

## ADDRESSES LEADERS AT VIRTUAL SUMMIT

# PM: New challenges emerging, condemn civilian deaths in Israel-Hamas conflict

Need to speak in one voice for the greater good, he tells Global South



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the BJP office in New Delhi on Friday. *Jatin Anand*

**E** Looking at India

THE GLOBAL South, representing developing and under-developed countries, has been watching India's position on the Israel-Hamas conflict closely. Many have been vocal in their support for the people of Gaza.

ers about the achievements of India's G20 presidency that largely focused on addressing

challenges facing the Global South, Modi said, "For global prosperity, Sabka Saath, Sabka" **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## Use of AI for deepfake worrying, says Modi

JATIN ANAND  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 17

CALLING ITS capability of "fanning the flame of disaffection very rapidly" in a country as diverse and large as India "worrying", Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday sought the media's help in educating people regarding the capabilities of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and deepfake technology. Speaking to journalists at a

Diwali Milan programme at the BJP headquarters, Modi spoke of the increasing efficiency of media outlets given the power of technology and social media even as he sought their help — citing an example of a deepfake video that shows him doing the garba — to educate and caution people about the inherent dangers that AI, especially deepfake technology, can pose and the crises they can trigger if misused. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

AN INVESTIGATION BY THE INDIAN EXPRESS WITH INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM OF INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISTS - PART FOUR

# In GMR's global web, how Cyprus thread connected offshore entities

Set up few entities for tax efficiency, all details disclosed in balance sheets, and to regulators: GMR Group



SANDEEP SINGH  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 17

GMR ENTERPRISE, the key promoter entity of GMR Group which owns airports in Delhi, Hyderabad and Goa, used a step-down subsidiary in Cyprus to hold and raise funds to save on taxes as it sought to expand its global footprint between 2010 and 2020.

According to documents obtained by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ), Crossridge Investments, the subsidiary in Cyprus, borrowed \$180 million from Eurobank Cyprus Ltd in 2013. Crossridge in turn lent funds to a company it owns called Interzone Capital, which is incorporated in the British Virgin Islands.

For Crossbridge's \$180 million loan, GMR Infrastructure (Cyprus) Ltd or GICL provided security in the form of a lien over its deposits in Eurobank, the documents show. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

Interzone, however, could not repay Crossbridge itself, since it did not have a bank account of its own. Hence, it asked GMR Holdings (Mauritius), an offshore entity controlled by GMR Infratech Private Ltd, to repay the loans. It is not clear from the documents if Interzone eventually paid back GMR Holdings (Mauritius). The end use of these funds by Interzone Capital is not clear in the documents.

GMR Infratech Private Ltd and GMR Infrastructure Ltd are two group entities registered in India through which GMR Enterprise — a major shareholder in the GMR Group's flagship GMR Airports Infrastructure — controls a string of 13 entities in half-a-dozen tax havens including Mauritius, Cyprus and the British Virgin Islands (BVI). Many of these offshore entities have been liquidated over the last 2-3 years or are in the process of winding up, the documents show.

Responding to a questionnaire, a GMR Group spokesperson said, "On divestment of our stake in an energy company based out of the USA, part of balance capital was kept in the Euro Bank account of GMR Infra Cyprus (US\$ 140 million). These funds were blocked by that government due to capital controls" **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

BUSINESS AS USUAL  
By UNNY



THE WORLD



EXPECT CANDID TALK: BLINKEN TO CHINA AFTER BIDEN CALLS XI 'DICTATOR' **PAGE 16**

## As Azam Khan trust land seized, over 600 girl students of UP school feel the brunt



The girls wing of the Rampur Public School was sealed by the authorities on November 10. *File*

Parents get 28 schools as options but question sealing in middle of session

ASAD REHMAN  
LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 17

MOHAMMAD FAISAL (42), who owns a shop in Uttar Pradesh's Rampur city, says his only daughter, Fatima Noor, has been having panic attacks for the last few days. A student of class VIII, Noor studied at Rampur Public School (girls wing) on Topkhana Road until, on November 10, its building was sealed for alleged violation of rules. The school had 632 girls studying from nursery to class VIII.

"My daughter is an outstanding student — she stood first or second in all examinations. Ever since the school was sealed, she has been panicking. We took her to a doctor, but she isn't adjusting well to the news that she will have to go to a new school," said Faisal.

dents studying at the school — run by the Maulana Mohammad Ali Jauhar Trust headed by senior Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan — seems uncertain even though the Education Department and Rampur administration have released a list of 28 schools where these students can take admission. Only 10 parents have written to the administration so far regarding admission to the new schools, and even they say they will admit their daughters from the next academic session.

The Uttar Pradesh cabinet had on October 31 approved a proposal to take back ownership of over 41,000 square feet of land given on lease to the Muhammad Ali Jauhar Trust, and ordered it to be transferred to the state's Secondary Education Department.

Parents, however, questioned **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## VOTING DAY

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan meets voters after casting his vote in Sehore district on Friday. *PTI* **REPORT, PAGE 7**



MADHYA PRADESH  
**76.22%** voter turnout\* for 230 Assembly seats  
\*Via ECI voter turnout app

CHHATTISGARH  
**74.27%** turnout\* for 70 Assembly seats in second phase of polls

## HC quashes Haryana law on 75% quota in pvt jobs to residents: Discriminatory

JAGPREET SINGH & SUKHBIR SIWACH  
CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 17

UNDERLINING THAT a government cannot discriminate against individuals merely because they do not belong to a particular state, the Punjab and Haryana High Court on Friday quashed a law passed by the Haryana government in 2020 that provided 75 per cent reservation in private jobs to residents of the state.

"The Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Act, 2020 is held to be unconstitutional and violative of Part III of the Constitution of India and is accordingly held ultra vires," a division bench of Justices G S Sandhawalia and Harpreet Kaur Jeewan said in its order.

The bench, which was hearing a clutch of petitions challenging the law, said the legislation

will become "ineffective from the date it came into force".

Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala said: "We will move the Supreme Court and file an SLP after thoroughly examining the High Court order."

Praveen Atrey, media secretary to Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, told *The Indian Express*: "It was the aim of the government that the Haryana youth get jobs in newly formed" **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## Ashneer Grover and wife stopped at Delhi airport, told to join probe in fraud case



Stopped on basis of lookout circular. *@Ashneer\_Grover on X*

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 17

FORMER MANAGING Director of BharatPe Ashneer Grover and his wife Madhuri Jain were stopped Thursday evening by authorities at the Delhi airport from travelling to New York on the basis of a lookout circular issued against them by Delhi Police's Economic Offences Wing (EOW).

A senior police officer said Ashneer and his wife were stopped at the immigration. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## Adani coal imports case in SC: DRI reiterates stand to resume probe

ANANTHAKRISHNAN & JAY MAZOOMDAAR  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 17

IN AN affidavit to the Supreme Court, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has reiterated its stand to resume investigation into the Adani Group for alleged overvaluation of coal imports and said it "has followed due

process" in applying to a Mumbai court for issuing Letter Rogatory to secure some documents pertaining to the case in Singapore.

A Letter Rogatory is a formal request seeking judicial assistance during an investigation involving a foreign entity.

The affidavit was filed on October 10. The same day, the Supreme Court clubbed the matter with another case related

to the alleged smuggling of duty-free gold by a Hyderabad-based jeweller.

It was in November 2019 that the DRI had moved the apex court against a Bombay High Court order in favour of the Adani Group. The case has been heard five times in four years and is yet to reach the stage of final arguments. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## Rosneft, India's Russia oil supplier, 3 others too in files

Ex-Indian Oil board member now on board of US-sanctioned Rosneft

SHYAMLAL YADAV  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 17

AT LEAST FOUR big Russian corporations Rosneft, Lukoil, Surgutneftegas and Gazprom, which supply crude oil to India, own offshore entities in tax haven Cyprus, documents of accessed by *The Indian Express* with the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) have revealed.

In the 12-month ending June 2023, India imported 4.57 million barrels per day, of which roughly 30 per cent came from the four Russian companies, data sourced from Kpler, a commodity market analytics firm, shows.

Also, GK Satish, a former board member of state-owned oil major Indian Oil Corporation, is now on the board of Rosneft

Oil Company. The US Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control included Rosneft Oil Company in the SSI (Sectoral Sanctions Identifications) List on July 17, 2014, over Russia's role in the Ukraine crisis. The latest updated list continues to list Rosneft as a sanctioned entity.

Satish was on Indian Oil board from September 1, 2016 till his retirement as Director (Planning and Business Development) on August 31, 2021, and is now the Managing Director in a private company called ValPro Private Ltd. In a press release dated June 30, 2023, Rosneft said Satish was elected to the board by its shareholders as an independent director.

According to a former revenue department official, sanctions by the US government do **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

# Behind opening fireworks: Rohit's own idea, endorsed by Dravid

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

DEVENDRA PANDEY  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 17

THE IDEA of him ditching self-preservation for the high-risk, high-reward approach at the top of the order for the World Cup was proposed by Indian captain Rohit Sharma himself during a team meeting after the Asia Cup earlier this year. It is learnt that Rohit wanted to put bowling attacks to the sword as far back as last year's T20 World Cup in Australia, but it didn't come off. During the 50-over World Cup at home, on pitches more con-

ducive to hitting on the up, Rohit felt it was a risk worth taking.

Rohit told his teammates and the coaching staff that as captain he would set the tone of the innings and this would allow others to play their natural game. The bold proposal of the skipper came with a rider: If the plan didn't work out, he would be willing to play more conservatively.

To his credit, head coach Rahul Dravid, the wall at No.3 during his Test cricket days, too bought into this idea after carefully weighing the pros and cons.

Fifth on the run-scorers list with 550, Rohit has an average of 55 and a headline-making strike rate of 124.15 — the fastest among the top 10 run-getters at



Rohit Sharma during a training session at Narendra Modi Stadium, Friday. *Nirmal Harindran*

this World Cup. Numbers tell only half the story of his impact on the morale of new-ball bowlers at this World Cup and his contribution with the bat to the team's 10-match unbeaten run.

Speaking ahead of the New Zealand game, Rohit thanked coach Dravid for backing him and the players and not chopping and changing once every batsman was given clear roles.

"I don't have a mantra. As a captain, if you have decided this is how you want to play then you must have clarity. You have to back the players to the hilt. We have backed certain players whom we have given certain roles. We'll back players and stand with them. We have to give credit to Rahul Dravid for

buying into that thought and not shuffle much when it doesn't come off," Rohit had said.

All-rounders Hardik Pandya and Shardul Thakur lower down the order also provided the safety net of a longer batting unit. However, despite Hardik being sidelined because of injury, Thakur being benched and fast bowler Mohammed Shami coming in, Rohit has not backed down when facing the new ball.

While the bowlers have been on song, the batsmen have not spared bowling attacks. The Indian batting has clicked whether it is batting first or chasing. Their 10-game unbeaten record has an even split — India won the first five games **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

BIG PICTURE  
PAGE 12



CAPTAIN & THE KING  
A TALE OF TWO FRIENDS

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MONARCH - LEGACY OF MONSTERS REVIEW: APPLE'S EXCELLENT GODZILLA SERIES FAVOURS NARRATIVE AMBITION OVER MONSTER MAYHEM

Despite regular appearances by Godzilla and other monsters, the best thing about the new MonsterVerse series, surprise-surprise, is the human drama.

TECHNOLOGY SHIELDING THOUGHTS FROM TECHNOLOGY



Here's why we will soon need 'neuro rights' to protect our brains



UPSC SPECIALS

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EXPRESS AUDIO World Cup daily: Australia survive South Africa to enter final

On Express Sports, we look at the World Cup series as hosts Mihir Vasavda and Amit Kamath discuss Australia's victory over South Africa in the semi-final which secures them a clash with Rohit Sharma and company in the final.

FROM PAGE ONE PM: Condemn civilian deaths

Vikas (together with all, development for all) is needed. But we are seeing that new challenges are emerging from the incidents in West Asia. India has condemned the horrific terrorist attacks in Israel on October 7. Along with restraint, we have also emphasised on dialogue and diplomacy. We strongly condemn the deaths of civilians in the conflict between Israel and Hamas.

Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Modi had tweeted on the Hamas attacks on Israeli civilians and military personnel on October 7 itself, calling them "terror attacks" and condemning them - this was seen as a pro-Israel statement. He condemned terrorism after he spoke to Netanyahu, but the Ministry of External Affairs sought to nuance its position and tried to walk the diplomatic tightrope by committing to the Palestinian cause and advocating direct talks between Israel and Palestine.

cooperation under the framework of 'five Cs' which he explained as consultation, cooperation, communication, creativity and capacity building. "For 'One Earth, One Family, One Future', let us all move forward together with five Cs," he said. Modi also mentioned forward movement at the G20 on several initiatives which would benefit the Global South. The next G20 leaders' virtual summit is scheduled to take place on November 22.

AI use for deepfake worrying: PM

"...the effect of the fast-changing technological landscape has touched upon existing systems. Due to Artificial Intelligence and especially because of deepfake (technology), a new crisis has emerged. A significant section of Bharat is such that it does not have the means necessary for verification or to authenticate. People can fall prey to believing what they see to be true... and this will lead us towards a major crisis," he said. Citing his own example - of a deepfake video of him doing the garba - which he said he had seen, the Prime Minister called the misuse of the technology "worrying" and said he had taken up the matter with representatives of global AI behemoth ChatGPT themselves.

wards me are forwarding it," he said. "I don't want to cite examples of others. That is why I gave my own example... this is a matter of worry... (for) a society like ours, which is full of diversity... When representatives from ChatGPT met me to discuss the way forward regarding this subject (AI)... I told them that just like cigarettes carry warnings - that they are hazardous for health - whoever uses ChatGPT or AI like this... that should bear... This is a deepfake... then you enjoy it, do whatever you wish to... They said that this is their worry too... that they have created this, but how will this stop," he said. He also sought the help of the media in highlighting the achievements of the government to create confidence around a "Viksit Bharat" among the people which, he said, was "no longer a word but ground reality".

How Cyprus thread connected offshore entities

imposed by the country in March, 2013. The spokesperson further said, both Crossridge and Interzone were wound-up along with many other overseas companies as part of a prudent review mechanism to rationalise the corporate structure. It also acknowledged that the group did set up a few companies in other jurisdictions for purposes including tax efficiency. "We set up a few companies in various overseas jurisdictions to meet the operational requirements, tax efficiency, ease of investment based on the expert advice of the best international consultants and as per the practice followed by several corporates. ICJ query on this aspect was adequately addressed by us earlier in the year 2017. All above information was very well discussed in the Board meetings appropriately and disclosed in the Balance sheets. All the overseas companies were reported to regulatory authorities both in India including RBI and abroad as appropriate," the spokesperson said. Along with the \$180 million loan, Eurobank Cyprus also provided \$50 million in revolving

credit to Crossridge Investment in 2017; this reduced to \$40 million in 2018, and dropped further in the coming years. These were also covered by the lien over deposits offered by GICL. The GMR Group decided to wind up the operations of its entities incorporated in Cyprus. In April 2021, the GICL board resolved that the company's activities will cease, and the procedure of winding up will be initiated with immediate effect. In June 2021, a letter by Prakash Diwan of GMR Airports (Singapore) said winding up of GICL, GECL (GMR Energy Cyprus Limited) - another company incorporated in Cyprus - and Crossridge were at an advanced stage. To move ahead with the liquidation of its Cyprus and other offshore entities, the GMR Group initiated a series of financial transactions in 2021 and 2022 between group entities across tax jurisdictions. Directing a PwC Cyprus official, GMR Group's G Butchi Raju said GMR Holdings (Mauritius) should transfer funds to the tune of \$10 million to Crossridge as part repayment of loan taken by Interzone. It also directed that fixed deposits of GICL be pre-closed and funds transferred to GMR Holdings (Mauritius) Ltd. This is not the first time that ICJ documents have revealed GMR Group's offshore dealings. In November 2017, The Indian Express had reported in Paradise Papers about the 28 offshore companies set up by the group - from Mauritius to Malta - to drive its expansion. The group had created a web of companies that involved setting up at least 28 entities across 10 jurisdictions, including Mauritius, the Isle of Man, Spain, Singapore and Malta. These entities were then structured as step-down subsidiaries of GMR Holdings Private Ltd (India). Giant company incorporator Appleby documents had then revealed that GMR Group also executed or sought execution of transactions from the Bermuda law firm that would allegedly help it avoid tax; convert inter-company loans across jurisdictions into compulsory convertible debentures to avoid transfer pricing issues; and, in several instances, change the nature of funds (debt to equity and vice-versa) when they were transferred from a subsidiary in one jurisdiction to another.

HC quashes Haryana law on 75% quota in pvt jobs

industries. Now, the Hon'ble High Court's order has come but we have not received it. Once we get the detailed order of the court, we will study it and decide the next course of action. In its order, the bench said it is beyond the purview of the State to restrict a private employer from recruiting from the open market for the category of employees who were receiving less than Rs 30,000 per month. "Keeping in view the principles laid down by the apex court itself on the principles of moral-

ity, the State cannot direct the private employers to do what has been forbidden to do under the Constitution of India. It cannot as such discriminate against the individuals on account of the fact that they do not belong to a certain State and have a negative discrimination against other citizens of the country," the bench said. "The private employer being a builder, for example, raising a multi-storied complex, cannot be asked not to employ a person who is skilled in the work of in-

stallation of wood work who might come from a particular area of the country i.e. Kashmir; where this skill has been enhanced, whereas from another part of the country, labour which is more skilled in setting up the steel frames and building are found i.e. Punjab; whereas similar persons with different skills who would be more proficient in just executing the civil work i.e. Uttar Pradesh and Bihar," it said. Petitioners MT Industrial Association and others had chal-

Adani coal case in SC: DRI wants to resume probe

In its latest affidavit, the DRI pointed out that the Adani Group (respondent) and not the agency (petitioner) that has approached the SC with "unclean hands". "... had the enquiry been a fishing and roving enquiry, the courts in India and Singapore would have, in the very first place, outrightly rejected the requests made at the behest of the Petitioner," it said. On the contrary, the agency underlined, in pursuance of the Letter Rogatory (LR) issued by the Metropolitan Magistrate, Mumbai, in August 2016, Singapore's Attorney General's Chamber (AGC) made applications before the Singapore State Court and sought six Production Orders against Adani Global Pte Ltd, Singapore (AGPTE) and other group/related companies based in Singapore. Likewise, the AGC made applications before the High Court of Singapore and obtained 20 Production Orders against the 20 banks of Adani Global Pte Ltd. The Production Orders were served on Adani Global Pte Ltd, its group/related companies and the banks during July-August, 2017. The DRI pointed out that the agency could not get complete access to the documents required for investigation due to non-cooperation of Adani Group companies as well as their banks in sub-

mitting transaction related information. That is why, the agency pleaded, "it was imperatively felt that the said documents could only be obtained through the instrument of Letter Rogatory." "Permission for following this route was obtained from the Ministry of Finance as well as (the) Ministry of Home Affairs," the 25-page filing states, adding that the investigation "is completely in compliance." The DRI is probing at least 40 companies for alleged overvaluation of coal imports from Indonesia pegged at Rs 29,000 crore between 2011 and 2015. The list includes six Adani companies including Adani Enterprise and Adani Power. The Adani Group has denied any wrongdoing. In 2016, the agency issued a general alert to field offices and customs across India on the "modus-operandi of inflating the procurement price of imported coal" with the objective of "siphoning-off money abroad" and availing "higher power tariff compensation based on artificially inflated cost of the imported coal." While Indonesian coal was shipped directly from Indonesian ports to India, the DRI's 2016 alert said, suppliers' invoices were "routed through one or more intermediaries based in Singapore, Dubai, Hong Kong, British Virgin Islands (UK) etc for the purpose of artificially inflating its value." Claiming that the "intermediary firms appear to be either subsidiary companies of Indian Importers or their front" companies, the DRI alert said the "cases under examination suggest huge over-valuation to the extent of about 50% to 100%." The DRI case against the Adani Group assumes significance as the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) had in November 2017 pointed out that findings of the probe into alleged over-invoicing of Indonesian coal imports by Adani Power would affect the compensation it received from distribution companies in Haryana. The Adani Group has also received compensation from distribution companies in Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra. In theory, the over-valuation of coal inflates the production cost, pushing up the power tariff fixed by the CERC or the respective state regulatory commissions, and making the consumers pay more. The DRI had approached the SC after the Bombay HC had in September 2018 quashed all LRs sent by the agency to Singapore and other countries while probing alleged overvaluation of Indonesian coal imports.

Rosneft, India's Russia oil supplier, 3 others too in files

Germany Gerhard Schroeder had to step down from the board of directors of Rosneft in May 2022, after the European Parliament urged he be blacklisted unless he quit it. Rosneft owns and operates a string of offshore entities in tax haven Cyprus. And its former CEO, Eduard Khudaynatov, who is 63 now, is also the ultimate beneficial owner in some Cypriot entities, according to data accessed by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ). Cypriot companies linked to Khudaynatov are: Emiand Investments Ltd (incorporated in February 2014, he is a shareholder); Vostok Oil Cyprus Limited (incorporated in August 1998, he is the UBO); Miasdor Investments Ltd (incorporated in February 2014, he is a shareholder); Geltome Limited (incorporated in April 2011, he is the UBO); and Daumier Investments Limited (incorporated in May 2006, he is the UBO). All these five firms are "active", the documents show. Rosneft has been a steady supplier of crude oil to India for many years. Khudaynatov is said to be

close to Russian President Vladimir Putin and presently owns the Independent Oil and Gas Company. He was appointed Chief Executive Officer of Rosneft on September 6, 2010 and served in the capacity for more than two years. A Forbes report in June 2022 reported that US authorities identified him as the proxy owner of two mega yachts: the 459-foot Scheherazade, which is linked to Putin, and the 348-foot Amadea, which the US Department of Justice found is ultimately owned by sanctioned Russian gold mogul Suleiman Kerimov. Rosneft itself appeared linked to four Cypriot firms: GPOB Limited (opened in November 2012); Rosneft International Holdings Limited (opened in April 2016, owned by 'Rosneft Oil Limited'); Martanco Holdings Co. Ltd (opened in September 2001); and Novy Investments Limited (opened in April 2011, 'dissolved' in August 2020 'due to merger'). Emails sent to Rosneft and Khudaynatov, and the other three companies Lukoil, Gazprom and Surgutneftegas, did not elicit a response.

EXPRESS EDUCATION ANTHRO MEANS VAID SIR Why Voids? Full Support until Success, Including free Repeat Classes 180+ Answers Prepared & Evaluated Includes Test Series & Time-bound Answer Writing Online(Live) & Offline Batch Starting Dec 17 Live Interaction On Nov 20 at 2 pm On Youtube.com/@VaidICSDelhi Register at www.vaidics.com VAID'S ICS, DELHI Ph: 9999946748 Contact for Advt. Booking: M/s Friends Publicity Service (M): 9212665841, 9212008155

Rohit's own idea, endorsed by Dravid

while chasing and the next five when batting first. It has helped that other batting stars in the lineup - Virat Kohli, Shubman Gill, Shreyas Iyer and KL Rahul - have struck collective form when it has mattered most. Rohit's approach to the 50-over game like a T20 has removed the pressure on the other batsmen to start hitting from the word go.

Girl students feel the brunt

why the school had to be sealed in the middle of a session. Uzma Zeeshan (35), whose daughter Rubiya Ibrahim Shamsi is a student of class 7. "The parents held meetings with the Rampur Education Department authorities, but they didn't budge. The school was sealed on November 10. The government talks of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, but the reality is different. The Rampur Public School was running under the CBSE Board, and now they are saying we can get admission in other schools. They have released a list and helpline numbers, but how will we afford these private schools, which charge admission fees, exam fees, etc?" The school was started in 2016 by the Jauhar Trust, which also runs the Muhammad Ali Jauhar University in Rampur. It employed 28 staff members, including 20 teachers. Uzma's daughter, she said, studied at half fees - Rs 700 per month - under a concession given by the school to students from economically weaker families. School officials say that around 60 students avail the subsidy. "The administration should have at least waited for the session to conclude before

Grover, wife stopped from flying to US

On Friday morning, the EOW sent summons to their Delhi residence, asking them to join its investigation in a case in which recruitment firms linked to Grover and his family members allegedly used backdated invoices to siphon funds from BharatPe. In December last year, the fintech company had filed a complaint against Grover, who is one of its co-founders, his wife Madhuri and other family members for allegedly carrying out a fraud of Rs 81 crore. In a post on X, Grover said he will cooperate with the probe. He said he had not received any communication from the EOW since May last year, when the case was filed, until Friday. "I was going to US from 16-23 November. At immigration they said LoClaga hua hai sir... I found it strange as have travelled 4 times internationally since FIR filed in May - never been a problem and I had not even been summoned once... Today morning EOW summons was home delivered - will cooperate as always," Grover said in his post.

# 7 cyber scamsters arrested, Gurgaon cops trace Rs 22 cr cheated money

AI SWARYAJA  
GURGAON, NOVEMBER 17

IN OCTOBER, Gurgaon resident Smritija Chatterjee received a call from an unknown number asking her to click on a link or risk getting her phone hacked. Soon after she clicked on the link sent through WhatsApp, her phone froze and she received an SMS informing that Rs 80,000 had been debited from her account.

Chatterjee is among several unsuspecting victims of cyber fraud, who lost their hard-earned money to scamsters employing various means – phone hacking, fake part-time jobs, YouTube likes, to name a few – to execute their plans.

Recently, Gurgaon Police arrested seven men, tracing around Rs 22 crore they amassed by cheating people like Chatterjee. The arrested men included Mohammad Danish and Mohammad Majid who were allegedly behind the scam call made to Chatterjee.

Siddhant Jain, Deputy Police Commissioner (South), said that upon scrutinising the data from the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Center (I4C) for the seized mobile phones and SIM cards of the accused, it was revealed Danish and Majid were linked to Rs 18 crore worth of fraud. "175 FIRs are nationally registered, and eight are specific to Haryana. Other accused – Navdeep Kumawat, Krishna Gopal, Mahendra Kumar Sen, and Sachin Nama – are linked to Rs 2.5 crore, with 39 FIRs registered, and three specific to Haryana. Accused Suraj Rana is linked to Rs 1.68 crore, with 28 FIRs across the country and two in Haryana," he said.

Probe revealed Danish and Majid posed as bank customer service officers contacting their targets on the pretext of updating the bank accounts and resolving other issues by sending links through WhatsApp. Kumawat,

**The cyber criminals are employing means like sending malicious links, promising money in lieu of liking YouTube videos, and even sextortion to target their victims, say police**

Gopal, Sen and Nama committed fraud by inviting people to like YouTube videos or offering part-time jobs through Telegram. Rana engaged in various cyber frauds, including creating fake accounts on social media, police said.

Sub Inspector Sachin Kumar, part of the team that made the arrests, said that there has been an array of cybercrime techniques, which keep getting more complicated by the day. "Some pose as customer care personnel to gain the trust of callers and cheat them. Many crimes are happening on WhatsApp now. The accused initially get access to data of people, hack into their apps, and text the victim's friends and relatives asking for money. Sometimes, sextortion calls are made through WhatsApp," he said.

"Many accused have been found to cheat people under the pretext of calling from LIC, or banks. We have gotten cases where victims were called by people posing as bank personnel asking if their credit card limit needs to be increased, and people fall for such scams and disclose the OTP.. The accused also call people posing as electricity department employees and ask unsuspecting users to click on links failing which, they say, their electricity supply will be impacted. When people click on the link, screen-sharing apps like AnyDesk get downloaded and their UPI ID gets leaked," Kumar added.

## 4 ACCUSED IN CUSTODY, POLICE NOW LOOK TO NAB SUPPLIERS OF BANNED MEDICINES

# Show-cause notice issued to GK medical centre

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 17

TWO DAYS after it was found to be flouting several medical norms, including allegedly allowing non-qualified individuals to perform surgical procedures on unsuspecting patients, the health department issued a show-cause notice to the proprietor of a clinic in South Delhi.

Sent with regard to allegedly violating the Delhi Nursing Homes Registration Act, the move comes after the Delhi Police, on Wednesday, arrested four people for their alleged involvement in the surgeries of two patients who

died at the clinic in Greater Kailash-1.

On Thursday, Neeraj Agarwal, who runs the Agarwal Medical Centre, Jaspreet Singh (both MBBS doctors), Agarwal's wife Pooja and former laboratory technician Mahender Singh were produced in a court and sent to five-days' police custody.

The notice dated November 16, police said, came in response to a letter sent by the Delhi Police to the Delhi government's Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) stating the illegality of the medical procedures being carried out inside the premises.

Besides Mahender, the doc-



The centre is accused of allowing non-qualified individuals to perform surgical procedures on patients.

A senior police officer said they will now make arrests of people who used to supply the banned medicines and medical equipments to them.

The notice also mentions the various complaints against Agarwal and his clinic; it asked the proprietor to appear in person or through a representative, according to provisions of the Delhi Nursing Homes Registration Act, to show cause as to why an order of cancellation of registration should not be issued.

"Whereas, in one of the above mentioned complaints it was alleged that Dr Pooja is doing medical procedure in the nursing home. Whereas, in another com-

plaint (Major Basoya) it was alleged that Dr Neeraj Agarwal, his wife and another staff not performing the necessary tests for the treatment of his brother," the order stated.

According to police, the centre used to offer surgeries, including removal of gall bladder stones, charging patients between Rs 20,000 and Rs 25,000 with the promise of completing the procedure within 15 to 20 minutes.

Their latest victim was a patient named Jai Narayan, 44, who was operated upon for removal of his gall bladder stone. He died in October. Last year, another patient, Asghar Ali, died after a similar procedure.

tors also used to allow "other inexperienced people" to perform surgeries in lieu of small payments, police have alleged.



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# 8 women hurt in Nuh stone pelting; police apprehend 3 minors

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
GURGAON, NOVEMBER 17

AFTER EIGHT women were injured as stones were pelted at them in Haryana's Nuh on Thursday night, the police said on Friday they have apprehended three minors in connection with the incident.

Narendra Bijarnia, Superintendent of Police, Nuh, told *The Indian Express* the incident took place around 7.30 pm on Thursday when the group of Dalit women had gone for Kuan Puja to celebrate the birth of a child in their family.

"An FIR has been registered under IPC sections 323 and 354, and sections of the SC/ST Act. Three minors have been rounded up and they will be produced before the Juvenile Court. They threw stones and slippers at the women from the Badi Masjid madrasa in the town," said Bijarnia.

During a press conference later, Bijarnia said the police rounded up the three children

based on the CCTV footage inside the madrasa.

"We are looking into all the allegations levelled by the women and will take action accordingly. We are also questioning the children to know more about the incident," said the SP.

"However, the situation is normal now as we have held a meeting with leaders of both communities. Heads of institutions were asked to advise children regarding such behaviour and that they are not repeated," he added.

The Nuh police have appealed to the public to refrain from posting inappropriate content or spreading rumours on social media. Strict action will be taken against those who spread rumours or make inappropriate comments about someone's religion or caste, they said.

The Nuh police spokesperson Krishan Kumar said they are closely monitoring social media activities. Kumar said Bijarnia has sent a message to the public, urging them not to post anything on social media that could hurt religious sentiments.

# HC stays proceedings in ED probe against Munjal

MALAVIKA PRASAD  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 17

THE DELHI High Court Friday in an interim order stayed proceedings pertaining to an Enforcement Directorate (ED) probe against Hero MotoCorp executive chairman Pawan Kant Munjal.



Hero MotoCorp executive chairman Pawan Kant Munjal

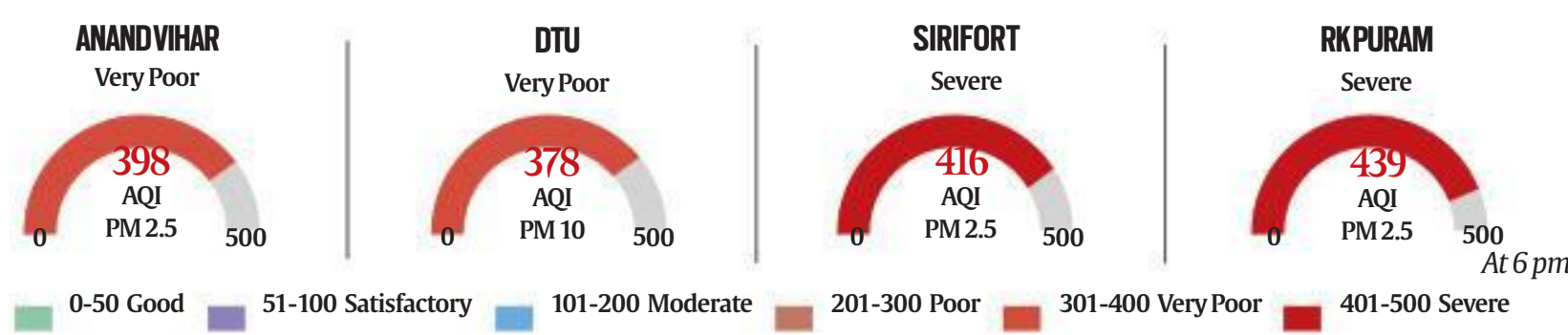
A single-judge bench of Justice Saurabh Banerjee, while issuing notice to the ED in Munjal's plea, noted that the HC had on November 3 stayed proceedings before the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Patiala House Court, and all proceedings emanating therefrom in a case registered by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI).

"Accordingly, there shall be a stay of proceedings under the ECIR," the court said, listing the matter on March 21, 2024.

The HC clarified that the stay on ED proceedings under its Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) was in relation to Munjal only "considering the peculiar facts and circumstances of the case" and the fact that there was a stay order in the DRI probe.

The HC noted that the predicate offences in the ED's ECIR are emanating from a March 2022 order of the Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT) wherein the petitioner had already been exonerated on the same set of facts.

# 4 THE CITY



**SKY WATCH**  
**FORECAST: November 18**  
 Mainly clear sky. Shallow fog in the morning.  
**AQI forecast:** Likely to be very poor  
**MAX: 28** (0.2°C above normal)  
**MIN: 13** (0.7°C above normal)

## Fresh complaint against Chief Secy: 'Favoured son's firm in ILBS project'

CS calls it rubbish; ILBS denies, says didn't issue purchase order, make payment to AI software developer

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
 NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 17

THE DELHI government Friday accused Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar of allegedly abusing his position to enable a lucrative collaboration for his son's tech company by bending tender-related rules at the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) — claims that were denied by Kumar and the institute. According to government sources, Vigilance Minister Atishi submitted a preliminary report on the matter to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal alleging that Kumar, in his capacity as the hospital's chairman, allotted a "prestigious project" for the creation of Artificial Intelligence-based virtual reality/augmented reality labs at ILBS to his son's 8-month-old "inexperienced start-up" sans tender. In response, ILBS stated, "ILBS confirms it did not issue any purchase order or make any payment to any AI software developer or company. These allegations are totally baseless and without merit. ILBS firmly reiterates its commitment to transparency and adherence to ethical practices in all its endeavours. Any insinuation suggesting otherwise is entirely unfounded."



Minister Atishi submitted a preliminary report on the matter. This is the second such allegation against CS Kumar

Col. R S Singh, Head, Non-Medical, ILBS, termed the claims "totally baseless" and "without merit". Chief Secretary Kumar also termed the allegations "ridiculous and rubbish". The affairs of the ILBS society are managed and administered by the orders of the Governing Council, whose chairperson is the Chief Secretary. This is the second such allegation levelled against Kumar, who retires at the end of the month, in the wake of the submission of another preliminary report by Atishi in the Dwarka expressway land compensation case. **What the report states** According to the report, government sources said, the project revolved around collaboration between ILBS and Kumar's son's firm to conduct research

"From examination of existing records..., it is apparent that CS of Delhi, who is also Chairman of ILBS hospital, Naresh Kumar, used his position and influence to enable his son's startup... to gain huge financial benefits, industry experience, reputational gain, and other intangible benefits from a government body, whose decision-making process he directly controlled...", sources said, quoting from the report. Atishi recommended Kumar's immediate removal from his posts, preventing him from influencing the probe and tampering with evidence. She also said the matter be referred to the CBI. As part of the MoU, sources said, ILBS agreed to provide unrestricted access to valuable datasets, case and set data that are crucial for developing augmented reality models, which no other private company can access for free. "Data is (a) precious asset of institutions of eminence in healthcare such as ILBS and can be easily valued at billions of dollars... ILBS received financial support of Rs 1,350 crore from the Delhi government over the last 10 years... the MoU provides for huge scope for long-term, perpetual profiteering," sources said, quoting the report. If ILBS had monetised their

## Go door to door, ensure BJP wins no seat in city in 2024: Kejriwal to AAP workers

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
 NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 17

IN A show of strength ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, AAP convener and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Friday asked party workers to go door to door and ensure the BJP does not secure even a single seat in the Capital. Taking on both the BJP and the Congress, Kejriwal asked workers to look forward to a day when an AAP government, which had become one of the youngest national parties in the country already, would be in power at the Centre. Earlier this month, Kejriwal had been summoned by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with its probe into the alleged excise policy scam. The CM, however, skipped the summons saying it was "vague, motivated and unsustainable in law". On Friday, Kejriwal exhorted workers to "unmask the truth and reality of Narendra Modi" and accused the Prime Minister of seeking to derail the party and forcibly form a government in the city by putting its senior leadership, including him, behind bars. "... Mein jail ke andar rahu ya bahar... is baar ek bhi Lok Sabha seat BJP ki nahi aani chahiye... Mei ek baar 15 din reh kar aaya toh... Andar thik thaak intezaam hota hai, aaplog chinta nahi karna agar chale gaye toh," he said addressing volunteers, workers, councillors and MLAs at Tyagraj Stadium. He also asked workers to go from house to house and hold corner meetings to seek public opinion on if he should resign or run



The CM addressed workers, councillors and MLAs at Tyagraj Stadium, Friday. Prem Nath Pandey

the government from jail if such a situation arose. "... If (Satyendar) Jain and (Manish) Sisodia can be in jail for a year and nine months, I don't care about going to jail... I keep my resignation on the tip of my shoe... Mere ko Mukhyamantri ki kursi ka lalach nahi hai...", he said. "... So, should I resign? Should I run the government from jail... today I am giving you this task to ask the people of Delhi... they have given us a lot of love, we will not do anything without their permission...", he said. The alleged vendetta against AAP, he added, was also a result of successive defeats meted out by it to the BJP in 2014, 2015, 2020, and MCD polls. "... Is the liquor scam happening in Delhi...? It's happening in Gujarat. Hundreds died after drinking spurious alcohol...", he alleged. Alleging that agencies such as the CBI and ED had no evidence against AAP leaders in the excise

**WON'T BE THREATENED BY FARMAAN: STAFF**

## Gr Noida body cracks the whip on striking sanitation workers

**DHEERAJ MISHRA**  
 NOIDA, NOVEMBER 17

TERMINING THE ongoing strike by safai karamcharis as "illegal", the Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA) Friday said workers will not get their salaries if they don't resume work with immediate effect. It also directed contractors to immediately appoint new staff in place of workers participating in the strike that kicked off November 6. "The authority has accepted many of their demands... yet they are not ending the strike. The authority has decided to take strict action to improve cleanliness," said GNIDA in a statement. The authority stated that a meeting was held with protesting workers Friday in which it assured them that a committee meeting will be held soon to decide on their remaining demands. The top demand of workers is that their salary be increased to around Rs 20,000. "At present, sanitation workers are being paid Rs 17,170 per month... there is already a provision for salary increase of 5% every two years... The authority has assured (workers) that salary will be in-

creased on time as stipulated in the tender," said the authority. On the demand for a Diwali bonus, the authority claimed it has already paid it. The third key demand is an insurance of Rs 10 lakh; the authority said it has made the provision in case of death due to an on-duty accident. Ranbeer Janghara, district president of Sanyukt Morcha Safai Karamchari, said workers are not going to be threatened by the authority's 'farmaan' (diktat). "We personally feel bad if the city remains dirty but we can't keep cleaning it if we don't get better pay...", he said. At present, around 1,400 safai karamcharis, hired by six contractors, work in Greater Noida Authority area. Following their strike, work is being done by daily wagers. "The authority sought a week, we are ready to give a month. We said if they can give us in writing (that demands will be met), 10 karamcharis will continue the protest while others return to work," said Mahesh Chandel, another leader of the organisation. Other demands of workers include safety equipment, a full body check-up thrice a year, dedicated space to store food and change clothes, and bathrooms.



Passengers outside Anand Vihar Railway station, Friday. The Northern Railways had announced special trains during the Chhath festival. Amit Mehra

## Heavy rush at New Delhi rly station as people go home for Chhath puja

**UPASIKA SINGHAL**  
 NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 17

"I HAD booked my tickets four months back. Our train was delayed by five hours but we have no complaints. I'm happy I'll reach home by tomorrow," said Arvind Prasad, who was heading to Bihar's Siwan with his family from New Delhi railway station Friday, just in time for Chhath Puja. Like Prasad, hundreds were waiting at the station to board special trains bound for their hometowns. The Northern Railways had announced these special trains between Delhi, Odisha, and Bihar to ease the extra rush of passengers during the Chhath festival, to be observed between November 17 and 20. At the station, Railway Police Force (RPF) personnel patrolled

the platforms, their shrill whistles cutting through announcements and conversations, to manage the crowd. The personnel snapped their batons on the ground in warning, and the first few lines of the crowd acquiesced by crouching beneath a yellow rope that was drawn across the platform. When the Sampoorna Kranti Express, one of the nine Chhath special trains bound for Bihar, pulled onto the platform, passengers rushed to clamber onto it. In the melee, some were pulled off, others were smacked by the batons as personnel tried to control the rush. Subedar, a wedding dhol player who was pulled off the train, sat on the platform watching the train leave. "I managed to get my family on board but police told me to get off," he said while showing his general ticket. He said he looked forward to seeing his family for the festivities. The train, meanwhile, was packed, with those who failed to find a seat sitting in the passage between coaches with their luggage as make-shift beds. Others hung off the doors. Sitting on the platform with his wife, Kanhaiya Sahu, who was waiting for his train to Raxaul in Bihar, pointed to the rush and said: "It feels like the crowd gets bigger every year, but I can't wait to reach home." The Northern Railways arranged for holding areas at New Delhi and Anand Vihar stations where passengers can wait for their trains. They also arranged for food and enquiry counters and extra ticket kiosks to meet festivity-related rush. Platform tickets are not being sold to restrict crowding in the stations.

## Nine 'severe' air days in over 2 weeks: city beats last November's record

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
 NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 17

A LITTLE over two weeks into November, the Capital has already seen nine 'severe' air days — three times the figure recorded last year when three such days were witnessed all through the month. Delhi's AQI on Friday was 405, in the 'severe' category (401 to 500), only marginally less than the 419 recorded Thursday. The AQI first slipped into the 'severe' category on November 2. The Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi indicates that the air quality is likely to remain 'very poor' from November 18-20. In November 2021, Delhi saw 11 'severe' air days. Before that, there were 9 such days in 2020, 7 days in 2019, and 5 days in 2018, going by Central Pollution Control Board bulletins. With winds mostly coming from the east of Delhi, contribution of stubble burning to PM2.5 levels was estimated to be low on Friday, likely to be only around 3.45%, according to the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology's Decision Support System. This is a little less than the 5.85% contribution of stubble burning to PM 2.5 levels on Thursday. So far this season, this contribution has peaked at 35.43% on November 3. Winds are likely to be from the east or southeast of Delhi



over the next two days as well, going by the early warning system forecast. Winds from the north and northwest are usually favourable for bringing stubble burning smoke into Delhi. IIT Kanpur's real-time source apportionment study for Delhi estimated vehicles to be the single largest contributor to PM2.5 levels Friday at 44%, up from 27% Thursday, and 38% Wednesday. The study, which uses data collected from a supersite near Rouse Avenue, found that the contribution of vehicles to PM2.5 levels peaked at 90% at 9 am Friday, and fell to around 47% at 3 pm. A senior official in the Delhi Pollution Control Committee said focus remains on enforcing existing restrictions under stage-IV of the Graded Response Action Plan, including ban on construction and demolition activities, and checking pollution under control certificates. Meanwhile, after hearing a matter on air pollution in Delhi on November 8, the National Green Tribunal directed that "stringent measures" be enforced in the city and an action-taken report filed by November 20.

## In latest road rage case, car driver bites off part of man's finger

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
 NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 17

IN THE latest case of road rage in the national capital, a 60-year-old man allegedly bit off a part of the finger of a 56-year-old in West Delhi's Khyala, said officers Friday. In his complaint to the police, the victim, Rajesh, said the incident took place around 11.40 am on Wednesday after he had dropped his wife near Keshopur Mandi on his two-wheeler and was heading back home. Suddenly, a car hit his leg from behind. When he told the car driver to drive carefully, a scuffle broke out between the two men, and the accused, Umang, allegedly bit off a portion of Rajesh's finger. Police said Rajesh was rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment. Umang, meanwhile, was caught by bystanders when he tried to escape and handed over to them. Police said the accused was arrested and later released on bail. Police said they have registered a case under IPC sections pertaining to rash driving or riding on a public way and voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapons or means.

