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ESE & GATE

THE WORLD

ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL STORMS TO HIT THE COUNTRY AT LEAST 27 KILLED AFTER MEXICO HURRICANE

At least 27 people died due to Hurricane Otis, Mexico's government said on Thursday after one of the most powerful storms to hit the country unleashed devastation in the Pacific beach resort of Acapulco early the day before. Four more people are still missing, the government said. **REUTERS**

HAMAS SAYS 50 OF 224 HOSTAGES DEAD in Israeli bombardment so far since October 7

NETANYAHU SAYS I'LL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE for the Hamas attack, but after the war

HUMANITARIAN AID TRICKLES INTO GAZA STRIP, 12 trucks cross in from Egypt; 74 in total so far

Israel launches brief ground raid in Gaza overnight

Staged our biggest incursion so far in northern Gaza for a full-scale ground assault: Military



October 7 massacre by Hamas militants, but that will only come after Israel's war against the Islamic militant group. Benny Gantz, a retired general and a member of Israel's war Cabinet, said any possible ground offensive would be only "one stage in a long-term process that includes security, political and social aspects that will take years." During the overnight raid, soldiers killed fighters and destroyed militant infrastructure and anti-tank missile launching positions, the military said. It said that no Israelis were wounded. There was no immediate confirmation of any Palestinian casualties. Israeli Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, a military spokesman, said the limited incursion was "part of our preparations for the next stages of the war." Israel also said it had also carried out around 250 airstrikes across Gaza in the last 24 hours, targeting tunnel shafts, rocket launchers and other militant infrastructure. Hamas' military wing said Thursday that Israeli bombardment has so far killed



(Left) Palestinians evacuate a woman after Israeli airstrikes on Khan Younis on Thursday. (Above) Israeli armoured vehicles take part in an operation at a location given as the northern Gaza Strip in this screenshot taken from a handheld video. AP

UN Security Council again fails to address Israel-Hamas war

EDITH M. LEDERER
UNITED NATIONS, OCTOBER 26

THE UN Security Council failed again Wednesday to address the Israeli-Hamas war in Gaza, rejecting rival United States and Russian resolutions. The council is the UN's most powerful body, charged with maintaining international peace and security, but its divisions have left it impotent and scrambling to try to find a resolution with acceptable language. The resolution drafted by the United States, Israel's closest ally, would have reaffirmed Israel's right to self-defense, urged respect for international laws — especially protection of civilians — and called for "humanitarian pauses" to deliver desperately needed aid to Gaza. In Wednesday's vote in the 15-member council, 10 countries voted in favor, Russia, China and the United Arab Emirates voted against, and nine countries abstained. The resolution wasn't adopted because it failed to get minimum nine "yes" votes. The failure of the two resolutions followed the council's rejections last week of a Russian resolution that didn't mention Hamas and also failed to get nine "yes" votes and a widely supported Brazilian resolution vetoed by the United States that would have condemned the Hamas attacks and all violence against civilians and called for "humanitarian pauses." After the votes, Malta's UN Ambassador Vanessa Frazier declared they will be working on a new proposal in coming days. **AP**

AGENCIES
RAFAH, GAZA STRIP
OCTOBER 26

ISRAELI TROOPS and tanks launched an hourslong ground raid into northern Gaza overnight on Thursday, the military said, striking several militant targets in order to "prepare the battlefield" before a widely expected ground invasion after more than two weeks of devastating airstrikes. The raid came after the UN warned that it's on the verge of running out of fuel in the Gaza Strip, forcing it to sharply curtail relief efforts in the territory, which has also been under a complete siege since Hamas' bloody rampage across southern Israel ignited the war earlier this month. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said it was "preparing for a ground invasion" that could be one of several. "I will not elaborate on when, how or how many," he said in a televised update to citizens on Wednesday evening. He also said he will be held accountable for the bloody

WIFE, SON, DAUGHTER, GRANDSON KILLED Al Jazeera's reporter in Gaza loses four family members in Israel strike

JACK JEFFERY
CAIRO, OCTOBER 26

Al Jazeera's chief correspondent in the Gaza Strip, Wael Dahdouh, was helping broadcast live images of the besieged territory's night sky when he received the devastating news: His wife, son, and daughter had all been killed in an Israeli airstrike on Wednesday. Moments later, the Qatari-based satellite channel switched to footage of Dahdouh entering al-Aqsa Hospital in Gaza before giving way to grief as he peered over the body of his dead son. "They take revenge on us in our children?" he said, kneeling over his son's bloodied body, still wearing his protective press vest from that day's work. Dahdouh's grandson also was declared dead two hours later, the network reported. The video was sure to reverberate across the Arab world, where the 53-year-old journalist is well-known as the face of Palestinians during many wars. He is revered in his native Gaza for telling people's stories of suffering and hardship to the outside world. According to *Al Jazeera*, Dahdouh's family members were



Wael Dahdouh mourns outside a hospital in south of Gaza Strip on Thursday. AP

killed by an Israeli airstrike that hit Nuseirat Refugee Camp, located in an area of Gaza where the military had encouraged people to go to stay safe. It said a number of other relatives were still missing, and it remained unclear how many others were killed. Dahdouh's family were among the more than 1 million Gaza residents displaced by the war, now in its 19th day, and were staying in a house in Nuseirat when the strike hit, the network said. Late Wednesday, *Al Jazeera* replayed the moment Dahdouh was informed about the deaths. In an audio recording he is heard picking up a phone and telling a frantic caller multiple times: "Who are you with?" **AP**

Increase in harassment against Muslim and Jewish Americans reported since October 7 attacks

CLAUDIA LAUER
OCTOBER 26

MUSLIM AND Jewish civil rights groups say they've seen large increases in reports of harassment, bias and sometimes physical assaults against members of their communities since the October 7 Hamas attacks. The Anti-Defamation League and the Center on American-Islamic Relations saw increases in reported instances, many involving violence or threats against protesters at rallies in support of Israel or in support of Palestinians over the last two weeks as war broke out between Israel and Hamas. Other attacks and harassment reported by the groups were directed at random Muslim or Jewish people in public. A spokesperson for the Council on American-Islamic Relations said Wednesday that the organization's chapters and national office had received 774 reports of bias-related acts between October 7 and October 24. The national headquarters had 110 direct reports during that period, compared to 63 for all of August. The council's leaders believe it's the largest wave of complaints since December



Members of 'Jewish Voice for Peace' rally for a ceasefire in Gaza, outside the Federal building in Michigan. Reuters

"Public officials should do everything in their power to keep the wave of hate sweeping the nation right now from spiraling out of control"

COREY SAYLOR
RESEARCH & ADVOCACY DIRECTOR, CENTRE ON U.S.-ISLAMIC RELATIONS

2015, when then-presidential candidate Donald Trump declared his intent to ban Muslim immigration to the US in the wake of the San Bernardino mass shooting that left 14 people dead. The Anti-Defamation League's Center on Extremism

reported in a statement Wednesday that the organization recorded at least 312 reports of antisemitic acts between October 7 and October 23 — compared to 64 recorded during the same time period in 2022. Jewish civil rights organizations in the United Kingdom, France and other countries across Europe, Latin America, North Africa and elsewhere have also tracked increases in antisemitic acts in the past few weeks compared to 2022. League officials said London police had received 218 reports of antisemitic crimes between October 1 and October 18, which was 13 times greater than the numbers reported in 2022. **AP**

DEATH, DESTRUCTION

ISRAEL	PALESTINE
TOTAL DEAD	
1,400+	7,028+
■ Lebanese state media say Israel conducted airstrikes and drone attacks early Thursday.	■ Israeli airstrikes in Khan Younis leveled over eight homes belonging to an extended family.
TOTAL INJURED	
5,400+	17,000+
■ Over 613,000 people made homeless sheltering in 150 UNRWA facilities across Gaza.	■ 2,913 children killed in Israeli airstrikes so far, says Gaza's health ministry.
OTHER LOSSES	
■ Hungary says two Israeli-Hungarian children are among over 200 Hamas hostages	■ The number of French citizens who died in Israel has risen to 35, French foreign ministry said.

Palestinians pull out a body from the rubble after Israeli airstrikes on Khan Younis. Reuters

Kyiv suspends Black Sea grain corridor over warplane threats

Kyiv: Ukraine has suspended the use of its new Black Sea grain export corridor due to a possible threat from Russian warplanes and sea mines, the Kyiv-based Barva Invest consultancy and a British security firm said on Thursday. Ukraine has been using the shipping corridor to try to revive its seaborne exports without Russia's blessing, defying threats from Moscow which quit a UN-brokered deal in July that had allowed some food exports to flow despite the war. "We would like to inform you of a temporary suspension of vessel traffic to and from (the ports). The current ban is in force on October 26, but it is possible that it will be extended," the consultancy said on Telegram. Ukraine officials declined to comment on matter. **REUTERS**

MAINE TOWNS LOCKED DOWN AS AUTHORITIES SEARCH FOR ARMY RESERVIST SUSPECT

US: 18 killed in mass shooting, suspect on run

JENNA RUSSELL & AMELIA NIERENBERG
LEWISTON, OCTOBER 26

HUNDREDS OF police officers from local, state and federal agencies were hunting Thursday for a gunman in Maine who is suspected of killing 18 people and injuring 13 others in a bowling alley and a bar in Lewiston. The search, in a largely rural state with lots of potential hiding places, locked down entire towns and college campuses as authorities searched for Robert Card, 40, of Bowdoin. Residents were told to shelter in place for safety and not to approach Card under any circumstances. An arrest warrant for eight counts of murder has been issued against Card, according to authorities, who have posted a photo of him wearing a brown hooded sweatshirt and carrying



Robert Card, who police have identified as a person of interest in connection to the attack; (right) workers set down detour signs while police teams are deployed around Lisbon High School. AP



a military-style semi-automatic rifle. Pentagon records suggest he has spent more than two decades in the Army Reserve. Dozens of FBI agents are assisting all aspects of the investigation, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives has sent about 40 agents and other personnel to assist local authorities, one of its biggest deployments in recent years, according to federal officials. Seven people died at the bowling alley, eight at the bar and three at or en route to the hospital, Col. William Ross of the Maine State Police said. Eight of the 18 people killed have been identified so far. Dr John Alexander of the Central Maine Medical Center

said the hospital had received 14 victims over a 45-minute period Wednesday night. Of those, three died, three were discharged, and eight remain hospitalized — three in critical condition and five in stable condition. **NYT**

Pakistan issues last warning for its undocumented immigrants to leave

ASIF SHAHZAD
ISLAMABAD, OCTOBER 26

PAKISTAN ON Thursday gave a last warning to all immigrants in the country illegally, including hundreds of thousands of Afghan nationals, to leave voluntarily before a November 1 deadline, the country's caretaker interior minister said on Thursday. Interim Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti told a news conference that Pakistan was determined to go ahead with a plan to remove all undocumented immigrants after November 1. Pakistan announced the move in October. It says it took the decision after Afghan nationals were found to be involved in crimes, against government and the army, including 14 out of 24 suicide bombings this year. **REUTERS**

"All the illegal immigrants have been identified. The state has a complete data," said Bugti. "I want to appeal one more time that all the illegal immigrants should leave voluntarily by the deadline." Bugti warned law enforcement agencies will start an operation to remove people after the expiry of the deadline. He also said action would be taken against anyone found involved in facilitating or hiding the immigrants. The immigrants, mostly Afghans, many of whom have lived in Pakistan for years, will be processed at temporary centres being set up by the government. Those leaving voluntarily will be helped to leave Pakistan, such as preparation of documents, permission to exchange currency and transportation. **REUTERS**

Biden links economic corridor to Hamas attack



Progress on Israel regional integration one reason: Biden

LALIT K JHA
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 26

US PRESIDENT Joe Biden has said that he is convinced that one of the reasons why Hamas launched a terrorist attack on Israel was because of the recent announcement during the G20 Summit in New Delhi on the ambitious India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor that integrates the entire region with a network of railroad.

Israel has launched a massive counter-offensive against Hamas after unprecedented attacks by the militant group on October 7 killed more than 1,400 people.

Biden told reporters at a joint news conference with the visiting Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese that his analysis is based on his instinct and does not have any proof for this.

"I'm convinced one of the reasons Hamas attacked when they did, and I have no proof of this, just my instinct tells me, is because of the progress we were making towards regional integration for Israel, and regional integration overall. We can't leave that work behind," Biden said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

CASE OF ALLEGED ESPIONAGE

Qatar hands death penalty to 8 former Navy men; deeply shocking, says Govt

Delhi explores legal options; charges not public; arrested men worked for firm overseeing submarine induction

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 26

IN A setback to India's efforts at securing their release, eight former personnel of the Indian Navy, arrested in an alleged case of espionage, were handed the death sentence by a court in Qatar Thursday.

Calling the ruling "deeply shocking", India said it is exploring all "legal options".

The Indian nationals, all em-

ployees of Doha-based Dahra Global, were taken into custody in August 2022.

The charges against the Indian nationals were not made public by Qatari authorities. But sources said the Indians had been working in their private capacity with Dahra Global to oversee the induction of Italian small stealth submarines U212.

The arrested Indians were identified as Captain Navtej Singh Gill, Captain Birendra

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

EXPLAINED The Doha test

THIS WILL be a test of India's ties with the Gulf nation. The Qatar Emir's visit to India in 2015 was followed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Doha in 2016. Qatar wields considerable clout in international diplomacy — from hosting the Taliban negotiators to securing the release of US citizens from Hamas captivity.

VIKSIT BHARAT SANKALP YATRA

Don't hold yatra in poll-bound states: EC to Govt after complaints

Rath prabharis renamed as nodal officers after objection over use of govt officers

DIVYA A & DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 26

THE ELECTION Commission, which received complaints about the government's plan to depute senior bureaucrats for its proposed Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra from November 20, Thursday directed Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba to ensure that the programme is not carried out in the five election-going states and in a bypoll constituency in Nagaland until December 5.

Earlier in the day, Information and Broadcasting Secretary Apurva Chandra said the yatra will not make any stops in poll-bound states where the

Model Code of Conduct is in place, and will start in these states once the elections are over.

In its letter to the Cabinet Secretary, the EC said it had been brought to its notice that a letter had been circulated in ministries to nominate senior officers as "District Rath Prabharis" for the yatra.

The EC said it had, on October 9, announced Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Mizoram, Rajasthan and Telangana and bypoll in the Tapi Assembly constituency in Nagaland.

"The provisions of the Model Code of Conduct for the guidance of political parties and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Rajasthan Cong chief raided, Gehlot's son summoned by ED

ED like swarm of locusts, spreading terror: CM Gehlot

HAMZA KHAN
JAIPUR, OCTOBER 26

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate Thursday conducted raids on locations linked to Rajasthan Congress president Govind Singh Dotasra and Independent MLA Om Prakash Hudla.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, in a social media post, stated that the probe agency had also issued summons to his son Vaibhav. Gehlot pointed out that the ED's actions came just a day after his government had announced guarantees for women. Vaibhav has been summoned for questioning in a FEMA (Foreign Exchange Management Act) case in Delhi. The Congress put up a united



During the ED raid at Rajasthan Congress chief Govind Singh Dotasra's residence in Jaipur on Thursday. PTI

EXPRESS NETWORK

'RATION SCAM': ED SEARCHES HOUSES OF BENGAL MINISTER
PAGE 11

front, with Gehlot, state in-charge Sukhjinder Singh

Randhawa and others holding a press conference in Jaipur, while Sachin Pilot addressed one in Delhi. "The way agencies have been let loose in Rajasthan before polls to intimidate Congress leaders — the country and the state are watching," Pilot said.

In Sikar, Dotasra asked his supporters, who had gathered

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

DIS/AGREE THE BEST OF BOTH SIDES

A fortnightly column which offers not this-versus-that, but the best of both sides to inform the debate

MARRIAGE EQUALITY

SC does not have the authority
BY FALI S NARIMAN

Court lets itself, and us, down
BY SAURABH KIRPAL

THE IDEAS PAGE 15

CASH-FOR-QUERY ALLEGATION

Ethics panel calls Moitra on Oct 31, seeks IT, Home help in probe

Examines complainant Dubey, lawyer Dehadrai on charges

LIZ MATHEW & VIKAS PATHAK
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 26

THE LOK Sabha Ethics Committee, which began examining Thursday the cash-for-query allegations against TMC MP Mahua Moitra, asked her to depose before the panel on October 31.

During its meeting which lasted more than two hours, the committee heard BJP MP



Dubey, Dehadrai appeared before the panel on Thursday. PTI

Nishikant Dubey who had complained against Moitra and lawyer Jai Anant Dehadrai.

Committee chairman and BJP MP Vinod Sonkar later told

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



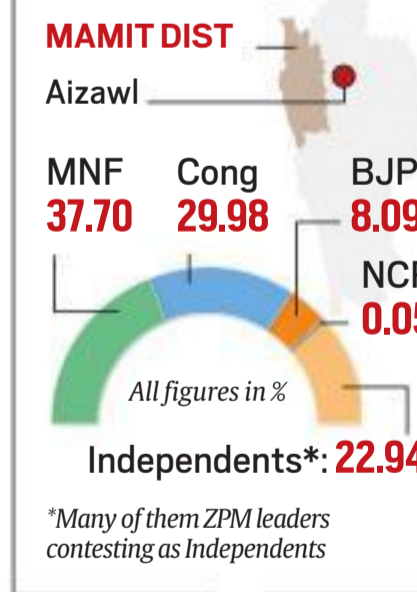
1 seat in 2018, BJP eyes non-Mizo voters, fights anti-Christian image

SUKRITA BARUAH
MAMIT (AIZAWL), OCTOBER 26

THE BJP's cabin-like office in the small town of Mamit, around 80 km from state capital Aizawl, is buzzing with activity on a Wednesday morning. As the party faces an uphill battle in its bid for a footprint in Mizoram — where it has only won an MLA seat once, which was in 2018 — this office is the command centre.

BJP leader and Nagaland Deputy Chief Minister Y Patton has been stationed here for several weeks now, overseeing the campaign for the three constituencies in the district — Mamit, Dampa and Hachhek. The contenders here are the

2018 STATE POLLS VOTE SHARE



biggest names the BJP has in the state, including Lalrinliana Sailo, who crossed over from the ruling Mizo National Front (MNF) and is the candidate from

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Gujarat HC removes clip of judge outburst, asks YouTube to take down apology too

Justice Biren Vaishnav upbraided Justice Mauna Bhatt, later said 'I was wrong'

APURVA VISHWANATH & SOHINI GHOSH
NEW DELHI, AHMEDABAD, OCTOBER 26

A DAY after a judge of the Gujarat High Court apologised for his outburst against his woman colleague on the bench, the High Court has asked YouTube to remove the videos of the apology claiming copyright violation, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

On October 23, Justice Biren Vaishnav, the fourth senior most judge of the High Court upbraided his colleague, Justice Mauna Bhatt, for voicing a differ-

ence of opinion in a batch of tax cases.

With the Gujarat HC live-streaming its proceedings, a video of the incident was widely shared on social media. The HC has now pulled down the clip of that exchange from its archives.

However, while Justice Vaishnav's apology on October 25 is still available on the HC website, the High Court has asked YouTube to take down videos of the judge's apology.

An official of the Gujarat HC registry confirmed to *The Indian Express* such notices were sent out. It is learnt that following

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

2 medals at Asian meet, 16-year-old from J&K is 'first female archer without arms'

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

NITIN SHARMA
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 26

SHEETAL DEVI, a 16-year-old archer from Loidhar village in Kishtwar, Jammu and Kashmir, is the "first female archer without arms to compete internationally", according to World Archery, the sport's governing body. This week, she won two medals at the Asian Para Games in Hangzhou.

How she releases an arrow is a testament to Sheetal's spirit.



Sheetal Devi at the Asian Para Games; she won a women's team silver and mixed team gold. X/Asian Para Games Hangzhou

She holds and balances the 27.5 kilogram bow with her right leg, pulls the string back using a manual releaser attached to her right shoulder, and uses a device called the trigger, held in her mouth, to direct the arrow at a target 50 metres away. All the while, she holds herself upright on the seat with her left leg.

Sheetal was born with Phocomelia, a rare congenital disorder that causes under-developed limbs. "Initially, I could not even lift the bow properly. But, after practising for a couple of months, it became easier," Sheetal told *The Indian Express* on Thursday.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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HINT

Bade Aaram Se



FREE ENTRY

JHARKHAND

WOMEN'S ASIAN CHAMPIONS TROPHY 2023 BEGINS TODAY

27 OCTOBER 2023 | 4:00 PM ONWARDS

TODAY'S MATCHES

TIME: 4:00 PM



TIME: 6:15 PM



TIME: 8:30 PM



VENUE: MARANG GOMKE JAIPAL SINGH MUNDA
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STADIUM ENTRY
FOR SPECTATORS
2:00 PM ONWARDS



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**3
AIR**



**UMA
HARATHI N**
ALL INDIA TEST SERIES,
PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT

**66
AIR**



**KRITIKA
MISHRA**
लक्ष्य, ऑल इंडिया टेस्ट सीरीज,
पर्सनेलिटी डेवलपमेंट

7 AIR WASEEM AHMAD BHAT FOUNDATION COURSE CLASSROOM, LAKSHYA, ABHYAAS, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT	8 AIR ANIRUDDH YADAV ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ETHICS CASE STUDIES	9 AIR KANIKA GOYAL ALL INDIA TEST SERIES	11 AIR PARSANJEET KOUR ALL INDIA TEST SERIES	12 AIR ABHINAV SIWACH ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, PT 365, ABHYAAS, ETHICS PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT	13 AIR VIDUSHI SINGH ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT	14 AIR KRIKA GOYAL ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS	15 AIR SWATI SHARMA ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS	16 AIR SHISHIR KUMAR SINGH ABHYAAS	18 AIR SIDDHARTH SHUKLA LAKSHYA, ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ESSAY TEST SERIES, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT	19 AIR LAGHIMA TIWARI ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT	20 AIR ANUSHKA SHARMA LAKSHYA, ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ESSAY TEST SERIES, PT 365, MAINS 365 PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT
21 AIR SHIVAM YADAV PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT	22 AIR GVS PAVANDATTA ABHYAAS, MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS CLASSES, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT	23 AIR VAISHALI PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT	25 AIR SANKHE KASHMIRA KISHOR ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ESSAY TEST SERIES	26 AIR GUNJITA AGRAWAL LAKSHYA, ABHYAAS, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT	27 AIR YADAV SURYABHAN ACHCHELAL ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS, ETHICS CASE STUDIES	28 AIR ANKITA PUWAR ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS	29 AIR POURUSH SOOD ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT	30 AIR PREKSHA AGRAWAL ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT	31 AIR PRIYANSHA GARG ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS, PT 365, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT	32 AIR NITTIN SINGH ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT	33 AIR THARUN PATNAIK MADALA ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS, ESSAY TEST SERIES
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DELHI: 10 OCT, 1 PM | 27 OCT, 5 PM | 17 NOV, 9 AM

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META Q3 RESULTS: WHY SHARES SLID DESPITE UPBEAT EARNINGS REPORT

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EXPRESS AUDIO UP health centres in limbo, Satya Pal Malik, and rise of an IAS officer

In 3 Things, we discuss Express investigation into the 218 healthcare centres currently in limbo, the rise of an IAS officer V K Pandian, and Rahul Gandhi's interview with former J&K Governor Satya Pal Malik.

FROM PAGE ONE FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Qatar hands death penalty to 8 ex-Navy men; Govt says 'shocking'

Kumar Verma, Captain Saurabh Vasishth, Commander Amit Nagpal, Commander Purnendu Tiwari, Commander Sugunakar Pakala, Commander Sanjeev Gupta and Sailor Ragesh - all ex-Indian Navy, employed by Dahra Global. In its reaction to the order Thursday, the Ministry of External Affairs said it is attaching "high importance" to this case and is exploring all legal options.

The MEA said it will continue to extend all consular and legal assistance to the Indians. "We attach high importance to this case, and have been following it closely. We will continue to extend all consular and legal assistance. We will also take up the verdict with Qatari authorities," it said in a statement.

Sources said the MEA had been closely monitoring the situation and had extended every possible support. "The case is in what is called 'The Court of First Instance'. Four hearings have taken place. The families have also filed a Mercy Plea to the Emir of Qatar who is known to pardon during Ramadan and Eid," the sources said.

Biden links economic corridor to Hamas attack

This is the second time in less than a week that Biden has mentioned the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor as a potential reason for the terrorist attack by Hamas. The new economic corridor, which many see as an alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative, was jointly announced by the leaders of the US, India, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, France, Germany, Italy and the European Union on the sidelines of the G20 summit in September.

King Abdullah of Jordan, President Sisi of Egypt, President Abbas of the Palestinian Authority, and Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia about making sure there's real hope in the region for a better future about the need to work toward a greater integration for Israel while insisting that the aspirations of the Palestinian people will be part of that future as well.

Ethics panel calls Moitra on Oct 31

Hiranandani Group, in an affidavit to the Ethics Committee, claimed that Moitra provided him her Parliament login and password so that he could "post the questions" directly "on her behalf when required". Moitra called the letter "a joke" and said, "The draft of this letter was sent by the PMO and he (Darshan) was forced to sign it."

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Gujarat HC

YouTube's communication, several websites removed the video saying it was "no longer available due to a copyright claim by Gujarat High Court." The Gujarat HC was the first High Court to live-telecast its proceedings beginning in the Covid pandemic in 2020. The exchange between the judges was related to income tax cases where the department had issued notices to reopen assessment for the last six years.

16-yr-old from J&K 'first female archer without arms'

"My parents always had faith in me... The only thing I didn't like was the look on people's faces when they realised that I don't have arms... These medals are not just mine, but of the whole country," she said. At Hangzhou, Sheetal won a women's team silver while pairing up with Santa, and a mixed team gold with Rakesh Kumar - an impressive haul for someone who started training with the bow-and-arrow just two years ago.

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1 seat in 2018, BJP eyes non-Mizo voters, fights anti-Christian image

Mamit: BJP Mizoram president Vanlalhmua, fielded from Dampa; and prominent business owner Malsawmluanga, the nominee from Hachhek. Mamit is also the only place in Mizoram where PM Narendra Modi is scheduled to address a rally so far, planned for October 30, bypassing bigger towns such as Aizawl and Lunglei. Sailo, the party's Mamit candidate, has just returned from a campaign tour of Dampa Rengpui, a Bru village. BJP sources say the party is counting on non-Mizos, such as the Brus and Chakmas,

whom the Centre has provided many facilities, to back the party as it struggles to find acceptability among the Mizo Christians. Nearly 87% of Mizoram's population is Christian. Apart from sharing a common ethnic heritage with the Kuki-Zo tribes of Manipur, who are in conflict with the majority Meiteis in the state, the Mizos also share religious faith with them. Reports of churches being destroyed in the Manipur violence have put a strain on the already minuscule support for the BJP in Mizoram.

Rajasthan Congress chief raided

outside his house, not to get agitated, saying that there is nothing to worry about. Vaibhav said the allegations against him are 12 years old "and I had responded to them then and I will respond to them now". In a social media post, Vaibhav said he wasn't given even 24 hours to appear in Delhi. Comparing the ED to a "tiddi dal (locust swarm)", Gehlot said their aim is to create a public perception and make headlines like "CM's son being summoned" or "PCC president being raided".

No yatra in poll-bound states: EC

flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 15, the birth anniversary of freedom fighter and tribal leader Birsa Munda from his birthplace in Khunti, Jharkhand. The day is celebrated as Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas in Munda's honour. Official sources said there has been an admission that "rath was probably not the proper word to use for IEC vans", and it will not be used in the context of the yatra.

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PROJECT COMING UP NEAR JEWAR AIRPORT Bigwigs from industry at Film City pre-bid meet

DHEERAJ MISHRA
NOIDA, OCTOBER 26

FROM TOP producers, director of a famous record label, to a Korean company: The pre-bid meeting of the Uttar Pradesh government's ambitious Film City project, proposed to be developed near the upcoming Noida International Airport, saw many big names from the movie industry in attendance.

Officials said a total of 19 companies have bought the tender documents so far to participate in bidding. Among the participants of the meeting were film producer KC Bokadia; Mohinder Walia; Director of T-series Vinay Mittal; Milap Kapoor; Bhutani Group; Jitendra Chhabra; a representative from the Korean film company Securo Group Inc; and Vipul D Shah group.

Sources said Bokadia raised a demand to provide 'Right of First Refusal (ROFR)' to the successful bidder for the project's next

phase. ROFR is a contractual right giving its holder the option to transact with another contracting party before others can.

Along with him, the Securo Group also raised a similar demand. "The Authority shall clearly mention that the concessionaire, who will be awarded the Phase I project, will get preferential right for Phases II and III as well, unless there are some complaints, delay in work, or unsatisfactory work done by the concessionaire in Phase I," said the company.

The company also said a 'Marks' system should be introduced, with a mandatory project report and brief details of what will be constructed, what are revenue sources, and how it will be achieved. "There are no checks and controls in the technical capacity evaluation. Sharing of revenue to the Authority will begin from the 9th year. If the Authority comes to know about any malpractice or impracticality of the project, (it will) damage the proj-

ect...," said the firm in its queries.

Sources also said Boney Kapoor Productions, Securo Group, Golden Bird Entertainment, two popular celebrities, and Dubai-based studio operator RDB Infra have confirmed that they will be participating in the bidding process.

Apart from them, companies such as Cistula Tulipp, Oberoi Realty, T-Series, and MX Player are interested and their confirmation is awaited for the bidding. Responses of Omaxe Realty and Guardian Media & Entertainment is also awaited.

The meeting was headed by Manoj Kumar Singh, Infrastructure & Industrial Development Commissioner, UP government, and Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) CEO Dr Arun Vir Singh.

Film City is proposed to be developed in Sector 21 of YEIDA in phases. The global e-tender was issued on September 29. The last date for bid submission is November 30.

