



Thousands flee north Gaza, Israel opens two exit routes

Prepare for next stage, Netanyahu tells troops; 3rd batch of Indians evacuated



Palestinians wait at the Rafah border crossing between Gaza Strip and Egypt on Saturday. AP MORE REPORTS, PAGE 14

NIDAL AL-MUGHRABI & JOHN DAVISON
GAZA, JERUSALEM, OCT 14

THOUSANDS OF Palestinians fled the north of the Gaza Strip on Saturday from the path of an expected Israeli ground assault, while Israel pounded the area

with more air strikes and said it kept two roads open to let people escape.

Israel has vowed to annihilate the Hamas militant group that controls Gaza in retaliation for a rampage by fighters, who stormed through Israeli towns a week ago, killing civilians and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

UP cleric held for Palestine posts, doctor booked for anti-minority comments

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 14

DAYS AFTER Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath warned against "any activity contrary to the views" of the Centre on the Israel-Palestine conflict, a cleric was arrested in Hamirpur on Saturday for "promoting enmity" by allegedly supporting Palestine in posts on social media.

The arrested cleric has been identified as Suhail Ansari (23). On Friday, Ansari and another cleric, Atif Chowdhary, were booked under IPC Sections 153-A (promoting enmity between two groups) and 505(2) (statements creating or promoting

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Jasprit Bumrah celebrates the dismissal of Pakistan's Mohammad Rizwan in Ahmedabad on Saturday. India won the match by seven wickets. Nirmal Harindran MORE REPORTS, P16, 17

In 30 magic minutes, India bowlers make Pakistan innings disappear

SANDEEP DWIVEDI
AHMEDABAD, OCTOBER 14

THERE WAS hardly any cheer for the bowlers when the slides of the Indian playing XI for the Pakistan game rolled on the giant screen at the Narendra Modi Stadium here after the toss. The six-digit crowd that turned up early for the "one game that matters so much to so many" screamed their lungs out for the batting superstars, Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul. But when it came to Mohammad Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav and even lo-

cal star Jasprit Bumrah, all they offered was some gentle, polite applause.

In a couple of hours, Ahmedabad would have to change its mind, and as India chases their second World Cup at home in the days to come, the country, obsessed with its batting heroes, too may have a rethink.

The script of the India-Pakistan game at Ahmedabad saw a small, but significant, tweak. The first-half of Saturday's game was dominated by a pair of new-ball pacers bowling at breakneck speed,

with the ability to make the ball talk, and a wily wrist-spinner — it was a throwback to the '90s when the Pakistan bowling department had such deadly variety. They would join hands to dismiss Pakistan for 191, a modest target by the tournament's standards.

Later, Rohit Sharma with his majestic 86 from 63 balls would do the needful. India would win by seven wickets in just 30.3 overs.

Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammad Siraj and Kuldeep Yadav brought back memories of the weapons bowling at breakneck speed,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

IOC ANNUAL SUMMIT BEGINS

PM: Eager to host 2036 Olympics, this is the dream of 140 cr Indians

Will leave no stone unturned, says Modi, cites G20 success; IOC chief Bach says 'India on the rise'

MIHIR VASAVDA
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 14

MAKING A formal declaration of India's interest in hosting the Olympics, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said here Saturday that the country will "leave no stone unturned in our efforts" to host the Summer Games in 2036.

Hosting the Olympics, Modi said, is the "age-old dream and aspiration of 140 crore Indians." He was addressing a gathering of more than 100 of the who's who of world sport — with International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach seated on the dais — in Mumbai during the opening ceremony of the governing body's annual summit, called the IOC Session.

"India is eager to host the Olympics in the country. India will leave no stone unturned in the preparation for the successful organisation of the Olympics in 2036, this is the dream of 140 crore Indians. This dream has to



PM Modi with IOC chief Thomas Bach in Mumbai. PTI

EXPLAINED What IOC looks at

THE IOC looks at multiple factors: candidate city's funding strategy, the ability to deliver the Games, transport infrastructure, accommodation capacity, alignment of venues with local development plans, socio-economic and geo-political factors, and public support.

be fulfilled with your cooperation and support," the Prime

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Ex-Pune CP says Ajit Pawar auctioned three acres of police land, she got it back

SUNANDA MEHTA & MANOJ MORE
PUNE, OCTOBER 14

IN 2010, about three acres of prime land at Pune's Yerawada (where the city's central prison is located) belonging to the Pune police was auctioned at the be-



Never been involved, says Ajit Pawar

hest of the then District Guardian Minister. When sum-

moned by the minister to hand over the land, the then Commissioner of Police, Pune, refused to relinquish it since she felt it was needed for more office space for the police and houses for police personnel.

The minister then was Ajit Pawar, who is now

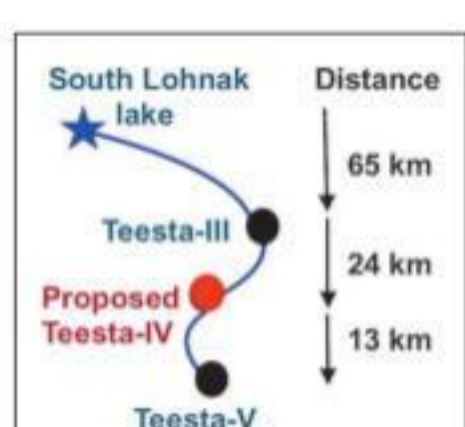
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NHTC ISSUES NOTICES TO SIKKIM, NHPC

Teesta-III dam break: NHPC admits damage, 9 years ago it said no threat

JAY MAZOOMDAAR
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 14

RESPONDING TO the Teesta-III dam break due to the glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) last week, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) Wednesday issued notices to appear on October 20 to three key stakeholders: the Sikkim government; the Sikkim Urja Limited that developed and ran Teesta-III at Chungthang; and NHPC (formerly known as National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Ltd) that has suffered heavy damage at its 510



*Teesta-III is the site of dam break due to glacial lake outburst flood

MW Teesta-V 37 km downstream at Dikchu. Not so long ago, the same

NHTC had dismissed any threats from GLOF — and the tribunal had accepted this explanation.

In 2014, when NHPC's 520 MW Teesta-IV project faced a challenge to its environmental clearance, NHPC, in an affidavit to the NGT, said that projects below Chungthang (Teesta-III) faced no threat from GLOFs. Apparently convinced, the NGT dismissed the appeal against Teesta-IV's environment clearance in 2017.

Subsequently that year, three Lepcha gram panchayats, as reported by The Indian Express, had

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WORLD STUDENTS' DAY

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GOVT & POLITICS

P20 SUMMIT: INDIA PROTESTS TO EU OVER MANIPUR PAGE 8

In MP, Shivraj banks on women to help beat anti-incumbency, puts money in their purse

ANAND MOHAN J
SEHORE, OCTOBER 14

WITH NO work in a lean season, Basu Bai, 55, a Dalit in Madhya Pradesh's Semri Katkua village in Sehore district, would be embarrassed to ask for a monthly stipend from her two sons to pay for her husband's blood pressure medication. Not anymore.

She gets Rs 1,250 every month now from the state government under the Ladli Behana Yojana launched by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on March 5, 2023.



Basu Bai gets Rs 1,250 every month under Ladli Behana Yojana

"My elder son fixes taps for a living and the younger one is a construction worker. They barely

make enough and I used to feel ashamed asking them for money. In the past three months,

I managed to buy medicines, and even bought some toys for my grandson. If Shivraj keeps his promise and pays us Rs 3,000 a month, my life will change. I will get a pension, just like a retired government officer," Bai said.

Battling anti-incumbency after 18 years in power, even Chouhan's ardent fans were not

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Rs 854 cr, 84 bank accounts: How 1-bedroom house in Bengaluru became cyber crime hub

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

JOHNSONTA
BENGALURU, OCTOBER 14

IN A single-bedroom house in Yelahanka on the northern fringe of Bengaluru, a 33-year-old MBA graduate and a 36-year-old software engineer allegedly set up a nameless private enterprise two years ago. Two youths

hired as employees lived in the house and were tasked with keeping eight mobile phones active — day and night.

In the second week of September this year, the Bengaluru cyber crime police arrested the MBA graduate, Manoj Sreenivas, the software engineer, Phanindra K, and four others.

It was a complaint of cheating to the tune of Rs 8.5 lakh filed by a 26-year-old woman, who was lured — first on an app and later on a WhatsApp group — to



The accused, Manoj Sreenivas and Phanindra K

make small investments for high returns, that led the cyber crime police to their doorstep.

The probe has found that the house taken on rent by Sreenivas and Phanindra was allegedly a back office for a massive fraud network operating across India, wherein thousands of people have been cheated after being lured on social media to invest small amounts for high returns.

The investigations by the cyber crime police into the network in Bengaluru has revealed that as much as Rs 854 crore moved rapidly through 84 bank

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Advertisement for Patanjali Dant Kanti Truthpaste. Text includes: 'What does your toothpaste have in it?', 'Jhooth (Lie)', 'Using Jhoothpaste in the name of toothpaste has resulted not only in unclear teeth, but its chemicals made the teeth and gums even worse!', 'Patanjali Dant Kanti has the time-tested Truth of Ayurveda', 'That's why it's called Truthpaste', 'Made of 16 herbs (Akarkara, Neem, Babool, Tomar, Mint, Cloves, Peepli (small), Vajradanti, Bakul, Vidang, Turmeric, Peelun and Majufal etc.) it gives teeth the power to fight cavities, foul smell, yellowness, pyorrhea and all other oral diseases.'

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WEB TECH COPILOT ISN'T AUTO-PILOT...IT KEEPS HUMANS AT THE CENTRE: FRANK SHAW

COPILOT ISN'T AUTO-PILOT...IT KEEPS HUMANS AT THE CENTRE: FRANK SHAW

"Microsoft is a tools company. Microsoft is a platform company. When you give people tools you want them to build on our platform, we are not the only ones that have good ideas," says Frank Shaw.

EDUCATION

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FROM PAGE ONE FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Eager to host '36 Olympics: PM

Minister told the IOC delegates. "I am very confident that India will be brought forward to the IOC."

He added that the country is "eager" to host the Youth Olympic Games in 2029 as a precursor to the mega event.

For the record, after Dakar, Senegal hosts the Youth Games in 2026, the next edition will be held in 2030 as per IOC's four-year programme.

2036 is the earliest available slot to host the Summer Olympic Games as the next edition will be held in Paris in 2024 followed by Los Angeles in 2028 and Brisbane in 2032.

In his speech, Modi did not reveal the name of the candidate city but it is believed that Ahmedabad is a front-runner. The Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Sports Enclave - which also houses Modi's eponymous stadium - is projected as one of the main venue clusters.

In December last year, Union Home Minister Amit Shah held a meeting with Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel to assess the state's preparedness to host the Olympics. The state government has reportedly engaged an Australian consultancy firm to prepare its bid.

Earlier this week, Bach had said the IOC "noted there's a great interest and there are ap-

parently serious considerations here within India" to bid for the Games.

"We have to wait now how this will turn into a project and will be brought forward to us. Only then we can form an opinion," he had said.

As per the selection policy, the IOC first gets into an informal dialogue with interested host countries. If the world body is satisfied with the planning and capability of the candidate, then it enters a "targeted dialogue" when the IOC's Executive Board invites the "preferred host" to refine and present their proposal.

There is no fixed timeframe for electing the hosts.

Modi said organising G-20 events in "more than 60 cities" was "evidence" of India's organising capacity.

"Organising global events in the country gives us a chance to welcome countries. Due to our fast-growing economy and well-developed infrastructure, India is prepared to host mega global events," Modi said. "The world has witnessed this during our G-20 presidency. We have organised events in more than 60 cities. This is evidence of our logistics and our organising capacity at all levels."

Modi's announcement comes days after India's athletes

returned from their best-ever haul at the Asian Games, with the contingent winning more than 100 medals for the first time at the event.

The PM added that "performances indicate the transformation and speedy development in the sports landscape of India."

"Sports is not the medium of winning medals but it is a medium to win people's hearts. Sports belong to everyone, it is for everyone. Sports not only create champions, it also promotes peace, progress, and wellness. Therefore, sports is a very strong and empowered medium of connecting the world," Modi said.

Earlier, Bach welcomed the PM speaking in Hindi, "aapka bahut bahut swagat," and underlined India's "rise."

Calling India an "inspiring place," he said: "We are so pleased to be in India - a country that is on the rise in so many respects, including Olympic sports. India is a truly inspiring place to hold our IOC Session. A country which combines its splendid history and dynamic presence with a vigorous confidence in the future... India is an inspiring place. The entire Olympic community in India can be proud of the Asian Games performance."

India make Pak innings disappear

that Imran Khan proudly flaunted all through the 1992 World Cup. Ravindra Jadeja and Hardik Pandya too were among the five bowlers who took a couple of Pakistan wickets, but they were not part of the late afternoon 30-minute frenzy that turned the World Cup's most-anticipated game into a one-sided game of unequals.

Around 4 pm, the game seemed to be drifting into a slumber. "Nothing in the track," the pundits could be heard saying as Pakistan had crossed 150 and lost just two wickets. The Pakistan innings had reached the halfway mark. This was the period of play that the T20 generation calls "the boring middle over". Ahmedabad was getting restless, many would drift to the food-terrace for that local brew known to kill sleep - the hot, strong, sweet cup of tea.

They would go rushing to their seats at exactly 4.15 pm when a roar from the stadium bowels would emerge. Siraj had struck, Pakistan's Babar Azam couldn't get a grip of his quick skidder. The partnership was broken just after Babar had reached 50. The siesta was over, the game was alive, the fans were wide awake.

Siraj was running around the turf, chased by his teammates as if he was playing catch in the street outside his Tolichowki home in old Hyderabad. They would eventually catch him and give him a hug. The crowd, if not for the strict khakhi presence,

would have jumped over the fence to be part of that happy huddle. "Chak de India" would explode on the public address system and the "Siraj, Siraj" chant would bring the roof down.

At 4.30 pm, Saud Shakeel would misjudge Kuldeep's length, stay on the back foot and was out lbw. This was followed by the rub of green going India's way. Big hitter Iftikhar Ahmed's glove would make a regular Kuldeep googly seem like a "ball of the century". The seemingly harmless ball that seemed to be going down the leg would hit the stump because of Iftikhar's touch. "Chak de India" would explode on the public address system again, accompanied by the "Kuldeep, Kuldeep" chant.

Despite Siraj and Kuldeep's incisive stabs, Mohammad Rizwan, the man who sees himself as a warrior of lost causes, who digs into faith-inspired will to rose himself, was still there. It would take a ball of wondrous imagination and exquisite skill to take him down. Bumrah has bowled many slower ones in his career, of varying parabolas to dipping loopy, and this one wasn't as dramatic visually, but an illusionary trick worth multiple viewings.

A well-settled Rizwan was shaping into his drive, upper body had swayed forward, when panic kicked in as he realised the trick played on him. Too late, though, as the finger-spun slower off-cutter had not only taken pace off the ball, but also broke back in to break Pakistan's spirit.

Teesta-III

raised questions regarding the manner in which the district administration had furnished consent under the Forest Rights Act for Teesta-IV's final forest clearance which is still awaited.

The GLOF that washed away the 1200-MW Teesta-III in the early hours of October 4 caused severe damage to two NHPC projects: 510 MW Teesta-V and the under-construction 500 MW Teesta-VI - downstream (see map). According to official estimates, 37 deaths have been confirmed until October 13 while 30 are in hospital and 78 are missing.

Summing up the damage on October 5, NHPC said in a press release: "The flood water overtopped the dam of Teesta V... All connecting roads to the project sites, as well as parts of residential colony, have been severely damaged. Presently, the power station is under shutdown and not generating electricity."

"Ongoing works of under construction hydro project Teesta VI... have been disrupted. The flood water had entered into the powerhouse and transformer cavern. Bridges connecting right and left banks at the barrage as well as Power House have been washed out," it added.

This is in sharp contrast to what NHPC had said in its affidavit before the NGT when, in 2014, members of the local Lepcha community challenged the project's environment clearance on multiple grounds, including the absence of studies on the potential impact of GLOFs on the project. In its 2014 affidavit to the NGT, NHPC said: "As regards GLOFs, they are anticipated in the Northern part of Sikkim where glacial lakes are prevalent. The phenomenon of GLOFs is relevant to the projects located above Chungthang. Teesta IV is located far below Chungthang."

Dismissing the case in 2017, the NGT observed that "the affidavits filed by the respondents reveal that the project proponent has addressed all the issues raised by the appellants." Asked about the learnings from the Teesta-III dambreak, an NHPC official said: "The extent of damage at the project sites will be assessed in detail once the water level recedes."

Members of Affected Citizens of Teesta (CAT), a local organisation of indigenous people opposed to mega power projects, said that they would watch the current case at NGT with caution since appeals made by affected citizens against the environmental clearances of the Teesta III and the proposed Teesta IV before the NEAA in 2006 and the NGT in 2014, respectively, were dismissed in the past.

Shivraj banks on women voters

sure if the transformation of "mama ji" into 'bulldozer mama' over the last two years could beat the fatigue factor and bring electoral success.

But "mama ji" Chouhan conceived a scheme that many in the party now believe has struck a chord with women folk. Initially, there were reservations within a section of the Bharatiya Janata Party. Even now, party leaders in Delhi do not find it easy to defend the scheme. After all, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has routinely attacked Opposition states for what he refers as 'revdi culture'.

This is indeed a big gamble by Chouhan, who has taken a different line. The Ladli Behana scheme, announced in March, originally entailed a payment of Rs 1,000 per month for poor women in the 21-60 age group. Women whose family income does not exceed Rs 2.5 lakh a year, and those who do not pay income tax, are eligible. Further, there are no restrictions on the number of women who can register for the scheme from a single household.

The annual cost to the state was estimated to be Rs 8,000 crore then.

Congress responded with former Chief Minister Kamal Nath announcing the Nari Samman Yojana two months later in May promising Rs 1,500 per month along with LPG gas cylinders at Rs 500.

But Chouhan took the challenge head on and hiked the monthly payout to Rs 1,250 and promised to eventually raise it to Rs 3,000 in the future, and also offered LPG cylinders at Rs 450. Finance department officials state an additional Rs 5,000 crore has been earmarked now for the scheme. "So far, more than Rs 6,800 crore has been disbursed to over 1.2 crore plus Laadli Behanas in five instalments," an official said. Just two days ago, on October 12, the Congress promised free education and stipends for school going children.

He firmly believes women will deliver the state again to him - they add up to 2.67 crore, over 48 per cent of the total 5.52 crore voters in the state. This is crucial considering the fact that women outnumber their male counterparts in at least 18 of the 230 Assembly seats, including in tribal-dominated areas like Balaghat, Mandla, Dindori, and Jabua. In the 2018 polls, the BJP could win only 16 of the ST seats, as against the Congress's 30.

At Piliikar village, Poolvati (45), and her two daughters in laws have been saving Rs 3,750 per month and hope to buy three

EXPLAINED Arithmetic behind the politics

WOMEN account for almost 50% of voters in Madhya Pradesh. Just when Shivraj Chouhan looked jaded, his Ladli Behana scheme became a talking point. Those eligible - estimated to be 1.25 crore in the 20-59 age group - will get Rs 1,250 a month. The state has earmarked some Rs 13,000 crore this year for this scheme. Once payout is hiked to Rs 3,000, the funds required a year could top Rs 45,000 crore. This would be almost three-fourth of the annual Central budget for MNREGA.

sewing machines and find employment. The three Gond tribe members live in their room set pucca house constructed under the PM Awas Yojana, and have managed to get some plaster work and paint job done after saving money since the first instalment in June. "When you get some money you should use it well. I enrolled my granddaughter under the Ladli Laxmi scheme and when she turns 21, she will get Rs 1 lakh. The more women you have, the wealthier you get," she said.

Bhuribai (59), a Gond tribal woman has been trying to get her house constructed under the PM Awas Yojana and makes do with a mud brick home painted in faded blue with a tin roof. When she got the first instalment of Rs 1,000 under the Ladli Behana Yojana, she used it to pay for her daily expenses. But an extra Rs 250 has helped her buy some powder and soap.

"We don't use soap and powder for months. There are no jobs, now I can buy some soap for myself. I also bought tea and sugar this month. My husband doesn't work very often and I have all the responsibility. The gas cylinder has come down to Rs 450 and that has really saved my money," she said.

In Raisen district's Obaidullaganj town, the Ladli Behana Yojana has found favour with the Muslim women. Afsana, 50, sat outside her home. Earlier she used to depend on her daughter for her monthly handouts. "I work at a diaper making unit and earn Rs 150 per day. There are days when I can't go because my husband has not worked in over a year because of his failing health."

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Thousands flee Gaza

making off with scores of hostages. Some 1,300 people were killed in the worst attack on civilians in Israel's history.

Israeli forces have since put the Hamas-run Gaza Strip, home to 2.3 million Palestinians, under a total siege and bombarded it with unprecedented air strikes. Gaza authorities say more than 2,200 people have been killed, a quarter of them children, and nearly 10,000 wounded.

Israel had given the population of the northern half of the Gaza Strip, which includes the enclave's biggest settlement Gaza City, until Saturday morning to move south. It later said it would guarantee the safety of Palestinians fleeing on two main roads until 4:00 pm (1300 GMT).

As the deadline passed, troops were massing around the Gaza Strip. Outside Gaza, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited Israeli infantrymen and told them to be ready for "the next stage," without elaborating. Hamas has told people not to leave and says roads out are unsafe.

PTI adds: Meanwhile, the third batch of 197 Indian nationals wanting to leave Israel amidst the Israel-Hamas conflict left for home on a special flight Saturday. The special flights are part of 'Operation Ajay' launched on October 12 to facilitate the return of those Indian nationals who wish to return home.

"#OperationAjay moves forward. 197 more passengers are coming back to India," External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar posted on X.

Cleric held, doctor booked in UP

Friday under IPC Sections 153-A (promoting enmity between two groups) and 295-A (deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs). The SHO of Kotwali police station (Bareilly), Dharmendra Singh, said a case was lodged against Maheshwari for allegedly making objectionable comments on social media against the Muslim community with reference to the Israel-Palestine conflict.

At a law and order review meeting on Thursday, Adityanath had ordered strict action against any "controversial statement" and "activity contrary to the views of the Government of India" on the conflict.

The Centre has adopted a nuanced position on the issue. In its first statement on Thursday, the MEA said there is a "universal obligation to observe international humanitarian law", a phrase seen as aimed at Israel. But, it added that there is also a global responsibility to fight the menace of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations - a strong signal of support to Israel.

enmity, hatred or ill-will between classes) in the same case. Police said Chowdhary is absconding. Meanwhile, a doctor in Bareilly was also booked on Friday for allegedly making objectionable comments against Muslims on WhatsApp, in connection with the Israel-Palestine conflict. He has not been arrested yet. "We have arrested Ansari and raids are on to trace the other accused," said a police officer from Hamirpur.

According to police, Ansari, in a social media post, had said that he stood with Palestine. In another post, he allegedly called people to assemble at a mosque. "The accused also made some comments on social media which are banned and could lead to law and order issues," the officer said. Hamirpur SP Deeksha Sharma said security arrangements have been made to ensure peace in the area and raids were being conducted to trace Chowdhary.

Ansari was produced before a local court Saturday, which sent him to judicial custody for 14 days. In Bareilly, Dr Parmendra Maheshwari, working with a private hospital, was booked on

How 1-bedroom house in Bengaluru became cyber crime hub

accounts in the last two years. When the police traced these accounts and froze them in September, only Rs 5 crore remained.

When the cyber crime police went a step further and looked on the National Cyber Crime Portal, they found 5,013 cases across India where the same set of accounts had been used by cyber criminals. There were 17 cases from Bengaluru itself out of 487 reported from Karnataka. Police also found that 719 cases had been reported from Telangana, 642 from Gujarat, and 505 from Uttar Pradesh.

Investigations have found that Rs 854 crore that travelled through the 84 accounts was moved to gaming apps, cryptocurrency like USDT, online casinos and payment gateways, to be encashed by the fraud's main operators, who are suspected to be based in Dubai and whom the Bengaluru layer of operators never met in person.

Police are probing whether the Dubai-based operators, who set up the network by communicating only through social media to the Bengaluru layer, are linked to Chinese operatives. A similar case had unravelled in July

in Hyderabad, where the cyber crime police revealed that 15,000 victims had been cheated of Rs 712 crore through 113 bank accounts created for fake companies. In that case, local operatives were found to be linked to Dubai-based operators with China links. The Hyderabad probe also found a terror funding link, where some of the funds were allegedly diverted to crypto wallets linked to the Hezbollah group.

"In the Bengaluru case, no links to China operators or terror financing has been found. Investigations are still underway to find the key operatives," Bengaluru police commissioner B Dayananda said on September 30.

"Indian operators received a commission of one to three percent on every transaction they facilitated. They opened local bank accounts without going through the KYC process," Bengaluru cyber crime official Hazarash Killedar said.

Local operatives were asked to use an app that would send clones of bank OTPs (sent to the local phone numbers linked to fake bank accounts) to the Dubai operators as well - to make it seem like the fake accounts were being

operated locally. Police suspect the motive behind keeping eight mobile phones constantly active was to facilitate fund transfers between fake bank accounts and mule accounts, and to siphon the money out through crypto currency, gaming apps and online casinos. "The online casinos and gaming apps seem to be a key source of money laundering as there are no records of winnings. One of the accused was planning on starting his own gaming app to launder his earnings from the fraud," a Bengaluru police official said.

"The laundered money goes through international banks and is shown as investments in various foreign companies," police stated.

The probe has found that the local operatives invested as much as Rs 1.37 crore of funds earned from the racket on software, a casino, a resort and a garment factory. According to police officials, the gangs would lure victims through WhatsApp and Telegram. "Initially, they are asked to invest small amounts ranging from Rs 1,000 to 10,000 on the pretext that they would earn Rs 1,000 to 5,000 per day as profit," a police official said.

Ex-Pune CP: Ajit Pawar auctioned police land

Maharashtra's Deputy Chief Minister, and the CP, Pune, was Meeran Chadha Borwankar, who had recently assumed charge. The decision to auction the land was taken by the Guardian Minister and was supervised by the then Divisional Commissioner.

This is one of the many controversial episodes Borwankar has narrated in her book 'Madam Commissioner' published by Pan Macmillan and to be released on Sunday. Deputy CM Ajit Pawar, however, denied his involvement, and said the District Guardian Minister did not have the authority to auction land. In the book, Borwankar doesn't mention the name of the "district minister", but refers to him as "dada". When contacted, she told The Sunday Express, "Dada means Ajit Pawar and he was the district guardian minister also at that time."

Pawar told this newspaper, "I have never been involved in any auction of the land. In fact, I am opposed to such auctions. Besides, the District Guardian Minister does not have the authority to auction land. We can't sell such Revenue Department which

places it before the state cabinet. The cabinet takes the final decision. It decides the value of the land as per the ready reckoner rate. Therefore, I want to state I am not related to this matter in anyway... You can check with officials how I always take the government side in such matters. I don't care even if there is pressure on me."

When contacted, Prithviraj Chavan, who was the Chief Minister then, said, "I will have to see the records before commenting on the matter."

In the chapter titled "The Minister", Borwankar writes, "Having recently taken over as the commissioner of police in Pune, I was getting acquainted with the crime scenarios at different police stations and meeting the officers. On one of those days, I received a call from the divisional commissioner that the district minister had asked for me and I should see him the day after, in the morning.... He also mentioned that the issue of the Yerawada police station land needed to be discussed."

"...I met the district minister in the divisional commissioner's office. He had a huge paper map of the area with him. He explained

that the auction had been successfully concluded and I should proceed to hand over the land to the top bidder. I replied that as Yerawada had become literally the centre of Pune, the police would never get such prime land in future. And that we needed it to construct more offices as well as residential quarters for the police. I added that having recently taken over, giving police land to a private party would be perceived as the new police commissioner having sold herself out. But the minister simply overruled me and insisted that I complete the process, which he declared was over," she wrote.

Further, Borwankar wrote in the book, "Unhappy with his instructions, I asked him politely why my predecessor - the previous police commissioner - had not handed over the land if the auction had already concluded. I even said that the process itself was flawed in my opinion, and against the interest of the police department. It would just not be possible for me to relinquish such a prime piece of police land to a private party... I told him gently but with finality. The minister... hurled the map at the glass table."

'Lived in Israel for 2 yrs... never saw anything like this': Students back home on second flight

SAMAN HUSAIN & UPASIKA SINGHAL
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 14

RELIEF AT being back home, anxiety over their compatriots who were scheduled to fly down over the coming days, and the safety of their Israeli friends — it was a mixed bag of emotions for the second batch of Indian citizens who arrived at Delhi's IGI airport Saturday morning.

An estimated 230 Indians, predominantly students, arrived on the second 'Operation Ajay' chartered flight from Israel.

Vaasu Sharma, a resident of Uttar Pradesh who is doing his PhD in International Relations at the University of Haifa in northern Israel, said the region had historically been calm but things had swiftly gone south over the last few days. "The escalation was unexpected, and there have been a lot of casualties... We tried to keep each other company over the past



Minister of State for External Affairs Rajkumar Ranjan Singh receives Indian nationals evacuated from Israel under 'Operation Ajay' at Delhi airport, Saturday. PTI

few days that we were at our university," he said.

"I still have a few friends who were in Israel... The Indian Embassy was extremely helpful in bringing us back safely, but many people are still stranded... I would like to request the Indian

embassy to bring all Indians back as soon as possible," he added.

For Punyakoti Ganeshiah Veena from Bengaluru, who is pursuing her postdoctoral degree in Astrophysics at the Technion Institute in Haifa, the reverberations of the escalating

military offensive reaching the country's northern region were unexpected. "In the two years that I've lived in Israel, I have never seen anything like this before... In Haifa, everything was relatively calm, but I have Israeli friends in the south who are losing their loved ones," she said.

"While we were there, they (our friends) frequently checked in to see how we were doing... we don't know when we will be back..." she added.

Soihim Kaurinta from Nagaland, who is pursuing a master's degree in plant sciences at Hebrew University in Rehovot, Central Israel, said she had grown accustomed to blaring sirens and exploding projectiles in the distance — but not the situation that was currently unfolding. "... We used to have an hour and a half to return to our shelter. It's upsetting that I had to leave behind friends and many other people..." she said.

Anil Kamboj, a material sci-

entist at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, recalled the terror he felt last Saturday. "In the two years I've lived in Israel, I have never seen anything like this," he said.

At first, Kamboj said he thought he heard ambulances; but when the sirens didn't abate for the next three hours, he realised something was seriously wrong. "We all went to the bomb shelter and waited for the sirens to stop, but they kept ringing for hours," he said.

Dr Pankaj Chowdhury, a post-doctoral scientist in the Agricultural Research Organisation in Rishon LeTsiyon, joined the institute in June. His stay in central Israel had so far held true to its reputation of being calm — till last Saturday.

"My roommates, who had lived in the country for 1.5 years, told me it was a warning siren and escorted me to the bomb shelter nearby," he said, dumbfounded as the military offensive took shape.

FLAGS STUBBLE BURNING CASES

Help Delhi breathe easy: L-G to Punjab & Haryana

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 14

FLAGGING SPIRALLING statistics related to instances of stubble burning in their respective states and their detrimental effect on the air quality of the capital with winter around the corner, Delhi L-G VK Saxena Saturday wrote to the Chief Ministers of Haryana and Punjab and asked them to take remedial measures.

Terming it the only "non-performing outlier" when it came to the five states that affect Delhi's air quality, Saxena blamed Punjab for the deterioration in the AQI given the magnitude of crop residue burning last year; Haryana, he stated, had performed "exemplarily" in this regard.

Delhi, the L-G said, was not only home to more than 2 crore people but is also visited by numerous tourists and foreign envoys, and their exposure to "debilitating air pollution" had a negative bearing on India's international image and standing.

"... I would like to underline that last year, Haryana had performed exemplarily as far as controlling burning of *parali* is concerned and helped mitigate the problem, which primarily occurred due to smoke/smog from Punjab," Saxena stated in his communication to Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar.

Saxena did, however, term "extremely worrisome" that incidents of crop residue burning in Haryana between September 15 and October 11 had reached 340, which was 257 more than the figure of 83 in the corresponding period during 2022.



Delhi's AQI was 251 (poor) on Saturday. Praveen Khanna

In Punjab, the L-G said in his letter to CM Bhagwant Mann that 1,063 incidents of crop burning were recorded from September 15 to October 11 — 300 more than the figure in the corresponding period during 2022.

"... You may recall that last year when I had written to you... Delhi was choking under pollution caused by smoke from across its borders... Between 24.10.2022 and 2.11.2022, there had been an increase of 19% in incidents of *parali* burning, in comparison to the corresponding period of the previous year," Saxena stated.

"... You would also recall that last year, of the five states that af-

fect Delhi's air quality, Punjab had remained the only non-performing outlier... You as well as Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi, Shri Arvind Kejriwal, had then assured that such eventuality will not be repeated," he added.

While Delhi authorities were taking steps to ensure local causes of air pollution were fully addressed, issue of stubble burning in both states were "extremely worrisome", he added. Urging both Khattar and Mann to galvanise all available resources and make farmers willing partners in defeating "this deadly menace", Saxena asked both to help the Capital and NCR "breathe easy".

MEGA PTM DAY 2

Academics, proper nutrition: Teachers & parents touch base

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 14

FROM WHAT to put in a snack box to ensure proper nutrition to discussions on a child's interest in sports, the 'mega' two-day Parent-Teacher Meeting (PTM) that concluded Saturday at Delhi government and MCD schools touched upon a range of topics.

Reema Agarwal, officiating in charge of the School of Excellence, Kalkaji, pointed out why the mega PTM is important: "We sometimes struggle to meet parents otherwise, considering the economic background that some children come from. Having one dedicated day helps to connect with the parents. We try to have PTMs at the school level also, but children don't always tell their parents about them. The mega PTM is highly advertised, even at the government level, which means everybody is aware... The PTM is spread over two days this time; parents who were working on Friday may have had a chance to come on Saturday. This time, we also have mid-term marks in hand so we can tell parents about academic performance."

The discussion was not restricted to just academics. Said Swati, the class teacher for grade 7 at the school, "A child not eat-



During the PTM at the School of Excellence, Kalkaji. Express

ing properly is something that was raised. In such cases, we tell parents about the mini-snack break and what to send for it. Sometimes, when we tell the student, it may not reach the parents, so it is important to meet the parents. As children enter adolescence, their behaviour with siblings is also something that is raised at such meetings, and we discuss where the line is drawn."

Students' bond with parents also surfaces at such meetings, said Astha Singh, a class XII student and head girl of the school. "There are some things we can't tell our parents, but the teacher can. I'm active in sports and for my parents, it is important I study and play. Sometimes they complain I play too much, but when my teachers discuss my academic performance with them, they're

convinced," said Astha, whose father owns a telecom shop.