## MAN WHO STOLE BEAGLE WAS 'DISTURBED' AFTER DEATHS IN FAMILY: POLICE

# Stolen nearly a month ago outside GK home, Roxy reunited with owner

**ARNABJIT SUR**  
 NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 17

FOR ALMOST a month, 42-year-old British national Lucy Davison had been distraught after her two-month-old pet Beagle, Roxy, was stolen from outside her home in Greater Kailash 1. The dog, along with another Beagle named Betty, was being taken on a walk on October 25 when someone snatched it. A distressed Davison, a resident of GK since 2009, and her family tried to look for Roxy by going through CCTV footage from neighbouring homes in E

Block but in vain. Davison, who runs a travel company, then approached the Greater Kailash police station and lodged a complaint. She also put up around 5,000 missing posters across South Delhi and nearby areas, stating that the dog was 13 inches tall and had a small patch on the left above its leg. "She has a pink harness and lead," the posters read. A Rs 1 lakh reward was also declared for information on the canine. In the meantime, a police team comprising head constable Sunil Hooda and assistant sub-inspector Kamlesh, led by SHO



Roxy with its owner, Lucy Davison, at GK police station

of GK police station Inspector Ajeet Singh, swung into action by scanning 500 CCTVs in Greater Kailash 1, Defence Colony, South Extension, Moolchand and Chirag Delhi for any sign of the dog thief. Said an officer, "We started by looking at CCTV footage near the house and tracked cameras from

South Extension to Moolchand and Khanpur... We eventually came across an Ignis car that was seen near the house and tracked its numberplate, which turned out to be a temporary one. After combing areas around South and Southeast districts, our search led us to the Faridabad border where we found the car parked outside a house." The police team posed as second-hand car buyers and went to the house seeking information on the vehicle. "On being questioned, the resident of the house broke down and told police he had stolen the Beagle, but it was no

longer with him... he said he had given it to one of his friends living nearby as he and his wife got into an argument over keeping the dog. We found Roxy at the friend's house," said the officer. On why he stole the dog, the man said his brother had died a few months back due to a ruptured vein and he had lost his two minor children sometime back. "This left him disturbed and lonely... he had always wanted a dog... On the day of the incident, he was heading back from Bhairon Mandir and spotted Roxy and planned on stealing it... he stopped his vehicle near the

dog walker and snatched Roxy's leash before fleeing the spot," said another officer, adding that he has been bound down. For Davison, it was a heartfelt moment on Friday evening when she was reunited with Roxy at the police station. She told The Indian Express, "I have always loved dogs and Roxy and Betty are part of my family. When Roxy was stolen, it was like I lost a piece of my heart... we initially tried to search for her ourselves and I alerted all neighbors and staffers of the society but to no avail... we eventually had to lodge a complaint."

## BJP chooses ex-Dy CM R Ashoka as Karnataka Opposition leader

**JOHNSON T A**  
BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 17

FORMER DEPUTY chief minister and seven-time MLA R Ashoka was on Friday elected as BJP leader in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly, where the party is the principal opposition party with 66 MLAs.

A meeting of the BJP Legislature Party convened by new state president B Y Vijayendra picked Ashoka, 65, unanimously. The name of the



R Ashoka is known to be loyal to the Yediyurappa camp

Vokkaliga leader was proposed by former CM and Basavaraj Bommai, and seconded by ex-minister V Sunil Kumar. Both figured among the names said to be in contention to be the Leader of the Opposition (LoP), over the six months after the Assembly polls

that the BJP took to pick one. Ashoka or 'Samrat' Ashoka, as the new BJP leader is often referred to by followers and detractors, is seen as belonging to the camp of B S Yediyurappa. This marks the complete return of the Lingayat leader's reign in the party, after the selection of his son Vijayendra as state chief.

The run-up to the BJP Legislature Party meeting on Friday was marked by friction, with a protest by veteran leader Basavaraj Patil Yatnal, an LoP aspirant too. "Why is it that nobody

from north Karnataka gets to be a leader in the party? Why is it that only leaders from the south are given these responsibilities?" Yatnal, a Lingayat like ex-CM Yediyurappa, said.

On Friday, after Ashoka was named the BJP legislature party leader, Congress spokesperson Ramesh Babu took a swipe at this. Referring to the BJP leader's ties with the Deve Gowdas, Babu posted: "Congratulations to the leader of adjustment politics on being elected as the leader of the BJP in the state legislature."

## Karnataka revives Lokayukta SIT

Bengaluru: The Karnataka government on Thursday said it will extend the tenure of a Special Investigation Team constituted under the state Lokayukta to probe cases of illegal mining, involving less than 50,000 metric tonnes of iron ore, that occurred from 2008 to 2013 when the BJP

was in power. The decision to extend the tenure was taken by the state cabinet in a meeting chaired by CM Siddaramaiah. The SIT's tenure has been extended for two years from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2024, Karnataka Law Minister H K Patil said after the cabinet meeting.

## ASI seeks 15 days more to submit Gyanvapi report

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 17

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL Survey of India (ASI) has moved a fresh application before a Varanasi court seeking an additional 15 days to submit its report on the court-ordered scientific survey of the Gyanvapi mosque complex to ascertain whether the mosque was "constructed over a pre-existing structure of a Hindu temple".

The Anjuman Intezamia Masjid committee manages the affairs of the Gyanvapi mosque complex.

Appearing for the UP government, Special Counsel Rajesh Mishra said the court has admitted the ASI's application, seeking an additional 15 days to submit the survey report.

The court is likely to pass the order on the application on Saturday.

According to Mishra, the ASI in its application stated that it has completed a scientific investigation/ survey at the site but the preparation of a report conducted by the ground penetrating radar (GPR) is underway, so it needs more time to prepare a detailed survey report for the submission.

On November 2, the court gave 15 days additional time to ASI to complete and submit its report. The ASI team had received similar extensions on October 5, and on September 8.

## Panchayat pradhan of TMC killed in bomb attack

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 17

APANCHAYAT pradhan affiliated with the TMC was killed after crude bombs were hurled at him by some assailants in a crowded market in Barasat sub-division of West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district late Thursday evening, police said.

This is the second incident of the killing of a member of the state's ruling party in just three days. On the complaint of the family of Rupchanda Mondal, who was pradhan of the Amdanga panchayat, the police have arrested a suspect, Anwar Hossain Mondal, from the Khurigachi area in the district for his alleged involvement in the murder.

The incident took place around 7 pm when Ropchand was in the Kamdevpur market. An injured Ropchand was rushed to a local health facility and then taken to a nursing home in Barasat where he was declared brought dead.

Soon after the incident, irate locals along with Trinamool workers and supporters blocked the National Highway-12, as a result of which vehicles going to north Bengal districts were stuck for nearly an hour. To prevent an untoward situation, a large police contingent headed by the Barasat Superintendent of Police reached the spot. BJP leader Dilip Ghosh claimed that two factions of the ruling TMC were involved in the murder. —WITHPTIINPUTS

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**EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION FOR TEACHING POSITIONS**

Applications through Online Mode on CU-Chayan Portal (<https://curec.samarth.ac.in>) are invited for Teaching Positions at the level of Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor in different Teaching Departments under various School of Studies, to be filled up on regular/permanent basis.

For detailed information (i.e., specialization, eligibility criteria and other terms and conditions etc.), please visit University Website ([www.mgcub.ac.in](http://www.mgcub.ac.in)).

Last date of submission of Application through Online Mode on CU-Chayan Portal is **2nd December 2023 (Saturday)**; and Last Date of Submission of hard copy of the Online Application along with all relevant supporting documents is **12th December 2023 (Tuesday)**.

OSD (Administration)

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Registrar, NIT Agartala

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F. No. 1-4/Estt.II(B)/2022-1029 Dated: 14/11/2023

**EMPLOYMENT NOTICE**

In continuation of the Employment Notice issued vide Notification F.No. 1-4/Estt.II(B)/2022-673 dated 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2023 for filling up of Non-Teaching Group-A post-Internal Audit Officer (I.A.O.) on deputation basis for a period of 1(one) year in North Eastern Hill University.

The Scale of Pay/Pay Band/ Grade Pay will be as per Level-12 of 7<sup>th</sup> CPC Pay Matrix (Rs. 78,800-2,09,200/-), it is hereby notified that the last date for receiving the application form along with the enclosures is further extended **30<sup>th</sup> November, 2023** and should be submitted to the office of the Registrar.

The details may be seen in the NEHU website [www.nehu.ac.in](http://www.nehu.ac.in).

Sd/-  
Registrar (Incharge)

**GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI**  
**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EXCISE**  
L-BLOCK, VIKAS BHAWAN, I.P. ESTATE, NEW DELHI

No: F.10 (210)IMFL/2011-12/PF-1/6569-6586 Dated: 16/11/23

**CORRIGENDUM**

This has reference to this department order No: F.10(210 )IMFL/2011-12/PF- 1/6187-6204 dated 29.09.2023 vide which Six days has declared as Dry Days in Govt. of National Capital Territory of Delhi by all L-1, L-1F, L-2, L-3, L-4, L-5, L-6, L- 6FG, L-6FE, L-8, L-9, L-10, L-11, L-14, L-18, L-18F, L-23, L-23F, L-25, L-26, L-31, L-32, L-33, L-34 and L-35 licensees and opium vends located in Delhi.

In the above said order Dry day may be read as "Guru Teg Bahadur's Martyrdom Day" on 24.11.2023- Friday instead of Christmas Day-25.12.2023 (Monday).

Rest of contents in the said order will remain same.

Sd/-  
**(KRISHNA MOHAN UPPU)**  
**COMMISSIONER (EXCISE)**  
DIP/SHABDARTH-CLASSIFIED/0228/23-24  
i 15 8ML(16)

**GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI**  
**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EXCISE**  
L-BLOCK, VIKAS BHAWAN, I.P. ESTATE, NEW DELHI

No: F.10(56)/96-97/IMFL/EX/PF/6590-6607 Dated: 16.11.2023

**ORDER**

In pursuance of the provisions of Rule 52 of Delhi Excise Rules, 2010, it is hereby ordered that the following date shall be observed as "Dry Day" in the National Capital Territory of Delhi by all L-1, L1F, L-2, L-3, L-4, L-5, L-6, L-6FG, L-6FE, L-8, L-9, L-10, L-11, L-14, L-18, L-23, L-23F, L-25, L-26, L-31, L-32, L-33, L-34 and L-35 licensees of the Excise department and opium vends located in Delhi:

Sl. No	Occasion	Date	DAY
1	Pratihari Shashthi or Surya Shashthi (Chhat Puja)	19.11.2023	SUNDAY

The licensees shall not be entitled to any compensation on account of any changes effected in the above list.

All the licensees shall exhibit this order at some conspicuous place of their licensed premises.

The business premises of a licensee shall be kept closed on dry day.

Sd/-  
**(KRISHNA MOHAN UPPU)**  
**COMMISSIONER (EXCISE)**  
DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0229/23-24

**सीईसी-यूजीसी CEC-UGC**

**प्रविष्टियाँ आमंत्रित**  
Inviting entries for  
**25<sup>th</sup> Educational Film Festival**  
शैक्षिक फिल्म महोत्सव

अंतिम तिथि / Last Date: **06 December 2023**  
अधिक जानकारी के लिए लॉग इन करें / For more information Log in to: <http://cec.nic.in>  
अथवा मेल करें / or mail us on: [cecvideocomp@gmail.com](mailto:cecvideocomp@gmail.com)

आयोजक / Organiser  
**शैक्षिक संचार संकाय | Consortium for Educational Communication**  
(इलेक्ट्रॉनिक मीडिया पर विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग का एक अंतर-विश्वविद्यालय केन्द्र)  
(An Inter-University Centre of University Grants Commission on Electronic Media)  
आईयूएसीसी परिसर, अरुणा असाफ अली मार्ग, नई दिल्ली-110067 (भारत)  
IUAC Campus, Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, New Delhi-110067 (India) / Ph: 011-24126418/19

**Public Auction Notice**  
**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL**  
A, B & F Wings, Karpuri Thakur Sadan, Ashiana Digha Road, Patna-800 025  
Canara Bank, Exhibition Road Branch, Patna

**M/s Nissa Realtors Pvt.Ltd. & Others**  
(In R.P. Case No. 212/2022 arising out of Certificate No. OA. 710/2019)

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE**

As per order dated 27.10.2023, under mentioned property will be sold by public online e- Auction on the date and time mentioned herein for recovery of Rs. 1,32,14,862.34 from M/s Nissa Realtors Pvt. Ltd. & Others the sum is recoverable together with interest, cost, charges, as per the certificate. Further, as per the latest calculation of dues, the current dues, of the Certificate Holder Bank is Rs.2,42,85,780.66 as on 30.09.2023 plus further cost and interest subject to final calculation. The auction sale will be by way of online e-Auction.

Lot	Description of Property	Reserve Price	EMD	Date and Time of Auction
	<b>Schedule 'A'</b> All that piece and parcel of land and building in the name of Sri Prabhat Kumar Verma S/o Sri Ashok Kumar being Director of Defendant No.1 Company M/s Nissa Realtors Pvt. Ltd. Vide Sale Deed No. 26099 dated 29.09.2012 and situated at Mauza-Sri Krishna Nagar, Sri Krishna Nagar Housing Colony, Pargana Ajimabad, Thana: Budha Colony, Sub Registry Office: Patna Sadar. District: Patna, Thana Code No. 238, LIG House No. LH/149 part, Municipal Holding No. 233/262, Ward No. 15, Circle No. 245 under Patna Municipal with New Ward No. 25, Receipt No. 71315 dated 27.09.2012. Bounded and butted as follows - North: LIG House No. LH/143; South: 30 feet wide Road; East : LIG House No. LH/148; and West: Part LIG House No. LH/149. Measure of Land- North :19 feet 04 inch, South: 19 feet 4 inch, East: 66 feet 4 1/2 inch, and West 64 feet 4 3/4 inch.	<b>Rs. 1,06,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore Six Lacs only)</b>	<b>Rs.10,60,000/- (Rupees Ten Lacs Sixty Thousand Only) on or before 19/12/2023 upto 4.00 P.M.</b>	<b>2 6 / 1 2 / 2 0 2 3</b> between 12.30 P.M. to 4.00 P.M. with auto extension clause in case of bid in last 5 minutes before closing, if required. The amount by which the bidders are to be increased shall be Rs.1,00,000/-

**Name of the Company:** M/s E-Procurement Technologies Ltd., B-704/705, Wall Street-II, Opp. Orient Club, Near Gujarat College Ellis Bridge, Ahmedabad - 380006.  
**Contact Person:** Mr. Chintan Bhatt Asst. Manager (NPA E-Auction) and **Contact No.:** 09978591888/9722778828  
**Email id - support@auctiontiger.net Website Address:** <https://drt.auctiontiger.net>  
**Name of the Contact Person of the facilitation Centre:** (i) Office of Recovery Officer, DRT, Patna, A, B & F Wing, 2nd Floor, Karpuri Thakur Sadan, Ashiyana Digha Road, Patna 25 and (ii) Canara Bank, ARM Branch, Ground Floor, Luv Kush Tower, Exhibition Road, Patna 800 001 and contact person Mr. Mani Shankar Narayan, (Chief Manager) [email [cb17415@canarabank.com](mailto:cb17415@canarabank.com)] & Mobile No. 8102916048, Website <http://www.canarabank.com>.

**Account details for online money transfer:-**

Account No.	Name	IFSC CODE
209272434	CANARA BANK, Lav Kush Tower, Patna	CNRB0017415

**TERMS & CONDITIONS OF SALE:-**

- The property shall be sold "as is where is basis".
- The intending bidders should register the participation with the service provider well in advance and get user ID and password for participating in E-auction. It can be procured only when the requisite Earnest Money Deposit be paid by prescribed mode.
- To take part in Auction, each bidder shall deposit Earnest Money (EMD) @ of 10 % of the Reserve Price which shall be paid by electronic transfer to the concerned Bank's EMD Account or through DD/pay order drawn in favour of Recovery Officer, DRT., Patna alongwith copy of PAN card, Address proof and Identity proof with E-mail ID, Mobile No. of bidder. The Envelope containing EMD alongwith details of documents should be superscribed **R.P.No.212/2022** and in case of the company copy of resolution by the Board members of the company or any other document confirming representation/attorney of the company should reach on or before 4.00 P.M. of 19/12/2023 in the office of Recovery Officer, DRT., Patna or should credit the amount in respective Bank's/Financial Institution's account. EMD received thereafter shall not be considered.
- The successful bidder shall have to pay 25% of the sale proceeds (including EMD) on the Next working day of sale through the mode as stated above.
- The purchaser shall deposit the balance 75% of the sale proceeds before the undersigned on or before 15th day from the date of sale of the Property, exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day be Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office day after the 15th day alongwith the poundage fee @2% upto Rs.1,000/- and @ 1% on the excess of such gross amount over Rs.1,000/- by prescribed mode as stated above.
- In case of default of payment within the prescribed period, the property shall be resold, after the issue of fresh proclamation of sale. The deposit, after defraying the expenses of the sale, may, if the undersigned thinks fit, be forfeited to the Government and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may subsequently be sold.
- The Recovery Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject any bid or bids or to postpone or cancel the e-auction without assigning any reasons.
- EMD of unsuccessful bidder shall be returned the same day of auction by DRT/Bank by credit to the account of bidder mention in bid form.
- Prospective bidder may avail online training from service provider.
- Prospective bidders are advised to go through the website for details terms & conditions of sale before submitting their bids or contact Branch Manager of the concerned Branch.

Dated: 17.11.2023. Recovery Officer

**243<sup>rd</sup> ENGINEERS CORPS DAY BEING CELEBRATED**

Indian Army is celebrating its 243<sup>rd</sup> Corps of Engineers Day on 18 Nov 2023. The past year witnessed the Corps contribute positively in the nation building by providing crucial engineering support to the three services meeting the dynamic changes of the environment. Remarkable progress has been achieved in development of infrastructure across the length and breadth of the country through infusion of latest technologies like 3D printing, precast construction, Light Gauge Steel Frame & PVC Framed Engineering Steel Structures. Special focus remains on Northern Borders with over 1000 Billeting Assets, hundreds of Kms of new Operation Tracks, large no of Aerial cableways, Mountain Bridges, Hangars and weapon emplacements being created / rehabilitated. BRO has completed a record 193 projects including roads, bridges, tunnels & airfields at a cost of Rs 5400 Cr constructed across eight Border States and three Union Territories.

Indian Army has gained strategic edge as a result of modernization of Engineer Equipment with induction of Short Span Bridge, Modular Bridge and Universal Assault Track-way, thereby enhancing the mobility & battle-field readiness. As part of Environment Sustentation, energy conservation, reduction of carbon footprint and sustainable development projects like Provisioning of Solar Power Plants pan India, proactive Implementation of LEDisation and GRIHA Green Building norms have resulted in annual savings of over Rs 215 Cr. Military Survey remains at the forefront of technological advancements within the field with use of Indigenous Geographical Information System, Drone based Survey technology, Micro controller based Satellite receivers compatible with new Defense Maps and Geographical - Artificial Intelligence for Auto-Feature Extraction from satellite imageries.

The Engineers played important part in incident free conduct of G20 summit, Amarnath Yatra route opening, rescue operations post Balasoretrain accident and relief and rescue to the populace in flood ravaged regions across the country. Sapper sportsmen have clinched an impressive tally of four Silver and three Bronze medals in Rowing, Archery and Sailing in Asian Games 2023.

# 6 DECISION 2023

CHHATTISGARH • MADHYA PRADESH • MIZORAM • RAJASTHAN • TELANGANA

## FIVE-YEAR ROAD MAP

# With Telangana manifesto, Congress tries to outdo BRS sop for sop



Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge (centre), state Congress chief A Revanth Reddy (to his left), and other party leaders release the manifesto in Hyderabad on Friday. PTI

## Battle for Jubilee Hills: As Azharuddin eyes the prize, AIMIM looks to help out BRS

SCREENIVAS JANYALA HYDERABAD, NOVEMBER 17

WITH SOME of the poshest neighbourhoods and expensive real estate in Hyderabad, and also some of the city's poorest slums, Jubilee Hills in the heart of Telangana's capital will be a constituency that will be closely tracked in the November 30 polls.

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) that has renominated incumbent MLA Maganti Gopinath, the Congress has former cricketer Mohammad Azharuddin leading the charge down the poll pitch and the BJP candidate is its executive committee member Lankala Deepak Kumar. What has made this battle a tricky one is the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), a BRS ally, fielding its candidate Mohammed Rashed Farazuddin who is a municipal corporator with a lot of pull in the Shaikpet division.

Azharuddin's hand has been strengthened by the decision of real estate businessman V Naveen Yadav to withdraw from the contest. In 2014, the AIMIM fielded Yadav and he ended up securing 41,656 votes and damaging the prospects of then incumbent MLA Vishnuvardhan Reddy of the Congress. Gopinath, then with the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), won the election. Four years later, Yadav again played spoilsport for the Congress as the 18,817 votes he polled again ruined Vishnuvardhan Reddy's chances of winning back the constituency. This time, after with-

drawing his nomination at the last moment, the businessman met Azharuddin and is likely to support him.

Sources in the AIMIM said the party was in the fray to divide the Muslim votes and ensure they don't go to Azharuddin. "The AIMIM has decided to field a candidate only to help the BRS against the Congress. AIMIM will split the Muslim vote," said a Congress leader.

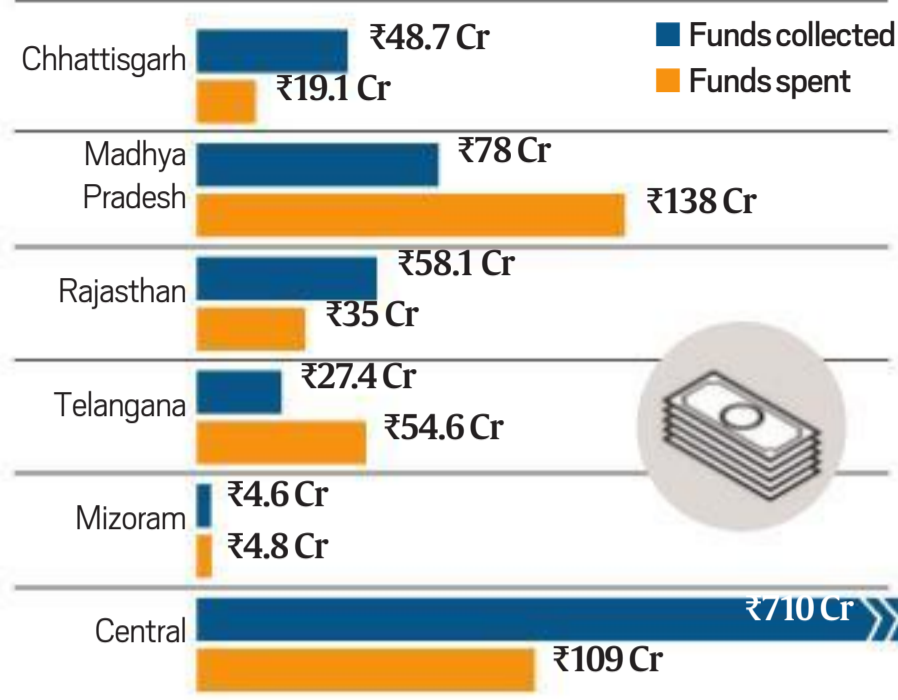
According to social activist Shaik Ghose Pasha, overburdened civic infrastructure with overflowing drains and traffic congestion on broken and narrow roads in the poorer areas are the major issues. "There are densely populated neighbourhoods where road widening or laying of new drainage lines has not happened in years. There is a serious law-and-order issue too with rampant drug and marijuana sales in these areas. On Gandhi Jayanti, locals held a protest against police inaction against drug peddlers," Pasha said.

If elected, Mohammed Azharuddin said he would focus on the betterment of the slums and low-income colonies. "Right now they are in a pathetic condition. Lack of drainage lines and narrow roads are major problems in those areas. People are living in bad conditions," he said.

Gopinath who is eyeing a hat-trick of victories said though he had done a lot of work in the constituency a lot more needs to be done. Though the AIMIM says it is contesting to help its ally, some BRS leaders said they were worried that the minority vote split would benefit the Congress.

## NUMBER SPEAK

### FUNDS COLLECTED AND SPENT BY PARTIES DURING 2018 POLLS, AS DECLARED BY THEM



## Pakistan makes it to BJP campaign: Bidhuri rally to Narottam pitch

HAMZA KHAN JAIPUR, NOVEMBER 17

WITH BARELY a week left for the Rajasthan Assembly polls, the politics over identity seems to be on the boil with Lahore and Karachi being also raked up in the campaigning in the state.

Last Wednesday, posting on social media a video clip from his electioneering, the BJP's Tonk district in-charge Ramesh Bidhuri, South Delhi MP, stated Lahore was watching the Tonk poll closely. The BJP has fielded ex-MLA Ajit Singh Mehta in Tonk against the ruling Congress's heavyweight candidate Sachin Pilot.

Addressing a rally for Mehta last Tuesday, Bidhuri said, "Brother Ajit was saying that entire nation is watching this election closely. Ajit bhai, not just the entire country, but Lahore too is keeping a watch on Rajasthan elections, and especially the Tonk poll. Who gives shelter to these PFI people? PFI people are caught, who feeds them? The people who sit in Tonk. So Lahore's eyes are focussed here. So we will have to see whether laddus are distributed in the country or in Lahore after the polling on November 25."

Bidhuri hopes to attract the Hindu votes, especially of those Gujjars disenchanted with the Congress's treatment of Pilot. The state's most prominent Gujjar leader, Pilot has spent the past five years waiting to be suitably rewarded by the Congress for his efforts. Bidhuri himself belongs to the Gujjar community.

Referring to the murder of Udaipur tailor Kanhaiya Lal last year and the recent lynching of 17-year-old Iqbal in Jaipur's old city, Bidhuri said: "Terrorists like Hamas here are keeping an eye that if someone is killed in an accident, their family will be given jobs and Rs 50 lakh. And when an innocent Kanhaiya is murdered, then Rs 5 lakh is given as alms."

Meanwhile, the BJP's candidate from Hawa Mahal, Balmukundachary, the mahant of Hathoj Dham, asked whether Rameela would be held in Karachi if not in Rajasthan.

At a rally, Balmukundachary



BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri who is party's Tonk in-charge

charged: "Didn't they shut down our Rameelas? In Bhakrota in Sangar Assembly, they came at 9:30 pm to shut down Rameela, (they said) there were directions from above... What is this situation? If not here, will Rameela be celebrated in Karachi? We are preparing to celebrate there too but what is the situation today? Rameela won't be organised here? It will be organised here and we'll organise it in Karachi too, it's not a big deal."

Senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh has demanded strict action against Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra for claiming that there will be celebrations in Pakistan if the BJP loses the polls.

Mishra said Friday that if any party other than the BJP wins the elections, then there will be celebrations in Pakistan. He claimed that those who want to serve the nation should vote for the BJP.

"When you press the button (on EVM) with the lotus symbol on it, then celebrations are held in India. If any other party wins, celebrations will be held in Pakistan. Keeping national interest in mind, the button with the lotus symbol on it should be pressed," Mishra told media in Datia from where he is contesting again as the BJP's nominee.

"When a person presses the lotus button then the army on the border gets stronger, in Pakistan there will be panic."

Digvijaya said, "This is a provocative statement. Strict action should be taken against them. The Election Commission should issue him (Mishra) immediate notice."

— WITENS BHOPAL INPUTS

vided for paddy.

■ Under Gruha Jyothi, all households will get up to 200 units of free electricity.

■ Under Indiramma Indlu, families not owning a house will be provided a site for one and Rs 5 lakh for construction. Families of those killed during the Telangana Movement will be provided 250-square-yard plots to build homes.

■ Under Yuva Vikasam, students with Vidya Bharosa cards will receive Rs 5 lakh for education-related expenditures. Every mandal will also get a Telangana International School.

■ Under Cheyutha, a Rs 4,000 monthly pension will be paid to senior citizens, widows, people with disabilities, beedi workers, single women, toddy tappers, weavers, AIDS and filaria patients, and kidney patients undergoing dialysis. The Rajiv Aarogyasri will also provide health insurance up to Rs 10 lakh.

The Congress announced that it would waive crop loans up to Rs 2 lakh.

**Minority Declaration:** The party has promised a caste survey within six months of forming the government and fair reservation

for all backward classes, including minorities, in government jobs, educational institutions, and welfare schemes. The Congress has also said it will increase the annual welfare budget for minorities to Rs 4,000 crore and introduce a dedicated minorities sub-plan.

The Congress manifesto appears to have outdone some of the BRS's promises. While the BRS said it would increase the Rythu Bandhu annual funding from the existing Rs 10,000 per acre to Rs 16,000 per acre over the next five years, the Congress has promised Rs 15,000 per year as soon as it forms government. The BRS has promised to increase pensions to Rs 5,000 over the next two years from the existing Rs 3,016. But the Congress has promised to give Rs 4,000 per month immediately.

A few items listed in the manifesto are likely to make the BRS see red. Among them is the party's promise to investigate alleged irregularities in the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project, the BRS's flagship infrastructure project.

Last month, a major controversy erupted over alleged engineering lapses in the Rs 1.5 lakh

crore Kaleshwaram project, with the Opposition parties, including the Congress and the BJP, lashing out at the BRS government after several piers were found damaged at Medigadda barrage in Jayashankar Bhupalpally district.

The BRS has maintained the damage was "not as serious" as projected by Opposition parties in their poll campaigns. L&I, which built the barrage, has said it is working on repairing the damage.

### Caste outreach

The Congress has gone all out to reach out to the Backward Classes (BC). The party has promised to increase BC reservation to 42% from the existing 23% in local bodies to provide 23,973 new political leadership positions to BCs in panchayats and municipalities. It has also promised sub-categorisation in BC quota in local bodies and 42% reservation for BCs in government civil construction and maintenance contracts.

The Congress has promised to spend Rs 20,000 crore a year on BC welfare and set up a separate Most Backward Classes (MBCs) ministry.

FULL REPORT ON [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## Why BJP is gunning for Gehlot govt over crimes against women

HAMZA KHAN JAIPUR, NOVEMBER 17

THE ISSUE of women's safety in Rajasthan figures in almost every address by top BJP leaders during their campaigns for the November 25 polls.

Even while releasing the BJP's manifesto in Jaipur on Thursday, party president JP Nadra devoted most of his address to promises for women. The BJP has pledged, among other things, 33% reservation for women in the police, a women police station in every district, constitution of "anti-Romeo" squads, three women battalions under the Rajasthan Armed Constabulary (RAC), and free education from kindergarten to post-graduation for girls from economically weak background.

There are several reasons why the BJP is focusing on women in its poll campaign.

First, in the absence of a major corruption scandal plaguing the Ashok Gehlot-led government or the arrest of any Congress leader despite multiple raids by various central agencies, the BJP has turned to issues such as paper leaks, women's safety and law and order to target the Congress. The alleged Jal Jeevan Mission scam is being pursued against the Gehlot government only now.

Second, the women's safety issue flared up due to a series of incidents that led to a higher National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) figures for crimes against women in the state.

The first major embarrassment for the Gehlot government was the alleged suppression of



Amit Shah at a road show in Ajmer district on Friday. PTI

the gang rape of a woman in front of her husband in Thanagazi during the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. Gehlot had responded with stricter measures to control crimes against women, includ-

ing mandatory FIR registration.

As per the NCRB data for 2021, Rajasthan stood second among states in total number of crimes against women. The BJP seized on this to claim that Rajasthan

has become "unsafe" for women.

Third, law and order or women's safety could be a volatile issue and Gehlot's 5-year term has been dotted with cases of heinous crimes against women.

Fourth, senior BJP leader and ex-CM Vasundhara Raje is perhaps the most prominent woman face to emerge from Rajasthan in its recent history but after sidelining her, the party needs to push its "pro-women" image.

Fifth, identity politics is the key to the BJP campaign. Its bid to rake up the narrative of a "woman's honour" fits well into it. At a recent rally, UP CM Yogi Adityanath said, "If the Congress succeeds, Talibani mentality will dominate and play with the honour of sisters and daughters."

FULL REPORT ON [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## RAJASTHAN CONTESTANTS

# Key after 2018 polls, 'rebel' Independents again in race: 11 for BJP, 7 for Cong

DEEP MUKHERJEE JAIPUR, NOVEMBER 17

IN THE race for the Rajasthan Chief Minister's chair following the Congress win in 2018, one crucial factor gave Ashok Gehlot a clear edge over his rival Sachin Pilot: the support of at least 10 of the 13 MLAs elected as Independents.

A chunk of these independent MLAs were former Congress leaders who were denied tickets by the party state unit, then headed by Pilot, to make way for young leaders. These Independents ended up winning because of their base in their constituencies. Five years later, most of these MLAs are again in the fray.

Many BJP leaders, including former MLAs, are also contesting as Independents after being denied tickets. Some of these can-

didates are former CM Vasundhara Raje loyalists. If some of these Independents emerge victorious, they can again tilt the balance of power depending on the scenario after the elections.

Here are some of them:

### BJP

**Kailash Meghwal** (Shahpura) He has been a former Assembly Speaker, Union Minister, Cabinet Minister and multiple-time MLA and MP. Considered one of the senior-most state BJP leaders, and a Raje loyalist, he was removed by the party on Wednesday after refusing to withdraw from the contest as an Independent from Shahpura. Worryingly for the BJP, Meghwal won the seat by more than 70,000 votes in 2018.

**Chandrabhan Singh Aakya** (Chittorgarh) The BJP opted for MLA Narpat

Singh Rajvi, the son-in-law of former CM Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, instead of two-time Chittorgarh MLA Aakya who accused state BJP president CP Joshi of holding a "grudge" against him.

**Yunus Khan** (Deedwana) Khan, a two-time former MLA from Deedwana, was considered one of the most powerful ministers in the Raje government. The party has not fielded a single Muslim candidate this year. A Shekhawat protegee, Khan holds significant clout in Deedwana.

**Bansidhar Bajjiya** (Khandela) A two-time former MLA from Khandela, Bajjiya lost the seat to an Independent in 2018. A Raje loyalist, he was overlooked for former Congress leader Subhash Meel.

**Bhawani Singh Rajawat**



(From left) Yunus Khan and Kailash Meghwal who are BJP rebels, and Alok Beniwal and

Khiladi Lal Bairwa of the Congress. All of them are among Independents in the fray. Express



(Ladpura) A three-time ex-MLA, Rajawat is another Raje loyalist contesting as an Independent. In 2018, the BJP fielded Kalpana Devi who won. Devi has been fielded again.



(From left) Yunus Khan and Kailash Meghwal who are BJP rebels, and Alok Beniwal and

Khiladi Lal Bairwa of the Congress. All of them are among Independents in the fray. Express



time, the BJP chose to field MLA Rampratap Kasaniya.



(From left) Yunus Khan and Kailash Meghwal who are BJP rebels, and Alok Beniwal and

Khiladi Lal Bairwa of the Congress. All of them are among Independents in the fray. Express

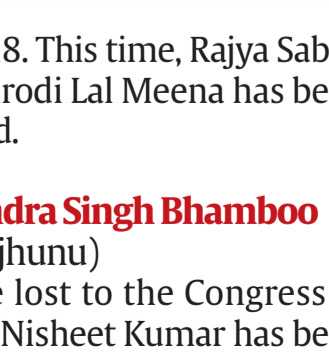


**Jiva Ram Choudhary** (Sanchore) In place of the two-time former MLA, the party has field ed Jalore-Sirohi MP Devji Patel.



(From left) Yunus Khan and Kailash Meghwal who are BJP rebels, and Alok Beniwal and

Khiladi Lal Bairwa of the Congress. All of them are among Independents in the fray. Express

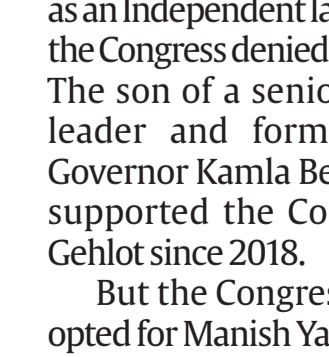


**Rajendra Singh Bhamboo** (Jhunjhunu) He lost to the Congress in 2018. Nisheet Kumar has been fielded in his place this time.



(From left) Yunus Khan and Kailash Meghwal who are BJP rebels, and Alok Beniwal and

Khiladi Lal Bairwa of the Congress. All of them are among Independents in the fray. Express

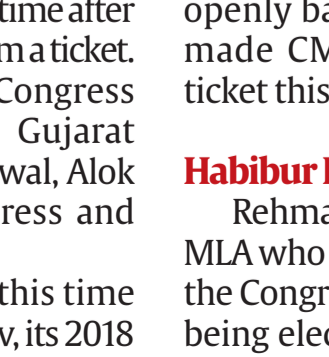


**Asha Meena** (Sawai Madhopur) Meena lost Sawai Madhopur



(From left) Yunus Khan and Kailash Meghwal who are BJP rebels, and Alok Beniwal and

Khiladi Lal Bairwa of the Congress. All of them are among Independents in the fray. Express

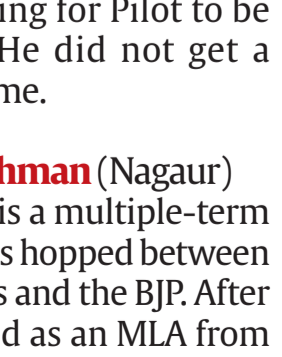


in 2018. This time, Rajya Sabha MP Kirodi Lal Meena has been fielded.



(From left) Yunus Khan and Kailash Meghwal who are BJP rebels, and Alok Beniwal and

Khiladi Lal Bairwa of the Congress. All of them are among Independents in the fray. Express



**Priyanka Chowdhary** (Barmer) The BJP's candidate from Barmer in 2013, she came second. In 2018, Chowdhary was denied a ticket. She was denied a ticket once again this year.

# 7 GOVT & POLITICS



## CLAIMING LEGACY

**SAMAJWADI PARTY** president Akhilesh Yadav has planned to build a memorial of Maharaja Suheldev in Uttar Pradesh. The decision comes months after his former ally and Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) president Om Prakash Rajbhar joined the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in July this year. The SBSP has a strong vote base among Rajbhars (OBC) in UP; in 2022 polls it had won six Assembly seats in alliance with the SP. Akhilesh's announcement of building a Suheldev memorial is being seen as an attempt to win the Rajbhar votes ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. In local lore, Maharaja Suheldev is said to have been a Rajbhar or Bhar Rajput and is celebrated as a king who saved the Hindu religion. The legacy of Maharaja Suheldev has been claimed by several political parties over the years. In 2016, the BJP had installed a statue of Suheldev in Bahraich district of eastern UP.

## VISITOR'S VOTE

AFTER THE Union government successfully amended the IIM Act to regain more control over the functioning of the 20 premier business schools, the most immediate impact of the changes has been on the appointment of directors. As many as four IIMs — Lucknow, Jammu, Shillong, and Kashipur — are reported to have initiated the process of finding their new directors. Previously, the governing board of each IIM was empowered to constitute a selection committee and choose the final candidate from a panel of candidates shortlisted by this committee. After the amendment, the government now has the power to appoint its nominee to the selection committee through the President, who is the Visitor of all IIMs. Apparently, the Visitor has already nominated representatives on the selection committees set up by the four IIMs. In fact, IIM Calcutta, whose director resigned in August before completing his term, will also kickstart the search for the next head, and the government will have a say here too.

## GLOBAL SOUTH SUMMIT

### Education ministers pledge to bridge digital divide for students

capacity building and exchange programs to enhance their professional development. Speaking at the event, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said India's new National Education Policy 2020 serves as a philosophical document, offering a template for emerging economies in developing comprehensive strategies and policies. "NEP has catalysed transformation in our education and skill ecosystem and we are eager to share our experience with partner countries," he said. Pradhan said no country can solve problems or achieve goals on its own. "We must act on shared aspirations, devise common strategies, built on the twin pillars of education and skill development. India's experience can serve as an example." The summit's outcomes will inform discussions at the upcoming G20 Virtual Summit hosted by India on November 22. Eight ministerial sessions are scheduled during the summit, themed "Together, for Everyone's Growth, with Everyone's Trust". The focus is on sharing key outcomes from various G20 meetings during India's presidency.

## Odisha withholds decision on sale of tribal land to non-tribals

ment did not cite any reason behind its decision, Marndi claimed there was no change of heart. "Although the matter was discussed in detail at a Cabinet meeting, no decision was taken. Only the President of India has the authority to take any decision on the Orissa Scheduled Areas Transfer of Immovable Property (by Scheduled Tribes) Regulation, 1956, not the Cabinet. It has been withheld keeping larger interests in mind," Marndi told reporters at Baripada on Friday. Marndi, who is himself a tribal leader, had earlier termed the new amendment progressive, claiming it would empower tribal youth, while collectors and

## CASTE CENSUS NEED OF HOUR, SAYS NCP MINISTER

### Maratha quota not at expense of OBCs: Bhujbal's warning to BJP

**ALOK DESHPANDE**  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 17

LEADING A counter mobilisation of OBCs against the Maratha reservation agitation, Maharashtra minister and senior OBC leader Chhagan Bhujbal warned the BJP of the wrath of the OBC community and said granting reservations to Marathas in the state would lead to a face-off between the Marathas on one side and OBCs, SCs, STs and Muslims on the other side. He also said a caste census was the need of the hour in the country.

Addressing the OBC Elgar rally organised by OBC and VJNT organisations in the state at Ambad in Marathwada region's Jalna district, Bhujbal said, "If everyone agrees on this (caste census) then what is the problem? Every party is talking about the welfare of OBCs, but why is no one bothered when OBCs are being threatened? I see BJP leaders attending this rally. It is said that over 60 per cent OBCs vote for the BJP. But if their reservation is being challenged, then what will happen to this 60 per cent? Think about it."

## Andhra CM gives land ownership rights to over 20 lakh poor

**SREENIVAS JANYALA**  
HYDERABAD, NOVEMBER 17

CHIEF MINISTER Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Friday gave full ownership rights to the beneficiaries of assigned lands, the Land Purchase Scheme (LPS), and village service Inam (gift) lands. This will benefit more than 20.24 lakh poor, who received the ownership of around 35.44 lakh acres of land.

Beneficiaries of assigned lands, which are given by the Government, include the SCs and STs, the poor, the landless and the ex-servicemen, but they have no clear ownership titles. Inam lands are gifted to family members or kin but without proper ownership documents, preventing their resale or mortgaging them.

At Nuzvid in Eluru district, the CM formally launched the handing over of title deeds to 15.21 lakh farmers who have tilled, for 20 years now, 27.41 lakh acres of assigned lands. "More than 1.61 lakh farmers will henceforth enjoy free hold rights over 1.58 lakh acres of village service inam lands," Reddy said.

Reddy also distributed 46,463 acres of assigned lands to 42,307 eligible poor people, afresh. He also handed over lease deeds to 17,768 eligible people, allotting them 9,064 acres of riverside lands. He also allotted 951 acres of land as Dalit burial grounds in 1,563 villages across the state.

Similarly, Reddy said, 22,346 farmers were accorded freehold rights over 22,837 acres of land, which they had purchased after obtaining loans from the SC Corporation under LPS. The loans were waived off. "Without proper ownership documents, these poor people were facing a lot of problems. They could not sell the land, which was often taken away from them illegally," the CM said.



Chhagan Bhujbal at the OBC rally in Jalna on Friday. Express

Bhujbal also took on the state government for its kid glove handling of the Maratha agitation. He also said that members of the OBC community and their leaders were deliberately being

targeted. "I have been getting messages that our banners are being torn. Are your hands tied? We will have to reply in the same coin. There is banners banning the entry of politicians? Who puts them? Are they the owner of the land now? I want to warn the police administration that those banners should be removed right away. Is there an existence of governance? Is there a rule of law?" asked Bhujbal.

The venue of the OBC rally was merely 20 kilometres away

from Antarwali-Saarati village of Maratha reservation activist Manoj Jarange-Patil where he had sat on fast unto death demanding Kunbi certificate to Marathas.

Bhujbal also said the 'biased action' against OBCs will result in Dalit, Muslims and Tribals uniting behind OBCs against Marathas. Bhujbal said the OBCs should not be provoked.

The minister said that the OBCs do not oppose reservation to Marathas. "I was in opposition when the previous government gave reservations to Marathas. I supported it. It was stuck in the Supreme Court. Why don't you try to solve that problem instead of encroaching on someone else's reservation," he said.

At the event, BJP MLC Gopichand Padalkar said that it was time for OBCs to organise and challenge the rulers to claim rights.

"There are hundreds of smaller castes which have been denied their rights. Reducing OBC reservation will be an injustice to them," he said.



## STAGE SET FOR SUNDAY

The IAF's Surya Kiran team rehearses over the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Friday, two days ahead of the World Cup final between India and Australia. Nirmal Harindran

- PM Narendra Modi and Australian Deputy PM Richard Marles are set to watch the match in Ahmedabad.
- The Surya Kiran team, comprising nine aircraft, will hold a 10-minute air show before Sunday's match.
- The aircraft will also conduct a fly past as the National Anthem of both countries are sung.

## Team India practice jersey change a bid to saffronise cricket: Mamata

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 17

CLAIMING POLITICS behind the recent change of the colour of the India cricket team's practice jersey, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday said that attempts were being made by the BJP-led Central government to saffronise the country's most popular sport.

Addressing a gathering during the inaugural programme of Jagaddhatri Puja at Kolkata's Posta Bazar, Banerjee said, "Sab gerua bana diya (they have turned everything into saffron). We are proud of Indian players and I believe they will be the world champions this time. Their practice dress has been made saffron even as they put up

advertise. When my father and mother passed away, some people approached me asking me to name some institutions after them. But I refused saying my parents would have never wanted it," the CM said.