For Noida Airport, Tata's catering firm to develop in-flight kitchen facility

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 26

THE NOIDA International Airport (NIA) Thursday signed a concession agreement with Tata group's TajSATS, a leading in-flight catering company, for developing an in-flight kitchen facility.

Officials said that TajSATS will develop the facility on a design, finance, build, operate, and transfer (DBFOT) model for a 37-year period. The mandate will include passenger and crew meal services, in-flight catering equipment handling, and loading and unloading of meals.

Manish Gupta, Chief Executive Officer of TajSATS, said: "The pace of addition of airports in India, which include marquee developments such as Noida International Airport, presents a tremendous growth opportunity for airline catering. TajSATS, with its strong network and market leadership, will deliver premium in-flight and lounge catering, leveraging its four decades of experience."

Strategically located within the airport, the kitchen will be spread over 40,000 sqft and be equipped to serve over 15,000 meals a day in the initial phase. The company said the

kitchen will also be equipped to serve lounge facilities and the food and beverage outlets inside the airport.

With the addition of this facility, TajSATS will have nine production facilities in India.

"This partnership is a key milestone for us toward developing a modern, consumer-centric culinary experience for our customers. We believe meals are an integral part of a distinguished in-flight and airport experience. TajSATS comes with a vast experience in serving numerous airports and we feel that their offering will synergise with ours to provide a thorough world-class experience to our customers," said Christoph Schnellmann, CEO, Noida International Airport.

Rejected by woman, man created fake ID of sister to harass her; held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 26

MONTHS AFTER a 25-year-old man created a fake Instagram ID of a teenage girl and posted objectionable photos and audio clips to harass her, the Delhi Police arrested him in a case of cyberstalking and sexual harassment. Police said the accused allegedly harassed the minor after her elder sister rejected his advances.

The accused, Furkan Md, has been booked in a case under the IT Act and POC SO Act. Police said the minor and her family complained that he created the fake ID using her name and photos. To this ID, he added objectionable photos and audio clips. He sent the same content to her relatives and friends, police said. As per the police, a complaint

was received on May 29 at the cyber police station. A woman alleged that her daughter was being harassed and defamed because of the fake Instagram ID.

DCP (Northeast) Dr Joy N Tirkey said, "We first gathered technical details of the fake ID and analysed it. We then traced the systems used to run the ID and a suspect was identified. Several raids were conducted in and around Delhi to catch him."

During questioning, Furkan broke down and confessed. The DCP said Furkan wanted to date a woman but she rejected him. He had also proposed marriage to her but she turned him down. "Dejected, he decided to take revenge by defaming her family. He downloaded photographs of the woman's minor sister... from Facebook

and Instagram and posted them on a fake ID. He also uploaded vulgar audio clips over her photos and posted obscene material," added the DCP.

"We found that he is already married and has two kids... We have seized the OPPO phone used by him along with the objectionable content," said an officer.

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CM and Nigerian High Commissioner to India discuss health & education

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 26

CHIEF MINISTER Arvind Kejriwal Thursday met Nigerian High Commissioner to India Ahmed Sule at the Delhi Secretariat and discussed issues relating to health and education, officials said.

A statement from the Delhi government said Sule expressed the desire to visit schools and hospitals in the city. "High commissioner of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to India, H.E. Mr Ahmed



CM Kejriwal with Nigerian High Commissioner to India Ahmed Sule (R). CMO Delhi/X

Sule called upon the Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Arvind Kejriwal at Delhi Secretariat today," the CMO said in a post on X.

"Discussions revolved around education and health. Highlighting the excellent work being carried out in these sectors, The High Commissioner expressed a keen interest in visiting these institutions, and Hon'ble CM assured him of a warm and well-arranged visit," it said.

Education Minister Atishi and DDC vice-chairperson Jasmine Shah also attended the meeting.

Delhi Metro Phase IV: 2 corridors in advanced stages of approval

New Delhi: Two of the three remaining corridors of Delhi Metro's Phase IV project are in advanced stages of approval while the authorities are mulling extending the third line to Kundli in Haryana, an official said Thursday.

Sources said there is also a plan to extend the proposed Tughlakabad-Aerocity (Silver Line) till Delhi Airport Terminal 1D on the Magenta Line.

In March 2019, the Union Cabinet approved three out of the six corridors of the Delhi Metro's Phase IV.

The remaining three proposed corridors which have not yet been approved are Rithala-Bawana-Narela, Inderlok-Indraprastha and Lajpat Nagar-Saket G Block.

Two of these remaining corridors under Phase IV project are in advanced stages of getting approval, Officer on Special Duty (Urban Transport), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Jaideep told reporters in response to a query.

Discussions are underway with the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) to extend the Rithala-Bawana-Narela corridor to Kundli in Haryana, sources said. If approved, this will be Delhi Metro's fourth expansion into Haryana. PTI

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8 DECISION 2023

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ELECTION IN NUMBERS

7,639

Of the 9,171 candidates in the fray across the five states in the 2018 Assembly polls, 7,639 or 83.3% had forfeited their deposits

BJP INVOKES ITS CANDIDATE'S TIES WITH INDORE, CONG FOCUSES ON LOCAL ISSUES

As Vijayvargiya settles in for fight, Cong son-of-soil pitch: 'Neta, or beta?'

BJP will count on national gen secy to also help it pull through in the bellwether Malwa Nimar region, with its 66 seats

ANAND MOHAN J
INDORE, OCTOBER 26

BJP NATIONAL general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya is preparing for the unexpected Assembly election he finds himself in, armed with fistfuls of *mithai*. Party workers gathered at a Dussehra Milan event in Indore's Mahavir Bagh Wednesday are greeted personally by the 67-year-old with a sweet placed in their mouths.

The six-time MLA knows the virtue of patience, as he feeds the sea of workers, listens to their grievances, even cracks a joke.

Now, he needs this forbearance more than ever. After the BJP named Vijayvargiya along with three Union ministers and four MPs for the Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections, the 67-year-old admitted he was "shocked". Some of it presumably linked to the fact that the ticket to him closed the door on his son, Akash, the sitting MLA from Indore-3.

Vijayvargiya seems to have reconciled since. The leader, credited with playing a crucial role in BJP win in several states is now plotting his own and, via that, reclaiming the Malwa



Vijayvargiya hints his political ambitions remain. 'Party will give other responsibilities.' Facebook

Nimar region for the party. Whoever holds sway in the region's 66 seats generally goes on to form the government. In 2013, the BJP had won 57 seats in the region. But in 2018, when the Congress won with a thin majority, 36 of the 66 seats went

to the party. The BJP won 28. While Vijayvargiya clearly hopes his feats will carry him through, sitting Indore-1 MLA Sanjay Shukla of the Congress is telling voters that the BJP leader is a guest and positioning himself as the son of Indore.

Scoffing at this, Vijayvargiya says to *The Indian Express*: "I have been the mayor of Indore, a six-time MLA. If he (Shukla) doesn't know that I am from Indore, there can't be bigger ignorance." He has indicated that his larger political ambitions remain

INDORE-1

In 2018
SANJAY SHUKLA
CONGRESS
1.14 lakh votes

SUDARSHAN GUPTA
BJP
1.06 lakh votes

In 2013
ARYA SUDARSHAN GUPTA
BJP
99,558 votes

KAMLESH KHANDELWAL
CONGRESS
45,382 votes

party workers and public.

Around 3 km away, at Shakti Nagar temple, Shukla's *Jan Sabha* is a much quieter affair. Sitting on the ground, Shukla is having *puris*. This down-to-earth demeanour and personal connect with voters are Shukla's USP. Before Vijayvargiya was given the ticket, he had touched the elder BJP leader's feet when sharing the stage with him.

"There is no challenge," Shukla insists. "I am the son of Indore. I've served for five years... *Beta hi jitega, neta nahin* (The son will win, not the politician)." The Congress van in the area

blares the Bollywood hit 'Tum toh thehre pardi, saath kya nibhaoge (You are a stranger, how long will you be around)'. Shukla is hoping the focus on hyperlocal issues clicks, and recently sought a halt to Indore's nightlife. "After 12, nothing should be open," he says.

In the Banganga area, most residents have their own Sanjay Shukla story. Shyam Solanki, 70, a tailor, admires "Shuklaji" for how approachable he is. "He passes by my shop and greets me every morning." But, he adds: "We are Sanghi... My vote will always be for the BJP."

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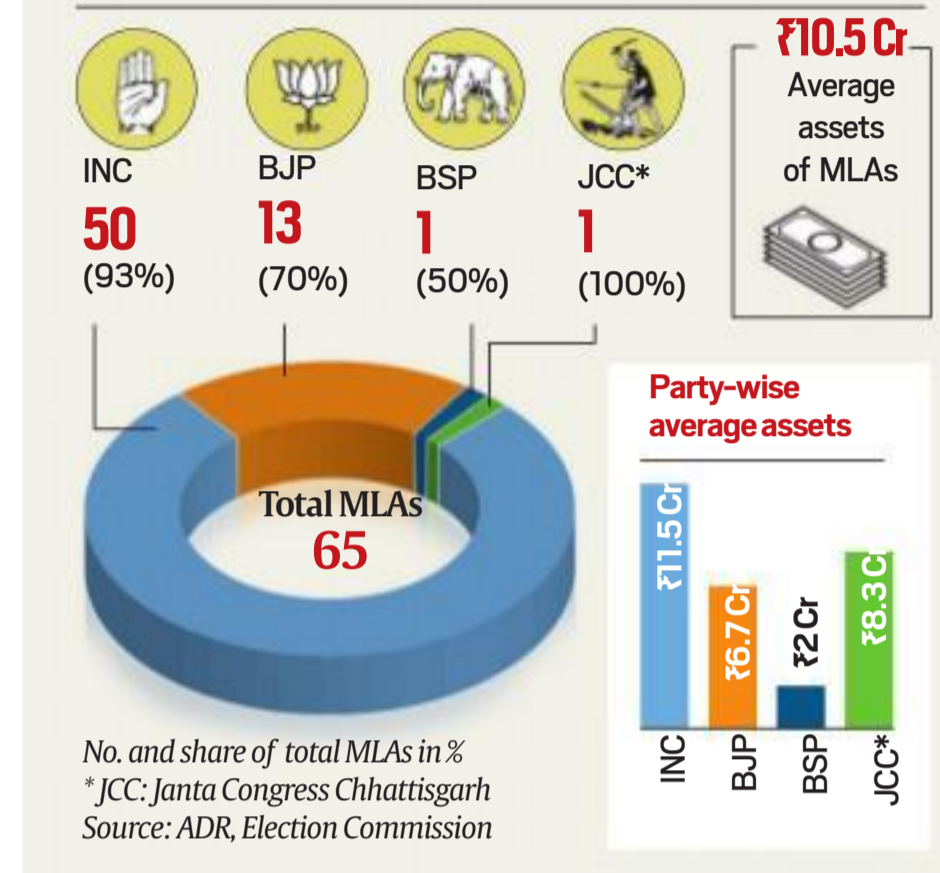


KEY PLAYERS
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THE TOP 5 BJP FACES IN RAJASTHAN, SOME OF THEM NOT IN POLL FRAY

NUMBER SPEAK

CHHATTISGARH: PARTY-WISE CROREPATI MLAS



Cong names 19 more for state; win some, lose some for Gehlot

Pilot says he expects high command, MLAs to pick leader post-elections

HAMZA KHAN
JAIPUR, OCTOBER 26

THE CONGRESS Thursday declared its third list of candidates for Rajasthan, announcing 19 names, including that of a sitting minister, and some Independent and former BSP MLAs who have helped the Ashok Gehlot government through several crises.

Of the 19, the Congress or its allies have sitting MLAs on 14. There are BJP MLAs in the remaining five seats.

Incidentally, three Gehlot loyalists and heavyweights who are considered the architects of the 2022 defiance by the CM of a high command directive do not figure in the party's third list either. The three include ministers Shanti Dhariwal and Mahesh Joshi, and Dharmendra Rathore, the Chairman of Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation.

With Thursday's list, the Congress has announced 95 candidates out of the total 200.

In an echo of the continuing undercurrent of tension in the state unit, Congress leader Sachin Pilot Thursday said the collective objective was to win the Assembly polls, and that the high command would take a decision on who would lead the government.

He was addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters in Delhi, held in the

wake of the Enforcement Directorate action against senior Congress leaders in Rajasthan, including Gehlot's son. Asked about Gehlot's statement last week indicating that he expected to return as CM should the Congress win, Pilot said: "What he said would have been on the basis of his experience of decades... After the party wins, the AICC leadership will speak with the MLAs that are victorious and whatever decision will be taken will be acceptable to all."

Asked about the 2022 incident specifically, Pilot said that it should be analysed, but asserted that it was in the past. "I was told by (Congress president Mallikarjun) Kharageji, 'Sachin we have to move forward, so forget the past, forget whatever has happened and let us move forward... I have moved forward.'"

The 19 names announced Thursday include Cabinet minister Ramesh Chand Meena, who has been retained from Sapotra.

Wajib Ali and Lakhna Singh, who had joined the Congress from the BSP, have been retained from their Assembly seats of Nagar and Karauli, respectively.

MLA Shobharani Kushwah, who joined the Congress just a day earlier, has retained her Dhoolpur seat. Kushwah was expelled by the BJP in June 2022.

WITH ENS, DELHI

Andhra deal delayed, BJP in Telangana talks with Pawan Kalyan, may part with some seats

The star, JSP leader has huge fan base across the two states; party earlier said would contest 32 Telangana seats



Pawan Kalyan with Amit Shah at a meeting in July. Twitter

SREENIVAS JANAYALA
HYDERABAD OCTOBER 26

WHILE THERE might not be clarity on the status of their alliance in Andhra Pradesh, the Jana Sena Party (JSP) and BJP have begun seat-sharing talks for the polls in neighbouring Telangana. Actor-turned-politician K Pawan Kalyan, who heads the JSP, met Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday.

BJP sources told *The Indian Express* that Telangana BJP chief and Union Minister G Kishan Reddy has been tasked with "accommodating Kalyan's request to contest from a few seats in

Telangana". Kalyan, who is in Delhi along with the JSP's political affairs committee chairman, Nandella Manohar, is scheduled to return to Hyderabad on Friday. The discussions are expected to go on till then.

"We are looking at constituencies where Pawan Kalyan's appeal may swing the vote. We have not arrived at a decision. We will perhaps reach a conclusion when senior party leaders meet Amit Shah again," a BJP leader said.

This is the second time that Telangana BJP and JSP leaders are holding talks over seat-sharing; Kalyan had met Kishan Reddy last week over the issue.

On September 14, days after Telugu Desam Party (TDP) chief Chandrababu Naidu was arrested in the alleged Andhra Pradesh Skill Development Corporation scam, Kalyan announced a tie-up with the TDP in Andhra Pradesh to contest the Assembly elections in the state that are scheduled for next year. Kalyan has been pitching for a "grand alliance" against the ruling YSRC, expressing interest in the BJP joining the two of them.

A bitter repeat of 2019? Farmers threaten to enter field against KCR

SREENIVAS JANAYALA
HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 26

BHARAT RASHTRA Samithi (BRS) supremo and Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao may find himself facing T Srinivas and K Rameshwar, among other farmers from Lingapur, in his Kamareddy constituency come November 30.

Srinivas and Rameshwar are members of the Kamareddy Farmers' Joint Action Committee (JAC), which is angry over a mas-

ter plan of the Kamareddy municipality which envisaged a project under which farmers would have lost their land.

The draft plan has already been scrapped. However, at least a hundred farmers who are with the JAC have said they are ready to contest against the CM to ensure there is no such future development plan causing loss of land to farmers.

In January, as part of the draft master plan of the Kamareddy municipality, an industrial zone was proposed, taking over at



Sitting MLA from Gajwel, CM also in race from Kamareddy

least 1,210 acres of agricultural land spread over seven villages.

"KCR says 'Abki baar kisan sarkar', but his government is making plans taking farmers' land," Srinivas says.

The JAC is demanding that the CM announce at a public meeting at Kamareddy that the plan has been shelved and give an assurance that there will be no new master plan. If KCR gives the assurance, they have said, they will support the BRS.

Sitting BRS MLA Gampa Govardhan accused the

Congress of inciting the farmers, saying: "There is no proposal and no one's land is being taken."

For the BRS, the threat by the farmers invokes unpleasant memories. In the May 2019 Lok Sabha elections, BRS leader and KCR's daughter K Kavitha, seeking re-election from the Nizamabad seat, had faced the might of turmeric farmers.

As many as 175 had filed nomination as Independents, and collectively polled over 60,000 votes. Kavitha had lost by 70,000-plus votes.

ADDING TO POLL HEAT

Two more added, the 9 in CM Ashok Gehlot's close circle now facing charges

From his son and brother, to aides, ministers, senior Cong leaders, a growing list and a common link: 2020 rebellion

HAMZA KHAN
JAIPUR, OCTOBER 26

THE RAIDS by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on premises linked to Rajasthan Congress president Govind Singh Dotasra and Independent MLA Om Prakash Hudla, who has been fielded by the Congress this time, take the number of those close to Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot facing different cases, mainly by Central agencies, to nearly 10. None has been arrested.

Agrasain Gehlot, CM's brother
Premises linked to Agrasain

in Jodhpur were raided in July 2020, at a time when the Gehlot government was trying to survive a rebellion mounted by his rival Sachin Pilot. The ED conducted countrywide raids as part of an alleged scam in import of fertilisers later distributed to farmers at subsidised rates, and multiple properties of Agrasain's company Anupam Krishi figured among the premises searched.

(The Congress has accused the BJP of having a hand in the July 2020 rebellion.)

Sources close to Agrasain deny the charges.

the case, this time by the CBI.

Vaibhav Gehlot, CM's son

His name too came under Central agencies' scanner during the July 2020 crisis, with the Income Tax (IT) Department searching nine offices of firms Mayank Sharma Enterprises (MSE) and Om Kothari Group. MSE is owned by the family of Ratan Kant Sharma, who in March 2011 had acquired half the shares in Sunlight Car Rentals Private Ltd, a company floated by Vaibhav, and remained its shareholder till March 31, 2016.

As revealed by Gehlot Thursday, Vaibhav has now got



Gehlot, AICC in-charge Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa at a press conference in Jaipur after the ED's raids Thursday. Rohit Jain Paros

a summons by the ED under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), reportedly in connection with the same case.

Rajendra Singh Yadav, MoS (Home)

Yadav has been raided by both the IT and ED in connection

with an alleged mid-day meal scam. The scam pertains to alleged irregularities in supply of mid-day meals during the Covid pandemic, with firms run by Yadav's sons allegedly behind some of the materials.

While the IT raids were conducted in September 2022, the ED raids happened last month.

Yadav has denied the charges. "My children supplied raw material but how does it concern them if someone makes *bhature* out of them? If someone takes sweets from a *halwai* and feeds a buffalo or a human, how does it concern the *halwai*?" he told *The Indian Express*.

Dharmendra Rathore, Gehlot's close aide

Again, Rathore first saw ac-

tion against him during the 2020 crisis, when IT raided his offices and properties. The CM's aide was made chairman of the Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation in February 2022.

Rajiv Arora, Gehlot's aide

The founder and owner of Amrapali Jewels, Arora also came under IT scanner during the 2020 crisis. A Congress veteran, he is currently the Rajasthan Small Industries Corporation chairman.

Lokesh Sharma, Gehlot's OSD

Sharma faces a FIR filed by Union minister Gajendra Singh, in 2021 over "unlawfully intercepting" telephone conversation during the 2020 crisis, in connection with which the Delhi Police has issued summons to him mul-

tiplied times since. So far, he has appeared five times.

Mahesh Joshi, minister

During the 2020 crisis, Joshi was Gehlot's man Friday, which among other factors led to his elevation as a Cabinet minister in November 2021. In 2021, Joshi was summoned by the Delhi Police in connection with Shekhawati's FIR, but he skipped it. Last year, an FIR was lodged against his son Rohit in an alleged rape case.

Govind Singh Dotasra, Cong state president; Independent MLA Om Prakash Hudla

On Thursday, the ED landed for raids on locations linked to Dotasra and Hudla. The raids were said to be in connection with a 2021 paper leak scam.

EVENT ON NEP 2020 Bharat country's original name, some frustrated people creating row: Pradhan

RITU SHARMA AHMEDABAD, OCTOBER 26

TERMING BHARAT as "an Indian, original name", Union Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan Thursday said there is a "competition" among "a few frustrated people" to create a row over it.

Pradhan's comments came a day after the NCERT said it was "too premature" to comment on media reports that it was considering replacing the word 'India' with 'Bharat' in school textbooks, as suggested by one of the focus groups it had set up to provide inputs for the new National Curriculum Framework.

As reported by The Indian Express, the focus group on social sciences had indeed suggested India be renamed as Bharat in social science textbooks, although the final NCF document released by Education Ministry on August 23 made no mention of proposal.

Saying that a debate over Bharat or India has been "going on for a few days", Pradhan said: "What is the difference, there is no difference. This is one issue to understand... Bharat is the name of this country. During the colonial period, people who read English literature gave it the name India. We in our Constitution have given significance to Bharat and India."

The Union minister was addressing the western zone vice chancellors' conference on implementation of the National Education Policy 2020 at Kevadiya in Gujarat's Narmada district.

Pradhan said: "Bharat is an Indian name, it is the original name, the introduction of civilisation... but today, there is a competition among a few frustrated people, a small section of people, to create a dispute."

In September, as India hosted the G20 Summit, the India-Bharat row came to the fore as President Droupadi Murmu's dinner invites to delegates referred to her as 'President of Bharat' instead of 'President of India'.

Fined for traffic violation, Army jawan attacks constable in Pune

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE PUNE, OCTOBER 26

A 33-year-old traffic constable from Pune city police sustained critical head injuries and is currently in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) after he was allegedly hit with a cement block by a serving Army jawan on Wednesday evening, Pune police said.

Police said traffic constable Romesh Dhaware (33) had issued a challan to Army jawan Vaibhav Sambhaji Mangate (25) on September 4 for triple-riding

on a bike after which an argument had taken place between the two.

Police said that the jawan held a grudge against the constable and the attack on Wednesday was a fallout of that.

Mangate has been booked for attempted murder and provisions pertaining to attack on public servants. He was arrested after the incident that took place at Budhwar Chowk in Pune around 7 pm on Wednesday.

Dhaware is attached to the Farakhana traffic division of Pune city traffic control branch.

Five militants killed at LoC, say J&K police

BASHAARAT MASOOD SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 26

THE JAMMU and Kashmir Police said on Thursday that five militants were killed during a major operation on the Line of Control (LoC) while they were trying to cross over into the Valley in north Kashmir's Kupwara.

Security agencies have warned that militants would be trying to cross the LoC before winter snow shuts routes.

Following specific intelligence, a joint team of forces launched the operation on the LoC in Kupwara's Machil sector, police said on Thursday.

The joint team then intercepted a group of militants attempting infiltration, and challenged them, police said, adding that the militants then opened fire, leading to a gun battle.

According to police, two militants were killed in an initial exchange of fire, and three more were killed later. The militants belonged to the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), police said.

In a statement on X, J&K Police quoted Additional Director General of Police, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar as confirming the death of the five militants. "Identification being ascertained."

Thursday's infiltration attempt was the second reported one in a period of four days. On Sunday, the Army said two militants were killed during an infiltration attempt in north Kashmir's Uri.

On Wednesday, a joint security review meeting at the headquarters of the Army's 15 Corps had discussed the "nuances of security in the region in relation to onset of winter season".

ICMR - National Institute for Research in Reproductive and Child Health (Indian Council of Medical Research) Online applications are invited for filling up following posts through Direct Recruitment at ICMR-NIRRH

Institute of Infrastructure, Technology, Research And Management (IITRAM) Admission Announcement for Ph.D. Program: 2023-24 (Spring Semester)

MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD. GOLD AUCTION NOTICE Regd. Office: Muthoot Centre, TC No 27/3022, Punnen Road, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India - 695001.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER OLD ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE BUILDING, KASHMERE GATE, DELHI-110006

NO VOTER TO BE LEFT BEHIND PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that draft electoral roll of all 70 Assembly Constituencies of NCT of Delhi with respect to 01.01.2024 as qualifying date is being published today i.e. 27.10.2023 (Friday) as part of Special Summary Revision. The electoral rolls will be available at the Voter Centres & Designated Locations i.e. All Polling Station Locations and whose list is available on the website of CEO, Delhi www.ceodelhi.gov.in.

The primary objective of the Special Summary Revision - 2024 is to include newly eligible voters with respect to 01.01.2024 as qualifying date. Those who have completed or will be completing age of 18 years on or before date 01.01.2024. Another objective for the Special Summary Revision-2024 is to provide opportunity for correction in electors' particulars and to invite objections against any wrong inclusion in the Electoral Roll. All claims & Objections in Form - 6, 7 & 8 with requisite documents will be received at these designated locations as per the schedule give as under:-

Table with 3 columns: S. No., Activity, Schedule. 1. Publication of Integrated draft electoral roll. 27.10.2023. 2. Period of filing claims & objections. 27.10.2023 to 09.12.2023. 3. Special campaign at polling station locations. 04.11.2023 (Saturday) & 05.11.2023 (Sunday) and 02.12.2023 (Saturday) & 03.12.2023 (Sunday). 4. Disposal of claims and objections. By 26.12.2023. 5. Final publication of electoral roll. On 05.01.2024.

In addition eligible citizens, who are going to attain the age of 18 years on any of the subsequent qualifying dates in the year 2024, that is to say, the 1st April 2024, 1st July 2024 or 1st October 2024, may also file his or her claim for inclusion of name in the roll, in Form-6, in advance, during the SSR starting from 27.10.2023. Such advance forms shall be disposed of in the first month of respective quarter only.

General Public is also informed that mere holding of Voter Identity card does not entitle the voter to cast his/her vote during election. The name of the voter has to be present in the updated electoral roll. Accordingly, every voter is earnestly requested to check his/her name in the draft electoral roll by any of the following modes:-

- I. Online : Visit https://electoralsearch.eci.gov.in
II. Mobile App : "Voter Helpline" for both searching the name & other electoral services. "Saksham App for Persons with disability (a fully accessible mobile app of ECI)
III. Helpline : Call 1950

If your name is not found in the draft electoral roll, please apply in Form-6 either online or offline immediately:-

Table with 2 columns: Online, Offline. Voter Helpline Mobile App, Saksham Mobile App (For Divyang), ECI Voter Service Portal; www.voters.eci.gov.in, Voter Centre of your Assembly Constituency, Your Polling Station Location.

For more information please visit www.ceodelhi.gov.in Follow Social Media Handle : Facebook, Twitter, Instagram @ceodelhioffice. Youtube@chiefelectoralofficer, Delhi

By Order Special Chief Electoral Officer, Delhi DIP/Shabdarth/0201/23-24

UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LIMITED. (A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking) Corporate Identity No. U40109UR2001SGC025867/2358, Victoria Cross Vijaya Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun-248001

MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD. GOLD AUCTION NOTICE Regd. Office: Muthoot Centre, TC No 27/3022, Punnen Road, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India - 695001.

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that Gold ornaments pledged with under mentioned branches of the company for the period upto 31.12.2022 & MSGL, SPL-16, One plus, Guide Prepaid, Super value, ADGL and all other 6 months tenure Gold loans up to 31.03.2023 and MSGB, SME Suvarna & EMI due up to 30.09.2023 which were overdue for redemption and which have not been redeemed so far in spite of repeated notices, will be auctioned on 09.11.2023 from 10 am onwards.

10 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL OLD PANEL, NEW ROLE

WITH BJP leader Nishikant Dubey depositing before the Lok Sabha Ethics Committee on Thursday to submit oral evidence on his cash-for query allegations, things seem to have come full circle for him. Dubey, along with TMC's Saugata Roy and BJP's Ramesh Kaushik, was a member of the sub-committee formed by then Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan in 2014 to frame rules for the Ethics Committee to make it a permanent part of the Lok Sabha. It was earlier an ad hoc committee. The three-member sub-committee went through the practices of Parliaments across the world to make rules for the permanent ethics panel. It submitted its report in July 2015 and the Ethics Committee became a permanent part of Lok Sabha in August that year.

MOON & MORE

UNION EDUCATION Minister Dharmendra Pradhan recently released a study module on the success of Chandrayaan-3 for NCERT in the presence of ISRO Chairman S Somanath. This is the first of many such reading modules to be released by the ministry, which has tasked the NCERT with preparing similar compilations on 15 different themes, to instill a sense of pride in students. A majority of the themes identified by the government are related to initiatives, proposals, ideas - and even terms - coined by the incumbent government. Among the prominent themes are G20, Nari Shakti Vandana, Amrit Mahotsav, India's digital success and Garib Kalyan.

9 YEARS OF BJP GOVT IN STATE

In Khattar's poll year gift: Pension scheme for old trees, hike for 'victims of Emergency'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 26

HARYANA CHIEF Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Thursday announced a 4 per cent increase in the Dearness Allowance (DA) for 3.5 lakh government employees, besides a hike in pension for 'Matribhasha Satyagrahis', who took part in the 'Hindi Aandolan' of 1957, and the 'Emergency victims' from Rs 10,000 to Rs 15,000.

He also announced honorariums for mayors and members of municipal corporations, zila parishad's chairperson and members, regularization of 190 colonies spanning across 10 districts, and closure of six toll plazas on state highways.

Khattar was addressing the media on the occasion of completion of nine years of his government, during which he highlighted several achievements as well as people-oriented and public welfare programmes carried out in his tenure.

Assembly polls are due in Haryana by October 2024.

In 1957, a number of people of Hindi-speaking parts of erstwhile Punjab launched a crusade for the honour, promotion and implementation of their mother tongue and they are known as 'Matribhasha Satyagrahis'.

Highlighting his government's 'proactive stance on environmentally-friendly initiatives', Khattar also announced a scheme offering pension to trees aged 75 years or older located on the property of state's residents.

