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24-HOUR DEADLINE ENDS TODAY, UN SAYS
civilians fleeing en masse calamitous

HAMAS CLAIMS 13 HOSTAGES KILLED IN
airstrikes, Israel says don't believe lies

Panic grips Gaza: Israel orders a million to vacate north, ground assault nears

Head south to save life, moving against Hamas, Israel minister tells civilians

ISABEL DEBRE, EDITH M LEIDERER & WAFAA SHURAFRA
JERUSALEM, OCTOBER 13

ISRAEL'S MILITARY told some 1 million Palestinians Friday to evacuate northern Gaza and head to the southern part of the besieged territory, an unprecedented order applying to almost half the population ahead of an expected ground invasion against the ruling Hamas militant group.

The UN warned that so many people fleeing en masse — with just a 24-hour deadline — would be calamitous.

Hamas, which staged a

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



shocking and brutal attack on Israel nearly a week ago and has fired thousands of rockets since. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**



Palestinians flee their homes in Gaza City on Friday. Reuters
RELATED REPORTS, PAGE 17



Source: Reuters

EXPLAINED BY MOVING its troops inside Gaza, Israel hopes to create a buffer between its civilian areas and the Strip under Hamas. This will squeeze Gaza's 2 million people in a very small area.



Performers rehearse for the pre-match ceremony at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. Nirmal Harindran

Chicago Chacha, sound of garba, as Rohit and Babar dial down hype before Big Game today

SANDEEP DWIVEDI
AHMEDABAD, OCTOBER 13

ON THE gates of the Narendra Modi Stadium, the lone Pakistan fan, Mohammad Bashir aka Chicago Chacha, is surrounded by television reporters, fans and passers-by. Bashir is in high demand, he's the rare voice from the opposition. It's noon time and there are sweat beads on the 68-year-old's forehead but the questions are unending. Chacha is being coaxed to say that India will win.

"I can't say that," he says. "The best team should win."

An hour later, Pakistan skipper Babar Azam is asked about the prospect of playing in a stadium with 1.3 lakh capacity that might have Chacha as the token

Pakistani in the stands. He handles it well and says, "If the Pakistani fans were allowed, it would have been good ... But when we arrived in Hyderabad, I felt there were a lot of supporters of the Pakistan team and I expect the same here."

Going by the sights at the previous India games in Chennai and New Delhi, and piles of fake merchandise being hawked on the road leading to the stadium, Ahmedabad too will be a sea of blue on match day.

The press box, meanwhile, finally got Pakistan representation as journalists from across the border got the visa to travel for the World Cup.

"Salaam alaikum, Babar," a veteran sports scribe from Pakistan opens the pre-game **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

Israel releases images of infants killed by Hamas

JOHN DAVIDSON, HUMEYRA PAMUK & SABINE SIEBOLD
JERUSALEM, TEL AVIV, BRUSSELS, OCTOBER 13

ISRAEL'S GOVERNMENT showed US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and NATO defence ministers graphic images of dead children and civilians, saying they were killed by Palestinian group Hamas as it builds support for its response.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office also released on social media a picture of a dead infant in a pool of blood and the charred body of a child, part of an apparent effort to stoke global anger against the Gaza militants over last Saturday's attack.

Blinken, who flew into Tel Aviv Thursday, told reporters he was shown photographs and videos of a baby riddled with bullets, soldiers beheaded and young people burned alive in **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

FIRST FLIGHT FROM ISRAEL LANDS

'Each blast seemed closer, siren wail never stopped... happy we are home'

UPASIKA SINGHAL & SAMAN HUSAIN
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13

THE WAILING siren, the boom of a distant bombing: Simchat Torah last Saturday seemed to have begun on a slightly unusual note for many Indian citizens in Israel.

As the explosions grew louder, and appeared closer each



TERRORISM AGAINST HUMANITY: PM
PAGE 8

time, people huddled together in bomb shelters soon realised that what was unfolding this time was "different" — the Hamas had infiltrated Israel and launched a wave of killings, targeting mostly civilians.

"I woke early Saturday to the sound of sirens," recalled Ankit Kumar, an electrical engineering PhD scholar from the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

Killing of two students in Manipur: CBI nabs suspect hiding in Pune

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13

THE CENTRAL Bureau of Investigation has arrested from Pune a key suspect in the abduction and killing of two Meitei students from Imphal three months ago, which led to widespread protests in Manipur.

Identifying the suspect as Paolun Mang, 22, CBI officers said he fled from Manipur after the crime and had been hiding in Pune. They said he was nabbed on October 11 and produced before the designated court in Guwahati, which gave the probe agency his custody till October 16.

The suspect is being questioned by the CBI for further details in the case. Hijam Linthoingami (17) and Phijam Hemjit (20), the two Meitei students, went missing on July 6 this year. Photos of their bodies surfaced on September 25, leading to a fresh round of protests in the state.

A team led by the CBI special director has been conducting operations to nab the suspects, officials said, adding **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

Declared foreigner 6 years ago, woman in Assam gets a clean chit: 'Who's responsible?'

SUKRITA BARUAH
GUWAHATI, OCTOBER 13

"WHY WAS I detained for two years and ten days? Who is responsible for the suffering and hardship?"

There were no immediate answers to 48-year-old Dulubi Bibi's questions on Friday, days after she was declared an Indian

citizen following what seemed like a never-ending nightmare. It was in 2017 that Bibi was declared a "foreigner" by a Foreigners' Tribunal in Assam **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**



Dulubi Bibi, 48

INSIDE

BENGALURU: I-T SEIZES RS 42 CR IN RAID ON CIVIL CONTRACTOR
PAGE 9

2 BENGAL ARTISANS BEATEN TO DEATH IN GUJARAT ON THEFT CHARGE
PAGE 10

HC dismisses NewsClick founder's plea against UAPA

MALAVIKA PRASAD
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13

THE DELHI High Court Friday dismissed pleas by NewsClick founder and Editor-in-Chief Prabir Purkayastha and its Human Resource head Amit Chakravarty challenging their arrest and the subsequent police remand order in a case lodged against them under the anti-terrorism law, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act or UAPA.

The High Court rejected their contention they should have been provided the grounds of arrest when apprehended by police and said the UAPA does not mandate furnishing written grounds and only speaks of the accused being "informed" about the reasons for arrest. The court said it would be "advisable" that the police henceforth provide the grounds of arrest in writing to an accused after redacting "sensitive material".

After considering the contents of the police's remand application, a single-judge bench of Justice Tushar Rao Gedela said, **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

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Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



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Achievements of Women

in Various Fields



by

Yogi Adityanath

Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

In the August Presence of

Baby Rani Maurya

Minister, Women's Welfare, Child Development and Nutrition, Uttar Pradesh

Time : 11:00 AM | Venue : Lok Bhawan Auditorium, Lucknow

Date : 14th October, 2023

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- Women Empowerment Rally in all districts
- Public Awareness Programmes focusing on government schemes dedicated to the welfare of women and girls
- Prabhat Pheri in schools
- Public Awareness Programmes in all 57,705 Gram Panchayats and 14,000 Wards
- Women Empowerment Programmes at Gram Sabha, Durga Puja Pandal, Temple, Ward and Mohalla level
- Mega event 'Haq Ki Baat with District Magistrate'
- Durga Shakti Mega Safety Workshop
- Shakti Workshop
- Yuva Shakti Rehabilitation Workshop
- Adoption Week Celebration
- Child Rights Awareness Programme
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EXCISE POLICY CASE: AAP MP SENT TO 14-DAY JUDICIAL CUSTODY

No political speeches in court, judge cautions Sanjay Singh

NIRBHAY THAKUR & MALAVIKA PRASAD
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13



The AAP MP was arrested last week by the ED. Archive

A DELHI court Friday sent AAP MP Sanjay Singh to 14-day judicial custody in a money laundering case related to the alleged Delhi excise policy 'scam', while cautioning him not to give political speeches inside the court.

Special Judge MK Nagpal cautioned Singh after the latter alleged that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) did not work on the complaint he gave them against a business tycoon.

"No unrelated matter. If you give speeches about Modi and Adani, I'll ask for production through video conferencing from now onwards," said the judge.

Singh further called the ED an "entertainment department", alleging that during his 8-day custody, he was questioned for just three hours, that too on irrelevant matters. "All they asked me was why did I take money from my mother, why I sent Rs 10,000 to my wife's account. It has become entertainment department, lies after lies," Singh told the court.

He had also moved an appli-

cation requesting the court to allow certain medicines and books to him in custody. Among the 16 books requested by Singh were 'My Experiments with Truth' by MK Gandhi, 'Why I'm an Atheist' by Bhagat Singh, and books authored by Gail Omvedt and Ram Manohar Lohia. Judge Nagpal allowed this application.

Meanwhile, the Delhi High Court Friday sought the ED's response to Singh's plea challenging his arrest. A single-judge bench of Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma granted time to ED's counsel Zoheb Hossain to file a response. It listed the matter for October 17. Appearing for Singh, senior advocate Vikram Chaudhari argued it was a case of rampant abuse of process of law. Chaudhari submitted that the

CBI first registered its FIR in the excise policy case on August 17, 2022, and to date, the agency has not called his client for any investigation. He further submitted that the ED also registered its Enforcement Case Information Report on August 22, 2022; In one year and two months, no summons, or notice under Section 50 PMLA has been issued to his client "even till today", he said.

Challenging Singh's procedure of arrest, he pointed to Section 19 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, arguing that "an officer will not arrest a person unless he has already got material in his possession on the basis of which he will record reasons in writing that the person who is being arrested is guilty".

On the SC's recent judgment in M3M directors Pankaj Bansal and Basant Bansal's case, he said, "The SC said in this judgment the ED is a premier investigating agency of the country and its attitude and action must be couched in fairness... the SC said ED can't be vindictive while carrying out investigations. Despite this sage counsel by the SC, they appear to continue to indulge in what they believe to be correct."

LADO SARAI STABBING

'Victim complained against accused in office, had started WFH as stalking grew'

ARNABJIT SUR
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13

IT WAS AT an office party around two years ago when Gaurav Pal allegedly tried to misbehave with his colleague, Chandrika Malik, for the first time; over the next few months, as the misbehaviour turned into harassment, the 23-year-old took the matter up with the management. She complained against him on at least one more occasion after which Pal was eventually fired, and since then, had allegedly been holding a grudge against the woman. As he started keeping track of her movement, accosting her multiple times, the woman took to working from home to avoid running into Pal, according to her family members.

But on Thursday, as she stepped out to appear for a job interview, Pal, 27, again waylaid her and stabbed her over a dozen times, while she was boarding a taxi in Lado Sarai, inflicting critical injuries on her head, face, neck and thighs. According to Malik's

family, they had approached the police at least four times to complain about Pal. The police, however, deny the claim.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, the victim, who was operated upon after sustaining a cut below the jaw which tore her artery, said, "I am in a lot of pain right now...I hope to recover soon..."

Contrary to police's claim, Malik denied that Pal was her ex-boyfriend. "I was never in a relationship with him and always avoided meeting him. But, he kept persisting and troubling me," she said.

"I complained against him at the company where we worked together and he got fired thereafter," she said. The police, however, insisted that the IPC section pertaining to stalking had not been invoked since as per investigation so far, it has come to the fore that the accused and the woman were in a relationship. Though the victim wanted to end the relationship, Pal, who works at a private firm in Ghaziabad, in-



Accused Gaurav Pal

sisted on continuing it, the police said. Police insisted that they had not found any written complaints by the victim at both the police stations which the family claimed to have approached.

DCP (South) Chandan Choudhary said that they received a PCR call on September 10 in which the woman informed them about a man who was standing in front of her house and harassing her.

After a team rushed to the spot, inquiry revealed that Pal was arguing with her over some borrowed money. "We did not take any action against Pal because the woman refused to lodge a case or

Contrary to police's claim, Malik denied that Pal was her ex-boyfriend. "I was never in a relationship with him," she said

take any action against him. She introduced him as her fiancée..." added the DCP.

The woman's mother Shakuntala, a domestic help, alleged that Pal had been troubling her daughter ever since she stopped talking to him after he harassed her at their office. "I kept asking her what was wrong as she initially hid it from me...she later confided that she was being troubled by Pal...she had taken up work from home permanently as she was scared to go out thinking he was tracking her activities and would suddenly show up," she claimed. "Before shifting to Lado Sarai, we lived in Saidulajab where we approached the Mehrauli police station twice to complain about Pal following and

troubling my daughter, and trying to barge into our house besides accosting her whenever she used to go to office...however, those complaints were not looked into and converted into FIRs," she alleged.

She further said that after they moved to Lado Sarai, they lodged an online complaint against Pal first on September 10 and then on September 27, at the Saket Police Station. However, no action was taken, alleged the family.

According to the mother, her daughter's phone, which has online copies of the complaints filed by her, has been seized by police as case material. Officers said that the phone is yet to be unlocked, following which its contents will be analysed.

The victim's uncle said she had recently given the Delhi Police's constabulary exam and was simultaneously pursuing an open college BA Programme degree from Delhi University.

"She is the eldest in a family of five siblings..." he said. "She told us that Pal even threatened to kill her if she survived the stabbing," he alleged.

'No info shared with minister over action taken in implant issue'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13



Patients are supposed to get implants for free at Sushruta Trauma Centre. Archive

DUE TO THE recent amendment in the GNCTD Act, Health Department officials did not share any information with the office of the Delhi health minister on whether any action had been initiated in the issue of implants at the Delhi government-run Sushruta Trauma Centre, the health minister's office has said.

The response came following a report by *The Indian Express* on how touts were allegedly forcing patients to pay for implants, which they are supposed to get for free, at the government hospital. "Secretary (Health & Family Welfare), GNCTD, was directed to provide a detailed report by September 21 regarding availability and shortage of orthopaedic implants in all Delhi government hospitals. The same was not provided by the Secretary till date," the office of the Delhi Health Minister, Saurabh Bharadwaj, said.

It further stated that the Secretary, Health & Family Welfare, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD), was also directed to conduct a vigilance inquiry into the issue of non-availability of orthopaedic implants in government hospitals and the report to be submitted in three weeks. "However, due to the recent amendment in the GNCTD Act, this action too was either not initiated by the department or if

initiated, no information was sent," said the minister's office.

The office stated that in April, long before the issue of orthopaedic implants was raised by the media, an expert committee comprising members with domain expertise and past experience in preparing technical specifications of the devices was constituted on the directions of Bharadwaj. The panel was supposed to develop or formulate technical specifications of all orthopaedic implants used in Delhi government hospitals, it noted.

"This issue of non-availability of implants was reiterated by the health minister at one-to-one meetings held with the medical superintendents of Delhi government hospitals," it said.

The GNCTD (Amendment) Act, 2023, which came into force in August, bolsters the Centre's control over the administration of Delhi through the L-G, giving the latter "sole discretion" to act in matters that fall out of the ambit of the Delhi Legislative Assembly.

Transport dept nod to premium bus, cab aggregator policies

GAYATHRI MANI
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13

THE TRANSPORT department has cleared the much-awaited premium bus and cab aggregator policies and the file has been sent to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for further approval, said officials.

Confirming the development, Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot said, "Making the public transport system safe and strong is the priority of the Kejriwal government. The cab aggregator policy in Delhi is part of that. The aggregator policy has been finalised after public suggestions. It caters to the interests of passengers and several provisions have been made for their safety during their journey." He said once the policy is implemented, app-based cab drivers in Delhi will have to register with the government.

The key target of this policy is also to increase the number of e-vehicles in Delhi. "By 2030, all app-based cabs and delivery services providers will be electric. The policy has been sent to Chief Minister Kejriwal for approval," Gahlot added.

Under the cab aggregator policy, rules and legalisation of 'Bike Taxis', aggregators providing pas-

senger services and delivery services providers etc, were proposed. It says that Delhi has never permitted bike taxis to operate in the city and under the new policy, all bike taxis and two-wheeler renting services in the city shall only be via electric two-wheelers. These provisions are in line with the Delhi EV Policy 2020, said officials.

While the draft scheme does not clearly talk about 'surge pricing' which is currently being charged by the cab aggregators, it said aggregators will have to comply with the transport department to provide 'on-demand' service mobility.

The government has also set a timeline for the aggregators to convert to electric vehicles. For example, 5% of the new onboarded cars need to be electric in the first six months of the scheme. While the two-wheeler (goods carrier) and three-wheeler (passenger and goods carrier) will have to convert by 10% of their fleet.

Four years after its notification, all new commercial two and three-wheelers will need to be 100% EV. Similarly, after five years, all new commercial four-wheelers need to be EVs. The aggregator and delivery service provider will be mandated to switch to an all-electric fleet by April 1, 2030.

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OPPO TRIES TO FLIP AWAY FOLDABLE PAIN POINTS WITH THE FIND N3 FLIP

Oppo was quick to enter the foldable race with the Find N series. Now, it has come to a point in the development of this form factor where it wants to solve the pain points associated with foldables. And that seems to be the focus of the Find N3 Flip, its new clamshell-type foldable.



RESEARCH

HOW PALESTINE AND ISRAEL CAME TO BE

The conflict is steeped in religion, politics and shifting borders



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EXPRESS AUDIO

India on Israel Hamas war, hottest September ever, and death of two students

In 3 Things, we discuss why did MEA take time to issue a statement on Israel-Hamas war, what does September's temperatures say about climate change, and why did two students die in Jharkhand.

FROM PAGE ONE FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Gaza: Israel orders a million to vacate north

dismissed it as a ploy and called on people to stay in their homes. The evacuation order, which includes Gaza City, home to hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, sparked widespread panic among civilians and aid workers already running from Israeli airstrikes and contending with a total siege and a territory-wide blackout.

"Forget about food, forget about electricity, forget about fuel. The only concern now is just if you'll make it, if you're going to live," said Nebal Farsakh, a spokesperson for the Palestinian Red Crescent in Gaza City, as she broke into heaving sobs.

The war has already claimed over 2,800 lives on both sides and sent tensions soaring across the region. Israel has also traded fire with Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group, sparking fears of an ever wider conflict, though that frontier is currently calm.

Weekly Muslim prayers brought protests across the Middle East, and tensions ran high in Jerusalem's Old City. The Islamic endowment that manages a flashpoint holy site in the city, the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, said Israeli authorities barred all Palestinian men under the age of 50 from entering.

Israel has bombarded Gaza round-the-clock since a weekend attack in which Hamas fighters stormed into the country's south and massacred hundreds, including children in their homes and

young people at a music festival. Militants also snatched some 150 people and dragged them into Gaza. Hamas said Israel's airstrikes killed 13 of the hostages in the past day. It said the dead included foreigners but did not give their nationalities.

Israeli military spokesperson Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari denied that, telling Al-Jazeera Arabic that "we have our own information and do not believe the lies of Hamas." Israel said Thursday it would allow no supplies into Gaza until Hamas frees the hostages.

The military urged civilians in Gaza's north to move south — an order that the UN said affects 1.1 million people. If carried out, that would mean the territory's entire population cramming into roughly the southern half of the strip, which is only 40 kilometres long, even as Israeli strikes continued Friday to hammer neighbourhoods across southern Gaza.

Israel said it needed to target Hamas' military infrastructure, much of which is buried deep underground. Another spokesperson, Jonathan Conricus, said the military would take "extensive efforts to avoid harming civilians" and that residents would be allowed to return when the war is over. Hamas militants operate in civilian areas, where Israel has long accused them of using Palestinians as human shields. A mass evacuation of civilians, if carried out, would leave their fight-

ers exposed as never before.

"The camouflage of the terrorists is the civil population," Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said at a news conference with US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin. "Therefore, we need to separate them. So those who want to save their lives, please go south."

But UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said it would be impossible to stage such an evacuation without "devastating humanitarian consequences." He called on Israel to rescind any such orders, saying they could "transform what is already a tragedy into a calamitous situation."

Hamas, meanwhile, called on Palestinians to stay in their homes, saying Israel "is trying to create confusion among citizens and harm the cohesion of our internal front." It urged Palestinians to ignore what it said was "psychological warfare."

Gaza's Health Ministry said it was not possible to evacuate the many wounded from hospitals — already struggling with high numbers of dead and injured — and that hospital staff would not heed the warning. "We cannot evacuate hospitals and leave the wounded and sick to die," said spokesperson Ashraf al-Qidra.

The UN agency for Palestinian refugees, known as UNRWA, also said it would not evacuate its schools, where hundreds of thousands have taken shelter. But it relocated its headquarters to south-

ern Gaza, according to spokesperson Juliette Touma.

Pressed by reporters on whether the army would protect hospitals, UN shelters and other civilian locations, Hagari, the Israeli military spokesperson, warned that "it's a war zone." He added: "If Hamas prevents residents from evacuating, the responsibility lies with them."

Clive Baldwin, a senior legal adviser at the New York-based Human Rights Watch, said "ordering a million people in Gaza to evacuate, when there's no safe place to go, is not an effective warning."

"The roads are rubble, fuel is scarce, and the main hospital is in the evacuation zone," he said. "World leaders should speak up now before it is too late."

The evacuation order was taken as a further signal of an already expected Israeli ground offensive, though no such decision has been announced.

Neighboring Egypt has meanwhile taken "unprecedented measures" to reinforce its border with Gaza, a senior Egyptian security official said. Egypt, which made peace with Israel decades ago and has long served as a regional mediator, is staunchly opposed to resettling Palestinians on its territory, both because of the costs involved and because it would undermine their quest for an independent state.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Images of children killed by Hamas

their cars or hideaways.

"It's simply depravity in the worst imaginable way," Blinken told a news briefing. "Images are worth a thousand words. These images may be worth a million."

Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant played a video to his counterparts at NATO's Brussels headquarters that he said showed horrific scenes from the surprise Hamas attack. "Children were tied up and shot. Yes, I repeat, children, tied up and shot," he told fellow ministers by video link according to a text of his address sent to Reuters.

In a message on the social media site X, Netanyahu's office released what it said were "horrifying photos of babies murdered and burned by the Hamas monsters". It added: "Hamas is inhuman. Hamas is ISIS," comparing the Palestinian group to the Islamic State, which was notorious for its brutality and gory execution videos.

The images of the dead infants were included in the video played to NATO.

It was not released to the public, but was later seen by Reuters in Jerusalem. Reuters could not independently verify the material.

"They were horrific pictures of the attacks and the victims of the attacks," NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg told reporters, saying it "confirmed the brutality of the attacks".

In quotes published by Hamas, deputy Hamas chief, Saleh Al-Aroui, said: "The plan was to target the army's Gaza team and fight occupation soldiers only."

But the White House said it had no reason to doubt the authenticity of the images. Authenticated video footage and witness accounts paint a picture of a Hamas ground assault and rocket barrages that ripped communities apart.

The video shown to NATO, apparently taken from a mix of social media published by Hamas and unidentified phone videos, showed the bodies of scores of dead civilians, as well as the body of an Israeli soldier in uniform with his head missing.

There were no images to suggest militants had beheaded babies — a particularly explosive accusation that first emerged in Israel's media and initially confirmed by Israeli officials.

REUTERS

Rohit and Babar dial down hype before Big Game today

press conference. Pleasantly surprised, the Pakistan captain would look around the room, trace the familiar face and give a beaming welcoming smile. The question turns to be about Pakistan's World Cup jinx against India and their seven straight defeats. Babar's expression changes. "Such records are made to be broken and I try to break them..."

Ahmedabad isn't in a mood to even contemplate that result. India's dominating wins in the first two games make them the runaway favourite for the tournament. The cricket fever might be missing on the city streets but sounds of Navratri, the festival when the state plays garba, that starts on Sunday is already in the air. Just before the Indian team arrived to train under lights, a group of dancers were on the turf. The rehearsal for the pre-game entertainment show too had a garba

flavour.

Once Rohit Sharma and his men entered the arena the drum beats went silent. The Indian captain, at the press conference, was asked about the crowd. It was about the pressure of delivering a win to a partisan crowd. When does home advantage become home disadvantage? Rohit made a face, pursed his lips and thought for a while.

"I don't think it's a disadvantage. My overall experience in India and outside India, I have never experienced a situation where crowds have gone against us," he said.

Rohit was stating facts. The last time India played in a World Cup in a stadium this big was in 2015. It was when they faced Australia at the second-biggest cricket stadium in the world — the MCG. Even in Melbourne the Indians had almost outnumbered the lo-

HC on NewsClick founder's plea

"It appears that the substratum of the allegations which would comprise the reasons for arrest is indeed contained in the said application."

The court said it was undisputed that the remand application was given in writing to Purkayastha's counsel during the remand proceedings within 24 hours of his arrest. Further, his counsel did participate in the remand proceedings but opposed it "telephonically directly to the Special Judge", the remand order noted.

"The petition, being devoid of any merit, along with pending applications, is dismissed," the court said in its order passed on the petition by the portal's founder. "After examining the entire issue in the right perspective, it appears as of now that the grounds of arrest were indeed conveyed to the petitioner, as soon as may be, after the arrest and as such, there does not appear to be any procedural infirmity or violation of the provisions of the Section 43B of the UAPA or the Article 22(1) of the Constitution of India and as such, the arrest is in accordance with law," the court stated.

Comparing the provisions of arrest under Section 19(1) and

Section 19(2) of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act and Section 43A and 43B of the UAPA, the HC observed that there is a "distinction". Reading both PMLA sections together, the court said for the purpose of arrest, an authorised officer should not only have materials with him giving him "reasons to believe" that a person is guilty of an offence under the act but such reasons should also be "recorded in writing before effecting arrest of any person". "In other words, unless such reasons are recorded in writing and available with the officer, the arrest de hors (without) such recorded reasons would be void ab initio," the HC said.

It then said no such provision is present in Section 43B of UAPA, wherein "reasons to believe" for arrest need not be recorded in writing. The court said there isn't a similar legal obligation cast upon the authorities under Sections 43A and 43B and thus, the Supreme Court's decision in Pankaj Bansal's case is not "squarely applicable" to a UAPA case. It hence said there was no "procedural infirmity or violation of the provisions of the Section 43B of the UAPA or the Article 22(1) of the Constitution of India".

Assam woman gets a clean chit

because of inconsistencies in her name in the voter lists, and sent to a detention camp where she spent two years.

But the ordeal started much earlier — 1997, in fact. A resident of Khaspur village in Assam's Cachar district, Bibi first came under the scanner of the Electoral Registration Officer during the revision of electoral rolls from the Udharbond assembly constituency that year. Her name, listed as Dulubi Bibi in the draft electoral roll, had not featured in earlier voter lists, which cast a doubt on her citizenship.

A case was registered under the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act the following year, but it was only in 2015 that she received a notice from the Foreigners' Tribunal. On March 20, 2017, the tribunal declared her a "foreigner" who had entered the country after March 25, 1971. Six years on, it has been established that the Dulubi Bibi in the 1997 electoral roll was the same person as Dulubjan Begum in the 1993 voter list, and details of her father and grandfather could be traced to the 1965 voter lists.

In the interim, she spent two years in a detention camp in Silchar before she was released on bail on April 27, 2020. "After I was released, I had to keep travelling up and down from Silchar by myself, without my husband, because it was too expensive for both of us," she said, adding that each trip cost her around Rs 600.

After she was declared a foreigner in 2017, Bibi approached the Gauhati High Court, armed with voter lists going back to 1965 that contained the names of her grandfather and father. Her grandfather's name appeared as Majmil Ali in the 1965 voter list. The 1985 voter list contained the name of her father as Sirai Mia Laskar, son of Majmil Ali Laskar, while the 1993 voter list referred to him as Sirai Mia, son of Majmil Ali. The 1993 voter list referred to her as Dolubjan Begum, daughter of Sirai

Mia. Bibi pointed to this continuity to prove that she is an Indian citizen.

The High Court, in April, acknowledged that if this continuity were confirmed, she would have discharged the burden of proof. However, the court stated that it first had to be confirmed whether Majmil Ali and Majmil Ali Laskar, Sirai Mia and Sirai Mia Laskar, and Dolubjan Begum and Dulubi Bibi — different names in the different voter lists — were the same people. The court remanded the matter back to the tribunal to examine and verify what Bibi was referring to, and pass an order accordingly.

In an order dated October 7, the Foreigners' Tribunal 3 in Silchar stated that on the basis of documents submitted, it found "very much detailed information of relationship of (Bibi's) family members, which reveals the continuity of the family". It declared that she "is a Citizen of India born out of Indian Citizens living in Indian soil".

Silchar-based social activist Kamal Chakraborty, who assisted Bibi with her case, said: "The problem is inconsistencies in different voter lists. Across the country, people have never seen what their names are listed as in voting lists, but this has huge consequences for people whose citizenship is under the scanner."

Citizenship is a contentious issue in Assam, where allegations often emerge that the state has a large number of "illegal immigrants" from Bangladesh. In August 2019, an updated National Register of Citizens was published in an effort to identify "foreigners", which left out 19 lakh people. Section 6A of the Citizenship Act establishes March 24, 1971 as the cut-off date for entry into the state, meaning that those who came afterwards would be considered "illegal immigrants". The final NRC was also conducted with this cut-off date.

Manipur killing of students- CBI

that four people from the Kuki community, including two women, had earlier been arrested.

Identifying them as Paominlun Haokip, S Malsawn Haokip, Lhingneichong Baite and Tinneilning Henthang, a CBI spokesperson said that after the central agency took over the probe on the request of the Manipur government two cases were registered on August 23.

Earlier, the father of the minor girl had filed a complaint with the

Manipur Police, saying she did not return home from her coaching centre at the usual time.

"On enquiry, they came to know that she left the coaching centre along with the 20-year-old on a motorbike. Next day, when her mother made a call on her mobile, the daughter responded but suddenly stopped. The mother allegedly heard a few words which were not in Meitei/Manipuri but seemed to be a tribal dialect," an officer said.

'Each blast seemed closer'

in Be'er Sheva, less than 50 km from the Gaza Strip. "I didn't see bombings regularly, maybe twice in the two years I have been here... It had been normalised. But this time it was different," Kumar, who has been studying in Israel since October 2021, said.

He was among the 220 Indians who returned from Israel on a special chartered flight as part of Operation Ajay — the aircraft reached Delhi Friday morning and a second flight is to depart in the evening.

Poushali Mukherjee, another Ph.D student from Ben-Gurion University, recalled how the frequency of the sirens and the intensity of the explosions spiralled within minutes. "At first, the sirens rang every hour and each time we were escorted to a bomb shelter... Then at some point they didn't stop ringing; I could hear bombs going off nearby constantly," she said.

Sony Sharma from Rajasthan, who has been studying in Israel for the last two years, recalled how the situation last Saturday was far from normal, unlike anything she had witnessed during

her stint so far. "Getting out of dorms had become a problem... We didn't feel very safe, it was scary, the violence was at its peak on Saturday... I had never seen the situation like it was," she said.

Aanchal Choudhary, who is pursuing a Ph.D in Neuroscience from Ariel University, said she lives near the West Bank and witnessed armed assailants entering the city before engaging Israeli defence personnel.

"I was terrified as the situation continued escalating and decided to contact a bus driver I was familiar with to take me to the airport. Armed forces personnel patrolling the routes helped me reach (the airport) safely," she said.

Congress MLA from Karnataka T B Jayachandran, among those evacuated from Israel, said the state government was coordinating with the Indian Embassy in Israel to rescue the sizable Karnataka community there. "We have been emphasising to all Indians that there is no need to panic because the issue is under control," he said.



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Shri Shripad Yesso Naik
Hon'ble Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways & Tourism, GOI



Shri Sarbananda Sonowal
Hon'ble Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways & AYUSH, GOI



Shri Shantanu Thakur
Hon'ble Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, GOI

PROMINENT SPEAKERS



Shri Nitin Gadkari
Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport & Highways, GOI



Smt Nirmala Sitharaman
Hon'ble Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, GOI



Shri Piyush Goyal
Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry, Textiles, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, GOI



Shri Dharmendra Pradhan
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Ms Madadh MacLaine
Secretary General, Zero Emissions Ship Technology Association



Mr Arjun Chowgule
ED & CFO, Chowgule and Company Private Limited



Mr Cristian Valdes Carter
Country Director & Commercial Counsellor, Innovation Norway, Royal Norwegian Embassy



Dr Michael Bucki
Counsellor, European Commission



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President, Port of Barcelona



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Mr Kensuke Ito
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Mr Subrat Tripathy
CEO - Ports, Adani Ports & SEZ Ltd.



Mr Dhruv Kotak
MD, JM Baxi Group



Mr Harrie de Leijer
Partner, STC Nestra, Netherland



Mohammad Abdulrazaq Alawadhi
VP, Drydocks World



Commodore Ashok Khetan (Retd)
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Director of Asia Region, Costa Crociere



Capt M P Bhasin
MD, MSC Crewing Services



Mr Regis Caze
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Mr Jonathan Goldner
Regional MD, Asia & Middle East, APM Terminals



Mr René Pili Pedersen
MD, AP Moller Singapore Pte Ltd



Shri Arun Maheswari
Joint MD & CEO, JSW Infrastructure

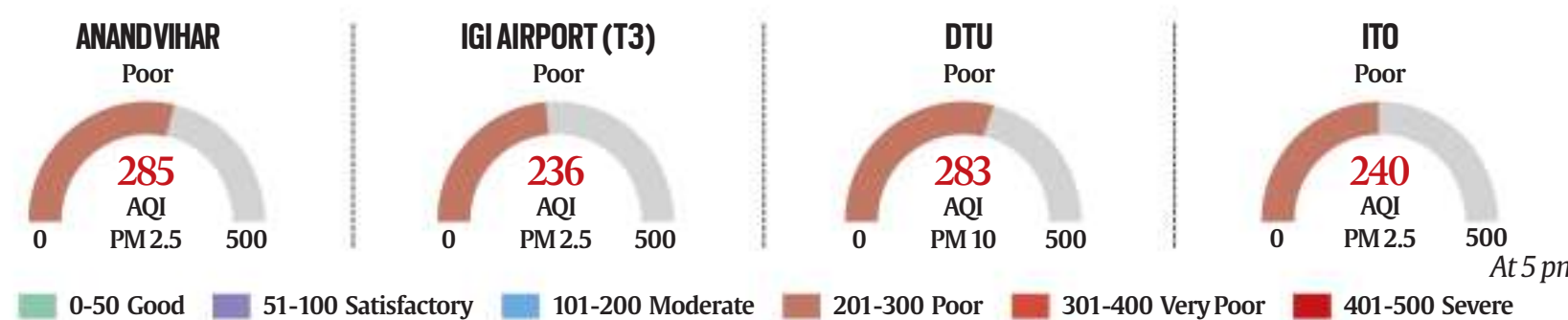


Ms Elisabetta de Nardo
VP- Port Development, MSC Cruises



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6 THE CITY



SKYWATCH
FORECAST: October 14
 Partly cloudy sky
MAX: 36 **MIN: 20**
 2.8°C above normal 0.4°C above normal

Winter knocking, PMO chairs meeting on air quality in Delhi-NCR

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13

AHEAD OF the beginning of the winter season, Dr PK Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Friday chaired a meeting of the High-Level Task Force to review preparedness of various stakeholders to deal with the issue of adverse air quality in Delhi-NCR.

In a statement, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said, "During the meeting, Principal Secretary discussed in detail about various measures being undertaken to reduce impact of different sources of air pollution including industrial pollution; vehicular pollution; dust from construction and demolition (C&D) activities; dust from roads and ROWs (Right of Way); burning of municipal solid waste (MSW), biomass & misc. waste; agricultural stubble burning; and dispersed sources. Greening and plantation initiatives to abate air pollution were also deliberated."

The Principal Secretary also discussed implementation of Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), its monitoring and measures to improve its enforcement at field level. "He said strict implementation of actions listed in the GRAP by all concerned is critical to prevent worsening of air quality," the statement said.

During the meeting, Dr M M

Kutty, Chairman, Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), said industries of NCR are switching to cleaner fuels, and out of 240 industrial areas, as many as 211 have already been provided CNG connection.

"Similarly, out of 7,759 fuel-based industries, 7,449 have shifted to PNG/approved fuels," the statement said.

"Chairman, CAQM, also briefed that there has been an increase in e-vehicles and presently, 4,12,393 e-vehicles are registered in NCR. The number of e-buses and battery charging stations has also increased and now there are 4,793 EV charging points in Delhi," the statement said.

"Chairman, CAQM, also briefed that there has been an increase in e-vehicles and presently, 4,12,393 e-vehicles are registered in NCR. The number of e-buses and battery charging stations has also increased and now there are 4,793 EV charging points in Delhi," the statement said.

The statement further noted: "As regards C&D waste management, CAQM informed that 5 C&D waste processing facilities with the capacity of 5150 tonnes per day (TPD) are operationalised and one more facility with 1000 TPD capacity is in pipeline in Delhi."

In an effort to ensure reduction in cases of paddy stubble burning across Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, the Principal Secretary instructed close monitoring of the issue by the Chief Secretaries of the three states, according to the statement.

"He advised in-situ management of paddy stubble through Crop Residue Management machines, and use of bio-decomposers. He also advised the Indian

Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) to improve technology. Elaborating on ex-situ management of paddy stubble, he advised working on developing economic use of paddy straw. He stressed on developing adequate storage facilities for baled straw along with infrastructure for baling, briquetting and pelleting etc. for effective ex-situ utilisation of paddy straw. Further, strict adherence to the stipulated targets for co-firing of biomass, with focus on paddy straw, in the thermal power plants biomass was also discussed," the statement added.

Further, there should be intensified drives to replace over-aged vehicles, vehicles which are visibly polluting because of overloading and other reasons, and stricter implementation of actions envisaged in the GRAP by all concerned, it added.

As per the statement, the meeting was attended by all major stakeholders including secretaries to the Government of India in Ministries of Environment, Agriculture, Power, Petroleum, Road Transport & Highways, Housing and Urban Affairs, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, besides the CAQM in NCR and Adjoining Areas, Chief Secretaries of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and NCT of Delhi, Central Pollution Control Board and respective State Pollution Control Boards/DPCC.

LOKNITI CSDS STUDY

Who are Delhi's migrant workers? 70% from Bihar & UP; earn under Rs 20,000 a month

MALLICA JOSHI
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13

IN SLUM clusters and parts of unauthorised settlements in Delhi, eight out of ten people are from three states — Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. Most of them moved to the city for work and the family income of over 78% is less than Rs 20,000 a month.