"I have never seen anything like this. Have you seen the upcoming metro stations? They are all coloured saffron. I have seen Mayawati (former UP chief minister) getting her own statues installed. This cannot go on," she said. "You can name things after late political leaders of Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, or those from South India. I have no problem with that. But what is this show all about? Such shows give an advantage sometimes, but not always. The chair comes and goes but one should remain in the hearts of people," Banerjee added.

They (BJP) are even painting the upcoming metro stations in Kolkata with saffron colour, she added. "I work, but they (BJP) ad-

dress themselves in saffron. I have seen Mayawati (former UP chief minister) getting her own statues installed. This cannot go on," she said.

"You can name things after late political leaders of Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, or those from South India. I have no problem with that. But what is this show all about? Such shows give an advantage sometimes, but not always. The chair comes and goes but one should remain in the hearts of people," Banerjee added.

Sporadic clashes were reported across the state and an aide of a Congress worker was killed after two groups fought in the Rajnagar constituency of Chhatrapur. Five persons were injured in a skirmish between two groups in Morena area of Indore district, while two men were wounded in a clash in Morena district's Dimani constituency, where Union minister Narendra Singh Tomar is contesting, they said.

On the Chhatrapur scuffle, SP Amit Sanghi said, "In Raj Nagar assembly constituency region under Khajuraho Police Station, a scuffle broke out between two political parties' candidates and their supporters at around 3:15 am. After that, a brawl took place, and a man named Salman died. The other political party said Salman died because a vehicle ran over him and his post-mortem is underway in the district hospital... We'll conduct the proceedings soon in the matter."

In 2018, 75.63 per cent voters had cast their ballots. The EC said that till 5pm Friday, a total of



Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel at a polling booth in Kuruddih, Durg district, on Friday. PTI

## Chhattisgarh phase 2 of polls sees over 74 per cent turnout

**JAYPRAKASH S NAIDU**  
RAIPUR, NOVEMBER 17

THE PRELIMINARY voting percentage in the second phase of the Chhattisgarh assembly elections on Friday, where the remaining 70 seats of the total 90 went to polls, stood at 74.27 per cent at midnight. In the 2018 elections, the overall voter turnout to the 90 seats stood at 76.45 per cent.

In the first phase on November 7 when 20 seats went to polls, the final turnout was 78 per cent, a marginal rise of 1.53 per cent as compared to 2018.

An Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) security personnel was killed and another injured in an improvised explosive device (IED) blast by Maoists as they were on their way back from a remote village. In another incident, 25-year-old Umendra Singh was trampled to death by an elephant in Korea district.

A 58-year-old woman collapsed and died while standing in a polling booth in Kasdol, Baloda Bazar district. Apart from the three deaths, the EC said polling was peaceful.

At a polling booth in a Raipur college, Himanshu Sahar who came to vote with three of his family members said, "I want our MLA to keep in touch with voters. Whichever party comes to power must keep all promises they made. Gunda raj needs to be controlled."

Voting took place across four revenue divisions of Surguja, Bilaspur, Durg and Raipur. While in Durg and Raipur it was mostly a BJP vs Congress competition, in Bilaspur and Surguja division smaller parties like Janta Congress

## ITBP jawan killed in blast from J&K

Raipur: An ITBP jawan was killed in an IED blast triggered by Maoists in Gariaband district of Chhattisgarh on Friday evening. Head constable Joginder Singh, 45, from J&K's Samba district, died while providing security cover to a polling party which was on its way back to the district headquarters after the voting in a remote village in the district. IGP Raipur range Arif Shaikh said, "After voting, an IED blast was carried out by Naxalites when the polling party was returning from Bade Gobra polling station. ITBP head constable Joginder Singh was martyred in the blast. The polling team and the EVM machine have reached Gariaband safely." ENS

Chhattisgarh-Jogi (CC), Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), Gondwana Gantantra Party (GGP) were in the fray. Two new tribal parties, the Hamar Raj and the Sarva Adi Dal were also in the fray while AAP is

trying its luck again. EC said history was created when all 201 polling booths in Raipur north assembly constituency were staffed and managed by 1,046 women. In Korea district, the EC put up 11 booths in inaccessible locations in Bharatpur-Sonhat constituency where there were less than 100 voters.

## MP sees 76% turnout; Congress worker's aide killed in clashes

**ANAND MOHAN J**  
BHOPAL, NOVEMBER 17

MADHYA PRADESH went to polls in all its 230 assembly constituencies Friday where there was tentative voting of nearly 76.22 per cent till 5pm, Election Commission officials said.

Sporadic clashes were reported across the state and an aide of a Congress worker was killed after two groups fought in the Rajnagar constituency of Chhatrapur. Five persons were injured in a skirmish between two groups in Morena area of Indore district, while two men were wounded in a clash in Morena district's Dimani constituency, where Union minister Narendra Singh Tomar is contesting, they said.

On the Chhatrapur scuffle, SP Amit Sanghi said, "In Raj Nagar assembly constituency region under Khajuraho Police Station, a scuffle broke out between two political parties' candidates and their supporters at around 3:15 am. After that, a brawl took place, and a man named Salman died. The other political party said Salman died because a vehicle ran over him and his post-mortem is underway in the district hospital... We'll conduct the proceedings soon in the matter."

In 2018, 75.63 per cent voters had cast their ballots. The EC said that till 5pm Friday, a total of

71.19 per cent men and 71.14 per cent women cast their votes. The percentage of voters under the age of 30 was 29.3 per cent. The percentage of voters above the age of 60 years was 12.4 per cent.

The highest turnout was registered in Gwalior rural where the turnout was 74.01 per cent.

Indore recorded a turnout of 70.54 per cent where BJP national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya has been fielded to shore up the party's chances in the region. At Indore-1, where Vijayvargiya is contesting, the turnout was 69.08 per cent.

At the saffron bastion in Bhopal the turnout was 66 per cent. The party hopes to wrest the three Congress seats. All eyes will be on the contest in Bhopal (central), where there was a turnout of 60.1 per cent. The sitting MLA Arif Masood is up against controversial BJP candidate and former MLA Dhruv Narayan Singh, whose name cropped up in the Shehla Masood murder case. He was not prosecuted in the case but lost out on a ticket in 2013 after his win in 2008.

Riot scarred Khargone recorded a voter turnout of 78.89 per cent. In the Maoist affected district of Balaghat, there was a turnout of 85.23 per cent. The Maoist-affected segments in this district saw high turnouts in Baihar (84.81 per cent), Lanjhi (84.5) and Paraswada (86.37).



### NORTHERN RAILWAY

#### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

**Name of work and its location:** 30-Elect-40-T-2023-24-E3 ELECTRICAL WORK IN CONNECTION WITH CONSTRUCTION OF 10 unit type-II and 05 units type-III quarters under ADEN/ROK

**Approx cost of the works in:** Rs. 21.69 Lacs

**Address of the office:** Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi

**Bid Security:** Rs. 43400.00

**Date & time of submission of tender:** 11.12.2023, 12.00 Hrs.

**Opening of tender:** 11.12.2023, 12.00 Hrs.

**Website & Notice board:** www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE** 3602/23

### NORTHERN RAILWAY

#### E-Tender Notice

The Deputy Chief Engineer/Const./Northern Railway Shivaji Bridge, New Delhi, for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender under single-Packet system for the following work:

**Name of work and location:** Repair and maintenance of staff quarters, offices and Rest house at Panipat under Dy.CE/C/CSB

**Completion period of the work:** 24 (Twenty Four) months

**Approx. Cost of work:** Rs. 45.36 Lakhs

**Earnest Money to be deposited:** Rs. 90700/-

**Sale/availability of tender document on Rly. Website:** Tender documents will be available on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 18.11.2023 to 11.12.2023, upto 11:30 hrs

**Last date/Time of upload of tenders:** 11.12.2023 upto 11:30 hours. Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS web site w.e.f. 27.11.2023 to 11.12.2023

**Date and time of opening of tender:** 11.12.2023 at 11:30 hours.

**No. 517-Acs-Maintenance/PNP/CSB, Date: 17.11.2023** 3600/2023

**Serving Customers With A Smile**

### NORTHERN RAILWAY

#### E-TENDER NOTICE No. ELS SRE T-41 dtd. 16.11.2023

Single tender through E-tendering are invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRS, Electric Loco Shed, Khanalampura Yard, Northern Railway, Saharanpur (Ambala Division) for and on behalf of the President of India from the registered tenderer on web site www.ireps.gov.in for the following work upto 11:00 hrs on the date of closing shown against the work and will be opened thereafter:-

**Single Tender No.:** ELS SRE T-41

**Name of work:** Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for 180 KVA Static Inverter (SIV) of M/s Medha make as per RDSO SMI no. RDSO/2016/EL/SMI/0291 (Rev-0) dtd. 21.06.2016 or latest filed in conventional electric locomotives in NR's Shed for a period of two years

**Date of Closing/Opening:** 08.12.2023

**Approx. Cost:** Rs. 97,05,148.08/-

**Earnest Money:** Rs. 1,94,100/-

**Completion period:** 02 Years

**Validity period:** 45 days

**Cost of tender form:** Free of cost for downloading from IREPS & Rs. 5,000.00 for obtaining from Sr.DEE/TRS/SRE office.

1. Tenderer(s) should have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate to participate in E-Tendering of Works Tenders. 2. Tenderer are required to upload self-attested scanned copies of all related eligibility documents as per conditions. 3. Taxes & Charges will be applicable as per extant rule. 4. For details, please log on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE** 3580/23

### NORTHERN RAILWAY

#### TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of tender through E-tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

**N.I.T. No.:** 34 (A,B) 23-24/W/E

**Name of Work with its Location:** 34 (A,B) 23-24/W/E

**GEM/2023/B/4192557** Outsourcing of maintenance activities to provide habitable conditions at Rail Bhawan in the s/o SSE/W/RB under ADEN/E-III for 12 months.

**Approx. Cost of Work:** 8949053.88

**EMD amount:** 179000.00

**Completion Period of Work:** 12 Months

**Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender:** Closing date of tender on 08/12/2023 at 15:00 hrs.

Website particular notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. www.gem.gov.in

**128-W/269/OET/23-24/W/E/NIT/34 Dated: 16.11.2023** 3599/23

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

### MAHARASHTRA METRO RAIL CORPORATION LTD.

(A joint venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Maharashtra)

Office : A2, A3 Block Civil Court Interchange Metro Station, Nyaymurti Ranade Path, Shivajinagar, Pune - 411005, Maharashtra, INDIA Website: https://www.mahametro.org E-mail: tenders.pmrp@mahametro.org Telephone: 020-28051074

#### E-TENDER NOTICE

**Tender Notice No.:** P1-O&M-05/2023 **Dated:** 17-Nov-2023

**Name of Work:** Outsourcing of Manpower for E&M assets Maintenance for "19 Operational Elevated Stations, 2 Depots and Civil Court Office (HQ)/Metro Bhavan" of Pune Metro Rail Project of Maha-Metro.

To view this tender notice (NIT), Interested bidder may visit the Maha-Metro website [www.punemetrorail.org](http://www.punemetrorail.org), or CPPP portal <https://eprocure.gov.in> or download the EOI documents and obtain further details regarding the EOI from our e-tender portal <https://mahametrorail.tenders.in> from 15:00 Hrs. on 20/11/2023 to 15:00 Hrs. of 08/12/2023 from Maha-Metro's e-tender Portal.

**Executive Director/Procurement & Contracts**  
Maha Metro, Greenest Metro  
Maha-Metro, PMRP

### NORTHERN RAILWAY

#### TENDER NOTICE

The Dy. Chief Engineer/TMC/Line, Northern Railway, State Entry Road, New Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open E-tender under one Packet System for the under noted work -

**1. Name of work and location:** IOH and Major repair of Track Machines at TMMO/KKDE & BTI under jurisdiction of Dy. CE/TMC/Line/New Delhi

**2. Completion period of the work:** 06 Months

**3. Approx cost of work:** Rs. 51.22 Lakhs

**4. Earnest Money amount (to be deposited online):** Rs. 102500.00

**5. Cost of Tender Document (to be deposited online):** Rs. Nil

**6. Date & Time for Submission of E-tender and opening of tender:** Tender document remain available on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 24.11.2023 upto 15:00 Hrs on 14.12.2023. Tender Bids may be uploaded from 30.11.2023 & upto 15:00 hrs on 14.12.2023 on IREPS web site. The tender will be opened soon after 15:00 hrs on 14.12.2023.

**7. Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document:** The detailed tender document is available on [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). Above tender document will be available for online submission of offer on IREPS website i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) from 24.11.2023 to 14.12.2023. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.

**Tender Notice No. 1-W-Dy.CE/TMC/Line-IOH-20-23-24** Dated: 17.11.2023

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE** 3603/23

### MORE FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAIN-2023

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during festival season, Northern Railway has decided to run the following Reserved Superfast Festival Special Train as per details given below:

02265/02266 New Delhi-Sabarmati-New Delhi	02
Reserved Superfast Festival Special	Trips
<b>Train No. 02265</b>	<b>Train No. 02266</b>
<b>ARR. DEP.</b>	<b>ARR. DEP.</b>
— 17:00	New Delhi 19:05
19:20	Alwar Jn. 15:40 15:43
21:20	Jaipur Jn. 13:00 13:10
23:35	Ajmer 10:05 10:15
02:12	Falna 07:04 07:06
03:40	Abu Road 05:45 05:55
04:45	Palanpur Jn. 05:00 05:02
07:15	Sabarmati — 02:30

**Days of Run :** 02265 Ex New Delhi on 18.11.2023 and 02266 Ex Sabarmati on 20.11.2023

**Accommodation :** 1st AC, 2nd AC, 3 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC Economy & Sleeper

For detailed information regarding stoppages and timings of above trains, please call RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit enquiry website: [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in)

**RailMadad Helpline No. 139**

Visit RailMadad website: [www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in)

Download Railmadad App

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Your Convenience - Our Concern  
Visit us at: [www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in)


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### SALUTE TO THE SOLDIER

**INDO-TIBETAN BORDER POLICE (ITBP)**  
**17 November, 2023**

ITBP salutes its braveheart Constable Pappu Prasad of 10th Battalion, who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty on this day in Jammu & Kashmir in 2003.

**Resident of :** Village: Gunjardih, Dist.: Bokaro, Jharkhand



**Constable Pappu Prasad**

### NORTHERN RAILWAY

#### CORRIGENDUM

**Ref:- i) Tender Notice No. 45/2023-2024 dated 21.08.2023.**  
**ii) Tender No. 15225019A due on 20.11.2023.**

01. In reference to above tender, the due date has been extended from 20.11.2023 to 20.12.2023. All other terms & conditions remain unchanged.

The Corrigendum has been published on website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) 3607/2023

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

### कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभिन्यता, मण्डल कार्यालय, 3.प्र. जल निगम (ग्रामीण), मुरादाबाद

आशियाना फेस-1, निकट पानी की टंकी, मुरादाबाद-244001

पत्रांक 1208 / निविदा / 43 दिनांक 17.11.2023

#### कार्यालय ज्ञाप

एतद द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि इस कार्यालय के निविदा सूचना सं. 1184 / निविदा / 42 दिनांक 08.11.2023 द्वारा नामाभि गंगे कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत मुरादाबाद नगर में मुरादाबाद सीवरेज योजना फेज-1 के अन्तर्गत निर्मित 58 एम.एल.डी. एस.टी.पी. एवं 02 नम एम.पी.एस. के अनुसूचक एवं संचालन हेतु दिनांक 25.11.2023 को ऑन लाइन अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रित की गयी थी। उक्त आमंत्रित ऑन लाइन अल्पकालीन निविदा को अपरिहार्य कारणों से अगले आदेशों तक निरस्त किया जाता है।

अधीक्षण अभिन्यता

### CHENNAI METRO RAIL LIMITED

(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Tamil Nadu)  
METROS, Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai - 600 035

#### Tender Notice

**NIT No. CMRL/S&T/AFC/002/2023-24**

**"Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Automatic Gates (60 Automatic Gates) along with the system integrator nominated by CMRL at Chennai Metro Rail Limited Phase-1 stations to facilitate Operation & Maintenance".**

**e-procurement tender**  
**National Competitive Bidding**

CMRL invites digitally signed tender through e-procurement portal from reputed, experienced, financially sound, eligible applicants, who fulfill the qualification criteria as mentioned in the tender through National Competitive Bidding under Single Stage Two Envelope (Technical & Financial) system for the works as detailed below:

**"SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF AUTOMATIC GATES (60 AUTOMATIC GATES) ALONG WITH THE SYSTEM INTEGRATOR NOMINATED BY CMRL AT CHENNAI METRO RAIL LIMITED PHASE-1 STATIONS TO FACILITATE OPERATION & MAINTENANCE".**

**Pre-Bid Meeting Date: 12/12/2023 at 11.00 Hrs.**  
**Bid Submission Start Date: 02/01/2024 at 11.00 Hrs.**  
**Bid Submission End Date: 08/01/2024 at 18.00 Hrs.**  
**Bid Opening Date: 09/01/2024 at 11.00 Hrs.**

For further details, please visit e-procurement website: <http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>

**DIPR/ 6080 /TENDER/2023** **Advisor (S&T)**

### GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

#### DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

##### OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, EASTERN CIRCLE-II, CHANDIKHOLE

Email ID: sec2chandikhole@gmail.com

**"e" Procurement Notice No. ACE, EC-II 08 of 2023-24 (On-line)**

1. Protection to secured bank on Bhatnagar left near village Nupatara to Dhampur embankment from

2. Protection to secured bank on Bhatnagar left near village Mishrapur & Pripur including renovation of 9 Nos. of spurs at Mishrapur

3. Protection to secured bank on Bhatnagar right near village Dhampur

4. Protection to secured bank of CE-14(1) Near left embankment near village Dampur from RD-40/700 km to 42/500 km

5. Improvement and Renovation of existing canal system of Mahasadi Dams stage-I (Major & Medium Project for substitution of lost layout under Kendrapara Irrigation Division) (Protection wall at US & DS of Kalka Lock under Package No-27)

2. Total No. of Packages: 05 (Five) No. Individual Packages

3. Tender Cost:

- 1- Rs. 709.97 Lakh (Approximately)
- 2- Rs. 316.04 Lakh (Approximately)
- 3- Rs. 499.24 Lakh (Approximately)
- 4- Rs. 583.80 Lakh (Approximately)
- 5- Rs. 276.59 Lakh (Approximately)

4. Cost of Bid Document (Non Refundable): 1- Rs. 10,000.00 (On-line payment) for each Package

5. Bid Security:

- 1- Rs. 7,99,100/-
- 2- Rs. 3,17,000/-
- 3- Rs. 4,99,300/-
- 4- Rs. 5,83,600/-
- 5- Rs. 2,76,500/-

6. Class of Contractor:

- 1- "A" & "Special" for Package No-1;
- 2- "A" for Package No-2, 3 & 4;
- 3- "B" & "A" for Package No-5;

7. Period of Completion: 12 (Twelve) calendar months for all packages

8. Other details are as follows:

Procurement Office	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From To	Date of Opening of Tender Bid (Cover-1)
Additional Chief Engineer, Eastern Circle-II, Chandikhole	ACE, EC-II 08 of 2023-24	24/11/2023 up to 10 AM	12/12/2023 up to 11.30 AM
	ACE, EC-II 08 of 2023-24	24/11/2023 up to 10 AM	12/12/2023 up to 11.30 AM
	ACE, EC-II 08 of 2023-24	24/11/2023 up to 10 AM	12/12/2023 up to 11.30 AM
	ACE, EC-II 08 of 2023-24	24/11/2023 up to 10 AM	12/12/2023 up to 11.30 AM

9. e-mail id: sec2chandikhole@gmail.com

Further detailed conditions can be seen from the Govt. website [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in)

Sd/- Additional Chief Engineer Eastern Circle-II, Chandikhole

OIPR-32322/11/0011/2324

### EAST BOUND FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2023

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during Chhath Puja Festival, Northern Railway has planned to run the following East Bound Festival Special Trains from 18.11.2023 & 19.11.2023 in addition to normal regular trains as per schedule given below:-

#### EAST BOUND TRAINS FROM DELHI AREA TERMINALS ON 18.11.2023 (SATURDAY)

Spl Train No.	Station From	Dept. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Accommodation	Stoppages
04080	New Delhi	19:20	Varanasi Jn	09:45	3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Lucknow & Pratapgarh Stations
04488	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:15	Gorakhpur	14:00	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC & Sleeper	Ghaziabad Moradabad, Chandausi, Bareilly Cantt., Sitapur, Gonda & Basti Stations
03576	Anand Vihar Terminal	11:55	Asansol Jn.	10:20	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Govindpuri, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay, Sasaram, Dehri-On-Sone, Gaya, Koderma & Dhanbad Stations
04490	New Delhi	19:35	Darbhanga	16:45	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Narkatiaganj, Raxaul & Stamarhi Stations
04146	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:15	Prayagraj Jn.	20:00	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Aligarh, Tundla, Etawah, Govindpuri & Fatehpur Stations
02248	Anand Vihar Terminal	00:30	Patna Jn.	16:30	1st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Govindpuri, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar & Ara Stations
04018	New Delhi	14:55	Bapudham Motihari	12:15	3 Tier AC Economy Class	Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur Jn., Gonda Jn., Gorakhpur, Paniai Hawa, Narkatiaganj, Bettiah & Sagauli Jn.
04058	Anand Vihar Terminal (Unreserved Special)	08:30	Jaynagar	07:00	General	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara, Patilputra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Darbhanga & Madhubani Stations
04028	Anand Vihar Terminal	01:00	Bapudham Motihari	23:30	Sleeper, General	Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Sitapur Jn., Gonda Jn., Basti, Gorakhpur, Paniai Hawa, Narkatiaganj, Bettiah & Sagauli Jn.
02246	New Delhi (Gati Shakti)	23:45	Patna Jn.	15:50	3 Tier AC Economy Class	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar & Ara Stations
05316	Delhi Jn.	14:00	Chhapra	13:20	3 Tier AC, Sleeper, General	Delhi Shahdara, Ghaziabad, Hapur Jn., Amroha, Moradabad, Chandausi Jn., Aonla, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Lucknow, Ayodhya Cantt., Akbarpur, Shahganj, Jaunpur, Kerakat, Dobhi, Aunihar, Gazipur City, Yusufpur & Ballia.
04006	Delhi Jn.	23:05	Jaynagar	23:45	Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gonda, Basti, Gorakhpur, Chhapra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Darbhanga & Madhubani Stations
04022	New Delhi	15:30	Saharsa Jn.	16:30	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur, Gonda, Gorakhpur, Siwan, Chhapra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Barauni, Begusarai, Khagaria & Simri Bhaktiyarpur Stations
04002	Anand Vihar (T)	00:05	Patna Jn.	15:45	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar & Ara Stations

#### EAST BOUND TRAINS FROM DELHI AREA TERMINALS ON 19.11.2023 (SUNDAY)

04062	Delhi Jn.	08:05	Barauni Jn.	06:30	3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Aligarh, Tundla, Etawah, Kanpur Central, Lucknow, Gonda, Basti, Gorakhpur, Siwan, Chhapra & Hajipur Stations
05284	Anand Vihar Terminal	13:25	Muzaffarpur Jn.	07:00	1st AC, 2 Tier AC & 3 Tier AC	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay, Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patilputra, Sonpur & Hajipur Stations
03228	Anand Vihar Terminal	09:30	Ara	04:00	Sleeper & General	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Dildarnagar, Gahmar, Buxar, Dumraon & Bihya Stations
02250	New Delhi (Rajdhani Exp. Special)	19:10	Patna Jn.	07:30	1st AC, 2 Tier AC & 3 Tier AC	Kanpur Central Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar & Ara Stations
02246	New Delhi (Gati Shakti)	23:45	Patna Jn.	15:50	3 Tier AC Economy Class	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar & Ara Stations

**During the Rail journey never travel with inflammable objects like Crackers, Petrol, Kerosene, Gas Cylinder etc.**

For any kind of information, such as seat availability and time-table etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
visit us at: [www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in)

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

### दक्षिणार्ध विद्युत वितरण निगम लिमिटेड

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभिन्यता, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल  
विद्युत कालोनी, गाँवद नगर, कानपुर- 208006

#### अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

अधोस्तारकर्ता द्वारा विद्युत वितरण मण्डल कानपुर नगर के अन्तर्गत निर्माणाधीन विद्युत वितरण के अनुसार कार्य हेतु अनुभवों व सक्षम निविदादाताओं द्वारा निविदाये आमंत्रित की जाती है, निविदा सम्बन्धी पूर्ण सूचना एवं ई-निविदा में यदि कोई संशोधन अथवा निविदा खुलने की तिथि में विस्तार होता है तो इसकी सूचना ई-टेंडर वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर देखी जा सकती है।

क्र०	अति अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सं०	विवरण
1.	192/EDCK/2023-24	विद्युत वितरण खण्ड-प्रथम, कानपुर नगर के अन्तर्गत पूर्ण जमा योजना मर में 11 के०वी० लाईनों को रोड चौकीकरण के कारण शिफ्टिंग का कार्य। (टर्नकी आधार पर)
2.	193/EDCK/2023-24	विद्युत वितरण उपखण्ड-प्रथम, कानपुर नगर के अन्तर्गत पूर्ण जमा योजना मर में आवेदित संयोजनों (पैकेज संख्या-198, 202, 217, 268 एवं 270 / 2023-24) को ऊर्जीकृत करने का कार्य।
3.	194/EDCK/2023-24	विद्युत वितरण उपखण्ड-नवेल एवं सरसौल के अन्तर्गत पूर्ण जमा योजना मर में आवेदित संयोजनों (पैकेज संख्या-178, 204, 205, 207, 208, 230, 249, 271 एवं 272/2023-24) को ऊर्जीकृत करने का कार्य।
4.	195/EDCK/2023-24	विद्युत वितरण उपखण्ड-प्रथम, कानपुर के अन्तर्गत 33/11 के०वी० उपकेन्द्र घायतूर टाउन में पूर्ण क्षतिग्रस्त एम०टी०पी० फेसों पर 50x50x6 mm का फ्लैट वॉलेंटिंग करते हुए फ्लिथ का पुनर्निर्माण कर क्षतिग्रस्त फेस को मरम्मत करने का कार्य।
5.	196/EDCK/2023-24	विद्युत वितरण उपखण्ड-सतेली के अन्तर्गत पूर्ण जमा योजना मर में आवेदित संयोजनों (पैकेज संख्या-68, 82, 100, 109, 123, 131, 134, 139, 141 एवं 143/ 2023-24) को ऊर्जीकृत करने का कार्य।
6.	197/EDCK/2023-24	विद्युत वितरण उपखण्ड-सतेली के अन्तर्गत पूर्ण जमा योजना मर में आवेदित संयोजनों (पैकेज संख्या- 26, 27, 36, 50, 64 एवं 65 / 2023-24) को ऊर्जीकृत करने का कार्य।
7.	198/EDCK/2023-24	विद्युत वितरण उपखण्ड-प्रथम, कानपुर के अन्तर्गत 33/11 के०वी० उपकेन्द्र- सचेंद्री में 33 के०वी० लाइन एवं विद्युत कालोनी परिसर की 11 के०वी० एम०टी०पी० लाइन के दोले तारों को कसना, जर्जर तारों को बदलना, परिवर्तकों को जर्जर फेसिंस को मरम्मत एवं अन्य कार्य।

पत्र संख्या:- 3872 / वि०वि०/म० का० (राजेश कुमार)  
दिनांक:- 16/11/2023 अधीक्षण अभिन्यता

"सुनहारा भविष्य बनायें, राष्ट्रहित में खिन्नती बचायें"

### बिहार सरकार

#### बिहार तकनीकी सेवा आयोग

19, हार्डिंग रोड, पटना-800001

#### आवश्यक सूचना

**PR.NO.-002204 (NiNi) 2023-24**

**विज्ञापन सं०-47/2023 (गुप-10) इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स मैकेनिक व्यवसाय अनुदेशक के पद पर नियुक्ति हेतु आवश्यक सूचना**

श्रम संसाधन विभाग, बिहार पटना, अन्तर्गत निदेशालय, नियोजन एवं प्रशिक्षण (प्रशिक्षण पत्र), बिहार पटना के अधीनस्थ विभिन्न औद्योगिक प्रशिक्षण संस्थानों में Degree/Diploma योग्यताधारी अभ्यर्थियों की नियुक्ति हेतु प्रकाशित विज्ञापन सं०-47 / 2023 (गुप-10) इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स मैकेनिक व्यवसाय अनुदेशक के पद हेतु Online आवेदन प्राप्त करने हेतु दिनांक-18.11.2023 से 25.11.2023 तक अर्थात् विस्तारित किया जाता है।

उक्त से संबंधित विस्तृत विज्ञापन आयोग के [Website-www.btsc.bih.nic.in](http://Website-www.btsc.bih.nic.in) पर देखा जा सकता है।

**PR- 12002 ( Ni Ni ) 2023-24** **प्रभारी सचिव,**  
बिहार तकनीकी सेवा आयोग, पटना।  
नशे से बनानी दूरी है, क्योंकि परिवार जरूरी है

### BIHAR STATE HYDROELECTRIC POWER CORPORATION LIMITED

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Sone Bhawan, Birchand Patel Marg, Patna - 800001,  
Phone No. 0612-2227746, Website: www.bshpcltd.com

#### Govt. of Bihar

#### Job Contract No. 01/2023 (Contract)

BHPC invites applications from persons with qualification and expertise in the country for the post of **Advisor (Technical)** on contract basis

The detailed terms and conditions for engagement of Advisor (Technical) in Bihar State Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited is indicated in the Terms and Conditions of the above position and may be seen on BHPC website: [www.bshpcltd.com](http://www.bshpcltd.com)

Interested individuals may send their bio-data in the prescribed proforma available on the BHPC website alongwith certificates establishing education qualification, experience, on email id- [bshpcltd@gmail.com](mailto:bshpcltd@gmail.com) and by post or by hand to Chief Engineer (E), Bihar State Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited, Sone Bhawan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, BCP Marg, Patna - 800001, Bihar, within 30 days from the date of publication of advertisement.

**PR. No. 011991 (Energy) 2023-24** **Chief Engineer (E)**

This information is available on website [state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar) also

**नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।**

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

8 THE INDIAN EXPRESS, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2023

## HC gives Centre a week to decide on travel request of mother of Kerala nurse facing death in Yemen

**MALAVIKA PRASAD**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 17

THE DELHI High Court has directed the Centre to decide within a week the travel request of the mother of a Kerala nurse who was awarded the death penalty in Yemen for the murder of a Yemeni national in 2017.

During the hearing on Thursday, the Centre's counsel submitted before a single-judge bench of Justice Subramonium Prasad that on September 26 a notification was issued which stipulated that the travel ban to Yemen "could be relaxed by the Central government for specific and essential reasons of travel".

"In view of the said notification, the Union of India is directed to treat the present writ petition as a representation and the respondents are directed to decide the representation within one week from today (Thursday)," the HC said disposing of the plea.

The court further directed the petitioner to give the details of the members of her family who in-

give to travel with her as well as give copies of their passports to the Union government within two days from the date of the order. The petitioner is the mother of Nimisha Priya, a nurse who was sentenced to death in Yemen in 2020. She had argued that the only way to save her daughter from the gallows was to negotiate with the family of the deceased by paying "blood money" for which she needed to travel to Yemen.

In 2022, an organisation named "Save Nimisha Priya International Action Council" had approached the HC for direction to the respondents to facilitate diplomatic intervention as well as negotiations with the family of the victim on behalf of Priya to save her life. In March 2022, the Centre had said that it would engage a counsel for Priya, so that she can challenge the sentence.

Priya was sentenced to death in 2020 for the murder of Talal Abdo Mahdi whom she allegedly injected with sedatives "to get to her passport that was in his possession", according to the 2022 petition filed before the High Court.



# 9 EXPRESS NETWORK

## Day 6, Uttarkashi: Tunnel rescue hits a fresh snag, team races against time to fix problem

American-made equipment had to stop as it started getting lifted off the ground when it tried to drill further

AVANEESH MISHRA  
UTTARKASHI, NOVEMBER 17

AS THE rescue operation to save 40 construction workers trapped inside the under-construction Silkyara-Barkot tunnel entered the sixth day, a high-capacity drilling machine flown in from the national capital managed to drill 22 metres by Friday afternoon before facing a snag.

The American-made "horizontal dry drilling equipment with an auger" had to stop since, beyond a point, it started getting lifted off the ground when it tried to drill further. Rescuers then tried anchoring the machine to the platform to prevent this from happening.

By the time the machine stopped working, four six-metre pipes had already been inserted and a fifth was being put in place. The workers are expected to come out through these pipes once drilling through the 50-plus metres of rubble is complete.

Earlier in the day, National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited Director Anshu Manish Khalkho said they had called for another high-capacity drilling machine from Indore as a backup.

"We are around 24 metres inside, which I think is very good. For the redundancy of the machine already working, another machine is being airlifted from Indore and will reach here by Saturday morning. If the current machine stops, we can use that machine to finish the job," said Khalkho in the afternoon.

Asked about the pace of the operation — the machine is drilling around 1 metre per hour — he said they want to be extra cautious and ensure that the pipes are not misaligned by even a centimetre.

"The pipes are six metres in length. We align the pipes on the machine and push. The auger drills the debris and pushes the muck backwards. This process does not take much time. However, the process of aligning the pipes and welding them is complicated. We do not want the pipes to be misaligned even by one centimetre. This is why the rate is slow, but with workers

getting more experience, the rate will increase," he said, adding that four-five welders are working simultaneously.

He mentioned that another important thing to keep in mind is that the machine runs on diesel, and it is working in an enclosed area. Therefore, continuous ventilation using the compressor is a must.

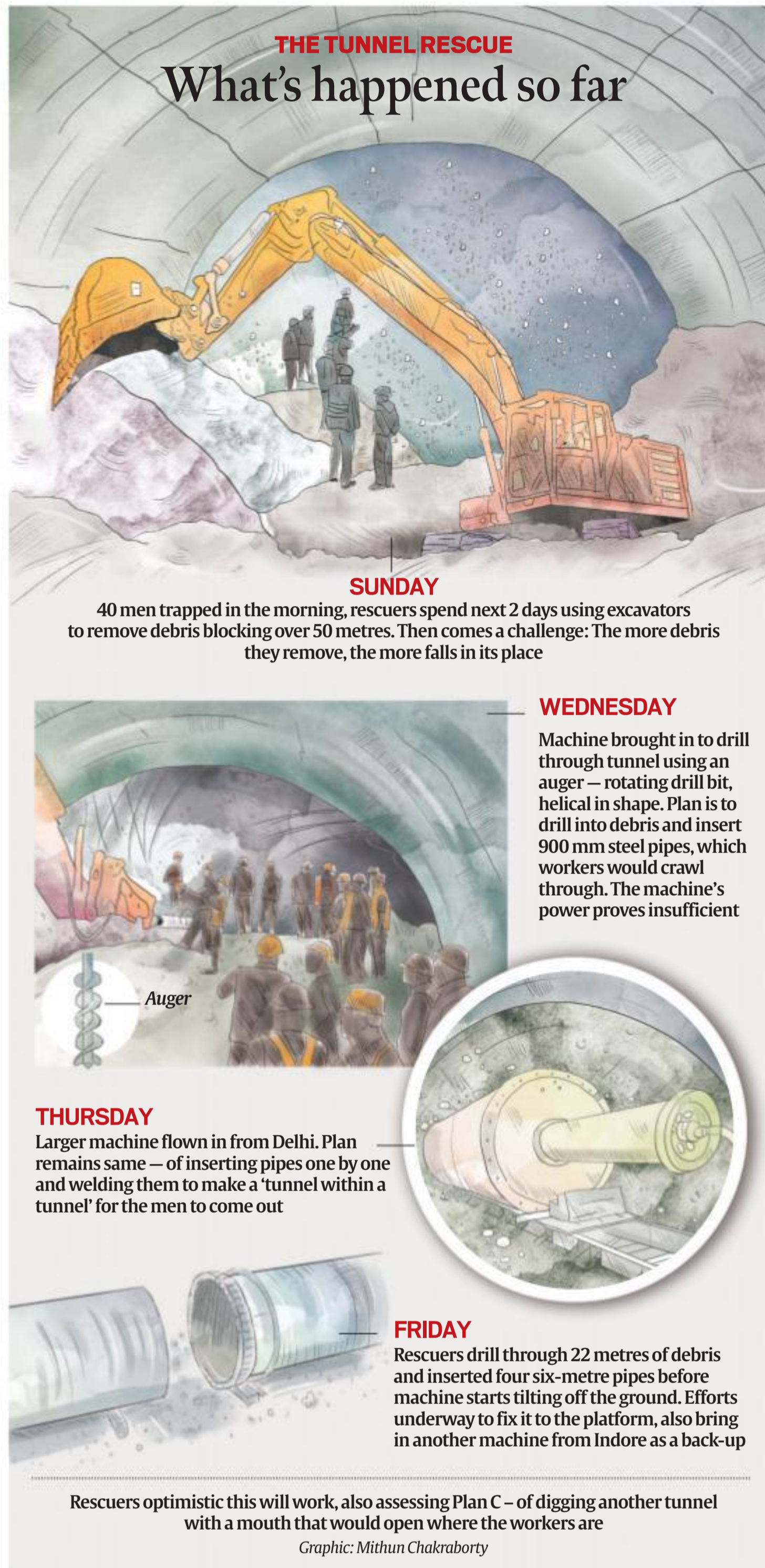
"Ideally diesel machines should not work in such a closed space but we do not have any other option. A vibration is created because of the machine's working and continuous ventilation. There is a possibility of that vibration affecting the equilibrium already created inside the tunnel. This is why we want to work at an optimum speed and not be in a hurry," he said.

Later in the day, Khalkho said there was not much progress in the drilling since Friday afternoon as rescuers were clearing rocks that were in the way.

Though the team is optimistic this plan will work, he said a team of geologists is exploring the possibility of entering the tunnel after making a parallel entrance by drilling from outside.

"A survey team is checking the place to find out from where they could explore the possibility of making a parallel vertical tunnel followed by a horizontal one, or vice versa. Once that data is out, we will work on that too. We did not do this survey before because we thought we could negotiate the 60 metres of debris. In a previous survey, we found that the minimum drill required (for the alternative plan) will be 103 metres. Doing a 103-metre vertical drill will be dangerous, and it can cause more debris to fall. But if the current plan does not work, we might explore that option too," he said.

Talking about the condition of the workers trapped inside, Khalkho said: "As far as the matter of sustenance is considered, a person can survive six days without food. But in this case, they are getting regular food and water and are mentally strong. We are continuously talking to them. The administration has also sent doctors who are providing them psychological support."



### THE TUNNEL RESCUE What's happened so far

**SUNDAY**  
40 men trapped in the morning, rescuers spend next 2 days using excavators to remove debris blocking over 50 metres. Then comes a challenge: The more debris they remove, the more falls in its place

### WEDNESDAY

Machine brought in to drill through tunnel using an auger — rotating drill bit, helical in shape. Plan is to drill into debris and insert 900 mm steel pipes, which workers would crawl through. The machine's power proves insufficient

### THURSDAY

Larger machine flown in from Delhi. Plan remains same — of inserting pipes one by one and welding them to make a 'tunnel within a tunnel' for the men to come out

### FRIDAY

Rescuers drill through 22 metres of debris and inserted four six-metre pipes before machine starts tilting off the ground. Efforts underway to fix it to the platform, also bring in another machine from Indore as a back-up

Rescuers optimistic this will work, also assessing Plan C — of digging another tunnel with a mouth that would open where the workers are

Graphic: Mithun Chakraborty

## 5 LeT militants killed in J&K; carried out attacks on minorities, say police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 17

FIVE MILITANTS associated with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) were killed in an encounter with security forces at Samno village in South Kashmir's Kulgam district during an operation that started Thursday evening and went on into Friday, police said.

The Jammu and Kashmir Police said the joint operation was launched by the Army, police and CRPF based on "specific inputs" regarding the movement of militants in the area.

"This operation is a big success... these terrorists have been involved in a number of attacks on minorities," said South Kashmir DIG Rayees Bhat.

In a statement, police said, "During the search operation, as the joint search party approached towards the suspected spot, the hiding terrorists fired indiscriminately upon them, which was retaliated effectively, leading to an encounter. However, due to darkness, the operation was kept on hold till early morning. The cordon remained intact through-



Operation was held jointly by Army, J&K Police and CRPF. ANI

out the night, and with the help of additional reinforcement, the cordoned area was further strengthened."

The bodies of the militants killed in the operation were retrieved from the site of encounter and identified. They were Yasir Bilal Bhat, Danish Hameed Thoker, Ubaid Ahmad Padder, Sameer Farooq Sheikh, and Hanzal Yaqoob Shah.

As per police records, the militants were involved in several "terror cases" including attacks on security forces and "civilian atrocities".

Sameer Farooq and Danish Hameed were involved in an attack on a Kashmiri Pandit man from Chotigam in Shopian, police said. Danish Hameed and Hanzal Yaqoob Shah were also involved in a terror attack on non-local labourers at Gagren, Shopian, on July 13 this year, in which three labourers were injured, they said.

Four AK-series rifles, four grenades and two pistols were recovered from the site of the encounter, the DIG said. In this regard, a case has been registered and further probe is in progress.

## Grant Rs 600 cr advance in tax share to navigate difficult position: Biren

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 17

FLAGGING A revenue loss amounting to Rs 575 crore over the past five months due to the ethnic clashes in Manipur, CM Biren Singh has approached the Centre, requesting a three-month advance of the state's share in Central taxes to navigate through this "difficult position", *The Indian Express* has learned.

According to sources, Singh wrote a letter to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman last month, requesting an advance of Rs 200 crore in the monthly devolution of the state's share in Central taxes for November, December and January (of next year). This would amount to a total advance of Rs 600 crore, over and above the regular disbursement by the Centre for those three months.

The CM is thought to have proposed to the Union government that the advance be adjusted against what's due to Manipur for the months of February and March next year.

In his letter, Singh mentioned that the requested advance would aid in the economic recovery of his state. Manipur is estimated to have incurred a loss of Rs 575 crore in state revenue from May to September this year.

This substantial loss has posed challenges for the state to meet essential expenditures such as salaries, pensions, interest repayments, and the increased spending on relief and law and order activities, Singh is learned to have conveyed to Sitharaman. To address this, he said the state government has already reduced spending on non-critical items and is exploring avenues to augment revenue collection.



Has written a letter to Sitharaman

## Kuki leader faces FIR over self-govt talk

SUKRITA BARUAH  
GUWAHATI, NOVEMBER 17

AN FIR has been filed against the general secretary of a major Kuki-Zomi organisation, the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum, for his statement they will set up "self-government" in areas dominated by the community.

This comes soon after the Manipur government announced it was initiating legal action against the organisation for this. A suo motu FIR has been registered in Churachandpur police station under sections pertaining to conspiracy for waging war against the government of India, sedition, provocation with intent to cause riot and criminal conspiracy.

On Wednesday, ITLF general secretary Muan Tombing had stated that they will set up a "self government" if its demands are not addressed in two weeks — "whether the central government recognises it or not".

Following this, the Manipur government had issued a statement that a meeting of "ruling legislators" was held Thursday, which "strongly condemns the statement of the ITLF", and that "appropriate legal action" is being initiated against it.

"The recent statement by ITLF has no legal or constitutional basis. This irresponsible statement appears to be motivated and aimed at vitiating and disturbing the law and order situation in the state," said the government statement.

## Ill children in India missed 1st measles shot in '22: Report

ANONNA DUTT  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 17

AN ESTIMATED 11 lakh children in India missed their crucial first dose of measles vaccine in 2022, according to a report by the World Health Organization and US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This puts India among 10 countries with the highest number of children who did not receive the first shot.

India is also among the 37 countries that witnessed large or disruptive outbreaks, reporting 40,967 measles cases in 2022, according to the report.

Globally, immunisation against measles dropped to lowest levels since 2008 during the pandemic, leading to an 18% rise in cases and 43% increase in deaths in 2022, said the report that pre-

sented the first estimates of gaps after the pandemic.

"There was a dip in routine immunisation during 2020 and 2021 because of the pandemic. The challenge with measles is even if a single cohort misses out on vaccination, they become extremely vulnerable to the infection. The gaps in immunisation during the pandemic were mainly in peri-urban areas and clusters where the outbreaks were later reported," said Dr N K Arora, head of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI).

Two doses of the measles vaccine offers 97% protection for life. The protection is likely to be weaker with a single dose. While measles usually causes high fever, cough, runny nose, and red rashes, complications such as brain swelling, pneumonia and breathing problems, and severe diarrhoea may lead to death.

### EXPLAINED Elimination target

THE REPORT comes at a critical juncture as India, along with other countries in the WHO South-East Asia Region, adopted the goal of measles elimination by 2023. While the government has tried to catch up after the pandemic with Indradhanush to achieve the elimination target, India would need to vaccinate 95% of the children.

oea may lead to death.

According to the report, 33 million children globally missed either both doses or second dose.

Dr Arora said the gaps in immunisation have since been covered during the three rounds of Intensified Mission Indradhanush that ended in October. This mission ensures immunisation services reach children who missed out on shots.