While blackboards were decked up in schools, WhatsApp messages and calls went out to parents who did not make it to the meeting on day one to ensure they came on the second day, teachers said. At the Kalkaji school, out of 418 students, parents of 393 students attended the PTM over two days. Answer sheets from a recent exam were shared to point out areas for improvement, and feedback forms were filled by parents.

Chinu Kumar, father of a class VII student and an electrical contractor, said he was attending the PTM for the first time. "I don't come to school often, but, this time, his mother couldn't make it. He likes to play more than he likes to study. This needs to be discussed."

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 14

THE DELHI Police Thursday arrested three persons for allegedly operating a betting racket on the ongoing ICC Cricket World Cup matches.

DCP (South) Chandan Chowdhary said the South District police staff was regularly patrolling the area in civvies. The team then received a tip about a high-profile cricket World Cup satta/betting racket being run in the South district area. The accused persons, from Khanpur Extension, had organised the betting session on the World Cup match between South Africa and Australia on Thursday.

The police team swung into action, conducted a raid at the said house, and arrested three persons — Ravi Kumar (47), Amit Kumar (28), and Shahid Khan (50). They have been involved in betting since the beginning of the World Cup this year, said police.

During questioning, police said the accused disclosed that they used the 'Betting Assistant Software' to maintain a list, book and accounts of punters or gamblers. "As part of the group's operation, one person would be present at the stadium where the match was being played, and another would be connected to him through a mobile phone or some

electronic device, called a line, to provide the actual score, which is one or two balls faster than the live match being telecast on TV channels," said the DCP.

Police said the accused used this line for betting and passed it to their punters. "They purchased the said software from Nehru Place and the line from known persons... Around Rs 5 to Rs 7 lakh was on stake per match while around Rs 50 lakh to Rs 1 crore is on stake for the Cricket World Cup, where nine matches have already been played till now," the officer said.

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<http://www.ddpmod.gov.in/vacancyandcircular>

TRAFFIC ADVISORY
ENGLAND VS AFGHANISTAN
15-10-2023
ICC MEN'S CRICKET WORLD CUP
2 PM TO 10:30 PM

LEGENDS

- THOSE NOT HAVING PARKING LABEL TO FOLLOW RED
- THOSE HAVING PARKING LABEL MAY FOLLOW BLUE ARROWS.
- FREE PARK & RIDE (MATA SUNDARI RD., SHANTI VAN & UNDER VELODROME FLYOVER)
- PICK UP POINT SHUTTLE SERVICE
- DROP OFF POINT SHUTTLE SERVICE
- TAXI (DROP OFF / PICK UP LANE)

★ - USE METRO OR PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO REACH THE STADIUM

Nearest Metro Station:
Delhi Gate, (Gate No. 4 & 5) ITO (Gate No. 3, 4 & 5)

ARUN JAITLEY STADIUM, FIROZESHAN KOTLA GROUND, NEW DELHI

DIVERSION / RESTRICTION (AS AND WHEN REQUIRED)

There will diversion of traffic for half and hour after conclusion of the match. No heavy vehicles and buses shall be allowed on Bahadurshah Zafar Marg, Delhi Gate to J.L.N. Marg, from Darya Ganj to Bahadurshah Zafar Marg and from Guru Nanak Chowk to Asaf Ali Road. People are requested to avoid following roads from 12:00 PM to 11:30 PM on the match day respectively when the spectators would be coming to the stadium and congestion is expected.

Raj Ghat to JLN Marg.
J.L.N. Marg from R/A Kamla Market to Raj Ghat.
Asaf Ali Road from Turkman Gate to Delhi Gate.
Bahadurshah Zafar Marg from Ram Charan Agarwal Chowk to Delhi Gate.

ENTRY TO THE STADIUM

(I) Gate No. 1, 3 & 6 are located on the southern side of the Stadium & entry to these enclosures are from Bahadurshah Zafar Marg.
(II) Gate No. 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 & 15 are located on the Eastern side of the Stadium on the road and entry is from J.L.N. Marg next to Ambedkar Stadium Bus Terminal.
(III) Gate No. 16, 17 & 18 are located on the Western side of the Stadium & entry is from Bahadurshah Zafar Marg Near Petrol Pump.

PARKING

Labeled Vehicles

Limited parking is available for labeled vehicles in the proximity of the Stadium. Display of car parking label on windshield is mandatory. Vehicle number must be written on the parking label. Those who do not display parking label with vehicle number will not be allowed in the proximity of the stadium. Car parking label holders are advised to take Ring Road, J.L.N. Marg, Asaf Ali Road or Bahadurshah Zafar Marg. U turn at Delhi Gate is allowed. Entry to parking lots P1 P3 & P4 shall be from Bahadurshah Zafar Marg only from near the Petrol pump.

General Vehicles

No vehicle shall be allowed to be parked on Bahadurshah Zafar Marg, Jawaharlal Nehru Marg & Ring Road from Rajghat to I.P. Flyover (both the carriageways) on the match day. Vehicles parked on these roads shall be towed away and prosecuted as per law.

PARK & RIDE

For spectators, unlabeled vehicles 'park and ride' facility has been created at the following places:-
• Mata Sundari Parking • Shanti Van Parking • Under Velodrome Road

All the spectators coming in their vehicles shall reach these Park & Ride sites, and avail "Park & Ride" facility or walk down to reach stadium.

BUS

All buses will start their service 2 hours before the match and will continue till one hour after the start of match. The bus service from the stadium to their respected destinations will start as soon as the game ends and will continue for one hour after the match ends.

TAXI

Spectators using app based taxi and other taxis should use the service lane on Ring Road between I.P. Flyover & Rajghat crossing for drop & pickup.

RIDE METRO FOR HASSLE FREE JOURNEY

Parking : Mata Sundari Parking, Shanti Van Parking, Under Velodrome Road

SECURITY INSTRUCTIONS: Spectators visiting the stadium are requested not to bring the following prohibited items:

Laptop Camera Helmet Backpack Eatables Water Bottles Power Bank Lighter & Match Box Knives & Arms

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Notification No. FCRI/12/2022-23/PO/01 Date of Notification: 24.07.2023
Corrigendum-1 Dated 15 September 2023
Last date for submitting Application extended to 30th October 2023

RECRUITMENT BY DEPUTATION BASIS

Name of Post	No. of Posts (CATEGORY)	Scale of Pay	Age Limit	Tenure
Personnel Officer	1 [GENERAL]	Pay Level 10 in the Pay Matrix	56 years	3 years

For details on Qualifications / Experience criteria and Application, visit recruit.fcridia.com

चौधरी सिंह विश्वविद्यालय, मेरठ
(NAAC ACCREDITED with A++ Grade)

अधिसूचना
35वाँ दीक्षान्त समारोह

चौधरी चरण सिंह विश्वविद्यालय, मेरठ का 35वाँ दीक्षान्त समारोह बुधवार, दिनांक 18 अक्टूबर 2023 को नियत है। दीक्षान्त समारोह की अध्यक्षता माननीय कुलाधिपति महोदय/ महामहिम राज्यपाल उओप्रओ, श्रीमती आनंदी बेन पटेल जी द्वारा की जायेगी। समारोह के विशिष्ट अतिथि उत्तर प्रदेश के माननीय चव्व शिक्षा मंत्री श्री योगेन्द्र उपाध्याय जी तथा मुख्य अतिथि पद्मश्री, वैद्य डॉ० राजेश कोटेश, सचिव, आयुष मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली होंगे। दीक्षान्त समारोह में पदक, प्रमाण पत्र एवं विभिन्न पाठ्यक्रमों की उपाधियाँ प्रदान की जायेगी। समारोह का कार्यक्रम तथा अन्य विवरण विश्वविद्यालय की वेबसाइट www.ccsuniversity.ac.in पर पृथक से उपलब्ध है। कुलसचिव

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4 HARDLOOK

COLLAPSE IN
CHINTELS PARADISO



Abhinav Saha

Faulty towers

In February 2022, the dreams of residents at Chintels Paradiso in Gurgaon came crashing down after a tragic collapse in one of the towers left two people dead. *The Indian Express* revisits the case and speaks to residents being forced to vacate in the light of five towers being declared unsafe

AISWARYA RAJ
GURGAON, OCTOBER 14

FOR A month now, 46-year-old Anuj Sharma, who works for an MNC, has been house hunting for his family of four. His search, so far unsuccessful, has taken on a note of urgency as he must vacate his current 3BHK in Tower H at Chintels in less than 15 days.

Anuj is a resident of Chintels Paradiso in Gurgaon's Sector 109, where a portion of a sixth-floor apartment in Tower D collapsed all the way to the first floor, killing two women, in February 2022. The incident prompted a CBI probe and a structural audit of the nine-tower society. Five towers — D, E, F, G and H (the latest) — were ordered to be vacated as they were declared unfit for habitation due to structural deficiencies.

Pointing to the cracks in his ceiling, Anuj, whose flat is in Tower H, said he was scared to stay there: "We are living in a state of alarm, but we are pushed to accept the option that is convenient to the builder. We won't opt for it, but look for a rented accommodation."

The option is getting paid Rs 6,500 per sqft for his flat, a sum, he feels, is too little compared to the market rate. A residential society built at the same time as Chintels is selling their property at Rs 12,500 per sqft, he added. "How is it fair to give us the same price we paid when buying it five years ago," asked Anuj.

Following the collapse, the builder had offered two options to settle with residents — buyback or get the property repaired or rebuilt by pitching in Rs 1,000 per sqft. The firm later withdrew the second option, saying it had found no takers.

For 39-year-old legal consultant Manoj Singh, who has refused to vacate his Tower G flat, the situation is grim. With an EMI of Rs 61,000 a month, for the Rs 70 lakh loan he took to purchase his current flat worth Rs 1.1 crore, it is impossible to live on rent if he leaves with the buyback option, he said.

"Either the builder or the administration needs to give us rehabilitation. At Rs 1.1 crore, we won't be able to purchase property anywhere in the vicinity. Prices have gone through the roof. We enquired about rent rates; last year, a society was charging Rs 20,000, which has risen to Rs 30,000 this year..." said Singh, who has a family of three.

A joint 'Housing Price-Tracker Report Q1 2023' report by realtors' apex body CREDAI, real estate consultant Colliers, and data analytic firm Lias Foras shows that housing prices in Delhi-NCR rose the maximum, by 16%, in January-March among top 8 cities on better demand and higher construction cost. Residents also pointed to Signature View Apartments in Delhi, which is set to be demolished on November 30 after it was found structurally unsafe. In that case, the HIG/MIG flats will be rebuilt and for those who opted to vacate, the Delhi Development Authority would pay them rent to cover rental costs till they get repossession. "If Delhi has such a policy after the L-G's order, why can't the administration do something similar," said Vikram Gambhir, a resident.

However, ADC Hitesh Kumar Meena, who also heads the district committee probing the Chintels matter, said rent will be borne by the



On Feb 10 last yr, a portion of a flat in Tower D collapsed, killing two women. Archive

WHAT DO THE REPORTS SAY

TOWER D: The IIT-Delhi report dated Oct 25, 2022, said it was not safe for habitation, pointed to high chloride content in concrete, and said repairs may not be technically and economically feasible

■ "Since signs of corrosion of reinforcement are visible in all towers of the project, the committee reiterates that remaining towers A, B, C, E, F, G, H and J) be vacated until completion of ongoing investigations in the interest of the safety of residents."

■ The SIT agreed with the IIT report and was of the view that the tower should be permanently closed

TOWER E, F, G, H: Reports state there is rapid and widespread corrosion of reinforcement almost throughout the structure. Repairs are not feasible; structure not safe

TOWER A: Jan 29 IIT-Delhi report said Tower A visually appears to be in a better condition than towers D, E and F that have already been tested. However, in case of chloride-induced corrosion of reinforcement, appearances can be deceptive. It is recommended the tower be closely monitored for any signs of acceleration of corrosion

builder till the final settlement only after the resident agrees to the option presented by the builder. "The value (Rs 6,500 per sqft) was ascertained through careful valuation. The money the builder is willing to pay is not less than what they purchased it for," he said.

Meena added that the structural audit report of Tower J, which was sent to IIT-Delhi, was similar to that of towers A, B, and C. "In two meetings with residents on Friday, I heard grievances of those residing in A, B, C, and J; they were apprehensive about some maintenance and electricity supply issues. We had informed residents of towers G and H that they needed to vacate... we gave them time... We issued the vacation order invoking the Disaster Management Act as some people

had still not moved out," the ADC said.

The towers, meanwhile, are emptying out. At Tower G with 56 flats, 10 are occupied. Some like Vijay Prakash (72), however, are determined to stay put. Prakash retired from SBI as a manager with Rs 70 lakh. His family bought a flat in Tower G in May 2018. With the EMI for the loan still hanging over his head, he is awaiting a rehabilitation plan. "We purchased it at Rs 6,500 (per sqft) when this was a barren stretch. We won't leave until we get the market value or rehabilitation," he said.

For Gambhir (68), a resident of Tower D until the collapse, his troubles have only multiplied. He was allocated a flat in Tower C for free following an agreement by the builder with the flat owner. In June, he received a call from his landlord saying he had not got rent for two months. "I said the builder was supposed to pay... A few days later, the landlord filed a case against me. Now I have to follow up on this case and await the Supreme Court verdict," said Hooda.

A March 29 letter by the RWA to the Department of Town and Country Planning said when the first residents moved in 2017, they observed structural issues in their flats. A group of residents, including RWA president Rakesh Hooda, from Phase 1 Towers (D, E, F, G & H) then got an audit done. "When the report flagged issues, seven of us spoke with the builder and got upgraded flats in towers constructed in the second phase (A, B, C, and J), but by paying a little more," said Hooda.

The letter also refers to an incident in July 2021, when a portion of the ceiling fell in front of the lift lobby of the fourth floor in Tower H. Hooda said they had filed a complaint with police and complained to the DTP(E), but no action was taken. DTP (E) officials said they could not comment on the issue and were not aware as others were in office at the time. A Gurgaon Police spokesperson said all cases related to Chintels were being handled by the CBI and did not comment on the probe.

Chintels India VP, JN Yadav, said, "We have already extended the settlement offer to all residents of Phase 1... We have already settled with 118 residents which are in various stages — 56 have received 100% monetary settlement, 43 have received 10% and 19 have signed consent forms."

THE CASE SO FAR

2016/2017: Chintels received occupancy certificate for Phase 1 in 2016 and for entire complex, including Phase 2, in 2017

2017: First residents moved in. At that time, they observed visible structural issues in their flats — cracks in ceilings and balconies, tiles, deflection in balconies etc. A group of residents from Phase 1 Towers (D, E, F, G & H) got a structural audit done for individual flats. As per the report submitted in December 2017, sample Towers D & E were unsafe for residential purposes. Five owners were offered a swap of flats in Towers A and B



JULY 2021: Portion of ceiling fell in front of lift lobby on fourth floor at Tower H

FEB 10, 2022: Sixth floor at Tower D collapsed all the way to the first, killing two women and injuring a man

MARCH 12, 2022: Preliminary report by IIT-Delhi finds structural deficiencies in Tower D

APRIL 5, 2022: Petition filed in SC
SEP-OCT, 2022: Interim report submitted on September 20, final report on October 25, states "collapse occurred due to lack of proper measures, such as propping of slabs at time of repair". The report also stated that 8 remaining towers be vacated until completion of ongoing probe

NOV 5, 2022: DC orders demolition of Tower D

DEC-JAN 2023: First arrest by SIT of proprietor of firm that was carrying out repair and renovation. Case forwarded to CBI by Centre. CBI lodges FIR against managing director Ashok Solomon

APRIL-JULY 2023: Builder provides two options for residents of four towers (D, E, F, G) declared unsafe — buyback and reconstruction of flats. Withdraws second option on July 17



Residents at the Gurgaon DC office on Friday. Abhinav Saha

In 'safe towers', residents struggle to sell their flats

AISWARYA RAJ
GURGAON, OCTOBER 14

EVEN AS residents of five towers at Chintels Paradiso have been asked to vacate in the wake of structural deficiencies, three towers, A, B, and C, appear to be in the clear — for now. This, however, has not offered any reassurance to residents of these flats, who are trying to either sell the units they paid for or move somewhere safer.

In 2013, when the project was yet to begin, an NRI purchased a luxury unit — a 4BHK in Tower B — for Rs 2.5 crore. She was handed possession a few years later.

"This was where I had planned to stay when I returned to India. I rented it to someone from the same society when their tower was declared unsafe, but he moved out... Now, there are no tenants or purchasers. Brokers I approached told me no one was interested in the property and it would not fetch the market value as Chintels has put a price for other flats at Rs 6,500 (per sqft). We didn't buy this flat to reach this juncture when an annual audit will be carried out to assess the safety..." she said, on condition of anonymity. She added that she visited the Chintels office, where a staffer told her the matter was in the SC and did not comment further.

For Varun Dhamija (44) from Tower C, who moved to a new flat he purchased recently, his attempts to sell the Chintels property since April have borne no fruit. "There are no buyers; banks are not ready to give loans to anyone looking to buy property from Chintels... Meanwhile, as we pay for maintenance, the builder is not providing any services at all. On October 2, residents stepped out and mowed the lawns themselves," he added.

Amandeep Singh locked up his home on October 2 and left for a flat in the same sector where he stays with his family of five on rent. His connection with Chintels dates back

to 2018 when he was a tenant who later purchased a property in 2021, just months before the collapse. "I want my flat back... I won't let any authority enter my property without my permission," Singh said.

Like many in his tower, Singh is adamant he would not accept the builder's buyback option. He now pays a rent of Rs 40,000 along with the EMIs for the loan he took to purchase the flat. "My father had to undergo surgery and we had to prioritise his health before this. On top of this, we were witness to issues such as damage to the main door that made us feel unsafe. So, we shifted when we could, but I want them to reconstruct a new flat in the same place. Unless the SC verdict is out, I won't settle for any option," he said.

For Tower A, the IIT-Delhi report said there is a high risk of corrosion of reinforcement in a large part of the structure due to the presence of chlorides.

"... Since it is known that the process of corrosion accelerates after first external signs are visible, there is a potential for very rapid deterioration... Tower A visually appears to be in a better condition than towers D, E and F which have already been tested. However, in the case of chloride-induced corrosion of reinforcement, appearances can be deceptive," it states, seeking authorities to carry out an annual assessment.

Similar were the findings for B and C while a report on Tower J is awaited. Recently, the DTP (E) wrote a letter to the builder seeking an assessment of towers B and C from the CBR.

Meanwhile, the kin of the two women who died in the collapse last year have moved away. One of them, wishing not to be named, said they moved to a home in South Delhi. "I have no connection with the builder or residents or the society anymore. I have not gone back to that place even once after the incident," he said.

₹12,500/SQFT
rate of the property in a society built in the same year as Chintels

Rent for an unfurnished 3BHK in any society varies, some even start from
₹65,000



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Southern Star Jewellery began in 2012 with the mission to provide customers in Delhi with real gold at honest prices while safeguarding them from unethical industry practices. Our story is deeply intertwined with a legacy of integrity and community.

Southern Star Group is more than just a business; we are a service to society. Our commitment goes beyond selling jewellery and extends to fostering trust, delivering quality and ensuring transparency. Our unique identity as a margin-free jewellery company was born from a vision to revolutionise the jewellery industry. We offer gold rates even lower than the already competitive rates in Kerala, renowned as the lowest rates in India.

What are the reasons for the brand's success and ever-growing popularity among a rapidly expanding, loyal client base?

The colossal success and enduring popularity can be attributed to several key factors:

■ **Commitment to Co-operative Principles:** The fact that our shareholders are some of our well-wishers and the working staff of the jewellery company creates a unique bond of ownership and accountability. This ensures that every team member is deeply invested in delivering the best to our customers.

■ **Margin-Free Approach:** By eliminating traditional markups, we offer real gold at real prices. This commitment to transparent and fair pricing has earned us people's trust and also set a new industry standard.

■ **Diverse Collections:** Our extensive range of jewellery collections draws inspiration from the rich heritage of Kerala, the

glamour of Bombay, the artistic traditions of Tamil Nadu and Calcutta and the opulence of Gujarat. This diverse selection caters to both modern and traditional design preferences, allowing us to connect with a diverse customer base.

■ **Customer-Centric Approach:** From personalised consultations to exceptional after-sales support, our focus has always been on creating outstanding experiences. This has not only led to repeat business but also enthusiastic word-of-mouth referrals.

■ **Community and Loyalty:** Our commitment to cooperative principles extends beyond our team to our clients. Many of our customers become part of our community, sharing our values and promoting our brand through their loyalty and advocacy.

We've also bolstered authenticity through a bar code system and offer a free lifetime maintenance service, fostering lasting customer loyalty and trust. These pillars underpin our brand's growth and resonate with our expanding and devoted clientele.

In a country where buying gold is considered an investment and represents a financial support system and in light of rising gold prices, do you offer any schemes to your customers?

At Southern Star Jewellery, we recognise the cultural and financial importance of gold in India, and we offer three unique schemes to make gold and diamonds more accessible to our valued customers:

Nidhi—a monthly gold scheme with no making charges, Solitaire for high-quality diamonds with a bonus and Mine for 24-carat coins/bars with flexibility and bonuses.

These schemes reflect our commitment to providing accessible and affordable gold and diamond options to our customers while offering financial benefits.

India is one of the world's largest consumers of gold jewellery while simultaneously being one of the most



P R Nair, Founder & Chairman

competitive markets. What sets Southern Star Jewellery apart from other jewellery brands?

One of the key factors of our success is our competitive pricing strategy. We understand the regional variations in gold rates, and this allows us to offer competitive rates to our customers. For instance, the gold rate in Kerala is typically lower than in Delhi due to the intense competition in Kerala. As a result, our rates in Delhi are comparatively lower by Rs 1000 to 2200 per *thola* (10 grams) than other Delhi rates. This approach ensures that our customers receive the best value for their investment in gold jewellery. Beyond competitive rates, we maintain transparency in our pricing structure. We don't burden our customers with excessive design charges, polish charges, or hidden stone charges. This straightforward and honest approach to pricing builds trust among our customers. With an unwavering commitment to quality, we exclusively sell BIS HUID Hallmarked gold/diamond ornaments, ensuring that our customers receive authentic products.

■ **Reputation and Trustworthiness:** Research the reputation of the jeweller and read reviews from other customers. Our success at Southern Star is built on the trust of our clients, and we take pride in our commitment to ethical business practices.

■ **Avoid Unrealistic Offers:** Be cautious of deals that seem too good to be true. Extremely low prices may indicate fraud. We aim to bring real gold at a real price, eliminating the temptation of profiteering.

■ **Understanding Market Prices:** Stay informed about the current market rates for gold. This knowledge will help you make informed decisions and avoid overpaying.



■ **Receipts and Documentation:** Always ask for proper receipts and documentation for your purchase/sale. This ensures accountability and can be helpful for future references.

■ **Transparency in Pricing:** Ensure the price of the jewellery is transparent as hidden charges can lead to misunderstandings. At Southern Star, we have a transparent pricing system and affordable prices.

■ **Quality Assurance:** Look for jewelers who prioritise quality. Check if the jeweller has quality control measures in place. Southern Star places a high priority on quality and undergoes regular inspections to maintain consistency in quality and quantity.

Moreover, we employ advanced spectrometers to verify the purity of our gold, assuring our customers of the highest standards and authenticity in every piece of jewellery.

■ **Long-term Relationships:** Building a long-term relationship with a trusted jeweller can provide you with added security and benefits.

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■ **Long-term Relationships:** Building a long-term relationship with a trusted jeweller can provide you with added security and benefits.

Southern Star Jewellery is renowned for its affordable, flawlessly designed, elegant, timeless jewellery that is crafted to perfection alongside its unswerving commitment to quality and transparency. How does the brand ensure that it delivers the best quality with utmost transparency?

Southern Star Jewellery implements rigorous quality control measures at every stage of production and sells only BIS HUID Hallmarked gold ornaments, guaranteeing purity and authenticity. Transparent pricing practices, with no hidden costs, help customers make informed decisions, while regular inspections and scrutiny maintain consistency in quality and quantity. Southern Star's corporate license from BIS demonstrates its dedication to industry standards. Moreover, the brand's mission includes educating customers about unethical practices in the jewellery industry, fostering trust and transparency, and building long-term

relationships with its clientele.

What are the plans for the future of the jewellery brand that has gone from strength to strength over the years and has continuously expanded its reach through new branches?

Our core focus remains to deliver affordable, elegant, and timeless jewellery to our valued customers. Our commitment to a customer-centric approach, transparency, and stringent quality control continues to be our guiding principles.

We aim to inform customers about ethical practices within the jewellery industry, fostering trust and transparency. Through embracing technological advancements, we intend to bring convenience and innovation to our customers, ensuring an enriched shopping experience. Additionally, we are actively engaged in our local communities, supporting causes that align with our principles.

The future of Southern Star Jewellery is characterised by dedication to delivering exceptional jewellery while eliminating unethical practices in the industry. Our brand stands as a blend of tradition and progress, ready to take on the exciting opportunities ahead.

With Navaratri around the corner, what are the new collections and offers that Southern Star Jewellery has in store to make the celebratory time extra special for its customers?

As we celebrate the arrival of the festive season, we've meticulously curated an exquisite array of festive collections within this opulent space. Drawing profound inspiration from India's rich and diverse cultural tapestry, each piece reflects the intricacies and beauty of different regions. Southern Star Jewellers also specialises in silverware and brass items, including statues and showpieces. Step into our showrooms in Karol Bagh, Dilshad Garden, Janak Puri, Pitampura, and Green Park, and immerse yourself in the captivating world of Southern Star Jewellers, where every piece tells a story of heritage, craftsmanship, and unparalleled beauty.



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After the slip, the nuance: Congress does a rethink on Israel resolution, condemns Hamas

Days after working committee resolution's silence on Hamas or its terror attack, party says: "The Congress unequivocally condemns the attack on the innocent civilians of Israel by Hamas"

THE NEERJA CHOWDHURY COLUMN
Weekly insight into what's changing in national politics — and why

AS THE conflict between Israel and Hamas intensifies and the horrifying scale of the October 7 attack on civilians emerges, there is growing disquiet in a section of the Congress about the working committee (CWC) resolution from earlier this week that did not mention Hamas or condemn the terror attack.

In fact, the first step towards what can be seen as a course correction has come. Sources in the party said how the resolution, first reported by The Indian Express, came to be issued was now being "investigated" and there was a move towards taking a more nuanced position closer to the one taken by the party's communications chief Jairam Ramesh.

Without referring to the CWC resolution, or Ramesh's comments, Congress spokesperson Pavan Khera late

on Friday told The Indian Express, "The Congress unequivocally condemns the attack on the innocent civilians of Israel by Hamas."

Khera's statement went beyond Ramesh's formulation that had condemned the "brutal attacks" on Israelis but without naming Hamas as the perpetrators. And it was much stronger than the CWC resolution that had been silent about Hamas or its terror attack on Israel. "We have always believed," Khera continued, "that the legitimate aspirations of the people of Palestine for a life of self-respect, equality and dignity can only be fulfilled through a process of dialogue and negotiations ensuring national security for the people of Israel."

With Khera's words, the Congress has come out with three statements on the war in a week, showing the differences within that it has tried to synthesise. Former Union Home Minister P Chidambaram, however, felt that both the statements — Ramesh and the CWC

resolution — should be "read together" and both sides must stop the violence. He said it was the BJP that had changed its position, first by supporting Israel and then talking about the rights of the Palestinians.

Talking to four senior Congress leaders, it became evident that after the conflict was discussed in the CWC, a brief resolution was drafted and amendments made before being distributed among the members of the body. To get around the differences on the issue, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge decided the resolution would not be passed, saying the CWC should stick to discussing the demand for a caste census. "There was even a thumping of desks at this (welcoming Kharge's decision). Rahul Gandhi also thumped the table agreeing with this decision," said a senior leader.

Another senior Congress functionary said the resolution was not supposed to be made public, admitting, "We don't know how it happened, and

who did it." While some Congress leaders acknowledged that "it (the CWC resolution) did not represent the prevalent view, some mischief was done and the resolution was released", others labelled it a faux pas.

"Mistake or mischief, that (not condemning Hamas) is not our stand," said a senior Congress leader. "A terror attack is a terror attack. There is no way the party can condone an attack on civilians."

It was Ramesh who first took a nuanced position on behalf of the party. He condemned the "brutal attacks on the people of Israel" while reasserting India's support for the "legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people for a life of self-respect, equality and dignity".

Significantly, he was also not critical of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement that India stands with Israel at its most difficult moment. This represented a change in the Congress's position. In the recent past, the party has criticised the government for supporting

Israel at the cost of Palestinians.

Changing India-Israel ties

As geopolitical realities changed over the years and India's relationship with Israel, and the US, deepened, the Congress position underwent a subtle shift. It was Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao of the Congress who first established diplomatic ties with Israel in 1992 and announced it while Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat was in India (Rao had taken Arafat into confidence).

Under Narendra Modi, the relationship reached a new level. The I2U2 group — a grouping of India, Israel, the US, and the UAE that is sometimes called the West Asian Quad — and the recently forged IMEC (the India-Middle East-Europe) Economic Corridor are signs of this change.

But one thing is clear. Both the BJP and the Congress need to resist the temptation of using this conflict for their politics —

either the Congress glossing over Hamas's attack or the BJP equating the militant group with Islam and terrorism. For, Hamas cannot be equated with ordinary Palestinians, who deserve better. No matter how great the provocation, Israel too will also need to exercise restraint. Otherwise, the efforts for a peaceful resolution of this complex conflict will be set back by generations.

The Congress's course correction on Friday is not just a case of "der aaye durust aaye (better late than never)". It also brings both the ruling party and the main Opposition party on the same page after a very long time. While there may not be a consensus on the issue within the Congress, there is a consensus on the issue between the Congress and the BJP, for a change.

Neerja Chowdhury, Contributing Editor, The Indian Express, has covered the last 10 Lok Sabha elections. She is the author of the recently published How Prime Ministers Decide

CPM, Congress in credit war over Vizhinjam port

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, OCTOBER 14

The docking of a cargo ship at the under-construction Vizhinjam International Seaport Project, the country's first deepwater transshipment port, has triggered a war of words between Kerala's ruling CPI(M) and Opposition Congress over the origins of the state's ambitious infrastructure project.

Earlier this week, project cargo vessel Zhen Hua 15, called at Vizhinjam port, which is located near Thiruvananthapuram. The docking of the Hong Kong-flagged heavy load carrier, which was carrying ship-to-shore cranes to be erected at the port, is being seen as a demonstration that the port is geared up to receive motherships.

The Rs 7600-crore multipurpose seaport project is being executed by Adani Ports and SEZ Private Limited on a design, build, finance, operate and transfer (DB-FOT) model. The first phase of the project is expected to become operational in December 2024.

In 2015, when the state's Congress government had inked the deal with the Adani Group, the CPI(M), which was then in Opposition, had objected to making a deal with the lone bidder. The party had at the time called it a land scam being perpetrated at the cost of the livelihood of fisherfolk.

In that context, the Congress targeted the ruling party ahead of a formal event scheduled to be held on Sunday to mark the maiden call of a ship at the port. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal are among the dignitaries expected to be present on the occasion.

Opposition Leader V D Satheesan of the Congress said the Vizhinjam port would be marked as a testament to the willpower of the late Oommen Chandy, former chief minister and Congress leader.

"We are happy that the project is getting ready. When the Chandy government in 2015 inked the deal with Adani for the project, Vijayan had then alleged that it was a land scam. Later, the Vijayan government ordered a judicial probe into it. But nothing emerged out of the probe. The Vijayan government had even torpedoed the rehabilitation package for the fishermen," he said.

However, CPI(M) state secretary M V Govindan said on Saturday that the seaport was a success story of the LDF government. "The port will speed up the overall growth of the state. The CPI(M) and the LDF will conduct celebrations across Kerala at the local level on Sunday to mark the docking of the vessel," he said. He maintained that the "Left has been of the stand that the port is essential for Kerala's development".

"The project started during the CPI(M) government led by E K Nayanar. During the previous UDF government, the Left had opposed corruption under the guise of the project. Those who are now trying to usurp credit for the port project had even threatened to launch an agitation at Vizhinjam. The party, as well as the LDF, have always taken a firm stand in favour of the seaport," he said.

Taking to X, Vijayan posted Saturday: "The inaugural vessel, Zhen Hua 15, is set to dock at Vizhinjam International Port. Boasting container transshipment capabilities and proximity to major shipping routes, it's a game-changer for Kerala's infrastructure and development. Vizhinjam Port aims to handle one million containers annually, surpassing even Singapore. This remarkable project is poised to attract investments and create numerous job opportunities, further contributing to the nation's pride."

As per the initial agreement, the project was supposed to be operational by 2019. Port sources said the overall physical progress of the project as of now is 65.46 per cent.



Meghalaya CM Conrad K Sangma and TIPRA Motha party leader Pradyot Kishore Debbarma (second from left) at Khumulwng in West Tripura district on Saturday. ANI

In a first, Conrad Sangma backs TIPRA Motha Party over 'Greater Tipraland'

DEBRAJ DEB
AGARTALA, OCTOBER 14

Meghalaya Chief Minister and National People's Party (NPP) chief Conrad Sangma on Saturday joined a mega gathering at Khumulwng - the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council's (TTAAD) headquarters - organised by the TIPRA Motha party in a first show of support for the demand of a 'Greater Tipraland' in the NE region.

He said he came to extend his support for the tribal statehood demand as a first step to show unity and solidarity in Northeast India.

At Khumulwng Syndicate Grounds, Sangma said, "Many people have asked me why I am coming here. I told them I am coming to meet my Tiprasa (Tripuri tribals) brothers and sisters. I don't need anyone's permission for that. I have come to support Tiprasa brethren in the struggle against their grievances and difficulties. Different indigenous people live here in the NE. Different leaders in the region including BK Hrangkhawl in Tripura, Zoramthanga from Mizoram or PA Sangma from Meghalaya raised different issues of tribals. Though our roads are different, our target is one. We have undertaken different steps for the one destination."

The TIPRA (Tiphra Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance) Motha was formed in

2021 over the demand of a Greater Tipraland state for tribals of Tripura and swept the tribal council polls in 2021 two months after it was floated.

While the tribal party had teamed up with the opposition Congress and CPI(M) in addition to engaging in dialogue with the BJP-led central government over its statehood demand, no other party had until now extended support to Motha's political demand. A gathering of nearly 20,000 people was seen on Saturday.


While Sangma happens to be the only significant leader of any regional party in power in the NE region to have supported TIPRA Motha leader Pradyot Kishore Debbarma's statehood demand so far, a team of NPP legislators including Banteidor Lyngdoh, Sanjay Sangma, Albin Marak and Subir Marak were seen accompanying him at the event and expressing solidarity with the Tipra Motha.

"We need to be unified to make sure your demands are raised in the Parliament for a Constitutional solution. A team of MLAs from Meghalaya are with me who came for the first time here. We are not against any community but we have come to show solidarity to the cause of indigenous communities of Tripura," Sangma said.

