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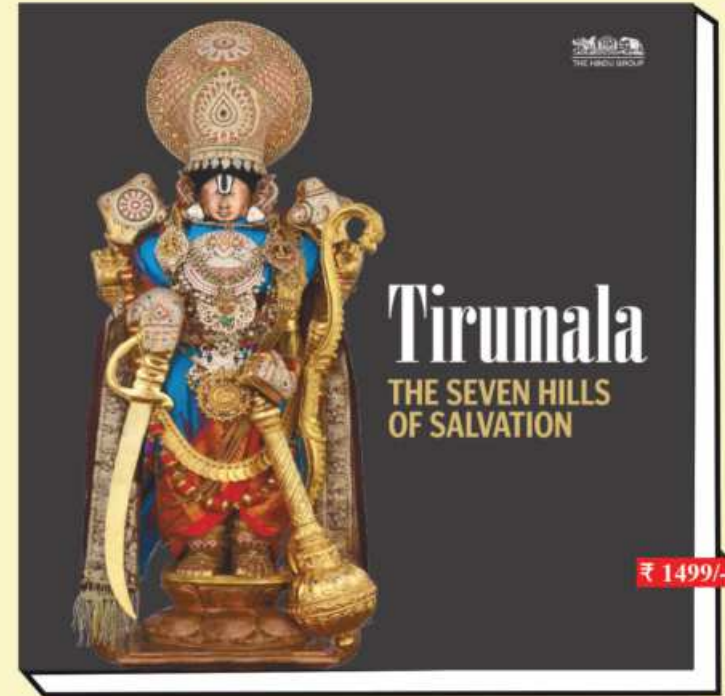
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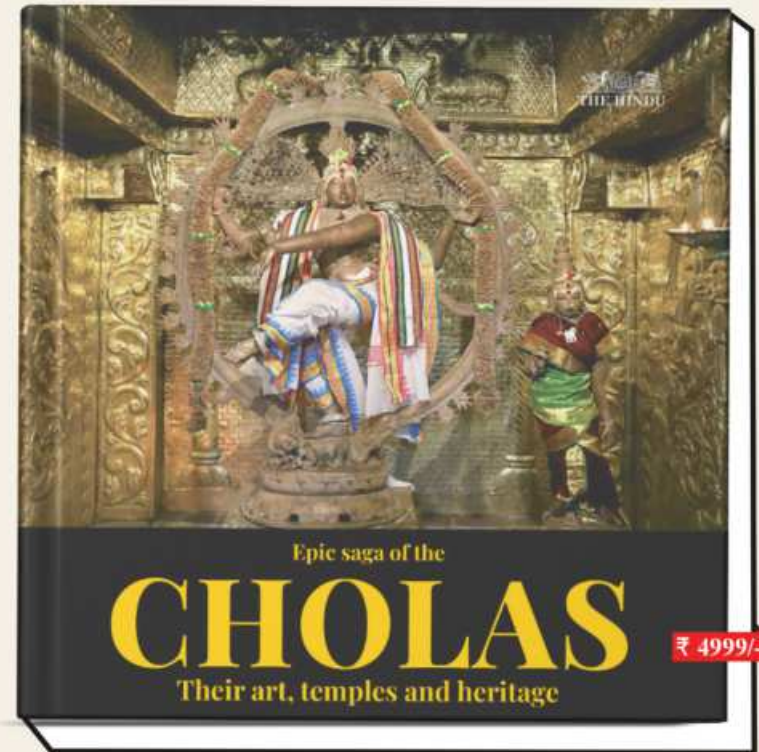


SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS FROM THE HINDU GROUP

“ **NEW ARRIVALS** ”



Tirumala- The Seven Hills of Salvation is a coffee-table book on the holy shrine of Lord Venkateswara in Tirumala. The book contains articles by well-known writers on Hindu religion and philosophy. The articles cover subjects such as Srinivasa Kalyanam, the significance of Amuktha Malyada written by Krishnadeva Raya on Lord Venkateswara, Sri Ramanuja's important role in establishing the rituals and customs in Tirumala, the story of Ananthalwan and on the importance of Vaikunta Ekadasi. This collector's edition also features rare pictures of Lord Venkateswara, Sri Padmavathi and Tirumala. Apart from the above, there will be articles on TTD and it's excellent work in running the Tirumala temple.

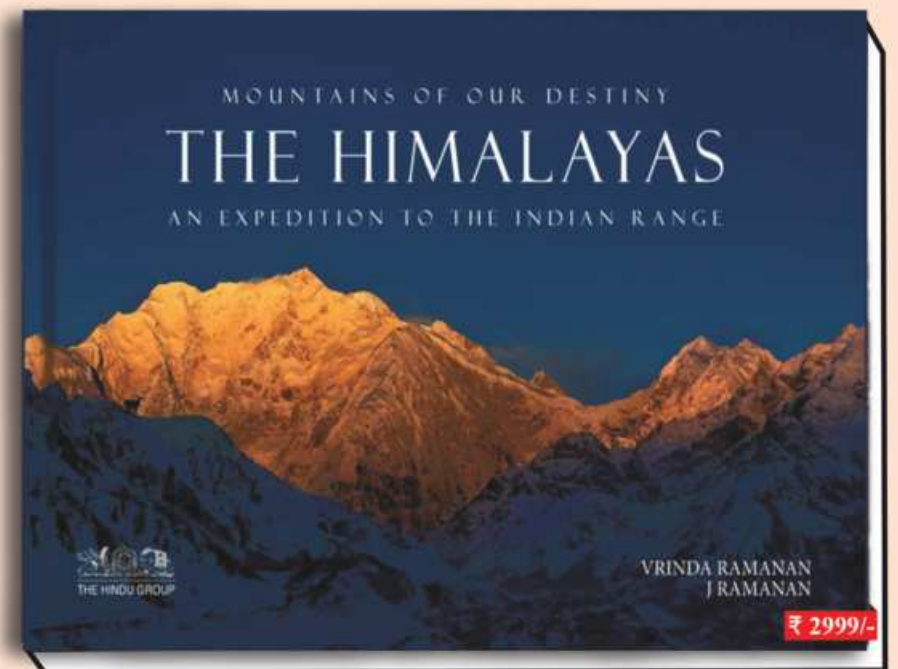


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Mountains of our Destiny - The Himalayas - An expedition to the Indian Range With 300 scintillating photographs (J. Ramanam) and flowing text (Vrinda Ramanam), 'Mountains of Our Destiny...' is a tribute to the Great Himalayan Range from The Hindu Group of Publications. A connoisseur's delight, the contents vouch for the authors' spirit of adventure and deep reverence for the wonders that lie in the snowy lap of the mountains.

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Governors cannot sit on Bills passed by House: SC

The real power vests with elected representatives of people in a parliamentary democracy, the Bench said as it settled the law in a writ petition filed by Punjab government against Governor

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday laid down that a Governor cannot sit on key Bills passed by a State Legislature after casting doubts on the validity of the Assembly session in which the proposed laws were passed with overwhelming majority by the elected representatives of the people.

The apex court settled the law in a writ petition filed by the Punjab government, represented by senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, complaining that Governor Banwarilal Purohit has held back crucial Bills on Sikh gurdwaras, the police and higher education passed in a special sitting of the Budget Ses-

Court's prescription

SC observed that Governor is "playing with fire" by holding back crucial Bills

- Governor cannot sit on Bills claiming the House passed them in an invalid session convened after adjourning sine die without prorogation
- Speaker is within jurisdiction in adjourning the House sine die
- Any attempt to cast doubt on the session of the Legislature is fraught with grave perils to democracy

The Governor, as an appointee of the President, is a titular head of the State

SUPREME COURT BENCH



sion of the Vidhan Sabha on June 19 and June 20.

Warning the Governor that "you are playing with fire", the court directed him to take a decision on the long-pending Bills presented to him for assent.

"Real power vests with the elected representatives

of the people in a parliamentary form of democracy. The Governor, as an appointee of the President, is a titular head of the State. The Governor acts on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers save in areas where the Constitution gives him discretion.

SC issues notice on T.N.'s petition against R.N. Ravi

NEW DELHI

A three-judge Bench on Friday issued formal notice to the Union of India through the Home Ministry to respond to the T.N. government's petition that Governor R.N. Ravi was acting in a manner which "defeats the rights of the people" of the State to welfare legislation. » PAGE 10

The power to take decisions affecting the governance of the State or the nation is essentially entrusted to the elected arm of the state," the court held.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

During talks with U.S., India bats for two-state solution to end Israel-Palestinian crisis

Dinakar Peri
Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

India reiterated the need for a two-state solution to end the current Israel-Palestinian crisis, during a ministerial meeting between India and the United States on Friday. The Foreign and Defence Ministers of both countries focused on the October 7 Hamas attack on Israel and called for the "immediate release" of those being held hostage in the Gaza Strip. There was no mention of a ceasefire; instead, India and the U.S. called for "humanitarian pauses" in the conflict.

Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra added that India had proposed the "two-state solution and early resumption of dia-



Antony Blinken meets S. Jaishankar ahead of the 5th India-U.S. 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue in New Delhi. ANI

logue" as a way forward in dealing with the crisis.

"Noting horrific terrorist attacks against Israel, the Ministers reiterated that India and the U.S. stand with Israel against terrorism and called for adherence to international humanitarian law, includ-

ing with regard to the protection of civilians. They called for the immediate release of all remaining hostages," read a joint statement issued after the '2+2' Ministerial meeting.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

IN BRIEF



Rain brings some respite; odd-even scheme deferred

NEW DELHI

With overnight rain improving Delhi's air quality, Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Friday said the government will defer the implementation of the odd-even scheme. » Page 3

Gehlot slams PM's 'terror' remarks against Congress

JAIPUR

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Friday took strong exception to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks that Congress was "sympathetic to terrorists". » Page 4

STUBBLE TROUBLE

Decoding the smog blanket of capital city

GROUND ZERO » PAGE 9

MODERNISING JURISPRUDENCE

Revamping the justice system to fit the bill

There needs to be more scrutiny of the new Bills

EDITORIAL » PAGE 8

India, U.S. in agreement on strategic issues, says Rajnath at bilateral meet


Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

India and the United States increasingly find themselves in agreement on strategic issues, including countering China's aggression, promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific, and addressing regional security challenges, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Friday in the opening remarks of his bilateral meeting with U.S. Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin. During the talks, there

was a particular focus on enhancing defence industrial cooperation and getting both sides to co-develop and co-produce defence systems, the Defence Ministry said.

Move welcomed
Mr. Austin welcomed India's decision to become a full member of the Combined Maritime Forces, a multilateral construct headquartered in Bahrain.


CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10



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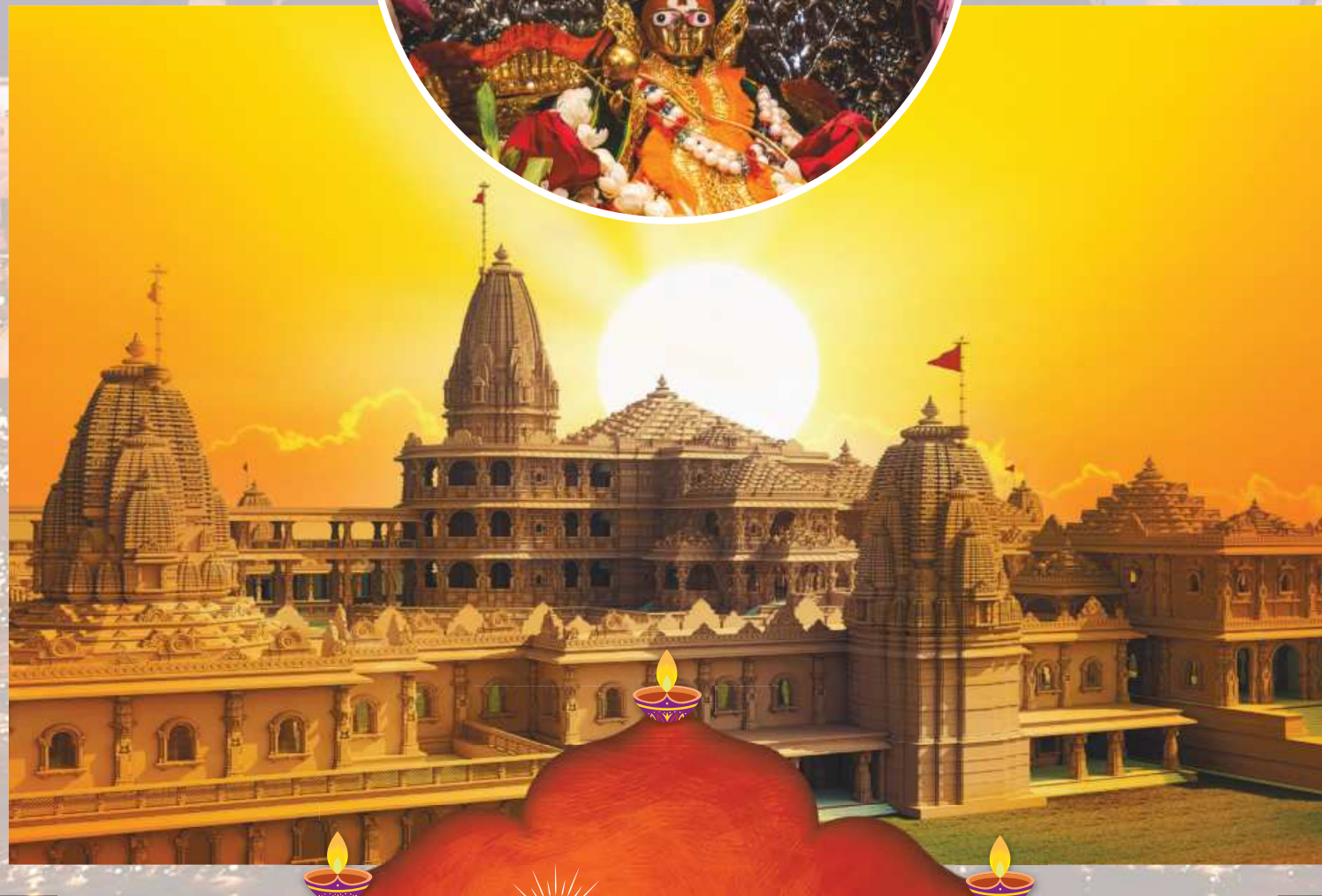
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2023



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- Release of a Coffee Table Book based on Deepotsav • Aarti of Saryu ji with Vedic Chanting • Ramayana based 3D Holographic Show, Projection Mapping and Laser Show
- Eco-friendly display of Musical & Digital Crackers • Staging of National/International Ramleela

Lighting of 21 Lakh Earthen Lamps on Ram Ki Paidi

Lighting of an additional 7 lakh Earthen Lamps in Ayodhya City

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Deputy Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

Brajesh Pathak
Deputy Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

Jayveer Singh
Minister, Tourism and Culture, Uttar Pradesh

— and other dignitaries —

Date : 11th November, 2023 | Time : 3:00 PM | Venue : Ayodhya

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Rain brings Capital some respite from hazardous air; odd-even scheme deferred

Govt. to take a call on the odd-even vehicle-rationing scheme after Deepavali, says Environment Minister Gopal Rai; DU announces an early winter break from November 13-19 due to pollution

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

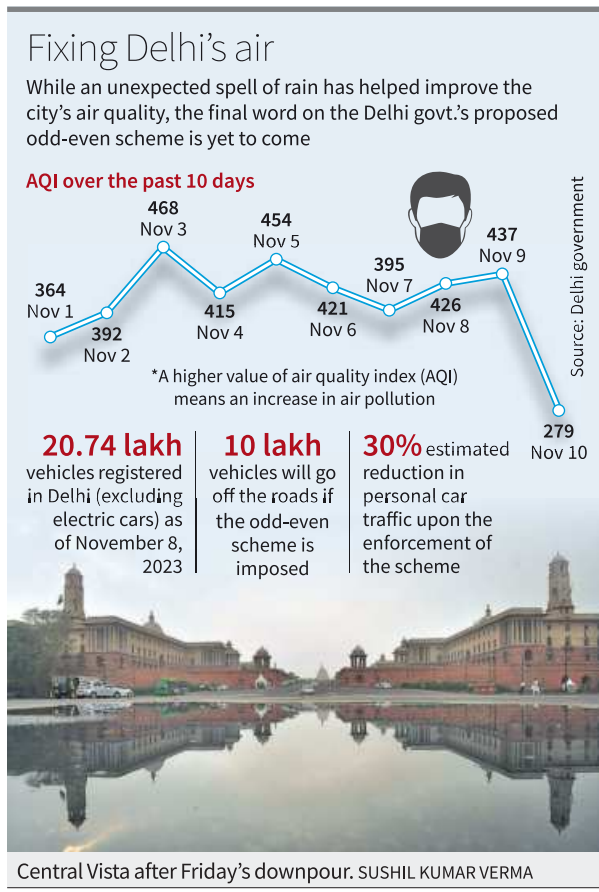
With overnight rain drastically improving the city's air quality, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Friday said the government has decided not to implement the odd-even vehicle rationing scheme after Deepavali, as announced on November 6.

The Capital has been breathing hazardous air for the past week. On November 5, the Delhi government ordered the closure of all primary schools and restricted the entry of trucks after the concentration of poisonous pollutant PM2.5 in the city was recorded at over 20 times the limit prescribed by the World Health Organization.

A day later, Mr. Rai said the government would implement the odd-even vehicle-rationing scheme in the city for a week starting from November 13.

On Tuesday, the Supreme Court questioned the effectiveness of the scheme aimed at curbing vehicular pollution and referred to it as "all optics".

Addressing a press conference on Friday, the Environment Minister said, "For the last 8-10 days, due to the stagnant air and decreasing temperature, pollution levels reached the 'severe plus' category. But



the downpour since last night has resulted in higher wind speeds and continuous improvement in the air quality."

"Considering this, the government has decided to delay the implementation of the odd-even scheme," Mr. Rai said.

Under the odd-even vehicle-rationing scheme, vehicles with registration numbers ending with even digits are allowed to run on

wrote to the Transport Ministers of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, requesting them to deploy additional teams that would redirect these vehicles to the Eastern and Western Peripheral Expressways," he said.

Meanwhile, Delhi University has announced a winter break from November 13-19 due to air pollution.

"In order to tide over the prevailing environmental pollution caused by the 'severe' category air quality and the implementation of GRAP-IV measures in Delhi, it has been decided to declare 13.11.2023 to 19.11.2023 as winter break for the university and its colleges," a notice dated November 9 read. However, all the examinations and interviews will be held without any change in schedule, it added.

Bad air may return
The Capital's air quality, recorded in the 'severe' category on Thursday, improved to 'poor' after the early morning rain on Friday. However, the air is expected to worsen after Deepavali on Monday, according to official data.

An AQI reading between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', 401 and 450 'severe', and 451 and 500 'severe plus'.

even dates and those with odd numbers are allowed to run on odd dates.

The Minister said the government will study the air pollution metrics after Deepavali, based on which it will decide how to go forward with the odd-even policy.

Mr. Rai also said that he had found polluting trucks and diesel buses from other States plying in the city. "In this regard, today I

HC asks police, institutes to prepare security plan during college festivals

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi police were directed by the High Court to meet with the representatives of Delhi University, Guru Gobind Singh IP University, and IIT Delhi to formulate a standard operating procedure (SOP) for making security arrangements during college festivals.

The court passed the direction on a case initiated by it following the incident at IIT Delhi on October 6, where several female DU students were secretly filmed while changing costumes.

"In this meeting, the SOP shall be put in place regarding the security measures during college festivals organised by the universities," the court said.

'Orders issued to pay wages to disengaged Assembly fellows'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Friday told the High Court that it has issued orders for payment of salaries to the disengaged Delhi Assembly Research Centre (DARC) fellows for the services already rendered by them.

The government counsel said the orders apply to all fellows who worked during the relevant period, including the 17 fellows who had moved the High Court after their services were terminated following an order by Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena.

The 17 DARC fellows had moved the court on November 2, seeking the reinstatement of their services and salaries for the period they had already served.

Order applies to all fellows who worked during the relevant period, government tells High Court

The court has listed the matter for further hearing on December 6.

On July 5 this year, the L-G ordered the termination of the services of over 400 "specialists" appointed by the Delhi government. Mr. Saxena's order affected the services of 50 fellows and 90 associate fellows.

He issued the order after Parliament passed the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023, which gave the Centre control over bureaucrats in the Delhi government.

Farmer arrested in Dwarka's Chhawla for burning stubble

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The police have arrested a farmer for allegedly burning stubble on his farmland in Dwarka's Chhawla, an

officer said on Friday.

The police learnt about the farmer, Om Prakash, burning stubble in the early hours of Thursday and a team from the Chhawla police station rushed to the

spot, he said. "By the time our staff reached the spot, the stubble was already burnt. A fire tender was called to douse the flames," the officer added. After questioning, Mr.

Prakash was booked under sections of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act and other legal provisions, and arrested. He later secured bail from the court, the police said.

THE HINDU
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GURUGRAM- Gymkhana club, Sector 29, (Near Hotel Crown Plaza)
PUNCHKUAN ROAD, Garwal Bhawan, (Near Jhandewalan, Gole Chkr.)
WAZIRPUR A-5, Near Richi Rich Banquet (Opp. Shalimar Bagh)
JANAKPURI B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543
NOIDA , Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing

Directorate General of Health Services
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Government of India
Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi- 110011

RECRUITMENT NOTICE FOR GROUP B & C POSTS IN THE INSTITUTES UNDER Dte. GHS

Dated 10/11/2023

No. A.12034/02/2023-PH(IH)

The various Institutes under the Directorate General of Health Services namely All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health (AIIPH) Kolkata, National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) Delhi, National Centre for Vector Borne Diseases Control (NCVBDC) Delhi, BCG Vaccine Laboratory (BCGVL) Chennai, Institute of Serology- Kolkata, Airport Health Organizations/Port Health Organizations/Land Border Quarantine Centres (APHOs/PHOs/LBQCs), National Medical Library (NML) New Delhi, All India Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (AIIPMR) Mumbai, Central Leprosy Teaching & Research Institute (CLTRI) Chengalpattu, Regional Leprosy Training and Research Institute (RLTRI) Gourpur Bankura West Bengal, Central Research Institute (CRI) Kasauli, Central Institute of Psychiatry (CIP) Ranchi, National Institute of TB and Respiratory Diseases (NITRD) New Delhi, General Medical Store Depot (GMSD) and Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute (CNCI) Kolkata invites online applications from eligible candidates for the following posts.

Sl. No.	Posts	Institute - No. of vacancy	No. of vacancy										Level in the Pay Matrix			
			UR	SC	ST	OBC	EWS	VH	HH	OH	PWBD Other	Ex-Service				
1	Research Assistant	NCDC - 3				3					1					6
2	Technician	NCDC - 2	2													6
3	Laboratory Attendant	NCDC - 5	2		1	1	1						1			1
4	Research Assistant	NCVBDC - 1	1													6
5	Laboratory Assistant Grade II	NCVBDC - 3	1	1	1											4
6	Insect Collector	NCVBDC - 1			1											2
7	Technician	BCGVL, Guindy, Chennai -1	1													4
8	Laboratory Attendant	BCGVL, Guindy, Chennai-1				1										1
9	Laboratory Technician	Institute of Serology Kolkata - 5	1	1	1	2										3
10	Health Inspector	APHOs/PHOs/LBQCs - 70	30	18	10	5	7						1(OA) 1(LV) 1(LD)			6
11	Field Worker	APHOs/PHOs/LBQCs -140	90	9	5	28	8			3			1(LD)			1
12	Library & Information Assistant	NML - 1	1													6
13	Library Clerk	NML - 5	4				1							1		2
14	Physiotherapist	AIIPMR, Mumbai - 4	2-UR & 01-UR (PH)					1								6
15	Medical social Welfare officer	AIIPMR, Mumbai - 1	1													6
16	X-Ray Technician	AIIPMR, Mumbai - 1	1													6
17	Medical Laboratory Technologist	AIIPMR, Mumbai - 1	1													6
18	Instructor (VTW) Fitter trade	AIIPMR, Mumbai - 1					1									2
19	Junior Medical Laboratory Technologist	CLTRI Chengalpattu - 2	2													5
20	Pressing Man	CLTRI Chengalpattu - 1	1													2
21	Technical Assistant (Surgical)	CLTRI Chengalpattu - 1	1													6
22	Animal Attendant	CLTRI Chengalpattu - 3	1			1	1									1
23	Laboratory Attendant	CLTRI Chengalpattu - 3	1			1	1	1								1
24	Library Clerk	CLTRI Chengalpattu - 1	1													2
25	Library Attendant	CLTRI Chengalpattu - 1	1													1
26	Nursing Officer (Staff Nurse)	CLTRI Chengalpattu - 7	3			4										7
27	Cook	CLTRI Chengalpattu - 1	1													1
28	Assistant Physiotherapist	CLTRI Chengalpattu - 1	1													4
29	Para Medical Worker	CLTRI Chengalpattu - 5	2			2	1									3
30	Kitchen Assistant	CLTRI Chengalpattu - 1	1													1
31	Medical Lab Technologist (Technical Assistant)	CLTRI Chengalpattu - 1	1													6
32	Medical Laboratory Technologist	CLTRI Chengalpattu - 1	1													6
33	Assistant Physiotherapist	RLTRI, Gouripur - 1	1													4
34	Fitter Electrician	RLTRI, Gouripur - 1	1													2
35	Cook-cum-Kitchen Assistant	RLTRI, Gouripur - 3	2	1												1
36	Para Medical Worker	RLTRI, Gouripur - 1	1													3
37	Tailor	RLTRI, Gouripur - 1	1													1
38	Laboratory Attendant	CRI, Kasauli - 69	18	13	6	21	11							1		1
39	Technician	CRI, Kasauli - 3	2			1										4
40	Boiler Attendant	CRI, Kasauli - 1	1													2
41	Workshop Attendant	CRI, Kasauli - 4	3			1										1
42	Demonstrator (Bio-Chemistry & Nutrition)	AIIPH&PH, Kolkata - 2	1			1										7
43	Sister Tutor	AIIPH&PH, Kolkata - 1	1													10
44	Laboratory Attendant	AIIPH&PH, Kolkata - 16	8	1	2	3	2									1
45	Animal Attendant	AIIPH&PH, Kolkata - 1	1													1
46	Museum Assistant	AIIPH&PH, Kolkata - 1	1													2
47	Nursing Officer	CIP, Ranchi -16	8	2	1	4	1			1						7
48	Junior Psychiatric Social Welfare Officer	CIP, Ranchi -1	1													6
49	Tailor	CIP, Ranchi -1	1													2
50	Cane Worker	CIP, Ranchi -1	1													2
51	Radiographer	CIP, Ranchi -1	1													5
52	Staff Car Driver (Ordinary Grade)	CIP, Ranchi - 2	1			1										2
53	Dietician	NITRD - 1	1													6
54	Pharmacist	NITRD - 2	1		1											5
55	Laboratory Assistant	NITRD - 5	2	2		1										3
56	HMTS General Others (Ward Boy)	NITRD - 21	9	7	2	1	2									1
57	HMTS Dietary (Kitchen Staff)	NITRD - 10	5	3		1	1									1
58	HMTS Sanitation (Safai Karmchar)	NITRD - 29	13	10	2	2	2									1
59	Pharmacist cum Clerk	GMSD - 3	2			1										4
60	Radiotherapy Technician	CNCI - 5	1	1	2	1										5
61	Supervisor Maintenance	CNCI - 3			1	2										5
62	Ward Master	CNCI - 3	2			1										4
63	Accountant	CNCI - 2	1			1										6
64	Assistant Accounts Officer	CNCI - 1	1													7

Note: (i) Certain posts under APHOs/PHOs/LBQCs, NCDC, NCVBDC, GMSD are with the liability to serve anywhere in India
(ii) The number of posts may vary at the time of final results.

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Sd/- Director
(All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health)

Police file FIR in Rashmika Mandanna deepfake case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Delhi Police Special Cell registered an FIR on Friday in the Rashmika Mandanna deepfake video case. The FIR has been registered under Sections 465 (punishment for forgery) and 469 (forgery for intending to harm the reputation of a party) of the IPC, and Sections 66C (identity theft) of the IT Act, 2000

IN BRIEF



Ayodhya eyes world record in Deepotsav celebrations

The Uttar Pradesh government is aiming to create a new Guinness Book of World Record in Ayodhya by lighting more than 24 lakh diyas (earthen lamps) at 51 ghats this Deepotsav, with the administration making elaborate arrangements for it. "Since 2017, Deepotsav has been making a new record. This year, more than 24 lakh lamps will be illuminated," said the Uttar Pradesh government. Amid efforts to achieve the ambitious target, the State has invited individuals from across the globe to participate virtually in Ayodhya's Deepotsav through the recently launched 'Holy Ayodhya' mobile app.

BKI-Bishnoi gang nexus: NIA files chargesheet against four

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday filed a second supplementary chargesheet against four accused in a case related to a nexus between the Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) terrorist group and the organised criminal gang of Lawrence Bishnoi. The chargesheet was filed in a special NIA court against Darman Singh alias Darmanjot Kahlon, Parveen Wadhwa alias Prince, Yudhvir Singh alias Sadhu, and Vikas Singh, a spokesperson of the federal agency, said. All the accused have been charged with criminal conspiracy to unleash a wave of terror under various sections of the Indian Penal Code.

Kerala Cabinet rejig: LDF defers till December decision to induct Ganesh Kumar, Kadannappally

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A crucial meeting of the ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) State committee on Friday deferred the decision to induct Kerala Congress (B) leader K.B. Ganesh Kumar and Kadannappally Ramachandran of the Congress (S) into the Pinarayi Vijayan Cabinet till December.

LDF convener E.P. Jayarajan attributed the delay to the government's mass contact programme commencing on November 18. As per a 2021 agreement, the MLAs were to replace Transport Minister Antony Raju of the Democratic Kerala (Congress), and Ports Minister Ahammad Devarkovil of the Indian National League on November 25.

The LDF had promised Cabinet berths to four allies with single MLAs in the Assembly on a two-

and-a-half-year sharing-term basis ending in November.

Mr. Jayarajan said the ruling alliance would honour the 2021 commitment. Nevertheless, he dashed the hopes of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and Revolutionary Socialist Party (Leninist), both single MLA outfits, by stating that the LDF was hard-pressed to accommodate the aspirations of all allies for a Cabinet seat.

Protest in Delhi

The LDF also decided to take the fight over the Centre's "strangulation of State finances, welfare and development" to New Delhi. Mr. Vijayan, Ministers, MLAs, and MPs would stage a sit-in in the national capital in January to spotlight the Centre's "transgressions on fiscal and administrative federalism". It tasked Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal

Modi's 'terror' remarks against Congress not acceptable, says Gehlot

Such language can vitiate the atmosphere and make issues out of non-issues by provoking people, it is neither in the interest of the nation nor society, says Rajasthan Chief Minister

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

Taking strong exception to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks that Congress was "sympathetic to terrorists", Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Friday said such language was unacceptable, as it could vitiate the atmosphere and make issues out of non-issues by provoking people.

"I would make a humble request to the Prime Minister not to create this kind of environment in the country. It is not in the interest of the nation, nor society," Mr. Gehlot told journalists after addressing a 'Congress Guarantee Samvad' programme at Bali in Pali district.

Udaipur rally

Mr. Modi had made the remarks during an election rally in Udaipur on Thursday and accused the Congress government of pursuing an appeasement policy



The fight should be limited to ideology. Those opposed to Congress should limit their charges to policies, the Chief Minister said. ANI

to help terrorists while referring to the murder of tailor Kanhaiya Lal last year.

'No personal enmity'

Mr. Gehlot said he had not expected Mr. Modi to utter such words. "Either he was given a wrong briefing or he got nervous and deliberately spoke in this manner," he said, adding that

there was no personal enmity between him and the BJP leaders.