"This year, the coverage of the campaign was expanded to include children up to the age of five years as opposed to two years. This was mainly done to ensure high coverage of the measles-rubella vaccine to reach the goal of elimination," said Dr Arora.

Speaking about sensitivity of measles surveillance in India — another indicator the report looks at, adding that only half the countries have reached the target — Dr Arora said India has performed extremely well. "Globally, a non-measles discard rate of 2 per 100,000 is considered sensitive

enough. India has a sensitivity that is three to four folds better."

With most of the country's health machinery busy dealing with Covid-19, there was a decline in coverage. This led to an increase in measles cases reported mainly from five states — Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand and Maharashtra. At least 13 deaths were reported in Maharashtra in 2022. This led to the government launching an outbreak response immunisation drive, vaccinating 13 lakh children between the ages of nine months and 15 years in the affected states and their neighbours between November 2022 and May 2023. "The outbreak can be considered a blessing in disguise. It ensured that children in the region are naturally immunised and government has given shots to those living around," said Dr Arora.

## All overseas companies were reported to regulatory authorities: GMR Group

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 17

GMR GROUP Friday said it had set up a few companies in various overseas jurisdictions for tax efficiency among other reasons. It had disclosed the details in its balance sheet and also informed various Indian regulators, the group said in a statement.

"GMR Group undertook several world-class infrastructure projects across the globe, mainly in the airport sector viz Sabiha Gokcen Airport, Male Airport, Cebu Airport, Clark Airport, Crete Airport, Medan Airport, besides a few projects in the energy sector," it said.

"GMR Group partnered with a few multinational companies, including government companies, in execution of projects with considerable capital contribution. We set up a few companies in various overseas jurisdictions to meet operational requirements, tax efficiency, ease of investment, basing (sic) on the expert advice of the best international consultants and as per the practice followed by several corporates. ICIJ opinion on this aspect was adequately addressed by us earlier in the year 2017," it said. "On divestment of our stake in an energy company based out of the USA, part of the balance capital was kept in the Euro Bank account of GMR Infra Cyprus (USD

140 million). These funds were blocked by that government due to the capital controls imposed by the country in March, 2013, which was reported in *The Indian Express* in June, 2013. Post relaxation of these controls, GMR group (has) withdrawn the funds for investment in overseas projects as well as in India appropriately," it said.

"Crossridge availed a credit facility from Euro Bank during the year 2013 for investment purposes. GMR group has not extended any pledge/lien on the deposits held in Euro Bank in favour of credit facilities by other companies (sic). This was communicated by the Euro Bank officially to the auditors of the group in India," it

said. "Crossridge and Interzone are subsidiaries of GHML (GMR Holdings Mauritius Ltd) and there were outstanding receivables by Interzone from GHML. Hence, GHML directly remitted the money a couple of times to Crossridge on behalf of Interzone in discharge of its outstanding to Interzone. Crossridge and Interzone were wound up along with many other overseas companies as part of a prudent review mechanism to rationalise the corporate structure."

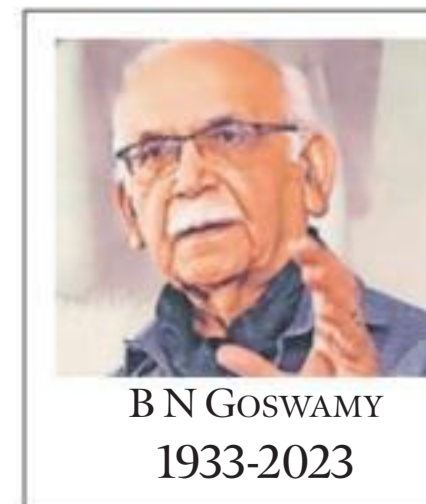
"All above information was discussed in Board meetings and disclosed in balance sheets. All overseas companies were reported to regulatory authorities in India, including RBI, and abroad," it said.

## Considered last word in India's miniature painting, art historian B N Goswamy dies

VANDANA KALRA  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 17

FOR ART historian and critic B N Goswamy a miniature painting was intended to ideally be read like a book, and not mounted on the wall. "It is meant to be held in the hand and read closely. The eye must linger over the surface, take in the luminous colours, absorb the subtlety and the details," Goswamy had said in an interview to *The Indian Express* in 2016.

A phenomenal storyteller, considered the last word on miniature painting in India, particularly the Pahari School, Goswamy passed away in Chandigarh Friday.



B N GOSWAMY  
1933-2023

He was 90. "With him, we have lost one of the most important scholars and writers on the history of miniature paintings in India. Extremely erudite, his contribution is perennial," said vet-

eran artist Krishen Khanna, who has known him for decades.

Author of over 25 books on art and culture — including the recently released *Indian Cat: Stories, Paintings, Poetry and Proverbs* — one of his prominent contributions to art history has been his ability to highlight the role of family and lineage in the development of miniature painting in India. He first introduced the idea in his essay "Pahari Painting: The Family as Basis of Style" published in the journal *Marg* in 1968. The mobility between different centres of patronage meant the existing system of categorising miniatures according to the courts that commissioned them —

Kangra, Guler, Basohli, Chamba and so on — was not appropriate.

"Court styles could vary hugely, depending on who was at work; but families had recognisable techniques and stylistic idiosyncrasies," he had told *The Indian Express*. In his 2011 book *Nainsukh of Guler: A Great Indian Painter from a Small Hill-State* (Niyogi Books) rescued master miniature artist Nainsukh from oblivion, in the *Spirit of Indian Painting* (2014, Penguin Random House India), he celebrated dynasties of forgotten artists through his encounters and readings of 101 great works of art painted between 1100 and 1900.

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BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

## RECKLESS PROMISES

Amid assembly polls, and with LS elections months away, main national parties are competing in a fiscal race to the bottom

WEAT AND PADDY procurement at Rs 2,700 and Rs 3,100 per quintal, as against their respective minimum support prices of Rs 2,275 and Rs 2,200 fixed by the Centre. Annual income support of Rs 12,000 to farmers, twice that under the Centre's PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme. LPG cylinders at Rs 450 for poor households. These are assurances in the BJP's poll manifestos for Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, and advertised as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "guarantees". Although not as expansive as the "revadi" (freebie) offerings by the Congress — from farm loan waivers and 100 units of free electricity, to Rs 3,000 monthly allowance for unemployed youth — the BJP isn't far behind. In MP, it is already paying Rs 1,250 per month to women from poor families — the Congress has pledged Rs 1,500 — has promised one lakh government jobs over two years in Chhattisgarh and 2.5 lakh over five years in Rajasthan.

Simply put, with Lok Sabha elections only months away, the two main national parties are engaged in competitive populism. This fiscal race to the bottom is something one wouldn't ordinarily expect from the Modi-led BJP. The Modi government's first term was marked by a commitment to macroeconomic stability. The Centre's fiscal deficit averaged 3.7 per cent of GDP, compared to the 5.4 per cent during the last five years of the previous Congress-led regime. Even its welfare schemes focused on subsidised public provision of essential private goods and services such as bank accounts, toilets, housing and LPG, electricity and tap water connections. This New Welfarism, as the former chief economic adviser Arvind Subramanian termed it, differed from the open-ended subsidies and entitlement programmes — especially the National Food Security Act (NFSA) and MGNREGA — of the earlier government. The Modi government schemes emphasised targeted cash transfers, leveraging the JAM (Jan-Dhan accounts, Aadhaar and mobile numbers) of individual beneficiaries.

The Modi government's second term has seen the Centre's fiscal deficit average 6.6 per cent of GDP. Some of that has resulted from necessary Covid-induced relief measures and clearing of all outstanding subsidy dues. But there has also been a reversion to the old fiscal populism. Not only has the 5 kg/person/month grain entitlement under the NFSA been retained, the Modi government has slashed the issue price from Rs 2-3/kg to zero and extended it "for the next five years". The retail price of urea has been unchanged since November 2012, even as that of other so-called decontrolled fertilisers (besides petrol and diesel) has been brought back under control. If one adds the repeal of the farm laws, it's clear that reforms and fiscal prudence have hit political economy hurdles. It may not be advisable to expect any different till the next government comes in.

## HIGH AND LOW

Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi's continuing refusal to respect constraints of his constitutional office is unabashed and striking

IN 1974, A seven-judge bench of the Supreme Court, in *Shamsher Singh v State of Punjab*, ruled that the governor of a state can act "only upon and in accordance with the aid and advice of their ministers, save in a few well-known exceptional situations". Earlier this month, while hearing a petition from states including Tamil Nadu about governors neglecting their duties, the SC reiterated that "governors also cannot be oblivious to the fact that they are not elected representatives" and that their withholding assent to Bills passed by the Assembly is "a serious concern". Only days later, Governor RN Ravi's actions — he has withheld assent to 11 Bills passed by the state legislature — threaten to precipitate a constitutional crisis in Tamil Nadu. Ravi's actions are part of a dismal pattern of blatant politicisation of the high constitutional office.

There are other instances as well of governors appointed by the BJP-led Centre overreaching and interfering in the work of elected governments in states ruled by non-BJP parties. But Ravi has invited particularly unflattering attention to himself. Among the Bills, passed between January and April, stuck in the limbo of legal loopholes invoked by Ravi are those concerning the power of the state government to appoint university vice-chancellors, prohibition of online gambling, anti-corruption measures and legislation on the NEET. The Assembly has called a special session on Saturday to pass these Bills again, even as the larger questions sparked by Ravi's actions are pending before the SC. He has courted controversy earlier by refusing to read out parts of the speech outlining the government's view in the House. He has made statements denigrating the politics of the ruling DMK. He crossed the line again in July when he dismissed minister V Senthil Balaji — a decision he took back later. Even the state BJP unit has acknowledged that Ravi is wading into issues beyond his remit: "A Governor should not speak politics, it will set a wrong precedent," state president K Annamalai said in July.

It could be argued that the office of governor has been denuded of independence and credibility over decades, and several governments at the Centre bear responsibility for that. Yet, even given this scarred record, Ravi's conduct is striking for the manner in which it flies in the face of convention and propriety, court verdicts and the Constitution's letter and spirit. It also calls for a course correction. First, he must give his assent to the Bills that are almost certain to be passed, once more, by the legislature. For its part, the Centre must step in, at the very least, to counsel and restrain.

## THROWING ON THE TOWEL

On a rapidly warming planet, a luxury label's towel skirt may be just the multipurpose garment that everyone needs

IT IS A fashion truism that the more impractical and uncomfortable a garment or accessory, the higher the status and greater the wealth of the wearer. Consider the massive crinoline skirts of Victorian ladies, the suffocating ruffs worn by the nobility in Tudor England and the dangerously high-heeled chopines worn by aristocratic ladies in Venice during the Renaissance — all these, so popular in their times, telegraphed not only the eminent social position of their wearers, but also the fact that they were rich enough to afford the help required to hobble about in these often excruciating fashions.

So what exactly would one be communicating by wearing Balenciaga's towel skirt, unveiled this week on the luxury label's website? Being undeniably comfortable (it's made of terry cloth) yet priced at a whopping \$925 (about Rs 77,000), would one be sending out a mixed message by wearing this "skirt"? As per the internet, though, which has been in collective hysteria over the garment, anyone who chooses to wear one of these would only be sending out a message about their extreme gullibility.

It's easy to be derisive about some of the more outrageous creations of haute couture houses, but with the towel skirt, is it possible that the Muse of Fashion has led Balenciaga — and other labels like Prada, which have also been inspired to create towel clothing — in the right direction? After all, wearing a towel as a garment makes great practical sense on a rapidly warming planet. Not only would it be airy and cool, it would be useful in mopping up sweat as heat waves grow longer and more frequent. Indians recognised this multipurpose aspect of the towel centuries ago — from the torthu of Kerala to the gamcha of eastern India, this humble bit of fabric can be a kerchief, head covering or loin-cloth. Its gentrification by luxury labels notwithstanding, a towel may just be the ultra-casual clothing of choice in the era of climate change. Why would anyone wear heavier fabrics and more restrictive clothes, when they can be cool, casual and breezy in a towel?

# Education and pollution

Why a cautionary speech in school's morning assembly, or cancelling an open-air sports day, is not enough



KRISHNA KUMAR

THE CHILDREN HAD rehearsed the sports day rituals in the playground. So, despite the awful pollution, they were told to go through the programme outdoors. Neither the principal nor the physical education teacher saw the implications of this decision. Changing the programme wouldn't have been exactly an earthshaking or embarrassing reversal. It would have been the right step if children's pulmonary health were a concern. And no one would have denied it had the question been posed, let us say, by a journalist. Then, why wasn't the plan changed? The answer might be that "it was just a matter of two-and-a-half hours and children would be disappointed if the sports day were to be postponed."

No one on the staff could suggest such a change. The school's authority structure doesn't brook such a possibility. If the science or math teacher or other senior members of the staff had dared, they would have been pacified with a casual answer like "Oh, it's just for two hours". They wouldn't have persisted because it is none of their business. And, if they were worried about their own lungs, they were free to miss the function. For the science teacher to anchor her argument in her knowledge of particulate matter and the life-long danger it presents for children's lungs would have been seen as showing off. When the principal is around, no one has a say, even the vice-principal. The principal is the ultimate leader. Her leadership can cover an emergency decision, but air pollution doesn't seem to warrant it.

What about the parents? Why didn't they object? In most cases, they are simply too scared to complain about a plan the school has put out. The fear that someone who objects to the school's decision would be asked to withdraw his or her child from the school is quite real. As the macabre drama of a grand sports day unfolds in dense, smoky air, everybody is supposed to clap and click pictures. Cribbing on such a wonderful occasion will be seen as an out-caste's behaviour.

The overall change in the state of the environment is often a victim of subjective assessment. An older person might register a shift in the pattern of seasons or soil quality whereas a young person may simply take the present scenario as the only reality he or she knows. Fortunately, education has induced a considerable number of young people into a community of the concerned. This community is not exactly vast in our country. Also, it faces the daily hype of growth and grandiose achievements. Something as basic as air or water seems rather banal as a source of anxiety when a breathtaking future is supposed to be unfolding.

Pollution matters, but not enough to force a pause, let alone a change of course. It is like the landslides and floods in Himachal. The devastation they caused raised great concern, but not to a level that might bring about a change in policies, and certainly not enough to cause a reversal in decisions already taken. During a recent visit to Himachal, I saw how quickly the four-lane highways and flyover projects had been resumed. More such projects are now being presented as if the disasters experienced in the Manali area are now merely an unpleasant memory. The four-lane highway to Simla is an unending story. Those who believe in its correctness see the frequency of roadblocks as teething troubles. They have to be endured with courage, say the believers in the dream of tourism-based growth of the hill state's economy. In Uttarakhand too, projects that involve blasting of the fragile Himalayan hills are moving along nicely. The tunnel that has partly collapsed trapping labourers inside is the latest instance of nature's failed pedagogy. The tunnel is meant to bring Gangotri closer to Yamunotri in travel time.

The problem with environmental decay is that it is incremental. Dramatic events such as heat waves and floods tend to pass after displaying their fury. They don't necessarily settle the kind of debates that terms like "climate change" and "development" entail. Moreover, the overall change in the state of the environment is often a victim of subjective assessment. An older person might register a shift in the pattern of seasons or soil quality whereas a young person may simply take the present scenario as the only reality he or she knows. Fortunately, education has induced a considerable number of young people into a community of the concerned. This community is not exactly vast in our country. Also, it faces the daily hype of growth and grandiose achievements. Something as basic as air or water seems rather banal as a source of anxiety when a breathtaking future is supposed to

be unfolding. Neurosis often turns out to be the only equilibrium possible in the middle of heated, polarised discussions. They dominate the ecosystem of discourse while the real ecosystems descend to yet another level of irretrievability. Indeed, the term "ecosystem" has been successfully hijacked. Its avid users believe that every crisis, including that of the environment, offers an opportunity.

The relentless entertainment culture does not stop for air pollution or even acknowledge it. The day Delhi's air quality index turned "severe" last week, Akashvani's Rainbow channel on FM radio covered Delhi Haat in its live reporting slot. In it, the anchor who sits in the studio talks live to a roaming reporter. He went on and on about the joy that the diverse menus of different eateries at the Haat were offering to visitors. Not a word was said about the horrible air they were breathing. Nor did the anchor ask her roaming colleague to find out how the visitors felt about the smog. It was a glowing tribute to the "no negative thought" ethic followed on all FM channels, including the private ones.

The only people concerned about Delhi's air quality are the doctors. They speak and warn wherever they are given space in the media. Apparently, their warnings don't suffice to make anyone feel scared of poisonous air. Some school principals do talk about environmental problems in their morning assembly addresses. But when it comes to taking a hard decision, they flinch. Cancelling an open-air sports day function on a smoky day in order to protect children's pulmonary health is one such decision. It might have great potential for dramatically driving home the importance of clean air, but even that possibility is second to the pleasure of carrying on the business of education as usual.

The author is a former director of National Council of Educational Research and Training



PREETI BAHADUR RAMASWAMI

WHILE BATTLING ILL health and in a state of intense bereavement, Professor B N Goswamy penned an unusual and delightful book, on cats and their life in poetry and paintings, released earlier this year. He spent his last days much in the manner of other moments in the prime of his life — looking at paintings to uncover life-worlds embedded within them, of painters and of texts, of imagery and of poetry, of inscriptions and social domains. The rasa that emerged was of his making, shaped by his intellect and his profound understanding of the life of works of art.

A *Sacred Journey: The Kedara Kalpa Series of Pahari Paintings* was his other recent publication, released after the demise of his co-author, wife and life-long companion, Karuna Goswamy. The writing of this book was a demanding process. Folios were painstakingly traced from a highly dispersed series. A little-known text was identified and studied and the book looked at how the painter responded to the narrative and recreated it. As an introduction to the labour involved in this process, Goswamy wrote "*Kaheen ki eenth, kahin ka rora/ Bhanmati ne kumbhaa jora* (a brick from here, a stone from there: That is how poor Bhanumati put her house together)." How true, for he left no stone unturned in his scholarship. No document, no inscription that could throw light on the web of rela-

## A STORYTELLER OF ART

B N Goswamy uncovered the life-worlds embedded within paintings

His work overturned, as is now well-known, the perceived anonymity of Indian painters and gave them agency in the creation of artistic style and intent. This was the result of laborious and painstaking research done, not in any archives, but in the field, pouring over land records and *bahis* at pilgrimage centres, extracting the traces of artists from sketches and notes inscribed.

tions that bound painters to their art and their practice was ever deemed insignificant by him. This was his journey, and it was sacred to him.

With extraordinary command of language and literature, over Persian, Urdu and Sanskrit literature and treatises on the one hand, and the intractable Takri script followed in the hill states on the other, BNG, as he was popularly known, reworked the way art history was seen and understood. His work overturned, as is now well-known, the perceived anonymity of Indian painters and gave them agency in the creation of artistic style and intent. This was the result of laborious and painstaking research done, not in any archives, but in the field, pouring over land records and *bahis* at pilgrimage centres, extracting the traces of artists from sketches and notes inscribed. As could be expected, his eyesight was severely affected for a spell of time. And yet, he continued as soon as he was able to, returning to his life's calling, as though nothing had ever happened.

His devotion to the artist Nainsukh, to what this extraordinary painter was able to achieve in a remote region in the Pahari region, is now legendary. Beyond academic writings, Goswamy ventured into a domain rarely attempted by scholars: He penned a fictional account of a day in the life of the artist. This article, in many ways, overturned

what scholarship could do, to re-imagine the lives of artists in their context. The everyday, the provisional was as significant as the other-worldly in thinking about artworks and their meanings. It led to a wonderful film on the artist by Amit Dutta.

How do we see works of art, and what is it that we are not able to see? Goswamy's lectures were devoted to re-creating the intimate and transformative nature of seeing works of art. For this he marshalled his encyclopaedic knowledge of canonical treatises, Sanskrit, Braj and Persian literature, music and rasa shastra, reciting from them in his soft-timbred, modulated voice, to make viewers and audiences aware of the many worlds that lie embedded within these works. Hearing him speak was an experience. Impeccably attired, Goswamy stood in auditoriums and lecture halls across the globe, speaking of beautiful things and the unseen hands that created them. His lectures, as his students often teased him, turned him into an object of aesthetic contemplation. He was a much-revered and adulated icon. Professor Goswamy left a career in the IAS to pursue art history. He taught at universities across the world and has left a rich legacy of scholarship in the field of art history.

The writer is an art historian based in New Delhi



## NOVEMBER 18, 1983, FORTY YEARS AGO

### ELECTORAL LAW ISSUE

LAW MINISTER JAGANNATH Kaushal ruled out in the Lok Sabha any change in the present electoral laws unless there was consensus on it. The government was trying to find a consensus on electoral reforms. In a discussion on "the need for electoral reforms with special reference to defections", the Law Minister said, "We cannot light-heartedly tinker with the system that has stood the test of time."

### PROPOSAL FOR TULF

SRI LANKA'S OPPOSITION Tamil United Liberation Front leaders discussed the ten-

tative proposals of President J R Jayawardene presented to them by G Parthasarathy, the Prime Minister's special envoy. A Amirthalingam, the TULF Secretary-General, would not say much on how the talks went off except to state that they had been asked to give their views on the tentative proposals.

### BHINDRANWALE ROW

HOME MINISTER P C Sethi has said that the government will consider approaching the courts to have Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale declared a proclaimed offender. He gave this assurance to the Rajya Sabha during question hour after a loud chorus of protest from

opposition members who accused the government of being soft on Bhindranwale. At the same time, Sethi repeated his assurance that the government will not send the police into the Golden Temple to hunt extremists.

### INDO-UK TIES

QUEEN ELIZABETH AND President Zail Singh stressed the need for Britain and India to strengthen their bonds of friendship. At a banquet in honour of the queen, Singh said, "It is our desire that our two governments and people should increasingly work together to spread the message of peace, understanding and cooperation throughout the world."

# 11 THE IDEAS PAGE

## Waiting their turn in MP

Mainstream parties continue to dominate the state arena, with tribals forming a third force that is wooed as well as controlled by them



SUDHA PAI

A KEY ISSUE IN the 2023 assembly election in Madhya Pradesh has been the high-pitched campaign by Congress and the BJP to gain the votes of the tribal population that constitutes 21 per cent of the state, with 48 out of the 230 seats reserved for them. More importantly, over the last few decades, a section of tribals has become politically active in determining electoral outcomes. In his rallies, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has reached out to the tribal population, pointing out that the BJP has appointed Droupadi Murmu as the first tribal woman president, that it was the Adivasi who took care of Ram in the forest, and announced a Rs 24,000 crore welfare programme on the occasion of the Janjatiya Gaurav Divas, celebrated on November 15, to mark the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda.

The BJP held the Rani Durgavati Gaurav Yatra and named two railway stations after Tanya Bhil and the Gond queen Rani Kamalapati. Rahul Gandhi, criticising the use of the term "vanvasi" by the RSS, has promised to eliminate this practice. Congress has made three promises to empower tribals: Implementation of the Sixth Schedule in districts having more than 50 per cent tribal population; enactment of the PESA (Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas Act, 1996); and hike in the rate of *tendu patta* from the existing Rs 3,000 to Rs 4,000 per bag. It has prominent tribal faces such as Umang Singhar, Bala Bachchan and Kantilal Bhuria, on whom it is depending to win seats in tribal-dominated areas.

The battle between Congress and the BJP for tribal votes began in the 1990s and has intensified in the 2000s. In the immediate post-Independence period, Congress received overwhelming support in all tribal-dominated areas, except in Mahakoshal, where the Jana Sangh was a competitor. A number of developments contributed to the erosion of Congress support: Rise of a small, educated class, particularly among the Gonds and Bheels, unhappy with being denied adequate share in political power. Increase in voting among tribals; by the 2018 assembly election it was 76.39 per cent and over 80 per cent in Harda and Dewas. Rise in political consciousness reflected in the formation of two parties out of the Gondwana movement: The Gondwana Gantantra Party (GGP) and the Gondwana Mukti Sena in 1991 by Heera Singh Markam and Kausalya Porte respectively.

The 2003 assembly elections marked the beginning of bi-party contestation for tribal support, with a constant turnover between the two major parties. With waning Congress influence, the BJP succeeded in entering the tribal areas of Gondwana and Bhilistan, which helped it defeat the Congress. The BJP's success was due to sustained grassroots mobilisation by the Vanvasi Kalyan Parishad since the 1950s and more recently by the RSS, VHP, Vidya Bharati and Seva Bharati in areas of education and health. Smaller parties, particularly the GGP, which obtained 2 seats and



C R Sasikumar

almost 11 per cent votes contributed, reducing the Congress vote-share in Gondwana to 28 per cent.

However, in the 2008 assembly elections, with the decline of the GGP, which could not gain a single seat, the Congress made inroads among the Bheels and Gonds, gaining more tribal votes than the BJP. Similarly, in the 2009 parliamentary elections, it gained among the Bheels and to a lesser degree, the Gonds, but the BJP obtained the support of other tribal communities. In recent years, the political strength of the GGP has waned and they do not have a single MLA or MP. Consequently, in the 2013 assembly elections a resurgent BJP was able to win 34 reserved seats, the Congress only 14.

The 2018 election witnessed a tough fight with the tribal factor poised to play a determining role. In the Malwa region, a section of educated Bheels who had made use of tribal development programmes and jobs formed the Jai Adivasi Yuva Shakti (JAYS) with a demand for a separate Bheelistan region. With their slogan "ek teer ek kaman, saare adivasi ek saman" (one bow, one arrow, all tribals are equal) they attempted to unite the tribals. Members of JAYS, following negotiations, contested on Congress tickets, influencing results in Barwani, Jhabua, Alirajpur and Dhar districts. Hence, in the 2018 assembly elections, there was a reversal, with Congress obtaining 32 seats and BJP 16, which helped the former defeat the latter in a close fight.

The reasons lay in unhappiness with the Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led BJP government witnessed in demands put forward by tribal leaders prior to the 2018 election: Implementation of Schedule 5 which gives autonomy to tribal areas, creation of jobs in home districts to stop migration, conservation of forest lands, and addition of Gondi and Bheeli languages in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution. Second, to uphold the Forest Rights Act 2006 and withdrawal of the proposed amendment in the Indian Forests Act 1927. Third, difficulty across tribal districts in accessing government welfare schemes, due to problems in obtaining an Aadhaar card and

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filling numerous forms. Fourth, a demand by the Barela tribals since 2012 for compensation and rehabilitation following land acquisition for the Kharak dam, which has submerged over 300 villages.

In the 2023 assembly election, the BJP and Congress are locked in a close fight in which tribal votes will once again play a decisive role. The BJP hopes to win back the tribal vote, which it lost to the Congress in 2018. Most of the demands put forward prior to the 2018 election have continued into the 2023 campaign. Tribals complain about not being able to access the Ladli Behna and other new schemes of the BJP government or the PM Awas Yojana.

With tribals unhappy with the incumbent BJP, the Congress is hopeful of increasing its total of 31 reserved seats it won in 2018, which should help it win the election. JAYS is contesting 43 seats in the assembly elections. The BSP and the GGP have formed an alliance with the former contesting in 178 constituencies, the latter in 52. But the alliance is unlikely to impact the outcome as it is felt that the state will witness a direct fight between Congress and the BJP, with other parties gaining hardly any seats.

Despite rising political consciousness, aspirations, anger against mainstream parties and formation of tribal parties, MP does not seem ready for a polity in which tribals will play a larger role. The GGP, squeezed between larger parties, has declined. A new generation which formed the BJP has not been able to take it forward except in limited areas.

Uttar Pradesh experienced a Dalit upsurge in the 1990s which brought Dalits to power. Similarly in Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, tribals dominate politics. In MP mainstream parties will continue to dominate, the tribals forming a "third force" wooed as well as controlled by them.

The writer is former National Fellow, ICSSR, former Rector (Pro-Vice Chancellor) & Professor, Centre for Political Studies, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The San Francisco meeting marks a new starting point for China-US relations in a new historical period... We should make the cooperation list longer and the pie of cooperation bigger. Only by doing so can China-US relations be steered toward a healthy, stable, and sustainable direction..." —GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

## A stake in stability

India's position on Israel-Palestine conflict reflects its priority to work towards a political solution and durable peace in West Asia



RAM RAJYA BY RAM MADHAV

PEACE IN WEST Asia is a priority for India. This energy rich region is the lifeline to India's crude and natural gas needs, and an important trade and strategic partner. With the Israel-Hamas conflict entering the seventh week, concerns are growing over its potential to expand and destabilise the entire West Asia region. When the defence and foreign ministers of India and US met for the annual 2+2 dialogue last week in Delhi, this concern was evident in their deliberations.

The joint statement released at the end of the dialogue, while reiterating the support of both countries for Israel in its fight against Hamas terror, also underscored the need for adherence to international humanitarian law, "including with regard to the protection of civilians". Preventing the conflict from spreading, preserving stability in the Middle East, and working towards a "political solution" and "durable peace" were mentioned as the objectives of the two countries.

Ties between India and the West Asian countries go back to the post-Independence period. Gamal Abdel Nasser, the reformist president of Egypt, was a leading light of the Non-Aligned Movement, which the first prime minister of India, Jawahar Lal Nehru, championed. Nasser's friendship with Nehru came to India's help when Egypt blocked the Portuguese navy from entering the Suez Canal during Goa's liberation in 1961.

However, Pakistan's proactive politics remained a dampener in India's efforts to ratchet up relations with many countries in this region. Some of them were suspected to be aiding and abetting Islamic fundamentalism and terrorism in India. Wanted terrorists like Dawood Ibrahim were reported to have regularly been seen in places like Dubai and Jeddah. The Scotland Yard had warned India in 2010 that an official in the consulate of an important Arab country in Mumbai was working for Dawood and his gang.

In the last decade, though, things transformed drastically. Focused efforts were made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to strengthen ties with almost all West Asian countries. Modi's personal ties with leaders like Mohammed bin Zayed (MBZ) of the UAE and Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) of Saudi Arabia also helped the process.

In a region riddled with intense internal rivalry and conflicts, Modi's formula of "Bharat ki baat, sabke saath" — India's engagement will be with everybody — worked wonders. In a speech in London in 2018, he asserted, "Yes, I will go to Israel, and I will even go to Palestine. I will further cooperate with Saudi Arabia and for the energy needs of India, I will also engage with Iran."

De-hyphenation became the hallmark of Modi's foreign policy, providing ample strategic autonomy to India's benefit. He paid a standalone visit to Israel in 2017, becoming the first Indian prime minister to

visit that country. "We waited 70 years for you," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu exclaimed while receiving Modi at the Ben Gurion Airport. Next year, Modi made a standalone visit to Ramallah and received the highest civilian honour of Palestine from Mahmoud Abbas, the prime minister of the Palestinian National Authority.

West Asia is today the largest trade partner with India with the volume of the two-way trade touching \$150 billion. The UAE and Saudi Arabia, with \$90 billion and \$50 billion trade respectively, emerged as strong partners in strategic and counter-terrorism cooperation with India. The UAE handed over Dawood's aide, and a wanted terrorist, Farooq Talak, to India in 2018 and warned Pakistan not to allow its terrorists to use its territory?

India's biggest success in West Asia was at the Organisation of Islamic Countries — OIC (Organisation for Islamic Cooperation earlier). When Indira Gandhi sent a delegation led by Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed to the inauguration of the IOC in 1969, Pakistan ensured that India was not provided a table at the event. Ahmed had to cool his heels in the hotel for a couple of days before returning without attending the session. But when the UAE hosted the 46th summit of the IOC in 2019, Indian foreign minister Sushma Swaraj was invited as the Guest of Honour at the inaugural plenary. Pakistan tried to get the invitation rescinded. But to its chagrin, the hosts refused, forcing Shah Mahmood Qureshi, foreign minister of Pakistan to abstain. Underscoring India's importance, the IOC went ahead and issued the Abu Dhabi Document, not mentioning the Kashmir issue for the first time.

India views the Israel-Palestine conflict from the larger prism of establishing peace and stability in West Asia. Not all West Asian powers support Hamas and Hezbollah. India shares the view of a two-state solution — "building a sovereign, independent and viable state of Palestine that lives side by side at peace with Israel" — together with the US and many other countries.

The Oslo Accords of 1993, midwifed by US president Bill Clinton and signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, brought the two countries close to agreeing to the two-state solution. Although Yitzhak Rabin was murdered by a headline Israeli in 1995, Netanyahu, who came to power in 1996, took the process forward. Israel and the Palestine Authority signed the Hebron Protocol in 1997, which provided for the transfer of most of Hebron to Palestinian control. In October 1998, Clinton hosted Netanyahu and Arafat at the Wye River Plantation, where they negotiated an agreement calling for further Israeli withdrawals from the West Bank. By the time Clinton's tenure came to an end in 2000, there was almost an agreement over an independent Palestine, which would have 98 per cent of the West Bank and entire Gaza.

However, the accord collapsed, largely due to Arafat's deceptive moves and Hamas' terror across Gaza and in Israel. As Israel is advancing to decimate Hamas in Gaza, it may sound untimely and unreal to talk about the two-state solution. But just as zero tolerance to terror is a principle for India, New Delhi is committed to the two-state solution as a lasting basis for peace in West Asia.

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

## It's not over until it's over

In Russia vs Ukraine, reports of Russia's decline may be exaggerated



P STOB DAN

THOSE CUTTING THROUGH discussions on global power politics have been making blasé assumptions about the end game of the Russia-Ukraine war. The initial expectation that the Russian military would overrun Ukraine in weeks has been belied. Russia's image as a superpower, barely two years into the war, appears dented. There is neither an immediate Russian victory in sight nor signs of Ukraine backing down.

Instead, Western propagandists are going the whole hog declaring Russia as a diminished power; its final defeat a matter of time — a veiled swipe also directed at China, which is challenging the US's global supremacy. Putin's request for help from China and North Korea, plus the threat of using nuclear weapons, signifies the extent of Russia's decline.

The prospect, therefore, looks dim for Russia. The best and brightest have fled. Sanctions and trade restrictions have withered its economy, especially crumpled profits from energy exports. The country's high-tech industries are being put at risk because of the exodus of global corporations. The economy is not expected to grow in the foreseeable future. It will have to simply rely on resource extraction. Politically, Russia has become more sclerotic and repressive, unable to tolerate dissent.

In the diplomatic battle, fewer countries are siding with Russia, not even its Central Asian allies have supported Moscow's actions. Putin had to skip a series of high-profile global events, including the BRICS and G20 summits. Ukraine, on the other hand, is

all set to join the EU, and NATO is set to incorporate Finland and Sweden.

The flip side is whether Ukraine can withstand the test of time amid growing war fatigue in the US (\$113 billion since 2014), with the Republicans now opposing another \$24 billion in military aid. The war has certainly unified a divided Europe, but as the EU bets on how Ukraine could stir a new wave of integration and enlargement to convert Europe into a "geopolitical force", it would face a challenge in the form of the Franco-German divide. Germany is reluctant to supply weapons to Ukraine, and France is wary of EU enlargement.

The bloc may also run out of tenacity and eventually seek political expediency to end the conflict. There are already signs of the ground shifting. Ukraine's closest ally Poland, which hosts 2.6 million Ukrainian refugees, is having second thoughts. Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki recently said it would "no longer transfer weapons to Ukraine".

Finland, the first to abandon neutrality, seems dithering after Moscow halted gas supply — this would increase the cost of living for Nordic countries. The country is on alert after the Baltic connector pipeline was shut down for the winter due to a leakage caused by a suspected Chinese-owned vessel. These kinds of reversal games may impact the war.

Already, the fear of the Gaza war distracting attention away from Ukraine is forcing Volodymyr Zelenskyy to push for a global "peace summit" next February. In the meantime, the EU has asked Kyiv to meet the EU's prerequisites (reining in corruption and firm-

ing up minority laws) before membership talks can begin by mid-December.

The contrarian view is that Russia is winning the war. Detractors of the West are pleased that Putin has finally called NATO's bluff. Russia already holds a large portion of the Donbas and Donetsk and may gain more territory if the war persists. No matter what prevails on the battlefield, Russia is unlikely to vacate those territories. This will weaken Ukraine's bargaining position for any future prospect of a peace deal. This means a state of prolonged frozen conflict accompanied by an arms race, and higher defence spending, a burden that the rest of Europe will have to bear.

Regardless of the war outcome, even a weakened Russia will remain central to European security. In the scenario that Putin can crush Ukraine's resistance, the challenges for Europe would multiply. Even the task of rebuilding Ukraine would depend on sustained energy supplies from Russia.

Russia will remain a formidable military power with a large nuclear arsenal, and disruptive technology to influence the global strategic balance. In fact, this war may have taught the Russian military how to deal with NATO's weaponry. The question, therefore, is whether Europe will opt for a new security architecture with the inclusion or exclusion of Russia.

One cannot underestimate the Russian strategic culture and its deep-seated history of threat perceptions vis-à-vis others. The 1962 Cuban missile crisis and the Euro-missile crisis of the 1980s still stand in public memory. In fact, things may not

have come to such a pass if the West had not ignored Moscow's repeated warnings against NATO's expansion. Therefore, the assumption that Russia is permanently weakened is premature.

Instead, Putin, through the war efforts, may have found a renewed goal and a sense of purpose to regenerate Russia. The Russian economy is certainly withering now, but it also showed resilience because of the growing share in the energy markets. Moscow has dramatically reoriented its foreign policy/economy toward China, the Middle East, India, and Africa — a historic shift in the global power balance.

In the years ahead, Russia will be geopolitically tied to Europe, but the scale of its assertion will depend on how widely the US defines its global interests. It is already reasserting its influence around the world, especially in the Middle East. Ukraine's fate aside, the conflict in Gaza will shape the future trajectory of Russia's foreign policy. Moscow has tentatively taken steps to improve links with Beijing knowing that the matrix of partnership is imbalanced — in Beijing's favour.

India's official Russia policy remains grounded in realism, but a tendency among observers and analysts is to quickly draw on Western conclusions to discard Russia, and berate Putin for his "war of choice". It would be premature to underestimate Russia's potential.

The writer, a former diplomat, has served in Eurasia

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### KOHLI'S ODI RECORD

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The little master & his student' (IE, November 17). Virat Kohli's latest feat of 50 ODI centuries is a tribute to his idol and predecessor Sachin Tendulkar. Kohli's ascent is a testament to his unwavering consistency. Unlike Tendulkar's century celebrations, Kohli has normalised excellence. His recent 117 against New Zealand in the World Cup semi-final, reflects a mastery that ensures success without unnecessary risk. Crucially, Kohli's impact extends beyond his home soil, displaying his all-weather batting prowess. In an era of T20, Kohli's ODI record is proof of his grit and endurance.

Mahajan Rohan, Jammu

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The little master & his student' (IE, November 17). The Indian team is blessed to have a talent like Kohli and Kohli is blessed to have broken his idol's record on his home ground. The biggest difference between Tendulkar and Kohli is that when Tendulkar would get out, we would lose all hope of winning matches. But nowadays, even after Kohli gets out, we still have a few more batsmen able to take the team over the line. Kohli has a few years of cricket left in him and in all probability, will score more than a few hundreds across the formats.

Bal Govind, Noida

### BANGLADESH POLITICS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'A limited choice in Dhaka' (IE, November 17). In the 2024 general elections, Bangladesh faces a potential regime change as political dynamics shift. Citizens express growing discontent over economic challenges and governance issues. The opposition gains momentum, promising reforms and addressing public concerns. International observers anticipate a closely contested election, with the possibility of a new leadership emerging. The election is poised to be a pivotal moment in Bangladesh's political landscape.

SS Paul, Nadia

### TRIBAL LAND LAW

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Gesture politics' (IE, November 17). It is disquieting to see that the Odisha government has passed a law that will directly impact their huge tribal population. It permits tribal populations to sell their land to non-tribal populations. This law can lead to dominant communities coercing tribals into selling their land. Moreover, tribal people might end up underselling their land. Lastly, this law will lead to industrialisation, which in turn would disturb the environment. If the government fails to provide tribal people adequate safeguards, they may feel exploited.

Udi Gupta, New Delhi

# 12 BIG PICTURE

**A**BOUT A year ago, around the T20 World Cup in Australia, some important conversations took place in the Indian dressing room. Back then, the present day leadership — captain Rohit Sharma, coach Rahul Dravid and his assistants — was relatively new to the job. The team's superstar Virat Kohli, fresh out of captaincy, had publicly been angry about his unceremonious exit. He was also out of form.

The team needed to talk and just for that, Dravid had coaxed the Indian board to hire cricket's most famous sounding board — mental guru Paddy Upton. An avid surfer, one-time backpacker, first-class cricketer, Upton was with M S Dhoni's team when India won the 2011 World Cup. Now, he was returning to the team and to a country that seemed burdened with a worrying question: So used to being King Kohli, will Virat adjust to the life of a commoner?

Cut to 2023. Just a few weeks ago, while in the middle of his dream World Cup run, Virat acknowledged Upton's role in his turnaround. He said it was the South African sports psychologist who woke him up to the harsh realities of a long career and the inevitability of the ups and downs that keep dropping by. He also shared a simple Upton advice that had stayed with him: "Keep doing things that you did when you were playing good cricket."

This realisation would prove to be Virat's transformative eureka moment. It would also be the turning point for Rohit and Dravid's Team India. Chances are history could well register it as the moment when the first seed of India's most-commanding World Cup triumph ever was sown. With 711 runs, Virat is this World Cup's highest run-getter. The man searching for a glimmer of light in the dark tunnel a year ago is now a step away from the sparkling Cup and the glittering open-bus parade, and is being hailed as the perennially shining Sun on the Indian cricket horizon.

It all changed when Virat, to be his old self, didn't do anything new. This wasn't just about going back to his time-tested batting rhythm. It was also about not restricting his swagger, not quitting from being the team's cheerleader, chief protester and bugle-blowing frontline warrior. This was about being a leader despite losing the captaincy. Virat might not have the ownership of the team but he did retain the power of attorney.

And giving him the space, authority and the luxury to be himself were Indian cricket's two most accommodative, pragmatic and low-key leaders — captain Rohit and coach Dravid.

Behind India's 2023 World Cup success is a beautiful story of two pals — teen prodigies once, fathers of young daughters now — not letting rumours, misunderstandings and professional upheavals erode the mutual respect they had maintained for each other for about a decade and a half. It is also about another batting great from the previous generation, never a World Cup winner, wiser after learning from his own mistakes in handling a star-studded team of the past, playing the sagacious sherpa and guiding the two weather-hardened summit challengers.

## Rohit: 'An incredible man manager'

Upton has a reputation that goes beyond cricket. His latest employers were Hockey India — and the boys he worked had ended up with the gold at the Asian Games. He is now back in Cape Town, following the World Cup in India from a distance. He agrees for an interview on the day India is playing New Zealand in the semi-final at Wankhede. When he takes the call, Rohit is on the central square of his home but he comes across as a kamikaze fighter in the middle of a sortie. Upton has an eye on the game as he talks.

The articulate Upton, now in his mid-50s, has seen cricket's biggest stars at their weakest worst. A thorough professional, he avoids specifics. But he does share the overview of the leadership group he worked closely with during his stint in 2022 — the time when the Indian team was a slow-crawling caterpillar and not the delightfully fluttering butterfly of the present.

**Rohit brings the Tendulkar-type of energy to the team. In a team of varied temperament, there are those who feed on Virat's aggression and others on Rohit's calmness**

"At present, India has a leadership that allows each individual to be unique people themselves. Rohit and Rahul are very empowering leaders... They create the opportunity for people to be themselves... for Virat to be himself. Virat's energy in itself is a powerful leadership ingredient within the team," says Upton.

With six IPL titles for Mumbai Indians, Rohit is truly a modern-day leader. Having led teams with super stars from around the world he understands that the ancient leadership rule of treating everybody the same doesn't work.

"Very seldom will you have 11 cricketers who all require the same thing. And yet, for some reason, we still have coaches prescribing one way for everyone," says Upton. He calls Rohit an "incredible man manager" who is able to "connect with the most junior player as comfortably as he can with the most senior player". More importantly for the Indian team, Rohit can connect and be comfortable with his only real peer in the team — his old friend Virat.



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

ningest captain alongside Dhoni. Virat tried his best, did all he could but he could never take his Bangalore team to the top of the podium. Around the time he gave up India's white-ball captaincy, he would also quit as the IPL skipper.

Their careers continued, following a script with the twists and turns of a daily soap. There were stories of rift and intrigue but the two remained respectfully silent. Rohit, while playing under Virat, found his true calling. After trying various positions in the top order, he settled as the opener. It would help him stabilise his place in the side. Then, with Virat feeling the pressure of the hot seat, Rohit, an all-format regular, ended up being the obvious challenger for the leadership role.

Finally, when Rohit got the reins, the square pegs and the round holes would finally get swapped. The jigsaw was finally in place. The greatest batsman was now playing under a great captain and at this World Cup, Indian cricket was just a step away from being great again. But how did the two super stars coexist despite entangled journeys and intrigue around them?

Back to Upton for interpreting the cricketers with temperaments that are poles apart. "Rohit and Virat are two mature individuals and they are two different personalities... They also realised that if they were to be immature, they would be squabbling about their own individual agendas. But their maturity has transcended that. They realise that both are actually competing for the same thing and it is something greater than each one of them individually. They are playing for an Indian team, and the team is playing for a nation," he says.

