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THE WORLD

PAETONGTARN SHINAWATRA TO KEEP UP FAMILY'S DOMINANCE OF 25 YRS THAILAND'S RULING PARTY CHOOSES NEW LEADER

Thailand's ruling Pheu Thai Party named Paetongtarn Shinawatra as new leader, continuing the billionaire family's political dominance for the last 25 years. Paetongtarn, 37, nicknamed "Ung Ing", was among Pheu Thai's PM candidates in May polls, though another nominee Srettha Thavasin was chosen. **REUTERS**



Removing Indian troops was a key campaign pledge of Mohamed Muizzu who ousted President Solih last month. **AP**

Started talks with India on troops removal: Maldives President-elect

REUTERS
COLOMBO, OCTOBER 27

MALDIVES HAS started negotiations with India to remove its military presence, President-elect Mohamed Muizzu said in an interview published by *Bloomberg News* on Friday, as New Delhi and Beijing both vie for influence in the region. Removing Indian troops was a key campaign pledge by Muizzu, who ousted President Ibrahim Solih last month. Around 70 Indian military personnel maintain New Delhi-sponsored radar stations and surveillance aircraft. Indian warships help patrol Maldives' exclusive economic zone.

Muizzu said he had already begun negotiations with the Indian government on removing its military presence, calling those talks "very successful already." "We want a bilateral relationship that's mutually beneficial," Muizzu told *Bloomberg*, adding that Indian soldiers would not be replaced by troops from other countries. Asking India to remove military personnel in no way indi-

EXPLAINED Tug-of-war extends

MUIZZU'S WIN extends the tug-of-war between China and India for influence over Indian Ocean. Successive governments have tilted either toward India or China. Both Asian powerhouses have invested heavily in upgrading Maldives infrastructure and extended loans, as they compete.

cated "that I'm going to allow China or any other country to bring their military troops here," he said. Muizzu won the Maldives election, beating President Ibrahim Solih in a second-round runoff. Muizzu entered the fray with support from pro-China former President Abdulla Yameen, who was banned from contesting the election by the Supreme Court in August after a conviction for corruption and money laundering.

TOP OF THE WORLD



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken. **Reuters**

CHINA Wang in US, tells Blinken dialogue can steady ties

Washington: The United States and China have disagreements and need "in-depth" and "comprehensive" dialogue to reduce misunderstandings and stabilise ties, China's foreign minister, Wang Yi, said, starting a long-anticipated Washington visit. Standing next to the US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Wang said two countries share important interests and challenges that they need to resolve together. His three-day visit is latest in diplomatic engagements between the two rivals. **REUTERS**

UNITED STATES Manhunt still on for suspect in mass shooting

Lewiston: Police in Maine planned to trawl the waters of Androscoggin River with divers and sonar on Friday in their search for US army reservist Robert Card, who they suspect is the shooter who killed 18 in Lewiston. Officials ordered area residents to shelter in place for safety and indicated the manhunt could continue for several days more. Law enforcement officials assembled at Card's house for more than two hours, with an FBI agent issuing orders over a bullhorn to "come out with your hands up," but apparently nobody was inside. **REUTERS**

PAKISTAN Court denies bail to Imran in state secret case

Islamabad: A Pakistani court declined bail on Friday to detained former PM Imran Khan in a case in which he has been indicted on charges of leaking state secrets, his lawyer said. The charge is related to a classified cable sent to Islamabad by Pakistan's ambassador in the United States last year, which Khan is accused of making public. Former cricket star Khan denies and said the contents of the cable appeared in the media from others sources. Lawyer Naeem Panjutha said the Islamabad High Court declined Khan's plea for case's dismissal. **REUTERS**

MALAYSIA Sultan Ibrahim named as the next king

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia's royal families elected the powerful and outspoken Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar from the southern state of Johor to be the country's next king. Sultan Ibrahim will take over from current King Al-Sultan Abdullah on January 31, 2024, the keeper of rulers' seal said on Friday. Unlike other traditional Malaysian rulers, Sultan Ibrahim has been outspoken about politics and has said he has a good relationship with Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim. The king plays a largely ceremonial role in Malaysia. **REUTERS**

GAZANS SAY THEY ARE HUNGRY: UN AGENCY; Internet, mobile services in the Strip collapse

Israeli army says ground forces expanding activity inside Gaza

Hamis tunnels network to make ground incursion long and difficult: Defence Minister

AGENCIES
GAZA STRIP, OCTOBER 27

THE ISRAELI military on Friday said its ground forces were "expanding their activity" in the Gaza Strip, as the army moved closer to a full-on ground invasion of the besieged territory.

Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari, the army's spokesman, said aerial attacks had been targeting Hamas tunnels and other targets. "In addition to the attacks that we carried out in recent days, ground forces are expanding their activity this evening," he said. "The IDF is acting with great force ... to achieve the objectives of the war."

Israel has amassed hundreds of thousands of troops along the border with Gaza ahead of an expected ground offensive against the Hamas militant group.

Israel expects to launch a long and difficult ground offensive into Gaza soon to destroy Hamas, the defence minister said Friday, as airstrikes intensified after nightfall and the territory's internet and mobile communications services collapsed. Israeli forces backed by fighter jets and drones also carried out a second ground raid into Gaza in as many days and struck targets on the outskirts of Gaza City, the military said Friday, as it prepares for a widely expected ground invasion of the Hamas-ruled territory.

The military said ground forces raided inside Gaza, striking dozens of militant targets over the past 24 hours.

The military said the soldiers exited the territory without suffering any casualties. It reported an earlier, hours long raid into northern Gaza early Thursday.

A Hamas official tied the release of hostages held in Gaza to a ceasefire in Israel's bombardment of the enclave, launched after a deadly rampage by Hamas militants into southern Israel nearly three weeks ago.

Abu Hamid said Hamas, which has freed four hostages so far, had made clear it intended to release "civilian prisoners".

The head of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees warned Friday that remaining public serv-



Palestinians with animal carts collect water from a plant in central Gaza on Friday. **Reuters**

DEATH, DESTRUCTION

ISRAEL	PALESTINE
TOTAL DEAD	TOTAL DEAD
1400+	7,300+
229 people have been taken hostage by Hamas.	Over 110 Palestinians killed in the occupied West Bank.
TOTAL INJURED	TOTAL INJURED
5,400+	17,000+
Israeli forces killed four Palestinians in occupied West Bank.	An early morning strike killed two people in Gaza.

US fighter jets strike Iran-linked sites in Syria in retaliatory attack

CLAUDIA LAUER
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 27

US FIGHTER jets launched airstrikes early Friday on two locations in eastern Syria linked to Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, the Pentagon said, in retaliation for a slew of drone and missile attacks against US bases and personnel in the region that began early last week.

About 900 more US troops have arrived in the Middle East or are heading there to bolster air defenses for US personnel amid a surge in attacks by Iran-affiliated groups, the Pentagon said on Thursday.

According to a senior US military official, the precision strikes were carried out near Boukamal by two F-16 fighter jets, and they struck weapons and ammunition storage areas that were connected to the IRGC. The official said there had been Iranian-aligned militia and IRGC personnel on the base and no civilians, but the US does not have any information yet on casualties or an assessment of damage. The official would not say



A 2018 file picture of the al-Tanf military outpost in southern Syria. **AP file**

how many munitions were launched by the F-16s.

A senior defense official said the sites were chosen because the IRGC stores the types of munitions there that were used in the strikes against US bases and troops. The two officials briefed reporters after the strikes on condition of anonymity to provide details on the mission that had not yet been made public.

According to the Pentagon, there have now been at least 19 attacks on US bases and personnel in Iraq and Syria since

October 17, including three new ones Thursday. Air Force Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder said 21 US personnel were injured in two of those assaults that used drones to target al-Asad Airbase in Iraq and al-Tanf Garrison in Syria.

In a statement, Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin said the "precision self-defense strikes are a response to a series of ongoing and mostly unsuccessful attacks against U.S. personnel in Iraq and Syria by Iranian-backed militia groups that began on October 17." **AP**

Iran Dy Foreign Minister meets Hamas officials in Moscow

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MOSCOW, OCTOBER 27

A SENIOR Iranian envoy met with Hamas representatives in Moscow following talks with Russian diplomats that underscored Moscow's efforts to expand its clout as a power broker in Israel-Hamas war, Russian, Iranian media said Friday.

During the meeting with Hamas' representative Moussa

Abu Marzouk, Iran's deputy foreign minister, Ali Bagheri Kani, emphasised need for a ceasefire, lifting the blockade of the Gaza Strip and providing humanitarian assistance, according to a statement Friday by Iranian Embassy in Moscow. The statement was carried by Russian state news.

Iran's state-run IRNA agency said Abu Marzouk told Bagheri Khani that he appreciated Iran's support for the Palestinian people.



Iran's deputy foreign minister Ali Bagheri Kani met, (right) Hamas official Moussa Abu Marzouk

Prior to the talks, Abu Marzouk held talks Thursday with Russian diplomats. His Moscow visit drew condemnation by Israel.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said they discussed the release of hostages in Gaza Strip and the evacuation of foreigners.

The talks highlighted Russia's efforts to insert itself as a mediator in the wake of Hamas' October 7 incursion into southern Israel —

even though it continues to be occupied with its war in Ukraine.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry slammed Russia's decision to invite Hamas officials to Moscow as "an act of support of terrorism," and called for the delegation to be expelled from Russia.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov responded Friday by saying that Moscow believes it is necessary to maintain contacts with all parties.

A LAWYER APPLIED FOR TRADEMARK INSPIRED BY AN EXCHANGE BETWEEN TRUMP & RUBIO IN A 2016 PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

'Trump too small' T-shirt slogan turns into US top court battle

BLAKE BRITAIN
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 27

"TRUMP TOO Small" — a phrase mocking former President Donald Trump that a California lawyer intended to slap on T-shirts — instead has become the center of another US Supreme Court battle exploring the intersection of trademark law and free speech rights.

The justices are set to hear arguments on Wednesday in the US Patent and Trademark Office's appeal of a lower court's decision that reversed the elster's denial of attorney Steve Elster's 2018 trademark application for "Trump Too Small." At issue is

whether the US Constitution's First Amendment free speech protections for criticism of public figures outweigh the agency's concerns over Trump's rights, as the lower court found.

The agency will try to convince the justices to uphold a 1946 federal law that bars trademarks featuring a person's name without consent. President Joe Biden's administration is seeking to protect Trump — the man he defeated in the 2020 US election — from, in its view, having his name misappropriated in commerce. Trump is not personally involved in the case.

Elster has argued that a ruling favoring the government would give politicians improper control



Republican US presidential candidate Marco Rubio and rival Donald Trump during presidential candidates debate in 2016. **Reuters file**

over speech about them. The agency, on the other hand, has said that trademarks like Elster's could restrict the free speech of others on political matters by giving legal ownership of certain words to specific people.

Trademarks protect identifiers of sources of goods, like brand names, logos and advertising slogans.

Elster applied for the "Trump Too Small" trademark to use on T-shirts, inspired by an exchange between Trump and Marco Rubio during a March 2016 Republican presidential candidate debate.

Trump earlier sought to denigrate Rubio by calling him "Little Marco." Rubio responded at a

campaign rally in Virginia that his rival had disproportionately small hands that disproportunately small of his hands at the debate.

"Look at those hands. Are they small hands?" Trump asked. "If they're small, something else must be small. I guarantee you, there's no problem. I guarantee it."

Elster told the Supreme Court that his trademark uses a double meaning to criticize Trump while expressing his views about "the smallness of Donald Trump's overall approach to governing." Trump was president at the time of Elster's application.

The agency denied the application based on the 1946 law. The US Court of Appeals for the

Federal Circuit later reversed that decision.

US Solicitor General Elizabeth Prelogar, representing Biden's administration, told the Supreme Court in a brief that the 1946 law differed from the two that the justices recently invalidated because it did not restrict speech based on an applicant's viewpoint.

The trademark office said that the law is meant to prevent a person's name from "being exploited for another's commercial gain," and has been used to reject trademarks with positive connotations ("Better With Biden," "I Stump For Trump") and neutral ones ("Obama Pajama," "Royal Kate") in addition to critical messages. **REUTERS**

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



HIT JOB, SAYS MP

Moitra says she gave login to Hiranandani, didn't take cash



Can appear only after Nov 5, she has told ethics panel. PAGE 9

LIZ MATHEW

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

TRINAMOOL CONGRESS MP Mahua Moitra Friday admitted she gave her Parliament login and password details to her friend and businessman Darshan Hiranandani but denied taking any cash from him, as alleged by Supreme Court advocate Jai Anant Dehadrai in his complaint to the CBI.

In an interview to *The Indian Express* in the backdrop of the Lok Sabha Ethics Committee examining cash-for-query charges against her, Moitra said, "No MP types (her/his) own question. I have given him (Darshan) the password and login for someone in his office to type it (the questions) CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPRESS INVESTIGATION

On average, an Adani port every 500 km of coastline; these handle 24% of all cargo, Govt share dips

At least two officials and a former regulator flag concerns over market concentration in last 10 years



A container ship docked at Mundra Port in Gujarat. File

SUKALP SHARMA & ANIL SASI
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

FROM JUST ONE big port, Mundra, in 2001, the Adani Group today has grown to be the largest private operator with as many as 14 ports and terminals handling a quarter of all cargo passing through the country's ports.

This phenomenal expansion, much of it through acquisitions — six in the last 10 years — is becoming a cause of concern in sections of the government with at least three top officials, including a former competition regulator, in conversations with *The Indian Express*, flagging risks of

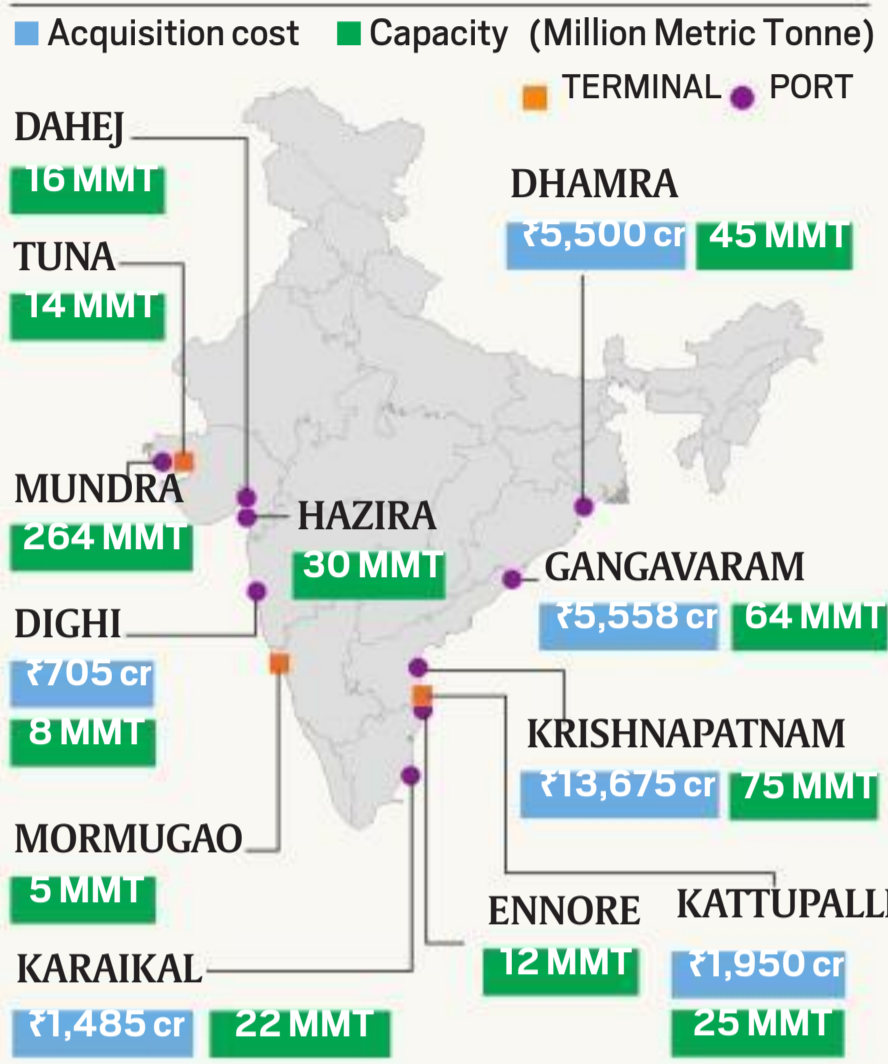
market concentration in such a key infrastructure sector.

Indeed, along India's 5,422-km coastline, Adani has a presence every 500 km on an average, from just a blip on the country's far western end 10 years ago.

Consider these: In 10 years, the total cargo handled by Adani ports jumped nearly four-fold to 337 million tonnes in FY23; its volumes grew at a compounded annual growth rate of 14 per cent against the industry's 4 per cent. If Adani's share is removed, the latter figure falls to barely 2.7 per cent.

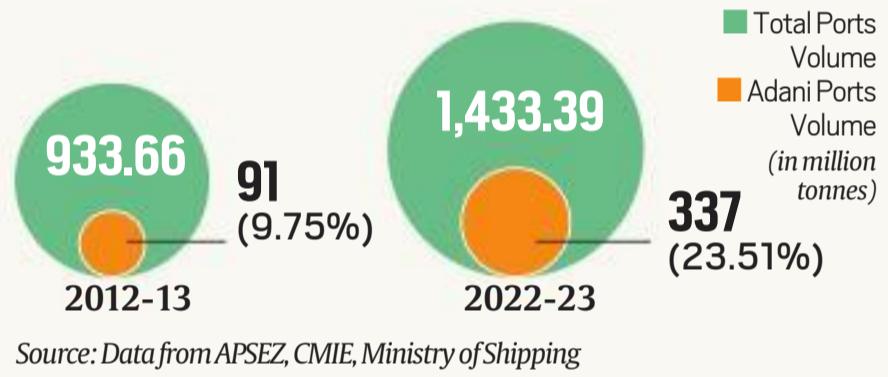
The group's market share in total cargo handled has nearly

ADANI PORT MAP: RISE & RISE IN 10 YEARS



Vizhinjam Port — Under development, Haldia Terminal — Under development, Karaikal Port — Not part of Adani group in FY23
Some ports were acquired in stages; Source: APSEZ filings

ADANI'S SHARE IN TOTAL CARGO HANDLED



Source: Data from APSEZ, CMIE, Ministry of Shipping

FORMER ENVOY, NOW IN PMO, TO MONITOR Delhi explores legal and diplomatic options after Qatar death sentence

Embassy taps top lawyers in Doha; FT reports 8 charged with spying for Israel

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

CAUGHT UNAWARES by the death sentence in Qatar to eight Indian nationals, all former personnel of the Indian Navy, Delhi is faced with tough legal and diplomatic challenges as it plots a way out.

India is now looking at a range of possible legal and diplomatic options to provide relief to the eight men now on death row. According to a report in the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

INDIA, QATAR & GAS
EXPLAINED, PAGE 20

EXPLAINED
A tricky path

DELHI WILL work the levers — relying on political, economic, defence ties and the goodwill the Indian community enjoys — to find a way out but the timing poses a challenge. The charge of espionage, especially if it involves Israel, will have implications and given the mood in the Arab world over the bombing of Gaza, this can be tricky.

Kin shattered, but not losing hope: Friends and veterans

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

THE DEATH penalty handed to eight former Indian Navy personnel in Qatar has come as shattering news to their families but they are not losing hope and will continue making all possible efforts to get the sentence commuted and bring them back to India, military veterans told *The Indian Express* Friday.

"They are shattered and they fear the uncertainty that lies

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Congress to BJP, this Chhattisgarh election is all about Bhupesh Baghel

NEERJA CHOWDHURY
RAIPUR, OCTOBER 27

A FEW thousand sit patiently under a shamiana in Dongiya village in the newly created district of Sakti in Chhattisgarh. They are waiting for Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and three



BJP has accused him of corruption and failing to deliver



Congress leaders who have just filed their nomination papers for the Assembly elections. The gathering

seems reminiscent of the meetings before an election when a CM's term is ending. But then, Baghel takes the stage. And there is a palpable energy in the crowd, which bursts into slogans.

"Chhattisgariya!" says Baghel. "Sabse badhiya (the best)," roars the crowd.

Hours earlier, the CM announced that if the Congress

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2




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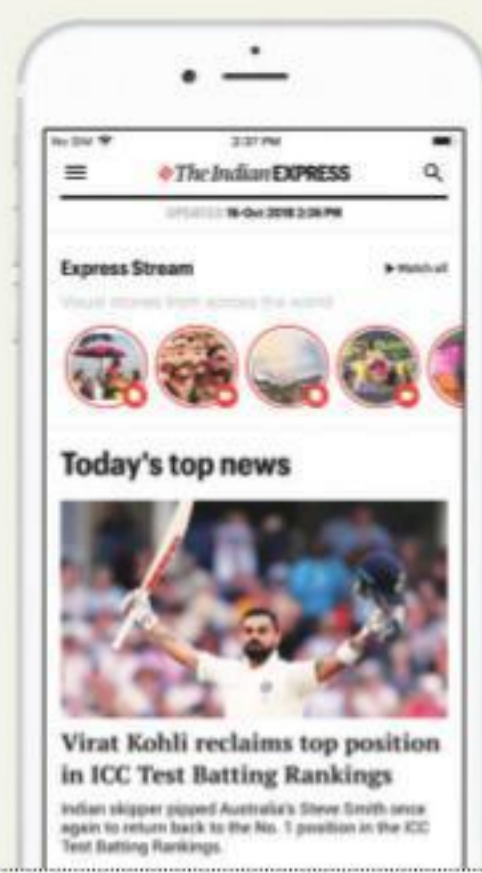
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LIC/P1/2022-23/23/Eng

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PULIMADA MOVIE REVIEW: JOJU GEORGE FILM IS SAVED BY THE PERFORMANCES, WHILE ITS SCRIPT TRIES TO DRAG IT DOWN



EDUCATION NEET UG TOPPERS' TIPS FOR SUCCESS Healthy competition is necessary to succeed in any field, says topper



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EXPRESS AUDIO Ground report from Israel, 20 lakh students removed from schools, and ED raids

FROM PAGE ONE Delhi explores options after Qatar death sentence

Financial Times, the eight Indians had been charged with spying for Israel. There was no official word on the charges from the Indian side.

Major Qatari investments since 2019 include investments into Bharti Airtel's AirtelAfrica, BYJU's, Adani Transmission Ltd, Adani Green Energy, Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (RRVL), a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited (Reliance Industries, Swiggy, Dailyhunt, Allen Career Institute among others.

2018. So, India has some defence stakes as well in the ties, and that could also come in handy to open doors in the Qatari establishment.

will be tasked with keeping a close watch on the case. Mittal had met the detainees thrice during their detention by the authorities.

Sources said that will be the last resort, but as of now, they want to appeal the death sentence itself.

On average, every 500 km of coast has an Adani port

tripled from around 9 per cent in 2013 to about 24 per cent in 2023; that of Central govt-controlled ports dropped to around 54.5 per cent from 58.5 per cent in 2013.

THE ACQUISITIONS 2014: Acquired Dhamra Port from Tata Steel and L&T Infrastructure Development Projects

that what has deepened anxiety over this market concentration in a strategic sector like shipping, is the backdrop of allegations of accounting fraud and stock manipulation against the Adani Group first by US-based short-seller Hindenburg Research and, more recently, in reports based on documents obtained by the Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project and shared with the Guardian and the Financial Times.

The rise and rise A decade ago, in FY13, Adani Group's ports business had cargo volumes of around 91 million tonnes, accounting for just 10 per cent of the cumulative cargo volumes handled by all ports, and over 23 per cent of volumes handled by all minor ports (a port is a minor port if it is not government controlled; the nomenclature has nothing to do with the size of the port or cargo volumes handled).

Kin shattered, but not losing hope: Friends, veterans

ahead. They are obviously going to explore options, including filing a legal appeal in this judgment," a former senior military officer, close to the families of two of the ex-naval personnel involved, said.

On their side, the families will continue meeting all stakeholders, including those in Qatar, and will likely appeal to the appellate courts to find a solution.

ally and can say that they are thorough professionals with a clean reputation and integrity. It is unlikely that they are involved in any mischief or duplicitous activity," he said.

Poll is all about Bhupesh Baghel

comes to power, it will announce another "karza maafi (loan waiver)" for farmers. In 2018, a similar promise was one of the reasons for the party's handsome victory. If the kisan is strong, Baghel says at the Sakti meeting, Chhattisgarh would be strong.

verted into a "bhavya (grand)" structure as part of Baghel's Ram Van Gaman Paryatan Paripath — the project to develop the route that Lord Ram apparently took when exiled to the forest.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY NOTICE INVITING OPEN TENDER Danapur Division/Electrical (TRD) Branch Tender Notice No. 15/TRD/DNR/OT/23-24

Speaking to The Indian Express, former Deputy Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral M S Pawar (retd) said he had worked with most of the former naval personnel involved in the case and could vouch for their high professionalism and integrity.

In December last year, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had said that India was in touch with the Qatar government and that the arrested Indians were a priority for the country. "This is a very sensitive case. Their interests are foremost in our minds. Ambassadors and senior officials are in constant touch with Qatar's government. We assure, they are our priority," he had said in Rajya Sabha.

According to a tall, lanky youth standing nearby: "The loan waiver promise will add 5,000-10,000 votes to his (the Congress's) kitty in every constituency."

Picking itself up, it is sharpening its attack against Baghel, accusing him of corruption and calling him out for "failing to deliver the houses he promised". It is also counting on "rebellion by 22 Congress MLAs" who have been brought back from the shadows after five years.

Moitra says she gave login to Hiranandani

down and upload." To upload a question, an OTP (one-time password) is required, she said. "My phone number is given (for the OTP)... There is no question of Darshan or anyone putting it without my knowledge."

has given me one Hermes scarf on my birthday... I asked (for) the Bobbi Brown makeup set, he had got me a Mace eye shadow and bitten peach lipstick." She said whenever she was in Mumbai or Dubai, his car picked her up from the airport and dropped her. "I am telling you the exact truth and if Darshan can prove anything more than that... There is no cash or anything else I have ever taken from him. I thrive upon my integrity," she said.

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/Freight Service, Delhi Division, Northern Railway. In terms of Railway Board letter no. 2022/TC(FM)/10/04 dated 13.06.2022, invites bids through e-Auction (www.ireps.gov.in) for Management and operation of Cloakroom service (ROMT basis) for 5 years at Anand Vihar Railway Station as per detail and schedule given below:

In an indirect acknowledgment of how Baghel is directing the narrative, Raman Singh says the MSP, bonus to farmers and loan waiver is under the BJP's consideration. Asked about the lessons he learnt from his three terms in office (2003-18), he says: "I learnt that it is not possible to remain in power in Chhattisgarh, whichever party it be, without satisfying the farmers."

To a question about allegations she took money and batted for Hiranandani against Adani, Moitra said, "Tell me where is the money? The main thing to prove is the quid

AAP govt, L-G office lock horns over Civil Defence volunteers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

THE AAP Delhi government and the Lieutenant Governor's office on Friday locked horns over discontinuing the services of the capital's Civil Defence Volunteers (CDVs)—a decision affecting thousands of livelihoods.

The latest tussle revolves around the proposal to deploy as many CDVs as possible as Home Guards, which is in the process of inducting around 10,000 personnel over the coming days.

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

Delhi government sources said it would take the discontinuance of the services of CDVs to the Supreme Court; L-G House sources responded saying that this would essentially entail the AAP government dragging the CM himself into litigation.

"CM Arvind Kejriwal has ordered to appoint bus marshals as home guards and this move will ensure the safety of women trav-



Volunteers in DTC and cluster buses," the Delhi government said in a statement.

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

According to the latter, it was the CM who had proposed the termination of the services of CDVs with effect from November 1 this year. "Saxena has raised serious livelihood concerns and directed the CM that the CDVs who lose their job in the process, should be considered for appointment as Home Guards," L-G House officials said adding that the L-G had also flagged the issue of the CDVs not getting their salary for the past

six to seven months.

According to the government, legal objections were raised by some officers with regard to the existing legal provisions to the effect that CDVs cannot be appointed on regular jobs, but can be deployed only for specific disaster-related work under the Civil Defence Act, 1968. "Despite several written directions by ministers, their salaries were stopped for several months. That's when the CM said that all pending salaries be paid and if they have to be stopped from doing regular work, it may be implemented from November 1. However, this note of the CM did not cover bus marshals for which CM sent a separate note to the L-G," Delhi government sources said.

"CM wrote to L-G that till adequate number of home guards are deployed, CDVs should continue working as bus marshals...he gave directions that when new recruitments for home guards are done, the existing set of CDVs may be engaged as home guards so that they continue as bus marshals," sources further added.



(L) Civil Defence volunteers on duty during the 2021 Covid wave; (above) L-G VK Saxena, CM Arvind Kejriwal

Meanwhile, L-G House officials denied the Delhi government's version of events stating that Saxena had pointed out that the CDVs' livelihood concerns "should be the top priority on any Government's agenda". "It cannot be disputed that CDVs, from humble backgrounds, find an opportunity to earn during their engagement in the volunteer corps and such avenues of remunerative engagement should be explored," Saxena said in one such noting.

Another application moved by Singh, seeking permission to sign cheques to meet his family expenses, was also allowed by the court. It permitted the AAP leader to sign two letters addressed to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi commissioner in connection with the release of funds for developmental work.

Singh was sent to judicial custody on October 13. Earlier this month, he was sent to the five-day custody of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) following 10 hours of searches that ended in

his arrest. The central agency claimed that Rs 2 crore had changed hands at his North Avenue home.

Singh's arrest came after he was named by Dinesh Arora, a businessman and co-accused who turned approver in the ED case. The ED had called Singh a "key conspirator" while asking for his custody.

The ED also alleged Singh had ensured that changes in the liquor policy were made through former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia to favour certain businessmen.

Singh's judicial custody extended by 14 days; MP allowed to seek treatment by pvt doctor

NIRBHAY THAKUR
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

A DELHI court on Friday extended by 14 days AAP MP Sanjay Singh's judicial custody in a money-laundering case related to the alleged Delhi excise scam and allowed him to seek regular medical treatment from his private doctor.

"This court sees no reason to reject the permission to seek private treatment... The accused shall be taken to the hospital under adequate security," said



Sanjay Singh was sent to custody on October 13. File

Special Judge MK Nagpal. He further said Singh's supporters should not be allowed near the hospital.

Don't allow autos in licence test for cars: Transport dept

GAYATHRI MANI
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

THE TRANSPORT department has directed all Motor Licensing Authorities (MLOs) and zones in the Capital to not conduct autorickshaw driving tests on automated tracks meant for cars, officials said. The authorities have also been asked to not issue LMV licence to applicants who appear for the test with the three-wheeler, said officials.

The decision was taken after it was observed that several applicants were bringing autorickshaws to the driving tests on the automated driving test tracks, instead of cars. An official posted as MLO in one of the zones said, "With the automated tracks, the driving tests have become tougher. But, several applicants who had applied for motor car licence started showing up with the autorickshaw for the test as it is easy to clear the test with this vehicle. It is smaller, easy to back and has no windows...some were genuine but most of them started to flout the rules."

Officials said that the department first issued an internal memorandum regarding this a few months ago. However, after finding out that some zones such as Lado Sarai, Burari and Jharoda



An official said many applicants were resorting to the tactics as it is easier to clear the test with autorickshaws. File

Kalan are still continuing to give licence under this category, it has again asked the zones to not hand out Light Motor Vehicle licence based on autorickshaw tests.

"The automated driving test tracks designed to test motor cars and vans are altogether different from those meant for three-wheelers. It is important to note that motor cars have a turning radius of about 5 metre whereas a three-wheeler has less than 3 m of the same. Similarly, the clutch, brake and accelerator of a three-wheeler are similar to bikes and not cars/vans. The wheelbase of a car is also about 1.5 to 2.0 times longer than that of a three-wheeler," said the official.

Pointing out that driving tests on three-wheelers instead of cars will lead to compromise on

road safety skills evaluation, officials said drivers driving mini bus or trucks upto 7.5 tonnes load will be dangerous and threat to public safety. Officials, however, said that if a candidate clears the driving test of LMV and motor cycle, they can be considered to have eligibility for auto-rickshaw.

Officials have been asked to conduct tests of only those applicants who show up with three wheelers that they actually intend to use. They have been asked to take the decision on granting licence based strictly on merit and advised to carry out video recording of the driving test.

Currently, around 80,000 auto-rickshaws are plying in Delhi.

MCD assembly session postponed to October 31

SAMAN HUSAIN
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

THE MONTHLY house assembly of the MCD, which was set to be held on Friday, was postponed on a three hour notice. Citing "unavoidable reasons" for its cancellation, the MCD will now conduct the next session on October 31.

Leader of Opposition Raja Iqbal Singh claimed that the session was cancelled after the opposition protested against MCD violation of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act.

Highlighting similar concern, Delhi Congress leader Mukesh Sharma said, "Provision of the DMCA is to present the agenda 3 days before the meeting, which the AAP has not been abiding by."

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NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
CHARAK PALIKA HOSPITAL**

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Current vacancy of Senior Residents: 20

S.No.	Department	Vacancy	UR	SC	ST	OBC	PwD	EWS
1.	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	06	03	01	01	01	Nil	Nil
2.	Paediatrics	03	01	01	01	Nil	Nil	Nil
3.	Anaesthesia	05	01	01	01	01	01	Nil
4.	Medicine	01	01	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
5.	Surgery	02	01	Nil	Nil	01	Nil	Nil
6.	Orthopaedics	01	Nil	Nil	Nil	01	Nil	Nil
7.	Radiology	01	Nil	Nil	Nil	01	Nil	Nil
8.	Ophthalmology	01	01	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total No. of Posts		20	08	03	03	05	01	Nil

Appointment & Tenure for the post of Senior Resident: Initially for a period of 01 Year, extendable up to a maximum period of 03 years only subject to the satisfactory performance.

Note: All the details are available on the NDMC web portal i.e. www.ndmc.gov.in

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UTTARAKHAND

THE PROMISE OF TRANSFORMATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Picture courtesy: Bivash Barua

Uttarakhand's Infrastructure Push: The Big Picture

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has prioritised the infrastructure sector which powers growth indices

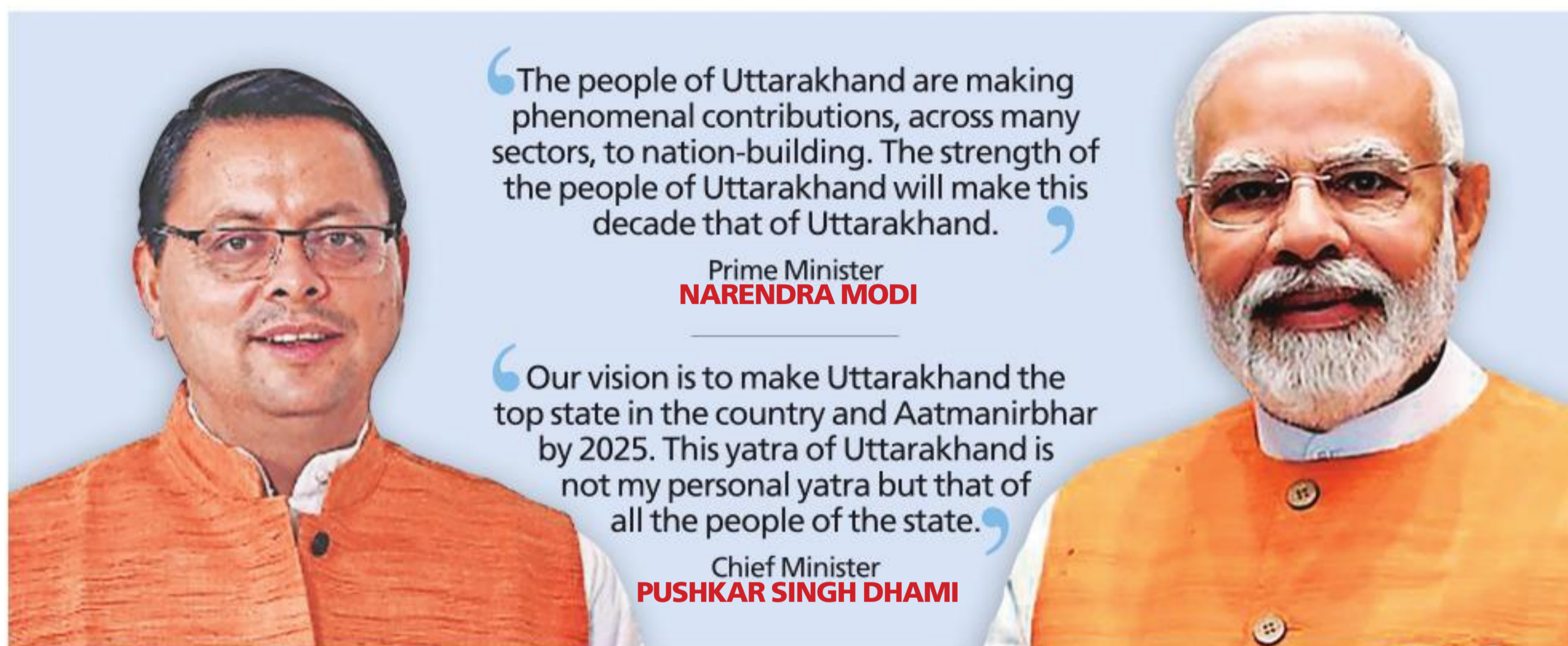
More than 20 years after Uttarakhand (then known as Uttaranchal) was carved out as an independent state from the 13 hill districts of Uttar Pradesh, it has made huge strides in development and has had a goal-oriented approach. It enjoys a robust Compounded Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 7.8 per cent in the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). As a result, Uttarakhand's economy has the second-fastest growth in the country. Known as Dev Bhoomi, or the land of gods, the 27th state of India is repositioning itself. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami is fast-tracking economic growth and overall development.

The state aims to become a Rs 3.3 lakh crore economy this year riding a healthy growth rate of 10 per cent. The government believes that one of the key strategies towards that goal will be all-round infrastructure development. In particular, the infrastructure is being developed around three areas: tourism, energy (hydro-electric power) and transportation (roads, railways and airports).

Uttarakhand has a strong industrial and physical infrastructure with connectivity of over 39,000 km of road network, two domestic airports, 339 km of rail routes and an installed power capacity of 3,697.39 MW (as of February 2021). Its vision is to electrify the state with 100 per cent hydropower and aspires to connect major cities through multi-lane highways. All this is being made possible through a range of progressive policies that attract investors.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Located in the foothills of Himalayas, the state has an abundance of hill stations, wildlife parks,



The people of Uttarakhand are making phenomenal contributions, across many sectors, to nation-building. The strength of the people of Uttarakhand will make this decade that of Uttarakhand.

Prime Minister
NARENDRA MODI

Our vision is to make Uttarakhand the top state in the country and Aatmanirbhar by 2025. This yatra of Uttarakhand is not my personal yatra but that of all the people of the state.

Chief Minister
PUSHKAR SINGH DHAMI

pilgrimage centres and trekking routes which make it an attractive global tourist destination. Tourism accounts for more than 50 per cent of the state GSDP. Uttarakhand has over 12 national parks and wildlife sanctuaries which cover nearly 14 per cent of the state. It is the source of both the Ganga and Yamuna rivers that originate in Gangotri and Yamunotri. Along with Badrinath and Kedarnath, these form the Char Dham, one of the most auspicious pilgrim circuits. Haridwar (gateway of God) and Rishikesh (global centre of yoga) are also centres of spiritual tourism. With an aim to double the tourist

inflow to 70 million by 2030, the state hopes to leverage its national tourism assets as a key driver of economic growth. Development of tourism infrastructure is, therefore, key to achieve this goal.

Some of the key projects are the Rs 985 crore, 13-km Sonprayag-Gaurikund-Kedarnath ropeway and the Emyrean Skyview Projects ropeway systems in Mussoorie and Yamunotri with an investment of Rs 700 crore. Additionally, there are six city forests to increase green cover in urban spaces. India's first Snow Leopard Conservation Centre in the Uttarkashi forest di-

vision is considered a milestone. In September 2020, a huge urban forest, Anand Van, was inaugurated in the Doon Valley City.

SPEEDING UP TRANSPORTATION

The development of the three transportation modes of road, rail and aviation is critical to overall economic growth. It is also important from a geo-strategic perspective. Located at the foothills of the Himalayas, the state shares borders with China (Tibet) in the north and Nepal in the east and inter-state boundaries with Himachal Pradesh in the west and northwest and Uttar

Pradesh in the south.

All the 13 hill districts of Uttarakhand are well connected by a comprehensive road network. Major towns such as Dehradun, Haldwani and Pithoragarh also promise air and rail connectivity. The state is developing heli-services to various tourist destinations and pilgrimage sites. The state government wants to promote Uttarakhand as a global tourist destination by showcasing its spiritual, cultural and adventure tourism and attain a position among the top three destination states by 2030.

Under the UDAN scheme, affordable air ser-

vices to Dehradun, Pantnagar and Pithoragarh have taken off. The state government is focusing on upgrading the Jolly Grant airport in Dehradun as an international airport in association with the Airports Authority of India (AAI).

Finally, the all-weather road project, developed by the Central government, aims to reduce the transit time to prominent cities within the state. Overall, it offers excellent connectivity with an extensive road network spanning over 39,000 km, two domestic airports and 339 km of rail routes.

POWERING ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

Uttarakhand hopes to become a world leader in green energy by leveraging its huge hydropower potential and harness over 25,000 MW of electricity. As of April 2023, the state had a total installed power generation capacity of 4,203.38 MW. Of this, hydropower accounted for 2,095.89 MW, followed by thermal power at 1,142.46 MW, renewable power at 933.79 MW and nuclear power at 31.24 MW.

In the State Budget of 2023-24, Uttarakhand has allocated 1.8 per cent of its total expenditure towards energy. In July 2020, the state government launched an initiative to convert waste into energy.

Another interesting project was the one where the Chief Minister inaugurated a 25-KW capacity project for generating electricity using Pirul (dry pine needles) at Chakon Dhanari Village in the Dunda Block of Uttarkashi District. Despite all these developments, there are some challenges in building and scaling infrastructure in the state. However, Dhami, who is a son of the soil and is deeply aware of how things work at the micro level, is capable of overcoming them.

CHIEF MINISTER'S VISION

Reaping the Benefits of a Double-Engine Approach

How future-ready is Uttarakhand?

of execution capabilities.

VISION 2030

The current and the immediate past government of BJP had envisaged and created an elaborate document called Vision 2030. Dhami's initiatives were not intended for short-term political gains but were pivoted on the idea of sustainability. It has eight critical components including health, industry, transport, education, infrastructure, tourism, agriculture and environment.

SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Education is one of the important pillars of this sector. In the State Budget 2023-24, a sum of Rs 10,907 crore (US\$ 1.32 billion) has been allocated for education, sports, arts and culture. Another Rs 3,300 crore (US\$ 400.25 million) has been allocated to government secondary schools. As of 2020-21, Uttarakhand has 36 universities and 454 colleges but now the vision is not only to increase the number of buildings in the existing institutions but also to start new ones. The Mukhyamantri Shikshuta Yojana was started for upgrading work-related skills in different sectors. The Mukhyamantri Swarojgar Yojana and Mukhyamantri Palayan Roktham Yojana were started for generating self-employment opportunities and preventing migration from the state.

The healthcare sector also plays an important part for bettering the life of citizens. In the State Budget 2023-24, Rs 1,101 crore (US\$ 133.5 million) has been allocated to urban health services and Rs 1,418 crore (US\$ 172 million) to rural health services. Uttarakhand has a good network of hospitals and health centres. As of April 2020, the state had 1,919 sub-centres, 305 primary health centres, 73 community health centres, 47 sub-district hospitals and 21 district hos-

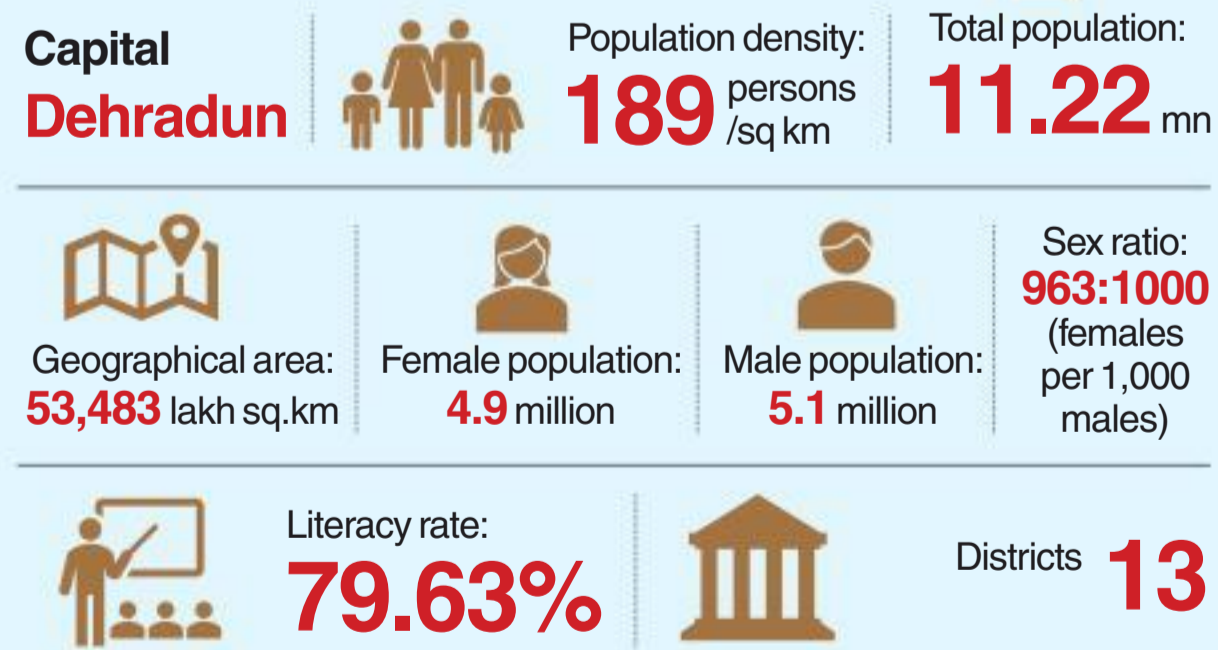


pitals. Other initiatives by the state government include following the Mukhyamantri Saubhagyaati Yojana for preventing decline in the sex ratio by providing kits to mothers on birth of a girl child during the first delivery and pension for old age, dependent widows and the disabled.

INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The industrial sector, comprising manufacturing, construction, water, gas and electricity, had a major share in the GDP of the state at 52 per cent as of 2019-20. The MSME sector plays

Uttarakhand in a Nutshell



Industrial infrastructure

Operational PPP projects
34

Physical infrastructure in Uttarakhand

Installed power capacity (MW) (as of April 2023): 4,203.38 MW

National highway length (km) (as of March 2022): 3,449 km

Airports (No.): 2

Source: IBEF

IN THE STATE BUDGET 2023-24, A SUM OF RS 10,907 CRORE (US\$ 1.32 BILLION) HAS BEEN ALLOCATED FOR EDUCATION, SPORTS, ARTS AND CULTURE

IT Park at Dehradun, the state government will set up an additional IT Park at Ram Nagar/Pantnagar. The Uttarakhand government proposes to harness the full power of Information & Communication Technology and Electronics (ICT&E) for improving the quality of life of its citizens, bringing in accelerated social and economic development, ensuring transparency in government decisions and accelerating IT adoption among various user segments.

THE FUTURE

The state has promised the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code when it is drawn up. Meanwhile, as part of its inclusive social agenda, the state government has implemented the 30 per cent horizontal reservation system for women. Uttarakhand is one of the leading states in the country in executing the new National Education Policy in schools and institutions. A new sports policy is helping groom young talent into medal-winning prospects.

Dhami is following his senior leaders. "Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we are committed to making Uttarakhand a leading state in every field by 2025... If late Atal Bihari Vajpayee made Uttarakhand, then PM Modi is working to enhance it," he says.

Reference: CII, IBEF, Government websites

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UTTARAKHAND

CASE STUDIES



Vande Bharat paces up connectivity for new economic hubs

The inauguration of the Vande Bharat Express between Delhi and Dehradun on May 25, 2023, underscored the Central government's commitment to transform Uttarakhand's infrastructure and promote economic growth through tourism in the state. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a prosperous and self-reliant India hinges on modern connectivity corridors linking all states. This project also highlights the critical role of infrastructure in India's progress and the potential for states to become hubs of tourism and economic development.



The Vande Bharat project marked a significant milestone in Uttarakhand's transportation and infrastructure development. The train, the first of its kind in Uttarakhand, reduces travel time between Delhi and Dehradun to just four-and-a-half hours. This project is part of the state government's 'Navratna' initiative.

The semi-high-speed train was India's 17th and Uttarakhand's first-ever Vande Bharat train. It offers world-class amenities, heralding a new era of comfortable travel experience, especially for tourists visiting the state.

Beautiful states like Uttarakhand should seize the current opportunity when people from all over the world wish to visit India. The Vande Bharat train will contribute to Uttarakhand's efforts to capitalise on this opportunity. With support from the Central Government, Uttarakhand is evolving into a prominent destination for tourism, adventure tourism, film shoots and destination weddings. Train travel remains the preferred choice for those travelling with their families and Vande Bharat is reviving the romance of the railways.

The Vande Bharat sleeper train will be redesigned and Indian Railways is prepared for its production.

The new sleeper coach design for the Vande Bharat train will be executed through a collaboration between the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) and Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML). The initial Vande Bharat train featuring the updated sleeper coaches is scheduled to be launched by February 2024.

Since 2014, significant advancements such

as the electrification of over 90 per cent of India's railway network and 100 per cent of Uttarakhand's grid have taken place. Also there has been a substantial increase in the rail budget allocation for Uttarakhand — from less than Rs 200 crore to Rs 5,000 crore — fuelling rapid development.

Connectivity, especially in hilly regions like Uttarakhand, was stressed as crucial for development and accessibility to remote areas. Modern connectivity would ease access to borders and ensure the convenience of soldiers defending the nation.

The Government of India has made substantial efforts to bolster the 'Make in India' initiative, and a prime exemplar of its success is the introduction of India's inaugural indigenous semi high-speed train — the Vande Bharat Express.

On February 15, 2019, the maiden Vande Bharat Express embarked on its journey along the New Delhi-Kanpur-Allahabad-Varanasi route. Since then, the project has continued to flourish, culminating in a momentous occasion on November 11, 2022, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the fifth Vande Bharat Express, which traversed from Mysuru to Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. MGR Chennai Central. This marked a historic milestone as it was the first train of its kind to operate in South India.

The Vande Bharat Express is capable of reaching a top speed of 160 km/h and offers travel classes akin to those found in Shatabdi trains, albeit with superior amenities. Its overarching goal is to deliver an entirely fresh and enhanced travel experience to its passengers.

THE VANDE BHARAT TRAIN, REDUCES TRAVEL TIME BETWEEN DELHI AND DEHRADUN TO 4.5 HOURS. IT IS PART OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT'S 'NAVRATNA' INITIATIVE

State gets its own 'Navratnas' for development

The state government's 'Navratnas' (nine gems) refer to the nine key ongoing development projects in Uttarakhand.

Kedarnath-Badrinath Dham rejuvenation: A Rs 1,300-crore project aimed at revitalising these sacred pilgrimage sites.

Gaurikund-Kedarnath and Gobind Ghat-Hemkunt Sahib Ropeway: A Rs 2,500-crore project to improve accessibility to religious destinations.

Renovation of ancient temples: Under the Manas Khand Mandir Mala programme, efforts to restore Kumaon's ancient temples.

Promotion of homestays: Encouraging over 4,000 registered homestays in the state to boost tourism.

Development of eco-tourism destinations: Creating 16 eco-tourism hotspots to attract nature enthusiasts.

Expansion of health services: Enhancing healthcare facilities in Uttarakhand.

Tehri Lake Development Project: A Rs 2,000-crore project to develop Tehri Lake for tourism and water sports.

Haridwar and Rishikesh development: Transforming these cities into centres of yoga and adventure tourism.

Tanakpur-Bageshwar Rail Line:

THE NAVARATNAS ARE CONNECTIVITY CORRIDORS THAT ARE INTENDED TO GIVE UTTARAKHAND'S INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT A BIG PUSH

Development of a new rail line to enhance connectivity.

WHAT ARE THE NINE GEMS?

Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the state government's emphasis on the 'navratnas' — nine gems of development for Uttarakhand. He appreciated the Pushkar Singh Dhami government for a synergised model of development. "These navratnas are being consolidated to push infrastructure development in the state under the Dhami government. Work is going on at a rapid pace on the Rs 12,000-crore Char Dham Maha Pariyojana. The Parvat Mala Project will change the state's fortune in the coming days. Uttarakhand is emerging as a tourism, adventure tourism, filming and wedding destination. The state's tourist attractions draw people from all around the world. Devbhoomi will be an international



spiritual consciousness centre. We must work hard to realise this potential," said Modi.

Reconstruction and development projects in Badrinath Dham and Kedarnath Dham have been accelerated. Dhami said the reconstruction work carried out this year has been faster compared to previous years. The target was to complete the projects by December 2023, he added.

PM Modi emphasised that the places adjoining the two shrines should be developed in such a manner that are attractive and accessible to devotees. Only then will their numbers rise. Attention should be paid to the accommodation and basic facilities available to the devotees between Rambada and

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN BADRINATH DHAM AND KEDARNATH DHAM ARE BEING CARRIED OUT FASTER THIS YEAR COMPARED TO PREVIOUS YEARS

Kedarnath, he said. He asked officials to prepare a complete plan on what can be done for devotees in and around Vasukital, Garuda Chatti, Lincholi and their surrounding areas.

Enhancing infrastructure and security along India's northern border

In response to the ongoing geopolitical tension and security concerns along its northern border with China, the Central government embarked on a comprehensive initiative to bolster infrastructure and security in the region. The key components and implications of this multi-faceted project include the allocation of funds for the Vibrant Villages Programme and the construction of the Shinku-La tunnel.

The Union Cabinet of India approved the allocation of Rs 4,800 crore for the Vibrant Villages Programme and authorised the induction of over 9,000 troops into the ITBP. These initiatives are part of a broader strategy to enhance the living conditions in border areas, strengthen security measures and facilitate better connectivity in the northern regions of Uttarakhand and other states.

VIBRANT VILLAGES PROGRAMME

The Vibrant Villages Programme, a centrally sponsored scheme, is designed to revitalise villages in border regions. Of the total allocated amount, Rs 2,500 crore will be invested in creating vital road infrastructure, which is crucial for connectivity and accessibility in these remote areas. The programme aims to transform 663 border villages, reducing migration and fortifying border security.

The Ministry of Home Affairs emphasised the importance of encouraging residents to stay in their native villages, ultimately enhancing security by increasing the local population's involvement in safeguarding the borders. The programme spans from the financial years 2022-23 to 2025-26 and focusses on various aspects, including all-weather road connectivity, access to drinking water, 24x7 electricity with an em-

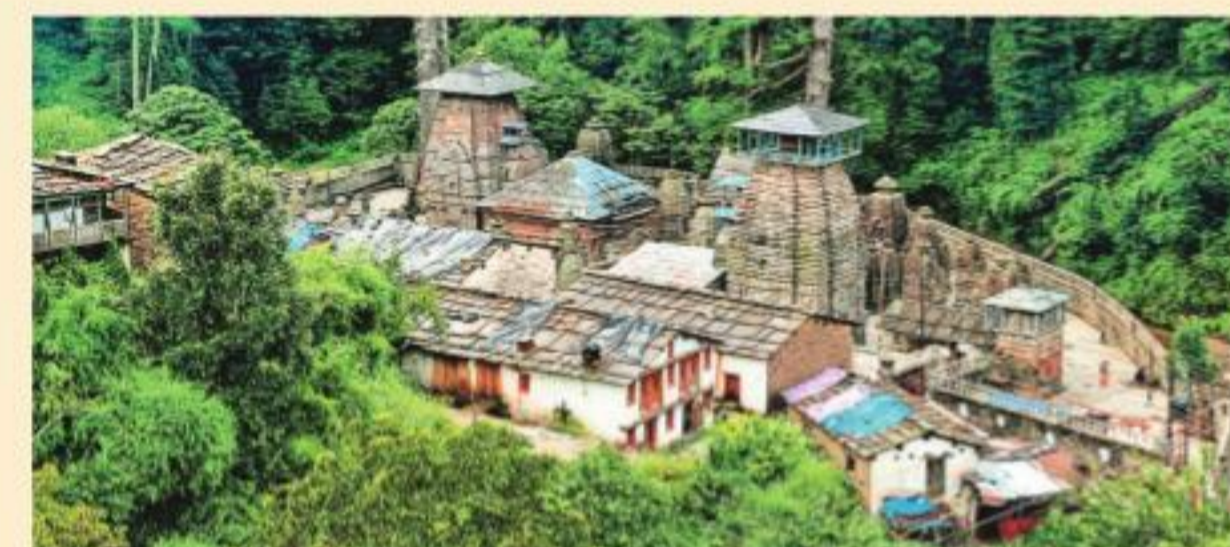
KEY FEATURES OF VIBRANT VILLAGES PROGRAMME

- A total of 2,967 villages situated in 46 blocks across 19 districts along the northern border regions of Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Ladakh have been earmarked for comprehensive development.

- The first phase of the programme will encompass 662 villages within these 46 blocks, benefitting approximately 1.42 lakhs of the population.
- A substantial sum of Rs 4,800 crore has been allocated for expenditure between 2022 and 2026. The first phase encompasses 11 districts, 28 blocks, and 1,451 villages.

- The ambitious development work under this project revolves around three primary objectives, guided by the 'Hub and Spoke Model':

- The first objective focusses on promoting social entrepreneurship, empowering youth and women through skill development and entrepreneurship.
- The second stage aims to unlock tourism potential by showcasing local



culture, traditional knowledge, and heritage.

iii. The final stage envisions sustainable eco-agribusiness based on the concept of 'One Village One Product' (OVOP) through community-based organisations and NGOs.

- The three main phases of implementation intend to halt migration from villages along the entire northern border, promote tourism and provide urban-like facilities.
- The programme also includes plans to establish several ITBP (Indo-Tibetan Border Police) units and en-

hance their infrastructure with an investment of Rs 120 crore, which is crucial for bolstering the security framework in the border areas.

- The government has set a target of achieving these objectives within a five-year timeframe, aiming to uplift India's border regions that have faced developmental challenges. Collaborative efforts involving panchayats, Gram sabhas and various administrative entities at the block, district, and state levels are integral to reaching these goals in the border areas.

phasis on renewable energy sources, mobile and internet connectivity, healthcare facilities, and tourism promotion. Traditional knowledge practices, support for NGOs and self-help groups, and empowering youth and women are

also integral parts of the initiative.

To promote tourism in the region, the government plans to organise field trips for students through the Seema Darshan programme, starting with organised tours and eventually

expanding to domestic tourists. Central and state government officials will regularly visit these villages to assess the progress and address challenges during various stages of the rollout.

Dhami signs MoUs for big infra projects

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami met representatives of various industry groups during a recent roadshow in the UAE and signed MoUs worth Rs 11,925 crore related to tourism, education, infrastructure and real estate. They will all participate in the investors' summit to be organised in Dehradun.

Dhami signed MoUs of Rs 2,000 crore with Sir Biotech and Hyatt India, Rs 950 crore with Carmilla Nutrition Technology Group for pharma production, Rs 800 crore with the GTC Group and Flow Conglomerate Group for investment in real estate, infra and tourism sectors. The state government also signed an MoU of Rs 500 crore and Rs 700 crore for the manufacturing sector with Exley Group and an investment MoU of Rs 500 crore with Sharaf Logistics. The other MoUs were valued at Rs 250 crore with My Perfumes (Aroma), Rs 300 crore with The Bristol Hotel (Hospitality), Rs 2,000 crore with Khamas Hospitality (Hospitality), Rs 500 crore with Concept Brands (Retail stores), Rs 50 crore with Arab and India

Spices LLC (Spice Hub), Rs 250 crore with Medi Q (Healthcare), Rs 1,000 crore with Hart Travels (Hospitality), Rs 25 crore with Nilgiri Trading LLC (Hospitality and Fisheries), Rs 100 crore with TMC Shipping (Education) and Rs 2000 crore with Ramee Hotels (Hospitality) were signed.

Addressing investors in Dubai, Dhami said that he had evolved an investment-friendly system and infrastructure development in the state. He highlighted how bilateral relations between India and the UAE have become stronger than before. Bilateral trade between the two countries is growing at a rate of about 20 per cent. With many NRIs working in UAE, Uttarakhand is also keen to cooperate with them and take advantage of their expertise in smart city planning and sustainable models.

Subsequently, during a roadshow in Delhi, the Chief Minister signed more MoUs worth Rs 19,385 crore with several institutions in Delhi. These include the Rs 15,000-crore MoU with JSW Neo Energy in the field of renewable en-



ergy. JSW Energy will set up two self-identified pumped storage projects at Almora of 1,500 MW capacity, which will be developed over the next six years.

The scheme is proposed to have a lower reservoir 8 to 10 km from the Kosi river at Site

1 in Jaskote village of Almora and an upper reservoir at Site 2 at Kurchaun village of Almora, at a distance of 16 km from Kosi river. The scheme will provide drinking water supply, to a large population and irrigation facilities for agriculture. Along with this, it will provide em-

ployment opportunities to 1,000 people.

Dhami expects to draw in corporate investors for pump storage plants, cement and (Rs 800, crore) in hospitality investment, SLMG (Rs 500 crore) in wellness, DS Group (Rs 500 crore) in food processing, and Dixon Technologies (250 crore) in, Electronics Manufacturing. Dhami said that Uttarakhand would take rapid strides in meeting the target set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in providing employment to 10 lakh people in the country within a year.

During his visit to Britain, he signed an investment MoU worth Rs 2,000 crore with Agar Technology, which agreed to invest in lithium battery plants. Another MoU worth Rs 1,000 crore was signed with Fira Barcelona, which deals in convention centres and event management. The company has the expertise to organise world-class business fairs.

UTTARAKHAND WILL TAKE RAPID STRIDES IN MEETING THE TARGET SET BY PM NARENDRA MODI IN PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT TO 10 LAKH PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY WITHIN A YEAR

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"Uttarakhand has been rapidly transforming into an economic powerhouse. With an unbeatable combination of single-point clearances, competitive land prices, cheap power, highly skilled manpower, good law and order and proximity to the National Capital Region, Uttarakhand has emerged as a preferred investment destination."

— **Pushkar Singh Dhama**, Chief Minister, Uttarakhand

In just about two months from now, the best of India and Global Inc. are expected to reach Dehradun for the Uttarakhand Global Investors Summit. The two-day summit, which begins on December 8, will be a platform for business delegations, corporate leaders, academicians, innovators and government leadership from across the globe to collectively explore business opportunities and partnerships in the state. More than 5,000 delegates (both national and international) are expected to attend the summit.

The Uttarakhand government will showcase more than 30 investor-friendly sectoral policies, its good-governance initiatives, the enabling regulatory environment and sustainable practices at the summit. The event will also host Business-to-Business (B2B) and Government-to-Business (G2B) meetings to aid in better decision-making for its investors.

The summit will provide opportunities for exhibitors as well as private and public organisations to collaborate and showcase cutting-edge technologies, innovations and future trends. Summit sectoral sessions will enable genuine and comprehensive discussions on industry challenges and opportunities. The state government is hoping to raise Rs 2.5 lakh crore from the summit.

LAYING OUT THE RED CARPET

The government's 30+ investor-friendly policies are poised to attract further investment in the state. It has created a conducive environment for the industries by reducing more than 2,000 compliance and decriminalising clauses that have been in practice for ages. Uttarakhand has chosen the path of development and prosperity and through this investors' summit, it looks forward to a partnership with the industry in achieving a common goal.

While promoting cheap labour, low-cost in-



dustrial electricity and hundreds of land banks in the plains and hills, Chief Minister Dhama will holding road shows both in India and abroad to attract investors to the hill state. Home to the Himalayas and the Ganges, the state is one of the top tourism destinations of India.

With the secondary sector contributing to more than 50 per cent of the state's GDP, Uttarakhand has also emerged as one of the major investment destinations for manufacturing in the country. While addressing a curtain raiser event in Delhi, Dhama said that the Uttarakhand government is working to create a business-friendly environment along with world-class infrastructure. Special policies and attractive financial incentives are part of the plan to promote investment. He added that a land bank of about 6,000 acres is available in Uttarakhand for industries to set up their units.



Under the Ease of Doing Business initiative, the state has implemented a web-based single window clearance system — www.investuttarakhand.com — where investors can avail the necessary state government statutory approvals to establish and start their business operations without any physical touchpoint of any approving/licensing authority.

The Dhama government has created an enabling environment for industries to set up and start their operations in the state. The State government houses a dedicated Investment Promotion & Facilitation Centre (IPFC) which acts as a centralised one-stop-shop for investors and

businesses and provides complete handholding support in a structured, focussed and comprehensive manner. IPFC focuses on investment promotion, facilitation, direct engagement and consultation with investors/stakeholders and ensures investment realisation and sustainable industrialisation in the state.

The Uttarakhand Right to Service Act, 2011 and the Uttarakhand Enterprises Single Window Facilitation and Clearance Act, 2012 were enacted to provide necessary time-bound licences, permissions and approvals for setting up commercial establishments in the state. More than 100 department services have already been notified under both the acts and they are monitoring the services are provided in a timely manner.

INDUSTRY INTEREST

During the curtain raiser, the ITC group pro-

Uttarakhand The Ideal Investment Destination

Consistently ranked among Top States in India by DPIIT* & World Bank

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Clean, Pollution-Free Environment | 6 Skilled Manpower Availability |
| 2 Good Law & Order; State with one of the lowest man-days lost due to industrial strife in India | 7 World Class Integrated Industrial Estates |
| 3 Handholding Through Investment Promotion & Facilitation Centre | 8 Transparent Land Allotment with Land Availability at Competitive prices |
| 4 Proximity to NCR and within influence region of AKIC | 9 Abundant Availability of Good Water Resources |
| 5 Sector-Specific Policies providing fiscal/non fiscal incentives | 10 Availability of Cheap and Reliable Power |
- *Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade

Summit Highlights

5 Domestic Road Shows	30+ Policies	3 International Road Shows	12+ Focus Sectors	6000+ acres Available Landbank
200+ Investable Projects	13 District Level Events	4 Partner Countries	75000 Cr+ Ready Investable Project Cost	16 Sessions

posed an investment of Rs 5,000 crore. The Uttarakhand government signed a MoU for investment of Rs 1,000 crore with Mahindra Holidays and Resorts India Limited. The corporate entity will establish around five resorts in the state over the next three months. This will create employment opportunities for 1,500 people. This is the largest investment by Mahindra Holidays & Resorts India Limited anywhere in the country. Another MoU of Rs 1,600 crore was signed with e-Kuber during the curtain raiser.

VOTE OF APPROVAL

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), in one of its reports, has said that the "story of Make

in Uttarakhand, which started in 2003 is a classic example of how manufacturing can change a region's economy in terms of both economic growth and employment generation." The industry body ASSOCHAM, in a recent assessment report, said, "Uttarakhand has emerged as the top state in the country in terms of growth in the industry and service sectors in the last 10 years. It has also figured as the second-best performing state in terms of project implementation and improving investment scenario in the state."

State investor summits like Vibrant Gujarat have been winning platforms to attract global investors. The Uttarakhand Investor Summit will have a similar appeal.

Industry Institutions of Potential Interest to Investors

STATE INFRASTRUCTURE AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD. (SIIDCUL)

SIIDCUL, a state government-owned enterprise in Uttarakhand, was established as a limited company in 2002, with an authorised share capital of Rs 50 crore by the Uttarakhand government. Its primary objective is to facilitate the overall industrial development of the state by creating essential infrastructure and promoting industries within Uttarakhand, either directly or through special purpose vehicles and investment-assisted companies.

SIIDCUL is dedicated to accelerating industrial growth in Uttarakhand by providing industry-specific infrastructure of the highest quality. The commitment at SIIDCUL revolves around ensuring a business-friendly environment for investors through an enabling and transparent system that eliminates the need for physical interactions. It implemented a fully automated land allotment process through a single-window clearance system, and SIIDCUL BPMS application is designed to enhance the speed and accountability of various processes within SIIDCUL, including land allotment.

Vision

- To create high quality world-class infrastructure facilities.
- To enhance connectivity to the National Capital Region (NCR) and other leading markets
- To provide single window facilitation in the state to expedite project clearances.
- To provide land for setting up industrial ventures and infrastructure projects.
- To promote and encourage private sector participation in the development and management of infrastructure projects.
- To provide assured good quality, uninterrupted and affordable power for industries.
- To promote small scale, cottage and khadi, village industries and handicrafts, silk and handloom sectors.
- To address problems of sickness and incip-

ient sickness in the industry, particularly SSIs.

- To develop Uttarakhand as a premier education and research centre.

Contact information

Address: Head Office, 29, IIE (IT PARK), Sahastradhara Road, Dehradun-248001, Uttarakhand (India)
Phone: 0135-2708100, 2608092
Toll Free Number: 1800-180-4248
Fax: 0135-2708109
Website: www.siidcul.com
Email: [md\[at\]siidcul\[dot\]com](mailto:md[at]siidcul[dot]com)

UTTARAKHAND RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (UREDA)

Uttarakhand became a new state on November 9, 2000, following its separation from Uttar Pradesh. It has emerged as a frontrunner in the country in the application of non-conventional energy resources. In Uttarakhand, the implementation of various schemes related to non-conventional energy resources is overseen by the Uttarakhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (UREDA), working in collaboration with local panchayats, volunteer organisations and district administration. Since 2008, UREDA has also assumed the role of a state-designated agency for the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), spearheading energy conservation activities.

The Uttarakhand government views science, technology and innovation as effective tools for advancing the national knowledge economy and has made substantial investments in these areas. As part of this strategy, UREDA has been encouraged to play a leading role in the growth of the renewable energy sector, aligning with the guidance provided by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and creating a conducive platform for promoting energy conservation.

The execution of renewable energy programmes in Uttarakhand, along with conferences and workshops aimed at raising aware-



ness and introducing technological advancements, as well as the provision of promotional measures for renewable energy development, and other related activities, have all successfully achieved their intended objectives.

About UREDA

- Set up under the administrative control of the Department of Energy & Renewable Energy, Government of Uttarakhand, in July 2001 under Society Registration Act, 1860.
- An executive body headed by the Principal Secretary/Secretary, Renewable Energy, Govt. of Uttarakhand.
- Head Office at Dehradun and Project Office in all 13 districts. Total strength is 119 personnel (80 posts filled and 39 vacant).
- State Nodal Agency for Renewable Energy

and Energy Conservation Programmes.

Contact information

Address: UREDA HEADQUARTER, Uttarakhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (UREDA), State Level Energy Park Campus, Industrial area, Patel Nagar, Dehradun-248001
Phone No: 0135-2521387/2521553
Fax: 2521386
Website: www.ureda.uk.gov.in
Email: director.uredahq@gmail.com; cpo.uredahq@gmail.com

UTTARAKHAND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT BOARD (UTDB)

Uttarakhand is a diverse and tranquil tourism destination. The state offers an unparalleled combination of advantages, in-

THE STATE GOVERNMENT ENVISIONS SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION AS EFFECTIVE TOOLS FOR ADVANCING THE NATIONAL KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY AND HAS MADE SEVERAL INVESTMENTS IN THESE AREAS

related to tourism. This panel is chaired by the State Tourism Minister with the Chief Secretary serving as its vice-chairman. The Principal Secretary or Secretary of tourism functions as the Chief Executive Officer. Additionally, the board includes five non-official members from the private sector, who are experts in tourism-related matters. The board fulfills the role of a regulatory and licensing authority.

Mission & Vision

- To place Uttarakhand on the tourism map of the world as one of the leading tourist destinations and to make tourism a key growth driver.
- To develop the manifold tourism related resources of the state in an eco-friendly manner, with the active participation of the private sector and the local host communities.
- To develop tourism as a major source of employment and income/revenue generation and as a pivot of the economic and social development in the state.

Contact information

Address: Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board, Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay Paryatan Bhawan, Near ONGC Helipad, Garhi Cantt, Dehradun-248001 (India)
Phone: Aakash Deep Arora, Project Lead, PMU IP, UTDB, +91 – 8859955505
Phone: 91-135-2552626
Email: investtourismuk@gmail.com
Website: <https://uttarakhandtourism.gov.in/about-utdb>

Challenges and Solutions to Uttarakhand's Infrastructure Development

The double-engine government may ease some of the limitations prompted by climate change and environmental factors

Since he became the Chief Minister in March 2022, Pushkar Singh Dhami, despite a creditable performance, has been facing a multitude of challenges.

KEY CHALLENGES

Uttarakhand's mountainous terrain, with its steep slopes, fragile ecosystems and seismic vulnerability makes infrastructure development difficult and expensive. Building roads, bridges and other essential infrastructure in such challenging terrain requires special engineering and adds to the overall cost. Its geographical position is such that it is prone to natural disasters like landslides, floods and earthquakes. These disasters can damage existing infrastructure and hinder new construction efforts. Although its economic

growth is promising, the state's limited financial resources can constrain infrastructure development efforts. It relies on Central government grants and its own revenue, making it crucial to prioritise projects based on available funding. The state is home to diverse flora and fauna, including several protected areas and national parks. Balancing the need for infrastructure development with environmental conservation can be challenging. Ensuring projects adhere to environmental regulations and conducting impact assessments are essential. Connectivity to remote areas is a significant challenge. Developing roads, bridges and transportation networks in hilly regions is costly and logistically complex. Ensuring a reliable power supply is crucial for both urban and rural development. Uttarakhand also faces challenges in maintaining and upgrading its power infrastructure to meet growing demands.

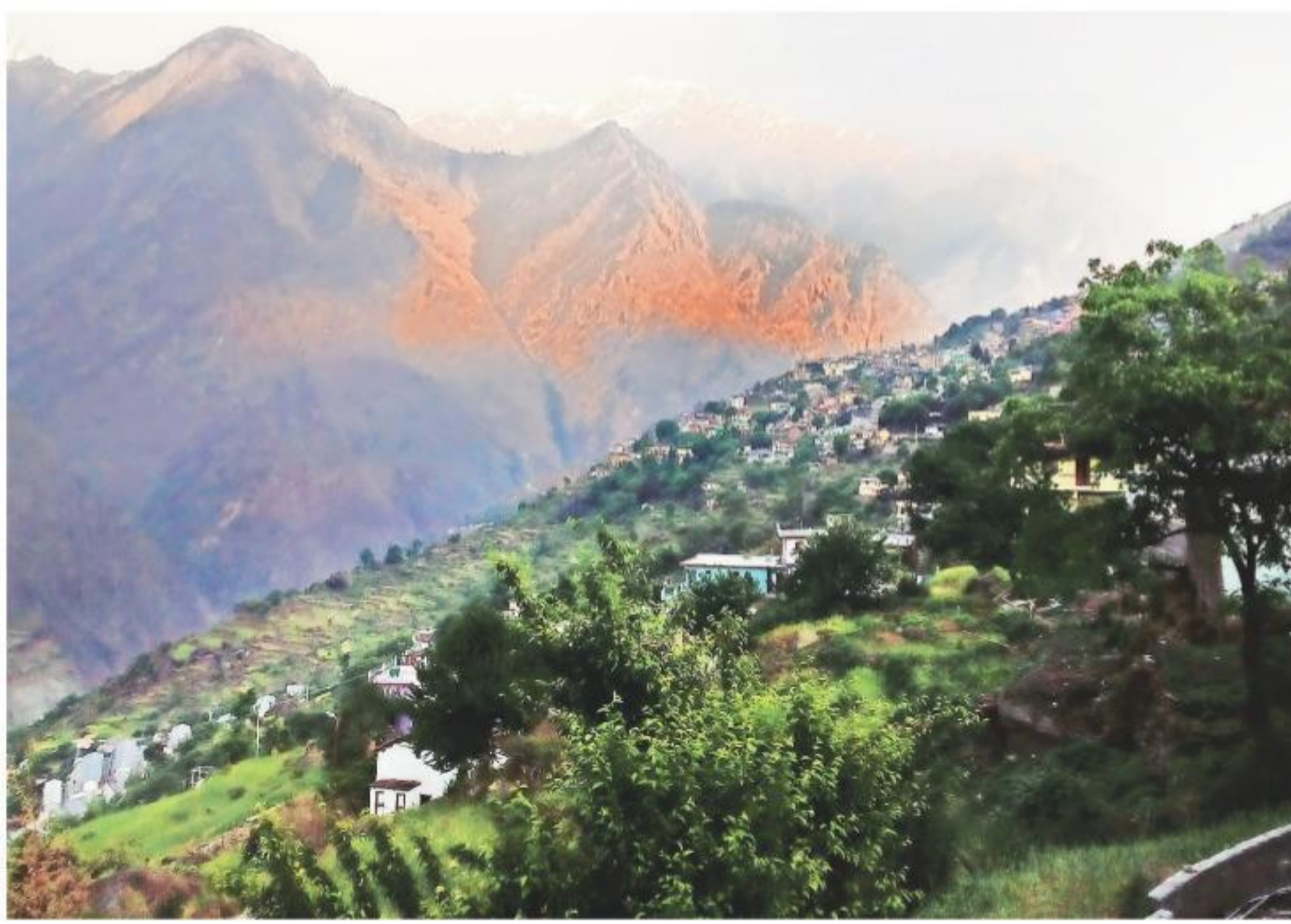
THERE IS A NEED TO BUILD AN INFRASTRUCTURE BASE IN AN ECO-FRIENDLY MANNER AND BALANCE IT WITH THE VULNERABLE MOUNTAIN ECONOMY

tion puts pressure on its infrastructure, especially in hill stations like Mussoorie and Nainital. Managing tourism-related infrastructure, waste, and traffic congestion are ongoing challenges. The state is the source of several major rivers, and, therefore, water management is crucial for both the state and downstream regions. Ensuring a balance between harnessing water resources for power generation and irrigation while preserving ecological integrity can be difficult. Uttarakhand is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including erratic weather patterns and increased glacier melting. Adapting infrastructure to withstand these changes is a significant challenge. Acquiring land for infrastructure projects can also be complex and may require rehabilitation and compensation for affected communities. Therefore, balancing development needs with the welfare of residents is critical.

INFRASTRUCTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The state is extremely vulnerable to climate-related hazards such as water shortage and also excess monsoonal precipitation leading to severe floods. There is also glacier melting and glacier burst, along with water and air pollution in rural as well as urban areas. Although the state has a State Action Plan for Climate Change, there is limited integration of climate change measures into state policies. The state suffers due to poor connectivity of villages with cities as well as withering of the hill economy due to industrialisation and urbanisation.

There is a need to build an infrastructure base in an environment-friendly manner and balance it with the vulnerable mountain economy. Limited land is available for developing industry and infrastructure due to 70 per cent of the land



being covered by forests. Although the state provides a huge mountain ecosystem services to the entire country, it has not been receiving the Green Bonus to maintain forest cover.

There is, therefore, a need to strike a balance between ecology and development in the state. In January this year, cracks appeared in several houses across Joshimath. The people of the town alleged NTPC projects were the main cause of its gradual sinking. Similar reports started coming from other parts of the state too. Earlier, in an interview with *The Indian Express*, CM Dhami said that his priority is to balance ecology, economy, and development, moving forward. "What we

need to understand is that infrastructure development is important for the state and the country. Development is needed and we cannot stop it just like that," he said.

In February 2023, amid a possibility of a Joshimath-like situation in Mussoorie town, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) issued directions to the Uttarakhand Government to conduct a study of the specific carrying capacity of the hill station.

The tribunal has constituted a nine-member joint committee headed by the Chief Secretary, Uttarakhand, with members including representatives from the Wadia Institute of Himalayan

Geology, Dehradun, the Govind Ballabh Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment, and the National Institute of Hydrology (NIH), Roorkee.

The status report on the carrying capacity of Mussoorie found that "unplanned urbanisation driven by haphazard construction and infrastructure development poses significant risks, including building collapses and disasters during heavy rainfall and earthquakes." It said that although construction has been banned in Mussoorie's freeze zone areas since 1996, recent extension options require careful monitoring by the Mussoorie Dehradun Development

Authority (MDDA). The high influx of tourists exacerbates issues such as unregulated construction, excessive waste generation, sanitation and sewage problems, water scarcity, congested roads, traffic congestion and vehicular pollution, said the report.

EMERGING SOLUTIONS

Respect for nature, environment and the planet constitute an inherent aspect of the vision based on the 17 SDGs. The mountain economy is especially fragile and the entire populace in the state and even the people in other states are dependent on many of the mountain ecosystem services provided by Uttarakhand, in the form of water and wood, among others.

Development in the mountains must take place in a manner such that GHG emissions are eliminated. For instance, people should opt for LPG or electricity as the primary cooking fuel rather than wood. The farmers should reduce methane emission from rice cultivation by gradually shifting from rice to fruit cultivation in a part of the present area covered under rice. Travel operators should eliminate GHG emissions from public transport by adopting CNG or electric energy. The other strategies for environmental sustainability would be to increase carbon absorptive capacity by increasing the land under forests, reduce the severely degraded watersheds and halt biodiversity loss caused by a depletion of the habitat.

Many Central government and state government schemes are in operation throughout the state, providing important safety nets to the poor and the marginalised, the elderly and widows, while also helping in promoting inclusive growth in areas of human development such as education and health.

The achievement of these goals necessitates a systematic review of the efficacy of the schemes, monitoring of progress and the need, if any, for convergence, and/or expansion, in the coming 15-year period, which will help decide whether such interventions are adequate for attaining the Vision 2030 of Uttarakhand.

PIONEERING INFRA-FOCUSSED POLICIES

The Uttarakhand Logistics Policy 2023 will catalyse the integrated development of the state's logistics industry

Uttarakhand Tourism Policy 2030 paves the way for sustainable development



With the unveiling of the Uttarakhand Tourism Policy 2030, the state is on the brink of a transformative shift in its tourism industry. Embracing innovation, sustainability and inclusivity, Uttarakhand is poised to revolutionise the Indian tourism landscape.

Departing from the conventional image of Uttarakhand as a religious and wellness destination, the policy seeks to unlock the state's latent potential as a diverse tourist hotspot. The policy also underscores the significance of promoting Uttarakhand as a year-round destination, encompassing winter and Alpine tourism, to attract visitors throughout the seasons.

With a strong emphasis on sustainability, the policy acknowledges the importance of preserving Uttarakhand's environmental and cultural treasures. Efforts to conserve natural reserves, wildlife and intangible heritage are integral to the state's tourism development. Additionally, the policy underscores the revival of forgotten natural and cultural assets, ensuring that Uttarakhand remains a secure and tourist-friendly destination for years to come.

In the digital age, Uttarakhand is committed to meeting the evolving expectations of tourists. Leveraging technology, the policy prioritises reaching potential visitors from the comfort of their homes. This includes utilising online platforms for promotion, marketing, bookings, reservations, and information dissemination. By harnessing the potential of digital tools, Uttarakhand aims to offer convenience and confidence to travelers, enhancing their overall journey experience.

In alignment with the Government of India's vision to foster the holistic growth of the logistics sector within the state, the Uttarakhand Logistics Policy, 2023 is designed to provide comprehensive support to both new and existing industries operating in the logistics sector. Its primary objectives include reducing logistics costs, bolstering the existing logistics infrastructure, generating employment opportunities, elevating the state's position in the logistics index and attracting increased investments in this sector. Through a combination of financial and non-financial assistance, this policy aims to catalyse the integrated development of the logistics industry in Uttarakhand.

VISION OF THE POLICY

- Facilitation and development of an inte-

grated logistics ecosystem in Uttarakhand will help enhance competitiveness, operational efficiency and sustainability through innovation, skilled manpower, quality and disruptive technology. This will reduce the cost of logistics as well as boost trade and private investment in Uttarakhand.

● The policy aims to address the cross-functional needs of the entire value chain of the ecosystem in Uttarakhand. It is a step towards enhancing and promoting the business needs of Logistics Enablers, Investors and Service Providers. This policy has been prepared to create a hub-spoke logistics ecosystem within the State.

OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY

- Creation of a simplified, proactive and responsive institutional mechanism for rapid

- Strengthening of new and existing logistics infrastructure like godowns, inland Container Depot (ICD), cold storage, rail-road connectivity to industrial estates/ clusters etc.
- To develop hub-spoke logistics model in the State to strengthen economic linkages between hilly and plain areas and create benefits across the entire business value chain for logistics.
- To promote green and innovative practices to develop competitive logistics infrastructure in the state.
- To encourage private investment for setting up logistics facilities in the state with forward and backward linkages.
- To develop competitive logistics infrastructure facilities in the state by promoting green and innovative logistics.



New Solar Energy Policy aims to generate 2,500 MW by 2027

The Uttarakhand State Solar Energy Policy for 2023 sets ambitious targets, with the government anticipating the generation of 2500 MW of electricity in the state from solar projects by December 2027. This initiative is not only poised to create fresh employment opportunities in the solar energy sector but also enhance the livelihood prospects of rural communities.

Under the new solar energy policy, solar power installations can be established on both government-owned and private lands for private use or third-party sales. Moreover, solar power projects can extend beyond the state's borders, with the Uttarakhand Power Corporation Limited (UPCL) having the obligation to procure a specific percentage of its electricity from solar projects.

The policy places a strong emphasis on promoting local employment. Those who lease government land for their solar projects will be required to employ 70 per cent of the local youth, a condition enforced by the Uttarakhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (UREDA) in its tenders.

Another notable aspect of the policy is UPCL's commitment to formulate a green tariff proposal for solar energy, subject to approval by the Regulatory Commission. This would enable consumers to opt for environmentally friendly energy sources. Additionally, the policy encourages feed-in



tariffs for surplus solar energy contributed to the grid during peak hours. Virtual Net Metering (VNM) and Group Net Metering (GNM) are introduced for convenient access and monitoring.

The new policy expands the responsibilities of UREDA, requiring the establishment of a solar policy cell to streamline the approval process for solar projects. UREDA will also compile a comprehensive list of government-owned lands and buildings suitable for solar power projects and identify privately-owned lands eligible for lease.

KEY BENEFITS OF THE NEW POLICY:

- Streamlined approval process through a sin-

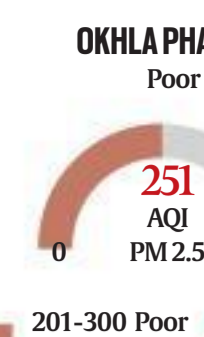
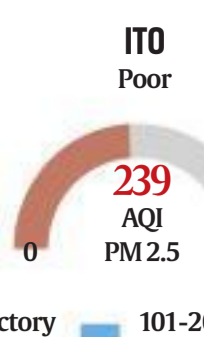
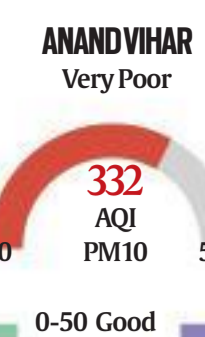
- Exemption from land use conversion fees, court fees, registration fees, land use approvals, external development fees, investigation fees, and infrastructure development fees.
- Mandatory power purchase agreements with UPCL, reducing investor risks.
- Compensation for consumers contributing surplus power through feed-in tariffs.
- Benefits for the Deendayal Upadhyay Home Stay Development and Self Employment Scheme.
- Free access for personal and collective use, along with exemptions from State Goods and Services Tax (SGST) and electricity charges.

Ban on single-use plastics will lead to better environment and promote economic growth

In a significant move towards promoting environmental conservation, Uttarakhand has implemented a comprehensive ban on single-use plastic products. This encompasses a wide range of plastic items, including plastic carry bags (with or without handles) of varying sizes, thicknesses, and colour, non-woven poly single-use bags made of polypropylene, as well as materials like thermocol (polystyrene), polyurethane, styrofoam, and similar substances. Moreover, it extends to disposable cutlery and plastic items such as plate trays, bowls, cups, glasses, spoons, forks, straws, knives, stirrers, and more. The ban encompasses all aspects of production, purchase, sale, import, storage, use, and supply of these single-use plastic products within the state of Uttarakhand. In addition, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, India, issued a notification on August 12, 2021, further prohibiting the manufacture, import, storage, distribution, sale, and use of expanded polystyrene articles starting from July 1, 2022.



While the ban has had a direct impact on businesses involved in the production, sale, and storage of single-use plastic products, it has also affected employment opportunities within the state. To combat plastic waste pollution, eliminate single-use plastics, and foster innovation and entrepreneurship in the creation of alternative, eco-friendly products, the government has introduced financial incentives through the MSME Policy 2015, which has been periodically updated and approved by the Cabinet.



SKY WATCH
FORECAST: October 28
Partly cloudy sky.
Mist in the morning.
AQI forecast: Likely to be in very poor category

MAX: 32 **MIN: 16**
1.0° C above normal | 0.1° C below normal

BRIEFLY

NDMC to launch signage revamp project: Vice chairperson

New Delhi: While inaugurating a direction-board in Shankar Market, Vice-chairperson of the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), Satish Upadhyay said that the NDMC will undertake a comprehensive "Signage Refurbishment Project". The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways had asked all road categories of National Highways and Expressways to have uniformity in their signages on a priority basis. Now the NDMC has announced that New Delhi will soon update its signages based on those guidelines. **ENS**

GNCT, SBI join hands to spread financial literacy

New Delhi: In an attempt to spread digital awareness among school heads, teachers and students, a financial literacy awareness and cyber crime prevention programme was organised at the Dr B.R. Ambedkar International Centre by the Delhi Government's Directorate of Education in collaboration with State Bank of India (SBI) Friday. **ENS**

Held from Ayodhya, how 'conman' fleeced victims across 3 states

DHEERAJ MISHRA
GHAZIABAD, OCTOBER 27

LEADER OF the "Schedule Caste Morcha" of a prominent political party, ex-advisor to the Censor board, former member of Uttar Pradesh's Film Development Council, and a "member" of the Ministry of Railways and Food Corporation of India. These are among a few avatars that Anoop Kumar Chaudhary used to put on as he went about conning people in at least three states before his run came to an end with his arrest earlier this week.

Chaudhary was arrested along with his driver Firoz Alam by UP STF on Monday night in Ayodhya.

Chaudhary is facing multiple charges pertaining to cheating, forgery of documents and criminal conspiracy in 10 cases registered in UP, Uttarakhand and Rajasthan. The Uttarakhand government had even announced a reward of Rs 15,000 on Chaudhary. The Indian Express has accessed all the 10 FIRs registered against him, which reveal his Modus Operandi.

First case in Rajasthan

The oldest cheating case against Chaudhary was registered in Jaipur on June 7, 2018. Rajesh Kumar Khandelwal, an export businessman, had alleged that Kumar had cheated him of Rs 58 lakh on the pretext of providing a loan of Rs 25 crore at 3% interest rate, according to the FIR.



Anoop Chaudhary (R) was held along with his driver Firoz Alam earlier this week.

Khandelwal never got the loan. According to the STF, a settlement procedure was underway in the case.