"The fight should be limited to ideology. Those opposed to the Congress should limit their charges to policies and public issues. But the BJP leaders are making issues out of non-issues and provoking people in the name of reli-

gion," he said.

In the Kanhaiya Lal case, two assailants were apprehended within a couple of hours, but the case was later taken over by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) because of its terror angle, Mr. Gehlot said. He asked Mr. Modi to tell the nation about the progress in the probe by the Central agency.

'Congress will win'

The Chief Minister said the atmosphere in the run-up to the Assembly election was in favour of the Congress and there was a widespread endorsement for the State government's flagship welfare schemes, which had benefited large sections of the population.

Mr. Gehlot later addressed two more public meetings at Sumerpur in Pali district, and Bhimnal in Jalore district before reaching his hometown of Jodhpur, where he is contesting the poll from the Sardarpura Assembly seat.

'Nitish's food being poisoned by those coveting his chair'

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) chief Jitan Ram Manjhi on Friday said "poisonous substances" are being mixed in the food of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar by those "coveting his chair".

The statement came a day after Mr. Kumar lost his cool after Mr. Manjhi had raised doubts over the veracity of the government's caste survey report based on which quotas in jobs and educational institutions for the deprived sections were raised by 15%. He had said it was due to his stupidity that Mr. Manjhi was made the Chief Minister back in 2014.

Taking offence at the outburst, Mr. Manjhi told mediapersons outside the Assembly on the last day of the winter session that "he [Mr. Kumar] should have not used words like *tumtaam* [you] while referring to me".

Accompanied by BJP leaders, he emphasised that he was senior to Mr. Kumar in age and political experience. "He is 74 years old and I am 80, he became MLA in 1985 and I in



Jitan Ram Manjhi

1980. I want to emphasise that poisonous substances are being mixed in his food to make someone else the CM. This is a conspiracy by someone and it is evident from several incidents that have happened in the past few days," he said.

'Order inquiry'

Leader of the Opposition Vijay Kumar Sinha demanded a high-level inquiry into the allegation. The BJP leader accused Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Prasad Yadav of "hatching a conspiracy to dethrone Mr. Kumar and grab the Chief Minister's post".

Earlier, before the House convened, Mr. Manjhi sat on a dharna outside the chamber of the Speaker demanding the resignation of Mr. Kumar, terming him "anti-women" and "anti-Scheduled Caste".

NIA files chargesheet against five alleged al-Qaeda operatives

Press Trust of India
AHMEDABAD

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday filed a chargesheet in the special court in Gujarat against five persons, including four Bangladesh nationals, for alleged links with terror outfit al-Qaeda and conspiring to carry out terror activities in India.

The chargesheet was submitted in the court of Special NIA Judge Kamal Sojitra by the agency's public prosecutor Amit Nair.

NIA investigations have unravelled a meticulously planned conspiracy orchestrated by al-Qaeda operatives based across the Indo-Bangladesh border in collaboration with the arrested individuals, aimed at carrying out terrorist acts and activities in India, said a release from the Central probe agency.

In May, the Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) bust-

ed an al-Qaeda module and arrested four members hailing from Bangladesh, who had been living illegally in Ahmedabad after entering India using forged and fraudulent identity documents.

A preliminary probe by ATS had revealed the four members of the proscribed terror outfit were trained by their handlers based in Bangladesh before they were sent to India to raise funds for al-Qaeda's illegal activities, radicalising local youth and persuading them to join the outfit.

Considering the national security implications and international linkages, the Ministry of Home Affairs had transferred the case to NIA in June, said the official release.

The NIA registered a case in June under different section of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and Indian Penal Code.

'Attack on migrants': HC sets aside detention order passed against YouTuber from Bihar under NSA

The Hindu Bureau
MADURAI

The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court on Friday set aside a detention order passed against Manish Kashyap, a YouTuber from Bihar, under the National Security Act.

He had been accused of spreading fake videos on social media about migrants from Bihar being attacked in Tamil Nadu.

A Division Bench of Justices M. Sundar and R. Sakthivel set aside the order. The petitioner, U. Tribhuvan Kumar Tiwari, the younger brother of Kashyap, said the detention order passed against his brother Tripurari Kumar Tiwari, alias Manish Kashyap, was arbitrary and liable to be set aside.

In March, based on a police complaint that fake videos were being uploaded on social media, the Madurai District Cyber Crime Police registered a



YouTuber Manish Kashyap, accused of posting fake videos about migrants from Bihar being attacked in Tamil Nadu, being presented before the Judicial Magistrate at District Court in Madurai. R. ASHOK

case under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, and the Information Technology Act.

During the course of investigation, it was found that Kashyap had uploaded the videos.

Meanwhile, Kashyap was remanded in judicial custody in Bihar in connection with similar cases registered there. On the basis

of a PT (prisoner in transit) warrant, the Madurai police approached the authorities and the local court in Bihar, and he was brought to Madurai.

He was then remanded in judicial custody. Subsequently, a detention order under the National Security Act was passed against the YouTuber by the District Collector in April.

Telangana parties face challenge of pacifying aspirants, leaders denied tickets

NEWS ANALYSIS

Ravi Reddy
HYDERABAD

With tickets finalised for the November 30 Telangana Assembly poll, political parties now face the bigger challenge of quelling dissent from aspirants who failed to get tickets and senior leaders upset with getting short shrift.

Now that the BRS, Congress and BJP have decided on their tickets for all seats, the urgent task is to identify leaders who could make or mar the parties' fortunes. Teams are said to be working overtime to hold discussions with such leaders and urge them not to take any drastic decision that could upset calculations of winning the poll.

Congress, while announcing its list, replaced four candidates: G. Chinna Reddy (Wanaparthy), Nilam Madhu Mudiraj (Patancheru), Vennela Ashok (Boath ST) and Suresh Shetkar (Narayankhed).

The BJP announced its list on Friday, but dropped a few already-named nominees. Candidates from Bellampally (SC), Chandrayangutta and Alampur (SC) were replaced.

Defectors

The BRS changed its lone candidate and sitting MLA Dr. Abraham. By announcing the names of candidates in August, BRS leaders had almost managed to neutralise strong resentment. However, a couple of disgruntled leaders crossed over to rival parties in the hope of getting

tickets. A few of them managed to do so from the Congress and the BJP.

But the Congress has to closely monitor the brewing discontentment. AICC general secretary K.C. Venugopal himself swung in to action to assure leaders who failed to make the cut.

A committee comprising AICC in-charge Manikrao Thakre and former Minister K. Jana Reddy are in talks with leaders, with firm commitment to reward them after the poll. The party is holding parleys with at least 20 leaders to pacify them lest its prospects are hit. The party has to do a tightrope walk in a couple of constituencies. Like in Suryapet, it now has to find ways and means to handle the disappointment of a strong aspirant, Patel Ramesh Reddy, who

lost the race to former Minister R. Damodar Reddy.

In the same district, senior leader Addanki Dayakar had to make way for M. Samuel, who came from the BRS. It is to be seen if the official candidate gets the full support of Mr. Dayakar and his followers.

Congress sources say that leaders have to urgently pay attention to the internal bickering in Banskawada, Jukkal (SC), Devarakadra, Patancheru, Boath (ST), Asifabad (ST), Yellareddy, and Narsapur constituencies and quell a possible revolt.

The BJP's final list had twists and turns. Among the 14 names that were announced, the party changed the candidates in less than two hours. While Bellampally (SC) candidate Sreedevi was replaced with

Koyyala Emmaji, the party later reverted to the former. In Vemulawada, former Karimnagar ZP chairperson Tula Uma has been replaced by Vikas Rao, son of former Maharashtra Governor Ch. Vidyasagar Rao.

The party is forced to look into warring groups in Sangareddy, where the official candidate, D. Rajeshwara Rao, has been replaced by A. Raju.

In Medchal also, district unit chief Vikram Reddy has expressed anger at the ticket being given to another candidate. In Serilingampally, the aspirant, Yoganand, has resented his exclusion in favour of Ravi Kumar Yadav.

As the election campaign reaches a crucial stage, parties have their task cut out to avoid possible irritants.



Lankala Deepak Reddy, BJP candidate for the Jubilee Hills seat, takes out a rally along with supporters to file his nomination papers for the Assembly election, in Hyderabad on Friday. NAGARA GOPAL

Ex-J&K Minister acquired land in excess of limit, says ED

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday said Dogra Swabhimani Sangathan (DSS) chairman Chaudhary Lal Singh managed to acquire land in excess of the permissible limit of 100 standard kanals to the extent of 328 kanals for a non-governmental organisation run by his wife.

Mr. Singh, who had served as a State Minister, three-time legislator, and an MP from the Udhampur constituency, was arrested by the Central probe agency on November 7 in Jammu, sparking street protests from his supporters.

CM orders probe after land deal flagged; Chief Secretary says 'vendetta'

Why would I recommend inquiry if my family is involved in the scam: Kumar

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has asked Vigilance Minister Atishi to launch an investigation into a land deal, which allegedly led to undue benefits to one of the landowners, who is said to be linked to the employer of Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar's son, sources said on Friday.



The complaint was made to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on October 24. FILE PHOTO

The son-in-law of one of the landowners is the director of a firm that employs the Chief Secretary's son, the reports added.

Hitting back, the Chief Secretary said, "Hemant Kumar (IAS, AGMUT, 2013) passed an award on May 15 in favour of private parties, enhancing [the] compensation [by] nine times in gross violation of [the] law. I recommended disciplinary action against him as well as [a] CBI inquiry to the Government of India on September 20. The Government agreed with the recommendation and transferred him to Andaman and Nicobar Islands on October 19 and then placed him under suspension on October 20."

Pointing out that the award of the compensation was set aside by the Delhi High Court on October 31, Mr. Kumar said, "Why would I recommend an inquiry if my family is involved in the scam? This seems to be a vendetta against me by vested interests with obvious reasons."

south-west Delhi's Bannoli village by the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) for the Dwarka Expressway project.

Enhanced compensation As per media reports, the price of the land was increased from ₹41.52 crore to ₹353.79 crore in May and the Union Ministry of Home Affairs initiated action against south West Delhi District Magistrate Hemant Kumar for approving the enhanced compensation.

"A complaint was made to the Chief Minister on October 24 regarding the deal, alleging that the Chief Secretary benefited his son's company to the tune of ₹315 crore," said an official, adding that Mr. Kejriwal has sought a detailed report from Ms. Atishi.

Responding to the allegations, Mr. Kumar called the action a "vendetta", saying it was he who had recommended action against the officer who allegedly approved the deal.

The case pertains to the acquisition of a 19-acre parcel in

CM's personal secretary liable to be terminated, says vigilance arm

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Directorate of Vigilance (DoV) on Friday issued a show-cause notice to Bibhav Kumar, personal secretary to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, stating that his engagement is "illegal" and citing a pending criminal case against him.

The case pertains to Mr. Kumar allegedly obstructing

a public servant from discharging his duty and abusing/threatening him.

When contacted, no response was offered by the Delhi government.

As per the notice, Mr. Kumar was appointed subject to the outcome of an FIR against him under Sections 353, 504, and 506 of the IPC.

The DoV added that the continuation of service of Mr. Kumar, who has a history of

"criminal antecedents", is in "gross violation" of the instructions issued "from time to time" by the Department of Personnel and Training.

The notice also said that the Enforcement Directorate had called Mr. Kumar in February in connection with the alleged Delhi liquor policy scam.

"The services of Bibhav Kumar are liable to be terminated...", the order read.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that the freeze strength of The Kalkaji Best Friends Co-ops Ltd., 1281 Members. The society has a total of 137 members since inception onwards out of them, the membership of 456 members has been cancelled due to cessation/expulsion/resignation of 137 members as per the provisions of DCS Act & Rules. Present strength of members is 276 and there are 05 (five) vacancies in the society. Now the Executive Committee of the society is submitting the list of bonafide 276 members, the name and details of which are given below are being forwarded to the office of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Government of NCT of Delhi, Old Court's Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001 by the Managing Committee of The Kalkaji Best Friends Co-operative Group Housing Society Ltd. (Regd. No. 2086 dated 18/03/1980), Regd. Office- 661, Gall No.8, Govindpur, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110016. For the purpose of membership of all the members and to forward their names to Delhi Development Authority (DDA) for allotment of land to the members of the society. The list of members with their names through Co-operative Movement as per provisions of DCS Act/Rules & DDA norms/guidelines is as follows:

- List of 276 Members:
- S.No. 1 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri Rakesh Chander Issar S/o Late M/s Ram Issar M-ship No.001 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 2 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri Jyoti Singh S/o Shri Prashar M-ship No.005 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 3 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri V. S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.008 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 4 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.009 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 5 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.010 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 6 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.011 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 7 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.012 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 8 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.013 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 9 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.014 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 10 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.015 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 11 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.016 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 12 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.017 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 13 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.018 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 14 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.019 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 15 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.020 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 16 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.021 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 17 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.022 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 18 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.023 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 19 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.024 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 20 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.025 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 21 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.026 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 22 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.027 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 23 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.028 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 24 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.029 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 25 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.030 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 26 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.031 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 27 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.032 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 28 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.033 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 29 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.034 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 30 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.035 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 31 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.036 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 32 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.037 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 33 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.038 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 34 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.039 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 35 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.040 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 36 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.041 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 37 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.042 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 38 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.043 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 39 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.044 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 40 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.045 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 41 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.046 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 42 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.047 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 43 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.048 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 44 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.049 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 45 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.050 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 46 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.051 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 47 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.052 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 48 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.053 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 49 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.054 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 50 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.055 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 51 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.056 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 52 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.057 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 53 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.058 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 54 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.059 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 55 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.060 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 56 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.061 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 57 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.062 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 58 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.063 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 59 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.064 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 60 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.065 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 61 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.066 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 62 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.067 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 63 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. M-ship No.068 Date of Enrolment 30.11.59 S.No. 64 Name of the Member with Father's Name: Shri S. S. S/o Shri R. S. S. 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N. Murali, Director, THG Publishing Private Ltd, greeting Kanimozhi, MP and president, The Hindu Office & National Press Employees Union, at the union's anniversary celebrations in Chennai. R. RAGU

Nation facing undeclared Emergency over the past 10 years, says N. Murali

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The country and the media industry had been facing an undeclared 'Emergency' during the past 10 years similar to the period between 1975 and 1977, threatening freedom of speech, said N. Murali, Director, The Hindu Group Publishing Private Limited (THGPP), on Friday.

Participating in the 67th anniversary celebrations of The Hindu and National Press Employees' Union in Chennai, Mr. Murali, drawing parallels with the Emergency period when media freedom and political freedom were curtailed, said there is "silent assault" on both the freedoms, particularly with newspapers not being allowed to reflect the true situation. "Still a few news publications including *The Hindu*, *The Wire*, *The Telegraph*, and *Deccan Herald*, are not afraid to tell the truth," he said.

The media industry, particularly the print publications, were facing several challenges in the form

of steep increase in the newsprint cost and reduction in advertisement revenue, without much increase in the cost of advertisement.

According to him, the golden period for the newspaper industry, which witnessed profits of nearly 60% in advertisement revenue, was when the economy was liberated from licence raj during 1991-92. However, over the years with many social media platforms coming up and the present younger generation not reading newspapers, the advertisement revenue has come down drastically by 29%.

N. Ram, Director, THGPP, echoing the views of Mr. Murali regarding the assault on journalists by filing fake cases under draconian laws, said India was ranked 161 in the World Press Freedom Index-2023 carried out in 180 countries by Reporters Without Borders.

Mr. Ram, who praised former Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi for his contribution to journalism and media, however, argued

that the setting up of the Fact-Check Unit by the State government recently was "unnecessary".

He said hope which helped people overcome the COVID-19 pandemic would help in overcoming the several challenges faced by the country in the future.

Kanimozhi, president, The Hindu and National Press Employees' Union and DMK MP, thanked the management for giving Deepavali bonus to its employees. She said the management had always remained shoulder to shoulder with the employees; at the same time the staff cooperated with the organisation whenever it faced challenges.

K. Venugopal, Chairman of Kasturi and Sons Limited, and THGPP Directors N. Ravi, Nalini Krishnan, Lakshmi Srinath, and Rohith Rangarajan participated in the function. Chief Executive Officer of The Hindu Group L.V. Navaneeth was present. M. Kamalanathan, general secretary of the union, gave the welcome address.

Yediyurappa's son appointed as BJP chief in Karnataka

Vijayendra's selection is likely to help shore up Lingayat support base; he replaces Kateel months after party's poor showing in the Assembly poll

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Friday appointed B.Y. Vijayendra, MLA and son of former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, as the president of its Karnataka unit six months after the party was voted out of power in the State.

The move also comes a couple of months after the party announced its alliance with the Janata Dal (Secular).

Mr. Vijayendra replaces Nalin Kateel whose term had ended even before the Assembly election. He had continued on extension.

During the Assembly election in May, the BJP did not perform well in its major catchment area of North and Central Karnataka, where up to 69 Assembly seats are dominated by the Lingayat community. The BJP won only 20 of these seats with the Congress winning 40.

This poor performance was accredited to the removal of then Chief Minister and a major community leader among Lingayats, Mr. Yediyurappa.

The appointment of Mr. Vijayendra, considered his father's political heir, is



B.Y. Vijayendra celebrating with his father B.S. Yediyurappa at his residence in Bengaluru on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

aimed at providing some salve to the Lingayat community's alienation. Mr. Yediyurappa's removal was aimed at introducing generational change in the State leadership and as a way to separate the Lingayat vote from an individual leader, which, as such, did not happen. It also resulted in the Congress getting over 40% of the vote share in the North Karnataka region.

JD(S) entry into NDA

While the Shikaripura MLA's appointment as State unit president is clearly aimed at shoring up the Lingayat support base, Mr. Gowda's recusal from contesting the 2024 Lok Sabha election, being attributed to a not-so-subtle nudge by the national leaders, is con-

nected to the entry of the H.D. Kumaraswamy-led JD (S) into the NDA.

The JD(S) counts as its heartland, the Old Mysuru area, dominated by the Vokkaliga community but won only 14 of the 64 Assembly seats there, and lost on vote percentage as well. The BJP has never been a good performer in this region as the two communities, the Lingayats and Vokkaligas, are the two dominant forces in Karnataka politics.

The BJP, however, intends to support the JD(S) through its deep resources in the battle for the Lok Sabha, and the two parties feel that the Congress, which swept all before it in 2023, can be kept in check only through an alliance.

Medical college in Badaun stares at derecognition

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

N.C. Prajapati, the principal of Government Medical College, Badaun, Uttar Pradesh, wears a worried look ahead of the National Medical Commission's (NMC) impending inspection.

The college is facing derecognition as it is currently falling short of the norms set by the Central body that regulates medical education in India.

"There are a few deficiencies that need to be plugged. If the NMC gives us an adverse report, then the government's construction agency should be held responsible," said Mr. Prajapati, referring to the Uttar Pradesh Rajkiye Nirman Nigam (UPRNN), which began constructing the college in 2015-16.

Though 2021 was set as the deadline, only 60% of the construction has been completed over the past eight years. The NMC had given affiliation to the college on the condition that the pending work would be completed before its first batch of MBBS students graduates next year. However, the work has been stalled for over a year as the matter is before an arbitration tribunal.

A.K. Singh, assistant general manager, Electric Zone, Bareilly, UPRNN, said the college's civil work was sanctioned in 2016, and



Work has been stalled at the Government Medical College, Badaun, for over a year as the matter is before a tribunal. ADITYAGUPTA/X

awarded to Anil Kumar and Company. The contractor completed half the work by 2017, when the BJP came to power.

"When the government changed, funds were not allocated for some time. The contractor then sent a revised estimate to the government, which was not sanctioned. The contractor then went into arbitration. As the civil work is pending, we are also unable to carry out the electrical work in the college," Mr. Singh said.

'Action needed'

The college is falling short of the NMC's infrastructure norms. Mr. Prajapati and the District Magistrate of Badaun have sent several letters to the government seeking a quick resolution. "We are trying to solve the issue so that the work gets completed," said Darban Singh Rana, assistant general manager, Bareilly Zone, UPRNN.

Karnataka HC upholds govt. decision to scrap exam over illegalities

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Friday upheld the State government's April 29, 2022 decision to hold re-examination to fill 545 posts of police sub-inspector (PSIs) in the wake of large-scale malpractices, allegedly involving some candidates, during the examination held in 2021.

To ensure fair re-exam, the court said, the State government should entrust the process to an independent agency without charging any fresh fee from the candidates.

'Separation impossible' Justices P.S. Dinesh Kumar and T.G. Shivashankar Gowda passed the order while dismissing a batch of petitions filed by several candidates who were successful in the written exam held on October 3, 2021. The petitioners had sought a direction to the government to segregate tainted persons and take steps to appoint untainted successful candidates as per the provisional selection list published based on the results. However, the Bench said segregation of tainted and untainted candidates



Candidates protesting in Bengaluru against the alleged malpractices in the PSI exam in 2022. K. MURALI KUMAR

was not possible because the petitioners' results were also not free from suspicion.

The Bench said that the alleged involvement of an officer of the rank of Additional Director-General of Police (ADGP), who was the head of the recruitment wing of the Police Department, through whom OMR answer sheets were accessed and tampered with within the recruitment wing's stronghold, eroded public trust.

Conveying the answers to the beneficiaries through Bluetooth device in the examination hall was impossible, the Bench said.

"In our opinion, the probability of leakage of questions is almost certain," the Bench observed.

Telangana Congress promises loans, higher quota for BCs

R. Ravikanth Reddy
HYDERABAD

Reservation for the Backward Classes in local bodies will be increased to 42% from the present 23% within six months of assuming power, the Telangana Congress said in its 'Backward Classes (BC) Declaration' released in Kamareddy on Friday.

The party also promised 42% reservation for BCs in award of government civil construction and maintenance contracts.

The government would spend ₹1 lakh crore in five years on BC welfare and create a Most Backward Classes (MBC) Welfare department, it said.

The declaration said Professor Jayashankar BC Aikyatha Bhavans would be constructed in all district headquarters with ₹50 crore and the District BC Welfare Office would be situated in these Bhavans. BC youth can avail interest-free and collateral-free loans of up to ₹10 lakh for higher education or to set up small businesses. One new gurukulam would be started in every mandal for BCs on a par with Navodaya Vidyalayas.

Mail ID : sepwdbalngir@gmail.com

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, BALANGIR (R&B) CIRCLE, BALANGIR

e-Procurement Notice - BID IDENTIFICATION No.CCE(R&B) BGR/35/2023-24

Letter No.6160 //Dtd.09.11.2023

The Chief Construction Engineer, Balangir (R&B) Circle, Balangir on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate composite bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE for the construction of works detailed in the table below from "B" & "A" Class Contractors registered with the State Governments and contractors of equivalent Grade / Class registered with Central Government / MES / Railways for execution of Civil works. The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the bid.

1. Nature of Work	Building Work
2. No. of tender	Building Work - 12 Nos
3. Tender Cost	Rs.10,00,00/-
4. Class of Contractor	"B" & "A" Class
5. Date & Time of sale & Receipt of Bids	From Dt.17.11.2023, 10.00 A.M. to Dt.01.12.2023 up to 05.00 P.M.
6. Date of Opening of Bid	Dt.02.12.2023 at 11.00 A.M.
7. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: http://tendersorissa.gov.in . All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE MODE only.	

Chief Construction Engineer, Balangir (R&B) Circle, Balangir.
B-1236: OIPR-34131/11/0036/2324

Govt. of Bihar

Bihar State Power Generation Company Limited

5th Floor, Vidut Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna - 800 021
Website: <https://bspgclbihar.gov.in> Email ID: chiefengineerbspgcl@gmail.com
CIN:U40102BR2012SG018888

Notice Inviting Tender

NIT No. 06/PR/BSPGCL/2023

Description of work	EMD	Tender Document Cost (inc. GST)	Bid Processing Fee
Procurement Of Power Through Tariff -Based Competitive Bidding from Grid-Connected 10 MW(AC) Floating Solar PV Power Project to be set up under RESCO mode over Reservoir of Phulwaria Dam Located At Rajauli, District: Nawada in the State of Bihar	Rs. 1.2 Crore.	25,000/- + GST @ 18%(non-refundable)	As per Eproc2.
Start Date of Online Sale of Tender Documents		24.11.2023 15:00 Hrs. onwards	
Pre-Bid Meeting Date (Physical)		At 11.00 Hrs on 30.11.2023, Venue: Conference Hall, 5 th floor Vidut Bhawan, Patna-800021	
Last Date of Online Sale of Tender document:		Upto 14:00 Hrs. of 15.12.2023	
Last Date of Submission of Original EMD		Upto 15:00 Hrs. of 15.12.2023	
Last Date of Online Submission of Tender		Upto 15:00 Hrs. of 15.12.2023	
Date of Opening of Techno-Commercial Part (Part-I)		16:00 Hrs. onwards on 15.12.2023	
Date of Opening of Financial Part (Part-II)		To be intimated to the eligible Bidders through e-mail.	
Online E-Reverse Auction Request Schedule		E-Reverse Auction Request Schedule will be communicated after completion of evaluation of Financial bid (Bid- Part-II). The qualified bidders will be informed accordingly.	

(i) Contact No.7763813863.
(ii) E-mail id- chiefengineerbspgcl@gmail.com

Chief Engineer, BSPGCL
e-Procurement Help Desk
Toll Free Number: 1800 572 5571, Email id: eproc2support@bihar.gov.in
Working Hours: 8AM to 7PM (All days in week except Sunday and few selected state holidays)

For further details please visit : www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar
PR-011615 (Ni.Ni.) 2023-24

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

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA - DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, EASTERN CIRCLE-I, CANTONMENT ROAD, CUTTACK.

Email id :- seecuttack@gmail.com

"e" Procurement Notice No.ACE, EC-I/25 of 2023-24 (On-line)

1. Name of Works	(i) Improvement of Karanda Left from village Sathilo to Mallick Sahi and Nuna Right from village Sathilo to Baspur Bridge. Bid identification No.ACE, EC-I MND 16 of 2023-24	(ii) Improvement to Mahanadi left embankment from Kumarigaon to Bhuasuni (RD 0.00km to 2.30km) and Kandarpur to Routrapur (RD 0.00km to 3.00km). Bid identification No.ACE, EC-I MND 17 of 2023-24	(iii) Improvement to Distributory No.11, Kusinga Minor, Pally Minor and Khorat Minor of Machhagaon Canal System. Bid identification No.ACE, EC-I JID 13 of 2023-24				
2. Total No. of Works :	3 (Three) Nos. works						
3. Tender Paper Cost (Online) (Non-refundable) :	Rs.10,00,00/- (Ten thousand) each tender						
4. Bid details are as follows							
Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Tender Cost (Rs.in Lakh) (Approx.)	EMD (On-line) (In Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding	Date of Opening of Technical
Additional Chief Engineer, Eastern Circle-I, Cuttack	ACE, EC-I MND 16 of 2023-24	630	6,30,000.00	'A' & 'Special'	8 (Eight) Calendar months	21.11.2023 upto 10.00 hrs. 05.12.2023 upto 17.30 hrs.	06.12.2023 at 11.30 hrs.
	ACE, EC-I MND 17 of 2023-24	173	1,73,000.00	'B' & 'A'	6 (Six) Calendar months	21.11.2023 upto 10.00 hrs. 05.12.2023 upto 17.30 hrs.	06.12.2023 at 11.30 hrs.
	ACE, EC-I JID 13 of 2023-24	517	5,17,000.00	'A'	8 (Eight) Calendar months	21.11.2023 upto 10.00 hrs. 05.12.2023 upto 17.30 hrs.	06.12.2023 at 11.30 hrs.

Other terms and conditions can be seen from the Govt. website "www.tendersodisha.gov.in".
All corrigendum / cancellation of tender if any, will only be uploaded in the above web site.

Additional Chief Engineer, Eastern Circle-I, Cuttack.
A-815: OIPR-32370/11/0030/2324

बिहार सरकार

योजना एवं विकास विभाग

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय

स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन, कार्य प्रमंडल-1 छपरा

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या-02E(SBD)/2023-24

(केवल ई-टेंडर पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

बिहार के राज्यापाल महोदय की ओर से बिहार राज्य के किसी भी कार्य विभाग/निगम/अन्य राज्य सरकार/केन्द्र सरकार/सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रम या राष्ट्रीय या अंतरराष्ट्रीय खासि के किसी भी एजेंसी में समुचित श्रेणी में निबंधित संवेदकों से प्रतिशत दर निविदा दो बीड प्रणाली (तकनीकी एवं वित्तीय) अन्तर्गत आर्मीट किए जाते हैं। यदि संवेदक बिहार राज्य के किसी कार्य विभाग/निगम में पूर्व से निबंधित नहीं है, तब एकरारनामा के पूर्व निम्नलिखित कार्य का स्वीकार पत्र (लेटर ऑफ एक्सेप्टेंस) प्राप्त होने के बाद बिहार राज्य के किसी भी कार्य विभाग/निगम (जिसमें निबंधन की प्रक्रिया लागू हो) में निबंधन कराना अनिवार्य होगा।

1. कार्य की विवरणी :-

यूप संख्या	कार्य का नाम	परिमाण विवरण की राशि (लाख रु में)	अग्रगण्य की राशि (ऑन लाईन मोड या ऑफ लाईन मोड में केवल B.G. के रूप में) (लाख रु में)	परिमाण-विपत्र का मूल्य (अग्रगण्यीय केवल ऑनलाइन मोड में बुलारान) (रुपये में)	बीड प्रोसेसिंग शुल्क (अग्रगण्यीय केवल ऑनलाइन मोड में बुलारान) (रुपये में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि (माह में)
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
1	छपरा जिला अन्तर्गत एकमा प्रखण्ड के परसा दक्षिण पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	250.84622	5.01700	10,000.00	3540.00	14 माह
2	छपरा जिला अन्तर्गत लहलादपुर प्रखण्ड के कटैया पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	251.66514	5.03400	10,000.00	3540.00	14 माह
3	छपरा जिला अन्तर्गत बनिापुर प्रखण्ड के सुतुआ पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	250.19207	5.00400	10,000.00	3540.00	14 माह
4	छपरा जिला अन्तर्गत बनिापुर प्रखण्ड के मनिापुर पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	249.28436	4.98600	10,000.00	3540.00	14 माह
5	छपरा जिला अन्तर्गत बनिापुर प्रखण्ड के मीरिया पंचायत के शौर में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	251.17289	5.02400	10,000.00	3540.00	14 माह
6	छपरा जिला अन्तर्गत एकमा प्रखण्ड के अरबली पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	251.04645	5.02100	10,000.00	3540.00	14 माह
7	छपरा जिला अन्तर्गत एकमा प्रखण्ड के पतुआ पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	251.38616	5.02800	10,000.00	3540.00	14 माह
8	छपरा जिला अन्तर्गत लहलादपुर प्रखण्ड के दंदापुर पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	252.30513	5.04700	10,000.00	3540.00	14 माह
9	छपरा जिला अन्तर्गत एकमा प्रखण्ड के एकसर पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	250.84622	5.01700	10,000.00	3540.00	14 माह

2. विज्ञापन निर्गत करने की तिथि : दिनांक -09.11.2023.2012

3. निविदा कागजात अपलोड करने की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक 30.11.2023 को 10.00 बजे पूर्वान्वन से। (सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

4. प्री-बीड मीटिंग का समय, स्थान एवं तिथि : दिनांक 05.12.2023 समय 3:30 बजे अपराह्न कार्यलय, स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन, विरोधरवैया भवन, चतुर्थ तल, कम्परा नं-423, बेली रोड, पटना-800015

5. निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक 07.12.2023 समय 3.00 बजे अपराह्न तक। (सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

6. तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक 11.12.2023 समय 3.30 बजे अपराह्न से। (केडिका 5 में उल्लेखित अंतिम तिथि से दो कार्य दिवस के परवात की तिथि।) (सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

7. वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : सक्रम पदाधिकारी द्वारा बाद में घोषित की जायेगी। (सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

8. निविदा खोलने का स्थान : दिनांक 11.12.2023 समय 3.30 बजे अपराह्न से। (सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

9. निविदा की कैता अवधि : 120 दिन (निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि के बाद) कार्यपालक अभियंता, स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन प्रमंडल, कार्य प्रमंडल-1 छपरा

विस्तृत जानकारी state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

PR. No. 011659 (Planning) 2023-24

कार्यपालक अभियंता
स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन
कार्य प्रमंडल-1 छपरा।
नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

Court allows Sisodia to meet his wife for six hours today

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Friday allowed former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia to meet his ailing wife on Saturday between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m..