## Virat: 'He brings that high energy'

In 2011 too, Dhoni's team had men who had squabbles in the past but the maturity of that group had also doused the differences. Providing a helping hand to the skipper was Sachin Tendulkar. He too was a leader that didn't need a captain's band on his arm. Like Virat at present, Tendulkar was the tournament's highest run-scorer but he was also a guiding light for the team's younger bunch — primarily the eventual Player of the Tournament, Yuvraj Singh.

Virat too has taken it upon himself to be the team elder and the Big Brother. From addressing the team huddle, mentoring his Royal Challengers Bangalore team mate Mohammad Siraj and fooling around with young opener Shubman Gill to help him settle his nerves in big games — Virat has made contributions that are beyond his runs. He is also the team's ball polisher, he takes guard at the vital run-leaking areas as a fielder, celebrates more than the bowler when a wicket falls, is the loudest appealer and gives Rohit a bear hug when the plan they have set together works.

Upton sees similarities and differences in this Tendulkar-Virat parallel. "Both are able to play the leadership role with their own performance. There is an advantage, you have the official leader in Rohit and someone who is naturally a leader through his actions. Virat leads by his 100 per cent commitment to every single thing he does — batting, fielding. He brings that high energy," he says.

But temperamentally, aren't the two very different? "Sachin didn't have the same intensity and aggression; it's a different type of energy. He brought a more composed energy to the team," shares Upton.

In the present set-up, Rohit brings the Tendulkar-type of energy to the team. In a team of varied talent and temperament, there are those who feed on Virat's aggression and others on Rohit's calmness.

## A partnership for the ages

But could this be a marriage of convenience, a facade of bonhomie in the age of brand collaboration and cross-marketing? Is it an act for the cameras choreographed by agents? It's a cynical query in this delirious season of Rohit-Virat frenzy where the Blue Brotherhood has swept the nation off its feet.

According to Upton, no one can be a team player first and put his personal performance second. "Champions put their personal performance and the team first at the same time. That's what champions do," he says. The second indicator is how the players celebrate each other's success.

There are a couple of memorable Rohit-Virat frames that in the years to come might get iconic status. There's one of Rohit hugging Virat after the win against Australia and there's this other one of Virat lifting Rohit after a fall of an England wicket. Zoom on the faces, look into their eyes to see the warmth. It's a throwback to their teenage days, it's a reminder of Rohit's 'nahi re' on the inky wintery evening at Karnail Singh Stadium and Virat's 'slumping on the sofa' awe under the bright lights of the TV studio.

# CAPTAIN & THE KING

## A TALE OF TWO FRIENDS

One's the captain of the India XI that's in the middle of a dream run, a match away from lifting the World Cup; the other a former captain who is known to wear his heart on his sleeve. SANDEEP DWIVEDI on the two pals — teen prodigies once, fathers of young daughters now — and their winning formula

### Two different personalities, yet friends

Within months of India's 2007 World T20 triumph in South Africa, Rohit was in Delhi for a Ranji Trophy game at Karnail Singh Stadium, the home ground of the Indian Railways cricket team where the blaring horns of the trains entering the New Delhi station can be heard. On a wintry evening, with darkness engulfing the stadium within minutes of stumps, Rohit kept his word for a long-promised interview but he also had to follow the cool-down routine.

Rohit would eventually sit down for the chat but would keep looking over his back. Not too far, in the top stands, with his kit bag over his shoulder, stood Virat.

The two had plans for the evening and the Delhi boy was waiting for his Mumbai mate. The interaction got dragged with light further fading. Restless by now, Virat started walking towards Rohit. It was the perfect cue to ask a question about the relationship between the country's two most talented young batsmen who at times fought for the same spot in the playing XI and later in life, became India captaincy contenders.

Rohit would react with a half chuckle, the trademark Rohit shrug and the truly Bambaiya "nahi re" denial. He would wave at Virat, flex his fingers, asking him to wait for five minutes.

### THE TAG TEAM

So far this World Cup, be it chasing a tricky total or setting a stiff target, opener Rohit Sharma and No. 3 Virat Kohli have held centrestage. When one has failed, the other has stepped up and there have been games where they have tagged-teamed to pin down rivals.

#### AGAINST AUSTRALIA

**Rohit 0, Virat 85**  
It's the World Cup's opening game and India lose 3 wickets for 2 runs. Rohit leaves without opening an account. Virat takes control of the chase. He along with KL Rahul put on 164. India sails past the Aussie target of 188 with ease.

#### AGAINST ENGLAND

**Rohit 87, Virat 0**  
England get English conditions in Lucknow. It's overcast and the ball is swinging. India lose an early wicket, Virat is out for duck. Rohit goes into Test match mode and India drag their total to 229. It's enough for India's outstanding bowling unit.

#### AGAINST NEW ZEALAND

**Rohit 46, Virat 95**  
India's Big Two comes up with a classic one-two routine. Chasing 274,

India can't lag behind the run rate. Rohit hits 4 sixes and scores 44 for 40 balls. It eases the pressure on Virat. His 95 from 104 balls takes India home.

#### AGAINST PAKISTAN

**Rohit 86, Virat 16**  
Pakistan's modest total of 191 looks minuscule as Rohit flies off the blocks. He doesn't let any bowler to settle, hits 86 from 63 balls. Rohit's done enough, others can take an off-day. Virat scores just 16.

#### AGAINST NEW ZEALAND (SEMI-FINAL)

**Rohit 47, Virat 117**  
In this vital game, New Zealand runs into two batsmen who could do nothing wrong. First Rohit plays a blinder and spoils the line and length of the pacer, Virat brings out the sledgehammer. This is a game when Virat also sprints, his 117 comes in just 113 balls.

He would praise Virat the batsman and, as a memorable parting remark, would say, "Such things have never impacted my friendships."

At that point in time, Rohit was Indian cricket's most promising junior. He had charmed the world with his unfeasibly beautiful batting during the 2006 U-19 World Cup at Sri Lanka. His rise was meteoric. Within months of his junior India outing, he was with the senior team that won the historic ODI tri-series in Australia and also Dhoni's trusted middle-order batsman in the T20 World Cup. Greatness was thrust on Rohit quite early in life.

Like everyone, Virat too was besotted with Rohit's batsmanship. Years later, in an interview, he recalled the days of Rohit mania. Speaking to host Gaurav Kapur on the popular *Breakfast with Champions* show, he spoke about his curiosity over the young batsman everyone was raving about. "I was curious because everyone was talking about this player called Rohit Sharma... I was also a young player, but nobody was talking about me. Then, during the T20 World Cup (2007) I saw him bat, I just slumped on the sofa. That shut my mouth forever."

However, Rohit would fluff his first-mover advantage. He couldn't keep pace with his rapidly changing life and the unrealistic expectations. Virat would soon go past him. He would lead India to the U-19 World Cup title and stake claim as Sachin Tendulkar's heir apparent. On the Mumbai Maidans a few years would have been shed as Borivali boy Rohit had failed to take the baton from the Shivaji Park legend.

Cricket would live up to its reputation as a great leveller. Rohit would soon rise again. IPL would put him on a pedestal. On the ultra-competitive franchise cricket stage, Rohit would showcase his ability to read the game, mentor match-winners like Hardik Pandya and Jasprit Bumrah and be the super sopper of pressure. He would get hailed as IPL's win-

Classifieds

PERSONAL

It is for general information that I, KULDEEP KAUSHIK, S/O-SARWAN KUMAR, R/O-354/B, Gali No.6, Bholu-Nath Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as KULDEEP in my all Educational Documents and in my Passport No.Z 2246507. The actual name of mine is KULDEEP KAUSHIK, which may be amended accordingly.

I, Ajay Singal S/o Roshan Lal R/o 1673, Neelkanth Apartment, Sector-13, Rohini, Reja Pur Kalan, North West Delhi, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Ajay Kumar Singal.

I, VIVEK S/O MAHIPAL, H.NO-904, FIRST FLOOR, DDA-JANTA-FLATS, GTB-ENCLAVE, NAND NAGRI, DELHI-110093, have changed my name to VIVEK RANA, for all future purpose.

I, THOMAS KUTTY, S/O LATE VARGHESE R/O-F-94, TARANGINI APARTMENT, STREET NO-2, NEAR BHAGAT CHANDRA HOSPITAL, MAHAVIR ENCLAVE, NEW DELHI-110045, have changed my name to THOMASKUTTY KARIMPIL VARGHESE TO THOMAS KUTTY, for all future purposes.

I, Shiv Kumar, S/O Kishan Chand Sharma, R/o 188/2, R.P.F Quarter, Daya Basti Line, Delhi-110035, Changed my name to Shiv Kumar Sharma.

I, Shakuntla, W/o-Ram Samuj saroj Add-Flat no-2, B.S.E.S Sub Station, Hudco Complex, South-Delhi-110049, changed my name to Shakuntla Saroj.

I, Santosh Kumar Chy, S/O Neelamber Choudhary, R/o-Pocket-P-32/A6, Dilshad Garden Shahdara, Delhi-110095, have Changed My Name To Santosh Kumar Choudhary.

I, Sanjay Kumar, S/O-Rameshwari Prasad Gupta, R/O, House no-882, Sector-8, Faridabad-121006, have changed my name to Sanjay Gupta. Permanently, Sanjay Kumar and Sanjay Gupta, is the one and same person.

I, SYED ASIMA YASMEEN ANWAR, W/O SALEEM MASOOD ANWAR, R/O FLAT NO. 28A03, IMPERIAL-COURT-1, JAYPEE GREENS WISHTOWN, SECTOR-128, NOIDA, GAUTAMBUDDHA MAGAR, U.P.-201304, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ASMA YASMEEN ANWAR, FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.

I, SAVITHA V alias SAVITHA VIJLA D/O JOSEPH PALAYAN W/O LEO JACOB R/O-439-H, Pocket-2, Mayur Vihar, Phase-1, Delhi-110091, have changed my name to SAVITHA VIJLA

I, SATESH PAYLA W/O CHUNNI LAL PAYLA, R/O 5482 GALI NO-6 NEW CHANDRAWAL KAMLA NAGAR DELHI-110007, HAVE charged my name to SATESH.

I, Ramsamuj, S/O-Dhotal Saroj, Add-Flat no-2, B.S.E.S Sub Station, Hudco Complex, South Delhi-110049, changed my name to Ram Samuj saroj.

I, Rakesh Sharma, S/O Singh Ram, R/O Shahzadpur (168), Sonapat, Haryana, Have Changed My Name To Rakesh Kumar, for all future purposes.

I, Rahul Mishra S/o, Rajesh Mishra R/o, Kh.No.194, Gali-No.4, Part-2, 25-Foot Road, Mukundpur, Delhi-110042, that Rahul and Rahul Mishra both are one and same person.

I, Satendra Gupta S/o Ram Lot Gupta R/O-24 Akber Road New Delhi-110011 have changed my name to Satender Gupta

I, RADHAKRISHN PILLAI, S/O SHIV RAMAN NAIR, R/O, 463, Group-2, Hastals Janta Flats Uttam-Nagar, Delhi-110059, have changed my name to RADHA KRISHNA PILLAI, for all purpose

I, POONAM, wife of Nityanand Yadav Presently residing at H.No.5, Village Haluhera, PO-Musepur, Distt. Rewari, Haryana-123401, have changed my name, from POONAM to POONAM YADAV, vide Affidavit, dated-16.11.2023.

I, PARMANAND S/O SHRIPAL JAIN R/O E-18/136, SECTOR-3, ROHINI, DELHI-110085, have changed my name to PARMANAND JAIN.

I, Nikhil S/O, Krishan Lal Setia R/O B-79, street no. 23, Mahavir Enclave, part-2, New Delhi-110059, have changed my name to Nikhil Setia, for all purposes.

I, NANDINI AGRAWAL, residing at H.No.-B-161, Green Field Colony, Faridabad, confirm that "NANDINI AGRAWAL" and "NANDINI" in my school certificate refer to the same person. My correct name is NANDINI AGRAWAL. I request recognition and usage of my correct name.

I, Naresh S/o Om Prakash Khanduja, R/O H.No.453/4, Ram Nagar, Gurgaon (Haryana), have changed my name to Naresh Khanduja.

I, Mohit F/o Jagat Singh, H.No.-205, BPS Vishwadhalya, Campus kh kalan (56) Sonapat, Haryana, have change my name to Mohit Singh, for All Purpose.

I, Mohamad Yasin Khan, S/O Mangloo Khan, R/O-Aamka-Road Brahampur-Mohalla Dadri Gautambudh-Nagar, UP, Have Changed My Name To Mohammad Yasin Khan.

I, Meenu Shekhawat W/o Naveen Kumar R/O H.NO-175, Pocket-2, Sector-1, Dwarka, Delhi-110075, have changed my name to Meenu Solanki.

I, Manish Kumar S/o Pawan Kumar R/O WZ-523/16, Basaidarapur, New Delhi-110015, have changed my name to Manish Kumar Giri.

I, Manglu Khan, S/O-Bundo Khan, R/O kondli Bangar Gautambudh-Nagar UP, Have Changed My Name To Mangloo Khan

I, MOHIT PAYLA S/O CHUNNI LAL PAYLA, R/O 5482 GALI NO-6 NEW CHANDRAWAL KAMLA NAGAR DELHI-110007, HAVE changed my Name to MOHIT

I, MOHAMMAD KALEEM SIDDIQUI, S/O MOHAMMAD ZARRAR SIDDIQUI, R/O-V-203, Taj Enclave, Geeta Colony, Delhi-110031, have lost three share certificates

I, MANJOOCHA D/O PREM NARAIN TIWARI, residing at, B-1/150, JANAKPURI, DELHI-110058 have changed my name to MANJOOCHA TIWARI, permanently.

I, Khamlesh Kumari Sharma, W/O Joginder Lal Sharma, R/O Flat.No.1202, T-3, RPS-Savana City, Sector-88, Kheri Kalan, Faridabad (Haryana) -121002, have changed my name to Khamlesh Sharma.

I, Khairul Nisha W/O Mr. Ali Mohd, R/O House No-1067, Ward-No-1, Mehrauli, South Delhi, Delhi-110030, have changed my name to KHERUL NISHA.

I, Kavita Shankrappa Gurikar, R/O HN.85/365, Village, Sultanpur, South Delhi-110030, have changed my name to Kavita Gurikar.

I, Kamlesh Kumari Sharma, W/O Joginder Lal Sharma, R/O Flat.No.1202, T-3, RPS-Savana City, Sector-88, Kheri Kalan, Faridabad (Haryana) -121002, have changed my name to Kamlesh Sharma.

I, Ishmeet Singh Bhatia S/O Davinder Singh R/O WZ-903 2nd Floor, Shiv-Nagar Extension Janakpuri, Jail Road, have changed my name to Ishmeet Singh.

I, Inderjeet Kaur and Inderjit Kaur, W/O Sarabjeet Singh, R/O UC-23, Second-Floor, Usha-Park, Jail-Road, New-Delhi-110064, both are same and one-person.

I, Harbir Kaur Dhanjal, D/O, Hardev Singh, R/O, WZ-455, G.F, Gali, No.24, Shiv Nagar, near Jail road, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058, have changed my name to Harbir Kaur, for all purposes.

I, Gurmeet Kaur, W/O-Ranjeet Singh Narang R/O L-73, Gali, No-21, New Mahavir Nagar, Tilak-Nagar, Delhi-110018, inform that given-name Gurmeet And surname Kaur.

I, CHUNNI LAL PAYLA S/O BIRBAL, R/O 5482 GALI NO-6 NEW CHANDRANAL KAMLA NAGAR DELHI-110007, HAVE changed my name to CHUNNI LAL

I, Ashok Kumar S/o Nepal Singh, R/O H.No-774/31, Mandi-Village, South Delhi, Delhi-110047, have changed my name to Ashok Tanwar, for all Purposes.

I, Arshi, D/O Tayyab Ali Khan, R/O Ramo-19-A, Pocket-B, DDA FLATS, NEW JAFRABAD SHAHDARA, DELHI-110032, have changed my name to Arshi Khan, for all future purposes.

I, Anuraag Bhasin, S/O-Bharat Prakash Bhasin, R/O 1547, Near-Radha Krishna Mandir, Sector-31-32A, Housing-Board, Jharsa, Gurgaon (HR.), have changed my name to Anurag Bhasin.

I, Amarjit Singh and Amarejeet Singh S/O Gurdial Singh, R/O-BG-6/185-B, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-63, have changed my name to Amarjit Singh Dhanjal.

I, AVINASH, S/O Mohan Dass, R/O-92/2, Safed Sagar Enclave, Af St Sohna-Road, Gurugram, Haryana-122 001, have changed my name, from AVINASH to M AVINASH, vide Affidavit, dated-15-11-2023, at New-Delhi.

I, hitherto known as Ashana Singal a/kias Ashana Singal Jain, D/O Pradeep Singal, W/O Akshat Jain, R/O B-1/615, Janakpuri, B-1, S.O West-Delhi-110058, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Ashana Jain.

I, ANUPAMA, daughter of, Nityanand Yadav Presently residing at H.No.5, Village Haluhera, PO Musepur, Distt. Rewari, Haryana-123401, have changed my name, from ANUPAMA to ANUPAMA YADAV, vide Affidavit, dated-16-11-2023.

I, ANIL KUMAR JAIN, S/O ATMA RAM JAIN residing at WZ-238B, GALLI NO-6, SADH NAGAR, PALAM-COLONY, NEW DELHI-110045, have changed my name to ANIL JAIN, for all future purposes.

I, Thara R Alias Thara Ramon W/o Praveen Kumar, R/O E-902, Amrapali Zodiac, Sector 120, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301 have changed my name to THARA PRAVEEN for all future purposes.

I, Shalu Chauhan D/O Janak Singh, R/O VTC Gangeru, Sub District Kairana, District Shamli, Uttar Pradesh-247775. Declare that Name of Mine has been wrongly written as Shalu in my 12th class certificate. The actual name of Mine is Shalu Chauhan, which may be amended accordingly.

I, Ruper Jit/S/O Late Shri Rinder Jit employed as ASO (G) R/O 16/78, 3rd Floor, Subhash Nagar, Delhi-110027, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Rupendra Jit.

I, Rozia D/O Umaid, R/O 28/168, Pandit Chowk, Mandawali, East Delhi-110092, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Rose.

I, Pradeep W/O, Bharat Singh R/O B-3b/59-A Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058 have changed my name to Pradeep Singh for all purposes.

I, Poonam Kapoor W/O Gurmeet Jimmy Arora R/O H.No.-602, Sector-31, Amnargar, Faridabad, Haryana-121003 have changed my minor daughters name from PEEHU DANG to PEEHU KAPOOR for all future purposes.

I, Narender, S/O Hari Chand, R/O H.No.187 Tigipur, Delhi-110036 have changed my name to Narender Kumar.

I, Krishna Kumar Awasthi son of Late Shri Jagdev Prasad Awasthi resident of B-2/44, GAIL-VIHAR, Sector-23, Noida-201301, Uttar Pradesh, hereby declare that I have changed my name from K. K. AWASTHI TO KRISHNA KUMAR AWASTHI for all future purposes.

I, Zakir Khan S/O Sabir Khan R/O 901, Kamra Bangash, Tiraha Berham Khan, Darya Ganj, Central Delhi, Delhi-110002 have changed the name of my minor daughter from Amirah Khan alias Vania Khan alias Waniya Khan to Waniya Khan for all purposes.

I, Shreyia Maediratta W/O, Mr. Tejaswi Bhardwaj R/O W-15/21, Western Avenue, Sainik Farms, New Delhi-110062 have changed my name to Shreyiaa Bhardwaj.

I, Siddhant, S/O CHANDRA SHEKHAR, R/O G 2304 AWHO SHANTI VIHAR SECTOR 95 GURGAON-122505, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SIDDHANT VERMA.

I, Pathak Jyoti Kumari D/o Prem Narayan and W/O Mukesh Ojha R/O 850, Sadar Bajar, Bhadsora, Bhadsora, Chittorgarh, Rajasthan-312024, have changed my name to Jyoti Ojha

I, Narendra Singh S/o Dalip Singh Malik R/O Parsaul, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201301 have changed my name to NARENDRA SINGH MALIK for all future Purposes.

I, Akanksha D/O Mr R. K. Seth and W/O Mr. Bhavik Anand from Noida has changed my name from Akanksha to Akanksha Anand for all future purposes

I, Rishab Kumar S/O Rajinder Kumar Gupta R/O 1- Hemkunt Colony, Chirag Enclave, Chirag Enclave, Greater Kailash, S.O South Delhi, Delhi-110048, have changed my name to Rishab Gupta

I, Lalit Chaudhry S/O Mithan Lal R/O 244 A/42, Shivaji Gali, Pandit Park, Krishna Nagar H.O., East Delhi, Delhi-110051, have changed my name to Lalit Choudhary.

I, Lalit Chaudhry S/O Mithan Lal R/O 244 A/42, Shivaji Gali, Pandit Park, Krishna Nagar H.O., East Delhi, Delhi-110051, have changed my name to Lalit Choudhary.

I, Poonam Verma D/O Late Sh, Ram Prakash R/O B5/143, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi-110029 have lost my Original Share Certificates of Castool India Limited Folio No. P0000448, No. of Shares 5244, Share Certificate No.14254, Distinctive Nos.495643398 to 495648641. Finders may contact at Mobile

Lost original share certificate and Allotment Letter of Flat. No. S-12, Tara Apartments, Alaknanda, New Delhi. Contact Yadavinder Uppal, Mob:9560949349.

I, Poonam Verma D/O Late Sh, Ram Prakash R/O B5/143, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi-110029 have lost my Original Share Certificates of Castool India Limited Folio No. P0000448, No. of Shares 5244, Share Certificate No.14254, Distinctive Nos.495643398 to 495648641. Finders may contact at Mobile

I, Meena Rustagi W/O Surajbhan Rustagi R/O 85A Malihwa Ghaziabad, W/o lost some documents which relevant of my property which is situated at parsvnath king citi rajpura punjab. some payments receipts no S0122500, S0123683, S0136682 S0136694, S0140140, P0000011, Finder Contact above address.

Original documents of my Property no.WZ-3398D, Mahindra Park, Rani Bagh, New Delhi-110034, has been lost. Owner Name: Nera Rani, D/O-Raj Kumar, FIR/LR No-1113699, Dated-07-11-23.

I, Thara R Alias Thara Ramon W/o Praveen Kumar, R/O E-902, Amrapali Zodiac, Sector 120, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301 have changed my name to THARA PRAVEEN for all future purposes.

I, Shalu Chauhan D/O Janak Singh, R/O VTC Gangeru, Sub District Kairana, District Shamli, Uttar Pradesh-247775. Declare that Name of Mine has been wrongly written as Shalu in my 12th class certificate. The actual name of Mine is Shalu Chauhan, which may be amended accordingly.

I, Ruper Jit/S/O Late Shri Rinder Jit employed as ASO (G) R/O 16/78, 3rd Floor, Subhash Nagar, Delhi-110027, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Rupendra Jit.

I, Rozia D/O Umaid, R/O 28/168, Pandit Chowk, Mandawali, East Delhi-110092, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Rose.

I, Pradeep W/O, Bharat Singh R/O B-3b/59-A Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058 have changed my name to Pradeep Singh for all purposes.

I, Poonam Kapoor W/O Gurmeet Jimmy Arora R/O H.No.-602, Sector-31, Amnargar, Faridabad, Haryana-121003 have changed my minor daughters name from PEEHU DANG to PEEHU KAPOOR for all future purposes.

I, Narender, S/O Hari Chand, R/O H.No.187 Tigipur, Delhi-110036 have changed my name to Narender Kumar.

I, Krishna Kumar Awasthi son of Late Shri Jagdev Prasad Awasthi resident of B-2/44, GAIL-VIHAR, Sector-23, Noida-201301, Uttar Pradesh, hereby declare that I have changed my name from K. K. AWASTHI TO KRISHNA KUMAR AWASTHI for all future purposes.

I, Zakir Khan S/O Sabir Khan R/O 901, Kamra Bangash, Tiraha Berham Khan, Darya Ganj, Central Delhi, Delhi-110002 have changed the name of my minor daughter from Amirah Khan alias Vania Khan alias Waniya Khan to Waniya Khan for all purposes.

I, Shreyia Maediratta W/O, Mr. Tejaswi Bhardwaj R/O W-15/21, Western Avenue, Sainik Farms, New Delhi-110062 have changed my name to Shreyiaa Bhardwaj.

I, Siddhant, S/O CHANDRA SHEKHAR, R/O G 2304 AWHO SHANTI VIHAR SECTOR 95 GURGAON-122505, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SIDDHANT VERMA.

I, Pathak Jyoti Kumari D/o Prem Narayan and W/O Mukesh Ojha R/O 850, Sadar Bajar, Bhadsora, Bhadsora, Chittorgarh, Rajasthan-312024, have changed my name to Jyoti Ojha

I, Narendra Singh S/o Dalip Singh Malik R/O Parsaul, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201301 have changed my name to NARENDRA SINGH MALIK for all future Purposes.

I, Akanksha D/O Mr R. K. Seth and W/O Mr. Bhavik Anand from Noida has changed my name from Akanksha to Akanksha Anand for all future purposes

I, Rishab Kumar S/O Rajinder Kumar Gupta R/O 1- Hemkunt Colony, Chirag Enclave, Chirag Enclave, Greater Kailash, S.O South Delhi, Delhi-110048, have changed my name to Rishab Gupta

I, Lalit Chaudhry S/O Mithan Lal R/O 244 A/42, Shivaji Gali, Pandit Park, Krishna Nagar H.O., East Delhi, Delhi-110051, have changed my name to Lalit Choudhary.

I, Lalit Chaudhry S/O Mithan Lal R/O 244 A/42, Shivaji Gali, Pandit Park, Krishna Nagar H.O., East Delhi, Delhi-110051, have changed my name to Lalit Choudhary.

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I, Kamal Preet Kaur Sahni, D/o Mr. Tejinder Singh Sahni, have made representations that she is the absolute owner of Entire 2nd Floor without roof rights, with 2 car parking & 1 utility area in flat with in, proprietorship undivided ownership rights. Property No. G-12, Kirti Nagar, New Delhi & intend to sell the same to Mrs. Rashmi Kapoor & M. Sudhir Kapoor, who have further offered to mortgage the same with State Bank of India, RA-CPC, Naraina, New Delhi. Their Original Sale Deed dt 11/15/81 in fav of Santosh Singh, Original General Power of Attorney dt 01.12.1978 in fav. of Parkash Kaur are both laminated & Original Sale Deed dt. 01/07/2011 in fav of Deepak Parvinder Kaur, Rajivinder Malhotra, Parkash Kaur & Anil Kaur is cleaned, untraceable for verification. If any person has any information about said documents or has objection with respect to the same or has any interest whatsoever in the said property, may submit their objections thereon to the undersigned. E-Mail: adv.shalabh.gupta@gmail.com or vide telephone No. +91-87712715434, with supporting documents within 15 days from the date of this publication.

I, Meena Rustagi W/O Surajbhan Rustagi R/O 85A Malihwa Ghaziabad, W/o lost some documents which relevant of my property which is situated at parsvnath king citi rajpura punjab. some payments receipts no S0122500, S0123683, S0136682 S0136694, S0140140, P0000011, Finder Contact above address.

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I, Ruper Jit/S/O Late Shri Rinder Jit employed as ASO (G) R/O 16/78, 3rd Floor, Subhash Nagar, Delhi-110027, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Rupendra Jit.

I, Rozia D/O Umaid, R/O 28/168, Pandit Chowk, Mandawali, East Delhi-110092, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Rose.

I, Pradeep W/O, Bharat Singh R/O B-3b/59-A Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058 have changed my name to Pradeep Singh for all purposes.

I, Poonam Kapoor W/O Gurmeet Jimmy Arora R/O H.No.-602, Sector-31, Amnargar, Faridabad, Haryana-121003 have changed my minor daughters name from PEEHU DANG to PEEHU KAPOOR for all future purposes.

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I, Krishna Kumar Awasthi son of Late Shri Jagdev Prasad Awasthi resident of B-2/44, GAIL-VIHAR, Sector-23, Noida-201301, Uttar Pradesh, hereby declare that I have changed my name from K. K. AWASTHI TO KRISHNA KUMAR AWASTHI for all future purposes.

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I, Siddhant, S/O CHANDRA SHEKHAR, R/O G 2304 AWHO SHANTI VIHAR SECTOR 95 GURGAON-122505, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SIDDHANT VERMA.

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I, Lalit Chaudhry S/O Mithan Lal R/O 244 A/42, Shivaji Gali, Pandit Park, Krishna Nagar H.O., East Delhi, Delhi-110051, have changed my name to Lalit Choudhary.

I, Lalit Chaudhry S/O Mithan Lal R/O 244 A/42, Shivaji Gali, Pandit Park, Krishna Nagar H.O., East Delhi, Delhi-110051, have changed my name to Lalit Choudhary.

I, Poonam Verma D/O Late Sh, Ram Prakash R/O B5/143, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi-110029 have lost my Original Share Certificates of Castool India Limited Folio No. P0000448, No. of Shares 5244, Share Certificate No.14254, Distinctive Nos.495643398 to 495648641. Finders may contact at Mobile

Lost original share certificate and Allotment Letter of Flat. No. S-12, Tara Apartments, Alaknanda, New Delhi. Contact Yadavinder Uppal, Mob:9560949349.

I, Poonam Verma D/O Late Sh, Ram Prakash R/O B5/143, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi-110029 have lost my Original Share Certificates of Castool India Limited Folio No. P0000448, No. of Shares 5244, Share Certificate No.14254, Distinctive Nos.495643398 to 495648641. Finders may contact at Mobile

The General Public is hereby informed that my client Smt. Roopwati W/o Late Shri Rishpal R/o House No. 245, Jatav Mohalla, Madan Pur Khadar, New Delhi 110076 have disowned her real son Namely Jas Kishan and Daughter-in-law Namely Reena from all her movable and immovable properties and have severed all her relations with them on account of their immoral conduct and intolerable physical and mental cruelties with her. Anyone dealing/transacting with them shall be fully responsible for their acts and my client shall not be responsible for any of their acts in future.

This is to inform public at large that my client Mr. Sarvej Kumar G/o Mr. Sarvej Gupta S/o Late Sh. Om Prakash R/O D/Ro 501/4-5, SANT NAGAR, KAROL BAGH, NEW DELHI-65, has disowned all his relations with his son Mr. Ashish Gupta, his wife (Priya) and their child Master Vyom as they have gone out of control & have been discredited. They have been disowned & disbarred by my client from all his properties (Immovable & Movable) & assets. Any person dealing with them shall be doing at his own risks & consequences. My client & his other family members shall not be liable responsible in any manner for the acts, deeds & omission of Mr. Ashish Gupta & his family members.

This is to inform public at large that my client Mr. Sarvej Kumar G/o Mr. Sarvej Gupta S/o Late Sh. Om Prakash R/O D/Ro 501/4-5, SANT NAGAR, KAROL BAGH, NEW DELHI-65, has disowned all his relations with his son Mr. Ashish Gupta, his wife (Priya) and their child Master Vyom as they have gone out of control & have been discredited. They have been disowned & disbarred by my client from all his properties (Immovable & Movable) & assets. Any person dealing with them shall be doing at his own risks & consequences. My client & his other family members shall not be liable responsible in any manner for the acts, deeds & omission of Mr. Ashish Gupta & his family members.

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### STATE HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF JHARKHAND

Government of Jharkhand

#### e-procurement Notice inviting BID (6<sup>th</sup> Call)

RefNo :- SHAJ/Tech/Matkuria to Ara more Fly over/2019 Date:.....

- State Highways Authority of Jharkhand, Ranchi invites BID for " Construction of underpass Road and Flyover Bridge between Matkuria to Ara more within Dhanbad Nagar Nigam. (Length-3.25 km). The approximate cost of the work is Rs. 154.51 Crore.
- The interested bidders who have experience in execution of similar works and required technical & financial strength may obtain Bid document from e-tendering portal www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in from 05.12.2023 (15:00 hrs) to 27.12.2023. (15:00 hrs). The complete BID Application shall be submitted online by 27.12.2023 (upto 15:00 hrs) on e-tendering portal www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in. All the details regarding this BID will be available on the above mentioned website. It will open on 28.12.2023 (at 15:30 hrs).
- The contractors are required to submit non-refundable document fee of Rs. 50,000/- (Rs. Fifty thousand only) & Bid Security (EMD) of Rs. 154.51 lakhs (Rs. One hundred fifty four lakh fifty one thousand) only. Tender fees and Earnest Money Deposit(EMD) shall be deposited online as per Information technology & E-Governance Department order no 120 dated 03.10.2023.
- No claim shall be entertained on account of disruption of internet services being used by bidders. Bidders are advised to upload their bids well in advance to avoid last minute technical snag.

Member (Technical)  
State Highways Authority of Jharkhand, Ranchi  
Deen Dayal Nagar  
(Near Office of Executive Engineer, NH Division, Ranchi)  
Booty Road, Ranchi-834008. Ph.: 0651-2361306, E-mail: membertechnical.shaj3@gmail.com

#### PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJNA (PMGSY) CORRIGENDUM

The percentage/item rate bids, for the following works invited in electronic tendering system, vide this office Letter NO. PW-SEVI/G-Vie-Tender PMGSY-III (Batch-I)2023-24-8781-8881 dated 31-10-2023, shall now be read as under:-

- Online availability of Bid Document in website on 18-11-2023
- Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-tendering: on 28-11-2023 upto 5:00 PM
- Date of opening of bid documents online on 29-11-2023
- The Estimated cost, bid cost and time period of completion for following works published in the NIT be read now as under:-

S. N.	Name of work	Estimated cost may be read as under			Period for completion	Bid cost may be read as under
		Construction Cost (In Lacs)	Maintenance Cost (In Lacs)	Total Cost (In Lacs)		
1	MRL-14 Main road to village Yang Rang Km 0.0 to 11/755 including 5 years maintenance) under PMGSY-III Package No. HP-07-156	651.26	90.03	941.91	18 Months	18.82
2	MRL-15 Link road to Marbat Km 0.0 to 7.0 including 5 years maintenance) under PMGSY-III Package No. HP-07-157 and (ii) MRL-10 Up-gradation of Rawaling Thirring Mailing (Thalangway) Km 0.0 to 5/440 including 5 years maintenance) under PMGSY-III Package No. HP-07-155	909.89	95.26	1005.15	18 Months	20.10
3	(i)MRL-01 Main road to village Bihali, Triloknath-Lobar Udaipur road Km 0.0 to 13/970 including 5 years maintenance) under PMGSY-III Package No. HP-07-158 and (ii) MRL-02 Up-gradation of main road to Chowkhang Naighar road Km 0.0 to 10/00 including 5 years maintenance) under PMGSY-III Package No. HP-07-160	1791.02	179.75	1910.77	18 Months	38.22
4	(i)MRL-09 Shitri Nallah bog road Km 0.0 to 6/195 including 5 years maintenance) under PMGSY-III Package No. HP-07-159 and (ii)MRL-04 Up-gradation of main road to Raiti Km 0.0 to 9/330 including 5 years maintenance) under PMGSY-III Package No. HP-07-161	1038.89	118.89	1457.78	18 Months	29.16
5	MRL-09 Up-gradation of Charhour-Nallah to Kashiwar road Km 0.0 to 7/885 including 5 years maintenance) under PMGSY-III Package No. HP-06-163 and (ii) MRL-10 Up-gradation of Bhatnair road Km 0.0 to 7/335 including 5 years maintenance) under PMGSY-III Package No. HP-06-164	1069.57	106.66	1110.23	18 Months	22.20

3860/HP Superintending Engineer, 6<sup>th</sup> Circle HP.PWD Kullu

### कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय

#### ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, गोड्डा

**ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना**  
दिनांक: 16-11-2023

कार्य का विवरण: मुख्यमंत्री ग्राम सड़क योजना अन्तर्गत कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, गोड्डा द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र. सं.	आईडेंटिफिकेशन संख्या / पैकेज संख्या	प्रखंड	कार्य का नाम	प्राकृतिक राशि (लाख में)	कार्य समाप्ति की तिथि / अवधि
1		महागामा	निर्वाचक से हुपडा तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लंबा- 3.000 कि०मी०)	अंक में	अक्षर में
2		महागामा	नयानगर से कुशमारा तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लंबा- 4.630 कि०मी०)		
3		महागामा	अजना से मलियाचक तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लंबा- 4.250 कि०मी०)		
4		महागामा	डाडीघाट से गीरीकित्ता तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लंबा- 1.170 कि०मी०)		
5		महागामा	कोलाता से सारथू तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लंबा- 1.000 कि०मी०)		
6	JH-M-GOD-02/2023-24	महागामा	जानकीकित्ता से पावर तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लंबा- 3.000 कि०मी०)	1059.932	दस करोड़ नवसठ लाख तेरानव हजार दो सौ रुपये मात्र
7		महागामा	गोड्डा पीरपैली एन०एच० से सुन्दरमोड तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लंबा- 1.200 कि०मी०)		
8		महागामा	भरवाचक से अजना तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लंबा- 2.000 कि०मी०)		
9		महागामा	पी०डब्ल्यू०डी० पथ से विशानपुर बरदाबाड़ा बोजुचक तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लंबा- 5.000 कि०मी०)		

- वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि- 30.11.2023
  - ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय- 16.12.2023 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक।
  - निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय- 18.12.2023 अपराह्न 3.30 बजे।
  - निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता- कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, गोड्डा।
  - ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का मोबाईल नं०- 7004195091
  - परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है तदनुसार अग्रघन की राशि देय होगी।
  - निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रघन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
  - निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रघन की राशि का ई-शुल्क भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जाएगा, उसी खाते में अग्रघन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जबाबदेही आपकी होगी।
- विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट [jharkhandtenders.gov.in](http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in) में देखा जा सकता है।
- कार्यपालक अभियंता  
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग,  
कार्य प्रमंडल, गोड्डा
- PR 311523 Rural Work Department (23-24)\_D

### GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

#### EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME STATION CELL (ECHS), AMBALA CANTT

PHONE: 0171 2981162 Email: [echsstncellambala@yahoo.in](mailto:echsstncellambala@yahoo.in)

#### EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

1. ECHS invites applications to engage following Officer-in-Charge, Medical, Para Medical & Non Medical Staff on contractual basis in ECHS Polyclinics under AOR of Station Cell (ECHS), Ambala Cantt for a period of 12/11 months renewable for additional period of 12/11 months/til attaining the maximum age subject to performance of candidates/other conditions according to the criteria as mentioned against each post:-

Appointment	Minimum Qualification	No of Vacancy		Fixed Remuneration
		Against ESM Only	Open Vacancy for ESM and Civilian	
Officer-in-Charge	Only Retd service offers from Army, Navy & Air Force and should be drawing pension from Defence estimates through CDA except from AMC Graduate & Min 05 Yrs Experience in Health Care Institutes or Managerial Positions	03 (Panipat-01, Nahana-01 & Yamuna Nagar-01)	-	Rs 75,000/-pm
Medical Officer	MBBS & Min 05 Yrs Experience after Internship Preferable Additional Qualification in Medicine/Surgery	-	07 (Ambala-03, Panipat-01, Karnal-01, Naraingarh-02)	Rs 75,000/-pm
Gynaecologist	MD/MS in Speciality Concerned/DNB & Min 05 Yrs Experience in the Speciality after Post Graduation	-	02 (Sonepat-01 & Ambala-01)	Rs 1,00,000/-pm
Radiologist	PG Degree in the concerned Speciality & Min 03 Yrs Experience after PG Degree	-	01 (Sonepat)	Rs 1,00,000/-pm
Dental A/T/H	Diploma Holder in Dental Hyg/Class-1/DH/DORA Course (Armed Forces) & Min 05 Yrs Experience in Dental Laboratory	-	01 (Kurukshetra)	Rs 28,100/-pm
Nursing Assistant	GNM Diploma/Class-1 Nursing Assistants Course (Armed Forces) & Min 05 Yrs Experience	-	01 (Kaithal)	Rs 28,100/-pm
Pharmacist	B Pharmacy or 12 <sup>th</sup> with Science Stream (Phy, Chem & Bio) from a Recognised Board and approved Diploma in Pharmacy from Recognised Institute & Min 03 Yrs Experience	-	02 (Ambala-01 & Nahana-01)	Rs 28,100/-pm
Radiographer	Diploma/Class-1 Radiographer Course (Armed Forces) & Min 05 Yrs Experience	-	01 (Karnal)	Rs 28,100/-pm
Clerk	Graduate/Class-1 Clerical Trade (Armed Forces), Computer qualified & Min 05 Yrs Experience	-	01 (Sonepat)	Rs 16,800/-pm
Driver	Class 8th Class-1 MT Driver (Armed Forces) Possess a Civil Driving Licence & Min 05 Yrs Experience as Driver	-	01 (Panipat)	Rs 19,700/-pm
Safaiwala	Literate & Min 05 Yrs Experience	-	01 (Ambala)	Rs 16,800/-pm

2. For Terms & Conditions, Application Form & Remuneration. Website [www.echs.gov.in](http://www.echs.gov.in). Preference will be given to Ex-Servicemen

3. Last date of receipt of application as per format given at our website, Application as per format in only physical form alongwith self-attested photocopies in support of Education Qualifications, Work Experience, Original copies of Latest Character certificate & Medical fitness certificate to be signed by SEMO/CMO only, Record from concerned Station Cell (If candidate working with any Army Organisation), Copy of Discharge Book PPO for ESM and NCO of Service as per App A to AO 135/78 (for ESM Officers Only) will be submitted to OIC, Stn Cell (ECHS), Ambala Cantt by 02 Dec 2023 Till 01.30 PM. If application received after 02 Dec 2023 (01.30 PM) will not be accepted Candidates who are working/worked in any ECHS empanelled hospital are not eligible for applying within a clear gap of one year from the date of appointment left in an empanelled hospital.

4. Interview Date, Timing & Venue. Interviews will be held between 0930 hrs to 1400 hrs from 06 Dec 2023 onwards Specific date/time will be intimated Candidates must bring all the original certificates/mark sheets degrees at the time of interview. No TA/DA is admissible Only candidates meeting the Qualitative Requirements may apply & only accepted candidates during screening will be called telephonically for interview.

paper.indianexpress.com

### S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER

For and on behalf of the President of India, Dy. CME (Production)/KGPW, S. E. Railway invites e-tender for the following work before 15.00 hrs. on the date mentioned below and will be opened at 15.30 hrs. Tender No.: WLT-0101-LHB-CTRB-SKF6, Dt-16.11.2023. Name of the work: Refurbishment of 8000 nos. of CTRB UIC 130 of LHB Coach, SKF Make for Wheel Shop of Kharagpur Workshop for two (02) years through M/s. SKF India Limited on Single Tender basis. Approx. Cost of work including GST @18%: ₹ 15,56,40,000. Earnest Money: ₹ 9,28,200. Date & Time of Closing e-Tender: 08.12.2023 at 15.00 hrs. Website particulars: [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in). Tenderer may visit website in [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in) for details/description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for this work will be accepted. (PR-330)

### WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY

#### E-Tender Notice

Signal & Telecommunication Department

DRM (S&T)/Bhopal acting for & on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the following works. Manuals offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Tender No. BPLN WKS2023-24SIG15 Name of Work: Replacement of over-aged LED signals & other signaling associated works over Bhopal Division. Approx. cost of work in Rs.: 2,01,25,563.61. Earnest Money in Rs.: 2,50,600.00. Cost of Tender Form in Rs.: Nil. Completion period of the work: 12 months. Date & Time of Submission of Tender: 15 Hrs. on 07.12.2023. Minimum Eligibility Criteria (MEC): MEC Req'd. The tenders/bidders must have class-III digital signature certificate & must be register on IREPS portal. Only registered tenders/bidders can participate on e-tendering. All relevant papers must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-tendering. On line payment through payment Gateway has been enabled. Payment towards tender document cost, EMD etc. can be made online through multiple Net banking, debit & credit cards. DRM (Signal & Telecom), West Central Railway, Bhopal Division

स्वच्छ भारत अभियान एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

### "IMPORTANT"

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### GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM

Sr. No.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	OLD REFER-ENCE/NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1.	THE ROHTAK CO OP MILK PRODUCERS UNION LTD	2023_HBC_322 531_1	DATE EXTENDED 20.11.2023 OPENING ON 21.11.2023	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	9996577829 vitarohak@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in) 22738/HRY

### कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, हजारीबाग

#### शुद्धि पत्र

इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक-1430, दिनांक-18.10.2023 द्वारा आमंत्रित ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं०-04/RE/2023-24/RWD/EE/HAZARIBAG, दिनांक-18.10.2023, जिसका PR No-309512 Rural Work Department (23-24)D से प्रकाशित निविदा में निम्नवत् संशोधन की जाती है:-

क्र. सं.	आईडेंटिफिकेशन संख्या / पैकेज संख्या	प्रखंड	कार्य का नाम	प्राकृतिक राशि (लाख में)	कार्य समाप्ति की तिथि / अवधि
		झरडी	परली से दरिया हुवाग तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य (लंबा-2.000 कि०मी०)		
		झरडी	कैमपुर से बड़डीटांड होते हुए होन्हाडा तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य (लंबा-5.950 कि०मी०)		
		झरडी	इंदर कोल्बे होबरी से कन्कोला तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य (लंबा-5.000 कि०मी०)		
1	RWD/HAZ/STP KG/01/2023-24	दरु	नागो मोड से कोडिया (बिग नाम) तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य (लंबा-1.615 कि०मी०)	10,99,89,600/-	दस करोड़ निगानेस लाख नवसठ हजार छः सौ रुपये मात्र
		दाडीबरेला	परली से मंगराट्ट होते हुए कोनार नदी तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य (लंबा-7.350 कि०मी०)		

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि - 22.11.2023

3. ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय - 29.11.2023 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक।

4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि, एवं समय - 30.11.2023 पूर्वाह्न 3.30 बजे।

5. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का पदनाम एवं पता - कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, हजारीबाग।

6. ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० - 06546 - 265296।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट [jharkhandtenders.gov.in](http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in) में देखा जा सकता है। कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, हजारीबाग

PR 311555 (Rural Work Department)23-24'D

### कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय

#### ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, खूँटी

#### ई-अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

दिनांक-16-11-2023

कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, खूँटी द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

- कार्य का नाम-

क्र. सं.	आईडेंटिफिकेशन संख्या	पथ का नाम	प्राकृतिक राशि (रुपये में)	कार्य समाप्ति की तिथि / अवधि
1	RWD/KHUNTI/4/23-24	बघई मानकीडीह पी०एम०जी०एस०वाई० पथ से पारमडीह तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। लंबाई-1.50 कि०मी०।	1,70,24,200.00	एक करोड़ चौबीस लाख दो सौ मात्र
2	RWD/KHUNTI/5/23-24	बघई पुलिस पिकेट से झुरकीडीह तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। लंबाई-1.50 कि०मी०।	1,64,69,700.00	एक करोड़ चौसठ लाख उनहतर हजार सात सौ।
3	RWD/KHUNTI/6/23-24	सरमाली से लुपुंगटोला तक पथ का निर्माण कार्य। लंबाई 2.40 कि०मी०।	2,28,31,000.00	दो करोड़ अठइस लाख इकतीस हजार।

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि- 29.11.2023

3. ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय- 12.12.2023 अपराह्न 5:00 बजे।

4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय- 14.12.2023 अपराह्न 3:30 बजे।

5. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता- कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, खूँटी, पिन-835210।

6. ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं०- 9431170803

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट [jharkhandtenders.gov.in](http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in) में देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता  
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग,  
कार्य प्रमंडल, खूँटी

PR 311512 Rural Development (23-24)\_D

### NORTHERN RAILWAY

#### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of work and its location : 30-Elect-T1-T-R1-23-24-E3 Comprehensive annual maintenance contract (CAMC) of Johnson make lifts installed at Gate No. 2A, 2B, 2C & 2D Railway board & 02 nos. lifts installed at block no. 05 CNKP for three years.

