantees from 10,786 loans worth combined £979 million as of October 11, shielding taxpayers from losses. **Reuters**

The economies of Israel and Palestine compared

UDIT MISRA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 1

AS ISRAEL continues to inflict ferocious punishment on Gaza, reports and analyses have repeatedly pointed to the staggering asymmetry in the military capabilities of Hamas and the Israelis. How do Israel and Gaza—on which Israel has imposed a goods blockade since 2005—compare in terms of their economies?

This is what data from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) show. The data for “Gaza” include the other Palestinian enclave of West Bank, and for that reason possibly look better than they really are.

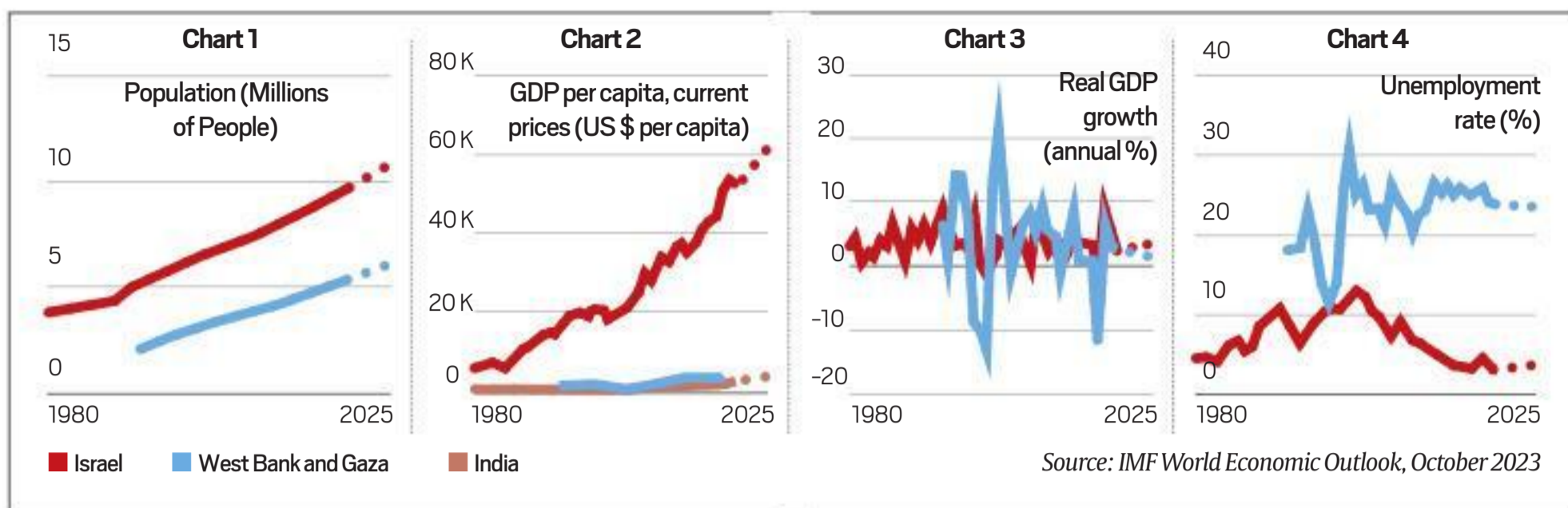
Chart 1 shows that at 9.81 million, the population of Israel in 2023 is almost double that of West Bank and Gaza (5.48 million). The demographic variable is often a key determinant in any economy.

At a macro level, the most basic parameter

to compare any two economies is their gross domestic product (GDP), the market value of all final goods and services produced within the geographical boundaries of a country in a particular year.

In 2023, the GDP of Israel was \$522 billion, according to IMF estimates. The figure for West Bank and Gaza was estimated by the World Bank at a little more than \$18 billion in 2021 and \$20 billion in 2023. Which means, on the eve of the conflict, Israel's GDP was more than 26 times that of the Palestinian territories.

Chart 2 shows the GDP per capita—the average income level in an economy; a notional but useful measure of broad-based prosperity—of Israel and the Palestinian areas. The GDP per capita of West Bank and Gaza in 2021 was \$3,460 (about Rs 2.9 lakh) per year; that of Israel was almost 15 times more at \$51,800 (more than Rs 43 lakh). For context, India, with its massive population, had a GDP per capita of \$2,240 (less than Rs 1.9



lakh) per year in 2021. Chart 3 brings out a key difference between the growth rates of the two economies: the real GDP of Palestine fluctuates far more than that of Israel.

The real GDP is the GDP level after taking away the effect of inflation from the nominal

GDP. Higher levels of fluctuation suggest an unstable economy—often, higher growth rate in one year is a result of terribly weak growth in the preceding year.

In 2020, the year the Covid-19 pandemic hit, the real GDP growth of West Bank and Gaza contracted by more than 11%. This figure was

just 1.5% for Israel. India's real GDP contracted by 5.5% in 2020.

Chart 4 maps the stark difference in the unemployment rate prevailing in the two economies. At last count, Israel's unemployment rate was just 3.5% while that of the West Bank and Gaza was 24.2%, almost eight

times more. The unemployment rate is the ratio of people who did not get a job despite looking for one. It is often the go-to metric to assess the state of the labour market in any economy.

A World Bank assessment published in September 2023, days before the October 7 Hamas attack, said: “Preliminary data for the first quarter (Q1) of 2023 indicate that growth [in the Palestinian economy] slowed to 3.1%, year-on-year (y/y), largely due to the waning of post-pandemic recovery. Meanwhile, systemic restrictions imposed by the Government of Israel continue to curtail economic activity, especially in Gaza, where the economy contracted by 2.6 percent in Q1 2023, according to data by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS).”

“This is largely on account of a decline in the agricultural, forestry, and fishing sector, which shrank by almost 30% following a decision by the Government of Israel to restrict the sale of Gazan fish in the West Bank in August 2022.”

EXPLAINED HEALTH WHY BIHAR IS WITNESSING A SURGE IN DENGUE CASES AND DEATHS

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, NOVEMBER 1

BIHAR HAS recorded more than 15,000 dengue cases with 59 deaths so far this year, according to official data released on Tuesday.

This is the highest number of reported dengue cases and deaths in the state in at least five years—cases have gone up by 608% between 2018 and 2023.

The primary reason for the rise is the delayed monsoon season, which usually lasts till mid-September but this year continued till mid-October, said doctors at Patna Medical College and Hospital (PMCH) and Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences (IGIMS).

Erratic rainfall led to the creation of shallow, stagnant pools of water, especially in densely populated areas of Patna, in which mosquitoes thrived. Moreover, with winters yet to arrive, people have continued to use water coolers, which are also a breeding ground for mosquitoes, the doctors said.

The rise in cases has come on the back of a lack of sanitation and proper defogging by the state's municipal corporations, the doctors added. For instance, Patna Municipal Corporation said it didn't have enough resources to tackle the untimely appearance of water puddles across the city.

Have there been new dengue symptoms?

For the first time, doctors have witnessed liver and lung infections caused by dengue. Doctors have also noticed that the patients are experiencing a recurrence of fever after 2-3 hours instead of the usual 6-8 hours.

Some patients have also complained of body itch.



Fumigation outside a Durga Puja pandal in Patna in October. PTI

Is there a rise in demand for platelets?

In the past 10 days, demand has grown substantially in Patna. According to the standard protocol, patients receive platelets only after their count drops to 15,000—a normal platelet count ranges from 150,000 to 450,000 per microliter of blood. However, doctors have been injecting platelets even when the count is around 25,000 as a precautionary measure, due to the high dengue death toll this season.

What was the situation like in the past five years?

In 2019, Bihar saw a spike in dengue cases—the number stood at 6,712—in comparison with the previous year, when just 2,142 cases were reported, according to the data compiled by the National Centre for Vector Borne Disease (NCVBD). In both years, no deaths were reported. In 2020 and 2021, the number of dengue cases in the state fell to 493 and 633 respectively. The resurgence took place in 2022, with 13,972 cases and 32 deaths.

Patna alone recorded 9,256 cases with 15 deaths. These figures didn't include patients who received treatment or died at private hospitals and clinics.

EXPERT EXPLAINS RAHUL PURWAR

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) this month granted market authorisation for NexCAR19, India's first indigenously-developed CAR-T cell therapy, to ImmunoACT, a company incubated by IIT Bombay. This paves the way for the commercial launch of this therapy in India, where it is expected to be available to cancer patients at a tenth of the cost abroad.

What is CAR-T cell therapy, and how do CAR-T cells find and destroy cancer cells?

CAR-T is a revolutionary therapy that modifies immune cells, specifically T-cells, by turning them into potent cancer fighters known as CAR-T cells. T-cells are special cells (white blood cells that find and fight illness and infection) whose primary function is cytotoxic, meaning it can kill other cells. In CAR-T therapy, we genetically modify them into cancer-fighting cells. These supercharged cells are then put back into the body, and they go after cancer cells—especially in blood cancers like leukaemia and lymphomas.

How effective and different is this from other cancer treatments like, say, chemotherapy?

While chemotherapy and immunotherapy may add a few months or years to a cancer patient's life, cell-and-gene therapy is designed to cure and provide lifelong benefit. It makes treatment easier with a one-time therapy [unlike several sessions of chemotherapy] that can be truly transformative [for a patient]. It's a lifeline for non-responsive cancer patients.

Is NexCAR19 a type of CAR-T therapy?

NexCAR19 is a type of CAR-T and gene therapy developed indigenously in India by ImmunoACT, which is a company incubated at IIT Bombay. Our therapy is designed to target cancer cells that carry the CD19 protein. This protein acts like a flag on cancer cells, which allows CAR-T cells to recognise and attach themselves to the cancer cells and start the process of elimination. Even some developed nations don't have their own CAR-T therapies; they import them from the United States or Europe. India is now one of the first developing countries to have its indigenous CAR-T and gene therapy

TREATMENT FOR SPECIFIC B-CELL CANCERS

NexCAR19 is a prescription drug for B-cell lymphomas, lymphoblastic leukaemias when other treatments have been unsuccessful

PATIENT'S WHITE blood cells are extracted by a machine through a process called leukapheresis and genetically modified, equipping them with the tools to identify and destroy the cancer cells.

NEXCAR19 IS manufactured to an optimal dose for the patient, and typically administered as a single intravenous infusion. Prior to this, the patient is put through chemotherapy to prime the body for the therapy.

HOW NEXCAR19 WORKS

T-cells are naturally made by the body as an advanced defence against viruses and cancer cells. As T-cells mature, they develop specific connectors (receptors) to target key signals on cancer cells.

However, cancers can limit the inbuilt extent and efficiency with which T-cells are able to seek and fight them. This results in an increase in cancer burden.

Scientists have identified certain proteins that are abnormally expressed on the surfaces of specific types of cancer cells. Specially designed receptors can find and bind to these cells.

A safe shell of a virus is used to genetically engineer T-cells so they express Chimeric Antigen Receptors—connectors that target a protein called CD19 on B-cell cancer.

Source: ImmunoACT

platform.

Who can get the NexCAR19 therapy?

The therapy is for people with B-cell lymphomas who didn't respond to standard treatments like chemotherapy, leading to relapse or recurrence of the cancer.

The patient's journey starts with a doctor's prescription at the clinic, followed by donation of blood by the patient at a transfusion centre. The blood goes to the lab, where the T-cells are genetically modified. In a week to 10 days, these cells return to the clinic for patient reinfusion. Essentially, patients only need to give a blood sample at their clinic, and come back in 7-10 days for reinfusion.

Recovery typically occurs within two weeks after one cycle of the treatment. In our data, approximately 70% of patients respond to the treatment, with variations between leukaemia and lymphoma cases. About 50% of these responsive patients achieve a complete response.

B-cell leukaemia is most common

among children. Are they eligible for the therapy too?

The paediatric trial phase is currently underway at the Tata Memorial Hospital, in collaboration with IIT-Bombay. Although the therapy for children will not be any different, for now, ImmunoACT has received CDSCO approval for use in patients aged 15 years and older.

Is India's indigenous CAR-T cell therapy any more or less effective than CAR-T cell therapies abroad?

Laboratory and animal studies have shown a unique quality of this product. Specifically, it leads to significantly lower drug-related toxicities. It causes minimal damage to neurons and the central nervous system, a condition known as neurotoxicity. Neurotoxicity can sometimes occur when CAR-T cells recognise the CD19 protein and enter the brain, potentially leading to life-threatening situations. The therapy also results in minimal Cytokine Release Syndrome (CRS), which is

characterised by inflammation and hyperinflammation in the body due to the death of a significant number of tumour cells, as CAR-T cells are designed to target and eliminate cancer cells. You can think of this like how the body responds to a virus such as SARS-CoV-2, where the immune response triggers an influx of certain proteins called cytokines, causing a lot of inflammation.

When will this therapy be available to patients in India?

We are in the process of obtaining licenses and onboarding hospitals. Tata Hospital is our preferred partner, and we've also got other hospitals like Nanavati, Fortis, and Jaslok in Mumbai on board. We have also added multiple hospitals in cities like Hyderabad, Pune, and Delhi. The timeline for them to start offering CAR-T therapy may be a matter of weeks to a few months, contingent on final government approvals. Some minor approvals, including the manufacturing licence from the state government and approval of the label and pack insert by the Drugs Controller General of India, are still pending. Once these are secured, we aim to make CAR-T therapy accessible to everyone within a short time-frame.

How much will this treatment cost?

Currently, we are looking at a price range of Rs 30-40 lakh for CAR-T therapy, which we intend to hold. Even at this cost, it may not be accessible to everyone. Our ultimate goal is to bring the cost down to Rs 10-20 lakh. As technology matures and manufacturing processes improve, we anticipate that the cost will decrease. We're committed to making this therapy accessible to as many people as possible.

Will the treatment be covered by insurance?

When a therapy is approved by regulatory agencies like CDSCO or DCGI, it typically should be covered by national insurance schemes and private insurance companies. However, since this is an expensive treatment, the extent of coverage and accessibility to insurance may vary. We will engage in discussions with insurers and the government to clarify this further.

Dr Purwar is associate professor in the Department of Biosciences and Bioengineering at IIT Bombay and CEO of ImmunoACT. He spoke to **Rupsa Chakraborty** and **Ritika Chopra**.

In Tripura-Bangladesh railway link, new opportunities and old connect

DEBRAJ DEB
AGARTALA, NOVEMBER 1

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi and his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina Wednesday virtually inaugurated a rail link connecting Northeast India with Bangladesh. The Agartala-Akhaura project will cut down the travel time between Agartala and Kolkata too, from 31 hours to 10 hours.

The project is expected to boost tourism, trade, and people-to-people exchanges between the two countries.

What is the project?

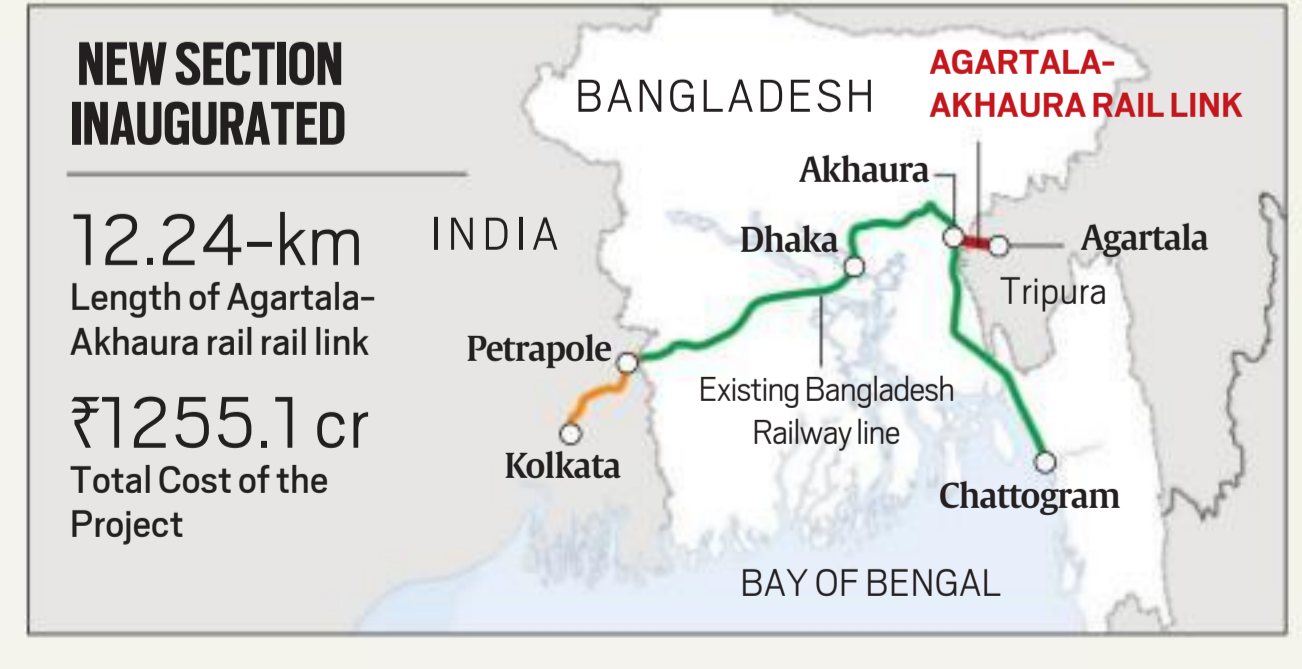
In the 12.24-km Agartala-Akhaura railway line, 5.46 kilometres lie on the Indian side in Tripura, and 6.78 km in the Akhaura upa-zilla in Brahmanbaria district of Bangladesh. The train will start from Agartala and move to Nischintapur, on the Indian-Bangladesh border, where the immigration checks will be held. The first station on the Bangladesh side will be Gangasagar.

The trial run of a goods train was held on the route on Monday. Liafat Ali Majumder, a senior engineer of Bangladesh Railways, said the trial was successful, but passenger trains are likely to be started later based on the status of discussions between the governments of both countries.