Initially, a pension of Rs 2,750 per annum is being offered for 'maintenance and care' of 3,810 trees under the Pran Vayu Devta Pension Scheme, Khattar said, adding the allowance will see annual increments, akin to old-age pension. 'Haryana is the first state to implement such a pioneering scheme, aimed at conserving and protecting aging trees,' Khattar said. Khattar asked the residents, who have trees aged 75 years or older in their homes' courtyards, to apply for pension by visiting their respective district forest department offices. District-level conservation committees have already identified 3,810 trees that qualify for the pension. Meanwhile, Khattar said the Union government has granted approval for the installation of an 800-megawatt thermal power plant in Yamunanagar. To a question about the Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) canal issue, Khattar told the media that the Supreme Court had passed an order in favour of Haryana for constructing the SYL canal. He stressed that the construction of the SYL canal and water-sharing are two separate issues and criticised Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann for taking a different stance on the matter.



Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar

ADDRESSES FARMERS' RALLY IN SHIRDI TOWN

PM takes dig at Pawar: Some did politics in farmers' name

MANOJ MORE SHIRDI, OCTOBER 26

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Thursday criticised Sharad Pawar, who was the agriculture minister in the UPA government, saying that while the BJP-led government was busy empowering farmers, some people in Maharashtra were playing politics in the name of farmers.

'We have been busy empowering farmers with good intentions but some people in Maharashtra are involved only in playing politics in the name of farmers. A senior leader from Maharashtra was the Union agriculture minister for years. I respect him personally but what did he do for farmers?' Modi said at a farmers' rally in Ahmednagar district's Shirdi town.

'In the seven years of his tenure, he purchased from farmers grains worth only Rs 3.5 lakh crore at the MSP (minimum support price). On the other hand, our government in the seven-year period has paid Rs 13.5 lakh crore for buying farmers' produce at the MSP,' he added with-



Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais, Deputy CM Ajit Pawar, PM Narendra Modi, Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde and Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis in Ahmednagar, Thursday. ANI

out naming the NCP chief.

The PM said that farmers had to rely on agents when Pawar was the Union agriculture minister. 'For months, farmers did not get their payments but our government has made arrangements for transferring MSP directly into their bank accounts,' he said.

According to the PM, food grains and oilseeds worth only Rs 500-600 crore used to be purchased at the MSP before 2014. 'But our government has pur-

chased food grains and oilseeds worth Rs 1.15 lakh crore at the MSP and the amount has already been deposited in farmers' bank accounts,' he said. Before addressing the rally, the PM performed a puja and had a darshan at the Shri Saibaba Samadhi Temple in Shirdi, where he inaugurated a Darshan Queue Complex. He then proceeded to the Nilwande dam and dedicated its left bank canal network to the nation.

In Goa, Modi reiterates India's bid to host 2036 Olympic games

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA MARGAO (GOA), OCTOBER 26

REITERATING INDIA'S intention to host the Olympic Games, PM Narendra Modi Thursday said India will be among the leading economic powers of the world by 2036 and India's economy and infrastructure spend will make it easier for the country to host the Olympics.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the 37th National Games in Goa, Modi said: 'Today...it is natural for India's aspirations to be high. That is why during the IOC session in Mumbai, I put forward and spoke for the aspirations of 140 crore Indians. I assured the Olympic Committee that India is ready to host the Youth Olympics in 2030 and the Olympics in 2036.'



'NEWTON' ON POLL DUTY

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar with ECs Anup Chandra Pandey and Arun Goel as he announces actor Rajkumar Rao as the poll panel's national icon, in New Delhi. ANI

'Because I have done a film called Newton, I know how hard it is to conduct elections in remote areas...' Rao said at the event on Thursday.

The CEC said the poll panel would 'very soon' sign an MoU to introduce content on ethical and informed voting in the curriculum for Class 9 onwards

Stating there were 60 lakh first-time voters in five states headed to polls in November, the CEC urged 'all influencers' to spread awareness on voting.

Himanta, Priyanka get poll panel notices for model code violation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 26

THE ELECTION Commission on Thursday sent show-cause notices to Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra for violating the Model Code of Conduct (MCC).

The EC notice to Sarma came after the Congress filed a complaint alleging he made communal statements and unverified accusations against one of its candidates, Mohammed Akbar, during a rally in Chhattisgarh.

The notice to Gandhi Vadra was based on a BJP complaint alleging she had, during a speech in Rajasthan, made false and unverified claims that Prime

Minister Narendra Modi had donated only Rs 21 to the Devnarayan Temple in the state's Bhillwara earlier this year.

Both leaders were given until 5 pm on October 30 to reply.

In the notice to Sarma, the EC, citing provisions against communal speech and unverified allegations, said the BJP leader's speech in Kawardha, Chhattisgarh, on October 19 'prima facie' violated the MCC as well as the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

At the October 19 rally, Sarma had urged voters to remove Akbar, saying, 'Ek Akbar agar ek jagah aate hain, woh 100 Akbar ko bula kar laate hain, yeh baat bhooley mat. Isiye jitna jaldi ho sakta hai, woh Akbar to apna vada kijiye, nahi toh ye Ma Kaushalya ka bhoomi apavitra ho jayega' (When one Akbar

goes somewhere, he calls 100 other Akbars. Don't forget this. Bid farewell to that Akbar as soon as possible, otherwise the land of Ma Kaushalya will become impure).'

In his notice to Gandhi Vadra, the EC said her speech in Rajasthan's Dausa on October 20 had prima facie violated the MCC provisions against making unverified allegations and criticising the private life of others, and against making appeals to caste and communal feelings and using places of worship as a forum for election propaganda.

In her speech, Gandhi Vadra had said she 'did not know if it was true' but she had seen on TV that the PM made a donation to the Devnarayan temple and when the envelope was opened six months later, 'it contained Rs 21.

At IUML Kerala rally, Tharoor calls Hamas terrorists, says Israel reaction 'heinous'

IUML legislator M K Muneer says fight for Palestine is freedom struggle

SHAJU PHILIP THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, OCTOBER 26

AT A rally organised by Congress ally Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) in Kozhikode on Thursday in solidarity with Palestine, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor referred to Hamas as terrorists.

Tharoor was the chief guest at the Palestine solidarity rally in Kozhikode. The IUML handpicked Tharoor as the keynote speaker at the event, considering the erudition of the diplomat-turned politician on international affairs.

The CWC in a resolution on October 9 had reaffirmed its support to the Palestinian cause without mentioning the October 7 attack carried out by Hamas on Israel. 'The CWC expresses its dismay and anguish on the war that has broken out in the Middle East where over a thousand people have been killed in the last two days. The CWC reiterates its long-standing support for the rights of the Palestinian people to land, self-government and to live with dignity and respect. The CWC calls for an immediate ceasefire and for negotiations to begin on all outstanding issues including the imperative issues that have given rise to the present conflict,' the CWC resolution had said.

However, four days later, party spokesperson Pawan Khera said: 'The Congress unequivocally condemns the attack on the innocent civilians of Israel by Hamas.'

Said Tharoor: 'On October 7, terrorists attacked Israel, killed 1,400 people and took 200 hostages. In answer to that, Israel has so far killed 6,000 people. They have stopped the supply of food, water and fuel to Gaza. Hospitals are bombed. Innocent people are being killed every day. What is happening is the viola-



Cong MP Shashi Tharoor

tion of war laws and Geneva Convention.'

He continued: 'One thing I want to say. When those terrorists massacred unarmed people, the world had condemned it. Now, everyone is condemning the Israel bombing. Terrorist acts took place from both sides. Eye for eye would make the whole world blind. What we are seeing now is a heinous reaction...a disproportionate reaction,' he said.

Tharoor said the death toll in the latest bout of crisis in the last 19 days is more than the casualty that took place in the last 15 years. He said the issue should not be considered as a Muslim issue since the rally is being conducted by IUML, a secular party. 'None should think that this is a Muslim issue. It is a matter of human rights. War knows no religion. Christians in Gaza were also killed in the bombing,' he said.

At the same venue, senior IUML legislator Dr M K Muneer struck a different note. Muneer said, 'When Bhagat Singh and Subhas Chandra Bose fought for the freedom of the country, it was recorded in British history as an act of terrorism and extremism. At Gaza, the fight of Palestine for freedom would be an act of terrorism in the eye of imperialistic forces. But the children at Gaza now say now offer namaz not five times a day, but six times. The children say every day they have 'janaza' (funeral prayer). The fight of Palestine is freedom struggle and that of Israel is genocide. We should be able to differentiate between defence and attack,' he said.

UNESCO TAG TO SANTINIKETAN

Mamata gives deadline to Visva-Bharati: Get Tagore name on plaques in 24 hours or face stir

SWEETY KUMARI KOLKATA, OCTOBER 26

WEST BENGAL CM Mamata Banerjee on Thursday gave a 24-hour deadline to the Visva-Bharati, a Central university in Santiniketan, to replace the current plaques commemorating the award of 'World Heritage Site' by UNESCO with those inscribed with the name of Rabindranath Tagore, the founder of the university. Failing which, the CM said, her supporters would launch an agitation.

This comes amid widespread criticism over the newly installed plaques on the campus that bear only the names of PM Narendra Modi as chancellor of the university and Vice-Chancellor Bidyut Chakrabarty. 'Santiniketan has got the UNESCO recognition because of Rabindranath Tagore. He is the creator of Santiniketan and now his name has been removed. Since

Durga Puja was being celebrated, we kept quiet. If you do not remove the plaques and put up new ones with Tagore's name by 10 am tomorrow (Friday), our people will launch an agitation holding Kaviguru's photos to their chests,' Banerjee told reporters.

In a post on X, the ruling TMC hit out at PM Modi's name in the plaques. 'Plaques at the esteemed UNESCO World Heritage site, Visva-Bharati University, feature an inexplicable omission. They highlight the names of PM Narendra Modi and V-C Bidyut Chakrabarty, while astonishingly leaving out the name of Kaviguru Rabindranath Tagore. This oversight raises a critical question: Does Modiji believe he stands above the legacy of Gurudev?..'

On Wednesday, the university had said that the plaque was just a 'temporary structure' to demarcate the site. 'The ISI and UNESCO will send some text that will be erected once they are received,' its spokesperson said.

In tussle for Vokkaliga vote, DKS promises Bengaluru to Deve Gowda bastion

Kumaraswamy threatens fast-unto-death if move implemented; both his and Karnataka Deputy CM Shivakumar's constituencies fall in Ramanagara district

AKRAM M BENGALURU, OCTOBER 26

THE RIVALRY between Congress leader and Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and the JD(S) first family of the Deve Gowdas, for dominance in the state's Vokkaliga region, goes back nearly four decades.

A big part of that rivalry is centred around constituencies in Ramanagara district. Amidst mounting attacks by JD(S) heir apparent HD Kumaraswamy on

Shivakumar, as the party seeks to regain its base in the old Mysore region, the latter has come out swinging.

The Deputy Chief Minister has announced that his constituency Kanakapura in Ramanagara district would soon be part of Bengaluru, and that Ramanagara district itself would be renamed Bengaluru South, with five taluks, and with Ramanagara as the district headquarters.

Kumaraswamy, whose constituency Channapatna is also in the district, has hit back; it was

under Kumaraswamy as CM in 2007, when the JD(S) was in a coalition with the BJP, that Ramanagara, the party's stronghold, was made a district.

Shivakumar has already managed to give the JD(S) a fight for the Vokkaliga base. In the recent Assembly elections, in which the Congress won big, the JD(S) showed a significant erosion in the region dominated by the Vokkaligas. In Ramanagara district, the JD(S) won just 1 seat, compared to the Congress's 3.

In the 2018 Assembly polls,



Karnataka Deputy CM D K Shivakumar; JD(S) leader HD Kumaraswamy

the JD(S) had won 3 seats here, with Kumaraswamy winning both Channapatna and



Ramanagara, before vacating the second seat. His wife Anita had won it later in a bypoll.

In the May polls, Kumaraswamy's son Nikhil, who contested from Ramanagara, was among the JD(S) titans who lost.

Now, having aligned itself with the BJP ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, the JD(S) needs to hold on to its base to command a say.

Kumaraswamy declared Thursday that he would go on a fast unto death if the state government renamed Ramanagara. He also accused Shivakumar of 'cheating' farmers who had

handed over land to a 50-acre Karnataka Milk Federation mega dairy near Kanakapura by claiming around Rs 50 lakh per acre from the government and giving just Rs 50,000-Rs 1 lakh per acre to farmers.

Shivakumar has promised to respond in a few days to the allegations.

Beyond the Vokkaliga vote, the rivalry between the Congress leader and Deve Gowdas is personal. In 1985, Shivakumar had defeated Kumaraswamy from the erstwhile Sathanur

Assembly constituency. In the 2004 Lok Sabha polls, Shivakumar's hand was seen in the defeat of Deve Gowda from the erstwhile Kanakapura constituency to a political novice, Thejaswini Gowda.

Deve Gowda had entered the Lok Sabha via the other seat he contested from, Hassan.

Shivakumar and Kumaraswamy were seen to have buried the hatchet during the JD(S)-Congress coalition government in 2018. But, like the alliance, this truce was short-lived.

11 EXPRESS NETWORK

BRIEFLY

UTTAR PRADESH
Mukhtar Ansari convicted in 2010 case

Lucknow: Jailed gangster-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari was convicted in a Gangsters Act case by a court in Uttar Pradesh. The quantum of punishment will be announced Friday. Ansari, who is lodged in Banda district jail, was convicted under Uttar Pradesh Gangsters & Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act in 2010 FIR filed in link with two incidents. **ENS**

JAMMU & KASHMIR
Pak Rangers open fire at BSF posts in Arnia

Jammu: Pakistani Rangers resorted to firing on at least four forward Indian posts manned by Border Security Force in Arnia sector along the international border in Jammu and Kashmir. BSF confirmed ceasefire violation by Pakistan, saying that firing started around 8 pm and added that its troops were retaliating to it. "The firing was still on," it added. **ENS**

NEW DELHI
Centre to meet travel portal officials on Nov 8

Delhi: With nearly 10,000 complaints registered by air travellers on National Consumer Helpline, the Centre has called a meeting of senior officials of all airlines and travel portals to discuss grievances related to refund, deficiency in services, and delay in compensation. "We are asking them to meet us on 8th of November," Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh said. **ENS**

UTTARAKHAND
CM Dhami signs MoUs worth 10Kcr in Chennai

Dehradun: Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami signed several investment MoUs worth Rs 10,150 crore, on healthcare, pharma, and the energy sector, in Chennai on Thursday. Dhami, on a road show in Chennai, also invited investors from various groups for the Global Investor Summit to be held in Dehradun on 8 and 9 December 2023. **ENS**

Multiple ED raids, arrests in cases linked to Opp leaders in 4 poll-bound states in past months

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 26

IN THE past few months, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has either raided, arrested or summoned leaders from the Opposition parties in Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana, four of the five states where polls are scheduled next month.

The agency on Thursday searched premises associated with Rajasthan Congress chief Govind Singh Dotsara and Independent MLA Om Prakash Hudla in connection with a money laundering case, apart from summoning Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's son Vaibhav in a forex violation case.

In Telangana, the ED is probing Chief Minister K Chandrababoo Naidu's daughter K Kavitha's alleged role in Delhi liquor scam case, while in Madhya Pradesh, it has revived an old bank fraud case against Congress leader Kamal Nath's nephew Ratul Puri with a fresh arrest two months ago. It has also taken action against leaders of the Aam Aadmi Party, which is contesting the MP polls.

Thursday's raids in Rajasthan were carried out in connection with the exam paper leak case and Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) scam. On September 1, the ED had conducted search operations at various locations in the state in connection with the PHED case and seized Rs 2.32 crore cash and a gold bar worth Rs 64 lakh.

Ahead of Parliament's special session in September, the agency had summoned BRS leader Kavitha for questioning in connection with the Delhi excise policy case. Kavitha, however, did not oblige the summons and took relief from court.

On August 22, the ED arrested one Nitin Bhatnagar in connection with its money laundering probe into a Rs 354-crore bank loan fraud allegedly committed by Moser Baer, a company owned by Ratul Puri. Bhatnagar, a former relationship manager of the Bank of Singapore, allegedly facilitated opening of a bank account for a company called Pristine River Investments Ltd, a company owned by Savannah Trust of which Ratul Puri was the "settler". The probe agency has alleged that

the company (Pristine River) was used for layering "proceeds of crime" and Bhatnagar "knowingly assisted in doing so for Ratul Puri".

The very next day, in an ongoing investigation into the Mahadev app racket, an online betting and gaming platform that allegedly cheated people, the ED conducted searches at 10 locations, including the premises of Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's political adviser Vinod Verma and two officers on special duty in his office.

The ED also arrested an ASI with Chhattisgarh police, Chandrabhushan Verma, a businessman, Satish Chandrakar, and hawala operators Anil Dammani and Sunil Dammani in the case.

Last week, the ED raided 15 different places in Chhattisgarh af-

ter which it alleged that the state Rice Millers Association colluded with officers of Chhattisgarh State Marketing Federation Ltd (MARK-FED) and hatched a conspiracy to pay exorbitant amounts to rice millers in exchange for kickbacks to the tune of Rs 175 crore for the "benefit of higher powers".

Earlier, the ED made arrests and filed prosecution complaints in the coal levy commission case, involving Rs 540 crore, and illegal liquor sale, which allegedly cost the state exchequer Rs 2,160 crore. In the liquor case, the ED claimed, money went to "a political party".

On October 4, the agency arrested AAP leader and MP Sanjay Singh in the Delhi liquor policy case. A day earlier it had searched his premises. —WITH INPUTS FROM JAYPRAKASH NAIDU

WEST BENGAL RATION 'SCAM'

ED raids residences of TMC minister Jyotipriya, his PA

SWEETY KUMARI
KOLKATA, OCTOBER 26

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) on Thursday conducted search operations at West Bengal Forest Minister Jyotipriya Mallick's residence and seven other locations in connection with a case related to alleged corruption in ration distribution. Mallick was the former West Bengal food minister.

The ED raids and questioning of Mallick stretched to Thursday midnight. The central probe agency is investigating Mallick's links to businessman Bakibur Rahman, who was recently arrested in the case, sources said. The ED also searched the residence of Mallick's assistant Amit Dey in Nagerbazar in the North 24 Paraganas district. ED officials reached Mallick's residence in BC block in Kolkata's Salt Lake early on Thursday. Officials also went to the minister's flats in Nagerbazar — one in the Bhagwati Park area and the other on Swami Vivekananda Road — but both were locked.

Rahman was arrested last week following an ED raid at his flat in Kaikhali that lasted more than 53 hours. More than 100 documents with stamps of government offices were found in his

flat. Rahman owns several hotels, resorts and bars besides his rice mill business. ED sources said that investments of more than Rs 50 crore were made in his companies.

It has been alleged that there were several irregularities in the public distribution system and massive corruption in the distribution of food grains in the state during the Covid-19 lockdown.

West Bengal Congress president Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury had earlier alleged that Rahman was operating with the help of senior TMC leaders and ministers. "Rahman is a key player in the siphoning of food grains. This scam reached a new height during the pandemic. Food grains were stolen even from the quota allotted for mid-day meals served to school children," Chowdhury said.

"They are tumbling down ghee bottles, oil bottles, taking pictures of sarees, cosmetics in the name of raids... My question is why a single BJP leader's house has not been raided? Why a single BJP dacoit house has not been raided?... The LS election is due in five months. Election in five states is going on. Now, the house of the son of a CM is raided... We do not believe in political revenge. I respect the constitutional chair. So I am silent," Mamata said without naming PM Narendra Modi.

New cooperative to boost seeds export, says Shah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 26

UNION HOME and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said the share of India's domestic seed trade in the global market is only 4.5 per cent, leaving a vast scope for improvement. He said that India needs a lot of work to do to increase its share in the global market.

Addressing the "National Symposium on Production of Improved and Traditional Seed through Cooperative Sector", organised by Bharatiya Bej Sahkari Samiti Limited (BBSL), Shah also highlighted India's share in the world seed export to be only 0.6 per cent. "The world market is waiting for us and we will have to decide the goals for the next 5 years for BBSL," Shah said and emphasised on the need of increasing seed produc-



Home Minister Amit Shah at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on Thursday

tion through cooperatives. Shah spoke about the importance of scientifically produced certified seeds and that not every farmer has access to it. "It is our responsibility to ensure that these seeds reach every farmer and this work will also be done by the cooperative society," he said.



To keep the border safe

A Border Security Force team from Rajasthan rehearses ahead of Ekta Parade to be held on October 31, near the Statue of Unity in Kevadia, Gujarat, on Wednesday. Express

Land warfare will remain important: Army Chief on lessons from Ukraine

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 26

A BIG lesson from the Russia-Ukraine conflict is that land warfare will remain "extremely important" for countries with contested borders like India, Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande said on Thursday. He also said the operational situation along the borders remains stable and the Army has dealt with internal security challenges in a manner that is expected of it.

"In my view, the salience of land domain is going to be extremely important, especially in our case," Gen Pande said during



Army Chief General Manoj Pande

a Fireside Chat with Lieutenant General Raj Shukla (ret'd) at curtain-raiser to 'Chanakya Dialogue' — scheduled to be hosted next week by Army and Centre for Land Warfare Studies.

He said India's rise in stature is bringing recognition, additional responsibilities, opportunities and challenges. The centrality of national interest remains paramount amid the ongoing flux

where the salience of national security is continuously increasing in the international system, said the Army Chief.

Stating that technology is the new strategic arena of geo-political competition and self-reliance has emerged as a key imperative, he said that recent conflicts revealed that security of the nation can neither be outsourced nor be dependent on the largesse of others. He said the Army has been closely working with 340 indigenous defence industries towards fructification of 230 contracts by 2025 and added that the force has identified 45 niche technologies in the field of military applications.

92-year-old ex-MP detained for solidarity meet on Gaza

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, OCTOBER 26

A 92-YEAR-OLD former MP from Jammu and Kashmir was among five people who spent a night in police custody last week over their decision to call a meeting to express solidarity with the victims of bombardment in Gaza.

Sheikh Abdul Rehman was taken to a Jammu police station last Friday night, and spent the night there, ahead of the planned solidarity meeting that was to be held the next day at Maharaja Hari Singh Park in Jammu.

The call for the meeting was made through pamphlets

brought out by the United Peace Alliance, an organisation of various social and political movements. The group's chairman Shahid Saleem said the pamphlets made no mention of "an anti-Israel protest" and added that the meeting was only meant to express "solidarity with the Gaza war victims and call for an end to hostilities".

Apart from Rehman, the others detained were Saleem, I D Khajuria of the International Democratic Party, Subash Mehta of the CPI(M), and one Sukhdev Singh. Rehman is known as the first Muslim to join the Jan Sangh, and in 1972, he became the chief of Jan Sangh's J&K unit.

UP: Between on paper and reality, stray cows and police quarters

ASAD REHMAN & DHEERAJ MISHRA
AZAMGARH, KANPUR, BIJNOR, OCTOBER 25

AT THE Kandharapur primary health centre (PHC) in eastern Uttar Pradesh's Azamgarh district, 53-year-old "ward boy" Jharkhande Yadav is a lone figure sitting in a room with a table, chair, three cupboards, and old furniture stacked against the walls. The adjacent room has no door or windows, and a rope has been tied to stop the entry of cattle. Still, it is filled with cow dung. There is another building 500 metres away, which is also part of the PHC, but is abandoned — with liquor bottles strewn around and plants growing inside.

Kandharapur has a population of around 3,000 people, and the PHC is the only government healthcare facility they rely on. It is one of 218 PHCs and community health centres (CHCs) in 52 Uttar Pradesh districts that are unfinished, some since 2005, according to information accessed by *The Indian Express* under the Right to Information Act. The Kandharapur PHC is among those under scanner for alleged financial irregularities, as per health department records.

When *The Indian Express* visited the PHC on September 28, Yadav said no patients had come

since morning, while the pharmacist and another staff had taken the day off on account of a festival. The register, with patient entries, shows that 19 patients visited a day earlier and were treated in the single room.

As per government regulations, 15 staff members should be deployed at a PHC. The two structures missing doors and windows have been left abandoned for years, say locals.

Lalman Yadav (42), an autorickshaw driver living nearby, said: "This (PHC) is okay for basic problems like cold and fever. If someone falls seriously ill, we take them to Azamgarh district hospital, around 10 km away."

Make-shift residence for cops

Another PHC in Azamgarh, in Kaptanganj area, is being used as a make-shift residence by personnel of the local police station, a couple of hundred metres from the abandoned building. The 15-room building has motorcycles parked at the entrance, with policemen saying they use this since they haven't been assigned a place for their barracks. The two buildings have cots, table fans, clotheslines and other belongings.

"I was posted here a couple of years ago, and since then, I have been living here. No one from the Health Department vis-



At the PHC in Bhikkawala, Bijnor. Gajendra Yadav

its, and it is used by us as barracks," said a police personnel.

Around 40 policemen live in two buildings of the PHC, while another structure is abandoned with plants growing inside.

Station officer, Kaptanganj, Vijay Prakash Maurya said, "I think people have been living in the Health Department building for quite some time as there was no government residence and the buildings were vacant."

Azamgarh ASP (City) Shailendra Lal, when contacted, said the "PHC building is not used by policemen, and the information of policemen living inside the PHC building was false". Azamgarh SSP Anurag Arya could not be reached for a comment. Azamgarh Chief

Medical Officer, Dr Indra Narayan Tiwari, said the PHCs in Kandharapur and Kaptanganj are yet to be handed over to the Health Department. "Both are under investigation by the SIT. The government has given directions to the agencies to complete their construction and hand them over to the Health Department. Then they will be under our control and we will give directions for them," said Dr Tiwari.

Asked about the Kaptanganj PHC, he said, "I can't say if policemen are living there or not. If it was handed over to us, we would have asked them to leave." In its records, the health department had noted alleged financial irregularities in this PHC.

CHC staff have no place to stay

More than 350 km from Azamgarh in Kanpur's Chaubepur area, the CHC is operational. The CHC, which is supposed to have 30 beds, had 15 operational beds when *The Indian Express* visited, and one patient admitted. As per government guidelines, a CHC is supposed to have 25 staff members, including four medical officers. At the Chaubepur CHC, four doctors and 15 paramedical staff are posted.

As per government guidelines, a CHC building should have a main building, medical officer residence for four staff members, six category-2 residences, and six category-1 residences. However, at this CHC, there isn't a single residence for any staff member, and officials say they manage with a doctors' duty room.

Dr Vipul Chaturvedi, consultant at the CHC, said construction for residences is being done behind the main building. The CHC didn't have an operational X-Ray machine, which officials said is because they don't have X-Ray films. In case an X-Ray is required, patients are sent to Ursula Horsman Memorial Hospital - 25 km away.

When *The Indian Express* visited the CHC at 4 pm, there was no doctor at the emergency ward. Asked what happens in case of an

emergency, an employee said, "The doctor lives nearby. We will call him. There are no residences here, so doctors and consultants go home after 2 pm."

This CHC is the subject of an SIT probe, as per health department records. Asked about no residence for staff and the Chaubepur CHC in Kanpur not having an operational X-Ray machine, Kanpur Nagar CMO Dr Alok Ranjan said, "If you go there, you will find some things lacking. Efforts are always being made to fix the problems. For residences, we had sought a budget and it has been sanctioned. We will get the residences constructed. The rest of the problems will also be addressed. A radiograph machine will be brought."

Long wait for residents

Narayan Singh (65) is used to travelling to Delhi, Noida or AIIMS Rishikesh whenever he or a family member falls sick. He says the PHC in Bijnore's Sheikhpura, where he stays, would be a blessing once it's up and running, but wonders why such an obscure location was chosen for it. "We call it a forested area... It should have been closer to the road," he says.

The PHC is being built around 400 metres from the main road and the only thing visible from a distance is an overhead tank. It is surrounded by the tall sugarcane crops, and has no pucca road leading up to it.

When *The Indian Express* visited, there was one person guarding the area. In the past, wires, locks, gate latches, pipes, marble and a submersible pump have been stolen from the PHC. The guard said a few men also tried to steal the ramp railing but couldn't succeed. Two residences and a pump house were still being built at the under-construction PHC, and some wiring and flooring work remained.

The health department, in its records, noted: "Work in progress. The doors installed have to be replaced. The approach road has to be repaired. The floor of OHT is broken." It's the same story at the PHC in Bhikkawala. Gyan Singh Rawat (62), a resident of the village that falls on UP's border with Uttarakhand in Bijnor district, said he is tired of waiting. "Around two years have passed since this building was constructed, but there is nothing in it. We have written multiple times to the health department through the JanSunwai app, but they transfer the application elsewhere.

"Many people from this village are in the Army or paramilitary forces, and mostly women and children reside here. In case of an emergency, who will take them to the hospital? That is why this PHC is important to us. There is a CHC

And to tabulate and monitor data of prosecution cases was becoming difficult. Hence we felt the need for a mobile and windows application. We are giving a tutorial to all Joint Directors of the Prosecution Department to make them familiar with its functioning," said Juneja.

"So far, data used to come in Excel sheets. Some districts would send it on email, some through WhatsApp. We had to designate one person to just put it all together. Now, with the app, our office will be able to see data for prosecution of cases in each district anytime they want on their phone or laptop. The access to the application will only be with officials of the Prosecution Department and the CM office."

Juneja said the initiative was influenced by government's focus on speedy trials and conviction of criminals in a time-bound manner, along with taking things digital. The app is to be linked to CMO portal by next week, while data will start being fed into it from Friday.



THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE
OUR HEALTH CARE IS RATIONED BY WEALTH.
— NOAM CHOMSKY

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY
RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

The Biden pragmatism

Middle East crisis has shown US capacity to manage different theatres of conflict simultaneously



RAJA MANDALA
C RAJA MOHAN

THE UNEXPECTED EXPLOSION of the Israel-Palestine conflict has raised questions about the potential overstretch in American grand strategy. Put simply, can the US walk, whistle and chew gum at the same time? Can Washington determine outcomes in simultaneous wars in Europe, the Middle East and Asia amidst the growing strategic collaboration between Beijing and Moscow and Tehran's capacity to create trouble? Is the US public ready to support expansive military commitments around the world?