Approx cost of the works in : Rs. 25.55 lacs

Address of the office : Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.

Bid Security : Rs. 51,100.00

Date & time of submission of tender : 08.12.2023, 12.00 Hrs.

Opening of tender : 08.12.2023, 12.00 Hrs.

Website & notice board : [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in) & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi, 3596/2023

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### कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, चतरा।

#### रुद्ध संबंधी सूचना

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि इस कार्यालय द्वारा प्रकाशित Expression of Interest No.-RDD/SD/CHATRA/EOI-23/2023-24 (Rate Contracts for the Supply and installation of Medical Equipment/Appliances Accessories etc. OF CHILD CARE WARD AT ITKHORI, G.P ITKHORI OF BLOCK ITKHORI IN CHATRA) कार्य जिसका PR 310670 को अपरिहार्य कारण से रुद्ध किया जाता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,  
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल,  
PR 311574 Rural Development (23-24)D चतरा।

### PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr.PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Sunil @ Sonu, S/o Rajesh R/o Kh. No.270, Gali No.4, Sushant Vihar Extn. Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No.447/23 dt. 24.06.2023 u/s 356/379/34 IPC, P.S. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Sunil @ Sonu cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Sunil @ Sonu has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Sunil @ Sonu of FIR No.447/23 dt. 24.06.2023 u/s 356/379/34 IPC, P.S. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 02.01.2024.

By Order,  
Jyoti Nain  
Ld. Metropolitan Magistrate (07)  
Room No.06, Rohini Courts, Delhi  
DP/13122/ON/2023

### SHRI LAL BHADUR SHASTRI NATIONAL SANSKRIT UNIVERSITY

(Central University)  
B-4, Outub Institutional Area, New Delhi-110016

F. 7(154)/LBSNU/UWD/2023-24 Date: 10.11.2023

#### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed percentage rate tenders are invited for the under mentioned work from the specialized agencies who have experience of doing similar work for the program of President / Prime Minister. NIT No. 03/2023-24/LBSU/UWD (T.L.D.No.2023 SLBS 734023.1) Making Arrangement of Aluminium, Hanger for 1st Convocation of LBSNU on 05/12/2023 (S.H.: Providing arrangement of Tentage, Carpeting, Chairs, etc. at central park and other related work). Estimated cost - Rs. 26,04,703/-, Earnest Money- Rs. 1,30,235/-, Time Allowed (15) Fifteen Days. Tender Fee - Rs. 1180/- (Non-Refundable).

Last date & time of receipt of applications: 20/11/2023 up to 3.00 P.M.  
Last date & time of issue of tenders: 21/11/2023 up to 4.00 P.M.  
Last date & time of Submission of tenders: 23/11/2023 up to 12.30 P.M.  
Date & time of opening of technical bids: 23/11/2023 from 2.30 P.M.  
Date & time of opening of financial bids: 23/11/2023 after 3.00 P.M.  
For eligibility criteria, other details & corrigendum, if any, please visit websites: [www.slbsrva.ac.in](http://www.slbsrva.ac.in) & [www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in)

CBC-21371/12/0003/2324 REGISTRAR

### कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय

#### ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, बोकारो।

#### शुद्धि - पत्र

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या-RDD/SD/BOKARO/16/2023-24 (D.M.F.T.) जिसकी पी० आर० संख्या- 307090 Rural Development(23-24)\_D है, के क्रमांक 02 में अंकित योजना को अपरिहार्य कारणों से रुद्ध किया जाता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता  
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल  
बोकारो।

PR 311537 (Rural Development) 23-24 (D)

### NORTHERN RAILWAY

#### Rail Coach Naveenikaran Karkhana, Sonapat

#### Tender Notice

Invitation of tender through E-tendering (e-Procurement Systems)

NIT No.	203820RT
Name of Work and its location	Tender for "Repair and airbrake testing of all type of Flat Bogies of LHB coaches/LWLRM (Coil spring and air spring) during SS-I shop schedule at RCNK/SNP as per scope of work"
Approx Cost of work	Rs. 529584.00/- including GST (Rs. Five Lacs Twenty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Four Only)
Earnest Money	Rs. 10600.00/-
Completion period of work	12 months of date of execution of work
Cost of Tender document on cash/by post	NIL
Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 14.00 hrs. on 04/12/2023 Opening of Tender at 14.00 hrs.
Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. <a href="http://www.reps.gov.in">www.reps.gov.in</a>
No. 203820RT Dated 16/11/2023	3595/2023

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### APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one person (depicted in the photo) name Ramesh S/o Sitaram R/o Ashok Nagar, Delhi and his name is unknown age about 50 years. This person was found lying in Near Campus GTB Hospital, Near Gate No. 7, Shahdara, Delhi on 26.10.2023, admitted to GTB Hospital, declared dead by Dr. during treatment. In this regard a vide FIR No./DD No. 107-A, Dated 26.10.2023 has been lodged at PS G.T.B. Enclave, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved GTB Hospital mortuary, Delhi for 72 hours for identification.

His physical description is as under:-  
Sex: Male, Age: about 50 years, Height: 5' 5" ft., Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Hospital Gown.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone numbers:-

SHO  
PS: GTB Enclave, Delhi  
E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) Ph.: 011-22580947, 22137444  
Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641 Mobile: 7065036031  
DP/8683/SHD/2023 DP/13200/SHD/2023

### HARYANA INSTITUTE OF CIVIL AVIATION

Haryana Institute of Civil Aviation invites applications for the following posts on contractual basis as per the details given below :-

Sr. No.	Name of Post	No. of Post	Age
1.	Flying Instructor (A) (Having valid DGA authorization to supervise the flying training operations of FTO in absence of Dy. CFI CFI)	01	Not less than 21 years.
2.	Assistant Flying Instructor (A)	02	Not less than 21 years.

QUALIFICATION & EXPERIENCE:-  
Candidate should fulfill all requirements as per DGA norms required for the Flight Instructor (A) with valid DGA authorization and Assistant Flight Instructor Rating.

REMUNERATION:-  
Consolidated Salary Rs. 50,000-60 to Rs. 1,50,000-00 per month based on qualification and experience. Interested candidates to furnish their application alongwith their updated resume through email on the following email ids within 15 days from the publication of this communication email:-

[hicaed@gmail.com](mailto:hicaed@gmail.com) / [hicahd@gmail.com](mailto:hicahd@gmail.com)

Sd/-  
For & Chief Executive Director,  
Haryana Institute of Civil Aviation  
Civil Aerodrome, Karnal.

### OPSIDA

#### उपग्रह राज्य औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण

ए-1/4, लखनपुर, कानपुर

#### ई-निविदा सूचना

एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है, कि विभिन्न औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों के अन्तर्गत विकास/अनुसंधान/संशोधन कार्य हेतु

# COP28 in Dubai: What to expect from climate meeting

**AMITABH SINHA**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 17

CURRENT LEVELS of collective commitment of nations to combat climate change — a result of decades of hard negotiations, meetings, studies, and noisy campaigns — are simply inadequate. So, what can we expect from COP28, to be held in Dubai from November 30 to December 12?

## Context of the conference

The devastating impacts of climate change have been evident for several years now. This year is set to overtake 2016 as the warmest ever — and saw almost every month setting some or the other warming record. The World Meteorological Organisation says one of the next four years — perhaps 2023 itself — will almost certainly breach the 1.5 degree Celsius threshold.

Although temperatures have gone up rapidly, the global response to it has not kept pace. A latest assessment in the new synthesis report on countries' climate action plans, suggests that climate action agreed upon by countries so far would, in an optimistic scenario, result in just a 2 per cent reduction in

emissions by 2030, from 2019 levels. A 43 per cent reduction, something that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) said was absolutely essential for the 1.5 degree Celsius goal, currently seems to be a pipe dream.

Another UN report, among several released around this time of the year, suggests that despite a swift rise in climate risks, the amount of money being made available to developing countries for adaptation measures was actually declining, and nowhere close to the scale of the requirement. Developing countries need at least \$215 billion each year to do meaningful adaptation work, but barely \$21 billion is actually flowing in, the Adaptation Gap report said.

The availability of financial resources is a perennial problem, particularly for developing and least developed countries, which face the maximum risk but are mostly dependent on financial flows from rich nations to fund their protective actions.

## What can be done at COP28

Frankly, there is little that countries can do to stop the climate from deteriorating in the short term. Results of climate actions will be visible only over a longer period. For

WHERE THE WORLD IS — AND WHERE IT IS HEADED		
YEAR	2023	2030
Projected GHG Emissions (in billion tonnes of CO2 eq)	53.2	51.6
Increase from 1990 levels	55%	51%
Increase from 2010 levels	12%	9%
Increase from 2019 levels	1%	-2%
Required level in 2030 for 1.5 degree Celsius target	—	-43%

Source: UNFCCC

the time being, it is mostly about avoiding a situation that is entirely hopeless. Unlike last year, the Dubai conference is expected to deliver some meaningful outcomes in this regard.

## TRIPLING OF RENEWABLE ENERGY

Currently, the total installed capacity of renewable energy across the world is a little less than 3,400 GW — the idea is to triple it by 2030. That would mean that nearly 70 per cent of all electricity in 2030 would be generated through renewable energy, instead of the 28 per cent now.

The International Energy Agency estimates that this single measure has the po-

tential to avoid 7 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions between now and 2030, or about 1 billion tonnes every year on an average. This amount does not appear very big at first glance given emissions need to be nearly halved by 2030. But considering that all other actions, put together, will reduce emissions by just a billion tonnes by 2030, it is nonetheless an extremely significant step.

The proposal already has the endorsement of G20 countries, and with most other countries lending their support — 60 of them did it explicitly last week — it is likely to find a place in the final outcome of the Dubai meeting.

## DELIVERY OF \$100 BILLION

This figure has been doing the rounds for more than a decade. Rich countries have promised to mobilise (at least) this much in climate finance every year from 2020 — a promise they have not met.

This year, developed countries are likely to finally claim to have delivered on their promise — never mind that \$100 billion sounds like pocket change in comparison to trillions of dollars that are now estimated to be required for climate action. While meeting this goal would still be an achievement, the real challenge would be making progress on finalising a new amount, over and above the \$100 billion figure, that has to be raised every year, starting next year.

## MONEY FOR LOSS AND DAMAGE FUND

The creation of a loss and damage fund was the only saving grace for an otherwise disappointing climate meeting in Egypt last year. The fund, meant to provide financial help to countries damaged by impacts of climate change, had been a long pending demand. It was created last year, but no one put money into it. The Dubai meeting is likely to

see some money flowing into the fund, enough to signal to the small island countries — the biggest potential beneficiaries of this fund — that their concerns are being addressed.

## GLOBAL STOCKTAKE

As mandated by the 2015 Paris Agreement, the findings of the first stocktake exercise is supposed to be presented at this meeting. Countries are supposed to assess where they are in the fight against climate change, and what needs to be done in the next five year period to make this fight more effective and potent. The stocktake exercise has been carried out over the last one year, and its findings would inform the discussions taking place in Dubai.

## PHASE-DOWN OF FOSSIL FUELS

This is something that is likely to come up repeatedly at the Dubai meeting but remains contentious. Countries still do not agree to a scheduled phase-down or phase-out of fossil fuels, particularly coal, over which deep divisions exist. This is one matter that is unlikely to be solved in Dubai.

## EXPLAINED GLOBAL

# THE BEAST VS THE RED FLAG: HOW THE CARS USED BY BIDEN AND XI STACK UP

### THE AMERICAN BEAST

### THE CHINESE RED FLAG



## BASIC SPECIFICATIONS

THE BEAST		THE RED FLAG
Cadillac/General Motors	Manufacturer	Hongqi/FAW Group
2018	Introduced	2022
5.5 m	Length	5-5.5 m*
6.8-9.1 tonnes*	Weight	3.1+ tonnes*
\$1-1.5 million per car	Price tag	At least \$700,000*

\*Estimated

**ARJUN SENGUPTA**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 17

"IT'S A BEAUTIFUL vehicle," US President Joe Biden said in San Francisco on Wednesday, pointing to his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping's Hongqi N701, also called the 'Red Flag'. Biden saw Xi off to his car after their meeting on the sidelines of the APEC meeting. "You know what they call my car... the Beast," he told Xi.

What are the vehicles that the leaders of the world's two most powerful countries use? Both cars are exclusively produced for the country's President, and most of their features remain secret. Here is what is known about them.

## The American Beast

The Beast has a 6.5 litre Duramax diesel engine, capable of producing 214 horsepower (hp) and a top speed of 100 kmph.

If that sounds somewhat slow, note that the Beast is estimated to weigh up to a mind-boggling 9 tonnes, which can be attributed to the sheer thickness of its armour — 20 cm on the chassis — plus 13-cm-thick

bulletproof windows, and a reinforced undercarriage to protect against explosives.

With run-flat tyres that allow it to go on even after multiple punctures, and a hermetically sealed interior that is protected from chemical attacks, The Beast is a mobile safety room.

It also boasts features right out of a James Bond film — door handles that can be electrified to deter intruders, and the ability to create oil slicks and smoke-screens to thwart chasing vehicles.

## The Chinese Red Flag

Significantly more information is publicly available on The Beast than on the Red Flag. From what is known, the Chinese President's vehicle appears to be much faster, but not as solidly built.

Given that it weighs a third of The Beast, the Red Flag's armour is likely inferior. However, its V8 or V12 engine — the best that Hongqi currently makes — can generate up to 360 hp, and help it fly at speeds above 200 kmph, outrunning most threats.

Both The Beast and the Red Flag stand high on their wheels, and are based on an SUV chassis.

**SUKRITA BARUAH**  
GUWAHATI, NOVEMBER 17

THE MINISTRY of External Affairs on Thursday expressed "deep concern" over the ongoing fighting in the Rikshawdar area in Myanmar's Chin State, close to the border with India opposite Zowkhatar in Mizoram, which has led to Myanmarese nationals crossing to the Indian side. (See map)

Myanmar has been in flames ever since the military seized power on February 1, 2021, the day the new parliament elected after the November 2020 elections was to convene. Ethnic Armed Organisations (EAOs) have joined armed civilian groups called People's Defence Forces (PDFs) — allied with the country's self-declared National Unity Government in exile — to take on the military.

Over the past week, the resistance forces have captured two towns close to the India-Myanmar border after fierce fighting. The fall of the latter, Rikshawdar, has resulted in the influx of some 5,000 refugees into Mizoram.

## When and how did the current round of fighting begin?

It began on October 27 with surprise attacks in Shan State in North Myanmar along the border with China, by the Three Brotherhood Alliance, a front of three EAOs — the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), the Ta'ang National Liberation Army, and the Arakan Army. The offensive was named Operation 1027, after the date on which it was launched.

The resistance forces are reported to have overrun more than 100 military outposts in Shan State and seized control of crucial border towns and checkpoints, including Chinswehwa, a critical point on the China-Myanmar border trade route, which is an important source of revenue for the junta. The rebels are now pushing towards Laukkai, the capital of Shan state's Kokang region, where the MNDAA has been active for more than three decades.

Fighting has also broken out elsewhere in the country, led by various local resistance forces — in the Rakhine State in West Myanmar, Kayin State in South-East Myanmar, Sagaing region in North West Myanmar bordering Manipur, and Chin State in West Myanmar bordering Mizoram.

## How is the current situation different from the protests and fighting of the last two years?

Despite a brutal crackdown against the



EAOs and PDFs, including carrying out airstrikes on rebel gatherings, the junta has not succeeded in establishing control over large parts of the country. The ongoing multi-pronged offensive by the resistance forces is seen as the stiffest challenge to the junta since the coup more than two and a half years ago.

Among those who fled to Mizoram after Rikshawdar was captured by Chin fighters, were 73 members of the Myanmar army and police. Rebel groups have claimed that members of the junta forces have surrendered elsewhere, too.

Myint Swe, president of the State Administration Council (SAC), which governs the country, is reported to have cautioned that "if the government does not effectively manage the incidents happening in the border region, the country will be split into various parts".

Angshuman Choudhury, an Associate Fellow with the Centre for Policy Research (CPR) who works on Myanmar, said what distinguishes the current offensive is the unprecedented level of coordination among the various rebel groups, and the inability of the military to mount an adequate response.

"This is the first time that we're seeing a proper coordinated attack [by the three

groups in the Three Brotherhood Alliance] since the coup. There was a coordinated attack in 2019 too, but it failed to achieve much. This time they have captured an unprecedented expanse of territory in the North..."

"The military is not being able to respond with proportionate force, and has been unable to get the territory back... Fighting spirit and morale is low among the rank and file of the military. From base to base, entire battalions have surrendered without a fight," Choudhury said.

## So how much of a threat to the junta's position does Operation 1027 pose?

In a joint statement issued on October 27, the three groups had said their objective was "eradicating the oppressive military dictatorship, a shared aspiration of the entire Myanmar populace". While it is indeed under unprecedented pressure in the frontier areas, the junta remains in control of the Bamar heartland in Central Myanmar.

"This (the coordinated, multipronged rebel offensive) is new for them, that is why they are struggling to respond on the ground. Many of the roads are blocked, and many of the infantry don't want to take the risk, so they are relying more and more on air attacks. But air attacks are costly... You can see

signs of the pressure on the junta leadership... Even before 1027, the military commander-in-chief Min Aung Hlaing had purged his Home Minister and Defence Minister," Choudhury said.

The resistance in Shan State appears to be receiving tacit support from China, Myanmar's giant neighbour and biggest trade partner. China has been pressing the military government — without much success — to crack down on the enclaves of "scam centres" on the Myanmar-China border, which have been targeting Chinese citizens. The rebels' October 27 statement on the other hand mentioned that they intended to "combat the widespread online gambling fraud that has plagued Myanmar, particularly along the China-Myanmar border".

In an analysis, the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), a peace academy established by Congress, flagged the role of China in the rebels' progress.

"While the operation clearly took weeks of planning, it followed a tragic incident on October 20 in which guards outside a Kokang BGF (Border Guard Force of the Myanmar armed forces) scam compound killed multiple Chinese and Thai individuals, allegedly including undercover Chinese police. The incident certainly infuriated China..." said the commentary by Priscilla A Clapp and Jason Tower.

"Without the ability to paint Operation 1027 as an effort to serve Chinese interest in curbing the criminal compounds, the anti-junta forces would have risked strong Chinese disapproval and possible prevention of such an attack on its border. Tacit Chinese support was therefore essential to the operation's success," it said. (Myanmar's Junta Is Losing Control of Its Border with China)

## What does this situation mean for India?

India has so far walked a fine line between expressing concern at the "interruption" of democracy in Myanmar, and engaging with the junta to protect its "vital interests". In the current situation, the immediate concern for India is the influx of Myanmarese nationals in the border states of the Northeast at a time when the situation in Manipur remains volatile.

The anti-junta forces have captured two important towns close to the only two border crossing points between Myanmar and India — Rikshawdar, close to Zowkhatar in Mizoram, and Khampat in Sagaing region, around 60 km from Moreh in Manipur. The latter is also part of the proposed India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway project.

## EXPLAINED NEIGHBOURHOOD

# The new flare-up in Myanmar

Over the past week, resistance forces have captured two towns close to the India-Myanmar border. The coordinated offensive by the rebels is the stiffest challenge to the junta since the coup of February 2021

# Proposed India-UK FTA, its politics, and why the UK may benefit more

**RAVIDUTTA MISHRA**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 17

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS Minister S Jaishankar discussed the India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Foreign Secretary David Cameron this week. On Monday, Jaishankar said in London that the FTA was "very much the focus of what the Indian and British systems are negotiating, and we hope that we will find a landing point that works for both...". PFI reported.

When signed, the India-UK FTA will serve as a template for an agreement with India's second-largest trade partner, the European Union (EU). Breaking from the look east policy for trade deals under the UPA that saw widening deficits with Japan, South Korea,

and ASEAN countries, the government is counting on economic integration with Western and African nations to fuel export growth.

## The China factor

The disruption of supply chains during the pandemic brought home to Western companies the risks of over-dependence on China, and the need for a 'China-plus one' policy.

Australia's tensions with China, along with the complementarities with the Indian economy, presented a case for a trade deal with India; similar factors brought New Delhi and London to the negotiating table.

India, after exiting the China-dominated Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), has been looking at trade deals with the UK, Australia, the EU and, until recently, Canada, to hold off China in the region.

## Spurred by Brexit

A trade deal with India is crucial for the UK as the ruling Conservatives face a tough election in early 2025. The insecurities that spurred the vote for Brexit is a reason why the UK is hesitant to offer work permits to Indian service sector workers under the FTA — however, the size and potential of the Indian market offers London a way to compensate for the loss of access to the European Single Market.

## Gains to India...

India's labour-intensive sectors such as apparel and gems and jewellery have seen a steep decline in market share over the last five years. Indian textile exports face tariffs walls as high as 10% in the UK; a trade deal

could put India on par with competition such as Bangladesh, and revive textile exports. However, the British Parliament has been warned in a report that granting zero-duty access to Indian textiles under the FTA could bring stress on Least Developed Countries such as Bangladesh.

## ...More to the UK

Past deals with Japan and the ASEAN countries have shown that the elimination of duty does not automatically result in export growth. Also, many Indian exports to the UK already enjoy low or zero tariffs, while British exports to India such as cars, Scotch whisky, and wines, face considerable tariffs of 100-150%. Tariff reductions on these goods will potentially offer them deeper ac-

cess into Indian markets. Notably, the average tariff on goods imported from India into the UK is 4.2% but the average tariff in India on goods imported from the UK is 14.6%

## Non-tariff barriers

Modern FTAs go beyond tariff reduction. India could use the negotiations to eliminate non-tariff barriers (NTBs) that have historically been a concern for exporters, especially for agri exports. NTBs often come in the form of regulations, standards, testing, certification, or preshipment inspection that are aimed at protecting human, animal, or plant health and the environment. Vegetable and fruit exporters often face strict limits imposed by European economies on pesticides and other contaminants in agri imports. In

manufacturing too, Indian products face high rejection based on conformity assessments and technical requirements.

## Issue of carbon tax

Like the EU, the UK is looking to impose a levy on metal imports based on carbon emissions. An EU-style carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM) will hurt India's exports to the UK even if India wins significant removal of tariffs. The UK's carbon tax could be harsh, as one of its aims is to reduce dependence on Russian energy imports.

According to a consultation paper on the CBAM, the UK has shortlisted products such as cement, chemicals, glass, iron and steel, non-ferrous metals, non-metallic minerals, paper and pulp, refining, fertilizers, and power generation.

## EXPLAINED ECONOMICS

# 16 THE WORLD

## 'SAVAGE BEATING' CHARGE

### SEAN COMBS ACCUSED OF RAPE

American rapper Sean "Diddy" Combs was accused in a lawsuit Thursday of subjecting R&B singer Cassie to a yearslong relationship that included beatings and rape.



## TOP OF THE WORLD



Erdogan's visit will be overshadowed by the two nations' stances on the Gaza war. Reuters

### GERMANY

#### Erdogan to visit Berlin amid differences

Berlin: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan set off for Germany Friday on a short visit overshadowed by the two countries' very different stances on the war between Israel and Hamas. Erdogan is due to meet Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Germany's largely ceremonial president, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, in Berlin. Scholz invited Erdogan to visit in May following his re-election. Turkey has long been viewed as an awkward but essential partner in Germany. AP

### SOUTH KOREA

#### Consumption of dog meat to be banned

Seoul: South Korea aims to ban eating dog meat and put an end to the controversy over the ancient custom amid growing awareness of animal rights, a ruling party policy chief said Friday. The Korean practice of eating dog has drawn criticism from overseas for its cruelty but there has also been increasing opposition at home, particularly from the younger generation. "It is time to put an end to social conflicts and controversies around dog meat consumption through the enactment of a special act to end it," Yu Eui-dong, policy chief of the ruling People Power Party, said. REUTERS

### RUSSIA

#### Govt moves SC to outlaw queer movement

Moscow: The Russian Justice Ministry on Friday said it has filed a lawsuit with the nation's Supreme Court to outlaw the LGBTQ+ "international public movement" as extremist, the latest crippling blow against the already beleaguered LGBTQ+ community in the increasingly conservative country. The top court has scheduled a hearing to consider the lawsuit for November 30, the ministry said. The Putin government's crackdown, which began a decade ago, slowly but surely chipped away at LGBTQ+ rights. AP

### PAKISTAN

#### Military appeals against SC order on civilian trials

Islamabad: The Pakistan government on Friday filed an intra-court appeal in the Supreme Court against its verdict nullifying the trial of civilians by the military courts. Attorney General Mansoor Awan filed the appeal a day after the Sindh caretaker government and Balochistan Shuhada Forum filed appeals against the five-member bench verdict praying to set its verdict aside. The SC had on October 23 declared the trial of civilians in military courts as "null and void". PTI

## COMMUNICATIONS BLACKOUT HINDERS AID COORDINATION

# Aid supplies to Gaza halted again, UN says starvation imminent

Will allow 2 fuel trucks to Gaza daily, says Israel

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
GAZA, NOVEMBER 17

THE UNITED Nations was forced to stop deliveries of food and other necessities to Gaza on Friday and warned of the growing possibility of widespread starvation after internet and telephone services collapsed in the besieged enclave because of a lack of fuel.

Israel meanwhile announced that it will allow for the first time two tanker trucks of fuel daily into Gaza for the U.N. and communications systems. The amount is about half of what the U.N. said it needs to conduct lifesaving functions for hundreds of thousands of people in Gaza, including fueling water systems, hospitals, bakeries and its trucks delivering aid.

Israel has barred entry of fuel since the start of the war, saying it would be diverted by Hamas for military means. It has also blocked food, water and other supplies except for a trickle of aid from Egypt that aid workers say falls far short of what's needed.

The communications blackout, now in its second day, largely cuts off Gaza's 2.3 million people from one another and the outside world. "An extended blackout means an extended suspension of our humanitarian operations in the Gaza Strip," spokesperson of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, known as UNRWA Juliette Touma told AP.

Meanwhile, the WHO said it feared the spread of diseases, including respiratory infections and diarrhoea. The UN's World Food Programme (WFP) said that the civilians faced an "immediate possibility of starvation".

Israeli forces have been searching the territory's biggest hospital for traces of a Hamas command centre they allege was located under it. More than 11,400 Palestinians have been killed in the war. The count does not differentiate between civilians and militants, and Israel says it has killed thousands of militants.



Palestinians queue up outside a bakery in Khan Younis, southern Gaza. Reuters

## Netanyahu says efforts to minimise civilian casualties not successful, blames Hamas

NIDAL AL-MUGHRABI & ARI RABINOVITZ  
GAZA/JERUSALEM, NOV 17



Israel PM Benjamin Netanyahu. File

ISRAELI SOLDIERS found a tunnel shaft used by Hamas at Gaza's Al Shifa hospital, as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said efforts to prevent Palestinian civilian casualties were "not successful" because Hamas stopped people moving to safer places.

Israel says Hamas has stored weapons and ammunition and is holding hostages in a network of tunnels under hospitals like Al Shifa, using patients and the thousands of displaced people taking shelter there as human

shields. Hamas denies it.

He was asked by US's CBS News Thursday whether Israel's killing of Palestinians in its war against Hamas would fuel hatred among a new generation. Israel's attempts to minimise civilian casualties were "not successful", he said, accusing Hamas of preventing civilians from moving to safer locations.

"Any civilian death is a tragedy. And we shouldn't have any be-

cause we're doing everything we can to get the civilians out of harm's way, while Hamas is doing everything to keep them in harm's way," Netanyahu said. "So we send leaflets, call them on their cell phones, and we say: 'leave'. And many have left," he said.

The army released a video it said showed a tunnel entrance in an outdoor area of Al Shifa, Gaza's biggest hospital, which Reuters could not immediately verify. The army said its troops also found a vehicle in the hospital containing a large number of weapons.

Hamas said in a statement late Thursday that claims by the Pentagon and U.S. State Department that the group uses

Al Shifa for military purposes "is a repetition of a blatantly false narrative, demonstrated by the weak and ridiculous performances of the occupation army spokesman."

The US is confident in an assessment from its own intelligence agencies on Hamas activities in Al Shifa hospital and will neither share nor elaborate on it, White House spokesperson John Kirby said on Thursday.

Hamas's Al-Quds Brigades in Jenin in the West Bank said in a statement Friday they engaged Israeli forces for several hours. Israeli military said the aircraft struck militants in Jenin who had fired at Israeli troops and had used explosives. REUTERS

## Pro-China Muizzu sworn in as Maldives President, vows to expel foreign troops

MOHAMED SHARUHANMALE,  
MALDIVES, NOVEMBER 17

MOHAMED MUIZZU was sworn in Friday as the Maldives' fifth democratically elected president and said he will ensure there is no foreign military presence in the archipelago. Muizzu, who is seen as pro-China, campaigned on a promise to evict Indian military personnel and balance trade, which he said was heavily in favor of India under his predecessor, Ibrahim Mohamed Solih.

"Lines of independence and sovereignty will be drawn clearly. The foreign military presence will be removed," he said. "I will keep friendships with foreign countries. There won't be any enmity, with countries close and far away," Muizzu said.

He said the right of the Maldives to lay down such limits should be respected. Muizzu was sworn in by Chief Justice Us Ahmed Muthasim Adnan after his surprise victory in

September's presidential election.

The election was seen as a virtual referendum on which regional power — China or India — should have the biggest influence on the Indian Ocean archipelago. The number of Indian troops in the Maldives is not publicly known.

Critics say secrecy in the agreement between India and Solih's government regarding the role and number of Indian military personnel has led to suspicion and rumours.

The Indian military is known to operate two Indian-donated helicopters and to assist in the rescue of people who are stranded or facing calamities at sea. Solih had been expected to easily win the election, with his main rival Abdulla Yameen unable to run after being jailed on a corruption conviction, and Muizzu selected by his party as a fallback candidate.

Muizzu's running mate, Hussain Mohamed Latheef, was sworn in as vice president. AP

## Expect candid talk: Blinken to China after Biden calls Xi 'dictator'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
SAN FRANCISCO, NOVEMBER 17



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken. File

SECRETARY OF State Antony Blinken has said the US will continue to say things that China doesn't like, as he defended President Joe Biden's remarks in which he called his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping a "dictator".

Biden called Xi, 70, a "dictator", just hours after they met for the first time in more than a year and held candid and productive discussions to revive bilateral ties on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco on Wednesday.

When pressed on whether Biden's comments were the position of the US government, Blinken responded that the president "speaks for all of us", CBS News reported.

"Well, it's not exactly a secret that we have two very different systems," the channel quoted Blinken as saying.

And the president always speaks candidly, and he speaks for all of us. "We will continue to say things and continue to do things that China doesn't like, just as I as-

sume that they will continue to do and say things that we don't like," Blinken said on Thursday.

China has raised objections to such a remark by Biden in the past.

In an interview with NBC News, Blinken said: "It's no surprise that — and I don't think it will be news to anyone — that we have very different systems. And the President always speaks candidly and he speaks for us. But what's important is what we were able to achieve with yesterday's meeting."

"The point you made a moment ago is this summit yesterday, this meeting yesterday, produced real, concrete results for the American people. We have a couple of obligations in this relationship with China, the most consequential of any relationship that we have. We've got a real competition. We want to make sure it doesn't veer into conflict," Blinken said.

## Twice refused entry, more than 240 Rohingya afloat off Indonesia coast

RAHMAT MIRZA  
ACEH UTARA, INDONESIA

SOME 240 Rohingya Muslims, including women and children, are afloat off the coast of Indonesia after two attempts to land were rejected by local residents.

Officials said the boat most recently tried to land in Aceh Utara district, in Indonesia's Aceh province, on Thursday afternoon, but left a few hours later.

It is the fourth boat to reach Indonesia's northernmost province since Tuesday. Three others arrived in a different district and were allowed to land.

Residents of the Ulee Madon beach in Muara Batu sub-district



Ethnic Rohingya disembark from their boat upon landing in Ulee Madon, Indonesia, Thursday. AP

said they would not accept the latest group as Rohingya have come to the area several times and caused them discomfort.

"From a humanitarian perspective, we are concerned, but...

they are causing commotion," Saiful Afwadi, a traditional leader said Friday.

More than 700,000 Rohingya Muslims fled from Myanmar to refugee camps in Bangladesh after an army-led crackdown in August 2017. They say the camps are overcrowded and they must leave again in search of a better life. Most of them have attempted to reach Malaysia, but many ended up in Indonesia on the way.

Indonesia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a statement Thursday said Indonesia is not a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and it does not have the obligation to accommodate refugees, let alone to provide a permanent solution. AP

## Must reaffirm strategic relationship: China to Japan amid strained ties

SAKURA MURAKAMI & ETHAN WANG  
SAN FRANCISCO, NOVEMBER 17

CHINESE PRESIDENT Xi Jinping told Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida that Asia's two largest economies should reaffirm their strategic relationship in their first direct talks in a year that look to put a floor under strained ties.

The remarks, reported by Chinese state media, came at the start of talks on the sidelines of the APEC summit in San Francisco on Thursday evening.

The two leaders are also expected to discuss the creation of a new dialogue framework on



Xi Jinping; Fumio Kishida

export control issues and fostering a safe business environment, Japanese media reported.

They should "properly handle differences," Xi told Kishida.

Kishida also met Biden at the summit where they discussed issues including "common challenges" that they share with China. REUTERS

## EVACUATION OF WOMEN, BABIES TO SAFETY A RARE WIN FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT THAT IS UNDER-RESOURCED

# During gang attack on Haiti hospital, a call for help, an unlikely win for cops

EVENS SANON & DÁNICA COTO  
PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI,  
NOVEMBER 17

THE BULLETS began piercing the windows of the hospital as women cradling young children ran from room to room searching for a safe place to hide while the heavily armed gang drew closer.

Mothers with babies and shaky hands forced one breast into their tiny mouths to keep them quiet, wondering if they would live through Wednesday's attack on Fontaine Hospital Center and the surrounding community in the Haitian slum of Cite Soleil. The gunfire never ceased. Suddenly, an employee ap-

peared, told them to get up and go to the front yard without making noise. Police were waiting with armored cars.

"Get in! Get in! Get in! Get in quickly!" the employees shouted as women carrying children and babies stepped into buses and ambulances that officers would escort out of Cite Soleil, a rare win for a police department that is understaffed, under resourced and outmatched by gangs.

It was the latest gang attack on a vulnerable and impoverished community in the capital of Port-au-Prince, a show of defiant force and violence that continues to overwhelm a crumbling government that requested the immediate deployment of an international



A hospital worker searching for recoverable food items at the Fontaine Hospital Center after the attack. AP

armed force more than a year ago and has yet to arrive.

"A big disappointment is that the state has disappeared," Jose Ulysse, hospital director and founder. He said he hopes he can reopen the hospital soon as many wondered why it was attacked.

The assault that forced the evacuation of the hospital and left dozens of homes ablaze was blamed on the Brooklyn gang, one of two rival coalitions in Haiti.

Ulysse said gang clashes in Cite Soleil increased after the recent death of Iskar Andrice, a former math and physics teacher who became a feared gang leader.

"The minute a chief is dead, others will try to control the area," he said. "It's a matter of control-

ling more territory and money."

The shooting on Wednesday began around dawn, recalled Edline Pierre, a 26-year-old mother of three. She was at the Fontaine Hospital Center with her two youngest, who were being treated for diarrhea and malnutrition. By late morning, the gunfire grew closer, and she scampered under a bed with her two children.

After everyone inside the hospital grew quiet, she heard gangs outside arguing whether or not to burn the facility.

She doesn't know if her eldest child or her mother, who was taking care of her, are alive. Their home was burned in the attack.

Marie-Marthe Pierre, mother of four children, has the same fear.

She was at the hospital with her 7-month-old baby and now can't get ahold of relatives who were caring for her other offspring.

"We were there, stuck, vulnerable," she said. "If the police hadn't shown up, I don't know what would have happened to us."

A spokesperson for Haiti's National Police did not return messages for comment.

Those interviewed praised the police and Ulysse, who pleaded for help via social media as the facility came under attack.

Everyone was evacuated safely from the hospital except for one person: a baby born during the attack who died during a breech birth because gunfire prevented medical staff from helping the mother. AP



60 BPS RISE IN CRAR LIKELY; TOTAL UNSECURED LOANS AMOUNT TO ₹14.8 LAKH CR

RBI tightening of unsecured loans: Banks may need ₹84,000 crore excess capital

GEORGE MATHEW MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 17

THE BANKING industry will likely require Rs 84,000 crore of excess capital — or a five per cent increase — over the Rs 15.2 lakh crore capital requirement following the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) decision to increase the risk weight on the exposure of banks to consumer credit, credit card receivables and non-banking finance companies (NBFCs). Experts believe this will increase the cost of borrowing for consumers.

The immediate impact of the enhanced risk weights is the excess capital now that banks would require, according to Soumya Kanti Ghosh, Group Chief Economic Adviser, State Bank of India. This means a 55-60 basis point increase in CRAR (capital to risk-weighted assets ratio). Second, the RBI circular affects consumer loans in general but excludes housing loans, education loans, vehicle loans and loans secured by gold and gold jewellery. Filtering these exclusions, consumer credit was growing at 25 per cent-plus

THE LIKELY FALLOUT OF THE RBI DECISION

- Higher capital requirements for lenders and, hence, an increase in lending rate for borrowers
Moderation in the aggregate growth of unsecured loans
Material increase in rates charged on unsecured loans
Higher mobilisation of capital by NBFCs into unsecured lending

since May 2022. These unsecured loans affected by the RBI move (Rs 14.8 lakh crore) make up only around 9.8 per cent of total outstanding loans (Rs 151.5 lakh crore) as of September 2023. The affected portion of the personal loans category is only 31 per cent of the total personal loans — Rs 48.3 lakh crore — SBI said in a research report.

The current regulatory steps taken by the RBI may be called countercyclical measures as these types of actions refer to the measures (both monetary and fiscal) that stabilise the business cycle by reining in economic activity during booms and bolstering it during downturns, SBI said.

According to Karthik Srinivasan, Senior VP & Group Head, Financial Sector Ratings, ICRA Ltd, these announcements are expected to result in higher capital requirements for the lenders and hence an increase in lending rate for borrowers. "These higher lending rates by banks to non-banks could also spill over to corporate bonds by way of higher yields and widening of credit spreads for non-banks," Srinivasan said.

Suman Chowdhury, Chief

BANK, NBFC SHARES FALL BY UP TO 8%

Mumbai: Shares of banks and NBFCs declined by up to 8 per cent Friday following the RBI decision to increase risk weights on unsecured loans. SBI shares fell by 3.64 per cent, ICICI by 1.45 per cent and PNB 2.11 per cent. SBI Card fell by 5.19 per cent, L&T Financial 5.65 per cent, RBL Bank 7.82 per cent and AB Corp 5.71 per cent. The BSE banking index declined 1.48 per cent. The Sensex closed 188 points lower at 65,794.73. ENS

Economist and Head, Research, Acuité Ratings & Research, said the higher capital requirements are expected to moderate the growth of such loans and address spread of any such systemic risks.

Apart from a moderation in the aggregate growth of unsecured loans, the impact of the measures can be seen in a material increase in the rates charged on unsecured loans by

banks and NBFCs and higher cost of borrowings for large and small NBFCs (including fintechs) with a high proportion of unsecured retail loans in their assets under management.

"It will also lead to higher mobilisation of capital by NBFCs into unsecured lending to cater to the additional capital requirements. Sudden withdrawal of banks and NBFCs from the consumer loan market may also enhance delinquency risks in this category," he said.

According to the SBI report, the decision to raise the risk weights perhaps is an attempt by RBI to send out a strong message of addressing any incipient financial stability risks in the system as such risks are coincident indicators.

Thus, proactively managing such seems the best policy option rather than managing delinquencies (if any) post occurrence of events. These measures are in continuity with the tilt towards an Expected Loss (EL) driven stress recognition system for regulated entities and RBI's recent move to subject 15 Upper Layer NBFCs to greater regulatory scrutiny.

P&W weighs MRO unit in India after prod from regulator

ROHIT VAID NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 17

WITH MORE and more aircraft with Pratt and Whitney (P&W) engines being grounded by domestic carriers, the aerospace manufacturer is considering setting up a maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facility in India.

Sources said the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has asked P&W to set up a local MRO facility in the light of growing engine issues and no resolution in sight.

"We are open to exploring the possibility of having a GTF engine MRO in India," Pratt & Whitney India president and country head, Ashmita Sethi told FE. "The possibility of having such a MRO will be based on various critical factors such as the business case, competitive labour and the import of parts, among others. We are looking at all these aspects," she added.

While new generation P&W engines for the Airbus A320neo planes used by IndiGo and the erstwhile Go First, have been facing a series of issues for five to six years, what prompted DGCA to ask the company to set up an MRO in the country is the recent announcement by IndiGo that the number of planes to be grounded will be much higher.

ENGINE TROUBLE



35 IndiGo Aircraft likely to be grounded in Jan-March on flaw in engine powder metal

40 aircraft already grounded due to P&W engine issues

DGCA HAS asked P&W to set up a maintenance, repair and overhaul facility in India given the issues

On November 7, IndiGo said it expects 35 of its aircraft to be grounded in the January-March quarter of the current fiscal based on its preliminary assessment and information received from P&W on a flaw in the engine powder metal. This will be in addition to over 40 aircraft already grounded due to P&W engine issues.

Earlier, GoFirst had blamed P&W for the grounding of the airline. FE

4G subscriber additions in Aug highest in 2 years



Jio, Airtel and Vodafone Idea added 7.1 mn 4G subscribers

JATIN GROVER NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 17

THE 4G subscriber additions for telecom operators — Jio, Airtel and Vodafone Idea — rose to a two-year high at 7.1 million in August, data from the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) showed. The increase in the 4G subscriber base can be attributed to an uptick in migration from 2G to 4G, adoption of JioBharat and telcos' focus on premiumisation, analysts said.

At 3.2 million, Reliance Jio continues to lead 4G subscriber addition for the sixth straight month in August. Airtel and Vodafone Idea added 2.6 million and 1.3 million subscribers, respectively.

As of August-end, Jio's subscriber base, which only has 4G users, was at 445.7 million, while the same for Airtel and Vodafone Idea stood at 247 million and 125.5 million, respectively, Trai data showed.

"Notably, the 3G/4G subscriber additions during the first two months of 2QFY24 (July-September) alone were more than the 3G/4G subscriber additions over each of the previous two quarters — indicating a strong momentum on this front," said Jefferies in a note. According to the brokerage, Airtel's focus on 4G subscribers and the steady adoption of JioBharat are reasons behind this acceleration. Even as Vodafone Idea added 1.3 million 4G subscribers in August, analysts said the market share continues to shift towards Airtel and Jio, and this indicates sustained pressure on Vodafone Idea to roll out 5G services. In 2023 till August, Vodafone Idea added 1.7 million 4G subscribers, compared to 18.2 million and 21.2 million by Airtel and Jio, respectively. FE

Capex for Railways, NHA may be funded solely by Budget

PRASANTA SAHU NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 17

TO MAINTAIN transparency and sustainability, the Centre will likely continue to shoulder the massive capital expenditure requirements of the two largest state-run transport infrastructure builders — the National Highways Authority of India (NHA) and the Indian Railways — fully for the next financial year as well, sources said.