After the trial run for passenger services is completed, full-fledged train services between Agartala-Akhaura and Agartala-Chittagong (Chattogram) are expected to commence. The state has repeatedly expressed the hope that the project will eventually cover Dhaka and Kolkata.

Who is funding the project?

The project, which had its MoU signed in 2013, started with Rs 972.52 crore in 2016, including Rs 580 crore sanctioned for work on the Indian side and Rs 392.52 crore for the Bangladesh side. However, the budget was later revised twice due to cost escalation and other ancillary expenses. The final project cost is estimated at Rs 1255.10 crore, with Rs 862.58 crore allocated for works on



the Indian side alone. The entire project cost is being funded by India. The Ministry for Development of North East Region (DoNER) funded the work on the Indian side, and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) funded the expense for the Bangladesh side as 'Aid to Bangladesh'.

The Indian Railway Construction International Limited (IRCON), a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Indian

Railways, did the work on the Indian side, and Texmaco, a private Indian firm, implemented the work on the Bangladesh side. Land of 86.85 acres was acquired for the project on the Indian side and handed over to IRCON.

Supposed to be completed in 2020, the project was delayed over land acquisition issues and the Covid-19 pandemic. It underwent at least three extensions in deadlines.

Why is the project important to Tripura?

For land-locked Tripura, any connectivity project is of great practical significance. Tripura Chief Minister Dr. Manik Saha, who participated in the inaugural event virtually from Agartala, said the project was crucial for connectivity in the NE region and would make Tripura the gateway for tourism. “This day will go down in golden letters in the history of Indo-Bangla relationship. Tripura is going to be the gateway for tourism and transport between India and Bangladesh. Due to the Agartala-Akhaura railway project, the distance between Agartala and Kolkata will be effectively reduced from 1600 km to 500 km,” he said.

However, connectivity with Bangladesh also holds emotional significance. Tripura shares an 856-km international border with Bangladesh, the second highest after West Bengal. The North Eastern state is surrounded by the country on all three sides except Assam on the fourth. During the 1971 Indo-Pakistan war and the creation of Bangladesh, Tripura, a state which then had only 14 lakh people, sheltered nearly 15 lakh East Pakistani refugees. It ran at least 8 ma-

joor *muktijoddha* (liberation warrior) training camps. With the new connectivity project, people on both sides can now hope for closer and smoother ties.

What other trains run between India and Bangladesh?

The latest train service is part of an ongoing effort to boost connectivity between India and Bangladesh over the past few years. Three trains, the Bandhan Express, the Maitree Express and the Mitali Express, run between West Bengal and Bangladesh.

The Bandhan Express reboots an old rail link between Kolkata and Khulna, the third-largest city of Bangladesh. Until the 1965 war between India and Pakistan, this route was served by the Barisal Express. The governments of PM Modi and Sheikh Hasina restarted the service in 2017. The Bandhan uses the Petrapole-Benapole border crossing.

The Maitree Express between Kolkata and Dhaka Cantonment started in April 2008. The Mitali Express, announced by PM Modi during his visit to Dhaka in March 2021, connects Siliguri in North Bengal with the Bangladesh capital.

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL DHAULA KUAN
RIDGE ROAD, DHAULA KUAN, NEW DELHI-10 | www.apsdk.com

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited from leading firms with professional expertise for providing School Canteen Services to Army Public School, Dhaula Kuan. Firms with past experience in providing required services and having Registration No, EPF Code, ESI Code, GST Code etc may contact school office between 9:00 a.m. to 15:00 p.m. on any working day for collection of tender forms costing Rs 1,000/- between 02 Nov 2023 to 08 Nov 2023. Last date for submission of tender form is 14 Nov 23 by 1100 hrs. For any queries contact Principal on 011-25693131/8628817399.

Principal, APS, Dhaula Kuan

UJVN LTD.
H.O.: 'UJJWAL', Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone: 0135-2769615, 2763806 Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC25866 Website: www.ujvn.com

Ro.No: 1079 **E-Tender Date Extension Notice** Date: 01.11.2023

Due to unavoidable circumstances the date of submission and opening of e-tender No.16/SPH/2023-24 for "Engagement of 05 nos Skilled and 03 nos unskilled Manpower for Mechanical, Electrical, Generation, Test, Colony and Office for day-to-day basis work for a period of 11 months" at Sharda Power House, Lohiahead, Khatima Distt. Udham Singh Nagar (Uttarakhand)" is hereby extended:

Last date of submitting of tender document online: 06.11.23 up to 16:00 hrs
Due date for opening of tender No.16/SPH/2023-24: 10.11.23 at 11:00 hrs
All other terms & conditions of the tender shall remain unchanged. For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in>

Executive Engineer (M&G)
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

L.No. JHS-ELG-W-T-25-2023-24 Date: 20.10.2023

For and on behalf of President of India, the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (Gen) North Central Railway, Jhansi invites open tenders through online (E-Tendering) for the following work:-

Description of work	Tender value	Bid Security
Modification and improvement of lighting facilities at CNB-2 & CNB-6 pit line VGLJ.	27,61,938/- only	55,200/- only

Tender No. : JHS-ELG-W-T-25-2023-24, Completion period: 06 months. Closing date of tender: 16.11.2023 (upto 15.00 Hrs.). Tenderer will submit the tender online upto 16.11.2023 (upto 15.00 Hrs.). Complete details & for submission of tenders can be seen in Indian Railway website <http://www.irops.gov.in>.

1746/23 FA

UJVN Limited
H.O.: 'UJJWAL', Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone: 0135-2763808 / Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC25866, Website: www.ujvn.com

RO No.-1076 **Dated: 31.10.2023**

e-Tender Notice

Office of the Executive Engineer (E&M-II), Lakhwar MPP (3x100MW) Dakpathar, Dehradun invited online bid from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:

Tender No: 15/EE(E&M-II)/LP/2023-24

Name of work : Annual operation and Maintenance contract of various 33/11 kV substation and 11 kV lines of Lakhwar MPP for the period of 12 months.

Estimated cost : ₹ 94,28,834.00 (excluding taxes).

Date of availability of bid document on website: 02.11.2023 at 15:00 hrs.

Last date of submission of bid on website: 24.11.2023 at 16:00 hrs.

For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal "<https://uktenders.gov.in>"

Executive Engineer (E&M-II) Lakhwar Project
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

BHARATIYA RESERVE BANK NOTE MUDRAN (P) LIMITED
(Wholly owned subsidiary of Reserve Bank of India)
P.O.: RBNML, Saboni - 721132, Paschim Medinipur Dt., West Bengal.
Phone No.: 03227-280176 / 280317; Fax No.: 03227-280744 / 280222

OPEN TENDER ENQUIRY (OTE)/NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (NCB)

Bids are invited under Two-Part bidding system for the following e-Tenders through MSTC Portal:-

- CONSTRUCTION OF MID-DAY MEAL HALL IN FIVE SCHOOLS OF PASCHIM MEDINIPUR DISTRICT UNDER CSR; MSTC EVENT NO. BRBNMPL/SALBONI PRESS/ADMINISTRATION/123-24/ET/22 [CONSTRUCTION OF 5 MDM HALL]; BRBNMPL TENDER NO. 001/SAL/CSR/2023-24; [ESTIMATED COST - ₹59.75 LAKH].
- SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF 272KW (AC CAPACITY)325.4KW (DC CAPACITY) ROOFTOP SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER PLANT WITHOUT BATTERY BANK (GRID INTERACTIVE) IN DIFFERENT LOCATIONS AT BRBNMPL, SALBONI; MSTC EVENT NO. BRBNMPL/SALBONI PRESS/MMD/18/23-24/ET/20 [SITC OF 272KW ROOFTOP SOLAR]; BRBNMPL TENDER NO. 013/SAL/MMD-MAINT/2023-24; [ESTIMATED COST - ₹174.50 LAKH].
- OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF UTILITY EQUIPMENT INCLUDING HOUSEKEEPING, SANITATION AND OTHER RELATED WORKS AT PRESS AREA AS WELL AS TOWNSHIP AND OTHER ALLIED AREAS AT BRBNMPL, SALBONI; MSTC EVENT NO. BRBNMPL/SALBONI PRESS/MMD/19/23-24/ET/21 [AMC OF UTILITY EQUIPMENT]; BRBNMPL TENDER NO. 014/SAL/MMD-MAINT/2023-24; [ESTIMATED COST - ₹196 LAKH].

Last date of tender submission - 05.12.2023 by 11:30 Hrs. For downloading tender documents and other details, kindly visit website www.mstccommerce.com. Tender details are also available in our website www.brbnmpl.com.in. Further extension of amendment/s, if any, shall be uploaded on the above websites.

Chief General Manager

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSONS

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person 1. Nur Islam S/o Atzal Rahman and 2. Sopiaal Islam S/o Nur Islam R/o Jhuggi Kawadi Godown, Gali No. 5, MPK, Extn., New Delhi have committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence of FIR No. 5/2022 dated 04.01.2022 u/s 325/341/34 IPC P.S. Kalindi Kunj, New Delhi has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said 1. Nur Islam and 2. Sopiaal Islam could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said 1. Nur Islam and 2. Sopiaal Islam have absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said 1. Nur Islam and 2. Sopiaal Islam accused in FIR No. 5/2022 dated 04.01.2022 u/s 325/341/34 IPC P.S. Kalindi Kunj, New Delhi are required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 21.12.2023.

By Order: Sh. Himanshu Tanwar
Metropolitan Magistrate-10
Room No. 307, 3rd floor,
Saket Court, New Delhi

एडवॉर्ड वेपन्स एंड इन्वियमेंट इंडिया लिमिटेड
ADVANCED WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT INDIA LIMITED
भारत सरकार का उपक्रम / A Government of India Enterprise
रक्षा मंत्रालय / Ministry of Defence
समग्र आधुनिक प्रणाली आपूर्तिक / Ultimate Weapon System Provider

विज्ञापन संख्या 09/2023 / Advt No. 09/2023
भारत सरकार / Government of India
खोज-सह-चयन समिति / Search-cum-Selection Committee
रक्षा उत्पादन विभाग / Department of Defence Production
रक्षा मंत्रालय / Ministry of Defence
के द्वारा निम्नलिखित पद के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं / Invites applications for the post of एडवॉर्ड वेपन्स एंड इन्वियमेंट इंडिया लिमिटेड में अध्यक्ष एवं प्रबंध निदेशक

CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR
IN
ADVANCED WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT INDIA LIMITED
डीडीपी/एमओडी में आवेदन प्राप्त होने की अंतिम तिथि है
Last date of receipt of application in DDP/Mod is
15:00 बजे तक / By 15:00 hours on
02 दिसंबर, 2023 / 02nd December, 2023
विवरण के लिए वेबसाइट पर लॉगइन करें / For details login to website <http://www.ddpmod.gov.in/vacancyandcircular>

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person whose name, residence and family is unknown, was found unconscious in front of Bus Stand, Jheel Khuranja, Geeta Colony, Delhi on 28.09.2023 at 12:07 PM. He died during treatment in Hospital on 30.10.2023. In this regard DD No. 50A, dated 28.09.2023, has been registered at P.S. Geeta Colony, Delhi.

The description of the UIDB is as under:
Sex: Male, Age: About 40-45 years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Sallow, Wearing: Brown shirt, black pant.
If anyone has any information about this UIDB, kindly inform the SHO/Geeta Colony, Delhi.

SHO
P.S. Geeta Colony, Delhi
Ph. No.: 7065036026
DP/12503/SHD/2023 E-mail: sho-geetaclny-dl@nic.in

उपसा 30 प्रो राज्य औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण
ए-1/4, कल्याण, कानपुर

ई-निविदा सूचना

एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है, कि निम्न औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों के अनन्तर विकास/अनुसंधान/उत्पत्ति/उत्पादन/संशोधन/संयोजित उपक्रमों/निर्माण/प्राधिकरणों/परिचालन/नगर नियंत्रण में पंजीकृत फर्म/उद्योगों/ई-निविदाये आमंत्रित की जाती है, जिसको अपलोड करने की समयसीमा निम्नवत् है-

- क्रम सं 1 व 2 पर अंकित निविदा दिनांक 03.11.2023 को प्रातः 11:00 बजे से दिनांक 25.11.2023 को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक अपलोड की जा सकती है, जिन्हें दिनांक 28.11.2023 को प्रातः 11:00 बजे खोला जायेगा (पूणकालिक)।

निविदादाताओं द्वारा केवल शेष पत्रों की मूल प्रतियाँ निविदा प्रपत्रों में उल्लिखित दिनांक तक कार्यवाह में जमा की जा सकेंगी। ई-निविदा के माध्यम से अर्मात्रिक की जाने वाली निविदाओं का विवरण निम्नवत् है-

क्रमांक	कार्य का नाम	कार्य की लागत (लाख में)
1	Upgradation / Maintenance of Grill, Kerb stone & Footpath along Road from Sector C-8 rotary to sector A-7 at I.A. Trans Delhi Signature city, Ghaziabad.	141.56
2	Maintenance / Construction of RCC Central Verge and P/F of Rilling at I.A. Surajpur Site-5, Kasna Distt. G.B.Nagar	250.82

नोट:- निविदादाता अपनी निविदाओं में समस्त कर सहित दरे अंकित करें। जीएसटी अलग से देना होगा।
निविदा सम्बन्धी विवरण जानकारी प्राधिकरण की website: www.onlineupsidc.com पर शिवा ई-सिक एवं यूएएसवी की website: <http://tender.upsidc.in> पर देवी जा सकती है। अन्य जानकारी हेतु कार्यालय के सहायक प्रबन्धक (सिदित) के मोबाइल नं 9044197166 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।

महाप्रबन्धक (अभिनव), उपप्रबन्धक/अधीनस्थ/कानपुर

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male, Age: 40 years, Height: 5'8", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Identification Mark: Tattoo of AR on Right Arm, was admitted to Sanjay Gandhi Hospital vide MLC No. 22884/23. During the treatment he was died on 28.10.2023. In this regard a DD No. 99A, dated 28.10.2023, has been lodged at P.S. Sultanpuri, Delhi.

His dead body has been preserved in the Mortuary of Sanjay Gandhi Hospital. Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO
P.S. Sultanpuri, Delhi
Ph.: 7065036134, 7065036194
DP/12517/OD/2023

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

Invitation of tenders through e-Procurement system
Tender Notice No. 14 Dated 31.10.2023
Website: www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in; E-mail: cos@ner.railnet.gov.in

Principal Chief Material Manager, North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur-273012 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 www.irops.gov.in.

Item No.	Tender No.	Due On	Brief Description of Stores	Reserved to be procured from
1	22220727A	29.11.2023	FRP window assembly complete etc.	--
2	22230986	27.11.2023	Air Spring Assy. 140 KN Capacity etc.	RDSO
3	33230072A	27.11.2023	Contact Wire Parallel Clamp (small) etc.	CORE
4	28231357	24.11.2023	Pre laminated shaded compreg, etc.	RCF
5	24231181	23.11.2023	Motor double reverser switch etc.	CLW
6	22232183A	21.11.2023	Wast Bin arrangement etc.	--
7	32210639F	16.11.2023	Battery (6V, 150H N1-CD battery) etc.	--
8	21230104B	10.11.2023	Servoplex SHC - 120 Genoplex etc.	CLW

CPRO/IS-7
Principal Chief Material Manager, Gorakhpur
DO NOT SMOKE BIDI/CIGARETTE IN TRAINS

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that one accused Aslam S/o Shahid Faraji, R/o E-44/13-357, New Seemapuri, Delhi have Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 150/2012 u/s 380/457/411/34 IPC has been registered at P.S. Shahdara, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Aslam cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Aslam has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Aslam of FIR No. 150/2012 u/s 380/457/411/34 IPC has been registered at P.S. Shahdara, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 18.12.2023.

By Order
Ms. Preeti Parewa
Chief Metropolitan Magistrate,
Shahdara District, Court No-59, 3rd Floor,
DP/12319/SHD/2023 (Court Matter) Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Rahul S/o Nishant R/o H No. 474 Gali No.4, D-Block Prem Nagar Najafgarh, New Delhi & Vikash@Rokki S/o Sher Singh R/o H No. 163 Gali No.15 MD Road Gopal Nagar, New Delhi has committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in Case FIR No. 227/2023 U/s 365/323/34 IPC PS Jaffarpur Kalan, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Rahul & Vikash@Rokki can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Rahul & Vikash@Rokki have absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Rahul & Vikash@Rokki of FIR No. 227/2023 U/s 365/323/34 IPC PS Jaffarpur Kalan, New Delhi are required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 15.12.2023.

By Order
Abhinav Ahlawat,
Metropolitan Magistrate-09
Dwarka Courts, New Delhi

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Telephone:- 01975-238883, e-mail:- hp-una@nic.in

INVITATION FOR BIDS
PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY-III)

The Superintending Engineer, 15th Circle, HP/PWD/Una on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HP/PWD/CPWD/other State Govt. / Central Govt. agencies for the works as detailed in the table below funded under PMGSY-III Batch-I, 2023-24 approved by the MoRD, Govt. of India vide letter No. P-17024/2021-RC (E.FMS: 375520) dated 16th August, 2023.