Mr. Sisodia is lodged in Tihar jail since February 26 this year in connection with the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy scam case.

The decision came after Mr. Sisodia moved an application in the court of Special Judge M.K. Nagpal of Rouse Avenue court seeking permission to meet his wife, who is suffering from multiple sclerosis, for a period of five days while in custody.

The court refused him the permission for five days after objection from the Central Bureau of Investigation.

Recently the Supreme Court had rejected Mr. Sisodia's bail plea. The High Court and the trial court had also denied him bail in the past.

The CBI had arrested Mr. Sisodia, in charge of the Excise Department, and claimed that the excise policy was modified to extend undue favours to licence holders, licence fee was waived or reduced, and L-1 (wholesaler) licences were extended without the competent authority's approval.

Based on the CBI case, the ED is conducting a money laundering probe and has arrested nine persons, including Mr. Sisodia. The ED chargesheet states that a portion of the alleged kickbacks was diverted through "hawala" channels for AAP's Goa Assembly poll campaign last year.

Sanjay Singh's judicial custody extended till November 24

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Friday extended the judicial custody of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MP Sanjay Singh till November 24.

He was arrested in a money laundering case related to the alleged Delhi excise scam.

Mr. Singh, while coming out of the court, said a big conspiracy is being hatched to frame Delhi Chief Minister and AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal. "Not just arrest, they are planning a big move," he said while surrounded by police force.

He also targeted the Centre, saying the government is allegedly misusing probe agencies.

The court, on October 10, had directed Mr. Singh to not to talk to the media while being produced, saying it creates security problem.

Mr. Singh, considered close to Mr. Kejriwal, is the third senior AAP leader to be arrested in less than a year and a half. Former Public Works Department Minister Satyendar Jain has been in jail for over a year in an alleged money laundering case. Former Deputy CM Manish Sisodia was arrested in February 2023 in the same case.

At-Ambapua, Po:-Engineering School Near Income Tax Office, Berhampur-760011

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR
(E-Mail:- serwbpr2004@yahoo.com ; Tel/FAX:- 0680-2404287)

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Bid Identification No. Online Tender/77-2023-24/BPR

Identification No.	Name of work	No. of Works	Approx. Estimated Cost (In Lakh)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion
Online Tender / 77-2023-24/BPR	Bridge Works (BSY) for 2023-24	01 No	Rs. 368.41 Lakhs	"A" Class as applicable	11 (Eleven) Calendar Month as provided

Procurement Officer: Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Berhampur.

Bid Identification No.: Online Tender / 77-2023-24/BPR

Availability of tender online for bidding:

From	To
14.11.2023 at 10.00 A.M.	28.11.2023 upto 3.00 P.M.

(i) EMD / Bid Security, Cost of Bid document is to be transferred through Online as per the procedure mentioned in the DTCN.
(ii) Non-submission of the information/documents through online by the bidder as per the items mentioned in the eligible criteria of the DTCN will also liable for rejection of his tender.

Further details & Corrigendum if any can be seen from the website: - www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Berhampur
O-1509 : OPR-25071/11/0082/2324

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION DODA

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT NO. 57 OF 2023-24

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Doda invites tenders by e-tendering mode from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. (U.T)/CPWD and Railways for the following work.

S. NO	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (in Lacs)	Earnest Money	Cost of document	Time of completion	Date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
01	Completion of residential facilities for Assistant Professor quarter, Professor quarter and Non Teaching staff quarter (01 block) at Government Medical College Doda.	311.61	623220	6000	02 Years	On or after 29/11/2023 at 12:30 PM	A

1. Date of Publishing from 07/11/2023
2. The Bidding documents/deposited can be downloaded from the website <http://ktenders.gov.in> from 10:00 A.M on 17/11/2023 to 28/11/2023 (1600 PM). The complete bidding process will be on line.
3. Technical bids of bidders shall be opened on line in the office of Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Doda on 29/11/2023 at 12:30 Hrs .

Sd/-
(Er. Manoj Kumar)
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division,
Doda

DIP/J-10856/23

Government of Jharkhand
Dr. Ramdayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute, Ranchi
Department of Scheduled Tribe, Scheduled Caste, Minorities and OBC Welfare Ranchi-834008
Phone No. 0651 -2551824, E-mail:- tri.directorate@gmail.com;dir-triran@gov.in

Ref no. 2182 Ranchi, Dated: 10.11.2023

Re-Expression of Interest

Dr. Ramdayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute (TRI), Ranchi invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from interested Universities (all Colleges)/Department of Universities/Government Institutes/ Recognized Research Institutes for undertaking a Research Project of TRI, Ranchi during the financial year 2023-24.
Topic: An Exploratory Study on Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Ex-prisoners in Tribal Societies of Jharkhand

Interested agencies are hereby requested to submit Expression of Interest (EOI) duly forwarded by Director of the Institutes/ Registrar of Universities/ Head of Departments [applicable to Universities (all Colleges)/Department of Universities only] along with technical EOI giving relevant details of the organization/ Institute/ University necessary for evaluating the competencies on or before 1st December 2023. The project cost should be all inclusive (inclusive of all requisite statutory taxes, if applicable) and not open ended. The intending agencies may submit their EOI in sealed envelope on or before the due date. Technical proposal should be sealed in a separate envelope clearly marked in **BOLDA TECHNICAL PROPOSAL FOR "An Exploratory Study on Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Ex-prisoners in Tribal Societies of Jharkhand"** written on the top of the envelope. These envelopes are to be addressed to the Director, Dr. Ramdayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute (TRI), Morabadi, Ranchi-834008. TRI will not be responsible for delay in transits or damages or loss of proposal document sent by post. Expression of Interest will be opened on 7th December 2023 in the office of the Director, TRI, Ranchi.

Only those agencies which fulfill technical criteria will be considered for presentation of project.

Terms of Reference (ToR) and other details can be obtained from the concerned nodal person (Mr. Vikas Dubey) at the TRI office on any working day during office hours, and the same can also be downloaded from the website www.trijharkhand.in under tender/notice section.

TRI, Ranchi reserves all rights to accept or reject all or any of the EOI's at any stage without assigning any reasons. TRI, Ranchi also reserves the right to engage/empanel one or more agencies depending on requirements.

Sd/- Director
PR.NO.31169 Schedule Tribe, Schedule Caste, Minority and Backward Class Welfare Department(23-24):D

Government of Jharkhand
Dr. Ramdayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute, Ranchi
Department of Scheduled Tribe, Scheduled Caste, Minorities and OBC Welfare Ranchi-834008
Phone No. 0651 -2551824, E-mail:- tri.directorate@gmail.com;dir-triran@gov.in

Ref no.2183 Ranchi, Dated:10.11.2023

Expression of Interest

Dr. Ramdayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute (TRI), Ranchi invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from interested Universities (all Colleges)/Department of Universities/Government Institutes/ Recognized Research Institutes for undertaking a Research Project of TRI, Ranchi during the financial year 2023-24.
Topic: A Comparative Study of Socio-economic-cultural and educational status of Adivasis in the colonial and postcolonial Jharkhand

Interested agencies are hereby requested to submit Expression of Interest (EOI) duly forwarded by Director of the Institutes/ Registrar of Universities/ Head of Departments [applicable to Universities (all Colleges)/Department of Universities only] along with technical EOI giving relevant details of the organization/ Institute/ University necessary for evaluating the competencies on or before 1st December 2023. The project cost should be all inclusive (inclusive of all requisite statutory taxes, if applicable) and not open ended. The intending agencies may submit their EOI in sealed envelope on or before the due date. Technical proposal should be sealed in a separate envelope clearly marked in **BOLDA TECHNICAL PROPOSAL FOR "A Comparative Study of Socio-economic-cultural and educational status of Adivasis in the colonial and postcolonial Jharkhand"** written on the top of the envelope. These envelopes are to be addressed to the Director, Dr. Ramdayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute (TRI), Morabadi, Ranchi-834008. TRI will not be responsible for delay in transits or damages or loss of proposal document sent by post. Expression of Interest will be opened on 7th December 2023 in the office of the Director, TRI, Ranchi.

Only those agencies which fulfill technical criteria will be considered for presentation of project.

Terms of Reference (ToR) and other details can be obtained from the concerned nodal person (Mr. Vikas Dubey) at the TRI office on any working day during office hours, and the same can also be downloaded from the website www.trijharkhand.in under tender/notice section.

TRI, Ranchi reserves all rights to accept or reject all or any of the EOI's at any stage without assigning any reasons. TRI, Ranchi also reserves the right to engage/empanel one or more agencies depending on requirements.

Sd/- Director
PR 31171 (Schedule Tribe, Schedule Caste, Minority and Backward Class Welfare Department) 23-24 (D)

North Eastern Railway
E-Tender Notice No. 04HQWORKS2023
Dated 08.11.2023

The Principal Chief Engineer, N.E. Railway, Gorakhpur on behalf of President of India invites "Open Tender" through e-tender on website www.irps.gov.in for the following works, which will be opened on 11.12.2023 at 15.00Hrs.

Sl. No. : 1. Name of Work : Operation of Railway's Flash Butt Welding Plant complete with all machines and plants and infrastructure at Gonda for carrying out Flash Butt Welding work of new and second hand rails of various section as per the Railway's requirement to convert single rail to 3/5 to be approached Executives including loading/unloading/handling of rails/rail panels and maintenance of equipment other than main welding machines for a period of 24 (Twenty Four) Months with contractor's own supervisors, artisans, labour, tools and plants, spares and consumable etc. Quantity : As per Schedule. Approx. Value : Rs. 2.90 Crore (Rs. Two Crore and Ninety Lakhs only).
Earnest Money : Rs. 2,95,400/- (Rs. Two lakh ninety five thousand and four hundred only). Cost of Tender Document : Rs. 0.00. Completion period : 24 (Twenty Four) Months.

1. Date of uploading on website - 08.11.2023. Date of opening at 15.00 Hrs. on 11.12.2023. 3. Detailed tender notice, Eligibility Criteria and Terms and Conditions are available at website www.irps.gov.in. 4. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IRPS may be approached Executive Engineer/Track-9794840233 or S.S.E./Computer Cell-9794840282.
Executive Engineer/Track CP/RO-407 N.E. Railway, Gorakhpur
Do not travel with inflammable article in train

Government of Jharkhand
Dr. Ramdayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute, Ranchi
Department of Scheduled Tribe, Scheduled Caste, Minorities and OBC Welfare Ranchi-834008
Phone No. 0651 -2551824, E-mail:- tri.directorate@gmail.com;dir-triran@gov.in

Ref no. 2181 Ranchi, Dated: 10.11.2023

Re-Expression of Interest

Dr. Ramdayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute (TRI), Ranchi invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from interested Universities (all Colleges)/Department of Universities/Government Institutes/ Recognized Research Institutes for undertaking a Research Project of TRI, Ranchi during the financial year 2023-24.
Topic: Caring for Nature: A Sociological Study of Adivasi Wisdom, Environmental Ethics and Resource Management for Sustainable Livelihood

Interested agencies are hereby requested to submit Expression of Interest (EOI) duly forwarded by Director of the Institutes/ Registrar of Universities/ Head of Departments [applicable to Universities (all Colleges)/Department of Universities only] along with technical EOI giving relevant details of the organization/ Institute/ University necessary for evaluating the competencies on or before 1st December 2023. The project cost should be all inclusive (inclusive of all requisite statutory taxes, if applicable) and not open ended. The intending agencies may submit their EOI in sealed envelope on or before the due date. Technical proposal should be sealed in a separate envelope clearly marked in **BOLDA TECHNICAL PROPOSAL FOR "Caring for Nature: A Sociological Study of Adivasi Wisdom, Environmental Ethics and Resource Management for Sustainable livelihood"** written on the top of the envelope. These envelopes are to be addressed to the Director, Dr. Ramdayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute (TRI), Morabadi, Ranchi-834008. TRI will not be responsible for delay in transits or damages or loss of proposal document sent by post.

Expression of Interest will be opened on 7th December 2023 in the office of the Director, TRI, Ranchi.

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Terms of Reference (ToR) and other details can be obtained from the office of the TRI on any working day during office hour to meet concerned Nodal person (Mr. Vikas Dubey) and the same can also be downloaded from the website www.trijharkhand.in under tender/notice section.

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Sd/- Director
PR.NO.31166 Schedule Tribe, Schedule Caste, Minority and Backward Class Welfare Department(23-24):D



SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF WOMEN AT WORKPLACE (PREVENTION, PROHIBITION AND REDRESSAL) ACT, 2013

To provide safe working environment for women at their workplace, both within organized & unorganized Sector, as defined under Sub Section (o) & (p) of Sec 2 of POSH Act 2013.

Salient provisions of POSH Act are as under:-

1. Every employer shall provide safe working environment for women at their workplace.
2. Every employer, by written order, shall constitute an "Internal Complaints Committee" in offices both within Private Sector or Government Department/Autonomous body/Commission/ Boards etc.
3. Every District Officer, i.e District Magistrate or Additional District Magistrate or Collector or Deputy Collector notified so, shall constitute "Local Committee" to receive complaints of sexual harassment from establishment where Internal Committee has not been constituted due to less than ten workers OR if complaint is against the employer himself.
4. The Act also provides **Penalty for non-compliance** which may attract fine extendable to Rs.50,000/-, cancellation or withdrawn of license, non renewal or cancellation of registration etc.

DIP/Shabdarth/Display/0094/23-24

Aggrieved women facing sexual harassment at workplace may approach the above committees for prevention and redressal of complaints and matters incidental thereof. They can also avail facilities of One Stop Centers that provide 5 essential services under one roof.

Visit <https://wcd.delhi.gov.in> for address of One Stop Centers

Department of Women & Child Development, Government of NCT of Delhi



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2. Silver coated sweets may be checked for the presence of harmful aluminium by rubbing the silver foil with hands. Original silver foil will vanish by rubbing, whereas aluminium foil will remain there.
3. Visible insects, fungus contamination and any off-odour should be checked prior to purchase. Taste or smell the sweets before buying.
4. Before purchasing sweets, it must be ensured that the food handlers are wearing gloves while packing sweets and the food is being prepared under hygienic conditions.
5. Before purchase of any packed food item, read food Labels declaration carefully, to know the date of manufacturing, expiry date, use by date and its ingredients etc.
6. Khoya, Paneer and Milk preparations are generally adulterated with starch, which may be checked by Iodine Test, by taking a small sample mixed with water and bring to boil. Allow this to cool and add few drops of iodine in the solution if turns blue, then it is adulterated with Starch.
7. Dry fruits & Nuts should be checked for contamination and colour before purchase. Pista pieces can be checked for presence of added synthetic colour by putting and pressing on moist filter paper. The synthetic colour used on pista will leach out on moist filter paper.
8. Consumers are advised to buy sweets only from FSSAI licensed shops, by checking FSSAI Logo and License number displayed in the shop.
9. DART (Detect Adulteration with Rapid Test) available on the citizen corner of the department website: www.foodsafety.delhigovt.nic.in may be seen.

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Department of food safety,
Government of NCT of Delhi

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DIP/Shabdarth/Display/0093/23-24



Over the top

The decision to expel Mahua Moitra smacks of political vendetta

The alacrity with which the Lok Sabha Ethics Committee went about recommending the expulsion of Trinamool Congress Member of Parliament (MP) Mahua Moitra from the lower House is certainly not a sign of any fidelity to ethics, or fairness. The recommendation is a brazenly partisan attempt to silence a critic of the government. It is also a warning shot meant to intimidate MPs from doing their job of holding the executive accountable. Neither the process nor the conclusions of the committee are grounded in any decipherable principle. The committee, with the help of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology found that the MP's credentials were used online from Dubai 47 times to access the Parliament portal. Parliamentary questions were submitted from abroad. As Opposition members in the committee have pointed out, the drafting and the submission of questions are routinely done by aides of MPs. And MPs raise questions in Parliament based on representations from various constituents. To assume without solid evidence that any question is in exchange of material favours and then to expel an elected MP, is an assault on parliamentary democracy itself. The committee is calling upon the government to investigate the allegation of 'quid pro quo' raised by one of its members against Ms. Moitra, after holding her guilty, turning the principle of natural justice on its head.

If MPs are barred from sharing their login credentials with others, the rule must equally apply to one and all. Now that the committee has taken this extreme step of calling for the expulsion of an elected member from the House, thereby depriving the voters of her constituency representation, it should also investigate how other MPs prepare and submit parliamentary questions. The selective investigation of one MP, based on insinuations and conjectures, clearly comes out as what it is — intimidation. It is also in stark contrast with the tardy response of the Lok Sabha Committee of Privileges to a serious complaint against Bharatiya Janata Party MP Ramesh Bidhuri who used derogatory communal slurs against a fellow member in the Lok Sabha. That a member can abuse and threaten another member on the floor of the House is a matter of serious concern. That said, Ms. Moitra's act of allowing a person who is not employed by her to execute official work on her behalf betrays a lack of discretion and judgement. This should act as a lesson for all those who seek to hold the government accountable: to keep themselves beyond reproach.

Unending ordeal

Law enforcement officials and colleges must do more to prevent ragging

Multiple pieces of legislation and regulations prohibiting ragging on campuses have failed to end the dehumanising ordeals junior students are subjected to by their sadistic seniors. Nearly three months after a 17-year-old boy died due to ragging in West Bengal's Jadavpur University, a second-year undergraduate student of the PSG College of Technology in Tamil Nadu has been left brutalised, physically and mentally, for refusing to yield to monetary extortion by his seniors. Both States were among the earliest to enact legislation banning ragging. That students undergo such traumatic experiences despite civil society being rudely awakened by spine-chilling cases of brutalisation and even the murder of victims of ragging, exposes the gaps in the system that allow a vicious cycle where victims one year become perpetrators the next. From bullying and harassing freshers to ensure subservience to seniors, acts of ragging have taken perverse and cruel forms, including through sexual abuse, intended to dehumanise victims. An act of indiscipline has evolved into one that involves elements of criminality. While unlike earlier, ragging is no longer a given on campuses, it is evident that victims are not just the freshers and the harassment extends beyond the initial months of a new academic year, as seen above.

The Supreme Court-appointed R.K. Raghavan Committee had captured the causes, and suggested actionable remedies, in its 2007 report, "The Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions and Measures to Curb It". The panel rightly categorised ragging as a form of "psychopathic behaviour and a reflection of deviant personalities". In 1999, a University Grants Commission (UGC) Committee had recommended a "Prohibition, Prevention and Punishment" approach to curb ragging. Yet, as the Raghavan Committee pointed out, many State laws only seek to prohibit, and not prevent, ragging. In its words, "while prevention must lead to prohibition, the reverse need not be true." Despite "The UGC Regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions 2009", except for formalities such as conducting freshers' parties, mandating undertakings from students and parents against indulging in ragging, and putting up 'no-ragging' notices, the stakeholders have done little to prevent it. Institutions must create an encouraging atmosphere where teachers and hostel wardens, and not parents living in a distant place, are the first point of contact for victims. There must be greater accountability by educational institutions to prevent ragging. As the Raghavan panel recommended, regulatory authorities must ensure a ragging-free campus. This has a direct bearing on the maintenance of academic standards in individual institutions. Governments too must be earnest in implementing regulations, failing which campuses would not be safe for students.

Revamping the criminal justice system to fit the bill

The Government has introduced three Bills to replace the core laws, i.e., the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860, the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973, and the Indian Evidence Act (IEA), 1872, which form the basis of the criminal justice system. These Bills are being examined by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs. (The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill will replace the IPC; the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita Bill will be in place of the CrPC, and the Bharatiya Sakshya Bill will replace the IEA.)

As these Bills replace the entire Acts — and are not merely Amendment Bills to fix some gaps — they provide an opportunity for an overhaul of the laws underlying the criminal justice system. This raises the following questions — Do they update the law to reflect the concepts of modern jurisprudence? How do these Bills relate to various special laws? Do they help unclutter the criminal justice system? Are various definitions and provisions drafted well without ambiguity?

Modernising the law

There are seven issues related to modernising jurisprudence. First, whether these Bills exclude civil law. Usually, criminal law deals with issues that are seen as an offence against the broader society or state while civil law deals with loss to a person. However, the CrPC includes provisions for maintenance of wife and children after divorce. It also allows compounding of some offences by the affected person, which means the accused person is acquitted. For example, a person who is cheated may decide to acquit the accused person. The question is whether such matters should be dealt with under the civil code. The new Bills retain these provisions.

Second, whether these Bills create a reformatory system rather than a punitive system. There is a move towards this by making community service as a form of punishment. However, several minor offences (such as keeping an unauthorised lottery office, which carries a maximum penalty of six months imprisonment) are not compoundable, which means they will go through the process of trial and conviction.

Third, whether maintenance of public order and the process of criminal prosecution should



M.R. Madhavan

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There needs to be proper parliamentary scrutiny of the new Bills replacing the IPC, the CrPC and the IEA to ensure a fair, just and efficient criminal justice system

be in the same law. The CrPC has provisions charting out the process of arrest and trial as well as items such as Section 144 that empower the district magistrate to impose various restrictions. The new Bill retains this structure.

Fourth, whether various directions of the Supreme Court of India have been codified in these proposed laws. The Bill codifies the procedure for mercy petitions. However, there is no codification of various directions related to arrests and bail.

Fifth, whether the Bills try to ensure consistency of implementation. Typically, penalties for offences specify a range, with the judge expected to specify the sentence within the range based on the circumstances of each case. However, for some offences, the range may be very wide; for example, the punishment is upto 10 years imprisonment if a person cohabits with a woman whom he falsely convinces that he is married to her. That is, the judge may pronounce a sentence anywhere between one day and 10 years. The new Bill retains such wide ranges.

Sixth, whether the age provisions have been updated for modern norms. The IPC specifies that a child below the age of seven years cannot be accused of an offence. It provides such exemption until 12 years of age, if the child is found not to have attained the ability to understand the nature and consequences of his conduct. The question is whether these age thresholds should be raised.

Seventh, whether gender related offences have been updated. The Bill is in line with the Supreme Court judgment which struck down the offence of adultery. Section 377 of the IPC, which was read down by the Court to decriminalise same sex intercourse between consenting adults has been dropped; consequently, the parts retained by that judgment including rape of a male adult and bestiality have also been removed. The Justice Verma Committee, in 2013, had recommended making marital rape an offence; this has not been done.

Overlap with special laws

The IPC was enacted in 1860 as the principal law specifying offences and penalties. Since then, several laws have been enacted to deal with

specific offences. However, the IPC and the Bill to replace it continue to specify some of these offences and the applicable penalties. This leads to duplication as well as inconsistency across these laws. In some cases, the penalties are different; also, a person may face prosecution under different laws for the same action.

In some cases, this has been addressed. For example, the Legal Metrology Act, 2009 states that provisions of the IPC related to weights and measures will not apply; the Bill removes these provisions. However, the Bill (like the IPC) overlaps with several other Acts such as those related to food adulteration, sale of adulterated drugs, bonded labour, and rash driving. Abortion continues to be an offence though it is permitted under certain conditions under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971. The Bill replacing CrPC retains the provision requiring maintenance of a parent though a special Act was passed in 2007 regarding this.

Definitions and drafting

The Bill replacing the IPC provides a person suffering from mental illness as a general exception from being an offender (this was called unsound mind earlier). The definition of mental illness is the same as in the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017. That Act aims to provide medical treatment to persons suffering from mental illness, and, therefore, excludes mental retardation or incomplete development; it also includes abuse of alcohol or drugs. Consequently, the new Bill will provide full exemption to someone who is addicted to alcohol or drugs but not to a person who is unable to understand the consequences of their actions due to mental retardation.

The three laws had a number of illustrations from daily life to clarify their provisions. Some of these illustrations have become obsolete but have still been retained. These include people riding chariots, firing cannons and being carried on palanquins. It may be useful to update these illustrations to events from modern life.

These Bills will become the basis of the criminal justice system. Parliament should examine them with great care so that they create a fair, just and efficient criminal justice system.

The U.S.'s signal of a huge digital shift

When Thomas L. Friedman triumphantly declared in 2005 that the world was flat, with the opportunities having been equalised globally, it was considerably premised on new digital developments. This new geopolitical and geo-economic ideology was led by the United States, home to most of the world's Big Tech. It first sought to redefine development through the field of ICT4D (Information and Communication Technologies for Development), and then herald a new dawn for democracy globally, most characterised by colour revolutions in East Europe and the so-called Arab Spring.

Prempting digital regulation

Behind it all of course was a new plan to employ the global reach of digital tentacles, and later data-enabled controls, for economic expansionism. Some called it digital colonisation, due to its extractive nature. The U.S. thereby sought to preempt alarmed national regimes from reconstructing boundaries to contain digital globalisation. It devised a set of digital trade proposals seeking binding commitments from countries to essentially prevent any effective future regulation of Big Tech. For some years now, such digital trade proposals have been the hottest agenda at various plurilateral trade negotiations and at the World Trade Organization (WTO). Countries such as India and South Africa, and some other developing ones, have stoutly resisted the U.S.-driven digital trade agreements juggernaut.

In the circumstances, the world was shocked to hear the U.S. withdraw, in late October, from its centerpiece digital trade positions at the WTO — those about data flows/localisation, access to source code, and location of computing facilities. The declaration represents a watershed moment about how the global digital economy and society will evolve going forward. The stated motive is the realisation that the U.S. needs domestic policy space to regulate Big Tech and AI, for which data and source code could be important leverage points. Having employed this as a major reason for opposing global digital trade agreements,



Parminder Jeet Singh

is a New Delhi-based digital activist and researcher

America's withdrawal from its centerpiece digital trade positions at the WTO now gives developing countries a good opportunity to shape effective digital regulation

developing countries can feel vindicated. However, they also had strong economic reasons; an uncontrolled remit of the Big Tech would not allow domestic digital industrialisation.

From flat to a split digital world

But a major (perhaps the main, unstated) reason for the U.S. declaration is the China factor. The flat world was a happy place for the U.S. when it meant its singular digital hegemony over it. But with China fast on the heels of the U.S. towards digital superpower-hood, the situation has become more complex. The digital trade negotiations at the WTO are open to all countries, and China grasped the opportunity to participate in them. China had leveraged its accession to the WTO in 2001 to become the 'world's factory', thereby taking its economic development, and subsequently geopolitical status, to an entirely new level. A free digital trade agreement — with free data flows, without the need to share the source code of digital products, and allowing remote computing facilities — could similarly be employed globally by China to now outsmart the U.S. digitally. It could help bring China on an equal footing with the U.S. in accessing global digital markets, and in driving and controlling the world's digitalisation, in all sectors. Apart from the economic challenge, the U.S. also considers any pervasive Chinese digital presence globally as a major security threat.

Such Cold War-like economic and security-related exclusions, and blocs building, may at least be as important a reason behind the U.S. declaration as the stated one of preserving policy space. Even though having withdrawn from these all-important positions in the WTO digital trade negotiations, where China cannot be excluded, the U.S. may still push for data flow, source code, and facilities location, related provisions in regional digital trade deals, in some form or the other. Such deals will be led by the U.S., and, significantly, be limited to its allies. The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) and the Americas Partnership for Economic Prosperity (APEP) are two such initiatives by the U.S. It is pursuing similar

interests through bilateral trade and technology councils, for example with the European Union (EU) and India.

The historic declaration by the U.S. can, therefore, be seen in two different lights. At one level, it signals a full global acceptance that preserving national policy space around data flows, source code, and location of computing facilities is key to all-important digital regulation. This is a most welcome development. But at another level, what indeed is rather worrying is that it could firmly herald the splitting of the global digital space, structures and value-chains into two competing blocs — one led by the U.S. and other by China. This is already happening, but could now pick up a new momentum.

Resisting digital dependencies

What does this mean for developing countries such as India? They should make the most of the new global consensus on the need for strong digital regulations to rein in Big Tech and manage AI, including through policies related to data, source code, and location of computing facilities. The U.S.'s statement is like abnegation by the king, with the EU already employing data and source code related laws in its domestic regulation which are beginning to look quite contrary to its positions at global digital trade forums. Developing countries should grasp this opportunity with both hands to urgently shape new paradigms for national digital regulation.

But, at the same time, developing countries must stoutly resist a new trap of a digital Cold War, whereby they get bound into digital dependencies either with the U.S. or China. A new digital regulation paradigm should combine with strong digital industrial policies to bolster domestic digital industry. Countries should aim at creating globally open standards, open protocols, and open digital public infrastructures. All these together could mean complete and genuine global-scale interoperability. This would enable open global digital value chains, allowing easy switching across global digital trade partners — suppliers or consumers — whether from the U.S., China, or elsewhere.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Panel's recommendation
There is nothing ethical in what the Lok Sabha Ethics Committee has done in the case of the Trinamool Congress Member of Parliament, Mahua Moitra (Page 1, November 10). It will be nothing short of travesty if she is expelled, which will weaken democracy in India. One hopes that the Speaker of the Lok Sabha acts wisely. The Bharatiya Janata Party might want to derive political mileage from the episode, which is not worth it.
D. Nagarjuna,
Hyderabad

If it is established that the woman MP did accept money for asking questions, she deserves to be punished. But it must be on the basis of substantial evidence. If it is a case of political vendetta, the episode is extremely shameful.
S.K. Vijayan,
Alappuzha, Kerala

It would have been a huge surprise had the ethics committee not recommended the expulsion of the MP. The recommendation is not only partisan but also devoid of ethics and fairness. The

ruling party at the Centre and its governments will not spare any effort to punish and silence critics.
C.G. Kuriakose,
Kothamangalam, Kerala

It is quite unfortunate that the ethics committee had to recommend expulsion. At the same time, one fails to go with Ms. Moitra's argument that "the issue of log-in sharing is a non-issue". Raising questions in Parliament is one of the many special privileges granted to MPs. This is a right to be utilised to ameliorate the lot of the people and not individuals

with vested interests. Sharing log-in credentials with a 'business rival' is a violation of set rules. Every such breach of act should not be seen through the prism of politics.
Rettavayal S. Krishnaswamy,
Chennai

Strange statements

It is painful that people in exalted positions are issuing

strange statements without fathoming what the real meaning of *Sanatana Dharma* is. Care must be taken to avoid controversy.
P.S. Rajagopalan,
Chennai

A victim of ragging

The 'disease' of ragging appears to be acquiring a more dangerous dimension nowadays (Inside pages,

"Ragging victim was locked up in room for five hours, reveals FIR", November 10). It is shocking that such behaviour is seen in students pursuing a professional course. The punishment for ragging is too weak, which is why it continues unabated.
Manoharan Muthuswamy,
Chennai



Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Corrections & Clarifications

The front-page headline, "Ethics panel recommends disqualification of Moitra" (November 10, 2023), was inaccurate. The recommendation of the Lok Sabha Ethics Committee was to 'expel' — not 'disqualify' — the TMC's Mahua Moitra from the Lok Sabha.

