

DIS/AGREE
THE BEST OF BOTH SIDES

A fortnightly column which offers not this-versus-that, but the best of both sides, to inform the debate

POLLUTION CRISIS
People must drive the change
BY ANUMITA ROYCHOWDHURY

Clean-up needs incentives
BY ARUNABHA GHOSH
THE IDEAS PAGE

EXPRESS NETWORK

BSF MAN KILLED IN FIRING BY PAK RANGERS

BIHAR ASSEMBLY PASSES BILL TO RAISE RESERVATION CEILING TO 65%
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CASH-FOR-QUERY ALLEGATIONS AGAINST TMC MP

Ethics panel adopts report for Moitra's expulsion, Opp submits dissent notes

Seeks Govt probe into her 'criminal conduct'; she slams 'kangaroo court'

MANOJ CG & LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

THE ETHICS Committee of Lok Sabha, which inquired into the cash-for-query allegations levelled by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey against TMC MP Mahua Moitra, adopted its draft report Thursday, recommending her expulsion from the 17th Lok Sabha for "unethical conduct" and "serious misdemeanours." The committee also recommended an "intense, legal, institutional inquiry" by the government in a time-bound manner in view of the "highly objectionable, unethical, heinous and criminal conduct" by her.



TMC MP Mahua Moitra

The report was adopted after voting with six MPs — 5 of the ruling NDA and Preeti Kaur of the Congress, wife of former Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh who is now with the BJP — in its favour, and four from the Opposition against it.

The Opposition MPs — BSP's Danish Ali, Congress's V Vaithilingam, CPM's P R Natarajan and JD(U)'s Giridhari

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EXPLAINED
All eyes on the Speaker

ALL EYES will now be on the Speaker and what he does after receiving the report of the ethics panel. Mahua Moitra, in her letter to the Speaker a week ago, had criticised the manner in which she was questioned by the panel chairman, calling it her *vastraharan* (disrobing). Opposition members had backed her.

WHAT NEXT: RULES & PROCEDURES PANEL HAS TO FOLLOW
REPORTS, PAGE 9

In first remarks, TMC asks: 'Why expel her when nothing proved?'

SWEETY KUMARI
KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 9

IN THE first comments from the Trinamool Congress on cash-for-query allegations levelled by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey against TMC MP Mahua Moitra, the party's second-in-command Abhishek Banerjee asked why the ethics panel has recommended her expulsion from the Lok Sabha when nothing has been proved so far and it is under investigation.

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BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



At a Congress poll rally in Chitrakoot on Thursday. PTI

Handout is fine but where's the leg-up: MP voter is asking for more

Modi's 'big-things' appeal endures even as in state, mother to son, college girls to tribals, refrain is missing jobs and broken exams

VANDITA MISHRA
BHOPAL, INDORE, KHARGONE, CHHINDWARA, NOVEMBER 9

FROM SHIVRAJ Singh Chouhan's bastion in Sehore next to Bhopal to Congress's chief ministerial candidate Kamal Nath's home turf in Chhindwara, in conversations with voters you might sense a stirring.

After four terms in power, what the BJP is up against, and what the Congress hopes to become the receptacle for, is an anti-incumbency which includes the corruptions and mistakes of the

government, boredom with a long-playing incumbent, a yearning for change — plus something more.

Amid a campaign that has become a barefaced battle of actual and pledged cash transfers, many even among BJP supporters, and especially among the young, are asking a larger and longer what-next question. What next after all these schemes? It's a question that the Shivraj Singh Chouhan govern-

ment does not seem either willing or equipped to answer. The BJP is well-entrenched in



DECISION 2023
MADHYA PRADESH

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

8 former Navy personnel on Qatar death row: India files first appeal

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

TWO WEEKS after eight former Indian Navy personnel, arrested in a case of alleged espionage, were sentenced to death by a court in Qatar, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said an appeal has been filed in the case. Meanwhile, India got another round of consular access to the

detainees on November 7.

"The judgment is confidential. There is a court of first instance that gave the judgment, which was shared with the legal team. Considering all legal options, an appeal has been filed. We are in touch with the Qatari authorities," MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said on Thursday.

"We got another round of consular access with the eight

Indians on November 7. We are in touch with the family members," he said, adding that India will continue to extend all legal and consular support in the case.

The Indian nationals, all employees of Doha-based Dahra Global, were taken into custody in August 2022. The charges against them were not made public by Qatari authorities. According to a report in the

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Days after soldier's kin abducted, two bodies found in Manipur

SUKRITA BARUAH & JIMMY LEIVON
GUWAHATI, IMPHAL, NOV 9

THE BODIES of a man and a woman with gunshot wounds were found in Imphal East and Imphal West on Tuesday. Police said the identities of the two are yet to be confirmed. The bodies were discovered hours after four people of the Kuki-Zomi community were abducted from Kangchup Chinkhong — an area at the border of the Kuki-Zomi dominated Kangpokpi and Meitei-dominated Imphal West district. The four are relatives of an Indian Army soldier.

Imphal West SP Shivakanta confirmed that the body of a middle-aged woman, which had a bullet wound, was found in Tairenpokpi area on Wednesday. He said that the identity has not yet been confirmed and the body is currently at the morgue at the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences. The body was recovered from the jurisdiction of Patsoi police station in Imphal West around 12:30 pm Tuesday.

The man's body was recovered from Kongba Ucheekon late

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INDIA-US 2+2 TODAY

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh welcomes United States Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin in New Delhi on Thursday. The 2+2 India-US dialogue will be held on Friday. PTI

Need benches for quick trial against MPs & MLAs, says SC

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

SAYING THAT criminal cases pending against members of Parliament and State Legislatures "have a direct bearing on our political democracy", the Supreme Court on Thursday asked High Courts to set up special benches to monitor trials in over 5,000 such cases for their speedy disposal.

Issuing a slew of directions to HC and trial courts for fast-tracking cases against MPs and MLAs, a three-Judge bench led by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud said criminal cases "punishable with death or life imprisonment" should be given priority, followed by "cases punishable with imprisonment for five years or more, and then..."

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In SC today, Delhi govt likely to cite 2 studies to back odd-even plan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

ON THE defensive after the Supreme Court called its odd-even vehicle scheme "optics", the Delhi government, it is learnt, will likely rely on the "findings of two independent and scientific evaluations by globally reputed institutions" and tell the court that these studies had concluded "that the policy works as an effective emergency measure".

Sources said the Delhi government's response to the top court's direction seeking clarification on the odd-even scheme will refer to two studies — one by researchers Michael Greenstone, Anant Sudarshan (both from Energy Policy Institute at the

University of Chicago), Santosh Harish (Centre for Policy Research) and Rohini Pande (Harvard Kennedy School); and the other by researchers Sourangsu Chowdhury, Sagnik Dey (both from Centre for Atmospheric Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi), Sachchida Nand Tripathi (Department of Civil Engineering and Centre for Environmental Science & Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur), Gufran Beig (Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune), Amit Kumar Mishra (Environmental and Biomedical Metrology Division,

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FULL COVERAGE
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DEATH BY BREATH

Behind Himachal crypto con: Agents in uniform, motivational speeches, parties

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

SAURABH PARASHAR
DHARAMSHALA, NOVEMBER 9

A MASSIVE cryptocurrency scam flourished unchecked for nearly four years, before a recent mention in the Himachal Pradesh Assembly by an Independent MLA sent security agencies scrambling to probe the Rs 1,740-crore fraud.

A nearly two-month-long investigation by an SIT reveals how the scam, which flourished from



Kingpin Subhash Sharma (above); some of the victims. Express

2018 to 2022, allegedly involved a mastermind and his agents — many of them retired security and police personnel who opted

for early retirement to work as "team leaders".

Investigators said an estimated 2.5 lakh people fell for the

promise of "11 per cent returns" on investing in bogus cryptocurrencies named Korvio Coin (KRO) in 2018 and DGT Coin in 2020. Based on 350 complaints received on a dedicated helpline launched this year on October 19, most victims are residents of the state's Kangra, Mandi, Hamirpur and Una districts. They had "invested" the money they got as compensation from the government for acquiring their lands. Some 'investors' are from Punjab too.

DIG, Northern Range, Dharamshala, Abhishek Dular, who heads the 12-member SIT,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

PATANJALI

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SATELLITE CONNECTIVITY ON SMARTPHONES: HOW SOON WILL INDIA GET IT?

With the new iPhone 14, Apple has made a big deal about having satellite connectivity which lets you send SOS messages without WiFi or cell service. Samsung also unveiled an Exynos chipset with built-in satellite connectivity that can power smartphones and other devices. But how does it even work?

EDUCATION

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'Accounting students are required to develop business insights skills'



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EXPRESS AUDIO

Caste Politics: BJP on caste census, RSS' views, increasing quota

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

On 3 Things, we look at the BJP's position on caste census, a social harmony project by the RSS and Bihar passing a Bill to increase quota to 65 per cent.

Contempt of court action sought against Uddhav

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

A HARYANA journalist has written to Attorney General (AG) R Venkataramani seeking his written consent to initiate criminal contempt of court proceedings against Uddhav Thackeray for his alleged remarks during a Dussehra speech on October 24. Thackeray is alleged to have made "hostile personal attacks against the office of the...Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud".

In his communication to the AG, the complainant, Deepak Upadhyay, referred to the controversial part of the speech and said the "transcript clearly shows Mr. Thackeray has made scurrilous, unwarranted and defamatory remarks that are derogatory, aimed at undermining the dignity of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and malign the office of the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India".

It said "his remarks are personally targeting the Hon'ble Chief Justice and are an attempt to interfere with the administration of justice by exerting pressure to influence the outcome of sub-judice matters and coerce the Hon'ble Chief Justice to decide them in a particular way. It may even be an attempt to scandalize the court and have certain benches stay their hands from hearing matters. The statements also question judicial independence and integrity as it implies bias, partiality and subservience of the judiciary to the executive. By no stretch of imagination can they be reasonably considered to be "fair criticism" or "a bonafide expression of opinion".

CORRECTIONS

09.11.23, PAGE 17

IN THE report titled 'Go First lenders pinning hopes on JSPL for revival of carrier', the name of the company was erroneously mentioned as Jindal Steel & Power Ltd (JSPL), instead of Jindal Power Ltd (JPL). JPL had submitted the expression of interest for the grounded carrier Go First, and not JSPL. JPL was earlier a subsidiary of JSPL. The error is regretted.

FROM PAGE ONE FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM Ethics panel adopts report for Moitra's expulsion

Yadav - submitted dissent notes, disagreeing with the decision.

After the meeting, committee chairman Vinod Sonkar said, "The Ethics Committee had prepared a report on the allegations against Mahua Moitra. The single agenda of the meeting was to adopt that report. That report was adopted. Six MPs supported the report and four people have submitted their dissent notes. There was voting. We will send a detailed report along with the recommendations to the Lok Sabha Speaker. Whatever action is to be taken now will be taken by the Speaker."

In a phone interview with PTI, Moitra said, "Even if they expel me in this Lok Sabha, I will be back in the next Lok Sabha with a bigger mandate."

"This is a pre-fixed match by a kangaroo court, which is of no surprise or consequence. But the larger message for the country is that for India, it is the death of Parliamentary democracy," she said.

Moitra is accused of sharing her Parliament login and password with businessman Darshan Hiranandani so that he could

"post the questions" directly "on her behalf when required".

In an interview to The Indian Express, Moitra had admitted that she gave her Parliament login and password details to Hiranandani but denied taking any cash from him, as alleged by lawyer Jai Anant Dehadrai in his complaint to the CBI.

The committee report said the Ministry of Electronic and Information Technology, in its report, had stated that the member portal of Moitra had been "operated 47 times" from the UAE between July 2019 and April 2023.

It is learnt that the Home Ministry had shared a note saying that the adverse effects of Moitra sharing her Lok Sabha credentials - user ID and password of the Lok Sabha portal for an MP - with Hiranandani could "result in leakage of sensitive or classified information."

"Transfer of login credentials to unauthorized elements could provide an opportunity to such elements to access the system leading to several potential hazards. First, given the threats that the country is facing from State and

non-State cyber actors, such leakage of credentials could render the system vulnerable to serious cyber attacks and potentially disable the system entirely, thereby crippling the functioning of the Parliament of India. Second, such elements could plant material into the system that could impact National Security by creating false documents or fake narratives, etc," the report said.

As regards Moitra "taking cash" from Hiranandani as a "sequel to quid pro quo", the committee report said it does not have the technical wherewithal and expertise to criminally investigate and unearth the money trail and recommended that it be investigated by the government "in a legal, institutional and time-bound manner."

Travel details of Moitra since February 2019 have also been given to the panel. It said Moitra travelled to the UAE four times during this duration - in November 2021, April and November 2022, and August 2023.

It is learnt that while appearing before the ethics panel on

October 26, Dehadrai stated that he decided to give evidence to the Parliamentary panel because of his concern on the issues of national security and corruption. He alleged there was a conspiracy between Moitra and Hiranandani in which Moitra would post the questions sent by his businessman friend for which he would give her money and gifts.

He is learnt to have stressed on the fact that Moitra's objective was to link the Adani Group with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

Dehadrai also suggested that Hiranandani could be investigated to get specific information on the dates and time when Moitra had conveyed the information to him.

In her responses to questions from panel members, Moitra is learnt to have pointed out that Hiranandani has not mentioned any cash.

She is learnt to have maintained that she had not done anything unethical but sought protection from the committee for the media circus that was going on with her dignity.

On November 2, after she

walked out of the panel meeting, Moitra released a letter she wrote to Speaker Om Birla, alleging that she was subjected to the "proverbial vastraharan" (disrobing) by Sonkar in the presence of all members of the committee.

She said the chairman "insisted on following the most sordid line of questioning... in which he asked me detailed and extremely personal questions about my life."

Sonkar told The Indian Express the questions that he asked were related to allegations against her. "The objective of this committee is to investigate the charges of unethical behaviour levelled against the MP. But she persistently tried to avoid answering the questions. She did not cooperate. Then she got angry and walked out, accusing the chairman and the committee of using unparliamentary language," he said.

He said "all questions were regarding the charges made against her by Hiranandani and the allegations made against her by the complainant."

In first remarks, TMC asks: 'Why expel her when nothing proved?'

Moitra is accused of taking money from a prominent businessman for asking questions in Parliament. The Ethics Committee of Lok Sabha adopted its draft report Thursday, recommending her expulsion from the 17th Lok Sabha for indulging in "unethical conduct" and committing "serious misdemeanours".

"The ethics committee chairman stated that the matter should be investigated. How can an expulsion be ordered when a matter is still subject to investigation? This is nothing but vendetta. People are well aware of this," said Banerjee.

Banerjee was summoned by the Enforcement Directorate on Thursday to appear in connection with an alleged recruitment scam. Afterwards, speaking to the media, he said: "I feel this step by the central government and what I read of the ethics committee report, they have said an investigation should happen against her. If you do not have anything against Mahua and it is the subject of investigation, then

why has an expulsion been recommended? I feel Mahua is competent enough to fight her battles on her own. They have been victimising me for four years too; it is their standard practice."

The TMC had so far maintained a studied silence on the issue.

Banerjee said there are many BJP MPs against whom impeachment motions have been brought, but those matters have not been heard yet. "Nothing has happened against Ramesh Bidhuri (for communal remarks directed at BSP MP Danish Ali in Parliament); only when somebody speaks against the government, questions are raised. Mahua is competent enough to handle it," he said.

"It shows how, if someone wants to fight against the government, question the role of the government, question the Adanis, an attempt is made to remove them from the post of MP. How can action be taken against someone without anything being proved?" he said.

Two bodies found in Manipur

Tuesday evening under the jurisdiction of Irilbung police station in Imphal East. Official sources said the deceased was blindfolded and his hands were tied. According to locals, gunshots were heard around 6.30 pm. Later, passersby came across the body and reported it to the police. The deceased was wearing a camouflage pattern jacket and jeans. His body is currently at the morgue of the Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences.

On Tuesday, around 8.45 am, five people from the Kuki-Zomi community who were travelling together in a vehicle, were abducted by unknown miscreants close to Kangchup Chinkhong. Four are relatives of Henthing Haokip, a soldier with the Indian Army. One of the people, 65-year-old Manglung Haokip, the soldier's father, was rescued in a severely injured condition and airlifted to Imapur for medical treatment.

Lethkhoneh Haokip, the soldier's elder brother, said that their family members were travelling from Churachandpur to Kangpokpi that morning. He said

that another younger brother of his, who lives in Hyderabad, had married a woman from Kangpokpi, and his family were on their way to meet her family.

"They had left for a happy occasion and they were travelling on a route that we had heard other people had used... We are unable to speak to our father because he has not regained consciousness yet. And we have no idea where our mother, or the other missing people are," he said. Their mother Nengkim (60) is one of those missing along with another woman, Neilam (55), and two men, John Thangialam Haokip (25) and Jamkhotang (40).

The Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum had held Meitei radical group Arambai Tengsol responsible and issued a statement appealing that a search operation be launched by central security forces to rescue them, stating that "we fear they may have been killed or tortured". According to ITLF, Kuki-Zomi "volunteers", angered by the incident, retaliated on Tuesday. Nine Meiteis were injured in several locations.

Delhi govt likely to cite 2 studies

CSIR-National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi) and Sumit Sharma (The Energy and Resources Institute, Delhi).

The government did not carry out any such scientific evaluation in the first two implementations of the odd-even scheme during January 1-15, 2016 and April 15-30, 2016. However, the first evaluation by the researchers had found PM2.5 levels lower by 13% on average during 8 am-8 pm when the scheme was implemented in January 2016, but no impact was detected at night or when the scheme was reintroduced in April. This, according to the researchers, could have been due to the fact that April being warmer, there is greater dispersion of particulates. They concluded that "taken together, this suggests that the main value of an 'odd-even' programme is as an emergency measure during winter months when air emissions play a more prominent role in affecting air quality".

The second study relied on satellite-based estimates of PM2.5 and concluded that the traffic restriction in January 2016 reduced PM2.5 by 4-6% with a maximum of up to 10%, mainly at three local hotspots in Delhi.

In support of its stand that the scheme works, the Delhi government will also rely on a study conducted by Delhi Integrated Multimodal Transit System at its request on 'Traffic Impact Assessment' of the scheme when it was introduced from November 4-15, 2019. Analysis of traffic data as part of this study, officials point out, indicated about 30% reduction in personal car traffic during the scheme period, but this was also marked by a 65% increase in two-wheeler traffic, 19.5% in taxis, 7.5% in autos and 4.7% in buses.

Overall, the period saw a total increase of about 4.5 lakh in the daily public transport ridership, consequently leading to increase in average speed of vehicles and less congestion and shorter traffic queues in comparison to other days. Officials point out that opinion surveys conducted as part of the study also indicated that 36% people shifted from car to Metro, bus, two-wheelers, taxi and auto modes during the scheme period and that 46% of users wanted the scheme to be implemented permanently. The state is expected to present these findings to the court when it hears the matter related to air pollution Friday. During the hearing on November 7, Justice S K Kaul, presiding over a two-judge bench, told the Delhi government counsel, "You said that you have imposed... even-odd... Did it succeed earlier? Ever?... These are all optics. This is the problem." The bench asked the state government to "report back to us... on this aspect also".

Set up benches for cases against MPs, MLAs: SC

other cases". The bench, which included Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, said the trial should not be adjourned, "except for rare and compelling reasons".

The SC noted that "as many as 5,175 subject cases (were) pending" against MPs and MLAs "as of November, 2022". "Of these, cases that are pending for more than five years are as many as 2,116, which is more than 40% of such pendencies," it said.

The SC was hearing a plea filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay.

"There is a compelling need to make every effort to ensure that these cases are taken up on priority and decided expeditiously. Confidence and trust of the constituency in their political representative, be it MP or MLA, is necessary for an interactive, efficient and effective functioning of a parliamentary democracy. However, such confidence is difficult to expect when figures, as indicated in the above referred table, loom large in our polity," the court said.

"In fact, there are no two views about the compelling need to take up and dispose of the subject cases expeditiously. We have no doubt in our mind that even the political representative, be it MP or MLA, involved in the prosecution would also seek a quick disposal of these

cases," it said. Senior Advocate Vijay Hansaria, amicus curiae in the case, said he was hopeful that fewer persons with criminal records would enter Parliament after the court's order. "I really hope so," the CJ responded.

Pointing to "multiple factors" which "influence the early disposal" of cases, the SC said "this, coupled with their dissimilarity from state to state, makes it difficult... to form a uniform or standard guideline for trial courts... to dispose of these cases".

"We deem it appropriate to leave it to the HC to evolve such methods or apply such a measure that they deem expedient for effective monitoring," the SC said.

In its directions, the SC asked the HC Chief Justices to register a suo motu case with the title, "In Re designated courts for MPs, MLAs", and said the case "may be heard by the Chief Justice, or a bench assigned by him".

"The special bench hearing the suo motu case may list the matter at regular intervals as felt necessary. The HC may issue such orders or directions as necessary for expeditious and effective disposal of the subject cases. The special bench may consider calling upon the advocate general or the public prosecutor to assist the court," it said.

The HCs "may require the principal district and sessions judge to bear the responsibility of allocating the subject cases to such court or courts as is considered appropriate and effective" and "may call upon the principal district and sessions judge to send the report at such intervals as it considers expedient," it said.

"The HC chief justice may list cases in which orders of stay of trial have been passed before the special bench to ensure that appropriate orders, including vacation of stay orders, are passed to ensure commencement and conclusion of trial," the SC said.

It asked the principal district and sessions judge to ensure sufficient infrastructure facility for the designated court and enable it to adopt the necessary technology for effective and efficient functioning.

It also asked HCs to create "an independent tab on their website providing district-wise information of the details of the year of the filing, the number of subject cases pending and stage of proceedings". "While monitoring the subject cases, the special bench may pass such orders or give such additional directions as are necessary for the early disposal of the subject cases," it said. A plea seeking a lifetime ban on convicted MPs and MLAs from fighting elections has been kept pending by the court.

Behind crypto con in Himachal: Agents in uniform, motivational speeches & lavish parties

Sanjay Kumar, 49, a former Armyman and Kangra district resident, is among the victims of the scam. "Two political activists and a constable approached me to invest in June 2021. The policeman was extremely vocal about the profits he had made and wanting to retire soon so he could become a full-time investor. His endorsement made me think that it was safe to invest," he said.

Sanjay gave Rs 37,500 to one of the men, who downloaded an app on his smartphone, issued a digital ID and created a digital 'Korvio Wallet' for him. While each of the 2.5 lakh investors were given 'digital IDs', those who invested in the names of their relatives were issued 80,000 'unique IDs'. "For six months, I got weekly returns. When I sold 10 of my 100 KRO Coins, I got Rs 25,000 in cash. Encouraged, I invested almost Rs 4.50 lakh in the names of relatives. That money is gone," he rued.

Ranjeet Gularia, a resident of Kangra's suburban Dehra who lost nearly Rs 2.80 lakh to the

fraud, was approached by retired constable Sunil Kumar Syal, and local political activists Dinesh Kumar and Vipin Kumar. Investigators said Sunil was with Hamirpur district's Cyber Cell before he opted for retirement in 2020. He was arrested by Punjab Police on October 10 in connection with another cryptocurrency scam. Dinesh and Vipin are absconding.

"The fraud started gaining popularity in 2019. Sukhdev earned Rs 200 crore from the scam, while Hemraj, Paras and Gobind earned Rs 150 crore each. Funds from new investors ensured that old investors kept making money. That's why the scam ran unchecked for years," DIG Dular said. A senior police officer added, "In April 2018, RBI prohibited regulated entities from dealing in cryptocurrencies. So investors received their returns in cash without receipts, save for a digital ID. In 2020, the Supreme Court revoked this order. The court's decision was used by the accused to

claim that their business was now legitimate. It helped them immensely when reports claimed that cryptocurrency would be brought under the ambit of income tax in the 2022 Budget."

DIG Dular said assets worth Rs 9.5 crore belonging to the four accused in Mandi and Kangra districts have been seized under BUDS Act. The police said assets belonging to Subhash in Mandi have also been confiscated.

However, victims alleged that despite crying foul since December 2022, the authorities started a probe only when Independent MLA Hoshyar Singh, from Kangra district's Dehra, raised the issue in September.

Singh said, "I wanted to raise the matter in Assembly, so I collected evidence through a decoy investor, who was a member of a WhatsApp group with nearly 600 investors. From that group, I got a list of 450 investors who had collectively lost Rs 6 crore." However, many 'investors' are still hesitant to lodge police complaints.

Classifieds EXPRESS EDUCATION ANTHROPOLOGY OPTIONAL Mrs. Sosin Revella OFFLINE BATCH 29th NOVEMBER 2023 ONLINE BATCH 6th DECEMBER 2023 Sosin IAS ACADEMY FREE WORKSHOP 23rd Nov. 2023 | 10:30 a.m. 99899 66744

Qatar

Financial Times, they were charged with spying for Israel.

There was no official word from India on the charges against them. But sources said the former Navy personnel had been working in their private capacity with Dahra Global to oversee the induction of Italian small stealth submarines U212.

The eight have been identified as Captain Navtej Singh Gill, Captain Birendra Kumar Verma, Captain Saurabh Vasisht, Commander Amit Nagpal, Commander Purnendu Tiwari, Commander Sugunakar Pakala, Commander Sanjeev Gupta and Sailor Ragesh.

Days after they were handed the death sentence, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had met their family members and assured them that the government attaches "the highest importance" to the case.

Saying that he "fully shares the concerns and pain of the families", Jaishankar had said the government would make all efforts to secure their release.

India had described the October 27 ruling as "deeply shocking", and said it was exploring all legal options.

The charges against the eight men were filed on March 25 this year, and the trial began on March 29.

DU faculty oppose move to let permanent teachers double up as guest faculty

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

EVEN AS the Delhi University has allowed its permanent faculty members to also teach as guest lecturers in other colleges provided they have a no-objection certificate from their principal, a number of faculty members at the varsity have expressed their reservations over the move, stating that it will deprive upcoming teachers and displaced ad hoc teachers who depend on guest faculty positions. The teachers have also expressed objection to the remuneration on offer for guest faculty – Rs 1,500 per lecture – terming the amount too low to attract quality teachers. On October 31, DU issued a notification stating that the university has permitted the permanent faculty members to take additional classes as guest faculty, subject to certain conditions.

The notification further said, "The concerned faculty would be paid honorarium @1500/- per lecture subject to a maximum of Rs 50,000/- per month..."

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Director of South Campus Shriprakash Singh said, "A permanent faculty member at a college

can now teach in other colleges and is permitted to take only up to four credit courses as Guest Faculty."

Opposing the move, elected Academic Council Member Maya John, who is an Assistant Professor at Jesus and Mary College, wrote to Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh on Thursday: "Given that unlike the ad hoc faculty, guest lecturers are allowed only a limited number of lecture hours (i.e. 8 hours per week), and that colleges can hire only a certain percentage of guest lecturers against their overall sanctioned posts, adequate number of teaching hands are often not being hired in DU colleges."

On the remuneration, she said, "The low remuneration of 1,500/- rupees per lecture, which is being paid to guest lecturers, often fails to attract qualified teachers to apply against short-term vacancies, leading to disruptions/delays in the teaching of courses." She said the issue will be brought up at the next Academic Council Meeting.

Abha Dev Habib, Secretary of Democratic Teachers' Front, told *The Indian Express* that the university shouldn't have taken this step as "there are so many people waiting in line for new job opportunities".

AIM: 80% FLEET TO BE ELECTRIC

Delhi eyes 2nd largest e-fleet buses in the world by 2025

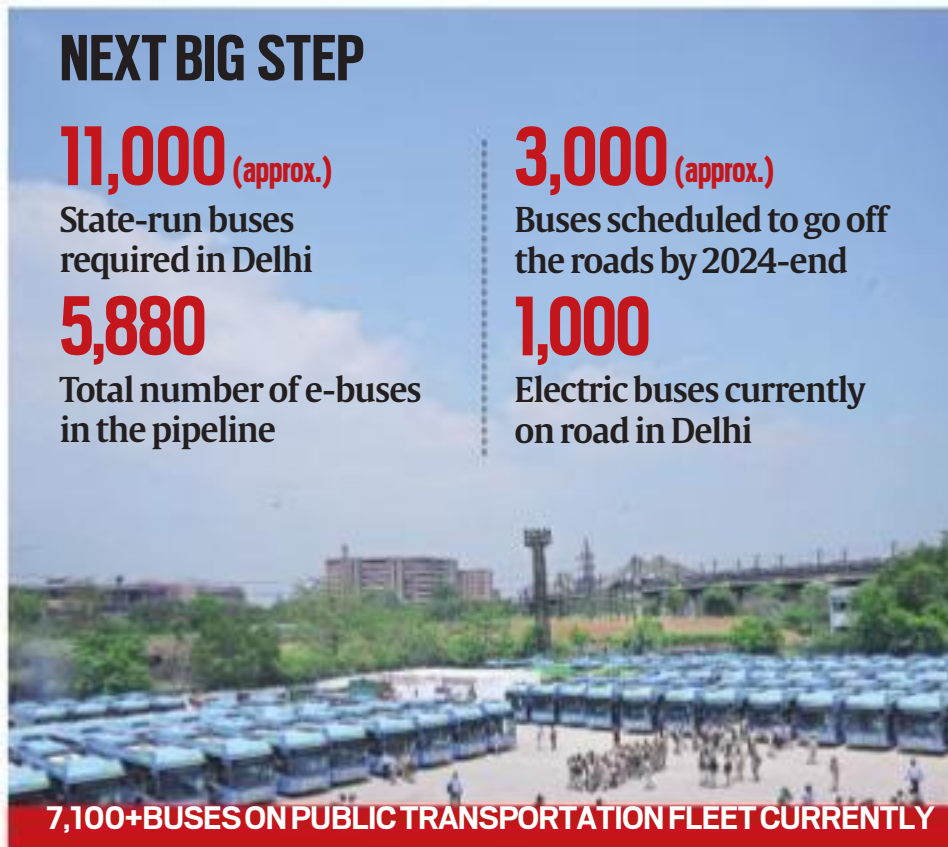
JATIN ANAND
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

WITH THE clock ticking for as many as 3,000 of its fleet of a little over 7,000 public buses – all low-floor CNG ones scheduled to "retire" by the end of 2024 – the Delhi government is chasing an ambitious target of not only having an almost completely electric fleet but also the second largest in the world after China's Shenzhen.

According to its official website, Shenzhen – which "tops air quality ranking among first-tier cities in China" and is "the first city in the world to have all buses and taxis powered by electricity" – has an estimated 16,000 e-buses.

Delhi is expected, by this time in the year 2025, to have upwards of 8,000.

Emphasising on the targeted fleet size, a senior government official said, it has been the Delhi government's – so far successful – decision to procure e-buses "in bulk instead of small



installments", in step with the decommissioning of CNG-propelled low-floor buses to keep the number of state-run bus fleet as close to the figure of 11,000, which the capital requires, in spite of a little close to half of its current fleet – an estimated 3,000 of around 6,300 – due to become unfit by the end

of 2024. "Currently, Delhi has 1,000 e-buses on the road; over and above that, we have already placed orders for as many as 5,880 electric buses, a sizable chunk of which will already have arrived by March 2025 and the rest by the end of that year. More will be added," Ashish

Kundra, transport secretary-cum-commissioner, said.

A senior government official said the catalyst for the ambitious procurement drive was its "bulk" nature: contracts in chunks of 1,900 and 2,500 low-floor e-buses in addition to an estimated 2,080 smaller ones of nine metres for last-mile connectivity as vehicles on the current fleet are phased out having reached the end of their life cycle: completing 12 years of operations or a distance of over 7.5 lakh kilometres.

The official said that as many as 3,000 of the over 6,300 CNG low-floor public buses were due to go out of action in phases over the coming months and these would be replaced by e-buses in larger numbers than those going off the roads.

"The objective is to ensure that 80% of our fleet – on a base value of the required 11,000 – should be electric by the end of the year 2025; which means that our target is almost 9,000 e-buses by then," the official said.

Ensure Chandni Chowk redevelopment work continues: HC to Delhi Govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

THE DELHI HC has asked the Delhi government to ensure that the redevelopment work carried out in Chandni Chowk is continued and maintained. A division bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela in its November 8 order said the traders association also owed "some social responsibility" as the area is being developed for their welfare as well. The bench, thereafter, disposed of a suo motu PIL instituted by the HC last year after taking cognizance of a newspaper report reflecting the various stages of Chandni Chowk's development and the delay which occurred in its implementation.

On the dispute over boom barriers, the Delhi Government counsel said it would not be possible to post police personnel round the clock to manage the boom barriers throughout the day "keeping in view the law and order situation in the locality

and the number of police personnel posted in the police station".

The bench, thereafter, said traders were expected to assist authorities, and were free to devise a formula for managing the boom barriers by employing their own people in consultation with the Delhi Police. It noted that police took action against unauthorised hawkers, encroachers; PWD installed cameras on Chandni Chowk stretch, from the Red Fort to Fatehpuri to monitor "no entry violation". It also noted that it was the duty of the government, MCD, other authorities to ensure that redevelopment remains intact.

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UP's new FDI policy: Japanese firm 1st beneficiary of scheme to give land subsidy

DHEERAJ MISHRA
NOIDA, NOVEMBER 9

AN EMPOWERED committee that looks after the industrial investment of the Uttar Pradesh Government on Wednesday recommended to provide land subsidy under its new foreign direct investment (FDI) policy to a Japanese company Fuji Silvertech, a leading manufacturing precast concrete products company, to set up manufacturing facilities in Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority area.

The company is a consortium of the FUJI Group, which has not only designed and manufactured the drainage infrastructure of the Narendra Modi Stadium in

Ahmedabad, Gujarat but has also been involved in Delhi's Central Vista Project, where they provided fire-resistant underground ducting and precast solutions.

In its proposal, the company stated that it has planned for more than Rs. 100 crore FDI in UP.

Officials said that the proposal was considered in the meeting headed by Infrastructure & Industrial Development Commissioner Manoj Kumar Singh and the company will be allotted 20 acres of land in Sector-32 of YEIDA, which is along the Yamuna Expressway and near the upcoming Noida International Airport at Jewar.

"Now the company will have to send their proposal to the State Cabinet for final approval. This is



Japanese company Fuji Silvertech has provided fire-resistant underground ducting at the Central Vista Project. File

the first company to get the benefits under the FDI category of the policy and land at 75% subsidised rates. Another land parcel has been allotted to Sify Infinite Spaces, a Fortune-500 company,

under the policy for the development of data centres in Sector-28 of the authority," said Dr Arun Vir Singh, CEO, YEIDA.

Singh further said that another company, Jackson Limited,

has also been allotted land for data centres, but they will not get the benefit under the policy as the company is not part of Fortune-500 list.

"We had received a total of three proposals under the new policy, out of which two have been accepted. The proposal of a company, Three Hands Infrastructure India Private Limited, has been deferred as the authority is not yet satisfied after taking into consideration the FDI parameters. Matter is under consideration," he said. "The two companies, who have got a land parcel for Data Centre, will invest around Rs. 1,757 crores and 775 persons will be employed," CEO further said.

Along with land subsidy, the

companies will get Rs 2 crore for R&D, Rs 10 crore for payment to workers, area-specific exemptions in stamp duty and registration fees, 100 per cent exemption in electricity duty for a period of five years and Rs 5,000 per month per person as training costs for a maximum of 500 individuals.

UP is in the 11th position in terms of receiving FDI in the country. Out of the total FDI received across the country from October 2019 to December 2022, UP received 0.7% or Rs. 9,435 crore of FDI (out of total FDI Rs. 13.42 lakh crore).

Maharashtra, Karnataka and Gujarat are the top three states that have collectively received more than 69% of FDI during the said period.

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- 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.
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SETTING STANDARDS FOR SUCCESS

Reviewed Financial Results for the HALF YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2023

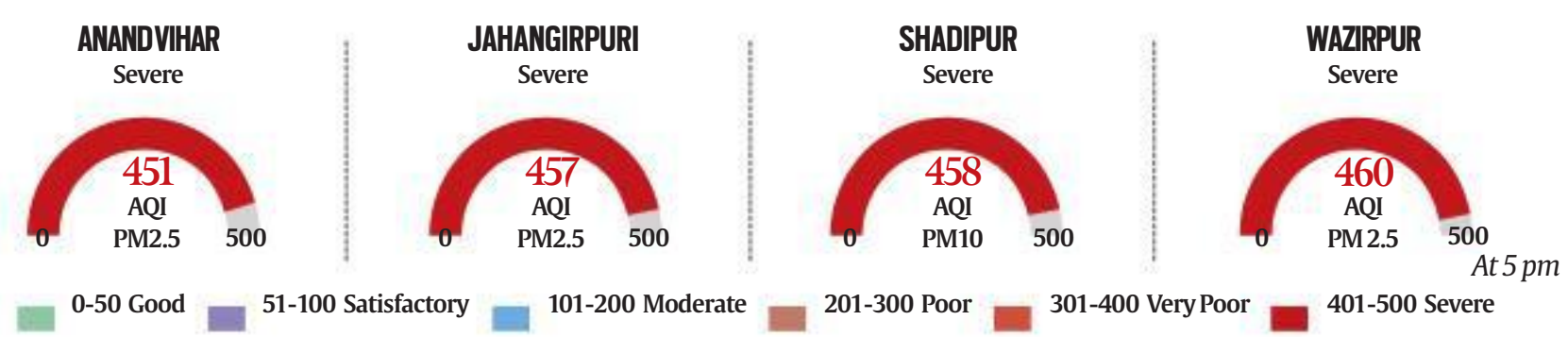
Sl. No	Particulars	Half year ended	
		30.09.2023	30.09.2022
1	Premium Income (Gross)	19,679.85	19,122.45
2	Net Profit/(Loss) After Tax	2,336.87	2,549.65
3	Paid up Equity Share Capital	877.20	877.20
4	Net Worth (Including Fair Value change Account)	71,376.53	60,585.14
5	Total Assets	1,67,640.89	1,53,384.76
6	Solvency Ratio	2.82	2.25

Notes:-
a) Premium income is Gross written premium, gross of reinsurance and net of applicable taxes.
b) The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly and year to date Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015. The full format of the quarterly and year to date Financial Results are available on the websites of Stock Exchanges (www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com) and the Corporation (www.gicre.in)

For and on behalf of the Board Directors
Sd/-
Ramaswamy Narayanan
Chairman-Cum-Managing Director
DIN: 10337640

Place: Mumbai
Date: 09.11.2023

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BRIEFLY

Delhi Cong to hold meeting on pollution

New Delhi: Accusing the BJP government at the Centre and the AAP Delhi government of not being "bothered" about the situation around pollution in the capital, the Delhi Congress will hold a meeting of erstwhile ministers from the former Sheila Dikshit cabinet this weekend to deliberate and take decisions on pollution mitigation measures in the city.

