

TWO-WHEELERS, EVs, TAXIS
to be exempted from scheme

LICENCE PLATE ENDING WITH
odd numbers to ply on odd dates

4TH TIME SCHEME HAS BEEN
implemented, last time in Nov 2019

HEERALAL SAMARIYA SWORN IN

Odd-even is back

Week-long curbs begin Nov 13 as Delhi air worsens ahead of Diwali and its aftermath



Traffic on the Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway on Monday morning. Air quality in Delhi continued to remain in 'severe' category for the fifth consecutive day. PTI

No silver bullet given the exemptions, but cuts toxic emissions

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 6

REDUCING THE number of vehicles on the road will definitely reduce the peak pollution levels, but this emergency action is not a silver bullet and its impact will be limited because two-wheelers — which contribute significantly to emissions — are exempted, and so are taxis.

EXPLAINED E has two components — one is exhaust from the tailpipe, and the other is from tyre and brake wear and tear. Tailpipe emissions have PM2.5, which will have soot, organics, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, and some poly-aromatic hydrocarbons," said Sachchida Nand Tripathi, Professor, IIT Kanpur, and Steering Committee member, National Clean Air Programme.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Was kept in dark on appointment of new CIC: Adhir writes to President

Congress MP in selection panel says he had requested rescheduling of meetings but was not informed



President Droupadi Murmu administers the oath of office to Heeralal Samariya as CIC at Rashtrapati Bhavan Monday. PTI

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 6

IN WHAT could potentially deepen the trust deficit between the Opposition and the Centre, the appointment of Information Commissioner Heeralal Samariya as the Chief Information Commissioner Monday triggered a political row with Congress MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, the Opposition member in the Prime Minister-headed high-powered selection committee, writing to President



Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury

Droupadi Murmu, saying he was "totally kept in the dark" about the selection.

"It is with extreme sadness and a heavy heart that I bring to your notice that all democratic norms, customs and procedures were thrown to the wind in the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPRESS IMPACT

The Bombay High Court Monday ordered curbs on firecrackers and vehicles carrying construction material — the latest in a series of responses following reports in The Indian Express's ongoing series on Mumbai's air.



Mumbai holds its breath, alarm bells ring but no one's listening

EXPRESS REPORT (Oct 20): Pollution plan gathers dust

Response: BMC issues norms, draws red lines on construction

Oct 21: Not enough AQI measuring stations

Response: BMC and state

announce 40 new stations
Oct 25: Garbage burns — no rules followed

Response: BMC bans open burning, says will monitor better

Oct 30: Air gets worse but advisories are missing

Response: State announces command & control centre to monitor AQI and issue advisories

Response: Rs 41 lakh collected in fines by polluting vehicles; notices to several companies

REPORT, PAGE 11

In Punjab paddy fields, harvesting underway, fewer farm fires so far

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND
HOSHIARPUR, SANGRUR, PATIALA, NOVEMBER 6

PUNJAB'S HOSHIARPUR, bordering Himachal Pradesh, has missed its zero stubble burning target this year.

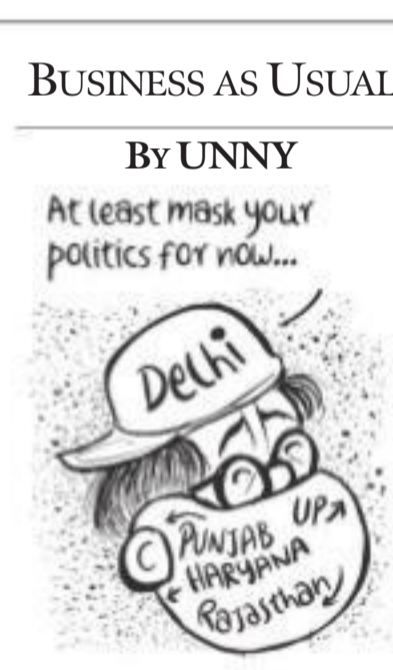
But the number of instances of crop residue burning to clear the fields after the paddy harvest has been lower than usual — at least so far this year.

The situation in Hoshiarpur mirrors what's happening in the rest of the state — while farm fires between September 15 and

November 5 are lower than previous years, several interventions are yet to show their full impact. Plus, with the harvest season still underway, the full brunt of farm fires might still be felt.

"We had a target, but we have missed it," said Lovely, Assistant Agriculture Engineer (Implements) from the Agriculture Department. Hoshiarpur was one of six districts where the Punjab government targeted zero stubble burning this year, the others being Malerkotla, Pathankot, Rupnagar, SAS Nagar and SBS Nagar.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Nepal's Jajarkot hit by quake again, residents afraid to sleep indoors



At a relief camp in a school playground in Jajarkot. Asad Rehman

ASAD REHMAN
JAJARKOT (NEPAL), NOVEMBER 6

RESIDENTS OF Nepal's Jajarkot, who have been sleeping on the streets or in relief camps since Friday's earthquake as fear of aftershocks kept them out of their houses, were preparing to finally

move back indoors on Monday when another quake struck. This one measured 5.6 on the Richter scale.

The streets of Jajarkot are still strewn with debris from Friday night's quake, which killed 153 people — authorities on Monday revised the toll down from 157 citing duplication of some

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Kejriwal will run govt from jail if held: AAP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 6

THE AAM Aadmi Party (AAP) said on Monday that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will "run the Delhi government from jail" if he is arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

Following a meeting attended by party ministers, MLAs and senior leaders, AAP Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj said: "It was unanimously decided that if CM Arvind Kejriwal is arrested, he will continue to run the Delhi government from jail, as the people of Delhi gave him the mandate. There is no provision in the Constitution that mandates the resignation of the CM if they are in jail awaiting trial. It is clear that PM Narendra Modi and the BJP are afraid of him."

Kejriwal was summoned by the ED last week for questioning in the excise policy case, but he skipped the summons.

FULL REPORT, PAGE 4

Limit requests for login/logout details to heinous cases: Meta to Delhi Police

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 6

REQUESTS FOR "login or logout details" of a social media account should be limited to "cases of heinous nature or significant gravity", a team of Meta officials is learnt to have told the Delhi Police.

Meta owns and operates

Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp.

At an interactive session held at Delhi Police headquarters on October 27, the Meta team is also learnt to have said that all requests for information must include a brief background of the case and explain the relevance of the information sought in connection with the alleged crime.

The session, to discuss vari-

ous issues related to cyber crime and requisitioning of data by law enforcement agencies, was held in the presence of Special CP (Special Cell) Hargobinder Singh Dhaliwal. It was attended by all Deputy Commissioners of Police (DCPs) of districts and specialised units, along with Station House Officers (SHOs) of cyber police stations.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

THE WORLD



ISRAEL CUTS OFF NORTH GAZA FROM REST OF TERRITORY

BLINKEN'S MIDDLE EAST TOUR ENDS
PAGE 18

Cong's caste census doesn't find echo on poll street

VIKAS PATHAK
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 6

THE CONGRESS'S prime poll plank of caste census to wean away the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) from the BJP in the Hindi heartland does not seem to be resonating on the ground in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, with 20 seats in the latter going to polls in the first phase on Tuesday.

Over eight days and several conversations with OBC voters in north Chhattisgarh and the Mahakoshal region of Madhya Pradesh, there were hardly any voices calling caste count an important political agenda for them. In Chhattisgarh, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's promise of a farm loan waiver is a key point of conversation among OBC Sahus and Kurmis who react through the lens of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 6

AT A time when three state governments have moved the Supreme Court against their Governors for keeping Bills pending, a three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud on Monday said Governors "must act" before the matter reaches the court.

Calling for some "soul-searching" by Governors as well as Chief Ministers, the Bench said Governors "cannot be oblivious to the fact that they are not elected representatives of the people".

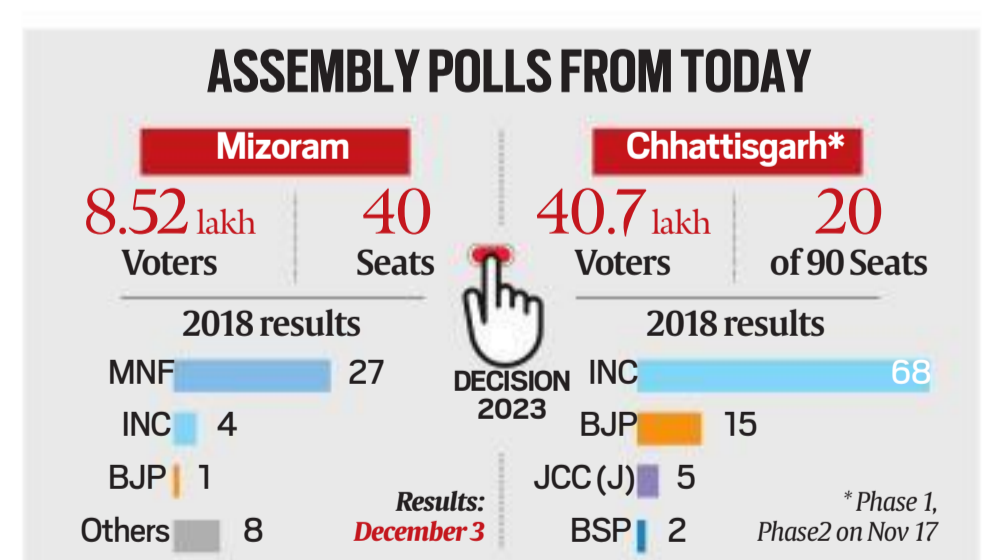
"Why do parties have to

come to the SC? The Governors must act before it comes to the SC. Only after they come to the SC, the Governors start acting. This has to stop," the Bench, which included Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, said.

While the Bench was hearing a plea filed by the Punjab government, which said that Governor Banwarilal Purohit had kept seven Bills pending, the Kerala and Tamil Nadu governments have also filed similar pleas.

Fixing the next hearing for November 10, the court asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who appeared for Purohit, to apprise it of "the action taken by the Governor" by then.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



PAGE 1 ANCHOR

NITIN SHARMA
CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 6

BACK IN April this year, it was the barely conscious mountain climber Anurag Maloo's blinking eyes that gave the rescue party hope when they climbed down a 70-metre-deep crevasse at 6,000 metres at Mt Annapurna in Nepal.

The two Polish mountaineers, Adam Bielecki and Mariusz Hatala, who gave up their summit trek, would lift Maloo out of the icy chasm three days after he had gone missing. It was during his 21-day trek

After 200 days in hospital, rescued climber eyes Annapurna again

to be atop the 8,091-metre Mt Annapurna, 10th highest mountain in the world, that the 34-year-old from Kishangarh, Rajasthan, chose the wrong rope — a decision that saw him slip disastrously.

On October 31, after nearly 200 days of hospitalisation in two countries, Maloo was discharged from AIIMS, New Delhi. After his rescue in April, doctors at Manipal hospital in Pokhara spent four hours trying to revive him. He was later airlifted to Medicti Hospital in Kathmandu and subsequently to Delhi, where he was treated for organ damage — heart, kidney and

lungs. The climber, who started walking just a few days back after physiotherapy, had to undergo plastic surgery to heal the frostbite in his right arm and torso.

Welcomed at home by family and friends, with smiles, tears of joy and marigold garlands; Maloo shares what he has learnt from the trauma: "Living every moment".

Speaking to The Indian Express from Kishangarh he says, "Life is beautiful. That's one thing you realise after being in hospital for so long that you better start living every moment you have. It feels really great that I am



Mountaineer Anurag Maloo on returning home after being discharged from AIIMS, Delhi, on October 31. Express

at home after more than seven months."

He gets philosophical when talking about the long lonely days in the dark hole. "I was like a child in my mother's womb after the fall. Mt Annapurna, the mother goddess, saved me and that's why I am here, back home."

Maloo doesn't remember much from the days after his rescue. "I don't have any memories of the crevasse as well as my day at the hospital in Pokhara, where doctors gave me CPR for four hours before shifting me to Kathmandu. I can't remember anything from the 10-12 days at

Kathmandu before I regained consciousness and saw myself in wound dressings over my torso and right hand," he says, as he thanks Dr Maneesh Singhal, Dr Suvasish Dash, the nursing staff, his parents, brother Ashish and sister-in-law Shikha for caring and praying for him.

Maloo was treated at the AIIMS Trauma Center and also the Burns and Plastic Surgery ICU.

Not unnerved by his near-death experience, Maloo, like a true mountaineer, has already started thinking of planting his ice-axe on top of Mt Annapurna. "I have always believed that Mt Annapurna is the toughest

mountain to climb and if I am going to attempt 8,000 metres, it will be Mt Annapurna. I somehow connect it with being the mother mountain and if I can climb Mt Annapurna, I can climb any other mountain in the world," he says.

From sharing his future climbing plans, Maloo seamlessly switches to the day when he made a costly wrong choice. Following an abandoned attempt to reach the summit, it was during the descent from Camp 3 to Camp 2 that Maloo fell in a deep crevasse on April 17.

"I took the wrong rope. My

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

FROM PAGE ONE

FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Odd-even is back

two-wheelers and other commercial vehicles. When the odd-even scheme is in place, an estimated 12.5 lakh cars are likely to be off the roads.

This is the fourth time the odd-even scheme is being implemented in Delhi; it was first introduced for 15 days in January 2016; then for another 15 days in April 2016; and three years later for 15 days in November 2019.

An Environment Department official said public transport was adequate as of now. But a meeting on Tuesday will decide if there is a need to enhance it once restrictions kick. Further, modalities of the scheme's implementation, and whether it should be extended beyond November 20, would also be discussed on Tuesday, the official said.

Delhi Metro has already increased the number of trips by 60, and bus services have been enhanced by an additional 2,400 trips, but the ridership had not increased commensurately. "We hope that demand generated by odd-even restrictions will be absorbed by these additional serv-

ices," the official said. The odd-even scheme is recommended under Stage IV or the 'severe plus' category of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), the last stage of the plan, which kicked in on Sunday.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board, the Air Quality Index (AQI) in Delhi at 4 pm on Monday stood at 421. This is the longest such 'severe' (AQI of 401 to 500) air day streak that Delhi has seen in November since 2021. In November 2020, the air remained 'severe' for six days in a row.

The odd-even scheme adds to a set of other transport-related restrictions that are already in place under GRAP, including a ban on plying Delhi registered diesel medium and heavy goods vehicles in the city, except for those providing essential services; a ban on entry of truck traffic into Delhi except CNG/electric trucks and those carrying essentials; a ban on a of LCVs registered outside Delhi, except for electric/CNG/BS-VI diesel vehicles, except for those providing essential services. A ban

on entry of BS-III and BS-IV diesel buses into Delhi kicked in on November 1.

A forecast issued by the Air Quality Early Warning System on Monday said the air quality is likely to remain 'severe' from November 7 to 9, and for six days thereafter. While the contribution of farm fires to PM2.5 levels in Delhi was 21.07 per cent on Sunday, the forecast issued by the Decision Support System indicates that it is unlikely to fall over the next two days. It is estimated to be 26.304% on Monday, 25.64 per cent on Tuesday, and 30.88 per cent on Wednesday.

While calm conditions and low wind speeds have been prevailing so far, preventing the dispersion of pollutants, a western disturbance is likely to affect northwestern India from Tuesday night onwards, and wind speed is expected to pick up in Delhi from Tuesday afternoon onwards, with a gradual increase from 8 km per hour to 15 km per hour on November 7 to 11, said Kuldeep Srivastava, scientist, India Meteorological Department.

Odd-even no silver bullet but cuts toxic emissions

But transport is the top contributor to pollutants, and it cannot be left out when air quality remains 'severe' for days together. "If you look only at Delhi's local sources, transport is the top contributor to pollutants. Vehicles are the biggest part of the problem now and you cannot leave vehicles out while taking emergency action," said Anumita Roychowdhury, Executive Director, Research and Advocacy, Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).

While pollution would come down with the scheme, experts say it is difficult to estimate exactly how much. "This time, it would be difficult to say. Some parts of transport sector emissions come from outside Delhi, and these restrictions are being implemented in Delhi. Restrictions are also only a small subset of the transport fleet which actually plies on the roads. Even within that subset, there are exemptions. It's also about how effective you can make it. With all that, it doesn't give the result you would expect. If you have many interventions concurrently, it would be difficult to say what impact an individual intervention might have," said IIT Kanpur's Prof Tripathi.

On impact, Tripathi pointed to a study on the odd-even scheme implemented in January 2016 published a year later. This study

indicated it had "failed to mitigate air pollution". Tripathi, SAFAR's Gufan Beig, and Sagnik Dey at the Centre for Atmospheric Sciences, IIT Delhi, were among those involved in the study.

It said that "the change of PM2.5 due to traffic restriction remains small and within the uncertainty range of the satellite-based PM2.5 estimates. Simulations... reveal a decrease of PM2.5 by 8-10% in three pockets of Delhi; while in the remaining parts of Delhi NCT, it decreases by only 2-3%. It can be concluded that restricting traffic volume alone cannot control PM2.5 concentration over Delhi, where there are multiple other sources contributing towards making the city's air dirty... Therefore, in the current circumstances, this intervention will continue to fail to deliver the expected benefit. We also feel that the bulk of pollution that lingers outside NCT limits will not be contained outside the boundaries of the city if the traffic interventions are applied only within the NCT."

An analysis by CSE on week one of the odd-even scheme in January 2016 said the peak PM2.5 level during a smog episode in the first week of January, was 391 µg/m3, down from a peak of 498 µg/m3 during a smog episode in December, and 606 µg/m3 during an episode in November.

Roychowdhury of CSE said their centre had looked into the data in 2016. "What it showed was that during the odd-even week, pollution was not as high as the previous week. Also, during the day, under no wind conditions, hourly trends were downward. Odd-even is not an isolated measure, but part of several emergency actions that are being taken, like stopping construction. The sole purpose is that when pollutants are already trapped outside and there is no wind to blow it away, all that you can do till ventilation improves is ensure that you are preventing the loading of more pollutants. Emergency action is not a silver bullet, that you do it and the air will clean up," she said.

Impact cannot be determined on the basis of AQI, but by looking at the concentration level of pollutants, Roychowdhury said. The Decision Support System of the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology estimated emissions from Delhi's transport sector to be 17.75 per cent on Sunday, about 3 percentage points lower than 21.07 per cent from stubble burning. "If you look only at Delhi's local sources, transport is the top contributor to pollutants. Vehicles are the biggest part of the problem now and you cannot leave vehicles out while taking emergency action," Roychowdhury added.

In Punjab paddy fields, fewer farm fires so far

While Malerkotla has not been listed as a separate district in crop residue burning bulletins of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), the other districts have missed their zero burning target, though Pathankot has just three instances.

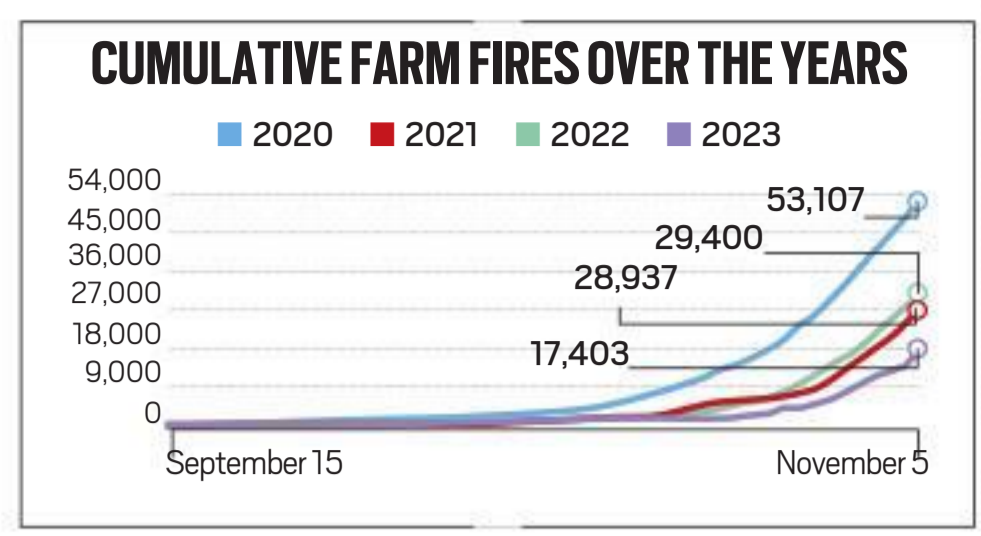
Between September 15 and November 5, Hoshiarpur had a fire count of 79 — significantly lower than 231 in 2022; 243 in 2021; and 359 in 2020.

Lovely pointed to factors that have helped: "With cattle rearing, straw finds other uses, including as fodder and bedding. Residue management machinery has increased over the past few years, and in the past two to three years, the use of balers has picked up. Meetings have been held with farm unions."

Kuldev, with an acre of farmland in Hoshiarpur's Mehmowal village, where a baler was turning the straw into neat rectangular bales, agreed that these have helped, but only as long as the straw is then picked up for use.

Lovely pointed out that the cost associated with a baler and the novelty of alternative uses to the straw means its use hasn't picked up as much as may be necessary to bring residue burning down further. "While 45 balers were sanctioned here this year, only 26 were bought. Demand is important. There is a biomass power plant in Garshankar which is buying the straw. Two units in Himachal Pradesh have also been buying it to use as fuel. Making pellets of the straw for use in brick kilns and industries... all of this is a new concept and will take a while to pick up," he said.

The state had also aimed for a reduction of a little over 5,000



hectares in paddy cultivation in Hoshiarpur by diversifying to other crops. Lovely, and a submission made by the Punjab Pollution Control Board to the National Green Tribunal in October, said that crop diversification is proving difficult considering the "steadily increasing" MSP of paddy over the past three years. Hoshiarpur has around 79,000 hectares under paddy cultivation, in addition to 26,500 hectares under sugarcane, and the total paddy straw generation here is 5.12 lakh tonnes. This is well below the 2,38,690 hectares under paddy cultivation in Sangrur, where the total straw generation is 15.24 lakh tonnes.

Five days after the bales were made from the straw on his 10-acre field, Dilbag Singh, 48, in Sangrur's Kheri village, was waiting for them to be picked. He said: "The potato crop needs to be sown. Labour is waiting, along with a tractor loaded with material to sow the crop. They (those meant to purchase the bales) said they would take the bales away to a factory, but they never returned and we haven't been able to contact the person who operated the baler. Do we set the bales on fire now?" Till November 5, Sangrur had

recorded 2,698 instances of burning, the highest for any district in the state, according to the IARI bulletin. This is still less than the 4,676 such instances recorded till November 5 last year, and 7,496 over the same period in 2020. In 2021, there were marginally higher instances — 2,762.

Two brothers with around 13 acres in Sangrur's Kanoi village, who set their field on fire after the harvest and did not wish to be named, said a super-seeder, which helps plough the residue back into the soil, prepare the field for the next crop and sow seeds, requires a 65-horsepower tractor, which they don't have. "It is expensive. A (cooperative) society in the village has two machines (super-seeders), but we can't wait (for our turn). With the baler, we are hearing that nobody is taking the bales away. But there are changes, and in the past few years, the number of machines has been increasing," one of them said.

Punjab has 1,17,672 machines this year, more than 90,422 last year.

The theme of bales not being collected runs across the state — in Kheri Gandian village, Jaspal Singh set the straw on fire after a firm from Sangrur never showed up.

Limit login/logout detail requests to heinous cases: Meta

"The Meta officials asked the Delhi Police to not ask for login or logout details in every case. They emphasised that these details should preferably be sought only in cases of heinous nature or cases of significant gravity. They have also asked to limit requests for a substantial volume of data from social media intermediaries," said a Delhi Police officer.

"After the interaction, it was also suggested that a cap should be put on the number of queries and quality requests be prioritised. They recommended that requests to WhatsApp should be directed to their corporate address in the United States," the officer said.

"The Delhi Police asked about the types of IP addresses provided by WhatsApp in a case. On this, the concerned official informed that only the last seen IP address and the current IP address can be provided. It was also

informed that if an account is blocked, no IP information can be provided due to its unavailability," the officer said.

According to sources, the Meta team clearly stated that requests by police should include a brief background of the case, explain the relevance of the information sought in connection with the alleged crime, and mention the role of individuals involved in order to enable a more effective response.

During the interaction, which lasted for about three hours, the Delhi Police raised several queries, including on providing transactional details (login and logout records), hash values of content, identification of message originators on the same platform, IMEI and device details, and methods for restoring a Meta account.

"Addressing a question related to the duration of data retention

and how they can assist investigating agencies in a case where the IP address is traced to Nigeria, the Meta officials informed that data is retained for an initial period of 90 days. However, the period can subsequently be extended by generating a new request ID," the officer said.

"Many Delhi Police officers raised the issue of social media intermediaries not providing IMEI or device details. Meta officials responded that they did not have the necessary information at the moment, but would look into the matter," the officer said.

The Meta team is learnt to have told police that while social media accounts cannot be restored directly at the insistence of law enforcement agencies, a request can be generated by enclosing a screenshot of the hacked page or referring the matter to them.

Kept in dark on new CIC: Adhir

matter of selection of the Central Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners," he wrote, pointing out that the government neither consulted nor informed him about the selection.

Samariya was sworn in as the CIC by Murmu on Monday at a function attended by Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, sources close to Chowdhury said he had been told about a meeting, then the dates were changed because of which he had to reschedule his calendar, postpone his travel to Kolkata — only to find out that the CIC's name had been announced and he hadn't been told.

According to the Right to Information Act, 2005, the CIC and ICs are appointed by the President on the recommendation of a committee headed by the PM and comprising the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha (in this case the leader of the largest Opposition party) and a Union Minister nominated by the PM.

Chowdhury said officials of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) had reached out to his office in the last week of October seeking his availability for the meeting of the committee. His office informed them that he was available in Delhi until November 2 and that he had to travel to West Bengal to attend a pre-scheduled meeting on November 3.

Chowdhury, however, received a communication from the DoPT informing him that the panel meeting was scheduled to take place at 6 pm on November 3. He then wrote to Jitendra Singh, the Minister of State, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, urging him to reschedule the meeting.

"As for the schedule of the meeting, my office was continuously in touch with officers concerned of the DoPT. It was informed in very clear terms that owing to a pre-scheduled function that I have to attend in West Bengal, it would not be possible for me to attend the meeting as per the schedule proposed," Chowdhury's letter dated November 1 said. "It was requested that the meeting may be re-scheduled to be held on 1st or 2nd November, 2023, or at 9 am on 3 November, 2023, instead of 6 pm on that day. As I am committed to attend the pre-scheduled meeting in the evening of 3 November, 2023, I am compelled to express my inability to attend the meeting as per the schedule proposed."

He said the government, however, went ahead and appointed Samariya as the CIC without even informing him.

When contacted, a DoPT official declined to comment.

In his letter to the President, Chowdhury said the RTI Act "in consonance with our democratic norms and traditions envisages that the voice of the Opposition too is heard in the process of selection of CIC/ICs".

"I, despite being a member of the selection committee in my capacity as the leader of the largest Opposition party in Lok Sabha, was totally kept in the dark about the selection of the CIC/ICs, at the meeting that was held at the residence of the PM, November 2, 2023. The fact that within hours of the meeting in which only the PM and the Home Minister were present and the 'face of the Opposition', that is, me, as a bona fide member of the selection committee was not present, the names of the selected candidates were announced, notified and also sworn into office, only indicates that the entire selection exercise was predetermined," he said. Asserting that he was "extremely keen and enthusiastic to partake in the selection process by attending the meeting had it been convened at a time that would have been suitable to all the members," he said, "the process, as it unfolded within a short span, is not conducive for your democratic ethos and norms."

"Unfortunately, while the scheduled time of the selection meeting at 6 pm on November 3, 2023, suited the PM and the Home Minister despite their hectic electioneering schedules, my plea for rescheduling the meeting, to be held in the morning on the same day — November 3, 2023 — was totally disregarded, and all my sincere efforts to attend the meeting failed," he said.

More blatant, he said, was the fact that he was "not even informed of the outcome of the meeting". "And even more glaringly, apart from being deprived of the opportunity to be a part of the meeting called in connection with the selection process, I received an invitation this morning for attending the swearing-in ceremony of the newly selected candidates for the posts of CIC/ICs," he said, and urged the President to "take every possible measure for ensuring that our democratic traditions and ethos do not continue to get diluted by not giving the Opposition its rightful and legitimate place to be heard."

The post of CIC has been lying vacant following completion of Y K Sinha's tenure on October 3. The two ICs who assumed office are Anandi Ramalingam and Vinod Kumar Tiwari.

Earthquake-hit Jajarkot residents

names — and injured 250. Several houses, mostly belonging to the poor and built of rocks and mud, were completely destroyed in the 6.4-magnitude quake, while some bigger and stronger houses were left still standing with some visible cracks on the walls.

On Monday night, hours after the latest quake hit at 4:30 pm, residents of all these houses — both the destroyed ones and those still standing — were crowding at a chaotic relief camp set up on a playground, scrambling for mattresses. No one dared sleep indoors for fear of more aftershocks, and were set to spend the night in the tents erected by authorities.

Among those at the camp was Subarna K C, 19, who belongs to an influential business family in the area. Sitting with her sister, she said: "Our house has seven rooms, but tonight we share this space with everyone here. The earthquake on Friday night didn't affect our house, but the one today has resulted in cracks in our house. So, my parents advised the younger ones to sleep here tonight."

Subarna is a BBA student from a private college in Kathmandu. She and her sister, Isha, were

preparing to spend the night in one of the many tents made of tarpaulin sheets in the camp. Most used foam sheets as mattresses, and there were around 40 other people in Subarna's tent.

In the same tent was the family of Badra Bahadur Oli, 48, a farmer. Oli is there with his four children, aged between 10 months and 15 years, and wife Bhagwati.

"We weren't expecting to be here today. But the earthquake in the evening has scared us," Bhagwati said.

When Monday's quake hit, there was chaos in Jajarkot, and people were seen running to find safe places. The quake, which lasted around four seconds, did not lead to any casualties. It did, however, increase fear of aftershocks among people of the district, which lost 101 people in Friday's quake.

Harish Chandra Sharma, Assistant Chief District Officer for Jajarkot, said: "We have been working without stopping for three days... We were hopeful that there will be fewer people at relief camps today, but the fresh earthquake on Monday has changed that."

Governors must act before state govts approach SC: CJI Bench

Raising questions on the Punjab Assembly being adjourned sine die in March without being prorogued, the CJI said: "There is a little bit of soul searching required by the Chief Ministers, there is a little bit of soul searching required by the Governors. Because Governors also cannot be oblivious to the fact that they are not elected representatives of the people. The Governor can either withhold his assent, refer it to the President... they are duty bound... (or) they can return it once. And particularly on money Bills".

"Honestly, my concern is this. Why should parties be required to move the Supreme Court for the convening of a Budget Session? We are a democracy which has been in operation since the birth of the Constitution. There are matters which have to be sorted out between Governors and Chief Ministers. We are available. We will ensure that the Constitution is complied with. But surely this is something which the Governor and the Chief Minister..." he said.

"The Assembly was adjourned sine die (after Budget Session) on March 22, 2023, without being prorogued. It was summoned on March 3, 2023. Now, the Speaker reconvened the sitting of the Assembly almost three months later, on

June 12, 2023. Is that really the scheme of the Constitution... if there is going to be a break of three months, don't you then... prorogue the session, and then reconvene the session. It is entirely the power of the government of the day to advise the Governor to reconvene the session, but... you have to hold a session within a period of six months, right? Six months is what the Constitution says... That's why the life of an ordinance cannot exceed six months and six weeks," he said.

"Now, what's happening is he says you adjourn the session sine die for three months... Really speaking, the Budget Session merges with the Monsoon Session... Is this the scheme of the Constitution," the CJI asked.

Appearing for the Punjab government, Senior Advocate AM Singhvi said, "This is a very strange case where a Governor has kept seven Bills... They are fiscal Bills, affiliated college Bills etc..." He submitted that Article 200 makes assent to a Bill mandatory and says the Governor shall not withhold assent.

The SG agreed to apprise the court on the action taken by the Governor. "One thing I would agree with Singhvi is that there are certain astonishing things happening in constitutional his-

tory... keeping the Assembly alive without any proroguing or adjourning so that whenever you want to abuse people, you gather and abuse, claim privilege etc," Mehta said.

"It's astonishing. Never happened in the history of Indian democracy. Happening in two states. I will place before Your Lordships the position that this is unnecessary litigation," he said. Punjab Advocate General Gurminder Singh said of the seven Bills mentioned by Singhvi, four were passed by the Assembly in July and sent to the Governor. He said the Governor's recommendation was sought on three of these Bills as they were money Bills. "In two, he has furnished his recommendation after the filing of the petition," he said.

Meanwhile, Senior Advocate K K Venugopal told the court that the state of Kerala has filed a similar petition against the Governor for keeping "three Bills, all intended for the welfare of the people, pending for two years without disposing them". The court said it would hear the matter whenever it comes up.

The Tamil Nadu government has also approached the SC against Governor RN Ravi, complaining that 12 Bills were kept pending.

Climber eyes Annapurna

sherpa was behind me and I did not know which rope to take. If my sherpa was ahead of me, he would have known which rope to take. I have learnt my lesson," he says.

The mention of his rescuers, the two Polish climbers, makes Maloo really emotional. Adam and Mariusz followed the unwritten bro-code of mountaineers — to use their skill set to help others. "I really get goosebumps when I see Adam's rescue video. They were planning to bring my body out when Adam saw me and put his torch on my face. He saw my eyes blinking and faint breathing, so he noticed that I was alive. To rescue me in that deep crevasse with the pulley system was something only he could do at that time," says Maloo.

He also shares the chat he had with Adam after his recovery. "I thanked him for everything he did to save my life. What more can I tell the man who saved my life? I am here because of all the risks taken by the team and Adam and the others to rescue me. It won't happen to everyone. Life is short and small, and (it's) better (that) you live it each day. That's how I would like the world to see my story. And hopefully I will recover and start mountaineering again," he says.

Cong's caste census doesn't find echo on poll street

their occupational identity as farmers rather than caste. Caste census figures in the Congress's manifesto for Chhattisgarh and senior party leaders from Rahul Gandhi to Priyanka Gandhi have promised to conduct the exercise if the Congress is voted back to power. The BJP's concern about a caste survey is that it can give rise to contesting demands, jeopardising its strategy of caste balancing. On November 2, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said in Chhattisgarh, "The BJP has never opposed the caste census, but decisions have to be taken after careful thought." Of the BJP's 90 candidates in Chhattisgarh, 31 are OBCs while the Congress has fielded 30 OBCs.

In Chhattisgarh's Kawardha tehsil, farmer Bhagat Patel who belongs to the Lodhi community expresses concern that the

Congress's promise of a farm loan waiver will eat into the Hindu votes of BJP's Vijay Sharma and help Congress's Mohammad Akbar win again. Patel alleges that Akbar, the incumbent MLA and state law minister, has been getting Rohingya Muslims to settle here to engineer demographic changes, an accusation the Congress rejects. Patel wants the BJP to win but is disappointed that it has made no farm-loan-waiver promise in a belt where paddy farmers are reeling under debt.

In Jabalpur, Narsinghpur and Pipariya in Madhya Pradesh, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's Ladli Behna scheme — Rs 1,250 is transferred each month into the accounts of women between 21 and 60 years old who have an annual family income of less than Rs 2.5 lakh — is a topic of animated discussion among OBC commu-

nities, particularly in the Lodhi-heavy belt of Gotegaon and Narsinghpur.

In Pipariya, a young Lodhi voter thinks Shivraj supports only women voters. He says that while the Ladli Behna scheme puts money into their accounts, the CM has not concentrated on infrastructure and jobs. Women not giving money to their husbands has led to a rise in marital strife, he adds. On a train from Raipur to Bhopal, a young man quips, "Yahaan laadla ki nahin hai, sirf laadli hi hain (no boy here is loved, only girls are cared for)."

Among the national-level issues, India's image abroad, the Ram temple in Ayodhya, terrorism and national security often figure in discussions. The condition of roads is also a topic, with many saying that road quality has improved under the BJP. In Bhopal,

cab driver Ajit says that the commute to his village is now much shorter as roads have improved over the past decade.

In Chhindwara district's Junnardeo constituency, Suraj, a young man from the Sahu caste (community of oil-pressers) says that while he is disappointed with the BJP in the state, the fact that terrorism has ebbed and the Ram temple will soon be a reality will make him vote for Kamal Nath in the Assembly elections and Narendra Modi in the Lok Sabha.

In Bargi seat near Jabalpur, when a group of voters from the Vishwakarma (carpenter) caste were asked why they had not even mentioned a caste census promised by the Congress as an issue, one among them said, "Caste is not an issue in our state. Maybe in UP and Bihar, people think about it in the context of polls."

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- Bidder can check the status of the payment.

Event of Calendar:

Sl. No.	Events	Date & Time
1.	Online Tender purchase Start date	08.11.2023 by 5:00 PM
2.	Online Tender purchase End date	23.11.2023 by 5:00 PM
3.	Online Bid Submission End date	24.11.2023 by 3:00 PM
4.	Online Pre-Bid Meeting	15.11.2023 by 4:00 PM
5.	Hard copy of technical submission End date	24.11.2023 by 3:00 PM
6.	Technical Proposal Open Date	24.11.2023 by 5:00 PM

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7 AIR		8 AIR		9 AIR		11 AIR		12 AIR		13 AIR		14 AIR		15 AIR		16 AIR		18 AIR		19 AIR		20 AIR	
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21 AIR		22 AIR		23 AIR		25 AIR		26 AIR		27 AIR		28 AIR		29 AIR		30 AIR		31 AIR		32 AIR		33 AIR	
SHIVAM YADAV PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT		G V S PAVANDATTA ABHYAAS, MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS CLASSES, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT		VAISHALI PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT		SANKHE KASHMIRA KISHOR ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ESSAY TEST SERIES		GUNJITA AGRAWAL LAKSHYA, ABHYAAS, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT		YADAV SURYABHAN ACHCHELAL SERIES, ABHYAAS, ETHICS CASE STUDIES		ANKITA PUWAR ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS		POURUSH SOOD ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT		PREKSHA AGRAWAL ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT		PRIYANSHA GARG ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS, PT 365, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT		NITTIN SINGH SERIES, ABHYAAS, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT		THARUN PATNAIK MADALA ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS, ESSAY TEST SERIES	
34 AIR		37 AIR		38 AIR		39 AIR		40 AIR		41 AIR		42 AIR		43 AIR		44 AIR		46 AIR		48 AIR		49 AIR	
ANUBHAV SINGH ALL INDIA TEST SERIES		CHAITANYA AWASTHI ABHYAAS		ANUP DAS ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT		GARIMA NARULA FOUNDATION COURSE CLASSROOM, LAKSHYA, ABHYAAS		SRI SAI ASHRITH SHAKHAMURI ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS		SHUBHAM ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS		PRANITA DASH ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT		ARCHITA GOYAL LAKSHYA, ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT		TUSHAR KUMAR ALL INDIA TEST SERIES		MANAN AGARWAL FOUNDATION COURSE CLASSROOM, LAKSHYA, ABHYAAS		AADITYA PANDEY PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT		SANSKRITI SOMANI ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS	

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फाउंडेशन कोर्स सामान्य अध्ययन 2025, 2026 & 2027

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DRIVER ARRESTED, WAS DRUNK, SAY COPS

Woman killed, 3 injured, after car mows them down in GK

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 6

CROSSING THE road on way to work, a 45-year-old woman died after a vehicle, allegedly being driven by an inebriated person, hit a few pedestrians in South Delhi's Greater Kailash on Monday, police officers said.

Besides the deceased, Neetu, a domestic help, three other persons including two women were injured in the accident.

DCP (South) Chandan Chowdhary said police received a PCR call Monday morning regarding a road accident at the Archana red light bus stop involving a car.

Said the DCP, "The driver of the vehicle, Vinay (23), was nabbed by the public and taken into custody of the PCR staff. He was drunk, with his alcohol metre test going up to 280 ml (the permissible limit is 30). During enquiry, it was revealed that the accused was going from Moolchand towards Chirag Delhi area."

Police said the car was being driven in a "very rash and negligent manner".

"When the accused was crossing the red light, three to four persons who were crossing the road got hit by the car. The injured persons were immediately rushed to AIIMS Trauma Centre in a PCR van," said the DCP.

The injured were identified as Harish, 54, Seema, 46, Rekha,



The accident took place at the Archana red light bus stop on Monday morning. Express

46, and Neetu, who later succumbed to her injuries.

Officers said the MLC reports of the injured persons are being prepared, adding their statement would be obtained once they are fit to speak to the police.

Meanwhile, a case under IPC sections of rash driving and causing hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others has been lodged against the accused who has been sent to AIIMS Trauma Centre for medical examination.

Accused was driving a friend's car

Vinay works as a financier with his uncle. "On Sunday night, they had celebrated his uncle's birthday at CR Park. On Monday morning, Vinay, along with his friend, took the key of another friend's car and went to

Moti Nagar to buy some snacks. It was when they were returning that the accident occurred," said the DCP.

The car belonged to Vinay's friend Lav Kush Pandey, a resident of Khirki village, who works as a property dealer. On the car purportedly bearing the Delhi Police logo, the DCP said Pandey had procured the signage online and affixed it on his vehicle to prevent his vehicle from being stopped by the Traffic Police.

A case under sections 39 and 192 of the Motor Vehicles Act has been added against the vehicle owner, said police. "The driver or the owner is not related to any police officer," added the DCP.

The deceased Neetu is survived by her husband, who works as a security guard, and their two children, said police. The family lives in Sangam Vihar.

PARTY HOLDS MEET APPREHENDING CM'S ARREST IN EXCISE CASE

Kejriwal elected by people, will not resign, declares AAP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 6

APPREHENDING THE possibility of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's arrest in relation to the excise policy case, the AAP Monday said he will continue to run the city even if he is behind bars. A discussion with AAP councillors in Delhi, the Punjab CM and MLAs, and the organisation across the country will be held to discuss the decision taken on Monday.

AAP had maintained that the excise case was "fake" and there was no proof to link party leaders to any wrongdoing. Former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh and party communications in-charge Vijay Nair have been arrested in the matter. Neither has been granted bail.

Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj also expressed the possibility of other leaders being arrested. He also said the ministers will visit Kejriwal in jail if need be for directions regarding the govern-



CM Kejriwal holds a meeting with MLAs and senior party leaders, Monday. Express

ment's functioning. "With the kind of environment that's being created, it is plausible that the cabinet colleagues may join the CM there (in jail) too. We will convene our cabinet meetings from jail itself. If need be, officers will be called in and the remaining MLAs will coordinate from outside. But the CM will not let Delhi's development be hindered," he added.

In a meeting where MLAs and senior party leaders were present, a discussion on the steps ahead

was held where it was decided "unanimously" that since it was Kejriwal that the people of Delhi elected to run the government, he will not resign, said Bharadwaj.

According to sources, the meeting was called after the question of the post of Chief Minister was raised from different quarters.

"Taking the view of party members and colleagues was important as they are the backbone of the party and government. After the CM received a summons from ED, there is a chance he may be ar-

rested... There has been speculation on what would happen if he is arrested and who would replace him," a party leader said.