Sangma added while his visit to Saturday's rally was the "first step to show unity of Northeast", the potential to consider it politically would be explored later.



Government of Haryana

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pioneer of socialism & sculptor
of a unique society who blessed
humanity with the mantra of
'एक रुपया, एक ईंट'
Maharaja Agrasen Ji
on his Birth Anniversary
October 15, 2023

“ महाराज अग्रसेन सामाजिक समरसता के प्रणेता और सच्चे कर्मयोगी थे। मानव कल्याण, परोपकार और गरीबों के उत्थान के लिए महाराज अग्रसेन के कार्य हमेशा देशवासियों को प्रेरित करेंगे। ”
- नरेन्द्र मोदी



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WORLD STUDENTS' DAY



Power of education: Empowering future leaders

While celebrating the everlasting legacy of the Missile Man of India, who motivated young students to pursue their dreams, World Students' Day celebration serves as a reminder of education's transformative power and the need to support students in their journey of learning and self-discovery

THE late former President of India, Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, believed in the power of education and the potential of students to bring about significant changes in society. He believed education can make society a better place to live in. He believed that the youth would contribute to India's growth if they were well-nurtured and educated. While he dedicated his entire life to serving the nation as a scientist, and as a teacher, Dr Kalam consistently engaged with students across the country to inspire them with his scientific, academic as well as spiritual guidance.



World Students' Day commemorates the Indian aerospace scientist, educator and statesman's focus on promoting education

World Students' Day is celebrated on October 15 every year on the birth anniversary of the 11th President of India, fondly remembered as the People's President — Dr Kalam. It commemorates the Indian aerospace scientist, educator and statesman's unwavering focus on promoting the cause of student welfare and education.

Celebrating youth's potential With the World Students' Day celebrations spanning the length and breadth of the country, a wide spectrum of celebratory activities and events take centre stage in various educational campuses. From a range of competitions and campaigns to students' speeches, debates and discussions alongside the participation of stu-

dents in different types of competitive sports flavour the observance of the day that is dedicated to students. Raising awareness of the exemplary life and contributions galore of Dr Kalam marks the observance of the day at almost every World Students' Day celebration inspiring generations

of youth every year.

The inspirational life of Dr. Kalam

Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam — the recipient of seven honorary doctorates from 40 universities alongside the Hoover Medal, the Von Braun Award, the Padma Bhushan, the Padma Vibhushan and the Bharat Ratna — rose to the prestigious position of the head of state of the Republic of India from humble beginnings.

Kalam was Born on October 15, 1931, as the youngest of four brothers and one sister in Tamil Nadu's Rameswaram in a Tamil Muslim family to Jainulabdeen Marakayar, a boat owner and a local mosque's imam, and Ashiamma. A bright and hardworking student with a passion for learning, he studied physics and aerospace engineering and paved the way for many milestones for

the country in his realm of expertise, which led to him being known as the Missile Man of India alongside essaying a defining role in India's Pokhran-II nuclear tests in 1998.

After serving as the 11th president in 2002, he resumed his civilian life. He also delivered a lecture at the prestigious Indian Institute of Management in Shillong.

Dr Kalam once said, "I was a disadvantaged child from a non-educated family yet I had the advantage of being in the company of great teachers."

In light of his remark, "If the people remember me as a good teacher that will be the biggest honour for me" the annual celebration of World Students' Day on October 15 — Kalam's birthday — since 2010 is an apt occasion to celebrate the Bharat Ratna recipient's dedication and contribution to the field of education and research, his fondness of teaching and his commitment to advancing education as a tool for progress.

DIAS starts scholarship programme for 100 girls

ESTABLISHED in 2005 under the DP Vajpayee Education Foundation, DIAS has been a beacon for students, embodying the vision of Empowering Youth and Transforming India. Since 2009, it has operated as DIAS India Edutech Pvt Ltd, continuing its legacy of excellence in civil services examination and setting a benchmark for itself as a leader in science optional.



DP Vajpayee
Founder, Chairperson, DIAS

D P VAJPAYEE, the Founder, Director, Chairperson and CEO of DIAS India Group mentors students in Physics and Mathematics optional, Constitution, Polity and Governance CPG to numerous aspirants. His educational journey — a B.Tech from IIT-Bombay, an MPhil from JNU, and an LLB — showcases his commitment to academic excellence.

In commemoration of Yugpurush Atal Bihari Vajpayee's 100th birth anniversary, DIAS India proudly announces a 100 per cent free coaching programme for 100 girls. The selection will be merit-based, with the scholarship test scheduled for October 29, 2023. The programme,

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DIAS is renowned for its science optionals, along with history and sociology, as well as GS subjects. It stands as a testament to fostering holistic development and academic excellence. With its scholarship programme, DIAS reiterated its commitment to nurturing future leaders and continues its legacy of excellence in education.

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LEARNING gives creativity. Creativity leads to thinking. Thinking provides knowledge. Knowledge makes you great." - Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam

On the occasion of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam's birth anniversary, we are reminded of his inspirational words that continue to guide us. Dr. Kalam, the People's President and a great visionary, believed in the power of dreams, thoughts, and actions.

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On this special day, we pay tribute to Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam's enduring legacy by dedicating ourselves to the pursuit of knowledge and excellence.

Join us on this journey, and let us collectively dream, think, and act to transform our nation, just as Dr. Kalam envisioned.

Happy Birthday, Dr. Kalam!

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The Hindu Zone



Dr APJ Abdul Kalam once said, "Dreams transform into thoughts, and thoughts result in action." However, dreams require a mentor to shape the hard work into success. To address this, The Hindu Zone is organising a seminar on October 21, at 11 am, titled 'Prerna: Towards Success.'

All the aspirants are invited to attend this seminar for one-on-one interaction with top retired IAS officers and famous academicians to get the right career guidance and mentorship to achieve their dreams.

The panel will feature speakers such as Dr. Subramanian Lakshminarayanan IAS (Retd), Prabhat Chandra Chaturvedi IAS (Retd), Dr. Hardeep Singh IAS (Retd), Prof. (Dr.) S P Goyal, Dr. Bijendra Jha, Dr. Jitendra Kumar, and Mr. Vikas Gupta.

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8 GOVT & POLITICS

P20 Summit: India protests EU Manipur resolution

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 14

INDIA ON Saturday registered its protest on the European Parliament's recent move to bring a resolution on the Manipur issue. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla broached the issue during a bilateral meeting with European Union Vice-President Nicola Beer on the sidelines of the ongoing G20 Parliamentary Speakers Summit (P20).

Birla "underlined India's sovereignty and protested against bringing a proposal in the European Parliament on India's internal issues," as per a statement by his office on Saturday. He insisted that every nation and parliament is sovereign and their internal issues should not be discussed by others, the statement said.

On her part, Beer emphasised on closer relations between the European Parliament and India, adding that Europe is going through challenging times and sought India's cooperation.



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh and G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant with P20 delegates at Parliament House in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

In July this year, just ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to France for the Bastille Day Parade, the European Parliament had adopted a resolution on the human rights situation in India, with particular reference to the recent clashes in Manipur.

The Parliament in Strasbourg, France, had also called on Indian authorities to put in place measures to halt the ethnic and religious violence and to "protect all religious minorities".

The move was rejected by India as "unacceptable" and a re-

flexion of "colonial mindset". Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra had said that it has been made clear to EU parliamentarians concerned that it is a matter "absolutely" internal to India.

Condemning the violence, loss of life and destruction of

property in Manipur, the resolution titled 'India, the situation in Manipur' said it "denounces in the strongest terms nationalistic rhetoric deployed by leading members of the Bharatiya Janata Party."

India was also slated to raise the issue of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's statement in the nation's Parliament last month about India's alleged involvement in the killing of Khalistani separatist leader Hardeep Nijjar. Speaker of the Canadian Senate, Raymonde Gagne, skipped the Summit despite confirming her participation last week.

Birla also held several other bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the P20 Summit, which concluded on Saturday.

The statement from Birla's office said that during his meeting with Valentina Matvienko, Speaker of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of Russia, he noted the longstanding deep relations between the two countries and how they have stood together in times of crises.

During his talks with his Turkish counterpart Numan Kurtulmus, Birla mentioned Operation Dost as a symbol of India's friendship towards Turkey and hoped that the nation will soon recover from the damage caused by the recent earthquake.

He also commended Kurtulmus' views towards Mahatma Gandhi, noting the civilisational ties between India and Turkey.

Besides these, there were talks with Speakers and delegates from Singapore, Netherlands, South Africa and Mexico. The Ninth P20 Summit was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, and concluded with a valedictory address by Birla on Saturday.

During his address, Birla stressed on multilateralism, adding that in today's interconnected world, we cannot view any particular issue in isolation. On the conclusion of India's P20 presidency, India handed over the presidency to the Parliament of Brazil.

Ferry service from India to Sri Lanka resumes after 40 yrs

'It brings alive historical, cultural links'



Cheriyapani, a ferry that will run between Nagapattinam (India) and Kankesanthurai (Sri Lanka), on Saturday. PTI

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, OCTOBER 14

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi and Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe inaugurated a ferry service connecting India and Sri Lanka on Saturday, nearly four decades after the last such service was cancelled amid civil war in the island nation.

The ferry plies between Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu and Kankesanthurai in Sri Lanka's Jaffna.

"Connectivity is not only about bringing two cities closer. It also brings our countries closer, our people closer and our hearts closer," Modi said in a video message, in which he recalled Nagapattinam's rich history of maritime trade. He referenced the song Sindhu Nadihiyin Misai by the iconic Tamil poet, Subramania Bharati, that touches on a bridge between the two countries. "The ferry service brings alive all those historical and cultural links," Modi said.

The PM also provided a broader perspective on India's collaboration with Sri Lanka, saying fintech, energy, and digital payments were potential spheres of mutual benefit.

The ferry service was revived following Sri Lankan President Wickremesinghe's recent visit to India. In his video message, Wickremesinghe called it an important step towards strengthening the connectivity between India and Sri Lanka.



"People of both countries have travelled across the Palk Strait for many years... The ferry services operated in the past were suspended due to the civil war in Sri Lanka. Now, the connectivity has been re-established," he said.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, who also virtually addressed the inauguration, termed it a strategic initiative.

"The launch of the ferry service is a truly big step for boosting people-to-people contacts," he said. Emphasising on India's 'neighbourhood first' policy, he said the maritime initiative would foster enhanced connectivity, cooperation, and contact.

Furthermore, he invoked India's SAGAR (Security and Growth For All in the Region) policy, emphasising the country's role in maritime security, disaster response, and environmental safety.

The ferry, Jaishankar said, "underlines the assistance India has provided for the Kankesanthurai harbour". Union minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Tamil Nadu minister E V Velu were also at the event.

BJP says graft in Cong's DNA, Shivakumar hits back

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI/BENGALURU, OCTOBER 14

THE BJP ON Saturday alleged that corruption is embedded in the Congress party's DNA as it linked the party with a contractor from whose premises the Income Tax Department allegedly recovered Rs 42 crore in cash during a search operation in Bengaluru.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi on Saturday, Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar said, "Congress believes in fake guarantees, lies and corruption. Corruption is embedded in the DNA of Congress. We saw this in Karnataka, and now they want to use the same political strategy in Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan."

The BJP leader's allegations come a day after the Income Tax Department recovered over Rs 42 crore in cash, stashed in a residential premise in Bengaluru on Friday as part of its tax evasion searches against some Karnataka-based contractors and people linked to them.

Hitting out at the opposition, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar questioned why JD(S) and BJP leaders were behaving like the Income Tax Department's representatives. He pointed out that the IT department is yet to make an official statement regarding the searches, its outcome, and the recoveries made.

"They (BJP-JD(S) leaders) are speaking whatever they want. Let the Income Tax department give an official statement (on searches), let's speak after that. Kumaraswamy (JD(S) leader HD Kumaraswamy) or BJP leaders are not representatives of the Income Tax department, they are speaking as though they are its representatives," Shivakumar said.

CM LAUNCHES 4TH PHASE OF MISSION SHAKTI

Yogi: Women can achieve remarkable feats with willpower



UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath felicitates ISRO scientist Ritu Karidhal Srivastava in Lucknow on Saturday. Express

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 14

ASSERTING THAT women are capable of achieving remarkable feats with willpower and support from the government, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday launched the fourth phase of Mission Shakti and felicitated several women who have made significant contributions in diverse fields.

Adityanath said the state government has taken significant steps in this phase of Mission Shakti to promote the well-being of women. "In Indian tradition, three significant aspects of the Goddess, representing — truth, knowledge and happiness — are revered out of her nine forms," he said.

At Saturday's event, organised a day before Navratri begins, special guests Padmashree Hema Prabha Sotia, ISRO scientist Ritu Karidhal Srivastava, and HCL Chairperson Roshni Nadar Malhotra were felicitated; "symbolising these three goddess-like qualities," said Adityanath.

"Their presence at the event epitomises women's empowerment and underscores the belief

that with persistent effort, anything is achievable," Adityanath said at a function at Lok Bhavan here.

The Chief Minister emphasised the inspiring presence of Srivastava, a resident of Lucknow, during the event. He highlighted that her success underscores the notion that nothing is unattainable and that success is "a matter of effort and determination".

Adityanath pointed out that Sotia dedicated her life to connecting the north and the south, and communicated her message in Assamese, demonstrating that language should not be a barrier in expressing feelings. "Her dedication to handicrafts showcased empowerment," he said.

Malhotra was lauded for her significant contributions to the industry and through social work.

"Her success shows abundant possibilities across various fields, emphasising the importance of timely choices and dedicated pursuits," said the CM.

The CM highlighted the government's initiative 'Mission Shakti', which was commenced in 2020 to ensure the safety, dignity and self-reliance of women.

Gangs recruiting youths, blocked 6k social media handles: Punjab Police

MAHENDER SINGH
MANRAL
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 14

TO STOP the recruitment of youths by jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi and Canada-based terrorist, Arshdeep Datta through social networking sites, the Punjab Police informed the Ministry of Home Affairs, heads of the state police forces and anti-terror agencies that in the last three years they have blocked 6,000 social media accounts — on X, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and other platforms.

A two-day anti-terror conference was organised last week by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in Delhi where a presentation was shown by Punjab Police Inspector General of Police (Internal Security) Nilabh Kishore to Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla, Director of Intelligence Bureau Tapan Deka,

and heads of state police/anti-terror units.

In their presentation, the Punjab Police said they have a separate social media monitoring cell. "Since 2020 till September 30 this year, a total of 4,185 Facebook accounts/links, 513 Twitter accounts, 417 YouTube accounts/links, 118 accounts on Instagram, 214 websites, 14 Clubhouse, nine Telegram and 30 others on Snapchat, Signal and Wickr, have been reported to the concerned Facebook, Twitter and Google authorities," a source said citing Punjab Police data.

An NIA official said gangsters most active on social media are Lawrence Bishnoi, Sampat Nehra, Bhupi Rana, and Lucky Patiyal.

"Last month, Sukhdool Singh Gill alias Sukha Duneke, who was allegedly associated with the notorious Bambha gang, was shot dead in Canada's Winnipeg by unidentified as-

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, OCTOBER 14

SENIOR CONGRESS leader Sonia Gandhi and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin took centre stage at the DMK Women's Rights Conference in Chennai on Saturday evening, emphasising the need for women's empowerment and the pressing urgency for unity against "divisive forces ruling the country".

Beginning her address by commemorating the legacy of the late M Karunanidhi, former Tamil Nadu CM and DMK stalwart, Sonia said he was ahead of his time as a "champion of gender equality". She also com-



TN CM MK Stalin with Congress' Sonia Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi, DMK's Kanimozhi and others at the Womens Rights Conference, in Chennai on Saturday. PTI

mended the efforts of the Stalin-led DMK government in advancing women's rights in the state.

"Stalin has raised [women's participation in government serv-

ices] to 40 per cent and I commend him for this," she said.

Sonia reminded the audience of the sacrifices and strides made by leaders in the past for women's

rights. "The remarkable non-violent freedom struggle led by Mahatma Gandhi placed a strong emphasis on gender equality," she said. She also invoked Jawaharlal Nehru's words, saying, "If you educate a man, you educate an individual. However, if you educate a woman, you educate a whole family."

In his address, Stalin targeted the BJP, saying its promise of 33 per cent reservation for women in Parliament and legislatures was deceptive and insincere. He emphasised the importance of quotas for women from OBC and minority communities, and criticised the BJP for not including it in the Women's Reservation Bill.

"PM Narendra Modi seems in-

tent on establishing a single-party rule," he said, saying it was important for parties to be united to defeat the BJP.

"A united alliance, like the one in Tamil Nadu, should be formed in every state across India," he said. Among the leaders at the conference were the Congress's Priyanka Gandhi, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti, NCP MP Supriya Sule, Bihar MLA Leshi Singh of the JDU, Delhi Assembly Deputy Speaker Rakhi Birla of the AAP, Samajwadi Party MP Dimple Yadav, TMC leader Sushmita Devi, CPI(M) leader Subhashini Ali and CPI leader Annie Raja. The main organiser of the event was senior DMK MP Kanimozhi.

Recall, redeploy, reinvent: How INDIA is reclaiming socialist icons JP, Kanshi Ram and Karpoori Thakur

VIKAS PATHAK
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 14

THREE ICONS of social justice movements from the '60s and '80s — Jayaprakash Narayan, Kanshi Ram and Karpoori Thakur — have returned to the news over the last few days in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, with the Opposition demands for a caste census rising as the Lok Sabha elections approach.

On October 9, the Congress launched a Dalit Gaurav Samvad initiative across Uttar Pradesh. The one-and-a-half month Dalit outreach programme, timed with the death anniversary of BSP founder Kanshi Ram, seeks to spread his ideology.

This is striking as the BSP has been instrumental in wiping out the Congress from UP, weaning away the Dalits — an integral part of the grand old party's post-independence electoral formula

of upper castes, Muslims and Dalits in north India. Kanshi Ram, who died in 2006, in a stinging comment in Chamcha Age in 1982, attacked Dalits who did business with the Congress.

Earlier this year, the Samajwadi Party, whose key Yadav vote bank is considered a rival of the Dalits in the state, marked Kanshi Ram's birth anniversary on March 15 at the party headquarters.

Significantly, while the Congress has reversed its traditional line to embrace the demand for a caste census, and also backed proportionate reservation, it seems to have chosen to fete its once bete noire Kanshi Ram rather than Jagjivan Ram, the tallest Dalit leader from the party. The latter sought an integrative politics that chimed with the political ideology of the Congress, while the former charted a path of au-

tonomous Dalit politics that steered clear of the Congress, and was hostile to it.

In neighbouring Bihar, the Janata Dal (United) of Nitish Kumar has sent out teams of party workers and leaders for 'Karpoori Charchas (discussions on Karpoori Thakur)' across Bihar.

Thakur as chief minister of Bihar in 1977 had implemented the Mungeri Lal Commission report, to provide separate quotas for extremely backward and backward classes, thus sub-categorising the Backward classes. Earlier, he was the Deputy CM of Bihar in 1967, and the CM for a short while around 1970.

Choosing Thakur, a Naye, is a nuanced move for Kumar, whose recently commissioned Bihar caste survey has shown that the Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs) comprise 36% of the population in the state (the largest

group). Significantly, B P Mandal, the chairman of the second Backward Class Commission appointed in 1979, recommended a single OBC quota at the Centre in his 1980 report. Thus, the legacies of Mandal and Thakur, though similar in many ways, diverge in this crucial aspect — whose relevance is expected to increase in times to come.

On the one hand, Nitish's move tries to distinguish a constituency he has carved out as CM from the Muslim-Yadav vote bank of his ally the RJD; on the other, it also tries to safeguard the constituency from inroads being made by the BJP in recent years. Significantly, many questions on the veracity of the Bihar caste survey have been made by EBC and Dalit politicians, many of them close to the BJP.

In the last few days, yet another spectacle was the sight of SP chief Akhilesh Yadav scaling the wall of the Jai Prakash

Narayan International Centre in Lucknow on October 9, to pay floral tributes to the leader on his birth anniversary, after being denied permission to enter the premises by the police. JP, as he was called, is known for two things: being the underground hero of the Quit India Movement of 1942, after the arrest of the top leadership; and returning in 1974 two decades after renouncing politics, to lead an Opposition movement against Indira Gandhi. In between, the socialist-turned-Gandhian was involved mostly in social causes.

What is often glossed over while discussing the JP Movement — that saw the socialists, the breakaway Congress-O, the Bharatiya Lok Dal and the Jana Sangh, closing ranks against the Congress — is that it heralded the rise of a young OBC leadership in north India. Names like Lalu Prasad and Nitish rose from the movement.

BJP list has anti-conversion activists, people with riot links

JAYPRAKASH S NAIDU
RAIPUR, OCTOBER 14

THE BJP HAS sharpened its Hindutva push in Chhattisgarh, with a group of headline candidates forming the vanguard of the party's charge. These include a prime accused in the 2021 Kawardha communal violence, the father of a victim of a communal riot, and a former minister who is the face of the party's campaign against religious conversions.

The list includes two members of the family of the late Dilip Singh Judeo, a leader with RSS and VHP links known for the Ghar Wapsi campaign ("re-converting" people to Hinduism) he ran for over four decades.

Denouncing the BJP list, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said,

"They may try lakhs of times, but this (communal card) can't be an issue."

In the state where more than 90% of the population is Hindu, with Muslims and Christians nearly equal at around 2% each, the BJP can expect the Hindutva plank to help it in 51 of the total

90 seats. Out of the 85 candidates announced by the party already, none is a Muslim. Plus, with the anti-conversion pitch, it can expect polarisation to help it in tribal-dominated areas like Bastar.

Further toeing the line, the BJP's Chhattisgarh in-charge and MP, Arun Sao, described the Congress state government as "Bhupesh, Akbar aur Dhebar ki Sarkar".

The taunt was towards Raipur Mayor Aijaz Dhebar, whose brother Anwar is touted as the

kingpin of a Rs 2,000 crore liquor scam, and minister Mohammad Akbar, blamed by the BJP for the Kawardha incident.

To underline the point, the BJP has fielded Vijay Sharma — one of the prime accused in the Kawardha incident — against Akbar, who is a four-time MLA. A former district in-charge of Kawardha and a BJP state general secretary, Sharma was charged with 81 others for "destroying public property, rioting" and spent two months in jail.

Several calls to Sharma on Wednesday went unanswered. Similarly, Ishwar Sahu, father of Bhuneshwar, who was killed during communal violence in Bemetara district in August this year, has been given a ticket from Saja in Bemetara against seven-time MLA and Minister Ravindra Choubey.

FULL REPORT ON
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UP drugs case: S-I sacked, four cops suspended

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GORAKHPUR, OCTOBER 14

A POLICEMAN in Gorakhpur was dismissed from service after he and his associate were arrested for drug trafficking, a senior police officer said on Saturday. Four policemen from neighbouring Maharajganj district were suspended for aiding the duo to smuggle the charas (cannabis) procured from Nepal, the officer added.

Sub-Inspector Ravindra Shukla, a resident of Lucknow, was posted at the summon cell in Gorakhpur. He and his associate Khulveer Singh were arrested on Thursday and 33 kg of charas was seized from their possession, SP (city) K K Vishnoi said.

"Gorakhpur and Maharajganj police caught two smugglers with charas worth crores of rupees in international market. One of them works in the police department," the SP said.

The two were intercepted near Dharamshala police chowki while on their way to Asuran Chowk and booked under the NDPS Act, he said.

According to IGP (Gorakhpur range) J Ravindra Gaur, Shukla has been dismissed from service. Meanwhile, Maharajganj SP Kaustubh suspended four policemen on charges of negligence, indiscipline and misuse of powers.

CBI busts passport racket, raids 50 places in Bengal and Sikkim

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, OCTOBER 14

THE CENTRAL Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Saturday arrested two persons for allegedly accepting bribes and issuing passports on the basis of "false and forged" documents after conducting raids at several locations in West Bengal and Sikkim. The probe agency made the arrests after searches at around 50 locations including Kolkata, Darjeeling, Siligiri, Alipurduar and Gangtok.

A case was registered against 24 persons including a Deputy Passport Officer working at the Regional Passport Office in Kolkata, a Senior Superintendent posted at a Passport Seva Laghu Kendra in Gangtok, other public servants and private persons in connection with the case.

CBI claimed the accused were a part of nexus which also included passport agents and middlemen. "The accused were found issuing passports on the basis of false and forged identity documents submitted by the middlemen on behalf of those persons/applicants who are non-residents of India in lieu of illegal gratification," said the release.



Passports and other documents seized by CBI officials during searches. PTI

CBI allegedly recovered ₹1.90 lakh from Senior Superintendent, PSLK Gangtok, Goutam Kumar Saha while he was accepting a bribe from an agent based out of Siliguri, identified as Dipu Chetri. "Both were apprehended," CBI said.

Officials also recovered around ₹3.08 lakh from Saha. Searches were conducted at the premises of accused including public servants which led to recovery of incriminating documents.

PROTEST OVER 23-YEAR-OLD'S SUICIDE IN HYDERABAD

Personal reasons, say police; Gov asks for detailed report

RAHUL V PISHARODY & SREENIVAS JANAYALA
HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 14

HOURS AFTER the death of a 23-year-old unemployed woman in a private hostel in Hyderabad led to massive protests in the city late Friday night and saw hundreds hitting the street demanding justice for her, the Hyderabad police said on Saturday that she died by suicide due to personal reasons.

Protesters claimed that the woman, identified as Warangal native M Pravalika, was frustrated with the Telangana State Public Service Commission (TSPSC) Group 2 exams having been postponed in view of the coming Assembly elections.

While the Congress called for statewide agitations, Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan directed the chief secretary, the director general of police, and the TSPSC secretary to send a detailed report within 48 hours on the incident.

A senior police officer with the Hyderabad police told *The Indian Express* that the last person Pravalika spoke to before her death was a man who she was in a relationship with. The police collected her mobile phone for a

detailed examination. Her room-mates, police said, had gone out at the time of her death. "She was upset with her boyfriend over their relationship. She died by suicide at around 8.30 pm after talking to him," the officer said.

As news of her death spread, protesters laid siege to her hostel and prevented police from shifting the body until early Saturday morning.

Pravalika was a native of Bikkajipally village in Duggondi Mandal in Warangal district. She had been staying in Hyderabad for the last two years and preparing for the TSPSC's Group 2 exams. She moved into Brindavan Girls Hostel about two weeks ago and was scheduled to go home for Dussehra on October 22. According to officials, she had previously appeared for TSPSC Group 1 and Group 2 exams, but their results were cancelled over allegations of question paper leaks.

The Group 2 exams scheduled for November 2 and 3 were postponed by the TSPSC on October 10, on account of the Assembly elections to be held in Telangana on November 30.

On Saturday morning, after conducting a postmortem examination at Gandhi Hospital in Hyderabad, Pravalika's body was taken to her native village

and the final rites were completed before noon. Reacting to her death, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said he was "deeply anguished".

"Thousands of young aspirants in Telangana are frustrated and enraged due to the rank apathy of the BRS government in conducting examinations. Youngsters of Telangana hold the corrupt, inept, and inefficient BRS government accountable and will oust it from power in the state," he said on X.

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi said that if elected, the Congress government in Telangana would "release a job calendar, reorganise the TSPSC on the lines of UPSC in one month, and fill 2 lakh vacant government posts within a year".

After the protests erupted in Hyderabad Friday night, Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee president A Revanth Reddy warned the state government against suppressing the case.

Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan urged unemployed youth not to lose hope. "Pravalika's untimely demise is a poignant reminder of the challenges and pressures faced by young aspirants preparing for competitive exam," Soundararajan said in a statement.

Secretly recording wife's conversation: privacy invasion: HC

Sets aside family court's order last year on her petition for maintenance

JAYPRAKASH NAIDU
RAIPUR, OCTOBER 14

THE CHHATTISGARH High Court recently ruled that it is an invasion of privacy by a husband to record the conversation of his wife without her knowledge after hearing a petition filed by the woman, challenging a family court's order, allowing her husband for re-examining her in a maintenance case pending in the family court since 2019.

The 38-year-old petitioner moved the high court last year, challenging an order dated October 21, 2021 of a family court in Mahasamund district allowing her 44-year-old husband, a police constable, to re-examine her on the ground that certain conversation was recorded on the mobile phone and he wants to cross-examine by confronting her with the recorded conversation.

Although the petitioner was unclear about the conversation recorded by her husband, as per a source, the husband was trying to prove before the family court that she was committing adultery, and hence he could deny her maintenance once they are divorced.

Representing the petitioner,

advocate Vaibhav Goverdhan argued before the High Court judge, Justice Rakesh Mohan Pandey, that the family court's order infringes right to privacy of the woman and cited previous rulings of the Supreme Court and the High Court of Madhya Pradesh.

On October 5, Justice Pandey cited four previous judgments of the Supreme Court and High Court of Madhya Pradesh on the issue of recorded conversations used as evidence and ruled in the petitioner's favour.

"...it appears that the respondent has recorded the conversation of the petitioner without her knowledge behind her back which amounts to violation of her right to privacy and also the right of the petitioner guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution," an excerpt from the order read.

"Further, the Right of Privacy is an essential component of the right to life envisaged by Article 21 of the Constitution; therefore, in the opinion of this Court, the Family Court has committed an error of law in allowing the application under Section 311 of the CrPC along with the certificate issued under Section 65 of the Indian Evidence Act. The order passed by the Family Court is set aside."

Cong, SAD condemn Army's absence at Agniveer's funeral in Punjab

MANAMAN SINGH CHHINA
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 14



Amritpal Singh died of a gunshot wound to his head

THE ABSENCE of military guard of honour for Agniveer Amritpal Singh's funeral in his native village of Kotli Kalan in Mansa district of Punjab on October 13 has attracted criticism from the Congress, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), and others.

The Army, however, said that "the cause of death being a self-inflicted injury, no guard of honour or military funeral was provided, in accordance with existing policy".

Amritpal Singh had served with his unit, 10 Jammu and

Kashmir Rifles in Poonch area of Jammu and Kashmir when he died of a gunshot wound to the head on October 10.

On X, the Army said, "Agniveer Amritpal Singh died while on sentry duty in Rajouri Sector, due to a self-inflicted gun shot injury. Court of Inquiry to ascertain more details is in progress. Mortal remains of the deceased, accompanied by one Junior Commissioned Officer

and four Other Ranks, were transported in a Civil Ambulance hired by the Unit of the Agniveer. Accompanying Army personnel also attended the last rites. The cause of death being a self-inflicted injury, no guard of honour or military funeral was provided, in accordance with the policy."

Former Meghalaya Governor Satyapal Malik said the remains of Amritpal were brought to his village in an ambulance by a Havildar and two jawans and not Army vehicle. He said the villagers approached the district's SSP who arranged a police guard of honour for the Agniveer in the absence of Army personnel. He criticised the

Centre for denying the status of a 'martyr' to Agniveers.

On X, state Congress president Amrinder Singh Raja Warring said, "This is a sad day for our country as this who was recruited under the Agniveer scheme was sent back home in a Pvt ambulance & not given any guard of honour by the @adgpi. Does being an Agniveer mean that their lives don't matter as much?"

Senior SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia's on X said, "It is most tragic and unfortunate to see that due to the Modi Government's new Agniveer Policy first martyr of the country, only 19-year-old Amritpal Singh was not

even provided army ambulance to bring his body home. It is most shameful to note that even customary Guard of Honour was not provided to Martyr."

Majithia's went on to say that only the previous day the Union Home Minister had accepted that martyrs from Sikh community were at the forefront to save the country. "Keeping in view insensitive approach of Modi Government youth will desist from getting recruited under the scheme. Modi government should immediately stop this scheme," he said.

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on X said irrespective of the Centre's policies with

regard to the death of Agniveer Amritpal Singh, the Punjab government will consider him a martyr and as with any other martyr, will pay Rs 1 crore to the deceased's family and lodge protest with the Centre.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Brigadier BS Dhillon (retired), Director Sainik Welfare Punjab said that he was not aware of the reasons why there was no Army presence at the funeral. "We have received no intimation of any kind on this from the Army," he said.

The Defence PRO, Jammu, Lt Col Suneel Bartwal also said he was not aware why there was no Army presence at the funeral.

Anti-India forces left gasping: Sinha

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, OCTOBER 14

"THOSE ASSOCIATED with the anti-India, separatist and corrupt ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir are worried these days as the Central government and the J&K administration have left no space for them to breathe, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said after the inauguration of Apsara Road high street in Gandhi Nagar Friday.

Referring to an article on a news portal on the UT adminis-

tration awarding a multi-crore insurance contract to a private company under the PM Jan Arogya Yojana ignoring advice by its own departments, Sinha, without naming anybody, said the "writer of the article was himself an active part of the separatist ecosystem". He denied any irregularities in implementation of the PMJAY, saying that the government paid Rs 982 crore premium at the start. The company has so far distributed Rs 1,228 crore to the patients and 5.67 lakh patients have been treated under the scheme so far, he said.

Metropolis to Metropolis: Chef Rhythm Mahajan's journey to bring South Asian flavor to the West Coast

ADVERTORIAL



background. From basil lemongrass pink perch to goat neck and mushroom yakhni, nearly 10,000 people have fallen for the visual beauty and culinary excellence Mahajan's posts provide, and his comment sections are awash with praise.

Successful as his blog may be, Mahajan did not limit himself to the online sphere. In 2022, he accomplished his goal of attending the Culinary Institute of America and graduated with a degree in Culinary Arts. His tireless dedication to bringing exemplary presentation and flavor to the classroom marked him as unique amongst his peers—many instructors highlighted Mahajan's work, which incorporated the flavors of home with American and French techniques, as a sign of a bright and prosperous career. Given the exquisite and inventive flavors demonstrated on his page, it should be of no surprise that rising-star restaurant Anomaly SF was quick to seek him out as a chef. San Francisco is known for some of the best modern fine dining experiences in the world; any ambitious chef would jump at the opportunity to cook alongside the elites of their industry. Within their first year of operation, Anomaly was already Michelin-recommended, and Head Chef Michael Lanham credits Mahajan for much of their success: His signature dish of bay caught scallop with truffle panade, yuzu dashi and tarragon was pushed to the forefront of the rotating menu for four months, proving Mahajan's talent and exceptionally positive reception amongst diners.

By all standards, Rhythm Mahajan is truly a one-of-a-kind chef. To journey across continents in pursuit of a dream is by no means an easy task, regardless of what career one chooses to chase. However, it is certainly a testament to Mahajan's perseverance, culinary training, and raw talent that he has achieved such connections and praise in the United States. If his blog is anything to go by, -and it is- we can and should expect great things from Rhythm Mahajan and Anomaly SF.



As a sous-chef at the Michelin-recommended restaurant Anomaly SF based in the Bay Area, you have made your mark in the culinary world. How did your successful journey in the culinary industry start?