Vishwas case: FIR against securitymen

Ghaziabad: An FIR was registered on Thursday against "unidentified" security personnel for allegedly attacking a doctor under a flyover near the Hindon river in Ghaziabad a day before, police said. The police have found that the security personnel in question, drawn from the CRPF and police, of poet Kumar Vishwas, a former Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader, were involved in the incident. **PTI**

Defamation case: Chadha, Jain plea dismissed

New Delhi: A Delhi Court on Thursday dismissed the revision petitions filed by Aam Aadmi Party leaders Raghav Chadha and Satyendra Jain and upheld an order passed by a magistrate Court in the defamation case filed against them by BJP leader Chhail Bihari Goswami. **PTI**



A farmer burns stubble in his field in Sangrur district of Punjab. Praveen Khanna

'Punjab should take cue from Haryana, take swift steps against stubble burning'

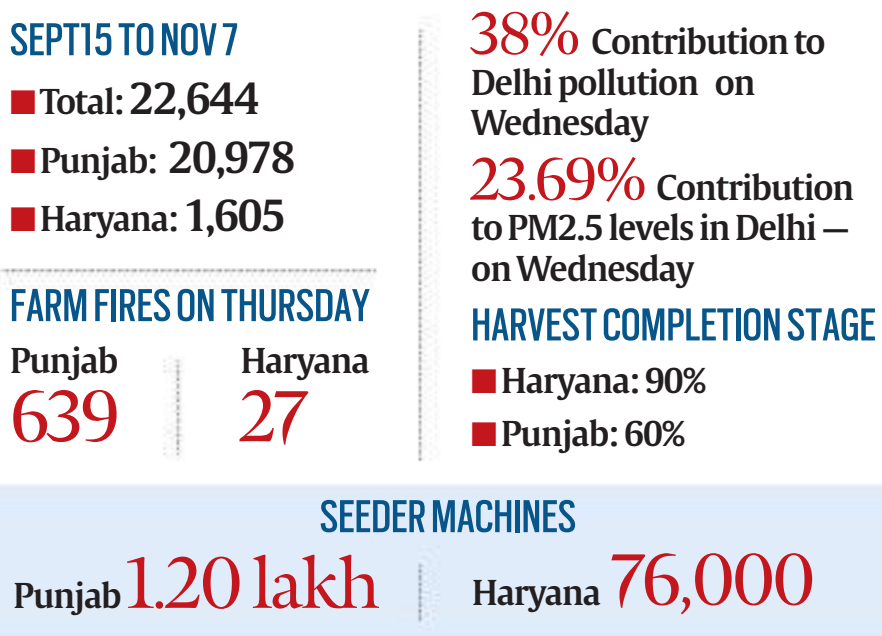
EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

THE PUNJAB government has been asked to launch schemes along the lines of those in Haryana after a meeting of the Union Cabinet Secretary with Chief Secretaries and other senior officers of Punjab, Haryana, UP, Rajasthan and Delhi, sources in the Central government said.

Haryana has an incentive scheme for management of stubble and crop diversification. Directions to announce them immediately so that stubble burning can be prevented for the rest of the season this year and the next have also been given, it is learnt.

"Based on data provided by CAQM (Commission for Air Quality Management), and the inputs provided by the state governments, it emerged that the current crisis situation is majorly on account of stubble burning. 38% of air pollution level was contributed by stubble burning on November

FARM FIRES: A STATUS CHECK



8. Immediate steps are, therefore, needed to check further stubble burning during the remaining harvesting season, particularly in Punjab," according to sources in the Central government.

The Decision Support System developed by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology estimated the contribution of stubble burning to PM2.5 levels in Delhi

should take "effective actions to stop further stubble burning", adding responsibility should be fixed on divisional commissioners, district magistrates, senior superintendents of police, and station house officers to ensure there is no further burning.

From September 15 to November 7, 22,644 instances of stubble burning were recorded, including 20,978 in Punjab and 1,605 in Haryana.

The CAQM has been directed to send out flying squads to Punjab and Haryana and submit daily reports on incidents of farm fires and status of enforcement of directions of the Supreme Court. The Punjab and Haryana governments have also been directed to make full use of available machinery to prevent further burning. The issue of smog towers and their efficiency were also discussed at the meeting and sources said that they are not a solution to the air pollution problem.

(WITH INPUTS FROM PTI)

Rai: Ministers to be on ground to ensure GRAP curbs are followed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

TO ENSURE GRAP-related restrictions are enforced, ministers of the Delhi government will now get on the ground and monitor progress, Environment Minister Gopal Rai has said.

At a press conference on Thursday, Rai said the implementation of these restrictions on ground was proving to be a challenge.

"We have been getting news that these measures are not being followed strictly on ground. Today, we had a meeting with the ministers of the Delhi government. Implementation is seen as a big challenge... activity that should be seen on the ground is not being seen. The ministers have expressed their disappointment



Gopal Rai during an inspection in Delhi. Source: X

over the administrative negligence, the laxity. To monitor this, we have decided that ministers will go on the ground," Rai said.

While Rai will monitor the north and northeast districts, Minister Kailash Gahlot has been assigned the southwest and west districts, Atishi the east and south-

east districts, Saurabh Bharadwaj the south and New Delhi districts, Imran Hussain the Central and Shahdara districts, and Raaj Kumar Anand the northwest district.

The ministers will focus on visits in border areas such as Singhu border, Ghazipur border, Kapashera border, Gurgaon border, and Bahadurgarh border, along with construction sites, where dust-control measures should be ensured even if construction remains banned. Bus depots will also be visited as part of the exercise.

Senior officials and department heads have also been asked to monitor the situation from the ground, Rai said. "Over the next week, there is a likelihood that wind conditions will remain the same. In these circumstances, what we can do is control the sources (of pollution)," he added.

LAND FOR DWARKA EXPRESSWAY

DM 'enhances' land award, complaint claims owner's kin, Chief Secy son linked

Attempt by present govt to defame me... Don't know (owners)... I'm the one who acted against DM: Chief Secy

MALLICA JOSHI & JATIN ANAND
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

A CONTENTIOUS piece of land in the national capital, compensation for which was increased from Rs 41.52 crore to Rs 353.79 crore in May, leading to action against an IAS officer, is now at the centre of a fresh row — a complaint has been filed with the Centre as well as the Delhi government alleging that the son-in-law of one of the landowners is the director in a firm that employs the son of the Delhi Chief Secretary.

Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar, however, said he does not know the directors of his son's firm, and that it was, in fact, he who took action against the IAS officer.

The complainant, a lawyer, who requested anonymity, told *The Indian Express* that he had filed a complaint in the matter with the offices of the Prime Minister, Home Minister, Minister of Road Transport & Highways, the Central Bureau of Investigation, Delhi Lieutenant Governor and Delhi Chief Minister in October, alleging "a clear connection between the Chief Secretary of Delhi and the landowners".

The 19-acre land in question is owned by Subhash Chand Kathuria and Anubhav Kathuria in southwest Delhi's Bammoli village, and was acquired by the National Highways Authority of India for the Dwarka Expressway in 2018. The initial award of Rs 41.52 crore as compensation was decided by the Additional District Magistrate (ADM) South West district that year.

The landowners then challenged this amount, and the matter went into arbitration, with the DM as the arbitrator. Between February 2019 and June 2022, three other officers who were posted as the South West Delhi DM successively agreed with the initial assessment of Rs 41.52 crore.

IAS officer Hemant Kumar was appointed as DM in June 2022. He granted the landowners an enhanced compensation of Rs 353.79 crore, reasoning that the land was low-density residential area and not agricultural. The money, however, has not been paid so far since the matter has been in court. Hemant Kumar, who has been suspended, did not respond to calls and messages seeking a comment.

One of the landowners, Subhash Chand Kathuria, is the father-in-law of Aman Sarin, a director at realty firm Anant Raj Limited. The senior general manager of the realty firm, as well as directors in firms affiliated to the group, also serve as directors in a company called Big Town Properties Pvt Ltd, records show. Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar's son Karan Chauhan is also a director in Big Town Properties Pvt Ltd, records show. As per records, the

THE TIMELINE

- Land registered by the Kathurias in 2015 for Rs 3.76 lakh per acre. Prevailing circle rate for agricultural land then was Rs 53 lakh per acre.
- Land acquired by NHAI in 2018, assessed at Rs 41.52 crore. Challenged by landowners, goes into arbitration.
- On May 15 this year, DM Hemant Kumar enhances compensation to Rs 353.79 crore.
- On May 18, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari and Delhi L-G V K Saxena inspect the Dwarka Expressway.
- On May 19, matter brought to notice of CS and Divisional Commissioner during a meeting with L-G.
- The same day, Divisional Commissioner asks DM to submit details of case.
- DM submits 27-page note the same day, saying the 2018 award "suffers from infirmity" as land acquired was urban with residential use.
- On June 2, Divisional Commissioner notes: "... the sale deed of the claimant himself is for agricultural land and that too was undervalued... DM enhanced the rate from Rs 2,619 per sq m to Rs 46,200 per sq m (17 times). This is gross blunder/untenable to say the least."
- Four days later, CS seeks Divisional Commissioner's recommendations. "The officer has to undo the wrong/financial impropriety committed by him at the earliest. This case
- has made the officer liable for disciplinary action," Divisional Commissioner writes on June 8. Matter referred to Vigilance.
- On June 26, Vigilance says no development regarding corrective action has been reported and matter should be placed before CS.
- On June 30, CS says Revenue Department should ensure action (of enhanced compensation) is undone and Vigilance should be sent the set of developments to "identify the role of delinquent officer(s), if any".
- On July 28, Divisional Commissioner notes in the Vigilance file, "The delay on the part of the DM is a matter of disquiet as to what he is up to. He will have to be accountable for his acts. He has already been told so during discussions with me and also CS."
- On August 4, Divisional Commissioner says the DM be surrendered to the Services department.
- On August 9, Chief Secretary recommends DM's surrender to Services department to L-G, and proposes recommendation of CBI enquiry by MHA.
- On September 19, the L-G okays it and refers the matter to Ministry of Home Affairs.
- DM Hemant Kumar is transferred to Andaman and Nicobar Islands on October 20, suspended.
- On October 21, the MHA seeks a CBI probe against him.

two companies share the same email ID and address.

The lawyer who filed the complaint told *The Indian Express*: "I found out about the sale and acquisition of land in Bammoli village through a client of mine and I started gathering information about it, only to stumble upon this connection. As a responsible citizen, I filed a complaint... no one has contacted me so far to get any details."

When contacted, Aman Sarin said, "Chauhan joined the company 10-12 years ago, on his merit. We weren't aware of his association with any officer. It is a coincidence. He is still associated with us in the data centres that we started six years ago... The land that was acquired is not connected with us."

Subhash Kathuria and Karan Chauhan could not be reached for a comment.

Kumar, who was appointed as CS in April 2022, said, "This is an attempt by the present set up of the elected government to malign me. I don't know the Kathurias and the other people. The issue of the enhanced compensation was raised when Union Minister Nitin Gadkari and the L-G visited the UER project (Dwarka Expressway), and

NHAI officials mentioned it. The L-G then brought it to me. The Divisional Commissioner and I called the officer (Hemant Kumar) and sought an explanation and he gave some justification... Despite directions to make changes, he was lingering, which enabled the claimants of the compensation to approach the court. My son has been working in the firm for a few years but the connection is being drawn now. I was the instrument for action against him (Hemant Kumar). I don't know the relatives of the director of the firm that my son works in. If I was supporting them, why would I seek action in the case... My son has never communicated anything to me about any land owned by the Kathurias. I don't know them." He said that despite repeated reminders by the Divisional Commissioner, the DM did not reverse the order of enhanced compensation.

On October 31, the High Court, hearing a plea by the NHAI against the increased award, said that "it is evident that the impugned award was passed in blatant violation of the principles of natural justice. The same is, accordingly, liable to be set aside on this ground alone..."

'Fund misuse': L-G orders special audit of Delhi child rights body

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

DELHI LIEUTENANT Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has ordered a special audit into allegations of misuse of government funds in the functioning of the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR).

The DCPCR will not receive additional funds till the completion of the audit and an inquiry by the Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD), L-G House officials said.

Terming it one in "a series of

with-hunting" episodes, the Delhi government said Saxena, by stopping allocation of funds to the department, has "jeopardised the future of children who were already being exploited".

"DCPCR, functioning under the administrative control of the Department of Women & Child Development has not been adhering to provisions envisaged in the Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005 and DCPCR Rules, 2008, General Finance Rules (GFR), an official alleged, referring to reports by the DWCD and the vigilance department. "While processing the allo-

cation of budget for DCPCR for the Revised Estimates and Budget Estimates for the financial years 2022-23 and 2023-24, respectively, it was noticed by the DWCD that the demand has increased exponentially from a mere Rs 2 crore in 2017-18 to Rs 15.20 crore in the current financial year," the official said further.

In its response, the Delhi government stated: "DCPCR is a highly accomplished department which has been working towards the rights of the children... in the last two years, the DCPCR has liberated more than 800 children from child labour."

'Ban on cab entry akin to mobility lockdown': Uber writes to L-G, Delhi govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

CAB AGGREGATOR Uber has written to Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena and the transport commissioner, calling the probable ban on entry of cabs registered outside the national capital similar to a "mobility lockdown" for citizens.

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said on Wednesday that the department had been directed to ban app-based taxis "in accordance with the Supreme Court's orders".

Sources said that the contours of the action are being decided but the ban will come into effect only during the implementation of Odd-Even.

"There is a likelihood that cab registered in other states will have to follow the odd-even directive while those registered in Delhi will not," the Delhi government source said.

Uber, in its letter, urged for an "all-encompassing view" based on scientific evidence.

"We would like to bring to your attention that every single one of the 70,000 cars on the Uber platform across Delhi-NCR runs on clean fuel — CNG or electric — as opposed to private vehicles which run on petrol or diesel which are the more polluting fuels. Any shift from private vehicles to CNG or electric cars would only abate the pollution by encouraging people to move to cleaner fuels," it wrote.

'Won't rest until justice served': How a father's dogged 8-year-long fight brought his teen son's killer to book

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GURGAON, NOVEMBER 9

UNTIL JUNE 2015, Jitender Choubey, now 54, led a regular life, working as a driver of a school van in Gurgaon, providing for his family of five. But things changed when his younger son Amit was mowed down by a car. Even though Choubey had evidence — in the form of the rear view mirror and DDL sticker of the car, which fell during the accident — and witness in the form of his brother, it took him eight long and tedious years to see the culprit get arrested last month.

Choubey says he won't rest until justice is served.

Choubey lives in Gurgaon's Wazirabad with wife Sandhya, son Ankit, his wife, and their 3-month-old child. "Amit was 16 when he met with an accident while heading home after school. He had given a test for an ITI and



(L) Choubey with his family; (R) his younger son Amit

wanted to be an engineer. After the accident, our father was affected so much that he stopped working for a while and our income hit the brakes," says Ankit.

Choubey says the fight for his youngest child — he also has a daughter — has made him well-versed with the legal procedure.

Sitting on a bed surrounded by court documents, the chargesheet filed last week, and several newspaper cut-outs, Choubey shows evidences of his dogged probe, which, he says, police failed to do. "When Amit was

hit, my brother was at a store nearby and saw what had ensued, he memorised the last four digits of the number plate — 2960 — belonging to the white Swift LDi car. However, this did not make it to the FIR," said Choubey, whose brother Satyender was the complainant.

In July this year, the court of JMJC Vikrant observed that the police did not intentionally investigate the matter fairly resulting in destruction of evidence. The court had asked that the copy of the order be sent to the

Commissioner for action against the erring officer who had allegedly gone to Uttarakhand by then.

"The rearview mirror and the DDL sticker of the car fell when the accident took place, and we gave it to the police. They returned it after a few days asking us to throw it away, telling us it was useless, but we kept it. My father traced the car and identified the accused through that mirror by contacting the Maruti company in Manesar," said Ankit. Choubey went to the lengths of even unearthing the history of the car to prove that the vehicle was repaired, and a metal sticker was changed with a check-in date in July 2015.

"In 2016, I filed a plea after which the JMJC sought the status report from police. We came to know that the case was closed. In October 2017, I filed a protest petition which was also dismissed," he said. He filed an appeal in 2018,

against the July 2016 order which accepted the closure report at a sessions court. However, a court dismissed it, stating he could not claim the same relief from two courts even as he permitted him to proceed with the protest plea.

In 2019, the magistrate sent notices to the eye-witnesses, Maruti, the mirror manufacturing company, among others, police said. In July this year, JMJC Vikrant directed the probe to be restarted, resulting in the arrest of Gyan Chand (55), a Badshahpur resident, on October 21.

Inspector Ratan Pal, the current investigating officer, says that Choubey has done a remarkable feat, which the police could not achieve. "Though it was difficult for him to approach various parties and conduct a probe in his capacity as he has done, his perseverance resulted in this... Choubey embarked on this alone, and withstood all roadblocks," he said.

KEY AMENDMENTS PROPOSED BY PARLIAMENTARY PANEL

Criminal law Bills: Centre to work on suggested changes

Bills likely to be introduced in winter session starting Dec 4

APURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

TAKING INTO account some of the key changes proposed by the parliamentary panel, the Centre is likely to introduce the three criminal law Bills in the winter session of Parliament, The Indian Express has learnt.

The Parliamentary panel, which adopted its report on the three Bills on November 7, is expected to submit the report to the government Friday.

However, sources told *The Indian Express* that the Law Ministry is already working internally on new drafts that would include key changes. The Parliamentary panel, headed by BJP MP Brij Lal, had suggested over 50 amendments and also underlined several typographical and numbering errors in the three Bills.

The winter session of Parliament will begin December 4 and will end December 22, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said Thursday.

On August 11, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had introduced three Bills in Lok Sabha to replace the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860; The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (originally enacted in 1898); and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872. The new Bills — Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, to replace the IPC; Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, for CrP; and Bharatiya Sakshya (BS) Bill, 2023, for the Indian Evidence Act — were referred to a standing committee the same day.

From a new provision on mob lynching, punishable by seven years imprisonment or life imprisonment or death penalty; to enabling speedy justice through video trials, e-filing of FIRs; expanding the definition of sedition; bringing corruption, terrorism and organised crime under the penal laws; introducing community service and solitary confinement as new forms of punishment; holding trials in the absence of an accused; and expanding the scope of offence

against women pertaining to sexual intercourse by employing "deceitful means" — the new Bills provide for substantive changes in criminal jurisprudence.

Among the key suggestions of the panel that the government is likely to consider is introducing a gender-neutral provision criminalising adultery (Section 497 of the IPC) which was omitted in the BNS, 2023. The provision was omitted since the Supreme Court, in a landmark ruling in 2018, had decriminalised adultery. However, there are concerns that there is a need to retain the provision in order to safeguard the sanctity of the institution of marriage while it can be tweaked to address the gender discrimination aspect.

Another key change mooted was the defining the term "mental illness" which was used in place of "unsound mind" that is widely used in IPC. Some members raised concerns that the term could be broadly interpreted to include a spectrum of psychiatric illnesses.

SC bench now at full strength of 34 as three judges take oath

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

THE SUPREME Court bench returned to its full strength Thursday as high court chief justices Satish Chandra Sharma, Augustine George Masih and Sandeep Mehta took oath as judges of the top court.

CJJD Chandrachud administered the oath of office to the three judges in the SC Additional Complex. This takes the total strength of the court, which was working with 31 judges following some retirements, back to 34.

On November 6, the 5-member Collegium presided by the CJ recommended Justice Sharma,

who was Chief Justice (CJ) of the Delhi HC; Justice Masih, who was CJ of Rajasthan HC, and Justice Mehta, the CJ of Gauhati HC, for elevation to the SC, which were cleared by the government on November 8.

Justice Sharma took oath as Delhi HC CJ on June 28, 2022. He was elevated as an Additional Judge of the HC in 2008, and became a Permanent Judge on January 15, 2010. "The judgments authored by him... stand testimony to his legal acumen and competence," the Collegium said.

Justice Masih took oath as CJ of the Rajasthan HC on May 30, 2023. He was sworn in as Additional Judge of Punjab & Haryana HC on July 10, 2008 and as a Permanent

Judge on January 14, 2011.

Stating that Justice Masih "belongs to a minority community", the Collegium resolution said that "the Collegium is aware of the fact that at present, the Bench of the Supreme Court is represented by 2 judges from the Punjab & Haryana High Court".

Justice Mehta was elevated as the Additional Judge of the Rajasthan HC on May 30, 2011. He became a permanent Judge on February 6, 2013 and took oath as the CJ of the Gauhati HC on February 15, 2023.

Recommending his name, the Collegium noted that his parent HC, Rajasthan, "is a large High Court which does not have representation" on the SC Bench.

Nagaland passes Bill retaining 33% women's reservation for ULB polls

SUKRITA BARUAH
GUWAHATI, NOVEMBER 9

IN A special session, the Nagaland Assembly Thursday unanimously passed a Bill that retained 33 per cent reservation for women in urban local bodies — a contentious factor that has stalled civic polls in the state for around two decades. But the Nagaland Municipal Bill 2023 has done away with women's reservation for the post of chairperson in municipal bodies.

In March, the State Election Commission (SEC) had notified elections to municipal bodies on the basis of the earlier Act, a long-pending matter since the municipal polls in the state were last held in 2004. However, like in years past, voices of opposition and calls for boycott from civil society organisations and tribal bodies once again surfaced. Consequently, in March this year, the Nagaland Assembly moved to repeal the Nagaland Municipal Act 2001 altogether.

The apex tribal bodies, which had earlier opposed such a reservation, have accepted it and SEC will announce the dates for municipal polls soon, Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio said Thursday.

Apart from doing away with reservation for the chairperson post, a significant change in the new Bill is doing away with provisions for taxes on immovable property. Explaining this, state Parliamentary Affairs Minister K G Kenye referred to a historical opposition to taxation by the Nagas.

The issues of women's reservations and municipal polls have even caused governments to fall in the past. In 2017, an attempt by the state to implement the 33% reservation and conduct urban local body polls was met with violent protests in which two people died, leading to the resignation of then chief minister T R Zeliang. Now Deputy Chief Minister, Zeliang, said that he was most excited that this Bill will finally see the light of the day.

Hekani Jakhalu, one of two women elected for the first time to the Nagaland Assembly, called it an emotional moment.

Office of the Executive Engineer (E) RDSS Division, Electricity Department-II
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E-PROCUREMENT RFP NOTICE

Name of Work:- RFP for Appointment of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Service Provider for Smart System Metering in NDMC, NCT of Delhi, India on Design Build Finance Own Operate and Transfer (DBFOOT) basis.

Tender Value : Rs. 21,79,20,600/-
Tender ID No. : 2023_NDMC_249962_1

Date of Release of RFP through e-procurement solution : 07.11.2023
Pre-Bid Meeting (In the O/o CE(E-II), Palika Kendra, ND) : 16.11.2023 at 03:00 PM
Last date/time for receipt of RFP through e-procurement : 05.12.2023 at 03:00 PM
Date/time for opening of Bid through e-procurement : 05.12.2023 at 04:00 PM

Executive Engineer (E) RDSS
Email: eeipds.elect@ndmc.gov.in

Further details can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in> and <https://www.ndmc.gov.in/tenders.aspx>

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NOTICE

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING (VC) / OTHER AUDIO VISUAL MEANS (OAVM)

Shareholders of the Bank may note that in pursuance of Circular(s) issued by Ministry of Corporate Affairs and Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in this regard, an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the Bank will be held on Thursday, 21st December 2023 at 11:00 a.m. IST through VIDEO CONFERENCING (VC) / OTHER AUDIO VISUAL MEANS (OAVM), to transact the businesses that will be set forth in the Notice of the Meeting.

In compliance with the above Circulars, electronic copies of the Notice of EGM will be sent to all the shareholders whose email addresses are registered with the Bank/Depository Participant(s). Shareholders holding shares in dematerialized mode and whose email ids are not registered are requested to register their email addresses and mobile numbers with their relevant depositories through their depository participants. Shareholders holding shares in physical mode are requested to demat their holdings / furnish their email addresses and mobile numbers with KFin Technologies Limited, the Bank's Registrar and Share Transfer Agent, at einward.ris@kfintech.com. The notice of the EGM will also be made available on the Bank's website, at www.bankofbaroda.in, the Stock Exchange websites and on the RTA's website, at <https://evoting.kfintech.com>

Shareholders will have an opportunity to cast their vote remotely on the business as set forth in the Notice of the EGM through electronic voting system. The manner of voting remotely for shareholders holding shares in dematerialized mode, physical mode and for shareholders who have not registered their email addresses will be provided in the Notice to the shareholders. The details will also be made available on the website of the Bank. Shareholders are requested to visit www.bankofbaroda.in to obtain such details.

Shareholders may please note that in terms of aforementioned circulars, the Bank will not be sending physical copy of EGM Notice to the Shareholders.

For Bank of Baroda
Debadatta Chand
Managing Director & CEO (91129-24)

Place: Mumbai
Date: 10.11.2023

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For detailed scope and other details, interested bidders may download the RFP Document from our websites: www.gmdctd.com and <https://gmdctender.nprocure.com>

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विज्ञापन सं. / ADVT. NO. 04/2023
वॉक-इन-इंटरव्यू / WALK -IN- INTERVIEW

निम्नलिखित पदों पर भर्ती के लिए वॉक-इन-इंटरव्यू आयोजित किया जाएगा। पद का विवरण, साक्षात्कार तिथि और पद के लिए अपेक्षित पात्रता मानदंड निम्नलिखित तालिका में दी गई हैं। इच्छुक उम्मीदवार को पात्रता मानदंड के समर्थन में सभी आवश्यक दस्तावेजों के साथ सीपीपी-आईपीआर में चयन समिति के समक्ष उपस्थित होना होगा।

Walk-in-Interview will be conducted for the recruitment of the following posts. Details of the post, interview date, and requisite eligibility criteria for the post are as per the table mentioned below. Interested candidates may appear before a selection committee at CPP-IPR, along with all requisite documents in support of the eligibility criteria.

Sl. No.	Post Code	Name & No. of the Post	Essential Qualification	Desirable experience	Date of Interview
01	RIP/CIMP LE-PSI/2023/PSO-01(A)	Project Scientific Officer (No. of post-01)	M.Sc. in Physics from any UGC recognized University/Institute or equivalent with minimum 60% marks.	Minimum 02 (two) years' experience in experimental fluid dynamics and laboratory development.	29.11.2023 (Wednesday)

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For details regarding educational qualifications, remuneration and general information, please visit Institute's website <http://www.cppiir.res.in>.

हस्ता/- कार्यकारी केंद्र निदेशक Sd/- Acting Centre Director

GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICER
WEST KAMENG DISTRICT: BOMDILA

BDL/NHM/ANEST/2022 Dated Bomdila the 27th October '2023

ADVERTISEMENT

Call for Application for the post of Anesthetist on contract basis, under National Health Mission, West Kameng, Arunachal Pradesh

National Health Mission, West Kameng, Arunachal Pradesh on behalf of the nation invites the candidate who is willing and enthusiastic to serve the community to work for health care services for the betterment of society.

Sl. no	District	Name of the Post	Sanctioned post for Recruitment
1	West Kameng	Anesthetist	01

Selection Criteria & Terms of Reference

Sl. No.	Job title	Essential	Desirable
1	Eligibility Criteria	1. MD/MS(O&G)/MD Anesthetist/MD (Paedi) or DGO/DA/DCH 2. Registered under Indian Medical council Act 1970	At least 3 years post-qualification experience
	Nature of Appointment	Purely Contractual	
	Terms of Service	1(one) year or Financial year-end, whichever is earlier	
	Remuneration	Consolidated remuneration or Rs.1,50,000/-per month,	
	Job Responsible	Objective	1 To provide specialist services in referral cases 2 To conduct referred institution/CS deliveries 3 To attend referral case in respect of MCH complications 4 To provide Neo-Natal care services 5 To provide counseling services in MCH cases 6 To attend referred RTI/STI cases 7 To provide specialist services in RCH and Health camps
	Appointing Authority	Mission Director (NHM) /District Health Society	
	Terminating Authority	Mission Director (NHM) /District Health Society	
	Mode of Recruitment	Walk-in-interview	
	Posting Place	General Hospital B	
	Travelling Allowance (TA)	Actual bus fare (road travel)/ 2ndAC chair (Rail Travel)/Shared Taxi	
	Daily Allowance (DA)	As per A.P Health Society Norms	
	Leave Entitlement	Casual Leave	As per existing state Govt. Rules
		Medical Leave	As per existing state Govt. Rules
		Maternity leave	As per existing state Govt. Rules
		Earned leave	There will be no earned leave
		CCL	As per existing state Govt. Rules
	Leave without	In exceptional circumstances, subject to sanctioned by chairman Executive committee, state health Society	
	Leave Granting Authority	CEO, Executive Committee, District Health Society	
	Extension of Service	Based on their commendation of performance Appraised	
	Authority for extension of service	Mission Director(NHM), State health society	
	Performance Appraisal Board	Chairman	DMO-cum-Vice Chairman, DHS
		Member Secy	DRCHO/DFWO-cum-CEO, Executive committee
		Members	Medical Superintendent, District Hospital One SMO-grade Office

Schedules of Activities planned for Enrolment of Candidates for the post of Anesthetist

Sl. No	Activities	Timeline
1	Issue of advertisement for selection	27th October 23
2	Last date for receipt of application	28th November 23
3	Scrutiny of application and short listing candidates for selection	2nd December 23
4	Issue of admit card /roll no. for Walk-in-interview/selection	4th December 23
5	conduction of Walk-in-interview/selection procedure	7th December 23
6	Evaluation of performance of candidates/selection procedure and prepare results	8th December 23
7	Issue offer letter to selected list of candidates	11th December 23

Note:
1. Last date for application submission is Tuesday, 28th November '2023.
2. Date of Walk-in-interview is Thursday, 7th December '23

Sd/ (Akriti Sagar) IS
Deputy Commissioner
West Kameng District

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PR NO 310864 (Tourism, Art Culture, Sports And Youth Affairs 2023-24)

6 DECISION 2023

CHHATTISGARH • MADHYA PRADESH • MIZORAM • RAJASTHAN • TELANGANA

ELECTION IN NUMBERS

59,284

The highest winning margin in the 2018 Chhattisgarh polls, when Congress's Akbar Bhai beat BJP's Ashok Sahu in Kawardha



Rahul Gandhi in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, Thursday. PTI

Where is Rahul? Not in Rajasthan yet, as campaign enters last 15 days

HAMZA KHAN JAIPUR, NOVEMBER 9

A MONTH after the declaration of election dates in Rajasthan, and with just about a fortnight to go for voting on November 25, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is yet to hold a rally in the state.

After Mallikarjun Kharge and Sonia Gandhi, Rahul is third on the Congress list of star campaigners for Rajasthan.

While party leaders say that, along with Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Kharge, Rahul will focus on Rajasthan post-Diwali and hold multiple rallies here, his absence is leading to some chatter.

Since the election dates were announced on October 9, Kharge has held two rallies, as has Priyanka. However, Rahul's last engagement in Rajasthan was a party workers' meeting in Jaipur on September 23.

The Congress's state-in-charge, Sukjinder Singh Randhawa, said that as voting in other states was being held before Rajasthan, Rahul was holding programmes in those states. But while Mizoram and Chhattisgarh (Phase-I) voted on November 7, and the voting for Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh (Phase II) will take place on November 17, Telangana votes five days after Rajasthan, on November 30, and Rahul has had events in the southern state.

Party insiders speculate that the Congress sees a better chance of winning in MP and Chhattisgarh, and hence the focus may be more on those two states. Rahul has himself contributed to this impression, saying in Delhi in September: "Right now, we are probably winning in Telangana, we are certainly winning Madhya Pradesh, we are

certainly winning Chhattisgarh. Rajasthan, we are very close, and we think we will be able to win."

Congress leaders admit that this vote of low confidence in Rajasthan was not what they needed. The Congress started out the poll campaign with high hopes given the divisions within the BJP ranks. But the BJP is now seen to have got its act together.

Over the last few weeks, the Gandhi face who has been visible is Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. Seen as close to Sachin Pilot, Priyanka has made it a point to talk about his contributions to the party at these appearances.

Notably, Pilot was missing from the launch of the critical ERCP campaign by Kharge in Baran along with Gehlot.

According to some sources, Rahul's absence has at least partly to do with this unending Gehlot-Pilot tussle. The Rahul camp is yet to reconcile with how Gehlot defied the high command last year to stay on as CM.

Moreover, the party's Rajasthan campaign is not going exactly as per plan. The ERCP Yatra failed to generate a satisfying response, and the party suspended its 'Congress Guarantee Yatra' a day after it was launched. While this was reportedly also due to unflattering feedback, party leaders officially say the yatra will resume after Diwali.

However, a party leader worried that the impression that the Congress considers Rajasthan a lost cause is gaining ground.

BJP spokesperson Lakshmi Bhardwaj said, "How will Rahul Gandhi face the people of Rajasthan? The promises he made last time... not one has been fulfilled. So probably the Congress itself doesn't want him to come as he was the party's face then."

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Telangana fares well, MP poorest, Rajasthan debt up

Per capita income up in four states, but only two are above the national average. In three states, poverty rate above the national average

ANJISHNU DAS NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

ECONOMIC GROWTH and development are key talking points for parties during campaigns. In the states seeing polls this month, GDP has grown faster than the national average except in Mizoram. However, per capita income has lagged the national average in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan in the past five years.

While indicators like labour force participation and poverty show these states seeing improvements, high inflation rates in some states suggest that cost of living could be a poll issue.

And as parties make hefty promises of welfare schemes and "freebies", the debt-to-GDP ratio could be worrying.

Chhattisgarh

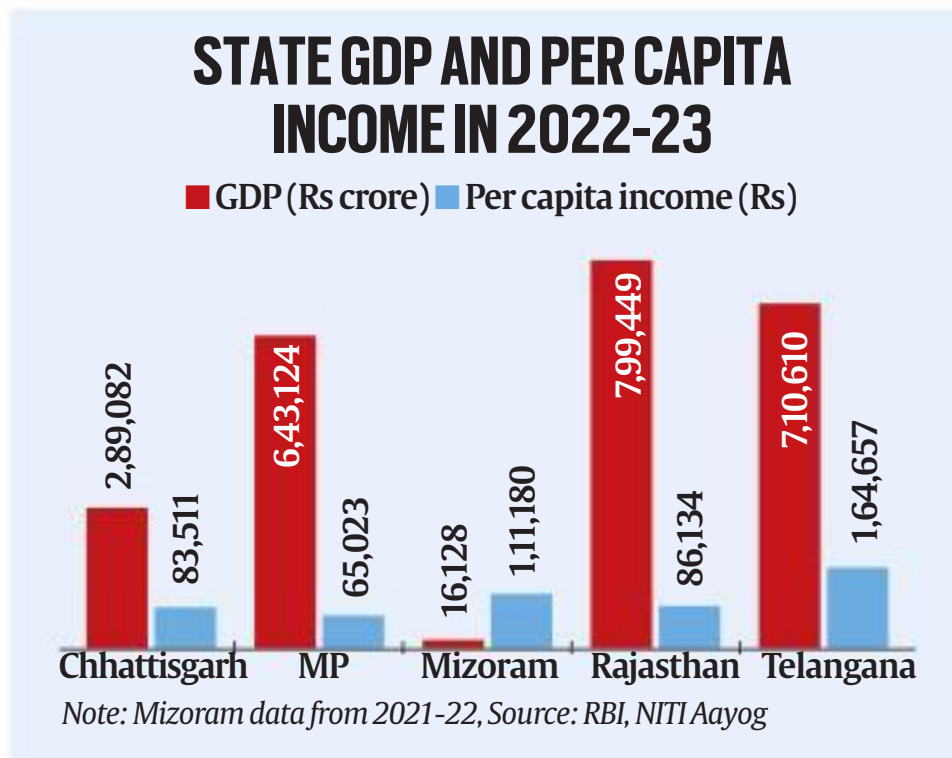
The Congress came to power in the state in 2018 after 15 years of BJP rule. The state GDP has grown by 21.6% over the last five years, at a compound annual growth rate of 4.3%. While this growth is faster than the national average, and its per capita income has also grown by 15% since 2018-19, Chhattisgarh still lags behind India's overall per capita income of Rs 98,374 by almost Rs 15,000 a year.

Among the poll-bound states, Chhattisgarh has the highest overall (combined urban and rural for those aged 15 and older) labour force participation rate (LFPR) at 71.8%, as per the Periodic Labour Force Survey, and is higher than the national average of 57.9%.

LFPR measures how much of the working-age population is either employed or actively seeking employment. In 2018-19, the state's LFPR was 62.7%.

In terms of poverty, 16.4% of the state is living in multidimensional poverty as of 2019-21, as per the NITI Aayog's latest Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), which measures "acute deprivations in health, education, and living standards that a person faces simultaneously" in addition to income and expenditure levels.

Madhya Pradesh is the only poll state with a higher proportion of poor people, though Chhattisgarh too exceeds the national average of 15%. In 2015-16, when the previous MPI was reported, the poverty headcount



was 29.9%, compared to the national average of 24.9%.

In September 2023, Chhattisgarh recorded among the lowest inflation rates in India, based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), at 1.98%, compared to the national average of 5.02%, according to data from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. Barring 2020-21, the state's inflation rate has not exceeded 5% in the last five years.

In terms of the state's fiscal health, the government's outstanding liabilities or debts as a share of the state GDP stood at 27.1% in March 2023, higher than the 2018 figure of 19.5%, according to RBI data.

Madhya Pradesh

The BJP has been ruling the state since 2003, barring over a year under the Congress after the 2018 polls. Under four-time CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan's current term, the state GDP has grown by 18.4% since 2018-19 at a compound annual growth rate of 4.3%.

While the state GDP has grown faster than the national average over the last five years, MP has the lowest per capita income among the polling states and lags the national per capita income by more than Rs 33,000 per year despite having increased by 10% since 2018-19.

At 64.5%, the state's overall LFPR is above the national average of 57.9% and has risen every year since 2018-19, when it was 54.2%.

But MP has the highest prevalence of poverty among the polling states, at 20.63%, as per the MPI. It has, however, dropped from 36.57% in 2015-16.

The state's inflation rate, though, is the second lowest

among the five election states, at 3.67% in September. The inflation rate peaked at 7.6% in 2020-21 under this Chouhan government but has since subsided.

The MP government's outstanding liabilities as a share of GDP were 28.9% in March this year, a rise since 2018, when the figure stood at 23.8%.

Mizoram

According to the latest available data, Mizoram GDP has stayed at roughly the same level since 2018-19. But Mizoram is one of two polling states that has a higher per capita income than the national average. Though the per capita income has dropped since 2018-19, when the Mizoram National Front ended 10 years of Congress rule, it is still above the national average.