2 cases in Uttarakhand

The hill state has seen two cases registered against Chaudhary at Khatima and Haldwani police stations, respectively. In the 2021 case, in Khatima, Mahpal Giri, director of a Cooperative Society Ltd, had said that Chaudhary was among 15 people who had cheated several people of lakhs of rupees in the name of an FD scheme.

In Haldwani, on April 25, 2022, Vinay Kumar Rathore filed a complaint against nine persons, including Chaudhary, stating that many customers were cheated of around Rs 90 lakh on the pretext of FD account investment in a cooperative society.

Fraud in Prayagraj

Vipin Mishra, a resident of Prayagraj, said that his company was in need of loan when he came in contact with Chaudhary. The latter promised him help with loan of Rs 250 crore. The complainant said he paid Rs 6 crore as processing fees. "Two years have passed, but I have still not got the loan. When I demanded my money back, they asked me to pay another 1.5 crore. When I denied, they threatened to kill me and implicate me in an SC/ST case," reads the FIR.

Cases in Bareilly, Amroha, Shamli

Another victim, Mohd Saleem, 42, said that Chaudhary and Alam, posing as the director and chairman respectively of two cooperative societies, had asked him to invest with them with the promise to double the amount. In an FIR

registered on November 8, 2022, Saleem said he had invested Rs 3.51 lakh and when he asked for his money back after maturity, they allegedly declined to do so. A similar case was registered in the Gajraula Police station in Amroha district on August 19, 2021, involving 13 victims. Similarly, at least six persons from Shamli had filed complaints against seven persons including Chaudhary for cheating them in the name of a Fixed Deposit scheme in a cooperative society.

'Cheated' a family friend in Lucknow

According to the FIR registered at Vikas Nagar Police station in Lucknow on April 9, 2019, the complainant Ravi Roz said that due to his "family relations" with the accused, he had loaned Chaudhary a total of Rs 43 lakh during 2016-17 but got only Rs 8 lakh in return. Roz further said he had filed a complaint regarding the same with the PMO in August 2018.

Got approval for gunner

When he was arrested, a Ghaziabad police gunner was seen accompanying Chaudhary in his SUV. The gunner was later suspended. Mayank Arora, the VIP cell in charge at Ghaziabad Commissionerate, said in his complaint that Chaudhary had got approval for the gunner from the police on multiple occasions.

Swiss woman murder: Delhi Police write to airline company for travel details

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

A WEEK after the body of a Swiss woman was found with her arms and limbs tied with a chain in Tilak Nagar, Delhi Police have written to an airline company to seek travel details of the victim, Nina Berger, from Switzerland to India. A senior police officer also said that they have retrieved the chats of accused Gurpreet Singh and Berger, and are examining how he lured the deceased into coming to India.

"We have written to the airline company through which Nina travelled to India and have sought her travel details... This will help us ascertain if it was Nina's first visit to India and the exact date on which the deceased arrived in Delhi," said an officer. The officer said police have also written to the Foreigner Regional Registration Office (FRRO) to get information regarding the immigration details of the woman.

Said another officer, "We have also received her check-in details at the two hotels in West Delhi which she had visited... As for the accused Gurpreet, he is constantly changing his statements regarding the motive behind the incident so it is difficult to probe based only on his statements... We are going through his conversations with Berger whom he has been in touch with since 2020... Gurpreet is said to have been in touch with several women whom he used to lure through gemstones. However, no other woman has come on record as being in touch with the accused." Police said they have not found any evidence on the human trafficking aspect of the investigation yet.

Couple found dead in hotel in Jafrabad, police suspect suicide

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

THE BODIES of a man and a woman, in their late 20s, were found inside a room at a budget hotel in Northeast Delhi's Jafrabad, officers said on Friday.

Police said that they received a call around 8:05 pm from a hotel near Maujpur Metro Station. The deceased were identified as Sohrab, 28, a resident of Meerut, and Ayesha, 27. Police said the woman is survived by her two children and her husband.

DCP (Northeast) Joy Tirkey said it was found that Sohrab and Ayesha had checked into the hotel at 01.02 pm and had booked the room for four hours. "When they did not come out after the allotted time, the hotel staff knocked on the door. On getting no response, they called the beat constable. The room was opened in the presence of the police," added the DCP.

While Sohrab was found hanging from the ceiling fan with a nylon rope, Ayesha was found lying dead on the bed. There were some ligature marks on her neck, said police. "A half page hand-written note in Hindi was found lying on the bed next to Ayesha, claiming that both were in love and had decided to end their lives together... Crime Team and FSL team have reached the spot and CCTV footage of the reception and staircase is being examined," added the officer.



Police are going through Singh's (L) conversations with Berger whom he had been in touch with since 2020.



Officers had earlier said that Gurpreet lured Berger into visiting India after he was infuriated with her refusal to marry him. After she arrived in Delhi on October 11, Gurpreet allegedly took her in his car to Vishnu Garden where he strangled her inside the vehicle and dumped the body along with the car in the area. Gurpreet came over the next day to check

on the body and on noticing a foul smell, allegedly took the vehicle along with Berger's body to Tilak Nagar and dumped it behind an MCD school.

Meanwhile, officers said that since the parents of Berger are unwilling to come down to Delhi to identify the body, they are awaiting an NOC from the Swiss Embassy following which they will set up a board to carry out the postmortem of Berger.

Meanwhile, police have found a suspected social media profile of Berger which can possibly be used for her identification.

Said a senior officer, "Gurpreet's father's location is currently in Leon in France and Berger had also recently shifted to Leon from Zurich, where her family lives, before coming to Delhi."

Officials conspiring to stop Farishtey scheme: Bharadwaj

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

HEALTH MINISTER Saurabh Bharadwaj Friday alleged that some officials from the department are not releasing the pending amounts to the private hospitals and diagnostic centres with a motive to stop the government's ambitious "Farishtey scheme" which provides free treatment to the accident victims.

He also wrote a letter to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal seeking action against the officials concerned, saying that payments to the empanelled offices haven't been made in the last one year.

The scheme — launched in 2018 for providing cashless treatment to victims of road accidents in nearby hospitals if the accident occurs in the jurisdiction of Delhi police — is one of the ambitious schemes of the AAP government. Addressing a press conference, Bharadwaj alleged, "A conspiracy is being hatched to deactivate such a scheme. Their officials have stopped the payments of bills of the private hospitals that provide free treatment to the accident victims for the last one year."

He alleged that this is not a "coincidence" but a well planned "conspiracy". "They have stopped the payments, so that the hospitals stop providing cashless treatment to show the elected government in a bad picture."

Till date, approx 23000 road



Saurabh Bharadwaj

accident victims have been provided cashless treatment in private hospitals for saving their life and limbs, under the said scheme run by the Delhi Arogya Kosh, said Bharadwaj.

He alleged that the DGHS director falsely informed him that "there is no pendency of bills submitted to empanelled diagnostic centres/private hospitals," when he raised the matter with the DGHS and the officials concerned, directing them to release the payments to the hospitals this April.

Regarding the pending payments, Bharadwaj wrote to the CM about "payments amounting to Rs 7.17 crores in respect of 42 private hospitals who had treated victims of accidents under the scheme, since December 2022."

"Further, payments to some hospitals have not been made since July, 2022," Bharadwaj wrote. Alleging that the officials are bypassing him, Bharadwaj requested the CM for disciplinary action.



AFTER THE FESTIVITIES

Puja material dumped in the Yamuna post-Navratri at ITO, on Friday. Abhinav Saha

Delhi Police Constable hit by SUV during picket checking

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

A DELHI Police personnel posted on picket duty was hit by an SUV while he was checking a vehicle at Connaught Place's Outer Circle late on Tuesday, officers said.

DCP (New Delhi) Pranav Tayal said the accused, a taxi driver, has been held after he was chased by the Delhi Traffic Police after the incident.

He added that the police personnel was rushed to the hospital from where he was discharged with minor injuries.

A video of the incident shows a black SUV approach the police picket at a high speed and crashing into the personnel and the barricade, after which it



A screenshot of the video of the incident. ANI

speeds off. The DCP said, "during picket checking at Chelmsford picket at around 1:15 AM, a black Scorpio hit the barricades and Constable Ravi Kumar posted at the barricade was hit...he was taken to

the RML Hospital where he was discharged after treatment. The driver, Ram Lakhan, was arrested and the vehicle was seized. A case has been lodged under rash driving and obstruction to public servant from duty.

PM to lay foundation for Amrit Vatika

Soil from 766 districts has been collected

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone for Amrit Vatika Tuesday evening, for which the soil from across 766 districts has been collected.

For the Amrit Vatika, a memorial lawn to be built next to the India Gate, an area of 12,000 sqm has been earmarked, and the site will be ready for visitors in the next four to six months.

The Vatika will be situated adjacent to the Netaji Bose statue under the Grand Canopy and the National War Memorial, the newest landmark will celebrate 75 years of Independence and honour the valour of the unsung freedom fighters.

The event will also mark the finale of the 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign at Kartavya Path, wherein representatives from all 766 districts will be present.

On the day, which also marks the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Mera Yuva Bharat initiative will be launched, which aims to tap 40 crore youth population of the country, and focuses on "youth-led development and providing equitable access to youth".

The government has arranged for over 20,000 Amrit Kalash Yatris from the states and UTs to arrive at the national capital by special trains and buses, who will be led by their respective MPs for the two-day carnival at Kartavya Path.

Officials said on Monday that the representatives will put the mitti from their respective areas in one giant Amrit Kalash at the venue.

As part of the Meri Maati Mera Desh campaign, launched in September, a memorial plaque was built and installed at every village or panchayat across the country to pay tribute to those who sacrificed their lives during the freedom struggle or defence personnel who laid down their lives on the line of duty.

Officials said that over 2.33 lakh or plaques have come up across the country.

When PM Modi had unveiled the Bose statue at India Gate a year ago, and renamed Rajpath as Kartavya Path, he had given a call to remove any traces of colonial mindset.

"Kingsway, or Rajpath, the symbol of slavery, has become a matter of history from today and has been erased forever. A new history has been created in the form of Kartavya Path," he had said.

A memorial wall dedicated to all the heroes who have contributed to India's freedom, unity and integrity would also be erected at Amrit Vatika.

Besides the PM, the programme is likely to be attended by a host of Union ministers, officials and diplomats, besides families of some of these bravehearts.

No working staff left in POCSO division: DCPCR member

VIDHEESHA KUNTAMALLA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

A MEMBER of the POCSO Division of the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) on Wednesday alleged in a letter to the Secretary of DCPCR, that the POCSO Division has no working staff.

"...the POCSO Division has no working staff as two of the staff members contract has expired and the PA is also on long leave as a result of which work in the Division is greatly hampered," reads the letter written by Nidhi Dwivedi to its member secretary, Kulanand Joshi.

The development comes in

the wake of the Commission being headless for the past several weeks after the tenure of former Chairperson Anurag Kundu ended.

The letter further said: "As you are well aware POCSO cases are extremely sensitive and have to be immediately attended to and dealt with...In view of the said situation, it is required to urgently provide staff to POCSO division for its smooth functioning and addressing sensitive issues".

The letter further gave reference to another circular dated October 20 wherein it said "the contractual staff of DCPCR whose contract period has been completed are not to sign any official documents and also not at

The commission has been headless for past many weeks since the tenure of the former Chairperson ended

...to encourage reporting of the instances of sexual violence, and then tracks the legal proceedings, compensation, education and other rehabilitative standards and their implementation for the children victims of sexual violence".

The Indian Express reached out to Nidhi Dwivedi, who looks

come to a halt. "This has nothing to do with the role of a chairperson. The commission members are presenting the plans to the secretary but the secretary is not executing it. All our helplines and outsourced agencies have almost come to a halt and will stop completely functioning soon if this is how it keeps going on. We are understaffed as most of us have not been paid in a while too," the official said.

The Indian Express reached out to Kulanand Joshi, the Member Secretary of DCPCR but received no response. When asked for comment, an L-G House official said that no file regarding the DCPCR had been sent to the L-G for approval so far.

When asked for comment, an L-G House official said that no file regarding the DCPCR had been sent to the L-G for approval so far.

9 GOVT & POLITICS



LEADING LADY

BSP PRESIDENT Mayawati's nephew and party's national coordinator Akash Anand has been canvassing in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Telangana for the past several months, reaching out to people through rallies and yatras. The responsibilities assigned to him made a section of BSP leaders believe that he is going to be the political successor of Mayawati. However, after the announcement of the Assembly election dates in the four states, Mayawati herself has taken charge of the party's campaign on the demand of the candidates. The BSP chief will start holding rallies in the poll-bound states in November. Party sources said she will camp in Lucknow during the period, travel by air to the states and return to Lucknow in the evening. She will address at least eight rallies each in Rajasthan and MP.

JOURNALISM LESSONS

A SENIOR bureaucrat posted in Delhi has written to reporters and editors of media organisations with a checklist to be ticked off before publishing or broadcasting "anything scurrilous" against them. In an official letter, also marked to senior MHA officials, the official has alleged that "various disgruntled persons", including "delinquent government officials with questionable backgrounds themselves", are out to get the bureaucrat based on motives "ranging from revenge to political mileage by spreading canards not only against the official but also the government organisations the person serves or had served earlier". The official also sought to define "fair journalism" for reporters and editors, in addition to reminding them of their "sacred duty to expose the rot", but not before verifying their sources.

BILLS TO REPLACE CRIMINAL LAWS

Panel likely to seek redraft of provisions on organised crime

Experts say the scope of organised crime in proposed law much wider

APURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

THE PARLIAMENTARY Standing Committee on Home Affairs, reviewing the three Bills to replace existing criminal codes, is likely to recommend redrafting key provisions that were brought in for the first time to tackle organised crime, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, which seeks to replace the Indian Penal Code, 1860, introduced new provisions to define and penalise "organised crime". The deliberations by the panel headed by BJP MP Brij Lal are likely to lead to a recommendation to re-draft this provision.

It is learnt that while the panel feels that the provision is a very effective addition, many terms used must be clearly defined to avoid uncertainty.

Section 109 of the proposed law defines an organised crime syndicate to include a "gang, mafia or (crime) ring" involved in "gang, criminality, racketeering and syndicated organised crime."

It is learnt that experts have pointed out that the scope of organised crime in the proposed law is much wider, even when compared with the stringent Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA), 1999.

The proposed provision also

criminalises holding "any property, derived, or obtained from the commission of an organised crime or proceeds of any organised crime" with the jail term of not less than three years but which can be extended to life imprisonment.

The deliberations of the Parliamentary panel are likely to lead to a recommendation to safeguard third parties who may acquire such property unknowingly. This means, supplementing the provision with the "intent" to hold such property obtained from unlawful means.

Former CBI Special Director, Praveen Sinha, former Additional Solicitor General of India Pinky Anand, National Human Rights Commission Chairperson, Justice Arun Mishra are among the experts who appeared before the panel.

It is learnt that there is a view leaning in favour of bringing back the provision criminalising adultery (Section 497 of the IPC) and non-consensual 'unnatural sex' (Section 377 of the IPC) which have been removed in the new Bills.

The Supreme Court, in a landmark ruling in 2018, had decriminalised adultery. Some have gone to the panel with concerns that there is a need to keep the provision in order to safeguard the sanctity of the institution of marriage.

Opp members in House panel seek more time, three send dissent notes

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

THE PARLIAMENTARY Standing Committee on Home Affairs, which was scheduled to adopt its report Friday on the three Bills that seek to replace the Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and Indian Evidence Act, has deferred it to its next meeting on November 6.

Some of the Opposition members in the panel have sought more time for perusing the drafts.

It is learnt that three Opposition members in the panel have submitted dissent notes, disagreeing with the draft reports.

Trinamool Congress MP Derek O'Brien, a member of the panel, is also said to have written to the panel's chairman Brij Lal, urging him to seek an extension of three months from Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar for submitting the reports.

The gist of O'Brien's letter, it is learnt, is that bulldozing the Bills will be a legislative disservice.

He had earlier sought a thorough stakeholder consultation

on the Bills, pointing out that a more meaningful scrutiny would require no less than a year and a half.

Three Opposition members in the panel — Congress's Digvijaya Singh and Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and DMK's N R Elango — are said to have submitted dissent notes.

The Congress members believe that the three Bills — Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshya — are significantly identical in both language and content to the Acts they seek to replace.

They maintain that the Bills are just about renumbering the existing sections, which will only create confusion, resulting in delay in courts and functioning of investigative agencies.

Some among the Opposition members believe that the usage of Hindi in the Bills goes against the spirit of the Constitution. Moreover, they say that the Bills still retain the colonial spirit of the laws which they seek to replace. They also feel that the changes that have been made to the existing laws enhance the coercive powers of the State and its instrumentalities.

CASH-FOR-QUERY ALLEGATIONS

Can appear only after Nov 5, want to examine Darshan, Mahua tells panel

Says can't make it on October 31 due to engagements in her constituency

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

ADAY after being asked by the Lok Sabha Ethics Committee to appear before it on October 31 in connection with its inquiry into the cash-for-query allegations against her, TMC MP Mahua Moitra wrote to the committee chairman Friday, stating that she will be able to do so only after November 5 since she has to keep her engagements in her Parliamentary constituency until then.

In her letter to committee chairman Vinod Kumar Sonkar, Moitra urged the panel to call Darshan Hiranandani, CEO of the Hiranandani Group, for deposition and allow her to cross-examine him.

In an affidavit to the Ethics Committee on October 19, Hiranandani claimed that Moitra provided him her Parliament login and password so that he could "post the questions" directly "on her behalf when required". Moitra called the letter "a joke" and said, "The draft of this letter was sent by the PMO and he (Hiranandani) was forced to sign it."

In a three-page affidavit submitted to the committee and released to the press by the Hiranandani Group's corporate communication team, Hiranandani, who lives in Dubai, said Moitra "thought that the only way to attack Sh. Modi (PM Narendra Modi) is by attacking Sh. Gautam Adani and his group as both were contemporaries, and they belong to... Gujarat."

The cash-for-query allegations involving Moitra surfaced earlier this month after BJP MP Nishikant Dubey wrote two letters — one to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, claiming there are allegations that Moitra took bribes to protect the interest of the Hiranandani Group, and the other to IT Minister



TMC MP writes to ethics panel chief Vinod Sonkar

Ashwini Vaishnav, urging him to investigate the IP addresses of Moitra's log-in credentials for Lok Sabha to check if they had been accessed by someone else.

On Thursday, after the Ethics Committee examined Dubey and lawyer Jai Anant Dehadrai regarding the complaint against Moitra, Sonkar said the committee decided to write to the Ministry of Information Technology and Ministry of Home Affairs to share with it all communication and conversations between Moitra, Hiranandani and Dehadrai.

In her letter to Sonkar, Moitra said, "It is imperative that I am allowed to exercise my right to cross-examine Shri Hiranandani. I wish to place on record that any enquiry without the oral evidence of Shri Hiranandani will be incomplete, unfair and akin to holding a proverbial 'kangaroo court' and that he too will need to be called to depose before the Committee before it prepares its final report."

"I look forward to deposing immediately after my pre-scheduled constituency programmes end on November 4," Moitra said in her post. She requested that the committee call her at any time and date of its choice after November 5.

She pointed out that BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri, who was summoned by the Privileges Committee on October 10 in connection with allegations of breach of privilege in the House, was allowed to appear at a later date "after he sought more time since he had pre-fixed political meetings in Rajasthan".

Telangana caste survey pitch grows louder as Andhra sets the ball rolling

SREENIVAS JANAYALA
HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 27

THE ANDHRA Pradesh government's decision to conduct a Backward Classes (BC) caste survey from November 15 has renewed similar demands from BC leaders in Telangana scheduled for the Assembly polls on November 30. Both states have a considerable numerical strength of Backward Classes.

"In both states, it is important to know the numbers of Backward Castes. It is not only for their welfare but also for deciding political representation," R Krishnaiah, president of the National BC Welfare Association, said.

Krishnaiah is known as a leading BC voice in both the states: While he hails from Telangana ruled by the BRS, the ruling YSRCP in Andhra Pradesh has nominated him as a Rajya Sabha member.

"In both Telugu states, the BC population must be approximately 52%, but we do not know the exact numbers caste-wise, which is why we must conduct the caste census urgently. I have met President Droupadi Murmu too in this regard," Krishnaiah said.

There are 139 BC castes in Andhra Pradesh and 134 in Telangana. The Andhra Pradesh



THE UNDIVIDED Andhra Pradesh, out of which Telangana was carved out in 2014, had a considerable population from the Backward Class (BC) communities. The exact figures, however, are not known. BC leaders in both states say the census is key to tailoring welfare schemes and also providing reservation to them.

BC caste survey is expected to be conducted region-wise, collecting data on profession, socioeconomic status and vulnerability.

In Telangana too, the BC groups have been pressuring CM and BRS supreme K Chandrashekar Rao or KCR to conduct a BC caste survey.

"We have been demanding it for many years. It is important to find out the exact numbers of each BC community, identify the socially, economically and educationally backward and vulnerable communities and provide reservations based on their numbers," said J Srinivas Goud, the Telangana BC Association president.

Azharuddin, 3 ex-MPs in Cong 2nd Telangana list

New Delhi, Hyderabad: Former cricketer Mohammad Azharuddin, late folk singer Gaddar's daughter G V Vennela and ex-MPs Madhu Yashki Goud, Ponnamp Prabhakar and Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy were among the prominent names in the second list of 45 candidates announced by the Congress on Friday for the November 30 Telangana assembly polls.

Komatireddy Raj Gopal Reddy, who quit the BJP on Wednesday and re-joined Congress today, has been fielded from Munugode which he had represented earlier. Reddy's resignation from Congress to join the BJP led to a bypoll in Munugode last year which he had lost. Azharuddin, who had repre-

sented Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh in Lok Sabha earlier, would try his luck in the posh Jubilee Hills constituency in Hyderabad.

Former MPs Goud and Prabhakar will be contesting from LB Nagar and Husnabad in Siddipet district respectively, while Gaddar's daughter Vennela would be making her electoral debut in Secunderabad Cantt-SC constituency.

Former minister Tummala Nageswara Rao, who recently quit the BRS would contest from Khammam. Former MP Reddy, who had also resigned from BRS, has been fielded from Palair.

With this, the party has so far declared 100 candidates for the Telangana assembly polls. **PTI**

Day after calling Hamas terrorists, Tharoor dropped from Palestine support event

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, OCTOBER 27

A DAY after Congress MP Shashi Tharoor termed Hamas "terrorists" at an IUML event in Kozhikode, several Muslim organisations on Friday demanded he rectify his stand.

Enraged over Tharoor's statement, a confederation of various masjid committees in Thiruvananthapuram dropped him from its Palestine event slated for next Monday.

The CPI(M) and the BJP also joined the issue even as Tharoor reiterated he was "always with the people of Palestine".

"Somewhat bemused to learn of the attacks on me by those who, out of a 32-minute speech, have chosen to dwell on the 25 seconds in which I denounced the terrorist attacks of October 7 that triggered the current cycle of violence... If that's all it takes to negate my support for the human rights of the Palestinian people, then I have nothing more to say," Tharoor said in a post on X.

On Friday, IUML officially came to Tharoor's rescue with party general secretary P K Kunhalikutty saying there was no ground for controversy.

However, pro-IUML Muslim scholars led by Sathar Panthalloor said it was too late to realise Tharoor was "still showing gratitude to the salary he had drawn from the UN". Many other Sunni leaders also asked Tharoor to rectify his stand.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during an event to celebrate the birth centenary year of industrialist late Arvind Mafatlal in Chitrakoot, Madhya Pradesh, on Friday. ANI

Ram Temple for which you gave so much on verge of completion: Modi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BHOPAL, OCTOBER 27

DURING HIS visit to poll bound Madhya Pradesh's Chitrakoot, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the Ram temple in Ayodhya was on the verge of completion and that it was a great privilege for him to receive an invitation for the consecration ceremony.

Speaking at a public function at Tulsi Peeth of Jagadguru Rambhadracharya, Modi said that "in the thousand years of slavery, various attempts were made to uproot India in different ways" and one of these was the "complete destruction of Sanskrit".

"While we gained independ-

ence, some individuals still harbour antipathy towards Sanskrit. If someone discovers a forgotten language script, such people celebrate it, but they do not respect Sanskrit, which has existed for thousands of years. If people in other countries know their mother tongue, they appreciate it, but these individuals consider knowing Sanskrit as a sign of backwardness," Modi said.

He added that "those with this mindset have been losing for the past thousand years and will not succeed in the future also".

"Sanskrit is not just a language of traditions; it is also a language of our progress and identity," he said.

The PM also lauded Hindu spiritual leader Jagadguru

Rambhadracharya, who was present at the event for his contribution to Ram Mandir.

"The Ram Temple for which you have contributed so much is also on the verge of completion. Just two days ago, I received an invitation to participate in the Pran Pratishtha ceremony at the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Tirth Kshetra Trust in Ayodhya. I consider it a great privilege," Modi said.

This is Modi's second visit to the poll-bound state in five days, following a trip to Gwalior, and the fourth in less than a month. Modi has been making frequent visits to the state to boost BJP's prospects in the upcoming Assembly elections, where the party is hopeful of beating strong anti-incumbency.

Amid quota row, Maharashtra villages ban entry of politicians

AJAY JADHAV
PUNE, OCTOBER 27

ABOUT 60 km from Pune, a large board marks the entrance to Pimpalgaon village in Pune with a message — "प्रवेश बंदी" (entry banned). The words are directed at all politicians in and around the village.

With Manoj Jarange Patil going ahead with his indefinite hunger strike to demand reservation for the Maratha community, the protest has intensified across the state and especially so in the villages. And now to show solidarity to Jarange Patil and support the demand for Maratha quota, villages across the state are banning

entry of politicians.

"Over 40 villages in the area have banned entry of politicians from outside areas into their area as part of protest against the state government over its failure to provide reservation to Marathas. In the next few days, 100 villages will be banning politicians, irrespective of any political party, from entering their area," said Ankush Rakshe of Bhairwadi.

Rakshe, along with three others, had also gone on an indefinite hunger strike in Khed town after holding a relay hunger strike over the last 25 days. The Maratha community had also burnt effigies of political leaders during 'Raavan dahan' in Dussehra. Rakshe added. Hrishikesh Pawar of Vadgaon



A banner announcing the ban on entry of politicians, at Pimpalgaon village in Pune. Pavan Khengre

Ghenanand village said 90% of the village comprised Marathas, so the youths have voluntarily put up boards banning entry of politicians unless reservation is given

to their community. The boards further go on to explain their stance, as they say, "...Maratha reservation is only our aim. No entry to any political

leader or party in the village until reservation is given to Marathas. Till now we fought for the motherland, now the fight is for our caste. Those who do not recognise the community, will not be recognised by the community."

In Manchar town, Ankush Lande is leading the relay hunger strike in the heart of the town.

"Many villages of surrounding areas have extended support for the cause. If the state government does nothing in the next few days, the agitation will be intensified," he said. Lande said the state government has been doling out assurances without concrete action. "Villagers from nearby areas will join us in the relay hunger strike from Saturday. Every day

people from seven different villages will come to Manchar and protest with us," he said.

"Jarange Patil has brought together the entire community to fight for their rights. Maratha youths have now become active. They have realised the government is dividing the community, so they won't keep quiet now," said 65-year-old Namdeoara Pokharkar of Pimpalgaon.

NCP district president Pradeep Garatkar, who is in the camp of Deputy CM Ajit Pawar, said it is true the Maratha quota agitation has intensified in villages. "The issue has reached every Maratha house in the villages. The agitation is beyond the scope of political parties as citizens are angry," he said.



WORDLY WISE
 WE ALL KNOW THAT ART IS NOT TRUTH. ART IS
 A LIE THAT MAKES US REALIZE THE TRUTH.
 — PABLO PICASSO

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY
RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

Diplomacy to the rescue

Delhi needs to move deftly in the aftermath of eight Indians being sentenced to death in Qatar



VIVEK KATJU

DELHI TO DOHA

To secure lives of Indian citizens sentenced to death in Qatar, Delhi needs diplomatic heavy lifting — with care and caution

THE VERDICT OF Qatar's Court of First Instance, sentencing eight former Indian Navy officers to death, is a challenge for Indian diplomacy. The Ministry of External Affairs has expressed "concern" and said that it is "awaiting the detailed judgment". This is a measured reaction — rightly so. At stake are the lives of eight Indian citizens. The charges against them have not been made public by the Qatari authorities. What is known is that the former navy officers were working in their private capacity with a now-defunct company, Dahara Global, to oversee the induction of small Italian stealth missiles. They were arrested in August, last year, apparently on undeclared charges of espionage — the families of the arrested and embassy officials who had consular access to them were not informed of the charges. In December, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar told Parliament that the matter "is extremely sensitive". His ministry has been equally careful in its choice of words after Thursday's sentencing, while assuring the eight Indians that it will provide them consular and legal support.

The case is poised to test India's ties with the West Asian state. The government has pulled diplomatic levers at multiple levels to secure the release of Indian citizens. But its approach has also been informed by the imperative to respect the laws of a country where more than 8,00,000 Indians — the largest expatriate community in Qatar — live and work. Successive Indian governments have tried to build friendly ties with the gas-rich nation. Then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Qatar in 2008 was reciprocated by Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani's visit to India in 2015. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the Gulf state in 2016 and Doha has hosted EAM Jaishankar multiple times. These visits have laid the ground for a strong economic relationship. Qatar is India's most important natural gas supplier and several Indian companies, including Tata Consultancy Services, Wipro, Tech Mahindra and Larsen & Toubro, operate in the Gulf country.

The upswing in India-Qatar ties has not been without rough patches. The Qatar-financed Al Jazeera channel ran an aggressive campaign against India after the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019. And, while ex-BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma's remarks about Prophet Mohammed evoked outrage from all Gulf countries last year, Qatar's condemnation was particularly sharp. The Sheikdom has, in recent years, given evidence of its growing ambitions in West Asia. Doha hosts US military installations while keeping close economic ties with Iran. It has harboured the Taliban and is amongst the major backers of the Muslim Brotherhood. But, by all accounts, the West values Qatar's mediation in the escalating Israel-Hamas conflict. Doha's intervention to secure the release of American hostages from Hamas has earned it the gratitude of President Biden. The conflict in West Asia, in fact, complicates New Delhi's task. It should remain engaged in trying to help its citizens, use every diplomatic channel, but tread carefully.

THE DEATH SENTENCE given by Qatar to eight retired Indian naval personnel — seven officers and one sailor — on espionage charges is unprecedented in India's diplomatic history. In the past, Indians have been given the death penalty and executed abroad, but these have been on charges of murder or narcotics. It is also true that Pakistan has convicted Indians on espionage and terrorism, including Kulbhushan Jadhav, a retired naval officer, who is currently under a death sentence. But there is a fundamental difference between an inimical country like Pakistan and Qatar with which India has multifaceted ties. Besides, this is not a case of a solitary individual, but a group of retired defence officers. Hence, this case presents the Narendra Modi government and, in particular, Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar, who is responsible for the welfare of Indians abroad, with a most difficult challenge. The country would expect that not only are the death sentences lifted, but that the convicted personnel return safely to India at the earliest.

In December last year, Jaishankar assured Parliament that the eight were "very much in our priorities". He said that this was a sensitive case and implicitly advised patience. He was right. The country, including the Opposition parties, have to keep the welfare of the eight uppermost in their mind. That requires that the words of MEA's spokesperson in his media statement yesterday — "Due to the confidential nature of the proceedings of this case, it would not be appropriate to make any further comment at this juncture" — be followed in government and outside.

However, some people within the government are commenting on the case to sections of the media. This is apparent from reports in this morning's newspapers attributed to "sources". It seems that the objective of these "sources" was to assert that India could not intervene in the judicial processes of another country. This is true, but only up to a point, for all countries seek to do so; many often succeed. The "sources" also asserted that these

retired officers were working on a "commercial, for-profit" basis. How this remark will play with the veterans' community is uncertain for it was insensitive regarding the naval personnel already sentenced to death. The "sources" also emphasised that the government will continue to do whatever it can to address their situation. The people will not be satisfied with assurances alone but will want positive results.

Media reports indicate that the eight were met by the Indian ambassador to Qatar last October. Thereafter, they were given consular access. Charges were submitted in court against them in March this year and they were convicted and given the death sentence on October 26. In view of Jaishankar's assurance to Parliament it would be reasonable to assume that India would have taken up this matter with Qatar on the diplomatic, and perhaps, also at the political level. What is not known is how the Qataris responded and also the extent of information they were willing to give to their Indian interlocutors. Countries, even "friendly" ones, are unlikely to share details of the manner in which they gathered information in espionage cases though they may indicate who the accused were spying for.

The question is whether the Indian authorities had received any kind of assurance regarding the nature of the sentence which would be handed down to the naval personnel if the charges against them were established in a court of law. The use of the unusual formulation in the spokesperson's statement that 'we are deeply shocked by the verdict of the death penalty and are awaiting the detailed judgement' suggests that the government was not expecting that the death sentence would be given, even if the eight were convicted. The word "shock" is seldom — and should be seldom — used in diplomatic statements for it indicates that a government was taken unawares. Also, instead of giving a message of calm determination which is required at such junctures, it can give rise to a sense of alarm.

This writer's training as a professional diplomat prevents him from speculating on the alleged spying. The government would perhaps get to know more case details from the judgment. The spokesperson's comment that the judgment is "awaited" indicates that the Qatari authorities have assured the government that they will share it with Delhi. That will enable it to help the convicted naval personnel with the appeal process.

Ultimately, espionage issues are determined not only by judicial verdicts but also by the nature of relations between states. Eight lakh Indians live and work in Qatar. India and Qatar have deep ties in the energy field. However, the two countries do not have converging views on the situation in West Asia. India has moved a great distance from the time it confined itself to having bilateral ties with all West Asian states and did not involve itself in their internecine issues. It had pursued this policy since the 1980s when it began to develop major economic and commercial interests in Saudi Arabia and the other states of the Arab peninsula. The development of its ties with Israel did not detract from this policy of direct bilateral relationships. This policy marked a departure from its alignment with the progressive Arab states till the 1970s.

India has moved away from its policy of direct bilateral ties in West Asia as seen from its membership of the I2U2. It is also perceived, after October 7, to be abandoning its commitment to the Palestinian cause even though it reiterated its traditional position on October 12. This has added to the political distance between Qatar and India. Qatar is a bastion of Islamic conservatism (recall its reaction to Nupur Sharma's comments) and has sought to play a major role in the politics of the region for many years now.

All this will compel India to play a very deft diplomatic hand on the naval personnel issue. The country will support Jaishankar's efforts, for the life and liberty of the eight is at stake.

The writer is a former diplomat

EC DOES RIGHT

Putting curbs on 'vikas yatra', 'rath prabharis' is the check that was needed. If only the Centre could take a lesson on agencies

THE ELECTION COMMISSION has done well to apply the check and maintain the balance. On Thursday, the poll monitor directed the cabinet secretary to ensure that the "Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra" does not make any stops in the five poll-bound states. Only days earlier, ministries' plans to nominate senior bureaucrats as "rath prabharis" for the yatra, to be flagged off from Jharkhand by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in November, to "showcase" and "celebrate" the government's "achievements", had stirred up a controversy. The Opposition had alleged a bid to politicise the bureaucracy, with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge writing a letter to the PM. Now, the EC has cited the Model Code of Conduct, which came into force from the date of announcement of elections, and which will remain in operation till December 5. And in the face of the blowback, government has also backedpedaled on nomenclature — those in charge of the information, education and communication vans, which are not likely to be referred to as "rath", will be called "nodal officers", not "rath prabharis". All is well, that ends in a more level playing field. But as crucial elections in five states draw nearer, it is also apparent that the work of checking and balancing is not yet done.

On Thursday, even as the EC made the government step back on the yatra, the Enforcement Directorate knocked on doors linked to Rajasthan Congress president Govind Singh Dotasra, and Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot shared on social media that the ED had also issued summons to his son, Vaibhav. The case against Gehlot's son involves an alleged FEMA violation; the raid on Dotasra is in connection with the 2021 Rajasthan Eligibility Examination for Teachers paper leaks. Both cases must stand, or fall, on merit, through due process of law. But it is difficult not to notice a clear and recurring pattern. Ahead of elections, the ED has swung into action that seems to target only members of the Opposition. In the past few months, the ED has raided/arrested/summoned leaders or those related to them, of non-BJP parties in Chhattisgarh, MP, Rajasthan and Telangana — from Chandrashekar Rao's daughter K Kavitha in Telangana, in connection with the Delhi liquor scam case, to Congress leader Kamal Nath's nephew Ratul Puri in a bank fraud case, to Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel's political advisor Vinod Verma in the Mahadev app case.

The impression is unmistakable — the central probe agency is kicking up dust only against the Opposition in the run-up to elections. While the EC has done well to restrain the government, the Centre also needs to be reminded that the lop-sided zeal of its agencies skews the playing field with fear and favour.



SMRITI PARSHEERA

REMEDY WORSE THAN MALAISE

Tracing origin of WhatsApp messages is impractical, will undermine privacy

POLITICS AND misinformation make for a heady mix. With elections around the corner, addressing political misinformation will understandably remain a policy priority. A large part of the attention will be directed toward intermediaries — messaging services like WhatsApp and Signal, social media platforms like Facebook and X and video services like YouTube — that mediate the relationship between users and online information.

Today, sophisticated and readily available artificial intelligence tools can be used to generate all kinds of synthetic media — authentic-looking deep fake images, videos and voices of events that never occurred. Whether used voluntarily or maliciously, deep fakes in the electoral context run the risk of misleading users and influencing their actions. This is a cause for concern. But the solution being proposed may be as damaging, if not more, than the problem itself.

As reported in this paper, the central government plans to rely on the controversial Rule 4(2) of the 2021 Information Technology Intermediary Guidelines to counter political deep fakes. The rule demands that all significant social media messaging entities must have the capability to identify the "first originator of the information" on their platform. Originator requests can then be invoked either under a court order or by the government using its powers to intercept, monitor or decrypt information.

The provision is primarily meant to target end-to-end encrypted platforms like WhatsApp. End-to-end encryption ensures that when one user messages another, only those two individuals will have the keys to unlock the message. Neither the company nor a government agency can ordinarily do

so. This makes encryption a powerful tool for preserving communications privacy. For the same reason, law enforcement agencies view end-to-end encryption as a threat to their functioning and keep trying to look for ways to undermine it.

Let us use an imperfect analogy from the real world. We know that a portion of the people who leave their houses every day will commit a crime. To check against these crimes, the government wants a tag attached to every occasion a citizen steps out of their house. They are not asking for the contents of the bag that you were carrying at the time. But privacy would already be doomed with the movement tag of each and every citizen being amassed by a corporation and made accessible to the government on demand.

What are the circumstances in which such a demand can be made? The stated purposes under Rule 4(2) are to aid in the prevention and investigation of certain types of serious offences. This includes threats to India's sovereignty, security of the state, public order and sexual offences with imprisonment of over five years. While on the face of it all these appear to be reasonable grounds, the devil will lie in the implementation details.

First, the listed grounds leave ample scope for interpretation by courts and the government. This is particularly true for maintenance of "public order" that is routinely invoked in a variety of situations. In an insightful report on the use of Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code in Delhi, Bhandari and others found public order restrictions imposed in contexts like flying drones, using metallic *manjhas* for kites and carrying tiffin boxes inside cinemas. It is not hard to imagine why tracing encrypted messages to prevent such

instances would be an excessive intrusion.

Second, the "first originator" of a message is not defined. For instance, a person who copies and pastes an existing message instead of using the forwarding function may become a new originator. Unsuspecting users would come under the fold of this provision while sophisticated miscreants can easily evade it by spoofing the identity of another user. Therefore, besides being disproportionate, traceability is also unlikely to serve its purpose.

Third, as seen in the example above, traceability of an identified message is possible only when the logs of the origin of every message are maintained. The footprint of the rule will compromise the privacy of all messaging users in the hope of being able to deter and penalise a few of them. This does not meet the proportionality requirements of the fundamental right to privacy. Experts have also explained the more technical reasons for why traceability techniques will undermine privacy and not work in practice.

For all these reasons, Rule 4(2) is currently under challenge before courts. In its first application, the Tripura High Court recently stayed an order demanding the origin of a fake resignation letter by the state's Chief Minister from WhatsApp. This was on the ground that the trial court had not established the threat to public order while making the order. The next incident of political misinformation could attract a different response. We are, therefore, only one step away from opening the floodgates of message traceability in the name of preserving election integrity. A remedy that surpasses the ill and doesn't even cure it.

The writer is a lawyer and technology policy researcher

AN ARTISTE'S LICENSE

Hasan Minhaj incident shows a disproportionate focus on who is speaking over what is being spoken

TO WHAT EXTENT does an artiste, especially one trying to make larger points about society, owe an allegiance of truth to his audience? Where does the thin line between event and exaggeration blur, turning art into overreach, and — deception? A September *New Yorker* profile of Asian-American stand-up comic Hasan Minhaj had investigated some of the incidents on which Minhaj had built his special acts and sets. Its conclusion was damning: Minhaj's "emotional truths" did not make up for his moral failure in presenting his audience with selective or exaggerated versions of events.

In a 20-minute video to *The Hollywood Reporter*, Minhaj has now offered a defence, and that other thing that he says the profile missed — context. His "artistic choices... affecting me and my community", he says, might not have been perfect, but they were seeded in truth, "racism, FBI surveillance and the threats to my family happened. And I said this on the record."

The question of representation, especially of experiences of trauma and discrimination, requires delicate sensitivity. There is much that Minhaj needs to reflect upon, but the charge of half-truths might be the least concerning bit about his art. From the Shakespearean fool to the modern-day stand-up comic, exaggeration, irony and masquerade have been essential tools of truth-telling in art, especially if one is speaking from the less-than-vantage point of the Other. The tropes that Minhaj relies on, that allow him to offer glimpses of what it means to be a brown-skinned Muslim American, are part of the conventions of the comedic tradition, employed regularly to draw attention to societal hypocrisy towards its minorities. The fact that it is deemed worthy of being fact-checked shows a disproportionate focus on who is saying it over what is being spoken.



OCTOBER 28, 1983, FORTY YEARS AGO

GRENADA INVADED

US MARINES CAPTURED Fort Frederick, a Grenadian army barracks believed to be the last major objective of the US-led invasion of the tiny Caribbean island, Barbadian government sources said. The sources said the barracks, northeast of the capital of St. George's, fell after heavy fighting. The sources said that resistance had been strong but the final assault on the hilltop fort was "relatively easy".

DEFENCE RESTRUCTURE

THE INDIAN DEFENCE services are considering far-reaching changes in their rank

structure. The modalities of the changes have been worked out and presented to the government. The proposed changes will mark a complete departure from the present system, which was inherited from the British. Under the new system, an officer will now get time-scale rank of a major after nine years instead of the present 13.

VIOLENCE AT MANDI

TEN POLICEMEN, INCLUDING some officers, and several civilians were injured when a mob of over a thousand people indulged in violence, throwing stones and bricks at a gathering being addressed by the chief executive councillor Jag Parvesh

Chandra and the executive councillor (Dev), Prem Singh, at the New Azadpur Subzi Mandi. The police fired teargas shells to disperse the mob.

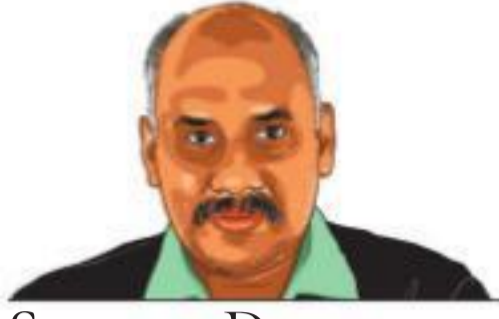
TROOPS IN BEIRUT

PARTICIPANTS IN THE Lebanon peacekeeping force reaffirmed that they would keep their troops in Beirut but tied the decision to reconciliation efforts and the withdrawal of all foreign forces. The announcement by an emergency conference of the foreign ministers of the United States, France, Italy and Britain followed bomb attacks in Beirut that killed more than 270 US and French soldiers.

11 THE IDEAS PAGE

Afghanistan, on its own

Cricket had got used to hyphenated Indo-Pak complexities. In this World Cup, with Afghanistan's performance, they have been initiated into the de-hyphenated AfPak intricacies



SANDEEP DWIVEDI

PAKISTAN WAS ANGRY after the loss to India at Ahmedabad. The humiliation against Afghanistan would leave them seething and frothing. This was their "enough is enough" World Cup moment, it was when the proud cricketing nation collectively snapped.

Within minutes of the humiliating defeat at Chennai, Pakistan's finest, Wasim Akram, was on air. It wasn't a day to be the TV pundit, Akram became the voice of people. He sounded painful, frustrated and very shrill.

Captain Babar Azam was the prime target; coach Mickey Arthur, others too weren't spared. By the time he came to the team's fitness, Akram had switched to Punjabi. "Look at their thick, broad faces... do they have eight kg of nihari and kadhai everyday?"

Another international cricketer Kamran Akmal too was in a foul mood. He also looked crestfallen. "This is too painful, no one will ever forget this day. Even my 11-year-old son will remember this pain. We have been losing to India, now yeh bhi maar ke ja rahe hai (now even they — Afghanistan — are beating us)."

On another channel, a seasoned journalist, a veteran of many World Cups, was struggling to hold back his tears. Choking with emotions, he uttered a heart-breaking line that summed up present-day Pakistan. "We have nothing left in our country, cricket was the only entertainment, now you want to take even that from us," he said addressing the team.

For an outsider, it seemed Pakistan was being unreasonable. A seasoned cricket-watcher would call it an over-reaction. Afghanistan is no longer a minnow, it is a team with quality batsmen and one of the best white-ball spinners in the world who easily beat England. Babar's much-hyped bowling unit could get just two Afghan wickets as they marched past the target of 283.