Job No.	Division	Package No.	Name of work	Package Length (In Km.)	Job Length (In Km.)	Estimated Cost (Rs. in lacs)		Total Cost (Rs. Lacs)	Period of Completion of Construction part	Bid Security (Rs. in lacs)
						Construction	Maintenance			
1	Una	HP-12-005	T-10-Panigwar-Bethni road to Nangal Khurd Chandpur	5.670	19.180	1623.11	115.33	1738.44	18 months	34.80
		HP-12-006	T-10-Panigwar-Bethni road to Sakhi Badhra	8.510						
2	Una	HP-12-008	T-10-Panigwar-Bethni road to Bankhandi Jhalera	6.500	17.520	1732.17	105.35	1837.52	18 months	36.75
		HP-12-009	T-10-Panigwar-Bethni road to Bankhandi Jhalera	9.400						
3	Una & Bhanwar	HP-12-088	T-10-Kultra Kalan Up to Jajam Road	9.900	14.530	1398.97	87.36	1486.33	18 months	30.00
		HP-12-107	T-10-Tarlet to Behruha via New Abad	9.400						
4	Bargana	HP-12-086	T-10-Thankalan to Khurwan via Tar Road	9.200	27.780	2006.19	167.04	2173.23	18 months	43.50
		HP-12-107	T-10-Pungla Pungla Tala Lohar Road	18.550						
5	Bargana	HP-12-094	T-10-Sasal Pali to Nangal Salangri via Dera Baba Rudru	7.400	24.700	2140.38	148.53	2288.91	18 months	45.80
		HP-12-090	T-10-Sasal Pali to Nangal Salangri via Dera Baba Rudru	8.500						
6	Bhanwar	HP-12-090	T-10-Sasal Pali to Nangal Salangri via Dera Baba Rudru	8.500	13.440	1320.04	80.79	1400.83	18 months	28.02
		HP-12-094	T-10-Chanaru to Dhussara	6.690						
7	Bhanwar	HP-12-095	T-10-Chanaru to Dhussara via Sohari Road	11.600	11.600	1046.68	69.75	1116.43	18 months	22.35
		HP-12-095	T-10-Chanaru to Dhussara via Sohari Road	9.310						
8	Dudhpathar Chowk	HP-12-090	T-10-Sasal Pali to Nangal Salangri via Dera Baba Rudru	8.500	30.440	2041.58	183.04	2224.62	18 months	44.50
		HP-12-094	T-10-Chanaru to Dhussara via Sohari Road	6.690						

Note:- The rates to be quoted by the bidder shall be inclusive of all taxes, royalties, duties and other levies that the contractor will have to pay for the performance of this contract but excluding GST. GST at prevalent rates will be added / paid to the value offered by the bidder separately.

Maintenance Period is five years after date of completion of construction work.

- Cost of Bid Form:- Rs. 5000/- (Non-refundable)
- Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website <https://pmgsytendershp.gov.in>
- The bidders are advised to note the other details of the tenders from the website <https://pmgsytendershp.gov.in>

Key Dates:

1	Date of Online Publication	16.11.2023 (10:00 HRS)
2	Document Download Start and End Date	16.11.2023 (10:30 HRS) upto 07.12.2023 (09:00 HRS)
3	Bid Submission Start and End Date	16.11.2023 (10:30 HRS) upto 07.12.2023 (09:00 HRS)
4	Date of Technical Bid opening	07.12.2023 (11:00 HRS)

Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidders. It is the bidder's responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender. The undersigned has right to extend or cancel the bids without declaring any reasons therefor.

*Non-registered bidders may submit their bids; however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities of HP/PWD before signing the contract.

Superintending Engineer
15th Circle, H.P.P.W.D
Una-174303.
3618 (For & on behalf of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh)

Superintending Engineer, 6th Circle, HP/PWD Kullu-175011
Ph. 01902-222530, Fax: 01902-222299, E-mail: hp-kul@nic.in

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY) E-Procurement Notice

The Superintending Engineer, 6th Circle HP/PWD Kullu on behalf of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites the percentage rate/item rate bids, in electronic tendering system, for construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana for each of the following works including their maintenance for five years from the eligible and approved by the tenderers. It is the bidder's responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender. Non-registered bidders may submit bids. However, the successful bidder has to register in appropriate class with appropriate authorities in HP/PWD.

District	Package No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (In lacs)		Total cost (Rs. Lacs)	Period of Completion	Bid Security (Rs. Lacs) i.e. 2% of the total cost.
			Construction	Maintenance			
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
L&S 1	HP-07-156	MRL-14 Main road to village Yangrang Km 0/0 to 11/755 (SH-ROFD, Protection work, C.D. works, M/T, V-shape drain, Parapets, Road Safety, Km stone, Irrigation crossing and dumping site RD 0/0 to 11/755 including 5 years maintenance) under PMGSY-III	1041.08	106.25	1147.33	18 Months	22.95
L&S 2	HP-07-157	MRL-15 Link road to Marbal Km 0/0 to 7/0 (SH- ROFD, Protection work, C.D. works, M/T, V-shape drain, Parapets, Road Safety, Km stone, Irrigation crossing and dumping site RD 0/0 to 7/0 including 5 years maintenance) under PMGSY-III	1099.50	112.42	1211.92	18 Months	24.24
L&S 3	HP-07-155	MRL-10 Up-gradation of Rawaling Thirling Mailing (Thelwang) Km 0/0 to 5/440 (SH- ROFD, Protection work, C.D. works, M/T, V-shape drain, Parapets, Road Safety, Km stone, Irrigation crossing and dumping site RD 0/0 to 5/440 including 5 years maintenance) under PMGSY-III	2068.83	216.61	2285.44	24 Months	45.71
L&S 4	HP-07-159	MRL-03 SHRI Naitan bog road Km 0/0 to 6/195 (SH- ROFD, Protection work, C.D. works, GSM WBM, CMBM bituminous cold mix, CC pavement, V-shape drain & Kachha drain, Parapets, Crash barrier, Road Safety, Km stone, Irrigation crossing and dumping site RD 0/0 to 6/195 including 5 years maintenance) under PMGSY-III	1194.71	125.86	1320.57	18 Months	26.41
Kullu	HP-06-163	MRL-09 Up-gradation of Chharour Nallah to Kashiwar road Km 0/0 to 7/985 (SH-ROFD, Protection work, C.D. works, Road side drain, Metallizing & Tarring / Panel concrete, road furniture and dumping site RD 0/0 to 7/985 including 5 years maintenance) under PMGSY-III	1194.71	125.86	1320.57	18 Months	26.41

- Date of release of inviting for bids through e-procurement: at 10:00 AM on 02-11-2023.
- Cost of bid form:- Rs. 5000/- per package (non-refundable) only in form of Demand Draft.
- Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The bid document will be available online on 15-11-2023 and bid should be submitted online on website www.pmgsytender.gov.in. The bidder will be required to register in the web site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in PMGSY may obtain the same from the website: www.pmgsytender.gov.in
- Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidding already possessing the valid digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.
- Submission of Original Documents: The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4B(ii) of ITB with Superintending Engineer, 6th Circle, HP/PWD Kullu, on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand.
- Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-tendering: on 25-11-2023 upto 5:00 PM
- The site for the work is available.
- Only online submission of bids is permitted, therefore: bids must be submitted online on website www.pmgsytender.gov.in. The technical qualification part of the bids will be opened online at 11:30AM on 28-11-2023 on by the authorized officers. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened online on the next working day at the same time.
- The bidder is not required to quote his rate for routine maintenance. The rates to be paid for routine maintenance are indicated in the Bill of Quantities. Further, the performance of maintenance activities.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than ninety days after the deadline date for bid submission.
- Bidders may bid for any one or more of the works mentioned in the table above. To qualify for a package of contracts made up of this and other contracts for which bids are invited in the same NIT, the bidder must demonstrate having experience and resources sufficient to meet the aggregate of the qualifying criteria for the individual contracts.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The Employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.
- Contractors, who are having two or more pending works above one crore cost, where the stipulated period of the work is already over and pendency is due to the fault of the contractor as per the report of PIU, their bids will not be technically evaluated.
- The department has right to extend or cancel the bids without assigning any reasons therefor.

Superintending Engineer,
6th Circle, HP/PWD, Kullu

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

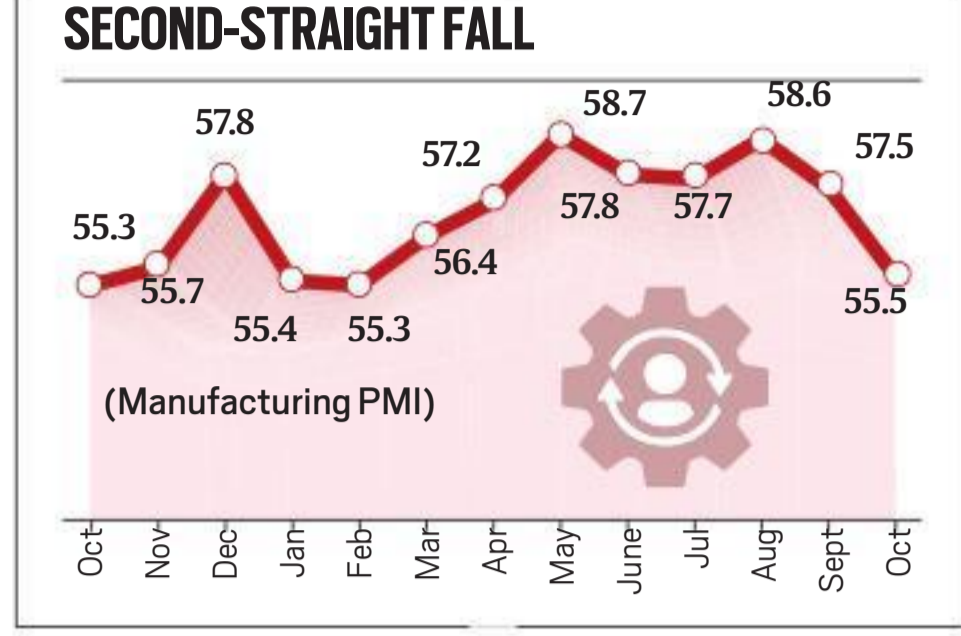
Corrigendum 01

Corrigendum against Tender Notice No. Stores/Tender & Bulletin/23/2023 dt 26.09.2023 (Tender No. 15236701). In reference to above tender notice following corrigendum is being issued for change/addition in Attached documents of Contract:

Manufacturing activity hits 8-month low

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 1

INDIA'S MANUFACTURING Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), slipped to an eight-month low of 55.5 in October as demand for "certain types of products", mostly consumer durables, faded.



Granular data highlighted a particularly marked slowdown in the consumer goods sub-sector," S&P Global said in a release.

facturing activity in the country; a reading above 50 denotes an expansion in activity as compared to the previous month, while a reading below signals contraction.

weigh on the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) numbers for the month, which experts believe will also fall to single digits from 10.3% in August - the highest print in 14 months.

NEW IMPORT AUTHORISATION SYSTEM Apple, Lenovo, Dell among 110 to get laptop import nod

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 1

AS THE system of prior authorisation for imports of computers and tablets came into force from November 1, the government has given the go-ahead to 110 applications from brand owners, retailers and resellers seeking approval to import up to \$10 billion worth of these goods.

FIRST DAY OF NEW SYSTEM

Of 111 applications filed, only one was turned down because the company fell in the denied entities list. India announced the new system for laptops, tablets and personal computers last month after it rolled back an earlier plan to impose a licensing regime following criticism.

Centre allows direct overseas listing of Indian companies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 1

IN A significant move, the government has permitted Indian companies to list on foreign exchanges, subject to certain conditions.

Currently, overseas listings by local listed entities are carried out through American Depository Receipts (ADRs) and Global Depository Receipts (GDRs).

BRIEFLY

2nd straight qtrly loss for Adani Wilmar

Bengaluru: Adani Wilmar swung to a loss for a second consecutive quarter on Wednesday, as lower edible oil prices continued to offset steady demand, pulling down the value of its sales.

Ambuja misses Q2 revenue view

Bengaluru: Ambuja Cements Wednesday missed quarterly revenue estimates after higher prices dampened sales volumes.

Tata Steel sees ₹6,511 cr net loss in Q2

New Delhi: Tata Steel Wednesday reported a consolidated net loss of ₹6,511.16 crore in the second quarter ended September. It had clocked ₹1,297.06 crore net profit in the year-ago period.

BHEL CMD

Koppu Sadashiv Murthy, 56, Wednesday took charge as chairman and MD of Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.

In FSSAI index, nearly all major states slip on food safety compared to 2019

AGGAM WALIA NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 1

FOUR YEARS after the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) published a state-wise index to spur food safety improvement, 19 out of 20 large states - including Maharashtra, Bihar, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh - recorded a drop in their 2023 scores from 2019.

Table with 3 columns: State, 2019, 2023. Rows include Maharashtra (74 to 45), Bihar (46 to 20.5), Gujarat (73 to 48.5), Andhra Pradesh (47 to 24), Chhattisgarh (46 to 27).

Table with 2 columns: Parameter, Weight. Rows include Compliance (28), Consumer Empowerment (19), Human Resources and Institutional Data (18), Food Testing Infrastructure (17), Improvement in SFSI Rank (added in 2023) (10), Training and Capacity Building (8), TOTAL (100).

The steepest fall in scores over five years was seen in Maharashtra, which scored 45 out of 100 in 2023 compared to 74 out of 100 in 2019.

adjusted to exclude the new parameter for comparison purposes, 15 out of 20 large states record a drop in their scores from their 2019 scores.

Since 2019, FSSAI has released the State Food Safety Index (SFSI) each year on June 7 on the occasion of World Food Safety Day.

The worst drop has been observed in the 'Food Testing Infrastructure' parameter, which was given the fourth highest weightage of 17 per cent in 2023 (20 per cent in previous years).

In 2020, the average of total scores given to all large states improved marginally to 56 points out of 100 from 52 points in 2019.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

'EPFO in process of crediting 8.15% interest for FY23'

New Delhi: Union Labour and Employment Minister Bhupendra Yadav Wednesday said the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is in the process of crediting interest of 8.15 per cent for 2022-23 and has already credited interest in more than 24 crore accounts.

The 234th meeting of the EPFO's Central Board of Trustees was held Tuesday in New Delhi wherein the Board approved the EPFO's annual report for 2022-23 and recommended it to the government for placing before Parliament.

The rupee ended at a record closing low of 83.29 after touching a lifetime low of 83.2950 just before market close.

Fed leaves rates unchanged, leaves door open for hike

REUTERS WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 1

THE FEDERAL Reserve held interest rates steady Wednesday but left the door open to a further increase in borrowing costs in a policy statement that acknowledged the US economy's surprising strength, but also nodded to the tighter financial conditions faced by businesses and households.

RUPEE AT RECORD LOW

Mumbai: The rupee fell to a record low in the last minute of trade Wednesday on the back of heavy demand for the greenback and elevated US yields ahead of the Federal Reserve's rate decision due later in the day.

ATF PRICE CUT BY 5.8%; COMMERCIAL LPG RATE HIKED BY ₹101.5

New Delhi: Jet fuel or ATF price on Wednesday was cut by almost 6 per cent after four rounds of monthly increases since July, while commercial cooking gas (LPG) rates were raised by a steep ₹101.5 per 19-kg cylinder in line with international benchmarks.

RailTel

RailTel/N. Region invites E-tenders from eligible bidders for TENDER No. RailTel/Tender / OT/ NR O&M /23-24/10, 11, 12 & 15

Cyber agency flagged 28 cases of security threat in Apple products in last 10 months

JATIN GROVER NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 1

APPLE MAY currently be facing heat over the possibility of state-sponsored hacking alert notices received by several opposition party leaders on their iPhones.

vulnerabilities flagged by CERT-IN related to multiple Apple products such as Apple iOS, iPadOS, Apple iTunes, Apple macOS, Apple Safari, Apple tvOS, watchOS, etc.

bilities were detected only in Apple products. Overall, around 300 such cases were detected by the agency during the period, involving other manufacturers and their products.

ers adapt their behaviour to evade detection in the future," Apple had said Tuesday in response to the alerts received by several opposition leaders.

Record ITR filing: 76.5 mn

New Delhi: A record 76.5 million income tax returns were filed for assessment year 2023-24 (FY23) till the due date of October 31, 11.7% higher than 68.5 million returns filed for AY2022-23 (FY22) till the respective due date, the tax department said on Wednesday.

11 bn UPI transactions in Oct

New Delhi: Over 11 billion transactions worth ₹8,176.16 lakh crore via Unified Payments Interface (UPI) took place in October. The transaction amount of ₹8,176.16 lakh crore in October was due to festival season, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) said on Wednesday.

Advertisement for State Office, Khadi and Village Industries Commission, featuring logo and contact information.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice. Tender No: T No.114 to 118/2023-24/SE/Q. JIM Chithara, Mylamoodu, Kulathuppuzha- Replacement of transmission main, construction of WTP, construction of pump house pumping main and allied works.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice. Tender No: T No.102 to 108/2023-24/SE/Q. JIM Ittva, Veliyam, Pattazhy Vadakkekara, Edamulakal, Poruvazhy, Sooranadu North, Piravanthoor- construction of OHSR, pipe line extension and allied works.

PAWRGID POWERGRID. Invitation for Bids (IFB) for Transmission line package TL02 for implementation of Distribution Infrastructure works of LPDD under Revamped Distribution Section Scheme (RDSS) in the districts of Leh & Kargil of UT of Ladakh.

KARNATAKA CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS' FEDERATION LIMITED. KMF Complex, Dr. M.H. Marigowda Road, DRC Post, Bangalore-560 029.

TENDER NOTIFICATION. [Two cover System] [Through e-procurement Portal only]. Tumkur Milk Union Ltd., desires to establish New Mega dairy project with regard to establishment of project on behalf of TUMUL Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd., Bangalore.