Unemployment, however, is a major issue in the state. From 49% in 2018-19 to 56.4% in 2022-23, Mizoram's LFPR has remained below the national average every year except 2019-20 and 2020-21. But its poverty rate, at 5.3%, is well below the national average of 15% and has dropped from 9.78% in 2015-16.

The inflation rate, though, has risen from 2.5% in 2018-19 to 4.47% in September this year. Between 2019-20 and 2021-22, its inflation rate was higher than the national average.

The state's fiscal health, in terms of outstanding liabilities as a share of GDP, is also a cause for concern. Mizoram debts amounted to 53.1% of the state GDP, up significantly from 38.9% in 2018.

Rajasthan

No party has won consecutive polls in Rajasthan since 1993. In 2018, the BJP lost out to the

Congress by a narrow margin. Since then, the state GDP has increased by 24% at a compound annual growth rate of 5.6% under the CM Ashok Gehlot government. Per capita income, though, has lagged the national average over the past five years despite growing by 16.5% since 2018-19.

In 2022-23, its overall LFPR stood at 61.5%, up from 53% in 2018-19 and above the national average of 57.9%. The state's LFPR has not dropped below the national average in the past five years and even grew marginally during the pandemic years.

Its poverty rate, though, is slightly above the national average at 15.3% but has nearly halved since 2015-16.

In terms of inflation, the state's rate has been lower than the national average every year between 2018 and 2022, except in 2019-20. In September 2023, inflation was 6.53%, higher than the national rate of 5.02%.

The state also has a high debt-to-GDP ratio with outstanding liabilities amounting to 40.2% of the state GDP in 2023, up from 33.8% in 2018.

Telangana

Telangana is among the country's wealthier states, both in terms of GDP and per capita income. Since 2018-19, when the Bharat Rashtra Samithi began its second term, its GDP has increased by 16.8% at a compound annual growth rate of 4.5%. Among the states for which 2023 data is available, Telangana has the fourth highest per capita income. Since 2018-19, per capita income has grown by 12% and is more than Rs 66,000 higher than the national average.

The state's LFPR has not dipped below the national average in the past five years and has exceeded the 60% mark in the last three years with the 2022-23 figure at 60.3%.

At 5.88%, only seven states have a lower prevalence of poverty than Telangana in 2019-21. In 2015-16, the figure was 13.18%.

But its inflation rate is among the highest in the country at 5.97% in September 2023. Inflation has been higher than the national average since 2020-21, when it spiked to 8.7%.

The state also has one of the lower debt-to-GDP ratios at 28.2%. In 2018, outstanding liabilities amounted to 21.4% of the state GDP.

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REWIND, REPLAY
KCR'S NEW LINE OF ATTACK ON CONG: THE ELECTION AMBEDKAR LOST

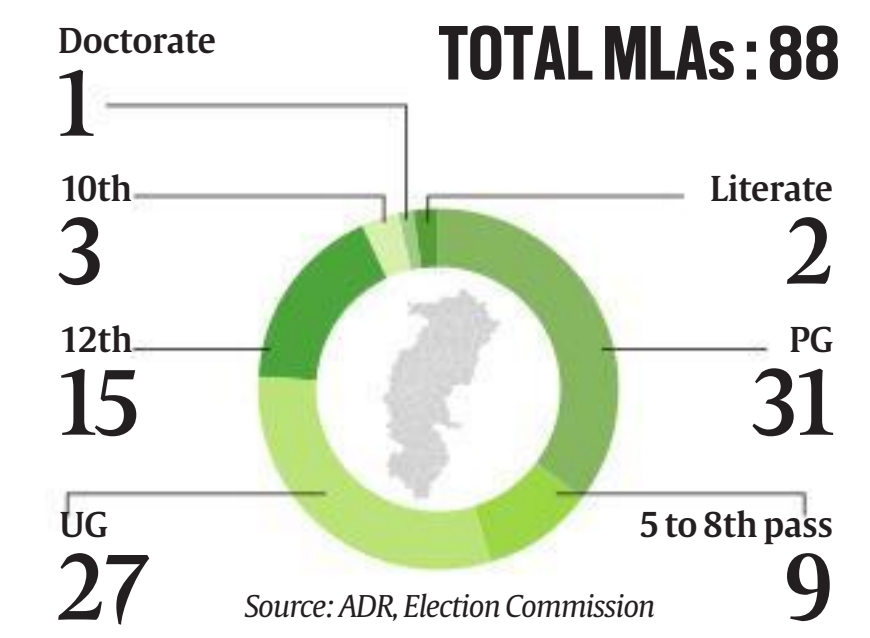
IN TELANGANA, POLITICIANS STEP UP THEIR ONLINE PRESENCE

NUMBER SPEAK

CHHATTISGARH: PARTY-WISE EDUCATION OF SITTING MLAS

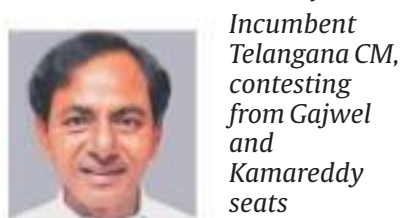
Party	Literate	5 to 8th	10th	12th	UG	PG	PHD
Cong	2	8	2	13	23	22	1
BJP	0	1	1	1	4	7	0
BSP	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
JCC*	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Total	2	9	3	15	27	31	1

Janata Congress Chhattisgarh*. Source: ADR, Election Commission



I HEREBY DECLARE

KCHANDRASHEKARRAO, 69



Incumbent Telangana CM, contesting from Gajwel and Kamareddy seats

MOVABLE ASSETS (including of spouse, HUF)

₹35.4 CRORE

IMMOVABLE ASSETS (including HUF)

₹23.5 CRORE

LIABILITIES:

₹24.5 crore

PROFESSION:

Agriculture

CRIMINAL CASES:

9; no conviction

SOURCE OF INCOME:

Salary as CM, bank interest, agricultural income

EDUCATION:

BA, Government Degree College, Siddipet

BANDISANJAY KUMAR, 52



BJP's Telangana unit chief and Karimnagar MP, contesting from Karimnagar

MOVABLE ASSETS (including spouse)

₹79.51 LAKH (Rs 36.93 lakh in 2018)

IMMOVABLE ASSETS

None

LIABILITIES:

(including of spouse):

Rs 17.85 lakh (Rs 13.88 lakh in 2018)

CRIMINAL CASES:

FIRs in 32 cases for IPC offences

SOURCE OF INCOME:

MP salary

EDUCATION:

M.A. from Madurai Kamaraj University, Tamil Nadu

FROM PAGE 1

Handout is fine but where's the leg-up: Madhya Pradesh voter is asking for more

MP because of the habits and excitements of Hindutva, and because in a state still shaking off the BIMARU tag, it is given credit by large sections for much of the basic work of "vikas". Despite unevenness and corruption, it includes both the delivery of basic public goods like *bijli-sadak-paani* and a never-before profusion of here-and-now schemes that reach into individual households to deliver cash and subsidies.

Many voters, especially among the rural poor, point to the free rations the government provided during the Covid lockdown as a reason to vote for continuity, not change. And yet, as the election draws closer, the government seems not to acknowledge or address the voter who wants more.

In an election being fought to the wire, after the 2018 face-off in which the Congress finished barely ahead by five seats (before defections by the Jyotiraditya Scindia group rearranged the numbers in the BJP's favour), while the BJP remained slightly ahead in the percentage of votes — the Congress vote percentage, up by 4.60 per cent was 40.89 per cent, with the BJP, down by 3.86 per cent, at 41.02 per cent — manifestoes and posters on both sides are emblazoned with promises made in ruse.

in the Shivraj government's most talked-about Ladli Behna scheme, will be raised to Rs 3,000, says the BJP, while the Congress promises cylinders for Rs 500 and a monthly assistance of Rs 1,500 to women, among a host of other such promises and schemes.

Yet this election's outcome could well be influenced by the questions about missing opportunities being asked by voters alienated by the state crudely playing Big Benefactor and tiring of their own dependence on in-your-face promises on poll-eve.

At Hamidia Arts and Commerce College in old Bhopal, that boasts among its alumni CM Chouhan, Sumit Singh, 19, a B.Com second-year student, describes a syndrome chronic across young voters: It stems from despair over the multiple entrance examination-admission-and-recruitment scams that contribute to the jobs crisis in MP. "This year it was the *dhandhli* (fraud) in the MP Patwari exam... This must change. The Congress could not hold on to their own MLAs the last time they came to power, what if their government falls again? So this election I will vote not for the party but for the individual candidate."

It's a repetitive cycle of vacancies being announced, and ex-

aminations held, only to be mired in allegations of paper leaks and manipulation of results, and stalled and stayed by litigation and controversy — the ghosts of the large-scale Vyapam recruitment scam that came to light in 2013 are yet to fade. The "patwari scam", involving recruitment of revenue officials, in which several toppers allegedly appeared at the same examination centre located in a college run by a BJP MLA, is the latest in a dismal and apparently unending series.

At the Indian Coffee House, in Vijay Nagar in Indore, MP's commercial hub and largest city, Meenal and Jyoti declare themselves to be "andh bhakt" (blind followers) of Modi — because "he thinks big" and because of "foreign policy", "start-ups" and strides in "technology" — even as they talk of the toll taken in the state by delays in announcement of results for recruitments by the Madhya Pradesh Public Service Commission (MPPSC). "The result of the 2019 exam has still not been declared in 2023. We have been preparing for so long, these matters always end up in court," Meenal says.

Jyoti talks about the Ladli Behna Yojana that the BJP is single-mindedly projecting as the "turning point" that will help it race ahead of its rival on the back



BJP supporters at a meeting by PM Narendra Modi in Satna, Madhya Pradesh. ANI

of the "women's vote" in MP. "Aur tareeke ho sakte the (there could have been other ways) — skill development for instance. I don't think this is good, *seedhe seedhe paisa dena* (giving straight cash), *Jeb mein paisa de dena welfare nahin hai* (putting cash in pockets does not equal welfare)".

College, Khyati Shukla, an MBA student who supports Modi at the Centre because of "continuing changes and connections with other countries", says: "Mujhe aisa lag raha hai Mamaji munh par rishwat de rahe hain (I feel like Shivraj Chouhan is bribing me to my face)".

The Ladli Behna scheme is a

telling case in point. It is popular but it also invites questions, by those who point to the cynicism of its poll-eve implementation, and by those who speak of the government giving with one hand and taking away with the other. Rising household electricity bills are frequently cited in urban areas, while farmers point to vaulting input costs and declining crop prices — so what is the benefit, they ask, and just how far can Rs 1,250 a month go in these times.

In Sehore, Mohammad Mohsin, a contractor, points to the steep rise in the price of the gas cylinder and says: "Ladli behna ko de raha hai, jeeja se le kar (the government is taking away more and giving back a little to the same family)".

But a more fundamental discomfort with the cash scheme sees it as a distraction and stand-in for the investment of energy and resources needed to open up and expand job opportunities. This discomfort is not confined to the relatively well-off or the upper castes alone.

In the tribal village of Bhagwanpura in district Khargone, many count out the government schemes they have benefited from — money for *pucca* houses to toilets to free rations to Ladli Behna and the Ujjwala subsidy — and some

others talk of the improvement in roads and renovation of temples. But Pankaj Jadau, who is doing a BSc in nursing, and is forced to work in a shop because of "four years and no exam", says that the uncertainty of job prospects is uppermost on his mind. "My mother has got Ladli Behna... But I want to study further and find a job", he says.

In Chillar, a tribal village in Betul district, Gajraj, "12th pass", says that he will vote for change. "Yojana toh chal rahi hai, par rozgar dena chahiye (we are getting the benefit of schemes, but we need employment)".

In Chhindwara's Rajmata Scindia Government Post Graduate College, Aradhana Baikar, a student who belongs to a Scheduled Caste, flags a problem unaddressed by a government that claims to speak especially to the women.

"Boys study and they are sent out of the state by their families to find jobs, but girls study and then are forced to sit at home." What is needed is not cash transfers but *ek ek gaon mein ek ek company, jis mein ladies log kaam kar sakti hain* (a company in every village that can give jobs to women)," she says.

On the street outside the college, Anju Ahirwal, who sells ready-made garments from a cart, says: "I don't need Ladli

Behna, I earn enough to eat everyday. But I don't have the money to send my son to study outside Chhindwara. We need to build big colleges here, where we work and live".

From Bhopal to Indore, and from Khargone to Chhindwara, many of the voters who express dissatisfaction with the cash-and-delivery model of the Shivraj Singh Government, express support for Modi at the Centre ahead of 2024. The reasons are different, but there are common themes: "Desh ka hit (for the good of the nation)", "Hindutva ke liye" and because "abhi desh aage barh raha hai (the country is moving ahead)".

After two terms and despite the exclusions and discontents in a job-starved economy, the Modi appeal rests on the constant invocation of larger wholes, of nation and religion, the ideas of bigger and better, and the projection of a trajectory of progress. These may act as a salve for people with rising expectations and provide a cushion for a government.

At the state level in MP, then, apart from a genuine lack of structural and systemic changes and progress on the jobs front, it is the absence of the government's framing of and voter buy-in to bigger ideas, next steps and future goals that may now be coming to bite the BJP.

SC grants 5-week protection to Cong's Surjewala from NBW

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

THE SUPREME Court on Thursday directed that a non-bailable warrant (NBW) issued against Congress leader Randeep Singh Surjewala in connection with a 2000 case be not executed for five weeks. A three-judge bench, presided by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud also gave him four weeks time to approach the trial court for cancellation of the NBW.

Appearing for Surjewala, senior advocate A M Singhvi said the matter was related to a political agitation when he was a Youth Congress leader and some vandalism allegedly took place. Singhvi argued that the NBW was issued on November 7 even before the Allahabad HC pronounced its order on Surjewala's plea under section 482 to quash the case.

Though the FIR was registered on August 21, 2000 in Varanasi, he was summoned for the first time on August 22, 2022 by the ACJM MP/MLA Court and he appeared personally before the court on August 31, 2022, Singhvi said. Meanwhile, Singhvi submitted that on March 20, 2023, the HC allowed him to move a discharge application through a pleader and said no coercive steps be taken, which it repeated on July 12, 2023.

Bihar House passes Bill to raise quota cap from 50% to 65%

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, NOVEMBER 9

TWO DAYS after Chief Minister Nitish Kumar called for an increase in reservation, the Bihar Assembly on Thursday unanimously passed a Bill to hike the overall quota in educational institutions and government jobs for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) from 50% to 65%.

With the existing 10% quota for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), the effective quota will be 75%. The main beneficiaries are the EBCs and OBCs, whose quota is proposed to be raised from 12% to 25% and 8% to 18% respectively. According to the state's caste survey, 36.01% of the population are EBCs, and 27.13% are OBCs. For SCs, the proposed new quota is 20%, up from the existing 14%. The SC population is estimated at 19.65%.

The quota for STs, however, is proposed to be slashed from 10% to 2%. With most of the tribal areas going to Jharkhand after the bifurcation of Bihar in 2000, the tribal population in Bihar is less than 2%. The Bill will be tabled in the Legislative Council on Friday,



Bihar CM Nitish Kumar

and is likely to be passed unanimously there too.

Clarifying that the additional 10% EWS quota would continue to exist, State Finance Minister Vijay Kumar Choudhary said: "The Bill shows our commitment towards inclusive growth." "The increase in quota will address inequality in society. We have been in support of a quota increase ever since the caste survey report was made public," said senior BJP leader Nand Kishore Yadav.

"Our government has already announced Rs 2 lakh for five years to over 94 lakh poor families having less than Rs 6,000 monthly income and a one-time aid of Rs 1 lakh to 67 lakh homeless families to build homes. The caste survey has given us the right direction to re-frame our policies," said a JD(U) leader.

In its 1992 decision in 'Indra Sawhney vs Union of India', the Supreme Court had fixed the reservation ceiling at 50%.

Nitish attacks Manjhi for doubting caste survey

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, NOVEMBER 9

A DAY after he apologised for his remarks on population control, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Thursday hit back at former CM Jitan Ram Manjhi for having criticised the caste survey report. A visibly enraged Nitish went on to tell Manjhi in Assembly, "You have become the CM because of my foolishness."

Kumar made the remark in the Assembly when Manjhi, who formed his own party Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) and is now with the opposition BJP-led NDA, rose to express doubts over the state government's caste survey. He had finished his speech saying, "the caste survey lacked an objective approach and there have been instances of a lot of table work".

An enraged CM retaliated, "Isko kuchh samajh nahi aata hai (does he make anything out of caste survey?) He keeps saying



Former Bihar Chief Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi

nonsensical things and the media also gives him undue publicity."

Manjhi later told the reporters outside the Assembly: "This is not Nitish Kumar I have known for years. He does not look in a good mental state. I became an MLA in 1980 and Nitish in 1985 and I am also six years older than him. He has been disrespectful towards me".

BJP leader of Opposition in Assembly Vijay Kumar Sinha said: "Nitish Kumar had first insulted women, now he has insulted a Dalit leader and a former CM. It is an insult to the entire Dalit community."

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI'S EDUCATIONAL DEGREE CASE Gujarat HC dismisses Kejriwal's review plea, says 'does not reflect good taste in public life'

SOHINI GHOSH
AHMEDABAD, NOVEMBER 9

REJECTING A review plea moved by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in connection to seeking information regarding Prime Minister Narendra Modi's educational degrees, the Gujarat High Court on Thursday said that Kejriwal continuing to harp upon following the cause by proceeding with the review application "does not reflect good taste in public life".

The dismissal paves the way for Gujarat University (GU) to proceed with the criminal defamation suits against Kejriwal and Rajya Sabha AAP MP Sanjay Singh. The HC on Thursday rejected Kejriwal's application seeking a review of its March order that quashed a directive of the Central Information Commission (CIC), which had asked GU to "search for information" regarding Modi's degrees. The GU has alleged that Kejriwal and Singh made defamatory statements days after the March verdict.

The court of Justice Biren Vaishnav said on Thursday that it would "tend to agree with the



Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal

submission" of Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta -- representing GU - that Kejriwal, having "lost in his legal remedy" when the HC allowed GU's petition in March, "continues to harp upon his pursuit in following a cause by proceeding in this review application in a manner which does not reflect good taste in public life".

"The court is conscious that seeking a review is and could be a remedy available in law but looking to the grounds and the arguments raised before this court in the review application, it cannot be said that the applicant (Kejriwal) has sought to invoke this remedy purely with a view to seeking legal recourse," Justice Vaishnav observed. Dismissing the review petition,

the court of Justice Vaishnav, however, imposed no costs.

In March, allowing the variety's plea, the court had imposed a penalty of Rs 25,000 on Kejriwal. In his review petition, Kejriwal had challenged the cost imposed on him by the court for persisting with the matter of the PM's degrees. In review, the court, however, held that the cost was justified as Kejriwal "tried to deflect the entire proceedings to politicise the issue".

Thursday's verdict implies that Kejriwal will now have to pay the penalty of Rs 25,000.

Seeking a review of the March order, Kejriwal had submitted in his review plea that while Mehta submitted that Modi's degree is available on the university's website, "upon a scan of the said website... (it) is found that the said 'degree' is not available, but a document referred to as OR is displayed". He added that the display of "degree" on the university's website is taken as the preliminary and main ground for seeking a review of the court's earlier order. Kejriwal said that the judgment thus "suffers from the error apparent on the face of the record and permitting them would lead to failure of justice".



Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar with Goa CM Pramod Sawant at the closing ceremony of National Games in Panaji, Thursday. PTI

No power on earth can deprive Indians of their fundamental rights, says Dhankhar

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA
PANAJI, NOVEMBER 9

ASSERTING THAT no power can deprive the Indian citizens of their fundamental rights, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Thursday said that the Emergency was "the darkest period of our history". Speaking at the release of the 200th book, 'Vaman Vriksha Kala', authored by Goa Governor PS Sreedharan Pillai, Dhankhar who was in Goa, said this book contains detailed information on Bonsai with details like common and scientific names, life span and tree information. The main intention of the book written by the Governor is to firmly establish that the Bonsai is originally an Indian art, as against the widely held belief that it belongs to China and Japan. "We live under perceptions and in the process, we forget our roots, history and culture," he said.

"When he (Pillai) scored a century (of books), the Prime Minister had released his book. And what was the theme? Dark days of Emergency... coincidence... I have no doubt India has grown to a level that we shall never be visited by such dark days again. No power on earth can deprive our population of fundamental rights, human rights but that certainly was the darkest period of our history. We have to move ahead and learn our lessons," he said.

The Vice President also emphasised the important role of a Governor: "There are only two constitutional functionaries who take a different oath. Everyone else, right from the PM to the Vice President, to the ministers, chief ministers, 'abide by the Constitution' but the President and the Governor 'protect, preserve and defend the Constitution'. Their job is to ensure everyone falls in line."

Later in the evening, at the closing ceremony of the 37th National Games in Goa, Dhankhar, heaping praises on the government of Goa for organising the National Games, said, "This is a defining moment. Goa is a tiny state with a very large heart. The day is not far when traditional sports will find a place at the Olympics."

Gujarat police opposes 'missing' MLA Vasava's anticipatory bail plea

Vadodara: Citing his "criminal history" with 12 previous FIRs registered against him, the Narmada district police Thursday opposed the anticipatory bail plea moved by "missing" Dediapada MLA Chaitar Vasava before the Narmada district Sessions Court. The court has reserved its order for a day.

The court has also reserved the order for the regular bail plea of his wife Shakuntala, personal assistant Jitendra and farmer Ramesh Vasava, who were sent to police custody for two days on Wednesday. Shakuntala, who is currently hospitalised at the Rajpipla Civil Hospital, is in judicial custody.

Chaitar and the three arrested are among the nine booked in an alleged case of rioting, extortion and assault of forest officers on November 2. The prosecution informed the court that the police was yet to recover the pistol allegedly used by Chaitar to fire in the air in order to allegedly intimidate the forest officials at his residence on the night of October 30, when the incident is said to have occurred as per the FIR. It also informed the court that the police need to "recover the money paid by forest officers for extortion". ENS

अवधपुरी प्रभु आवत जानी । भई सकल सोभा कै खानी ॥

दीपोत्सव 2023

नयनाभिराम छटा के साक्षी बनें

सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

CENTRAL WAREHOUSING CORPORATION
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

No. CWC CO-EDOTC/82/2023-Tender Cell-CO Date: 06.11.2023

PRESS NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Sr. No.	Description of Work	Tender Portal & Bid No.	Last Date & Time
1.	For Providing Hospitality and Facility Management Services in Centra Warehousing Corporation, Corporate Office, New Delhi.	www.gem.gov.in GEM/2023/B/478767	28-11-2023 10:00 hrs

For more details, please visit our website www.cwacor.nic.in or GEM Portal www.gem.gov.in.
Tender Cell, Corporate Office CWC, New Delhi

PFC CONSULTING LIMITED
(A wholly owned subsidiary of PFC Limited)

Corporate Office: 9th Floor (A Wing) Statesman House, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001, Fax: 011-23443990
Website: www.pfcclindia.com

Notice Inviting Empanelment (e-bidding only)

Electronic Applications are invited through Open Tender from Firms for "Empanelment of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Service Provider for implementation of Smart Prepaid Metering under RDS Scheme"

For details visit our website www.pfcclindia.com under the head tenders

National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT)
NIELIT Bhawan, Plot No. 3, PSP Pocket, Sector-8, Dwarka, New Delhi - 110077

Walk-in-Interview for the positions of Senior Consultant (Placement) and Senior Resource Person (Business Development) purely on Contractual basis

Eligible candidates may appear for Walk-in-Interview for the contractual positions of Senior Consultant (Placement) and Senior Resource Person (Business Development) on 18th November, 2023 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM (Reporting Time) at NIELIT Headquarters, NIELIT Bhawan, Plot No. 3, PSP Pocket, Institutional Area, Sector-8, Dwarka, New Delhi - 110 077 alongwith latest bio-data and original documents with photocopies. The candidates reported by 12:00 PM shall only be interviewed. For details regarding eligibility, age limit, consolidated remuneration etc., log on to <https://nielit.gov.in/recruitments>.
Advvt. No. NHQ/41/2023-NIELIT (E-3125045) Registrar
CBC 06102/12/0013/2324

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS AND YOUTH AFFAIRS

No. DSYA/SPORTS.11/2023/12 Shillong, dated 8th November, 2023

Notification – Request for Proposals (RFPs)

The Department of Sports and Youth Affairs, Government of Meghalaya, invites bids from interested agencies for the following RFPs:

The Tender Documents, along with any subsequent corrigendum/announcements related to the Tender processes will be updated on the Meghalaya Sports Website: www.megsports.gov.in
Interested parties are advised to study the complete document and consider all requirements before submitting a bid.

Important Dates:

Tender Name	Release Date	Final Submission	Opening of Technical Bids
Engaging services of an Agency for Branding and Accreditation for the Meghalaya Games 2023, Tura, Meghalaya	8th November, 2023	30th November, 2023, 4:00 pm	1st December, 2023, 11:00 am, unless shared beforehand on the Meghalaya Sports website
Engagement of Event Management Agency for Meghalaya Games 2023, Tura, Meghalaya	8th November, 2023	30th November, 2023, 4:00 pm	1st December, 2023, 12:00 pm, unless shared beforehand on the Meghalaya Sports website
Agency for provision of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) for Meghalaya Games 2023, Tura, Meghalaya	8th November, 2023	30th November, 2023, 4:00 pm	1st December, 2023, 1:00 pm, unless shared beforehand on the Meghalaya Sports website

Director
Sports and Youth Affairs
Government of Meghalaya

In January, govt pushed poll bond sale 'closer' to N-E elections, shows RTI

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

IN JANUARY this year, the Finance Ministry postponed the sale of electoral bonds — from the usual first half of the month to the second half — aiming to keep it "closer to elections" in three Northeastern states, according to official documents accessed under RTI.

Elections were held in Tripura on February 16, and in Meghalaya and Nagaland on February 27. The Electoral Bonds Scheme has 10-day windows for sale each in January, April, July and October, besides 15- and 30-day additional windows during the year of the Assembly polls and the Lok Sabha elections, respectively.

As per the files of Department of Economic Affairs, accessed by transparency campaigner Commodore Lokesh K. Batra (retired) on November 7, this year too officials first proposed the sale from January 1-10 in keeping with the "existing practice".

Madras HC sets aside TN ban on online rummy & poker, says they're 'games of skill'

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, NOVEMBER 9

DRAWING A distinction between online games based on skill and chance, the Madras High Court on Thursday upheld the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Online Gambling and Regulation of Online Games Act, 2022, but said rummy and poker would not be prohibited under the Act as they are "games of skill".

The Division Bench, headed by Chief Justice Sanjay V Gangapurwala and Justice P D Audikesavalu, delivered the verdict after considering a batch of writ petitions filed by the All India Gaming Federation and various online gaming companies. The petitions challenged the constitutional validity of the Act, which, according to the

petitioners, impinged on their fundamental rights under Articles 14, 19, and 21 of the Constitution. "The prayer to declare the entire Act as ultra vires the Constitution is negated. However, the schedule of the Act including the games of rummy and poker are set aside. Section 2(1)(4) of the Act may be read as restricted to games of chance and not involving games of skill, namely rummy and poker," the court order said.

The Act passed last year was formulated based on the suggestions made by a committee led by Justice K Chandru, a retired Madras HC judge. Petitioners challenged the committee report, and argued there was an absence of domain experts in the committee. "The Committee has not appreciated the functioning of online rummy, especially the

limited role of the Random Number Generator (RNG) Software," the petitioners said, emphasising a lack of substantive differentiation between offline and online modes of skill-based games.

The court said the contention of the state that the petitioners may use bots would be without any basis. "There is nothing on record to substantiate the contention of the State that the dealer (software) knows all the cards all the time, including which card is going to be dealt with, or that the dealer (software) knows all the cards in the hands of each player or that the dealer (software) can change the unopened cards..." the order said.

"We are now transcending into the era of digitization and entertainment. People, instead of playing in clubs, are now playing

online. With the rise of internet connectivity and technological advancements, we see a spurt in online games... The games of rummy and poker, which are considered as games of skill are also now sought to be played online. In online games of rummy and poker also, the same brain activity would be involved as required for offline games of rummy and poker," it said.

The legislation originally faced hurdles when the Tamil Nadu Governor returned a Bill based on concerns about its similarity with an Amendment Act of 2021, which was previously struck down. Despite these concerns, the state Assembly passed the Bill without changes, leading to the Governor's assent and the Act's subsequent enactment.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

I-T raids premises of Cong candidate in Telangana

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD NOVEMBER 9

THE INCOME Tax department Thursday raided the residence and offices of Telangana Congress leader Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, set to contest from the Palair constituency in Khammam district in the Assembly polls set to be held on November 30.

Reddy, who was expected to file his nomination paper Thursday, had said the I-T department would conduct raids on him.

He also alleged that the ruling Bharat Rashtia Samithi (BRS) and the BJP were hand in glove to intimidate Congress leaders and candidates. A campaign manager of Reddy said the I-T officers arrived early in the morning and seized phones and laptops.

India rejects Australian court order to pay relief to ex-embassy's domestic help

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

INDIA HAS rejected an Australian court's ruling ordering former Indian High Commissioner Navdeep Singh Suri to pay a former domestic employee thousands of dollars in compensation after she accused him of unfair working conditions and exploitation.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday that the Australian authorities do not have any locus standi to adjudicate on matters concerning India-based service staff of its high commission. MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi, while talking to reporters, called on Canberra to uphold its obligations under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

As per reports by the Australian media on Sunday, a federal court had ordered Suri

to pay Seema Sherghill approximately 136,000 Australian dollars plus interest, within 60 days after she alleged that she was forced to work in unfair conditions. Sherghill had alleged that she had to work 17 and half hours daily for seven days a week.

Bagchi said the service staff "wilfully deserted" her post in May 2016, a day before her scheduled return to India and that she was holding an official passport and Australian diplomatic visa.

He added that India has repeatedly requested Australian authorities to locate and repatriate Sherghill to India, who took Australian citizenship in 2021.

"Her false representations give rise to suspicions that all this has been motivated by her desire to permanently stay in Australia, and in which she seems to have succeeded," Bagchi said, replying to a question on the case.

Air pollution expert Gufran Beig will be guest at Explained Live today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9



Gufran Beig

WITH THE arrival of winters, it is a familiar story repeating all over again — the air has become unbreathable, thick smog and haze have appeared, people have begun complaining of difficulties in breathing and burning in eyes, and authorities remain as helpless as ever. The situation is most acute in Delhi and surrounding areas, but many other cities in the Gangetic plains find themselves in a similar situation.

It has been almost a decade since this became a characteristic feature of north India in a few weeks of October and November. While several steps have been announced, and taken, there is no visible improvement in the situation. The key reason for this situation, agricultural waste burning in Punjab, continues to pollute the air over the entire northern Gangetic belt.

But air pollution is not an un-

EXPRESS explained.Live
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DATE: 10 November, 2023
TIME: 6 pm

TO REGISTER:
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<space> Your name and email ID to 56161.
Confirmation SMS will be your registration

solvable problem. Quick fixes might be a waste of time, but authorities and experts are well aware of steps that need to be taken to tackle the problem and gradually improve air quality. In the last few years, ample amount of data and information has been generated about the sources and causes of pollution, and the measures to be taken to mitigate the impacts.

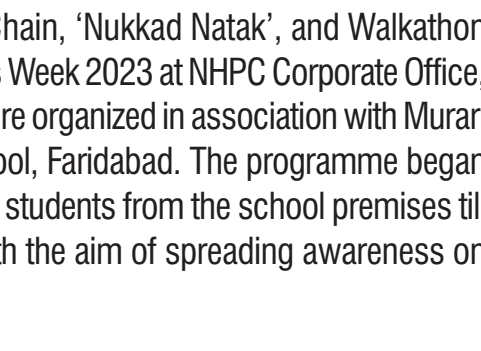
As northern India suffers through another spell of particularly bad air quality, *The Indian Express* has invited Gufran Beig, one of the leading experts on air pollution, to discuss why air quality continues to be so bad despite the measures, that authorities claim, are being taken. An environmental and atmospheric scientist, best known for this work on air pollution, Beig was the founder director of SAFAR (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research), a government backed initiative to monitor and forecast air quality in some metropolitan cities.

VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK

HUDCO Under the aegis of Central Vigilance Commission, HUDCO observed Vigilance Awareness Week from 30th October to 5th November 2023 at its Corporate Office at Delhi and all Regional Offices across the country with this year's theme "Say no to corruption; commit to the Nation." During this Week, various Vigilance awareness programme/activities such as Essay competition, slogan writing, painting competition, debate and talk shows.



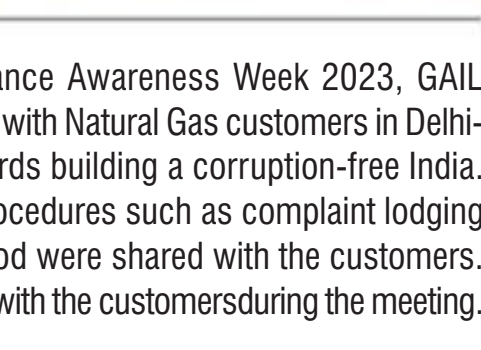
NHPC organized Human Chain, 'Nukkad Natak', and Walkathon during Vigilance Awareness Week 2023 at NHPC Corporate Office, Faridabad. The activities were organized in association with Murari Lal Senior Secondary School, Faridabad. The programme began with a Human Chain by the students from the school premises till NHPC Corporate Office with the aim of spreading awareness on vigilance.



NATIONAL HOUSING BANK observed Vigilance Awareness Week from Oct. 30th to November 5th, 2023. The theme of this year's VAW was "Say No to Corruption; Commit to the Nation". On the eve of the Vigilance Awareness Week, the Bank conducted series of events to highlight the importance of integrity, transparency and accountability. Outreach programs were also being conducted by Regional Offices across India.



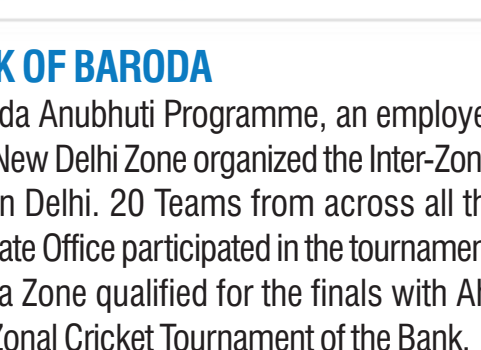
GAIL On the occasion of Vigilance Awareness Week 2023, GAIL organized an awareness meeting with Natural Gas customers in Delhi-NCR to draw their support towards building a corruption-free India. During the meeting, vigilance procedures such as complaint lodging procedure including PIDPI method were shared with the customers. Senior officials of GAIL interacted with the customers during the meeting.



DELHI TRANSCO observed Vigilance Awareness Week from 30th Oct. to 5th Nov. 2023. The theme of the Vigilance Awareness Week was "Say no to corruption, Commit to the Nation". During this awareness campaign a number of programmes such as essay writing competition, slogan writing competition, training sessions on vigilance and disciplinary proceedings etc were also conducted. In addition; a Walkathon was also conducted.



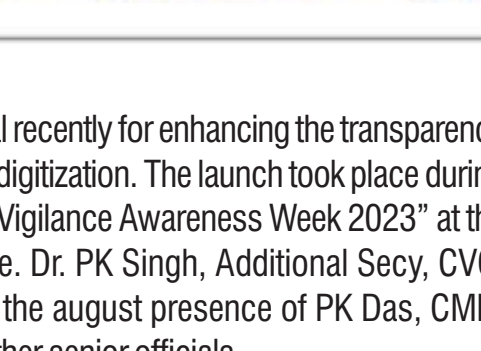
TOURNAMENT—BANK OF BARODA
Under the aegis of the Baroda Anubhuti Programme, an employee engagement initiative, BoB, New Delhi Zone organized the Inter-Zonal Cricket Tournament 2023 in Delhi. 20 Teams from across all the Zones, Head Office & Corporate Office participated in the tournament. Ahmedabad Zone & Kolkata Zone qualified for the finals with Ahmedabad winning the Inter-Zonal Cricket Tournament of the Bank.



CEREMONY—INDIAN COAST GUARD
As the sun disappeared over the horizon on 04Nov 2023, in a traditional armed force ceremony held at Coast Guard Jetty, Kochi; Indian Coast Guard Ship Samar was decommissioned with full honours. The Chief Guest of the ceremony was ADG S Paramesh, PTM, TM in presence of Guest of Honour DG Dr P Paleri, PTM, TM (Retd).



LAUNCH—IREDA
IREDA launched a CSR portal for enhancing the transparency in its CSR initiatives through digitization. The launch took place during the Valedictory Function of "Vigilance Awareness Week 2023" at the company's registered office. Dr. PK Singh, Additional Secy, CVC, launched the CSR portal in the august presence of PK Das, CMD, IREDA, AK Sahani, CVO & other senior officials.



CORPORATE BRIEFS



VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK—POWERGRID
The week-long observance of vigilance awareness was concluded with the closing ceremony held at Corporate Centre of POWERGRID, a Maharashtra CPSU under Ministry of Power, GOI. During the closing ceremony, DK Madan, CVO welcomed Hari Mohan, I.O.F.S., Ex Chairman & DG, Indian Ordnance Factories and he addressed on Vigilance issues & Decision Making in Complicated Situations. RK Tyagi, Director (Operations) & G. Ravisankar, Dir. (Finance) attended the event. The Annual Vigilance House Journal of POWERGRID 'Candour' was also released by the dignitaries on this occasion. During the Vigilance Awareness Week, a Vendor Meet was also organised on 2nd November 2023, at Corporate Centre, Gurugram. Abhay Choudhary, Director (Projects), RK Tyagi, Dir. (Operations), Dr. Yatindra Dwivedi, Director (Pers.) & DK Madan, CVO interacted with vendors and noted the feedback. It brought together vendors, suppliers, & key stakeholders, laying the foundation for stronger partnerships and collaborations. Vendor Meets were also organized in the regional headquarters throughout the country. During the VAW-2023, walkathon & several Gram Sabhas were conducted across the nation apart from competitions for school and college students for public awareness.

VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK—POWERGRID NR-I
On 3rd Nov 2023 the Valedictory function of the Vigilance Awareness Week was held at POWERGRID, NR-I, RHQ, Faridabad in a remarkable manner. During the Valedictory Ceremony, distinguished Chief Guest, Sharad Kumar, DIG, CISF, Faridabad graced the occasion & AK Mishra, ED (NR-I) welcomed the Chief Guest. AK Mishra, ED, NR-I briefed the significance of celebration of Vigilance Awareness Week, as it coincides with the birth day of the Bismarck of India, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel as he represents the best values in the Indian tradition so far as the Governance is concerned. He emphasized the need for the employees to follow the principle of transparency, value of ethics & truthfulness in their life sphere. The art of good governance is based on accountability, responsiveness, and transparency.



VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK—RAILTEL
RailTel Corporation of India, a distinguished Mini Ratna CPSU under the Ministry of Railways, marked the Vigilance Awareness Week (VAW) 2023 with a comprehensive and elaborate series of activities from October 30th to November 5th, 2023. The vigilance Department of RailTel, led by CVO Dr. Chandramani Sharma, meticulously planned and executed a range of awareness initiatives throughout the week. This significant event was held under the auspices of the Central Vigilance Commission, the apex vigilance institution, with the overarching goal of rallying all stakeholders to actively engage in the prevention of corruption and to heighten public consciousness regarding the perils posed by corrupt practices.



VISIT—DIPR
CM Pushkar Singh Dhani reached Rail Bhawan in New Delhi & met Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav and discussed in detail regarding strong rail connectivity in the state. On this occasion, CM Dhani requested the Railway Minister to grant approval to the much awaited *Tanpur-Bageshwar railway line construction* as soon as possible in view of the operation of *Vande Bharat Express* between Lucknow & Dehradun & expansion of rail service in the hilly areas. The CM requested to start direct rail service connecting Ahmedabad to Kathgodam, Haridwar & Dehradun, *re-operation of Kotdwara coach in Doon Express and Ramnagar coach in Janata Express* & *new rail service from Tanpur to Mehandipur Balaji in Rajasthan. The CM said that with the expansion of rail services, transportation will become easier for the people of the state and tourists in the coming times and also, being a major tourism state, the economy of the state will also be strengthened. The Union Railway Minister assured CM Dhani of all possible cooperation.



CONFERENCE—CRPF

Underlining the importance of training in operational preparedness, the CRPF convened its Annual Training Conference under the chairmanship of Dr. Sujay Lal Thaosen, DG, CRPF at the SHAURYA Officers' Institute in Vasant Kunj. The conference brought together senior officers of CRPF and heads of Training Institutions.



IRCTC held the Board of Directors meeting on 07th Nov., 2023. IRCTC was conceived as an extended arm of the Indian Railways with the aim to upgrade, professionalize, & manage catering and hospitality services at stations, on trains, & other locations. Additionally, it has been instrumental in promoting both domestic & international tourism. IRCTC, a 24 yr old PSU held its Board of Directors meeting on 7th Nov., 2023, & also declared its Unaudited Financial Results for Sept. Quarter, FY 23-24. IRCTC reported a net profit of Rs.294.67 crs in Sept. Quarter of FY 23-24 marking an increase of 30.36% from Rs.226.03 crs in Q2 of FY 22-23. The net profit registered is the highest ever profit registered by IRCTC in the history of IRCTC for this Quarter. During the Q2, 23-24, IRCTC has registered a strong financial performance with an increase in total revenue of 23.51% which stood at Rs. 995.31 crs in the Sept. Quarter of FY 23-24 in comparison to Rs. 805.80 crs in Q2 of FY 22-23. Both EBITDA & PAT ended up at healthy margins of 28.54% & 30.36% respectively.

PNB has announced its festival bonanza offer Deepawali Dhamaka 2023'. Under this exclusive offer, customers can avail home & car loans at an interest rate starting from 8.40% & 8.75% respectively with a full waiver of upfront/processing fees & documentation charges on all variants of both home & car loan for limited period (T&C applicable).

PFC's Consolidated Financial Highlights 29% increase registered in consolidated Profit After Tax from Rs. 9,809 cr. in H1'23 to Rs. 12,610 cr. for H1'24. Consolidated Loan Asset Book crosses Rs. 9 lakh crores mark and stands at Rs. 9,23,724 cr. as on 30.09.2023 vs. Rs. 7,71,119 crores as on 30.09.2022, registering a remarkable increase of 20%. Consolidated Net worth (including non-controlling interest) increased by 21% from Rs. 1,02,280 cr. as on 30.09.2022 to Rs. 1,23,703 cr. as on 30.09.2023. Owing to continuous and active resolution efforts, consolidated Net NPA has reached below 1% and is at 0.98% in H1'24 from 1.27% in H1'23. Gross NPA also declined significantly by 98 bps from 4.38% in H1'23 to 3.40% in H1'24. PFC Group is the nodal agency for implementation of Late Payment Surcharge Rules. With the implementation of these rules, there has been more than 50% reduction in the legacy dues which were payable by Discoms to the Generation companies.

OIL INDIA LIMITED posted a rise of 48.29% YoY in EBITDA margin for Q2FY24 and a rise of 50.52% YoY for the half year ended 30th Sept. 2023. The rise in EBITDA was backed by the company's continued improvement in Crude Oil production, which was higher by 5.70% YoY in Q2FY24 at 0.835 MMT. Crude Oil production for the half year ended 30th September 2023 also increased by 5.48% to 1.655 MMT vis-a-vis 1.569 MMT for the same period in FY23. The company registered an increase of 8.72% in its Natural Gas production during Q2FY24 over Q1FY24. The Earnings Per Share for the half year ended 30th Sept. 2023 is 17.88/share.

ACADEMICS

SCDAV PUBLIC SCHOOL With an aim to spread awareness about firecrackers causing environmental pollution and numerous health hazards, the Eco Club students of SCDAV Public School, Noida, on 8th November 2023, under the guidance of school supervisory head Ms. Geetu Sabharwal, took the initiative to aware everyone about celebrating a clean and green Diwali. The school Principal, Mrs. Chitra Kant appreciated the efforts of these enthusiastic planet pals in showcasing their concern for the harmful effects of cracker to health and environment.

9 GOVT & POLITICS

Opp dissents against ethics panel report on Mahua: Hasty, will set dangerous precedent

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

OPPOSITION MEMBERS in the Lok Sabha Ethics Committee, which Thursday recommended the expulsion of TMC MP Mahua Moitra, said in their dissent notes that the panel conducted its probe in "unseemly haste" and with "complete lack of propriety".

Calling the probe into the cash-for-query allegations a "fixed match" by "a kangaroo court", Opposition leaders raised questions on the Ethics Committee's mandate and said the recommendation for Moitra's expulsion was "purely for political reasons and will set a dangerous precedent."

The panel's report, following an inquiry into allegations against Moitra by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, was adopted after voting with six MPs in its favour, and four from the Opposition against it.

In their dissent notes, BSP's Danish Ali, Congress's V Vaithilingam and Uttam Kumar Reddy, CPI(M)'s P R Natarajan and JD(U)'s Giridhari Yadav said Moitra was not given the opportunity to cross-examine businessman Darshan Hiranandani, with whom she is accused of sharing her Parliament login and password. Reddy, who was not present at Thursday's meeting, sent his dissent note by email.

In an interview to *The Indian Express*, Moitra admitted that

she gave her Parliament login and password to Hiranandani but denied taking cash from him, as alleged by lawyer Jai Anant Dehadrai in his complaint to CBI.

"The alleged bribe-giver Mr Hiranandani is a key player in this case, having given a vague 'suo motu' affidavit with no details. Without the oral evidence and cross-examination of Mr Hiranandani as demanded by Ms Moitra, in writing and indeed as demanded by the law of a fair hearing, this enquiry process is a farce and a proverbial 'kangaroo court'," the dissent notes said.

One of the notes said the recommendation of the panel for her expulsion was erroneous and was framed "purely for political reasons".

While the Opposition leaders' made the remarks in separate dissent notes, their arguments were largely similar.

The MPs said: "...complainant (Dehadrai) had history of acrimonious personal relationship with Moitra and this fact was nowhere disclosed in the complaint, thereby demonstrating mala fide intention at the threshold."

"It is not the job of the Ethics Committee to be a platform to settle personal vendetta scores. This will set a dangerous precedent and open up MPs to all sorts of harassment by interested parties in future," the notes said.

They argued that no documentary evidence was provided

by the complainant. They said Moitra had already given an exact list of items received, which included "one scarf, some small items of makeup, availing of a car and driver on few outstation trips and one set of architectural drawings for her Government official residence", none of which violated any code of ethics for MPs.

On Moitra sharing her login and password with Hiranandani, Opposition MPs pointed to the absence of rules regarding that. "All of us use assistants, interns, relatives and friends for help in parliamentary work... At any point, some 3000 persons or more are having the portal login for a combined 800 odd MPs of both Houses of Parliament," the notes said. "Moitra has already said she used only typing services for her questions from Hiranandani's office and the OTP came to her iPad/laptop/phone - thus there was no scope for any unsupervised access. The charge of national security is patently absurd. If the NIC portal is so secret then rules should have been framed and access from foreign IP addresses should have been blocked," they said.

The opposition members also questioned the committee's recommendation for the admonition of Ali. "(Ali) cannot be singled out for breach of Rule 275(2) because you yourself have breached this rule by speaking to the press repeatedly," one of the notes said.

Now, report to go to Speaker, he will take call on tabling in LS

VIKAS PATHAK
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

THE LOK Sabha Ethics Committee's report recommending the expulsion of Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Mahua Moitra will now go to the Speaker. The committee on Thursday adopted the report by six votes to four.

A complaint by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey that Moitra sought favours from businessman Darshan Hiranandani to ask questions against industrialist Gautam Adani - something Hiranandani accepted in a letter to the committee - sparked a chain of events leading to the report.

What rules say

The rules governing the procedures of the Ethics Committee - incorporated in Chapter XXXA of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha in August 2015 - state that the recommendations of the Committee shall be in the form of a report and it shall be presented to the Speaker who may direct that it be tabled in the House. The rules say



TMC MP Mahua Moitra

that the report "may also state the procedure to be followed by the House in giving effect to the recommendations made by the Committee".

Rule 316 E lays down the procedure to be adopted for consideration of the report by the House. "After the report has been presented, the Chairperson or any member of the Committee or any other member may move that the report be taken into consideration whereupon the Speaker may put the question to the House," it reads.

Before putting the question to the House, the rules say the Speaker may permit a debate on the motion not exceeding half an hour. After the motion is agreed

to, the chairperson or any member of the committee, or any other member, "may move that the House agrees or disagrees, or agrees with amendments, with the recommendations contained in the report".

Rule 316 F says that "a motion that the report of the Committee be taken into consideration shall be put down in the list of business after disposal of questions".

Procedures to follow

Asked what happens if a motion to approve a recommendation of the Ethics Committee to expel a member is adopted by the Lok Sabha with a majority, former LS secretary general PDT Achary told *The Indian Express*, "The member stands expelled the moment such a motion is adopted by the House."

Regarding procedures to be followed by the Ethics Committee, Achary said: "The complainants, the ones who supported the complaint and the member against whom the complaint is made are called before the committee for examination and cross-examination. That is the procedure but I have no knowledge about what has happened in this case."



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a rally in Madhya Pradesh's Satna on Thursday. PTI

Congress stands with foreign elements that are against India: PM

ANAND MOHAN J
BHOPAL, NOVEMBER 9

CAMPAIGNING IN poll-bound Madhya Pradesh, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday claimed that the Congress stood with foreign elements that "openly conspire" against India.

He accused the opposition party of administering "sweet poison" through poll announcements such as free electricity. "Whenever the Congress promises to bring the sun and moon, you should understand that something is wrong. Whenever Congress makes big promises, assume that it is preparing to give sweet poison. This has happened in many states," he said.

On Thursday, Modi addressed rallies in Satna, Chhatrapur and Neemuch districts, where he accused the Congress of denying Ram's existence, attacked its track record on development and stressed on the PM Awas Yojana's importance for the poor.

In Neemuch, the Prime Minister said the Congress wonders how the country's profile is changing on the international stage. "This is what is bothering the Congress. Therefore, the Congress wants to spread instability and anarchy in the country. For this, the Congress has made secret agreements. It now

seems to be standing with foreigners who openly conspire against India. The people of Madhya Pradesh have to be very cautious of the party," he said.

"Mahatma Gandhi used to say that governance should be honest, and we should bring Ram Rajya to the country. But Congress, on one hand, built a fortress of corruption and, on the other, considered Lord Ram fictional," he said.

In Chhatrapur, the PM said that under the Congress government, the focus was always solely on New Delhi, with schemes, visits from prominent foreign leaders, and major events all centred in the capital.

"Schemes used to be announced in Delhi. Major foreign leaders used to come to Delhi. Key programmes used to take place in Delhi... Whenever Congress leaders took their foreign friends out of Delhi, they showed them India's poverty. The poor have become a subject of tourism for the Congress leaders who were born with golden spoons," the prime minister said.

In Satna, PM Modi said his government has built four crore pucca houses for the poor, but he has "not made even one house for himself". "We are building the Ram temple. With the same devotion, we built four crore houses," he said.



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



WINNING TRUST

SAMAJWADI PARTY Lok Sabha MP from Mainpuri Dimple Yadav on Thursday addressed a public meeting in Pichhore Assembly constituency in Madhya Pradesh. So far, party president Akhilesh Yadav was the lone prominent SP face leading the election campaign in the state. Sources in the party said Dimple joined the campaign to reach out to women voters in MP who usually turn up to exercise their franchise in good numbers. Both Congress and BJP have pinned their hopes on women voters with their income support schemes. The SP, too, has promised a pension scheme for women and a response system to prevent crimes against them. In Dimple's rally, women leaders from Uttar Pradesh and local constituencies in MP were given space on the stage.

PACKED SCHEDULE

IT WAS an unusual time - 4.30 pm on a Thursday - for the swearing-in ceremony of the three new SC judges. The scheduling seemed a bit rushed, especially since President Droupadi Murmu signed the warrants of appointment only a couple of hours before the ceremony. One of the reasons that necessitated the urgency was the schedule of Justice Augustine George Masih. His daughter's wedding is scheduled Friday in Chandigarh, which ruled out the likelihood of him taking oath before the court closed for Diwali. Since all the three judges had to be sworn in together, sources said the government and SC worked closely to ensure there was no delay in swearing in the new judges.

CBI a separate entity, have no control over it, Govt tells SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

UNDERLINING THAT the CBI is an "independent legal person" with a "separate legal identity outside the Union of India", the Centre on Thursday questioned the logic of the West Bengal government filing an original suit against it to stop the agency from probing cases in the state after the general consent was withdrawn.

Appearing for the Centre, Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Mehta told a Supreme Court bench of Justices B R Gavai and Aravind Kumar that the independent existence of the CBI "is in fact a product of the judgments of" the apex court, "wherein the CBI was vested with a separate legal and functional identity".

The Centre said that while the CBI is the real party against which the state sought relief, it had not made the agency a party and had instead roped in the union government, as an original suit under Article 131 of the Constitution can be filed only in cases of disputes between the Centre and states. Mehta contended that as such, the suit was not maintainable.

Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal who appeared for West Bengal, said the suit "has nothing to do with the CBI, which" he said "is only a repository of that power".

"It is one thing to say that the CBI's superintendence is with the CVC. But it's quite a different thing to say that the CBI has nothing to do with union government. Of course it does, it was created by the government's notification," Sibal said.



UP CM Yogi Adityanath with Deputy CM Brajesh Pathak and other ministers in Ayodhya. Express

At Ayodhya meet of UP Cabinet, religious tourism gets fresh boost

MAULSHREE SETH
LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 9

THE UTTAR Pradesh Cabinet led by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday held a meeting in Ayodhya and cleared 14 proposals, including setting up the Uttar Pradesh Inland Waterways Authority to improve transport and trade using water bodies in the state, and allocation of 25 acres of land in the city for the construction of a Ram Temple museum to promote religious tourism.

Among other decisions taken at the meeting, which was held at the Ramkatha Mandap (auditorium) on the banks of the Sarayu river, were to set up the "Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Vikas Parishad", implementa-

tion of the drone policy, upgrading the Ayodhya Research Institute as "International Ramayana Vedic Research Institute" and the formation of "Maa Pateshwari Devipatan Development Council" to cater to the development of the Devipatan division along the Indo-Nepal border.

The proposal for the formation of "Shukarteerath Vikas Parishad" for the development of Shukratal in Muzaffarnagar was also approved.

After the meeting, the CM said that 178 projects worth Rs 30,500 crore are being executed in Ayodhya in collaboration with the Central government.

"Ayodhya ek naye yug ki aur jar rahi hai aur puri duniya aaj Ayodhya ki taraf akarshit ho rahi

hai (Ayodhya is entering a new era today and the entire world is getting attracted towards the city)," added Adityanath.

The state Inland Waterways Authority will work to improve transport and trade using waterways, make the state an important exporting hub, and explore opportunities in tourism, he said.

"The state has 12-13 rivers which are suitable for waterways, including Ganga, Sarayu, Yamuna, Gomti, and Rapti," he said.

Earlier, the Cabinet inspected work at the under-construction Ram temple and offered prayers at the Hanuman Garhi temple and the makeshift Ram Lalla temple. This is for the second time, after Varanasi, that the Cabinet held a meeting outside Lucknow. — WITH PTI INPUTS

Maldives invites Modi to Muizzu oath-taking

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

THE MALDIVES has invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the oath-taking of Maldivian President-elect Mohamed Muizzu, but New Delhi is yet to take a decision on the level of its representation at the ceremony, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said Thursday.

Widely seen as a pro-China leader, Muizzu is set to take charge as the Maldivian president on November 17.

"We have received the invitation for the prime minister to attend that (oath-taking ceremony). I will let you know once we have a decision on who will

represent us and in what capacity," MEA Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said.

Last month, India said it was looking forward to engaging "constructively" with the incoming administration of Muizzu, days after he said moving the Indian military personnel out of the island nation was one of his top priorities.

Muizzu defeated incumbent President Ibrahim Solih in the presidential runoff in September.

The Maldives is one of India's key maritime neighbours in the Indian Ocean region and the overall bilateral ties, including in the areas of defence and security, have been on an upward trajectory in the last few years.

Karnataka BJP still without a leader, man who stepped in for Yediyurappa bows out

KIRAN PARASHAR
BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 9

AT A time when several BJP leaders in Karnataka are restive because the party still does not have a state unit president and legislature party leader six months since losing the Assembly elections, former CM Sadananda Gowda, in a surprise move, has announced retirement from electoral politics.

Gowda, 70, was in Hassan on Wednesday as part of the BJP's drought study committee when he called a press conference at short notice to talk about the state government's failure to address agricultural distress. Nearly



Former CM Sadananda Gowda. File

39 minutes into his one-hour press briefing, when asked if he was aspiring to head the party again in the state, the former CM and Union Minister stunned those present by saying, "I have taken a small decision to not be part of electoral politics. In my 30 years of political career, my party has given me everything. Besides B S Yediyurappa, I am the number one beneficiary. I served as an MLA for 10 years, 20 years as MP,

one year as a Chief Minister, over four years as state party president, and as a Cabinet minister for seven years in the Narendra Modi government. If I aspire for more, I will be called selfish."

Gowda, a confidant of Yediyurappa, might not have been fielded in the Lok Sabha polls next year, according to the buzz within the party.

BJP leaders said the former CM was not happy with the party remaining without leaders for so many months. On Wednesday, he said the delay in appointing a Leader of the Opposition had been an embarrassment for the party.

He was also said to be unhappy with the BJP-JD(S) alliance for the

parliamentary elections. On October 7, he said, "The state leaders were kept out of this decision. We did not even discuss this issue. Maybe, it was done keeping the party's national interests in mind and to oppose the Congress." A couple of weeks later, on October 25, the party's central leadership summoned Gowda to Delhi.

Though he was never a crowd-puller, when the Yediyurappa government fell in August 2011 over an episode of illegal mining and other corruption accusations, Yediyurappa hand-picked him for the CM's post. This surprised even Gowda who called it an unexpected fortune".

FULL REPORT
www.indianexpress.com

Ajit Pawar submitted fraudulent affidavits, Sharad faction tells Election Commission

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

THE SHARAD Pawar faction of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) on Thursday told the Election Commission that among the affidavits submitted by the rival Ajit Pawar group were names of deceased persons, minors and office-bearers of posts that do not exist within the NCP.

The group presented its "startling evidence" to the Election Commission during a hearing in the party dispute case, senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, who was representing the Sharad Pawar faction, said. Singhvi said a sample of



Ajit Pawar rebelled against uncle Sharad Pawar and joined the Maharashtra government in July. File

around 20,000 affidavits submitted by Ajit Pawar supporting his claim to the party name and symbol were analysed and about 8,900 had various issues. Some carried the names of deceased

persons, some were signed by those below 18 years and others were simply signed by "a housewife" and "Zomato sales manager". He added that some of the affidavits of office-bearers were of posts that did not ever exist within the NCP and its constitution.

Termining this a "fraud" and "forgery", Singhvi said the group asked the EC to take action against the Ajit Pawar group. He said the next hearing in the matter would be on November 20. Sharad Pawar, his daughter, NCP MP Supriya Sule, and other leaders of the faction were present.

Dismissing the allegations, the Ajit Pawar group claimed that the Sharad Pawar-led faction was "trying to delay the hearing by

raising technical issues instead of merit-based points".

"We have filed over 2.5 lakh affidavits. A very small number of affidavits were used by the other side to claim problems in our submission. We have been demanding that a regular hearing of the matter should be held and it will be held from November 20. The technical issues were brought at a time when we wanted a hearing based on merits of the case," said Sunil Tatkar, state president from Ajit Pawar group.

The EC began hearing the matter on October 6, after Ajit Pawar moved it on June 30 claiming that he represented the party and seeking use of the name and election symbol.

10 EXPRESS NETWORK

22 MILLION TONNE STUBBLE, ONLY 2,000 BALERS

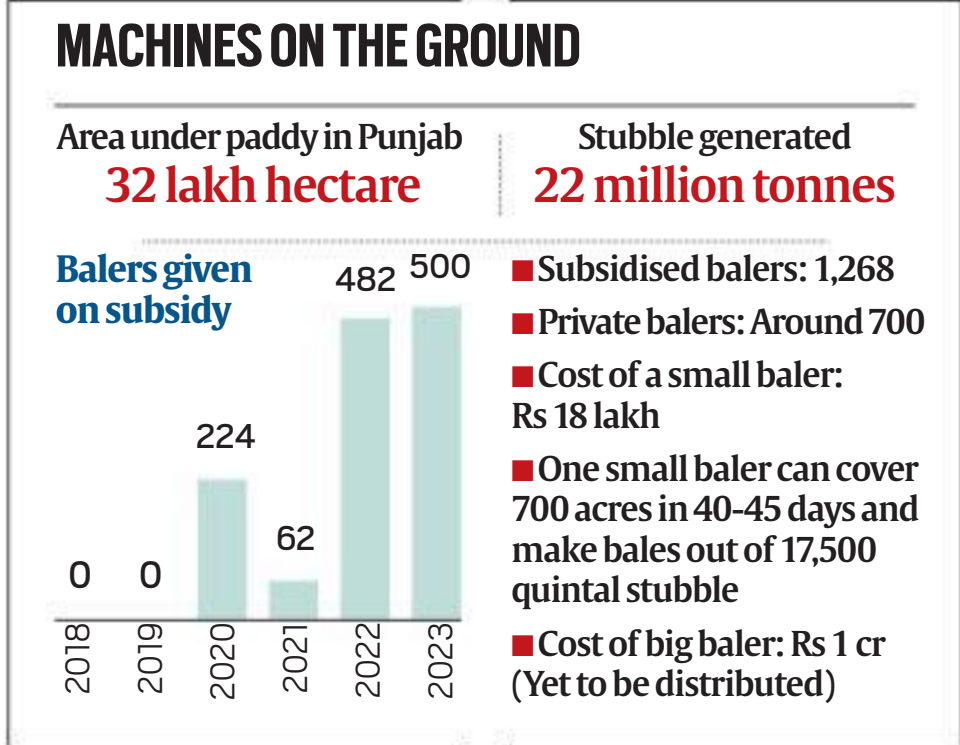
Punjab plan to stop farm fires goes up in smoke

ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA
JALANDHAR, NOVEMBER 9

AFTER YEARS of burning paddy stubble, 41-year-old Dalwinder Singh of Malsian in Jalandhar, this year decided to opt for the baler machine. Having heard about the technology from his friends in neighbouring villages, he harvested the crop on October 31 and then booked a baler for November 4 to make bales out of the stubble left behind on his 7 acres.

However, it's been five days past the booking date and the baler machine owner is yet to set foot on his field. "If he doesn't come by tomorrow, I'll have to set the stubble on fire as the Super Seeder, which can sow wheat in standing stubble by burying it during sowing, is also not available at the moment," says Dalwinder.

Kashmir Singh of Mohabbatpur village in Patiala had sowed paddy on 35 acres. He harvested the crop in the first week of October, and was lucky to find a baler machine. "I had finished work on 27 acres when it started raining in and I couldn't use the machine anymore. It's almost a month now that I am waiting for my turn to use the machine on the remaining 8 acres. Baling not only saves the soil and the environment but is also cost-effective. I had to pay only Rs 400 per acre as diesel cost and the baler owner gave me the cutter to chop



ished work on 27 acres when it started raining in and I couldn't use the machine anymore. It's almost a month now that I am waiting for my turn to use the machine on the remaining 8 acres. Baling not only saves the soil and the environment but is also cost-effective. I had to pay only Rs 400 per acre as diesel cost and the baler owner gave me the cutter to chop

the standing crop. The owner then came with the baler and rake and collected it all for free," he said.

This season, Punjab's most sought-after machine for managing stubble is the 'baler', which has been in the field for over a decade now. However, in five years, the Punjab government could distribute only 1,268 small balers on (50 per cent) subsidy, with majority

of the machines given out this year. In addition, there are around 600-700 private balers available.

With a focus on ex-situ measures, Punjab this year initially proposed to distribute 1,850 baler machines only to come down to an assured number of 1,300. However, even after this, the state could give only 500 balers so far this year. The slow distribution of this most sought-after machine coupled with Punjab's area under paddy accentuates the problem.

Putting numbers in perspective, Punjab grows paddy on 32 lakh hectares, including 5.96 lakh hectares under Basmati, and generates 22 million tonnes of stubble. The 2,000 available baler machines can only cover 15% of the total area under paddy or 3.3 million tonnes of stubble, thus leaving farmers, with just two options – either join the unending wait for a baler machine or set their fields on fire. With wheat sowing starting from November 1 and continuing till November 15, the most viable option for them is to burn stubble.

Action after SC rap: Farm fires drop by 68% in 24 hrs

JAGDEEP SINGH DEEP
MOHALI, NOVEMBER 9

A CRACKDOWN by the police and civil administration on farmers indulging in paddy stubble burning has started yielding results in Punjab with the state Thursday recording 639 farm fires, a sharp 68 per cent decline from 2,003 reported a day earlier. The state had recorded 3,230, 2,060, and 1,515 farm fires on November 5, 6, and 7, respectively. Issuing directions to ensure stopping of crop residue burning "forthwith", the Supreme Court on Tuesday had made the local station house officers (SHOs) concerned, under the overall supervision of the chief secretary, responsible for stopping farm fires. Following the SC directions, which came amid a spike in pollution levels in Delhi-NCR, the Punjab Police chief Wednesday directed



A labourer burns paddy stubble near Patiala on Thursday. Harmeeet Sodhi

his officers to work in tandem with the civil administration to prevent stubble burning.

Police Thursday registered 251 FIRs under Section 188 (disobedience to order promulgated by a public servant) of the IPC against farmers for burning paddy straw, a senior official said. During the crackdown, a fine of Rs 88.23 lakh was imposed on erring farmers.

Centre clears senior advocate's name as Gauhati HC judge

APURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

TWO DAYS after the Gauhati High Court deferred the swearing-in ceremony of senior advocate Kaushik Goswami as a judge, the Centre on Thursday cleared the name of senior advocate UK Nair for appointment as the HC judge.

"In exercise of the power conferred by clause (1) of Article 224 of the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint Shri N Unni Krishnan Nair to be an Additional Judge of the Gauhati High Court, for a period of two years with effect from the date he assumes charge of his office," the gazette notification dated November 9 read.

The Gauhati HC had on Tuesday issued a public notice deferring the oath ceremony of Goswami. Both Nair and Goswami were recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium on October 17. While the resolution placed Nair's name first, the government only cleared Goswami's name. This meant that Nair, even if appointed later, would be lower in order of seniority to Goswami.

It is learnt that the HC Collegium wanted to ensure that Nair, who is six years older to Goswami, would not end up being

EXPLAINED Elevation concerns

THE SC has in the past expressed concerns over the government "selectively picking" names from those recommended by its Collegium for elevation as High Court judges. While this affects seniority on the bench, there is a view in the judiciary that it disincentivises advocates from consenting to become judges when they cannot predict their career trajectory.

ing junior to him on the bench. Both Nair and Goswami are Gauhati-based senior advocates. "It would have sent a wrong message to the Bar. Nair is senior and his family has lived in Assam for two generations now," a source said.

The High Court has now scheduled a fresh swearing-in ceremony at 10 am on Friday. With Gauhati HC Chief Justice Sandeep Mehta sworn in as judge of the Supreme Court, Justice Lanusungum Jamir, the Acting Chief Justice, will administer the oath for both judges.

Karnataka's Ist: Minor boy, his father booked for 'converting' classmate

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 9

IN A first, a minor boy has been booked under the Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Act 2022, popularly known as the anti-conversion law, for allegedly converting his classmate to Islam.

The minor was booked along with his father in Parashurampura in Chitradurga district, 236 km from Bengaluru, on a complaint lodged on October 29 by the father of a minor boy who belongs to the Kuruba community. Both the boys are 17 years old.

According to the complainant, he got suspicious about the behaviour of his son, a pre-university college student in Challakere taluk, after he stopped performing pooja and worshipping Hindu deities. The boy recently refused to participate in the Dasara celebrations, the complaint further said.

"Upon checking his bag, I found photos of my son performing namaz as well as skull caps in it. When I inquired, I found that the minor and his father had taken my son to mosques in various towns of Chitradurga and converted him to Islam. Also, when I checked his bag, I got some written materials pertaining to Islam. When I checked his mobile phone, I found some conversations related to drugs and ganja," the father said in his complaint.

A police officer said the accused minor boy's father owns a cycle repair shop and was friends with the other family. No one has been arrested. The case has been registered under the 2022 Act's section 5. Chitradurga SP Dharmendra Kumar Meena told reporters, "We are collecting details both from the victim and accused as part of the probe."



BSF personnel carry the mortal remains of head constable Lal Fam Kima at the force's Paloura Camp in Jammu on Thursday. PTI

BSF head constable killed in firing by Pak Rangers in Samba

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, NOVEMBER 9

A BORDER Security Force (BSF) head constable was killed in unprovoked firing by Pakistan Rangers along the International Border in the Ramgarh area of Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district in the early hours of Thursday.

The BSF said in a statement that its troops had "befittingly responded" to the firing. The dead head constable was identified as Lal Fam Kima, who was from Aizawl in Mizoram.

According to sources, the Pakistan Rangers at Ashraf Post started firing at the BSF's Narayanpur border outpost around 12.20 am. Head Constable Lal Fam Kima was injured in the shooting, and was taken to the Government Medical College Hospital in



Lal Fam Kima

Jammu, where he succumbed to his injuries. Senior officials from the BSF and the civil administration visited the area to ascertain the situation.

J&K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha paid tribute to Head Constable Lal Fam Kima, saying that his valour would never be forgotten by the nation.

"Such incidents of ceasefire violations and cross-border infiltration, sometimes done with drones and with firing, are violations of bilateral agreements and we always raise and take up these matters with Pakistan," external affairs ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi

said Thursday. "The BSF has raised the recent incidents that have occurred during flag meetings. We have also put this issue before them through diplomatic channels," he said.

The latest firing along the International Border came after a lull of 12 days.

In February 2021, India and Pakistan had agreed to maintain a ceasefire along the border. However, there have been several incidents of unprovoked firing by the Rangers towards the Indian side since last month. Residents of villages near the border have said the resumption of firing from the Pakistani side has created an atmosphere of fear. In the last firing instance before Thursday, two BSF personnel were injured in heavy firing and shelling by the Rangers on October 28.

IIT-BHU STUDENT COMPLAINT

Gangrape charge added in FIR after fresh statement

ASAD REHMAN
LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 9

A WEEK after a woman student was allegedly molested and disrobed on the IIT-BHU campus in Varanasi, police on Thursday said they have added gangrape charge among others in the FIR after she recorded a fresh statement.

The student had earlier alleged that three unidentified men, who came on a motorcycle, forcibly kissed her and recorded a video of her after taking her clothes off. The incident took place late on November 1, and the next day, hundreds of students gathered at the institute director's office demanding better security on campus.

"Based on the fresh statement of the victim, the following IPC sections have been added – 376-D (gangrape), 341 (wrongful restraint), 342 (wrongful confinement), 507 (criminal intimidation) by an anonymous communication), and 509 (criminal intimidation) by an anonymous communication," a police officer told The Indian Express on Thursday.

The initial First Information Report (FIR), registered against unidentified men on November 2, had IPC sections 354-B (assault or use of criminal force to woman with intent to disrobe) and 506 (criminal intimidation), and under the provision of the Information Technology (IT) Act.

So far, no one has been arrested in the case. "I can't give more details of an ongoing investigation. We will share more details once we arrest the accused," Varanasi Assistant

Commissioner of Police (Bhelupur) Praveen Kumar Singh said, adding five teams are involved in trying to arrest the accused.

In her police complaint filed on November 2, the woman student had said: "I am a resident of a hostel at IIT-BHU. On November 2, around 1.30 am, I left my hostel for a walk. I met a male friend... We were walking together when... a motorcycle with three men approached us from behind. They parked their motorcycle there and separated my friend and me."

"They shut my mouth tightly and took me to a corner, kissed me forcibly, took off my clothes, and recorded photos and videos. When I shouted for help, they threatened to kill me. They let me go after 10-15 minutes. When I ran towards my hostel, I heard the sound of the motorcycle. Then, I hid at the residence of a professor, who took me to the security officials," she had said.

Meanwhile, the protest by students was put on hold on Thursday evening after the university assured students that it would take steps to enhance security.

Earlier, The Indian Express reported that two days before the woman student was molested, another student faced a similar ordeal. This incident took place on the night of October 30, and the Proctor's office was informed about it. The institute's Dean had confirmed to The Indian Express that a complaint regarding the October 30 incident was received by the Proctor's office and that action was being taken.

NEET-PG 2024 ON MARCH 3

NEET-PG, not NExT, for entrance into PG medical education

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

STUDENTS WHO want to pursue post graduate medical education next year will have to qualify the NEET-PG examination and not the new National Exit Test (NExT) that has been in the works, according to a tentative schedule released by the National Board of Examination on Thursday. NEET-PG 2024 will take place on March 3, the schedule said.

This might come as a relief to many students who have been dreading the new format of the examination.

NExT will be a common examination for completing MBBS, grant of medical licences and entering PG courses as a way to ensure uniform quality of medical education across the country with a focus on practical training. It will be conducted in two parts – the multiple choice part I will be conducted after MBBS

course has been completed and the practical part II, after the students have completed their mandatory one-year internship.

While NExT is mandated under the National Medical Commission Act, the government deferred it "till further directions" earlier this year. However, there were indications from the health minister and the union health ministry that the examination may likely happen in 2024. In fact, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences had also prepared to conduct a mock test to prepare students in the new format. Sources said the new format is likely to come into force only after the current general elections.

"There was a need to defer the new examination. This is because there are several issues that remain like, who will conduct the examination, what kinds of questions will they ask," said Dr Rohan Krishnan, chairman, Federation of All India Medical Association (FAIMA).

'We are devastated': Family of Telangana student who died in US after gym stabbing

REENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, NOVEMBER 9

THE FAMILY of 24-year-old Varun Raj Pucha from Telangana, who died in the US on Wednesday after being stabbed days earlier, said they were struggling to understand why he was attacked, and described the incident as "beyond imagination".

Varun, who is from Khammam, had gone to the US state of Indiana last August after joining a Master's programme in Computer Science at Valparaiso University. He was stabbed in the head at a gym on October 29 by a man identified as 24-year-old Jordan Andrade. Local authorities are still investigating the motive behind the attack.

Speaking to The Indian Express, Varun's father Rama Murthy said: "I struggled a lot to provide good education to Varun and his sister. I sent him to the US hoping that a Master's degree will help him get a good job. What has happened to him is beyond imagination. We are heartbroken and devastated."

Murthy worked as a school teacher in Mahabubabad district. Describing his son as fun loving and sociable, he said the family was struggling to understand



Varun Raj Pucha. File

stand why he was attacked. "At first, we could not even comprehend what had happened. He would not say anything bad or harm anyone. It is so horrifying for the family," Murthy said.

Varun's assailant was arrested after the stabbing, and is facing charges of aggravated battery with a deadly weapon and attempted murder.

On Wednesday, in a tweet, Valparaiso University said, "Our campus community has lost one of its own, and our thoughts and prayers go out to Varun's family and friends as we mourn this devastating loss." The university said it would "continue to offer assistance and support wherever possible as they navigate this extremely difficult time". A service of remembrance and memorial for Varun is being planned for November 16, the university said. A friend of the family, Kumar Swamy, said the Indiana police and the university were keeping the family constantly updated.

'We cannot survive at this salary': Anger from women working on Dial 112 helpline spills to streets in Lucknow

ASAD REHMAN
LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 9

JOB SECURITY and better pay. With these two demands, hundreds of women who work the phones for the Dial 112 emergency helpline in Lucknow have been protesting for the last four days – with little intention of backing down. Donning their purple and mustard uniform, the women, employed as communication officers, have been sitting in protest at Lucknow's Eco Garden. They say that they were assaulted by the police earlier this week, when they started marching peacefully to the Chief Minister's residence.

Speaking to The Indian Express on Thursday, Priya Tewari (26), an MSc holder in Mathematics from Purvanchal University, said: "We have been

working at the same salary of Rs 11,400 for five years. We demand that our salaries be increased to Rs 18,000. When we started the protest, officials at our office shut outside access and even locked the toilets, saying we should protest without such facilities."

Tewari, who is from Azamgarh, is the sole breadwinner for her family of four. "I have to send money home, and live here on rent. My two younger sisters, aged 22 and 16, depend on my salary for their school and college fees."

The workers, during their nine-hour shifts, handle distress calls from across Uttar Pradesh. Their job entails getting details of the emergency – from road accidents to crimes against women to harassment – and relaying that information to Dial 112 vehicles with police personnel posted at different locations



Women employed at Dial 112 helpline protest at Eco Garden in Lucknow on Thursday. Vishal Srivastava

across the state. On an average, a Communication Officer handles around 600 calls a day. During festivals, the frequency increases. The state has around 850 such employees, including 750 in Lucknow, 50 in Prayagraj

and 50 in Ghaziabad. "The contract company which had the tender for our jobs changed this month. The new private company didn't clarify if our jobs were secure. Plus, they said our salary will re-

main the same," she said. Another Communication Officer, Neha Pal (25), from Rae Bareilly district, has a Masters in Economics from Feroze Gandhi College. She said the Rs 11,400 doesn't last more than 15 days.

"I have been working here for four years at the same salary. I also have to send money for my mother's treatment. I have to pay Rs 3,500 for just a single room," she said. "We have to go hungry on multiple nights."

