

A YEAR IN OFFICE

Shouldn't reject constitutional morality, says CJI Chandrachud

'Doctrine should prevail even if there's tension with existing social practices'

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 18

A STRONG VOTARY of constitutional morality, Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud has said the doctrine should not be rejected just "because it may sometimes be in tension with existing social practices".

Responding to a query on the likely contradictions that may arise while examining Indian cultural practices through the prism of constitutional morality, especially with some arguing the Constitution itself is borrowed text, CJI Chandrachud said "certain constitutional values are universally accepted" and that the framers of the Constitution consciously incorporated provisions adopted from other jurisdictions and "modified them to suit the Indian conditions".

In an interview to *The Indian Express*, Chandrachud, who completed a year on November 9 as the Chief Justice of India, said, "We must recognise that the Constitution itself sought to



THE EXPRESS INTERVIEW
'QUESTIONS BY JUDGES DURING HEARING ARE TO GAIN CLARITY'
D Y CHANDRACHUD
CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

PM, AUSTRALIA DY PM TO WATCH WORLD CUP FINAL IN AHMEDABAD

Clash of the Titans today, captains ready their teams for the big one

Grand finale with Surya Kiran aerobatics, laser show, dancers and singers

SRIRAM VEERA
AHMEDABAD, NOVEMBER 18

THE WORLD'S biggest cricket stadium is now the setting for Indian cricket's global domination moment. If this World Cup's most imperious team takes down five-time World Champions Australia, it will be the perfect finish for the hosts. Indian cricket has administrative and financial muscle but the coveted ICC trophies has eluded them for more than a decade. Ahmedabad could see India ticking the final big box.

The high-stakes moment has drawn a stellar cast in the viewing gallery. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be present along with Australian Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles. Jets from the Indian Air Force's Surya Kiran aerobatics team will be flipping over the arena just after the toss. Nearly every break in play will be filled with entertainment. Singers and dancers will perform in the innings break, and a laser show on the roof of the stadium is also listed. A parade of champions – captains of triumphant World Cup teams from over the years barring Imran Khan – will be felicitated just after the air show. It



Police at the Narendra Modi stadium in Ahmedabad, a day ahead of the cricket World Cup final between India and Australia. *Nirmal Harindran*

'He keeps asking, Dadi-Dada hor ki chahinda... What else can we want?'

Near the Indo-Pak border in Punjab, an elderly couple guards a cement strip where Shubman Gill first took the crease

PRATYUSH RAJ
CHAK KHERE WALA (FEROZEPUR), NOVEMBER 18

ENJOYING THE mild warmth of the sun on a cloudy November afternoon, 87-year-old Sardar Didar Singh is lying on a cot in his front yard, watching a video clip of his grandson Shubman Gill pulverising bowlers at the World Cup. This happens to be his favourite "time pass".



Gill's grandparents Didar Singh and Gurmail Kaur at their home at Chak Khere Wala village in Punjab. *Pratyush Raj*

MUIZZU TAKES CHARGE

Recall military staff, Maldives President tells Indian Govt

Indian officials say workable solutions for cooperation will be discussed

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 18

A DAY after he was sworn in as President of Maldives, Mohamed Muizzu "formally requested" the Indian government to "withdraw its military personnel" from the island nation, his office said in a statement Saturday.

Muizzu sought the Indian withdrawal when Earth Sciences Minister Kiren Rijiju, India's representative at the swearing-in ceremony, called on him. President Muizzu, his office said, "acknowledged the significant role" of two helicopters – and an aircraft provided by India to the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) – "in numerous emergency medical evacuations". In fact, the MNDF, in a post on X Saturday evening, said, "A medical evacuation of a 36-year-old female in critical condition was carried out from Th. Atoll Hospital to Male City by MNDF Central Area Command via MNDF Dornier Aircraft today at 17:04 hours." It also put out a photograph of the medical evacuation.



Union Minister Kiren Rijiju meets Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu in Male. *PTI*

EXPLAINED
Choppy waters ahead

AS MUIZZU takes charge, India faces a challenging task of dealing with a government in Male that is viewed as pro-China. India and Maldives have close defence ties, apart from development projects on the island. Delhi has strategic stakes in Maldives' security and Beijing's footprint will be closely watched.

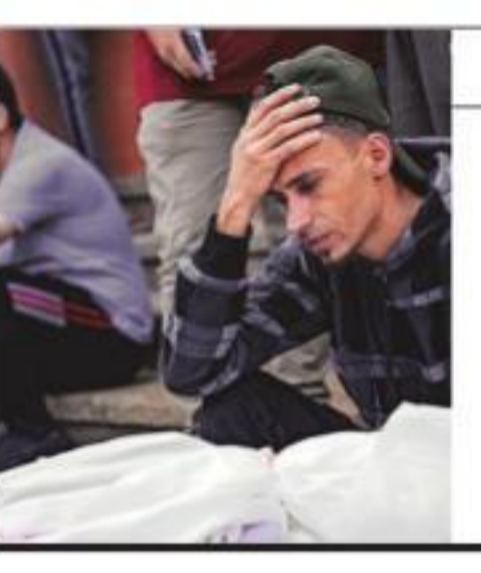
Detaining govt critics is abuse of PSA: HC quashes J&K journalist's detention

Also grants bail to Kashmir Walla editor

BASHAARAT MASOOD & ARUN SHARMA
SRINAGAR, JAMMU, NOVEMBER 18

THE JAMMU & Kashmir High Court has quashed the detention of Kashmiri journalist Sajad Ahmad Dar, two years after he was held under the Public Safety Act (PSA), observing that detaining critics of the government is "an abuse of the preventive law".

Separately, the High Court granted bail to another Kashmiri journalist, Fahad Shah, in a case involving a "seditious" article in his now-defunct digital magazine, *The Kashmir Walla*. The HC order granting bail to Shah Friday is subject to him furnishing a personal bond and a surety of Rs 50,000 each. The court order on Dar, who, too, worked for *The Kashmir Walla*, is dated November 9 and was



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PATIENTS, STAFF & DISPLACED PEOPLE LEAVE GAZA'S LARGEST HOSPITAL
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EXPRESS NETWORK



EXPERTS CONSIDER ANOTHER TUNNEL TO REACH TRAPPED WORKERS
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UP govt bans halal-certified products in state, exports only exception

ASAD REHMAN
LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 18

THE UTTAR Pradesh government Saturday imposed an immediate ban on halal-certified food products across the state. The ban covers the production, storage, distribution and sale of all halal-certified food products except those meant for export. The announcement comes a day after police in Lucknow booked a company and three organisations for providing "illegal halal certificates" to products sold in the state. The FIR named "other unidentified manufacturing companies and their owners, people part of anti-national conspiracy and people funding terror outfits". The FIR was lodged on a BJP youth wing member's complaint which claimed that "some companies have started certifying products as halal in order to increase their sale among a community" and that the practice is like "toying with the public's faith".

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MEET MAUSAM NARANG WHOSE ARTISANAL CHEESES WON BIG FOR INDIA AT THE WORLD CHEESE AWARDS 2023 IN NORWAY

"When we started our journey in 2015, most of the restaurants and hotels were still buying and using imported cheese," said Mausam Narang, founder, Eleftheria Cheese company, Mumbai.

TECHNOLOGY



A LOOK AT ALTMAN'S MAJOR STATEMENTS AS CEO OF OPEN AI

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EXPRESS AUDIO

The importance of adult friendships featuring Rohan Joshi

On Love Matters, host Leeza Mangaldas explores adult friendships and more with comedian and writer Rohan Joshi, who shares his personal experiences, and how he has navigated friendship while adulting.

FROM PAGE ONE FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM Muizzu to India: Withdraw military personnel

Confirming that the President, during his meeting with Rishii, brought up the issue of Indian military personnel present in Maldives for operating aircraft for medical evacuation and counter-drug trafficking purposes, sources in the Indian government said it was "agreed" that the "two governments would discuss workable solutions for continued cooperation" through the use of these platforms as this "serves the interests of the people of Maldives".

They are also central to the confidence that international tourists are staying on remote islands. He appreciated their role in monitoring and combating drug trafficking," the sources said. In a statement, the Maldives President's office said, "At the meeting, President Muizzu had formally requested the Government of India to withdraw its military personnel from the Maldives. The President noted that at the Presidential Election held in September, the Maldivian people had given him a strong mandate to make the request to India and expressed the hope that India will honour the democratic will of the people of the Maldives. While discussing the matter with Minister Kiren Rijiju, President Dr Muizzu also acknowledged the significant

role of the two helicopters in providing numerous emergency medical evacuations." Last month, Arindam Bagchi, spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs, while responding to questions on Maldives, said, "Over the last five years, more than 500 medical evacuations have been carried out by our personnel, saving 523 Maldivian lives. Of these, 131 evacuations were carried out this year, another 140 last year, and a further 109 in 2021. Similarly, during the last five years, more than 450 multifaceted missions have been carried out to safeguard the maritime security of Maldives. Of these, 122 missions were carried out last year, while 152 and 124 missions were undertaken in 2021 and 2020 respectively. India has also been the first responder for Maldives in any disaster scenario, including most recently during Covid."

During their meeting, Muizzu and Rijiju also "reviewed the progress of the implementation of various projects in the Maldives with the support of India. The President emphasised the importance of accelerating the Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP), highlighted the importance of addressing and overcoming the issues delaying the project," the Maldives' President's office said. It said Rijiju conveyed his best wishes to the President, representing the sentiments of the Government and the people of India. "The Minister expressed his aspiration to foster a constructive relationship with the Maldives, acknowledging the presence of a vibrant Indian community residing in the Maldives... They concluded the meeting with a renewed commitment to fortify the bilateral relations between the two countries," the statement said.

Shouldn't reject constitutional morality, says CJI Chandrachud

reform social practices to ensure citizens were not dominated on the sites of religion, caste, ethnicity or other cultural markers." "There are many provisions in the Indian Constitution which are unique to India such as the abolition of untouchability or the content of the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs). The DPSPs include obligations on the government to legislate for free legal aid, local governance through panchayats, and the protection of the environment," he said. Even after the Constitution was framed, it has been amended over a hundred times, Chandrachud pointed out. "Multiple generations of Indians, through Parliament, have given voice to their own aspirations for the Constitution through the amendment process. For example, entire governmental structures such as the Panchayats and the GST Council have been created through constitutional amendment alone and are uniquely Indian," he said. Keeping these facts in mind, one must understand the Indian

Constitution as a document which imbues universal constitutional values, while at the same time continually adjusting those principles to address the problems facing India, he said. It is a document conceived, adopted, amended, and continually operated by Indians, he added. In certain situations, Chandrachud said, the adoption of the Constitution no doubt marked a tectonic shift which demanded a re-thinking of Indian societal practices. "But we should not reject constitutional morality because it may sometimes be in tension with existing social practices. We must recognise that the constitution itself sought to reform social practices to ensure the citizens were not dominated on the sites of religion, caste, ethnicity or other cultural markers," he said. The CJI said that "the Supreme Court Collegium has clearly laid down 'diversity' as one of the factors to consider" in the matter of appointment of judges. "This includes gender, caste, and regional diversity from the various High

Courts", he said adding "we have tried to balance diversity with the all-India seniority of the judges". CJI Chandrachud noted that for many years, the Bar was, unfortunately, the sole preserve of men and "this is reflected by the limited presence of women amongst the senior High Court Judges". This "paradigm is changing in the judiciary", he said, citing the recent results of judicial service examinations in many states. "As the demographics of the legal profession change, we will continue to see more diversity. But the task of today is to ensure that we do not fail the exceptional candidates who have battled against the incredible prejudices of gender, religion, and caste, to rise to the level of Judges of the High Courts," CJI Chandrachud said. Asked whether his recent statement that courts have become an important centre for social dialogue indicates a diminishing role of Parliament in promoting such dialogue, the CJI said, "Parliament and the Court

have different institutional structures and different powers. There are sometimes issues which require intervention of the Court. For example, Parliament passes legislation that can bring about important social changes, but it is not designed to stop individual cases of rights violations. Citizens will always choose their forum of redress based on the institution's role and capabilities." According to him, often "the Court and Parliament work in a complementary fashion". Citing the example of the Vishakha guidelines against sexual harassment at workplace issued by the SC which later became law, he said "In that way, both Parliament and Judiciary facilitate a social dialogue but also speak to each other. Citizens may approach the Courts to act as a mediator in their quest for their rights. In those cases, the Supreme Court has asked questions from the government to enable citizens to seek redress of their issues. However, courts are also bound by institutional boundaries laid down in the Constitution."

Clash of the Titans today, captains ready their teams for the big one

remains to be seen whether it will be Rohit Sharma or Pat Cummins who will be a part of a similar parade of champions in the next ODI World Cup. History is calling and both captains seem to be all ears. Considering their form and brand of cricket, if not for Australia being their opponents, India would have been unquestionable favourites for the final. But even in the most parochial and gung-ho of Indian fans, there would be a lurking fear about the possibility of Australia silencing the over 1 lakh-capacity crowd. Over the years in World Cups, individuals have stepped up to drag the Aussies out of holes. Against South Africa in the semi-final, the first one hour was all yellow,

like watching an Australian rewind show. They have the men for the job. David Warner, in his last World Cup game, captain Cummins who always performs with bat or ball in crunch situations, or Steve Smith who hasn't done much yet. It could be opener Travis Head, who would try to take down the Indian seamers. Australia will come hard. They know how to win big moments - and that elusive art can be priceless in this World Cup final. Cummins said as much on match eve. "Everyone in our squad has won a World Cup in some format, so we know what it takes. We shall take that feeling onto the field. We got big wins this

year. From the WTC final to retaining the Ashes. The morale in the team is awesome." Leading from the front The Indian response would come down to how their talismanic leader Rohit Sharma sets the tone. "I didn't think it would happen, that I would lead the team into a World Cup final. Things happen if you wish for it and think big," he said. The straight-talking skipper also admitted that he saw a few nervous faces in the dressing room. "To be nice and balanced would be best." Rohit possesses the ability to strip any occasion of its gravitas and has an air of nonchalant light-

ness about him, and says he would like to continue in the same vein. "Nice and balanced" was a phrase he repeatedly used in the media interaction on match eve. "Not too up, not too down, nice and balanced... It will be a nice thing to win the World Cup because we have worked real hard but we don't want to get excited and put pressure on ourselves." India coach Rahul Dravid hasn't experienced a World Cup triumph, led a disastrous campaign in 2007, but this is a redemption of sorts for him. Calmly, astutely, almost invisibly, he has done the hard work. "Massive role," Rohit said about Dravid. "It's one thing for me to think about the brand of cricket

but if the coach doesn't agree... The way Rahul bhai played cricket and the way I play is totally contrasting, but he has backed me and the players. I am very happy with the messaging from me and Rahul bhai to the team and how they have responded... We have played 99.99 per cent of the brand of cricket we wanted to play." The 1983 World Cup triumph was as delightful as watching a child walk a few steps for the first time, the 2011 victory felt sweet as a nation revelled in relief-tinged joy that its greatest cricketing son Sachin Tendulkar could experience a World Cup triumph; 2023 is the time for India's complete takeover of cricket - both on the field and outside.

'He keeps asking, Dadi-Dada hor ki chahinda...'

farmer, with large swathes of land in this quaint Punjab village 8 km from the Pakistan border, points to the porch that used to be India's in-form opener's 22 yards for years from the time he first picked the bat and fell in love with cricket as a 3-year-old. The sprawling rural home of the landed Gill family has got several modern upgrades but grandmother Gurmil, 75, has guarded the cemented strip that has childhood memories of the grandson who has grown up to be the country's next big batting star - and its big hope, along with fellow opener and captain Rohit Sharma, to give the home team a rousing start against Australia in Sunday's World Cup final. "I think he was six then, and by that time he had done enough damage to the kitchen. His Dadi told me, 'Make him a cricketer'. The next week, I went to Jalandhar to attend a Kisan Union meeting. I bought a net, three bats, pads and a dozen leather balls," recalls Didar who, along with his wife, refuses to leave their village home, despite others in the family moving to Chandigarh. Happy to be in the back-of-beyond abode, they ardently follow their grandson's innings on television from around the world. Sunday will be no different. Gurmil has already set the agenda for the day. "I have already told him (pointing to her husband) that I will not leave my chair once the match starts. He will have to make tea for himself," she says. It's not that the warm and affectionate grandparents haven't ever seen their 'Shub' play for India in flesh and blood. They did travel to Ahmedabad for the IPL final but the experience wasn't great.

"Saada munda dikhta hi nahi tha (We couldn't see our child). Television is better if you see his face so clearly," says Gurmil, her eyes twinkling with pride. But there was one positive takeaway for Didar. "When I went to Ahmedabad for the IPL final, I realised my grandson has become a big star. Lots of people came to meet me and those were big names. They were talking about Shub, praising him not just as a cricketer but as a person he has become. It made me emotional," says Didar. Shubman's rise has a lot to do with his father Lakhwinder Singh's obsession to shape his son into a top batsman. "Lakhwinder himself was a kabaddi player, but a bike accident at the age of 17 forced him to stay away from the sport as his thigh was fixed by an iron rod. When I told him about a cricket academy in Muktsar Sahib, he said 'Why not give him the best facility,'" says Didar. It was this dare to dream big that saw the father and son move to Mohali, Punjab's only Test venue. Before Shubman left, the grandfather had an interesting conversation with his father. "I told him 'Kaake jey tu badda cricketer ni banya, chittar alag se parna, hor saare genda nu hisaab hai mere kol' (If you do not become a cricketer, I will punish you with shoes, and I also have an account of all the money I spent on those cricket balls)," says Didar as he explodes into a hearty laugh.

me in arm-wrestling. He said, 'Easily'. He couldn't, he tried three times," he says. There was also the time when Shubman couldn't keep pace with his grandfather while on a morning walk. "I told him 'badda athlete hai tu' (you are a great athlete)." He also shared the secret of his own fitness with his grandson. "When I was his age, I used to run 10 km, used to do 300 sit-ups and I was a well-known kabaddi player. The secret was drinking 3 litres of milk and half-a-dozen bananas every day. Shub followed the same diet routine for many years. I am 87 now, and I still go for a walk for at least 3-4 km every day," says Didar. On a recent trip home, Shubman got a dozen pairs of shoes for his grandfather. But they remain unused. Didar and Gurmil prefer the slip-ons and not the one with laces. He also got them a microwave but that too hasn't been unboxed. "He keeps asking me 'Dadi-Dada hor ki chahinda' (what else do you want). What else can I want from him? He has given us everything," says Gurmil, tears rolling down her cheeks. Shubman is scheduled to drop by after the World Cup and Gurmil is looking forward to it. She has already decided on a part of the menu. Shubman loves the churi - a traditional Punjabi sweet put together by jaggery and leftover parathas or rotis - that his grandmother makes. "He loves it. Whenever he is here, the only thing he asks for is churi," says Gurmil. The loving grandparents have a big role to play in the incredible story from Little India. On Sunday, the boy from Chak Khere Wala will be among the 11 carrying a billion hopes.

UP govt bans halal-certified products in state

Saturday's order by the Uttar Pradesh Food Safety and Drug Administration Commissioner Anita Singh stated: "Under section 30(2)(d) of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and powers under the section 30(2)(a) of the Act, with an eye on people's health, it is ordered that within the borders of Uttar Pradesh, a ban is immediately imposed on production, storage, distribution and sale of Halal certified food products. This is except (for) products for export." The order claimed halal certification is a "parallel system" that "creates confusion regarding the quality of food items". It said: "Halal certification is being given on labels of certain food products like dairy products, sugar bakery products, peppermint oil, ready-to-eat savouries and edible oils etc. In 2006 in relation to food items, by repealing eight laws, the Food

Safety and Standards Act, 2006 was promulgated. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India... implements the Food Safety and Standards Act. The said Act and the regulations promulgated thereunder have preferential power over all other food laws... The right to decide the quality of food items is given in Section 29 of the Act. It is only the authorities and institutions who check the concerned standards as per the provisions given in the Act." On Friday, police booked Chennai-based Halal India Pvt Ltd, New Delhi-based Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind Halal Trust, and the Mumbai-based Halal Council of India and Jamiat Ullema. They invoked IPC Sections including 120B (criminal conspiracy), 153A (promoting enmity), 298 (intent to wound religious feelings), 384 (extortion) and 420 (cheating).

The Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind called the allegations baseless and said it would "take necessary legal measures to counter such misinformation". "At Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind Halal Trust, our certification process aligns with manufacturers' requirements for both export purposes and domestic distribution in India. The global demand for Halal Certified products is robust, and it's imperative for Indian companies to obtain such Certification, a fact endorsed by our Ministry of Commerce," it said. In the complaint, Lucknow resident and Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha office-bearer Shaileendra Kumar Sharma wrote: "Companies are preparing these certificates targeting one specific community, and the criminal act of reducing the sale of products without these certificates is being done."

Detaining govt critics abuse of preventive law: HC quashes Kashmir journalist's detention

uploaded Saturday. Dar, who writes under the name Sajad Gul, was arrested by the J&K Police on January 6, 2022 for posting a video of a slain militant's family raising anti-India slogans on his social media handle. While a local court granted him bail, the J&K police then booked him under the PSA, which allows for detention without trial for up to two years. In a judgment setting aside a single-judge HC bench's order, a division bench of Chief Justice Kotswar Singh and Justice M A Chowdhary said there was "no specific allegation" against Dar to show his activities could be "prejudicial to the security of the State". "The detaining authority, itself, has admitted that the detenu, having done Masters in Journalism, was working as a Journalist (Media

Reporter) and it was his professional/occupational duty to report the happenings in his area, even including the operations of the security forces. Such a tendency on the part of the detaining authority to detain the critics of the policies or commissions/omissions of the Government machinery, as in the case of the present detenu, a professional media person, in our considered opinion is an abuse of the preventive law." Charges listed in Dar's PSA dossier included him "being well educated", which would enable him to "use social media as a tool to provoke against the government establishment"; "less reporting about welfare" of Jammu and Kashmir; controversial tweets; and "working upon the directions of Pakistani agents and use to tweet against the Union of

India from the tweeter [Twitter]". The court said: "The grounds of detention nowhere suggest/reveal that the detenu had, at any point of time, filed/uploaded any false story/reporting based not on true facts. It is nowhere stated as to how the detenu had disrupted the public order creating any alleged enmity, inasmuch as, there is no specific instance in any of the allegations levelled against him to show that he had been working against the national interests, so as to be prejudicial to the security of the State." "While going through the records, this court finds an observation of the detaining authority that the detenu had been a negative critic towards the policies of the Government of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and that his tweets used to pro-

voke the people against the Government. This cannot be said to be a ground to be relied upon that a true and factual media report can provoke people against the working of the Government, that too without any specific instance as to how his tweets had caused any problem, much less public order problem with the Government," the court said. "In the grounds of detention, it has also been referred that the uploading of the news items by the detenu, as a journalist, had created enmity and acrimony against Government machinery, however, there is no specific instance as to which of the posts/write-ups are there as being so and on what date. The appellant has been, now, in preventive detention since the 16th day of January, 2022."

In Shah's case, the bail order was pronounced in virtual mode by Justices Atul Sreedharan and Mohan Lal, said Jahanzaib Hamal, an advocate who assisted senior advocate PN Raina during the hearing. He said the Bench quashed charges levelled against Shah under Section 18 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and Sections 121 and 53-B of the IPC. While the first Section relates to terror conspiracy, the last two pertain to waging war against the nation, and accusations and assertions prejudicial to the integrity of the nation. Shah will still face trial under Section 13 of the UAPA for allegedly abetting unlawful activities and Sections 35 and 39 of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010. Of these two provisions, the former is related to illegally re-

ceiving foreign funds and the latter pertains to offences by companies. Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal of the J&K and Ladakh High Court had in April quashed the detention of Shah under the PSA, saying the authorities did not follow the procedural requirements in letter and spirit. Shah was held under the UAPA after the State Investigation Agency registered a case in Jammu on April 4, 2022. This came nearly 11 years after the publication of an article titled 'The shackles of slavery will break' in his magazine. The article was written by a Kashmir University scholar, Abdul Aala Fazili, who, too, has been arrested. A chargesheet was filed in the case in the NIA Court at Jammu in October last year and charges were framed against Shah and Fazili in March this year.

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FRESH REPORT CLAIMS DESTRUCTION OF EVIDENCE

Remove Chief Secy from post: CM to L-G

Vigilance report claims CS favoured son's firm in hospital project: Officer, ILBS deny claims; company calls it 'lies, hit job'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 18

A DAY after Vigilance Minister Atishi submitted a preliminary report to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal accusing Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar of allegedly bending tender rules to benefit his son's firm by crores to enable a partnership between it and the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS), the CM recommended asked L-G VK Saxena to immediately remove him from his post. This, even as Atishi submitted another report to the CM alleging evidence related to "irregularities" in the MoU between a firm called MetaMix Technologies Pvt. Ltd. and ILBS was being destroyed.

ILBS has called the allegations "totally baseless" and the Chief Secretary termed them "ridiculous and rubbish". MetaMix Saturday said these were "lies" and a "hit job" aimed at defaming it, adding that it had no association with anyone called Karan Chauhan, the CS's son, in any capacity.

According to the vigilance minister's new report, government sources quoting from it said, within 24 hours of the submission of her supplementary report Friday in the investigation related to "irregularities in the partner-

ship between ILBS and MetaMix Technologies Pvt. Ltd.", "multiple web posts and links related to Sh. Karan Chauhan, MetaMix, and the partnership between ILBS-MetaMix were being deleted" in an bid to destroy evidence and suppress facts.

Responding to the allegations, MetaMix, in a statement issued by its Director K D Sharma, said, "It has come to the knowledge of our company... that a report of a Minister, Delhi government, is being circulated... against our company alleging that one Mr Karan Chauhan (who is said to be the Chief Secretary's son) is the founder of our company. Such false propaganda is being spread using some international website... which neither has any legal credence nor any recognition under Indian laws. It seems to be a hit job on our company to defame us."

Government sources said Atishi's preliminary report alleges that Kumar, in his capacity as the hospital's chairman, allotted a "prestigious project" for the creation of Artificial Intelligence-based virtual reality/augmented reality labs at ILBS to his son's 8-month-old "inexperienced start-up" sans tender. In response, MetaMix clarified: "Our company MetaMix Technologies Pvt. Ltd. has neither any stakeholder having the name 'Karan Chauhan' nor

having any Director or employee with such name."

The company, its statement added, was "... a start-up firm working in the field of Augmented Reality...". With regard to allegations of destruction of evidence, it said, "... further lies are being spread about destruction of records by our company. We request you... to confirm about our company's records from official authorities concerned, who are custodians of such records..."

Col. R S Singh, Head, Non-Medical, ILBS, had, in response, stated, "ILBS confirms it did not issue any purchase order or make any payment to any AI software developer or company. These allegations are totally baseless and without merit. ILBS firmly reiterates its commitment to transparency and adherence to ethical practices in all its endeavours. Any insinuation suggesting otherwise is entirely unfounded."

Responding to the firm's statement, government sources said the Vigilance Minister's report clearly mentioned "information of Mr Chauhan's association with MetaMix was obtained from public domain..." "There is no reason to doubt this information... If there was nothing to fear, why did MetaMix take down its website and its LinkedIn profile... soon after the Vigilance Minister submitted her report?"

To bring down unsafe towers, Chintels turns to firm that demolished Supertech buildings

AISWARYA RAJ
GURGAON, NOVEMBER 18

CHINTELSIS in talks with Edifice Engineering, which demolished the Supertech twin towers in Noida last year, to bring down five unsafe towers in its Chintels Paradiso project in Gurgaon.

This comes days after the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) asked them to cordon off these towers for demolition following the collapse of four balconies in Tower D on November 9. No casualty was reported in the incident as the tower was vacant and its surroundings cordoned off after a partial collapse of six floors in the same tower claimed two lives in February 2022. Since then, four more towers — E, F, G and H — have been declared unsafe.

J N Yadav, Chintels India Limited Vice-President, told *The Indian Express*: "We have written to Central Building Research Institute and Edifice Engineering, and are awaiting permission from the district administration



On November 9, four balconies had collapsed in Tower D. No casualty was reported as the tower was already vacant. Express

to cordon off the entire area declared unsafe, including lawns in these five towers. Once permission is received, we will sign an MoU with Edifice."

Edifice's partner Uttkarsh Mehta said they were in talks with the builder. "We have requested a detailed technical site visit. We are awaiting permis-

sion from them so we can visit and give them a proper techno-commercial offer," he added.

Yadav further added that they had written to the administration and the RWA, seeking permission to cordon off the lawns (facing the five towers). As the entire structure is unsafe, it could sabotage the safety of residents of other towers frequenting the area, he added.

In an e-mail to the administration and the DTP (Enforcement), Chintels said, "We had repeatedly requested you to use your good offices to evict remaining occupants of Towers G and H and to assist us in barricading the unsafe areas. We are happy that the ADC had verbally ordered the remaining occupants of the said towers to vacate as soon as possible. However, we urge the government team to reconsider their order to us (which said) not to barricade unsafe parts of the basement below, along with areas on top including the central lawns. We would like to bring to

your notice once again that the central lawn facing the five unsafe towers is built on the ceiling of the basement, below which the entire structure has been declared to be structurally weak and unsafe. We have repeatedly warned residents not to go in that area because the slab on which the central lawns rest has been declared structurally unsafe and could collapse at any time."

The mail further states that they have also been instructed by the visiting team to seek expert technical advice for Phase 2, consisting of Towers A, B, C and F; to identify any areas that require repair/retrofitting and to accordingly repair them. "We once again inform you that we have already engaged services of CSIR-CBRI for a complete audit of those towers and for recommending any repair works that need to be undertaken," the mail further stated.

Meanwhile, residents of towers G and H who have not moved said they would only leave once rehabilitation through alternative accommodation is provided.

8 injured in Nuh stone pelting: Haryana women's panel seeks action report

Nuh: Two days after eight women were injured as stones were allegedly pelted at them in Haryana's Nuh Thursday night, the Haryana State Women's Commission wrote to the SP seeking a detailed action report.

According to the e-mail, the commission said: "I would like to draw your attention to the article titled 'Kua Pujan Kar Lot Rahi Mahilaon Par Shararti Tatvon Ne Kiya Pathrav, 9 Ghayal' published in *Dainik Bhaskar* on the above-mentioned date. Given the seriousness of the matter involving mischievous elements targeting women performing Kua Pujan... I request prompt action on this issue. Considering gravity of the case, as per Section 10(1) of the Haryana State Women's Commission Act 2012, I urge you

to initiate immediate proceedings and ensure a detailed action report is submitted... in 3 days."

Police Friday said they had apprehended three minors in connection with the incident.

SP (Nuh) Narendra Bijarnia had told *The Indian Express* the incident took place at 7.30 pm Thursday when the group of Dalit women had gone for Kuan Puja to celebrate the birth of a child.

"An FIR has been registered... Three minors... threw stones and slippers at the women from Badi Masjid madrasa..." he had said.

One of them was released after he was produced before the child welfare committee while two others were sent to a correction home after being produced before the Juvenile Justice Board, police said. **ENS & PTI**

Riots: Court raps police for clubbing 39 complaints

NIRBHAY THAKUR
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 18

A DELHI court Friday pulled up police for fallacious clubbing 39 complaints together in two FIRs against three people accused of rioting and unlawful assembly during the 2020 Delhi riots.

Additional Sessions Judge

Pulastya Pramachala noted that the "hearsay evidence" provided by the statements of the additional complainants cannot be considered relevant evidence to establish the date and time of the incidents and ordered the SHO to conduct a separate probe into the additional complaints.

"The additional complaints were not completely investigated

to even confirm the date and time of such incidents, on the basis of relevant evidence. IO (investigating officer) simply relied upon the hearsay evidence of the additional complainants and clubbed the complaints," ASJ Pramachala said. "The conclusion of the investigation is incomplete, the additional complaints do need thorough investigation," he added.

DELHI POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT (GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI)
5TH FLOOR, ISBT BUILDING, KASHMERE GATE, DELHI 110006

www.dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

Quality of air can be improved if we all work together!
*Actions which we can do as per Air Quality Index (AQI)

STAGE I	POOR	CITIZEN CHARTER	HEALTH ADVISORY
STAGE I	<p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">POOR</p> <p style="font-size: 12px; background-color: yellow; padding: 2px;">AQI between 201-300</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep engines of your vehicles viz. cars/ bikes/ scooters etc. properly tuned. Maintain proper air pressure in tyres of your vehicles. Keep PUC certificates of your vehicles up to date. Do not idle your vehicle, also turn off the engine at red lights. Do not dispose waste /garbage in the open spaces. Report air polluting activities through Green Delhi App, 311 App, SAMEER App. Prefer Hybrid vehicles or EVs to control vehicular pollution. Plant more trees. Celebrate festivals in an eco-friendly manner – avoid firecrackers. Do not drive/ply end of life /10/15 years old Diesel/Petrol vehicles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid outdoor physical activities
STAGE II	<p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">VERY POOR</p> <p style="font-size: 12px; background-color: yellow; padding: 2px;">AQI between 301-400</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People to use public transport and minimize use of personal vehicles. Regularly replace air filters at recommended intervals in your automobiles. Avoid dust generating construction activities during months of October to January. Use technology, take less congested route even if slightly longer. Avoid open burning of solid waste and bio-mass. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid outdoor physical activities, especially during morning and late evening hours. Remain indoor and keep activity levels low*
STAGE III	<p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">SEVERE</p> <p style="font-size: 12px; background-color: yellow; padding: 2px;">AQI between 401-450</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walk or use cycles for small distances. Choose a cleaner commute. Share a ride to work or use public transport. People, whose position allow working from home, may work from home. Do not use coal and wood for heating purpose. Individual house owners may provide electric heaters (during winters) to security staff to avoid open burning. Combine errands and reduce trips. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid outdoor physical activities. Remain indoor and keep activity levels low*
STAGE IV	<p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">SEVERE+</p> <p style="font-size: 12px; background-color: yellow; padding: 2px;">AQI >450</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children, elderly and those with respiratory, cardiovascular, cerebrovascular or other chronic diseases to avoid outdoor activities and stay indoors, as much as possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid outdoor physical activities. Remain indoor and keep activity levels low*

AQI can be seen at CPCB WEBSITE/SAMEER APP

* As per citizen charter of Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas.

For vulnerable population – Children under 5 year age, old age groups, pregnant women, predisposed health conditions ie illness of respiratory, cardiovascular and cerebrovascular systems, outdoor working people

Health advisory of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, GoI is available at ncdc.mohfw.gov.in/cpcbqai.php

Member Secretary

Regional Office Samastipur : Panchvati Complex, Mohanpur Road, Samastipur (Bihar)-848101

POSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property)

Whereas: The undersigned being the authorised officer of Union Bank of India, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the following borrowers and guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice and as stated below. The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules.

Branch Name	Name of the Borrower /Mortgagor/Guarantor	Description of the Secured Assets	1. Amount of Demand Notice 2. Date of Demand Notice 3. Date of Possession
Daudpur Branch	1. Borrower:- Narayan Prasad, S/o-Bishnu Prasad, 2. Co-Borrower/Mortgagor:- Mohan Kumar Gupta, S/o-Narayan Prasad Both Resident at- Village-Dumduma P.S-Daudpur, Saran	Land and Building in the name of Mohan Kumar Gupta S/o Narayan Prasad situated at Mauza-Dumduma, P.S-Daudpur, Saran bearing land detail as under:- Thana No.-154, Khata No. 310, Khasra No.-627, Area 4 katha 15 dhur. Boundary:- N:- Chandrika Prasad, S:- Digambar Prasad, E:- Digambar Prasad, W:- Garha	1. Rs. 11,88,386.73 2. 16.08.2023 3. 16.11.2023

Place : Saran
Date : 18.11.2023

Authorised officer
Union bank of India

केनरा बैंक **Canara Bank**

SHEIKHPURA BRANCH

POSESSION NOTICE (SECTION 13 (4)) (For Immovable Property)

Whereas: The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Canara Bank under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) (hereinafter referred to as " the Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice Dated - **11th Sept. 2023** calling upon the borrower **Sri Arvind Kumar Gupta** S/o Shiv Kumar Gupta Resident of Patel Nagar, Girhinda, Sheikhpura, Bihar - 811105 and Guarantor - Smt. Asha Devi W/o Arvind Kumar Gupta Resident of Patel Nagar, Girhinda, Sheikhpura, Bihar - 811105 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, being amounts to **Rs. 12,69,202.37** (Rupees Twelve Lakhs Sixty Nine Thousands Two Hundreds Two and Paise Thirty Seven Only) plus int. & other charges within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under section 13 (4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rule on this **17th November 2023**.

The Borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Section 13 (8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The Borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **Canara Bank** for an amount of **Rs. 12,99,876.37** (Rupees Twelve lakhs ninety nine thousands eight hundred eighty six and paise thirty seven only) in **A/c No. 2474619001816** and interest there on.

Details of Security Assets : Residential property situated at Mauza- Girhinda, Thana No- 191, Tauzi No- 4308, Khata No- 31, Khasra No- 181, Sheikhpura, Bihar in the name of **Sri Arvind Gupta**, Extent of Area- 600 Sqft, **Boundary - North - Rasta, South - Vinay Kumar Gupta, East - Randhir Kumar Gupta, West - Neej, Title holder - Sri Arvind Kumar Gupta.**

Place : Sheikhpura Date : 17.11.2023 Authorised Officer (Canara Bank)

CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN RURAL & INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Sector 19 A, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh 160019
Email: seo@crri.res.in / website: www.crri.res.in

APPOINTMENT

The Reserve Bank of India has set-up a RBI Professorial Chair under its Corpus Fund for the purpose of research and higher level of learning in Monetary and Financial Economics, Banking and Real Sector Issues and related areas of interest of the Reserve Bank of India. CRRIID is a registered Society funded by Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi and State Government of Punjab.

Applications are invited for appointment of the post of RBI Chair Professor at CRRIID on contractual basis initially for a period of three years (with initial one year of probation). The post is extendable up to the age of 65 years.

Specialization: Monetary and Financial Economics, Banking and Real Sector Issues, Regional Economy, Informal and Formal Credit and Financial Inclusion in the North-West Region and related areas of interest to RBI.

Qualification and Experience: An eminent scholar/outstanding professional having a doctoral degree, actively engaged in research with 10 years of experience including 5 years as Professor in teaching and/or research at a university/national level institution including experience of guiding research at the doctoral level with outstanding performance and achievement in the field of specialization, and published work of high quality. Preference will be given to the candidate who is capable of expanding the scope of RBI Chair by inclusion of more projects/programmes and mobilize a peer group at CRRIID under the realm of RBI mandate.

Remuneration: The post will be in UGCpay scale of Rs. 37400-67000 + AGPRs. 10000/- plus admissible allowances according to the rules of the institute with the protection of pay or higher grade can also be considered for exceptional eminent economist.

Applications may be submitted online along with a detailed CV, list of relevant publications and copies of two recent publications at email: seo@crri.res.in or through registered post to Secretary cum Establishment Officer by December 10, 2023 at Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRIID), Sector 19 A, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh 160019. For details please visit: <http://www.crri.res.in>

Regional Office : Krishna Honda Building, Akharaghat Road, Muzaffarpur-842001

POSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of the BANK OF BARODA under the securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the borrower(s)/Gurantor to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Gurantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub section (4) of section 13 of the Act with rule 8 of the said rules.

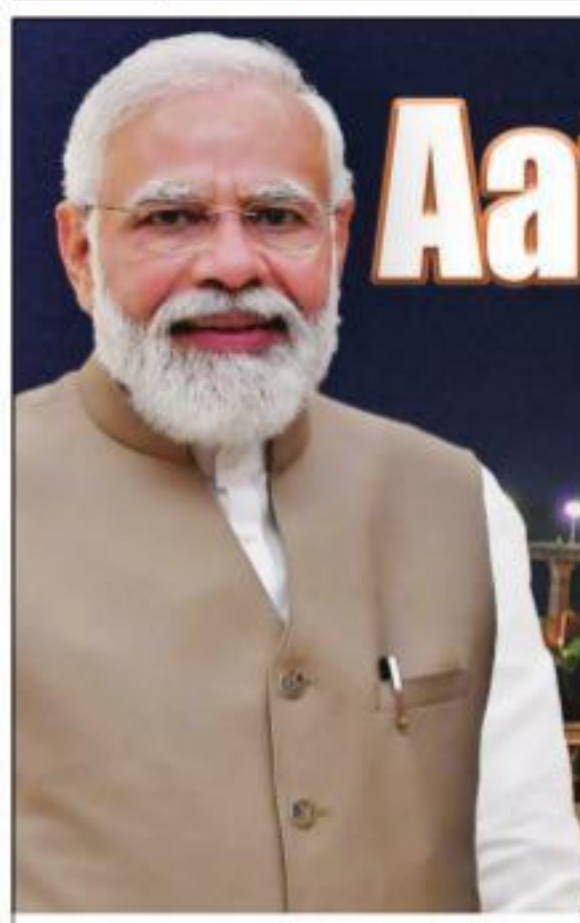
The Borrowers/Gurantors/Mortgagors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties/ies and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the BANK OF BARODA for the amount and further interest there of the contractual rate plus, charge and expenses till date of payment.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub section (8) of section 13 of the SARFAESI Act 2002, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Branch/ Name & Address of the Borrower/Guarantors	Description of the Immovable Properties	Demand/ Possession Notice Date	Outstanding Amount
Bank of Baroda Harivatika Branch, Bettiah Borrower : M/s Sai Brick Work, Prop.- Mr. Chandan Kumar, S/o Uday Kumar Ojha, at Vill.+PO Yadav Chhap, Ward No. 12, Lohariya, Dist.- West Champaran (Bihar), PIN- 845450	All that part and parcel of the property situated at Mauza-Lohiyaria, Anchal- Chanpatia, Dist.- West Champaran, bearing Thana No. 74, Khata No. 218, Plot No. 2043, Tauzi No.-951, Area- 15.56 Decimal as per sale deed no.-17282, dt-31-12-2020. Boundaries :-N: Mr. Sadhu Ojha, S: Mr. Biran Ojha, E: Pakki Road, W: Mr. Dhananjay Ojha.	12-07-2023 / 15-11-2023	Rs.19,53,229.30/- as on 10.07.2023 together with further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus all cost charges & expenses till date payments

Place : Bettiah
Date : 18.11.2023

Authorised Officer
Bank Of Baroda



Aatmanirbhar Bharat Swayampurna Goa



GOA'S BLUEPRINT FOR EVOLUTION

Under the proficient leadership of Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant, Aatmanirbhar Bharat Swayampurna Goa, the State Government's community-level action programme, is relentless in its endeavour of establishing a self-sufficient Goa.