According to the leader, the CM's resignation in 2014 — after being in power for 49 days — was also brought up. He also said no sitting chief minister had ever been arrested before trial. "In the history of India, it has never happened that a sitting CM had been arrested before trial... There's no provision in the Constitution which states the CM has to resign if they're arrested," he said.

Minister Atishi, meanwhile, said the CM will not resign since he was given the mandate by the people. "The people did not vote for any legislator or party, they voted for Arvind Kejriwal. We will not let the trust of the people of Delhi be broken owing to a false conspiracy. No matter how many days the Modi government tries to keep Kejriwal in jail, the people of Delhi have chosen him as the Chief Minister, and he will continue to be the Chief Minister of Delhi from jail," she said.

Delhi cop suspended as kin of senior central govt official allege illegal detention, extortion

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 6

A DELHI Police sub-inspector has been suspended and an enquiry initiated against him for allegedly illegally detaining and extorting a relative of a senior central government official posted in Ladakh. Police said the family of the officer alleged the police detained their brother on charges of theft. Later, the sub-inspector allegedly demanded Rs 50,000 for his release, they said.

While the incident took place in September, an FIR was lodged against SI Ankit Pawar last week at Lodhi Colony police station. A subsequent enquiry is now being conducted by the Vigilance Department of the Delhi Police.

The complainant, another relative of the senior official, said on September 24, he learnt that a few police officers had picked up his brother. "I found my brother outside Lodhi Colony police station with a police officer... They told me they were taking him to AIIMS... I waited for an hour. My brother

came back from the hospital but they still didn't let me see him," alleged the complainant in the FIR.

He said he called advocates Anil Kumar Pandey and Gaurav Chaudhary for help. "They told me the investigating officer (SI Pawar) will allow my brother to leave but I will have to pay Rs 50,000... I... asked my relative to send over money," read the FIR.

As per the complainant, Rs 20,000 was "kept" by Chaudhary while the rest was given to SI Pawar. "My brother was later dropped to Trilokpuria area..." said

the complainant who refused to comment further. An FIR has been lodged against Pawar and Chaudhary under sections of extortion, wrongful confinement and Prevention of Corruption Act.

DCP (South) Chandan Chowdhary said, "an enquiry was conducted and allegations were found to be substantiated. SI Pawar was suspended and SHO/Lodhi Colony was sent to District Lines. However, no connivance of SHO/Lodhi Colony could be found. Therefore, he was reinstated subsequently."

BRIEFLY

JNU protest: Notices to students withdrawn

New Delhi: The Jawaharlal Nehru University administration will not impose any fine on students who were part of the 2019 protests against fee hike at the administrative block, officials said Monday. Speaking to *The Indian Express*, JNU Vice-Chancellor Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit confirmed that the administration will be withdrawing the notices sent to students as the inquiry into the protests is now closed. A few weeks ago, the varsity had issued a notice to PhD students Aishwarya Ghosh and N Sai Balaji regarding the protest and asked them to appear for a proctorial enquiry hearing. **ENS**

NewsClick row: SC defers plea hearing

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday deferred post-Diwali vacation hearing on pleas of NewsClick founder Prabir Purkayastha and its HR head Amit Chakravarty against their arrest under anti-terror law, UAPA. A bench of Justices BR Gavi and Prashant Kumar Mishra told senior advocate Kapil Sibal that it will take up the pleas after vacation as well as the medical bail application. Sibal said the matter is covered by the recent SC judgment under which it was held that grounds of arrest has to be immediately shared with the accused but in this case, nothing was shared. **PTI**

Name of the Branch/ Name & Address of the Borrower/Guarantors	Description of the Immovable Properties	Demand/ Possession Notice Date	Outstanding Amount
Bank of Baroda Mahnar Branch, Vaishali Borrower : M/s Mannat Garments, Prop. - Subodh Kumar Singh, Guarantor : Mrs. Manju Devi, W/o Late Ravindra Singh both at Nayagaon West, Ward No. 06, Nayagaon, Mahnar, Dist. Vaishali-844506	Equitable Mortgage of Residential Land belonging to Mrs. Manju Devi, W/o Late Ravindra Singh admeasuring area 6005.74 Sq Ft. situated at Mauza- Nayagaon, Thana No. 531, Anchal Sahdeji Buzurg, District- Vaishali, Property 1.- bearing Khata No. 1507, Khesra No.- 2558, Area:- 2.25 Decimal as per registered sale deed no. 3125 dated 14/08/2006 Boundaries :- Ramayad Sharand Ramdayal Sharma, S: Lt. Baidhnath Sharma, E: Vendor, W: Niz Vendor. Property 2.- bearing Khata No. 1507, Khesra No.- 2558, Area:- 10.50 Decimal as per registered sale deed no. 972 dated 08/04/2010 Boundaries :-N: Ramayad Sharand Ramdayal Sharma, S: Mukesh Singh, Vijay Sharma and Others, E: Vendor Khasra No. 2558, W: Kapildeo Sharma and Others. Property 3.- bearing Khata No. 859KA, Khesra No.- 2557, Area:- 1.00 Decimal as per registered sale deed no. 648 dated 03/03/2015 Boundaries :-N: Ram Narayan Singh, S: Vandee, E: Gramin Sadak, W: Vandee.	27-07-2023 / 02-11-2023	Rs. 10,13,410.34/- together with further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus all cost charges & expenses till date payments
1. Borrower : Mr. Subodh Kumar Singh, S/o Mr. Ravindra Singh. 2. Co-Borrower : Mrs. Manju Devi, W/o Late Ravindra Singh. 3. Guarantor 1 : Mr. Manoj Kumar Singh, S/o Mr. Ravindra Singh. 4. Guarantor 2 : Mr. Saroj Kumar Singh, S/o Mr. Ravindra Singh, all at Nayagaon Nayatola, PO- Nayaganj, PS- Desari, Dist. Vaishali-844506	Equitable Mortgage of House/Flat/Land belonging to Mrs. Manju Devi, W/o Late Ravindra Singh situated at Mauza- Nayagaon, Thana No. 531, Anchal Sahdeji Buzurg, SRO- Mahnar, DSRO- Hajipur, District- Vaishali, Property 1.- bearing Khata No. 1507, Khesra No.- 2558, Area:- 1.75 Decimal as per registered sale deed no. 3381 dated 10/08/2019 Boundaries :-N: Dhaneshwar Pandit, S: Ramesh Rai and Others, E: Niz Purchaser, W: Niz Purchaser. Property 2.- bearing Khata No. 1507, Khesra No.- 2561, Area:- 0.50 Decimal as per registered sale deed no. 3381 dated 10/08/2019 Boundaries :-N: Dhaneshwar Pandit, S: Ramesh Rai and Others, E: Niz Purchaser, W: Niz Purchaser.	27-07-2023 / 02-11-2023	Rs. 7,40,978.00/- together with further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus all cost charges & expenses till date payments

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRONICS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
1st & Ground Floor, I.T. Bhawan, Mehli, Shimla-171013, Tel. No. 0177-2623259, 2623153, 2626320, 2623043, FAX: 0177-2626320, Website: www.hpsecd.in
No. HPSEDC/Hologram/E&T/2K23-12034 Date: 04.11.2023

e-TENDER NOTICE
e-Tenders are invited from eligible bidders for Procurement of Hologram for Excise and Taxation Department, Himachal Pradesh. Pre-Bid meeting will be held on 18.11.2023 (11.30 AM) through Video Conferencing.
Last date for online e-bid submission is 12/2/2023 (upto 02:30 PM) and shall be opened on 14.12.2023 at 2.30 PM. Detailed Tender Document containing Technical Specifications and Terms & Conditions are available on HPSEDC website www.hpsecd.in and https://hptenders.gov.in
0833/HP GENERAL MANAGER (TECHNICAL)

IN REMEMBRANCE

Corps of Signals salutes its following Signallers who left us for their heavenly abode during the month of Oct 2023.

(a) JC-388893X Subedar Uma Shankar Yadav
(b) JC-388436K Naib Subedar Sunil Kumar
(c) JC-390593P Naib Subedar Devendra Kumar Gangwar
(d) 15691723K Havildar Navin Kumar
(e) 15729286F Havildar Smithin Krishnan PP
(f) 15708021K Naik Umamaheswara Reddy Pulug
(g) 15709184K Lance Naik Arun Kumar Singh
(h) 15740728P Lance Naik Nikhlesh Kumar
(i) 15711276P Signalmn Kailash Singh Samant

On behalf of the Corps, we sincerely pray to Almighty for peace to the departed souls & strength to the bereaved families to bear this irreparable loss.

Bahadur Chand Investments Private Limited
Registered office :- The Grand Plaza, Plot No.2, Nelson Mandela Road, Vasant Kunj- Phase-II, New Delhi- 110070
Correspondence Address: 37, Community Center, Basant Lok, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi - 110 057
Fax: 011-26152453, Tel. No: 011 - 47619310, Website: www.bahadurchandinvestments.com, e-mail: info.bcipi@gmail.com; CIN: U65921DL1997PTC331322; PAN: AAACB6706F

FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2023
(All amount in Rupees lakhs, unless otherwise stated)

S. No.	Particulars	Standalone						
		Quarter ended			Half year ended		Year ended	
		September 30, 2023	June 30, 2023	September 30, 2022	September 30, 2023	September 30, 2022	March 31, 2023	
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited	
1. Total Income from Operations	16,496.32	439.70	14,583.93	16,936.02	17,055.65		42,917.91	
2. Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary Items)	7,274.57	(8,701.80)	5,628.36	(1,427.23)	(292.46)		7,808.09	
3. Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary Items)	7,274.57	(8,701.80)	5,628.36	(1,427.23)	(292.46)		7,808.09	
4. Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary Items)	3,934.18	(8,809.31)	(1,313.35)	(4,875.13)	(7,706.78)		(4,816.04)	
5. Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/ (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	3,934.18	(8,809.31)	(1,313.35)	(4,875.13)	(7,706.78)		(4,816.04)	
6. Paid up Equity Share Capital	17.06	17.06	17.06	17.06	17.06		17.06	
7. Other equity (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	2,98,361.09	2,94,426.92	3,00,345.49	2,98,361.09	3,00,345.49		3,03,236.23	
8. Securities Premium Account	1,33,995.94	1,33,995.94	1,33,995.94	1,33,995.94	1,33,995.94		1,33,995.94	
9. Net-worth	2,98,378.16	2,94,443.98	3,00,362.55	2,98,378.16	3,00,362.55		3,03,253.29	
10. Paid up Debt Capital/ Outstanding Debt	7,65,064.42	7,52,117.51	7,42,758.66	7,65,064.42	7,42,758.66		7,22,783.84	
11. Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable		Not applicable	
12. Debt Equity Ratio	2.53	2.52	2.44	2.53	2.44		2.37	
13. Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 100/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)								
Basic (in Rs.)	23,058.11	(51,631.15)	(7,697.51)	(28,573.04)	(45,169.27)		(28,226.68)	
Diluted (in Rs.)	23,058.11	(51,631.15)	(7,697.51)	(28,573.04)	(45,169.27)		(28,226.68)	
14. Capital Redemption Reserve	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable		Not applicable	
15. Debenture Redemption Reserve	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable		Not applicable	
16. Debt Service Coverage Ratio	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable		Not applicable	
17. Interest Service Coverage Ratio	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable		Not applicable	

Notes:-
1. The above is an extract of detailed format of the Unaudited Standalone financial results for the quarter and half year ended on September 30, 2023 filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulation, 2015. The full format of the financial results are available on the websites of the stock exchange at www.nseindia.com and the Company at www.bahadurchandinvestments.com.
2. The above results for the quarter ended on September 30, 2023 have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by Board of Directors at its meeting held on November 06, 2023.
3. The financial results of the Company have been prepared in accordance with Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) notified under the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 as amended by the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2016, prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 (the Act) read with relevant rules issued thereunder and the other accounting principles generally accepted in India. Any application guidance/ clarifications/ directions issued by the Reserve Bank of India or other regulators are implemented as and when they are issued/ applicable.
4. For the other items referred in Regulation 52 (4) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015, pertinent disclosures have been made to the Stock Exchange and can be accessed at www.nseindia.com and at the Company's website at www.bahadurchandinvestments.com.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors of Bahadur Chand Investments Private Limited
Sd/-
Suman Kant Munjal
Director
DIN:00002803

Place: New Delhi
Date: November 06, 2023

For All Advertisement Booking
Call : 0120-6651214

Indian Bank		Zonal Office, Gaya (e-AB), South Bihar Talab Road, Gaya, Bihar-823001	
(Rule-8(1)) POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)			
Where as The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Bank under the Securitization 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 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice u/s 13(2) on the date noted against the account as mentioned hereinafter calling upon the borrower(S) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.			
The Borrower(S) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(S) 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 and 9 of the said rules.			
The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank (e-Allahabad Bank) for an amount and interest thereon. Along with legal expenses and other expenses already incurred to be incurred by the bank.			
Name of the branch:	SINGHPUR		
Name of the accounts	M/s Gitanjali Garments (Prop. Sri Sushil Kumar S/o Sri Baliram Singh, R/o Nabinagar Road Near Bus Stand, Amba, District- Aurangabad, Bihar-824111)		
Name of the Proprietor / Guarantor / Mortgagee:	1) Sri Sushil Kumar S/o Sri Baliram Singh, R/o Nabinagar Road, Near Bus Stand, Amba, Dist-Aurangabad, Bihar-824111. 2) Lalan Kumar Singh S/o Sri Anand Kishor, Vill- Basdina, Post-Nabinagar, District-Aurangabad, Bihar-824301.		
Date of Demand Notice:	27.03.2023	Date of Possession Notice:	04.11.2023
Amount Outstanding as on the demand notice:	₹ 24,88,329/- (Rupees Twenty Four Lakh Eighty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Nine Only) as on 27.03.2023 along with legal and other expenses incurred & to be incurred by the bank.		
Detailed description of the Property:	Equitable mortgage of residential land and building along with present and future construction thereon in the name of Sri Sushil Kumar S/o Sri Baliram Singh, located at Mauza - Atraulidhan, PO - Dumara, PS - Kutumba, Thana no - 501, Anchal Kutumba, Dist - Aurangabad, Bihar, Khata No-28, Plot No-72, Area- 11.00 Decimal. Bounded by (as per deed): North: Krishna Singh, South: Pukka Road, East: Uday Singh, West: Nij Mokiran		
Name of the branch:	SINGHPUR		
Name of the accounts	M/s Vishwakarma Syenetary and Paint Store (Prop - Sri Ranjan Kumar Sharma, Hariharganj road amba, Aurangabad, Bihar - 824111)		
Name of the Proprietor / Guarantor / Mortgagee:	1) Sri Ranjan Kumar Sharma, S/o Sri Jilal Sharma, Hariharganj road amba, Aurangabad, Bihar-824111. 2. Sri Dilip Kumar Gupta S/o Sri Rajendra Kumar, Vill + PO - Amba, Aurangabad, Bihar - 824111		
Date of Demand Notice:	09.05.2023	Date of Possession Notice:	04.11.2023
Amount Outstanding as on the demand notice:	₹ 35,12,660/- (Rupees Thirty Five Lakh Twelve Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Only) as on 09.05.2023 along with legal and other expenses incurred & to be incurred by the bank.		
Detailed description of the Property:	Equitable mortgage of land and building along with the present and future construction thereon in the name of Sri Ranjan Kumar Sharma, S/o Sri Jilal Sharma, located at Vill - Erka, PO + PS - Amba, Thana no - 531, Dist - Aurangabad, Bihar, Khata No- 33, Plot No-794 & 795, Area- 2.00 Decimal. Bounded by (as per deed): North: Surendra Singh, South: Jai Singh, East: Sheo Sharan Singh, West: Paain & Round Chart		
Name of the branch:	KOHAR		
Name of the accounts	Sri Vinod Yadav S/o. Badhai Yadav, At - New Area Barun, PO+PS- Barun Dist - Aurangabad, Bihar -824112		
Name of the Proprietor / Guarantor / Mortgagee:	1) Sri Vinod Yadav S/o. Badhai Yadav, At - New Area Barun, PO+PS- Barun Dist - Aurangabad, Bihar -824112. 2. Smt. Kalawati Devi W/o Vinod Yadav, At - New Area Barun, PO+PS Barun Dist - Aurangabad, Bihar - 824112		
Date of Demand Notice:	15.06.2023	Date of Possession Notice:	04.11.2023
Amount Outstanding as on the demand notice:	₹ 16,85,982/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakhs Eighty Five Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Two Only) as on 15.06.2023 along with legal and other expenses incurred & to be incurred by the bank.		
Detailed description of the Property:	E.M of Land and Building Constructed thereon in the name of Sri Vinod Yadav s/o Badhai Yadav, located at Mauza - Khermda, PO + PS - Barun, Thana no - 154, Anchal - Braun, Dist - Aurangabad Bihar-824112, Khata No- 34, Plot No-659, Area- 3.906 Decimal. Bounded by (as per deed): North - Narain Sharma, South - Rasta, East - Nahar Chart, West - Nij Vikreta		
Name of the branch:	SIHULI		
Name of the accounts	M/s Janta Traders, Prop.-Md. Jawed Ahmad, S/o Md Yunus, Post office Rafiganj, PO+PS - Rafiganj, Dist - Aurangabad, Bihar - 824125		
Name of the Proprietor / Guarantor / Mortgagee:	1) Md Jawed Ahmad S/o Md Yunus, Raja bagicha, Post office- Rafiganj, PO+PS - Rafiganj, Dist - Aurangabad, Bihar - 824125 2)Md Yunus S/o Md Yusuf, Raja bagicha, Post office- Rafiganj, PO+PS - Rafiganj, Dist - Aurangabad, Bihar - 824125 3)Md. Anish S/o Md. Yusuf, Raja bagicha, Post office- Rafiganj, PO+PS - Rafiganj, Dist - Aurangabad, Bihar - 824125 4)Md. Gays S/o Md. Yusuf, Raja bagicha, Post office- Rafiganj, PO+PS - Rafiganj, Dist - Aurangabad, Bihar - 824125 5) Md. Sajid S/o Md. Yusuf, Raja bagicha, Post office- Rafiganj, PO+PS - Rafiganj, Dist - Aurangabad, Bihar - 824125 6) Md. Ilyas S/o Md. Yusuf, Raja bagicha, Post office- Rafiganj, PO+PS - Rafiganj, Dist - Aurangabad, Bihar - 824125		
Date of Demand Notice:	05.07.2023	Date of Possession Notice:	04.11.2023
Amount Outstanding as on the demand notice:	₹ 48,12,118/- (Rupee Forty Eight Lakh Twelve Thousand One Hundred Eighteen Only) as on 05-07-2023 along with legal and other expenses incurred & to be incurred by the bank.		
Detailed description of the Property:	1. Equitable Mortgage of land along with present and future construction thereon in the name of Md Sajid S/o Md. Yunus, located at Village - Charkawana Mahmood, PO + PS - Rafiganj, Thana no - 418, Ward no 13, Anchal - Rafiganj, Dist - Aurangabad, Bihar, Khata No- 139, Plot No-400, Area- 2.00 Decimal. Bounded by (as per deed): North - Md. Sajid, South - Md. Yunus & Others, East - Md. Yunus, West - Bhagu Mahto. 3. Equitable mortgage of land along with present and future construction thereon in the name of Md. Yunus, Md. Anish, Md. Liyas and Md. Gays all son of Md. Yusuf Sahab located at vill - Charkawana Mahmood, Thana no - 418, Ward no - 13, PO + PS - Rafiganj, Dist - Aurangabad, Khata No- 139, Plot No-400, Area- 3.50 Decimal. Bounded by (as per deed): North - Nij Mokir, South - Purchaser, East - Area of Plot no 428, West - Mahendra Mahto 2. Equitable Mortgage of land along with present and future construction thereon in the name of Md Jawed Ahmad S/o Md. Yunus, located at Village - Charkawana Mahmood, PO + PS - Rafiganj, Thana no - 418, Ward no 13, Anchal - Rafiganj, Dist - Aurangabad, Bihar, Khata No- 139, Plot No-400, Area- 2.00 Decimal. Bounded by (as per deed): North - Md. Sajid, South - Md. Yunus & Others, East - Md. Yunus, West - Bhagu Mahto. 3. Equitable mortgage of land along with present and future construction thereon in the name of Md. Yunus, Md. Anish, Md. Liyas and Md. Gays all son of Md. Yusuf Sahab located at Charkawana Hajo PO + PS - Rafiganj, Thana no - 702, Ward no - 13, Dist - Aurangabad Bihar, Khata No- 128, Plot No-428, Area- 0.50 Decimal. Bounded by (as per deed): North - Nij Mokir, South - Purchaser, East - Nahar, West - Area of Plot no 400		
Date: 07.11.2023	Sd/- Authorised Officer (Indian Bank)		
Place: GAYA.			

Say Goodbye to Glasses and Contact Lenses



Eye7 Eye Hospitals Introduces Revolutionary SILK Surgery for Vision Correction



Dr. Rahil Chaudhary
Managing Director
Eye7 Group of Eye Hospitals,
Delhi NCR



Dr. Rahil Chaudhary receiving GUINNESS WORLD RECORD for 250 Contoura Vision Lasik Patients in one day on 25th December 2023

A SIGNIFICANT leap in the field of ophthalmology has been marked by Eye7 Hospitals with the much-anticipated launch of the SILK laser surgery on Sat, 4th Nov 2023. This innovative procedure promises to turn the page for individuals dependent on eyeglasses, offering a high-tech alternative to correct myopia and astigmatism.

What is SILK?
SILK is a sophisticated laser eye surgery designed to correct up to -8 dioptres of myopia and -3 dioptres of astigmatism. This 5th generation of refractive surgery introduces a series of

advancements, standing as a beacon of hope for those yearning for a life free from the constraints of eyewear.

How SILK is different from conventional LASIK, Contoura, and SMILE procedures?

SILK distinguishes itself from its predecessors like LASIK, Contoura Vision, and SMILE procedures through its innovative technology.

■ It's a flapless technique, a groundbreaking feature that eliminates the complications associated with creating a corneal flap.

■ The technology behind SILK promises a fast 24-hour recovery period, which is remarkably quicker compared to earlier methods.

■ Moreover, SILK assures supervision - a term indicating a visual acuity sharper than the standard 6/6 vision.

This procedure ensures an improved quality of vision, without the use of injections, stitches, bandages, blades, hospital stays, or any pain, setting a new standard in patient comfort and convenience.

Who can opt for SILK surgery?

SILK surgery opens its doors to adults over 18 with a stable eyeglasses prescription for the last six months. The procedure is not recommended for pregnant women or those currently breast-



feeding. Prospective patients will undergo a comprehensive series of eye tests to confirm their suitability for the SILK surgery, ensuring that the best possible outcomes are achieved for each individual.

What is the recovery time?

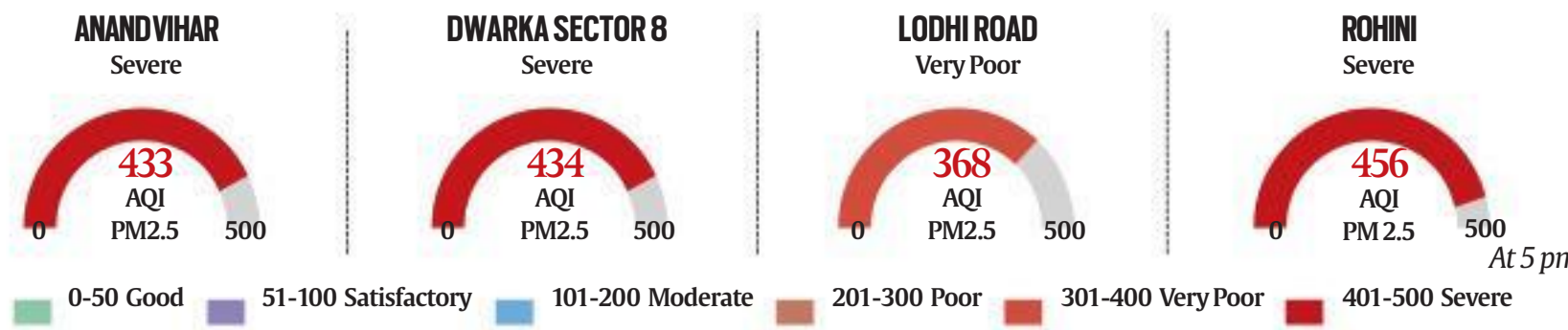
Patients can expect a swift recovery, usually within 24 hours, allowing a quick return to daily activities. Within just 2-3 days, normal routines can be resumed.

However, a precautionary rest period of 2 weeks is advised before engaging in strenuous physical activities, or as per doctor's recommen-

dations. Eye7 Hospitals' commitment to the forefront of optical health has been further solidified with the introduction of SILK surgery. This addition to their services is not just a testament to their dedication to excellence in eye care but also to their pursuit of providing the latest and most effective treatments available.

Patients seeking freedom from glasses now have a new, state-of-the-art option at their disposal, thanks to the experts at Eye7 Hospitals. As the future of eye care looks brighter, SILK surgery is set to be a shining example of innovation and patient-centric care in the medical field.

6 THE CITY



S K Y W A T C H
FORECAST: November 7
 Clear sky. Mist/shallow fog in the morning.
AQI forecast: Likely to be severe

MAX: 30 | **MIN: 14**
 0.5°C above normal | 0.3°C below normal

ODD-EVEN SCHEME RETURNS: 12.5 LAKH FOUR-WHEELERS TO BE OFF ROADS

Timing, who's exempted: Plan to be hashed out today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 6

MORE THAN an estimated 12.5 lakh four-wheelers will go off Delhi's streets in a bid to curb air pollution as part of the odd-even road rationing scheme right after Diwali. The rule will also apply to vehicles registered outside Delhi too.

Announcing the implementation of the scheme following a review of the situation by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Environment Minister Gopal Rai termed it one of the futuristic decisions taken by the AAP government in Delhi to reduce pollution since assuming power.

"It is being anticipated that pollution may increase in Delhi after Diwali. Keeping this in mind, the odd-even formula will be implemented from November 13 to 20. Odd-Even will be in effect for one week starting from the day after Diwali," Rai announced at a press conference.

Rai added that a detailed action plan will be developed in collaboration with departments including Transport and the Traffic Police on Tuesday — on odd days, only vehicles with licence plates ending in 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9 will be allowed, while on even days, vehicles ending in 0, 2, 4, 6, and 8 will be allowed to operate.

According to government sources, there was a view to put the scheme in place within two days of the announcement on Monday.

This, however, according to a senior government official, could not materialise given the preparation for it — from the deployment of officials deputed to enforce it on the ground to the procurement of additional

buses to temporarily augment the city's public transportation infrastructure — could not be achieved in time.

"The modalities regarding the scheme will be worked out during a meeting tomorrow; in the meantime, we have already begun the process of acquiring more buses from private operators to ply them for the convenience of commuters when the scheme is in force," the official said.

Transport department officials peg the total number of "active vehicles" at around 75 lakh.

These are vehicles that remain registered and are allowed to operate in the city following the de-registration of diesel vehicles aged over 10 years and petrol ones above the age of 15 years (out of 1.3 crore vehicles in the city before de-

registration). Of these, a senior transport department official said, an estimated 50 lakh are two-wheelers while the

remaining account for four-wheelers. According to government sources, two-wheelers, taxi cabs, electric and CNG vehicles will be exempt from the provisions of the scheme.

In addition to the time period of the day during which the scheme will be in force — during its previous renditions, it has been put in place between 8 am and 8 pm — as well as a call on exempting women drivers, irrespective of the odd or even number of their registration plate, will be taken on Tuesday.

Sources said one of the most significant decisions regarding the scheme would revolve around whether or not to continue it beyond the November 13 to 20 period.



Praveen Khanna

ODD-EVEN SCHEME IN PREVIOUS YEARS

JAN 2016 Announced in Dec 2015

- Lasted for 15 days, from Jan 1 to 15
- During that period, Delhi saw 3 days with 'severe' air quality (Jan 4, 5, 7)

APRIL 2016 Announced in Feb 2016

- Lasted from 15 days, from April 15 to 30
- During that period, Delhi saw 4 days with 'very poor' air quality; 'poor' on other days

NOV 2019 Announced on Sept 13

- Lasted for 12 days, from Nov 4 to 15
- During that period, Delhi saw 5 days with 'severe' air quality (Nov 4, 12, 13, 14 and 15)

(Air quality data from CPCB)

Scheme kicks off fresh AAP-BJP blame game

UPASIKA SINGHAL
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 6

THE ENFORCEMENT of the odd-even policy in the capital kicked off a political storm, with the AAP and BJP trading barbs over the deteriorating air quality in the national capital. While the Delhi BJP accused the AAP-led Punjab and Delhi governments of failing to implement preventive measures, the AAP pointed fingers at BJP-ruled Haryana.

Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva, who held a discussion with environmental experts Monday, said people have been complaining about a burning sensation in their eyes and headache.

Criticising the Kejriwal government, he said: "Pollution is at its peak in Delhi and Punjab today and the people of Delhi want to know from Arvind Kejriwal why despite his ostentatious efforts, yesterday there were more than 3,200 incidents of stubble burning in Punjab and in Delhi. The Kejriwal government's anti-smog guns, sprinklers and cleaning machines are not visible anywhere."

The BJP also raised questions about the allocation of funds, over Rs 3,000 crore, by the central government to Punjab and Haryana for curbing stubble burning.

"While incidents of stubble burning have reduced by 90% in Haryana, due to the negligence of the Punjab government, it is increasing in Punjab," said Delhi BJP spokesperson Dr Anil Gupta.

Hitting back, AAP spokesperson Priyanka Kakkar said, "Punjab does not receive funds from the central government, yet in the past year, stubble burning has decreased by 50-67%."

She alleged that Haryana has been unable to effectively combat stubble burning, despite receiving significant funds from the central government. Kakkar pointed to the lack of initiatives in Haryana to transition industries to piped natural gas (PNG) and the reliance on diesel generators due to inadequate electricity infrastructure as contributing factors to Delhi's pollution.

Despite this, Kakkar added, Delhi has witnessed a fall in pollution levels by 31% this year. Citing various reports of central government agencies, she said, "The epicentre of the current stubble burning in Punjab is about 500 km away from Delhi, while in Haryana, it's only 100 km away. Delhi is closest to Haryana. It is essential to assess what steps the Khattar government in Haryana has taken regarding pollution since 2014."

POLLUTION CURBS

As part of the Delhi Traffic Police's stringent anti-pollution drive, over 1,700 trucks have been stopped and 150 diesel vehicles, apart from those carrying essential commodities, have been impounded. 20 joint checking teams of DTP and Transport dept are deployed at the borders. Here is what data shows:



Traffic Police has stepped up its enforcement drive. Praveen Khanna

PROSECUTION ACTION (NOV 3, 4, 5)

Banned vehicles found plying on roads	No. of vehicles prosecuted, challans issued
BS III petrol vehicles	612
BS IV diesel vehicles	2,629
Trucks (except for essentials)*	4

(*Only for Nov 5)

ACTION AGAINST OTHER VEHICLES (NOV 3 & 4)

Offences	No. of vehicles prosecuted/impounded	Challans issued
Vehicles plying without pollution certificate	26	1,263
10/15 years old diesel and petrol vehicles	5	8
Vehicles carrying C&D waste material without proper covering	0	10

AQI 'severe' for 5th day, city schools go online till Nov 10



At 4 pm, the 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) stood at 421. Amit Mehra

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 6

EVEN AS all four stages of the Graded Response Action Plan are in force in Delhi-NCR, the city's air quality continued to remain in the 'severe' category for the fifth consecutive day on Monday.

At 4 pm, the 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) stood at 421. A forecast issued by the Air Quality Early Warning System on Monday said the AQI is likely to remain in the 'severe' category from November 7 to 9, and for the subsequent six days.

In light of this, the Delhi government Monday decided to implement the odd-even scheme

for cars from November 13-20 to keep vehicular emissions down. It also said all schools will hold online classes, except for Classes X and XII, till November 10. Schools may move to online classes for Classes X and XII or continue with physical classes.

Primary schools in Gurgaon and Faridabad too will discontinue physical classes from November 7 till further orders.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) identified PM 2.5 as the main pollutant in the city on Monday. The AQI on Monday was marginally better than the figure of 454 recorded on Sunday. On Saturday, it was 415, while it was 468 on Friday.

According to the Indian Agricultural Research Institute

(IARI) data, there were 2,060 instances of stubble burning in Punjab on Monday, against a figure of 3,230 on Sunday. The Decision Support System, developed by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, estimated that the contribution of stubble burning to PM 2.5 levels in Delhi to be 21.07% on Sunday.

While the wind speed in Delhi is expected to pick up from Tuesday, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) also points to the possibility of very light rainfall or a drizzle towards the night on November 9. On Monday, Delhi also recorded the lowest minimum temperature of the season so far — 13.5 degrees Celsius, two degrees below the normal.

ON THE GROUND

- 82 mechanical road-sweeping machines deployed
- 345 water sprinkling machines
- 192 mobile anti-smog guns
- 106 anti-smog guns deployed on high-rise buildings

Action taken under Stage 3 of the Graded Response Action Plan till November 4:

- Fines imposed for failing to control construction, demolition dust: Rs 42.73 lakh
- 0.17 lakh pollution under control certificates issued

Lecture by prof at Jindal university attracts Haryana women's body chairperson's ire

AISWARYARAJ
SONEPAT, NOVEMBER 6

FLAGGING A video of a "problematic" lecture by a teacher of OP Jindal Global University in Sonapat, the Haryana State Women's Commission chairperson Monday informed the varsity that she would visit the Chancellor to discuss this and speak to "affected" students.

The 14-second video shared on X (formerly Twitter) purportedly showed Professor Sameena Dalwai displaying a profile on a dating website. Renu Bhatia, the commission's

chairperson, said that the compromise of privacy and dignity of students, especially female students, by the use of a dating app and obscene material by a faculty amounts to harassment.

"I'm appalled by such actions. Furthermore, it is concerning to hear that the accused, Professor Sameena Dalwai, appears to have an issue with certain Hindu slogans, specifically 'Jai Shri Ram', and labels students as right-wing... Students are students, one cannot do politics at the cost of their well-being and career. This behaviour is unacceptable and breaches the right to equality

and practice of religion guaranteed by Bharat's Constitution. I have taken cognizance of the matter and plan to visit the university on November 7," she said.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, a university spokesperson said they have agreed to the meeting with Bhatia. "We have received a request from her seeking a meeting with students and will comply with it."

However, a staff member said there has been no complaint against the said professor and no student has come forward to report anything. Professor Dalwai was not

available for comment.

Bhatia told *The Indian Express*: "There is a video which shows students being shamed by sharing private information. They have their right to privacy. We will verify this by speaking with students. Last week, we had a shameful incident in Jind. I want to take all these cases one by one to verify. I will speak with all district education officers to check how these matters are being dealt with."

The original post on X with the video and screenshots about the lecture does not mention the date of the incident.

Boy's murder in school: SC junks plea by juvenile challenging HC order for trying him as an adult

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 6

THE SUPREME Court on Monday dismissed a plea filed by a juvenile, accused of killing a child at a private school in Gurgaon in 2017, challenging the Punjab and Haryana High Court verdict which upheld an order for his trial as an adult.

The high court had in May this year upheld the order passed by the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) which said the child-in-conflict with law be treated as an adult. The plea challenging the high court order came up for hearing before a bench of Justice

Vikram Nath and Justice Rajesh Bindal which dismissed it. Advocate Sushil Tekriwal represented the victim's family in the top court.

In the plea filed in the apex court, the juvenile had claimed the high court had "mechanically upheld" the orders of the JJB and the Children's Court, which had dismissed his appeal, and ignored the inherent contradictions in the orders.

"On the one hand, the JJB records that the JCL (juvenile in conflict with law) had not faced any abuse or trauma at home, and that his family environment was good and healthy, however, (it) fails to consider that the en-

tire case of the prosecution is based on the fact that the alleged offence was committed since the JCL wanted to get the PTM (parent-teacher meeting) postponed," it said.

It claimed that the JJB's finding that the juvenile had sufficient mental and physical capacity, on the mere fact that his mental or physical capacity was not compromised, was again nothing but a conclusion based on "conjecture and surmises".

In July last year, the apex court had said the juvenile accused should be examined afresh to decide whether he be prosecuted as an adult or not for the alleged crime.

The top court had dismissed the appeal filed by the father of the deceased child challenging the October 11, 2018, order of the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

The high court had then set aside the orders of the JJB and the Children's court, which said the juvenile, accused of killing the child, would be treated as an adult during the trial.

The victim's body, with the throat slit, was found in the washroom of the school in Gurgaon. The CBI had alleged that the juvenile murdered the student on September 8, 2017, in a bid to get the examinations postponed and a scheduled parent-teacher meeting cancelled.

B-SCHOOLS OF MUMBAI

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MBA: The key to unlocking unprecedented career growth

For those with entrepreneurial aspirations, an MBA course helps them acquire relevant knowledge, skills and valuable insights

LIGHT of reports suggesting that 80 per cent of Master of Business Administration (MBA) graduates land a job within three months of completing their education and 79 per cent of the students of MBA programmes go on to work for established organisations, the competitive advantage that MBA degree holders have in the job market over their non-MBA counterparts becomes apparent.

Owing to the benefits of doing an MBA being numerous and far-reaching, pursuing a programme in any of its wide spectrum of disciplines, ranging from the traditional specialisations — finance, operations, marketing and human resources — to the emerging ones like AI, sports management and data analytics, among others has emerged as a popular choice to enhance career prospects and personal development.

One of the primary benefits of earning an MBA degree is access to enhanced career opportunities alongside better compensation packages and higher earning potential. Whether one is aiming for a leadership role or seeking to switch industries, an MBA can quickly open the door to accelerated career growth by helping one gain knowledge and skills pertaining to general management and expertise in one's chosen domain of MBA specialisation. This ensures that graduates emerge with a diverse skill set and honed competencies in strategic thinking, analysis, problem-solving, leadership, and effective communication that enable them to adapt to changing and challenging business landscapes globally alongside confidently taking on leadership roles.

In addition to providing an excellent opportunity for building a strong professional



One of the primary benefits of earning an MBA degree is access to enhanced career opportunities alongside better compensation packages and higher earning potential

network comprising a diverse group of individuals from different backgrounds and industries that can prove invaluable throughout one's career, MBA programmes usually have a global focus, offering opportunities galore for international experi-

ences and exposure to different business cultures. This global perspective is a significant asset in an increasingly interconnected and globalised business world.

Furthermore, for those with entrepreneurial aspirations, a relevant MBA course helps them acquire the knowledge, skills, valuable insights and access to resources needed to launch and successfully manage their own business.

Whether one aims to start a business, explore new opportunities and start-up ideas or climb the corporate ladder, an MBA — as a significant investment in one's future that yields substantial financial returns throughout one's career — is bound to be a transformative step towards attaining one's career aspirations while accelerating personal growth.

Unlocking Excellence: The Saga of Somaiya Vidyavihar

SOMAIYA Vidyavihar, a multi-faceted institution, has been a transformative force in education, healthcare, social welfare and culture for three generations. The journey began with a humble rural school in 1942, founded by the visionary Padma Bhushan Karamshi Jethabhai Somaiya. In 1959, Somaiya Vidyavihar became an educational trust with a mission to provide education to the underprivileged.

Leaders like K J Somaiya and Dr S K Somaiya continued the legacy until Shri Samir Somaiya took over as the President and Chancellor of Somaiya Vidyavihar University. The institution's motto, "Knowledge Alone Liberates," remains the guiding principle.

With 38 institutions, 40,000 students, and 1,600 faculty members across Mumbai, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Gujarat, Somaiya Vidyavihar is a vast educational ecosystem. The university offers diverse programs in management, engineering, humanities, sciences and more, allowing students to explore their passions and identities.

As the first private university in Mumbai, it has gained global recognition for its rigorous academic standards and diverse offerings. The university emphasises innovation in science education, with a unique programme that blends various science disciplines and encourages critical thinking.

Research and innovation thrive at Somaiya Vidyavihar through initiatives like SIRAC, SS-CoE for AMS, and SciSER. The institution also prioritises holistic education, promoting life skills and ethical values. Global collabora-

tions with international institutions enrich the learning experience, preparing students for a globalised world. Somaiya Vidyavihar University continues to shine as a beacon of educational excellence, inspiring and empowering individuals to make a positive impact on society.



IIM MUMBAI, ranked 7th in NIRF ranking 2023, has been a pioneer in delivering excellence in the field of Management and it has been the thought leader in management education

and research and partner in the manufacturing renaissance of the Nation for over the last 60 years.

The Vision and Mission of IIM MUMBAI is dedicated to help Indian businesses to make their presence felt globally. IIM MUMBAI has decided to act as a driving force not only in manufacturing sector but all dynamic sectors of the Indian economy.

The programme encompasses various facets of contemporary Industrial, Business and Social Issues in Operations and Supply Chain Management, Analytics and Data Science, Organizational Behaviour & Human Resource Management, Marketing, Finance, Economics & Strategy and Sustainability Management.

The programme admits regular candidates from Academic Institutions, Universities, Government, industry and other organizations. IIM MUMBAI invites individuals with strong academic foundation and zeal to pursue cutting-edge research.

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INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT MUMBAI
(Ministry of Education, Government of India)



IIM MUMBAI ANNOUNCES ADMISSIONS FOR THE YEAR 2024 FOR THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMMES

Ph.D. PROGRAMME

ELIGIBILITY: Candidates must possess - A master's degree or Two-year Post Graduate Diploma (obtained after completing a bachelor's degree with 55% marks or equivalent) or a 5-year Integrated master's degree (obtained after completing higher secondary school in the 10+2 pattern) in any field with 55% marks or equivalent. **(OR)** Professional qualification - CA, CS, CMA (with a minimum of 50% marks) in addition to a bachelor's degree (with at least 55% marks). **(OR)** A four-year/ eight-semester bachelor's degree with a minimum CGPA of 6.5/10 or comparable grades.

Candidates in their last year of a Master's/ bachelor's programme that would qualify them to apply may also apply.

Please note that those candidates who have applied based on their master's degree will have to meet the 55% marks stipulation and those who have applied based on their bachelor's degree will have to meet the 6.5 CGPA (or equivalent) marks stipulation.

Reservation: A relaxation of 5% marks or its equivalent grade may be allowed for those belonging to SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/Differently Aabled, Economically Weaker Section (EWS) as per Government of India rules.

Candidates applying to the Ph.D. Programme are required to take the Common Admission Test (CAT) or a standard test in lieu of CAT. Candidates applying to the Ph.D. Programme in their Areas can take GRE/GMAT/UGC JRF/GATE in their areas in lieu of CAT.

Admission Process:

Admission is based on written test, research presentation and personal Interview with appropriate weightage to the qualifying examination score, past academic performance and relevant experience of reputed Industrial Organization / Academic Institution.

Application fee: General Candidates - ₹2000/-
SC/ST/PwD - ₹1000/-

EXECUTIVE Ph.D. PROGRAMME

The INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT MUMBAI, admits professionally employed persons as Executive Ph.D. Scholars. A Scholar in this category is a professionally employed person, who pursues the doctoral Programme while continuing the duties of his/her service.