Rinki Yadav (26) suffered injuries on her left leg during the alleged lathi charge on the protesting women on Tuesday. With a bandage on her leg, she sat at the protest site and said, "Police personnel hit me on the leg and hands. I have multiple injuries. This happened on Monday." DCP (Lucknow) Vineet Jaiswal, however, said no force

was used on the protesters. On Wednesday, Lucknow Police had registered an FIR against the protesting women on charges of rioting. On Tuesday, when the women were marching to the Chief Minister's residence, police dispersed them, saying orders under section 144 of the CrPC were in place in the state capital.

The FIR on Wednesday was lodged against five named and 150 unidentified women.

Contacted by The Indian Express on Thursday, SP (Dial 112) Sushil Kumar Shukla said that a discussion with the protesting workers was held on Wednesday evening. "Some issues were being resolved but no conclusion could be reached," said Shukla. Opposition parties, including the SP and RLD, have extended support to the protest.



WORDLY WISE
WE ARE AN IMPOSSIBILITY IN AN IMPOSSIBLE UNIVERSE.
—RAY BRADBURY

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY
RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

India, US and the AI bridge

Prospect of Beijing's dominance in AI use for economic, military purposes will be centre stage at 2+2 dialogue



RAJA MANDALA
C RAJA MOHAN

SHADOWS OF RISK

India Finance Report on health of non-banking financial companies warns against repeating past mistakes

THE FIRST EDITION of the India Finance Report published by the Centre for Advanced Financial Research and Learning (CAFRAL), an independent body set up by the Reserve Bank of India, has taken stock of India's non-bank financial companies sector — commonly called the shadow banking sector — and pointed out both the ongoing improvements and emerging risks. On the positive side, the CAFRAL report finds that after the liquidity crisis of 2018 and the Covid pandemic, the NBFC sector has improved, along all dimensions — capital position, asset quality, and profitability. For instance, as against the stipulated norm of 15 per cent of the capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR), in 2022-23, NBFCs witnessed a notable improvement with the CRAR rising to 27.6 per cent from 22.9 per cent in 2019-2020. Similarly, gross and net non-performing asset (NPA) ratios continue trending downwards.

However, the study also points to some new risks. It notes that in the past few years, bank financing for NBFCs has begun to rise again. "This raises concerns about systemic contagion and underscores the need for tighter preventive measures to mitigate potential systemic fallout". Explaining the notion of systemic risks when several key parameters look benign, the CAFRAL report states: "Although current ratios post-2017 show lower liquidity risk, they are not a good gauge for systemic risk — the risk which arises due to externalities that individual firms do not take into account in their decision-making process, and an unravelling of which can have deleterious effects on the real economy." It underlines that systemic risks build up in periods of tranquil financial conditions due to increased risk-taking, and tend to aggravate the effect of a shock through negative spillovers such as fire sales across firms during a crisis.

There are two reasons both the RBI and the government should take this report's findings seriously. One, the global, as well as the Indian, economy has just witnessed two periods of stark contrast in terms of monetary policy. First, there was an extremely loose monetary policy, aimed at protecting economic growth and businesses during the pandemic. This was immediately followed by an equally sharp contraction in monetary stance following the sudden and sharp rise in inflation. The back-to-back monetary shocks are catching businesses off-guard. Two, the events of the past 15 years have shown that the health of India's NBFC sector is crucial to sustaining India's economic growth, especially through millions of MSMEs. In the decade after the Global Financial Crisis of 2008, the NBFCs acted like shock absorbers to the Indian economy — providing credit when formal banks were struggling with NPAs. Regulators must ensure that past mistakes are not repeated.

AS THE FOREIGN and defence ministers of India and the US gather in Delhi this week to review and advance the defence and security partnership, cooperation in artificial intelligence ought to loom large in the discussion. Two developments last week underline the urgency for an intensified and comprehensive India-US discussion on AI. One is the Executive Order on AI issued by President Joe Biden, and the other is the release of the Pentagon's updated strategy for AI adoption by the US armed forces.

While Biden's Executive Order deals with securing the use of AI in various civilian uses, the Pentagon strategy highlights the importance of integrating the rapid developments of AI into military doctrine and operations. The two initiatives deal with a fundamental tension between the simultaneous need to stay on top of a technology that could significantly alter the global power structure and prevent the dangers of this technology from spinning out of control. AI is not the first technology to present this kind of tension. Its potential for misuse and social consequences are far more sweeping.

The two initiatives also underline the central geopolitical faultline in the world today — the deepening rivalry between the US and China. The prospect of Beijing getting ahead in using AI for economic and military purposes is of deep concern to both the US and India. Biden's Executive Order seeks to establish "new standards for safety and security, protects Americans' privacy, advances equity and civil rights, stands up for consumers and workers, promotes innovation and competition, advances American leadership around the world". While the Order covers a wide ground, it does not refer to defence. That link was provided a couple of days later by a senior official of the Pentagon who unveiled an outline of the US strategy to integrate AI into its armed forces.

Kathleen Hicks, US Deputy Secretary of Defence, reminded the world that the Pentagon is not new to AI and has been among the earliest funders of AI research and has de-

veloped military uses for AI over the last six decades. The last few years have seen an intensification of the US investments in AI for defence. The main objective in developing AI for defence, according to Hicks, is to build on the "decision advantage" that it offers the US armed forces. "From the standpoint of deterring and defending against aggression, AI-enabled systems can help accelerate the speed of commanders' decisions and improve the quality and accuracy of those decisions — which can be decisive in deterring a fight, and in winning a fight", Hicks said. As the US embeds "AI in many aspects of our mission — from battlespace awareness, cyber, and reconnaissance, to logistics, force support, and other back office functions", Hicks said, "We are mindful of AI's potential dangers, and determined to avoid them".

Meanwhile, China has been talking about deploying AI to develop an "intelligentized" military (moving beyond the goal of "informatization" proclaimed two decades ago) as part of its ambition to make PLA a world-class armed force in the next two decades. China has made major strides in the development and adoption of AI by both its industry and military. The capacity of the Chinese state to drive resources into specific sectors and its "civil-military fusion" has given many advantages to Beijing in the AI race.

That brings us back to the India-US engagement and the fifth round of the 2+2 dialogue in Delhi this week. Four imperatives stand out.

First, advanced technology cooperation has been put at the very heart of the India-US partnership with the launch of the Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies in January this year. Expanding cooperation in AI figured in the joint statement issued by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joe Biden in Washington in June. However, the development and adoption of AI have advanced at a rapid clip since then, and the four ministers need to bring the India-US cooperation up to speed.

Second, the foreign and defence minis-

ters of the two countries should also elevate cooperation in AI to a higher level in the bilateral defence partnership. As India and the US seek to build a stable balance of power system in the Indo-Pacific, AI will acquire an ever larger role in their respective national defence strategies. Both countries are looking to AI to redress their growing vulnerabilities vis a vis the growing size and sophistication of China's military power.

The bilateral defence innovation bridge announced during PM Modi's visit to Washington in June has begun to produce results. Two weeks ago, the US Space Force signed R&D agreements with two Indian startups. This is the first time the US armed forces have offered research contracts to foreign entities. One of them, I14AI, is developing AI for space domain awareness. We are hopefully at the very beginning of a productive India-US defence partnership in AI.

Third, the biggest constraint on the US need to accelerate AI development is the shortage of scientists, technologists and engineers. India has a natural talent pool to meet this demand. While India must invest in expanding the quality and quantity of its AI talent, the US can provide solid support — through collaborations in education, research, and training. The framework for such cooperation already exists under the iCET, and it needs to be expanded and intensified in the AI domain.

Fourth, one of the essential features of the Biden Executive Order and the Pentagon strategy is the emphasis on the "responsible" development and use of AI. The range of issues covered under the two documents are also relevant for the Indian economy, society, democracy, and defence. India-US collaboration on promoting sensible domestic and global governance of AI is critical for separating the use and abuse of this powerful technology that is evolving at a rapid pace.

The writer is a senior fellow at the Asia Society Policy Institute and a contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express

A FIGHT TO THE END

WHO report shows India has made improvements, but could miss its 2035 target to eliminate the disease

MORE THAN A fourth of the world's TB patients live in India, according to the WHO report released on Tuesday. The country recorded a staggering 28 lakh cases in 2022. Nevertheless, the report finds cause for optimism in the reduction in TB mortality and incidence in the past eight years. It also acknowledges the improvements made by the country's case detection system — remaining undiagnosed doesn't just delay treatment for those with bacterial disease but also puts their contacts at risk of infection. The positive score on TB reporting is reassuring, given that surveillance programmes had taken a hit during the Covid years — case detection levels have rebounded to 2019 levels. However, the global health agency has also put in a caveat — it has not ruled out the possibility of several "new cases" being actually undiagnosed patients from the pandemic years.

Medically, the greatest challenge is posed by the multi-drug resistant (MDR) variant of the disease. The WHO estimates that 1,19,000 new cases of this extremely virulent variety of TB emerge in India each year. However, the Indian TB programme manages to report a little over half of this. A growing body of scholarship testifies that inappropriate prescription, wrong dosage, poor quality of drugs and failure to complete the medications have precipitated India's MDR TB epidemic. In recent times, experts have advocated the use of molecular diagnostics to treat contagious diseases such as TB. These tests were extensively used for Covid detection and they can be repurposed for TB diagnostics. The WHO, too, recommends molecular tests. However, the latest India-TB report shows that the traditional sputum smear test continues to be the predominant testing method in most parts of the country. Microscopy can at best detect half of MDR TB cases — that explains the high percentage of patients falling under the radar in the country.

TB treatment is demanding on patients, their caregivers and physicians. The medication takes its toll on the already weak patient, with effects ranging from nausea and loss of appetite to jaundice. Treatment requires an assuring and caring physician to handhold the patient through the difficult period of therapy — a relative rarity in India's healthcare system. That's one reason that less than 68 per cent of MDR TB patients who began treatment in 2020 completed it a year later. Moreover, last year, less than 50 per cent of drug-resistant TB patients were put on bedaquiline, the shorter-duration drug recommended by the WHO since 2019. By all accounts, the country will miss its target of eliminating TB by 2035. Policymakers must take their cues from recent reports, including WHO's study.



SAKSHI JAIN

MONITOR WITH A PROBLEM

GPS trackers on UAPA-accused don't address fundamental issues, carry risks

ON NOVEMBER 5, a Special Court in Jammu granted bail to Ghulam Mohd Bhat who has been accused of terror financing under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, 1967 on the condition that Bhat wears a GPS tracker around his ankle. With this order, the Jammu and Kashmir police became the first in the country to deploy a GPS-enabled, wearable tracking device to monitor and record the movement of an accused released on bail.

While the unprecedented nature of the bail condition has resulted in significant reporting on the case, there has been little discussion on the reliability of the technology in use. The experience of other jurisdictions with the GPS tracker shows that the technology is prone to errors. In fact, its faulty nature can result in unintended consequences for accused persons. Besides, it would be highly imprudent to assume that the police in India are well-equipped to use this technology to monitor and track those out on bail.

Conditions imposed for bail usually are meant to ensure that those released refrain from contacting victims or witnesses, tamper or manipulate evidence or commit any further crimes. As such, conditions often require them to stay in a certain geographic area or prohibit them from leaving the jurisdiction of the court without permission. Tracking movements, thus, is useful in checking compliance with such conditions and ostensibly GPS-enabled trackers are a crucial tool in doing so.

However, in reality, research on the use of GPS trackers in other countries reveals serious limitations with the technology itself. An unobstructed view of the sky to connect with

satellites and the availability of a good cellular network are essential for the smooth functioning of the GPS tracker. These requirements mean that bigger cities are better placed to provide ideal conditions for GPS to give the best results. In fact, despite the presence of these conditions, the GPS may fail to position accurately. Buildings, foliage, and weather conditions can lead to a poor quality of signals. The device cannot maintain a continuous signal in the absence of ideal conditions. There may also be issues with accuracy when the device is exposed to water or is static for a long period. Reliance on GPS tracking thus assumes the existence of optimal conditions at most, if not at all times. Needless to say, this would be difficult in the Indian context.

Empirical research conducted by the University of Chicago shows that ankle monitors are highly prone to false alarms due to poor signal. Owing to such issues, police personnel in charge of monitoring alerts, struggle to determine which alerts are genuine, even in jurisdictions like the US where such technology has been used for decades. Monitoring systems, and deployment of officials dedicated to tracking the movement of individuals, who have been provided the required training to understand how these devices work is essential before the use of GPS tracking can even be considered in the Indian criminal justice system.

Like any other device, these GPS trackers are also dependent on batteries and can malfunction or discharge. Hence, the technology is not only inaccurate but also unreliable; and can often lead to serious ramifications for the

accused. One such instance where the failure of technology led to severe consequences for the accused, despite no fault of his own is the case of Kevin Jones. Jones was arrested by the police in Oakland County, Michigan (the US) for violating conditions of his release on probation — because the battery of his "tether", the GPS-enabled device used to track him, malfunctioned when he was asleep.

Research and experience with GPS-enabled tracking from across the world present a tale of caution for reliance on this technology. These concerns are exemplified in the context of the Indian criminal justice system where there is little critical thinking and conversation on lapses in technology. Whether it is the appreciation of forensic evidence in courts, or the usage of GPS-enabled devices for monitoring accused persons, technology is perceived to be error-free and objective by stakeholders in the criminal justice system.

Given such attitudes, it is not surprising that GPS-enabled trackers have been readily adopted in the administration of criminal justice without due diligence. However, it is important that we take a step back and confront the questions about the validity and reliability of this technology, as well as the capacity of our law enforcement personnel to use it. Moving ahead with the use of GPS trackers without addressing these fundamental issues carries serious risks for the fair trial rights of accused persons.

The writer is with Project 39A, NLU, Delhi. Views are personal. Nadia Shalin provided research assistance

A LIGHT IN THE SKY

Images shot by ESA's Euclid mission show the potential of darkness illuminated

THE HORSEHEAD NEBULA looks like a wispy watercolour of a majestic sea horse rearing its head out of a swirling sea; the gleam of a thousand galaxies in the Perseus Cluster bursts out in pinpricks of light against a dark background, the montage made complete by a backdrop of more such glittering galaxies, all located light years away. These are only two of several spectacular, razor-sharp images captured by Euclid, a wide-angle telescope with a 600-megapixel camera, a near-infrared spectrometer, and a photometer, that was launched by the European Space Association (ESA) in July this year. Its purpose: To create a 3D map of the universe, the first of its kind.

The structure of galaxies, and by extension, of the universe, is dependent on the interplay of dark matter and dark energy. While the former is a major component of galaxies, the latter is the enigmatic driving force behind the universe's accelerated expansion. NASA estimates dark energy at 68 per cent of the universe and dark matter at about 27 per cent. Like NASA's James Webb Space telescope, ESA's six-year Euclid mission, too, is geared to ferret into the mysteries of cosmic evolution, in particular into the expansion of the universe and the cohering forces that give it structure and form. The images are the first step towards creating a map of the origin story of the dark universe through observation of galaxies across a vast stretch of the sky.

The mysteries of the cosmos have sparked human curiosity, driving research to unearth the secrets it has held close for light years. In recent years, the study of astronomy has made remarkable strides. Even then, decoding dark matter and dark energy — their composition and their magnetic hold over the working of the cosmos — has been one of the major challenges facing astronomers. What these images have given a glimpse of are the ways that the horizons of human endeavour can be expanded by darkness illuminated.



NOVEMBER 10, 1983, FORTY YEARS AGO

WARNING FOR INDIA

PRIME MINISTER INDIRA Gandhi warned people against the danger of war looming large on India's borders. She said "dangerous reports" from across the border aroused the suspicion that some plan was being contemplated against the country. Without naming the neighbouring country, the PM accused its leaders of unleashing false propaganda that India was interfering in their internal affairs.

NO TRUCE FOR PLO

AN AGREED TRUCE between Syrian-backed rebels and the forces of PLO leader Yasser

Arafat in northern Lebanon crumbled even before it began with both sides continuing fierce clashes. The state-controlled service said the ceasefire deadline, which it reported at 4 pm (IST), passed unobserved as rebel guerrillas kept up their onslaught.

PALESTINE MUST UNITE

INDIA CALLED FOR unity among the Palestinian people and said that any division in their ranks would only give comfort to their enemies. Expressing deep concern at the fighting in the Palestinian Liberation Organisation, the spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said it was imperative for the

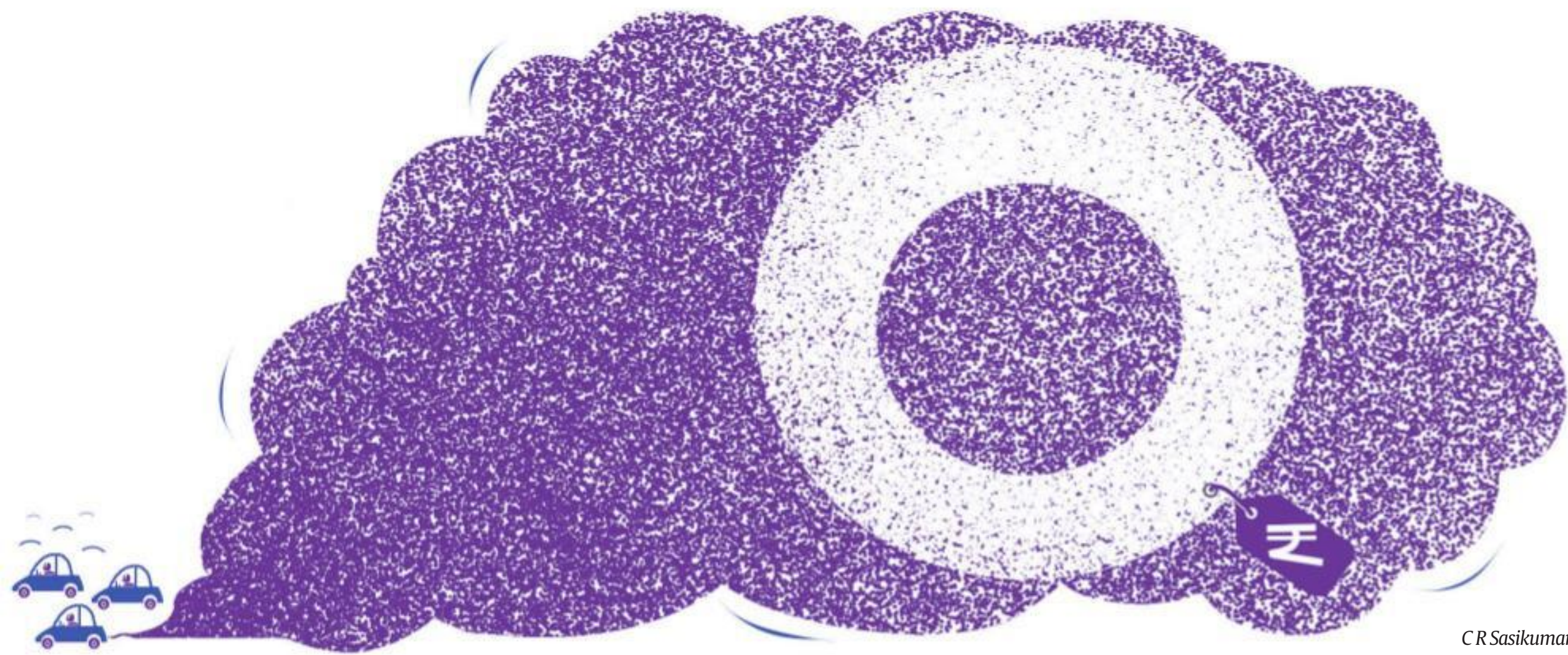
Palestinian liberation movement to remain united so that they could devote all their efforts and energies towards the attainment of their cherished goals.

PUNJAB ROBBERY

BANK ROBBERS STRUCK in Chandigarh and Amritsar, looting over Rs 3.5 lakh from two branches of the State Bank of India and the Punjab and Sindh Bank. Three persons armed with revolvers came in a cream-coloured Ambassador and took over Rs 3 lakh from the Sector 47 branch of the State Bank. This is the biggest robbery in the region after Punjab and Chandigarh were declared disturbed areas.

DIS/AGREE
THE BEST OF BOTH SIDES

A fortnightly column, which offers not this-versus-that, but the best of both sides, to inform the debate



CR Sasikumar

The odd-even scheme is being considered to address the Capital's seasonal pollution crisis. Is it just the government's responsibility to address the environmental, public health challenge?

People must drive the change

Unless the demand for personal vehicles comes down, any action to clean the air will be inadequate



ANUMITA ROYCHOWDHURY

AS A SEVERE smog episode persists in Delhi and the National Capital Region, emergency action has been taken to not only restrict construction activities, waste burning, diesel generator sets, and industrial sources but also to restrain vehicle usage.

This time too, in addition to restricting trucks, all Bharat Stage III (BSIII) vehicles and BSIV diesel vehicles have been taken off the road. Further restraints are proposed on the use of personal cars with a temporary odd-and-even scheme to regulate daily movement based on licence plate numbers. Such emergency measures are restrictive, but are needed to slow down the peaking of pollution and prevent a further dip in air quality.

Yet, year after year, efforts to restrain vehicles provoke the sharpest public criticism. This is because of the crippling mobility crisis in the city. When faced with such measures, the gut reaction is to underplay the role of vehicles in the city's air pollution.

Official emissions inventories of 2018 show that vehicles emit about 40 per cent of the particulate load in the city. The Decision Support System of the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology in Pune, which continuously estimates the relative contribution of sources to particulate concentration every hour, finds that vehicles can contribute more than half of the pollution among local sources; they can also be the second- or third-highest contributor if local and external sources of pollution are combined.

Despite this evidence and knowledge, mitigation of vehicular emissions remains difficult.

In the long-drawn pollution battle in the city, vehicles have always been the key target of action. Following a series of Supreme Court directives, Delhi has successfully reduced toxic diesel emissions over time by restricting truck entry and imposing a pollution charge on trucks, big diesel cars and SUVs and on diesel fuel, while leapfrogging to BSVI emission standards in 2020. The overall share of diesel car registration has dropped from more than 35 per cent in 2014-15 to 7.5 per cent in 2022-23.

To add to this, the entire public transport and local commercial transport systems have been moved to compressed natural gas. Fleet electrification is also underway. This transition has successfully reduced transport diesel consumption by 46 per cent in the city between 2014 and 2022.

Yet, emission improvement per unit of vehicle due to these advancements has been undercut by the cumulative emissions from explosive vehicle numbers and congestion.

Even after phasing out older vehicles, the

number of on-road vehicles is more than 80 lakh. Two-wheelers are 60 per cent of the fleet, but growth in car numbers remained bullish even during the pandemic, with a strong recovery at 47 per cent during 2022-23. With a staggering 280 lakh daily trips expected to be generated in the city, Delhi could collapse if a sizable shift to cars occurs without adequate public transportation.

Personal automobile dependence has to be reduced; public transport needs to be augmented. The Delhi Master Plan target of 80 per cent of motorised trips by public transport by 2020 has not been met yet. The deadline has been shifted to 2041.

Ironically, despite the increase in demand and growth in bus numbers to 7,041, against the Supreme Court-mandated 10,000 buses, the number of passengers carried per bus daily has dropped by an average of 48 per cent since 2017-18, as per the Delhi Economic Survey, 2022-23.

While passenger numbers are down, the distance completed by buses each day has increased, leading to more empty kilometres. The Metro is gaining its pre-pandemic ridership now.

Even though improvements are underway with the expansion of the electric bus fleet, revamping of bus infrastructure, route rationalisation, the One Delhi App, universal journey planner, real-time arrival information bus stops etc, these are not adding up for scalability.

While more efforts are needed to make integrated public transport convenient, accessible and affordable for all, they won't be adequate without strategies to simultaneously restrain personal vehicle usage.

Largely free and uncontrolled parking and the absence of effective taxes on car usage and congestion pricing make personal vehicles comparatively cheaper to operate. This acts as a hidden subsidy for cars, while the journey costs of using public transport interchanges can be more expensive.

Currently, the only available legal restraint measure for car usage is the notified parking rules requiring ward-wise parking management area plans and variable pricing. But these have not been implemented, having faced strong opposition despite the successful implementation of three pilots directed by the Supreme Court and subsequent directives for their city-wide implementation in 2019.

The political will to tame the car has to get stronger to ensure a substantial shift to public transport. It is possible. About 60 per cent of Delhi's urban area will be within a 15-minute walking distance from metro stations and about 80 per cent of Delhi residents will be within 400 metres of some metro station once the entire network is in place. Scalable integrated public transport services, feeders, a dense street network for walking and cycling, and more housing closer to the transit nodes can make a difference.

But any scale of change will never be enough unless the demand for car usage is reduced with effective action.

The writer is executive director, Research and Advocacy, Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), New Delhi



ARUNABHA GHOSH

WHEN IT COMES to air quality, experts can tell us what to do but society needs a consensus on why to act. Each year, air pollution gets attention during the winter months. But it is evident that it is a problem all year round. Episodic attention — not just from authorities but also citizens — results in responsibilities shifting across seasons and sectors. When air quality becomes severe, we need emergency measures. But when a patient leaves the ICU, it doesn't mean that they can leave the hospital.

India needs a different theory of change to deal with air pollution. Go from understanding it as a liability to valuing clean air as an asset. This depends on five shifts.

First, from blaming the other to collective responsibility. When the Covid pandemic hit, everyone, from institutions to companies, had to act in sync and follow common rules. Cleaning the air needs similar scale and coordination. On the governance level, India needs a nodal authority with constitutional powers to ensure collaborative pre-emptive action on air pollution with timelines for all stakeholders. This is the bare minimum to ensure accountability and coordination across tiers of government.

The Confederation of Indian Industry (along with Dalberg Advisors) estimates that air pollution costs Indian businesses \$95 billion or 3 per cent of India's GDP every year. This is not just a business loss but an economy-wide tragedy and requires collective effort. Industries need better monitoring and regulatory reforms that apply to all. SEBI's Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR) framework can lay down tighter guidelines to ensure uniformity in the unit of reporting pollutant emissions, declaration of air pollution mitigation targets (like companies do for carbon emissions), and reporting of disaggregated emissions data. This will ensure that mitigation measures are targeted at the very source of pollution.

Second, from remedial measures to avoiding costs. Pollution costs India significantly — from public health to productivity to GDP. According to World Bank estimates, the global cost of the health damage due to air pollution amounts to \$8.1 trillion a year. Reactionary measures when the air quality slips to "severe" are necessary, but not enough to address the cost of it.

Third, from costs of abatement to investment opportunities by raising sectoral ambitions. Can we think of investing in clean air like we think about the clean energy transition? It's not just about reducing fossil fuels but also focusing on renewables that help businesses, workers, and consumers. India's push for a clean energy transition has al-

ready made it the fourth-largest renewable energy market. Similarly, for greening industries and mobility, the country has launched an ambitious National Green Hydrogen Mission and has bold targets for electric vehicles. Clean power, lower-carbon industry and electric transport is now an investment opportunity worth at least \$500 billion in India this decade alone. Acting on clean air is an additional driver to tap into these chances and shift from blame games to actions that crowd in investments and boost economic growth.

There is a sustainable development dimension to air quality action, such as improving the clean-cooking ecosystem, scaling alternative sources of energy for small businesses, and greening public mobility. For instance, CEEW and its partners have developed a first-of-its-kind furnace that uses piped natural gas to melt brass at 1200°C, giving small artisans an interim solution to substitute for coal.

Fourth, from reactionary to data-driven interventions. Just like in health, the more data you have, the better the diagnosis and more precise the intervention. For example, contrary to the perception of many residents, Delhi's pollution comes not just from stubble burning but for much of the year from transportation, construction activities and waste burning. Government actions have a higher chance of efficacy when backed by comprehensive yet location-specific data.

To do this, India needs better emissions monitoring and updated inventories. CEEW analysis of air pollution forecasting models reveals that while they capture pollution trends, their precision in predicting high-pollution episodes remains limited. To enhance these tools, policymakers should collaborate with research organisations to ensure timely information. Here, civil society plays a crucial role too. Citizens' demand for information on air quality throughout the year can push institutions to build better monitoring systems.

Finally, move from air pollution as a liability to clean air as an asset. Clean air is not just an outcome of the actions stated above, but an asset that can drive economic growth. The impacts are clear. The OECD estimates that approximately 1.2 billion workdays are lost globally each year due to air pollution, and this could reach 3.8 billion days by 2060. Studies have found that air pollution also impacts crop harvest, corporate and foreign investment. But different stakeholders need to know why cleaning the air will benefit their livelihoods and businesses. For instance, farmers will not curb stubble burning until a viable circular economy for alternative uses of biomass emerges.

We all agree that air pollution is a problem and know many of the solutions. We also know that there are many more who demand change than step up to lead the change. Changemakers will emerge not just from the technical consensus on the "how" but a social consensus on the "why".

The writer is CEO, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW). Views are personal

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"There are times when a requirement of public safety supersedes the right to protest. There is no evidence that the threshold has been met in this case. A political ban on pro-Palestinian rallies would aggravate divisions that ministers should instead be trying to heal." — THE GUARDIAN

Less welfare, more PR

Union government schemes are more hype than substance and non-BJP-run states have a better scorecard of implementation



ZERO HOUR
BY DEREK O'BRIEN

SINCE CRICKET commentators are allowed to make predictions on television before every match of the World Cup, let's extend that right to an MP-cum-columnist in the buildup to the five assembly elections. At the risk of eating the newspaper this paper is printed on, let me call it — the best-case scenario for the BJP is that they will win only Rajasthan.

The Union government's welfare schemes are often more hype than substance. Slick marketing succeeds in hiding the flaws. Glib speeches at election rallies present these schemes as "gifts" from the supreme captain rather than what they are: repackaged social welfare schemes, copy-pasted from the states or rebranded programmes that predate Narendra Modi at Lok Kalyan Marg.

Let's examine half a dozen of these schemes today. How effective have they been? Did they hit a glorious six? Or have they turned out to be a forgettable over of wides and no balls?

Ayushman Bharat: This massively publicised health insurance scheme made headlines recently, albeit for all the wrong reasons. The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), the supreme audit institution of India, pointed out glaring discrepancies in its latest report. 7.5 lakh beneficiaries were linked with a single cell phone number — 9999999999. Rs 1.1 crore was disbursed to patients who were supposedly deceased. In 2.25 lakh cases, the date of surgery was shown after the date of discharge. Health insurance fraud in the United States and Europe is estimated to be 10 per cent of healthcare spending. In India, that number is estimated to be 35 per cent.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao: Almost 80 per cent of funds spent between 2016 and 2019 under this scheme were used solely for media campaigns and advocacy. The total budget allocation under the scheme has been only Rs 848 crore since its inception, excluding FY 2020. During this period, an amount of Rs 622.48 crore was released to the states. This works out to a measly Rs 3.58 crore per state per year. A study conducted by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) found loopholes in the implementation process and identified structural barriers to girls' entry and retention in schools. It showed that three out of four schools pointed towards the unavailability of clean functional toilets, inability to buy uniforms or books, and lack of safe commuting options as key constraints to the education of girls.

Jal Jeevan Mission: Work regarding the mission's objectives has not even begun in almost one crore households. The govern-

ment claims that 1.68 lakh villages have received access to potable drinking water under this scheme. However, only 58,357 (35 per cent) have been "certified" after the verification by the Gram Panchayat. Even as the deadline of 2024 is months away, only half of the households have been provided with functional household tap connections. As per NSSO, in Uttar Pradesh, 88 per cent of rural households depend on hand pumps for drinking water and only three per cent have piped drinking water sources at home or on their plot.

PM POSHAN: The Union Budget 2023-24 had increased allocation by just one per cent for this social security programme for women and children. PM POSHAN received an outlay of Rs 11,600 crore in 2023. A decrease of nine per cent as compared to the revised estimates of 2022, which was Rs 12,800 crore. NFHS 2019-21 report showed that one out of three children in India, under the age of five years, were stunted or had not achieved the standard height for that age group. India also recorded the highest child wasting (low weight for height) rate in the world. Figures from 2021 indicate that Uttar Pradesh was one of the worst performers in utilising funds allocated for POSHAN. The Ajay Bishet government failed to utilise two-thirds of its funds.

Jan Dhan Yojana and accident insurance: As of 2022, over eight per cent of the Jan Dhan accounts were zero-balance accounts. 18 per cent of the total accounts are either dormant or inoperative. The number of Rupay card-linked accidental insurance claim settlements (linked to Jan Dhan accounts) has decreased from 1853 in 2019 to 188 in 2022. Only 10 per cent of claims were settled in 2022, compared to 2019.

Minority Scholarships: The Maulana Azad Fellowship scheme provided to six notified minority communities, Muslim, Buddhist, Christian, Jain, Parsi and Sikh, to pursue M Phils and PhDs was discontinued in 2022. This deprived thousands of research fellows. In the same year, the "sab ka saath, sab ka vikas" (sic) government stopped, in part, the two-decade-old Begum Hazrat Mahal pre-matric scholarships for minorities, for classes one to eight, retaining them only for classes nine to 12. The government also slashed funding to the 34-year-old Maulana Azad Education Foundation, a non-profit that administers a variety of education and skilling opportunities for "educationally backward" minorities, from Rs 90 crore to Rs 1 lakh. One lakh rupees.

Many states run by non-BJP parties have similar schemes, often started even before the Union government padded up to bat. The welfare programmes launched and implemented by these states have a better scorecard when it comes to outreach and implementation compared with what the Union government has done since 2014. But that will be the commentary for another column. Another innings.

The writer is Member of Parliament and Leader, All India Trinamool Congress Parliamentary Party (Rajya Sabha). Additional research by Anagha Nair, Dheemunt Jain, Ipsa Sindhu

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ROLE OF CENTRE

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The missing bogey' (IE, November 9). It is now customary to blame the local government for the severity of Delhi's winter-time air pollution, even though the UT state has been aggressively battling the monstrous issue from multiple angles; it has been successful in pulling Delhi from the disgrace of the world's most polluted city. The problem of air pollution — a national issue now — needs year-round policy implementation and co-operation among all the government. The Centre, without question, has a larger role to play if the country has to get rid of the menace.

Kamal Laddha, Bengaluru

MIRACLE MAXWELL

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Maxwell's heist' (IE, November 9). The scale of Glen Maxwell's achievement in the first-ever double century in an ODI chase was akin to comic book heroes pulling off impossible deeds. Kapil Dev's 175 not out in the fabled Tunbridge Wells in 1983 was the gold standard for such an innings by an individual making up for his team's mistakes. It bordered on miraculous. The one difference was that Maxwell had to do it in the chase, like climbing Everest on a cramping body, leaden feet and oxygen running out. But that is "Mad Max" for us, attuned to attempting the impossible.

Khokan Das, Kolkata

POLLUTION CONTROL

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Dousing fires' (IE, November 9). The Court and governments have acknowledged that an effective intervention to address the capital's pollution problems requires drawing a variety of real-time links — wind speeds, particulate matter spread from tailpipes, industrial emissions, construction dust and toxins dispersed from other states, like farm fires. The wind speed is variable and not subject to court orders and government actions. But for the rest, there are rules and regulations to control emissions. But we are still unable to control pollution and this reveals the system's failure, which has been responsible for climate change.

LR Murmu, New Delhi

REVDI CULTURE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Sway of populism' (IE, November 9). A welfare state is not fiscally unsustainable. Welfare politics and the empowerment of people are two sides of the same coin. Expenditure on welfare policies will increase the participation of more vulnerable sections of society in the mainstream economy, strengthen the social infrastructure and empower a large section of society in the long term. This will help to create a conducive environment for growth and investment in other sectors of economy. But then again, competitive populism and revdi culture should not be encouraged at the cost of fiscal prudence.

Arvind Waze, Mumbai

Bhartiya Rail Bijlee Company Limited
A Joint Venture of NTPC Limited and Ministry of Railways

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
For Issue of Pond Ash on Free of Cost Basis from Nabnagar Thermal Power Station

EOI No. BRBCL/PA/2023-24/01 Date: 10.11.2023

BRBCL Nabnagar invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from interested Ash Users for issue of Pond Ash to Eligible Projects (as per extant MoEF&CC Notification and policy) 'on free of cost' and 'as is where is' basis from Nabnagar Thermal Power Station, Bhartiya Rail Bijlee Company Limited (A Joint Venture of NTPC Limited and Ministry of Railways), located approximately 2-3 KM from Thana Khairi, Nabnagar Aurangabad, Bihar, 824303. Transportation cost shall be borne by concerned Industry/Users.

How to Apply

Interested parties are requested to submit their requirement(s) in the specified standard format to akh@brbcl.com and praneshkumar@ntpc.co.in from 10:00 hrs of 10.11.2023 to 17:00 hrs. of 14.11.2023. For any clarification, please contact 9412284645.

'General Information', 'Standard format for application' & 'Undertaking & Declaration' for Expression of Interest have been uploaded on www.ntpcetender.ntpc.co.in.

Registered Office: NTPC Bhawan, Scope Complex, 7, Institutional Area, Lodi Road, New Delhi-110003. www.brbccl.com, www.brbccl.co.in, CIN: U40102DL2007GOI170661

Leading the Power Sector

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDERING TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (Traction Distribution) N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following work.

E-Tender No.: JHS-TD-TENDER-2023-20, **Description of Work:** OHE modification work in connection with COP Shed Extension work at Platform No. 1 and Platform No. 02/03 at Bhind station in Gwalior-Bhind Section of Jhansi Division. **Approx Cost (Rs.):** ₹ 2296159.39, **Earnest Money/ Bid Security (Rs.):** ₹ 45900.00, **Date of Closing Tender:** 01.12.2023 15:00 pm, **Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter:** 06 Months.

Tender on line can be submitted up to 15:00 hrs. on 01.12.2023. For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.irops.gov.in.

1807/23(A)

North central railways | www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in | @northcentralrailway | @CPNCR

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI-221004

Bid No.:- E-79/GT/2023-2024 Date: 06.11.2023

CORRIGENDUM

Bid No.:- E-78, Tender No.:- 10231330 Water Pump Repair Kit Part No. 16070124, Revision:- 1, Details of Corrigendum:- The tender quantity has been revised and now the same will be opened on 20/11/2023 for quantity 1526 Nos instead of 540 Nos with revised tender conditions. **NOTE:** All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged for above tenders.