That would mean that these two entities would not borrow from the market for funds — NHA for the third year in a row and the Railways for the second year in a row. The Centre's borrowing plan for FY24 includes the entire market funding requirement of the Railways and NHA. A senior official said that the capex of the two entities would likely be through the Budget next year. Besides bringing transparency as both execute the Centre's plans, the government's direct borrowing would also ensure that the cost of funds for both entities would be about 50 basis points lower than what it would have been if they were to borrow from the market.

For the third year, the government extended a massive budgetary capex support to Railways with ₹2.4 trillion for FY24, up



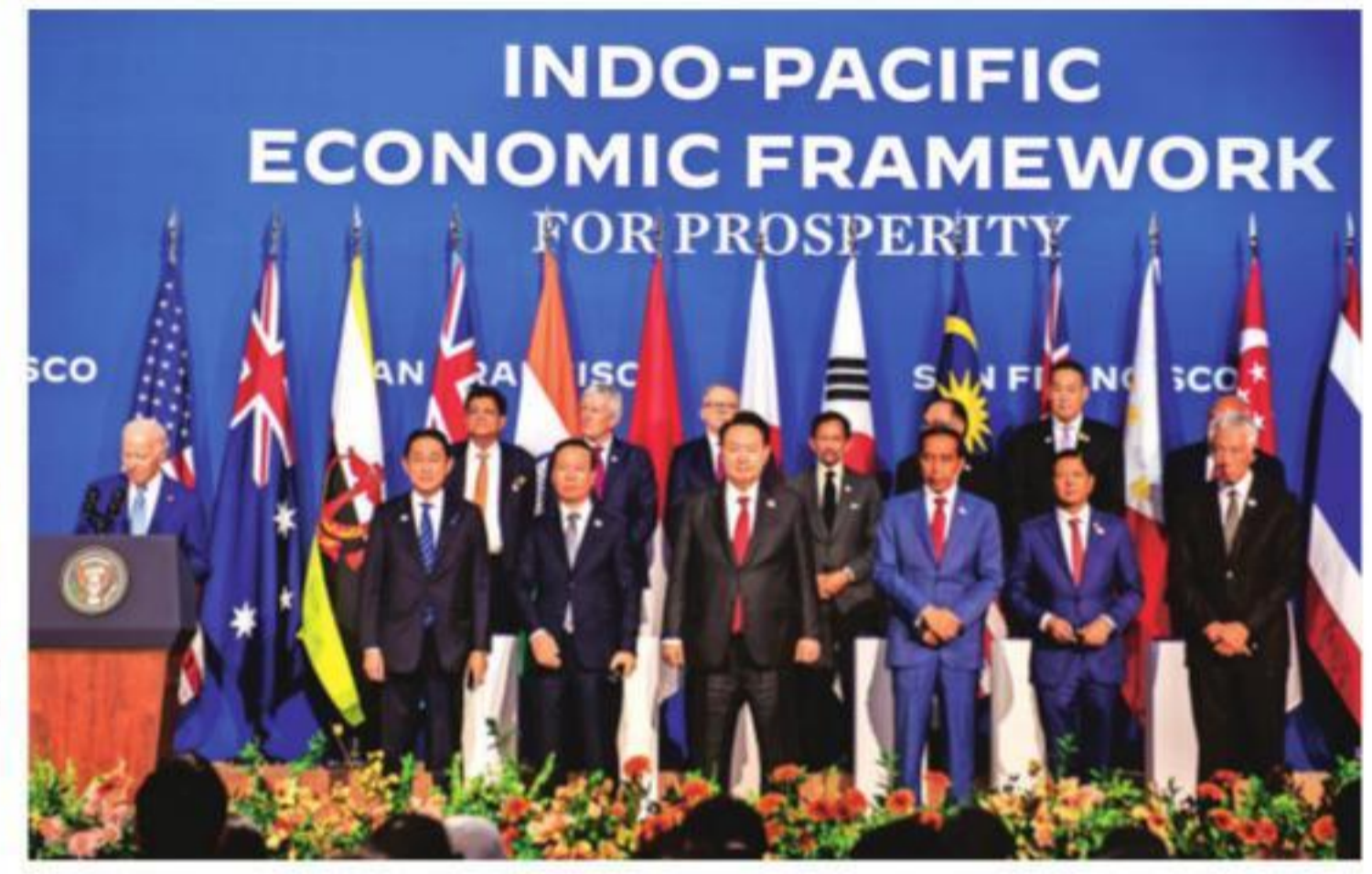
Rlys' annual borrowings used to be ₹60,000-70,000 crore from the market in recent years except in FY24

50% on the year and accounted for one-fourth of the Centre's ₹10 trillion capex outlay.

The Railways' annual borrowings used to be ₹60,000-70,000 crore from the market in recent years except in FY24. High debt forced the Centre to halt fresh borrowing by the highway maker NHA in FY23 and FY24. As a result, its budgetary support rose to a whopping ₹1.74 trillion in FY23, over 3 times higher than ₹57,350 crore in FY22.

With aggressive highway expansion after the Narendra Modi government came to power in 2014, NHA's debt rose from ₹23,797 crore in March 2014 to ₹3.48 trillion in March 2022.

This had led to a surge in debt servicing burden which stood at ₹31,735 crore in FY23. FE



IPEF TALKS ON CLEAN ECONOMY CONCLUDE

US President Joe Biden and leaders including India's Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal at the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) meeting in San Francisco. PTI

- IPEF members including India and the US have concluded talks on the clean and fair economy pact to strengthen anti-graft measures and promote sustainable trade
US and its IPEF partners will regroup trade pillar talks early next year after three rounds in two months fell short of substantial pacts, the Deputy US Trade Representative said.
The failure to complete at least some chapters in the IPEF pillar is a setback for President Joe Biden, who had aimed to showcase the initiative at the APEC summit.

Three tankers recently sanctioned by US regularly supplied Russian oil to India

FLORENCE TAN, MUYU XU & NIDHI VERMA SINGAPORE, NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 17

THREE OIL tankers, newly sanctioned by Washington, regularly shipped Sokol crude from Russia's Far East to Indian Oil Corp, the country's top refiner, in recent months, according to shiptracking data from LSEG, Kpler and trade sources.

The US on Thursday imposed sanctions on maritime companies and vessels for shipping Russian oil sold above the Group of Seven's price cap, as Washington seeks to close loopholes in the mechanism designed to punish Moscow for its war in Ukraine. The Liberian-flagged ships

EU to ban sale of tankers to Russia to curb growth of shadow fleet

Brussels: The European Commission is proposing to ban the sale of tankers for crude oil and petroleum products to Russia to prevent Moscow from bypassing western sanctions on Russian oil with a shadow fleet of ships, a proposal by the Commission showed.

The proposal, discussed on Friday by ambassadors of EU governments, also says that sales of tankers to a third country should include contractual clauses that ships cannot be resold to Russia or used to carry Russian crude oil or petroleum products that avoid western price caps — in the case of crude oil of \$60 per barrel. REUTERS

hit with sanctions are the Kazan, Ligovsky Prospect and NS Century, according to the Treasury Department.

All three Aframax-sized tankers discharged Russian Sokol crude in India in

September while two of them made the trip in October, the data showed.

In the short-term, sanctions may reduce the number of ships carrying Russian oil and prompt India to seek supplies elsewhere, Reuters

IOC buys Sokol under an annual contract with Russian oil major Rosneft. A spike in global prices led to Russian oil being sold at above the price caps imposed by western nations of \$60 a barrel. REUTERS

RBI clears resolution plan for RCap, paves way for IIHL deal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 17

THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) Friday approved a resolution plan for debt-ridden Reliance Capital. The move paves the way for IndusInd International Holdings Ltd (IIHL), the Hinduja Group firm, to acquire the company.

"This is to inform you that the Administrator of Reliance Capital Limited is in receipt of 'No objection' vide letter dated November 17, 2023, from the Reserve Bank of India," the company said in a regulatory filing.

IIHL had emerged as the highest bidder with an offer of Rs 9,650 crore to take over debt-ridden Reliance Capital (RCap) in the second round of auction concluded in April.

The RBI on November 29, 2021, superseded the board of

Reliance Capital in view of payment defaults and serious governance issues.

The RBI appointed Nageswara Rao Y as the administrator in relation to the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) of the firm.

Reliance Capital is the third large non-banking financial company (NBFC) against which the central bank has initiated bankruptcy proceedings under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). The other two were Srei Group NBFC and Dewan Housing Finance Corporation (DHFL).

The RBI subsequently filed an application for initiation of CIRP against the company at the Mumbai bench of the National Company Law Tribunal.

In February last year, the RBI-appointed administrator invited expressions of interest for the sale of Reliance Capital.

NHA to award BOT projects worth ₹44,412 crore this fiscal

New Delhi: To bring private investments back in the highway construction sector, the National Highways Authority of India (NHA) has decided to award 937-km-long stretches entailing investments of ₹44,412 crore via the build-operate-transfer (BOT) model in the current financial year, a senior official said on Friday.

The length of highways identified for the BOT model is 15% of about 6,100 km that will be awarded this year by the NHA.

It also outpaces the target of increasing the contribution of BOT in highway construction to 10%. So far this year, highway stretches of just about 350 km have been awarded via all models, including the fully government-funded EPC.

These 937 km of highways are across 15 identified stretches — nine in Maharashtra, and one each in Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Telangana. FE

BRIEFLY

Kotak Mahindra Bank appoints MD and CEO

New Delhi: The board of Kotak Mahindra Bank on Friday approved the appointment of Ashok Vaswani as a Director, Managing Director and the CEO of the bank. Last month, the RBI had approved the appointment of Vaswani as the bank's MD & CEO for a period of three years. PTI

Subaru to raise US wages after UAW deals

Los Angeles: Subaru will raise the wages of its US plant workers in light of recent labor deals reached by the Detroit Three automakers and United Auto Workers, said the Japanese firm's CEO Atsushi Osaki. The amount of the raises is yet to be determined. REUTERS

SECOND EDITION OF VOICE OF GLOBAL SOUTH SUMMIT

India invites countries to join biofuel alliance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 17

INDIA FRIDAY invited countries of the Global South to join the recently launched Global Biofuels Alliance, saying it is willing to share its expertise with developing and less developed nations.

A global alliance for promoting biofuels was launched at the Group of 20 leaders meeting in September with a view to reducing emissions in the transporta-



Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri

tion and industrial sectors. The Global Biofuel Alliance, which includes top producers Brazil and the US, will help build the worldwide market for trade in biofuel, which is obtained from biomass. Speaking at the 2nd Voice of

Global South Summit, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said India achieved the target of mixing 10 per cent ethanol in petrol in May 2022, five months ahead of the deadline, and has advanced the deadline for doping 20 per cent ethanol in petrol by five years to 2025.

Turning biomass into fuel helped the world's third largest energy consumer provide an additional source of income for farmers as well as cut emissions. "The Global Biofuels Alliance

Need supply chain talks: Goyal

New Delhi: Global south countries need to discuss ways to make supply chains open, secure, trusted and equitable, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Friday.

Speaking at the second Voice of Global South Summit, he said the pandemic, climate change and geopolitical tensions have shown the fragility of global supply chains. "We would like to discuss ways and means for countries of the global south to cooperate and act together to

make our supply chains open, secure, trusted, stable, and equitable," he said.

Meanwhile Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth said Friday that India stands ready to share its technical capabilities relating to Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and knowledge resources for empowering the people of the Global South. Seth said another focus area of the Indian presidency is the role of technology in social transformation and economic empowerment. PTI

Advertisement for Mahatenders regarding tender information for various projects.

Advertisement for SBI Project Finance & Structuring SBU regarding empanelment of Lenders' Traffic Consultants (LTCs).

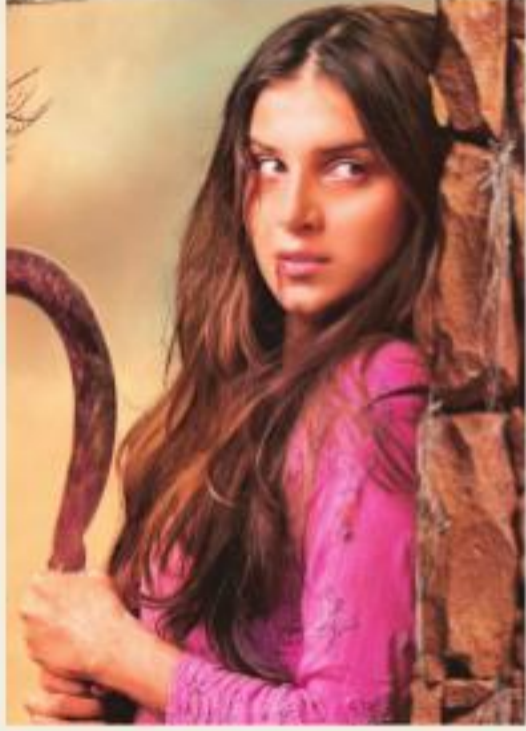
# 18 REVIEWS

CINEMA & MUSIC

## Predictable Tale of Brutality and Bravery

APURVA ★★

**Director:** Nikhil Nagesh Bhat  
**Cast:** Tara Sutaria, Abhishek Banerjee, Dhairya Karwa and Rajpal Yadav  
**Streaming on:** Disney+Hotstar



HAD THE makers of *Apurva* not harboured the ambition of being gritty and realistic, this probably would have come close to being a 'slasher' movie. The intention is to make a feminist statement and show the power of a brave, vulnerable woman when she encounters a bunch of ruthless men.

The film opens with a gang of four attacking three men travelling on a lonely highway stretch in Chambal and robbing them of their jewellery. As they set out for their next mission, they come across Apurva (Tara Sutaria) who is travelling in a bus to Agra to give her banker boyfriend a surprise on his birthday. It is easy to predict that her plan will go awry. She is kidnapped as she catches the fancy of a gang member Sukhi (Abhishek Banerjee). Most of the scenes that follow are meant to make the audience shudder.

The flashbacks about Apurva's life and her engagement with Sid (Dhairya Karwa) are meant to help build their characters and love story, apart from giving a breather from the violence. There are interesting moments, especially when Apurva and her parents visit Sid's home to meet him before deciding on the arranged match. Though the two exude sweetness on screen, sparks don't fly. That affects the emotional connection one could have established with them, especially the titular protagonist.

The chase between Apurva and her captors shifts to a deserted village with vacant houses. The setting adds to the atmosphere as Apurva tries to survive her ordeal and escape. There are several gripping moments with the threat of assault constantly looming large. But it does not help that the storyline is mostly predictable.

The four gangsters in the film are meant to be distinct in terms of their age, personality and background but the script does not work on developing these pitiless male characters who find pleasure in making a woman suffer and see her only as an object of their lust. The film does refer to incidents where men gleefully record incidents of sexual abuse on their phone cameras. Yet, it falls short of making an impactful comment on social conditioning, misogynistic mindset or warped masculinity. That makes the characters played by Banerjee and Rajpal Yadav appear cardboard-like.

Sutaria is expected to do the heavy lifting and carry the film on her shoulders. She is good in certain action sequences that involve sprinting around in a chikankari kurta-pyjama or heavy breathing. But she fails to meet the demands of intense emotional scenes. In terms of its subject and storytelling, the film comes close to *NH10* (2015), however, lacks the layers and nuances of *NH10*. As a result, it is shocking in parts but not thought-provoking. **AS**

## THE HUNGER GAMES: THE BALLAD OF SONGBIRDS AND SNAKES ★★★

Director: Francis Lawrence Cast: Tom Blyth, Rachel Zegler, Josh Andrés Rivera, Peter Dinklage and Viola Davis

# With a Convincing Past



ALAKA SAHANI

THIS AMBITIOUS prequel, a much-awaited addition to the successful *The Hunger Games* franchise, traces the story of 18-year-old Coriolanus Snow (Tom Blyth) decades before he became the tyrannical President of Panem. Along with him, at the heart of this action-thriller is a rebellious 'songbird' — Lucy Gray Baird (Rachel Zegler). Together, they overcome some tough challenges and fall in love before harsh realities of this dystopian land take over.

*The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* is set in post-war Panem, 64 years before the first *Hunger Games* movie. For the tenth annual

*Hunger Games*, rules are tweaked and Coriolanus, who is the last hope for his fading lineage, is assigned to mentor Lucy, the female tribute from impoverished District 12. He desperately wants to win the prize to help his once-affluent family regain its glory. Lucy grabs Panem's attention when she puts a snake inside the gown of the local mayor's daughter, who is now in a relationship with the former's boyfriend, before proceeding to defiantly sing during the reaping ceremony. While the strength of Katniss Everdeen (a character essayed and popularised by Jennifer Lawrence), the protagonist of original *Hunger Games* movies, seemed to lie in archery and ability to think on her feet, Lucy seems to derive her power from singing and grit.

Both Blyth and Zegler infuse their performances with dynamism and hold the audience's attention. As their characters undergo changes, the lead actors deftly bring out their struggles, triumphs and complexities. Blyth shows the tender side of young President Snow (played by Donald Sutherland in earlier movies of the franchise) before political savviness and ambition gets the better of him. Those familiar with the franchise already know that he turns out to be a ruthless fascist ruler. Peter Dinklage, as expected, is convincing as the bitter Dean of the Academy, Casca Highbottom, who is holding a grudge against Coriolanus's father for taking the credit for 'hunger games' that Highbottom had conceptualised. Viola Davis's portrayal

of 'head gamemaker', Dr Volumnia Gaul, is campy but effective. She seems to be having fun with the character with a voluminous frizzy mop.

The screenplay, written by Michael Arndt and Michael Lesslie, is based on Suzanne Collins's novel by the same name. It shifts gear in the film's final segment as the action moves to District 12. This is where Coriolanus comes to terms with Gaul's view of human nature as inherently violent as well as reveals his lack of scruples.

Though the narrative, with 158-minute runtime, slackens at some points, especially after the competition is over, the film manages to awe the audience with powerful performances and grand visuals.

## TROLLSBAND TOGETHER ★

Directors: Walt Dohm, Tim Heitz Voice of: Justin Timberlake, Anna Kendrick, Amy Schumer

# Completely Out of Sync

SHALINI LANGER

FROM THE land of sparkles, shine and all things that rhyme comes another story that will blind you with colour, deafen you with music and, while at it, tell you how good it is to have a family.

It's into this third *Trolls* film from DreamWorks Animation that we realise that Branch (Timberlake), who has been doing his saving-the-Troll-world things, is, at heart, a boy yearning for his four brothers. They were in a boy band — a premise the film uses to pun its way out of many a mess, such as talking about growing from "boys to men", and going "backstreet" etc — till they weren't.

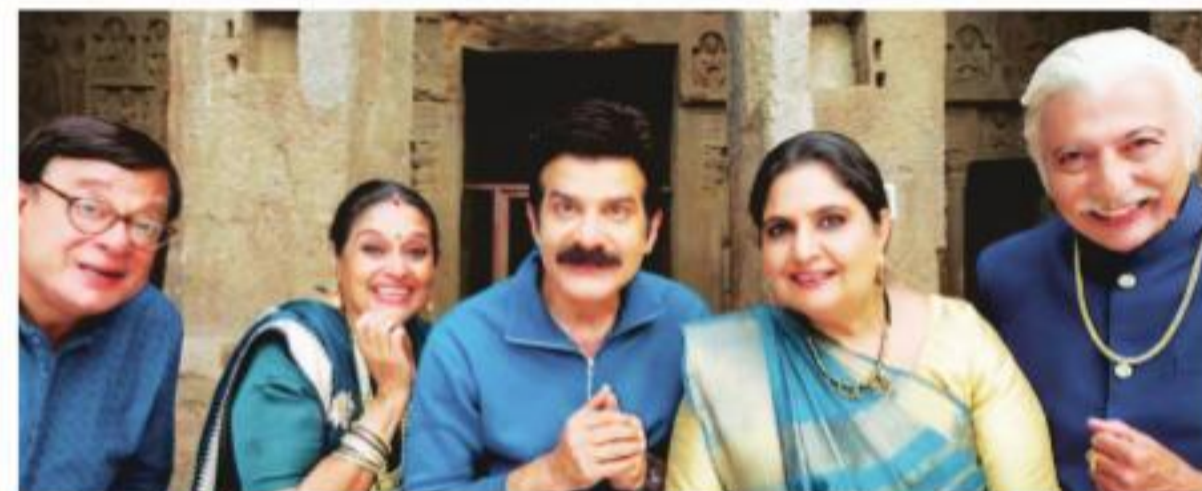
Following a bad performance, the big brothers one day set off on their solo ways, leaving Branch — who was then still "in diapers", though age can be a hard to tell in the Troll world — mostly on his own. Loving brothers usually don't do that. But that is not the only incongruent detail in the film, which appears to have hastily thought this up to give a backstory to Branch.

The best parts about *Trolls*, the film, are two people meant to be the worst part of it. Those are the lat-

est sensations of the pop world, Velvet (a delightful Schumer) and brother Veneer (Rannells). They have kept one of Branch's Troll brothers, Floyd, imprisoned in a diamond bauble and are literally sucking out his singing talent now to further their careers. Hence, the need for the brothers to come together, and whip up "the perfect family harmony", for this can "shatter diamonds", literally. Poppy (Kendrick, the most enduring part of the film), who is now Branch's official girlfriend, is an enthusiastic sidekick.

Velvet and Veneer are creatures of our day and age, where fame is a factor of mostly things other than talent and a commodity that perishes fast. Velvet has a hungry recognition of this and drags along a half-reluctant Veneer into treating Floyd abysmally.

Had *Trolls Band Together* stuck with this storyline, we could have had a winner. Instead, we even get a reunion of 'NSYNC, the band that Timberlake was one part of, with a joke thrown in to jog our memories. It's the band's first song together in 20 years. It's the third *Trolls* film in seven years. Hard to say what has aged worse.



## No bang, only whimper

KHICHDI 2: MISSION PAANTHUKISTAN ★

Director: Aatish Kapadia Cast: Supriya Pathak, Anang Desai, J D Majethia, Rajeev Mehta

THE KHICHDI gang is back on the big screen after thirteen long years, and the first thing you want to ask is WHY?

Why did this ultra-loud, blindingly colour-coordinated bunch who did nothing of any consequence in the first movie, bother to circle back for a sequel? In 2010, there may still have been space for a movie spin-off of a popular TV show, especially when it went off for seasonal breaks. But to do this now, when endless re-runs have made sure that Hansa Ben (Pathak) and her cohorts are never too far off from their fans? It makes no sense.

But then, maybe director Aatish Kapadia was banking on the USP of his group which revels in pure senselessness. This time around, they are headed to a fictional place called Paanthukistan, which is governed by a tyrant, who, in turn, is a dead ringer for Praful (Mehta). This evil king has two companions who go by the name of Ek Sau Bees Navratn and Gulkunda (Saini). Nope, not kidding.

There's no running water in this place, so makeshift-loos-for-hire abound. Huh? Don't ask. Women wear red masks with holes cut out for eyes. Double huh.

Kirti Kulhari is back as Punjabi *kudi* Parminder, whose only job is to shake a leg in a couple of song-and-dance sequences. Meanwhile Pathak refuses to give up cracking her gotcha jokes: as we know, 'Eengliss' is not Hansa Ben's strong suit, so we have to sit through such rhyming dialogues as 'off season aloo parathe' and 'oxygen chalu kara de'. Groan.

A scientist who has conjured up a robot with blue eyes which can shoot bullets (told you, don't ask) pops up. As does Pratik Gandhi in a 'guest appearance' as a chopper pilot, who vanishes after the first 10 minutes, and refuses to return. Sensible chap. Farah Khan, in another of these walk-on parts, comes and goes.

In the middle of all this, a character says: 'Main goli maar doongi sab ko'. You want to tell her to hurry up and do the deed. **SG**

## STREAMING WATCH LIST

BY ALAKA SAHANI



## POKHAR KE DUNU PAAR

MUBI  
This indie movie by writer-director Parth Saurabh was awarded a Special Mention at the World Premiere at the San Sebastian International Film Festival. The film follows Sumit and Priyanka, who had earlier eloped, as they are forced to return to their hometown due to the financial hardships caused by the lockdown. The film features Abhinav Jha and Tanaya Khan Jha.



## THE CROWN S6 (PART 1)

NETFLIX  
The first four episodes of Season 6 closes the chapter on one of the series' most iconic characters: Princess Diana (Elizabeth Debicki). Debicki reprises her role in the season's Part 1, which follows Diana in the final weeks leading up to her death on August 31, 1997. The new season seems to pick up where the last season left off with Diana heading to the south of France to spend the summer holidays with her two sons.



## THE SECRETS WE KEEP

LIONSGATE PLAY  
The film, with Noomi Rapace in the lead, tells the story of a Romanian refugee who tries to build a new life with her American husband. In post-World War II America, though Maja Reid (Rapace), her husband Lewis, and their young son, Patrick, live happily, she is haunted by her dark memories of the war. Once on the street, she recognises a man who she believes is a former German soldier she encountered 15 years ago.



## BIHTER

PRIME VIDEO  
The storyline of this Turkish romantic drama centres around Bihter, who is Adnan's wife. Though initially impressed that Adnan is a wealthy and respected man, she later realises she yearns for more than his attention. Bihter's drawn to Behlül, a handsome member of Adnan's family. She risks everything for this love. Yet, societal expectations and the quest for independence bring unexpected challenges to Bihter's life.

## Easy, Tiger

TIGER 3 ★★★

**Director:** Maneesh Sharma  
**Cast:** Salman Khan, Katrina Kaif, Emraan Hashmi, Simran, Ranvir Shorey, Revathi, Kumud Mishra, Riddhi Dogra, Vishal Jethwa, Chandrachur Rai, Anant Vidhat Sharma, Gavie Chahal, Danish Husain, Michelle Lee

SHUBHRA GUPTA

AFTER *Ek Tha Tiger* (2012) and its sequel *Tiger Zinda Hai* (2017) comes *Tiger 3*. Why a bald number 3, and not something like 'Tiger Abhi Bhi Zinda Hai'? These and many other weighty questions came flying at me as I began the third-go-round of RAW agent Tiger (Khan) and his beloved ex-ISI agent Zoya (Kaif).

You can spot a couple of familiar faces surrounding our principal duo — Shorey as Tiger's compatriot who has been captured and brutally tortured, and Kumud Mishra as Rakeshji, the expert hacker. Then there are the new additions which arrive thick and fast. Revathi as the RAW chief, Chandrachur Rai and Anant Vidhat Sharma as Rakeshji's gofers, Simran as the Pakistani Prime Minister, Riddhi Dogra as a sharp-shooter, and, last but not least as they say, Emraan Hashmi as Aatish Rehman, the guy who spells nothing but trouble for Tiger.

This time around, extenuating circumstances force Tiger and Zoya into adopting a questionable stance around a briefcase. Just who are they working for? Is Zoya really a double agent? Has Tiger turned? After Kabir Sharma and Abbas Ali Zafar, it is Maneesh Sharma at the helm of this third *Tiger* iteration, and when it begins, with a fast-paced action sequence involving a grievously hurt RAW agent and Tiger-to-the-rescue motorcycle



chase, you sit back to enjoy the ride. The first half keeps up the pace, hopping from one location to another, switching from one slam-bang-thud sequence to another. Tiger and Zoya are now parents, and we see them worry about

a young son who has fallen sick: the former is still a maker of great kaali dal, the latter hasn't forgotten how to deliver a great kick; they do make a matching pair. The comic book elements that made the first two editions of the

film such fun are intact, and we are given the usual global exotic places itinerary for our spies to dip their toes into. Zoya gets to duel with a svelte martial artist (Lee) in a hammam, both clad in sheer towels, toplined by a gasp-will-she-won't-she-drop-it moment. Ooh.

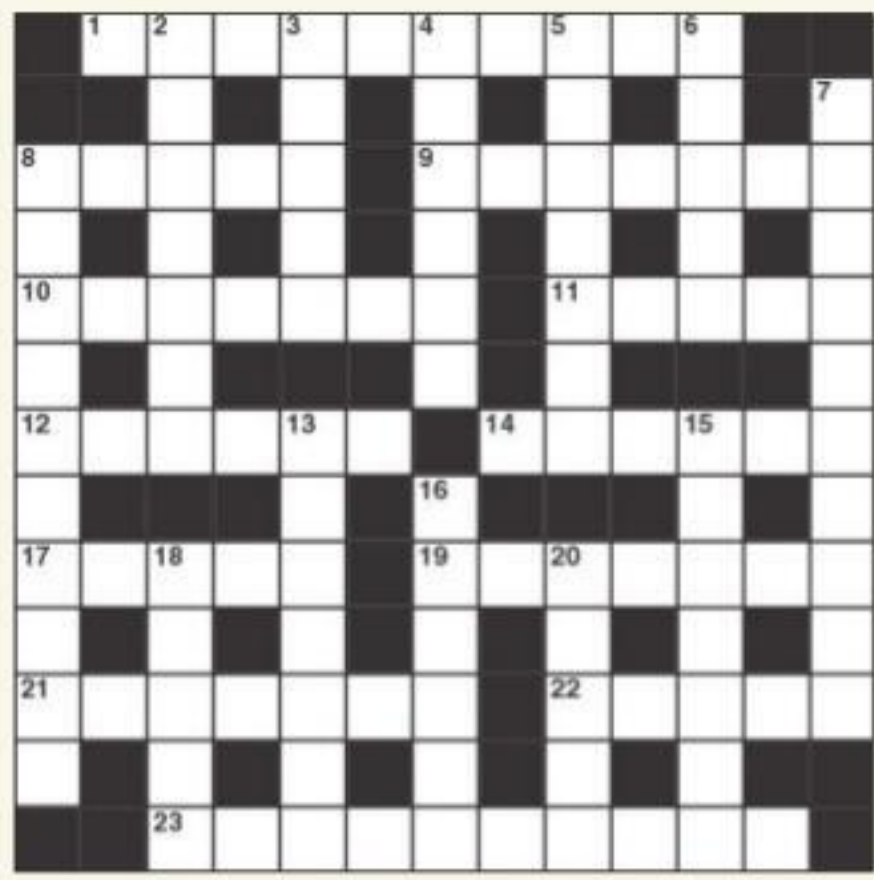
Post-interval, though, things start to dip. We don't really expect logic from this kind of film but even so, the way the plot ties itself into knots trying to get Tiger to face down his enemies, with Simran trying hard to pull off being the kind of Pakistani premiere who is all for democracy, and Hashmi striding about, looking dishy in that grey-flecked beard but not being able to summon any of the menace required to take him seriously.

The focus on how Big Brother India will teach its recalcitrant younger brother Pakistan the virtues of democracy may actually be as much fantasy as the *Tiger* sagas are meant to be, and something only Bollywood peaceniks can dream up, but it can become too much of

a muchness. After yet another skirmish in which Tiger and Rehman break off, to circle back for another bout, I was done.

Salman is looking his age, but the good thing is that he isn't hiding it. The best part of the film is when Pathan, aka SRK, comes flying into the horizon with his hair still in that sexy man-bun and shooting smart one-liners. The way these two launch themselves into the air, hanging at the end of swinging cables, remind you of the *RRR* duo. A certain Rajamouli should be very pleased: in this instance, imitation is certainly the best form of flattery. But after that super-starry flourish where you can't help but crack up at the bro-vibes the two trade, the storytelling settles into un-rousing patterns in the second-half, only intermittently sparking to life. Why (spoiler alert) does this film, leave Salman with his shirt on? Don't tell me the plot couldn't find one appropriate climatic moment for such an anticipated Bhai moment. Or are they saving it up for the fourth *Tiger* outing?

CROSSWORD 5212



- ACROSS**
- 1 Extremely slender for example; that's about all (10)
  - 8 Declined to take a girl back (5)
  - 9 Beat after exciting recount (7)
  - 10 Unnecessary warning to a caretaker? (7)
  - 11 A minor prize (5)
  - 12 Is and isn't one way to be emphatic (6)
  - 14 One who foils trespassers? (6)
  - 17 Not at all a feature of fine verse (5)
  - 19 Stabs in the back? (7)
  - 21 Communicate fast (7)
  - 22 Course must be if you steer wrongly (5)
  - 23 Opposition to mixed ancestries (10)
- DOWN**
- 2 Louvre's new material (7)
  - 3 Spoke in the plural? (5)
  - 4 Big fellows I beat in the backstreet (6)
  - 5 Cut off and also tie off (7)
  - 6 Sail Columbus raised here (5)
  - 7 A novice needs caring support (10)
  - 8 He has lots to sell (10)
  - 13 Shows hides (7)
  - 15 A great book but may be all Greek to readers (7)
  - 16 Brooches quiet in style (6)
  - 18 It creeps through after six (5)
  - 20 Mother goes to look up a girl's name (5)

Solutions Crossword 5211 Across: 1 Verify, 4 Asleep, 9 Sworn in, 10 Error, 11 Easel, 12 Electra, 13 Rabbit punch, 18 Bangkok, 20 Roots, 22 Swift, 23 Niggard, 24 Rhythm, 25 Stress Down: 1 Vessel, 2 Rocks, 3 Fan club, 5 Scene, 6 Erratic, 7 Portal, 8 Undertaking, 14 Annuity, 15 Upright, 16 Abuser, 17 Asides, 19 Ketch, 21 Orate

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLER 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.

The pride of youth is in strength and beauty. The pride of old age is in \_\_\_\_\_ -Democritus (10)

ROBED                      APRYNT

TVIIS                        DEEOCD

SOLUTION: ROBED, APRYNT, DEEOCD, TVIIS. The pride of youth is in strength and beauty. The pride of old age is in discretion - Democritus

SUDOKU 5385

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.

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

Difficulty Level 1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5384

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

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**E-TENDER DATE EXTENSION NOTICE**  
E-Tender Specification No. CCP-I/40/2023-2024 invited by this office for supply of LT XLPE AB Cable 3x120+1x95sq.mm are hereby extended due to unavoidable reasons. The e-tender can be purchased and submitted upto 17:00 hrs. of 28.11.2023. Part-I of the e-tender shall be opened on 29.11.2023 at 15:45 hrs.

Other terms & conditions will remain same as per original tender notice. For further details, please visit our website [www.ukptenders.gov.in](http://www.ukptenders.gov.in).

No.- 547/EE(CM)/UPCLA-2 SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER  
Date:- 17.11.2023 CORPORATE (C&P-I)

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Office of the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, CAMPA, Jharkhand, Ranchi. Van Bhawan, Doranda, Ranchi-834002 e-mail : [apccf-campa@gov.in](mailto:apccf-campa@gov.in), Phone : 0651-2481466 (O)

**CORRIGENDUM**  
Reference- PR. No. 311385 Dated 17-11-2023 RFP No: 01/2023 dated 09-11-2023

This is to inform that Tender Notice No. RFP No: 01/2023 dated 09.11.2023 published on dated 17.11.2023, official website address mentioned in that was <http://jharkhandforest.gov.in> instead of our correct official website address <https://forest.jharkhand.gov.in>.

Please read our correct official address <https://forest.jharkhand.gov.in>.  
Sd/-  
Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, CAMPA  
Department of Forest, Environment and Climate Change  
Van Bhawan, Doranda,  
Ranchi-834002  
Jharkhand  
PR 311571 (Forest, Environment and Climate Changes) 23-24 (D)

**COURT NOTICE**  
(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)  
IN THE COURT OF Sh. Aman Deep Dewan Additional District and Sessions Judge, NARNAUL  
Next Date, Purpose of case, Orders and Judgments as well as other case information is available on <http://eucourts.gov.in>  
MIS BHATOTIA ELECTRICAL Vs. Base Corp. Ltd. through Manager Civil Appeal against judgement and decree dated 30.05.2017, passed by Sh. Nimit Kumar, C.J.JD, Narnaul. CNR No. HRNR01-002891-2017 CA/358/2017  
Previous Date 26/10/2023  
NEXT DATE: 22-11-2023  
PUBLICATION ISSUED TO:  
1. BASE CORPORATION LIMITED Plot No 2, 2nd Floor, No 13 Lohans Resident, Sunder Murli Road Kokas Town, Bangalore through its Manager  
2. BASE CORPORATION LIMITED Anigolu Village District Krishna Giri, Sub District Devkani Kota, Tamilnadu through its Manager  
3. BASE CORPORATION LIMITED E-177-202 2nd Phase Near Metro Pillar No 177 East Patel Nagar Delhi.  
To, The Manager Indian Express  
Whereas it has been proved to the satisfaction of the Court that the defendant(s)/respondent(s) above named cannot be served in the ordinary way of service. Hence, this proclamation under order 5 Rule 20 CPC is hereby issued against him/then and should appear personally or through their counsel on 22-11-2023 at 10:00a.m. Take notice that, in default of his/his/her appearance on the day before mentioned, the above said case will be heard and determined in his/his/absence according to law.  
Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, this 16-11-2023.  
Additional District and Sessions Judge Narnaul

**GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

The Engineer-in-Chief, Jal Shakti Vibhag, Jal Shakti Bhawan Shimla-171005 on behalf of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites two covers (Technical & Financial Bid) online tender from manufacturers for supply of "SI Marked Centrifugally Cast (Spun) Ductile Iron Pressure Pipes for water, Gas & Sewerage with socket & Spigot ends conforming to IS: 8329/2000 in standard lengths of required diameters for classification K-7, suitable for push on Joint & Rubber Gasket D Jointing with cement mortar lining inside and Zinc Coating outside the pipe of various sizes from 200mm to 600mm dia (24766 Rmt) amounting to Rs. 8.52 Crore approximately as to be uploaded online on or before 28.11.2023 upto 5.00 PM on the site <https://hptenders.gov.in>. The technical bid will be opened online on the next day i.e. 29.11.2023 at 11:00AM in the office of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division Kasumpti Shimla-171009 by the committee constituted by the department in the presence of the intending tenderers or their authorized representatives, if they wish to do so. If the opening date happens to be a holiday then the tenders will be received upto and opened on the next working day at same time. The descriptions given herein are in brief. The complete details and the tender documents containing B.O.Q. with specification and other terms and conditions can be downloaded from the above-mentioned website.

The Cost of Tender Form Rs. 2500/- and Earnest Money Rs. 10.00 Lacs (Rupees Ten Lakh only) must be deposited either through online mode (e-payment) or physical mode. In case of physical mode in the shape of National Saving Certificates, banker's cheque, demand draft or fixed deposit duly pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division. No. 1, Kasumpti, Shimla-9. Earnest Money shall be refundable to un-successful tenderers only after finalization of the tender and shall be retained in case of successful tenderers which shall be treated as security deposit to be refunded after the successful completion of supply.

In case of physical mode the scanned copy of all these documents and proof of cost of tender form and earnest money payment be uploaded alongwith the original documents be submitted in the office of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Kasumpti, Shimla-9 by 11:00 AM on or before 29.11.2023.

In the two cover tender, first cover shall contain scanned copy for proof of cost of tender form, earnest money and all other specified documents as per terms and conditions of the tender to check the technical eligibility. The second packet shall contain only the financial bid. The financial bid of only those bidders shall be opened whose first packet is found in order as per the terms and conditions document as verified from the scanned copies of original documents uploaded by the firms.

The offer of the tender shall be kept open for 120 days. The Engineer-in-Chief, Jal Shakti Vibhag reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons. The authorization letter regarding Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of the person authorized by the firm to upload the bid be uploaded along with the other documents online. Only firms fulfilling the terms and conditions specified in the document for terms and conditions need apply.

3895/HP

**उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे ई-ऑफ़िशन आमंत्रित करने की सूचना**

उक्त के संदर्भ में विभिन्न गाड़ियों में एसएलआर/वीपीयू लीजिंग एवं स्टेशन पर विज्ञापन/पार्किंग स्टैंड/कैटरिंग स्टॉल एम.पी.एस. (MPS) के ठेके हेतु ई-ऑफ़िशन आमंत्रित की गई है। कैंटलीन IREPS वेबसाइट पर प्रकाशित किए जा चुके हैं।

कार्य का नाम	कार्य की अवधि:	लॉट के ई-ऑफ़िशन प्रारंभ की तिथि व समय:
(1) जोधपुर मंडल से संचालित गाड़ियों के वीपीयू एवं एसएलआर में स्थान लीज पर माल पार्सल की लोडिंग हेतु ई-ऑफ़िशन	(1) वीपीयू/एसएलआर - 2 वर्ष	(1) OOH-JU-23 दिनांक 28.11.2023 को 14:00 बजे से
(2) जोधपुर मंडल के विभिन्न स्टेशनों पर पार्किंग स्टैंड हेतु ई-ऑफ़िशन	(2) पार्किंग - 3 वर्ष / 12 महीने	(2) RDN-ND-JU-17 दिनांक 29.11.2023 को 11:00 बजे से
(3) जोधपुर मंडल के विभिन्न स्टेशनों पर वाणिज्यिक विज्ञापन हेतु रेल डिप्लोमेट नेटवर्क आउट ऑफ़ होम आदि का ई-ऑफ़िशन	(3) विज्ञापन - 3 वर्ष	(3) CATG-JU-11-23 दिनांक 30.11.2023 को 15:00 बजे से
(4) जोधपुर मंडल के विभिन्न स्टेशनों पर एम.पी.एस. (MPS) हेतु ई-ऑफ़िशन	(4) एम.पी.एस. (MPS) - 5 वर्ष	(4) CATG-JU-13-23 दिनांक 04.12.2023 को 11:00 बजे से
(5) जोधपुर मंडल के विभिन्न स्टेशनों पर कैटरिंग स्टॉल के ठेके हेतु ई-ऑफ़िशन	(5) कैटरिंग स्टॉल: 5 वर्ष	(4) CATG-JU-14-23 दिनांक 05.12.2023 को 11:00 बजे से
		(5) CATG-JU-15-23 दिनांक 06.12.2023 को 11:00 बजे से
		(6) CATG-JU-16-23 दिनांक 07.12.2023 को 11:00 बजे से

वेबसाइट जहाँ से लॉट वाइज ई-ऑफ़िशन के सम्बन्ध में जानकारी प्राप्त की जा सकती है: [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) 1178-PR/23

**यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण**  
प्रथम तल, कॉमर्शियल कॉम्प्लेक्स, ओमेगा-1 (पी-2), ग्रेटर नौएडा  
Toll Free No. 18001808296 वेबसाइट: [www.yamunaexpresswayauthority.com](http://www.yamunaexpresswayauthority.com)

पत्रांक : वाई.ई.ए./GM(P)/2023/838 दिनांक : 16/11/2023

**ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना**

निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु केन्द्र सरकार/राज्य सरकार/केन्द्र शासित/अर्द्धशासित/सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों के कार्यों का काम से कम चार वर्ष का अनुभव रखने वाले ठेकेदारों/फर्मों से ई-निविदाये आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। ई-प्रोक्योरमेंटसोल्यूशन द्वारा निविदाये डिस्ट्रीटरीय पद्धति से खोली जायेगी।

कार्यालय आदेश संख्या : वाई.ई.ए./GM(P)/2023/837 दिनांक 16.11.2023 के अनुपालन में यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण की कार्यों में सविदाकार द्वारा बिल ऑफ़ क्वॉन्टिटी (बीओक्यूओ) पर डाले गये 10 प्रतिशत काम दरों तक 0.5 प्रतिशत प्रति एक प्रतिशत काम दर पर तथा उसके पश्चात 10 प्रतिशत से अधिक काम दरों पर 1.00 प्रतिशत प्रति एक प्रतिशत काम दर पर सिक्योरिटी/परफॉर्मन्स गारन्टी प्राप्त की जायेगी तथा परफॉर्मन्स गारन्टी एफंडोआर/सीओओआर/बैंक गारन्टी/एनएसओसीओ के रूप में न्यूनतम सविदाकार द्वारा अनुबन्ध गठन से पूर्व देनी होगी, जो कार्य के अन्तिम बीजक होने के बाद वापिस होगी।

क्र.सं.	कार्य का नाम/वर्क सर्किल	अनुमानित लागत
1	Drone Survey work in Villages of yeida. (Zone-5 & 6) Wc-06	₹. 14.86 लाख
2	Drone Survey work in Villages of yeida. (Zone-7) Wc-06	₹. 12.36 लाख
3	Drone Survey work in Villages of yeida. (Zone-9) Wc-06	₹. 04.93 लाख
4	Drone Survey work in 15 Villages of yeida. Wc-06	₹. 10.41 लाख
5	Drone Survey work in Villages of yeida. (Zone-3) Wc-06	₹. 09.38 लाख
6	Drone Survey work in Zone-8 Villages of yeida. Wc-06	₹. 06.85 लाख
7	Drone Survey work in Villages of yeida. (Zone-4) Wc-06	₹. 10.58 लाख

जिन्हें दिनांक 22.11.2023 से 04.12.2023 को 5.00 बजे तक अपलोड किया जा सकता है। प्राप्त ई-निविदाओं की प्री-क्वालीफिकेशन दिनांक 05.12.2023 को प्रातः 11.00 बजे खोली जायेगी। महाप्रबंधक परियोजना

**OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER AGRA CIRCLE, P.W.D AGRA**  
E-Tender Notice inviting Date :- 07-11-2023

Letter No. : 6340/14M-A.C-23-24  
1. The Superintending Engineer Aggra Circle, U.P.P.W.D. on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids online from the eligible and approved registered Contractors. The contractors bidding for this work must be registered in Bridge work for SL No. 1 & Road work for SL No. 2 to 4 with UP PWD. Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 4 of the Instructions to Bidders to qualify for the award of the contract.