ELIGIBILITY: A 1-year/2-semester master's degree programme (Full Time) with at least 65% marks in aggregate after a 4 year/8-semester bachelor's degree programme (Full Time) with at least 65% marks or a 2-year/4-semester master's degree programme (Full Time) with at least 65% marks after a 3-year bachelor's degree programme (Full Time) with at least 65% marks, or its equivalent grade wherever grading system is followed. Candidates applying based on master's degree programme should have at least 2 years of professional experience after master's degree. **(OR)**

A candidate seeking admission after a 4-year/8-semester bachelor's degree programme (Full Time) should have a minimum of 75% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade on point scale wherever the grading system is followed. Candidates applying based on bachelor's degree programme should have a minimum of 4 years of professional experience after bachelor's degree. **(OR)**

A candidate with professional qualification - CA, ICWA, CS (with at least 60% aggregate marks) along with a B.Com/ Degree (with at least 60% aggregate marks). Candidates applying based on the mentioned degree should have at least 2 years of professional experience after completion of their professional degree.

Reservation: A relaxation of 5% marks or its equivalent grade may be allowed for those belonging to SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/Differently Aabled, Economically Weaker Section (EWS) as per Government of India rules.

Application fee: General Candidates - ₹2000/-
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Interested candidates should apply through **ONLINE** mode only

Important Dates

Particulars	Tentative Date
Online Application Begins	8 th November 2023
Online Application Closure	31 st January 2024
Personal Interview & Written Test	April 2024
Course Begins	June 2024

For all other details visit: <https://www.iimmbai.ac.in/admissions-2024>

All communications should be addressed to:
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8 DECISION 2023

CHHATTISGARH • MADHYA PRADESH • MIZORAM • RAJASTHAN • TELANGANA

ELECTION IN NUMBERS

171

The smallest victory margin in 2018 Telangana polls in Asifabad, where Congress's Athram Sakku defeated the BRS's Kova Laxmi

CHHATTISGARH'S FIRST 20 SEATS, MIZORAM'S ALL 40 VOTE TODAY

Blast puts forces on toes as Congress hopes to repeat its 2018 Bastar sweep

Ex-CM Raman Singh, who won Rajnandgaon easily last time, is the lone sitting BJP MLA in the first phase

JAYPRAKASH SNAIDU
NARAYANPUR, NOVEMBER 6

A DAY ahead of polling for the first phase of Assembly elections in Chhattisgarh, two polling agents and a BSF jawan were injured on Monday in an IED blast believed to have been triggered by Naxalites near Rengachati Rengachandi polling station in Kanker district of the Naxal-affected Bastar region of the state.

The ruling Congress is hoping to retain its hold in 20 of the 90 seats in the state which vote on Tuesday. These constituencies are predominantly inhabited by tribals and known as its strongholds. While 12 fall in Bastar region, 8, including a tribal seat, Mohala Manpur, are from the adjacent Durg division. In the 2018 Assembly polls, the Congress had won 17 of these 20 seats and upped its tally to 19 by winning two by-polls later.

The lone sitting BJP MLA in this phase is three-time CM Raman Singh, who had won from his Rajnandgaon seat by a comfortable margin.

Earlier on Sunday, campaigning in the three contiguous districts of Narayanpur, Dantewada and Bijapur in Bastar ended on an anxious note, after the murder of a second BJP Chhattisgarh leader, allegedly by Naxals, and the decision by three candidates of the Sarva Adi Dal to not contest after receiving open threats.

The Sarva Adi Dal was recently floated by Christian tribals, who are disenchanted with the ruling Congress over its "failure" to protect the community against attacks on them.

On Monday, two local Congress leaders received threats from alleged Naxals because of reportedly the support they have extended to a mining project. They have also been given security.

A senior police official from Bastar police range said, "Around 120 leaders have been provided security cover, varying from Z+ to X categories, in the Bastar range."

Arun Pannalal, the president of the Sarva Adi Dal, said, "In our public meetings in Narayanpur, Dantewada and Bijapur, we received open threats. So we decided not to contest. We do not have the resources to protect our candidates."

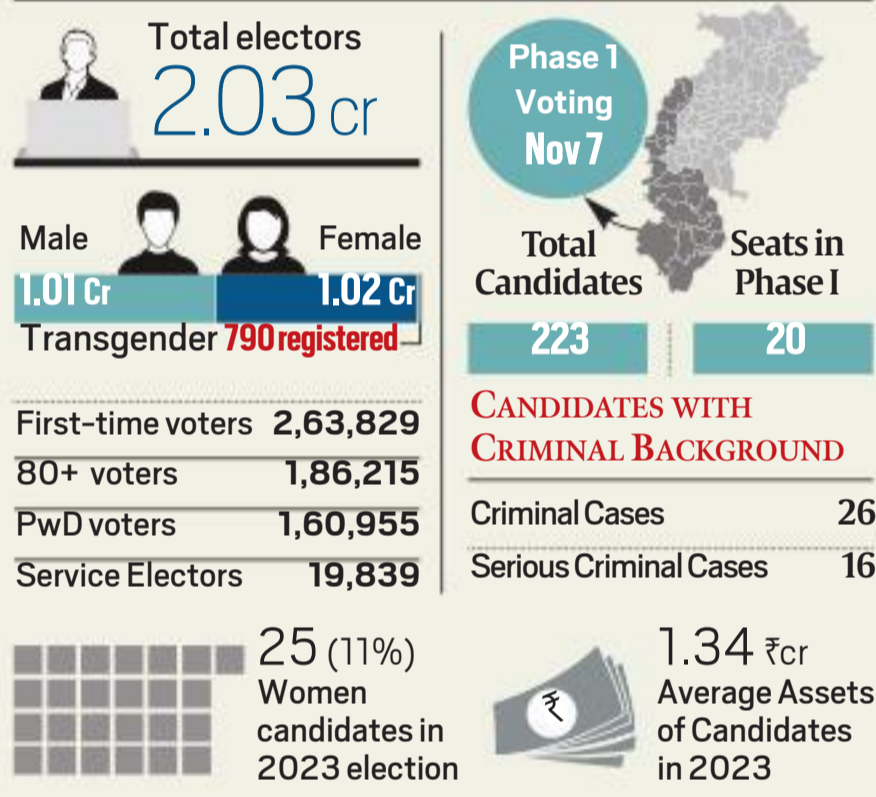
The Sarva Adi Dal was seen as making the going tough for minister and former state Congress chief Mohan Markam in Kondagaon, from where he had won by a wafer-thin margin last time.

Overall, the Bastar region — which comprises the seven districts of Kanker, Kondagaon, Narayanpur, Bijapur, Dante-



Officials leave for election duty in Maoist-affected areas of Dantewada on Monday. PTI

CHHATTISGARH ASSEMBLY POLLS



wada, Sukma and Bastar — has been given a three-layer security cordon across more than 600 polling booths.

For the first time since independence, 80 new polling booths have come up in Bastar, while over 40 other booths, which had previously been relocated due to Naxal presence, have been restored in Minpa area of Sukma district, Galgam and Silger areas of Bijapur district and Chandameta area of Bastar district.

At the same time, 149 polling booths of Bijapur, Narayanpur, Antagarh, Dantewada and Konta Assembly constituencies have been shifted to the nearest police station or security camp, due to security concerns. "It's noteworthy that 196 polling stations had to be shifted in the 2018 Assembly elections, while for the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the number stood at 330," said Sundarraj P, IGP, Bastar Range.

The Congress banked on its welfare schemes, while the BJP

pressed its charges of corruption against the Bhpesh Baghel government and alleged large conversion of tribals in the state during the campaign. Another key issue was unemployment, amid concern that while government jobs were not getting filled, "outsiders are being chosen over locals".

Official figures show rising unemployment in Bastar since 2019, while declining in the rest of Chhattisgarh. Government officials have argued that this is a "good sign", of tribal villagers "moving away from Naxal influence and joining the mainstream", and presumably seeking jobs.

Another major issue was strengthening of the PESA (Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas Act), a promise made by Rahul Gandhi at a rally in Jagdalpur on November 4. He said it would ensure that gram sabha permission was mandatory for land acquisition.

One factor in the race will be Haram Raj party, formed by ex-

Congress leader Arvind Netam's Sarva Adivasi Samaj, an umbrella organisation of several tribal outfits. CM Baghel termed it the "BJP's B-team".

In the 2013 polls, of these 20 seats, 8 were won by the BJP as against the Congress's 12.

In the 2018 polls, the three seats the Congress lost were Dantewada and Rajnandgaon, to the BJP; and Khairagarh to the Janta Congress Chhattisgarh-Jogi (JCC-J).

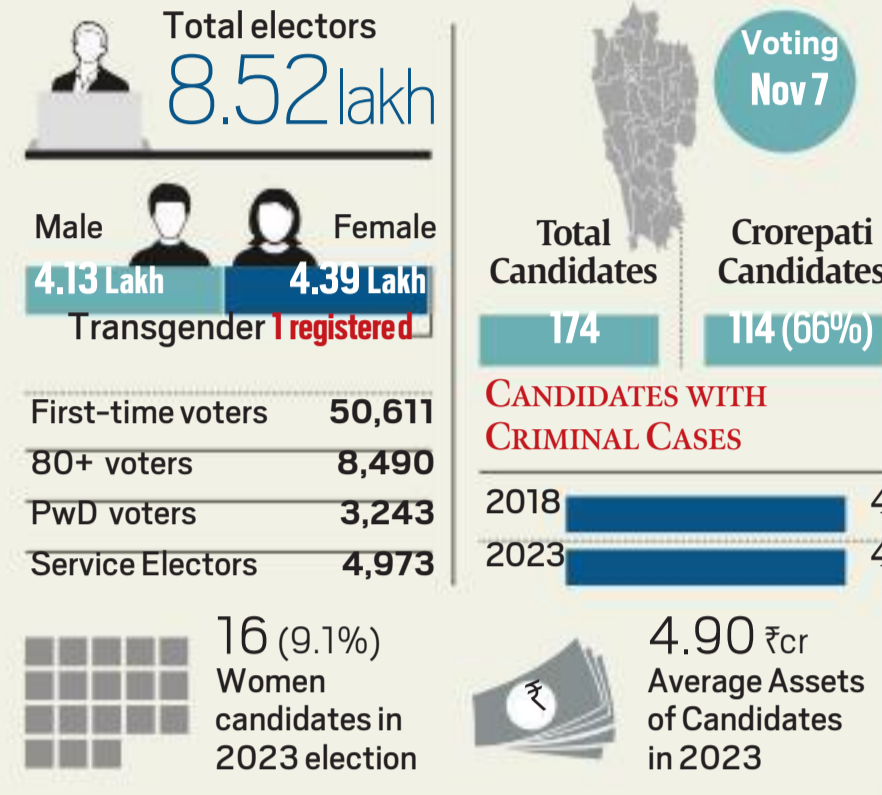
Apart from Markam, on edge on Tuesday will be Congress candidate Chandan Kashyap, from Bastar region's Narayanpur seat. In Konta in Sukma, minister Kawasaki Lakhma could face a challenge from the CPI's Manish Kunjam, who is being backed by the Hamar Raj.

Kunjam has raised the issues of fake encounters and tribals' human rights violation besides locals not getting government jobs.

In Kawardha, minister Mohammd Akbar is facing a popular BJP foe, who is an accused in the communal violence which had erupted in the belt in 2021. Akbar had won the seat last time by a record margin. The BJP's star campaigners and prominent Hindutva faces like UP CM Yogi Adityanath and Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma have campaigned for their party's candidate in Kawardha.

Addressing a rally in Durg Saturday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi continued the BJP's corruption campaign against Baghel, saying his government "has not even spared the name of Mahadev". This was in reference to Enforcement Directorate probe into allegations over Rs 508 crore kickbacks paid by the promoters of an online betting platform called Mahadev app.

MIZORAM ASSEMBLY POLLS



In Mizoram, new kid on block puts Cong in shade, as Manipur looms large

SUKRITA BARUAH
GUWAHATI, NOVEMBER 6

WHILE THE polls for the 40-member Mizoram Assembly have traditionally been a direct fight between the Mizo National Front (MNF) — the incumbent party led by Chief Minister Zoramthanga — and the Congress, the election this time is a triangular battle due to the emergence of the Zoram People's Movement (ZPM).

Voting will take place in the state on Tuesday. There are 174 candidates in the fray: the MNF, Congress and ZPM are fighting from all 40 constituencies, and the BJP, AAP and Independents from 23, 4 and 27, respectively.

Mizoram politics has been dominated by the MNF and Congress since the formation of the state in 1987, with the reins of power alternating between two CMs — Zoramthanga and the Congress's Lal Thanhawla.

In 2018, the Congress was decimated — plunging to third place with just five MLAs, behind the MNF's 26. Five-time CM Thanhawla has since retired from politics.

The MNF and ZPM have undertaken vigorous campaigns, with the ruling party's blue flags and the latter's yellow flags appearing everywhere.

The MNF is hoping that its championing of Mizo nationalism will fuel its return to power. Significantly, the ZPM is being increasingly seen as the MNF's key challenger. Led by its CM face Lalduhoma, former IPS officer, the ZPM has been able to generate a buzz, riding on its promise of reforms and a "new system". Most of the ZPM's candidates are fresh faces.

The Congress is looking for a reversal in its fortunes under a changed leadership, with ex-finance minister Lalswata head-

ing the state unit. Its campaign has mainly been centred on an anti-BJP plank, portraying both the MNF and ZPM as "entry points" for the BJP into the Christian majority state. The Congress has been telling voters that while the MNF is a part of the NDA, the ZPM could be its "potential ally".

Rahul Gandhi was the first national leader to visit the state, on October 16, for campaigning. Subsequently, other senior Congress leaders made their way to the state. The poll outcome will be important for the Congress as Mizoram was its "last bastion" in the Northeast.

For the BJP, Union Minister of Earth Sciences Kiren Rijju led the BJP's electioneering efforts. Leaders who campaigned included Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, national party president J P Nadda and Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Mizoram, which was scheduled for October 30, was cancelled, while Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Assam CM and NEDA convener Himanta Biswa Sarma gave the state's campaign trail a miss.

By contesting just 23 seats, the BJP might not be aiming to clinch the polls, but state party leaders such as Lalrinliana Sailo are hopeful that it would play a role in government formation if the race is a close one.

The ethnic conflict roiling neighbouring Manipur is also looming over the BJP's Mizoram campaign. Manipur's Kuki-Zomi community shares ethnicity with the Mizos.

There are 16 women in the fray, down two from last time, with formidable odds stacked against them: the Assembly does not have a single sitting woman legislator, and has seen only four women MLAs since its formation in 1987.



CM Chouhan at Devsar in Singrauli district, Monday. PTI

'Mera naam Shivraj hai, small things do not affect me... Post is not important'

VIKAS PATHAK
BHOPAL, NOVEMBER 6

Small things like being named the chief ministerial candidate don't affect him, one's works are more important than what one is, and his welfare schemes cannot be labelled as "revdi", says Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. Excerpts:

Can the BJP win this election? Jeetege hi (We shall win).

Which of your schemes, do you think, appeals to voters the most?

Sisters have come together to support their brother. Ladi Behna Yojana or Ladi Lakshmi scheme, 50% reservation in local body polls, 30% recruitment of daughters in police, or 35% overall reservation in direct recruitment, we have taken several such steps. So *maatrishakti* (women power) is with the BJP; nephews, nieces also support their *mama* (maternal uncle).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has spoken out against *revdi* (freebies).

This isn't *revdi* culture. This is full justice to half the population. None can deny that we are still a patriarchal society. So, we decided to give them enough to fulfil their necessities. I started putting money in the bank accounts of my sisters in 2017. That led to better nutrition levels... When money goes to the woman of a family, she utilises it well... So, give money to the mother.

Will you be the chief minister

if the BJP wins? I don't bother about this. My goal in politics is the construction of a glorious, strong and prosperous Bharat... The mission will determine who will do which work and where.

Did you not feel bad that you aren't the face of the BJP after these many years in power?

Mera naam Shivraj Singh Chouhan hai (I am Shivraj Singh Chouhan). These small things don't affect my personality or work. What you are isn't important, how you are working is.

Did the entry of Jyotiraditya Scindia benefit the BJP?

He is an energetic leader. *Faayda hua hai* (we have gained).

Congress leader Kamal Nath told us that Rajiv Gandhi got the Babri gates opened and the

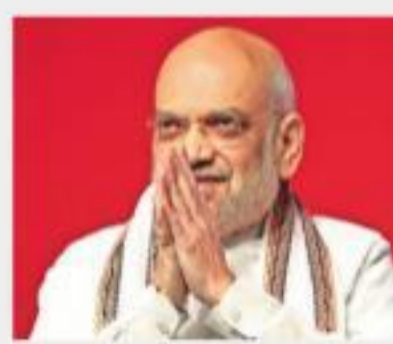
BJP cannot claim credit alone for the Ram temple.

Religion is not a matter of politics for us. It is a matter of faith... The Congress should answer why even in courts their leaders opposed the temple... Now, when they see that the people can't exist without Ram, they are chanting Bhagwan Ram's name.

Kamal Nath also says there is a reason the BJP has not projected you as CM face.

There must be some reason that be it Kamal Nath, Digvijaya Singh, or Rahul Gandhi... when they are in Bhopal, only *Mama* comes to their mind... *Kuchh toh hoon main* (I must be something).

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INDIANEXPRESS.COM/ELECTIONS



ROAD TO 2024

CASTE CENSUS: AS OPPN MAKES ITSELF HEARD, BJP SHEDS SILENCE

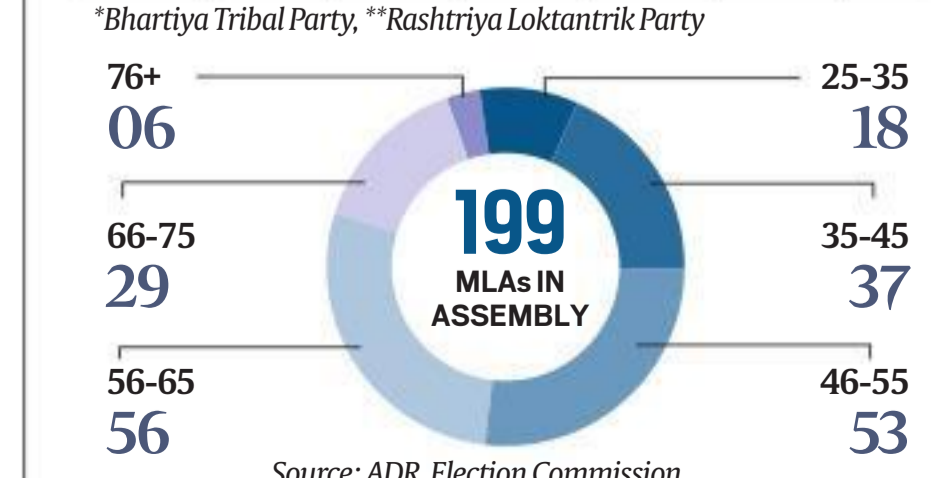
CONGRESS GUARANTEE YATRA KICKS OFF TODAY IN RAJASTHAN

NUMBER SPEAK

RAJASTHAN: PARTY-WISE AGE GROUP OF MLAs

Party	25-35	35-45	46-55	56-65	66-75	76+
Cong	12	21	30	21	20	4
BJP	4	13	19	25	6	2
Ind	0	2	3	6	3	0
RLD	0	0	0	1	0	0
CPI(M)	0	1	0	1	0	0
*BJP	1	0	0	1	0	0
**RJP	1	0	1	1	0	0
Total	18	37	53	56	29	6

*Bhartiya Tribal Party, **Rashtriya Loktantrik Party



DECODING POLITICS

The irrigation project at heart of Telangana election heat

Political row was sparked off by the discovery on Oct 21 of damage to piers of a barrage that is part of Kaleshwaram project

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, NOVEMBER 6

A MAJOR controversy has erupted in poll-bound Telangana over alleged engineering lapses in the Rs 1.5 lakh crore Kaleshwaram project, with the Opposition parties, including the Congress and BJP, accusing the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) government led by Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao or KCR of corruption.

The Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project on the Godavari river is being cited by the government as one of the world's largest multi-purpose projects. It is envisaged to provide water for irrigation and drinking across about 45 lakh acres in 20 out of 31 districts in Telangana, apart from Hyderabad and Secunderabad.

The first phase was inaugurated by KCR in June 2019.

What sparked off the political row was the discovery on October 21 of damage to several piers of the Medigadda barrage in Jayashankar Bhupalpally district under the project. The assistant executive engineer on duty that day filed a complaint that he had heard a loud sound and, on inspection, found at least three piers had suffered damages and sunk.

The BJP and Congress have seized on the issue in the run-up to the Assembly polls.

While the state BJP urged Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat to send a Central team to examine the damage, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and state Congress chief A Revanth Reddy visited



Rahul at the damaged barrage of Kaleshwaram Project, cited as one of the world's largest multi-purpose projects, on Nov 2

the Medigadda barrage on November 2.

A team from the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) visited

the site and submitted a report on November 3, blaming faults in the planning and design. The team

said that a combination of issues

involving planning, design, quality control, and operation and maintenance led to the damage. It suggested that the reconstruction of the piers under block 7 of the barrage should be taken up from its foundation level.

The KCR government has rejected the NDSA report, charging that it was prepared in haste without considering all the information submitted.

Telangana Irrigation Department Additional Chief Secretary Rajat Kumar wrote to NDSA chairman Sanjay Kumar Sibal, stating that comments made in the report were "unsubstantiated". Kumar stated that the panel criticised the project without a thorough investigation into causes of the damage.

State BJP president and Union minister G Kishan Reddy

has demanded a CBI probe into the project.

Kishan Reddy said the entire Kaleshwaram project should be investigated. "The project was constructed spending over Rs 1 lakh crore and the state government borrowed heavily," he said.

Rahul Gandhi called the Kaleshwaram project the "ATM of KCR family".

In their election speeches, Congress leaders, including Revanth Reddy and Legislature Party leader Mallu Bhatti Vikaramarka, and BJP leaders, including Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay Kumar, have been targeting KCR over the project.

The BRS has maintained that the damage was "not as serious" as being projected. L&T, which built the barrage, has stated that it is working on the repairs.

9 GOVT & POLITICS



CHANGED EQUATIONS

FORMER ORISSA High Court Chief Justice S Muralidhar appeared as a counsel before a bench presided by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud on Monday. The CJ who had engaged with Muralidhar as chief justice earlier smilingly told him that since he has retired and started practice, he will no longer be able to address him as "brother Muralidhar". "I can't say brother Muralidhar, but I will say Mr Muralidhar," the CJ remarked before proceeding to hear the case.

SANSKRIT IN SAUDI

IN A first, the Indian embassy in Saudi Arabia hosted an all-Sanskrit event — Samskritotsava — in Riyadh on Sunday with an aim to recognise the efforts made by the Indian community to keep the ancient language alive in Saudi Arabia. At the event, Indian Ambassador Suhel Ajaz Khan spoke about the importance of Sanskrit in our culture and its veneration in the entire world as a sacred and spiritual language. Khan said the event will serve as an inspiration for all to learn Sanskrit.

Modi dials Raisi to discuss situation in West Asia, both agree on early peace

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 6

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi and Iranian President Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi on Monday discussed the "difficult situation" in the West Asian region in the wake of the Israel-Hamas conflict, as part of Delhi's diplomatic engagement with the key players in the war.

This comes after the PM spoke to British PM Rishi Sunak and UAE's Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on Friday and discussed the situation arising out of the Israel-Hamas war. Modi has spoken to Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Palestinian Authority's President Mahmoud Abbas, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and Jordan's King Abdullah-II on the issue in the last one month.



PM Narendra Modi, Iran President Ebrahim Raisi. File

While assessing the volatile situation, India is reaching to major stakeholders in the West Asian region who have deep stakes, some credibility and influence on the situation.

The phone call to Tehran comes nearly a month since the October 7 attack by Hamas in Israel that provoked a military response by Israel on Gaza.

Modi, during his call with the Iranian President, expressed deep concern over the "terrorist inci-

dents, violence and loss of civilian lives" in the conflict, as per a statement by the Prime Minister's Office. Modi also reiterated India's longstanding and consistent position on the Israel-Palestine issue.

On Sunday, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had a phone conversation with his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir-Abdollahian during which the latter called for a ceasefire in the conflict. The two foreign ministers discussed the concern of the international community and Jaishankar conveyed the importance of preventing escalation and providing humanitarian support, as per his tweet.

In his call with PM Modi, President Raisi shared his assessment of the situation. Both the leaders stressed the need for preventing escalation, ensuring continued humanitarian aid and early restoration of peace and stability,

the PMO statement said.

Iran has also urged the BRICS member states — Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa — to intervene in an active, constructive and responsible manner to stop the Israeli regime's war crimes against Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip.

Besides discussing the conflict situation, Modi and Raisi also reviewed and positively assessed the progress in multifaceted bilateral cooperation, said the PMO. They welcomed focus and priority accorded to the Chabahar Port in Iran for improving regional connectivity. The strategically important Chabahar Port offers an alternative route that bypasses Pakistan, reducing India's reliance on its neighbour for trade with Afghanistan and beyond. It also offers a gateway to the resource-rich and economically vibrant region of Central Asia.

3 BILLS IN HOUSE COMMITTEE Standing panel adopts reports on criminal laws

Some Opp members given time until Wednesday to submit dissent notes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 6

THE PARLIAMENTARY standing committee on Home Affairs, which looked into the three Bills that seek to replace the Indian Penal Code, CrPC and the Evidence Act, adopted its draft reports Monday even as the opposition members in the panel submitted multiple dissent notes. The report is learnt to have suggested many changes in the Bills.

Some of the members, including former Union Home Minister P Chidambaram, sought some more time for submitting dissent notes. They have been given time till Wednesday. Opposition sources said Chidambaram and TMC members Derek O' Brien and Kakoli Ghosh Dashtidar would submit detailed dissent notes.

Several members, including Congress's Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Digvijaya Singh and DMK's N R Elango, have already submitted dissent notes. Sources said all the 10 opposition members in the panel would submit separate dissent notes. It is learnt Chidambaram spoke at length in the meeting Monday offering several suggestions.

Some among the Opposition members believe that the usage of Hindi in the Bills goes against the spirit of the Constitution. The

'Cash-for-query': Ethics panel to now meet Nov 9

New Delhi: The Lok Sabha Ethics Committee meeting to consider and adopt its draft report on the cash-for-query allegations against TMC MP Mahua Moitra has been postponed to November 9 from November 7, according to a notice from the Lok Sabha secretariat.

No reason has been officially cited. PTI

Cong criticises poll panel for cancelling appointment with delegation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 6

THE CONGRESS on Monday criticised the Election Commission (EC) for cancelling "a scheduled appointment" that the party had sought to raise the BJP-led Centre's alleged misuse of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in poll-bound Chhattisgarh.

Congress leaders said the EC had agreed "in writing" to meet a party delegation Monday but cancelled the appointment citing a "busy" schedule and informed that a fresh meeting can be fixed on November 8 or 9.

They said a meeting on a later date would have "no meaning" as the first-phase of polling in Chhattisgarh would be over by then. "I am not making an allegation, but the relevance of this matter is before November 7," senior party leader Abhishek Singhvi told a press conference at the Congress headquarters.

He was flanked by party colleagues Pramod Tiwari, Salman Khurshid and Ranjeet Ranjan. The Congress outrage comes days after the ED alleged that Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel was paid Rs 508 crore by a cash courier sent from the UAE by the promoters of Mahadev App, an online site that facilitates gambling and betting.

Hitting back, Baghel accused the BJP of wanting to contest elections in Chhattisgarh "with the help of agencies like ED, I-T, DRI and CBI".

Singhvi said that the misuse of the ED during the polling process is an attempt by the BJP government to tarnish Baghel's image. He said that while the Chhattisgarh police had initiated inquiry into Mahadev app in March 2022, the ED had only initiated action merely six months ago and is now conducting raids and making disclosures with elections in view.

"Free hand has been given to ED to make allegations without any restrictions in a poll bound state," Singhvi said, adding that the "biggest alliance in the current elections" was of "BJP, Centre and ED" and the EC must immediately intervene.



Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot files his nomination papers from Sardarpura constituency for the November 25 Assembly elections, in Jodhpur on Monday. PTI

4,400 km, 12 days: Rajasthan Cong to kick off Guarantee Yatra today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, NOVEMBER 6

THE CONGRESS party will kick off its Guarantee Yatras from Tuesday to take seven guarantees to the people's doorstep which it has promised to fulfill if elected again.

The Yatras will pass through seven divisions, 31 districts and 140 Assembly constituencies and cover over 4,400 kms over a period of 12 days. CM Ashok Gehlot will launch the Yatras from Jaipur on November 7 and join Yatras at Jodhpur,

Udaipur, Ajmer, Bikaner, Kota and Bharatpur on 8, 9, 10, 11, 14 and 15 November, respectively.

Top party leaders have been involved to lead the Yatras in seven divisions: CP Joshi (Udaipur), Sachin Pilot (Ajmer), Bhanwar Jitendra Singh (Jaipur), Mohan Prakash (Bharatpur), Pramod Jain Bhaya (Kota), Harish Choudhary (Jodhpur), and Govind Ram Meghwal (Bikaner).

Party national chief Mallikarjun Kharge, MP Rahul Gandhi and general secretary Priyanka Gandhi are also expected to join the Yatras. The

Yatras will be held under the supervision of state in-charge Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa and three AICC secretaries Amrita Dhawan, Qazi Nizamuddin and Virendra Rathore.

At the heart of the Yatras are seven guarantees unveiled by the Congress party, which include Rs 10,000 per annum honorarium for the women heads of families subsidised gas cylinders at Rs 500 for over 1 crore households, and bringing back the old pension scheme for government employees with a law.

The party will also distribute 2 crore guarantee cards to the beneficiaries of various social welfare schemes, a party leader said.

Collegium approves 3 HC Chief Justices for elevation to top court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 6

THE SUPREME Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud on Monday cleared the names of three High Court Chief Justices for elevation as judges of the top court.

The three are: Delhi HC Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma; Rajasthan HC Chief Justice Augustine George Masih, and Gauhati HC Chief Justice Sandeep Mehta.

In its resolution, the Collegium, which also comprises Justices S K Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, B R Gavai and Surya Kant, said the SC is currently functioning with 31 judges "against a sanctioned strength of 34 judges".

"The SC has a huge backlog of cases... it has become necessary to ensure the court has full working judge-strength leaving no vacancy at any point of time," it said.

It said that while recommending the three names for elevation, the Collegium took into consideration the seniority, merit, integrity and social background of the HC judges. Justices Sharma, Masih and Mehta were found "to be deserving and suitable in all respects", the resolution said.

Justice Sharma took oath as Delhi HC Chief Justice on June 28,



(Clockwise from left) CJ Masih, CJ Mehta, CJ Sharma

2022. "The judgments authored by him (Justice Sharma) dealing with issues in various branches of law stand testimony to his legal acumen and competence," the Collegium said.

Justice Masih took oath as the Chief Justice of the Rajasthan HC on May 30, 2023. Stating that Justice Masih "belongs to a minority community", the Collegium resolution said that "the Collegium is aware of the fact that at present, the Bench of the Supreme Court is represented by 2 judges from (his parent court) Punjab & Haryana HC".

Justice Mehta took oath as the Chief Justice of Gauhati HC on February 15, 2023. Recommending his name, the Collegium noted that his parent HC, Rajasthan, "does not have representation on the SC Bench".

Targeting Cong, Maya reminds voters: Mandal was under V P Singh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 5

KICKING OFF her campaign for the forthcoming Assembly polls in Madhya Pradesh, BSP president Mayawati on Monday accused the Congress of making "tall promises on caste census only to get votes of OBCs". Of the 230 Assembly seats, the party is contesting on 183 seats; its ally Gondwana Gantantra Party (GGP) is in the fray in 47 seats.

A large part of Mayawati's speech, made at a rally at the Mungaoli Assembly constituency in the Ashok Nagar district, was critical of the Congress. She said the Congress did not implement reports of the Kaka Kalelkar commission, the first Backward Class commission set up in January 1953 to investigate conditions of socially and educationally backward classes, and the Mandal Commission, the second Backward Class commission whose recommendation led to the 27% reservation for OBC candidates at all levels of its services in 1990. She appealed to OBC voters "that they should not get misled by such promises of

Congress".

In Mungaoli, the BSP had finished third in the 2018 elections and polled 14,202 votes. The Congress defeated the BJP by a narrow margin of 2,136 votes.

Without providing reservation to the OBCs, Dalits and tribals in the private sector, the BSP supremo said, "most of government works in the Centre and the states are being handed over to big capitalists and rich people".

Mayawati also said the OBC community should not forget "that they did not get the benefit of reservation as per the Mandal Commission report" under the Congress government but during the tenure of the Janata Dal under V P Singh.

"They got the benefit during the VP Singh government after the hard struggle and efforts of the BSP," she said.

The former Uttar Pradesh chief minister added that the Congress did not honour Bhimrao Ambedkar with Bharat Ratna, calling it reflective of the party's "casteist mentality" for "such sections (Dalits)". Mayawati added that Ambedkar was honoured in the VP Singh government following the efforts of the BSP.

Party releases 3rd list Telangana Cong chief to fight KCR in Kamareddy

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, NOVEMBER 6

G VIVEKANAND, who recently quit the BJP and joined the Congress, has been nominated from Chennur (SC) Assembly constituency while Telangana Congress unit chief A Revanth Reddy will contest from Kamareddy apart from Kodangal, shows the Congress third list released Monday.

Revanth will take on CM K Chandrashekar Rao in Kamareddy. Kamareddy veteran leader Mohammed Ali Shabbir has been shifted to Nizamabad Urban Assembly constituency. Sources said this was done as

Revanth would pose a tougher challenge to KCR. The party changed the candidate in Boath (ST) replacing Vannela Ashok with Ade Gajender. The party also replaced Dr G Chinna Reddy in Wanparthy with T Megha Reddy. The other candidates and their seats are: T Laxmi Kantha Rao (Jukkall SC), E Ravinder Reddy (Banswada), P Srinivas from (Karimnagar), K Mahender Reddy (Sircilla), Suresh Kumar Shetkar (Nayarakhed), Nilam Madhu Mudiraj (Patancheru), Dr Jatoth Ramachandra Nadi (Dornakal ST), K Kanakiah Reddy (Yellandu ST), Ramdas Maloth (Sathupalli S C) and J Adhinaryana (Aswaraopet ST).

Caste census: BJP sheds silence as Opp makes itself heard

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 6

On November 2, while addressing the media in Chhattisgarh, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said: "The BJP has never opposed the caste census, but decisions have to be taken after careful thought."

Hours earlier, he had met top OBC leaders from at least 10 states in Delhi, in talks that went on till midnight, to discuss strategies to keep the BJP's support base among the communities intact.

On October 28, the BJP appointed Nayab Singh Saini, an OBC leader, as its Haryana president. Saini replaced Om Prakash Dhankar, who belongs to the influential Jat community.

nounced in Telangana that the BJP would make a leader from the backward classes the CM if elected to power in the state. In an interview to *The Indian Express*, its former Telangana president Bandi Sanjay Kumar said the BJP had told all its OBC leaders in the state to prepare to fight the November 30 Assembly polls.

AS THE countdown begins for the next Lok Sabha elections, the BJP has started taking steps to consolidate its hold on OBC votes, notwithstanding its public stand that it is not worried about the Opposition's combined demand for a caste census.

Shah's statement was a shift from the BJP's stance on the caste census issue, with the party careful about not committing itself one way or the other. This was despite its own allies with OBC vote bases openly proclaim-

ingly entitled to.

The recent Bihar caste survey was an indication of this gap, putting the OBC population in the state at 63.1%.

The BJP government at the Centre is wary that a caste census could give rise to contesting demands as well as arouse other dormant quota calls, shattering its delicate caste balancing. At the same time, BJP leaders have come to realise that the party cannot continue its silence on the issue.

This silence is more jarring given how the Opposition is building its anti-BJP campaign over the issue. Some talk openly of unwittingly letting Congress leader Rahul Gandhi emerge as "a champion of OBC causes", with his 'Jitni abaadi, Utna Haq (rights according to numerical strength)' slogan carrying punch.

A number of BJP leaders are

Terming the video "forged, fake and fabricated", Devendra filed an FIR with the Civil Lines police and also sought removal of the video from social media.

City SP Rakesh Gupta said, "A case under IPC section 469 (forgery for the purpose of harming reputation) has been registered against unidentified persons and the matter is under investigation."

Union Minister for Agriculture Tomar is the BJP's candidate from Dimmi (Morena) seat for the November 17 Assembly polls.

Controversy erupted after AICC general secretary Priyanka



DECISION 2023 RAJASTHAN

Cong targets Union Minister Tomar's son over 'bribe' video, he gets FIR filed

ANAND MOHAN J
BHOPAL, NOVEMBER 6

THE BJP and the Congress locked horns in poll-bound Madhya Pradesh on Monday after a video purportedly showing Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar's son talking to a "middleman" about several crore rupees emerged on social media.

The Congress alleged that the video showed Tomar's son, Devendra Singh Tomar, discussing "bribe money". It sought an ED probe, besides action by the Election Commission.

Party national chief Mallikarjun Kharge, MP Rahul Gandhi and general secretary Priyanka Gandhi are also expected to join the Yatras. The

Yatras will be held under the supervision of state in-charge Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa and three AICC secretaries Amrita Dhawan, Qazi Nizamuddin and Virendra Rathore.

At the heart of the Yatras are seven guarantees unveiled by the Congress party, which include Rs 10,000 per annum honorarium for the women heads of families subsidised gas cylinders at Rs 500 for over 1 crore households, and bringing back the old pension scheme for government employees with a law.

The party will also distribute 2 crore guarantee cards to the beneficiaries of various social welfare schemes, a party leader said.

Terming the video "forged, fake and fabricated", Devendra filed an FIR with the Civil Lines police and also sought removal of the video from social media.

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Union Minister for Agriculture Tomar is the BJP's candidate from Dimmi (Morena) seat for the November 17 Assembly polls.