PRO/BLW/S-83 PCMM

[/banaraslocomotive.com](http://banaraslocomotive.com) "Website : <http://blw.indianrailways.gov.in>"

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Procurement Tender Notice No. 02/2023-24 Dt. 07.11.2023

On behalf of the President of India, Deputy Chief Material Manager, General Store Depot, North Central Railway, Kanpur, invites the E-Procurement tender for following items.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Brief Description
1	53235249C	Roots Wizzard 34 P Escalator Cleaning Machine

Qty. : 04 Nos Tender Opening Date : 04.12.2023

Note : The Complete information of above E-Procurement is available on IREPS website i.e. <http://www.irops.gov.in> 1813/23(AN)

North central railways | www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in | @northcentralrailway | @CPNCR

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(SEE SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person(s) **Sanjay Gupta S/o Manohar Lal R/o H. No. A-169, Beena Enclave, Nangoli, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Case FIR No. **388/2015 U/s 33/58 Delhi Excise Act, PS Aman Vihar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person(s) **Sanjay Gupta** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person(s) **Sanjay Gupta** has absconded (or is concealing himself) to avoid the service of the said warrant. Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person(s) **Sanjay Gupta** of Case FIR No. **388/2015 U/s 33/58 Delhi Excise Act, PS Aman Vihar, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before dated **07.12.2023**.

By Order
Sh. Navdeep Gupta
LD MM (N-W), Room No. 109
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/12705/RD/2023 (Court Matter)

भारतीय अन्दरशैय जलमार्ग प्राधिकरण
INLAND WATERWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
(Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Govt. of India)
A-13, Sector -1, Noida - 201301 (U.P.) Tel: 0120-2543531 E-mail: awai@nic.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender For Smart Access Control at IWA Ports

Online Tenders/Bids are invited from reputed firms in two cover systems for "Smart Access Control at IWA Ports". The details of NIT - Tender document cost: Rs. 5,900/- for each schedule. Date of download of Tenders is 07.11.2023 to 05.12.2023. Last date of online submission of e-tender: 05.12.2023 @1530 hrs. Date of opening: 06.12.2023 at 1530 hrs. **Detailed eligibility criteria and tender document along with instruction to the Bidders can be seen at IWA's website i.e. www.iwai.nic.in and <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>.**

Member (Technical)

Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Institute Of Medical Sciences
Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010 (UP)
Phone: 0522-4918504, 4918512 Website: www.drmlims.ac.in
E-mail: director@rmlims@gmail.com

Ref No: 2571/RMLIMS/M/2023 Dated: 08.11.2023

Tender / E-Bid Notice

E-Bids are invited from "Experienced Contractors/Agencies" in two bid system for COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE WORK OF MEDICAL GAS SUPPLY SYSTEM (For Ram Prakash Gupta Memorial Mother & Child Hospital, RMLIMS, Gomti Nagar Vistar, Lucknow).

The detailed NIT complete with bid document shall be available for downloading one-tender portal: <https://etender.up.nic.in> from 10.11.2023, 9:00 AM to 04.12.2023 up to 4:00PM. The e-bids (Technical bid & Price bid) can be submitted online in the above e-tender site till 04.12.2023 up to 4:00 PM and the same shall be opened on 05.12.2023 at 11:30 AM. The Director reserves the right to accept or reject any or all E-Bids or annul the bidding process without assigning any reason thereof. **Director**

UJVN LIMITED
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone No: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No.U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvnl.com

TENDER NOTICE Dt. 09.11.2023

RO. No. 1114

Office of the Executive Engineer (E&M) SHP, UJVN Ltd., Rishikesh, invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tenders are given below:

- Tender No: 10/EE(E&M)(SHP)/Rishikesh/2023-24** Design, Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Testing for additional cooling water system including replacement of pipe and fitting of Urgam SHP (2x1500 kW) in District Chamoli Uttarakhand.
- Tender No: 11/EE(E&M)(SHP)/Rishikesh/2023-24** Design, Manufacturing, Transportation & Supply of Dummy Plate/Bulkhead Gate for MIV, Penstock Drain Valve & Bypass Valve at Ram Prasad Nautally Gap (2x750 kW), Dunao in District Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand.
- Tender No: 12/EE(E&M)(SHP)/Rishikesh/2023-24** Servicing of Vacuum Circuit Breakers (11 kV) at RPN SHP (2x750 kW), Dunao in District Pauri Garhwal.

Estimated cost with GST : 1. Rs. 17,25,160/-, 2. Rs. 4,50,760/-, 3. Rs. 3,30,400/-, Respectively

Date of availability of bid document on website : - 11.11.2023 from 16:00 Hrs. Last date for submission of tender : - 12.12.2023 up to 16:00 Hrs. For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvnl.com"

Executive Engineer (E&M-SHP), Rishikesh

"Avoid wasteful use of electricity"

उत्तरखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग
हस्तिनर
विज कोड- 249404

संख्या: 575/17E-5 /डी.आर./30/90-वे/2023-24 दिनांक: 09 नवम्बर, 2023

विज्ञापित

राजकीय औद्योगिक प्रशिक्षण संस्थानों में प्रवक्ताओं (श्रेणी-दो) परीक्षा-2023

एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि राजकीय औद्योगिक प्रशिक्षण संस्थानों में प्रवक्ताओं (श्रेणी-दो) समूह-ख के रिक्त 18 पदों हेतु प्रकाशित विज्ञापन संख्या: A-1(DR)/P/E-5/2023-24 दिनांक 13 अक्टूबर, 2023 के साक्षात् पात्र अभ्यर्थियों से ऑनलाइन आवेदन दिनांक 03 नवम्बर, 2023 तक आमंत्रित किये गये थे। उक्त विज्ञापन के अति महत्वपूर्ण निर्देश के बिन्दु संख्या-5 के अनुसार ऑनलाइन आवेदन करने की अंतिम तिथि 03 नवम्बर, 2023 तक आवेदन प्रक्रिया पूर्ण करने वाले अभ्यर्थियों को अंतिम अवसर प्रदान करते हुए अपने ऑनलाइन आवेदन पत्र में की गयी प्रविष्टियों में संशोधन/परिवर्तन (Edit/Correction) किये जाने हेतु केवल एक बार के लिए आयोग की वेबसाइट www.psc.ug.gov.in पर Online Edit Window लिंक दिनांक 10.11.2023 से दिनांक 19.11.2023 (रात्रि 11:59:59 बजे) तक खोला गया है। अभ्यर्थी विस्तृत जानकारी हेतु आयोग की वेबसाइट www.psc.ug.gov.in का अवलोकन अवश्य करें।

(हिस्सारी सिंह रावत) सचिव।

GeM (४थी मागणी) निविदा कार्यालयाचे नाव : चिपळूण नगर परिषद, जि. रत्नागिरी

GeM निविदा मागविणारी सूचना क्र. १२५ सन २०२३-२४

चिपळूण नगर परिषदेकडील GeM निविदा सूचना क्र. : १२५ सन २०२३-२४ चिपळूण नगर परिषद हद्दीमधील निर्माण होणाऱ्या सुन्या कचऱ्यावर प्रक्रिया करण्यासाठी ३ टन क्षमतेचा गॅसिफायर (Multi Jet High Temperature Updraft Gasifire (Capacity 3 TPD)) पुरवठ्याकरिता GeM निविदा प्रणालीद्वारे GeM निविदा मागविण्यात येत आहेत. सदर निविदेबाबतचा सविस्तर तपशील, अटी व शर्ती महाराष्ट्र शासनाच्या <https://www.gem.gov.in/> या संकेतस्थळावर दि. १०.११.२०२३ रोजीपासून पाहावयास उपलब्ध करून देण्यात आलेली आहे. निविदा सादर करण्याची अंतिम तारीख दि. २८.११.२०२३ रोजीपर्यंत सायंकाळी ०५.०० वाजेपर्यंत राहिल. दि. ०९.११.२०२३

स्वाक्षरी/-
प्रशासक तथा मुख्याधिकारी,
चिपळूण नगर परिषद

SEARCH FOR IDENTIFICATION

General Public is hereby informed that one male person was found after an accident in injured condition Badarpur Flyover, in front of Petrol Pump, New Delhi, dated 03.11.2020. He was admitted in Sapna NGO Alwar Rajasthan for treatment. In this regard a FIR No. 510/20 u/s 279/338 IPC dated 03.11.2020 has been registered at P.S. Badarpur, New Delhi. The description of the person is given as under **Name:** Shah Nawaj, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** About 70 years, **Height:** 5'6", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Built:** Normal, **Face:** Oval, **Wearing:** Shirt and Blue Red Dark Pajama. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the family but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this family please inform undersigned.

SHO
P.S. Badarpur, New Delhi
Ph.: 8750870933, 7982094067

DP/12844/SE/2023

TENDER NOTICE: SHOPS / VENTURES

1. Air Officer Commanding, AF Stn Palam New Delhi - 10 invites sealed tenders to run the following shops on rent at this Station for a period up to five years. The applicant must have sound financial status and business experience in the field:

(a) All participants (including civilians) can apply for the following shops however allotment would be carried out giving preference to war widows/ widows of Defence personnel killed while on duty, disabled soldiers/Ex-servicemen and spouses/widows of Ex-servicemen as per existing guidelines:

Sl.No.	Shop & Area	Base Price (₹)
(i)	Provision Shop-II RV Area	17110
(ii)	Meat Shop RV Area	5000
(iii)	Gents Tailor Shop RV Area	4400
(iv)	Restaurant Swimming Pool Complex RV Area	15000
(v)	Any Business Shop in RV Area	5000
(vi)	Supper Bar Camp Area	10000
(vii)	Barber Shop Camp Area	5500
(viii)	Fruit & Veg Shop Camp Area	11110
(ix)	Bakery Shop Camp Area	6600
(x)	Provision Shop Camp Area	22056
(xi)	Provision Shop Old Pinto Park	16170
(xii)	Cycle / Scooter Repair Shop Old Pinto Park	10000
(xiii)	Sweet Shop Old Pinto Park	20000
(xiv)	Mobile, Accessories & home appliances repair or any other shop Old Pinto Park	3000
(xv)	Cloth & Garment or any other Shop Old Pinto Park	7000

2. The blank Tender Forms can be collected from Stn Sports Section, Camp Area, AF Stn Palam from Monday to Friday between 0800 hrs to 1400 hrs wef 10 Nov 23 to 23 Nov 23 on cash payment of ₹ 100/- (Non Refundable).

3. Filled Tender Forms are to be dropped in SI Tender Box, kept at Sub-Guard Room, Technical Gate, AF Stn Palam. The last date/time for submission of Filled Tender Forms is 24 Nov 23 before 1100 hrs

(In case of any query, contact on following mobile numbers between 0900 hrs to 1700 hrs Monday to Friday: Mob. No. 9667412305, 8527765380, 8434534466)

(Ashish C Patle)
Wg Cdr
OIC SI Fund

IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI.
Notice Under Order V Rule 29 of CPC
Case No. CR.L.M.A. 22739/2023 & CR.L.M.C. 4616/2019
Petitioner US 482 Cr.P.C. 1973 against the order & Judgment dated 03.09.2019, passed in Criminal Revision No. 3120/19 in Case Title as "Raghurajdas, E-Substar vs State & Another decided by the Court of St. Shri Anghothi, Lt. Asst. District Courts New Delhi & Also for quashing the FIR No. 375/2019 registered at PS Palam against the petitioner in view of the order passed in Criminal Revision No. 3120/19 on 03.09.2019 US 420467468/19

Sh. Praveen Kumar Jain vs. Petitioner's
Sh. Raghunandan & Anr. vs. Respondent's

Notice to
LR No. 1 of Respondent 1 Sh. Keshav (Son),
LR No. 2 of Respondent No. 1 Sh. Parbhakar (Son)
LR No. 3 of Respondent No. 1 Sandhya (Daughter)
All LR No. 1 to 3 of Respondent No. 1 R/o RZ-D/8, Gali No. 1, Mahavir Enclave, New Delhi-45

Whereas the above noted petitioner has presented petition Under Section 482 Cr.P.C. which was listed before the Court on 15.11.2022 & 23.08.2022 the Court ordered issuance of notice to you and whereas it has been proved to the satisfaction of the Court that you cannot be served in the ordinary manner. Notice is again hereby issued that if you wish to defend the above mentioned petition you may cause an appearance to be entered on your behalf either in person or through an advocate duly appointed by you for the purpose before the Court of Hon'ble Dr. Justice Sudhakar Kumar Jain on 22.11.2023 at 10:30 AM. If no appearance is made on your behalf by yourself, your pleader or someone authorized by law to act for you in the said petition on the aforementioned date, no further notice of the subsequent date of hearing of the said petition will be given and the same will be heard and determined exparte of your Honor. Given under my hand and the seal of this Court, this 26th day of September 2023.

Assistant Registrar
For Registrar General

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice for Single Tender Prayagraj Division

Tender Notice No.: 9120232024-248 Dated: 07.11.2023

Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering)/North Central Railway/ Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites E-TENDERS on prescribed form for the following work up to 13.30 hrs. on date 06.12.2023. The details of the tender are as under:-

SN.	Tender No.	Approx Cost (₹)	Earnest Money (₹)
1	248	₹ 7179840.00	₹ 143600.00

Name of work: Procurement of Aluminum Thermit Welding (ATW) R-260 rail 25mm gap welding portions (SKV) for Prayagraj Division under ADEN/T/PRYJ.

Completion Period: 12 Months (Twelve months), **Date of Opening of tender:** 06.12.2023, **Eligibility Criteria for similar works:** Thermit Welding. **Note (1)** The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders are available on Website www.irops.gov.in up to 13:30 hrs. on the due date of tender opening i.e. 06.12.2023. (2) Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate issued by CGA under ITAct-2000. (3) Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entry in any other form / letter head if attached by vendors shall be straightway ignored and shall not be considered. (4) The supplier / contractor of goods and / or services would be subject to GST Act and Rules as applicable from time to time. (5) Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. (6) This tender notice has also been uploaded on www.ncrindianrailways.gov.in. (7) Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in respect of e-tendering shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. (8) In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. (9) Tender on line can be submitted up to 13.30 hrs of opening date 06.12.2023. (10) E-Tender Form will be issued free of cost to all tenderers. (11) The tenderers shall submit a certificate as given in tender document as "Annexure" in standard format without which their tender may not be considered and shall summarily be rejected. (12) The tenderer has to submit necessary documents in compliance of clause 10 to 18 (Part-I) of GCC-2022 mandatorily otherwise offer will be considered as Incomplete Offer and accordingly shall not be considered. 1811/23 FA

North central railways | @CPNCR | @northcentralrailway | www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Firoj Khan, S/o Ansar, R/o Khasara No. 323 Flats No. 02 Khurana Enclave, Loni Dehat, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in a Case FIR No. 630/2021 U/s 4 The Muslim Women (Protection of right on Marriage) Act-2019 at PS Nand Nagri, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Firoj Khan** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Firoj Khan** has absconded (or is concealing himself) to avoid the service of the said warrant.

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Firoj Khan** of Case FIR No. 630/2021 U/s 4 The Muslim Women (Protection of right on Marriage) Act-2019 at PS Nand Nagri, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 15.12.2023.

By order
Sh. Aridaman Singh Chima
Metropolitan Magistrate 03,
Shahdara Court No. 19
Karkarduma Courts, Delhi

DP/12709/NE/2023(Court Matter)

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one male namely **Unknown, S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown**, Age about 45/50 years, Height 5'6", Complexion Shallow, Round Face, Medium Built, Identification Right hand "PR OM" tattoo mark, Wearing Yellow colour shirt and black colour pant was found dead due to train accident under Ashok Vihar Flyover, Near Shamshan Ghat Saboli, Delhi on 02.11.2023. In this regard a DD No. 28A dated 02.11.2023 U/S 174 Cr.P.C. has been lodged at PS Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi. Any person having any information or clue about this deceased male may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
PS: Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23961522
8750871302, 9013353290

DP/12890/RLY/2023

PUBLIC NOTICE/TENDER NOTICE

SR. NO.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT/ BOARD/CORP./ AUTH.	NAME OF WORKS /NOTICE/ TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	TENDER AMOUNT (APPROX.)	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL	TENDER REF. NO/ TENDER NO
1.	GURUGRAM UNIVERSITY, GURUGRAM	External Electrification work in Gurugram University, Sec-87, Gurugram.	08/11/2023 from 9:00 am to 28/11/2023 Till 5:00 PM	7.67 Crore	https://tenders.hry.nic.in	Superintending Engineer/ 9416374943	HE/W/P portal Tender Reference No. 2023FA783839 BD/CE 43D495CC 865137F473 BD1857GGU

HARYANA GOVERNMENT
PUBLIC WORK DEPARTMENT
(BUILDING AND ROADS BRANCH), BHIWANI CIRCLE BHIWANI
NOTIFICATION Dated: 08.11.2023

Notification No. 869

Whereas, it appears to the Governor of Haryana that the specified below is needed urgently to the Public expenses for the public purpose, namely construction and Sign-Board from Isherval Sharwa Hisar Siwani Tosham (Miran to Hisar) road Tehsil Tosham Distt. Bhiwani.

It is hereby notified that the land in the area described below is required for the above purpose.

This notification is made under the provision of section 11(I) of Land Acquisition Act, 2013 (Act 30 of 2013) for the information of all to whom may concern.

In exercise of the powers conferred by aforesaid section, the Governor of Haryana hereby authorizes the officers of PWD B&R Department Haryana with their servants and workmen for the time being engaged in the undertaking to enter upon and survey the land in the area and to allow other Acts required or permitted by that section.

Any person interested, who has any objection to the acquisition of any land in the area may, within a period sixty days of the publication of this notification in the official Gazette, file and objection if any in writing before the Land Acquisition Collector, Public Works Department (B&R) Branch Bhiwani.

The Plan of the land may be inspected in the offices of Land Acquisition Collector, Public Work Department (Building and Roads Branch) Bhiwani and the Executive Engineer Provl. Divn. PWD B&R Br., Bhiwani.

SPECIFICATION

District	Tehsil	Village	Hadbest No.	Total Area in Kanal Marla	Rectangle No.	Killa Nos.	Area Kanal Marla
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Bhiwani	Tosham	Miran	89	B-B 19-0	1005/525/2/2	1005/525/2/2 Min	B-B 19-0
				Total Area		19-0	

By the order of Governor of Haryana
Superintending Engineer,
Bhiwani Circle, PWD B&R Br.,
Bhiwani

22556/HRY

अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

1. ई-निविदा विधिद्वारा संचालित **एनएमएल एएमए / 3429-2023 : 33 KV Transformer Control Panel for Single T/f (without diff. relay), मात्र - 114 नं. 33 KV Transformer Control Panel for Single T/f (SCADA Compliant), मात्र - 35 नं. एवं 33 KV Transformer Control Panel for Double T/f (without diff. relay), मात्र - 136 नं. 33 KV Transformer Control Panel for Double T/f (SCADA Compliant), मात्र - 14 नं.** घोहर राईस: रु 2,17,000.00, निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य: रु 5,900.00 (जोएस्पटीडी सहित)।

2. ई-निविदा विधिद्वारा संचालित **एनएमएल एएमए / 3430-2023 : 33 KV 'V' Type Cross Arm, मात्र: 6,400 नं.** घोहर राईस: रु 81,000.00, निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य: रु 3,540.00 (जोएस्पटीडी सहित)।

निविदा शुल्क केवल अनिवार्य, DVVNL AGRA की वेबसाइट www.dvvn.org के माध्यम से ही स्वीकार किया जाएगा। विवरण के लिए कृपया निविदा प्रपत्र प्लाननुम्बर पढ़ लें।

उपरोक्त निविदाएं दिनांक 27/11/2023 को समय 13:00 बजे तक ऑनलाइन अपलोड की जा सकेंगी एवं निविदाएं दिनांक 28/11/2023 को सां 16:00 बजे खोली जायेंगी। निविदा प्रपत्र उ300 शासन के ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट पोर्टल <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर अपलोड की जायेंगी, वहाँ से निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड किये जा सकेंगे।

मा संख्या - 4683 / अश्री0अपी (साओए-प्रथम) आगरा/विधान, दिनांक- 08/11/2023

मुख्य अधिकारी (साओए-प्रथम)
"सुनहरा भविष्य बनायें, राष्ट्रहित में मिलजुल बचवायें"

GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER GANGA PUMP CANAL DIVISION, SAHIBGANJ

e-Procurement Short Tender Notice (3rd Call)

e-Tender Reference no.- WRD/GPCDIV/SBG/SBD/03/2023-24, Dated :08.11.2023

	Name of Department	WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, GOVT. OF JHARKHAND
1	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Executive Engineer, Ganga Pump Canal Division, Sahibganj
2	Name of Work	Anti Erosion work on the right bank of river Ganga from Downstream of STP to Chanan in 900M length, under block Borio under district Sahibganj. Bed bar 60M C/C (900M) (Lat-25.24339N, Long-87.660794E)
4	Estimated Cost of BOQ	₹72.216 lakh.
5	Time of Completion	300 Days
6	Cost of BOQ (Tender Fee)	Rs. 10,000.00
7	Earnest Money required	Rs. 9,73,000.00
8	Date of Publication of Tender on website	22/11/2023
9	Bid downloading period	23/11/2023 to 02/12/2023
10	Last date / Time for receipt of bids online	02/12/2023 up to 05:00 pm
11	Date and Time of Opening of Tender	04/12/2023 at 03:00 PM
12	Contact no. of Procurement officer	7677240428

Note: Further details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>

(14) Only E tender will be accepted. Estimated cost may be changed. Earnest money will be applicable as per estimated cost.

(15) Tender Fee & Earnest money will be accepted only in online mode in accordance to letter no. 120 dated 03.10.2023 of Ministry of Electronics and IT dept. Govt. of Jharkhand and Letter no. 907 dated 04.10.2023 of WRD Jharkhand.

(16) Additional Performance Security will be applicable for the bid rate more than 10% below of cost of BOQ acceptable in guidance of letter no 430 dated 19.11.2020 of C.E (Monitoring) WRD Jharkhand.

Executive Engineer
Ganga Pump Canal Division,
Sahibganj

PR 311059 Sahabganj(23-24).D
epaper.indianexpress.com

Office of the Executive Engineer (Store)
96/10, ELECTRICITY HOUSE, PARADE, KESCO., KANPUR
Mo. No.: 9839105490

Proposal Invitation

Proposals are invited from Reputed/Government agencies having expertise in the field of technical/Economic evaluation in electrical or related sector, for technical/ economic evaluation. Interested Firms/ companies may contact the office of undersigned "Store Division 96/10 Bijaligar, Parade, Kanpur U.P-208001" or through E-mail: storekescoeh@gmail.com.

They may also visit for survey on any working day during working hours.

The Last Date for submitting the proposals is 25.11.2023

Executive Engineer (Store)
Ganga Pump Canal Division,
Sahibganj
Mob:-9839105490

पत्रांक: 950/मजग/प्रकाशन-2023 दिनांक -08.11.2023

JHARKHAND STATE BEVERAGES CORPORATION LTD. RANCHI
(A GOVT. OF JHARKHAND UNDERTAKING)
Corporate Identification No. :U51228JH2010SGC014519, TIN No-20520108277
E-mail :- jsbcl.jharkhand@gmail.com Utpad Bhawan, Ground Floor, Near New Police Station, Kanke Road, Ranchi - 834008

E-Tender Notice No. :- JSBCL/15 Date- 08-11-2023

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

E-TENDER FOR EMPANELMENT OF PLACEMENT AGENCY

E-Tenders are invited for empanelment of placement agency for supply of manpower for retail vending shops of JSBCL in the designated ten (10) zones within the state of Jharkhand through e-tender process. Detailed tender document is

BIHAR STATE FOOD & CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LTD,
KHADYA BHAWAN, R-BLOCK, DAROGA PRASAD RAI PATH, ROAD NO.-2, PATNA
Office of the Executive Engineer
North Bihar Works Division, BSFC, HQ Patna

RE- E-TENDER
NIT NO. :- 02/NB/2023-24

RFP FOR SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING, COMMISSIONING, AND COMPREHENSIVE MAINTENANCE OF 60 MT PIT-LESS TYPE ELECTRONIC LORRY WEIGHBRIDGES IN THE STATE OF BIHAR. (3rd Call)

Bihar State Food and Civil Supplies Corporation Limited (BSFC), under Department of Food and Consumer Protection Department, Govt of Bihar, having its registered office at Khadya Bhawan, Daroga Prasad Rai Path, Road No 2, Patna, Bihar - 800001, invites responses ("Proposals"/ "Bid") to this Request for Proposal ("RFP") from eligible bidders for Supply, installation, testing, commissioning and comprehensive maintenance of 60 MT Pit-less Type Electronic lorry Weighbridges complete with weigh controller, Load Cells, Platform, large size LED display, P.C., Printer, UPS, Test weights, Construction of one number control room etc complete in all respect and manufacturer's Test certificates and stamping by Legal metrology dept.

The entire job is to be undertaken on Turnkey basis covering mechanical, civil & electrical works including supply of all required material for civil construction, electrical etc works in the different listed warehouse locations of Bihar. Interested bidders are advised to study this RFP carefully before submitting their proposals in response to the RFP through e-procurement mode https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in

Details of Work :-

Sl. No.	Brief Description of Goods/Services	Quantity	Cost of Tender Document Inclusive of GST @ 18.00% to be paid through e-payment mode (i.e. NEFT/RTGS/Credit Card/Debit Card (in Rupees))	Tender Processing Fee Inclusive of GST @ 18.00% to be paid through e-payment mode (i.e. NEFT/RTGS/Credit Card/Debit Card (in Rupees))	Earnest Money Deposit to be paid through e-payment mode (i.e. NEFT/RTGS/Credit Card/Debit Card (in Rupees))
01	Pit Less type electronic lorry weighbridge - 60 MT	15	Rs.11,800/- (Eleven Thousand eight hundred only)	As per BELTRON	Rs.6,00,000/- (Six lakh only)

Tender Schedule/Programs :-

Sl.No.	Activity	Date/Time
1	Online Sale/Download date of Tender documents.	From 04-12-2023 to 26-12-2023 Upto 17.00 Hours (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
2	Schedule and place of Pre-bid meeting.	06-12-2023 at 12:30 Hours Satya Gandha, BSFC - HQ, Patna
3	Last date/Time of online submission of offer/Bid	26-12-2023 Up to 17.00 Hours (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
4	Date & time for opening of Technical Bid.	27-12-2023 at 15:00 Hours at BSFC, Headquarter.
5	Date & time for opening the Financial Bid	To be decided later on

The RFP document can be downloaded from the web site https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in. For participating in the above e-tendering process, the bidders shall have to get themselves registered with the service provider so that the user ID, password and digital signature are issued to them. For this, intended bidders may contact e-procurement Help Desk at junction services limited, RJ Complex, 2nd Floor, Canara Bank Campus, Khajipura Ashiana Road, P-5 - Shastri Nagar, Patna-800014, Toll free number: 18005726571E-Mail id: eproc2support@bihar.gov.in

Details of tender related information can be viewed / downloaded from the website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in. This notice for Expression of Interest has also been posted on website http://sfc.bihar.gov.in

BSFCCL reserves the right to cancel the tender at any stage without assigning any reason.

Executive Engineer
North Bihar Works Division, BSFC
H.O. Patna
E-Mail : eproc2support@bihar.gov.in
Mobile No : 9431672865

PR. No. 011597 (Ni.Ni.) 2023-24

This information is available on website state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar also.

नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

Govt. of Bihar

BIHAR RURAL LIVELIHOODS PROMOTION SOCIETY
VIDHYUT BHAWAN, ANNEXE - II, BAILY ROAD, PATNA 800021
Telephone: 91-612-2504980, Telefax: 91-612-2504960
Email: info@brlp.in, website: www.brllps.in

INVITATION OF BIDS FOR PRINTING AND SUPPLY OF LEN DEN PRAPTRA AND SAVING CUM LOAN LEDGER

Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society (BRLLPS), a Government of Bihar Society invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Printing and Supply of Len Den Prapatra (Transaction Book)- Lot I and Saving Cum Loan Ledger - Lot II

Particulars	Date and time
1 Download of Bidding Document	14/11/2023 through https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in
2 Pre-Bid Meeting	28-11-2023 (04.00 PM) at BRLLPS Office, Patna
3 Closing date and time for online submission of bid (Technical + Financial) for printing and supply of Len Den Prapatra (Transaction Book) - 2.0 lakhs -(Lot I) and Saving Cum Loan Ledger - 2.0 lakhs -(Lot II)	18-12-2023 till 04:00 PM on https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in
4 Opening of Technical Bid	18-12-2023 at 16:30 hrs
5 Opening of Financial Bid	To be notified later at BRLLPS website.

Bidding documents may also be downloaded from www.brllps.in/Procurement/ Tender for reference purpose.

(Chief Executive Officer cum Mission Director)
PR. No. 011592 (Ni.Ni.) 2023-24

This information is available on website state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar also.

नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

Office of The Principal
Government Engineering College, Bhojpur, Ara
South East Ramna Road, Near Maharaja College
(Under Department of Science, Technology & Technical Education Patna, Govt. of Bihar)
Email-id: gecbhojpur@gmail.com
Website: gecbhojpur.org

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR GUEST ASSISTANT PROFESSOR / GUEST TECHNICAL ASSISTANT/ GUEST INSTRUCTOR

Adv. No.- GEC/Bhojpur/Adv/2023-24/02

Government Engineering College, Bhojpur, Ara is going to conduct a walk-in-interview for the empanment of GUEST ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, GUEST TECHNICAL ASSISTANT & GUEST INSTRUCTOR. Interested and eligible candidates may appear for the walk-in-interview with all their original academic certificates, Category Certificate, Residential Certificate, Hard copy of CV, 02 sets of photo copies of original documents/certificates, and 02 recent passport size photographs per the following schedule:-

Sr. No.	Post	Subject/ Department	Academic qualification and Experience	Date and time of Interview	Walk-in-interview Venue
1.	Guest Assistant Professor	1. Physics	As per AICTE/DSTTE Norms	04.12.2023	Government Engineering College, South-East ramna Road, Near Maharaja College, Bhojpur, Ara
2.	Guest Technical Assistant	1. Electrical Engineering 2. Civil Engineering 3. Mechanical Engineering 4. Computer Science & Engineering 5. Electronics	As per AICTE/DSTTE Norms	05.12.2023	
3.	Guest Instructor	1. Turner 2. Machinist 3. Fitter 4. Carpenter 5. Welder 6. Electrician 7. Electronics	As per AICTE/DSTTE Norms	06.12.2023	

Important Instruction :-

- This engagement will be purely temporary and remuneration-based.
- Remuneration for Guest Assistant Professor/Guest Technical Assistant/Guest Instructor will be as per existing rules and directives of DSTTE, Government of Bihar.
- The Institute reserves the right to withdraw the partial or full advertisement/ notification w.r.t walk-in-interview without assigning any reason.
- The services of Guest Assistant Professor/ Guest Technical Assistant/Guest Instructor will be terminated without notice if found unsatisfactory. No claim will be entertained in this regard.
- No TA/DA will be paid for attending the Interview.
- Reservation as per existing state government rules.

For further details please visit website www.gecbhojpur.org

Principal
Government Engineering College
Bhojpur (Ara)

For further details please visit : www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar

PR- 011540 (Education) 2023-24

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

Office of Superintending Engineer,
Rampur Circle, P.W.D. Rampur
E-Procurement Short Notice Inviting Tenders
Ref.No. 5568/E-Nivida-Rampur/23-24 Dated :- 03-11-2023

1. The Superintending Engineer Rampur Circle, U.P.P.W.D. Rampur on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the Percentage rate bids online from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP PWD. The Bidder may submit bids for any or all of the works. Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in the Instructions to Bidders to qualify for the award of the contract.

Sl. No.	DISTRICT	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs. in Lac)	Bid Security (Rs. in Lacs)	Time of completion of the work (Including rainy season)	Cost of tender documents including GST (Rs.)	Category of road contractor eligible
1	Rampur	Special repair work of Saliduta Farm towards Bosenara road.	49.00	4.45	03 month	2354.00	Category 'A' 'B' 'C' (Road Work)
2	Rampur	Special repair work on Begambabad to Bamanpuri road.	131.00	8.55	03 month	2354.00	Category 'A' 'B' (Road Work)
3	Rampur	Special repair work of Khauad Rahmatnagar to Simra road.	48.00	4.40	03 month	2354.00	Category 'A' 'B' 'C' (Road Work)
4	Rampur	Special repair work of Mevla Farm road from Km 11 of Dadihya Kashiapur road via Khandi Kheda.	41.00	4.05	03 month	2354.00	Category 'A' 'B' 'C' (Road Work)
5	Rampur	Special repair work of Khempur road from Km 1.20 to Pasiyapura road.	58.00	4.90	03 month	2354.00	Category 'A' 'B' 'C' (Road Work)
6	Rampur	Special repair work of Swara Khaheda to Mirapur Mirapur road.	39.00	3.90	03 month	2354.00	Category 'A' 'B' 'C' (Road Work)
7	Rampur	Special repair work of Shahtabad Rampur Bajpur road via Majra Hasan via Naya Gaon Najibabad road.	63.00	5.15	03 month	2354.00	Category 'A' 'B' 'C' (Road Work)
8	Rampur	Special repair work of Saindagra Nagli to Bhanapur Banjariya Hamipur road.	76.00	5.80	03 month	2354.00	Category 'A' 'B' 'C' (Road Work)
9	Rampur	Special repair work of Bagawan to Majra Gaddikheda road from Km 12 of Rampur Swar Bajpur to Khauad Thunapur road Km 7.	37.00	3.70	03 month	2354.00	Category 'A' 'B' 'C' (Road Work)
10	Rampur	Construction work of OC road and drain under special repair in the populated part of Mursana Azimnagar Milkhanam road via Nagala Akil road.	135.00	8.75	03 month	2354.00	Category 'A' 'B' (Road Work)
11	Rampur	Special repair work of Saindagra Khushajpur Tanda (ODR) Road.	38.00	3.80	03 month	2354.00	Category 'A' 'B' 'C' (Road Work)

Bids must be download online form 10:00 AM on date 14.11.2023 to 12:00 PM on date 20.11.2023 and the technical bids will be opened online date 20.11.2023 at 12:30 PM in Office of Superintending Engineer Rampur Circle PWD Rampur and Financial bids of the qualified bidders will be opened on date 8 time as notified. According to the provisions of Government Order No. 1/2018/3070/78-2-2018/42 IT/2017 (22) Date 03-01-2018 after opening of the technical and financial bids, the qualified bidder has to submit original documents personally in department/ office. In the event of non submission of original documents by the bidder, the appropriate action will be taken in accordance with provisions of G.O.

All terms & conditions can be seen on website <http://tender.up.nic.in>. The bidders have to login on Prahari U.R.L. <http://wms.upwd.gov.in/Prahari/> to upload required documents as per Government Order No. 879(1)/23-7-2020 dt.-25-06-2020 & E-N.C./HOD's upword Order No. 4859/4M-LC/2020 dt. 27.08.2020. Rules/conditions & details of the tender are available at website <http://tender.up.nic.in>.

(R.A. Dohare)
Superintending Engineer
Rampur Circle, P.W.D. Rampur
Ph. 0595-2351163
Email- pwardrampur@gmail.com

(Krishan Vir)
Executive Engineer
Pro. Div. PWD, Rampur
UPID-197437 DATE 08.11.2023
WWW.UP.GOV.NIC.IN

Office of the Superintending Engineer,
Moradabad Circle, P.W.D. Moradabad
E-Procurement Short Terms Notice Inviting Tenders
No. 5360 /E-Tender/MBD Circle/23-24 Dated :-03-11-2023

1. On behalf of the Governor of UP, tenders for following work are invited by the Superintending Engineer, Moradabad Circle, PWD Moradabad online on website <http://tender.up.nic.in> & Prahari website <http://wms.upwd.gov.in/Prahari/> from registered contractors from 16-11-2023 at 10:00 am to 22-11-2023 at 12:00 Hrs. Technical bid /Prequalification of tenders shall be opened on 22-11-2023 at 12:30 Hrs. in office of undersigned by tender committee in presence of authorised representatives/bidders who wish to be present. Financial bid of the tenders who qualify in technical bid shall be opened on date and time as specified by a notice in the office of undersigned. In case of Government holiday the required process shall be carried out on next working day. Amount mentioned in column 5 & 7 shall be mandatory deposited by net banking only on E-Tender Portal.

Sl. No.	DISTRICT	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs. in Lac)	Bid Security (Rs. in Lacs)	Time of completion of the work (Including rainy season)	Cost of tender documents including GST	Category of road contractor eligible
1	Moradabad	Special Repair work in F.Y. 2023-24					
1		House in village Veerpur Banyar towards Daulara Razheda river	45.00	4.25	1 Month	2354.00	A, B & C (Road Category)
2		Special repair work on the link road of Gataura from PMGSY road.	34.40	3.45	1 Month	2354.00	A, B & C (Road Category)
3		Special repair work of Naval Syodara link road from Turkhedra via Ramnagar Gangpur	93.70	6.70	1 Month	2354.00	A & B (Road Category)
4		Special repair work of Kamalpur Chandaura link road from Bihar Jargaon other district road.	39.80	4.00	1 Month	2354.00	A, B & C (Road Category)
5		Special repair work from km 7 of KDRP (ODR) road to Abdullahpur link road via Biscuit Factory.	189.40	11.50	2 Month	2354.00	A & B (Road Category)
6		Special repair work from NH-509 Mohanpur Pipur via Jalapur Khas link road.	120.80	8.05	2 Month	2354.00	A & B (Road Category)
7		Special repair work from Km. 7 of K.D.R.P. (O.D.R.) road till Hayana K.D.R.P. road (Chainage 9.970 to 14.770) via Saral Panju.	72.35	5.65	1 Month	2354.00	A, B & C (Road Category)
8		Special repair work of service road (left side) of railway overpass at km 0.2 of Bihar Sirsi road in Moradabad district.	57.25	4.90	1 Month	2354.00	A, B & C (Road Category)

Rules/conditions & details of the tender are available at website <http://tender.up.nic.in>.