December 19, 1961, will forever be remembered as a red letter day for all Indian people, specifically those hailing from the picturesque sun-kissed southern state of Goa. History records that the Indian armed forces conducted 'Operation Vijay' and liberated Goa from Portuguese rule that stretched for well over 450 years. Two years later, the first elections for the Goa Legislative Assembly were held in 1963, and Goa, along with Daman and Diu, was organised as a centrally administered union territory of India. Then on May 30, 1987, the union territory was split, and Goa became India's 25th state.

Fast forward to 2023: 60 years after the Liberation of Goa, it's interesting to disseminate the findings of a recent study, which measured various matrices on how the Indian states and union territories stacked up in providing access to basic social and economic services. It emerged Goa was one of the 'Front Runners' in ensuring better access to basic socio-economic opportunities for its people. It registered the highest average score, witnessing a better geographical coverage of services and implementation of sustainable development goals (SDGs). From an education standpoint, the state fared remarkably well in improving access to secondary schooling and implementing good infrastructure facilities, which are reflected in various indicators such as low dropout rate and high enrolment. It registered a low dropout rate for girls at the secondary level, which is highly correlated with a high percentage of schools with girl's toilets in the state. Goa was also a frontrunner in the healthcare segment, with the highest average public expenditure allocated per 1,000 population.

Goa's charismatic Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has often stressed the importance of 'swaraj' (self-governance). "It was Shivaji Maharaj who first put forth the idea in the country. Today as we celebrate 75 years of India's Independence, we have already started to think what Goa

"Aatmanirbhar Bharat, Swayampurna Goa was, is, and will continue to be the topmost priority of our government. With Phase One being a massive feat, we will continue to strive and do all that it takes to leave no stone unturned in fulfilling our endeavours and achieving desired outcomes in the form of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, Swayampurna Goa 2:0 making Goa even bigger, even better!"

- Dr. Pramod Sawant, Chief Minister, Government of Goa



should be like when India celebrates 100 years of Independence."

Basing its conceptualisation on the realisation of the self-sufficient State of Goa, Aatmanirbhar Bharat Swayampurna Goa envisages itself as the community-level action programme of the Government of Goa through Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant, which intends to view the culmination of every Goan village into a self-reliant entity.

The vision that ABSG carries with itself is one of determination and unending perseverance to revolutionise Goa's habituation on neighbouring states and carry out import substitution through local food production and other areas, thereby achieving self-sufficient through the ultimate solidification of its various stakeholders and guaranteeing supreme paybacks to its people with the aid of Central and State-led Governmental outlines.

What started off as a retort to the unprecedented Covid 19 pandemic has received immense success during its first phase and that, in turn, has paved the way for ABSG 2.0, which is determined to lay its focus on pending deliverables thereby multiplying the

success of Phase One.

ABSG 2.0 envisions, bringing to fruition new goals such as further elevation in the production of rice, fruits, vegetables, flora and fauna, and dairy products, improvising the rank of the State on the ranking for sustainable development goals undertaken by Niti Aayog, the self-development, career empowerment programme for youth and women development through Self Help Groups and micro-finance institutions, start-up promotions at the Panchayat level, skill development, market linkages for local products and many more.

Amidst the Covid 19 pandemic, the vision and resolve of the Chief Minister and the overwhelming cooperation received from the officers and local governing bodies and institutions, have steered Goa on the path of self-reliance. Today, Goa marches along, hand-in-hand, with the nation to fulfil the reverie of 'Aatmanirbhar' Bharat along with a 'Swayampurna' Goa.

Swayampurna Goa 2.0 Goals

Skill Development for Gainful Employment: In the dynamic landscape of today's job market, the Goa Government is promoting skill development as a crucial bridge connecting individuals' aspirations to gainful employment opportunities. Youth are being encouraged to acquire and upgrade their skills to meet the evolving demands of industries in order to increase their employability and also for their career growth.

Bridging the Gap Between Academia & Industry: Industry experts are actively involved in the design of academic curriculum, ensuring that our educational programs are aligned with the current needs and trends of the industry. The government has signed MoUs with industries integrating internships and work placements into academic programs providing students with practical exposure to industry environments and creating a well-rounded and industry-ready workforce.

Enhancing Employment Opportunities: Skill Development Programs providing avenues for continuous learning and up-skilling are being implemented. By addressing skill gaps, launching supportive schemes, and fostering collaboration with the industries, a workforce that is adaptable to evolving job opportunities in the market is being prepared.

Promotion of Entrepreneurship: The Goa Government is promoting entrepreneurship as a strategic step toward fostering economic development of the state, driving innovation, and creating sustainable self-employment opportunities. The process of business registration has been simplified enabling budding entrepreneurs to establish and operate their ventures more efficiently.

Encouraging Start-Ups: A Start-Up Culture is being encouraged and empowered in Goa by combining financial support, educational opportunities, and a culture that celebrates

innovative entrepreneurial initiatives. We have introduced financial incentives in order to provide essential capital for the start-ups creating a conducive environment for their success.

Creating Awareness of Health Issues: Individuals and Communities are empowered through the promotion of healthy practices, and fostering a proactive approach to preventive healthcare. Educated awareness is being raised about available healthcare services, clinics, and medical facilities encouraging people to seek timely medical attention. Routine health check-ups are encouraged emphasizing the importance of identifying health issues at an early stage.

Effective Waste Management: Effective waste management is a crucial component of building sustainable, clean, and environmentally responsible communities. Goa is home to different types of Waste Management Plants including Solid, Bio-Medical, Hazardous, e-waste, Construction and Demolition waste management facilities.

Career Counselling: The Model Career Centre in Goa is dedicated to enabling Goan youth to pursue their aspirations and make informed decisions when selecting their careers. Mandatory career counselling sessions are also conducted in schools and colleges to guide students in making well-informed choices for their future paths.

Regular Training to Self-Help Groups & Stake Holders of the Cottage Industry: Training Programs are organised to equip individuals involved in cottage industries with the necessary skills, knowledge, and tools to enhance productivity and improve product quality to enhance their profitability.

Boosting Confidence & Hand Holding of Local Artisans: Local Artisans are encouraged to hone their artistic skills with the organisation of regular Workshops to expand their capabilities. Unity Mall will be established providing a platform to

the local artisans giving a market access to their unique products.

Strengthening the Database of Skilled Labour in E-Shram Portal: Skilled labourers are encouraged to register on the E-Shram Portal to avail themselves of the benefits offered through various government schemes and services. The portal has been designed in a user-friendly manner to ensure a seamless and straightforward registration process for skilled workers.

Completion of Unique Disability ID Backlog: Goa Government has prioritised the process of pending UDID Applications for Persons with Disabilities in an effort to enhance inclusivity and accessibility for individuals with disabilities.

Incorporation of the Latest Technology such as Artificial Intelligence, Coding and Robotics in Educational Curriculum: Goa has taken the pioneering step of being the first state to introduce Coding and Robotics as subjects at the primary level. This forward-thinking curriculum is designed to cultivate computational learning abilities among children, thereby enhancing their problem-solving skills. Additionally, the academic landscape is embracing innovative technologies such as Artificial Intelligence.

Promotion of Minimum Support Price for Horticultural Produce: The Minimum Support Price (MSP) for horticultural produce has been significantly raised, exemplified by increased rates such as ₹22 for paddy (up from ₹20), ₹15 for coconut (up from ₹12), and ₹150 for Cashew (up from ₹125). This initiative is aimed at achieving financial empowerment for farmers.

Expanding the Compass of Millet Mission: The cultivation of millets and development of value-added millet products, such as millet flour, snacks, and beverages is promoted, to enhance market demand and economic returns for farmers. Awareness campaigns are launched to educate communities about the nutritional benefits of millets, emphasizing their role in a balanced and healthy diet.

10 FOCUS POINTS UNDER SWAYAMPURNA GOA 1.0 PROGRAM

1 Water For All: The Jal Jeevan Mission, implemented by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, has been successful in providing tap water connections to most households in Goa. The state achieved 100% 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal' status, covering 2,30,000 houses, making Goa the first state in India to achieve this milestone.

2 Electricity For All: Goa is witnessing a change in the power sector over the years with per capita consumption of the state nearly doubling the national average.

Vidhyutikaran ensures a 24/7 reliable power supply to the people.

3 Sanitation For All: The PWD Department launched a fresh scheme to build individual and community toilets for low-income families in Goa.

4 Health For All: The Deen Dayal Swasthya Seva Yojana (DDSSY) Scheme is a Goan state initiative that offers universal health coverage through insurance. The scheme aims to improve

access to medical care and financial security for the people.

5 Housing For All: The Goa government remains steadfast in its commitment to promoting inclusive and sustainable housing for all the Goan people.

6 Boost To Agriculture: Thanks to the Kisan Credit Card (KCC), Soil Health Card, and Krishi Card, farmers, dairy farmers, fish vendors, and fish farmers have now been enabled to meet their short-term

credit requirements.

7 Social Security For All: The main objective of the Dayanand Social Security Scheme (DSSS) scheme is to provide financial assistance to the most vulnerable sections of society.

has hugely benefited the community.

9 Insurance For All: It features two attractive government-backed insurance schemes - Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), a life insurance scheme, and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMJSBY).

10 Senior Citizen Care: The state social welfare department has allowed any gazetted officer, members of parliament or a member of the legislative assembly to issue senior citizen cards to individuals above the age of 60.

A Land Of Ancient Temples

Goa has often been described as the 'Party Capital of India', where tourists mostly tend to explore its pristine beaches, old Portuguese colonies, and remnants of European-style churches. And while that is all true, there's more to Goa than this staple fare. Did you even know that this land of fun, sun and *feni* is actually home to temples dating

back to the 12th century?

In order to rejuvenate and enhance the temple ecosystem in the region, aiming to preserve cultural heritage and promote tourism, the Goa Government recently signed a MoU with Temple Connect, an organisation dedicated to the revival and development of the temple ecosystem. This novel initiative is likely to enhance

tourism potential by linking Goa's temples to a Global Circuit, giving worldwide exposure to the spiritual and cultural heritage of Goa.

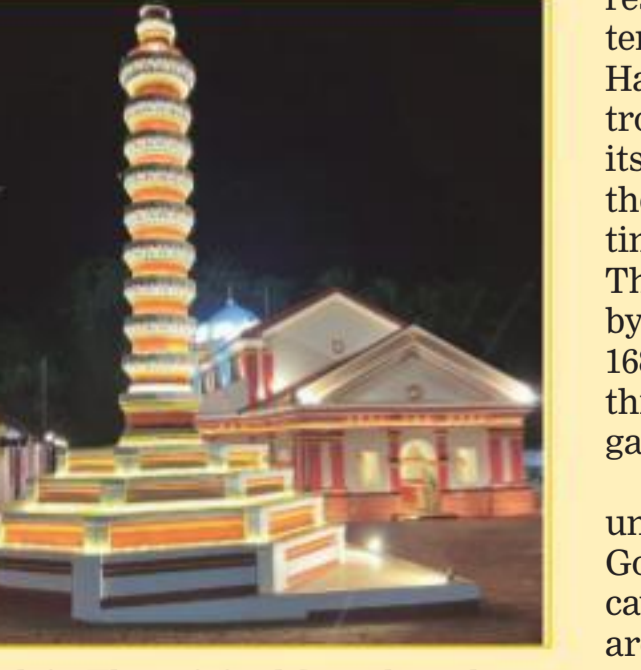
Mangeshi Temple in Ponda, Mahadeva Temple in Sanguem, Brahma Temple in Satari, and Saptakoteshwar Temple in Bicholim, among many others, are among the most famous temples in the state.

Saptakoteshwar Temple

One of the most ancient temples that shed light on the rich ancient history and heritage of Goa is the Saptakoteshwar Temple, which, over the years, has withstood attacks from the Delhi Sultanate and the Portuguese, but still stands tall in all its glory.

Located in the village of Narve, the temple is considered to be one of the six sites which have shrines dedicated to Lord Shiva. Saptakoteshwar was one of the principal deities of the Kadamba dynasty dating back to the 12th century.

One should visit the temple not just for its unique architectural style but also for the history associated



with it. The original Saptakoteshwar Temple was located on Divar Island and was built by the Kadambas. When the Kadamba Kingdom was conquered by the Bahmani Sultan Alluddin Hasan Gangu in 1352, it

resulted in the destruction of several temples. However, in 1367, King Harihara defeated Hassan Gangu's troops and restored the temple to its former glory. But after 200 years, the temple was attacked again, this time by its Portuguese Conquerors. The temple was again reestablished by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in 1688. The stone plaque mentioning this order is installed at the entrance gate.

Interestingly, the *deepstambha* is unlike any other in the temples of Goa. Brahminical laterite and stone caves surround the temple. In the area close to the temple, there once existed a Jain Math, whose ruins are visible even today.

Saptakoteshwar Temple is located about 35 km from Goa's capital Panaji and can be reached via a ferry boat from the island of Divar.

Goa Becomes First State To Launch Coding & Robotics Courses In Govt Schools

In a move that aims to benefit 65,600 students and 540 teachers from government and government-aided schools in Goa, the State Government implemented its novel and first of its kind in India - Coding and Robotics Education in Schools Scheme last year.

The scheme aims to incorporate computational and design thinking abilities, as well as programming, into the Goa state board curriculum to prepare students for the needs of the digital world in the 21st century. It was introduced by Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant, who is also the Minister of Education. The State government is looking to make this sort of skill education (coding and problem-solving skills) accessible to school-going children from all sections of society.

This scheme is a collaborative effort of the Directorate of Technical Education (DTE), Directorate of Education, State Council Educational Research and Training (SCERT) and industry experts. A Project Management Unit (PMU) headed by Dr Vijay Borges reports to Dr Vivek B. Kamat, Director of DTE, and is tasked with the everyday functioning of the scheme.

"Presently, the mandate of this scheme is for middle school (Class 6, 7, and 8). The State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) has revamped the computer science syllabus of these classes based



on the PMU's inputs. The PMU has created lesson plans for regular and optional syllabi. The idea is to tap into the creative and problem-solving mindset of every student early on and provide training to convert it into a skill. The scheme also intends to achieve education through self-exploration, where computers serve as fast feedback providers, helping the student evaluate ideas and improve early. This scheme was the Chief Minister's idea endorsed by visionary Goan scientist Dr Raghunath Mashlekar, who saw the merit in implementing it state-wide. The scheme became a reality once it was announced in the State Budget by the Chief Minister," Dr Borges said.

Says Dr Nagaraj Honnikeri, Director of SCERT, Goa: "Incorporating coding and robotics at the middle school level could mould students onto the path of computational and design thinking, while also teaching themselves to work in a peer network. "The child will develop a fun way of tackling the problem at hand and take an empathetic approach to it. Students will not look at the subject in isolation but in a holistic manner, applying cross-domain knowledge. The scheme looks to not only educate the child about the end result but also throw more focus on the approach adopted. It also looks to achieve collaborative learning, which will sharpen learning and problem-solving."

Meanwhile, industry experts are conducting training sessions on the skills domains listed in the syllabus to a group of selected teachers termed Master Trainers. At the end of the training, these Master Trainers brainstorm, arrive at a set of lesson plans, and write a detailed handbook which consists of week-wise lesson plans. They subsequently train all the computer teachers on the implementation of the lesson plan in the class. So it is a 'bottom-up' driven model wherein the computer teachers are empowered to decide and plan the entire implementation of the syllabus and its rollout in schools.



Goa's New Mopa Airport Will Boost Tourism In State

Targeting 12 million passengers per year in the next 5 years, Mopa Airport is set to elevate passenger experience and make waves in the aviation industry.

GMR Group's Manohar International Airport (MIA) at Mopa in North Goa opened its doors to passengers in January 2023, making it the second airport in the state. Located in Pernem taluka of the North Goa district, it is the western state's second international airport. While it was initially proposed to shut down the existing Dabolim Airport in Vasco for civilian flights, the two airports will now operate in tandem to service their respective catchment areas in North and South Goa.

The foundation stone of the airport was laid by the Prime Minister in November 2016. Developed at a cost of around ₹ 2,870 crores, the airport has been built on the theme of sustainable infrastructure and comprises a solar power plant, green buildings, LED lights on the runway, rainwater harvesting, state-of-the-art sewage treatment plant with recycling facilities, among other such facilities. Initially, Phase I of the Airport will cater to around 4.4 million passengers per annum (MPPA), which can be expanded to a saturation capacity of 33 MPPA over a period of time. Apart from tourism benefits, the presence of two airports has created new opportunities for Goa as a cargo hub.

Recalling his visits to Goa in the last eight years, the Prime Minister asserted that the love and affection shown by the people of Goa towards him will be repaid with interest in the form of development. "This advanced airport terminal is an attempt to return the favour," he said. He expressed happiness that the Airport is named after the late former Chief Minister of the state Manohar Parrikar, who had also served as the country's Defence Minister.

Despite being approved in principle over two decades ago in March 2000,



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the inauguration of Mopa International Airport, in Goa. Also in the frame are Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant

the greenfield airport project hit several snags. Work on the airport began in earnest following the state government's agreement with the developers, GMR Goa International Airport Ltd (GGIAL) in November 2016, a subsidiary of airports-to-energy conglomerate GMR Group that also operates the airports in Delhi and Hyderabad, among others.

Recalling the late Atal Bihari Vajpayee's government that had initially planned this airport, the Prime Minister lamented the lack of effort after his government was out of power and the project remained abandoned for many years. In 2014, the Prime Minister said that once the Double Engine Government came to the scene, work on the airport gained new momentum and he laid the foundation stone 6 years ago despite legal hurdles and the pandemic, this airport is ready to function today.

PM Modi also praised the efforts of the Goa Government for laying equal

importance on social infrastructure as much as physical infrastructure. The Prime Minister praised the success of Swayampurna Goa Abhiyan which was the key to promoting ease of living and making sure that no citizen remains deprived of the government schemes. "Today, Goa has become the perfect example of a 100% saturation model," he concluded as he encouraged everyone to carry forward the development work that is taking place in the state.

Interestingly, Mopa Airport aspires to join a very elite club of elite green airports in the world when it becomes a zero-carbon footprint airport in five years by implementing green infrastructure. GGIAL has received IGBC - New Building - Platinum Level Pre-certification from the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC).



BRIDGING THE GAP

Two new cable-stayed bridges are facilitating seamless travel across the state of Goa. While Atal Setu, which links Panaji and Porvorim, is already in use, the New Zuari Bridge, which links the districts of North Goa and South Goa, was partially opened last December.



Atal Setu

The Third Mandovi Bridge, or Atal Setu as it is commonly referred to, is a cable-stayed bridge in Goa that runs between Panaji and Porvorim. It carries National Highway 66 over the tidal part of the Mandovi River. It is 5.1 km (3.2 mi) long, making it the third-longest cable-stayed bridge in India. Two-wheelers and three-wheelers are prohibited from using the Atal Setu due to its height of 30 metres (98 ft). The bridge was inaugurated on January 27 2019 and officially opened for vehicular traffic on February 5.

It is the third bridge to be built over the Mandovi River. Before the first Mandovi Bridge was built, the ferry was the main mode of transport across the Mandovi River in the 1970s, between Panaji and Betim village. Due to heavy traffic, the first bridge was built in the 1970s. In 1986, the first bridge collapsed and was rebuilt. The second bridge was constructed in 1998 to accommodate heavy transport vehicles. The reason for the third cable-stayed bridge is to accommodate heavy traffic, especially during the peak year-end tourist season.

On June 14, 2014, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the bridge. Larsen and Toubro (L&T) were awarded the EPC contract at a bid of ₹403 crore (US\$50 million) to build and design the bridge. Upon completion, the bridge was inaugurated by Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari; and later by the then Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar in the presence of former deputy Chief Minister of Goa Sudin Dhavalikar, who was the State Minister for Roads at the time. This bridge was named Atal Setu after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.



New Zuari Bridge

On December 29, 2022, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated Phase I of the Zuari Bridge, a modern architectural marvel that has swiftly become a blessing for both daily commuters and tourists journeying to Goa. The bridge's total length is 640 metres and the project's total length is 13,635 km.

The New Zuari Bridge has effectively eliminated traffic concerns for commuters, transforming the driving experience into sheer bliss. Its operational efficiency allows vehicles to traverse the distance between Canacona and Panaji, and vice versa, in a mere 30 minutes.

The seamless travel experience provided by the bridge not only benefits daily commuters but has also positively impacted the Tourism Sector. Tourists, delighted by their hassle-free journeys, have shared glowing testimonials about the efficiency and convenience offered by the new infrastructure.

With reduced travel time and improved connectivity, the Tourism Sector in Goa has witnessed a notable boost. Visitors can now explore the beauty of the region without the hindrance of traffic, leading to an overall positive impact on Goa's tourism.

In order to elevate the tourism value of the state-of-the-art bridge, a substantial investment of ₹130 crores is allocated for the construction of two tourist view towers. These towers will feature an observatory, a viewing gallery, a revolving restaurant, and an art gallery.

The incorporation of an observatory and a viewing gallery in the view towers will provide tourists with panoramic views, enhancing their overall experience. The inclusion of a revolving restaurant and an art gallery further adds to the experience making the bridge a multifaceted attraction.

CONNECTIVITY IS THE KEY

The picturesque coastal state of Goa, known for its sun-kissed beaches and vibrant culture, has been undergoing a remarkable transformation in terms of infrastructure, particularly in its road network. Over the years, the Goa Government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari has accomplished the construction of numerous highway projects to enhance connectivity and foster economic development with robust support from the Double Engine Sarkaar.

As of 2014, the length of National Highways in Goa stood at 262 km. In a few years, the state witnessed substantial growth, with the National Highway span expanding to an impressive 668 km. This development includes both existing highways with 229.40 km falling

under the ambitious Bharatmala project.

Under the Bharatmala initiative, 28 ongoing projects, valued at ₹4,070 crore, are currently in progress, covering a combined length of 49.62 km. This sanction of funds and effort highlights a commitment to further elevate Goa's highway infrastructure, ensuring smoother transportation and enhanced connectivity for both residents and tourists.

The commitment of the Double Engine Sarkaar towards Goa's road development is exemplified by an investment exceeding ₹12,000 crore.

Notable Highway Projects Since 2014

National Highway 66 Upgradation: Transforming the Mumbai-Goa highway into a four-lane thoroughfare, focusing on expansion, strengthening, and widening. The roads constructed as part of National Highway 66 include Patradevi to Karaswada, Karaswada to Bambolim, New Zuari Bridge



Road, and Margao Western Bypass and Manohar Parrikar Canacona Bypass ensuring efficient travel time while commuting from North to South Goa and vice versa.
NH-748 Widening: Expanding the National Highway 748, a critical link between Karnataka and Goa, from two lanes to four lanes, strengthening connectivity.
Manohar Parrikar Canacona Bypass: Progressing rapidly, this bypass will connect

Char Rasta to Maxem junction on NH17. Featuring three bridges, this project promises to trim the distance between Char Rasta and Maxem via Galgibaga by 10 km. It also ensures safer journeys for motorists by bypassing the sharp curves of the existing road passing through Poinquinim.

Mopa Link Road: Construction of 6 Lane Expressway (NH-166S) with paved shoulder configuration to Manohar International Airport. This expressway provides a dedicated passage for the Manohar International Airport.

Porvorim Flyover: The long-standing issue of traffic congestion at Porvorim will come to a halt as a flyover has been proposed at a sanction of ₹474.6 crore and will be completed in 2 years.

The expansion and upgrading of key highway stretches has ensured that daily commutes for locals become more efficient, saving time and reducing travel-related

stress. Improved transportation links enable seamless movement of goods, fostering trade and commerce. This, in turn, has a direct positive impact on the livelihoods of the local population.

The expansion of road networks connecting popular tourist destinations enhances the overall tourism experience. Tourists can look forward to smoother journeys, reduced travel times, and safer routes, encouraging more visitors to explore the diverse attractions of Goa. Restaurants, shops, and services along these routes stand to benefit from the enhanced connectivity, fostering a thriving local economy.

These developments signify more than just the expansion of roads; they represent a strategic vision to position Goa as a hub of seamless connectivity, facilitating economic growth, and ensuring the safety and convenience of its residents and the multitude of tourists that flock to the state.

HEALTHCARE GETS A BOOST



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) in Dhargal, Goa, in December 2022. This landmark project, established under a budget of ₹302 crores, signifies a robust commitment to promoting traditional Indian medicine and enhancing healthcare infrastructure in the region.

The heart of this initiative is the Hospital Wing, dedicated to providing comprehensive care to patients. Equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, the hospital boasts 250 beds, ensuring accessible healthcare services for individuals seeking holistic Ayurvedic treatments.

The College Wing of the institute plays a pivotal role in nurturing the next generation of Ayurvedic practitioners. Offering a Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery, the institute takes a significant step towards promoting Ayurveda as a mainstream medical discipline. Notably, there is a 50% reservation for Goan students, fostering local talent and ensuring the integration of Ayurveda into the state's healthcare fabric.

The AIIA in Goa goes beyond conventional medical

practices by incorporating AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy) medicine routines. This holistic approach aims to address not only the physical but also the mental and spiritual aspects of well-being. The institute is a home to everyone seeking comprehensive, patient-centric care that aligns with ancient healing traditions.

As Ayurveda gains recognition globally, the institute emerges as a catalyst for Wellness Tourism in Goa. Visitors seeking authentic Ayurvedic experiences can now turn to the All India Institute of Ayurveda for top-tier healthcare services rooted in India's traditional healing practices. This not only boosts the state's tourism sector but also positions Goa as a hub for Wellness Tourism.

The establishment of the AIIA in Goa underlines a visionary approach to healthcare, combining traditional wisdom with modern infrastructure. As the institute becomes a centre for healing, education, and wellness, it reinforces India's commitment to preserving and promoting its rich heritage in healthcare.

GOA TO CREATE CULTURAL MAP USING GATI SHAKTI PLATFORM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched 'Gati Shakti', a National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity, which is essentially a digital platform to bring 16 Ministries including Railways and Roadways together for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects. This connectivity will provide integrated and seamless connectivity for the movement of people, goods and services from one mode of transport to another. It will facilitate the last-mile connectivity of infrastructure and also reduce travel time for people.

It will incorporate the infrastructure schemes of various Ministries and State Governments like Bharatmala, Sagarmala, inland waterways, dry/land ports, UDAN, etc. Economic Zones like textile clusters, pharmaceutical



clusters, defence corridors, electronic parks, industrial corridors, fishing clusters, and agri zones will be covered to improve connectivity and make Indian businesses more competitive. It will also leverage technology extensively including spatial planning tools with ISRO imagery developed by Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and

Geoinformatics (BISAG-N).

Goa plans to use the Gati Shakti portal to create a 'Cultural Atlas of Goa' and a time series map and analysis of domestic and international tourist footfalls in the state. The project will be implemented using funds allocated to the tourism department and no central funding will be sought. To create the cultural atlas, a list of all festivals, events and fairs will be identified and marked on a GIS map. Data will then be collected on the number of tourists who visit these locations as well as the available infrastructure at the locations to cater to the tourists.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said that Goa Electronics Limited (GEL) and the Tourism Department are working on the project, identifying and mapping all the libraries, religious sites and museums in the state.

GRAMIN MITRA BRINGS GOVERNANCE AT DOORSTEP

The Gramin Mitra Yojana is aimed at fostering digital empowerment in Goa's rural communities and bridging the digital gap between rural and urban areas. As a part of the initiative, all Government services will be made available to the rural residents of the state in their footsteps. 'Gramin Mitras' are village-level entrepreneurs who are assigned the responsibility of bringing selected government services to people. The scheme will empower the lives of people in rural communities by providing them with access to information and opportunities for improved socio-economic well-being.

As part of the program, people can request public services by dialling the designated helpline number, Citizen Service Centre Helpline 14471, which is operational seven days a week from 8 am to 8 pm. In the first phase, 171 Gramin



Mitras have been assigned to cover all Panchayats and Municipalities. Once a resident submits a request through the call centre for a specific public service, a Gramin Mitra will visit the resident's home. The Gramin Mitra will then assist the resident in applying for the desired service and collect any prescribed fees or physical documents

if required. The Gramin Mitra will then proceed to submit these documents to the respective departments and ultimately ensure the delivery of service or certificate to the resident's doorstep. Gramin Mitras can provide 179 state Government services spanning 27 departments to the public. Gramin Mitras are designated to be "approved and authorised agents" for the state and central government.

With services provided at people's doorsteps, it will save their time and resources, ensuring that no one is left behind in the digital age. The Gramin Mitra Yojana is set to revolutionise the delivery of public services in Goa, empowering rural communities to harness the advantages of technology and innovation.

APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT FOR YOUTH



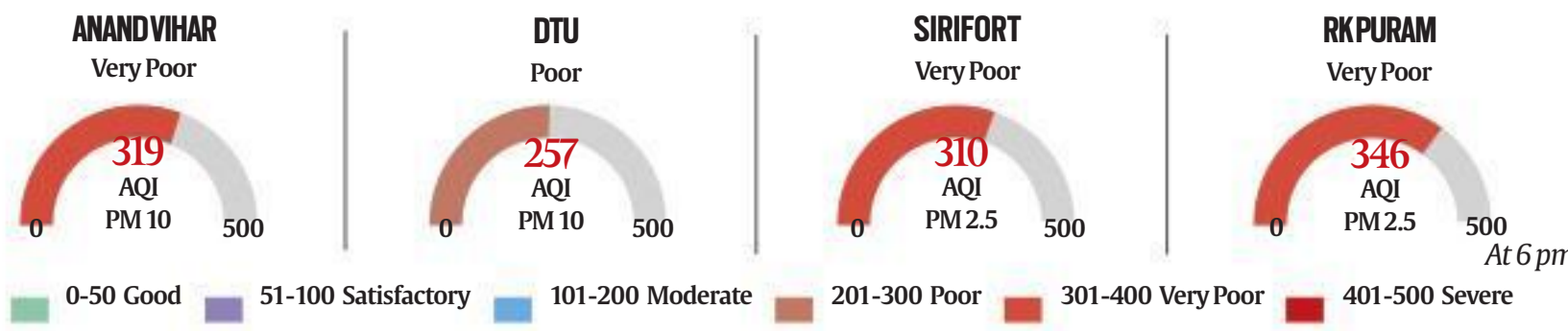
In a series of meetings held this year, Chief Minister of Goa Dr Pramod Sawant directed the Directorate of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, in collaboration with the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), to implement measures aimed at increasing the number of apprentices engaged by both private and government sector establishments in the state. The directives include organising industry connect meets, conducting training sessions for local youth and nodal officers, and introducing the apprenticeship training scheme.

Following the instructions, the Directorate held meetings with the CMO's team and industry representatives to outline a plan for the implementation of the apprenticeship training scheme. The CM also urged industry associations to comply with the scheme and engage a maximum number of local youth for apprenticeship training, with a target of 10,000 candidates.

To ensure the successful implementation of the scheme, orientation programs were conducted for the CA fraternity and youth from different constituencies of North and South Goa. Training programs were also organised for Swayampurna Mitras and Taluka Nodal Officers to familiarise them with the apprenticeship scheme and portal.

Additionally, the Directorate formulated and notified the 'Goa Chief Minister's Apprenticeship Policy for Government Establishments 2023' to enhance the employability of Goan youth in government establishments, autonomous bodies, and public sector undertakings. The policy emphasises selecting trainees based on proximity of residence and other relevant factors, and treats apprenticeship training as valuable experience in government departments.

6 THE CITY



SKY WATCH
FORECAST: November 19
Clear sky. Shallow fog in the morning.
AQI forecast: Likely to be very poor
MAX: 28 0.2°C above normal
MIN: 12 0.3°C below normal

AQI FALLS FROM 'SEVERE' TO 'VERY POOR'

Delhi schools reopen tomorrow, GRAP IV curbs lifted after air quality improves a tad

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 18

SCHOOLS IN Delhi that were shut on account of air pollution for an early winter break will now reopen on Monday for all classes, but without outdoor sports activities and morning assemblies for another week. The order issued by the Directorate of Education came after the Air Quality Index (AQI) in Delhi fell from the 'severe' to the 'very poor' category on Saturday and the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) revoked restrictions imposed under Stage IV or the 'severe plus' category of the Graded Response Action Plan.

The education department had declared an early winter break from November 9-18 in light of the severe air quality levels.

Saturday's AQI in Delhi was 319, in the 'very poor' category, at 4 pm, down from 405 in the 'severe' category on Friday. By 10 pm, the 24-hour average AQI had fallen further to around 317, with most monitoring stations recording figures in the 'poor' or 'very poor' categories.

While Ghaziabad, Noida, and Greater Noida recorded AQI in the 'poor' category on Saturday,



The AQI is likely to remain in the 'very poor' (301-400) category from November 19-21, and for six days after that as well. *Gajendra Yadav*

the air quality remained 'very poor' in Faridabad and Gurgaon.

While rolling back restrictions under GRAP Stage IV, the CAQM said, "GRAP is an emergency response action plan invoked with a view to arrest further deterioration of adverse air quality scenario in NCR. Restrictions under GRAP Stage-IV are disruptive and impact a large number of stakeholders and the public at large." It

also noted that air quality forecasts do not indicate "any steep degradation further."

A forecast issued by the Air Quality Early Warning System on Saturday said the AQI is likely to remain in the 'very poor' (301-400) category from November 19-21, and for six days after that as well.

Dip in farm fires

Meanwhile, Punjab and Haryana also registered a drop in the farm fire count on Saturday, as per the figures from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute. In Punjab, the count fell from 1,150 on Friday to 637 on Saturday, while in Haryana the count was down from 45 on Friday to 21 on Saturday.

The contribution of stubble burning to PM 2.5 levels in Delhi

WHAT'S ALLOWED NOW

- Delhi schools to reopen for all the classes
- Delhi-registered diesel-operated medium and heavy goods vehicles will be allowed to ply
- Truck traffic will now be allowed into Delhi
- Construction of certain projects like linear public ones (highways, roads, flyovers, pipelines) allowed

RESTRICTIONS THAT WILL REMAIN

- Ban on BS-III petrol, BS-IV diesel four-wheelers
- Construction and demolition activities
- except for those that are exempted (railways, metro, hospitals, linear public projects)

has been waning over the past few days, falling from 24.39% on November 15 to 5.85% on November 16 and around 3% on November 17, according to data from the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology's Decision Support System. On Saturday, it was estimated to be even lower, at 2.78%.

Measures under Stages I, II and III of GRAP will, however, continue in Delhi-NCR. This includes a ban on BS III petrol and BS IV diesel four-wheelers in Delhi, and a ban on construction and demolition activities except

for certain projects that are exempted like flyovers, roads, hospitals, metro, and railways.

So far this month, Delhi has recorded nine days of 'severe' (401 to 500) air quality.

According to the IMD, a western disturbance has been affecting northwest India. While no rainfall is expected in Delhi, the wind direction Saturday was from the northeast of Delhi and is expected to be from the southeast on Sunday, going by the forecast. Winds from the northwest generally help carry stubble-burning smoke into the Capital.

L-G nod to acquiring land for Barapullah Ph 3, flags 6-yr delay



The elevated road project is aimed at connecting East and Central Delhi. *Archive*

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 18

AFTER A delay of over six years, two parcels of land that were holding up construction of Phase III of the Barapullah elevated road project, aimed at connecting East and Central Delhi, are finally set to be acquired.

L-G VK Saxena has given his nod for acquisition of the land — measuring 1,169.093 sqm and 709.901 sqm located in Southeast Delhi's Nanli Razapur village — which delayed completion of the project for over six years and pushed up its cost by more than Rs 362 crore, according to L-G House officials.

Saxena has, however, also asked Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar to inquire into the "erred planning" and "assessment of land requirement" that essentially led to delaying the project for over half a decade and escalated its cost. He demanded action against the engineers in-charge of the project within 15 days.

"The L-G noted that contrary to claims made by even the Chief Minister, the government will end up paying Rs 1,326.37 crore for the Barapullah project against the tender amount of Rs 964 crore. This amounts to an additional Rs 362.37 crore being paid to the contractor out of the government exchequer, while also delaying

the project by over six years," an official said quoting Saxena's observations in the matter.

In response, government sources termed "deeply unfortunate" that the L-G was making imputations against the AAP. Delhi government "despite having all requisite information concerning the matter".

This, sources said, included that the project design, approval and land requirements were all finalised in 2013 under the then Sheila Dikshit government.

"Sanction for the project was given in December 2014 during President's Rule by the L-G of that time. The Arvind Kejriwal government has always used public exchequer money for the betterment of Delhiites, and is solemnly resolved to do so in future," sources said.

The project, part of the earlier Barapullah Phases I and II projects which were completed more than a decade back, Saxena noted, aimed at connecting East Delhi to Central Delhi, decrease travel time and traffic congestion, and mitigate air pollution.

"...engineers in-charge of the project, right from the time of start of construction work, may be placed under suspension if yet serving and suitable action be initiated against those who have retired, pending an inquiry into their role and responsibility..." the L-G stated.

BJP points to Rs 3,200 cr 'DJB scam'; AAP calls it dirty politics

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 18

TRAINING ITS guns at Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the Delhi BJP Saturday alleged an over Rs 3,200 crore 'water scam' in the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) with regard to alleged irregularities in its bank accounts.

New Delhi BJP MP Meenakshi Lekhi and Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva alleged the DJB was "showing" a loss of Rs 70,000 crore on paper even as its consumer base across the capital was increasing. The AAP, in response, termed the allegations "dirty politics" and accused the BJP of having paralysed the city's administration through the Amended GNCTD Act, as a result of which funds were lying in government accounts and deliberately not being disbursed by bureaucrats.

Referring to the DJB's bank

account statements and financial reports, Lekhi alleged that it had hidden information regarding its finances between the years 2018-19 and 2022-23.

"Delhi Jal Board has not shown balance of about 110 accounts out of its more than 450 bank accounts in its balance sheet. In this, an amount of more than Rs 100 crore is lying in 77 bank accounts. Zero balance has been shown before many accounts whereas crores of rupees are lying in that account," Lekhi alleged.

AAP termed "shameful" the BJP's alleged bid to ensure bureaucrats "do not work for the people of Delhi" as a result of the amended GNCTD Act. "The Finance Department has been delaying DJB's funds, which is hindering development of Delhi. This is being done by the same officers who, on the instruction of BJP, stopped funds to mohalla Clinics before the MCD elections," it alleged.

FIRST MAJOR EVENT AT ITPO COMPLEX AFTER G20; OPEN TO PUBLIC FROM TODAY

White honey to olive wood handicrafts: What's on offer at International Trade Fair

SAMAN HUSAIN
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 18

AFTER IT hosted world leaders in September for the G20 Summit, the newly built ITPO complex in Pragati Maidan is back to hosting businesses from across the world at its annual trade fair.

Featuring an array of products like mosaic lamps from Turkey, white honey from the high-altitude jungles of Kyrgyzstan, olive wood handicrafts from Tunisia, massage oils from Thailand, papyrus art from Egypt, and medicinal plants from the Bhimashankar jungles, the 42nd Indian International Trade Fair is any shopper's paradise.

Over 3,500 exhibitors from more than 20 nations are housed in 14 halls of the complex for the trade show, which opened on November 14. The fair opens to the public between 10 am to 5.30 pm on Sunday and is on till November 27.

At a stall set up by the Kyrgyzstan Embassy, two unique items were on display: white honey from the region of Nareen and walnuts from the Arslanbob forests. "The native tribes gather these walnuts in Arslanbob, the largest walnut grove on the planet... The rare white honey is harvested from the nectars of Fiona, Sage, and Alfa Alfa, wildflowers which are unique to high-altitude areas," said stall attendant Subhashish Basu. The honey sells for Rs 1,200 for 425 grams.

Meanwhile, handcrafted goods made of olive wood and traditional Qartaj ceramics were on sale at the Embassy of the



Republic of Tunisia's booth. Stall attendant Amine said, "The wooden handicrafts are made from the bark of the olive tree and are acclaimed for their durability and rich blend of caramel tones... The Qartaj ceramics showcase a 1,000-year-old art form called Amazigh."

Melano Bazaar, a stall from Egypt, was selling Papyrus art created on a paper-like material prepared from the stems of a

marsh plant. Each sheet of papyrus takes two days to create, it is thought to be the first paper ever to exist, Egyptian historians used this type of paper to write history. Our product line spans from Rs 300 to Rs 3 lakh," said vendor Islam Kamal.

Other highlights of the fair were the bright Turkish stalls selling mosaic lamps, the Dubai shops offering fashionable ethnic suits, and shops from



Afghanistan selling dry fruits. "Our speciality is white mamra almonds and super negin which is a rare trim of saffron," Abdul Wasim from the Natural Afghan Mewa stall said.

The Trade Fair also has partner states and focus states each year. This year's focus states are Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, and Maharashtra while Kerala, Jharkhand, and Bihar are partner states. Nevertheless, everything

3,500 exhibitors from more than 20 nations are housed in 14 halls. *Praveen Khanna*

that best represents India's cultural diversity was on display — from the delicious *litti chokha* from Bihar, warm Pashmina shawls from Kashmir, Punjabi Phulkari dupattas, mouth-melting Kerala halwas, Assamese Mekhela Sadors, Manipuri handwoven baskets, and more.

Yahul Maqbool from the Kashmiri handicrafts stall said, "We have pashmina stalls but this year all the rage is about Kaftans with chain-stitching work... our product range goes from Rs 1,500 to Rs 20,000."

Customers said the fair has become even better in the new complex. "I attend the IITF every year with my family, we were extremely excited to see the fair unfold in the renovated complex this year. The amenities are top-notch," Ashish Jogi, a resident of CR Park, said.

Gurgaon woman's search for online alcohol delivery ends in loss of Rs 33k to scammers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GURGAON, NOVEMBER 18

LAST MONTH, Gurgaon resident Sonam Shekhawat (32) decided to search for an online wine delivery service on Google. While she found that there was no option in the city, she chanced upon a phone number that claimed to provide alcohol at the doorstep. What followed was a series of transactions that ended in her losing Rs 33,000 to scammers.

The Sector 82A resident lodged a complaint with the police on October 11. Police registered an FIR at Cyber Crime Manesar police station on Friday and said they are looking into the matter.

While she found that there was no option in the city, she chanced upon a phone number that claimed to provide alcohol at the doorstep

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Shekhawat said she tried to order alcohol on October 10 around 10 am. "I found that Gurgaon did not have a home delivery option, but found a number that claimed to do so. I called them up and paid around Rs 3,000 for a bottle of Glenfiddich via UPI and they received it. But soon after, I got a call asking me to

send money for delivery. Since the amount was high I asked them to cancel the order," she said.