A study conducted by the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) with a sample size of 1,017 people living in different parts of the city shows that most of them (45.5%) have been living in the city for more than 10 years, while 28.7% were born here.

That Delhi is a city of migrants has been well-established in census reports over the years. According to the 2011 Census, the proportion of inter-state migrants is the highest in Delhi.

The CSDS survey was conducted to gauge how domestic migrants in the city feel about the proposition of remote voting in the country. The survey shows that 27.8% of the people would trust "to a great extent" the secrecy of their ballot in remote voting, another 18.8% would trust it to "some extent".

Most of the migrants in the city are young — 48.2% of them are under the age of 35. The population is overwhelmingly male — six in ten are men, and 81.9% are married.

"The study was conducted in slum clusters, jhuggis and unauthorised settlements — all lower homes. Respondents lived in small houses — no one had more than two rooms," said Sanjay Kumar, co-director of CSDS's Lokniti programme.

Over 60% of respondents did not have any education beyond middle school. Over a quarter were non-literate and only 8.5% were either in college (graduation) or had higher educational qualifications.

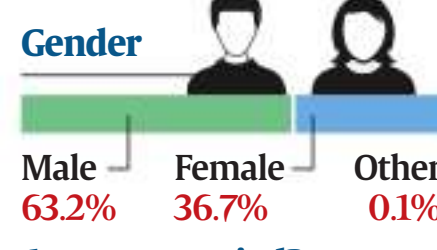
Most had access to LPG (83.7%), while a little over half had television sets (53%). While 84.2% of the people had either a bank or a post office account, only around 40% had ATM/debit cards/credit cards. Over 96% had Aadhaar cards.

Only about one in three people said that they had benefited from the Delhi government's welfare schemes. Among them, almost 60% availed of the electricity subsidy, while 40% had ac-

Looking at Delhi's slum clusters: The findings

1,017
SAMPLE SIZE

Areas where the survey was conducted: Slum clusters and unauthorised colonies



Which state are you a registered voter of?

Delhi	58%
Home state	22%
Not registered	9%
Both Delhi and home state	7.4%
No answer	3.5%

Age profile

Up to 25	20%
26-35	28.2%
36-45	22.4%
46-55	17.2%
56 and above	12.2%

Caste group

SC	22.3%
ST	1%
OBC	24.8%
General/other	31.4%
Did not tell	20.6%

Monthly family income

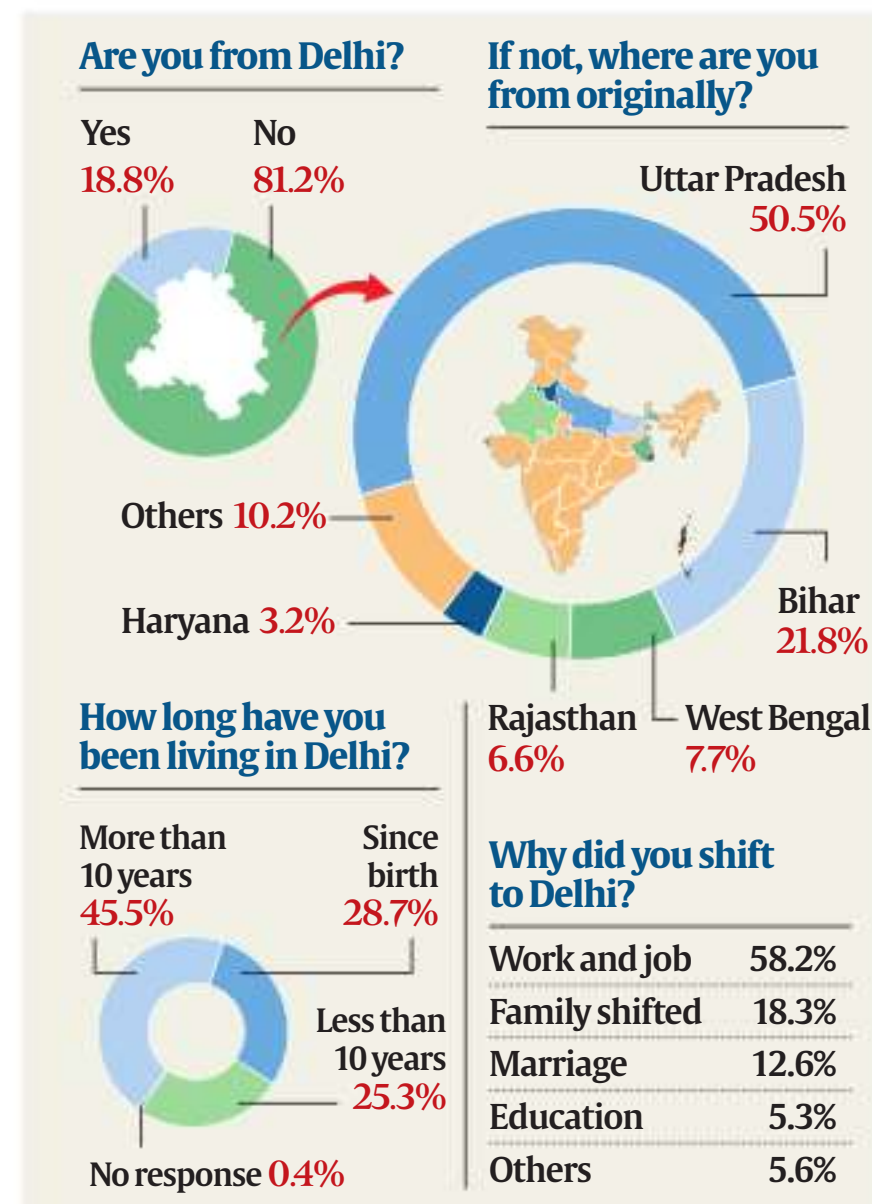
Up to ₹10,000	39%
₹10,001 to ₹20,000	39.4%
₹20,001 to 30,000	11.4%
Above ₹30,000	10.1%

Are you more interested in the politics/governance of Delhi or your home state?

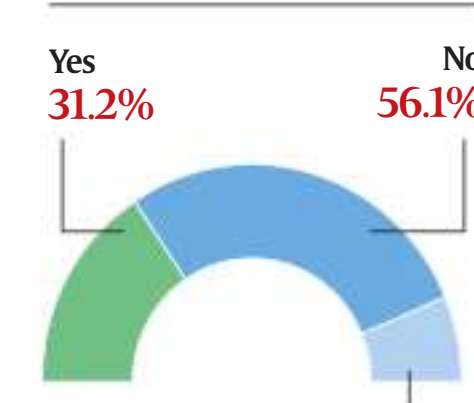
Delhi	66.4%
Home state	23.9%
Can't say	9.7%



According to the 2011 Census, the proportion of inter-state migrants is highest in Delhi



Have you benefited from welfare schemes run by the Delhi govt?



If yes, which ones?

Electricity subsidy	59.4%
Free ration	40.3%
Healthcare/mohalla clinic	20%
Water	27.3%
Free bus travel for women	13%
Schools/Education	13.7%
Please note: This will not add up to 100%	
Education levels	
Below Class X	62.6%
Up to Class X	12.4%
Class XI or XII	3.2%
Passed Class XII	8.9%
Diploma	1.3%
Graduate/in college	7.1%
Post-graduate	1.1%
Professional degree	0.2%
M.Phil/Ph.D	0.1%
No response	3.1%

Source: Lokniti CSDS

Does the biodecomposer help? It's all in the timing, say farmers in Capital



The exercise of spraying the bio-decomposer began Friday, Amit Mehra

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13

AS DELHI began the exercise of spraying a bio-decomposer for the fourth consecutive year on Friday, can the microbial solution help deal with the stubble-burning problem? It's all in the timing, say farmers.

Stubble burning in Delhi itself does not contribute much to its pollution levels — the fire count so far this year is two, according to Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) data. Last year, from September 15 to November 30, there were 10 such instances, four in 2021, and nine in 2020.

The solution, prepared from fungi by the IARI, is expected to help decompose paddy straw left behind on the field after harvest — it is to be sprayed on the field post-harvest, ploughed to mix the straw into the soil, and lightly irrigated. It can then take 20-25 days for stubble to decompose, said Dr Rajesh Kumar at the Microbiology Division, IARI.

In North Delhi's Tigipur, where spraying began Friday, harvesting and preparing the field for the next crop was already complete in several fields. Vikrant (43), a farmer, who cultivates 5 bighas of land he takes on lease from the owner, said he got the solution sprayed once before, but didn't have time this year.

"The variety of paddy we grew was harvested a few weeks back. We can't leave the land fallow till spraying begins. Once the crop is harvested using a combine harvester, stubble is ploughed back into the soil. This consumes more diesel, and there

might be some benefit in getting the decomposer sprayed, but we couldn't wait. Many here have already completed the harvest," said Vikrant, who was preparing land for a coriander crop.

Another farmer Naveen, who cultivates 60 to 70 acres, and harvested the crop 15 to 20 days ago, agrees that the spraying process will have to begin a month earlier than it did this year for it to be of use to more farmers.

For farmers who grow crops like fenugreek between paddy and wheat crops, the decomposer is not of much use, considering the time it takes to work, said Situ Rana, who has three acres of land and has never tried the decomposer.

A total of 880 applications from farmers have been received so far, for a total area of 7,159 acres. This is likely to reduce, officials said, as some farmers may not get it sprayed if the time of spraying does not match that of harvest.

Even if the decomposer is not used, instances of burning are low, said Dhiraj Singh, Agriculture Extension Officer, North Delhi. "This is for a few reasons — with more machines now, the crop is cut close to the ground, leaving little straw behind. This is ploughed back into the soil. If labour is available and harvest is done by hand, the straw is sold for packaging at the market, or to be turned into fertiliser," he said.

Rainfall that extended into October last year may have delayed the harvest, but this year, with little rain in September and October so far, temperatures have been high, he added.

Like last year, the government targeted 5,000 acres for spraying.

This may only be a part of the area under paddy cultivation in Delhi — in 2021-22, the total area under paddy in Delhi was 6,171 hectares, as per the Economic Survey of Delhi. The target was not met last year, with 4400 acres eventually being covered.

Environment Minister Gopal Rai said Friday, "Very little paddy stubble is generated in Delhi... the first year that we tried this, we prepared a solution from a capsule. It is now available in solution and powder form. Teams have conducted surveys, and farmers have filled out forms... we have given the country a new solution. In Punjab, where we have an AAP government, there have been preparations to prevent stubble burning this year."

Rai had said last year that the solution was sprayed on around 3,000 acres in 2020, the year it was introduced, followed by around 4,000 acres in 2021.

Meanwhile, the decomposer was also sprayed on Kunal Gahlot's 5-acre land for the first time. "Last year, we got it harvested by hand and sold the straw. This year, labour availability was low. It is important to see the time and quality of decomposition," said the farmer.

On a neighbouring 7-acre field, the paddy crop has already been harvested and radish sown. "It was an early variety of paddy. The straw was ploughed back into the soil and took about a month for the field to be ready for the next crop. The solution too, when sprayed, may take that long. It works more like a fertiliser, rather than something that helps decompose stubble," said Ajit Singh, a farmer.

Jewar airport runway, ATC to be ready by Feb-March next year

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NOIDA, OCTOBER 13

CONSTRUCTION WORK on the runway of Noida International Airport in Jewar is almost 70% complete and is targeted to be completed by February-March 2024, said officials.

On Friday, SP Goyal, Additional Chief Secretary to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Civil Aviation Department, visited the site to inspect ongoing work.

Officials said he first inspected the work on the Air Traffic Control (ATC) tower. The 30-metre-high tower has eight floors, out of which work on six floors has been completed. Officials said construction will be completed by February 2024.

Goyal also inspected work on the terminal building. Christoph Schnellmann, CEO of the Yamuna International Airport Pvt. Ltd, which is the developer of the air-

port, said around 7,200 workers are working at the site currently.

NHAI officials also said a road is being built to connect the airport to Delhi-Mumbai Expressway and will be completed in time. Around 15 million safe work hours have been completed in the construction of the airport.

YEIDA CEO Dr Arun Vir Singh and District Magistrate Manish Verma, among others, were present with Goyal.

The site is strategically connected to NCR and Western UP: It is 72 km from IGI Airport, 40 km from Noida, and 130 km from Agra. It is also about 30 km from State Highway 22A (which connects Palwal and Aligarh) and 700 metres from the Yamuna Expressway. In addition, the 100-metre-wide Eastern Peripheral Expressway, passing through Yamuna Expressway at the Formula One Track, connects the site to Palwal, Manesar, Ghaziabad, Baghpat and Meerut.



Work on the runway is almost 70% complete, said officials

Tip at Jan Sunwai helps cops crack 6-year-old murder case of woman

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GURGAON, OCTOBER 13

SIX YEARS ago, Gurgaon Police received information that a woman's body was found in a marshy area near the slums in Ghasola village. Post-mortem report revealed that the woman was 30, and she had died due to strangulation. Despite all efforts on the part of the police team and forensics lab, the woman's identity could not be established. Until earlier this month, when a tip received during a routine Jan Sunwai meeting helped police finally identify the victim, and eventually nab the accused.

Police learnt the woman, Anita, from Malda in West Bengal, was killed by her live-in partner — who was already married — as

he was suspicious that she was involved with another man. The accused, Rang Bahadur Yadav, was arrested Wednesday after a tip-off at the Jan Sunwai, police confirmed on Friday.

According to ACP (Crime) Varun Dahiya, on February 9, 2017, Gurugram Sadar police station received information related to the woman's body being found in a village. After the autopsy established she died of strangulation, a murder case was registered.

Police said during a routine Jan sunwai meeting recently at a police station, a woman provided information about the deceased to the cops. This, combined with all other details collected by the police team so far, helped identify the victim, and eventually the suspect, said police.

Yadav, a resident of Matiyala

area of Sahibganj district in Jharkhand, was operating an e-rickshaw in Rajmahal district in the state when he was nabbed.

During questioning, the accused told police he met the victim when they both worked at a hospital; while the victim worked as a cleaner, Yadav worked in housekeeping. Around 2016, the duo started living together in a rented house in Tigra village.

Police said Yadav grew suspicious that the victim was having a relationship with someone and killed her. The accused, along with his associates, dumped the body near a sewage canal. Dahiya said, "Through a Jan Sunwai meeting that Gurgaon police have with residents, information was received (about the murder) and with the cooperation of a local journalist, the accused was arrested."

CM 'bungalow': SC junks plea by six PWD staff challenging notices

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13

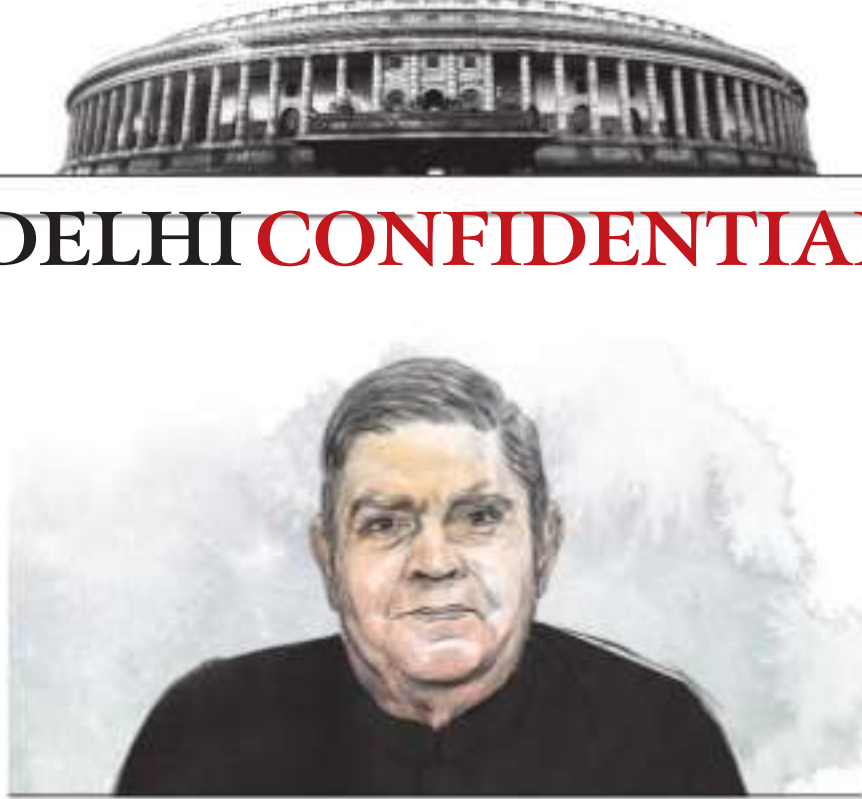
THE SUPREME COURT Friday dismissed a plea by six Public Works Department (PWD) engineers challenging the showcause notices issued to them by directorate of vigilance, in connection with the "construction" work of a "bungalow", which is the official residence of CM Arvind Kejriwal. A bench of Justices Sanjeev Khanna and SVN Bhatti asked them to approach the Central Administrative Tribunal with their grievance. Earlier, their plea was re-

jected by a division bench of the Delhi High Court on September 21. The HC had asked them to approach CAT against the showcause notices, following which they moved the SC.

On August 17, a single-judge bench of the HC had issued a notice to the Delhi government's directorate of vigilance, PWD and Special Secretary (vigilance) on the officers' plea. The HC division bench, however, said the writ petition moved by the officers against the June 19 showcause notice by the special secretary (vigilance) before the single judge was not maintainable in view of the

1997 Supreme Court's Constitution Bench ruling in L Chandra Kumar v Union of India case.

The SC in that case held that "... in respect of a service dispute, at the first instance, an application has to be preferred under Section 19 of the Administrative Tribunals Act..." "It is not, therefore, open for litigants to directly approach the High Courts even in cases where they question the vires of statutory legislations (except where the legislation which creates that particular Tribunal is challenged) by overlooking the jurisdiction of the Tribunal concerned..." the HC had said.



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL

SPECIAL GESTURE

VICE PRESIDENT Jagdeep Dhankhar Friday made a special gesture for a group of farmers from Haryana whom he had met during a recent visit to Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar. Dhankhar had invited the farmers to Delhi to visit the new Parliament building. About 50 farmers, both men and women, reached New Delhi on Friday, and the V-P, it is learnt, asked his office to arrange a guided tour of the new Parliament for them. Thereafter, he honoured the farmers for their contribution to the country's economy. The V-P, along with his wife Sudesh Dhankhar, hosted a lunch for them, which was also attended by Haryana's Agriculture Minister J P Dalal.

SAYING IT WITH PREFIX

UTTAR PRADESH Deputy CM Brajesh Pathak Friday changed his bio on social media platform X, adding a prefix "servant" before his name, a day after SP president Akhilesh Yadav in a sarcastic remark addressed him as "servant deputy chief minister". Yadav had made the remark while targeting the Yogi Adityanath government on "poor" medical facilities in the state. Pathak holds the portfolio of medical health and medical education. Referring to Yadav's remark, Pathak called himself — "Janta ka naukhar (servant of public)". In changing the bio, Pathak has apparently taken a clue from PM Narendra Modi, who, ahead of 2019 LS polls, had added the prefix "Chowkidar" to his Twitter handles after the Congress repeatedly attacked him saying "chowkidar chor hai (watchman is a thief)".

Punjab Gov says budget session extension 'illegal'

Chandigarh: Three days after the Bhagwant Mann government called a two-day extension of the budget session, the Governor's Secretariat Friday said convening any such sitting of the Vidhan Sabha is "bound to be illegal" and any business conducted during it "unlawful". Hours later, the Vidhan Sabha Secretariat announced the schedule of the session.

According to the tentative schedule, the sitting will begin with obituary references on October 20, followed by legislative business. The House will take up legislative business on October 21.

This is the second time this year that a row has erupted between the AAP government and Raj Bhavan over the summoning of an Assembly session — the last time it was over a two-day special sitting called in June.

LS panel to hear Malegaon blast case accused Purohit

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13

THE COMMITTEE on Petitions of Lok Sabha is set to hear Malegaon blast case accused Lt Colonel (Retd) Prasad S Purohit's views on a representation regarding initiating criminal cases against government servants without obtaining prior sanction for prosecution as laid down under Section 197 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, and other matters connected thereto, reads the committee's meeting notice circulated to its members on October 11.

Apart from hearing Purohit's views, the committee will also have a "briefing/oral evidence" of the representatives of the Ministry of Defence (Department of Military Affairs) on Abhyankar's representation in its October 25 meeting. This is the second time within a year that the Defence Ministry officials will be briefing the committee on this matter.

On February 9 this year, the representatives of the Ministry of Defence had given oral evidence on the representation of Abhyankar on initiating criminal cases against government servants without obtaining prior sanction for prosecution as laid



Indian nationals return from Israel under Operation Ajay, launched on Thursday. A special flight carrying them landed in Delhi on Friday morning. Abhinav Saha

Military supplies from Israel unlikely to be affected: Govt

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13

THE ONGOING Israel-Hamas war is unlikely to have an immediate impact on Indian military hardware and spares supplies, unless it turns out to be a long conflict stretching for several months, multiple officials in the government told *The Indian Express*. India was the biggest arms export market to Russia, France and Israel between 2018 and 2022 and as per the latest report by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released in March this year. Around 37 per cent of Israel's arms exports went to India during this period.

A senior official told *The Indian Express* that the Indian defence establishment is closely watching the situation in Israel. "Any limited impact can only be felt if it turns out to be a long-drawn war like the one in Russia-Ukraine... in that case, the country may divert its weapons and equipment stocks towards fighting the long-drawn conflict," the official said.

The latest SIPRI data had shown that Russia was India's largest arms supplier in the periods between 2013-17 and 2018-22. Officials said in case of Russia, the long war with Ukraine is not the only reason why the supplies were affected. "Firstly, Russia was facing Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) in 2017. Then after the war started, the country was subjected to more stringent economic sanctions from the west," the official said, adding that all these factors cumulatively affected supplies from Russia.

Officials said several Israeli companies have partnered and formed joint ventures with Indian companies and that will also help keep supplies to India going despite the war.

Over the last decade, India has purchased a range of weapons and military equipment from Israel—from missiles, UAVs, sensors and radars, air defence systems and small arms.

Jaishankar speaks to Saudi minister on 'grave situation' in West Asia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS Minister S Jaishankar Friday spoke to his Saudi counterpart Prince Faisal bin Farhan and discussed the "grave" situation arising out of the unprecedented attacks on Israeli cities by Hamas militants over the weekend. The external affairs minister's phone conversation with Farhan came two days after he discussed the crisis with Foreign Minister of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

"Appreciated the conversation with Foreign Minister HH @FaisalbinFarhan of Saudi Arabia," the external affairs minister said on X. "Discussed the grave situation in the Middle East," he said.

The sudden escalation in hostilities between Israel and Hamas has triggered global concerns. Leading powers like Germany, the US and the UK emphasised the importance of preventing the situation from further escalation.

ASSEMBLY DISQUALIFICATION PETITIONS

SC pulls up Maharashtra Speaker, says he cannot defeat top court order

He should fix timeframe for hearing or we will do it: CJJ

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 11

THE SUPREME COURT Friday firmly told the Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar to lay down a time schedule to decide the disqualification petitions pending before him, failing which it said it will have to fix a time limit.

"Somebody has to advise the Speaker. He can't defeat the orders of the Supreme Court like this. What kind of time schedule is he prescribing? He has to sit down, hear the matter. This is a summary procedure. Last time we thought that better sense will prevail and therefore we directed the Speaker to lay down a schedule. Now the idea of the schedule should not be to indefinitely defer the hearing because then their apprehension is correct," Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud presiding over a three-judge bench said.

The CJJ told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta who appeared for the Speaker, "I think you must appraise the Speaker of the facts. We are giving an opportunity. If we don't find that a proper time schedule is set out, we will issue a peremptory order fixing a time schedule. I am concerned. Our order is not being implemented which is a matter of concern."

The court was hearing applications filed by the Shiv Sena (UBT) group against alleged delay in deciding petitions seeking disqualification of MLAs of the Eknath Shinde camp.

Appearing for the petitioners, senior advocates Kapil Sibal and A M Singhvi pointed out that as per the Speaker's time schedule, "cross examination shall commence on November 23 and further date shall be given as per date convenient to parties and their counsel. As far as possible, cross

'JUSTICE HURRIED IS JUSTICE BURIED'

Mumbai: Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar on Friday said he did not want to delay the decision on the disqualification pleas against some Shiv Sena MLAs but asserted "just like justice delayed is justice denied, justice hurried is justice buried". Speaking to PTI, Narwekar, who is in Delhi for the P20 summit, said, "I don't want to hurry or jump the gun, which may result in breach of principles of natural justice that could eventually result in miscarriage of justice." Narwekar asserted he is working as per Assembly rules.

As Mehta raised objections to suggestions about asking the Speaker to do day to day hearings, the CJJ said, "He is an election tribunal exercising his functions as a speaker in the House. A tribunal which is amenable to the jurisdiction of this court."

The Solicitor General insisted that nevertheless, the Speaker is a constitutional functionary and added, "Your Lordships would not do this to other tribunals, that give us a day to day account of what you do or you hear day to day."

To Rohatgi's argument that the proceedings before the Speaker in the matter enjoy immunity under Article 212 of the constitution, the CJJ said, "These are not proceedings which take place on the floor of the House and hence do not enjoy the immunity." Mehta assured the court that he will take instructions on fixing the time schedule. The bench will hear the matter next on October 17.

examination shall be allowed twice a week. After completion of two weeks from recording of evidence, it shall be listed for final hearing." Sibal told the bench also comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra that it will have to lay down what is the role of the Speaker acting as a tribunal under the 10th schedule to decide disqualification petitions.

Pointing out that the Assembly elections are due next year, he said what is happening is a farce. Appearing for the Speaker, Mehta said that the Speaker is upholding principles of natural justice by stating that it is necessary

EXPRESS explained.Live

India-Canada Diplomatic Row: What's at Stake and What Happens Next?

Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has said the Indian government may have had a hand in the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada earlier this year. The allegation has hit bilateral ties, and led to diplomatic actions from both sides, expulsion of diplomats, suspension of visa services by India, and a war of words between Delhi and Ottawa.

What are the implications of this quarrel? How long will it last? Is the Khalistan issue going to cast a shadow on the ties for time to come?

How does the international community view these allegations, and how do they view the Indian response? What should New Delhi do now? When and how can a de-escalation come?

To understand the big bilateral and global picture within which this diplomatic row is situated, listen to Pankaj Saran, Former Deputy National Security Advisor and Convenor, NatStrat in conversation with Shubhajt Roy.

Pankaj Saran
Former Deputy National Security Advisor and Convenor, NatStrat

Shubhajt Roy
Diplomatic Editor The Indian Express

17 October 2023 06:00 PM

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NORTHERN RAILWAY PENSION ADALAT

ON 15th December - 2023

Pension Adalat for Pensioners will be held all over Northern Railway i.e., Northern Railways Headquarters office (Baroda House, New Delhi) and all Divisional Headquarters on 15th December 2023.

The LAST DATE of receiving the application for PENSION ADALAT is 10.11.2023

PENSIONERS

- Retired from HQs Office, Northern Railway may send their representations to Dy.CPO/HQ-II, Northern Railway for Pension Adalat;
- Retired from Divisional office and Offices under the control of DRM may send their representations to Sr. DPO of the respective Division for Pension Adalat;
- Retired from Workshops, may send their representation to Sr. DPO of the Division in whose territory the Workshop is located, for Pension Adalat.

The representation for PENSION ADALAT should, however, be addressed to Dy. CPO/HQ-II/Sr.DPO/Dy.CPO & SPO (Workshop) as the case may be. The envelope carrying the representation should be super-scribed PENSION ADALAT-2023.

Addresses of Dy. Chief Personnel Officer/HQ-II Northern Railway, Head Quarters office and Senior Divisional Personnel Officer of Divisional Head Quarters are mentioned as below.

Dy. Chief Personnel Officer/HQ-II, Northern Railway, Headquarters office, Baroda House, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi-110001	Senior Divisional Personnel Officer, Divisional Railway Manager office, Northern Railway, Hazrat Ganj, Lucknow- 226001
Senior Divisional Personnel Officer, Divisional Railway Manager's office, Northern Railway, Station Road, Firozpur Cantt - 182001	Senior Divisional Personnel Officer, Divisional Railway Manager's office, Northern Railway, Rail Vihar, Ambala Cantt, Ambala - 133001
Senior Divisional Personnel Officer, Divisional Railway Manager's office, Northern Railway, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055	Senior Divisional Personnel Officer, Divisional Railway Manager office, Northern Railway, (Near Railway Stadium), Moradabad - 244001

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PARLIAMENTARY 20 SUMMIT

Terrorism against humanity... a divided world cannot find solution to it, says PM Modi

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13

RAISING A strong pitch against terrorism in all its forms, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday exhorted the world to define and condemn terrorism in one voice, as a divided world can't find solutions to problems facing humanity. His remarks come in the wake of the ongoing Israel-Palestine war that has claimed more than 2,800 lives, in what can be seen as support for Israel, which faced an unprecedented attack from Hamas last week.

"Wherever terrorism happens, for whatever reason, in whatever form, it is against humanity. In such a situation, we all will have to be continuously strict regarding terrorism," he said, while inaugurating the Parliamentary 20 Summit in New Delhi, addressing an audience comprising parliamentary speakers and leaders from across the world. Hours after the Hamas attack on Israel, Modi had expressed "his deep shock at the terrorist attacks" through a post on X, adding that India "stands in solidarity with Israel at this difficult hour".

"The world today is dealing with crises due to conflicts and confrontation; and no one stands to gain from this. A divided world can't find solutions to the challenges facing humanity (conflicts and confrontation se aaj duniya sankaton se jhoojhi rahi hai, yeh kisi ke bhi hit mein nahi hai. Maanavta ke saamne jo badi chunautiyaan hai, unka samadhaan ek banti huyi duniya nahi de sakti)," PM Modi said.

Echoing his 'not an era of war' comment made last year in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine war, the PM said, "This is the time for peace and brotherhood, to move forward together for universal progress and well-being. We have to tackle the trust deficit in the world and move towards a human-led thought process." In this regard, the Prime Minister also made a mention of India's G20 theme of One Earth, One Family, One Future, exhorting the world to take collective de-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi blesses Ana Lilia Rivera, President of the Mexican Senate, after she tied him a rakhi at the P20 Summit in New Delhi on Friday. PTI



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla at the summit on Friday. PTI

isions for greater impact.

"Duniya se jude faisle lene mein bhagidaari jitni adhik hogi, utna bada impact hoga," he said, adding that India proposed the G20 membership for African Union with this objective. He also expressed happiness that all member-states and guest countries accepted India's proposal. The President of the Pan African Parliament, Ashebir Woldegiorgis Gayo, is attending the P-20 event in India for the first time as a G20 member.

Post deliberations on Friday, the presiding officers of various parliaments and delegates were also taken to the new Parliament Building for a tour and a dinner hosted by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla at the Parliament com-

plex. Referring to this earlier in the day, the Prime Minister also made a mention of the attack on the Indian Parliament 20 years ago.

"About 20 years ago, terrorists had also targeted our Parliament. And you will be shocked to know that Parliament was in session at that time. The terrorists had planned to take the MPs hostage and to kill them. Bharat has reached here today after dealing with many such terrorist incidents," he said.

Terrorists from Pakistan-based outfits had attacked the Parliament on December 13, 2001, leaving several policemen and security personnel dead. "The world was now realising how big a challenge terrorism is. Terrorism anywhere, in whatever manifestation, is against humanity," Modi added.

The PM further said it was disheartening that consensus has not been achieved so far on the definition of terrorism. He said even today the International Convention on Combating Terrorism is waiting for consensus in the United Nations, he said, adding, "The enemies of humanity are taking advantage of this attitude of the world."

"Parliaments across the world would have to think how to work together to combat ter-

rorism," he noted.

Talking about the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in 2024, PM Modi said a billion people will cast their vote in the election, and also all P20 delegates will visit again next year to witness the polls. He said India has conducted 17 general elections and more than 300 state assembly polls so far and the 2019 general elections were the world's biggest election.

He also mentioned how India is promoting participation of women in every sector with almost 50 per cent of the elected representatives in local self-government institutions being women. The recent law on granting one-third reservation to women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies will further enrich the country's parliamentary tradition, he said. "India today is promoting women's participation in every sector. The recent decision taken by our Parliament will further enrich our parliamentary tradition," the prime minister added.

In his address, Inter-Parliamentary Union President Duarte Pacheco said that it was important to have more women in a participatory democracy. "Maybe if we have more women in the leadership of our countries, we will not have so many wars," he remarked.

In joint statement, Speakers condemn all forms of terror, including xenophobia

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13

THE JOINT declaration adopted at the P20 meet on Friday condemned terrorism in all its forms including those on the basis of xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance, while also recognising the commitment of all religions to peace. On the first day of the Ninth G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P20 Summit) at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi, the presiding officers unanimously adopted a joint statement under the Chairmanship of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

They also agreed to develop a framework for legal migration to prevent human trafficking, and to work on increasing representation of women in Parliaments. The event was attended by representatives from countries including Russia, China, Oman, UAE, Brazil, Australia and the UK.

Despite confirming its participation earlier, Canada remained conspicuous with its absence, while the US also didn't send a representative in the wake of Speaker Kevin McCarthy having been recently ousted. The event was attended by foreign minister S Jaishankar, Ministers of state V Muraleedharan and Meenakshi Lekhi, and G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant.

"We condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including those on the basis of xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion or belief, recognising the commitment of all religions to peace," stated paragraph 17 of the statement. It also said that terrorism constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security.

"We strongly condemn all terrorist acts against critical infrastructure, including critical energy facilities, and against other vulnerable targets. All acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed," it said.

During his keynote address at the two-day event on Friday morning, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said that "terrorism - in any form - is

against humanity". India's G20 Presidency came in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, and more recently, the war in Israel.

"The unanimous adoption of the Joint Declaration at P20 exemplifies the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. As public representatives, we pledge to collaborate for a human centric, prosperous and harmonious future," Birla said after the adoption of the joint declaration on Day 1. Earlier in the day, while addressing the inaugural session, Birla listed out the development initiatives in India's least developed districts and the primacy accorded to green energy transition as part of steps to achieve the sustainable development goals.

The LS speaker said the issues discussed at the P20 Summit should continue to be deliberated on in the respective parliaments and lead to policies and initiatives and, if need be, new laws. "Parliamentary diplomacy should become the medium for a better future for humanity," he said.

"We note with concern that globally women remain significantly under-represented in national Parliaments," the declaration said. In this context, they welcomed "the adoption of the Women's Reservation Bill 2023 by the Parliament of India in September 2023".

The paragraph on terrorism also mentioned the need for effective counterterrorism measures, support for victims and the protection of human rights. "A holistic approach on the basis of international law can effectively counter terrorism. Efforts to increase the effectiveness of international cooperation should be strengthened to deny terrorist groups safe haven, freedom of operations, movement and recruitment, as well as financial, material or political support," it said.

However, the footnote of the joint declaration said that all speakers cannot "directly associate with substantive political statements... even as they recognize the importance of the issues raised and the intentions of their colleagues in proposing particular ways forward". The next P20 meet will be held in Brazil, as part of their G20 Presidency in 2024.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah at an event organised by Delhi Sikh Gurudwara Management Committee on Friday. PTI

1984 victims got justice after Modi became PM: Shah

Praises Sikh community for sacrifices

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13

UNION HOME Minister Amit Shah on Friday said no action was taken to deliver justice to the victims of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots till the Narendra Modi-led NDA government came to power in 2014.

"Until the formation of the Narendra Modi government in 2014, no one was arrested, and no one spent a single day in jail. Probe commissions were set up, but no concrete results ever came from them. Modi set up an SIT and reopened 300 cases, leading to the imprisonment of the guilty. Cases are still ongoing and the Modi government will ensure justice for the victims," Shah said while addressing a programme of the Delhi Sikh Gurudwara Management Committee here.

He said it was PM Modi who provided financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh each to 3,328 families of riot victims and restored the glory of Jallianwala Bagh memorial. "The Centre has opened the way to give citizenship under the Citizenship Amendment Act to Sikh sisters and brothers who were tortured in neighbouring countries like Pakistan and Afghanistan," he said.

Paying glowing tributes to

the Sikh gurus, he said the Sikh community has moved forward taking religion and work together. "When it comes to sacrificing one's life for the religion, a true Sikh never looks back and Sikhs have made the maximum sacrifices, from Independence (struggle) to protecting the country. The country can never forget the teachings and sacrifices of the Sikh Gurus," he said.

"Apart from the Sikh community, there would rarely be any other community which would have such a long tradition of struggle and sacrifice against the injustice of the invaders for 10 generations. No one in the whole world can match the sacrifices made by Sikh Gurus for humanity and the country. We can never forget the sacrifice of the ninth Guru Tegh Bahadurji. Guru Tegh Bahadurji on the plea of Kashmiri Pandits, who were facing the atrocities of Aurangzeb in Kashmir, reached there on foot and made the supreme sacrifice," he said.

Shah said the PM has ensured 33% reservation for women in state legislatures and Parliament for women-led development. "The tradition of women empowerment started years ago in the Sikh panth with the teachings of Mata Khivi's langar..." he said.

ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

No prayers at Jamia Masjid, Mirwaiz not allowed to leave home

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 13

MIRWAIZ UMAR Farooq, who was recently released from house arrest after four years, was not allowed to leave his residence on Friday. Meanwhile, the authorities did not allow prayers at Srinagar's Jamia Masjid on Friday in view of apprehensions of protests over the Israel-Palestine conflict.

The Israel-Palestine conflict had featured in Mirwaiz's Friday sermons in the past and sources in the administration said authorities had apprehensions of protest on the issue after Friday prayers and a decision was taken to close down the grand mosque at Nowhatta. However, no official comment has been made with regard to the closing of the mosque. Anjuman Auqaf, the governing body of the mosque, in a statement, expressed "deep

regret" over the administration's action. Condemning the decision to keep Mirwaiz Umar Farooq under house arrest once again, the Auqaf said that the authorities closed all the doors of the central mosque in the morning and informed the Auqaf administration that prayers would not be allowed on Friday.

Mirwaiz Farooq was released from house arrest after four years on September 22.