(S.P. Singh)
Superintending Engineer
Moradabad Circle, P.W.D. Moradabad
For and on behalf of Governor of UP
Mail ID:- semoradabad14@yahoo.com

Executive Engineer,
Construction Division-1
PWD Moradabad
UPID-197431 DATE 08.11.2023
WWW.UP.GOV.NIC.IN

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता,
ग्रामीण अभियन्त्रण विभाग, प्रखण्ड बरेली।
पता:- ग्रामीण अभियन्त्रण विभाग, द्वितीय तल विकास भवन, बरेली।

पत्रांक:- 2027 /ग्रा0अवि0/निविदा-पत्रा0/बाण्ड क्लर्क/2023-24 दिनांक:- 28.10.2023

:- निविदा सूचना :-

1- महामहिम राज्यपाल, उमरा0 की ओर से अधिशासी अभियन्ता, ग्रामीण अभियन्त्रण विभाग, प्रखण्ड बरेली में मवन/सड़क निर्माण कार्य हेतु ग्रामीण अभियन्त्रण विभाग उत्तर प्रदेश में पात्र ए0बी0सी0डी0 एवं ई0बी0श्री0के निविदादाताओं से नीचे दर्शाये गये कार्य हेतु प्रतिशत दर निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदादाता कार्यों के लिये निविदा जमा कर सकते हैं।

2- तालिका के अनुसार कार्यों का विवरण:-

क्रम सं०	जनपद का नाम	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित लागत (लाख रु० में)	धरोहर धनराशि (रु० में)	निविदा मूल्य समस्त करों सहित (रु० में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	बरेली	ग्राम घंघोरी में वेद प्रकाश के बाग से देवीदास के खेत तक शमशान मृमि की ओर मिट्टी/खरखा कार्य। (वि०ख०-मोजीपुरा) (सांसद निधि क्षेत्र)	8.720	17500	766.00	03 माह
2	बरेली	ग्राम मोहनपुर की शमशान मृमि में शवदाह शैड का निर्माण कार्य। (वि०ख०-दमखोटा) (सांसद निधि क्षेत्र)	3.100	6300	677.0	03 माह
3	बरेली	ग्राम नगरिया सोबरनी की शमशान मृमि में शवदाह शैड का निर्माण कार्य। (वि०ख०-सैरागढ़) (सांसद निधि क्षेत्र)	3.418	6900	677.00	03 माह
4	बरेली	ग्राम जसपुर में शवदाह लाल के घर से शमशान लाल के घर तक मिट्टी/खरखा कार्य (वि०ख०-सैरागढ़) (सां० निधि)	9.983	20000	766.00	03 माह
5	बरेली	ग्राम सुलतानपुर में रोशन लाल के घर से इममन लाल के घर तक सी0सी0 रोड एवं एल0टाइप नाली निर्माण कार्य। (वि०ख०-सैरागढ़) (सांसद निधि क्षेत्र)	8.163	16400	766.00	03 माह
6	बरेली	ग्राम मूरुखनगंज में जमुनी चौहान से नन्द विष्णोर वर्मा के घर की ओर सी0सी0 सड़क व एल0टाइप नाली निर्माण कार्य। (वि०ख०-फतेहगंज थं०) (सांसद निधि क्षेत्र)	9.386	18800	766.00	03 माह
7	बरेली	ग्राम रजपुर माफी में शैरपाल के मकान से तालाब तक मिट्टी/खरखा कार्य। (वि०ख०-बिचरीनैगपुर) (सांसद निधि क्षेत्र)	9.940	19900.00	766.00	03 माह
8	बरेली	ग्राम बरकापुर कोशल गंगवार के घर से तारा सिंह के घर तक सी0सी0 सड़क निर्माण कार्य। (वि०ख०-बिचरीनैगपुर) (सांसद निधि क्षेत्र)	5.936	11900.00	766.00	03 माह
9	बरेली	ग्राम उडिया में शैरपाल के मकान से सुखनलाल के मकान तक सी0सी0 सड़क निर्माण कार्य। (वि०ख०-बिचरीनैगपुर) (सांसद निधि क्षेत्र)	7.743	15500.00	766.00	03 माह
10	बरेली	ग्राम पंचायत कलापुर में प्रताप सिंह दुधिया के घर से भारत सिंह के घर तक सी0सी0 सड़क निर्माण कार्य। (वि०ख०-बिचरीनैगपुर) (सांसद निधि क्षेत्र)	9.779	19600.00	766.00	03 माह
11	बरेली	ग्राम मिर्जापुर में बाबू सेफी के घर से जामा मस्जिद के कोने तक सी0सी0 रोड निर्माण कार्य। (वि०ख०-मोजीपुरा) (विधायक निधि)	9.671	19400	766.00	03 माह
12	बरेली	ग्राम बंजरिया जागीर में राजा सहायक के मकान से श्री बाके लाल गंगवार व राम राम के घर तक व प्रेमजती के घर होते हुए बाके लाल के घर तक सी0सी0 रोड निर्माण कार्य। (वि०ख०-मोजीपुरा) (विधायक निधि)	6.983	14000	766.00	03 माह
13	बरेली	ग्राम मुडिया हाकिम जंमाल के मकान से बलू के मकान तक मिट्टी/खण्डला एवं नाली निर्माण कार्य। (वि०ख०-मोजीपुरा) (विधायक निधि)	4.549	9100	677.00	03 माह
14	बरेली	ग्राम पंचायत जांजीपुर में कोशर के मकान से सिकन्दर के मकान तक सी0सी0 रोड का निर्माण कार्य। (वि०ख०-मोजीपुरा) (विधायक निधि)	1.913	3900	589.00	03 माह
15	बरेली	ग्राम पंचायत जांजीपुर में मुत्तका हुसैन अंसारी के मकान से एजाज अंसारी के मकान तक सी0सी0 रोड का निर्माण कार्य। (वि०ख०-मोजीपुरा) (विधायक निधि)	2.561	5200	677.00	03 माह
16	बरेली	मो० सुशीनगर में मायडी मन्दिर से शर्मा के घर की तरफ सी0सी0 व नाली कार्य। (वि०नि०-नगर क्षेत्र)	7.464	15000	766.00	03 माह
17	बरेली	मो० सुशीनगर में अनुराग अग्रवाल के घर से श्री प्रेमपाल के घर की तरफ सी0सी0 व नाली कार्य। (वि०नि०-नगर क्षेत्र)	7.558	15200	766.00	03 माह
18	बरेली	बौरसाबरकर नगर में श्री विपिन प्रधान के मकान से श्री अनिल सक्सेना के घर तक सी0सी0 रोड निर्माण कार्य। (वि०नि०-नगर क्षेत्र)	9.826	19700	766.00	03 माह
19	बरेली	विकाससुख में श्रीमती सदवेदी के मकान से श्री सुनील सागर, अनूप के मकान तक सी0सी0 रोड व नाली निर्माण कार्य। (वि०नि०-नगर क्षेत्र)	4.943	9900	677.00	03 माह
20	बरेली	मो० बन्बाल नगर में श्री अनुराज गुप्ता, श्री शंकर लाल के मकान से श्री कन्हैया लाल के मकान तक नाली निर्माण एवं श्री वीरेंद्र सिंह के मकान से वीरेश गुर्जर के मकान तक सी0सी0 रोड निर्माण कार्य। (वि०नि०-नगर क्षेत्र)	8.822	17700	766.00	03 माह
21	बरेली	मो० प्रेमनगर अंबन कोआपरटिव बैंक के बरतार वाली नली में श्री गुड्डू के मकान से श्री कार्लर जी के मकान तक सी0सी0 रोड व नाली निर्माण कार्य। (वि०नि०-नगर क्षेत्र)	5.121	10300	766.00	03 माह
22	बरेली	मो० डायमन्ड पैलेस की पुलिस से श्री सुमित जी दुकान के आगे तक सी0सी0 रोड निर्माण कार्य। (वि०नि०-नगर क्षेत्र)	9.877	19800	766.00	03 माह
23	बरेली	मो० पचवाना नगर (हेल्पी कॉलोनी) में श्री रज कुमार अरोरा के मकान से सुश्री सविता राठी के मकान तक सी0सी0 रोड व नाली निर्माण कार्य। (वि०नि०-नगर क्षेत्र)	5.229	10500	766.00	03 माह
24	बरेली	राजीव कुंज कॉलोनी में श्री मुन्ना लाल के मकान से श्री संतोष माहेश्वरी के घर तक सी0सी0 रोड का मय नाली निर्माण कार्य। (वि०नि०-नगर क्षेत्र)	6.897	13800	766.00	03 माह

3. निविदा विक्री की अवधि: दिनांक 05.12.2023 से 07.12.2023 तक (पूर्वाह्न 11.00 बजे से अपराह्न 4.00 बजे तक)

4. निविदा प्राप्ति का अन्तिम दिनांक एवं समय रु० दिनांक 08.12.2023 को मध्याह्न 12.00 बजे तक

5. निविदा प्राप्ति का स्थान: कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, ग्रामीण अभियन्त्रण विभाग, द्वितीय तल, विकास भवन, जनपद-बरेली।

6. निविदा खुलने का दिनांक एवं समय: दिनांक 08.12.2023 अपराह्न 12.30 बजे। अधिक जानकारी के लिये अधिशासी अभियन्ता, ग्रामीण अभियन्त्रण विभाग कार्यालय, द्वितीय तल, विकास भवन, बरेली से सम्पर्क कर सकते हैं।

नोट :- क्रमांक-01 से 15 तक की निविदाएं बजट की प्रत्याशा में आमंत्रित की जा रही हैं।

(बिनय कुमार शर्मा)
अधिशासी अभियन्ता
ग्रामीण अभियन्त्रण विभाग,
प्रखण्ड, बरेली।

UPID-197073 Date 02/11/2023
www.upgov.nic.in

Govt. of Bihar

Office of the Director, Ecology & Environment, Patna.
Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Short-term tenders for undertaking preparation of Zonal Master Plan of Eco-Sensitive Zone of Bhimbandh Wildlife Sanctuary in the State of Bihar

In the area of jurisdiction of Director, Ecology and Environment Bhimbandh Wildlife Sanctuary is notified under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) of this sanctuary is notified by the Central Government. As prescribed in this notification of Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) a Zonal Master Plan (ZMP) has to be prepared for the ESZ of this sanctuary.

The short-term tenders are invited under two-bid system from reputed institutions /Academe institute /Consultancy firms /Partnership /Proprietorship firm /Registered Society /Central or State Government undertaking /Corporate body /Company registered under the relevant Acts for preparation of Zonal Master Plan of the ESZ of Bhimbandh Wildlife Sanctuary.

Eligibility Criteria:-

The Institution must meet the following Technical Criterion

- The applicant shall be a consultancy firm /partnership /proprietorship firm /registered society /Central or State Government undertaking /corporate body /Academic institution, company etc. registered under the relevant Act (s) and who have their registered offices in India.
- The institution should have expertise and resources in the field of wildlife management, natural resource, community participation and GIS capabilities.

The Institution must meet the following Technical Criterion:

- The institution should have prior experience of preparing Zonal Master Plan /Management Plan /Tiger Conservation Plan of at least one Wildlife Sanctuary /National Park of India.

OR

- The institution must have completed at least one project in planning and development of ESZ of a tourist destination of minimum 125 ha.

- The institution should not be black listed by any Central Govt./State Govt./PSU/Govt. Bodies.
- Minimum annual turn over of 0.5 Crore in the last three financial years.

The Tender schedule/Programme is as follows:-

Sl. No.	Activity	Date/Time : Duration
1.	Online Sale/Download date of Tender documents	From to (18/11/2023)
2.	Date/Time for Submission of Bid	18/12/2023
3.	Submission of EMD in Hard copy/Original.	To be submitted along with the proposal
4.	Date & time for Opening of Technical Bid.	19/12/2023 Time 3:00 PM
5.	Financial Bid Opening Date and Time	19/12/2023 Time 5:00 PM

The Tender Document containing the details of eligibility criteria, submission requirement, brief objective and scope of work etc. can be downloaded from the website www.forest.bih.nic.in

Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) will be deposited in form of a demand draft of Rs. 25,000/- of a nationalised bank in name of Conservator of Forests, Head Quarter, payable at Patna.

Technical bid and financial bid will be kept in separate sealed envelopes and both envelopes will be kept in an another envelop and then sealed. The outer sealed envelope containing tender may be dropped in the tender box kept in this office. The outer envelope should be dropped mentioning "Preparation of Zonal Master Plan of Eco-Sensitive Zone of Bhimbandh Wildlife Sanctuary" on the top.

Address of the office :-
Director,
Ecology & Environment
Aranya Bhawan, 2nd Floor,
Shaheed Peer Ali Kha Marg,
(Riding Road) Sheikhpura,
P.O.-Veterinary College, Patna- 800014
For further details please visit : [www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar</](http://www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar)

18 THE WORLD



SUNAK'S OFFICE POSTS IMAGES ON SOCIAL MEDIA DIWALI LAMPS AT DOWNING STREET

London: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and wife Akshata Murty lit Diwali lamps at a special reception at 10 Downing Street, attended by members of the Indian diaspora, parliamentarians, entrepreneurs and Bollywood celebrities.

TOP OF THE WORLD



Nikki Haley. Reuters

UNITED STATES 'Can't win fights of 21st century with politicians of 20th century'

Washington: Stating that the "world is on fire", Republican presidential aspirant Nikki Haley has told fellow Americans that the US cannot win fights of the 21st century with politicians of the 20th century. Haley, the only woman on the GOP primary debate stage, pitched herself as a strong contender to bag the Republican nomination for the 2024 presidential elections. "We need to know that a strong America doesn't start wars; a strong America prevents wars, and the way we can focus on that is to...go back to the soul of America and be strong and proud again," she said. PTI

PAKISTAN 80 Indian fishermen released from jail

Karachi: The Pakistan government on Thursday released 80 Indian fishermen from the Malir jail here. The Indian fishermen were released under the ongoing drive of the Pakistani government to expel illegal foreign immigrants and nationals from the country. A senior jail official said the Indian fishermen were put on the Allama Iqbal Express train under heavy security and will reach Lahore tomorrow from where they will be handed over to Indian authorities at the Wagah border. PTI

SOUTH KOREA Robot crushes worker to death in packing plant

Seoul: An industrial robot crushed a worker to death at a vegetable packaging plant in South Korea, police said Thursday, as they investigate whether the machine was unsafe or had potential defects. According to police officials in the southern county of Goseong, the man died of head and chest injuries Tuesday after he was grabbed and pressed against a conveyor belt by the machine's robotic arms. Police said the man was an employee of a company that installs industrial robots and was sent to the plant to examine the machines. AP

SPAIN Politician shot in face in Madrid street

Madrid: Veteran Spanish right-wing politician Alejandro Vidal-Quadras has been taken to a hospital in Madrid after being shot in a street in the capital, police said. He was shot in the face on a central street around 1:30 p.m. and was conscious when taken to a hospital. Vidal-Quadras, 78, was a long-time member of Popular Party and a European Parliament member before he broke away to help found the far-right Vox party. He left Vox shortly after a failed attempt to win a European lawmaker seat in 2014. AP

BIDEN SAYS HE HAD SOUGHT A LONGER pause than three days for people to escape

Israel to begin 4-hour pauses in northern Gaza: White House

Israel is also opening two humanitarian corridors in northern Gaza

REUTERS
GAZA/JERUSALEM, NOV 9

ISRAEL WILL begin daily four-hour pauses in the northern Gaza Strip on Thursday to enable Palestinians to flee hostilities in the coastal enclave, the White House said in what it called a step in the right direction.

White House spokesman John Kirby announced the pauses and the opening of two humanitarian corridors in northern Gaza to allow Palestinians to seek safety from Israel's military operations.

President Joe Biden told reporters as he left the White House he had sought a longer pause than three days. Asked if he was frustrated with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Biden said, "It's taken a little longer than I hoped." The pauses emerged from discussions between US and Israeli officials in recent days, including talks Biden had with Netanyahu, Kirby said.

"We understand that Israel will begin to implement four-hour pauses in areas of northern Gaza each day, with an announcement to be made three hours beforehand," Kirby told reporters.

The pauses would allow people to get out of harm's way and for deliveries of humanitarian aid and could be used as a way to get hostages out of Gaza.

In Doha on Thursday, the CIA and Mossad chiefs met with the Qatari prime minister to discuss the parameters of a deal for hostage releases.

The armed wing of Hamas is prepared to release two Israeli hostages, a woman and a boy, for humanitarian and medical reasons once appropriate measures are met, a spokesperson said.

Kirby said the pauses could help with transitions for any hostage release, as well as for humanitarian purposes.

Kirby said a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas militants is not

HAMAS AGREES TO RELEASE 2 HOSTAGES for humanitarian and medical reasons



Palestinians fleeing north Gaza walk towards the south, in the central Gaza Strip on Thursday. Reuters

DEATH, DESTRUCTION	
ISRAEL	PALESTINE
TOTAL DEAD	
1,400+	10,812
TOTAL INJURED	
5,400+	20,000+

US: Palestinians should govern Gaza after war

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 9

PALESTINIANS SHOULD govern Gaza once Israel ends its war against Hamas, the United States said on Wednesday, pushing back against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's idea that Israel would be responsible for security indefinitely.

Hamas gunmen from Gaza burst through the border to Israel on Oct. 7 and killed 1,400 people, Israel says. Now a month later, Washington has begun discussing with Israeli and Arab leaders a future for the Gaza Strip without Hamas rule.

While a plan has yet to emerge, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Wednesday outlined in the most comprehensive comments on the issue to

date Washington's red lines and expectations for the besieged coastal territory.

"No reoccupation of Gaza after the conflict ends. No attempt to blockade or besiege Gaza. No reduction in the territory of Gaza," Blinken said at a press conference in Tokyo. Blinken said there may be a need for "some transition period" at the end of the conflict, but that post-crisis governance in Gaza must include Palestinian voices. "It must include Palestinian-led governance and Gaza unified with the West Bank under the Palestinian Authority."

On Monday, Netanyahu told ABC News that Israel will "for an indefinite period" have security responsibility of the enclave after the war. His comments appeared at odds with US officials who say Israel does not want to administer Gaza post-Hamas.

Row as UK home secy slams police on 'hate marches'

London: UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman has launched a war of words with the Metropolitan Police with a tough-talking newspaper article on Thursday that accuses the force of not tackling the "hate marchers" protesting on the streets of London against the Israel-Hamas conflict. The row over her language intensified as the Opposition demanded British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak sack her over "inflaming community tensions".

Downing Street admitted that the content of 'The Times' article "was not agreed" with the PM's office and that it was seeking to "establish the detail" around its publication. However, Sunak's spokesperson stressed that the PM has "full confidence" in Braverman. PTI

Israel cuts red tape on sperm retrieval from slain soldiers

HARINDER MISHRA
JERUSALEM, NOVEMBER 9

ISRAEL IS allowing parents to circumvent usual legal procedures to have the sperm of their fallen soldier sons, or civilian sons killed during the war with Hamas to be retrieved before burial to increase its chances of viability when it is later unfrozen and used to fertilize an egg, media reports here said.

Posthumous sperm retrieval (PSR) during normal times can be done at the request of a widow without any need for legal bureaucracy, but parents who want their dead son's sperm to be retrieved and pre-

served must obtain an order from a family court.

The Israeli Health Ministry has exempted this requirement, at least temporarily, The Times of Israel newspaper reported.

Sperm has been retrieved from 33 men in the last month, four of them civilians and the rest soldiers, a report in the Ha'aretz newspaper said.

The ministry has set up a special unit that works 24/7 with the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) and the four hospitals housing sperm banks to notify families of the option of Posthumous sperm retrieval and set it up as quickly as possible following the death of their son or husband, the report said.

US forces under fire in West Asia 40 attacks on US forces in Iraq and Syria in three weeks

REUTERS
WASHINGTON/BAGHDAD, NOV 9

A DEFECTIVE drone in Iraq may have helped keep America from being dragged deeper into a widening Middle East conflict.

The drone, which was launched at the Erbil air base by an Iranian-backed militia before sunrise on Oct. 26, penetrated US air defenses and crashed into the second floor of the barracks housing American troops at about 5 am, according to two US officials. But the device laden with explosives failed to detonate and in the end only one service member suffered a con-



Antony Blinken with the US forces in Baghdad.

cussion from the impact. The US had got lucky, they added.

The incident was among at least 40 separate drone and rocket attacks that have been launched at US forces by Iranian-backed militias in Iraq and Syria over the past three weeks in re-

sponse to American support for Israel in the Gaza war, according to Pentagon data. The bombardment has only caused a few dozen minor injuries so far, with many of the rockets and rones intercepted by US air defenses in Iraq and Syria, where 3,400 American troops are based.

David Schenker, a former US assistant secretary of state at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy think-tank, cautioned that while neither Iran and its allied groups nor the US appeared to want a direct confrontation, the risks were growing. The possibility of a major strike that draws America into a conflict is "a very realistic concern," he said.

India set to be in UK safe states list, ruling out asylum rights for illegal migrants

ADITI KHANNA
LONDON, NOVEMBER 9

THE UK government has tabled plans to add India to an expanded list of safe states, which would speed up the process of returning Indians who travel from the country illegally and rule out their chance of seeking asylum in Britain.

Draft legislation laid in the House of Commons on Wednesday includes India and Georgia as the countries to be added to the list. The UK Home Office said the move is aimed at strengthening the country's immigration system and help prevent abuse by people making unfounded protection claims.

"We must stop people making dangerous and illegal journeys to the UK from fundamentally safe countries," said UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman. "Expanding this list will allow us to more swiftly remove people with no right to be here and sends a clear message that if you come here illegally, you cannot stay. We remain committed to delivering the measures in our Illegal Migration Act, which will play a part in the fight against illegal migration," she said.

"Deeming these countries safe will mean that if an individual arrives illegally from either one, we will not admit their claim to the UK asylum system," the Home Office said.

Other countries deemed safe

EXPLAINED E Pledge to stop boats of migrants

THE MOVE is in line with measures to meet British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's pledge to "stop the boats" of migrants landing on the country's shores illegally after making precarious journeys across the English Channel. The Home Office said that Indian and Georgian small boat arrivals have increased over the last year, despite individuals from these countries not being at obvious risk of persecution.

by the UK include Albania and Switzerland, as well as the European Union (EU) and European Economic Area (EEA) states. A country can only be added to the UK's safe states list - known legislatively as Section 80AA - if the Home Secretary is satisfied that there is, in general, no serious risk of persecution of its nationals, and; removal of nationals to that country cannot go against the UK's obligations under the Human Rights Convention.

The proposal will now undergo parliamentary scrutiny in the usual way via debates in both Houses of Parliament before it comes into force. PTI



Striking SAG-AFTRA members outside Netflix studio in Los Angeles on Wednesday. AP

Hollywood actors' strike ends as union reaches pay deal with studios

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LOS ANGELES, NOV 9

HOLLYWOOD ACTORS reached a tentative agreement with major studios on Wednesday to resolve the second of two strikes that rocked the entertainment industry as writers and performers demanded higher pay in the streaming TV era.

The 118-day work stoppage ended just after midnight, the SAG-AFTRA union said in a statement after its negotiating committee unanimously backed the deal with Walt Disney, Netflix and other companies.

Valued at more than \$1 billion, the three-year contract includes increases in minimum salaries and a new bonus paid by streaming services, the union

said. The deal also provides protections against unauthorized use of images generated by artificial intelligence (AI), an area that had emerged as a major concern from performers who feared being replaced by "digital doubles."

"We have arrived at a contract that will enable SAG-AFTRA members from every category to build sustainable careers," the union said in a note to members.

SAG-AFTRA President and "The Nanny" star Fran Drescher wrote on Instagram: "We did it!!!! The Billion+ \$ Deal!"

Celebrations erupted across Los Angeles. The resolution of the actors' strike means Hollywood can ramp up to full production for the first time since May, when film and TV writers walked off the job.

IT IS ABOUT 100 METRES IN DIAMETER & AS HIGH AS 20 METRES ABOVE THE SEA; EXPERTS SAY IT MAY NOT LAST LONG

New island emerges after undersea volcano erupts off Japan

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TOKYO, NOVEMBER 9

AN UNDERSEA volcano erupted off Japan three weeks ago, providing a rare view of the birth of a tiny new island, but experts say it may not last very long.

The unnamed undersea volcano, located about 1 kilometre (half a mile) off the southern coast of Iwo Jima, which Japan calls Ioto, started its latest series of eruptions on October 21.

Within 10 days, volcanic ash and rocks piled up on the shallow seabed, its tip rising above the sea surface.

By early November, it became a new island about 100

meters (328 feet) in diameter and as high as 20 meters (66 feet) above the sea, according to Yuji Usui, an analyst in the Japan Meteorological Agency's volcanic division.

Volcanic activity has increased near Iwo Jima and similar undersea eruptions have occurred in recent years, but the formation of a new island is a significant development, Usui said.

Volcanic activity at the site has since subsided, and the newly formed island has somewhat shrunk because its "crumbly" formation is easily washed away by waves, Usui said.

He said experts are still analysing the development, including details of the deposits.



Steam billows from the waters off Ioto island, in the Pacific Ocean, southern Tokyo. AP

Active volcanoes

111

of about 1,500 active volcanos in the world are in Japan

The new island could survive longer if it is made of lava or something more durable than volcanic rocks such as pumice.

"We just have to see the development," he said.

"But the island may not last very long." Undersea volcanos and seismic activities have formed new islands in the past. In 2013, an eruption at

Nishinoshima in the Pacific Ocean south of Tokyo led to the formation of a new island, which kept growing during a decade-long eruption of the volcano.

Also in 2013, a small island surfaced from the seabed after a massive 7.7-magnitude earthquake in Pakistan.

In 2015, a new island was formed as a result of a month-long eruption of a submarine volcano off the coast of Tonga.

Of about 1,500 active volcanos in the world, 111 are in Japan, which sits on the so-called Pacific "ring of fire," according to the Japan Meteorological Agency. Iwo Jima was the site of some of the fiercest fighting of World War II.

EXPLAINED GLOBAL

HOLLYWOOD STRIKE CALLED OFF: WHAT WE KNOW OF THE DEAL SO FAR

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

AFTER AROUND four months of Hollywood writers and actors' going on a strike, unions representing them said a tentative deal had been reached with an alliance of film studios and streaming giants. Shooting of new films and TV shows, along with other production and promotional activities, had been on hold during the strike.

Two unions — the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA) and the Writers Guild of America (WGA) — were leading the strikes.

Why was Hollywood on strike?

The WGA went on strike in May, and SAG-AFTRA joined in July this year. It was after nearly 60 years that the two major unions stopped work at the same time.

The strikes were in response to a shifting business model — from TV and movie theatres to streaming platforms. Another factor was the fear of AI taking over jobs. In the era when TV ruled, screenwriters got paid for repeat broadcasts of the shows they worked on (what was called 'residual' income). However, streaming giants do not have similar provisions.

What were the demands?

The unions were demanding a hike in minimum pay, residuals for streaming,



Celebrations after SAG-AFTRA approved a tentative deal. Reuters

and more contributions to the workers' health and pension plans.

On X, SAG-AFTRA posted, "In a contract valued at over one billion dollars, we have achieved a deal of extraordinary scope." This is said to include "above-pattern" minimum compensation increases, "unprecedented" provisions for consent and compensation that will protect members from the threat of AI, and the establishment of a streaming participation bonus. There have also been improvements on the pension and health fronts. There will be "compensation increases for background performers, and critical contract provisions protecting diverse communities."

Full details of the deal will come out once it is reviewed by the SAG-AFTRA National Board, according to *The Hollywood Reporter*.

LONGER VERSION ON
indianexpress.com/explained

Cong vs BJP in heart of India

Both Cong and BJP-RSS have deep roots in Madhya Pradesh. From Bundelkhand to Baitul, Rewa to Ratlam, the political geography of the state is diverse and complex. And it has always seen a straight fight



SHYAMLAL YADAV
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

A LARGE new state of Madhya Pradesh was created in the heart of India in 1956 with the merger of five different regions — parts of Central Provinces and Berar; Madhya Bharat, which included the prominent princely states of Gwalior and Indore; Vindhya Pradesh, which comprised Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand; the princely state of Bhopal; and the Sironj tehsil of south-eastern Rajasthan's Kota district (which is currently part of Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh).

In its report, the States Reorganisation Commission argued for a "compact, strong and prosperous unit in Central India". The Congress leader Ravishankar Shukla, who belonged to Raipur, became the first Chief Minister of the new state, with its capital at Bhopal.

After Chhattisgarh was hived off as a separate state in 2000, the Madhya Pradesh of today came into existence. It has a unicameral legislature of 230 seats, and 29 Lok Sabha and 11 Rajya Sabha seats. Here's a short political history of the state.

Strong Cong, emerging BJS

Chief Minister Ravishankar Shukla passed away in Delhi on December 31, 1956. He was in the capital to meet the Congress leadership ahead of the Assembly elections of 1957, and was apparently told that he would not get a party ticket. Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru is said to have been annoyed with the political activities of four of Shukla's six sons.

At the AICC session in Indore from January 6-8, 1957, the name of Nehru's Defence Minister Kailash Nath Katju was floated for the CM's post. Katju took charge in Bhopal on January 31.

Though the Congress dominated, the Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS), precursor of the BJP, was active in the state from the beginning. The RSS ideologue Dattapani Thengdi was among the early *pracharak*s deployed in the BJS in Madhya Pradesh.

A CM loses, Cong falls short

The Congress suffered a setback in the Assembly polls of 1962. Amid increasing differences between the government and the state Congress organisation under Moolchand Deshlehra, Chief Minister Katju lost to the young BJS candidate Lakshmi Narayan Pandey. The Congress won only 142 seats, falling short of a majority in the 288-member House. Deshlehra was forced to resign.

While Katju entered the Assembly after another MLA gave up his seat for him, the CM's post went to Bhagwant Rao Mandloi, an educationist from Khandwa. But in 1963, under the Kamaraj Plan — a suggestion by K Kamaraj that all senior leaders give up their ministerial posts and devote their energies to the organisation — Mandloi was asked to resign.

He was succeeded in the post by the veteran leader D P Mishra, head of an old political family and a good friend of the first CM, Ravishankar Shukla. Mishra was the father of IFS officer Brajesh Mishra, who played a very important role in the government of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

1967: first non-Cong Govt

In the years that followed, Mishra — a man who had once left the Congress following differences with Nehru — grew increasingly close to Indira Gandhi. Indira had become PM in 1966, and Mishra was among those who had helped her fight off the challenge from the party old guard.

Meanwhile, the BJS was becoming



1: Then CM Digvijaya Singh with then PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 1998; 2 & 3: former Congress CMs Kailash Nath Katju and D P Mishra; 4 & 5: former BJP CM Uma Bharti and current CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan; 6: former Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao with (from left) former CMs Arjun Singh and Sundarlal Patwa, then Governor Kunwar Mahammad Ali Khan, Vijayaraje Scindia of the BJP, and former Congress CM Shyama Charan Shukla in 1992. Express Archive photos, Wikimedia Commons

stronger, and some socialists and erstwhile royalty like Gwalior's Vijayaraje Scindia — who had serious differences with Mishra — had joined the party. The Congress survived the opposition wave of 1967 — when non-Congress governments were formed in more than a dozen other states — but the BJS won 78 of the 296 seats in the Madhya Pradesh Assembly.

D P Mishra continued as CM, but in July 1967, four months after the election results were declared, the Congress split. Govind Narain Singh, who had been left out of Mishra's ministry, broke away with his faction of MLAs, and became Chief Minister of the Samyukta Vidhayak Dal (SVD) government, the first non-Congress government in Madhya Pradesh.

Govind Narain Singh, however, lasted less than two years in the post — he was succeeded by Naresh Chandra Singh, who belonged to a tribal dynasty from the Chhattisgarh region.

Govts during Emergency

The first tribal Chief Minister ruled for less than two weeks. Shyama Charan Shukla, the son of the first Chief Minister, was eying the chair, and many SVD MLAs who had left the Congress with Govind Narain Singh, were looking to return. The Congress returned to power in the state, with Shukla as CM.

After the 1972 Assembly elections, Indira picked Prakash Chandra Sethi, the MLA from Ujjain, over Shukla to be CM. Meanwhile, Sanjay Gandhi was becoming an increasingly powerful figure in Delhi. Sethi had an uneasy relationship with Sanjay and, months after the proclamation of the Emergency in June 1975, he was replaced by Shukla, one of Sanjay's favourite henchmen. Something similar took place in Uttar Pradesh as well, where H N Bahuguna was replaced by N D Tiwari.

Shyama Charan Shukla was one of the few Indian CMs whose fathers too occupied the post — some other examples being Biju and Naveen Patnaik, Devi Lal and Om Prakash Chautala, Mulayam Singh and Akhilesh Yadav, H D Deve Gowda and H D Kumaraswamy, and Y S Rajasekhara Reddy and Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy.

In the post-Emergency election of 1977, the Congress was reduced to 84 seats in the 320-member House. But the Janata Party gov-

ernment faced the same fate as the SVD government from a decade earlier. The state had three CMs — Kailash Chandra Joshi, Virendra Kumar Saklecha, and Sundarlal Patwa — in less than three years, and the Janata government was dismissed soon after Indira returned as Prime Minister in January 1980.

Arjun Singh & Motilal Vora

In the Assembly elections of 1980, the Congress won 246 of the 320 seats. The BJS had reinvented itself as the BJP, and the new party won 60 seats. Along with Rajiv Gandhi, who had become active in politics after Sanjay's death, Indira chose Arjun Singh, the MLA from Churhat in Sidhi district, to be Chief Minister.

From 1980 to 1989, Madhya Pradesh had five Congress governments — Arjun Singh and Motilal Vora were Chief Ministers twice each before Shyama Charan Shukla came back as CM for a short third stint. Arjun Singh and Vora remained active in central politics until their deaths. Singh was among the most secular faces of the Congress and, as Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's HRD Minister, he was instrumental in implementing 27 per cent reservation for OBCs in educational institutions.

1990: BJP forms its first govt

Assembly elections were held in early 1990. The Congress lost — like in UP a few months previously. The BJP got a historic mandate, winning 220 of the 320 seats, and Sundarlal Patwa became CM.

The BJP also formed governments of its own in UP (Kalyan Singh), Rajasthan (Bhairon Singh Shekhawat), and Himachal Pradesh (Shanta Kumar). All four governments were dismissed by Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao after the Babri Masjid was demolished in Ayodhya on December 6, 1992.

A decade of Digvijaya Singh

In the elections of 1993, the BJP was reduced to 117 seats. With Arjun Singh a Minister in the Rao government and Vora the Governor of UP, the position of CM in Bhopal went to Digvijaya Singh of the erstwhile royal family of Raghogarh. Digvijaya remained in power for two full terms until 2003 — by then, Arjun Singh had quit the Congress, and

the NDA government under Vajpayee had split Madhya Pradesh into two. By the end of its 10 years, Digvijaya's government was highly unpopular.

Uma Bharti and Shivraj

In 2003, the BJP capitalised on the huge anti-incumbency against Digvijaya Singh's Congress government. Uma Bharti, a Minister in Vajpayee's government, contested the election, and Shivraj Singh Chouhan, MP from Vidisha, the seat once represented by Vajpayee, was fielded against Digvijaya. The BJP won a majority of 173 seats in the 230-member post-Chhattisgarh Assembly, and the Congress was reduced to just 38 seats, even though Digvijaya himself managed to win. Uma Bharti, who had shot to prominence during the Ramjanmabhoomi movement, became CM.

However, an old case forced Bharti to give up the post in August 2004. Leaders of the central BJP had wanted her to hand the baton to Chouhan, but she agreed only to the septuagenarian Babulal Gaur. In a little more than a year, however, with the tussle among the second-rung leadership of the BJP at its peak, Gaur was made to resign, and Chouhan took oath as CM. Bharti took all of this very badly, and over the next decade, she was expelled from the party and taken back twice. Chouhan went on to serve continuously from 2005 to 2018.

Since 2018; looking at 2023

In the tight election of 2018, the Congress won 114 seats, and the BJP 109. The year after he lost in the 2019 Lok Sabha election, Jyotiraditya Scindia left the party his father, Madhavrao Scindia, had served, and subsequently joined the party that his grand mother, Vijayaraje, had co-founded. This brought down the Congress government of Kamal Nath, and Chouhan returned as CM in March 2020.

Veterans Kamal Nath and Digvijaya Singh, calling themselves *Jai-Veeru* after the iconic duo from *Sholay*, are now locked in a high-stakes battle against the BJP led by Chouhan. The Congress expects to do well, and hopes the 2023 Assembly election will provide positive indications for the Lok Sabha battle of 2024.

EXPLAINED SCIENCE

100,000 GALAXIES IN A SINGLE FRAME: THE PROMISE OF EUCLID

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

THE EUROPEAN Space Agency Tuesday shared the first five images from its Euclid telescope, launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida in July.

Although the stunning celestial landscapes Euclid captured have been observed previously, most notably by NASA's iconic Hubble Space Telescope, Euclid's snapshots are at another level.

"I'm just overwhelmed by the sheer scale of the data," Michael Seiffert, a member of the Euclid mission told *The NYT*. "The ability to have really sharp images cover a wide field at the same time is just really astounding."

Comparing Euclid and JWST

In recent years, the James Webb Space Telescope, jointly operated by NASA, ESA and the Canadian Space Agency, has captured imaginations across the world with its ethereal space pictures. While it has a very different mission, the Euclid hopes to do the same.

Whereas the JWST zooms in on one part of the sky at a time, Euclid excels at imaging wide, but still detailed, swathes of the universe. That's perfect for "when

you want to look for a needle in a haystack," Seiffert said, including objects like free-floating worlds.

Universe's 'dark' secrets

Euclid is on a quest to map a third of the extragalactic sky. Scientists hope that with data Euclid sends home, researchers can learn about how the web of dark matter cementing our universe together influences the shapes and motions of visible objects in space. The telescope's detailed resolution is also expected to help scientists map the distribution of galaxies across cosmic time, aiding in understanding dark energy, the inexplicable force pulling the universe apart.

So far, the images have not disappointed. The images spanned four areas of the relatively nearby universe, including 1,000 galaxies belonging to the massive Perseus cluster just 240 million light years away, and more than 100,000 galaxies spread out in the background, ESA said. Scientists believe vast, seemingly organised structures such as Perseus could only have formed if dark matter existed.

In 2025, scientists plan to release Euclid's first maps of the universe, which will include more sky area than in all of the data collected so far by the Hubble Space Telescope, Seiffert said.

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UNESCO declares Gwalior 'city of music': story of its melodious past

SUANSHU KHURANA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 9

THE CITY of Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh was recently added to UNESCO's Creative Cities Network, for its "strong commitment to harnessing culture and creativity". While Gwalior was declared the 'City of Music', Kozhikode in Kerala was identified as the 'City of Literature'.

Royal patronage

Indian music history would be incomplete without the mention of Gwalior and the *gharana* that stemmed from there. The city's illustrious past is dotted with patronage of music — many of its rulers were musicians themselves or took a keen interest in the arts. Gwalior also hosted well-known musicians, who were either born in the city or came here to learn from the masters.

Gwalior *gharana*, the oldest musical *gharana* and a significant chapter of Hindustani classical music's history, flourished under

the aegis of Raja Man Singh Tomar during the 15th century. Man Singh's great grandfather Dungarendra Singh Tomar, a musician himself, attempted a revival of Indian classical music through academic interest and patronage.

Dungarendra also composed *Vishnupadas* (songs in praise of Vishnu) with a unique style of singing that he passed down to Man Singh, who ascended the throne in 1486. It's also believed that Man Singh invented *dhrupad*, in a classical genre sense. His *horis* and *dhamars* also became quite popular. The king would take advice from Sufi saints, who were often musicians too. In an attempt to popularise Indian music, he replaced Sanskrit songs with those in simple Hindi.

Man Singh also wrote *Manakutuhala* (Quest for Learning), considered the first treatise of music in Hindi, helping a wider audience understand the chamber music earlier only performed in kings' courts.