Controversy erupted after AICC general secretary Priyanka

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, DAYARAM TANWAR, S/O DATA RAM TANWAR, R/O E-186 POCKET-1, MAYUR VIHAR PHASE-1, DELHI-110091, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO DAYARAM TANWER.
0040697394-1

I, Bidisha Saxena W/o Rohit Saxena R/o Plot No. 2/10, Sector-9, Flat No. S-1, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, UP-201010 have changed my name to VIDISHA SAXENA for all future purposes.
0070872570-1

I, Ashok Kumar Satija S/o Nand Lal R/o H. No.-4/63, Jangpura Ext. South Delhi-110014, have changed my name to Ashok Satija.
0070872574-1

I, Amit Kumar S/o Virender Kumar R/o D-704, Ajnara Home, Sec-168, Noida extension, Distt.-Gautam Budh Nagar, UP-201009, confirm that in my Son Samarth Verma School record my Wife name has been wrongly written as priti instead of priti Rani. Correct name of My wife is Priti Rani
0070872478-1

I, Suresh Kumar S/o Sh. Ram Kumar R/o A-2/156-157, Upper Ground Floor, Sector-8, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Suresh Kumar Kedia for all purposes.
0040697314-1

I, Sparsh Bansal D/O, Virender Kumar Bansal R/o 2840-a/209 Second Floor Vishram Nagar Trinagar Delhi have changed my name to Sparsh.
0040697384-1

I, Pallavi D/o Surjeet Singh Yadav R/o E-392 Gali No-15 Ashok Nagar Shahdara Delhi-110093, Has Been Changed My Name To Km Pallavi For All Future Purposes.
0070872469-1

I, Manish Goyal S/o Sh. R.K. Goyal R/o H.No.3788/A, Gali No.4, Kanhiya Nagar, Third Floor, Trinagar, North West Delhi, Delhi-110035 have changed my name to Manish Goel for all purposes.
0040697314-4

I, Harish Kumar Bajaj S/O Shri Ramesh Chander Bajaj, LH-804, Amrapali Village apartment, Nyay Khand-2, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201014 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Harish Kumar to Harish Kumar Bajaj for all purpose.
0040697314-2

I, Anita Gaur W/o Jitendra Kumar R/o Vill-Roza Jalalpur Phase-1 Sec-Techzone West G.B.Nagar-201009 Have changed my name to Anita Devi Gaur Permanently.
0070872579-1

I, Anil Kumar S/o Sh. Sadhu Ram R/o Flat No.1792, (S/F), Creative Heights Society, Block-GH, Pocket-1, Near CNG Station, HG Society, Sector-29, Pehladvr Bangar, North West, Delhi-110042 have changed my name to Anil Kumar Rana for all purposes.
0040697314-3

I, Saad S/o Mohammed Mujeeb ur Rahman Mukaddas R/o 20-72-421/6, fathe Darwaza, chaminar, Hyderabad, Shahalibanda, Shahalibanda, Telangana-500065, have changed my name to Saad Mohammed Muqaddas
0070872488-1

I, I, RUPALI HAZRA, W/O. SUBRATA HAZRA, H.NO.C-3/197, GALI NO-30 HARSH VIHAR, NORTH EAST DELHI 110093, changed my name to RUPALI HAZRA
0040697409-6

I, Mudasiir Aziz Pandit, F/O- Muhammad Mudasir, R/O- H.No-15, Iqbal Colony, sector No-8, opposite Gurdwara Zainakote Srinagar Kashmir. I am father of Muhammad Mudasir who has Qualified his class 10th examinations from Central Board of School education, Delhi under Roll No-13130339. The father's name of above ward in marks statement cum Certificate of 10th issued by controller of examinations has been mentioned as Mudasir Aziz instead of Mudasir Aziz Pandit as in my Passport and Aadhaar Card. It needs corrections. Objections are filled to concerned authorities within seven days.
0020467371-2

I, IRFAN, S/O, O.P.P. AHMAD, H.NO.4/2, O.P.P.-MODI BAKERY JUNGUPURA EXT.N, JANGPURA, SOUTH EAST-DELHI 110014, changed my name to IRFAN AHMED, for all, future purposes.
0040697409-9

I, BABITA, W/O. HARISH KUMAR, ADD-RZ-20 C LANE-1, MAIN-SAGAR PUR, SOUTH-WEST DELHI-110046, changed my name to BABITA VERMA.
0040697409-5

I, Dr. Ramya Shukla W/O Dr. Vinay Shukla R/o Flat No.4F-1202, AWHO, Gurjinder Vihar, Greater Noida U.P.-201310 have changed my name to Ramya Mishra for all future purposes.
0070872476-1

It is for general information that I, MANISH KUMAR JAIN S/O ANIL JAIN R/o: 8-A, GULAB VATIKA, LONI DEHAT, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-201102 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as MANISH JAIN in my minor son namely VAIBHAV JAIN age 14 years in his school record. The actual name of mine is MANISH KUMAR JAIN which may be amended accordingly.
0040697318-1

It is for general information that I Devansh Singh Son of Shri Dharmendra Singh residing at B-26 Old Kondli, Delhi-110096 declare that name of my mother has been wrongly written as Santosh in my 10th and 12th class educational documents. The actual name of my mother is Santosh Devi which may be amended accordingly.
0070872508-1

I, kushin W/o amir khan, R/o C-312-C kusumpur pahari-vasant, vihar-110057, Have changed my name to Suresh Kumar Begum.
0040697404-9

I, hitherto known as GAYATRI SUBHASH MEHRA alias GAYATRI MANGA, Daughter of, SUBHASH RAJPAL MEHRA and Wife of ASHISH MANGA, residing at, C-53, Friends Colony-East, New Delhi-110065, have changed my name and I shall henceforth be known as GAYATRI MANGA.
0040697404-6

I, YASHU BHARDWAJ, D/O: RAJESH AGARWAL, ADDRESS: A-108/4, LAKHI RAM PARK, KIRARI SULEMAN-NAGAR, DELHI 110086, Changed my name to YASHU AGARWAL.
0040697404-9

I, TEJAL MISTRY alias TEJAL TIWARY, D/O T N MISTRY, W/O RANJEET KUMAR TIWARY R/O-C-701, Dhauladhar Apartment Plot, No.15, Dwarka, Delhi, Sector-5, Delhi-110075, have changed my name to TEJAL TIWARY.
0040697421-3

I, Suresh Kumar, S/O Laljeet Rai, R/O House No-15, Sarai Sohal Mangalpuri Palam, New Delhi-110045, have changed my name to Suresh Kumar Rai, Permanently.
0040697394-8

I, Seema, W/o Tilak Raj Pahwa, R/o 3D-44C, Opp.Durga Mandir, NIT, Faridabad, have changed my name to Seem Pahwa, after marriage.
0040697404-5

I, VIKRAM S/O UMED KHATRI, RESIDENT VPO-KUNDLI, DISTT-SONIPAT-131028, HARYANA HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO VIKRAM KHATRI.
0040697397-3

I, Saurav Jain, S/o-Virender Kumar Jain, R/O-316, Gali, No.1, Opp.Samudai Bhwan Shalimar, Village Shalimar, Bagh Delhi-110088, changed my name to Saurav Varinder Jain.
0040697421-2

I, Hemant Sachdeva, S/o Sh. Som Nath Sachdeva, R/O, H.No.465-A, Jheel Khurania, Geeta Colony, East-Delhi-110031, have changed my name, from Hemant to Hemant Sachdeva, for all, future purposes.
0040697421-4

I, Harmander Singh S/o-Prabjeh Singh Syal R/O, H.No.9/15, Ramesh Nagar, New Delhi-15, have changed my name to Harmander Singh Syal.
0040697394-6

I, Gurpreet Singh, S/o Darshan Singh, R/O R-6, Fourth Floor, Masjod Road, Bhogal, Jangpura New Delhi-110014, have changed my name from Gurpreet Singh, to Gurpreet Singh Gandhok, for all purposes.
0040697421-1

I, Gita Khatri W/o Amit Grover R/O, H.No.1245, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-110009, have changed my name from Gita Khatri to Gita Grover.
0040697397-1

I, Dharmender, S/o Ramesh Kumar R/o Flat No.-7/201, Shardapur, Ramesh Nagar, Delhi-110015 have changed my name to NISCHAY GARG permanently.
0040697327-2

I, Madhav Sachdeva S/O Dayaram Sachdev R/O 122/525, Sindhi Colony, Shastri Nagar, Kanpur-208005, have changed my name to Madhav Sachdev for future all purposes.
0040697374-1

I, MANOJ KUMAR S/O MUNNLA LAL R/O 26/125, GALI NO. 10, SIDDHARTH GALI, VISHWAS NAGAR, NORTH EAST DELHI, DELHI-110032 declare that name of mine and my minor son have been wrongly written as MANOJ KR and VIBHORE KR in my minor son VIBHOR KUMAR aged 15 years in his 10th class marks-sheet and certificate. The actual name of mine and my minor son are MANOJ KUMAR and VIBHOR KUMAR.
0070872556-1

I, AJAI RAI S/O MAHENDER RAI RESIDENT, HOUSE NO-627, SECTOR-14, SONIPAT, HARYANA HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO AJAY RAI.
0040697397-2

I, Nishchay Garg S/o Vinay Kumar Garg House No.-7/201, Shardapur, Ramesh Nagar, Delhi-110015 have changed my name to NISCHAY GARG permanently.
0040697327-2

I, Madhav Sachdeva S/O Dayaram Sachdev R/O 122/525, Sindhi Colony, Shastri Nagar, Kanpur-208005, have changed my name to Madhav Sachdev for future all purposes.
0040697374-1

I, MANOJ KUMAR S/O MUNNLA LAL R/O 26/125, GALI NO. 10, SIDDHARTH GALI, VISHWAS NAGAR, NORTH EAST DELHI, DELHI-110032 declare that name of mine and my minor son have been wrongly written as MANOJ KR and VIBHORE KR in my minor son VIBHOR KUMAR aged 15 years in his 10th class marks-sheet and certificate. The actual name of mine and my minor son are MANOJ KUMAR and VIBHOR KUMAR.
0070872556-1

I, AJAI RAI S/O MAHENDER RAI RESIDENT, HOUSE NO-627, SECTOR-14, SONIPAT, HARYANA HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO AJAY RAI.
0040697397-2

I, Rohitaswati W/o Rajbir Singh, R/o G-4, Police Colony, Sarojini-Nagar, Delhi-110023, have changed my name to Rohtash Vati.
0040697409-1

I, Nimisha Nitin Sondhi W/O Nitin Sondhi, residence J-41, Sector-25, Jalvayu Vihar, Noida, (UP) have changed my name to Nimisha Sondhi for all purposes. I may be known by my new name in future.
0070872499-1

I, No-15697421N, Hav Chandra Rao Seera, In my service records name of my son has been wrongly mentioned as Yogeshwar instead of Seera Yogeshwar. It needs correction. Objections are filled to 15 Corps, Engg. Sig. Regt. C/O-56 APO, Old Air Field, Kashmir.
0020467370-4

I, No-15686722X, L/Hav Suresh Bahadur Singh, In my service records the name and D o B of my mother has been wrongly mentioned as Lalawati Singh D o B-01-07-1953 instead of Leelavati Singh D o B-01-05-1956. It needs correction. Objections are filled to 15 Corps, Engg. Sig. Regt. C/O-56 APO, Old Air Field, Kashmir.
0020467370-2

I, Nimish Malik, S/o Girdhari Lal Malik, R/o 15-A/41, West Punjabi-Bagh Delhi-26, have changed my name to Nimish Malik Permanently.
0040697397-10

I, Nidhi W/o Neeraj Mehta, R/o, H.No.1424, Near-HUDA Market, Sector-4, Gurgaon (Haryana)-122001, have changed my name to Nidhi Mehta.
0040697397-5

I, Neeraj S/o Jagdish Chand Mehta, R/o H.No-1424, Near-Huda Market, Sec-4, Gurgaon (Haryana) 122001, have changed my name to Neeraj Mehta.
0040697397-6

I, NAVEEN CHAUDHAN, S/O-SUBHASH CHANDER CHAUDHAN, R/O-139, HIG-DUPLEX NIT KHAND-3, INDIRAPURAM, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-201014 changed my name to NAVEEN KUMAR CHAUDHAN.
0040697404-7

I, NADEEM KHAN, S/O MOHAMMAD IDRISH KH. NO-379/1, BLOCK GALI NO-1 SWARAJ NAGAR DELHI-110042, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO NADEEM.
0040697397-9

I, Mukesh, S/O Kewal Krishan Makkar, R/O B-19/B-Ashok-Nagar Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201001, have changed my name to Mukesh Makkar, for all, future purposes
0040697404-3

I, MOHD AQUIL, S/O. MOHD NASIR, ADD-723, GALI GARHAIYYA MATIA MAHAL JAMA MASJID DELHI 110006, changed my name to MOHD AQIL.
0040697409-7

I, MEENA KUWAR, MOTHER OF, PRINCE KUNDAN, R/O VILLAGE-P-BOHIYA DISTT-BHOJPUR, BIHAR-802152, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME, FROM MEENA KUWAR TO MINA DEVI, VIDE-AFFIDAVIT IN DL9273392377855V, DATED-06/11/2023 BEFORE-NCT-DELHI.
0040697397-9

I, hitherto known as Alka Pathak W/o Keshav Pathak R/O S-515, First Floor, Greater Kailash Part-2, Greater Kailash, South Delhi, Delhi-110048, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Alka Shingal Pathak.
0070872547-1

I, Vandana Sachdeva W/O Madhav Sachdev R/O 122/525, Sindhi Colony, Shastri Nagar, Kanpur-208005, have changed my name to Vandana Sachdev for future all purposes.
0040697374-2

I, Rajiv Misra, S/o Rajendra Kumar Misra, R/O A-401, Sispal Vihar, Sector-49, Gurugram-122018, has Change My younger daughter Name from Subhangee Misra to Subhangee Misra. This is forecord and for all future purpose.
0060109054-1

I, Priyanka Gautam, W/o Raj Kumar Gautam, R/O 5271, Bharat Nagar, Shora Khothi, Pahar Ganj, Delhi-55, declare that my correct name is Priyanka Gautam. That Priyanka Gautam and Priyanka Rani both are same person.
0040697316-1

I, Payal d/o Chhotey Lal House no.-11429, Gali No.-42, Sanjay Colony, Sector-23, Faridabad, Haryana-121005 have changed my name to PAYAL CHHOTEY LAL permanently.
0040697327-1

I, Nitin Rajpal Sondhi S/o Rajpal Sondhi residence J-41, Sector-25, Jalvayu Vihar, Noida, (UP) have changed my name to Nitin Sondhi for all purposes. I may be known by my new name in future.
0070872503-1

I, Nishchay Garg S/o Vinay Kumar Garg House No.-7/201, Shardapur, Ramesh Nagar, Delhi-110015 have changed my name to NISCHAY GARG permanently.
0040697327-2

I, Madhav Sachdeva S/O Dayaram Sachdev R/O 122/525, Sindhi Colony, Shastri Nagar, Kanpur-208005, have changed my name to Madhav Sachdev for future all purposes.
0040697374-1

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I, AJAI RAI S/O MAHENDER RAI RESIDENT, HOUSE NO-627, SECTOR-14, SONIPAT, HARYANA HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO AJAY RAI.
0040697397-2

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0070872556-1

I, All Hasan Khatoon, S/O Salamati Ali, R/O C-100/8, Vijay Vihar, Phase-2, Sector-1, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Ali Hasan.
0040697409-10

I, Abhishek Singla S/o-Narendra Kumar Singla, R/O Near Kasi Chowk, Ward, No.11, Brahman Mohalla, Punhna, Mewat, Haryana-122508, have changed my name to Abhishek Aggarwal.
0040697397-8

I, Ahmed Mudasir S/O-Mudasir Aziz Pandit, R/O H.No-15, Iqbal Colony, sector No-8, opposite Gurdwara Zainakote Srinagar Kashmir. I have Qualified my class 10 & 10+2 examinations from Central Board of School education, Delhi under (10th Class) Roll No-13235237 & (10+2 class Roll No-13631162. The name of my father has been wrongly mentioned in marks statement cum Certificate of 10&10+2 issued by controller of examinations as Mudasir Aziz instead of Mudasir Aziz Pandit as in my Pan and Aadhaar Card. It needs corrections. Objections be filled to concerned authorities within seven days.
0020467371-1

I, ASHA SINGH, W/O SUNNY CHOUDHARY R/O NYADAR GANJ GADHI, DADRI, GAUTAM BUDDHA-NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH-203207, changed my name to ASHA, for all purposes.
0040697394-3

I, ABHISHEK CHAUDHARY, S/O MAHENDRA CHOUDHARY, ADDRESS-F-282, THIRD FLOOR, NEAR HANUMAN MANDIR, LADO SARAI, NEW DELHI-110030, changed my name to ABHISHEK CHOUDHARY.
0040697394-7

I, AASIF KHAN, S/O ABDUL HAMID, ADD-VILLAGE JALALPUR FERAZEPUR (40) ,MEWAT NUH HARYANA-122107, changed my name to AASIF.
0040697409-8

I, hitherto known as VIPIN KHANNA S/O MOOL CHAND KHANNA R/O Plot. No. 1/29, Flat No. S-11, Tushar Apartment, Rajendra Nagar, Sector-2, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201005, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as VIPIN NARAIN KHANNA.
0070872576-1

I, hitherto known as Alka Pathak W/o Keshav Pathak R/O S-515, First Floor, Greater Kailash Part-2, Greater Kailash, South Delhi, Delhi-110048, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Alka Shingal Pathak.
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0040697397-2

EXPRESS NETWORK

BRIEFLY

DELHI
'Swachh Diwali'
drive against
use of plastic

New Delhi: The Centre Monday launched the Swachh Diwali, Shubh Diwali campaign to encourage people not to use single-use plastic and focus on pre-and post-Diwali cleanliness. The signature campaign would run on MyGov.in till Diwali, the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry said in a statement. "This initiative aims to instil a sense of responsibility towards the environment and communities," it said. The ministry also announced another initiative, Jal Diwali. **ENS**

CHHATTISGARH
IED blast: BSF
jawan, 2 polling
staff injured

Narayanpur: A BSF jawan and two polling team members were injured in an IED blast in Kanker district of Chhattisgarh's Bastar region Monday. The incident took place around 4 pm near Rengagondi village, where they were headed to set up a polling booth. The IED was triggered when one of the team members stepped on a pressure IED. BSF constable Chandraprakash Sewal and two polling workers were injured. **ENS**

ANDHRA PRADESH
Three, including
1-year-old boy,
crushed by bus

Hyderabad: At least three people, including a one-year-old boy, were crushed to death and two others were injured when an Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation bus crashed into a platform where passengers were waiting in Vijayawada Monday. A depot manager at the Nehru Bus Station said the driver accidentally engaged the wrong gear. A compensation of Rs 5 lakh has been announced. **ENS**

KERALA
Blasts toll now
four as woman
succumbs

Thiruvananthapuram: The death toll in the October 29 IED blasts at the convention of the Christian group Jehovah's Witnesses rose to four on Monday. District officials in Ernakulam identified the victim as Moly Joy, 61, who had sustained 80 per cent burns. Of the 19 people who are undergoing treatment after the blast, 11 are still in ICU. **ENS**

Bombay HC directs authorities to ensure Diwali crackers burst only from 7-10 pm

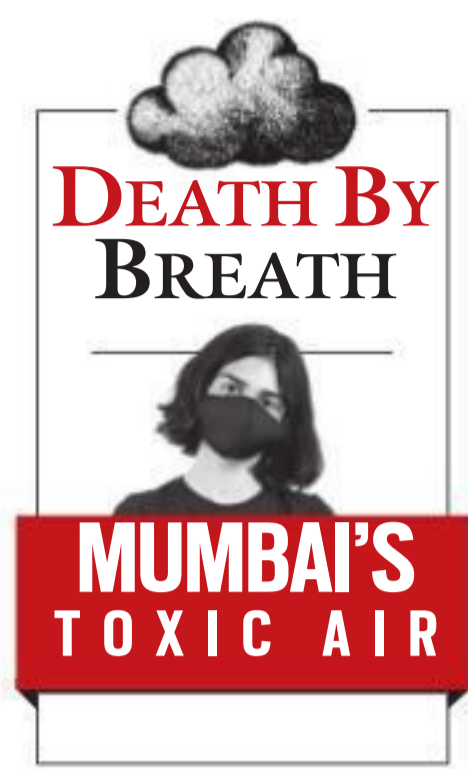
Construction materials to be carried in covered vehicles, says court

OMKAR GOKHALE
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 6

RAISING CONCERN over the deteriorating air quality in Mumbai and surrounding areas, the Bombay High Court, in an interim order Monday, set a time limit to burst firecrackers in Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) between 7 pm and 10 pm for Diwali. The court also directed municipal authorities and police administration to ensure the implementation of the directive.

The HC directed the authorities to ensure that material taken from and to all construction sites are transported in covered trucks or mixer plants and warned that if the air quality in the city does not improve until Friday, the court may order a total ban on transportation of construction material in the city till Diwali.

"We have to make a choice... Either we have a disease free environment or burn firecrackers and celebrate the festival. We



have to take a call. The entire city is affected... It is impossible for everyone to walk... morning walk... We cannot completely depend on nature and have to implement it. We are living on this earth. We have created this situation. Theoretically, on paper it appears everything is in place but when you see it on the ground, you come to know nothing has been done," the bench remarked.

A bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Girish S Kulkarni conducted hearing for nearly two hours Monday evening in the suo motu PIL and other pleas, including those by city-based activists and NGO Vanashakti, seeking urgent redressal of the issue of dete-



Smog covers Mumbai on Monday; the AQI remained 'moderate' during the day. Deepak Joshi

riorating air quality in Mumbai and surrounding areas for the "welfare" of residents. The HC had initiated suo motu PIL, noting that various news reports in recent weeks, including the "Death by Breath" series of *The Indian Express* present an "alarming scenario" of air pollution.

The court said while it was not banning bursting of firecrackers, it was for the state government to consider measures in view of earlier judgements of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) and the Supreme Court on the same.

However, some limit has to be put in place, the bench said. The HC bench added that there

were other issues involved in considering the plea to ban bursting of firecrackers, including the rights of citizens under Article 25. "Therefore we are proposing some time limit. The citizens have to decide now," the bench said. The court added that the state should also abide by the undertaking it has given to NGT from time to time about complying with directions related to bursting of firecrackers.

Directing the authorities to ensure that all construction material taken in and out of sites of infrastructure projects are transported in covered trucks or mixer plants, the court said that if the air quality does not im-

prove by Friday, a total ban on such vehicles would be considered when it hears the suo motu PIL and other pleas raising concerns over deteriorating air quality.

The court also directed strict implementation of the air pollution mitigation plan announced by the BMC in March 2023 in its "true letter and spirit" and said, "To ensure compliance of the said plan, we direct that the Assistant Municipal Commissioner of each and every ward shall be personally liable and accountable to this court for any lapse..."

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

AMU Court clears 3 names for V-C panel, now over to President

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 6

THE ALIGARH Muslim University Court has forwarded the names of Prof Naima Khatoon Gulrez, Prof Faizan Mustafa and Prof MU Rabbani to the Visitor, President Droupadi Murmu, as potential picks for the varsity's next Vice-Chancellor.

A note by the varsity's public relations office read: "The AMU Court, the supreme governing body of the university, at its special meeting held today, recommended a panel of three names to the President of India in her capacity as Visitor of the University for the appointment of the next V-C. The University Court recommended the names of Prof Muzaffar Uruj Rabbani, former Dean, Faculty of Medicine, AMU; Prof Faizan Mustafa, V-C, Chanakya National Law University, Patna and Professor at the Department of Law, AMU; and Prof Naima Khatoon, a Professor of Psychology at AMU and Principal, Women's College, AMU, for the panel of the new Vice-Chancellor."

"The meeting, attended by 84 members, was presided over by the officiating V-C, Prof Mohammad Gulrez. Naseem Ahmad, former AMU V-C, was the Chief Election Officer to con-

duct the election. Prof Rabbani secured 61 votes, Prof Mustafa 53 and Prof Khatoon 50, while Prof Furqan Qamar and Prof Qayyum Husain secured 45 and 43 votes, respectively. Prof Qamar and Prof Husain figured in the panel of five names that were drawn by the Executive Council of the University at its meeting held on October 30. AMU Registrar Mohammad Imran (IPS) conducted the proceedings and later extended a vote of thanks," the note states.

Prof Gulrez, who presided over the meeting, is Prof Khatoon's husband. He had also chaired the October 30 meeting of the Executive Council that selected five names that were sent to the AMU Court, inviting complaints and questions of propriety and conflict of interest.

Prof Gulrez had, in response, suggested that because he wasn't a candidate, there was no problem. Prof Khatoon had told The Indian Express, "There is nothing wrong with it. Circulars of the Department of Education clearly state that if the V-C himself is a nominee, he has to recuse himself, but there is nothing about the spouse or any other relative of the V-C in those circulars."

Prof Khatoon, if picked by the Visitor, could become the university's first woman V-C.

ED picks up AAP MLA from public meet, arrests him in Rs 40-crore bank fraud case

RAAKHI JAGGA
LUDHIANA, NOVEMBER 6

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate Monday arrested AAP legislator Jaswant Singh Gajjanmagra in connection with a money laundering case linked to an alleged Rs 40-crore bank fraud case, hours after the agency picked him up from public meeting he was holding in Amargarh, his Assembly constituency, in Malerkotla, an official said.

The legislator was taken into



Gajjanmagra
is MLA from
Punjab's
Amargarh

custody under provisions of PMLA, a source in the ED said. Gajjanmagra had skipped multiple summons in the past and hence, was detained and then arrested after questioning at ED's Jalandhar office, the source added.

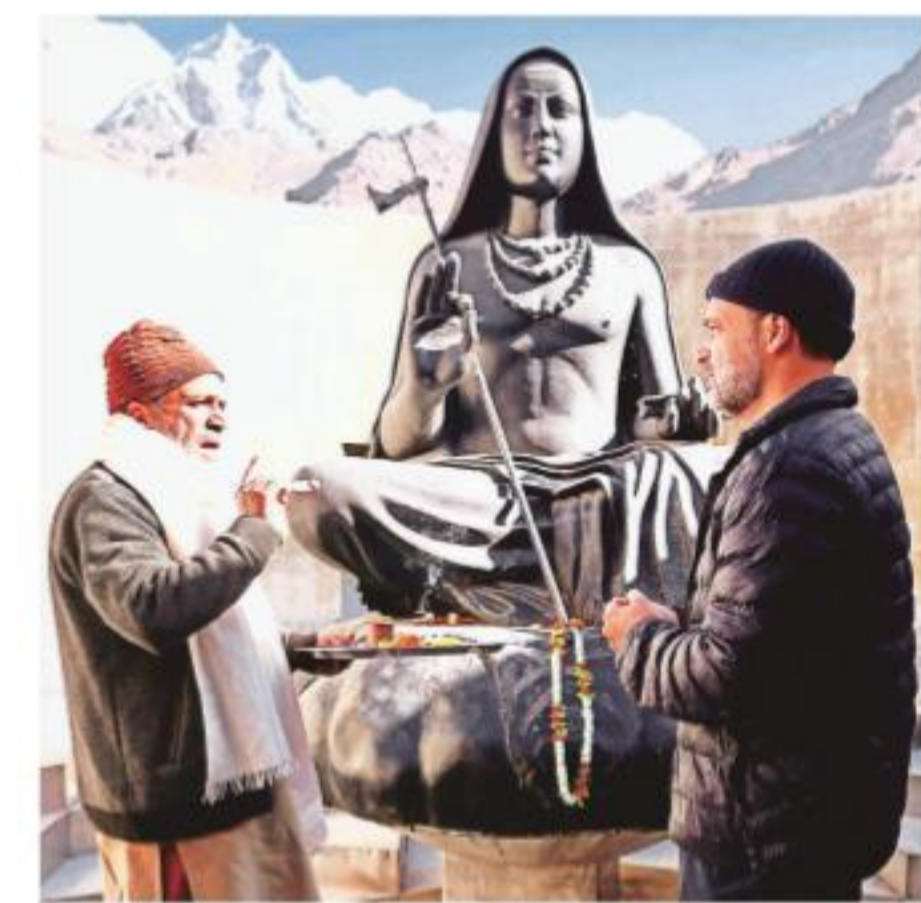
The AAP disassociated itself from the case saying Gajja-

magra was named in the case much before he joined the party. Party spokesperson Malvinder Singh Kang, however, saw BJP hand in the way he was picked up from a public meeting.

The ED action against Gajjanmagra comes more than a year after the agency, in September 2022, conducted raids on several premises linked to him and some others as part of this PMLA probe that stems from a March 2022 FIR filed by the CBI. The ED team had seized Rs 32 lakh cash, some phones and hard drives

during the raids. The CBI had conducted the raid after filing an FIR on a complaint from Bank of India's Model town branch in Ludhiana against Tara Corporation Limited—renamed Maludh Agro Limited on September 24, 2018—its directors Jaswant Singh Gajjanmagra, Balwant Singh, Kulwant Singh, Tejinder Singh, their associates and other sister concerns in Ludhiana, Malerkotla, Khanna, Payal and Dhuri.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi listens to a priest as he visits the samadhi of Adi Guru Shankaracharya at Kedarnath Dham in Rudraprayag on Monday. ANI

BJP: Rahul's Kedarnath visit shows power of Sanatanis

AVANEESH MISHRA
DEHRADUN, NOVEMBER 6

TAKING AJIBE at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his Kedarnath yatra, Uttarakhand BJP spokesperson Suresh Joshi questioned the timing of his visit which comes just ahead of elections in five states and said "those who have never seen a Ramlila in their life are applying tilak to Shri Ram and paying obeisance at Baba Kedarnath's court".

Rahul visited the Samadhi of Adi Guru Shankaracharya at Kedarnath Monday. Later in the day, he organised a bhandara at

Baba Kedarnath temple and served food to devotees.

Uttarakhand Congress chief spokesperson Garima Mehra Dasauni said that Rahul's visit is absolutely "personal".

Welcoming Rahul's Kedarnath tour, BJP said it is the result of the growing power of 100 crore Sanatanis, Joshi said that although he welcomes Rahul's expression of faith in Sanatan, but Congress leaders engaged in propaganda against the Sanatan culture in other parts of the country. Hitting back, AICC member Suryakant Dhasmana said BJP leaders should learn from Rahul's dignified conduct over the last two days.

Manipur may lift mobile net ban in peaceful areas

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GUWAHATI, NOVEMBER 6

WHILE EXTENDING the ban on mobile internet until November 8, the Manipur government has said it is exploring restoration of the services "on trial basis" in parts not gripped by violence. The state's Home department said the government will "go for opening of mobile towers on trial in those district headquarters not affected by the current law and order crisis." "If found feasible", it said, the ban will be extended to other parts where "the law and order situation has improved."

Barring three days in September mobile internet has remained completely or partially suspended in since May 3.

Fresh tension in Imphal as two teens go missing

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GUWAHATI, NOVEMBER 6

THE DISAPPEARANCE of two Meitei teenagers who had left their homes in Imphal West Sunday sparked fresh tension in Manipur's valley areas.

The teenagers—Avinash Maibam (16) and Anthony Ningthoujam (19)—had reportedly left their homes in Lamsang around 9 am to go to Sekmai in Imphal West but did not return. A missing person complaint was registered by the Lamsang police.

On Monday, the phones of the two boys were recovered wrapped in a black plastic bag near an oil pump in Senapati district, a Kuki-Zomi dominated district.

The recovery has further set off concerns about their whereabouts, said the police.

Governor Anusuiya Uikey met the families of the missing teens and Lamsang MLA Rajen Singh on Monday and discussed the plan to launch a combined search operation. Later in the evening, the Manipur police said the search operation has begun and three persons have been detained from Kangpokpi for interrogation. "Joint security forces launched a search operation in Khenjang and K. Lhangnom villages of Kangpokpi district.

In the said operation, three individuals have been detained for further interrogation and verification in connection with the incident. Search operation continues," read a police statement.

Upset over being sacked, driver killed geologist: Bengaluru Police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 6

A FORMER DRIVER, who was upset after being sacked by the senior geologist, was arrested by the Bengaluru Police Monday in connection with her murder.

Kiran, a resident of JP Nagar in Bengaluru, was arrested in Male Mahadeshwara Hills in Chamarajanagar district, said DCP (South) Rahul Kumar Shahapurwad. After the murder, he had gone to the hills with two friends, who were oblivious of the entire episode.

The body of Prathima K S, 45, a senior geologist with the department of mines and geology, was found at her residence in Subramanyapura police limits Sunday with her throat slit. Asked if the mining mafia was involved, the DCP said the accused has been been caught and the motive found, but if more details emerge, they will look into it. On Saturday, Kiran went to Prathima house and requested to be reinstated, but she refused. An enraged Kiran strangled Prathima, and shifted her body to the bedroom, and then slit her throat with a knife in her house.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 6

THE TAMIL Nadu government agreed before the Supreme Court Monday to permit RSS to carry out its route march in the state either on November 19 or 26 "as per modalities approved by the (Madras) High Court".

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Dipankar Dutta of the Supreme Court asked the RSS to submit the proposed route to the authorities within three days and asked the state to take a decision on it and inform the organization by November 15. "On suggestion of the revised dates by Ms Madhavi Divan, learned senior counsel representing the respondent-organisation, Mr Kapil Sibal and Mr Mukul Rohatgi, learned senior counsel as well as Mr Amit Anand Tiwari, learned AAG for Tamil Nadu submit that the respondents shall be permitted to conduct the procession/rally either on 19.11.2023 or 26.11.2023, as per the modalities approved by the High Court including the commencement and the terminating points of the procession/rally and subject to the terms and conditions contained in the High Court order," the court said in its order.

It added that "the respondent (RSS) may submit the proposed route within three days. The petitioner-authorities are directed to take an appropriate decision including the modification, if any, in the route, as agreed to by the respondents before the HC, and shall inform the same on or before 15.11.2023". The SC fixed next hearing on November 20.

Whatever they have done is unfair...: Arrested TMC minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 6

WITHOUT TAKING anyone's name, West Bengal minister Jyoti Priya Mallick, arrested in connection with the ED's probe into the alleged irregularities in ration distribution in the state, on Monday claimed that "whatever they have done is unethical".

The minister made the remarks while he was being taken to Bankshall court in Kolkata.

Mallick, who was the state's food and supplies minister from 2011 to 2021, was arrested by the ED on October 27 following a marathon raid. Speaking to reporters outside the ED's office at Salt Lake's CGO Complex, Mallick claimed that he was innocent.

"Whatever they have done is unethical, unfair, they haven't done right. I am innocent," he shouted without specifying who he was referring to.

The Bankshall court, later, ex-



Jyoti Priya Mallick's ED custody was extended by 7 days. Express

tended the ED custody of Mallick by another seven days.

Seeking extension of his custody, the central probe agency told the court that Mallick has not been keeping well and therefore the investigators didn't get enough time to question him.

Following his arrest on October 27, Mallick had fainted outside the court and was admitted to a private hospital. He was discharged from the hospi-

tal three days later and was back in the ED custody. Mallick's lawyer, on the other hand, claimed that the minister was a "victim of political conspiracy".

Meanwhile, the TMC defended the minister and accused the BJP of trying to "weaken" the party in North 24 Parganas - Mallick's stronghold— ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections by "misusing" central probe agencies like the ED and CBI.

'Thank God for judges like him': SC on revision of case against TN minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 6

SLAMMING THE manner in which a corruption case against Tamil Nadu Minister for Higher Education K Ponnudi was transferred to a different district and resulted in his acquittal, the Supreme Court on Monday lauded Madras High Court judge Justice N Anand Venkatesh for recalling the transfer and acquittal suo motu.

While presiding over a three-judge bench, Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud made no bones of his displeasure at the order transferring the case from Villupuram district to Vellore based on the administrative approval granted by three High Court judges - the then Chief Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari and Justices T Raja and V Bhavani Subbarayan.

"Thank God we have judges like Justice Anand Venkatesh in our system. Look at the conduct. The Chief Justice transfers the trial

from one district to another district. Where is that power? There is no administrative power to transfer trials. It is a judicial power," emphasised CJI Chandrachud as the appeal by Ponnudi and his wife challenging Justice Venkatesh's August 10 order came up for hearing before his bench.

The Supreme Court also refused to entertain the plea filed by Ponnudi and his wife against the Madras High Court's August 10 suo motu revision order against their acquittal in the disproportionate assets case.

Overruling objections by Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal who appeared for the appellants, the CJI said, "The matter is placed before someone else and the trial is hurried ending in an acquittal".

The bench pointed out that the August 10 order only issued notice to the prosecution and accused and told Sibal that he could raise his arguments before the HC. Sibal said he had nothing to do with the administrative order,

adding, "I cannot argue for the simple reason that he has set aside the judgment of the trial court". "He says an administrative order of this nature should not have been passed. What do I have to do with it?" the senior counsel contended but the bench did not relent.

On this, the CJI said, "He (Justice Venkatesh) is absolutely right".

The court said in its order, "We are not inclined to entertain the Special Leave Petitions at the present stage. The petitioners would be at liberty to urge all appropriate grievances before the single judge. We clarify that these objections of the accused would be considered on their own merits by the single bench on which we have not expressed any opinion whatsoever."

Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi, who appeared for Ponnudi's wife, also said his client did nothing to do with the administrative order.

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Western Sydney varsity to set up campus in Bengaluru: Australian education minister

RITU SHARMA
AHMEDABAD, NOVEMBER 6

WESTERN SYDNEY University (WSU), which is ranked 375th globally, is poised to become the third Australian university to set up a campus in India, following in the footsteps of Deakin University and the University of Wollongong.

In an interview with *The Indian Express*, Australian Education Minister Jason Clare, currently visiting India with a delegation of six vice-chancellors, confirmed this development. He said that Western Sydney University (WSU) is keen on establishing its independent campus in Bengaluru by 2025. "They (Western Sydney University) are very interested in putting in an application when the Indian government finalises the regulations that will set out how the universities can operate outside the Special Economic Zones which is GIFT City, Bengaluru is where they are interested in setting up," he said.



Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan with his Australian counterpart Jason Clare in Gandhinagar on Monday. Five MoUs were signed between Australian and Indian universities to expand access to higher education for Indian students. PTI

As first reported by *The Indian Express*, Deakin University and the University of Wollongong had applied to the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) for permission to establish an international branch campus in GIFT City, Gujarat. Their campuses will be governed by the Setting up and Operation of International Branch Campus and Offshore Education Centres Regulations,

2022, passed by IFSCA, which serves as the regulatory body for GIFT City. Deakin and Wollongong's campuses should be operational by June 2024.

All foreign universities intending to set up campuses outside of GIFT City will be governed by the University Grants Commission's regulations, which were passed last month. According to sources, the UGC has not yet made its regulations public as it is preparing an online application portal for foreign universities interested in entering India. The UGC intends to launch this portal alongside the announcement of its regulations. When asked if WSU is interested in setting up a campus in GIFT City, Clare said, "Not in GIFT City. They are interested in establishing a campus in another part of the country, with potential plans for 2025." Regarding the possibility of more Australian universities establishing campuses in India to tap into the education sector, Clare said that more collaborations with Indian universi-

ties are expected in the future. "Australian universities understand the importance of the relationship between the two countries and the opportunity to collaborate with Indian universities like IIT," added the Australian minister, who is on his second visit to India this year. On Monday, six MoUs were signed between Flinders University, Griffith University, James Cook University, La Trobe University, University of Canberra and Western Sydney University with Indian universities to work together to explore the potential for a consortium approach for delivery of degrees in India and expand access to Australian higher education for Indian students. While Deakin University will be offering two postgraduate courses to students at the campus at GIFT City which are - Masters in Cybersecurity (professional) and Masters in Business Analytics - with an intake of 60 students in each course from academic session June 2024.

IIT-Madras Zanzibar campus opens; first for an IIT abroad

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, NOVEMBER 6

AN IIT-MADRAS campus was inaugurated in Zanzibar on Monday, becoming the first campus of an IIT to be opened abroad. The new campus was inaugurated by Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi, President of Zanzibar, in a ceremony also attended by Tanzanian and Indian officials, and academics. Zanzibar is an archipelago in the Indian Ocean off the coast of Tanzania, and is a semi-autonomous province of Tanzania. The pioneering venture is part of the central government's initiative to project India's education system onto the global stage. The campus is located in Bweleo district, a short distance from Zanzibar Town. There are plans for a permanent campus to be built jointly by both the governments. IIT-Madras Zanzibar will offer programmes in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence at the Bachelor's and Master's levels,

with an inaugural batch comprising students from Zanzibar, mainland Tanzania, Nepal, and India. Of the students in the first batch, 40 per cent are women. V Kamakoti, director of IIT-Madras, who joined the event virtually, said the new campus was a journey of knowledge and innovation "that transcends borders". Adolf F Mkenda, Tanzania's minister of Education was also present at the inaugural event. The campus has residential facilities, dining facilities, a dispensary, and future plans for extensive sports facilities. *The Citizen*, a daily in Zanzibar, reported that the campus starts its academic year with 50 undergraduate and 20 postgraduate students. Preeti Aghalayam, director-in-charge of the Zanzibar campus, said it was a great honour to bring the academic excellence of IIT-Madras to Zanzibar. Zanzibar as a location takes advantage of its historic role as a trade hub and its aspirations as an international business centre.

After row over convocation dress code, IIT Kharagpur says not mandatory

Mumbai: Days after a proposed dress code for its convocation sparked a row, Indian Institute of Technology-Kharagpur on Monday clarified that the directive was just a "guideline" and doesn't "fall under mandatory requisites". The institute's clarification comes in the wake of the criticism from students that a dress code curbed their "personal freedom and choice". In a statement issued Monday, IIT-Kharagpur said: "The mail that was issued to the students regarding the convocation attire was mentioned explicitly due to the theme of the 69th Convocation. It is just a guideline for the students so that it becomes easier for them to comprehend and look the part on their special day...and does not fall under mandatory requisites." Last week, IIT-Kharagpur had announced a "dress code" for its students for its 69th convocation along with sample photos of the attire and footwear options, for both girls and boys. **ENS**

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन विभाग

हाथी मालिकों एवं अन्य संबंधित व्यक्तियों के लिए महत्वपूर्ण सूचना

(1) हाथी की खरीद-बिक्री, आदान-प्रदान इत्यादि की मनाही के संबंध में:-
(क) हाथी (पालतू हाथी सहित) कानून "वन्यप्राणी" घोषित है। यह वन्यप्राणी (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1972 (यथा संशोधित 2022) के अनुसूची-1 के अन्तर्गत एक विशेष श्रेणी का संरक्षित वन्यप्राणी है।
(ख) वर्तमान में बिहार राज्य में लागू कानूनी प्रावधानों के अनुसार हाथी की खरीद-बिक्री, व्यापार, एवं इसके हस्तान्तरण की मनाही है। इस प्रकार का क्रिया-कलाप दण्डनीय अपराध है। ऐसे किसी क्रिया-कलाप में संलग्न व्यक्ति आपराधिक अभियोजन के दायरे में आते हैं। अतएव किसी भी रूप में दान या किसी भी विधि से हाथी (पालतू हाथी सहित) का आदान-प्रदान नहीं किया जाय।

(2) बिहार राज्य से हाथी बाहर ले जाने या बिहार राज्य में बाहर से हाथी लाने के संबंध में:-
(क) राज्य के बाहर से बिहार में हाथी लाना प्रतिबंधित है।
(ख) निजी व्यक्तियों के स्वामित्व में किसी भी पालतू हाथी को राज्य से बाहर ले जाने के पूर्व मुख्य पशुप्राणी प्रतिपालक, बिहार की अनुमति अनिवार्य है।

(3) बिहार राज्य के मार्ग से हाथी परिवहन के संबंध में:-
(क) वेष स्वामित्व के हाथी को बिहार राज्य के किसी मार्ग से परिवहन के लिए भी संबद्ध राज्यों के मुख्य वन्यप्राणी प्रतिपालक तथा मुख्य वन्यप्राणी प्रतिपालक, बिहार द्वारा जारी अनुमति/ट्राजिट-परमिट अनिवार्य है एवं इसके बिना हाथी का परिवहन दण्डनीय अपराध है।

(4) सोनपुर में हरिहर क्षेत्र मेला, 2023 में पालतू हाथियों को लाने एवं प्रवास के संबंध में:-
(क) हरिहर क्षेत्र मेला, सोनपुर में किसी भी वेष पालतू हाथी को केवल लोकप्रिय लघु कालिक सांस्कृतिक रीति के लिए ही मेला के अवरुद्ध पर लाया जा सकता है। इसके लिए वन प्रमंडल पदाधिकारी, सारण वन प्रमंडल, छपरा को विहित प्रपत्र में अग्रिम आवेदन देकर उनसे एवं मेला प्राधिकार से पूर्व अनुमति प्राप्त करना अनिवार्य है।
(ख) सोनपुर मेला में लघु कालिक सांस्कृतिक प्रयोजनार्थ लाये गये हाथी का रख-रखाव एवं सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम में उनकी प्रतिभांगिता जन्तु/पशु क्रूरता निवारण संबंधी कानून के अनुसार किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा। उनके साथ किसी प्रकार की क्लेशदायक या क्रूर व्यवहार नहीं किया जायेगा एवं न ही उनका उपयोग झोड़ा-प्रदर्शन के लिए किया जायेगा।
(ग) चूँकि हाथी की खरीद-बिक्री की कानूनी मनाही विगत कई वर्षों से लागू है, अतएव हरिहर क्षेत्र मेला, सोनपुर में इस प्रकार के प्रयोजन से इस मेले में किसी भी हाथी को लाना एवं यहाँ रखना तथा इसका प्रदर्शन करना गैर-कानूनी है।

उपरोक्त वैधानिक कानूनी प्रावधान के बावजूद देश में विभिन्न असामाजिक तत्वों के हाथियों के खरीद-बिक्री एवं हस्तान्तरण के अवैध क्रिया-कलापों के प्रयासों में सक्रिय होने की सूचना है। बिहार राज्य के हाथी मालिकों को संबोधित किया जाता है कि ऐसे असामाजिक तत्वों के दुष्प्रयोजन में न फँसे एवं ऐसे किसी संदिग्ध व्यक्ति एवं क्रिया-कलाप के संबंध में अपने क्षेत्र के वन प्रमंडल पदाधिकारी एवं इस कार्यालय को सतत रूप से सूचित कर कानून के पालन में कृपा सहयोग करें।

- उपरोक्त प्रावधानों एवं दिशा-निर्देशों का अनुपालन करना वन्यप्राणी (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1972 (यथा संशोधित 2022) तथा पशु अत्याचार निवारण अधिनियम, 1960 के प्रावधानों के तहत बाध्यकारी है। इनका उल्लंघन होने की स्थिति में कानूनी कार्रवाई की जा सकती है जिसके अन्तर्गत अपराध प्रमाणित होने पर तीन से सात वर्षों की कैद या पचसीस हजार से एक लाख रूपैं जुर्माना या दोनों की सजा का प्रावधान है।
- पालतू हाथी के संबंध में अद्यतन जानकारी, उनके रख-रखाव में जन्तु कल्याण की वर्तमान परिस्थिति में कानून तथा सामाजिक संवेदन के आलोक में तथा हाथी से संबंधित सभी प्रकार के कानून के अनुपालन को सुनिश्चित करने के उद्देश्य से भी जनहित में प्रसारित।

उक्त सूचना state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर भी देखी जा सकती है। मुख्य वन्यप्राणी प्रतिपालक PR- 011360 (Env. & Forest) 2023-24 बिहार

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

Defamation case: SC relief to Tejaswi over 'thugs' remark

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 6

THE SUPREME COURT Monday stayed the proceedings before the Ahmadabad Magistrate court in a case in which Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejaswi Yadav is facing charges for his alleged remarks that "only Gujaratis can be thugs". A bench of Justices A S Oka and Pankaj Mishal also issued notice on the plea by Yadav seeking transfer of the trial from Gujarat.

Yadav is facing allegations of criminal defamation based on a complaint filed by Hareesh Mehta, vice-president of the Ahmedabad-based non-profit All India Anti-Corruption and Crime Preventive Council. Mehta has accused Yadav of defaming Gujaratis by labelling them as "cheats" and "thugs".