The Afghan dug-out ran on to the ground, the team's super star Rashid Khan was leading the joyous group dancing. His close Indian friend, player-turned-commentator Irfan Pathan, would join him. Within hours Pathan was the most-hated man in Pakistan. Why had Pakistan gone mad over their out-of-form team's loss against the ever-improving neighbour?

Cricket had got used to the hyphenated Indo-Pak complexities. This World Cup, they got initiated to the de-hyphenated AfPak intricacies. Though, it has changed of late, for years, Afghan cricketers got their early cricket lessons in the refugee camps of Pakistan. Settled in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan border regions to escape the foreign occupation and war at home, the battle-hardened Afghans, with a proud history of being unconquered for ages, were the homeless muhajirs.

James Astill, the *The Economist's* Asia editor, worked out of Pakistan in 2003-04. Having travelled the regions several times, he understands the place and pulse. Astill has also written an award-winning book on cricket, *The Great Tamasha*. He is equipped to talk about the World Cup upset, the geopolitics of the region and the Great Game.

"Losing to Afghanistan is acutely painful



CR Sasikumar

to Pakistan in both a sporting and political sense. In cricketing terms, the Pakistanis must fear they are slipping from the game's top tier. Losing to Afghanistan for the first time sharpens that fear," he says before explaining the larger context of the AfPak cricket game. "Politically, the loss is doubly humiliating because of how a lot of Pakistanis think of Afghanistan — as a wild, woolly and not entirely civilised neighbour. Its players learned cricket in Pakistani refugee camps, for goodness sake! Yet they have just smashed the best team Pakistan can field."

Astill's reading of the situation has resonance at the ground level. Afghanistan's assistant coach at this World Cup, Raees Ahmadzai in a riveting account to *The Indian Express*, painted a Dickensian picture of the refugee camps. "Some of us started cricket in refugee camps in Pakistan, living in tents, where our movement was severely restricted, sometimes we were not allowed to go beyond a certain area. No running water. Life was tough," he explained of beginnings where cricket wasn't a happy hobby, but an escape from trauma.

Even in the moment of their greatest triumph, the Afghan players had on their minds the plight of their displaced country men. Man of the match Ibrahim Zadran said he wanted to "dedicate this award to those who are sent back to Afghanistan from Pakistan".

When the Taliban took over Kabul in 2021, the then Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan was the first to welcome the change of guard. The World Cup winning captain and the mass leader called it "breaking the chains of slavery". The script would go awry. There have been a series of suicide attacks around the border regions in Pakistan — the latest left over 50 dead. Pakistan has blamed the Taliban within Pakistan, Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). As a reaction, the interim government has now asked close to 1.7 million illegal immigrants to return to Afghanistan by the end of the month. Zadran wanted the world's attention on the potential forced mass exodus.

A thread of mistrust has run all through this long toxic love-hate relationship between neighbours. Experts say that Pakistan believes that Afghanistan should feel obliged for the war-time help it received, and express

Afghanistan's assistant coach at this World Cup, Raees Ahmadzai in a riveting account to *The Indian Express*, painted a Dickensian picture of the refugee camps. 'Some of us started cricket in refugee camps in Pakistan, living in tents, where our movement was severely restricted, sometimes we were not allowed to go beyond a certain area. No running water. Life was tough,' he explained of beginnings where cricket wasn't a happy hobby, but an escape from trauma.

gratitude. Afghanistan blames Pakistan for being the insensitive Big Brother, not treating them as equal. There are also allegations of Pakistan secret intelligence agencies messing up their country.

Meanwhile, for the majority of Indians, Afghanistan has historically meant that stereotypical gregarious Pathan with a big turban and bigger heart. Kabuliwala, Frontier Gandhi, Abdul Ghaffar Khan, *Khudai Gawah's* Badshah Khan and now Rashid Khan — fictional or real, these are the popular Afghans. All seemed to be cut from the same fabric. Their cricket team also wears blue.

Rashid grew up in a refugee camp. He was schooled in Pakistan, learnt wrist-spin while in the land of Abdul Qadir. When he moved back home to represent Afghanistan at the U-19 level, he faced the grim realities of war. One night during the U-19 camp at the academy, a bomb went off in the area. It was accompanied by an apocalyptic thunder. The building that housed the young cricketers shook. The plaster from the wall turned to powder and clouded the room. Rashid couldn't even see his two room partners.

In an ongoing podcast with sports journalist Neroli Meadows, Rashid says he thought his life was about to end. He imagined, like in the movies, that attackers would soon open the door and shoot all three of them. Thankfully, the knock on the door was by their trainer. He took them to the field, where they stayed from 1 to 8 am.

That loud boom that Rashid heard as a kid still rings in his ears when, during his travels around the world, he hears of a blast in Afghanistan. Rashid says he doesn't let these worries show on his face. The famous Rashid smile is always there. He says he wants to spread positivity, wipe out the grim image of his country. As for a win against Pakistan, it brings the entire nation on the streets.

But he broke Pakistani hearts, left them hurt by dancing with Irfan. Was Pakistan over-reacting? How would you, as a big brother, feel when your younger sibling, after beating you, goes dancing with a neighbour with whom there is a long family dispute?

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WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"China is not part of any 'axis of evil', and this is beyond doubt and not worth refuting... If some politicians in Washington say such things, they can be dismissed as madmen. However, if there are many who say it, then Washington should engage in collective introspection and reflection." — **GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA**

Bhagwat's mantra for Bharat

In his Vijaya Dashami speech, RSS chief said that adhering to constitutional order and emotional unity should be the response to 'wokeism'



RAM RAJYA

BY RAM MADHAV

RSS Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat's address at the annual Foundation Day function in Nagpur on Vijaya Dashami earlier this week provides significant insights into the organisation's thinking about contemporary issues and challenges.

Bhagwat dwelt at length on core Sangh themes like "Swa" — national self-hood and national unity. Bharat-centricity — turning to our own wisdom and experience for shaping our national future — was the core message of his address. He rightly pointed out that this urge to return to our roots and preserve self-identity is being witnessed in many countries today.

Bhagwat delineated the contours of that self-identity as devotion to the motherland, pride in forefathers, and common culture. "These three elements make us stand out proudly as one nation by tying together all the diversities of language, region, sect, caste, sub-caste etc," he averred. Bhagwat acknowledged the fact that ours is a remarkably diverse society and insisted that there are good people in all religions — "Hindus, and also those who are called Muslims and Christians because of their way of worship" — who believe that "fitna, fasaad, and kitan" (discord, strife and violence) should be rejected and "sulah, salamati, and aman" (reconciliation, security and peace) should be pursued.

Bhagwat suggested that such discussions shouldn't become transactional. As "the children of one motherland, and the inheritors of one culture," we have to understand our inherent unity and "get connected again on that basis".

Talking about the "destructive, all-devouring forces" out to destroy that unity, Bhagwat referred to "cultural Marxists or wokes", blaming them for capturing institutions like media and academia and plunging education, culture, politics and social environment into chaos. He held them responsible for creating a "vicious cycle of fear, confusion and hatred". He described their modus operandi as "mantra viplav".

In his criticism of cultural Marxism and wokeism, Bhagwat will find many supporters in the West. Cultural Marxism can be traced to the Frankfurt School in Germany and scholars like Antonio Gramsci in Italy in the early 20th century. Cultural Marxists deviated from Karl Marx's economy-centric theory of proletarian revolution and argued that the culture and traditions of a society are the real oppressors of mankind and hence they should be uprooted for the oppressed classes to get justice.

Gramsci argued that classical Marxist ideas like violent revolution should be abandoned, and the ideologues should instead infiltrate institutions to create a new cultural worldview. Fidel Castro of Cuba, the darling of the American New Left in the late 1950s and early 1960s, confessed that he had agreed to address Harvard stu-

dents in 1959 only because "that is where you find the real 'military spirit': In students, not in the barracks."

In the West, the cultural Marxists theorised that the entire Western civilisation, including its governments, rules, norms, behaviours, traditions and mores are all manifestations of "White Supremacy". Family, nation, god, religion — all these are oppressive institutions according to them, and destroying these edifices was the only way to secure freedom for the "oppressed". They invented the new classes of the "oppressed" based on race and gender.

In Bharat, the ideological fellow-travellers of the cultural Marxists have wreaked havoc by capturing premiere institutions and academic and intellectual spaces for decades after independence. Like their Western counterparts, the native cultural Marxists developed a narrative that projected Hinduism, caste and social institutions like the family as oppressive and exploitative. They challenged the national identity of Bharat and advocated for the dismemberment of the country, acquiring in the process, the sobriquet "tukde-tukde gang" too.

Western cultural Marxists developed Critical Race Theory (CRT) holding white people to be the fount of all oppression. Their Indian counterparts replaced race with caste and sought to equate Hinduism with upper-caste hegemony and oppression. Cultural Marxists are as much the enemies of the liberal order as they are of the conservatives. Sadly, not realising these pitfalls, some politicians in our country are trying to walk into that minefield in the name of caste census, etc.

Fortunately, in India, unlike in the US, these cultural Marxist campaigners encountered organised resistance from the nationalist forces led by organisations like the RSS. Still, their efforts to demonise Hinduism and equate caste with race to sow seeds of discord in society continue.

Bhagwat took up cudgels against them. But he also wished to caution activists against being trapped in the action-reaction syndrome. He invoked Babasaheb Ambedkar and the Constitution of India as the basis for achieving "emotional unity".

"There exist bitter experiences, ranging from not being able to get a house in each other's localities, to being treated with mutual contempt. Blame games ensue over incidents of violence, riots, harassment, etc. The misdeeds of an individual are extrapolated and portrayed as the misdeeds of an entire community, and then a war of words ensues, followed by provocative invocations and calls to action. Forces that want to break the country by making us quarrel also take full advantage of this situation," he warned.

Bhagwat's important message to all citizens was about building a climate of trust and harmony in the country. That is possible only by increasing "mutual dialogue and understanding with a calm and stable mind and evolving respect for each other's beliefs," he insisted.

The only response to the "mantra viplav" of the cultural Marxists should be "to follow law and order, and abide by the Constitution" — this is Bhagwat's mantra for Bharat.

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

Amid crisis, fear-mongering

Targeting Congress on Israel-Palestine reeks of a bid to fish in troubled waters



FARAH NAQVI

ON A DAY when the Palestinian death toll crossed 7,000, including almost 3,000 children, with no end in sight, an article by a Jerusalem-based writer, Yeshaya Rosenman, was published in this newspaper ("Congress plays with two fires", IE, October 26). This should have been a time to choose words carefully. Not to provoke fear, sabre-rattle, or deepen divides here, domestically. The piece did all three.

A brief summary of the article is as follows: A statement by a political party in India, respecting the rights of Palestinians to land, life and self-determination, is tantamount to the following — moral bankruptcy, "deplorable sympathy towards the butchers (Hamas)"; evidence of support for all "jihadi violence"; alignment with the "darkest gallery of rogues" (named as Russia, Iran, Qatar); support for "the most pathological Iranian activity" (Iranian drone tactics were used by Hamas, claims the piece).

A statement respecting the rights of Palestinians could lead to — a "jihadi" take over of (India's) streets, as is happening in France, where ISIS cells apparently gun down Frenchmen like ninjapigs; in India "the repercussions of such (Jihadist) violence would be broader" because we have a history of communal riots.

The only way, it seems, for us in India to avoid this terrible end, is for everyone to shut up about the Palestinians. Because sympathy

for them could be seen as a sign of weakness of the Indian state and then it will be hell and damnation, because those "cunning" guys, lurking in the shadows, "fringes of the Indian Muslim communities" with "the Hamas style vision" will smell an opportunity and "roar into action".

This is the sum and substance of this article. It predicted certain destruction of India if we did not view the world only from Israel's perspective. It was ugly in its outrage that someone flouted the rules of the politics of condemnation — which demands demonstrable partisan fury every time there is any violent event involving some Muslims and Western powers and Israel.

The article's joining of dots exemplifies both the subliminal and overt narrative around the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Language is a weapon, and contested meanings would make Ferdinand de Saussure turn in his grave. Sign-signifier-signified — is a relationship in complete disarray. Israeli children murdered is a tragedy, Palestinian children murdered is victim porn. Humanitarian aid is what comes after killing the dehumanised. War crimes are moral actions. Resistance is aggression. Occupied and occupier are same-to-same.

The article in question is centred on attacking the Congress party for a statement that respected the rights of the Palestinian people to land, self-government and to live

with dignity and respect, while also condemning the brutal attack against Israel. This statement so incensed the writer, that he decided to tell Indian readers that unless we fall in line with the Zionist view of the world, we (Indians) will pay a heavy price. He fishes in our troubled waters, trying to spread fear and divisiveness, to further his agenda around the conflict in the Middle East.

We know the communal abyss India is in at the moment, and the writer's intent is to deepen it and mine it; to exacerbate bigotry and suspicion against Indian Muslims (not just those the writer marks as "of jihadist persuasion" — that is just his fig leaf). He exhorts readers to fear. The piece is full of sweeping statements — giving *gyaan* about "the guise of waqfs" and "Islamic charities" as cover for "jihadi" action, without a shred of evidence.

The writer asks, "If Muslims of jihadist persuasion" want to "fight the Kafir... when does their violence appear domestically?" (that is, in India) He then helpfully supplies the following answer: "The Islamic formulation is simple: When they sense a chance of victory." (The writer segues recklessly between "fringe" Indian Muslims-Jihadis-Islamic)

The article makes bigoted common-cause equations between Jews and Hindus versus Hamas and Muslims. "Indians should not delude themselves: Even if jihadists are uniquely obsessed with Jews, they view

Hindus as idol worshippers, doctrinally more impure than Ahl al-kitab." The enemy of my enemy is my friend, so Jews and Hindus must unite against all Muslims everywhere — that is what the article essentially says, in so many words. That this kind of inflammatory communal discourse is on open display in right-wing sites across Indian social media is tragic. To find it given the imprimatur of "opinion" in the editorial pages of a mainstream newspaper is worse.

The last fear-mongering paragraph reads — "the greatest possible sign of weakness is a green light from Kafir authorities." Who (apart from the writer) thinks of state authorities (or any political party) in India as "kafir"? Many Indians, of all faiths, may be critical of state authorities at different levels as biased, unjust, incompetent or authoritarian, but do Indian Muslims in particular think of the state as "kafir"? The usage is laughable. The writer is chasing ghosts, and trying hard to plant some poison. His final salvo — "If Congress leaders can not find within them a spine, they should remember that they still have a neck." Make of this line what you will. The words made me cringe. Poorly chosen, terribly timed, in a sabre-rattling article, at a time when the world desperately needs voices and words for peace.

Naqvi is an independent writer and activist

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FOCUS ON HEALTH

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Begin with the PHC' (October 27). The Uttar Pradesh CM recently said that public health is a top priority of his government and any form of negligence in this matter will not be tolerated. Under the Ayushman Bharat programme, improvement was visible, but the standard of many primary health care centres in Uttar Pradesh remains below average. Incidentally, government hospitals in the state are not doing well either. India has the world's largest number of children with thalassaemia (1-1.5 lakh), and every year 10,000-15,000 are born with the genetic disorder. Transfusion-transmissible infections are a big risk. All stakeholders should look into the matter or more tragedies are inevitable.

Kholkan Das, Kolkata

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Begin with the PHC' (October 27). The mere brick-and-mortar existence of 200 community health centres and PHCs in UP reflects the gross neglect of infrastructure. It reminds one of the 2021 Allahabad High Court's observation that the "entire medical system" of Uttar Pradesh "can only be taken to be like a famous Hindi saying, Ram Bharose (at the mercy of

God)'. This gives credence to the Lancet February report that UP is among five states where district hospitals offer only one per cent of basic services. It is at odds with PM Modi praising UP CM Yogi Adityanath in June 2020 by drawing a parallel between 1.3 lakh covid deaths in European countries that have a population of 24 crore total, with just 600 deaths in UP with a similar population.

LR Murmu, New Delhi

US NEED NOT WORRY

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The Biden pragmatism' (IE, October 27). In stands of hard power, the United States remains unmatched and unchallenged and is poised to maintain this position in the foreseeable future. However, effectively managing various theatres of conflict requires a concerted effort to prevent a resurgence of isolationism through the strengthening of alliances. Prioritising collaboration with various nations should take precedence to counter the nexus of Moscow, Beijing, and Tehran. While it may prove challenging for the United States to balance the shifting power dynamics across three distinct regions, it would be an exaggeration to suggest that it should be overly worried.

Manas Kumar, Delhi

12 DECISION 2023

CHHATTISGARH • MADHYA PRADESH • MIZORAM • RAJASTHAN • TELANGANA

MORE THAN 12,000 MANIPUR REFUGEES ARE LIVING IN MIZORAM

‘Zofate Jerusalem’: MNF hopes to ride Mizo nationalism wave post-Manipur

Oppn says civil society has done more for Manipur refugees; accuses MNF of politics over a humanitarian issue

SUKRITA BARUAH
AIZAWL, OCTOBER 27

THE VERY first line of the Mizo National Front’s (MNF) manifesto sets the tone for its bid to retain power in Mizoram. In the Mizo language, it states: “In accordance to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People... the MNF aims at achieving a single administrative unit for all Zofa/Zohnahthlak land,” an umbrella that would include Kuki-Zomi dominated territories in strife-torn Manipur.

The second point of the manifesto states the party’s aim to maintain Mizoram as a ‘Zofate Jerusalem’ or a Jerusalem equivalent for the greater Zo people.

These promises and aims are not new. In fact, as MNF leaders pointed out recently, the question of a unified administration had featured in the 1986 Mizo Peace Accord between the MNF and the Centre, with the accord stating that the Centre “cannot make any commitment in this respect”.

But the promise has gained renewed relevance recently following the conflict in Manipur between the state’s Meitei and Kuki-Zomi communities, and the insistent demand by the latter for a ‘separate administration’. More than 12,000 Kuki-Zomi refugees

from Manipur have streamed into Mizoram and been sheltered in relief camps, by the state government but even more so by the state’s active civil society. Chief Minister Zoramthanga has been vocal about his support for Manipur’s Kuki-Zomi people, stating he cannot be silent because “the victims are my own kin, my own blood.”

Long before the Manipur crisis erupted, the Mizoram government had also given shelter to more than 30,000 Chin refugees, who had fled Myanmar after the 2021 military coup, defying the Centre’s directions.

In the 2018 Assembly elections, the MNF won 27 of the 40 seats. “This time, we will win 28-32 seats,” declares MNF vice-president Lalhngliana speaking to *The Indian Express*. The state will vote on November 7.

He rationalises his confidence by saying, “All of Mizoram is so happy. So many people have come from (Myanmar) and Manipur... People are happy to see this Mizo nationalism... When your house is burned, you will remember those who helped you in your time of need.”

On July 25, thousands had taken to the streets for a solidarity rally in Aizawl, which Zoramthanga attended, while people have donated resources



Inside a camp in Mizoram’s Kolasib district, which houses the largest number of refugees. *Express*

THE REFUGEE FACTOR

- Seats won by ZPM
- Seats won by MNF

There are 18 Assembly constituencies in the three Mizoram districts of Aizawl, Kolasib and Saitual which had the most relief camps and refugees from Manipur at the peak of the crisis in June.

In the 2018 Assembly polls, the MNF had won 11 of these seats and the ZPM 7



for the refugees.

Jerry Zoremsanga, assistant secretary of the Young Mizo Association (YMA), said he is not so sure the MNF’s stand would necessarily translate into more votes for it. “The local Mizo people are touched by the refugees and though the YMA has taken the initiative, all collections have been made from locals... The government has done what it can to help but... any Mizo CM would have done the same. It’s a humanitarian thing, not political,” he said.

The Opposition’s Zoram People’s Movement (ZPM) candidate TBC Lalvenhunga, while stating the same, claims the MNF

is trying to shield itself from anti-incumbency by pressing the issue. “The government has nothing else to highlight so it will try to make this an issue. But the truth is that while the government tries to take credit, it is the NGOs and public who have put in most of the work, which received support from all parties. We are all aligned on this issue,” he says.

The MNF faces allegations of corruption and unfulfilled promises — the most notable being the promise of Rs 3 lakh to all families under its Socio-Economic Development Scheme.

But talk of anti-incumbency is being brushed aside by MNF leaders, who point to Covid during which it could not work on its promises.

Faithinga, an MNF leader and member of its political affairs committee, insists the party is uniquely situated in its stand on the refugees and the welfare of the greater Zo people, and that the events have given the party’s standing a boost. The emphasis is also on the fact that to support the refugees, the MNF has defied the Centre despite being a part of the BJP-led NDA.

“We have been sheltering and feeding refugees from Myanmar and Manipur free of cost, at the state’s expense... The Congress and BJP here can’t have an independent stand on this issue because they are just units of their centres. The ZPM doesn’t have principles. The Centre also criticised us but our CM stood up for these principles,” he says.

BJP puts ‘CM from backward class’ on table in Telangana



Shah made the promise Friday. Andhra-Telangana has never had a backward CM, BJP has several powerful BC leaders. *Twitter*

SREENIVAS JANYALA & MANOJ CG
HYDERABAD, NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

IN A surprise move, Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced on Friday that the BJP would make a leader from the backward classes the chief minister of Telangana if the party wins.

His declaration comes at a time when the Opposition parties are framing the demand for a caste census in the context of OBC representation.

A backward class leader has never been the CM of even undivided Andhra Pradesh. Since Telangana was formed in 2014, K Chandrababu Naidu, who belongs to the forward Velama community, has been its CM.

The BJP has two strong backward class leaders in Telangana — Bandi Sanjay Kumar and Etela Rajender, who have both earned their stripes taking on KCR and the ruling Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS). While Bandi Sanjay Kumar belongs to the powerful Munneru Kapu community, Rajender is from the equally dominant Mudiraj group.

The state has 134 backward class groups, together making up around 52% of the population.

As the Telangana BJP chief, Kumar had aggressively targeted the KCR government. But in July, Kumar was replaced. Now, the BJP has fielded Kumar from the Karimnagar seat. While he had lost from the constituency in 2018, he had won the Karimnagar Lok

Sabha seat in 2019. Kumar has a hold on not only the 50-lakh strong Munneru Kapu community, but other BC groups as well.

Rajender, the party’s state election committee head, has been fielded from Gajwel besides his seat of Huzurabad. This is significant as KCR is contesting from Gajwel, besides the Kamareddy seat, and Rajender was once seen as No.2 in the BRS (formerly TRS).

Many are seeing Shah’s announcement of a backward class CM as a swipe at KCR, who is believed to have dumped Rajender when he felt threatened by him. “Rajender always considered himself second-in-command in the KCR government and a successor. It is Rajender’s expanding ambitions which made KCR drop him,” a BJP leader said Friday.

The Mudiraj population in Telangana is about 60 lakh.

There is another backward class leader on whom eyes are trained now, after Shah’s announcement: Dharmapuri Arvind, the younger son of ex-Andhra PCC chief D Srinivas, and the BJP Lok Sabha MP from Nizamabad.

An avid cricketer who played for Hyderabad in the Ranji Trophy, Arvind contested his first election in 2019, taking the BJP route even as his father went to the TRS (now BRS). He won by over 70,000 votes, defeating KCR’s daughter K Kavitha.

Congress leaders admitted Shah’s declaration had caused surprise — and some worry. Any consolidation of backward class votes behind the BJP would result in division of the anti-BRS votes.

JD(U) in MP race; like SP, says talks with Cong failed

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, OCTOBER 27

THE INDIA bloc is headed for more rough weather in Madhya Pradesh, after the turbulence over failed seat-sharing between the Congress and Samajwadi Party. The JD(U), whose supremo Nitish Kumar took the lead in bringing together the Opposition coalition, has named candidates for 10 seats in the state.

After the Aam Aadmi Party and SP, the JD(U) thus becomes the third INDIA constituent to enter the race in MP, besides the Congress, which is caught in a close fight with the BJP in the state.

JD(U) advisor K C Tyagi said they held talks with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and its MP in-charge Randeep Surjewala, but seat-sharing did not materialise. “We have an active organisation in MP. It was purely up to the Congress to accommodate us.”

JD(U) MLC and national gen-



Nitish was the prime mover behind INDIA

eral secretary Aafaq Ahmad said: “We have been contesting polls in MP since 2003, with the exception of 2018. In 2003, our candidate from Katni, Bachchan Naik, won. In 2008, his wife, Saroj Bachchan represented the constituency.”

The JD(U) had contested around 10 seats in 2003, 2008 and 2013 as well in MP. In the 2018 polls, Ahmad said, the JD(U) opted out on the request of its then ally, BJP.

Asked about INDIA bloc constituents going their separate ways, Tyagi said: “One should be clear that the alliance is for the Lok Sabha polls, and not read too much into our ties or their absence in the Assembly polls.”

The Congress refused to comment on the JD(U) fighting in MP.



FALLING IN LINE
Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan at the Shri Sadguru Seva Sangh Trust, in Chitrakoot on Friday. *PTI*

FROM THE GROUND

‘Missing’ Congress may pay price in riot-scarred Khargone

ANAND MOHAN J
KHARGONE, OCTOBER 27

CONGRESS workers have made frequent visits to the house of Ikhlaq Khan in Madhya Pradesh’s Khargone to offer sympathy for the killing of his younger brother Ibraish Khan. A young sanitation worker, Ibraish was killed during the riots in Khargone on April 10 last year following clashes over a Ram Navami procession.

“Both Congress and BJP workers have met me. The Congress workers come more often,” Ikhlaq says. “The government gave us around Rs 4 lakh (as relief). They promised jobs, house and money — nothing has happened.”

In the violence, several people were wounded and some houses set blaze by rioters. Police registered 62 FIRs in which around 150 people were arrested. The authorities also demolished houses of alleged rioters.

Khargone, once dubbed as the state’s “*shanti ka tapu* (island of peace)”, is now better known in the context of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan’s image makeover from “Mamaji” to “Bulldozer

Mama” after the demolitions.

In 2018, the Congress had swept the Khargone district, winning 5 out of 6 seats. The sixth seat was won by a Congress rebel, who contested as an Independent. However, in the Khargone civic body polls following the riots, the Congress was routed, with the BJP winning 18 out of 33 wards as against the Congress’s four seats. Independents won in eight wards, while Asaduddin Owaisi’s AIMIM bagged three seats.

Hasina Fakhroo’s Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) home was one of 13 houses in Khargone that demolished by the authorities after the clashes. Later, the government promised to rehabilitate Hasina’s family.

Where her home once stood, is now a landfill site, littered with cow dung cakes. Around 1 km away, Hasina lives in a tin shed at Anand Nagar with her two sons and daughter, and six sheep. They have an old water cooler. She pays Rs 3,000 in rent and cooks their food on a wood-fired stove.

Hasina’s elder son Abid, 30, can’t work as he is ailing.

“This is my fourth home... They promised me a plot and money. I



The mosque at Talab Chowk, where the rioting first erupted on April 10 last year, leaving 1 dead, several injured. *Express*

got around Rs 1.5 to 2 lakh in several instalments. The local Bajrang Dal offered to relocate my family to a *dharamshala*,” she says.

Her neighbour Kalo Khan, 50, whose house was also demolished, has a home now built under the PMAY. It has two rooms, a bathroom and a terrace where they keep their sheep. They moved in just a few days ago.

Kalo’s son Naushad, 27, a labourer, managed to build the house after relatives gave them money. “My family lives together now,” he says.

Their neighbour, Shabana Khan, says her son has been in jail

since the riots. She collected alms from local mosques to pay for his lawyer’s fees. She says her mother-in-law shifted somewhere else after she was threatened during a court hearing.

“My son was supposed to get married,” she says, adding that not one politician has helped them.

Outside the mosque at Talab chowk, where the rioting first erupted and tore through the city, Idayatullah Mansuri, the former chief of the mosque committee, has been rummaging through old books, discarded TV sets and empty cans. He used to have a store outside the mosque; he now

sells scrap from a cart.

“The international media took my interviews. What happened? Nothing. All the politicians here are thieves. When the Congress MLA comes here for votes, we will chase him away,” he says.

According to Mansuri, the mosque committee used to get Rs 35,000 per month from the front stores, which were damaged in the riots. “Now the mosque hardly gets Rs 20,000. They are hard pressed for cash.”

Adil Khan, the cashier at Hotel Waqt, which suffered massive damages, points to additions to his hotel. He bought new furniture, freezer machine, cash counter, and a new CCTV system. “We have two hotels and they were both damaged... We helped ourselves out, the Congress was nowhere to be seen,” he says.

The hotel is located on the dividing line between the Muslim and Hindu neighbourhoods in the Anand Nagar area.

Sitting outside his home, a teenager rues that he cannot work for longer hours due to a burn injury from the riots. “My family got help from the BJP,” he says.

The boy’s mother says:

“Patidarji (ex-MLA Balkrishna Patidar) gave us cooking gas, a mattress, utensils, rations. The Congress was absent. Now Patidarji has promised us a Hanuman temple in this area.”

Sunita Subhash Gangle, 43, works as a labourer at a local farm. Her home was set on fire. She says she spent around Rs 1 lakh on repairs. “Some politicians came, no one from the Congress.”

However, another riot victim, the 70-year-old domestic worker Kusum Bai Chawre, says she managed to get help from both the parties. Kusum and her daughter were rescued by their neighbours. “The Congress sent its workers. However, Joshi (Congress MLA Ravi Joshi) did not come. He should have.”

In the 2018 polls, Joshi wrested Khargone from the BJP’s Patidar, who had been since 2008.

Joshi says he did all he could. “I don’t like telling anyone about the help I gave to everyone, whether Hindus or Muslims.”

Patidar says there is anger against the Congress in Khargone. “They got wiped out in municipal elections and the same fate awaits them now.”

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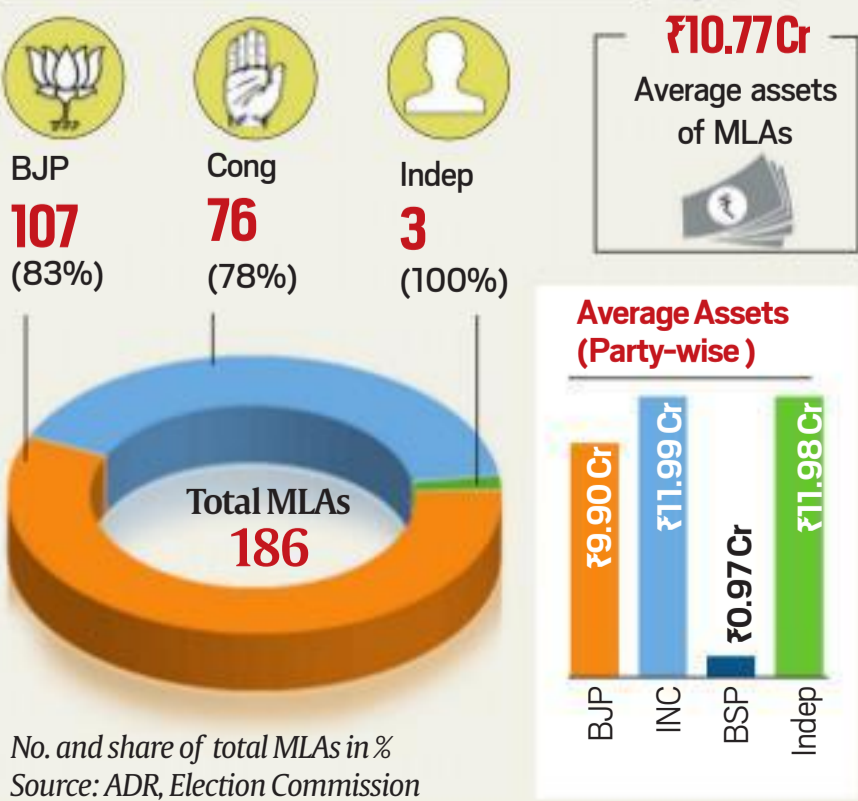


KEY PLAYERS
CONG HID INFO: HIMANTA SARMA ON EC NOTICE TO HIM OVER SPEECH

IN CHHATTISGARH, A STATE WITH CLOSE POLLS, 2018 WAS AN EXCEPTION

NUMBER SPEAK

MADHYA PRADESH:
PARTY-WISE CROREPATI MLAs



HC refuses Kerala MLA plea to quash solar conspiracy case

Thiruvananthapuram: The Kerala High Court Friday rejected LDF MLA K B Ganesh Kumar's petition seeking quashing of the proceedings against him in connection with the alleged conspiracy against former CM Oommen Chandy in the solar scandal sexual assault case.

Setting aside Kumar's petition, the bench of Justice P V Kunhikrishnan said, "I am of the opinion that this case is to be proceeded and should arrive at a logical conclusion for the interest of the soul of the former chief minister (Chandy), and if the allegations are wrong, it will prove the integrity of the petitioner, who is an MLA, a known politician."

The high court directive is a setback to Kumar, a Kerala Congress (B) leader, as it comes when he is slated to take over as the state Transport Minister.

Before moving to the LDF in 2016, Kumar was a minister in the previous Congress regime led by Oommen Chandy until he quit in the wake of domestic violence case allegations raised by his wife.

New Assam govt order: Employees can't enter second marriage without permission

SUKRITA BARUAH
GUWAHATI, OCTOBER 27

THE ASSAM government, which is working on a law to ban polygamy in the state, has issued an order disallowing government employees from entering into a second marriage without the permission of the government.

The order states that non-compliance will invite department proceedings for the imposition of penalties that may include compulsory retirement. Apart from this, it states that steps will also be taken for legal penal action.

The government order was issued in a Personnel Department office memorandum on October 20. With a subject title 'Bigamous Marriages', the memorandum states that it is reiterating a rule of the Assam Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1965. It goes on to state that a government servant with a living wife who wants to enter into a second marriage must first obtain permission from



CM says it's an existing rule which is now being enforced by the govt

the government "notwithstanding that such subsequent marriage is permissible under the personal law for the time being applicable to him". It also states that no woman government servant may marry a person who has a living wife without similar permission.

Speaking about the order on Friday, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that this was a pre-existing rule which is now being enforced by the state government. "An Assam government employee from the point of view of our service rules is not entitled to enter into a second marriage. However, if some religion allows you to enter into a second

marriage, even then from the conduct rules, you have to seek permission from the state government. Now, the state government might give you or might not give you (the permission). We often get cases where after the death of an employee, both the wives fight for the person's pension. We find it very difficult to settle those disputes. Today, many wives are deprived of their pension because of conflicting claims," he said.

This move comes even as the Assam government has been saying that it is working to introduce a ban on the practice of polygamy in the state through "legislative action" in the next Assembly session. Sarma had first announced this in

May this year and had constituted an expert committee to examine the legality of such action. In August, the committee submitted a report which stated that the state legislature has the "legislative competence" to enact such a law.

"The courts have clarified that religious practices must be essential and integral to the religion to receive protection. With respect to Islam, the courts have held that having more than one wife is not an essential part of the religion. Legislation limiting the number of wives does not interfere with the right to practice religion and is within the scope of 'social welfare and reform,'" it had stated.

Ration scam: ED arrests Bengal forest minister

He faints during hearing, taken to hospital; sent to 10-day ED custody

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA & SWEETY KUMARI
KOLKATA, OCTOBER 27



THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) arrested West Bengal Forest Minister Jyoti Priya Mallick in the wee hours of Friday in connection with the alleged ration scam in the state and produced him in a Kolkata court that granted his remand for 10 days.

Mallick (65), a senior Trinamool Congress leader, was taken into custody under Sections 19 and 3 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) after he was interrogated for nearly 20 hours when searches starting Thursday were carried out on properties belonging to him and his associates.

Meanwhile, the minister, who held the Food and Supplies portfolio from 2011 to 2021, fainted in the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court and even vomited before he was taken in an ambulance to a private hospital where he was admitted later. He told the judge that his blood sugar level was high and he had swelling in his feet.

The court ordered that though Mallick will be in ED custody till November 6, the period during which he will remain in hospital will be excluded from the remand period. The court also ruled that the hospital will set up a medical board within 24 hours and the minister's lawyer can meet him for an hour every day.

Earlier, when being taken by the ED officials and CRPF personnel from his Salt Lake residence to the agency's office in CGO Complex in Kolkata, the minister said, "I am a victim of a huge conspiracy. Suwendu Adhikari (Leader of Opposition in Assembly) and the BJP are behind this."

Jyotipriya Mallick in Kolkata on Friday. He alleges BJP conspiracy against him. PTI

In response to the judge's question whether the minister was tortured, agency counsel Phiroze Edulji said "the concept of torture is alien to the ED".

The investigators are probing Mallick's alleged links to businessman Bakibur Rahman, who was arrested in the case on October 14 following a 53-hour-long raid at his flat in North 24 Parganas district's Kaikhali, it is learnt. They also conducted a search at the Nagerbazar residence of Mallick's personal assistant Amit Dey.

Siding with Mallick, the TMC leadership alleged political vendetta by the Centre. State Minister for Women and Child Welfare Shashi Panja said, "The BJP is losing ground nationally and has no political space left in Bengal. Now, the BJP has only two weapons left - ED and CBI."

BJP state president Sukanta Majumder said, "Mallick's name was linked with the scam for a long time. He even bought a bungalow worth Rs 6 crore in Bolpur. He should be behind the bars."

State Congress president Adhir Chowdhury said, "The ration scam in Bengal is much bigger than any other scams. Food has been snatched from people's mouths."

Laptops to cattle dung in Gehlot's poll promises list

HAMZA KHAN
JAIPUR, OCTOBER 27

FROM FREE laptops and tablets for college students and backing the Old Pension Scheme by a law to purchasing cattle dung, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot announced five new poll promises in the election season on Friday.

The schemes cover the major demographics of school and college students, farmers, and government employees.

In a press conference at Congress war room in Jaipur, Gehlot said the state government will purchase cattle dung at Rs 2 per kg. Currently, Bhupesh Baghel's government in Chhattisgarh is the only one running such a scheme, where it is called Godhan Nyay Yojana. Gehlot said it will be used as biogas, natural fertiliser, etc, and will increase the income of farmers and improve the rural economy.

Second, he announced a guarantee of English medium education for every student. He said that about 3,000 English medium schools have been opened so far where around 6 lakh students are



CM Ashok Gehlot, AICC in-charge Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, Congress state chief Govind Singh Dotasra and others in Jaipur on Friday. Rohit Jain Paras

studying. He said that while they have to allot students through the lottery system now, the party is now giving a guarantee to open an English medium school wherever there is a demand.

Third, he said that students who get admissions in government colleges will be given either a laptop or tablet. About 7-8 lakh students get admission in government colleges each year.

Fourth, he said that the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) will be backed by law. He said that since

the BJP is opposing OPS, the state government employees fear that the BJP will withdraw OPS if elected to power in Rajasthan. "Hence, we have decided to back it with law so that even in future, no government can withdraw it."

Fifth, he said that considering the growing impact of climate change, the government will bring in a Chiranjeevi Aapda Bima

Guarantee where each affected family will be provided insurance up to Rs 15 lakh.



Ex-CM Rawat takes a dig at 'friends in CBI' for serving him summons at hospital

AVANEESH MISHRA
DEHRADUN, OCTOBER 27

CENTRAL BUREAU of Investigation (CBI) officials reached Jolly Grant Hospital in Dehradun on Friday to serve a summons on former Uttarakhand Chief Minister Harish Rawat, asking the Congress leader to appear before the agency to give his voice samples in connection with the 2016 sting operation.

In the notice, the CBI said that in pursuance of the order dated July 17 passed by the Special Judge, Anti-Corruption (CBI), Dehradun, Rawat is directed to appear at its New Delhi office on November 6 to give his voice samples.

Rawat, who is recuperating in the hospital following a road accident on October 24, shared the information and a copy of the notice on his Facebook account. "Today, a very important organisation came to Jolly Grant Hospital to inquire about my health. Friends in CBI came and served me a notice. I was very surprised. The day people came



Former CM is recuperating in hospital after a road accident

to the hospital to inquire about my health, the CBI must have felt that I posed a greater threat to the integrity, unity, security and democracy of the country. That is why they served me a notice in the hospital itself. Wow CBI," Rawat said in the post.

On July 17, special judge of a Dehradun court Dharmendra Adhikari has ordered Rawat, former state minister Harak Singh Rawat, Congress MLA Madan Bisht along with Umesh Sharma, the journalist who carried out the alleged sting operation and now an Independent MLA, to give their voice samples. The sting operation came to the fore in 2016 after nine Congress MLAs rebelled against the Harish Rawat government and joined hands with the BJP. In the video, Rawat was allegedly bargaining with dissident MLAs.

JD(S) Kerala unit denies links with Deve Gowda, BJP

Thiruvananthapuram: Although the Kerala unit of JD(S) dropped its plan to float a new party after its national supremo HD Deve Gowda entered into an alliance with the BJP-led NDA in Karnataka, the ally of the CPI(M)-led LDF maintained they would go by the resolution adopted during the party's national plenum of not having any links with the BJP. The state leadership of the party met Friday and decided to maintain the status quo even as they claimed that the party has no links with Deve Gowda. The JD(S) state unit abandoned its plan to float a state party as it would pave the way for Deve Gowda demanding the resignation of the party's two legislators in the LDF, one of them a minister.

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Special Summary Revision of Electoral Roll - 2024
27 October - 9 December, 2023

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1 अक्टूबर से 9 दिसम्बर के दौरान फॉर्म - 6 भर कर मतदाता बनें और आकर्षक उपहार पाएं

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- Form 8 - Correction in Electoral Details
- Form 7 - Delete Name from Electoral Roll

वया आपका जन्म 02.01.2004 से 01.01.2006 के दौरान हुआ है और आप मतदाता के रूप में अभी तक रजिस्टर नहीं हैं

तो वोटर हेल्पलाइन पर जाकर 1 अक्टूबर से 9 दिसम्बर के दौरान फॉर्म - 6 भर कर मतदाता बनें और आकर्षक इनाम पाएं

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EXPRESS NETWORK

BRIEFLY
JAMMU & KASHMIR

Jamia Masjid shut for third week in a row

Srinagar: For the third consecutive week, Friday prayers were not allowed at Srinagar's Jamia Masjid. All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) said its chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq was once again not allowed to leave his home to lead the Friday prayers. "Repeated closure of Jamia Masjid and house detention of Farooq are reminders of the situation in J&K," said APHC. **ENS**

UTTAR PRADESH
Cop beaten up: Chargesheet in 15 hours

Lucknow: Hours after two persons were arrested for allegedly beating up a traffic inspector after he stopped a motorcycle for checking Friday, the Aligarh police claimed to have prepared a chargesheet. SHO, Bannadevi police station, Pradeep Kumar said, "We have prepared the chargesheet in 15 hours." **ENS**

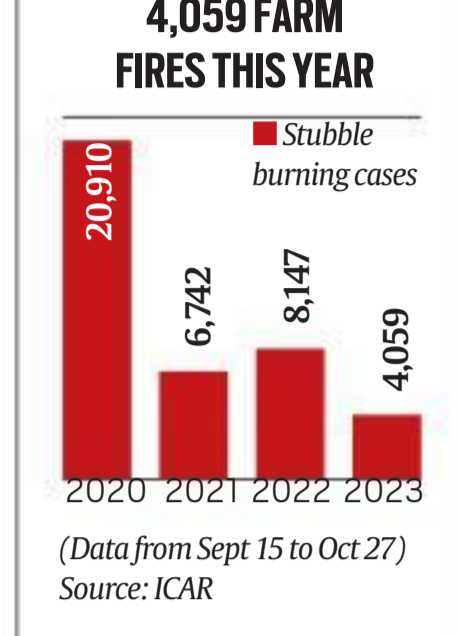
RAJASTHAN
Caretaker killed by tiger at Kota biological park

Kota: The caretaker of a tiger's enclosure at Abhe-da Biological Park in Kota died after he was attacked by the big cat Friday, officials said. The incident took place when the caretaker, Ramdayal Nagar, was leaving after spraying medicine on its injury, they said. **PTI**

Punjab farm fires down by half than last yr

Only 45% harvesting done; experts attribute decline in incidents to industries using stubble as fuel

ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA
JALANDHAR, OCTOBER 27



A farm worker burns stubble after paddy harvest at a village near Patiala, Friday. **PTI**

THIS YEAR between September 15 and October 27, Punjab has recorded around 50% less stubble burning incidents compared to the same period in 2022. According to data from Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the state recorded 4,059 stubble burning cases this year from September 15 to October 27, while in the same period in 2022, Punjab saw 8,147 fires. Similarly, in 2021 and 2020, the state saw 6,742 and 20,910 stubble burning cases, respectively. Going by the data, this year's stubble burning cases are 80.5% less than that of 2020. It's also 40% less than 2021 and 50% less than 2022.

On October 27 this year, Punjab recorded 766 farm fires against 1,111, 279 and 2,563 cases in 2022, 2021 and 2020, respectively. Of the 766 farm fires witnessed on Friday, Tarn Taran reported a maximum of 104 crop residue burning incidents, followed by 98 in Sangrur, 97 in Patiala and 76 in Amritsar. While

wheat sowing will start from November 1, experts mentioned that so far only 45% harvesting has taken place in the state and the next two weeks will be crucial while attributing the fall in the number of farm fires this year to ex-situ stubble management programme that encourages industries to use stubble as a fuel.

The programme aims to manage around 4.5 million tonnes of paddy stubble using ex-situ methods this year. Currently, there are around 2,000 baler machines in

the fields, and the Punjab government has sanctioned an additional 2,300 new balers, including the big baler, which costs around Rs 1 crore and can cover around 40 acres if used for 9-10 hours daily. A big baler machine can make bales ranging between 2.5 quintals and 7 quintals each.