Classifieds PERSONAL

I, Avitesh, W/o Akshay Nayak, R/O 1473/2, Ram Janipuram Colony Jhansi, Jhansi Uttar Pradesh-284001, have changed my name to Avitesh Vaishnavi Nayak, for all, future purposes. 0040696235-1

I, Amit Kumar Bhattacharya S/O Atindra Kumar Bhattacharya R/O Flat No.1902 Tower No.-22, Lotus Boulevard, Sector-100, Noida U.P. have changed my name to Amit Bhattacharya for all future purposes. 0070871553-1

I, Hitherto known as R S Nishad alias Ram Sharan Nishad S/o Raja Ram Nishad, residing at B-402, Sikka Classic Home, Vasundhra, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201012 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Ram Sharan Nishad. 0040696457-1

SONALI D/O NAVI AJAM & W/O IRSHAD, R/O HOUSE NO-187, K-BLOCK, MANGOL PURI, DELHI-110083 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM SONALI TO KHERUN NISHA 0070871489-1

IKIRANBALA KHURANA, W/O Parveen Kumar Arora, R/O P-12, Second-Floor Private Colony Shrinivasi Puri, New Delhi-110065, Have changed my name to KIRAN ARORA, Permanently. 0040696563-6

I, Gandhi Sharma S/o Sh. Badri Parshad Sharma R/o E-45, Second Floor, Suncity, Gurgaon Sector-54, Gurgaon, Haryana-122011 have changed my name to Radhe Shyam Sharma for all purposes. 0040696453-1

Anil Kumar Sharma S/o Shiv Dutt Sharma, R/O H.No. 125-A, Green Enclave, Lohgarh Road, Zirakpur, (S.A.S nagar) Mohali, Punjab-140603 do hereby change my name from Anil Kumar Sharma to Anil Sharma with immediate effect vide affidavit dated 27.10.2023 before Notary Dhan Singh Nagar, N.Delhi. 0040696452-1

I, Satyanarayan Mali S/O Mobaata Ram R/O Sesawa, Jalor, Rajasthan-343041, have changed my name to Satish Kumar 0070871572-1

I, KRITIKA, D/O VIRENDER KUMAR, ADD-D-22, RAJEEV PARK SAGARPUR, SOUTH WEST DELHI 110046, changed my name to KRITIKA MEHLAN, for all, future purposes. 0040696573-1

I, AMRITHA D/O ANAND, R/O No.5, Kullappa House, KH Main Road, RS Palaya, MS Nagar Post, Bangalore-33, have changed my name, from AMRITHA to A AMRITHA, vide Affidavit, No. IN-DL81376167236254V, dated 14-Oct-23, before Court, New Delhi. 0040696555-10

The name of my daughter Aditri Dubey has been changed to Aaditri Dubey and she will known as Aaditri Dubey in future. Sarwa Nand Dubey R/O C-101, Shubhkamna Apartment, Plot No. F-31, Sector-50, Gautam Budh Nagar-201304, U.P. 0040696523-1

I, Hitherto known as MERCY NIRMALA RATNAM alias NIRMALA RATNAM, wife of E. RATNAM, residing at 13D, MIG-DA-Flats Motia-Khan, Paharganj, New Delhi-110055, have changed my name and shall hereinafter be known as MERCY NIRMALA RATNAM. 0040696582-4

I, Vikas S/O Suresh Kumar, R/O Lehrara Sonipat, Haryana, Have Changed My Name To Vikas Kumar, for all, future purposes. 0040696582-4

I, UMA RANI, W/O CHARAN SINGH, ADD-1496/31, KAMLANAGAR NEAR OLD HOUSING-BOARD COLONY, ROHTAK-124001, changed my name to UMA DEVI, for all, future purpose. 0040696555-4

I, Premilata W/O Subedar Yadav R/O Chandaraaval, Mohkampur, Mandarwa, Misrikh Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh-261401, have changed my name to Sunetta 0070871570-1

I, Tejvir Singh, S/O Randhir Singh, R/O H.No. 697, Village-Shahpur, Panipat (Haryana) -132107, have changed my name to Tejvir Kundu. 0040696577-5

I, Tara Chand and Tara Chand Dhoundiyal S/O Shri Mahanand R/O A5C/25-B, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058 both are same person. 0040696563-8

I, Tanvir Ashraf, Father of, Almash Tanveer, R/O C-1/93, Yamuna-Vihar Garhi Mendu, Delhi-110053, have changed my minor's son name, from Almash Tanveer to Almash Tanvir, for all purposes. 0040696587-1

I, Sukhdeep Singh, father of Ashnoor Kaur Boparai, resident of C-70 Farmer's Apartment, Sector-13, Rohini, Delhi-110085, and presently residing at, 80 Royal, Palm Drive, Brampton, ON L6Z 1P6 do hereby change the name of, my daughter from Ashnoor Kaur to Ashnoor Kaur Boparai, with immediate effect. 0040696555-9

I, Jaspal Singh S/O Shri Arjan Singh R/O 1466/F-13, Gali No.13, Gopindpuri, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019 hereby declare that my Saving Bank A/c with IDBI Bank and the name Jaspal Singh Gally with other places Jaspal Singh. My correct name is Jaspal Singh and both the person is same and one as per the Affidavit sworn in before the Notary Public on 27.10.2023. 0040696451-1

I, Urmila Sharma W/O Nitin Kumar Sharma R/O 101, Plot-66, Sec-6, Vaishali, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Urmila Kumari Sharma. 0070871562-1

I, Sudhendu Chamoli s/o-Lalit Prasad Chamoli, R/O-M-102, Aditya Mega City, Vaibhav Khand, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad , UP-201014, have changed my name to Sudhendu Kumar Chamoli, permanently. 0040696563-5

I, Shrirish, S/o Ashok Kumar, R/O-53, Jagriti Apartment Sainik, Vihar, Delhi-110034, have changed my name, from Shirish to Shirish Aggarwal, for all future, purposes. 0040696577-8

I, Sandeep Sharma, S/O Shri Lalit Prasad Sharma R/O H.No-1702, Tower-C, Divyansh Flora, PlotNo.GC-03H, Greater Noida West, Distt.Gautam Buddh-Nagar, U.P., have changed my name, from SANDEEP KUMAR SHARMA to SANDEEP SHARMA, for all future purposes. 0040696573-8

I, Sameer, S/O Babudeen, R/O. 1584, 1st floor Katra Multani sarai Khalil sadaf-bazar Delhi, Have changed my name to Mohd Sameer. 0040696577-1

I, SUNITA, W/O VINOD KUMAR GARG, R/O 1199/5, WARDNO.4, MAL GODAM ROAD, ROHTAK, HARYANA-124001. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SUNITA GARG. 0040696587-3

I, Rupa Sharma D/O Ramesh Chandra Gupta R/O, Flat No. 402 Tower 33 Lotus Boulevard Espacia Sector-100 Noida, U.P. have changed my name, to Rupa. 0040696563-7

I, Ravish Ahmad S/O Kaseem Ahmad R/O-387, Laddhawala Bakra, Market Muzaffarnagar Uttar, Pradesh-251002, inform that my father name was wrongly written as Kasim Ahmad in my passport but, my father, correct name is Kaseem Ahmad 0040696555-8

I, Rafiq S/O Sabir Ansari, R/O C-3, Khasra No-24/10 S/F, Rani Garden, S/T No.2, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-110031, have changed my name to Rafiq Ansari. 0040696577-10

I, RANJAN GARG, S/O BHAGIRATH GARG R/O, FLAT, NO.37, VEER-APARTMENT, SECTOR-13, ROHINI, DELHI-110085, have changed my name to AKASH GARG 0040696555-2

I, RAJESH KUMAR, F/O AYUSH, H.NO-1059A 1058 1059, FLAT, NO. F.1, 1ST-FLOOR, KH.NO 1151/3, WARD, NO.8, NEAR AGGARWAL DHARAMSALA, MEHRAULI, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI 110030, HAVE CHANGED MY MINOR SON NAME TO AYUSH SAINI, FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040696577-6

I, Payal alias Payal Mittal D/O Parmil Mittal R/O, A-163, Phase-2, Ashok-Vihar, New Delhi-110052, have changed my name to Payal Walia. 0040696587-5

I, RAJESH KUMAR F/O RAJESH, H.NO-1059A 1058 1059, FLAT, NO. F.1, 1ST-FLOOR KH.NO 1151/3, WARD, NO.8, NEAR AGGARWAL DHARAMSALA, MEHRAULI, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110030, HAVE CHANGED MY MINOR DAUGHTER NAME TO RASHI SAINI, FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040696577-7

I, RAJESH GOYAL R/O HNO. 13, PASCHIM ENCLAVE, PASCHIM VIHAR, DELHI-110087, HAVE CHANGED MY CHILD NAME MRIDUL GOYAL TO ADITI GOYAL FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040696577-3

I, Poonam, W/O Late Pankaj Malhotra, R/O House. No.68, Kh.No.118/14, Gali.No-3, B-Block, Parvati Aanchal, changed my name to Poonam Malhotra, for all purposes. 0040696597-1

I, Pawan S/o, Ram Prasad, H.No. 1936/3, Street.No.3, Near-Rohilla Dharmshala, Rajiv Nagar, Gurugram (HR). 122001, have changed my name to Pawan Kumar. 0040696597-2

I, Paramjit Kaur W/O Vardinder Singh R/O-23/92-A, First-Floor, Tilaak-Nagar, New Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Paramjeet Kaur for all purposes. 0040696587-4

I, PRITHA D/O-A ANAND, R/O No.5, Kullappa House, KH Main Road, RS Palaya, MS Nagar Post, Bangalore-33, have changed my name, from PRITHA to A PRITHA, vide Affidavit, No. IN-DL81375935077995V, Dated 14-Oct-23, before Court, New Delhi. 0040696555-11

I, PRABHJOT SINGH, S/O-Sh. GURJEET SINGH, R/O-A-457, SHASTRI NAGAR, DELHI-110052, inform that my, mother name HARMEET KAUR and HARMEET, both are same person. Her correct, name is HARMEET KAUR. 0040696555-6

I, Sugandha Sharma D/O Tejendra Datt Sharma R/O-H.No.1/2706, Gali No.1, Ram Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Sugandha R Sharma for all future purposes. 0040696509-1

I, Rinku Gupta F/O Rudra Gupta R/O B-10, Upper Ground Floor, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Adarsh Nagar, North West Delhi-110033, have changed my son's name from Rudrr Gupta to Rudra Gupta for all future Purposes. 0070871561-1

I, Pramod Goyal S/O Late Madan Lal Goyal Residence C-127, New Ashok Nagar, Delhi-110096, have changed my name Pramod Kumar Goel to Pramod Goyal for all future purpose. Pramod Kumar Goel and Pramod Goyal both are same person. 0040696503-1

I, PAWAN KUMAR SEHRAWAT, ADD-D-19, Mahipalpur, New Delhi-110037, changed my Minor-Daughter name CHAHANA TO CHAHANA SEHRAWAT. 0040696563-2

I, PANKAJ KUMAR, S/O KISHORE LAL ARORA HOUSE NO-1176, SECTOR-28, FARIDABAD, HARYANA-121008, have changed my name to PANKAJ KUMAR ARORA, for all, future purpose. 0040696573-2

I, No-9118823L, NK(CLKC) Makkhan Lal, S/O-Phoolam Gajraj, R/O-Hamirpura Kalan, Tehsil-Khandela, District-Sikar Rajasthan-332708. In my service records name of my son has been wrongly mentioned as Rakshit instead of Rakshit Gajraj. It needs correction. Objections be filled to concerned authorities within seven days. 0020467114-1

I, No-9107438F, Hav Nazir Ahmad Awan, S/O- Bashir Ahmad Awan, R/O- Chanipora Payeen Tangdar-193225. In my service records D o B of my daughter namely Iram Nazeer has been wrongly mentioned as 02-03-2007 instead of 15-11-2007. It needs correction. Objections be filled to concerned authorities within seven days. 0020467115-1

I, Nadeem Siddiqui S/O Abdul Aziz R/O-12-A/28-D Sanjay Gali No.4, Subhash Mohalla, Majupur, Delhi-110053, Have changed My Name To Nanney Siddiqui For All Purposes. 0040696573-3

I, NAFEEZ AHMED, S/O-MOHD HANEER, F/O-C-19, FIRST FLOOR, ANSARI ROAD, JAIPUR EXTN, PART-2 BADARPUR, SOUTH EAST DELHI-110044, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO NAFEEZ AHMAD PERMANENTLY, FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES. 0040696580-1

I, Mohd Ali, S/O MOHD DOMEN, R/O, BUTH-11 New-Sabzi Mandi Sonipat, Haryana, Have Changed My Name To Mohammad Ali, for all, future purposes. 0040696577-2

I, Meenakshi Ratan, W/o Sh. Vishal Kumar Ratan, R/O Plot No.94, Rajdhani Nikunj Soc, Flat, No.96, 3-Floor, Madhu-Vihar, Patparganj, U.P. Extension, East Delhi-110092, Have Changed my name, from Meenakshi to Meenakshi Ratan, for all, future purposes. 0040696597-4

I, RAJESH KUMAR, F/O AYUSH, H.NO-1059A 1058 1059, FLAT, NO. F.1, 1ST-FLOOR, KH.NO 1151/3, WARD, NO.8, NEAR AGGARWAL DHARAMSALA, MEHRAULI, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI 110030, HAVE CHANGED MY MINOR SON NAME TO AYUSH SAINI, FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040696577-6

I, Mamta W/O RAJESH KUMAR R/O A-18, KEWAL PARK EXTN, NEAR PANCHWATI, AZADPUR, DELHI-110033, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MAMTA GUPTA. 0040696577-4

I, Kavita D/o Satya Dev Sharma R/O-395 Gali, No.5 Bhagat, Vihar Karawal, Nagar Delhi-110094, have changed my name to Kavita Sharma. 0040696563-4

I, Kamala Chettri spouse-of LNK Rajesh Kumar Chettri, resident of Middle Palash (Near The Farm House) Devidanga Bazar, Palash, Champasari, Siliguri-734003, have rectified my name from Kamla Chettri to Kamala Chettri and also my correct D.O.B is 20.01.1978 vide Affidavit/Self-declaration dated-13/09/2023. 0040696555-7

I, K DEVIPRIYA, SPOUSE OF, HARI KONAGALA RESIDENT OF, H.No.4-59-61, JUTEMILL ROAD, KOTHAPETA, TAGARAPUVALASA, VISHAKAPATNAM(DIST), ANDHRAPRADESH-531162, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME, FROM K DEVIPRIYA TO RASAMSETTI DEVIPRIYA, VIDE AFFIDAVIT, DATED-07-AUG-23. 0040696563-10

I, Jeewan Chand Upreti, S/O Anand Bhalbhi Upreti, R/O, H.No.G-1073, Third-Floor Shakur Pur, Delhi-110034, have changed my name Jeewan Chandra Upreti, for all purposes. 0040696587-2

I, Ishitya Ahmad Bhat, F/O-Anabia Ishityaq, R/O- Uttersoo, Tehsil-Shangas, District-Anantnag. In my service records D o B of my daughter has been wrongly mentioned as 18-01-2019 instead of 17-07-2020 as in birth certificate. It needs correction. Objections be filled to concerned authorities within seven days 0020467116-1

I, Hitherto Known As Priti Jain, W/O- Rajesh Jain, R/O-X/1320, Gali, No.3A, Raj-Garh Colony, Gandhi-Nagar, East-Delhi, Delhi-110031, Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Preeti Jain. 0040696563-9

I, Garima Khera, W/O Anmol Khera, D/O Madan Lal Arora presently residing at Flat No.-51-B, 1st-Floor, C.G.H.S. M.I.G. Flats, Samay Vihar Apartment Plot.No.-33, Sector-13, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name Garima khera to Garima Arora, for all, future purposes with immediate effect. 0040696573-9

I, GULSHAN KUMAR, S/O RAM NATH BAJAJ, R/O CA/27, KH.No. 25/24, FLAT, NO. 01, U.G.F., RAMA-VIHAR, MOHAMMAD-PUR MAJRI, DELHI-110081, have changed my name to GULSHAN KUMAR BAJAJ. 0040696555-1

I, Nandakumar Kamat S/O Bhalachandra Kamat R/O 701, Tower-1, NRI Residence, Plot No. GH-04A, Sec-45, G.B.Nagar, UP-201303, have changed my name to Nandakumar Bhalachandra Kamat for all future purposes. 0070871567-1

I, Pramod Kumar Mishra R/O 9445, C-9, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070 have changed my minor daughter name from Ashvika to Ashvika Mishra 0070871559-1

I, Darothia, W/O-Shri Ajit Kumar Lakra, R/O-E-1/171, Ground Floor, Sector-11, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Darothia Lakra. 0040696580-2

I, Bhim Singh, S/O Om Parkash, R/O-Ward No.19, Gali No.1, Dr. Gupta wal Gal, Uttam Nagar, Gohana, Sonipat, Haryana-131301, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Ramesh Kumar. 0040696580-3

I, Atul Bhatia, S/O Ram Lal Bhatia, H.No.41 Suvidha-Kunj Zone H-4/5, Pitampura, Delhi-110034, have changed my name, from Atul Ramlal Bhatia to Atul Bhatia, for all, future purposes. 0040696563-3

I, KAPIL TAWAR S/O RAMKESH TAWAR R/O-63, FATEHPUR BURI DELHI-110074, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO KAPIL TANWAR. 0040696582-1

I, Ashok Kumar, S/O Kailash Singh R/O-H.No-139 C/O Sri Chand Raghav, Karkar-Modi, Sahibabad-Ghaziabad, U.P-201010, have changed my name to Mahankar Singh. 0040696563-1

I, Ajay S/O Ashok Kumar, R/O B-07 Ramgarh Gali, No.06 Jahangir puri Delhi-110033, have changed my name to Ajay Kumar 0040696597-3

I, Aarushi D/o Deepak Dahiya, Address- H.No.-1201, Shri Guruji C.G.H.S., Sec-23, Sonipat (131001), Haryana Have Change My Name To Aarushi Dahiya, For All Purpose. 0040696582-2

I, Aakash Marwah, S/O, Jagmohan, R/O, F-26, Desh Bandhu Gupta Market, Karol-Bagh Delhi-5, have changed my -minor daughter's name, from Airah Marwah to Aira Marwah (DOB-02/10/2022). 0040696577-9

I, ANKITA SINGH, W/O-MANOJ PRATAP SINGH, R/O-1002B, TOWER-1, PANCHSHEEL WELLINGTON CROSSING-REPUBLIC GHAZIABAD, UP-201016, CHANGED MY NAME TO ANKITA CHAUHAN, FOR ALL PURPOSE. 0040696555-3

I, Vilayil Padinjattethil yohannan Saly John W/O Philip John R/O Flat.No.91C, Pocket-6, MIG Flat, Mayur Vihar, Phase-3, East Delhi-110096 have changed my name to Saly Philip for all future Purpose. 0070871551-1

I, Kumari Jyoti W/O Lokesh Kumar Sharma R/O Village-Brahamanpur Gajroula Urf Navada, Sector-20, Greater Noida U.P. have changed my name to Jyoti for all future purposes. 0070871552-1

I, Haree Singh S/O Mangal Singh R/O 65, Sringar Vihar, Khora Colony, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Hari Singh. 0070871555-1

I, Nitin Sharma S/O Subhash Chand Sharma R/O 101, Plot-66, Sec-6, Vaishali, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Nitin Kumar Sharma. 0070871565-1

Ritesh Kumar S/O Ravi Singh R/O Mau Bazar Teh-Birari Distt Moradabad have changed my son's name from Atharava Kumar to Atharava Singh. Hence forth he shall be known as Atharava Singh for all purposes.