After completing my first two semesters at the Culinary Institute of America, I did a 4 month internship in NYC at ABC kitchen by Jean Georges. I learned the basics of the industry and the importance of hardwork there. My time there consists of some of the most cherished memories of kitchen life for me.

You are renowned for creating one-of-a-kind culinary works that mix traditional Indian flavors with French and American techniques, how would you describe your approach to creating menus that continue to delight connoisseurs of food?

When coming up with a new dish, I have an ingredient first mindset. We're trying to showcase produce or protein and make that the hero of the dish. Using flavors from India comes naturally to me, but I've been trained in classical french cuisine. We collaborate at the restaurant to come to a dish that can please everyone, but also surprise a few.

Having found success at a young age in the culinary world, what are your plans for the future?

For me, this is not success yet. I believe I have a long way to go, with so much to

learn and with several restaurants yet to be opened. I would like to showcase Indian Cuisine in a more refined light, both in India and Abroad. Food can tell stories and I want to tell stories of Delhi, Punjab and memories I have of growing up here.

Please talk us through your food blog and what inspired you to take time out from a fast-paced kitchen environment to blogging on food.

I started blogging right before my class 12th board examinations. All work and no play was making Rhythm a dull boy. I started posting online because I was studying really hard and needed to do something that I enjoyed. I carried on doing that in college and now, even during work I find time on the weekend to try to make people fall in love with food and cooking.

Having reached heights of success in your profession, what advice do you have for aspiring chefs who want to make it big in the culinary realm?

Most important is working hard, as this industry is very fast paced. We all have to earn our place in the kitchen and experience is the greatest teacher. If anyone wants to become a chef, working hard and trying new challenging recipes are the two things that will take you there. Being a good team player always helps, and if you're a born leader, you'll find yourself while working in a kitchen because that's where leaders thrive.



2 'smugglers' held in UP, 13 kg gold biscuits seized

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BHADOHI, OCTOBER 14

POLICE HAVE arrested two smugglers belonging to a gang involved in smuggling gold into the country with 13 kg of gold biscuits in their possession, an officer said on Saturday.

According to Superintendent of Police Minakshi Katyan, late Friday night, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence informed the district police that three smugglers were moving in a car carrying a huge cache of gold biscuits. The police launched search operations at several places. However, the smugglers suspected police action. They entered the district, parked their vehicle and fled with the goods. SP Katyan ordered the setting up of barriers at several points in the district. A team consisting of personnel from Police, SOG and DRI arrested two smugglers and seized gold biscuits from them. The two men told police their names were Rahul and Deepak and that both of them are from Maharashtra. A search is on for a third suspect, police said.

Punjab Police busts LeT terror module, arrest 2 J&K residents

KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR AMRITSAR, OCTOBER 14

THE PUNJAB Police, in a joint operation with central agencies, thwarted a possible terrorist attack by busting a Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT)-backed module and arresting its two operatives, DGP Gaurav Yadav Saturday said.

Police recovered two Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), as many hand grenades, one .30 bore pistol with two magazines and 24 cartridges, eight detonators, one timer switch and four batteries from their possession.

The terror module is being handled by Firdaus Ahmed Bhat, an active LeT member, the DGP said, adding the arrested accused have been identified as Uzair Ul Haq of Rahpora Khudwani and Raj Mohammad Andleeb of Kherwan, both in Jammu and Kashmir. Punjab Police had received intelligence inputs that the state border is being used by the LeT for smuggling a huge consignment of arms and explosives and their two members are expected to retrieve the cache in the area of Kathu Nangal. Based on inputs, the state special operation cell wing of Amritsar police and central agencies apprehended the duo with the weapon consignment, Yadav said.

Dalit man 'beaten up for refusing to pick up cow carcass' in Amethi

ASAD REHMAN LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 14

AN ELDERLY Dalit cobbler was allegedly assaulted by some upper caste men at Kurari Girdhar Shah village in UP's Amethi district Monday. The village has a predominantly Thakur population.

The victim, Achchebar Kumar, 66, was reportedly attacked after he refused to pick up a cow carcass. He has suffered a fracture in his leg along with other injuries.

The victim's son, Krishna Kumar, a daily wage, said the upper caste men left him near a canal in an unconscious condition after assaulting him for hours. "They treated him worse than an animal... Everyone saw what happened but no one is speaking up because of fear," added Kumar.

A case was lodged Monday against one Ashish Singh, 27, on a complaint from the victim's son under Sections 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 325 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt), and 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), and various sections of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

Speaking about the incident, Kumar said, "On Monday morning around 6.30 am, our neighbor Ashish Singh came to our house and asked my father to pick up the carcass of his cow from his house. My father told him that he does not do that work anymore owing



Achchebar Kumar suffered a fracture in his leg. Express

to his advanced age. He got enraged at this and used casteist abuses against my father. He picked up a bicycle pump and started hitting my father. No one intervened while he beat up my father. He then took my father to his house and he along with some others beat him up again. My father has a fractured leg and has injuries all over his body. His entire body has turned blue. The doctors at Sanjay Gandhi Hospital in Amethi have said that he will require surgery to fix the fractured bone..."

"The accused was arrested Tuesday and has been sent to judicial custody," said Circle Officer (Amethi) Lallan Singh, who is the investigating officer (IO) in the case. Lallan Singh added, "In their written complaint, the family only named one person, who has been arrested and sent to jail. If they name more accused, we will take further action."

UP school teacher arrested for 'inappropriately' touching girl

Accused suspended; departmental inquiry ordered

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 14

A 42-YEAR-OLD assistant teacher posted at a government primary school in Shahjahanpur district was arrested for allegedly touching a Dalit girl student inappropriately, local police said on Saturday.

The teacher, who was booked under IPC section 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty) and under provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, was sent to jail, police said.

An education department officer said the teacher has been suspended and a departmental inquiry was ordered against him.

"The girl's parents lodged a complaint that the teacher touched their daughter inappropriately. During the investigation, it was found other female students had similar complaints about the teacher. We registered a case on Friday under relevant sections and arrested the teacher around midnight on Friday. The teacher has been sent to jail," the Station House Officer (SHO) of the area police station said.

"We have, meanwhile, sent a report in this connection to the Basic Shiksha Adhikari as the ac-

cused was also holding the charge of the headmaster at the government school," the Station House Officer added.

Police said while the girl belongs to the Dalit community, the accused is from some other community.

Shahjahanpur Basic Shiksha Adhikari (BSA) Ranveer Singh said the teacher was recruited as an assistant teacher in 2016.

"I got to know about the matter over the phone on Friday morning. I visited the school and suspended the teacher. I have also constituted a three-member committee to investigate the matter, besides the ongoing police action. The committee will also have a woman official," Singh added.

BIHAR SCHOOL EXAMINATION BOARD

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (Through e-procurement mode only over https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in) Tender Notice No. - PR 369 / 2023

Bihar School Examination Board, Patna invites e-tenders under two bid systems from the reputed, experienced & technologically sound Firms / Companies / Agencies / Societies for "Hosting of Mobile and Web-based Application for Allocation of Answer Book, Attendance of Teachers, Online Marks Entry, Calculations of Remuneration of Teachers & Others services during the Evaluation process of Intermediate and Matric Examination (Annual & Compartmental)-2024."

Table with 3 columns: Scope of work, Cost of Tender Document, Tender Processing Fee, Earnest Money. It details the requirements for hosting mobile and web-based applications for the Bihar School Examination Board.

Tender Schedule / Programme:

Table with 2 columns: Particulars, Date/Time: Duration. It lists the schedule for tender documents, pre-bid meetings, and bid submissions.

Note:- BSEB reserves the right to Accept/ Cancel/ Reschedule tenders without assigning any reasons.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-AUCTION NOTICE

Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), East Central Dhanbad, on behalf of President of India invite open e-Auction through IREPS portal vide website www.IREPS.gov.in for awarding the contract. Details are as under:-

- i. Sr. No. (1), ii. e. Auction Catalogue: Publioty, iii. e. Auction Catalogue no.: PUB-10-23, iv. Scheduled date and time of e.Auction starting details: 27.10.2023 From 14:00 hrs. v. Details of work and name of station: Display of high quality lamination advertisement boards inside of coaches of train no. 13301/02. Display of high quality lamination advertisement boards inside of coaches of train no. 13303/04. Display of high quality lamination advertisement boards inside of coaches of train no. 13305/06.

All prospective bidder are advised to visit the website www.ireps.gov.in for full details and participate against the above mentioned e.Auction as per schedule given vide column No. iv. Railway Administration reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason what so ever. Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial) ECR/Dhanbad PR/001403/DHN/Comml/N/23-24/36

BIHAR GRAM SWARAJ YOJNA SOCIETY Panchayat Raj Department. Notice for empanelment of training center in all 38 districts across the Bihar State. Includes contact details for Jaideo Sinha (SPM - Procurement).

BRIDGE

Bridge puzzle with North, South, East, West hands and clues. Includes dealer information and a note about the hand.

South was not using Key Card Blackwood and he reached 6S, which was a bit less than even money to make. West led clubs. East took the ace and returned a diamond, taken by the queen in dummy. What should South do to make 6S?

The West hand: S-9876H-872D-42C-10985. The East hand: S-KH-9654D-1085C-A7642

South obviously needs East to have the king of spades but there is a little thing he can do to improve his chances. At trick three, North should lead a small spade, not the queen. On this hand the king of spades pops up and South greets it with the ace. After drawing trumps, twelve tricks come home and North-South have been rewarded with some luck and also a good play. Do you see the problem that South spotted?

South saw that if East had the singleton king of spades, leading the queen would not work. East would cover and West would get a late trick, with his 9876 of spades. By leading a low spade from dummy, South got to see if East had a singleton king. If he did not, South would finesse and would return to dummy to finesse again if necessary.

Bridge puzzle with North, East, West, South hands and clues. Includes dealer information and a note about the hand.

South opens 1NT showing 15-17 and North uses Stayman on the way to 3NT. By the time the bidding is done with, you have learned that South has four spades. West leads the four of clubs. How many high card points does West have?

SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2447

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes quick clues and solutions.

- QUICK CLUES ACROSS: 1. Did extremely well, better than most (8); 5. Maintenance (6); 9. Grow very fast (8); 10. Thin coating (6); 12. Valued greatly (9); 13. Well-known (5); 14. Flutter (4); 16. Seizing suddenly (7); 19. Like a fork or a trident (7); 21. Masticate (4); 24. Brit living abroad (5); 25. Imaginary paradise on earth (7-2); 27. Tariffs (6); 28. Progressively worse (8); 29. Colourless pentose sugar (6); 30. Exhales and inhales; gasps (8). DOWN: 1. Animosity (6); 2. Rigid social strata (6); 3. Tempts (5); 4. Exercise in vanity (3,4); 6. Open to rebuttal (9); 7. Emotionally charged (8); 8. Pattern (8); 11. South Yemen port (4); 15. Dark (9); 17. Supplemental part (8); 18. A place for medical care (8); 20. Dare, old style English (4); 21. Uproar (7); 22. Conclusion (6); 23. Spoons (6); 26. District in Tokyo (5).

Solutions to 2446. QUICK CLUES Across: 1. Elicits, 5. Embroid, 9. Total, 10. Seniority, 11. Mussolini, 12. Essen, 13. Kind, 15. Ill-fated, 18. Lets in on, 19. Guck, 22. Stair, 24. Dalai lama, 26. Two by four, 27. Odium, 28. Spindle, 29. Sedates. Down: 1. Entomb, 2. Intestine, 3. Igloo, 4. Suspicion, 5. Ennui, 6. Boomerang, 7. Omits, 8. Laying, 14. Destroyed, 16. Landlords, 17. Eucharist, 20. As it is, 21. Cadmus, 23. Alibi, 24. Drove, 25. Fold. CRYPTIC CLUES Across: 1. Rip-cord, 5. Teeshop, 9. Locum, 10. Biting Day, 11. Antarctic, 12. Loma, 13. Clad, 15. Sledge, 18. Toasters, 19. To-be, 22. Tamil, 24. Parentage, 26. Henry VIII, 27. Tours, 28. Stand-up, 29. Growers Down: 1. Reload, 2. Pooatello, 3. Ormer, 4. Debatable, 5. Toxic, 6. Annulment, 7. Hider, 8. Pay-day, 14. Displayed, 16. Disarming, 17. Embassage, 20. Ethes, 21. Tenses, 23. Marta, 24. Primp, 25. Not so.

SUDOKU 5351. 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.

If it's your Birthday

Sunday October 15. A far-sighted Moon adds all the support that's needed to your Sun today. A shift towards travel in your solar chart has probably not yet made itself felt consciously. Plan a long trip.

Monday October 16. You're almost ready to take a leap into the future. It looks as if you are about to reach a point of no return professionally, or in any major ambition designed to secure praise and recognition.

Tuesday October 17. The Sun's alignments are romantic, ambitious, generous, imaginative, intuitive, mystical, and slightly confused. You'll find material security soon.

Wednesday October 18. Intensity and commonsense are balanced in equal measure, which means that today, and the coming year, provide a golden opportunity.

Thursday October 19. Sensitive alignments make this a delicate day for romantic outings, or for staying in. You're currently in an indecisive phase, but not for long.

Friday October 20. A shift from adventurous 'have-a-go' patterns to cautious 'careful-as-you-go' ones, is colouring the background to important affairs.

Saturday October 21. You'll be happiest when you're active and engaged with the big wide world. Even if you are taking a break you'll be pursuing worthwhile activities.

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

Horoscope section for Aries, Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricorn, Cancer, Gemini, Aquarius, Leo, and Virgo. Includes zodiac signs, dates, and descriptions of the week ahead for each sign.

Advt No. 15/2023
Government of India
Search-cum-Selection Committee Department of
Defence Production Ministry of Defence
 Invites applications for the post of
DIRECTOR (HUMAN RESOURCES)
 IN
MUNITIONS INDIA LIMITED
 Last date of receipt of application in
 DDP/Mod is
 By 15:00 hours on 16, November, 2023
 For details login to website
<http://www.ddpmod.gov.in/vacancyandcircular>

Advt No. 14/2023
Government of India
Search-cum-Selection Committee Department of
Defence Production Ministry of Defence
 Invites applications for the post of
DIRECTOR (OPERATIONS)
 IN
MUNITIONS INDIA LIMITED
 Last date of receipt of application in
 DDP/Mod is
 By 15:00 hours on 16, November, 2023
 For details login to website
<http://www.ddpmod.gov.in/vacancyandcircular>

The Kerala Minerals & Metals Ltd
 (A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam, 691583
 Phone : +91-476-2651215 to 217. E-mail : mdj@kmmll.com, URL : www.kmmll.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

For more details, please visit <https://www.kmmll.com>

No.	E-Tender ID	Items
1.	2023-KMML-6086	For the supply of Plate Inconel 600-3mm thick -310 kg
2.	2023-KMML-6133	For fabrication & supply of Water Cooled Condenser E206A
3.	2023-KMML-6130	For the supply of Brick Acid Resistant for Digester
4.	2023-KMML-6137	For supply of 1088-MT of Aluminium Trihydrate
5.	2023-KMML-0810	Overhauling and re-wiring of the cooling tower cells in our premises of TP Unit at the Titanium Dioxide Pigment Unit

Chennai - 13.10.2023 **Sd/Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd**

"IMPORTANT"

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NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
 Open E-Tender Notice

For and behalf of the President of India, the Dy.Chief Engineer/Bridge Line-II/North Western Railway, Jaipur invites online open E-Tendering system (Single Packet) for the following works on prescribed electronics forms: 1. E-Tender No.: Dy.CE/Bridge Line-II/23-24-2-R-1. 2. Name of the work with its location: Re-grinding of Br. No. 223 UP as per 25T loading standards in JP-FL section of JP Division. 3. Approx. cost of work: ₹20901634.74. 4. Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹254500.00. 5. Completion Period: 12 Month. 6. Date & Time closing of tender: 06.11.2023 at 15.00 Hrs. 7. Website particulars and notice board location where complete detail of tender can be seen: www.ireps.gov.in 1099-PR/23

Office of the Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, P.W.D Rampur
 Letter No:-2755 /E-Tender Notice /23-24 Date: 06-10-2023
Short Term E-Tender Notice

1. On behalf of Governor of UP, tender for following work are invited by the Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, PWD Rampur from registered Road contractors on dated 16.10.2023 at 10.00 am to Dt.21.10.2023 at 4.30 pm. Technical bid/ Prequalification of tenders shall be opened on 21.10.2023 at 5.00 pm.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs. In Lakhs) (Ex.GST)	Bid Security (Rs. In Lakhs)	Cost of Bid Document (Rs. In Rs.)	Time of Completion including rainy season	Address of Executive Engineer	Address of Superintending Engineer	Contractors Registration Category For Road Works
1	Special repair work of Laxman Nagla road from Tanda Dahiyal main road transformer.	8.50	0.85	766.00 (500+225+ GST 18%)	01 Months including rainy season	Prov. Div., P.W.D. Rampur	Rampur Circle P.W.D Rampur	A, B, C & D
2	Special repair work of Karkhedi road from Kasiyakunda road.	8.50	0.85	766.00 (500+225+ GST 18%)	01 Months including rainy season	Prov. Div., P.W.D. Rampur	Rampur Circle P.W.D Rampur	A, B, C & D
3	Special repair work of RSB Km 20 to Bhot Bakal road.	15.00	1.50	766.00 (500+225+ GST 18%)	02 Months including rainy season	Prov. Div., P.W.D. Rampur	Rampur Circle P.W.D Rampur	A, B, C & D
4	Special repair work of Swar Kila Kheda to Bhagwanagar road.	21.50	2.15	854.00 (500+300+ GST 18%)	02 Months including rainy season	Prov. Div., P.W.D. Rampur	Rampur Circle P.W.D Rampur	A, B, C & D
5	Special repair work of Nankar Rani to Gangawala road.	29.00	2.90	854.00 (500+300+ GST 18%)	02 Months including rainy season	Prov. Div., P.W.D. Rampur	Rampur Circle P.W.D Rampur	A, B, C & D
6	Special repair work on the road from Lohari Farm to Beant Singhs Farm.	21.50	2.15	854.00 (500+300+ GST 18%)	02 Months including rainy season	Prov. Div., P.W.D. Rampur	Rampur Circle P.W.D Rampur	A, B, C & D
7	Special repair work of Saharia Jawahar Marg from Dhaka Nagla Marg.	30.00	3.00	854.00 (500+300+ GST 18%)	02 Months including rainy season	Prov. Div., P.W.D. Rampur	Rampur Circle P.W.D Rampur	A, B, C & D
8	Special repair work of Mitak Nagli to Majra Hounspur road.	31.00	3.10	854.00 (500+300+ GST 18%)	02 Months including rainy season	Prov. Div., P.W.D. Rampur	Rampur Circle P.W.D Rampur	A, B, C & D
9	Special repair work of the road from Hasanpur Sharki to Chadha Saheb's camp.	17.00	1.70	854.00 (500+300+ GST 18%)	01 Months including rainy season	Prov. Div., P.W.D. Rampur	Rampur Circle P.W.D Rampur	A, B, C & D
10	Special repair work of Ratanpura North Link Road.	31.00	3.10	854.00 (500+300+ GST 18%)	02 Months including rainy season	Prov. Div., P.W.D. Rampur	Rampur Circle P.W.D Rampur	A, B, C & D
11	Special repair work on Khaid Thunapur to Dhaka road.	27.00	2.70	854.00 (500+300+ GST 18%)	02 Months including rainy season	Prov. Div., P.W.D. Rampur	Rampur Circle P.W.D Rampur	A, B, C & D
12	Special repair work of Razanagar Bagarkha to Kunwarpur Nankar road.	20.00	2.00	854.00 (500+300+ GST 18%)	02 Months including rainy season	Prov. Div., P.W.D. Rampur	Rampur Circle P.W.D Rampur	A, B, C & D
13	Special repair work of Godi to Sitaura road.	31.50	3.15	854.00 (500+300+ GST 18%)	02 Months including rainy season	Prov. Div., P.W.D. Rampur	Rampur Circle P.W.D Rampur	A, B, C & D
14	Special repair work of Dhawani to Narsua road.	4.00	0.40	677.00 (500+150+ GST 18%)	01 Months including rainy season	Prov. Div., P.W.D. Rampur	Rampur Circle P.W.D Rampur	A, B, C, D & E
15	Special repair work of Rudrapur Gadarpur road to Sodhi Colony road.	19.00	1.90	854.00 (500+300+ GST 18%)	02 Months including rainy season	Prov. Div., P.W.D. Rampur	Rampur Circle P.W.D Rampur	A, B, C & D
16	Special repair work of Ahro Bengali Colony Sharma Mod Bahedi Marg Chainage 17,800 to Gulalpur Marg.	19.00	1.90	854.00 (500+300+ GST 18%)	02 Months including rainy season	Prov. Div., P.W.D. Rampur	Rampur Circle P.W.D Rampur	A, B, C & D
17	Special repair work from Pipliya Mukheda Km 2 to Ainagar.	26.00	2.60	854.00 (500+300+ GST 18%)	02 Months including rainy season	Prov. Div., P.W.D. Rampur	Rampur Circle P.W.D Rampur	A, B, C & D
18	Special repair work of Ghulamang to Harsungala road.	31.00	3.10	854.00 (500+300+ GST 18%)	02 Months including rainy season	Prov. Div., P.W.D. Rampur	Rampur Circle P.W.D Rampur	A, B, C & D
19	Special repair work of Khandiya to Padpuri link road.	24.00	2.40	854.00 (500+300+ GST 18%)	02 Months including rainy season	Prov. Div., P.W.D. Rampur	Rampur Circle P.W.D Rampur	A, B, C & D

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that this person (depicted in the photo) Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: about 60 to 65 Years, Sex: Male, Height: 57", Complexion: Black- Wheatish, Built: Thin, Face: Long, Wearing: White Shirt and Pajama, and body was stiff and eaten away near the left eye by Ants was found dead on corner behind Ramila Ground wall area of P.S. Kamla Chowk, Kamla Market, Delhi on 13.10.2023 under area of P.S. Kamla Market, Delhi.

In this regard a DD No. 14A dated 13.10.2023 has been lodged at P.S. Kamla Market, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Dead Body has been preserved in Mortuary of Maulana Azad Medical College, Delhi for 72 hours. If any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
 P.S. Kamla Market, Delhi.
 Ph: 011-23230623, 8750870424
 DP/11646/CD/2023 (UIDB)

उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे
 ई-ऑफर आमंत्रित करने की सूचना

ई-ऑफर में विनिर्दिष्ट मापों के एकरस/बीपीयू लीजिंग के ठेके हेतु ई-ऑफर आमंत्रित की गई है। केंद्रगत IREPS वेबसाइट पर प्रकाशित किए जा चुके हैं। कार्य का नाम: (1) जेओपूर मंडल से संचालित गाड़ियों के बीपीयू एवं एकरस/बीपीयू पर माल पार्सल की लोडिंग हेतु ई-ऑफर, कार्य की अवधि: (1) बीपीयू/एकरस/बीपीयू - 2 वर्ष, लॉट के ई-ऑफर आमंत्रण की तिथि व समय: (1) VPU & SLRs: (1) Parcel-JU-49 दिनांक 25.10.2023 को 11:00 बजे से, (2) Parcel-JU-50 दिनांक 26.10.2023 को 11:00 बजे से, वेबसाइट जहाँ से लॉट वाइज ई-ऑफर के सम्बन्ध में जानकारी प्राप्त की जा सकती है: www.ireps.gov.in 1099-PR/23

NORTHERN RAILWAY
 1st Corrigendum

The Tender Notice No. 570-Sig-PS-Tender-128 dated 05.10.2023 invited by Dy. CST/CE/PS/NDLs may now find with the following corrigendum:

S.No.	Point
35	Description of the Schedule Item no. 35 has been corrected

All other terms and conditions in this tender will remain the same
 No.: 570-Sig-PS-Tender-128 dated 13.10.2023
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3185/2023

3. The Rate adopted in the BOQ are inclusive of all taxes but excluding GST.
 4. Bid security and tender cost should be deposited online by Net Banking as per Column 4 and 5 in the table.
 5. All terms & conditions can be seen on website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. The bidders have to login on Prahari U.R.L. <http://wms.upwd.gov.in/Prahari/> to upload required documents as per Government Order No. 879(1)/23-7-2020 dt. 25-08-2020 & E-N.C./HOD's upwd Order No. 4859/4M-LC/2020 dt. 27.08.2020.
(Krishan Vir)
 Executive Engineer
 Pro.Div., PWD, Rampur
 Email: pd_rampur@gmail.com
 For and on behalf of Governor of UP

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely Chanchal D/o Ram Kishor R/o H-17/396, Sangam Vihar New Delhi, has been missing from her house In this regard a case. GD No.98A dated. 24.09.2023 has been registered at P.S. Sangam Vihar, Delhi. The description of the missing girl is as under. Age: 18 years 7 month, Height: 4'5", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: thin, Wearing: Red color suit salwar and chappal in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out her but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing girl then please inform P.S. Sangam Vihar, Delhi at following Tel No./ e-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in and Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>, providing clue about the person.

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
 Fax No. 011- 24368639
 DP/11446/SD/2023

Sd/-S.H.O.
 Sangam Vihar, Delhi
 Tel No. 23011334

EXECUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERING WORK

Tender Notice No. : CON/2023/SEP/05, 15-09-2023. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work: Tender No. : CE/CONB-S/MS/2023/03/RT-1. Name of work : Execution of Civil Engineering work for construction of Double storied Service building & maintenance shed for sick line, covered washing pit line shed, cat walk with water hydrant & pathway, Coach watering facility, Track machine staff office cum Rest house & siding Platform including electrical works at Sarang Yard and Goods office, FOIS, Merchant office & labour Rest Room at Maukhanga & Sarang Yard in connection with Barabai-Sarang New BG Rail Line Project (Muzoram). Approx. Value : ₹64,77,60,247.40. Date & time of closing of tender at 14:30 hrs. and opening at 15:30 hrs. on 25-10-2023. For complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available website www.ireps.gov.in
 Chief Engineer/Con-2, N.F. Railway
NORTHERN FRONTIER RAILWAY
 Construction Organization
 Serving Customers With A Smile

Advt No. 16/2023
Government of India
Search-cum-Selection Committee Department of
Defence Production Ministry of Defence
 Invites applications for the post of
DIRECTOR (FINANCE)
 IN
MUNITIONS INDIA LIMITED
 Last date of receipt of application in
 DDP/Mod is
 By 15:00 hours on 16, November, 2023
 For details login to website
<http://www.ddpmod.gov.in/vacancyandcircular>

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE

Department	Electrical (TRD)	Tender No.	T-18-TRD-MB-23-24
Name of Work	Provision of OHE with isolation facilities on washing lines over Moradabad Division.		
Tender Closing Date & Time	06.11.2023 at 15:00 hrs.		
Advertised Value(₹)	₹1,01,24,808.51 (including GST)		
Bid Security (₹)	₹2,00,600/-	Tender Document Cost (₹)	NIL
Validity of offer (Days)	60 Days	Period of completion	09 Months
Website particulars & Address of office	www.ireps.gov.in Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Northern Railway, Moradabad		
Tender Notice No.:	Elect/TRD/MB/2023-24/TM-23	Dated:	13.10.2023 3200/2023

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Department of Transport (Regulatory Wing)
Office of the Transport Commissioner, Haryana
 30 Bays Building, 2nd Floor, Sector-17B, Chandigarh - 160017
 E-mail: stcharyana@hryc.in Website: www.haryanatransport.gov.in
 Tel: 0172-2784359, 0172-2701290

Public Notice

All concerned are informed that the hearing of the objections/suggestions received on the proposal of Stage Carriage Scheme published by Haryana Government, Transport Department vide notification 17/10/2011-3T(II), dated 27.07.2023 will be heard by the Principal Secretary, to Govt. of Haryana, in 6th Floor, Committee room, Sector-17A, New Civil Secretariat, Chandigarh from the date 16.11.2023 to 17.11.2023 and from date 20.11.2023 to 22.11.2023 from 9:30 AM onwards on the following working days:-

Sr. No.	Name of the district from which objections/suggestions have been received.	Date of hearing of objections/suggestions
1.	Ambala, Panchkula, Gurugram, Kurukshetra, Yamuna Nagar, Rohtak, Sonapat, Panipat	16.11.2023
2.	Kaithal, Jind	17.11.2023
3.	Karnal, Jhajjar, Charkhi Dadri, Director State Transport of Haryana	20.11.2023
4.	Hisar	21.11.2023
5.	Fatehabad, Bhiwani, Sirsa, Palwal, Rewari, Faridabad, Narnaul, Nuh	22.11.2023

Person(s) whose objections/suggestions have been received within stipulated period and desirous of being heard are requested to be present on fixed date and time as per schedule mentioned above.

Sd- Transport Commissioner, Haryana.
 21904/HFY

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (SPORTS)
DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION SPORTS BRANCH,
GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
CHHATRASAL STADIUM, MODEL TOWN, DELHI
 No. DE.41/Sports/2023/4426 Dated: 13.10.2023
E-Procurement Tender Notice

Name of Work	Online Tender for Lodging of players and Officials for 67th National School Games-2023-24 to be held at Delhi
Tender ID	2023_DE_248682_1
Date of release of Tender through e-procurement platform	11.10.2023
Last date and time for receipt of Tender through E-procurement	25.10.2023 upto 12.00 Noon
Opening of Technical Bid	25.10.2023 at 12.30 PM
Opening of Financial Bid	Will be intimated later

Entire details can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
 Sd/-
(YOGESH PAL SINGH)
 Deputy Director of Education (Sports Branch)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER CONSTRUCTION DIVISION-2, P.W.D AGRA
Short Term Notice inviting E-Tender
 Letter No. : 2335 / 10A / 2023-24 Dated: 07.10.2023

1. The Executive Engineer Construction Division-2, U.P.P.W.D. on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids online from the eligible and approved registered Contractors. As the work Comprises of specialized Road work, hence contractors bidding for this work must be registered in Road work with UP PWD. Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 4 of the Instructions to Bidders to qualify for the award of the contract.

Sl. No.	District	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs. in Lac)	Bid Security (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of Document (in Rs.)	Time of Completion	Address of Executive Engineer executing the work	Address of Superintending Engineer	Address of Chief Engineer	Category of Contractor
1	Agra	Special Repair work of Garhi Sampatti to Raghuvansh Ka Pura Road	16.60	1.66	Tender Cost + S.T.C. + G.S.T. = Rs. 950.00	01 Month	Executive Engineer, Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Agra	Superintending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D., Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D., Agra	Class A,B,C,D
2	Agra	Special Repair work of Khandauli Pantikhera Road to Sorat Khandauli to Pantikhera Road	8.90	0.89	Tender Cost + S.T.C. + G.S.T. = Rs. 860.00	01 Month	Executive Engineer, Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Agra	Superintending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D., Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D., Agra	Class A,B,C,D
3	Agra	Special Repair work of NH-93 to Km-188 to Polya Road	8.75	0.88	Tender Cost + S.T.C. + G.S.T. = Rs. 860.00	01 Month	Executive Engineer, Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Agra	Superintending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D., Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D., Agra	Class A,B,C,D
4	Agra	CC work of Mitawali Garhi Maharam to Ontkarpur Road Par Ontkarpur Abadi Porion	12.00	1.20	Tender Cost + S.T.C. + G.S.T. = Rs. 860.00	01 Month	Executive Engineer, Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Agra	Superintending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D., Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D., Agra	Class A,B,C,D
5	Agra	Special Repair work of Etmadpur to Garapur via Nagri Gangaram Road	8.30	0.83	Tender Cost + S.T.C. + G.S.T. = Rs. 860.00	01 Month	Executive Engineer, Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Agra	Superintending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D., Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D., Agra	Class A,B,C,D
6	Agra	Special Repair work of Barhan to Kugawan Road to Nagri Bariyandian Road	4.50	0.45	Tender Cost + S.T.C. + G.S.T. = Rs. 770.00	01 Month	Executive Engineer, Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Agra	Superintending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D., Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D., Agra	Class A,B,C,D,E
7	Agra	Special Repair work of Agra Jalesar Road to Suljanpur Link Road	9.50	0.95	Tender Cost + S.T.C. + G.S.T. = Rs. 860.00	01 Month	Executive Engineer, Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Agra	Superintending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D., Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D., Agra	Class A,B,C,D
8	Agra	Special Repair work of Village Shekhpur to Garhi Tikait Tak Road	17.70	1.77	Tender Cost + S.T.C. + G.S.T. = Rs. 950.00	01 Month	Executive Engineer, Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Agra	Superintending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D., Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D., Agra	Class A,B,C,D
9	Agra	Special Repair work of Murhar Alipur Jampur to Kalyan Garhi Tak Road	11.30	1.13	Tender Cost + S.T.C. + G.S.T. = Rs. 860.00	01 Month	Executive Engineer, Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Agra	Superintending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D., Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D., Agra	Class A,B,C,D
10	Agra	Special Repair work of Awalkhera Barhan Road to Nagla Ball Road	15.50	1.55	Tender Cost + S.T.C. + G.S.T. = Rs. 860.00	01 Month	Executive Engineer, Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Agra	Superintending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D., Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D., Agra	Class A,B,C,D
11	Agra	Special Repair work of Awalkhera Barhan Road to Nagla Udai Link Road	7.00	0.70	Tender Cost + S.T.C. + G.S.T. = Rs. 860.00	01 Month	Executive Engineer, Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Agra	Superintending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D., Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D., Agra	Class A,B,C,D
12	Agra	Special Repair work of Abidgarh to Jurafta Road	17.80	1.78	Tender Cost + S.T.C. + G.S.T. = Rs. 950.00	01 Month	Executive Engineer, Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Agra	Superintending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D., Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D., Agra	Class A,B,C,D
13	Agra	Special Repair work of Paisai Chokda Road to Nagla Umrao Tak Road	22.70	2.27	Tender Cost + S.T.C. + G.S.T. = Rs. 860.00	01 Month	Executive Engineer, Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Agra	Superintending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D., Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D., Agra	Class A,B,C,D
14	Agra	Special Repair work of NH-93 to Nagla Asha Road	19.40	1.94	Tender Cost + S.T.C. + G.S.T. = Rs. 950.00	01 Month	Executive Engineer, Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Agra	Superintending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D., Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D., Agra	Class A,B,C,D
15	Agra	Special Repair work of Agra Jalesar to Dhanraj Link Road	18.60	1.86	Tender Cost + S.T.C. + G.S.T. = Rs. 950.00	01 Month	Executive Engineer, Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Agra	Superintending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D., Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D., Agra	Class A,B,C,D
16	Agra	Special Repair work of Barhan to Murtidhanpur Road	25.60	2.56	Tender Cost + S.T.C. + G.S.T. = Rs. 950.00	01 Month	Executive Engineer, Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Agra	Superintending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D., Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D., Agra	Class A,B,C,D
17	Agra	Special Repair work of CATK Road to Salehnagar Baruar Road	27.40	2.74	Tender Cost + S.T.C. + G.S.T. = Rs. 950.00	01 Month	Executive Engineer, Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Agra	Superintending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D., Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D., Agra	Class A,B,C,D
18	Agra	Special Repair work of Digrota Road to Gorau Road	14.00	1.40	Tender Cost + S.T.C. + G.S.T. = Rs. 860.00	01 Month	Executive Engineer, Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Agra	Superintending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D., Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D., Agra	Class A,B,C,D
19	Agra	Special Repair work of Agra Jagner Road to Gungabari Road	12.70	1.27	Tender Cost + S.T.C. + G.S.T. = Rs. 860.00	01 Month	Executive Engineer, Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Agra	Superintending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D., Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D., Agra	Class A,B,C,D
20	Agra	Special Repair work of Tradat Nagar Mihava Road to Motipura Road	11.30	1.13	Tender Cost + S.T.C. + G.S.T. = Rs. 860.00	01 Month	Executive Engineer, Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Agra	Superintending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D., Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D., Agra	Class A,B,C,D
21	Agra	Special Repair work of Katka Birja to Virharu Road	24.85	2.49	Tender Cost + S.T.C. + G.S.T. = Rs. 950.00	01 Month	Executive Engineer, Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Agra	Superintending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D., Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D., Agra	Class A,B,C,D
22	Agra	Special Repair work of CATK Road to Nagla Nangru Road	10.95	1.10	Tender Cost + S.T.C. + G.S.T. = Rs. 860.00	01 Month	Executive Engineer, Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Agra	Superintending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D., Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D., Agra	Class A,B,C,D
23	Agra	Special Repair work of Kheragarh Nagla Dulhe Khan Ramnagar Road to basai Maide Rajasthan Bordar Tak Road	17.85	1.79	Tender Cost + S.T.C. + G.S.T. = Rs. 950.00	01 Month	Executive Engineer, Construction Division-2, P.W.D., Agra	Superintending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D., Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D., Agra	

Across THE AISLE



PCHIDAMBARAM
Website: pchidambaram.in
Twitter @PChidambaram_IN

THE SCHEDULE of elections in five states was announced by the Election Commission on Monday, October 9. That put paid to the speculation that Mr Narendra Modi may seize the opportunity to play the One Nation One Election card (ONOE). I have long held the view that ONOE was a non-starter and, certainly, not feasible in the elections in 2023 or 2024.