In the in-situ method, stubble is either incorporated into the soil during wheat sowing using machines such as Super Seeder and Smart seeder, or wheat is sown without clearing the stubble from the field with machines like happy seeder and surface seeders, allow-

ing the stubble to decompose gradually in the soil.

Whereas in the ex-situ method, stubble is cleared from the fields using cutter, rake and baler machines set which is then transported to various industries.

While in in-situ method, a farmer has to spend around Rs 6,000 per acre to manage stubble, in ex-situ method, fields are cleared free of cost.

Since 2018, the Punjab government has been distributing stubble management machines under the Crop Residue Management (CRM) scheme, providing both in-

situ and ex-situ management machines. However, the government's focus has now shifted towards promoting ex-situ methods. The shift is driven by an increasing demand for stubble from biomass plants, boilers, pelletization units, and ethanol plants.

Chairman of Punjab pollution control board Adarsh Kumar Vig said that this year they set a target to collect 4.5 million tonnes paddy stubble through the baler machine and so far the response has been good from the farmers. "Around 5,000 officers are actively educating farmers about these methods. And more farmers are opting for ex-situ methods to deal with paddy stubble. While in most cases stubble is collected free of cost, in some cases, farmers also get a token amount from companies collecting the stubble," he said, adding that Punjab currently produces around 225 lakh tonnes of stubble, with approximately 110 lakh tonnes managed through in-situ programmes and nearly 30 lakh tonnes managed through ex-situ. However, over 85 lakh tonnes are still being burned.

Rice production to dip 3.7% due to uneven monsoon

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

AS PER the first advance estimates of major kharif crops for 2023-24 released by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare (MoA&W) Friday, India's rice production has been pegged at 1,063.13 lakh metric tonnes (LMT), a 3.7 per cent dip than the figure of 1,105.12 LMT recorded during the same season of the last year.

The estimated production figure for 2023-24 is also lower than in 2021-2022, when it stood at 1,110.01 LMT.

The estimated decline in rice production for 2023-24 shows an impact of uneven distribution of monsoon rain. The decline is despite an increase in area under paddy production. As per the Agriculture Ministry, the area for rice production in the kharif season for 2023 is 411 lakh hectare, which is higher than 404.27 lakh hectare during the same season in 2022.

In a statement the Agriculture Ministry said, "The estimation of crop production relies on data provided by states and is subsequently validated using information from various alternative sources. These sources include reports from the Crop Weather Watch Group (CWWG), Remote Sensing estimates, estimates based on econometric modeling, inputs collected from farmer surveys, and historical trends in crop estimation."

"It's important to note that this first production assessment for 2023-24 (Kharif) is largely based on the average yield of the last 3 years and may undergo change after receiving the yield estimates based on actual crop cutting experiments," the statement said.

"Area under rice which is the major kharif crop is estimated to be higher by around 2 lakh hectare over the previous year's final estimate and by around 4.5 lakh hectare over the average rice area. Its production is also estimated to be higher by about 1 lakh tonnes as compared to average kharif rice production," it added.

"For 2023-24, production of kharif nutri/coarse cereals is estimated at 351.37 LMT, which is slightly higher than the average coarse cereals production of 350.91 LMT. The production of Shree Anna is estimated at 126.55 LMT during 2023-24," it said.

"The production of tur dal is estimated at 34.21 LMT, which is approximately similar to last year's production. Further, the area for urad dal is estimated at 30.73 lakh hectares which is approximately similar to last year's area of 30.98 lakh hectares. However, the total production of kharif pulses for 2023-24 is estimated to be lower than the previous year due to climatic conditions. Total production of kharif pulses during 2023-24 is estimated at 71.18 LMT. Total production of sugarcane is estimated at 4,347.93 LMT which is higher than average sugarcane production of 4,222.55 LMT," the statement said.

India had banned the export of non-basmati white rice in July this year given the depleting public stock of foodgrain in the Central pool, elevated cereal prices and the looming threat of uneven monsoons for paddy crops in the ongoing kharif season. India had earlier banned wheat export with effect from May 13, 2022. A 20 per cent export duty was imposed on all non-basmati rice except parboiled rice on September 8, 2022 and banned the export of broken rice on September 9, 2022.

ENCROACHMENT, STRAY CATTLE MENACE

HC pulls up police: Gujarat safest, are we to declare it lawless?

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, OCTOBER 27

THE GUJARAT High Court Friday pulled up Ahmedabad City Police Commissioner GS Malik for the failure of his force to protect municipal squads from attacks during drives to remove encroachments and stray cattle. The court also recounted an incident where a police party "ran away" after being surrounded by "bikers armed with sticks".

A division bench of Justice Aj Shastri and Justice Hemant Prachchhak also pulled up Ahmedabad municipal commissioner M Thennarasan and Gujarat Urban Development

Department principal secretary, Ashwini Kumar, for failing to tackle cattle menace with coordinated efforts along with the police.

The court has granted the authorities a week's time to show an improvement in the situation, failing which, it may take an adverse view of the same. The matter will be next taken up on November 7.

Addressing Police Commissioner Malik, Justice Shastri orally expressed his anguish at the current state of lawlessness. "Our directions are not being complied with, officers who are going to curb the activity are being beaten. The police are also being attacked by hooligans. What steps are you going to take? It is an alarming sit-

uation that no officer is allowed to curb this activity. Gujarat is a state, safest in the country, are we to declare it as lawless?" he remarked.

The court referred to the recent report by the Gujarat State Legal Services Authority on cattle menace. "Every day, we see news a few people die due to cattle menace and traffic problems. You are not providing assistance to municipal authorities. There is a specific affidavit filed that for want of police assistance, we (AMC) are unable to carry out the (court) directions... These stars on the shoulder (of the uniform) are a sign of great responsibility that you are shouldering for maintenance of law and order," the judge added.

Comparing police with sol-

diers, Justice Shastri emphasised that while the latter protect citizens at the borders against cross-border terrorism, cops are expected to do the same internally. "We are giving a wrong message to society that the police is unable to carry out its functions (of maintaining law and order)... We have seen with open eyes near (the road where) Zyodus (hospital is situated) that a police jeep was surrounded by 10-15 bikers, armed with sticks and the police ran away... We don't allow our citizens to be at the mercy of this ineffectiveness. What are the solutions you have in mind?. On paper, we were under the impression that every step is being taken in a regular manner but the report is con-

trary to what is prevailing on the record," he stated.

Advocate General Kamal Trivedi admitted a "lack of coordination somewhere" before the court. He said the state was looking to collect information for its records, including details on the number of animals kept by a person.

On Wednesday night, Deputy Municipal Commissioner Ranya Bhatt was left bleeding after he was attacked in Asarwa when he led a team to clear the food carts encroaching on the footpaths.

While Trivedi assured the court it would buckle up, the court implored that "stringent actions" should be taken against hooligans who are attacking authorities.

Mukhtar Ansari gets 10-year jail in 2010 Gangsters Act case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 27

A COURT in Ghazipur district of Uttar Pradesh on Friday sentenced jailed gangster-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari to 10 years imprisonment in a Gangsters Act case lodged against him in 2010.

The quantum of punishment was announced a day after the former five-time MLA was held guilty in the case.

This is the sixth case in which Ansari, who is lodged in the Banda district jail, has been convicted — all in the past one year. He has a total of 65 cases against him, including that of murder and attempt to murder.

The court also sentenced Mukhtar's associate Sonu Yadav to five years in prison in the 2010 case that was registered under the Uttar Pradesh Gangsters and Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act by clubbing the 2009 murder case of one Kapil Dev Singh and an FIR of attempt to murder on one Meer Hasan.

"Ansari appeared before the court through video-conferencing on Friday. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 5 lakh on him. Rs 2 lakh penalty was imposed

on Sonu Yadav," said government counsel, Ghazipur, Neeraj Srivastava.

Sonu, who earlier was out on bail, was brought to the court from the Ghazipur district jail where he was lodged since Thursday since he was taken into custody after his conviction.

In June this year, a Varanasi court had sentenced him to life imprisonment for the murder of Awadhesh Rai, 30, a businessman, outside his house in the city's Maldahiya locality in 1991. Awadhesh was the elder brother of current Congress state president Ajay Rai.

On April 29, Ansari was sentenced to four-year jail under the Gangsters Act along with his elder brother Afzal.

Earlier, on September 21, 2022, the Allahabad High Court had sentenced him to seven years in prison in a 2003 case of assault on a jailer.

A day later, the HC had sentenced him to five years in jail in a 1999 case under the Gangsters Act.

Then on December 15, a Ghazipur district court sentenced Mukhtar and his alleged associate Bheem Singh to 10-year imprisonment in a 1996 case under the Gangsters Act.

IAF to hold Agniveer Vayu camps in Bihar schools

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, OCTOBER 27

TO ENCOURAGE students to become "Agniveer Vayu", the Bihar government is set to help the Indian Air Force hold camps in its schools. The IAF will start by conducting camps in schools in Purnia, Supaul, Araria and Kishanganj, dates for which are yet to be finalised.

In a joint letter to district magistrates of the four districts on October 25, Bihar additional chief secretary (education) K K Pathak wrote: "IAF has been holding awareness campaigns in your districts. You are requested to provide necessary help to IAF so that maximum youth in the districts can become Agniveer Vayu. You need to look at Classes 11 and 12 students, and direct district education officers to assist." The education department's letter follows a request from IAF Wing Commander A Pratap Reddy. An education department official said: "This could be the first phase and similar camps could be held in other districts."

Purnia DM Kundan Kumar said: "We are yet to receive an official communication but we have also learnt about it. We will provide all the necessary arrangements for the IAF."

Eyeing core voters, BJP picks Nayab Saini as Haryana unit chief

SUKHBIR SIWACH
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 27

THE BJP Friday appointed Lok Sabha MP Nayab Singh Saini as its Haryana unit president replacing Om Prakash Dhankar as the party prepares for the Lok Sabha and state Assembly polls. Dhankar has been appointed a national secretary of the party.

The 53-year-old Saini, belonging to Other Backward Classes (OBC), is a first-time MP from Kurukshetra and is considered close to CM Manohar Lal Khattar. His appointment is being seen as an attempt by the BJP to consolidate non-Jat voters — particularly backward communities — in the caste-centric politics of Haryana where Jat support is largely divided among the Congress, Jannayak Janta Party and the Indian National Lok Dal.

Dhankar, who was appointed state party chief in July 2020, has already completed his term of three years. However, Saini's appointment, which comes days after Khattar met PM Narendra Modi, is seen as CM tightening the grip on state party affairs ahead of Lok Sabha and the Vidhan Sabha polls.

Saini, who has been cam-

paigning in Rajasthan, was also a minister in the previous Khattar government. He was a legislator when he contested the Lok Sabha polls in 2019, the year when BJP won all 10 seats in Haryana.

Extending best wishes to Saini for the new assignment, Khattar said, "I am sure the organisation would benefit from his long political and administrative experience and the BJP would set new history in the upcoming polls".

When Dhankar, a Jat, was appointed BJP state chief, it was seen as a balancing act on the part of the saffron party as Khattar, a Punjabi, was already occupying the CM's post. Earlier too, the same principle was opted when Subhash Barala, also a Jat, looked after the assignment of the state party president for over five years while Khattar was the chief minister.

The Congress and the INLD too largely followed the same concept of sharing responsibilities between Jats and non-Jats when handing over assignments of the chief minister and state party chief while being in power in the state.

With Saini's appointment, BJP is looking to consolidate the grip on its core group of voters — the backward communities.

Girl burnt to death in Amethi, pradhan among eight booked

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 27

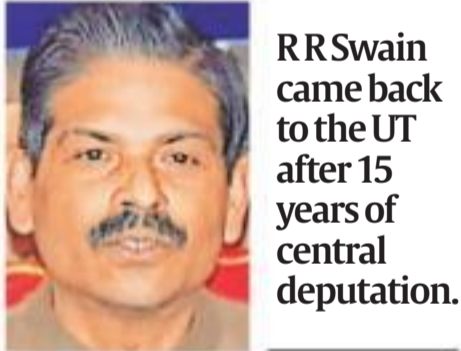
A 55-YEAR-old village pradhan and seven others were booked a day after a 16-year-old girl was allegedly burnt to death at her house in Amethi district, police said Friday. Police said the victim was from an upper caste, while the 3 accused named in the FIR are from a different community.

In his complaint, the victim's father stated that on October 25, his nephew informed him that their house caught fire, and he rushed towards the house only to find his daughter trapped inside.

"The father, a roadside vendor, said when he reached the terrace of his house, he saw the accused fleeing the scene scaling the boundary wall," said a police officer. After putting out the flame, the father rushed the girl to a nearby hospital, where doctors pronounced her dead upon arrival, police said. Based on the father's complaint, an FIR was filed against five named, including the pradhan of a neighbouring village, and three unidentified persons on the charges of murder and rioting, police said. Amethi Additional SP Harendra Kumar said, "...It came to the fore the girl was in regular touch with a youth from a neighbouring village."

Special DG Swain is J&K's new police chief

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, OCTOBER 27



R R Swain came back to the UT after 15 years of central deputation.

R R SWAIN, an AGMUT cadre IPS officer of 1991 batch, is set to take charge as Director General of Police, Jammu & Kashmir, from November 1.

Quoting approval of the competent authority, an order issued by BG Krishnan, Director (S) in the Ministry of Home Affairs, reads that "Swain, presently posted as Special DG, CID, Jammu & Kashmir, will also function as in-charge Director General of Police in addition to his existing charge until further orders". Swain will succeed DGP Dilbag Singh, who retires October 31.

After taking over as intelligence chief in June 2020 following his repatriation to the UT after 15 years of central deputation, Swain has played a key role in tackling the terror ecosystem by initiating stern action against "militant sympathisers" and their over-ground workers, as well as their channels of funding.

As head of the intelligence wing of the UT police, he became the first ex-officio Director of the State Investigation Agency (SIA), which was constituted by the J&K government in November 2021 to coordinate with the National Investigation Agency and other central agencies for

speedy and effective investigation and prosecution of terror-related cases. Many believe the SIA was Swain's brainchild.

Those who know him say he was instrumental in initiating action against those harbouring and providing logistics to militants, and in curbing incidents of stone pelting, thus restoring normal functioning of educational institutions and commercial establishments.

The SIA under his leadership investigated and arrested the accused in many cases of militancy, including narco terror, not just from J&K but from other states and UTs. In May this year, it apprehended two accused involved in the killing of Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir Moulvi Mohd Farooq in Srinagar 33 years ago. During central deputation, he served in various capacities, including a posting abroad. He had also served as district police chief in both Srinagar and Jammu during peak militancy in 2001-03 and 2003-04, respectively.

The 8 ex-Navy men handed death sentence in Qatar

They were all employees of Doha-based Dahra Global and were taken into custody in August 2022

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

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

CAPTAIN NAVTEJ GILL (RETD)

Son of a retired Army officer, the ex-naval officer from Chandigarh served at the Defence

Services Staff College, Wellington. He was a navigating officer on INS Viraat, considered a prized posting, and also commanded INS Prabal, an advanced missile corvette and the lead ship of the 'Killer squadron'. As a cadet, he had won the President's gold medal.

CAPTAIN SAURABH VASISHT (RETD)

An engineering officer, he received commendation from the Commander-in-Chief (C-in-C) twice. He undertook courses at DSSC Wellington as well as College of Defence Management, Secunderabad. He was command

refit officer at southern naval command and served on INS Magar, INS Kulish, INS Khanjar and Indian Coast Guard Ship Sangram. He is originally from Dehradun.

CAPTAIN BK VERMA (RETD)

He was a navigation specialist and had served in a Godavari class ship. He was also a topper in the staff college course. Both he and his wife have a military background.

COMMANDER SUGUNAKAR PAKALA (RETD)

A decorated engineering officer, he received a commendation

from the C-in-C. After his retirement, he joined Hindustan Shipyard Limited. An alumnus of Sainik school, Korukonda, he holds the record of crossing the equator twice on INS Tarangini.

COMMANDER PURNENDU TIWARI (RETD)

A navigation specialist from the Navy's executive branch, he commanded INS Magar and was the fleet navigating officer of the eastern fleet. He also served on Rajput class destroyers. Before moving to Qatar, where he was involved in the training of Qatari naval personnel, he trained Sing-

apore's naval personnel. He was the first from among the Armed Forces personnel to have got the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman award four years ago.

COMMANDER AMIT NAGPAL (RETD)

The ex-officer was a communications specialist in the Navy.

COMMANDER SK GUPTA (RETD)

The ex-naval officer specialised in Gunnery.

RAGESH
He was a sailor in the Navy.

PM eBus Sewa: Tenders for 3,000 electric buses for small cities soon

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

THE UNION government is gearing up to issue tenders for 3,000 out of the proposed 10,000 electric buses under the PM eBus Sewa scheme, according to Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry sources.

The scheme, approved by the Cabinet in August, is aimed at adding 10,000 electric buses to the public transportation networks of 169 eligible cities.

As per the guidelines issued by the ministry, the scheme will

prioritise smaller cities that lack public transport facilities. The buses will be procured under public-private partnership (PPP) and the government will give a per kilometre payment to the operators. According to officials, the first tender for buses under PM e-Bus Sewa is likely to be issued soon.

Addressing the inauguration of the 16th Urban Mobility India Conference here, Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Puri said the PM e-Bus Sewa would also help cities with creating depots and power infrastructure. He said the Metro networks

in the country had reached 895 km and would surpass the United States in the coming two-three years to become the second largest in the world, after China. "I am happy to note that the metro network has a daily ridership of around 1 crore," he said, adding that the ridership would increase with better last-mile connectivity.

Speaking on Delhi-Meerut Namo Bharat RRTS train, Puri said he had received feedback from those who travel from Meerut to Delhi for work that the recently launched train has reduced travel time to 50 minutes from three hours.

15 BIG PICTURE

The biggest science awards go to... the men

Since 1958, only 20 of the 592 Bhatnagar prizes – among the most prestigious science awards in India – have gone to women scientists. Why the glass ceiling is so hard to punch through

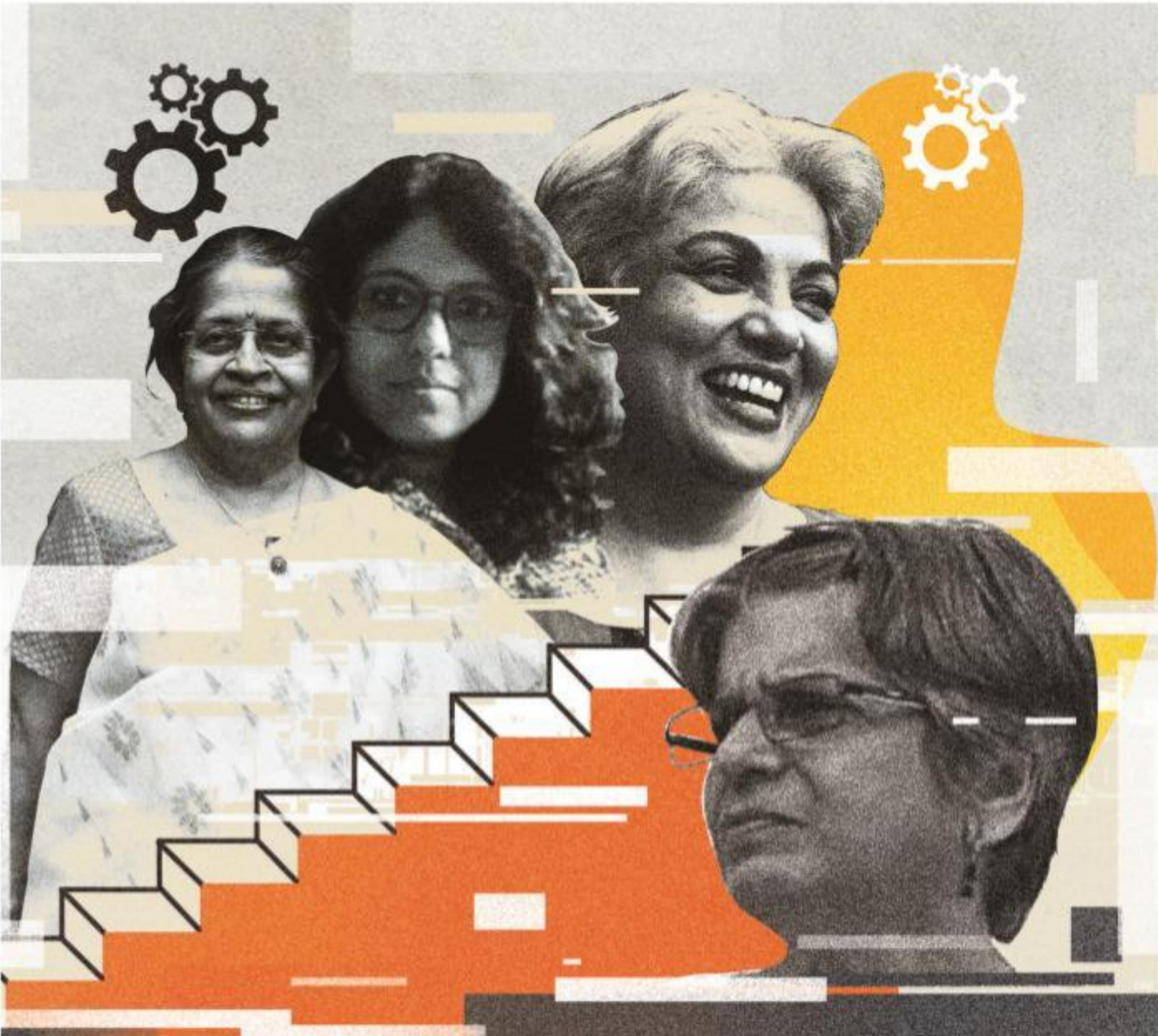


Illustration: Suvajit Dey

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS

WHEN THE Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (SSB) awards for 2022 were announced in New Delhi on September 11 this year, recognising 12 of India's "exceptional" young scientists under the age of 45, there was one noticeable let-down.

Like in 2021, there were no women among the award winners.

In fact, since the awards were first given out in 1958 by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and over six decades since Asima Chatterjee became the first woman to win the coveted prize, only 20 of the 592 Bhatnagar prizes have gone to women scientists.

The absence of women awardees is particularly jarring since the annual Bhatnagar awards cover seven scientific disciplines: biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics, medicine, engineering, and earth, atmosphere, ocean and planetary sciences – part of the larger STEM disciplines where women have increasingly made their presence felt.

In April last year, in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology Jitendra Singh said the percentage of women in R&D is 16.6% of the total number of scientists working in science and technology organisations.

That number is set to go up with more girls taking up STEM subjects in colleges. According to the latest All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) report, more girls (53.1%) than boys enrolled in science courses in 2020-21, up from 51.7% in 2019-20. Of those who enrolled in sciences courses at the undergraduate level, 52% were women; at the PG level, that stood at 61.3%.

Despite these encouraging numbers, for women in science, awards and recognition at the highest levels are an uphill climb. Some of India's top women scientists say it's time the ground evened out.

Rohini Godbole, physicist, Padma Shri recipient and professor at the Centre for High Energy Physics at the Indian Institute of Science in Bengaluru, points out that the underrepresentation of women awardees doesn't add up.

"The most obvious reason for the small number of women awardees would be that there are very few women practising science at the cutting-edge level – about 15-25% of the total. However, the fraction of women winning awards and recognition at the highest level is not even commensurate with that small fraction of women in science. For example, since the inception of the SSB awards, in the Physical Sciences category, there has only been one woman awardee (Aditi De, 2018) whereas at least over the past 20-30 years, the fraction of women doing research in physics in India has been a healthy 10-15%. Similar statements can be made, with similar force, for subjects like Biological Sciences and Chemical Sciences – traditionally considered to be favoured by women scientists," says Prof Godbole, suggesting that CSIR should analyse the underrepresentation of women by making available gender data for the past 20-25 years on nominations, age of nominees, and gender composition among committee members and referees/experts.

According to the official website of the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar prize, names of potential award winners can be proposed by a member of the CSIR governing body; vice chancellors of Indian universities; directors of IITs; Directors General of major R&D organisations such as DRDO, ICMR, ICAR/ICMR; directors of CSIR laboratories and institutes; secretaries of the government science departments member-in-charge (Science) in the NITI Aayog; and former Bhatnagar Prize awardees, among others.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Dr Shubha Tole, neuroscientist, senior professor and Dean of Graduate Studies at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), says those who nominate candidates for awards must first attend sensitisation programmes before their nominations can be accepted.

"Such programmes should be aimed at sensitising people to recognise that qualities that are associated with a successful career – creativity, novel research directions, leadership – may work differently in the case of women

as opposed to men. Those nominating must learn to recognise that women may not 'sell' their work as confidently or prominently in conferences as their male counterparts, that negative social perceptions of women who speak up, or have opinions different from those around them, also colour the perception of their leadership qualities. All these factors possibly play a part in why people nominate fewer women candidates," says Dr Tole, who has chaired the Women in Science panel of the Indian Academy of Sciences and is a winner of the Bhatnagar award in 2010 for her "fundamental contributions to our understanding of brain development..."

CSIR Director General N Kalaiselvi is, however, hopeful of change. "It is not just about there being few women SSB awardees. As we know, the ratio of women to men is lower in many areas, especially in scientific research. However, the situation in recent years is changing for the better. I am sure that in the years to come, with more women taking to science, there will be many more women receiving awards and accolades. There have been more women in leadership positions in CSIR in the last five to seven years than perhaps in the entire history of CSIR taken together before that."

Dr Shekhar Mande, who was CSIR-DG from October 2018 to April 2022, is categorical that the selection process for the Bhatnagar awards is transparent. "There are seven disciplines and a senior scientist is ap-

pointed as chair of each of these disciplines. When I was CSIR-DG, I made sure that there were at least two women (chairs). There would be approximately 10 members (in each of the seven disciplines) with a fair representation of women members... As CSIR-DG, I would interact with the seven chairpersons before the meeting to ensure equal opportunities on the basis of geography, gender, university/labs, and so on... There are no external criteria except for merit," says Dr Mande.

He adds that during his tenure, there were efforts to encourage leadership among women. "There were 37 CSIR labs and not a single one was headed by a woman. During my tenure, we made sure that seven highly qualified women were appointed as head of CSIR labs."

Time to rethink age cutoff?

Dr Vineeta Bal, Professor Emeritus, Biology, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune, calls the upper age-limit – 45 in the case of the Bhatnagar awards – to qualify for awards "problematic".

"Often, women cannot wait until 45 to become mothers, thus leading to active breaks and/or periods of suboptimal work

that hinder their achievements. Factors such as these do need to be included in the selection process to compensate for the underprivileged status of women and other groups," she says.

Dr Tole points out that while it is often thought that child-bearing and child-rearing years are generally associated with low productivity and that women need special allowances for this, she says these need not be treated as "problems of women; rather they need to be framed as problems of institutions and spouses that fail to support women students, postdocs and faculty so that their productivity is minimally affected. Raising children is a decades-long job. Parent-friendly policies will help all parents, not just women".

Dr Godbole suggests that the loss of career years for women can be made up by either increasing the age limit and/or considering the "academic age" – years spent after setting up one's lab, for example – for women instead of their biological age to determine cut-offs.

"This latter measure can even be implemented in a gender-neutral fashion and can apply to men who take time off from a science career for some reason and rejoin later. I hope that this can be introduced at least

now for the new avatar of the Bhatnagar Awards, the Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar," Prof Godbole says.

Debjani Paul, Professor, Department of Biosciences and Bioengineering at IIT Bombay, suggests that instead of proposing an age limit for awards, committees can specify the number of years that a nominee needs to have spent as an independent principal investigator and consider the candidate's achievements in that period.

Considering the academic age of candidates is one of the recommendations in the Equity and Inclusion chapter of the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy 2020.

On its part, the government has come up with a string of measures to correct the gender skew – from a Standing Committee constituted in 2016 "to identify and correct any imbalances" that hinder women in science and technology; the GATI (Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions) programme to "create an enabling environment for equal participation of women" in STEM disciplines; and the 'National Award for Woman Scientist' instituted by the Ministry of Earth Sciences since 2018.

CSIR also gives a five-year relaxation in the upper age-limit to women candidates to be eligible for award of fellowships and associateships to pursue doctoral and postdoctoral research.

In a written response to *The Indian Express*, CSIR-DG Kalaiselvi said, "Recently, aligned with the Government of India's initiative to empower women and promote 'Nari Shakti' in the country... CSIR, for the first time, announced a Special Call for Research Grants for Women Scientists (CSIR-ASPIRE). In this, only women scientists across the country are eligible to apply for research grants to carry out R&D in major disciplines of science and engineering."

Forever a tight-rope balance

One of India's most accomplished mathematicians and science educators, the late Mangala Narlikar, while reflecting on her career, "lack of ambition" and her life with her husband, the celebrated astrophysicist Jayant Narlikar, once wrote, "Fortunately, my husband... respected my wish to study mathematics although he too did not wish me to prioritise career over family."

While in Cambridge with her husband, where Jayant made a name for himself globally, Mangala attended a few graduate lecture courses and supervised some undergraduate students, but full-time research remained difficult with the birth of two daughters. "My story is perhaps a representation of the lives of many women of my generation who are well educated but always put household responsibilities before their personal careers," she wrote.

Some of India's top women scientists will tell you not much has changed since then with most of them slipping into familiar roles once they get home – as the primary caregiver shouldering responsibilities of children and the elderly.

Prof Godbole, who was conferred with the Ordre National du Merite, one of the highest distinctions granted by France, says her "scheduling discipline" came in handy. "I recall the words of an older colleague, Prof Preeti Shankar. She used to say since I know I have to leave the workplace at 5 pm and that it is a hard cutoff, I have trained myself to minimise the time for coffee breaks," she says.

Dr Tole says juggling work-life dynamics is always "complicated", but the flexibility her career offered came in handy. "Research is not typically a 9-to-5 job. One can run experiments/ write papers/see students' data and write feedback at one's own convenience. In India, scientists often live on or near the research campus. Parents can manage PTMs, mid-day school closings etc more easily than in corporate jobs. I would breastfeed my son and return to work. Or, if I had to wake up for a midnight feeding session, I would use that period of sleep disruption to write emails to students or to foreign collaborators who would see it during their working day," Dr Tole says.

Dr Debjani Paul, whose research interests are on microfluidic devices for bioengineering and health care applications, says that she struck a balance by choosing what to work on. "While there would be frequent periods when my work would get all my focus, when I take short breaks, I switch off my work mode and focus on recharging," she says.

MEET SOME OF INDIA'S TOP WOMEN IN SCIENCE

NEENA GUPTA

Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata

Professor at the Theoretical Statistics and Mathematics Unit of ISI, 10 years ago, she solved a geometrical problem called 'Zariski Cancellation' that had remained unsolved for 70 years.

URBASI SINHA

Raman Research Institute, Bengaluru

Sinha heads the quantum information and computing laboratory at Raman Research Institute.

SUMATHI RAO

International Centre for Theoretical Sciences, Bengaluru

A theoretical condensed matter physicist, her research interests are in topological quantum matter.

SHUBHA TOLE

TIFR, Mumbai

A neuroscientist, Tole's research investigates the development and evolution of the mammalian brain.

SUNITA SARAWAGI

IIT Bombay

A computer scientist, she works in areas of machine learning and data analytics.

VIDITA VAIDYA

TIFR, Mumbai

Known for her research into the role of serotonin.

ADITI SEN DE

Harish Chandra Research Institute, Prayagraj

Professor of quantum information and computation, she is only woman so far to be selected for Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar prize for Physical Sciences.

PRERNA SHARMA

Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru

An associate professor, her research focuses on soft condensed matter and biophysics.

RAMA GOVINDARAJAN

International Centre for Theoretical Sciences

Govindarajan work focuses on complex questions in fluid dynamics.

UMA RAMAKRISHNAN

National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bengaluru

A molecular ecologist, her research investigates population genetics and evolutionary history of mammals.

VINITA GOWDA

IISER, Bhopal

An ecologist, she mainly focusses on plant ecology and evolution.

GAGANDEEP KANG

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Recognised for her work on preventing gastro infections in children, Kang is the first woman from India to be elected a Fellow of the Royal Society.

SANGHAMITRA

BANDOPADHYAY

Director, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata

Her research areas include computational biology and bioinformatics, soft and evolutionary computation, pattern recognition and data mining.

ANNAPURNI SUBRAMANIAM

Director, Indian Institute of Astrophysics

Subramaniam studies stars and galaxies, their formation & structures.

SOUMYA SWAMINATHAN

M S Swaminathan Research Foundation

Paediatrician and clinical scientist, as WHO's inaugural Chief Scientist, built the Science division.

BUSHRA ATEEQ

IIT Kanpur

Studies the genetic changes that lead to cancer.

PROFILE: V K PANDIAN

The man in the picture

Private secretary to CM Naveen Patnaik for 12 years, Pandian's recent move has heightened speculation on a possible political turn

SUJIT BISOI

ON MAY 31, 2019, two days after Naveen Patnaik took oath as Chief Minister of Odisha for the fifth time, a photo appeared on social media of a smiling Patnaik seated at his residence Naveen Niwas, with V K Pandian standing behind his chair.

For many in the state, it was their first glimpse of Patnaik's powerful private secretary, a man who had spent years by the CM's side, but always out of the frame. That day, it was the CMO that put out the photo, while Biju Janata Dal (BJD) leaders shared it, hailing Patnaik as much as Pandian for the party's return to power.

Four years later, the photograph hasn't lost its relevance, with Pandian still the man in focus.

On October 23, Pandian, the 2000-batch

IAS officer who as private secretary to the Odisha CM was considered the "most powerful bureaucrat" in the state, took voluntary retirement. A day later, he was appointed chairman of Nabin Odisha and Vision 5T, the Patnaik government's flagship initiatives, with the rank of Cabinet minister.

On Friday, October 27, there was an unusual rush outside 'Naveen Niwas', the CM's residence in Bhubaneswar, as representatives of civil services associations turned up to wish Pandian on his new role. Soon, the 48-year-old turned up in his trademark white shirt and trousers and shook hands with each of his visitors and warmly accepted their bouquets.

It wasn't a very unusual sight for those who have watched Pandian over the last few months as he took on a public role, touring all 147 Assembly constituencies on the CM's behalf and attending 'grievance meetings'



Pandian, CM Patnaik in 2019. (Odisha CMO)

where he interacted with people, addressed them and announced schemes like politicians do. During these meetings, for which he took his own camera crew along, the once camera-shy officer would ensure no key moment went uncaptured. On Instagram, Pandian has more than 1 million followers.

While his public appearances fuelled speculation of his entry into politics and led to attacks from the Opposition, Pandian has remained unflustered.

During his 23 years in power, Naveen Patnaik has always handpicked trusted officials to help him with running the state. None, however, has enjoyed the status Pandian does.

Originally from Tamil Nadu, Pandian made his mark as collector of the state's larger districts, such as Mayurbhanj and Ganjam, which is Patnaik's home district. This is believed to have drawn Patnaik's attention to Pandian, and by May 2011, he found himself in the CM's office as his private secretary. Pandian continued in the post until his retirement from service on October 23 and, unlike many of his colleagues, never chose Central deputation.

What eased Pandian's entry into Patnaik's inner sanctum was the falling out between the CM and Pyrimohan Mohapatra, an IAS officer turned politician turned key advisor, around 2012. Many feared the BJD would slip out of Patnaik's hands given the clout Mohapatra wielded in the party. But Patnaik surprised the doom-sayers, with many crediting Pandian for steering the ship in Mohapatra's absence.

"There is no doubt that Pandian is very hardworking and delivers on key responsibilities, helping him win the confidence of the

CM. He has played a crucial role in various crises. Some of the successful schemes which make Naveen popular as a pro-people leader are Pandian's brainchild," said a senior bureaucrat on Pandian, requesting anonymity.

Yet, it wasn't until 2019 – when Patnaik took oath for the fifth time – that many knew of the man.

The 5T scheme that followed soon after was acknowledged as Pandian's brainchild, and touted as an initiative that would "overhaul" the administrative apparatus. The 5T stand for transparency, teamwork, technology and time, leading to transformation. Then came 'Mo Sarkar' – a scheme to bring the government to the people's doorsteps.

Key services and projects of almost all departments are now covered under 5T, which is directly supervised by Pandian and his team at the Chief Minister's Office. During Covid, Pandian took the lead in updating the state's healthcare facilities and was seen by the CM's side during meetings held virtually.

Pandian was present when Bihar CM Nitish Kumar met Patnaik in May this year and when West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee called on the CM in March.

But his tours set the tone for what was to follow – in his meetings with women self-help groups, students and farmers, Pandian was no stiff bureaucrat; instead, speaking flawless Odia, he took effortlessly to his new role.

A recent video of Pandian's interaction

with students went viral where he is seen narrating his journey from a small Tamil Nadu village to becoming an IAS officer. He talks about cycling around 20 km to college, and exhorts students to work hard for these few years "to be happy for the remaining 50 years in life". Pandian's wife Sujata R Karthikeyan, also an IAS officer of the 2000 batch, is Secretary, Mission Shakti Department.

Pandian's public appearances triggered sharp reactions from Opposition parties, with the BJP and Congress workers holding protests wherever the ex-IAS officer held his 'grievance redressal' meetings. Both the Opposition parties lodged separate petitions to the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), accusing Pandian of violating service conduct rules.

Pandian's rising graph has left many in the BJD jittery too. Editor-politician Soumya Ranjan Patnaik had questioned Pandian's "chopper ride" to districts.

But none of this would do anything to diminish Pandian's clout.

With his resignation from the services, Pandian's entry into politics is now considered a near-certainty. Many point to "hints" from his recent tours to say that he is fast learning the tricks of the trade. On August 19, while on a visit to Satyabadi in Puri, Pandian faced an ink attack from someone in the crowd. While police detained the attacker, Pandian is said to have told them to set the youth free.

TODAY'S MATCH

Australia vs New Zealand, 10.30 am
Bangladesh vs Netherlands, 2 pm
[Live on Star Sports network](#)

South Africa win thriller... you read it right

Team with propensity to succumb under pressure hold their nerve to beat Pakistan by one-wicket and bolster title credentials

VENKATA KRISHNA B
CHENNAI, OCTOBER 27

RIGHT THROUGH Friday, hope kept flickering for Pakistan. They would self-implode repeatedly and then produce a moment of magic that ushered in a fresh ray of hope. Playing along, South Africa too found ways to make it harder for themselves with the bat.

For nine-and-a-half hours, the 29,900 that turned up at Chepauk, went on a roller-coaster ride, giving the World Cup the thriller it so badly needed. For a while in the end, as Pakistan seized control out of nowhere, a South Africa choke looked high. Off-colour so far in their campaign, everything seemed to be falling in place for Pakistan — who fielded like there was no tomorrow, even though they were still far from their best, and they bowled their hearts out — but only to suffer a soul-crushing defeat. So hard a defeat that their players sank to their feet. Their World Cup future now hangs by the barest of bare margins.

Even by Chepauk standards, home to classics and thrillers, Friday was a blockbuster. At the halfway stage, as Pakistan were bowled out for 270, leaving at least 25-30 runs behind on better of a track against an in-form South Africa line-up, the fate appeared sealed for Babar Azam's side. With an attack that has looked totally uncharacteristic so far, hopes of Pakistan producing magic remained bleak. But, as has always been the case, adversities tend to bring out the best out of Pakistan. This was their do or die moment, where they had nothing to lose. That "nothing to lose" attitude that Shahdab Khan said would be their mantra had already cost them runs with the bat. Batting first in the best of the conditions, their batsmen were guilty of wasting the starts, falling into careful traps South Africa set. Even at the end of the 39th over at 222/5, with Shadab and Saud Shakeel going strong, 300 appeared a definite possibility. But once again their lack of cutting edge came to the fore.



Tabraiz Shamsi (L) and Keshav Maharaj celebrate after staving off Pakistan's fast-bowlers to get South Africa a tight one-wicket win. PTI

SCORECARD

PAKISTAN vs SOUTH AFRICA
MA CHIDAMBARAM, CHENNAI
Toss: Pakistan elected to bat

PAKISTAN

A Shafique c Ngidi b Jansen	9 (17b, 1x4)
Imam-ul-Haq c Klaassen b Jansen	12 (18b, 2x4)
B Azam c de Kock b Shamsi	50 (65b, 4x4, 1x6)
M Rizwan c de Kock b Coetzee	31 (27b, 4x4, 1x6)
I Akhmed c Klaassen b Shamsi	21 (31b, 1x4, 1x6)
S Shakeel c de Kock b Shamsi	52 (52b, 7x4)
S Khan c Maharaj b Coetzee	43 (36b, 3x4, 2x6)
M Nawaz c Miller b Jansen	24 (24b, 1x4, 2x6)
S Shah Afridi c Maharaj b Shamsi	2 (4b)
M Wasim c f de Kock b Ngidi	7 (9b, 1x6)
H Rauf not out	0 (1b)
Extras (b 4, nb 4, w 11)	19
Total 46.4 Ov (RR: 5.78)	270

FoW: 1-20 (A Shafique, 4.3 ov), 2-38 (I ul-Haq, 6.3 ov), 3-86 (M Rizwan, 15.5 ov), 4-129 (I Ahmed, 25.1 ov), 5-141 (B Azam, 27.5 ov), 6-225 (S Khan, 39.4 ov), 7-240 (S Shakeel, 42.1 ov), 8-259 (S Afridi, 44.2 ov), 9-268 (M Nawaz, 45.5 ov), 10-270 (M Wasim, 46.4 ov)

Bowling: M Jansen 9-1-43-3, L Ngidi 7.4-0-45-1, A Markram 4-0-20-0, K Maharaj 9-0-56-0, G Coetzee 7-0-42-2, T Shamsi 10-0-60-4

SOUTH AFRICA

T Bavuma c Shakeel b Wasim	28 (27b, 4x4, 1x6)
Q de Kock b c Wasim b Afridi	24 (14b, 5x4)
R van der Dussen lbw b Mir	21 (39b)
A Markram c Azam b Mir	91 (93b, 7x4, 3x6)
H Klaassen c Mir b Wasim	12 (10b, 1x6)
D Miller c Rizwan b Afridi	29 (33b, 2x4, 2x6)
M Jansen c Azam b Rauf	20 (14b, 2x4, 1x6)
G Coetzee c Rizwan b Afridi	10 (13b)
K Maharaj not out	7 (21b, 1x4)
L Ngidi c & b Haris Rauf	4 (14b)
T Shamsi not out	4 (6b)
Extras (b 1, lb 5, w 15)	21
Total 47.2 Ov (RR: 5.72)	271/9

FoW: 1-34 (Q de Kock, 3.3 ov), 2-67 (T Bavuma, 9.5 ov), 3-121 (R van der Dussen, 18.5 ov), 4-136 (H Klaassen, 21.4 ov), 5-206 (D Miller, 33.1 ov), 6-235 (M Jansen, 36.5 ov), 7-250 (A Markram, 40.2 ov), 8-250 (G Coetzee, 41.1 ov), 9-260 (L Ngidi, 45.3 ov)

Bowling: I Ahmed 3-0-23-0, S Afridi 10-0-45-3, M Nawaz 6.2-0-40-0, H Rauf 10-0-62-2, M Wasim 10-1-50-2, U Mir 8-0-45-2

On a knife's edge

But with the ball in hand, they produced moments out of nowhere that kept pegging South Africa back every time when they looked to take control. Not even Aiden Markram, who made an eye-catching 91, including an upper-cut six off Haris Rauf, could arrest the tempo that Pakistan managed to find in a 17-over spell beginning from the 30th over and lasted till Keshav Maharaj helped an innocuous delivery from Mohammad Nawaz to the fence with four needed off 17. As South Africa rejoined in a jailbreak, Pakistan buried their faces to the ground.

But despite all that Pakistan gave and made a contest out of nothing, this was yet another contest where they hardly brought their A-game. Sensing wickets is the only way they can get the job done, Babar, for a change, was proactive on the field, giving bowlers attacking fields to bowl with. But South Africa were equally smart to grab those moments, until they were put under pressure.

Their blueprint with the bat has been to attack, except when they are batting second. It is a bit complex, where with Marco Jansen slotted at No 7, they have never shied away to go on the fifth gear when batting first. But when it comes to chasing, they have been haphazard with that approach, showing caution at periods when they seldom need it. Just like their game against the Netherlands, where they suffered a shock defeat chasing 245, they batted with their handbrakes on at moments. Losing Rassie van der Dussen and Heinrich Klaassen in the space of 17 deliveries helped little. From there on, Markram and David Miller slowed a bit and brought Pakistan back into the game. They

found boundaries that released the pressure a bit, but as Pakistan kept chipping away with key strikes, from 42nd over they were just two deliveries away from suffering another defeat. But thankfully for the Proteas, Maharaj, Lungi Ngidi and Tabraiz Shamsi held their nerves to get the monkey off their backs.

Fading hopes

For Pakistan, the one-wicket defeat means their fate isn't in their own hands. They are alive only mathematically, but theoretically it looks over. The road for them is simple, win their remaining three matches and hope help comes from somewhere. For a team that was top of the ICC ODI ranking for the majority of the year coming into the World Cup, this has been a rude awakening, where nothing has gone right for them. Even over here, where the capacity crowd rallied behind them when Afridi bowled a terrifying last spell.

"Our form had sort of drifted off a little bit," their team director Mickey Arthur said. He dwelled on the reasons. "There are various reasons. We talk about it every day as to what it could have been. But our form kind of drifted off. And again, we haven't put the perfect games together. We've batted well, we haven't bowled well. I do think our fielding standards have been average."

"Those are the things when we go to the training ground, we train every day. We want to work to world-class standards, which we do in terms of our preparation. Again, form just hasn't allowed us the opportunity to put the perfect game together," Arthur added.