On Wednesday, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, headed by Mirwaiz, had issued a statement expressing "anguish and grief" over the loss of lives in the latest escalation in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Anti-Israel protests broke out in Badgam district adjoining Srinagar after Friday prayers. Police forces have been deployed around major mosques in Srinagar. Kargil district in Ladakh also saw anti-Israel protests.

Journalist Sachidananda Murthy dies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BENGALURU, OCTOBER 13

VETERAN JOURNALIST and former Delhi Resident Editor of The Week magazine and Malayala Manorama daily K S Sachidananda Murthy died at a private hospital here on Friday.

Murthy, 68, had recently undergone a lung transplant surgery, and was on ventilator support for the past few days, sources close to him said.

Popularly known as 'Sachi' among friends and in the media fraternity, he is survived by wife and two sons, they said. His family was originally from the Ashtagrama villages in Karnataka's Kolar district.

Murthy had joined The Week in November 1982 as its Bangalore correspondent and stayed with the Malayala Manorama group until his retirement in September 2022, the magazine said on its website.

In February 1989, he became the magazine's special correspondent in Bangalore, and moved to Delhi in April 1990 as the chief of the national capital bureau. In April 2000, he was appointed resident editor, according to The Week. Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah recalled him as a dear friend and a well-wisher.

The Karnataka government has decided to accord full state honours during his funeral.

Thousands in Maoist-hit Bastar to vote for 1st time in own villages since Independence

JAYPRAKASH S NAIDU
RAIPUR, OCTOBER 13

AS MANY as 120 villages in the Maoist-affected Bastar region in south Chhattisgarh comprising seven districts will soon get 126 new polling booths. The booths will benefit 54,000 people who will not have to travel several kilometres to cast their votes this election. Earlier, these people had to travel around 10 km to vote.

An estimated 35,000 people will also be able to vote in their own villages (in around 80 booths) for the first time since Independence.

"The remaining 38 odd polling booths had to be relocated

The first phase of voting in Chhattisgarh will take place on Nov 7 for 20 seats of which 12 are in Bastar region

to nearby villages due to history of looting EVM machines/ballot boxes during previous elections in the last two decades. But now these polling booths will be restored due to our continuous efforts in pushing back Maoists," said a police official.

The feat was achieved by the government over the last five years with 65 police camps being set up and at the cost of 133

security personnel losing their lives, 175 civilians being killed by Maoists and 197 Maoists being killed in encounters. Another 1,630 Maoists including many involved in violent activities surrendered before police.

Confirming the developments, Sundarraj P, Inspector General of Police, Bastar Range, said: "These 126 new polling stations would be narrating the story about triumph of 'ballot over bullet' to the future generation in Bastar region. Majority of these new polling stations are in the erstwhile Naxal stronghold areas. After the opening of more than 65 new security camps established in the past five years, there is remarkable change in

the ground situation."

One of these villages is Chandameta in Bastar district which was considered a stronghold of Maoists. The villagers of Chandameta had requested the district administration to get them a polling booth as they had to walk around 8 kilometers to cast their vote.

The first phase of voting in Chhattisgarh will take place on November 7 for 20 seats of which 12 are from Bastar region. Among the seven districts in the region, most of these booths are from Kanker and Kondagaon districts with 32 booths in each district followed by Kanta (20 booths), Bastar (19) Narayanpur (9), Dantewada (8) and Bijapur (6).

Chandrababu was in 'command role' when scam took place, SC told

New Delhi: TDP supremo N Chandrababu Naidu was in a "command role" as Andhra Pradesh chief minister in 2015 when the Skill Development Corporation scam took place, the state government told the Supreme Court on Friday.

He was arrested on September 9 for alleged misappropriation of funds and is under judicial remand.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the Andhra Pradesh government, said Naidu was at the "helm of affairs" and decisions were taken at his level, which resulted in a loss of more than Rs 300 crore to the state exchequer. PTI

PM vs KCR: What lies beneath in state where BJP stalled, Cong upbeat

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi's all-out attack on Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) chief K Chandrashekar Rao at his recent Telangana rally will go a long way towards quashing the Congress claim that the BRS and BJP are hand in glove in the election-bound state. At the same time, it will rejuvenate the BJP cadre, who have been fighting growing chatter that the party has lost interest in the Telangana battle, as well as end up splitting the anti-BRS vote.

According to sources, this is by design, with the BJP having taken the call that the coming Assembly elections will not yield much for the party, and deciding to concentrate its energies on the

2024 Lok Sabha polls. The calculation, sources said, is that a BRS which is "grateful" for indirect help in the Assembly polls might help the BJP cause come 2024.

For Rao or KCR, as the Telangana Chief Minister is known, the November 30 election to 119 Assembly seats is a do-or-die battle. The crusader for the separate state, who has been the CM since Telangana was formed, is not in the best of health and wants to secure the position of his son K T Rama Rao before passing on the reins.

Sources said that the fact that KCR's daughter K Kavitha, an MLC, has escaped arrest so far in the alleged Delhi excise policy scam, even as the Central agencies go after the Aam Aadmi Party, is proof of the tacit "understanding" between the BJP and BRS.

BJP leader in-charge of

Explained

How a 'tacit pact' helps the BJP

IT IS in the BJP's interest to have a strong regional party such as the BRS as it can contain the Congress. The BJP wants to check the Congress in the south, especially after the Opposition party's Karnataka win, and maximise its gains for the Lok Sabha elections from the region.

Telangana affairs Prakash Javadekar denied any such "arrangement" with the BRS, adding that "defamation" of the party had become a "joint strategy" of the BRS and Congress. "The issue is that the people are angry with the BRS government, and know that a Congress MLA will eventually go into the BRS kitty. Of the 19 Congress MLAs

who won in 2018, 12 shifted to the BRS. In 2014, 36 of its MLCs defected to the BRS. So the people have decided to vote in the BJP with a majority," Javadekar told The Indian Express.

The BJP has sent in its heavy artillery into the Telangana battle, which may end up getting it enough votes to presumably hurt the Congress. The campaigners

include Union ministers Shobha Karandlaje, A Narayanaswamy and Rajeev Chandrasekhar.

After its 2019 return to power at the Centre, the BJP had made Telangana a priority state, seeing it as its second port in the South after Karnataka. In a big boost for the party, it had emerged as the main opposition in the prestigious Hyderabad Municipal Corporation elections in 2020. However, since then, its progress has been stalled, even as the Congress expects a big bump up after its Karnataka victory in May.

Modi's speech came amid growing chorus from the Congress corner that the BJP is the "B-team of the BRS". Addressing a rally in Nizamabad, the PM said that KCR had wanted to join the BJP-led NDA so as to get its support after the Hyderabad

Municipal Corporation elections, but he had refused.

A source said the PM's speech would also help the BRS given the Congress's claims of its association with the BJP, and given its dependence on the Muslim vote. "The attack by the Congress had weakened the BRS push," the leader said.

Sources also point to the BRS extending help to small regional parties in other states, including the Jay Adivasi Yuva Sangathan and Gondwana Gantantra Party in poll-bound Madhya Pradesh. These have considerable influence in tribal and Dalit pockets, and the BRS's push for them could split the anti-incumbency vote against the BJP.

The BRS has been projecting such interventions as part of its expansion plans. Its biggest for-

ays have been in Maharashtra, particularly in areas which were part of the erstwhile Hyderabad State. Given that the anti-BJP vote is split multiple ways in Maharashtra, the NCP has been questioning the intent and timing of KCR's push.

For the Lok Sabha, leaders said, the BJP wants to ensure as many winning candidates as possible on its symbol, and is willing to make concessions. "Expansion of the party and winning are important, but right now, the Lok Sabha polls are more important. We are not giving up, or giving way to any party... Just that we have strategically shifted focus. The party has a long-term plan for Telangana," a party leader familiar with the developments in the state said.

BENGALURU Rs 42 cr seized in I-T raid on civil contractor with Cong links

Opp parties allege it's Cong poll funds

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, OCTOBER 13

SEARCHES CONDUCTED over the last two days by the Income-Tax department on properties linked to civil contractors in Bengaluru has resulted in the seizure of Rs 42 crore cash stashed in 23 cartons from the residence of the son of a contractor with links to the ruling Congress party.

The move has led to the opposition saying the seized funds were part of commissions for Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) contract work. The Income Tax department has been conducting searches over the last two days at property of several contractors undertaking civil construction work for BBMP, government sources said.

Among those whose property were raided is Ambikapathi R, husband of Ashwathamma, a former Congress city councillor from R T Nagar region, police said. Other contractors were Hemant Kumar, Pradeep Rand Pramodh Kumar. Ashwathamma is also the sister of Akhanda Srinivasamurthy - former Congress MLA from Pulikeshi Nagar in Bengaluru.

The BJP and JD(S) said the seized cash is part of kickbacks collected by contractors for the release of nearly Rs 650 crore as payments to civil contractors for BBMP work during the previous BJP regime. They also alleged that the cash was meant to finance Congress party's election in Telangana scheduled for next month.

Shivakumar said the raids are politically motivated and has denied links to the funds seized. "Without a political motive, the IT department will not take action. It is politics that is happening. We know everything that is happening. It is being done in states where the opposition is ruling - it is being done in Chhattisgarh," he said.

Shivakumar said he did not know if the seized money was part of commissions for contract work. "I do not know... I do not need to respond to people who speak on the streets," he said. "The Rs 42 crore found is the commission from the release of Rs 650 crore of payments to contractors. Karnataka chief minister Siddaramaiah and deputy

CMDK Shivakumar should take moral responsibility and quit. There should be a detailed probe," BJP MLC and spokesperson N Ravikumar said at the party's office on Friday. "The Rs 650 crore was released after negotiations by the contractors with D K Shivakumar. The Congress leaders are claiming to be unaware. Contractors Hemanth, Pradeep and Pramod are under probe. These contractors frequently met D K Shivakumar" he said.

"The Rs 42 crore has been found in the IT raids that were conducted following the release of Rs 650 crore of payments to a few contractors. It seems to suggest that the money is illegal. Who are the people behind this and what percentage is the kickbacks?" said JD(S) party leader CM Kumaraswamy on social media on Friday. "The information is that the carton boxes with the money were to be transported to Telangana," he said.

The IT raids and allegations against the government comes at a time when the president of the contractors association Kempanna has called for the state government to release all pending bill payments from the BJP's tenure to contractors. Shivakumar stated that a large chunk of payments have been made. "After keeping the inquiries pending almost 65 to 70 percent of payments are being done. Kempanna need not get agitated," Shivakumar said on Friday.

In August this year, the Congress government in Karnataka had threatened to withhold dues of contractors who had undertaken work between 2019-2022 if they presented bills without actually carrying out any work on the ground. The move came even as contractors alleged that nearly Rs 710 crore of payments for work done in the BJP tenure were being held up by the Congress government.

A group of contractors had also written to the state Governor seeking his intervention for the release of payments. They said Shivakumar should swear he is not demanding bribes for releasing the payments. Incidentally, one of the contractors who was very vocal in August regarding the allegations against Shivakumar was part of these raids.

Agniveer from Punjab dies of gunshot wound in J&K

MANAMAN SINGH CHHINA
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 13

A RECENTLY enlisted Agniveer, Amritpal Singh from Mansa in Punjab, who had commenced active duty last month, died in Jammu and Kashmir on October 10. His final rites took place at his village, Kotli Kalan, on Friday with a police contingent providing a guard of honour.

Amritpal Singh (21) was serving with a battalion of Jammu and Kashmir Rifles in the Poonch sector. His body was reportedly found with a gunshot wound to his head within the unit on October 10.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Amritpal's father Gurdeep Singh, said that he had spoken to his son on day of his death. Amritpal was in a cheerful mood, the father said.

"He told me he had taken leave from October 24 to attend the wedding of my niece and he was looking forward to the

event. He had come to the village last month after completing his training in Jabalpur and had left on September 20 to join his unit in Poonch. We are unaware of the circumstances of his death and are seeking a thorough investigation," said Gurdeep Singh.

The father said that an Army havildar and two jawans had accompanied his son's body to the village. "I saw the body. There was a gunshot injury on his left temple above the ear," he added.

According to Brigadier B S Dhillon (ret'd), director of Sainik Welfare, Punjab, his department received no intimation from Army authorities about the death of the Agniveer. "We learnt just now that the cremation has taken place and the police gave the guard of honour. We are not aware of the circumstances of the death," he said.

Defence Public Relations Officer, Jammu, Lt Col Suneel Bartwal said the circumstances leading to the death of Agniveer Amritpal Singh are under investigation.



Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath Union minister Smriti Irani in Amethi on Friday. PTI

Rahul doesn't have courage to say he'll fight from Amethi again: Smriti

MAULSHREESETH
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 13

UNION WOMEN and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani on Friday said that erstwhile Amethi MP and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi did not have the courage to say that he would contest from the constituency again and that he went down south to fight election in a bid to escape such a situation.

Speaking during the conclud-

ing ceremony of the 25-day-long Amethi Sansad Khel Pratyogita, Irani, the local MP, said, "Here, people would see their MP only once in a year, and that too for a few hours. Not only they did not see their MP, but funds from his quota were hardly spent in Amethi. He went to the south (to contest polls) and does not have the courage to say that he would contest from Amethi again."

Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi and CM Adityanath, the development that

Amethi has seen in the last four-and-a-half years was not seen in the past 40 years, she claimed.

Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath, who was on the dais, claimed that the athletes from the state have a 25% share in India's Asian Games medal tally of 107.

Praising Irani for "regularly-visiting Amethi", the CM also claimed that before 2019 the local MP used to turn up only during elections and that the segment saw an unprecedented development under the "double-engine government".

**Additional Directorate General
Discipline and Vigilance (DV-2)
Adjutant General's Branch Integrated HQ of MoD (Army)
Sena Bhawan P.O, New Delhi-110011**

04 July 2023

C/06270/SC/899/19(18)/AG/DV-2
NS-22188A Captain (MNS) Ranjit Kaur
H. No-53/6, Improvement Trust Colony
Batala Road, Gurdaspur, Punjab-143521

SHOW CAUSE NOTICE FOR TERMINATION OF SERVICE UNDER SECTION 7 OF (THE INDIAN) MILITARY NURSING SERVICE ORDINANCE, 1943, IN RESPECT OF NS-22188A CAPTAIN RANJIT KAUR OF INDIAN NAVY HOSPITAL SHIP, ASVINI

- WHEREAS, you were granted commission in the Military Nursing Service on 01 February 2010.
- AND WHEREAS, while being posted at INHS Asvini, you were to report to Sailors Family Medical Ward for night duty on 19 May 2014. However, you did not report for the said duty and have remained absent till date.
- AND WHEREAS, Apprehension Roll an was issued by INHS Asvini on 20 May 2014 to civil Police authorities for your apprehension and handing you over to the Army Authorities.
- AND WHEREAS, a Court of Inquiry was convened on 01 July 2014 by INHS Asvini to investigate into the circumstances under which you absented yourself without leave. On conclusion, the Court of Inquiry declared you a deserter with effect from 19 May 2014.
- AND WHEREAS, the aforesaid facts of the case were placed before the Chief of the Army Staff, who is satisfied that due to your continued illegal absence from duty, your further retention in the service is undesirable.
- NOW THEREFORE, in accordance with the directions of Chief of the Army Staff, you are called upon to submit your defence in writing, as to why your services should not be terminated, by way of dismissal under the provisions of Section 7 of (the Indian) Military Nursing Service Ordinance, 1943.
- In case a reply is submitted by you within 30 days of receipt of this Show Cause Notice, it will be presumed that you have nothing to state in your defence and action as deemed appropriate will be taken ex-parte.
- A copy of Declaration by the Court of Inquiry' made under Army Rule 183(2) is enclosed herewith for your reference.

Sd/-
(Munish Matta)
Col
Offg. Brig D&V (A)
for Chief of the Army Staff

CBC-10702/11/0070/2324

ENROLMENT FOR APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING IN DESIGNATED TRADES

AT NAVAL SHIP REPAIR YARD, NAVAL BASE, KARWAR, KARNATAKA - 581 308

AND NAVAL AIRCRAFT YARD (GOA), DABOLIM, GOA - 403 801

- Applications are invited from ITI qualified Indian citizen (both male/female) in the various designated trades for enrolment into apprenticeship training at Naval Ship Repair Yard, Karwar and Naval Aircraft Yard (Goa), Dabolim, Goa under Apprentices Act, 1961 read in conjunction with Apprenticeship Rules, 1992. A total of 180 vacancies for Naval Ship Repair Yard, Karwar and 30 vacancies for Naval Aircraft Yard (Goa), Dabolim, Goa.
- Eligibility Conditions.** -
 - Educational Qualification.** Candidates who have scored above 50% marks in Matriculation or equivalent and above 65% marks in the relevant ITI trade recognized by National State Council for Vocational Training (NCVT/SCVT).
 - Age.** Candidates should have completed 14 years and below 21 years of age as on 15 Apr 2024 i.e. born between 15 Apr 2003 and 14 Apr 2010 (both dates inclusive). The upper age limit of 21 years is relaxable by five (05) years in the case of candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC) / Scheduled Tribes (ST). The upper age limit may be further relaxed by two (02) years by Naval Headquarters at their discretion in respect of candidates who merit special consideration.
 - Physical Standards.** Height 150 Cms, Weight not less than 45 Kgs, Chest expansion not less than 5 cm, Eye sight 6/6 to 6/9 (6/9 corrected with glasses), external and internal organs to be normal. Physical fitness standards are as per MoD letter FM1103/NSRY/1019/US(MP)/D(N-II) dated 21 Jun 2007.
 - Candidates who have already undergone or undergoing apprenticeship training under Apprentices Act, 1961 in any other Govt. / Public Sector / Private Industrial organization are not eligible to apply.
- How to Apply.** Interested eligible candidates are required to register online on www.apprenticeshipindia.org. On completion of online registration, candidates are required to forward the "Apprentice Profile" along with the under mentioned documents by speed / registered post to "The Officer-in-Charge, Dockyard Apprentice School, Naval Ship Repair Yard, Naval Base, Karwar, Karnataka - 581 308" within 30 days from the date of publication of this advertisement in Employment News.
 - Attested copy of Matriculation / 10th Class Mark sheet.
 - Attested copy of ITI Semester-Wise Mark sheet and All Semester Mark sheet
 - Attested copy of Category certificate (for EWS/OBC/SC/ST candidates only).
 - Attested copy of Person with Benchmark Disability certificate (for PwBDs candidates only)."
 - Certificate from competent authority, if son / daughter of armed forces personnel / naval defence civilian employee.
 - Certificate of undertaking stating the choice of establishment for undergoing apprenticeship training i.e. Naval Ship Repair Yard, Karwar or Naval Aircraft Yard (Goa), Dabolim, Goa need to be clearly specified.
- Candidates are advised to refer to the Employment News for detailed advertisement, which will be published on Second/ third week of Oct 2023.**

CBC- 10702/11/0068/2324

2010 arms supply to Maoists case: Court sends 24 to 10 yrs in jail

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 13

A RAMPUR court Friday sentenced 24 people, including 20 security personnel, to 10 years of jail for supplying arms and ammunition to terrorists and Maoists in link with a case registered in 2010.

One of the accused died during the trial that lasted for more than a decade.

Rampur Additional District Government Counsel (Criminal) Pratap Singh Maurya said, "Today in the Kartoos case, a court in Rampur sentenced 24 convicts to 10 years of jail and a Rs 10,000 fine each. All the convicts were taken into custody on Thursday after the court found them guilty."

Rampur Special Judge Vijay Kumar-II held the accused guilty and handed down punishment to them. "Out of the 24 sentenced, 20 are security personnel, including of Uttar Pradesh

Police, Pradeshek Armed Constabulary (PAC) and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). Four are civilians. The chargesheet was filed by Rampur police and charges were framed in 2013. The case was lodged at Civil Lines police station in Rampur. From the side of prosecution, a total of nine witnesses were examined," said Maurya.

Talking about the case, Maurya said, "The case dates back to 2010 when the Special Task Force (STF) Superintendent in Lucknow had received inputs about some arms and ammunition being supplied to Naxals and terrorists from Rampur through a person based in Allahabad."

Officials said a total of 25 people were booked in the case and were arrested during the probe

All accused were found guilty under sections 409 (criminal breach of trust by public servant, or by banker, merchant or agent), 413 (habitually dealing in stolen property) and 120-B (criminal conspiracy) of the IPC.

RS 200-CR SEIZURE Chargesheet filed, UP perfume trader, 13 others summoned

Lucknow: The Special Chief Judicial Magistrate in Kanpur has summoned perfume trader Piyush Jain and 13 others, including four of his family, on October 20 during a hearing in a chargesheet filed by the Directorate General of Goods and Services Tax Intelligence (DGGI), Ahmedabad unit, in connection with the seizure of around Rs 200 crore in cash during searches at premises linked to Jain in Kanpur and Kannauj in December 2021, officials said.

Notably, 23 kg of gold was also seized during the searches, and the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Lucknow Zonal unit, had filed a separate chargesheet against Jain in this connection, they said.

Section 132 of the Central GST provides for punishment for certain offences such as fraudulent availing of input tax credit, issuance of invoices without supply of goods or services, and tax evasion, officials said. **ENS**

**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEFENCE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION
DEFENCE MATERIALS & STORES RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT ESTABLISHMENT (DMSRDE) G.T. ROAD, KANPUR-208 013**

WALK IN INTERVIEW FOR THE POSITION OF JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOWS

Walk-in interview of the candidates fulfilling the qualifications mentioned below for a period of two years is to be held in DMSRDE, Kanpur to award Junior Research Fellowships.

Sl. No.	Fellowship	Number of Fellowship	Subject/ Discipline	Qualification	Date & Time of walk-in Interview
1.	Junior Research Fellowship	05 (Five)	Chemistry/ Material Science/ Polymer Science Chemical Engineering or Technology/ Materials Engineering/ Polymer Engineering Technology/ Textile Engineering or Technology	Post Graduate degree in relevant discipline (basic sciences) in first division with NET qualification Graduate degree in professional course (B.E./B.Tech.) in relevant discipline in first division with NET/GATE. OR Post graduate degree in professional course (M.E./M.Tech.) in relevant discipline in first division both at Graduate and Post graduate level.	03 rd November 2023 (Friday) 0900 hrs

#The number of vacancies may vary depending upon requirement at the time of walk-in interview. A vacancy may be kept unfilled, if no candidate is found suitable.

Maximum Age: 28 years as on date of interview (5 years relaxation for SC/ST candidates & 3 years for OBC candidates). However, the OBC candidates in the creamy layer will not be eligible for age relaxation.

Fellowship Stipend: 37,000/- p.m. (1st & 2nd year).
Contingency grant up to a maximum of 15,000/- per annum shall be paid to Research Fellows on reimbursement basis for the first two years. The contingency grant may be increased to 20,000/- for the subsequent years. They shall also be eligible for HRA as per Government rules.

Junior Research Fellows are not eligible for other type of benefits like DA, CCA, Bonus, Retirement benefit etc. However, they are eligible for medical facilities for self only through MI Room facility available in the campus.

The award of fellowship will not confer any right on the candidate for further employment in DRDO. Director, DMSRDE reserves the right not to select any candidate, if suitable candidates are not available.

Interested candidates fulfilling the above qualifications may appear for a walk-in interview at **DMSRDE Transit Facility (Near DRLM Puliya), DMSRDE, G. T. Road, Kanpur 208 004** clearly indicating the name of the fellowship applied for, with a recent passport size photograph and Xerox copies of testimonials. They must also bring all original Mark sheets/Certificates/Testimonials/Community Certificate (if applicable)/GATE/NET Score Card and ID proof (Voter's ID/AADHAR Card/Pan Card/Driving License). Candidates working in Government/Public Sector Undertaking/Autonomous bodies should apply through proper channel.

Note:- 1. Wherever the OBC category has been mentioned, it means only candidates not in the creamy layer.
2. Canvassing in any form will be disqualification.

**DIRECTOR
DMSRDE, KANPUR**

**APPLICATION FORMAT
FOR JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP**

CHEMISTRY/CHEMICAL ENGINEERING OR TECHNOLOGY/MATERIAL SCIENCE/
MATERIALS ENGINEERING/POLYMER SCIENCE/ POLYMER ENGINEERING OR
TECHNOLOGY/TEXTILE ENGINEERING OR TECHNOLOGY
(Please tick which is applicable).

- Name of the applicant: (in BLOCK LETTERS)
- Father's Name:
- Mother's Name:
- Spouse Name (if applicable):
- Gender: Male/Female/Transgender
- Date of Birth (DD/MM/YYYY):
- Correspondence Address with PINCODE:
- Permanent Address with PINCODE:
- e mail ID: Alternate e mail ID:
- Religion:
- Academic Qualification (From Matric/10th/HSC onwards, self-attested copies to be enclosed):
- Category: GENERAL/SC/ST/OBC
- Age (as on date): Years Months Days

Sr. No.	Examination Passed	Subject(s)	Board/ University	Month & Year of Passing	Division/ Class/Grade	Percentage/ C GPA
i	Matriculation/Equivalent					
ii	Intermediate/Equivalent					
iii	B.Sc.					
iv	B.Tech.					
v	M. Sc./M.Tech.					
vi	Ph. D.					

16. Experience (attach sheet if required):

Name of the Post /Designation	Name of the Organization /Department	Period of Service	Job Description (in brief)
		From To	

- Whether qualified UGC/CSIR/NET/Gate Examination: Yes/No
If Yes, give details (proof to be enclosed): Roll No. Year Score Validity
- Have you ever debarred for recruitment examination by any Government Agency: Yes/No If Yes, give details:
- Declaration:** I hereby declare that the above furnished particulars are correct to the best of my knowledge and no information is suppressed. If at any time, I am found to have concealed/distorted any information, my fellowship shall be liable to summarily terminated without any prior notice. I am ready to take up and discharge the duties assigned to me anywhere in India, as and when required.

Place & Date: Signature of the Applicant

CBC-10301/11/0099/2324

BRAITHWAITE & CO. LIMITED
(A Government of India Undertaking)
(A MINIRATNA Category-I Company)
Ministry of Railways
CIN : U74210WB1976GOI030798
5, Hide Road, Kolkata - 700 043

Braithwaite & Co. Ltd., A Govt. of India Undertaking under Ministry of Railways requires invites applications from Indian Nationals for filling up the post of **Executive Director (Operations)**. The details of post, qualifications and experience required etc. are displayed in Company's website www.braithwaiteindia.com

Closing Date: The last date & time of receipt of applications will be **28.10.2023, 4.00 PM.**
No.: Rectt./2023/4 Executive Director (HR, A, S)

Two artisans from Bengal beaten to death in Rajkot over theft of 100 g silver, say police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE RAJKOT, OCTOBER 13

THIRTEEN MEN were detained in Gujarat's Rajkot and a murder case is set to be registered after two artisans from West Bengal were allegedly beaten to death over the alleged theft of 100 gm of silver, police said Friday.

Rahul Sheikh, one of the artisans, was allegedly caught while trying to steal 100 gm of silver from MBS Ornaments, a jewellery-making unit on Bhavnagar Road. He was leaving the unit after his shift ended on Thursday night, police said.

After he was caught with silver by the unit's security guard, Pushparaj, Rahul reportedly told him he was handing over the stolen silver to a fellow artisan, Minu Sheikh, from West Bengal, officials said. Minu worked in another jewellery-making unit in Rajkot. Rahul was then forced, police said, to call Minu to the MBS Ornaments unit where both were allegedly thrashed by 13 men.

"The security guard, his brother, the owner of the unit, three managers and eight other artisans working in the same unit took turns to beat the duo with wooden sticks and fibre pipes. Later, they locked the duo in a room on the first floor of the unit at around 1 am on Friday. At 8 am on Friday, when the security guard opened the door of the room, he found the two men were not moving. Eventually, they dialled 108 (emergency service), and a



Police outside the jewellery unit in Rajkot, Friday. Express

paramedic who rushed to the spot with an ambulance declared them dead." Sajansinh Parmar, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Rajkot, told The Indian Express.

Parmar said that MBS Ornaments owner Sagar Savaliya, and unit managers Vipul alias Pintu Moliya, Himalay and Dhaval were detained. Tanmay Manjhi and Pradip, two labour contractors through whom Rahul was placed at MBS Ornaments, have also been detained for beating up the men. "Managers noted that there was a discrepancy of three kg of silver in their stock and therefore, the security guard used to remain extra vigilant in checking artisans leaving the unit after their work shift ended," Parmar said.

Mayurdhwajsinh Sarvaiya, Inspector, Thoral, said the two artisans were aged between 22 and 23. "The accused kept on beating the two victims till 1 am on Friday. There were multiple injury marks on their bodies and their skin had turned blue due to severe beating," Sarvaiya said, adding, "We are in the process of registering an FIR in this connection."

Abortion plea: SC asks AIIMS for fresh report on condition of woman, foetus

ANANTHAKRISHNAN NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13

THE SUPREME Court on Friday said that India, unlike the rest of the world, has a "very forward looking law" on medical termination of pregnancy.

"Our law is far ahead of other countries. We don't have the Roe vs Wade issue. Ours is a very forward looking law," said Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, presiding over a three-judge bench, while hearing a woman's plea to abort her 26-week-old pregnancy. The bench, also comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, noted that the medical prescriptions of the woman, who claimed to have been taking medicines for "postpartum psychosis" were "silent" on what her exact ailment was and asked the

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, to submit a fresh report on the condition of the petitioner and the foetus. The court will consider the matter again on October 16. A two-judge bench of the Supreme Court had on October 9 allowed the woman to undergo the procedure. However, a day later, one of the judges changed her mind after AIIMS, where the woman was to undergo the medical termination of pregnancy, sought certain clarifications regarding how it should proceed given that the foetus appeared to be normal and viable. The matter was then placed before the three-judge bench.

On Thursday, the three-judge bench asked Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, who appeared for the Centre, to talk to the woman to see if she can be convinced to wait a few weeks more

"Our law is far ahead of other countries. We don't have the Roe vs Wade issue. Ours is a very forward looking law," the CJI said

so that the foetus is mentally and physically healthy. AIIMS reported that the foetus had a high chance of survival, but if extracted now it may develop mental or physical deformities and it would be better to wait for a few more weeks.

On Friday, the ASG told the bench, "Unfortunately we have still not been able to convince her (the woman). She is still vulnerable." Bhati said the world over there were pro-choice and pro-life countries and they have elevated the status of unborn children in

their constitution to "protected citizens". She said after a thorough research "we have not found a single country in the world which goes beyond 24 weeks, and that's for a good reason, reason that's in consonance with nature, medical ethics". She said that India is a "pro-choice country".

Elaborating on the submission, the CJI said, "Parliament has enacted a law (Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act). That law reflects the balance between pro-life and pro-choice. Because Parliament, in putting that cut off (of 24 weeks), would have been aware of all the different considerations that had to be balanced. And therefore Parliament says 20 weeks extendable to 24 weeks... So that's a cut-off which Parliament has imposed bearing in mind both the pro-life and pro-choice aspects. But as you

say our legislation is predominantly pro-choice because we respect the autonomy of the woman... It gives almost untrammelled discretion to the woman within the period of time that is provided... Now we have equated married and unmarried women finding that there is no real intelligible differentia in distinguishing between them."

The ASG said that the "MTP Act has a salutary public purpose and a sacrosanct objective of furthering reproductive autonomy of the woman by balancing the right of a viable and healthy unborn child. So the protection comes once the child is viable and healthy". Stating the debate in the case is not pro-choice or pro-life, she said it is whether pro-choice can go to the extent of extinguishing life.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

MONEY LAUNDERING

Probe against Vivo: Accused to remain in ED custody for 3 days

NIRBHAY THAKUR NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13

ADELHI Court on Friday extended by three days the custody of four accused persons in connection with a money laundering probe against smartphone maker Vivo.

The ED had asked for 10 days custody alleging that the accused — Hari Om Rai, MD, Lav International Company, Chinese national Andrew Kuang, and chartered accountants Nitin Garg and Rajan Malik — had to be confronted about 4 terabytes (TB) of digital data which was seized from them by the agency.

The ED also said that 13 additional persons had joined the investigation in the case.

Counsel of the accused however argued that the investigating officer in the case should've collected evidence in advance before arresting the accused.

Additional Sessions Judge Devender Kumar Jangala agreed to grant custody but only for 3 days — a week less than what the ED had demanded.

In its remand application, the ED alleged that the accused had cheated the government by entering India in a "disguised and fraudulent manner to set up an elaborate Chinese-controlled network... carrying out activities prejudicial to the economic sovereignty of India".

According to the ED, its investigation revealed "huge sums were siphoned out of India". It further alleged violations of FDI norms by Vivo from 2014 to 2018.



Railway employees and passengers who were onboard the North East Express train that derailed in Buxar, Bihar, upon their arrival in Guwahati on Friday. PTI

Fault in track may have caused Bihar train accident: Internal inquiry report

SANTOSH SINGH PATNA, OCTOBER 13

A JOINT internal inquiry by the Railways has noted that the derailment of the Guwahati-bound North East Express on Wednesday night "occurred due to fault in track", and the responsibility lies with the engineering department, The Indian Express has learnt.

Four people were killed and 71 injured in the accident, which took place near Raghunathpur railway station in Bihar's Buxar district.

While a probe is underway by the commissioner, railway safety, a 17-point joint report of railways' functionaries concerned observed "the down-line track was fully disturbed between KM No. 628/26 to KM No. 629/10".

As per the report, the railway crossing gate man said that after 8-10 coaches passed through the crossing, he observed "sparking and heavy noise". The report said that all 23 coaches and the engine got "derailed by all wheels", and the "end portion of platform

number 4 was infringed upon by the derailed coach".

The report said that the loco pilot had said he felt "heavy vibrations and suddenly pressure in engine dropped" while passing LC gate 59-B. The report also said that two coaches "fully capsized" and one coach "partially capsized".

An ECR official said: "Everything will come out in the report of the commissioner, railway safety." He said preparation of the joint report is standard procedure after any accident.

Department of Agriculture, Government of Andhra Pradesh REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) Department of Agriculture, AP invites bids for selection of Agencies for supply of equipment for Biological Control Laboratories and Bio Fertilizer Lab in Andhra Pradesh state. For other details please visit www.apagrisnet.gov.in or www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in

S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER Tender Notice No. : ST-CKP-OT-22-2023, dated 12.10.2023. e-Tenders are invited by Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer/Co/Chakradharpur for and on behalf of the President of India against Tender No. ST-CKP-OT-22-2023-1 & 2 due to open on 03.11.2023 at 15.00 hrs. for the following work. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

When former ISRO chief was told to 'get lost'

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA PANAJI, OCTOBER 13:

EXHORTING STUDENTS to learn from their failures in life and take risks, former chairman Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) K Sivan on Friday said Chandrayaan-3 was defined a day after Chandrayaan-2 failure.

Addressing the convocation ceremony of National Institute of Technology, Goa, Sivan said, "...when we saw Chandrayaan-2's failure, we did not keep quiet. We defined Chandrayaan-3 the next day. The following day, I got the approval from the honourable PM".

"We learnt what went wrong in Chandrayaan-2...we were unhappy [for] that moment, but in the next moment, you have to rise...and now you can see the success of Chandrayaan-3. So, this is a big lesson we learnt. You should know how to learn from failure and how to conquer failure," said Sivan.

Stating that he wanted to become a school teacher, Sivan recounted how he could not land a job at ISRO's satellite centre and was told to "get lost".



K Sivan, while speaking at NIT, Goa, convocation, recalled that ISRO's satellite centre had dismissed him as a "useless fellow" when he first went there for a job opportunity. File

"After BE, I thought I would go for a job, but a job was not easy to get. I was passionate about doing masters and after doing masters, I went to ISRO's satellite centre to get a job. They said you are a useless fellow. You are not getting the job, get lost. Finally, I became the chairman of the same organisation...Because I did not get a job in the satellite centre, I got a job at the rocket centre," he said.

"In my career, I never got what I wanted. After completing the pre-university course, I wanted to

go for a BE [degree] engineering, but my father said no...he said he does not have the money... and asked me to go for BSc. After BSc, I wanted to pursue MSc, but my father refused again. He said 'now you decide whatever you want' or go back for a BE..." Sivan said his success as the project director of the GSVL and the risks taken by him as a leader there made him visible to the ISRO community.

"...the GSVL was continuously failing. They had taken me and put it in the ocean. They put me as

a project director of a four-time failed project. All my friends and seniors, instead of congratulating me, [they] were calling and giving me condolences. [They said] you are the fool number one to accept it...But, I made that project a success," Sivan said.

"In my career, I learnt one thing. If something is denied to you, something bigger and better is waiting for you."

Sivan said the country is now gearing up for Gaganyaan -- maiden human spaceflight mission of the country. Urging the youth to take risks, the former ISRO chief told the graduating students to become entrepreneurs in the space industry.

"The younger generation must aspire to become job creators rather than job seekers...Now, not only ISRO, private people can also make rockets, they can launch...We don't want ISRO to grow vertically. We want horizontal growth," he said.

Sivan said when one is set out to take on challenges of the world, three things — how to conquer fear of failure, taking calculated risks and innovation or lateral thinking — are important.

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

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER PHULBANI (R&B) CIRCLE, PHULBANI. Email: sermbphulbani@gmail.com Phone:- 06842 254004 INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) Bid Identification No. CCE_R and B_PLB_13 of 2023_24 No. 1948 Dated. 26.09.2023

NORTHERN RAILWAY Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav TENDER NOTICE Chief Administrative Officer/Const./Northern Railway, Kashmir Gate, Delhi, for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Two Packet System for the under work:

SC refuses to interfere with transfer of Armed Forces Tribunal member

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13

THE SUPREME Court Friday refused to interfere with the transfer of Justice Dharam Chand Choudhary, who was a judicial member with the Armed Forces Tribunal Chandigarh, to Kolkata.

A three-judge bench, presided by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, however, sought the Centre's response on the prayer to divest the tribunal from the control of the Ministry of Defence.

The bench, also comprising

time being. It also sought a report from the AFT chairperson detailing why the transfer was effected.

Following the transfer of Justice (retired) Dharam Chand Choudhary, the AFT Chandigarh Bar Association had on September 26 launched an indefinite strike. It also wrote twice to Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, terming the transfer as "a direct assault on the independence of judicial functioning" of the AFT. It alleged that Justice Choudhary was transferred because "he refused to buckle under the pressure of the Ministry of Defence".