Some commentators have portrayed the impending 5-states elections as a test of strength between NDA and I.N.D.I.A. I take a different view. The old NDA no longer exists after the exit of significant political parties such as the JD(U), Shiv Sena, Akali Dal and AIADMK. What is left of the NDA is the BJP and, according to Wikipedia, 34 other parties of which most people cannot name more than one. The NDA is simply another name for BJP!

On the other side, there is I.N.D.I.A., but in the five states that will go to elections in November, the Congress is the party with real stakes. In Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, the contest is a straight fight between Congress and BJP. In Telangana, there is a third player, BRS, the ruling party, which claims it is opposed to both Congress and BJP. In Mizoram, it is a four-way contest involving three regional parties and Congress; the BJP is a non-player.

Some commentators have portrayed the impending elections as a test of strength between NDA and I.N.D.I.A. I take a different view. The old NDA no longer exists after the exit of significant political parties such as the JD(U), Shiv Sena, Akali Dal and AIADMK. What is left of the NDA is the BJP and, according to Wikipedia, 34 other parties of which most people cannot name more than one. The NDA is simply another name for BJP!

A test for Congress and BJP

RIVAL STRATEGIES

My view, therefore, is that the forthcoming 5-states elections amount to a test of strength between the BJP and Congress. The BJP was first off the block. It has drawn from its playbook: first to announce candidates, no declared candidate for chief minister, Mr Modi everywhere, multiple Modi rallies, unlimited money and the misuse of investigative agencies to intimidate the Opposition.

On the other side, the Congress had not released any list of candidates by the time the EC announced the schedule. This has been a weakness of the Congress. However, this time, the Congress will go into elections in three major states — Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, and also perhaps Mizoram — with a 'CM face', although undeclared officially. Following Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka, the campaign will be steered by the leaders of the states and the national leadership will play a supportive role.

The one common feature of the 2018 elections in these five states was that the BJP lost in all the states. Today, in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, Congress is in the government. In Madhya Pradesh, the BJP seized power through defections. In Mizoram and Telangana, a state party is in government. Therefore, there is no uniform situation in the five states and the

prospects of each party in each state have to be assessed separately.

I do not wish to make any predictions. Putting together information and various reports, here is a cautious preliminary assessment:

Chhattisgarh: The state has seen three chief ministers, the late Ajit Jogi (2000-2003), Mr Raman Singh (2003-2018) and Mr Bhupesh Baghel (from 2018). There is no reason to fear that anti-incumbency will come into play. Chhattisgarh has become a leading rice producer and its farmers are more prosperous than ever before. Add the numerous welfare schemes implemented by the Baghel government and the surge in tribal pride. Power will shift to the tribals and OBCs, but it is generally believed that the Congress will return to power. Privately, even the BJP does not challenge this conclusion.

Madhya Pradesh: Mr Kamal Nath will not let the people forget that the BJP seized power through defections. Nor do the people seem to have forgotten the treachery of 2020. Mr Shivraj Singh Chouhan is an old, but tired, face and the BJP leadership has signaled in many ways that it has lost confidence in Mr Chouhan. As a result, the BJP has lit the fire of ambition in too many hearts including serving Union ministers. The BJP has been in power since December 2003 except for a brief period of 15 months. Indications are that the bell has tolled for a change.

Rajasthan: The state has a history of alternating party-governments since 1990. The Congress seems to have put its house in order and united under Mr Ashok Gehlot who has implemented an array of welfare schemes. The BJP is in disarray because, as of today, Ms. Vasundhara Raje and her group have been sidelined. This is the state to watch.

Telangana: The state has thrown a surprise by pushing the BJP to a distant third place. The Tukkuguda rally on September 17, 2023 after the CWC meeting was the largest I have seen in many years. More than the size, roughly 40 per cent of the massive gathering was made of young people (15-29 years). There is near unanimity among political observers and journalists that the Congress has regained its place and the contest is between BRS and Congress. Another surprise may be around the corner.

Mizoram: The contest is among regional parties. Congress has a new leader, Mr Lalasawta. BJP is not in the picture. Mr Zoramthanga, chief minister, and his party have cleverly used the Manipur crisis and the migration of Kukis to Mizoram to kindle Kuki-Zomi affinity and pride. The votes will be split and another coalition government seems to be the likely outcome.

'Never make predictions, especially about the future' is never more true than when predictions are made about future elections!

Fifth COLUMN
TAVLEEN SINGH
Twitter @tavleen_singh

We must stand with Israel

BY THE time I sat down to write this week's column the process of moral equivocation had begun. Instead of Israel being seen as the victim of a wicked, barbaric terrorist attack by a wicked barbaric terrorist group, people were beginning to talk about the hapless, terrified civilians in Gaza. References to Gaza being the world's largest open-air prison were made and images of women and children wandering the streets with their belongings in their hands showed up on our TV screens.

Human rights activists who said nothing as Muslim groups in western cities and university campuses celebrated what Hamas did suddenly popped up to weep for the women and children of Gaza. What is happening to them is tragic but is it really Israel's fault or the fault of Hamas? In my book when it comes to jihadi terrorism everything is black and white. Shades of grey disappear the moment I see yet another act of barbarism by men shouting 'Allah-o-Akbar' as they behead babies, rape women, and murder anyone they believe has insulted the Prophet.

It is because India has suffered these jihadi terrorist attacks too many times that ordinary Indians fully support Israel. In the more than thirty years this column has existed I have never seen a story about a foreign country become the only subject that the Indian media has discussed for more than a week. I must add that I am happy that this time so far, we have not seen angry Muslim mobs descend on the streets of our cities to condemn Israel and all Jews. Hopefully this is because they know that jihadi terrorists have defiled Islam more effectively than anyone else has. Or maybe our Muslim communities find it difficult to forget the Islamic State and its sickening violence even when it no longer exists as a country. And now jihadi terrorists rule Afghanistan and forbid women the right to education, jobs, and normal lives.

Savagery of the kind Hamas unleashed in Israel is something we have seen on a smaller scale in Mumbai. As someone who lives in this city, believe me when I say that memories remain fresh still of that awful last week of November 2008, when ordinary people in hotels, restaurants, railway stations, hospitals and Jewish centres were attacked by jihadi terrorists. Like the Hamas killers who came to Israel, they also shouted that Allah was great as they mowed down innocent people with their machine guns.

They came from the Islamist republic next door and to this day I wish that the Congress government of Dr Manmohan Singh and Sonia Gandhi had done more to punish Pakistan's military rulers for what they did. There was enough proof that they were responsible. Pakistan's ISI (Inter-services Intelligence) shares the same evil ideology as Hamas and ISIS. And, into this group must be added the Ayotollahs of Iran, the highest of whom said after the attack on Israel that he 'kissed the hands' of the Hamas men who did this.

Having said this I would like to say that I am sensitive to the pain and suffering that the Palestinian people have endured for far too long. But, with a caveat. If they continue to support leaders who believe that the only solution is for Israel to be erased from the face of the planet, then there can be no solution. Israel exists and however unfair its creation was in Palestinian eyes, it is also true that Jews lived on these lands long before Islam. After the whole horror of the Holocaust was revealed the very least that the world could do was assist the birth of Israel.

India's leaders chose not to at the time and nearly every Congress prime minister has supported the Palestine cause so totally that Yasser Arafat was often an honoured state guest in Delhi. This is why those who lead the Congress Party today took more than twenty-four hours to condemn Hamas for its savage, sadistic attack. And when they did, it was with a reference to Palestine as a counterweight. Narendra Modi deserves praise for openly condemning Hamas within hours of its barbarism coming to light. Sadly, when the Ministry of External Affairs spoke its statement sounded much like what Congress said. Old habits die hard and old bureaucrats leave legacies that never die.

I shall end by saying that if civilians in Gaza are killed in the war that Israel hopes will finish Hamas once and for all, it will be Hamas that is to blame. If it returns the Israeli hostages that it has taken to use as human shields, there is some hope for peace. It is in their hands to do this, and it is in their hands to stop putting the lives of Palestinian civilians in danger. If there is to ever be lasting peace, a few other things need to happen. Palestinians need to accept that they have been betrayed time and time again by their own leaders. And Palestinian school children must stop being fed a relentless diet of hatred and violence.

Sympathisers of Israel are warning it not to act in retribution. But if Hamas is not punished for what it did there is every chance there will be more terrorism in Allah's name, more support for this from countries like Iran. Does Israel have a choice but to fight for its right to exist?

On Israel & Palestine, hear Ambedkar and Gandhi

Dalitality

SURAJ YENGDE

Twitter @Surajyengde



MINDLESS WARS that has turned the beautiful Arab world into a militarised territory have been the feature of modern times. The unfortunate damage caused by the attacks of opposing groups is alarming, exposing world peace to near-permanent damage and inflicting everyday casualties by the thousands — of children, women, and men.

The war in Palestine is as old as the biblical record. The Abrahamic faith is riven with faithful differences between the creator and the condemned. The Jewish people followed the direction of their prophet, Moses, to escape war. Their life has been that of displacement and recovery. In an amazing demonstration of calibre, the Jewish people have bounced back at an impressive speed.

However, the right-wing crude elements running the government in Israel currently have no sense of solidarity and empathy for their own ancestry. Prime Minister Netanyahu has time and again proven that he is not the right man to hold peace accords together.

The most important sites for the desert religions are in Jerusalem, where Judaism, Christianity and Islam stake their claim. The fight for their ownership has changed the region's portfolio.

Mohandas K Gandhi had taken a principled position against the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian land. He saw this as a recipe for long-term disaster. He pointed towards the culprit in charge, the British administration. However, there were sympathies with the condition of the Jews. He called them "untouchables of Christianity", equating them with the "untouchables of Hindu faith". He saw emigration into Palestine furrowing the divides between Arabs and Jews.

The hatred against the Jews is catastrophic. They are hated by their junior theological partners, the Christians, and their youngest cousins, Muslims.

This was so violent that mosques in my region, Maharashtra's Nanded, were rife with toxic "Yahuddi" hatred. In Nanded, there would be public exhibitions with graphic photographs of mutilated bodies of children in Palestine. It was surprising that such an exhibition was being held in an otherwise disconnected city, far from the mainstream of even Indian politics, let alone global.

The unfortunate character of this was the fanatic propaganda driven by Islamist ideology that would only see a faraway land in Palestine as suffering but not lend an iota of sympathy for their neighbours fallen by caste atrocities.

Incidentally, the Hindu supremacist and Muslim radicals did not support the Jewish people but for very different reasons. The Hindus found inspiration in Hitler's agenda, while the Muslims hated them for the occupation of Palestine.

Dr Ambedkar had expressed his appreciation for Moses, drawing parallels to the Jews and Dalits. He admired how Moses worked hard to unite the Jews, providing them leadership in times of extermination under Pharaohs. As Israelites followed their leader in desperation but with hope, Ambedkar also saw himself as the 'Moses' of his people. He was not wrong. He remains the prophet of his people who resurrect his memories at every catastrophe or celebration, seeking approval in his words.

We need to take Gandhi and Ambedkar's position on the Israel-Palestine conflict. The idea of two states was imposed on the modern apparatus of Palestine. It did not mean that Jews had no relation or genealogy to that land.

In the war between the strong and the weak, our solidarity is with the weak. We can relate to the pains of resourceless people. Even though the fragmented Palestinian people, divided between PLO and Hamas, may not have the wherewithal to fight against the might of the state backed by the world's most militarised country, they are the people with strong convictions for their future. The mothers birth their offspring into their own land, proudly asserting their right to belong.

The colonisation of land is a real matter. Since 1948, the size of Palestinian land has been shrinking, overtaken by the settler. The agenda seems to either expel the Palestinians, which has been happening since 1948, eliminate them or make them second-class citizens. These options are not viable and acceptable to any self-respecting human being whose sovereignty is tied to their motherland.

This does not cede the right of Jews to have their homeland.

The Dalit community has a moral and political responsibility as leaders to extend solidarity to the oppressed people of the Arab land, not just Palestinians but also those in Yemen's war-torn hinterlands, with the native tribes of Arab countries, as well as the Jews. We do not support the terrorism imposed by minuscule ideologues who make the majority suffer.

(Suraj Yengde, author of Caste Matters, curates Dalitality and is currently at Oxford University)

history HEADLINE

CHAKSHUROV



CONGRESS LEADER Rahul Gandhi recently remarked that the upcoming electoral contest in Rajasthan was "very close" but he hoped his party would pull it off nevertheless. There have been a few close elections in the state, and one of them was in 1967.

The general elections that year were a turning point in our country's democratic journey. Many political and constitutional machinations we see today took root during this time. In these elections, non-Congress governments came into power in multiple states such as Bihar, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. The voting for Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha constituencies happened in February, and government formations occurred soon after.

In her broadcast on All India Radio, newly elected Prime Minister Indira Gandhi hailed the elections as a "momentous experience". She welcomed the formation of Opposition party governments in states as a sign of "political maturity" and said, "Democracy implies choice. Choice involves alternatives. It is a healthy sign that alternatives are emerging and competing." The PM highlighted that the ministry formation process was smooth in most states except Rajasthan.

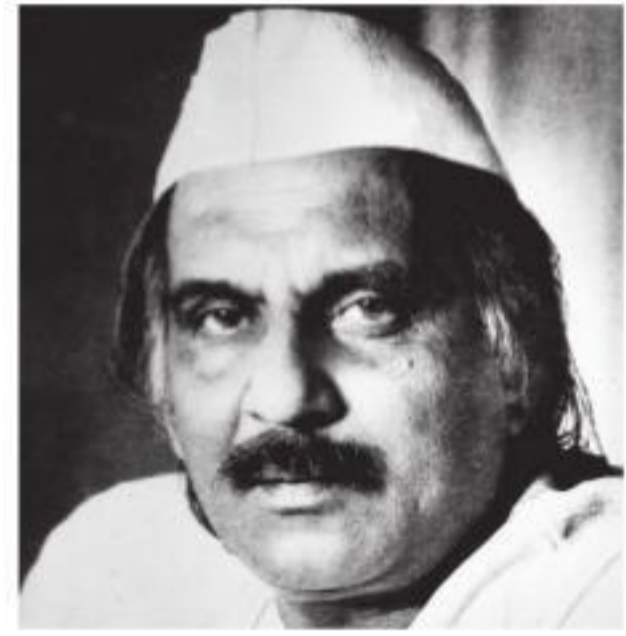
In Rajasthan, the run-up to government formation had many twists and turns. The incumbent Congress chief minister, Mohanlal Sukhadia, could not steer the party to a majority in the state legislature. Sukhadia was a consummate politician and had been at the helm of the state for the previous 12 years, making him one of the longest-serving CMs then.

An academic writing about the Congress party in Rajasthan described Sukhadia as a "... master of political bargaining and compromise. His shrewdness in manipulating and regulating conflict in the new political order has engendered respect and awe, if not widespread affection within Congress party circles."

Of the 184 seats that went to polls, Congress had won 89 (including one MLA who won from two seats). The opposition comprised the Swatantra Party, the Bharatiya Jan Sangh, the Sanghata Socialist Party and the Communist Party and had won 48, 22, 8 and 1 seats respectively. Other than the political party candidates, 14 Independents had also been successful at the ballot box. And their support was critical to any government formation.

With no side having a majority on its own, Jaipur was on edge in the first week of March 1967. Opposition parties sequestered their MLAs in a camp outside the city to prevent Sukhadia from swaying them over. Both sides approached

In poll season, notes from a close fight, a hung House



Then CM Mohanlal Sukhadia (left), Rajasthan Governor Dr Sampurnanand. File

Governor Dr Sampurnanand staked a claim to form the government. Meanwhile, in Delhi, Congress president K Kamaraj told the press that when no party had an absolute majority, the Governor should call the single largest party to form the government. Dr Sampurnanand, a former Congressman, did just that and invited Sukhadia to form the government.

The Governor's action received widespread condemnation. Opposition parties alleged that the Governor had turned the Congress party's minority into a majority, as it would try to win over the Independents after being invited to form the government. There were protests in different parts of Rajasthan, and in one unfortunate incident in Jaipur, six people died due to police firing.

This paper, examining the role of the Governor, wrote, "Mr Sampurnanand's singularly maladroit handling of the constitutional controversy in Rajasthan has done much more than precipitate violence and disorder. It also focussed attention on the powers of a State Governor, on the manner in which he may exercise these and on his relationship with the Union authorities, more specifically with the President... constitutionally, a state Governor's first responsibility is to the President of India and not to the president of his party."

When the date of the legislative assembly session in which Sukhadia had to prove his majority was announced, he expressed his inability to form the government. Then, instead of inviting the Opposition parties to form the government, the Governor recommended the imposition of President's rule in the state without dissolving the assembly. The events in Rajasthan reverberated at the national level. A numerically stronger Opposition pressed for a no-confidence motion against the government of

PM Indira Gandhi.

It was the first time such a discussion had occurred in the first week of a new Lok Sabha. Atal Bihari Vajpayee led the Opposition charge in Lok Sabha. Apart from criticising the conduct of the Governor, he noted that the people of India had decided to test other political parties. The no-confidence was defeated, and the central government lifted President's rule in Rajasthan after 44 days.

Sukhadia formed the government and was sworn in as CM of Rajasthan for the fourth time in April 1967. He secured the support of three Swatantra Party, one Independent and one Jan Sangh MLA, who defected to the Congress. He also curbed inner party dissidents by accommodating them in his 35-member council of ministers.

The events of Rajasthan from 1967 — allegedly partisan Governors, sequestering of MLAs in hotels, and engineering defections — have played out regularly in our country since then.

Roughly a month after Sukhadia became CM, President Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan reflected on these events in his farewell address to the nation on All India Radio. He said, "Democracy is more than a system of government: it is a way of life and a regime for civilised conduct of human affairs. We are not truly democratic if we only possess the outward trappings of representative institutions but fail to be loyal to the qualities of strength of the democratic spirit, unseemly wrangles and alliances of convenience, prejudices of caste and creed, personal aggrandisement, lack of cleanliness in administration. These are not calculated to inspire faith in representative government."

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On the LOOSE

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DURING THE ICC World Cup match between India and Australia, a new commercial of a pan masala brand featuring Shah Rukh Khan, Ajay Devgn and Akshay Kumar aired for the first time. Kumar, who's gone to great lengths to portray himself as a righteous patriot, recently apologised for promoting a tobacco brand, after getting viciously trolled on Twitter. Devgn, meanwhile, defended the ad. "If certain things are so wrong, they should not be sold. Promoting it is a personal choice," said Devgn. The disastrous effects of tobacco are well known and all

Smoky haze over an ad

packaging includes graphic warnings. For a smoker, a cigarette represents a welcome break from the tedium of going about one's day; and surely, adults are capable of choosing their vices. Besides, it's impossible to miss the inherent inconsistencies in enforcing a ban on advertising a legal product.

Celebrity sells. There is no doubt that when a Hrithik Roshan or a Priyanka Chopra endorse Pepsi or Vimal Elaichi, their popularity ensures sales. Precisely because there's an existing ban on direct tobacco advertisements companies need to spend on A-list Bollywood stars as a way of gaining credibility. Blaming stars for promoting cancer causing substances is more about our own morally (mis-

placed) even if liberal-minded notions. Sanctimonious thinking goes, they already have money, fame and security. Do they really need to stoop this low and model for just about anything to make more? Perhaps it's entirely natural to fall for simplistic reasoning rather than address the warped way we evaluate evidence to arrive at a biased conclusion. Clearly, the government values the profit gains from taxing tobacco over the health of the nation but it's the stars posing in these ads who become an easy target.

People are not trained to think deeply about ethical problems. Kumar or Khan have no grand plan to injure citizens by modeling for pan masala, it's just that we live in times where the acquisition of

wealth within the ambit of law is perfectly acceptable. Whether we know it or not, we subconsciously adhere to the prevalent moral standards followed by our peers. There is an argument in political philosophy that the state's role, even if occasionally stern, is necessary for society to function because human existence is unavoidably wicked.

Part of growing up is developing an outlook to make sense of our often, bewildering environment. It is worth wading into thought, not judgment while thinking about the irritating contradictions we face, daily. Some years ago, the Woody Allen film *Blue Jasmine* wasn't released in India because the producers, citing artistic independence, refused to

add "Smoking Kills" whenever the high strung protagonist lit up. It should strike everybody as odd that city airports have smoking rooms but when fictional characters are blowing smoke on a screen, it's a problem. At the same time, there's data that suggests youth with high exposure to TV dramas showcasing smoking were three times more likely to start vaping compared to peers with no exposure. "Right" and "wrong", if it even exists, is endlessly confusing, best understood by a mountaineering metaphor — the higher one climbs, the more one can see. But it's also true that no matter what height one reaches, the horizon always bends out of view.

The writer is director, Hutkay Films

14 THE WORLD



WHILE WORLD IS FOCUSED ON WAR IN GAZA TENSION GRIPS WEST BANK

Tensions have risen in the occupied West Bank, where 54 Palestinians were killed over the past week in clashes with Israeli troops. UN monitors said it was the deadliest week for Palestinians in the territory since at least 2005.

WARNING TO GAZANS TO TEMPORARILY MOVE is to 'mitigate civilian harm', says Israel's UN envoy

ARAB ENVOYS CALL FOR CEASEFIRE and humanitarian aid access to Gaza

UN CHIEF: NEED TO PREVENT DANGEROUS, escalation in West Bank, southern Lebanon

Food & water shortage, no power: 'Total crisis in Gaza'

REUTERS
GAZA, OCTOBER 14

AS AN unrelenting Israeli bombardment intensified on Saturday, bakeries in Gaza were running out of bread, drinking water was in short supply and power outages left families without charged phones to find out if fleeing relatives were safe.

"There is an electricity crisis, food crisis, water crisis, a crisis of everything," Eyad Abu Mutlaq, 45, said in Khan Younis in south Gaza, a region filling up with thousands of people fleeing the north for fear of an Israeli invasion. "It is only God who can resolve it," he said after touring four bakeries to find long queues or no supplies.

The flood of people arriving in south Gaza after Israel told them on Friday to leave an area in the north has stretched resources that were already strained to breaking point.

The United Nations has urged Israel to "avert a humanitarian catastrophe" in Gaza, a slither of land with 2.3 million people wedged between Israel, Egypt and the Mediterranean Sea. In its response to the devastating Oct. 7 assault from Gaza by Palestinian militant group Hamas, Israel has imposed a "total blockade" halting food supplies and cutting electricity to Gaza. A week after that began, shops are running out of many items.

"I was looking for basic food, eggs, rice, canned food, even milk for the children and I couldn't find them," said Khan Younis resident, giving only her nickname of Um Salem. "This is how



Palestinians wait to buy bread outside a bakery in Khan Younis in southern Gaza Strip, Saturday. Reuters

Israel is fighting us, through starvation of our children. They either kill children by bombs or soon by starvation."

Israel said it had told people to leave the north for their safety and to ensure they were not caught up in the conflict. It said it would guarantee the safety of Palestinians fleeing the area on two main roads until 4 pm on Friday. Those who have fled say many roads and streets are often difficult to use, and some impassable, because of damage.

Gaza authorities said 70 people were killed and 200 were wounded when Israel struck cars and trucks carrying people fleeing the north.

Without the option of crossing the border into Egypt, more of Gaza's population has been crammed into the south seeking shelter, as Israel builds up troops and tanks on border. Israel has already launched raids.

"We need to truck fuel into Gaza now. Fuel is the only way for people to have safe drinking water. If not, people will start dying of severe dehydration," said Philippe Lazzarini, the commissioner-general of the UN refugee agency UNRWA.



A Palestinian man carries a wounded girl at the site of an Israeli strike in Khan Younis in Gaza on Saturday. Reuters

At UN, Palestine calls for halt to offensive: 'Do more to stop crime against humanity'

REUTERS
UNITED NATIONS, OCT 14

THE PALESTINIAN United Nations envoy appealed to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Friday to do more to stop a "crime against humanity" by Israel, which has warned nearly half of the population of the Gaza Strip to relocate as it plans an assault.

"He has to do more. Whatever was done is not sufficient. We need all of us to do more to stop this crime against humanity," Palestinian UN envoy Riyad Mansour told reporters before a

meeting of Arab Group ambassadors at the UN.

Israel's UN Ambassador Gilad Erdan said Friday that Israel's warning to residents in northern Gaza was "to temporarily move south... to mitigate civilian harm." Guterres briefed the 15-member UN Security Council behind closed doors on Friday.

Russian Proposal

During the meeting, Russia proposed a draft resolution for the Security Council that calls for a humanitarian ceasefire and condemns violence against civilians and all acts of terrorism, accord-

ing to a draft text seen by Reuters. It was not immediately clear when or if Russia would put the draft resolution to a vote. The US has traditionally shielded its ally Israel from any Security Council action. It holds a veto along with Britain, France, China or Russia.

Brazil proposed its own draft resolution late on Friday, which is essentially a more detailed version of Russia's text. When asked about Russia's draft, British UN Ambassador Barbara Woodward said: "For something that is as important as this, we've already seen how much human life has been destroyed, we need time for con-

sultation, serious consultation." China's UN Ambassador Zhang Jun said the council should "have a strong voice on this really alarming situation and also take meaningful action."

"Moving more than one million people across a densely populated war zone to a place with no food, water, or accommodation, when the entire territory is under siege, is extremely dangerous - and in some cases, simply not possible," Guterres said.

Erdan criticised the UN response, saying Israel should be praised for its advance warning to Gaza residents.

These guys make al-Qaeda look pure: Biden on Hamas

LALIT K JHA
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 14

US PRESIDENT Joe Biden has said Palestinian militant group Hamas is worse than al-Qaeda, the terrorist group behind the 9/11 attacks, as he reaffirmed that the US stands with the Jewish state.

At least 27 American citizens have died and 14 remain unaccounted for as a result of unfolding violence in Israel triggered after Hamas carried out unprecedented attacks in Southern Israel last Saturday.

"The more we learn about the attack, the more horrifying it becomes. More than 1,000 innocent lives lost, including at least 27 Americans," Biden said in Philadelphia. "These guys make - they make al-Qaeda look pure. They're pure evil. Like I said from the beginning, the United States, make no mistake about it, stands with Israel. The United States stands with Israel," he said.

"We can't lose sight of the fact that the overwhelming majority of Palestinians had nothing to do with Hamas and Hamas' appalling attacks, and their suffering as a result, as well

— JOE BIDEN, US PRESIDENT

Biden said his administration is making sure Israel has what it needs to defend itself and respond to these attacks. He also said it is his priority to urgently address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. "We can't lose sight of the fact that the overwhelming majority of Palestinians had nothing to do with Hamas and Hamas' appalling attacks, and their suffering as a result, as well. I spoke with the family members of all those Americans who are still unaccounted for, for over an hour," he said. **PTI**

Iran minister to Israel: Stop Gaza attacks or face a huge earthquake

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BEIRUT, OCTOBER 14

IRAN'S FOREIGN minister on Saturday called on Israel to stop its attacks on Gaza, warning that the war might expand to other parts of the Middle East if Hezbollah joins the battle, and that would make Israel suffer "a huge earthquake." Hossein Amirabdollahian told reporters in Beirut that Lebanon's Hezbollah group has taken all the scenarios of a war into consideration and Israel should stop its attacks on Gaza as soon as possible.

"Any step the resistance



Hossein Amirabdollahian

(Hezbollah) will take will cause a huge earthquake in the Zionist entity," Amirabdollahian said.

Stay out of Gaza war: Israel warns Hezbollah

Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's national

security adviser said on Saturday hostilities with Lebanese Hezbollah in parallel with the Gaza war appeared to be restrained and warned the group not to take action that could lead to Lebanon's "destruction".

Speaking after Netanyahu visited troops on the Gaza periphery in a possible precursor to a ground invasion, Hanegbi said more limited clashes across the Lebanese border showed Hezbollah was staying "under the escalation threshold". "We hope Hezbollah won't, de facto, bring about the destruction of Lebanon, because if there is a war there the result will be no less," he said **PTI**



People carry a coffin, as friends and family mourn the victim of a Hamas rocket attack in the Israel-Arab village of Abu Ghosh, Israel, on Saturday. Reuters

New Zealand National Party's Luxon to lead new government

REUTERS
WELLINGTON, OCTOBER 14

NEW ZEALAND'S centre-right National Party led by Christopher Luxon will form a new government with its preferred coalition party ACT, as Prime Minister Chris Hipkins conceded his Labour Party could not form a government after Saturday's general election.

The National Party, now in opposition, had 39% of the votes with 92% counted, while the ACT party had 9%. That would give the two parties enough seats to form a government, according to the Electoral Commission.

"On the numbers tonight National will be in the position to lead the next government," Luxon, a former executive who once ran Air New Zealand and entered politics just three years ago, told supporters in Auckland. "We will make this an even better country."

National won over voters by promising relief for struggling middle-income New Zealanders, and to bring historically high in-



Christopher Luxon, Leader of the National Party, with supporters in Auckland on Saturday. Reuters

flation under control while reducing the country's debt.

"The overwhelming driver was dissatisfaction with the (Labour government)," said political commentator and former National staffer Ben Thomas.

Under former leader Jacinda Ardern, Labour in 2020 became the first party to capture an outright majority since New Zealand switched to a mixed member proportional system in 1996. But Labour has since lost support, with many New

Zealanders disgruntled over the country's long COVID-19 lockdown and the rising cost of living. Hipkins has tried to re-engage with those voters, focusing on what he termed "bread-and-butter issues", but was unable to gain traction in the polls.

The National-ACT majority is slim and the two parties may need support from the populist New Zealand First Party to form a government. Negotiations between National and ACT are expected to begin soon.

UK police urge public to report online terror content

ADITI KHANNA
LONDON, OCTOBER 14

BRITAIN'S COUNTER-TERRORISM police said on Saturday that it has opened reviews into 55 new cases this week as it urged the public to report incidents of online terrorism content to the police.

The Counter Terrorism Internet Referral Unit (CTIRU) said it had received a significant number of referrals from the public reporting potential terrorist content online.

"When it comes to tackling the use of the internet to further terrorism, support from the public is essential," said Commander Dominic Murphy, Head of the Metropolitan Police's Counter Terrorism Command.

already made a significant impact and we are currently reviewing 55 cases," he said.

According to Met Police, such reporting enables its Counter Terrorism Policing (CTP) branch to work with tech companies to remove content assessed to breach UK terrorism legislation, making the internet less permissive for terrorists and safer for those in our communities who may be vulnerable to radicalisation.

"They can also lead to investigations being launched into those in the UK who are suspected of breaching UK terrorism legislation through their online conduct. If you see something online that you think is inciting terrorist violence or activity, report it anonymously via our Public Referral Tool. You can also download the iREPORTit app on your smartphone which enables you to report content and directly from a browser or an app," added Murphy.

It came as British PM Rishi Sunak unveiled GBP 3 million extra funding targeted at enhanced protection for the country's Jewish communities against antisemitic attacks in the wake of the conflict in Israel. **PTI**

Australia rejects Indigenous referendum

REUTERS
SYDNEY, OCTOBER 14

AUSTRALIA ON Saturday decisively rejected a proposal to recognise Indigenous people in the constitution, in a major setback to the country's efforts for reconciliation with its First Peoples.

Australians had to vote "Yes" or "No" in the referendum, the first in almost a quarter of a century, on the question of whether to alter the constitution to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people through the creation of an Indigenous advisory body, the "Voice to Parliament".

Nationwide, with almost 70% of the vote counted, the "No" vote led "Yes" 60% to 40%. Australian broadcaster ABC and other TV networks have projected that a majority of voters in all six of Australia's states would vote against altering the 122-year-old constitution.

A successful referendum requires at least four of the six to vote in favour, along with a national majority. **PTI**

DEATH, DESTRUCTION

ISRAEL PALESTINE

TOTAL DEAD

1,300+

people were killed in the Hamas attack on civilians in Israel's border cities

2,200

people have been killed, including 724 children and 458 women, in Gaza strip

TOTAL INJURED

1,000+

10,000+

JOURNALIST KILLED

■ Reuters videographer Issam Abdallah who was killed in Israeli shelling of southern Lebanon, was laid to rest in his hometown on Saturday

■ Abdallah was killed on Friday evening near the village of Alma al-Shaab in south Lebanon when an Israeli shell landed on a gathering of journalists

■ Lebanon's Foreign Ministry asked Beirut's mission to the UN to file a complaint against Israel over Friday's shelling calling it a "crime against freedom of opinion and press"

LEADERS SPEAK



None of us want to see suffering by civilians on any side, whether it's in Israel, whether it's in Gaza, whether it's anywhere else"

ANTONY BLINKEN, US SECRETARY OF STATE

15 ECONOMY

CRUDE WATCH

OIL SURGES NEARLY 6%

Oil prices leapt nearly 6% on Friday, with Brent posting its highest weekly gain since February, as investors priced in the possibility that the conflict in the Middle East could widen as Israel began ground raids inside the Gaza Strip. **REUTERS**

IMAGICAA, IKEA STEP UP F&B SALES; INDIGO'S FOOD BIZ TRUMPS RESTAURANT CHAINS

F&B sales stepped up, PVR's food revenue is more than Pizza Hut's

AGGAM WALIA

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 14

EIGHT MILLION meatballs, four million baked samosas, dal makhani and biryani. That is the amount of food IKEA India's restaurants have sold since the Swedish furniture retailer opened its first store in 2018. In line with IKEA's business strategy globally, food and beverage (F&B) is an essential complementary addition to its core business of selling ready-to-assemble furniture in India too.