In his complaint, Mehta has alleged that Yadav, on March 22, purportedly said during a media address: "The two cheats that are there, the leeway given to cheats, if today's situation in the country is seen, then only Gujaratis can be cheats and their cheating will be forgiven. They will be given LIC's money, banks' money and they will run away with it. Who will be held responsible?"

Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the RJD leader, expressed his wonder on how the statement is defamatory. Justice Oka pointed to the portion of the statement where it was said "aaj ke desh ke halat mein dekha jayein toh sirf Gujarati hi thug ho sakte hai," and said it seemed to suggest "this can happen only in Gujarat." Sibal however urged the court that the reference was only to two persons.

The court will now hear the matter on January 5.

Court junks PFI plea against ban

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday junked a plea by the Popular Front of India (PFI) challenging the ban imposed on it and said it should have approached the High Court first.

"In our opinion, the constitutional writ jurisdiction of the High Court ought to be the forum to which the petitioner should have approached first. We, accordingly, dismiss this petition(s)," a bench of Justices Aniruddha Bose and Bela M Trivedi said.

Invoking UAPA, the Home Ministry had on September 28, 2022 banned PFI and its affiliates for 5 years saying they were linked to terror groups and propagated "anti-national sentiments". **ENS**

SC defers hearing on Citizenship Act's Section 6A

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday deferred the hearing on petitions challenging the constitutional validity of Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955, till December 5, 2023. Section 6A deals with "special provisions as to citizenship of persons covered under the Assam Accord".

CJJDY Chandrachud agreed to the request to defer the hearing, which was scheduled to start before a 5-judge Constitution bench on Tuesday, after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta sought more time. The SG said he and some of the counsel had just finished a constitution bench hearing (in electoral bonds matters) and would need some more time to prepare. **ENS**

SC to consider plea for listing of PILs on Adani-Hindenburg row

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 6

THE SUPREME COURT Monday said the apex court registry will look into the issue of listing for hearing PILs related to allegations of stock price manipulation by the Adani group.

A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra was told by lawyer Prashant Bhushan, appearing for one of the PIL petitioners, that the pleas were to be listed on August 28, but "it has been deferred, deferred, deferred." "I will check with the registry," the CJ said. On July 11, the top court had asked

SEBI about the status of its ongoing investigation into the allegations of stock price manipulation by the Adani group. The SEBI, in its report, had said that it has completed the probe in all but two allegations against the Adani group and is still awaiting information from five tax havens on actual owners behind foreign investors investing in the conglomerate. The probe reports finalised include allegations of manipulation of stock prices, alleged failure to disclose transactions with related parties and possible violation of insider trading in some of the group stocks. On May 17, the apex court had granted SEBI time till August 14 to complete its probe.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Bhutan King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

India, Bhutan to broaden partnership on energy, health, space technology

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 6

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Monday conveyed to Bhutan King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck India's strong commitment to its unique ties of friendship with the Himalayan nation and reiterated full support to the socio-economic development of Bhutan based on its priorities. A joint statement issued after Modi-Wangchuck talks said the two sides agreed on a final location survey for the proposed cross-border rail link connecting Kokrajhar in Assam to Gelephu in Bhutan. The two sides also agreed to consider establishing a rail link between Banarhat in West Bengal and Samtse in Bhutan. Modi and Wangchuck "positively assessed" expanding India-

Bhutan partnership including in new areas of connectivity in its "broadest form", cross-border trade infrastructure, trade and mutual investments, energy, health, education, space technology and people-to-people contacts, the statement said. The Bhutan King began his eight-day visit to India from Guwahati on November 3. His trip to India came amid renewed push by Bhutan and China for an early settlement of their decades-old boundary dispute. The statement said Wangchuck conveyed appreciation for the support that India continues to provide for Bhutan's socio-economic development. It also said that Bhutan thanked India for the timely release of development assistance to complete crucial projects under the 12th Five Year Plan (2018-2023).

प्राचार्य का कार्यालय

राजकीय पोलिटेकनिक टेक्सटाइल टेक्नोलॉजी, भागलपुर

साक्षात्कार सूचना संख्या- 01-G/2023-24

विज्ञान, प्राथमिकी एवं तकनीकी शिक्षा विभाग, बिहार-पटना के नियंत्राधीन नवस्थापित राजकीय पोलिटेकनिक (टेक्सटाइल टेक्नोलॉजी), भागलपुर में विभागीय आदेश संख्या- 109/पटना, दिनांक- 20.04.2022 तथा विभागीय ज्ञापक- वि० प्रा० (IV) योजना-14/2022-483/पटना, दिनांक- 03/2/23 द्वारा सूचित एवं रिक्त पदों के विरुद्ध अतिथि व्याख्याताओं/अनुदेशकों/प्रयोगशाला सहायकों के आवश्यकता आधारित रिक्त पदों के विरुद्ध दिनांक- 26/11/2023 के पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे से प्राचार्य कार्यालय, राजकीय पोलिटेकनिक (टेक्सटाइल टेक्नोलॉजी), नाथनगर, भागलपुर में Walk-in-interview का आयोजन किया गया है।

इच्छुक अर्जियों को साक्षात्कार के समय अपना सभी मूल प्रमाण-पत्र एवं अनुभव संबंधित प्रमाण-पत्र (छायाप्रति के साथ) की मूल प्रतियाँ लाना अनिवार्य होगा। विभागीय पत्रांक- 586, दिनांक- 24.03.2009 के द्वारा निदेशित अतिथि कर्मियों की सेवा लेने हेतु सेवानिवृत्त या पूर्व से किसी संस्थान में कार्य करने का अनुभव प्राप्त उम्मीदवारों को प्राथमिकता दी जायेगी। अतिथि कर्मियों की यह कार्यानुमति पूर्ण रूप से अस्थायी/वैकल्पिक कार्यकारी व्यवस्था है, जो बिना किसी पूर्व सूचना के कभी भी समाप्त की जा सकती है। नियमित/संविदा पर विभाग द्वारा नियोजन होने पर यह कार्यानुमति आदेश स्वतः समाप्त हो जायेगी। इस कार्यानुमति आदेश के आधार पर नियमित/स्थायी आदि का दावा नहीं किया जा सकता है। अस्थायी नियोजन में बिहार सरकार द्वारा लागू 100 बिंदु रोस्टर के अनुसार आरक्षण का पालन किया जायेगा। पदों एवं शाखाओं, शैक्षणिक योग्यता/अर्हता तथा मानदंड की विवरणी निम्नवत् है:-

क्रम सं०	पद एवं शाखा	शैक्षणिक योग्यता/अर्हता	सेवा का स्वरूप	मानदंड
1.	अतिथि व्याख्याता (Computer Aided Costume Design & Dress Making)	अधिल भारतीय तकनीकी शिक्षा एवं/अर्हता (ACTE) नई दिल्ली द्वारा व्याख्याता की नियुक्ति संबंधित योग्यता/अर्हता B.Tech/ B.E./B.Sc. Engineering Computer Aided Costume Design & Dress Making में प्रथम श्रेणी।	अंशकालिक	रुपये- 1400.00 (एक हजार चार सौ) प्रति वर्ष कार्य, अधिकतम 45,000.00 (पचास हजार) प्रतिमाह
2.	अतिथि व्याख्याता (Fashion & Clothing Technology)	अधिल भारतीय तकनीकी शिक्षा एवं/अर्हता (ACTE) नई दिल्ली द्वारा व्याख्याता की नियुक्ति संबंधित योग्यता/अर्हता B.Tech/ B.E./B.Sc. Engineering Fashion & Clothing Technology में प्रथम श्रेणी।	अंशकालिक	रुपये- 1400.00 (एक हजार चार सौ) प्रति वर्ष कार्य, अधिकतम 45,000.00 (पचास हजार) प्रतिमाह
3.	अतिथि व्याख्याता (Garment Technology)	अधिल भारतीय तकनीकी शिक्षा एवं/अर्हता (ACTE) नई दिल्ली द्वारा व्याख्याता की नियुक्ति संबंधित योग्यता/अर्हता B.Tech/ B.E./B.Sc. Engineering Garment Technology में प्रथम श्रेणी।	अंशकालिक	रुपये- 1400.00 (एक हजार चार सौ) प्रति वर्ष कार्य, अधिकतम 45,000.00 (पचास हजार) प्रतिमाह
4.	अतिथि व्याख्याता (Textile Technology)	अधिल भारतीय तकनीकी शिक्षा एवं/अर्हता (ACTE) नई दिल्ली द्वारा व्याख्याता की नियुक्ति संबंधित योग्यता/अर्हता B.Tech/ B.E./B.Sc. Engineering Textile Technology/Engineering में प्रथम श्रेणी।	अंशकालिक	रुपये- 1400.00 (एक हजार चार सौ) प्रति वर्ष कार्य, अधिकतम 45,000.00 (पचास हजार) प्रतिमाह
5.	अतिथि व्याख्याता (अंग्रेजी)	अधिल भारतीय तकनीकी शिक्षा एवं/अर्हता (ACTE) नई दिल्ली द्वारा व्याख्याता की नियुक्ति संबंधित योग्यता/अर्हता Master Degree in English में प्रथम श्रेणी।	अंशकालिक	रुपये- 800.00 (आठ सौ) प्रति वर्ष कार्य, अधिकतम 25,000.00 (पचास हजार) प्रतिमाह
6.	अतिथि अनुदेशक	मैट्रिक या समकक्ष के साथ IT (संरक्षण में संभावित शाखा की प्राथमिकता होगी)	अंशकालिक	रुपये- 800.00 (आठ सौ) प्रति वर्ष कार्य, अधिकतम 25,000.00 (पचास हजार) प्रतिमाह
7.	अतिथि प्रयोगशाला सहायक	मैट्रिक या समकक्ष के साथ 3 वर्षीय डिप्लोमा/डिग्री/ B.Sc. (Phys. Chem.) (संरक्षण में संभावित शाखा की प्राथमिकता होगी)	अंशकालिक	रुपये- 800.00 (आठ सौ) प्रति वर्ष कार्य, अधिकतम 25,000.00 (पचास हजार) प्रतिमाह

साक्षात्कार में भाग लेने वाले अर्जियों को कोई भी शाखा देय नहीं होगा। विस्तृत जानकारी एवं आवेदन का प्रारूप संरक्षण के वेबसाइट- <https://gptbhalpur.co.in/> अथवा- state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर उपलब्ध है।

प्राचार्य PR- 011306 (Science & Tech.) 2023-24 राजकीय पोलिटेकनिक (टेक्सटाइल टेक्नोलॉजी), भागलपुर

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पत्रांक: 784/पीसीएस/पीएम/झांसी/ दिनांक: 06.11.2023
अति अल्प कालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

जनपद झांसी में बुन्देलखण्ड विद्युतविद्युत परिसर में ओ.वी.सी.ओ. हॉस्टल के 02 नव टायलेट ब्लाक का पुनरोद्धार कार्य हेतु इस कार्यालय की ई-निविदा सूचना सं- 10/PM-12/UPCL/2023-24 दिनांक 06.11.2023 द्वारा ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। उक्त निविदा <http://etender.up.in> की वेबसाइट पर दिनांक 09.11.2023 से दिनांक 18.11.2023 के अपराह्न 12:00 बजे तक डाउनलोड/अपलोड की जा सकती है। ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित अन्य विवरण, नियम एवं शर्तों कारपोरेशन की वेबसाइट www.upprojects.org पर दिनांक 09.11.2023 से देखी जा सकती है। परियोजना प्रबंधक, निर्माण इकाई-12, झांसी

Varanasi court asks ASI to submit report on Nov 17

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 6

A DISTRICT court in Varanasi has directed the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to submit the report on the scientific survey of the Gyanvapi mosque complex on November 17, the next date of hearing in the case.

The ASI on November 2 informed the court that the "scientific investigation/survey" had been completed and technical specialists were analysing the data to prepare the report, said Advocate Akhlaq Ahmed, who is representing the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee. "The ASI sought 15 days more time to submit the report and the

court allowed the application," said Akhlaq Ahmed. The court on July 21 had ordered the scientific survey of the complex to ascertain whether the mosque was "constructed over a pre-existing structure of a Hindu temple". The ASI was given four weeks to wrap up the survey, the deadline for which ended on September 2.

Govt launches 'Bharat Atta' at subsidised rate to support consumers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 6

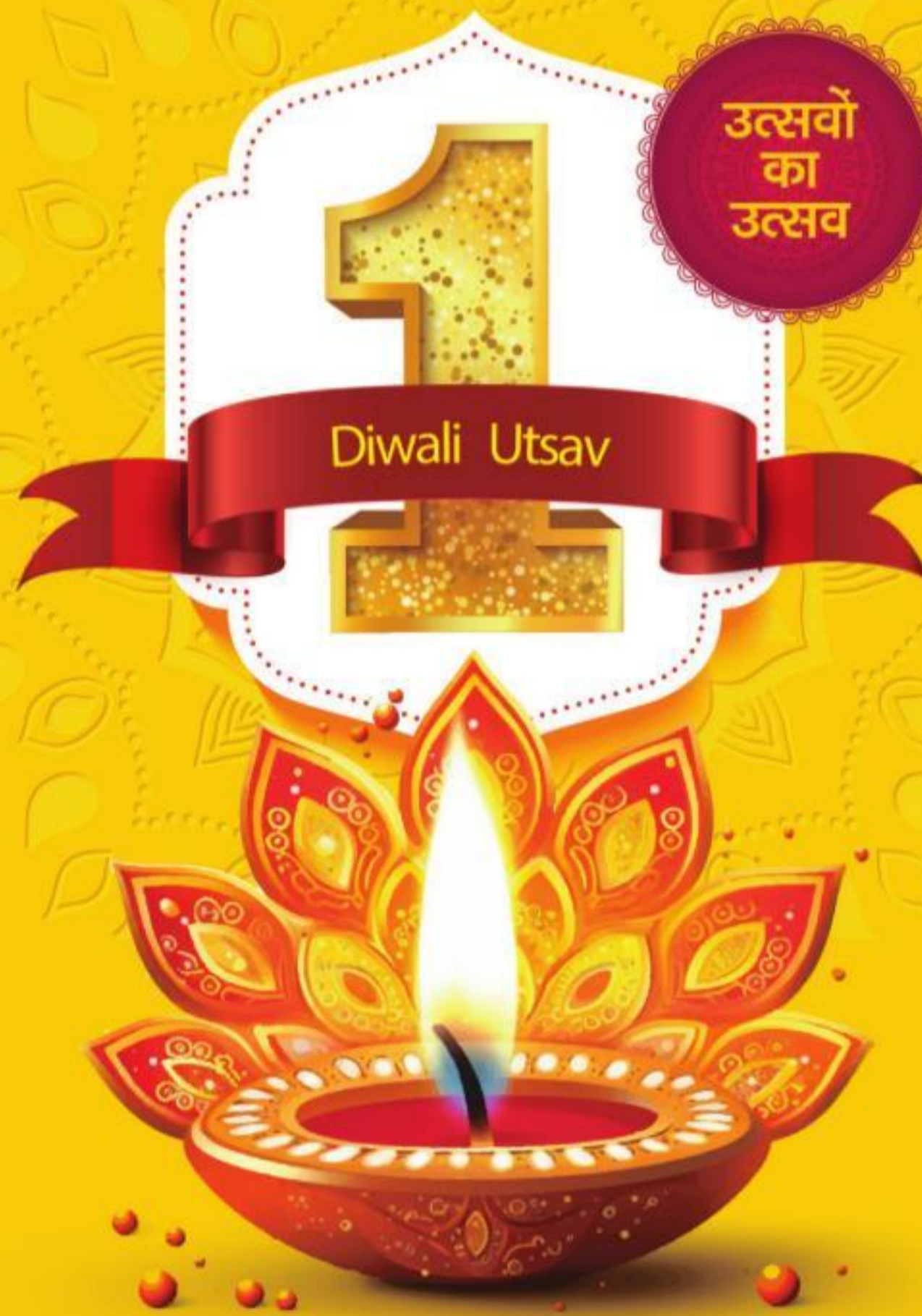
AHEAD OF Diwali festival, the Centre on Monday formally launched the sale of wheat flour at a subsidised rate of Rs 27.50 per kg under the brand name 'Bharat Atta' across the country to provide relief to consumers from high prices. 'Bharat Atta' will be sold through cooperatives NAFED, NCCF and Kendriya Bhandar via 800 mobile vans and 2,000-odd outlets spread across the country. The subsidised rate is lower than the prevailing market rate of Rs 36-70 per kg, depending on the quality and location. In February, the government had carried out a pilot sale of 18,000 tonnes of 'Bharat Atta' at Rs 29.50 per kilogramme through these cooperatives in few outlets as

part of the Price Stabilisation Fund scheme. Flagging off 100 mobile vans at the Kartavya Path, Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal said: "Now that we have tested and been successful, we decided to do a formal launch that atta at Rs 27.50 per kg will be available everywhere." The sale during the test run was less as it was retailed only through a few outlets, but there will be a better pick up this time as it will be sold via 800 mobile vans and 2,000 outlets of these three agencies across the country, he said. Goyal said about 2.5 lakh tonnes of wheat will be allocated from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) at Rs 21.50 per kg to Nafed, NCCF and Kendriya Bhandar. This will help boost availability and check prices of wheat flour, he added.



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Wednesday, 8th November, 2023

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Thursday, 9th November, 2023

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Deepotsav

Friday, 10th November, 2023

Closing Ceremony
By
Sh. Manohar Lal

Chief Minister, Haryana

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SWAY OF POPULISM

Extension of free grain scheme reinforces a culture where governments are offering freebies, not spending on welfare

ONE OF THE Congress-led United Progressive Alliance's last moves before it was voted out of office was legislating the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013. It legally entitled three-fourths of India's rural and half of the urban population — adding up to 81.35 crore, as per the 2011 Census — to 5 kg of foodgrains per person per month at "subsidised prices". These were fixed at Rs 2/kg for wheat and Rs 3/kg for rice "for a period of three years". The Narendra Modi-led Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government not only persisted with the NFSA, but made the issue price totally free for a one-year period from January 2023. Further, at a state election rally on Saturday, PM Modi announced that the free grain scheme — now called the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana — will be extended "for the next five years". Thus, what the Congress began in 2013 will continue beyond the Modi government's current term till 2028, with the grain being issued free, instead of the earlier Rs 2-3/kg, the only difference.

The competitive populism isn't limited to free/super-subsidised grain. In Chhattisgarh, the ruling Congress has been procuring 15 quintals per acre of paddy from farmers and paying an extra Rs 600 over and above the Centre's minimum support price (MSP) of Rs 2,040-2,060 per quintal for the 2022-23 crop. It is now promising to buy 20 quintals of paddy and pay a price of Rs 3,200/quintal. The BJP, not to be left behind, has guaranteed purchase of 21 quintals per quintal at Rs 3,100/quintal. This raises two questions. The first has to do with the sanctity of the Centre's MSP: If Chhattisgarh's paddy growers are paid way above this price, how can the Congress or BJP governments in Karnataka or Uttar Pradesh deny the same to farmers there? Remember, it was the same Modi government that, in 2014-15 and 2015-16, had cracked down on states, including BJP-ruled ones, declaring bonuses on top of the Centre's MSP on paddy and wheat. Those reforms are clearly history.

Secondly, if rice is procured from farmers at Rs 45/kg (corresponding to an MSP of Rs 30/kg for paddy) and then distributed free (after adding transport, milling, bagging, storage and other costs), how can this be fiscally sustainable? The higher the MSP and the more assured the procurement, there's greater incentive for farmers to grow paddy and wheat, adding to government stocks that have to be given out for free. This is reflective of a deeper political economy malaise. Governments today find it more expedient to deliver freebies, whether in kind or as direct cash transfers, than investing in public education, healthcare, irrigation or agricultural research and extension that take time to yield results. When voters too turn increasingly transactional and short-termist, that's when the "revdi" culture becomes truly entrenched.

DELAYED, DENIED

Study showing discrimination against women in legal process confirms it's not easy for women to get justice

IN DISCUSSIONS ABOUT how violence against women can be effectively addressed, a frequently recommended nostrum is that women should be encouraged to speak up and take the first step by making an official complaint. The implication is that once the system is activated, justice is sure to be delivered. That the path of legal remedy is not so straightforward for women is demonstrated by a study of over 4 lakh FIRs in Haryana, published recently in the *American Political Science Review*. It has found that not only are cases of violence against women, in which women are the primary complainants, less likely to be registered and more likely to be dismissed in court or result in acquittals, a gender bias is visible even in other types of cases, from registration to prosecution, resulting in, what the researchers call, "multi-stage" discrimination.

The revelation that women complainants are at a greater disadvantage is, of course, not entirely surprising. Reports and anecdotal evidence have long shown that complaints by women — not just in Haryana, but across India — are less likely to be taken seriously at the level of the police station. Women are made to wait longer and are frequently "counselled" to withdraw complaints. The inequality persists at every level of the legal process, shored up by the sentiment, often publicly expressed, that women tend to exaggerate their complaints or misuse the law. Consider the recent comment by the Madhya Pradesh High Court in *Rajan v. The State of Madhya Pradesh*, about the "misuse" of Section 498A (cruelty to women) of the Indian Penal Code — wives these days file "a package of five cases" against their husbands and in-laws. Or the Calcutta High Court's observation in August in *Swapan Kumar Das v State of West Bengal*, that Section 498A is used by women to unleash "legal terrorism". As the data from the study shows, not only do such pronouncements have no basis in fact, they further discourage women from seeking justice.

That one half of the population faces such odds not only in the quest for justice, but simply to be heard should cause disquiet. It's not enough to find procedural solutions such as more all-women police stations and fast track courts. Increasing the number of women in the police force — presently at an abysmal 11.7 per cent, as shared by MoS for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai in the Rajya Sabha earlier this year — should be prioritised, as should greater sensitisation and training at every level of the system, from the *thana* to the bench.

BIAS IN THE MACHINE

AI-generated WhatsApp stickers appear to be prejudiced against Palestinians. Technology shouldn't dehumanise

META'S ACTIONS IN May 2021 appear to have had an adverse human rights impact (in Palestine). The report commissioned by Meta last year on how its policies harmed the rights of Palestinian Instagram and Facebook users during the attacks on Gaza in 2021 was damning. It also found "a lack of oversight at Meta that allowed content policy errors with significant consequences to occur". In 2023, though, it seems that the bias in the algorithm persists — it's now AI-powered.

An investigation by *The Guardian* has found that a new feature on WhatsApp — which, like Facebook and Instagram, is owned by Meta — that generates images in response to queries seems to promote anti-Palestinian bias, if not outright bigotry. Searches for "Palestinian" and "Palestinian boy" resulted in images of children holding guns. In contrast, searching for "Israeli boy" shows children playing sports or smiling, and even for "Israeli army" shows jolly, pious — and unarmed — people in uniform. The controversy around AI-generated stickers has not occurred in a vacuum. Meta's social media platforms have been accused of being biased against content from and in support of Palestinians.

For some time now, considerable work has been done around bias in artificial intelligence and machine learning (ML) models. Since the programs are amoral, they can reflect — perhaps even enhance — the prejudices in the data used to train them. Addressing the prejudices in the machine, then, requires active interventions and even regulation. This is easier said than done — large AI and ML models can, at scale, deploy even the smallest bias on a massive canvas. Governments and regulators have their own political ends, and self-regulation by Big Tech remains something of a chimaera. The ethical thing to do, though, is clear. No search should paint people, especially children from an entire community as inherently violent. For all it uses for human beings, AI should not be used to dehumanise so many of them.

Old issues, new questions



JOY L K PACHUAU

BJP is looking to stamp its mark in Mizoram elections. Ethnicity and development remain crucial factors

THE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS to be held in Mizoram today have garnered much attention. Perhaps the fact that they will soon be followed by Assembly elections in four other states and the general elections next year has given more attention to the campaigns in Mizoram as they provide an opportunity to gauge the political mood of the country. Whether Mizoram, along with the rest of the Northeast, will fall under the sway of the BJP is also something that is being keenly watched.

While the BJP is not likely to perform well in the election, whether it will be able to determine the course of the politics in the state after the elections is the point over which the three main contenders — the incumbent Mizo National Front (MNF), the INC and the Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) — are positioning themselves. The recent turn of events in Manipur have made the people wary of the BJP — something that was, perhaps, not the case earlier. Thus, the MNF, although it was part of the North-East Democratic Alliance, is busy trying to justify its earlier associations with the BJP. The fact that these elections are three-cornered has made it a campaign like no other (although the AAP has also fielded candidates, it is not expected to make much headway). Informal opinion polls suggest that people are tired of the earlier two-party contests and the alternating of power every two terms. The ZPM offers an alternative with more academics than any other party as candidates, not yet tarnished or tested by corruption. The question, of course, in people's minds is whether it will bow down to the BJP, given that Mizoram, like most states in the Northeast, is dependent on the Centre for funding.

In the context of national politics, the Northeast, despite having played the politics of difference at multiple levels for several decades, seems to be succumbing to the party that is most assimilationist in its agenda. Whether Mizoram will oppose this agenda is being keenly watched. Politics in Mizoram has generally tended to be inward looking in the

sense that national politics did not seem to have an impact on people's political decisions. Internal issues of development or its lack — the perception of the pervasiveness of corruption, and whether a particular party was seen as contributing to the moral decline of people by reaping the windfall that the sale of alcohol could bring — were determining factors.

While the manifestoes this time, too, focus on development and offer many sops, the parties are also aware of the regional ethnic politics and dynamics that guide people's decision-making and have, therefore, positioned themselves to respond to the mood of the people. The recent refugee crisis brought about by the 2021 military coup in Myanmar as well as the conflict in Manipur has forced people to engage more directly with new ethnic re-configurations. The fluidity of ethnic identities and the instrumentalisation of ethnicity has been mentioned by scholars who worked on these issues, especially in the context of Africa. The Northeast provides similar interesting case studies. To my mind, the politics of naming or the salience of ethnonyms and the resultant changing ethnic dynamics is something to look out for in the case of the Mizos and the neighbouring kindred tribes in the coming days.

The elections have also highlighted the religious temperament of the people. With Mizoram being predominantly Christian, the church has been involved in elections to the extent of being the collective conscience of the people — by trying to influence them to vote for candidates of integrity, setting parameters for electioneering and sometimes by trying to set the agenda of the parties, especially in terms of supporting prohibition of alcohol. However, outside of the institutional church, elections also garner a particular kind of religious or spiritual frenzy with self-proclaimed seers and prophets who herald doom and destruction while predicting electoral outcomes.

This election has also brought out more than its fair share of such prophets. Charismatic leaders who believe in millenar-

ian ideals of the establishment of God's kingdom, a conflation of a spiritual and a political kingdom, have also marked this election. Although the hard grind of materialistic politics predominantly drives most of the election concerns, there is no doubt that a door has been opened with a prominent lay evangelist, a woman, T Lalhmachhuani (Mimi), entering the electoral fray as an independent candidate.

In the context of ethnic politics, this election has also brought about the question of "purity" of "blood/race". In the last assembly elections held in 2018, the "Bru question" — whether Brus who had settled in Tripura were to be kept away from the electoral rolls of Mizoram — was a key concern. This time, under the leadership of the Mizo Zirlai Pawl (MZP, a students' union), the issue of whether women who are married to non-Mizos could stand for elections was brought out. Despite the relatively high participation of women in all kinds of activities in the state, politics has been an arena where women have largely been kept out of. In fact, since the first state Assembly elections in 1987, there have been only four women legislators. In recent times, more women have joined in, whether for local municipal councils or for the assembly. But the church, the Young Mizo Association and the village councils are still male dominated. Some sections, such as the MZP, have carried out protests to boycott women who are married to outsiders while pressurising parties not to field such candidates. Such calls have brought out questions of ethnic/racial purity, which has never really been a problem in terms of praxis, although the discourse is not new. Such moves by the MZP have made people dig out the backgrounds of various prominent people and their supposed lack of "purity". Even Laldenga, the MNF leader, has been deemed to be not so "pure" after all. Better sense will hopefully prevail once the elections are over.

The writer is professor of history at the Centre for Historical Studies, JNU, New Delhi



NANCY ADAJANIA

INCISIONS IN REALITY

As an artist, Gieve Patel's commitment was to ideas, not ideologies

GOING THROUGH THE photographs on my phone, I find one of our dear friend, Gieve Patel, exploding into hearty laughter. Gieve had a flair for the dramatic. Or, more correctly, for the emphatic. Whether he was painting, or reciting his poems, or writing art criticism or plays, his stance was resolutely stated, in a fearless and unsentimental manner. He first exhibited his paintings in 1966 at the Jehangir Art Gallery and quickly emerged as a thoughtful critic wrestling with the question of art's place and role in a newly independent country. Between the 1960s and 1980s, while Indian artists and critics were grappling with the dominant paradigm of indigenism, Gieve argued against both the myopia of nativism and the potential vacuity of an unexamined internationalism (*Contemporary Indian Painting*, 1989). Gieve's commitment was always to ideas rather than readymade ideologies.

Pondering over Gieve's compelling images, I recall a peacock's plume grazing an office ledge in Nariman Point, a swan talking off from a water tank in Nargol, rural Gujarat. I see thirsty buffaloes, crafty crows, rats smashed by tyres, crushed human heads, sockets missing eyes, eyes missing love, faces shaped like open wounds, wounds thriving like deranged ecologies in miniature. Violence and vulnerability, brokenness and resilience: The human condition perennially preoccupied the good doctor, who used his scalpel to make small incisions in reality. The same year that he debuted as an artist, Gieve's first book of poems was published by his mentor, Nissim Ezekiel. Re-reading it, I

sense the germination of his distinctive philosophical ideas. Every ICSE student knows Gieve's 'On Killing a Tree'. It does not merely gesture at the brutality we visit on nature but makes us conscious of the tree's sacred *livingness*.

On my visits to Gieve's Malabar Apartments studio, I would see him lean into the sky, elbow firmly on the window ledge, eyes soft with rain-green sap. I would try to decipher what was passing through his mind as he searched the terraces of the Hanging Gardens, in the distance. Did he see the hyenas and tigers that once prowled the forests of Malabar Hill before human beings tamed the soil and the wind? Or closer in time, did the cawing crows catch his attention? Gieve often lovingly narrated the parable from the Mundaka Upanishad of two birds sitting on a branch. While one is eating berries, the other watches the first one eat. The one watching is the deeper self, observing the feeding, active self.

We get a glimpse of Gieve's deeper self in his *Wells* series, with its reflections of sun-speckled palm fronds and floating clouds in the water, which the artist began to paint in the early 1990s when he was in his 50s. As Sudhir Patwardhan rightly points out, "It is the act of looking at itself that is being portrayed here and not the subject." (*Art India*, 2003) This series was inspired by Gieve's childhood memories of looking into wells brimming with monsoon water in his native place in south Gujarat. However, even the heavenly reflections of sky and water could not have been compensation enough in the face of the bru-

tal exploitation of the Adivasi communities by feudal Parsi landowners that he would have been familiar with growing up. As a self-critical Parsi, he brought this experience to his 1987 play, 'Mister Behram', which explored this issue with shocking candour.

Ranjit Hoskote and I were very happy to show Gieve in our exhibition, "No Parsi Is An Island: A Curatorial Re-reading Across 150 Years", at the National Gallery of Modern Art in Bombay, 2013. We presented his painterly work in amplitude as well as his expanded practice in literature and theatre. Rare photographic documentation from his plays 'Princes', 'Savaksa' and 'Mister Behram' was framed alongside his painting, *Off Lamington Road*, a densely populated, magical-realist street tableau from the 1980s.

We used his blazing poem, 'The Ambiguous Fate of Gieve Patel: He being Neither Muslim Nor Hindu in India' (1976), as our exhibition manifesto. In this satirical take on communal violence, he writes: "To be no part of this hate is deprivation." But he ends by criticising his poet-persona for being a fence-sitter: 'Bodies turn ash and shrive! / I only burn my tail.' Gieve Patel did not exempt himself from the clear-sighted gaze that he turned on the world. His intense forensic examination of violence impelled him to recognise its roots in the divisiveness of antagonistic identities. In consequence, he wanted himself with a fierce affection for people, places and things.

The writer is a cultural theorist and curator based in Mumbai

NOVEMBER 7, 1983, FORTY YEARS AGO

PALESTINIANS PROTEST

HUNDREDS OF APPEALS and demonstrations by Palestinians all over West Asia have failed to stop the biggest bloodletting going on for the last four days in and around the two Palestinian camps near Tripoli. Hundreds of civilians have died in the fighting there between supporters and opponents of Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman Yasser Arafat, in which he has now lost control of the major Nahr al-Barid camp.

INDIA-GERMANY TALKS

INDIA CONVEYED TO West Germany its con-

cern over the impending deployment of US Pershing-II missiles in Europe. The need for European support to ensure adequate replenishment of the International Development Association and bilateral issues like India's adverse balance of trade with West Germany figured at the wide-ranging talks between the two sides.

RIOT IN PRISON

AT LEAST 12 persons were injured when the police resorted to force to quell a riot by 400 political prisoners at Sukkur Jail in rural Sindh province. The police were called into the jail when the prisoners refused to return to their

cells as a gesture of support for the "week of solidarity", launched by the Opposition.

NO PARTY ELECTIONS

HAVING ABANDONED ALL hopes of holding organisational elections, the Congress-I is finally reconciled to continuing the system of running the party through centrally appointed office-bearers for an indefinite period. While officially the party still insists that it will have elected committees at all levels "soon", many senior leaders believe that in the present circumstances, it will be neither possible nor feasible to adhere to the party constitution in this regard.



15 THE IDEAS PAGE

Hindi against Hindi

Current contestations over the language can be addressed by demonstrating that it has not deviated from its foundational role — resisting authority and injustice, Hindi has always valued the plurality of India



GEETANJALI SHREE

ALANGUAGE — ANY — is all about words and there is something magical in the live, ephemeral, polyvalent, dynamic quality of words. Bhartrihari, the great philosopher of language, articulates that magic. It is dhvani, sound, he says, which infuses, arbitrarily, meanings into a word. Yes, meanings into a word. No word has a fixed meaning. Its meanings keep changing. And, yet, each word is unique. As Bhartrihari puts it, there are no synonyms.

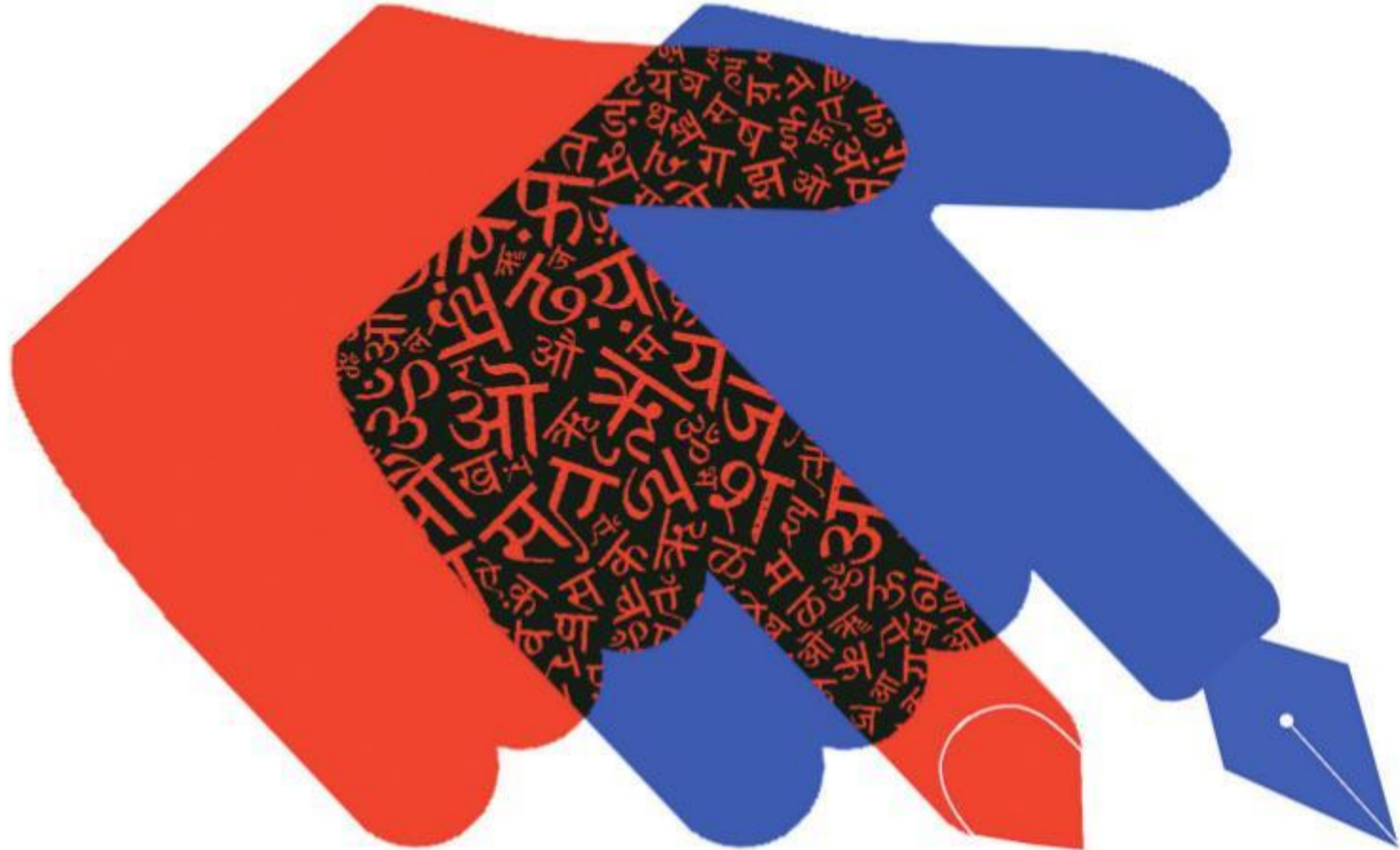
Language is our heritage, and like any heritage we keep inventing and reinventing it.

Hindi is my heritage. It is my mother-tongue and richly eclectic. Through it, I imbibe variegated cultures, philosophies, histories, religions, endless ways of seeing, being, expressing and questioning. It connects me to myself and shapes my past, present and future, in a dynamic and not static way. My home and my hearth. And, in a metaphorical twist, I may say my Om and my Earth!

Today, this very eclectic, dynamic language is caught in a contested spot. Questions are flying thick and fast about the capacity of Hindi as a language to be open to influences from other cultures and languages. This is reflective of the anxieties and apprehensions produced by the grandiose claims and pronouncements that are irresponsibly made by *rashtrabhashawadis*. People from non-Hindi regions feel naturally threatened. But so do Hindi-speakers who love their language and admire its intrinsically eclectic, all-welcoming, variegated, and outward-looking character. They feel doubly threatened. For, the language is not only getting a bad name, but is also sought to be converted into an expansionist monster.

Modern Hindi was shaped by two causally connected historical forces: Colonial connection and national awakening. Hindi, like other Indian languages, showed itself open to new influences and ready to meet new challenges. The chronology of British expansion in India making it a late entrant to the new modern world, Hindi — Khari Boli — had no hesitation in accepting Bengal's leadership. Those in the Hindi region who could sense that their world was in the throes of a sea change, also sensed that what they needed to do was to follow the path shown by Raja Rammohan Roy and Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar. The founding figures of modern Hindi literature — the famed Bharatendu Mandal — unabashedly borrowed from the likes of Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyaya and Michael Madhusudan Dutt. Following the brutal suppression of 1858, the Hindi intelligentsia recognised the importance of the new kind of nationalist political awakening and organisation that had begun in Bengal. They were especially influenced by the fiery oratory of Surendranath Banerjee and the pan-Indian activities of his Indian Association.

Khari Boli Hindi nourished itself from all around. Soaking in the best of the West, it also made its own words, proverbs, idioms, and modes of articulation taken from those of its older and much richer sister "dialects" — such as Braj Bhasha, Awadhi, Bhojpur — which it had superseded to emerge as the sprawling region's representative language. And, of course, from Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian. It was natural that attempts be made to reg-



CR Sasikumar

ulate and standardise the budding Khari Boli. Barely had those attempts begun when an ugly quarrel broke out that created a new and ever-widening wedge between the Hindus and the Muslims. The quarrel began with a concerted campaign to replace Urdu with Hindi as the official language in Bihar and the United Provinces. Khari Boli Hindi and Urdu, which had for long been one language — Hindustani — with two scripts, was now projected as two separate and antagonistic languages. Whereas Hindustani was spoken by the Hindus and the Muslims both, Urdu was said to be the language of the Muslims and Hindi that of the Hindus. In keeping with the separatist logic of the campaign, Hindi was sought to be purified. It meant purging the language of borrowings from Persian and Arabic and making it Sanskritic. A powerful network of institutions was created to standardise Hindi accordingly. Those institutions and that campaign had the blessings of powerful public figures.

Yet, the Big-Brother-is-Watching ways of those self-appointed guardians proved ineffectual. Hindi withstood their regressive, reactionary chauvinist interference. True to its catholic provenance as Hindustani, which itself sprang from a culture rooted in multiplicity, Hindi continued to develop as an eclectic, all-embracing language with a cosmopolitan vision.

It has also gained more than has been acknowledged, on account of being chosen as their medium of expression by gifted individuals coming from other languages, such as Urdu, Punjabi, Gujarati, and Marathi. Premchand, to date the best known name from Hindi fiction, came from Urdu. One of the classics of contemporary Hindi fiction, Rahi Masoom Raza's *Aadha Gaon*, was originally written in Nastaliq (Urdu script) before being transcribed in the Devanagari. Examples are aplenty.

Even more spectacular is the contribution made by those whose mother-tongue was Punjabi. Their list is long. Krishna Sobti, easily the most towering figure of Hindi fiction in our day, was a native Punjabi speaker. So was Krishna Baldev Vaid. In fact, Hindi continues to be enriched by the variety of bilingualism among its practitioners — a veritable safeguard against parochialism, whatever the professions of "purists"!

Add to this the awakening, protesting voices of the region's erstwhile submerged, marginalised, and silenced: Women, Dalits, Adivasis, labourers, farmers, transgender people, etc., and you get some idea of the vibrant, bristling profusion that constitutes the language called Hindi. Born in protest, it has not deviated from that foundational role. Resisting authority and injustice in their various guises, it has valued the plurality of India and stood for the emancipation and well-being of all.

Made as it is from something so open-ended, elusive and polysemic as words, no language can in itself be exclusive, narrow, or antagonistic. Some of its practitioners may be and are. They try and turn their language into an instrument of aggression to serve their narrow ends. Bringing the language a bad name and hindering its development. But only partially and for a while. There always are creative writers determined to save their language. The two beasts residing in them — imagination and creativity — love their freedom.

Made as it is from something so open-ended, elusive and polysemic as words, no language can in itself be exclusive, narrow, or antagonistic. Some of its practitioners may be and are. They try and turn their language into an instrument of aggression to serve their narrow ends. Bringing the language a bad name and hindering its development. But only partially and for a while. There always are creative writers determined to save their language. The two beasts residing in them — imagination and creativity — love their freedom.