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300; E-mail: readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

GROUND ZERO

Stubble trouble

Every year, in October-November, pollution levels spike in north India. While many factors come together to create smog, stubble burning remains a significant one, despite fewer incidents being recorded this year compared to last year, report **Vikas Vasudeva** and **Nikhil M. Babu**



Paddy crop residue being burned on the outskirts of Chandigarh. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

It's the first week of November and Delhi is blanketed in smog. But buses full of children in school uniform head towards Lodi Garden, a sprawling park in the heart of the city, and groups of people amble towards India Gate, a war memorial. It is rare to see faces covered with N95 masks, despite the air quality index (AQI) hitting the severe-plus 500 mark and the government banning construction and the plying of certain types of vehicles as emergency measures to control air pollution.

But on the fifth floor of a building at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, the largest government hospital in Delhi, 39-year-old Fauzia Begum's brother wheels her into a doctor's room. A white tube from an oxygen cylinder, attached to a side of the wheelchair, splits into two. They go into Begum's nostrils.

Begum coughs. "Her condition got worse over the last week due to the pollution," her brother tells the doctor. In a low voice, Begum adds, "It's hard to breathe. I can't sit and I feel very weak. What should I do?"

"This month is very bad," the doctor replies. "Every year, you will have to take this injection in November-December," he adds and scribbles a list of medicines on her file.

Outside the room, Begum's brother says her condition had worsened during this time last year too, when Delhi's air became thick, brown, and toxic. "She was better and could breathe with us running the oxygen at 2 (litres per minute)," he says. "About two weeks ago, she started getting breathless and we increased it to 3. But she was still not fine, so we had to increase it to 4," he says. Begum used to be more active than him, he rues.

"Now, I only go to hospital," says Begum.

A north-centric problem

Many other patients show a similar pattern, says Dr. Vijay Hadda, Additional Professor (Pulmonary Medicine) at AIIMS. He termed pollution a "hidden killer" that affects "almost every organ." Air pollution has been linked to lung cancer, stroke, heart attack, and many other diseases. About 1.67 million Indians died prematurely in 2019 alone due to air pollution, accounting for 18% of all fatalities, according to a report published by *The Lancet* last year.

India ranks eighth in the list of countries with the worst air quality index, according to the Annual World Air Quality Report released by Swiss air quality technology company, IQAir, earlier this year. To make matters worse, of the top 20 most polluted cities in the world, 14 were from north India.

Poor air is therefore not just a Delhi problem. Every year, especially during winter, air pollution spikes in the entire Indo-Gangetic Plain. This region, covering large parts of Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, and eastern Uttar Pradesh, constitutes an airshed, which means that roughly the same atmospheric conditions prevail everywhere.

Pollution spikes when pollutants from different sources are not dispersed easily in winter because of a drop in wind speed and temperature. Vehicle and diesel generator exhaust, heavy industry emissions, soil and road dust, open waste burning, and biomass burning are all present in the atmosphere throughout the year. In winter they get accumulated, amplifying the effects of the pollutants compared to summer. The pollution from stubble burning, a practice of removing paddy crop residue from fields to sow wheat, which happens in October-November, makes the situation worse.

This November too, air pollution spiked in the Indo-Gangetic Plain and a toxic smog covered the national capital for about a week. Delhi remained the 'most polluted' major city in the world for many days in November, according to IQAir's live

Pollution is a hidden killer that affects almost every organ.

DR. VIJAY HADDA
Additional Professor (Pulmonary Medicine), AIIMS

data for over 100 cities.

Calling it a "murder of the health of the people," the Supreme Court cracked the whip on the government. Among other directions, it ordered Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan to stop stubble burning "forthwith".

Last week, while the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) blamed the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-ruled Punjab for stubble burning in the State, the AAP hit back saying this is a north Indian problem for which the BJP has no plan. Paddy stubble burning, a politically sensitive issue, takes place only during the harvest period of September 15-November 30.

Fewer stubble burning incidents

The good news is that the number of stubble-burning incidents in the region are falling, according to the Consortium for Research on Agroecosystem Monitoring and Modelling from Space Lab, run by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute. In 2022, the number of farm fires fell in Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh compared to the previous year.

This year too, there is a fall. According to data from the Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB), collected through satellite imagery, the State recorded 22,981 stubble-burning incidents from September 15 to November 8. Sangrur, the home district of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, recorded the highest number of farm fires at 4,070. Last year, 33,090 such incidents were recorded during the same period in the State. These figures show that while farm fires have reduced, they are still high in absolute numbers.

On October 22 this year, stubble burning accounted for about 16% of the PM2.5 particulate matter in Delhi. It increased to nearly 35% on November 3, the highest this season, when the AQI broke into the most toxic category, according to a tracker maintained by the Earth Sciences Ministry.

Meteorological factors play a significant role in determining the degree of particulate matter coming in from stubble burning outside of Delhi-NCR. "It was surprising that multiple weather factors combined between October 26-31," says Professor Sachchida Nand Tripathi, an authority on atmospheric sciences, at IIT Kanpur. "The boundary layer dropped by 50%, the wind direction changed from north-east to northwest, and the columnar winds were as low as they can get. It's well known that these values will correspond to the worst pollution levels," he says. The boundary layer refers to the height at which pollutants hover. If it's too low, natural wind drafts cannot flush the pollutants away. The same goes for columnar wind.

'We burn stubble out of compulsion'

As stubble burning is a significant factor, though not solely responsible for the spike in pollution, as Tripathi says, it also dominates conversations in Punjab. In Fatehpur, a village on the outskirts of Patiala city, winter is setting in. It is that time of

the year when farmers in Punjab and Haryana race against time to harvest the paddy (summer) crop and prepare to sow the wheat (winter) crop.

Paddy, which is harvested with combine harvester machines, leaves behind a stubble on the field. Many farmers find burning the crop residue to be the most "effective and cheap" method when they want to prepare their farm to sow wheat. As they have only three weeks between the harvest of paddy and the sowing of wheat, farmers resort to stubble burning.

Farmers across Punjab annually face the challenge of managing nearly 20 million tonnes of paddy straw. It is estimated by the State government that over 15 million tonnes of paddy straw are burnt in open fields to clear the land for sowing wheat or other crops.

Ajit Singh (name changed to protect privacy), 58, is aware of the 2015 order of National Green Tribunal, which bans stubble burning. But the owner of a 14-acre family farm says he is helpless.

"Most farmers don't want to set stubble on fire," he says. "They do it out of compulsion. We are the first victims of the pollution from crop



The problem is that successive governments have failed to provide us with viable options to manage the crop residue

AJIT SINGH
Farmer

burning, so why would we want that? The problem is that successive governments have failed to provide us with viable options to manage the crop residue."

He adds that if farmers were given machines or financial incentives by the government "in a time-bound manner," they wouldn't burn the residue.

For the last few years, the government has been providing crop residue management (CRM) machines, but even on subsidy, they are expensive, especially for small and marginal farmers. They are also not available on time. This year, the government has been promoting the use of balers (machines designed to compress crop residue into compact bales).

"The problem remains the same: they are not available when we need them," Ajit says.

In the village, a group of farmers meet close to a pond. They debate the controversial incident of some farmers in a village in Bathinda forcing a government official to burn paddy straw in a field last week. A first information report was registered against the perpetrators. Mann said that "the State government can't be a mute spectator to this incident and allow anarchy to prevail."

The farmers say the problem is deeper. "Mechanisation is only a partial solution. The government needs to promote crop diversification, which is only possible through a minimum support price and assured purchase of the produce for other crops on the lines of paddy and wheat," says Gurpreet Singh, 35, who has been using a super-seeder machine for removing paddy stubble. These machines plough standing paddy stubble in soil and sow wheat seed simultaneously in a single operation.

Amarjit Singh (name changed), of Bari village in Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar district, says the private bale operator he had approached asked him to pay ₹800 per acre to have his field cleared. Amarjit refused. "I can't bear that cost as it adds to the cost of cultivation. Why can't the government make an arrangement to lift the stubble from our fields," he says.

In Rupnagar district's Rolu Majra village, Pargat Singh, in his 70s, who has cultivated paddy in a 14-acre farm, says farmers have been demand-

ing ₹2,500-3,000 per acre from the government for many years: "If they pay us this, we will not burn the stubble because we can opt for scientific methods to dispose of the residue."

There has been an encouraging response for balers from farmers this year, says Jaswant Singh, Director of the Punjab Agriculture Department. "The demand has gone up significantly this season. Most of these balers are imported. The companies in the business had procured balers keeping in view the routine demand. But given this sudden rise, we have had a problem of shortage. We hope it is resolved soon."

With no quick solutions in sight, farmers have reluctantly been burning paddy, which has caused air pollution to spike in the last fortnight in Punjab. The AQI has slipped from the 'moderate' to 'poor' category. Experts fear that with close to 20% of area of paddy yet to be harvested, pollution will only spike further.

Asserting that the number of hospital patients with respiratory diseases has gone up in the last few days, Dr. Aslam Parvez, president of Punjab Rural Medical Services Association, says, "Stubble burning triggers respiratory disease. We are seeing more and more patients with cough, runny nose, itchy eyes, besides skin diseases."

Government initiatives

For the management of crop residue, the Punjab government has been providing subsidies on the purchase of CRM machines, including surface seeders, an in-situ paddy stubble management device. The State government has mandated that brick kilns use stubble as fuel and that other plants buy stubble from farmers.

Gurpreet Singh Kuthala, from Ferozepur-Kuthala village in Malerkotla district, says that the demand for stubble from biomass energy plants, industrial boilers, and paper cardboard mills has seen an uptick this year. This is fetching the farmers a good price.

"Last year, I bought a rake and baler on government subsidy for stubble management. I cleared stubble in 600 acres and earned around ₹20 lakh by selling bales. This year, I expect the area to go up to 2,000 acres. I don't charge anything from the farmers. I have entered into an agreement with a compressed bio-gas plant situated in Sangrur. They pay ₹170 per quintal for the bale," he says.

P.S. Rangi, former adviser to the Punjab State Farmers Commission, says the State has over 10 lakh farming families who have land holdings of 2-5 acres and cannot afford to opt for mechanised farming. "While supplying agro-machines on subsidy may reduce the problem of stubble burning to some extent, it is not a complete solution. These agro-machines are used for a limited period of time. They are of no use for the whole year. Also, they have no utility unless they are provided within the required time," Rangi says.

To curb the menace of stubble burning, PPCB has been promoting paddy straw as a resource to create wealth. "The PPCB has been encouraging the use of paddy straw in power plants and industrial boilers. Demonstrative industrial boilers were installed and entrepreneurs are trying to replicate them in their units. Punjab has tackled technological challenges over the last two years. There have been metallurgical improvements in industrial boiler vessels and the supply chain of paddy straw has been strengthened. The efforts have resulted in 125% increase (to 4.5 million tonnes) in paddy straw usage from the previous year," says Krunesh Garg, chief environmental engineer, PPCB.

Meanwhile in Delhi, though schools have shut, children continue to go out and play, and people party on and even burst firecrackers.

With inputs from Jacob Koshy



A thick layer of smog covers Delhi. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

From Page One

'Governors cannot sit on Bills passed by House'

"Governor is intended to be a constitutional Statesman guiding the government on matters of constitutional concern," the court added.

'Breach of practice'

Mr. Purohit had held back the Bills on the ground that the Speaker had adjourned the Budget Session of the House *sine die* in March without proroguing it. He refused to consider the proposed laws presented to him on the ground that the special Assembly sitting in which the Bills were passed in June was "patently illegal" and in breach of the practice and procedure under the Punjab Vidhan Sabha Rules. The Governor, responding through his secretary, said the House had convened again in October to pass three Money Bills. Two of these Money Bills were recommended for introduction in the House after the State government moved the Supreme Court. One is still pending action with the Governor, who claimed that the October sitting convened by the Speaker was also illegal. He contended that it was not open for the Speaker to drag the Budget Session into the Monsoon Session.

The Governor said the Speaker had no authority to adjourn the House *sine die* in perpetuation without proroguing it. Adjourning *sine die* is an "interruption of one and the same session" while prorogation is a termination of the session. The Speaker adjourns the House. The Governor prorogues it.

"The Speaker, who has been recognised to be the guardian of the privilege of the House and constitutionally recognised authority who represents the House, was acting well within his jurisdiction in adjourning the House *sine die*," the court concluded.

Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, dictating the order in court as the head of the Bench comprising Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, said it was the right of each House of Legislature to be the sole judge of the lawfulness of its own proceedings.

The Bench observed that a House was governed by the decisions of the Speaker on adjournments. It would not be constitutionally valid for the Governor to question how the Speaker exercised his jurisdiction over the conduct of the House. The court said the Governor could either assent to the Bills, withhold assent and send them back with a "message" to reconsider them or refer them to the President.

+ Gaza crisis: India bats for two-state solution

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken's interactions in Delhi were a continuation of his diplomacy on the Israel-Palestinian crisis which has taken a heavy humanitarian toll due to the continued Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip. The joint statement reflected Mr. Blinken's recent arguments made during a meeting with Arab Foreign Ministers in Amman on November 4, where the U.S. had refused to call for a ceasefire in Gaza. The '2+2' meeting was led by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on the Indian side, and Mr. Blinken and U.S. Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin. A broad range of issues, including the India-Canada spat over Khalistani groups and the upcoming election in Bangladesh, were discussed. Mr. Blinken and Mr. Austin met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday evening. "Our shared belief in democracy, pluralism and the rule of law underpins our mutually beneficial cooperation in diverse sectors. The India-US partnership is truly a force for global good," Mr. Modi said in a message.

"They expressed support for humanitarian pauses and committed to continue close diplomatic coordination, including with key partners in the region," the statement said. The '2+2' meeting was led by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on the Indian side, and Mr. Blinken and U.S. Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin on the American side.

'India, U.S. in agreement on strategic issues'

"The India-U.S. defence relationship has evolved into a strategic partnership characterised by mutual trust, shared values, and a growing recognition of common interests in maintaining regional and global security," Mr. Singh said in his opening remarks. "We share a focus on maritime security in the Indo-Pacific region, recognising the criticality of safeguarding vital sea lanes, and promoting stability; our teams are working on the substantive outcomes."

Noting that the strategic convergence would expand the scope of collaboration to new domains, he said: "We are charting new pathways of cooperation by pursuing stronger defence, industrial engagement, easing of technology restrictions, resilient supply chains in all domains, and maritime security." "Our relationship is not just about the People's Republic of China and is based on many things," Mr. Austin said. "It is based on shared values and democracy. We are cooperating in under-sea and space technologies," he added.

The two countries are negotiating deals for the purchase of 31 MQ-9B unmanned aerial vehicles, and for the licensed manufacture of General Electric's F-414 jet engine in India, which has been chosen to power the LCA-MK2.

T.N. Governor holding back Bills a matter of concern: SC

The top court highlights that Article 200 of the Constitution mandated the Governor to act very soon when Bills, passed by the State Legislature, were presented to him for declaration of assent

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday said the "constitutional deadlock" created by Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi by inexplicably delaying or even failing to consider and assent to 12 crucial Bills passed by the Assembly and stymieing day-to-day governance in a way which is threatening to bring administration in the State to a grinding halt was a "serious concern".

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud issued formal notice to the Union of India through the Home Ministry to respond to the Tamil Nadu government's petition that the Governor was acting in a manner which "defeats the rights of the people" of the State to welfare legislation.

The court asked the Attorney-General of India, or in his absence, the Solicitor-General of India to be present in court on November 20 even as Tamil Nadu, represented by senior advocates A.M. Singhvi and P. Wilson, said the Governor was even holding



The State asked the court to fix a deadline for Governor R.N. Ravi to consider the Bills pending with his office. PTI

back files seeking sanction for prosecution of public servants in corruption cases, pleas for premature release of prisoners, and appointments to the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (TNPSC).

Mr. Wilson submitted that there was "not a word" from the Governor on any of these files or Bills, which related to subjects from public health to higher education.

The court, in its short order, highlighted that Article 200 of the Constitution mandated the Governor to act "as soon as possible" when Bills, passed by the State Legislature, were presented to him for declaration of assent.

person, were vacant. There are four files for prosecution sanction forwarded to the Governor between April 2022 and May 2023.

The State said the Governor had positioned himself as a political rival to the legitimately elected government. The Governor's inactions had caused an *impasse* between the constitutional head of the State and the elected government of the State. The Governor was toying away with the citizen's mandate, the petition said.

The State urged the Supreme Court to declare the "inaction, omission, delay and failure to comply with the constitutional mandate by the Governor of Tamil Nadu" as illegal and arbitrary.

It also sought the court to fix a deadline for Mr. Ravi to consider the Bills and orders pending with his office. The State accused the Governor of "politically motivated conduct" for denying sanction to probe authorities in corruption cases against public servants despite finding *prima facie* evidence against them.

Mr. Wilson said 10 of the 14 posts in the TNPSC, including that of the Chair-

In letter to Speaker, Mahua questions leak of Ethics panel report

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



Mahua Moitra

Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra has written to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla questioning how news channel NDTV, which is owned by the Adani Group, got access to the draft report of the Ethics Committee inquiring into the "cash-for-query" allegations against her.

"It is even more shocking because this media channel is majority-owned by Adani Group, against whom I have raised very serious questions of corporate fraud and breach of financial and securities regulations in the Lok Sabha," Ms. Moitra said in the letter on Thursday, which she posted on X.

She added that the Adani Group was "under the scanner for a ₹13,000 crore coal scam where they have over-invoiced imports in addition to serious allegations of corporate fraud in the areas of energy and gas, infrastructure etc."

'Total breakdown'

"The group's shareholding pattern is extremely suspect with dubious FPI's owning stock via the backdoor in violation of Indian securities regulations," Ms.

Moitra alleged.

In her letter, the Trinamool leader said that it was a "total breakdown" of all due process and rules of the Lok Sabha. "Your inaction and lack of response to my previous complaints is also unfortunate. However, as a matter of record wish to bring this egregious breach to your urgent attention," she said.

Her letter came just hours before the Ethics Committee adopted a report, recommending her expulsion from the Lok Sabha.

The report will be tabled on the first day of the Winter Session of Parliament scheduled to begin on December 4.

This is the first time since the Ethics Committee came into existence in 2000 that the panel has recommended the expulsion of an MP.

BRO says Amarnath road project will help pilgrims' movement

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Facing outcry from the Jammu and Kashmir-based political parties, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) on Saturday clarified that the ongoing road project to the Amarnath cave shrine was to widen the tracks for pedestrian traffic, keeping in view the environmental concerns.

"The court in 2012 issued the directions for sufficient widening of tracks to facilitate pedestrian traffic and address congestion on the track, improvement of critical stretches of the existing track, provide safety railings and retaining walls along the vulnerable stretches etc. keeping in view the environmental concerns," the BRO said in a statement.

"To continue with the work, which could not be completed before the last



The trekking path to the Amarnath shrine. ANI

yatra, the BRO by engaging men and machinery, has widened many remaining portions of the tracks, which were narrow and vulnerable. This will make the movement of *yatris* visiting the Holy Shrine on foot or *palkies* or *dandies* and ponies more comfortable and convenient," it said. The clarification comes days after the BRO posted pictures of vehicles parked near the cave shrine and described it "a formidable task".

168 villages along China border to get road connectivity in a year: Shah

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said 168 villages along the China border that do not have any connectivity yet would be connected by road and other forms of communication in the next one year. He said the country's security would suffer if border villages were emptied out due to migration and the vibrant village programme (VVP) would ensure that all facilities and infrastructure reached there. He said the country could not be safe without development of the border areas.

Mr. Shah was speaking at the 62nd Raising Day parade of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) in Dehradun on Friday. The ITBP is the primary force deployed along the 3,488-km China border.

He said that seven batta-



Union Home Minister Amit Shah being felicitated by ITBP Director-General Anish Dayal Singh in Dehradun on Friday. ANI/PIB

lions of the ITBP were sanctioned by the government and out of them, four battalions would be deployed shortly. Mr. Shah said these seven battalions and one sector headquarters would be built at a cost of approximately ₹3,000 crore.

The Centre wanted the border villages to be treated as first villages not just geographically but also in terms of facilities, he said.

He said that before 2014, the average spent on border infrastructure was ₹4,000 crore per year and in the past nine-and-a-half years, it had trebled to ₹12,340 crore on an average with money being spent on road, border outposts and infrastructure.

Mr. Shah said whenever he heard of any news from India-China border, he was assured that not even an inch of land would be oc-

cupied as the ITBP was posted there. He said a budgetary allocation of ₹4,800 crore had been made to create adequate infrastructural, health and educational facilities in 662 border villages of 19 districts under the VVP. The ITBP could also be made the nodal agency for carrying out developmental work in the border villages, he said.

Mr. Shah said that among the many new initiatives taken on Friday, the Self Sustainable Energy Building (SSEB) was very special because built at an altitude of 17,000 feet in the cold desert this building would become a symbol of self-reliant India. He said this building was a Deepavali gift to the Himveers from the PM. He said it would keep the soldiers safe at a temperature of 18-19 degrees Celsius. He said the SSEB was completed in just two months.

Modi may attend COP-28 summit in Dubai; to host G-20 summit virtually

Suhasini Haider
Jacob P. Koshy
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will likely be present at the 28th edition of the United Nations Conference of Parties (COP-28), which will begin in Dubai on November 30, sources confirmed to *The Hindu*.

The annual climate conference is the most high-profile summit to discuss the challenges from climate change and the roles and responsibilities of the world's governments in addressing it. During his visit to the UAE in July this year, Mr. Modi had signed agreements and committed to future engagement. One of the things that was committed to was a joint resolution to "...make COP-28 a joint success for all".



During his visit to the UAE in July this year, PM Modi had signed agreements and committed to future engagement. PTI

Mr. Modi is likely to be present on December 1, sources said, when heads of state from several countries are expected to make statements. COP-28 will go on till December 12.

He is also hosting the Voice of Global Summit and the G-20 summits virtually, and climate change

commitments as well as the need for concrete moves on climate finance from the developed world are likely to be highlighted.

The last time Mr. Modi visited a COP summit was the 26th edition, held in Scotland, where he committed to India achieving net zero - or no net emis-

sions of carbon dioxide - by 2070. India's presidency of the G-20 and the resulting New Delhi agreement in September placed climate change, the adoption of renewable energy and the responsibility of richer, developed countries to shoulder greater responsibility for the climate crisis as central issues.

The major themes expected to resonate at COP-28 are the Global Stocktake, where countries are expected to present the steps they have undertaken to meet commitments towards achieving goals of the Paris Agreement. Countries are also expected to deliberate on the Loss and Damages Fund, to compensate countries already bearing the brunt of climate change.

Slapping case: court raps U.P. govt. for not complying with order

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday expressed shock at the Uttar Pradesh government's lack of compliance with a direction to provide expert counselling for a Muslim student whose teacher at a Muzaffarnagar private school encouraged his classmates to slap him. A Bench headed by Justice A.S. Oka asked the State Education Secretary to be present virtually on the next date of hearing on December 11.

"To say the least, the approach of the State, as can be seen affidavit, is shocking," the court said.

The court asked Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) to suggest a counselling programme and

names of expert counsellors.

"To avoid any strong action by the court, we hope and trust that the Secretary will personally look into the matter and ensure that the order passed by this court is complied in letter and spirit and affidavits are placed at least three days in advance before the next date," the court said.

The court had earlier flagged the incident as "very serious" and in violation of Article 21A (the fundamental right of a child to free and compulsory education) of the Constitution, the Right to Education Act, and even the Uttar Pradesh Rules which tasks the local authorities to ensure that children do not face discrimination in classrooms.

ASSEMBLY POLLS 2023

MIZORAM » MADHYA PRADESH » RAJASTHAN » CHHATTISGARH » TELANGANA

Report flags candidates' criminal cases

At least 100 out of 953 candidates contesting the second phase of the Chhattisgarh Assembly elections have criminal cases against their names, with 56 facing serious offences of voluntarily causing hurt, cheating and criminal intimidation.

As per a report by the Chhattisgarh Election Watch

and Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) released on Friday, out of 953 candidates analysed, 100 (10%) candidates have declared criminal cases against themselves.

Among the major parties, 13 (19%) candidates from the Congress, 12 from the Bharatiya Janata Party, 11 from the Janta Congress Chhattisgarh (J) and 12 (27%) from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) have declared criminal cases in their affidavits, the report said. ■



According to the report, 56 candidates face serious offences. PTI

'PM Modi calls himself OBC but wears ₹2-cr. suit'

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday took a jibe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying he calls himself a member of the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) but wears suits worth ₹2 crore and travels in aircraft worth thousands of crores of rupees.

Addressing a rally in poll-bound Madhya Pradesh's

Satna, Mr. Gandhi launched a scathing attack on the PM. He said, "Mr. Modi became Prime Minister by saying this, but he wears suits worth ₹2 crore and flies in an aeroplane worth thousands of crores. Narendra Modi changes at least two-three suits in a day."

"This shirt of mine goes on. I wear this shirt only," Mr. Gandhi said, pointing to his white shirt.

He also claimed that 18,000 farmers had killed themselves due to loans in Madhya Pradesh in the last 18 years.



The BJP leaders want their sons and daughters to study English but they want tribals to stay away... Congress will conduct a caste census in M.P.

RAHUL GANDHI
Congress leader

Repolling held at polling booth in Aizawl South

The Muallungthu polling station in Aizawl South-III constituency saw 87% of the 1,084 voters exercising their franchise in the repolling held on Friday, said officials.

The exercise was necessitated as voting personnel did not clear the mock poll at the polling station ahead of the voting on Tuesday. ■



The BRS has taken Telangana back by 10 years and left a financially surplus State with a debt of ₹5 lakh crore

ANURAG THAKUR
Union Minister

With a rich political legacy, Bhojpur weighs up its options

Voters in this Madhya Pradesh constituency, once represented by late BJP stalwart Sunderlal Patwa, list the condition of roads, cash assistance for women, and the safeguarding of culture as key issues; while the BJP has fielded four-time MLA Surendra Patwa, the Congress is banking on Rajkumar Patel, an outsider, to clinch the constituency that is identified with the 11th-century Bhojeshwar temple

GROUND REPORT

Sandeep Phukan
BHOJPUR

The clouds of dust rising from the broken and potholed road that leads to the 11th-century Bhojeshwar temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva, belie the political legacy and history of the Bhojpur constituency that is identified with the temple, a heritage site under the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

Barely 30 km from Bhopal, the Assembly seat was once represented by the late Sunderlal Patwa, a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) stalwart and former Chief Minister of undivided Madhya Pradesh. He is the only person ever to have defeated Congress leader Kamal Nath in a Lok Sabha

election, in his bastion of Chhindwara in a 1997 byelection.

Even now, the Bhojpur Assembly seat is represented by Mr. Patwa's nephew and BJP MLA, Surendra Patwa, who is seeking a fourth term from here.

In 2018, the Congress fielded former Union Minister Suresh Pachouri because of his roots in Bhojpur, but he lost.

This time, the Congress has fielded an outsider — Rajkumar Patel, who is, ironically, from Budhni, the constituency of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

Better roads needed

"Patelji had come here last evening to seek support," says 26-year-old Rahul Jain, who works in a food stall just opposite the temple, which was built by Raja Bhoja. Mr. Jain takes care



Pressing issue: A dusty and damaged road leading to the Bhojeshwar temple. A.M.FARUQUI

not to reveal his choice, but says, "There is a contest."

Asked if the poor roads could be an issue on the

basis of which voters will decide, he says, "I don't know about votes, but better roads would certainly increase the number of

tourists who come and that would improve our earnings."

Voters in the constituency are a mix of local resi-

dents, people working in nearby industrial units, farmers, and agricultural labourers.

Though there is no steady flow of pilgrims to the temple as regular puja is not conducted at the ASI-protected site, local residents make a living by selling religious statues, trinkets, and other curios to the tourists who come to the monument.

'Why vote for change?'

"Rajkumar Patel isn't from here and he had lost elections earlier," says Santosh Yadav, a 34-year-old resident associated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). "The biggest issue is to protect our culture and pass on better values to our children. And that, only the BJP can do," he adds.

Mr. Yadav argues that the Shivraj Singh Chouhan

government had delivered on the ground, with measures like the Ladli Behna scheme that offers a monthly cash assistance of over ₹1,000 to women and its pledge to provide LPG cylinders for ₹450.

If the presence of party flags in an area is an indication of strength, then the BJP leads by a long way. Almost every house has a BJP flag or poster on it, publicising promises like hiking the Ladli Behna allowance up to ₹3,000 a month.

"Why will anyone vote for a change when the BJP is giving us everything?" asks 69-year-old Gopal Lovanshi, a farmer from the area.

Congress's promises

Mr. Lovanshi's older friend, Heeralal, nods, but only in partial agreement. "It's true that all these schemes are being offered

and many are getting them but there is a lot of corruption at lower levels," says the 75-year-old.

"I have run from pillar to post for my old age pension but I have not managed to get my papers sorted to get it," Mr. Heeralal adds.

Asked about the Kamal Nath government that lasted for just 15 months, Mr. Heeralal says, "They were not given a chance to continue. But within that short span, they did waive loans and my son has been a beneficiary."

Imaratbai, in her mid-60s, offers another reason to support the Opposition party. "The Congress has promised ₹1,500 to every woman unlike the Ladli Behna Yojana," she says, pointing to the upper ceiling of 60 years for eligibility under the Ladli Behna scheme.

BJP recognises and rewards discipline: Rathore

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

The BJP "recognises and rewards discipline" and it is due to this realisation that the party has succeeded in getting many of its rebel candidates to stand down from contesting the Assembly election, former Union Minister and Jaipur (Rural) MP Rajyavardhan Rathore, who is contesting from Jhotwara in Rajasthan, told *The Hindu*.

A powerful rebel in Mr. Rathore's own constituency, Rajpal Singh Shekhawat, considered close to former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje, withdrew his nomination on Thursday reportedly after receiving a phone call from Union Home Minister Amit Shah, assuring him of political accommodation in a post-poll scenario.

Mr. Rathore's earlier foray into the seat had not been easy with Mr. Shekhawat's supporters showing him black flags, but the former Army man and Olympic silver medallist diffused the ticking time bomb with help from the high command.

"I totally understand that people have personal aspiration and plans. But when you are part of a party cadre, you have to go according to discipline," Mr. Rathore said.

"Who knows? The denial of an opportunity now will open far bigger ones in the future as the BJP is known to recognise discipline and reward it as well; there are innumerable examples in our party," he said.

He said the announcement of his name as the BJP candidate from Jhot-



Rajyavardhan Rathore

wara came as a surprise to him, but it is something that he has now taken to with relish. "I had no clue that I was being considered for the seat, but it is a big responsibility as an MLA is far more enmeshed with the executing agencies in the area, far more than an MP. Therefore, I think that if I hadn't been vested with the responsibility of fighting Assembly polls, a significant portion of my political education would have been incomplete,"

Mr. Rathore said.

Much of the talk around the BJP's campaign has been about the lack of projection of a single face, namely that of Ms. Raje, as the chief ministerial candidate, but in Mr. Rathore's view, "everyone is past that situation".

"That was anyway something that was more alive in the media than anywhere else. The people of Rajasthan are past that, and are very much in tune with the collective leadership under Prime Minister Narendra Modi being offered by the BJP," he said.

"Prime Minister Modi and the lotus symbol [BJP's electoral symbol] is enough for the polls," he added.

'Congress abysmal'

"The Ashok Gehlot government has stained its record

with abysmal performance with regard to law and order, corruption by his MLAs and government, which led to such situations as 19 instances of paper leak [leak of examination papers for various government jobs], which has also led to further unemployment," he said.

"Ashok Gehlot, for the past five years, because of the internal cleavage within the Congress between him and Sachin Pilot, has been on a purely survival mode, and allowed his MLAs to run amok, in order to ensure their loyalty to him. The result is that Rajasthan has regressed on all points, especially law and order and crimes against women," he said.

He said there was a massive anti-incumbency factor against the Congress MLAs in the State.