"They later asked me to send Rs 5, which, they said, would be credited back. Along with the amount, they asked me to enter a description (while making the UPI transaction) that had a series of numbers and characters. They said it was the GST number, but I did not dwell on it. As soon as the money was debited, I got it back. But soon after, I received a message stating that Rs 29,986 had also been debited from my bank account. I called the bank and blocked my account," Shekhawat said.

She also said she had not downloaded any app that

would have given her mobile phone screen access to the scammers.

"Police told me my account details were leaked after the Rs 5 payment," Shekhawat added. Meanwhile, police said the scammers had sent a QR code for completing the transaction. "We suspect the woman was cheated when the transaction was taking place... We have the details of the phone number and sought transaction details from the bank. The location of the accused was traced to Bharatpur. A probe is underway," an officer said.

Bharatpur has emerged as a cybercrime hub in a recent study by Future Crime Research Foundation (FCRF), a start-up incubated at IIT-Kanpur.

Chhath puja plans wind up — not politics

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 18

POLITICS OVER Chhath Puja intensified in the national capital, with the BJP accusing the AAP of shoddy preparations for the festivities and the latter stating everything is on track.

The four-day festival began Friday. Devotees will offer evening 'arghya' to the Sun God on Sunday by taking a dip in the ghats. The celebration is permitted only at designated sites.

When *The Indian Express* visited a Chhath ghat in Begumpur village near South Delhi's Malviya Nagar Saturday, digging work was still underway. Durgesh Prasad, a resident who celebrated Chhath at the park, said, "Lights are still to be put up... workers deployed by MCD claimed it will be done overnight... tankers will ar-



At the Dabri Chhath ghat, Saturday. *Express*

rive tonight to fill water."

AAP Minister Atishi said work on 1,000 Chhath ghats will be completed by Saturday night. During an inspection of the ghats constructed in Mayur Vihar Phase 3 earlier in the day, the minister directed the district administration and police to ensure robust security at all ghats so devotees

do not face issues, officials said.

"Chhath is a significant festival for the people of Delhi and our people from the Purvanchal region. Therefore, the city government organises a grand celebration every year," she said.

MCD Mayor Shelly Oberoi Thursday said ghats across the wards are ready.

The BJP, however, alleged the AAP government is yet to finish construction of over 1,100 ghats. "The government failed Purvanchali migrants by first denying them a traditional ghat puja along the Yamuna, as they do in their home towns, and later by denying them even the 1,100 makeshift ghats on public grounds and parks," Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva claimed.

Meanwhile, some residents created their own small ghats. "We have been doing this for the last 40 years now for which we do not receive any government funds..." said pradhan of the Begumpur Village's Indira Camp, Prabhudev Paswan.

At Dabri, president of the Chhath puja facility said, "The ghat dates back to 1998. This year, the government provided Rs 1 crore for proper facilities... We're ready to welcome a footfall of 10,000."

Appointing HC CJs faster when incumbents retire, takes longer if sent to SC

APURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 18

HOW LONG does the office of a Chief Justice of a High Court remain vacant after the incumbent retires or is elevated to the Supreme Court?


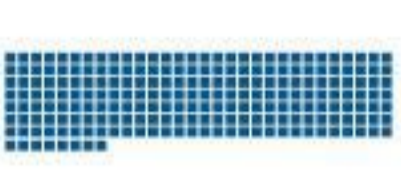







Last week, the appointment of Delhi High Court Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma, Rajasthan High Court Chief Justice Augustine George Masih, and Gauhati High Court Chief Justice Sandeep Mehta to the Supreme Court took the court to its full sanctioned strength of 34 judges.

With three new judges appointed to the Supreme Court, the Collegium headed by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud will now have to recommend three new Chief Justices for appointment. Till the new CJs are appointed the High Courts will function under an Acting Chief Justice - the senior most judge of that High Court.

The Sunday Express looked at the last 24 appointments of CJs to find out how long it took for the Collegium to fill the office of CJ when a vacancy arises. Of the 24 recommendations made from 7 February to 2 November - 9 vacancies arose when incumbent CJs were elevated to Supreme Court and 14 due to incumbent CJs' retirements.

It takes the Collegium an average of 44 days to recommend a new CJ after the incumbent's retirement. A vacancy arising from retirement is more certain than when a CJ is elevated since judges of High Courts are constitutionally mandated to retire at the age of 62 years. In these 14 instances of vacancies from re-

LONGEST WAIT FOR FULL-TIME CHIEF JUSTICES

Judge	Duration without full-time Chief Justices	Successor
 M N BHANDARI, Retirement (MADRAS HC) Date of vacancy: 13.09.22	 218 days	 S V GANGAPURWALA Collegium resolution on successor: 19.4.23
 SONIA G GOKANI, Retirement (GUJARAT HC) Date of vacancy: 25.02.23	 130 days	 SUNITA AGARWAL Collegium resolution on successor: 05.07.23
 INDRAJIT MAHANTY, Retirement (TRIPURA HC) Date of vacancy: 10.11.22	 89 days	 APARESK KUMAR SINGH Collegium resolution on successor: 7.02.23

irements, the Collegium had on only three occasions recommended a new CJ before one's predecessor retired.

When a sitting CJ of a HC is elevated to the Supreme Court, it takes the Collegium longer, i.e. 57 days, to recommend appointing a new CJ.

The date on which a CJ is recommended is taken as the date on which the vacancy arises, rather than the date on which the government makes the appointment. Of the 10 such recommendations, the Collegium on only two occasions recommended a new CJ for the HC on the same day it recommended

the incumbent for elevation to SC - when it recommended Justices Ujjal Bhuyan and SV Bhatti to SC on July 5.

An Acting CJ's tenure is uncertain and impacts administrative tasks of the office - including functioning of the High Court Collegium. In 2021, both the Centre and SC Collegium had returned 18 names recommended by then Bombay High Court Chief Justice BP Dharmadhikari. The Centre's objection was that Justice Dharmadhikari had a short stint as Acting Chief Justice and Chief Justice of just over two months. The Bombay High Court then sent a fresh list of 10 advocates.

UTTARKASHI TUNNEL RESCUE DAY 7

Experts explore possibility of another tunnel to reach workers

AVANEESH MISHRA
UTTARKASHI, NOVEMBER 18

WITH NO CLEAR progress since Friday afternoon in the operation to save 41 workers trapped inside the under-construction Silkyara-Barkot tunnel, rescuers and the authorities are exploring other possibilities, including drilling a vertical tunnel from the top of the mountain to reach those trapped inside.

The options are being explored after a high-capacity machine flown in from Delhi failed to drill beyond the 22-metre mark. The workers have been trapped behind more than 50 metres of rubble since 5.30 am Sunday.

The American-made drilling equipment brought in from the national capital, however, kept getting lifted off the ground once it hit the 22-metre mark, and its bearings were damaged. An additional machine was delivered by the Air Force to Jolly Grant Airport and carried to the spot on Saturday morning, but it had not been brought into use by the evening.

According to a report on the rescue operation, around 2.45 pm on Friday, a loud cracking sound was heard by the team working inside the tunnel, causing panic.

It was later explained that the same symptoms were also observed in previous occasions of collapse here, and based on this, there is a possibility of further collapse taking place in a part of the tunnel between 150 metres and 203 metres from the Silkyara side. The debris is between 205 metres and 260 metres, and the workers are beyond. "On Friday, there was a sound



Preparations underway to drill a vertical entry at the collapsed Uttarkashi tunnel after a high-capacity machine from Delhi failed to drill beyond the 22-metre mark. PTI

of earth movement and sensors corroborated the movement of earth and it became unsafe to continue with this option without securing the structure. Considering the lives involved, it was decided to move on all possible fronts together so that the workers can be rescued as early as possible," said a government source.

During the day, several officials, including Ministry of Road Transport and Highways Additional Secretary Mahmood Ahmed, former Advisor to PM and Officer on Special Duty (Tourism) Bhaskar Khulbe, PMO Deputy Secretary Mangesh Ghildiyal, Engineering Geologist Varun Adhikari and Expert Engineer Armando Capellan reached the spot to explore further options.

"We will take suggestions

from all the experts and discuss where we need to start working and what could be the time frame," said Khulbe.

"So far, we have only marked four spots and the work is ongoing. These include one vertical, and one each from both sides (of the mountain). We want to work on this simultaneously, and independently keep working without thinking about what other agencies are doing," he said, adding that they will also discuss the risks involved in the vertical or side drilling.

Arnold Dix, president of the International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association, said he is also coming to help with the rescue operations. "We are putting all our international expertise at disposal of India," he

said. Varun Adhikari, an engineering geologist who visited the spot, said they are exploring all possibilities, and geologists from all relevant organisations are present.

"We will listen to their prospects and decide what are the possibilities. Teams of the Rail Vikas Nigam Limited, Satluj Jal Viduyt Nigam, and National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd are here. We are also involving the ONGC," said Adhikari.

Later in the day, government sources confirmed that in a high-level meeting, various options were examined based on technical advice and five options are to be pursued. In addition, a couple of additional pipes for food support would also be put in.

'Had decided not to give ticket to Malinga': Kharge meets engineer assaulted by MLA


EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, NOVEMBER 18

CONGRESS PRESIDENT Mallikarjun Kharge along with Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Saturday visited the SMS Hospital in Jaipur and met with Dalit engineer Harshadhipati Valmiki who is undergoing treatment since last year after being allegedly assaulted by Congress MLA Girraj Singh Malinga and his associates.

Kharge's meeting with Valmiki comes weeks after Malinga joined the BJP after the Congress held his ticket and didn't announce its candidate's name from Bari, the constituency from where Malinga is a legislator.

"Every bone of Harshadhipati's leg has been broken in pieces. I and Rahul Gandhi ji decided to not give him (Malinga ticket) once we were told what he did. We thought that this person tried to take the life of another person. We thought that we will not give him ticket, even if we lose or win the seat. I recently completed one year as (president) of Congress party. I condemn all similar incidents happening everywhere," Kharge told reporters after meeting Valmiki and his family.

Kharge also praised CM Gehlot for helping the family. "We want to keep such people away and we denied him a ticket because of his misdeed. But the BJP and our Prime Minister say that they are with the poor. But here the BJP gave ticket to such a man, I condemn it," said Kharge. CM Gehlot questioned the BJP over inducting Malinga in the party and giving him a ticket to contest the elections from Bari.



सेंट्रल बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया
Central Bank of India

REGIONAL OFFICE, WHITE HOUSE COMPOUND, GAYA-823001


POSSESSION NOTICE
[UNDER RULE 8 (1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002]

Notice is hereby given under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of (Security) Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002), and in exercise of the power conferred under sub-section (12) of section 13 read with [rule 3] of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The Authorized Officer issued a Demand Notice on the dates noted against account as mentioned herein after, calling them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the under noted borrower/guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sec. 13(4) of Section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the date mentioned against account. The borrower/guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of Central Bank of India for the amount and interest thereon mentioned against account herein below. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section (13) of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Branch	Name of the Accounts/Borrowers/ Guarantor	Name of the owner & Description of the property mortgaged	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession Notice Affixed	Amount outstanding as on date of Demand Notice
Gaya	Borrower: 1. M/s Kanishka Traders, 2. Shri Manish Kumar Bhadani (Prop. Kanishka Traders) S/o Sri Krishna Prasad Bhadani. Guarantor: Mrs. Prity Bhadani W/o Mr. Manish Kumar Bhadani.	Name of the Mortgagor - Mr. Manish Kumar Bhadani S/o Sri Krishna Prasad Bhadani, Address of the Mortgagor - At Mirsafayat Road, Purani Godam, P.O Gaya Main Post Office, PS-Kotwali, Distt.-Gaya. Full particulars of Property-Reg. Mortgage Deed No.22900 Dtd. 21.12.2019, Area-670.60 Sq.ft, Khata No.23 & 17, Plot No.-47 & 40, Municipal Plot No.6079, Mohala-Bairagi Bigha (At Present Janta Colony) P.S.-Delha, Thana No.2 Old, Distt.-Gaya. Boundary: North-10' Road, South-Parwati Devi, West-Rajesh Kumar Bhadani, East-Chandrawati Devi.	01.09.2023	15.11.2023	Rs. 54,44,153/- (Rupees Fifty four lacs forty four thousand one hundred fifty three only) with future interest and incidental charges w.e.f. 01.09.2023

Date : 15.11.2023
Place : Gaya

Authorised officer
CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA



केनरा बैंक
Canara Bank

BALIHAR BRANCH

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13 (2) OF THE SECURITISATION & RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS & ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

DEMAND NOTICE

To, - Sri Ranjan Singh (Borrower) S/o Rabindra Kumar Singh, Address : Vill Pawra PO - Kusumhra, Distt Rohtas, Bihar - 802218

Sl. No.	Loan No.	Nature of Loan / Limit	Date of Sanction	Sanction Amount	Total Liability as on 01.11.2023
1.	7582979000260	Canara Vehicle	06.12.2017	Rs. 6,00,000.00	Rs. 4,95,001.94 plus interest and charges

The above said loan / credit facilities are duly secured by way of mortgage of the assets more specifically described in the schedule hereunder, by virtue of the relevant document executed by you in our favour. Since you had failed to discharge your liabilities as per the terms and conditions stipulated, the Bank has classified the debt as **NPA on 29.10.2023**. Hence, we hereby issue this Notice to you under section 13(2) of the subject Act calling upon you to discharge the entire liability of **Rs. 4,95,001.94** (Rupees Four lakhs ninety five thousands one and paise ninety four only) with accrued and upto date interest and other expenses, within sixty days from the date of the notice, failing which we shall exercise all or any of the rights under section 13(4) of the subject Act.

Further, you are hereby restrained from dealing with any of the secured assets mentioned in the schedule in any manner whatsoever, without our prior consent. This is without prejudice to any other rights available to us under the subject Act and / or any other law in force.

Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The demand notice had also been issued to you by registered Post Ack. due to your last known address available in the Branch record.

Details of Security Assets (Vehicle Details) - Registration No. - JH09AL8514, VEHICLE MODEL - MARUTI DZIRE VXI, Vehicle ID/Chassis No. - MA3CZF63SHM239119, Engine No. - K12MN2120914, Fuel Type - PETROL, Name of Title Holder - Sri Ranjan Singh S/o Rabindra Kumar Singh

Date - 02.11.2023

Authorised Officer (Canara Bank)



Govt. of Bihar

Rural Works Department

Notice Inviting Re-tender (No.-RWD/PMGSY/HQ/ET/-23-24/14)

Rural Works Department, Bihar invites Percentage rate Tender on behalf of Governor of Bihar (through e-procurement system) from bona fide, approved and eligible Contractors registered with RWD/RCD/CPWD/MES/ Railways/Other State/Central Govt. departments for the following PMGSY-III works including maintenance for five years after construction of roads and Bridges.

Sl.	District	Block	Package No.	New Technology/ Bridge	Name of Road / Bridge	Length (in Km/m)	Package wise Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)		Earnest Money (Rs. in Lakhs)	Amount Payable to Works Division
							Const.	Maint.		
1	Begusarai	Garhpura	BR04P3R21	Cold Mix Technology/ Panelled Cement Concrete/ Surface Dressing	MRL14-KORIYAMA RCD ROAD TO DEORA VIA BHUIDHHARA	5.94	470.35	50.10	10.44	EE, RWD, Works Division, Manjhaul Bakhri
2	Begusarai	Bacchwara	BR04P3R24	Cold Mix Technology/ Panelled Cement Concrete/ Surface Dressing	T01-Bachwara Jhamatia To Samsa	7.85	755.38	81.31	16.78	EE, RWD, Works Division, Teghra
3	Sitamarhi	Parsauni	BR33P3R29	Bridge	MRL15-MURLIACHAK TO BELSAND MOR VIA KATHAURConst ruction of RCC HL Bridge At Ch. 7+030 km	40.62	455.93	1.69	9.18	EE, RWD, Works Division, Belsand

Date and Time for Downloading of Bidding Documents : From 04.12.2023 (09:30 AM) to 11.12.2023 (12:00 Noon)

Last date and Time of Online Bid Submission : 11.12.2023 up to 15:00 Hours. (including Scanned copy of Affidavits)


Online Bid Opening Date and Time : 11.12.2023 at 15:30 Hours.

Place, date and time of Pre-Bid Meeting : 07.12.2023 from 15:00 Hours. (Office of Respective Works Circle, RWD)

Details of tender related information can be viewed/ downloaded from the website <http://pmgsytendersbih.gov.in>. Interested Bidders will have to register with their DSC (Digital Signature Certificate) in the web site <http://pmgsytendersbih.gov.in>. For further details please visit website state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar

Engineer-in-chief
Rural Works Department
Bihar, Patna

PR- 11986 (R W D) 2023-24 नरो से बनानी दूरी हे, क्याकि परिवार जरूरी हे



सेंट्रल बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया
Central Bank of India

REGIONAL OFFICE, WHITE HOUSE COMPOUND, GAYA-823001

POSSESSION NOTICE
[UNDER RULE 8 (1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002]

Notice is hereby given under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of (Security) Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002), and in exercise of the power conferred under sub-section (12) of section 13 read with [rule 3] of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The Authorized Officer issued a Demand Notice on the dates noted against account as mentioned herein after, calling them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the under noted borrower/guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sec. 13(4) of Section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the date mentioned against account. The borrower/guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of Central Bank of India for the amount and interest thereon mentioned against account herein below. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section (13) of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Branch	Name of the Accounts/Borrowers/ Guarantor	Name of the owner & Description of the property mortgaged	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession Notice Affixed	Amount outstanding as on date of Demand Notice
Teghra	Mr. Sushil Kumar Mishra S/o Shiv Kumar Mishra, Guarantor- (1) Sudhir Kumar Mishra S/o Shiv Kumar Mishra (2) Navin Kumar Mishra S/o Shiv Kumar Mishra (3) Sujit Kumar Mishra S/o Shiv Kumar Mishra	Name of the Mortgagor (S) - Mr. Sushil Kumar Mishra S/o Shiv Kumar Mishra, Address of the Mortgagor - At-Daniyalpur, Ward No-17, PO- Teghra, Dist- Begusarai, Deed No- 4734 Dtd.- 27.08.2018, Area- 17 Kathha 05 Dhoor, Mauza- Gaura, Anchal- Teghra, Jamabandi- 1183 Distt.- Begusarai, Thana No- 329, Khata No- 3073, 962, Khesra No- 7124, 7632, Tauji No- 929, 5523, Boundary- North- Ram Sagor Rai, South- Ram Udgar Rai, West- Ram Balak Kuwar, East- Ram Kishun Sah	31.07.2023	16.11.2023	Rs.5321603.00/- (Rs. Fifty Three Lacs Twenty One Thousand Six Hundred Three Only) and Interest thereon
Begusarai	M/S MM Steel Furniture, Mr. Janki Jivan Sinha (Prop- MM Steel Furniture) S/o Mr. Rabindra Kumar Sinha and Guaranter- (1) Mr. Rabindra Kumar Sinha S/o Sri Jagtanand Prasad (2) Mr. Abhay Singh S/o Sri Ramsurat Singh	Name of the Mortgagor - Mr. Rabindra Kumar Sinha S/o Sri Jagtanand Prasad, Address of the Mortgagor- Rabindra Kumar Sinha, At- Mauza- Chek Gopal, Pargana- Balia, Mohalla- Lohianagar, Ward No-28, Begusarai, Dist.- Begusarai. Reg. Mortgage Deed No-1633 Dated- 25.03.2015, Area- 02 Katha 10 Dhoor, Mauza- Chek Gopal, Pargana- Balia, Mohalla- Lohianagar, Ward No- 28, Begusarai, Thana No- 349, Khata No- 24, Khesra No- 2 & 3 Tauzi No- 766, Boundary- North- PCC Sadak, South- Janki Jeevan Sinha & Kishori Jeevan Sinha, West- Nala & Rasta, East- Anil Singh	06.06.2023	17.11.2023	Rs.15,43,944/- (Rs. Fifteen Lacs Forty Three Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Four Only) and Interest thereon
Barauni	Mr. Pavan Ray S/o Late Sita Ram Ray	Name of the Mortgagor - Mr. Pavan Ray S/o Late Sitaray Ray, Address of the Mortgagor- Mr. Pavan Ray S/o Late Sitaray Ray, Vill- Shokhara 02, PO- Barauni, PS- Phulwaria, Sub Division- Teghra, Dist.- Begusarai, Reg. Deed No- 1873, Date- 19.04.2017, Area- 02 Katha, Tauzi No- 4160, Thana No- 389, Khata No- 639, Khesra No- 1583 & 1584, Mauza- Narsinghpur, Shokhara, Pargana- Malki, Sub Registry & Sub Division- Teghra, Dist.- Begusarai, Boundary- North- Kailash Chaudhary, South- Sarak, East- Heir's of Banrsi Rai, West- Sinha Jee	02.02.2022	16.11.2023	Rs.5,25,887/- (Rs. Five Lacs Twenty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Seven Only) and Interest thereon
Barauni	M/S Ayush Communication (Prop- Late Manoj Kumar S/o Shri Balram Prasad Sah) (2) Mrs. Rinki Kumari (Legal Heirs of Late Manoj Kumar) & Guaranter- Smt. Champa Devi W/o Shri Balram Sah	Name of the Mortgagor - Smt. Champa Devi W/o Shri Balram Prasad Sah, Address of the Mortgagor- Shokhara 02, Near Central Bank of India, PO- Barauni, Dist.- Begusarai, Deed No- 8131 Dated- 28.11.2000, Area- 12 Dhoor, Mauza- Narsinghpur Shoghra, Anchal- Teghra, Dist.- Begusarai, Tauzi No- 5639, Thana No- 389, Khata No- 1081, Khesra No- 3171, 3172, 3173, Boundary- North- Nasri Miya, South- Rasta, West- Mo. Biwi Jahan Khatoon (Father in law Kilar Miya) East- Kashi Mishra	07.09.2023	16.11.2023	Rs.12,76,729/- (Rs. Twelve Lacs Seventy Six Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Nine Only) and interest thereon

Place- Begusarai
Date- 19.11.2023

Authorised Officer
Central Bank of India

8 GOVT & POLITICS

Manipur: Opp team meets Gov, seeks PM help in restoring peace

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE GUWAHATI, NOVEMBER 18

A DELEGATION of leaders from 10 Opposition parties in Manipur met Governor Anusuiya Uikey who assured them she will request PM Narendra Modi to initiate talks for restoring peace in the state, her office said Saturday.

The Opposition delegation comprised of leaders from: AAP, All India Forward Bloc, TMC, CPI, CPI(M), Congress, JD(U), NCP, RSP and Shiv Sena (UBT).

During the meeting at the Raj Bhavan, they submitted a memorandum to Uikey requesting that an all-party meeting be arranged with PM Modi.

"The Peace Committee constituted by the Union Government has not done any visible work to restore peace and harmony in Manipur... We consider that the Hon'ble PM is the only hope for bringing peace in the state," said the memorandum.

A statement by the Raj Bhavan later said Uikey assured the leaders that steps would be taken to ensure a dialogue process between the two communities (Meiteis and Kukis).

As rumours swirl of Goa cabinet reshuffle, ministers told of need to make 'sacrifice'

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA PANAJI, NOVEMBER 18

AMID SPECULATION that Goa PWD minister Nilesh Cabral has been asked to resign from the cabinet to accommodate one of the eight MLAs, who had switched over to the BJP from the Congress last year in Goa, Cabral on Saturday told *The Indian Express* that though he has not been told to resign so far, party leaders have spoken about having to make a "sacrifice".

The minister, who also holds portfolios of Law and Judiciary, Environment and Climate Change, and Legislative Affairs, said the matter of cabinet reshuffle had come up for discussion among senior party leaders earlier this week.

"Three days back, there was a discussion and the party leaders said it is required to induct one of the eight MLAs. Not only me, I think they told others also... I have not been told to step down, but 'sacrifice' was the word used, not only for me but for other min-

SSB's jungle warfare school sought shifting of training venue due to winter, denied nod

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 18

CITING "INCLEMENT cold", the Counter Insurgency & Jungle Warfare School (CI&JW) of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) in Uttarakhand's Gwaldam had sought shifting of its commando course training for Assistant Commandants to other centres.

However, the headquarters turned the proposal down, with the training unit head suggesting the trainees make use of warm clothes and other winter items.

The commando course training for the joint batch of Assistant Commandants (DE) and Sub Inspectors (DE) at Gwaldam, in Chamoli district, was scheduled to begin Friday. In November, the Gwaldam hill station witnesses sub-zero temperatures ranging up to -11 degrees Celsius.

In an internal communication dated November 3 to CI&JW Gwaldam and SSB Academy, Bhopal, Second-In-Command (training) Sanjay Kumar said: "CI&JW School in Gwaldam has requested on October 27 to divert joint batch of commando course of assistant commandants (DE) and SI (DE) scheduled at their

RAVI HAD SENT BACK BILLS AFTER SC CONCERN ON DELAY IN ACTION

Tamil Nadu Assembly readopts 10 Bills returned by Gov, again sent for his nod

Opp walks out; Stalin slams Gov for delaying Bills on 'whims and fancies'

ARUN JANARDHANAN CHENNAI, NOVEMBER 18

THE TAMIL Nadu Assembly, in a special sitting on Saturday, readopted 10 Bills that were recently returned by Governor R N Ravi. The Bills cover various departments, including law, agriculture, and higher education among others.

The main Opposition AIADMK and the BJP separately walked out of the Assembly before the readoption of the Bills, asking why a special meeting was being held when the government has already taken the matter to the Supreme Court. The readopted Bills were later sent to the Governor for his assent.

Governor Ravi had returned the Bills on November 13, days after the Supreme Court expressed "serious concern" over

Governors not acting on pending Bills. His decision prompted the DMK government, which has had several public disagreements with Ravi over the past year, to call a special Assembly session to take up the Bills again.

Chief Minister M K Stalin said in the Assembly that the Governor had only mentioned "I withhold assent" to the Bills, but did not give any reason for his decision. He criticised the Governor's action as an affront to the state's elected representatives and an undermining of democratic principles.

Stalin, who moved the resolution on Saturday to reconsider the Bills, emphasised that under Article 200 of the Constitution, the Governor "shall not withhold assent" once a Bill is passed again by the Assembly.

He alleged that the Governor has been trying to block the Tamil Nadu government's initia-



Tamil Nadu CM M K Stalin leaves the Assembly, Saturday. PTI

tives and that non-BJP-ruled states are being "targeted" by the Centre "through Governors". Stalin said it was the duty of the Governor to give assent to Bills passed by the Assembly due to an elected government and that the Governor "can seek legal or administrative clarification from the government if required, and the government has to

provide it".

"At no instance have such clarifications not been given. In such a situation, him (governor) not giving assent to the Bills passed by the Assembly due to his whims and fancies and returning them amounts to insulting the people of Tamil Nadu and this House," Stalin said. "This House resolves that un-

der Rule 143 of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly rules the following Bills may be reconsidered by this Assembly," the Chief Minister said.

Six of the 10 Bills readopted in the Assembly were passed last year, and two were adopted by the House in 2020 and 2023, including a Bill passed by the previous AIADMK regime to change the name of Tamil Nadu Fisheries University to Tamil Nadu Dr J Jayalalitha Fisheries University, and another one to include a government nominee in the selection panel for the appointment of vice-chancellor of the varsity.

The other Bills include those aimed at amending university laws, granting the state government the authority to appoint vice-chancellors to 12 universities under the administrative oversight of the higher education department. They seek to amend Acts governing several key universities, including Tamil Nadu Dr Ambedkar Law University and Tamil Nadu Dr MGR Medical University.

BJP candidate among 20 booked for Cong leader's killing in MP

ANAND MOHAN J BHOPAL, NOVEMBER 18

A 34-YEAR-OLD Congress leader was run over by a vehicle in Rajnagar in Chhatrapur district of Madhya Pradesh during a clash between the Congress and BJP workers early on Friday, hours before the voting for the Assembly polls got underway in the state.

Salman Khan, a former councillor from the Khajuraho municipality, was killed after he was run over by a car that was part of the cavalcade belonging to Rajnagar BJP candidate Arvind Pateriya. At the time of his death, Khan was serving as the state secretary (sports cell) of his party.

Superintendent of Police (Chhatrapur) Amit Sanghi told *The Indian Express*, "We have booked 20 people in the case, along with the BJP candidate, Arvind Pateriya. The incident took place on a deserted road, where the BJP leader's convoy met a Congress convoy on the way, and fought over the right of way over it. Multiple allegations have been recorded, but it appears that the deceased was hit by a car during the argument, according to preliminary medical reports."

Police said they have registered a case under sections 302 (murder), 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) and other relevant sections of the IPC.

"We are recording everyone's statements and looking into forensic and postmortem reports, without which we can't conclusively say anything about the motive," said SP Sanghi.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being felicitated during a public meeting ahead of the Assembly polls, in Bharatpur on Saturday. PTI

In Rajasthan, PM targets Gehlot: On Dec 3, Congress choomantar

DEEP MUKHERJEE JAIPUR, NOVEMBER 18

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi Saturday targeted the Congress and Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot saying there is a need to remove the party once and for all from the state.

"Some people here call themselves *jaadugar* (magician). Today, the public of Rajasthan is telling them, that on December 3, Congress *choomantar* (will vanish). Congress has made Rajasthan the frontrunner in corruption, riots and crimes. That is why Rajasthan is saying *jaadugar ji, koni mile vote ji* (Mr Magician, you will not get votes)," said PM Modi while speaking at a public meeting in Bharatpur on Saturday. Gehlot is called *jaadugar* (magician) by his supporters because his father was a professional magician. Modi congratulated the BJP

leaders for releasing its election manifesto.

"In the last five years, most crimes took place on sisters, daughters, Dalits and marginalised. Be it Holi, Ram Navami, Hanuman Jayanti, you could not celebrate any festival peacefully. Riots, stone pelting, curfew, all this kept happening in Rajasthan. Wherever Congress comes, terrorists, criminals and rioters get a free run," he said.

"The Chief Minister who himself says women register fake cases of rape... can he protect women? Can any mother, sister or daughter say something like this themselves? What has happened to the people of Congress? Does such a chief minister, such a *jaadugar* have the right to stay in his chair even for a minute?" added Modi. Without naming him, Modi also slammed minister Shanti

Dhariwal over the latter's statement last year where he associated high number of rape cases in Rajasthan with the state "being a men's state." "The Congress, instead of punishing this minister, has rewarded him with a ticket. The question is that a favourite minister of *jaadugar*, what second red diary does he have that even Delhi had to bow and give ticket to such a person," said Modi.

The PM also attacked Gehlot over the existence of the alleged red diary, which was first brought to light by now-fired Congress minister Rajendra Singh Gudha.

"Some people say that in the red diary, there is also a *qubool naama* of a son. The son himself is saying that papa's government will not be repeated," said the PM. Later, while addressing another public meeting in Nagaur, the PM again brought up the subject of the red diary and said: "What happened Gehlot ji? Is your magic is not working on your son?" FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

WILL TAKE ACHIEVEMENTS TO PEOPLE, SAYS GOVT; POLITICALLY MOTIVATED: OPP

Mixing politics with governance, Pinarayi's Cabinet-on-wheels rolls out on 36-day yatra

SHAJU PHILIP THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOVEMBER 18

STARTING SATURDAY from village Paivalike in Kasaragod in the far north of the state, the 21-member Kerala Cabinet led by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has set off on a state-wide yatra that is expected to continue for the next 36 days, ending in Thiruvananthapuram on December 23.

Named "Nava Kerala Sadas" (New Kerala Meeting), the yatra will travel from one district to another, covering all 140 Assembly segments in an outreach programme unprecedented in the history of the Left Democratic Front (LDF)



CM Pinarayi addresses inaugural meet in Kasaragod

government.

The government says the yatra will take the message of its "achievements" to the people, and explain how it has kept afloat despite the "stifling financial policies" of the BJP government at the Centre.

The Opposition has alleged that the yatra, being undertaken at the state exchequer's expense ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, is "politically motivated".

In Kerala, leaders of both the

CPI(M) and the Congress are used to conducting state-wide political yatras ahead of elections, to test the battle-readiness of cadres and party machinery. But Vijayan's Cabinet-on-Wheels is different. For the first time, the state machinery, led by the chief secretary, is going to keep the Cabinet on the move.

Across Kerala, the state government has started organising events and making arrangements for the event. Flash mobs, marathons, football contests, yoga shows and meetings of entrepreneurs have been planned along the way.

There is a mix of politics and governance in the "Nava Kerala Sadas" schedule. Government officials will hear complaints from the public at multiple

counters that will be set up wherever the "sadas" pitches tent. All complaints will be registered, progress updated in two weeks and relief to registered complaints provided within 45 days, officials said.

Addressing the inaugural 'sadas' at Paivalike in Kasaragod, where the Muslim community is numerically significant, Vijayan set the tone of the yatra. Referring to the Gaza conflict, he alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is backing Israel in its massacre of Palestinians.

"Because, Zionists and BJP share common threads of thought. The Congress and the BJP have always succumbed to America's imperialistic agenda," he charged. FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com



Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP MP Prakash Javadekar (right) and party Telangana chief G Kishan Reddy in Hyderabad. ANI

UCC, fuel VAT cut, free laptops: Shah releases manifesto for Telangana polls

Party promises to scrap religion-based reservation, probe corruption by 'BRS'

SREENIVAS JANYALA HYDERABAD, NOVEMBER 18

MANY UNEXPECTED freebies, including a reduction in value-added tax (VAT) on fuel and free laptops for college-going girls, besides promise of Uniform Civil Code (UCC) implementation and scrapping of religion-based reservation feature in the BJP's manifesto for Telangana released by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Hyderabad on Saturday.

The manifesto, titled 'Sakala Janula Saubhagya Telangana (welfare of the people)', however, contains no mention of farm investment support schemes like the ruling Bharat Rashtra Samithi's (BRS) Rythu Bandhu or free power to the farm sector, which both the BRS and the Congress have promised.

The 10-point, 48-page manifesto promises, among other things, Rs 2,500 per acre per season to farmers to purchase seeds apart from the Rs 18,000 provided annually by the Centre as fertiliser subsidy, and a hike in the minimum support price for paddy to Rs 3,100.

The party has promised four free LPG cylinders annually to all beneficiaries of the Central Ujjwala scheme and 10 lakh jobs for women. It also promises all a fixed deposit of Rs 2 lakh for every girl born in poor families, to be received upon turning 18.

The manifesto states that the party will set up a panel to draft a Uniform Civil Code for the state, an exercise that has already been

taken up in other BJP-ruled states.

The party said it would remove "unconstitutional" religion-based reservations, including the 4% quota for Muslims, in government jobs and seats in state educational institutes. The Muslim quota would be redistributed to OBCs, SCs and STs, as per the manifesto. Shah also reiterated the party's promise to name a Chief Minister belonging to a Backward Class community. The manifesto also seeks to set up a 'Gulf board' or a separate ministry for the welfare of migrant workers.

On the youth employment and education front, it promises to conduct exams for the Telangana State Public Service Commission (TSPSC) every 6 months, along the lines of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), and a re-assessment of private school fees. Reiterating its campaign rhetoric, the BJP promises to crack down on corruption and order an inquiry, led by a retired high court judge, into the BRS government's projects.

Shah said if the BJP forms the government in Telangana, it would officially celebrate Hyderabad Liberation Day on September 17, which was observed by the BRS as Telangana Integration Day. The BJP claims the BRS government prefers "integration" over "liberation" to avoid "upsetting" ally All India Majlis-e-Itehadul Muslimeen. "August 27 would be officially remembered as 'Razakar Horrors Remembrance Day'," Shah said.

Situations like Gaza can polarise world, resolving disputes key: CDS Chauhan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 18

CHIEF of Defence staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan Saturday said inter-state conflicts occur due to latent disputes and it was important to manage differences and resolve disputes to prevent situations like the current Israel-Hamas, Russia-Ukraine, Armenia-Azerbaijan wars.

He made the statement during a talk on 'Global future security challenges' in a virtual address at a conclave organised by the Synergia Foundation think tank and the National Security Advisory Board. He said the Israel-Hamas conflict now has the potential to polarise the world and usher in new geopolitical alignments.

"There is a growing perception that inter-state wars are a thing of the past and have been replaced by inter-state conflicts and civil wars. This has been proved wrong. Inter-state conflicts occur due to existing but latent disputes - Israel-Hamas, Armenia-Azerbaijan, Russia-Ukraine are only examples of it," Chauhan said.

"It is hence important to manage differences and resolve disputes," he said. The ongoing



General Chauhan spoke at an event in Bengaluru

Israel Hamas conflict and the Russian Ukraine conflict has increased uncertainty even in countries not directly affected by the conflicts, the CDS said.

"The Israel Hamas conflict which is currently on, I believe, has the potential to polarise the world. It might usher in new geopolitical alignments," General Anil Chauhan said.

"The Russian Ukraine conflict has entered its 633rd day. The war in Europe and the Middle-East has fuelled fresh tensions in the globe," he said.

The combination of increased tensions and rising uncertainties in the Middle-East and Europe has forced countries to review their national security strategies and has put a strain on global supply chains that were in the process of recovering from effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The CDS also said the Indian Armed Forces must stay in tune with technological changes to stay on par or ahead of the curve of technology innovation.

9 EXPRESS NETWORK

Questions by judges are to gain clarity... a case is not concluded until last word is said

Chief Justice of India **D Y CHANDRACHUD** says he is not a magician to solve all problems of the country or the court. But he has indeed kickstarted a process to address the judiciary's chronic problems. In an interview to **ANANTHAKRISHNAN G**, he speaks his mind on his relationship with the government, the key challenges he faces going forward, and the need for more diversity in judiciary



THE EXPRESS INTERVIEW WITH **D Y CHANDRACHUD** CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

What are the takeaways from your one year in office? What is the progress on the priorities you had set for yourself?

On the very day that I took oath as Chief Justice of India, I told members of the Court, the bar, and even litigants that I am not a magician who can solve all of the Court's or indeed the nation's problems in one moment. However, I had a clear plan to take the necessary steps to address the chronic problems affecting the judiciary. The first thing I did was to consult my colleagues on the bench and to take their perspectives. I also set up a team of judicial officers, scholars, and researchers to come up with an action plan to address the issues affecting the judiciary. Some of the key areas of focus that emerged from these discussions were improving judicial infrastructure, strengthening the capabilities of not just judges but court staff, and reducing the Court's pendency. In addition to these, two areas I personally believed needed acceleration were the adoption of technology and the hearing of constitutional cases.

In the last one year, we have made several advances in the working of the Supreme Court and the judiciary. On the judicial side, we have disposed of around fifty thousand cases, roughly equal to the number of cases instituted in the same period. So we have ensured pendency is not increasing. Crucially, we have increased the number of cases being disposed of while continuing to hear important constitutional cases. By ensuring that at least one Constitution Bench is constantly at work, we have decided several constitutional matters that had been pending for years, sometimes decades. This is going to continue as several Constitution Bench matters are lined up for hearing. On the administrative side, we have set up ICT enabled courtrooms in the Supreme Court. We also entered into an MoU with IIT Madras for collaborating on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies for transcription tools, summarization of transcripts, translation, the creation of exclusive streaming platforms for court trials, and process automation. I also felt the Court can help equalise access to knowledge and opportunities. For example, we launched e-SCR which is a free and open-source electronic database consisting of over 34,000 judgments to ensure students and researchers don't have to pay to access judgements. We also finalised an internship scheme with the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes to provide internships to students belonging to Schedule Tribes. There is a push to make the Court a more inclusive space, both physically and intellectually. We published a Handbook on Gender Stereotypes, constructed gender neutral restrooms in the Supreme Court, and now have a café ('Mitti Café') in the Supreme Court complex which is completely run by persons with disabilities.

How have you calibrated the govt-judiciary relationship?

The relationship between the government and the judiciary is already defined in the framework of the Indian Constitution. On the judicial side, courts are empowered to review governmental actions. However, on the administrative side, the court and the government collaborate just as any two administrative institutions do to improve the lives of citizens. We constantly work with the government on projects to improve judicial infrastructure, make courts more accessible, and ensure justice delivery. In that role, the Chief Justice of India acts as a point of coordination between various stakeholders in the process of facilitating access to justice. My office has maintained an open dialogue with the officers in the government on planning and operationalising steps to advance the administration of justice for citizens.

There were complaints in the past about the due process not being followed. How far have you been able to address this?

It has been my constant endeavour to institutionalise as many processes as possible, so that irrespective of who the Chief Justice is, the processes happen in the designed manner. I will give two examples. One of the first things I did as the Chief Justice was to lay down certain norms within the Registry as to how cases are to be listed and how mentioning by lawyers would be done. This has regularised the process completely. Second, in the collegium resolutions, we have now clearly stated the parameters on which appointments to the Supreme Court are to be made. Laying down guiding parameters ensures transparency and accountability in a system.

You had said that judges should now learn to adjust to the social media era. How do you rate the change, if any, after one year?

Social media has drawn enormous attention to the work of the judiciary. In particular, live streaming of proceedings have led to widespread engagement on what happens inside the courtrooms and what judges do. In that way, the statements made by judges are reported on social media widely, even without them being on social media. There are both positives and negatives of this. While people are now aware of what is happening in court proceedings, this new information also allows people to selectively report (often out of context) statements made by judges during oral arguments. For instance, one or two questions asked by a judge during a two-week-long hearing are sometimes reported as

though it is the court's final verdict. This is not the right approach to report on court proceedings. Judges often ask questions to seek clarity on facts and on legal interpretation, and these are not their final findings. Court reporters ought to be sensitised to these realities.

Furthermore, the Court cannot be entirely reliant on the media to communicate the work it does as an institution. A lot of new initiatives being taken by the Supreme Court do not get reported. People have a right to know about the work being undertaken by the judiciary, as it involves spending public money and is being done to benefit the citizens of the country. To address the communication gap between the judiciary and citizens, the Supreme Court of India has now launched a monthly newsletter called the "Supreme Court Chronicle", which documents the latest developments at the Court including key recent judgments, initiatives, and ongoing projects. I am sure that this will increase people's awareness of the work that we are doing.

In last one year, we have decided constitutional matters pending for years, even decades... adjudicating important constitutional matters is my foremost priority

You said recently that courts have become an important centre for social dialogue. Does it also indicate a diminishing role of Parliament in promoting social dialogue?