Current fears relating to Hindi are too real to be alleviated by any abstract generalisation about the intrinsic nature of languages and humans. They can be addressed only by demonstrating that there is little in the nature of Hindi to justify those fears. However brief, the foregoing account of its development as an essentially questioning, dissenting, heterodox and catholic language may have belied those fears. Besides, taking a language's literature as a faithful measure of the sense and sensibility of its speakers, it is remarkable that Hindi literature has remained surprisingly free of narrow and base sentiments. A great deal of communal frenzy — frequently resulting in violence — was witnessed during the freedom struggle. Hindi literature never ceased in those trying days to be a voice of sanity. In our own day, Hindi-speaking regions have been witness to blatant, even violent, majoritarianism. Not one writer of note has supported this. Many of them have condemned it.

Take your pick — would you take Boris Pasternak or Joseph Stalin as the measure of the Russian language?

The writer won the International Booker Prize for her novel *Tomb of Sand* in 2022

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Right now, the ball is in Washington's court. If the US wants things to cool down, it needs to press Israel to stop the slaughter. If America keeps bowing to Israeli hubris, it will be responsible for the coming storm in the Middle East, and the accompanying turbulence the global system will encounter." — **DAWN**

Fourth attempt, fresh approach

Even if Nawaz Sharif becomes the next PM, political instability will continue to haunt economic prospects in Pakistan



RAZA RUMI

PAKISTAN'S FORMER prime minister Nawaz Sharif is back in the country after a four-year-long self-imposed exile. On October 21, he addressed a large welcome rally in his hometown Lahore where he, in a measured tone, highlighted his political agenda for the coming election. No revenge, focus on economic development and regional peace. Notwithstanding the changes Pakistan's political society has witnessed in the last decade, Sharif's developmental focus remains unchanged. While this resonates with his support base, the road ahead is fraught with pitfalls and unknowns.

The circular nature of Pakistan's power politics is a tedious cliché. For many decades, a 10-year itch prevailed. A decade of civilian rule followed by another decade of military junta in the saddle. In recent years, especially since 2008, the story has changed a bit. Three parliaments completed their tenure and there was no direct coup. Perhaps, that is the only silver lining for the fragile democracy. Otherwise, the unelected institutions, especially the military and the judiciary, have been firing prime ministers, manipulating electoral processes and their outcomes, and setting the policy agenda. As Sharif prepares for the forthcoming elections scheduled for January end next year, the civil-military power imbalance remains intact. In fact, it has become more stringent and lethal.

In 2017, the junta and its affiliates in the judiciary and corporate media successfully ousted Sharif, disqualified him from the electoral arena, jailed him (and his daughter) and later sent him packing to London, ostensibly for better medical treatment. In the meantime, they propped up their favourite prime ministerial candidate, Imran Khan. The latter played along as Pakistan's power matrix requires the establishment's support. Not only was Khan's image as a saviour carefully built over the decade but there was also (and is) wider appeal for his brand of politics within the urban middle classes, including the state. Yet, Khan and the junta fell out, leading to his ouster through a vote of no-confidence.

There was nothing new about this development except that Khan did not accept this fall from grace. He fought back with the support of his popular base, with the covert and sometimes overt backing of serving and retired military personnel and judges who were keen to play to the popular gallery. Khan's government had become unpopular, but his ouster turned the tables and soon people had forgotten his [mis]rule. The succeeding coalition by Shehbaz Sharif was held responsible for the fledgling economy — increased poverty, unemployment and historic levels of inflation that exceeded 40 per cent according to the government's own estimates. This was an opportune environment for Khan to further his narrative and some of his supporters went for a head-on collision with the military on May 9 when

they protested Khan's arrest by the Paramilitary Rangers. This was perhaps the moment the military leaders were waiting for and since then a ruthless crackdown on Khan's party ensued.

With its main political foe in jail and the country's governance in the doldrums, the military apparently has forgiven and forgotten. Nawaz Sharif is back, and the tables have turned. His party is on the ascendant and is being viewed as the winning horse in the 2024 election. But all of this might come at a heavy political cost for Sharif. Before he landed in Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif, in a party meeting, called for accountability from judges and generals responsible for his ouster. Within days his party, particularly his younger sibling Shehbaz, persuaded him to change tack and the narrative shifted to leaving accountability to Allah. Even at the Lahore rally, Sharif mentioned that he wanted to work with all "institutions" and only made indirect comments about the powerful establishment. As a longtime power player, he knows the limits of Pakistani politicians well. He has paid for his "intransigence" thrice in the past — when he was unceremoniously booted out of office.

Not much has changed since Sharif was in office last. In fact, his younger brother during his stint enabled military involvement in economic affairs and the passing of other legislation. This has increased its power. Some of these powers have been under judicial scrutiny as the supreme court, about a week ago, declared that civilians could not be tried in military courts. But undoing the damage might take a long time as the military is calling the shots and will continue to do so in the foreseeable future. How will Nawaz Sharif survive in office in these circumstances when he could not in earlier terms?

The answer to this question lies in how soon his government, if elected, could turn around the economy. Sharif's party or for that matter no party has a roadmap that can fix the economy. Pakistan is bound by strict IMF conditions for solvency and providing relief and subsidies is nearly impossible unless elite privileges are cut. A bigger issue is how the election can be termed fair when the popular leader, Imran Khan, is disqualified and unlikely to campaign. Pakistan's street sentiment is not going to favour any political party kowtowing to the establishment.

Nawaz Sharif remains steadfast in his policy of dialogue and trade with India. In the past, he faced resistance from the establishment. This time, the dynamics have changed, given the country's economic woes and the strong influence of Gulf states that have become formidable strategic and economic allies of India. Will a BJP-led India respond?

Sharif faces the biggest test of his political career. If he falters, his political legacy will be stymied. But he cannot attain power without the compromises inherent to power politics in Pakistan. And even if he is successful in becoming (or nominating) the next PM, political instability in Pakistan will continue to haunt economic prospects and sound policymaking in the country.

Rumi is a Pakistani editor, educator and writer. He is currently based in the United States



JASPREET BINDRA

From predator to prey

Cases against Meta show why social networks need subscription-based models

THE BELL has been tolling for social media for a while now. It rang a warning with Cambridge Analytica, and it rang an alarm with *The Social Dilemma* (2020). This break-away Netflix docudrama showed the distressing ways in which social media giants, led on the front by Meta (then Facebook) manipulated human psychology and biology to influence how we behave. The effect on children was even more appalling, highlighted by a 14-year-old girl's suicide in the UK, apparently due to prolonged exposure to content about suicide and self-injury on Instagram. The Meta whistleblower Frances Haugen then added to the clamour in 2021, by revealing internal documents that demonstrated that Instagram worsened body image issues for teen girls and the company knew it all along. Even the US surgeon general issued a formal advisory on this issue. US President Joe Biden deemed this important enough to include the negative mental-health effects of social media on young users in his State of the Union address this year and encouraged Congress to pass bipartisan legislation to tackle this.

However, the latest in this gory saga might be the final warning bell for social media, especially Meta and its world-leading social networking platforms. Forty-two Attorney Generals in the US have sued Instagram and its beleaguered parent Meta over this issue in federal and state courts,

charging them with actively contributing to a youth mental health crisis, because of the addictive nature of the platforms. The effort is bipartisan, almost as if heeding Biden's clarion call. The charges in the filing are quite serious: They allege that Meta deliberately strives to make sure young people and teens spend the maximum time possible on social media, despite realising that teenage brains are vulnerable to the instant gratification of likes and approval from other users. "Meta did not disclose that its algorithms were designed to capitalise on young users' dopamine responses and create an addictive cycle of engagement," the complaint also said. Dopamine, sometimes called the happy hormone, is a neurotransmitter that is associated with feelings of happiness and pleasure. Studies have shown that a like on Facebook, for instance, leads to heightened dopamine activity in children. "Meta has harnessed powerful and unprecedented technologies to entice, engage and ultimately ensnare youth and teens," states the complaint filed by the initial 33 states, including California and Illinois. "Its motive is profit."

The last point flags what I have written many times before: The big problem with social networks is not the technology, or the product, or even the early intent of the founders. The problem with social media is its business model. Social networks, as the name suggests, were built to catalyse and

amplify human connection — to connect the people of the world to each other. They succeeded admirably in their task, as we found long lost friends separated by distance, high-school classmates we knew decades back, and far-flung family members. However, as the more successful of them grew to span the world through network effects, they gradually morphed into social media. We do not have social networks any more, all of them have become media properties where the world's advertisers find us, along with our habits, intentions and behaviours. We have become pieces of data, purportedly anonymised, but otherwise very visible. Social media influencers have become the new role models, as teens and others strive to like them and be like them. The algorithm driving them is a vast hungry monster, wanting more and more of our data to grow even larger. But now, it seems to have started feeding on itself. If the states win, Meta could be liable to up to \$5000 penalty for each violation — sounds small, but could add up to billions of dollars, given the 160 million users that Instagram has in the US and potentially sounding the death knell of the company.

Meta has reasons to be worried about this beyond the US. The UK and EU regulators are circling and will be encouraged to push forward their own legislation. India, with the largest Instagram user base in the world at 229 million, is also straining at the

leash. The Minister of Electronics and IT gave a statement soon after the US suit: "It is important for (social media) platforms to be much more accountable and responsible for what they do, what content they host, and who they allow on their platform to host such content... I think the days of free pass and immunity to (these) platforms are over."

Meta has been defensive and said that it has already launched more than 30 different tools to support teens and their families. They have expressed their disappointment with the suit, saying that it would have been better to work productively together to resolve some of these issues, rather than take a confrontational approach. However, try as hard as they can, until the business model rewards user engagement and data monetisation, it will be difficult to do so. Perhaps, the networks can take a leaf out of OpenAI's playbook for ChatGPT, and look at a subscription model, rather than an advertising one. That would result in a drastic drop in user base and revenue but, in the long run, they will need to listen to the clanging of these bells to survive. They also might want to listen to John Donne, who wrote "Never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee".

The writer is the founder of Tech Whisperer Ltd, UK and teaches at Ashoka University

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SELFISH INTERESTS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'A mission impossible' (IE, November 6). For three days, the US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, has been travelling around West Asia. The central challenge facing him is that he is trying to find a middle ground where none exists. Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu has rebuffed Blinken's call for a "humanitarian pause" in Gaza. No one seems to be buying what Blinken is selling, in part because both the Israelis and the Arab nations are dealing with their own domestic pressures pulling the two sides apart.

SS Paul, *Nadia*

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'A mission impossible' (IE, November 6). The October 7 attack on Israel by Hamas jolted the latter. The massive counter by Israel has been going on for a month. The US is trying to bring Israel to agree to halt the bombings that have caused the loss of many civilian lives. But Hamas and its supporters want to push Israel out. And Israel is determined to annihilate Hamas. Both have to rise above their enmity, and political wedges. This senseless war must come to an end. Let an atmosphere of mutual respect and dignified behaviour prevail for peaceful coexistence, harmony and prosperity in the region.

Subhash Vaid, *New Delhi*

TRACKING HEALTH

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'App for mother and child welfare' (IE, November 6). Malnutrition has been a persistent challenge, particularly among the vulnerable sections in the country. The first National Family Health Survey (NFHS) in 1992-1993 found that India was one of the worst performing countries on child health indicators. In an endeavour to tackle malnutrition in a targeted manner, the PM's Poshan Abhiyan was launched in 2018. An integration of the Tracker with other programme tools such as the RCH portal of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare could ensure a holistic picture of health and nutrition indicators for the beneficiaries.

Khokan Das, *Kolkata*

SPEAK UP

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Power vs Humanity' (IE, November 6). The state of disarray in the emerging multipolar world has severe repercussions for innocent civilians. During the Cold War, the non-aligned movement was committed to working towards diminishing violence against humanity and speaking up against injustice. In the present scenario, the same countries have a more cynical and self-interested approach and are less willing to criticise aggressors openly.

MP Yuvaraj, *Tamil Nadu*

Office of the District Legal Services Authority, Bokaro

COURT NOTICE

In the Court of the Sub-Judge, Sr. Div.-1, Bokaro

(O.S.) Title (Partition) suit No- 128/2018

Aditya NarayanPlaintiff

Versus

Dina Nath PrasadDefendant

DRAFT OF PAPER PUBLICATION

1. **DINA NATH PRASAD,**
S/O- Sri Rameshwar Sahu
R/o- H. No- 65, Gali No-2, Jemini Park,
Phase-1, Nangli Sakrawati, Najafgarh, New Delhi-110043
WHEREAS the Plaintiff had filed the above Title (Partition) Suit No. 128/2018 against you for Partition of suit land. Notice has already been issued through Nazarat as well as Registered Post but you not appeared before the court. So you are therefore directed to appear through this notice in my court on 19.12.2023 at 10:00 A.M. personally and file objection, if any. In Failure of your appearance the Suit will proceed ex-parte.

Given under my Seal and Signature on this
2023.SUB-Judge Civil Judge, Sr. Div.-1,
Bokaro

PR 310762 Law(23-24)#D

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

PUBLIC WORKS ROADS DEPARTMENT
O/O THE CHIEF ENGINEER (EAP),
ARR & TI COMPLEX, FATASIL AMBARI,
ASSAM, GUWAHATI - 25

Email id-as-ce.asbp@assam.gov.in

RFB No. CE/EAP/ARRBP/111/TENDERS/2023/80

REQUEST FOR BIDS (RFB)

E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE - Open Competitive Bidding
(Two-Envelope Bidding Process with e-Procurement)

The Government of Assam through Government of India has applied for financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the Assam Resilient Rural Bridges Program (ARRBP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds to the eligible payment under the contract. Bids are invited online from the eligible bidders from India for the following works as detailed in the table below.

TABLE

Sl. No.	Package No.	Name of the work	Approx. Estimated Amount (Rupees in Lakh)	Bid security (Rupees in Lakh)	Tender Processing fees (INR)	Completion Period (month)
1	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB/Bridge-1/Karbi-Anglong/01	Construction of Bridge in Karbi-Anglong district: i) Br. on NH-36 to Hembonglong	284.33	5.69	5000	12
2	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB/Bridge-1/Hojai/01	Construction of Bridge in Hojai district: i) Br. No. 2/1 on Old NH-54 Doboka Town to Nahargaon	263.01	5.26	5000	18
3	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB/Bridges-4/Nalbari/07	Construction of Bridges in Nalbari district: i) Br. No. 1/1 on Chilling to Jabrihati Road ii) Br. No. 1/1 on Tantrasankara to Nalbari Road iii) Br. No. 1/1 on Howlightat over Baralia Jan of Brahmaputra River Embankment iv) Br. No. 1/1 on Chakla LP School to No. 2 Kandhabari Baralia Pub Par Road	2116.47	42.33	5000	30
4	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB/Bridges-2/Nalbari/08	Construction of Bridges in Nalbari district: i) Br. No. 1/1 on Hahdoli to Malebhitha Kendukuchi Road ii) Br. No. 1/1 on Helosa Kendubari Road to Barbila Village	434.21	8.68	5000	18
5	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB/Bridges-2/Kamrup/16	Construction of Bridges in Kamrup district: i) Br. No. 1/1 on Garamsung Na Ali to Borolia Pachim Par (near Gopal Mandir) ii) Br. No. 1/1 on Athgaon Kabila Road Over Puthimari River	1713.56	34.27	5000	18
6	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB/Bridge-1/Biswanath/02	Construction of Bridge in Biswanath district: i) Br. No. 1/1 on Majuligarh Madanpur Road	254.66	5.09	5000	18
7	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB/Bridges-3/Udalguri/01	Construction of Bridges in Udalguri district: i) Br. No. 3/2 on Dhuppuri to Latakhat ii) Br. No. 1/1 on Udalguri Barbengra Road to Darangipara iii) Br. No. 4/21 on Rongajulikhat to Atelia Road	621.13	12.42	5000	24
8	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB/Bridges-3/Udalguri/02	Construction of Bridges in Udalguri district: i) Br. No. 1/2 on Charanpara to Darogakhat (Simangpuri) ii) Br. No. 1/3 on Charanpara to Darogakhat (Simangpuri) iii) Br. No. 1/1 on Mahalipara to Bhergaon Bus Stand Road	522.46	10.45	5000	24
9	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB/Bridges-3/Charaideo/02	Construction of Bridges in Charaideo district: i) Br. No. 20/1 on Rajgarh Road ii) Br. No. 2/1 on Rajgarh Road iii) Br. No. 1/1 on Dighalpassi 13 No. Road	725.42	14.51	5000	24

The bidding documents will be available online on <http://www.assamtenders.gov.in> from 09/11/2023 to 11/12/2023. Bidders will be required to register on the website which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC). Bids must be submitted online on <http://www.assamtenders.gov.in> on or before 14:00 Hours on 11/12/2023. Other details can be seen in the bidding document. The method of paying Bid Security, Tender Processing fees as indicated in the table above of this e-procurement shall be required to be submitted online on <http://www.assamtenders.gov.in> by selecting "Pay Online" option.

Chief Engineer, (EAP) PWRD
Assam, Fatasil Ambari, Guwahati-25

Janasanyog -CF- 3430-23-07-Nov-23

S. E. RAILWAY TENDER

e-Tender Notice No.: DRMENGGRNC-

100-2023, dated: 03.11.2023.

e-Tender is invited by the Divisional

Railway Manager (Engg.), South Eastern

Railway, Ranchi-834003 for and on behalf

of the President of India for the following

works: Name of Work: Extension of barrel

length of Minor Br. No. 173, 177 & 187 in

LAD-TORI and Flat Top minor bridges (47

nos.) in Muri-Ranchi section with ancillary

works. Tender Value: ₹ 8,63,37,692.52.

Earnest Money: ₹ 5,81,700/-.

Tender closing date and time: 28.11.2023 at

15.00 hrs. Tenderers can visit the website

www.irops.gov.in for online tendering.

(PR-774)

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

ई-निविदा आमन्त्रण सूचना

पत्र सं.: NWR0GSU(GEN)/07/2023/-

0/0CPM/GSU/JU/NWR दिनांक:

03.11.2023 मंडल रेल प्रबंधक, गति शक्ति, उत्तर

पश्चिम रेलवे, जोधपुर द्वारा भारत के राष्ट्रपति के

लिए एवं उनकी ओर से ई-निविदा के माध्यम से

प्रचलित नियमों के अन्तर्गत निर्धारित प्रपत्रों में

निविदा निम्न कार्य के लिए क्रमानुसार आमन्त्रित की

जाती है:- ई-निविदा सूचना सं.2023-24: 10

कार्य का नाम व स्थान: Facilities required

for reduction in cycle time of POH of

coaches in carriage workshop Jodhpur.

अनुमानित लागत रुपये: 10,19,07,178.20

बयान की राशि रुपये: 6,59,500.00 निविदा

सूचना संख्या GSU-10of2023-24 निविदा

प्रस्तुत करने की तिथि 30-11-2023 को 15.00

बजे तक है। वेबसाइट का विवरण जहाँ पर ई-निविदा

देखी व भरी जा सकती है - www.irops.gov.in

[1152-AC/23]

Follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/NWRRailways) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/NWRRailways) [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/NWRRailways)

BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD

(IRRIGATION WING)

CORRIGENDUM-III NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERING with E-Reverse Bidding

NIT No. 786/23/TS

Name of Office: O/O Addl. Superintending Engineer, BC & Township

Division, BBMB Nangal Township -140 124(Pb)

Name of Work: Construction of BBMB Museum at Nangal Township

Last Date / Time of Sale / availability of documents

Document download Start date & time 04.09.2023 at 0900 hrs.

Download end date & time 09.10.2023 at 1700 hrs.

Last date/time of Online Bid submission 20.11.2023 at 1700 hrs.

Date & time of online Bid opening 21.11.2023 at 1500 hrs.

For detailed NIT/terms & conditions etc. please visit/downloaded from

BBMB website www.bbmb.gov.in and www.eproc.punjab.gov.in

1743-PR-Bhakra Dam-7 FOR YOUR BETTER TOMORROW SAVE ENERGY TODAY

ANDHRA PRADESH STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LTD

Head Office: 10-152/1, Ashok Nagar, Bandar Road, VIJAYAWADA-520007

No: PDS 1/35/Sugar Tender/Dec.23 to Feb.24 Date: 06.11.2023

NATIONAL SHORT TENDER NOTICE

EMPANELMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF SUPPLIERS FOR SUPPLY

OF SUGAR TO ALL THE MLS POINTS OF (26) DISTRICTS IN

ANDHRA PRADESH STATE THROUGH NCDEX e-MARKETS LIMITED (NEML)

Andhra Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd invites National Short

Tenders for empANELMENT and appointment of suppliers for supply of

20701.718 MTs of ISS Grade S-30/S-31 cane sugar in 1/2 Kg packet form

with secondary packing in 50 Kg new polypropylene (PP) bags under PDS for

the months of December, 2023 to February, 2024 to all the MLS Points of (26)

districts in Andhra Pradesh State.

All the interested Sugar Manufacturers/Traders in All Over India may visit

www.apsccl.in and www.neml.in to view and download tender documents free of cost.

Interested bidders need to register in portal as vendor i.e in NCDEX e-Markets Limited

Contact: Tel: 9862059509 or 9032429420 or 9885549722 and Email: askus@neml.in.

Last date for registration and completion of formalities for the e-auction shall

be up to 15.11.2023 upto 5.00 p.m and the tentative date of online e-reverse

auction through NCDEX e-MARKETS LIMITED (NEML) platform would be

17.11.2023 at 11 a.m onwards.

Sd/-

VC & Managing Director

महाबळेश्वर गिरिस्थान नगर परिषद,

महाबळेश्वर, जि. सातारा

संक्षिप्त ई-निविदा नोटीस

महाबळेश्वर गिरिस्थान नगरपरिषद हद्दीमधील विविध विकासकामांच्या

ई-निविदा महाराष्ट्र शासनाच्या <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

या संकेतस्थळावर दिनांक ०६/११/२०२३ पासून प्रसिद्ध करण्यात

आलेल्या आहेत.

सहो/-

योगेश पाटील

प्रशासक तथा मुख्याधिकारी

महाबळेश्वर गिरिस्थान नगरपरिषद, महाबळेश्वर

जा.क्र.वही:- १/१७६

दिनांक:- ०६/११/२०२३

महाबळेश्वर गिरिस्थान नगरपरिषद, महाबळेश्वर

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Office of the Executive Engineer, Project Implementation Unit (AMRUT) Uttarakhand Peyal Nigam, Haldwani (Uttarakhand) Email: piuhaldwani@gmail.com Ph. 05946-222103

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल बोकारो शुद्धि पत्र

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "E"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE WORKS DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED (See Section 82 Cr. PC)

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male, Age: 25 years, Complexion: Whitish, Height: 5'7", was wearing Red colour Checkdar Shirt and Blue colour Jeans, was found under the Nangloi Railway Station Metro, Nangloi, Delhi at 11:30 AM.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER CENTRAL IRRIGATION CIRCLE, BHUBANESWAR

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE INVITING TENDER Name of work and its location : 30-Elect-36-T-2023-24-E3

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE Re-Invitation of Tender through (E-Procurement System)

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION General public is hereby informed that one male was found lying unconscious at Pk Road Divider Metro Pillar No.11, 12, New Delhi on 27.10.2023.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON (SEE SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.) Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person(s) Sonu S/o Kali Ram R/o I-805-806, Mangolpuri, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 13200/2021 U/s 138 NI Act, PS South Rohini, Delhi and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person(s) Sonu can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person(s) Sonu has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Government of Maharashtra Public Works Department P. W. Division, Panvel Telephone No. 022-27452778 E-Tender Notice No. 93 (Open ONLINE) Year-2023-24

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE WORKS DEPARTMENT

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER CENTRAL IRRIGATION CIRCLE, BHUBANESWAR

FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2023

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during Deepawali and Chhath Puja Festivals, 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 Table with columns: Spl. Train No., Station From, Dept. Time, Station to, Arr. Time, Frequency / Day, Period

LIST OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS PASSING THROUGH NORTHERN RAILWAY NETWORK

Table with columns: Train No., Station, Time, Frequency, Period

For any kind of information such as arrival/departure timings and stoppages enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App.

TOP OF THE WORLD



Afghan refugees settle in a camp near the Turkham border. AP

PAKISTAN
Over 170,000 Afghans in total repatriated

Islamabad: More than 6,500 Afghan nationals left Pakistan through Turkham border crossing Sunday, taking the total number of repatriated Afghans to over 170,000, officials said on Monday. The evacuation has been on since the government gave an ultimatum to all unregistered foreign nationals to leave by November 1. A total of 174,358 Afghan nationals left for Afghanistan since September 17, an official said, adding that voluntary repatriation was underway, but the number was dropping with each passing day. **PTI**

UKRAINE
19 troops killed by missile at award event

Kyiv: Ukraine on Monday launched a criminal investigation into military officers who organised a ceremony to honor troops that was hit by a Russian missile strike, killing 19 soldiers in one of the deadliest single attacks reported by Ukrainian forces. The State Bureau of Investigation said it aims to hold military officials accountable for the Rocket Forces and Artillery Day event held Friday near the front line in Zaporizhzhia where Russian reconnaissance drones could easily spot the crowded gathering. **AP**

UNITED STATES
Treasury Secy to meet her China counterpart

Washington: Treasury Secretary Janet L. Yellen will hold two days of high-level meetings with her Chinese counterpart, Vice Premier He Lifeng, this week, as the United States and China look to build upon an effort that started earlier this year to improve communication between the world's two largest economies. The meetings will take place Thursday and Friday in San Francisco ahead of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit. The Treasury Department said that the US hoped Yellen's meetings would "further stabilise the bilateral economic relationship". **NYT**

TROOPS READY TO ENTER GAZA CITY: ISRAEL;
Gaza Health Ministry says toll surpasses 10,000

PHONES, INTERNET DOWN IN GAZA AGAIN,
third territory-wide outage since start of war

Israel cuts off North Gaza from rest of territory, warns of city offensive

One-way corridor for Palestinians to flee southwards will remain open: Israel military

WAFAS SHURAFU & SAMY MAGDY
DEIR AL-BALAH, GAZA STRIP
NOVEMBER 6

ISRAELI FORCES severed northern Gaza from the rest of the besieged territory ahead of an expected push into the dense confines of Gaza City. Palestinians held a mass funeral on Monday for dozens of people killed in strikes in the south, where Israel has urged people to seek refuge.

Troops are expected to enter the city soon, Israeli media reported, and militants who have prepared for years are expected to fight street by street using a vast network of tunnels.

The Israeli military said late Sunday that it had cut off northern Gaza from the south, calling it a "significant stage" in the war.

It said a one-way corridor for residents to flee south would remain available for the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who remain in Gaza City and other parts of the north.

At least 10,022 Palestinians were killed including 4,104 children in Israeli strikes on Gaza since October 7, the health ministry in Gaza said on Monday.

Mobile phone and internet service went down overnight, the third territory-wide outage since the start of the war, but was gradually restored on Monday, according to Palestinian telecom company Paltel and internet access advocacy group NetBlocks.org.

Aid workers say the outages make it even harder for civilians to seek safety or even call ambulances.

In northern Gaza, a Jordanian military cargo plane air-dropped medical aid to a field hospital, King Abdullah II said early Monday. It appeared to be the first such airdrop of the war, raising the possibility of another avenue for aid delivery besides Egypt's Rafah crossing, which has so far been the only entry point.



Israeli soldiers take part in a military action at a location given as Gaza. Reuters

DEATH, DESTRUCTION	
ISRAEL	PALESTINE
TOTAL DEAD	
1,400+	10,022
TOTAL INJURED	
5,400+	20,000+

Blinken ends Middle East visit with little success in war efforts

MATTHEW LEE
ANKARA, NOVEMBER 6

US SECRETARY of State Antony Blinken wrapped up a grueling Middle East diplomatic tour on Monday in Turkey after only limited success in efforts to forge a regional consensus on how best to ease civilian suffering in Gaza as Israel intensifies its war against Hamas.

In the Turkish capital, Ankara, Blinken met with Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan following a frantic weekend of travel that took him from Israel to Jordan, the occupied West Bank, Cyprus and Iraq, to build support for the Biden administration's proposal for "humanitarian pauses" to Israel's relentless military campaign in Gaza.



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken before departing from Ankara Esenboga Airport in Turkey. Reuters

"All of this is a work in progress," Blinken said before leaving Turkey. "We don't obviously agree on everything, but there are common views on some of the imperatives of the moment

that we're working on together." The top US diplomat hopes that pauses in the war would allow for a surge of humanitarian aid to Gaza and the release of Hamas hostages during the October 7 incursion into southern Israel that killed over 1,400 people, mostly civilians — while also preventing conflict from spreading regionally.

"We are very focused on the hostages held by Hamas, including the Americans, and we are doing everything possible to bring them home," he added.

Blinken did not meet with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan who has been highly critical of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and an outlier among NATO allies in not expressing full support for Israel's right to defend itself. **AP**

In Turkey, pro-Palestinian crowds try to storm air base housing US troops

DILARA SENKAYA & MEHMET EMIN CALISKAN
ADANA, NOVEMBER 6

Turkish police used tear gas and water cannon as hundreds of people at a pro-Palestinian rally on Sunday tried to storm an air base that houses US troops, hours before US Secretary of State Antony Blinken was due in Ankara for talks on Gaza.

Turkey, which has stepped up its criticism of Israel as humanitarian crisis in Gaza has worsened, supports a two-state solution.

Earlier this week, the IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation,



A demonstrator attacks a Turkish police vehicle near the Incirlik Air Base. Reuters

an Islamist Turkish aid agency, organised a convoy to travel to the Incirlik air base in the Adana province in southern Turkey to protest Israeli attacks on Gaza and US support for Israel.

IHH's protest called for Incirlik, which also houses US troops, to be closed.

Footage showed police firing tear gas and water cannons to disperse crowds waving Turkish and Palestinian flags and chanting slogans. Protesters toppled barricades and clashed with police in riot gear.

Protesters were also seen hurling plastic chairs, rocks, and other items at police, who fired smoke bombs at crowds. Scuffles broke out between the crowds and security forces.

IHH President Bulent Yildirim addressed crowds in Adana and urged them to refrain from attacking police. **REUTERS**

BRIEFLY

France to give armoured vehicles to Lebanese army

FRANCE WILL send dozens of armoured vehicles to the Lebanese army so it can properly carry out patrol missions in the country, France's defence minister said in remarks published Monday. Speaking to Lebanon's *L'Orient Le Jour* newspaper after a trip to country, Sebastien Lecornu said it was vital to beef up Lebanese army so that it could coordinate well with United Nations peacekeeping force as tensions mount between Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah in southern Lebanon. **REUTERS**

German channel: Israeli soldiers threatened staff

A GERMAN broadcaster says one of its teams was stopped and threatened by Israeli soldiers in West Bank as it returned from reporting on violence against Palestinians. Public broadcaster ARD said that Jan-Christoph Kitzler, together with a Palestinian and a German colleague, were stopped in Hebron. It said weapons were pointed into team's car and soldiers filming them. The situation was resolved over an hour later after more Israeli soldiers and cops were called in. **AP**



Ex-US President Donald Trump at the Trump Organisation civil fraud trial in New York State Supreme Court. Reuters

Trump defiant at NY civil fraud trial, judge threatens to cut off testimony

JACK QUEEN & LUC COHEN
NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 6

DONALD TRUMP complained of unfair treatment in a defiant and rambling performance on the witness stand Monday, prompting the judge overseeing his New York civil business-fraud trial to threaten to cut testimony short.

Under probe about his company's accounting practices, Trump repeatedly clashed with Judge Arthur Engoron, who is weighing imposition of hundreds of millions of dollars in fines and other penalties that could hobble the real estate empire that vaulted Trump to prominence.

Engoron warned ex-US president Trump, the frontrunner for the Republican nomination in the 2024 polls, that he might remove him from witness stand if he did not answer questions directly.

Amid the fireworks, Trump acknowledged that his company did not provide accurate estimates of the value of apartment towers, golf courses and other assets. New York state lawyers

said those values were pumped up to win better financing terms, and Engoron has already ruled that they were fraudulent.

But Trump said many of them, such as his Mar-a-Lago estate and Doral golf course in Florida were undervalued, and that banks did not take the valuations seriously.

New York state lawyers said in their lawsuit that the estimates misled lenders and insurers, earning him \$100 million and exaggerating his wealth by \$2 billion.

Though his presence until Monday has not been required in court, he has already appeared several times to glower at the proceedings from defendant's table and complain about the case to TV cameras outside the chamber.

That has earned him fines of \$15,000 for twice violating a limited gag order that prevents him from criticising court staff. Trump's lawyers have chafed at that order and indicated using it as basis for an appeal, but Engoron expanded it on Friday to cover them as well. **REUTERS**

China, Australia agree to cooperate, welcome change in icy relations

RYAN WOO
BEIJING, NOVEMBER 6

PRESIDENT XI Jinping said Monday stable ties between China and Australia served each other's interests and both should expand cooperation, sending a clear signal that Beijing was ready to move on from recent tensions.

China and Australia should promote the development of their strategic partnership as they build up understanding and trust, Xi told Australian PM Anthony Albanese, the first Australian leader to visit Beijing since 2016, at the Great Hall of the People in the heart of the Chinese capital.

A strong relationship "will be beneficial into the future," Albanese told Xi in their second talks in a year, a meeting that lasted more than an hour.

Earlier on Monday, Albanese stopped by Beijing's iconic Temple of Heaven and posed for a photograph at circular Echo Wall where Australia's then PM, Gough Whitlam, stood in 1973, a year after two nations established ties.

For decades, China and Australia built a relationship on

EXPLAINED
Albanese's olive branch

ALBANESE TOOK steps to stabilise ties after he became PM last May and met Xi on the sidelines of a G20 summit in Indonesia in November. China soon began lowering trade barriers, allowing imports of coal in January and ending tariffs on barley in August. Last month, Beijing agreed to review dumping tariffs of 218% on Australian wine.

trade, with Beijing becoming its biggest commercial partner with purchases of Australian food and natural resources.

But ties soured after Australia in 2017 accused China of meddling in its politics. The following year, Australia banned equipment from Chinese tech giant Huawei Technologies Co for its 5G network out of national security fears. **REUTERS**

RESEARCHERS HAVE CANCELLED, HALTED OR CHANGED OVER 100 STUDIES ABOUT X AFTER ELON MUSK'S ACTIONS LIMITED ACCESS TO PLATFORM

Musk's X restructuring curtails disinformation research, spurs legal fears

SHEILA DANG
NOVEMBER 6

SOCIAL MEDIA researchers have cancelled, suspended or changed over 100 studies about X, formerly Twitter, as a result of actions taken by Elon Musk that limit access to the social media platform, nearly a dozen interviews and a survey of planned projects show.

Musk's restrictions on critical methods of gathering data on the global platform have suppressed the ability to untangle the origin and spread of false information during real-time events such as Hamas' attack on Israel and the Israeli airstrikes in Gaza, researchers told Reuters.

The important method was a tool that gave researchers access to data about 10 million tweets per month. Twitter notified researchers in February it would end free academic access to this application programming interface (API) as part of an overhaul of tool, according to an email.

The survey of 167 academic and civil society researchers conducted at Reuters' request by the Coalition for Independent Technology Research in September quantifies for the first time the number of studies that have been canceled due to Musk's policies.

It also shows a majority of survey respondents fear being sued by X over their findings or use of data. The worry follows

X's July lawsuit against the Center for Countering Digital Hate (CCDH) after it published critical reports about the platform's content moderation.

Musk didn't respond to a comment request and an X official declined comment. The company has said that nearly all content views are of "healthy" posts.

Musk's first year of ownership of X has been marked by advertisers fleeing the site, concerned that ads could appear next to harmful content.

X's US ad revenue declined at least 55% year-over-year each month since Musk's acquisition, Reuters previously reported.

The survey showed 30 canceled projects, 47 stalled projects

& 27 where researchers changed platforms. It also revealed 47 projects, though some researchers noted that ability to collect fresh data would be limited.

The affected include research on hate speech and topics that have garnered global regulatory scrutiny. In one example, a stalled project sought to study child safety on X. The platform was fined by Australian regulator for failing to cooperate with a probe into anti-child abuse practices.

European Union regulators are also investigating X's handling of disinformation, which was the focus of multiple stalled or canceled independent research studies, the survey found.

Before Musk bought Twitter



'X' logo on the top of headquarters of the platform X, formerly known as Twitter, in San Francisco, California. Reuters file

for \$44 billion, a large proportion of studies about social media had been related to Twitter, because the platform was a valuable source of information about politics and current events. Its data was easily accessible, four researchers told Reuters.

But almost from the moment Musk stepped into Twitter's headquarters, he began slashing costs and laying off thousands of employees, including those who worked on the research tools.

Now, X offers three paid tiers of the API ranging from \$100 to \$42,000 per month, and the lower-priced tiers provide less data than what was available to researchers for free previously. Nearly every researcher who

spoke with Reuters said they could not afford the costs.

One former employee, who declined to be named for fear of backlash from Musk, said the decision to shut down free academic API access came down to an urgent need to focus on boosting revenue and cutting costs in the aftermath of Musk's takeover. A majority of survey respondents cited the API changes as the reason for canceling or pausing their studies about the platform.

A spokesperson for Sprinklr, which is listed as an official partner of Twitter, declined to confirm the figures cited in the July post after Reuters requested comment. **REUTERS**

19 ECONOMY

SENSEX: 64,958.69 ▲ 594.91 (0.92%) NIFTY: 19,411.75 ▲ 181.15 (0.94%) NIKKEI: 32,708.48 ▲ 758.59 HANG SENG: 17,966.59 ▲ 302.47 FTSE: 7,417.76 ▲ 0.03 DAX: 15,135.97 ▲ 53.28

GOLD	USD RATE	OIL	SILVER
₹61,750	₹83.22	\$88.19	₹75,200

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of November 3

International market data till 1900 IST

SECTOR WATCH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Viral 'Rashmika Mandanna video' spotlights Big Tech's deepfake problem

SOUAMYARENDRABARIK
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 6

A POPULAR Indian actor entering an elevator in revealing clothes. Football fans in a stadium in Madrid holding an enormous Palestinian flag. A video of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy calling on his soldiers to lay down their weapons. The pope wearing a Balenciaga puffer jacket.

These unrelated events have something in common: they never happened.

And yet, they were some of the most viral pieces of content on various social media platforms. Thanks to artificial intelligence (AI), which has improved greatly over the past year, there are now platforms that allow nearly anyone to create a persuasive fake by entering text into popular AI generators that produce images, video or audio.

The repercussions of the menace of AI-generated fake content, colloquially known as deepfakes, especially in a polarising world and a divided online ecosystem can be far reaching, and have given a new worry to lawmakers around the world. Big tech companies including Meta and Google have announced measures to tackle content produced using the technology. Entire pornographic sites with deepfakes of popular actors have come up. The technology has also raised concerns about election integrity, as researchers believe that it could be used to manipulate the audio or video of politicians. A recent deepfake of actor Rashmika Mandanna is currently viral on sites like Instagram, where her face has been morphed to a video where a woman can be seen entering a lift wearing revealing clothes.

This particular clip also

highlights that the problems of deepfake technology are most certainly expected to be bigger for women, for whom online platforms are already a hostile place.

Union Minister of State for Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar said on X (formerly Twitter) that "deepfakes are the latest and even more dangerous and damaging form of misinformation and need to be dealt with by (online) platforms".

Trust deficit

While deepfakes have not yet reached a level where they look entirely genuine, the possibility of AI-generated misinformation has left a psychological imprint and, in some cases, helped commentators dismiss genuine content as having been altered through artificial intelligence.

Perhaps the online commentary around the Israel-Gaza conflict has brought this point to the forefront. Internet platforms like X, Facebook and YouTube have been awash with AI-generated content, propagated by accounts from both sides, showing the destruction that the conflict has brought out since October 7.

A global regulatory concern

A lot of these concerns were on show at Blechley Park last week, during the world's first ever AI Safety Summit. Twenty-eight major countries including the United States, China, Japan, the United Kingdom, France and India, and the European Union agreed to sign a declaration saying global action is needed to tackle the potential risks of AI. The order requires AI companies to share the results of tests of their newer products with the federal government before making it available to consumers. **FULL REPORT ON** www.indianexpress.com

CENTRE IS CONFIDENT OF MEETING FISCAL DEFICIT TARGET FOR FY24

'Not much impact from food subsidy, crude a bigger worry'

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 6

THE GOVERNMENT does not see "much fiscal impact" from the just announced five-year extension of the food grains subsidy scheme, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKAY), a top government official said Monday, without pegging a figure for the absolute impact of the scheme. The bigger challenge being seen by the government is the rise in global crude oil prices, but the Centre is confident of meeting its fiscal deficit target of 5.9 per cent of the GDP for financial year 2023-24, another senior government official said.

"There is no major fiscal impact seen for five years (from the food grains subsidy extension)," the official said. On Saturday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a pre-election rally in Chhattisgarh, announced that the central government would continue to provide free foodgrains to beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act, 2013 for the next five years. The PMGKAY was to end this December. The extension of the free ration scheme is expected to benefit around 80 crore people and could be a key element of the BJP's 2024 Lok Sabha



The extension of the free ration scheme is expected to benefit around 80 crore people. File

campaign narrative. This comes at a time when the government is facing fiscal strain on account of elevated fertiliser and fuel subsidies. The fiscal spend on the food grains scheme was flagged earlier as a concern by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance in June 2022. In an internal note it had stated that it is not advisable to continue the PMGKAY beyond its present extension, both on grounds of food security and on fiscal grounds.

As it is, each family is getting 50 kg of grains, 25 kg at a nominal price of Rs.2/Rs.3, and 25 kg free. This is far beyond the need at a non-pandemic time," the Expenditure Department had then said. The fiscal numbers so far show that the Centre has spent Rs 42,200.69 crore on nutrient-

tremely high by historical standards, and deterioration therein poses a risk of serious adverse consequences. It is vital that major subsidy increases/tax reductions are not done. In particular, it is not advisable to continue the PMGKAY beyond its present extension, both on grounds of food security and on fiscal grounds.

"The budgeted fiscal deficit at 6.40 per cent of GDP was itself ex-

based fertilisers subsidy during April-September 2023, up 56 per cent from Rs 27,006.56 crore spent in the year-ago period, while Rs 67,926.21 crore has been spent on urea subsidy during the first half of the fiscal as against Rs 54,718.78 crore last year. On the fuel subsidy front, the government has spent Rs 1,119.17 crore in April-September as against Rs 944.35 crore in the corresponding period last year.

The situation is a tad comfortable for food subsidy, where the government has spent Rs 95,149.44 crore on food subsidy during April-September as against Rs 1,16,209.54 crore spent during the corresponding period last year.

Economists said the extension of the free food grains scheme reflects difficulty in withdrawing populist policies and though it is likely to have a limited near-term impact, it will add to the medium-term risks.