'Dalits, STs, minorities need a third political force'

AIMIM president says it will help them prosper; he terms Congress leader Rahul Gandhi 'as vindictive' as PM Narendra Modi

INTERVIEW

Asaduddin
Owaisi

Syed Mohammed

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen president Asaduddin Owaisi speaks about his support for the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) in the Telangana Assembly election, the hypocrisy of the Congress, and how regional parties can strengthen marginalised communities. Edited excerpts:

How did your support for the BRS take shape?

I am of the opinion that Dalits, STs, and minorities re-

quire a third political force [referring to the Bharat Rashtra Samithi], apart from these two national parties [Congress and BJP]. These communities have prospered in the presence of a third force. Communal amity is strengthened. Take for example the case where a uniformed man on board a train killed three people in a terrorist act. One of the victims was from Hyderabad. Our MLA went to Mumbai and brought back his body. AIMIM MLAs demanded *ex gratia* and employment for the wife of the deceased. The government immediately released money, gave a two BHK apartment, and an appointment letter. The Rajasthan and Bihar governments gave nothing to the family of



other two victims who belonged to those States. I have got a study done by experts that showed that 60% of Muslim children are anaemic in Rajasthan. Few are in middle school. In Chhattisgarh, they [Congress] are practising Hindutva. No one blames them. Rahul Gandhi is happy with Hindutva.

You supported Congress in the past and yet you have been criticising Rahul Gandhi.

AIMIM was supporting UPA, not Congress. You must remember that we opposed bifurcation [of Andhra Pradesh]. I opposed this in Parliament, and said it should be done in a proper way.

He [Rahul Gandhi] talks about [us] taking money. But he will not use such language for [Jyotiraditya] Scindia, with whom he went to Doon School, or against Jitin Prasad. Why is he focused on money so much? There are political differences. So, in my view, he is as vindictive as Mr. Narendra Modi. Because both of them don't tolerate dissent. For him, it is like what [former U.S. President] George Bush said after 9/11: "Either you are with us, or with them." When Uddhav Thackeray

said in the Assembly that "we are proud Shiv Sainiks who demolished Babri, and brought back bricks", Ashok Chavan and Sharad Pawar were just sitting there. BJP is the notary shop of nationalism, and Congress is the notary shop of secularism. I have opposed BJP, I will oppose him [Mr. Gandhi] also.

Why hasn't the AIMIM fielded a woman candidate in the Telangana Assembly election?

I am not at all against women contesting elections. We are yet to find a strong candidate, not in the gender perspective but in an overall manner, and are grooming for politics seven or eight young women.

Sundaram-Clayton Limited			
(Formerly known as Sundaram-Clayton DCD Limited)			
Regd office: "Chaitanya", No. 12, Khader Nawaz Khan Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai 600 006. Tel : 044-2833 2115 Website : www.sundaram-clayton.com Email : corpsec@sundaramclayton.com CIN : U51100TN2017PLC118316			
STATEMENT OF STANDALONE & CONSOLIDATED UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 TH SEPTEMBER 2023			
(Rs. In Crores)			
S. No	Particulars	Standalone	Consolidated
		(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
		Period ended 30.09.2023	Period ended 30.09.2023
1	Total Income	302.01	299.65
2	Net Profit / (Loss) before tax (before Exceptional Items)	30.51	(5.55)
3	Net Profit / (Loss) before tax (after Exceptional Items)	30.40	(5.66)
4	Net Profit / (Loss) after tax (after Exceptional Items)	26.18	(9.88)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income / (Loss) (after tax)]	25.28	(10.78)
6	Equity share Capital (Face value of Rs.5/- each)	10.12	10.12
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	758.54	706.96
8	Security Premium Account	-	-
9	Networth	769.56	717.98
10	Outstanding Debt	789.10	1,210.04
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	0.87	0.87
12	Debt Equity Ratio (including exceptional item)	1.02	1.67
13	Earnings Per Share (Face value of Rs.5/- each) (not annualised) (In Rs.)		
	(i) Basic	12.94	(4.89)
	(ii) Diluted	12.94	(4.89)
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	NOT APPLICABLE	
15	Debenture Redemption Reserve	NOT APPLICABLE	
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	2.73	1.04
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	9.23	2.39
18	Current ratio (Times)	0.83	0.76
19	Long term debt to working capital (Times)	-	-
20	Bad debts to Accounts Receivable (Times)	-	-
21	Current Liability Ratio (Times)	0.68	0.57
22	Total debts to total assets ratio (Times)	0.38	0.49
23	Debtors Turnover ratio (Times)	7.79	8.76
24	Inventory Turnover ratio (Times)	4.33	3.72
25	Operating Margin (%)	15.60	7.95
26	Net Profit Margin (%)	8.71	(3.26)

Notes :

- In accordance with the Composite Scheme of Arrangement approved by the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Chennai Bench by an order dated March 6, 2023, the manufacturing business, along with its related assets and liabilities at the values appearing in the books of accounts of TVS Holdings Limited on the close of business hours as on August 10, 2023, was demerged, transferred and vested into the Company with effect from August 11, 2023.
- The above Financial Results represents the activities of the Company from the effective date (11th August 2023) of demerger and vesting of the manufacturing business. In the previous year and prior to the Demerger and Vesting of the manufacturing business the Company had no business activity and accordingly, there are no results for the corresponding quarter and half year for the previous period and hence the same has not been disclosed. The consolidated revenue from operations is net of inter company transfer.
- The record date, for determining the eligibility of the equity shareholders of TVS Holdings Limited, 24th August 2023 for allotting shares of the Company (Sundaram-Clayton Limited) in the ratio of 1 (One) fully paid up new equity share of Rs.5/- each of the Company for every 1 (One) equity share of Rs.5/- each of TVS Holdings Limited was fixed. Accordingly, the Company had allotted 2,02,32,104 equity shares to the eligible equity shareholders of TVS Holdings Limited.
- Similarly, the eligible preference shareholders of the TVS Holdings Limited, were allotted preference shares of the Company (Sundaram-Clayton Limited) in the ratio of 1 (One) fully paid up preference share of Rs.10/- each of the Company for every 1,000 (One Thousand) preference shares of Rs.10/- each of TVS Holdings Limited was fixed. Accordingly, the Company had allotted 8,73,032 preference shares to the eligible preference shareholders of TVS Holdings Limited.
- The above is an extract of the detailed format of financial results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the financial results are available on the Stock exchange website www.nseindia.com and on Company's website www.sundaram-clayton.com.
- The Company has prepared these standalone and consolidated financial results in accordance with the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 (Ind AS) prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013.

For Sundaram-Clayton Limited
Dr. Lakshmi Venu
Managing Director
Date : 10th November 2023

IN BRIEF



Custodial torture: T.N. govt. to prosecute IPS officer, others

The Tamil Nadu government has accorded sanction to prosecute Balveer Singh, a 2020-batch IPS officer (since suspended) who was alleged to have subjected accused persons to custodial torture in the Ambasamudram sub-division where he served as Assistant Superintendent of Police. Police sources said the Crime Branch-CID of the Tamil Nadu police had completed the probe into all four cases in which the officer was accused of forcibly pulling out the teeth of 15 suspects. The investigating agency will now go ahead with the filing of a chargesheet against Mr. Singh and others in the case.

SC grants protection to two journalists from arrest

The Supreme Court on Friday granted protection from arrest to two journalists who have challenged the summons issued to them by the Gujarat Police in connection with a news article allegedly written by them on Adani Group. A Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and P.K. Mishra directed the journalists to cooperate in the investigation and issued notice to the Gujarat government on the pleas filed by the duo. "Till next date of hearing, we direct that no coercive steps be taken against the petitioners, however, they should cooperate with the enquiry," it said. The court was hearing a plea filed by Benjamin Nicholas Brooke Parkin and Chloe Nina Cornish challenging the summons issued to them.

Odd-even will keep 10 lakh vehicles off roads: govt.

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has told the Supreme Court that the odd-even rotation scheme will see 10 lakh vehicles off the national capital's roads, considerably reducing congestion and pollution in winter.

The government said the total number of vehicles registered, excluding electric cars, in Delhi are 20,74,194 as on November 8, 2023. An affidavit by the Delhi government quoted scientific reports that the odd-even scheme of vehicular pollution control was an "effective emergency measure which reduces 30% personal car traffic on the roads during winter months".

However, there was usually a proportionate increase in two-wheelers, autorickshaws, buses and taxis.

The government said app-based taxis could be restricted on the basis of fuel type/registration number during the scheme, but said a total ban on taxis registered outside of Delhi from entering the Capital was an undesirable proposition. "It is not desirable to totally restrict the outside Delhi registered taxis during odd-even scheme," it said.

Govt. schemes failing, says SC as rain brings respite to Delhi

Top court says odd-even scheme for vehicles does not help to curb air pollution, adds that stubble fires must stop even if 'somebody has to walk on coal'; tells governments to not rely on SC orders

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Giving profound thanks to the timely rain which washed the smog out of the capital's skies on Friday, the Supreme Court said that residents are left to pray for mercy even as government schemes to quell air pollution on the basis of reports, theories, and commissions have made little change in the ground situation.

"God may have provided some relief...must have heard our prayers in the morning... We are not looking at anything here but ground-level implementation," Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, heading a three-judge Bench, observed.

The hearing, which seemed to coincide with the skies opening up, saw the Delhi government insisting on the efficacy of its odd-even scheme to control vehicular pollution in the city by reducing congestion on the capital's roads.

It said that the court's suggestion to ban app-based taxis registered outside Delhi from entering the capital may cause a



Not clear: A view of Kartavya Path on Friday. Mild drizzle brought relief for people in Delhi-NCR from the smog. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

problem for commuters.

"Do not try to non-perform and shift the burden on the court. People are indeed affected. Odd-even does not help. It has not proved to help... You are now saying that you will implement the odd-even scheme and also impose the scheme on taxis... Did we ask you to implement odd-even of taxis? We did not ask you," Justice Kaul shot back.

The court said that it was left to the government to work out schemes to bring down the pollution, noting that the government could not depend on Supreme Court orders. "Meanwhile, what the pop-

ulation can do is pray," Justice Kaul said.

'Not just optics'

The court confronted the State's stand that the odd-even scheme was not mere "optics" and that it has led to a 13% reduction in pollution. "But not everybody will have two cars. Odd-even does not apply to two-wheelers. So, according to your scheme, a person should have two cars, one numbered odd and other even, or a car and a two-wheeler. That's your scheme. You do what you want," Justice Kaul told the State government.

Turning to the Union and the Punjab govern-

ments, the court said that stubble fires have to be stopped even if "somebody has to walk on coal" for that.

Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah said that the court could pass an order for officials to "work in the open without masks" to experience for themselves the real extent of the health problems created by stubble burning.

He even suggested "attaching the property" of the people who start fires despite warnings from the authorities. Justice Kaul, however, said that farmers too were part of society, responsible for its welfare. There was no point registering First Information Reports (FIRs) against violators, for they would be withdrawn eventually, he added.

The court asked the Centre, represented by Attorney General R. Venkataramani, about its suggestion to slowly phase out paddy from Punjab as a long-term measure to save its dipping water table and stop fires. Mr. Venkataramani said that such a step would affect the entire country and could not be considered in isolation.

I&B Ministry releases draft Broadcasting Services Bill

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on Friday released the draft Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill, 2023, which aims to bring in a new regulatory framework in keeping with technological advancements in the sector.

The Ministry has invited feedback and comments on the draft Bill from stakeholders within 30 days from the date of its release.

"This pivotal legislation modernises our broadcasting sector's regulatory framework, replacing outdated Acts, Rules, and Guidelines with a unified, future-focused approach. It adapts to the dynamic world of OTT, Digital Media, DTH, IPTV, and more, promoting technological advancement and service evolution," I&B Minister Anurag Thakur said on X.

The draft Bill provides for a framework to regulate the broadcasting services in the country and seeks to replace the existing Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, and other policy guidelines currently governing the broadcasting sector in the country. The Bill comprises six Chapters, 48 Sections and three Schedules.

Bombay HC quashes FIR against Raj Thackeray

Abhinav Deshpande
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Friday quashed an FIR and subsequent legal proceedings against Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray who is accused of violating the model code of conduct before the 2010 civic polls.

A Division Bench of Justices Ajey Gadkari and Sharmila Deshmukh allowed the 2014 petition filed by the MNS head against the FIR registered under Section 188 (disobedience to order by a public servant) of the Indian Penal Code for violation of the notice.

According to the FIR, Mr. Thackeray visited Kalyan and Dombivali area in Mumbai for campaigning which was to be completed by September 29, 2010.

Tremors reveal gaps in emergency alert system

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

When tremors hit Delhi and surrounding areas following the 6.4 magnitude earthquake last week in Nepal and the 5.6 magnitude aftershock this Monday, the government and private early alert systems did not reach many of the people who could feel palpable tremors.

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)'s Cell Broadcast Alert System (CBAS) has been tested in recent weeks to send out mass alerts when natural disasters strike, but it did not do so. Meanwhile, Google did not send out alerts in the national capital, even though tremors were felt in both instances here.

"The Android Earthquake Early Warning system supplements the government's efforts on earthquake alerts and aims to provide people with advance notice that can help



In the aftermath: A building completely reduced to rubble in Nepal after a 6.4 magnitude earthquake hit the country last week. ANI

them stay safe," a Google spokesperson said in response to queries from *The Hindu*, referring to the company's alert system for Android users in India, who account for the bulk of smartphone owners in the country.

The spokesperson said earthquake alerts did go out immediately in many areas around the India-Nepal border, where the shaking was strongest, pointing to screenshots posted online by social media users in this region. The compa-

ny says it warns users only if the shaking in their area can expect to cross a value of 3.5 on the Modified Mercalli Intensity (MMI) Scale, a measurement of shaking during earthquakes that serves as an alternative to the Richter scale.

At an MMI value of three ("weak" shaking), the United States Geological Service's description of the scale says that tremors are felt "quite noticeably by persons indoors, especially on upper floors of buildings," and at four ("light" shak-

ing), the tremors are felt "indoors by many, outdoors by a few".

The tremors in both cases, in New Delhi, appear to have been in the lower end of these two MMI values, meaning Google did not send alerts to everyone who felt shaking, as the intensity did not seem as risky in places like Delhi.

As for the CBAS, which is the alert system that works through telecom operators, no alerts went out anywhere in North India, even in places near the Nepal border where shaking was intense.

No answer from NDMA

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) did not respond to queries on why the system did not alert residents in the areas where tremors were felt. Sample alerts have been tested by the NDMA in partnership with telecom companies and the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) ov-

er the last few months, with many users reporting that they received sample broadcasting messages for emergencies.

"Common applications of Cell Broadcast include delivering emergency alerts such as severe weather warnings (eg, Tsunamis, Flash Floods, Earthquakes), public safety messages, evacuation notices, and other critical information," the Union government said in a press release about these sample messages in September.

Even for users who sought official information while the tremors were under way, the nation's top authority stuttered online - the seismo.gov.in website operated by the Ministry of Earth Sciences's National Centre for Seismology crashed moments after the tremors - with the website likely unable to handle the sudden surge in traffic when information on the tremors was needed the most.

Aadhaar verification downtime very low, says Union Minister

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Aadhaar authentication downtime represented only 0.85% of the year till September, Union Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeesh Chandrasekhar said on X on Friday. Mr. Chandrasekhar was responding to *The Hindu's* news article that reported that Aadhaar authentication services have been down for a collective 54 hours and 33 minutes in 2023 till September.

"Over a total of 266 days and total use time of 6,384 hrs, these glitches of 54 [hours] 33 mins spread over 266 days as reported by @UIDAI represent only 0.85% glitches and 99.15% of uptime," Mr. Chandrasekhar said, referring to the Unique Identification

Authority of India, which administers the Aadhaar programme.

System upgrades

"Some of this very small downtime/glitches were planned for system upgrades and even during these very limited downtimes, other means of authentication were always available to authenticating agencies," Mr. Chandrasekhar added, posting screenshots of the Right to Information response provided to *The Hindu* by the Aadhaar agency.

The Hindu had approached the UIDAI for a comment on this data on Tuesday. However, the agency did not provide a response. Aadhaar authentications have been done 100 billion times since the 12-digit resident identifier was launched.

THE CROSSWORD + 14018 (set by KrisKross)

To solve this puzzle online, get access to our crossword site. @ <https://argo.page.link/jjpTn>

SCAN TO PLAY

Across

- Suffering blow... after removing clothes, put something cold as dressing (8)
- English referee dismissed from United Kingdom (6)
- Poor reason to tour American city (8)
- Girl adores clothing accessories (6)
- Charm husband to do some gardening, gathering fresh roses (9)

Down

- Fix player's initial match (6)
- Develop fun, naughty website (6)
- Prime hotel covered in ash, say (5)
- & 11 They provide online support for wearables (7,4)
- Fighter aircraft carrying harmful stuff - a small quantity (9)
- Bishop dies, believing devious trick (8)
- Author's novel is set to film, for example (8)
- See 4
- One got up disturbed by horrible horn - it's a steam engine (4,5)
- Train manages to transport oil - essentially, it's required to go smoothly (8)
- Wine is extremely reduced, say (8)
- Show some complex possibilities (4)
- UK silly to fight in an unsporting fashion (7)
- Making a face, missing start in picnic (6)
- Way of cryptic setter (6)
- Primarily very intelligent, resourceful undercover secret agent (5)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

G	N	D	S	C	A
S	A	V	A	C	T
R	M	Y	L	U	L
G	R	I	D	R	E
O	E	U	S	B	G
T	R	I	G	E	
M	E	N	D	S	C
S	T	R	E	A	K
M	E	L	T	I	N
R	O	U	N	D	S
R	Y	S	T	N	E

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

MADGALDEEP 31

Long lasting fragrances of devotion

FAITH

Deepavali and devotion

Deepavali is a very old festival. Traditionally, some festivals are native to the south and few others to other regions. However, Deepavali is one festival that is celebrated uniformly by everyone.

It also contains the most significant message of devotion and divine consciousness, said Tiruvudaimarudur Brahmarsi Nidhiswara Shrothigal in a discourse.

Also celebrated as Naraka Chaturdasi, the festival came into effect due to the express desire of Narakasura, the asura king who was vanquished by Krishna and Satyabhama.

Having had a long reign, Narakasura continued to wreak havoc on all, both humans and devas, and his death is symbolic of the evil forces within us.

Only by surrendering to the Supreme and by developing God consciousness can one be free of the cycle of birth. The *diyas* (deepams) lit on this day signify dispelling ignorance with the light of devotion.

Why do our elders say 'taile Lakshmeeh jale gangaa deepavalyah chaturdashem' on Deepavali? On this chaturdasi day, it is believed that Lakshmi exists in oil and Ganga in the warm water and hence one should rise early, pray to Lakshmi with hands above one's head and purify oneself with the waters of the Ganga, before sunrise.



To play an interactive
version of this crossword
online, scan the QR code

TEHRAN
Expansion of Israel-Hamas war 'inevitable': Iran's Foreign Minister



Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said to his Qatari counterpart, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani in a phone call, on Friday that expansion of the Israel-Hamas war has become "inevitable", amid widespread concern in the region and beyond that the conflict could spread. AFP

OTTAWA
Canada police probe video warning not to fly Air India



Canada's federal police are investigating a warning in videos circulating online not to fly Air India starting on November 19, the transportation minister said on Thursday. The videos, posted online in the last week, feature Gurbatwan Singh Pannun, the general counsel for the U.S.-based Sikhs For Justice (SFJ). AFP

YANGON
Northern Myanmar clash displaces almost 50,000 civilians, says UN



Almost 50,000 people have been displaced by fighting in northern Myanmar after an alliance of ethnic armed groups launched an offensive against the military two weeks ago, the UN said on Friday. Fighting has raged across northern Shan state in what analysts say poses the biggest challenge to the junta since 2021. AFP

WASHINGTON
U.S. approves first vaccine against chikungunya virus for those over 18



U.S. health authorities on Thursday approved the world's first vaccine for chikungunya, a virus spread by infected mosquitoes. The vaccine, developed by Europe's Valneva which will be marketed under the name Ixchiq, was approved for people 18 and over who are at risk of exposure, the Food and Drug Administration said. AFP

'Israel strikes target Gaza's largest hospital compound'

Al-Shifa hospital chief Mohammad Abu Salmiya says two people were killed and 10 wounded in a strike that he said hit its maternity ward; Israel says it killed dozens of militants in the operation

Agence France-Presse
GAZA STRIP

Palestinians said a deadly strike on Friday hit Gaza's largest hospital compound as medical facilities sheltering tens of thousands were caught in intense combat between Israel and Hamas.



Widespread destruction: Smoke rises as Palestinians take shelter at Al-Shifa hospital during an Israeli attack, in Gaza City. REUTERS

Gaza's Hamas government, which reported a death toll of 13, and the director of Gaza City's Al-Shifa hospital blamed Israeli forces for the strike. Israel did not immediately comment.

Al-Shifa hospital director Mohammad Abu Salmiya reported two people were killed and 10 wounded in a strike that he said hit the compound's maternity ward.

On Thursday, Israel reported heavy fighting near the hospital, saying it had killed dozens of militants and destroyed tunnels that are key to Hamas's capacity to fight.

'No safe place'
"There is no safe place left. The Army hit Al-Shifa. I don't know what to do," said 32-year-old Abu Mohammad, who was among

those seeking refuge at the hospital. "There is shooting... at the hospital. We are afraid to go out."

The Israeli Army has repeatedly accused Hamas of using hospitals, particularly Al-Shifa, to coordinate their attacks against the Army and also as hideouts for its commanders. Hamas authorities deny the accusations. Witnesses said hun-

dreds of people sheltering at Gaza City's Al-Rantisi hospital fled on instruction from the Israeli military, which was surrounding it with armoured vehicles.

As the fighting raged in Gaza, air raid sirens sounded in Tel Aviv, while Hamas's military wing said it targeted the Israeli commercial hub with rockets. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

The war in the densely populated coastal territory, which is effectively sealed off, has prompted repeated calls for a ceasefire to protect civilian lives and allow in more humanitarian aid. Tens of thousands of people have fled to the south of the territory in recent days, often on foot and with only the things they could carry.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has repeatedly rejected halting the fighting.

Gaza 'carnage' simply must stop: top UN aid official

Agence France-Presse
GAZA STRIP

The United Nations has called for an end to the carnage afflicting war-torn Gaza during Israel's military campaign, according to a top UN aid official's comments released on Friday.

"The present course chosen by the Israeli authorities will not bring the peace and stability that both Israelis and Palestinians want and deserve," Philippe Lazzarini, head of the United Nations' agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA), wrote in a media opinion piece.

"Razing entire neighbourhoods to the ground is not an answer for the egregious crimes committed by Hamas. To the contrary, it is creating a new generation of aggrieved Palestinians who are likely to continue the cycle of violence. The carnage simply must stop." More than 10,800 people, majority also civilians, have been killed in Israeli strikes.

Biden, Xi to hold talks next week in San Francisco: U.S.

Reuters
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden will meet Chinese President Xi Jinping face-to-face for the first time in a year on Wednesday, the White House said, in high-stakes diplomacy aimed at curbing tensions between the world's two superpowers.



U.S. President Joe Biden, right, and Chinese President Xi Jinping meeting in Nov. 2022.

The closely watched interaction, on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in the San Francisco Bay area, could last hours and involve teams of officials from Beijing and Washington.

It is expected to cover global issues from the Israel-Hamas war to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, North Korea's ties with Russia, Taiwan, the Indo-Pacific, human rights, fentanyl, Artificial Intelligence, as well as "fair" trade and economic relations, senior Biden administration officials said.

"Nothing will be held back; everything is on the table," according to one

U.S. official, who declined to be named, in a briefing with reporters. "We're clear-eyed about this. We know efforts to shape or reform China over several decades have failed. But we expect China to be around and to be a major player on the world stage for the rest of our lifetimes."

Ideological differences
U.S. officials, who have been pushing for the meeting for the better part of a year, believe Beijing has actively been working to undermine U.S. policy around the world. The White House con-

firmed the day of the meeting in a statement on Friday. The Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Friday that Mr. Xi would visit the U.S. between Nov. 14-17, attend the APEC summit and meet with Mr. Biden.

Mr. Biden and Mr. Xi will speak across oceans of ideological difference for the first time since November 2022. The U.S. President's team engineered a diplomatic blitz to repair hostile relations after Mr. Biden ordered the shooting down of a suspected Chinese spy balloon that transited U.S. skies in February.

A main result is expected to be greater diplomacy - promises to talk more on key issues, including on climate, global health, economic stability, counter-narcotic efforts and potentially the resumption of some military-to-military channels after a high-level freeze.

Both sides may make modest gestures of goodwill to ease talks, according to two other people briefed on the discussions.

Bangladesh PM rejects further pay hike after garment worker protests

Agence France-Presse
DHAKA

Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has rejected any further pay hikes for protesting garment workers demanding a nearly tripled wage increase, after violent clashes with police and factories were ransacked.



Under watch: Police personnel standing guard along a street as garment workers and activists protest in Dhaka on Friday. AFP

Bangladesh's 3,500 garment factories account for around 85% of its \$55 billion in annual exports, supplying many of the world's top brands including Levi's, Zara and H&M.

A government-appointed panel raised wages on Tuesday by 56.25% to 12,500 taka (\$113) for the South Asian nation's garment factory workers, who were demanding a 23,000 taka minimum wage in all plants.

"I would say to the garment workers: they have to work with whatever their salary is

increased, they should continue their work," Ms. Hasina told a meeting of her ruling Awami League party late on Thursday.

The protests have left at least three workers dead and more than 70 factories ransacked since last week, according to police.

"If they take to the streets to protest at someone's investigation, they will lose their job, lose their work and will have

to return to their village," the Prime Minister added.

A union leader, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Ms. Hasina's speech had created a "climate of fear" in the industry, warning it had given security forces permission to crack down further on protesters. Police have arrested more than 100 protesters including several union leaders over charges of violence and vandalising factories.

Philippines, China ships in new confrontation

Associated Press
MANILA

Chinese and Philippine vessels engaged in a new confrontation in the South China Sea on Friday, with Manila charging that a Chinese Coast Guard ship and accompanying vessels conducted dangerous manoeuvres and blasted a Philippine supply ship with a water cannon in disputed waters.

Shoal. The marines are based on a rusted old warship that the Philippine Navy grounded deliberately in 1999 to bolster its territorial claim.

Last month, a Chinese coast guard ship and an accompanying vessel rammed a Philippine coast guard ship and a military-run supply boat near the contested shoal, according to Philippine officials. China accused the Philippine vessels of trespassing in what it said were Chinese waters "without authorisation" despite repeated radio warnings.

China responded that it acted appropriately under maritime law to defend what it says is its territory.

The incident was the latest in a series of maritime confrontations between the two nations over territorial disputes that risk turning into more serious armed engagements.

Tensions have risen recently as China has blockaded an isolated Philippine marine outpost on Second Thomas Shoal, also known as Ayungin

Prince Harry's lawsuit against Daily Mail publisher can go to trial: judge

Associated Press
LONDON

A lawsuit by Prince Harry, Elton John and five other public figures accusing a newspaper publisher of using private detectives and listening devices to illegally snoop on them should go to a full trial, a British judge ruled on Friday.

without trial, saying defence lawyers had not delivered a "knockout blow" to the claimants' case.

The claimants, who include John's husband David Furnish and actors Elizabeth Hurley and Sadie Frost, accuse publisher Associated Newspapers Ltd. of unlawfully gathering information by bugging homes and cars, and using deceit to obtain medical records. The judge rejected the publisher's argument that the

case should be dismissed because the claims had not been brought within six years of the alleged offence.

The case is one of several lawsuits brought in the U.K. by Mr. Harry, who has made it a personal mission to tame Britain's tabloid press. He blames the British media for the death of his mother, Princess Diana, who was killed in a car crash in Paris in 1997 while being pursued by paparazzi.

Government of Gujarat Narmada, Water Resource, Water Supply & Kalpsar Department, Gandhinagar E-TENDER NOTICE NO.19 OF 2023- 24(Tender ID-20597)

(1) Name of work: Providing and installing of CCTV Surveillance System, Fire Safety Arrangements, Boom Barrier, IPBX & Communication System, Walky-Talky & Access Control System and Related Works including AMC at Panam Dam. (1Vth Attempt)

(2) Estimated Cost: Rs.84,93,366.72

(3) Pre-Bid Meeting (Off line) Dt.28/11/2023 @ 12.00 Hrs.

(4) Last Date/Time for receipt of tender (ON LINE) Dt.08/12/2023 upto 16.00 Hrs.

(5) Name & Address of the Executive Engineer Concerned: Ex. Engr. Irri. Mech. Division No.1, E-814, Kuber Bhavan Kothi Compound, Raopura, Vadodara-390001 (Gujarat) Ph.No. 0265-2427833 FAX No.0265-2429170

6) Further details can be downloaded from www.nwrtender.nprocure.com and also seen on Information & Broadcasting Department's website www.statetenders.gujarat.gov.in Any kind of amendments will be published only online & it will be considered final & binding to all bidders. (INF-VAD-1018-23-24)

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA - DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, EASTERN CIRCLE-II, CHANDIKHOLE
Email ID :- seeec2chandikhole@gmail.com
'e' Procurement Notice No.ACE, EC-II 07 OF 2023-24(On-line)

1. Name of the Works	1. Construction of nos. new Bed bar & renovation of nos. old spps including launching apron from RD 1.85km to 1.405 & RD 1.415 km to 1.835 km on Dasamouzi gherry left wing on river Nuna near village Gopinathpur in Mahakalapada block of Kendrapada district. 2. Improvement to left bank service road from Vedi sahi to Hirabanki of Distributary No.-1 A of GE canal. 3. Protection to scoured bank of Brahmani right on Baragan saline embankment from RD 4450 m to 4940m in Rajnagar Block of Kendrapada district. 4. Protection to scoured bank on Gobari left of Radha kansar saline embankment near village Radha from RD 3100 m to 3620 m & RD 17600 m to 17810 m. 5. Scoured bank protection and restoration to kelaia left embankment from village Rahadharpur to Mohanpur. 6. Scoured bank protection and restoration to kelaia right embankment from village Mirzapur to Kadampala. 7. Scoured bank protection & restoration to Brahmani right embankment from Immannagar to Gokarneswar Temple near village Deulpai. 8. Scoured bank protection to Chandrasekharpur Anyashpur OAE & Baripal Gherry on Brahmani left with construction of seven Nos. Bed bar.		
2. Total No. of Packages	08 (Eight) Nos. Individual Packages.		
3. Tender Cost	1. Rs. 668.39 Lakh (Approximately); 2. Rs. 249.87 Lakh (Approximately); 3. Rs. 798.06 Lakh (Approximately); 4. Rs. 838.06 Lakh (Approximately); 5. Rs. 377.58 Lakh (Approximately); 6. Rs. 381.64 Lakh (Approximately); 7. Rs. 491.28 Lakh (Approximately); 8. Rs. 486.53 Lakh (Approximately);		
4. Cost of Bid Document (Non Refundable)	Rs. 10,000.00 (On-line payment) for each Package		
5. Bid Security	1. Rs. 6.66,400/-; 2. Rs. 2,49,900/-; 3. Rs. 7,98,100/-; 4. Rs. 8,38,100/-; 5. Rs. 3,77,600/-; 6. Rs. 3,81,700/-; 7. Rs. 4,91,300/-; 8. Rs. 4,86,600/-.		
6. Class of Contractor	1. "A" & "Special" for Package No.-1, 3 & 4; 2. "B" & "A" for Package No.-2; 3. "A" for Package No.-5, 6, 7 & 8.		
7. Period of Completion	1. 12 (Twelve) calendar months for all packages		
8. Other details are as follows:			
Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding	Date of Opening of Technical Bid (Cover-1)
Additional Chief Engineer, Eastern Circle-II, Chandikhole	ACE, EC-II KID16 OF 2023-24; ACE, EC-II KID17 OF 2023-24; ACE, EC-II AUL08 OF 2023-24; ACE, EC-II AUL 09 OF 2023-24; ACE, EC-II JKID14 OF 2023-24; ACE, EC-II JKID15 OF 2023-24; ACE, EC-II JKID16 OF 2023-24; ACE, EC-II JKID17 OF 2023-24;	18/11/2023 at 10 A.M	04/12/2023 upto 5.00 P.M.
9. e-mail Id	seeec2chandikhole@gmail.com		
Further detailed conditions can be seen from the Govt. website	www.tendersorissa.gov.in		
A-806:	Additional Chief Engineer, Eastern Circle - II, Chandikhole. OPR-323221/10010/2324		

Uttarakhand Urban Sector Development Agency (UUSDA) Urban Development Department, Government of Uttarakhand
777, Saatvik Tower, Kaulagarh Road, Rajendra Nagar, Dehradun
Telephone +91-135-2753894, Tele-fax +91-135-2754895
Email:uusdip@gmail.com, Website: www.uusdip.org

Adv. No:UUSDA/P-92/1422
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT) (REBID-1)
Date: 10.11.2023

Urban Development Department, Government of Uttarakhand has applied for a loan from Asian Development Bank for financing the **Uttarakhand Integrated & Resilient Urban Development Project-Additional Financing (UIRUDP-AF)**, in the State of Uttarakhand. The Project involves development of urban infrastructure facilities like 24X7 Water Supply, Wastewater Management including Road Restoration in the proposed Project and intends to a ply part of the proceeds for works.