Parliament represents people's will and their aspirations. Throughout our history, citizens' movements have mobilised to engage with the elected leaders. Marginalised communities such as Dalits mobilised to get important legislations such as the Prevention of Atrocities Act passed in Parliament. However, Parliament and the Court have different institutional structures and different powers. There are sometimes issues which require intervention of the Court. For ex-

ample, Parliament passes legislation that can bring about important social changes, but it is not designed to stop individual cases of rights violations. Citizens will always choose their forum of redress based on the institution's role and capabilities. Similarly, often the Court and Parliament work in a complementary fashion. The Supreme Court has passed judgments such as Vishakha in 1997, where certain guidelines to prevent sexual harassment at workplace were laid down. The judgment was the result of the petition brought by the women rights' groups. This judgment later became a law, due to constant negotiations by women groups. In that way, both Parliament and Judiciary facilitate a social dialogue but also speak to each other. Citizens may approach the Courts to act as a mediator in their quest for their rights. In those cases, the Supreme Court has asked questions from the government to enable citizens to seek redressal of their issues. However, courts are also bound by institutional boundaries laid down in the Constitution.

Your concerns, if any, on appointment of judges by govt. What prompted the SC to take up the issue of delay in appointments on the judicial side when the tradition has been to settle such issues amicably through internal discussions?

There are several petitions relating to judicial appointments which have been filed by citizens. Citizens are important stakeholders in the appointment of judges, as a lack of judicial capacity adversely impacts the judiciary's ability to dispense justice to citizens. While citizens don't have access to internal discussions for reasons of confidentiality and privacy, hearing these petitions allows citizens to transparently press any grievances they have with the

government on the non-appointment of judges. The Court hears these petitions as any other regular matter.

When you look at Indian cultural practices through the prism of constitutional

morality, there is a high chance of misunderstanding them. The argument being, it's after all morality distilled from the values of the Constitution which itself is a borrowed text.

I think that it is a misnomer that the Constitution of India is a borrowed text. First of all, any constitution framing does not happen in isolation from what is happening in different parts of the world. There are certain constitutional values which are universally accepted. So when those values are adopted in any constitution, it is not that those values are foreign or borrowed. But, it demonstrates that humanity works on certain well-accepted and common constitutional principles. Secondly, the framers did not unthinkingly adopt provisions in totality from other jurisdictions, but consciously incorporated them in the Indian Constitution and where necessary, modified them to suit the Indian conditions. Thirdly, there are many provisions in the Indian Constitution which are unique to India such as the abolition of untouchability or the content of the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs). The DPSPs include obligations on the government to legislate for free legal aid, local governance through panchayats, and the protection of the environment. Even after the Constitution was framed, it has been amended over a hundred times. Multiple generations of Indians, through Parliament, have given voice to their own aspirations for the Constitution through the amendment process. For example, entire governmental structures such as the Panchayats and the GST Council

have been created through constitutional amendment alone and are uniquely Indian.

Keeping these facts in mind, one must understand that the Indian Constitution as a document which imbibes universal constitutional values, while at the same time continually adjusting those principles to address the problems facing India. It is a document conceived, adopted, amended, and continually operated by Indians.

No doubt, in certain situations, the adoption of the Constitution marked a tectonic shift which demanded a rethinking of Indian societal practices. But we should not reject constitutional morality because it may sometimes be in tension with existing social practices. We must recognise that the constitution itself sought to reform social practices to ensure the citizens were not dominated on the sites of religion, caste, ethnicity or other cultural markers.

What are your priorities for the next one year?

The priorities are many. The foremost is that the Supreme Court adjudicates the important constitutional matters pending before it. Listing dates of several such matters have already been communicated to the lawyers. Another priority is to make the judiciary more accessible to the common public with the help of technology. With the Phase III of the e-Courts project being sanctioned by the Government, it will be my endeavour to ensure that the targets of the project are met in a holistic manner. Two other crucial goals are the filling of vacancies in the district judiciary and High Courts, and the use of technology, new case management systems, and data analysis to tackle pending cases. Fulfilling these will significantly increase

the institutional capacity of the judiciary to meet the needs of the nation. As I said, I have been trying to institutionalise all my initiatives so that they continue to happen even after my tenure ends. For that purpose, I have been in constant touch with my colleagues who are in line to be appointed as the Chief Justice, so that there is continuity in administrative decision-making.

What process changes, if any, can be undertaken to make the Supreme Court more inclusive in terms of religion, caste and gender representation?

The idea of representation can be understood in terms of composition of the bench and the staff of the Supreme Court. On the appointment of judges, the Supreme Court Collegium has clearly laid down 'diversity' as one of the factors to consider. This includes gender, caste, and regional diversity from the various High Courts. We have tried to balance diversity with the all-India seniority of the judges. Unfortunately, for many years, the Bar was the sole preserve of men. This is reflected by the limited presence of women amongst the senior High Court Judges. However, this paradigm is changing in the judiciary. The recent results of judicial service examinations show that in many States more women have been recruited as judges than men. So as the demographics of the legal profession change, we will continue to see more diversity. But the task of today is to ensure that we do not fail the exceptional candidates who have battled against the incredible prejudices of gender, religion, and caste, to rise to the level of Judges of the High Courts.

In the regular recruitment of staff, the seats are reserved in the

The relationship between Govt and Judiciary is already defined in the framework of the Constitution. On judicial side, courts are empowered to review governmental actions

prescribed percentage. In contractual positions such as recruitment of law clerks, we included a clause in the Scheme in April 2023 which provided: "The Supreme Court of India is an equal opportunity workplace, and shall formulate and implement a diversity and inclusion policy, as and when approved. Relevant data may be collected from the candidates." This year, we conducted an examination for selection of law clerks, and collected relevant data. Before the examination of next year is conducted, we will adopt a diversity and inclusion policy. In addition to this, a number of judicial officers come on deputation to work in the Registry. Around half of the number of judicial officers that came on deputation in my tenure have been women, drawn from diverse regions of the country.

Courts often get drawn into subjects or issues in which

judges do not have enough authority or command over. For instance, religious practices or science-related subjects. Should courts avoid it, or can they meaningfully resolve these issues even if they do not have technical expertise?

The role of Courts is to adjudicate all matters that involve disputes over legal rights and obligations. If a question of law is involved, a judge will never say, "because I am unaware of how a particular industry, technology, religion, or medical procedure works, I cannot adjudicate the case." The task of the judge, assisted by the lawyers and other stakeholders, is to sufficiently understand the facts before the court to decide the legal dispute at hand. There are certain established legal and constitutional principles which come into play in the adjudication of specific issues and this may alter the depth of understanding required in a given case. In an emerging area of law, judges sometimes rely on the common law principles, the judgments of foreign courts, or the existing standards of judicial review. Simultaneously, it is also important for judges to continually educate themselves on a variety of contemporary issues. In this regard, our Judicial Academies are continually organising training for judges by the country's foremost experts.

Many a time, observations by judges while hearing important cases are much more remarkable and are reported widely than the final order or judgment. The final order has very little from the observations made.

During a hearing, judges are ascertaining the facts, understanding the scope of the case, and testing various hypotheses. Questions and conversations during the hearing are intended to gain clarity on the point of law or facts that are being argued in the case. It is a process which has been happening in the courtrooms even before live-streaming or live-tweeting of conversations in courtrooms started to happen. Only now, with the advent of live-coverage, this phenomenon is being reported as a divergence. The media is tasked to understand and report questions asked in court, and explain to their readers that such questions or observations are made by judges in the context of an open-ended dialogue. Quite often, journalists report questions asked by a judge out of context, which creates a misconception in the minds of the public that a judge's observations during a hearing provides some indication of how they will eventually rule. Even after hearings, we revisit the submissions of lawyers, read the cases they have brought to our attention, and have conferences with our colleagues on the Bench. So we should never read observations made during hearings as indicating the probable course of decision making in a case. An experienced judge knows that a case is not concluded until the last word is said.

'Tourists come to have fun... shouldn't be assaulted': Goa police warns clubs

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA PANAJI, NOVEMBER 18

DAYS AFTER two tourists were allegedly beaten up by security personnel of a club in North Goa's Siolim, Goa police has issued a stern warning to the owners and proprietors of pubs and restaurants employing "bouncers" in the popular beach belt areas of North Goa, stating that "no one has the right to assault tourists".

With the peak tourist season approaching and to prevent such incidents of harassment, Sub Divisional Police Officer, (SDPO) Mapusa, Jivba Dalvi held a meeting with owners of pubs and restaurants and security agen-

cies at Anjuna police station on Friday.

DSP Dalvi urged them not to take the law into their hands and inform the police in case of any untoward incident.

After the meeting, Dalvi told the media, "Recently, tourists were assaulted by the security personnel and so-called 'bouncers'. We have issued a strict warning to restaurant and pub owners... that there is nothing called 'bouncers'. They are security guards and they should behave like security guards. No one has the right to assault tourists or misbehave with them. If there is an accident involving a tourist and the tourist is found to be drunk, the police should be informed."

He said the restaurants and

clubs must ensure safe travel for patrons and ensure that the tourists are dropped safely to their respective place of residence in case they are inebriated.

"When tourists come to Goa for a holiday, they like to have fun. If they are drunk, then pub owners and restaurants should call a taxi for them, so they do not drive under the influence of alcohol. Their vehicles can be handed over to them the following day," he said.

Dalvi further said, "The International Film Festival of India (IFFI), Sunburn and New Year are approaching, and these are expected to bring more tourists. We should see that the tourists are not taken to task because they are coming to enjoy."

Biometric attendance must to hike med college seats: Board

Medical Assessment and Rating Board releases guidelines for assessment of new medical colleges

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 18

DETAILING HOW the assessment of new medical colleges or colleges that are looking to increase the number of seats in the upcoming academic year will be done, the Medical Assessment and Rating Board (MARB) under the country's apex medical education regulator underlined the importance of the new Aadhaar Enabled Biometric Attendance System (AEBAS).

For colleges looking to increase seats, the guidelines say, a physical inspection will be carried out only if they have adequate faculty members with an attendance of at least 75 per cent

for the three prior months.

For new medical colleges, the AEBAS registration of all faculty members should be completed and attendance for at least 10 working days should be available at the time of inspection.

Government medical colleges that have been running MBBS programmes for at least five years will be exempted from physical inspection for increasing PG seats. Private medical colleges and government medical colleges starting PG courses will still be physically inspected.

In a notice released along with the guidelines, the board said that there would not be a physical or online assessment of examination required for post graduate seats. Instead, colleges

The move, experts say, was essential seeing the increase in the number of medical colleges in the country, making it difficult to conduct physical inspection all the time

are required to keep video recording of the examination process and data about the examiners, examination process, cases given for the examination, or student thesis. This will be checked along with assessment of other infrastructure during the physical assessment.

The assessors for physical inspection will be selected using a randomisation software.

To increase transparency and ensure that medical colleges have adequate faculty and patients throughout the year, the National Medical Commission introduced ways of monitoring the colleges remotely throughout the year. Along with the AEBAS, medical colleges are required to share their Health Management Information System (HMIS) data that captures how many patients are treated at the hospital and a live feed from several CCTV cameras placed at key locations such as the entrance of the outpatient clinics.

A live feed from the cameras is received and stored at a control room within the NMC of-

fice in Delhi.

During the routine checks conducted before the beginning of new MBBS session, several colleges received show cause notices or were derecognised because they did not adhere to the AEBAS system, among others. Most of the colleges corrected the deficiencies and were allowed to take in students.

The move, experts say, was essential seeing the increase in the number of medical colleges in the country, making it difficult to conduct physical inspection all the time. "The pipeline dream would be to have no need for physical inspections at all, but this will supplement the physical assessments for now," said a senior official.

Woman carried on cot dies as ambulances refuse service citing bad road in Bengal village

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA
KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 18

A 24-YEAR-OLD woman who was being carried on a wooden cot died before reaching a hospital in Malda district on Friday, senior administration officials said on Saturday. Family members of the deceased, Mamani Roy, alleged that despite pleading with ambulance service providers, none of them agreed to enter the village owing to the "poor condition" of the roads.



Residents protest in Maldanga village in Malda district on Saturday. Express



Mamani Roy was 24 years old

The incident took place in Maldanga village. The distance between the local government hospital and the village is 10 km and a five-km stretch of this is a mud road. A video of the incident has gone viral on social media and purportedly shows the woman lying on a wooden cot and being carried by two men on a muddy cart.

"I am aware of the incident... Very tragic. Whatever needs to be done will be done urgently," District Magistrate Nitin Singhania told *The Sunday Express* on Saturday.

The woman's family mem-

bers said she had a fever since Wednesday. As her condition deteriorated, her husband Kartik Roy frantically tried to arrange an ambulance to take her to the nearest government rural hospital. "I tried for a private ambulance, cars and even toto (e-rick-

shaw). When they heard that I am from Maldanga village, they all refused saying there is a bad mud road here... I was forced to take my wife on a wooden cot. By the time we reached the hospital, she was dead. My wife could have been alive if we had a proper road in the village," said Kartik Roy.

"Mamata Banerjee should stop worrying about the saffron and focus on providing basic services to the people of West

Bengal," Amit Malviya, co-in-charge of BJP's Bengal unit, posted on X.

Subhomoy Basu, district vice president of the ruling Trinamool Congress, said: "For the past two years, the Union government has stopped all funds to the state. Whatever happened is tragic and I assure you our party is with the family. We will also take steps to ensure that a proper road is made in the village."

Minister calls it fate, sparks row

Kolkata: Library Minister Siddiquallah Chowdhury on Saturday triggered a controversy by suggesting that the death of a woman in Malda district on Friday was due to "fate". Chowdhury said, "She died not because of the road, but because of her fate... If the family informed us when there was still some time, we would have resolved their problem."

State BJP spokesperson Shamik Bhattacharya said, "Such insensitive people are ministers in the state."

CPI(M) leader Sujan Chakraborty said, "The Chief Minister will now latch on to the minister's statement. Now, they [TMC] will say, "Because of fate, thousands of job-seekers are protesting on the roads and not due to job scams. They will say, "Partha Chatterjee and Jyoti Priya Mallick are in jail because of fate and not for indulging in corruption. We are ashamed to call them ministers." **ENS**

Perumal Murugan wins JCB prize for 'Fire Bird'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 18



Tamil writer Perumal Murugan

TAMIL WRITER Perumal Murugan's novel *Fire Bird*, translated into English by Janani Kannan, won the 2023 JCB Prize for Literature, which was announced in New Delhi on Saturday. The book was published by Penguin Random House India. As neither Murugan nor Kannan were present at the award ceremony, publisher and author Manasi Subramaniam received the prize on their behalf.

The chair of the five-member jury of the JCB Prize, author Sirinath Perur, said, "In *Fire Bird*, Murugan takes a universal story of lives that are tied to land and tells it with astonishing particularity. Janani Kannan's translation carries into English the rhythms not only of Tamil but of an entire way of being in the world."

Journalist and filmmaker Swati Tejagarajan, who was also part of the jury, called the novel "a powerful evocative story of an ordinary life". "For readers in English, and not from rural Tamil Nadu, it's an immersion into a world, a time, a place that will enrich your under-

standing of a part of our country in a way that you will carry it with you long after you turn the last page," said Thyagarajan.

Author Kavery Nambisan said the novel is a simple yet eloquent portrayal of a life that is already fading from our collective memory, and needs to be preserved.

Murugan received the prize money of Rs 25 lakh and translator Kannan received an additional Rs 10 lakh.

Murugan has written 12 novels, six collections of short stories, six anthologies of poetry, and many non-fiction books. Ten of his novels have been translated into English, which include *Seasons of the Palm*, *Current Show* and *One Part Woman*.

The other books in the short list included *The Secret of More* by Tejaswini Apte-Rahm, *The Nemesis* by Manoranjan Byapari, *Mansur* (Pan Macmillan India) by Vikramjit Ram and *I Named my Sister Silence* (Westland Books) by Manoj Rupda.

Wanted criminal with Rs 1 lakh reward killed in Jhansi encounter

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 18

THE UTTAR Pradesh Special Task Force on Saturday killed wanted criminal Rashid Kalia with a reward of Rs 1 lakh in an encounter in Jhansi district.

Police said Kalia, who had 13 criminal cases including murder, attempt to murder, kidnapping, cheating, etc, registered against him, was wanted in the murder of Pintu Sengar in Chakeri in June 2020, and the Rs 50,000 reward on his head was increased to Rs 1 lakh last year after he remained to abscond. According to police, they gheraoed Kalia, who was booked in two murder cases, in the Mauranipur area of Jhansi after getting information about his presence there.

In the subsequent exchange of fire, Kalia was injured and was rushed to a hospital, where doctors pronounced him dead upon arrival, police said.

A native of Mahoba, Kalia alias Gauda alias Biru stayed in the Chakeri area of Kanpur, police said.

FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2023

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during Chhath Puja Festival, Northern Railway, in association with other zonal railway, has planned to run the following Festival Special Trains as per schedule given below:-

LIST OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS ORIGINATING/TERMINATING IN NORTHERN RAILWAY						
Spl. Train No.	Station From	Dept. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Frequency / Day	Period
03255	Patna Jn	22:20	Anand Vihar Terminal	15:00	Thursday, Sunday	23.11.2023 to 10.12.2023
03256	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:30	Patna Jn	17:20	Friday, Monday	24.11.2023 to 11.12.2023
02391	Patna Jn	22:20	Anand Vihar Terminal	15:00	Saturday	25.11.2023 to 09.12.2023
02392	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:30	Patna Jn	17:20	Sunday	26.11.2023 to 10.12.2023
03635	Gaya Jn	14:15	Anand Vihar Terminal	05:00	Mon, Wed, Fri	20.11.2023 to 08.12.2023
03636	Anand Vihar Terminal	07:00	Gaya Jn	20:45	Tue, Thu, Sat	21.11.2023 to 09.12.2023
05557	Jaynagar	06:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	05:00	Tuesday	21.11.2023 to 05.12.2023
05558	Anand Vihar Terminal	07:30	Jaynagar	06:30	Wednesday	22.11.2023 to 06.12.2023
04678	Firozpur Cantt Jn	13:25	Patna Jn	17:00	Wednesday	upto 29.11.2023
04677	Patna Jn	18:45	Firozpur Cantt Jn	22:40	Thursday	upto 30.11.2023
04012	New Delhi	19:20	Darbhanga Jn	16:45	Tue, Friday	upto 28.11.2023
04011	Darbhanga Jn	18:00	New Delhi	16:40	Wednesday, Saturday	upto 29.11.2023
04518	Chandigarh	23:15	Gorakhpur	18:20	Thursday	upto 30.11.2023
04517	Gorakhpur	22:05	Chandigarh	14:10	Friday	upto 01.12.2023
04530	Bhatinda Jn	20:55	Varanasi Jn	17:30	Sunday, Wednesday	upto 29.11.2023
04529	Varanasi Jn	20:40	Bhatinda Jn	19:10	Monday, Thursday	upto 30.11.2023
04060	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:30	Jaynagar	15:15	Tuesday, Friday	upto 28.11.2023
04059	Jaynagar	17:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	19:55	Wednesday, Sat	upto 29.11.2023
04488	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:15	Gorakhpur	14:00	Saturday	upto 25.11.2023
04487	Gorakhpur	17:25	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:40	Sunday	upto 26.11.2023
04010	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:45	Jogbani	05:20	Tuesday	upto 28.11.2023
04009	Jogbani	09:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	16:05	Thursday	upto 30.11.2023
01664	Anand Vihar Terminal	11:10	Saharsa Jn	11:20	Monday	upto 27.11.2023
01663	Saharsa Jn	14:30	Anand Vihar Terminal	13:55	Tuesday	upto 28.11.2023
03257	Danapur	07:30	Anand Vihar Terminal	00:30	Sunday	26.11.2023 to 10.12.2023
03258	Anand Vihar Terminal	05:00	Danapur	20:45	Monday	27.11.2023 to 11.12.2023
05577	Saharsa Jn	19:10	Ambala Cant Jn	23:15	Friday	24.11.2023 to 08.12.2023
05578	Ambala Cant Jn	03:40	Saharsa Jn	09:45	Sunday	26.11.2023 to 10.12.2023
05531	Raxaul Jn	22:25	Anand Vihar Terminal	18:00	Sunday	26.11.2023 to 10.12.2023
05532	Anand Vihar Terminal	20:00	Raxaul Jn	14:30	Monday	27.11.2023 to 11.12.2023
05273	Muzaffarpur Jn	18:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	11:00	Wednesday, Saturday	22.11.2023 to 09.12.2023
05274	Anand Vihar Terminal	13:25	Muzaffarpur Jn	07:00	Thursday, Sunday	23.11.2023 to 10.12.2023
05005	Gorakhpur	14:40	Amritsar Jn	09:30	Friday	upto 01.12.2023
05006	Amritsar Jn	12:45	Gorakhpur	08:50	Saturday	upto 02.12.2023
04049	New Delhi	23:30	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	11:25	Monday, Saturday	upto 27.11.2023
04050	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	18:30	New Delhi	06:25	Tuesday, Sunday	upto 28.11.2023
04080	New Delhi	19:20	Varanasi Jn	09:45	Mon, Thu, Sat	Upto 30.11.2023
04079	Varanasi Jn	18:35	New Delhi	09:00	Tue, Fri, Sun	upto 01.12.2023
01654	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	23:20	Varanasi Jn	23:55	Sunday	upto 26.11.2023
01653	Varanasi Jn	06:20	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	11:20	Tuesday	upto 28.11.2023
04646	Jammu Tawi	05:45	Barauni Jn	12:10	Thursday	upto 30.11.2023
04645	Barauni Jn	15:15	Jammu Tawi	22:30	Friday	upto 01.12.2023
04051	Saharsa Jn. (Unreserved Spl.)	07:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:30	Sunday	19.11.2023
04057	Jaynagar (Unreserved Spl.)	11:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:00	Sunday	19.11.2023
04066	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:00	Patna Jn.	16:00	Monday, Thursday	upto 30.11.2023
04065	Patna Jn.	17:45	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:35	Tuesday, Friday	upto 01.12.2023
04062	Delhi Jn.	08:05	Barauni Jn.	06:30	Sunday	19, 26.11.23 & 03, 10.12.23
04061	Barauni Jn.	08:00	Delhi Jn.	05:50	Monday	20, 27.11.23 & 04, 12.12.23
01676	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:15	Muzaffarpur Jn.	21:15	Monday, Thursday	upto 30.11.2023
01675	Muzaffarpur Jn.	23:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:30	Tuesday, Friday	upto 01.12.2023
01678	New Delhi	08:10	Gaya Jn.	00:30	Monday, Friday	20, 24, 27.11.23 & 01, 04.12.23
01677	Gaya Jn.	07:35	New Delhi	23:35	Tuesday, Saturday	21, 25, 28.11.23 & 02, 05.12.23
02250	New Delhi (Rajdhani Spl.)	19:10	Patna Jn.	07:30	Sun, Tue, Thu, Sat, Mon, Wed	19, 21, 23, 25, 27 & 29.11.23
02249	Patna Jn. (Rajdhani Spl.)	09:00	New Delhi	21:00	Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun, Tue, Thu	20, 22, 24, 26, 28 & 30.11.23
05283	Muzaffarpur Jn.	18:11	Anand Vihar Terminal	11:00	Wednesday, Saturday	upto 18.12.2023
05284	Anand Vihar Terminal	13:25	Muzaffarpur Jn.	07:00	Thursday, Sunday	upto 19.12.2023
09097	Bandra Terminus	21:50	Jammu Tawi	08:35	Sunday	upto 26.11.2023
09098	Jammu Tawi	23:20	Bandra Terminus	10:10	Tuesday	upto 28.11.2023
09523	Okha	10:00	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	10:10	Tuesday	upto 28.11.2023
09524	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	13:20	Okha	13:30	Wednesday	upto 29.11.2023
03435	Malda Town	09:30	Anand Vihar Terminal	12:50	Monday	20 & 27.11.2023
03436	Anand Vihar Terminal	18:30	Malda Town	23:30	Tuesday	21 & 28.11.2023
02246	New Delhi (Gati Shakti Spl.)	23:45	Patna Jn.	15:50	Daily	19.11.2023 to 30.11.2023
02245	New Delhi (Gati Shakti Spl.)	19:00	New Delhi	10:30	Daily	19.11.2023 to 01.12.2023
05734	Kathar	07:50	Amritsar	00:05	Saturday	upto 25.11.2023
05733	Amritsar	12:45	Kathar	03:30	Monday	upto 27.11.2023
04527	Saharsa Jn.	19:00	Ambala Cantt.	22:20	Mon, Thu, Sun, Wed	20, 23, 26 & 29.11.2023
04528	Sirhind Jn.	11:25	Saharsa Jn.	16:00	Sun, Wed, Sat, Tue	19, 22, 25 & 28.11.2023
04490	New Delhi	19:35	Darbhanga Jn.	16:45	Tue, Fri, Mon, Thu	21, 24, 27 & 30.11.2023
04489	Darbhanga Jn.	18:00	New Delhi	16:40	Sun, Wed, Sat, Tue, Fri	19, 22, 25, 28.11.23 & 01.12.23
04115	Prayagraj Jn.	21:25	Anand Vihar (T)	08:15	Tuesday, Thursday	21.11.2023 & 23.11.2023
04116	Anand Vihar (T)	10:15	Prayagraj Jn.	20:00	Wednesday, Friday	22.11.2023 & 24.11.2023
05023	Gorakhpur Jn.	20:55	Delhi Jn.	12:30	Sunday	upto 03.12.2023
05024	Delhi Jn.	14:30	Gorakhpur Jn.	07:30	Monday	upto 04.12.2023
05115	Chhapra	17:45	Anand Vihar (T)	11:50	Wednesday	upto 29.11.2023
05116	Anand Vihar (T)	14:45	Chhapra	09:30	Thursday	upto 30.11.2023
05306	Lal Kuan	08:55	Chhapra	07:10	Tue, Wed, Fri, Sun	upto 29.12.2023
05305	Chhapra	08:55	Lal Kuan	18:00	Wed, Thu, Sat, Mon	upto 30.12.2023
04016	New Delhi	14:55	Saharsa Jn.	15:50	Tuesday	21.11.2023
04015	Saharsa Jn.	18:00	New Delhi	19:20	Sun, Wed	19 & 22.11.2023
02248	Anand Vihar (Terminal)	00:30	Patna Jn.	16:30	Thu, Sat, Thu	23, 25 & 30.11.2023
02247	Patna Jn.	19:10	Anand Vihar (Terminal)	10:50	Thu, Sat, Thu	23, 25 & 30.11.2023

09129	Vadodara	19:00	Haridwar	14:30	Weekly	Saturday	upto 25.11.2023
09130	Haridwar	17:20	Vadodara	11:25	Weekly	Sunday	upto 26.11.2023
05065	Gorakhpur Jn.	23:00	New Delhi	12:00	Weekly	Wednesday	29.11.2023
05066	New Delhi	14:00	Gorakhpur Jn.	04:15	Weekly	Thursday	30.11.2023
05069	Gorakhpur Jn.	08:00	New Delhi	22:05	Weekly	Tuesday	upto 28.11.2023
05070	New Delhi	00:30	Gorakhpur Jn.	14:45	Weekly	Wednesday	upto 29.11.2023
05071	Gomti Nagar	23:00	New Delhi	08:15	Weekly	Thursday	upto 30.11.2023
05072	New Delhi	10:00	Chhapra Jn.	04:15	Weekly	Friday	upto 01.12.2023
05159	Chhapra Jn.	23:55	New Delhi	20:00	Weekly	Saturday	upto 25.11.2023
05160	New Delhi	00:30	Chhapra Jn.	19:25	Weekly	Monday	upto 27.11.2023
09557	Bhavnagar	10:10	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	08:50	Weekly	Friday	24.11.2023 & 01.12.2023
09558	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	13:20	Bhavnagar	10:00	Weekly	Saturday	25.11.2023 & 02.12.2023
05527	Darbhanga Jn.	13:15	Delhi Jn.	13:30	Weekly	Thursday	23.11.2023 to 07.12.2023
05528	Delhi Jn.	15:30	Darbhanga Jn.	15:45	Weekly	Friday	24.11.2023 to 08.12.2023
03227	Ara Jn. (Unreserved Spl.)	15:45	Anand Vihar (T)	07:15	Date wise	Wed, Sat	22, 25, 29.11.23 & 02.12.23
03228	Anand Vihar (T) (Unreserved Spl.)	09:30	Ara Jn.	04:00	Date wise	Sun, Thu	19, 23, 26, 30.11.23 & 03.12.23
04018	New Delhi	14:55	Bapudham Motihari	12:15	Date wise	Tue, Fri, Mon	21, 24 & 27.11.2023
04017	Bapudham Motihari	15:00	New Delhi	13:15	Date wise	Sun, Wed, Sat, Tue	

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

Tender Notice Dated 18.11.2023 Office of the Executive Engineer (Galgol Complex) Ganga Bhawan Yamuna Colony Dehradun, invites sealed tenders from experienced and interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below: Notice Inviting Tender No. 04/EE(GC)/2023-24

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

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that one girl Namely: Anjali, D/o: Parmod, R/o: C-9/61, Sultanpuri, Delhi, has been missing/kidnapped since 11.11.2023 at 3:00 pm. from the area of P.S. Sultanpuri, Delhi. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 1097/2023 U/S 363 IPC dated 16.11.2023 has been registered at P.S. Sultanpuri, Delhi.

Website: http://cbi.nic.in E-mail id - cic@cbi.gov.in Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 SHO Fax No. 011-24368639 P.S. Sultanpuri, Delhi DP/13164/OD/2023 Ph: 011- 25472166, 7065036134

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that this woman namely Neha, W/o Hari Om, R/o New Colony, Near Kuber Building, Maidan Garhi, Delhi, is missing from her house. In this regard a case vide DD No. 50A, dated 14.11.2023, has been lodged at P.S. Maidan Garhi, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing woman but no clue has come to light so far.

The description of the missing woman is as under: Gender: Female, Age: 25 years, Height: 5'0", Complexion: Fair. If anyone has any information regarding this missing woman, kindly inform to the following: E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in SHO Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Maidan Garhi, Delhi Fax : 011-24368639 Ph. No.: 8750870825 DP/13193/SD/2023 E-mail: sho.maidangarhi@delhipolice.gov.in

CENTRAL RAILWAY MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

Table with columns: Tender No., Item Description, Quantity, Due Date. Includes items like Complete Body Shell Assembly, Wheeler Diesel Electric Tower Car, Jackson type modular OT table for spine surgeries, etc.

Download UTS for Tickets

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (ROADS), PUBLIC WORKS ROADS DEPARTMENT, ASSAM, GUWAHATI-03

No. CE/DEV/TB/549/2023-24/01 PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER The Chief Engineer (Roads), PWRD, Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3 invites Bids on behalf of Governor of Assam for I (One) no. of Package for Construction of Road and Bridge projects under SOPD-G for the year 2023-24 in Kamrup District amounting to Rs. 1097.13 Lakhs (approx.) including GST etc. from approved & eligible Contractors registered with PWRD, Assam.

THROUGH REPAIRING OF ROAD SURFACE OF ROB

Tender Notice No.: CON/2023/NOV/01; dtd.: 01-11-2023. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work: Tender No.: CE/CON/NG/MS/2023/17. Name of work : THROUGH repairing of road surface of ROB no.-72 (of span Composite/Bow String Girder 1X18.0m+1X60.0m+1X18.0m) at Railway km 64/1-2 between station Altagram-Dhupuri over NH-31D (Under Asian Highway 48 project) in between road connectivity Dhupuri-Maynaguri in connection with New Maynaguri-Gumanihat BG Double line project of N.F. Railway. Approx. Value: ₹ 4,13,63,482.97. Date & time of closing of tender at 14.30 hrs on 12-12-2023. Date & time of opening of tender at 15.30 hrs on 12-12-2023. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in the website www.reps.gov.in.

North Eastern Railway Open Tender Notice No. SRDEE-TRD-IZN-2023-24-T15 Date 16.11.2023

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/ TRD, North Eastern Railway, Itanagar for and on behalf of President of India, invites sealed "OPEN" E-Tender for the following work: S.N.: 1, Name of name : Provision of SSP for Rudain (RDN), Badhari Kalan (BHK) and Gursahaj Ganj (GHJ) in IZN Division of N.E. Railway, Tender Reference No. : SRDEE-TRD-IZN-2023-24-T15, Approx. Cost (in Rs.) : 1,58,76,832.36, Earnest money/Bid Security (in Rs.) : 2,29,400.00, Cost of tender documents (in Rs.) : 00, E-Tender Closing Date and Time : 11.12.2023 11:00 Hrs., Completion Period : 06 Months.

E-Tender Online will be submitted upto 11:00 Hrs. on date 11.12.2023. For full details and submission of bid kindly visit the official website of Indian Railways at www.i-reps.gov.in. Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD CPRO-Elct-304 North Eastern Railway, Itanagar Do not travel with inflammable article in train

उपरो जल विद्युत निगम लि इ-निविदा सूचना

इस खण्ड के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु अनुमोदी/प्रतिष्ठित विद्युत गृह को सम्बन्धित कार्य का अनुमोद रखते हो, से निम्नलिखित ई-निविदाएं दो भाग में आनन्वित की जाती हैं। 1. निविदा सं० - VST-21/EGD/Mzn/2023-24. किर्लोस्का जल विद्युत गृह की मशीन सं०-01 के रनर बैचर, रनर टरबाइन शाफ्ट एवं रनर ब्लेड की मरम्मत का कार्य। वरीय रशि सं० 30,00,000 (RTGS/INEFT के रूप में) निविदा शुल्क 1,652.00 जीएएसटीडी सम्मिलित (RTGS/INEFT के रूप में)। 2. बेवसाईट पर ई-निविदा को प्रारंभ करने तथा डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि/समय : 23-11-2023/15:00 बजे तक। 3. ई-निविदा का प्रथम भाग खुलने की तिथि/समय : 23-11-2023/16:00 बजे तक।

नोट:- निविदा सम्बन्धित समस्त जानकारी, विवरण/डाउनलोड/निविदा में प्रस्तावितता हेतु वेबसाईट www.etender.up.nic.in पर लागू इन करें। किसी भी प्रकार के संशोधन/विस्तार की सूचना उचित/समय बेवसाईट पर दी जायेगी। सभी जानकारी उपरो जल विद्युत निगम लि की वेबसाईट पर www.upjvn.org पर भी उपलब्ध रहेगी। अधिशाली अभियन्ता, जल विद्युत उत्पादन खण्ड, मुजफ्फरनगर के भारतीय स्टेट बैंक, नैन मार्केट, मुजफ्फरनगर के खाता संख्या 33722690590 एच IFSC Code SBIN0002412 में RTGS/INEFT के द्वारा यांशित धरोहर राशि/निविदा शुल्क जमा कराना होगा। इच्छुक निविदाकार, निविदा खुलने की तिथि से पूर्व, किसी भी कार्य दिवस में अनुमति उपरान्त, विद्युत गृह में करायें जाने वाले सम्बन्धित कार्यों का निरीक्षण कर सकते हैं। निविदा के प्रथम भाग की विवेचना एवं अनुमोदन प्रस्ताव, निविदा का द्वितीय भाग खोलने की तिथि सूचित की जायेगी। अग्रोहरासारी द्वारा यिनो कारण बताये निविदा को निरस्त करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित है। अधिशाली अभियन्ता, विद्युत उत्पादन खण्ड, मुजफ्फरनगर। ई-निविदा में ऊर्जा बचाये।

SCHEDULE

Table with columns: Age, Sex, Height, Weight, etc. for recruitment purposes.

Dated this 19th day of November 2023. Issued by: Mahesh Kumar, Advocate N-13, Second Floor Jangpura Extension, New Delhi 110014

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public at large is hereby informed that my clients Sh. Ram Charan S/o Late Sh. Mool Chand and his wife Smt. Sarita both R/o A-7, Gali No. 6, Karama, Vikas Nagar, Itanagar, Assam. Delhi-110059 have severed all their relations with their son namely Satish Verma and his wife Saman Singh and have disowned him from all their movable and immovable properties, as they are not under the control of my above said Sattish Verma and his wife Saman Singh, shall be doing so at his/her/their own risks and responsibilities and my clients shall not be responsible for their acts, deeds and misdeeds.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the public at large that Mr. Gunvendra Singh and Mr. Navneet Singh acquired Industrial Property area 4 Kailash Marg, Kirti Nagar No. 214, New Delhi No. 281, M/s. Anand and Kila No. 03/02/2020. Now Released Deed dt. 12.06.2019 executed by Mr. Rakesh Kumar in favour of Mr. Navneet Singh and 11.05.2019 executed by Mr. Rajender Singh in favour of Mrs. Purnima and Released Deed dt. 11.06.2019 executed by Mr. Dharam Pal in favour of Mr. Santhosh are lost in Original. OR Any person, firm or institution or company having any claim or right in respect of the said portion of Property by way of mortgage, lease, loan, share, gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or circumstances whatsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/his share or claim, if any, with all supporting documents at below mentioned address. After expiration of notice period, the claims, if any, of such person shall be treated null and void and also treated as waived and not binding on our client. (Ajay Kumar, a Girl Advocate) H.No. 26/181, Basement, Vikram Vihar, Lajpat Nagar 4, New Delhi 110024



SUITABLE Match-Mumbai based good looking Grl, Kshatriya Vanjari (Palghar) 37/5-4* BE, MBA., Working MNC Annual 5,50,000/-, Contact: 9892811374.

SM4 B'ful Punjabi NM Delhi based girl 14.3.89/5'5", MBA working Reputed Co. Sr. Manager 17Lakh, father Businessman, seeks handsome well settled delhi/nr boy BHP Whatsapp:9560112348

LOST & FOUND

Manish Kumar Bhartiya s/o Sadhu Ram Bhartiya lost my property original document i.e GPA, ATS, possession letter & site possession letter of property number B-13 Village Bharola P.O. Azadpur Delhi-110033. Finder please contact at: 7011296743. 0040699657-6

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to public at large that G and G Buildtech Private Limited proposes to mortgage its land measuring 600 Sq. Meters in Affordable Residential Plotted Land at Sector-97 in Village Janjpur, District - Faridabad, Haryana, more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder in favour of Aditya Birla Finance Limited ("Lender"), having its corporate office at D-17, Sector 3, Noida, UP to secure repayment of its loan availed from the Lender. G and G Buildtech Private Limited is not in possession of (i) original transfer deed dated 29.10.2021 bearing document no. 8133 in favour of Kamaljeet Singh and Sanjeev Singh; and (ii) original transfer deed dated 24.11.2021 bearing document no. 6854 in favour of Yogesh and Yashpal.

Any person having or claiming rights, title, ownership, claims, demands or interest in respect of the said property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage, let, lien, charge, maintenance, license, gift, inheritance, share, possession, etc., assignment or encumbrance of any kind whatsoever, or otherwise, is hereby called upon to make the same known in writing to the undersigned at the address mentioned below with supporting documents within 14 days of publication of this notice, failing which it shall be presumed that there are no rights, title, ownership, claims, demands or interest of any kind whatsoever against the said property or interest of any kind whatsoever if any, have been waived off and the transaction will be completed accordingly.