LOST & FOUND

I, Amit Aggarwal, S/O Sunder Lal Aggarwal form 38 and form H having S.No.-44418 to 44437 and 96709 to 96713 of Sumex Exports Pvt.Ltd. Plot No.-59/1/4, Site-IV, Sahibabad Indl area Sahibabad, have lost somewhere. 0040696573-10

I Piyush Raj have lost my B.tech marksheet roll no. 1319531009 AKTU University. FIR No, LR No:1090208/2023 0040696522-1

I Sanjay Magazine S/o Sh. Brij Kishan Magazine R/o Flat No.B-8, Kashmir Apartments, Pitampura, Delhi-110034 have lost my Original Possession Letter of Flat No.B-8, Kashmiri Sahayak Samiti Cooperative Group Housing Society Ltd., Presently now known as Kashmir Apartments, Pitampura, Delhi. Finders may contact at above address. 0040696453-8

I, Hitherto Known As Priti Jain, W/O- Rajesh Jain, R/O-X/1320, Gali, No.3A, Raj-Garh Colony, Gandhi-Nagar, East-Delhi, Delhi-110031, Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Preeti Jain. 0040696563-9

I, Garima Khera, W/O Anmol Khera, D/O Madan Lal Arora presently residing at Flat No.-51-B, 1st-Floor, C.G.H.S. M.I.G. Flats, Samay Vihar Apartment Plot.No.-33, Sector-13, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name Garima khera to Garima Arora, for all, future purposes with immediate effect. 0040696573-9

I, GULSHAN KUMAR, S/O RAM NATH BAJAJ, R/O CA/27, KH.No. 25/24, FLAT, NO. 01, U.G.F., RAMA-VIHAR, MOHAMMAD-PUR MAJRI, DELHI-110081, have changed my name to GULSHAN KUMAR BAJAJ. 0040696555-1

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I, Pramod Kumar Mishra R/O 9445, C-9, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070 have changed my minor daughter name from Ashvika to Ashvika Mishra 0070871559-1

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is brought to the notice of the public at large through this Public Notice that I, Dr. Shilpa Singh S/O Late Shri D.C. Aggarwal, Resident of House No. 152, South Park Apartments, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019, presently residing at Flat No. 401, Firebrand Garden (Mumbai), Powai (IT, Mumbai) Maharashtra-400706 have lost/misplaced the original Regd. Conveyance Deed dated 03.10.1998, bearing Reg. No. 5.304 in Advt. Book No. 1, Vol. No. 1.518 from Pages 142 to 143, with respect to my immovable property bearing No. 152 South Park Apartments, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019, in New Delhi. In this regard a NCR has been lodged with P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi vide LR No. 1074072/2023 on 27.07.2023. Finder may contact me at 9607748822.

DR. SHRINIWAS Son of Resident of House No. 152, South Park Apartments, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019 Presently Residing at Flat No. 401, Firebrand Garden (Mumbai), Powai (IT Mumbai), Maharashtra-400706

BE IT KNOWN TO all that my clients Sh. Rajbeer Singh S/O Late Shri D.C. Aggarwal & his wife Smt. Suran W/O Sh. Rajbeer Singh R/O 483 & 484, Pitampura, Delhi-110034 have severed all their relations with their Son Namely Karan his wife Shubra Mittal (daughter in law) & their daughter namely Shreerika Aggarwal for all purposes and have disowned them from his/her their all movable and immovable properties. If any person deals with them he/she shall do so at his/her own risk and cost and my clients shall not be responsible in any manner.

Naveen Sharma (Advocate) H. No. 656, Khera Khurd, Delhi-110026

Be IT KNOWN TO all that my Clients Hasan Basri W/o Late Ibrahim, Resident of House. No.48, Mehboob Nagar, Gurgaon, Haryana, India, Nagar, Okhla, Gurgaon, Haryana, Rajasthan, has disposed of/abandoned her son Jamsahar, from all their moveable / immovable properties assets and severed all their relations with him due to their misconduct/misbehavior towards my client. If anybody deals with him in any manner will do so at his/her their own risks and responsibilities. My clients shall not be responsible for any kind of act done by him.

Sd/- JAVED MOHSIN ADVOCATE CHAMBER NO. 689, PATIALA HOUSE COURTS, NEW DELHI.

Be IT KNOWN TO all that my Clients Sh. Vishal Kumar Ratan, R/O Plot No.94, Rajdhani Nikunj Soc, Flat, No.96, 3-Floor, Madhu-Vihar, Patparganj, U.P. Extension, East Delhi-110092, Have Changed my name, from Meenakshi to Meenakshi Ratan, for all, future purposes. 0040696597-4

I, Aakash Marwah, S/O, Jagmohan, R/O, F-26, Desh Bandhu Gupta Market, Karol-Bagh Delhi-5, have changed my -minor daughter's name, from Airah Marwah to Aira Marwah (DOB-02/10/2022). 0040696577-9

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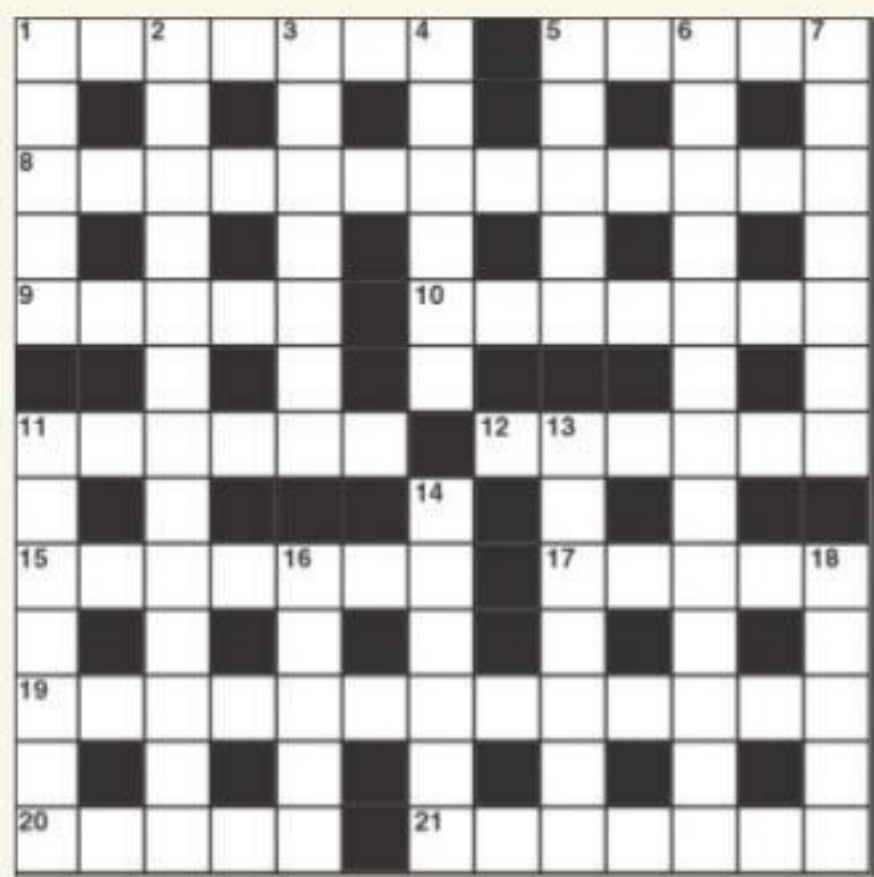
सर्वजनिक सूचना मेरे मुम्बिकल श्रीमती विजय लक्ष्मी श्री जी राज कुमर या शहर नगर - A/154, गली नंबर 5, अहमदनगर विहार विहार 110092 में अपने पुत्र सुनिता कुमारी को तब तक वापस करना है जब तक कि वह वापस नहीं करता है तो मैं अपने सम्बन्ध विच्छेद कर लिए है और मैं यह कोई लेन देन करने है तो उसके विच्छेद शुरू होने से पूर्व मुम्बिकल व दस्ता परिवार दोनों और पंजीबदारी के लिए आवेदन नहीं होगा।

KAMAL SINGH (Advocate) Enr.L. No. D/748/2014

Be it known to all that I, Smt. NEEL KANT S/O SH. VIRENDER SINGH, R/O B-112, 2ND FLOOR, KAILASH COLONY, GREATER KAILASH, NEW DELHI-110048, purchaser of FLAT NO. JA-2ND FLOOR, LIG FLAT, BHIM NAGAR SAIDARBAIN DEVELOPMENT AREA, NEW DELHI-110016, have applied for conversion of the original flat from lease hold to free hold in DDA. The original documents in DEMAND-CUM-ALLOTMENT LETTER, POSSESSION LETTER, NO. OF WATER & ELECTRICITY CONNECTION AND SITE POSSESSION SLIP of the above flat have been lost. An FIR to this effect has been lodged in P.S. Crime branch Delhi. Any person claiming any right, interest, having any objection or fraud in possession of original documents, may intefect with above named person at above Mobile No.830071064 within 15days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property, can personally inform or write to Deputy District Officer Housing LIG, D.B.Rock, 3rd Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE General Public is hereby informed that my client ONKAR SINGH S/O TEJ SINGH R/O House No. B-112, 2ND FLOOR, KAILASH COLONY, GREATER KAILASH, NEW DELHI-110048

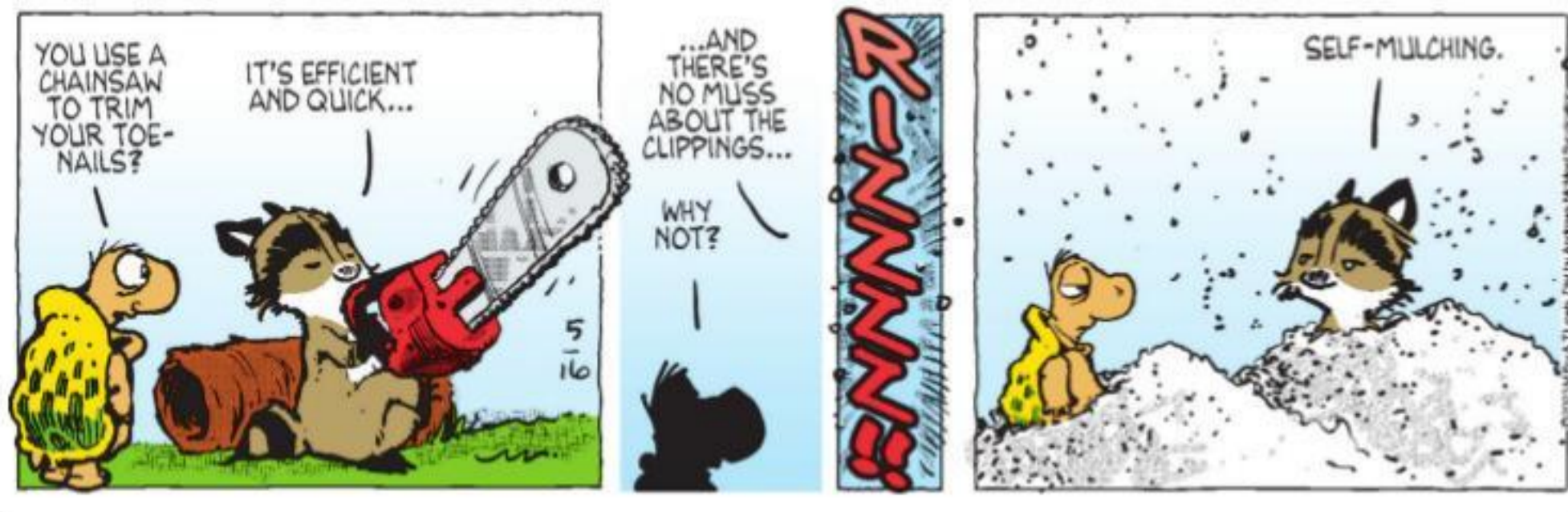
CROSSWORD 5198



- ACROSS: 1 Sack for someone who takes money (7), 5 One knows them to be well-informed (5), 8 Speedy help appreciated by a forgetful actor (6,7), 9 Chopper blade (5), 10 Go over the story and point to erroneous errata (7), 11 Bitterly continue a row with the French (6), 12 Behind, like with rent? That's awkward (6), 15 Parson crazed with love for a trebly gifted female (7), 17 Part of a car to take one's breath away (5), 19 A tribe in grand turmoil show fortitude (4,3,4,2), 20 It's South Africa in the sun for her (5), 21 It makes a dramatic setting for action (7). DOWN: 1 It's a prank maybe to get pickled (5), 2 Aches from the recoil of a rifle? (8,5), 3 I'm over the danger though put in jeopardy (7), 4 Mounting a revolt (6), 5 The right are right less often (5), 6 Where the rank and file come from? (7,6), 7 A spot of illicit drinking (7), 11 Accepts new contract and quits (7), 13 Hide away or gradually let out (7), 14 Large groups from Rhodes (6), 16 A trap set outside a second time (5), 18 A record that's not way out? (5).

Solutions Crossword 5197 Across: 1 Hardy, 8 Leapfrog, 9 Scale, 10 Lemonade, 11 Sport, 12 Gay, 16 German, 17 Ethics, 18 Um, 23 Guff, 24 Manx cats, 25 Towel, 26 Emphatic, 27 Close Down: 2 Accepted, 3 Dolphins, 4 Teresa, 5 Apron, 6 Trial, 7 Gled, 12 Gru, 13 Yen, 14 Charcoal, 15 Scoffers, 19 Retail, 20 Emmet, 21 Snaps, 22 Scrap

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



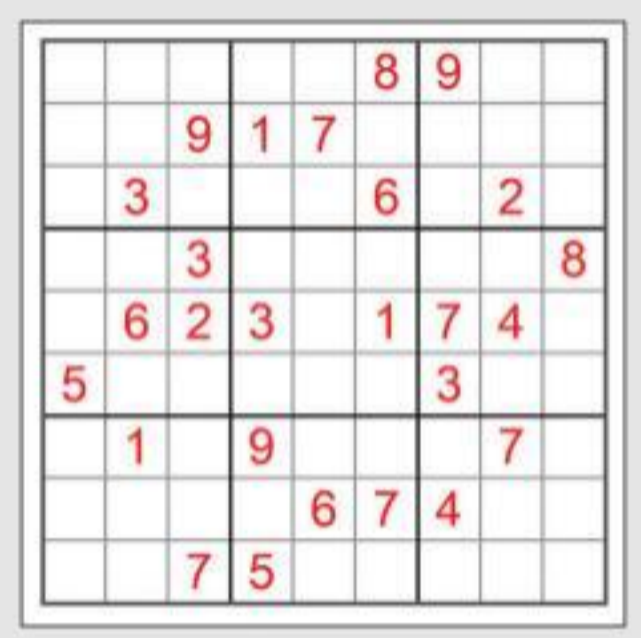
JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given clue. I am _____ I know, for loving, and for saying so in whining poetry. - John Donne (3,5)

AKZOO, EIMYLT, COWLS, ALYYFW. A grid with shaded squares for jumbled words.

ANSWER: I am two fools. I know, for loving, and for saying so in whining poetry. - John Donne. SOLUTION: AKZOO, COWLS, EIMYLT, ALYYFW

Difficulty Level 5s 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

CENTRAL WAREHOUSING CORPORATION (A Govt. of India Undertaking) No. CWC CO-ED07C/81/2023-Tender Cell-CO Dated: 30.10.2023 Notice Inviting Tender E-Bid Invitation Notice for development of storage facility through PPP under DBFOF model at 08 locations across India.