The "Program Director" Uttarakhand Urban Sector Development Agency (UUSDA), Government of Uttarakhand (the Employer) invites online bids through the Uttarakhand e-procurement portal <https://uktenders.gov.in>, from eligible Bidders for the design, execution, commissioning and O&M of the work as detailed below:

S. No.	Name of Work	Package No.	Invitation of Bid No.	Last Date & Time of Submission
1.	WS-TNK-01: Development of Water Supply System with 18 years O&M, at Tanakpur, in Uttarakhand.	DBO-02	UIRUDP-AF/OGB-N/ DBO-02/2023-24	28 th November 2023 till 03:00 PM (15:00 Hrs.)

Date of publication of bid document: 10.11.2023 at 03:00 PM, (15:00 Hrs.)
Bid document may be uploaded from: 21.11.2023 at 03:00 PM, (15:00 Hrs.)
Last Date/Time for downloading of the bid document: 28.11.2023 at 02:30 PM, (14:30 Hrs.)

The prospective bidders can download the detailed bid document in the prescribed format and upload the bid on the website, <https://uktenders.gov.in>. Program Director, UUSDA reserves the right to reject any or all the proposals or to cancel the entire process without assigning any reason thereof. Further details of the bid document including subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be downloaded from the website <https://uktenders.gov.in>.

Program Director UUSDA

IN BRIEF



ED seizes \$3 mn property from Hero MotoCorp's Munjal

The Enforcement Directorate has seized property worth about ₹249.5 million (\$3 million) belonging to Hero MotoCorp Chairman Pawan Munjal in relation to an ongoing money laundering investigation, the agency said on Friday. The ED said it seized three properties in New Delhi, under provisions of The Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002. This takes the total value of seizures and attachments in the case to about ₹500 million, it added. **REUTERS**

Coal India net profit rises 12.5% to ₹6,799 crore in Q2

Coal India on Friday reported a 12.5% rise in consolidated net profit to ₹6,799.77 crore for the September quarter on account of higher sales. Net profit stood at ₹6,043.55 crore in the year-earlier period, Coal India Ltd. (CIL) said in a regulatory filing. Consolidated sales increased to ₹29,978.01 crore from ₹27,538.59 crore a year earlier. However, total expenses rose 9.3% in Q2 of the current fiscal to ₹6,000.05 crore from ₹23,770.12 crore in the year-earlier period. **PTI**

Elgi Equipments posts 9% growth in consolidated sales

Consolidated sales of Elgi Equipments, manufacturer of air compressors, for the second quarter of 2023-2024 grew 9% to ₹806 crore from ₹739 crore in the year-earlier period. Profit after tax stood at ₹91.3 crore compared with ₹72 crore during the same period of the last fiscal. MD Jairam Varadaraj said the topline growth was driven by volume and price. "We will grow [this year]... but, probably less than what we thought at the beginning of the year," he added.

PSU reinsurer GIC Re H1 net slides 8% to ₹2,337 crore

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Public sector reinsurer GIC Re reported net profit for the half-year ended September slid 8% from the year-earlier period to ₹2,336.87 crore.

Gross premium income rose to ₹19,679.85 crore from ₹19,122.45 crore. Underwriting loss surged to ₹3,029.04 crore from ₹1,696.07 crore. Investment income stood at ₹5,555.91 crore (₹5,096.75 crore). Total assets were at ₹1,67,640.89 crore compared with ₹1,53,384.76 crore a year earlier.

Consolidated net profit was down 9% and stood at ₹2,666.60 crore. Consolidated gross premium income stood at ₹19,962.02 crore (₹19,367.00 crore).

M&M Q2 net falls 15% to ₹2,348 crore as Tech Mahindra drags

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. reported second quarter consolidated net profit declined 15% year-on-year (YoY) to ₹2,348 crore due to a drag in Tech Mahindra's performance. The company's consolidated revenue for the quarter, however, grew 15% YoY to ₹34,436 crore.

On a standalone basis, the company reported a 67% growth in second quarter net profit at ₹3,452 crore, led by robust performance of its auto business.

"Mahindra & Mahindra Group delivered a robust operating performance across all businesses, except Tech Mahindra," according to a statement re-

Sept. IIP growth falls to 5.8%

Industrial output growth slid to a three-month low in September from a 14-month high of 10.3% in August; nine out of 23 segments saw drops in output in September as against seven in August

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's industrial output growth slid to a three-month low of 5.8% in September from a 14-month high of 10.3% in August, with manufacturing growth halving to 4.5% from the 9.3% recorded in the previous month.

Consumption demand appeared weak with consumer durables' production rising just 1% while non-durables' production grew 2.7% in September, despite a beneficial base effect from last year when both segments tanked by 5.5% and 5.7%, respectively.

Disappointing growth

An unfavourable base, excess rainfall and a shift in the festival calendar caused a fall in industrial output in September



Consumption demand appeared to be weak in September with the production of consumer durables rising just 1%

The furniture and apparel segments were the worst hit, declining by a sharp 20.2% and 17.9%, respectively

Most economists expected September's Index of Industrial Production or IIP to reflect much sharper growth

Electricity and mining growth also moderated to 9.9% and 11.5%, respectively. Spliced on the basis of usage, primary goods grew the fastest at 8%, cooling from 12.4% in August, followed by infrastructure

and construction goods that were up 7.5% and capital goods, which rose 7.4%. Intermediate goods output grew 5.8%. While only seven of 23 manufacturing sectors had clocked a contraction in August, nine

segments saw drops in output in September, led by furniture (-20.2%). The apparel segment contracted 17.9%, worse than the 17.1% decline clocked in August.

Overall industrial output is up 6% in the first half of this year, with mining up 8.7%, electricity 6.1% and manufacturing 5.7%. Most economists expected September's Index of Industrial Production, or, IIP to reflect sharper growth.

ICRA's chief economist Aditi Nayyar, who had estimated an 8% uptick, said the numbers were influenced by an unfavourable base, a shift in the festive calendar and excess rainfall in September.

LIC Q2 net profit halves on lower premium income

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

State-owned insurer Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) on Friday reported a 50% fall in net profit at ₹7,925 crore for the quarter ended September 30, on lower income.

The country's biggest insurer had a net profit of ₹15,952 crore in the year-ago period. LIC's total income declined to ₹2,01,587 crore, compared with ₹2,22,215 crore in the year-ago period, LIC said in a regulatory filing.

However, net income



from investments rose to ₹93,942 crore, compared with ₹84,104 crore in the same quarter last fiscal.

LIC's solvency margin also increased to 1.90%, compared with 1.88% in the same quarter in 2022-23.

Gross non-performing

assets ratio eased to 2.43% from 5.60% in the same period a year ago.

As part of a move to boost its profitability after a change in its accounting policy, LIC transferred ₹6277 crore from its non-participating fund to a shareholders' fund for the latest quarter, the company said, emphasizing that therefore, the results were not comparable.

The company said LIC earned the highest-ever half-yearly profit after tax at ₹17,469 crore, compared with ₹16,635 crore in the same period a year ago.

Sundaram Brake Linings turns profit of ₹2.86 crore

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Sundaram Brake Linings Ltd. has posted standalone net profit of ₹2.86 crore for the September quarter against a loss of ₹3.64 crore in the year-earlier period.

Revenue from operations contracted to ₹85 crore from ₹87 crore, the company said in a filing. Cost of materials consumed declined to ₹46 crore from ₹55 crore. For the half year, the company posted profit of ₹6 crore against a loss of ₹4 crore.

As output, shipments slide, Indian tea exporters explore new global markets

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

India's depressed tea shipments in FY23 on global turmoil has a silver lining with exporters making inroads into new markets, which were not explored in the past.

Iraq, Turkey and Jordan have emerged as the new destinations for tea exports where Indian tea is replacing Sri Lanka's, said S. B. Shah, chairman of leading tea exporter Shah Brothers.

Mr. Shah said exporters had taken huge risks to enter these markets and shipments were likely to pick



The Association of Tea Auctioneers holding manual auction of orthodox tea.

up from next year onward. Industry sources said tea exports dropped by almost 10% during FY23 as India had been facing challenges in some of the traditional markets, including

Iran. Tea exports had registered almost 15% growth in FY22 at 226.98 million kg.

Mr. Shah said tea auction prices and exports stayed depressed this year due to geopolitical tensions, particularly because of the war in West Asia and Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Auctioneers set up ATA In another development, tea auctioneers from across the country came together to set up the Association of Tea Auctioneers, (ATA) which will work for the smooth functioning of the auctioning system in the country.

The Indian Tea Auction

System sells about 40% of all the tea produced in the country with the auctioneers playing a major role.

According to the ATA, the association will promote the welfare and safeguard the rights and interests of the tea auctioneers in North and South India and deal with all matters that concerns auctioneers and the auction process in India.

While manual auction of tea has been replaced with an electronic counterpart since 2008-09, the ATA held a ceremonial, manual auction of about 650 lots of Assam orthodox tea totalling 3.60 lakh kg.

राष्ट्रीय आयुर्वेद पंचकर्म अनुसंधान संस्थान
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चेन्नई (टाक), विश्व, केरल-679 531

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(Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences), Ministry of "AYUSH", Govt. of India
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INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF TAX RECOVERY OFFICER (CENTRAL)
Room No.320, 3rd Floor, C.R. Building, Queens Road, Bengaluru - 560001

PROCLAMATION OF SALE BY AUCTION

The undermentioned movable properties attached by the Income Tax Department will be sold by public auction through e-auction by M/s MSTC Limited (Auction No.34053) on behalf of Income Tax Department on "as is where is and what is there is basis" for recovery of the certificate debt of Rs.308,48,72,049/- due as on 10/11/2023 for the AY 2012-13 to 2018-19 from Shri Sukash Chandrasekharan.

Lot No.	Description of property to be sold	Lot No.	Description of property to be sold
01	BMW M-5, Regn. No. PY-01-CM-6000 Reserve Price - Rs.18,79,316/-	02	Toyota Prado, Regn. No. TN-05-AJ-9199 Reserve Price - Rs.22,50,347/-
03	Range Rover, Regn. No. TN-01-BD-0007 Reserve Price - Rs.44,43,812/-	04	Lamborghini, Regn. No. DL-2F-GX-06 Reserve Price - Rs.38,52,424/-
05	Jaguar XKR Coupe, Regn. No. PY-01-CG-6688 Reserve Price - Rs.31,07,458/-	06	Rolls Royce, Regn. No. DL-3C-AY-4199 Reserve Price - Rs.1,74,77,008/-
07	Ducati Diavel, Regn. No. OD-33-G-1786 Reserve Price - Rs.3,56,237/-	08	Bentley, Regn. No. DL-4C-AP-9009 Reserve Price - Rs.83,35,734/-
09	Innova Crysta, Regn. No. KL-07-CG-5020 Reserve Price - Rs.11,89,930/-	10	Toyota Fortuner, Regn. No. TN-47-AM-5585 Reserve Price - Rs.15,31,173/-
11	Nissan Teana, Regn. No. TN-21-AU-3217 Reserve Price - Rs.2,03,118/-	12	Porsche, Regn. No. WB-02-Y-2345 Reserve Price - Rs.5,08,880/-

Notice is hereby given that, in the absence of any order of postponement, the said property shall be sold by e-auction conducted online through MSTC Limited (A Govt of India Enterprise) <https://www.mstccommerce.com> at 12.00 PM on the said 28th day of November 2023. The sale shall be subject to the conditions prescribed in the Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961, and the rules made thereunder. Detailed Terms and Conditions of the auction sale and conditions of the vehicle may be downloaded from MSTC Website <https://www.mstccommerce.com>. The properties can be inspected physically from 22/11/2023 to 24/11/2023 between 12.00 PM to 05.00 PM after taking prior appointment of the undersigned over Email bangalore.tro.central@incometax.gov.in or over phone 080-22862651. Bidders are advised to bid only after satisfying themselves of the condition of the vehicle and transfer of ownership.

Given under my hand and seal at Bangalore this 10th day of November 2023.
Sd/-
TARUN KUMAR SHARMA
TAX RECOVERY OFFICER (CENTRAL)
BENGALURU

Net direct tax collections at ₹10.6 lakh crore; nears 60% of target

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's net direct tax collections grew 21.8% to ₹10.6 lakh crore by November 9, with personal income tax revenue rising 31.8% and corporate taxes increasing 12.5% from the year-earlier period.

Tax refunds

About ₹27,000 crore of tax refunds were remitted to taxpayers over the past month, taking the total refunds for the year so far to ₹1.77 lakh crore.

The pace of growth in the net direct tax kitty was 21.8% a month ago as well, indicating the momentum is sustaining.

The net income tax collection so far is 58.15% of the total Budget Estimates of Direct Taxes for 2023-24 and the provisional figures continue to register steady growth, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said on Friday. Gross direct tax collections stood at ₹12.37 lakh crore by Thursday, 17.6% higher than the year-earlier period. Within this number, Corporate Income Tax (CIT) and Personal Income Tax (PIT) grew 7.13% and 28.3%, respectively. Combined with the Securities Transaction Tax, or STT, personal tax collection rose 28%.

"After adjustment of refunds, the net growth in CIT collections is 12.48% and that in PIT collections is 31.77% (PIT only) and 31.26% (PIT including STT)," the CBDT said.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	FRIDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	64,905	0.11
US Dollar	83.28	0.01
Gold	61,200	0.41
Brent oil	81.19	0.28

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2205.10	-9.55
Adani Ports	808.60	-2.40
Apollo Hosp	5278.50	-19.10
Asian Paints	3076.45	-3.75
Axis Bank	1029.20	-7.30
Bajaj Auto	5392.05	-26.85
Bajaj Finserv	1596.00	13.75
Bajaj Finance	7444.80	58.10
Bharti Airtel	935.50	3.15
BPLCL	384.05	0.50
Britannia Ind	4681.95	29.85
Cipla	1240.10	1.95
Coal India	323.40	-0.15
Divs Lab	3495.20	-5.30
Dr Reddys Lab	5424.90	-33.05
Eicher Motors	3540.75	-1.15
Grasim Ind	1940.00	8.00
HCL Tech	1255.45	-12.05
HDFC Bank	1491.50	-5.85
HDFC Life	626.75	-5.40
Hero MotoCorp	3105.20	-68.70
Hindalco	481.30	-3.15
Hind Unilever	2486.55	9.85
ICI Bank	938.60	-1.25
IndusInd Bank	1498.80	-8.55
Infosys	1368.85	-5.95
ITC	436.55	-2.15
JSW Steel	754.75	3.90
Kotak Bank	1745.45	0.50
L&T	3033.25	8.40
LTI Mindtree Ltd.	5262.15	7.45
M&M	1524.10	-27.95
Maruti Suzuki	10388.80	-11.55
NestleIndia	24137.20	-89.55
NTPC	242.75	4.80
ONGC	195.90	3.20
PowerGrid Corp	211.15	1.35
Reliance Ind	2314.90	4.35
SBI Life	1355.40	4.70
State Bank	579.50	-1.15
Sun Pharma	1179.35	3.15
TataConsumerProduct	912.70	9.85
Tata Motors	651.05	-1.70
Tata Steel	120.05	-0.40
TCS	3333.45	-14.00
Tech Mahindra	1138.15	-14.20
Titan	3256.35	-27.40
UltraTech Cement	8710.85	83.80
UPL	547.15	-3.25
Wipro	379.30	-1.55

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on November 10

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.14	83.46
Euro	88.75	89.09
British Pound	101.55	101.95
Japanese Yen (100)	54.89	55.10
Chinese Yuan	11.40	11.45
Swiss Franc	92.18	92.53
Singapore Dollar	61.11	61.36
Canadian Dollar	60.18	60.42
Malaysian Ringgit	17.65	17.73
Australian Dollar	52.84	53.05

Source: Indian Bank

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of West Bengal Enterprise)
Registered Office: Vidyut Bhawan, Block-DJ, Sector-41, Bidhanagar, Kolkata-700 091
(CIN: U4619WB2007SGC11474 - web: www.wbsetel.in)

WBSETCL
Regd. Office: Vidyut Bhawan, Block-DJ, Sector-41, Bidhanagar, Kolkata-700 091
Date: 11/11/2023

Notice Inviting e-Tenders
The Chief Engineer (Procurement) invites e-Tender for procurement of 60 KV, 42 KV & 12 KV class polymer type Lightning Arresters. Bid documents are downloadable from 11.11.2023, 11:00 A.M. and bids shall be submitted (online) up to 04.00 P.M., 06.12.2023. Visit the following websites - <https://www.wbtenders.gov.in>, www.wbsetcl.in for details.
(CIN: U4619WB2007SGC11474 - web: www.wbsetcl.in)

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No: 22/ Re E-Tenders No. WRD/KWACE (SRV/17025/2022_5_1_171, WRD/KWACE (SRV/17025/2022_5_2_111, & WRD/KWACE (SRV/17025/2022_5_1_171, JIM - CWSS to Mundakayam, Koruthode Pils - Package 3 - Mudakayam Panchayath - Construction of sump cum boosting station at Vattakavu, GLSR at Vattakavu top, FHTCs 1178 nos - Package 6 - Koruthode Pils - Construction of GLSR, CWPM, CWGM, Distribution from Zone 5, 6, 7 and providing FHTC and Augmentation of RWSS To Parathodu and Jalandhi schemes - Construction of 6 MLD plant, Supply and erection of pump sets, replacing pumping lines and distribution lines, construction of pump houses and tanks and Providing 8200 nos of fits. EMD - Rs. 500000/- Each, Tender Fee - Rs. 16540 + (2978) GST/Each. Last Date for Submitting Tender: 24-11-2023, 03:00 pm. Phone: 0481 2562745. Website: www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Superintending Engineer, PH Circle, Kottayam
KWA-JB-GL-6-1569-2023-24

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI MARKETING DEPARTMENT
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

e-Tenders cum e-Reverse tendering are invited for procurement of 90,000 Kgs of Black Gram Dhall (Rounds) without Husk with Agmark for a period of four months by the Marketing Department, TTD. For Tender Notice and tender details log on to the web site <http://www.tirumala.org> and <https://tender.approccurement.gov.in/>. For further details contact phone numbers: 0877-2264079, 2264555, Fax No. 0877-2264554.

Rec.No.PRA/13960/Adv.No.254/PRO/2023, Dated:10-11-2023 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala - 147001)
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in 96461-07205

E-Tender Enq. No. 7484/P-2/EMP-12488 dt 09-11-23 Dy Chief Engineer/Headquarter (Procurement Cell-2) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2023_Power_112343_1 for Procurement of Bearings for overhauling of HT & LT motors at GGSSTP, Ropar. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 10.11.2023 onwards.

Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

RTP- 136/23 **76155/12/2393/2023/29736**

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. TBM-SG-CN-2023-24-02-OT Dated: 08/11/2023
(Two Packet System)

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Tambaram invites e-tender for the following works:

Item No.	Name of the work
1.	Provision of Indoor and outdoor signaling arrangements at Arakonam Junction station in Chennai division in connection with 3rd and 4th line connectivity to Road 1&2 of Arakonam yard

Item No.	Cash value in Rs.	Bid Security (EMD) (Rs.)	Last Date and time of submission of e-Tender through IREPS site	Period of Completion in month(s)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1.	388834369.93	2094200	30/11/2023	Nine (9)

Cost of Tender Document (Rs.) NIL

Tenders can view full details of tender and submit their offer at the e-tender portal www.ireps.gov.in of Indian Railways.

The supply/work is subject to GST rules applicable from time to time.

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Muhammed Anees poised to leap out of the shadows

After ending an injury-hit season with gold at the National Games, the long jumper has set his sights on battling it out with Jeswin Aldrin and M. Sreeshankar — No. 3 and 4 in the world this year — on the road to Paris 2024



GETTY IMAGES



Only if you have somebody in front of you can you think of getting past him... When it gets tough, you are under pressure and that is when you can pull out your big jumps

Games." While Sreeshankar and Jeswin stayed away from the National Games, weary after a long season, Anees was chasing a big target in Goa.

"I was confident of qualifying for the Olympics [entry standard 8.27m], that was my goal. Had I not been confident of making the cut, I would not have gone to Goa. Unfortunately, it did not happen. I was in 8.30-plus form but I couldn't get it," said Anees.

"I couldn't get the runway correctly and couldn't find the *josh* [stimulation] of the meet fully because many of the top guys were missing. When it gets tough, you are under pressure and that is when you can pull out your big jumps."

Anees, who was fifth in the 2022 Commonwealth Games (7.97m), is now being coached by Anoop Joseph, a national camp coach who guided Ancy Sojan to the women's long jump silver at the Asian Games.

"I think I can do 8.30-plus, that is the plan," said Anees. "I'm not just looking to qualify for the Olympics, I'm also hoping to do well in Paris. In the long run, on a perfect day, I feel I can do 8.45m or more. In fact, at last year's Federation Cup at Thenhipalam, I had a small foul in one of the jumps but it was close to 8.40m."

Athletics fans leapt in excitement that day as Aldrin (8.26m and a wind-assisted 8.37m, +4.1) and Sreeshankar (8.36m) produced world-class jumps, lighting up Thenhipalam.

Anees feels the presence of Sreeshankar and Aldrin has done a world of good for long jump in the country.

"Only if you have somebody in front of you can you think of getting past him. If you don't have anybody ahead of you, instead of competing in India, you will have to go abroad for competitions. But the main problem is, sometimes we peak early, especially when we have just two entries at events like the Asian Championships and Asian Games [three can qualify for the Olympics and Worlds]. And because of that, we are unable to produce our best jumps during a major competition.

"We cannot be at our peak in all competitions. If we peak early, and if we get a good gap, we can recover well, and then slowly get back to good form. If we have a competition [a qualifying meet] three months before a major meet that would be ideal."

Stan Rayan

Muhammed Anees was a very active kid. And so Anzar, who had coached his older brother Muhammed Anas, felt the youngster should try out athletics too.

But since the facilities at Kollam's Nilamel village, where he lived, were not adequate, Anees left for the Sports Authority of India (SAI) centre in Thiruvananthapuram, where he was selected at once. He began as a high jumper and sampled the 400m hurdles after a suggestion from SAI coach Nishad Kumar before a multi-event junior competition changed his life forever.

Finding his calling

"I did the octathlon and did very well in the long jump. Seeing this, my coach Nishad advised me to focus on the long jump," said Anees. "I couldn't settle down in the high jump, I couldn't get a proper arch in the Fosbury flop and so I started taking the long jump seriously."

He was almost 19 when he took to the new event but was soon producing quality. He claimed silver at the Vijaywada Junior Nationals in 2014 (7.20m). After finishing runner-up at the



I think I can do 8.30-plus, that is the plan. I'm not just looking to qualify for the Olympics. I'm also hoping to do well in Paris. On a perfect day, I feel I can do 8.45m or more

The Anees file

Born: December 3, 1995	Progression	2022: 8.15m
Event: Long jump	2014: 7.20m	2023: 8.15m
Major honours: Top-8 finish at Commonwealth Games (fifth); National champion	2015: 7.39m	
	2016: 7.65m	
	2017: 7.60m	
Personal best: 8.15m (No. 4 in India)	2019: 7.50m	
	2021: 8.00m	



2016 Inter-State Nationals in Hyderabad (7.64m), he clinched gold at the year-ending National Open. "Somehow, 2016 made me a confident long jumper. Apart from the Inter-State silver, I also did 7.80 in an Indian Grand Prix meet [in Bengaluru] that year," he said.

With the Rio Olympics beckoning, 2016 was a magical year for many. Anas broke the 400m national record in Poland. Ankit Sharma bettered the national long jump record with a then eye-popping 8.19m in Kazakhstan. So, Anees was not short of inspiration during that period.

Surprisingly, the long jump has advanced by leaps and bounds since Rio 2016. Jeswin Aldrin

(8.42m, national record) and M. Sreeshankar (8.41) occupied the top two rungs in this year's world list for months before slipping to No. 3 and 4. This year alone, three men — V.K. Elakkiyadasan (8.09), P. David (8.05) and S. Lokesh (8.02) — entered Indian long jump's 8m club.

Anees joined this club at the 2021 Federation Cup in Patiala and now has a personal best of 8.15m, which first came in March 2022 at the Indian Open Jumps Meet in Thiruvananthapuram. That placed him fourth in the all-time Indian list behind Aldrin (8.42, 2023), Sreeshankar (8.41, 2023) and Ankit (8.19, 2016). He now has four 8.15m jumps to his credit, including the one that fetched him gold at the season-ending National Games in Goa.

Injury woes

The 27-year-old, a havildar with Kerala Police, had been hit by injuries this season. He struggled to touch 8m for a large part of the year before returning to form in Goa.

"First, I had knee pain, I did not recover well and then I had hamstring and popliteus muscle issues," he said. "But there were meets one after another so I did not get much time for recovery. Thankfully, I was free of injuries at the National

What the future holds

Anees, who qualified for last year's Worlds in Oregon through the world rankings route, plans to train in India next year and go abroad for some competitions before the Paris Olympics.

"We need to go abroad because most of the Indian competitions are 'F' category events which offer fewer ranking points. We need to compete in 'B' or 'C' category meets, which offer more points and make it easier to qualify for the Olympics through the world rankings route," he said.

Coach Anoop Joseph feels Anees, who is supported by the GoSports Foundation, is a work in progress.

"His speed has to improve a little more, he missed a lot of training because of the injuries. And some corrections in technique also need to be done, especially in the landing phase. And sometimes his upper body goes a bit too much to the front while taking off," said Joseph.

With Anees poised to jump up a rung soon, next year could see three of India's all-time best long jumpers battling it out on the road to Paris. And as the country's No. 2 athletics event behind the javelin throw — in terms of medal potential at the major competitions — the long jump is set for an exciting future.

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Novak Djokovic	36	11,445	18
2	Carlos Alcaraz	20	8,455	17
3	Daniil Medvedev	27	7,200	22
4	Jannik Sinner	22	5,490	22
5	Andrey Rublev	26	5,205	25
6	Stefanos Tsitsipas	25	4,435	24
7	Casper Ruud	24	3,625	25
8	Alexander Zverev	26	3,585	26
9	Taylor Fritz	26	3,500	27
10	Holger Rune	20	3,460	22
11	Hubert Hurkacz	26	3,245	23
12	Alex de Minaur	24	2,740	25
13	Tommy Paul	26	2,665	26
14	Grigor Dimitrov	32	2,570	23
15	Karen Khachanov	27	2,475	21

F1 Drivers' standings

#	Driver	Team	Points	Wins
1	Max Verstappen	Red Bull	524	17
2	Sergio Perez	Red Bull	258	2
3	Lewis Hamilton	Mercedes	226	0
4	Fernando Alonso	Aston Martin	198	0
5	Lando Norris	McLaren	195	0
6	Carlos Sainz	Ferrari	192	1
7	Charles Leclerc	Ferrari	170	0
8	George Russell	Mercedes	156	0
9	Oscar Piastri	McLaren	87	0
10	Lance Stroll	Aston Martin	63	0
11	Pierre Gasly	Alpine	62	0
12	Esteban Ocon	Alpine	46	0
13	Alex Albon	Williams	27	0
14	Yuki Tsunoda	AlphaTauri	13	0
15	Valtteri Bottas	Alfa Romeo	10	0
16	Nico Hulkenberg	Haas	9	0
17	Daniel Ricciardo	AlphaTauri	6	0
18	Zhou Guanyu	Alfa Romeo	6	0
19	Kevin Magnussen	Haas	3	0
20	Liam Lawson	AlphaTauri	2	0
21	Logan Sargeant	Williams	1	0

Badminton Men's ranking

#	Player	Points	Events
1	Viktor Axelsen	101,355	15
2	Anthony Sinisuka Ginting	86,031	18
3	Li Shi Feng	81,948	22
4	Jonatan Christie	81,871	17
5	Kodai Naraoka	80,915	22
6	Kunlavut Vitidsarn	79,778	17
7	Shi Yu Qi	76,874	20
8	Prannoy H.S.	76,037	19
9	Loh Kean Yew	71,062	22
10	Anders Antonsen	66,610	19
11	Lee Zii Jia	66,496	23
12	Kenta Nishimoto	61,917	25
13	Chou Tien Chen	61,757	25
14	Lu Guang Zu	60,850	20
15	Ng Tze Yong	59,940	24

Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Kane Williamson	883	919
2	Joe Root	859	923
3	Steve Smith	842	947
4	Babar Azam	829	882
5	Marnus Labuschagne	826	937
6	Travis Head	818	884
7	Usman Khawaja	796	847
8	Daryl Mitchell	792	800
9	Harry Brook	773	773
10	Rohit Sharma	759	813

Top Indians

Sumit Nagal Rank 169 ▲ 1 spot	Mukund Sasikumar Rank 465 ▼ 11 spots

Top Indians

Prannoy H.S. Rank 8	Lakshya Sen Rank 17

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Iga Swiatek	22	9,295	19
2	Aryna Sabalenka	25	9,050	16
3	Coco Gauff	19	6,580	19
4	Elena Rybakina	24	6,365	18
5	Jessica Pegula	29	5,975	20
6	Ons Jabeur	29	4,195	21
7	Marketa Vondrousova	24	4,075	17
8	Karolina Muchova	27	3,651	16
9	Maria Sakkari	28	3,620	24
10	Barbora Krejickova	27	2,880	21
11	Beatriz Haddad Maia	27	2,855	23
12	Madison Keys	28	2,816	18
13	Jelena Ostapenko	26	2,720	23
14	Petra Kvitova	33	2,660	17
15	Qinwen Zheng	21	2,660	23

Top Indians

Max Verstappen	Sergio Perez

F1 Constructors' standings

Pos	Team	Points	Wins
1	Red Bull	782	19
2	Mercedes	382	0
3	Ferrari	362	1
4	McLaren	282	0
5	Aston Martin	261	0
6	Alpine	108	0
7	Williams	28	0
8	AlphaTauri	21	0
9	Alfa Romeo	16	0
10	Haas	12	0

Top Indians

Prannoy H.S. Rank 8	Lakshya Sen Rank 17

Badminton Women's ranking

#	Player	Points	Events
1	An Se Young	113,314	17
2	Akane Yamaguchi	100,717	16
3	Chen Yu Fei	99,046	16
4	Tai Tzu Ying	90,136	17
5	Carolina Marin	80,870	16
6	He Bing Jiao	77,374	18
7	Gregoria Mariska Tunjung	68,991	22
8	Han Yue	66,308	23
9	Beiwen Zhang	64,770	24
10	Ratchanok Intanon	63,093	16
11	P.V. Sindhu	62,640	22
12	Wang Zhi Yi	62,390	19
13	Pornpawee Chochuwong	57,449	24
14	Supanida Katethong	55,109	21
15	Aya Ohori	54,490	22

Top Indians

Prannoy H.S. Rank 8	Lakshya Sen Rank 17

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Shubman Gill	830	847
2	Babar Azam	824	898
3	Quinton de Kock	771	813
4	Virat Kohli	770	911
5	David Warner	743	880
6	Rohit Sharma	739	885
7	Rassie van der Dussen	730	796
8	Harry Tector	729	729
9	Heinrich Klaasen	725	756
10	Dawid Malan	704	711

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Mohammed Siraj	709	736
2	Keshav Maharaj	694	694
3	Adam Zampa	662	670
4	Kuldeep Yadav	661	765
5	Shaheen Afridi	658	688
6	Josh Hazlewood	658	733
7	Rashid Khan	655	806
8	Jasprit Bumrah	654	841
9	Trent Boult	638	775
10	Mohammad Shami	635	654

Top Indians

Ankita Raina Rank 201 ▼ 1 spot	Karnam Thandi Rank 308 ▼ 9 spots

Top Indians

Prannoy H.S. Rank 8	Lakshya Sen Rank 17

Top Indians

P.V. Sindhu Rank 11	Aakarshi Kashyap Rank 38

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Suryakumar Yadav	863	910
2	Mohammad Rizwan	787	875
3	Aiden Markram	756	796
4	Babar Azam	734	896
5	Rilee Rossouw	702	724
6	Dawid Malan	691	915
7	Jos Buttler	666	674
8	Aaron Finch	660	900
9	Reeza Hendricks	657	661
10	Glenn Phillips	649	703

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Rashid Khan	692	816
2	Wanindu Hasaranga	679	797
3	Adil Rashid	679	746
4	Maheesh Theekshana	677	684
5	Josh Hazlewood	670	806
6	Sam Curran	659	688
7	Fazalhaq Farooqi	657	692
8	Adam Zampa	657	743
9	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	656	745
10	Akeal Hosein	655	681



How South Africa rose to the top of world rugby

Meticulous planning, left-field thinking, systemic change and brave decision-making have helped the side lift back-to-back World Cup trophies. With four titles overall — one more than the mighty Black Caps — it is the most successful country in the tournament's history

Reuters
Agence France-Presse

Now that the dust has settled on South Africa's historic triumph at the Rugby World Cup, it's a little easier to view the record fourth title in clear light and assess its impact — on rugby as well as on the country. The 12-11 victory over New Zealand in last month's final was the result of years of planning, left-field thinking, systemic change and a well-developed culture of winning.