Perusing the report, the CJI said on Friday that the Chairperson had explained that it was a temporary transfer as there was shortage of judicial members in the Kolkata bench whereas the Chandigarh bench had a surplus. "Being seniormost, he was transferred to Kolkata...The Chairperson is saying it is a temporary transfer...He has to be given some free play...", observed the CJI and asked if this is not within the power of the Chairperson.

Dismissing the plea, the court said it had "no reason...to doubt the exercise of administrative discretion" by the AFT chairperson "as posting of members to different benches lies within the administrative control of the chairperson".

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY G20 E-AUCTION NOTICE On behalf of the President of India, The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager- North Central Railway, Agra invites E-Auction for operation of 38 Catering Stalls at Platform of various Railway Stations over Agra Division for reserved and unreserved category (SMU & GMU) for a period of Five years.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER PHULBANI (R&B) CIRCLE, PHULBANI. Email: sermbphulbani@gmail.com Phone:- 06842 254004 INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) Bid Identification No. CCE_R and B_PLB_15 of 2023_24 No. 2217 Dated. 13.10.2023

COLLECTORATE, NALANDA "Pawapuri Mahotsav - 2023" SHORT TENDER FOR EVENT MANAGER District Administration invites tender for Event Manager to arrange the event of "PAWAPURI MAHOTSAV - 2023" on 11th - 12th November, 2023 in Pawapuri, Nalanda with following conditions.

BIG PICTURE

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE

Leadership by Consensus

In his term as Congress president, the 81-yr-old has shown he can be firm but accommodating, pushed the envelope but acquiesced to the Gandhis at other times, carving his path in an often-chaotic party

MANOJ CG

IN DECEMBER 2022, just two months after he took over as Congress president, Mallikarjun Kharge decided to rush party veteran Digvijaya Singh to Telangana on a mission. Kharge had information that a situation was developing in the state unit and even a split could not be ruled out — an alarming situation for the party in a state headed for Assembly elections.

While Kharge sent a note on Digvijaya's trip to Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, AICC general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal was caught by surprise. Those ranged against state chief A Venanth Reddy demanding his ouster had also been alleging that AICC in-charge Manickam Tagore was backing Reddy's unilateral ways and not paying heed to their grievances. Tagore is a close confidant of Venugopal and a staunch Rahul camp member.

In the first week of January, Kharge shifted Tagore to Goa and appointed Maharashtra leader Manickarao Thakre as the in-charge of Telangana. Rahul did not intervene or oppose. At the same time, Kharge allowed Reddy to continue — after gathering that he was hugely popular among the Congress cadre — with the firm message that he would have to take everyone along.

Cut to May this year. With both Siddaramaiah and D K Shivakumar playing hardball and the leadership unable to decide on the chief minister even four days after the Congress registered an emphatic victory in Karnataka, Kharge subtly let it be known to both that the party could look at options beyond them. The message was firm and it had the desired impact. Within hours, the two agreed to the leadership's formula — Siddaramaiah as CM and Shivakumar as the sole Deputy CM.

As he heads into the first anniversary of his term as Congress president on October 26, Kharge, 81 — the first non-Gandhi to helm the Congress in two-and-a-half decades — has shown that he has a mind of his own, can be firm and, at the same time, accommodating. He has emerged as a consensus builder in a party which is often chaotic. He has pushed the envelope on a couple of occasions, acquiesced to the wishes of the Gandhis at times and deferred to the collective wisdom at others.

The last non-Gandhi president of the Congress was Sitaram Kesri, and before him, P V Narasimha Rao.

A precedent president

Kharge's situation is different from other non-Gandhi predecessors. The family was not in active politics when Rao and Kesri were presidents. Sonia largely operated from behind the scenes, from the time of Rajiv Gandhi's assassination in 1991 till 1998. Now, three members of the Gandhi family are in active politics. However, both past presidents themselves, Rahul and Sonia have gone out of their way to send a message to the leaders that Kharge should be given the respect due to a Congress president.

They know that even the small gestures matter. For instance, whenever Sonia or Rahul or the two together make a joint appearance with Kharge (be it at a party function or a visit to memorials), it is ensured that the latter reaches the venue last, in def-



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

erence to the position he holds. And it is all well-coordinated. Invariably a message is relayed by Sonia's office or Rahul's team that they have left for the venue, and Kharge can leave five or 10 minutes later. And then they wait if needed for Kharge to arrive.

"Both Sonia and Rahul respect Kharge. In fact, Rahul's affection is visible in his body language," one leader said.

At the same time, Kharge's term has not completely been tension free, and has involved some give and take. The re-constitution of the Congress Working Committee (CWC), for example, which saw intense pulls and pressures. "The list was revised 25 times," said one leader in the know, in only a mild exaggeration.

The initial list did not have the names of some of the veterans — among them A K

Antony, seen as virtually retired from politics. But Sonia was of the view that veterans such as Antony and Harish Rawat should be included, as elders should be given their due place and dropping them would be unkind.

"Take a closer look at the list of CWC members. It has many stories to tell," a senior leader said.

Rahul too wanted some changes. "While the perception is that Rahul has delinked himself from day-to-day affairs of the party, that he is not taking interest, but that is not entirely the case. He keeps track, there was some back and forth," one leader said.

However, as another leader said: "It was not acrimonious... the exercise was amicable. The delay was because Kharge wanted to strike the right balance, keeping in mind the wishes of the family as well."

Essentially, Kharge wanted a "lean and

younger" looking CWC. Sources said leaders like Shashi Tharoor, Manish Tewari, Ramesh Chennithala and Syed Nasser Hussain were his choice, even though Tharoor had contested against him in the Congress presidential election. Rahul wanted the inclusion of Charanjit Singh Channi, Punjab's first Dalit chief minister, besides others such as Meenakshi Natarajan and Girish Chodankar who are seen as members of his team.

Affairs of state

Among the biggest successes of Kharge has perhaps been the truce he managed to enforce in Rajasthan. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his rival Sachin Pilot, it is said, were not even talking to each other when they sat down with Kharge and Venugopal in May. "Gehlot said, what is there to talk about... From there to bringing about a reconciliation was a huge achievement," one leader said.

"Kharge was clear. He told both Gehlot and Pilot that there is nothing wrong to have personal ambitions, but that the party was more important. Those remarks,

coming from a person who himself lost the CM race thrice but did not rebel and continued to work for the party... it makes a lot of difference. He has that tact," one leader said.

At the same time, Kharge has made it clear that he won't be pressured into taking a decision. "You saw that in Himachal Pradesh. Even before the CLP met, Pratibha Singh (the state Congress president) gave some statement that the party cannot neglect Virbhadra Singh's family because the election was fought on his work... Kharge told the observers to tell her that there is a process for selection of CM, and that she cannot be making such statements," one leader in the know said.

The success in getting T S Singh Deo to accept the Deputy CM post in Chhattisgarh was also a surprise. "Kharge and Rahul had a talk before that. It is not clear whose idea it was, but clearly they were working together as there was a sense that the state unit could implode," one leader said.

Organisationally, Kharge is now facing another challenge — the appointment of new office-bearers. "The list would be yet another reflection of the pulls and pressures. Many of those who are close to Rahul could be made in-charges. Jitendra Singh, who is now the general secretary in-charge of Assam, could be given an additional state," one leader said.

The Priyanka question

The elephant in the room is said to be Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, the general secretary in charge of Uttar Pradesh. She is not keen to continue in that role.

"The list perhaps is held up as there is no clarity on her role. Giving a bigger organisational role and profile to Priyanka would dilute the raison d'être behind the appointment of a non-Gandhi as the Congress president," one leader said. As it is, Kharge has his hands tied when it comes to Uttar Pradesh. "He hasn't touched UP. It is like a no-go area. For instance, the removal of Brijlal Khabri as UPCC president barely 10 months after his appointment was done at the behest of Priyanka's team," one leader said.

But if there is a way to be found, Kharge has shown that he can do it, if with consultation and consensus. He has held detailed meetings with leaders from state after state, driving home the need to get battle-ready for the Lok Sabha elections. Rahul has sat next to him in most of those meetings, stretching for hours. Leaders have been allowed to air their views freely, with Kharge only laying the condition that what transpired behind those closed doors should not reach the media.

Organisational matters aside, Kharge is also slowly developing good equations with Opposition figures as well as emerging as a good orator, using his speeches to attack the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi without mincing words. His "Ravan" and "poisonous snake" jibes at the Prime Minister may have triggered controversies, but he remains scathing. Nor did he flinch when son Priyank Kharge took the lead over attacking the BJP on the tricky Sanatan Dharma issue.

Many believe the Congress's embrace of social justice politics full throttle now too has a Kharge imprint.

TEAM KHARGE

SYED NASEER HUSSAIN



From Karnataka's Bellary, Hussain started his political career as a student activist of the SFI and was in 1999 president of JNU Students' Union. However, he later joined the NSUI. Congress nominated Hussain to Rajya Sabha in 2018. Hussain was one of Kharge's election managers when he contested for the post of party president last year. Kharge recently inducted Hussain as a member of the CWC.

PRANAV JHA



From Jharkhand, Jha began his political career in the Youth Congress. A former AICC secretary in charge of media, in 2022, Jha became a member of the Madhusudan Mistry-led Central Election Authority, which oversaw the Congress presidential elections. He gives inputs for Kharge's speeches.

GURDEEP SINGH SAPPAL



Formerly OSD to former Vice-President Hamid Ansari and later CEO and Editor-in-Chief of Rajya Sabha TV, Sappal was appointed as one of the coordinators in Kharge's office after the latter took over as Congress president. He was recently appointed the party's nominee in the I.N.D.I.A. alliance's campaign committee. He is now also a permanent invitee of the CWC.

GAURAV PANDHI & RACHIT SETH



He and Seth were among those who laid the groundwork for building the party's social media department a decade ago. In Kharge's office, while Pandhi takes care of his tour programmes, Seth, who was earlier associated with the party's media and social media departments, takes care of the party president's social media platforms.



PHONEY LOVE

A call, entrapment, and descent into sex trade

Instead of luring girls with job offers, traffickers are professing love over calls & social media, say police

NEHA BANKA

THAT ONE phone call changed her life.

All of 17 and living in a small border village cut off from the Sundarbans by a narrow creek, a few sweet nothings murmured into the phone by the unknown caller is all it took to make the now 25-year-old to fall madly in love with him. A month later, the "love of her life" had sex-trafficked the naive teenager to Gujarat.

Though villages in West Bengal along the Bangladesh border have been notorious for sex trafficking for years, social workers and state police say that traffickers have changed their modus operandi of late. Instead of luring them with high-paying jobs, traffickers are now professing "love" and promising marriage over calls and social media to convince their victims — most of whom come from vulnerable backgrounds — to elope with them.

While sources in the state Criminal Investigation Department (CID) admit to the

problem, they say it's difficult to give an actual estimate of girls/women trafficked in the state using this specific modus operandi because "all reported cases are clubbed under the general umbrella of trafficking".

National data on women and girls who went missing in 2019-2021, released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) in July, showed that West Bengal was second only to Madhya Pradesh in this problem: 1,56,905 women and 36,606 girls had gone missing in the state.

The inhabited part of the Sundarbans, spread across the districts of South 24 Parganas and North 24 Parganas, is dotted with villages where people have been struggling for survival for years because of the region's challenging ecology. "The saline waters of the Bay of Bengal make agriculture and daily life difficult for the locals. There

are no jobs here, so most adults work in cities. Their children, usually left behind with grandparents or relatives, are given phones to keep in touch with parents and to study online. The traffickers use these very phones to target young girls and women," says Tania



The mother of a 19-year-old who has been missing since March hopes she will be brought back some day. Neha Banka

Sultan, a legal coordinator with Katakhalī Empowerment & Youth Association (KEYA), a grassroots organisation that helps survivors of sex trafficking in villages of North 24 Parganas district.

Social workers say traffickers use their extensive network to scout villages along the border for vulnerable targets.

"They also befriend their targets' friends and relatives to get their numbers and information on them. Once connected on the phone, traffickers woo these girls/young women with promises of love, something their families fail to offer them," says Soma

Das, who heads KEYA.

Between January 1 and September 30, in 73 villages of one block in the region, social workers recorded 35 cases of girls/women being trafficked for sex using this modus operandi.

"We hear of six to seven cases every month in one block of the region alone," says Sakila Khatun of KEYA.

The sheltered upbringing of these girls and young women makes it easy to "trap" them, say social workers.

KEYA's Das says, "These girls and women don't have the smarts to question why a

stranger wants to speak to them. They haven't had opportunities to interact with confident men and are too young to know any better. Attention from these callers makes them feel flattered and they start to believe that the man actually loves them."

An official with the state CID's Anti Human Trafficking Unit explains, "Traffickers call 100 random numbers registered in West Bengal to find a prospective victim. Silver-tongued, they start conversations with the victim, slowly connecting through WhatsApp, getting added to her Facebook friends' list and eventually switching exclusively to social media apps to woo her and convince her to run away with him."

One such young woman to be "wooed" away in March from a village on the banks of the Ichamati was a 19-year-old. In the hopes of finding her child, her distraught single mother, 45, has been carrying photocopies of her daughter's government-issued ID cards and a passport photo in a green bag since she went missing.

"She returned from school one day and said a man had promised her a job in Kazipara. I don't even know where Kazipara is. I told her that we would discuss it after I returned from work, but she was gone when I got home," says the mother, adding that she brought her child up without any support from her in-laws.

"I got her a smartphone when schools went online during Covid-19. She is naive and a good-looking girl. I told her that she was being duped, but she didn't listen to me," says the inconsolable mother, who works as a domestic help, adding that her daughter's

phone has been switched off since March. The state CID official adds, "Girls keep their romance cleverly hidden. The trafficker too never meets the victims in their village. Instead, they meet them somewhere else. Once the victim starts trusting them, they take them away during their third or fourth meeting."

Police say the new modus operandi makes it nearly impossible for them to distinguish between a case of trafficking and genuine love. "The trafficker and victims talk via apps like Messenger, but we cannot trace those calls or messages. Earlier, we could comb through a year's worth of data from their social media accounts, but encrypted messages make it tough," says the official.

One of the ways out of this mess, Khatun says, is to ensure that girls are taught to be wary of who they trust.

Back in her village, wearing a purple batik dress with an orange *odhna* wrapped around her torso, the 25-year-old who was sex trafficked to Gujarat has been fighting for justice for seven years now.

"I never miss a court hearing — even though I have to cross four rivers by boat, which takes four to five hours, and costs a lot (around Rs 300)," she says.

Her experiences have "toughened" her, she says, adding that she is no longer deceived by "empty compliments". She adds with a smile, "Though I don't trust anyone anymore, I have not given up on the institution of marriage. Thanks to the case, I have learnt a little about the court system. If someone really wants to marry me, he will have to get the marriage registered in court first."



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

A crisis of politics

In aftermath of Hamas attack, Israeli people are uniting behind army. For now, they do not trust their leaders



KHINRAJ JANGID

COST OF DAL-ROTI

Food inflation isn't across-the-board. It calls for a more nuanced approach that balances consumer and producer interests

CONSUMER PRICE INFLATION has fallen from 7.4 per cent to 5 per cent year-on-year between July and September, below the Reserve Bank of India's 6 per cent upper tolerance limit. It has come on the back of retail food inflation registering an even sharper decline, from 11.5 per cent to 6.6 per cent, during this period. Much of the food inflation is at present concentrated in cereals (10.9 per cent) and pulses (16.4 per cent), while the price increases in vegetables and milk — items that were a source of angst until recently — have considerably moderated. There's no better indicator of relief on the vegetable prices front than tomatoes, whose annual inflation has collapsed from a mind-boggling 202.1 per cent in July to minus 21.5 per cent in September. Edible oil inflation has been in negative or low single-digits for over a year. Inflation has been high for salt and spices, but sufficiently under control in sugar.

The long and short of it is that food inflation is no longer generalised. While it's early to say that the worst is over, El Niño's impact hasn't been as bad as was feared. There was definitely a lot to worry about when India recorded the driest and also the hottest August this time. Thankfully, rainfall was 13.2 per cent surplus in September. Apart from providing life-saving showers for the standing kharif crop, it has pared the overall water level deficit in major reservoirs (relative to the 10-year-average) to 5.6 per cent, from 13.8 per cent on September 6. Reasonably filled-up dam reservoirs and recharged groundwater tables should enable plantings for the coming rabi season, the prospects for which seemed dire till the monsoon staged a timely recovery in September. This should, for now, keep a lid on food prices in general. Food inflation is, if at all, limited to "dal-roti" — unlike when its effects extended even to sabzi and doodh.

If food inflation isn't across-the-board, it calls for a more nuanced approach from the government that balances both consumer and producer interests. Currently, it has chosen a sledgehammer strategy to keep prices low at all costs — through export bans/restrictions (on wheat, sugar, onion and most rice) and stocking limits (pulses and wheat). Privileging consumers over producers may be politically expedient too, as the former generally outnumber the latter. But that strategy can backfire where farm votes matter: Soyabean trading below minimum support price, amid all-time-high vegetable oil imports, could well be an issue in next month's Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan polls. The government also needs to take a view beyond elections: Are excessively pro-consumer policies conducive for investments in a sector with the highest employment potential, both on- and off-farm.

A BLEAK SPOT

Methodology of Global Hunger Index has been rightly criticised. But conversation on ways to address undernutrition must go on

ALMOST EVERY YEAR, in October, the publication of the Global Hunger Index (GHI) precipitates an aggressive push-back by the government. This year, too, the report that ranks India 111 among 125 nations — a fall of four places from last year — has elicited an angry reaction from the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development. In what seems a reiteration of its response last year, the ministry has said: "Three of the four indicators used for calculation of the index are related to the health of children and cannot be representative of the entire population. The fourth and most important indicator estimate of the proportion of the undernourished population is based on an opinion poll conducted on a very small sample size of 3,000." Scholars have also argued that the GHI is a poorly designed measure of hunger. Such criticisms are valid. But they should not divert policymakers' attention from the persistent problem of poor food intake.

Undernutrition is one of the bleak spots of India's development story. The National Food Security Act, 2013 made it incumbent on the state to provide basic cereals and grains to ensure that people do not go hungry. Schemes such as Poshan 2.0 seek to address the challenges of malnutrition in children, adolescent girls and pregnant women. However, technical glitches, bureaucratic hurdles, social and economic inequalities and gender discrimination prevent a large number of people from accessing these benefits. Among the troubling statistics of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 5 is the one that relates to child nutrition: It found that 89 per cent of children between the formative ages of 6-23 months do not receive a "minimum acceptable diet" — marginally better than the 90.4 per cent recorded in NFHS-4. The survey also flagged high rates of anaemia across large sections — children below six years, adolescent girls and boys and women between 15 to 49 years, including pregnant women.

In recent years, scholars have directed attention to the limitations of calorie intake-centred approaches. They have underlined the importance of addressing vitamin and micro-nutrient deficiency and alerted policymakers to the importance of women's empowerment. Conversations on nutrition could become richer with more granular data on household consumption. However, the country has not had an official estimate on per capita household spending in more than 10 years. The government junked the Consumer Expenditure Surveys (CES) of 2017-2018 and the results of CES 2022-23 are not yet public. The Centre is right in critiquing the GHI. But that should not diminish the significance of the nutrition challenge. As a first step, it must bolster its information repositories.

KARTHYAYANI AMMA

In India's adult literacy drive, her success in Kerala remains a template of individual aspiration and institutional support

AS ANY TOPPER will vouch for, in the end, the question paper is always a bit of a letdown. Even the adrenaline rush that comes from knowing that one is going to ace it is no match for the crests and troughs that the process of preparation entails. In 2018, when 96-year-old Karthyayani Amma topped Kerala's Aksharalasham literacy programme with 98 per cent, her one regret was that the exam had tested only a small part of her preparation. She had been hungry for more.

The poster girl of Kerala's adult literacy programme passed away at her home on Wednesday, at the age of 101 years, but Amma's drive — she had wanted to clear her Class X exams — remains a motivational model of both individual aspiration and institutional support. Statistics show how, despite a surge in literacy among women in India since Independence, the gender gap in education remains large. The 2011 Census pegs the adult literacy rate for women in rural areas at 50.6 per cent as compared to 76.9 per cent in urban areas, whereas for men, the same in rural areas is pegged at 74.1 per cent as compared to 88.3 per cent in urban areas. Over the years, one of the highest improvements in literacy rates has been among rural women, achieved in no small measure by the implementation of adult literacy programmes both at the level of the state and the Centre. Kerala, with its high overall literacy level, has been a role model in this; the New India Literacy Programme, under the National Education Policy 2020, focuses on "education for all".

It is, however, impossible not to recognise in Karthyayani Amma's success story the stamp of individual grit. Not having had the opportunity to attend school, literacy had come to her late. But when it did arrive, after the death of her husband and at the behest of one of her daughters, herself a school dropout, she grasped it with both hands and made it count — not just for herself but for many others in need of affirmation that the right to education comes with no constraints.

ISRAEL IS DEALING with the worst attack on its people since the days of the Holocaust. More than 1,300 have died, most of whom are ordinary people caught unawares in their homes and kibbutzim all over south Israel. The elderly and teenagers, women and men, woke up to rocket sirens. That is a familiar part of life for Israelis. What has not been experienced before is armed militants of Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad surrounding their homes. The militants (calling them terrorists is also correct in this instance) were jubilant, making reels and videos of the captives they took with them into Gaza.

There is no count of how many have been abducted. Dead bodies of Israeli soldiers were taken to be used as leverage against Israel. Foreign agricultural workers from the Philippines, Thailand and Mexico have also been captured. Ten Nepalese citizens and 12 Thai citizens were killed, as per the statements of their embassies here.

Israel's army fought militants in residential areas for five days. The infiltration was massive, as 1,500 dead bodies of militants were counted from southern Israel. Hundreds of Israeli families have been asking about their loved ones' whereabouts, and some have information about them being captured, with the help of videos coming out of Gaza. Israelis are enduring pain and agony and will have to bear more in days to come. Hundreds are missing, and dead bodies are to be found in the vast desert of Negev, identified and buried. In all this, the army has called all its reserve force to report for a massive land and air operation over Gaza. There is no time for mourning, or to sit for seven days of Shiva, as Jews do for their dead.

I have worked at the Ben-Gurion University's campus of Sde Boker Kibbutz for the last two years. Located deep in the Negev desert, this place somehow escaped the worst, but many small and big communities and villages next to it have been under attack. A day later, I was supposed to be at the annual conference of the European Association of Israel Studies there with more than 200 participants who travelled to Israel last week from all over the world. Journalists

who called me for a first-hand account had one common question: How did such a thing happen to the state of Israel — an army-state known for its intelligence, interceptors and heavy security protocols?

Simply put, the current government ignored all warnings given by the defence minister, Yoav Gallant, in the last seven months. Since January this year, the far-right government of Benjamin Netanyahu has been pushing for radical judicial reforms to get unlimited political power for religious and nationalist objectives such as more settlements in the West Bank, exempting the ultra-orthodox population from conscription, giving more budgetary benefits for religious organisations than for liberal-secular ones. Days earlier, on the eve of Yom Kippur, the big issue within Israeli society was whether to have religious ceremonies with gender segregation in public places. Democratic, strong, yet non-violent mass movements for the last eight months have been fighting on this agenda. The defence minister publicly opposed the politics that was dividing the nation. The PM fired his defence minister for calling for a pause of the judicial reforms in March. The heads of Mossad and Shabak, Israel's internal intelligence agency, and many senior army officers made the PM withdraw that sacking order. Netanyahu and Gallant have not been on the same page since.

Thousands of soldiers, pilots and intelligence experts refused to volunteer in the last six months. Gallant kept saying that the socio-political divisions have impacted the army's war or operational preparedness. He saw the army's human power depleting. Some of the ministers in the government ridiculed the Chief of Staff, Herzl Halevi, for his public reports that Israel's national security was becoming vulnerable due to political divisions. They accused the army of harbouring plans of a coup, not supporting the government on judicial reforms and overstating security concerns. The Times of Israel reported that Netanyahu shouted at the army chiefs for speaking publicly about national security issues and weakening deter-

rence about two months ago. "It seems the army is running the country", he reportedly said, to the chiefs who were asking for an immediate halt to the judicial reforms.

Efraim Halevy, former director of Mossad, appointed by Netanyahu when he became the prime minister in 1998, has been critical of him for "losing touch with reality". Halevy joined the protest movement, like many other ex-directors of Mossad, because he found the government was ignoring the inner divisions that could harm the army's strength and unity. Halevy thought the current political crisis in Israel "is not one of those ordinary events you just move on from, but a major act of destruction that could wreck the entire edifice of the state". It is shocking, yet possible, that all-powerful leaders can conflate their interest with the national interest. Strong leaders are delusional, they can risk the lives of their people with their trickery. Israelis are getting united behind the army; they may not trust their leaders again.

At a deeper level, the politics of Netanyahu derailed the Oslo Peace Process and pushed Israeli politics more into unilateralism for the last two decades. He created a make-believe world where Israel could live and prosper with conflict management rather than find a resolution with the Palestinians. The Palestinian leadership after Yasser Arafat and Hamas's use of terror are equally responsible for non-resolution of the conflict.

Israel's army is fighting a war that it constantly worried about and warned the political leaders against. Israel's political leaders found them inconvenient reports at best and pushed them aside. The Israeli people are going through an acute crisis even though their army is known as one of the best in the world, and their intelligence tools and sophisticated warfare means are sought after by other countries. Politics, human folly, is the spoiler.

The writer is director, Jindal Centre for Israel Studies, Jindal School of International Affairs, O P Jindal Global University



SRI SRI RAVI SHANKAR

THE SPIRIT OF THE GAME

Sport is meant to unite people. Anything else reduces it to politics or business

THIS WEEKEND, THE entire population of two countries will be glued to their screens hoping their team triumphs over the other. Should we take sports seriously or lightly? The answer is both. It loses its charm and lightness if you take sports too seriously. It turns into a battle or business and that's where all the unethical practices can stem from. When we do not take sports in a lighter spirit and treat them as larger-than-life, we get depressed and anxious about failing. For many sportspersons, this becomes a trigger for a host of mental illnesses.

A game is a game because it is foolish. If you find meaning, it is not a game.

A fool does something unique, yet meaningless. All entertainment, including games, are an act of foolishness in some way. Just imagine if somebody from another planet lands here and sees a huge crowd watching a game — one ball in the middle, a player trying to hit it all over, another trying to catch it and bring it back to the centre, only to throw it away again. Why go through all this trouble, the alien might wonder. It would appear absolutely funny and pointless. For hours together other people sit there, howling, yelling and clapping. You can watch the whole drama, with awareness. There is really nothing in it. George Bernard Shaw said somewhere, "Cricket is a game where 11 fools play and 11 thousand watch."

Not just cricket, make your whole life a game. Take it lightly and easily. Play the game.

That is worship. Have you ever seen kittens, or even small monkeys, when they are stomachs full? They don't just sit around. They play. They are not really fighting with each other but they run, punch, scratch, and do somersaults. Sports are a natural phenomenon where we laugh and cry together. A sport or a game is the first expression of life. A baby, even before it starts recognising faces and speaking, starts playing. I would say sports is the purest expression of life, and so honouring it is honouring our own life force. Whether it is politics, economics, music, art, religion or sports, there is only one aim of all these avenues — to bring happiness. And sport is one of the most important tools to create happiness, harmony and well-being. But we need to look at sports and sportsmanship from a broader dimension, to keep the violence, aggression and short-sightedness out of it.

We need to learn the art of equanimity. Letting a win go to our head can lead to arrogance and allowing the loss to get to our hearts can lead to depression and anxiety. Somehow, the feverishness of winning has gripped the arena of sports. Even between countries, when one country wins, the people from other countries get so upset, and in some cases, there is violence. This can be avoided if the true essence of sports is brought to light — to uplift the spirit and unite people and have happier societies. In a game, somebody is going to win, but that somebody's win should be eventually a celebration for everybody, a

celebration of talent. I tell sportspersons, there are only two scenarios — either you win or you make others win. That puts their minds at ease. If that is not the spirit, then it is not a game, it is a war or business. Infusing this spirit in sports is important to uplift human consciousness. If this is not there, then we are missing something that is basic to sports.

Sports have this special dimension: You can be happy just by playing, keeping aside the results. Their result is not as important as the process or the joy of being involved in the act of playing, and how well you have played your role.

In the last decade or so, sports and sportspersons have received significant support in India. But we also must make sure their mental health is looked after. They should be beaming with real happiness when they are playing. While the physical side of training for players has advanced significantly, they should also explore their inner dimension. A strong mind can carry a weak body, but a weak mind cannot carry even a strong body. To be able to handle the demands of modern competitive sports, a calm and balanced mind is indispensable. That can come from practices that increase their focus and sense of relaxation simultaneously, like yoga, some breathing and a few minutes of meditation.

The writer is a spiritual leader and founder of the Art of Living Foundation



OCTOBER 14, 1983, FORTY YEARS AGO

DELHI BLASTS

THREE PERSONS, INCLUDING A four-year-old girl and her mother, were killed and 15 others injured, 10 of them seriously, in bomb explosions in two cinema halls in Shahdara in Delhi. Among those killed was the canteen boy, Totla, 18, of Gianand cinema. All the three killed were from among those injured in the explosion. The two others killed were Promila, 24, and her daughter Nitu, four.

overwhelmingly rejected a proposal for ending all immigration from the Asian Subcontinent and other Commonwealth countries and for repatriation of immigrants who have already entered the UK. After a heated debate and firm defence by the government of its immigration policy, the motion moved by a far-right Conservative MP, Harvey Proctor, was turned down.

INDIA-CHINA TALKS

INDIA AGREED TO a proposal from China to review the international situation during the official level talks on the boundary dispute

and other bilateral matters scheduled to begin in New Delhi on October 2. This is the first time that a view of the international situation will be made during the series of official level talks which began in December 1981.

NO ATTACK ON PAK

ASPOKESMAN ON emphatically denied that India had any plans to attack Pakistan. Commenting on a report in a section of the press, the spokesman said that during her Brief halt on London on her way home from New York earlier this month Mrs Gandhi had not met deported Pakistani leaders.

Her quiet revolution

By placing women's bodies, personal lives and social relationships at the centre of the study of economic behaviour, Claudia Goldin helped feminise the lens of economic enquiry



SHRAYANA BHATTACHARYA

THROUGH THE PAST week, most of us have seen or read various tributes to Professor Claudia Goldin — the first woman to be tenured at the Economics Department of Harvard University in 1989; the third woman to be awarded the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences (commonly referred to as the Nobel Prize for Economics); the first woman to receive the honour solo. If you are alert to the world of academia and feminist economists, you would have registered a sense of acknowledgement and jubilation. In these very pages, Ashwini Deshpande celebrated Goldin's recognition by writing "der aaye, durust aaye" ("Gender reality check", IE, October 12). On social media, Jayati Ghosh shared, "Another of the infrequent times this Prize Committee has redeemed itself." The internet was flooded with stories of Goldin's contributions on the pay gap, gender-blind recruitment, the role of the contraceptive pill in women's career trajectories, the work-life trade-offs facing American, college-educated women and the inequity within couples triggered by unequal care-giving and "greedy jobs" that require high intensity and complete focus at an age when women must contend with their desire to nurture children. In a world where women are often penalised for being brilliant, where economics is often collapsed into tired macroeconomic models, cute econometric techniques or breathless discussions on growth rates, a woman who studied the economics of womanhood won. So much has been said and written; but I wish to highlight three critical strands in her work that may be helpful to those of us outside the academy.

First, Goldin's important framing of "quiet revolutions" in the labour market can help us be more clear-eyed when we talk about women's economic empowerment. In her 2006 paper, "The Quiet Revolution that Transformed Women's Employment, Education and Family", Goldin reflected on the inter-generational changes in women's quotidian attitudes towards their own education and employment. She described how the modern role of women in the US economy can be charted in four distinct phases. While she classifies the period from the late-19th century till the late-1970s as "evolutionary", where married women's employment rates zoomed up, she argues that this rise in employment led to a "revolutionary" phase in the subsequent decades for highly educated women in the US, despite smaller increases in female labour force participation, compared to the previous phases of history. Her astonishing account, weaving myriad data sources and indicators, suggests that the revolutionary phase began when women who were teenagers in the mid-1960s realised that their lives could be different from their mothers and planned their marriages and education accordingly. She says, "The revolution was a 'quiet' one, not the 'big-bang' type. I am not using the terms 'evolution' and 'revolution' lightly."

For Goldin, the distinction between the two does not lie in the rate of increase in women's employment, rather in three as-



C R Sasikumar

pects of women's choices. The first is what she calls "horizon", that is, whether at the time of planning her education, a woman perceives that her lifetime labour force participation will be "long and continuous or intermittent and brief". The second is "identity" — whether a woman derives a sense of personhood from her professional identity. The third concerns "decision making", where women are fully autonomous in making their labour market choices. She contends that revolution occurred when American women started working because they found a sense of worth and meaning from their careers, as opposed to working when their families needed the additional money. It involved a cognitive shift from "jobs" to "careers," which implied shifts in the age of marriage and prolonged investments in acquiring market relevant skills. Such a framework with its emphasis on measuring generational shifts in ideas of a woman's sense of self and aspirations remains potent in thinking about how jobs foster more economic autonomy for women, especially those with higher levels of education. Naturally, the stories of change will be vastly different in the Global South or countries like India with high informality rates and multiple axes of inequity of caste and region.

Second, a key lesson from Goldin's research is the vital importance of deep, rich and interdisciplinary descriptive data in understanding economic well-being and transformation. Her investigations rely not only on seeking "a highly descriptive truth" but also an "analytical one". In her books and papers, the reader can see a wonderful integration of theory, popular references, painstakingly collected and corrected quantitative data and a deep understanding of all that was transpiring in America beyond the data set. In discussing her methods while investigating any subject, she writes, "At my desk will be several books on the subject, often history books, sometimes sociology, occasionally fiction, rarely economics." Unable to use standard surveys as they did not pick up women's work, she constructed data sets that she described as a "nightmare of matrices" from the national

Claudia Goldin's pathbreaking analysis of 200 years of data debunked the prevalent view that economic growth directly propelled women's labour force participation. Instead, she showed how the evolution of structures of American society and economy — families, technologies, a shift away from agriculture, growth of specific types of white-collar salaried jobs and labour arrangements — influenced the evolution of women's economic outcomes.

archives and dusty old business directories following suggestions for sources from colleagues across disciplines. The data was collected, as she detailed, the "old-fashioned way — by hand and by me".

Third, yes, Goldin's body of work is largely about women in the US labour market. But it is more than that. Her work is an innovative and rigorous historical account of long-term social change within a particular milieu. In a recent interview, she said, with humour, "For economists, change is important — change is interesting. Therefore, men are boring and women are interesting." *Understanding the Gender Gap*, her landmark 1990 book, was after all subtitled *An Economic History of American Women*. Her pathbreaking analysis of 200 years of data debunked the prevalent view that economic growth directly propelled women's labour force participation. Instead, she showed how the evolution of structures of American society and economy — families, technologies, a shift away from agriculture, growth of specific types of white-collar salaried jobs and labour arrangements — influenced the evolution of women's economic outcomes. She is a storyteller-economist who traces the past into our present.

If feminism is the conviction that gender and other forms of power relations remain salient in understanding any phenomena, her recognition is a significant moment for the movement. Sure, there will be critiques of the work being anchored in neo-classical frameworks and the West, of being more representative of highly educated women within the US. Some feminists would argue that Goldin's work does not adequately comment on the power of patriarchy in restricting the choices and agency available to women. However, by centering and privileging women's bodies, personal lives and social relationships in the study of economic behaviour, Goldin has championed feminising the lens of economic enquiry. Let us hope the policy world follows.

Bhattacharya is the author of *Desperately Seeking Shah Rukh*. Views are personal

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"A tragedy is still unfolding in the Middle East. It is the duty of the international community, however fractured, to work together to limit the devastation."

— THE GUARDIAN

Babasaheb's conversion

Ambedkar embraced Buddhism because of varna and jati. We still fortify those institutions for political expediency or religious orthodoxy



RAM RAJYA

BY RAM MADHAV

SIXTY-SEVEN YEARS ago, on October 14, 1956, just seven weeks before his demise, B R Ambedkar — architect of the Indian Constitution and leader of the Depressed Classes — took the life-changing decision to renounce Hinduism and convert to Buddhism. A revered Buddhist monk from Burma (Myanmar), Bhikkhu Chandramani, initiated Ambedkar, his wife and a few lakh people, who had gathered from all over the country, into Buddhism on that morning of the Hindu festival of Dussehra. The venue in Nagpur has since come to be recognised as Deekshabhoomi and is a major pilgrimage site for neo-Buddhists.

Ambedkar's conversion was the culmination of a vow he took exactly 21 years earlier. On October 13, 1935, Ambedkar was at Yeola in Nashik district, Maharashtra, to address a conference of the Depressed Classes. In an emotional address that lasted for an hour and a half, Ambedkar told his audience of more than 10,000 that while he was born a Hindu because it was not in his hands, he wouldn't want to live under the humiliating conditions of the religion. "I solemnly assure you that I will not die a Hindu," he declared.

In an article in these columns two weeks ago on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, I wrote about the intense discussions Gandhi and Ambedkar had over the question of varna and jati (caste) in Hinduism. I stated that the Poona Pact, through which Gandhi was able to bring Ambedkar around to an agreement for the Depressed Classes to be given a political share in the governance as a part of the Hindu society, remained just a political deal. Ambedkar and Gandhi continued to drift away from each other after the Poona Pact. Their ideological differences kept growing and at one point in early 1946, Ambedkar himself told an audience in Sholapur that Gandhi had declined to meet him "saying that there was nothing common in their angles of vision".

Coming just one year after the Poona Pact, Ambedkar's declaration of leaving the Hindu religion rattled Gandhi. Describing Ambedkar as "high-souled" and "highly educated", Gandhi urged him to reconsider the decision because "despite isolated events" untouchability was "on its last legs". He also insisted that Ambedkar should examine "his ancestral religion" on its own merits and not through the weaknesses of its "unfaithful followers".