IKEA is not alone in generating a healthy F&B revenue stream, which is now an appetising non-core diversification for companies across various non-food sectors, including airlines, cinemas and theme park operators.

PVR Cinemas, the country's largest multiplex operator, earned Rs 1,145 crore from the sale of F&B in its multiplexes in FY23, exceeding the entire operational revenue of Pizza Hut and Barbeque Nation, which was Rs 700 crore and Rs 1,074 crore respectively. During the same period, IndiGo raked in Rs 766 crore from in-flight sales, primarily from F&B sales.

Since F&B sales are the primary drivers of India's consump-



PVR Cinemas, the country's largest multiplex operator, earned Rs 1,145 crore from the sale of F&B in its multiplexes in FY23. *File*

OPERATING REVENUE FOR FY23

Company	F&B	Tickets	Other	Total
PVR	1,145 (32%)	1,878 (53%)	536 (15%)	3,559
Imagicaa	60 (24%)	166 (66%)	25 (10%)	251
IndiGo	766* (1.4%)	48,174 (88.5%)	5,506 (10.1%)	54,446

* includes park entry fees, hotel revenue, *IndiGo classifies it as "in-flight" sales; Figures in Rs Crore

tion growth, especially after the post-Covid reopening of the economy, companies with core non-F&B businesses are looking to buttress their F&B verticals in the pursuit of better customer experience and improved profit margins.

PVR Cinemas, which merged with INOX Leisure in February

this year, reported an increase in its F&B revenue share to 32 per cent in FY23 from 27.8 per cent in FY19. INOX's F&B revenue share in FY22 was 27.3 per cent compared to PVR's 31.4 per cent.

Earlier this year, company officials had indicated that PVR plans to boost its F&B revenue share to 35 per cent of total oper-

ating revenue. For comparison, AMC Theatres, the largest chain of cinemas in North America, had an F&B revenue share of 33.6 per cent in 2022. PVR-INOX did not respond when asked for comments. In absolute terms, PVR's F&B revenue stood at Rs 1,145 crore in the latest fiscal year, a threefold increase from the year before when it was Rs 381 crore. "Growth in F&B spend per head was driven by increase in consumption at cinemas and commodity-linked price inflation," the company notes in its latest annual report.

As recently as last week, PVR-INOX tied up with Costa Coffee to offer coffee and related beverages in its theatres. Currently, Costa Coffee operates 112 stores in India, with an operational revenue of Rs 102 crore. PVR also sells F&B products outside of theatres through its subsidiary Zea Maize Private Limited, which clocked in Rs 49 crore in FY23 by selling under its brand name, 4700BC.

Globally, IKEA generates F&B revenue worth over \$2.5 billion. In each of its three India stores - the first of which opened in Hyderabad in 2018 - IKEA operates 1,000-seater restaurants with offerings starting from Rs 30.

Ankit Ghai, IKEA India's

Country Food Manager, said, "Our 1,000-seater restaurants, across our stores in Bangalore, Mumbai, and Hyderabad, are among the largest in the country. We have sold 8 million meatballs since our first store opening as well as 4 million baked samosas, dal makhani, and biryani."

IndiGo's revenue from in-flight sales, primarily F&B, exceeded Pizza Hut's operating revenue by Rs 66 crore in FY23. Pizza Hut, a restaurant chain with over 500 outlets across India, clocked Rs 700 crore in the latest financial year against IndiGo's F&B revenue of Rs 766 crore, which accounts for only 1.4 per cent of its total operating revenue of Rs 54,446 crore.

As IndiGo ran almost 6 lakh flights using 304 aircraft during FY23, the average F&B revenue generated per aircraft stands at Rs 2.5 crore. In comparison, average revenue generated per Pizza Hut outlet stands at Rs 1.4 crore. While IndiGo did not share segment-wise gross margins in its financial statement, Pizza Hut's margins were reported at 74.4 per cent, amounting to a gross profit of Rs 520 crore. IndiGo did not respond when asked for comments.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

HAVE DECLINED TO \$584.742 BILLION

Forex reserves fall \$14.15 bn in last one month on valuation impact, RBI intervention

HITESH VYAS

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 14

COUNTRY'S FOREIGN exchange reserves have declined by \$14.154 billion in almost one month due to valuation loss and the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) intervention in the currency spot market to curb the fall in the rupee against the dollar.

From \$598.897 billion as of September 1, the foreign exchange reserves have dipped to \$584.742 billion, the lowest in more than five months, on October 6, the RBI data showed.

During the period, the Foreign Currency Assets (FCA), a major component of the overall forex reserves, have fallen by \$11.162 billion and the valuation of gold reserves has reduced by \$2.633 billion.

"The fall in (forex) reserves is because of selling of dollars by the RBI to support the rupee and also because of the impact on valuation as the dollar has strengthened," said Anindya Banerjee, Vice President (Currency Derivatives & Interest Rate Derivatives) at Kotak Securities Ltd.

The rupee has depreciated as the strengthening of the dollar index and hardening of US bond yields have triggered outflows from India.

"The US Fed is consistently



The Foreign Currency Assets have fallen by \$11.1 billion. *File*

maintaining that interest rates are likely to be higher for longer, which is driving the US bond yields higher. The dollar index is staying strong and is well above 106 levels. This is something which is strengthening the US dollar," said Dipti Chitale, Director, Mecklai Financial Services Pvt. Ltd, a consulting company focusing on treasury risk management.

Last week, RBI Deputy Governor Michael Patra said the movements in the reserves are more or less due to valuation change rather than a durable fall.

"If you knock out the valuation changes as we do in the balance of payments (BoP), you will see there is an increase of \$24 billion (in forex reserves) in a quarter," Patra said in a press conference after the October monetary policy announcement.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

Foreign exchange reserves are maintained as a multi-currency portfolio comprising major currencies such as the US dollar, Euro, Pound sterling, and Japanese yen, among others, but are valued in terms of US dollars. When the dollar strengthens, the valuation of other currencies vis-à-vis the US currency declines, leading to a notional fall in the overall forex reserves position.

The RBI also keeps the forex reserves in the dollar-denominated assets like the 10-year benchmark securities of the US and UK.

Since the yield of the 10-year bonds has risen in the last few weeks, it has impacted the country's foreign exchange reserves.

The rupee depreciated from 82.689 against the dollar on September 1 to 83.118 on October 6. The domestic currency depreciated to an all-time low of 83.22 on September 7.

After remaining net buyer of domestic equities in the first five months of fiscal 2024, foreign portfolio investors (FPI) net sold Rs 14,768 crore of local shares in September. Overseas investors sold Rs 9784 crore of domestic shares till October 13.

Due to higher outflows, the RBI had to sell dollars to prevent the rupee from falling to a new all-time high, forex market participants said.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

India continues to be fastest growing large economy despite global slowdowns: Sitharaman

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 14

DESPITE THE global economic slowdown, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said India continues to be the fastest growing large economy.

Speaking at the breakfast meeting of the IMF Board of Governors on the theme of "Dialogue on Policy Challenges" in Marrakech, Morocco, Sitharaman emphasised that a coordinated response of the global community will foster multilateralism in the spirit of 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'.

"The union finance minister expressed concern with regard to a slowdown in global growth. However, India continues to be the fastest growing large economy with growth at 7.8 per cent during Q1 of FY 2023-24," the finance ministry said on X.

Sitharaman had earlier said that domestic consumption and investment demand will drive economic growth, but inflationary pressures may remain elevated warranting greater vigilance by the government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

The finance ministry and the RBI have projected India's economic growth to be around 6.5 per cent in FY24 compared with 7.2 per cent in FY23.



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at the Plenary Meeting of the IMFC in Marrakech, Morocco. *@FinMinIndia*

Earlier this week, the International Monetary Fund raised its economic growth forecast for India from 6.1 per cent to 6.3 per cent for the current financial year. It has projected that the global growth will slowdown from 3.5 per cent in 2022 to 3 per cent this year. This remains well below the historical average.

Sitharaman noted the escalating global debt vulnerabilities and the importance of Global Sovereign Debt Roundtable would foster cooperation on debt issues and reforms in IMF policy to engage with members in debt distress. Under India's G20 Presidency in 2023, G20 has called for swift conclusion of debt resolution for Ghana, Zambia Ethiopia and

Sri Lanka.

Sitharaman also reiterated commitment to a strong, quota-based and adequately resourced IMF at the centre of the global financial safety net, and climate action on the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

India is supportive of timely completion of the 16th General Review of Quotas (GRQ) in IMF to strengthen the Global Financial Safety Net.

The GRQ by December 2023 is expected to address the long-delayed realignment of IMF members' quota shares, which was last undertaken in 2008, to increase the voice of the emerging market and developing economies such as India. **FE**

'Unsold housing stock dips in September quarter'

Unsold housing stock fell 3 per cent in nine major cities, as per PropEquity report



While this upward trend in capital values is attracting investors to India's key real estate markets, there is reduction in unsold housing stock"

SAMIR JASUJA, FOUNDER & CEO OF PROPEQUITY

JULY-SEPTEMBER PERIOD

2023 2022

5,08,464 units 5,26,497 units

HOUSING SALES NEW SUPPLY

1,15,904 units 97,871 units

UNSOLED HOUSING STOCK:

INCREASE

Hyderabad 1,05,240 units

Bengaluru 54,404 units

Navi Mumbai 34,983 units

DECLINE

Thane 1,04,959 units

Pune 71,220 units

Delhi-NCR 37,356 units

Chennai 20,048 units

Kolkata 19,112 units

■ The data includes apartments, independent floors and villas/row houses. *Source: PropEquity/PTI*

Another ₹6,384-cr tax notice to casino firm Delta Corp

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 14

CASINO OPERATOR Delta Corp subsidiary Deltatech Gaming has received a tax shortfall notice from Goods and Services Tax (GST) authorities worth Rs 6,384 crore, the company informed the exchanges on Saturday.

Deltatech Gaming, formerly Gaussian Networks, operates several online gaming apps

such as Adda52, Adda52Games and Adda52Rummy.

With the recent tax notice, Delta Corp's total tax shortfall liability stands at Rs 23,206 crore. On September 22, the company had received a GST liability notice of Rs 11,140 crore, and its three subsidiaries - Casino Deltin Denzong, Highstreet Cruises, and Delta Pleasure Cruise - received notice worth Rs 5,682 crore.

The amounts claimed in the notice sent to Delta Gaming are

inter alia based on the gross bet value of all games played during the relevant period (July 2017-November 2022), its parent company said in an exchange filing.

"Demand of GST on gross bet value, rather than gross rake amount, has been an industry issue and various representations have already been made to the government at an industry level in relation to this issue," it said.

In the recent months, online

gaming firms such as Delta Corp, Dream Sports (parent of Dream 11), Games24x7, Head Digital Works, and GamesKraft have jointly received a GST payment demand of over Rs 1.1 trillion since August 2017 till June 2022, according to industry sources.

This is almost five times the collective revenue of these companies between FY19 and FY22, which comes to Rs 20,929 crore.

The huge tax burden is a result of a difference in interpreta-

tion of tax laws. Till recently, online gaming firms had been paying 18 per cent GST on the platform fee - the commission they charge participants entering a game. They had also been differentiating between games of chance and skill.

The government has, however, maintained that the GST rate on gaming was always 28 per cent on the full face value, and there is no distinction between games of chance and skill. **FE**

Venture Highway sells 1.5% stake in Meesho

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 14

SEED FUND Venture Highway has sold 1.5 per cent of its stake in e-commerce firm Meesho at an estimated valuation of about \$3.5 billion, making a stellar 50-times return. Venture Highways in a statement said that it recently concluded a secondary sale of its part stake in Meesho to WestBridge Capital.

"The transaction resulted in a return of over 50 times to VH for its investment from its 1st vintage fund into the company," VH said in a statement.

According to sources, VH sold its 1.5 per cent stake in Meesho at an enterprise valuation of about \$3.5 billion. VH did not comment on the amount raised or enterprise valuation at which the sale was conducted.

Revival mode: Why are corporate revenues seeing a pick up after four sluggish quarters and will this sustain?

HITESH VYAS

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 14

AFTER SEEING moderation for four consecutive quarters, the pace of revenue growth of Indian corporates is estimated to have picked up in July-September quarter. India Inc is likely to have clocked a revenue growth of 8-10 per cent on a year-on-year basis in the second quarter, a Crisil report said. Consumer discretionary products and services and construction-linked sectors may have registered a higher growth.

How is Indian corporate revenue growth projected for Q2?

Revenue of Indian corporates is estimated to have grown 8-10 per cent on-year in the September quarter, marking the first such improvement in the



Within the consumer discretionary products segment, retail kept its momentum, growing 16-18 per cent. *Reuters*

pace of growth after four quarters, a Crisil Market Intelligence and Analytics (MI&A) Research report said.

On a sequential basis, revenue is estimated to have risen 150-200 basis points (bps) in the July-September quarter. One basis point is one-hundredth of a percentage point. Crisil's estimates are based

on an analysis of more than 300 companies, excluding financial services and oil and gas sectors. Of the 47 sectors Crisil MI&A Research tracks, nine, accounting for more than 70 per cent of overall revenue, saw a pickup in on-year growth.

The report said operating profitability likely expanded by a smart 200-300 bps on-year

during the second quarter. Subsequently, overall earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (Ebitda) margin for nearly 350 companies is estimated at 20-22 per cent during the first half of this fiscal, up from around 18 per cent a year ago.

Which sectors are expected to show higher revenue growth?

Growth in revenue in Q2 FY24 was largely skewed towards consumer discretionary products and services, where automobiles and the retail sector led the pack, and construction-linked sectors, where companies accrued benefits from an early deployment of capital expenditure by the roads and railways ministries, said Aniket Dani, Director-Research, CRISIL MI&A.

Truant monsoon proved to be a silver lining as there were fewer interruptions in construction activity, thereby supporting volume growth even during a seasonally lean period, he said.

The automobile sector registered a growth of 12-14 per cent, driven by three sub-segments - commercial vehicles, passenger vehicles and two-wheelers.

The growth was steered by a 20-25 per cent pick-up in passenger vehicles due to healthy demand sentiment, supported by new model launches, supply-chain improvement and more variety in product portfolio.

Within the consumer discretionary products segment, retail kept its momentum, growing 16-18 per cent. Led by a 19-21 per cent growth in me-

dia and entertainment and around 20 per cent in the hospitality segment, comprising airline services and hotels, the consumer discretionary services vertical likely grew 13-15 per cent on-year.

The construction-linked segment was supported by the cement, steel products, roads and highways, and construction sectors. Cement companies likely recorded a 13-15 per cent growth backed by a 12-14 per cent volume growth over the year-ago quarter's low base and lower impact of rains on construction activities thanks to El Nino, the Crisil report said.

Steady domestic demand contributed to the 8-10 per cent growth in revenue of steel products. However, muted global demand restricted export growth to 2-4 per cent.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com



TODAY'S MATCH

England vs Afghanistan, 2pm
Live on Star Sports network

WICKETS IN WORDS

How Rohit planned Pakistan's downfall

WHILE IT was the Indian bowlers who were seen leading the assault over Pakistan, behind-the-scenes it was the team's key batsmen — Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli — who had played a big role in the downfall of their arch rivals in the key game of the World Cup. Even Pakistan's cricket director Mickey Arthur would later say "India executed plans really well". A close scrutiny of Pakistan's dismissals and the voices of the day's key bowlers prove this.

Rohit and Virat's role

"Whatever information you get from a senior player it helps the whole team; it is meant for the whole team not just one player. Because when the team wins, not just one person, the whole team wins the World Cup. So, if everyone shares their experience, it is helpful for the team," Siraj said.

LBW trap for Shafique

"Shafique's wicket was a plan because I had spoken to Rohit bhai. I had bowled a bouncer to him before but he got stuck in the middle," Siraj said. "He thought I was going to bowl a bouncer again. He was on the backfoot and I pitched the ball up."

Siraj's cross-seam tactics

"I started from 3rd over. Because in the end, there could have been chances of reverse. Also by bowling cross seam sometimes the ball stays low and sometimes there is extra bounce."

Bumrah's reverse swing

"I like to read the wickets and try a lot of options. (Rizwan wicket) I saw Jaddu's ball was turning. I count on my slower ball as a spinner's slower ball. There was a little phase in there when there was reverse swing. (Shadab wicket) It was an outswinger. The reverse swing was happening."

Siraj's second spell

"Yes, because when their partnership was going well, when I was called for bowling, I had a plan to take a wicket here, and it would be very helpful for the team. Because if we break the partnership, then the new batsman will come and we will put pressure on him and put a dot ball. So, my only aim was to take a wicket there and I got that wicket."

Extra over for Kuldeep

"Captain and KL had spoken to each other and both felt that I should bowl one extra over," Kuldeep said. "So that one over was important and in that over I got the wicket."

Kuldeep's unplanned scalp

"It wasn't planned. Plan was that if I bowl the wrong one, it should land on the wicket. It landed a bit wide, length *thoda peecha tha*, so he didn't have the room to sweep. It was a lucky wicket for me obviously, batsmen were facing pressure because they weren't able to read the ball from the hand," Kuldeep said.

DEVENDRA PANDEY

PAKISTAN PAY THE PRICE FOR A COLOSSAL COLLAPSE

Pakistan were cruising at 155/2 in the 30th over but lost eight wickets for 36 runs to be bowled out for 191 in 42.5 overs

Scoring shots and wickets

W (29.4 Ovs) Babar b Siraj 155/3 ● 1 (29.5) ● 1 (30.2) ● 2 (31.1) ● 1 (31.4) ● 1 (31.5) ● 1 (31.6) ● W (32.2) Shakeel lbw Kuldeep 162/4 ● 4 (32.4) ● W (32.6) Iftikhar b Kuldeep 166/5 ● 1 (33.4) ● 1 (33.5) ● W (33.6) Rizwan b Bumrah 168/6 ● 1 (34.2) ● 1 (34.5) ● 1 (35.1) ● W (35.2) Shadab b Bumrah 171/7 ● 1 (35.6) ● 1 (36.2) ● 1 (36.6) ● 1lb (37.1) ● 1w (37.5) ● 1 (38.1) ● 4 (38.3) ● 1 (38.6) ● 4 (39.1) ● 1 (39.2) ● W (39.6) Nawaz c Bumrah b Pandya 187/8 ● W (40.1) Hasan Ali c Gill b Jadeja 187/9 ● 2 (40.5) ● 1 (41.6) ● 1 (42.4) ● W (42.5) Rauf lbw Jadeja 191/10

The bedazzling brilliance of Rohit

Sharma was typically easy on the eye against Pak, obscuring the hard work that has gone into his game

SRIRAM VEERA

AHMEDABAD, OCTOBER 14

AS THE sun went down, the world's biggest cricket stadium was lit up not just by floodlights or the flash cameras from over one lakh smartphones in the stands. It was fueled by Rohit Sharma's bedazzling brilliance. Pakistan were blinded, the fans, who have come from across the country in flights, special trains, G-paying exorbitant amounts to hotels, were wowed as India cantered to a seven-wicket win.

Of all the splendid maximums, a lofted straight six off Haris Rauf stood out for its gorgeous violence. It's the weirdest thing to note about an opening batsman, but Rohit Sharma has the most delightful lofted straight drive in the world. The lingering visual is how the shot ends: hands gliding through the line and flicking up as if he had picked his daughter and tossed her gently in the air as fathers do.

Nothing he told recently to *The Indian Express* came easily. He admitted that pretty early in his life, he knew he had the 'talent' and a game that's easy on the eye, but also knew it's a meaningless word without performance.

He says he made two crucial tweaks to his batting - on his own, without any help from anyone. The first came early in the international arena when he decided to stop tapping his bat in the crease. It's a sight that many might have forgotten, but Rohit would crouch and go tap, tap tap.

The front leg would trespass across into areas of trouble, exposing him to a couple of huge problems: the avry balance meant he was getting squared up for the away-going deliveries, and also falling over triggering an lbw threat to nipbackers. As an opener in white-ball, he couldn't have either of the two problems, especially from the away-going sorters.

Thinker, analyst

His solution to the twin problem was to stand with a raised-bat at stance. "No one told me, it was my creation. I figured that out when I began to open the batting. I thought keeping the bat up gives me an opportunity to be in a good position to leave balls first. I was batting at number 5, where I didn't get the opportunity to leave the ball. So even at nets, I was only practising constantly to hit the ball. Even in Ranji Trophy I used to bat at 4-5, and had trained myself to be a middle order batsman," he told *The Indian Express* before the World Cup.

"When I began to open, I thought about what I could do. The first thing that came to my mind was the ball will swing and the guys will try to get you out behind the stumps. LBW is also there. I had to find a way to keep out the good outswingers. I kept thinking what can I do? Keeping the bat up allowed me to be in a good position to leave the ball.

Earlier, when I used to keep my bat down I always used to feel that I had to play this ball. It was, what we batsmen call, a flow."



Rohit Sharma scored 86 off 63 balls in silken fashion. Nirmal Harindran

The flow was buttery smooth on Saturday, the hands that held the bat carrying out his furious urges in a silken fashion. But to do all this, he had to first curb that excessive flow that was getting out of control. Watch him next time as the bowler is running in. Thud, thud thud — and he is still with a raised bat. Sometimes, as the bowler gets

close to the umpire, Sharma might flex his knees, like a golfer. That's about it. And that's why the bowlers most successful are the ones who upset that balance at the crease, making him over-flow.

Then in 2018 came the next change, triggered by opening in Tests.

"It was in England I had to change my

Often, as it did on Saturday, it seems he isn't confronting a ball speared at him rapidly that can land in varying lengths. It's as if he is hitting a ball that lies still at a spot.

grip a little bit again to play very close to the body. It was a very technical thing. I never did it before; so it hurt your wrist. I thought Jimmy Anderson was going to the ball, so he was going to get me out. What has he done all his life in the UK? What does he look to do? I thought about it. We had 15 days to prepare."

So he cocked up his wrist a touch that ever-so slightly shifted his grip - "and it pained! But now I could delay my downward bat swing even more and not commit myself like before. I could hold the bat in line with the moving ball," Rohit told this newspaper.

Before England, he would move into the ambit of Ricky Ponting at the Mumbai Indians team in IPL - and he began to soak up nuggets on batting.

"He is such a legend and it was great to talk about batting with him. They were mostly on basics, but it was good to hear from him - some things that validated what I was doing, and some things to remember. Balance is the key, really."

"I had to figure out all these tweaks on my own as I was clear that I shouldn't be expecting any help from anyone. The tough times I saw when I wasn't picked for the 2011 World Cup and during the couple of bad tours that followed. I figured that it's just my own battle and just thought it through." The batting tweaks kicked in, the mental side of it strengthened, and as he often says these days, "solid preparation" puts him in a "happy space".

He certainly seemed in happy space when Shaheen Afridi curved his first ball full and on the middle and leg line. No self-doubts, no stutters - the bat rushed down smoothly to fling the ball towards square-leg boundary.

For a while now, Rohit Sharma has embraced minimalism in his batting. If the length or the line demands it, he flexes his upper body — stretches it, leans forward, arches back, reaches across, and bends his knees to do the needful. Rest, his still head and the flowing hands take care. Nothing twitches while at crease. The hands then flow, the bat swings down, the hip swivels, and he just screams through the line.

As if he was hitting a stationary ball. That's the greatest visual trickery that Rohit achieves. Often, as it did on Saturday, it seems he isn't confronting a ball speared at him rapidly that can land in varying lengths. It's as if he is hitting a ball that lies still at a spot.

Be it the pull, the lofted straight drive - it's a unitary flowing sensuous movement. The Rohit Sharma show never ceases to satiate the senses despite numerous re-runs.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA vs PAKISTAN

NARENDRA MODI STADIUM, AHMEDABAD
Toss: India elected to field

PAKISTAN

A Shafique lbw b Siraj	20 (24b)
I Haq c †Rahul b Pandya	36 (38b)
B Azam b M Siraj	50 (58b)
M Rizwan b Bumrah	49 (69b)
S Shakeel lbw b K Yadav	6 (10b)
I Ahmed b K Yadav	4 (4b)
S Khan b Bumrah	2 (5b)
M Nawaz c Bumrah b Pandya	4 (14b)
H Ali c Gill b Jadeja	12 (19b)
S Afridi not out	2 (10b)
H Rauf lbw b Jadeja	2 (6b)
■ Extras (lb 1, lb 2, w 1)	4
■ Total 42.5 Ov (RR: 4.45)	191
■ FoW: 1-41 (Abdullah Shafique, 7.6 ov), 2-73 (Imam-ul-Haq, 12.3 ov), 3-155 (Babar Azam, 29.4 ov), 4-162 (Saad Shakeel, 32.2 ov), 5-166 (Iftikhar Ahmed, 32.6 ov), 6-168 (Mohammad Rizwan, 33.6 ov), 7-171 (Shadab Khan, 35.2 ov), 8-187 (Mohammad Nawaz, 39.6 ov), 9-187 (Hasan Ali, 40.1 ov), 10-191 (Haris Rauf, 42.5 ov)	
■ Bowling: Jasprit Bumrah 7-1-19-2, Mohammed Siraj 8-0-50-2, Hardik Pandya 6-0-34-2, Kuldeep Yadav 10-0-35-2, Ravindra Jadeja 9.5-0-38-2, Shardul Thakur 2-0-12-0.	

INDIA

R Sharma c I Ahmed b S Afridi	86 (63b)
S Gill c S Khan b S Afridi	16 (11b)
V Kohli c M Nawaz b H Ali	16 (18b)
S Iyer not out	53 (62b)
KL Rahul not out	19 (29b)
■ Extras (lb 1, w 1)	2
■ Total 30.3 Ov (RR: 6.29)	192/3
■ FoW: 1-23 (Shubman Gill, 2.5 ov), 2-79 (Virat Kohli, 9.5 ov), 3-156 (Rohit Sharma, 21.4 ov)	
■ Bowling: Shaheen Shah Afridi 6-0-36-2, Hasan Ali 6-0-34-1, Mohammad Nawaz 8.3-0-47-0, Haris Rauf 6-0-43-0, Shadab Khan 4-0-31-0.	

NUMBER PLATE

117

India won in 30.3 overs with 117 balls remaining. This is India's fifth biggest ever margin in a chase against Pakistan in men's ODIs

It didn't seem like an ICC event to be brutally honest. It seemed like a bilateral series; it seemed like a BCCI event. I didn't hear Dil Dil Pakistan coming through the microphones too often."

MICKEY ARTHUR
PAKISTAN TEAM DIRECTOR

SPINNING A WEB

How Kuldeep and Jadeja trapped Pakistan with their LBW plan

SRIRAM VEERA

AHMEDABAD, OCTOBER 14

WHEN SHARDUL Thakur's face flashed on the big screen before the game, a gentle murmur rippled through the crowd. From then on, the game knotted into one question: In the absence of R Ashwin, what would be the plan of Kuldeep Yadav and Ravindra Jadeja in the middle overs on a slightly sluggish pitch, which was going to determine the fate of the game?

It crystallised on the second ball of Jadeja's first over when the umpire upheld a stirring lbw appeal that Mohammad Rizwan had it reversed through DRS. The main aim, almost the sole target for the majority, of the Indian spinners was the lbw trap against Pakistan batsmen on a slightly sluggish track. None of the jazz about teasing flight and loop; no real attempt to get the short cover fielder involved for a mistimed drive with a vicious dipping ball; no need for the slip fielder to check his vision and hand-eye coordination for a reflex catch from a ripping turner.

It all came down to the lbw. Such was the pitch. New Zealand had already shown what was to be done here under the sun-baked pitch in the opening game of the World Cup. Choke the middle overs with stumps-to-stumps deliveries, let the pitch suck out the fizz and skid the ball on to the stumps.

England couldn't handle; Pakistan never looked like they could.

Jadeja's first ball, the first of the 14th over, actually turned sharply, raising visions of Chennai, but neither Jadeja nor Kuldeep Yadav were blinded by the illusion. They stuck to the obvious pre-game plan. As soon as he heard the first ball ripping into KL Rahul's gloves, Rizwan went for his chief jailbreak response: the sweep. But Jadeja was ready with the fuller delivery that crawled under the bat but didn't straighten enough to make the DRS replay confirm his conviction that it was hitting the stumps.

The beginning

But the Indian spin script began to flow from then on. Jadeja would twitch with every skidding delivery on the stumps, anticipating an awkwardly-angled defensive chop or the injudicious sweep but Babar Azam and surprisingly Rizwan, too kept the devil out for a while. Rizwan began to punch with a straight vertical bat. Azam, who can be a bit iffy against the left-armers arm-balls, kept ping-pong the V.

The crowd fanning themselves with pink placards began to wait for the Pakistan roof to develop cracks. Ice creams were sucked, the odd "Jai Sriram" was shouted, the giggling laughter that invariably followed such cries ringed the arena, selfies were taken for 'I was



there' moments. And they waited.

Kuldeep didn't get big turn but kept punctuating his breaks with the squeezed-out angler that went with the arm, threw in the occasional googly, and Pakistan batsmen kept pushing and prodding. The New Zealand vs England game had also revealed another facet: under lights, the ball comes on much better and batting becomes easier. So Pakistan can't afford to play out 20 overs of spin in the middle overs. India had given them an opening by not playing Ashwin - so, it was



India spinners Kuldeep Yadav (left) and Ravindra Jadeja picked up two wickets each against Pakistan on Saturday.

Nirmal Harindran/Reuters

n't 30 overs of potential chokehold - but still, runs had to be got against the two spinners.

Rizwan was the first to stir. In the 23rd over, he slog-swept Kuldeep for a four and scooped the next ball to the fine-leg boundary. But the ever-present lbw always hovered. In the 24th over, Jadeja almost skidded on to Babar's pads, but the bat jabbed down in time: Jadeja brought down his half-raised arms. Next over, Kuldeep had another lbw appeal against Babar after a failed sweep shot, but the DRS upheld it as umpire's call. The

THE STREAK

India 8-0 Pakistan

Here's a brief look-back at India's 100% record against Pakistan in the history of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, dating back to 1992.

Sydney, 4 Mar 1992
INDIA WON BY 43 RUNS
POTM: SACHIN TENDULKAR

Bengaluru, 9 Mar 1996
INDIA WON BY 39 RUNS
POTM: NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU

Manchester, 8 Jun 1999
INDIA WON BY 47 RUNS
POTM: VENKATESH PRASAD

Centurion, 1 Mar 2003
INDIA WON BY 6 WICKETS
POTM: SACHIN TENDULKAR

Mohali, 30 Mar 2011
INDIA WON BY 29 RUNS
POTM: SACHIN TENDULKAR

Adelaide, 15 Feb 2015
INDIA WON BY 76 RUNS
POTM: VIRAT KOHLI

Manchester, 16 Jun 2019
INDIA WON BY 89 RUNS
POTM: ROHIT SHARMA

Ahmedabad, 14 Oct 2023
INDIA WON BY 7 WICKETS
POTM: JASPRIT BUMRAH

STANDINGS

	M	W	L	T	PTS	NRR
Ind	3	3	0	0	6	+1.821
NZ	3	3	0	0	6	+1.604
SA	2	2	0	0	4	+2.360
Pak	3	2	1	0	4	-0.137
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

NZ skipper Williamson fractures left thumb

Chennai: New Zealand captain Kane Williamson has been ruled out of the team's immediate World Cup matches with a fractured thumb, but head coach Gary Stead is optimistic the batter will be back in action at some stage of the tournament. After spending nearly seven months on the sidelines with a knee injury, Williamson made 78 not out in his return to action in the team's comprehensive victory against Bangladesh on Friday. The 33-year-old, however, was struck by a throw while running between the wickets during the match, which now makes him uncertain for the tournament. REUTERS



EMOTIONAL ROLLERCOASTER
Quicker spin, Bumrah masterclass, clever DRS

Cross-seamer does the trick

The shock on Abdullah Shafique's face captured the story. He was looking to work Mohammed Siraj's ball onto the leg-side. He had been feeding leg-side dollies throughout his first spell. But this ball kept lower than it was expected and blasted his pads. But more than the surface playing tricks too early it was the cross-seamer that did the trick. Cross-seamers when it hits the seam could keep a bit low and stop at the batsmen. When it does not it could skid on. The latter accounted for the wicket of Shafique, who until that moment was batting sweetly.



Sachin raves about Babar's cover drive

Shardul Thakur had just offered a bit of room for Babar Azam to free his arms, allowing him to hit a regal cover-drive. It delighted one of the finest executioners of the stroke, Sachin Tendulkar, making a guest-appearance in the commentary box. "Look at the new extension of the arms, lovely," he said. "Everyone talks of the top hand when cover-driving". The high-elbow winking at the skies and all. "But the bottom hand plays an equally important role. Look how it goes in the direction of the ball. Beautiful," he said.



India pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah (right) embraces Pakistan's left-arm quick Shaheen Afridi. Nirmal Harindran

Jadeja -- India's banker

Ravindra Jadeja is taken so much for granted that it's on the rare occasion when he is taken for runs that he attracts attention. Even when he is not running through sides, he keeps a tight lid on proceedings, which often results in wickets at the other end. And he doesn't need a helpful pitch to leave an impact on the game. Seven overs for 29, when all indications point towards a high-scoring contest, is an invaluable contribution. Keeping batsmen of the quality of Babar Azam and Rizwan, when there's not much assistance from the surface, proves the skill of the left-arm spinner.



Babar in dismay after Siraj knocks him over

Babar Azam looked in dismay as his off stump lay distributed behind. Just when India would've been looking to bring Thakur in the fray, Siraj does what the former is known for. A crucial wicket in the middle overs against the run of play. No alien movement on that as opposed to the cross seamer that did Abdullah Shafique. Perhaps it was the pace that did him. It was the dismissal that triggered Pakistan's dramatic collapse from 155-2 to 191 all out.