South African director of rugby Rassie Erasmus and coach Jacques Nienaber insisted they weren't "geniuses", but they clearly got a lot right. Winning back-to-back World Cup titles is incredibly difficult — the mighty All Blacks (2011, 2015) are the only other outfit to have done it.

Not geniuses

"I'm not saying we're geniuses!" said Nienaber, who took over from Erasmus as head coach after the latter had led South Africa to glory in Japan in 2019. "We don't try and be creative and think out of the box. It's not genius, it's just that the players we have have the ability to give us different tacti-



We don't try and be creative and think out of the box. It's not genius, it's just that the players we have have the ability to give us different tactical viewpoints

JACQUES NIENABER
World Cup-winning coach

cal viewpoints. Players who understand their roles, don't have egos and buy into it. That gives us the opportunity to maybe go a little bit different than normal."

Erasmus and Nienaber appear polar opposites, the latter the straight man in a comedy double act, the former the charismatic scene stealer. But they have worked together — first as head coach and assistant coach, and then as director and head coach — to turn around a shambolic Springboks side. During the course of their partnership, Siya Kolisi, the man Erasmus picked as South Africa's first black Test captain, has lifted the World Cup trophy twice.

Erasmus, who reached the 1999 World Cup semifinal as a player, divides opinion — he has made ill-judged remarks, ranted against referees and courted controversy, but he has also had a significant impact on the development of the sport in South Africa. His revolutionary shake-up of the system opened the way for under-privileged children under 15 to play the game.

"I wanted to help people avoid embarrassment for what we've done — not just apartheid but how we tried to fix things which ended up embarrassing black and white people," he told

the Guardian. The introduction of the Elite Player Development (EPD) in 2013 bore fruit, with a couple of the players forming part of the 2019 World Cup-winning team.

"My greatest moment was not holding the World Cup, it was watching those players create and score tries in the final and trust each other. The EPD was my biggest achievement," he said.

After the 2019 win, he put into perspective the pressure he and the players had been under.

"Pressure is one of your close relatives being murdered," he said. "South Africa has a lot of problems and we started talking about how rugby shouldn't be something that puts pressure on you. It should be something that creates hope."

Unifying South Africa

Rugby, once associated with white-minority rule in South Africa, has played a symbolic and significant role in unifying the nation. The victory of Kolisi's team in Paris galvanised people across all races — masking, for a while, deep economic and social woes.

"Never has a team, which was once at the centre of dividing a nation, risen time and again to unite and rally the nation behind one flag, a



We are a diverse and beautiful team from all walks of life... this trophy is for those who come from tough, disadvantaged areas. This team represents everybody. It's real for us, we care for each other, we care for our country

SIYA KOLISI
South Africa captain

single identity, and the nation brand," Khumbudzo Ntshavheni, minister in the presidency, said in a post on X (formerly Twitter). "The Springboks represent something more than themselves; they unite us in our diversity."

On the previous occasion South Africa took on New Zealand in the final, in 1995, the Springboks had just one black player, Chester Williams, in the side.

Twenty-eight years later, the sport in South Africa is truly multicultural. "We are a diverse and beautiful team from all walks of life... this trophy is for those who come from tough, disadvantaged areas," Kolisi said. "We come from those backgrounds, this team represents everybody. It's real for us, we care for each other, we care for our country."

In addition to transforming the game within South Africa, Erasmus and Nienaber have arguably redefined areas of rugby in their five years together. In 2019, South Africa relentlessly pursued the high contestable kick theory, now used widely by others. The lineout maul was a crucial try-scoring weapon for the Springboks four years ago, as it is now across rugby. But the innovation that has attracted the most attention — and debate — is the 'bomb squad'.

Erasmus and Nienaber have gambled on the high-risk, high-reward strategy of putting seven forwards and just one backline player on their bench — effectively an entire second pack or a 'bomb squad' of marauding big men to be unleashed on tiring rivals. The idea is to keep up intense pressure in the tackles, rucks and mauls while the opposition fatigues.

The idea, interpreted during the 2019 triumph as a 6-2 forwards-backs split, has since been copied by others. But only the Springboks have been brave and stubborn enough to attempt the 7-1 split, which can leave the side horribly exposed if defensive players suffer injuries.

An overtly forward-heavy bench has been criticised by some as reducing rugby to an uninventive physical barrage. When South Africa first used the 7-1 split against New Zealand in a warm-up in August, former Scotland coach Matt Williams led the disapproval. But to risk it all in the final — where there is no room for failed experiments — was a gamble requiring nerves of steel. South Africa deserves credit for making such a high-stakes call.

Rebuild for 2027

With Nienaber set to leave for a role at Irish side Leinster, the Boks face a rebuild into the next World Cup in Australia in 2027. They are certain, however, to rely on the bedrock of their game-plan. Erasmus is set to return as head coach, ensuring continuity of the process in the campaign for an unprecedented hat-trick of titles.

South Africa should be able to count on Kolisi, 32, who has ruled out retirement, saying he still had the hunger to represent the Boks. "Whether I will be captain, I don't know, that is up to the new coach, but what matters most is playing in the Springbok jersey," he said.

Nienaber also hinted he could be back in the future. "People think it is the end, but what I have learnt is that we can plan our lives all we want, but you never know [what will happen]," he said. "It is the end for now with this group, but it is my last time with the Boks? I can't say that."

GAME THEORY

Longest jumps in history — women's edition

Three women — Galina Chistyakova, Jackie Joyner-Kersey and Heike Drechsler — dominate the list of the longest jumps in history. Among them, they occupy all 10 top spots and 20 of the top 25. Chistyakova is the only one of the three not to have won an Olympic gold medal.

Mark (m)	Athlete	Venue	Date
7.52	Galina Chistyakova	Leningrad	11 Jun 1988
7.49	Jackie Joyner-Kersey	New York	22 May 1994
7.49	Jackie Joyner-Kersey	Sestriere	31 Jul 1994
7.48	Heike Drechsler	Neubrandenburg	09 Jul 1988
7.48	Heike Drechsler	Lausanne	08 Jul 1992
7.45	Heike Drechsler	Tallinn	21 Jun 1986
7.45	Heike Drechsler	Dresden	03 Jul 1986
7.45	Jackie Joyner-Kersey	Indianapolis	13 Aug 1987
7.45	Galina Chistyakova	Leningrad	11 Jun 1988
7.45	Galina Chistyakova	Budapest	12 Aug 1988
7.44	Heike Drechsler	Berlin	22 Sep 1985
7.43	Anisoara Cusmir	Bucharest	04 Jun 1983
7.42	Tatyana Kotova	Annecy	23 Jun 2002
7.40	Heike Drechsler	Dresden	26 Jul 1984
7.40	Heike Drechsler	Potsdam	21 Aug 1987
7.40	Jackie Joyner-Kersey	Seoul	29 Sep 1988
7.39	Heike Drechsler	Zurich	21 Aug 1985
7.39	Yelena Belevskaya	Bryansk	18 Jul 1987
7.39	Jackie Joyner-Kersey	San Diego	25 Jun 1988
7.37	Heike Drechsler	Sestriere	31 Jul 1991
7.37	Inessa Kravets	Kiev	13 Jun 1992
7.36	Jackie Joyner-Kersey	Rome	04 Sep 1987
7.36	Yelena Belevskaya	Leningrad	11 Jun 1988
7.36	Heike Drechsler	Jena	28 May 1992
7.35	Galina Chistyakova	Bratislava	20 Jun 1990



Galina Chistyakova



Jackie Joyner-Kersey



Heike Drechsler

SOURCE: World Athletics

PICTURE THIS



Chess on snow

Austria's Katharina Huber competes in the women's giant slalom event during the recent Alpine Ski World Cup at Rettenbachferner in Soelden, Austria. Giant slalom, which together with slalom forms a part

of alpine ski racing's technical events, involves competitors navigating the quickest way through a winding course.

The course consists of gates (pairs of poles topped with flags) placed in varying combinations, designed to test the skill, timing and judgement of the skiers. Finding the best line of ap-

proach and exit to deal with the different combinations of gates is the difference-maker in the discipline.

Giant slalom gates are wider and set farther apart than slalom gates. The courses are also longer than the ones used in slalom. In major international tournaments, competitors take two

runs on two different courses; the one with the lowest combined time is the winner.

The giant slalom — reportedly first run on the Mottarone, over Lake Maggiore, in Italy in 1935 — debuted at the World Championships in 1950 (Aspen) and the Winter Olympics in 1952 (Oslo).

COURSE CORRECTION

We are not able to finish well, will work on that: Babar



Pakistan has made just one World Cup semifinal since the final in 1999, but Babar Azam is unfazed. "We played in the final [T20 World Cup 2022]. We haven't done well this World Cup or the last, but you can't say since '99. We were No.1 [ODIs] and played positive cricket. We are not able to finish well. We will work on that."

AT A CROSSROADS

I don't know what my future holds, says Malan



England batter Dawid Malan, 36, hinted that the World Cup match against Pakistan could be his last for his country. "I don't know what my future holds, whether that'd be my choice or the team's. It could be my last game and it could still be the start of another journey. We'll only find out when the dust settles."

SPINNING A WEB

Zampa's length control has made him almost unplayable: Vettori



Australia's spin bowling coach Daniel Vettori feels Adam Zampa's remarkable control over his length has complemented his other sublime skills in the World Cup. "It is all control of his length, because all the other skills are there. But when you combine that with that aspect of the game as well, he's almost unplayable."

DONE WITH IT

Donald to quit Bangladesh post after the World Cup



Allan Donald will leave his post as Bangladesh's fast-bowling coach after the World Cup, officials said on Friday. "I'm done and going home," Bangladesh's *Daily Star* newspaper quoted him as saying. His relationship with the Bangladesh Board has soured after he criticised Shakib for the 'timed-out' controversy against Sri Lanka.

'Mission near-impossible' for Pakistan; England eyes CT spot

In a contest which is almost a dead-rubber, Babar's men will need to win by at least 287 runs or chase down a target with a minimum of 47.2 overs to spare; Buttler's side will look to sign off with a win and a seventh-place finish

ODI WORLD CUP

N. Sudarshan
KOLKATA

A 'dead-rubber' militates against everything elite sport packages so well – excitement, anticipation, nervousness, jubilation and energy-sapping exhaustion.

But for players who have no hope left, it is an opportunity for one precious final triumph. For coaches who are increasingly smitten by corporate speak, it is about the search for takeaways. And for the paying public, it is a chance to deepen their belief that there is still bang for their buck.

At the Eden Gardens on Saturday when Pakistan takes on England, the expectation is for all of this to come true.

In fairness, the contest is not quite a 'dead-rubber', but near enough. For Pakistan to enter the World Cup semifinals at New Zealand's expense, it needs to win by 287 runs at a venue where the average first-innings score is 242. Or it has to chase a target down with 47.2 overs to spare.

For England, the only thing to play for is a se-



Mirage: Only a miracle of the highest order can help Babar & Co. GETTY IMAGES

venth-place finish, which will guarantee a spot in the 2025 Champions Trophy.

Both teams have landed in the City of Joy on the back of victories.

Pakistan, powered by a sensational century from Fakhar Zaman, beat the Kiwis last Saturday to

breathe fresh life into its campaign only for the same Black Caps to nearly snuff it all out with a convincing victory over Sri Lanka.

England's 160-run win over the Netherlands in Pune on Wednesday snapped a wretched five-

match losing run and seemingly released the handbrake which Jos Buttler & Co. has been playing with.

It remains to be seen if it can galvanise England into finally resembling the champion unit that it was until not so long ago.

Also at test will be one of the widely accepted truisms that 'cricket is a funny game where anything can happen'.

Pakistan progressing will be blockbuster evidence, but on this occasion, it is likely to prove a fanciful prophecy.

Captaincy has not been a burden for me, says Babar



Still at it: Though Pakistan needs a massive win over England to make the semifinals, Babar insisted that his team will make a fist of it. PTI

N. Sudarshan
KOLKATA

When the World Cup fixtures were first released, England-Pakistan at the Eden Gardens had a halo around it. A marquee tie between two world champions and potential semifinalists on the penultimate day of the league stage was a mouth-watering prospect.

Come match-day, England is out of contention and Pakistan all but. Friday's pre-match briefing with Babar Azam was thus mostly about sombre reflection and the future course of action.

"I think the South Africa match cost us," said the Pakistan skipper. "We should have won that [and] because of that we are in this stage. There is one match

left. You never know. It's cricket; we will try to finish on a good note and then see."

At one point, it was suggested that Babar may consider quitting captaincy to solely focus on his batting, like Virat Kohli for India. The 29-year-old, however, dead-batted it and also brushed aside the critics, albeit in his own understated manner.

"I have been captaining my team for the last three years and I have never felt [burdened]," he said. "Just because I have not performed the way I should have, people are saying that I am under pressure. Everyone has their own point of view."

"Par kisi ko mashwara dena bhi hai, toh number sabke paas hai. It is easy to give advice on TV. But you

can also message me," Babar added with a smile.

Pakistan's situation is a mirror image of its travails from the 2019 World Cup where it had to defeat Bangladesh in its last league match by over 300 runs to pip New Zealand on net run rate and sneak into the semifinals. It couldn't back then, and this time, it needs a 287-run victory but Babar insisted that the team would not consider it a lost cause.

"It's in our mind and we will try to do it. We can't just go and start firing blindly. There are a lot of things, like partnership, which player will stay for how long. If Fakhar [Zaman] is in for 20 or 30 overs, we can achieve that. Then follow up with [Mohammad] Rizwan, Iftikhar [Ahmed]. We can do this."

Australia takes on Bangladesh in an inconsequential contest

Amol Karhadkar
PUNE

It's a rarity to feature in a game that is inconsequential, yet critical. Saturday's contest between Australia and Bangladesh – the last day game of the Men's World Cup – will be one such occasion at the Maharashtra Cricket Association stadium.

Australia, the five-time champion, has already sealed a semifinal place and even confirmed South Africa as its opponent. So what's in it for Pat Cummins' men to motivate themselves.

As Daniel Vettori, an assistant coach with Australia, joked it was imperative for them to finish second and get to use the home dressing room for the semifinal at Eden Garden.

For Bangladesh, having almost assured itself of the eighth spot in the table and a 2025 ICC Champions Trophy berth, only a huge defeat can alter the equation.

In the absence of captain Shakib Al Hasan, only a defeat bigger than 175 runs will result in Bangladesh slipping below Sri

Lanka in the points table. But Nazmul Hasan Shanto's men will hope to stun an on-song Australia and end yet another forgettable World Cup campaign with a win. Even if Bangladesh can be competitive, it will help it move on from the Angelo Mathews Timed-Out saga.

More than occupying the home dressing room, Australia will be eager to extend its winning run to seven matches and enter the knockouts with a psychological edge over South Africa. It will be surprising to see if Glenn Maxwell – who overcame severe cramps in a Herculean unbeaten double hundred against Afghanistan mid-week in Mumbai – features in the game.

It will also be interesting to see if Steve Smith returns to the XI after missing the Afghanistan game due to vertigo.

Smith had a real long hit in the nets on Friday afternoon and hardly appeared in discomfort.

For Bangladesh, Mahedi Hasan is likely to be preferred over Enamul Haque in place of Shakib.



Time to try out: Abbott could get a game on Saturday. PTI

Today's matches

Australia vs Bangladesh Pune, 10.30 a.m.	England vs Pakistan Kolkata, 2 p.m.
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H2H IN ODIs

Played 21	Played 91
Australia 19	England 56
Bangladesh 1	Pakistan 32
NR 1	NR 3

EYE ON THE SKY

Mainly clear, will become partly cloudy towards afternoon or evening

High: 32°C	Low: 19°C	High: 31°C	Low: 21°C
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SOURCE: IMD

All permutations and calculations can be tried, but it will be the Kiwis in the semifinals



Sunil Gavaskar

When the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup schedule first came out, most fans would have marked certain must-see matches. One of them would have been between the defending champions England against Pakistan.

Scheduled on the penultimate day of the group stage, it would have been pencilled as the match that could decide the semifinalists. It still is a match that can technically be called a quarterfinals for the Pakistan team but after New Zealand's thumping win over Sri Lanka in their last game, they know that not even a miracle can get them to qualify as the fourth semifinalist.

All kinds of permutations and calculations can be tried but it will still be New Zealand who will join India, South Africa and Australia in the semifinals.

Pakistan's four losses have cost them a spot in

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the semifinals. Out of nine matches, if a team won six, it was certain to qualify. India has won eight on the trot and have finished on top while South Africa finished with 14 and can be joined by Australia; they will finish second and third. The net run rate also comes into play and it is here that New Zealand, with 300-plus scores in some games, have done wonders to their run-rate.

For England, the added incentive is to be able to qualify for the Champions Trophy to be played in Pakistan in 2025. To qualify for that, the teams had to finish in the top eight of this event as only eight teams will be participating in that tournament.

They too have struggled with getting off to a good start with Baird who was in cracking good form in the English season has just not been able to recapture a semblance of that form and so it's been left to Malan to get the team to a start. With Joe Root and Jos Buttler also struggling, the English batting has just not been able to give their bowlers enough runs to defend.

The England bowlers, too, have not been consistent and for a great part of the tournament, the team was pretty much in the bottom of the table. The last game gives them a chance to redeem themselves and scratch through to a Champions Trophy

birth. For Pakistan too it's a chance to go back on a high with a win over the defending champions.

They started the tournament well but after the heavy loss to India their morale seemed down and they were unable to lift themselves. Their team selection, especially that of the spinners, was hard to understand. That area was their weak point and with the much heralded new ball bowlers also unable to strike the early blows the opposition was able to get after the slower bowlers. Babar would be looking to finish on a personal high and lead the team to a face-saving win.

(Professional Management Group)

Van der Dussen helps South Africa cross the line

Phehlukwayo's cameo hastens the victory by five wickets; Omarzai misses century narrowly, but helps Afghanistan reach a respectable total of 244 while Coetzee comes up with a four-for



Playmakers: Van der Dussen paced his innings to perfection after Omarzai had lifted Afghanistan from a precarious position despite Coetzee's incisive spell. VIJAY SONEJI



SCOREBOARD

AFGHANISTAN
Rahmanullah Gurbaz c Klaasen b Maharaj 25 (22b, 3x4, 1x6), Ibrahim Zadran c de Kock b Coetzee 15 (30b, 3x4), Rahmat Shah c Miller b Ngidi 26 (46b, 2x4), Hashmatullah Shahidi c de Kock b Maharaj 2 (7b), Azmatullah Omarzai (not out) 97 (107b, 7x4, 3x6), Ikram Alikhil c de Kock b Coetzee 12 (14b, 1x4, 1x6), Mohammad Nabi c de Kock b Ngidi 2 (3b), Rashid Khan c de Kock b Phehlukwayo 14 (30b), Noor Ahmad c de Kock b Coetzee 26 (32b, 4x4), Mujeeb Ur Rahman c Markram b Coetzee 8 (5b, 1x6), Naveen-ul-Haq run out 2 (4b); Extras (b-4, lb-1, w-10): 15; Total (in 50 overs): 244.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-41 (Gurbaz, 8.1 overs), 2-41 (Ibrahim, 9.3), 3-45 (Hashmatullah, 10.5), 4-94 (Rahmat, 23.5), 5-112 (Alikhil, 26.5), 6-116 (Nabi, 27.4), 7-160 (Rashid, 37.5), 8-204 (Noor, 45.6), 9-226 (Mujeeb, 47.4).

SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING
Rabada 10-0-40-0, Ngidi 8.3-0-69-2, Markram 4.3-0-25-0,

Coetzee 10-1-44-4, Maharaj 10-1-25-2, Phehlukwayo 7-0-36-1.

SOUTH AFRICA
Quinton de Kock lbw b Nabi 41 (47b, 2x4, 3x6), Temba Bavuma c Gurbaz b Mujeeb 23 (28b, 3x4), Rassie van der Dussen (not out) 76 (95b, 6x4, 1x6), Aiden Markram c Naveen b Rashid 25 (32b, 1x4, 1x6), Heinrich Klaasen b Rashid 10 (13b, 1x4), David Miller c & b Nabi 24 (33b, 1x4, 1x6), Andile Phehlukwayo (not out) 39 (37b, 1x4, 3x6); Extras (lb-3, w-6): 9; Total (for five wickets in 47.3 overs): 247.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-64 (Bavuma, 10.6), 2-66 (de Kock, 13.1), 3-116 (Markram, 23.1), 4-139 (Klaasen, 27.3), 5-182 (Miller, 37.1).

AFGHANISTAN BOWLING
Mujeeb 10-0-51-1, Naveen 6.3-0-52-0, Nabi 10-1-35-2, Omarzai 1-0-8-0, Rashid 10-1-37-2, Noor 9-0-49-0, Rahmat 1-0-12-0.

Toss: Afghanistan.
PoM: van der Dussen.
South Africa won by five wickets with 15 balls to spare.

ODI WORLD CUP

Shavan Acharya
AHMEDABAD

By the time Afghanistan's innings ended, its hopes of making it to the World Cup semifinals were already over. The side needed to win by at least 438 runs against South Africa to stay in the

hunt, but batting first, the Afghans could only amass 244, despite a remarkable innings by Azmatullah Omarzai (97, 107b, 7x4, 3x6).

The 50-odd Afghan nationals present at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Friday still hoped for a winning-end to the team's campaign. Their cheers and chanting of slogans in Pashto, however, turned

futile as South Africa pulled off a five-wicket win, riding on Rassie van der Dussen's unbeaten 76 (95b, 6x4, 1x6).

For South Africa, which has already sealed a spot in the last-four stage, it was all about getting back its mojo after a humiliating defeat against India last week.

In pursuit of 245, it started off cautiously with captain Temba Bavuma and

Quinton de Kock forging a 64-run stand. Bavuma, who suffered a hamstring injury, batted gingerly before holding out to deep square-leg off Mujeeb ur Rahman.

A couple of overs later, Mohammed Nabi trapped de Kock leg before. As both the openers were dismissed in quick succession, van der Dussen and Aiden Markram stitched a 50-run

partnership. However, Rashid Khan broke the stand and also cleaned up Heinrich Klaasen in the same spell.

Things could have gone awry had van der Dussen not held his nerves. He built two crucial partnerships – 43 runs with David Miller, followed by an unbeaten 65-run stand with Andile Phehlukwayo to guide the team home.

Sans Rashid, none of the spinners could dominate, and making the most of a reprieve, Phehlukwayo went on to hit two sixes and a four off Naveen-ul-Haq – playing his final ODI game – to wrap up the proceedings.

Earlier in the day, Afghanistan was reduced to 116 for six, before the 23-year-old Omarzai batted like a dream to take his

team to a respectable total. Though he missed out on the coveted century by three runs, he registered the highest score by an Afghanistano No. 5 batter.

Opening the innings, Rahmanullah Gurbaz raced to 41 for no loss in eight overs and were unfazed by the new-ball spell.

However, the introduction of spinner Keshav

Maharaj turned things around for South Africa. He struck off his very first ball to dislodge Gurbaz and, in the space of 17 deliveries, Afghanistan lost three wickets with just four runs added to its tally. Wickets tumbled before Omarzai forged two key partnerships of 44-runs each – with Rashid and Noor Ahmed. But in the end, it wasn't adequate.

Maxwell, the spinner, has quite a few tricks up his sleeve



Impressive show: Maxwell is one of only seven spinners with an economy rate of less than five runs. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Amol Karhadkar
PUNE

Be it his fastest World Cup hundred against the Netherlands or the single-handed – and one-legged – unbeaten double hundred against Afghanistan, Glenn Maxwell has been phenomenal with the bat right through the Men's World Cup.

But his pyrotechnics with the willow have kind of overshadowed his effective and economical off-spin. In fact, Maxwell has easily been the standout all-rounder in the World Cup so far.

He has bowled in the PowerPlay, has tightened the noose in the middle and, at times, has even been used at the death. Still, Maxwell is one of only seven spinners who have conceded less than five runs an over despite bowling 50 overs in the World Cup so far.

Australia's assistant coach Daniel Vettori – a legendary spinner himself – gave all the credit to Maxwell for his effort with the ball.

"He is a very willing bowler and sometimes that can be the hardest part of being an all-rounder, that even though you do have the skills, the desire is not always there. And Maxi, he loves bowling. And he loves the strategy that goes into it, probably like with his batting," Vettori said on Friday.

"You see a bowler that's

evolved over the last few years. He has been able to, in particular, start to bowl over the wicket to right-handers, which sort of went out of fashion for a period of time, and I think it's his ability to almost get near top-spin, challenge the stumps the whole time from round and over the wicket."

In an era when matchups overrule skills, most captains tend to avoid bowling off-spinners against right-handers. And when they have to, most spinners tend to be defensive, preferring around the wicket line to curb the flow or runs.

"Particularly in the PowerPlay, going over the wicket and being able to either skid it on or spin it back into the right-handed batsman has been his biggest improvement. It meant that he can bowl at any stage of the innings. And even Patty captain [Pat Cummins] has the confidence to turn to him in the 46th or 47th over the other day to two right-handed batters," Vettori said.

"He is an extremely confident bowler because of all the work he puts in and how skilful and intelligent he is around his bowling," Maxwell may be rested on Saturday, but Australia will be hoping for him to turn up with all his tricks, including bowling, during Thursday's semifinal against South Africa.

Buzz around Chinnaswamy as the Indians have a zestful nets session

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
BENGALURU

Traffic, living up to a Bengaluru cliché, moved at snail's pace. Birds returned to the nearby Cubbon Park to roost. And in this urban-pastoral setting, the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium geared up for its last World Cup match this season. As always, the kites glided above.

Sunday's clash between India and the Netherlands, the final league game of a long-drawn championship, will lure in the crowds. The fans are primed to cheer for the Men in Blue who have tougher battles ahead in the knockouts starting with the semifinals next week.

It may have been a hectic Friday night outside, but inside it was all about the steady rhythm of a ball thudding into a bat as Rohit Sharma's men practised under lights. Being the lone undefeated squad in the current World Cup, India will step in as the favourite on Sunday, but for the players constantly repeating their 'one match at a time' mantra, it was all about getting back into their groove.

There was a bit of light-hearted banter as R. Ashwin and Jasprit Bumrah mimicked the bowling actions of Anil Kumble and Harbhajan Singh. Ashwin played the mentor, fine-tuning Bumrah's attempts of replicating the former spinners' delivery stride. A bunch of fans in the far corner suddenly erupted as their object of affection, Virat Kohli, strode in. With his Royal Challengers Bangalore connect since 2008, Kohli is seen as an honorary citizen of this megapolis.

Slip catches, spot of foot-volley and Mohammed Shami using his long handle against throw-downs and spin, with even Bumrah peddling the slow



Cynosure: Kohli got plenty of attention during India's practice. K. MURALI KUMAR

art, were all at play. And closer to the centre-square, skipper Rohit, coach Rahul Dravid and chief selector Ajit Agarkar had a long chat. The skies darkened with a combination of twilight and some clouds as the North East Monsoon remained a steady atmospheric presence.

The regular batters then got into the act with Rohit despatching the white sphere high into the stadium's roof. Shubman Gill, meanwhile, essayed his pulls and attempted a reverse ramp shot and the fine sweeps. In another corner, Suryakumar Yadav countered throw-downs. In a while, K.L. Rahul and Kohli too wielded their

bats, getting their aerial zones sorted, striking down the ground or dancing down to spinners. And other batters awaited their turn.

Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Shardul Thakur, Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav and Prasidh Krishna turned their arm over before Bumrah too reverted to his fast act. Most of the players turned up for the optional nets while Ishan Kishan wasn't around. The World Cup has entered its business end but prior to that the Netherlands has to be dealt with. The players kept their eye on that target while a weekend night waned.

ICC suspends Sri Lanka Cricket, cites government interference

Press Trust of India
DUBAI

The International Cricket Council on Friday suspended its full-member Sri Lanka after observing government interference in the national board following a tumultuous week.

The Sri Lankan parliament on Thursday unanimously passed a resolution, calling for the sacking of the country's cricket governing body, with both the ruling and opposition parties supporting it.

With immediate effect
"The International Cricket Council (ICC) Board has suspended Sri Lanka Cricket's membership of the ICC with immediate effect," said the ICC in a statement.

"The ICC Board met on Friday and determined that Sri Lanka Cricket is in serious breach of its obligations as a Member, in particular, the requirement to manage its affairs autonomously and ensure that there is no government interference in the governance, regulation and/or administration of cricket in Sri Lanka.

"The conditions of the



suspension will be decided by the ICC Board in due course," the statement added.

The resolution passed by the Sri Lankan parliament amounted to government interference and that was enough ground for the ICC Board to suspend Sri Lanka's membership.

A sequence of events unfolded in Sri Lanka Cricket following the team's disappointing run in the ongoing World Cup in India. Sri Lanka could manage only two wins from nine games and is out of the semifinal race.

The main opposition party leader Sajith Premadasa moved the resolution titled 'the removal of the corrupt SLC (Sri Lanka Cricket) management' which was seconded by senior government minister Nimal Siripala de Silva.

The parliament's approval came two days after the Court of Appeal restored the SLC management, headed by Shammi Silva, on Tuesday.

On Monday, Sports Minister Roshan Ranasinghe sacked the SLC management and appointed former World Cup-winning captain Arjuna Ranatunga as head of a seven-member interim committee to govern the cricket board before the Court of Appeal restored it.