Ambedkar disagreed with Gandhi on that fundamental premise. While Gandhi blamed the faithful, Ambedkar blamed the teachings of Hinduism. For him, as long as caste and varna existed, there was no freedom for "untouchables". In a long speech he delivered in May 1936 at Dadar in Bombay, Ambedkar insisted that the struggle between the "Caste Hindus" and "untouchables" is a "permanent phenomenon" because "the religion which has placed you at the lowest level of the

society itself is eternal".

As regards Gandhi's efforts at integrating the members of the Depressed Classes — whom he called "Harijans" — into the Congress fold, Ambedkar was categorical that it was a trap that the "untouchables" shouldn't fall into.

Delivering an important speech at the All-India Depressed Classes Conference in Nagpur on July 18-19, 1942, Ambedkar explained the reasons for his opposition to Gandhi. By then, the Depressed Classes Conference had started attracting large crowds. There were more than 75,000 people in the audience at the Nagpur conference. Their numbers in the British Army and administration too witnessed a rise in the years after the Poona Pact. Ambedkar referred to this awakening but insisted that it was "not the result of Hindu charity" but "entirely the result of our own labour".

Ambedkar argued that political power was critical for securing the rights of the Depressed Classes, without which "we will perish". Of all the adverse forces in winning the political battle for the "untouchables", Ambedkar found Gandhi to be "the most formidable force". However, Ambedkar's battle against varna and the caste system in Hinduism went beyond power politics. A landmark intervention in this regard was his 1936 book, *Annihilation of Caste*.

Annihilation of Caste was originally drafted as the text of a speech he was invited to deliver at the Jati Pati Todak Mandal's event in Lahore. However, Ambedkar's strong critique of the Vedas and other Hindu scriptures in the context of the *chaturvarna* system was seen by the organisers as too controversial and the event itself was eventually cancelled. Ambedkar then published the essay as a book.

Ambedkar called the caste system "a planned misfortune" and added, "I would be glad to take a leading part in the destruction of the caste system if the Hindus are willing to work in earnest towards that end, even if they had to forsake their kith and kin and their religious notions." He firmly believed that caste cannot be overcome by inter-caste dining or marriages because it is a "mindset" and a "disease of mind". He waited for two decades to see if the Hindus accepted his proposition of dismantling caste. Several so-called caste Hindus joined Ambedkar in conversion at Deekshabhoomi.

Justifying his conversion, Ambedkar described Buddhism as a revolt against the discriminatory Hindu social order. He insisted that liberty, equality and fraternity were not ideas that we borrowed from the French Revolution but the essence of the "teachings of my master, Buddha".

As caste re-enters the political discourse of our country in a big way, the history of Ambedkar's journey from the Poona Pact to Deekshabhoomi also returns in relevance. Ambedkar insisted that since the institution of caste had divine sanction, its rejection also must come from an appropriate religious authority in Hinduism. There was some progress in the late 1960s when the Hindu saints came together to declare that all Hindus were brothers and sisters.

Yet, instead of absolutely rejecting varna and caste as desired by Ambedkar, we, unfortunately, continue to fortify those very institutions for political expediency or out of religious orthodoxy.

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

Bound by history, geography

It is in Maldives' interest to not take India for granted



DNYANESHWAR MULAY

IT IS BEING said that the news from Maldives is not good. How true is this? India's footprints in Maldives are deep-rooted, both historically and in contemporary relations. Change may occur to some extent due to the change in leadership in Maldives. However, it is unlikely to alter the fundamentals. From Maumoon Abdul Gayoom's years till today, our relations, despite a few hiccups, have been close and friendly. So, let's not judge the situation in a rush.

Maldives has an area of 90,000 sq km that encompasses 99.6 per cent of the sea. The remaining land is distributed over more than 1,200 islands. Experts predict that 80 per cent of the Maldives will cease to exist by 2050 due to "Global Boiling". India is the closest neighbour at a distance of 70 nautical miles. Who else could come to assist Maldives in an hour of need? Ibn Khaldun, a Tunisian philosopher has said that geography is destiny, and it is true in the case of our two countries. The countries are entwined, not only through geography but also history.

Maldives with 98 per cent literacy is a nation of contradictions and these pose challenges to democratic governance. These include a constitution that bars anyone non-Sunni to become a Maldivian citizen; a nascent civil society; a tradition of patronage, a problem of increasing drug abuse, a distorted labour market, growing inequality, and an economy dependent on external fac-

tors. Also concerning is the growing trend of religious extremism.

India has always been a factor in Maldives, in fact, it has been the only constant. Earlier, there was only Buddhism in Maldives which was replaced in the 12th century by Islam. Even during the British protectorate years (1887-1965), Maldives depended on India for essentials as well as communication with the outside world. The State Bank of India was the major financier that helped build the edifice of the country's tourist economy. Even today, it is the largest bank in the island country. Whether it was the attempted coup in 1988 or subsequent assistance through decades, India provided a helping hand in every possible way, but stayed clear of internal developments. The dependence of Maldives on India and its unconditional support, has helped it become what it is today — a country with the highest per capita in south Asia.

Maldives is well aware of the enormous scale of cooperation with India. The defence cooperation is less about India's gifting of helicopters and more about capacity building through joint exercises like the Ekuverin, Ekatha, surveillance assets, training of 1,400 MNDF trainers in recent years and disaster management. For decades, India has provided effective security assistance to Maldives in exchange of its hand of friendship and trust.

In three different crises in 1988 (the coup), 2004 (the tsunami), and 2014 (water shortage), Maldives witnessed that India was the first one to assist it. Both in the education and health sectors, Indian teachers and doctors play a critical role in the country including in the remote inhabited islands. Whether it is trade or tourism, India remains the biggest partner. With projects like greater Male connectivity, India is committed to take the infrastructure in Maldives to a different level altogether. Last but not the least, very few people know that India provides most essential items in bulk like rice, wheat flour, sugar, potatoes and onions, eggs, vegetables and even river sand and construction material as special dispensation.

For India, Maldives is a first line of defence against terrorism, piracy on the high seas, drug trafficking, narcotics, and other maritime crime. On the other hand, China's entry is solely to advance its own interests. It has done so through debt financing, leading to debt traps and consequent hegemony of China. China's policy of interference in the internal politics and support to conservative elements in Maldives has the potential of becoming a barrier to the development of a vibrant democracy in Maldives. It seems that the legacy of a controlled regime of the Gayoom years is being carried forward by elements that are aligning with China for

their narrow gains. This may not be in the larger interest of the nation in the long run.

India is steadfast in its commitments towards Maldives and has always walked the extra mile towards building relations. Any impulsive steps to undo the carefully nurtured all encompassing partnership is likely to harm Maldives more than it would India. The 2012 "GMR out" campaign cost Maldives a \$270 million in payout to GMR. The Yameen years were marred by a pro-China policy that led Maldives into a debt crisis.

So, what's next? The President designate Mohamed Muizzu is a Western educated engineer, who served as a minister as well as mayor of the capital Male. He contested in place of former President Yameen, who was in jail during the elections. Yameen has now been shifted to house arrest at the behest of the president designate. It is expected that Muizzu is unlikely to take drastic measures that alter relations with India. Elections are fought on emotions and promises. Once practical realities come to the fore in governance, he may realise the potential repercussions of undermining relations with India. Taking India for granted would have its price too. As they say, "those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it".

The writer is former High Commissioner to Maldives. Views are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ANOTHER WAR

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Violence of pure identity' (IE, October 13). The Israel-Palestine issue has been seen as a historical process for nearly a 100 years. Despite many UNSC and General Assembly resolutions, the chance of a better life for the Palestinian people faded as a result of Israel's expansion of occupied territories. Could the Hamas strikes turn into an opportunity for Netanyahu? Since the start of this round of conflict, the US and EU have provided him with unrestricted political and military assistance. The "multipolar world order" debate that began with the Russia-Ukraine war, becomes sharper now. The new West Asia war will engender global power-play potentially far more destabilising than the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Sanjay Chopra, Mohali

HUNGER PROBLEM

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Erroneous, malafide intent: India rejects global hunger report' (IE, October 13). India has slipped four positions as compared in the Global Hunger Index report 2023. India has the highest child wasting rate across the world. As far as childhood

stunting goes, India again, comes in the category of "very high risk" countries. In a country where 800 million survive on government rations, a reduced allocation to the PM Poshan scheme in this year's budget represents a clear lack of political concern. It is imprudent to ignore outright the truth from two agencies.

SS Paul, Nadia

GETTING DATA RIGHT

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Jobs, still' (IE, October 13). According to the CMIE, labour force participation in India has gone up. But it does not differentiate between those who are in decent jobs and those who are not. According to the ILO, only those doing "decent" jobs should be marked employed. Under that criteria, the unemployment rate in India would be much higher. There are a large number of vacancies in government-run sectors. In January this year, the Centre cited the monthly data from the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation to say that the formal sector employment is growing. But as per economists, this data is flawed. The government should develop a foolproof mechanism to get an accurate picture.

Khokan Das, Kolkata

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, RAKHI D/O SHRI GOKUL SINGH R/O A-34, 06, NEAR GURUDWARA, EAST VINOD NAGAR, KALYANVAS, EAST DELHI, DELHI-110091, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAKHI BANKOTI FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES. 0040693574-1

I, Twinkle Malhotra D/O Mukesh Malhotra, R/O RZ- 1, Second Floor, Indra Park Extn, New Delhi, D.K. Mohan Garden, West Delhi-110059, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Isha Makhija 0070868359-1

I, Tarun Kumar, S/o Ram Kumar Sharma, R/O L-51, Second-Floor, Street-No.22, New-Mahavir Nagar, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Tarun Sharma, for all future purposes. 0040693641-2

I, SHANTI SWARUP KRISHNA KANT S/O Late Krishna Kant Tiwary R/O Tower-A, Flat No-1502, Casawood Stock, Gaur City-2, G.R. Noida (West)-201301, have changed my name as SHANTI SWARUP TIWARY for all purposes. 0070868362-1

I, SANGITA SHARMA, W/O RAM PRASAD, R/O HNO-PTV-165, KH NP-123/19/5, F.F, EXTENDED LAL DORA, STREET NO-7, SANT NAGAR, BURARI, North Delhi, Delhi-110084, Delhi, have changed my name to SANGEETA SHARMA for all purposes. 0070868347-1

I, Rajeev Kumar S/O Bashi Ram, R/O D- 29 Vijay Nagar Block-D, Mohan Garden, Hastal Uttam Nagar, West Delhi-110059, Declare that name of Mine has been wrongly written as Rajeev in my minor Son Manthan Choudhary, aged about 16 years, In his 10th Class Certificate. The actual name of Mine is Rajeev Kumar, which may be amended accordingly. 0070868361-1

I, RAM PRASHAD, S/O CHET NARAIN SHARMA, R/O HNO-PTV-165, KH NP-123/19/5, F.F, EXTENDED LAL DORA, STREET NO-7, SANT NAGAR, BURARI, North Delhi, Delhi-110084, Delhi, have changed my name to RAM PRASAD For all future purposes. 0070868346-1

I, Pradeep Kumar Khandelwal S/O Gauri Shankar Khandelwal R/O F-1, 281, Sector-1, Vaishali, Ghaziabad Uttar-Pradesh-201010 have changed my name to Pradeep Khandelwal. 0070868325-1

I, Parkash Kaur W/O, Sardara Singh R/O 226/11 Arjun Nagar, New Delhi-110029 have changed my name to Prakash Kaur for all purposes. 0040693663-1

I, Mulyam Singh S/o Shri Mahaveer Singh R/O Etaha Kalpi, Kuthond, Jalaun, Uttar Pradesh-285125 inform that Mulyam Singh and Mulyam Singh is one and same person. 0040693656-1

I, Mohd Shahnawaz Siddiqui S/O Mohd Shakir R/O H.No.84-A, Noor-Nagar, Jamia-Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025, have changed my name to Shahnawaz Siddiqui. 0040693697-1

I, Mohan Kumar Sharma S/o Onkar Prasad R/O 25, Gurga Angad Nagar Extn., Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Mohan Sharma for all future Purposes. Mohan Sharma and Mohan Kumar Sharma both names belongs to same person 0070868343-1

I, Kafil Ahmad S/o Aquil Ahmad R/O 835/3, Yogendra Puri, Khalapur, Muzaffarnagar have changed my name to Kafel Ahmed. 0070868366-1

I, K K Parashar S/o Shyam Sunder Parashar, R/O-H.No-45,1st-Floor Single-Storey, Block-B, Ramesh Nagar Delhi-110015, have changed my name to Kuldeep Kumar Parashar, Permanently. 0040693641-1

I, Jai Kishan R/O 140/1, D-6, Sec-6, Rohini have changed my name to Jai Kishan Gupta for all future purposes. 0040693660-1

I, Gurleen Kaur Bagga W/o, Supreet Singh R/O. H.No. 1146, Sector 33 C, Chandigarh have changed my name to Gurleen Kaur 0040693572-1

I, Gulshana Begum is legally wedded spouse of NK-No-30032026P, NK Mohd Quasim Chachi, presently residing at vill- Manzpathra, PO-Chowkibal, Tehsil-Kralpora, District-Kupwara-193224. In my husband's service record my name has been wrongly mentioned as Gulshana Bano instead of Gulshana Begum and D o B 07-04-1992. It needs corrections. Objections be filled to concerned authorities within seven days. 0020466159-1

I, Gulshana Begum is legally wedded spouse of NK-No-30032026P, NK Mohd Quasim Chachi, presently residing at vill- Manzpathra, PO-Chowkibal, Tehsil-Kralpora, District-Kupwara-193224. In my husband's service record my name has been wrongly mentioned as Gulshana Bano instead of Gulshana Begum and D o B 07-04-1992. It needs corrections. Objections be filled to concerned authorities within seven days. 0020466137-1

I, Ajay Babuta S/o-Krishnan Gopal Babuta, Ada E-66 Vishnu Garden West Delhi-110018, changed my name to Ajay Kumar Babuta. 0040693664-3

I, Ex No-9104405L, NK (TS) Farooq Ahmad Sheikh, S/O- Gh Ahmad Sheikh, R/O- Haihama, Tehsil/District- Kupwara. In my service records name of my son has been wrongly mentioned as Aftab Ahmad instead of Aftab Ahmad Sheikh and also my spouse as Afshna Begum instead of Afshna Begum as in education certificates. It needs corrections. Objections be filled to unit 16 JAKLI within seven days 0020466138-1

I, Ex No-9104405L, NK (TS) Farooq Ahmad Sheikh, S/O- Gh Ahmad Sheikh, R/O- Haihama, Tehsil/District- Kupwara. In my service records name of my son has been wrongly mentioned as Aftab Ahmad instead of Aftab Ahmad Sheikh and also my spouse as Afshna Begum as in education certificates. It needs corrections. Objections be filled to unit 16 JAKLI within seven days 0020466160-1

I, Dinesh Kumar S/o Shri Jagdish Chand R/O, B-82, Vijay Vihar, Phase-1, Sector-4, Rohini, Delhi-110085 inform that my Daughter AKansha her correct date of birth is 09.12.2009 instead of 19.12.2009. 0040693582-1

I, Babulal Bhurchand Jain S/o, Bhur Chand Tater R/O. B, 68 Upper Ground Floor Ramana Lamba Marg, New Rajindra Nagar, Plastic Free Park, Central Delhi have changed my name to Babulal Tater 0040693571-1

I have changed my son's name from Kartik to Kartik Singh for all future purposes. Mahesh Chand S/O Gyan Chand R/O B-2/47, Sai Apartment, Sector-71, Noida, Distt Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh. 0040693573-1

I am Raminder Singh, residing at WZ-588 A, First-Floor, Street No.21, Shiv-Nagar Extension, New Delhi-110058. I have a son named Sidak Singh, from my first wife Upkar Kaur. I married my second wife, Jasmeet Kaur, on 20 Jan. 2021, henceforth known as Jasmeet Kaur, the mother of my son. 0040693693-5

I, Vijay Sharma S/o Anant Ram Sharma R/O 34 Church Road Jangpura Bhogal New Delhi 110014 have changed my name to Vijay Kumar Sharma 0040693693-5

I, Gurmeet Kaur W/o Jeevan Singh R/O Puruwala Santokhgarh (13), Sirmaur, Himachal Pradesh-173001, have changed my name to Gurdeep Kaur 0070868302-1

I, Nidhi Ompal Singh W/O, Ajey Kumar Chaudhary R/O B4, The Golden Crest, Plot 12, Sector-52 have changed my name to Nidhi Singh Chaudhary for all purposes. 0040693663-2

I, Nirmal, D/O Vijender, R/O 163 Pandit Chowk Mandawali Fazalpur Delhi-110092 have changed my name to Nirmal Pal. 0070868301-1

I, Swati Khurana alias Swati Wadhwa D/o Parveen Khurana W/O Mani Wadhwa R/O-A-3, 3rd Floor Swaran Singh Road, Adarsh Nagar, Northwest Delhi, 110033, have changed my name to Swati Khurana 0130037311-1

I, Aaditya alias Aaditya Singh Dharmasya S/O Rajiv Kumar R/O House No. 1932, Near Sabji Mandi Alipur Delhi-110036, have changed my name to Aaditya Singh Dharmasya 0130037309-1

I, NIRMALA DEVI W/O, RAM KUMAR, ADD-MOKHRA KHERI ROJH(102) ROHTAK HARYANA 124022, changed my name to SANTOSH, for all future purposes. 0040693685-5

It is for general information that I, RAJKUMAR MAHTO, son of, NATHUNI MAHTO, residing at, C-3-1/25-T, Huts, Near P&T Qtrs., Kali Bari-Marg, Gole Market, New Delhi-110001, declare that name of mine and my wife has been wrongly-written as RAJ KUMAR and SADHNA in my minor daughter RITU KUMARI age-16 years secondary school-certificate. The actual name of mine and my wife are RAJKUMAR MAHTO and SADHANA DEVI respectively, which may be amended accordingly. 0040693693-2

It is for general information that I, Harish Kumar Sharma, S/O-Nem Chand Sharma, R/O-2/74, Bhim Gali, Vishwas Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032, declare that name of mine and my Father has been wrongly-written as Harish Kumar and Nem Chand in office-Record Of MCD, Shahdara, South. The Actual Name of mine and my father are Harish Kumar Sharma and Nem Chand Sharma Respectively, which Mmay be amended accordingly. 0040693667-10

I, hitherto known as SARVAN YADAV alias SARVAN, S/O-LAL DEV, R/O-A-501, DHARAM APPARTMENT, PLOT, NO-18, SECTOR-18A, DWARKA SECTOR-18A, SOUTH WEST DELHI-110075, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SARVAN YADAV. 0040693685-8

I, Yogesh Kumar Garg S/o Ram Chandra R/o, H.No.72, UGF, Pocket-1, Sector-21, Rohini, Delhi-110088, have changed my name to Yogesh Garg. 0040693697-3

I, Aayushi Kashyap D/o Sanjay R/O M-16, 3rd-Floor M-Block DK Mohan, Garden Delhi-110059 changed my name to Aayushi Kumar. 0040693679-7

I, Virendra Kumar, S/o Rameshwar Maurya R/o, B-49, 1, West Vinod Nagar, Shakar Pur, Baramad, East Delhi, Delhi-110092, have changed the name of my-minor son Anvesh age-11-years and he shall hereafter be known as Anvesh Singh. 0040693665-10

I, Veena W/o Subhash Chander Bajaj, R/O, K-5/8, -S.F. Model Town-III, Delhi-110009, have changed my name from Veena to Veena Bajaj. 0040693667-3

I, RAFIK ALI/RAFAT ALIS/O, LATAF HUSSAIN, ADD-B-5, FLAT, NO, 305, GURUDWARA GALI-MANDAWLI, DELHI 110092, changed my name to RAFAT ALI ZAIDI, for all, future purposes 0040693685-8

I, RADHA W/O ARVIND KUMAR SINGH R/O B-84 SECTOR-49, NOIDA UP HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RADHA SINGH 0040693679-1

I, No-9114182M, NK Mehraj Rasool Bhat, S/O- Gh Rasool Bhat, RO-Nadihal, Tehsil/District-Bandipora. In my service records name of my son has been wrongly mentioned as Rubhan-ul-Islam Bhat. It needs corrections. Objections be filled to concerned authorities within seven days. 0020466136-1

I, No-9114182M, NK Mehraj Rasool Bhat, S/O- Gh Rasool Bhat, RO-Nadihal, Tehsil/District-Bandipora. In my service records name of my son has been wrongly mentioned as Rubhan-ul-Islam Bhat. It needs corrections. Objections be filled to concerned authorities within seven days. 0020466158-1

I, No-9114182M, NK Mehraj Rasool Bhat, S/O- Gh Rasool Bhat, RO-Nadihal, Tehsil/District-Bandipora. In my service records name of my son has been wrongly mentioned as Rubhan-ul-Islam Bhat. It needs corrections. Objections be filled to concerned authorities within seven days. 0020466158-1

I, Talat Hashmi, W/o Javed Hashmi, R/O-131, Lane.No.4, Zakir Nagar, New Delhi-110025, have changed my name, from Talat Hashmi to Tilat Hashmi, for all purposes. 0040693667-1

I, Talat Hashmi, W/o Javed Hashmi, R/O-131, Lane.No.4, Zakir Nagar, New Delhi-110025, have changed my name, from Talat Hashmi to Tilat Hashmi, for all purposes. 0040693667-1

I, Naveen Darl, S/O Om Parkash, R/O, 519, Pana Ramayan Near New Choupal Tikri Kalan, Delhi-110041, have changed my name to Naveen. 0040693664-7

I, Nazima, W/o MOHAMMAD ASLAM, R/O H.No-J-25/3, Gali No.8, CHAUHAN BANGER, Delhi-110053, have changed my name to NAZMA for all purposes. 0040693665-4

I, Naveen Darl, S/O Om Parkash, R/O, 519, Pana Ramayan Near New Choupal Tikri Kalan, Delhi-110041, have changed my name to Naveen. 0040693664-7

I, Nazima, W/o MOHAMMAD ASLAM, R/O H.No-J-25/3, Gali No.8, CHAUHAN BANGER, Delhi-110053, have changed my name to NAZMA for all purposes. 0040693665-4

I, Mohd Shamsah, S/O-Sh. Abdul Sayeed, R/O-220-C, Savitri Nagar, New Delhi, inform that in my, son's school records his name Md Nasar wrongly written. His correct, name is Mohd Nasar. Pls corrected accordingly. 0040693665-1

I, Mohammad Shafiq S/o Mohd Ilyas R/O, N-14A, Block-N, Abul-Fazal Enclave-1, Jamia-Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025, have changed my name to Mohd Shafiq. 0040693697-2

I, LUKHAMAN S/O MOHAMMAD MAHAUFU R/O T-754, MAIN GALI, BALJEET NAGAR, PATEL NAGAR, CENTRAL DELHI-110008, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MOHD LUKMAN. 0040693665-2

I, LALIT THAKUR S/O, PANCHI SHARMA, R/O- 895-C, 30, WARD-B, MEHRAULI, DELHI-110030, have changed my name to LALIT SHARMA. 0040693685-11

I, Kewal Kishore Manchanda, S/o Krishan Lal Manchanda R/o P-23, West Patel Nagar, Delhi-110008, Have Changed My Name to Kewal Manchanda for all future Purposes. 0040693664-2

I, KULDEEP, S/O OM PRAKASH, R/O E-1548, TIGRI COLONY, NEW DELHI-110062, have changed my name, from KULDEEP to KULDEEP KUMAR, for all future purposes. 0040693667-2

I, JAI PAKESH GOEL/JAI PARKASH S/O SUBHASH CHAND R/O A-4/50, NEAR KIDS SPORTS-SCHOOL, SECTOR-16, ROHINI, DELHI-110089, CHANGED MY NAME TO JAI PAKESH GOEL. 0040693685-1

I, KG SATHYABAMA NATHAN, D/O-SHRI K GOVINDAN is legally wedded, spouse of, G SWAMINATHAN, presently, residing at "ATHIRA, TC 2605(9), MITHILAPURI GARDENS, KERALADITYAPURAM M, POWDIKONAMP, THIRIVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA-695587, have changed my Name, from KG SATHYABAMA NATHAN to KG SATHYABAMA, vide-Affidavit dated-13.10.2023. 0040693682-4

I, Sanjay Kashyap S/o Ganga Ram R/O M-16, 3rd-Floor M-Block DK Mohan, Garden Delhi-110059 changed my name to Sanjay 0040693679-6

I, RAJ KUMAR DHALL, S/O SOM NATH, R/O-B-91, SECTOR-72, CHHAJARI, GAUTAM BUDDH NAGAR-201307, changed my name to RAJ KUMAR. 0040693667-3

I, RAFIK ALI/RAFAT ALIS/O, LATAF HUSSAIN, ADD-B-5, FLAT, NO, 305, GURUDWARA GALI-MANDAWLI, DELHI 110092, changed my name to RAFAT ALI ZAIDI, for all, future purposes 0040693685-8

I, RADHA W/O ARVIND KUMAR SINGH R/O B-84 SECTOR-49, NOIDA UP HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RADHA SINGH 0040693679-1

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I, Neetima Kashyap W/o Sanjay Kashyap R/O M-16, 3rd-Floor M-Block DK, Mohan Garden Delhi-110059, changed my name to Neetima 0040693679-5

I, Nayla W/o-Syed Saheed Akhtar, Address-12/439, Gali, No.12, Lalita Park Laxmi Nagar-110092, changed my name to Nayla Saheed. 0040693679-2

I, Naveen Darl, S/O Om Parkash, R/O, 519, Pana Ramayan Near New Choupal Tikri Kalan, Delhi-110041, have changed my name to Naveen. 0040693664-7

I, Nazima, W/o MOHAMMAD ASLAM, R/O H.No-J-25/3, Gali No.8, CHAUHAN BANGER, Delhi-110053, have changed my name to NAZMA for all purposes. 0040693665-4

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I, RAVIDER SINGH LAMBA S/O MANMOHAN SINGH R/O E-35, GURUNANAK PURA, JAIL-ROAD, JANAKPURI, DELHI-110058, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAVINDER SINGH. 0040693664-5

I, RAVINDER KUMAR DHANKAR, S/O HAWA SINGH, R/O DDA MIG-FLAT, NO.343, FIRST FLOOR, POKKET-B, SECTOR-15, KAUTILYA APARTMENTS, DWARKA, NEW DELHI-110078, HAVE CHANGED MY-MINOR SON NAME, FROM PURV TO PURV DHANKAR. 0040693667-6

I, BHAVESH CHANDRA THUWAL S/O CHANDRAMANI THUWAL R/O-292 POKKET-1A, PRASHANT, VIHAR SECTOR-14, ROHINI, changed my name to BHAVESH THUWAL. 0040693679-8

I, Gurpreet Singh Kochar, S/o Satnam Singh R/O, D-36A, Fateh Nagar, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018, have change my name to Gurpreet Singh. 0040693685-9

I, Gianeshwar S/o Ram Lal R/o Y-280, Janta-Market Phase-1, Nangli-Work, Delhi-110041, have changed my name to Girish Kumar for all purposes. 0040693697-6

I, GURJEET KAUR DIGPAL, W/O VIRENDER SINGH DIGPAL ADDRESS:4/250, SUBHASH NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110027, changed my name to GURJEET KAUR. 0040693664-1

I, GULBADAN, W/O, SARDAR SAJDEL H. NO-3118, GALI, NO-4 .OLD DHARAMPURA .GANDHI NAGAR EAST, DELHI 110031, changed my name to GULBADAN BEGUM, for all, future purposes. 0040693685-4

I, GAUTHAM GOPI S is legal, son of G SWAMINATHAN, presently, residing at "MITHIRA, TC 2605(9), ATTHILA, PURI GARDENS, KERALADITYAPURAM, POWDIKONAMP, O, THIRIVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA-695587, have changed my Name, from GAUTHAM GOPI S TO S GAUTHAM GOPI, VIDE- AFFIDAVIT, DATED-13.10.2023. 0040693693-3

I, Dil Kashara, W/o Shams Tabrej, R/O D-26 first-floor, Thokar-Number-3, Abul-Fazal Enclave Part-1, Okhla, New Delhi-110025, have changed my name Dilkash Ara, for all purposes. 0040693665-6

I, Dharmendra Vats, S/O Jai Narayan Vats R/O, WZ-874, Badial Palam Village Delhi-110045, have changed my name to Dharmender Vats. 0040693664-8

I, Chand alias Chand Mohd S/o Gulbahar R/o F-35, Indra Market, New Seemapuri Delhi-110095 have changed my name to Chand Khan. 0040693685-3

I, CHANDER PARKASH BANSAL S/O, ASHA RAM GUPTA R/O, H.No.3/250, Anaaj-Mandi, Shahdara, Delhi-110032, have changed my name to CHANDER PARKASH GUPTA. 0040693697-4

I, Buddhadev Bhadury, S/O Late Robi Bhushan Bhadury, R/O Flat.No.208, Sector-19, Satyam Khand,Vasundhara, Ghaziabad U.P.-201012, declare that my name is wrongly entered as "Bhuddhadev Bhadury" in my wife's previous passport, which needs to be rectified. 0040693667-5

I, Anupam Sinha, S/o-Brahmadeo Prasad, R/O AM-404, Amrapali Village, Nyay Khand-2, Near Kala Pathar, Indirapuram, Shripura Sun City, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201014, have changed my name to Anupam Kumar Sinha for all future purposes. 0040693682-2

I, Bhardpai Devi, W/o-Late Sh.Ved Prakash R/O-H.No.150, Near-MD High School, VPO-Jharsa, Gurugram, Haryana, inform that my, husband Late Sh.Ved Prakash has expired on 07-09-2022, rest my, family members details are given for legal heirs Bhardpai Devi, DOB-03-09-1953, my daughter Sukhwanti, DOB 12-03-1985, Kavita DOB-15-08-1982, Savita DOB-1988, Sarita DOB-1991, Aarti DOB-04-03-1995 and son Harish DOB-23-09-1993. 0040693667-7

I, AZHAR, S/O ISLAM, R/O, H.NO-357, GROUND FLOOR, Gali No.9, VILLAGE WAZIRABAD, Delhi-110084, have changed my name to MOHD AZHAR for all purposes. 0040693665-5

I, ASHA DAHIYA RANA W/O MANOJ KUMAR R/O E-2/128, SECTOR-16, ROHINI, DELHI-110089, have changed my name to ASHA RANI. 0040693679-4

I, AAKANSHA SINGH, W/O VIVEK SARASWATI, R/O I-208, SPS Residency, Vaibhav-Khand-1, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad (UP)-201014, have changed my name to AAKANSHA SARASWAT, for all future purposes. 0040693693-1

I, Yogvati D/O Malook Chand Sharma, R/O A-77/3, Ground Floor, Dilshad Garden, Jhilimil, East Delhi-110095, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Yagyavati Sharma 0070868360-1

This is to inform that I, Kamlesh Gautam, D/o Late S. D. Sharma, R/O A-45, Friends Colony East, New Delhi have lost Possession Letter issued by DDA in respect of my property bearing no. A-45, Friends Colony East, New Delhi. I have lodged LR No.1010461/23 on 12.10.2023 with Delhi Police. If anyone founds the same please return to Kamlesh Gautam, R/o A-45, Friends Colony East, New Delhi. 0040693561-2

The Original Possession Letter, issued by DDA in the name of Vijay Taluja, of DDA MIG Flat No. 2-B, Ground Floor, Block-B& situated in Munirka, New Delhi-110067, is lost/Misplaced. An FIR in this effect has been lodged vide LR No.1008589/2023 dated 12.10.2023. If it is found, please return at above address. 0040693561-1

I, DAVINDER KUMAR, S/O KHANATI LAL R/O B-365, PARSHANT VIHAR, DELHI-110085, lost my Original ALLOTMENT LETTER of property No.B-365, land area measuring 70sq.mtres, situated at Prashant, Vihar Delhi-110085, finder Contact-9811250167 0040693679-10

I, SURAKSHA SHARMA, W/O-YOG RAJ SHARMA, R/O-8053-54, Khariyan Mohalla, Roshanara Road, Delhi-110007, Have Lost Original Demand Letter and Original DDA Possession Letter and Site Possession Letter of Plot No.296, Pocket C1, Sector-30, Rohini, Delhi-110085, Vide Application No.160581 With Reference F-16

GURUGRAM UNIVERSITY, GURUGRAM

PUBLIC NOTICE/TENDER NOTICE

Table with 8 columns: SR. NO., NAME OF DEPARTMENT/BOARD/CORP/AUTH, NAME OF WORKS/NOTICE/TENDER, OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME), AMOUNT (APPROX.) in Lacs, WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT, NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL, TENDER REF. NO/TENDER NO.

Tender Notice No. AGC-ELG-T-29-2023-24 Date:- 12.10.2023 Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (General) N.C. Railway, Agra for and on behalf of President of India invites "Open Tender" through on line only (E-Tendering) for the following works.

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, ड्रेनेज मण्डल - गाजियाबाद सिचाई एवं जल संसाधन विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश, विकेटोरिया पार्क कॉलोनी, मेरठ

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PROVINCIAL DIVISION, P.W.D MATHURA

Letter No. : 3465/A-7/2023-24 The Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, P.W.D. Mathura on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the Percentage rate bids to the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP, PWD in Road work.

Table with 11 columns: Sl. No., Dist., Name of Work, Estimated cost (Rs. in Lacs), Bid Security (Rs. in Lacs), Cost of bid Documents, Time of completion, Address of Executive Engineer, Address of Superintending Engineer, Address of Chief Engineer, Category of Contractor.

Office of Superintending Engineer, Moradabad Circle, P.W.D. Moradabad Short Term E-Procurement Notice Inviting Tenders

No. 4769/Nivida-Moradabad/23-24 Date 07-10-2023 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

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

Office of the Superintending Engineer Bulandshahr Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr (U.P.) INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) {E-Tender}

Letter No. : 7032 /96M (II)E-TENDER/BSR CIRCLE/2023-24 Dated: 29.09.2023

1. On behalf of Honble Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Superintending Engineer, Bulandshahr Circle, U.P. P.W.D Bulandshahr invites following Item rate bid online through http://etender.up.nic.in

Table with 7 columns: Sl. No., Name of Work, Estimated cost (Rs. in Lac), Bid Security (Rs. in Lacs), Cost of Document (in Rs.), Work Completion, Contractors Category.

3. The Bid Security and Tender Document Fee must be deposited by the Contractor/Firm through Online Banking/NEFT/RTGS

(Partap Singh) Executive Engineer Construction Division-2, PWD, Bulandshahr

(S.P. Singh) Superintending Engineer Moradabad Circle, P.W.D. Moradabad Ph.- 0591-2414619

Office of the Executive Engineer Provincial Division, P.W.D., Hapur

No. 1746 /3A Short Term E-Procurement Notice Inviting Tenders

1. On behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rates bids online through e-tendering from the registered Road Contractors of UP PWD (Contractor Category A/B/C/D) for proposed work.

Table with 11 columns: Sl. No., DISTRICT, Name of Work, Estimated cost (Rs.in Lac), Bid Security (Rs.in Lacs), Cost of Tender, Time of Completion, Address of Executive Engineer, Address of Superintending Engineer, Address of Chief Engineer.

Table with 11 columns: Sl. No., DISTRICT, Name of Work, Estimated cost (Rs.in Lac), Bid Security (Rs. in Lacs), Time of completion of the work (including rainy season), Cost of tender documents including GST (Rs.), Category of road contractor eligible.

Table with 11 columns: Sl. No., DISTRICT, Name of Work, Estimated cost (Rs. in Lacs), Bid Security (Rs. in Lacs), Cost of bid Documents, Time of completion, Address of Executive Engineer, Address of Superintending Engineer, Address of Chief Engineer, Category of Contractor.

17 THE WORLD

BEIJING'S COUNTER TO SHANGRI-LA DIALOGUE AUSTRALIA TO BE AT CHINA DEFENCE FORUM

Australia will send a senior defence official to China's top international security forum for first time in four years, officials said Friday. China will host foreign defence officials in Beijing on October 29-31 for Xiangshan Forum, styled by Beijing as answer to Singapore's annual Shangri-La Dialogue. **REUTERS**

WAR MAY OPEN OTHER FRONTS, WARNS

Iran Foreign Minister after meeting in Beirut

AS SUPPLIES BEGIN TO RUN OUT IN GAZA,

UN seeks \$300 million in aid for Palestinians

U.S. SAYS CARRIER STRIKE GROUP IN REGION,

ready to deploy more assets should need arise

Iran, Hezbollah hold talks, threaten Israel north



Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian, (left), with Lebanese counterpart Abdallah Bouhabib, in Beirut, Friday. AP

Amirabdollahian meets Hezbollah's chief Nasrallah, Lebanon caretaker PM

AGENCIES
BEIRUT, OCTOBER 13

IRAN'S FOREIGN Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian on Friday discussed Israel's war against Hamas with the head of the powerful Tehran-backed Lebanese armed group Hezbollah, which has launched its own cross-border attacks on Israel.

Amirabdollahian, who arrived in Beirut late on Thursday, said he had met Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah as well as Lebanon's caretaker PM Najib Mikati and caretaker Foreign Minister Abdallah Bouhabib.

Local media outlet Al-Mayadeen said the Iranian minister and Nasrallah had discussed Hamas' attack on Israel. Iran also supports Hamas, and has lauded the group's attack on Israel but has denied any involvement.

Hezbollah has exchange fire with Israel across the border this week, and Israel has responded by striking an observation post belonging to the group as well as Lebanese villages.

Amirabdollahian told reporters on Friday that Israel was committing "war crimes" in Gaza, adding that Iran had asked Egypt, which borders Gaza, the United Nations and aid groups to



"In light of continued aggression, war crimes, and siege on Gaza, opening other fronts is a real possibility"

HOSSEIN AMIRABDOLLAHIAN
FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER, IRAN

allow it to send humanitarian aid to the Palestinians.

On Thursday, Amirabdollahian said Israel's actions against the Palestinians would receive a response from Iran's allies and that Israel would have to bear the consequences.

Amirabdollahian said Thursday that if Israel's bombardment of Gaza continues, the war may open on "other fronts," an apparent reference to the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah.



Rockets are fired from Gaza towards Israel on Friday. Reuters

Austin reaches Tel Aviv, pledges more aid

AGENCIES
JERUSALEM, OCTOBER 13

US DEFENCE Secretary Lloyd Austin said on Friday that the Pentagon was ready to deploy more military aid to Israel as Israeli forces prepare for a likely invasion of Gaza in response to a devastating attack by militant group Hamas.