प्रेस विज्ञप्ति क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, उत्तर प्रदेश प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड, जे-1 ज्ञान सरोवर कालोनी, रामघाट रोड, अलीगढ़। पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हेतु आयोजित की जाने वाली लोक सुनवाई की सूचना।

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-Tender Notice E-Tender is invited on behalf of the President of India for the Under Mentioned Work (1) Name of work with its location: Supply, stacking and spreading of stone ballast, linking of permanent way including transportation of P.Way materials like Rail, Sleeper, fittings etc and other associated works as per Railway's specification and standard in connection with construction of new By-pass line at Lalitgram between Saraiarh-Forbesganj section in samastipur Division of East Central Railway. (2) Approx. cost of the work of : Rs. 3,29,55,299.55 (3) Bid Security Amount: Rs. 3,14,800.00 (4) Date and time for closing of tender: 21.11.2023 at 14:30 hrs. (5) Website particular, Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and addressed of the office from where the tender form be purchased etc.: The above E-Tender, E-Tendering document alongwith full information is available on website http://www.ireps.gov.in. Note: In case of any discrepancies found in tender notices, English version will be final. Tenderers are requested to visit the website http://www.ireps.gov.in atleast 15 days before last date of closing for latest corrigendum/corrections etc in response to this E-tender CAO/Con/North, EC Rly, MHX, Patna PR/01521/CONN/ENGG/T/23-24/40

SALUTE THE SOLDIER Assistant Commandant Ashok Kumar Rana ITBP salutes its braveheart Assistant Commandant Ashok Kumar Rana of 19th Battalion, who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty on this day in J&K in 1998. Resident of : 3374, Sector-A/B, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi INDO-TIBETAN BORDER POLICE (ITBP)

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-Tender Notice Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender for the under noted work: 1 Name of Work with its location: Part-A: Design, supply, erection, testing & commissioning of 25 KV AC OHE in connection with 'Opening of new passenger halt station Jiwana between Kasimpur Khari and Baoli stations on DSA-SMQL-SRE section'. Part-B: Design, supply, erection, testing & commissioning of 25 KV AC OHE modification work in connection with 'Raising of platform to High level from Low level at Gokulpur Saboli (GPSL) halt 1 PF (single line) under ADENSGZB on DSA-SMQL-TPZ section. 2 Approx. cost of work: Rs. 42,39,422.33/- 3 Earnest Money: Rs. 84,800/- 4 E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period: 14.11.2023 (00:00 Hrs.) to 28.11.2023 (15:00 Hrs.) 5 E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time: 28.11.2023 (15:00 Hrs.) 6 Fund Allocation: PH-53 Capital 7 Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen: www.ireps.gov.in No.: 34-TRD-NDLS-2023-24 DL: 31.10.2023 3412/23 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE INVITING TENDER 30-Elect-33-T-2023-24-E3 Electrical work in connection with construction of 20 Nos. additional rooms with other allied work in running room GZB. Approx cost of the works in :- Rs. 38.22 lacs Address of the office :- Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi. Bid Security :- Rs. 75000.00 Date & time of submission of tender :- 28.11.2023, 12.00 Hrs. Opening of tender :- 28.11.2023, 12.00 Hrs. Website & notice board :- www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi. SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 34/10/2023

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बिहार सरकार योजना एवं विकास विभाग कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन, कार्य प्रमंडल-01, सासाराम, रोहतास। निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या - 02 (SBD) / 2023-24 (केवल ई-टेंडर पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर) बिहार के राजपाल महोदय की ओर से बिहार राज्य के किसी भी कार्य विभाग / निगम / अन्य राज्य सरकार / केन्द्र सरकार / सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रम या राष्ट्रीय या अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यापित के किसी भी एजेंसी में स्मृतिगत श्रेणी में निविदा संवेदकों से प्रतिशत दर निविदा दो बीड प्रणाली (एक-बीडी एवं द्वितीय) अनर्गत आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। यदि संवेदक बिहार राज्य के किसी कार्य विभाग / निगम में पूर्व से निविदा नहीं है, तब एकराजनाम के पूर्व निम्नलिखित कार्य का स्वीकार पत्र (लेटर ऑफ एक्सेप्टेंस) प्राप्त होने के बाद बिहार राज्य के किसी भी कार्य विभाग / निगम (जिसमें निम्नलिखित कार्य लागू हो) में निबंधन कराना अनिवार्य होगा। 1. कार्य की विवरणों :-

क्र. संख्या	कार्य का नाम	परिमाणु विवरण की राशि (लाख रु० में)	अवधि का सीमा (और लंबाई मीटर या ऑफ साईड मीटर के रूप में) (लाख रु० में)	परिमाणु-विवरण के रूप में अनुमानित (रुपये में)	बीड प्रोसेसिंग शुल्क (आवृत्तियों के अनुसार) (रुपये में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि (माह में)
01	रोहतास जिला अनर्गत चैनारी प्रखण्ड के फुलवरीया पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार मवन का निर्माण कार्य।	250.42264	5.01000	10000.00	e-proc2 के वेब पेज के अनुसार	14 माह
02	रोहतास जिला अनर्गत चैनारी प्रखण्ड के धेवी पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार मवन का निर्माण कार्य।	251.27523	5.02600	10000.00	e-proc2 के वेब पेज के अनुसार	14 माह
03	रोहतास जिला अनर्गत चैनारी प्रखण्ड के उगहनी पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार मवन का निर्माण कार्य।	250.84893	5.01700	10000.00	e-proc2 के वेब पेज के अनुसार	14 माह
04	रोहतास जिला अनर्गत चैनारी प्रखण्ड के खुर्बादा पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार मवन का निर्माण कार्य।	248.50432	4.97100	10000.00	e-proc2 के वेब पेज के अनुसार	14 माह

2. विज्ञापन निर्गत करने की तिथि : दिनांक -28.10.2023
3. निविदा का जमागत अपलोड करने की प्रारम्भिक : दिनांक 16.11.2023 को 10.00 बजे पूर्वहन से। की तिथि एवं समय : (सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)
4. प्री-बीड मीटिंग का समय, स्थान एवं तिथि : दिनांक 13.11.2023 समय 3.30 बजे, अपराहन में मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय, स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन, विरेश्वरवारा मवन, चतुर्थ तल, कमरा नं०-423, वेली रोड, पटना-800011 (सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)
5. निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक 25.11.2023 समय 3.00 बजे अपराहन तक। (सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)
6. तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक 28.11.2023 समय 3.30 बजे अपराहन से। (कड़िका 5 में उल्लिखित अंतिम तिथि से दो कार्य दिवस के पश्चात की तिथि)। (सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)
7. वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक 28.11.2023 समय 3.30 बजे अपराहन से। (सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)
8. निविदा खोलने का स्थान : www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर
9. निविदा की केला अवधि : 120 दिन (निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि के बाद)
10. विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता : कार्यपालक अभियंता, स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन प्रमण्डल, कार्य प्रमंडल-01, सासाराम, रोहतास।
11. निविदा केवल ई-निविदा पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर निष्पादित किया जाएगा। ई-निविदा प्रक्रिया से संबंधित जानकारी ई-मेल आईडी01-eproc2support@bihar.gov.in, Working Hours 8:00 am to 7:00 pm से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। ई-निविदा प्रक्रिया से संबंधित जानकारी eproc2.0 helpdesk, Address-mjunction services ltd, R.J. Complex, 2nd Floor, Canara Bank Campus, Khajpura, Ashiana Road, P.S.-Shastri Nagar, Patna-800014 से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। (ई० संजय कुमार) कार्यपालक अभियंता स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन, कार्य प्रमंडल -01, सासाराम, रोहतास PR. No. 011025 (Planning) 2023-24 नरो की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।



SHORT TAKES

Maxwell falls off golf cart, to miss England tie

Australia's swashbuckling batter Glenn Maxwell suffered a concussion and facial bruising on Monday after falling off the back of a golf cart and has been ruled out of their league stage game against England on Saturday. The 35-year-old, who scored the quickest hundred in World Cup history last year, was part of the group of players who were playing golf in Ahmedabad during the one week break since their win against New Zealand in Dharamsala. Per cricket.com.au, the aforementioned incident took place during evening hours and no other player has been hurt during the same. It's the second time in less than a year's time that Maxwell has been involved in an off-the-field injury. Last year, during his birthday party in November, Maxwell had picked up a leg injury in Melbourne. Having scored a record hundred against the Dutch, Maxwell had come out all guns blazing against the Kiwis as well – scoring a quickfire 41 off 24 deliveries. While the five-time world champions sit fourth in the points table, England are at the bottom with just one win from six games. The defending champions arrive into their seventh game on the back of a 100-run defeat against India in Lucknow that saw their star-studded batting line up combust once again.



Bazball enters Collins English dictionary

Bazball, British English ('bæzbɔ:l') NOUN: a style of test cricket in which the batting side attempts to gain the initiative by playing in a highly aggressive manner. Yes, the buzzword that has been doing the words in cricket circles for the brand of Test cricket played England under Brendon McCullum and Ben Stokes is not just a random coinage anymore. Makers of the Collins Dictionary said that it was one of the shortestlisted entries for Word of the Year 2023. Bazball is a term that came into cricket's lexicon after England's Test cricket fortunes swung under coach McCullum, the former New Zealand captain who was known for his aggressive style. Under Stokes' leadership, England had adopted a go-for-win-at-all-costs attitude, and saw great early success with it. It has only been reluctantly used by the proponents of it. "I don't have any idea what 'Bazball' is," McCullum had told SEN radio in July last year. "It's not just all crash and burn, if you look at the approach, and that's why I don't really like that silly term that people are throwing out there. "Because there's actually quite a bit of thought that goes into how the guys manufacture their performances and when they put pressure on bowlers and which bowlers they put pressure on. There's also times where they've absorbed pressure beautifully as well."

ENS

Rohit school of captaincy

Sharma is cast in Jayawardene mould, cool and analytical, self-aware and tactical – a mix of pre-game plans and on-field instinct

SRIRAM VEERA
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 1

"I DIDN'T notice what shot it was. Covers *ke upar na?*" Rohit Sharma queried on the freshly-unveiled huge Sachin Tendulkar statue staring down at the training Indians from cow corner at the Wankhede Stadium. "No, Rohit, it's a lofted straight drive," someone in the press pack informed.

"Ah! Okay. *Ab straight lofted shot wahan hai to hai*, (if it's a straight lofted shot there, then it's there!) *Mein kya bolun ab?* (What can I say about it?) Hope you guys enjoy it!" Typically, he brought the house down, a day ahead of the game against Sri Lanka in which no one is in any doubt about who the overwhelming favourites are. Rohit possesses a unique ability to strip any occasion of its gravitas and has such an air of nonchalant lightness about him that it's difficult to realise that he is the India captain in the middle of a high-pressure World Cup campaign in India. It's tempting to extend that emotion and think that stress-free ease would have pervaded among the team too, especially as they are bossing around on the field, but that we will not know.

Rohit also has the self-awareness to puncture any myth-making about his captaincy. When a questioner praised his leadership skills and asked him to detail the World Cup journey, he smiled as he said: "I know how this game is played. If we lose one or two matches, I will become a bad captain! So I don't think about all that."

A similar line of questioning was pursued during an interview with him for this newspaper before the tournament about the pressures of captaincy and if it affects his highly-prized sleep. Again that smile. "Nothing disturbs my sleep. Sleep is my favourite thing, be it in any situation or position!"

I know how this game is played. If we lose one or two matches, I will become a bad captain! So I don't think about all that.

ROHIT SHARMA
INDIA CAPTAIN

is to be a criticism of him, it mostly isn't about his on-field tactics but about the selections. He admits to errors in it without taking any names. "In five Test matches we won, we made a lot of mistakes. I made a lot of mistakes. Not picking the right players. Tactically too, I have gone wrong in a lot of stages in Tests and white-ball cricket. Like I should have given two overs more in a spell type of tactic."

The love and fussing about cricket tactics didn't just come when he became a captain but it's been from childhood. Rohit is one of the rare cricket tragics in modern-day cricket, who would spend most of his time watching games from all over the world. Even as a kid. At the insistence of his grandfather, who felt his parents were under financial strain and would find it difficult to rear two kids, Rohit grew up at his grandfather's home along with uncles and aunts. A household that lived and breathed cricket. "We used to watch games together 24/7. There was no news, nothing. We used to see highlights and games. My uncles were kings of tennis-ball cricket in the neighbourhood and all we would do when we weren't playing was watch cricket. Nothing else – movies etc – caught our imagination. It was cricket 24/7. Uncles would talk about strategies and tactics, I soaked up all that, I guess." And when he became Mumbai Indians captain, he says he learnt a lot about preparation from coach Ricky Ponting.

But it's that nonchalant attitude that balances all this intensity in preparing and thinking about the game. Rohit has a natural ease that doesn't allow him to get bogged down by stress. In that, he is different from a few other captains India has seen.

MS Dhoni, especially as he grew older and quit Test captaincy, had that aura of control and composure and an impeccable sense of the game on the field that his team began to imbibed. Off the field, he is hands off, but turns on the cricket tap once he enters the field. Chennai Super Kings coach Stephen Fleming takes care of the off-field stuff. Of late, in the IPL, Dhoni has exuded a regal air, and his young teammates act as if they are happy subjects of a benevolent ruler.

Virat Kohli was most intense, trying to drag his team along with him. More than tactical nous, it was his persona where he tried to use abrasiveness as a positive trait that stood out. The opponents felt it. South African Test captain Dean Elgar had once told this newspaper how he views Kohli the captain. "The competitive spirit is driven by Virat. He is very competitive, and we can see that he is trying to change the culture there. They didn't just want to play the series but wanted to win. That was awesome."

Rohit is chilled. His tactical moves on field are perhaps more in the terrain of Mahela Jayawardene, former Sri Lanka captain who had the ability to keep the game moving, plotting it with a mix of pre-game plans and on-field instinct. Rohit can be vocal, cajole, smile, slip in a stern word and feel every pulsating moment of the contest, but without the in-your-face intensity of a Kohli.

There is no ideal way to lead a team; each unit demands a customised approach. Rohit is doing his thing, and so far it's been a great run this World Cup. If India slip up in the knock-outs, it would be highly unlikely due to his on-field captaincy. If it happens, it may erupt from selection calls and team composition. Rohit knows he has slipped up on that front in the past. Pretty soon, we shall know if he is able to avoid it in this World Cup.



India captain Rohit Sharma during a practice session in Mumbai on Wednesday.

Deepak Joshi

After unveiling his life-size statue, Sachin takes a walk down memory lane

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 1

IT DIDN'T take time for Sachin Tendulkar to turn nostalgic as he unveiled a life-size statue of his at the Wankhede Stadium – between the Tendulkar and Vijay Merchant stand.

Tendulkar recalled how in 1983, friends and elders from the Bandra housing society he lived in, decided to watch the India versus West Indies ODI game at the Wankhede Stadium. He slipped in without a ticket.

Tendulkar was just 10 and they took the local train from Bandra to Churchgate. The group of 25 people sat in the North Stand.

"All my colony friends in Bandra, not 10-year-olds but my brother's friends, possibly 30-40 year olds... they all decided to go for this match," he said. "I do not know how it happened but my brother's friends were also asked to accompany. I went along with them," Tendulkar said.

"We all cricketers know what the North Stand can do... when they get behind the team, no opposition can stop India and Mumbai. We decided to take a train to reach the Wankhede Stadium. I was a part of the North Stand gang. I also made a lot of noise, enjoyed the game. Later after the game, when 25 of us boarded the train, someone said, '*acha manage kiya?*' Someone asked, '*kya manage kiya?*' He replied, 'we had only 24 tickets and Sachin *ko chup chap andar ghusaya.*'"

Tendulkar also recalled his first inter-school game at the Wankhede Stadium. He found more gaps compared to while playing in Azad maidan. He stated how in Azad



Sachin Tendulkar's lofted straight drive immortalised as a life-size statue at the Wankhede Stadium.

Deepak Joshi

and sat there. Then someone told me, this is SMG's seat (Gavaskar's)," Tendulkar recalled.

"I am truly humbled when I stand here. I go to the ground, there are thousands of images that come to my head and thoughts, so many incredible memories. It is truly an honour to walk on this turf which has given me everything in life," he added.

Tendulkar was offered Indian team captaincy after India lost the 2007 World Cup in West Indies. "I remember having a meeting with Mr Pawar (the then BCCI president) in England and I told him that as a player, my leadership role will always be there," he said. He recommended MS Dhoni as captain.

"It was getting more challenging as my body was not ready for that kind of toll. It was then I suggested MS Dhoni's name because whatever conversation I had with him while standing in slips, I felt he is more suited for the job. And I informed this to Pawar *sahab.*" Tendulkar said.

It was in February this year that Tendulkar got a call from MCA president Amol Kale and BCCI's treasurer Ashish Shelar saying that they wanted to erect a life-size statue of him at Wankhede Stadium.

BCCI secretary Jay Shah, who was at the unveiling ceremony, said that Tendulkar wanted to play his last game in Mumbai and it was for this reason the Indian cricket board arranged a Test match between India vs West Indies at the Wankhede Stadium in 2013.

Shah also came up with a stat of Tendulkar's. "Out of 365 days in a year, the only day Tendulkar hasn't batted in his career is May 1." Tendulkar was accompanied by his wife Anjali and daughter Sara.

INTERVIEW HASHMATULLAH SHAHIDI

'Mindset change has done wonders... we believe we can qualify for semis'

PRATYUSH RAJ
LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 1

AFGHANISTAN CAPTAIN Hashmatullah Shahidi was swamped with requests for selfies, but none of them were for him. He was just a messenger to his teammates. Most of them were there for Rashid Khan, the spin wizard and big-hitting lower order batsman. "*Sabko Rashid (Khan) ke saath selfie lena hai* (Everyone wants to take a selfie with Rashid). He is a superstar," Hashmatullah says.

For Hashmatullah, who hails from Logar, 87 km away from Kabul, it was either physics books or bats to pick from and he chose the latter. His father, Mohammad Hashim Shahidi, a physics professor, has written 44 books and wanted his son to become a top scientist.

"I belong to an educated family. My father has written all the physics textbooks from Class 9 to 12. He has written 44 books on science. He was very smart. He wanted me to keep education as my first priority and cricket just as a hobby. I never liked physics that much. *Mai acha tha bhi nahi padhai mey* (I was never good at studies)," Hashmatullah tells *The Indian Express* in an exclusive interview.

"My father used to tell me to focus on studies. I would tell him okay, I will continue my education, I even sat for university exams

to keep him happy but my passion was cricket, and once I was picked for the U-19 team, I barely managed to finish my school. Going to university was not an option," Hashmatullah says.

Hashmatullah's greatest regret is not being with his father when he passed away in 2018. He was playing first-class cricket.

"I remember I was unbeaten on 120 at the end of the day's play. I called my father and told him to pray for me so that I could score a double hundred. There were few guests in our house, so my father just said 'I am busy, we will talk tomorrow once you complete your double hundred. You will make the big one'. Then he disconnected the call. That's the last time we spoke. I was playing six hours away from home. He slept and never woke up," Hashmatullah adds.

Five years later, Hashmatullah did score a double hundred. In March earlier this year, he became Afghanistan's first Test double-century and helped Afghanistan level the two-Test series against Zimbabwe after they lost the series opener in just over two days.

It has been a rollercoaster ride for the past six months for Hashmatullah.

In May, he was appointed as ODI and Test captain of Afghanistan. In August, he lost his mother. Now with 226 runs in six innings, Hashmatullah is the leading run getter for his country in the World Cup.