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Require Office Assistants for leading Co-operative Bank in Delhi on consolidated pay. Graduates with Proficiency in Computer operations areeligible. Age below 25 years but may relaxed upto 35 years in deserving cases. Mail applications along with certificates to gm195@vsnl.co.in within ten days. 0040699572-1

MATRIMONIAL

Hitherto known as Atin Kumar, S/o Anil Kumar, R/o-2-1/833, Devlok Colony, Hapur, Uttar Pradesh-245101, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Atin Kumar Goel. 0040699651-6

Hitesh Kumar, S/o Ramesh Yadav, R/o D-126, Sushant lok Phase-2, Sector-56, Gurgaon Haryana-122011, have changed my name to Hitesh Yadav. 0040699651-7

Guddo Devi, W/o Sh Satya Prakash, D/o Deeg Ram, R/o Jataula (22) Gurgaon Haryana-122504, Have Changed My Name From Sushma to Goddo Devi, For all, Future Purposes. 0040699651-4

Geetika Gujral, W/o Vishal Aneja, R/o-3A, New Govindpura, Krishna-Nagar, Delhi-110051, Have Changed My Name To Geetika Aneja, For All Purposes. 0040699657-9

Garima Tripathi, D/o Kuldeep Sharma (745583-K, EX-SGT, Rdo/Tech), R/o H.No. 1223, Sector-8 R K Puram, New-Delhi-110022, have changed my name, from Garima Tripathi to Garima vide Affidavit dated-15.11.2023 issued at Asheesh Kumar, Sub Divisional Magistrate, Rajouri-Garden, Delhi. 0040699657-2

SHAKILA BANU INAYATH, W/o Mahesh Rangasamy Sundar, R/o 104/74 (Maurya) Royal Heritage, Sector-70, Mujeeri, Faridabad-121004, Haryana, have changed my name to SHAKILA MAHESH for all purposes. 0040699590-1

It is for general information that I, Rishabh Gupta S/o Rajnish Kumar Gupta R/o Ward Number-4, Beside Aluminium Factory, Kuwan Road, Bara Chakia, Chakia, East Champaran, Bihar-845412, declare that name of my mother has been wrongly written as Shubha in my 12th Class Certificate and Statement of Marks. The actual name of my mother is Shubha Gupta, which may be amended accordingly. 0070874703-1

NISHANK UPMANYU, S/O. UTTAM PRAKASH, ADD-J-3/154, 2ND-FLOOR, DDA FLATS KALKAJI, SOUTH, DELHI-110019, changed my name to NISHANK for all future purposes. 0040699656-8

Naresh Kumar@Naresh, S/O Om Prakash Khanduja, R/O H.No.453/4, Ram-Nagar, Gurgaon(Haryana), have changed my name to Naresh Khanduja, for all Purposes. 0040699656-5

Narinder Pal Singh Bhatia, S/O Har Charan Singh Bhatia, R/O A-44-5/2, Mehndru Enclave, Delhi-110009, have changed my name to Narinder Pal Singh. 0040699656-7

Neeraj S/o Dinesh Chandra Joshi, R/O 26, Saraswati Apartment, Sector-9, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Neeraj Joshi 0040699657-4

Pankaj, S/o Suresnder, Address-601/2, behind new stand Azad garh Rohtak, Haryana-124001, changed my name to Pankaj Dhull. 0040699657-6

Prakash S/o Harish Kumar R/O B-3 (UGF), Mansa Ram Park, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059, have changed my name to Prakash Kumar. 0040699656-2

RAJESH KUMAR, S/O Shri Arjun Dev, R/O WZ-18.2nd Floor, New Multan-Nagar, Hari Singh-Park, Shakur Basti-Depot, Delhi-110056, Have changed my name, from RAJESH GROVER to RAJESH KUMAR. 0040699657-3

Rajiv Kumar S/o Shyam Lal Jain, R/O B-4/211, Sector-7, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Rajiv Kumar Jain, Permanently. 0040699646-1

Ram S/o Shyamal Gupta, R/O 182, Block -N, South City-1, Gurgaon (Haryana), have changed my name to Ram Gupta for all Purposes. 0040699656-6

RECRUITMENT

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OFFICE ASSISTANT

Require Office Assistants for leading Co-operative Bank in Delhi on consolidated pay. Graduates with Proficiency in Computer operations areeligible. Age below 25 years but may relaxed upto 35 years in deserving cases. Mail applications along with certificates to gm195@vsnl.co.in within ten days. 0040699572-1

MATRIMONIAL

Hitherto known as Atin Kumar, S/o Anil Kumar, R/o-2-1/833, Devlok Colony, Hapur, Uttar Pradesh-245101, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Atin Kumar Goel. 0040699651-6

Hitesh Kumar, S/o Ramesh Yadav, R/o D-126, Sushant lok Phase-2, Sector-56, Gurgaon Haryana-122011, have changed my name to Hitesh Yadav. 0040699651-7

Guddo Devi, W/o Sh Satya Prakash, D/o Deeg Ram, R/o Jataula (22) Gurgaon Haryana-122504, Have Changed My Name From Sushma to Goddo Devi, For all, Future Purposes. 0040699651-4

Geetika Gujral, W/o Vishal Aneja, R/o-3A, New Govindpura, Krishna-Nagar, Delhi-110051, Have Changed My Name To Geetika Aneja, For All Purposes. 0040699657-9

Garima Tripathi, D/o Kuldeep Sharma (745583-K, EX-SGT, Rdo/Tech), R/o H.No. 1223, Sector-8 R K Puram, New-Delhi-110022, have changed my name, from Garima Tripathi to Garima vide Affidavit dated-15.11.2023 issued at Asheesh Kumar, Sub Divisional Magistrate, Rajouri-Garden, Delhi. 0040699657-2

SHAKILA BANU INAYATH, W/o Mahesh Rangasamy Sundar, R/o 104/74 (Maurya) Royal Heritage, Sector-70, Mujeeri, Faridabad-121004, Haryana, have changed my name to SHAKILA MAHESH for all purposes. 0040699590-1

SANTOSH KUMAR, S/O BHARAT SINGH, R/O HOUSE. NO. 21, BEHIND JULAHA CHOPAL, BANKNER, NARELA, DELHI-110040, have changed my name to SANTOSH KUMAR PANWAR. 0040699658-7

SURAJ BHAN AHLAWAT, S/O SHEESH RAM, HOUSE, NUMBER-85, MUNSHI RAM COLONY, MUKHERJEE NAGAR, DR. MUKHERJEE-NAGAR, DELHI-110009, have changed my name to SURAJ BHAN. 0040699658-6

Saad Abdul Sattar, S/O Shri Abdul Sattar Khan, R/O E-13, Murad-road batla-house jamia-nagar, New Delhi-110025, have changed my name to Saad Abdul Sattar Khan, for all purposes. 0040699651-5

Sakit Ahmed, S/o Mohammad Shafi R/o-5A/50, Vishnu Garden-Extension, Tilak Nagar, Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Shakeel Ahmad 0040699607-1

Sarita Kumari Gupta, W/O Vivek Gupta R/O House No.356, Sector-17, Faridabad, Haryana-121002, have changed my name to Sarita Gupta. 0040699646-3

Shifali Singh W/o Sumit Kumar, R/O H.No.123-124, Second-Floor, Pkt-25, Sector-24, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Shifali Goel. 0040699646-6

VIRESH S/O ANIL KUMAR, HOUSE, NO. 71/1.2,3 G/F, BLOCK-B, JAI-VIHAR PHASE-1, NAJAFGARH, NEW DELHI-110043, have changed my name to VIRESH JADAUN. 0040699658-9

Subash Arora S/o Devi Dyal Arora, R/O C-4B/12, Pocket-13, Janakpuri New Delhi 110058, have changed my name to Subhash Arora. 0040699656-3

Mohit S/o Satpal Soni, R/O A-635, Sector-2, Rohini, Delhi-110085 and Presently, R/O 73, Woodbine Dr. North Hicksville, New York-11801, have changed my name to Mohit Soni. 0040699646-8

Mohd Sairim Zakir, S/O Zakir Nizam, R/O 74-75, Rashid Market Ext, Imam-Bara, Khureji Khas-Ext, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051, have changed my name to Mohd Sarim Zakir, for all Purposes. 0040699656-4

Mohan Chand, S/O Chander Mani Fuloria R/O, C-15B, Suraksha-Vihar, Vikas-Nagar, Uttam-Nagar, Delhi-110059, Have Changed My Name To Mohan Chander 0040699651-3

MANOJ, S/O. KARAN SINGH, ADD- E-32, SHASTRI MARKET SOUTH-MOTI BAGH, SOUTH WEST, DELHI-110021, changed my name to MANOJ KUMAR, for all future purposes. 0040699656-9

Kamlesh Kumar Aggarwal, S/O Ram Kishor Gupta, R/O 69, Defense Enclave-1, Mohan Garden, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059, Have Changed My Name To Kamlesh Kumar Gupta. 0040699651-1

KUMARI ANITA is legally wedded, spouse of, Service No.15744068A, Rank:-NK Name:- Ajay Kumar, Presently, residing at, Nagla, Moti, Himaynpur, Firozabad, Uttar Pradesh-283203, have changed my name, from KUMARI ANITA to KU ANITA, for all, future purposes. 0040699657-8

Jasvir S/o Dharamvir Singh R/O House- No.342, Village- Daultabad, Gurgaon, Haryana-122006, have changed my name from Jasvir to Jasvir Singh, for all future purposes. 0040699607-2

Hitherto known as Atin Kumar, S/o Anil Kumar, R/o-2-1/833, Devlok Colony, Hapur, Uttar Pradesh-245101, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Atin Kumar Goel. 0040699651-6

Hitesh Kumar, S/o Ramesh Yadav, R/o D-126, Sushant lok Phase-2, Sector-56, Gurgaon Haryana-122011, have changed my name to Hitesh Yadav. 0040699651-7

Guddo Devi, W/o Sh Satya Prakash, D/o Deeg Ram, R/o Jataula (22) Gurgaon Haryana-122504, Have Changed My Name From Sushma to Goddo Devi, For all, Future Purposes. 0040699651-4

Geetika Gujral, W/o Vishal Aneja, R/o-3A, New Govindpura, Krishna-Nagar, Delhi-110051, Have Changed My Name To Geetika Aneja, For All Purposes. 0040699657-9

Garima Tripathi, D/o Kuldeep Sharma (745583-K, EX-SGT, Rdo/Tech), R/o H.No. 1223, Sector-8 R K Puram, New-Delhi-110022, have changed my name, from Garima Tripathi to Garima vide Affidavit dated-15.11.2023 issued at Asheesh Kumar, Sub Divisional Magistrate, Rajouri-Garden, Delhi. 0040699657-2

SHAKILA BANU INAYATH, W/o Mahesh Rangasamy Sundar, R/o 104/74 (Maurya) Royal Heritage, Sector-70, Mujeeri, Faridabad-121004, Haryana, have changed my name to SHAKILA MAHESH for all purposes. 0040699590-1

GHAN CHANDRA GUPTA, S/O RADHEY SHYAM, R/O C-3/61A, KESHAV PURAM DELHI-110035, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME, FROM GHAN CHANDRA GUPTA TO GYAN CHAND GUPTA, FOR ALL, FUTURE PURPOSE. 0040699646-7

Dinesh Joshi, S/o Tara Datt Joshi, R/O-16, Saraswati Apartment, Sector-9, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Dinesh Chandra Joshi 0040699657-5

Dinesh Chander Upreti S/o Madan Mohan Upreti R/o A-133, Sector-21, Jalvayu Vihar Noida (U.P.), have changed my name to Dinesh Chandra Upreti for all future purposes. 0040699582-1

Vikas Anand S/O Late Shri Anand Swaroop R/O B-144 Main Mandoli Road Near Tyagi Dairy Ashok Nagar Shahdara Delhi 110093, Change my name to Vikas Kumar Anand. 0070874672-1

Vimla Kumar Basarmalani w/o Satish Kumar Dhamani, R/O C-6/1, Ranjit Vihar, Nilothi Extn., Nangloi, Delhi-110041, have changed my name to VARSHA DHARMANI for all purposes 0040699600-1

AMIT KUMAR DHAMIJA, S/O HARISH KUMAR DHAMIJA, H.NO.66, GALIB APARTMENT, PARWANA-ROAD PITAMPURA, NORTH WEST-DELHI-110034, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO AMIT DHAMIJA, permanently. 0040699646-4

ASHA DEVI/ASHA AHLAWAT, W/O VIJENDER KUMAR AHLAWAT, HOUSE NUMBER-22, FIRST-FLOOR, CANAL-VIEW APPARTMENT, SECTOR-15, MANAV-CHOWK, ROHINI, DELHI-110089, have changed my name to ASHA KUMARI. 0040699658-8

Amit Chitkara, s/o Ramesh Chitkara, R/o B-26, 3rd floor, Suraj Mal vihar, Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Amit Kumar Chitkara 0040699658-1

Amit Kumar Chitkara, R/o B-26, 3rd floor, surajmal vihar, Delhi-110092, have changed my name to minor son's name Vansh Chitkara, to Vansh Amit Chitkara 0040699658-2

Amit S/o Late, Om Prakash Narula, R/O Flat.No-57B, Pocket-F, Mayur Vihar, Phase-II, Delhi-110091, have changed my name to Amit Narula, permanently 0040699646-2

Anita Devi, W/o Sh. Parmod Kumar Gaur, R/o, H.No.4, Basant Village, Vasant Vihar, South West, Delhi-110057, have changed my name to Anita Gaur, for all purposes. 0040699657-11

Anjali Kukeerja W/o Sudhir Kumar, R/o BE-377, Third Floor, Hari Nagar, New Delhi-110064 have changed my name to Deepa. 0040699656-1

Aqil ur Rahman, S/o, Anis ur Rahman, R/O, R-290/11, flat. no. 101, R-Block, Islah-Masjid Joga Bai- Extn, Jamia-Nagar, Delhi-110025, have changed my name to AQIL UR REHMAN, Permanently 0040699657-10

Baseem Akram, S/o Jahangeer R/O-CN-76/B, J.J.Indira-Camp Part-2, Hasanpur-Depo, I.P. Extension, Delhi-110092, have changed my name from Baseem Akram to Baseem Akram, for all future purposes 0040699607-3

CHHANDA MANDAL is legally wedded, spouse of, Service, No.JC384672N, Rank:- Subedar Name:-Tuhin Kanti Mandal, Presently, residing at, Flat.No. S2, 2nd Floor, IDOL House, 225, Vidyasagar- Sarani, Near- Amantroni Club, Rajpur Sonampur (M), South-24, Parganas, Kolkata, West-Bengal-700150, have changed my name, from CHHANDA MANDAL to CHHANDA MONDAL, for all, future purposes. 0040699657-7

Chanchal Tripathi, D/o Kuldeep Sharma (745583-K, EX-SGT, Rdo/Tech), R/o H.No. 1223, Sector-8 R K Puram, New-Delhi-110022, have changed my name from Chanchal Tripathi to Chanchal vide Affidavit dated-15.11.2023 issued at Asheesh Kumar, Sub Divisional-Magistrate, Rajouri-Garden, Delhi. 0040699657-1

Darpan Kumar, S/O Ashwani Kumar, R/O House, no-E-27 First Floor Lajpat Nagar part-2, New-Delhi-110024, Have changed my name to Darpan Sandhu, Permanently. 0040699646-5

Devki devi Nailwal, W/o Chander Shakhar Nailwal, Add-B-22, Pandav Nagar, Mother dairy, Laxmi-Nagar, East Delhi-110092, changed my name to Devki Nailwal. 0040699651-8

AAYSHA, W/O ALIMUDDIN R/O H.No. 958, NEAR BAND MARKET SHIV COLONY, FARIDABAD, HARYANA, do hereby declare that my name was ASHA PARVEEN D/o MUSTAQ AHMED before marriage, but after I got married to ALIMUDDIN my name changed to AAYSHA. Whereas, now My Real and Correct Name is AAY

Across THE AISLE



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Different states, different strokes

ELECTIONS ARE underway in five states — Mizoram, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Telangana. The polling dates are between November 7 and 30. Indian elections are becoming curiously and curiously. Normally, in an election, there are candidates representing a party; a party has a leader who will spearhead the campaign; and the party with a majority of the total seats (on its own or together with supporting parties) will form the government. All these have been turned upside down by the BJP, thanks to its indomitable leader, Mr Narendra Modi.

RE-WRITING THE RULES

Mr Narendra Modi has re-written the rules of the BJP and, to some extent, the rules of elections. Within his party, he has imposed his will so completely that all dissent has been suppressed. On his direction, dozens of Union ministers and serving MPs are contesting state elections, albeit unwillingly. In the current state elections, Mr Modi is the candidate of the party in every constituency. His party has been directed to seek votes in his name; while seeking votes Mr Modi claims that a vote for his party will be a vote for him and strengthen his hands.

The BJP did not project any individual as the leader (and presumptive chief minister) in any state. Not even in the

case of Mr Shivraj Chouhan, the incumbent chief minister of Madhya Pradesh. Or in the case of Rajasthan or Chhattisgarh where Ms Vasundhara Raje and Mr Raman Singh, respectively, are the most recognizable faces of the party. In Mizoram and Telangana, the BJP is of no consequence.

The Congress and other contesting parties are playing by the conventional rules. They have fielded candidates with their own identities in most constituencies. The incumbent chief minister is the leader of the Congress campaign in Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan; and the former chief minister led the Congress in Madhya Pradesh. In Telangana, it is chief minister Mr Chandrashekar Rao and, in Mizoram, chief minister Mr Zoramthanga who led the campaign of their parties.

DIFFERENT STROKES

The campaigns of the major parties are very different. The BJP is virtually seeking a vote of confidence in Mr Modi for the work of the central government. If the BJP forms the state government, it is claimed it will be a double-engine government, whatever that means. This convoluted argument was rejected in the state elections in Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka. The Congress, BRS and MNF are seeking votes based on the record of work of the state government. To Mr Modi, it is a dress rehearsal for the parliamentary elections due next year. For

the Congress and other parties, the objective is to emerge winner in the state concerned; the Lok Sabha elections are not yet in sight.

For the past several months, Mr Modi had railed against 'freebies' — he called them *revris* — but his party was the first to release the manifesto in the earliest state election (Chhattisgarh on November 7) containing a host of *revris*, including cash support to specific sections of the people. Mr Modi also took the lead in holding mega-rallies that cock a snook at the rules that limit election expenditure on behalf of a candidate or candidates. Each mega rally must cost crores of rupees and it is difficult to believe that all that money was received through legal channels and duly accounted for in some one's books of account.

Unemployment and price rise are the two top concerns. The BJP claimed that the policies and programmes of the central government had created millions of jobs. In the face of unemployment figures (both the official PLFS and the private CMIE), the claim has zero credibility. On price rise, the onus is conventionally on the central government. The BJP is on the backfoot on both issues and Mr Modi carefully avoided them in his speeches. He also avoided the issue of caste census after the home minister considerably diluted the BJP's opposition to a caste census. The Congress hammered on the issues of caste census, unemployment and price rise.

POOR REMAIN POOR

Because of peculiar circumstances, the BJP is on a weak wicket in the five elections. It is a serious challenger in only in three states (Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan) and there is no third party to split the anti-BJP vote. If the BJP loses two out of the three states, its score will be one and will be labeled the loser. The Congress is a serious contender in all the five states. In my assessment, its score will be greater than the BJP's.

The BJP no longer claims it created 2 crore jobs a year. In the light of the official PLFS survey's numbers, it cannot claim there has been an improvement in the income of the people. In the six years between 2017-18 and 2022-23 the poor remained poor: the average monthly earnings of different categories of workers barely increased but it was completely neutralised by the annual average consumer inflation that was always above 4 per cent.

Category	2017-18	2022-23
Self-employment	12,318	13,347
Casual wage/labour	6,969	7,899
Regular wage/labour	19,450	20,039

Given the parlous state of the economy, I think the outcome of the five elections will surprise many. It will also give rise to intriguing questions about the Lok Sabha elections in 2024.

The BJP is on a weak wicket in the five elections. It is a serious challenger in only in three states (Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan) and there is no third party to split the anti-BJP vote. If the BJP loses two out of the three states, its score will be one and will be labeled the loser. The Congress is a serious contender in all the five states. In my assessment, its score will be greater than the BJP's

Fifth COLUMN
TAVLEEN SINGH
Twitter @tavleen_singh

Osama: A new hero

LAST WEEK Osama bin Laden became the latest hero of the pro-Palestine lobby. A letter he wrote to the 'American people' justifying the 9/11 attacks went viral on TikTok. This letter had been on the website of *The Guardian* for many years, but this ultra-liberal newspaper was forced to take it down when educated young Americans and Europeans started posting videos in which they said reading it had changed their attitude to terrorism. When I Googled this letter by the world's most reviled jihadi terrorist, I saw that its main message was that Israel must be erased from the 'river to the sea' because it has been created on Islamic land. The secondary message was that the United States will 'pay for its arrogance with the blood of Christians and their funds.'

When I finished reading this murderous fanatic's long forgotten letter, I watched some of the videos posted by young people who were recommending Osama's letter to their friends. It did not surprise me to see that they were exactly the sort of people we have seen protesting in cities across the world in support of Palestine without noticing that they are really supporting Hamas. It is because of these protests that Jewish students in famous American universities are facing such violent antisemitism that they have been forced to hide in their rooms and use back entrances to sneak into class.

What does this have to do with us in India? More than most 'liberals' are prepared to admit. There are Indian politicians of 'liberal' disposition who have been shrill in their demands on social media that the bombing of Gaza stop now. They have been backed by liberal intellectuals who find it hard to condemn Hamas terrorism. It is because of this supposedly liberal worldview that jihadism has spread like a virus through Muslim communities across India. It manifested itself most recently in the support Muslim girls got when they demanded the right to wear hijab in schools and colleges. It turned out that the girls who started the protest were linked to the jihadist Popular Front of India whose worldview is the same as Hamas.

This outfit has now been banned but the Islamism that gave it birth continues to spread through Muslim communities across the country. It is backed openly by those who see themselves as liberals and leftists. When I have asked my own liberal friends why they do not condemn Islamic fundamentalism as strongly as they do Hindutva, they always avoid answering the question. Something similar is now happening all over the world. If Osama can suddenly change from being monster to hero, we all need to be worried. It is no longer about Hamas and Israel, it is now a war of ideas.

Just before sitting down to write this piece, I was cruising social media and came upon a video of an American Muslim addressing a crowd in New York. In this video he says loudly that there will only be true peace in the world when everyone has been converted to Islam. He then shrieks 'La Illaha il Allah, Muhammad ul Rasool Allah' and orders his audience to chant with him. The question really is why Muslims of his kind ever leave their 'Islamic lands' and build new lives in London and New York. Their ideas would be seen as piety in a Muslim country but are seen as terrorism in secular and democratic countries.

Next week marks yet another anniversary of our own 9/11 that we call 26/11. As someone who lives in Mumbai, it is a date imprinted in my mind, but most Indians have forgotten this date and forgotten that the ten killers who came from Pakistan justified the killing of innocent people on the grounds that India had committed atrocities in Kashmir. The killer who shot people dead after dragging them to the rooftop of the Oberoi Hotel said this to a Turkish couple whose lives he spared. Their lives were spared, he told them, because they were Muslims and so his brothers.

Hindus, westerners, and Jews were fair game as far as Allah's warriors were concerned. So, on those two horrible days in Mumbai, in the last week of November 2008, they were hunted down and shot dead. Torture was reserved for Jews held captive in the Jewish Centre who suffered horribly before finally being killed. The kind of religious fanaticism that teaches young men that killing non-believers is sanctioned by Allah must be crushed but instead of this happening in our own secular land, jihadism is fueled by support from those who call themselves liberals.

It is this kind of toxic liberalism that allowed jihadist ideas to spread in India long before 9/11. I remember seeing magazines with Osama's face on their cover on a trip in Coimbatore just after an attempt was made to kill L K Advani at a public meeting. When I asked moderate Muslim friends why Osama was seen as a hero, they said he was fighting for Allah against the 'evil western world' and this made him a holy warrior. How ironic that he has become a hero once more in the eyes of young people bred in the very world that he set out to destroy. How ironic that our own liberals and leftists could end up on his team because they refuse to accept that jihadism is terrorism.

inside TRACK
COOMI KAPOOR

TOO MANY FAUX PAS

BIHAR CM Nitish Kumar's indiscreet remarks on female impregnation and linking it with education was a major embarrassment for the JD(U). With even PM Modi condemning his observations, Nitish apologised. The CM has made several faux pas of late which have been captured on videos taken on mobile phones and circulated. Two months ago, at one of Nitish's janata darbar sessions, a petitioner brought up an issue concerning the home ministry. The CM ordered an official to telephone the home minister, forgetting that he, in fact, holds the home portfolio. His staff was visibly confused. Earlier this month at a function to commemorate the death of former minister Mahavir Chaudhary, the CM showered rose petals on a bewildered Ashok Chaudhary, the late Chaudhary's son, and his wife rather than on the portrait of the deceased. While leaving a Kavi Sammelan organised by Devesh Chandra Thakur, chairperson of the Bihar Legislative Council, Nitish was shown in a video embracing Chandra tightly and touching his feet, though traditionally it is Chandra who should have touched his elder's feet, not vice versa. Last week in the Assembly, JD(U) legislators tried to calm Nitish as he launched a scathing attack against 79-year-old Dalit leader Jitan Ram Manjhi, regretting that it was his own stupidity to have made Manjhi Chief Minister in the first place. Concerned JD(U) leaders have conveyed to the CM's staff that the media should be kept away from interacting with Nitish as far as possible. Significantly, the media was not permitted entry to two public functions attended by Nitish in the last 10 days. Video recordings at the CM's janata darbar have also been stopped.

OUTFOXED RAJE?

The standoff between Amit Shah and Vasundhara Raje ended after Shah kept his word and included not just Raje but most of her close supporters in the BJP's second list of candidates for the Rajasthan elections. As a further demonstration of his good faith, Shah suggested to Raje that she give him a list of those candidates particularly close to her whom she would like to be assisted in their campaign. The normally shrewd Raje may have miscalculated in happily handing over the details of her closest backers, since Shah now has a direct pipeline to her confidants. The danger is

she could find herself isolated in any future state government formation plan.

UNDERLYING MESSAGE

With Sachin Pilot campaigning in Rajasthan, some assumed that CM Ashok Gehlot and he may have smoked the proverbial peace pipe. But if one reads between the lines, Pilot is making clear that he is electioneering because Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge asked him to do so. Gehlot's name is never mentioned in his interviews and, in fact, the underlying message is that he is not responsible if the party loses and will not carry the can in case of a defeat.

UNDETERRED BY ODDS

Amit Shah does not shy away from a challenge, even when it entails trying to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat. Shah is micromanaging the MP Assembly campaign with his lieutenant Bhubendra Yadav, who is in charge of the state. Shah's strategists are hoping against hope that the home minister will have the last laugh over his detractors. Certainly, what once looked like a surefire victory for the Congress, considering the anti-incumbency mood and fatigue factor with CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan is now looking more like a neck-and-neck race as the BJP gains momentum. Shah has tried to combat anti-incumbency by changing 25 per cent of the party MLAs. His most audacious move is to cash in on the goodwill that Chouhan has earned over the years, while at the same time making it clear he will not be chief minister if the BJP returns to power. Chouhan's laddi behna scheme is a hit among women. He has gamely put on his tennis shoes and is stomping from constituency to constituency, rubbing shoulders with the common folk. In contrast, the elitist Kamal Nath parachutes from meeting to meeting in a helicopter.

DELAYING TACTICS

Rahul Narwekar was an unknown first time BJP MLA from South Mumbai who has become the centre of attention after being elected as the Speaker of the Maharashtra Assembly. The fate of the Eknath Shinde-BJP government is in Narwekar's hands, since he has to rule on the 34 disqualification petitions against the Shinde faction MLAs in the wake of their rebellion against Uddhav Thackeray. The suave Narwekar, who was once with the Shiv Sena and even with the NCP and taught law to Aditya Thackeray, has dragged his feet in giving a ruling for over a year. His stock response is that he has to 'study the matter closely'. The Supreme Court has ordered Narwekar to stop procrastinating and decide by December 31.

history HEADLINE
AVANEESH MISHRA

In Dehradun, a slice of Afghanistan

FROM THE architectural marvels of Kabul House to weathered boards that point to the route that travellers on horseback once took on their way uphill to Mussoorie, Dehradun remains adorned with numerous signs and cherished recollections of a bygone era.

The city's aromatic Dehraduni Basmati rice and the majestic Kabul House — now at the centre of an eviction drive — remain key signposts in the city, a living testament to its deep-rooted history and ties with Afghanistan.

The story of Dehradun's connection with Afghanistan goes back to the 18th and 19th centuries. In 1747, Ahmad Shah Durrani, considered the founder of modern Afghanistan, unified various Afghan tribes and established the Durrani Empire, which roughly covers the geographical area that is now Afghanistan.

In 1803, Shah Shuja-ul-Mulk became the ruler, only to be deposed in 1809 by his predecessor Mahmud Shah in the battle of Nimla, bringing to an end a tumultuous and unstable period of rule.

After Mahmud Shah's death, Dost Mohammad Khan ascended the throne in 1823. It is an era that coincided with the Great Game, a period marked by geopolitical rivalry between the British and Russian Empires for influence in Central Asia, with Afghanistan as the crucial buffer state.

In the early 1830s, Shah Shuja sought British assistance to help him regain the throne of Afghanistan. The British were interested in establishing a friendly ruler in Afghanistan — they were concerned that Dost Mohammad Khan appeared inclined towards the Russians.

This sparked the Anglo-Afghan War (1838-1842), where the combined forces of the British East India Company and Maharaja Ranjit Singh confronted Dost Muhammad Khan's Afghan forces, culminating in the removal of Dost Mohammad Khan and the reinstatement of Shah Shuja. In 1840, during the conflict, Dost Mohammad Khan was captured by the British and exiled to India.

Dehradun resident Mohammad Ali, who claims to be a direct descendent of Dost Mohammad Khan, says the king settled down in Dehradun, which served as



Yakub Khan with British officers after signing the Treaty of Gandamak, which granted limited autonomy to Afghanistan. Source: *The British Library/Wikipedia*

a garrison town and a key military station for the British forces.

"The main reason for settling down here was Dehradun's cool climes and its lush jungles which provided the emir enough prey for hunting. Dost Mohammad was very fond of his favourite pulao and managed to bring Basmati rice sealed in hollowed out bamboo from Kunar province of Afghanistan. He then gave the rice to the local farmers to grow in their fields," says Mohammad Ali.

Back in Afghanistan, Shah Shuja was facing a rebellion, with Afghan factions viewing him as a British puppet. By 1842, the situation deteriorated rapidly and the British decided to withdraw from Kabul in the face of mounting Afghan resistance and harsh winter conditions.

The vacuum left by the departing forces created an opportunity for Dost Mohammad Khan's return to the throne. After his death, he was succeeded by his son and then his grandson Yakub Khan. Unpopular for signing the 'Treaty of Gandamak' with the British, which granted limited autonomy to Afghanistan but caused internal unrest, in 1879, Yakub

Khan abdicated the throne. Initially imprisoned by the British, he later found himself in exile in British India — and, like his grandfather Dost Mohammad, ended up in Dehradun.

Upon arrival, Yakub Khan, who drew a monthly pension of Rs 5,000 from the British, promptly acquired the property that's now known as Kabul House.

"They used to stay in Dehradun during the winters, and in summers, they would spend the days at Radha Bhawan in Mussoorie," says Mohammad Ali.

Constructed in 1871, Radha Bhawan is one of the earliest and most expansive estates in the region.

The Parade Ground in Dehradun is considered to be another favourite hangout of the Afghan royals. There are stories of how only the Afghan royals and the British were allowed on the ground, where they rode their horses.

It is believed that the Afghan royals also planted fruit trees like the mulberry and apricot in Dehradun. Being patrons of music, they are said to have introduced the rubab, a stringed instrument, to Dehradun.

In 1924, Yakub Khan died in Dehradun and was buried in Punjab.

By the 1940s, there were reportedly over 500 descendants of the Afghan royalty living in India. After Partition in 1947, most of them went to Pakistan or Afghanistan.

Dehradun's Parade Ground is considered to be a favourite hangout of the Afghan royals. There are stories of how only the Afghan royals and the British were allowed on the ground, where they rode their horses

How deepfakes shrink online space for women

She SAID
RISHIKA SINGH

A recent Washington Post article quoted an industry analyst to say how on the top 10 websites that host AI-generated porn photos, "fake nudes have ballooned by more than 290 per cent since 2018". It also cited a 2019 study by Sensity AI, a company that monitors deepfakes, which said that 96 per cent of deepfake images are pornography and 99 per cent of those photos target women.

When the actress at the centre of the recent row responded to the deepfake video, she touched upon this aspect: "Today, as a woman and as an actor, I am thankful for my family, friends and well wishers who are my protection and support system. But if this happened to me when I was in school or college, I genuinely can't imagine how could I ever tackle this."

The woman whose original video was used to create the deepfake also said, "I worry about the future of women and girls who now have to fear even more about putting themselves on social media."

Her statement acknowledged that even without AI, non-consensual depictions of women have held back women from making their presence felt online. I grew up at a time when there was little discussion about how the internet is mobilised against women, even as such horrors played out in our lives all too often. I remember how, in my school days, boys were known to share private photos and videos of girls as a way to derive some kind of perverse joy.

My women friends in college also recalled similar stories, growing up. Underlying them was a deep sense of anger, hurt and helplessness.

The common advice given to us back then was: don't show yourself to the world; after all, why take the risk? I never thought of this advice as sensible, but nevertheless imbibed some of it. To date, I avoid sharing too many photos of myself on social media platforms — a lack of confidence partly driven by this vague fear and anxiety.

Cut to 2023, when photos that show your face are being used to create fake videos. It lays bare the failure of a perspective which places the onus on women for acts men should be ashamed of doing in the first place.

Most of the responses to the deepfake story have been about the technology side of things. Much as that is needed as AI develops rapidly, shouldn't we also discuss the impunity with which men use technology to violate the privacy of women?

It is young men who need to be conditioned, told repeatedly that when it comes to consent and respect, there are strict no-nos, including manipulation of photos, leering, and anything else that dehumanises a woman.

And what of the women? Anger and hurt are natural reactions in such situations. But shame is something that is taught, and it should not be taught anymore when there is no blame to take. Surprisingly, AI has only proven what many of us felt was true for long — holding women responsible for crimes against them has very little to do with stopping those crimes, and everything to do with a lack of interest in holding the perpetrators responsible.

National Editor Shalini Langer curates the fortnightly 'She Said' column

14 THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD



SpaceX's Starship spacecraft lifts off from a launchpad near Texas Saturday. PTI

UNITED STATES

SpaceX craft enters space, 'fails in minutes'

Boa Chica: SpaceX's uncrewed spacecraft Starship, developed to carry astronauts to the moon, reached space for the first time Saturday but was presumed to have failed minutes later, in a second test after its first attempt to reach space ended in an explosion. The rocketship, blasted off from the Musk-owned Starbase launch site near Boca Chica in Texas, on a planned flight into space, but contact was lost 10 minutes after lift-off, a company broadcaster said. **REUTERS**

LIBERIA

Vote count ends, President Weah concedes defeat

Dakar: Latest results from Liberia's presidential election runoff showed opposition leader Joseph Boakai with 50.64% of the vote on Saturday and incumbent President George Weah, who has already conceded defeat, with 49.36%. The elections commission said the preliminary results were based on tallied votes from 99.98% of polling stations. Final results will be announced on Monday, it said. Weah conceded to Boakai late Friday after a tight race, when results showed his challenger had an unassailable lead. **AP**

FRANCE

Senator charged for drugging lawmaker

Paris: A French senator has been handed preliminary charges for drugging another lawmaker with the aim of rape or sexual assault, according to the Paris prosecutor's office, and has been suspended from his party. Joel Guerriau, representing the Loire-Atlantique region in western France, was detained for 48 hours and given preliminary charges Friday, the prosecutor's office said in a statement. He is suspected of putting ecstasy in Champagne he served parliament member Sandrine Josso, who left after she started feeling sick, according to French media reports. **AP**

UNITED KINGDOM

4 charged with London Sikh teen's murder

London: Four men arrested on suspicion of a British Sikh teenager's murder following a street fight in south-west London have been charged to appear before Westminster Magistrates' Court. Amandeep Singh, Manjit Singh, Ajmeer Singh, and Poran Singh were charged with the murder of 17-year-old Simarjeet Singh Nangpal by the Metropolitan Police overnight on Friday. Police were called to reports of a fight in progress at Burket Close, Hounslow, and attended along with the London Ambulance Service in the early hours of Wednesday. **PTI**

ISRAEL GAVE AN HOUR TO EVACUATE, SAYS GAZA HEALTH MINISTRY

Patients, staff leave Gaza hospital; Israeli airstrikes kill 47 in south

Communications restored in Gaza; Hezbollah, Israel trade strikes

AGENCIES

GAZA, NOVEMBER 18

PATIENTS, STAFF and displaced people departed Gaza's largest hospital Saturday, health officials said, leaving behind only Israeli forces and a skeleton crew to care for those too sick to move.

The exodus came the day internet and phone service was restored to the Gaza Strip, ending the telecommunications outage.

Meanwhile, Israeli air strikes on residential blocks in south Gaza killed at least 47 Palestinians on Saturday, medics said, after Israel again warned civilians to relocate as it girds for an attack on the Hamas in the South. *Associated Press* photos from a local hospital showed more than 20 bodies wrapped in bloodstained sheets.

The Israeli offensive into south Gaza could compel hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who fled the Israeli storming of Gaza City in the north and the residents of Khan Younis to uproot again, causing a humanitarian crisis.

The Israeli military, which had warned residents and others in a social media post to leave, had no immediate comment on the strike.

"Receiving horrifying images & footage of scores of people killed and injured in another UNRWA school sheltering thousands of displaced in the north of the Gaza Strip... A humanitarian ceasefire cannot wait any longer," Philippe Lazzarini, head of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees tweeted.

Israeli military said it did not order the evacuation of the hospital, and that medical personnel were allowed to remain to support patients who cannot be moved. But Medhat Abbas, spokesman for Gaza Health Ministry said they had ordered the facility cleared, giving the hospital an hour to get people out.



A building in Khan Younis in southern Gaza after an Israeli airstrike. Reuters

After it appeared the evacuation was mostly complete, Dr. Ahmed Mokhallalati, a physician, said on social media that around 120 patients remained including premature babies, and that six doctors were staying to care for them. It was unclear where those who left hospital had gone, with 25 of Gaza's 36 hospitals non-functional and the others partially operational, according to WHO.

Violence has also beset Israel's northern border where it has been exchanging fire with Lebanon's Hezbollah militants, officials on both sides said. Hezbollah said it shot down an Israeli drone near the border in the early hours of Saturday. Israel said it intercepted a missile fired at an Israeli drone.

Lebanese officials said Israel's strike hit an industrial area near Nabatieh, one of the deepest strikes inside Lebanese territory since fighting began last month.

DEATH, DESTRUCTION

ISRAEL	PALESTINE
TOTAL DEAD	
1,200+	12000+
TOTAL INJURED	
5,400+	20,000+

Families of hostages march to Jerusalem

Jerusalem: The families of Israeli hostages and thousands of their supporters arrived in Jerusalem on Saturday at the end of a five-day march to confront the government over the plight of those taken captive by Hamas in Gaza. An estimated 20,000 marchers want to put pressure on the Israeli government. **REUTERS**

First flight with injured kids from Gaza reaches UAE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ABU DHABI, NOVEMBER 18

THE FIRST aircraft carrying Palestinian children wounded in the Israel-Hamas war reached the United Arab Emirates on Saturday, part of a pledged relief effort by the country to aid 1,000 children.

The group of 15 people, including children and their family members, made it across the Gaza Strip's Rafah border crossing with Egypt on Friday. They then took a flight to Abu Dhabi, the capital of the Emirates.

Some of the seats of the plane were removed to make room for the most critically wounded



A Gazan child after arriving in UAE, Saturday. Reuters

children, who needed stretchers.

The war in Gaza has so far killed more than 11,500 Palestinians according to Palestinian health authorities.

The UAE has diplomatic relations with Israel following a 2020 recognition deal.

Pak's KPK province to launch major op to evict illegal Afghans

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

PESHAWAR, NOVEMBER 18

PAKISTAN'S KHYBER Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) government has decided to launch a major operation to evict thousands of illegal Afghans from the provincial capital Peshawar, a senior official said on Saturday.

The move by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) government came amid the ongoing deportation of illegal Afghan nationals residing in Pakistan. The crackdown has so far forced about 340,000 Afghans in recent weeks to leave Pakistan after spending years in the neighbouring country.

"The KPK Provincial Government has decided to launch a grand operation for the



An Afghan family waiting at the Pak-Afghan border. Reuters file

eviction of illegal Afghans from this northwestern city of Peshawar," said the official.

Pakistan's caretaker government has previously said security concerns were behind the deportation order. Islamabad

has claimed that Afghan nationals had carried out 14 of the 24 major terrorist attacks that have taken place in the country this year. However, the Taliban-led government in Kabul has rejected Pakistan's claim.

Russian strike leaves 400 Ukraine towns in the dark

OLENA HARMASH

KYIV, NOVEMBER 18

RUSSIA CARRIED out a major drone attack on Ukraine overnight, hitting infrastructure facilities and causing power outages in more than 400 towns and villages in the south, southeast, and north of the country, Ukrainian officials said Saturday.

Ukraine air defences shot down 29 out of 38 Iranian-made Shahed drones launched from Russian territory, the airforce said. The airforce said in a statement the attack on several Ukrainian regions lasted from 8 p.m. (1800 GMT) Friday to 4 a.m. Saturday.

The energy ministry said 416 settlements in the Odesa region in the south and in the Zaporizhzhia region in the

southeast were cut off from electricity after networks were damaged in the strikes.

Last winter, Russia pounded Ukraine with hundreds of missiles and drones, leaving millions without electricity, heating, and water during the coldest months.

The energy ministry also said an oil refinery was hit in the Odesa region. An administrative building was also damaged and one civilian was wounded in the strike, the south military command said in a statement on the Telegram messaging app. The energy ministry said six settlements were without power in Chernihiv.

The drones also targeted Kyiv in the second attack so far this month, officials said, adding that all drones heading to the capital were shot down on their approach. **REUTERS**

Trump triggered Capitol riot but can contest in polls, says Judge

ANDREW GOUDSWARD

WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 18



Donald Trump. Reuters file

A COLORADO judge on Friday allowed Donald Trump to remain on the ballot in the state's election next year, but found that he "engaged in insurrection" by sparking the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the US Capitol by his supporters.

The ruling from Judge Sarah Wallace, which is almost certain to be appealed, rejects a bid by a group of Colorado voters to disqualify Trump under a rarely used amendment to the US Constitution that bars officials who have engaged in "insurrection" from holding federal office.

The judge said, as president, Trump wasn't "an officer of the United States" that could be disqualified under the amendment.

The decision is a victory for Trump, who is fighting a series of similar challenges to his candidacy. A Trump spokesperson on Friday said the ruling was "another nail in the coffin of the un-American ballot challenges."

"The American voter has a Constitutional right to vote for the candidate of their choosing, with President Donald J. Trump leading by massive numbers," the spokesperson, Steven Cheung, said in a statement. Still, the judge concluded Trump's "conduct and words were the factual cause of, and a substantial contributing factor" to the attack on the Capitol.

She found that Trump "engaged in an insurrection

on January 6, 2021 through incitement."

The Colorado case, which was brought by a group of voters aided by the watchdog organization Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, was the first to go to trial and was viewed as a test case for the wider disqualification effort.

CREW President Noah Bookbinder said the group would appeal the ruling.

Lawyers for the voters argued that Trump engaged in an insurrection by spreading false claims of widespread voter fraud following his defeat in the 2020 presidential election, summoning supporters to a rally in Washington and then urging them to march to the U.S. Capitol.

Trump's lawyers claimed the former president had no relationship with the attack and that his remarks were protected by his right to free speech. The ruling applies only to the Republican presidential primary and general election in Colorado.

The Colorado decision can be appealed to the state's supreme court and eventually the U.S. Supreme Court, whose 6-3 conservative majority includes three Trump appointees. **REUTERS**

Australia slams China over 'unprofessional' naval interaction

REUTERS

SYDNEY, NOVEMBER 18

AUSTRALIA'S GOVERNMENT said on Saturday it had expressed serious concerns to China after an "unsafe and unprofessional" interaction between an Australian navy vessel and Chinese warship left Australian military divers injured.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Richard Marles said the HMAS Toowoomba - a long-range frigate - was conducting a diving operation in Japan's Exclusive Economic Zone on Nov. 14 to clear fishing nets from its propellers when the incident occurred. "While diving operations were underway a PLA-N destroyer (DDG-139) operating in the vicinity closed towards HMAS Toowoomba," Marles said in a statement, referring to a ship of the People's Liberation Army Navy.

He said despite the Australian vessel notifying the Chinese warship of the diving operation and requesting that it keep clear, the ship approached "at a closer range."

"Soon after, it was detected operating its hull-mounted sonar in a manner that posed a risk to the safety of the Australian



Australian Dy PM Richard Marles. Reuters

divers who were forced to exit the water."

The conduct was "unsafe and unprofessional", Marles said. The Chinese embassy in Australia did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the issue.

Medical assessments found minor injuries to the divers likely caused by the destroyer's sonar, said the defence minister.

"Australia expects all countries, including China, to operate their militaries in a professional and safe manner," Marles said, adding that the safety and well-being of Australian military personnel was the government's "utmost priority".

China has emerged in recent years as an increasingly assertive power in the Indo-Pacific region, including upgrading security ties with Solomon Islands in July.

Earlier this year, Australia, a US ally, conducted two weeks of military drills involving more than 30,000 troops with the US in a show of force amid China's growing regional influence.