Austin, who spoke alongside Israeli counterpart, Yoav Gallant, said that munitions, air defence capabilities and other equipment and resources were "rapidly flowing" to Washington's closest Middle Eastern ally.

The United States and other Western allies have said they will



US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin (right), with Israel's Minister of Defence Yoav Gallant in Tel Aviv on Friday. AP

support Israel as it prosecutes what Israeli leaders say will be a prolonged war.

"The USS Gerald R. Ford strike

group is now in the region led by the largest aircraft carrier in the world. We've augmented US fighter aircraft squadrons in the

Middle East and stand ready to deploy additional assets if necessary," Austin said in Tel Aviv.

"US remains the most powerful country in the world and we remain fully able to project power and uphold our commitments and direct resources to multiple theatres," Austin said.

A day after visiting Israel, the US secretary of state, Antony J. Blinken, met with King Abdullah II of Jordan and Mahmoud Abbas, the head of the Palestinian Authority, which lost control of Gaza in 2007 when Hamas took it by force. At his meeting with Abbas, Blinken "extended his condolences to the families of Palestinian civilian victims," according to the State Department.

Hamas practised in plain sight, posting mock attack weeks before border breach

MICHAEL BIESECKER & SARAH EL DEEB
OCTOBER 13

LESS THAN a month before Hamas fighters blew through Israel's high-tech "Iron Wall" and launched an attack that would leave more than 1,200 Israelis dead, they practised in a very public dress rehearsal.

A slickly produced two-minute propaganda video posted to social media by Hamas on Sept. 12 shows fighters using explosives to blast through a replica of the border gate, sweep in on pickup trucks and then move building by building through a full-scale reconstruction of an Israeli town, firing automatic weapons at human-silhouetted paper targets.

The Islamic militant group's live-fire exercise dubbed operation "Strong Pillar" also had militants in body armor and combat fatigues carrying out operations that included the destruction of mock-ups of the wall's concrete towers and a communications antenna, just as they would do for real in the deadly attack last Saturday.

While Israel's highly regarded security and intelligence services were clearly caught flat-footed by Hamas' ability to breach its Gaza defenses, the group appears to have hidden its extensive preparations for the deadly assault in plain sight.

The Associated Press reviewed and verified key details from videos Hamas released over the last year, primarily through the so-



Live-fire exercise dubbed operation "Strong Pillar" outside Al-Mawasi. AP

cial media app Telegram.

Using satellite imagery, the AP matched the location of the mocked-up town to a patch of desert outside Al-Mawasi, a Palestinian town on the southern coast of the Gaza Strip. A large sign in Hebrew and Arabic at the gate says "Hohesh Yaron," the name of a controversial Israeli settlement in the occupied Palestinian West Bank.

In a separate video posted to Telegram from last year's Strong Pillar exercise on December 28, Hamas fighters are shown storming what appears to be a mockup Israeli military base, complete with a full-size model of a tank with an Israeli flag flying from its turret. The gunmen move through the cinderblock buildings, seizing other men playing the roles of Israeli soldiers as hostages.

The seeds of Israel's failure to anticipate and stop Saturday's attack go back at least a decade. AP

In March, Hezbollah chief said prepare to fight Israel

FARNAZ FASSIHI & RONEN BERGMAN
OCTOBER 13

HASSAN NASRALLAH, the leader of Hezbollah, held an hourslong online meeting in March with an elite group of strategists from all the Iran-backed militias and told them to get ready for a war with Israel with a scope and reach — including an invasion — that would mark a new era, according to two participants from Iran and Syria.

The participants spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss the meeting.

There are conflicting accounts

of whether these activities were leading specifically toward last week's attack by Hamas.

Some people familiar with the operation said that a circle of leaders from Iran, Hezbollah and Hamas helped plan the attack starting a year ago and trained militants. That account is based on interviews with three Iranians affiliated with Revolutionary Guards, one Iranian connected to senior leadership and a Syrian affiliated with Hezbollah.

Iran has denied any role.

The United States, Israel and key regional allies have said they have not found evidence in early intelligence gathering that Iran directly helped plan the attack. **NYT**

Israel's Beijing embassy employee attacked

AN EMPLOYEE of the Israeli Embassy in Beijing was attacked and hospitalized, the country's Foreign Ministry said. China did not acknowledge the assault. The identity of the employee wasn't made public and no one owned up to the attack. **AP**

France uses tear gas on banned pro-Palestine rally

FRENCH POLICE used teargas and water cannon to break up

a banned rally in support of Palestinians in Paris as Emmanuel Macron urged the French to remain united and refrain from bringing the conflict home. **AP**

Israel used white phosphorus in Gaza, says HRW

HUMAN RIGHTS Watch on Thursday accused Israel of using white phosphorus munitions in its military operations in Gaza and Lebanon, saying the use of such weapons puts civilians at risk of serious and long-term injury. Israeli military said: "The current accusation made...is unequivocally false. **REUTERS**

UN says over 400,000 displaced in Gaza Strip

REUTERS
GAZA, OCTOBER 13

THE UN humanitarian office (OCHA) said Friday that more than 400,000 people had fled their homes in the Gaza Strip and 23 aid workers had been killed since the start of Israeli retaliatory strikes in response to a deadly Hamas incursion.

The agency launched an appeal for nearly \$294 million to help some 1.3 million people in Gaza and the West Bank, of which nearly half was programmed for food aid as supplies run out.

"Mass displacement continues. In the Gaza Strip, the cumulative number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) increased by 25% over the past 24 hours, now exceeding 423,000, of whom over two thirds are taking shelter in UNRWA schools," OCHA said, referring to the U.N. Palestinian refugee agency.

It said 23 aid workers had so far been killed since the weekend, including 11 health workers and 12 UNRWA employees.

Palestinian rescue worker Ibrahim Hamdan has been on duty almost constantly since Saturday, dodging Israeli air strikes that have killed paramedics even as his team tries to pull survivors from houses destroyed by the relentless pounding of the tiny enclave.

Roads cratered from direct hits or blocked by rubble from



Palestinian rescue workers in Khan Younis. Reuters

nearby strikes hinder progress and initial rescue work is often done by neighbours pulling away chunks of debris in search of survivors or hoping to retrieve

bodies for burial.

Hamdan, 39, has a bandage on his left hand and wrist, injured by falling debris during a rescue attempt on Wednesday when he was only able to pull out the bodies of two girls, dead in the ruins of their home in the south Gaza city of Khan Younis, where he is based with his team of 12 other government rescue workers.

"I couldn't stop thinking about my own four daughters," he said, adding that all that keeps him going is the hope of finding more survivors.

Snatching little more than an hour of sleep at a time, and no more than two hours over a day and night, Hamdan and the others in his team barely have time to eat or phone their families.

US House Speaker nominee drops out of race, deepening crisis

DAVID MORGAN & MOIRA WARBURTON
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 13

REPRESENTATIVE STEVE Scalise, who Republicans picked to be the next speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, dropped out of the race on Thursday as his party failed to resolve its divisions, sending the chamber into its 10th day without leadership.

Scalise, the Majority Leader, had secured his party's nomination to replace ousted Speaker Kevin McCarthy but was still short of the 217 votes needed to be elected on the House floor, as several of his fellow Republicans said they would not support him.

Republicans could afford no more than four defections — they control the House by a narrow 221-212 margin — if they wanted to end the House's leaderless bout that has already lasted nine days.

"I just shared with my colleagues that I was withdrawing



House Majority Leader Steve Scalise
Reuters

my name as a candidate for our speaker designee," Scalise told reporters.

"If you look at over the last few weeks, if you look at where our conference is, there is still work to be done... There are still some people that have their own agendas," he said.

The Republican infighting has left the chamber unable to act to support Israel's war against Palestinian militants of Hamas and pass government spending bills before funding runs out on Nov. 17.

Republicans concluded a meeting Thursday night without coming to an agreement on who would be their nominee. They will meet again at 10 a.m. ET (1400 GMT) on Friday. **REUTERS**

Teacher killed in France knife attack, Macron slams 'barbaric Islamic terror'

PASCAL ROSSIGNOL & LAYLI FOROUDI
ARRAS, OCTOBER 13

A 20-YEAR-OLD knifeman fatally stabbed a teacher in an attack at a school in the northern France city of Arras on Friday that President Emmanuel Macron condemned as "barbaric Islamic terrorism".

Two other people were seriously wounded and fighting for their lives, Macron said after visiting the school.

"The teacher who was killed stepped in and undoubtedly saved a lot of lives himself," Macron said after paying his respects to the dead teacher, whose body still lay under a cover and surrounded by a pool of blood.

Saying the school would reopen on Saturday, he added: "Our choice is made not to give in to terror, not to let anything divide us."

In a national address a day earlier, Macron had urged the French to remain united and re-



French police work at the crime scene after the attack at the Lycee Gambetta-Carnot high school in Arras. Reuters

frain from bringing the Israel-Hamas conflict home.

He stopped short of making a direct link in Arras but said: "Terrorism strikes once again in a school, and in a context that we all know."

The suspect, who has been arrested, was a former student of the Lycee Gambetta high school where the attack happened, a police source said. One

of the attackers' brothers was also detained nearby.

The investigation was handed to the anti-terrorism prosecutor's office.

But the attacker was on a state watchlist of people known as a potential security risk, a police source said. The "Fiche S" contains thousands of names and only a small number are actively monitored.

He was described by the police source as a Russian-born Chechen but by some French media as a Russian-born Ingush.

A security source said an elder brother of the alleged assailant was serving time in prison for links to Islamist militant networks and glorification of terrorist acts.

A video obtained by Reuters showed three people — one of them with a chair — trying to stop the attacker in school's parking lot and getting struck by him. "He's got a knife, he's got a knife," one of those watching the scene said.

"We're all in a state of shock," said philosophy teacher Martin Doussau, who was chased down by the attacker but managed to escape unharmed after locking himself in a room.

Doussau said he witnessed the assailant going after the school's cook in the yard during a break between two classes before the attacker approached his way.

Education Minister Gabriel Attal said security would be reinforced in schools throughout France. **REUTERS**

DEATH, DESTRUCTION

ISRAEL **PALESTINE**

TOTAL DEAD

1,300+

The US pressed for a condemnation of Hamas from all 15 members of UN's most powerful body

1,799

Hamas's military wing said the latest air strikes had killed 13 captives it brought back from Israel

TOTAL INJURED

1,000+

Israeli military says troops have been operating inside the Gaza Strip for the first time.

7,400+

UN pleaded that Israel rescind demand for forced relocation out of fear of humanitarian disaster.

OTHER LOSSES

■ 423,000 Gaza Strip residents have already fled their homes, according to the data by United Nations.

■ An Israeli shell has landed on journalists covering border clashes in south Lebanon, killing one and injuring six.

LEADERSPEAK



"How are 1.1 million people supposed to move across a densely populated warzone in less than 24 hours?"

MARTIN GRIFFITHS
U.N. AID CHIEF

In SC, questions of foetal viability and rights of unborn child

APURVA VISHWANATH
 NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13

THE SUPREME Court is hearing a married woman's request to end her 26-week pregnancy. The case has travelled to two different Benches of the SC, raising crucial questions on the decisional autonomy of a woman to abort, and the legislative framework.

What is the case about?

The 27-year-old married woman, who already has two boys, has argued that the pregnancy was unplanned. She has said that her family income is insufficient to support another child, and that she is under medication for post partum depression after the birth of her second child.

On October 9, a two-judge Bench of Justices Hima Kohli and BV Nagarathna, after interacting with the petitioner through video confer-

encing, allowed the termination of the pregnancy. The court reasoned that an unwanted pregnancy due to failure of contraceptive methods is the same as a forced pregnancy for which termination is allowed up to 24 weeks.

However, AIIMS, Delhi, wrote to the SC that it would need a directive on whether a foeticide (stopping the foetal heart) can be done before termination since the foetus is "currently viable".

On October 11, after the AIIMS report, the same Bench was split on allowing the abortion, and the case went before a three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud. On Friday, the Bench called for a fresh medical report to indicate the foetal health and medical condition of the woman.

What is the law on abortion?

The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act (MTP Act) allows termination of pregnancy in three stages.

■ Termination of pregnancy up to 20 weeks is allowed on the advice of one doctor.

■ If a pregnancy is 20-24 weeks, the right to seek abortion is determined by two registered medical practitioners as an exception, but only under certain categories.

Section 3B of the Rules under the MTP Act lists seven categories of forced pregnancies, including statutory rape in case of minors or sexual assault; women with disabilities; or when there is a change in marital status of women during pregnancy.

■ After 24 weeks, a medical board must be set up in "approved facilities", which may "allow or deny termination of pregnancy" only if there is substantial foetal abnormality.

Has the court allowed termination beyond 26 weeks?

Yes, in several cases. On August 21, a

Bench headed by Justice Nagarathna held a special sitting on a Saturday to allow termination of pregnancy of a rape survivor whose pregnancy was at 27 weeks and three days.

However, the difference in this case seems to be the marital status of the woman, which indicates that the conception is consensual and not a forced pregnancy in that sense.

In September 2022, a Bench led by Justice Chandrachud allowed abortion for an unmarried woman who was 24 weeks pregnant, and was in a consensual relationship. The Bench cited "transformative constitutionalism" that promotes and engenders societal change, and said that "the law must remain cognizant of the fact that changes in society have ushered in significant changes in family structures".

There are also instances in which courts have overruled the decision of the medical

board to allow termination.

What about the rights of unborn child?

The observations on Friday by the CJI-led Bench oscillated between the rights of a woman "must trump" when it comes to abortion, and the need to "balance out the rights of the unborn child".

"There is no doubt that our law is far ahead of other countries. We will not have a *Roe versus Wade* situation here. Our law is liberal and pro-choice," the CJI observed.

While courts have read the MTP Act liberally, the test of "foetal viability" as a benchmark to allow abortion is new in India. The landmark 1973 US Supreme Court verdict in *Roe v Wade* that made abortion a constitutional right allowed abortion up to the point of foetal viability, that is, the time after which a foetus can survive outside the womb.

Foetal viability in 1973 was pegged at 28 weeks (7 months), which is now with scien-

tific advancement lower at 23-24 weeks.

The criticism of India's law is that the decision to terminate after 20 weeks is shifted to doctors and not the woman. While this aspect is not challenged in court, frequent cases of women approaching the court at the eleventh hour point to a legislative gap.

The Indian legal framework on reproductive rights tilts to the side of the woman's autonomy to decide and choose more than towards the rights of the unborn child.

In 2005, Rajasthan High Court in *Nand Kishore Sharma versus Union of India* rejected a challenge to the constitutional validity of the MTP Act on the grounds that it violates the fundamental right to life of an unborn child.

The right of an unborn child has, however, formed the basis of legislation that deal with succession or the law banning sex-determination of foetus. Section 416 of CrPC also provides for postponement of the death sentence awarded to a pregnant woman.

EXPLAINED GLOBAL

WHAT IS THE INDIGENOUS VOICE REFERENDUM IN AUSTRALIA?



Delegates of the Central Land Council, a representative body of the Aboriginal peoples, with a "Yes" sign ahead of the referendum, in front of Uluru, a rock formation that is sacred to indigenous Australians. AAP via Reuters

AUSTRALIANS WILL vote in a referendum on October 14 to decide whether the country's indigenous peoples should be formally consulted in making laws.

The referendum question reads: "A Proposed Law: to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. Do you approve this proposed alteration?"

A recent YouGov poll has found that the referendum is unlikely to pass.

The First Peoples

This expression, and the word 'Aboriginal', refers to the indigenous inhabitants of the continent — people who lived on the Australian mainland and surrounding islands for tens of thousands of years before the first Europeans arrived in the early 17th century.

The referendum

The referendum asks whether a body called the indigenous "Voice to Parliament" should be set up to advise lawmakers on matters that impact the lives of the First Peoples. The aboriginals find no mention in Australia's 122-year-old Constitution.

Aboriginal people make up about 3.2% of Australia's population, and track below national averages on most socio-economic measures. According to a government booklet containing information that would help people make the choice on whether to support or to reject the

vote, indigenous Australians have:

- A life expectancy 8 years shorter than non-Indigenous Australians;
- Worse rates of disease and infant mortality;
- A suicide rate twice as high as non-Indigenous Australians.

A tough battle

Any constitutional alterations in Australia require a national referendum. Voting is compulsory for all adults.

For the referendum to be passed, more than 50 per cent of voters must vote in favour nationally, plus the majority of voters in the majority of Australian states.

The Labour Party of Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has pushed strongly for a 'Yes' vote, and Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney has said the referendum is about "drawing a line on the poor outcomes from the long legacy of failed programmes and broken policies, and listening to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people".

However, opposition parties like the Liberal Party of Australia and the Nationals have opposed the referendum. The 'No' campaign has argued that details of the proposed body — such as the members it would include, their powers, etc. — have not been made clear. There is also an argument that saying 'Yes' would amount to dividing Australian society on the lines of race.

RISHIKA SINGH

EXPLAINED WAR IN GAZA

Hostage-taking as terror tactic

Hostage-taking is fairly common in unconventional warfare — the difference in the case of Israeli hostages in Gaza lies in the scale. The approach of countries to hostage-takers has varied. Israel has no easy options

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
 NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13

THE HAMAS fighters who raided southern Israel on October 7 took back into Gaza an estimated 150 Israelis, mostly civilians, including women, children, and the elderly. With an Israeli ground assault imminent, the fate of these hostages, held at multiple locations in Gaza, remains unknown.

How common are hostage situations in conflicts?

Hostage-taking is fairly common in unconventional warfare. The International Terrorism: Attributes of Terrorist Events (ITERATE) project records close to 4,000 transnational hostage and kidnapping incidents by terrorist groups between 1968 and 2018 around the world.

Modern-day terrorists use kidnapping or hostage-taking as a bargaining chip for political and policy concessions, or ransom. The purpose can also be to attract international attention or, as in the case of the macabre murders by Islamic State, inspire further terrorism.

There is a history of hostage-taking in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In fact, modern-day terror-related hostage-taking virtually began with the Munich massacre, after Palestinian Black September terrorists seized 11 Israeli athletes at the 1972 Olympic Games.

In 1985, Lebanese terrorists hijacked TWA flight 847, and in 2011, Israeli soldier Private Shalit was kidnapped by Hamas and released after five years.

How is the crisis in Gaza different from earlier hostage situations?

The difference is in the scale, former R&AW chief A S Dulat said. "Hamas has never been able to take so many hostages together, even though Palestinian militants have earlier kidnapped Israelis and kept them in their territory for years," he said.

Former R&AW Special Secretary Vappala Balachandran, who headed the 26/11 commission of inquiry, said the sheer number of hostages, and uncertainty around their location makes the task of rescue very difficult.

"Hamas is using them as a bargaining tool to force the Israelis to soften the reprisal. Israel will be worried about harming its own citizens during the assault on Gaza," he said.

Ajai Sahni of the Institute of Conflict Management, however, believes Hamas may have overplayed their hand. "They have mobilised entire Israel to war. All of Gaza is hostage to Israel. They may have hoped for overreaction from Israel, and for the Arab world to rise in their support. But only the former has happened," he said.

How old is the practice of hostage-taking

SOME MAJOR HOSTAGE CRISES

1972: Modern-day terror-related hostage crises virtually began when eight Palestinian terrorists of the Black September group took 11 Israeli athletes hostage in the Munich Olympic Village.

1979: Islamic revolutionaries took 66 American diplomats hostage in Iran. 13 were released soon, the rest were released after 444 days in captivity.

1979: 200 Islamic extremists seized the Grand Mosque in Mecca. Hundreds of hostages were freed after a military operation.

1985: Lebanese terrorists hijacked the Athens-Rome TWA flight 847, demanding the release of 766 Shiite prisoners held in Israel.

1990s: saw the rise of ransom demands along with political concessions for the release of hostages. Through the 90s and early 2000s, FARC in Colombia routinely kidnapped US citizens for ransom.

1996: The *Movimiento Revolucionario Tupac Amaru* laid siege to the home of the Japanese ambassador in Lima, where 500 guests were present. Many remained in captivity for four months.

2002: Journalist Daniel Pearl of *Wall Street Journal* was kidnapped and murdered by Islamist terrorists in Karachi.

2004: Chechen rebels took 1,100 hostages, including 777 children, in a school in Beslan, Russia, demanding withdrawal of Russian forces from Chechnya. Almost a third of the hostages were killed.

SOMALIAN PIRATES routinely took commercial ships and their crew hostage around the Horn of Africa between 2008 and 2012. The ransom flowed into the coffers of the al-Qaeda-linked al-Shabab.

2000: Abu Sayyaf rebels raided a divers' resort on Sipadan island off Malaysian Borneo and took 21 foreign tourists and resort employees hostage.

INDIA FACED two major hostage crises in the 1990s after six foreign tourists in Kashmir were seized by Harkat-ul-Ansar in 1995, and IC 814 was hijacked in 1999.

as a tactic of asymmetrical warfare?

There are references to hostage-taking even in the *Ramayana* and the Bible — but the use of the word, derived from the French *hoste*, has been traced to the Middle Ages when hostages were taken to ensure treaty obligations were fulfilled. In the 18th century, African pirates routinely captured merchant ships in the Mediterranean for ransom.

The Munich massacre marked the beginning of the modern age of hostage-taking by terrorist groups. It internationalised and routinised hostage-taking as a preferred terrorism tactic, which was used in theatres of conflict from South America to Southeast Asia.

A paper published in the *Journal of Conflict Resolution* in 2020 noted: "... Hostage-taking attacks constituted only 16.9% of transnational terrorist attacks during 1978-2018. This percentage increased over time as terrorists increasingly resorted to kidnappings. Hostage-taking attacks represent the following percentages for three select intervals: 13% (1978-1989); 18.1% (1990-2001); and 22.3% (2002-2018)." In 2004, al-Qaeda even published a kidnapping manual.

Over the years, the motivations too have diversified. According to a paper by Alex P Schmidt of the International Centre for Counter-Terrorism (ICCT), "Most of the

hostage-taking incidents after the 1996 Peruvian crisis are cases of hostage for ransom demands. ... In one unusual incident, a rebel group in Sierra Leone named the West Side Boys demanded college education abroad in exchange for the release of their hostages."

How have nations reacted to hostage-taking by terrorists?

It has depended on their policy and on the situation.

The US and the UK have a policy of "no negotiations" with terrorists. In crises, they have relied either on backroom negotiations or military operations to free hostages. France and Europe, however, have been reported to have paid millions of euros in ransom for journalists kidnapped by the IS in Syria.

During the 1979 Tehran hostage crisis, the US did negotiate with Iran. There have also been reports of secret arms sales to Iran by the US during the Beirut crisis of the 1980s to buy freedom for American hostages.

During the 1996 crisis when 500 diplomats were taken hostage in Lima, Peru negotiated for more than four months, but eventually freed all hostages in a military operation in which only one soldier died.

On the third day of the 2004 Beslan school siege, Russian security forces carried out an

operation that led to the death of all Chechen rebels; however, 333 hostages were also killed.

Israel refused to free Palestinian prisoners during the 1972 Munich crisis; in the same year, however, four Black September terrorists were granted safe passage to Egypt in exchange for the release of the six hostages they had taken in the Israeli embassy in Thailand.

In 2011, under Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel freed more than 1,000 Palestinians from prisons in return for Private Shalit.

India refused to free jailed terrorists after the 1995 kidnapping of foreign tourists by Harkat-ul-Ansar (leading to their death), but released terrorist Masood Azhar and his associates after the hijacked IC 814 was taken to Taliban-ruled Afghanistan in 1999.

How successful have hostage-takers been in achieving their objectives?

An analysis of close to 4,000 transnational kidnappings and hostage-taking incidents by terror groups by scholars such as Schmidt and Wukki Kim using the ITERATE data shows that terrorists could get at least part of what they demanded in 27% of cases.

The data show that 50% of all victims in hostage situations have been ordinary civilians, followed by corporation officials (21%) and diplomats or government officials (21%). Hostage-taking has been found to have low fatality per attack at 1.25, but higher than a facility or infrastructure attack (0.77%).

The data also show that a majority of hostage situations (20%) were resolved within a week; however, 11% took more than a year.

What are the options before Israel now?

"They can go in hot pursuit. But they have not been able to locate the hostages. Negotiations can't take place while bombs are raining," Balachandran said.

The ground offensive will present major challenges, he said, given that it would involve street-to-street fighting, in which many innocent people could be killed.

"When the Israelis tried to do it in south Lebanon they got bogged down and had to make a humiliating withdrawal. That's how Hezbollah became strong. The objective is to save hostages. The cost of rescue has to be assessed," he said.

Dulat said the US can perhaps initiate negotiations after pushing Qatar to use its good offices with Hamas, and stop the violence. Balachandran, however, said negotiations would not be possible without involving Iran. "But no one is talking to Iran," he said.

Sahni said Israel was using the right strategy of "collective punishment" through supply cuts and bombardments. "Ground offensive will have terminal consequences for hostages. But that is a price Israel may be willing to pay this time," he said.

Drishiti IAS
 General Studies Foundation Batch
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 Admissions Open
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Economics laureate's book charts women's aspirations, role in workforce

RISHIKA SINGH
 NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13

IN HER 2021 book, *Career & Family: Women's Century-Long Journey Toward Equity*, economist Claudia Goldin, winner of the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2023, lays out a brief history of college-educated women in the United States.

Going back to women who attended college beginning in the 1900s, she examines how women's aspirations and circumstances have changed over time. And while the book focuses on American women, in an increasingly globalised world many of her observations resonate elsewhere too — such as "the problem with no name".

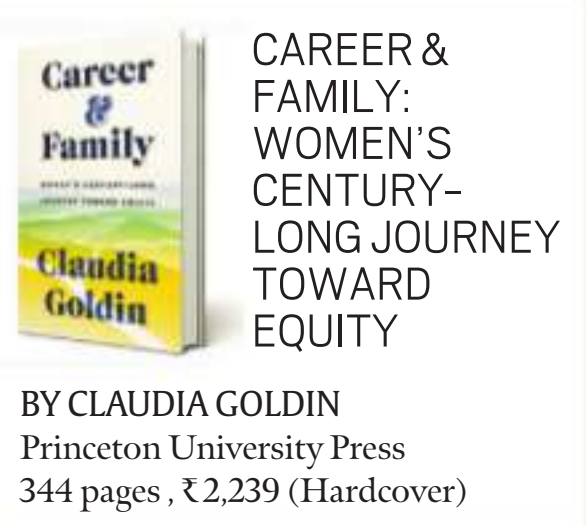
Despite taking huge strides in education and employment, women continue to feel short-changed when they compare their careers with those of their husbands and male

colleagues. The "problem", Goldin says, can be termed as sex discrimination, gender bias, glass ceiling, and so on. But even if these issues go away, it will not solve the problem itself.

The system at fault

This is how Goldin frames the problem: "The good news? It isn't you; it is the system. The bad news? It isn't you; it is the system." How this system, which includes larger economic, political, and social forces, operates, and how women have navigated it to aspire for a career and family, is what the book explains.

The book divides women who graduated from college into five categories from the 1900s through the 1990s, and traces, using data from government and other sources, how their aspirations changed over time — from having to choose between a career and family, having to sacrifice, in some way, one or the other, and finally as-



CAREER & FAMILY: WOMEN'S CENTURY-LONG JOURNEY TOWARD EQUITY
 BY CLAUDIA GOLDIN
 Princeton University Press
 344 pages, ₹ 2,239 (Hardcover)

piring for both in equal measure.

These shifts came due to factors such as laws that banned women and married women from working, and the strengthening of such laws amid a scarcity of jobs during the Great Depression. These laws eventually changed as the demand for jobs rose after a significant increase in births after

World War II in the 'Baby Boom' era.

The introduction of the birth control pill by the Federal Drug Administration in 1960 allowed women to delay childbirth and marriage. This translated into greater enrolment in post-graduate courses and aspirations for 'careers' — long-term professional endeavours with growth prospects — rather than only 'jobs' that just paid the bills.

The feminist movement of the 1960s and 1970s led to a "Quiet Revolution" as more and more women entered the workforce for longer periods to pursue careers, determined to build on what the women before them had accomplished. Goldin estimates that 20-25% of the economic growth since 1960 has occurred because of reduced barriers to the employment, training, and education of women and minorities in the US.

The fact that women's career goals to-

day are impacted by their taking breaks to have and care for children is "the tug between care and work", Goldin says.

Problem of 'greedy jobs'

This tug, or sense of professional unfulfillment, relates to the 'pay gap' — the difference between the average earnings of women and men. Previously, it was thought to be largely due to the differences in the genders' fields of study and occupational choices.

But beyond those choices and discrimination based solely on gender or race, the gap is dynamic. Even in the same jobs and with the same qualifications, it widens as a man and a woman age, get married, and have children.

The root of the problem is "greedy work", Goldin says. These are careers that require significant time and attention from workers and are more likely to reward those

who are available at all times — think doctors, lawyers, and senior corporate executives.

The value of greedy jobs has greatly increased with rising income inequality, which has soared since the early 1980s. This means that either the man or the woman must be employed in a "greedy job" to have a substantial family income.

But with the need for children and eldercare, at least one partner has to be more present at home. "And when couple equity is thrown out the window, gender equality generally goes with it, except among same-sex unions," Goldin writes.

Traditionally, men have been able to have a family and "step up" in terms of careers because women "step back" from their careers for the family. "Both are deprived: men forgo time with family; women forgo career," she writes.

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19 ECONOMY

SENSEX: 66,282.74 ▼ 125.65 (0.19%) NIFTY: 19,751.05 ▼ 42.95 (0.22%) NIKKEI: 32,315.99 ▼ 178.67 HANG SENG: 17,813.45 ▼ 424.76 FTSE: 7,599.60 ▼ 45.18 DAX: 15,186.66 ▼ 238.37

GOLD	USD RATE	OIL	SILVER
₹59,050	₹83.24	\$88.17	₹73,200

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

International market data till 1900 IST

Exports dip 2.6% to \$34 bn in Sep, trade deficit narrows to \$19.37 bn

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13

THE RATE of decline in merchandise exports has turned milder. The shipments declined just 2.6% on year in September to \$34.47 billion, according to official data released by the commerce ministry on Friday. The decline in imports was even sharper at 15% to \$53.84 billion, leaving a trade deficit of \$19.37 billion.

Meanwhile, the ministry put out revised data for August which showed that exports had actually expanded by 3.88% in the month to \$38.48 billion, while the initial report was of 6.86% decline. The revision added another \$4 billion to August export numbers. The trade deficit stood at \$23.36 in August.

Month	Trade Deficit (in \$ bn)
April	14.4
May	22.5
June	19.1
July	18.4
Aug	21.7
Sept	19.4

"(In August) we were able to see some green shoots in terms of improvement in exports although the global scenario is quite bleak. This (green shoots) have been confirmed by September numbers. The gap (the rate of decline) is getting narrower and narrower," Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said.

He said for the remaining six months of the financial year

there should be a positive growth in exports. "Weekly trends in October confirms this."

Along with the exports, imports have also been on the decline since February. This decline is driven in large part by lower prices of commodities, particularly crude oil. The decline in imports has kept the Current Account Deficit (CAD) in the comfort zone.

In the first quarter the merchandise trade deficit of \$57.6 billion had resulted in CAD of \$9.2 billion or 1.1% of GDP. In the July-September quarter the deficit in trade of goods stood at a comparable \$57.98 billion.

"The narrower-than-expected merchandise trade deficit print (in September) augurs well for the current account deficit for Q2FY24, although it is expected to enlarge vis-à-vis the Q1 lev-

els," Chief Economist at ICRA Aditi Nayar said.

In September if petroleum and gems and jewellery exports are taken out of the equation then the exports have grown by 1.86% to \$24.78 billion.

In April-August India's merchandise exports declined by 8.77% to \$211.4 billion. Imports during the first six-month period of this fiscal fell by 12.23 per cent to \$326.98 billion. Total trade deficit in merchandise trade is \$115.58 billion during the period.

Services exports in September are estimated at \$29.37 billion compared to \$29.2 billion a year ago. Imports stood at \$14.91 billion against \$16.27 billion. The estimated value of services exported in April-September 2023 was \$164.89 billion compared to \$156 billion

in April-September 2022.

The sectors that have shown improved performance in September include engineering goods (6.8%), electronics goods (27.6%), drugs and pharma (9.0%), iron ore (128%) and agriculture products. Within electronics, smartphone exports grew 86% in April-August to \$5.62 billion.

Barthwal said in some of the very important sectors where the Production Linked Incentive scheme is operating to improve manufacturing and export competitiveness those sectors have done well. He also said that new markets are also opening up for newer products. Turkey has emerged as a market for office equipment from India while drugs and formulations have seen new customers in Finland, Malta and Philippines.

India-UK trade pact talks in final stages: Commerce Secy

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13

NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN India and UK for a free trade agreement are at an advanced stage and both sides are working on ironing out differences that still remain, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said Friday.

"We are negotiating tough issues which remain," he said while not elaborating on the issues.

The secretary said he was in the UK last week for discussions with his counterparts and this week a delegation of negotiators from the UK are in New Delhi for the continuing with the 13th round of talks which began on 18th of last month.

The proposed FTA between the two countries, negotiations for which were started in January of 2022 covers 26 chapters of policy areas. "Majority of chapters are closed or are in advanced stages of negotiations."

FE has reported the possibility of the agreement being signed by the end of this month.

While less contentious issues have been sorted out, protracted negotiations are still on issues of interest to India like greater access for its skilled professionals from sectors like IT, and healthcare in the UK market, besides

market access for several goods at nil customs duties.

On the other hand, the UK is seeking a significant cut in import duties on goods such as Scotch whiskey, automobiles, lamb meat, chocolates and certain confectionary items.

Britain is also looking for more opportunities for UK services in Indian markets in segments like telecommunications, legal and financial services (banking and insurance).

If the negotiations conclude successfully, the FTA would be India's first with a developed country which could set a template for other similar pacts it is seeking like with the EU.

Another team from the UK is also in India to negotiate the Bilateral Investment Treaty with officials of the Ministry of Finance that will be signed along with the FTA.

The UK is an important trade and investment partner for India. The bilateral trade between India and the UK increased to \$20.36 billion in 2022-23 from \$17.5 billion in 2021-22.

On FTA negotiations with the European Union, the secretary said that the sixth round of negotiations would be held in Brussels from Monday. During the fifth round of negotiations in June, negotiations on 20 policy areas were held.

No curbs on laptop imports, only monitoring, says Barthwal

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13

INDIA WILL NOT impose licensing requirements or other restrictions on imports of laptops and computers but is putting in place a system to monitor the quantity of imports and where they originate from, a top government official said on Friday.

This is a big change from the government's earlier move to allow imports of these only after obtaining licences. The decision was announced in August and was to come into force with immediate effect but after the concerns raised by the industry the implementation of the decision was deferred till November 1.

In between, the government has engaged with various stakeholders and the industry and revised its stand. "We are only saying that somebody who is importing laptops, have to be under close watch, so that we can look at these imports. It is basically monitoring, which we are doing. It has nothing to do with restrictions as such," Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal told reporters here.

Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) Santosh Kumar Sarangi said there will be an import management system, which will come into place from November 1.

IN MOROCCO: GATHERING OF G20 FINANCE MINISTERS, CENTRAL BANK GOVERNORS; IMF-WORLD BANK MEETING

G20 finance leaders back swift adoption of crypto roadmap

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13

THE G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) on Friday adopted the roadmap for crypto assets as outlined in the earlier released synthesis paper prepared by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Financial Stability Board (FSB). Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that globally, all are on the same page about the way in which regulations can happen for crypto assets and now country-wise specific legislations will also have to be worked out.

"We adopt the Roadmap proposed in the Synthesis Paper as a G20 Roadmap on Crypto Assets. We call for swift and coordinated implementation of the G20 Roadmap, including implementation of policy frameworks; outreach beyond G20 jurisdictions; global coordination, cooperation and information sharing; and addressing data gaps," said the communiqué after the conclusion of the two-day meeting in Marrakech, Morocco.

Sitharaman said: "I am given the understanding now that globally all of us are on the same page about the way in which regulations can happen. Countries and their specific legislations will also have to be worked out. So it will be at the same time working across countries, between countries in a macro sense and also coming down to the level of individual countries and the measures they would want to take."

She said the roadmap will re-

MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT FINDS NO MENTION

Marrakech: G20 finance leaders made no mention of the conflict between Israel and Hamas in their communiqué on Friday, highlighting the deep divisions in the group since Russia's invasion of Ukraine. REUTERS

volve around three areas: monitoring the progress and the implementation of regulatory activities; looking at the cross-border related and information sharing-related activities; and, taking this decision of the G20 roadmap to those jurisdictions that are beyond G20 and also beyond the FSB membership.

The finance leaders also "welcomed" the report of the G20 Independent Expert Group on multilateral development banks (MDBs) to enhance lending capacity with greater resource mobilisation. The FMCBG also stressed the need for "transformative changes" in the operating models and vision of these banks which are expected to play a very crucial role in helping the developing countries to meet the sustainable development goals.

The IMF-FSB paper had recommended against an outright ban on crypto-assets and instead suggested introducing a licensing regime for crypto-asset platforms bringing the asset under the fold of anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing standards. FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com



(From left) Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, IMF MD Kristalina Georgieva and World Bank President Ajay Banga, with others, during the Global Sovereign Debt Roundtable on the sidelines of the 2023 World Bank-IMF Annual Meetings in Marrakech on Thursday. PTI

FM on conflict in Middle East: Concerns back on fuel, inflation

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13

REFERRING TO the conflict in the Middle East, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Friday said concerns about fuel are back again among many countries, along with uncertainties about the resultant impact on food security, inflation and fragmentation of supply chains.

Speaking after the conclusion of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting in Marrakech, Morocco, Sitharaman also said that devel-

oping economies are the engine of growth for the world and even though there might be some impact of high interest rates in other countries, it won't be the only factor influencing investment between countries.

"I find that it is going to be a very clear signal towards growth, wanting growth to push and spread as a positive contagion to all other terrains, and that will be one of the impacts that most of us are recognising. However, the recent crisis in the Middle East and the concerns about fuel back again are worries which many countries do hold

and they expressed as well. So the concerns and uncertainties are about peace as a positive factor, fuel concerns affecting food security aspects and therefore the inflation to that end, and the fragmentation of supply chains... these were the three concerns thinking about the near future," she said.