Hashmatullah Shahidi was the lynchpin of the successful chases against Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

PTI

When I took the captaincy, it was not easy. When the board approached me I took it as a challenge. I wanted to do something for my country. Alhamdulillah sab acha ho raha (By god's grace, everything is going fine). My only motive was not to be selfish. I only thought about my country.

HASHMATULLAH SHAHIDI
AFGHANISTAN CAPTAIN TO EXPRESS

The captaincy of Afghanistan is a crown of thorns. The shake-up in captaincy isn't new in Afghanistan cricket. But to Hashmatullah's credit he has already become the best Afghanistan captain of all time. He led his team to three victories against three World Cup winners, including defending champions England.

"When I took the captaincy, it was not easy. When the board approached me I took it as a challenge. I wanted to do something for my country. *Alhamdulillah sab acha ho raha* (By god's grace, everything is going fine). My only motive was not to be selfish. I only thought about my country. I knew that there

would be challenges, it was in my mind. But everything has panned out as per the plan," says Hashmatullah, who will turn 29 in two days time.

He says being a leader helped him to think more about the team rather than individual achievements. He admits it took him some time to look at the bigger picture.

"When you are a leader, there are more responsibilities on you. As a player, I was circumspect, I used to put a lot of pressure on myself. I wanted to finish the game. I always wanted to carry the team through, and it was hampering my batting. I was struggling with my strike rate. I was talking so much pressure, but after a while, I realised that I am not the team, I am just a part of it. Instead of going for individual glory, my role is also to steer my teammates. It's a team game," he says.

Afghanistan's last two wins against Pakistan and Sri Lanka have come, while chasing. In both the matches, Hashmatullah has been the lynchpin of that chase. Against Pakistan, he remained unbeaten on 48 and put on an unbeaten 96-run stand with Rahmat Shah. Against Sri Lanka, he forged a 111-run winning partnership with Azmatullah Omarzai.

"Building partnership is something we have worked upon a lot. We needed to show more trust in ourselves. The talent was always there. We needed to rotate strike more,

we worked on our running between the wicket. We were also not playing cricket regularly against the top sides. Even if we were playing a series, those were not against the top teams. So playing in the Asia Cup mattered a lot for us," he says.

"Playing according to the situation is another area we have worked. Sometimes when you lose two or three wickets quickly, one needs to dig in. The talk was to play fifty overs, don't waste a single ball. Batting collapse was something we have worked on a lot. The change of mindset has also done wonders. We now believe that we can qualify for the semis," he adds.

Hashmatullah never liked physics, instead, he grew up watching Kumar Sangakkara's batting and Bollywood movies.

"I can bet I have watched more Hindi movies than you. My kids speak in Hindi at our home," Hashmatullah jokes.

"I love romantic movies, my favourite is Tum Bin and Baghbaan. I love Shahrukh Khan and Aamir Khan. My favourite sporting movie is Dangal," he says.

Unlike the movie 'Dangal' where a pushy father forced his dreams on their children, Hashmatullah has been lucky as his physics-loving father never forced his dream on him.

"He always wanted to bring a smile to the face of Afghan people. In a way, I am living abbu's dream," he says.

SOUTH AFRICA ARE GUNNING FOR THE STANDS

South Africa broke the record for the most number of sixes in a 50-over World Cup when their batsmen hit 15 shots over the ropes against New Zealand for a total of 82 in seven games. The previous record was held by England — 76 sixes in 2019.

vs Sri Lanka SA: 428/5 (won by 102 runs)	14 sixes	vs Netherlands SA: 207 (NED won by 38 runs)	5 sixes	vs Bangladesh SA: 382/5 (won by 149 runs)	19 sixes	vs New Zealand SA: 357/4 (won by 190 runs)	15 sixes
vs Australia SA: 311/7 (won by 134 runs)	8 sixes	vs England SA: 399/7 (won by 229 runs)	13 sixes	vs Pakistan SA: 271/9 (won by 1 wicket)	8 sixes	South Africa have hit 202 fours across their seven World Cup games	

TOP SIX HITTERS IN 2023 WC

No.	Batsman	Country	GS	No.	Batsman	Country	GS
1.	R Sharma	Ind	20	5.	K Mendis	SL	14
2.	D Warner	Aus	19	=	D Miller	SA	14
3.	Q de Kock	SA	18	7.	R Ravindra	NZ	13
4.	H Klaasen	SA	17	8.	G Maxwell	AUS	12

SCENARIOS

Why NZ vs Pak on Saturday becomes important

New Zealand's third successive loss — this time to South Africa — has given their next game added significance. The Kiwis, who were on top of the points table 10 days ago, next face Pakistan, who kept themselves in the race to the semifinal by hammering hapless Bangladesh. Babar Azam's men need to win their last two league games — they face holders England in their last fixture — and will be in contention even if New Zealand beat Sri Lanka in their last match. That scenario should still favour the Black Caps, provided they don't lose too badly to Pakistan. But there are other teams who have not given up hope of reaching the semifinals.

As of now, only one thing is certain: Bangladesh is out of semifinal contention. All other teams are mathematically still in contention.

India and South Africa can count themselves in the semifinals, even though it can't be officially confirmed as of now. Australia, on a four-match winning streak, are favourites for a slot with matches against England, Afghanistan and Bangladesh to come.

Afghanistan, who have beaten Pakistan and Sri Lanka, next face the Netherlands, who wouldn't have given up on their semifinal hopes either. But the Afghans' last two games are against Australia and South Africa, tough assignments on paper. The Dutch face England and India in their last two games, and given the turmoil the holders find themselves in, may fancy their chances.

Defeat to Australia on Saturday will officially end England's chances, but even a win may not be enough to keep them alive for long. Sri Lanka effectively need to win all three of their games — starting against India in Mumbai on Thursday — to remain in the reckoning.

-EXPRESSNEWSERVICE

STANDINGS

	M	W	L	T	Pts	NRR
SA	7	6	1	0	12	+2.290
Ind	6	6	0	0	12	+1.405
Aus	6	4	2	0	8	+0.970
NZ	7	4	3	0	8	+0.484
Pak	7	3	4	0	6	-0.024
Afg	6	3	3	0	6	-0.718
SL	6	2	4	0	4	-0.275
Ned	6	2	4	0	4	-1.277
Ban	7	1	6	0	2	-1.446
Eng	6	1	5	0	2	-1.652

A Maharaj lords over Pune... again

Left-arm twacker shows his nous and skill with 4-wicket haul as he combines with Marco Jansen to consign Kiwis to 190-run defeat

SHIVANI NAIK
PUNE, NOVEMBER 1

Keshav Maharaj's pursed lipped celebrations — where his nostrils flare up and exhale fire, the unblinking eyes are blazing flames, and he thumps his chest with a closed right wrist — could become the iconic image of South Africa's gumption in this World Cup.

The Proteas landed in Pune, with that picture of Maharaj roaring after a single-wicket victory over Pakistan freeze-framed in memory. While their batsmen continued piling on misery on opposing bowling crews, scoring a couple of more hundreds batting first and accumulating most sixes by any team in a single World Cup, it was Marco Jansen and Maharaj who ensured New Zealand didn't even begin to dream of challenging 357, let alone come within 5 runs of a 380-odd score like they did against Australia.

New Zealand had won five World Cup chases against South Africa in their history, and hadn't lost to them on that stage in the 21st century. But it was the indefatigable spinner who bowls back home on unresponsive tracks, and the pace-bowling all-rounder who wasn't first-choice when the squad got pencilled in, who helped flip that match-up history. Dhaka 2011 and Auckland 2015 can never be undone, but Maharaj, known as a man of serenity and calm in South Africa, put in two nerveless back-to-back performances to ensure Pune 2023 would see the Proteas finally thump the Black Caps.

The left-arm spinner took 4-46 as South Africa won by 190 runs. New Zealand were left ruing winning the toss and fielding first — right up Proteas' alley.

Introduced into the attack just when the dangerous Daryl Mitchell was threatening to cleave open the chase, and had sent Gerald Coetzee to the boundary three times, Maharaj would strike right away. Luring Mitchell into a big shot, he watched David Miller pouch the first of two tough skiers to claim South Africa's fifth wicket. Even though Jansen and Coetzee had stabbed at the top order, New Zealand were always dangerous as long as Mitchell was around.

It was a battle of the two left-arm twackers next, when Mitchell Santner rocked back and punched a Maharaj delivery that was a tad short, past mid-off. The smart and smarting Maharaj would float the next one fuller, and it would hold and turn just the right amount as Santner went back in the crease once again but was tricked on the inside edge as the ball crashed into the stumps. "I changed the angle, and bowled into the footmarks," he would say later.



Keshav Maharaj's four scalps on Wednesday included those of Daryl Mitchell, Jimmy Neesham and Mitchell Santner. AP

For his third to claim the eternal fighter in New Zealand chases, Jimmy Neesham, Maharaj flighted it monstrously and dragged it wider to the foot marks left by his pacers. Neesham, who was yet to get off the mark, would stride out to defend, and Maharaj watched gleefully as the ball turned wickedly to pierce the gap between pad and bat to rattle the stumps.

He would continue to float it to Trent Boult who stepped out but ended up connecting with the bottom of the bat. Miller, who had sent a few sailing into the glorious Pune sunset during his half-century earlier in the day, would position himself under the dipping ball, shield his eyes against the floodlights and pouch it with palms facing up.

Coetzee had earlier sent back Will Young, who looked comfortable in his 33-run stay, but it was Jansen who silenced the crowd that picked up the decibels with 'Rachin, Rachin, Rachin' chants, forcing the youngster to hit out in a rush of blood.

Understated hero

Maharaj, whose orthodox style sees his skill and control being often overlooked, is part of South Africa's leadership group, and skipper Temba Bavuma is known to rely on his counsel greatly. It meant that despite him racing against time to come back from a knee injury — he was told it might need six months — South Africa were willing to punt on him being even semi-fit so he could play the back end of the tournament. The captain had insisted he wanted Maharaj in the 15 no matter what.

The chase against Pakistan in Chennai earned him more respect for the calm manner in which he approached a tense situation, something the South Africans treasure like gold. Never particularly outspoken or boisterous, Maharaj is respected not unlike Quinton de Kock, for his unflappable temperament on the field and cricketing acumen.

He's known to be a devout Hindu, just as Hashim Amla was a Muslim, and brings in the added diversity of culture into the rainbow dressing room. A picture of Lord Hanuman is said to be pasted on his bat, which he worships like a warrior would his weapon. And that was the reason he first kept the bat down like placing down a baby, before going mental with the celebrations in Chennai.

There wasn't much aid for spinners on the Pune track, and that's how South Africa went

hard at the Kiwis in the middle overs, culminating in the final acceleration. Glenn Phillips would later admit they couldn't strangle the South Africans, and had gone by the information they received when choosing to bowl. But Maharaj — that name acquires epic proportions in these parts as that's how Shivaji was known — would work his magic by ramping up pressure in the duels.

Rassie van der Dussen, speaking later, would thank de Kock for staying calm, thinking clearly and asking him to extend the innings deep. "It was tough to play Santner. But we realised we don't always have to play in fifth gear. We can start on third and push from there," he said. He added that de Kock, his favourite batting partner, was never too far from a joke. "At one stage he got a 4, and I was looking away, and he startled me with 'Rass, Rass, Rass' and then grinned when I started to take a run."

The Pune crowd had a dedicated Proteas fan group which came wearing 1999 jerseys with pictures of legends of yore like Jonty Rhodes, Shaun Pollock, Graeme Smith and Lance Klusener, though a bulk of the neutral crowd leaned towards Rachin Ravindra, amongst the ethnic Indians in the two teams. However, as the crowd broke into a dance to the beats of 'Zingaat', it was South Africa's Maharaj who walked away with the final applause.

SCORECARD

SOUTH AFRICA vs NEW ZEALAND
MCA, PUNE

Toss: New Zealand, elected to field

SOUTH AFRICA

Q Kock c Phillips b Southee	114 (116b, 10x4, 3x6)
T Bavuma c Mitchell b Boult	24 (28b, 4x4, 1x6)
R Dussen b Southee	133 (118b, 9x4, 5x6)
D Miller c Mitchell b Neesham	53 (30b, 2x4, 4x6)
H Klaasen not out	15 (7b, 1x4, 1x6)
A Markram not out	6 (1b, 1x6)
Extras (b 4, w 8)	12
Total 50 Ov (RR: 7.14)	357/4
■ FoW: 1-38 (Tamba Bavuma, 8.3 ov), 2-238 (Quinton de Kock, 39.6 ov), 3-316 (Rassie van der Dussen, 47.1 ov), 4-351 (David Miller, 49.5 ov)	
■ Bowling: Trent Boult 10-1-49-1, Matt Henry 5.3-0-31-0, Tim Southee 10-0-77-2, Mitchell Santner 10-0-58-0, Glenn Phillips 7-0-52-0, Rachin Ravindra 2-0-17-0, James Neesham 5.3-0-69-1	

NEW ZEALAND

D Conway c Markram b Jansen	2 (6b)
W Young c de Kock b Coetzee	33 (37b, 5x4)
R Ravindra c Coetzee b Jansen	9 (16b, 1x4)
D Mitchell c Miller b Maharaj	24 (30b, 4x4)
T Latham c Maharaj b Rabada	4 (15b)
G Phillips c Rabada b Coetzee	60 (50b, 4x4, 4x6)
M Santner b Maharaj	7 (18b, 1x4)
T Southee lbw Jansen	7 (11b, 1x4)
J Neesham b Maharaj	0 (8b)
T Boult c Miller b Maharaj	9 (14b, 1x4)
M Henry not out	0 (9b)
Extras (b 4, lb 1, nb 1, w 6)	12
Total 35.3 Ov (RR: 4.70)	167
■ FoW: 1-8 (Devon Conway, 2.6 ov), 2-45 (Rachin Ravindra, 8.6 ov), 3-56 (Will Young, 10.3 ov), 4-67 (Tom Latham, 15.2 ov), 5-90 (Daryl Mitchell, 18.3 ov), 6-100 (Mitchell Santner, 22.4 ov), 7-109 (Tim Southee, 25.1 ov), 8-110 (James Neesham, 26.4 ov), 9-133 (Trent Boult, 30.2 ov), 10-167 (Glenn Phillips, 35.3 ov)	
■ Bowling: Marco Jansen 8-1-31-3, Lungi Ngidi 6-1-28-0, Kagiso Rabada 6-2-16-1, Gerald Coetzee 6.3-0-41-2, Keshav Maharaj 9-0-46-4	



We have faced adversities with injuries. We will reflect on this one quickly and move to the next one, we don't become a bad team overnight."

TOM LATHAM
NEW ZEALAND CAPTAIN

QUIN-TON'S HUNDREDS

How de Kock is making up for his century drought in World Cups

SHIVANI NAIK
PUNE, NOVEMBER 1

EVEN ON the brink of his fourth hundred of the World Cup, Quinton de Kock looked to be giving up. A mixup with Rassie van der Dussen where he was sent back from halfway down the pitch saw him slow down his strides and walk back the rest of the way in his early 90s. Mercifully, Mitchell Santner's throw missed, and the corner of de Kock's eye would've seen the ball overshoot and whiz past. Not one to let second chances go waste, he would pounce on the next one Jimmy Neesham bowled for a blitzing pick-up shot that he sent all the way over fine leg to reach his 100 with a six.

De Kock would add a couple of boundaries more. Standing tall and smacking Tim Southee down the ground straight, he had shifted in the crease to make room as soon as he saw the cutter. He would even slash at Trent Boult's straying yorker for his 10th boundary, before Glenn Phillips pouched him off Southee's bowling, sending him back for 114 off 116.

He would later say he had felt scratchy in the early part of the innings especially with Boult's cramping length. But the messages coming in from the dressing room asked him to bat through. It would've counted as a vote of massive confidence, knowing well that a bomb middle order, this tournament's desig-

nated dynamites, sat in the hut revving up to explode any moment they were summoned. But each time South Africa carted out two chairs and a giant umbrella in the drinks break for their batters Rassie and Quinny to sit down and rest up, de Kock knew they wanted him to go the distance.

Having announced his ODI retirement ahead of the World Cup, de Kock would add he was trying not to give it away, even while knowing this was the best he had been batting. South Africa would get to 357, with Rassie going on to accelerate for a 118-ball 133 and David Miller (53 off 30) cranking up the back-end of the innings. But it was de Kock's chancy innings where the juice of talent simply oozed out of every cranny, despite the maze of walls all around.

One reason speculated for de Kock's retirement is that for a laidback bloke such as him, the marauding mileage and grind and attendant pressure of continuing as the anchor in one-dayers is too much. He digs his fishing and the quieter life and T20 franchise-cricket with a Big bash sign-up where he's in incredible demand, whets his cricketing appetite. He almost said, that he was sure there were plenty of young cricketers who might still like one day cricket, but he found it tiring. Yet, here he was.

Sweet swan-song

For a man who didn't have a single World



Quinton de Kock scored 114 runs for South Africa against New Zealand at the MCA Stadium in Pune on Wednesday. Daniel Stephen

Cup century from 17 innings, he's giving his swansong one good gobsmacking go. The focus has been impressive — be it out of seeing this as the last chance to make an impression, or from sheer relief that it's the last time he has to shoulder the almighty burden that is South African batting. He now has four centuries, the most in a World Cup for Saffers, and second only to Rohit Sharma's five.

His love-hate relationship with cricket, a game he is mighty good at and that he chose

over baseball, might just skew towards love tonight. Though he might wake up clucking and bored of it tomorrow morning. And proceed to score a fifth century the day after.

He refused to take the knee for Black Lives Matter and copped unpopularity that's never abetted. Bavuma, got the team to rally around the generational talent, shielding him from a hostile fallout, giving him the freedom to stick to his conviction, however politically insensitive it was. This South African team refused to

jettison him and he shares some great camaraderie with his teammates. This World Cup, he's repaying the trust. Yet, the Pune innings against New Zealand stuttered awhile.