Sl. No	District	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs. in Lac)	Bid Security (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of Document (in Rs.)	Time of Completion	Address of Executive Engineer executing the work	Address of Superintending Engineer	Address of Chief Engineer	Category of Contractor
1	Mathura	Reconstruction work of Minor Bridge at Mathura Nauhheel Road (MDR-123) in km 39 in District Mathura	170.00	10.50	Rs. 2000.00ST+300.00TC+ 54.00GST = 2354.00	Six Months	Executive Engineer, Construction Division-1, P.W.D., Mathura	Superintending Engineer, Aggra Circle, P.W.D., Aggra	Chief Engineer, Aggra Zone, P.W.D., Aggra	Class A & B
2	Mathura	Special Repair work of Mathura Vrindavan Mant Nauhheel Road (MDR-123) in District Mathura	90.00	6.50	Rs. 2000.00ST+300.00TC+ 54.00GST = 2354.00	One Month	Executive Engineer, Construction Division-1, P.W.D., Mathura	Superintending Engineer, Aggra Circle, P.W.D., Aggra	Chief Engineer, Aggra Zone, P.W.D., Aggra & C	Class A & B
3	Mathura	Special Repair work of daultapur to Nagla Arjun Road in District Mathura	60.00	5.00	Rs. 2000.00ST+300.00TC+ 54.00GST = 2354.00	One Month	Executive Engineer, Construction Division-1, P.W.D., Mathura	Superintending Engineer, Aggra Circle, P.W.D., Aggra	Chief Engineer, Aggra Zone, P.W.D., Aggra & C	Class A, B & C
4	Mathura	Special Repair work of Tentigaon to Hamol Road in District Mathura	69.00	5.45	Rs. 2000.00ST+300.00TC+ 54.00GST = 2354.00	One Month	Executive Engineer, Construction Division-1, P.W.D., Mathura	Superintending Engineer, Aggra Circle, P.W.D., Aggra	Chief Engineer, Aggra Zone, P.W.D., Aggra	Class A, B & C

2. Time allowed for completion is including Rainy Season.  
3. Bid document with detailed terms and conditions will be available online on website <http://etender.up.nic.in> and Prahari (<http://wms.upppwd.gov.in>/Prahari) From 20-11-2023 to 28-11-2023. Bids must be submitted online only at e-tendering portal of <http://etender.up.nic.in> and Prahari App with all documents as per GO No 14/2020/879(1) 23-7/2020/176(70)06 Dt 25-08-2020 on or before 12:30 Hours Dt. 28-11-2023 Technical Bid received online will be opened on 28-11-2023 at 01:00 hours.  
4. The prospective bidders who do not possess Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) must get the same issued from approved agencies before submission of bids.  
5. Contractor should Quote their rates without G.S.T. which shall be paid extra as per applicable at the time of payment.  
6. Labour Cess @ 1.00% will be Deducted from contractors bill at the time of payment.  
7. Original MM-11 forms proof of royalty shall have to be produced at time of every running bill in accordance to Principal Secretary, Directorate of geology & mining Uttar Pradesh Letter No-2146/86-2019-52(10)019 Dt. 30.09.2019, G.O. No- 115(1)/86-2020 dated 15.01.2020 and other relevant Government orders, circulars for all the materials procured from the quarries.  
8. The bidders are required to submit Original receipt of Internet Banking of E-tender portal Account as per G.O. No.-742/78-2-2018-42 I.T./2017 T.C., I.T. & Electronics Section-2 Dated- 03-12-2018 follows as :  
(1) Online Tender Cost towards the cost of bid document (As per Column 6) by Internet Banking of E-tender portal Account (Non Refundable).  
(2) Online Bid security (As per Column 5) in favour of designation of Column 8 by Internet Banking of E-tender portal account.  
(3) Original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (ii) of ITB as per G.O. No. 3070/78-2-2018-42 I.T./2017(2) I.T. and Electronics Anubhag-2 Lucknow Dt. 03.01.2018

(Suraj Kumar)  
Executive Engineer  
Construction Division-1, P.W.D.,  
Mathura

(Anand Kumar)  
Superintending Engineer  
Aggra Circle, P.W.D.,  
Aggra

UPID-197735 Date 16/11/2023  
[www.upgov.nic.in](http://www.upgov.nic.in)

# 20 SPORT

## ICC WORLD CUP 2023

"I really don't know. They are the best team and have won 10 matches. India have a strong bowling attack. We will try to give good performance against them."

STEVE SMITH  
ON HOW TO BEAT INDIA



### Surya likely to captain India in T20Is against Australia

DEVENDRA PANDEY  
AHMEDABAD, OCTOBER 17

SURYAKUMAR Yadav is likely to lead the Indian team in the five-match T20I series against Australia with Hardik Pandya ruled out because of an injury he sustained during the World Cup. The series will begin on November 23 in Vizag and finish at Hyderabad on December 3.



The BCCI's senior national selection committee is set to meet soon to pick the squad and given the series is coming close on the heels of the World Cup, a second-string team will be picked.

World no 1 batsman in T20 format, Yadav was appointed as the vice-captain of the T20 side during India's tour of West Indies, where they played five matches in the Caribbean and US. With Pandya yet to recover from the ankle injury he suffered during the World Cup and a doubtful starter, the selecting committee headed by Ajit Agarkar is likely to elevate Yadav to the captaincy.

The 33-year-old Yadav has earlier led the Mumbai team and also India Under-23 team in the Emerging Cup a few years ago. His 360 style of play has gained him immense popularity and in a short time, Yadav has become the most lethal batsman in the world in the format.

The Indian Express understands that the selection committee will give rest to the majority of players who are part of the ongoing World Cup team. Players like Ishan Kishan and Prasidh Krishna, who didn't get much of the World Cup game will be asked to play home series against Australia.

With Rahul Dravid's contract coming to an end after the World Cup, the BCCI have asked VVS Laxman to coach the Indian team for a stop gap arrangement and the support staff of National Cricket Academy (NCA) will be asked to look after the team.

Reason for Yadav's appointment is after the selection committee came to know that Pandya will take at least two months to recover fully from his ankle injury.

He is likely to miss three T20I and three ODI's games against South Africa too.

It's not clear whether Pandya needs surgery or not.



### EYES ON THE BALL

India captain Rohit Sharma practises close-in catching at the Narendra Modi Stadium ahead of the final against Australia. Nirmal Harindran

# Doubts to domination

Ahead of final, the Indian campaign has felt like one big party but that wasn't the case three months ago

SRIRAM VEERA  
AHMEDABAD, NOVEMBER 15

RAHUL DRAVID was smiling. Hands on hip, standing at ease with Vikram Rathour and Paras Mhambrey, and smiling away at something Rohit Sharma cracked. They were watching R Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja whack in the batting nets just outside the biggest cricket arena in the world. A relaxed team management, just two nights away from the biggest day of their careers as coaches and players, against a team that has clinched that trophy five times - that ease stood out.

How did we get here?  
Just three months ago, this cozy late afternoon chat in Ahmedabad with the backdrop of the Sabarmati River, seemed pretty distant. What had initially seemed a messily organised, rain-marred Asia Cup in Sri Lanka would change everything, but before that tournament, uncertainty was in the air. "Mahoul kaisa hai?" (How is the buzz?), Rohit Sharma would ask a couple of us during the camp at Alur, in Bangalore before that Asia Cup. It's where much of the hard work was done by the Indians, but the world hadn't seen it yet. And so, when we replied that 'not sure what the expectations are from this team, right now', Rohit Sharma raised his eyebrow, held his gaze, and muttered, "Accha hai, accha hai, good if it's less."

Rohit hadn't yet told his team-mates his aggressive batting plan as an opener. Shreyas Iyer was about to make a comeback at No.4, a spot that the team management wasn't as worried about as the outside world was. Suryakumar Yadav had failed; they had tried Sanju Samson, Hardik Pandya (in an ODI in



With three centuries and 771 runs, the most at a World Cup, Kohli has been the jewel in India's batting crown.

West Indies), and Ishan Kishan at that spot. Even Axar Patel was tried. It prompted the likes of Ravi Shastri and AB de Villiers to say that Virat Kohli should be tried at No. 4. "Yeh sab hawaa ban jaata hai," Rohit would shrug off that as a non-issue, saying he has full trust in Shreyas.

Down below, they weren't sure about R Ashwin's presence in the team. They had lost a game or two in West Indies where the lower order couldn't get the handful of runs needed. In what may seem ironic now, Rohit pointed out other teams' ability to finish games from similar positions as the need to beef up the lower order. Axar seemed in. It was a defensive move as far as the bowling combination went.

**Ironically, two injuries - one before the tournament and the other during it - would change the landscape. Axar's thigh and Pandya's ankle.**

That theme was most accentuated by the preference of Shardul Thakur over Mohammad Shami. Conservatism seemed the mood of the management. A sense of apprehension about what could go wrong, and the need to fill those holes was in the air. Dravid and Rohit seemed to have made peace about Ashwin's exclusion from the original squad, coming to terms with Shami's absence from the playing XI.

The main man for holding the team balance, bridging the top and middle order was Hardik Pandya. Then the Asia Cup happened. Not just Iyer, but KL Rahul stormed in and that meant Ishan Kishan, who could be a hit-and-miss in terms of effectiveness at this stage in his career, could be slid to the rear end of the squad.

Ironically, two injuries - one before the tournament and the other during it - would change the landscape. Axar's thigh and Pandya's ankle have played their part, especially the latter. Axar's misfortune gave the management time to rethink and though he was in recovery mode, Ashwin was in. Pandya's made them rearrange the furniture and bring in Shami for Thakur. Suddenly, fangs grew.

Importantly, Rohit had firmed up his own personal batting plan. Cameos generally change the nature of one game; his have

transformed the batting unit, infusing purpose, and intent in his team-mates and shock-and-awe in opponents. The impact has been stunning and reflected in Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, and Rahul not tinkering with their natural games.

### Unstoppable juggernaut

In the years to come, when this incomparable Indian world cup campaign is rightly feted and mythologised, especially if they go on to win the final, all this might be forgotten. It would seem as if this was always an unstoppable juggernaut of a team that swooped in to conquer.

The fans have been packing the stadiums across the country to celebrate; Indian wins were already normalised halfway through the tournament. It has all felt like one big party. Even the opposition has left arenas, dazed and in awe. A couple of days before the final, the ever-competitive Steve Smith would say "I don't know" when asked how to stop the Indians in the final. They will for sure come hard in the final, as they did to the South Africans in the first hour of their semi-final when the Aussies seemed to materialise everywhere on the field. But never before in the history of World Cup finals, at least after the 1975 inaugural edition, have Australia been the underdogs; they will be here for the first time.

Only for a brief while, in the semi-final against New Zealand, during a partnership between Kane Williamson and Daryl Mitchell, did India encounter something they never experienced in this World Cup: silence from the home crowd. 'It Takes One Day' is the slogan of the World Cup. Now just one big day remains. What will it bring? Silence or surging joy to the fans?

### ALL ROADS LEAD TO...

### As fares skyrocket, railways announce special train from Mumbai to Ahmedabad

Ahmedabad: Central Railway has announced that it will run a Cricket World Cup special train for fans who will be travelling from Mumbai to Ahmedabad to watch the final of the Cricket World Cup.

The World Cup final will be played between hosts India and Australia at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Sunday.

With India reaching the final of the World Cup and the venue having a capacity of over 1,30,000 seats, many fans are expected to travel from different cities to Ahmedabad. This has driven up prices of hotel rooms and airfares exponentially.

Providing details of the World Cup special trains, the Central Railway said: "Train no 01153 CSMT- Ahmedabad special express will leave CSMT at 22.30 hrs on 18.11.2023 (Saturday) and will arrive Ahmedabad at 06.40 hrs next day (Sunday).

"Train no 01154 Ahmedabad - CSMT special express will leave Ahmedabad at 01.45 hrs on 20.11.2023 (midnight of Sunday/Monday) and will arrive CSMT at 10.35 hrs same day (Monday)."

A press release also said that the train will start from Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus and will halt at Dadar, Thane, Vasai Road, Surat and Vadodara before reaching Ahmedabad. The train will have one AC-First Class, three AC-2 Tier and 11 AC-3 Tier coaches.

### Officials for final

Richard Illingworth and Richard Kettleborough will be the on-field umpires while Andy Pycroft will be the match umpire. Meanwhile, Joel Wilson and Chris Gaffaney will be the third and fourth umpires respectively.

India and Australia had met previously in their World Cup opener in Chepauk where the hosts defeated the 5-time world champions by 6 wickets.

The final at the Narendra Modi Stadium will be a glittering affair with the Surya Kiran aerobic team of the Indian Air Force performing an air show ahead of the match. According to reports, hotel room tariff in Ahmedabad and airfares to the city have skyrocketed in view of the soaring demand. As the fever for the World Cup final reaches its peak, hotel room tariffs for the night of the match have gone up as high as Rs 2 lakh in top five-star hotels in the city, while other hotels have also increased their rates by five to seven times. ENS



Art school students paint profiles of India and Australia cricketers in Mumbai on Friday. PTI

### HIGH STAKES GAME

# Then and now: Of the sinking dread in 2003 and the searing belief in 2023

VINAYAKK MOHANARANGAN  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 17

WHAT DO you remember the most as a sports fan? The highest of highs top the list. The day your team won a World Cup, the week when your favourite athlete triumphed at the Olympics, the moment your childhood hero scaled a peak that was previously thought unachievable. Those always stay with you.

But so do moments of heartbreak. Devastating defeats that stab harder or fester like an open wound. Snatches of losses that surface in the mind quite unannounced forcing you to gulp the sorrow down in a crowd. That inevitable drubbing by the arch rival that haunts recesses of memory needing an elaborate overwrite.

The day your team fell agonisingly short of a major achievement, those seconds when your favourite athlete walked past a trophy with longing eyes, the moment your childhood hero announced a retirement that you didn't see coming.

For many growing up in the 90s following the Indian cricket team, March 23, 2003 would most definitely hurt like a raw scab. It is a day that started with hope, however misplaced it might have been, but ended in a wave of disappointment. Tears were shed. For many in their teens, it might well have

been the first true heartbreak. Defeat would have been palatable but the manner of it was hard to digest.

For this writer, who tuned into watch the final after a month of juggling between board examination tension and enjoying moments of India's run to the final sneakily, that night was traumatic. It was a defeat that opened the floodgates like never before.

Fast forward 20 years and here we are again. It's India vs Australia once more in the final of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.

### Zaheer's first over

The moment Australia completed their win against South Africa at Eden Gardens, recollections about that day in 2003 were unavoidable.

About the dread we felt when Zaheer Khan bowled that bizarre first over after Sourav Ganguly opted to field. About the intimidation that followed when Ricky Ponting went berserk (and the spring theories about his bat that would soon follow).

About the leg before decision that wasn't given when Dinesh Mongia seemed to have got a breakthrough against Ponting (Ever wonder what DRS would have to say about that?).

About the sudden rush of adrenaline we felt when Sachin Tendulkar hit a four off Glenn McGrath in the first over. Dare we hope? Dare we dream?



Australia celebrate the 2003 win; Tendulkar after miscuing McGrath. Reuters/File



About the collective sinking of hearts around the country when he mishit one and McGrath dismissed him immediately after. About the glimmer of hope Virender Sehwag's knock and the possibility of rain

provided. And, ultimately, about the moment Darren Lehmann caught Zaheer Khan and the thrashing was complete at the hands of that era's most dominant cricket team.

Damn, those Aussies were annoyingly good weren't they?

### The hope of 2023

Now, here we are in 2023. Ahead of Rohit Sharma and Co's date with destiny, the dread of that Johannesburg heartbreak perhaps still remains for many. 2011 World Cup was grand, but a crack at Australia in the finals is the real redemption arc for a nation that came to dread yellow. And, in only the second title clash between these two multiple champions of the tournament, the tables might just have turned.

Back in 2003, India stumbled at the start of the tournament, losing their second match against Australia after batting first and posting a low score. Now, Australia started off their campaign with two defeats, one of them while posting a low score while batting first against India.

Back in 2003, Australia were the undoubted team to beat and it was no surprise to see them in the final. Now, the five-time champions have had to overcome a fair few hurdles and could have easily lost their way earlier if not for a few heists.

Back in 2003, sure, India had three good pacers who stood up during the tournament but Australia had the new-ball attack that was the envy of the world in Glenn McGrath and Brett Lee. Now, how many teams would give anything to have the combined quality

of Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami and Mohammed Siraj?

And finally, back in 2003, India managed to turn their tournament around to make it to the final on the back of eight straight wins while Australia entered the final on the back of being unbeaten throughout - on a 10-match win streak. Now, India have bulldozed their way to the summit clash in Ahmedabad with 10 wins on the trot, while Australia have put together a 8-match win streak after losing their first two games.

Come Sunday, there is no guarantee that the result will be different. Those who lived through that March day 20 years back, will always carry the trauma Ponting and Co inflicted on impressionable minds. Deep down, they will still carry some amount of anxiety left over from that defeat. They will have smiled knowingly when this Australian team was doubted by some at an ODI World Cup of all events. They always turn it up at this event, don't they?

But a new generation of Indian fans will start the day with more than just hope. They will believe they are backing the best side in the tournament by some distance. They will trust in Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli's batting form, shored up by a strong support cast. They will bustle with anticipation about the Indian bowling attack's collective strength. They will know that this Australian side is beatable. Belief, is a good thing. Maybe the best of things.

# Final likely to be played on same slow pitch as Indo-Pak game

DEVENDRA PANDEY  
AHMEDABAD, NOVEMBER 17

THE INDIAN team will continue the trend to play on slow pitches as it is learnt that the final of the World Cup at Narendra Modi Stadium this Sunday is going to be played on the same pitch as the India vs Pakistan game last month.

The pitch will be sluggish where the ball after pitching will take its time to reach the batsman's bat. It is also likely to bounce or jump less off the surface.

Indian team captain Rohit Sharma and coach Rahul Dravid inspected the pitch in detail during the optional training session at the stadium on Friday.

Black soil pitches generally tend to be slow in nature. During the India vs

Pakistan game that took place on October 15, the visitors' batting line-up was bundled out for 191 batting first, and India had registered a convincing seven-wicket win in their second round-robin match.

It is learnt that the final pitch for the encounter between India and Australia is expected to be on similar lines where spinners might hold an edge.

While Indians have the lethal duo of Ravindra Jadeja and Kuldeep Yadav, the Australians have in their ranks Adam Zampa, with the likes of Glenn Maxwell and Travis Head capable of being a handful.

Head was brought in by Pat Cummins and struck crucial blows in the second semifinal against South Africa which was also played on a slowish pitch where 212 became a tricky target with Australia los-



Rohit Sharma observes the deck in Ahmedabad on Friday. Nirmal Harindran

**The pitch will be sluggish where the ball after pitching will take its time to reach the batsman's bat. It is also likely to bounce or jump less off the surface.**

ing seven wickets.

The Australian team boasts of a decent pace attack with Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc forming a competent fast bowling unit. However, the Indian team has the best pace bowling line-up in the recent past. Mohammed Shami has been on a roll claiming a staggering 7 wickets in their semifinal against New Zealand along with Jasprit Bumrah and

Mohammed Siraj who have bowled fearsome spells.

Pitches have taken centre stage and attracted attention since India played their semis in the Wankhede Stadium on Wednesday where New Zealand were beaten by 70 runs, chasing a 390+ total.

The BCCI has been accused of switching pitches and this paper had earlier reported how the team management asked curators to shave grass off the pitch and make a slow track at the Wankhede Stadium.

The Indian team has tried to use home conditions, and this controversy aside they have had a tremendous run this World Cup. As such, the Indian stupendous show has been surface-agnostic, and they remain unbeaten after playing at nine different venues.

# Shreyas Iyer 2.023

Abhishek Nayar and Pravin Amre, two old Mumbai faithfuls, helped isolate the technical and mental issues plaguing the India No. 4's game

DEVENDRA PANDEY & SRIRAM VEERA  
AHMEDABAD, NOVEMBER 17

ON THE day the Indian team reached Mumbai ahead of the league game against Sri Lanka, former Mumbai all-rounder-turned-coach Abhishek Nayar received a phone call from Shreyas Iyer.

Next morning, Pravin Amre texted Iyer that he is coming down to Wankhede stadium to be there. The two Mumbai old hands, with whom Iyer has worked at various phases, were swooping in to offer some emotional cover in vulnerable times.

When the number flashed on the screen, Nayar knew it was a distress call from India's current No.4.

"I usually get calls from him during the off season. But this was in the middle of the World Cup. So I knew it was an SOS call, which comes only when he is under pressure," Nayar told *The Indian Express*.

Amre says he sensed that Iyer must be "feeling hunted down".

Nayar, 40, and Iyer, 28, are from different generations of Mumbai cricket but the senior has known the junior for many years. Nayar does not want to reveal too much but says the problem was both technical and mental.

"He was obviously feeling low. Before the Sri Lanka game he was a little confused. I spoke to him about how he can go after specific bowlers tactically," Nayar said.

Before the game against the Islanders in Mumbai, Iyer had made 134 runs in six games with one half-century. Post his talk with Nayar, Iyer scored 392 runs in four games, including two hundreds — the second a valuable 105 in just 70 balls against New Zealand in the semifinal.

Iyer missed nearly eight months of cricket because of a back injury but the Indian team management had placed faith in him to come good during the World Cup.

It's in this vital period that Amre and Nayar had worked at various points with Iyer. Amre says he worked on the bat-lift and downward swing, that has seen some wondrous aerial hits to seamers and spin, to allow Iyer to hit over the off-side as well.

Amre also had an eye-specialist to determine which was the Iyer's more dominant eye, and opened his stance further to ensure



Abhishek Nayar (L) with Shreyas Iyer. X

NUMBER PLATE  
**113.11**

Across his 10 innings at this World Cup, Shreyas Iyer has a strike rate of 113.11, the second-highest of any Indian (minimum 100 balls faced), behind Rohit Sharma. It is the eighth-highest for any batsmen in the tournament.

he sees the ball with both eyes.

Nayar would work on making Iyer's base stronger, by making his feet spread wider to help him generate more power.

"Base is basically the space between the two legs once you take guard. In cricketing sense, if a batsman's legs are close to each other then the batsman can't have a strong base. They can't generate power. If the space is more than the batsman can generate force, he can rotate shoulder and hip during pull shot," Nayar explained.

Amre's work had begun at BKC indoor nets during that rehab period.

"Perhaps because of the injury, his bat was closing at the point of impact. He was dragging the balls to the on side. The challenge was his shoulder as the muscles hadn't completely healed and he couldn't finish the shot," Amre tells this newspaper.

Amre says when he saw Iyer smash South Africa's Marco Jansen over mid-off — a shot that had Virat Kohli applauding from the

non-striker's end, a smile came on his face. And a small rewind to those Bandra days.

"Our first small goal then was to clear mid-off. Not necessarily long-off, to the pacers. The bat-lift and the downward bat-swing had to be tweaked. I know him from when he was very young; so the trust factor was always there. I suggested that it can be done without changing his bat-grip. He has a special way of holding the bat, you can see the bat tips from both top and bottom. The top hand had to be a bit more dominant for the off-side flow to come through to help in the downward swing.

"The bat-flow is the key to his smooth hitting. Some batsmen punch, some drive; he has a lovely smooth movement. It has to be one fluent movement; the way the bat is lifted up, it has to come down. Both have to be smooth and feel like one single movement. Once he hit a few shots over mid-off, he was convinced. But I would say because of the injury, it still took us two weeks to fix that properly," Amre says.

Also, Amre made Iyer open his stance a wee bit so his right eye was also more aligned with the path of the ball.

"In batting, the eye is the key; 80% of the job is done by vision and hand coordination. I wanted him to open up a bit more, so that he can now see the ball with two eyes and be more stable in stance, as a result," Amre says.

Meanwhile, Nayar was strengthening Iyer's base in stance. "Earlier, Iyer's leg was 'saath-saath' (together) while facing the bowler. When he tried to rotate his shoulder, his leg would get locked. Now because of the space, he can rotate his shoulder and because of that he can generate force and is hitting the ball well," Nayar said.

## Backing from management

The Australia series before the World Cup was when there was talk if Iyer, still on the comeback trail from injury, would be upto the task. The backing he got from coach Rahul Dravid and captain Rohit Sharma made a world of a difference to his confidence, says Nayar.

"When the Australia series started many people began to say that Iyer has a short ball issue. They asked: Can he bat at No. 4? It was a bit of a mental battle, he had just returned from injury and didn't have enough game time under his belt. With the World Cup around the corner, there were a lot of things running through his mind. But the support he got from the Indian team management especially Dravid and Rohit really gave him the confidence he needed." It's a sentiment that Amre wholly concurs. "Full credit to Rohit and Rahul, else it could have got tricky."

Iyer has spoken in the past about how he tries to have no superstitions in terms of cricket. Except his bats. But it's how he described his bat that tells a story of its own. "The bat is like a sword, a weapon. I even interact with it now and then." And he is busy brandishing his weapon at the highest stage of them all.



Shreyas Iyer is averaging 75.14 across his 10 innings at this World Cup.

## SHORT TAKES

### PCB starts clearing dues after contract issue resolved

The Pakistan Cricket Board has started clearing the dues of national team players, which were held up for the last few months because of issues relating to new central contracts. A PCB official confirmed that majority of the players offered new contracts had signed the document and their dues had been cleared dating back to June. "A few who have not signed as yet will do so in the next two days and their dues will also be cleared swiftly," he said. While the old central contracts expired in June, the new contracts list was not announced until late September because of differences between the players and the cricket board. The team then left for India to play in the World Cup. Eventually, the board gave in and announced big hikes in the monthly retainerhip of players and also confirmed they would get a three per cent share annually from the ICC revenue the board gets on a yearly basis.

### Fitting for India to win, but won't watch: Walter

A disappointed South Africa coach Rob Walter will not watch the World Cup final after his team once again failed to make the cut, but said it would be "fitting" for the tournament's "best" team, India to win the coveted trophy on Sunday. India have been invincible in the ongoing showpiece, storming into the World Cup final on the back of 10 consecutive wins. The hosts will take on record five-time champions Australia in the summit clash in Ahmedabad. "To be honest, there's one per cent chance I'll be watching (final). And to be even more brutally honest, I actually don't care," Walter said after South Africa's bitter three-wicket loss to Australia in the second semifinal here on Thursday. Walter, however, was quick to add that it would be fitting for India to lift the trophy at home. "But obviously, because of the World Cup being in India, it's always great for the home nation to win the World Cup," he said. "I've got a lot of friends in the Australian change room, so I probably have a soft spot for a couple of them, especially the coach. "But just seeing the support when we last played here against India and the way the fans rallied around the team, and the great hope and inspiration of winning a World Cup at home, I think it would only be fitting for India to win."

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

## AFTERMATH OF LOSS

# First full-time black captain Bavuma's significance goes beyond runs

RAHUL PANDEY  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 17

SOUTH AFRICA had just lost another World Cup semifinal. David Miller was frustrated. He had been here before - in 2015. "The tears were a lot more in Auckland," he'd distinguish. The word 'chokers' was thrown around once again in Kolkata on Thursday but South Africa's centurion didn't believe it was an apt description of his side's most recent elimination.

All said and done though, it was another scarring exit for the Proteas. And standing in the middle of the fire was their captain Temba Bavuma.

Did the Proteas really need him in the playing XI? He scored a mere 145 runs from nine innings, averaging a dismal 18.12 as an opener at this World Cup. Reeza Hendricks hasn't done much wrong to be on the bench. As far as captaincy goes, long-time prospect Aiden Markram managed to hold fort in Bavuma's absence.

Miller sprung to the captain's defence. "Unfortunately, he didn't get runs. But to have

a leader like him is always important. He did a great job."

Miller isn't the only one. Despite being put under the scanner in his recent outings, Bavuma still has the backing from many in South Africa. Like his former coach Geoffrey Toyana, who may have some of the answers one is looking for. But first, a flashback.

Not that long ago, South Africa's leading run scorer at this World Cup, Quinton de Kock's place in the dressing room was up for debate after he made himself unavailable for selection, refusing to take a knee with his teammates to show solidarity with the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement during the 2021 T20 World Cup; a decision that risked his place in the squad, his relationship with teammates, or so it seemed.

"It was a big issue in South Africa at the time. People were not sure what was happening. We had farmer killings here in South Africa as well. When the BLM came around, there were people who responded to it with 'all lives matter', not knowing why that phrase was conjured up, and why that was important. There was no clarity from Cricket South Africa as well," recalls Toyana, who's



Bavuma doused the fire after de Kock refused to take the knee in support of the BLM movement in 2021. Reuters

also coached de Kock.

Then came Bavuma's warm words at the press conference where he stood for his wicketkeeper-batsman not taking a knee. "Quinton is still one of the players. He's still one of the boys, so whatever support that he needs, whatever support that he requires from his teammates, we'll be there for him."

It's one of the incidents Toyana cites to make a case for the Proteas skipper.

He mounts a defence of Bavuma the batsman as well. "If we talk about his batting, he's put in the runs." Since the 2019 World Cup, Bavuma is among a group of six batsmen who've scored over 1,300 ODI runs and averaged above 43. "This World Cup, he's struggled with injury as well. So you've to take that into account as well."

## More than a cricketer

As a captain, his former coach firmly believes that Bavuma is among the best in the world. Most of his on-field calls back that assessment and Toyana puts it down to Bavuma's personality. "He's the kind the players want to turn up for. Short in stature, but strong in character."

Listen to this. "Since his early cricketing days, we've given him the nickname Sachin. The thing that put him apart even when he wasn't a captain is what you saw of him when he spoke. The people want to listen to what he has to say. It's a strong trait to have as a leader.

"Yeah, he's been under pressure. He's been through tough times, people talking around the corners of social media. But we believe in him. His name says a lot as well. Temba is a Xhosa name, meaning hope. It's fitting. We're hoping he'll do something special for us. Things like that tend to get the people of South Africa together. When somebody like that does something special, the whole country tends to get around him."

Toyana can't help but draw parallels with the Springboks' Siya Kolisi, the black captain who's led South Africa to consecutive Rugby World Cup wins, someone who Bavuma has openly described as his role model. While it's no secret that the two sports and the two captains have enjoyed vastly contrasting fates at world events, the importance of South Africa's first black full-time captain can't be denied owing to the complex socio-

political realities in the region that also reflect in sport. Remember the CSA hearings and the systematic racial flaws it had unleashed not that long ago?

Toyana recalls his own childhood, growing up in the Apartheid era, when his father used to play cricket for the Black XI in the 60s. "The importance of cricket wasn't that much back then. We were segregated. The black people weren't allowed to watch a game. I remember how things changed after unity, when we first took a bus from Soweto to watch South Africa play at the Wanderers, when people started to accept one another as people.

"Yes, there's still a gap between blacks and whites. It still happens. Where the black people are, the townships have no facilities. There's a gap... but we try to fill that. To make sure, we take our kids off the streets and take them to play sports. Any sport: Rugby, football or cricket."

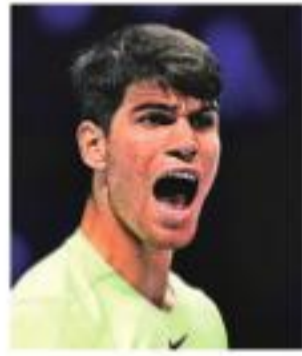
To his former coach, the boy named hope is a sign of things changing in South Africa's cricket landscape. Who knows, maybe even a World Cup win? "We're going to win it in 2027, there's no doubt about that."

# Alcaraz sets up semis clash vs Djokovic

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
TURIN, NOVEMBER 17

CARLOS ALCARAZ leaned back, looked up and yelled in celebration. The Spaniard had just secured a spot in the semifinals of the ATP Finals in his tournament debut, setting up a match against top-ranked Novak Djokovic. "Vamos, vamos," Spanish for "Come on, come on," Alcaraz shouted as he clenched his fists after beating Daniil Medvedev 6-4, 6-4 on Friday.

It's one of the most difficult challenges that I'm going to face, facing Novak in the ATP Finals, where he has won six times," Alcaraz said. "Novak is Novak. He is the best player in the world right now. He's lost just six matches this year, he's unbelievable."



Alcaraz and Djokovic have played each other four times and won two each. Djokovic won their most recent encounter in the final in Cincinnati in August, while Alcaraz beat the Serb in the Wimbledon final.

"I'm going to play my best tennis and enjoy it the same way I did the past few matches," Alcaraz said. "I'm excited to face Novak." The 20-year-old Alcaraz is the youngest ATP Finals semifinalist since Rafael Nadal in 2006.

But Alcaraz, who missed last year's tournament because of an abdominal injury, got off to a shaky start at the season-ending event for the year's top eight players. He lost his opening match to two-time champion Alexander Zverev before getting back on track with a straight-set win over Andrey Rublev.

That left him needing to beat Medvedev, who had already qualified for the semifinals, to advance. The Russian didn't make it easy.

Medvedev had two break points in the fourth game but

Alcaraz came out on top of a 33-shot rally and then produced another big serve before going on to hold. In the seventh game, Alcaraz broke Medvedev to love for the lead. He then held three set points but needed only one to take the opener with a powerful, cross-court backhand. After wasting two break points in the third game of the second set, Alcaraz got the decisive break when Medvedev double-faulted to allow the Spaniard to serve for the match. "This match was really, really tough... but everything I did before this match I did almost perfectly so I'm really happy," Alcaraz said.

With Alcaraz advancing, the top four players in the world have qualified for the semifinals. Medvedev will face Jannik Sinner in the final group match later Friday. Zverev will play Rublev. Neither player can advance.

## Sinner helps Djokovic

Jannik Sinner is setting new standards match after match at the ATP Finals.

The home crowd favorite from Italy registered a first career win over Holger Rune, 6-2, 5-7, 6-4 on Thursday, two days after beating Novak Djokovic for the first time.

Sinner, who had already secured his place in the semifinals at the season-ending event for the year's top eight players, went one step further and finished first in his group with a perfect 3-0 record. "I bounced back in the third set just like I did against Nole," Sinner said. "This victory means a lot, coming back after such a big match with so many emotions. But I was still able to win the big points."

Sinner's victory also enabled Djokovic to advance in second position in the group, following the 24-time Grand Slam champion's 7-6(1), 4-6, 6-1 win over alternate Hubert Hurkacz.

# Paris quest takes Sindhu to Padukone

Shuttler's bid for Paris Olympics glory will be moulded in the veteran coach's academy in Bangalore

SHIVANI NAIK  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 17

INDIA'S SUPERLATIVE shuttler PV Sindhu is looking to make Bangalore an extended training base under Prakash Padukone at his academy in the run-up to the Paris Olympics.

"I'll be training in Bangalore with the whole set-up of support system - physio and trainer. Everybody needs to be together in one place and whenever time permits, I'll be going and training in Bangalore," she told *The Indian Express*.

Shot selection, variations, and bringing accuracy to her attack are on the agenda. A double Olympic and five-time Worlds medallist who became World champion in 2019, Sindhu had struggled with injury and loss of form since last August. But she has shown small signs of resurgence in the European swing. For now, she is stepping off the tournament treadmill with a left knee niggle.

Padukone reckons he could guide Sindhu and bring her ambitions back on track, and the target is clear. "Long-term goal is the Olympic gold. Nothing less than that. Along the way try to win the All-England title as well since I believe it is one of the toughest tournaments on the circuit," Padukone, himself a 1980 champ of the event, told this newspaper.

The Bangalore-based legend who runs a state-of-the-art academy in the city's outskirts stressed that their focus will be on improving her speed, strength, and endurance, so she can return to her attacking style of play. "We have to work on her physical parameters to make her fit which in turn will allow her to play the attacking game which suits her best. There is a lot of scope to get mentally even stronger. My take is that whenever you are physically strong and you know that you have pre-



PV Sindhu had lapsed into a defensive style of play, but coach Prakash Padukone is helping her revive the sting in her offense.

pared well for an event, automatically you become mentally strong," Padukone added.

Sindhu's on-court tactics had stagnated and she had lapsed into a defensive style of play, but Padukone is helping her revive the sting in her offense. "I attack a lot so the strategy he's helping me with, plays a major role in this. Opponents wouldn't allow me to attack. But it's important that you have to also grab that opportunity to take that attack on your side," Sindhu explained.

Padukone, who is helping her improve her set-up shots before the smash kill, was keen she take to the competitive court with clear goals. "She has to try to win every tournament she plays. My

mantra is if you are not confident of winning a tournament, then don't play that tournament," he added.

Sindhu, who has currently opted for a protected rank of No 10, is nursing a sore left knee. "Definitely not anything major. But need a few weeks of rest and then I'll start my rehab. Because the ultimate aim is the Olympics. But before that, my motto is to come back completely 100% fit. Not 50% coming back and playing," she said.

The move to work with Padukone came about two weeks prior to the Asian Games when she travelled from the Suchitra Academy in Hyderabad where she trains, after the senior

coach and playing legend invited her over. "Initially I was a bit concerned when I read in the papers that she was mentally tired and that was affecting her performance, so I reached out to her and asked if I could try to help her. This was during the US Open in August. Before that, I did not know her at all other than meeting at the odd event. She was more than happy to take my help. That is how the whole thing started," he said.

The duo started talking on the phone on a daily basis. "But there was only so much I could do because I had no idea about her training schedule and also because she was in the midst of tournaments. During that time,

it was just to give her confidence and more of a pep talk. We really started working on the court just before the Asiad," he said.

## Untangling the mess

Padukone helped her untangle the tactical mire she was caught in which reflected in her tentativeness on court. "She was a bit confused about the strategy to adopt as she had changed coaches after the departure of Park Tae-sang and each one of them had advised her different things. So, my first job was to make her understand what strategy and tactics to adopt while playing different opponents," he said.

Recalling the early interactions and how it started showing in the game, Sindhu said, "More than everything is the confidence. Also, mentally, and physically I've been fit enough. Discussed a few things with Prakash Sir. He's such an experienced person, such a legend. He himself has done really well for the country. So he gave me his input."

Stressing that there was nothing wrong in learning from the experts, Sindhu said she felt rejuvenated. "We just used to talk about changes to the support system and everything around. On court, it just depends on that particular point or rally where I'm playing something and he used to say you should have played another way. These are a few tweaks. That itself made a major difference," she added.

Sindhu was satisfied with the progress. "In just 6 weeks, I've come from World No 17 to top 10 and that's a big margin of improvement. I'm back to the top level where I used to play," she added. The Bangalore stint also helped her rediscover her rhythm, Sindhu said, adding that the effort was collaborative rather than the coach merely instructing. "Definitely got a lot of inputs for matches against

Supanida [Katethong], [Gregoria] Tjuning and [Carolina] Marin. I also had to mentally be there. Sometimes you are not fit enough. It's important that rhythm and everything comes together. That's why majorly training sessions were good. And Prakash sir told me a few things strategy-wise. As a mentor, he would also see what I'm trying to say. When I ask Prakash sir for inputs, even I should know what he's trying to tell me. It needs to be from both sides. That's when it works out. It shouldn't be just from one side."

Padukone stressed that Sindhu made for an eager ward. "One of her biggest strengths is her willingness to take suggestions from others despite achieving so much success at the international level. Not many top sportspersons have this quality. Most of them feel they know everything. Because of this attitude, it may not be tough for the team to keep Sindhu's motivation level high," he said.

The approach will be multi-pronged as plenty of work has to go in before she can regain her earlier aura and dominance where opponents were wary of playing her strapping game. "She has most of the strokes but the focus is on using the right strokes at the right time.

"If you have all the strokes but don't use them at the right time, it is of no use. We are also focusing more on accuracy and making her strokes sharper. Thirdly to bring in a little more variation so that her game does not become predictable. All this will take time but it is a work in progress," Padukone added.

While she recovers from the knee issue, she's been catching up on cricket and the World Cup. "My favorite is definitely Virat. Because he's inspired not only me but millions of people. His aggression, his grit, his passion, and his dedication to the sport is another level," she ended.

# With family support, Tanvi finds blend between badminton and volleyball

NITIN SHARMA  
PANCHKULA, NOVEMBER 17

WITH HER mother and coach Meena Sharma being an international volleyball player, a young Tanvi Sharma would often accompany her to the volleyball and badminton courts at the DC Complex in Hoshiarpur, Punjab. While the Punjab youngster opted to play badminton, her mother took a coaching course in badminton and started coaching her, her elder sister, as well as other students at the complex.

On Friday, as the 14-year-old completed her 21-17, 21-19 win over Yashvi Bhat of Delhi in the women's singles first round match in the Yonex Sunrise 30th Smt Krishna Khaitan Memorial All India Junior Ranking Prize Money tournament being organised by Express Shuttle Club Trust at the Tau Devi Lal Sports Complex, the youngster was instantly reminded by her mother to have a cooling down session.

"My mother always tells me that badminton is just like volleyball - except that it's a team game. She often gives me examples from volleyball on how to create the angle as well placement of the volleyball in case of the shuttle. She took up coaching to train me and my elder sister and it's her encouragement that I am able to face the much older U-19 players and win," says Sharma while talking with *The Indian Express*.

The youngster would also watch her elder sister Radhika play badminton, and Radhika's selection for the Gopichand Academy in Hyderabad in 2016 meant that she too had to shift base to Hyderabad along with her mother.

While Sharma trained as a non-scholarship trainee, it also meant that Sharma's family spent a considerable part of their savings during the five-year stint at Hyderabad. "My husband is a government employee and we took the decision to take Tanvi, along with Radhika, to Hyderabad to train at the academy. Staying in such a big city is not easy and it took a lot of expenditure for us. I would observe and talk with Gopi sir and other coaches a lot and



Tanvi Sharma beat Yashvi 21-17, 21-19 on Friday. Jasbir Malhi

whatever I could grasp, I have been training Tanvi and Radhika and other kids at Hoshiarpur," says the mother.

## Prodigious talent

Last year, Sharma became the U-15 and U-17 national champion at Bhubaneswar apart from reaching the U-19 final where she lost to Devika Sihag. The youngster won two U-15 All India Junior ranking titles apart from reaching quarters in the India Junior Grand Prix and Kotak India Junior International the same year.

This year, the youngster has won the silver medal in Asian U15 Junior Championships in China, apart from winning the title in Kotak India International.

"At the four courts in Hoshiarpur, I often play much older boys and girls and it gives me confidence. Initially, I used to fear the U17 and U19 competitors but as I scored wins, the fear was gone. The Junior Nationals U19 final

against Devika didi made me learn a lot of things. The silver medal in Asian Junior Championships was perhaps the last of my U15 international medals and the aim is to win such medals at the U-17 and U-19 levels in the coming future," says Sharma.

The family has once again shifted back to Hoshiarpur in recent years but shall take the decision to shift Sharma back to Hyderabad once she completes her high school. "She understands she has to shift to make the transition from junior to senior a smooth one," says the mother.

As the ardent Akane Yagamuchi fan heads off court, she knows what she has to do to unwind from the tough day. "Whenever I am free, I often see Yagamuchi videos. I like her jump smashes and pushes. Between that, sometimes I watch Doremon and other Japanese cartoons to relax," laughs Sharma.

## DELHI POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT (GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI)  
5<sup>th</sup> FLOOR, ISBT BUILDING, KASHMERE GATE, DELHI 110006

[www.dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in](http://www.dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in)

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**Quality of air can be improved if we all work together!**

**\*Actions which we can do as per Air Quality Index (AQI)**

	CITIZEN CHARTER	HEALTH ADVISORY
<b>STAGE I</b>	<div style="background-color: white; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid black;"> <h2 style="margin: 0;">POOR</h2> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">AQI between 201-300</p> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid outdoor physical activities</li> </ul>
<b>STAGE II</b>	<div style="background-color: white; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid black;"> <h2 style="margin: 0;">VERY POOR</h2> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">AQI between 301-400</p> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid outdoor physical activities, especially during morning and late evening hours.</li> <li>Remain indoor and keep activity levels low#</li> </ul>
<b>STAGE III</b>	<div style="background-color: white; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid black;"> <h2 style="margin: 0;">SEVERE</h2> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">AQI between 401-450</p> </div>	<p style="margin: 0;"><b>HEALTH ADVISORY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid outdoor physical activities.</li> <li>Remain indoor and keep activity levels low#</li> </ul>
<b>STAGE IV</b>	<div style="background-color: white; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid black;"> <h2 style="margin: 0;">SEVERE+</h2> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">AQI &gt;450</p> </div>	<p style="margin: 0;"><b>HEALTH ADVISORY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children, elderly and those with respiratory, cardiovascular, cerebrovascular or other chronic diseases to avoid outdoor activities and stay indoors, as much as possible.</li> </ul>

**AQI can be seen at CPCB WEBSITE/SAMEER APP**

\* As per citizen charter of Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas.

# For vulnerable population - Children under 5 year age, old age groups, pregnant women, predisposed health conditions ie illness of respiratory, cardiovascular and cerebrovascular systems, outdoor working people

**Health advisory of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, GoI is available at [ncdc.mohfw.gov.in/cpcbqaqi.php](http://ncdc.mohfw.gov.in/cpcbqaqi.php)**

**Member Secretary**