Asked about the impact of high interest rates on investment flows, Sitharaman said high interest rates won't be the only factor to influence investment, noting that emerging markets and developing countries are the engines of growth.

World Bank and MDBs jointly seek to boost lending power

REUTERS MARRAKECH, OCTOBER 13

THE WORLD Bank on Friday said it is bolstering collaboration with nine multilateral development banks to accelerate its vision of a liveable planet free of poverty.

It said measures already being implemented or under consideration by the MDBs could yield \$300 billion to \$400 billion of additional lending capacity to help developing countries confront "a perfect storm of inter-

twined crises — from climate shocks and conflicts to pandemics and surging debt."

Increased collaboration among the multilateral development banks is a key part of the World Bank's new playbook, and one supported in a statement at the annual meetings of the Bank and IMF by G20 finance leaders.

The African Development Bank, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the Council of Europe Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction

and Development, the European Investment Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, and the New Development Bank joined the World Bank in the collaboration agreement.

"Working together for a common cause, we can bring more experience, expertise, knowledge, and, especially, more funding to the massive challenges facing the world today," World Bank President Ajay Banga said. "Together, we are greater than the sum of our parts."

FE BEST BANKS AWARDS



The Indian Express chairman & MD Viveck Goenka, Indian Express Group executive director Anant Goenka and NaBFID chairman K V Kamath with winners of FE Best Banks Awards

Regulators will have freedom under data law: Chandrasekhar

JATING GROVER MUMBAI, OCTOBER 13

THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) or any sectoral regulator could frame their own rules for storage and processing of personal data, minister of state for electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar said on Friday.

Though the new Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act allows businesses to export personal data to any country except a few that may be put on a black list, if the regulators find such data in their possession to be more sensitive in nature and are best controlled by them, they could bring these under their own regulations, he said.

Speaking at the FE Best Banks Awards, Chandrasekhar said, "The RBI or a health regulator, can turn around and say that this personal data in our domain is more sensitive and we can prescribe stronger, harder rules for the storage and processing of the data. The law has that provision."



MoS Rajeev Chandrasekhar

Chandrasekhar comments assume significance as the industry was looking for clarity on whether they will have to comply with certain areas of regulations that are already being prescribed by their sectoral regulators, from the ambit of DPDP Act as well.

"As long as the obligations under the DPDP Act are enforceable in a geography, we will not prevent the platforms (from storing their data there)," Chandrasekhar said. "However, if you find that there is any case that a particular jurisdiction has

either diluted the rights of the Indian citizen or the Indian business, we have the power to blacklist that geography," he added.

On illegal lending apps, the minister said the government is working on a framework that will require all lending apps to undergo a due diligence process before they could be allowed to enter the banking system.

Tata Motors sells 9.9% in Tata Tech for ₹1,613 crore

Mumbai: Tata Motors Ltd has entered into share purchase agreements to sell 9.9 per cent in Tata Technologies Ltd for ₹1,613.7 crore. TPG Rise Climate is the lead investor for the deal, which ascribes equity valuation of ₹16,300 crore for Tata Technologies. ENS

INDIGO CO-FOUNDER EYES SPICEJET STAKE

Bengaluru: IndiGo co-founder Rakesh Gangwal is in talks to buy a "sizable" stake in the troubled SpiceJet, ET Now reported. It has been scrambling to raise funds and restore operations for a fourth of its fleet which is grounded. REUTERS

FINAL HURDLE CLEARED: U.K. OKAYS ACQUISITION AFTER FORCING XBOX MAKER TO SELL STREAMING RIGHTS

Microsoft closes \$69-bn Activision Blizzard deal

REUTERS LONDON, OCTOBER 13

XBOX MAKER Microsoft closed its \$69 billion deal for Activision Blizzard on Friday, swelling its heft in the video-gaming market with best-selling titles including "Call of Duty" to better compete with industry leader Sony.

Originally unveiled in January 2022, the biggest deal in the gaming industry cleared its final big hurdle — an approval from Britain — earlier in the day after Microsoft agreed to sell streaming rights for Activision's games to ally competition concerns.



Microsoft had announced the deal in early 2022. AP

The completion is a major win for the U.S. tech firm in its push to attract more people to its Xbox consoles and Game Pass

subscription service. Microsoft's gaming revenue trails that of Sony, whose PlayStation consoles outsell the Xbox.

"Today is a good day to play," Microsoft Gaming CEO Phil Spencer said in a post on the X social media platform, formerly known as Twitter. He will oversee the Activision business, with the video-game publisher's CEO Bobby Kotick staying on until end-2023.

Spencer has touted the purchase as a way for Microsoft to break into the more than \$90-billion market for mobile games. Activision makes popular mobile titles including "Candy

Crush Saga" and "Call of Duty Mobile" — games that were excluded from the cloud streaming deal Microsoft signed with France's Ubisoft Entertainment to secure approval from Britain.

"Microsoft instantly has more than \$3 billion of mobile revenues," said Wedbush Securities analyst Michael Pachter.

"The big benefit is that Microsoft has a vision that they are going to deliver games through a subscription, and they need more content to give subscribers. So, this is a big step toward having sufficient content," he said.

The deal still faces opposition from the U.S. Federal Trade

Commission, which failed in its previous attempt to block the purchase. The FTC said on Friday it was focused on its appeal, but would "assess" Microsoft's agreement with Ubisoft.

But analysts believe that will change little. "The impact of an FTC challenge will be limited to incremental concessions in the future," D.A. Davidson analyst Gil Luria said.

The main hurdle came from Britain's Competition and Markets Authority, which had originally blocked the deal in April over concerns it could give the U.S. tech giant a stranglehold on the nascent cloud gaming market.

Adani says ministry probing accounts of its two Mumbai airports

REUTERS BENGALURU, OCTOBER 13

ADANI ENTERPRISES, backed by billionaire Gautam Adani, said on Friday that India's corporate affairs ministry was investigating the accounts of the group's two airports in the country's financial capital of Mumbai.

Adani said the ministry had sought information and documents on the airports — Mumbai International Airport Ltd and Navi Mumbai International

Airport Ltd — for FY18 and FY22. Adani already owns and operates seven airports, including Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, which it took over in 2021.

It won six airports as part of the government's first privatisation drive in 2019 and is building a new airport in Navi Mumbai.

The probe is the latest in a string of troubles for the conglomerate since a US short-seller earlier this year accused it of improperly using offshore tax havens and stock manipulation.

20 REVIEWS CINEMA & MUSIC

Heart of the Matter

DHAK DHAK
★★★

Director: Tarun Dudeja
Cast: Ratna Pathak Shah, Dia Mirza, Fatima Sana Shaikh, Sanjana Sanghi



FOUR WOMEN getting together for the motorbike ride of a lifetime: *Dhak Dhak* starts off with many of the expected tropes playing out in a movie of this kind. Very different women, from different walks of life. Troubled past. Conflicted present. All looking for a way out, a way forward. Bumps on the road. Breakdowns of men and machines. And finally, that most elusive, precious element, the connection which binds us despite our differences.

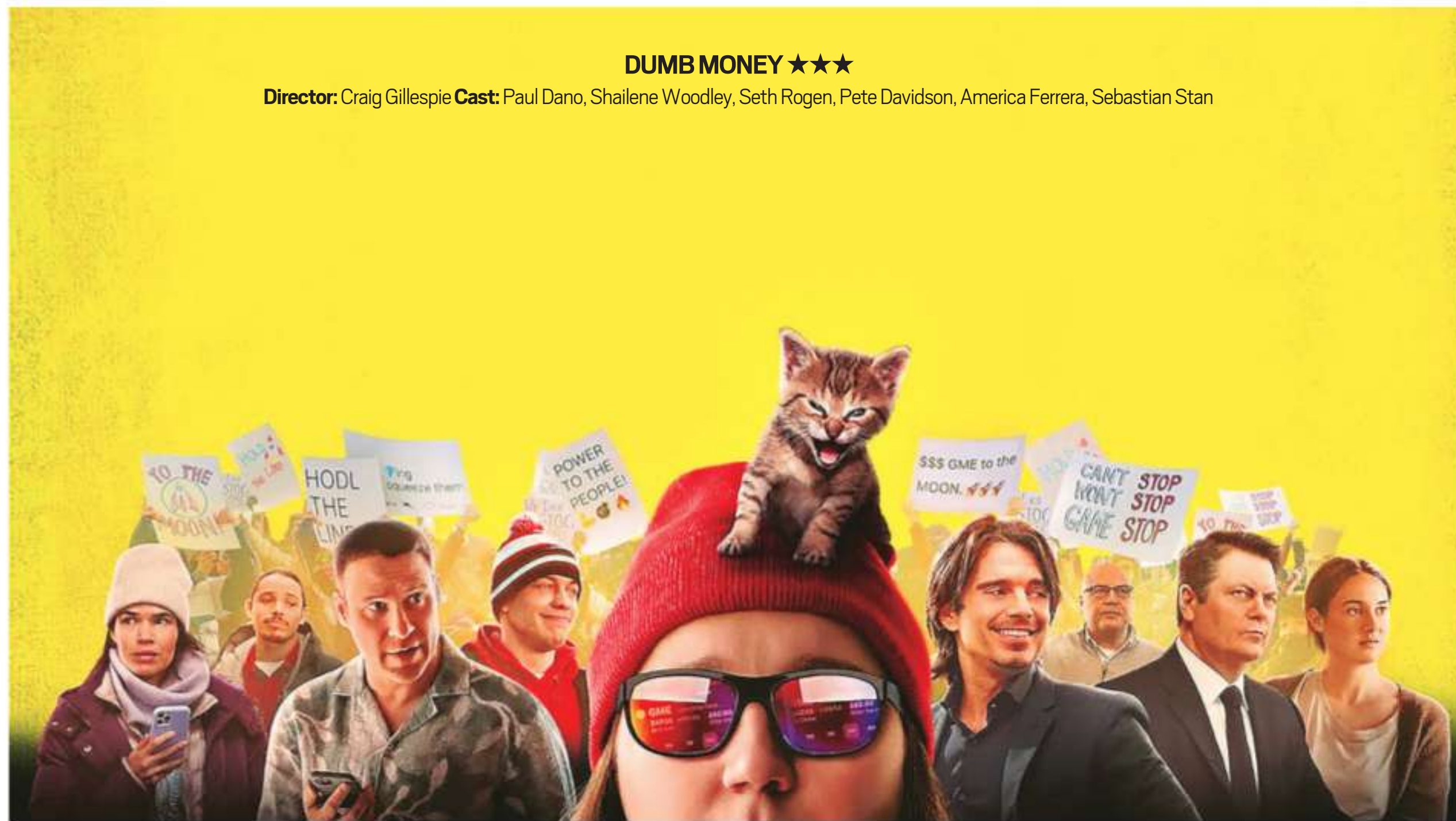
There's some amount of intrinsic pleasure to be had just in the principal theme of women taking centre-stage, of breaking free. And the performances of the quartet — led by the redoubtable Ratna Pathak Shah as Mahi, the *dahi-vada*-making grandma, Dia Mirza as the put-upon *biwi* Uzma, getting away from her autocratic *shauhar* to forge a path for her teenage daughter, Sana Mirza Shaikh as Sky, the YouTuber in search of a million subscribers, and Sanjana Sanghi as the submissive Manjari, who is about to get yoked to a man she's never met, getting away her protected-but-stifling existence — are notable, except perhaps for the last of them, who is not written with as much detail as the others.

A couple of the sequences, especially when the women imbibe substance-laden cookies and dark rum leading them lose their inhibitions, which in turn loosen their tongues, are lovely. There are giggles as shared bedroom secrets tumble out, making allowance for the ignorance of the virginal Manjari 'who has never yet been kissed'. Cracks about 'faking it' are followed by knowing chortles, and it's all very warm and convivial. Pathak-Shah is top-notch as always, followed by a spirited Mirza, who is in danger of being typecast as 'the troubled Muslim wife' (last seen, in *Made In Heaven* season 2), and Shaikh who gets with the cool biker chick vibe.

But the film makes you wait for these nice bits, slowing down into occasional banalities, and bumper-sticker aphoristic moments. The bumping-into-helpful-quirky-characters is also a trope that plays out — a helpful truck-driver rescues Manjari from a fall, an attractive middle-aged stranger holds Mahi's hand at a critical time, a Bollywood-loving female monk shows Sky the light — but not all these pieces work as well as the others.

For all its fabulous landscapes (the bikers ride through some of the most picturesque locations in the world, on their way to their fabled destination, Khardung La) and a bunch of interesting actors, the film comes off patchy, with its obvious, eye-glaze bits jostling along with the smiley feel-good ones.

SG



DUMB MONEY ★★★

Director: Craig Gillespie **Cast:** Paul Dano, Shailene Woodley, Seth Rogen, Pete Davidson, America Ferrera, Sebastian Stan

Bull by the Horns

SHALINI LANGER

THE FRENCH Revolution of the stock market." It is just the kind of blithe statement that the stock market loves, particularly when it knows that the market always wins.

Yes, even here, despite what *Dumb Money* — a smart film based on a real story of how a little guy gamed big hedge funds during a brief streak in 2021 — wants to tell you. It's 2023, and the world is more or less on an even keel as it was two years ago.

Dumb Money is about Keith Gill (Dano), an employee in a financial company, who, in his spare time, gives stock market tips under the name 'Roaring Kitten' or 'Deep F...ing Value', depending on which site you follow him on. Sometime around 2020, in the first flush of the Covid pandemic, Keith starts telling his followers that short sellers have seriously undervalued stocks of GameStop. To put his money where his mouth is, Keith puts his entire savings into GameStop, supported by his astonishingly uncomplaining wife, Caroline (Woodley).

With his balance sheet publicly available online and his daily analysis of the market next to it, Keith builds up a loyal fol-



lowing, who also invests in GameStop in his wake, driving up the company's stock. It rises ultimately to levels that don't just ruin a few hedge funds that had bet on its shares shorting, but also invite a Congressional hearing, 24x7 social media, and prime time attention, and finally, a behind-the-scenes ganging up that makes for a good story.

Everybody loves a David vs Goliath tale, and there are few Goliaths as hated as those on Wall Street. There is also no denying that

The phrase *Dumb Money* is used by the big stock market players to dismiss small retail investors, who are assumed to not know much. Director Gillespie (*I, Tonya*; *Cruella*) owns the phrase proudly as he does the web of jargon and numbers in which the stock market operates, not attempting to simplify something that is by design meant to keep us uncertain. It's the larger game he wants to draw our attention to, and the numerous little players made or broken by it (and there are several here, with the film ensuring a calculatedly diverse bunch among Keith's fan base).

Dano, an actor who always seems to float somewhere outside his physical body, is as good as always in the role of the everyman, forgettable Keith, who is a different entity online. As his squabbling brother Kevin, Davidson is good too, as is their family dynamic.

Woodley, Rogen and the others have little to do but stand by and be bedazzled.

Those familiar with the full GameStop story may not be in that corner. But those of us catching up with it now, even accounting for the fact that things could hardly have been that simple or that heroic or that linear, *Dumb Money* is money well spent.

The Power of Kindness

SHUBHRA GUPTA

SET IN 1989, *Bhagwan Bharose* is about two little boys living their best life, as they roam around their village, circulating between home and their make-shift school, learning life lessons. The attempt is to tell a larger tale about the loss of innocence, with the country about to be pitchforked into a coming maelstrom which would forever change it.

Debutant director Shiladitya Bora's biggest success is the choice of his two young protagonists, Bhola (Soni) and Shambhu (Suman) are delightful as inseparable pals who do everything together: being partners in flying the kites they keep snaf-ling off the former's loving grandpa Nanababu (Pathak) and mother (Makhija), listening to the rotund Panditji (Verma) as he self-importantly recounts tales from the scriptures, and regurgitating those in the 'real' school they graduate to.

They also dance around the new black

and white TV set Bhola's Bombay-based father brings back on one of his rare visits home: when the electricity goes, Sunday mornings become appointment viewing of the holy epics. As Nanababu says, "*Sheher mein sab cheez sarkar bharse, par gaon mein bhagwan bharse*" (In cities, things are run by the government, but in villages, everything depends on god's will).

In the idyllic world of this *gaon*, there are growing shadows: why does no one go to the village across the river? Who lives there? Are *asurs* (demons) real? A strange fellow (Chaddha) who wanders about is labelled a non-believer, leaving Bhola wondering if there can be people who do not believe. There is chatter of a 'mandir' coming up, a flash of a stack of bricks, and a clash between two communities which doesn't end well.

While the interactions between the two boys remain consistently engaging even if meandering, the film falters when it finally puts all its cards on the table. The village across the river hoves into view, with men



in skull caps going about their business, but it is one problematic scene — of a butcher cleaving flesh — which sticks. Clearly, the idea is to show how a certain kind of upbringing and learning, and consequent ig-

norance, can impact impressionable minds, and potentially turn people into bigots, but this turn-off comes off too late, almost as an after-thought, with the execution bordering on the simplistic.

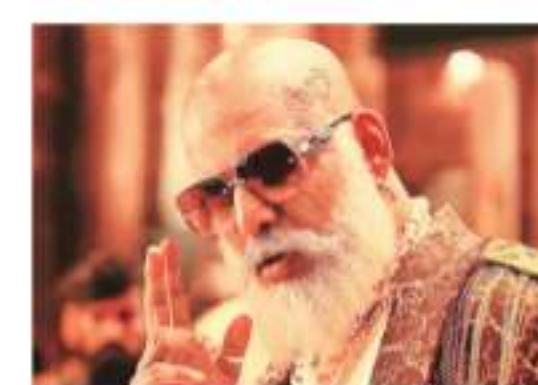
STREAMING WATCH LIST

BY ALAKA SAHANI



THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF USHER

NETFLIX
To secure their fortune and future — two siblings build a family dynasty that begins to crumble when their heirs mysteriously die. Mike Flanagan's series is a take on Edgar Allan Poe's 1839 short story of the same name but with a freaky twist and references Poe's other classic tales and features Carla Gugino, Bruce Greenwood, Mary McDonnell among others.



MARK ANTONY

PRIME VIDEO
The Adhik Ravichandran-directed sci-fi adventure, is the story of Mark (Vishal), the son of Antony (also Vishal) who gets access to a unique telephone that allows him to communicate with people in his past. Shrouded by the mystery of his parents' deaths, Mark wants answers to find closure. This is when he uncovers the true intentions of his adoptive father, Jackie (SJ Suryah).



IN MY MOTHER'S SKIN

PRIME VIDEO
Set in the Philippines in 1945, the film follows Tala, 14, who lives in a remote forest mansion in a war-torn home with her ailing mother and younger brother. Tala's father departs to negotiate for his family's liberation with the Japanese. When her mother's condition worsens, Tala searches for a mystery fairy who has vowed to protect her.



THE SCAR

MUBI
Krzysztof Kieslowski's confident feature debut is a social docu-drama that looks at the provincial turmoil of rural Poland, while assessing the post-war moods of a whole country. Starring his soon-to-become regular Jerzy Stuhr, and a very young Agnieszka Holland, the movie reflects his voice as a director.

The Hunger Games

ROHAN NAAHAR

THERE'S AN old video from the '90s in which Robert Downey Jr is thrown in the bullpen at Wall Street. It ends with him out on the street, unleashing a profane rant about the moral decrepitude that he's just been assaulted by. "If money is evil, then that building is hell," he says, pointing at the New York Stock Exchange. This can comfortably serve as an accurate review of debutante director Chloe Domont's *Fair Play*, a uniquely unpleasant experience that preys on your good nature as a street-side grifter would; not to rob you, but only to get the opportunity to declare, "Let this be a lesson."



Coincidentally, the movie features a career-best performance from Alden Ehrenreich, who is in many ways a successor to Downey; there's an edginess to him that he keeps hidden under those disarming good looks. Ehrenreich's career was significantly

derailed by the doomed Han Solo movie, but he rampages through *Fair Play* with an unmistakable hunger in his eyes.

Set in the cut-throat world of high-stakes finance, *Fair Play*, in its opening moments, has the look and feel of an erotic thriller that Paul

Verhoeven would be proud of. Luke (Ehrenreich) and his fiancé Emily (Dynevor) work at the same investment firm in New York but have kept their relationship a secret for two years because it violates company policy. When a colleague is unceremoniously fired one day, Luke is led to believe that he will replace him. But when Emily is given the promotion over him, it sets them on a tumultuous path that will unravel not only their relationship, but their very identity.

Positioning them as regular people is a narrative trick that Domont somehow gets away with for nearly two hours.

Because even as their resentment for each other builds, you hold out hope for at least one of them to see sense. Emily finds herself willingly participating in the corporate charade, while Luke is left to fume alone at home. He tells Emily that he is happy for her, but Ehrenreich's performance is so delicately-

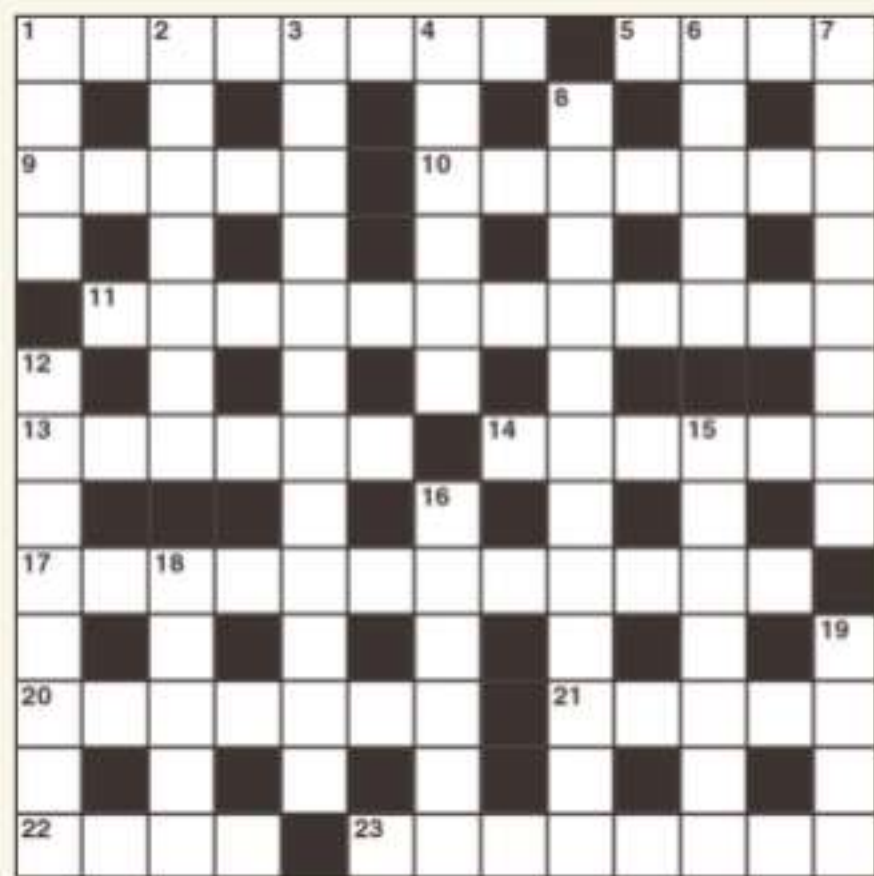
tuned in that it's impossible to tell how honest he's actually being. Of course, his true feelings come to the fore as the movie goes on.

The pace is relentless; the tension in certain moments is so unbearable that it's almost as if the Salfie brothers were consulted. But Domont is clearly a talent to look out for, even if the nihilism that she displays here feels a little aimless. Sure, her desire to keep pushing the boundaries of good taste feels so rare in these sanitised times of streaming. But there's a difference between empty provocation and the provocation of thought.

A last-minute rug-pull, for instance, feels entirely out of place in this dark fairytale about greed and gaslighting, festering bitterness and fragile male egos. It's a relationship drama about the perils of close proximity; a psychological thriller featuring the two most despicable romantic leads you're ever likely to see.

It's no wonder that *Fair Play* sparked a heated bidding war at Sundance Festival earlier this year, mimicking the intensity of what happened two years ago, when Netflix secured the rights to another controversial relationship thriller — *Malcolm & Marie*. It's entirely possible for *Fair Play* to be met with the same level of vitriol.

CROSSWORD 5182



- ACROSS**
- Emancipated worker's carte blanche (4,4)
 - Examination success for soft-headed dunce (4)
 - Close to home call about nothing unusual (5)
 - He increases the strain (7)
 - Based on an earlier design (12)
 - Make successful use of the clues (6)
 - Support the Spanish cast (6)
 - More than mean (5,7)
 - Add one's ringing tones to the conversation? (5,2)
 - Be losing track? (5)
 - Assume the point is agreed? (4)
 - Mentally ill, needs a change of routine before cure starts (8)
- DOWN**
- Experienced hat maker (4)
 - It is taken from a book but is about right (7)
 - Gracious. An angel fish? (4,8)
 - Not a man of substance presumably (6)
 - Examination necessitating a lot of bookwork (5)
 - Stand on both sides (8)
 - A pen or its holder (6,6)
 - Made a loan, and didn't go back on it? (8)
 - Spectacle to make one gasp about period of history (7)
 - Show around Venice (6)
 - Some macaroni one mixes with vegetable (5)
 - Smart fellow the French take into account (4)

Solutions Crossword 5181 Across: 1 Relations, 8 Opera, 9 Misread, 10 Indeed, 11 Cement, 12 Improved, 15 Stampede, 18 Place, 20 Weapon, 21 Break in, 22 Raise, 23 Sandpaper Down: 2 Elite, 3 Air bed, 4 Inactive, 5 Sooner, 6 Deceive, 7 Candidate, 11 Crossword, 13 Prepared, 14 Bargain, 16 Probes, 17 Panama, 19 Chide

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

- ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)**
A sudden change in your stars, towards an alignment which is very much more relaxed and supportive, should come at exactly the right moment to help you begin your life anew. Astrologically, the rest of your life begins here. I can't say fairer than that.
- LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)**
One thing you can say about the recent past is that at least your skills in crisis management have been refined and, in some cases, wrought to perfection. Now you may relax and enjoy any pleasant social encounters conferred by the Moon.
- TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)**
You are not regarded as a natural nomad, but one way or another your stars do seem to be rather unsettling. So, although today's planets favour a domesticated life, do what you can to make your home that much more colourful. Keep busy but don't let partners exploit your goodwill.
- SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)**
Play to win today. There can be no coming second place, whether your goals are professional, financial or romantic. At the very least you should aim to exceed your own personal best. Some people say that it's more important to compete than come top. Maybe.
- GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)**
It may come as a surprise to you that the sign of the zodiac responsible for your legendary talkativeness, is Leo. That is why your current colourful planets are trying to tell you to get out and meet as many people as you possibly can.
- SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)**
Today's energetic Moon is just the ingredient required to make the whole world seem a much more compatible place. After today, you should begin to feel more comfortable with the direction that life, especially on the personal level, is going.
- CANCER (June 22 - July 23)**
Take as much time and expend as much effort as is necessary to repair a damaged relationship. Even if a personal rupture seems to be for the good, don't imagine for one moment that it is all done and finished with. Whatever happens now could take a new twist in three months' time.
- CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)**
The fact that there is so little new taking place in your chart today should come as a relief, for you should be able to begin to digest the many lessons still to be learnt from recent upsets and opportunities. The next two months, by the way, present extraordinarily good opportunities in all areas. Couldn't be better.
- LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)**
As if by magic, the Moon comes to your rescue, helping you make up your mind. This happens once a month, but this time around the change in your mood could be quite dramatic and, over the next few days, you could experience a sudden surge of confidence and optimism.
- AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)**
Listen very carefully indeed to partners' little words of wisdom. They may be critical, but the fact is that you stand in need of truthful comment about what you are doing wrong, as well as praise for what you are doing right. You may even soon have cause to thank a rival.
- VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)**
After a brief social spell you may be ready to spend a little time by yourself. Actually, it will be a good idea to re-charge your emotional batteries ready for what should be a fine start to the coming week. If you're keeping a secret, you may blurt it out tomorrow.
- PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)**
Turn to favourite interests which you have either ignored for too long, or even completely abandoned. You may have been too bound up with other people's problems recently, and it could be very valuable indeed to focus once more on what is important to you, rather than to what makes sense to them.

JUMBLLED 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.

We have to dare to _____, however frightening or strange that self may prove to be. - May Sarton (2,9)

GSEEE **SOLUTE**

GSORS **EERTBV**

SOLUTION: GSEEE: GRESS, GROSS, TOUSSE, BREVEZ
ANSWER: We have to dare to be ourselves, however frightening or strange that self may prove to be. - May Sarton

Difficulty Level 2s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

SUDOKU 5350

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

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5349

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

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	Name of Board/Corp./Auth	Name of Work Notice Tender	Opening Date Closing Date (Time)	Amount / EMD (Approx.) in Rupees	Website of the Board Corp./Auth	Nodal Officer/Contact Details/Email
1	HSIIDC	WHITE WASH OF FLATS AT HSIIDC OFFICER APARTMENT AND HBC SECTOR-14 PANCHUKULA	13.10.2023 28.10.2023	32.52 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	8558829289 suresh.kumar@hsiidc.org.in
2	HSIIDC	CLEANING OF METALLED ROADS AND DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE FOR ONE YEAR IN PHASE-1 AT JMT, BAWAL	16.10.2023 30.10.2023	63.68 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01284-284122 ia.bawal@hsiidc.org.in
3	HSIIDC	MAINTENANCE OF LAWN AND HEDGES FOR ONE YEAR AT WTP, JMT, BAWAL	16.10.2023 23.10.2023	11.50 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01284-284122 ia.bawal@hsiidc.org.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

ANDHRA PRADESH CENTRAL POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED

Dr.V.S.R VIDYUT SOUDA, CORPORATE OFFICE, IIT COLLEGE ROAD, VIJAYAWADA-520 008

E-Procurement Notice
Tender notification No:CPMPD-20/2023-24 of APCPDCL/CGM (P&M), Dt:11-10-2023
APCPDCL invites online bid No.GEM/2023/B/4071453 (CPMPD-20/2023-24) in GeM portal e-procurement for Procurement of (1) SCADA compatible 11KV 24V DC Feeder outdoor VCBs with control & Relay panels IED Relay -45Nos (2), SCADA compatible 33KV 24V DC Feeder outdoor VCBs with control & Relay panels With IED Relay -16Nos under RDSS scheme. Tenderers can have further details and download the tender schedules from GeM portal e-Procurement marketplace from 14-10-2023 i.e., <https://gem.gov.in> (Published by APCPDCL).

Ph:0866 2955455 & Email:cprpmn.cpdc@apcpdcl.in

Chief General Manager/ P&M
APCPDCL, Andhra Pradesh

GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ROADS TRANSFORMATION PROJECT (HPSRTP)

Request for Quotations (RFQ)

Name of Project: Himachal Pradesh State Roads Transformation Project (HPSRTP)
Loan No./Credit No.: 9066-IN
Grant No.:
Date: October 12, 2023
The Director (Projects), H.P. State Roads Project, HPRIDCL, Nigam Vihar, Shimla-171002, Himachal Pradesh India invites the Request for Quotations from national suppliers for the Goods Procurement as detailed in the table below:-

Sr. No.	Description of the Goods Procurement	Date of availability of Request for Quotations on HPRIDCL web site	Last date/Time for submission of Proposals/Opening of proposals
1	Procurement of Accessories and Fabrication of Patrol Motorcycles to Support Annual Enforcement program of HP Police in Shimla and Nurpur Police Districts. Ref No: IN-HPRIDC-385380-GO-RFQ	October 14, 2023	November 04, 2023 at 15:00/ 15:30 hours (IST)

Request for Quotations (RFQ) will be available on the official web site of HPRIDC under link: <http://himachalservices.nic.in/hpridc/HPSRTP.html>.

Note: - Any further addendum/Corrigendum to this Request for Quotations/Proposals Documents shall be available to all interested firms on the same web site link. Proposal must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by post) by November 04, 2023 at 15:00 hours (IST)

Executive Director -cum-SE (P&D)
State Roads Project, HPRIDC
Nirman Bhawan, Shimla-171002
0745:81P

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	Name of Department	Name of Work Notice Tender	Opening Date Closing Date	Amount / EMD (Approx.) in Rupees	Website of the Department	Nodal Officer/Contact Details/Email
1	PANCHAYATI RAJ SONIPAT	CONST. OF B/WALL OF COMMUNITY CENTRE AT VILLAGE BAGHRU BLOCK SONIPAT. + 3 WORKS	09.10.2023 16.10.2023	15.51 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9996001199 vijaypal2315@gmail.com
2	PANCHAYATI RAJ KARNAL	DEVELOPMENT OF POND NEAR PWD ROAD (PART) VILLAGE GHEER BLOCK KUNJUPURA	10.10.2023 24.10.2023	9.42 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9813805200 prexeeng.krj@hry.nic.in
3	PANCHAYATI RAJ KARNAL	ROUGH COST ESTIMATE FOR UPGRADATION OF OLD AGE HOME FOR MSK AT VILLAGE - BALLAH BLOCK MUNAK AND UPGRADATION OG PAL CHOUPAL FOR E LIBRARY VILLAGE PAKKA KHERA BLOCK MUNAK + 1 WORKS	09.10.2023 23.10.2023	14.14 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9813805200 prexeeng.krj@hry.nic.in
4	PANCHAYATI RAJ KARNAL	ESTABLISHMENT OF MAHILA SANSKRITIK KENDERS AT VILLAGE DUPEDI AND ESTABLISHMENT OF E-LIBRARY IN EXTING BUILDING IN DHANAK CHOUPAL VILLAGE PADHANA BLOCK ASSANDH DISTT KARNAL AND UPGRADATION OF BUILDING FOR E-LIBRARY (BHARI) BLOCK ASSANDH	09.10.2023 23.10.2023	17.46 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9813805200 prexeeng.krj@hry.nic.in
5	PANCHAYATI RAJ KARNAL	ESTABLISHMENT OF E-LIBRARY IN ALREADY EXISTING AMBEDKAR BHAWAN BUILDING AT VILLAGE BHUKHAPURI BLOCK NILOKHERI AND ESTABLISHMENT OF E-LIBRARY IN ALREADY EXISTING BC CHAUPAL VILLAGE SITAMAI BLOCK NILOKHERI AND ESTABLISHMENT OF E-LIBRARY IN ALREADY EXISTING PANCHAYAT BHAWAN 1ST FLOOR AT VILLAGE SAGGA AND ESTABLISHMENT OF E-LIBRARY IN ALREADY EXISTING RAJPUT COMMUNITY CENTRE VILLAGE SAGGA BLOCK NILOKHERI	09.10.2023 23.10.2023	18.31 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9813805200 prexeeng.krj@hry.nic.in
6	PANCHAYATI RAJ GANAUR SONIPAT	CONSTRUCTION OF SWM SHED AT VILLAGE GUMAD BLOCK-GANAUR 1 + 1 WORKS	11.10.2023 18.10.2023	10.23 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416721433 sdojprganaur1@gmail.com
7	PANCHAYATI RAJ SONIPAT	CONST. OF BALMAKI CHOUPAL AT VILLAGE BHATGON DUNGARON BLOCK SONIPAT. + 3 WORKS	12.10.2023 18.10.2023	25.51 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9996001199 vijaypal2315@gmail.com
8	PANCHAYATI RAJ CHARKHI DADRI	CONSTRUCTION OF AMBEDKAR BHAWAN AT VILLAGE GHASOLA BLOCK AND DISTRICT CHARKHI DADRI + 2 WORKS	10.10.2023 17.10.2023	40.34 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416479223 xenprcharkhidadri@gmail.com
9	PANCHAYATI RAJ CHARKHI DADRI	COMPLETION OF GENERAL CHUPAL AT VILLAGE BHAGWI	09.10.2023 16.10.2023	4.14 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416479223 xenprcharkhidadri@gmail.com
10	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA KARNAL	REPAIR OF 1 NO GATE OF BAZIDA DISTY HEAD REGULATOR AT RD 94600/L WC MAIN BRANCH DURING THE YEAR 2023-24.	12.10.2023 19.10.2023	EMD 3920	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9991831221 xen-wsmkrj.in@gov.in
11	PANCHAYATI RAJ MUNDLANA SONIPAT	CONSTRUCTION OF SWM SHED IN VILLAGE- SHAMRI LOHACHAB BLOCK- MUNDLANA DISTT:- SONIPAT + 11 WORKS	11.10.2023 16.10.2023	73.84 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416050239 kram8175@gmail.com
12	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA GOHANA	CONSTRUCTION OF PUMP HOUSE AND TAIL REGULATOR FOR FLOOD PROTECTION WORKS AT RD 0 OF BALI LINK DRAIN OUTFALL AT RD 209975/L OF DRAIN NO.8	CLOSING DATE 24.10.2023	107.08 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9812999499 xen-30-gohana@hrid.gov.in
13	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING SIRSA	FAKIRANWALI THER:- DRILLING, INSTALLATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ONE NO. CAVITY TUBEWELL OF 250MM DIA UPTO A DEPTH OF 130 METRES B.G.L., SUPPLYING AND LOWERING OF 1 NO. SUBMERSIBLE PUMPING SET OF ISI MARKED AND CONFORMING TO IS-8034-1976 (UP TO DATE AMENDMENTS) WITH SUITABLE SIZE OF PANEL BOARD, PROVIDING AND LOWERING OF G.I. PIPE, SUB. CABLE AND C/DI SPECIALS, PIPE LINE FOR MAKING CONNECTION OF TUBEWELL AT FAKIRANWALI THER.	12.10.2023 19.10.2023	3.90 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01666221925 ee2sirsap@pdedharyana.gov.in
14	PWD B&R ROHTAK	PROVIDING FIRE ALARM SYSTEM IN OLD BUILDING IN CIVIL HOSPITAL BAHADURGARH IN DISTRICT JHJAJAR + 2 WORKS	12.10.2023 02.11.2023	181.43 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9818025971 pwd-eeed-rohtak@hry.nic.in
15	PANCHAYATI RAJ SAHA AMBALA	CONST. OF SWM SHED AT VILLAGE NAAGLA JATTAN BLOCK SAHA (AMBALA),CONST. OF SWM SHED NEAR KABRISTAN AT VILLAGE SAMBHALKHA, BLOCK SAHA (AMBALA),CONST. OF SWM SHED NEAR PHIRNI AT VILLAGE DHURALA, BLOCK SAHA(AMBALA), CONST. OF SWM SHED NEAR S.GHAT AT VILLAGE KESRI, BLOCK SAHA (AMBALA)	11.10.2023 17.10.2023	13.27 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	7900000410 sdojsaha@gmail.com
16	PANCHAYATI RAJ PANIPAT	PNP ADDITIONAL ESTIMATE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF POND (BIRPHLA POND) IN VILLAGE SEWAH BLOCK PANIPAT + 19 WORKS	11.10.2023 17.10.2023	144.57 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9306800559 prexeeng.prp@hry.nic.in
17	PANCHAYATI RAJ BALLABGARH	CONSTRUCTION OF NAMAJ CHABUTRA WITH TEEN SHED IN KABRISTAN AT VILLAGE BIJOPUR BLOCK BALLABGARH DISTT, FARIDABAD ZP. + 7 WORKS	11.10.2023 18.10.2023	33.62 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9813903155 sdo-ballabgarh@hry.gov.in
18	PWD B&R HANSI	CONSTRUCTION OF PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRE WITH RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION AT VILLAGE SINDHAR IN HISAR DISTT. UNDER CM ANNOUNCEMENT CODE NO. 23049 DATED 13.08.2018 (BALANCE WORK) (WITHOUT GST)	12.10.2023 01.11.2023	51.10 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01663-259688 pwd-eeepd-hansi@hry.nic.in
19	PANCHAYATI RAJ SAMPLA ROHTAK	SAMPLA SUPPLY AND LAYING OF RCC PIPE IN PUBLIC RASTA AT VILLAGE GANDHRA (PANCHYAT SAMETI-15FC TIED) + 6 WORKS	10.10.2023 19.10.2023	21.23 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9056158077 sdojsamspla@gmail.com
20	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA SIRSA	ESTIMATE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF V.R. BRIDGE AT RD. 24784 BANI DISTY. + 1 WORKS	CLOSING DATE 26.10.2023	41.63 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9996665761 xensrs.swd@gmail.com
21	DIRECTOR GENERAL SUPPLIES AND DISPOSALS HARYANA	ISI MARKED 43 GRADE OP CEMENT AS PER ISI NO.8112 (LATEST NOW MERGED WITH IS 269) & ISI MARKED PP CEMENT AS PER IS NO.1489 (PART-1)	14.10.2023 15.11.2023		https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0172-2570122 supplies@hry.nic.in

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GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	Name of Board/Corp./Auth	Name of Work Notice Tender	Opening Date Closing Date	Amount / EMD (Approx.) in Rupees	Website of the Board Corp./Auth	Nodal Officer/Contact Details/Email
1	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION BHARGUWARH	PAINTING ON WALL'S, PILARS AND OTHER GOVT. BUILDING WITH SLOGAN, MURAL'S, GRAFFITI ETC. FOR BEAUTIFICATION WORK AT M.C. BHARGUWARH + 2 WORKS	CLOSING DATE 20.10.2023	1.31 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01276-298159 mcdgpn2016@gmail.com
2	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION BHARGUWARH	REPAIR OF STORM WATER DRAIN AND COVERING WITH RCC PRECAST SLAB AND REPAIR WORK IN WARD NO. 28 + 3 WORKS	CLOSING DATE 18.10.2023	1.01 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01276-298159 mcdgpn2016@gmail.com

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GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	Name of Board/Corp./Auth	Name of Work Notice Tender	Opening Date Closing Date	Amount / EMD (Approx.) in Rupees	Website of the Board Corp./Auth	Nodal Officer/Contact Details/Email
1	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION SONIPAT	TOR FOR EMPANELLED ARCHITECTS UNDER CATEGORY B AND ABOVE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF MINI BYE PASS FROM NIKHAL SCHOOL (ROHTAK ROAD) TO KARKRI ROAD WARD NO.14 & 16 OF MUNICIPAL CORPORATION IN DISTRICT SONIPAT.	CLOSING DATE 17.10.2023	NIL	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01302260100 ajaynirala145@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	Name of Board/Corp./Auth	Name of Work Notice Tender	Opening Date Closing Date (Time)	Amount / EMD (Approx.) in Rupees	Website of the Board Corp./Auth	Nodal Officer/Contact Details/Email
1	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION GURUGRAM	CONSTRUCTION OF INTERNAL ROADS AND 38 M RIGIDS WITH 8% IN 36 SECTOR 38 MCG	11.10.2023 14.11.2023	1.91 CRORES	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9821395213 katarwat1970@gmail.com
2	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION GURUGRAM	DETAILED PROJECT REPORT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS IN VILLAGE PALDA, NEWLY EXTENDED AREA, UNDER ZONE-	11.10.2023 14.11.2023	1.81 CRORES	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9821395213 katarwat1970@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

BSES BSes Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi

TENDER NOTICE Date: 14.10.2023

Sealed tenders under two parts (Un priced & priced) are invited for the supply of following materials from all bidders:-

NIT No.	Brief Tender Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BR/23-24/RB/PR/GP/1165	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF DOUBLE POLE MCB (63 AMP) WITH BOX AND FOUR POLE MCCB (100 AMP) WITH BOX	9.60 Crore	9.60 Lakhs	04.11.2023 15:00 HRS	04.11.2023 15:15 HRS

Cost of each Tender Document: ₹ 1180/-

For any query call on 011-49107235 or e-mail on Brpl.Eauction@relianceada.com

For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender documents etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com.