WORKS BY WOMEN THAT HAVE DRAWN IRE FROM RELIGIOUS GROUPS AMONG THE MOST POWERFUL IN COLLECTION

Banned art from around the world finds home at a Barcelona museum

JOSEPH WILSON

BARCELONA, NOVEMBER 18

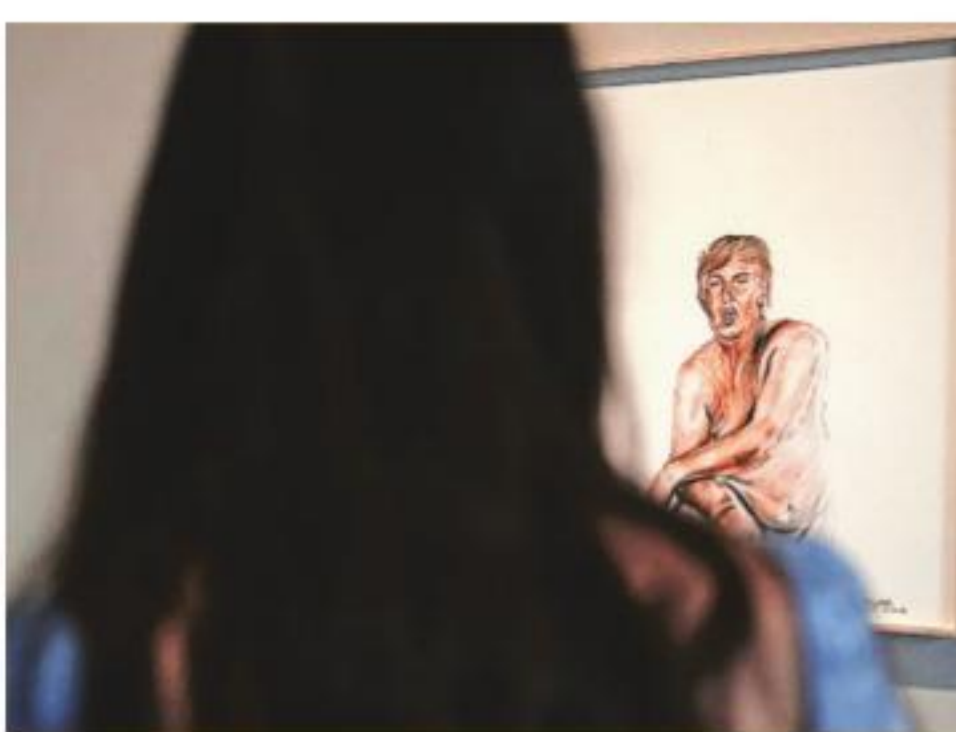
A DRAWING of a nude Donald Trump. A punching bag sculpture shaped like a woman's torso. A display of women's party shoes standing proudly on prayer rugs. All are pieces of contemporary art that have provoked debate and, sometimes, violent reactions.

These pieces and dozens more that were subjected to some sort of censorship have found a home in Spain at Barcelona's Museum of Forbidden Art, or "Museu de l'Art Prohibit" in Catalan. The collection of over 200 works, including ones by well-known

creators such as American photographer Robert Mapplethorpe and Spain's own Pablo Picasso, is intended to challenge visitors and question the limits imposed on artists in an increasingly polarized world.

Director Rosa Rodrigo said the museum is the only one in the world dedicated exclusively to art that faced petitions - often successful ones - for their removal from public view on moral, political, religious, sexual or commercial grounds. "The museum gives an opportunity to works of art that, for whatever reason, at some point had been banned, attacked, censored, or canceled, because there are so many," Rodrigo told AP.

The museum is the creation



A visitor looks at a drawing of a nude Donald Trump by artist Ilma Gore at Barcelona's Museum of Forbidden Art. AP

of Catalan art collector Tatxo Benet, who owns all but one of the 42 works currently on display - and the 200 more in storage. He was already collecting contemporary art when he began gathering "banned" works.

Five years later, Benet's idea became the Museum of Forbidden Art, which opened its doors in October. Since then, over 13,000 people have visited its galleries. As more works come under attack, people like art critic and curator Gabriel Luciani say the exhibit is essential.

"I think it's imperative to have a place like this in Europe and around the world. Especially in these moments of censorship that we're seeing. Not only in the arts but also in other political

contexts," he said. In March, a Hong Kong department store took down a digital artwork that contained hidden references to jailed dissidents.

The same month on the other side of the world, a Florida charter school principal was forced to resign after a parent complained about a lesson on Renaissance art that included Michelangelo's David sculpture.

Barcelona's new museum features well-known works of contention, including "Piss Christ" by Andres Serrano, a photo of a crucifix plunged into a vat of the artist's urine; as well as Mapplethorpe's "X Portfolio," photos of sadomasochism that were challenged in court for obscenity.

"I think the collection could even be more shocking," Luciani said. But the works by women, which have drawn ire from conservative religious groups or been repressed for their feminist content, are among the most powerful of the collection.

"Silence," an installation by French Algerian artist Zoulikha Bouabdellah that displays 30 pairs of stiletto heels on the same number of Islamic prayer rugs, dominates the center of a room. Bouabdellah agreed to have her work removed from a museum in Clichy, France, after the 2015 attacks in Paris against the staff of the Charlie Hebdo satirical newspaper, which had published cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad. **AP**

15 ECONOMY

CRUDE WATCH OIL JUMPS 4%

Oil prices jumped more than 4% on Friday, rebounding from a four-month low hit in the previous session, as investors who had taken short positions took profits and while US sanctions on some Russian oil shippers lent support. **REUTERS**

DAILY WAGES IN MP & GUJARAT ARE BELOW THE NATIONAL AVERAGE OF ₹345.7

Rural workers in MP, Gujarat get the lowest daily wages: RBI data

Wage growth for agricultural and non-agricultural labourers remained subdued during 2022-23, averaging 5.8 per cent and 4.9 per cent

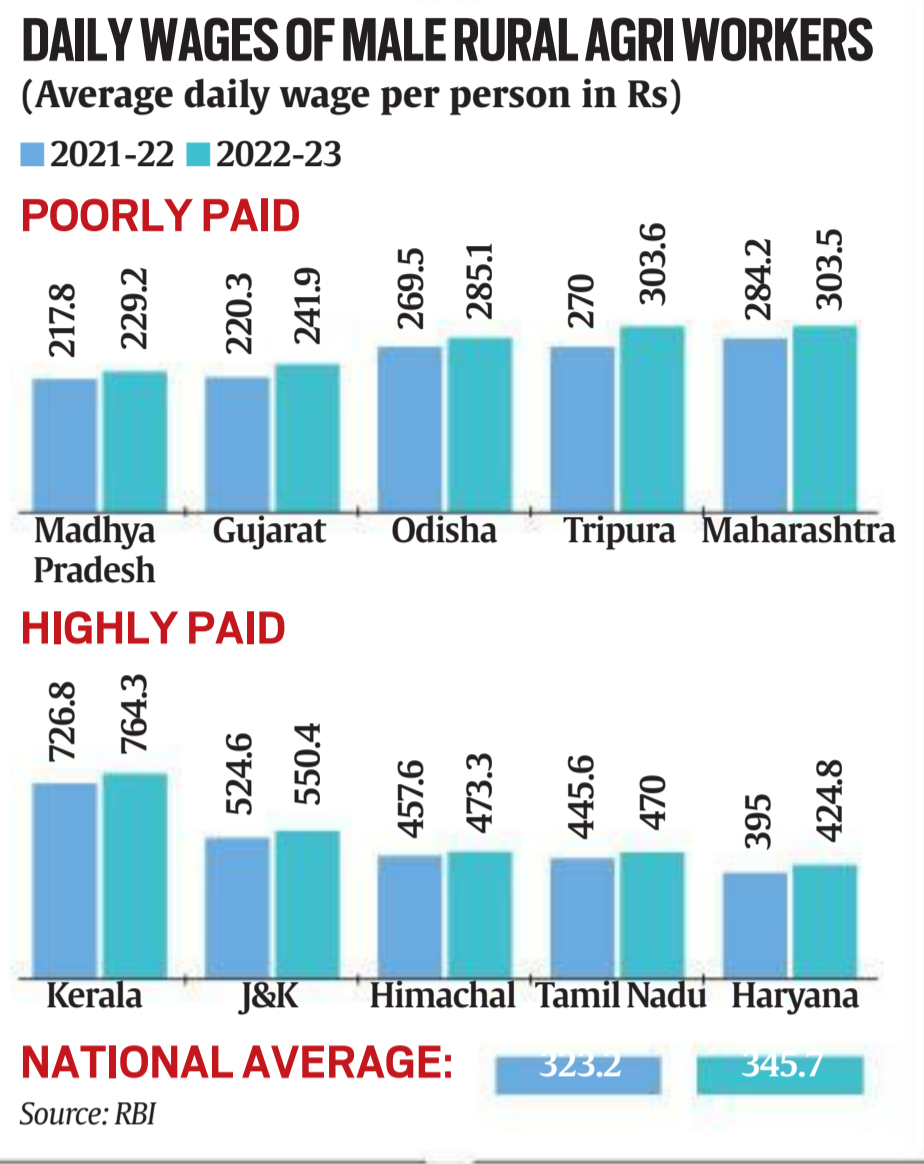
GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 18

RURAL AGRICULTURAL workers in Madhya Pradesh (MP), which had gone for Assembly polls on Friday, get the lowest daily wages in the country, much below the national average.

According to data compiled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in MP, male agricultural workers in rural areas got a daily wage of just Rs 229.2 while in Gujarat, which claims to be a model state, it worked out to Rs 241.9 in the year ended March 2023. The national average for the year was Rs 345.7.

If a rural farm worker gets work for 25 days in a month in MP, his monthly earning will be around Rs 5,730 per month which may not be sufficient to meet the household expenses of a family of four or five. However, a rural farm worker in Kerala, which pays the highest wage of Rs 764.3 per person among states, gets an average of Rs 19,107 for 25 days of work in a month. In the case of Gujarat, the monthly wage for a farm worker would have been around Rs 6,047.

As per a calculation by rating firm Crisil, the cost of a vegetarian thali was Rs 27.9 and non-vegetarian thali Rs 61.4 as of September this year. This



means a family of five will have to shell out Rs 140 for a veg thali meal or Rs 8,400 per month.

While the financial year 2021-22 was bad for the rural economy with the Covid pandemic hitting the jobs and income levels, high inflation and interest rates played havoc in the fiscal 2022-23, hitting the rural demand.

Among other poorly paid states, in Uttar Pradesh, rural

farm workers got an average daily wage of Rs 309.3 and Odisha Rs 285.1 in 2021-22. Male farm workers in Maharashtra, which boasts of being most industrialised state, got Rs 303.5 daily.

The high wages in Kerala have attracted farm workers from other poorly paid states with around 25 lakh migrant workers reportedly living in the state.

In Jammu & Kashmir (J&K), farm workers get an average wage of Rs 550.4, Himachal Pradesh Rs 473.3 and Tamil Nadu Rs 470 per person.

According to the RBI data, in the case of male non-agricultural workers, the lowest wage was in MP with an average wage of Rs 246.3 while Gujarat workers got a daily wage of Rs 273.1 and Tripura Rs 280.6 -- all below the national average of Rs 348. On the other hand, Kerala again leads in non-agricultural workers' daily wages with Rs 696.6 per person. Kerala was followed by J&K with Rs 517.9, Tamil Nadu Rs 481.5 and Haryana Rs 451 for the year ended March 2023.

Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh are again below the national average of Rs 393.3 in the case of rural male construction workers. Gujarat rural construction workers got an average wage of Rs 323.2, MP Rs 278.7 and Tripura Rs 286.1 per day during the fiscal ended March 2023.

However, daily wage for rural construction workers was Rs 852.5 in Kerala, Rs 534.5 in J&K, Rs 500.9 in Tamil Nadu and Rs 498.3 in Himachal Pradesh, as per the RBI data.

According to a Crisil study, rural income prospects remain dependent on the vagaries of weather.

"Increasing frequency of extreme weather events, there-

fore, remain a key monitorable. While lowering of demand for MGNREGA jobs is an encouraging sign for the rural economy from a job perspective, depressed wages are a matter of concern for rural demand," it said. Rural jobs are dependent on agriculture which in turn is influenced by monsoon and rabi and kharif production. Real rural wage growth virtually stagnated in 2022-23 despite a visible uptick in economic activity. Although job demand under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) declined on a year-on-year basis, it still prevailed above the pre-pandemic level in 2022-23, indicating that the recovery, especially in the unorganised segment of the economy is not yet complete, according to the RBI's Annual Report for 2022-23.

Wage growth for agricultural and non-agricultural labourers remained subdued during 2022-23, averaging 5.8 per cent and 4.9 per cent, respectively.

Nevertheless, there was an increase in the pace of wage growth for agricultural and non-agricultural labourers, reaching an intra-year peak of 7.7 per cent in January 2023 and 5.6 per cent in November 2022, respectively, before moderating in March 2023, RBI report said.

Govt investigating whether China-linked agencies are behind Apple spyware attack

SOUAMYARENDRA BARIK
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 18

AS PART of its investigation into claims that several Indian Opposition politicians and journalists received threat notifications from Apple, the government's nodal cybersecurity agency has shifted its focus on a predictable foe -- it is exploring whether agencies linked to the Chinese government were behind the attempted breach, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

"Most of the iPhones that were targeted were made in China, as per preliminary inputs we have received from Apple. The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) is investigating if the place of production has something to do with a vulnerability in the iPhones, and whether the hack was attempted by agencies linked to China," a senior government official, privy to CERT-In's investigation, told this paper.

In October, Opposition leaders across parties -- from Congress's Shashi Tharoor to AAP's Raghav Chadha to TMC's Mahua Moitra -- received a "threat notification" from Apple warning of a "potential state-sponsored spyware attack" on their iPhones. They hit out at the Centre, and suggested that it was behind the spyware attack attempt.

Apple later issued a statement saying it "does not attribute the threat notifications to any specific state-sponsored attacker". IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw at the time said that much of the information provided by Apple on the issue was "vague and non-spe-



At least 20 Indians with iPhones received the threat notification in October. *File*

cific in nature", and urged the iPhone maker to join the probe with more accurate information about the alleged spyware attack.

It is learnt that since Apple started sending out these alerts in late 2021, individuals in 150 countries have received such threat notifications. This paper has also learnt that according to Apple India's internal records, at least 20 Indians with iPhones received the threat notification from the company last month.

Earlier this month, the CERT-In sent a detailed questionnaire to the company asking about current vulnerabilities in Apple's operating system and how long the company will take to issue a security patch to fix the holes. Another key question the agency is investigating, as is Apple, is whether there was a breach, or if it was an attempted hack.

The agency has also asked the company to explain what it means by a "state-sponsored attack" and when it concludes that an attack was initiated by a state-backed entity.

"CERT-In is still in the process

of its investigation and has asked Apple for specific inputs. I am given to understand that the company will fly down a team of experts from the US by the end of November to assist CERT-In with its probe," a second government official said, requesting anonymity since the investigation is private.

Apple is understood to have preliminarily told the government that iPhones can have loopholes especially when military grade hacking attempts are made, and that the company is not equipped to remotely analyse the hack on a device level since it would require a great degree of access which could impact a user's privacy further. Apple did not respond to a detailed set of questions despite multiple requests. An email sent to the IT Ministry went unanswered.

Investigations into similar issues in the past haven't yielded much. In 2021, the Supreme Court had formed a committee of technical experts to look into allegations of unauthorised surveillance using the Pegasus software developed by Israeli firm NSO Group.

The Pegasus controversy had broken following media reports of alleged illegal use of the software to tap the phones of some activists, journalists and politicians. Subsequently, several petitions were filed in the Supreme Court seeking an inquiry into the charges.

In August 2022, the committee of technical experts found no conclusive evidence on use of the spyware in phones examined by it but noted that the Central Government "had not cooperated" with the panel.

BoB plans to raise up to ₹15,000 cr via bonds

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 18

STATE-OWNED Bank of Baroda (BoB) on Saturday said it proposes to raise up to Rs 15,000 crore via bonds to fund business growth.

The capital raising committee of the bank in its meeting held on Saturday has approved the issuance of Rs 2,000 crore Tier II/sub debt bond with the greenshoe option to raise another Rs 3,000 crore totalling Rs 5,000 crore, BoB said in a regulatory filing.

The bank has further decided to issue Infrastructure Bonds amounting to Rs 2,000 crore with a greenshoe option to raise an additional Rs 8,000 crore totaling the issue size of Rs 10,000 crore (tenure up to 7 years), it said.

North India replacing South as top supplier of blue-collar workforce to GCC nations

Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have begun replacing Kerala, which was a significant contributor of blue-collar workforce, from India to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region, as per a report by Huntr.



"Amid these opportunities, blue-collar workers often grapple with challenges such as financial and contractual issues, which collaborative efforts between India and the UAE are diligently addressing to ensure fair recruitment practices," said Huntr CEO, Samuel Joy

50% Increase in the migration of blue-collar workers from India to the GCC in first seven months of 2023

Kerala witnessing 90% cent drop in workforce going to the Middle East nations

The top five labour-sending states include UP, Bihar, Kerala, West Bengal, and Tamil Nadu

The preferred destinations remained Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, and Oman

The workforce landscape is evolving with a notable increase in women migrants

The employment landscape of 2024 is projected to surge in job roles in Dubai

Source: Huntr/PTI

Centre approves Dell, HP, Foxconn, 25 others under PLI scheme for IT hardware

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 18

DELL, HP, Lenovo and Foxconn are among the 27 companies that have received approval from the Centre to manufacture laptops, computers and servers in India under the government's Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for Information Technology (IT) hardware.

"Twenty-three of these companies are ready to start manufacturing on day zero. And four companies will start within 90 days," IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said Saturday.

In May, the Centre had more than doubled the IT Hardware PLI to Rs 17,000 crore with a six year tenure since it was first cleared in 2021 with an outlay of Rs 7,350 crore. The first version of the scheme was a laggard with only two companies -- Dell



By August-end, over 40 companies had applied for the scheme. *File*

and Bhagwati -- managing to meet first year (FY22) targets, and the industry calling for a renewed scheme with an increased budgetary outlay. By the end of August over 40 companies had applied to participate in the scheme. Apple has opted to skip.

However, the selected companies will invest just around Rs 3,000 (Rs 500 crore a year on an average) crore over six years as opposed to the initial projection of Rs 4,000 crore over these many years. The net production value under the scheme has been pegged at Rs 3.5 lakh crore and it is expected to create 50,000 direct jobs and 1,50,000 indirect jobs over its entire course.

Under the scheme, the incentive per company shall be applicable on net incremental sales of manufactured goods over the base year subject to a ceiling of Rs 4,500 crore for global companies, Rs 2,250 crore for hybrid (global/domestic) companies and Rs 500 crore for domestic companies. The government is hoping for the scheme to be a success so that the local production can address a part of the domestic demand for laptops and

computers in the country.

India is a big importer of IT hardware, with a major chunk of such goods coming in from China. Imports of personal computers including laptops, and palmtops, from China stood at \$558.36 million in April-May this year as against \$618.26 million in the year-ago period. China accounts for roughly 70-80 per cent of the share of India's imports of personal computers, laptops. Earlier this month, the government rolled out an 'import management system' for IT hardware, including laptops and computers, modifying its initial stance of imposing physical restrictions. The key idea behind the measure is to check imports of laptops and computers, especially since a majority of them come from China, which has New Delhi worried.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

BRIEFLY

India's gem, jewellery exports decline 11.49% in Oct

New Delhi: India's overall gems and jewellery exports declined by 11.49 per cent to Rs 22,873.19 crore (\$2,748.01 million) in October, according to the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) data. The gross exports stood at Rs 25,843.84 crore (USD 3,134.85 million) during October 2022, the data showed. Cut and Polished Diamonds exports witnessed a fall of 32.70 per cent to Rs 10,495.06 crore in the previous month compared to Rs 15,594.49 crore (\$1,891.2 million) in the year-ago period. **PTI**

India's forex reserves drop to \$590.32 bn

New Delhi: India's forex kitty decreased by \$462 million to \$590.321 billion for the week ended November 10, the Reserve Bank said on Friday. **PTI**

OpenAI fires Sam Altman; says the CEO wasn't 'consistently candid'

REUTERS
BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 18

THE BOARD of the company behind ChatGPT on Friday fired OpenAI CEO Sam Altman - to many, the human face of generative AI - sending shock waves across the tech industry.

OpenAI's Chief Technology Officer Mira Murati will serve as interim CEO, the company said, adding that it will conduct a formal search for a permanent CEO. "Altman's departure follows a deliberative review process by the board, which concluded that he was not consistently candid in his communications with the board, hindering its ability to exercise its responsibilities," OpenAI said in the blog without elaborating.

Greg Brockman, OpenAI president and co-founder, who stepped down from the board as chairman as part of the management shuffle, quit the company, he announced on messaging platform X late on Friday. "Based on today's news, I quit," he wrote.

The departures blindsided many employees who discovered the abrupt management change from an internal message and the



Sam Altman, right, then CEO of ChatGPT maker OpenAI, and Mira Murati, chief technology officer. *AP*

company's public facing blog. It came as a surprise to Altman and Brockman as well, who learned the board's decision within minutes of the announcement, Brockman said.

"We too are still trying to figure out exactly what happened," he posted on X, formerly Twitter, adding, "We will be fine. Greater things coming soon."

The now four-person board consists of three independent directors holding no equity in OpenAI and its Chief Scientist Ilya Sutskever. The organization did not immediately answer a request for comment on

Brockman's claims. Backed by billions of dollars from Microsoft, which does not have a board seat in the non-profit governing the startup, OpenAI kicked off the generative AI craze last November by releasing ChatGPT. The chatbot became one of the world's fastest-growing software applications.

Trained on reams of data, generative AI can create human-like content, helping users spin up term papers, complete science homework and even write entire novels. After ChatGPT's launch, regulators scrambled to catch up: the European Union revised its AI

Act and the U.S. kicked off AI regulation efforts.

Altman, who ran Y Combinator, is a serial entrepreneur and investor. He was the face of OpenAI and the wildly popular generative AI technology as he toured the world this year.

Altman posted on X shortly after OpenAI published its blog: "I loved my time at openai. It was transformative for me personally, and hopefully the world a little bit. Most of all I loved working with such talented people, who will have more to say about what's next later."

Altman did not respond to requests for comment.

Murati, who has worked for Tesla, joined OpenAI in 2018 and later became chief technology officer. She oversaw product launches including that of ChatGPT.

At an emergency all-hands meeting on Friday afternoon after the announcement, Murati sought to calm employees and said OpenAI's partnership with Microsoft is stable and its backer's executives, including CEO Satya Nadella, continue to express confidence in the startup, a person familiar with the matter told *Reuters*.

Ex-Reserve Bank Governor S Venkitaramanan passes away

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 18

FORMER GOVERNOR of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), S Venkitaramanan, who managed the affairs at the central bank when the country faced two major crises -- balance of payment crisis that led to the pledging of gold and the securities scam triggered by Harshad Mehta -- in the 1990-92 period passed away on Saturday after a brief illness. Venkitaramanan, 92, is survived by his two daughters and their families.

He served as Finance Secretary in the Ministry of Finance for a period of four years from 1985 to 1989 when Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister of the country. Venkitaramanan, who had finished his civil service career by 1990, moved on to Karnataka as an adviser to the Governor during President's rule there, before taking over as the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India in December 1990 -- an appointment that came on the back of Rajiv Gandhi's support whose backing was critical for the survival of the then Chandra Shekhar government.

In the early part of 1991, up to



SRI VENKITARAMANAN 1931-2023

rapid depletion of India's foreign exchange reserves, which by that time, at a little over \$1 billion, was enough perhaps to cover just three weeks of imports.

There was the secrecy of operations: the first tranche of the pledged gold (20 tonnes) helped raise \$200 million as India went to polls in May 1991 after the tragic assassination of Rajiv Gandhi. Another 47 tonnes of gold raised \$400 million and subsequent measures by a new government led by Narasimha Rao marked an end to crisis management and firefighting then.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

BRIDGE

Dealer: South Vulnerable: None. NORTH: ♠ 63, ♥ 8642, ♦ AQ1097, ♣ J3. SOUTH: ♠ AQ5, ♥ AK9, ♦ KJ, ♣ A9762. WEST: ♠ 3C, ♥ 3D, ♦ 3NT, ♣ 3NT. EAST: ♠ 2NT, ♥ 3D, ♦ 3NT, ♣ 3NT.

West leads the jack of spades and South wins East's king with the ace. The first trick that South noticed were the five diamonds in dummy. A nice, solid source of tricks. Should South keep his eyes on the diamonds?

The West hand: S-J 10 9 8 4 H-J 10 D-8 5 4 C-K 10 B. The East hand: S-K 7 2 H-Q 7 5 D-6 3 2 C-Q 5 4.

South has ten top tricks and running the diamonds is going to be part of this. When he is finished with them he will have the same tricks he started with and no chance for an eleventh trick. You do not have time to play on clubs but that fragile heart suit offers a chance.

How you get an extra heart trick is simple enough. You play the ace and king and nine and look to see if you have set up a heart trick. The important thing is that you do this before you run the diamonds. Your only entry to dummy is in diamonds and if you run the diamond suit first, you won't have access to a good heart. Your ace and king of hearts collect West's jack and ten. Your nine goes to East's queen, West discarding a diamond on this trick. Back comes a spade.

What now? Just run off your winners. One question you have to answer is whether dummy's eight of hearts is good. Do you know? If not, go back and read the earlier discussion.

Dealer: East Vulnerable: None.

NORTH: ♠ 5, ♥ KJ10987, ♦ 542, ♣ K65. SOUTH: ♠ Q104, ♥ AQ2, ♦ AK863, ♣ J22.

West: ♠ 1S, ♥ 4D, ♦ 4H, ♣ 4H. North: ♠ 1NT, ♥ 4D, ♦ 4H, ♣ 4H. East: ♠ 4H, ♥ 4H, ♦ 4H, ♣ 4H. South: ♠ 4H, ♥ 4H, ♦ 4H, ♣ 4H.

West leads the nine of spades to East's king. Back comes the jack of diamonds. What is the greatest danger to 4H?

SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2452

QUICK CLUES ACROSS

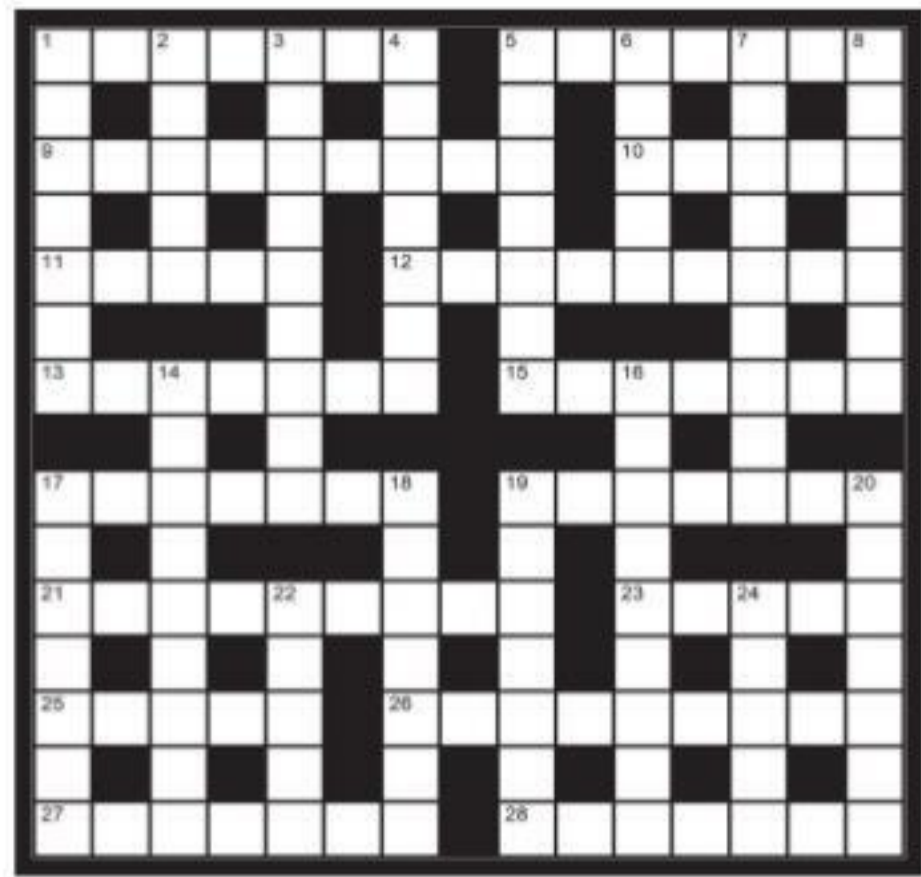
- 1. White of egg (7)
5. Junkies (7)
9. Confinement (9)
10. Unit of weight (5)
11. Golfer Palmer, to fans (5)
12. Enforce (9)
13. Organized group (7)
15. Capital of Armenia (7)
17. The time between events (7)
19. Big Bang Theory's ___ Cooper (7)
21. Temple on the Acropolis (9)
23. Let (5)
25. Computer codes, in short ? (5)
26. Pierce (9)
27. More rapid (7)
28. Milliner or dress-maker (7)

DOWN

- 1. Outstanding debt (7)
2. US wild ox (5)
3. Street trader (9)
4. Loudly and rowdily (7)
5. Corner's job (7)
6. Electronic valve (5)
7. Stored, safeguarded or protected (9)
8. Flavour with sugar (7)
14. Waterfalls (9)
16. Showed what happened (2-7)
17. Charge with misconduct in public office (7)
18. State neighbouring Assam (7)
19. A word that means the same (7)
20. Not at any place (7)
22. Caribbean republic (5)
24. Puts on; a lot (5)

CRYPTIC CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Sea creature beat its victim (7)
5. Contacts with small-time outcries of pain (7)
9. Downy fibre on weapon first producing deadly mixture (9)
10. A hundred parasites come back to see him (5)
11. Say an unqualified word (5)
12. Alone, poor Noone is planted (2,4,3)
13. To issue some formal authority to break silence (7)
15. I sent the editor out to face his doom (7)
17. Acceptable behaviour monarch drummed into wife (7)
19. No one left as ideal partner? (2,5)
21. Number of potential customers to pay for drops (9)



- 23. Submarine is turning about (1-4)
24. Is compelled to change a nag for a livelier horse (7)
25. Los Angeles has put in for foreign capital (5)
26. Slight reduction in price coming on stream for barbecue (9)
27. Throws out the chest f'd broken (7)
28. Twisted, heartless guy scored (7)

Solutions to 2451

QUICK CLUES Across: 1 Donors, 4 Stairway, 10 Alternate, 11 Prang, 12 River, 13 Numerator, 14 Botched, 16 Lied, 19 Brac, 21 Not well, 24 Intrinsic, 25 Precip, 26 Bring, 27 Overshoot, 28 Destroy, 29 Python, Down: 1 Distribute, 2 Nativity, 3 Rare, 5 Thermal, 6 Imperfect, 7 Wealth, 8 Yagurt, 9 Darned, 15 Harbinger, 17 Behemoth, 18 Plankton, 20 Custody, 21 Nicked, 22 Ribbed, 23 Attics, 25 Pesky, CRYPTIC CLUES Across: 1 Lapsed, 4 Splits up, 10 Costarica, 11 Paris, 12 Natal, 13 Prototype, 14 Stoopied, 16 Pipe, 19 Mobs, 21 Blubber, 24 Duplicate, 25 Padua, 26 Lodge, 27 Ironclads, 28 Superly, 29 Espies, Down: 1 Loch Ness, 2 Position, 3 Email, 5 Peasoup, 6 Impromptu, 7 Sprays, 8 Passes, 9 Ripped, 15 Profiteer, 17 Abu Dhabi, 18 Arkansas, 20 Spatial, 21 Breton, 22 Addles, 23 Speed up, 25 Pocks.

If it's your Birthday

Sunday November 19 Give some thought to financial matters, especially if you're handling other people's funds. Your instinct is to spend, spend, but think if the cost is worth it.

Monday November 20 Practical matters come first but, once all the routine work is out of the way, you'll be able to explore some really adventurous options.

Tuesday October 21 It's an enjoyable rather than a profitable moment, with plenty of interest in your affairs from people close to you. Continue to take care in all monetary matters.

Wednesday November 22 Once you sort your finances and material security, you'll create space to try out new ideas and time to develop a romantic relationship.

Thursday November 23 You'll be in search of pastures new, tickled by nomadic and restless tendencies. You must be absolutely sure that you're making the right move.

Friday November 24 By revisiting long-held assumptions you will work out a better path for the future with positive consequences personal and professional activities.

Saturday November 25 The Sun says one thing, the Moon does another. It's a day to chop and change, trying a little of this and doing a little of that. It's a year to alternate between sticking to tried and tested ways, and breaking out to try something new.

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) The happy news is that Venus, planet of love and pleasure is sending you encouragement. The welcome result should be a lift in your morale. You'll find it that much easier to get on with people and form satisfying emotional ties.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23) The planets are in a muddle, but you can make your own choices. This is an excellent time for all business-minded Librans. Any decisions taken now are likely to be revised or regretted later on. When it comes to spending, be sure what you want.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21) You're an honest, straightforward person. Yet now that you're about to enter a rather secretive phase, you will face the temptation to cover up the truth. My word of advice for the next month is to be open and above board in all your dealings, including in personal matters.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23) The Sun is edging its way towards a confrontation with your chart, so you will have to face the music sooner or later. Come clean about all past blunders and convince other people you were in the right, and had no choice. And do give partners the benefit of the doubt.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) Mercury's excitable behaviour is making life seem rather blurred around the edges. Most of you are having a hard time just getting a fix on what it is you're supposed to be doing, and why. Actually, this is an ideal time to question your current involvements, setting yourself free for a number of improvements.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23) A financial problem should now lie in the past, which will come as quite a relief. At the very least, you can look forward to a smoother ride in the future. And, as an added bonus, you're about to receive all the credit you so richly deserve for all your past efforts and achievements. Also, be sure to listen to good advice later in the week.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23) The entire week will be dominated by the gradual approach of Venus and Mars to their various meetings with Jupiter, planet of hope and optimism. You must realise that this is a time when you may achieve your life-long goals, always provided you are prepared to take a giant leap of faith: you have to believe in yourself.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20) Sun's gentle change of position helps you come to terms with your motives and calm your shattered nerves, and get back on your feet. The best planetary patterns arouse romantic thoughts for all the young-at-heart, however old they are. I hope that includes you.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23) The Moon gives you a flying start, but not until the middle of the week. All you need to do is make sure that your very wonderful ideas are put into practice in every detail. Inspiration is on the way which arranges you actually prefer. Even when you settle on a particular option, you may find that matters outside your control cause delays.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19) Home improvements are figured in this week's stars, as are family meetings. You are finding it difficult to make up your mind about which arrangements you actually prefer. Even when you settle on a particular option, you may find that matters outside your control cause delays.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23) You are now caught between two marvellous planetary alignments, one which encourages you to break free, the other which urges you to stay where you are. If there is a problem, it's too much choice. The planets are begging you to put your daily routine to one side and indulge yourself in your favourite fancy.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20) Mars is now strengthening its role in your life, meaning that you will find it easier to stand up for yourself over the rest of the month. The only word of advice is to avoid losing your temper or insisting that other people bend to your way of doing things.

JUMBLER WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

Word puzzles with letters in shaded squares. PYAEE, AIOCMT, KIERS, CEIOBX.

SUDOKU 5386

Difficulty Level 2s Instructions To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

A 9x9 Sudoku grid with some numbers filled in.

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5385

A 9x9 Sudoku grid with the solution numbers filled in.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that this Person (depicted in the photo) namely RAHUL S/o Mahesh Thakur R/o H. No. 32/2, Plot No. 22A, Sunday Bazar, Kikar Chock, Chandar Vihar, New Delhi has been missing/kidnapped from his residence. In this regard a vide FIR No./DD No. 107-A, Dated 14.11.2023 has been lodged at PS Uttam Nagar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out this person but no clue has come to light so far.

His physical description is as under:- Sex: Male, Age: 26 years, Height: 5' 9" feet, Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Build: Thin, Wearing: Blue colour Shirt & Half Pant and Blue colour slippers in feet. Any person is having information or clue about this missing person may kindly inform to the following telephone numbers:- SHO PS: Uttam Nagar, Delhi Ph: 011-25377425, 25377600 Mob: 8750871026 DP/13155/DW/2023

Government of Odisha OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER CUTTACK (R&B) CIRCLE, CUTTACK ('e'-PROCUREMENT NOTICE) Bid Identification No. CCE.Ctc (R&B) 27/2023-24

- 1. The Chief Construction Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Circle, Cuttack on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites on Percentage rate basis bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Building work as mentioned below.
2. No. of work :- 01 No.
3. Nature of work :- Building work
4. Class of Contractor :- 'B' & 'A' Class
5. Tender paper cost :- Rs. 10000/- (online)
6. Available of bid documents :- From 22.11.2023 to 17.30 Hours in the web site, of 06.12.2023
7. Date of opening of bid :- Dt. 07.12.2023 at 11.00 Hours
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said web site.

Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer Cuttack (R&B) Circle OIPR-34012/11/0041/2324

The Executive Engineer, TUDA (Tripura Urban Planning & Development Authority) invites e-tender against PNIET No.: 24/EE/TUDA/2023-24 dated 08.11.2023 for "Improvement of Roads and Storm Water Drainage System in Khowai, Ranirbazar and Mohanpur (Cluster IA Towns)." with following salient details.
1. Estimated Cost: Rs. 56,43,70,781.00 (Rupees Fifty Six Crore Forty Three Lakhs Seventy Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty One only)
2. Bid Fee: Rs. 11,800.00 (Rupees Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred Only) (including 18% GST)
3. Earnest Money: Rs. 56,44,000.00 (Rupees Fifty-Six Lakhs Forty-Four Thousand only)
4. Time of Completion: 1095 Days.
5. Last date & time for online Bidding: 28.12.2023 up to 15:00 Hours.
6. Bid Opening Date and Time: 28.12.2023 up to 16:00 Hours. Note: The bid forms and other details including online activities should be done only in the e-procurement portal https://tripuratenders.gov.in. Submission of Bids physically not permitted.

Sd/- (Er.N.K.Jamatia) Executive Engineer Tripura Urban Planning & Development Authority Agartala, Tripura (W) ICAC/3169/23

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice Tender No.: SE/PHC/MPM/236 to 238/2023-24 JIM Malappuram District- CWSS to Edavanna GP Providing FHTCS, Road Restoration and allied works... Website: www.kwa.kerala.gov.in

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA Public Works Division, Dharashiv E-tender Notice No.: 14/2023-24 Online Tenders invited by the Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Dharashiv (Phone No. 02472-222882/83) B-1 from eligible contractors. Website: http://mahatenders.gov.in & www.mahapwd.com Sd/- Executive Engineer Public Works Division, Dharashiv dgjpr/2023-24/4941

झारखण्ड राज्य ग्रामीण पथ विकास प्राधिकरण (JSRRDA) एफएफपीए अवन, तृतीय तल्ला, धूर्वा, राँची - 834004, झारखण्ड

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना ई-निविदा संख्या:- 141/2023-24 दिनांक :- 16.11.2023 मुख्य अभियंता, जेएनएसआरआरडीएनए, राँची द्वारा निम्नविबरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL DEVELOPMENT SPECIAL DIVISION, CHATRA Expression of Interest

EOI No.: RDD/SD/CHATRA/EOI-25/2023-24 The Executive Engineer, Rural Development Special Division, Chatra invites proposals thereafter referred as bid(s) from eligible bidders for entering into a Rate Contracts for the Supply and installation of Medical Equipment/Appliances Accessories etc. of child care ward at banhe, g.p banhe of simaria block, distt.-chatra as per details hereunder.

Table with 3 columns: Sl. No., Particulars, Details. Contains details about the medical equipment tender.

Note: 1. Tender Fee and EMD will be received through online mode only. Bidders can use internet banking facility for faster processing of Tender fee and EMD. Alternatively, Bidders can use NEFT/RTGS challan generated for the tender from https://jhrkhandtenders.gov.in portal. 2. Refund will only be issued to originated bank account used for the payment of Tender Fee and EMD. So, Bidders are advised Not to close Bank Account used for online payment (NEFT/RTGS) of tender fee and EMD. 3. No Hardcopy/Physical copy is required to be submitted for tender opening/Evaluation. However, Department may ask original documents for verification before award of contract 4. The specified dates and time may change due to declaration of holidays or any other unforeseen circumstances. The same shall be informed through web portal and when required. 5. The detailed tender notice terms and conditions can be obtained from the website https://jhrkhandtenders.gov.in & copies of technical bid and financial bid can be downloaded there from. 6. Companies registered under Jharkhand MSME/MSME under Gov. of India. Executive Engineer, R.D.Spl.Division, Chatra. PR 311619 (Rural Development) 23-24 (D)

Punjab & Sind Bank Zonal Office - Delhi-1 Bank invites offers, under two bid system, for premises, measuring carpet area 1700 to 2000 sq. ft., on ground floor, on lease basis for a minimum period of 15 years for Branch Office at Jagatpuri, Near Nathu Colony Chowk, Mandoli Road, New Modern Shahdara, Delhi-110093. For details visit our website www.punjabandsindbank.co.in ZONAL MANAGER

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY E-TENDER No. EL 254/78 (T) Dated: 10.11.2023 DRM (Electrical) NWR Ajmer on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders for the following work up to 15.00 Hrs. on the mentioned date. Tender No.: DRM-Elect-63-23-24 Name of work : All Div: Replacement of solar hot water plant at various locations on age cum condition basis over Ajmer division. Approximate cost of work : Rs. 64600/- Date of closing E-Tender: 30.11.23 Tender No.: DRM-Elect-64-23-24 Name of work : All Div: Improvement of electrical assets in DRM office Ajmer near by colonies / bungalows in GLO area Ajmer. Approximate cost of work : Rs. 1128984/- Earnest Money : Rs. 22600/- Date of closing E-Tender: 30.11.23 Tender No.: DRM-Elect-65-23-24 Name of work : Outsourcing of trip maintenance of Train No. 12987/86 Ajmer Sealdah Superfast Express at Coaching Depot Madar & Train No. 19615/16 Udaipur city- Kamakhya Kaviguru Express at Coaching depot, Udaipur over Ajmer division for the period of two years. Approximate cost of work : Rs. 132100/- Earnest Money : Rs. 132100/- Date of closing E-Tender: 04.12.23 The details of above E-tender are available on website www.irps.gov.in 1182-CQ/23 Follow us on: NWRRailways NWRRailways

SALUTE THE SOLDIER NAIK VELLA NEELAKANTA REDDY, SM 9 MADRAS (TRAVANCORE) All ranks of TRAVANCORE TERRORS pay homage to Naik VN Reddy, SM who made the supreme sacrifice while fighting terrorists in Surankote (J&K) on this day in 1997. We salute his brave deeds on the 26th Anniversary of his martyrdom. You will always remain a source of inspiration for all of us. Commanding Officer & All Ranks 9 MADRAS (TRAVANCORE)

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRONICS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED 1st & Ground Floor, I.T. Bhawan, Mehli, Shimla -171 013 Tel. No. 0177-2623259, 2623513, 2626320, 2623043, FAX: 0177-2626320, Website: www.hpsedc.in No.: SEDC/ST/DSC/2K23-12605 Date: 17.11.2023 E-TENDER NOTICE e-Tenders are invited from eligible bidders for theRate Contract/procurement of Digital Signature Certificates for various departments in Himachal Pradesh about 500 numbers. Last date for online e-bid submission is 04.12.2023 (upto 02:30 PM) and shall be opened on 05.12.2023 at 2:30 PM.(Detailed Tender Document containing Technical Specifications and Terms & Conditions are available on HPSEDC website www.hpsedc.in and https://hptenders.gov.in. General Manager (Technical) 0872/HP

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, राँची एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि इस कार्यालय द्वारा ई-निविदा संख्या-10/RE/2023-24/RWD/EE/RANCHI, P.R. No.-309619 REO (23-24)_D एवं PR 311193 REO (23-24)#D द्वारा दैनिक समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित हुआ था। जिसमें निविदा खोलने की तिथि 30.11.2023 के स्थान पर 01.12.2023 पढ़ा जाय। कार्यपालक अभियंता PR 311636 REO(23-24).D ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, राँची

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कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय राष्ट्रीय उच्च पथ प्रमंडल, देवघर ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट सूचना अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा प्रसंग सं- NH/DEOGHAR/SDB/01/2023-24 दिनांक:- 18/11/2023



Of course, it is (the biggest day). There's a laugh going around in the changing room, there's a bit of tense faces as well... but that's normal.