Kuldeep holds faith in DRS, traps Shakeel leg before

The moment the ball pinged the pads of Saud Shakeel, Kuldeep Yadav appealed vociferously, backpedalling and pleading at the umpire. The umpire was unmoved. But Kuldeep would not settle for anything but a review. The wicket-keeper KL Rahul was only mildly interested. But Kuldeep was so confident that Rohit Sharma had no other option but to seek the review. It turned out to be an inspired decision as the ball-tracker



showed three red dots. It seemed like his slider, one that slid into Shakeel's pads after pitching. He then bowled a horrendous short ball—it looked like a ruse, drawing Iftikhar Ahmed into a false sense of complacency—that was thundered to the ropes. But on his last ball, he slipped in a wrong'un that Ahmed did not pick off his hands. He unfurled a sweep, his one-stop stroke when he is confused, and ended up gloving the ball onto the stumps.

Rizwan gets crucial review right

Fine margins decide matters in cricket—especially when teams are of equal standard. Mohammad Rizwan, fresh from a match-winning hundred in Pakistan's record-breaking successful chase against Sri Lanka a few days ago, managed to get an LBW verdict overturned on review in Ravindra Jadeja first over, when he was fresh at the crease. There wasn't much in it, the ball-tracker predicting that the delivery would have just missed leg-stump. It was the 14th over and if Pakistan would have gone three down, the momentum would have shifted totally towards India. But as it turned out, the reprieve was followed by a succession of productive overs for Rizwan and Babar.



Bowled over by Bumrah



One thought Bumrah couldn't get it any better than that dismissal of Rizwan. Hold my beer, says Bumrah as in the very next over Shadab Khan was bowled with an unplayable delivery. If Wasim Akram was watching this, he would be reminded of the two deliveries he sent down in the 1992 World Cup final at the MCG. The one to Shadab was angling in before it moved the other way to take the off-stump. You need extreme luck to survive such deliveries. There is nothing the batsman could have done about it.

Rough end to glorious innings



For all the exquisite boundaries he'd laced this outing with, Rohit Sharma's power knock comes to an end off one of the ugliest plays from the day. Shaheen Shah Afridi drops down the pace to 134 KPH, and the Indian skipper - looking to loft it over mid wicket - is forced into a one-handed drive to meet the length ball. An audible gasp rings around the venue which was eagerly awaiting an 8th ODI World Cup hundred from India's serial run scorer in the competition. Not to be today, but he's certainly dialling it back to the 2019 self.

Rahul's evolution as a wicketkeeper



Very little has been spoken about how far KL Rahul has evolved into a wicketkeeper. Nothing illustrates it more than his foot movement behind the stumps. Since coming back from the quadriceps injury which can be very tough on wicketkeepers, Rahul doesn't crouch the old school way against the seamers. He is mostly squatting that gives more time to move with the line of the ball. That said, while keeping to spinners, he has shown exceptional reflexes and has become a very trusted voice behind the stumps. Rahul took the catch off Pandya's bowling to get the wicket of Imamura Haq.

Stern English test awaits Afghanistan

TUSHAR BHADURI
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 14

ONE SWALLOW doesn't make a summer, and a convincing win over Bangladesh doesn't necessarily mean England are back to their best. These are alien conditions for the defending champions and they would be better advised not to take anything for granted, even if it's a game against Afghanistan on a Kotla pitch predicted to be a belter.



Uncertainty still surrounds England talisman Ben Stokes's availability. Reuters

England are one of the fancied sides in the World Cup, though there may be some whippers of it being a Dad's Army, with more than a few survivors from the successful 2019 campaign. Add to it the uncertainty surrounding their talisman Ben Stokes and they can't afford to put a foot wrong. Having lost their opener against New Zealand - it was a mauling, in fact - the margin of error from them has gone down, even if it's still early days in the competition.

For a team based on taking no prisoners with the bat, it's actually the calmness that Dawid Malan - who scored a ton against Bangladesh - and Joe Root bring that could be the deciding factor. Not that the duo scores slowly, but their consistency is what makes them different. Barring Root, who carried on to play a substantial innings against the Kiwis, they were much better against Bangladesh at Dharamsala, even though they would have hoped to finish the innings in a much better fashion.

Dashers Harry Brook and Liam Livingstone are yet to come to the party, meaning it's often the likes of Sam Curran and Chris Woakes in the middle during the death overs. Brook's low returns have put the

spotlight on the prospects of Stokes making a comeback to the playing XI. Root didn't end the suspense regarding the left-hander when he addressed the media on the eve of the game.

"Bency (Stokes) is getting better day by day. He trained really well last night. He had a long bat and seems to be improving. So all good signs ahead of tomorrow," he said.

"He has just got to be ready to play. You all know a team with Ben (Stokes) in it is a bit stronger, but he has got to be fit to play. We'll see whether it's tomorrow or the next game or further down the line."

The last time Stokes played for England, he got the highest individual ODI score for his country. But it remains to be seen if the time he spent out of action will have any bearing on him. Going by past record, Stokes will be ready to go whenever he comes back.

Rashid's weaker format?

When these two teams played at the last World Cup at Old Trafford, Eoin Morgan got on a six-hitting spree in a big hundred, taking, among others, Rashid Khan to the cleaners. The star spinner is not as effective in the 50-over format as he is in the 20-over one, and the Kotla pitch and the small ground might play into the hands of the big hitters in the England line-up.

In any case, Rashid's bowling is likely to make a difference only if Afghanistan make a decent fist of it with the bat. Skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi and Azmatullah Omarzai got runs and a century partnership against India, but the likes of Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Ibrahim Zadran and Rahmat Shah can't afford to stay without runs for too long, if they are to avoid a third successive defeat in the tournament.

Root, for one, is not underestimating Sunday's opposition, especially after having a 1-1 record after two games.

"Every team in this tournament poses different threats, you just have to be ready and adaptable to combat that. They (Afghanistan) obviously have got some world-class players. From my point of view we need to keep getting better," the star batsman said.

"This is another opportunity for us to keep building the momentum and progression towards the business end of the tournament and making sure that we are where we need to be at the backend of the tournament."

Root came into the tournament short of runs, but in the two games so far has shown that big players like the big stage.

"I do enjoy playing cricket here in India. I think it suits my game quite nicely. With the World Cup round the corner, you try to find a way to be in a position where you want to be," Root said.

"When you come into the tournament, this is where you need to stand up and deliver. So it's nice to contribute in the first couple of games. Hopefully look to carry that forward, not just individually but collectively as a group."

With the ball, England will be particularly buoyed by the performance of tall left-arm paceman Reece Topley, who rocked the Bangladesh chase with three early wickets. Woakes can make an impact early on with the new ball but can go the journey later on when the ball stops swinging. The spin duo of Moeen Ali and Adil Rashid may not find conditions in their favour, which puts Curran in the spotlight. He is an impact player and often makes things happen, both with bat and ball.

World Athletics awaits report on Delhi meet fiasco

MIHIR VASAVDA & AMIT KAMATH
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 14

WORLD ATHLETICS, the international governing body, is "awaiting with interest" the report of the Athletics Federation of India's (AFI) probe committee into the incident at the Delhi State Athletics Championship last month, where most athletes fled the field of play after the arrival of dope-testing officials.

Sebastian Coe, president of World Athletics, said he has spoken to AFI officials as well as the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU), a group formed to fight doping, after the incident was brought to his attention.

"I am waiting for a report on that, as is the AIU. I was travelling at the end of the season so I am waiting for a report from the Indian federation," Coe, who is in Mumbai for the International Olympic Committee Session, told The Indian Express.

Asked if there's any timeline for the report to be submitted, Coe replied: "I don't know (by when)."

"I spoke to the Indian federation immediately afterwards and they said they were in Hangzhou at the time (for the Asian Games)... I will await the report."

As reported by The Indian Express, the sudden appearance of anti-doping officials on the final day of the Delhi State Athletics Championship, at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in the capital on September 26,

resulted in mass withdrawal of athletes - only one sprinter turned up for the men's 100 metres final; the Under-20 boys' 100-metres final saw just three finalists; and the Under-16 boys' hammer throw too had just one participant. The National Anti Doping Agency (NADA) officials had dropped in a day after a purported video clip of the washroom at the stadium showed piles of used syringes.

Coe, a 1,500 metres double Olympic gold medalist, said that "cheating is non-negotiable" and is being taken "extremely seriously".

"People now recognise that we take it extremely seriously, our testing systems are sounder and more extensive than they've ever been. We have spent more than \$8 million a year on the AIU, so people know we are very serious about maintaining the highest reputation. Cheating is non-negotiable,"

Coe said, adding, "We will await the report with interest."

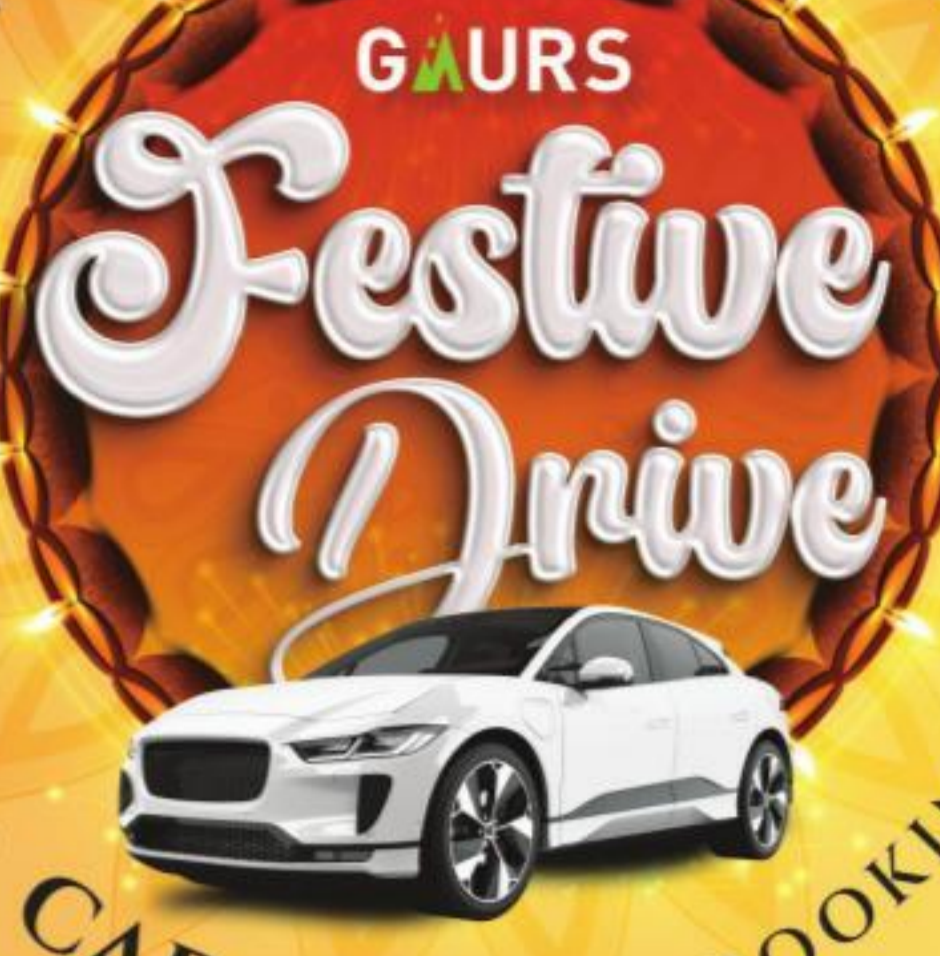
AFI chief Adille Sumariwalla said the federation's disciplinary committee, headed by retired IPS officer B K Sinha, is conducting the probe.

"The disciplinary committee is looking into it. I have not interfered in the process and do not know the current status," Sumariwalla said.

According to the World Anti-Doping Agency's latest report, while Russia tops the list of violations with over 100 cases, India ranks second with 59 violations.



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



Pankaj Saran
Former Deputy National Security Advisor and Convenor, NatStrat



Shubhajit Roy
Diplomatic Editor The Indian Express

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 Shubhajit Roy.

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POINT OF VIEW, PAGE 2

History Holds Court

An exhibition spotlights the Imperial Durbars of Delhi through paintings, photographs and postcards of the time



SPOTLIGHT, PAGE 3

Many Lives of Cats

Pets have become influencers by creating a fan base on social media and raking in money through endorsements for their humans

Rinku Ghosh

RITA SAHA pirouettes and jumps, like a bird taking flight, while drumming up a crescendo with her mallet. Her fingers are almost invisible as she swings her feathered dhaak on her shoulder, matching her feet to her own beats. "Eta te moja pai, sammano pai, maayer aashirbado pai (I have a lot of fun, get respect and blessings of the goddess when I play the barrel drums)," says the 35-year-old, looking up at the clay idol of the goddess that's awaiting a final coat of colour. But Saha feels complete as one of the first woman drummers of Bengal who are creating a new century of women dhaakis as percussion artists.

Today, they are called to perform as an ensemble, from the old puja in the bylanes of Kolkata's Ahiritola to distant Atlanta. Anjali Das, 38, is awaiting her passport for the next big gig. "We were a family of limited means. Now that I am a professional dhaaki, I can add to the family income and get to travel the world," she says. Both mothers — Saha has a six-year-old daughter and Das has a 16-year-old daughter — had reconciled to their humdrum existence. Their farmer husbands would make just enough to get by. Nothing really happened in their tucked away lives in Maslandapur, a sleepy railway town in Bengal's North 24 Parganas district. But come pujas and there would be a beeline from Kolkata to hire the town's notables, namely the dhaakis, schooled by the legendary Gokul Chandra Das. As the men spun around and beat their drums while setting off for their various destinations, Saha and Das would tap their feet unconsciously. "Rhythm is a dancer, it doesn't need song or music. Everybody can do it," says Das, who can whirl like a dervish for an hour. "In that moment, I forget the world, my conflicts and pain, I become somebody else," she adds.

Their foot-tapping did not go unnoticed by Chandra, who has had many patrons from Kolkata. Somewhat of a rebel, he was groomed by tabla maestro Tannoy Bose as part of his project to mainstream the dhaak beyond just being a folk musical instrument. Bose included him as part of the Masters of Percussion tour in the US in 2010, where he played with Pandit Ravi Shankar and Zakir Hussain. And it was while picking up a saxophone for his son at a music shop that he saw a woman, playing guitar, drums, flute and saxophone altogether, a one-woman orchestra. "I was immediately reminded of the multi-limbed Durga and wondered why I wasn't looking at women in my village to play the dhaak, some of whom had grown up with the sound of beats seeing their men practise at home. Durpa puja rituals are entirely dependent on women. So why leave them out of a celebratory practice and put a gender barrier?" asks Chandra.

The dhaaki tradition in Bengal began as a seasonal performance by farmers in their non-harvest period. It was an acquired skill that was passed down from father to son and pretty much stayed within the men in the family. So when Chandra first started training the daughters in his family he met much resistance. He then decided to hold dhaaki hobby classes for women between the ages

13 and 50. "I even reconceptualised the dhaak, weighing under 5 kg, so that women could carry it around easily, strapping it to their shoulders," he says.

In 2013, he started a training centre at the courtyard of his home to create a safe space. He held classes between 5 and 6 pm, which allowed Saha and Das to wrap up most of their chores for the day. "During board exams, we move up our classes by an hour so that our children can have an undisturbed study time," says Saha. Apart from breaking the gender barrier, Chandra has also shattered the caste bias by opening doors to all talent. "Drumming is an art and art is free-flowing, it doesn't choose a caste," says Das.

A decade later, Chandra's academy now hosts several batches of students. Both Das' and Saha's daughters are enrolled here, too. And once the women started getting paid for their performance, acceptance from families followed. "Though there were some reservations about travelling to faraway places and spending nights away from home, the respect and awards we get and our financial independence changed mindsets. Now our husbands encourage us to travel. Mine tells me to see the world through my work as we cannot afford to do that on our own," says Saha, who is travelling in a group with Das and two male drummers. They have each



PALLAVI TO

DURGA'S STORIES

From conducting ceremonies to playing the drums, as Durga Puja begins later this week, women leading from the front tell their stories



ODE TO JOY

(Top) Dhaakis Rita Saha (left) and Anjali Das in New Delhi; Nandini Bhowmik

other's back, chat and bond over their beats. They are the eternal music makers.

KEY FIGURE

The Jagat Mukherjee Park puja pandal that features Fuldi, a model of art college, since 1974

Gradually, I realised that students were focused on their drawing skills and not me. I started loving my job as the students were full of passion for art," she says.

Rabi Mondal, a third-year student of the college, says, "She helps us in studying the human body. She has been very patient with us as sketching takes time. Many artists who used Fuldi for their art are big names now." Among the many she has posed for are

them. She saw how young people were gradually giving up on ceremonial weddings because most male Brahmin priests went through the motions of chants and mantras that made no sense to them. So, when it came to her elder daughter's wedding four years ago, she decided that, being a scholar in the subject, she would officiate as a priest and revive the Vedic marriage ritual as it was meant to be in the ancient texts, as a reading of vows by two people with Prakriti or nature as witness.

"Rituals are part of the cultural consciousness of every kind of puja in Bengal. But without the interpretation of their significance and adaptation to the times, they do not remain dynamic. Besides, priesthood has been historically male-dominated and confined to Brahmins. No wonder then that they became a small entitled tribe that never felt the need to reinvent for changing times. Our Upanishads and Puranas are about bhakti, not about ticking the boxes," says Bhowmik, who did another round of extensive research before she began with social ceremonies related to weddings, memorial service (shraadh), a baby's first rice-eating ceremony (onnoprasnon) or house-warming (grihapravesh). That was the first step as she gradually took on patriarchy, beginning from her marital home where there was much

scepticism. "Nowhere in the scriptures is the mandate of priesthood assigned to men or a certain caste. A priest's role is about disseminating knowledge. And nowhere is menstruation a barrier for worship, it is a natural cycle of life. Why else do devotees flock to the Ambubachi Mela at Kamakhya Temple, Guwahati, which is the celebration of the annual menstruation course of the goddess and a fertility ritual?" she asks.

Questioning logic and countering biases with scriptural reference, she has built her own constituency. "Now the young couples whom I have married off want me in every social function," says Bhowmik, who along with four other women have set up Suvamastu, an organisation of women priests, who are known by their first name. "A surname comes with a caste tag and inherent biases. We want to come from a space of enlightenment, not darkness," she says.

Over the last two years, Bhowmik has also made her way into conducting Durga puja, the ritualistic part of which was always considered the most difficult part of Shakti worship and considered to be the preserve of Brahmin men. Now, she takes care of six community pujas and has invitations coming in from Delhi, the US and even the Netherlands.

Bhowmik has brought about some changes, interspersing her chants and practices with Bhakti sangeet, elevating the ceremonies to a performance art that involves everybody. "I match the scriptures with songs written by Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam, the latter probably having the largest repertory of Bhakti sangeet and lends to the emotional tide of the puja. So every ritual becomes a musical performance," she says.

Historically, the Brahmo Samaj, the monotheistic sect of Hinduism that relied on Upanishads and was set up by the reformer Raja Rammohan Roy, had a few women priests. But they worked within their groups and not in the community. In that sense, Bhowmik has made a giant stride for women.

She has restored the seriousness of certain rituals like the Nabapatrika snan. "Nobody understands why nine plants — Banana, colocasia, turmeric, common sesban, stone apple, pomegranate, asoca, arum and paddy — are sanctified and given God-like status with the idols. You need them in your diet to keep away from infection and illnesses as you prepare for the winter. Once you explain their relevance in practical life, people get interested in the ritual rather than passing it over," says Bhowmik. She has also restored the worship of the swan and owl, the vahanas or animal companions of goddesses Saraswati and Lakshmi. "Was it because they represented goddesses? But I found no references," she says.

Bhowmik, on whom the 2020 film *Brahma Janen Gopon Kommoti* is based, is now working on including widows in sindoor khela, where women smear each other with vermilion on Dashami day. "Why glorify married women only and remind those who have lost their husbands of their grief? A red dot on the forehead is Durga's blessing, a sign of cosmic energy, it is for everybody," she says, asking questions about conventions that nobody did so far. "Priesthood is earned, not given," she adds.

The Muse

A model for art students in Kolkata gets her own pandal

Sweetie Kumari

AT JAGAT Mukherjee Park near Shyambazar in north Kolkata, artists are giving final touches to portraits that will adorn this year's puja pandal. After five decades of being a model for students of the Government College of Art and Craft (GCAC), one of India's oldest art colleges, Fuldi, will now have a pandal dedicated to her. Many of the works will be painted by the art college students.

Parimal Pal, an alumnus of GCAC who came up with the idea, says, "Fuldi has made a huge contribution in the lives of artists. Like doctors practise and learn medical science on a body, we artists learn from the models who sit for us but unfortunately they don't get recognition. No one even knows them. So I thought it would be great to introduce her to people."

In and around the art college though, Fuldi needs no introduction. "Model didi!", a tea seller calls out. She responds with a smile. Now 66, she was 15 when she came here



from Murshidabad. She was looking for a job when an acquaintance suggested she model for art students. "I joined as a teenager. For anatomy studies, we were required to pose nude but now in the era of social media you have to be careful. So, for the past five years, I have been posing fully dressed."

The journey from Murshidabad to a pandal in Kolkata has been long. "When I started, I was too young to understand anything.



PHOTOS: PARTHA PAUL

Chintamani Kar, one of India's foremost modern sculptors, Subrata Gangopadhyay and Ganesh Pyne. "I have never gone to school, I am not literate but I am happy that I have contributed to their success," she says. Many of the students have kept in touch with her and helped her out when the Covid pandemic struck and she had no work.

When Fuldi started work in 1974, she was paid Rs 6 a day and would pose for six to eight

hours. Today, she gets Rs 1,000 a day. She makes anything from Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000 a month, depending on how many days she gets called. Initially, many frowned upon her choice of profession but she persisted. "I don't care about what people think. They haven't seen my struggle and are not going to pay my bills. At least I am not doing anything unethical," says Fuldi who lives in Kolkata with her family.

DOWN IN JUNGLELAND

RANJIT LAL Author, environmentalist and bird watcher



GREEN MISSILES

The plum-headed parakeet nests in holes in tree trunks and is known to raid guava trees

RANJIT LAL

Hide and Seek

Are smaller birds vanishing as competition for property and food get fierce?

WE'VE STARTED off what scientists call the 'sixth great extinction event' condemning thousands of species of plants, insects, amphibians, birds, mammals, fish and reptiles to a forever farewell. For many of them we know only too well the reasons why they are in such dire straits — and, in so many cases, are doing damn all about it. The Great Indian Bustard, a truly magnificent bird (and one which Salim Ali cannily proposed be named the National Bird) has been robbed of its habitat and is being made to blunder into live wires strung across its airspace or get minced by giant windmill propellers. They are down to just around 100 birds they say, and we, of course, are only now scrambling to retrieve the situation.

The extinction of distant species doesn't really affect most of us, but it's a different matter when you see it happen in your own little neck of the woods, and can't for the life of you understand the reason why. This particularly so, when species which are close relatives of the

do these days). Nothing daunted the parents as they began constructing a second nest in the next-door garden.

Now I've always associated ashy prinias with tailorbirds — I've seen the two together on many an occasion and they seem to share pretty much the same diet of insects and spiders. Today, the ashy prinias have all but vanished, whereas the tailorbirds are doing just fine. So why has one gone AWOL while the other seems to be doing okay?

Of the three parakeets found in Delhi, the plum-headed (née blossom-headed) was easily the most attractive and charismatic. It was smaller than the ubiquitous rose-ringed (or ring-necked) parakeet and the larger more raucous Alexandrine parakeet, which wears maroon epaulettes on its wings. The plum-headed parakeets would streak across the skies whistling 'tooi-too!' as they went past, like schoolboys gleefully making off after making mischief. The gents had deep plum-coloured heads and papaya-coloured bills, the ladies had grey heads and papaya-coloured bills. Now all three species of parakeet have pretty similar habits: They nest in holes in tree trunks or boughs, they will raid the guava trees and the bottlebrush when it's blooming in pin-drop silence. All three seem to love

Today, the ashy prinias have all but vanished whereas the tailorbirds are doing just fine

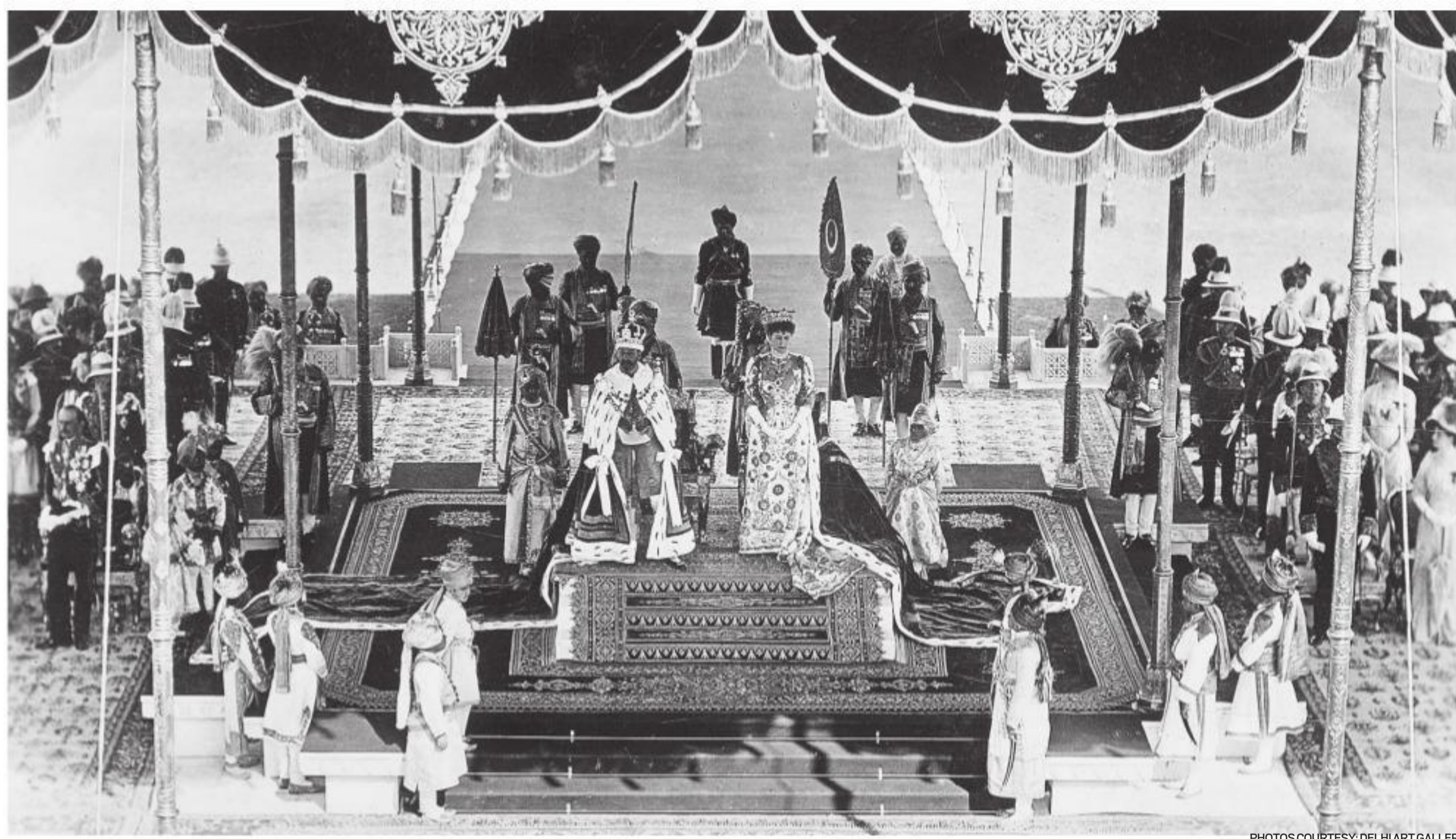
vanished one and with similar lifestyles, seem to be thriving. In my neck of the woods, for example, large grey babblers have more or less vanished, while their cousins, the jungle babblers are doing just fine. Large greys used to hop around under the trees, muttering 'kay-kay-kay' in their harsh undertones, their pale eyes glaring. That other babbler — the common babbler that used to drive my dog nuts by its trilling, alarm-clock-like whistle — has completely vanished.

It was reported recently that ashy prinias (née ashy wren-warblers) were one species that were actually doing well in the Delhi region. Sure, I used to see them skulking along the bottom of the hedges quite frequently, uttering their plaintive 'tee-tee-tee' calls, that increased in urgency and volume if say they had spotted cat. Once they even nested in one of the flower beds, building an untidy-looking home, but softly lined with spider silk in which three or four peanut-like eggs were laid. Alas, a crow discovered their home, devoured their babies and then tore the nest loose of its moorings, destroying it completely (and reminding you of what bulldozers

clowning on cable wires — somersaulting and hanging upside down and checking out the scene from this angle.

Yet now, the plum-heads have all but vanished — and I can't remember the last time I saw them streaking across the heavens like green missiles. The other two are doing fine. Had the competition for property (and food) got so fierce that the two larger species have simply pushed out the smaller one? Had they suddenly been declared to be illegal immigrants and been sent off to Rwanda? (The UK is the last country in the world that should be talking about immigration, considering their history!) So, what's going on?

Also more or less AWOL are the chatty, somewhat earnest-looking pied mynas. The common, Indian mynas, still strut around like landlords, and have always made me think they are like Delhizens. So, in some way, have Indian mynas been responsible for the thinning out of their cousins? To find out, we need to get into nitty-gritty, down and dirty, field research. All the above examples are just anecdotal. And anecdotes sadly don't cut it with science.



PHOTOS COURTESY: DELHI ART GALLERY

Holding Court With History

An exhibition spotlights the Imperial Durbars of Delhi through paintings, photographs and postcards of the time

Vandana Kalra

AFTER Edward VII succeeded as the British monarch following the death of Queen Victoria in 1901, Lord Curzon, as the Viceroy of India, organised a formal proclamation for the accession to the title before the princes and people of India. An Imperial Assemblage had previously been held in Delhi in 1877 as a visual announcement of the British domination over India and the investiture of the title of Kaiser-e-Hind on Queen Victoria, but this time the grandeur was far greater. The 1903 event had included a procession of 48 princes riding on elephants. The procession was led by Curzon and his wife, Mary, on the first elephant, followed by the Duke and Duchess of Connaught on the second elephant.

On view at DAG gallery in Delhi, a 1903 chromolithograph on paper documents this procession. It is part of the exhibition "Delhi Durbar: Empire, Display and the Possession of History", which closes on November 6. Curated by historians Swapna Liddle and Rana Safvi, the photographs and antiquities from the DAG collection demonstrate "the trajectory of Delhi within the British imperial imagination". Through the three grand durbars — 1877, 1903 and 1911 — the narrative also records the period and politics of the time. "There is an effort made to present the modern Indian perspective... A lot has been written about the durbar, but mainly from the imperial lens. The durbars were primarily held to legitimise and popularise colonial rule. There was an evident appropriation of Mughal symbols, from the use of the word durbar to the architecture of the domes, jharoka darshan and the elephant parades," says Safvi.

So, before the grandeur of the durbars, visitors are given a *darshan* of the great monuments of Delhi, and the revolt of 1857 that marked the end of the rule of the East India Company, and the direct rule of the British Crown in India. Covering one wall is a map of Imperial Delhi from the 20th century that shares the layout of the Capital that was to be built at Raisina. "The British acknowledged the importance of Delhi in the minds of peo-



ROYAL ROAD

(From top) The Coronation Durbar of 1911; the Imperial Durbar of 1903; the 1911 Durbar Railway (narrow gauge at Tis Hazari Station)

ple, even during the decline of the Mughals. There was an aura of power that surrounded the city and people across the country saw it as the Capital... The holding of the durbars in Delhi is also to tell them that we are your familiar empire, with the same Capital that you acknowledge. The 1911 transfer of the Capital becomes a culmination to that narrative," says Liddle.

The exclusion of the average Indian is evident — both behind the camera and also in the audience at the durbars. While the 1903 durbar had an amphitheatre in the shape of a

horseshoe to accommodate 16,000 invitees, three times the number seated in 1877, it was only in 1911 that provisions were made for the general public. Held in the presence of the monarchs, King George V and Queen Mary, it is here that the announcement was made for transfer of the capital of British India to Delhi. The exhibition has a pair of 60x40-inch oil on canvas of the two monarchs painted by H Banerjee, and photographs that share the arrangements and the ceremonies — from the throne pavilion designed in Indo-Saracenic style by architect-engineer Swinton Jacob to

the extravagant princely camps that were set up. Arranged in a glass vitrine are William Britain's enamelled collectible figures from 1903 that include bangle sellers with baskets, shepherd with goats and a snake charmer. "There were military reviews and ceremonies in the mornings, polo matches, balls, dinners and state receptions in the evening. Visitors were transported by the ship SS Arabia from England and by train from Bombay," writes Safvi, in a book accompanying the exhibition.

Over the years, as the colonial perception evolved, the durbars, too, reflected the ground changes. "In 1877, the focus was on the princes of India, which continues to a large extent till 1903. It was believed that the people of India will follow the traditional princes, and there was contempt for the national movement and the educated class asking for democratic rights. By the time the last durbar was held in 1911, there was growing liberalism in Britain, and the British acknowledged the need to take into account the Indian demands for greater participation. So during the state entry procession, there were stands for school children, a special tent for the representatives of British India. The fact that the king addressed them signifies that they were considered important," says Liddle.

Though works from the period fascinate and enrich, a reading of them through the accompanying text and details in the book gives a complete picture. For instance, according to some accounts, it was only the King of Delhi who was allowed to pass through the Delhi Gate of Red Fort when he went to the Juma Masjid to worship. A 1903 photograph of the state entry procession during the durbar also reveals the introduction of electricity in Delhi, with electric wires and poles visible in a scene from Chandni Chowk. Alongside postal stamps from the Coronation Durbar of 1903 on display, we are informed of an elaborate postal system with 27 post offices set up for the durbar. Liddle says, "While it was important to introduce certain things as a matter of convenience at the durbar sites, these also became an occasion for the British to showcase the progress that India had made under their rule. It becomes part of that propaganda. The official narrative presents it as the building of a modern city in the wilderness of India."

Holding the Mirror Up

I am what I am but I hope never to be a man too young to be smartly wise

AS I celebrate my 50th year on this planet, I find myself showing the effects of aging. I am ripening into who I ought to be. I see myself becoming vociferous as I acquire courage to be who I really am. I have become that age where I am fit to be Suvir Saran.

Many years ago, I had to repeat sixth grade. As I navigated being the 'new kid' in class, I remember vividly the pain and humiliation. Kids can be unkind and harsh with one another, and we were no different. As a young teen, I adopted coping mechanisms — not all of them helpful — to deal with my own frustrations and those heaped upon me by others. By Grade XI or XII, I had made peace with myself, but I was robbed of my innocence for a good five years. I had ripened into a cold teenager lost in his own world, connected only to those he deemed fit for him in his perfect world. I was young then, but hardened and made older than my years by circumstances.