On 13, Glenn Phillips dropped a tough one at backward point as de Kock whacked at Southee in the 10th over. Santner fell just short of getting him caught and bowled. There was even a mandatory concussion check as the ball grazed his helmet. His many lives continued, when Will Young claimed a catch at backward point when de Kock was on 54, but replays showed the ball had bumped off the ground. Destiny wanted him to carry on for one more time. He shrugged, but turned up.

It was Bavuma who actually started the bashing to the boundaries, when he picked on Matt Henry early on. Henry was driven through covers, carved over the ropes playing inside out, and wistfully clipped off the pads by Bavuma. De Kock after being cramped by in-curlers from Boult, opened the bat face to drive him square past point to get going.

De Kock would pull a short one from Southee taking care to keep it down, and emboldened, fired his arms for a maximum the next ball. Southee pitched it further around off and de Kock swung with all his might through the line to dispatch it to the long on fence.

He would bring on the 50 partnership with Rassie, picking a Santner flighted straight one to lift it over the bowler's head and though the

parabola wasn't elevated, it went all the way beyond the fence. De Kock would reach his own 50 reverse sweeping Rachin Ravindra too far for deep point. De Kock, who had picked on spinners in his 431 runs before this inning at this World Cup, wouldn't spare Phillips' slow offspin. Though the bowler tried to cramp him, de Kock would show deft hands to flick him over mid-wicket for another four.

To Southee, he shuffled and even the mistimed glance went to the fine leg fence. What de Kock did brilliantly on the day was stay in the hunt with quiet singles, and looking for boundary deliveries every over after Matt Henry went off and Boult bided his time. New Zealand were without their enforcer in mid overs, Lockie Ferguson, and his scorching pace. And de Kock made the most of it.

He would show improvisations, reverse dabbing Santner's delivery, and get his front foot out of the way, to blast Neesham over long-on. Rassie would take off from where de Kock left, going after Neesham. Rassie's last 33 runs came off 18 balls, with two sixes over long on and one past long off to wreck Neesham's bowling arc and figures as he finished with 133. The staggered pace comes easily to Rassie, but it was Quinton de Kock, who gritted it out, and stayed put, not giving in to form the bedrock of the 350 total. He might look like a reluctant starter in ODIs, but has actually morphed into a run machine and century maker just like that.

From despondency to podium finish

After a string of poor results, Asiad silver medallist Kishore Jena wanted to quit the sport, but his father helped him change his mind

BRIEFLY

Swimmer Desinghu wins her fourth gold

Paraji: Karnataka's 14-year-old swimming sensation Dhinidhi Desinghu won her fourth gold medal of the ongoing National Games, anchoring her team to the top spot in 4x200m freestyle relay here on Wednesday. Olympian Sajjan Prakash won his second gold medal as he finished on top of the 200m butterfly podium with a Games record, stopping the clock at 1:59.38s. Service's S P Likith clinched gold in the men's 50m breaststroke event with a timing of 28.71s ahead of S Danush of Tamil Nadu (29.03s) and Vidith S Shankar of Karnataka (29.07). **PTI**

Medvedev booted by crowd in Paris

Paris: Daniil Medvedev dropped out of contention for the year-end No. 1 ranking by losing to Grigor Dimitrov 6-3, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (2) in the second round of the Paris Masters on Wednesday, and then was booted off the court after remonstrating with the crowd during the match. The crowd got under Medvedev's skin in the 11th game of the second set, jeering him as he was about to serve after he had thrown his racket. The third-ranked Russian went back to his chair and complained to the referee before talking directly to the spectators in French. "If there's one who whistles, I don't play," Medvedev told the crowd. "You don't whistle, I play. So, you shut your mouths." **AP**

Tomar wins 50m rifle 3P gold

New Delhi: Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar won the gold medal in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions individual event and helped India grab a team silver at the Asian Shooting Championship in Changwon, Korea on Wednesday. The 22-year-old Tomar shot 463.5 in the final to win the gold. China's Tian Jianning took the silver with a score of 462.7. **PTI**

NIHAL KOSHIE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 1

IF NOT for timely advice received from his aging father over the phone at 3 am in July, Kishore Kumar Jena would have quit javelin even before the world would appreciate his talent. Jena became famous when he took the lead in the final of the Asian Games forcing Olympic and World Champion Neeraj Chopra to dig deep and produce his best throw of the season to seal gold.



Kishore Kumar Jena won the silver medal at the Asian Games. Reuters

The Asiad silver in October and a fifth-place at the World Championships a month earlier turned fortunes around for Jena.

The phone conversation between Jena in Beirut and his father Keshab, a rice farmer, in Kothasahi village near Puri, was between a frustrated son and a wise father.

"At the Lebanon championships I threw 78 metres (78.96m). I was crestfallen. I felt like my career was not going anywhere. I was crying till 2 am and then at around 3 am I called my father and told him I feel like quitting the sport," Jena told *The Indian Express*.

Jena says his father calmly told him to travel to Diyagama, his next stop for the Sri Lankan national championships. If there was no turnaround, Keshab told Jena, he could move on from javelin. Jena decided to give javelin one final chance. In Sri Lanka he topped the competition with 84.38 metres and booked a World Championship berth.

His father went to the temple to pray that day.

"Sri Lanka was the most important competition of my life, it was a turning point for me. After that I could go for the World Championships and then the Asian Games. After the competition in Lebanon, I threw 84 metres while training in Patiala. I had a good feeling suddenly. I was not tense in Sri Lanka, but I wanted to do well. Because if I didn't do well I may have quit the sport," Jena said.

Jena went from strength to strength. The 28-year-old improved his personal best to 84.77 metres during the final of the World Championships. At the Asian Games, he did what no Indian had done before — giving Chopra a run for his money. With 86.77 metres in the third round Jena laid down the marker. Chopra, upset about his first throw

not being measured and having to retake it — and at the end of a long season — came up trumps with 88.88 metres. Jena's fourth round throw was 87.54 metres. Chopra and Jena, with the national flag draped over their shoulders, posed for photographs.

Jena says 87.54 metres didn't give him as much joy as 86.77. "My aim was to qualify for the Paris Olympics. So when I threw 86-metres plus I was so happy (85 metres is the qualifying standard). Happier than when I threw 87 metres."

A 1-2 for Indian throwers had Chopra gushing with excitement too.

"It was a dream of mine that Indians also dominate a javelin competition, like the Germans and the Czech throwers have done. Finally, Indians are able to do it," Chopra said a few days after the Asian Games. "Jena got me back in focus (after the fiasco of the first throw). I like to thank Jena, who did his personal best but also pushed me."

Jena has made big strides in 12 months. His personal best has improved from 78.05 metres to 87.54 metres since last October.

The Athletics Federation of India believes Jena is a medal hope at the Paris Olympics

next year and have begun the hunt for a foreign coach for him. The AFI wants Jena to gain from a specialist — someone as competent as German biomechanics expert Klaus Bartonietz, Chopra's coach.

Chopra sees potential

Chopra sees a bright future for Jena. "The best thing about Jena is his rhythm on the runway. It is very good. If your rhythm is good then it can help with your throw. At the Asian Games... I watched him on the runway. Sometimes it can go zigzag for me and when I start the cross step the speed is also affected. But Jena's speed is good. His strength, technique and his follow through is also very good. He is very fast. The way he has improved this year, he has potential. Personally, I feel his blocking leg bends a bit, you can see it in videos too. If he works on that he will improve further," Chopra said this week.

Jena thanks Chopra for helping him shed the nerves — before the World Championships final and the Asian Games. In Budapest, Chopra asked Jena to join him for a photograph, in Hangzhou he praised his practice throws. "When someone like Neeraj

At the Lebanon championships I threw 78 metres (78.96m). I was crestfallen. I felt like my career was not going anywhere. I was crying till 2 am and then at around 3 am I called my father and told him I feel like quitting the sport."

KISHORE KUMAR JENA
ASIAN GAMES SILVER MEDALLIST

bhai makes you feel special before a big final, the tension just disappears."

Since the Asian Games podium finish, Jena's life has changed.

The shy, soft-spoken 28-year-old had his brush with fame. A women's cricket team recognised him when he was out for dinner in Bhubaneswar and clicked photographs with him. "I don't watch cricket," Jena said candidly, "so I won't be able to tell you who the players were."

Overnight stardom

Felicitations and VIP-like treatment began on his return to Odisha. A 20-kilometre open top jeep ride from from Puri to Brahmagiri, CM Naveen Patnaik handing him a cheque of Rs 1.50 crore, invitations to the Rotary Club, educational institutions, including the college he passed out from, a special darshan of the goddess during a puja in a nearby village.

"I got just four days at my home in Kothasahi and the only time I had to myself was when I slept for a few hours at night. There is a lot of change, because hardly anyone knew me before the Asian Games. Now, it is nice to get recognition. Earlier, I could go around because people did not recognise me. But now I can't do that, especially back home in Odisha. But I am not complaining. Now I can understand how it was for Neeraj (post Tokyo Olympics). I felt fatigued in four days," Jena said.

He still has a lump in his throat when he talks about the hardest part of leaving his village and returning to Patiala for practice for the National Games.

"Papa keeps crying saying 'when will you come again'. You came for a few days and then you are going. I told him I will be back af-

ter a couple of months," Jena said.

Tough times

Jena is the youngest of Keshab and Harapriya's seven children. He has six older sisters. The family wasn't well off, Jena says. A small parcel of farm land was sold whenever there was a wedding in the family. "Only one of my sisters got married after I got a job," Jena, a CISF personnel, said. "There was no pressure on me because I was the only son, but as I grew up I felt I had a responsibility."

A major setback was when his father met with an accident. A monkey attacked the driver of the autorickshaw he was travelling in and the driver lost control.

His father always had Jena's back, so in his time of need Jena didn't think twice before borrowing money.

"My father was coming to meet me from the village to Puri. He had two fractures in his lower back and one in his wrist. I didn't have a job back then. When the accident happened there was no money at home. I took loans, my sisters also helped," Jena recalled.

When he switched from volleyball to javelin after getting admission in a sports hostel in Bhubaneswar, his father used to send him Rs 650 every month for his expenses. "I knew how difficult it was for my father to spare that money for me. So I was determined not to let it go to waste. The Asian Games medal is a way of thanking my family."

The prize money he received from the Odisha government has been a blessing for Jena. He paid off the loan he had taken for his sister's wedding and for his training needs.

"I have not decided what to do with the rest of the money. Things are much better now. I have Reliance as a sponsor, the Odisha government has also helped me. It makes it easier to focus on the Paris Olympics when there is support. Expectations will be more I know because people know me now."

Today when he thinks about the night in July he wanted to quit javelin after the disappointing distance in Beirut, Jena says he is thankful for the reassuring voice at the other end of the phone line. "I am glad I spoke to my father that night. Then I could not even think of throwing anywhere close to 87 metres. I was thinking of quitting the sport. Imagine what I would have missed out on."

Alyson on a mission to take China to Olympic podium

VINAYAK MOHANARANGAN
RANCHI, NOVEMBER 1

AS A player, she won two Olympic Gold Medals (1996, 2000), and two World Cups (1994, 1998) with Australia. As the coach of the Netherlands women's team, she took them to silver at the Rio Olympics in 2016, the World Cup title in 2018, and finally, gold at the Tokyo Olympics.

Then in Hangzhou, Alyson Annan guided the China women's hockey team to the Asian Games gold medal that confirmed their place for Paris 2024. Her team broke India's hearts along the way in the semifinal. In a career that is legendary in every sense of the word, she is now trying to add a new chapter: returning China to the heights of the early 2000s.

"We have a target of winning a medal at the Olympics," Alyson tells *The Indian Express* in Ranchi where China are part of the Asian Champions Trophy. "We strive to be the best that we can be and hope to medal next year. When I took over the job, we talked about winning the Asian Games for a year and a half. You have to talk about it to make it realistic."

What keeps the 50-year-old going despite all that she has achieved? "Learning more about myself every day and giving back to the sport that I love so much, that's given me so much is what keeps me going," she says, adding, "And having new challenges... this is a really new cultural experience."

Born in Wentworthville NSW in 1973, Alyson moved to the Australian Institute Sport hockey program in Perth aged 19 and was immediately recognised as a star in the making. She would go on to score 166 goals for Hockeyroos in 228 international matches over a glittering career, that ended a bit early as she retired after moving to the Netherlands.

Coaching was something Alyson knew she'd get into very early. "I grew up in a small town that didn't have much hockey, didn't have a didn't have a field hockey pitch like this here in Ranchi. I went to a big city when I was young and when I was 16-17, I wanted to go back and coach, help players gain the same experiences I had," she says.

After a few decorated years as the Netherlands head coach, things came to an unpleasant end for Alyson in early 2022 as she parted ways due to a difference of opinion with the set-up. But in May last year came the announcement that she was taking up the role with China.

"I was always intrigued by the Asian teams. They seem to have a lot of qualities that I was interested in. Why aren't they in the top four? China were there around the time when they hosted the Olympics. There seems to be a lot of quality in Asia but there doesn't seem to be a constant flow of top four, top six teams. I think that can happen. China approached me with the opportunity and combined with my curiosity, here I am," she says.

Chinese women are now arguably one of the most improved teams in the world and she attributes it to the belief that has been instilled into the



Alyson Annan (left) guided the Chinese women's hockey team to the Asian Games gold medal that confirmed their place for Paris 2024. Hockey India

group as well as changes in training methodologies. "With Holland, we did a lot of data-driven training. I brought that into China. We play with a lot of speed in Holland. China needed to speed up the game so I

took those things into it. But you can't take everything because it's different cultures. We are a strong side, but we need to get fitter and faster before Paris."

Taking up the role with China, Alyson negotiated wanting to select her own teams for the major events. She saw that China needed fast and skillful players and she used the provincial tournament to pick a big group that she trimmed down last year

and started the path to Asian Games glory in January. Apart from the hockey though, she has had to adapt to the new culture as well.

"I try and learn Mandarin. I think that speaking it is easier than reading it. You've got pinyin and you've got the characters. I just learned pinyin, I haven't learned the characters yet," she says. "I'm able to do the training in Chinese. Not completely and thoroughly but I can explain the training and explain a little bit to the players. And my players are learning English. It's a sign of mutual respect. I've learned a lot in this last year and a half with this team."

When the Dutch women's team won the Olympic gold in Tokyo, Alyson became the first woman to win hockey gold medals as a player and then as a coach at separate editions. She had said then "It's nice, but it's not why I do this".

So why does she do this? "My life changed through sport. And it brought me so much," she says.

"Sport is a way to bring people together and unite people. Look where I am. I am in India with the Chinese team, I'm an Australian living in Holland. It's wonderful."

My life changed through sport. And it brought me so much. Sport is a way to bring people together and unite people. Look where I am. I am in India with the Chinese team. I'm an Australian living in Holland. It's wonderful."

—ALYSON ANNAN
CHINA WOMEN'S HOCKEY COACH

STATEMENT OF STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

S.No.	PARTICULARS	STANDALONE						CONSOLIDATED					
		QUARTER ENDED		HALF YEAR ENDED		YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023 AUDITED	QUARTER ENDED		HALF YEAR ENDED		YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023 AUDITED		
		SEPTEMBER 30, 2023 UNAUDITED	JUNE 30, 2023 UNAUDITED	SEPTEMBER 30, 2022 UNAUDITED	SEPTEMBER 30, 2022 UNAUDITED		SEPTEMBER 30, 2023 UNAUDITED	JUNE 30, 2023 UNAUDITED	SEPTEMBER 30, 2022 UNAUDITED	SEPTEMBER 30, 2022 UNAUDITED			
1	Total Income	9,693.72	8,989.44	9,167.40	18,683.16	17,612.93	34,370.81	9,741.17	9,076.55	9,252.22	18,817.72	17,755.29	34,727.39
2	Net Profit for the period before tax (before Exceptional items)	1,396.95	1,254.79	963.66	2,651.74	1,787.46	3,874.56	1,360.10	1,141.93	935.88	2,502.03	1,724.90	3,863.62
3	Net Profit for the period before tax (after Exceptional items)	1,396.95	1,094.80	963.66	2,491.75	1,787.46	3,874.56	1,360.10	981.94	935.88	2,342.04	1,724.90	3,863.62
4	Net Profit for the period after tax (after Exceptional items)	1,053.81	824.72	716.07	1,878.53	1,340.59	2,910.58	1,007.04	700.54	682.28	1,707.58	1,267.86	2,799.90
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	1,051.35	822.26	714.64	1,873.61	1,337.73	2,901.21	1,008.93	690.77	677.12	1,699.70	1,236.51	2,765.03
6	Equity Share Capital (face value Rs. 2/- per share)	39.97	39.97	39.96	39.97	39.96	39.97	39.97	39.97	39.96	39.97	39.96	39.97
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)						16,665.12						16,615.60
8	Earnings per share on net profit after tax - face value Rs. 2/- each (In Rupees)												
	a) Basic	52.72	41.27	35.84	93.99	67.09	145.66	50.34	35.54	34.45	85.88	64.00	140.62
	b) Diluted	52.61	41.23	35.79	93.84	67.04	145.52	50.25	35.50	34.41	85.75	63.95	140.49

Notes:-

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarter and half year ended financial results are available on the Company's website www.heromotocorp.com and also on stock exchange websites www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com
- The above results for the quarter and half year ended September 30, 2023 have been reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors in their meeting held on November 01, 2023.
- Based on the guiding principles given in Ind AS-108 on 'Operating Segments', the Company's business activity fall within a single operating segment, namely automotive segment. Accordingly, the disclosure requirements of Ind AS 108 are not applicable.

New Delhi, November 01, 2023

Hero MotoCorp Ltd. - Regd. Office: The Grand Plaza, Plot No.2, Nelson Mandela Road, Vasant Kunj - Phase-II, New Delhi - 110070. | CIN NO. L35911DL1984PLC017354 • Visit www.heromotocorp.com

For and on behalf of Board of Directors

Dr. PAWAN MUNJAL
Executive Chairman
DIN: 00004223