In recent years, Russia and China have convinced themselves that the West is in terminal decline and American primacy in the global order could be challenged. The US, however, has demonstrated that it has enough capability to counter the Russian and Chinese challenges in Europe and Asia.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 led to a rallying effect in Europe. Two traditionally neutral nations, Finland and Sweden, joined NATO and Europe doubled down to back Ukraine. Over the last two years, the US has made impressive gains in Asia. These include encouraging Japan to ramp up its defence expenditure to counter China, promoting normalisation of ties between Tokyo and Seoul, renewing defence cooperation with the Philippines, signing a strategic partnership agreement with Communist Vietnam, unveiling the AUKUS partnership with Australia and the UK, strengthening the Quad, and enhancing bilateral ties with India. Above all, the US has expanded its military support for Taiwan and is raising the costs of a potential Chinese invasion.

Yet, the outbreak of unprecedented violence in Israel and Gaza and the danger of a wider war in the Middle East has renewed concerns about the US's capacity to prevail in all three theatres. Reinforcing these concerns has been the fraying domestic consensus on foreign policy. Well before the October 7 terror attack on Israel, the US Congress dropped the aid package to Ukraine. Even as Ukraine's counter-offensive against Russian occupation stalls, a major section of the Republican Party has ranged itself against unending military support to Ukraine. An important section of the US foreign policy establishment has argued that the US should focus on countering China rather than wasting its energies in Ukraine. It

insists that Europeans should take greater responsibility to counter the Russian invasion of Ukraine. While there is a strong bipartisan political consensus in favour of defending Israel, some question Washington's uncritical support for Tel Aviv. Meanwhile, the prospects that Donald Trump might win presidency again has generated possibilities for a return to isolation.

Several factors, however, suggest it is unwise to underestimate the US's strategic resilience. One is the importance of balancing the noisy US foreign policy debates about decline and isolationism against the Washington establishment's enduring strength, demonstrated over the decades, to moderate the extreme domestic arguments and sustain the pursuit of essential US interests worldwide.

Second, the US decline tends to be overstated. The US share of the global GDP continues to be around 24 per cent. While it is true that the Western share of the GDP has declined, much of that reflects a substantive drop in Europe's share. At the same time, it is easy to overstate China's rise. The current slowdown in the Chinese economy suggests it will be a long while, if at all, before Beijing overtakes Washington in aggregate GDP.

On the military front, the US continues to spend more on defence than the next 10 countries combined, including China and India. None of the other powers can project military power in the manner the US does. As the crisis has unfolded in the Middle East, the US deployed two aircraft carriers in the eastern Mediterranean during the last few days.

On the diplomatic front too, the US has been able to insert itself directly and at the highest level in the Gaza war. While China and Russia have offered the usual bromides, Biden travelled there personally, pressed the Israelis to delay the ground invasion and pushed for humanitarian relief. The US has more leverage than the other major powers with both the Arabs and Israel. All that was not enough to produce peace, but there should be no doubt about who has the greater influence in shaping the regional landscape.

The structure of the great power conflict, too, favours Washington. Although Russia and China have gotten closer than before, both are eager to work out separate deals with the US. For Moscow and Beijing, it is a question of terms and not a matter of ideological princi-

ple. The US has domestic problems, and China and Russia have their own. The strong-man rule in Moscow and Beijing may mask those difficulties, but can't hide them from the US.

As a distant power, secure behind two oceans, the US can always take a detached view of the balance of power in Europe and Asia. With minor tweaks in its policy, it can exploit the many contradictions among the major powers of Eurasia. The US demonstrated this in the 1970s when it took advantage of the tensions between the presumed Communist twins, China and Russia.

The greatest US advantage is its system of alliances that vastly outgun the coalitions that Russia and China have sought to construct. The Biden administration has made a conscious decision to look beyond its traditional alliances. By strengthening those who have a stake in defending themselves against China, the US has enhanced the Asian deterrent capabilities against Beijing. The Biden administration is also finessing its declared ideological framework — democracies versus autocracies. As the US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan put it in a just-published article in *Foreign Affairs*, the range of countries supporting Washington includes "those with diverse political systems". "We will work with any country", Sullivan adds, "prepared to stand up for the principles of the UN Charter".

Sullivan's formulation is not a "deviation" from the ideology of democracy promotion; he is reaffirming the deeply embedded realist tradition in US foreign policy. While the question of democratic values remains central to the US foreign policy discourse, Washington's conduct of international relations has been pragmatic when it comes to its core interests.

Planners in Moscow, Beijing, and Tehran might bet that fanning multiple fires could trip up Washington. Promoting chaos might be an interesting strategy, but to use an old Marxist metric, the "correlation of forces" is still in favour of the US. While the challenges confronting the US are complex and demanding, Washington has the will, resources and room for much geopolitical manoeuvre.

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

SLIDING DOWN

Global and domestic concerns are a drag on markets. Volatility is unlikely to subside in the immediate term

MARKETS IN INDIA continued to fall on Thursday, with the BSE Sensex plunging 900 points to end the day down 1.4 per cent. The Nifty closed the day below the 19,000 level. Markets have, in fact, been weak for several weeks now. Over the past month, the Sensex has fallen around 4.5 per cent. It is now trading at a price to equity ratio of around 22, which is marginally lower than its long-term average. The Nifty VIX, a fear gauge, is up, indicating an increase in market volatility. However, India is not an outlier. Markets across Asia have witnessed a broad-based sell-off as investor sentiment has soured. The Nikkei fell 2.14 per cent on Thursday, and is down 5.5 per cent over the past month. Similarly, Kospi fell 2.7 per cent on Thursday, and has declined 6.7 per cent over the last month.

In India, the weakness is being seen across sectors. The Nifty Auto index was down 1.6 per cent on Thursday, while the bank index fell 1.3 per cent. Maruti Suzuki is down 1.7 per cent, Tata Motors fell 1.9 per cent, while Mahindra and Mahindra is down 3.89 per cent. In the financial space, HDFC Bank is down about 2.2 per cent, while Kotak fell around 1.9 per cent. Bajaj Finserv declined 3.68 per cent. Among the IT majors, TCS fell 1.7 per cent, while Infosys fared marginally better, falling 0.7 per cent. This weakness is, however, not just limited to the larger companies, but is more widespread. After a spectacular run in the recent past, both midcap and smallcap stocks have come under pressure. The BSE Midcap index is down roughly 5.2 per cent over the past month, while the Smallcap index has fallen by 3.4 per cent.

Domestic as well as global concerns are weighing down investors. On the domestic front, mixed second quarter results and sluggish rural consumption have raised concerns over the durability and strength of the underlying economic momentum. On the external front, the continuing conflict in West Asia and the possibility of yields staying higher for longer in developed economies such as the US are a major source of concern. The US 10-year bond yield has soared and is hovering around 5 per cent, a level last seen in 2007. The better than expected US home sales data released on Wednesday has raised questions over what rate is restrictive enough. A strong economy, coupled with inflation still well above the US Fed target, only increases the likelihood of interest rates staying higher for longer. This will have a bearing on portfolio flows and the currency. As per data from NSDL, monthly net investments by foreign portfolio investors have turned negative in September and October. These factors suggest that market volatility is unlikely to subside in the near term.

BEGIN WITH THE PHC

Uttar Pradesh government needs to urgently get down to addressing longstanding deficits in health care in the state

EVER SINCE THE launch of its flagship health programme, Ayushman Bharat, in 2018, the Centre has repeatedly underlined the significance of improving accessibility to medical care, especially in rural areas. The project envisages refashioning 1,50,000 public health centres (PHCs) to health and wellness centres (HWCs) to "bring healthcare closer to peoples' homes". From the outset it was apparent that this would require addressing the sector's chronic shortages — doctors, frontline medical professionals and healthcare infrastructure. Since health is a state subject, the Centre's resolve requires a matching commitment by state governments. By all accounts, most states that have traditionally lagged on welfare indices have not risen to this challenge. As a report in this paper shows, more than 200 community healthcare centres and PHCs in Uttar Pradesh are not even brick-and-mortar structures. A majority of these projects began years before the Yogi Adityanath government assumed office and the state's health department has flagged irregularities in these construction works. Given that several data repositories place UP as amongst the worst performers in rural healthcare, the state government would be well advised to expedite work on these PHCs.

Private facilities dominate the country's healthcare landscape. But these centres are concentrated in urban areas, do not have a community-oriented approach and do not focus on preventive care. The latest edition of the Centre's Rural Health Statistics shows that the medical system outside urban areas continues to be plagued by a shortfall of doctors and infrastructure. Barely 45 per cent PHCs adhere to their mandate of functioning 24x7. Also worrying is the shortage of nurses in several states, including in India's most populous state. A study published in *The Lancet* in February placed UP among the five states where district hospitals offer only 1 per cent of the basic services.

A PHC is the first point of contact between the village community and a medical professional and, therefore, plays a key role in building local confidence in the system. The significance of these health centres has been highlighted during several disease outbreaks in recent times, including the Covid pandemic. While the public health emergency tested medical preparedness in all parts of the country, it underscored that well-equipped medical centres at the village and district levels are imperative to prevent disease escalation. Other medical emergencies — encephalitis outbreaks in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, for instance — have also driven home this point. That's why UP — and other states that lag on healthcare indices — must waste no time in getting their act together.

OVER TO THE AI BOT

It is here to save humans from meetings where much is said and little done

THERE ARE MANY reasons, experts say, to worry about artificial intelligence (AI): It can take over jobs and steal people's likenesses and voices to create potentially misleading video and sound clips. A recent report by a US think tank has found that AI can even be used to plan bioweapon attacks, and three European bodies have put out a statement asking the EU to regulate the technology before it is used to undermine democracy. For the ordinary office worker, however, plagued by unrealistic deadlines and an anxiety-inducing stack of unread emails, all of the above doomsday scenarios may be cancelled out by the news that AI can attend virtual meetings on their behalf.

In the nine-to-five, and more, office grind, few things are as unpopular as the mandatory meeting where much is said and little is achieved. Which is why the announcement by companies like Google and Microsoft, that their new AI assistants can take the place of humans in meetings, comes as a promise — not just for reluctant participants, but also for the organisers of these meetings. Unlike a human worker, AI will turn up on time, not derail discussions with segues and monologues; it will keep diligent notes and provide a summary at the end. AI can also be used to enforce meeting etiquette — as some companies are reportedly now doing in the US, "meeting bots" can be programmed to point out when some participants are dominating discussions or interrupting others.

Despite the rapid pace of development, though, humans will have to continue braving ennui and burnt coffee at physical meetings for a while yet. If there is any truth to what the Cassandras of technology have been predicting, the day is not far when AI will take over the planet. Before that, could it please take over all the meetings?



ZERÍN OSHO AND EOIN JACKSON

WARMING UP, BREAKING THE ICE

India's consensus-building capacity makes it a crucial voice in securing the Arctic

IN AN emerging multipolar world, India has surprised many observers by extracting a rare thing as host of the G20 Summit — consensus. Seen increasingly as a deterrent against Chinese expansionism, India has shown it can balance the competing interests of the Global North and the Global South. This is essential to protecting our global climate, including critically important ecosystems such as the Arctic.

The Arctic is warming at a rate four times faster than the global average, leading to an unprecedented loss of sea ice, as well as the thawing of permafrost. Continued Arctic change risks losing the North Pole's "great white shield" and unleashing vast quantities of stored carbon, rivaling the cumulative emissions from the US at its current rate. This can trigger multiple catastrophic and irreversible climate tipping points. Protection of the Arctic is, therefore, crucial to protect the world from the worst effects of the climate emergency.

The impacts of climate change are disproportionately affecting the Global South, and the melting Arctic is no exception. Recent research shows an intricate correlation between the melting of Arctic sea ice and extreme rainfall events during the Indian summer monsoon. The monsoon is crucial to agriculture and livelihoods, making up 80 per cent of South Asia's rainfall. The interconnection is only one example of how intertwined our global ecosystems are. As impacts in one re-

gion can affect the rest of the world, with, in this case, a disproportionate impact on the Global South, consensus-based collective action to mitigate climate impacts in the Arctic is critical.

Despite awareness about the importance of the Arctic, the climatic challenge is being exacerbated by rapid development and growing geopolitical tensions. Russia stretches over 53 per cent of the Arctic Ocean coastline and is pouring resources into commercialising and expanding trade channels along the Northern Sea Route, while continuing to use and transport high-polluting heavy fuel oil through Arctic waters. Russian investments signal its interest in short-term commercial exploitation, not long-term climate preservation. Other Arctic countries are also planning oil and gas development endeavours, despite a growing number of banks committing to abstain from financing such projects.

As developmental pressures increase, the only current governance mechanism for this critical global commons has been suspended. The Arctic Council is a group of eight countries (the US, Russia, Norway, Finland, Sweden, Canada, Denmark, and Iceland) with primary capacity for protecting or exploiting the vital ecosystem. The suspension of the Council due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine has made it more difficult to hold countries accountable.

The Council does not have any member from the Global South, though some, including India, have observer status. The active involvement of India as a member of the Arctic Council to voice the concerns of the Global South could help push for an end to further exploitation.

India's ability to traverse historical divides and develop aligned positions among the Global North and Global South, as evidenced at the G20 Summit, holds the potential to forge a united approach to safeguarding crucial global ecosystems, especially the Arctic. The New Delhi Leader's Declaration demonstrated India's ability to navigate the conflicting interests of the Global North and the Global South. India has a further opportunity to exercise this bridge-building capacity at its proposed virtual G20 Summit in November, where it can raise the Arctic as part of a constructive conversation on climate governance.

This capacity to generate unanimity will be needed to reform Arctic governance and protect the climate. As India takes greater steps towards leading the Global South, its post-G20 future should involve pushing for these reforms and ensuring that climate protection is at the forefront of global Arctic policymaking.

Osho is Director India Programme, Institute for Governance & Sustainable Development (IGSD), and Jackson is a Legal Fellow at IGSD

OCTOBER 27, 1983, FORTY YEARS AGO

INDIA SLAMS INVASION

ABOUT 800 PARATROOPERS of the US army's 82nd airborne division landed in Grenada to reinforce the American invasion force fighting with Cuban and Grenadian troops on the tiny Caribbean island. India said the invasion of Grenada "cannot be justified and is inconsistent with the basic law of international behaviour." It called for the immediate withdrawal of all foreign forces from Grenada.

ANOTHER ASSASSINATION

A GUNMAN PUMPED seven bullets into Jordan's Ambassador to Italy in the second

assassination attempt in two days against envoys from West Asia, police said. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the shooting that seriously wounded ambassador Taysir Alaadin Toukan and his Egyptian driver Mohamed Hidar Baud. Both the driver and the 57-year-old ambassador underwent emergency operations.

NDA AGAINST TALLOW

SUPPORTERS OF THE National Democratic Alliance, led by the Bharatiya Janata Party president AB Vajpayee and the Lok Dal president Charan Singh, staged a day-long dharna at the Boat Club to protest against the addi-

tion of beef and pig tallow to vanaspati. The protestors spent the entire day listening to speeches delivered by various leaders from both parties.

NO INVITE TO AKALIS

The government seems to have deferred its decision to send an invitation to the Akalis for resumption of talks in view of the unabated terrorist activities in the state. This was indicated by Home Minister P C Sethi when he said that no date had been fixed for sending the letter. He said as far as the government was concerned, its doors were always open for talks.



DIS/AGREE THE BEST OF BOTH SIDES

A fortnightly column, which offers not this-versus-that, but the best of both sides, to inform the debate



WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“Opinion polls and byelection results suggest that voters see Mr Sunak as caretaker leader of a moribund government... averting it would have required a meaningful... break from the past. The evidence suggests that the prime minister lacks both the courage and the conviction for that task.” —THE GUARDIAN

Once upon a time, MPs went to UN

Practice of sending parliamentary delegations to the General Assembly, started in the spirit of internationalism, has been subverted by BJP



ZERO HOUR BY DEREK O'BRIEN

MORE THAN TEN Octobers ago, as a newly elected MP, I had the good fortune of being selected by my party to be a part of the parliamentary delegation to attend the 67th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session in 2012. All members of the delegation attend and speak for India. These sessions are held in committee rooms, which are more like large conference rooms near the main hall where the UNGA convenes. However, through a quirk of fate (it is too long a story to tell), I was informed that in addition to the statements I will be making in the committee rooms, I would also be addressing the UN General Assembly. I did so on October 22, 2012. It was certainly one of the biggest days of my life. I took the opportunity to touch upon an array of topics, including gender equity, infant mortality, climate change and poverty.

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) meets every year between September and December. The president-elect of the General Assembly suggests a theme of global concern to be discussed. Every year, an Indian parliamentary delegation is also chosen to be a part of the gathering, addressing the annual session. The practice of an all-party delegation of members of the Indian Parliament visiting New York during the first few months of the General Assembly session is believed to have been initiated by Jawaharlal Nehru, our first PM and a fervent advocate of internationalism.

Generally, no other country follows this practice of sending their MPs to these sessions. For India, this is a unique opportunity for capacity-building and engaging with the UN, as also to get an insider's view of diplomacy.

Many of my colleagues who have been elected to Parliament in recent years have not enjoyed the same good fortune. No fault of theirs. Soon after the BJP government came to power in 2014, they started working on ways to short-circuit this practice of sending Indian parliamentary delegations to the UN. A delegation went in 2015. In the following years, this convention has been covertly subverted.

Here's what my fellow parliamentarians have to say on this subject:

Chidambaram: "In all democracies, the executive and the legislature share the responsibility of governance. That is why parliamentary delegations are as important as minister-led delegations. Continuing the tradition, in all its 10 years, the UPA government sent an all-party delegation of MPs to the annual session of the United Nations General Assembly. After the advent of Mr Modi, a delegation was sent in two of the five years of Modi-1. Under Modi-2, the practice has been totally stopped. This shows the Modi

government's utter contempt for Parliament and its important functions. What we are witnessing is the centralisation of power in one person. In due course, all institutions will be devalued and destroyed."

Shashi Tharoor: "This was an excellent practice that showcased India's democracy to the world. For MPs from different parties to sit behind the India nameplate and speak for the nation was a reminder that even as politics divided us at home, we were united in pursuance of the national interest abroad. There is a long-standing principle in India that our partisan political disagreements stop at the water's edge: Abroad, we are Indians first and always. This was why, from the inception of the parliamentary standing committee system, the chairperson of the external affairs committee was always an Opposition MP, and why the Opposition MPs featured prominently in the UN delegations annually. The BJP abandoned both practices — they have not sent an MP for many years and assumed the committee chairmanship for their own party in 2019. The degrading of our democratic culture has gone that far."

Ram Gopal Yadav: "I went twice as a member of the Indian delegation — 2011 and 2015. The ruling dispensation's discontinuation of sending an all-party delegation to the United Nations General Assembly is an external representation of what they portray internally within the country: A deep fear of conversation with those who do not think alike. The UNGA is the largest representation of such a conversation. The BJP's discontinuation of the Indian tradition of sending an all-party delegation is reflective of the dictatorial values they stand for. There is no room for opinion with the BJP, neither at home, nor abroad. While the prime minister avoids press conferences in the country, the government avoids international conferences abroad. This discontinuation truly shows how far they are willing to go to avoid freedom of expression and thought."

Priyanka Chaturvedi: "Since the time when Jawaharlal Nehru was the PM, India had been sending a delegation of MPs, both treasury and the Opposition to the United Nations to engage in discussions at the international level and represent the vision of crores of people of the nation. Participation of an elected representative, especially one from the Opposition, at such a level, emboldens not only the nation but also the ideals of a healthy democracy."

Manoj Kumar Jha: "All avenues of engagement with the Opposition have been closed. This does reflect a break in foreign policy. It is also a break with the BJP's own tradition. Perhaps, the government is too beleaguered to engage with multilateralism. Besides, this government feels that bilateral fixing is more productive than multilateralism. Their limited view of international relations doesn't allow them the depth needed to understand multilateralism."

For all practical purposes, parliamentary delegations from India are not being sent anymore to the UN. What a shame!

The writer is Member of Parliament and Leader, All India Trinamool Congress Parliamentary Party (Rajya Sabha)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POLLUTION PROBLEM TERROR ALL OVER

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Mumbai alarm bells' (IE, October 26). Although Delhi gets sufficient attention to meet the pollution challenge, the system gets bogged down in the tussle between the bureaucracy and the elected government. However, the primary reason for the choking situation in Mumbai is the dereliction of BMC functionaries to tackle the problem of pollution appropriately. No steps are taken to tackle the waste management problem. Open burning of waste, emissions from industrial houses and road dust are other pollutants. BMC must get its act together if Mumbai is to improve its air quality.

Ravi Mathur, Noida

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Israel's double-speak on terror' (IE, October 26). The writer has rightly exposed the skeletons in Israel's closet. However, caution must be exercised, lest we use this as an excuse to approve of Hamas. Nor Israeli state-sponsored terrorism or Hamas' resistant terrorism can be condoned. In the political battle for statehood, human rights must not be compromised at any cost. India has, for a long time, advocated for terrorism to be treated as a global concern. With the geo-political disorder only exacerbating, combating terrorism should goal.

Sanjana Nagar, Gurugram

FIGHT FOR EQUALITY

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Mumbai alarm bells' (IE, October 26). Those measuring air quality have seen a phenomenal jump in particulate matter and other pollutants over Mumbai between October 2022 and 2023. The average concentration of particulate matter has increased by 100 per cent. The civic body's anti-smog guns are not effective in addressing gaseous emissions. NCAP set targets for cities to achieve 20-30 per cent reduction in particulate matter by 2024, but Mumbai's air quality has worsened. Real-time monitoring of polluting sites and simultaneous assessment of measures are the way forward.

SS Paul, Noida

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Iceland's standstill' (IE, October 26). The most striking aspect of this protest is that even the country's PM Katrin Jakobsdóttir decided to partake and ensure that the people felt supported. For the head of a country to back its women is significant and other women leaders should learn from this as well. Household chores are expected of women so that men can freely continue with their business. So while this is a fight for equality in the workplace, it is also a fight for all those who remain behind to back their partners. Women's work must be recognised and acknowledged — we must make ourselves heard.

Fiza Ahmed, Mumbai

Last week, the Supreme Court gave its verdict on marriage equality. It has sparked a debate on how far the judiciary can go in recognising a right and offering a remedy to a vulnerable minority

SC does not have the authority

Existing law cannot be interpreted to include same-sex marriage. Authority to change this, under the Constitution, rests elsewhere



FALI S NARIMAN

THE IMPORTANCE OF marriage has existed almost since the beginning of human civilisation, but on the understanding that marriage is heterosexual: A union between man and woman — two persons of the opposite sex. The premises supporting the concept of marriage were and remain fundamental: That the human race must procreate in order to survive. Procreation occurs only through sexual relations between a man and woman committed to a bond. Over the centuries, society has recognised that bond as "marriage".

Same-sex marriage is a phrase of recent import, an oxymoron, that is, a phrase using contradictory terms. However, same-sex relationships exist and are accepted in society. Same-sex marriage is also gaining in popularity. So far, it has been established, by law, in at least 34 different countries around the world (countries that account for 17 per cent of the world's total population); most of the Americas (North and South) and countries in Western Europe are included. But its spread has been uneven: South Africa is the only country in the continent of Africa, and Taiwan is the only country in the continent of Asia that have accepted same-sex marriage.

In *Supriya Chakraborty and Anr v Union of India*, a writ petition filed in the Supreme Court of India in 2022, under Article 32 of the Constitution for enforcement of a fundamental right — along with similar writ petitions — arguments in support of same-sex marriage were rooted in the Fundamental Rights Chapter (Part-III) of the Constitution, as well as in social and policy considerations. The petitioners contended that same-sex couples should be permitted to affirm their commitment to one another through marriage — like opposite-sex couples — and that existing marriage laws should be so read and interpreted.

Under India's Constitution, the people of India — through their representatives in Parliament and in state legislatures — are free to accept marriage as including a union of same-sex couples. The Supreme Court does not have the authority.

Now, under India's Constitution, the people of India — through their representatives in Parliament and state legislatures — are free to accept marriage as including a union of same-sex couples. But as a matter of constitutional law, neither a Constitution Bench of five judges, nor even the full complement of 34 judges of the Supreme Court, has the authority to so declare.

Under India's Constitution, the power to make laws — including laws of marriage — vests exclusively either with Parliament at the Centre or with a state legislature — by reason of provisions contained in Article 245(1) and Article 246(2) of the Constitution read along with Item 5 in the Concurrent List.

In *Supriya Chakraborty*, judgments were handed down on October 17 by the five justices on the Constitution Bench. The two senior-most judges in the Court (Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice Sanjay Kishan

Kaul) — in separate but concurring opinions — held that though there was no fundamental right to marry, and although the Court could not treat same-sex couples on the same basis as a marriage between two persons of the opposite sex, declarations were granted and directions issued to alleviate the hardships experienced by same-sex couples living together. However, the remaining three justices on the Bench (Justices Ravindra Bhat, Hima Kohli and P S Narasimha), while also holding that there was no fundamental right to marry, expressly disagreed with the declarations granted and directions issued by the two senior-most judges. Consequently, the two senior-most judges in the Court are in a minority; their judgments have to be reckoned as dissenting opinions: Having no greater force or validity than "an appeal to the brooding spirit of the future..."

The operative majority opinion is that expressed in the judgments of the remaining three Justices Bhat, Kohli and Narasimha. A summary of their findings (now the opinion of the Court) is as follows: One, there is no unqualified right to marriage except that recognised by statute or custom; two, legal recognition of the right to a union — akin to marriage or civil union — can only be through enacted law; three, courts cannot enjoin or direct the creation of a legal or regulatory framework resulting in the conferment of legal status on same-sex couples, nor can same-sex couples be granted the right to adopt; four, that it is not possible to read provisions in existing statutes governing marriage in a gender-neutral manner; five, the constitutional challenge to the Special Marriage Act, 1954, the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, and the Foreign Marriage Act of 1969 is rejected; six, despite the above, separate directions have been given to the Union of India for setting up a high-level committee under the cabinet secretary's chairmanship to help ameliorate the manifold difficulties including discrimination experienced by same-sex couples living together.

In a decision of the US Supreme Court upholding the constitutional validity of same-sex marriage, Chief Justice John G Roberts Jr, along with three colleagues, differed with the majority view expressed by Justice Anthony Kennedy, along with four other colleagues. Chief Justice Roberts opened his dissenting opinion with these stirring words: "Understand well what this dissent is about: It is not about whether, in my judgement, the institution of marriage should be changed to include same-sex couples. It is instead about whether, in our democratic republic, that decision should rest with the people acting through their elected representatives... The US Constitution leaves no doubt about the answer."

In *Supriya Chakraborty and Anr v Union of India*, the Supreme Court of India (majority opinion of three out of five judges) has held that under India's Constitution, the question as to whether same-sex marriage should be accepted rests not with the courts, but with the country's Parliament and state legislatures — and so far, it has not been recognised in any law.

The writer is a constitutional jurist and senior advocate to the Supreme Court

Court lets itself, and us, down

Argument of limited judicial competence is problematic. Court has intervened in the past to better lives of citizens, prevent discrimination



SAURABH KIRPAL

THE SUPREME COURT of India has been touted as the most powerful court in the world. Any reader of this paper would be keenly aware of the influence that the judgments of the Court have on the politics of the country as well as the daily lives of common citizens. The mechanism of public interest litigation devised by judges has helped the courts to reach out and remedy injustices wherever they exist. In politics, the court has mandated the declaration of assets of candidates in elections to further the cause of transparency. From directing the serving of mid-day meals to ordering the use of CNG to combat air pollution, the Supreme Court has intervened to ensure a better life for the common person. None of these directions existed in law but were fashioned by the courts through an interpretation of multiple provisions of the Constitution.

So, it is a bit puzzling that when it comes to the fundamental rights of one of the weakest sections of society, the queer community, the Court decided to adopt a philosophy of judicial restraint. While the marriage equality judgment is complex and deals with multiple issues, the one clear outcome is that the majority has refused to recognise the right to a civil partnership as well as the right of queer couples to adopt. This outcome is more surprising given that the majority recognises the real and constant discrimination faced by the LGBTQIA community. The judgment records that "this deprivation has to be addressed" — just not by the Court. Instead, the majority has merely expressed a fond hope that the legislature would step in and remedy these grave injustices. It seems that the Court forgot that it was the failure of Parliament to ensure justice that compelled the petitioners to file the petitions.

This deference to Parliament was also the argument of the government, which the majority seems to have wholeheartedly endorsed. Unfortunately, this position is wrong both in law and in morality. The Court, when faced with deprivations and systemic injustices, is constitutionally required (and not merely empowered) to step in and provide relief. This is not an instance of the judiciary overstepping its boundaries; it is a constitutional obligation of the Court.

The framers of our Constitution were alive to the multiple forms of discrimination that existed in the country at the time of Independence. They were also aware that electoral politics, while essential in a democracy, was not the surest

way to achieve justice for all. The ultimate task of defending the fundamental rights of all citizens was placed upon the constitutional courts of the country. The Supreme Court has been explicitly mandated to strike down laws which violate any fundamental right (Article 13). Any person has the right to petition the Court for enforcement of her fundamental rights by filing a petition under Article 32, a provision that B R Ambedkar referred to as the heart and soul of the Constitution. The power of the courts, therefore, flows from the same charter which empowers the legislatures to make law. It is no less legitimate than the right of Parliament to enact law.

Further, the Constitution not only empowers the Court to invalidate unconstitutional laws but also envisages a system of checks and balances by which the judiciary can compel the government to act in a manner required by the Constitution. To urge that the Court is powerless in the face of a situation created by a legislative vacuum is to put a premium on constitutional immorality. It gives free rein to future parliaments to defeat fundamental rights by creating complex laws which grant some citizens their rights while denying them to others. As per the argument of the government, it is theoretically possible to have legislation permitting adoption only if the parents are of the same caste. Or, Parliament could pass a law by which the minimum age of marriage under the Special Marriage Act — the only act under which people of different religions can marry — would be raised to 50 years. If these examples outrage us, it is because they are unconstitutional as well as unconscionable.