The Gwalior gharana



The tomb of Tansen in Gwalior. In the same complex lies the tomb of the Sufi saint Muhammad Ghous, who had a huge impact on Tansen. Yashree

Before Hindustani classical music was divided into various *gharanas* — musical ideologies and systems where the musicians identify with a style either by lineage or by learning from its followers — Gwalior emerged as the first proper *gharana* of music and evolved under the Mughal rule. The initial *ustads* of the *gharana* included Naththan Khan, Naththan Pir Baksh and his

grandsons Haddu, Hassu, and Natthu Khan. *Khayal* singing, as we know it today, emerged from *dhrupad* under Gwalior *gharana*, while incorporating the elements of *qawwali*. Ustad Naththan Pir Baksh was one of the early masters to create *khayal* — the orderly system of presenting a raga which became extremely popular in the 18th and 19th centuries and remains significant even

today. What's interesting about Gwalior is the inclusion of Persian words in the pieces and concepts of *bandish ki thumri* (a more structured style of *thumri*).

Tansen, the crown's musician

Mian Tansen, born Ramatanu to a poet and musician, was one of Gwalior's early proteges. At the beginning of the 16th century, he trained under Swami Haridas, who practised *dhrupad* but the poetry was dedicated to Krishna instead of Vishnu.

The famed Sufi saint Muhammad Ghous also had a huge impact on Tansen. While learning from Ghous, Tansen understood and honed the Gwalior *gharana* style and was the court musician for King Ram Chandra Singh of Rewa, Madhya Pradesh, for many years.

The story of his musical brilliance and knowledge travelled and Akbar invited Tansen to be a part of his court. A *Vaishnava* musician, he first refused, but upon Ram Chandra's insistence, he joined the Mughal court at the age of 60 and found an imperative spot among Akbar's *Nawaratnas*.

The Bangash gharana

Ustad Hafiz Ali Khan, son of sarod player Nanneh Khan, and one of the most significant and sought-after musicians who lived in Gwalior for many years, learned music under Ustad Wazir Khan of Rampur, who is considered a descendent of Mian Tansen.

Born in 1888, he was a court musician in Gwalior. He trained many significant musicians, including his son and foremost disciple Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, and Pt Bhimsen Joshi for a few months.

Notable names

The well-known names include Haddu Khan's son Bade Inayat Hussain Khan (1852-1922), Vasudeva Buwa Joshi, Balakrishnabawa Ichalkaranjkar (1849-1926) — who taught Vishnu Digambar Paluskar who later founded the Gandharva Mahavidyalaya — famed educator BR Deodhar and Pakistani singer Farida Khanum among others.

The generation that came after included Pt Kumar Gandharv, Malini Rajurkar, Veena Sahasrabudde, and Dharwad-based Pt Venkatesh Kumar.

22 SPORT

ICC WORLD CUP 2023

TODAY'S MATCH
 Afghanistan vs South Africa, 2 pm
 Live on Star Sports network



How Maxwell and New Zealand ended the suspense

Glenn Maxwell's pyrotechnics against Afghanistan and New Zealand's comprehensive win over Sri Lanka have, for all intents and purposes, ended all the suspense from the remaining league fixtures. With four league games to go, it is almost certain what the semi-final line-up will be: India vs New Zealand in Mumbai, South Africa vs Australia in Kolkata.

PAK NEED A MIRACLE

New Zealand finished their league engagements with 10 points. Pakistan can match that tally by defeating England in their last game on Saturday, but the difference in net run rate (NRR) is so massive (0.743 to 0.036) that

Babar Azam's team faces a virtually impossible task. If they bat first and score 300 runs, they will need to restrict England to 13. If England bat first and are dismissed for 50, Pakistan need to reach the target in 2.3 overs.

AFG NEED MORE THAN A MIRACLE

The task confronting Afghanistan is even more improbable, as their NRR is the worst among the three teams vying for the No. 4 spot. First of all, they have to beat South Africa by even a bigger margin to stay in

contention for the semi-final spot. They have registered some major upsets in the tournament so far and are a big-hearted team, but it remains to be seen if they are still shell-shocked from the Maxwell miracle.

SA VS AUSTRALIA IN SEMIS

Whatever happens, India is guaranteed to finish as the No.1 team on the points table, and will face the side placed fourth. South Africa (No.2 currently) and Australia (No.3) will face off in the other semifinal, as they did in 1999

and 2007. There's a theoretical possibility that their positions on the table could be interchanged but it would not prevent another potential blockbuster encounter between the two tough opponents.

Bright, sunny day clears air

Last four spots almost decided after rain keeps away as Kiwis hammer hapless Sri Lankans

VENKATA KRISHNA B
BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 9

THURSDAY WAS a momentous occasion for three teams involved in the semi-final race. One that was playing, New Zealand, and the two that were not, Pakistan and Afghanistan. By the end of the evening, New Zealand all but ended the race, and have one foot in the semi-final following a thumping five-wicket win over Sri Lanka. The massive win means Pakistan have to bat first and score 300 runs before dismissing England for 13 to reach the semi-final. Or if they bowl first, have to skittle out England for 50 runs and chase the target in 2.3 overs. Unless they achieve this outlandish equation, India will face New Zealand in the repeat of the 2019 World Cup semi-final, at the Wankhede Stadium on Wednesday.

As Bengaluru woke up to steady rain in the morning, New Zealand's hopes appeared bleak. Even when they arrived at the stadium around noon, covers were in place as thick dark clouds stationed over the stadium appeared to open up any minute. But just like how the World Cup has seen twists and turns over the past week, out of nowhere sun peeked out at the right time and a steady breeze that set in soon after, cleared the skies, setting up an ideal ambience for New Zealand, who needed a bit of luck to smile on them.

Perfect outing

After near misses, close defeats and weather, this was an afternoon where everything went New Zealand's way from the moment Kane Williamson won the toss and elected to bowl first keeping an eye on the DLS. For Sri Lanka, who too had much at stake as they are yet to confirm their berth in the Champions Trophy, this was a game that summarised their World Cup campaign. With the forecast of rain for the evening, all they needed was to stretch the game as far as possible. But more than New Zealand, it was the Lankan batting unit that was in a hurry to finish the game before the skies opened up, losing five wickets in the first powerplay.

While they eventually managed to get 171 on board, largely thanks to opener Kusal Perera (51) and their No 9 Maheesh Theekshana (38 n.o.), New Zealand made short work of the chase that further boosted their net run-rate, which now stands at +0.743. For a team whose strength has been the ability of the new-ball bowlers to fetch wickets, the indifferent form of Trent Boult and injury to Matt Henry has caused a few headaches at this World Cup. Having entered the tournament with an economy rate of 4.13, Boult has seen it swell to 4.97 in the past month. With Henry ruled out of the compe-



Trent Boult single-handedly set up the game with his opening spell. PTI

tion, and Lockie Ferguson missing a couple of games due to injury, their struggle with the ball wasn't surprising.

But on a day where Williamson needed his attack to step up, Boult single-handedly set up the game for New Zealand with his opening spell, overcoming another bad start as his first two overs went for 23 runs.

With Tim Southee at the other end to offer control and provide the early breakthrough, Boult found the swing and from there on, he found his elements. In such conditions, Boult can make the swing both ways and after Kusal Mendis top-edged one to third-man after going for a big heave over mid-wicket, the left-arm seamer got the opening he needed. His next wicket, Sadeera Samarawickrama, came in the same over as Boult just snapped his wrists at the last possible moment that made the ball to angle away, finding the edge of the batsman on

the way as Daryl Mitchell caught it safely at the slip.

False dawn

Amidst all this mayhem around him, Perera was setting himself to something special. An attacking opener, who has built his game idolising Sanath Jayasuriya, the diminutive left-hander, was counter-attacking Sri Lanka out of trouble. Having already struck three boundaries and a six in the first five overs, in the next two overs he alone scored 26 runs, the only brief moment were New Zealand were put under some sort of pressure. All that Sri Lanka needed was someone to hang in and build a partnership with Perera, but as Boult trapped Charith Asalanka of his fourth over, New Zealand were all over their opponents. And in the last over of the first powerplay, the returning Ferguson would provide the landing blow,

SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND VS SRI LANKA
M CHINNASWAMY STADIUM, BENGALURU
Toss: New Zealand elected to field

SRI LANKA

P Nissanka	c Latham b Southee	2 (8b)
Perera	c Santner b Ferguson	51 (28b, 9x4, 2x6)
K Mendis	c Ravindra b Boult	6 (7b, 1x4)
S Samarawickrama	c Mitchell b Boult	1 (2b)
C Asalanka	lbw b Boult	8 (8b, 1x4)
A Mathews	c Mitchell b Santner	16 (27b, 2x4)
D de Silva	c Mitchell b Santner	19 (24b, 2x4, 1x6)
Karunaratne	c Latham b Ferguson	6 (17b, 1x4)
M Theekshana	not out	38 (91b, 3x4)
D Chameera	c Boult b Ravindra	1 (20b)
D Madushanka	c Latham b Ravindra	19 (48b, 2x4)
Extras (lb 1, w 3)		4
Total	46.4 Ov (RR: 3.66)	171

FoW: 1-3 (Pathum Nissanka, 1.5 ov), 2-30 (Kusal Mendis, 4.1 ov), 3-32 (Sadeera Samarawickrama, 4.4 ov), 4-70 (Charith Asalanka, 8.2 ov), 5-70 (Kusal Perera, 9.3 ov), 6-104 (Angelo Mathews, 16.4 ov), 7-105 (Dhananjaya de Silva, 18.3 ov), 8-113 (Chamika Karunaratne, 23.3 ov), 9-128 (Dushmantha Chameera, 32.1 ov), 10-171 (Dilshan Madushanka, 46.4 ov)

Bowling: Trent Boult 10-2-37-3, Tim Southee 8-0-52-1, Lockie Ferguson 10-2-35-2, Mitchell Santner 10-2-22-2, Rachin Ravindra 7.4-0-21-2, Glenn Phillips 1-0-3-0.

NEW ZEALAND

D Conway	c de Silva b Chameera	45 (42b, 9x4)
Rachin	c de Silva b Theekshana	42 (34b, 3x4, 3x6)
K Williamson	b Mathews	14 (15b, 2x4)
Mitchell	c Asalanka b Mathews	43 (28b, 5x4, 2x6)
M Chapman	run out	7 (6b, 1x4)
G Phillips	not out	17 (10b, 3x4)
T Latham	not out	2 (2b)
Extras (w 2)		2
Total	23.2 Ov (RR: 7.37)	172/5

FoW: 1-86 (Devon Conway, 12.2 ov), 2-88 (Rachin Ravindra, 13.3 ov), 3-130 (Kane Williamson, 18.2 ov), 4-145 (Mark Chapman, 20.3 ov), 5-162 (Daryl Mitchell, 22.4 ov)

Bowling: Dilshan Madushanka 6.2-0-58-0, Maheesh Theekshana 7-0-43-1, Dhananjaya de Silva 2-0-22-0, Dushmantha Chameera 4-1-20-1, Angelo Mathews 4-0-29-2.

removing Perera.

It was the 21st wicket that Sri Lanka had lost in the first powerplay, a clear tell all scene of how below par their batting has been. The score of 74/5 would become 113/8 by the 24th over, before Theekshana would frustrate the Kiwis, first for eight overs with Dushantha Chameera and then another 14 overs with Dilshan Madushanka as Sri Lanka ended up with 171 in 46.4 overs.

Chasing the small target, New Zealand's intentions were clear - to finish it as early as possible and ensure the NRR gets beyond the reach of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Devon Conway and Rachin Ravindra paved the way, stitching together 86 runs before the former dismissed in the 13th over. While Rachin too perished an over later, the rest of the Kiwi batting line-up maintained the tempo as they got home in the 24th over with five wickets in hand.



Bengaluru is home away from home for Indian-origin Kiwi Rachin Ravindra. Reuters

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

DURING NEW Zealand's five-wicket win over Sri Lanka in Bengaluru on Thursday, Rachin Ravindra climbed up to the top spot on the run-scorers' chart for this World Cup. His quickfire 42 took his tally in the tournament to 565 runs from nine innings and pushed him above Quinton de Kock (550) and Virat Kohli (543). New Zealand are all but assured of a place in the semifinals now, where they are likely to take on India in Mumbai.

"It's a pretty surreal feeling," Rachin told broadcasters Star Sports about his name being chanted at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium during the two matches he has played there. "Grateful for the support, especially playing in Bangalore where my extended family resides. Crowd chanting my name is something I will never take for granted. Once-in-a-lifetime sort of thing you dream of as a kid."

There is a chance Rachin might not have been even in New Zealand's first-choice XI in the World Cup if skipper Kane Williamson was fit to start the tournament, and the good for-

"Lucky enough it all sort of worked out. Six to 12 months ago, I was not in the frame. Then the stars aligned. Individual stuff aside, good to get the job done and hopefully get into the playoffs."

Rachin is no stranger to the south of India as he has travelled here in the past to play club-level games. He would come to the Karnataka capital where his extended family lives, as part of the Hutt Hawks Cricket Club (run by his father Ravi Krishnamurthy). He has travelled to play matches in Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Anantapur and Vizag.

"Lucky enough to have come here during my teenage years on club tours," Rachin said when asked about adapting to Indian conditions. "That has helped me a lot. Nice wickets to bat on. If you play positive cricket, you get rewarded on fast outfields. You try to adapt as well as you can. You talk to Kane, Devon (Conway), who have played in the IPL for so

DEBUTANT LEADING THE RACE OF RUN-GETTERS

- 1. RACHIN RAVINDRA (NZ)**
565 runs in 9 innings, Avg: 70.62
- 2. QUINTON DE KOCK (SA)**
550 runs in 8 innings, Avg: 68.75
- 3. VIRAT KOHLI (IND)**
543 runs in 8 innings, Avg: 108.60
- 4. DAVID WARNER (AUS)**
446 runs in 8 innings, Avg: 55.75
- 5. ROHIT SHARMA (IND)**
442 runs in 8 innings, Avg: 55.25

many years, get some golden nuggets from them."

From having looked up to Williamson to replacing him in the XI and now batting alongside him, it's been a whirlwind for the youngster. "I have idolised Kane, and also a lot of guys like Virat Kohli, Steve Smith, Joe Root. But Kane... his leadership, on and off the field, he is a calming presence. I am lucky enough to have the freedom from an inexperienced background. When you are young, you take the game on, lucky to have come off," he said. And before signing off, Rachin hoped he would play more at this venue in the future.

"I have loved every minute of the two games we played here. It's a stadium special to my heart. Hopefully, I get to play more games of cricket here in the future, it's been amazing," he said.

Rachin now holds the record for the most number of runs scored in a single edition of the ICC Men's ODI World Cup before turning 25. Before New Zealand's match against Sri Lanka, he was level with Sachin Tendulkar's tally in 1996 (523 runs). He started the World Cup with a bang when he smashed a 123* against England in Ahmedabad in the curtain-raiser. He then scored a century against Australia as well, before his third ton against Pakistan. In the process, he became the first batter to score three centuries in their debut World Cup.

Rachin now holds the record for the most runs scored in a single edition of the ICC World Cup before turning 25.

BEWARE, THE BLACK CAPS

Why India should be wary of the Kiwis, if they face them in the semis

VENKATA KRISHNA B
BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 9

FORMALITIES ARE yet to be completed and it won't be until Saturday evening that it would be set in stone that India will face New Zealand in the first semi-final at the Wankhede Stadium. An unbeaten team so far, placed on top of the table, home advantage by their side...all of it would make India the undisputed favourites. But despite barely making it to the semi-final, New Zealand don't resemble a side that has too many concerns bothering them.

As has been the case in World Cups, New Zealand seem to be peaking again at the right time as the tournament enters the home run. This is a team that thrives on big stages and has a knack of seizing control of crucial moments, making a mockery of the term pressure. Despite three successive losses, they bounced back with roaring form with the bat, posting 400 against Pakistan. And on Ferguson, bolstered by the return of Lockie Ferguson - who added the X-factor in the middle-overs - they rolled over Sri Lanka. Even Trent Boult, who had been struggling

of late, got back amongst wickets. With the bat Devon Conway, who appeared to be drifting away after that unbeaten 152 against England in the opening fixture, showed all the positive signs of rediscovering the fluency, which has been missing since Ahmedabad.

From Rachin Ravindra at the top to Tim Southee at No 10, New Zealand have the sort of batting depth that can be counted upon at the conditions in Wankhede. "Hard to comment on what the conditions will be at Wankhede, but you know, history suggests it's a good wicket and, yeah, nice to have come up against them in Dharamsala. Totally different ground and different facilities. But we'll turn our focus to that challenge. Very, very good players, but pressure does things to the best of players at any time. So just look forward to taking that on," Boult said about the prospect of facing India.

At Dharamsala, when these two teams faced off, it was billed as the precursor to the knockouts. But at no point did New Zealand pose a serious challenge to India. However, at the Wankhede the challenge will be manifold for Rohit Sharma & Co, who have repeatedly struggled to raise their game in the



As has been the case in previous World Cups, New Zealand seem to be peaking again at the right time as the tournament enters the business end. PTI

semi-finals. Given their in-form batting line-up, and factoring in the conditions on offer, New Zealand will be tempted to look at Kyle Jamieson, the tall, well-built all-rounder who could use the bounce to good effect and also hit a few big blows with the bat.

But for New Zealand as it was in the case in Dharamsala, for them to stop a red-hot India this time, they need their bowling unit to have another field day.

As Rohit Sharma counterattacked at the top, sans swing on offer, their new ball bowlers struggled to make early inroads. From there on, they were always playing catch up. At the Wankhede, where the seamers have found some help, especially with the new ball, New Zealand will be a tricky opponent. If they are defending under lights, Boult and Southee would be relishing the conditions.

"They're playing a positive style of cricket. I suppose playing shots does present chances - but we're going to be very clear with how we're going to tackle that that game if it hap-

pens still has to be ticked off but I think there'll be a lot of excitement and the prospect of that challenge, and like I said it doesn't get any bigger than taking on India in front of 1.5 billion people. Yeah, it's very exciting," Boult said.

So far at this World Cup, New Zealand have shown they can rise from the dead. They are known to play to their strengths, where each player is given a clarity of clarity, which they perform to the T. They have always thrived when the spotlight is aimed elsewhere and at Wankhede, they would feel at home in that sense.

"I think our brand of ODI cricket has put us in good stead to be honest. We're a team that doesn't get too far ahead of ourselves. We quickly reflect, review the games, and move on and try to challenge ourselves as best as possible. And I think in World Cup cricket, when it comes down to must-win games, we've got a lot of experience in the squad and I thought we used that nicely over the last few games," Boult added.

At Wankhede Stadium, where pace bowlers have found some help from the surface, New Zealand will be a tricky opponent.

SHORT TAKES

Buttler keen to continue as white-ball skipper

Pune: Limited overs skipper Jos Buttler has expressed his desire to continue leading England in both the white-ball formats despite a dismal ODI World Cup campaign. Defending champions England, who have made an embarrassing early exit from the World Cup, will eye a win over Pakistan in their final league game to seal a qualification spot for Champions Trophy in 2025. Rob Key, the managing director of England's men's cricket, will join the side in India at the end of the week.

Key will select the squads for next month's white ball tour of West Indies, including three ODIs and five T20Is and decision on Buttler and Matthew Mott's future as captain and coach could also be taken. "Yeah, I'd like to (captain the side in the white-ball tour next month). I know Rob Key arrives into India today, I think. So, yeah, we can have some good conversations with him and the coach and everyone and make a plan for that tour," Buttler said on Wednesday. PTI

PCB accepts chief selector Inzamam's resignation

Karachi: The rift between the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and chief selector Inzamam-ul-Haq intensified with the country's sport's governing body accepting the former skipper's resignation amid a conflict of interest allegation.

Even as the Babar Azam-led Pakistan cricket team fights for the last remaining semifinal spot in the World Cup in India, the PCB issued a statement on Thursday stating that it had accepted the legendary player's resignation.

The statement added that a replacement will be announced shortly. "Pakistan Cricket Board has accepted Inzamam-ul-Haq's resignation as the chairman of the national men's selection committee and junior selection committee and will announce his replacement in due course. PTI

Croes replaces injured Klein in Netherlands squad

New Delhi: Noah Croes replaced injured Ryan Klein in the Netherlands' squad for their final World Cup league game against India. Croes, who has played one ODI, was named as a replacement after Klein was ruled out due to a lower back injury.

"The Event Technical Committee of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 has approved Noah Croes as a replacement for Ryan Klein in the Netherlands squad," said the ICC in a statement.

With two wins from eight games, the Netherlands are out of the semifinals race. They lost to England by 160 runs on Wednesday night. PTI

Champions Trophy to change from 50-over format to T20?

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NOVEMBER 9

WILL THE 2025 ICC Champions Trophy change from the 50-over format to being a T20 tournament? The Guardian newspaper has cited sources to report that broadcasters Disney Star wish to make the next Champions Trophy, for which teams like England and Sri Lanka are still battling for a spot in the ongoing ODI World Cup, into an 8-team 20-overs competition.

The Champions Trophy will be played in 2025 and 2029, with the T20 World Cup scheduled for 2024, 2026, 2028 and 2030. The 50-over ICC World Cup is set to be played in 2027 in South Africa and in 2031

in India and Bangladesh. Disney Star have bagged the broadcast rights for all ICC events in a four-year deal running from 2024 to 2027 for the Indian market, reportedly for USD 3 billion. Between 2024 and 2027, the ICC men's calendar will have two T20 World Cups, two World Test Championship finals, a Champions Trophy and a 50-over World Cup. The women's events include two T20 World Cups, a 50-over World Cup

and a T20 Champions Trophy. Moving on to the U-19 events, the roster includes two men's World Cups and a couple of women's T20 World Cups.

The Champions Trophy will be played in 2025 and 2029, with the T20 World Cup scheduled for 2024, 2026, 2028 and 2030. The 50-over ICC World Cup is set to be played in 2027 in South Africa and in 2031 in India and Bangladesh.

If the speculation proves right and the ICC turns the Champions Trophy into a T20 tournament, it will raise several questions: How does this ongoing 50-over World Cup then decide qualification for a T20 tournament? Can ODI cricket survive, and will bilateral ODIs cease to be

played after a while? The Guardian quotes a broadcaster source as saying that this move will "kill off" the one-day format. It's one thing for established powerhouses in world cricket to adapt to the changing environment, but what about teams like Afghanistan, who have built a solid base in 50-over domestic cricket, and have sparkled in this ODI World Cup in India?

Afghanistan captain Hashmatullah Shahidi was asked on Thursday, ahead of their game against South Africa in Ahmedabad, about the "weird situation". The question was phrased thus: "You've gotten really good now in 50-over cricket. But when we look at the next cycle, the number of 50-over games are starting to

reduce. So how does a team like Afghanistan continue to improve?" Shahidi put the onus on ICC to give them more ODIs, and said he is hopeful that the ODI format will survive. "There will be 50-over cricket, I'm expecting that. I hope that ICC also makes a good call on it because 50-over cricket is also important. Right now, there are too many leagues, too much T20 cricket. I think with that, 50-over and Test cricket is more important. So, if we have those games, we will definitely improve more and more. And we are expecting our cricket board and ICC to give us more matches for our improvement. So, we are hoping that they take a lot of series with other teams. And the Champions Trophy is also ahead."

Bowling out with heads held high

Still reeling from the heart-breaking loss to Australia and their semifinal hopes all but over, Afghanistan -the team that's the story of the tournament - can look back with pride at what they achieved and what they need to do to get better

MIHIR VASAVDA
AHMEDABAD, NOVEMBER 9

INADVERTENTLY, HASHMATULLAH Shahidi called it a 'win'.

The Afghanistan captain quickly corrected himself. But the tiny slip allowed a peek into the mind of a player clearly hurting after the unbelievable loss to Australia on Tuesday.

"That win was..." Shahidi said, paused and smiled before having another go. "That loss," he began again, stressing on the outcome, "was hurting. We were not expecting it. They were seven down!... But that's part of cricket. Part of life."

Of course, it will take a while for the defeat - that all but killed Afghanistan's chances of qualifying for the semifinals - to sink in. But when it eventually does, when Afghanistan's players go home, take a winter break, put their feet up and look back at the last five weeks, they will be proud of what they have achieved.

Unless the cricketing Gods connive to set up the most improbable scenario, so that Afghanistan leapfrog Pakistan and New Zealand to finish fourth, Friday might be the last time they feature in this World Cup.

Afghanistan have been the Rocky Balboa of this World Cup. Revelling in the underdog role, they have taken down three world champions and very nearly pinned another.



With their superb performance, Afghanistan have made everyone believe in the eternal magic of the World Cup. PTI

And whatever the outcome against the semifinal-bound South Africa, it's been a campaign that has unmistakable shades of Morocco at Qatar 2022.

Unlike Morocco, Afghanistan will not reach the semifinals. Like the African underdogs, though, the battle-hardened players from a country that's ravaged after decades of man-made and natural horrors, have shown nothing is beyond the realms of possibility.

Like Morocco, Afghanistan made everyone believe in the eternal magic of the World Cup. The country that started playing cricket just 20 years ago broke away from the traditional, decades-old storylines, humiliated world champions and while doing all that, in the words of coach Jonathan Trott, inspired a 'generation of players to pick up a cricket bat and a cricket ball.'

Afghanistan have been, to borrow the ref-

erence Morocco coach Walid Regraoui used to describe his team, the Rocky Balboa of this World Cup. Revelling in the underdog role, they have taken down three world champions and very nearly pinned another.

Multiple storylines can now unfold in the tournament's final week. India can remain unbeaten and annihilate all their opponents to win the World Cup for the third time, thus blending their off-field power with on-field dominance. Who wouldn't mind if the good guys of world cricket, New Zealand, finally finish first? Or even if South Africa, after years of heartbreak, at last win a major title? Maybe Australia reclaim the crown they surrendered to arch rivals England four years ago and reassert their dominance.

Making a big splash

Whichever narrative is engineered, this - at some level - will always be Afghanistan's World Cup.

They have inspired the associate nations. "If you look at someone like Afghanistan," the Netherlands' Tejas Nidamanuru said, "they've been at the last three World Cups... didn't win a game (last time) and they won one in 2015. Look at what they're able to achieve!"

They have made the big boys sit up and take notice. "It's been good to watch the Afghanistan group going the way that they have, with the spinners that they've got, the batters up front, they've done really well," South Africa's David Miller said. "That's the joys of the World Cup. You see different

teams doing well. So, it's great to see. Good for cricket."

The other day, Steve Smith sounded excited to see what more Afghanistan had to offer, particularly their 'smart' spinners. Indeed, 12 out of the 15 men in Afghanistan's squad are under 30 and 11 are below the age of 25, signalling a promising future.

That they were within sniffing distance of a fifth win, which would have kept them in contention for the semifinals, but couldn't close out the match against Australia, offers lessons. The biggest of them, Trott pointed out, was "just how cut-throat cricket is at the highest level and how you need to be on your game, not for, you know, 70 overs, but for 100 overs, especially at the highest level of the game."

Whether 50-over cricket survives long

enough for Afghanistan to implement their learnings from this World Cup remains to be seen. Shahidi certainly hoped the ICC would 'make a good call on it' because '50 overs and Test cricket is more important'.

But at this moment, on the eve of what is likely to be his team's final match of the World Cup, he was left feeling bittersweet. "We feel proud. We feel happy with what we have done at this World Cup. But I expected more. Beating Australia would have been a good achievement. Now, we have one game left and if we finish that well, we still have a chance for the semifinals."

It's not much of a chance; perhaps less than what England had after six losses. Then again, going out without a fight would be the most un-Afghan thing to do.

Lanning, Australia's run-machine and captain fantastic, retires

VINAYAKK MOHANARANGAN
NOVEMBER 9

CAPTAINCY CAME early in Meg Lanning's career. In 2014, she was 21 when she was given the keys to unlocking the door to Australian domination. Responsibilities were placed on those shoulders when she was still a young batter who was just starting to take the women's game by storm. Perhaps that is why when she announced her international retirement, still only 31, she felt a sense of relief wash over her.

"Since I've made the decision, I've felt a little bit relieved," Lanning said on Thursday, but also indicated that this has been on her mind for around 18 months when she took a couple of breaks from international cricket.

It is incredible to see Lanning's career just through the prism of World Cups: she led Australia to one ODI World Cup and four T20 World Cup titles. No other captain (male or female) has managed more than two. She won a total of seven World Cups and added the CWG gold to her cabinet last year.

Beyond that, she was a batter par excellence. Lanning burst onto the scene with a century in her second ODI - as an 18-year-old, still an Australian record - and finished her career with 17 international tons, more than any other woman. Lanning's conversion rate in ODIs is ridiculous as she finishes with 15 tons and 21 fifties.



"She is one of the finest batters I have played against," Indian legend Jhulan Goswami tells the Indian Express. "You can see from her body language. She is very competitive, passionate, and always had a never-give-up attitude. It is not easy leading such a side filled with superstars in the dressing room. As a leader, she always set the example. I have heard about her tremendous work ethic. Hum log bolte hain na, khadoos cricketer... She was that. A very khadoos cricketer."

Signs were there early, according to another Aussie legend Lisa Sthalekar, who's ca-

reer winded down around the time Lanning came into the international arena.

"I wasn't surprised when she was called into the Australian team at a young age. You knew her skills were higher than most of her age and even when she kind of burst onto the domestic scene, she was still scoring runs, and she was compiling innings and she had the maturity well above her years. She had all of the right assets to be successful at the next level," Sthalekar tells this daily.

Lanning's early days as a batter saw her smash a 45-ball ton against New Zealand at



Meg Lanning is expected to be around the domestic and T20 leagues a bit, having also been retained by Delhi Capitals in WPL. AP

North Sydney Oval. "She kind of came in with a bang," Sthalekar says. "I remember going 'wow, like she is a special talent'. Just her ability to generate power that a lot of us and a majority of players were struggling to, she was able to get that through her timing."

Goswami has enjoyed many a battle against Lanning, most memorably dismissing her with a peach in that famous World Cup semifinal in Derby. The Indian pacer says, "Playing against her was a challenge because as a batter she picked up length a bit earlier than everyone else. That ability of hers

MEG THE MAGNIFICENT

5 World Cup titles won as captain (four T20 WCs and one ODI WC), which is the most by any cricketer in history, male or female.

17 Number of International centuries by Lanning, the most in the women's game. Her 15 ODI centuries are also the most in the format. She scored a ton in just her 2nd ODI, when she was 18 and still holds the record for the youngest Australian ODI centurion.

was absolutely top-notch. She was so consistent and as an opponent, you know that if you get her early, you are in the game. But if she gets set, she knows how to build innings and her conversion rate was so high. Some days, I won the challenge and some days she did. I have huge respect for her, what a champion she is as a batter and leader."

Lanning bows out of the international game - she is expected to be around the domestic and T20 leagues a bit, having also been retained by Delhi Capitals in WPL - as a bonafide superstar.

"I certainly didn't know how she would handle captaincy at 21 because she never had captained in the underage as she was always up one age group and the youngest kid within the sides," Sthalekar says. "There was a hope and a belief maybe from selectors at the time that she would be in the side for a while. She was never one for big talks or 'look at me' type thing, she went about her business pretty quietly and led from the front with her performances."

Some may think leading the Australian side filled with stars was easy, but the hard work that went behind the scenes to sustain this brilliance for so long can't be understated.

"When people look at the numbers they go, actually 'wow, you know, she was able to do this majority of the time as skipper, a young one at that, and still was able to perform well as an individual batter'. That takes immense skill and leadership", Sthalekar says. For Goswami, the ability to lead a dressing room of stars was no easy task either.

The tributes that have come in for Lanning - from her teammates and rivals - are all proof of the legacy she leaves behind. "Cricket's all I've ever known really for 13 years," Lanning said on Thursday. And the sport, in return, will be grateful for Lanning's contributions in revolutionising the game. As Goswami puts it, "She will be remembered as one of the finest batters and one of the most successful leaders world cricket has ever seen. A legend."

Ten Hag under more pressure after defeat

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MANCHESTER, NOVEMBER 9

THE PRESSURE is mounting on Erik ten Hag as his Manchester United reign descends deeper into crisis. The 4-3 loss against Copenhagen in the Champions League on Wednesday was yet another blow for the Dutch manager in a season that is unravelling by the week. He says he is waiting for "one moment" to turn the campaign around. It needs to come quickly.

United now faces the humiliating prospect of being eliminated from the Champions League after the group stages; its defense of the League Cup has already ended and five losses in 11 Premier League games have silenced pre-season talk of a potential title challenge. In any ordinary season United would be expected to sweep its way past teams like Luton at a packed Old Trafford on Saturday. But this is clearly no ordinary season for the 20-time league champions. Last week the club denied a report it was exploring alternatives to Ten Hag after a troubling start to the campaign. A win against Luton would do little to quieten speculation about his position, but ahead of a two-week international break, another setback would intensify questions about his future.

October and November international breaks are periods when clubs have looked to make managerial changes in the past. And while Ten Hag has been well-backed by United, it is impossible to ignore his team's woeful form after suffering a ninth defeat in all competitions. It feels like everything is going against Ten Hag.

His squad has been hit with injuries to key players like Casemiro, Lisandro Martinez and Luke Shaw. On Wednesday, he spoke of a series of decisions on the field that have also hurt his team, such as Marcus Rashford's red card in Denmark when United led 2-0. There have also been off-field issues involving Brazil winger Antony, Jadon Sancho and Mason Greenwood, as well as ongoing uncertainty over the ownership of the club. "This squad is resilient. The whole season, so many decisions are against us, so many setbacks for injuries," Ten Hag said. "Every time there is a spirit, there is a fight and we will keep going because I am sure, and I said to the lads, it will turn, on one moment in the season it will turn in our favour."

One such moment might have been Bruno Fernandes' stoppage-time winner against Fulham last week. Instead that goal only proved to be a temporary pause to United's ever-worsening campaign. Like many of United's wins this season, it only masked deeper problems. Wolverhampton felt aggrieved when denied a late penalty in its 1-0 loss at Old Trafford at the start of the season. United then had to come back from 2-0 down to beat Nottingham Forest 3-2. It took two stoppage-time goals from Scott McTominay to beat Brentford 2-1 and Andre Onana had to pull off a penalty save in the 97th minute to deny Copenhagen a draw last month.



United have lost 8 of their first 17 matches this season. Reuters



Late Kane double sends Bayern into Champions League last 16

BAYERN MUNICH top scorer Harry Kane struck twice in seven minutes late in the game to guide his team to a 2-1 victory over Galatasaray on Wednesday and secure a spot in the Champions League knockout stage as group winners with two games to spare.

The England captain, who had scored a hat-trick against Borussia Dortmund in the Bundesliga on Saturday, headed in a Joshua Kimmich free kick in the 80th minute and then tapped in his second six minutes later to make sure of a top two finish.

Man-of-the-match Kane, the Bundesliga's record signing when he joined this season for 100 million euros (\$107.06 million), has now scored four times in his first four Champions League games for Bayern to match a club record, on top of his 15 goals in his first 10 league games. He is also

only the third English player to reach 25 goals in the competition. "It was a tough game. The away leg was very similar," Kane said. "I thought we controlled the game better this time. We knew in the second half we just had to keep that momentum." **REUTERS**

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EXTRACT OF STANDALONE / CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND SIX MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2023 (Rs. in Crore)

Particulars	Standalone						Consolidated					
	Quarter ended 30 September, 2023 (Unaudited)	Quarter ended 30 June, 2023 (Unaudited)	Quarter ended 30 September, 2022 (Unaudited)	Six months ended 30 September, 2023 (Unaudited)	Six months ended 30 September, 2022 (Unaudited)	Year ended 31 March, 2023 (Audited)	Quarter ended 30 September, 2023 (Unaudited)	Quarter ended 30 June, 2023 (Unaudited)	Quarter ended 30 September, 2022 (Unaudited)	Six months ended 30 September, 2023 (Unaudited)	Six months ended 30 September, 2022 (Unaudited)	Year ended 31 March, 2023 (Audited)
Total income from Operations	2,883.64	2,625.64	2,117.21	5,509.28	4,014.41	9,921.20	2,986.83	2,717.15	2,238.85	5,703.98	4,240.76	10,367.93
Net profit / (loss) (before tax & exceptional items)	299.10	227.60	225.56	526.70	385.78	883.19	328.36	263.05	225.87	591.41	412.37	891.00
Net profit / (loss) (before tax & after exceptional items)	299.10	227.60	225.56	526.70	385.78	883.19	328.36	263.05	225.87	591.41	412.37	891.00
Net profit after tax	230.44	161.66	178.10	392.10	301.23	776.83	250.78	187.37	174.18	438.15	318.75	765.23
Profit is attributable to:												
Owners of the Parent	230.44	161.66	178.10	392.10	301.23	776.83	250.73	187.36	174.18	438.09	318.75	765.23
Non Controlling Interest	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.05	0.01	-	0.06	-	-
Total comprehensive income	237.01	162.17	180.84	399.18	311.92	787.94	257.35	187.88	176.88	445.23	329.39	776.29
Equity share capital	188.10	188.10	188.10	188.10	188.10	188.10	188.10	188.10	188.10	188.10	188.10	188.10
Other Equity attributable to Owners of the Parent (Excluding Revaluation Reserve)						4,990.38						5,023.39
Earnings Per Share (not annualized) (Note 4)												
(Face Value of ₹2/- each)												
(a) Basic (in ₹)	2.45	1.72	1.89	4.17	3.20	8.26	2.67	1.99	1.85	4.66	3.39	8.14
(b) Diluted (in ₹)	2.45	1.72	1.89	4.17	3.20	8.26	2.67	1.99	1.85	4.66	3.39	8.14

NOTES:

- The above standalone and consolidated financial results were reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 9th November 2023. The Statutory Auditors of the company have conducted limited review of the financial results for the Quarter and half year ended 30th Sept. 2023.
- The Standalone and consolidated financial results have been prepared in accordance with the Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) as notified under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with relevant rules thereunder and in terms of Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (as Amended) and other recognised accounting practices and policies to the extent applicable.
- The above is an extract of the detailed format of the financial results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, as amended. The full format of the aforesaid financial results are available on the Stock Exchanges website of BSE (www.bseindia.com/corporates), NSE (www.nseindia.com/corporates) and Company's website at www.ircon.org.
- Ministry of Railway (MoR) vide letter dated 18.10.2021 has decided in principle for closure of Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited, a joint venture company and transfer of its assets and liabilities to RLDA/Railways. The transaction pricing and related modalities are in process.
- Ministry of Railway (MoR) has granted a principle approval for closure of Bastar Railway Private Limited, a joint venture company and transfer of its assets and liabilities to MoR. Further MoR has decided for taking over the construction of Balram-Putgadga-Tentuloi (54 KM), Mahanadi Coal Railway Limited Phase-II, through MoR Funding. The legal formalities, pricing and related modalities are in process.

For and on behalf of IRCON International Limited
Sd/-
Brijesh Kumar Gupta
Chairman & Managing Director
DIN-10092756

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