In rare apperance, Shamsi steals the show

VENKATA KRISHNA B
CHENNAI, OCTOBER 27

IT IS hard to be in the shoes of Tabraiz Shamsi. In a land where bounce and seam movement is all that you get, being a spinner comes with unique challenges. For Shamsi, who practises what is called the most difficult art in the game — left-arm wrist spin — the challenges are multi-fold.

First comes length. Unless you get your length right, you are invariably at the mercy of the batsmen. Even more so in Shamsi's case, who with a low trajectory, is prone to dropping short. Then comes the line. Mostly a white-ball practitioner, he has a small area on the pitch to work around, which extends the margins of error. Even if he overcomes all these elements, in South Africa where the quicks call the shots and there is left-arm orthodox spinner Keshav Maharaj round to compliment them, opportunities arrive at a premium. With his batting largely ineffectual, it is invariably Maharaj that South Africa turns to. But Shamsi has more variations up his sleeves and can be more threatening in the middle-overs, as he is primarily an attacking bowler, like most of the wrist-spin tribe. He demonstrated the virtues against Pakistan at Chepauk on Friday, where he returned with figures of 10-0-60-4, against supposedly proficient players of spin.

The paradox, though, was there was nothing magical about Shamsi's spell. Despite practising the same art as Kuldeep Yadav, there is a gulf of class between them. If Kuldeep is the lead guitarist, Shamsi is the bassist in a band. He is the one who connects their pacers and Maharaj. With Aiden Markram too around to



Tabraiz Shamsi took four wickets and remained not out. PTI

bow off-spin, Shamsi's role in the South Africa squad is well defined, where he would get a game only in spin-friendly conditions. After getting a game against Australia in Lucknow, where he picked up 2/38 in 7.5 overs a fortnight back, this was only his second outing this World Cup. For all you know, South Africa will go back to benching him in Pune, where they face New Zealand next Wednesday.

Hero, bench-warmer

This, in a nutshell, explains Shamsi's career-hero one day, axed the next. It is the reason he

has featured in only 48 games, though he made his debut in 2016, and despite managing a decent average of 34 and an impressive economy rate of 5.48. Often, it is the conditions and the match-ups that dictate his inclusion. That Shamsi would feature in the game at Chepauk was a given from the moment skipper Temba Bavuma revealed he was tempted to play two spinners, just by having a cursory look at the surface on Thursday. However, this wasn't a dry deck that spinners could exploit.

That Maharaj and Markram went wicketless — the first time in this World Cup that any

of their bowlers have gone wicketless in their quota of overs — was a clear indication. But Bavuma was tempted by the hardness of the surface. Shamsi relishes bounce. Sans any lateral movement, pitching it short was also the calling card for South Africa quicks too.

Thanks to his low trajectory and ability to land the deliveries in the seam, Shamsi can surprise batsmen with the bounce he purchases. It undid Babar Azam, who looked fluent in his innings of 50, before he went for a sweep, only for the extra bounce to take the faint edge that Quinton de Kock pouted and reviewed. Shamsi's template was simple — attack the stumps and let the bounce do the rest, apart from slipping in the variation.

Earlier, he tested Iftikhar, who has a history of struggling against spinners, with his variations, until he ran out of patience. As the 'Chacha' stepped out with the sole intention to hit the sphere out of his sight, Shamsi slipped in the googly that took the leading edge. The wicket of Babar in the next over meant that inside 30 overs, South Africa had half of Pakistan side down. Shamsi wasn't finished yet. As Saud Shakeel was threatening to break the shackles and their pacers getting punished, Bavuma turned to Shamsi. The left-hander, who had been feasting on width, suddenly froze. Shamsi's arrival made him a bit jittery for the first time in the afternoon. Having been a bit slow until then, he slipped in a faster one that took Shakeel's edge, which de Kock pocketed for his fourth wicket, with Shaheen Shah Afridi on strike, he tossed one up, drew the batsman forward, and found the edge that Maharaj consumed at slip. Shamsi, looked up, folded his hands and thanked, wondering where he will get his next opportunity.

CUP OF WOES

As Pakistan cricket burned, PCB was busy playing musical chairs

SANDEEP DWIVEDI
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

AROUND THE TIME Pakistan was batting at Chennai, the PCB twitter handle put out a video that featured chairman Zaka Ashraf in his office. Zaka has an impressive work place with a picture of Quaid-e-Azam on the wall, the national flag on the side, an impressive mahogany desk and behind it is the elephant in the room. The chair.

In days to come if Pakistan has some World Cup 2023 inquest, along with captain Babar Azam and cricket director Mickey Arthur, those who have sat on that chair since 2018 — Ehsan Mani, Rameez Raja, Najam Sethi, Zaka Ashraf — too need to be questioned. Bringing in Imran Khan too wouldn't be a bad idea — he too has had a role in Pakistan's botched up World Cup. Pakistan's hopeless situation on the stands table has a lot to do with its ad-hoc and unsteady cricketing set-up.

There are a few who have taken potshots at the policy-makers. On a television talk show, cricketing great Wasim Akram, after his long monologue against the usual suspects — Babar and Arthur — folded his hands and made an appeal to the chairmen. "Please, please *thoda mulk ke liye bhii soch lo* (Think of the na-

tion a little bit)".

While Akram's lament on television sounds theatrical, his senior, Mudassar Nazar, is more rational. Nazar, the all-rounder from the Imran Khan era, was in-charge of PCB Academy, aka the Pakistan Pace Factory, till 2021. Mudassar's professorial tone and economy of words make him the perfect mentor for adrenaline-charged boys with 150-kph dreams. He should also be essential listening for Pakistan's fans looking for long-term solutions.

In UAE for the past couple of years as director of cricket, Nazar is the voice of reason. He does blame Pakistan's sudden slump to bad selections and the sudden injury to pacer Naseem Shah but for him what was more damaging was the "musical chairs" at the top.

"Obviously when they are playing musical chairs it has had an impact. Even if they have done the same job in the past, returning to power after a few years is difficult. They start by grappling with the issues concerning the national team and the development of young players go on the backburner. By the time they think of the development of the game in the country, they realise it is too late and it is time to go," he says.

The all-rounder from the 80s says that every regime change pushes cricket back by



Dejected Pakistan team leaves the field after their defeat to South Africa AP

six to eight months. Since in Pakistan, the Prime Minister is also the PCB's patron-in-chief, every political change impacts its cricket. Political appointees take key positions. Reports say that PCB's present staff strength is close to 900, much more than most nations.

Having served PCB in various capacities, Nazar knows the chaos and confusion when the tide turns. "This harms cricket. Whoever comes to power should be there for three to five years. We need stability, right now we are

a laughing stock," he says.

He gives the example of the Pace Factory to press his point. In one season of transition, PCB changed the medical staff and this derailed the assembly line. "There were doctors who were aware about the history of the young pacers, their medical files, since their u-16 to u-19 days. When a new guy joins, by the time he assesses the bowlers it is too late," he says.

Nazar had a longish stint, that was the time he was the father figure to young pacers. He

had a plan in place so that injuries could be avoided. "We would first assess why a cricketer gets injured. We look at the bowling action and see what is causing stress," he says.

Before this World Cup Pakistan's pace pool was full of the walking wounded. Naseem, Mohammad Hasnain and Ihsanullah — all pacers of international repute — got injured. India planned Bumrah's return perfectly, Pakistan failed to keep their sharpest weapons ready for the big battle.

Under Najam Sethi, PCB decided to recall coach Mickey Arthur. The South African got a sweet-heart deal. He could stay employed with Glamorgan but work with Pakistan's team remotely.

There was wide-spread protests against the decision but Sethi truly believed that a foreign coach was the antidote to the *parchi* problem — nepotism and favouritism. Looking at Babar's men on field, it was clear that the move had failed.

This wasn't the only radical move. When Imran Khan as PM appointed his World Cup winning teammate Raja as PCB chief, there was excitement in the air. Imran believed in cricket's professional set-up, the kind he had seen abroad. Imran pushed a directive that stopped the government institutions from playing first-class cricket. Economic slow

down had already resulted in banks — the traditional employers of cricketers — freezing the hiring of sports persons. Players now stared at a dark future.

"Imran always had this notion that we should run our cricket the Australian way. But grade cricket has sponsorship, that's their strength. Club cricket is financed by alcohol and punters but that's not possible here. We don't have that kind of money in Pakistan. Pakistan lost a number of cricketers since they returned to their homes and pursued other professions to make ends meet," he says.

Nazar isn't a pessimist. He doesn't agree with the doomsday predictions that are prevalent in the nation in a state of shock. He says it's a cycle, things will turn around, Pakistan will find world-class players and a champion side.

What about the former cricketer who says that cricket in Pakistan will go the squash and hockey way? "Pakistan is a poor country and a lot of former players are jobless. They join the bandwagon and they know everyone is glued to the TV. Former players join the bandwagon and start criticising the team, most of them are looking for a job in the PCB set up," he says.

Last heard, the PCB has invited a bunch of former cricketers, all TV pundits, for a discussion and to give solutions.

SHORT TAKES

STANDINGS

	M	W	L	T	PTS	NRRI
SA	6	5	1	0	10	+2.032
Ind	5	5	0	0	10	+1.353
NZ	5	4	1	0	8	+1.481
Aus	5	3	2	0	6	+1.142
SL	5	2	3	0	4	-0.205
Pak	6	2	4	0	4	-0.387
Afg	5	2	3	0	4	-0.969
Ban	5	1	4	0	2	-1.253
Eng	5	1	4	0	2	-1.634
Ned	5	1	4	0	2	-1.902

SEMIFINAL SCENARIO
Pak need to win all 3, hope other results go their way

SOUTH AFRICA: With 10 points in their kitty, they are almost assured of a semifinal spot. Another win will, more or less, confirm it.

INDIA: With five wins out of five, the hosts have one foot in the semifinals already. One more victory is likely to make it official.

NEW ZEALAND: They are on eight points and would look for at least two wins from their remaining four games to go through.

AUSTRALIA: Three wins out of five should see them in the semifinals, with matches against Afghanistan and Bangladesh to come.

SRI LANKA: Two wins on the bounce have brought them back in the conversation a bit, but they may have to win all their remaining fixtures to confirm their semifinal spot.

PAKISTAN: With four defeats out of six, they are almost out. They may have to win all their remaining matches to stay in the net run rate calculations.

AFGHANISTAN: They are not out of the mathematical equations, but will most likely look to add to the two upsets they have registered in the tournament so far.

BANGLADESH: Their points tally (2 from 5 matches) and form so far don't indicate that they are in the running any more.

ENGLAND: It's been a disastrous title defence from the holders, and they themselves believe that they have been eliminated.

NETHERLANDS: They have been plucky and have one notable upset to their credit. They would aim to beat the other teams in the bottom half of the points table before bowing out.

'Shakib's trip to Dhaka didn't affect squad'

Kolkata: The Bangladesh squad were not affected by skipper Shakib Al Hasan's unplanned trip to Dhaka in the middle of their World Cup campaign and they appreciate the fact that he went to hone his technique, Taskin Ahmed said on Friday.

Shakib travelled to Dhaka this week and local media reported he had a three-hour net session with his childhood mentor, before returning to Kolkata where Bangladesh play the Netherlands on Saturday.

When asked if team morale had taken a hit when Shakib left the squad, Taskin told reporters: "No, actually it's not affected (us) much. I think after he came back, we had a really good time."

"But actually, he went for some improvements, he has not battled as well as he expected." REUTERS

The loss to Pakistan that hurt us Afghans the most was in the 2019 World Cup. We had thought we would win that easily. But Pakistan had controlled their emotions better than because of experience. This time, our fielding, batting and bowling were far better than Pakistan. And we stuck to our plan.

— RAEES AHMEDZAI, AFGHANISTAN ASSISTANT CRICKET COACH

'From watching cricket in Pakistan refugee camps to beating them in WC is immense'

Afghanistan-Pakistan rivalry, thanks to the political tensions between the neighbouring countries, goes beyond the cricket field

SHIVANI NAIK
PUNE, OCTOBER 27

IMAGINE AN Afghan baritone explaining a cricketer's canon of chasing steep totals, by controlling emotions, in One Day Internationals.

"Afghans hate losing at anything, even in business. But the most in cricket. It's in our nature to hate losing," says Raees Ahmedzai, assistant coach of the Afghanistan cricket team, explaining how the 0-7 win-loss count against Pakistan over the years in 50-over cricket had gnawed at their pride. The Afghans travel with bright red print carpets that they spread out to offer evening namaz before starting practice at the MCA stadium in Pune, after arriving from beating Pakistan.

The political tensions between the two neighbouring countries always lent a crackling edge to their faceoffs. "But sometimes aggression creates problems when you can't control emotions in cricket," Ahmedzai would patiently say of recurrent Afghan defeats.

Calmly chasing down Pakistan's total of 282/7 this week, Afghanistan reached 286/2 with an over to spare with their top four scoring 65, 87, 77 and 48 and two clinical partnerships of 130 and 60. With that historic 8-wicket-win in the World Cup over Pakistan at Chennai, the image of the Cool Afghan was born.

Beyond the geopolitical flashpoint of the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, and the combustible interpersonal equations arising out of how Afghans fleeing war have been treated in Pakistani refugee camps, lay a pure cricketing lesson in composure. Indians can snaffle the credit by attributing it to one of their smartest middle-order brains, Ajay Jadeja, mentoring the Afghans, and it wouldn't be off the mark.

But nobody can deny that Messrs Gurbaz, Zadran, Rahmat and Hashmatullah pulled off one of the shrewdest run-chases against the fancied bowling attack of their arch rivals. Only after the victory was sealed did its patient architect Ibrahim Zadran (87 off 113), dedicate the win to the lakhs of Afghan refugees who are being forcibly deported back by a paranoid Pakistan.

For Raees Ahmedzai, the Chennai chomp to make the score 1-7 was revenge served icy cold, from four years ago. "The loss to Pakistan that hurt us Afghans the most was in the 2019 World Cup. We had thought we would win that easily. But Pakistan had controlled their emotions better than because of experience. This time, our fielding, batting and bowling were far better than Pakistan. And we stuck to our plan," Ahmedzai remarks. Chasing Afghanistan's target of 227/9 at Headingley, Pakistan had won narrowly by 3 wickets with 2 balls remaining back in 2019.

Afghans had stewed over a bunch of other losses in the last overs, while coming close to beating Pakistan. "But everyone wanted to do something special against them. It's been four evenings, but Afghans



The Afghans travel with bright red print carpets that they spread out to offer namaz every day; Afghanistan beat Pakistan for the first time in eight meetings. Rajesh Stephan/PTI

back home are still celebrating because it was Pakistan," Ahmedzai informs.

Painful past

Celebrations typically have seen entire communities getting together for lavish meals, rustled up at the sprawling Hujras—elaborate, inviting guest houses. "People are calling guests over as if it's Eid. We have these big guest houses where 50-100 people come over to celebrate special occasions. That is how much beating Pakistan means to us," Ahmedzai explains.

Afghanistan might not boast of state-of-the-art facilities, but like those expansive rambling homesteads, the Afghans treasure their open spaces, grounds by the brooks even with pebbles strewn to run around playing cricket. Space was a luxury denied to most who first learnt cricket in Pakistan refugee camps.

Ahmedzai was born at Peshawar after his family fled the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, and settled in one of the cramped refugee settlements. At age eight, he first discovered cricket when Imran Khan won the World Cup in 1992, and his schoolmates described

to him snatches of what the game was. He slowly fell in love with the sport, but playing it was a torment as a refugee child. "I spent a lot of time in refugee camps in Pakistan, living in tents in what were restricted areas. Sometimes we wanted to play, but were not allowed to cross to that side. For us, from watching cricket in refugee camps in Pakistan to getting into a position to beating them at World Cups is immense," he adds.

Ahmedzai would return to Logan province and become a part of the national team which was formed in 2001, and that progressed to the 2009 ICC World Cup Qualifiers and later gained ODI status. Returning felt free. Debuting against Scotland, he scored 39, helping Afghanistan to a 39 run victory in the first-ever ODI the country had ever played. He would go on to play the ICC World T20 in 2010, and then move into coaching.

While cricket afforded some solace as a child, life as a refugee was hard. "Till 15-16 we had no shoes, running on hot baking surfaces in 45 degrees. Our junior team didn't have spikes. There was no clean running water and there were lots of inspections," he recalls. Inspections typically meant taunts as refugees and less-than-civil interactions from authorities, memories that scarred. "Yes, some of us learnt cricket in Pakistan. But this team has trained in Afghanistan with our facilities, our mentality, our aggression and our traditions."

He goes a step further. "India is No 1 in Asia, but the day is not far when Afghanistan



will dislodge Pakistan as No 2 in the subcontinent. So the Chennai win wasn't just a big thing for the team, but it was the best day in the history of Afghanistan."

Ahmedzai reckons that their success wasn't entirely unexpected. "A win is a win, and we hate to lose. We had the skills and passion, but the one against England gave us confidence. It was sad to lose against New Zealand, but we were expecting to beat them with good spinners and in ideal conditions. We have come well prepared," he says.

While the spinners Rashid Khan, Mujeeb-ur-Rehman and Noor Ahmed were expected to deliver, the batsmen have held strong in discipline too. It is only their third ODI against England and the Kiwis. "If big teams play us more often, they are soon going to think twice

about considering us underdogs," he adds.

It is in the manner of their wins that the Afghans have stunned the most. "We beat England one-sided on a good batting track," he offers. The Afghans whacked 280+ against both England and Pakistan. "Inshallah we'll win more matches," he says.

Ahmedzai recalls being deterred by his father from playing cricket, which was then seen as a Pakistani sport, and a distraction from studies. "There was no family support. I had problems with my father who stopped me. Now when he takes my kids to the ground, I ask him why he didn't support me! But now, Afghan girls and boys and women follow cricket, know all the three formats. Cricket is good for the unity of the nation, it's not about different languages or different tribes."

Rachin's WC: Stare from Kohli, batting with Conway, meeting the Dalai Lama

RAHUL PANDEY
OCTOBER 27

SOMETIME EARLIER this year, Ravi Krishnamurthy was in Bangalore along with his students from the Hutt's Hawks Club in Wellington for one of their cricket tours to India. He took his son to a stock exchange bar in the city and asked him, "Remember this place in 2019?" Rachin Ravindra, the son, remembered it all too well; it was the place where he saw New Zealand play England in the 2019 world cup final. "I was like, 'Yeah!'".

Five games into the 2023 World Cup, as he stands as the leading run scorer for New Zealand, Rachin Ravindra hopes for another visit when the Kiwis play their last two league games in the Garden City. "It's a great memory to look back at. Hopefully, we can make a little visit there," Rachin tells *The Indian Express*.

Reflecting on the coincidence of his journey unfolding in India, where he also made his Test cricket debut a few years back, the 23-year-old Rachin takes a moment to appreciate the way things have worked out. Adjusting his glasses on a sunny day in Dharamsala, he takes his time to think: "With the role I do, I always have a chance to play more in the subcontinent than anywhere else in the world. I'm lucky enough to have pretty special debuts in India. Every experience I've had coming here has been a cool one." One of them was his last outing for the Black Caps.

A top-of-the-table clash against India that went right down the wire saw Rachin arrive as early as the fourth over after Mohammed Siraj had removed his good mate Devon Conway. And offering him a death stare was one of the two batsmen he admires in contemporary cricket. Rachin smiles before conceding, "To have [Virat] Kohli in your face, and the intensity of seeing that was quite interesting."

There's dejection that Rachin feels not having been able to push for a 300 plus total on the day but he's grateful for being able to stand up to the table toppers.

"Whenever you play India, it's never going to be easy. Especially in their home conditions and the type of form they're in right now. Obviously you want to compete, but also be grateful for standing in the middle. Someone like [Ravindra] Jadeja, I've idolized him. They are great of the game. You want to be playing against them as much as you can."

Two things would stand out from Rachin's 75 on Sunday. His wristwork to play square and his audacious response - a gorgeous straight drive off Shami - when the seamers went around the wicket to cramp him.

The wrist work came from watching the two players who make up for his portmanteau name: Rahul Dravid and Sachin Tendulkar. "I looked at those guys for my inspiration. If you look at the way Dravid and Sachin, how they used their wrists to place the ball into the gaps and generate power while still having a very good technical base, it was something I really



With 290 runs, Rachin Ravindra is the leading scorer for New Zealand at this WC. AP

admired. Everyone has their own way of batting, and that's how I've come to mine," Rachin says. It was visible when Rachin shuffled his feet to track back in his crease and open the face of his bat to steal a four down backward point off Kuldeep.

It was, however, that straight drive that reaffirmed Rachin's belief at the biggest stage. A straight drive off one of Shami's picture perfect seam up delivery for four. So glorious that Dinesh Karthik compared it to the Himalayan scenery down the ground. "Picture perfect just

To have (Virat) Kohli in your face, and the intensity of seeing that was quite interesting."

— RACHIN RAVINDRA

ON VIRAT KOHLI GIVING HIM AN INTENSE STARE

like the background," he'd say on comms.

Rachin blushes upon hearing the same. "I don't think I'll call it that. DK. That's a pretty huge compliment for it to be anything like those mountains (laughs). I think you look back at it, it's good to have that. You're hitting shots against the best bowlers in the world. It's nice to have these moments and be like, 'I can compete at this level.'" So is a hundred on your World Cup debut.

Having been able to do so in the repeat of the 2019 fixture he watched in India was a big deal in itself. But the fact that Rachin was in the middle alongside Devon Conway made it all the more special. The two have shared the Wellington Firebirds dressing room even before they made their national teams debut. There's a three-year-old YouTube video one can go back to, where Conway hypes up a 20-year-old Rachin as his favorite batting partner. Earlier this month in Ahmedabad, the two shared the 22-yards - scoring the first couple of hundreds at this World Cup.

"It was pretty funny. We kind of mentioned it on a bus ride two days before. 'I can't imag-

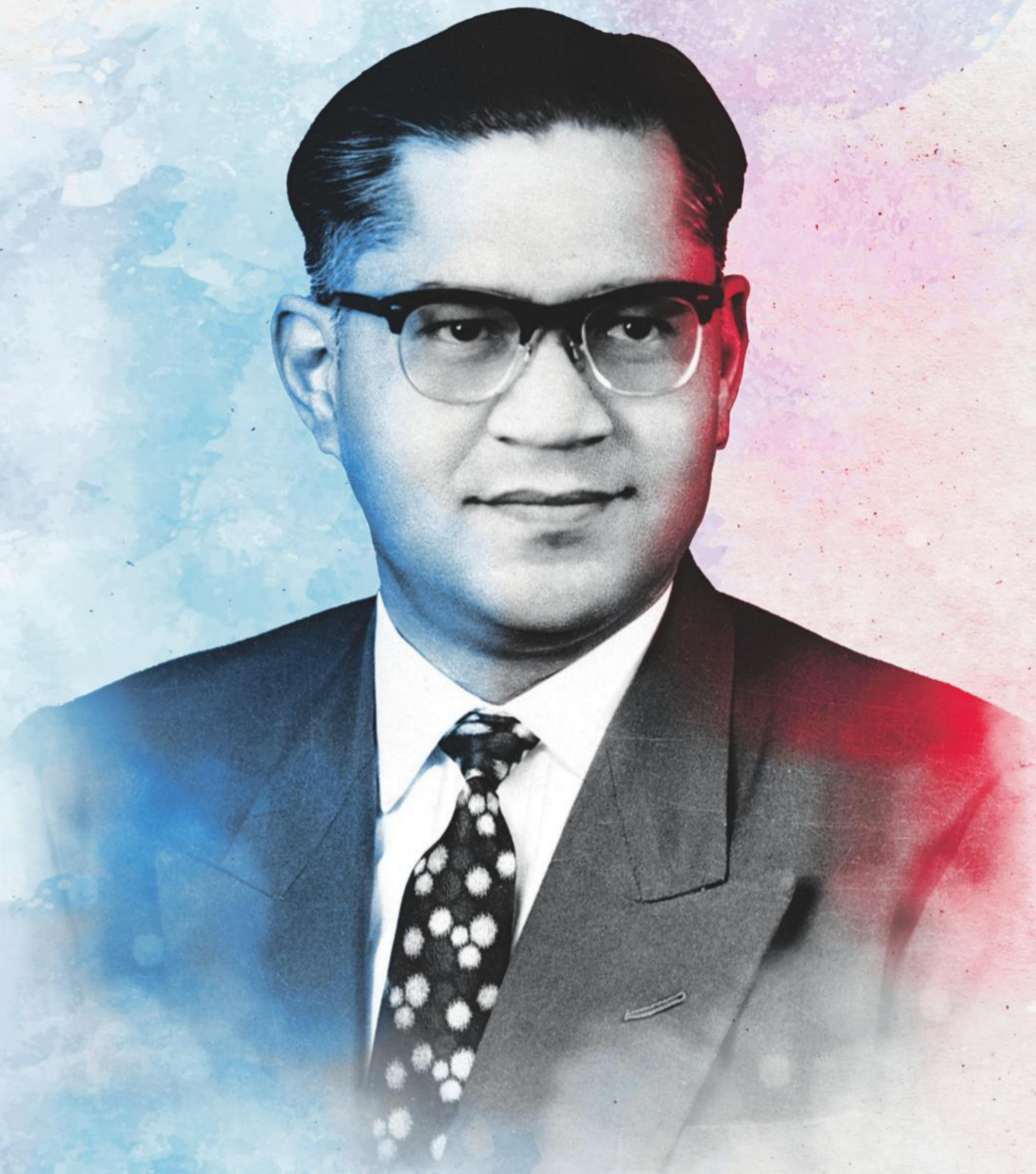
ine if we get hundreds out there batting with each other.' It somehow happened. It was special to share that moment with him because I've spent a lot of time with him. Something that I'll never forget is seeing him run past and he was more excited for my hundred than he was for his," Rachin says.

The emotions of his father, who was in the stands at the Narendra Modi Stadium that night, were a lot more subdued. "He's kind of been my coach since I was young. It's been a balancing act. He's someone who doesn't get too high or too low and that's very helpful to have in my camp. Someone who looks at things from a logical standpoint and not emotional. Obviously, mum and dad were very proud. Dad, he won't be that emotional but inside I know he's very happy." Something about India's cricket parenting heritage? "Haha, even a hundred isn't enough."

At 23, being his country's leading-run getter in a World Cup, what's the end goal? "Obviously, cricket is a massive part of our lives but it's not life or death. You take that pressure off when you realize that. Being able to experience all the things we've done here (in Dharamsala): meet someone like the Dalai Lama, to be in this different backdrop with the mountains, you can switch away and keep that calmness in the game. It's important that we bring that to the game. Because there's a lot of pressure when it comes to a World Cup. Everyone wants to win it, but it's all about that stuff in between."

TVS 

*A dream that inspires
and a legacy that endures*



Remembering **T. S. Srinivasan**
on his birth centenary

His vision and values will forever inspire and guide us.

GOLD	USD RATE	OIL	SILVER
₹62,950	₹83.25	\$90.02	₹70,906

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of October 27

SENSEX: 63,782.80 ▲ 634.65 (1.01%) NIFTY: 19,047.25 ▲ 190 (1.07%) NIKKEI: 30,991.69 ▲ 389.91 HANG SENG: 17,398.73 ▲ 354.12 FTSE: 7,350.76 ▼ 3.81 DAX: 14,791.02 ▲ 59.97

International market data till 19:00 IST

Tata arm to be first Indian company to make iPhones

Tata Electronics to buy Wistron's unit for \$125 million

AYANTI BERBA
BENGALURU, OCTOBER 27

IT'S FINAL. Taiwan-based Apple contract manufacturer Wistron Corp on Friday approved the sale of its plant in Karnataka to Tata group. This paves the way for the salt-to-software conglomerate to become the first domestic entity to manufacture iPhones.

"The transaction price is tentatively estimated at \$125 million," Wistron said in a statement. The company's board met on Friday to grant approval to subsidiaries, SMS InfoComm (Singapore) and Wistron Hong Kong, to sign an agreement with Tata Electronics for the sale of its 100 per cent indirect stake in Wistron InfoComm Manufacturing (India).

The deal will need to get regulatory approval after the agreement is signed. Talks between the Wistron and Tata Group were underway for more than a year. They have not yet sought regulatory approval for the deal.

"PM @narendramodiji's visionary PLI scheme has already propelled India into becoming a trusted & major hub for smartphone manufacturing and exports. Now within just two and

a half years, @TataCompanies will now start making iPhones from India for domestic and global markets from India," minister of state for electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar, said on X.

The telecom ministry fully supports the growth of global Indian electronics companies that will, in turn, support global electronic brands that want to make India their trusted manufacturing and talent partner, he said.

Wistron also said its subsidiary, SMS InfoComm (Singapore), has proposed to convert debt of \$130.26 million to Wistron InfoComm Manufacturing into equity, as a part of the deal.

Wistron, which is one of Apple's three contract manufacturers in India, currently employs more than 10,000 workers at its facility. The company has also been selected for the smart-phone production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme. With the sale of the plant, the PLI benefits will also get transferred to Tata group.

Wistron is selling its unit due to difficulties in handling supplies and inventory management. Further, the company is struggling to manage its work-

ers, who went on strikes over pay parity issues.

Globally, Wistron will continue as a contract manufacturer for iPhones, and will continue to handle repair services in India.

The Wistron factory currently assembles the iPhone 14. Its commitment to ship at least \$1.8 billion worth of iPhones from the factory in the current financial year will now be taken over by Tata group.

Lately, Apple has been looking to move its manufacturing ecosystem out of China and the manufacturing partnership with Tata group will help it in this process. It will also lead to a larger relocation of Apple's manufacturing base to India. According to industry estimates, Wistron exported nearly \$500 million in iPhones from India in the April to June period.

According to industry estimates, Apple's sales from India rose nearly 45% to \$6 billion in FY23, hitting a record high. The company's exports from India are estimated to have crossed over \$5 billion.

Tata group has also been among the major beneficiaries in the Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors. **FE**

PM calls for greater self-reliance in cybersecurity hardware, software

SOUAMYARENDRA BARIK
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi has called for India to become self-reliant in cybersecurity across hardware and software, highlighting that having a control over the value chain will ensure security of the country's digital infrastructure.

"For cybersecurity, self-reliance is very important in the entire manufacturing value chain — be it hardware, software or connectivity. When everything in the value chain is under our national domain, it will help us in keeping them secure," Modi said on Friday at the seventh edition of the India Mobile Congress.

The statement by the prime minister holds significance as it comes after India tried to impose restrictions on the import of laptops and computers, and later went back on it. However, the rationale behind the move was to ensure security of India's digital networks, since a majority of these imports come from China.

The prime minister also said that India should establish itself as a thought leader as a natural progression from being an adopter and implementer of technology.

In a political dig at the Opposition, the PM compared the previous governments to mobile phones in use during those times, saying both were always in the



(From left) Reliance Jio Infocomm Chairman Akash Ambani, Aditya Birla Group Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla, and Bharti Enterprises Founder and Chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal, during the inauguration of the 7th edition of the India Mobile Congress, at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, in New Delhi on Friday. ANI

"hang mode".

"We have to remember that we have come so far... Outdated phones used to hang earlier, and no matter how many times you swiped the screen, it had no effect. That time's government was in the same situation, it was always in the hang mode," he said. "In 2014, people left behind such an outdated phone and gave us an opportunity to serve. The changes are quite clear," he added.

Reiterating that India has witnessed the fastest 5G roll-out of anywhere in the world, with 4 lakh base stations having covered

around 80 per cent of the population within a year, Modi said that higher internet speeds are not just a matter of numbers and rankings, but also improve ease of living.

"... Everyone gets a dignified life, and technology benefits reach everyone, we are working for it, and for me this is the biggest social justice," Modi said. He also claimed that India will "lead the world" in 6G technology.

The PM also highlighted the increase in electronics manufacturing activity in India, adding that the government was "proud that

the world is using made in India phones".

"We used to import phones, but today we export. Earlier, our presence in manufacturing was next to nothing, but today we are the second biggest in electronics manufacturing. Before, there was no clear vision for electronics manufacturing. Today, we are exporting Rs 2 lakh crore worth electronics. Google has also recently announced that it will manufacture Pixel phones in India, Samsung's Fold5 and iPhone 15 are already being made here," the prime minister underscored.

During the period, Maruti sold 552,055 units out of which sales in the domestic market were 482,731 units and the remaining 69,324 vehicles were exported. The total sales were up by 6.7 per cent from 517,395 units sold in the same period last year, when the total number in the domestic market was 454,200 units, and 63,195 units in overseas markets.

According to analysts, the significant volume jump was largely due to new sports utility vehicle launches as well as discounts for low-end car models during the quarter. The company achieved a market share of 23.3 per cent in the SUV segment.

Maruti said that it recorded its highest-ever quarterly sale volume, net sales and net profit during the quarter.

On Friday, Maruti shares closed up 1.3% at ₹10,560.70 on the BSE. **FE**

RIL net profit up 29.7% on growth momentum in consumer business

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 27

AIDED BY the continuing growth momentum in consumer businesses, Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has reported a 29.7 per cent rise in net profit at Rs 19,878 crore for the quarter ended September 2023 as against Rs 15,332 crore in the year-ago period. The net profit attributable to the owners of company rose 27.37 per cent to Rs 17,394 crore for the quarter as against Rs 13,656 crore in the second quarter of the last financial year.

Revenue rose by 1.2 per cent to Rs 255,996 crore for the quarter as against Rs 252,846 crore in the same period of last year.

Meanwhile, RIL's digital arm Jio Platforms Ltd posted a 12 per cent rise in net profit at Rs 5,297 crore for the September quarter as against Rs 4,729 crore in the corresponding quarter last year. Its revenue increased by 10.6 per cent to Rs 31,537 crore, led by 7.5 per cent increase in subscriber

base and higher ARPU. Strong net subscriber addition and sharp increase in data traffic supported 80 bps margin improvement in Jio Platforms, the company said.

Also, Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL) posted a 21 per cent rise in net profit at Rs 2,790 crore for the latest quarter and a 18.8 per cent increase in revenue to Rs 77,148 crore with growth momentum across consumption baskets, led by food and grocery which grew by 33 per cent.

RIL shares rose 1.75 per cent to Rs 2,265.25 on the BSE on Friday.

RIL Chairman and MD Mukesh D Ambani attributed the positive performance by the group to "strong operational and financial contribution" from all business segments.

"By December 2023, we will also complete pan-India rollout of 5G services and set a new global benchmark for the fastest roll-out of a 5G network across a large nation. Reliance Retail has continued to rapidly expand its

offline as well as online presence, while adding to its already impressive range of products and offering," Ambani said.

The RIL chairman said that the group is providing a "fresh and friendly" shopping experience and the "strength and diversity" of its retail business model is consistently delivering "robust performance". "Resilient performance of the O2C (oil to chemicals) segment despite volatility in energy markets was led by strong growth in fuel demand in a supply-constrained market," he said.

Ambani said that weak global demand and supply-overhang continued to impact downstream margins. "The growth of oil and gas business is particularly noteworthy with production from KGD6 block ramping up, providing valuable fuel for energy transition to the Indian economy," he said.

RIL said O2C revenue declined with 14 per cent decrease in crude oil prices, leading to lower price realisation for products.

Jio demonstrates nation's 1st satellite-based giga fiber service

JATIN GROVER
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

RELIANCE JIO on Friday demonstrated the country's first satellite-based giga fiber service JioSpaceFiber to provide high speed broadband services to previously inaccessible geogra-

phies within India. "Jio has enabled millions of homes and businesses in India to experience broadband Internet for the first time. With JioSpaceFiber, we expand our reach to cover the millions yet to be connected," Akash Ambani, chairman, Reliance Jio said at the inaugural session of the three-day Indian Mobile

Congress in New Delhi.

Meanwhile, Sunil Bharti Mittal, chairman of Bharti Enterprises, that its OneWeb Satellite communication is ready to serve the demand.

"Anybody, anywhere in the country can be connected from next month onwards from our satellite ground station that is

being set up in Gujarat," Mittal said.

Both Airtel and Jio reaffirmed their commitment to soon cover the whole country with 5G services. However, they were silent on how they plan to monetise the services, where tariffs are same as that of 4G services. **FE**

Ambani scions get shareholders' nod for Reliance board position

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

BILLIONAIRE MUKESH Ambani's three children on Friday attended the board meeting of Reliance Industries Ltd soon after they won shareholders' nod to be a director on the board of India's most valuable company.

All three — twins Akash and Isha, and Anant — attended the meeting of the board of directors called to approve second quarter

(July-September) earnings of Reliance Industries Ltd, company officials said. The three got shareholder nod through a postal ballot, setting in motion a succession plan at India's most valuable company.

While twins Akash and Isha, 32, got more than 98 per cent of the votes for a board seat, Anant, 28, whose appointment had been opposed by proxy advisory firms because of his young age, managed to get 92.7 per cent votes, an exchange filing of the company said.

BRIEFLY

Amazon profits treble in Sept quarter

New York: Amazon, the world's largest retailer, reported a 300 per cent rise in profits in the latest quarter as consumers continued to spend heavily despite the sharp rise in interest rates. Revenue at the company rose 13% to \$143.1 billion in the quarter clearing expectations on Wall Street. **AGENCIES**

Indian experts in new AI body

Eminent technology experts hailing from India have been named to a new global advisory body announced by UN

Secretary General Antonio Guterres to support the international community's efforts to govern artificial intelligence. **PTI**

Karnataka Bank nods at allotment of ₹ 800 cr equity

The board of Karnataka Bank has approved the allotment of 3.34 crore equity shares to HDFC Life Insurance, Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance, Quant Mutual Fund, Bharti AXA Life Insurance, and Bajaj Allianz General Insurance at an approximate aggregate amount of Rs 800 crore on a preferential basis. **ENS**

'Hotel industry to report double - digit revenue growth in FY24'

The growth will be supported by the sustenance of domestic leisure and business travel and an increase in foreign tourist arrivals, as per rating agency Icria



"Demand is expected to remain strong across markets in FY24 as consumer sentiments continue to be healthy and corporate performance is stable," said Vinutaa S, Icria VP and Sector Head — Corporate Ratings

PREMIUM HOTEL OCCUPANCY:

Estimated in FY24 70-72%
FY23 68-70%

₹6,000-6,200

Pan-India premium hotel average room rates in FY24

- The industry has benefitted from the G20 summit and ongoing ICC World Cup 2023
- The medium-term demand outlook remains healthy

FACTORS FOR DEMAND:

- Improvement in infrastructure and air connectivity
- Favourable demographics
- Anticipated growth in large-scale meetings & conference

Source: ICRA/PTI

Indices end losing streak of 6 sessions on strong global cues

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 27

DOMESTIC EQUITY markets snapped six continuous days' losing streak and rebounded over 1 per cent on Friday, tracking strong global cues.

Asian markets surged after data showed that the US economy accelerated at its fastest pace in over two years to grow at 4.9 per cent in the third quarter. The US market also gained after strong earnings from e-commerce giant Amazon.

gained 634.65 points, or 1.01 per cent, to end at 63,782.8. The NSE's Nifty 50 rose 189.95 points, or 1.01 per cent to finish at 19,047.2.

Between October 18 and October 26, the 30-share BSE slipped by 3,280 points, or 4.9 per cent, and the Nifty 50 dropped by 954 points, or 4.82 per cent as foreign portfolio investors (FPI) sold domestic shares on concerns over escalating geo-political tensions and rising bond yields in the US market.

"Domestic equities ended higher following positive global cues. US Q3 GDP data came in at two-year high of 4.9 per cent,

which was better than expectation of 4.2 per cent and shows strong US economy resilience," said Siddhartha Khemka, Head-Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd.

Even on the domestic front, heavyweights like Maruti, Cipla and Dr Reddy came out with robust results during the session which boosted investor sentiments, he said.

"Markets were in an oversold zone after a six-session fall and investors were already anticipating a relief rally soon. Aided by a recovery in several Asian indices, domestic equities bounced back

sharply on strong all-round buying support and Nifty once again retained the 19,000-mark," said Amol Athawale, Vice President (Technical Research), Kotak Securities Ltd.

According to Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, the domestic market recovered well compared to Thursday's sharp corrections, due to restrained FII's selling along with moderation in currency and global bond yield volatility.

On Friday, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) net sold Rs 1,500.13 crore of domestic shares. They sold equity holdings

worth a net of Rs 7,702.53 crore on Thursday. Between October 18 and October 26, they offloaded Rs 12,062.53 crore of local shares.

Among the Nifty companies, HCL Technologies, Axis Bank, Coal India, Adani Enterprises and State Bank of India were the top gainers, while Dr Reddy's Laboratories, UPL Limited, Asian Paints, Hindalco Industries and ITC Ltd lost the most.

Analysts expect markets to remain volatile going ahead due to the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict, rise in US bond yields and concerns over rate hikes.

Reliance Industries Limited
Growth is Life.

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CIN: L17110MH1973PLC019786

Extract of Unaudited Consolidated Financial Results for the Quarter and Half Year Ended 30th September, 2023

(₹ in crore, except per share data)

Particulars	Quarter Ended	Half Year Ended	Quarter Ended
	30th September, 2023	30th September, 2023	30th September, 2022
Value of Sales & Services (Revenue)	255,996	487,128	252,846
Less: GST Recovered	21,040	41,341	20,629
Revenue from Operations	234,956	445,787	232,217
Profit Before Tax from Continuing Operations	26,551	50,921	20,167
Profit After Tax from Continuing Operations	19,878	38,136	15,332
Profit from Discontinued Operations (Net of Tax)	-	-	180
Profit for the Period	19,878	38,136	15,512
Total Comprehensive Income (after Tax)*	18,747	38,352	5,954
Paid up Equity Share Capital, Equity Shares of ₹ 10/- each	6,766	6,766	6,766
Other Equity excluding Revaluation Reserve**	-	-	-
Earnings per Equity Share (in ₹) (Face value of ₹ 10/- each)			
Continuing Operations			
Basic (in ₹)	25.71	49.37	19.92
Diluted (in ₹)	25.71	49.37	19.92
Discontinued Operations			
Basic (in ₹)	-	-	0.27
Diluted (in ₹)	-	-	0.27
Continuing & Discontinued Operations			
Basic (in ₹)	25.71	49.37	20.19
Diluted (in ₹)	25.71	49.37	20.19

* Includes share of Non-Controlling Interest
** Other Equity excluding Revaluation Reserves for the year ended as on 31st March, 2023 was ₹ 709,106 crore.

Notes:

- The Audit Committee has reviewed the above results and the Board of Directors has approved the above results and its release at their respective meetings held on 27th October, 2023. The Statutory Auditors of the Company have carried out a Limited Review of the aforesaid results.
- Additional information on Unaudited Standalone Financial Results is as follows:

Particulars	Quarter Ended	Half Year Ended	Quarter Ended
	30th September, 2023	30th September, 2023	30th September, 2022
Value of Sales & Services (Revenue)	147,345	279,567	146,106
Less: GST Recovered	6,895	13,218	5,952
Revenue from Operations	140,450	266,349	140,154
Profit Before Tax from Continuing Operations	14,502	27,244	9,592
Profit After Tax from Continuing Operations	11,208	20,835	6,750
Profit from Discontinued Operations (Net of Tax)	-	-	165
Profit for the Period	11,208	20,835	6,915
Total Comprehensive Income (after Tax)	9,831	20,268	4,493

3. The above is an extract of the detailed format of the Unaudited Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results for the quarter and half year ended on 30th September, 2023 filed with the Stock Exchanges pursuant to Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.

The full format of the Unaudited Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results for the quarter and half year ended on 30th September, 2023, are available on the Stock Exchanges' websites (www.bseindia.com / www.nseindia.com) and the Company's website www.ril.com.

For Reliance Industries Limited
Sd/-
Mukesh D. Ambani
Chairman & Managing Director

Date: 27th October, 2023

www.ril.com

EXPLAINED ECONOMICS

INFORM CUSTOMERS WHEN BANKS ASK FOR THEIR CREDIT SCORE: WHAT RBI HAS TOLD CREDIT BUREAUS

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 27

WHEN YOU ask for a loan, the bank wants to check your credit score, which is based on your total debt and previous record on repayment. Going forward, whenever the bank tries to get this information, you will be informed.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has directed credit information companies (CICs) to alert customers through SMS or email when their Credit Information Report (CIR) is accessed by banks and non-banking finance companies (NBFCs). Also, credit institutions (banks and NBFCs) will have to send an SMS or email alert to customers when they submit information to CICs on their default or Days Past Due (DPD) on existing credit.

The new rules will come into effect within six months.

What are Credit Information Companies?

CICs maintain and analyse the consumer and business credit information of individuals and companies across the country, as provided to them by banks and NBFCs. Based on this information, a CIC calculates and generates credit scores for individuals and credit ranks for companies as per their creditworthiness and past credit history.

A customer can get a loan at a relatively attractive rate if their credit score is high. If the credit score is low — perhaps due to defaults on earlier loans — they may not get a loan or a credit card. However, a customer's credit score is not the only factor that determines whether she will get a loan.

TransUnion CIBIL Ltd, Equifax India, and CRIF High Mark are some prominent CICs in India. Where scores are awarded

in the range of 300 and 850, a score of 700 is generally considered good.

What if a customer wants to access her credit score?

The credit score can be obtained from the CIC, usually against a payment. The RBI has addressed this issue directly in its circular of October 26.

The RBI has said that CICs should provide easy access to a "Free Full Credit Report (FFCR)", including credit score, once in every calendar year (January-December) to all individuals whose credit history is available with the CIC. The link to the FFCR must be displayed prominently on the CIC's website, so that individuals are able to access their report conveniently, the central bank has said.

What if a customer feels her data is not correct?

There is a process to apply for the correction of data in a customer's CIR. In its circular, the RBI said banks and NBFCs should inform customers of the reason for the rejection of their request for data correction, if any, so that such customers are better able to understand the issues in the CIR.

What steps should the CICs take at their end?