Head (Contracts & Materials)

Regd. Of. : BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 | Corporate Identification No.: U40109DL2002PLC11527
Telephone No. : +91 11 4910 7235 | Website : www.bsesdelhi.com



TODAY'S MATCH
 India vs Pakistan, 2pm
 Live on Star Sports network

GAME SENSE

Why India's spinners have an edge over Pak's

BOTH NATIONS possess a storied heritage of spinners who have defined the game and art, making their meeting a plot within a plot. Anil Kumble and the two Mushtaq, Harbhajan Singh and Saeed Ajmal, spinners have been flavourful in this spicy rivalry. This time, though, India's spin trio looks clearly a cut above their Pakistan counterparts. How they bowl in the middle could define the game.

India trio versus Pakistan pair

India's Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav and Ravichandran Ashwin are vastly superior to Pakistan's trusted pair of Shadab Khan and Mohammad Nawaz in probably every facet, be it their skills, economy or recent form. A wide spectrum of skills blend when India pick Yadav, Jadeja, and Ashwin. Jadeja is much more nuanced than a bowl-flat, hit-stumps left-arm orthodox spinner.

On non-turners, he could be calous like a loan-shark; on slightly helpful surfaces he could be mean as a sniper. Kuldeep Yadav has developed more control over his variations these days and has rediscovered his fizz. Ashwin continues to be a spin-chemist, enhancing his game with an assortment of variations.

In comparison, Pakistan's pair looks modest. As effective as Shadab Khan, Mohammad Nawaz could be when they are at their best—they have not quite been in recent times—both are primarily defensive bowlers, a clan that is getting increasingly redundant these days. Nawaz takes a wicket every 39 balls, this tournament it has shot to 48 per wicket.

Shadab too had a lean patch, picking two wickets at a strike rate of 39. Worse, they have combined to leak 6.03 runs an over. In comparison, an Indian spinner has grabbed a wicket every 33rd ball and conceded a frugal 3.72 runs an over.

Even if they benefited from playing on a turner in Chepauk, you cannot discount the collective threat or their capacity to change matches irrespective of surfaces. Speaking of experience, Kuldeep alone has 28 more wickets (155) than Shadab and Nawaz combined (127) in this format.

The middle overs battle

Getting wickets is the new buzz in the middle overs. Consequently, teams deploy a middle-over enforcer, a hit-the-deck seamer. Pakistan have the impeccable Haris Rauf. India often resort to Jasprit Bumrah, or when in the side, Mohammed Shami.

But India, more than any other team, have relied on their spinners to pocket wickets in this phase.

It's a play that has made rich dividends, as India boast the best strike rate between the 11th and 40th overs (28.09) among all teams this year. In contrast, Pakistan had to wait 43.62 balls for a wicket during this span.

SANDIP G



Kuldeep, Ashwin, Jadeja - spin triumvirate.

I DIDN'T GET THE CAPTAINCY BECAUSE OF ONE MATCH AND I WILL NOT LOSE IT BECAUSE OF ONE MATCH.

BABAR AZAM, PAKISTAN CAPTAIN

22-Yard Fever Pitch

Pakistan's bowlers are searching for form while India's attack looks well settled ahead of the big game

SRIRAM VEERA
 AHMEDABAD, OCTOBER 13

COUPLE OF days ago, former Pakistan captain Shahid Afridi called his son-in-law Shaheen Shah Afridi. Shaheen has bled runs in the last couple of games, looked off-pace, off-kilter, and out of sorts. Pakistan has been fretting. The rest of the cricketing world has been puzzled. What has happened to the man who knocks out oppositions in the first round that he has been carted around by Shubman Gill in the Asia Cup, and by Kusal Mendis in this World Cup?

Afridi tells *Samaa TV* that he urged Shaheen to ask the performance analyst for his bowling videos. That the lengths and lines have been wrong - "not hit hard lengths," and "too much room". And Afridi says, Shaheen agreed with the assessment, and has promised that he would sort himself out in the couple of days leading up to the India game in Ahmedabad. In the studio, Mohammad Yousuf and Mushtaq Ahmed nodded sagely. A day before the game, in Ahmedabad, skipper Babar Azam would remind a questioner about how Shaheen is a "champion and a big-match player".

All that is true, of course, and it would be silly of anyone to write Shaheen off - all it needs is a couple of near 140kmph rapid balls in the first over that just about tilt back into the right-handers and it can change.

For a team whose batting has often filled up angry airtime on the zany world that is Pakistan's YouTube, the bowling is providing fodder these days. It's a surprising turnaround. Usually, the batsmen get cussed at, and most, including Babar, have a less-than-flattering internet moniker - but not Haris Rauf, not Naseem Shah, not Shaheen Afridi. Not even Shadab Khan. Even the highly combustible YouTubers know where to draw the line. But that's changing now.

A month ago, the India-Pak game had a different feel to it. Shaheen and Pakistan were on the ascendancy. India were fretting about Jasprit Bumrah's comeback, lack of a quality third seamer, lack of a genuine off-spinner - in search of balance, they had seemingly lost their poise. The India-Pakistan match, as did the World Cup at large, seemed as if it would be about India's batsman vs opposition bowlers.

The Indian bowling unit now looks more rounded - if they get the selection right and not panic and reach out for 'balance'. More so after Bumrah's fine comeback, Ravichandran Ashwin's recall, and match-winning contributions from Kuldeep Yadav and Ravindra Jadeja. Mohammed Siraj is on song, and Jadeja, who had looked out of sorts not that long ago, is beginning to find his metre. Hardik Pandya can force OTT platforms to create bowling packages around him as he did when he knocked out Babar with a riveting nip-baker in the Asia Cup.

Suddenly, India, thanks to their bowlers, look more potent. If the pitch helps spinners, they have the men to sew up the middle overs. If it helps seam movement a bit, they have the pacers to tighten the screws. India's weakness can re-emerge on a flat track, a paata. Then, old doubts can surface.

Pak look for answers

But, that's for later. Right now, the tables have turned. The Indian bowling is at a level where Pakistan's was before the Asia Cup. Pakistan are mirroring India's recent-past woes.



Indian players warm up in Ahmedabad on the eve of their game against Pakistan. (Below) Shaheen Afridi, Pakistan's fast bowler, needs to hit his straps. Nirmal Harindran



Prior to touching down in Sri Lanka for the Asia Cup, and particularly after the last T20 World Cup, Pakistan had seemingly owned their past: menacing new-ball bowlers, a smart leg-spinner for the middle overs, the pacers who know the soul of the old ball. It was the batsmen who sometimes played as if they weren't in tune with modern-day white-ball cricket's demands but as ever, with this team, they would somehow fall in line at the right time.

Individually, Pakistan still have a couple of seamers in Haris Rauf and Shaheen, who can tap into the junoon that lurks inside them. At the 2015 World Cup, Waqar Younis was sitting in the media box, fiddling with his phone, and giving life-advice to a young Pakistani lady journalist.

The match was meandering on when Wahab Riaz bowled a couple of pearlers and Waqar jerked up, turned to the journalist, and announced: "On hai!" On hai is the moment when Pakistan bowlers snap out of

their reverie to conjure something that didn't seem possible until that second.

As if they enter a portal where time and space is warped, and strange things began to happen. Waqar himself has had several 'On hai' moments.

Off the boil

A month ago, they didn't have to hope but would march on to the field knowing they could turn it on when they wanted. Now not just Shaheen, Rauf seems to be off-boil, Shadab, the leg spinner, is searching for his lost form. Not many would have predicted the turnaround in fortunes, but suddenly Pakistan's bowlers are yearning for their 'on' moment. India have, by quirk of events and last-instant u-turns as they did with Ashwin, suddenly find themselves already on and ready. Will this be the new normal or Ahmedabad, the city where their former board chairman didn't want this game to take place, kick-start old truths?

Cops told to keep gutka out after GCA shell outs to clean stains

DEVENDRA PANDEY
 AHMEDABAD, OCTOBER 13

THE AHMEDABAD Police have a serious task at hand during the India vs Pakistan World Cup game. Not only will they have to manage security and handle a large crowd, they have to even ensure that no fans bring 'Gutka' inside the Narendra Modi stadium.

The Gujarat Cricket Association (GCA) had specially requested Ahmedabad Police to ensure that no fans marched in with the pan masala or gutka as it creates plenty of problems during the game.

The masala chokes the bathroom pipe and results in waterlogging in its basin. It also makes the environment dirty and to keep it clean, GCA had to spend money on removing the stains. The state government last year had banned gutka and pan masala containing nicotine but it still found its way into the market.

"It takes a lot of money and manpower to remove these masala stains. There have been instances where the sink pipe saw blockage, *kyunki sab thook ke gaye*. (Because people spat out the masala). We have requested police to ensure that no masala is allowed inside the stadium," a GCA official said.

The Narendra Modi Stadium has a capacity of 1.30 lac and it is expected to be a packed house on Saturday.

Gill is 99 per cent available

After Rohit Sharma said in a press conference that Shubman Gill is 99% available, the opener, who is recovering from dengue, batted for more than one hour in the India team nets. The opener tested positive before the

World Cup began last week for India in Chennai but showed speedy recovery thereafter. The team management flew him to Ahmedabad and he even batted on Thursday with a throwdown specialist.

On the eve of their marquee World Cup league game at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, Sharma was asked whether Gill will be available for the India vs Pakistan game. Sharma replied, "99% he is available. We'll see tomorrow."

In the absence of Gill, the Indian team tried Ishan Kishan for the first two games. Back in the nets, Gill batted for more than one hour. He faced throwdowns, batted with Virat Kohli in the adjacent nets and faced Mohd Shami and R Ashwin along with other net bowlers.

He took a break and later took further throwdowns. If everything goes as per the team management's plan, then chances are Gill will play his first World Cup game.

Ahmedabad has been his home venue during IPL for Gujarat Titans and here Gill has played some exceptional knocks.

PCB chairman reaches India

Pakistan Cricket Board chief Zaka Ashraf will be meeting BCCI officials on the sidelines of the India vs Pakistan game. Zaka reached Ahmedabad on the eve of the game and will be watching the India vs Pakistan game in the city. This will be a crucial tour for PCB officials, who are trying hard to resume India vs Pakistan bilateral ties. Zaka met with Pakistan players too in the city.



STAR IN THE MAKING

Shafique's journey: From adoring Kohli to becoming a big batting hope

PRATYUSH RAJ
 LUCKNOW OCTOBER 13

IN 2002, during one of his two annual visits to Sialkot, Shafiq Ahmed saw his three-year-old son, Abdullah Shafique, playing with a plastic bat. Shafiq senior, himself a former first-class cricketer from Pakistan, couldn't believe how natural his son was. He took him out in the backyard of their house and started to give underarm throw-downs. Never did his son play a cross-batted shot.

"I was surprised. The session lasted for one and half hours before my wife took him away," Shafiq tells *The Indian Express* from Dubai.

The 57-year-old moved to UAE in the early 1990s. He has been involved in coaching for the past 30 years but unfortunately, because of his work, he was never able to give full-time coaching to his own son.

"I moved to Dubai to play the club cricket. My cousin Arshad Ali was playing for UAE. I became a coach. I noticed something special about him when he was three. Let me be very honest: I guided him but I was never his coach. He managed everything on his own. I

do try and give my inputs, but it is all his hard work," he says.

Growing up, Abdullah would watch Virat Kohli's videos on YouTube.

"He adores Kohli. In the early 2010s, he will google everything about him. What he eats, his fitness regime, what he doesn't eat. His head position, his elbow, the helmet twitch, Virat used to do. He will get sad when he fails. You can't blame him ... Koi Virat se bada player is generation me hua kahaan (For this generation Virat Kohli is the greatest cricketer)," recalls Shafiq.

Abdullah, given the tag of red-ball cricketer after a few failures in the ODIs and T20s early on, has shown his class with a sublime 113 against Sri Lanka in Hyderabad at the World Cup. Pakistan wanted to give Imam-ul-Haq and Fakhar Zaman a go, since they were a settled pair but with that knock, Abdullah has solved Pakistan's top-order headache.

On Friday, probably playing the biggest match of his career in Ahmedabad, Abdullah will have a chance to meet his idol.

"I hope he goes and talks to Virat. He is a shy kid. I hope someone will push him to do so," says Shafiq.



(Left) Abdullah Shafique with his father Shafiq Ahmed; Abdullah scored 113 versus Sri Lanka in Pakistan's successful chase of 345.

The talent was always there in Abdullah, but he mastered it by facing 500-600 deliveries every day with defected leather balls.

"At Sialkot, the original leather ball would cost 400 PKR, and he will change the shape of it in a week. He was 16 when he got picked for the Sialkot U-19 team. I rushed to a friend, who has a manufacturing factory. While I was negotiating with him for the cricketing gears, I saw a few defected balls,

lying at one corner. Out of curiosity, I asked him how much for those. He says these are useless, if you want I can give it to you for 100 bucks. I bought 300 balls and went home," he says.

"Playing with the defected balls improved his technique. The ball will hit the seam and will climb on him because most of the balls the seams used to be disrupted. He became watchful," he adds.

Abdullah, given the tag of red-ball cricketer after a few failures in the ODIs and T20s early on, has shown his class with a sublime 113 against Sri Lanka in Hyderabad at the World Cup.

Shafiq wants his son to score at least 10,000 Test runs after the start he has got. He doesn't want him to play too much T20 cricket. Shafique has made over 1200 runs in just 14 Test matches for Pakistan at a superb average of 50.83 with four hundreds, including a double.

"The future is T20 cricket and nowadays, every professional cricketer wants to play franchise cricket. He loves Test cricket but he wants to do well in T20 cricket as well. He is a part of Lahore Qalandars for the past couple of seasons. I sincerely hope T20 will not corrupt his technique. Test cricket se bada kuch hai kya (Is there anything bigger than Test cricket)," says Shafiq.

Abdullah's 113 off 103 against Sri Lanka has

earned him plaudits back home. Former Pakistan pacer Shoaib Akhtar would go as far as calling Shafique similar to national team captain Babar Azam.

"Babar Azam jaisa hume ek aur player mil chuka hai (we've found a player just like Babar Azam)," said Akhtar on his YouTube channel.

Shafiq rates his son's 160 not out at Galle Test against Sri Lanka, his best knock so far.

"I am not exaggerating it but I have never seen a Pakistani cricketer playing that kind of a knock on that kind of pitch in the fourth innings, chasing 342 runs. He remained unbeaten on 160, faced 408 balls, curbed his attacking instinct, and helped Pakistan win the match by four wickets. I will rank that knock above any ODI or T20 century he will ever score," laughs Shafiq.

Shafiq never watches his son's batting. He only watches the highlights, if he has done well, then he will watch the replay, make notes, and then give his input to his son. When he bats in Ahmedabad, Shafiq's phone will be switched off.

His dream now is to see his son sustain at the top, as he says, "I hope he becomes one of the greatest Pakistan has ever produced."

Cricket to make Olympics comeback at LA 2028; set to be six-team event

MIHIR VASAVDA & AMIT KAMATH
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 13

CRICKET STANDS one step away from making a comeback into the Olympic fold after an absence of over a century.

This comes after the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) Executive Board, on Friday, recommended the sport's inclusion in the 2028 Los Angeles Games. Following the IOC Executive Board's recommendation, the IOC Session is now expected rubber stamp the decision on Monday, thus paving the way for cricket's addition to the LA 2028 programme.

The sport is set to be a six-team T20 event, with the USA likely to get a direct berth on the virtue of being hosts. This would leave just five spots for other teams from around the world to vie for. The qualification process will be announced at a later date, the IOC said.

Adding another twist to the qualification pathway, the West Indies won't compete at the Olympics as one combined team representing the Caribbean.

Instead, each of the six cricket associations – Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Leeward Islands and the Windward Islands – will be in contention



India won gold at the Asian Games in both the men's and women's cricket event. PTI

to represent the region at the Games.

This is because of the Olympics rules wherein each country requires an independent representation. Announcing the Executive Board's decision, IOC President Thomas Bach said this 'is a win-win situation'.

"The Olympic Games will give cricket a global stage and the opportunity to grow besides the traditional cricket countries and regions. For the Olympic movement,

it's an opportunity to engage with new athletes and fan communities," said Bach, before adding that the broadcast deals for India had not been signed for the LA 2028 Games.

Bach said the discussion to include cricket at the LA Olympics first took place over dinner with LA organising committee chief Casey Wasserman during the World Athletics Championships in Eugene, Wasserman,

Bach said, saw the 'potential' of cricket at the Olympics. "Not just in India but across the world, we see growing popularity of cricket and, in particular, the T20 format. Now the World Cup is a huge success already so we are looking forward to welcoming the world's best players in cricket to perform in the US in 2028."

Cricket was last played at the Olympics in Paris 1900, when just two teams competed: France and Great Britain.

The two played a Test match over two days, fielding 12 players on each side. While the match was never given the status of a first-class game, Great Britain won the contest.

What's in, what's out

Squash, flag football, baseball and lacrosse are the other sports set to be included in the LA Olympics.

The IOC has been looking at capping the number of participants at 10,500 at the Olympics, and the inclusion of a team sport like cricket along with other team sports, including baseball, flag football and lacrosse, is likely to push that over.

"We will need to go over 10,500. How far we need to go we will know in 2025, when we finalise the sports programme. We will try to limit how far we can go," said

IOC's Sports Director Kit McConnell.

No compound archery

Meanwhile, compound archery, where Indian archers completed a clean sweep of five gold medals at the Hangzhou Asian Games, will not be a part of the LA Games, with beach sprint rowing being the only new discipline to be added to the existing programme.

This also means that lightweight sculls in rowing will take a hit. Weightlifting, a sport that won India a medal at Tokyo 2020, had been left off the initial programme at Los Angeles 2028 following doping and corruption scandals and a series of governance failures. However, it has now been approved for inclusion after the anti-doping management of the International Weightlifting Federation delegated to the International Testing Agency and power to sanction to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Boxing's status still remains uncertain, as Bach reiterated that they wanted the sport to stay in the Olympic fold. The International Boxing Association has been suspended since 2019 by the IOC.

The decisions are all set for approval on the second day of the IOC Session on Monday (October 16).

EXPLAINED Why compound archery missed the Games bus

INDIA'S COMPOUND archers, fresh from a clean sweep of gold medals at the recently concluded Asian Games, were hoping for the format's inclusion in the LA Olympics. However, the proposal wasn't accepted. IOC president Thomas Bach said he received requests from different international federations to add 16 new sports to the LA programme. These disciplines, he added, were evaluated on whether they require a new venue; if they need an additional quota of players; and whether they would replace an existing discipline. Although compound archery could be held at the same venue, it would be a new discipline since the world governing body is keen to keep the recurve format in the programme. That would have led to a rise in the total number of athletes, which the IOC wasn't willing for.

SHORT TAKES

STANDINGS

	M	W	L	T	Pts	NRR
NZ	3	3	0	0	6	+1.604
SA	2	2	0	0	4	+2.360
Ind	2	2	0	0	4	+1.500
Pak	2	2	0	0	4	+0.927
Eng	2	1	1	0	2	+0.553
Ban	3	1	2	0	2	-0.699
SL	2	0	2	0	0	-1.161
Ned	2	0	2	0	0	-1.800
Aus	2	0	2	0	0	-1.846
Afg	2	0	2	0	0	-1.907

Bangladesh win was 'team effort': Williamson

Chennai: New Zealand captain Kane Williamson on Friday termed the comfortable win over Bangladesh a "complete team effort". For New Zealand, Kane Williamson and Daryl Mitchell made 78 and 89 respectively. "Really good team performance. Great team performance," said Williamson, who retired hurt after getting a knock on his thumb from a throw. Asked about his injury, the Kiwi skipper said: "Just made holding the bat a little tough. Secondary to the thumb. Just got a bit fat and colourful straight away so got a scan tomorrow, but hopefully it's okay." PTI

Rabada plays down favourites tag for SA

Lucknow: Commanding wins in their two opening games have elevated South Africa as favourites in the World Cup but pace spearhead Kagiso Rabada insisted there is still a long way to go and the team is focused on taking one match at a time. "We're still a long way away but there are plenty of positives to take. So, that's a good thing but we're looking to rock up the next game. We'll see how we feel, we want to improve, look at our strengths, look at our weaknesses and look to brush up," Rabada said at the post-match press conference. PTI

Pressure will be on India, says Hasan Ali

Ahmedabad: Pakistan pacer Hasan Ali said that the pressure will be on India in the much-anticipated World Cup clash between the two traditional rivals in front of a packed house at the Narendra Modi Stadium here on Saturday. India entering the match with an overwhelming 7-0 record in their favour in the ODI World Cups. "Records are meant to be broken and we too are looking forward to breaking this jinx of not having beaten India in a 50-over World Cup. It is India who will be under pressure as it is their home ground with fans turning up," he said. PTI

Tough to win in India, but we are capable: Woakes

New Delhi: While admitting the toughness of the task, all-rounder Chris Woakes said England are capable of delivering a knockout blow on India in the on-going World Cup. "It's an incredibly tough challenge to win in India. I think the sub-continental teams will feel more at home with the conditions," Woakes was quoted as saying by Sky Sports. "That makes it extremely hard for us to knock them off their perch. But we've got the squad and players to be able to compete." PTI

Captain Kane shines on comeback

After bowlers restrict Bangladesh to 245, returning New Zealand skipper leads from the front in another team effort

VENKATA KRISHNA B
CHENNAI, OCTOBER 13

BLACK IS an inescapable colour in Chennai. It is the colour that revolutionised its biggest-ever political movement which continues till date. It is a colour that means dominance in these parts. In the not-so-distant past, there was even a period when one could be denied entry at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on match days for donning black shirts or t-shirts.

But on Friday, as the rest of the world's gaze was on Ahmedabad, and all the talk centred around India vs Pakistan, it was hard to miss a black t-shirt with Kane Williamson's name on its back. On a humid evening, between the bowlers' splendid job and Daryl Mitchell's finishing touch, it was Williamson who weaved his magic with an unbeaten 78 to guide New Zealand to their third successive win at the World Cup.

The eight-wicket victory over Bangladesh may have been a resounding one but one could see New Zealand preferring not to make a big deal of it. "Six more matches to go, let's see how it goes," was the cliché that their players stuck to later on. Of course, humility is a Kiwi characteristic. But one would never know with these poker-faced men, who have a zillion tricks up their sleeves with bat and ball in hand that allow them to embrace each and every condition they encounter with aplomb. Maybe, they prefer it this way, for it helps them fly under the radar before others wake up and realise that they are in the semifinals once again. The way they have got off the blocks at this World Cup in three varied conditions in Ahmedabad, Hyderabad and now in Chennai on Friday has all the makings of a team that can go the distance after two near-misses in the last two editions. The original underdogs at every World Cup, perhaps this is the one where they emerge as top dogs on every front.

Tackling spin

After Lockie Ferguson's stellar spell in the middle overs, Bangladesh managed to stretch their total to 245. It definitely seemed sub-par on this surface, but not something that looked like a walk in the park for New Zealand. Apart from Williamson, in Devon Conway, Rachin Ravindra and Tom Latham they had the ideal nimble-footed batsmen to tackle Bangladesh's spin threat.

But after the early dismissal of Ravindra, it once again came down to Williamson. When he limped off the field after attempting a catch during the first match of the IPL all those months ago, the World Cup looked like a near-impossible dream.

A ruptured ACL (anterior cruciate ligament) in his right knee, the worst sort of injury an athlete could suffer, needed surgery and a long recovery. Such injuries tend to sideline elite athletes across sports for eight to nine months at least.

Williamson even got the World Cup out of his mind as it could have turned him desperate. "It was probably a good thing just to get my head stuck into rehab each day and not sort of rush it and that was really my focus and I was fortunate as well I had a really, really good team around me back home and also fortunate not to have a lot of setbacks during that time," Williamson said.

Calm and focused

As the World Cup neared, Williamson – just like how he fronts up in a chase – hardly panicked, letting time do the healing. There were milestones to take care off at each phase of the recovery, similar to what he faced in Chennai in pursuit of the target. Not once did he seem out of place, or do anything that could invite trouble.

With Bangladesh asking questions with the new ball, he fought through the tough phase, which would have reminded him of

For the third wicket in the company of Mitchell, who in the past has struggled on subcontinent pitches, Williamson milked the Bangladesh attack.

his early days after the injury. It wasn't the time for the ego to take over. Baby steps had to be taken before he walked briskly. Williamson just grinded it out. The timing, which is the essence of his batting, was at the forefront of it. Not for a single delivery did he look like a batsman who hadn't played an international fixture for seven months.

He first stitched an 80-run partnership for the second wicket with Conway that put New Zealand on the way. And for the third wicket in the company of Mitchell, who in the past has struggled on subcontinent pitches, Williamson milked the Bangladesh attack. With the required run rate well under control and Mitchell showing a tendency to struggle against spinners, he took it upon himself to let his partner settle, even helping him overcome a nervy start.

In the stands, each run that Williamson ran prompted claps. Boundaries would be greeted with cheers.

By now, Chepauk was entering the territory where Williamson was beginning to put on an exhibition, but only for it to be cut short by a throw that hit him on the thumb prompting him to retire hurt on 78, after having put together an unbroken 108-run stand with Mitchell.

Barring that slight hiccup in the end with regard to Williamson, this was yet another outing where New Zealand pulled the strings from ball one.

SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND vs BANGLADESH
MA CHIDAMBARAM STADIUM, CHENNAI
Toss: New Zealand elected to field

BANGLADESH

Liton Das	c Henry b Boult	0 (1b)
T Hasan	c Conway b Ferguson	16 (17b, 4x4)
MH Miraz	c Henry b Ferguson	30 (46b, 4x4)
NH Shanto	c Conway b Phillips	7 (6b, 1x4)
SAI Hasan	c Latham b Ferguson	40 (51b, 3x4, 2x6)
M Rahim	† b Henry	66 (75b, 6x4, 2x6)
T Hridoy	c Santner b Boult	13 (25b)
Mahmudullah	not out	41 (49b, 2x4, 2x6)
T Ahmed	c Mitchell b Santner	17 (19b, 2x6)
M Rahman	c Latham b Henry	4 (10b)
S Islam	not out	2 (3b)
Extras	(lb 1, nb 4, w 4)	9
Total	50 Ov (RR: 4.90)	245/9
FoW:	1-0 (Liton Das, 0.1 ov), 2-40 (Tanzid Hasan, 7.6 ov), 3-56 (Mehidy Hasan Miraz, 11.4 ov), 4-56 (Najmul Hossain Shanto, 12.1 ov), 5-152 (Shakib Al Hasan, 29.5 ov), 6-175 (Mushfiqur Rahim, 35.5 ov), 7-180 (Towhid Hridoy, 37.5 ov), 8-214 (Taskin Ahmed, 44.6 ov), 9-225 (Mustafizur Rahman, 47.6 ov)	
Bowling:	Trent Boult 10-0-45-2, Matt Henry 10-0-58-2, Lockie Ferguson 10-0-49-3, Mitchell Santner 10-1-31-1, Glenn Phillips 2-0-13-1, Rachin Ravindra 7-0-37-0, Daryl Mitchell 1-0-11-0	

NEW ZEALAND

D Conway	lbw b SAI Hasan	45 (59b, 3x4, 1x6)
R Ravindra	c† Rahim b Rahman	9 (13b, 2x4)
K Williamson	retired hurt	78 (107b, 8x4, 1x6)
D Mitchell	not out	89 (67b, 6x4, 4x6)
G Phillips	not out	16 (11b, 1x4, 1x6)
Extras	(lb 1, w 10)	11
Total	42.5 Ov (RR: 5.78)	248/2
FoW:	1-12 (Rachin Ravindra, 2.4 ov), 2-92 (Devon Conway, 20.1 ov), 2-200* (Kane Williamson, retired hurt)	
Bowling:	Mustafizur Rehman 8-0-36-1, Shoriful Islam 7.5-1-43-0, Taskin Ahmed 8-0-56-0, Shakib Al Hasan 10-0-54-1, Mehidy Hasan Miraz 9-0-58-0	



Kane Williamson hit 78 from 107 balls before retiring hurt after being hit on the left thumb on Friday. AP

Raw pace, bouncers make Ferguson Kiwis' golden goose in middle overs

VENKATA KRISHNA B
CHENNAI, OCTOBER 13

LOCKIE FERGUSON loves his yorkers. When he is in crisis, it is invariably his go-to delivery. Whenever he feels low on confidence, he quickly pulls out his tab and switches on YouTube to rewatch the toe-crusher that castled Faf du Plessis in the 2019 World Cup. It is the reason IPL teams spend big on him. Not just the yorkers, he has one of the most deceptive bouncers around too. Everything, thus, is lethal about him, from the black shoes too and the bushy moustache.

If the 2019 edition established Ferguson as a full-fledged force, this time it has been a self-discovery of sorts for the 32-year-old, who has been off-colour off late. In a team that has Trent Boult, Matt Henry and Tim Southee, Ferguson is their middle-overs workhorse.

In many ways, he does the Neil Wagner job in white ball. On Friday, at the MA Chidambaram Stadium where the pitch was perfect for batting, Ferguson's pace made all the difference, preventing Bangladesh from compiling a total that would have been beyond New Zealand's reach.

After Litton Das had gifted Boult a wicket off the first delivery by holding out at fine-leg, Bangladesh were recovering through Tanzid Hasan and Mehidy Hasan Miraz. Between these two teams there is no disputing which the better one, but Bangladesh have been a thorn in the flesh for New Zealand in the recent years, even enjoying a 13-year unbeaten winning streak in subcontinental conditions until recently.

Leader, second fiddle

With Boult choosing to be a T20 freelancer and Southee resting in between, Ferguson became New Zealand attack's leader. But here he was playing second fiddle to Boult and Henry, trying to make the new ball talk. Tempted by the spin-friendly conditions on offer, New Zealand could have easily benched Ferguson and brought in leg-spinner Ish Sodhi. No questions would have been asked, especially considering how much Ferguson has struggled off late. Instead, Kane Williamson stuck with

Ferguson, whose biggest strength is pace, especially through the air, which makes him an all-condition bowler. He is a golden goose, especially in the middle overs.

After watching Boult and Henry not getting sufficient purchase by bowling full, Ferguson has already received clues about the pitch's nature. He realised that bounce could be the saviour on perfect batting conditions. So Ferguson kept aside those yorkers of his, the ones that gives him the feel and shoots up his adrenaline.

The margin of error on this surface was too small to execute them. Tanzid, though, was waiting for it. The bouncer he sent down made the left-hander all the more cautious. He was expecting the age-old bluff as Ferguson moved around the wicket. Tanzid was so spooked that as he saw one angling-in, he went for an expansive flick straight into Devon Conway's hands at square-leg.

In his next over, Ferguson started with two bouncers to Miraz. You could see him get the feel of it. The bouncer was giving him the same feel as the yorker. Williamson rewarded him by bringing on left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner – one who has impeccable control – from the other end to suffocate Bangladesh.

Apart from the two bouncers, Ferguson also used the short balls to good effect. With all scoring shots locked, he seared a 148 kph-rocket that Miraz left.

Playing as a floater these days, Miraz still has not acquired the patience to build long innings. You could sense his patience running dry and as he saw another short ball, he went for the pull. At Ferguson's pace, he never seemed in control and held out at fine-leg. On a hot afternoon, Ferguson's first spell read 4-0-12-2 as Bangladesh slipped to 56/4.

From there on, the short ball tactic invariably became New Zealand pacers' play. For the majority of the middle-overs when their pacers operated, Williamson had his boundary riders behind the square or in front of square, with both mid-on and mid-off stationed inside the circle.

Not even when Shakib Al Hasan and Mushfiqur Rahim built a steady partnership did the Kiwis think of any alternate route. Bowling fuller length was always going to be



Ferguson's decision to opt for short balls instead of his signature yorkers worked well against Bangladesh. AP

futile on this pitch. If it ever landed in the arc, Rahim and Shakib made it disappear.

By the time Ferguson returned for his second spell, Bangladesh had restored some momentum. Rahim upper cut and pulled Ferguson for a boundary and a six to bring up a wonderfully compiled half-century. Two overs of Ferguson's second spell done, and no wickets in sight, credit should go to Williamson for giving him another over. At the other end, Rachin Ravindra had conceded 12 runs. Even Shakib, who appeared sedate through the 96-run stand, was beginning to free his arms. This was going to be a make or break over for New Zealand and Williamson as he risked keeping only three of Ferguson's overs for the last 10.

Two short balls, a sharp bouncer and a top-edged six from a delivery that angled into Shakib's body, a 260-plus total looked in sight. Ferguson, though, wasn't done. He still had one more bouncer to play around and off the fifth, sent a sharp one, which Shakib pulled without being in control. Tom Latham accepted the skier. From there on, the rest of Kiwi attack joined Ferguson in the party as Bangladesh crawled to 245, a total that was at least 30 runs short of par score.