Perhaps, the greatest concern with the argument of limited judicial competence is ethical rather than purely legal. This is because it seeks to equate majoritarianism and democracy. Our constitutional values do not give dictatorial powers to the elected legislatures any more than they permit the judges to be silent spectators to wanton violations of fundamental rights. Relying upon the goodwill of the majority to defend the rights of an oppressed minority was as fantastical a notion in 1950 as it is today. Platitudes and commiseration cannot replace substantive rights and relief that the queer community needs immediately. Justice H R Khanna, when he penned his famous dissent in the *ADM Jabalpur* case, which upheld the suspension of fundamental rights during the Emergency, said that he was appealing to the brooding presence of the law and an intelligence of a future age. Time proved him right. It can only be hoped that the marriage equality case will also be looked at sooner rather than later by wise and empathetic judges.

The writer is a senior advocate at the Delhi High Court and the author, most recently, of *Fifteen Judgments: Cases that Shaped India's Financial Landscape*

Office of Superintending Engineer, Moradabad Circle, P.W.D. Moradabad

Short Term E-Procurement Notice Inviting Tenders

No. 5060/Nivda-Moradabad/23-24 Date 19-10-2023
1. On behalf of the Governor of UP, tenders for following work are invited by the Superintending Engineer, Moradabad Circle, PWD Moradabad online on website http://etender.up.nic.in from registered contractors from 27-10-2023 at 10.00 am to 02-11-2023 at 03.00 p.m.

Table with 8 columns: Sl. No, DISTRICT, Name of Work, Estimated cost (with Bidders), Bid Security (Rs. In Lacs), Time of completion of the work, Cost of tender documents including GST (RS.), Category of road contractor eligible.

3. Rules/conditions & details of the tender are available at website http://etender.up.nic.in

UPID-196550 Date 25/10/2023 www.upgov.nic.in

Office of Executive Engineer, Construction Division, P.W.D. Amroha

Short Term E-Procurement Notice Inviting Tenders

No 1142 / E-Tender/23-24 Dated : 19-10-2023

1. The Executive Engineer, Construction Division PWD Amroha on behalf of the Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids online from the eligible and approved Contractor registered with UP PWD Class A, B, C. & D (For Road Works) The Bidder may submit bids for any or all of the works. Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 4 of the Instructions to Bidders to qualify for the award of the contract.

Table with 8 columns: Sl. No, DISTRICT, Name of Work, Estimated cost (Rs. In Lacs), Bid Security (Rs. In Lacs), Cost of Tender documents including GST (RS.), Time of Completion of the work, Category of Road Contractor eligible.

3. The Rate adopted in the BOQ all other taxes excluding GST.

4. Tender should be deposited online by Net Banking as per Column as per Column 5 in the table.

5. As per Go No 480 / तेईस-7-2021 दिनांक 12.04.2021 एवं प्रमुख अभियन्ता लोकोनिवो लखनऊ के पत्रांक 3951एनओटी/सामान्य वर्ग/60एनओटी/2020 दिनांक 23.04.2021 L-1 Contractor shall be upload an undertaking regarding to deposit earnest money as per earlier after opening of financial bid in case undertaking not uploaded with the bid documents then tender will not be consider.

6. Bid must be downloaded online from 10:00 AM on date 27.10.2023 to 12:00 Noon on dated 02.11.2023 and the technical bid will be opened online dated 02.11.2023 at 12:30 PM and Financial bids of the qualified bidders will be opened on date and time as notified.

According to the provisions of Government Order no 1/2018/3070/78-2-2018/42 IT /2017 (22) dated 03.01.2018 after opening of the Technical and Financial Bids, The Qualified bidder has to submit original document personally in Department/Office. In the event of norm submission of original document by the bidder, the appropriate action will be taken in accordance with the provisions of GO all terms and conditions can be seen on website http://etender.up.nic.in.

Executive Engineer, Construction Division P.W.D. Amroha

UPID-196578 Date 25/10/2023 www.upgov.nic.in For and on behalf of Governor of UP

Executive Engineer PD, P.W.D. Bulandshahr

E- Procurement Short Term Tender Notice

Letter No. 6871/1A Dated: 18.10.2023

On behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, U.P.P.W.D., Bulandshahr invites following percentage rate short term bids online through http://etender.up.nic.in from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with P.W.D. class as per column no. 10 below Road work Category as applied from Date 27.10.2023 to 03.11.2023 upto 12:00 Noon as per the prescribed T-1 of Govt. of U.P. The technical bids will be opened online on dated 03.11.2023 at 12:30 P.M. 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 any validity of bid will be considered from the original date. The date and time of opening of the financial bid shall be notified on the website.

Table with 10 columns: Sl. No, Name of Work, Estimated cost (Rs. In Lacs), Bid Security (Rs. In Lacs), Time of Completion of the work including rainy season, Tender Cost (Rs. In Lacs), Address of Executive Engineer, Address of Superintending Engineer, Address of Chief Engineer, Category.

1. Time allowed for completion of Whole work in column No. 5, including rainy season.

2. The Tender Document Fee must be deposited through Internet Banking only.

3. All registered contractors have to upload turnover certified by C.A. of last 5 years and details of maximum cost of work satisfactorily completed in last 5 years on Chanakya Software before submission of tender. Details of e-tender uploaded on http://etender.up.nic.in shall also be uploaded on upwd Chanakya Software before last date & time of submission of bid.

4. Terms & Conditions related to bids are available on http://etender.up.nic.in

5. During execution of work contractor should ensure the all safety Measures for COVID-19 issued by the Uttar Pradesh government.

6. In PWD technical evaluation of tenders is to be done by Prahari Software URL for Prahari is http://wms.uppwd.gov.in/Prahari/.

Assistant Engineer UPID-196549 Date 25/10/2023 Executive Engineer PD, P.W.D., Bulandshahr www.upgov.nic.in PD, P.W.D., Bulandshahr

U.P. RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD PARICHA THERMAL POWER PROJECT, PARICHA JHANSI

E-Tender Notice

1. E-Tender- W-PAR/B/CMC2/CM3/600003713 "Work of Duct cooling system installation with all required arrangement for barracks and halls for CISF at PTPP Parichha." Estimated Cost Rs. 16,93,576.00 EMD Rs. 34,000.00 e-bid Submission dt. 10.11.2023 up to 02:00 PM.

2. E-Tender- N-PAR//CM2/600003693_00 "Construction of CISF Facilities for New plant Gate at PTPP, Parichha." Estimated Cost Rs. 32,63,335.00 EMD Rs. 65,000.00 e-bid Submission dt. 10.11.2023 up to 12:00 PM.

3. E-Tender- N-PAR//CM2/600003727_00 "Construction of New boundary wall for Main Plant Gate relocation at PTPP,Parichha." Estimated Cost Rs. 19,96,983.00 EMD Rs. 40,000.00 e-bid Submission dt. 10.11.2023 up to 12:00 PM.

4. E-Tender- N-PAR//CM2/600003776_00 "Tiles work of Road sidepateries from Plant Gate to CISF Dy Commandant office PTPP Parichha." Estimated Cost Rs. 18,34,902.00 EMD Rs. 36,500.00 e-bid Submission dt. 16.11.2023 up to 12:00 PM.

5. E-Tender- N-PAR/CM5/CHD4/6000003649 "Repairing, Reconditioning and fabrication work of various materials of coal Handling Plant of 2x210 MW and coal unloading plant of 2x110 MW PTPP, Parichha for a period of One year." Estimated Cost Rs. 39,84,744.00 EMD Rs. 50,000.00 e-bid Submission dt. 28.11.2023 up to 04:00 PM.

6. E-Tender- T-09/OMC2/BMD2/BTPS/PTPP/2023-24 "Repairing Reconditioning of Centre feed pipe (Upper Assembly) and RC Feeder Hopper Chute of Unit no. 3 and 4 of BTPs 2x210 MW PTPP Parichha." Estimated Cost Rs. 6,52,680.00 EMD Rs. 11,000.00 e-bid Submission dt. 16.11.2023 up to 04:00 PM.

7. E-Tender- S-PAR/CMC2/PD1/6000003773_00 "Supply of CS Lye at PTPP Parichha." Estimated Cost Rs. 38,08,800.00 EMD Rs. 38,500.00 e-bid Submission dt. 14.11.2023 upto 04:00 AM.

8. E-Tender- N-PAR/CMC2/BMD1/6000003772_00 "Fabrication of Site Store and Rack and Repairing of Shed/Roof Sheeting of Boiler Site in Unit 5, 2x250 MW CTPS PTPP Parichha." Estimated Cost Rs. 4,62,085.00 EMD Rs. 6,000.00 e-bid Submission dt. 16.11.2023 up to 01:00 PM.

9. E-Tender- N-PAR/CMC2/BMD2/6000003828_00 "Repairing of damaged denseveyor and overhauling of CMRH system and other associated work of unit no. 5 of 2x250 MW CTPS Parichha during overhauling of unit 5." Estimated Cost Rs. 8,25,178.00 EMD Rs. 15,000.00 e-bid Submission dt. 31.10.2023 up to 12:00 PM

NOTE:- Total Quality of work, tender specification and other terms & conditions is as per tender document available on the e-tender portal our website www.etender.up.nic.in & uprvnl.org. Bidders are advised to visit the website regularly for updated information from time to time.

पत्रांक : 436 / टीएएसडी-प्र / पीटीपी/ दिनांक 26.10.2023

"Save Electricity for Nation"

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY E-TENDERING NOTICE

Online open E-tender are invited by Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRS)/N.E.Railway/Loco Shed Gonda acting for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work.

Sl.No.-01, Tender Notice No.: LS-GD-2023-Dismant-Bog-R, Description of Work: Disconnection, dismantling & cleaning of bogie frame its components of Electric Locomotives at Loco Shed Gonda for 2 years." Approx. Value (in Rs.): ₹ 37,76,632/-, E.M.D. Money (in Rs.): ₹ 75,500/-, Cost of Tender form: ₹ 0.00/-, Contract Period: 24 Months.

E-Tender can be uploaded by tenderer, up to 12:00 Hrs. on 28-11-2023 and will be opened after 12:00 Hrs. on 28-11-2023.

Detailed information, minimum eligibility criteria, Terms and conditions regarding this e-tender are available at website www.treps.gov.in

Tenderer should check any correction/corrigendum related to this e-tender notice on website before uploading their offer.

ADEE/TRS, Loco Shed, CPRO/Vidyut-185 Gonda Never travel on roof and foot boards.

"IMPORTANT"

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GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU HINDU RELIGIOUS & CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS DEPARTMENT ARULMIGU DHANDAYUTHAPANI SWAMY TEMPLE, PALANI NAGAR, PALANI TALUK, DINDIGUL DISTRICT E-Tender Notice - Two Cover System Dated : 26.10.2023

NORTHERN RAILWAY ONE STATION ONE PRODUCT Applications are invited under scheme of 'One Station One Product' for setting up: A. Stall at Panipat, Gurgaon, Ghaziabad, Gannaur, Samalkha, Sonipat, Palwal, Bahadurgarh, Subzi Mandi, Pataudi Road and Delhi Cantt stations.

UPID-196569 Date-25.10.2023 www.upgov.nic.in

THIS WORD MEANS

APAAR ID

This is part of the 'One nation, One Student ID' initiative of the Union government, stemming from NEP 2020

VIDHEESHA KUNTAMALLA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 26

LAST WEEK, several state governments requested schools to seek parental consent for the creation of a new student identity card known as the Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR). This is part of the 'One nation, One Student ID' initiative of the Centre, stemming from the new National Education Policy of 2020.

How will it work?

Every individual will have a unique APAAR ID, which will be linked to the Academic Bank Credit (ABC), which is a digital storehouse that contains the information of the credits earned by students throughout their learning journey. If the student changes schools, all her data in the ABC will be transferred to her new school just by sharing the APAAR ID. She won't need to provide physical documents or transfer certificates.

How will it be created?

To sign up for APAAR, students will have to provide basic information such as name, age, date of birth, gender, and a photograph. This information will be verified using their Aadhaar number.

Students will need to sign a consent form, and they can choose to either accept or decline sharing their Aadhaar number and demographic information with the Ministry of Education for creating the APAAR ID. For minors, parents will have to sign the consent form. Registration for creating APAAR ID is voluntary, not mandatory.

What are the concerns?

Parents and students have concerns about sharing their Aadhaar details because they worry that their personal information could be leaked to outside parties.

"It's important to know that the Aadhaar number is only used for verification to match the name and date of birth. APAAR won't use or share these details with anyone else during registration," said Sahasrabudhe.

LONGER VERSION ON indianexpress.com/explained

EXPLAINED GLOBAL

HOW MALAYSIA'S NEXT SULTAN WILL BE PICKED IN ITS UNIQUE MONARCHY

MALAYSIA'S SULTANS are set to meet on Friday to elect a new king from among themselves, under a unique system in which they take turns to be monarch for a five-year term.

The Southeast Asian country is a parliamentary democracy, with the monarch as head of the state playing a largely ceremonial role.

But the monarchy has become more influential in recent years due to prolonged political instability, during which the king has wielded rarely used discretionary powers.

How is the king picked?

The heads of Malaysia's nine royal families, sultans of nine of its 13 states, take turns to be king.

After independence from the British colonial rule in 1957, the order of rotation among the sultans was determined by seniority, based on how long they had been ruling. But that rule was dropped after all the royal families completed a term each. They now take turns based on the initial order.



Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar from Johor is next in line to be the king of Malaysia. Reuters

They hold a secret vote but the ballot only has the name of the sultan whose turn it is. Each sultan is required to indicate whether they believe the nominee is suitable to be king. The candidate must get a simple majority.

The new king will take over from King Al-Sultan Abdullah when his term expires in January. REUTERS

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EXPLAINED GEOPOLITICS & STRATEGY

Takeaways from war zone

The Indian Express travelled through Israel and the West Bank for a week, and spoke with the victims of both the Hamas massacre and the bombing of Gaza Strip. Here's what it saw, heard, and understood



SHUBHAJIT ROY

EVERY TIME the air raid sirens go off in Tel Aviv, the streets become empty — barring perhaps, the lone bemused cat. The nearest shelter could be a strongroom next to a stairwell in a highrise, a bathroom in a public building, or an underground parking lot by the white sand beach.

From the cobblestone lanes of Jerusalem to the shining towers of Tel Aviv, a new generation of Israelis is experiencing siege and war for the first time. The October 7 assault by Hamas came exactly 50 years after the beginning of the Yom Kippur war.

This correspondent spent a week in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, travelled to the border towns of Ashkelon, Sderot, and Ashdod in southern Israel and Ramallah in the West Bank, and spoke to residents of Gaza over the phone.

Almost three weeks after the Hamas attack, with Israel raining terrible and relentless punishment on the blockaded Palestinian enclave, here are 10 takeaways from covering a war that threatens to change the Middle East.

Extent of Hamas brutality

Besides the fact that the attacks took place on Shabbat, the holy day of rest and recuperation, what has shaken Israelis is their raw brutality. Videos show the massacre of women, children, and the elderly, with even octogenarians not spared. Many in the Israeli establishment believe Hamas was joined by former ISIS fighters in Syria and the Levant, killers hired by Iran.

A hostage crisis like no other

More than 220 hostages are in Hamas captivity — a number that is bigger than any that Israeli society and security agencies have ever dealt with. Earlier crises have involved hostage numbers in the single digits. Said an analyst in Tel Aviv, "After a point, these numbers lose relevance, and the establishment doesn't have the capacity to deal with such a large hostage crisis."

The spotlight is on former general Gal Hirsch, the newly-appointed hostage negotiator and coordinator, but families are learnt to have engaged private negotiators as well.

Enormity of the tragedy

At least 7,000 people have been killed since October 7, which includes Israeli and Palestinian civilians. Israeli airstrikes have pulverised Gaza City, and forced people to flee to the south. Rocket attacks by Hamas in the south and Hezbollah in the north has led to the evacuation of towns and villages, and internally displaced an estimated 1.2 lakh people within Israel. In Gaza, UNRWA, the sole UN agency still on the ground, says at least 6 lakh people are in their shelters, and another 6 lakh are out in the streets. Gaza is without power and essential supplies, and running precariously low on drinking water, fuel, and medicines.

Feeling of total betrayal

Israelis who have always been assured of the surveillance capabilities and preparedness of their government and security agencies, feel a crushing sense of betrayal. The leftwing newspaper Haaretz has run headlines such as "My 62-year-old Dad Fought Hamas Terrorists to Free My Family. The Israeli State Failed Us".



Israeli tanks head towards the Gaza Strip border in southern Israel. AP

Why Israel is yet to launch ground attack

ANIL SASI
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 26

ISRAEL SAID on Thursday that its tanks had briefly entered the northern Gaza Strip; this was the second time that the IDF had conducted a limited ground raid in the Palestinian enclave. However, 19 days after the catastrophic attack by Hamas, Israel is yet to launch the ground invasion that its leaders have promised on a daily basis. The IDF is primed for attack, its tanks are ready and waiting — so what is holding it back?

Americans and hostages

There are reports that the US has advised Israel to delay the ground invasion — both to buy more time for hostage negotiations and to strategise to ensure that the operations do not turn into a disaster with an unacceptable loss of Israeli and Palestinian civilian lives.

The odds that Israel would be able to rescue all of the more than 200 hostages in Gaza by force are not good. Given that four hostages have been released by Hamas after mediation by Qatar has raised hopes of more such releases against unknown tradeoffs from the Israeli side. There is a feeling that a delay in the ground offensive could be part of a calculated attempt to bargain for more hostages.

The unknown 'Gaza Metro'

One of the IDF's challenges is to negotiate the vast network of underground tunnels that crisscross the Gaza Strip over hundreds of kilometres. The so-called 'Gaza Metro' is said to house Hamas command centres, and is equipped to stockpile weapons and essential goods, and to accommodate people. The tunnel exits are used as sites for rocket launches. Israel has attempted to bomb the tunnels in 2014, 2017, and in 2021, but has not

Thirsting for revenge

The country of just about 9 million people — less than a third of the population of Delhi — is hurting badly at the loss of 1,400 lives. Most people know at least one victim family with not more than two degrees of separation — and revenge and retribution is top of mind. Many want Gaza to be bombed — a relative of a hostage, however, told *The*

had much success. There are also concerns that at least some of the 200-odd hostages are being held in these tunnels, and striking this network could endanger their safety.

US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin, asked how the ground invasion of Gaza might compare with the operation for control of Iraq's Mosul that he commanded in late 2014, said in an interview on the ABC network: "This may be a bit more difficult because of the underground network of tunnels... You'll see a fight that's characterised by a lot of IEDs (improvised explosive devices), a lot of booby traps, and just really grinding activity going forward..."

Combat-readiness of IDF

According to Scott Ritter, a former UN weapons inspector and Marine Corps analyst during the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the IDF may in fact not be fully ready to go into Gaza, and perhaps face an ambush for which Hamas has long prepared.

Ritter has pointed out that most of the 360,000 reservists that Israel has called up are people who did two-and-a-half years' compulsory military service in the IDF but who can't really be called combat-ready. While some IDF units such as their special forces units are extremely capable, the infantry units and the armoured units, according to Ritter, are mostly reservists who have been pulled in from policing duties in the West Bank.

The other concern for both Israel and the US would be the prospect of an extended military conflict in Gaza forcing the IDF to commit the bulk of its reservists to that battle zone. If Hezbollah, the Iranian-backed Shia militia based in southern Lebanon, were to open a front to Israel's north at the same time, the IDF could face problems allocating resources and personnel simultaneously on two fronts.

LONGER VERSION ON indianexpress.com/explained

Indian Express in a trembling voice that it is a "problem" if the bombing goes on with its octogenarian grandmother still in Gaza.

The sense of community

In the hotel lobbies in Jerusalem, singers and performers are playing violins and doing small concerts for displaced families, psychologists are stopping to just chat and

calm anxieties and fears, and hospitals are providing free health checks and extending medical care to those who need it.

Beleaguered Netanyahu

The future of Benjamin Netanyahu, the country's six-time Prime Minister appears bleak. Opposition parties have rallied around the government and a war cabinet has been formed, but the question of political accountability remains open.

Many view Netanyahu, whose judicial reforms have divided and polarised Israeli society, as a part of the problem. For many months, Israel has been roiled by massive weekend demonstrations against the government's attempts to weaken the judiciary, military and government officials have been protesting openly, and analysts feel the Prime Minister took his mind and eyes off the dangers the country faces.

Columnist Nechama Duek wrote in the *Israel Hayom* newspaper, "Netanyahu will have to draw conclusions, draft a resignation letter, and as a last act, if he has a drop of leadership left in him, he will need to present a government decision to establish a state commission of inquiry. He needs to go because the buck stops with him."

Possible role for Jordan

Even assuming Israel succeeds in destroying Hamas entirely, no one knows what happens afterward. Israel almost certainly cannot occupy Gaza indefinitely, and one solution could be to persuade an Arab coalition to take charge of whatever might remain of the enclave.

Should that scenario arise, a key responsibility may fall on Jordan. It is seen as one of the few players who retain some credibility with the Palestinians, it is the custodian of the Holy Al Aqsa mosque, and it has long been a benefactor of the Palestinians when others in the Arab world have quietly moved on and started doing business with Israel.

Many world leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, have spoken to Jordan's King Abdullah, and Queen Rania has been articulating the plight of the Palestinians on global media.

Derailed/delayed peace

West Asia has been witnessing tectonic shifts since the signing of the Abraham Accords in 2020-21. The normalisation process between Saudi Arabia and Israel — paused by the Hamas attack — has the potential of transforming the political and economic dynamics of the region. The peace dividends of normalcy held much promise, and initiatives like the I2U2 and the India-Middle-Europe Economic Corridor could suffer in the short to medium term.

The peace process can be resuscitated at a future date by the UAE and Saudi Arabia, which has the capacity to engage with both Israel and Iran. But the fissures within the Arab world will play their part — the UAE and Bahrain have criticised Hamas, while Saudi Arabia has been cautious so far.

View from New Delhi

India has a tough spot to negotiate from, with friends and partners on all sides. Israel is a key strategic defence and security partner, and India's relationships with Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Iran are very important too. While India initially expressed solidarity with Israel on the terror attacks, it subsequently sought to balance its position through statements that reiterated its position on the Israel-Palestine issue, a phone call with the Palestinian leadership, and humanitarian aid for the people of Gaza.

New Delhi's diplomatic tightrope walk will be crucial to the 9 million strong Indian diaspora in the region, as well as to its continued energy security, since more than 50% of its crude comes from the Middle East.

EXPLAINED YOUR MONEY

SEBI acts against finfluencer: what lesson this holds for investors

HITESH VYAS AND SOUMYARENDRA BARIK
MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 26

CONTINUING ITS efforts to rein in 'finfluencers' — Internet influencers who provide financial advice and recommendations to ordinary investors — the markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Wednesday (October 25) barred Mohammad Nasiruddin Ansari, who owns a firm called 'Baap of Chart', from buying, selling, or dealing in the securities market.

SEBI also ordered Ansari to pay back Rs 17.2 crore which he had made by allegedly "misleading investors and influencing them to deal in securities". This is in line with SEBI's recent tightening of norms for finfluencers.

Why is SEBI cracking down on finfluencers?

Finfluencers are people with public social media platforms offering advice and sharing personal experiences about money and investment in stocks. Their videos cover subjects including budgeting, investing, property buying, cryptocurrency advice and financial trend tracking. Finfluencers have drawn the ire of the investors' community, given that they provide unsolicited 'stock tips' on social media platforms without being registered investment advisers. SEBI has taken note of it, and is working on guidelines for content creators in the sector.

What is the Ansari case?

Ansari is the sole proprietor of the firm Baap of Chart (BoC). He promoted himself as a stock market expert on various social media platforms. He allegedly promised gullible investors near-certain returns or profits if they followed his recommendations to invest in the securities market.

SEBI found that Ansari was providing stock recommendations (buy/sell) through BoC on various social media platforms such as YouTube, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, WhatsApp, and Telegram. He asked investors to enroll for his "educational courses" offered through a website and apps available on Google Play and Apple's App Store, on a platform provided by Bunch Microtechnologies Pvt Ltd.

Ansari was selling 19 courses relating to the securities market, including four that promised investors assured returns, SEBI said. Through a chat functionality available on the Bunch platform, students connected with "tutors" who shared information/documents/content, and communicated in real time, SEBI found.

The amounts collected from investors were credited into the bank accounts of Ansari, BoC, Golden Syndicate Ventures Pvt Ltd (a company in which Ansari is a signif-

icant shareholder) and P Rahul Rao (another significant shareholder of Golden Syndicate Ventures). SEBI named four other directors of Golden Syndicate Ventures: Asif Iqbal Wani, Tabraiz Abdullah, Mansha Abdullah and Vamshi Jadhav, who were also allegedly involved in unregistered investment advisory activities. Money was credited to the accounts of these four individuals as well, the regulator said.

The YouTube channel of Ansari (@Baapofchart) has more than 4.43 lakh subscribers and more than 7 crore views. He also operates a Telegram group/channel called Baap Of Chart Option Hedging, which has around 53,000 subscribers. The Instagram and X accounts of 'baapofchart' have around 59,000 and 78,000 followers respectively, SEBI said. His WhatsApp channel has more than 13,000 followers.

How much money did Ansari make?

The SEBI investigation found Ansari collected Rs 13.78 crore from courses/workshops listed on Bunch's platform and mobile apps. "The complete amount is considered as fees received from fraudulent and unregistered investment advisory activities," SEBI said.

In addition, Rs 3.42 crore was collected through two UPI IDs linked to Ansari's and BoC's accounts in Kotak Mahindra Bank. The UPI IDs were publicised on the website and social media handles, the regulator said.

What has SEBI said?

In its interim order, SEBI accused Ansari/BoC of having gone to great lengths to describe their advisory activity as being educational in nature. "The theatrics and showmanship in the trailer videos on YouTube issued by Ansari/BoC appear to be aimed at creating an illusion of unnatural returns by drawing in gullible and uninformed view-

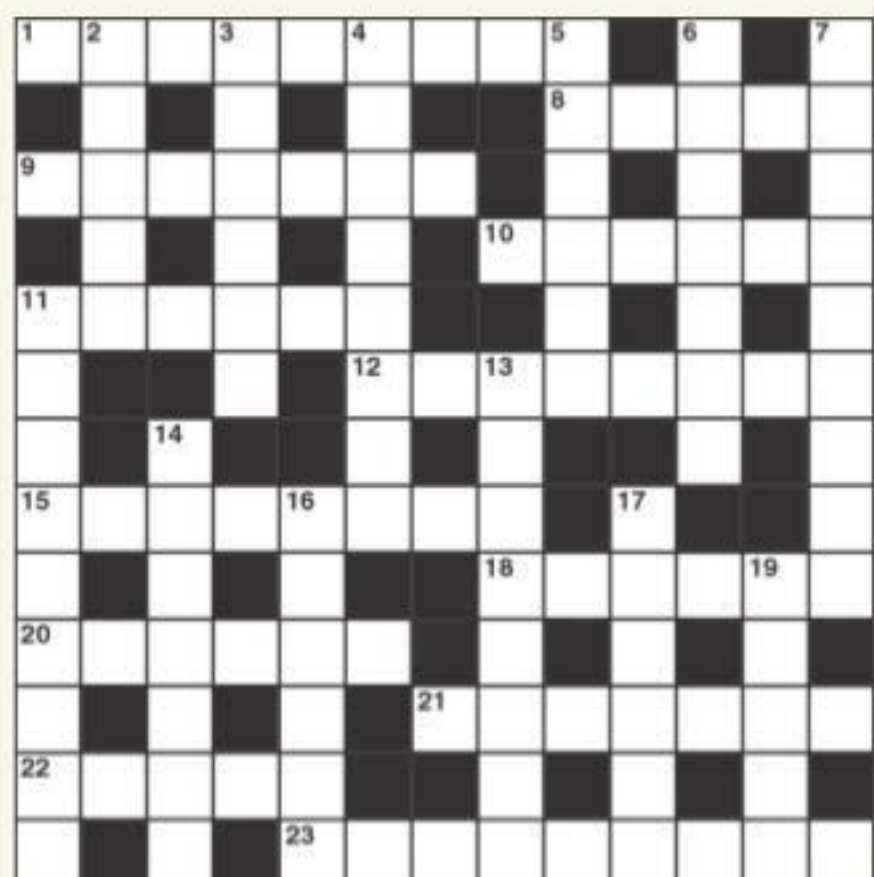
ers to join his 'classes' thereby inducing them to trade in the securities market," SEBI said.

In order to protect the interests of investors and the integrity of the securities market, SEBI has asked Ansari and others to "cease and desist" from acting as or holding themselves out to be investment advisors, whether using 'Baap of Chart' or otherwise.

What should investors note?

Investors should be careful while taking advice from investment advisors online. They should only deal with advisors who have obtained a certificate of registration from SEBI. In order to safeguard investors' interests, SEBI has laid down specific conditions for registration of investment advisors, their educational qualifications and code of conduct. Currently, there are 1,313 SEBI-registered investment advisors.