The central bank said that CICs should have a board-approved policy for undertaking a periodic review, at least on a half-yearly basis, of the 'search & match' logic algorithm that they use to generate the borrower's CIR. CICs should undertake a "root cause analysis" of complaints, use it to identify issues in the 'search & match' logic algorithm.

Also, CICs should disclose on their websites the details of complaints registered against them and the CICs, the RBI said.

EXPLAINED ECONOMICS

India, Qatar, natural gas

In the relationship between nations, trade plays a significant role. Central to the ties between New Delhi and Doha is LNG, the fuel on which India is critically dependent — and of which Qatar is the predominant supplier. This is the context in which diplomacy around the eight Indians on death row will take place

SUKALP SHARMA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

THE DEATH sentence given to eight former personnel of the Indian Navy by a court in Qatar presents the biggest challenge yet to New Delhi's historically friendly ties with Doha. In the relationship between nations, trade relations play a significant role. In the case of India and Qatar, the balance of trade is tilted heavily in the latter's favour — which means imports from Qatar far outweigh India's exports.

What also gives Qatar huge leverage is the nature of the trade — dominated as it is by a commodity of critical importance to India, now and for the foreseeable future. It is India's largest source of liquefied natural gas (LNG) — gas that has been super cooled to liquid form so that it can be transported by sea — accounting for more than half of overall import volumes of the fuel. Indeed, LNG is at the heart of the trade relationship — it makes up almost 50% of overall Indian imports (by value) from Qatar. (See table)

Gas import dependency

India's import dependency in natural gas is around 50%, and given the government's concerted push to increase natural gas consumption, imports are only likely to rise in the coming years, even if domestic production of natural gas increases.

Government-owned Petronet LNG, India's largest LNG importer, has a long-term contract with Qatar for the import of 8.5 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) of LNG. In addition, Qatari gas has a sizable share in India's LNG purchases from the spot market.

India has set itself an ambitious target to increase the share of natural gas in the primary energy mix to 15% by 2030 from a little more than 6% at present. This is bound to result in a rapid increase in LNG imports over the next few years.

Natural gas is seen as a significantly cleaner alternative to conventional petroleum fuels like diesel and petrol, and is usually cheaper than crude oil. For India, which has an import dependency of over 85% in crude, gas is both more affordable and a better transition fuel in the energy transition pathway.

Given this situation with India's energy security concerns and ambitions, the case of the retired Navy personnel presents a sensitive challenge for Indian diplomacy.

India, Qatar, and LNG

India's total imports from Qatar in FY2022-23 were valued at \$16.81 billion, of which LNG imports alone were worth \$8.32 billion, or 49.5%, an analysis of official trade data shows.

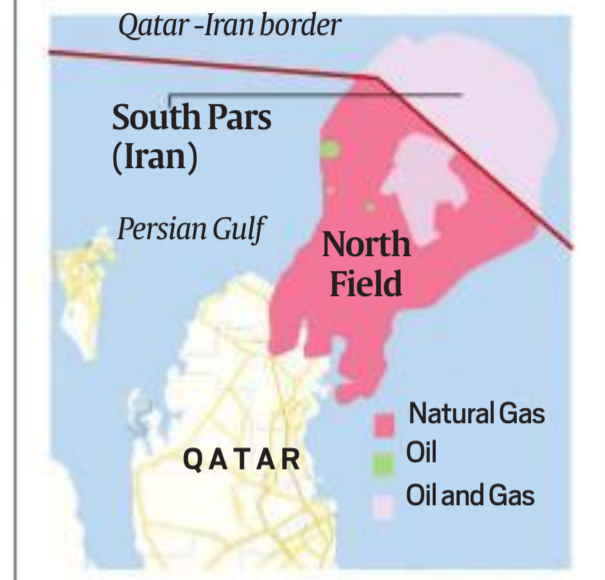
India's other major imports from Qatar are also fossil fuel-linked commodities and products, such as liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), plastics, and other petrochemicals.

On the other hand, India's exports to Qatar were valued at just \$1.97 billion in FY2022-23. The major exports include cereals, copper articles, iron and steel articles, vegetables, fruits, spices, and processed food products.

India imported a total 19.85 million tonnes of LNG in FY23, of which 10.74 million tonnes, or 54%, came from Qatar, the trade data show. This means that apart from the 8.5 million tonnes of LNG that Qatar supplied as part of the Petronet LNG term contract, nearly 2.25 million tonnes of additional gas was purchased from Qatar on spot basis last year.

While Indian LNG importers — predominantly the public sector oil and gas companies — continue to make efforts to

INDIA'S TRADE WITH QATAR



	Volume	Value
FY23 LNG imports from Qatar	10.74 mt	\$8.32 billion
Total LNG imports in FY23	19.85 mt	\$17.11 billion
Qatar's share	54.10%	48.60%
India's total imports from Qatar in FY23		\$16.81 billion
India's LNG imports from Qatar in FY23		\$8.32 billion
LNG's share in India's imports from Qatar in FY23		49.50%

mt: million tonnes, Source: GoI

diversify sourcing, it could be years before the high reliance on Qatar can be reduced to a meaningful extent.

The global LNG market

The global LNG market is a seller's market after Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the sanctions that have disrupted Russian natural gas supplies to Europe. After the war broke out, prices, particularly of LNG spot cargoes, surged globally.

Compared with term contracts (such as the one Petronet has with Qatar), the spot LNG market is prone to higher price volatility. In a supply glut, spot prices tend to fall more steeply than term contracts, as pricing in the latter is based on an agreed formula between the buyer and the seller. And when supplies are tight, spot prices tend to rise much more than term contract rates.

The war has put Qatar, the world's largest exporter of LNG, in a unique position of strength. According to industry experts, the extreme price volatility of the past couple of years in global LNG markets has established that term contracts, and not spot purchases, are the more viable option to secure supplies at a reasonable and stable price.

This has pushed LNG importers all over the world, including India, to scout for long-term contracts with major suppliers, of whom Qatar is the foremost. Over the past few weeks, Doha has announced 27-year LNG supply deals with French, Dutch, and Italian energy majors. In the preceding months, it had signed long-term contracts to supply LNG to China and Germany.

Petronet's term contract runs out in 2028, and negotiations for an extension are currently under way. India is also looking to sign more long-term LNG contracts.

Analysts and industry experts predict that the global LNG market is likely to turn into a buyer's market over the next few years due to a surge in new LNG export projects coming onstream.

This scenario, however, is still a few years away. And even then, a large chunk of this new LNG export capacity is expected to come onstream in Qatar itself.

US ally, sympathiser of Hamas: Qatar's unique position in Middle East

ARJUN SENGUPTA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

AFTER HAMAS released American-Israeli hostages Judith and Natalie Raanan on October 20, US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken said, "I again want to thank the government of Qatar for playing a very important role in getting them out." Hamas then released two more hostages — again, with Qatari mediation.

The tiny gas-rich country on the Persian Gulf is a close ally of the United States and crucial to its military strategy in the Middle East. It also shares close ties with Hamas.

This makes Qatar a crucial negotiator in the hostage crisis. It also spotlights Doha's remarkable balancing act in the region.

Becoming a regional power

In 1971, when British control ended, Qatar was a minor power and oil producer. "The Khalifa took a conciliatory approach to regional politics...engaging in no provocative foreign entanglements, and concentrating on domestic development," security affairs expert David B Roberts wrote in a 2017 paper. (*Securing the Qatari State, for The Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington*)

Three factors ensured that things began to change in the 1990s.

First, the discovery of massive reserves of natural gas fuelled a boom in the Qatari economy. Today, it has the third largest stores of natural gas in the world.

"The hydrocarbon wealth has changed the geopolitical dynamics of the broader Gulf... Other Gulf Arab states appear to be irritated that, instead of being still impoverished, Qatar is now empowered," Simon Henderson, director of the Bernstein Program on Gulf and Energy Policy at The Washington Institute, wrote in 2020.

Second, Qatar grew increasingly close to the US. It supported the Americans in the 1991 Gulf War, and signed a defence cooperation deal with the US in 1992. The Al Udeid Air Base in Doha is the largest US base in the Middle East, hosting some 11,000 personnel today, and providing Doha with a deep sense of security.

Third, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, father of the current Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, ascended the Qatari throne in 1995. "Hamad embarked on a quarter of a century-long play to boost Qatar's soft power in the sporting, media, and educational arenas," Roberts wrote. Perhaps the most prominent in this push was *Al Jazeera*, the state-supported media channel that is perhaps the most visible Qatari export around the world.

A maverick in the Middle East

Over the past three decades, Qatar has asserted its independence in the international arena, refusing to toe the line of the regional hegemon Saudi Arabia.

Unlike the rest of the Arab world, Qatar has maintained good relations with Shia Iran — it is compelled to, since the two countries share a contiguous natural gas field, the largest in the world, under the Persian Gulf.

And during the Arab Spring, as the ruling class in the Arab world tightened ranks to preserve their position, Qatar took a differ-



The Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani last year. AP File

ent, provocative line — it channelled material, financial, diplomatic, and media-related support to actors ranged against the Syrian, Libyan, and Egyptian governments, often through Islamist organisations.

Qatar also has the reputation of being a safe haven for dissidents in the Islamic world — from offering sanctuary to the (late) Egyptian preacher Yusuf al-Qaradawi to hosting an official diplomatic office of the Afghan Taliban. Several members of Hamas' political leadership are allegedly resident in Doha.

In 2017, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, and Egypt imposed a complete trade and diplomatic embargo against Qatar, citing Doha's alleged support of terrorism, closeness to Iran, and interference in the internal affairs of other nations.

The embargo was lifted in 2021, but the mistrust remains.

Qatar, the effective mediator

As the conflict in Gaza continues, Qatar has employed harsh rhetoric against Israel, and *Al Jazeera's* coverage has been strongly critical of Israeli actions, and sympathetic to the Palestinians.

This is in tune with Qatar's foreign policy historically. While Qatar established diplomatic relations with Israel in the 1990s, much to the chagrin of the Saudis at the time, it has also offered unwavering support to Palestinians, especially Hamas, which controls Gaza. Doha has provided Hamas with funding for power needs, public salaries, new apartment buildings, and schools.

"Arab Qataris sympathise with the Palestinians in general, and many share the strict adherence to Islam...that Hamas purportedly follows," Henderson wrote in a policy analysis for *The Washington Institute* this week. (*Qatar's Relations with Washington and Israel Are Being Tested*)

"Qatar's role [in supporting both Hamas and Taliban] has prompted public furor in the United States... Yet its relationships with Hamas and the Taliban have sometimes been encouraged and praised by US administrations for varying policy reasons," he wrote.

It is for this reason that Qatar has repeatedly played the role of mediator during conflicts in the region, and as a proxy for the US and the West where they have been unable to themselves engage directly.

"Washington has [earlier] been grateful for Qatar's major role in helping refugees leave Afghanistan when the Taliban took over in 2021," Henderson wrote.

ROOSTERS CAN RECOGNISE THEMSELVES IN A MIRROR: STUDY

IN A study published in the journal *PLOS One* on Wednesday, researchers have found evidence that roosters can recognise themselves in a mirror. In addition to shedding new light on chicken intellect, the scientists hope that their experiment can prompt reevaluations of the smarts of other animals.

Roosters don't just crow in the morning to wake farmers. They are known to cry out to warn each other when a hawk is circling overhead. But when they're alone and a predator is near, they stay silent to avoid attracting attention.

"They are way smarter than you think," said Sonja Hillemecher, an animal behaviour researcher at the University of Bonn in Germany and the lead author of the study.

To carry out the research, she wrangled roosters and gave them time in an enclosure with a mirror, so they could get

used to the experimental set-up. Because roosters warn others more reliably than hens do, the team chose to focus on them, but they believe the results of the test apply to all chickens. Hillemecher then projected a hawk silhouette over the roosters to see how they would react.

When another rooster was visible through a partition, the rooster that was the subject of an experiment cried out to warn the other of danger. When alone without a mirror, the bird stayed quiet. When another rooster was present, but blocked from view by a mirror, the test subject still tended to stay silent.

The researchers interpreted this behavior to mean that the rooster didn't perceive its reflection to be another rooster, and felt it also showed that the birds were sensing each other with sight — not hearing or smell.



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Now, a PDS 'scam' in Bengal: ED's allegations against TMC's Mallick

ATRI MITRA & SWEETY KUMARI
KOLKATA, OCTOBER 27

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) arrested West Bengal Forest Minister Jyotipriya Mallick early on Friday after interrogating him for nearly 22 hours, over his alleged involvement in a Public Distribution System (PDS) scam in the state.

Mallick was Food and Supplies Minister in Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress government from 2016 to 2021. Amid allegations of a scam during his tenure, Mallick was replaced by Rathin Ghosh in the Mamata government's third term.

The alleged scam

Mallick, a businessman named Bakibur Rahman, and some others are alleged to have been involved in the illegal distribution of rice and wheat. According to ED officials, Rahman, who had close links with

Mallick, supplied less-than-mandated quantities of rice and wheat to distributors for sale through fair-price shops. The balance grain would be sold in the open market for profit.

On October 14, the ED arrested Rahman from his home on the outskirts of Kolkata. Investigators had earlier searched rice and flour mills, a hotel, and a bar owned by Rahman in Nadia and North 24-Parganas districts. A fleet of luxury cars, including Porsches and BMWs, were found in the searches.

The interrogation of rice- and flour-mill owners revealed that broadly, for the price of 1 kg of flour, government suppliers would get only 600 grams. According to the ED, both suppliers and mill owners were aware of this mismatch. Rahman is learnt to have told ED officials that the illegal profits would be divided in a 20:80 ratio between the ration suppliers, and mill owners, government officials, and Mallick's office. More than 100



West Bengal Minister Jyotipriya Mallick is taken by Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials to be produced in court on Friday. PTI/Video grab

documents with government stamps were found in Rahman's flat, ED sources said.

In its remand letter, a copy of which has been accessed by *The Indian Express*, the ED has said that essential food items intended for public distribution were diverted to private individuals, generating huge proceeds of crime.

The first flags

In May 2020, amid the Covid-19 pandemic, districts across West Bengal saw

protests against alleged irregularities in the public distribution system. An FIR was registered in Nadia district.

Then West Bengal Governor (now Vice President) Jagdeep Dhankar criticised the "poor" functioning of the PDS, and the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution wrote to the state saying the "distribution of food grains in the state is nil under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) scheme".

Under PMGKAY, each ration card holder was to be given 5 kg of foodgrains and 1 kg of pulses free, in addition to the monthly quota of 5 kg of subsidised foodgrains per person under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).

TMC's legal troubles

While Minister Mallick has denied accusations of corruption in the PDS, the alleged scam has added to the TMC's troubles in several other ongoing investigations by central agencies. These include the cases relating to the recruitment of school teachers and municipal employees, and to the alleged smuggling of cattle and coal. Senior TMC leaders including Food and Supplies Minister Ghosh, Urban Development and Municipal Affairs Minister Firdhad Hakim, TMC MLA Madan Mitra, and TMC leader Anubrata Mondal have been investigated or arrested in these cases.

In April, on the directions of Calcutta High Court, CBI registered a case in connection with an alleged scam in recruitment in various municipalities and district primary school councils. According to the CBI, all contracts for the recruitment of Group C and D employees in these bodies were allegedly given to a single company.

Also this year, TMC MP and the Chief Minister's nephew Abhishek Banerjee was summoned by ED for questioning in the school jobs scam case, which involves alleged irregularities in the appointment of staff in government schools. The Chief Minister has accused the BJP of "political vendetta".

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STATE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY (PC & PNDDT) DIRECTORATE OF FAMILY WELFARE, GNCT OF DELHI, 'B' & 'C' WING, VIKAS BHAWAN-II, CIVIL LINES, DELHI-110054, Ph: 23813477, 23813215 Email: spocpndt@gmail.com

2nd Phase of Competency Based Assessment under PC&PNDDT Extension of date for submission of application form In reference to the earlier notice published on 10.10.2023, inviting applications for appearing in the 2nd phase of competency based assessment under PC&PNDDT.

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NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE INVITING TENDER 30-Elect-23-T-2023-24-E3 Comprehensive annual maintenance contract (CAMC) of 40 NOS. OMEGA make lifts installed at CNPK Railway Officers Colony for three years.

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/Freight, Delhi Division, Northern Railway, in terms of Railway Board letter No. 2022/27(C/FM)/10/04 dated 13.06.2022, invites bids through e-Auction (www.irops.gov.in) for the contract of Packing of Two-Wheeler and Other Parcel packages services for 5 stations i.e. NDL, DLJ,NZM, DEE and ANVT for the period of 3 (three) years as per detail and schedule given below:-

JAPIT Jharkhand Agency for Promotion of Information Technology (An Autonomous body under Department of Information Technology & e-Governance, Govt of Jharkhand) Ground Floor, Engineer's Hostel - I, Near Golchakkar, Dhurwa, Ranchi, Jharkhand Phone. 0651-2401044, 2401047 email: japit_doit@rediffmail.com

CORRIGENDUM-VIII- Corrigendum for Cancellation Selection of System Integrator for Upgradation, Operation and Maintenance of Jharkhand State Data Centre 2.0 (JHSDC 2.0) Tender Ref No. JAPIT/JH-SDC2.0/01/2023

Rajasthan Police State Crime Records Bureau Ref. No.: S-10(17)/SCRB/CTNS/Desktop-Printer/AMC/2023-00374/947 Date: 25/10/2023

Rajasthan Police State Crime Records Bureau Corrigendum Request for Proposal (RFP) for AMC of Printers for 1 year through Open Competitive Bidding (e-Tendering).

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY E-NOTICE INVITING TENDER Divisional Railway Manager, N.W. Rly. Bikaner for and on behalf of President of India invites sealed open tender for the following work on the date shown as below (1) Tender No. : S/23/2023/274 (2) Name of Work with its location: Comprehensive AMC at 12 stations of Electronic Interlocking system of Hitachi Make in BTI (Ex)-HSR (Ex) section & SURP, SLP. By pass stations over Bikaner Division for 03 years. (3) Approx. cost of the work: ₹ 19597390.56/-

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE No. COS/CRJ/PUB/E-Tender/19/0162 Date: 20/10/2023. The following e-Tenders can be accessed under the link www.irops.gov.in

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GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE SR. NO. NAME OF BOARD/ CORP/AUTH NAME OF WORK/ NOTICE TENDER OPENING DATE/ CLOSING DATE (TIME) AMOUNT/ ESTD. (APPROX.) IN RUPEES WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP/AUTH NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R.C.D. ROAD DIVISION, JAMSHEDPUR CORRIGENDUM Name of work :- Balance work of Widening & Strengthening of Khasmahal to Jadugora Road, Length 0 to 7.67 km under RCD, Road Division, Jamshedpur for the year 2023-24

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, लातेहार ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना ई-निविदा संख्या :- 02/2023/EE/RWD/LATEHAR/निदिनांक : 27.10.2023

Table with 5 columns: क्रम, आइडेंटिफिकेशन सं./पैकेज सं., कार्य का नाम, प्राकृतिक शक्ति (रुपये में) अंक में, अक्षर में, कार्य समाप्ति की तिथि

MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD. | GOLD AUCTION NOTICE Regd. Office: Muthoot Centre, TC No 27/3022, Punnen Road, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India - 695001. CIN : U65292KL1997PLC011518, Ph: +91 471 4911400, 2331427

punjab national bank पंजाब नैशनल बैंक ... the name you can BANK upon! Circle SASTRA, Bay-21-22, Sector 12, Urban Estate Karnal (Haryana) DEMAND NOTICE 60 Day's Notice to Borrower Annexure-1 (Revised 51-4) Date: 22.08.2023

MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD. | GOLD AUCTION NOTICE Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that Gold ornaments pledged with under mentioned branches of the company for the period upto 31.12.2022 & MSLG, SPL-16, One plus, Guide Prepaid, Super value, ADGL and all other 6 months tenure Gold loans up to 31.03.2023 and MSGB, SME Suvarna & EMI due up to 30.09.2023 which were overdue for redemption and which have not been redeemed so far in spite of repeated notices, will be auctioned on 13.11.2023 from 10 am onwards.

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT Online

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer, Salooni Division, HPPWD-Salooni-176900-H.P.-on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, invites the percentage rate bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table:-

Table with 6 columns: Sr. No., Description of work, Estimated Cost (Rs.), Deadline for submission of bid, Earnest Money (Rs.), and Class. Includes details for improvement of M/T and G-D on Link Road to village Nanan.

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website www.hptenders.gov.in. The Date of Technical bid opening: 10.11.2023at 11.30 A.M.

Executive Engineer, Salooni Division, HPPWD Salooni.

Moradabad Municipal Corporation Pili Kothi, Jalkal Compound, Moradabad-244001 (U.P.)

Notice For Inviting Expression of Interest (EOI)

Ref. No: 287/Env. Eng./NNM/2023-24 Date 27.10.2023

Name of Work/Description of item: To engage the interested firm for Rodent Control in Areas of Moradabad Municipal Corporation

Tender Fee: INR 2360.00 (INC GST)

Note:- 1. EOI Document and other details shall be available on Website https://etender.up.nic.in

2. Amendment to notice, if any would be published only on website https://etender.up.nic.in

3. Bank Details for online payment- A/c Holder Name - NAGAR NIGAM MORADABAD E-TENDERING

A/c No - 27050100020717 Bank Name - Bank of Baroda

Bank IFSC code - BARB00BLYMOR (5th Character is Zero)

4. Document Fee Rs. 2,360/- (Two Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Only) has to be paid Online during the Downloading of RFP Document & Payment of RFP Document fee in favour of "Municipal Commissioner, Moradabad Municipal Corporation".

5. The RFP may be postponed or cancelled at any time due to administrative reasons and no claim shall be entertained of this account.

6. All the documents are to be submitted online.

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Uttar Pradesh e-Procurement Portal https://etender.up.nic.in

from 28/10/2023 at 10:00 Hours (IST) onwards. Online bids are invited for the following works up to 25/11/2023 at 16:00 hours. Technical Bid will be opened on same day at 17:00 hours at Office of the Municipal Commissioner, Nagar Nigam, Pili Kothi, Moradabad.

For more details on the tender and bidding process you may please visit the above mentioned portal.

Chief Engineer Nagar Nigam Moradabad

Executive Engineer Construction Division-2, P.W.D. Bijnor (HQ-Najibabad)

Short Term Notice Inviting E-Tender

Letter No 1848 /E -Tender /23-24 Dated :- 17.10.2023

1. The Executive Engineer Construction Division-2, P.W.D. Bijnor on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids online from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP PWD, Class A, B, C & D (for Road work). Bids must be download online from 10:00 AM on date 30.10.2023 to 12:00 PM on date 06.11.2023 and the technical bids will be opened online date 06.11.2023 at 12:30 PM in Office of Executive Engineer CD-2, P.W.D. Bijnor (HQ Najibabad) and Financial bids of the qualified bidders will be opened on date & time as notified. The Bidder may submit bids for any or all of the works. Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in ITB Clause 4 of the Instructions to Bidders to qualify for the award of the contract.

2. Details of the works are as following :

Table with 10 columns: SL No., DISTRICT, Name of Work, Estimated cost (Rs. in Lakhs), Bid Security (Rs. in Lakhs), Cost of Bid Document, Time of Completion, Address of Executive Engineer, Address of Superintending Engineer, Address of Chief Engineer. Lists various road works in Bijnor and Moradabad zones.

>The Rate adopted in the BOQ are including all Other taxes but excluding GST.

>The Bid Security and tender cost should be deposited online through Net Banking as per Column 5 & 6 in the table.

All terms & conditions can be seen on website http://etender.up.nic.in The bidder have to login on Prahari URL to upload required documents as per Government order no. 14/2020/879/itn-7-2020-176. no./06 dt.25.08.2020 & E.N.C./H.O.D.'s up pwd order No. 4859/4M-LC/2020 dt. 27.08.2020

Assistant Engineer CD-2, PWD, Bijnor (Hq Najibabad) Email- eepwdnjb@gmail.com

Executive Engineer CD-2, PWD, Bijnor (Hq Najibabad) UPID-196628 Date 26/10/2023 www.upgov.nic.in

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL, SHANKAR VIHAR (NEAR MAHIPALPUR) DELHI CANTT-10

TELE NO - 011-26153558/9

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

EOI is solicited from the leading vendors for supply and installation of branded computer as per specification available in EOI form. Details for the above and EOI form are available at the school counter against Draft/POS/Machine/NEFT for ₹1000/-each. Forms duly filled be submitted by 12 Nov 2023. Chairman

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

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person Jugeshwar, S/o Sharju Mehto, R/o 277 & 372, JJ Colony Bharat Vihar Sec-15 Dwarka Delhi has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in a Case FIR No. 96/17 U/s 323/34/134 IPC at PS Dwarka North, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Jugeshwar cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Jugeshwar has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Jugeshwar of Case FIR No 96/17 U/s 323/34/134 IPC at PS Dwarka North, New Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 29.11.2023.

By order Sh. Sandeep Kapoor Metropolitan Magistrate 06

Ropin No. 514, 5th Floor, DPT/12034/DW/2023(Court Matter) Dwarka District Court, New Delhi

COLLECTORATE, NALANDA "Pawpuri Mahotsav - 2023" SHORT TERM RE-TENDER FOR EVENT MANAGER

(Previous P R NO-010304 (DISTRICT) 2023-24)

District Administration invites tender for Event Manager to arrange the event of "PAWAPURI MAHOTSAV - 2023" on 11th - 12th November, 2023 in Pawpuri, Nalanda with following conditions.

- (1) Sealed tender in two parts i.e. Technical Bid and Financial Bid are hereby invited from Event Management Company till 03 PM on 03-11-2023 at District Nazarat Section, Collectorate, Nalanda. (2) Minimum eligibility criteria are as below :- (a) Company / Firm should be registered with GST. (b) Company/Firm must provide Pan Card, and GST Registration. (c) Company/Firm should have at least three years' experience of arranging similar nature work under the aegis of any Govt. /PSU. (d) The bidder should have achieved a minimum Average Financial Turnover of Rs. 50 Lakh in past three financial years. (e) Company/Firm provide GST return (Current) & IT return of last three (3) years. (f) The bidder should have valid ISO9001 certificate. (g) The bidder should be registered with PF and ESIC. (h) The bidder should have satisfactory organized/managed at least Two similar event costing not less than Rs. 20 Lakhs. For this certificate must be produced. (i) The bidder has to submit self certified letter for company being not black listed by any organisation. (j) Earnest money of Rs. 50,000/- is to be paid along with the technical bid in the form of DD in favour of "DM Nalanda" payable at Nalanda. (k) Non- refundable Tender fees of Rs. 5,000/- through DD favouring DM Nalanda, Payable at Biharsharif has to be annexed with the bid document. (l) The detailed tender documents can be downloaded from www.nalanda.nic.in or can be obtain from the office of Collector, Nalanda till 5:00 Pm Dated 02-11-2023 (m) The Tender will be received in the office of DM, Nalanda till 03 P.M on 03-11-2023 The tender shall be opened on 03-11-2023, at 04.30 P.M in which the tenderer or its representative may remain present at the time of opening of tender and presentation by tenderer. (n) The Collectorate Nalanda reserves right to reject any or all of the tenders without assigning any reason.

This information is available on www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar also

PR. No. 010914 (District) 2023-24 District Magistrate, Nalanda.

नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

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

Letter No:- 2851 /E-Tender Notice /23-24 Date :-18-10-2023

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 from Dated 29.10.2023 at 10.00 am to Dt. 04.11.2023 at 4.30 pm. Technical Bid/ Prequalification of tenders shall be opened on 04.11.2023 at 5.00 pm.

Table with 9 columns: SL No., Name of Work, Estimated cost (Rs. in Lakhs), Bid Security (Rs. in Lakhs), Cost of Bid Document, Time of Completion including rainy season, Address of Executive Engineer, Address of Superintending Engineer, Contractors Registration Category For Road Works. Lists various road repair and construction works in Rampur.

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 URL. http://wms.upgov.nic.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 uppwd Order No. 4859/4M-LC/2020 dt. 27.08.2020.

UPID-196600 Date 26/10/2023 www.upgov.nic.in

(Krishan Vir) Executive Engineer Pro.Div., PWD, Rampur Email_pdrampur@gmail.com For and on behalf of Governor of UP

Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd., JAIPUR No. NIT/2023-24/2183-06 Date: 26.10.2023. Includes details for road works in Rajasthan.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE. Includes details for road works in Haryana.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE. Includes details for road works in Haryana.

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTIFICATION. Re-engagement of Retired Railway Officer on monthly remuneration basis in exigencies of services in Delhi Division, Northern Railway.

Office of the Superintending Engineer, 2nd Circle, P.W.D., Nainital -263002. National Competitive Bidding(E-Tendering). Includes details for reconstruction work in Nainital.

MORADABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION Pili Kothi, Jalkal Compound, Moradabad-244001 (U.P.) Notice For Inviting Tender. Includes details for road works in Moradabad.

Table with 7 columns: Sl. No., Name of work, Earnest Money (Rs. in Lacs), Cost of Document (in Rs.), Validity of tender, Period of Completion, Contractor's Category of Registration. Lists reconstruction work in Nainital.

MORADABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION Pili Kothi, Jalkal Compound, Moradabad-244001 (U.P.) Notice For Inviting Tender. Includes details for road works in Moradabad.

Table with 4 columns: Sr. No., Line No., Name of the work, Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.), Tender fee with GST@ 18% (Rs.), Work completion period. Lists road works in Moradabad.

Table with 2 columns: S.No., Description, Date and Time. Lists key dates for the tender process.

- 1. Detailed NIT and bid document shall be available on; Website- https://etender.up.nic.in 2. Tender call notice in two bid systems (part-I: general & technical bid and part-II: financial bid/price bid/BOQ) from intending bidders fulfilling the eligibility criteria mentioned in this notice and other qualifying requirements mentioned in this RFP. 3. Amendment to NIT, if any would be published on website only. 4. Note: After award of contract bidder will have to submit performance security of 5% of contract value. EMD will be returned. 5. Line No. 28A: Mode of bidding will be in EPC mode. Line No. 28B: Mode of bidding will be in Percentage rate.

Note:- 1. Tender Document and other details shall be available on:- Website- https://etender.up.nic.in 2. Amendment to NIT, if any would be published only on website https://etender.up.nic.in 3. The EMD shall be in the form of FDR/NSC/NEFT/RTGS in favor of "Municipal Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Moradabad" 4. Bank Details for online payment- A/C Holder Name - NAGAR NIGAM MORADABAD E-TENDERING A/c No - 27050100020717 Bank Name - Bank of Baroda Bank IFSC code - BARB00BLYMOR (5th Character is Zero) NOTE:- 1- All eligible/interested consultants are mandated to get enrolled on e-Procurement portal (https://etender.up.nic.in) 2- Contractor can contact Help Desk for any clarification of their doubts regarding the process of Electronic Procurement System. 3- All the documents are to be submitted online. Chief Engineer Nagar Nigam Moradabad

THE BALLABGARH COOP. PRODUCER'S UNION LTD., BALLABGARH MILK PLANT, BALLABGARH, DISTT, FARIDABAD, HARYANA-121004

(वीटा मिल्क बूथों का आवंटन) वीटा मिल्क प्लांट, बल्लभगढ़ के अधिकार क्षेत्र में निम्न लोकेशन पर स्थित वीटा मिल्क बूथों के आवंटन हेतु इच्छुक आवेदकों से आवेदन आमंत्रित है।

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems) N.I.T. No. 23-2023-24-W/V

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक Punjab National Bank POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable property) CIRCLE SASTRA, Circle Office: ARA, Arrah, Hotel Regal, Second Floor, District-Bhojpur, 802301

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement System) Sr. DMM/Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001.

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/Freight, Delhi Division, Northern Railway, in terms of Railway Board letter no. 2022/TC(FM)/10/04 dated 13.06.2022.

DIRECTORATE GENERAL BORDER SECURITY FORCE, BLOCK NO.10, CGO COMPLEX, LODHI ROAD, NEW DELHI, 110003

NATIONAL BOOK TRUST, INDIA Ministry of Education, Government of India 5 Institutional Area, Phase-II, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110 070

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक Punjab National Bank POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable property) The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Punjab National Bank, Circle SASTRAAra, 2nd Floor, Hotel Regal, Ramna Maidan, Ara- 802301

Applications are invited on prescribed proforma from eligible candidates for filling up the following Group 'B' & 'C' posts (Combatized post) in BSF, Air Wing on Deputation (including short term contract)/ Absorption/Re-employment basis:-

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDY Rashtrapati Nivas, Shimla-171005 Advertisement No.: 02/10/2023

GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH ARUNACHAL PRADESH SPACE APPLICATION CENTRE A.P CIVIL SECRETARIAT, ITANAGAR

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक Punjab National Bank POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable property) The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Punjab National Bank, Circle SASTRAAra, 2nd Floor, Hotel Regal, Ramna Maidan, Ara- 802301

Advertisement No. 21/2023 Government of India Ministry of Defence Department of Defence Production CORRIGENDUM

HARYANA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION Bays No. 33-36, Sector-4, Panchkula-134109

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Himanshu S/o Mohan Lal R/O: J-134, Arpan Vihar, Jaitpur, Badarpur, New Delhi-110044
Declare that mine & My Father Name has been wrongly written as Himanshu & Mohan Lal in My Qualification Certificates. The actual Name of mine and my Father is Himanshu Bisht & Mohan Bisht respectively, which should be amended accordingly.
0070870615-1

I, Madan Gopal Chaturvedi S/o Shri Kapil Dev, R/O B-10/91A, UDAI Gir-2, Sector-34, Distt.-Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P.-201301, have changed my name to Madan Gopal for future purposes.
0040695731-1

I, Gurmeet Singh S/o Gurbux Singh R/O B-5/165, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110063, have changed my name to Gurmeet Singh Chawla Permanently.
0040695610-1

I, Dhani Ram S/o Bhagwati Prasad Yadav, R/O WZ-238, Madipur Village, New Delhi-110063, have changed my name to Dhani Ram Yadav, for all purposes.
0040695609-1

I, Deepak S/o Shyam Lal, R/O, Plot No. 207, KH No. 35/8, Ground Floor, Village Lampur, Near Shani Mandir, Narela, North West Delhi have changed my name to Deepak Sharma.
0040695608-1

I, Chanchia Devi W/o No. 1746850F R/K HAV Lt. Durga Nand Jha R/O H.No.325, E-Block, Phase-II, Goyal Dairy, Qutub Vihar, Delhi-71 have changed my minor son's name from DRAVYYA JHA TO DRAVYA JHA Vide affidavit date 27.10.2023 before Delhi
0070870611-1

I, BHARATI W/O No. JC35560M RANK NB/SUB LATE KEWAT LEELA PRASAD R/O FLAT No.3459, SECOND FLOOR, DARIBA PAN, PAHAR GANJ, SWAMI RAM TIRTH NAGAR, DELHI-110055 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO BHARTI KEWAT VIDE AFFIDAVIT DATE 27.10.23 BEFORE DELHI
0070870604-1

I, ASHA RANI W/O. Sh. Virender Kumar R/O. H. No. 613, Near GTB Nagar, Bhai Parmanand Colony West, North West, Delhi-110009 have changed my name to ASHA MANCHANDA
0070870557-1

I, Asha Rani W/O. Sh. Virender Kumar R/O. H. No. 613, Near GTB Nagar, Bhai Parmanand Colony West, North West, Delhi-110009 have changed my name to ASHA MANCHANDA
0070870557-1

I, Vikas Kumar Gupta S/o Late Sh. Inder Prakash Gupta R/O H.No.26, 3rd Floor, Block-4, Shastri Gali, Vishwas Nagar, North East, Delhi-110032 have changed my name to Vikas Gupta for all purposes.
0040695600-2

I, Satish Kumar Sharma S/o Late Sh. Amar Nath Sharma R/O E-102, Express Zoning, Sector-77, Noida, District Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P.-201301 is also known as Satish Sharma. Both names are of one and the same person.
0040695600-1

I, Rekha Kumari Alias Reakha W/O Narendar R/O Gali No-16, Mukandpur Extn Part 2, North West Delhi-110042, have changed my name to Reshma
0070870646-1

I, Rajesh Chaprana S/o Inder Singh R/O Gate- No-3, Shiv Farm, Hari Nagar, Jaitpur, Badarpur, Delhi-110044 have changed my name to Rajesh Kumar
0070870598-1

I, Pushpa Kumari W/O-T.K. Shashi Kumar R/O-143, LIG Flats, A-Block, Pocket-1, Sector-16, Rohini, Delhi-110089 have changed my name to Pushpa Shashi Kumar for all purposes.
0040695613-1

I, Bharat Kumar S/o Rajender Kumar R/O Site-2/38, Vikaspuri, Delhi-110018 have changed my name to Bharat Aggarwal.
0070870599-1

I, Vinod Sharda S/o Kesh Raj Sharda R/O A-81, Pushpanjali Enclave Pitampura, North West Delhi, Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Vinod Kumar Sharda.
0070870645-1

I, ANAND S/O DHARAM PAL SAINI/R/O 236/15, MASHAD MOHALLA, SONIPAT, HARYANA-131001, have changed my name to ANAND SAINI.
0040695697-5

I, Divya Mitra D/o P.K. Mitra W/o Ankit Jhamb R/O B-1/316, Manbhavan Apartment, Dwarka, Plot 26, Sec 10, 110075, have changed my name to Divya Mitra Jhamb
0130037575-1

I, Suresh kumar ahuja, s/o Thada ram ahuja, R/O, TP-98, 3rd-floor, Pitampura, Delhi-110034, have changed my name, from suresh kumar to Suresh Ahuja, for all future purposes.
0040695702-2

I, hitherto known as NIRBHAYBAHADUR ANILKUMAR SINGH alias NIRBHAYBAHADUR SINGH, S/O ANILKUMAR SINGH, R/O, B-114, SECTOR-16, BHAG WALI-COLONY, RAJAPUR, FLYOVER, NEW SHASTRI NAGAR, CHIRANJIV-VIHAR, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-201002, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as NIRBHAYBAHADUR SINGH.
0040695702-10

I, Yash Vardhan, S/o Jawahar Singh Verma R/O. A-36, Sunder, Apartment Rohini, Sector-14, Delhi-110085, changed my name to Yashvardhan Verma.
0040695702-9

I, Urmila W/o Late Shri Dilip R/O H.No. N-137, Sector-5, Vardman Gol Chakkar, Bawana, North West Delhi, Delhi-110039, declare that Pooja and Urmila is one and same person may be known for all purpose.
0040695705-2

I, UMA SHANKER KHANDELWAL, S/O BHAGWAN DAS, R/O-1/5546, STREET, NO.6, GOWIND MARG, SHIVAJI PARK, SHAHDARA DELHI-110032, HAVE CHANGED NAME UMA SHANKER, FOR ALL PURPOSES.
0040695699-3

I, Syeda Aliya Begum, W/O-Rehan Khan, Address-3899, 3rd-floor khirki-tafazul Hussain kalan-Mahal daryaganj, Delhi-110002, changed my name to Aliya khan.
0040695711-9

I, Sohan Lal Wadhwa, S/o Devi Dayal, R/O-14/40B, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018, have changed my name from Sohan Lal to Sohan Lal wadhwa. Both are one and same person.
0040695719-2

I, Smitha Rajan, W/o Balakrishnan Radhakrishnan, R/O C-120, First Floor, Suncity, Sector-54, Gurugram (Haryana) -122011, have changed my name to Smita Rajan.
0040695697-7

I, Simranpreet Kaur Mahal, D/o Harpreet Singh Mahal, R/O B-1503, Bestech-Park View Sanskruti, Sector-92, Gurgaon-122505, have changed my name Simran Malhotra.
0040695697-10

I, Shambhu Kumar, R/O D9, tower-1 type-5, kidwai nagar East, south-west delhi-110023, have changed my minor son name kartikey to kartikey sinha.
0040695697-2

I, Satya Dev, S/O Sh. Banwari Lal, R/O A-5/185C, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110063, have changed my name, from Satya Dev to Satya Dev Sharma.
0040695699-5

I, SURENDER KUMAR S/O SURAJBHAN, R/O VILLAGE MALIKPUR (138), JHAJJAR, HARYANA-124106, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SURENDER BENIWAL.
0040695697-4

I, Garvita W/o Junaid R/O-2086, Street Zere Fasil Ganj Meer Khan Turkman Gate, Delhi-110006 have changed my name to Zara
0070870592-1

I, SUCHI TOMAR, W/O VIR BHAYNKAR SINGH, R/O VILLAGE LADHWARI SARUPUR KALAN BAGHPATI, UTTAR PRADESH-250619, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHUCHI.
0040695702-1

I, SHILPI DHIMAN, W/O-Ankush Jindal, R/O C-50, Ground-Floor, Vikas Puri, Delhi-110018, changed my name after-marriage is SHILPI JINDAL.
0040695715-5

I, Rakesh S/o Yatinder Mohan Sharma, R/O 22, Double Storey Janta Flats Madipur, Delhi-63, have changed my name to Rakesh Sharma.
0040695711-2

I, Rajesh Kumar Sabharwal, S/o Rama Nand R/O J-704, Princess Park, BPTP, Sector-86, Faridabad, Haryana-121002, have changed my name to Rajesh Sabharwal, for all purposes.
0040695721-2

I, Raesuddin, S/O Jahir Ahmad, R/O, House no A-11/A Savitri-Nagar near-Kali masjid, New Delhi-110017, have changed my name to Rahisuddin, permanently.
0040695697-1

I, ROHIT S/O AJENDER SINGH, residing at, H.NO. U.P. 8/A, KHASRA NO-219, LAMPUR ROAD, NEAR-UNDER PASS, NARELA, DELHI-110040, have changed my name to ROHIT KHATRI, for all future purpose.
0040695699-8

I, Meetu Saluja, W/o Rakesh Ahuja, R/O WZ-1C, First-Floor, Gali, No-16, New Mahavir Nagar, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-16, have changed my name to Sanya Ahuja, for all purposes.
0040695702-6

I, Manisha, W/O Rakesh Sharma, R/O 22, Double Storey Janta-Flats Madipur, Delhi-63, have Changed my name to Manisha Sharma
0040695711-3

I, Manish sahu, S/o-Vicky Sahu, R/O-Plot no.206, Jhuggi no.80/4, Rajpura Gur Mandi, Rana Pratap Bagh, Delhi-110007, have Changed My Name Manish To Manish Sahu for all future purposes.
0070870613-1

I, MOHD ASLAM KHURESHI, S/O, NURUDDIN KURESHI, H.No-2395, GALI KUCHA MIR HASHIM CHITLI-QABAR TURKMAN-GATE, CENTRAL, DELHI-110006, changed my name to MOHD ASLAM QURESHI, for all future purposes.
0040695699-2

I, SARABJEET SINGH, S/O AMRIK SINGH, R/O 2B/37, BLOCK-2B, RAMESH-NAGAR, DELHI-110015, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SARABJEET SINGH VASIR.
0040695715-2

I, MOHAMMAD ATEEK S/O MOHAMMAD KHADIM R/O WZ-231C, MADIPUR VILLAGE, PASCHIM VIHAR, DELHI-110063, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MOHD ATEEK KHAN.
0040695711-7

I, MANOJ PANGWANI, S/O SUGNAMAL PANJWANI, R/O-47, VIVEKA NANDPURI, SARAI ROHILLA, NORTH, DELHI-110007, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MANOJ PANJWANI.
0040695697-3

I, MAHESH, S/O JAI SINGH DHANKHAD, R/O H.No.203, B-2002, THE CLOSE-NORTH, SECTOR-50, Nirvana-Country, Gurgaon, Haryana-122018, have changed my name to MAHESH KUMAR DHANKHAD.
0040695697-6

I, Kawal Jit Kaur Dhody, W/o Darshan Singh R/O, B-110, Rampuri, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201011, have changed my name to Kawaljit kaur.
0040695715-7

I, KUSHAL SINGH, S/O-JASPAL SINGH PANWAR, R/O-H.No-2509, SECOND-FLOOR GALLI NO-66, MOLARBAND EXTENSION BADARPUR, DELHI-110044, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO KUSHAL SINGH PANWAR.
0040695699-10

I, JYOTIRMOY MOHANTO/JYOTIRMOI MOHANTO, S/O, PRAKASH MOHANTO, ADD-34-B/F, SECTOR-D, POCKET-2, KONDLI, GHAROLI, EAST-DELHI-110096, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO JYOTIRMOY MOHANTA, for all future purposes.
0040695702-7

I, JAGBIR SINGH R/O HNO.472, PUNJABI MOHALLA, BANKNER NARELA, DELHI-110040, HAVE CHANGED MY CHILD NAME LAISHA TO LAISHA GHALYAN.
0040695715-4

I, Hanuman Prashad Mittal, S/o Late Jogi Ram Mittal, R/O A-4/26, Sector-16, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Hanuman Parshad.
0040695702-8

I, Geetesh Kumar, S/o Ashok Kumar, R/O WZ-276, G/6, Inderpuri, New Delhi-110012, have changed my name to Geetesh Kumar Ahlawat.
0040695715-8

I, GOVERDHAN DASS S/O BANWARI LAL R/O HNO.66, UPPER GROUND-FLOOR, RKHIT-27, SECTOR-24, ROHINI, DELHI-110085, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO GORDHAN DASS.
0040695711-8

I, DEVINDER KUMAR, S/O SHIV KUMAR, R/O E-301, MUNIRKA APARTMENTS, PLOT NO.-11, SECTOR-9, DWARKA, DELHI-110077, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO DEVINDER KUMAR RUSTAGI.
0040695699-6

**I, CHINJU SINO, is legally wedded spouse of, Service No.7432011P, Rank:- Havildar (Clear-Staff Duty) Name:- Sino Scaria, Presently, residing at, Village Kodanchery, P.O.Chembukadave, Distt. Kozhikode, Kerala, have changed my name, from CHINJU SINO to CHINJU THOMAS, for all future purposes.
0040695699-4**