Arriving in Manhattan at age 20, I found myself connected to a world with which I had no shared history. I started breathing and dancing freely and to an entirely new tune. The visage I saw in Manhattan mirrors didn't have the grit and grime I had gotten used to seeing in Delhi and Bombay. I was older, yet younger, and brimming with innocence. My reflection in the mirror came with messages

SLICE OF LIFE



Suvir Saran

Suvir Saran is a chef, author, educator and world traveller

from my daring parents, and I had their assurances in my head encouraging me to be bold and different.

Setting up home in America brought me closer to relatives from my maternal side.

They helped settle me in this new nation and nurtured me. I became close to my Nana and Nani, my maternal grandparents, Chaman Lal and Shanti Bhardwaj. When I briefly set up home in Montclair, New Jersey, managing a retail outlet of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, I was lucky to have them visit and stay with me for a long duration. Although they were up in age and seniors with health issues, in their actions and thinking, in how they behaved with one another and how they opened themselves to my friends and co-workers, I saw two people bursting with peerless youthful energy. They were full of beans and drive, gusto and vigour, vitality and zing, bounce and dynamism, zip and verve that even I couldn't match.

Getting closer to Nana and Nani is the most cherished blessing my move to the US bestowed upon me. But my friendships with senior citizens didn't end with them. Soon after my arrival in New York City, I started meeting people of all ages, and most of my friends were at least one decade older than I, if not several. Mary Ann Joulwan, my Lebanese American friend, just celebrated her 90th birthday recently and her youthfulness cannot be matched by a teenager. We would spend several nights a week together at one of our homes, cooking for and with one another and bringing along loved ones to



SUVIR SARAN

STAYING HUNGRY

Age is for wine, not for people

add to the mix. Mary Ann remains the younger one in our relationship, and lives with peerless hunger for discovery and the utmost respect for independence.

My health and circumstances brought me back to India. Manhattan is my heart-city, and India the country of my birth, where my karmic soul shall feed itself and be a support for others. As I resettle my life, mind, body and soul in a new geography, around people

who I once knew but who I was a stranger to for 30 years, I am finding pep in my step and thinking fearlessly and with a carefree mind and spirit, mirroring Nana and Nani, fashioning myself after Mary Ann, and never forgetting my parents' ability to face every challenge with a youthful resolve and stamina, innocence, and childlike hopefulness.

When my classmates remark that I am a very young 50 or I'm not behaving my age or

looking it, I think back to delicious meals around our table in New York with Arienne and Michael Batterberry and Gael Green and Steven Richter. These celebrated Manhattanites, each over a decade older than my parents, considered me their friend and equal. Michael, the founder of Food Arts and *Food & Wine* magazine, brought me on board at age 20 as a contributing authority on the masthead. On my 30th birthday, he brought a "Happy 40th" birthday cake to the party, and when told that I was only 30, he said, "Only old-man Suvir could have fooled us into believing he was in his 30s when he was all of 20!" Michael was my godfather, for a lack of a better word. He wrote the foreword to *Indian Home Cooking* (2004), my first cookbook, and he blessed my life with opportunities that come my way even today and shall tomorrow. His was a staggering presence of life-giving youth and young energy. When asked about his age, he would say, "Age is for wine, not for people". We lost Michael too soon, as we did my Nana, who passed away at 92. I had hoped both these men would live to be a hundred and more. They surely would have been the youngest people in any group. They defied the parameters that define age. They personified youth and carried their age with pride.

I am what I am, I am who I am, I am the age I am, but what I hope never to be is a man too young to be smartly wise. I am keenly aware of what I have done and achieved and the potential that still lies ahead. I am a man who has lived and loved, lost and found, succeeded and failed — and, most of all, I am hungrier to learn daily and grow into an older and wiser version of myself.



One with a Human Core

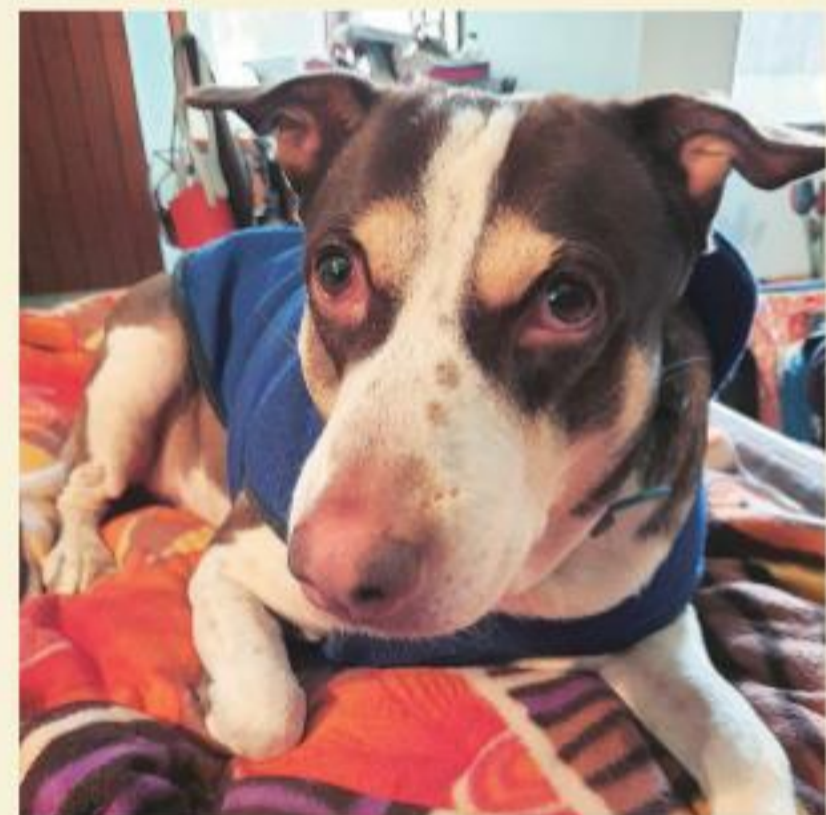
A dog with a high IQ but also an exemplary EQ, Dali had a colourful personality and a voice of his own

Dhiraj Nayyar

DALI DEFIED death once. It was on the day that he was born. He was lying in the middle of a street on a terribly cold winter night in Delhi, abandoned or perhaps lost. He looked closer to a mouse than a puppy. He was only a few hours old. A murder of crows was curious about him as was a pack of dogs. The latter belonged to a woman who was walking them in the early hours of the morning. She bent down to pick up the lifeless body, to save it from some indignity. Just then, he opened his mouth; his eyes would not open till a fortnight later. And he was brought back to life with the warmth of a hot water bottle.

Death finally caught up, as it does with all. At 10, Dali was an old dog but not elderly. Perhaps, the ever-defiant Dali wanted to cock a snook at old age and its infirmities. He was an unusual dog. He did not have the fortune of being reared by his biological mother. He was reared by his human parents, with bottled milk and Cerelac. For a long time, he turned away when he saw another of his species. Later in life, he would sneer at his fellow dogs. Dali acquired a human core. He would communicate, clearly expressing pleasure and displeasure, his likes and dislikes. He had a language of his own, not a bark, but a melody of guttural sounds.

He also picked up that other human, not-so-canine, instinct, of distrust. He could tell the difference between good and bad, and rarely gave any benefit of the doubt. His aggression, backed by reason but acted on with some lethality, made him the stuff of legends.



IN ALL HIS COLOURS

He was a dog, friend, child, boss, all rolled into one

For us, he was a dog, friend, child and boss, all rolled into one. We named him Dali because his tiny face and body seemed strikingly painted in three hues, dark brown, light brown and white. Little did we know that he would turn out as colourful a personality as his namesake.

Dali didn't want to hear a no. He had a mind of his own. More than a dozen trainers were sent packing. One, who trained police dogs, wondered why we wanted a trainer at all since he seemed highly intelligent, discerning about people and protective of his family.

Dali always had the hand of the divine on him. When he was a few months old, he strolled out of the gate of our home, and apparently couldn't find his way back. A frantic search ensued for the better part of five hours. Our cook, whom Dali was fond of, blamed himself for his disappearance but took no part in the search. Instead, he chose to meditate in his room. While the search party was out, we saw the cook cycle out of the house and return a few minutes later with Dali in tow. The cook said that while deep in meditation, he saw a vision of Dali sitting just outside our colony and claimed he found him on the exact spot.

Dali had a high IQ but also an exemplary EQ. During the Covid-induced lockdown, he could sense our anxiety and stress and made sure he was a constant calming influence. In fact, during the lockdown, our brief walks with him outdoors were a break from the bleak reality.

As we watched the flames engulf his pyre, it was also a reminder of a feisty, defiant and loving dog who lit up our ordinary lives. Travel well my friend, and paint the other side in all your colours.

The author is an economist and columnist

CATS (& DOGS) WITH MANY LIVES

Pets have become influencers by creating a fan base on social media and raking in money through endorsements for their humans

Aditi Ray

ARMED WITH selfie sticks, biscuits and some coconuts, a crowd gathers at the Basirhat border of West Bengal to welcome a guest from Bangladesh. Meet Sontu, a seven-year-old Labrador, who connects the two Bengals and has over 15,000 followers on Facebook.

India-born Sontu grew up in Bangladesh and became a star during the Covid pandemic when her human sister Tanusri Roy made a video of her eating cucumber; she begins with the skin first before scarfing down the insides. Currently, Facebook pays her about \$300-400 (Rs 24,000-Rs 32,000) for every video with a million likes.

She's not alone in the world of pets on social media, who are earning dollars, reel after reel. There's three-year-old Ragnar, a German Shepherd from Ranchi, who won the Internet by travelling across India, including the Char Dham trek, riding pillion with his human parent. In March 2019, five-year-old husky Nawab Tyagi, from Noida, became the talk of the town with his paragliding antics in Manali. Mumbai-based exotic shorthair cat Oscar has done over 450 brand collaborations and starred in multiple ad films earning around Rs 70,000 for each shoot. These pet influencers have carved out their own niche in the booming pet market, post Covid.



Ragnar's human parent Shiv Shankar, who goes by the handle name 'The Banjaara Boy', got him when he was four months old. "It was May 2020, in the middle of the first lockdown. He saw me through my depression and now I have a partner in Ragnar; he accompanies me everywhere on my bike. Since then, we have travelled to Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh), Kanyakumari (Tamil Nadu), Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Ladakh, and the Northeast," says the 30-year-old civil engineer, who is a blogger with over 152k followers on Instagram. "He's my GPS, if he senses danger ahead, he stops me with his paw."

But it wasn't a red-carpet welcome for human parents Rohan and Himshi Tyagi, with their paragliding boy Nawab, who have an FIR against them because he touched the Nandi at the Kedarnath temple complex. "At most ancient temples, the priest would often welcome us saying 'Bhairo ko bhi to andar lao' so we didn't realise this would become an issue. Overnight, his page got over 70k followers, some appreciated but the majority were critical. What mattered to us at that time was the joy on Nawab's face. Since then, there has been no looking back. We have travelled to Ladakh, Spiti, Manali, even Badrinath," says 33-year-old Himshi. He has over 275k followers on Instagram, where posts show him as 'Nawab Tyagi'. Himshi keeps the page informative with DIY videos on taking care of dogs in summer and tips on how to walk them, or interact with other dogs.

While Sontu had Bollywood celebrities such as Debashree Roy, Chiranjeev and Rupam Islam line up to meet her when she arrived in Kolkata, it's the reaction of her fans that Roy



TALE OF TAILS

(Clockwise from above) Shorthair cat Oscar; Sontu, the Labrador from Bangladesh; Ragnar, the German Shepherd; the husky Nawab; Meenu the cat

cherishes the most. "At an event, an elderly woman hugged Sontu and began crying. She said that it was Sontu's videos that gave her hope when she was alone in hospital with COVID," says Roy, over the phone from Khulna. She plans to visit India during Durga Puja this month and will take Sontu to Puri beach this time, she says.

With Oscar though, it's been a different journey for Shifa Kazi. The shorthair cat's love for wearing goggles and being photographed made him perfectly poised for an Instagram handle, Oscar_thebullcat. Mumbai-based Kazi says, "Oscar was just three months old when he came to me in 2018 from New Zealand. His

videos have a good reach and are even reshared by celebrities and Bollywood actors. But it's when he represented India for the World's Most Beautiful Cat Championship in 2021 and won the pageant for the country that he grew famous; he has over 70.8k followers on Instagram alone," says the 30-year-old, who is a freelance content creator and a home-decor enthusiast.

Oscar has his own room, a huge closet and a king-size bed. "We do live sessions where Oscar sits for hours wearing his sunglasses and interacting with the audience," says Kazi. Oscar has done TV commercials for Swiggy, Virat Kohli Foundation and Airtel,

among others.

Gladys D'Souza, however, had no such plans when she found Meenu abandoned on the streets of Mumbai in 2018. But soon Meenu had an Insta handle of her own. Her antics can sometimes bring down an entire neighbourhood, says D'Souza. "Once when an injured honey bee flew in through the window, Meenu followed it around the house knocking down everything that came in her way," she says.

Through the handle Meenu_the_cat, D'Souza shows how keeping a wet towel on Meenu during the afternoons help her deal with summer heat. In another video, she talks of how to effectively remove ticks.

Pet influencers like Roy and D'Souza share details of how to help dogs socialise and diet plans to follow. There are also dog training videos, which show basic commands and how to leash train them and prevent food and toy aggression.

They advertise pet products that have helped them. From paw creams, shampoos, oils, brushes, to dog boots, clothes, leashes, harness, and brands that sell biscuits, cakes and raw treats, pet influencers command a huge following.



The pet care industry that had grown out of an interdependence of brands and pet owners is supposed to be one of the fastest growing sectors in India, prompting even bigger corporates to enter the fray.

"Oscar recently shot for a web series on Amazon that will go live by year end. We usually work with pet brands as paid and barter collaborations. We charge them for all the deliverables. We have a trial round to try those products ourselves. After the initial screening audition, the production team comes home to meet Oscar. They usually provide him with a vanity van, where he takes power naps and then arrives on set to shoot. For every ad film, he is paid between Rs 50,000 and Rs 70,000, depending on the number of hours," says Kazi.

Along with product endorsements, the pet care industry has diversified into grooming, stay and boarding and food as well. One such example is Manish Kumar Bharti's XoxoTails. He started a boarding for pets in 2018, which gets over 250 bookings every month. "When I was working in Bangalore, I wanted to keep Sophie, a cocker spaniel, in a boarding, but I could hardly find any. Those that were available charged around Rs 1,000 for a day and even then I didn't find them hygienic," says Bharti, who can host around 50 pets daily at his Noida-based boarding facility. His other services include pet grooming, dog walking and pet taxis. Currently, he logs around Rs 20 lakh revenue every month, 70 per cent of it is from offline services.

Another pet start-up Heads Up For Tails (HUFT) has seen an increase of around 30 per cent in their compound annual growth (CAGR) rate. Rabia Mehta Stephens, lead of social media, says, "HUFT launched in 2008 and now we have 16 stores across India. We do around 15 collaborations with pet influencers every month, which works around a barter system. We have been building our food-and-treat portfolio as well."

Within the Matrix

How printmaking allows for alternative perspectives on art

Vandana Kalra

UPON ENTERING the Art Heritage gallery in Delhi, viewers are introduced not to an artist but a medium that has largely remained underappreciated and undervalued in India. Believed to be one of the oldest art forms, a wall lists the commonly used terminologies associated with printmaking and its foremost practitioners in India. "The goal of the exhibition is to restart a conversation about printmaking and tackle some misconceptions about prints, such as they being simple reproductions. A combination of artistic creativity and scientific methodology, we are looking at the print medium from an alternative perspective in this exhibition — exploring the various stages of the printmaking process and the artworks that emerge along the way," says Tariq Allana, associate director, Art Heritage. There is a briefing on how to read the de-

tails of the captions before embarking on understanding the over 50 works that comprise the exhibition "Untouched, Backwards and Under Pressure", which is on till October 20. Comprising artist proofs, unique edition prints and matrices, the gambit ranges from established printmakers such as Jai Zharotia, Rini and PD Dhumal, to younger artists such as Aban Raza, Rajesh Deb and Jagadeesh Tammineni. Representing the renowned modernists, among others, are lesser-viewed works of Arpana Caur and Gulammohammed Sheikh.

Known to respond to his socio-political surroundings, here we see Sheikh's engagements with the medium over the years, from *Riot* (1971), recording the violence, to *Meanderings* (1990) that appears to share introspections. Also finding a symbolic place in the exhibition is Devraj Dakoji's *Rock Series* (1977) that Allana informs belongs to the series exhibited by Art Heritage during its inaug-



MEDIUM IS THE MESSAGE

(Above left) Gulammohammed Sheikh's *Still Life with Landscape (Days of the Dagger)*, Kanchan Chander's *A A Chilean Man*

gural season in 1977. If Seema Kohli's *Mahavira* (2014) is a zinc-plate etching based on the life of Mahavira, the 24th *tirthankara*, Kavita Jaiswal's "Edinburgh India and me" series belongs to a juncture when the artist was moving from figurative to abstraction. The cover image on the invite, meanwhile, is Kanchan Chander's *A Chilean Man* (1979), made when she was a guest student in printmaking at the College of Art in Santiago, Chile. "It is a beautiful medium with an ele-



PHOTOS COURTESY: ART HERITAGE

ment of surprise, given the artist can't exactly predict the details of the final outcome," says Delhi-based Chander.

Allana decodes the title: "When the print is created, at the exact moment of making, it is untouched by human hands, as the ink from the matrix transfers to the paper/canvas/other surface. It's backwards because the image on the matrix is itself reversed, and it is under (controlled) pressure as it goes through the press."

INKED AND PRESSED

Printmaking is an artistic process based on the principle of transferring images from a matrix onto another surface, most often paper or fabric. Some of the techniques include:

WOODCUT: A relief process where knives and other tools are used to carve a design into the surface of a wooden block. The raised areas are inked and printed, while the recessed areas remain blank in the final print

LITHOGRAPH: The design is made on a flat surface and ink transfer is based on greasy or non-greasy surfaces

ENGRAVING: An intaglio process where lines are cut into a metal plate to hold the ink that is gently spread across the plate and prints are made with pressure

SERIGRAPH: Ink is forced through a mesh screen onto a surface

CAPSULES

[0-13 YEARS]

Infant formula prep machines not safe

A STUDY by Swansea University, UK, on powdered infant formula preparation safety has revealed that 85 per cent of the 74 infant formula preparation machines tested by parents did not appear to produce water that would be hot enough to kill bacteria in infant formula. This could pose a serious risk to infant health. This was compared to 69 parents in the study who used a kettle to heat the water for the mix. Twenty-two per cent reported water temperatures that were not hot enough to kill all harmful bacteria. Almost three quarters of infants in the UK are fed infant formula in the first six weeks of life and this rises to 88 per cent by six months.

[13-18 YEARS]

Girls score low on mental health index

ADOLESCENT GIRLS have worse mental health and well-being across the board compared to boys, says a new survey by the WHO Regional Office for Europe. Girls scored consistently lower on life satisfaction, mental well-being and self-rated health, and higher on loneliness, than boys. About a quarter of 15-year-old girls reported feeling lonely most of the time or always in the past year, compared with about one in seven boys. The mental profile of adolescents, particularly girls, has been in decline since 2018, even before the pandemic, while there has been a rise in health complaints like difficulty sleeping, backaches or headaches.

[18-50 YEARS]


How night shifts affect appetite

SCIENTISTS HAVE uncovered why night shift work is associated with changes in appetite in a new University of Bristol-led study. The team focussed on glucocorticoid hormones in the adrenal gland, which regulate many physiological functions, including metabolism and appetite. Glucocorticoids are known to regulate a group of brain peptides controlling appetite behaviour, with some increasing appetite (orexigenic) and some decreasing appetite (anorexigenic). This discovery revealed how completely, and significantly, disordered the neuropeptides become when daily glucocorticoid levels are out of sync with light and dark cues.

[50+ YEARS]

Walking flaws early signs of Alzheimer's

PEOPLE WITH early Alzheimer's disease have difficulty turning when walking, according to a new study using virtual reality led by University College London. Researchers asked participants to complete a task while wearing virtual reality goggles, which allowed them to make real movements. The researchers found that people with early Alzheimer's consistently overestimated the turns on the route and showed increased variability in their sense of direction. However, these specific impairments were not observed in the healthy older participants or people with mild cognitive impairment, who did not show underlying signs of Alzheimer's.


SUGAR UNCOATED
 DR AMBRISH MITHAL

Diabetes and BP, a dangerous mix

As in diabetes, the challenge with hypertension is that it has no symptoms till there is organ damage

MY NUMBERS are great, doc! I am quite happy with myself," said my patient. Her blood sugar was under control and her HbA1c (average sugar counts over three months) was 6.8 per cent. I was seeing her for only the second time but her blood sugar had improved considerably, she had lost weight and her cholesterol was in check. The blood pressure (BP) recorded that day was, however, 145/96. The BP recording on her last visit was 140/90. She clearly had hypertension although she was not convinced. People with diabetes have to be extra vigilant about their blood pressure as both conditions are interlinked and commonly occur together.

She denied any history of high BP but on probing, confessed that it sometimes shot up to 160/100. "I take a pill then, SOS!" She protested strongly when I said this means she had high BP and needed treatment on a regular basis. It took a good 15 minutes to convince her to start medication.

HYPERTENSION AND DIABETES
Hypertension (the medical word for high blood pressure), can lead to numerous complications if left unattended in those with diabetes. Uncontrolled, it can rupture blood vessels in the brain, trigger heart attacks, kidney failure and poor vision, apart from headaches and irritability. The recently published INDIAB Study (2023) showed that in people with diabetes, the reported prevalence of hypertension is of the order of 70 per cent!

The combination of uncontrolled diabetes and hypertension is particularly injurious for the heart, kidney and eyes. Like with diabetes, the challenge with hypertension is that most often it produces no symptoms till organ damage has occurred. Since most people hate taking medication when they are feeling fine, hypertension often goes uncontrolled.

ARE YOU CHECKING YOUR BP CORRECTLY?
Digitally sphygmomanometers (BP measurement devices) are accurate, if used correctly. Make sure you haven't had tea/coffee/caffeinated drinks/smoked or exercised in the last

**NEED TO KNOW**

In people with diabetes, the prevalence of hypertension is of the order of 70 per cent

30 minutes before checking, and you're sitting comfortably in a quiet room with your feet flat on the floor for at least five minutes. Avoid talking while the BP is being measured.

Wear the cuff on a bare arm resting at the level of the heart, the lower edge of the cuff 2 cm above your elbow crease. Take two readings at a one-minute interval and calculate the average. If you are a known patient of hypertension, check your blood pressure at least twice a week, and see a doctor if persistently elevated.

An Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring (ABPM) system, which measures BP every 20 minutes, for 24 hours, is the best bet. If high readings are recorded, such a patient requires treatment.

WHEN SHOULD YOU START MEDICATION?
If your BP is <150/95 with no organ damage or diabetes, your doctor may suggest lifestyle measures for a few weeks before starting medication. You have to make sure that these weeks don't stretch into months or years! Most people with hypertension require regular medication. If your BP is well controlled on treatment, it is NOT a signal to stop your medication!

It is well controlled because of the tablets. Like with all medications, some side effects are seen with antihypertensives too. For example, ACEi (angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors, or -sartans) can cause a chronic cough, or CCBs (calcium channel blockers, or -dipines) can cause your feet to swell up.

However, these side effects are rare, and there are alternatives which may be used if a certain ill effect is bothersome. Most medications at the right doses are tolerated well and have the benefit of protecting the heart and kidneys. Medications do not damage your organs, hypertension and diabetes do!

If your BP is high despite three types of medications, please contact your doctor. You could be having resistant hypertension or a secondary cause. Seeing a specialist is necessary to manage your BP and co-morbidities.

The author is Chairman of Endocrinology and Diabetes at Max Healthcare

Parul

WHEN 18-year-old Shabtaab Singh Khaira snored at night, his parents thought he was sleeping soundly.

Little did they know that at 93 kg, his body weight had resulted in sleep apnea that had gone unnoticed. Till the day he choked and woke up with a start, the first indication that his breathing had stopped 21 times in an hour and plunged his oxygen saturation to 70 per cent. But today with weight loss, a corrected lifestyle regimen, exercise and a minor correction of his epiglottis that was closing his airways while sleeping, this commerce student is back to classes at Symbiosis, Pune, and has returned to his culture clubs and tennis.

And he intends keeping it that way. "I now sleep no less than seven hours, wake up rested and alert, and if there is too much work in college, I don't get tired. I take a power nap and even on days I get five hours of sleep, I don't feel fatigue. I go to the gym regularly, eat a high protein diet, avoid eating out, have dropped kilos and am in fine fettle," he says.

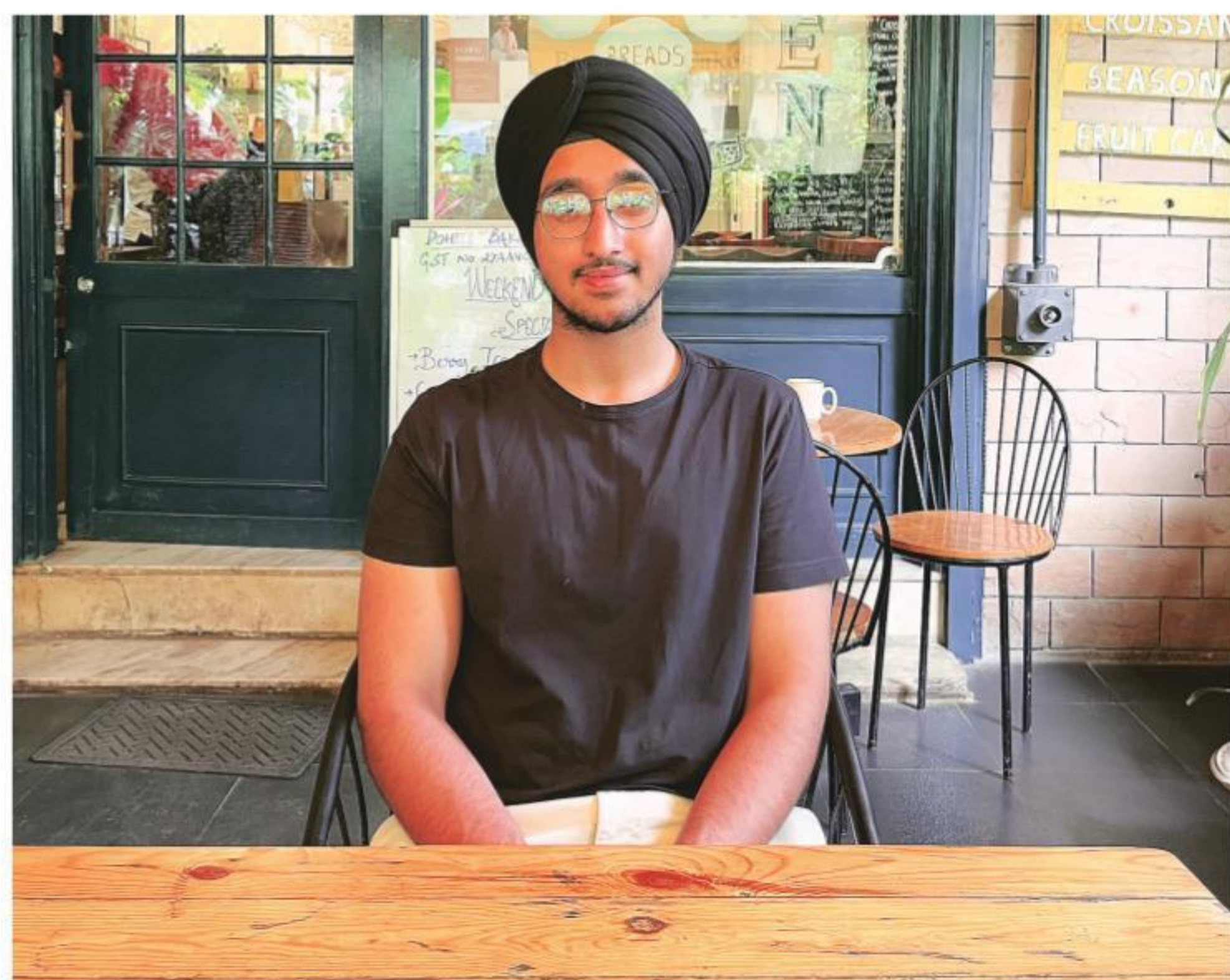
If you thought sleep apnea among young people is a rarity, then you need to look at the significant number of adolescents being treated by Dr Sandeep Bansal, professor and in-charge, Sleep Lab, Department of Otolaryngology and Head Neck Surgery, Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh. During adolescence, there is a natural shift in the sleep-wake cycle, resulting in a delayed sleep phase. So teens tend to feel more alert and awake late evening and have difficulty falling asleep early. "Combine this tendency with busy school schedules, exam stress, the pressure of meeting expectations, part-time jobs and social activities, and they slip into the habit of late nights and early mornings, resulting in insufficient sleep," he says. Additional stressors, especially for hostellers like Shabtaab living far away from home, are caffeine, irregular sleep and meal patterns and tech overdose before bed. Devices emit blue light that suppresses the release of the sleep hormone called melatonin, affecting our circadian rhythm. As a result, Shabtaab would be sleep-deprived through the day and slump down easily. "I would sit in the car and a few metres down the road, would be fast asleep. I lost concentration," he says.

That's when his parents consulted Dr Bansal for a sleep study and found out how compromised his sleep was and the dangers it posed to him. Apart from the sharp drop in oxygen levels, which should never go down below 90 per cent, his airways got blocked. "I was told my muscles were strong unlike an older person and, therefore, had avoided sudden cardiac arrest," recalls Shabtaab.

Having assessed his breathing, lung function, brain activity and REM (Rapid Eye Movement), Dr Bansal concluded he had obstructive sleep apnea (OSA), characterised by shallow breathing and a partial collapse of the upper airway. He immediately put him on a weight loss plan with a strict diet and exercise. When Shabtaab got his weight down to

Eyes Wide Open

Obesity can cause sleep apnea among the young. This is how a teen got back his life with weight loss, diet, exercise and a minor correction of the epiglottis



LIFE POSITIVE



FACT OF THE MATTER

During adolescence, there is a natural shift in the sleep-wake cycle, resulting in a delayed sleep phase



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70 kg, the doctor repeated the test. This time the teenager was found to have moderate sleep apnea with choking bouts recorded 17 times per hour. This is when Dr Bansal ran more tests, including drug-induced sleep endoscopy (DISE) to evaluate the different levels of obstruction in the airway and other issues that could be causing the sleep apnea. Shabtaab's epiglottis was found to be floppy and choking his windpipe. That fluttering caused his snoring. So Dr Bansal conducted a minimally invasive surgery to trim it.

Shabtaab was on a liquid diet for two weeks, after which he resumed his normal life. Luckily, he did not require the CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure) machine, which delivers air with a force to keep the user's airway open. His best takeaway from this exercise has been learning to prioritise. "I now value and understand the importance of a good night's sleep, regardless of assignments, exams and projects. I do not have many late nights and try to sleep and wake up at the same time daily, except on a Sunday. The key, as advised by the doctor, is a regulated sleep pattern," he says.

Shabtaab weighs himself regularly, never misses his gym, plays lawn tennis and eats hostel food, making sure he has a protein in every meal. And for digital detox, he has cut down on screen time and is taking guitar lessons. "Music harmonises both my body and mind in such a way that I can now draw the line," he says, strumming his anxieties away.

Signs and Symptoms

- Excessive daytime sleepiness
- Loud snoring
- Interrupted breathing
- Abrupt awakenings accompanied by gasping or choking
- Awakening with a dry mouth or sore throat
- Morning headache
- Difficulty concentrating during the day
- Experiencing mood changes, such as depression or irritability
- High blood pressure
- Night-time sweating
- Decreased libido

Sleep Hygiene

● Research has found that a late sleep schedule is correlated with a higher risk of weight gain

● Giving yourself plenty of time to relax and getting ready for bed is another element of sleep hygiene. This includes avoiding foods and drinks like caffeinated beverages or spicy foods that can make it harder to fall asleep. Late night meals have been found to be worse for people trying to

lose weight

● Other sleep hygiene improvements include making sure that your bedroom is dark and quiet, avoiding screen time an hour before tucking in, having a comfortable mattress, trying to get daylight exposure and moderate exercise every day. Most people can get better sleep by improving their bedroom environment and their sleep-related habits

Print your own noodles

A research institute in Thiruvananthapuram is working on different types of inks for 3D-printing of food items based on individual preferences and nutrient profiles

Anonna Dutt

REMEMBER THE cartoon Jetson's where a simple press of the button would dispense a tray full of food? It is no longer science fiction. A research institute in Thiruvananthapuram is working on different types of inks to 3D-print food items based on individual preferences — you can choose any shape, colour and most importantly their nutrient profile. That means customising their salt, sugar, fats, carbohydrate and protein content.

"Usually, 3D printers are used for producing construction materials or machine parts. The inks used for this are based on different types of fibres, plastics or concrete. For printing

foods, we need edible ink, which is made from molecules derived from natural sources. Not only do we require inks for different food groups, we need to ensure they are printable and the layers can be deposited on top of each other for a stable form. For example, if the ink has high fibre content then it is likely to print materials that are brittle," says Dr C. Anandharamakrishnan, who is heading the project and director of the CSIR-National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology. His team has already created inks of rice starch, millet carbohydrates, egg proteins and chocolate. Their 3D printer is now capable of producing noodles from vegetable refuse. "At the end of the day, noodles are carbohydrates and you can find them in peels

HOW IT WORKS

Their 3D printer is now capable of producing noodles from vegetable refuse. Noodles have carbs and you can find them in peels



in vegetable waste such as potato peels. The machine just uses these to print the noodles," he explains.

The pride of the team, however, is the vegan or the mock meat, which uses ink from veg-

Plus

3D FOOD-printing gives you total customisation. You can control texture, shape, taste and colour.

YOU CAN modify the nutrient quotient and make your indulgence foods healthier.

WORKS FOR patients with swallowing disorders

CAN TACKLE food waste

Minus

3D PRINTING of foods is hugely expensive and not cost-effective for large-scale manufacturing.

SLOW production speed

While many have worked on meat, we are one of the few to attempt fish," says Dr Anandharamakrishnan. The 3D-printed fish will contain high levels of Omega-3 fatty acids like normal fish, which are needed for our eyes, the brain and the heart. Since the body does not produce Omega-3, it has to be sourced from food. So you can create a nutrient-dense animal protein.

Dr Anandharamakrishnan says the 3D printers can be installed at homes and cafes. "A family of four can eat different foods without too much effort. Some can even be shaped like cartoon characters to make the dish interesting for children," he adds.

While the technology is currently in its initial phases and not ready to be marketed, a small 3D printing machine is expensive at the moment, costing around Rs 1 lakh. Working on different inks for 3D printers, Dr Anandharamakrishnan's team is experimenting with 4D printing. "This will print foods in sheets that acquire the needed shape when cooked. For example, you can print fusilli pasta as plain sheets but when you boil them in water, they would spring up in coils," he says. This will ease packaging and transporting of foods.