CROSSWORD 5193



ACROSS

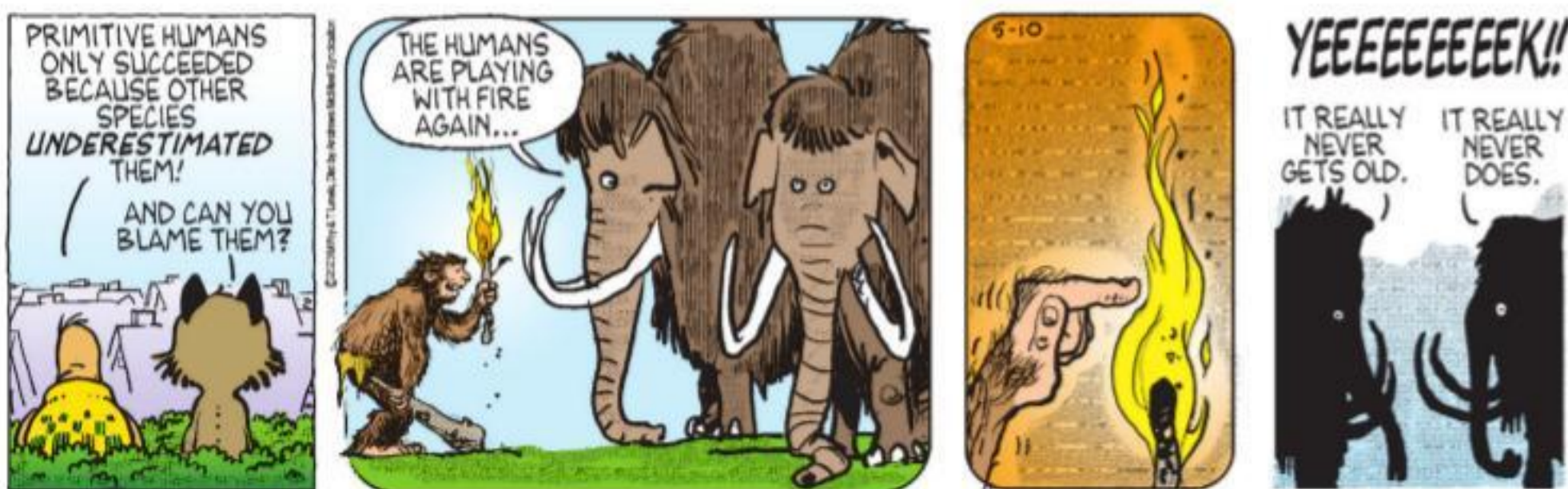
- 1 Not so hot here as there but Daisy shed shift (5,4)
8 Doctor to die in agony having no water left (5)
9 Start in winding passage (7)
10 One's about a month in arrears. Agree? (6)
11 Church officer in charge gets cross (6)
12 Computer equipment difficult to wear out (8)
15 Kindly feeling not hard to place (4,4)
18 Ladies make perfect models (6)
20 A meeting-place in the suburban street? (6)
21 Attractive alternative to losing all the matches (7)
22 Money is a bait that takes many in (5)
23 Close relations in The Guards perhaps (9)

DOWN

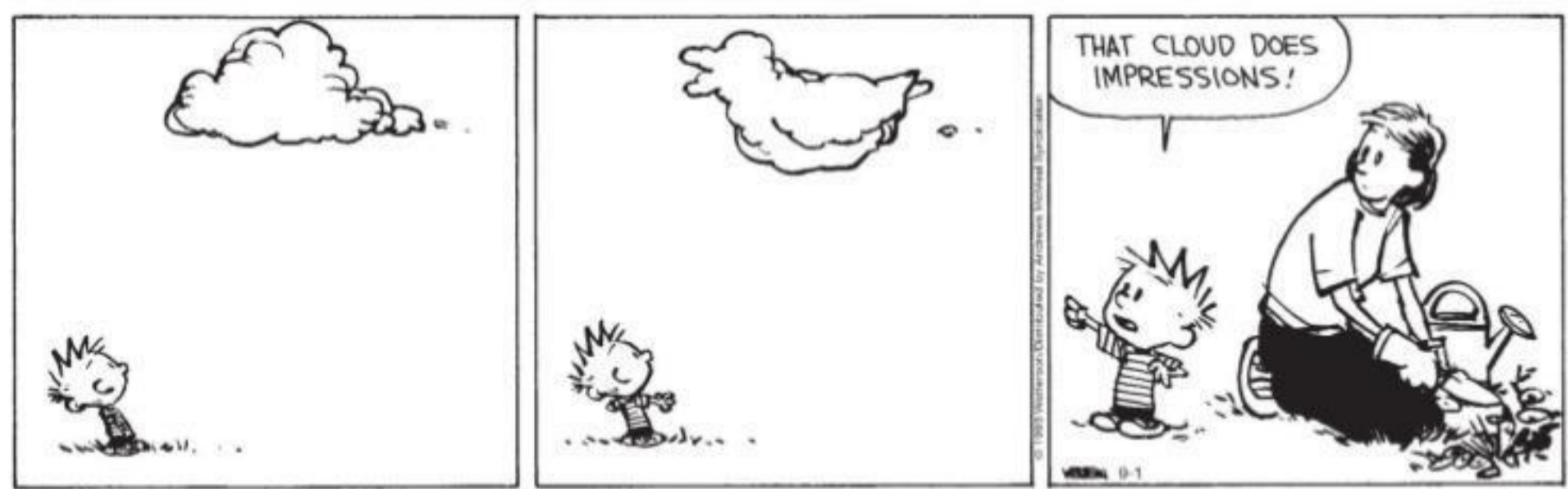
- 2 Put your towel, if not your shirt, on it (5)
3 Give out to Edna (6)
4 Puts chit out for repair (6,2)
5 Possibly deduce it's extracted (6)
6 Free translation of braille (7)
7 The followers stand here when assembled (9)
11 Painter appears to swindle firm (9)
13 Leaving the job, being very shy (8)
14 Aggressive action taken by those insulted (7)
16 So accustomed to being in a pickle (6)
17 Domestic service (3,3)
19 Break a rule about many an animal (5)

Solutions Crossword 5192 Across: 1 Lapwing, 4 Frank, 7 Iona, 8 Alarmist, 10 Dramatists, 12 Caller, 13 Clerks, 15 Ambassador, 18 Arkansas, 19 Aged, 20 Entry, 21 Trellis, 22 Down: 1 Laird, 2 Pinnacle, 3 Gille, 4 First-class, 5 Axis, 6 Kibbags, 9 Paper money, 11 Prodigal, 12 Carnage, 14 Vacant, 16 Rides, 17 Skit

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 quip.

DEEOR DUYCDL
SAMI3 IIVEVY

Answer: The delights of self-discovery are always available. - Gail Sheehy (4-9)

SUDOKU 5363
Difficulty Level 1s
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.

SUDOKU 5362
4 6 8 7 1 2
5 6 1 8 6 4 7
9 8 3 2
5 3 1 6
2 5 4 3
3 5 1 8 9
1 9 6 3
7 4 8

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5362
2 7 3 6 8 5 9 4 1
5 6 1 9 4 7 8 3 2
4 8 9 3 1 2 5 7 6
9 3 4 8 7 6 2 1 5
6 5 7 1 2 9 4 8 3
8 1 2 4 5 3 6 9 7
7 9 6 2 3 8 1 5 4
1 2 5 7 9 4 3 6 8
3 4 8 5 6 1 7 2 9

AWARD-REC
REC has been recognized for its exceptional performance in risk management with the esteemed Golden Peacock Award. The award was presented by the Institute of Directors. VK Singh, Director (Projects) & Daljeet Singh Khatri, ED (Finance) received the award on behalf of REC in a glittering ceremony held in London on 17th Oct. 2023.

INAUGURATION-DTDC
A two-day Dandiya festival is being organized by Delhi Tourism at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, Delhi. The event was inaugurated by Ms. Atishi, Minister of Tourism, Govt. of Delhi. On this occasion, Ms. Niharika Rai, Managing Director & CEO, Delhi Tourism, Mrs. Geetika Sharma, General Manager, Delhi Tourism and other distinguished guests were present.

MoU-THDCIL
RK Vishnoi, CMD, THDCIL informed that THDCIL & Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam Ltd. signed a MoU on 18 Oct. 2023 to establish Electric Vehicle Charging Stations at 14 guest houses of GMVN along the Char Dham Yatra route in Uttarakhand. Vishnoi further informed that this collaborative effort by the two is poised to promote the use of electric vehicles on this sacred route, contributing to a reduction in pollution.

FLAGGED OFF-CRPF
Teams 1 & 2 of CRPF women bikers, who began their journey on Oct. 3rd from Srinaragar & Shillong, were flagged off from the CRPF SDG campus to Ekta Nagar, Gujarat, by the Mo/Women & Child Development, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani. Dr. SL Thakasen, DG, CRPF & other senior officers from CRPF were present on the occasion. In her address, the Minister hailed these courageous CRPF women as symbols of women empowerment.

UNVEILED-BSES
Empowering the next generation of female STEM leaders, BYPL unveiled a Mini Science Centre at Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya in Ghaziipur. This initiative, benefiting 3,500 girl students, transcends traditional learning. MSCs are designed to shift focus from rote learning to fostering long-lasting understanding. This approach ensures students to memorize & utilize knowledge.

BOOK FAIR-NBT
The first-ever INDIA National Stand at the largest B2B book fair of the World, Frankfurt Book Fair 2023 marked a historic milestone for the Indian publishing industry. The initiative of NBT, India, the nodal body of the GOI for promoting Indian books abroad, in collaboration with CAPEXIL, helped Indian publishers, printers & allied service providers in generating huge business contracts for India.

VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK-INDIAN BANK
Under the Vigilance Awareness Week, a road show was organized on recently at Connaught Place under the leadership of Rohit Rishi, Chief GM Indian Bank Delhi in presence of Zonal Head Delhi Central Smt. Mamta Kumari & Zonal Head Delhi South Santosh Kumar Kapari along with their staff members. The objective of this road show is to make the general public & bank customers aware about prevention of corruption.

INAUGURATION-MUTHOOT GROUP
The Muthoot Group took a significant step recently by inaugurating three Muthoot Smart Aanganwadi at Government Composite Vidyalaya, Karheda, Mohan Nagar, Ghaziabad. The inauguration was done by Alexander George Muthoot, Joint MD of The Muthoot Group in the presence of Mrs. Shashi Varshney, District Program Officer of Ghaziabad, Rotary Club Delhi Vasant Kunj Members, Staff, Teachers & Sevikas of Angnawadi.

CORPORATE BRIEFS



MoU-POWER FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED (PFC)
PFC signed a MoU with the Ministry of Power for FY 23-24 & FY 24-25 on 23rd Oct. 2023 as per the DPE's performance evaluation system. The MoU was signed by Pankaj Agarwal, Secretary, Power & Smt. Parminder Chopra (CMD, PFC) in the presence of senior officials of the M/o Power & PFC. PFC is the largest Maharashtra CPSE & largest NBFC in India on a consolidated basis. PFC also leads India's energy transition, having the largest renewable loan portfolio. Additionally, PFC has also started funding projects in infrastructure & logistics space. DPE's MoU performance evaluation system is used for setting annual targets for the CPSEs on various financial and operational parameters, & the CPSE's overall performance is rated against such MoU targets. PFC has been awarded the highest rating of "Excellent" during the last two years (i.e. FY 20-21 & FY 21-22), & rating for FY 22-23 is expected to be released soon.

SPORTS: INDIA'S NEW ECONOMIC ENGINE, BEYOND ENTERTAINMENT
Progressive policies and private investment fuel sports-driven economic growth
Tia Mathur
Fresh from a remarkable performance at the Hangzhou Asian Games, India is showcasing a burgeoning sporting prowess. Leveraging its vast population, the nation is now expanding its influence in a wider array of sports. This shift in the sporting landscape is being driven by progressive policies, evolving attitudes, and increased participation from the private sector. In his 2001 paper titled 'The Correlation Between Economic Underdevelopment and Sport' in the European Sport Management Quarterly, former International Association of Sport Economists vice president Wladimir Andreff demonstrated that a country's chances of winning Olympic medals rise with higher GDP per capita and a larger population. Andreff's key insight: economic development is the primary antidote to sporting underdevelopment. Companies are investing in sports, particularly in training and supporting individual athletes, and they are achieving a solid return on investment. As the economy thrives, we can increasingly view sports as a catalyst for economic growth, beyond being merely entertainment. Sporting success and major events stimulate the economy, but the reverse is now occurring: economic prosperity driving sporting excellence. For instance, Indian cricket's massive growth emerged after the BCCI harnessed its economic potential. The 2011 National Sports Development Code in India recognized sports as a national priority for social development, inclusion, and employment. Consequently, the sports budget has steadily increased, hitting its peak in 2023-2024. The Asian Games occur on a quadrennial basis, gathering athletes from across Asia to compete in a wide range of sports. This grand event holds the distinction of being officially recognized by the International Olympic Committee and stands as the second-largest multi-sport extravaganza worldwide, trailing only the Olympics in terms of size and significance. The Asian Games emerged after the Far Eastern Championship Games, which were superseded following World War II. Championed by Guru Dutt Sondhi, an Indian International Olympic Committee member, the idea of an all-encompassing sporting event for Asian nations materialized. Inaugurated in New Delhi in 1951, these games were initially governed by the Asian Games Federation until 1978, with the Olympic Council of Asia taking over since 1982. The emblem, a rising sun intertwined with rings, symbolizes the event. Nine nations have hosted the games, with 46 nations participating, except for Israel since 1974. Over the years, 44 sports have been featured in the Asian Games, and India, the event's founding member, hosted the first edition in 1951, as well as in 1982. PM Narendra Modi vowed full support for Indian athletes, expecting an even better showing in the next Asian Games. He lauded female athletes' excellence and reaffirms the government's dedication to their training, facilities, and opportunities. Today, sports have evolved into lucrative ventures for a wide range of stakeholders, including athletes, corporations, advertisers, and sports governing bodies. Million-dollar deals have become the standard rather than the exception, benefiting all those involved. This shift towards transforming even the least commercially viable sports into profitable enterprises reflects the significant and widespread interest in these disciplines among all stakeholders.

DAY TODAY BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) That magical planet Mercury reassures you that there is a great deal to be done before your wishes come true, but also that you're on the right track.
LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23) You do still have to be down-to-earth if you want to get on, but nothing is as simple as it seems.
TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21) One of the most important planetary aspects of the moment is that which cements friendships at work.
SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23) It's a useful moment for discussions, debates and choices, and it really is time that you made up your mind.
GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) It's definitely traditional values which suit you best at the moment.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22) One medium-term pattern in your horoscope suggests that you should try and talk to people at home much more often.
CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20) The pursuit of happiness is an essential human right, and it's certainly one that you should be aiming for at the moment.
CANCER (June 22 - July 23) This is an ideal moment to set about building up future security, if only because you're no longer trapped in the past.
LEO (July 24 - Aug 23) You don't seem to have any choice but to press on with the job in hand.
AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19) You may give yourself as much time as you need to get your feelings in perspective.
VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23) The general situation continues to look favourable, but there's a heavy emphasis on those of you who have some sort of artistic or creative vocation.
PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20) It's time to give more attention to social connections. The gatherings which should be most suitable today involve either family members or friends who are so close that you may as well be related to them. However, you might be expected to do all the arrangements.

17 SPORT

ICC WORLD CUP 2023

TODAY'S MATCH
 Pakistan vs South Africa, 2 pm.
 Live on Star Sports network

BACK-UPS

In Pandya's absence, Kohli, Gill, Surya roll their arms over



Virat Kohli during training in Lucknow on Thursday. PTI

PRATYUSH RAJ
 LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 26

WITH HARDIK Pandya set to miss the Lucknow tie against England and India continuing with the five-specialist-bowlers formula, the team management is banking on part-timers to bail the team out if one or more of the main men have an off day.

The key highlight of India's first net session in Lucknow on Thursday was Virat Kohli, Shubman Gill and Suryakumar Yadav rolling their arms over to cover for any contingencies during the game against the beleaguered holders. Kohli, who completed Hardik's over in Pune against Bangladesh after the all-rounder went off due to an ankle injury, was the first to bowl, sending down around a dozen balls to captain Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill.

Surya was the one to bowl the most in the nets among the three designated to perform the sixth bowler's role. He bowled to Rohit and Shreyas Iyer, and even deceived the latter, receiving a big hug from Ravichandran Ashwin. After bowling in tandem with the veteran off-spinner for a good 15 minutes, Surya joined Ravindra Jadeja at the adjoining nets, where the skipper was batting, bowling for a further 15 minutes there.

Back in 2014, Surya's action was reported for a suspect bowling action during the Champions League T20 tournament while playing for Kolkata Knight Riders against Chennai Super Kings in the final.

The most curious battle of the net session was between Mohammed Siraj the batsman and Gill the bowler. The opening batsman bowled for at least half an hour to the opening bowler, and every time after beating the outside edge, he would shadow-practice the forward defence in an apparent coaching tip to Siraj.

With frontline batsmen rolling their arms over, the specialist bowlers fine-tuned their batting skills. Jasprit Bumrah was the first to hit the nets and batted for a good 45 minutes, taking throwdowns from batting coach Vikram Rathour.

Mohammed Shami and Ishan Kishan were the only two members of the squad who skipped the optional training session.

One of the key concerns about the Indian team ahead of the World Cup was the inability of their top-order batsmen to chip in with a few overs and the lack of reliability of their bowlers when it comes to contributing runs down the order. All-rounder Pandya's unavailability for at least the next two games puts this facet under even more focus. He missed the game against New Zealand in Dharamsala last Sunday, and is at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru to be treated by a specialist from England.

ENG OF THE ROAD?

Defending champions lose again — this time to Sri Lanka — leaving them on the brink of an early exit

SANDIP G
 BENGALURU, OCTOBER 26

JOS BUTTLER'S eyes traced the path of Pathum Nissanka's six that sealed the game for Sri Lanka. Buttler could see the faint hopes of title-defense melt in the floodlit skies. He then turned impassively at his teammates, who exchanged frigid looks, before they shook hands with Nissanka and his onrushing teammates. Buttler and his men disappeared into the galleys of the dressing room with an air of mourning, too shocked perhaps to even weep.

The fall of the world champions needs all but a mathematical confirmation. But even the world of run-rate and equation offer them little consolation, for the defeat has been devastatingly perfect, with no scourge for even ifs and buts. It could perhaps be the most shattering title defence ever in a World Cup, one that arrived without a sense of foreboding. "I don't think there is any realistic hope left," Buttler would say in the press conference when asked about the slimmest hopes of qualifying for the semifinals. His face was sombre and dull, and he could not even muster half a forced smile.

Even if there looms a thin window of possibility, the door is shutting rudely on their face. After four spineless defeats, England are in no space to even dream of the unthinkable. To win the four remaining games—against India, Australia and Pakistan, besides the Netherlands—its a steep climb. And for other teams to cater to their script is merely wishful thinking. The four matches they lost were all by massive margins—by eight wickets, 229 runs, 69 runs and nine wickets. There is nowhere to hide after such tame defeats. It's a collective, wholesome failure.

Three weeks ago, they landed in India with high hopes. Defending champions in both white-ball formats, a well-equipped side, power in the batting, guile in bowling quality fielders, bounding with multitaskers, and vast depth of experience, they breathed an air of invulnerability on the paper. But since their opening game against New Zealand, the world champions have unravelled in dubious fashion. Suffice it to say that everything that could have gone wrong went wrong, or put it another way, nothing went right, from top to bottom.

The openers never got going. Dawid Malan, but for his hundred against Bangladesh, has looked cagey. Bowlers have exposed his fallibility out of the off-stump, his tendency to get squared up even off the bowling of Angelo Mathews, no more than a trundler. His accomplice Jonny Bairstow was a shadow of his shadow, a Bairstow look-alike rather. In five scratchy innings, all he eked out was 127 runs. The names further down does not inspire any respite either: Joe Root: 175 runs in five innings; Jos Buttler 95 in five outings. Not even the miracle worker Ben Stokes could sprinkle magic and resurrect his team as he had several times in his career. In his only two games, he scratched and scraped to 81 runs. Even his own well of miracles has run dry. In a high-scoring tournament like this, all their batsmen extracted were a sole hundred and four half-centuries.

An under-firing batting firm is a definite recipe for disaster in the subcontinent. More so a batting order with so much ammo and experience. Bowling too looked rounded—they had a genuine quick in Mark Wood, white-ball virtuoso in David Willey, left-hand menace in Sam Curran, a cutter exponent in Chris Woakes and two guileful spinners in Adil Rashid and Moeen Ali. Add variety in bowling and depth in batting, they looked a well-worn side. Perhaps not as formidable as to defend the title, but certainly

SCORECARD
ENGLAND vs SRI LANKA
M CHINNASWAMY, BENGALURU
Toss: England, elected to bat first

ENGLAND		
J Bairstow c de Silva b Rajitha	30	(31b, 3x4)
D Malan c Mendis b Mathews	28	(25b, 6x4)
J Root run out (Mathews/Mendis)	3	(10b)
B Stokes c sub (Hemanta) b Kumara	43	(73b, 6x4)
J Buttler c Mendis b Kumara	8	(6b, 1x4)
L Livingstone lbw b Kumara	1	(6b)
M Ali c Perera b Mathews	15	(15b, 1x4)
C Woakes c Samarawickrama b Rajitha	0	(4b)
D Willey not out	14	(17b, 1x4, 1x6)
A Rashid run out (Mendis)	2	(7b)
M Wood st Mendis b Theekshana	5	(6b, 1x4)
Extras (lb 3, w 4)	7	
Total	33.2 Ov	(RR: 4.68) 156
FoW:	1-45, 2-57, 3-68, 4-77, 5-85, 6-122, 7-123, 8-137, 9-147, 10-156	
Bowling:	Dilshan Madushanka 5-0-37-0, Kasun Rajitha 7-0-36-2, Maheesh Theekshana 8.2-1-21-1, Angelo Mathews 5-1-14-2, Lahiru Kumara 7-0-35-3, Dhananjaya de Silva 1-0-10-0	
SRI LANKA		
P Nissanka not out	77	(83b, 7x4, 2x6)
K Perera c Stokes b Willey	4	(5b, 1x4)
K Mendis c Buttler b Willey	11	(12b, 2x4)
S Samarawickrama not out	65	(54b, 7x4, 1x6)
Extras (w 3)	3	
Total	25.4 Ov	(RR: 6.23) 160/2
FoW:	1-9, 2-23	
Bowling:	Chris Woakes 6-0-30-0, David Willey 5-0-30-2, Adil Rashid 4.4-0-39-0, Mark Wood 4-0-23-0, Liam Livingstone 3-0-17-0, Moeen Ali 3-0-21-0	



(L-R) England's Jos Buttler, Chris Woakes and Ben Stokes look dejected after losing to Sri Lanka. Reuters

SL's open-chested predator

SANDIP G
 BENGALURU, OCTOBER 26

IN HIS *Twitter* intro, Lahiru Kumara describes himself as "a strongly built right arm quick bowler. Gasman Lahiru." No one quite knows the genesis of the Gasman epithet, or who named him thus. The common reference is that he could bowl at high pace all through the day. Some others think it's because he is impossibly built, like a Marvel superhero.

Whatever be the origins, he was his country's Gasman against England, bowling 10 mean overs of sustained aggression and hostility. Pace was always his biggest gift once he chanced to lay his hands on a cricket ball. The path he chose was incidental. He was a hockey player in his teens, but after a cut he sustained on his forehead when playing the sport, his mother burned the hockey gear. He then just walked into the nets in his school and started revving up a serious pace. Last time when India toured Sri Lanka for a Test series, then bowling coach Champake Ramanayake would rave about a stocky bowler in the nets. "See, he is easily clocking 140 kph, in a couple of years he could be touching 150kph," he would aver. By that time, he had already made his debut in Tests, in Zimbabwe.

You could see where he gets the pace from. From that barrel chest and oak-like shoulders. The run-up is but a leisurely stroll. The leap is non-existent, much like his country's most celebrated white-ball phenom, Lasith Malinga. But in his load-up, his giant shoulders whirr into action, producing frightening pace. Though he is not too tall or has a high-arm action, he hits the deck so hard that he generates substantial bounce. His pace and bounce hustled and harried all English batters, and throughout the day, except when he attempted the cutters and slower balls, he hovered in the 140 kph region.

But often in the past, he could not marry his pace with discipline and direction, a reason he could bleed plenty of runs. In his only other game of the tournament, he leaked 47 runs in four overs, against Australia. He has conceded 6.54 runs an over in 27 previous outings, putting coaches in a dilemma whether to pick him or not. "So I did a lot of spot training, day in and day out so that I was able to strike good lengths. This was the biggest concern before the World Cup," he would later say.



Lahiru Kumara took three wickets. PTI

Besides, he is horribly injury prone. On a larger note, this has been the plight of Sri Lanka's new crop of fast bowlers. There is no shortage of potential, but most are wracked with injuries and are not the perfect models of discipline. But on Friday, he as well as the largely green Lankan colleagues blended pace with aggression and discipline.

Making Kumara deadlier was the seam movement he generated off the surface, slower but bouncier. He foxed Jos Buttler with a hint of away movement that induced an inside edge, though Buttler's drive was both expansive and injudicious. He would then blast the pad of Liam Livingstone, with a nip-backer, his stock ball. Everything in his action sets him up perfectly for the back-bender to the right-handers. The snap of the wrists powers the ball with the devilish skid he bargains off the surface. A more famous in-ducker had accounted for Hashim Amla in Cape Town, where he snaffled a six-for. He would later credit this wicket for making him believe that he has the quality to bowl in Test cricket. But such moments would arrive few and far between, in between long pauses of injuries and his own inconsistency.

He was a man possessed, a riot of wild emotions. He would scream and snarl, scowl and gnarl as he pumped up relentless on-your-face aggression. Thus, in the space of a match, he transformed from a puzzle to his country's lead bowler. He preserved his best

for Ben Stokes, who he repeatedly beat with the away-seamers and the ones that went with the angle. In the end, he consumed him with a short-ball. The ball, again, was quicker than Stokes had thought and he could not get the requisite power into the stroke. Kumar celebrated with a kiss into the skies and struck a triumphant pose for the cameras. "Stokes was my favourite wicket," he would say.

Not just Kumar, the entire crew of Lanka's bowlers put in an inspired show. Dilshan Madushanka, the left-arter in his eleventh ODI, produced swing into the right-hander and had Jonny Bairstow trapped leg before the wicket of the first ball of the game, though both the umpire and his colleagues thought he had nicked, only for the replays to show there was no wood. The expensive figures do no justice to the torment he subjected the England batters with the new ball.

Like Kumara, Kasun Rajitha too has copped criticism for his waywardness in his 30-match ODI career. But he too pounded stifling lengths, built pressure and bargained the ball wickets of Jonny Bairstow and Chris Woakes.

Holding them together was the seasoned Angelo Mathews. No longer his country's talisman he once was, he cooly put in a throw-back shift. The waistline has expanded, the movements are not as athletic as they used to be. The thick curls have thinned. But he dug deep from the wealth of experience to produce the first breakthrough. Sri Lanka's bowlers had begun to wither after a robust start when Mathews struck first. He consumed Dawid Malan with a classic away nibbler, merely 125 kph, but so precise that Malan was forced to commit and the away movement kissed his edge. He would then effect a sharp run out, flinging in a quick throw from point to the keeper Kusal Mendis, who caught Joe Root short of the crease.

From that moment, Sri Lanka's pacemen and the thrifty trickster Maheesh Pathirana got a vice-like grip on the match and ensured that they didn't squander the advantage as they contrived several times in the past. They have yielded 428 and 345 already in the tournament. An ordeal beckoned, on a ground where Australia had ransacked 367/9. But Sri Lanka, the new unpredictable, put on a disciplined yet hostile show of bowling, bowling out the world champions for the lowest total on this ground. And at the heart of it was a man who calls himself the Gasman.

DUBIOUS FIRST

4

Number of matches England have lost so far. It is the first time a defending World Cup champion has lost these many games in their opening five matches.

ing. "It's a shock to everyone. I'll walk back in the dressing room after this and look at the players sitting there and think how we found ourselves in this position with the talent and the skill that's in the room. But it is the position we're in, it's the reality of what's happened over the last three weeks and that's a huge low point," he added, pausing for deep breaths in between.

Buttler himself has looked ragged, far from the buoyant self with the bat. Like Bairstow, Buttler seemed someone else, a duplicate perhaps. "I've been a long way short of my best. As a leader, you want to lead through your own performance and I've not been able to do that," he admitted.

Though Buttler stressed that the mind of his team is on winning the remaining games, unavoidable is a feeling that England would embark on a massive revamp, of spirit and personnel, as the tournament is done and dusted, as they did after the 2015 embarrassment. Buttler could have perhaps sensed the winds of changes howling when his eyes traced the Nissanka six that soared out of the stadium.

Hockey: Savita and Co. look to revel in rare chance to play at home

VINAYAKK MOHANARANGAN
 RANCHI, OCTOBER 26

THE SIGNBOARDS for the Asian Champions Trophy at the Ranchi railway station are unmissable. A cab driver talks about witnessing a massive reception for the Koreans at the airport a few days back. Closer to the Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh AstroTurf Hockey Stadium, the billboards increase in number and size. The gates at the stadium see a heavy security presence with Hockey Jharkhand hoping for a significant turnout, especially with free entry.

At a pre-tournament press conference, India captain Savita Punia is bombarded with questions by a strong local media presence that she jokes halfway through that she needs a break from answering.

The buzz is palpable. The Indian women's hockey team have rarely played a tournament at home — it's been at least more than a decade.

"It's so exciting to play a tournament in

India. And I know how Jharkhand supports hockey, and this is a new challenge for us as a team," Savita said on Thursday. "I have played domestic tournaments here. I remember playing National Games in 2011, from when I know how big the craze is for hockey here. Very few women's tournaments have happened in India. So this is a big deal for us."

While an Asian tournament at the end of the season and post-Asian Games could have been seen as less-than-ideal timing, the recent announcement that the Olympic qualifiers will be held at this venue in January has certainly added more sheen to the event. Chief coach Janneke Schopman, however, wants the team to first enjoy this tournament for what it is.

"For us, as the women's team, to play a tournament in our own country, in front of a crowd, is something super special. As a player, I think there is nothing more you can ask for," the former Dutch star said. "Those moments don't come often and we should just appreciate fully for what it is. We want to



(R-L) Captain Savita Punia, coach Janneke Schopman and defender Deep Grace Ekka pose with the mascot. PTI

show our best here, but yes January is very crucial and we want to get things working right now so that we know what we have to work on for the next two months."