"We had expected a six-month extension instead. In our view, this reflects the difficulty in withdrawing populist policies, especially ahead of elections. The near-term macro implications should be muted," Nomura said in a note.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

Automobile retail sales dip 7.73% in October: FADA

Retail sales of automobiles in the domestic market saw a year-on-year decline, as per the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA)

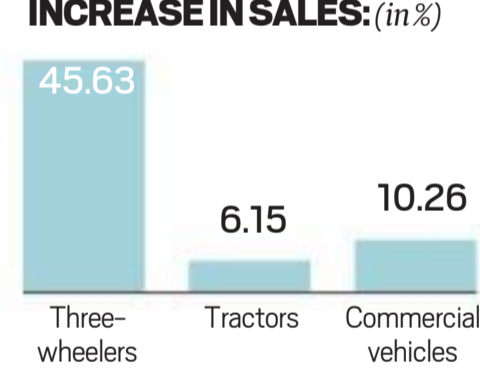


"Navratri of 2023, marked a milestone with retail sales soaring by 18 per cent year-over-year, surpassing the figures of Navratri 2017," Manish Raj Singhania, FADA President

OCTOBER RETAIL SALES:
21,17,596 units: 2023
22,95,099 units: 2022

TWO-WHEELER RETAIL SALES IN OCTOBER:
15,07,756 units: 2023
17,25,043 units: 2022

PASSENGER VEHICLE RETAIL IN OCTOBER:
3,53,990 units: 2023
3,58,884 unit: 2022



G20 Presidency gives clear direction to the needs of global population: FM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 6

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said India's G20 Presidency has provided a clear policy direction for addressing the needs of the majority of the global population whose voices are often unheard in multilateral forums.

"However, we still have work left to do," the minister said in an inaugural address at the Seminar on 'Strong, Sustainable, Balanced and Inclusive Growth', organised by the ministries of finance and labour, and the commerce department. On December 1, 2022, India assumed the mantle of G20 Presidency.

The G20 New Delhi Leaders Declaration (NDLD), unanimously agreed to by all G20 countries, addresses some of the pressing challenges confronting the global economy and also provides policy guidance for a future built on people-focused principles and trust-based partnerships, Sitharaman said.

"Momentum must be maintained on the policy guidance in the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration. Not only should we engage with G20 partners to take forward the outcomes, but we should also explore how best we can integrate these outcomes into India's domestic policy-making process so that we can lead by example," she said.

Fitch hikes India's medium-term GDP growth estimate by 70 bps to 6.2%

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI/NEW DELHI,
NOVEMBER 6

FITCH RATINGS has increased India's medium-term growth rate by 0.7 percentage point (PP) to 6.2 per cent "given an improvement in the employment rate and a modest increase in the working-age population forecast".

According to Fitch, India's projected labour supply growth is also lower relative to 2019 given the expected negative growth in the participation rate. "While the participation rate has recovered from its pandemic slump, it remains significantly below levels recorded in the early 2000s, partly as the employment rate among women remains very low," it said in its latest Global Economic Outlook (GEO) report on ten emerging economies (EM10)

Fitch's projection for un-weighted average potential growth for the EM10 is unchanged from its previous assessment (published in July 2021) at 3 per cent.

"But this disguises big changes at the individual country level. We have cut Russia and China's projections by 0.8pp and

0.7pp, respectively, and those of Korea and South Africa by 0.2pp," it said.

"By contrast, we have increased Mexico and Poland's potential growth estimates by 0.6pp and 0.4pp, respectively. We have increased India's estimate by 0.7pp while those of Brazil, Turkey and Indonesia are all now higher by 0.2pp," Fitch said.

"But it also highlights the legacy of economic disruptions from the pandemic. GDP fell in all the EM10 except China and Turkey in 2020, with very steep declines in India, Mexico and South Africa. Even after subsequent recoveries, GDP in 2022 was generally still far below levels implied by extrapolating prepandemic trends, particularly in India, Indonesia and Mexico," Fitch said.

Fitch Ratings projects medium-term potential growth for the EM10 covered at 4.0 per cent on a GDP weighted average basis. This is a downward revision from 4.3 per cent in our previous assessment in July 2021, driven by a 0.7pp cut to China.

"Our unweighted average EM10 potential growth projection remains 3 per cent, unchanged from our previous assessment in July 2021," it said.

Byju's in talks to sell Epic for \$400 mn to Joffre, Duolingo

ANEESS HUSSAIN
BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 6

EDTECH PLATFORM Byju's is in advanced stage of talks to sell its California-based reading platform, Epic for around \$400 million to Joffre Capital.

According to the sources, the company is also in talks with mobile learning platform, Duolingo

and a couple of other players.

The sale process is being managed by Moelis & Co and the deal is likely to be finalised within this month. Byju's had acquired Epic for \$500 million in 2021 as part of its global expansion.

The company is also considering sale of its upskilling platform, Great Learning from which it expects to raise another \$400 million. FE

BRIEFLY

Nykaa net profit rises 50% to ₹7.8 cr in Q2

New Delhi: Beauty and fashion e-tailer FSN e-Commerce Ventures, which operates under Nykaa brand name, on Monday reported a 50 per cent increase in consolidated net profit to Rs 7.8 crore in the second quarter ended September 2023. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 5.2 crore in the same period a year ago, Nykaa said in a regulatory filing. The consolidated revenue from operations of Nykaa grew 22.4 per cent to Rs 1,507 crore during the reported quarter from Rs 1,230.82 crore a year ago. PTI

Airbus signs contracts with Mahindra Aerospace

New Delhi: European aircraft and aerospace major Airbus on Monday said it has signed new contracts with multiple India-based suppliers for the manufacturing of components for commercial aircraft. Contracts have been signed with Aequs, Dynamic, Gardner and Mahindra Aerospace for the supply of airframe and wing parts across Airbus' A320neo, A330neo and A350 programmes, the company said. PTI

Thali meal prices drop by up to 7% in Oct

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 6

THE COST of a representative, home-cooked vegetarian and non-vegetarian thali dipped 5 per cent and 7 per cent on-year, respectively, in October 2023, rating agency Crisil said. The dip was due to a significant 21 per cent and 38 per cent on-year decline in the prices of potato and tomato during the month.

The cost of non-veg thali declined faster as the price of broiler (50 per cent share in the thali cost) softened an estimated 5-7 per cent on-year on a high

base. The cost of fuel, which accounts for 14 per cent and 8 per cent of the total cost of the veg and non-veg thali, respectively, declined 14 per cent on-year as the price of a 14.2 kg LPG cylinder fell from Rs 1,053 to Rs 903, Crisil said.

Further, decline in thali prices was capped by a rise in onion prices in the second half of the month to Rs 40 per kg on average from Rs 34 per kg in the first half, trading 25 per cent higher on-year in the second half owing to a lower kharif output estimated in 2023.

Thali prices are expected to inch up in November if higher

prices of onion — which accounts for 10 per cent of the total cost of a veg thali — persist.

"Price of pulses, accounting for 9 per cent share in the total cost of a veg thali, increased 19 per cent on-year. This too kept the thali cost from falling further," it said.

The average cost of preparing a thali at home is calculated based on input prices prevailing in north, south, east and west India. Monthly change reflects the impact on the common man's expenditure.

The data also reveals the ingredients (cereals, pulses, broilers, vegetables, spices, edible oil,

cooking gas) driving changes in the cost of a thali, according to the rating agency.

A veg thali comprises roti, vegetables (onion, tomato, and potato), rice, dal, curd, and salad. For non-veg thali, the constituents remain same but for dal, which is replaced by chicken.

India's retail inflation dropped to 5.02 per cent in September compared to 6.83 per cent in August, according to data from the ministry of statistics. The Reserve Bank of India's monetary Policy Committee (MPC) retained the Repo rate at 6.50 per cent in the October policy meeting.

IndiGo yet to get clarity from P&W on engine inspection schedule, likely impact

SUKALP SHARMA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 6

INDIA'S LARGEST airline IndiGo is yet to receive clarity from engine manufacturer Pratt & Whitney (P&W) about the schedule, duration, and impact of impending engine inspections that are bound to lead to the grounding of a number of aircraft in the carrier's A320neo fleet. While it awaits clarity from P&W, IndiGo has initiated mitigating measures—mainly extending leases on planes and adding new aircraft on lease—to tide over any disruption, the airline's chief executive officer Pieter Elbers said.



Inspections may lead to grounding of scores of planes. File

precise duration or what's going to be the precise impact. That all has to come clear in the months ahead... So, what we are doing, in fact, is creating a set of measures to deal with it," Elbers told reporters, adding that the airline is in constant touch with P&W to get more details in order to fine tune its mitigation strategy.

In July, P&W said that a powder metal defect could lead to cracking of some engine components in its geared turbofan engines for the A320neo aircraft, and called for accelerated inspections globally. These inspections could lead to grounding of scores of planes globally. According to IndiGo's own estimates, accelerated engine inspections and shop visits could adversely impact the

airline's operating fleet from the January-March quarter. Elbers, however, declined to comment on the number of planes that the airline expects to be affected.

This latest issue is in addition to earlier problems with the P&W engines, due to which over 40 IndiGo aircraft are already grounded. As of September 30, IndiGo's total fleet size stood at 334 planes, including 176 A320neo jets.

As part of the mitigating measures being put in place by IndiGo, the airline has retained 14 older Airbus A320ceo planes, extended leases on another 36 aircraft, and is in the process of taking 11 more planes on lease starting this month. It is also taking another 12 aircraft on lease from the secondary market, with deliveries expected from January. **FULL REPORT ON** www.indianexpress.com

Unique ID for mobile subscribers soon

JATIN GROVER
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 6

MOBILE SUBSCRIBERS will soon be allotted a unique customer ID by the government, which will act as their one-stop identification point for everything related to their primary as well as add-on phone connections.

The move, being finalised by the department of telecommunications is to protect users from cyberfrauds. The concept is similar to the 14-digit Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Account health ID. The mobile customer ID can also be used to seamlessly track SIM cards, locations from where users bought SIM cards, identification of users. FE

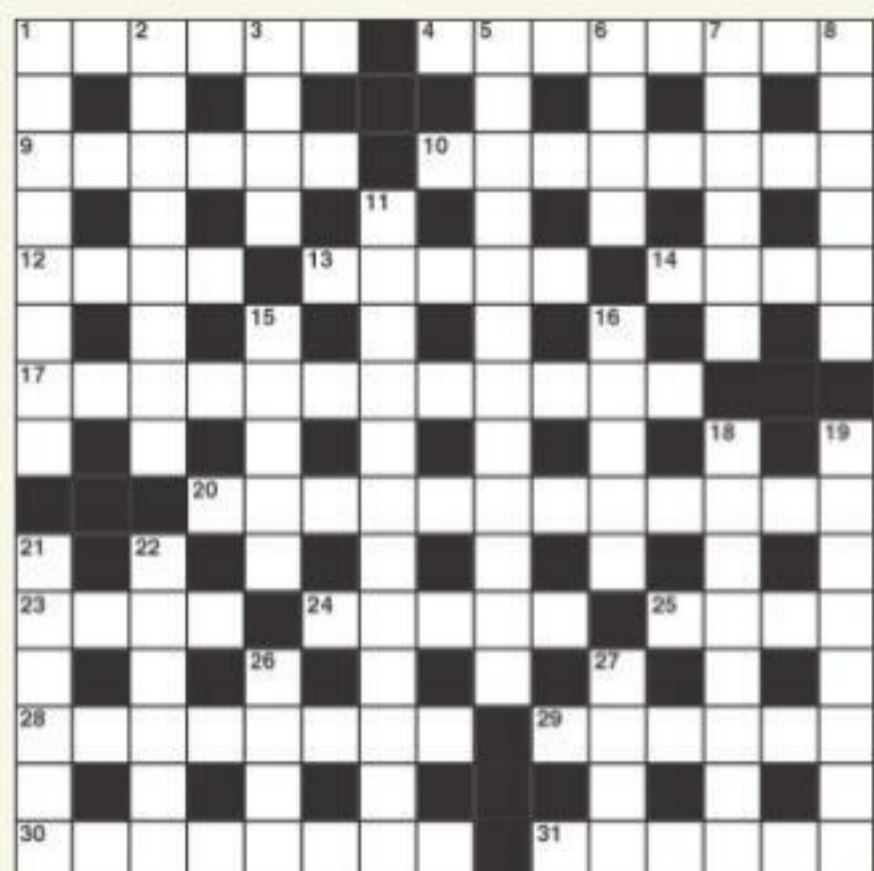
KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : 148/2023-24/KWA/PHC/D1/TVM & 147/2023-24/KWA/PHC/D1/TVM
(1) Jal Jeevan Mission- Providing water connections & Pipeline extension in Kilmanoor Panchayath, (2) Jal Jeevan Mission-Providing water connections and pipe line extension in Pazhayakunnummal panchayath. EMD: Rs. 2,00,000/- for TN.146 & 500000/- for TN. 147
Tender fee: Rs. 13,010/-for TN.146 & 19518/- for TN.147 Last Date for submitting Tender 28-11-2023 03:00:pm Phone: 04712322303 Website: www.kwa.kerala.gov.in
www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Supervising Engineer PH Circle Thiruvananthapuram
KWA-JB-GL-6-1531-2023-24

MALABAR CEMENTS LIMITED
(A Government of Kerala Undertaking)
An ISO 9001:2015, 14001:2015 Company, Walayar Post, Palakkad-678624-Kerala, Email : materials@malabarcentments.com / bulkmcl@malabarcentments.com
TENDER NOTICE
Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in for Online Submission of Bids for:
♦ Supply of Spares for ISUZU Engine fitted in Zaxis 450-1 Hydraulic Excavator at MCL- Mines. ♦ Supply of Gamma Ray Source, ♦ Supply of Grinding Media Balls. ♦ Supply of Pinion Bearing for Cement Mill, Malabar Cements Ltd, Cherthala Plant, Alappuzha. ♦ Collection and Transportation of Bulk Cement from Malabar Cements Ltd, Walayar/ Cement Grinding Unit (CGU), Pallipuram, Cherthala to various locations in Kerala and Tamil Nadu through Bulker. ♦ Design and Engineering manufacturing and supply erection and commissioning of 15MT steel cement bin 1 number with ancillary equipments. ♦ Loading of packed cements into Railway wagon. ♦ Unloading of Chemical Gypsum, Wet Fly Ash, Laterite, Limestone, Slag Clinker and store items like Refractory Bricks, Constaibles etc, from trucks at MCL, Walayar Plant. Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR

GUJARAT URJA VIKAS NIGAM LIMITED
CIN U40109GJ2004SGC045195
ISO 9001 -2015 Certified Company
Sardar Patel Vidya Bhavan, Racecourse, Vadodara 390007
PBX: (0265) 2310582-86, www.guvnl.com
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
GUVNL invites tenders for procurement of power from 500 MW Solar PV projects to be set up / under construction / already commissioned projects anywhere in India with Greenshoe option of additional capacity up to 500 MW without energy storage (GUVNL Phase-XXII) through RfS No. GUVNL / 500 MW / Solar (Phase XXII) dated 06.11.2023. For tender documents, please visit the website www.bharat-electronictender.com and www.guvnl.com. The last date of bid submission is 04.12.2023
Date: 07/11/2023 General Manager (RE)

KARNATAKA CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS' FEDERATION LIMITED
Unit: Cattle Feed Plant, Rajanukunte, Bangalore-560064, Karnataka
Tel: 080-28468295, Email: kmf@kmpf.coop / director.cfp@kmpf.coop
SHORT TERM E-TENDER FOR SINGLE ROTOR MOLASSES MIXER
Cattle Feed Plant, Rajanukunte, Bangalore - 560064 a unit of KMF invites tender from eligible tenderers for Single Rotor Molasses Mixer.
Tender documents along with EMD details may be downloaded from e-Procurement website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> interested tenderers may participate in the tender by logging on the website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and contact Help line No: 080-46010000 / 080-68948777 Email: support@eprocchelpdesk.com. And also may contact KMF Cattle Feed Plant, Rajanukunte. Ph No: 080-28468295, 9844600082. Our Unit will not be held responsible for the website problems like, last date of submission, non-receipt of the same & if any.
Tender IFT No. : KMF/CFRP/MACHINERY/01/2023-24. Date of Commencement of downloading of tender document from 31-10-2023 to 15-11-2023. Pre-bid Meeting : 07.11.2023, 11.30 Hours. Last date of tender submission through e-portal : 15-11-2023, 17.00 Hours. Time and date of opening of Technical bid (part-1) : 17-11-2023, 11.00 Hours. Time and date of opening of Commercial tenders. Will be intimated. Place of opening of tender: KMF Central Office, KMF Complex, Bangalore-560029. Address for Communication : Director, KMF Cattle Feed, Plant Rajanukunte, Bangalore-560064, Karnataka. Sd/- DIRECTOR KMF CATTLE FEED PLANT, RAJANUKUNTE

CROSSWORD 5202



- ACROSS**
- 1 Withheld payment in harbour (6)
 - 4 Beaten by Noah's son and only daughter (8)
 - 9 Sharpness shown by a man with a cue maybe (6)
 - 10 Defective hearing (8)
 - 12 Government measure (4)
 - 13 A bit off the fairway? (5)
 - 14 It tells you what the fare is (4)
 - 17 But one skater turns out to be an old comedian (6,6)
 - 20 Get up before ten (4,3,5)
 - 23 Verne's captain has returned (4)
 - 24 Appeal emotionally for a loan (5)
 - 25 It is usually found in top alluvia (4)
 - 28 Retain a foreign drink as a souvenir (8)
 - 29 Bird in cage or trap perhaps (6)
 - 30 Sort of step many debtors neglect to make (8)
 - 31 Poster designed quickly (6)
- DOWN**
- 1 Bitter criticism. I'd bear it somehow (8)
 - 2 Nothing to show here. It's just stupid (8)
 - 3 They see and show audible approval (4)
 - 5 A sheaf of corn that comes as a surprise (1,3,2,1,5)
 - 6 Child power makes itself heard (4)
 - 7 Was abusive yet guarded? (6)
 - 8 Composer is involved with duel (6)
 - 11 Just the place to keep a bill of fare (6,6)
 - 15 Joiner's instrument giving angles that aren't right (5)
 - 16 Soft cry of pain produces purse but not of the lips (5)
 - 18 Stays up when there are games about (8)
 - 19 It's to let out a killer perhaps (8)
 - 21 Jail sounds hair-raising (4-2)
 - 22 There's your hidden error (6)
 - 26 stole away to an isolated spot (4)
 - 27 Just not good enough to merit distinction (4)

Solutions Crossword 5201 Across: 1 Copes, 4 Crosses, 8 LR, 9 Bilingual, 10 Athlete, 11 Bravo, 13 Exodus, 15 Oscars, 18 Oakum, 19 Narrate, 21 Delivered, 23 Chi, 24 Rapidly, 25 Shelf Down, 1 Collage, 2 Patchwork, 3 Sable, 4 Caller, 5 Ornibus, 6 Sou, 7 Salvo, 12 Avalanche, 14 Unmoved, 16 Sheriff, 17 Energy, 18 Order, 20 Rides, 22 Lap

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

A man's opinion is in others; his ___ is in ___. - Joseph Hall (5...7)

NSEEI AEUHMN

LINGS ALUBFG

SOLUTION: SEINE, SING, HUMANE, BCFUL
Answer: A man's opinion is in himself - his being is in others; his being is in himself - Joseph Hall

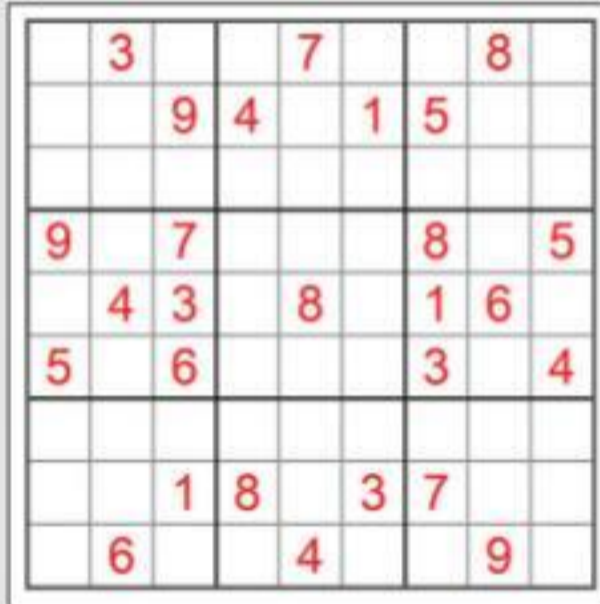
DIFFICULTY LEVEL 4s

INSTRUCTIONS
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

SUDOKU 5374



SOLUTION SUDOKU 5373



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Financial risks continue, but there is scope to side-step difficult issues, put arduous tasks to one side and emphasise sheer fun, pleasure and relaxation. Creative and competitive Arians will benefit, and be building up credit for the future.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

For all your energy and determination, you appear to be confused in several important respects. The point is that, although your good qualities are being emphasised at the moment, partners will just have to be very understanding and sympathetic indeed. And you will have to be patient.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Anything that disturbs your peace of mind must be dealt with, if only because you deserve to feel happy and relaxed. The last thing you want to do now is squander an opportunity. And if you're ahead of the game you'll already be tackling new wealth-generating opportunities.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Money matters zoom up to the top of your agenda. This is neither a good thing, nor is it bad. It does, however, reinforce the suspicion that you really must get cash questions sorted out. You must also make sure that partners are happy, even if you don't feel like it.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Colleagues and co-workers are bound to want more than you are prepared to give, but this will probably be the least of your problems. If you are able, turn your serious attention to spending plans. And if you're looking for a new job, the underlying trends are now moving in your favour.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

The positive aspect of current obstacles, hurdles and challenges is that you may become more experienced, self-confident and astute. You see, stars which are awkward for others are actually quite favourable for you. Fate certainly has some surprises in store.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

Your last word or family or domestic affairs has not been uttered. However, although underlying contradictions or complications may remain, the pressure to do something about them will be eased. And, as tension relaxes, so your optimism will grow.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

Your lunar patterns are distinctly challenging, but looking on the bright side, such periods tend to stimulate you into new achievements. Or, to put it another way, the best lessons are sometimes the most difficult. So, if you meet challenges head-on, you'll be the winner in the long run.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

I suspect that many Sagittarians are slightly confused. One planetary force is drawing you towards everything that is routine, ordinary and mundane, while another is urging you to be profound and spiritual. What you've got to do is try and bring the two together.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Creative aspirations and social passions seem to be at the centre of this week's stresses and strains. You may have strong feelings about certain people, and might do better not to get too closely involved. But then sometimes you just have to get in and stir the emotional pot.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

What magnificent times these are. Any adverse or challenging planetary influences signify that you are now presented with a remarkable opportunity to break the patterns and habits of a lifetime.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Creative activities are signified by the peculiar line-up of planets in active and energetic sectors of your chart. Bring your own unique talents to every area of your existence, both personal and professional. You'll be taking on new group responsibilities soon, by the way, so make some spare time.

PLEDGE CEREMONY - IREDA

Pradip Kumar Das, CMD, IREDA virtually administered the Integrity Pledge to all employees marking the commencement of 'Vigilance Awareness Week 2023' with the theme "Say No to Corruption; Commit to the Nation". The pledge ceremony was held in IREDA's office through hybrid mode in the presence of Dr. Bijay Kumar Mohanty, Dir. (Finance) & Ajay Kumar Sahani, Chief Vigilance Officer.

PLEDGE CEREMONY - BHEL

Dr. Nalin Shinghal, CMD, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, administered the Integrity Pledge to the employees at the company's Corporate Office in New Delhi, in the presence of Functional Directors and the Chief Vigilance Officer on the inaugural day of the Vigilance Awareness Week 2023.

EVENT - PRCI

Eminent speakers addressed a select group of PR professionals on the occasion of World Communicators Day in Secunderabad. The event, aimed at shedding light on the history of World Communicators Day, had insightful discussions and provided a unique platform for attendees to gain a deeper understanding of the importance of effective communication and its historical relevance.

VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK - OIL INDIA LTD.

Under the aegis of Central Vigilance Commission, Vigilance Awareness Week 2023 was observed in Oil India with the theme "Say no to corruption; commit to the Nation" across all the spheres and offices of the company. The Integrity Pledge was administered by Dir. (Finance) Harish Madhav and CVO Amit Saran, IRSME at OIL's corporate office, in the presence of CMD Dr. Ranjith Rath, CVO and the Functional Directors.

WORKSHOP - REC

REC Limited hosted an insightful workshop in New Delhi on 'Customised Debt-Financing for Commercial Mining & MDOs' which was attended by key stakeholders from the coal mining and financing sectors to delve into innovative financing solutions.

INAUGURATION - RAILTEL

In order to ensure the availability of competent and skilled manpower in the field of Railway Signalling RailTel has set up a Centre of Excellence. Sanjai Kumar, CMD/RailTel, inaugurated the centre in the presence of Director/Fin, Director/POM, Director/NPM and other senior RailTel officials.

INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE

The Sixth Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) was hosted on 31st Oct., 2023 in New Delhi & was presided over by Raj Kumar Singh, M/o Power & New & Renewable Energy, GOI in his capacity as the President of the ISA Assembly. Ministers from 20 countries & delegates from across 116 Member & Signatory countries participated in the Assembly.

INAUGURATION - THE MUTHOOT GROUP

The Muthoot Group inaugurated three Muthoot Smart Aanganwadi at Government Composite Vidyalaya, Karheda, Mohan Nagar, Ghaziabad. The inauguration was done by Alexander George Muthoot, Joint Managing Director of The Muthoot Group in the presence of Shashi Varshney, District Program Officer of Ghaziabad, Rotary Club Delhi Vastant Kunj Members, staff, teachers & Sevikas of Angnawadi.

CORPORATE BRIEFS



VAW CELEBRATIONS - POWERGRID

Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) is organizing various activities across its establishments in the country during Vigilance Awareness Week (VAW) 2023. CMD, Directors & CVO of POWERGRID led a walkathon to spread awareness as part of VAW 23 celebrations in which employees of the Corporate Centre in Gurugram participated. On this occasion, an integrity pledge was administered by K. Sreekant, CMD, POWERGRID, to employees & senior officials and messages by the President of India & the Vice President of India and Central Vigilance Commissioner were read.

AGREEMENT - GAIL

GAIL signed an agreement with Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited for 15-year supply of Propane for its upcoming petrochemical plant in Maharashtra's Usar. The agreement was signed in the presence of Sukhmal Jain, Dir. (Marketing), BPCL & Sanjay Kumar, Dir. (Marketing), GAIL by Kamlesh Sharma, ED (Marketing Retail), GAIL & D. V. Mamadapur, ED (LPG), BPCL. The 15-year supply contract, estimated at a value of over Rs. 63,000 crore, will see GAIL procuring 600 KTPA of Propane from BPCL's LPG import facility at Uran, which is presently capable of handling 1 MMTPA of LPG imports and is undergoing expansion to accommodate 3 MMTPA of propane and butane imports. The strategically positioned GAIL's PDH-PP project in Usar, Maharashtra, will be India's first propane dehydrogenation (PDH) plant, which is likely to commence operations in 2025. The PDH unit will boast a nameplate capacity of 500 KTPA, with propylene production seamlessly integrated into a polypropylene (PP) plant of equal capacity.

VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK - POWERGRID NR-I

As part of Vigilance Awareness Week 2023, a programme was inaugurated at POWERGRID Northern Region-I Headquarters in Faridabad, wherein an Integrity Pledge was administered by A.K. Mishra, Executive Director, NR-I, to all employees and Senior Officials. On this occasion, messages of the President of India, the Vice President of India and the Central Vigilance Commissioner were read out by the Senior Officers.

VAW INAUGURATION CEREMONY - THDCIL

THDCIL officially kicked off Vigilance Awareness Week 2023, having the theme - "Say No to Corruption, Commit to the Nation", with an inauguration ceremony held at its Corporate Office in Rishikesh. The event witnessed the presence of esteemed directors, including J. Behera, Dir. (Fin.), who administered the Integrity Pledge to employees, in the gracious presence of Shallinder Singh, Dir. (Pers.).

WAPCOS organized a "Conference on Special Campaign 3.0 & Preventive Vigilance" at Garvi Gujarat Bhawan in New Delhi. Debashree Mukherjee, Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti, GOI was the Chief Guest. RK Agrawal, CMD WAPCOS & NPCC; Piyush, Director, Brahma Kumaris, Delhi; Anupam Mishra, Dir. (Comm. & HRD), WAPCOS; & Anupam Chandra, Chief Vigilance Officer, WAPCOS & NPCC addressed the participants. Senior officers from the Ministry of Jal Shakti, WAPCOS & NPCC were present during the conference. The main events included a presentation on Impacts of Systematic Improvement at WAPCOS & NPCC, Talk on Special Campaign 3.0 & Nukkad Natak on Awareness Building about Public Interest Disclosure & Protection of Informers.

EIL The weeklong celebration of Vigilance Awareness Week 2023 was heralded by Vartika Shukla, CMD, EIL & Shruti Agnihotri, Chief Vigilance Officer, EIL, in an inaugural function held at EIL HO, New Delhi, in the presence of the company's Directors & employees, joining both physically and virtually. The Integrity Pledge was administered in English & Hindi to all employees present on the occasion.

APPOINTMENT

BHEL Koppu Sadashiv Murthy, 56, has assumed charge as CMD of BHEL. An Electrical Engineering graduate from Bhopal University with an MBA in Finance, he served as the ED of the Corporate Operations Management group at BHEL prior to this. He simultaneously held additional charge of CMD of Bharat Pumps and Compressors Limited (BPCL). During his 34 years of wide-ranging and hands-on experience in BHEL's Corporate Office and in various manufacturing units such as Hyderabad, Bhopal, Jhansi, and Varanasi, he has developed competencies in strategic, operational, project and commercial management.



PETRONET LNG LTD During the quarter ended 30 September 2023, Dahanu terminal processed 210 TBTU of LNG as against 182 TBTU during the corresponding quarter ended 30 September 2022, and 217 TBTU during the previous quarter ended 30 June 2023. The overall LNG volume processed by the Company in the current quarter was 223 TBTU, as against the LNG volume processed in the corresponding and previous quarters, which stood at 192 TBTU and 230 TBTU respectively. The Company has reported PBT of Rs 1,102 Cr. in the current quarter. The PAT of the current quarter was reported at Rs 818 Cr. Considering the performance, the Board of Directors of the Company has approved a special interim dividend of Rs 7.00 per share.

IIFCL organized a "Conference on Investment Opportunities between India and United Kingdom" in London, UK. P R Jaishankar, MD, IIFCL welcomed the Chief Guest Dr. Vivek Joshi, Secretary, Department of Financial Services, Government of India and other dignitaries. The conference saw the participation of senior officials from IIFCL, India Exim Bank, NHA, Indian High Commission, GMR International, ReNew Power, Grant Thornton, OneWeb, UK Council, HSBC, JP Morgan, Macquarie, Deloitte, GIP and other FIs, Banks and Fund Houses, etc. The objective of the conference was to bring stakeholders from the two nations on a common platform to interact and deliberate on promoting cooperation between India and UK and explore potential avenues of investment in India's rapidly growing infrastructure sector.

GAIL reported Revenue from Operations of Rs 64,050 crores for the period April - September 2023 as compared to Rs 76,063 crores in corresponding period of Financial Year 2022-23. Profit before Tax (PBT) for H1 Financial Year 24 stood at Rs 5,019 crores. Profit after Tax (PAT) stood at Rs 3,817 crores. Quarter on Quarter basis, Revenue from Operations reported is Rs 31,823 crores in Q2 Financial Year 24. PBT registered a jump of 66% to Rs 3,130 crores in Q2 Financial Year 24 and PAT followed the way with an increase of 70% to Rs 2,405 crore in Q2 FY24 as against Rs 1,412 crore in previous quarter. The Consolidated Revenue from Operations on quarterly basis stood at Rs 33,049 crore in Q2 Financial Year 24. PBT registered a growth of 37% to Rs 3,138 crores in Q2 Financial Year 24. PAT (excluding Non-controlling interest) increased by 36% to Rs 2,444 crore in Q2 Financial Year 24.

ONGC The Board of Directors of Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL), a subsidiary company of ONGC, approved its Standalone and Consolidated Unaudited Financial Results for Q2 FY 2023-24 & H1 FY 2023-24 that ended 30 September 2023. The Major highlights for Q2 FY 2023-24 included a record highest gross crude throughput of 1,438.5 TMT and the highest Refinement Dispatch of 102.2 TMT as well as the highest MS-VI Domestic Dispatch-188 TMT in the month of July 2023. It is the first Indian refinery to be certified with AS9100D:2016 for production, certification and distribution of Aviation Turbine Fuel.

EXPLAINED TECH

RASHMIKA MANDANNA CONTROVERSY: HOW YOU CAN SPOT A DEEPPFAKE



The original video features a British Indian woman (left). Mandanna's face is morphed onto it.

A DEEPPFAKE video of actor Rashmika Mandanna posted online has triggered a controversy. The original video features a British Indian woman, and in the edited version, Mandanna's face is morphed onto it. With improvements in technology related to artificial intelligence (AI), deepfakes are becoming common on the internet. Here's how they can be spotted:

- Unnatural eye movements**
Deepfake videos often exhibit unnatural eye movements or gaze patterns. In genuine videos, eye movements are typically smooth and coordinated with the person's speech and actions.
- Mismatches in colour, lighting**
Deepfake creators may have difficulty replicating accurate colour tones and lighting conditions. Pay attention to any inconsistencies in the lighting on the subject's face and surroundings.
- Audio quality**
Deepfake videos often use AI-generated audio that may have subtle imperfections.

ated audio that may have subtle imperfections.

Strange body posture, movement
Deepfakes can sometimes result in unnatural body shapes or movements. For example, limbs may appear too long or short, or the body may move in an unusual or distorted manner. Deepfakes may also struggle to maintain a natural posture.

Artificial facial movements
Deepfake software may not always accurately replicate genuine facial expressions. Look for facial movements that seem exaggerated, out of sync with speech, or unrelated to the context of the video. You can also take a screenshot of the video and run a reverse image search to check the source and the original video. Go to images.google.com, click on the camera icon that says 'Search by image'. You can then upload the screenshot and Google will show you if visuals associated with it are taken from other videos.

ANKITA DESHKAR

EXPLAINED POLLUTION

Does odd-even work?

The road-apportioning scheme will be implemented for the fourth time in Delhi. Does it help combat air pollution? Here are the facts about the bad air in the capital, and what the past experience shows

ARJUN SENGUPTA & MALLICA JOSHI
 NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 6

THE DELHI government has announced the return of the odd-even road apportioning scheme for a week beginning the morning after Diwali, when the already "severe" and "severe plus" air pollution may be expected to get even worse.

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data show the average air quality index (AQI) reading in Delhi was 421 on Monday, with PM 2.5 being the prominent pollutant. AQI over the past few days has been consistently above 450.

On CPCB's scale, an AQI between 201 and 300 is "poor", 301-400 is "very poor", 401-500 is "severe", and anything higher is in the "severe plus" category.

November 13-20 will be the fourth time the vehicle-rationing scheme will be implemented in Delhi in the last seven years. Odd-even is among the most drastic responses to the annual spike in air pollution that the capital and its neighbourhood sees every year around this time.

What does the odd-even scheme entail?
When odd-even is in force, cars can ply only on alternate days, based on their registration number. So, cars with numbers ending in an odd digit will be allowed on the street on odd dates (November 13, 15, 17, and 19), and those with numbers ending in an even digit will be allowed on even dates (November 14, 16, 18, and 20). The idea is to cut the number of cars on the road by roughly half which, the Delhi government hopes, will bring down AQI levels somewhat.

The scheme was tried out twice in 2016, and then in 2019. Several categories of vehicles were exempt, including taxis (which are CNG-run), cars driven by women (for considerations of safety), electric and hybrid vehicles, and all two-wheelers. The details of the new scheme have not been announced yet. Sources in the Delhi Transport Department said there are an estimated 75 lakh active Delhi-registered vehicles currently, about a third of which are cars. The odd-even scheme would, therefore, mean that about 12.5 lakh cars would go off the roads each day, not considering electric and hybrids. About 20 lakh vehicles that are registered in the NCR cities or elsewhere also ply in



On the Gurgaon-Delhi border on Nov 4, 2019, when the odd-even scheme was in force. Express Archive

What fouls Delhi's air

Consolidated source contributions to annual avg PM2.5 concentrations

Sector/Source Category	Annual Contribution Range
Vehicle exhaust (petrol, diesel and CNG)	10-30%
Dust from roads and construction activities	10-30%
Industrial sources, including power plants	10-30%
Residential cooking and heating activities	<10% summer, <30% winter
Open waste burning	5-15%
Power plants (mostly outside city limits)	Under 7%
Dust storms as a seasonal regional source	Under 5%
Agricultural residue burning (seasonal)	Under 3%
Diwali firecrackers	Under 1%

Source: What is Polluting Delhi's Air? A Review from 1990 to 2022, Guttikunda et al.

Delhi. Broadly speaking though, they do not necessarily add to the traffic load in Delhi at any given time, because roughly the same number of Delhi-registered vehicles can be expected to be in the NCR at the same time.

According to the Delhi Statistical Handbook 2022 published by the Directorate of Economics & Statistics of the Delhi government, as on March 31, 2022, the number of registered "cars and jeeps" in Delhi was 20,57,657, and the number of "motor cycles and scooters" was 51,35,821. The rest of the total 77,39,369 vehicles were made up by autorickshaws, taxis, buses, goods vehicles and tractors, etc.

To what extent are vehicular emissions responsible for Delhi's bad air?
There are multiple reasons behind the current crisis. Delhi is situated in a shallow atmospheric 'bowl', in which pollutants are trapped easily. When combined with falling temperatures and slow wind speeds, pollutants are not dissipated, and tend to hang low over the surface, causing Delhi's infamous smog.

Adding to this is the smoke from the countless fires that burn across Punjab and Haryana at this time as farmers, rushing to prepare their fields for the *rabi* crop, set fire to the stubble that is left in the fields after the *kharif* crop has been harvested. While sources of pollution like vehicular emissions or road dust are present round the year, the farm fires and atmospheric conditions around Diwali act as force multipliers.

A study by the environment and climate change think tank Centre for Science and Environment, (CSE) found that at their peak in past years, farm fires contributed to 40%

of the PM 2.5 concentration in the air. This year, on November 3, 4, and 5, the daily mean contribution from biomass burning to the PM 2.5 concentration in Delhi was 35%, 20%, and 21% respectively, according to Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology data.

Farm fires, however, burn in a small window — and taken for the year as a whole, their contribution to Delhi's air pollution is only around 3% or less. Studies have suggested that the bulk of Delhi's air pollution is caused by local sources, and vehicles contribute up to 30% of the city's annual PM 2.5 concentration.

Vehicles also emit other pollutants such as NO₂, and the CSE estimates that levels of the gas this year are up by as much as 60% compared to the same time last year. Certain high traffic locations have reported levels as high as three-four times the 24-hour standard.

So, does odd-even make sense, given the inevitable hardships it will cause?

Odd-even has been tried in cities in China, Mexico, and France as well. Its efficacy has been hotly debated almost everywhere.

After the 2019 scheme was implemented, *The Indian Express* analysed its efficacy, comparing AQI levels in Delhi with those in Gurgaon, Ghaziabad, and Noida — also in the NCR region (thus sharing similar environmental factors) but where the odd-even scheme was not implemented.

The results were clear: the average AQI decreased most significantly in the national capital, where odd-even was in place.

The average AQI in Delhi between October 23 and November 3, 2019, before the implementation of odd-even, was 369.5. During odd-even, from November 4-15, the average AQI was 328.5 — a 41-point reduction. In the same period, AQI in Gurgaon went up by 7.6 points, and showed small reductions in Noida (12.3 points) and Ghaziabad (13.6 points).

However, despite this data, experts say determining the exact impact of an individual measure on air pollution is difficult.

"As air quality depends on so many factors, it is not easy to say what effect one action such as odd-even has. For instance, on the first day that odd-even was implemented, strong winds were seen... A significant reduction in AQI was noticed... To say odd-even works or doesn't will be akin to ignoring all other factors at play," a senior official in the Environment Ministry had told *The Indian Express* in 2019.

THIS WORD MEANS TIMED OUT

Angelo Mathews became the first cricketer in 146 years of international cricket to be timed out

AS ANGELO MATHEWS walked out to bat on Monday, during Sri Lanka's World Cup clash against bitter rivals Bangladesh in New Delhi, the strap of his helmet seemingly broke. While he waited for a replacement, Bangladesh skipper Shakib Al Hasan appealed, and Mathews was given out.

caught, bowled, leg before wicket (lbw), run out, and stumped. The controversial 'Mankad' comes under the category of a run out.

Less common are retired out, hit the ball twice, hit wicket, obstructing the field, and timed out. However, except timed out, even these rare modes of dismissal have been seen multiple times in international games. The rarity of this mode is due to the fact that the opposition never appeals for it.

In cricket, a batter can only be given out if the opposition appeals for the wicket. "Neither umpire shall give a batter out, even though he may be out under these Playing Conditions, unless appealed to by a fielder," Rule 31.1 of the Playing Conditions states. A batter may decide to walk without an appeal being made (say, after a faint knock and caught behind), but other than that, the fielding team must appeal.

The captain of a fielding team also has the option to withdraw an appeal, after which an umpire can overturn a decision to recall a batter given out (case in point, the infamous Ian Bell runout in 2011, when Indian captain MS Dhoni withdrew his team's appeal). In this case, Shakib refused to do so, leaving umpires no choice but to give Mathews out.

ENS

Why is this mode of dismissal so rare?

There are currently 10 modes of dismissal in cricket. The most common (in descending order of frequency) are

ANONNA DUTT
 NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 6

WHILE THERE is some evidence that an odd-even vehicle policy reduces pollutant levels, experts say the available data lacks consistency, and the reduction achieved may not be sufficient to address health-related impacts. "It is not even a band-aid," said Dr Sagnik Dey, professor and coordinator, Centre of Excellence for Research in Clean Air at the Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi.

Can odd-even prevent health issues?
Explaining why odd-even is not a long-term solution, Dr Dey said: "With several exceptions, odd-even doesn't really cut the number of vehicles plying on the roads by 50%. More importantly, the reduction in emissions doesn't always mean a reduction in the pollutant concentration in the air, as that depends on meteorological factors like wind speed. The evidence so far shows an uneven impact — while some areas have

seen reductions, others have not, or the reduction has been only for a few hours."

Dr Dey added that there is no study to show whether this small reduction in air pollution levels impacts people's health.

Dr Karan Madan, additional professor of pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine at AIIMS, Delhi, agreed: "When the PM2.5 levels are over 500, a 20% decrease would mean a drop to only 400. That is still very harmful."

Long-term exposure to pollution is associated with increased risk of hypertension, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases like heart attacks and strokes. It is known to increase the risk of chronic lung diseases, cancers, lower immunity, and also leads to depression.

What do studies say?
Several studies have shown a decrease in the level of particulate matter when the odd-even scheme is in effect in Delhi. This reduction, however, has only been around 5 to 10%.

A study of the 2016 implementation of odd-even using satellite data, by Dr Dey and Dr SN Tripathi of IIT Kanpur, found a 2 to 3%

decrease in PM2.5 concentration in most of Delhi, barring three pockets where it went down by 8 to 10%. Another study from Delhi Technical University found a 5.73% reduction in PM2.5 levels on average and 4.70% in PM1.

The studies said that the lower PM levels could be because of fewer cars, and also because of traffic moving faster on decongested roads and engines idling less. The studies noted that the sharpest drop in PM levels was observed during midday and not early morning, when the cold temperatures keep the pollutants suspended close to the ground.