ROHIT SHARMA, INDIA CAPTAIN, ON THE MOOD WITHIN THE TEAM

In sport, there's nothing more satisfying than hearing a big crowd go silent and that's the aim for us tomorrow (Sunday).

PAT CUMMINS, AUSTRALIA CAPTAIN, ON PLAYING THE HOME TEAM IN FRONT OF A PARTISAN CROWD

Will Blue be the new Yellow?

India has blended immense skill and big-time personalities to capture everybody's imagination, like Australia used to in their pomp

SANDIP G

AHMEDABAD, NOVEMBER 18

TO THINK of Australia cricket is to think of the hallowed green and golden yellow shirt. Of Shane Warne and Steve Waugh in the baggy outfits and large collars of 1999; of Ricky Ponting in bright yellow with a splash of green on the sides; of Adam Gilchrist in gold and bottle green union of 2007, and Mitchell Starc in the all-gold 2015. Of various other heroes who have rendered the hues of the jersey meanings and emotions deeper than the identity of a country's sporting uniform. Green and golden yellow—yellow being the most resplendent hue—stands for power, beauty and courage, those characteristics that define the country's sporting culture.

For 15 years, yellow was the sign of dread and horror, of jealousy and awe. An apparition of the mere colour was enough to induce a cold sweat and stomach churn. No other colour in the game—the different shades of green, blue or black—could stain, forget discolor, the yellow.

Yellow has not faded this World Cup, but just that a vibrant, bright Blue has put it to shade, letting the tournament aglow in blue.

This edition has all been about the Blue Brethren. It is not only the most omniscient colour, but also the colour that excites everyone, the shade that lingers in the eyes and consciousness, the colour that has defined the tournament. For 43 days it has been a carnival of blue, waiting for a fitting closure, a coronation, an official passing of the crown. It began on a Sunday and would end on another Sunday, six weeks apart; it began with Australia and ends with Australia.

If they beat the five-time world champions, there would not be a more symbolic moment in the World Cup, a transfer of power, a definite emblem of the new world order. When the colour blue achieves mythical powers, when it begins to breathe a life of its own.

Between the Sundays, the men in blue (an unimaginative marketing caption that has over years been embraced by fans) have produced such a lofty brand of cricket that their journey has remained the central narrative of the tournament. They are the most-watched team not because they are playing at home, but they are the most watchable team too. Like the men in yellow of the aughts, the men in blue of 20s are a blend of twinkling skills and immense personalities orchestrating a version of cricket that's incredibly thrilling. There has been an unput-downable quality about them—you watch them and you are immersed unto a world of you and them, an experience that enthralled and educates you, reveals the different multiverses of the game.

Like the Australians from 1999 to 2011, every cricketer inhabits a space in not your head. Some in your heart too. Loyalties were kept aside when you watched Warne and Waugh, Gilchrist and Mike Hussey. Time zones were forgotten. Like them, there is no mundane cell in this team. Each one demands a space of his own; you tune into each one for a different experience. Rohit Sharma for the dopamine rush of a batsman ripping new-ball bowlers apart; Shubman Gill for a peep into the future of the game; Virat Kohli is a pill to forget all your problems in life; Shreyas Iyer to feel young again, to transport yourself back into



WITHIN TOUCHING DISTANCE

Captains Rohit Sharma and Pat Cummins pose with the World Cup trophy at the Adalaj stepwell in Ahmedabad on the eve of the final. ICC

■ PM Narendra Modi and Australian Deputy PM Richard Marles will be among the key attendees. Other dignitaries include Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti.

■ More than 6,000 security personnel will be deployed in Ahmedabad for the final. Of these, nearly 3,000 will be stationed inside the stadium, said Ahmedabad Commissioner of Police GS Malik.

■ The Surya Kiran acrobatic team of the Indian Air Force will put up a dazzling air show before the match gets underway. The airshow is scheduled to be staged between 1.30 pm and 1.50 pm.

■ Gujarati singer Aditya Gadhvi, of *Khalasi* fame, will perform during the first innings drinks break while a special laser and light show will be performed during the drinks break in the second innings.

your carefree youth; K:L Rahul teaches about the powers to harness the outer reaches of your outsized talents; Jasprit Bumrah about the nature's way of conceiving something uniquely natural; Mohammed Shami about the geometric patterns a white leather ball could trace; Kuldeep Yadav about the unfathomable mysteries of the world.

Sense of fulfillment

In them, cricket finds perfection and symmetry, a sense of fulfillment. There is something for everyone, the romantics, the connoisseurs, the pundits and the lay watchers. Or you needn't be any of these, but could still search for your remote control during match-time. They are an addiction, that keeps you craving for more. There is nothing jarring about them—so much so that they could be the near-perfect, perfect white-ball team. Everything seems organic, the pieces revolve with perfect synchronicity. Rather, it's too

good to be a team. Perhaps not a team, or even a dream team. But a dream itself.

For similar reasons the world once tuned to watch Australia, they hoard behind to watch India. Not just the one billion home supporters, but probably every pair of eyes that has cast itself on them.

But one hurdle remains to splash the whole tournament and the trophy with large ears blue. That is to rip the yellow apart. They have already done it once, in the first game, but with fleeting jitters. But India would be better aware that Australia is a different proposition in knockouts. It's when they suddenly reproduce the qualities of their national flower, the golden wattle, considered a symbol of hope, resilience and unity, the inspiration for splashing their jerseys yellow.

Only thrice in the last seven editions has Australia not lifted the World Cup. In all these instances, the team that defeated Australia went onto lift the trophy (India in 2011 quar-

terfinals, England in the 2019 semifinals and Sri Lanka in 1996 semifinals).

Beating them emboldens teams, fills them with unbeatable self-belief. The members of the 2011 World Cup still regard the victory over Australia—on the very ground they would play the final, but before it was refurbished and renamed—as the most significant moment of their career. Suresh Raina considers his unbeaten 34 the most important knock of his career. Virender Sehwag felt it was the moment they won the World Cup.

Parallels are already being drawn. Pat Cummins was asked whether the Indian team reminds him of Australia in 2003. He would break into a smile and reply matter-of-factly: "Neither player from both sides were there in 2003, so it feels a long time ago. But they've been playing really well, undefeated in this tournament." He did not gush praises, but you could see the shine in his eyes, the sudden surge of excitement.

His counterpart Rohit Sharma was asked about the aura of the Australians of a different era and he would dismiss it. "I don't believe in anything as an aura. What happened in the past does not bother me. I don't over-think about the past or the future," he said. But whatever his convictions are, a square light will burn around the heads, if they conquer Australia.

The fatalists among fans have already seen cosmic connections. "In 2003, Australia were on a 10-match winning streak before the final; India on eight; in 2023, India are on a 10-match winning run and Australia on eight. The stats-diggers have already begun to compare 2007 Australia Invincibles and 2023 India Unbeatables with numbers and detailed analysis. All of these are subplots that make this contest game-defining.

Just the last step is all that beckons, a leap into cricketing immortality, for Blue to stamp out the Yellow.

Is Warner a sitting duck for Shami?

IN THEIR encounter earlier in the tournament, India triumphed by six wickets at Chennai. And while India have gone from strength-to-strength since then, Australia have bounced back impressively. Here are the key match-ups:

OPENING GAMBIT

Shami's incredible record against lefties

India's bowling to Australia's top order will be fascinating to watch and all eyes will be on Mohammed Shami, who has 23 wickets in just six outings at an incredible average of 9.1. His tournament figures against left-handers are even more staggering (Balls 52, Wkts 8, Avg 4, economy rate 3.7). David Warner and Travis Head are capable of providing a flying start for Australia and Shami could be key to nullifying that threat.

David a Goliath against right-arm seamers

Warner, especially, has been in good form, scoring 528 runs at 52.8 with a strike rate of 107.5 at this World Cup. He has been particularly aggressive against right-arm seamers (Runs 228, Avg 45.6, SR 118). India's pace unit, meanwhile, is the best in the tournament (Wkts 62, Avg: 19.8).

Zampa the 'right' choice

Adam Zampa is Australia's leading wicket-taker in this World Cup (22). The leg-spinner was key to his team's turnaround after a poor start. The significant match-up would be his battle against India's right-hander-heavy batting lineup. Zampa has done extremely well against right-handers (Avg 15.8, SR 17.8) compared to left-handers (Avg 40.6, SR 42.8).

Turning up for the big game

Virat Kohli broke many records in the semifinal, but the most important from an Indian point of view was his first fifty-plus score in an ODI World Cup knockout match. In 2023, India have won 85 percent of matches when Kohli has gone past 50. He has been in astonishing form in the tournament, averaging 101.6. Kohli has been equally good against pace (Runs 414, Avg 69) and spin (Runs 297, Outs 1).

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

DIGNIFIED GIANT

Cummins on verge of entering pantheon of great Australia captains

SANDIP G

AHMEDABAD, NOVEMBER 18

PAT CUMMINS paused and took a long deep breath. He was asked about the frenetic year that was 2023. He fingers tapped the microphone, the broad features of his face went tighter, as though he would produce an evoking monologue. But he would deflate the gravity and significance of the year in platitudes like "it has been a huge year," or that the one constant in the team "has been the morale in the year." The usual skipper-speak.

But 2023 was no ordinary year for him; it was several years rolled into one, a year that both broke and remade him.

It was a year he plunged the depths of sorrow and scaled the peaks of joy, a year his world fell apart but also the one he rebuilt, displaying immense courage and resilience through tough times and showing impeccable grace in good times. It was the year he lost his mother, forcing him to leave his colleagues midway through a Test tour in India. It was the year his captaincy faced the sternest of tests. A year that was bitter and sweet at the same time.

Even before the year began, it was supposed to be the sternest year of both Cummins the captain and Cummins the bowler, both twains inseparably intertwined.

In the backdrop was playing the illness of his mother, the responsibilities of a young father. His unreal composure was facing its stiffest reality check. Just three months into 2023, he lost his mother. Just when he was recovering from the loss, he would hear the pundits ripping his captaincy apart. In his absence, Steve Smith would lead the team to a rare victory in a Test match in India and a draw.

Cummins-criticisms intensified; Smith-sympathy intensified.

But Cummins did not wither in the storm. He barely uttered a word in angst or sprung a staunch defense of himself. Such banal responses are not in his nature. The actions, and not words, would speak louder.

Four months later, he would win the World Test Championship, two months on, he would retain the urn, define the games with bat and ball. In Birmingham, he grabbed four wickets and scored 38 and 44 not out, the latter orchestrating a two-wicket heist. Still, the critics would hound, censuring him for squandering a 2-0 advantage and missing the chance to win a series in England for the second time this century.

His serenity was misconstrued as a lack of fire, his dignity an antithesis of the fabled Aussie ruggedness, his diminished numbers in Ashes misinterpreted as a sign of captaincy burdening him. Holes too were found in his demeanor. He smiled too often, he fired no salvos, he waged no war. He broke the arche-



The World Cup final will be a high point in a bitter-sweet year for Pat Cummins. AP

type of an Australian captain as a throbbing Alpha Male specimen.

Yet, he retained the Ashes, which Ricky Ponting and Michael Clarke had failed to in England; he held aloft the World Test Championship mace, the first Australian captain to. And now, he has taken his team to the World Cup final. Perhaps, of all the tournaments, this has been Cummins's most influential one, his coup de grace, paradoxically coming in a format whose soul he admitted he had not conquered. The stats-board re-

veals precious little. All he has in 10 games is 13 wickets at 37, an economy rate of 6.05; 128 runs at a strike rate of 68. He did admit that captaincy was affecting his bowling and sometimes decision-making, but did not wear a mask of false bravado.

But Australia's revival in the World Cup began with Cummins. After two defeats and a horrific start against Sri Lanka, his spell was to change the game. From 125 for no loss, he took out the openers, and Sri Lanka crumbled to 209 all out.

In the direst of moments, Cummins descended from nowhere, a superhero without pretending to be one. Against New Zealand, he cracked 37 off 14 and removed centurion Rachin Ravindra in a game Australia won by five runs; versus Afghanistan his 68-ball 12 not out was a second-fiddle masterclass, his 14 off 29 balls against South Africa in the semifinals was as significant.

Earlier that game, he had set the tone with the backpedaling devil of a catch to devour Quinton de Kock. The inscrutable face of peace slipped—he celebrated as hysterically as you would ever see him. He was the emperor of little moments, and on those little moments have Australia reached where they are now, an unanticipated run to the finals, a shot at being held in as much awe as Steve Waugh and Ricky Ponting, Allan Border and Michael Clarke.

He was reminded of Waugh and Ponting, but hiding the boyish enthusiasm bubbling inside him, he said: "We were all kids not too long ago, watching some of those great teams

win the 99, 2003, 2007 World Cups. That's the opportunity ahead of us tomorrow, which is really exciting. To be captain would be an absolute privilege to lift the trophy with these great bunch of blokes." Here thus is a captain not crushed by the burden of the past, not overawed by the sparkling present, not bothered about the uncertain future.

All he perhaps needs is a defining performance, as Waugh (the hundred against South Africa in Super Six) and Ponting (hundred in the final). There perhaps is no bigger stage than the final, but even if he does not, he has already defined the tournament, shaped it with little precious moments. Take those away, and Australia would have long fallen apart.

In a way, this has been the year of Cummins in Australian cricket.

Whether or not he adds a World Cup to the list of achievements, he would not forget 2023. The year that broke and remade him, several years rolled into one, a year that was both sweet and bitter.



Rohit Sharma shadow-practises on Saturday. The India skipper has scored 550 runs at a strike rate of 124.15 while opening the innings.

Nirmal Harindran

With a conducive wicket on offer, Ashwin an option

Australia have struggled to deal with the spinner of late, which could bring him into contention for final

SANDIP G
AHMEDABAD, NOVEMBER 18

ROHIT SHARMA was non-committal about Ravichandran Ashwin's chances of playing in the World Cup final. "Anyone from the 15 can play. We will have to see how the wicket looks tomorrow, and what it is, what our strength is, and what their weakness can be," he said. It's perhaps on the word "weakness", that the intrigue of Ashwin featuring in the final hangs.

Why is Ashwin a threat for Australia?

In India's World Cup opener against Australia, Ashwin not only kept them quiet but also threatened to grab a wicket almost every over. He finished with figures of 10-1-34-1, the scalp being Cameron Green, but could have added more wickets to his tally. Ashwin beat Steve Smith with a devilish carrom ball that spun almost like a leg-break.

In the two games he played against them before the World Cup, he had confounded the best of Australian batsmen with his full range of trickery. He had David Warner batting right-handed and trapped him in front on a reverse-sweep; he foxed Marnus Labuschagne with a reverse-carrom ball; he tormented Josh Inglis before nailing him in front. The off-spinner was fielded in the opening game not only because the Chepauk pitch helped spinners, but also due to his familiarity bowling against the cream of Australia's batsmen.

What brightens his chances?

Only Stuart Broad has troubled David Warner more than Ashwin across formats; he could be the antidote against the counterpunching Travis Head too. India could even open the bowling with Ashwin. Smith and Ashwin have had their battles, and of late Ashwin has had the better of them.

At Chepauk, he had beaten Smith with a delicious carrom ball; in the three-match series prior to the World Cup, he had laid bare Labuschagne's inadequacies in handling quality spin bowling.

His record at home against the Aussies is impressive though not outrageous (17 wickets at 31 in 11 games).

Does his experience matter?

Ashwin's experience of being part of victorious team in a knockout game against Australia — the World Cup quarterfinal in 2011 — could turn influential. In that game, he would knock out Ricky Ponting and Shane Watson, the latter bowled and the former caught when attempting a rare reverse hit.

He had teased and coaxed the Aussie skipper into playing a shot that he seldom resorted to.

Ashwin could recreate a similar effect on Sunday. Of all the Indian spinners, he could be the one Australia fear the most. He has the stifling control of Ravindra Jadeja and the raging variations of Kuldeep Yadav. Whereas the latter has been conservative about unloading his whole range to tricks, Ashwin has been parading multiple layers of deception lately.

Moreover, if the pitch is on the slower side, as it's expected to be, an extra spinner, especially that with the supreme skills of Ashwin, would be a sensible decision rather than a third seamer.

What did the captains say about the pitch?

Rohit judged that the pitch could be on the slower side. "I still haven't looked today how the wicket is but from my understanding obviously it's slightly going to be on the slower side," he said. Cummins felt it was on the "firmer side" and more conducive to racking up big scores unlike the one in Kolkata.

What could work against Ashwin?

Even without him, India have been a balanced bowling firm.

Three seamers and two spinners have done the job with aplomb. Even Mohammed Siraj — the omission in case Ashwin plays — has snared 13 wickets at 32.61. Hence, it's uncertain whether the team management would want to disrupt the status quo in the final.

Would his batting prowess come handy?

From a batting perspective too, Ashwin promises more runs and stability down the order than Siraj, the likeliest candidate to make way for the off-spinner.

If so, Ashwin would end an old regret of his, sitting out of the 2011 final when S Sreesanth replaced him.

2015

McCullum b Starc

2023

Will Rohit charge Starc?

Sharma stepping out to the quicks has set the tone for India in the Powerplays, but only time will tell if the India captain will stick with this method against Australia's strike bowler in the final

SRIRAM VEERA
AHMEDABAD, NOVEMBER 18

IF THERE is a defining shot of this World Cup, it's the imperious down-the-pitch charge to seamers by India captain Rohit Sharma. If there is one defining ball from the 2015 World Cup final, it's Mitchell Starc's devilish yorker that clattered the stumps of the advancing Brendon McCullum, New Zealand's talisman. Rohit versus Starc could well determine the outcome of the final.

Mirroring Australia's ride, Starc has picked up his tempo mid-way, and is peaking as the final approaches. Australia need Starc to deliver the knock-out blow early, India need Rohit to dictate terms early.

The 'Rohit charge' captures the way India have bossed around the opposition in this World Cup. It's not a shot that has come in good times, when the team is riding a wave; instead, it's that stroke of ballsiness that stirred the Indian batting unit, giving them freedom, direction, and the aura.

It's the shot that has shredded plans and had the opponents looking for Plan B and C. From Trent Boult in the semi-final to Matt Henry in India's first game against New Zealand — the only two matches where India were stretched a bit, Rohit has dismantled the well-laid plans with this shot. Matt Henry, the man who had knocked him out in the 2019 semi-final had started well here, but Rohit deflated him by advancing down the pitch and putting him beyond extra cover. Same with Boult, who had to quickly abandon his round-the-stumps plan to cramp Rohit.

When India and Australia met for the first time in this tournament in Chennai, it was Josh Hazlewood who trapped Rohit with a sharp



Starc celebrates after dismissing McCullum for a duck in the 2015 final.

Reuters

nip-backer. However, this sluggish Ahmedabad pitch might not aid such trickery.

Of late, especially after the sand-paper gate of ball-tampering, the Aussies have also gone a bit soft. Former captains like Allan Border have been sighing if not in anger but in perplexity, seemingly bewildered by this 'UnAustralian' way. Machismo in sport, and in cricket, has been the Aussie way. They occasionally behaved like bullies, their coaches and cricketing system envied around the cricketing world. Even their swear words were aped.

The F-word for a particular generation in India didn't come in from American movies but from watching zinc-creamed Aussies.

Under Pat Cummins, a fiercely competitive player with a ball or bat in hand but who has been called 'unAustralian' by their former players and 'Captain Woke' by tabloids, that softness has been accentuated.

It's Starc who can make them snarl again on field if he can stab out Rohit with a brute of a ball. Against South Africans in the semi-final, the 'good-old' Aussies resurfaced after Starc knocked down the captain Temba Bavuma and the vice-captain Aiden Markram. Suddenly, the field of green was being coloured yellow. They seemed everywhere, diving, fist-pumping, back-slapping, and being in-the-face of the opponents against whom they had tampered the ball and forced into going soft.

A throwback to the 2015 World Cup final can be a fruitful detour. New Zealand were riding on the McCullum wave and for the first time in years looked like the team who swaggered more than their famous neighbours. It took Starc just three balls to yank the mask, and reveal the vulnerable Kiwi faces. A charge and a miss, a swing and a miss, and a

yorker that shook the off stump. Game over. India showed in the first game here where they lost three wickets for nothing, that they have enough firepower to win the game. But in the pressure-cooker of a final, if Rohit falls early, it would be fascinating to see how the rest respond.

Rohit better than McCullum

Rohit is not McCullum, though. He isn't driven by restless energy. He isn't consumed by an urge to make a statement for the sake of it. The charge to seamers isn't the defining shot of his game; it's the pull and the lofted straight drive. It's a shot he has actively pursued this World Cup to inspire his teammates and unsettle the opponents.

But there are a few similarities as well. Like McCullum's, this would be Rohit's last ODI World Cup, and that can often trigger untameable urges in big moments. McCullum had come through to the captaincy after an unsavoury ending to the previous captain Ross Taylor. Virat Kohli stepped down in an unpleasant bubble. McCullum tattooed his brand on the team.

Unlike McCullum, though, Rohit the ODI version is a complete batsman. He has all the shots in the book, all the approaches - defense, attack, pacing, and has formidable inform batsmen behind him. He has the cover that McCullum didn't. Will he charge out to Starc and attack him with more conventional options?

The pitch can tempt him. Sluggish and flat-beauties have aided Rohit to turn on the enforcer version relatively easily and extend himself. The pitch can also force Starc to go all-out for his yorkers, bouncers, and the odd slower ball pretty early in the piece before the ball loses its shine. Neither is likely to play the waiting game with the World Cup on the line.

SIGHTS AND SOUNDS

Of rehearsals on the ground, in the sky & practice nets away from public gaze

SANDIP G
AHMEDABAD, NOVEMBER 18

JUST AS the sun shed its scorch, with the afternoon drifting to the evening, swathes of schoolchildren in white uniforms began their flag-spreading drill rehearsals. Four of them held onto one side of the flag — those of all 10 nations in the World Cup were unfurled, first with enthusiasm and then with lethargy. The instructor though had a trick up his sleeve. He would keep them on their toes saying the Indian team would arrive any moment. The children would regain their energy, but the wait would go on.

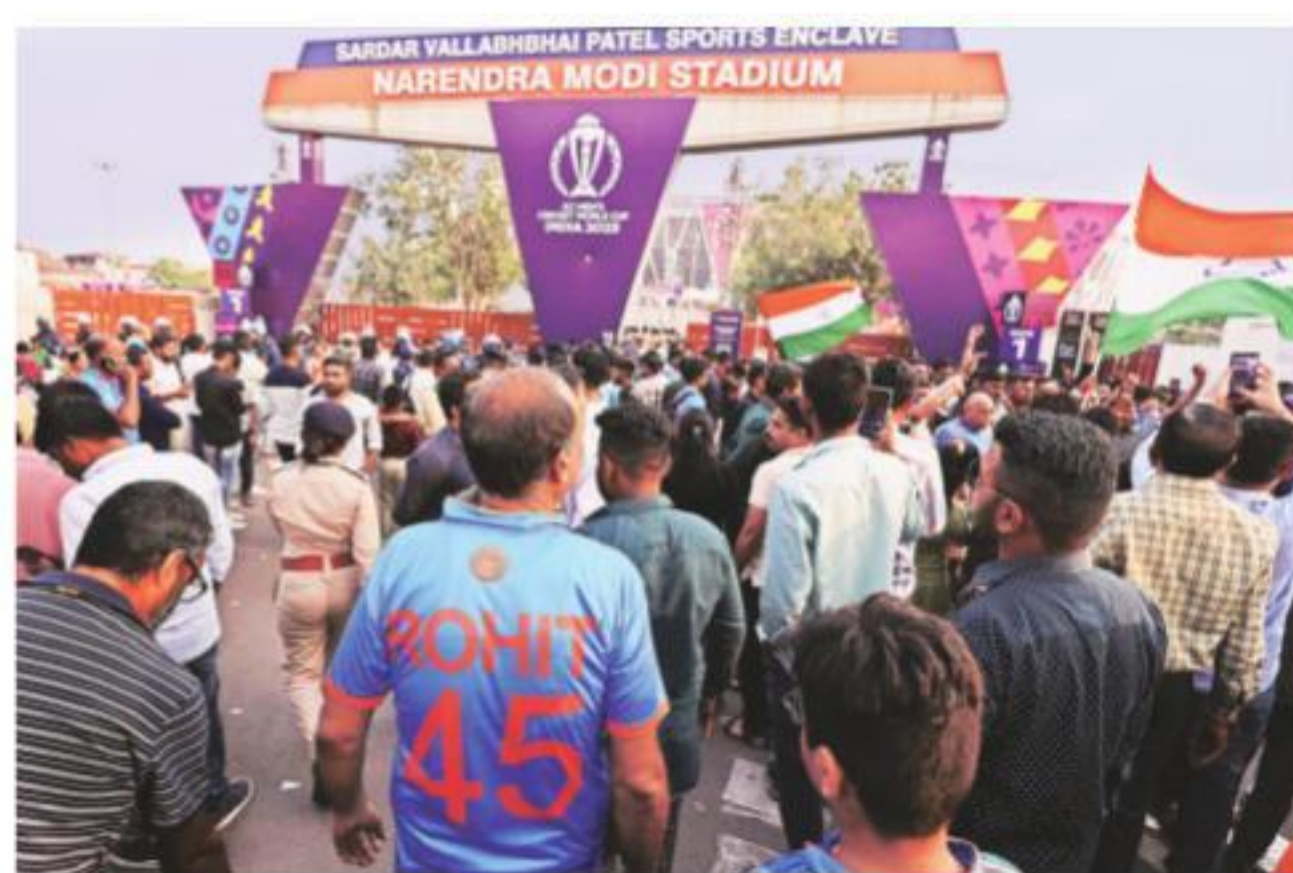
Finally a few men in orange jerseys emerged and the excitement reached fever pitch and the children began waving and screaming their names, so much so that the edges of the flags slipped from some of the hands. The angry instructor would issue rebukes, before he himself got tired and told them to roll up the flags. In the end, the grisly

instructor and his wards would occupy a corner and quietly watch the players and support staff take a pitch peep. A couple of angry security men would break their reverie & drive them out to one of the practice grounds outside the main stadium complex.

So near, yet so far

The eye-catchers of the day were not just the players, but the fighter jets flipping and flapping through spotlessly blue skies, leaving white vapour trails. The show is part of the Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team, and their test runs brought the stadium to a halt. Once the routine began, everyone on the ground left their chores aside and watched with wide eyes the maneuvers that unfolded.

They began with a standard loop manoeuvre, wherein the pilot makes a vertical 360-degree turn, which had the crowd in thrall. The most spectacular stunt — the barrel roll trick in which the pilot travels a straight path before he flips the aircraft upside down — then arrives. Some of the spectators shrieked in



Fans outside the Narendra Modi Stadium on the eve of the final. Nirmal Harindran

horror, as though the aircraft would suddenly come crashing down. As per rumours, the most difficult and dramatic cobra move too is on the cards. The roar of the engines woke up the neighbours in the decrepit jumble of houses between the stadium and the GCA Clubhouse, them flocking to the balconies with camera phones in tow. The stadium is close to them, by just listening to sounds emerging from the arena they could get the drift of the game. Yet a concrete barrier separates them from the action. They would be so near yet so far from the action. It's the other side of the grandee.

A guessing game

The practice nets of the stadium are tucked far from public gaze. The cricketers would not have heard the noise of the multitudes that had thronged the main gate, making a vehicular mess on the road, where the policemen were running on fumes to control them. Even those inside could not watch the practice, unless you were an official or a cop. For, the

hoardings of the World Cup obscured them viewing any bit of nets. Through the translucent netting, you could watch silhouettes moving, or rather the lower half of the body. But a group of tired stadium employees would labour the guessing game to forget the hard labour of the day. "Yeh awaaz Kohli saab ke bat se hai," one gushed when he heard a sound akin to the crack of a gunshot. When one ball soared into the trees that lined the nets, one screamed: "Shreyas ka chhakka." They would tune their ears to listen to the chatter of players, they would cheer for any shot that was loud and distinct. They would guess each player by the acoustics of bat on ball.

The surroundings of the nets too was equally busy, the rehearsals of dance programmes going in full tilt. Bodies soaked in sweat lay sprawled on the grass, before another group began their session. One of the choreographers turned preachy: "This would be the biggest day of your young lives. So get good sleep. Make our great country proud." The dancers were already half asleep and re-

eye



SPOTLIGHT, PAGE 2

Cook. Clean. Care. Repeat

Women from four cities tell us how they have a more than '70-hour work week' and juggle work, work and more work



BOOKS, PAGE 3

- Interview with Carlo Rovelli
- Review of Abhay K's *The Book of Bihari Literature*
- Review of Manoj Rupda's *I Named My Sister Silence*

The Talented Mr Keeravani

A National Award last month and an Oscar earlier this year comes as an acknowledgment of composer MM Keeravani's oeuvre that spans over 200 films and a clutch of languages

Suanshu Khurana

WHEN ACTOR IRRFAN was fighting an endocrine tumour at Princess Grace Hospital in London, filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt paid his old friend a visit. In a quiet moment, Bhatt wrote on social media, he held his friend's hand and hummed, *Maine dil se kaha, dhoond laana khushi/ nasamajh laya gham, to yeh gham hi sahi* (I asked the heart to find and bring back happiness/ The innocent heart brought back sorrow, so well, then, sorrow it is).

The ditty was from Bhatt's production, *Rog* (2005), a psychological thriller in which this wistful ballad sung by KK is pictured on Irrfan, an insomniac detective who while investigating the murder of a model, falls in love with the dead woman.

Created by MM Kreem, who was known mainly as a composer in Telugu cinema then, the melody had a certain haunting and ghazal-*numa* quality. Just like some of his other tunes — *Tum mile* (*Criminal*, 1995), *Chup tum raho* (*Iss raat ki Subah Nahi*, 1996) and *Gali mein aaj chaand* (*Zakhm*, 1998), among others, which were always a notch above the usual music of the time.

So when MM Kreem, known as MM Keeravani in Telugu cinema, walked away with the Golden Globe and the Academy Award earlier this year for *Naatu Naatu* followed by a National Award last month, for the vigorous song-and-dance centrepiece in his cousin SS Rajamouli's anti-colonial part-mythology-part-history action drama, *RRR* (2022), it felt like an acknowledgment of Keeravani's oeuvre that spans over 200 films in various languages. It was finally a step into the spotlight.

Here was a rambunctious dance-off that represented the Indian struggle against colonialism, that had found much attention, especially in the West. TikTok and Instagram exploded over what felt, for many Indians, like just any other piece from Telugu cinema — with a catchy hook, an elementary tune, and heavily percussive and gritty rhythms — taken from the world of Kuthu, a street-folk form.

"If I am sitting with a bunch of classical musicians, they will hate *Naatu Naatu*. Art cannot be defined. I may find something artistic that others may find disgusting and vice versa. *Naatu Naatu* may be condemned by some people, who will call it a bulls**t song while others may dance to it. The opinions will exist till diversity does," says Keeravani, 62, in a conversation in his hotel suite in Delhi after he received the National Award, his second.

There is an earnestness in how Keeravani talks of his life and music. His sarcasm and sense of humour hit you slowly. "An advantage of working with Rajamouli is that if I am in the restroom, he can just knock on the door and ask any question; and I'll answer. Others have to take prior appointment," he says with a straight face. Twelve years older than the *RRR* director, Keeravani can "command him" to use one piece of music over another because he thinks it is better. "I can't command another director like that," he says.

In a career spanning over three decades, Keeravani may have finally received global recognition, but he says his life remains unaltered. "Unfortunately, the only thing that will get you work is success at the box office. Not the Oscar, not the Padma Shri, not your good conduct. People produce films to earn money," he says.

Koduri Marakathamani Keeravaani, to painter and screenwriter Koduri Siva Shakthi Datta and his wife Bhanumathi, Keeravani began learning to play the violin when he was four. His father, a product of Sir JJ School of Art, Mumbai, put him under the tutelage of a neighbouring violin teacher. "My father, however, was my first guru, who taught me how to play the harmonium, compose tunes, modulate a sentence, just about everything," says Keeravani.

Growing up on a steady diet of film songs on the radio, especially those by SD Burman, by the age of 12, Keeravani was travelling with a band from Kakinada and would be featured as a guest child artiste. For about three years, Keeravani travelled with the band and loved the attention.

A science student, when he failed to crack the engineering entrance exam, he turned to commercial music out of necessity. He began assisting Telugu composers K Chakravarthy and C Rajamani so that he could make money to sustain his large joint family. While his father and uncle (Rajamouli's father) were script repairers in the Telugu film industry, the intermittent money wasn't enough to support a 25-member family.

Keeravani's grandfather had been a wealthy landlord, but the money did not last. "We have a saying in Telugu that if you sit and eat, even mountains will melt. The money was not there for my generation. I was the eldest, the sole earning member. Rajamouli was still in college. As an assistant, I was paid Rs 120 a song. We'd record two songs a day. I'd get Rs 240 plus Rs 25 conveyance. Since I'd take my cycle to work, I'd save that too," says Keeravani, who for years put his head down and kept working, 365 days a year.

Keeravani's first film as an independent composer was TSBK Moulee's Telugu film, *Manasu Mamatha* (1990). But it was Ram Gopal Varma's Telugu thriller *Kshana Kshanam* (1991), which put the spotlight on him. Varma was very excited after he found out that Keeravani was a Stephen King fan and thought he would be able to lend a slightly spectral tone to his film. "I was a newcomer and an absolute nobody. People wondered who is this Mr Keeravani who's been employed by Ram Gopal Varma of *Shiva* (1990) fame. This made producers come to me like a herd of sheep," he says. Varma's film tanked, but by that time, Keeravani had bagged a bunch of Telugu projects. This proved to be

a turning point.

What cemented his position in the industry were also the 20 songs he composed for *Annamayya* (1997), a Telugu film, on the 15th-century composer Annamacharya. It fetched him his first National Award. This was also the time when AR Rahman was rising in the Tamil industry and making a mark in Hindi film music. It wasn't difficult for Keeravani, who was relatively shy and had a screen name but not much screen time, to be overshadowed by him. But he persisted.

In the pre-internet days, the Hindi film industry was unaware of composer MM Keeravani. But they knew MM Kreem. *Tum mile, dil khile*, the memorable song sung by Kumar Sanu in Bhatt's *Criminal*, had won him much affection. People in Kerala, however, did not know any of these two names. They knew him as Maragathamani, who was creating melodious Malayalam songs.

Seemingly inspired by Stephen King, the aliases brought about a comic opera of sorts. Once, producer and entrepreneur Ramoji Rao wanted to fire MM Keeravani, even though they had worked together on many films. The composer wanted to leave Rao's



WINNERS TAKE IT ALL

MM Keeravani in Delhi for the National Awards (top); with lyricist Chandrabose at the Oscars

film over a conflict with a director. Rao told one of his guys to hire a new composer named MM Kreem, who'd done an impressive Hindi album, Tanuja Chandra's *Sur* (2002). "Back in the day, the secrecy was great fun," says Keeravani.

After Keeravani worked with Bhatt in *Criminal*, the filmmaker offered the composer his most personal yet — *Zakhm* — set against the 1993 Mumbai riots and the story of an unwed closet Muslim mother who keeps hoping for her Hindu partner to marry

her but dies after being burnt by a mob who takes her for a Hindu. It was a unique combination of politics, relationships and a director telling his personal story. Keeravani gave his soul to *Gali mein aaj chaand nikla*. It was conventional — there was Alaka Yagnik, the dholak and synth sound at the helm — yet it felt like a reminder of a song from the golden era.

Keeravani cherishes his relationship with Bhatt, his "guru" who is a "philosopher disguised as a moviemaker". "Whatever he speaks, he wants to penetrate into the truth. I have only done four-five films with him but it looks like I dedicated my whole life to Bhatt saab. It feels like that because those songs have huge a shelf life," says Keeravani.

For *Sur*, a film that captures a complex teacher-student relationship with threads of fame, jealousy and creativity, Chandra wanted a certain madness in the music. "I needed audacity as well as a heart wrenching quality. Keeravani understood the soul of the story, its ebb and flow, the complexities of human nature in the story and the heights I wanted to touch in it, musically. He's instinctive and has a childlike quality to him and likes to go in all sorts of whacky directions in order to come up with a tune that he feels is

TAKE 5



1 TUM MILE (CRIMINAL, 1995): Featuring Kumar Sanu and KS Chithra, this is one of his finest

2 GALI MEIN AAJ CHAND (ZAKHM, 1998): A lush and beautifully crafted piece placed in an otherwise intense film

3 AWARAPAN BANJARAPAN (JISM, 2005): With lyrics by Sayeed Qadri, the song conveys much spiritual gravitas with a profound tune

4 JAADU HAI NASHA HAI: (JISM, 2005): He used Shreya Ghoshal's austere voice for the character of a temptress played by Bipasha Basu

5 KABHI SHAAM DHALE (SUR, 2002): With Mahalakshmi Iyer's power-packed voice, this piece was infused with the spirit of old-time orchestras

close to his heart. At the same time, he knows each musical note intimately," says Chandra.

Another popular project was *Jism* (2003) in which he used 18-year-old Shreya Ghoshal's innocent one-song-old voice for a seductress, played by Bipasha Basu. "Here was a woman who used her body to get whatever she wanted. When you want to get a voice for such a character, people look for husky, bass voices. I wanted to change the pattern and go for a honey-coated dagger. The dagger was Bipasha Basu, the honey came from Shreya. A sweet voice for a villain. This is what I call going out of the box," says Keeravani, who recorded Ghoshal laughing in the studio without her knowing and used it in the final song.

Despite being steeped in music, Keeravani credits the authenticity and maturity in his music more to his life than to his musical knowledge. At home, he saw a lot of court cases, land disputes, which allowed him to interact with people from varied economic classes. "I remember someone coming home once and asking my mother for the money she owed them. I remember hiding in the backyard because I didn't want to see my mother embarrassed. These things are stored in my mind. When you see a lot in life, you learn to translate your life experiences into music. My strength is my life, not my musical knowledge," says Keeravani. Which is probably where the haunting, somewhat primordial quality of his music comes from.

In 2015, there was news of Keeravani's retirement, which made ripples in the music world. "It was a partial retirement. I wanted to retire from working with fools, certain directors. I decided to only work with sensible people," he says. This is when *Baahubali* (2015), an MM Keeravani musical arrived and swept the box office. A sequel followed in 2017. Mythology was being repackaged with technology in political and polarised times, and it worked. But it was *RRR* and *Naatu Naatu* that went ahead and took the world by storm. "One never knows what becomes viral," says Keeravani.

At present, Keeravani is busy — working on his terms and troubles shooting. Unlike most composers, he says he does not care for the non-availability of an artiste or if a person demands more money or is not willing to travel to Hyderabad, where he records. "I work on a replacement. That's how new talent is encouraged," says Keeravani. He hates young musicians not being paid their due while celebrity artistes are paid huge amounts. "My basic payment is Rs 15,000 to a new chorus singer, even if she is not expecting it. The maximum should not exceed Rs 5 lakh. If that's the case, I avoid the singer," says Keeravani, who keeps a busy calendar.

He is currently working on *Gentleman 2*, Rajamouli's next, Neeraj Pandey's *Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha* and Anupam Kher's upcoming directorial venture. We won't be surprised if one of them breaks new ground soon.

DOWN IN JUNGLELAND



Ranjit Lal
Ranjit Lal is an author, environmentalist and bird watcher

What a bird wants

There's a whole mafiosi of birds that specialise in making birders get at each other's throats or start a war, if possible

AFTER DECADES of watching birds, I have come to the firm conclusion of what a bird wants. It is simple: to drive birders or birdwatchers nuts. It doesn't matter if you are a newbie or a veteran: they have no respect for youth or experience. As Salim Ali once mentioned, the reaction of most 'normal' people to birders was to put their forefingers to their temples and rotate it slowly.

In pursuit of this endeavour, birds go about it in different ways. Firstly, of course, they will play hard to get, flitting about in the foliage, eyeing you with glee as you focus your binoculars on a fluttering leaf. Of course, they'll whistle you up first — there you are enjoying a cup of tea — and you'll suddenly hear a seductive call. Few days ago, I heard the paradise flycatcher call somewhere in the garden here in Goa — not its seductive melifluous call — but a harsh 'chrr' which sent me running to the balcony, almost spilling my tea. There's a pool here and I know that these birds like a quick dip or two. But did it show itself? Not a chance! They'll pull this kind of stunt just as you get busy with something else, rather in the manner of children ringing your doorbell and running away.

It can be nerve-wracking especially for eager-beaver newbies, particularly when they are in the company of 'experienced' veterans. 'Where, where?'

'There, can't you see? On that branch!' Of course, there are about a hundred branches around, so which one? 'There, near that leaf!' Excuse me, there are about a thousand fluttering leaves to choose from! Experienced birders need not get too smug at this point. If there are more than one around, you can be sure an argument will break out.

'Six-whiskered bulbul' one will declaim decisively. 'What? Are you nuts? It's a four-whiskered bulbul! Can't you count?'



TRICK OR TREAT
Yellow-footed green pigeon

'How do you know? It might have shaved off two whiskers this morning!'

In fact, there is a whole mafiosi of birds which specialise in making birders get at each other's throats and, in fact, start a war if possible. They are called warblers and most are clad in khaki, brown, biscuit, beige, olive green or any intermediate shade often with white markings, like wing stripes and eyebrows, which again are usually indistinct and blurry. Sensible people call them 'little brown jobs' and leave it at that. *Kattar* birders are ready to commit murder if their identification is challenged. 'Abbe, can't you see the second thingamajig pinion on its primaries is 2.54 cm long? Not 2.64 cm long like you are saying.'