For a state that has produced multiple Olympians and internationals in the past, it is perhaps surprising that this ACT edition is the first time ever Ranchi hosts India in a

multi-nation tournament. Jaipal Singh Munda, Michael Kindo, Silbanus Ddungdung, Manohar Topno, Ajit Lakra, Nikki Pradhan, and Salima Tete are the Olympians from the state. Jaipal Singh, in fact, was named the captain of the first-ever Indian team to take part at the Olympics in 1928. A statue of him is at the entrance of the stadium.

"Jharkhand has hockey in its heart, it wasn't quite right that we never had India play here before," Bholanath Singh, Secretary General, Hockey India and President, Hockey

Jharkhand said, "We have seen during Hockey India League how the crowd can be. There is no doubt that Odisha is a hub for Indian hockey and they have great facilities. But we also want to show that other places can host as well, it is important to spread hockey. We saw really good crowds in Chennai for the men's event recently and it will be the same for women in Ranchi too."

Singh also spoke about the reception that Karthi Selvam received at his home ground in Chennai, and expected similar support for Nikki Pradhan, Salima Tete and Sangita Kumari — the three Jharkhand players in India's squad.

The tournament features six teams: India, defending champions Japan, three-time winners Korea, Asiad gold medalists China, Malaysia, and Thailand. The first four teams are favoured to reach the semifinals but the level amidst them is quite close. India's defeat against China in the semifinals in Hangzhou was a disappointment and ACT provides India a quick chance to put that behind.

"The biggest learning for me [from

Hangzhou] is that we are one of the bigger teams in the world and that it comes with different expectations. We are learning to deal with it. We have to play our own game, regardless of who we play against. Asian Games was a valuable lesson but not with the outcome we wanted so hope we can do better," Schopman said.

"We were all disappointed and then the only thing you can do is pick yourselves up, we did that there and that gave us the bronze medal. We are excited to be playing again."

Savita added: "Our preparations were good for Asiad too, we understand that the semifinal defeat happened because we didn't play well, how the opponent played was secondary, but we weren't happy with our game that day.

Responding to a cheeky question on what she is predicting for the tournament, Schopman said: "I don't do forecasts, but I will say this, I expect them to work their ass off. I want to see a team that fights, fights, fights. A team that shows their own fans how well we can play hockey."



Pakistan captain Babar Azam ahead of a practice session in Chennai. PTI

Can cornered Pakistan earn their stripes again?

VENKATA KRISHNA B
CHENNAI, OCTOBER 26

THE LAST brutal shove came on Thursday morning. Even as they called for support for their team through a statement, the Pakistan cricket board made it clear that Babar Azam, the captain, and Inzamam-ul-Haq, the chief selector, had the full freedom to pick the World Cup team. In other words, the failure was entirely on the shoulders of the team management.

A World Cup campaign for Pakistan without their former players going after their players, with or sans merit, is incomplete. Sharp criticisms coming from all quarters – from past and present cricketers, some that get personal, some so sharp and to the point that it has even convinced a few of them to feel sorry for their captain, some so far away from the truth that their players are just laughing it off.

Beyond the thrill of watching their fast bowlers, what makes watching Pakistan fascinating is how well they manage to duck all the bullets fired at them and fire in unison when the world least expects them to. Since 1992, at almost every World Cup barring the 1996 and 2011, they have been seeking to revive a new version of cornered tigers. And if there was ever a moment where they can revoke the spirit of 1992, it is here. With just two wins from five matches with all the four coming up – including their one against South Africa on Friday at Chennai – being a must-win, they look a team that is so disjointed that you don't know if they would be able to arrest their slide.

But before they regroup and raise, it would be interesting to see how Pakistan manages to put behind all the noise that is being directed at them. Their vice-captain Shadab Khan, who himself has been under pressure, offered a simple solution.

"The mentality is that when someone is not in the team, they are the best. When someone is in the team, they are the worst. It's like that. But reality is – you have to win. You have to win. Because if you are winning, everything will cover up. And if you are losing, it doesn't matter how good you are, how your team is playing before. So the main concern is – if you are winning, everything will cover it," Shadab said.

However, beating South Africa, a team that is flying high at the moment, will be no easy thing. So below-par has been their performance, post their defeat to Afghanistan – that didn't really come as a shock – Babar Azam has been facing calls to quit as skipper. And after inviting the likes of Inzamam-ul-Haq, Muhammad Yousuf and Aaqib Javed for a meeting, the Pakistan Cricket Board's statement wouldn't have helped either.

"Looking ahead, the board will make decisions in the best interest of Pakistan cricket based on the team's performances in the

World Cup. At present, the PCB encourages fans, former players and stakeholders to rally behind the team as they strive to make a triumphant comeback in the mega-event," the PCB said. "Captain Babar Azam and Chief Selector Inzamam-ul-Haq were given freedom and support in forming the squad for the ICC World Cup 2023."

Nose dive

For a team that went into the Asia Cup in September as the No 1 ranked ODI side, they have been on a nose-dive since. It is hard to pinpoint one reason behind the dramatic change in fortune, but the evening in Colombo where pacer Nasim Shah limped out injured, broke Pakistan's back that they haven't been able to stand tall since then. Sans Nasim, with Shaheen Shah Afridi and Haris Rauf struggling for rhythm, their bowling which has been their strongest suit has let them down. And with a batting line-up that follows a decade-old template in place, and fielding being lacklustre, they have only been making it more and more challenging each game.

"I think we have underperformed, in all three matches. We haven't underperformed this way before. We know that we are not playing good cricket. But our team has bounced back from this situation before and hopefully, we will come out of this situation. I feel that the way our bowling line-up is, it has underperformed a lot in the World Cup. So, as a bowling unit, we will have to get up and win for our team. From tomorrow, our do-or-die matches start. We have to play on our strengths and try to do extra," Shadab said.

But if there is any team that tends to thrive on adversity, it is Pakistan. It is part of their DNA that stirs them to come back from the dead. But if they sink, it won't be a surprise. If they stay afloat, it won't be a surprise either. It's Chennai's Chepauk that once gave them a memorable Test win in India, it's Chennai where they drowned to a loss at the hands of Afghanistan the other day, and it's Chennai where their 2023 world cup fate will now be decided.

STANDINGS

	M	W	L	T	Pts	NR
Ind	5	5	0	0	10	+1.353
SA	5	4	1	0	8	+2.370
NZ	5	4	1	0	8	+1.481
Aus	5	3	2	0	6	+1.142
SL	5	2	3	0	4	-0.205
Pak	5	2	3	0	4	-0.400
Afg	5	2	3	0	4	-0.969
Ban	5	1	4	0	2	-1.253
Eng	5	1	4	0	2	-1.634
Ned	5	1	4	0	2	-1.902

The four-year plan that lifted SA from lows of 2019 to success in 2023

VENKATA KRISHNA B
CHENNAI, OCTOBER 26

IT WAS at their lowest ebb, when they were eliminated from the 2019 world cup, that South Africa started to focus on how to change things in the 2023 world cup in India.

"Post 2019 World Cup the only thing we spoke about is what do we do for 2023, where the conditions will be even more challenging because it will be held in India," Prasanna Agoram, who was their team analyst then recalls to *The Indian Express*.

It is the blueprint with which South Africa turned their attention for the 2023 World Cup, just days after they returned home from England in 2019, with just three wins from nine games. "The first and foremost thing we did was to figure out who will commit to playing the World Cup. If we had any doubts about anyone's availability, irrespective of how big name he is, we were ready to move on. Stature, reputation didn't matter because you needed to put a vision on board. So once we did it, we knew

getting results would be difficult, but it was the only way to groom players for this World Cup," Prasanna said.

Not since the 1992 edition, their first one after readmission has South Africa come into a World Cup where a majority of their squad has no previous experience of playing in the tournament. Apart from Quinton de Kock, David Miller (three World Cups), Kagiso Rabada, Lungi Ngidi, Tabraiz Shamsi, Aiden Markram and Rassie van der Dussen, this World Cup is the first one for the rest, including their captain Temba Bavuma.

The road to India was not easy. Having lost few key talents to England and New Zealand, the collapse of Kolpak because of Brexit would come as a blessing in disguise. Although T20 franchises hovered over some, Cricket South Africa would go the extra mile to give improvised national contracts that opened the door for many to commit to the Proteas.

"To do well in India, you need to have a strong top 4, bowlers who can give wickets in the first powerplay and two good spinners. They have all these bases covered. In case,

UTTAR PRADESH CRICKET STORY

Imran's kebab memories, Rinku's sixes, a teenage girl's India dream

As India prepares to face England in Lucknow, those who have witnessed the various stages of the game's evolution in UP look back and to the future

PRATYUSH RAJ
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 26

THESE ARE exciting times for cricket in Uttar Pradesh. A state as large in both area and population can never be short on talent, but it has often been a cricketing backwater in comparison to Mumbai, Delhi, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

Not any longer. With the relatively new stadium in Lucknow hosting five World Cup games – including India's clash against holders England on Sunday – an IPL team representing the city and the state, and a new venue coming up in the Prime Minister's parliamentary constituency of Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh has become a big player in Indian cricket.

Despite having an incredible talent pool, they have won the Ranji Trophy only once. But things are changing. The state now has an IPL franchise in Lucknow Super Giants. The Green Park in Kanpur is not the only international cricket stadium in the state. Lucknow is back on the cricket map. With a new cricket stadium being built in Varanasi, the sporting infrastructure is on a boom in the state. As Lucknow gears up for its most-anticipated cricketing fixture in recent memory, *The Indian Express* talks to a few individuals who have seen the sport grow and others who now dream of making it big.

Imran and Javed wowed

Ashok Bambi, a former Ranji Trophy cricketer who was the local team manager of the Pakistan cricket team, narrates a story about how the Lucknow crowd and the city left Imran Khan and Javed Miandad in awe.

"It was in 1989 when Pakistan played Sri Lanka in a Nehru Cup match. It was a thriller which Pakistan won by six runs, with Imran playing a masterclass (84 not out). After the toss, Imran and Javed Miandad (who didn't play that match due to a back spasm) were talking to me. About 99 per cent of the crowd was supporting Pakistan and the stadium was full of Pakistan flags. Imran turned towards me and said 'Bambi saab, itna support Lahore-Karachi mey nahi milta (We never got such support even in Lahore and Karachi), Miandad jumped in to say 'Imran, hum Lucknow ko apna home venue bana sakte hai (We can make Lucknow our home venue),' recalls Bambi.

"Imran was intrigued by the support and next day, was hell-bent on experiencing Lucknow. He wanted to see the Shia culture. Security was a massive issue. We finally managed to get three cars. We roamed around all the historical places in Lucknow, he tried the famous galouti kebab and on our way back to the hotel, kept praising the city," adds Bambi.

Bambi was also the local manager of the Indian team that played a Test in Lucknow against Sri Lanka in 1994. He recalls that more than Sachin Tendulkar's century and Anil Kumble's 10-wicket haul, the match was remembered for Navjot Singh Sidhu's six-hitting.

"Sidhu scored a century and hit five or six sixes against Muthiah Muralitharan. The match ended in three days and Sri Lanka captain Arjuna Ranatunga was fuming about a few umpiring decisions," laughs Bambi.

The last time an England team came to Lucknow was in 1993 under the captaincy of Graham Gooch to play a three-day practice



(Clockwise from above) Young cricketers at the KD Singh Babu Stadium; Tanya Singh, a left arm seamer, with her coach Asif Khan; Ashok Bambi, the local team manager of the Pakistan team in 1989; Under-19 World Cupper Archana Devi.



game against Board President XL.

"It was so cold that I remember England coach Keith Fletcher shivering. He termed Lucknow's winter harsher than that in the UK. The match was a trial for Vinod Kambli and Nayan Mongia before the Test series. Kambli retired hurt after being hit on the wrist, while Mongia scored a fifty. Kambli went on to make his Test debut in that series."

Breaking Mumbai's monopoly

Gyanendra Pandey, a former India cricketer and Uttar Pradesh captain, says there is so much talent in the state that it can easily field three teams in the Ranji Trophy.

Pandey, a veteran of 117 first-class matches, bases his opinion on the number of cricketers from the state who have played for the country over the last two decades. Pandey was one of the first from the UP's golden generation who broke into the Indian side. He was followed by Mohammed Kaif, Suresh Raina, Piyush Chawla, RP Singh, Parveen Kumar, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Kuldeep Yadav and Rinku Singh. "There is no dearth of talent in UP. We have won the Ranji Trophy, we are always a good team. I won't be exaggerating if I say that we can easily line up three different playing XIs in the Ranji Trophy," the former all-rounder says.

"The problem with UP cricket was its infrastructure. Earlier, Green Park was the only place where you had all the facilities and with such a big state, it was not enough. Now things are changing, we have a world-class stadium in my city (Lucknow). One is under construction in Varanasi. There's one in Greater Noida as well," he adds.

Pandey's fondest cricketing memory is of Uttar Pradesh defeating Mumbai at the Wankhede Stadium. "Wo match kranti le ke aaya tha UP cricket mey (That match brought

change in Uttar Pradesh cricket). Our mentality was changed. We used to be scared of Mumbai but after that win, the tables turned. We ended Mumbai's monopoly against us. (Ashish Winston) Zaidi bagged six wickets in the first innings, and Obaid Kamal got five in the second. I scored a century in the first innings and hit the winning run in the second. Best day of my cricketing career, bigger than my international debut," says Pandey.

"We lost the Ranji final against Karnataka. I led Central Zone to the Duleep and Deodhar Trophy titles. The performances earned me an India call," he adds.

Rinku, badshah of Aligarh

Rinku Singh is not yet a finished product in international cricket, but has shown glimpses of his potential in Ireland and at the Asian Games. During the IPL, he grabbed headlines by hitting five sixes in a row in the final over to win a game. Rinku's breakout season with Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) has earned him recognition as one of the best finishers in T20 cricket.

He says the biggest takeaway from his career is that one should never give up on their dreams. "Sapne sach hote hai (Dreams do come true). But for that, one should never give up. There is no shortcut in life and cricket. If you love cricket, keep on hustling. The rewards will come."

Archana learns from Kuldeep

Archana Devi was in tears following the inaugural Women's Premier League (WPL) auction earlier this year. Despite playing a key role in India's U-19 World Cup triumph, she went unsold. "I felt bad. Most of my teammates got picked but I wasn't," says Archana, who is currently in Vadodra, playing in the Senior Women's T20 Trophy.

"My coach, Kapil (Pandey) sir, gave me the example of Kuldeep (Yadav) bhैया. I have seen Kuldeep bhैया trying to make a comeback to the India team after injury. He used to work so hard," she says.

Archana credits Kuldeep for motivating her. "Archana tumhe bhi India ke liye khelna hai (Archana, you also have to play for India), he told me once and I just nodded. I also want to play for India. There will be turbulence but I think I can deal with it," she says.

Archana also seeks inspiration from her mother Savitri Devi, who lost her husband to cancer and a son to a snakebite, and was called a 'daayan' (witch). "When my mother sent me to an all-girls boarding school, my relatives said that she had sent me on the wrong path," she says.

At 20, Archana had already experienced a lot in life and as her coach Kapil Pandey says "Her upbringing has made her mentally tough. She will be playing for India soon."

Tanya, a first from Lucknow

Mohammed Asif Khan, a cricket coach at the KD Singh Babu Stadium, is swamped by more than 100 kids. After dividing them into four units, he turns his attention towards Tanya Singh, a 16-year-old left-arm seamer who became the first woman cricketer in the stadium's 70-year history to be picked for Uttar Pradesh, at the U-19 level. Tanya, who idolises Mitchell Starc, hails from Varanasi but moved to Lucknow with her mother and elder sister earlier this year after being spotted by Asif at a school tournament.

"You don't generally see a left-arm seamer in women's cricket. When I saw her, I immediately spoke to his father. On my insistence, the family has moved to Lucknow and now are living on rent. Her father is a truck driver in the Indian Army," Asif says.

bring in a new head coach, Rob Walter, altering their focus to the 2027 edition that they are in line to host.

Very little expectations

So when the World Cup began, they arrived on Indian shores with very little expectations. That the rugby World Cup was on, took the limelight away from them. But with the ones originally handpicked for the 2023 project clicking together, South Africa are beginning to dream again. And sans expectations, South Africa have appeared liberated on the field with De Kock, Van Der Dussen, Markram, Heinrich Klaasen all batting with the sort of freedom that you saw mostly only in AB de Villiers. And with big totals on board, their pacers have found extra spring in their bowling.

Since their readmission, barring the 2003 and 2019 edition, South Africa have always dominated the group stages. It is the knockouts that has proved to be their biggest stumbling block, where despite being the topdogs they have been weighed down time and again by the expectations.



South Africa are 2nd on the points table and comfortably placed to reach semis. AP

their pacers don't get wickets in the first powerplay, then their spinners will struggle. And that to me is their lone weak link," Prasanna says.

There were a few stumbles on the way to India. The need to start their own T20 league to keep pace with the rest of the

world would even put their direct qualification for the World Cup in a jeopardy, but a timely series win over England allowed them to breathe easy before things went for the worse again. With Mark Boucher stepping aside as coach, just 10 months to go for the World Cup, South Africa would

19 **ECONOMY**SENSEX: 63,148.15 ▼ 900.91 (1.41%) NIFTY: 18,857.25 ▼ 264.90 (1.39%) NIKKEI: 30,601.78 ▼ 668.14 **HANG SENG**: 17,044.61 ▼ 40.72 FTSE: 7,365.74 ▼ 48.60 DAX: 14,708.53 ▼ 183.65

International market data till 1900 IST



GOLD

₹62,000



USD RATE

₹83.23



OIL

\$89.10



SILVER

₹75,000

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg. Crude oil (Indian basket) as of October 25

SECTOR WATCH
TECHNOLOGY**Why many states in the US have sued Meta over kids' mental health****SOUMYARENDRA BARIK**
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 26

DOZENS OF US states have sued Instagram and Facebook's parent company Meta over its alleged impact on young users, accusing them of contributing to the youth mental health crisis through the addictive nature of their social media platforms.

In a complaint, the attorneys general of 33 states including California and New York said Meta repeatedly "misled" the public about the dangers of its platforms, and knowingly induced young children and teenagers into addictive and compulsive social media use. The lawsuit comes two years after former Meta employee Frances Haugen emerged as a whistleblower with allegations that the company was knowingly preying on vulnerable young people to boost profits. She had revealed an internal study at Instagram which found that many young girls using the app were suffering from depression and anxiety around body-image issues.

What has the lawsuit alleged?

While a majority of the lawsuit has been redacted from public view, it specifically names features such as likes, alerts and filters that are "known to promote young users' body dysmorphia". Body dysmorphia leads a person to spend a lot of time worrying about flaws in their appearance, and often these perceived flaws are unnoticeable to others.

"Meta has harnessed powerful and unprecedented technologies to entice, engage, and

ultimately ensnare youth and teens," the suit said. "It has concealed the ways in which these platforms exploit and manipulate the most vulnerable consumers: teenagers and children. And it has ignored the sweeping damage these platforms have caused to the mental and physical health of our nation's youth."

Meta has contested the allegations. "We share the attorneys general's commitment to providing teens with safe, positive experiences online, and have already introduced more than 30 tools to support teens and their families," Liza Crenshaw, Meta spokesperson, said in a statement responding to the lawsuit. "We're disappointed that instead of working productively with companies across the industry to create clear, age-appropriate standards for the many apps teens use, the attorneys general have chosen this path."

What had Frances Haugen revealed about Instagram's impact on mental health?

In the lawsuit, Haugen's testimony to Congress has been cited. In 2021, she came out with a set of blockbuster internal documents from Meta. One of them was an internal survey which Instagram had carried out to find the app's impact on teens in the US and UK. "Thirty-two per cent of teen girls said that when they felt bad about their bodies, Instagram made them feel worse," was one of the findings of the survey. Teenagers also tend to blame their usage of Instagram for increased rates of anxiety and depression, it had found.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

FPIS PULL OUT ₹25,000 CR FROM INDIA IN OCTOBER SO FAR**War worries, high US bond yields keep markets jittery****ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU**
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 26

JOINING A global market slide, Indian markets fell for the sixth consecutive day on Thursday as investors turned risk averse amid fears over the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict and surge in 10-year US government bond yields.

The SENSEX declined 900.91 points, or 1.41 per cent, to end at 63,148.15 even as foreign investors pulled out funds from stocks on Thursday. The Nifty closed at 18,857.25, down 264.90 points, or 1.39 per cent.

In the last six trading sessions, the 30-share BSE has slipped by 3,280 points, or 4.9 per cent, and the Nifty 50 dropped by 954 points, or 4.82 per cent.

Analysts warn that the markets might take a turn for the worse if the Israel-Hamas conflict spreads to other neighbouring countries. If crude oil prices cross \$ 100 per barrel, countries like India which are dependent on oil imports would be impacted. A major worry for the market is another round of spike in inflation and

HOW THE WORLD MARKETS FELL

	Oct-17	Oct-26	Change (%)
KOSPI Comp	2,454	2,299	-6.32
BSE Sensex	66,428	63,148	-4.94
Nikkei 225	32,063	30,601	-4.56
Hang Seng	17,806	17,044	-4.28
FTSE 100	7,675	7,347	-4.27
DAX	15,211	14,666	-3.58
SSE	3,076	2,988	-2.86
DJI	33,869	33,035	-2.46
CAC 40	7,016	6,848	-2.39

Index levels at 5PM IST

interest rates. Bank of Baroda in a report said the US yield soared sharply inching closer once again to the 16-year peak of 5 per cent. This comes in the wake of better-than-expected US home sales, climbing to 19-month high (12.3 per cent in September 2023) as median house prices have fallen.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said, "till date, the actual domestic Q2 results are below par in comparison to the excited earnings forecast earlier. Similar disappointments are visible in developed economies.

Downgrade in earnings and valuation is arising due to risk of further slowdown of the economy due to geopolitical and elevated interest rates. Also selling pressure intensified due to expiry-led volatility influencing investors to stay cautious."

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) are pulling out funds from the Indian market as concern over the Israel-Hamas war has prompted investors to opt for safe haven assets like the US Treasury and bonds. As the yield on 10-year benchmark US government bonds are close to five per cent, investors are exiting

emerging markets for US bonds. FPIs have pulled out Rs 25,000 crore from the cash market in October so far. On October 25, foreign players sold stocks worth Rs 4,236 crore from the cash market and Rs 7,702 crore on October 26. The benchmark indices plummeted despite purchases worth Rs 23,000 crore by domestic institutions in October so far.

According to an analyst with a broking firm, there is risk-off in global equity markets triggered by a combination of economics and geopolitics. "The Israel-Hamas conflict continues to be a major headwind for markets. If the conflict lingers for long, it has the potential to impact global growth when the global economy is already in the midst of a slowdown," he said.

In the near-term, however, the strongest headwind for the market is the stubbornly high US bond yields. "With the 10-year bond yield at near 5 per cent, FPIs are likely to be in the sell mode. Sectors like banking and IT which constitute the largest segments of the assets of FPIs are likely to be under pressure," said an analyst.

Tax base widens, trend of migration of individuals towards higher income: CBDT**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU**
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 26

RETURNS FILED by individual taxpayers increased to 6.37 crore in Assessment Year 2021-22 (financial year 2020-21) from 3.36 crore in AY 2013-14, an increase of 90 per cent over the nine-year period. Terming it as an indication of the widening of tax base due to measures taken by the Income Tax Department, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) in a statement on Thursday said there is a "robust growth in the gross total income of individuals across different income groups".

Around 741 crore returns have been filed for AY 2023-24 till date during the current fiscal, including 53 lakh new first time filers, it said. The number of returns filed by individual taxpayers increased by 32 per cent from 2.62 crore in AY 2013-14 to 3.47 crore in AY 2021-22, while in the range of gross total income of Rs 5-10 lakh, and Rs 10-25 lakh, the returns filed by individual taxpayers registered an increase of 295 per cent and 291 per cent from AY 2013-14 to AY 2021-22, respectively.

"This indicates that individual taxpayers are showing a positive trend of migration to a higher range of gross total income," it said. The Department, however, clarified that the range of gross total income up to Rs 5 lakh includes individuals having income below taxable limit who may not be filing returns.

The CBDT statement comes days after Congress had questioned the widening gap between

**Around 741 crore returns have been filed for AY 2023-24 till date. File**

the ultra-rich and the middle class.

In a post dated October 23 on social media platform X, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh had said analysis of tax data between 2013-14 to 2021-22 points towards increasing income inequalities. "The top 1 per cent of income taxpayers made 17 per cent of all income in 2013-14. By 2021-22, the top 1 per cent made 23 per cent of all income. Further, the income growth of the ultra-rich was much faster than for the middle class. The top 1 per cent of income taxpayers saw their income grow at 13 per cent year-on-year from 2013-14 to 2021-22 — a massive 60 per cent faster than the income of the lowest 25 per cent of taxpayers," he said.

The CBDT in its statement said the "proportionate contribution of gross total income of top 1 per cent individual taxpayers vis-à-vis all individual taxpayers has decreased from 15.9 per cent in AY 2013-14 to 14.6 per cent in AY 2021-22". FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

Big Tech asks for 12-18 months to comply with data protection Act**ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU**
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 26

AN INDUSTRY lobbying group representing big tech companies Meta, Google, Amazon and Apple has urged the centre to provide a 12-18 month long transition period to comply with certain key provisions of the data protection Act.

In a letter to IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar, the Asia Internet Coalition recommended a year long compliance period for companies to prepare their sys-



tems for issuing consent notices to users.

"Since implementing these provisions would require structural changes in organisations and businesses, they are likely to face significant amount of challenges during the course of such transition," the grouping wrote in the

letter. They also asked for a 18 months compliance window to enable the right to data erasure under the law.

"Since this is a novel concept where a data fiduciary has to ensure erasure of data principal's personal data, data fiduciaries would not be possessing such technical requirements for implementing it. This exercise will be fairly new to domestic and international business entities alike, since compliance with data laws of other jurisdictions like GDPR do not have such provisions," the letter said.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

NCLT declines SBI's plea against Bajaj Hindusthan**ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU**
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 26

THE NATIONAL Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has dismissed a petition filed by the State Bank of India against Bajaj Hindusthan Sugars after analysing an application submitted by the bank for withdrawal of insolvency petition.

On October 15, Bajaj Hindusthan Sugars said that NCLT has considered the submissions made on behalf of the State Bank of India concerning withdrawal of the insolvency petition. The next date for hearing was fixed as October 25. "In view of the averments made in the application and the statement made by the Ld. Counsel representing the Financial Creditor and there being no objection of the Ld. Sr. Counsel for the Corporate Debtor to the said withdrawal of the main petition, the present application is allowed and the main petition is dismissed as withdrawn," NCLT said in its October 25 order.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

Bar recovery agents from calling borrowers between 7 pm-8am: RBI**ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU**
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 26

THE RESERVE BANK OF India (RBI) on Thursday proposed norms which restrains regulated entities and their recovery agents from calling borrowers or guarantors before 8 am and after 7 pm for recovery of overdue loans.

The RBI suggested that regu-

lated entities should put in place a board approved code of conduct for direct sales agents (DSA), direct marketing agents (DMA), and recovery agents. They should ensure that the DSA/DMA/ recovery agents are properly trained to handle their responsibilities with care and sensitivity, particularly aspects such as soliciting customers, hours of calling, privacy of customer information and con-

veying the correct terms and conditions of the products on offer.

Regulated entities include banks, regional rural banks, payments and small finance banks, NBFCs, housing finance companies, urban, state and central co-operative banks.

"The RE and their recovery agents shall not resort to intimidation or harassment of any kind, either verbal or physical, against

any person in their debt collection efforts," the RBI said in the draft norms on Managing Risks and Code of Conduct in Outsourcing of Financial Services.

The debt collection efforts include acts intended to humiliate publicly or intrude upon the privacy of the debtors/their guarantors' family members, referees and friends, sending inappropriate messages either on mobile or

through social media, making threatening and anonymous calls, persistently calling the borrower/guarantor, making false and misleading representations.

These recommendations are part of the RBI's effort to protect borrowers from harassment by recovery agents for collection of overdue loans.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

BRIEFLY**SBI organises outreach program**

New Delhi: The State Bank of India (SBI) organised a comprehensive workshop aimed at enhancing the outreach of Jansuraksha schemes at the gram panchayat level. The workshop brought together bank officials from 11 states and union territories to empower the district managers to facilitate the adoption of Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) among eligible citizens. **ENS**

Canara Bank Q2 net profit grows 43%

New Delhi: Canara Bank on Thursday reported a 43 per cent rise in net profit to Rs 3,606 crore during the September quarter on higher interest income and lower provisioning. The bank posted a net profit of Rs 2,525 crore in the July-September quarter. The public sector bank's net interest income grew 19.76 per cent to Rs 8,903 crore. The total provisioning came down to Rs 2,608 crore. **PTI**

ONGC hopes to recover over \$400 mn dividend

New Delhi: India's top oil firm ONGC is hoping to recover about \$413 million of unpaid dividend from an oilfield in Venezuela after sanctions on the Latin American nation were eased, a top source said on Thursday.

The US Treasury Department partially lifted sanctions on Venezuela's oil and gas sector last week. The partially lifted sanctions are through a new six-month license authorising transactions in the country's oil and gas sector. The license is to be renewed only if Venezuela can meet commitments leading to fair voting in the next year's presidential election.

The US government also amended two other licenses to remove the secondary trading ban on certain Venezuelan sovereign bonds and PDVSA debt and equity. **PTI**

India begins producing 'reference' fuel

New Delhi: India on Thursday began producing 'reference' petrol and diesel, joining a select league of nations that produce the highly specialised fuel which is used for testing automobiles.

Launching the fuel, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said the start of production of 'reference' fuel is another step towards Atmanirbhar Bharat as it will end imports. These fuels, which have higher specifications, are critical for calibrating and testing by automobile manufacturers and testing agencies. For decades, India has relied on imports to meet the demand for these fuels. **PTI**

Prayagraj Nagar Nigam
1, Sarojini, Naidu Marg,
Prayagraj- 211001
Uttar Pradesh

E-TENDER NOTICE

Nit No/720 ENV/2023 **Date: 26.08.2023**

This is to inform to all prospective bidders having the required qualification mentioned in the RFP document that Municipal Corporation Prayagraj invites Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Agency for Roadside Plantation and Divider Plantation works in Prayagraj Municipal Corporation.