Another study by scholars from IIT Delhi and two UK colleges compared PM levels in 2016, when odd-even was implemented, with the same period the previous year. It found that PM2.5 ranged from -2 to -44% from the previous year during odd-even hours, but was higher by 2-127% during non-odd-even hours.

Why is reduction of NO2 important?
There could be one important benefit from the odd-even scheme. With fewer vehicles on

the road and less congestion, Dr Dey said, it stands to reason that gaseous pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide, primarily coming from vehicular emissions, would also reduce.

This is significant, because a recent AIIMS study found that emergency room visits increased more with an increase in NO₂ levels, than with PM2.5. Short-term exposure to nitrogen dioxide led to a 53% increase in the number of patients who visited the hospital's emergency room up to a week later.

So what needs to be done, then?

The measures are to kick in after Diwali, and hence won't help with the pollution caused by crackers. Doctors suggested people stay away from crackers.

As for long-term solutions, Dr Dey said measures such as phasing out BS-IV vehicles and bringing in more electric vehicles are likely to show results in the coming years. Measures like odd-even should be implemented in a regional manner and not in Delhi alone, he said.

Dr Madan also called for the use of air purifiers in schools.

A National Security Strategy for India: what it should be guided by

EXPERT EXPLAINS



VICE ADMIRAL BISWAJIT DASGUPTA (RETD)

ALONG wait is said to be coming to an end as the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) sets about drafting India's first written National Security Strategy (NSS). India has never had such a document — and the debate on whether one is needed is of fairly recent origin, spanning the last two decades or so.

Should India have a publicly articulated National Security Strategy?

In other words, does the public need to know how the Indian government plans to handle national security in all its dimensions? Of course, they must know.

It is basic to their existence and well-being as a body of people that is called the nation. In the absence of a publicly articulated NSS, there would be a lack of cohesion and

common understanding, and diverse interpretations of what may be in the interest of national security.

It is entirely possible that we do not have one so far because we did not, till now, have the strategic maturity and confidence to articulate such a strategy. The growing maturity of our military and strategic communities and changes in our apex security management structure are recent phenomena. This is one of the main reasons why we have now mustered the courage to draft an NSS.

What will it take to draft the strategy?

The NSS would have to embrace all aspects of security. Military security would be only one aspect of the canvas, which would include economic, internal, diplomatic, human, climate, food, water, and every other conceivable form of security necessary for the well-being of India's people.

Military and internal security would be a significant enabler for every other kind of security. The management of defence and internal security would therefore need to be robust and well-articulated.

The all-encompassing nature of this strategy would require wide consultations.

It is beyond the capability and understanding of a handful of people who staff the NSCS, however brilliant they may be. Each of the numerous aspects of security is in itself multidimensional, and would impact the manner in which we conduct business.

The preparation of the NSS, therefore, would necessarily be an iterative process. It would need many reiterations of inter-ministerial consultancy before it is ready for consideration by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), which would then accord final approval.

The NSS would contain several features that may not be appropriate for public release. There will thus be a need for two versions, one for the public and one strictly for a classified readership.

The rising stature of India and its growth projections over the next few decades have made it a significant player in world affairs for the present and the foreseeable future. Many countries see their futures as intertwined with India's growth story. Additionally, complex global, regional, and local geopolitical scenarios will ensure detailed scrutiny and comment on our publicly articulated NSS. It, therefore, has to be an in-

involved exercise with ownership and approval at the highest levels of government.

What would be the guiding principles of the NSS?

Doctrine normally precedes strategy. A doctrine is a set of established or agreed principles that guide actions. A strategy is a plan of action that emanates from doctrine.

While doctrines are more permanent than strategies, they must remain flexible to cater to changing paradigms and conceptual shifts. Doctrines must be reviewed periodically to ensure they remain relevant and do not become dogmas. And with every update in doctrine, the strategy must be reviewed. Another feature of doctrine and strategy is that they must be taught in order to facilitate a common understanding among planners and practitioners of national security. This is yet another need that the NSS must fulfill.

We are embarking on the drafting of an NSS without having specifically articulated our National Security Doctrine. However, we do have the longest written Constitution in the world. The drafters of the NSS would do well to prepare for themselves a set of guiding principles culled out from this

Constitution, that would aid in formulating a strategy in consonance with those principles.

What doctrines and strategies must the NSS be mindful of?

There is a hierarchy of doctrines. Doctrines at the national strategic level are formulated and approved at the highest echelons of government — for example, the Nuclear Doctrine. Lower doctrines are formulated at the military-strategic, operational, and tactical levels for different levels of war-fighting (in the military) or tackling internal disorder (for police/paramilitary forces).

Each higher doctrine and its accompanying strategy must guide the formulation of associated lower doctrines. The NSS must serve this critical doctrinal function.

To illustrate this point with an example from the military: the NSS should become the starting point for theaterisation of the Indian armed forces. It should, therefore, state that the Indian armed forces will be constituted into theatres, with the Theatre Commander (TC) being responsible to the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) for all military operations conducted in the theatre.

The NSS should also provide doctrinal

clarity on all aspects that will enable the CDS to draft his Theatre Doctrines, which in turn will guide the TCs to formulate their theatre strategies. Every other lower doctrine or strategy will take guidance from and be in consonance with the higher doctrines. Therefore, apart from lateral consultations, vertical consultations may also be prudent while formulating not just the NSS but lower doctrines as well.

How soon can the NSS be expected?

It is not known how much progress the drafters of the NSS have made so far. This is not an exercise to be carried out in haste; at the same time, there should be no hesitation in putting out an NSS Mark 1 and keep refining it as implementation progresses, and changing circumstances force adaptations. As mentioned earlier, no doctrine or strategy is cast in stone.

So, while we must have an NSS, it will be wise to make haste slowly. Two years from today could be a reasonable timeframe.

Vice Admiral Dasgupta, PVSM AVSM, retired as Commander-in-Chief of the Eastern Naval Command in July 2023



Heated exchange on and off the field

After being timed out post his helmet strap breaking, Mathews calls it 'disgraceful', while Shakib feels 'everything is fair in war'

TUSHAR BHADURI
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 6

SPARKS FLEW after the Sri Lanka-Bangladesh match over Angelo Mathews' timed out dismissal as both protagonists in the saga had a go at each other, with no handshakes between the teams after the incident-ridden game.

"Absolutely disgraceful. We all play to win but I never thought a team or player would stoop to such levels to get a wicket," Mathews told the media after the game in which Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan appealed for the unusual mode of dismissal. The three-wicket defeat mathematically knocked out the islanders from the World Cup. "I did nothing wrong. I reached the crease in time. It was an equipment malfunction and I was not wasting time or trying to gain an advantage. Common sense should have prevailed."

The former Lankan skipper didn't spare the umpires either.

"We have video evidence that I was ready to take strike with five seconds left in the two-minute time limit. The umpires could have checked before arriving at a decision." Mathews also had no qualms over his team not shaking hands with the opposition after the game. He has earlier dismissed Shakib during the Bangladesh innings, denying him a hundred, and pointed to an imaginary watch on his wrist to suggest 'it was time to go' as the left-hander made his way back.

"This was bringing the game into disrepute. This was not something like Mankading or Obstructing the Field where the rules are pretty clear. If the non-striker is out of his ground, he can be run out. If the batsman intentionally gets into the path of a throw to stop it from hitting the stumps, he can be declared out. But this is not such a case. We show respect to people who respect us. We are all ambassadors of the game. I had the utmost respect for Shakib, until today," the veteran said. "He had the choice to take back his appeal, but didn't do so."

The two teams have had a lot of bad blood in previous encounters and Mathews indicated that it had something to do with the incident midway through the Lankan innings. Both teams have indulged in the now-infamous 'Naagin' dance after victories over the last five years, taunting the other side. "I don't think if it would have been any other team, they would have done what they did."

Unapologetic

On his part, Shakib showed zero remorse for what he did.

"I have no regrets. I have been playing against Angelo since our U-19 days. I think it was 2006 when we played against each other for the first time. What happened was unfortunate for him, but rules are rules," he said. When asked whether what transpired could be considered to be within the confines of the spirit of cricket, the Bangladesh captain replied: "In that case, ICC should change the rules." He even hinted that a cricketing contest was more than just a game. "It's war and everything is fair in it."

Shakib also blamed the Sri Lankan team for refusing to shake hands after the game.

"It was they who left," a claim confirmed later by his teammate Towhid Hridoy. When asked what would be his reaction if the show was on the other foot and the opposition had appealed for his dismissal in similar circumstances, Shakib retorted: "I will be careful so that it doesn't happen to me." Mathews argued that the whole situation was not just about the interpretation of rules, but about player safety as well. There were some suggestions that he could have faced the first ball within the stipulated time without a helmet and then taken his time to change it after the strap broke.

"We talk all the time about the safety of players. Even wicketkeepers wear helmets while standing up to spinners. How would I know that the strap would break? How can I take guard without the helmet? Such an incident has never happened in my 15-year



Angelo Mathews argues with umpires after Bangladesh appealed for a timed out. Mathews needed to change his helmet because of a faulty strap.

Absolutely disgraceful. We all play to win but I never thought a team or player would stoop to such levels to get a wicket. I did nothing wrong. I reached the crease in time. It was an equipment malfunction and I was not wasting time or trying to gain an advantage. Common sense should have prevailed."

ANGELO MATHEWS
ON THE CONTROVERSY

career," the all-rounder said.

"Whose fault is this? It's just a technicality and common sense should have been used. The umpires have a bigger job in such circumstances."

'Laughable' contention

Fourth umpire Adrian Holdstock had said during the innings break that Mathews had already exhausted the two minutes allowed to him before the strap of his helmet broke, and the correct decision was made. The Lankan termed that contention "laughable."

"If you ask him now, I'm sure he will have a different answer. The on-field umpires saw what happened with my helmet strap."

Mathews also asked: "What if something like this happens in the last over of a match with 3 or 4 runs to get?"

This is only the latest chapter in the festering rivalry between the two subcontinental teams, who have been knocked out of contention for the World Cup, but managed to grab eyeballs not with the quality of cricket in the match, which was largely mediocre, but with the animosity between the two sets of players, which was evident with the number of heated exchanges during the game.

Why Ganguly was spared despite a 6-minute delay

SRIRAM VEERA
NOVEMBER 6

SRI LANKA all-rounder Angelo Mathews became the first international cricketer to be "timed out" after not being ready to face his first ball within two minutes of the dismissal of the previous batsman against Bangladesh. Mathews, 36, walked out to the middle after the dismissal of Sadeera Samarawickrama but had some issues with his helmet strap and signalled for a replacement. This resulted in Bangladesh appealing for a "time out".

MCC's time out law reads thus: Law 40.1.1 After the fall of a wicket or the retirement of a batter, the incoming batter must, unless Time has been called, be ready to receive the ball, or for the other batter to be ready to receive the next ball within 2 minutes of the dismissal or retirement. If this requirement is not met, the incoming batter will be out, Timed out.

The timed out as a method of dismissal was added to the Laws in the 1980 code. In the 2000 code it was revised to 3 minutes, though the playing conditions in this world cup gives the incoming batsman just 2 minutes. The first printed Laws of cricket, in 1775, required the umpires to allow "Two Minutes for each Man to come in when one is out". Here is a look at some previous episodes from first-class cricket.

The first in the casualty list

South Africa's Andrew Jordan was declared timed-out retrospectively nearly 15 years after the event. In a 1987 domestic game, Eastern Province's Jordan was unbeaten overnight against Transvaal in Port



Elizabeth. But he couldn't come to the ground the next day in time as the streets were water-logged after heavy rains. He was declared Timed out. This was a game organised by the South African board for non-white players during the apartheid era. And in early 2000's, it was recognised as a first-class game retrospectively after the apartheid policy was abolished. And Jordan was recorded as 'Timed-out'.

Any Indian in this elite list?

In fact, before Jordan's introduction into the list, Tripura's Hemulal Yadav was the first recorded batsman dismissed Timed out in 1997. His reasons for not coming in are as Indian as it gets: he was busy chatting, just beyond the boundary. When the ninth wicket had fallen, Yadav was just beyond the boundary, and the umpires had called drinks. Yadav continued talking with his team manager. Not sure what the interesting conversation was about, as neither did he budge nor did the manager nudge him. And when the Orissa players appealed - Debasish Mohanty was playing that game, incidentally - the umpires ruled Yadav timed-out. One assumes, he continued with the chat. War-victim? Sorry can't help - the real first incident of timed-out

Everything about this is extraordinary - even Harold Heygate's existence in Sussex's playing XI. On the morning of the game in 1919, Sussex had found themselves

with only 10 players and on spotting their former player Heygate (34 years), they cautioned him into playing. Heygate was gripped with rheumatism, ailment he suffered in the trenches during the First World War, and hadn't bowled or batted in the game until then.

When Sussex's ninth wicket fell in the second innings, the scores were level. Realising the importance of the moment, Heygate began to hobble out to bat. In his book 'Sunshine, Sixes and Cider', David Foot recounts that Heygate, who was seen on day 2 sitting in the pavilion with blue serge suit, made a brave attempt to get to the field of play to join his captain. But time kept ticking and when the Somerset players appealed, the umpire ruled him out. It was not recorded as 'Timed out' but as 'Absent hurt' in the Wisden scorecard.

Wisden shook in moral rage over the incident. "Whether or not Heygate would have been able to crawl to the wicket, it was very unsportsmanlike that such a point should have been raised when there remained ample time to finish the match."

A delayed flight

The third recorded timed out was that of the West Indian fast bowler Vasebert Drakes, playing in South Africa domestic cricket in the 2002-03 season. He was playing for Border against Free State, but it could be said he was a touch unfortunate in that dismissal: he wasn't even in South Africa at the time as his flight had been inordinately delayed and he hadn't arrived in time to join the game as planned. He had been playing for the West Indies in the Champions Trophy

SCORECARD

SRI LANKA vs BANGLADESH

ARUN JAITELY STADIUM, NEW DELHI
Toss: Pakistan, elected to bat first

SRI LANKA

P Nissanka b Sakib 41 (36b, 8x4)
K Perera c Mushfiqur b Shoriful 4 (5b, 1x4)
K Mendis c Shoriful b Shakib 19 (30b, 1x4, 1x6)
S Samarawickrama c Mahmudullah b Shakib 41 (42b, 4x4)

C Asalanka c Das b Sakib 108 (105b, 6x4, 5x6)
A Mathews timed out 0
Dhananjaya st Mushfiqur b Miraz 34 (36b, 4x4, 1x6)

M Theekshana c sub (Nasum) b Shoriful 21 (31b, 3x4)
D Chameera run out 4 (9b)
K Rajitha c Das b Sakib 0 (2b)
D Madushanka not out 0 (1b)

■ Extras (lb 3, w 4) 7
■ Total 49.3 Ov (RR: 5.63) 279

■ FoW: 1-5 (Kusal Perera, 0.6 ov), 2-66 (Kusal Mendis, 11.3 ov), 3-72 (Pathum Nissanka, 12.4 ov), 4-135 (Sadeera Samarawickrama, 24.2 ov), 5-135 (Angelo Mathews, 24.2 ov), 6-213 (Dhananjaya de Silva, 37.6 ov), 7-258 (Maheesh Theekshana, 45.6 ov), 8-278 (Charith Asalanka, 48.4 ov), 9-278 (Kasun Rajitha, 48.6 ov), 10-279 (Dushmantha Chameera, 49.3 ov)

■ Bowling: Shoriful Islam 9.3-0-51-2, Taskin Ahmed 10-1-39-0, Tanzim Hasan Sakib 10-0-80-3, Shakib Al Hasan 10-0-57-2, Mehidy Hasan Miraz 10-0-49-1

BANGLADESH

T Hasan c Nissanka b Madushanka 9 (5b, 2x4)
L Das lbw b Madushanka 23 (22b, 2x4, 2x6)
N H Shanto b Mathews 90 (101b, 12x4)
Shakib c Asalanka b Mathews 82 (65b, 12x4, 2x6)

Mahmudullah b Theekshana 22 (23b, 3x4, 1x6)
M Rahim b Madushanka 10 (13b, 1x4)
T Hridoy not out 15 (7b, 2x6)
MH Miraz c Asalanka b Theekshana 3 (5b)

■ Theekshana not out 5 (6b, 1x4)
■ Extras (lb 13, w 10) 23
■ Total 41.1 Ov (RR: 6.85) 282/7

■ FoW: 1-17 (Tanzid Hasan, 2.1 ov), 2-41 (Litton Das, 6.2 ov), 3-210 (Shakib Al Hasan, 31.1 ov), 4-211 (Najmul Hossain Shanto, 33.2 ov), 5-249 (Mushfiqur Rahim, 37.4 ov), 6-255 (Mahmudullah, 38.3 ov), 7-269 (Mehidy Hasan Miraz, 40.1 ov)

■ Bowling: Dilshan Madushanka 10-1-69-3, Maheesh Theekshana 9-0-44-2, Kasun Rajitha 4-0-47-0, Dushmantha Chameera 8-0-54-0, Angelo Mathews 7.1-1-35-2, Dhananjaya de Silva 3-0-20-0

EXPLAINED

When Ganguly escaped

Even Steve Waugh knows Ganguly doesn't arrive on time. But why was he allowed to bat despite being 6 minutes late?

In India's second innings trying to set South Africa a target in the 2007 Test in Cape Town, Ganguly suddenly found out that he had to bat. The openers had fallen by the second

ball of the second over, but the regular No.4 Sachin Tendulkar wasn't allowed to bat by the umpires due to the time he had spent off the field the previous evening on day three when South Africa were batting. When Wasim Jaffer fell at 10.43 am, the fourth umpire Murray Brown informed that Tendulkar can't bat till 10:48 am.

"We don't remind players each morning that they can be out lbw or caught or bowled," the on-field umpire Daryl Harper later said. "Players must be responsible for knowing the conditions." The next man slotted in the batting order was VVS Laxman, but he was unsurprisingly in the show. He liked his baths, did VVS. Ganguly tried his best to quickly change from his tracksuit into batting gear but more minutes elapsed. Harper explained the situation to South Africa's captain Graeme Smith, who generously allowed Ganguly to join Rahul Dravid.

Ganguly was the second highest Indian scorer (46 from 89 balls) but India were shot out for 169. And South Africa would win that match.

LIFE IN DEAD RUBBER

Mathews's timed-out wicket reignites rivalry but Bangladesh have last laugh

NAMIT KUMAR
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 6

WITH BOTH teams out of World Cup semifinal contention, and much of the buildup highlighted by the toxic air around the smog-filled cauldron of the Kotla, the latest edition to the feisty cricket rivalry between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka seemed to be heading down an eventless path midway through the first innings. All of a sudden, it got its moment of animosity.

Angelo Mathews's timed out dismissal will cause much debate. Over the 'spirit of cricket' after Bangladesh skipper Shakib Al Hassan appealed for the decision - which was well within the rules - when Mathews seemed to have a problem with his helmet. Over Mathews's lack of awareness of the rules. Over the rules themselves, as a batsman's malfunctioning equipment led to his dismissal without facing a ball.

What is not up for debate though is that the episode breathed life into the match, lighting

the fire in Sri Lanka's middle order to toil to a total of 279, thanks to a hard-fought, well-paced ton by Charith Asalanka. But if the victimhood galvanised Sri Lanka, it was Bangladesh, and chiefly Shakib, that were fired up in the role of perceived villain.

The narrative thickened in the second innings; Mathews' resentful energy heightened the bad blood between the two teams - and there had been plenty in the recent past; Shakib fed off it; a noisy Delhi crowd got involved. Dilshan Madhushanka cleaned up Bangladesh' openers with his swing-seam mastery, and brought Shakib into the middle early. In Mathews' first over right after the powerplay, having already been beaten once, Shakib charged down the ground and mistimed his heave to short cover, where Asalanka dropped him.

By the time Mathews did get his moment of reckoning, getting Shakib's wicket in the 32nd over and hilariously gesturing to an imagined watch on his hand, the damage had been done. The skipper had gone on to hit a 65-ball 82, put up a 169-run fourth-wicket partner-



Najmul Shanto (90 off 101) top-scored for Bangladesh. Amit Mehra

ship with Najmul Hossain Shanto, and taken the match away from the Lankans. "I appealed and the umpires asked me if I'm serious or whether I am going to take it back. It's in the laws. I don't know if it's right or wrong. I was at war and I had to make a decision to make sure my team wins. Right or wrong, there will be debates but if it is in the rules I don't mind taking those chances. That (altercation with Mathews) helped, bit more fight, I'm 36 and normally fight doesn't come easily but happy it did today," Shakib would say later.

Pollution had played a big role in the buildup to the game, and Monday was the fifth consecutive day AQI levels were in the 'severe' category in the capital. The ICC, BCCI, and DDCA had consulted a pulmonologist for any necessary measures, including use of sprinklers around the premises and air purifiers in indoor areas to bring the AQI down. A sunny afternoon helped, but even as the toxic haze became more prominent under the floodlights, a sizeable crowd settled by the evening to watch Shakib and Shanto toy with the Sri Lankan bowling attack.

Mathews' breakthroughs - he bowled out Shanto shortly after Shakib - triggered a mini-collapse, but Bangladesh got over the line with nine overs to spare to win their 10th ODI against Sri Lanka on the 53rd outing, and first at a World Cup. They bounced back from six consecutive defeats, and kept their hopes to qualify for the 2025 Champions Trophy, by finishing in the top 8, alive.

Asalanka toils in vain

Asalanka walked into a semi-crisis at 72/3 in the 13th over and once Sadeera Samarawickrama and Mathews both departed on the same ball, he was staring at a full-blown crisis. While Asalanka may not be the most aesthetically-pleasing of batsmen, there is no denying his effectiveness in the middle order of ODIs like this, the kind that are withering away as this format loses its popularity. Quietly, he has built a formidable record as Sri Lanka's number 5. In this World Cup cycle - between 2019 till present - no other batsman in world cricket has scored more runs than him at number 5, a record even more remarkable since he

The working-man magician

Ravindra Jadeja's mastery of his art is like an acquired taste for the viewer, much like Anil Kumble's was

SANDIP G
KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 6

THERE ARE some balls that you neither remember for your lifetime, nor forget too soon. They are like the passing scenery en route the winding hairpin bends to the summit of a hill-station.

Ravindra Jadeja's ball that nipped out Temba Bavuma—the first of his maiden five-wicket haul in the World Cup—was one such short-lived delight. You would probably forget the ball by the time the World Cup ends, but it would still inhabit the cobwebs of your subconscious, waiting to be dusted up any time.

You would not surf the web specifically for the footage, but when you do stumble on it, you would not close the tab either. Memories would gush forth: India versus South Africa, Eden Gardens, Virat Kohli's 49th ODI hundred, Jadeja's five-for.

The ball was splendid, without being spectacular. It drifted in, flattish than flighted, faster than slow, nonetheless foxed Bavuma in the air and spat past his confounded outside edge to hit middle and off. Even the turn was not outrageous, as when Keshav Maharaj deceived Shubman Gill. The television analysts would show that Jadeja's turned around four degrees, Maharaj's was eight. The result though was the same. Both batsmen were bowled.

But the beauty of Jadeja's bowling is better appreciated through pause and freeze re-watches. You see that Jadeja did not bowl from the edge of the crease to exaggerate the inward angle. Ever a master in manipulating the crease, he was closer to the umpire than the outermost edge of the white-lined cage. The release point though was wide, as wide as he could get from where he was bowling.

The arm-speed is slightly quicker, an increase of speed in decimals. His index and middle fingers combine to tweak the ball as hard as he could, resulting in massive revolutions. The ball rips out of his hand, smoothly, but even in its path Jadeja seems to guide it with an invisible string tied to his fingers. Watching it in a Pakistan TV studio was Misbah-ul-Haq, who sighed about the difference in the revs between Jadeja and their left-arm spinner Mohammad Nawaz.

The slightly quicker arm-speed and flatter trajectory fooled Bavuma into assuming that the ball would come in with the arm, into the pads. It's this ball that batsmen fear; it's Jadeja's deception point.

In his mind, Bavuma is already playing the straight ball, his eyes are looking straight down, he is already playing down the wrong line. He is expecting the ball to be fuller too, as were the ones before. Jadeja made a mess of his preconceptions. His art has evolved so much that your methods cannot be inflexible.

The South Africa captain is a competent player of spin bowling, but Jadeja was simply too intelligent for him. This was a ball that had more method than magic. Bavuma would feel that he could have negotiated



Temba Bavuma was the first of five wickets that Ravindra Jadeja took on Sunday. Reuters

Why Jadeja's ball that turns spooks batsmen



South African captain Temba Bavuma's reaction said it all on Sunday evening at the Eden Gardens. It was almost similar to that of Australia's Steve Smith, who suffered a similar fate at the Chepauk in Chennai. Like Smith, at Kolkata Bavuma was totally outfoxed by Ravindra Jadeja's delivery that turned after pitching on middle and leg. What makes it difficult is that Jadeja mostly bowls those deliveries that go in with the angle. It is only the odd ones that tend to turn and when he delivers those, it invariably surprises the batsman, who is usually

EXPLAINED

looking to play only the angle. He is seldom prepared for the one that turns. And both against Smith and Bavuma, Jadeja decided to bowl the one that turned away early in his spell, which caught both batsmen by surprise. It is the reason why Smith and Bavuma appeared perplexed and kept staring at the pitch as though it played some trick. Watching it from the dressing room, every incoming batsman then starts playing for the one that turns and is sucked into the trap when Jadeja goes back to delivering those vicious arm balls.

that with better application, and that would tear him apart more than being flummoxed by an unplayable delivery.

A ball of more devastating theatre had bowled Steve Smith, arguably the most destructive player of spin in modern times. That one pitched on middle stump and off and clipped the off-bail. Smith's manoeuvres made it look even more spectacular than it was. But the jaffa at least came on a pitch that abetted the spinners—India had packed three spinners—but this one was not as conducive. The dew had onset, the ball was not spinning not as much as it had at Chepauk. Jadeja himself would say: "I think when they were bowling, it was more healthy. I think the turn was more and the bounce of the wicket was less. But now, if you ask me personally, the wicket in the afternoon and now - now it was a little easier. I won't say easy, but it was fine."

But still he pulled off the tricks. Sometimes, his mastery is better appreciated by the teammates and the support staff. "But I think his ability, and sometimes even having to bowl with a slightly wetter

ball, because the ball has been slightly wet has been terrific," David would say before the South Africa game.

He would add another line that captured the impact of Jadeja: "You look at numbers, we look at data."

Craft built on grit

It applies to his career too. Jadeja has the impish grin of a magician with all the party tricks, he has the flamboyance of a royal, yet his craft is built on grit and not grandeur; subtleness rather than style. You don't remember the strokes he played, you don't recount the way he picks his wickets, you don't remember the runs he saved. He is the opposite of a moment's player. In that sense, he is a paradox—a flashy personality who plays un-flashy cricket.

Probably you would remember his sword-swish celebration, love for horses and fancy cars, his rockstar moniker and gait, but you would not probably remember his cricket. He is like an arthouse movie packaged as a commercial one.

It would not be an exaggeration that he

is the true inheritor of Anil Kumble's mantle. Arguably India's greatest match-winner, Kumble wouldn't wow or woo you immediately. He was an acquired taste, his bowling too is appreciated through layer-peeling replays in slow motion. He of course had the 10-for, the first slice of Kumble history that sticks, and the iconic bowling with a broken jaw image. Jadeja is still waiting for that defining image, though he has produced numerous match-defining performances across formats that are too easily forgotten.

Like Kumble, he keeps adding skins to his bowling, like him, he is selfless, does anything his team wants him to; never complains, fights backs from snubs by sheer will and commitment to craft. Both are bound by a fierce streak of competitiveness on the field, though they are vastly different personalities beyond the boundary, as apart as Jamnagar and Bangalore are. And like Kumble, he bowls balls that you might not remember for your lifetime. But those that inhabit your subconscious, waiting to be dusted up.

Afghan blend of talent and emotional balance aided by coach Trott

MIHIR VASAVDA
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 6

IT'S A shaky, awkwardly zoomed-in video taken inside a brightly lit pavilion of Delhi's Arun Jaitley Stadium.

Jonathan Trott has the ear of the Afghanistan dressing room that's buzzing after stunning England. Like a warrior galvanising his troops, he raises his right hand—holding a pen instead of a sword—and delivers an emotional sermon.

He doesn't demand a lot. "Just enjoy tonight," Trott tells them. "There were too many times when I was a player when I didn't enjoy the moment..." He pauses to let the heavy words sink in. "So enjoy this," he repeats.

More than a coach debriefing his players after a big match of the World Cup, this feels like a former player passing on some priceless tips to his younger colleagues. And who better for that than Trott, himself a victim of the unrelenting and unforgiving nature of international sport.

One wonders if it crossed his mind at that moment but exactly 10 years ago, in November 2013, Trott left the Ashes midway due to stress-related anxiety. His description years later sounded more like David Attenborough narrating a wildlife series rather than a scene from a cricket field.

"...they know I am struggling. They're circled like hyenas around a dying zebra," he wrote in his book about the Australian bowling unit led by tearaway pacer Mitchell Johnson.

During the peak of his mental health struggles, Trott would hope that a 'pylon had fallen on the field and the game had been cancelled'. Other times, he'd wish the stadium collapsed. "As long as there was no one in it, of course," he was quoted as saying by The Independent. "You end up thinking of all sorts of ways you wouldn't have to go to the ground."

The anxiety-driven issues consumed the career of one of England's finest No.3s. Now, the only Englishman still alive in the tournament is the coach of the side that's the epitome of grit. So much so that his players are not afraid to take a dig at the Aussies. However, fast bowler Naveen ul Haq's 'human rights or 2 points' jibe aimed at the Australians, who had forfeited an ODI series because of the Taliban's restrictions on women's rights, may not have been the smartest thing to do.

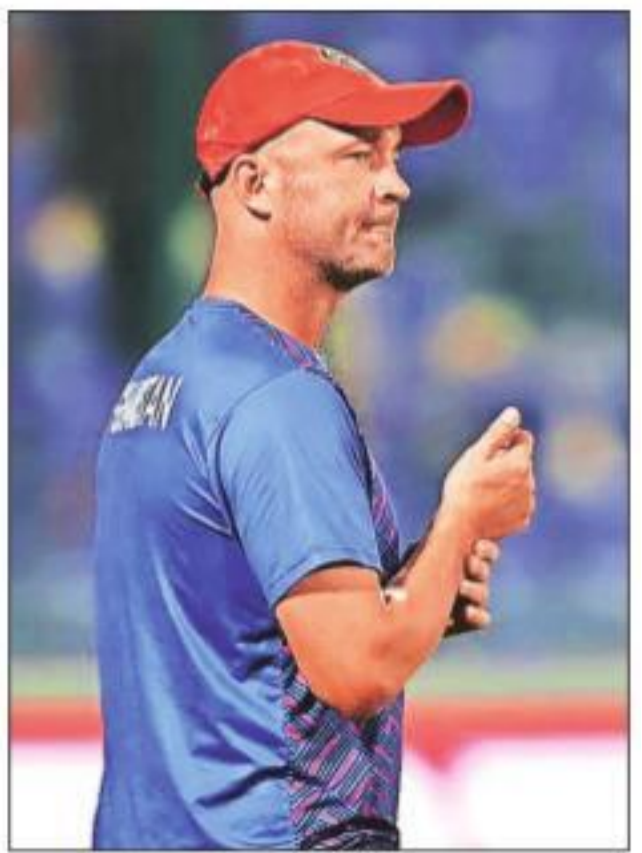
From zero wins in 2019 to a fairy tale run that's given them more than an outside chance of making it to the semifinals, Afghanistan's campaign has been hallmarked by their ability to maintain an emotional equilibrium.

It is not a trait normally associated with a bunch of gifted but temperamental cricketers. Trott, though, has played a transformational role on this front since becoming the coach in July last year, dipping into his learnings from success and struggles, more of the latter, to add a layer to a team that was habituated to losing key moments in a crunch tie.

"He is a positive person," captain Hashmatullah Shahidi says ahead of the Australia tie. "He wants us to be more disciplined on the field and off the field. Sometimes, he goes hard. Sometimes, he assists us."

Trott's calming influence on a restless group goes beyond the walls of the dressing room. The careful manner in which Afghanistan have constructed their innings also has shades of Trott's old-school, low-risk playing style.

Back in 2011, Trott was the World Cup's fourth-highest run-getter, scoring at a staggering average of 60.28. But he also copped criticism for being 'too slow' and his strike rate of 80.84 defined his approach to batting. England's then coach Andy Flower jumped to Trott's defence, praising the batsman's ability to 'stabilise' their innings.



The careful manner in which Afghanistan have constructed their innings also has shades of Trott's old-school, low-risk playing style. Reuters

Steadiness and stability also define Afghanistan's batting in this World Cup, who have set themselves 10-over targets and haven't got too obsessed with high-scoring rates. That change in approach might not have been easy for a generation virtually born-and-bred on T20 cricket.

But Afghanistan have been methodical, especially in their four wins so far. Against England, more than half of the 284 runs they chased came in 1s and 2s and they went almost 10 overs—between 15 and 25—without a boundary.

While chasing a seemingly challenging total of 286 against Pakistan, only 130 runs came in boundaries and when they played Sri Lanka, Afghanistan's batsmen did not hit a four or six between overs 11 and 20, with only 106 runs out of the 242 coming in boundaries.

Shahidi alludes to getting a little too emotional to their frequent collapses. "We were good enough before as well but we started thinking how to improve. We were struggling (to control emotions)," he says. "Our openers were doing good but our middle order was struggling. We were thinking about that, how to take responsibility and play according to the situation."

And how did that change come about? "It's about the mindset. Sometimes, that is a big thing to make you a good player."

The openers Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran have continued to lay a solid foundation. And the middle-order, led by Rahmat Shah, seems to have conquered their demons. Sample this: Afghanistan's middle-order average in ODIs, according to Cricinfo, has increased from 26.44—the lowest among all full members since the start of 2021—to 36.93 in the World Cup.

Trott has said it's all down to the players getting used to the pace of ODIs but a lot of it is also due to them finding the right emotional balance on and off the field.

And hence, Shahidi did not choose to comment further on his teammate Naveen ul-Haq's snarky remark against Australia, recalling the episode when they refused to play a bilateral series against Afghanistan and instead chose to forfeit a tie due to the Taliban's restrictions on women's rights.

The Afghan captain knows it's their cricket that has done the talking so far. And as they play one of the most important matches in their history—a win will take Afghanistan ever-so-close to a semifinal spot—Shahidi knows they'll channel all their underdog spirit against the might of the Aussies.

ASIAN CHAMPIONS TROPHY

As Savita Punia and Co win title in Ranchi, a look at five takeaways for India

VINAYAKK MOHANARANGAN
RANCHI, NOVEMBER 6

IN EVERY conversation post the Asian Games, Indian women's hockey team chief coach Janneke Schopman and captain Savita Punia had no qualms in admitting that the semifinal performance in Hangzhou just wasn't good enough against China. Then, in essence, the seven matches in Ranchi were a chance to show they are better.

After the disappointment in China, India bounced back to put together a fine run at the Asian Champions Trophy in Ranchi that culminated with the title on Sunday. It doesn't make up for the missed opportunity at the Asiad, where an Olympic quota was at stake. But it sets the team up well for the FIH Olympic Qualifiers in January at the same venue.

We take a look at five takeaways from the tournament for India:

Simdega's Salima and Sangita

India's biggest positive was the promise and potential of two youngsters who began their journey from Simdega, the hockey-crazy district about 120km from Ranchi. Sangita Kumari emerged as the tournament's second best goalscorer, with 6 to her name. Salima Tete, the speedster who was given a new role through the center of the pitch, was the player

of the tournament with five goals and plenty of other contributions to the team's cause. That they both did so with all the attention on them from the local crowd is a credit to their mental strength as well as a vindication of the support they received to rise up through the ranks. Schopman was full of praise for Sangita's goal-scoring and also seemed reassured about her call to move Salima inward from the flanks.

Penalty corners a concern

The recently relaid astroturf at the stadium wasn't conducive for taking short corners, as almost all teams struggled. But even with that, India's semifinal display on that front was especially disappointing. So much so that Schopman didn't even show her team the videos ahead of the final. She just told her players, 'not good enough'. "The mistraips and mishits, sometimes the pressure gets to the players I guess from short corners," she had said after the Korea match.

But to India's credit, they brought something close to their 'A' Game from PCs in the final, showing quick thinking on their feet. (Two out of India's four goals came via PCs against Japan.) Deepika showed glimpses of her talent for drag flicks but India still seem to depend largely on variations and deflections.

Cards galore

The number of cards that India got would



Indian women's team celebrate after scoring against Japan in the Asian Champions Trophy final. Hockey India

perhaps be the biggest annoyance for the Indian management. While the occasional green card can be harmless, India repeatedly put themselves under pressure with late yellows.

The semifinal, for instance, saw India get

two back-to-back yellows for 5-minute suspensions. In a six-team tournament, India accounted for 5 out of the 10 yellows shown. India's total of 10 cards was more than Japan and China combined.

While maybe the odd one can be put

INDIA AT WOMEN'S ASIAN CHAMPIONS TROPHY	
Played	7
Won	7
Goals scored	27
Goals conceded	3
Yellow cards	5
Green cards	5
SALIMA TETE PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT	
SANGITA KUMARI (6) TOP SCORER	

down to harsh refereeing, India's discipline simply has to get better.

Defenders impress

India topped the goal-scoring charts among all teams, but that shouldn't come as a surprise for a team coached by Schopman, who puts high-intensity hockey above everything else. But at heart, she is a defender.

The former Dutch star had a wide smile in the mixed zone after the final, because defender Deep Grace Ekka was given the player of the match award. Along with

Savita Punia stepping up, the last two matches in the tournament saw the Indian defenders shine in tough moments when put under pressure. Nisha and Nikki Pradhan came up with crucial interventions when Korea had their chances on the counter.

Young Ishika Chaudhary showed good intensity throughout the tournament. And Deep was her solid self. The plaudits, as it tends to be the case, often go to attacking players in these tournaments but India's defence was rock solid as they conceded just three goals in seven matches.

Dress rehearsal

While a few boxes were ticked, the main target remains unachieved. The team should celebrate this win, but Schopman and Savita will know all too well that Ranchi was just a dress rehearsal. Paris is the ultimate goal.

"The fact that we know how to change our performances from Hangzhou I think is the most important lesson. We really need to learn to be favourites and win, and this tournament showed we can. We did it in front of a crowd, which is pressure, but also fun," Schopman said on Sunday.

Against somewhat weakened sides, after the Asian Games, India did what they had to do. But in January, the likes of Germany, New Zealand, Japan (again) and USA will provide stern tests.

No Neymar, no problem

During Al Hilal's 2-0 win over Mumbai FC in the AFC Asian Champions League clash, Brazil star gets support though he hadn't travelled because of injury

ANIL DIAS
NAVI MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 6

MUMBAI CITY FC coach Des Buckingham was left puzzled with a question on the eve of their AFC Asian Champions League (ACL) clash against Al Hilal at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai. The question posed was this: despite Mumbai being the home team, were they prepared to not enjoy a majority of the support from the 30 thousand-odd fans that were expected?

The question may have sounded odd but it was quite the case on Monday. Mumbai faced Saudi Arabian giants Al Hilal who boast of an impressive squad, headlined by the talismanic Neymar Jr. The hope to see the Brazilian play a competitive game in India created such a huge buzz that Mumbai had to shift their home venue from the 10,000-seater Balewadi Stadium in Pune to the 40k+ seater DY Patil Stadium.

Just five days after tickets went on sale though, Neymar injured himself during Brazil's 2-0 loss against Uruguay in Montevideo last month. Having to undergo surgery on his ruptured anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) and meniscus in his left knee, he was ruled out of the tie. Needless to say, the fans who booked tickets were devastated with many even trying to resell their ticket, even on matchday. Buckingham's response to the question was that while he couldn't control who the crowd supported, he wished that having booked the tickets, they would come to watch the match and be impressed by the way his side played. "Hope to convert fans," is what he said.

And he would be impressed by the way his team played. Having lost the away fixture to Al-Hilal 6-0 last month, his team displayed some resolute defending for the first 60 minutes. But after going a man down courtesy of a second yellow for a needless tackle by defender Mehtab Singh in the 54th minute, Buckingham's team lost the plot to suffer a rather narrow 2-0 defeat.

Fans didn't really care that Neymar wasn't there though. Mumbai City FC supporters were easily outnumbered by those wearing the deep blue Al-Hilal jerseys bearing the name of Neymar. Be it the unmistakable yellow of Brazil, the blue and red of Barcelona, or the PSG jersey, Neymar seemed to be everywhere.

Al-Hilal may rely on their star signing for fan support anywhere they may play in the world, but on the pitch, it's the towering Aleksandar Mitrovic they turn to. The former Fulham and Newcastle striker, who scored a stunning hat-trick when Al-Hilal hosted



Mumbai City FC's Jorginho Pererya Diaz (left) vies for the ball with Al Hilal's Kalidou Koulibaly at the DY Patil Stadium. (Below). Young Neymar fans. Narendra Vaskar



Mumbai, was kept quiet by the Mumbai defence till he managed to have a first shot on goal only in the 64th minute when Al-Hilal had just taken the lead. But once he got a taste of the Mumbai goal, he transformed into the menacing striker he is known to be.

Mumbai, who were played with great organisation, didn't look flustered. They passed the ball around confidently, even setting up a number of goal-scoring opportunities, especially early on in the match. They had a wonderful opportunity to take the lead right in the fourth minute when Jorginho Pererya Diaz outjumped former Chelsea defender Kalidou Koulibaly to steal the ball and make a run on goal as early as the fourth minute. He had just the goalkeeper to beat, but took a few seconds too long, which was enough for Koulibaly to recover and make a goal-saving tackle to send the ball for a corner.

Reduced to 10-men

Being goalless at halftime, Buckingham would've told his boys that they could manage a point or even three if they could hold

on as well as they were doing. Any hopes of that though faded when they were reduced to 10 men in the 54th minute when Mehtab's late challenge on Ruben Neves saw him receive a second yellow. The Mumbai defender had received his first yellow in the 35th minute for a tussle with Mitrovic.

Just eight minutes after that red card, the visitors opened the scoring after a wonderful floating ball by Mohammed Alburayk found Michael Delgado completely unmarked in the box. Akash Mishra just couldn't do anything to stop Delgado from heading the ball into the back of the net.

With a goal and a man up, there would be no stopping Al-Hilal and Mumbai were in for a nervy half an hour. The crowd wanted their money's worth and egged on Mitrovic and Co to reproduce some of the magic they showed at home. The Serbian finally got on the score-sheet in the 85th minute, courtesy of a brilliant move by Brazilian Malcolm. The midfielder danced around Mumbai's box to float it for Mitrovic who drifted off to the far post area, calmly heading the ball into the bottom corner to double his team's lead.

By then, Mumbai had all but given up. They now have four losses in as many games and their hopes of advancing from the group stage are all but over. Despite their loss though, Buckingham remained optimistic. It's the first time 30,000 came to watch his team play at home, and he says that even if half of the supporters would want to come to watch their Indian Super League (ISL) games after watching this match, he would take it as a victory.

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