I, CHARAN JEET SINGH S/O RAJINDER SINGH, R/O-15/30A 3RD.FLOOR TILAK NAGAR DELHI-110018, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO CHARENJIT SINGH BAKSHI.
0040695715-6

I, Bhawar Pratap Singh, S/O-Sudhir Narain Dass, H.No-2152, 2nd-floor ELDECO County Sector-19, Sonipat, Haryana-131001, changed my name to Bharat Partap Singh.
0040695699-9

I, Anju W/o, Ravi Kumar, R/O RZ-20A-2B, Vinoba-Enclave, Jharoda Kalan, Najafgarh, South-West-Delhi-110072, have changed my name to Anju Karki Kumar.
0040695697-9

I, Sahil S/O No. JC35560M RANK NB/SUB LATE KEWAT LEELA PRASAD R/O FLAT No.3459, SECOND FLOOR, DARIBA PAN, PAHAR GANJ, SWAMI RAM TIRTH NAGAR, DELHI-110055 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SAHIL KEWAT VIDE AFFIDAVIT DATE 27.10.23 BEFORE DELHI
0070870613-1

I, Reeta Singh W/o Mohinder Singh Chhabra R/O-C2/2534, Ground Floor, Vasant Kunj, Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Reeta Singh Chhabra.
0040695691-2

I, PRIYANKA W/O ASHISH KUMAR R/O FLAT NO.105, TOWER-2, NIRALA ESTATE, GREATER NOIDA WEST, DISTT: GAUTAM BUDDH NAGAR, U.P.-201306 have change my name to PRIYANKA SHARMA.
0040695605-1

I, Nairita Majumder W/o Ashish Upadhayay R/o IH-202, AWHO, Gurjinder Vihar, Greater Noida U.P. have changed my name to Nairita Majumder Upadhayay for all future purposes.
0070870644-1

I, Ajeet Kumar Rai, S/o-Vijay Rai, R/O-A201/583, Shalimar Garden-1, Sahibabad Ghaziabad (U.P.) Pincode-201005, have changed my name to Ajeet Kumar Rai, for all future purposes.
0040695721-3

I, Afsari W/O Sagir Ahmad R/O, H.No-C-4, STREET-NO-10, Old Mustafabad, Delhi-110094, have changed my name to Afsari Begum.
0040695702-4

I, Aditi Jain, W/o Paryas Jain, R/O, tower-14, Flat No-002, THE CLOSE-NORTH, SECTOR-50, Nirvana-Country, Gurgaon, Haryana-122018, have changed my name Aditi Tandon, permanently
0040695715-1

I, ASHISH KESKAR, S/O SUDHAKAR SUKUMAR KESKAR, Residing at, 1392A, SECTOR-31B, CHANDIGARH-160030, Have changed my Name, from ASHISH KESKAR to ASHISH SUDHAKAR KESKAR, for all future purpose.
0040695702-5

I, ANNU, D/O SUKHBIR SINGH, R/O VILLAGE MAJRA, D.H.NO-135, DISTRICT JHAJJAR HARYANA-124202, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ANNU DABAS.
0040695705-1

**I, AMARJEET KAUR BHATEJA, W/O-SARAB NAIN SINGH, R/O, H.No.15001, Tower-18, Mahagun Mywoods, Greater Noida West, Gautam Budh-Nagar (UP) have changed my name to AMARJEET KAUR, for all future purposes.
0040695711-4**

I, hitherto Known as Satish Chandra alias Satish Chander, S/o-Bishambar Dayal, R/O D-112, P & T Colony, Moti Bagh-I, New Delhi, have changed my name hereafter be known as Satish Chander. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.
0040695719-4

I, Sushmeeta Wadhwa W/o Sh. Sohan Lal Wadhwa D/O Sh. Tulsi Das Galati R/O 14/40-B, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018, Have changed my name from Sushmeeta to Sushmeeta Wadhwa. Both are one and same person.
0040695719-1

I, Shah Nawaz S/O Mohd Yasin Ansari R/O 756, Street No.29, Main Eidgah Road, Jafrabad, Delhi-110053, have changed my name to Shah Nawaz, for all purposes.
0040695593-1

I, Sanjeev Kumar R/o J.268 Shri Ram Jit Camp Nanak Pura South Moti Bagh-Delhi.110021 have changed my minor son's name from Abhishek to Abhishek Kumar.
0040695711-1

I, Avinash Kumar, S/O Mukesh, R/O Plot.A.10-14, Qutub-Vihar Phase-1, Qutab Pur, South West-Delhi-110077, have changed my to Avinash.
0040695697-8

I, Mohinder Singh S/o Sh. Trilok Singh R/O-C2/2534, Ground Floor, Vasant Kunj, Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Mohinder Singh Chhabra.
0040695691-1

I, MONOHAR Gupta S/o Sitabi Pratap Gupta R/o 118, Subhlabh Vatika, Gurudwara Road, Surajpur, NOIDA-201306 have changed my name to MANOHAR GUPTA.
0040695615-1

I, MANI KHURANA, D/O SHARAD KANCHAN R/O B-9, FIRST FLOOR, BACK SIDE, NISHANT PARK, KAKROLA, DELHI-110078, have changed my name MANI KANCHAN to MANI KHURANA for all Future Purposes
0040695603-1

LOST & FOUND

I, Shailesh Kumar, S/O Dharamever Singh, R/O: RZF-75/13, Gali No.1, Raj Nagar Part-II, Palam New Delhi-110077 have lost my original 12th class marksheet of Board of High School and Intermediate Education, UP, Roll No.0243733 & certificate number 06036347 passed year. 2017 has been lost in Palam, New Delhi on dated 23.10.2023. FIR lodged vide LR No.1063402 DTD.25.10.2023 Finder contact me at above address.
0040695637-1

T, Sunil Malhotra, S/O Late Sh. C P Malhotra, R/O Flat No.729, Delhi Chartered Accountants CGHS Ltd, Block A-2, Ph-III, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-63, I had Lost/Misplaced Original Share Certificate of the above cite flat, The LR No.61941/2017 Dated-30/01/2017.
0040695607-1

PUBLIC NOTICE
We, M/s. Johar Motors Pvt. Ltd., Registered office at - 51, Basement, Church Road, Bhogal, New Delhi -110014, have lost- Misplaced our-
1. Sale Deed vide registration - 2358, executed on 31-03-2003, before the Sub-Registrar (Hodal) Haryana in favour of favour of Mr. Girraj,
The Punjab National Bank, MCC Faridabad intends to create EM in respect of the property at Kharsa No - 217/220, Musta No-98, Kila No-04(7-13)/7(13)13(8-0)14(7-13)/17(13)18(8-0), Rakha-46, Kanal-12, Marla 1/6, Village - Deeghot, Dist. Tahsil Hodal (Haryana). Any person claiming any interest or title in the property or other wise having any objection can make representation to the bank with in 7 days of such notice. Finder may contact PNB, MCC Faridabad, First Floor, Nehru Ground, NIT, Faridabad, Haryana or call at 0129-2431008/2431007.
M/s. Johar Motors Private Limited.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public at large is hereby informed that Freehold DDA built up Flat No. A-401, Business & Professional Workers' CPDS Ltd, now known as Kavari Apartments, Alaknanda, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019, presently owned and possessed by Smt. Kiran Malhotra by virtue of Conveyance Deed filed registered vide Regd. No. 5540, dated 21.03.2001 and the same is proposed to be offered as Security with State Bank of India. Branch: RACP, South Extn Part 1, New Delhi and as per present owner's version the said property is free from all sorts of encumbrance. The Original Share Certificate issued by society in favor of Smt. Kiran Malhotra is/are reported as lost vide FIR/Lost Report No. 817582/2023, dated 14.08.2023.
It is hereby notified that any person and/or Bank, financial institution having any claim, any charge or lien or claim and /or objection to thereof, he/ she/ they may lodge/ notify the same to the undersigned with documentary proof/ court judgment within 15 days from the day of publication of this public notice, failing which any further / future claim/ objection(s) shall be rejected and my client/ prospective buyers(s) as a bona-fide purchaser conclude the Regd. Sale Deed proposed to be executed in favor of my client or in the name of his/her/ their nominees shall be deemed to be clear and marketable without any defect, encumbrance, flaw and impediment.
SATYENDER YADAV (ADVOCATE)
Chamber no. 361, 5 Floor, Sakinagar Courts, New Delhi, Mob. 9711212421

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Prashant Batra, Advocate on behalf of my client Sh. Manmohan Singh, S/O Lt. S. Gurcharan Singh, R/o J-5/148, 2nd Floor, Rajpuri Garden, New Delhi-27, debar/ Disown his son Sh. Rameet Singh, from all his movable and immovable properties and assets including his business due to his disrespectful, assaulting behavior and irresponsible conduct towards my client and his wife. My client has also severed all his relations with him. If anybody deals with him in any manner, he/she shall do so at their own risk, cost and consequences. My client shall not be liable and responsible for the same in any manner. PRASHANT BATRA Advocate J-1163, F. Floor, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is For General Information That I, Isha Gupta, D/o Ram Prakash Gupta & W/o Manish Gupta, R/O E-7/13, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051 Declare That Name Of Mine Has Been Wrongly Written As Esha Gupta In My Educational Documents (Including 10th, 12th And Graduation Pass Certificates) & Passport No. L8016239 And Name Of My Father Has Been Wrongly Written As Ram Prakash In My Voter ID No. RAJ095539 The Actual Name Of Mine And My Father Are Isha Gupta And Ram Prakash Gupta Respectively Which May Be Amended Accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client, Shri. Chhagan Ram S/o late Shri Mangal Ram R/o W-18-A/156, W-Block T, Huis, Jy Colony Wazir Pur, North West Delhi, Delhi-110052, has severed all his relationship and connection with his minor son namely Sanjay and younger son Satish, my client debarred/ disowned them from his movable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with them shall be doing so at their own risk and responsibility and my client shall not be responsible and liable for the same in future. My client declare that his above said sons shall have no right/ title/ interest in his property in any manner whatsoever.
Mansoor Ansari (Advocate)
B-43A, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019
Mobile: 9711177423

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that my Arms License No 209/DMR, Pistol Weapon .32 Bore No.RP197479 has been lost/misplaced and not traceable yet. The port of the same has been lodged at the Crime Branch, Delhi vide report No.LR No.1067635/2023 dated 26.10.2023. If found, kindly inform to the undersigned.
Manjit Singh Dhanekar S/o Shri Ishward Singh R/o VPO Kasni The Jhajjar, Haryana-124109, Mobile No: 9306074445.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Sujata Garg Owner of the Residential Flat/ Apartment bearing no. 44-A, on Ground Floor, Pocket-A & B, Dilsdag Garden, Delhi. I have lost Allotment cum Demand Letter in the name of Mr. Devl Dutt, Original Agreement of sell in the name of Arun Kumar and Agreement to sell and GPA dated 06.12.1991 in the name of Smt. Kiran Garg, for which complaint lodged to the police. That any person(s)/ Appropriate authority etc., if finds the misplaced Share Certificate aforesaid owners may come forward and inform the undersigned within 15 days from the date of Publication.
JYOTI SINGH (ADVOCATE)
M. NO. -9873474495

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Sumit Choudhary and Divya Negi Owner of the Residential Flat No. A/C/H-1201, on 12th floor, having survey area 1445 sq. ft. in Group Housing Residential Project known as 'Aditya Celebrity Homes', Plot No. GH-01/B, Sector 76, Noida, UP. I have lost Original GPA executed by Smt. Ishita Gupta in favour of Smt. Sumit Choudhary the purpose of signing Allotment Agreement, for which complaint lodged to the police. That any person(s)/Appropriate authority etc., if finds the misplaced GPA aforesaid owners may come forward and inform the undersigned within 15 days from the date of Publication.
JYOTI SINGH (ADVOCATE)
M. NO. -9873474495

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Sujata Garg Owner of the Residential Flat/ Apartment bearing no. C-002, Ground floor, in Krishna Agra Residency, plot no 08, Block-E, Sector-61, having super area 1675 Sq. Ftis. Noida, District-Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P. I have lost Original Allotment Letter and Possession Letter in the of Mr.V.K. Wadehra, for which complaint lodged to the police. That any person(s)/Appropriate authority etc., if finds the misplaced Allotment and Possession Letter aforesaid owners may come forward and inform the undersigned within 15 days from the date of Publication.
JYOTI SINGH (ADVOCATE)
M. NO. -9873474495

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PUBLIC NOTICE
The General Public at large is hereby informed that my client Sh. Mahabir Singh S/o Late Sh. Dhanraj Singh, R/O H.No. G-291, A, RE-2, ZG-Block Prem Nagar, Najafgarh, South West Delhi, Delhi-110043, has severed all his relations with his Son Sh. Vijay Kumar and has disowned him from all his movable and immovable properties and in future any one dealing with him, in any manner or manners, shall be doing so at his/her own cost, risk and consequence; and under no circumstances, my client shall not be liable in any manner for any of her acts and liabilities etc.
Sd/-
Saurav Singh Yadav
Advocate
Ch. No.-1, K.L. Sharma Block, Tis Hazari Court, New Delhi-54

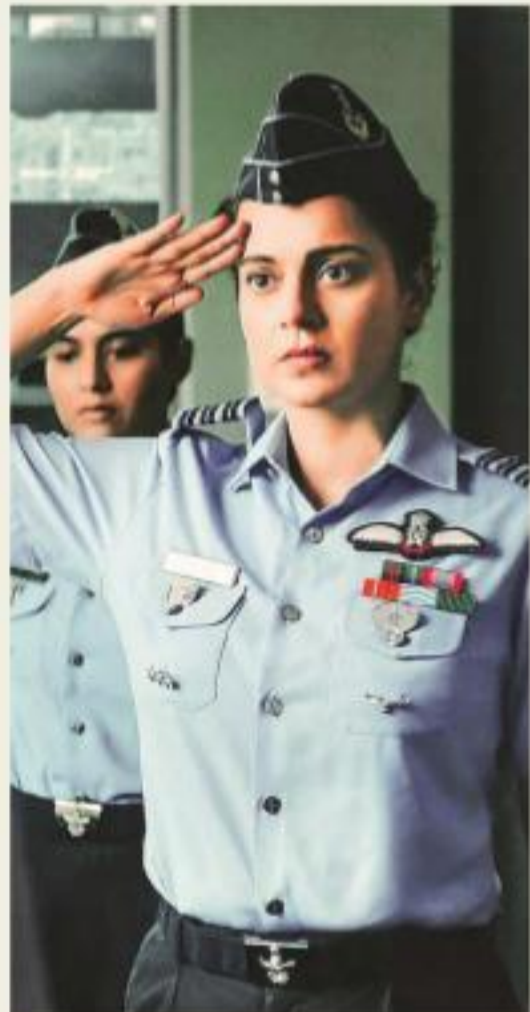
25 REVIEWS CINEMA & MUSIC

Flight to Nowhere

TEJAS

★

Director: Sarvesh Mewara
Cast: Kangana Ranaut, Anshul Chauhan, Ashish Vidyarthi, Varun Mitra, Sunit Tandon, Veenah Naair



A BRAVE soldier is the first and best line of defence. *Tejas* tells the story of a skilled IAF pilot who puts her life at stake every time she is on a dangerous mission, the more dangerous the better. As one of her admiring instructors in flying school says of her: if it is easy, don't send her.

This is yet another of Kangana Ranaut's recent films in which she is playing an In and As part, with the film being named after her character. Tejas Gill has grown up in a loving family where a supportive father has encouraged his daughter to fly, and here she is in her *Top Gun avatar*, striding down the runway, strapping on her helmet and looping the loops.

It is so intent upon keeping the main star centre stage that everyone else ends up as satellites

The trouble with this kind of a film is that it is so intent upon keeping the main star centre stage that everyone else ends up as satellites. The relationship between Tejas and her co-pilot (Chauhan) has its moments — especially one in which the two are chatting about boyfriends and two-timing, and a couple of others meant to be humorous, making light of a tough situation — but it is always clear that it is Tejas who is calling the shots; one of the men (Mitra) in her life, who does get a bit of screen time, is reduced to looking at her adoringly.

A significant portion of the film has a *Uri*-like snatch-and-grab operation (with a direct reference to that 'ghar mein ghus ke maarna' dialogue, and *New India* etc) from deep within an outpost in Pakistan, who is, of course, Our Enemy Number One. Their guy who is known for his beheading skills is called, um, Sarqalam. A daring rescue operation spearheaded by our two daring female pilots is dreamt up simply to make the enemies look like fools, which in turn leads the film into a series of eye-roll moments. The plot builds in an attack on the Ram Janmabhoomi, which is, of course, the worst act ever in the movie's book, with the chief terrorist stomping about yelling hysterically about India's destruction.

It's more ludicrous than anything else and papers over the couple of things that the film works at: making the point, even if it is in the most obvious manner, about how women are as good as men, if not better; and of course, its leading lady, whose acting abilities shine through even in the weakest scenes. **SG**

KILLERS OF THE FLOWER MOON ★★★

When Oil and Blood Mix

Directors: Martin Scorsese **Cast:** Leonardo DiCaprio, Robert De Niro, Lily Gladstone, Jesse Plemons, Cara Jade Myers, Scott Shepherd

SHALINI LANGER

LILY GLADSTONE'S face is an expanse, calm, gentle, open and, for a time before time she sinks in, happy — quite like the Osage County she inhabits.

There is a scene at the beginning when oil is first discovered on this piece of Oklahoma that the Native American tribe has been pushed to. As the black gold gushes out of the ground, it bathes a group of Osages, who are bewildered and thrilled. The riches this brings forth is about to turn their world upside down. We meet Mollie Burkhart (Gladstone) at almost a similar moment, a beautiful, young, rich woman, confident enough to invite a man into her home and share a drink and smoke with him. This too will turn her world upside down.

The two moments are about the only instances when *Killers of the Flower Moon* allows its actors to be anything other than characters driving a story. It's a compelling story alright, of greed, evil, control, privilege and exploitation — layered just enough with religion, like these things are. It also wants to believe it is about a complex love, though the film doesn't spend enough time on it.

That is not to say that it isn't another breathtakingly impressive work from Scorsese — beautifully shot with arresting music. The director has co-written the screenplay from a book that, for the first time, explored the murders and terror wrought upon the Osage tribe in the 1920s by the White man, after oil changed their fortunes. It is the dark underbelly of famed American enterprise, laid bare in all its blood and gore.

In a departure from the book, which focused on the investigation of the Osage murders and how these directly led to the rise of the FBI, Scorsese zooms in on the people at the heart of that probe. They include Mollie; Ernest (DiCaprio), the man who works his way into her heart and allows her into his, to some degree; and Ernest's uncle Hale (De Niro), who pushes them towards a marital union with the aim of laying his hands on Mollie's inherited riches.

Gladstone, who is exceptional till the film requires her to recede as the men take over with all their scheming, and DiCaprio make an intriguing pair — Mollie all patience and reticence, Ernest all bluster and blah. No, he "isn't thick...but strong", he insists to a patronising Hale, and you know that Ernest has been trying to convince others about this for a long time. However, even in the WWI he



just survived, he served only as a cook for the infantry, a detail Hale coaxes out of him.

So when Hale reels him in, dangling the carrots and stick, Ernest is willing. "I love money, I just love it," he declares.

What is more disconcerting is how Mollie, who over one memorable lazy afternoon tells her sisters how she realises Ernest is a "coyote" who wants her money, but that she desires him, loses her agency almost immediately as they are married.

From then on, as the Osages get killed, including Mollie's three sisters, in barely concealed, ruthless murders, the Native Americans are hardly more than victims. They are aggrieved, hold meetings against the White man's conspiracy and make declarations of fighting unto death. But when they do actually fight back, including a remarkable journey made by Mollie and oth-

ers to Washington DC, to convince the government to investigate what has befallen their tribe, the film accords them barely a glance.

At one time, the scare that has set into the tribe, with its ancient beliefs in nature and spirits and communing with the dead, causes them to put up fairy lights outside their homes — dubbed the "fraid lights." But this sense of terror is there just for Hale to chuckle over and Ernest to wonder about. We don't see it from the Osage point of view.

In fact, the point of view is almost entirely Ernest's and Hale's. It's one man torn between guilt and greed, and another man clawing in the space between. While clearly the money has changed the power equation in the Osage County, with some Whites in the employ of the tribe, many Osages now in thrall of the good life, and others held to bind-

ing treaties with their White "guardians" (a subject the film doesn't bother explaining), there is no exploration of this large grey area in *Killers of the Flower Moon*.

De Niro is as usual marvellous, so convincing and creepy in his ambiguities that, even with all the evidence, one can see why the Osages saw him as a "friend" and "benefactor". DiCaprio has the most difficult role of all, and while he is brilliant in flashes, especially in his court testimony, he doesn't get to work enough on what is the beating heart of this story: Ernest's relationship with Mollie.

Scorsese could not have planned it, but *Killers of the Flower Moon* comes right when questions of land and who it belongs to, natives versus settlers, is occupying our headlines. Who but one of the greatest storytellers of our time to address the same?

Passing With Distinction

12TH FAIL ★★★

Director: Vidhu Vinod Chopra

Cast: Vikrant Massey, Medha Shankar, Anantvijay Joshi, Anshumaan Pushkar, Priyanshu Chatterjee, Geeta Agarwal Sharma, Harish Khanna, Vikas Divyakirti

SHUBHRA GUPTA

THE FIRST thing that strikes you as soon as *12th Fail* opens is just how unlike a Vidhu Vinod Chopra film it is. Neither a poetic gangster film, nor a crime thriller, nor a period film, it is the straight-forward story of a 12th fail student, who through dint of sheer perseverance, and a never-say-die attitude, goes on to crack the UPSC examination and become an IPS officer. If I didn't know better, I would have thought that it was a Rajkumar Hirani film, but then I'm sure he would have called it '12th Pass'.

No spoilers here, because the plot is based on the real-life story of Mohan Kumar Sharma and a best-selling book written by Ashok Pathak. In terms of distance, Mohan's journey, from the wilds of the Chambal to the capital's UPSC building, may not have been too long. But in every other respect, these two places could be on different planets: just the thought of a 'Hindi medium' young man from such a humble background, who attends a 'school' where the teachers 'help' their wards to pass exams, makes you blink in disbelief. Just how did the lad, with so little money and zero worldly knowledge, pull it off?

It is primarily down to Vikrant Massey's absolutely convincing playing of Manoj

Kumar Sharma, who comes from a tiny hamlet in the infamous once-ridden-by-dacoit area in Madhya Pradesh and stays the tough cyclic course of failure-and-success, so familiar to those who have gone through the 'civils' grind. It is also the faces the film surrounds him with — Medha Shankar as his supportive girlfriend, Anantvijay Joshi as his helpful friend, Anshumaan Pushkar as the experienced exam giver, UPSC aspirants all, and Priyanshu Chatterjee as the straight arrow cop who becomes his idol — who make you believe. And above all, it is the carefully-calibrated writing, which stays relatable, even when the film dips into the realm of how-can-this-be-true: have you ever heard of a hopeful staying in a room with a super-noisy *atta-chakki*, working through the day, and studying through the night, and managing to get through the prelims? This is what the real-life Mohan did; and this is what the real-life Manoj does.

Producer-director Chopra is celebrating his 45th year in cinema with this film. What makes it stand out from the rest of Chopra's filmography, which includes some of the biggest blockbusters in Bollywood, is its sweetness of spirit coupled with a strong streak of realism. This, even as you are aware that some of the locations are sets, and that some of the characters are underlined, and situations are heightened some-



what, just so that the film is not dubbed a 'documentary', that dreaded term that's a mood-killer for most lovers of standard Bollywood melodramas.

Despite the background music, and the occasional mood spikes, *12th Fail* stays, for the most part, a film that cleaves close to ground reality, with characters that make you feel that they've wandered off the street, and come to hang out with us, dishing out life-lessons laced with dollops of inspiration. It's not just the main cast, but the numbers of the young who gather in the hotspots rife with coaching centres, such as North Delhi's Mukerjee Nagar: all these multitudes, crowding into tiny rooms, far away from their homes, cramming day and night to get through the exams in the hope of becoming something more than who they are, make for such an India story.

A few portions sag, and I had to work at

wrapping my head around the fact that the very bright Shradha believes for so long that Manoj is more educated than he actually is: it would have been apparent the moment he opens his mouth. There's also the all-knowing voiceover, truly such a tired device: why underline things we can see with our own eyes? But the inspiring story of Manoj Kumar Sharma, whose success is not just his own, but of each person who helps him reach his destination, and who clings to his hard-won belief that honesty is the best policy, and that corruption is not always the default option, is the balm that our cynical times need. Naive? Maybe. But sometimes naivete which leads to a hope-against-hope is the elixir we need in these troubled times. One can be honest too, and go straight to the top, and hopefully, stay there. And what do you do if you fail, and fall? Why, dust yourself off, and restart.

A Linear Portrait

MUJIB: THE Making Of A Nation is a strictly by-the-numbers biopic of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, which starts from the beginning and ends at the end, the 187 minutes linear progression taking in his school days, to his youth where he became politically aware, and began the movement, which culminated in the formation of Bangladesh.

For those who are not aware of these details of the subcontinental history, Shyam Benegal's latest film could provide a first-this-happened, and then-this-happened sort of ready reckoner. When Bangladesh was declared an independent nation in 1971 by Rahman, it was an offshoot of the earlier



Partition, which had resulted in the birth of India and Pakistan. There was no way that the two landmasses on the East and West could stay united, given the schisms in lan-

guage and culture.

One of the more alive parts of the film has the main protagonist talk about the importance of his life's work: it wasn't so much on

religious lines that Bangladesh was created, but because Jinnah refused to accord the Bengali language as much importance as Urdu. With this, the Dhaka-based experienced politician Hasan Shahid Suhrawardy (Ahmed) and his young mentor Rahman (Shuvoo, a shoo-in physically for the Bangabandhu) are imbued with feeling: the partnership between the much older man and his wife Renu (Tisha), which started when she was a little slip of a girl, is the rock on which Rahman rests. The family scenes in which they read out their favourite author, Bertrand Russell's lines, are nice too.

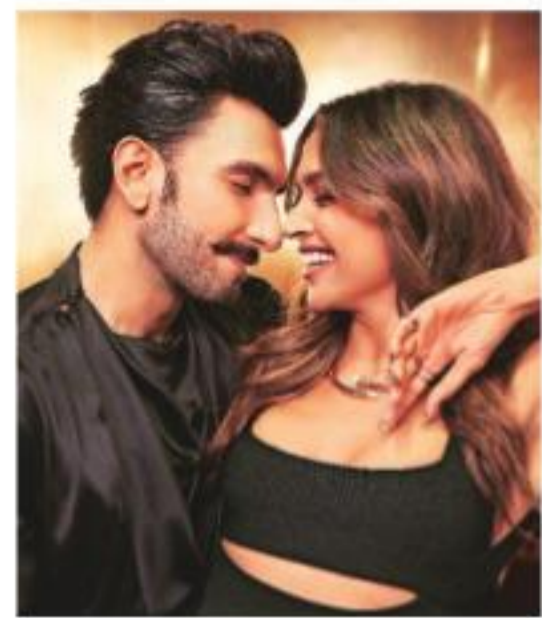
But there's no attempt at any complexity in this recounting, and there's nothing that suggests reasons for the occasional prickliness between India and its neighbour. Stands to reason, because the biopic, a co-production between India and Bangladesh, has been sanctioned by Sheikh Haseena (played by Nusraat Faria in the movie), the daughter of Mujib. Respectful, yet bland. **SG**

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STREAMING WATCH LIST

BY ALAKA SAHANI



KOFFEE WITH KARAN

DISNEY+HOTSTAR

One of the most talked about Indian chat shows kicked off its eighth season, showcasing star power, with Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone appearing together for the first time on a show. In the opening episode, host Karan Johar focuses on how Singh and Padukone fell in love, got married and are making their marriage work. The actors also share the highs and lows they have gone through and how they try to be there for each other. The show seems to have shifted gears as gossip talks appear to have paved the way for more honest conversations. Padukone and Johar spoke about their struggle with mental health while Singh shared how he dealt with three back-to-back flops. In a moving revelation, Johar also talked about loneliness.



TRANSFORMERS: RISE OF THE BEASTS

PRIME VIDEO

Set in the '90s, the movie follows a new faction of Transformers — the Maximals — who join the Autobots as allies in the battle for Earth. Directed by Steven Caple Jr, the film stars Anthony Ramos, Dominique Fishback and Luna Lauren Velez.



PAIN HUSTLERS

NETFLIX

Directed by BAFTA award winner David Yates, *Pain Hustlers* tracks a mother's foray into the complicated dynamics of a failing pharmaceutical start-up. The cast features Emily Blunt, Chris Evans and Catherine O'Hara.



ASPIRANTS 2

PRIME VIDEO

As love, career, friendship, ambition and dreams are all put on line, the trio of Abhilash, SK and Gurl need to be stronger than ever to navigate between pre, mains and life. Created by The Viral Fever, the series is directed by Apoorv Singh Karki. It brings back the cast of Naveen Kasturia, Shivankit Singh Parihar and Abhilash Thapliyal, among others.

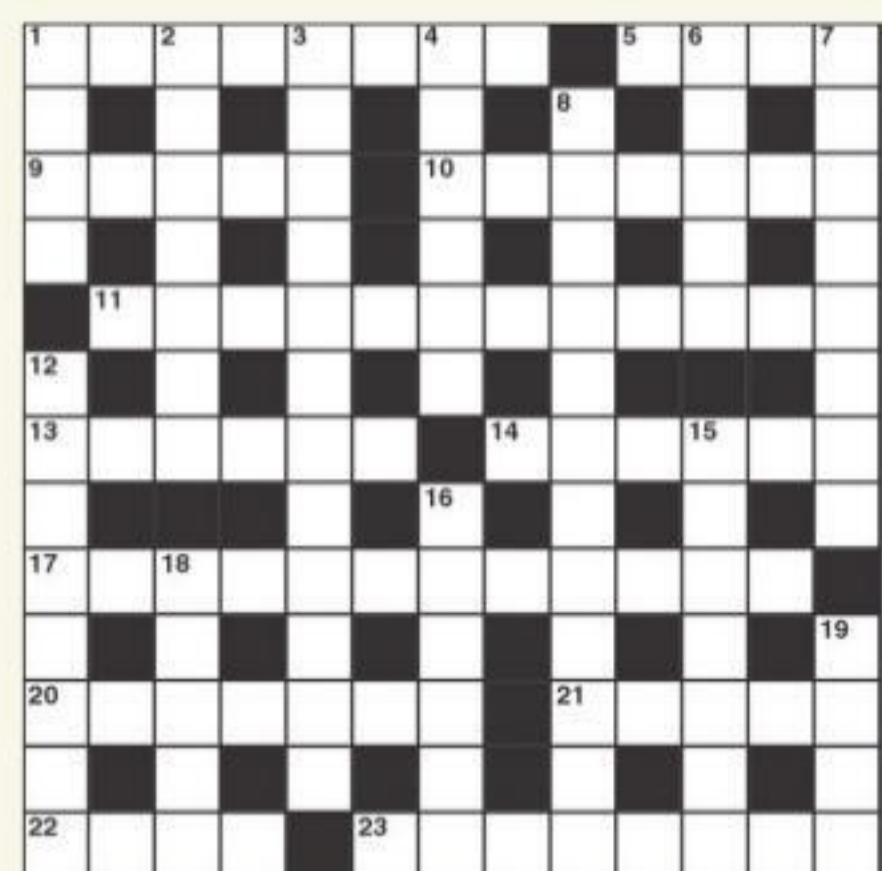


GREAT FREEDOM

BOOKMYSHOW STREAM & MUBI

Directed by Sebastian Meise, *Great Freedom* unearths heartrending chapters of queer history in post-war Germany. Franz Rogowski mesmerises with a powerhouse performance in this absorbing tale of resilience and resistance.

CROSSWORD 5194



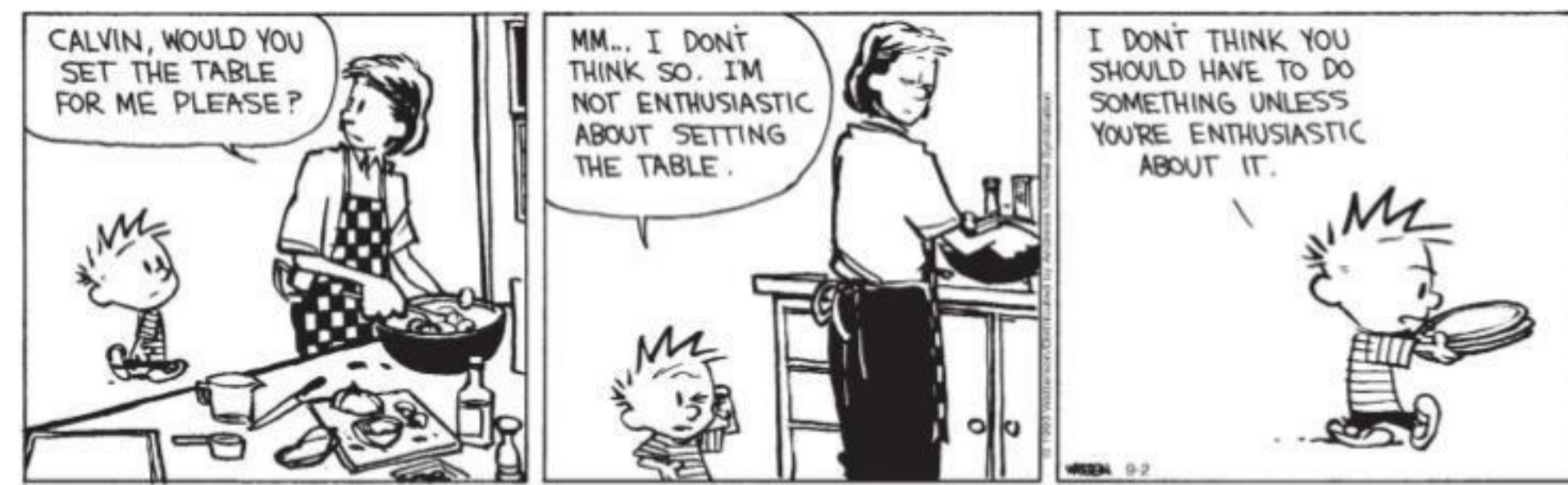
- ACROSS**
- 1 Dame Fortune's aristocratic sister? (4,4)
 - 5 Miss the dance (4)
 - 9 Took the rest of the pelts out (5)
 - 10 Disease peculiar to coastal regions? (7)
 - 11 Noughts for example used in rough estimates? (5,7)
 - 13 Making a statue may be clever? (6)
 - 14 One trying to lose weight more quickly? (6)
 - 17 Action station? (12)
 - 20 Incense in a German city church? (7)
 - 21 Erect beams we hear (5)
 - 22 It has a steady influence at sea? (4)
 - 23 Part friends? (8)
- DOWN**
- 1 Pronounced defect in Botticelli's painting? (4)
 - 2 Poor side away from home fails to survive (4,3)
 - 3 Undiscovered aptitude for the double anagram (6,6)
 - 4 A coin's tossed to decide where to play (6)
 - 6 It has the edge if Ken is involved (5)
 - 7 A request certain to give satisfaction (8)
 - 8 Down-to-earth workman (4,8)
 - 12 The crack of dawn? (8)
 - 15 Strangely one isn't under stress? (7)
 - 16 Consents but will be a long time coming round again (6)
 - 18 A test devised for flavour (5)
 - 19 This is the place at which a man starts again (4)

Solutions Crossword 5193 Across: 1 Shady side, 8 Dried, 9 Transit, 10 Accede, 11 Celtic, 12 Hardware, 15 Soft spot, 18 Ideals, 20 Avenue, 22 Lucre, 23 Daughters
Down: 2 Horse, 3 Donate, 4 Stitch up, 5 Educad, 6 Liberal, 7 Adherents, 11 Constable, 13 Retiring, 14 Offence, 16 Soused, 17 Teaset, 19 Lemur

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

teaches nothing, except the significance of ___ - Michael Korda (3...4)

RTWAE EIPRLT

ABRRR ACIPYF

SOLUTION: WATER/TOWER, BRIAR, TRIPLE, PACIFY
Answer: Art teaches nothing, except the significance of life - Michael Korda

Difficulty Level 2s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

SUDOKU 5364

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

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5363

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

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified male **Age** : About 40-45 years, **Height** : 5'5", **Complexion**: Shallow, **Face**: Long, **Build**: Thin, wearing blue colour T-shirt and light green colour pajama, was found unconscious on 20.10.2023. He was admitted in Sanjay Gandhi Hospital, Mangolpuri, Delhi vide MLC No. 22583/23 where doctor declare him brought dead. In this regard DD No. 101-A dated 20.10.2023 has been lodged at P.S. Mangolpuri, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone numbers.

SHO - P.S. Mangolpuri, Delhi.
Tel. No. 011-27922186, 27921168,
07065036122, 09718275001

DP/12303/OD/23

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Where as complaint has been made before me that one accused **Jaswant Lal Shukla** S/o Sh. Baij Nath Shukla, R/o B-7, Flat No. G-1, Manjusha Apartment, Ramprastha Colony, Near Punjab National Bank, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh have Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **Ct Case No. 11700/2016 u/s 138 NI Act** has been registered at **P.S. Vivek Vihar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Jaswant Lal Shukla** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Jaswant Lal Shukla** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Jaswant Lal Shukla** of **Ct Case No. 11700/2016 u/s 138 NI Act** has been registered at **P.S. Vivek Vihar, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **30.11.2023**.

By Order
Ms. Preeti Parewa
Ld. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate,
Shahdara District,
Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

DP/11869/SHD/2023 (Court Matter) Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED GIRL

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Naina, D/o Motti Lal, R/o C-1215, Gali No. 09, Sangam Vihar, New Delhi.** Age 16 years, Height 5', Complexion Wheatish, Round Face, Strong Build, Wearing Yellow colour suit and hawai chappal in feet has been missing/kidnapped since 03.10.2023 from her house. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out this girl but no clue has come to light so far. In this regard a case FIR No. 397/2023 dated 05.10.2023 U/S 363 IPC has been registered at PS Tigr, New Delhi.

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

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-23011334
Ph: 011-23014046, 23015218

SHO
PS: Tigr, New Delhi
Ph.: 8750870834

DP/12230/SD/2023

Uttar Gujarat Vij Company Limited

CIN: U40102GJ2003SGC042906
Regd. & Corporate Office, Visnagar Road, Mehsana -384001
Toll free No.19121 OR 1800233155335 www.ugvcl.com

TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No.-1. UGVCL/SP/III/CPP/24-25/1231/AAA Conductor and 2. UGVCL/SP/IV/CPP/24-25/1234/3.SC LT PVC Cable is put up for on line tendering on www.ugvcl.com and <https://tender.nprocure.com> Interested Vendors are requested to locate the same for above mentioned Web site.

I/c Chief Engineer (P&P)

PUBLIC NOTICE

CONTRACT FOR SCREENING OF MOVIES

The Albert Ekka Institute is desirous to hire movie screening contract for the period from 29 October 2023 to 28 September 2024. The selection of movies on weekly basis will rest with OIC, Albert Ekka Institute. All desirous vendors will submit their quotation to the undermentioned address before 04 November 2023. Contact No of dealing staff is 720938865.

OIC
Albert Ekka Institute
Near Gopinath Bazar
Delhi Cantt-110010

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSONS

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused persons **1. Swalin** S/o Mohd. Sarfudeen and **2. Ekbal** S/o Patavari both R/o Village Madhiyali, Teh. Sardhana, Distt. Meerut, U.P. have committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence FIR No. 117/2019 u/s 429 IPC & 11A. A.P. Act. P.S. Civil Lines, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **1. Swalin** and **2. Ekbal** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **1. Swalin** and **2. Ekbal** have absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proceeding u/s 82 Cr.P.C. has been initiated in the case. Proclamation is hereby made that the said **1. Swalin** and **2. Ekbal** accused of FIR No. 117/2019 u/s 429 IPC & 11A. A.P. Act. P.S. Civil Lines, Delhi are required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **20.12.2023**.

By Order: **Ms. Arjinder Kaur**
Metropolitan Magistrate (Central Distt.),
Room No. 247, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/12138/N/23

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that this person (depicted in the photo) **Name**: Unknown, **S/o**: Unknown, **R/o**: Unknown, **Sex**: Male, **Age**: 26 Years, **Height**: 5'8", **Complexion**: Wheatish, **ID Mark**: A Tattoo OM at Right Hand, **Wearing**: Maroon Shirt, Black Banyan and Grey color Pajama Marked Puma found dead in front of Jhuggi No. D-49, Shyam Nagar, Tilak Nagar, Delhi on 13.10.2023 by 11.00 pm under area of P.S. Tilak Nagar, Delhi.

In this regard a **DD No. 19A, dated 13.10.2023** has been lodged at PS Tilak Nagar, 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.

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

SHO
PS.- Tilak Nagar, Delhi

DP/12291/WD/2023 (UIDB) Ph.: 011-25407800, 8750871130

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Bharti Sharma, D/o Deshraj Sharma, R/o F-607, F-Block, JJ Colony, Raghuraj Nagar, Delhi.** Age 16 years, Height 5'4", Complexion Wheatish, Oval Face, Medium Built, Wearing Green colour kurti, white colour pajami, white & green colour chunni and pink colour slipper in feet is missing since 22.10.2023 from In Front of Gurudwara Near Ghodewala Mandir Road No. 28, Raghuraj Nagar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out this girl but no clue has come to light so far. In this regard a Case FIR No. 817/2023 dated 23.10.2023 U/S 363 IPC has been registered at PS Rajouri Garden, Delhi.

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

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-23011334
Ph: 011-23014046, 23015218

SHO
PS: Rajouri Garden, Delhi
Ph.: 011-25448885, 25453990
8750871127

DP/12170/WD/2023

GMDC

RFP for Selection of Agency for Providing Security Services to GMDC Ltd

GMDC is a leading Public Sector mining and minerals company of Gujarat with operational experience of over 50 years. GMDC intends to select agencies for providing Security Services at its projects site situated at Ambaji, Bhatia and Shivrajpur. Interested Parties shall submit their proposal online on <https://gmcd.nprocure.com> on or before 16/11/2023 up-to 17:00 hrs.

For full RFP please visit our website, www.gmcdltd.com & <https://gmcd.nprocure.com>

E-Tender Notice- RFP/Security/01/GMDC LTD./2023-24

Sd/-
General Manager (M&S)
Ph: - 079-27912962/3501

Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.
(A Government of Gujarat Enterprise)
Khanji Bhawan, 132 Feet Ring Road,
Near University Ground, Vastrapur, Ahmedabad-380052

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

SEE SECTION U/S 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Vineeta W/o Lalit R/o A-677, JJ Colony, Raghuraj Nagar, Delhi.** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No.103/2020 U/s 33/38 Delhi Excise Act, P.S. Khyala, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused **Vineeta** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Vineeta** has absconded (or is concealing herself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Vineeta** of **FIR No.103/2020 U/s 33/38 Delhi Excise Act, P.S. Khyala, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **29.11.2023**.

By Order
Ms. Shagun
Metropolitan Magistrate-04
Room No-268,
Tis Hazari, Courts, Delhi

DP/12206/WD/2023

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr. P. C.

Whereas a complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Pardeep S/O Sh Jagbir Singh** R/O Krishna Vihar Colony, Bawana, Delhi, have committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under **FIR No. 564/2014 U/S 392/394/397/34 IPC, has been registered at P.S. Bawana, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said, **Pardeep** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Pardeep** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Pardeep** of **FIR No. 564/2014 U/S 392/394/397/34 IPC, registered at P.S. Bawana, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **29.11.2023**.

By Order
Ms. Shefali Sharma (ASJ),
Room No. 202, Rohini Court, Delhi

DP/12061/ON/2023

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Lalu Sahani @ Dinesh Sahani S/o Kamal Sahani R/o WZ-20, Village Nangli Jalib, Janakpuri, Delhi and WZ-57 Village Nangli Jalib, Janakpuri, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 158/2017 U/S 380/457 IPC, P.S. Tilak Nagar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Lalu Sahani @ Dinesh Sahani** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Lalu Sahani @ Dinesh Sahani** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Lalu Sahani @ Dinesh Sahani** of case **FIR No. 158/2017 U/S 380/457 IPC, P.S. Tilak Nagar, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **30.11.2023**.

By Order
Sh. Devanshu Sajlan
Metropolitan Magistrate-07
Room No. 289, IInd Floor
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/12202/WD/2023(Court Matter)

Government Of Maharashtra

Public Works Department

Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Bhokar, Dist. Nanded

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 22/ 2023-2024

Online Tender (e-tender) in B-1 form for the in Nanded District Total 25 (Fifty Five) works are invited by the Executive Engineer, Public Works Division Bhokar, Dist. Nanded (Phone No. 02467-222658) or Government of Maharashtra Electronic Tender Management System. From the registered contractors in appropriate class of Public Works Department of Maharashtra State. The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Maharashtra e-tender portal <https://mahatenders.gov.in/> on sub portal www.mahapwd.gov.in as under.

Note-

1. Details of the tender documents are available on e-tendering <https://mahatenders.gov.in/> and www.mahapwd.gov.in website of the Government of Maharashtra.
2. If there are any changes in the tender notice, then the information will be display on the website.
3. Executive Engineer, Public Works Division Bhokar, Dist. Nanded has reserved the right to accept or reject tenders.

Sd/-
Prashant Nilkanth Kore
Executive Engineer, Public Works
Division Bhokar, Dist. Nanded

dgjpr-2023-24/4479