Schedule For Tender

S. No.	Activity	Date	Time
1	RFP Document Availability	28.10.2023	14.00 hrs onwards
2	Last date of Bid submission	28.11.2023	up to 15:00 hrs
3	Technical Bid opening Date	28.11.2023	16:00 hrs onwards

For more details, please visit the website at <http://www.etender.up.nic.in>.

Sd/-
Uttam Kumar Verma
Environment Engineer

पत्रक सं. डी.-2811/ज.सम.अधि./2023 दिनांक- 26.10.2023

Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
#6/13/1, KREDL Office Building, 10th Block, 2nd Stage, Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru-560072.

SHORT-TERM E-TENDER NOTICE

The KREDL, Corporate office, Bengaluru - 560 072, invited electronic bids under two cover system duly uploaded by the manufacturers of wind turbine generators OR Operation and Maintenance experience in wind power plants. The details of the bids are available in e-procurement portal (<http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>). For more details please contact 080-2228 2220 during office hours, interested bidders need to register with e-procurement portal for participation in the bid.

Sl. No.	Enquiry No.	Particulars	Amount to tender Rs. in Lakh	EMD amount Rs. in Lakh
1	KRED/08/Sogi-O&M/F-197 (Vol.5)/ Call-3/ 2023, DATE: 12-07-2023	Operation and maintenance of 2 Nos. of 1.25 MW capacity WTG and other related equipments at Sogi Village Huvinahadagali Taluk, Ballari District for a period of 36 Months.	78.75	1.60
2	KRED/08/MVH-O&M-8.4 MW/F-1984/Call-2/2023, DATE: 12.07.2023	Operation and maintenance of 4 Nos. of 2.1 MW capacity WTG and other related equipments at Mavinahunda Village, Raybagh Taluk, Belagavi District for a period of 36 Months.	264.6	4.00
3	KRED/08/MVH-O&M-0.5 MW/F-727(Vol.6)/Call-2/ 2023 Date: 12.07.2023	Operation and maintenance of 1 No. of 500 kW capacity WTG and other related equipments at Mavinahunda Village, Raybagh Taluk, Belagavi District for period of 36 Months.	15.75	0.40

Schedule of Events

Bid documents available on e-portal : 27.10.2023 to 10.11.2023 up to 15.00 Hrs
Last date for submission of Queries : 02.11.2023 at 16.00 Hrs
Pre-bid meeting at KREDL office, : 03.11.2023 at 11.00 Hrs
Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru
Last date and time for submission of Bid : 10.11.2023 up to 16.00 Hrs
Opening of Techno- Commercial Bid : 16.11.2023 at 16.00 Hrs
Opening of Financial Bid : will be intimated later to responsive bidders

a) The bidders can view the tender details / download the details consisting of qualifying requirements, eligibility criteria of bidders, scope of the service to be provided and terms & conditions of contract to be complied from the website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

b) For further information, please contact **help desk phone number +91-8046010000/+91-8068948777** of e-procurement department or KREDL. Phone Number: 080 - 22282220.
Sd/- Asst. General Manager, Wind, KREDL

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I,Sirraan Ali S/o Naimullah Ansari R/o Patna, Mehraunaghat, Deoria, Uttar Pradesh-274502, have changed my name to Zayn Ali
0070870298-1

I,RUKHSANA KHATOON /RUKHSANA W/O.MOHD IBRAHIM,ADD-J-3A/21 KHIRKI,EXT,MALVIYA-NAGAR SOUTH,DELHI-110017, changed my name to RUKSANA KHATOON,for all,future purposes.
0040695481-2

I,TRIZWANA,D/O.MOHD IBRAHIM,ADD-J-3A/21 KHIRKI,EXT,MALVIYA-NAGAR,SOUTH DELHI-110017,changed my name to RIZWANA SAIFI,for all,future purposes.
0040695481-3

I,RASHID AHMED TAWNAR,S/O.KHURSHID AHMED TAWNAR,HOUSE.NO.49,VILLAGE AND POST-OFFICE DHARUJ (17),FARIDABAD, HARYANA 121004.Changed my name to RASHID AHMED,for all,future purposes.
0040695467-5

I,MOHD ISLAM,S/O.MOHD IRFAN, ADD-F-55 VISHWAKARMA COLONY MB ROAD,SOUTH-EAST,DELHI-110044.Changed my name to MOHD ISLAM SAIFI,for all,future purposes.
0040695467-10

I,Tabassum,W/o Mohammad Shahid, H.No.165 Tilak Khand Giri Nagar, Kalkaji South, Delhi-110019. Changed my name to Jikra Tabassum. 0040695476-4

I,Swati W/o Sunil Kwatra,R/O C-8/458, Second-Floor, Sector-8, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Swati Kwatra. 0040695476-10

I,Shivdutt Dwivedi S/o Sidh Gopal Dubey, R/O 27/77, Third-Floor, West Punjabi Bagh, Delhi-26, have changed my name to Shiv Dutt Dwivedi. 0040695471-1

I,Shabudeen,S/O ABDUL HAMID, R/O.463 Igdah colony Gohana Sonapat Haryana Have Changed My Name To SAHABUDIN,for all,future purposes. 0040695467-3

I,SHIWANI SINGH, daughter of, BANAYI SINGH SINSINWAR, resident of, 287/3, WAC Quarters, Subroto-Park, New Delhi-10, have changed my name, from SHIWANI SINGH to SHIVANI SINGH, vide Affidavit IN-DL8583374873176V dated-23-10-2023 by name-NCT, Delhi-10. 0040695391-10

I,Ritu Dobhal W/o-Kusum Chander Doval R/O-603, Imperial Block,Supertech Estate, Sector-9,Vaishali, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201010, have changed my name to Ritu Doval. 0040695391-3

I,Rabani Kaur,W/o Kanwal Deep Singh Kukreja,R/O,H.No-1,3rd-Floor, West Punjabi, Bagh Shivaji, Road Punjabi, Bagh Delhi-110026, changed my name to Rabani Kaur Kukreja 0040695476-6

I,RAJENDER MITTAL,S/O SATYA NARAYAN MITTAL R/O B-68, SECOND-FLOOR, GALI NO.1, MAJILS PARK, ADARSH NAGAR, DELHI-110033, have changed my name to RAJENDER PRASAD. 0040695476-3

I,RAHUL S/O SUDHISH SEHGAL RESIDENT HOUSE NO-768, SECTOR-14, SONIPAT, HARYANA HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAHUL SEHGAL. 0040695467-2

I,RAHUL MOHAN,S/O VENKATESH MOHAN, R/O FLAT NO-2706, TOWER-3G, 2/7TH FLOOR SAYA GOLD AVENUE,VAIBHAV KHAND, INDIRAPURAM, GHAZIABAD UTTAR PRADESH-201014, changed my minor son's name HRIDAYA RAHUL MOHAN to HRIDAYA MOHAN. 0040695391-5

I,Mohd Yaqoob Siddiqui,S/O Mohd Zaqi R/O RZ-3258A, First Floor, Gali No-36, Tughlakabad-Extension Kaika Ji, New Delhi-110019, Have changed my name to Mohd Yaqoob, permanently. 0040695391-7

I,Mohd Amin Kathwari,S/O Gulam Ahmed,R/O,C-30 Friends Colony, East Srinivasapuri, New Delhi-110065,That the name of mine has been wrongly-written in my Aadhar-Card and Passport as Mohammad Amin Kathwari and Mohamad Amin instead of Mohamad Amin Kathwari which may be amended accordingly,for all,future purposes. 0040695480-4

I,Mithlesh,W/o Manish Goyal,R/O-D-56, street no-1 Bhanjapura Delhi-110053,have changed my name to Mitali 0040695480-4

I,MOHD IBRAHEEN/ MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM /MOHAMAD IBRAHIM, S/O.KHAIRATI ADD-J-3A/21 KHIRKI, EXT,MALVIYA NAGAR-SOUTH, DELHI-110017, changed my name to MOHD IBRAHIM, for all,future purposes. 0040695481-1

I,MANJEET KAUR,W/O GURDEEP SINGH VIRDI,R/O,WZ-39,PLOT.No-47,SHAM NAGAR EXTN,VISHNU GARDEN, DELHI 110018,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MANJEET KAUR VIRDI. 0040695391-1

I, Nasima W/o Sabir R/o 6, Mathania Mohalla, Kankerkhera, Meerut have changed my name to Naema. 0070870376-1

I,Lokesh S/o Joginder Kumar,R/O Flat No.557,Pocket-1, Sector A-6, Narela, Delhi-110040, have changed my name to LOKESH DAHIYA permanently. 0040695476-8

I,LOKESH,S/O.MADAN LAL,ADD-RZC-116, RAJINDRA PUBLIC SCHOOL,NIHAL-VIHAR NANGLOI JAT, OUTER, DELHI-110041. Changed my name to LOKESH KUMAR, for all,future purposes. 0040695467-6

I,Khurram,S/O Azizuddin,R/O-F-430 Street No.14, Chand Bagh Karawal Nagar Delhi, have changed my name to Khurram Siddiqui, for all purpose 0040695480-3

I,KM POOJA AWASTHI,D/O PUTTAN LAL AWASTHI,R/O C-7-8, ARYA-SAMAJ ROAD, AGGARWAL SWEETS UTTAM-NAGAR, DELHI-110059, have changed my name to POOJA AWASTHI. 0040695476-1

I,KAMAL KISHOR SHARMA,S/O KAILASH CHAND,R/O 9/46 A, DOUBLE STOREY, MOTI NAGAR, RAMESH-NAGAR, DELHI-110015, have changed my name to KAMAL SHARMA. 0040695476-2

I,K C Dobhal,S/O Late S.N Doval,R/O-603, Imperial Block,Supertech Estate, Sector-9, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201010, have changed my name to Kusum Chander Doval. 0040695391-2

I,Hiterto Known As Arti Gupta,C/O B.P.Singhal,R/O-463, Jwala-Nagar, Maharathi Colony, Opp.Vatsalya Mandir, Shahdara North-East, Delhi, Delhi-110032, Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Arti Aggarwal. 0040695467-1

I,Hemant Kumar Arora,S/O Krishan Kumar,R/O-1841, New Housing Block-Colony Sector-11, 12, Panipat, Haryana-132103, have changed my name Hemant Kumar, for all purposes. 0040695480-2

I,Hiterto known as Purnima Mondra, W/o Shishir Mondra, permanently, residin g at, Flat, No.31, 23, GC Grand, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, Pin:201014, has changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Purnima Mondra. 0040695391-11

I,Pooja Madnani alias Dia Dhamecha,D/o Roshan Madnani,W/O Bhavesh Dhamecha,R/O GP-115, First-Floor Pitampura, North West-Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Dia Dhamecha. 0040695476-5

I,GULASHA KHATOON,S/O MOHD DOMEN R/O.BUTH-11, New Sabzi Mandi Sonapat Haryana Have Changed My Name To GULESHA KHATUN, for all, future purposes. 0040695467-4

I,Devesh S/o Sanjay Dabas R/o 64, Near Primary School Ladpur North, West Delhi-110081, have changed my name to Devesh Dabas. 0040695481-4

I,DHARMANDER,S/O GYAN CHAND, Address-F-154, GROUND-FLOOR, SUSHANT LOK PHASE-2, SECTOR-57, WAZIRABAD (75), GURGAON, HARYANA-122003, changed my name to DHARMANDER SAINI. 0040695480-1

I,DALJEET BAMRAH S/O HAZOOR SINGH R/O HOUSE NO-91, VIKASPURI EXT PART-1, NILOTH, DELHI-110041, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO DALJEET SINGH. 0040695391-4

I,BIJENDER,S/O SHRI VED PARKASH Presently, residing at, vill DATTOUR, PO SAMPLA, DISTRICT ROHTAK HARYANA -124501, have changed my name, from BIJENDER to BIJENDER KAUSHIK, vide -Affidavit, dated-26.10.2023. 0040695476-11

I,Atul S/o Joginder Kumar R/O Flat.No. 557,Pocket-1, Sector A-6, Narela, Delhi-110040, have changed my name to ATUL DAHIYA, permanently. 0040695476-9

I,Anand Prakash Goyal S/o Om Prakash Goyal,R/O-834/52, Lekhu-Nagar, Tri-Nagar, Kanhaiya-Nagar, Onkar-Nagar, Delhi-110035, have changed my name to Anand Prakash Goel, for all future purposes. 0040695459-10

I,Aditya Mohan Paul S/o Narender Mohan Paul,R/O 1672 Brahmputra Apartment Sector-29, Noida Gautam Budh-Nagar-201301, Have changed my name to Aditya Paul, Permanently. 0040695391-8

I, AARZOO PARWEEN,W/O-ABDUL QUAIYOOM, ADD-I-41, 3RD-FLOOR, ABUL FAZAL-ENCLAVE-1, JAMIA-NAGAR-OKHLA, SOUTH-EAST, DELHI-110025, changed my minor-son name MOHAMMAD AYAAN to MD AYAAN, for all, future purposes. 0040695467-7

I, hitherto known as Poonam Bhatt alias Poonam Deep Srivastava D/O Jagdish Chandra Bhatt W/O Pradeep Srivastava R/O H.No. 636/43 Jai Nagar, A-Block, Moh. Rafi Nagar, Takrohi Bazar Indira Nagar, Lucknow U.P-226016 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Poonam Deep Srivastava. 0070870382-2

I, Vijay Kumar S/o Jagpal Singh residence I-706, Amrapali Silicon City, Sector-76, Noida, my daughter's name is Vaani Chauhan as wrongly mentioned in my daughter's School Records. But correct name is Vani Chauhan for all future purposes. 0070870399-1

I, Sourabh Kumar S/o Pramod Prasad Jaiswal, R/O H.No-257, Gali No-2, Nangli Poona, North-West, Delhi-110036, have changed my name Sourabh Jaiswal for all future purposes. 0040695435-1

I, Bhavika Dhamia, D/o Rohit Dhamia R/o QU-250B, Pitampura Delhi-110034, changed my name to Bhavikka Dhamia 0040695476-7

I, Shivam, S/o- Anil Gulati R/O:G-1/475, Dal Mill Road, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059 Have Changed My Name to Shivam Gulati for All Purposes. 0070870315-1

I, SUNNY GUPTA S/O RAKESH MITTAL R/O B-7 HOUSE NO-163/164 ROHINI SECTOR 4 DELHI 110085. I have changed my name to SUNNY MITTAL for future purposes 0070870329-1

I, Roshni Garg W/o Arjun Pratap Singh Saharan R/O D-105, Vivek Vihar, AWHO Colony, Sector-82, Noida. Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P-201301 have changed my name to ROSHNI SAHARAN for all future purposes. 0070870313-1

I, Rafia Ali W/o Saiyid Yusuf Ali R/O 1701, Tower-3, Unitech Heights, Sec-CH13 G, Noida have changed my name to Rafia Owais. 0070870392-1

I, Prem Singh Her S/o Hardev Singh Her, R/O H.No.1222, Gali No.10, Govind Puri, Delhi-19, have changed my name to PREM SINGH for all purposes. 0040695397-1

I, Preeti D/o Bhagwan Das R/O RZ-2704/30, Tuglakbad Extn, Aali, South Delhi-110019, have changed my name to Preeti Kushwaha for all future purposes. 0040695384-1

I, Narendra Singh S/o Late Ikhtiar Singh R/O 09171, ATS, Pristine, Sec-150, Noida, G.B.Nagar, UP-201301, have changed my name to Narendra Singh Teotia for all future Purposes. 0070870396-1

I, Naman Nagpal S/O Surinder Nagpal, R/O C-86, Top Floor, Phase-1, Ashok Vihar, North West Delhi-110052. I have changed the name of my minor daughter Tanishka Nagpal aged about 5 Years and She shall hereafter be known as Niesera Naman Nagpal 0070870325-1

I, Mohd Suaib S/o Nisar R/O 249, Village Ambetha Mohan, Saharanpur have changed my name to Mohd Ssuveb. 0070870377-1

I, Mohd Naved Yunus S/o Mohammad Yunus R/O 1319, Gali Chain Sukh Dass, Kailan Mahal, Darya Ganj, New Delhi-2, have changed my name to Mohammad Naved Yunus. 0040695412-1

I, Jitendra Bhati s/o Incha Ram r/o 266, GHONDLI Village, Krishna Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110051 have changed my name to Jitendra Singh Bhati. 0040695428-1

I, Ishant S/o Anil Gulati R/O:G-1/475, Dal Mill Road, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059 Have Changed My Name to Ishant Gulati for All Purposes. 0070870322-1

I, IFFAT SHAHEEN, W/O MOHAMMAD TASLIM ALI R/O 213, STREET NO.10, RAMESH PARK, LAXMI NAGAR, East Delhi-110091 have changed my name to IFFAT SHAHEEN KHANAM 0070870292-1

I, Deepa Bisht W/o Kamleshwar Bisht, R/o Plot No-137-138, 2nd Floor Pocket-19, Sector-24 Rohini, Rohini, North West Delhi-110085. I have changed the name of my minor daughter Myra Bisht aged about 11 Years and She shall hereafter be known as Shreemika Bisht 0070870328-1

I, Bharti Singh D/o Vinod Kumar Singhal R/O 1/5712, Balbir Nagar Chowk, Shahdara, Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Bharti D/o Vinod Kumar, for all purposes. 0040695387-1

I, Beena Pandey, W/o Pramod Kumar Pandey, R/O RZ-79, 2nd Floor, Gali No 5, Sukhiram Park, Uttam Nagar, West Delhi-110059 have changed my name to Vina Pandey 0070870302-1

I, Aman Kansal S/o Sh. G. Prish Chand Kansal R/O Flat No 9B, 9th Floor, Tower B7, SS The Leaf, Sector 85, Gurgaon, Haryana-122004 have changed the name of my minor daughter aged 11 yrs from Rhea to Rheena Kansal. 0070870295-1

I, Anand Verma S/o Sh. R. C. Verma, aged around 50 years, resident of Flat No.15, Aamarpari Apartments, Plot No.56, Indraprastha Extension, Patparganj, Delhi-110092 hereby declare through affidavit dated 23rd October, 2023 that Anand Verma and Anand Kumar Verma are the same person. For all future purpose my name will be used as Anand Verma only. 0040695381-1

I, Mohammad Nasim Khan S/O, Mohammad Yamin Khan R/o 225-2nd Floor Hazrat Nizamuddin West Near Qureshi Masjid South Delhi New Delhi-110013 have changed my name to Mohammad Naseem Khan. 0040695393-1

I, Amit Kumar S/o Shri Ved Pal Singh R/o Flat No. B-5, First Floor, Mayfield Garden, Sector-50, Nirvana Colony, Gurugram-122018 have changed the name of my minor daughter from Kaira to Kaira Sharma for all purposes. 0040695382-1

I, SABINA BABUL, D/O BABUL, ADD-1441, 2ND-FLOOR, GALI GONDI WALI , KALAN MAHAL DARYAGANJ, CENTRAL, DELHI-110002, changed my name to SABINA, for all future purposes. 00406955086-7

I hitherto known as Nidhi alias Nidhi Gusain D/O Ravinder Singh R/O H.No. S-169, Third Floor, Aram Bagh Chitragupta Road, Near Durga Pooja Park Pahar Ganj Central Delhi-110055, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Nidhi Gusain. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection. 0040694547-4

I Sanjeev Mehra r/o Shipra Krishna Vist, Indrapuram inform- original letter of possession is lost for my property at A-502, Ajnara Grace, Raj Nagar Extn. Finder may contact 9221210929 0040695388-1

Lost my allotment letter and possession letter related to my plot number-A-13, Sector Omicron-1, Plot-120, Square Meters, Greater Noida. Finder please contact. Ratnesk Kumar Singh, S/o- Shri Narsingh Resident, SF-09, EWS Society Beta-1, Greater Noida. 0040694547-1

My client Smt. Indu Jain W/o Abhinandan Jain R/o 112, Veer Nagar, Jain Colony, Rana Pratap Bagh Delhi is the registered owner of property bearing No. No. EX-675 Ground Floor, Central Market, Netaji Gali, Gandhi Nagar, Delhi-110031. The Original sale deed & released deed are registered vide Registration No. 4373, Addl. Book No. 1, Vol. No. 2304, Page No. 185 registered on dated 29/03/2006 and vide Registration No. 5357, Book No. 1, Vol. No. 155, Page No. 128 registered on dated 05/08/2017 in the office of Sub-Registrar VII, Delhi respectively. The same were deposited to ICICI Bank while my client Smt. Indu Jain and her share had the aforesaid registered documents of my client against which FIRNCR vide R/O No.1032800 Dated 17.10.23 was registered. If anyone finds said documents, please return/inform at above said address. 0040695467-10

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My client Mrs. Mona V/o Sh. Sandeep R/o WZ-542, Narela Village, South West Delhi, Delhi-110028 has ceased all her relations with her daughter Miss. Bhumika due to her bad habits my above-named client has also disowned and debarred her said daughter from all her movable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with Miss. Bhumika will do so at his/her own risk and responsibilities and my client will not be responsible for any deed or dealing done by Miss Bhumika. Anupama Sethi (Advocate) Off-Pkt-9, Basement, CC Market, Naraina, Delhi-110028.

"Public at large is hereby informed that our client Sh. Rajesh Chandra S/O Sh. R. K. Chauthan R/O B-212 Sant Sunder Saker Ji CGHS Ltd, Plot No. 21, Sector-12, Dwarka, New Delhi-78 was maintaining an Account No.870800010000545 with Punjab National Bank, Dwarka More, New Delhi and one of his cheque-book of the said account containing 20 signed cheques leaves (768851 to 768870) has been stolen/lost/misplaced in the year 2020 regarding which he has lodged an online FIR No.3881222023 on 28.04.2023. If any person, whomsoever he/she may be, for any purpose whatsoever, misused or intent to misuse any of the said stolen/lost misplaced cheques of our client, in future, our client shall not incur any liability qua any of the said cheques as the above-said account of our client stands closed w.e.f. 19.10.2023 due to the theft/loss of his aforesaid cheque- book in the year 2020. 0040695382-1

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The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking (OF THE BRIHANMUMBAI MAHANAGARPALIKA) TENDER NOTICE E-tender is Re-invited for the supply of following item.

SBI IT-Partner Relationship Department, State Bank of India, Global IT Centre, Sector 11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai - 400614 CORRIGENDUM-2

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE (Through e-tendering) Name of Work with its location Replacement of existing 8 Fiber OFC with 48 Fiber OFC & RE cable with 6 quad cable in remaining Delhi area of DLI Division.

UJVN LIMITED H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006 Telephone: 0135-22763808 Fax: 0135-2763508

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON (See Section 82 Cr. P.C.) Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely Manoj Sharma S/o Tara Chand R/o House No. D-93, South Ganesh Nagar, Shakarpur, Delhi and Village Kurthal, District-Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh has committed

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF PERSONS ACCUSED (See Section 82 Cr. P.C.) Whereas complaint has been made before me that three accused persons namely (1) Shabb Singh (2) Poonam (3) Suresh Chand R/o Nai Abadi Nglia Padma Near Ashayana State Colony Naina Jat Gwalior Road Agra UP Rathore Computers Near Khanujia Gokul Depot Naukaha Sadar Bazar Agra UP

Government of Jharkhand Directorate of Industries 3rd Floor, Nepal House, Doranda, Ranchi-834002 Advertisement PR No: 308705, Date: 09.10.2023 Very Short Term Tender Notice (2nd Call)

National Fisheries Development Board मत्स्यपालन विभाग/Department of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying मत्स्यपालन विभाग / Ministry of Fisheries, SVPNPA Post, Hyderabad-500052

PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE It is for the information of general public that the vehicle bearing registration number UP80DT7407 belonging to Sh. Gurtek Singh Sodhi S/o Sh. Kuldeep Singh Sodhi and the goods loaded in it will be put to public auction

Table with 5 columns: Sl. No, Description of goods, HSN Code, Quantity, Value. Includes items like POLYESTER FABRIC, LED FLOOD LIGHTS, FLOOR RUBBING MACHINE, NICKEL PLATES, COPPER WIRE, PVC WATER PIPES, PVC FOOTWEARS, BATHROOM FITTINGS, COSMETIC LIPSTIC, NAIL POLISH, LIPSTIC, LIQUID LIPSTIC, LADIES PURSE, SPORTS GOODS, FRIDGE STAND, MOBILE CHARGER, LED LIGHTS.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: The Successful bidder has to deposit 25% of the amount of the accepted bid by authority on the spot and the remaining amount, i.e. 75% of the amount of accepted bid within 15 days of auction date.

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

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

OFFICE OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR GUWAHATI METROPOLITAN DRINKING WATER AND SEWERAGE BOARD 1ST FLOOR, TRIPTI TOWER, GANESHGURI G. S. ROAD, GUWAHATI-781006 No. GJB/PMC/01/2023/01 REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

SALUTE THE SOLDIER ASI/EXE RAJENDRA PRASAD CISF UNIT, PGCIL WAGOORA CISF proudly remembers the supreme sacrifice of this brave-heart. On 27-10-2018, he laid down his lives at the altar of duty while fighting with the terrorists in J&K.

NATIONAL FERTILIZERS LIMITED (A Govt. of India Undertaking) Nangal Unit, Naya Nangal-140126 (Punjab) Tel. No.01887-220568, E-mail: ypbhagal@nfl.co.in TENDER NOTICE

ICICI Bank NBCC Place, Bisham Pitamah Marg, Pragati Vihar, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003. Regd. Office: ICICI Bank Limited, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodra- 390 007 Corporate Office : ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra- Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai- 400 051

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER Construction Division-2, P.W.D, Bulandshahr No. 3130/7A E- Tender Notice

Table with 6 columns: Sl. No, Name of Work, Estimated cost (Rs. Lacs), Bid Security (Rs. Lacs), Work Completion, Tender document fee including GST, Contractors Category. Lists various repair and construction works.

Government of Odisha, e-Procurement Notice INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) Bid Identification No. C.C.E.DK(R&B) 18/2023-24 Email Id-sedklpww@gmail.com

TATA POWER DELHI DISTRIBUTION LIMITED A Tata Power and Delhi Government Joint Venture Regd. Office: NDPL House, Hudson Lines, Kingsway Camp, Delhi 110 009

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER Construction Division-2, P.W.D, Bulandshahr No. 3130/7A E- Tender Notice

Table with 6 columns: Sl. No, Name of Work, Estimated cost (Rs. Lacs), Bid Security (Rs. Lacs), Work Completion, Tender document fee including GST, Contractors Category. Lists various repair and construction works.

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person named Hafizudeen @ Hafizul @ Happy Kana, S/o. Jafar, R/o. B-278, Jahangir Puri, Delhi, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 363/2023, dated 31.05.2023 U/s 380/454/34 IPC registered at P.S. Jagatpuri, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said Hafizudeen @ Hafizul @ Happy Kana cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Hafizudeen @ Hafizul @ Happy Kana has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said Hafizudeen @ Hafizul @ Happy Kana accused of FIR No. 363/2023, dated 31.05.2023 U/s 380/454/34 IPC P.S. Jagatpuri, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 19.12.2023

By Order Ms. Aayushi Saxena, Metropolitan Magistrate-05, Room No. 48, Shahdara District, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

DP/12144/SHD/2023

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(SEE SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person(s) Shekhar @ Arun S/o Sachin Dasse R/o H. No. 1325, Poltry Farm Vidhanand Colony, Sanoli Road, Panipat, Haryana has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in FIR No. 08/2021 U/s 363/354/354A/354B/509/34 IPC Act, PS Old Delhi (Delhi Main) Railway Station and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person(s) Shekhar @ Arun cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person(s) Shekhar @ Arun has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person(s) Shekhar @ Arun of FIR No. 08/2021 U/s 363/354/354A/354B/509/34 IPC Act, PS Old Delhi (Delhi Main) Railway Station is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before dated 04.12.2023.

By Order Sh. Muneesh Garg Additional Session Judge-01 (PCO) Central, Room No. 116, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/12030/Riy/2023 (Court Matter)

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI - 221004 E-TENDER NOTICE Date: 25.10.2023 No. EL/1131/W-1155/1.3R1 E-TENDER NOTICE

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY DHANBAD DIVISION - STORES DEPARTMENT OPEN TENDER Batch No-14/2023 Dt. 20/10/2023

E-TENDER NOTICE Open Tender Notice No. :- SPJ-ST-S-16-2023. DRM (S&T)/Samastipur invites open e-tender on behalf of President of India for following work.

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE (Through e-tendering) Tender No: 558-Sig/16/M/Tender/AMC/076/2023-24

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE INVITING TENDER 30-Elect-32-T-2023-24-E3 REPLACEMENT OF OVERHEAD CONDUCTOR WITH UNDERGROUND CABLES AND ASSOCIATED OTHERS WORK

SEARCH FOR MISSING BOY General public is here by informed that this boy namely Mandeep Yadav S/o Ashok Yadav R/o K-63, Khasra No. 631, Gali No. 4, Khadda Colony, Swaroop Nagar, Delhi Age : 19 years, Height : 5'7", Face: Long, Complexion : Wheatish, Build: Medium, wearing blue colour T-shirt and brown colour jeans, has been missing since 02.09.2023 from the jurisdiction of P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE WORKS DEPARTMENT E-mail- cewordbankprojects@gmail.com Bid Identification No. CE-W.B.P. (O) - 31/2023-24

Rural Works Department Notice Inviting Tender (No.-RWD/MMGSY(NDB)/HQ/ET/68/2023-24) Table-1 Description of the Works (CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF ROADS (A) / BRIDGES (B))

Table-2 Downloading of Bidding Documents From 13.11.2023 (0900 Hours) to 04.12.2023 (1500 Hours) Table-3