Police protection
While the parliament was debating the resolution, police protection was provided to the SLC headquarters. Several hundred people had turned up near the premises of the SLC headquarters, calling for the resignation of the management.

The criticism of the national team's performance grew louder when Sri Lanka was bowled out for 55 in the run chase against India in Mumbai. The Lankans had also performed poorly against India in the Asia Cup final when they were bowled out for 50 after batting first.

Points table

	M	W	L	PTS	NR
India (Q)	8	8	0	16	2.456
South Africa (Q)	9	7	2	14	1.261
Australia (Q)	8	6	2	12	0.861
New Zealand	9	5	4	10	0.743
Pakistan	8	4	4	8	0.036
Afghanistan (E)	9	4	5	8	-0.336
England (E)	8	2	6	4	-0.885
Bangladesh (E)	8	2	6	4	-1.142
Sri Lanka (E)	9	2	7	4	-1.419
Netherlands (E)	8	2	6	4	-1.635

Q: Qualified | E: Eliminated

THE HINDU
CRICKET WORLD CUP
TRIVIA CHALLENGE

1. Who holds the record for most dismissals by a wicket-keeper in ODI World Cup history?
2. Who is the only member in the current England squad who was also part of the 2011 ODI World Cup squad?
3. Which city hosted the final of the 2015 ODI World Cup?

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Answer to yesterday's quiz:

1. Glenn McGrath
2. Yashpal Sharma
3. Sachin Tendulkar

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INBRIEF



Atletico Madrid extends Simeone contract till 2027

Atletico Madrid coach Diego Simeone signed a contract extension to stay at the club until June 2027. The 53-year-old Simeone has helped Atletico win two Spanish leagues, one Copa del Rey, two Europa Leagues, two European Super Cups and one Spanish Super Cup. He also led the club to two Champions League finals. The former midfielder has coached Atletico in 642 games, winning 380 of them. Financial details of the new deal with were not immediately released.

Moyes says managers wary of speaking out on VAR

West Ham boss David Moyes believes managers do not want to speak out about VAR controversies because they are either ignored, fined or both. "We're all pretty disappointed with lots of aspects but we're also all very much in favour of trying to make it work," said Moyes. "I just think we've all been disappointed with some of the officiating this season. My single opinion wouldn't matter. They'll do what they need to do. Most managers don't want to say anything about it because we know we're locked down."

Sriram Balaji and Begemann enter Challenger doubles final

Sriram Balaji and Andre Begemann beat Luke Johnson and Skander Mansouri 6-7(4), 6-4, [10-8] in the doubles semifinals of the €145,000 Challenger tennis in Helsinki, Finland, on Friday.

Other results: €145,000 Challenger, Helsinki: Doubles:

Quarterfinals: Balaji & Begemann bt Andrea Pellegrino & Andrea Vavassori (Ita) 6-7(3), 6-4, [11-9]; Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan & Vijay Sundar Prashanth bt Marco Bortolotti (Ita) & Sergio Gomes (Esp) 6-1, 6-0.
\$15,000 ITF men, Hua Hin, Thailand: Doubles: Semifinals: Blake Baydon & Kody Pearson (Aus) bt David Pichler (Aut) & Nitin Kumar Sinha 6-3, 6-4.
\$15,000 ITF men, Monastir: Doubles: Semifinals: Egor Agafonov & Bogdan Bobrov bt Alexandr Binda (Ita) & Chirag Dhanu 6-2, 6-2.
\$100,000 ITF women, Charleston, USA: Singles: Pre-quarterfinals: Elizabeth Mandlik (USA) bt Sahaja Yamalappalli 6-3, 6-0.

LIVE TELECAST

Badminton: Korea Masters, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 a.m.
NBA: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 8.30 a.m.
Archery: Olympic Qualifiers, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 8.30 a.m. & 12.30 p.m.
Men's Cricket World Cup: Star Sports 1, 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 10.30 a.m. & 2 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 6, 8.30 & 11 p.m.
LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 6.30, 8.45, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Sunday)
Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30, 10.30 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Sunday)
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 1 & 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 8 & 11 p.m.

Vaishali is in no hurry to become a men's Grandmaster

The WGM, who is committed to playing in World rapid and blitz championships in Uzbekistan, has no plans to take part in any classical tournament this year; focus is on FIDE Candidates

GENERAL

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

R. Vaishali is hardly three points away from the magical Elo rating of 2500 to complete the formalities of becoming a men's Grandmaster.

But the 22-year-old WGM is not in a hurry to achieve the feat as she has not planned to take part in any classical tournament this year.

As of now, Vaishali is committed to play in the World rapid and blitz championships in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, from December 26 to 30.

Vaishali is now glowing in the attention of having qualified for the FIDE Candidates chess (April 2 to 25, 2024 in Toronto) after winning the women's crown in the Grand Swiss tour in Isle of Mann, with a wonderful performance.

"I returned to Chennai only on Thursday. I have just started to think about Candidates. I am discussing with my coach R.B. Ramesh sir and Viswanathan Anand sir. Soon we will formulate a plan," said Vaishali, who was felicitated with a cash award of ₹1 lakh by her college M.O.P. Vaishnav.



Shining stars and a legend: Vaishali, Anand and Sruthy share a light moment during the felicitation function, organised by M.O.P. Vaishnav, in Chennai. R. RAVINDRAN

Importance of Seconds
Vaishali revealed having a group of Seconds is very important for the Candidates. "We are exploring options [of whether to have foreign or international players or both]. Having Seconds is very crucial," said Vaishali.

Five-time World champion Anand, and deputy

president of FIDE, was clear that a structured training is important for Vaishali to prepare well for the Candidates.

"Qualifying for the Candidates is huge. I believe Vaishali will work very hard. By April when the Candidates come, she would have got enough time to be prepared," he said.

On having Seconds, Anand said: "To have Seconds familiar with her game is important. I will

do my best to make her ready."

On the eight-player field at the Candidates, Vaishali said: "I have faced all the players in different formats and won against them. But, classical is different because all of them will come prepared."

Meanwhile, R. Sruthy, also a student of M.O.P. Vaishnav, who represented India at the Hangzhou Asian Games in basketball, was presented a cash award of ₹25,000.

Asian Para Games medallist Muthuraja and coach felicitated

Sports Bureau
COIMBATORE

Muthuraja of Coimbatore, who won bronze in the men's shot put F55 and discus in the recently concluded Hangzhou Asian Para Games, and his coach Muruga Prabhu were felicitated by the Ganga Hospital and the Rotary Club of Coimbatore Central here recently.

Muthuraja had a fall and suffered two major high velocity injuries that left him completely paraplegic. He was operated at the Ganga Hospital which stabilised the spine so that rehabilitation could be started.

Following the healing of the wounds, he was transferred to Ganga Spine Injury Rehabilitation Centre where he partially reco-



Wishing him the best: Muthuraja, who was honoured by at a function in Coimbatore recently. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

vered, but still required a wheel-chair.

"Muthuraja's story is an inspiration for other spinal cord injured patients on how well they can perform. It is also a lesson why

patients with spinal cord injuries must take proper treatment which allows them to perform to their fullest ability," said Ganga Hospital director Dr. Rajasekaran.

Three Indians in fray for quota places

ARCHERY

Sports Bureau

B. Dhiraj, Tarundeep Rai and Ankita Bhakat remained in contention for Paris Olympics quota places on the opening day of the Asian Continental Qualifier Tournament in Bangkok on Friday. Dhiraj, the top-ranked archer in the tournament, Rai and Ankita reached the quarterfinals and will compete on Saturday.

As per the Olympic qualification system, two quota places per gender will be awarded at the ACQT on the basis of the final standings of individual match-play competitions.

The quota places shall be attributed to the National Olympic Committee (NOC) of the highest

India bests Italy for third straight win

LAVER CUP

Sports Bureau

Rushil Khosla and Sohini Mohanty won their singles and doubles matches to help India to a 4-2 victory over Italy in the third league match of the IC Rod Laver Junior tennis Challenge in San Diego, California.

India was in a spot of bother after Manas Dhamne and Asmi Adkar had lost their singles matches, but both of them rose to the occasion in the boys and girls doubles

later.

It was the third successive victory for the Indian team after the wins against Britain and USA. India will play Argentina and South Africa in the last two league matches.

The topper of the league will be the champion.

The results (league): India bt Italy 4-2 (Manas Dhamne lost to Lorenzo Angelini 5-7, 5-7; Rushil Khosla bt Michele Mecarelli 6-2, 6-1; Asmi Adkar lost to Ilary Pistola 2-6, 1-6; Sohini Mohanty bt Ylenia Zocco 6-2, 1-6, [10-4]; Rushil & Manas bt Michele & Lorenzi 6-4, 6-2; Asmi & Sohini bt Ilary & Ylenia 7-6(4), 6-1).

Djokovic grouped with Sinner at ATP Finals

Associated Press
TURIN

Defending champion Novak Djokovic has been placed in a group with home favourite Jannik Sinner for the ATP Finals in Turin, where he needs to win just one match to end the year as World No. 1.

The draw for the season-ending, eight-man finals was made on Thursday and saw Djokovic pitted against Stefanos

Tsitsipas and Holger Rune as well as Sinner in the Green Group for the round-robin stage.

Second-seeded Carlos Alcaraz headlines the Red Group, which also includes Daniil Medvedev, Andrey Rublev and Alexander Zverev.

The top two from each group advance to the semifinals.

The tournament starts on Sunday and the final is scheduled for Nov. 19.

We will become solid again when our injured players return, says India coach Stimac

WC QUALIFIERS

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Emphasising on the need to stay positive, Indian football team coach Igor Stimac says injuries to key players such as Ashique Kuruniyan and Jeakson Singh have made the task tougher ahead of the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers.

India is slated to play Kuwait in its den in a 2026 World Cup and AFC 2027 Asian Cup Preliminary Joint Qualification Round 2 next week.

India is also playing in the upcoming Asian Cup in January next year. "We have entered the new phase of our work, and we know it's going to be very hard and difficult on the boys.

We know that the next few months until March will be very difficult," Stimac told the All India Football Federation (AIFF) web-

site. "We are very optimistic then that once the players, who are missing now, are back, we will become solid again and show strength on the pitch, no matter who we play against.

"So, the focus at this moment is how to replace those boys who were the starting 11 players, such as Ashique Kuruniyan, Anwar Ali and Jeakson Singh (currently nursing injuries).

"They were our strength in the latest successes we had. These boys played very good football; they were adding extra value to the whole team," he added.

India won 3-2 against Kuwait on its home turf only once in a friendly match in 2004.

Asked if the group is tough, he replied in the positive and said the aim is to bag the second position.

"Yes, the group is very tough and challenging because we know there will be no easy opponents, and



We are very optimistic then that once the players, who are missing now, are back, we will become solid again and show strength on the pitch, no matter who we play against
STIMAC

they are the top teams. So apart from that, from the third pot we got by far the best opponents available (Kuwait).

"So, the group is tough at the moment, but we need to approach it game by game and prepare for it. As far as I'm concerned and with my experience in football, November to March will be difficult.

"To prepare well and to make sure that the national team gets enough time to secure the second spot in the group and qualify - that is our plan."



The aim: Placed in a tough pool, a pragmatic Stimac is looking to finish second in the group. FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

Janweja does the double in over-75 category

ITF MASTERS

Sports Bureau

Narender Janweja beat top seed Ashok Jindal 6-0, 6-3 in the over-75 final of the ITF Masters tennis tournament at the Indore Tennis Club.

Narender also won the doubles title in partnership with Ashok Jindal.

The results (finals): Over-60: Nagaraj Revanasiddaiah bt Nirmal Kumar Ranjan 4-0 (ret.); **doubles:** Arun Aggarwal & Nagaraj bt O.P. Dikshit & Pramod Dixit 7-6(1), 6-1.
Over-65: Ajeet Bhardwaj bt Eknath Kinikar 6-0, 6-3; **doubles:** Ajeet & S.J.S. Randhawa bt Rakesh Kohli & Yogesh Shah 5-7, 7-5, [10-7].
Over-70: A.J.S. Chhatwal bt George Thomas 6-0, 6-3; **doubles:** Chhatwal & Ramarao Dosa bt Surinder Mohan Sharma & VLSN Raju 6-4, 5-7, [10-0].
Over-75: Narender Janweja bt Ashok Jindal 6-0, 6-3; Janweja & Jindal bt Paras Chhajed & Francis Rodrigues 6-0, 6-1.

Top seed Neeraj lives up to his billing

Sports Bureau

Top seed Neeraj Yashpaul overcame a slow start to beat third seed Jagmeet Singh 4-6, 6-1, 6-4 in the final of the ₹2,50,000 AITA men's tennis tournament, sponsored by HPCL and Mittal Energy, at the CLTA Complex in Chandigarh on Friday. Neeraj played solid through the tournament and did not drop a set before the final.



Neeraj.

Krishna Khaitan u-19 tournament from Nov. 14

BADMINTON

Sports Bureau

More than 1000 players are scheduled to compete in the Yonex Sunrise 30th Krishna Khaitan all-India under-19 badminton tournament to be held at the Tau Devi Lal Indoor Stadi-

um, Sector-3, Panchkula, from November 14 to 20.

The tournament, featuring singles, doubles and mixed doubles events, will carry a total cash prize of ₹4,00,000.

The main draw matches will be played from 17th, after the qualifying events over the first three days.

Haryana keeps overall title; Tamil Nadu finishes second

Nishant puts on a record-breaking run in the boys' under-16 2,000m; the top three finishers in the boys' under-18 3,000m event also better existing mark

JR. NATL. ATHLETICS

Sports Bureau
COMBATORE

After four days of sweat and toil, it was party time for the Haryana boys and girls as they retained the overall title with a tally of 411 points in the 38th Junior National athletics championship which concluded at the Nehru Stadium here on Friday. Tamil Nadu, with 362 points, had to rest content in second spot.

Earlier, Nishant Karhana did not sweat much on his way to a record-breaking run in the boys under-16 2000m.

His 5:27.02 erased the existing National mark of 5:28.28 set by Amit Chaudhary in 2021.

Vikas Kumar Bind (Madhya Pradesh), Ravi Yadav (Chandigarh) and Shekhar Choudhary (Delhi), the top three finishers in the boys under-18 3000m bettered the meet mark of 8:25.15 set by Anuj Mathur last year.

The results (winners only):

Boys: U-14: 600m: Dev (Har) 1:23.20;

High jump: Zubin Gohain (Asm) 1.73m;

Javelin: Hitesh Singh Gariya (Utk) 53.37.

Triathlon: Rohit Raj (Bih) 1929;

best athlete: Manoj Piploda (Raj).

U-16: 300m: Saket Minj (Jha) 34.72s; (MR, Old: Deepak Singh 34.78, 2021).

800m: Sohith Vijender (Har) 1:55.82;

1000m sprint medley: Karnataka 1:58.00.

2000m: Nishant Karhana (Har)



Best on show: The triumphant Haryana contingent. M. PERIASAMY

5:27.02 (NR, Old: Amit Chaudhary 5:28.28, 2021); **hammer:** Arshdeep Singh (Pun) 63.27m; **best athlete:** Nishchay (Har).

U-18: 200m: Anshu Rajak (UP) 21.68; 800m: J. Bejoy (Ker) 1:49.74 (MR, Old: Ankit 1:52.45, 2022); **3000m:** 1. Vikas Kumar Bind (MP) 8:18.06 (MR, Old: Anuj Mathur 8:25.15); 2. Ravi Yadav (Chd) 8:19.81; Shekhar Choudhary (Del) 8:21.58.

400m hurdles: Bapi Hansda (Odi) 51.60s (MR, Old: Durgesh Kumar Pal 51.74, 2010). **1000m sprint medley:** Odisha 1:54.37 (MR, Old: Haryana 1:54.98, 2010).

Triple jump: Ravi Prakash (TN) 14.90m; **high jump:** Basant (Raj) 1.99m; **javelin:** Gaurav Patel (MP) 74.57m.

Best athlete: Sandip Gond (Mah).

U-20: 200m: Veeresh Mathur (UP) 21.30; **800m:** Shakeel (Raj) 1:49.90s; **4x100m:** Tamil Nadu (Eugene Shelton, S. Manoj Kumar, S. Karthikeyan & T.K. Vishal) 41.38s; **5000m:** Naresh

Chopra (Raj) 14:22.70s; **triple jump:** Vishal Kumar (Jha) 15.56m; **shot put:** Siddharth Choudhary (Raj) 18.65m. **400m hurdles:** Karna Bag (WB) 50.74 (MR, Old: Durgesh Kumar Pal 50.86, 2011).

4x400m: Haryana 3:16.66; **decaathlon:** N. Thowfeeq (Ker) 7065pts; **best athlete:** Karna Bag (WB).

Girls: U-14: 600m: Sathvika Sakthivel (TN) 1:37.09s; **high jump:** Shrivani Sanas (Mah) 1.45m; **best athlete:** Joy Baidwan (Pun).

U-16: 800m: Nivedhya Kaladhar (Ker) 2:16.79s. **2000m:** Muskan (Har) 6:31.06; **800m:** Nivedhya Kaladhar (Ker) 2:16.79.

1000m sprint medley: Maharashtra 2:17.44; **best athlete:** Vala Roshanba (Guj).

U-18: 200m: Abhinava Rajarajan (TN) 24.16 (MR, Old: Dutee Chand 24.28, 2012).

400m hurdles: Akshma (Har) 1:00.15; **1000m sprint medley:** Tamil Nadu 2:12.75.

3000m: Sonam Parmar (MP)

10:00.98; **2000m steeplechase:** Shreeraksha (Kar) 7:23.03; **Heptathlon:** Janice Tressa Regi (Ker) 4185; **best athlete:** Pooja (Har).

U-20: 200m: Sakshi Chavan (Guj) 24.63; **800m:** Ashikiran Barla (Jha) 2:04.46 (MR, Old: Rachna 2:06.12, 2019).

4x100m: Tamil Nadu (S, Akshaya, Vysali Ganesan, Ruthika Saravanan & R. Aswini) 47.50s; **4x400m:** Tamil Nadu 3:50.30; **3000m:** Antima Pal (UP) 9:38.75s.

400m hurdles: 1. Anushka Kumbhar (Mah) 59.89 (MR, Old: M. Loganayaki 1:00.45, 2016), 2. Shreeya Rajesh (Kar) 1:00.17 (MR); **Long jump:** Lakshmi Gemmela (AP) 6.00m.

Heptathlon: K.A. Anamika (Ker) 4664; **best athlete:** Ashikiran Barla (Jha).

Team championship: Boys: Tamil Nadu 170 points; **girls:** Haryana 244.

Overall: 1. Haryana 411; 2. Tamil Nadu 362; 3. Uttar Pradesh 238.

Liverpool loses to Toulouse while Brighton goes top with Ajax win

EUROPA LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Luis Diaz started for Liverpool hours after his kidnapped father was released but his side lost 3-2 to Toulouse on Thursday as Brighton compounded Ajax's misery with another defeat.

The stunning upset in France came courtesy of goals from Aron Donnum, Thijs Dallinga and Frank Magri as Liverpool sank to its first defeat in the Europa League this campaign.

However, the game was not without controversy with VAR intervening to rule out an equaliser deep in injury-time from Jarell Quansah.

Toulouse now sit on seven points, two behind the Premier League club and three ahead of third-placed St Gilloise in Group E.

In Group E's other game, LASK beat St Gilloise



Acrobatic: Donnum executes a neat flip after scoring Toulouse's first. REUTERS

3-0 at home to earn a first win of the campaign.

In Group B, Brighton took a big step towards booking its place in the knockout stage with a comfortable 2-0 win away to Ajax.

Goals either side of the break from Ansu Fati and Simon Adingra gave the Seagulls a famous win on the home turf of European royalty.

Bundesliga leader Bayer

Leverkusen wrapped up qualification for the knockout stages with a 1-0 win in Bakau against Group H rival Qarabag.

The second biggest surprise of the night came in Prague when Slavia Prague downed Jose Mourinho's Roma 2-0 to leapfrog the Italians into first place in Group G.

Important results: Group A: West Ham United 1 (Lucas Paqueta 73) bt Olympiakos 0.

Group B: Ajax 0 lost to Brighton 2 (Fati 14, Adingra 53).

Group C: Real Betis 4 (Iglesias 34, Ruibal 64, Roca 79, Ezzalzouli 90+4) bt Aris Limassol 1 (Kokorin 84).

Group E: Toulouse 3 (Donnum 36, Dallinga 58, Magri 76) bt Liverpool 2 (Casseres 73-og, Jota 89).

Group G: Slavia Prague 2 (Jurecka 50, Masopust 74) bt Roma 0.

Group H: Qarabag 0 lost to Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Boniface 90+4-pen).

Slovenia, Italy and Canada seal semifinal berths

BJK CUP

Agence France-Presse
SEVILLE

Kaja Juvan helped Slovenia seal its berth in the Billie Jean King Cup semifinals on Friday with a 6-1 6-0 over Kazakhstan's Anna Danilina.

Teammate Tamara Zidankse won the first set of the second rubber against Yulia Putintseva to ensure Slovenia finished top of

Group B and join Italy and Canada in the last four of the women's team event. Zidankse retired after the second set with Putintseva as a result winning 2-6, 6-2, which was enough for Slovenia to seal their place in the last four.

Italy and Canada booked their tickets to the last four on Thursday with 3-0 wins over Germany and Poland respectively as defending champion Switzerland crashed out.

The results: Group A: USA bt Switzerland 3-0 (Danielle Collins bt Celine Naef 7-6(4), 6-1; Sofia Kenin bt Viktorija Golubic 6-3, 6-7(1), 7-5; Sloane Stephens & Taylor Townsend bt Jil Teichmann & Simona Waltert 6-1, 7-6(3)).

Group B: Slovenia bt Kazakhstan 2-1 (Kaja Juvan bt Anna Danilina 6-1, 6-0; Tamara Zidankse lost to Yulia Putintseva 2-6, 6-2, ret.; Ela nala Milic & Veronika Erjavec lost to Anna Danilina & Zhibek Kulambayeva 2-6, 6-4, [7-10]).

Australia bt Kazakhstan 2-1 (Storm Hunter bt Anna Danilina 7-6(2), 6-4; Kimberley Birrell lost

to Yulia Putintseva 0-6, 5-7; Hunter & Birrell bt Danilina & Putintseva 6-1, 4-6, 1-0(10/5)).

Group C: Canada bt Poland 3-0 (Marina Stakusic bt Magdalena Frech 4-6, 7-5, 6-3; Leylah Fernandez bt Magda Linette 6-2, 6-3; Eugenie Bouchard & Gabriela Dabrowski bt Weronika Falkowska & Katarzyna Kawa 6-2, 6-3).

Group D: Italy bt Germany 3-0 (Martina Trevisan bt Eva Lys 7-6(6), 6-1; Jasmine Paolini bt Anna-Lena Friedsam 6-3, 6-2; Lucia Bronzetti & Elisabetta Cocciaretto bt Friedsam & Laura Siegemund 6-4, 6-7(4), 11-9).

U.P. RAJKIYA NIRMAN NIGAM LTD.

The General Manager (North Zone) & (Agra Zone), UPNNL invites on behalf of the Managing Director, invites for following works :-

1. NIT NO- 1906/NIT/Meerut/RNN/2023 dt 8.11.23 Construction of (G+1), Toilet Block at CCS University Distt-Meerut. 2. NIT NO - 2354/GM(Agra Zone)/ E-Tender/RNN/2023 dt 8.11.23 Construction of 500 bedded Critical Care Block Hospital UPUMS Saifai, Distt-Etawah-Date & Time of Submission- 7/12/2023 at 12:30 PM.(SI-1) and 29/11/2023 at 2:00 PM.(SI-2) For Details Please visit: <http://www.etender.up.nic.in> and UPNNL- <http://www.upnrm.upscd.gov.in>

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH CHANDIGARH

Advertisement No.: PGI/RC/2023/039/5393 Dated: 09.11.2023

FACULTY APPOINTMENTS
The Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh invites applications on prescribed form from Indian Citizens for 10 posts of Assistant Professors through direct recruitment on regular basis in different specialities for PGI Satellite Centre, Sangrur, Punjab as per schedule below:-

Start date for generation of Challan form for fee deposit and online payment of fees	10.11.2023
Closing date for challan generation for fee deposit	28.11.2023
Last date of deposit of application fee in the Bank	04.12.2023
Last date of receipt of hard copy of application in the office of the Administrative Officer (Recruitment Cell), PGI-MER, Sector-12, Chandigarh 160012	08.12.2023
	11/04:00 P.M.

The interested candidates may Log on to the Institute website i.e. www.pgiemer.edu.in (recruitment link at home page) for detailed information viz. application form, fee, age, pay-scale, eligibility, qualification and experience etc. The number of posts are subject to variation at the discretion of Competent Authority.
PGI/RC/Adv./2022/HR-000762 DIRECTOR

SEARCH OF MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one male (depicted in the photo), Namely: Shaheel, S/o Haneef, R/o 40/1, Gali No. 5, Kabir Nagar Welcome Delhi. Aged: 35 years has been Missing from above address since 18.10.2023. In this regard a DD No.54-A Dated 29.10.2023, has been lodged at P.S. Welcome, Delhi. His physical description is as under:



Shaheel

Height: '5'6" Feet, **Complexion:** Fair, **Built:** Strong, **Face:** Long, **Wearing:** White Shirt & Blue Jeans & Slippers in Feet. Any person is having any information/clue about this missing male, may inform to the following at E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.nic.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in> in Tele No : 11-24368638 or 24368641

S.H.O P.S. Welcome, Delhi Ph: 7055966408

DP/12851/NE/2023

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that a girl namely Soni, D/o Lt. Nahne Babu, R/o C Block, Salma Ka Makan, Khajur Wali Gali, New Seelampur, Delhi, Age: 20 years, **Height:** 5'3", **Complexion:** Sallow, **Built:** Strong, **Face:** Oval, **Wearing:** Cream Colour Frock, Dharidar White Colour Pajami and Black Colour Sandal in her feet has been missing from her home since 26.10.2023 at 2:00 pm. In this regard a case DD No. 92A dated 04.11.2023 has been registered at P.S. Seelampur, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this girl please inform undersigned.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in SHO Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 PS Seelampur, Delhi

Fax : 011-24368639 Ph. : 011-22562089, 22562035, 8750870721

DP/12919/NE/2023

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED

Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar,
Kumbakonam - 612 001. E-Mail id: crm@cityunionbank.in,
Phone: 0435-2432322. Fax: 0435-2431746

TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following property/ies mortgaged to City Union Bank Limited will be sold in Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of Rs.4,60,02,881/- (Rupees Four Crore Sixty Lakh Two Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty One only) as on 05-10-2023 together with further interest to be charged from 06-10-2023 onwards and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors No.1) M/s. Pack N-Pack Packaging (P) Ltd., 1192, Pocket - B, Sec - A, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi - 110093. Also at: M/s. Pack N-Pack packaging (P) Ltd., Village Deeghot, Hassanpur Road, Palwal, Haryana - 121001. No.2) Mr. Sanjay Garg, S/o. Mr. Prakash Chand Garg, House No.No-D28/348, Ward No.28, Near Old Anaj Mandi, Inderpuri Mohalla, Palwal, Haryana - 121102. No.3) Mr. Sundeep Garg, S/o. Mr. Prakash Chand Garg, House No.No-D28/348, Ward No.28, Near Old Anaj Mandi, Inderpuri Mohalla, Palwal, Haryana - 121102. No.4) Mr. Dinesh Garg, S/o. Mr. Prakash Chand Garg, House No.No-D28/348, Ward No.28, Near Old Anaj Mandi, Inderpuri Mohalla, Palwal, Haryana - 121102. No.5) Mr. Dhruve Kumar Garg, S/o. Mr. Prakash Chand Garg, House No.No-D28/348, Ward No.28, Near Old Anaj Mandi, Inderpuri Mohalla, Palwal, Haryana - 121102. No.6) Mr. Vansh Garg, S/o. Dhruve Kumar Garg, House No.No-D28/348, Ward No.28, Near Old Anaj Mandi, Inderpuri Mohalla, Palwal, Haryana - 121102.

Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank

Schedule - B : (Property Owned by Mr. Dinesh Garg & Mr. Dhruve Kumar Garg, Sons of Mr. Prakash Chand Garg)

Shop Plot No.23 measuring 105 feet x 21.5 feet i.e., 250.83 Sq.Yds., situated at New Grain Market, Anaj Mandi Palwal, Tehsil & District Palwal and is bounded as under- North - Shop No. 22, South - Shop No.24, East - Road, West - Gali.

Reserve Price : Rs.2,50,00,000/-
(Rupees Two Crore Fifty Lakh only)

Schedule - E : (Property Owned by Mr. Sanjay Garg & Mr. Sundeep Garg Sons of Mr. Prakash Chand Garg)

Shop Plot No.22 measuring 105 feet x 21.5 feet i.e., 250 Sq.Yds., situated at New Grain Market, Anaj Mandi Palwal, Tehsil & District Palwal and is bounded as under : North - Shop No.21, South - Shop No.23, East - Road, West - Gali.

Reserve Price : Rs.2,47,00,000/-
(Rupees Two Crore Forty Seven Lakh only)

AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale Venue

21-12-2023 City Union Bank Limited, Faridabad Branch, E5/10, BP Railway Road, Near Neelam Bata Chowk, Haryana - 121001.

Telephone No.0129-2421708, Cell No.9354776693

Terms and Conditions of Tender-cum-Auction Sale:

(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself / herself. (2) The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Faridabad Branch, E5/10, BP Railway Road, Near Neelam Bata Chowk, Faridabad, Haryana - 121001. (3) The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd., together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of 10% of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of "City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noon on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. (4) For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact: Telephone No.0129-2421708, Cell No.9354776693. (5) The property/ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-ther-is" basis. (6) The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at 01.00 p.m. on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. (7) The successful bidder shall have to pay 25% (inclusive of EMD paid) of the sale amount immediately on completion of sale and the balance amount of 75% within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of 25% shall be forfeited. (8) The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. (9) The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. (10) The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. (11) The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 09-11-2023 Authorised Officer

Regd. Office: 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001. CIN - L65110TN1904PLC001287.

Telephone No.0435-2402322, Fax: 0435-2431746, Website: www.cityunionbank.com

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person Hitender, S/o Ram Niwas Verma, Prop of M/s H.R Trading at 185, Gaon, Near MCD Park, Tigipur, Delhi also at A-8/9 Sewak Park Road, Metro Pillor No. 778, Near Dwarka Mod, Metro Station, Gate No. 2, Uttam Nagar, Delhi has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in a CC No. 6717/19 U/38 NI Act at PS Pahar Ganj, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Hitender cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Hitender has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Hitender of Case CC No. 6717/19 U/38 NI Act at PS Pahar Ganj, New Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 15.12.2023.

By order Ms Divya Gupta

Metropolitan Magistrate (NI Act 05) (Central), Room No. 2, Ground Floor

Court Building Annexe-1, Delhi DP/12829/CD/2023/Court Matter

Tender Notice for various works

Government of Punjab

Tender Notice Reference No. 25 dt. 10.11.2023

The Department of Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage Board invites online bids for the following:-

Sr. No.	Item	Quantity
1	1 Survey, Soil Testing, Design, Supply and Construction, Installation, Commissioning of 2.00 MLD Capacity Sewage Treatment Plant Cum 6 KLD FSTP at Amargarth Distt. Malerkotla Under SBM-2	1

Important dates are as under:

Closing Date and Time : upto 06-12-2023 at 5:00 PM

Date and Time of Opening Technical Bid : 07-12-2023 at 11:00 AM

For Details Log onto : www.eproc.punjab.gov.in

Executive Engineer P.W.S & Sew. Divn., Sangrur

ees.pwssb@punjab.gov.in

Na/12/20186/2023/29718