Yeah right, like you have a pair of calipers or a tape measure at hand to take the measurements and the bird is going to let you, as if being measured for a suit.

Bird books and websites alas, which ought to help you here are as bad. Recently, I spotted a flock of small dumpy little plovers on the beach and was wondering exactly who they were. They are small beige-brown grey birds with white eyebrows, very solemn in demeanour. Well, for my main suspect, the little sand plover, one of the helpful identification hints given was to check if the 'bill length was equal to the distance between base of bill to centre of eye'. And that if the 'feet do indeed protrude beyond tail tip, but not significantly.' Yeah sure, easy-peasy, but hey, do define 'significant' first!

Many species get their cheap thrills by hiding in plain sight. Larks will saunter about on the grass and stubble or tussocks completely invisible until they erupt into the sky to sing. Yellow-footed green pigeons will duck (by the flock-full) into peepals and wheeze and laugh at you as you try to wrinkle them out, scoffing the drupes all the while.

One way of identifying a bird (especially those nefarious warblers) is by their calls. But here you'll first have to obtain recordings of their calls, and mug those up like you were appearing for your board exams. Or if you are very lucky actually hear one while it calls or sings. Be warned: no two recordings of the same bird will match. I suppose like us, they have different voices. And then, there are those, like the common hawk-cuckoo (ironically mimicking a shikra but only in appearance), who on sizzling summer mornings will, from the cool depths of shade, eye you pityingly tramping about in the sun and call out 'brain-fever, brain-fever, brain-fever'

And that is exactly what a bird wants.

COOK. CLEAN. CARE. REPEAT

Infosys founder Narayana Murthy's recent remarks on 70-hour work weeks elicited a barrage of reactions, including that women put in many more hours than that. We caught up with five women at home as they juggle work, work and more work



LAXMI | 50 YEARS | DELHI

'My husband's sole contribution to household chores is getting milk and vegetables'

Rishika Singh

KEEPING HOUSE
Laxmi Devi

MOST OF Laxmi Devi's day is spent doing household chores — either her employers' or her own — without a break. "I remember my mother doing the same for years," says the 50-year-old domestic worker. So, for seven days a week, 7.30 am onwards, Laxmi cooks, washes utensils, sweeps, mops and dusts in nearly six flats in South Extension's East Kidwai Nagar.

Her husband is part of the cleaning staff at an office building. "He leaves home by 8.30 am and is back by 6 pm. When he returns, he gets milk and vegetables." Does he help her with domestic chores? Laxmi pauses, makes a face and laughs, "He gets milk and vegetables, that's all."

After cleaning a few flats, Laxmi goes to the local post office where she works for an hour, five days a week. "I reach around 9.30 am, refill water filters, sweep, mop and dust and then return to clean other houses," she says. "I don't have a fixed lunch hour because I am not a permanent employee. You get an hour-long lunch break only if you are a regular employee."

Laxmi lives in a small quarter, attached to one of the flats she works in, walking to her places of work. Her husband, younger daughter, 18, and a son, 14, also live with her. Her elder daughter, 21, who lives nearby, is married and has a toddler.

"When I am too tired to work, my elder one takes over," she says, "But, my daughters can't do things like washing clothes, so I do it." And her son? "He does nothing too. His

sisters scold him at times, but he usually doesn't listen. He helps out when he feels like it. It's usually things like settling accounts at a local shop or getting some things from the market. If his sister asks him to sweep the floor, he does that as well. He taught me how to receive a call, but I still don't know how to make one," says Laxmi. At times, she gets worried about how much longer she can continue to work. Often, in an attempt to finish all her work on time, she ends up eating lunch around 4-5 pm.

She wishes for a less difficult future for her children. "I hope they get government jobs. Otherwise, I just want them to get married in good households so that they have some stability after us."

IF SHE HAD AN EXTRA HOUR: "I would find another house to work at."

KAJARI BHOWMICK
45 YEARS | KOLKATA

'Unlike salaried people, we have no days off or leaves'

Neha Banka

"A LOT of work, everyday," says Kajari Bhowmick, talking of what was expected of her as she moved into a large joint family as a 24-year-old. Not much has changed over the past two decades. She and her sister-in-law manage a household of eight people in Dum Dum, the industrial suburb of Kolkata, without any domestic workers — a practice instituted the day the two women got married into the Bhowmick family.

"We wake up at 5 am. By 5.30, we are cleaning fish, cutting vegetables, and getting breakfast and tiffins ready for my husband and brother-in-law," says Kajari.

After they leave for work at 8 am, the Bhowmick women start preparing breakfast for the others. "My father-in-law is 102 years old. For breakfast, he has freshly prepared roti and torkari (vegetables cooked in gravy) or else he has digestive issues. It's nearly noon by the time we wrap up breakfast, which gives us about an hour to clean all the rooms. Then it's back to the kitchen for lunch." Meals are an elaborate affair, with rice, dal, vegetables and fish as staple.

After midday chores are done, Kajari and her sister-in-law rest for a bit. At dusk, another feverish round of cooking begins.



WORK FROM HOME
Kajari Bhowmick

This round includes making snacks for the men and preparing for dinner. By the time they make 30 rotis, wash utensils and clean the kitchen, it's usually 11 pm.

"When you do a job, you get used to it. It doesn't matter whether you're a salaried employee or a homemaker," says Kajari, who has a Master's degree in Bengali. "At times, my husband jokes how I have it easy since I don't work in an office. In the afternoon, if I am talking to my mother on the phone and he is unable to get through, he says that I gossip all day long. Such comments are always hurtful. Unlike salaried people, we have no days off or leaves," she said.

Neither her husband nor her brother-in-law step into the kitchen to help. So as soon as her son turned a teenager, she got him to help with cooking. "I taught him how to boil rice and vegetables and make egg-toast, instant noodles, etc. He can cook several dishes now," she says, of her 19-year-old. Despite the work and lack of appreciation, Kajari says, "I have never looked at a working woman with envy because a domestic help will never be able to look after my home as well as I do."

IF SHE HAD AN EXTRA HOUR: "I want to start a cloud kitchen, read books and listen to music."

DIVYA KARANTH | 34 YEARS | BENGALURU

Working 300 days a year: 'I have no other choice'

Kiran Parashar

STEP IN TIME
Divya Karanth

FIFTEEN MINUTES — between dropping her son to his school cab near her house and boarding her cab. That's exactly how long Divya Karanth has to get ready each day before work. The single mother — who also acts in Kannada TV serials, directs plays, writes scripts and is currently working on a web series — starts her day at 5 am with exercise and household chores before leaving for her shoot.

Sipping her hot coffee, Divya says, "This is my routine for 300 days a year. So I have perfected the art of doing my make-up in a moving vehicle. There is no concept of work from home or weekends in the television industry. I shoot for nearly 12 hours daily and return home by 8 pm. I also work on scripts and plays for a few hours at home."

While Divya's daily schedule surpasses

the "70 hours a week", she says, "A lot of work has to get done before someone reports to an office, and that mostly goes unrecognised, especially for women."

Though Divya quit working in serials after she got married in 2012, she rejoined the industry after her divorce, nine months after her son's birth in 2018. Born and raised in the coastal Karnataka town of Udupi, Divya started out as a radio jockey (RJ) in Mangaluru, before shifting to Bengaluru to pursue theatre. She eventually bagged a role in a Kannada TV serial.

"After my divorce, my parents, who are in their 70s, shifted to Bengaluru to support my son and me," she says, "I am completely dependent on my monthly income (around Rs 35,000) from serial and theatre projects. Thankfully, my father gets a pension because of his government job. My parents are very supportive, but I need to take care of them too," she says. Since she doesn't receive child



STEP IN TIME
Divya Karanth

support from her ex-husband, taking care of her son while balancing her professional commitments is not easy. But, no matter how long her day is, Divya spends at least an hour with her son each day before putting him to bed. She said, "It helps deal with the guilt of not being around the whole day."

IF SHE HAD AN EXTRA HOUR: "I would dance my heart out."

SUDAKSHINA LAHA
50 YEARS | GURUGRAM

'In a meeting with 12 men and a woman, one has to be vocal'

Aiswarya Raj



LOUD AND CLEAR
Sudakshina Laha

AS SOMEONE who juggles several roles — as the team leader at work; the chief "orchestrator" at home; and a primary caregiver to her children, aged parents and in-laws — Sudakshina Laha knows what it is to be weighed down by expectations.

"If you are a daughter, you are expected to take care of your ageing parents; if you are a daughter-in-law, the same expectations fall on your shoulders. Whereas, a son-in-law or a son can escape that..." says Sudakshina, who heads the services department at Ericsson. She graduated from Jadavpur University in Kolkata and did her MTEch from IIT Delhi in 2000, worked for various MNCs

before taking up an executive position with the telecommunications firm. "I graduated at a time when engineering courses had two women in a class of 50 and became part of a workforce which subconsciously looked past women employees. So we women have to go the extra mile to prove ourselves. In a meeting with 12 men and a woman, it is challenging to get your idea through. You

have to be vocal about your aspirations because no one comes asking women if we need an opportunity," says the mother of two.

At home, though the family has domestic workers to pitch in, the responsibility of managing them falls on her. "When a help does not come in, while my son and husband will make the bed and do the chores, I have to be the orchestrator," she says.

Sudakshina also manages the affairs of her residential society, of which she is the RWA general secretary.

Over 20 years ago, when she rejoined work after the 89-day maternity leave, Sudakshina had to leave her new-born daughter behind in the care of a nanny and her in-laws. She has passed on several overseas opportunities as it meant staying away from her family. "Though no one asked me to give it up, I could never muster the courage to leave my children behind," she says, adding that her husband, her classmate from college and later her colleague, had "no such qualms when his turn came".

IF SHE HAD AN EXTRA HOUR: "I would give it to my son, and spend time together... I would also want time out for myself."

Italian theoretical physicist Carlo Rovelli, 67, on how white holes can upend our understanding of the structure of the universe, the possibilities of its discovery and his new book that traces its research

A WHOLE NEW WORLD

Amitabh Sinha

BLACK HOLES are one of the most fascinating, and mysterious, structures in the universe. For long, it has been understood that nothing ever escapes from a black hole. But some scientists propose that black holes are not the end, and that a theoretical opposite state of black holes — white holes — also exist. Italian physicist Carlo Rovelli is among the leading scientists exploring the possibility of the existence of white holes. In this interview, Rovelli speaks of the possibilities of white holes getting detected, how it can alter our understanding of the universe and his new book that takes the research to lay readers. Edited excerpts:

For most people, black holes themselves are pretty difficult to comprehend. Through this book you are attempting to introduce the concept of white holes. Is it accessible to common people?

I think it is, if one puts in a little bit of time and is not afraid. Black holes are really holes in spacetime. Imagine you are a little ant, walking in the main square of the town. It is all flat. But then you see a small hole, maybe a few millimetre in dimensions, and you decide to peep in. What you see can be surprising, because there might be an enormous space below. Maybe you are staring at a parking lot created below the ground.

Over the years, we have realised that the universe also is full of similar holes. It is not evident at first, but there is a huge amount of space inside. The difficulty in understanding that you mention arises from our education, experience and assumptions. We go to school and are told that space is this three-dimensional thing — X, Y and Z coordinates, Euclidean geometry — and so on. But that is

not the case. You should never trust too much what you are told in school. Space is much more complicated.

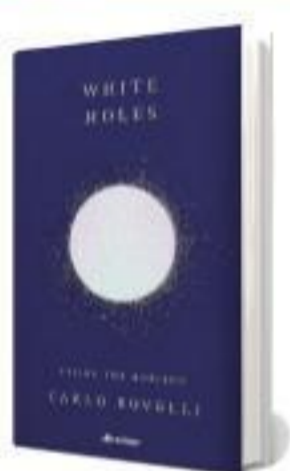
Black holes have now been discovered, and sort of 'photographed'. Are white holes also physical structures, or are they merely the conceptual opposites of black holes?

These black holes that have been discovered in the sky, their existence was known much before we could actually detect them or see their effects. They are predicted by Albert Einstein's General Theory of Relativity. If you follow the equations of General Relativity, you would realise it is about space being distorted. You would understand that if there is a star larger than the Sun and it stops burning after a point, then it collapses on itself. The gravity is so huge that they create deep holes in spacetime.

The mathematics was there but initially, a lot of people, including very good scientists, did not believe such a thing could exist. They were wrong.

We are more or less in a similar situation with regard to white holes now. These, too, come out of one of the solutions to the equations of General Relativity. So, they could exist. But unlike black holes, we have not seen them yet, or felt their effects. So we are trying to see if there is a way to detect them, to understand how they can be formed, to calculate how big they can be.

The book that I have written does not say that white holes exist. Rather, it is about the research happening in this direction. It tries to tell you how to think about things that we do not currently know of. That's what Einstein, and many others, also did — bringing together small pieces and trying to put them together to discover the big picture. Science, most often, works like this. Would it finally lead us to white holes? I don't know.



WHITE HOLES: INSIDE THE HORIZON BY CARLO ROVELLI Allen Lane 160 pages ₹799

Do you see a white hole getting detected, or being 'photographed' in the same way as a black hole?

This is essential because unless we detect things, we are just speculating. Speculation is a good thing in science but until we also have some measurements that confirm or support the speculation, we are not going far.

I see various possibilities of 'observing' white holes, both in astronomy and through detectors on Earth. For reasons that are complicated, I would expect that a majority of the white holes out there are very small. We cannot make a picture of them in the same way that a black hole was recently photographed because they interact only with gravity, not with light. But if we have a sufficiently delicate detector to measure gravitational pulls, it can be detected. A few of my colleagues are already working on a paper explaining how such a detector can be devised and the technology that would be required for it. I think it is not an impossible task. Thirty years ago, when some of my scientist colleagues had proposed that they wanted to build detectors for gravitational waves, not everyone was convinced. But they went ahead and did it and won the Nobel Prize for it. Then there were other colleagues who said let's create a telescope that can take pictures of the black hole. That, too, was done. So technology is fantastic. It grows. And if this continues, I think we have a good chance that at some point we would be able to detect a white hole.

The second possibility lies in astronomy. One school of thought is that white holes might be the solution to one of its big mysteries. The biggest mystery in astronomy right now is dark matter. Astronomers are able to sense large amounts of matter but are not able to see them because they seem to interact only gravitationally. And white holes are those little things that interact gravitation-

ally. So, it is possible that there is a relation between white holes and dark matter.

How do you think a confirmation of white holes would alter our view of the universe, specifically, our understanding of time?

If we find evidence that black holes do indeed transform into white holes, then it reaffirms our view of the universe. Remember, this story is largely based on Einstein's General Relativity, but not entirely. Because the bounce, the transformation from black hole to white hole, is a quantum phenomenon. If this turns out to be true, it would mean that spacetime can also make quantum jumps. It would mean space, as well as time, is discontinuous and discrete. It would be a new way of thinking about space and time, and that is what fascinates me. But I don't believe we have a final answer by far.

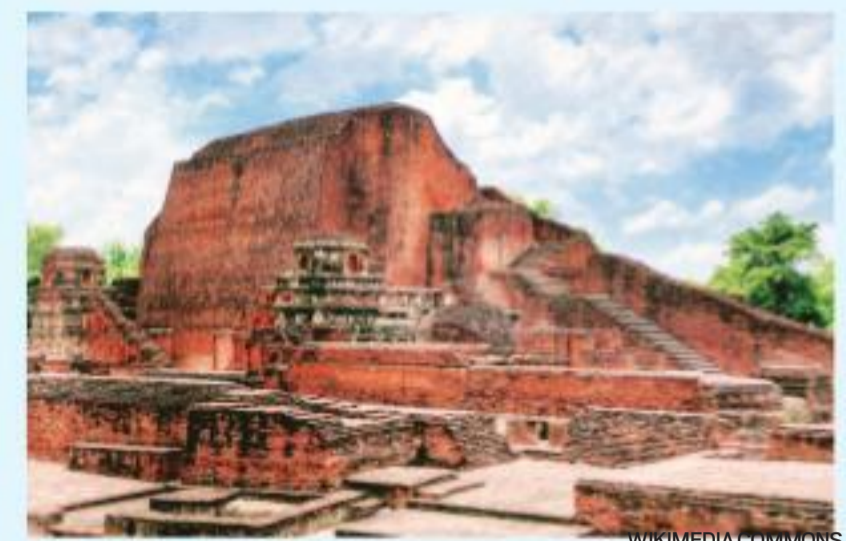
There is a great deal of excitement about artificial intelligence these days. Some people believe machines would be able to outdo humans in all intellectual aspects. Do you think machines would ever be able to imagine a theory like General Relativity?

Well, the power of the human mind... I think we should not underestimate it. Because we can visualise things that we have never seen or which are extraordinarily far away from us. And we have done this repeatedly.

Now, on artificial intelligence, a priori I believe that if our brain can do some things, there is no reason why a machine can also not do them. But, for the moment, I think that most speculations about artificial intelligence are exaggerated. I have interacted with artificial intelligence machines, and I am deeply unimpressed. What they are good at is to say stupid things just like we humans say most of the time.

A Bihar State of Mind

The rich tapestry of the state's literary heritage comes alive in this representative anthology



A BRIDGE ACROSS GENERATIONS The ruins of Nalanda mahavihara

Sanjana Choudhary

WITH WHAT writer-translator Jenny Bhatt aptly calls a "Bihar State of Mind", Abhay K has charted a literary landscape that transcends geographical and linguistic boundaries. Even for a non-Bihari quintessential English reader, this voyage offers a glimpse into the rich tapestry of Bihar's literary heritage.

Abhay K is an accomplished diplomat, poet and editor. His poetry, characterised by themes of homeland and love, resonates across borders. He has authored many acclaimed works, including *The Seduction of Delhi* (2014), *The Alphabets of Latin America* (2020) and *Monsoon* (2022). He has also edited *100 Great Indian Poems* (2018), which has been translated and published in several languages.

This volume serves as an invitation to explore the literature of a region that has endured centuries of turmoil in South Asia and has been rich with linguistic diversity across two millennia. Languages such as Magahi, Bhojpuri, Maithili, Angika, Bajjika, Urdu, Persian (Farsi), English, Hindi, and classical languages like Pali and Sanskrit have thrived and evolved in this region.

What is reflected in the collection is the transition from Azeemabad to contemporary Bihar, one that has left an indelible mark on its poetry and prose. Untarnished by time, these writings stand as enduring testimonies to one of the greatest Urdu and Hindi literary traditions. However, gender and religious minorities find limited space within the book's pages. Though the anthology begins with poems by two Buddhist nuns and includes works of 10 women writers and the first Dalit poet Heera Dom, given the substantial body of work by women in translations and vernacular languages emerging from modern-day Bihar, that could have been showcased better.



THE BOOK OF BIHAR: LITERATURE EDITED BY ABHAY K HarperCollins 408 pages ₹699

Magahi writings also find sparse representation in the book, though they are mentioned abundantly in the editor's notes. Abhay K has certainly curated some of the finest literary gems from the region, but a truly complete anthology should encompass both the old and the established as well as the fresh, young, and raw ones.

In 'Business of Donation' by Mathura Prasad Naveen, caste takes centre stage, addressed with a striking eloquence that elevates the anthology beyond its usual realms of food and folklore. It challenges apolitical readers, confronting them with the discomfort experienced by the marginalised. Translated poems such as *Amrapali* by Anamika provide readers with an opportunity to explore the English rendition of Hindi poetry. However, a careful comparison with the original suggests that some of its essence may have been lost in translation.

A Hindu Parrot could easily warrant a book of translations of its own. It weaves a complex narrative where a family grapples with the identity of a parakeet that has landed in its garden, forcing them to ponder whether it is Hindu or Muslim. In the latter half of the anthology, religious themes explored by diverse writers find a marginal place. In the section titled 'Nalanda Poems' by Abhay K, *The Day of Massacre at Nalanda* opens with the lines "Bakhtiyar and his men / Play buzkashi in my alleys today".

Young readers, in particular, should acknowledge the broader scope of Bihar literature beyond this volume. Exploring the original works of Urdu poets from Azeemabad, for instance, would be a literary journey worth embarking upon.

Sanjana Choudhary is a New Delhi-based independent journalist

SHELF LIFE

Look Back in Grief

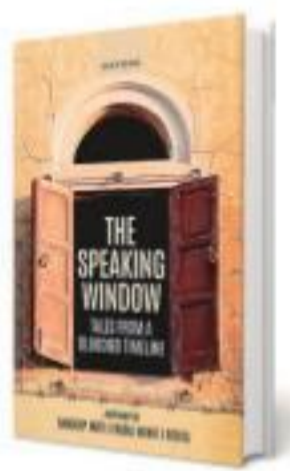
MORE THAN 75 years after India and Pakistan became two nations, many stories, lying buried in the heavy hearts of the generation that saw it all, are yet to be told. One such trans-border effort is *The Speaking Window: Tales from A Bloodied Timeline*, a collection of 47 first-hand memoirs of Partition survivors, which would have soon been lost to time.

The journey of *Bolti Khidki* — literally, a speaking window — started on Facebook in 2017 with Sandeep Dutt, then a student from Ludhiana in his early twenties, and his online friend Faisal Hayat, from Rawalpindi, Pakistan. They started collecting and posting stories of Partition survivors from their countries. Six years later,

the young men are yet to meet but they have managed to put together over 200 stories from elderly survivors.

The two were joined by Ritika, then an English teacher in Ludhiana who volunteered to edit stories for them. Despite being separated by distance and time, the team has strung together stories from 52 cities in five countries. What's painful is that, of the 47 survivors (aged 75 to 109 years) featured in the book, 24 died during the course of the book's production.

What inspired Dutt to create '*Bolti Khidki*' was the story of his Urdu teacher Prem Singh Bajaj, a Sikh migrant from Sargodha who kept his love for Urdu alive after migrating to Ludhiana and



THE SPEAKING WINDOW: TALES FROM A BLOODIED TIMELINE BY SANDEEP DUTT, FAISAL HAYAT, RITIKA Oxford University Press 272 pages ₹1,290

volunteered to teach it for years in Punjab languages departments. Bajaj, too, died before the book came out. A chapter, 'The Light Preserver', has been dedicated to him.

Also included is 'The Wounded Flower', the memoir of Pushpa Rani, who,

at the age of five, was thrown out of a train with a heap of corpses on the way to Ferozepur from Okara (now in Pakistan). So is legendary Pakistani actor Sajjad Kishwar, who migrated from Ludhiana.

"We are just not hearing them enough. Our elders still retain the images of their childhood homes, like a dream. They still have the longing to go there some day," says Dutt. "After six years of working on 200 real stories, we can say, it is we who did this to our own. We killed our own, not the British." Hayat says, "I am glad that some heartwarming stories from Pakistan will reach Indian readers. *Khidki bula rahi hai, aaja, ghar pados ka dekh le* (the window is calling, come, see your neighbour's house.)"

DIVYA GOYAL GOPAL

Bearing Witness

Set against the Maoist crisis in Bastar, the English translation of Manoj Rupda's Hindi novel explores many strands of social injustice

Priyanka Dubey

IN HIS novel *I Named My Sister Silence*, writer Manoj Rupda weaves the act of "witnessing" as the primary focal point of his work. His unnamed protagonist witnesses heart-piercing levels of violence, cruelty and death throughout the slim book. At one point in the novel, a character even tells the protagonist as if he was "built to witness destruction of colossal magnitude". While framing the narrative of his novel around this idea of "the weight of bearing witness", Rupda's writing comes

across as powerful and poignant.

Originally published in Hindi as *Kaala Adhyaay* and now translated into English by Hansda Sowvendra Shekhar, the English translation of this novel is also part of the shortlist of this year's JCB Prize for literature.

The beginning of the novel is particularly forceful — and horrifying and lyrical at the same time. The story opens in the heart of India where a 10-year-old Adivasi boy is following an elephant in the dense mysterious forests of Bastar. Some hours later, the boy witnesses this giant animal being attacked and disembowelled alive by a pack of wild

dogs. The following morning, the child wakes up alone in the forest, still reeling under the impact of what he had witnessed the night before. But his ordeal is not over yet. Next, he becomes a witness to the brutally mauled dead body of the animal's mahout. Clearly, the wild dogs had not only killed the elephant but his keeper, too. All this happens in the first few poetic and unsettling pages of the book.

This weight of "witnessing" doesn't leave the child, who grows up to be the unnamed narrator of the novel. Later, his step-sister facilitates his education and encourages him to join an engineering course in the city. This sister, who features in the novel's title, later joins the Naxal movement. Partially built up like a bildungsroman, the narrator returns to the forest after finishing his education to look for his sister,



I NAMED MY SISTER SILENCE BY MANOJ RUPDA, TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH BY HANSDA SOWVENDRA SHEKHAR Eka 180 pages; ₹499

who by now has reached the high ranks of the Maoist cadre.

Rupda's narrator, despite belonging to Bastar, remains more or less a spectator to the bloodshed and violence unleashing in his own native land. While this kind of placement is a creative technique which provides the novel with immense scope to set up a free storytelling canvas, the freedom also eventually becomes its limitation.

Going forward, I was curious to know how this "witnessing" changes the inner landscape of the lead character(s). As Susan Sontag wrote, the novel as a form of literature is an education of hearts. I, too, wanted to experience how witnessing "colossal magnitude of violence and destruction" can change the human heart. But that "change" never shows up in concrete ways. Rupda chooses to stop at the

act of witnessing, which, to an extent, limits the work.

But what did show up on the pages were some beautifully written scenes with an ever-brooding narrator oscillating between the many India (s) that exist in our country today. The quiet tenderness of the narrator's poignant relationship with his sister shines through the text. As do the horrible scenes dealing with late-night killings of locals in the forest.

The Bastar story is important and has been told many times in multiple creative forms. Rupda's narrative adds to the coterie of fictional and non-fiction works that have the long running Maoist conflict as its theme. However, Rupda also introduces a second narrative centred around the sea and shipping, which runs parallel to the forest and Naxal movement thread. This segment centres around ship captain Alok Dutta, another brooding lead character. The long meandering conversations between the narrator and Dutta make for some of the most contemplative and melancholic sections of the novel. But

this haunting yet beautiful melancholy is not limited to the space between these two. Rather, it runs as a background score throughout the book. Detailed atmospheric strengthen the narrative further, whether it is evocative descriptions of the central Indian forests or of the roaring sea.

But these descriptions notwithstanding, the novel that begins with so much promise, falters in the second half. The writer goes on introducing multiple new strands on subjects such as a racist lynching in America, communal violence during the Partition and the destruction of agricultural land in Ethiopia by capitalistic companies. All these fresh threads feel rushed and inorganically inserted for making a point. In the fictional form of the novel, even in the genre of social realism, I was expecting more imagination and heft to the depiction of human suffering. For the rest, we have journalism.

Priyanka Dubey is an independent journalist and the author of *No Nation for Women: Reportage on Rape from India, the World's Largest Democracy*

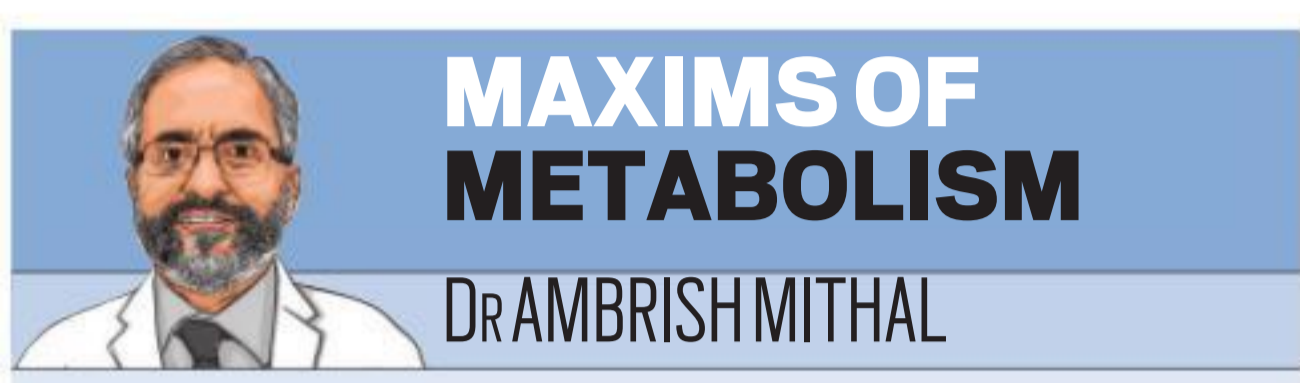
CAPSULES

[0-13 YEARS] An answer to plaque and cavities ELECTRIC TOOTHBRUSHES were better than manual ones in reducing plaques and gingivitis or gum disease in young children between the ages of 3 and 10 years, according to researchers from Germany and the USA. The electric brushes were 75 per cent more effective at cleaning plaques and gingivitis as compared to manual brushes, with the results being more significant in older children between the ages of 7 and 10 years. Studies have shown that those with higher levels of plaque are more likely to get dental cavities.

[13-18 YEARS] Heart and brain health go hand in hand ADOLESCENTS WHO follow heart-healthy habits such as good diet, physical activity, no smoking, and proper sleep, among other things, are likely to be better at certain cognitive functions. Those with a healthy heart were found to be better at functions such as focus, impulse, planning ahead, problem-solving, and multi-tasking, according to a study done among children from 21 US cities. The researchers said that when paediatricians look at children with high blood pressure or obesity, they should also think of their brain health.

[18-50 YEARS] Sleep instead of sitting idle SLEEPING COULD be better than sitting or remaining sedentary, according to a study published in the European Heart Journal. When it comes to cardio-metabolic diseases such as heart attack and diabetes, reallocating some of the sedentary time to sleeping had positive effects. Replacing light intensity or moderately vigorous activity with sleep, on the other hand, had negative effects. Replacing any of these with a moderately vigorous activity was found to be the most time-efficient and protective against these diseases.

[50+ YEARS] Now a study that can map your frailty A DISTURBED circadian rhythm, or daily patterns of rest and activity, can be a predictor of future frailty, found a study by researchers from the United States. Frailty, or age-related physiological decline, has been linked to poorer quality of life in older individuals, vulnerability to stresses, and risk of major adverse health outcomes, including Alzheimer's disease. Wearable devices used to record the resting and activity patterns of the study participants could detect the changes that were predictive of frailty up to 6.6 years in advance.



MAXIMS OF METABOLISM DR AMBRISH MITHAL

Can severe air quality trigger insulin resistance?

Why one of the factors responsible for an increase in the risk of diabetes could well be air pollution

INDIA HAS some of the world's most polluted cities. It worsens in winter, contributing to various health problems. Beyond respiratory issues like asthma and bronchitis, air pollution elevates the risks of heart disease, stroke, cancer, kidney disease, and even plays a significant role in causing Vitamin D deficiency. Recent research indicates a potential link between diabetes and air pollution. A striking feature of diabetes in India is the rural-urban disparity, with metro areas showing more than double the prevalence rates compared to rural areas. While reduced physical activity and dietary shifts have been cited as contributing factors, there's an ongoing concern that other elements might be fuelling the rise in diabetes.



BREATHE EASY Elevated pollution levels can increase blood pressure levels

Air quality or outdoor air pollution is represented by the annual mean concentration of particulate matter, PM10 (particles smaller than 10 microns) and PM2.5 (smaller than 2.5 microns), which are about 25 to 100 times thinner than human hair. In a landmark study published in 2018 in The Lancet, researchers followed 1.7 million veterans with no prior history of diabetes for 8.5 years. Increasing PM 2.5 levels were found to be associated with rising diabetes. This association was evident even at levels of particulate matter normally considered safe. As particulate matter crossed 12 mcg (the recommended upper limit), 24 per cent of people developed diabetes. Overall, it was estimated that 14 per cent (3.2 million) of all new cases of diabetes worldwide in one year could be attributed to air pollution. Highly polluted countries like India and Afghanistan are the worst sufferers. In a recent study from India published in the British Medical Journal (2023), the researchers followed a cohort of 12,000 men and women in Delhi and Chennai from 2010 to 2017. Even one month of exposure to PM2.5 led to elevated levels of blood sugar. Being exposed for over a year led to an increased risk of diabetes. For every

10µg/m 3 increase in annual average PM2.5 level in the two cities, the risk for diabetes increased by 22 per cent. Besides this, with increasing pollution, the risk of high blood pressure (hypertension) increases too. This study also opens up the possibility that reducing pollution may reduce diabetes rates.

How does air pollution increase the risk of diabetes?

Tiny particulate matter (PM2.5) enters our bloodstream via our lungs. PM2.5 contains sulphates, nitrates, heavy metals, and black carbon that can damage the lining of blood vessels and increase blood pressure. These particles can cause oxidative stress and excite inflammation in fat tissue, leading to insulin resistance. Besides, they may also reduce insulin production. The particles can also attack the heart muscle directly. Outdoor air pollution can affect diabetes in less direct ways, too. Polluted environments are often a reason for people to avoid outdoor activity, including walking. Reduced physical activity plays a major role, both in increasing diabetes rates and aggravating complications. The stress produced by living in polluted environments may aggravate the risk of diabetes.

How can we keep ourselves safe?

One of the chief ways to combat pollution is to reduce the use of emission-producing modes of transport like cars, the main emitters of PM2.5. This will necessarily increase walking or cycling. During peak pollution in winter, it may be prudent to wear a mask and avoid early morning outdoor activity. Exercise in the middle of the day, away from the main roads, is preferable but may be impossible. Instead, indoor exercises may have to be resorted to. Treadmill, static cycling, or other forms of aerobics, along with yoga and breathing exercises like anulom-vilom will also help.

Dr Ambrish Mithal is Chairman of Endocrinology and Diabetes, Max Healthcare

Early diagnosis is the first step

Caregiving facilities are changing the axis of elder care for Alzheimer's patients and management while strengthening family bonds

Anonna Dutt

SMITHA MENON is finally breathing easy. For she no longer has to worry about her 69-year-old mother Usha Menon, an Alzheimer's patient, walking out of the house unnoticed, leaving the gas on in the kitchen, keeping the taps running in the bathroom or threatening to harm herself. Moving her mother to a facility in Bengaluru has meant that professional caregivers not only pull her back from the edge without the family having to press the panic button but also keep her health parameters under control. It has certainly taken the stress away from both Smitha and her 79-year-old father.

Caregiving is a tough job when it comes to the unpredictability of Alzheimer's patients, whom their family lose a bit of every day. It is a relief for Smitha to have Usha live at Kite, a long-term care facility. "The centre ensures that my mother has her meals and medicines on time. They know exactly what to do when my mother has a meltdown or goes through a volatile state of mind. And that guided control has calmed her. She has made friends at the facility, is sociable and though she may not remember me, she talks to me normally," says Smitha, who talks to her every Sunday and visits her once a month.

For Dr Reema N, one of the founders of Kites Senior Care that specialises in dementia care, the challenge was to customise caregiving for each patient and explain the role of professional caregiving to the family. She says, "Most of the times when people come to us, they do not really know what they want. Our job is to play the role of family counsellor and work with them to find a solution that works. We give them a patient hearing to understand what stage the disease is at and what level of care they might need. Then, based on our internal discussions, we let them know whether the patient can be managed at home with our support or needs care at the centre."

She says, "Elder care services are the need of the hour. In smaller families, the symptoms of dementia and Alzheimer's can cause a lot of stress." Over the last 10 years, she has seen an increase in people getting diagnosed because they are aware of dementia and Alzheimer's and seek help at an early stage.

Meanwhile, Smitha's father's blood glucose levels are also under control. Although initially lonely without his wife, her father now has a friend circle and meets his brother and cousins regularly. After working in the insurance sector for all these years, he also likes to share his expertise with others guiding them on the policies they should buy.

Alzheimer's is a neurodegenerative disease where people slowly start to lose memories, thinking power, and in advanced stages ability to do day-to-day tasks. An estimated 5.3 million people in India are living with dementia; Alzheimer's is one of the most common forms of dementia. Cases of dementia are likely to increase to 14 million by 2050. Even as more and more people get the disease,



JITHENDRAM

There's an increase in the number of people getting diagnosed because now families are aware of dementia and Alzheimer's

there isn't any effective treatment to cure it. Some therapies have recently made it to the market that help in slowing down the decline.

The problem with Alzheimer's is late diagnosis as it was in the case of Usha. A former administrative officer at IIM Bangalore, she would frequently forget things, could not hold a cohesive conversation and sometimes would talk to herself. In the five years since her diagnosis, the disease slowly took Usha away from her daughter. "If I tried to give her medicines, she would think that I was trying to harm her. Sometimes she would have lunch and forget about it. She would then insist that we were not feeding her. Or at other times, she would eat only one thing, only fruits for days on end, for instance. Sometimes she would

not take a bath for days and if we told her that, she would get angry," says Smitha.

Usha started having emotional outbursts about what she perceived to be her reality. "Once when my father went to the washroom, she assumed that he had left her and had a meltdown. Or the time she got angry when she thought that we had stolen her gold chain." The breaking point was when Usha started endangering herself and her husband. "After we took her to the centre, at home we found knives stashed everywhere — under her pillow, behind the sofa, in a drawer," says Smitha. She is glad that there are people keeping an eye on her mother. She remembers the time when her mother walked out of the house without money and did not know how to get back. They located her after 14 hours with the help of the police.

For Harish Rao, a full-time caregiver restored peace in his household. Just over a year ago, he realised the reason he was constantly getting into fights with his 78-year-old father. "He was diagnosed with early stages of dementia after we had a scare as he started vomiting blood. The doctors told us that because of his dementia he wasn't able to feel the pain

caused by an ulcer bleeding in his stomach. That, combined with the issues he was facing with his balance and a few tests, led them to the diagnosis," says Harish. He now understands that while he thought his father was headstrong, it was because he couldn't comprehend what his son was saying.

While he was forgetful, Harish never realised that his father could have dementia. "He has been forgetful for nearly 10 years. He would sometimes go back to the front door twice to lock it or go back to the house twice to get things. But we thought this was normal for his age," he says.

"I would tell him something and he would just not do it. This led to a lot of shouting in our household. My wife would also get upset because he told us we didn't do anything for him. Now, we understand. And, we have a caregiver at home who can look after him through the day," he says.

His father needs help getting up because he keeps losing his balance. With his father awake at night, Harish would initially lay awake till 3 am talking to him. This affected his work life as well. Now, they bond over their weekly outing. "I go out with him once a week and we try to eat the foods he likes. Caregiving is a skilled job and I am glad that my father and I are communicating at last," he says.

LIFE POSITIVE



HELPING HAND

Alzheimer's is one of the most common forms of dementia. Cases of dementia are likely to increase to 14 million by 2050



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Now, cut out bad cholesterol

A new investigational medicine has shown a 55 per cent reduction in bad cholesterol levels during the initial stage of clinical trials

Anonna Dutt

KEEPING YOUR heart healthy means watching your cholesterol and the same goes for those with familial hypercholesterolemia, a genetic disorder that can trigger your bad cholesterol to dangerously high levels.

Researchers are on the brink of developing a single-dose, gene-edited therapy to control extremely high LDL levels in those with this genetic disorder, who face an increased risk of heart disease and early heart attacks.

Verve Therapeutics, which developed the therapy, reported a significant reduction of up to 55 per cent in bad cholesterol levels with their investigational medicine, VERVE-101, in the initial stage of its clinical trial.

Why are the initial results significant? The initial results are deemed significant

as they represent the first human data supporting the potential of gene editing as a treatment for individuals with familial hypercholesterolemia. Andrew Bellinger, Verve's chief scientific officer, highlights that the data confirms the hypothesis that a single-course gene editing medicine could induce "meaningful and durable reductions" in LDL when administered at therapeutic doses.

Dr V Mohan, Chairman of Dr. Mohan's Diabetes Specialities Centre, suggests that this breakthrough is particularly significant as existing treatments often fail to normalise elevated levels of bad cholesterol in individuals with a genetic predisposition to the disorder. "Statins that are a mainstay for treating high cholesterol levels are ineffective for individuals with familial hypercholesterolemia. Even the newer injectable therapy called PCSK9 inhibitor, which is much more effective than statins does not bring down their cholesterol



SLOW AND STEADY

Scientists are working on a single-dose therapy to control extremely high cholesterol levels in people with a genetic disorder

levels to normal. The normal LDL level should be around 70, for those with the genetic condition it can shoot up to 300, 400 or even 500," says Dr V Mohan.

How does the therapy work?

Using CRISPR-based gene-editing researchers have created an infusion that can "turn off" the PCSK9 gene. The gene is responsible for regulating the number of LDL receptors. These receptors can bind with LDL and remove it from the bloodstream.

These receptors are mainly found on the surface of the liver cells and the abundance of these cells determines how quickly the organ removes the bad cholesterol from the blood. The PCSK9 protein destroys these receptors before they reach the cell surface, resulting in high levels of bad cholesterol in the blood.

The PCSK9 inhibitor also works on the same principle, however, it just inhibits the action of the gene whereas VERVE-101 switches off the gene completely. "The PCSK9 inhibitor is something that has to be taken every few weeks, whereas the new therapy may be needed only once," said Dr Mohan.

To lower the extremely high level of cholesterol, scientists have also tried a method called plasmapheresis. "It is like dialysis, but for the blood. The bad cholesterol in the blood is filtered out. However, this process also has to be repeated every week or a couple of times a week. So, the new therapy is a breakthrough," Dr Mohan said.

What does research show?

A one-year animal study, published earlier this year, shows that the therapy called VERVE-101 lowered cholesterol levels by 49 per cent to 69 per cent depending on the dose. With the effects of a single dose of the therapy lasting for 2.5 years, the researchers suspect "VERVE-101 may potentially be an effective long-term or permanent treatment for high LDL."

The findings of the first study in humans, underway in New Zealand and the United Kingdom, were presented recently at the American Heart Association's scientific session. It shows that the therapy reduced LDL levels by 39 per cent and 48 per cent in two participants receiving 0.45 mg/kg dose and 55 per cent in one person receiving 0.6mg/kg. These results were seen in only those who were given the two higher doses. In total, there were nine participants in the study.

"We were thrilled to see that the previous testing we had done of VERVE-101 in animal models translated faithfully to these findings in humans. Despite available treatments, only about 3 per cent of patients living with familial hypercholesterolemia globally have reached target treatment goals," said senior study author Andrew M. Bellinger in a release. While the therapy will have to be studied in a larger number of people, including Indians, Dr Mohan says, "The science is exciting. However, more research, the cost of the therapy, side effects, and availability will all play a role in determining the clinical use of the therapy." He said that the cost is likely to be prohibitive, but for those with familial hypercholesterolemia who would otherwise die, the therapy could become an option.